

BOT Meeting Minutes for August 21, 2014 (amended)

Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga

Present: Leslie Brock, President; Monique Lewis, President Elect; Frank Caperton, Past President; Daidee Springer, Treasurer; Jim Welborn, Secretary; Buck O'Rear, VP Resources Ministry; Linda Park, VP Outreach Ministry

Absent: Greg Cruz, VP Congregational Life Ministry; Cecile De Rocher, VP Religious Growth Ministry

Guest: Kay McCurdy, DRE

Leslie called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and Kay lit the chalice. Leslie opened with opening words by Mary Englebreit "If you don't like something, change it; If you can't change it, change the way you think about it." Everyone checked in and meeting began.

July Minutes: Buck made the motion to approve minutes with changes requested. Monique seconded the motion and minutes were approved.

Ministers Update: Rev. Cathy will be in town on Wednesday August 27 and will need help moving into her office. Daidee will need an invoice from the movers in order to pay moving expenses. Daidee also needs to know what deductions Cathy wants deducted from her paycheck. A new transition team will need to be appointed with Rev. Cathy's input. See attached report.

Greetings, Board members.

I am so pleased to be your new developmental minister! I cannot be with you for our first official board meeting, but I wanted to give you a brief update.

Presently, I am in Minneapolis with more than 25 clergy colleagues at a Transitions Workshop for Interim and Developmental ministers. It has been a rich educational experience that will inform and enrich my work (and play) with you. The bonus is that I will have a collegial network of resources and support for the coming years.

Last week, I finished packing because the movers will be picking up my things on Friday, before I get back from Minneapolis. My mother and I will begin our journey on Monday morning, and I will physically be in Chattanooga by August 27, if all goes as planned. My apartment is ready and waiting, and I look forward to getting settled. The movers will deliver my furniture (hopefully) on Friday 29th and I'll begin to unpack and find my way around town. Mom and I will be joining you for the Labor Day picnic, and I'll be in church the following week to begin the process of settling in and getting to work.

On August 3, I was able to join the Worship committee via Skype in the monthly meeting. It was a time to plan upcoming worship services and scheduling for the first few months. I look forward to sharing our first Water Ceremony with UCC on September 7 and an introductory sermon on the following Sunday.

I submitted a September newsletter column and sermon titles and blurbs to Wendy Sapp on August 15, and have been in consultation via email with Steve Hollingsworth, Wendy Sapp, the Social Justice Committee, and the Wowzers regarding a draft article regarding Amendment 1 that Steve had submitted for the September publication. Due to the controversial nature of the issue

and the lack of formal guidelines regarding newsletter submissions of this nature, I consulted the UUA Advocacy and Witness Director, Susan Leslie. After careful and respectful discernment and discussion, they agreed that there would be a brief statement regarding Amendment 1 by Steve in the September newsletter and an invitation to join the SJC in an informational meeting and discussion in Oct. I was impressed with the way they worked together!

See you all very soon!

In faith,

Cathy

Financial Reports: Daidee reported that she transferred \$11,000 from Church of God funds into last year's budget. We may still be \$500 -600 behind when yearend is finalized. Additional money will be transferred as funds become available. This is third year that we have had to dip into the Church of God funds in order to balance budget. We must encourage everyone to increase their pledges.

July is all skewed by the prepayment of annual pledges and this makes July look all rosy.

We are getting a gift from Lyle Claiborne of an amount yet to be determined. The Finance Committee will make a recommendation on where to put the money. There will be no restrictions on the gift.

Rev. Cathy's contract for 2014 is based on 10.5 months to tie in with our fiscal year.

Items from the Finance Committee:

- a. **Craft Fair:** The crafts fair is Saturday October 11, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Leslie is planning for 17-20 booths at a cost of \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members. Deadline for registration is September 15. All crafts must be original art. Soup, bread and dessert lunch will be provided for volunteers and vendors who donate a door prize. Admission will be a donation or a can of food which will be donated to the Food Bank. It was suggested to advertise on 88.1 on their "Around and About" program. Jim will get two part tickets for raffle.
- b. **Insurance of contents coverage:** RGIS has made a contents inventory by list and photos. We have recently added a lot of new electronic equipment and current coverage was not sufficient. The cost for the RGIS inventory was \$250. The Finance Committee gave approval to raise our coverage of contents from \$125,000 to \$150,000 at an additional yearly cost of \$52.60.
- c. **Building Use policy:** Buck will have a final draft for approval at next BOT.
- d. **Budget:** Buck emphasized, if a committee goes over budget then a formal request must be filled out and approved in order to get additional funds. You can't switch budget lines if you exceed budgeted amount. Committee chairs are encouraged not to spend own money because this will penalize them at year end. These personal expenditures do not show up as expenses and will not be budgeted for the following year.
Discussions are under way to determine if an outside consultant is needed for our stewardship program for 2015-2016. We definitely must do something different in an effort to raise annual pledges.

