

Board Meeting Minutes for October 18, 2016

Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga

Present: Monique Lewis, President; Bart Solomon, 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; Pam Johnson, Secretary; Bill Derrickson, Treasurer.

Absent: Rev. Cathy Harrington, Developmental Minister.

Monique called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Linda lit the chalice and shared opening words. Everyone checked in.

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

Treasurer's Report: The financial reports are attached to the end of the minutes. Bill summarized the reports below.

1. Revenue:

- a. Pledge income continues to do well at \$48.8 k on a year-to-date basis for 2016.
- b. Our Sunday church offering (account 4050) is about \$700 lower than at this time last year. In contrast, Share-the-Plate offerings continue to do well.
- c. We had two Cell Tower Income checks for this month which was fortunate. Furthermore, each check was for \$1,331 reflecting the new higher contract rate.
- d. Interest on our money market and CD's remains just over \$15 per month on \$85k of investments.

2. Expenses:

- a. We had our once per year Copier Maintenance (account 6410) fee expense of \$795
- b. We also had our once per year Insurance-Bldg/Liability (account 6525) expense of \$4,166
- c. Both our water bill and electric bill for last month remain high reflecting the unusual hot weather.

3. Excess Income /Expenses:

The YTD overall financial position of the church is \$2.2k under YTD last year. However, when you add back the one-time charge for building insurance of \$4.2k and subtract out our extra cell tower check, our position becomes comparable to last year's results.

Buck moved that we accept the financial statements, Bart seconded and the financial reports were accepted.

Minister's Report: Cathy's report is attached at the end of the minutes.

Congregational Life Report: Greg reports that a 13" refurbished Mac notebook computer is being purchased for \$436.00 to replace the one that was stolen from the sound booth.

Resources Report: Buck's report is attached to the end of the minutes.

- The finance committee recommends the board approve full amount of member contribution by PayPal or credit card as credit toward their pledge. Fees to be shown as new line item in the expense budget for accounting purpose. Buck moved that we accept the recommendation of the finance committee. Linda seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- The finance committee recommends the board supports UUCS discontinuing participation in the TVA Green Power Switch program. Buck moved that we accept this recommendation. Bill seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- An Alcoholics Anonymous group would like to rent the forum room space weekly on Saturday mornings from 8:45 to 9:45 at the cost of \$25 per month. Buck moves that we offer this group this reduced rate since is church outreach. Bart seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Religious Growth Report: Kay's report is attached to the end of the minutes. Cecile reported that an adult OWL program is being planned that Naomi and Eric Self will teach.

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

New Business:

- Auction Update – Auction has netted over \$8,000.
- Goal Setting for the Board – We all agreed that the mission statement is what we should focus on first. We discussed and concluded that the Board members should offer their help to Cathy in organizing congregational meetings to write a mission statement.

Quick Report Items:

- Next meetings--November 15, December 20, January 17
- Opening/Closing readings for November - Greg
- Process Observer

Closing Words: Linda read our closing words. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Johnson

UUCC Board Meeting - Oct 2016
VP Resource Report

Electronic technology is an integral part of church finance and our finance committee is looking at many aspects for best use of this technology for UUCC. Some members are interested in using Pay Pal so the focus of last week's finance meeting was to examine how Pay Pal may be included as a method for payment of a member's financial commitment to UUCC. There is about a three percent (3%) charge to the church, hence the following recommendation for board consideration.

The finance committee recommends the board approve full amount of member contribution as credit toward their pledge. Fees to be shown as new line item in the expense budget for accounting purpose.

Years ago TVA offered a program of citizen's participation for off-setting loss of revenue TVA may experience in switching to solar. This was called the Green Power Switch Program. An individual or organization could purchase blocks of energy in the program at \$5.00 per block/month. The monies generated from the program to be used for generation of solar power.

UUCC purchased 4 blocks (20.00) per month and still participates. Sandy Kurtz chair of Green Sanctuary Committee a leader in our participating in the program from the beginning now feels it is not necessary we continue to do so. Our actions in installing solar panels, and other green initiatives within our facility as well as being recognized by UUA as a Green Sanctuary church further validates this thought.

The finance committee recommends the board supports UUCC discontinuing participation in the TVA Green Power Switch program

Misc. Items

Past Policy stated UUCC did not publicize outside rentals. The communication committee guidelines include the Humanist group as allowed. The India Society no longer uses our facility. Others mentioned can be justified. The Humanist cannot. I do not request full board discussion at this time, but do request a meeting of interested persons.

