

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CHATTANOOGA BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

**October 18, 2012**

### **Present:**

Wendes Jones, President	Pamela Rumancik, Minister
Frank Caperton, President Elect	Diane Reed, VP Resources Ministry
Elaine Hill, Past President	Nicky Ozbek, VP Congregational Ministry
Tom Kunesh, VP Religious Growth Ministry	Jim Welborn, Recording Secretary
Elaine Watkins, VP Outreach Ministry	Alan Larson, Treasurer

### **Guests:**

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by President Wendes Jones.

**Opening and Chalice Lighting:** Rev. Rumancik gave a reading and Larson lit the chalice.

**Remembering our Agreement:** Pres. Jones read our Board Agreement.

**Check In:** Everyone commented on their day and week.

**Approval of Minutes:** Caperton made motion for approval of September minutes as presented and Ozbek seconded. Minutes were approved.

**Update on Interim Ministry Progress:** Rev. Rumancik presented the focus points of transitional ministry which are: Heritage, Leadership, Connections, Mission and Future. Rev. Rumancik has already met with 75 current members of the congregation and has sign-up sheets posted for further meetings. Each congregation is made up of circles of influence. There is a core group with the big vision followed by the first adopters and a much larger group that are slow to respond and finally a smaller group that resist any change. One of the most important things is to develop and maintain trust and balance. Rev. Rumancik is already active in the East Tennessee Cluster and will present the closing worship at the conference in Oak Ridge on Oct. 27. We will develop a mission statement for the church and plan for the future.

**Cluster Training:** Hill reported that an East Tennessee Cluster training session will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 26 and 27 at Oak Ridge UUC. Hill, Rumancik and Welborn will attend from UUCC. The topic on Friday is "Immunity to Change" and Saturday it is "Non Violent Communication".

**Treasurer's Report:** Alan Larson reported that giving is lagging about \$13,000 behind budget as well as last year for the first quarter. Quarterly reports will be sent out next week. This reminder should spur those that are behind to catch up with their giving. The finance committee will review the pattern of giving and recommend any further action. Diane Reed clarified that since the Finance Committee meeting an additional \$5000+ income had been recorded. Rev. Rumancik reminded everyone that such a fall off is common during times of transition and we should expect a recovery as things smooth out.

### **Action Items: Wendes Jones**

1) **Weapons policy:** One SGM discussed the lack of a weapons policy on our church grounds and was motivated to draft one for inclusion in our P&P Manual: *The Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga provides a place of peace and safety for all who come. The church sanctuary, building and grounds are a testament to our belief in a greater good, a faith in the future, and the need for sanctuary from challenges of daily life. To that end, the UUCC Board of Trustees has designated the building as a Weapons Free Zone. No one is permitted to bring firearms, weapons or explosive devices into the church building, or engage in violent behavior while on the church grounds. The sole exception to this policy is the need for active law enforcement personnel providing law enforcement services. Weapons are unneeded, unwanted and contrary to our hopes and expectations.*

Last Board meeting it was decided to investigate how the Knoxville congregation which experienced a church shooting handled the matter. Elaine followed up and it turns out they have in place a weapons policy. The topic was discussed at the Forum on October 14 with a vote of 90% in favor of adopting the policy.

**MOTION: It is moved that we adopt the above weapons policy.**

A motion was made by Caperton to ammend the last line to read: In a church enviroment, weapons are unneeded, unwanted and contrary to our hopes and expectations. The ammended language motion failed. Another ammenmant was made by kunesh to strike last line altogether which failed to pass.

***A motion was made by Kunesh and seconded by Larson to table action on a weapons policy for one month in order to allow the congregation to comment during our scheduled Open Mic session on October 28th. Motion was approved by the board.***

**2) Elaine Watkins moved that we accept the Diamond Anniversary (60<sup>th</sup>) Chalice design to be used as a new logo to represent Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga on any official/promotional signs or materials.** This motion was arrived at by striking the last sentence of the original motion which limited the time frame of use until June 30, 2016. The amended motion was seconded by Diane Reed and approved by the board.

**3) Diane made a motion to include the referenced six (6) Finance forms into the P& P Manual. The finance forms were developed by the finance committee over the last 18 months and received board approval but were never included in the PPM.** Welborn seconded the motion and it passed with 7 yes and one abstention. Copies will be attached to the minutes.