RE/DRE Report: UUA would like for us to sponsor a Renaissance Module on January 7-9, 2015. It is a 48 hour curriculum of concentrated master classes. There will be 15-20

participants. The UUA contact is Pat Kahn, Children and Family Director. Kay will report on concrete plans at next BOT.

RE retreat is at Wendy Sapp's house on Saturday, August 23.

Religious Education Report

June/July 2014

Average weekly attendance: June: 17 July: 26

- Six of our UU Teens completed their Coming of Age program by presenting a Sunday service in June, and sharing their statements of faith with the congregation. The program co-facilitated by Greg Oberschmidt and Kay McCurdy, with guidance from Reverend Pam. Many thanks to the Mentors who volunteered: Kristie McKinley, Sandy Kurtz, George Helton, Link Christensen, Elaine Watkins, Charlotte Davis, TK Kelly.
- In June, Kay began teaching the multi-age classroom downstairs, made up of UU Kids from ages 5-18. Her assistant this summer is Claire Ballew, who grew up in our church, and is now a young adult. This schedule allows our regular slate of hard-working volunteers to take a few months off to recharge their batteries.
- The kids spent several Sundays creating "farewell" art and gifts for Rev Pam....and participated in the wonderful send-off given to her by our church community.
- In July, we welcomed our new Vice President for Religious Education, Cecile De Rocher. Cecile is a longtime volunteer within our program, and an RE parent. We're grateful and excited to welcome her aboard.
- In June and July, Kay met with each of our 3 teaching teams for 2014/2015: Sprouts (ages 5-8); Medievals (ages 9-12); and Teens (ages 13-18). Each classroom has four teachers who have committed to the full year!
- In July, the chair of the RE Committee, Greg Oberschmidt, stepped down, and soon thereafter a new chairperson, Brenda Ford, was nominated and accepted the position. Brenda is also a longtime RE volunteer, RE parent, and brings management experience, a dedication to our program, and a fondness for brevity.
- DRE Kay McCurdy will begin teaching an adult RE class, *Parents as Resident Theologians*, in September, and looks forward to offering additional adult RE classes throughout the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay McCurdy
UUCS Director of Religious Education

Accepting donation of a piano: It was suggested that we table the issue until next BOT because we are not ready for the piano at this time. Leslie will discuss with Nicky and Gregg.

Welcoming the Minister: The welcome the minister list was discussed and Kay suggested gift certificates and Daidee suggested that the money could come from the Ministerial search fund. Jim made a motion to take \$100 from the ministerial search fund for gift certificates. Linda seconded the motion and motion passed. Kay will obtain the gift certificates

Sunday Flowers: The BOT suggests that Gregg and Ann solicit sponsors from the congregation for weekly chancel decorations. Chancel décor would have a restricted fund for donations and sponsorships. The fund would be coordinated by the chancel décor committee.

Labor Day Picnic: Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 31 at 11:00 a.m. The BOT will host and it will be a welcome the new minister event.

Board Retreat: Leslie suggested a Friday night at UUCS and an all day Saturday (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) off site. We can rent a room at Eastgate Town center for \$50. We could have snacks for Breakfast and have a catered lunch. A possible date is October 24-25. Leslie will check dates with Cathy, Gregg, Cecile, Outside Consultant and Eastgate and inform everyone.

Quick Report Items:

- a. Board Rep Schedule/script: Table until next BOT.
- b. Board Rep. Schedule - any changes? Schedule is ok as set.
- c. Mark Hicks Workshop – update: East Tennessee Cluster is planning a workshop on January 23 & 24, 2015 and would like for each church to participate. Our cost is approximately \$800.
- d. Proposal for Solomon memorial – Claire Hale: We will need to brainstorm how and what to do as a memorial to the Solomons.
- e. Leslie needs BOT member job descriptions for next BOT meeting.

Next Meeting: Third Thursday in September 18, 2014 at **6:30 p.m.** (Note Time change!)

Check Out:

Extinguishing the chalice and closing words: Kay extinguished the chalice without closing words.

Adjourn: 8:57 p.m.