

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
Board of Trustees

Minutes – Monthly Meeting

Feb. 28, 2007

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

Not Present: Barbara Fisher

Ex Officio: Mark Belletini, Senior Minister; Wendy Fish, Associate Minister; Caroline Balderston Parry, Interim DRE; Michael Brennan, Church Administrator

Guests: Julie Henderson, Peg Meckling

1. Opening Words and Lighting of Chalice

Doug opened with a reading from Ralph Waldo Emerson.
Birthday congratulations were offered to Wendy.

2. Agenda Review/ Minutes of Jan. 24

No changes were made to the agenda.
Bill moved and Ben seconded the approval of the Jan. 24 minutes. Motion carried.

3. Reports from Councils, Committees and Ad Hoc Groups

Chas circulated a report from the Feb. 12 Program Council meeting with an attached document, “Reconciliation Process of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus.” He said the council had a good discussion about organizing to meet productively in smaller groups. He said the “Reconciliation Process . . .” document is still being worked on and he hopes it will be finished by the end of the church year. He asked the Board to read it and offer comments.

Debra reported from Administration Council that the committees are working in subgroups and will meet again as a council in April.

Gretchen reported for the Development Committee that the auction has raised over \$25,000 net. There is the need to recruit new people for the Auction Committee and also for the Development Committee. Plans are proceeding for Commitment Sunday, March 18.

Debra gave the Treasurer’s Report and circulated financial information through Jan. 31. She noted the collection rate of pledges is good, as is usual for this time of year.

4. Staff Reports

Written reports were received from Mark, Wendy, Caroline, and Michael. Doug thanked all for getting reports to the Board prior to the meeting.

Wendy spoke highly of the Alzheimer's workshop recently presented by the Caring Committee and also of an anti-racism workshop led by youth.

Caroline made available an essay on "White Privilege" used in the anti-racism workshop. She asked about the procedure for approving payment for Rachel Tayse Baillieul to lead a peace camp this summer. The procedure outlined was that RE Council should reach formal agreement and then take the proposal to Finance Committee.

Michael reported on rental income and gave an update on the possibility of a caterer using the kitchen. He reported that the Personnel Committee is preparing a written policy in regard to weather-related closings and compensation for hourly employees. New racks for nametags are being made and will double the available space.

5. Recommendations from Search Committee for Music Staff

Julie Henderson and Peg Meckling represented the committee and provided a 7-page report, including recommendations. They called attention to highlights of the report, noting that the committee recommended several components that might be met by two or three staff people. The report listed specific information about the financial impact of staffing the different recommendations; if all were implemented the cost would be \$41,427 (5.8 percent of a budget of \$718,000). The music budget in 2006-07 is \$23,850 (3.3 percent of the budget).

Questions were raised about how benefits might affect the cost of staffing and also about how the committee would prioritize its recommendations if they were phased in over two or more years.

The Board commended the Search Committee for its work and for the detail and thoroughness of its report.

6. Debriefing: Midyear Meeting, Conversation with Tom Chulak

Doug led a brief discussion about the February congregational meeting and commended those who made presentations at the meeting. Board members who were present at the discussion with Tom Chulak, Executive Director of Ohio-Meadville District, pointed out what the conversation revealed about First UU's relationships with its ministers, past and present. The church has entered a period of stability under the leadership of Mark and Wendy.

7. Multi-Year Goals – Preparation for Board Retreat

Doug reviewed information he had previously e-mailed about preparing information to be shared at the March 3 retreat.

8. Appointments: Ad Hoc Exploratory Committee on Partner Churches

Gretchen provided two handouts about Partner Churches, explaining the background and the procedure. She, John Dickinson and Melinda Sabo are interested in being part of an exploratory group to see if First UU might become a partner with a UU church in another country. The UU Partner Church Council is looking for churches to participate. Some UU churches in the United States have partnered with churches in India, Transylvania, and the Philippines.

Debra moved and David seconded the formation of an Ad Hoc Exploratory Committee on Partner Churches. It was agreed that Gretchen would convene the group and that they would work toward reporting at the 2008 Midyear Meeting.

Wendy suggested the Denominational Connections Committee might be involved with the Ad Hoc Committee. Gretchen said she would talk to Charlie Haldeman, Chair of Denominational Connections.

The motion to form the Ad Hoc Exploratory Committee passed.

9. Recruiting for Leadership Training Classes

Chas reminded the Board about the four classes, beginning March 4, and asked everyone to suggest at least one person to participate. The sessions are free and open to everyone.

10. UU Leadership Team Institute

Doug gave information about the Leadership Institute, July 28 – August 3, at Juniata College, Huntington, PA. He is one of the planners.

11. Thank You

Jim Bailey suggested that the Board thank Jenny Hamilton for regularly providing flowers for the Chancel. Gretchen suggested thanking the Auction Committee.

12. Announcements

Board Retreat is Saturday, March 3, 8:30 – 4.

Executive Committee meets on March 14.

13. Adjourn

Bill moved and Ben seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion passed.