

Board Meeting Minutes for October 15, 2015

Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga

Present: Monique Lewis, President; Buck O'Rear, VP Resources Ministry; Cecile de Rocher, VP Religious Growth Ministry; Linda Park, VP Outreach Ministry; Greg Cruz, VP Congregational Life Ministry; Pam Johnson, Secretary; Daidee Springer, Treasurer; Bill Derrickson, 2015-2016 Assistant Treasurer; Leslie Brock, Past President; Rev. Cathy Harrington, Developmental Minister.

Monique called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Cathy lit the chalice and Greg shared a reading from OWL training. Everyone checked in.

September Minutes: Linda made a motion to accept the minutes. Buck seconded and the minutes were approved.

Financial Report: Daidee's report is summarized below. The full report is attached at the end of the minutes. Cecile moved to accept the financial report. Linda seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Items from Finance Committee:

- 1) Hiring Bill Klontz –Finance committee recommends that BOT approve spending up to \$3,000 from the temporarily restricted Growth Initiatives Fund (3238-009) to hire Bill Klontz to come in person to lead on-site training for instituting a standing stewardship committee.

Buck made a motion to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation. Daidee seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

- 2) "Donate Now" button – There is a "Donate Now" page on the website, but it is under Congregational Life and is not easy to find. The FC proposes adding a "Donate" button to the home page of the website and revising the current wording on the Donation page.
- 3) Continued church growth – The FC reported that they have been analyzing the financial impact as we grow from a pastoral-size church to a program-size church

Minister's Update: Cathy described software, a policy board, and valet parking.

Congregational Life: Greg reported that last week he and tom kunesh hauled off the waterlogged sofa to the dump. There some discussion about changing the sexton's role to include a \$50.00 fee in addition to building rental fee if a rental requests use of audiovisual equipment.

Outreach: Linda Park's report is attached below. Reminded Board to join Chalice Lighter Program.

Religious Growth: Trained Greg Cruz and Wendy Sapp were trained in the OWL curriculum. The curriculum for all children and teens is world religions.

Quick report Items:

- a) Jim Welborn has agreed to fulfill a vacancy on the Nominating Committee. Daidee motioned to accept Jim. Buck seconded the motion.
- b) Two Board Reps/Ushers on Sundays
- c) Frank Caperton is joining the Transition Team.
- d) There have been several instances of monetary collections being held without FC or BOT being aware. We need a policy to address this issue. There is a suggested donation of \$18 for the Roy Zimmerman concert or pay what you can. Eighty percent of the collection will go to Roy Zimmerman and 20% will go to the church.
- e) The next board meeting will be held downstairs on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

Closing Words: Cathy read our closing words. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Johnson

Religious Education for Children & Youth - September, 2015 Report

- Average weekly attendance: **33** children & youth. (Sep 6: 20 ; Sep 13th: 41 ;Sep 20th: 42; Sep 27th: 29)
- Weekly meetings with Reverend Cathy.
- After a few less than successful weeks with the current teen curriculum, DRE met with teen teaching team. We decided to reformat the curriculum to allow for more “q&a”, and less lecture time.
- Ingathering/Water Communion service on September 6th, all ages in service.
- OWL (the UUA’s sexuality education curriculum) classes began in September for both Junior and Senior High groups. Currently have 6 in Sr High class, and 5 in Jr High class.
- A “Spirit Stick” teen art workshop (led by Carol Hobbs & Leslie O’Rear, with help from Karl Hunt and Kay) was attended (and enjoyed!) by 11 of our teens.
- Our RE program sent two members, Wendy Sapp and Greg Cruz, to attend Preschool and Elementary age Our Whole Lives (OWL) training at Emerson UU in Atlanta. We plan to offer these classes to our UCC families next year, 2016/2017.

Minister's Notes

October 15, 2015

It has been a productive and busy month at UUC. We will be welcoming new members on October 25 and hosting a "Get to Know You" dinner on Oct 19. We had a wonderful turnout (from the community, not so much from UUC members) for the Interfaith Pride Service. We all agreed that we should try to do more Interfaith services throughout the year.

Other forms of outreach included two non-member weddings and an Interfaith Prayer Walk for murder victim families. I am also offering emotional support to a mother whose son was murdered on August 25. The Interfaith Peace group, The Third Way, is working with others in the community to work towards ending gun violence in Chattanooga. This is an ongoing conversation and my focus is to offer grief support in whatever way possible. I took a training to be a facilitator for the Healing of Memories Institute last fall and next month, I will co-facilitate a workshop for Veterans in Minneapolis. This is a final requirement to be able to offer such workshops in Chattanooga. The Institute for Healing of Memories was founded by Father Michael Lapsley in South Africa; healing-memories.org. I met him during my work with 911 Families and was invited to attend a workshop as a participant in 2013.

The Harvest the Power Group has met three times and we have a strong 10-12 people in regular attendance. Leadership development, member engagement, visioning, safe community, and communication are aspects of this curriculum thus far.

