

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
Board of Trustees

Minutes – Monthly Meeting

August 23, 2006

Present: Trustees: Doug Zelinski, Chair; Chas Williams, Vice Chair; Jim Bailey, Secretary; Debra Boyd Treasurer; Ben Blee, David Carr, Barbara Fisher, Dan Hronek, Judy Houston, Bill Inglis, Kate Power; Gretchen Faulstich, Past Chair.

Not Present: Jim Pinkham

Ex Officio: Wendy Fish, Associate Minister; Michael Brennan, Church Administrator.

Guests: Kevin O’Neil, Sharon Stout Shaffer, Sabine Kuehn, Judy Kleen.

1. Opening Words and Lighting of Chalice

Doug opened the meeting with a reading from “Engaging Our Theological Diversity.”

2. Review of Agenda/ Approval of Minutes of July 26 Meeting

Doug added to Item 5, Appointments, approval of Roger Nash as Chair of the Building Committee.

It was noted that according to the minutes of July 26 that the July Board Meeting was never adjourned. Bill moved and Debra seconded that the July meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. Bill moved and Chas seconded approval of the July 26 minutes. Motion carried.

3. Reports from Council, Committees and ad hoc groups

Search Committee for interim DRE: Kevin and Sharon reported that the search for the interim Director of Religious Education was completed with the hiring of Caroline Balderston Parry, who has signed a one-year contract. A DRE Relations Committee is to be created. The question of the search committee for a settled DRE was addressed. Doug said the Executive Committee will discuss the appointing of that committee at its September meeting.

Music Program Search Results: Chas reported that the two interim positions have been filled, with Wade Jones II as accompanist/music coordinator and Kim Boyd as choir director. He noted that highly qualified candidates applied for both positions.

The Board gave congratulations and hearty thanks to both of these search committees.

Task Force on Church Groups and Committees

Doug spoke to the draft copy of “First UU Columbus Church Life,” which shows how activities and groups fit into church life and gives an overview of church life to visitors, friends and members. He noted that the draft suggests the division of Church Council into a Program Council and an Administration Council and that it also clarifies staff responsibilities and suggests future staff positions. No Board action was requested at this time.

RE Council Reorganization: Sabine Kuehn brought from the Religious Education Council a proposal to modify the role of the RE Council and to clarify the responsibilities of the DRE. The Council asked that the Board endorse these changes, which will be implemented for a one-year trial. In the proposed changes, the council will advise the DRE on procedure and policy and the DRE will recommend policy to the Board and will write and implement procedures. The ministers will supervise the DRE. After discussion and some modification of wording of the proposal, a motion of endorsement was made by Bill and seconded by David. Motion carried.

Finance Committee—End of Year Report: For fiscal year 2006, the Board received a 14 page report, plus Table of Contents and three pages of notes, from the Finance Committee. Judy Kleen spoke to the report, pointing out some important points and answering questions. Especially noteworthy was that the operating budget ended the year with a surplus of \$3, 524. The Board expressed its appreciation to Judy, Alice Newlon and Debra Boyd for their diligence in monitoring the church's fiscal condition and in preparing the end of year report.

Development Committee Report: Before hearing from Gretchen, Doug asked that the Board approve Gretchen and Melanie Boyd as Co-Chairs of the Development Committee. The Board voted to do so.

Gretchen outlined plans for the Committee, including canceling the rummage sale this fall, following up with pledging by new members, finding leadership for the pledge campaign, making that campaign shorter, and continuing to monitor payment of capital campaign pledges.

Doug said that budget considerations will likely be on the agenda of the September meeting.

4. Staff Reports

The Board received written reports from Wendy Fish, Associate Minister, and Michael Brennan, Church Administrator. Michael noted that the success of the July workday had encouraged the Building Committee to consider another one in October.

Space Use Fee Schedule: Michael circulated a sheet listing the fees for various uses of the facilities. He said that the proposed fees are the same as the current fees and he thought there was an advantage in keeping fees lower and perhaps attracting more users. He noted that the Administrator has some flexibility in determining how the rate schedule is interpreted and applied. Debra moved and Barb seconded approval of the proposed fees. Motion carried.

5. Appointments

Bill moved and Debra seconded the appointment of Roger Nash as chair of the Building Committee. Motion carried. Doug called attention to the contributions of Jerry Newkirk, a friend of the church, to building maintenance.

6. Board Retreat/Multiyear Goals

The four multiyear goals and the action plan as revised during the retreat were circulated for discussion. Some word editing was suggested for the action plan, and it was also suggested that the document be posted to make it available for the congregation to read.

Debra moved and Chas seconded that the Board reaffirm the goals and adopt the revised action plan. Motion passed.

7. Installation of Board

Doug asked about the availability for installation at church on Sept. 17 and 24. Fewer Board members had conflicts on the 24th; however, Wendy pointed out that another installation was already scheduled for that Sunday and so negotiations would be necessary.

8. Announcements and Adjournment

Doug called attention to dates and events listed on the printed agenda. He called for a motion to adjourn and Barb and Bill so moved and seconded. Motion passed.