

Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga

BOT Meeting Minutes for June 19, 2014 (revised and amended)

Present: Frank Caperton, President; Leslie Brock, President Elect; Buck O'Rear, VP Resources Ministry; Daidee Springer, Treasurer; Nicky Ozbek, VP Congregational Life Ministry; Elaine Watkins, VP Outreach Ministry; Pam Rumancik, Interim Minister; Jim Welborn, Secretary

Guests: Monique Lewis, President Elect 2015-2016; Greg Cruz, VP Congregational Life Ministry 2015; Linda Park, VP Outreach Ministry 2015; Cecile De Rocher, VP Religious Growth Ministry 2015

Absent: Kay McCurdy, DRE

Frank called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. after a terrific potluck meal. He especially welcomed the new members of the board for 2015 who were guests at the combined meeting of new and outgoing BOT.

Greg lit the chalice and Rev. Pam gave a reading by Kelly Weismann "A Prayer for Unfinished Business" and then everyone checked in.

May Minutes: Buck made a motion to accept as written and Daidee seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Financial Reports: Daidee reported that May was \$5000 over budget but we will wait until August to determine the amount needed from the Church of God Money to balance the books for 2014.

Daidee also reported from the UUA that we now owe 6% of our budget as denominational dues. This is a change from 5% which we had budgeted. This brings our fair share to \$10,124 (based on \$168,732 for 2012-2013). Dues are based on a percentage of previous year's operating expenses and is inclusive of UUA and District.

Daidee made a motion that we pay the additional dues. Buck seconded and the motion passed.

Buck pointed out that under the new GIFT program, we are up to date and are an honor roll member.

Minister's Report: Pam presented her report and commented that she had enjoyed her time with us and has learned so much. Report attached.

As the final report as your interim minister I want to extend my appreciation for the good work we've done together these past two years. I see the path ahead going in a very good direction and have trust and faith that the leadership of the church will continue to strengthen the solid foundation you have built.

While the church voted at the annual meeting to go back to the 11:00 service time I am very grateful for the ability to try something new during my time with you. My observation was that most people gave it a shot even if they didn't like the time change, stayed in conversation during the process, and were able to vote to end it without declaring it a failure. I think that is the work of a healthy community.

I will be at General Assembly next week, picking Karen up and moving her stuff to Chicago after, and back in Chattanooga on July 3rd. Most of this last month is filled with finishing up details and trying to prepare a smooth transition for Rev Harrington's arrival.

As the last task of an interim minister I am also working with the Interim Transition Team (ITT) to enact a healthy, albeit sad, farewell. They are planning a farewell lunch and conversation directly following the service on Sunday July 13th.

Many of the church's recent partings have been challenging and unhappy. We hope to demonstrate that while they are painful, they can also be smooth, loving and filled with good feelings on both sides. I appreciate your help in completing this last step.

I'll finish with words from my mentor and friend, Rev Wayne Arnason:

Take courage friends.

The way is often hard, the path is never clear,

and the stakes are very high.

Take courage.

For deep down, there is another truth:

you are not alone.

Many blessings of abundance, peace, and love,

Pam

Items from Finance Committee: Buck and Daidee

1. Re-election of George Helton to Endowment Committee: Buck made a motion to reappoint George Helton to the Endowment Committee

Daidee seconded and the motion was approved. Frank stated that we should look at our charter for the Endowment Committee and suggested that the President of the Board of Trustees and Minister be non-voting members of the EC. The EC should be out of reach of regular budget. The EC is set-up to secure the long term health of the institution. It was established in 2005 and it is time for us to reevaluate.

1. George Helton will remain chair of Finance Committee.
2. New Credit Cards have been obtained.
3. Adoption of UUA Retirement Plan. Daidee made a motion to readopt the changes to the UUA Retirement. Elaine seconded the motion and motion was approved.
4. Reimbursement of Professional Expenses: Daidee said that there are IRS Guidelines and our policy needs to be redrafted. More to come.
5. Policy on solicitations/sales/promotions at the church. Leslie presented a draft of a policy to address these issues. Everyone is to review and we will vote on the policy at our July BOT meeting.

Interpreters for Sunday Services: Nicky says that Chris Hedrick can do the signing when the men with hearing impairment attend our service. They will communicate with Chris Hedrick. She would like for us to help with expenses. Daidee made a motion to approve an expenditure for signing up to \$200 and that it be taken from Lay Pastoral Care budget. Buck seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Accepting a donation of a piano: Nicky asked Steve Hollingsworth to work with Richard Ralston to evaluate the piano and will report at next BOT meeting.

DRE Report: Jim Welborn read the DRE report and Pam will discuss with Kay. Report attached.

Religious Education Report May, 2014

- Average weekly attendance: 20.
- Teens continued work on their Coming of Age program, despite several challenges. Volunteer coordinator of program did not fulfill duties as promised. Teens and their Mentors were not given adequate support, information, or direction. Thankfully, our Teens (with the help and support of their Mentors, and their families) soldiered on, and were able to craft their Statements of Faith, which they delivered at the June 1st Coming of Age service .

- We recognized one half of the very best part of our program (the other half being our children and youth!), our RE Volunteers, in service on May 18th.
- DRE has formally stepped down from management of the RE Committee. The majority of Committee members, as well as Rev Pam, have been very supportive. It is my hope that the Committee will move forward, and create a mission statement for the program, so that I, as DRE, can do my very best to serve that mission.
- DRE met with Rev Pam, to formalize dates for my vacation: July 11th-25th. This will be my first year since I began as DRE five years ago, to take a vacation, and I would like to request this annual paid leave be documented in my job description.
- At last month's BOT meeting, DRE was informed of 30% cut to RE program's 2014/2015 operating budget, necessitated by lower than expected pledge income. Daidee and Buck were both very gracious to explain the process, and also disclosed that the cuts were being made across the board. The DRE fully understands that these cuts were necessary, and in no way feels that the cuts were unfair. However, DRE was then informed that the decision to make the cut was (in part) based on a recommendation from a member who is not active in our RE program. In the future, when budget cuts of a sizable nature are being discussed, DRE requests that recommendations regarding our RE budget come from either the DRE, or those active and invested in our program. The DRE thanks both the Finance Committee, and the BOT, for their time.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay McCurdy
 Director of Religious Education
 UUCC

Quick report Items:

1. Where will Connections be held on July 6: Connections will be held in the Sanctuary on July 6.
2. Signing of Bank check-signing cards: Frank will remain on the approved list until Leslie is added.
3. Board Rep schedule: provide Leslie with the days that you cannot serve and she will put out a schedule for first quarter.

4. Mark Hick's Workshop: Pam says that the East Tennessee Cluster is sponsoring a Workshop by Mark Hicks sometime in January 2015. They are encouraging participation by each church. Our cost would be about \$800.
5. Board participation in Labor Day picnic: Nicky proposed that the BOT sponsor the Labor Day picnic again this year. It will be on Sunday, August 31.
6. Next meeting: The next BOT meeting will be on Thursday July 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Pam gave our closing reading from Collin Bachmann "Spirit of Love".

Elaine extinguished the chalice at 9:35 p.m.