The Transition Team is scheduled to be present at all four Covenanting Conversations. The meetings take place over a span of one week. It will be a whirlwind week and hopefully inspiring for everyone who participates. One person from each of the four sessions will be selected to assist me in crafting a covenantal statement to be voted on by the congregation.

A covenant is the outward goal, but member engagement, communication, relationship building, and mission and visioning are additional gifts of doing this type of work together.

Policies continue to be a pressing issue as decisions to make arise without clear authority. Who makes the ultimate decision when there is no policy or guideline in place?

The Worship Associates Program is off to a good start and I have enjoyed the collaborative creativity that has been a direct result of implementing this program.

The Oak Ridge UU Church has an interesting proposal for multi-site solutions to eliminate redundancies in church administration. They are offering fee-based sharing for admin support, database, bill paying, and even reception, website development, bookkeeping, weekly newsletter on the website instead of pdf emailing, and year-round pledging with online giving. Better administrative management for less

money using a software called Fellowship One and paid staff. They have a PhD. CPA working for them as well as a Director of Operations from the business world. Their goal is missional, not financial. ORUUC has made the decision to not grow bigger but to grow UUism broader. Jake Morril and Fred Holland have offered to come to UUC to present this their program in person in November before Thanksgiving. They have many solutions to some of our nagging issues such as Volunteer management, Communication, Bookkeeping and more. I hope you will be open to learning more about this. I believe this could solve many problems while releasing new energy to be spent towards growing our ministry in the Chattanooga area while nourishing and nurturing our members and friends with more and better programs, healthy and effective communication, and happier staff and volunteers.

Below is a summary of my ministerial work over the past month in addition to three Sunday services and a brief but nice visit from my husband. My grandchild, Alexi, has moved to Chattanooga and she has been welcomed into UUC's teen group with open arms. They are an amazing group of teens. Some of them will be aging out of the group without any place to go. What is the right thing to do for these young people? What can UUC offer to these young adults? These are some of the questions we need to be asking ourselves now.

Sept 19 non-member wedding

Sept 20 Interfaith Prayer walk

Sept 22 accompanied murder victim's mother to court hearing.

Pride service planning meeting

Sept 23 Lunch with Fred and Carol Shumaker about joining church

Dinner with Stacy Rector from Nashville TNADP

Harvest the Power

Sept 25 Membership meeting

Meeting with Monique

Sept 28 Lunch meeting with Interfaith Peace Group

Sept 29 PRIDE service at UUC

Sept 30 Lunch with Susan Kennedy

Oct 2 Transition Team meeting

Oct 7 Vespers

Oct 8 Field Work

Finance Committee meeting

Oct 9 Worship Associates

Oct 11 Wowzer meeting

Oct 13 Pastoral Care meeting

Meeting with WA

Oct 14 Meeting with board president

Meeting with Kay

Harvest the Power

Janette Lallier concert

Oct 15 Meeting with ORUUC

Minister's Notes

Board meeting

Board Report – VP Outreach Ministry – October 15, 2015

Social Justice

Social Justice Committee members set up a Social Justice table in the fellowship area two Sundays in September. On the table was information about Social Justice issues, a sign-up sheet for the committee and an opportunity to order t-shirts. Several people ordered t-shirts which we hope will develop into interest into this committee and the Social Justice work they are trying to do.

There was a very successful “share the plate” Sunday when Beth Foster from the Mercy Junction Justice and Peace Center told the congregation the many ways they have been helping the people who were suddenly left homeless after the Superior Creek Lodge was condemned. The next “share the plate” Sunday is for a program through the NAACP that helps women incarcerated in Silverdale.

As for the surveys – we have received a couple more - not the response we were hoping for.....

Membership

Maurine Olin asked to step away from being chair of this team. Kimberly Mathis who had been working with me on ideas for Membership stepped up and accepted the role as chairperson. She has a lot of great ideas and is full of energy and enthusiasm. Maurine will continue in the role of UU101 class coordinator. There are plans in process to revamp the content and name of these classes. More to come..... Currently, we are planning to have the next class will be in November for the recent members and others planning to become members.

This team is hosting a dinner on October 19th for the people who joined during the last New Member Sunday and those who will be joining on the next New Member Sunday, October 25th. The purpose of this dinner is to discuss a little about membership responsibilities and opportunities. “Teams” within the Membership Committee are being created and members of the church are being identified and will be (and some have been) contacted about joining one of these teams.

Communication

The Communication team is coming together to work on their individual and collective responsibilities with new policies and procedures. They continue to meet using Google Hangout to finalize the policies and procedures.

The team held one face to face meeting to discuss updating the website. Kimberly Mathis joined the committee for the purpose of helping with the website development using templates created for this purpose. The entire team will work on this project to make a welcoming, interesting website created that will include vital information about the church and current activities.