

UUCB BOT Meeting Minutes, 11/20/13

Present: Frank Caperton, Daidee Springer, Nicky Ozbek, Buck O'Rear, Kay McCurdy

Absent: Jim Welborn, Leslie Brock

We had a quorum.

The meeting began at 7:38 pm after Frank lit the chalice. The meeting started late because we allowed time for members to attend the Transgender Day of Remembrance service, which went from 7:00 to 7:30. Since all at the meeting had attended that moving service, Frank felt it would be appropriate to let the words spoken there serve as our opening and closing words for this meeting.

All present checked in with a brief statement as to their life situations and observations.

We discussed our Board covenant without a complete reading. All agreed that this covenant is stronger than what we've had in previous years, especially with positive admonitions about our responsibilities, and that we will give it a complete reading next month.

The minutes from the October meeting were accepted as read (Buck moved, Daidee seconded).

Daidee led a review and discussion of the Finance Committee's report, including:

Deficit, approx. \$3,000 for current year and approx. \$6000 for the month of October. There were extenuating circumstances of the cell tower proceeds coming in late, and our annual insurance payment of about \$3000.

The balance sheet mentions over \$19,000 in assets, but these are being held to pay for the solar panel installation. We will be drawing from the account reserved for the Church of God's rent and transferring some of that money to our operating account. Cash flow is at an acceptable level for the time being.

Buck gave an update that Sandy Kurtz has reported some delays from the company that is to install our solar panels.

The Finance Committee has agreed to go ahead with creating a plan by which church members can use a credit card to make their pledge payments. Overall, the plan is that anyone doing so will also pay the 2-3% merchant fee that we expect to be charged. Pay pal and other payment options are under consideration. The Committee believes it can produce a policy by the beginning of 2014.

While we have about \$200 on hand for the pooled member contributions to WUTC, the Finance Committee does not see a sufficiently solid and workable plan for forwarding the money to the radio station. Some unanswered questions include what we will get for our contribution -- what will the promotional broadcast message say about our church? Nicky said that in the past, the UUA had some materials that could be used for this type of situation, but does not currently seem to be involved with it. The Committee believes it will be most helpful if a task force be created to formally meet in person with someone from the radio station to obtain answers to all of these questions. Finally, any message

given to the station for broadcast should first be shown to the minister as further assurance that it fits our mission and outreach message.

Nicky said we have a problem with inadequate cleanup after Wednesday night events. The cleaning service comes on Wednesday morning, so church is often still messy when Church of God comes Saturday morning. Notes will be posted, reminding anyone using the building on Wednesday night that cleanups need to be thorough. Chris will be asked to find out if cleaning service can come Thursday or Friday mornings instead (Friday better for Chris, who is here on that day).

There was discussion of people who donate money to the church. Claire Hale says she thinks they should be named. It was agreed that this is a fine idea *if* the donor permits it. In some cases, only the amount might be disclosed but in other cases, donors want their name and the amount to be kept confidential. Daidee has submitted a newsletter article, reminding the congregation that "Pledges are our bread and butter; gifts are merely the icing on the cake."

The proposed "Path to Membership" was discussed. Frank moved that the revised document be accepted. Nicky seconded; the motion carried.

We also discussed a worship element from a few years ago, in which Story Time ended with a plate being passed for the kids to put in a small offering of their own. If this happens at every service, there will not be a problem of children being embarrassed for not having brought anything. It stopped happening because the offering was moved to later in the service. Kay thinks it's a very good idea to revive it.

Share the Plate was for Food Not Bombs this past Sunday (11/17) but due to the kids' service and some technical distractions, it was not strongly promoted, and the Board agreed to let it run for a second week this coming Sunday. So far, cash donations have totaled \$166 and we think we can do better for this organization.

The annual Christmas gift to the staff was planned. It was decided to announce in all upcoming Friday e-blasts that gifts will be accepted December 1, 8, and 15, with envelopes being provided in the program. Gifts will be given out on the 22nd.

The Social Justice Committee has depleted most of its budget, but a gift of \$200 was placed in a restricted account. The Finance committee is working on getting it moved to the committee's regular budget.

Artist and writer Dana Shavin has been proposed as a guest speaker by the Wowzers but it was unclear as to whether she wants to deliver a sermon or promote a workshop. Either idea is fine, but they cannot be at the same time, i.e, she cannot use our pulpit to promote a paid event. She can deliver a message sermon and receive the customary honorarium, and the workshop can be announced in a separate venue, and paid. The Wowzers have gone over this with her.

Anne Johnson has launched the annual Poinsettia drive. There was some uncertainty about how checks should be addressed (they should be made out to UUCC). There also seemed to be a lack of balance between the amounts written on the form and the actual cash collected. Anne will be reminded that events such as this are under fundraising and need to be approved by the BOT in advance.

Kay fleshed out the RE report that she had sent out before the meeting. Her biggest concern is the recurring problem of technical glitches like the ones that occurred during the kid's service on the 17th, which are frustrating. She said she and Tom Kunesch went over everything the night before, and there was still a problem with the Carl Sagan video. Nicky said there are several root causes. We still have not been able to get Tommy Cotter to come in and set up the new equipment. We will try one more time this week and if he can't meet, we will find someone else to pay to do it. The new equipment is supposed to simplify things so that whoever is the sound techs will be able to show up at the last minute (as sound techs typically do) and make everything work without a lot of advance preparation. Some techs do a better job than others, especially with special elements such as videos, and everyone has their favorites. Sound techs are scheduled a year in advance, so if there is one you like, each committee or group is encouraged to match a scheduled sermon to a tech that they feel the most confidence in.

The gift to Elaine Hill will be given next Sunday, 11/24.

The Plant Exchange went well. The money will go to Chris, who deposits it in the restricted Social Justice account. This is how it should work when an event is geared toward a specific group.

Chris Tregaskis's sister is terminally ill and Chris has had some health problems of her own, so we should be aware of this and try not to overload her if we can help it.

The next BOT meeting will be on Thursday December 19 at 7:00 p.m. A big THANK YOU is due Elaine Watkins for taking the minutes in absence of Jim Welborn, Secretary.