

BOT Meeting Minutes for February 19, 2015
Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga

Present: Leslie Brock, President; Monique Lewis, President Elect; Buck O'Rear, VP Resources Ministry; Cecile de Rocher, VP Religious Growth Ministry; Linda Park, VP Outreach Ministry; Greg Cruz, VP Congregational Life Ministry; Frank Caperton, Past President; Rev. Cathy Harrington, Developmental Minister; Jim Welborn, Secretary; Daidee Springer, Treasurer

Leslie called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Monique lit the chalice and Linda gave the opening reading by Kendyl R. Gibbons. A chalice lit in our midst is a symbol of our liberal faith, a faith built on the foundation of freedom, reason and tolerance. A faith sustained by acts of kindness and justice. A faith that visions a world flourishing, with equality for all her people. A faith that demands the living out of goodness. A faith that requires thoughtfulness. A faith of wholeness. This tiny flame is the symbol of the spark of all this within each of us.

Everyone checked in and the meeting began.

Timekeeper was Linda and Greg was process observer.

January Minutes: Monique made a motion to accept the minutes, as amended; Buck seconded and the minutes were approved. Jim thanked Monique for taking minutes in his absence.

Minister's Update: Rev. Cathy reported that the Sanctuary will be opened on Sunday mornings and instead of Connections she will conduct a Vesper service one time per month on Wednesday evening. It will work kind of like a small group ministry. We will begin a clean and fix-up the kitchen project. There is a member of the church that can supervise the project. It will include removing the wall paper, painting and organizing the kitchen.

Cathy also attended a UUMA Institute for Excellence in Ministry in California. One mornings exercise was to write about something in the room and she chose the fireplace which was made of stone, took up space used up oxygen and air but it had beauty and warmth. She compared it with our church building which is cold and silent during the week but is crackling on Sunday morning. We are vulnerable to the flame. Do not take one for granted. See attached for full report.

Financial Report: Daidee reported outstanding pledge payments for January. Cathy's insurance situation has been figured out and back pay of \$5000 will be made-up in February and March. Cathy was able to obtain insurance through Blue Cross Blue Shield considerably cheaper than through UUA. Funds are set aside in a temporary holding account. Daidee made a motion to accept the gift (\$139.40) from John and Lynna Ruth Standridge of a 2015 Church and Clergy Tax Guide for 2014 tax preparation and 2015 year round use. Monique seconded the motion and motion passed.

Items from Finance Committee: Buck pointed out that we have 91 pledging units and that 15 pledging units pledged 50% of this year's amount. We have too many small givers. We must increase our giving. The special plate collection for RE was \$3600 and DRE will work 9 more hours per week.

Frank explained the Fair Share Giving as a way to increase pledges. There is good agreement and wide support for the increased RE funds. Bill Clontz pointed out that if we are to have a healthy future for UUCC we must change the culture of giving. We have too few pledging units giving a predominant portion of the funds. Emphasis on the Fair Share Guide is a helpful approach to increase giving.

Fair Share Giving can keep the momentum going from the growth in our RE program. We will use the Fair Giving Guide heavily during the Stewardship Campaign. Greg recommended that we make a 3 minute video promoting Fair Share giving. This is all an effort to be fully a member of the community now and into the future.

Frank challenged the members to be Fair Share Givers and the BOT pledged to be Fair Share Givers.

Daidee made a motion to accept the working Financial Statement of Mission(FSM) for 2015/2016 with understanding that BOT members will be Fair Share Givers in support of the \$228,285 as base for the finance campaign. Linda seconded the motion and the motion passed. Buck says that the campaign will kick off on March 29 and conclude with Congregation vote on the final FSM at June 7, 2015 congregational meeting. Budget information is attached.

RE/DRE Report: Cecile reported that \$3600 was raised from the special collection to refurbish the downstairs. Cecile made a motion to give her approval to spend up to \$3600 to refurbish the RE space. Daidee seconded the motion and motion was approved by BOT. All expenditures must be covered by receipts. Allocations are made from Funds held in a temporary account.

There will not be any OWL training due to lack of interest from other churches.

Outreach: Linda reported that they are trying to add two new members to the Communications committee. Social justice had a good turnout for the Friday night movie "The Four Horsemen" on Feb.8. SJ is networking with 10 local organizations. Membership met with Cathy, Maurine, Linda Helton and Linda Park to discuss several issues. See attached for full report.

Congregational Life: Greg should get with Art on the Wall committee and vote on what to do with George Cress painting. If it needs a new frame then bring the cost back to the Finance committee. Do the same with the back-up projector for the Wowers to use in the service. Bring the cost back to the Finance committee for approval. The BOT approval not required.

Board Retreat Follow-up: Leslie

Covenant: Linda will pare the BOT Covenant down to a few bullet points.

Definition of board jobs: President, Secretary and Treasurer have been turned in so far need remainder.

Policy review: Have not met since last BOT.

Quick Report Items:

- a. Next meeting: March 19, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
- b. Opening/closing readings for March: Greg

Check-out: We checked out!

Closing Words: Linda presented the following words to be said at end of every BOT meeting.

If you are proud of this church, become its advocate. If you are concerned for its future, share its message. If its values resonate deep within you, give it a measure of your devotion. This church cannot survive without your faith, your confidence, your enthusiasm. Its destiny, the larger hope, rests in your hands. By Michael Schuller

Extinguish Chalice: Monique

Adjourn: 8:57

Submitted by Jim Welborn, Secretary