

BOT Meeting Minutes for January 22, 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

Absent: Jim Welborn, Secretary; Daidee Springer, Treasurer

Leslie called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Leslie lit the chalice and Cathy gave the opening reading from "Hometown Tales" by Phillip Gulley. Everyone checked in and the meeting began.

Timekeeper was Linda and Frank was process observer.

December Minutes: Buck made a motion to accept the minutes, as amended; Linda seconded and the minutes were approved.

Next Step Weekend: 1) Linda reported that the vice presidents had their first meeting at which time they tried to decide on their direction. They will have more to report from the next meeting which is scheduled for some time in February. **2)** Congregation-wide Q&A on Report: The Board discussed when would be a good time to let members have a question & answer session concerning the "Next Step" report. The congregational meeting on Feb. 22 was proposed but it was determined there was already too much on the agenda for this meeting. The decision was tabled until the next Board meeting.

Minister's Update: Rev. Cathy talked about the "good" problem we are having now which is a big rise in the number of children and families that are attending our church. She has recommended that we open the wall for more room and that we work like fiends to spruce up the church. She has gotten some negative feedback about opening the wall and will discuss possible options for more space with the Wowser committee. The Board members then took a quick field trip downstairs to assess the needed changes. It was decided that we would take up a special collection for sprucing up the downstairs area. With Kay's help, Greg will work up this request for Feb. 1st when the R.E. department presents the worship service. This Sunday, Rev. Cathy will be doing a sermon on our mission statement & she asked the Board to help members get involved with everyone working on this revision. She will attend the Excellence in Ministry UUMA Institute from Feb. 1-Feb.8 and will be out of the church during this time.

Financial Report: Buck expressed thanks to Lynna Ruth Standridge for taking over Daidee's duties while she was gone. The pledge income was down in December. Buck explained that

there might be an unusual pledge flow in January as some people pay their annual pledge in two times.

According to Lynna Ruth, the [account numbers may change as \\$35 may be in wrong category, expense total will not.](#)

George Helton was disappointed in the low number of budget requests that he received for the Finance Committee.

Linda made a motion to accept Buck's report. It was seconded by Buck and passed.

Items from Finance Committee: 1) Buck went over the 3 stewardship campaigns that are being planned by the Stewardship Committee and outlined the projected dates: Feb. 22—Stewardship service followed by a special meeting to kick off "Change in the Jar" plan. March 29—Kick off "Priceless Campaign" with stewardship service & lunch; May 17—Campaign ends with "Celebration Sunday"; June 7—Annual Meeting. Gale Audier will serve as stewardship comm. co-chair with Buck. Buck asked that Board members act as visiting stewards & attend cottage meetings that are being planned. **2)** Frank reported that the cell tower company has requested a 30 year extension in our contract. Frank and [David](#) have looked into this matter. Originally, a fee was specified in the 1990's with an annual increase. The overall lease expires in 2023. AT&T has sold the contract to Crown Castle and they are the company asking for the extension. A 3% increase in the rental fees we collect will begin on May 1, 2015.

Proposal: Crown Castle [may request in the future the addition of a 3rd carrier.](#) The church would get 25% of the rent for this 3rd carrier. The Finance Committee has looked at this proposal and recommends that the Board approves the extension of the cell tower lease with Crown Castle. Buck made a motion that we accept the extension of this lease. Greg seconded the motion and it was passed.

3) Wavier—Buck reported on a request from Elaine Hill & the Nominating Comm. They are considering a person for the assistant treasurer's position. He is a past member, has an accounting background and has stated that he will sign the membership book again. According to the by-laws, a person must serve on another committee for 6 months before taking a board position. Elaine would like the Board to issue a waiver on this "6 month rule". Monique moved that we issue a one-time waiver on this "6 month rule" so the nominating comm. could offer this person the position. Linda seconded and the motion was passed.

DRE Report: Kay McCurdy was not present but sent her report to the Board ahead of time. There were no questions about her report.

RE: Cecile stated that she did not have new information from RE at this time. She did want the Board to act on the request for sprucing up the downstairs. With all the new families, she would like the downstairs area to look better.

Outreach: Linda expressed that the committees were working well and that she had no report at this time.

Congregational Life: Greg had 2 items to report about. First, Art on the Walls committee chair, Carol Hobbs has asked where we can hang a 49 x 42 George Cress painting that was donated to the church. There was much discussion as to whether this should be brought before the Board. No decision was made concerning this donation. Secondly, the Wowser committee has asked for a new, back-up projector—cost would be about \$500 and a replacement light bulb for our current projector would cost \$180. Leslie stated that there is already a back-up projector downstairs. Greg was asked to send this request to the Finance Committee.

Board Retreat Deadline Follow-up: Leslie asked that we work on ideas for shortening the Board Covenant from the board retreat. Also, she asked that we turn in our Board job descriptions if we have not already done so. She will email us those descriptions that she has received to give us ideas on content and length. The policy review committee continues to examine our current policies.

Quick Report Items:

- a. Leslie told us about a minor (17 yrs. old) who called for information about attending a Pagan group meeting. Board members discussed whether someone needed to get permission from parents. Cecile was asked to get a recommendation from the Adult R.E. committee and report back to the Board.
- b. Next meeting: February 19, 2015
- c. Opening/closing readings for February: Linda Park
- d. Leslie thanked Monique for taking minutes in Jim's absence.

Check-out: We checked out!

Closing Words: Cathy read from John Burens

Extinguish Chalice: Leslie

Adjourn: 8:55

Submitted by Monique Lewis for Jim Welborn, Secretary