4) Rev. Holladay, Church of God, seeks a space to conduct private counseling and prayer sessions with individual congregants. Up to now, he had been using our minister office but now that this office is being used by our minister we need to find another space to accommodate our tenant in this important work. In consideration of Rev. Holladay's caution that he has a noticeable number of members who cannot navigate stairs, the space needs to be on the upper level. Chris has kindly offered use of her office for this purpose. However, the church office will require re-organization in order to accommodate the need and will have to include a comfortable, peaceful, private spot for counseling and prayer.

**Jones moved that the Board approve expenditure of up to \$2200 for the reorganization of our administration office, funds to be taken from the account which holds Church of God rent money.** Caperton seconded the motion and it was approved by the BOT.

5) Request for funds to purchase Plaques of Recognition honoring gifts and remembrances to UUCC was discussed by Ozbek. The board was in favor of the request but asked that Congregational Life Ministry form a committee to review these items, make a cost list and include the needed funds in their budget request for FY 2013-2014.

**6) MOTION: that the Board request the Communication, Building and WOWzer Committees to assess the number, quality, and access to all UUCC computers and develop a recommendation for computers to provide**

(1) easy Board and member access to non-confidential UUCC data,

(2) Board and member access to UUCC printers, and

(3) easy member access to the projector for screen presentations;

(4) a cost estimate of digitalizing UUCC historical documents/records;

and that their reports, including equipment recommendations, if any, be submitted to the Board no later than Friday, 4 January 2013.

**After discussions Ozbek made a new motion that the board requests that Tom kunesh form an ad hoc committee to review our computer needs and access and bring those recommendations with costs to the board. Reed seconded the motion and it was approved by the BOT.**

7) MOTION: i move the adoption of the following proposal of the Adult Religious Growth Committee and its \$2000 budget:

The Adult Religious Education (ARE) committee would like to request \$2,000 from the Board in order to create the first of an expected annual event, bringing one or more UU thinkers to UUCC every winter/spring to speak to the larger liberal community (locally [*Pilgrim Congregational, Mizpah, Friends, Unity*], UUs from within a 120-mile radius) on Religious Development. Given the quality of the speaker and the relevance of the topic/s, we expect to attract other religious liberals in/around Chattanooga, and UUs from Atlanta, Knoxville and Nashville, at least 100 people. With appropriate publicity, such a program would draw a large amount of community attention to UUCC, and potentially increase both UUCC membership and community standing.

What: annual larger-liberal-community Religious Development speakers series

Who: planners: Adult Religious Education (ARE) Committee, UUCC

speakers: UUs selected for their current relevance

(eg, [Mark Hicks](#), professor of Religious Education at Meadville Lombard Theological School, 2012 [UU Collegium](#) talks on "Learning as an Act of Liberation" and "Learning as a Pedagogical & Spiritual Practice")

When: Friday evening & Saturday noon, March/April 2013

Where: UUCC

Why: • to offer the

best in adult religious education to UUCC members and to the larger liberal religious community.

• to promote multicultural liberal religious education.

• provides substantial community outreach to both local UUs (±150), local religious liberals (±1000) and UUs within a 2-hour driving radius (±1000).

How: the Adult Religious Education Committee will plan and staff the event.

Cost: • free to the public

• \$2000 to UUCC (\$400 roundtrip airfare, \$300 two-days' per diem,

\$500 speaker's honorarium, marketing \$500, \$300

Incidentals)

Future: increase annual speakers to 2, increase Adult Religious Education Committee budget to \$4450.

- Adult Religious Education Committee: Ken Beaver, Leslie Brock, James Joyner, Susan Kennedy, tom kunesh, VP Religious Growth Ministry

**Caperton seconded the motion to approve the \$2000 and that the funds come from the Growth Initiative Fund for the Adult RE Speaker Series to be spent within this budget year. Motion was approved by the BOT.**

Check Out: Productive meeting.

Closing words: Rev. Rumancik read a passage by author Barbara Walker.

Next BOT meeting will be on **Thursday, November 15 at 7:00 p.m.**

Submitted by Jim Welborn, Recording Secretary to the Board of Trustees 2012/2013

Copies of committee reports will be attached after BOT approval.

