

Board Meeting Minutes November 18, 2015

Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga

Present: Monique Lewis, President; Buck O'Rear, VP Resources 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.

Absent: Cecile de Rocher, VP Religious Growth Ministry

Guest: George Helton, Transition Team

Monique called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Linda Park lit the chalice and shared a reading entitled "The House that Love Made" by Reverend Amanda Poppei. Everyone checked in. Monique distributed new membership directories to each board member. She also brought several "thank you" cards for board members to send to someone they feel need recognition for what they do for the church.

October Minutes: Daidee made a motion to accept the minutes. Linda seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Financial Report: Daidee reported that pledge income was down approximately \$1500 as compared to October of last year. Additionally, October operating expenses exceeded monthly income by approximately \$8500. The detailed reports are attached separately.

Minister's Report: In addition to her written report, attached to the end of the minutes, Cathy reported that she also attended the Quarterly Council meeting and also met (along with the board) with Jake Morrill and Fred Holland from Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist church. Jake Morrill has asked if UUC would be willing to host an Anti-Racism Workshop in February. Cathy, Kay, and others have been discussing to best use the church space on Sunday mornings as our church continues to grow.

Oak Ridge Management/Service Proposal: Monique motioned that we investigate the cost of having the Oak Ridge UU church management service develop our membership database, and handle pledge tracking, the newsletter, and our church website. Daidee seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Resources Report: There was no resource report this month

New Committee Budget Request Form: The board discussed the new form and had an opportunity to ask questions.

Religious Growth Report: The DRE's report is attached at the end of this document. There was no further report on religious growth.

Congregational Life Report: Greg's report is attached at the end of this document. He also noted that the worship associates that are working with Cathy include Kimberly Mathis, Steve Hollingsworth, Ann Johnson, Pam Johnson, and Nicky Ozbek. Jesse Blue may also join the worship associates.

Outreach Report: Linda's report is attached to the end of this document.

Quick Report Items:

- Dates for upcoming board meetings will be December 16, January 20, February 17, and April 20.
- Linda distributed a new list of Board Rep/Usher Duties and reviewed it. She and Paul Adler asked that we make sure that the right side of the front door gets locked.
- George Helton presented a report of the Transition Team.
- Cathy will select opening and closing readings for the December meeting

Closing Words: Linda read "Is it Still Night?" as closing words. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Johnson

Minister's Notes

November 18, 2015

Since our last board meeting on Oct 15th, we've had the joyful Animal Blessing service, a lively and fun new member dinner featuring my legendary sourdough waffles, four productive 2-hour Covenanting Conversations (one including a luncheon), one Harvest the Power session led by Linda Park, a multitude of meetings (membership, pastoral care, wowzers, worship associates, religious education, staff meetings, board pres, the treasurer, congregant meetings in person and on the phone, a candlelight Vespers service, a four-day SEUUMA meeting at the Mountain in North Carolina, the Work of the Congregation Field work presentation, a Transition Team meeting, and a one-on-one meeting with our new membership chair. In the midst of all this, I found time to take a few days of vacation. My brother and sister came from Florida and California to spend ten days in Chattanooga and we took time to celebrate my daughter's life on the 11th anniversary of her death. I was grateful to have two Sundays out of the pulpit during that period to be fully present for my family.

The Covenant/Communal Promise committee consists of Pam Johnson, Jayne Trapnell, Gale Audier, and Steve Hollingsworth. Sandy Kurtz and Elaine Hill have agreed to step up if needed. We will begin our work in early Dec. and hope to have a draft to present to the congregation early in the new year.

I was asked this past Tuesday to submit a brief statement for the Times Free Press in reference to how I plan to address the congregation following the terrorist attacks in Paris. There will be an article on Saturday's Faith page with submissions from area pastors with no guarantee mine will be included, but I hope it will. Below is the text of my submission:

The Unitarian Universalist Association's president, Rev. Peter Morales, wrote a pastoral letter in which he stated, "The horrific terrorist attacks in France fill all good people with the deepest sadness. May we all rededicate ourselves to waging peace based on compassion and respect. Hatred must not triumph."

I support President Morales' message with the firm conviction that we will never make the world safer by combatting violence with violence. If structural and systemic violence can be escalated, which is what we have witnessed in Paris last Friday, then the escalation of compassion, love, and respect is also possible.

I am deeply disappointed that the governor of Tennessee refuses to accept Syrian refugees into our state. We are far better people than our governor assumes. I urge all Tennesseans to let Gov. Haslam know that the good people of Tennessee refuse to participate in closing our doors and our hearts to Syrian refugees. Let the escalation of love begin.

Religious Education for Children & Youth

October, 2015 Report

- Average weekly attendance: **27** children & youth. (Oct 4: 29 ; Oct 11: 27 ; Oct 18: 28; Oct 25: 25)
- Weekly meetings with Reverend Cathy.
- Due to very wet weather forecast, Harvest Festival cancelled this year.
- Assisted Reverend Cathy in planning *Blessing of the Animals* multigenerational service on October 18th.
- Second month of OWL (the UUA's sexuality education curriculum) classes held successfully for Junior and Senior High groups. Currently have 6 in Sr High class, and 5 in Jr High class. Co-leaders Cecile de Rocher and Eric Tittsworth are rock stars!
- RE Committee retreat held on October 24th.
- Due to resignations in August from a Sprouts teacher and a Teen teacher, we're two teachers short in RE. Kay is teaching in the Sprouts class, Shannon Lane is picking up the extra Sundays in the Teen class.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay McCurdy

Director of Religious Education for Children & Youth

Board Report VP of Congregational Life

November 2015

Worship and Music:

1. Choir will sang an original piece by Elspeth Odbert “The Challenge”

Wowzers:

1. Elspeth Odbert Agents of Conscious Evolution : grandmother to Jessie Blue.
2. Christopher Stuart “The Gift of Grace”

Art on the Walls:

1. Presents a collection of poster photography in celebration of the vibrant colors of fall. Of special interest are the photographs taken in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and in Cloudland Canyon State Park. In addition, it is a delight to have Blake Moore share his golden eagle sculpture with us!

Nomination /Leadership:

1. The position of President elect needs to be filled. Elaine Hill has asked that the BOT make suggestions. These names need to be forwarded to the LDC.

Pastoral Care / Caring Committee:

1. November has been a month with Several Church Members deaths and or family members.

Lay Pastoral Team:

1. Nothing to announce.

Memorial Garden:

1. Nothing to announce.

Submitted by VP of Congregational Life Greg Cruz.

Board Report – VP Outreach Ministry – November 18, 2015

Social Justice

The Social Justice Committee has decided to work on 4 major projects:

1. Welcome Home Hospice - Cooking a dinner for folks at the Welcome Home Hospice on Germantown Rd. We cook on the 1st Friday of the month. No more than three people need to stay and share the meal but cooking and delivering the food can be a joint venture. We will be encouraging members of the congregation to sign up to host one of the dinners at the next Social Justice Table.
2. Chattanooga Non Violence Partnership - We are working with the Grace Episcopal and St. Elmo United Methodist Churches to address the issue of gun violence in Chattanooga. We will be planning a series of events to educate and activate around this issue.
3. Diversity Issues - Work with other groups to address Diversity Issues: Gay/Lesbian/Transgender; Racism & NAACP; Women's Freedom of Choice...as these events come up we will be communicating to the members/friends of UUC.
4. Move to Amend & Growing Inequality - We will be hosting Speakers/Forum/Movies around these issues.

Many people have signed up for our Social Justice t-shirts. We will be asking people to give us money for their shirts prior to ordering.

Membership

Membership Committee is recruiting new members and will be hosting an organizational meeting within the next month. At this meeting, we'll be assigning responsibilities and tasks. We are in the process of organizing "Membership Journey" classes for new members who have joined in the last year, and prospective members who will be joining after the class. We expect this class to be held in January. We are also planning on putting together a "Member Interest Survey" to be given to the church in January. This survey will help gather data needed for our new Volunteer Coordinator so that we can better engage all members in the church. We're also in the process of ordering some new brochures for our Visitor's Table.

Also, our New Member dinner held in October was a rousing success – great participation, great food (thank you, Cathy) and wonderful fellowship.

Communication

The Communication team continues its work communicating with our membership, friends and community via Facebook, UUC's webpage, WUTC, etc. The UUA free website template is available, and the Communications team is preparing to work on that template; individualizing it for UUC. The website will be dynamic, easily updated and changed – so the day after it's rolled out, it can be changed, if needed. So, once the website is planned, the actual set-up will not take long – however, no estimated date at this time. Maybe next month.....