An outgoing board cannot obligate the incoming board for daily operations. Facility use request dated after June will require review and approval of new board.

PIC dates reserved without definite program will be "penciled in". If another committee wishes to have the date. The penciled in committee will be contacted for verification of a program. If none the second request will be honored

Respectfully Submitted;

Buck O'Rear October 17, 2016

RE report for BOT - September, 2016

- Average weekly attendance in RE: 31.
- Total number of registered children in RE, as of 10/13/16: 54.
- Reminder: Teen class begins at 11 a.m. If possible, visitors with teens should be made aware that teens do not attend the first part of service.
- New employee: Our new Nursery caregiver is Destiny Tyehemba, a UTC nursing student. Stop by and say "Hi", if you have a moment when downstairs.
- Many thanks to our volunteer teachers and assistants for a wonderful first month in RE.
- Exciting to see the Spirit Play (Montessori) curriculum being brought to life in our Sprouts classroom. If you haven't yet had the chance, peek through the window one Sunday morning. It's pretty awesome.
- Carol Hobbs hosted an art workshop for our Teens, using digital images and collage technique, on September 25. Six UUCS teens attended.
- Effective immediately, DRE will take responsibility for the weekly set-up and clean-up of the Playground area in the sanctuary.
- Medievals class has identified the 5 Horcruxes they'll battle this year: Slavery, Homelessness, Animal Cruelty, Racism, Pollution. (First up: Animal Cruelty.)
- To fight the Animal Cruelty Horcrux, the Medievals are hosting a Supply Drive to benefit the Humane Society of Chattanooga. Donations will be collected in boxes in our Fellowship area, beginning October 9 and continuing through November 6. DRE created inserts for October 2 & 9 orders of service, calling for donations.
- Just reached midway point with Elementary (grades 4-6) OWL: four classes have been held, and four classes remain. 10 children registered.
- DRE in charge of coordinating the upcoming "Comfort Foods" potluck in honor of Father Michael Lapsley, on October 23.
- Looking ahead...UU Kids service on October 30. Kids and adults are invited and encouraged to come in costume!
- Sprouts Teachers have signed up for all their Sundays through May. Medievals class is also in great shape, teacher-wise, with only 3 Sundays unclaimed. I've had less success getting firm commitments from a few (not all) of the Teen teachers, but will continue to work on it. There are noted exceptions (like Judith Pedersen-Benn, who is a goddess) and I'm hopeful that with continued effort, I can secure commitments for the remainder of the year.
- Recruiting Assistants for all 3 classrooms continues to be a time-consuming challenge. Other breaking news: The sun is hot. Rain is wet.

Board Report – VP Outreach Ministry – October 18, 2016

Social Justice

The Social Justice team is hosting movies on the 4th Fridays of every month. In September, the movie was “Defying the Nazis, the Sharps’ War”. This movie was advertised in our newsletter, website, Facebook and on WUTC, and we had a good turnout, mostly from outside of our church, and had an interesting discussion following the movie. The movie to be shown on October 28th is Michael Moore’s film “Where To Invade Next”. The doors open at 6:30 and the movie starts at 7, with free popcorn and discussion following each movie.

Members of the Social Justice team will be supporting Cathy as she hosts Father Michael Lapsley’s workshops in Chattanooga, October 21st and 22nd.

Social Justice set up a table in September with sign-up sheets and information about community and church Social Justice activities. These Social Justice tables will continue periodically, in an effort to generate more involved members/friends.

Membership

We are continuing efforts to find a chairperson and members of the Membership Team. There is one active member who is responsible for every New Member Sunday. There are several others “thinking” about various “jobs” on the team.

Rather than holding 2 classes prior to joining the church, there has been some discussion about making the process easier. When someone says they are interested in joining the church, they would be sent information about what it means to be a member of UCC – including information about committees, activities, along with a pledge form. Basically, they would get information about sharing their time, talent and treasure. They will be encouraged to join a team or participate in an activity – even joining a small group. We will have specific New Member Sundays on the calendar (probably 3 times a year). Prior to each New Member Sunday, each person who has requested the information about joining, will be contacted to determine if they want to join the church and have completed their pledge form. Those people will be part of the New Member Sunday Celebration. This is only an idea at this point – any comments would be gratefully accepted. I do not think we need to spend time discussing this in the board meeting, so send your thoughts to me via email, please.

Communications

The Communications team rolled out the new website this month. They are referring to it as Phase I, because there are still many updates and revisions that will be made in the next few weeks to get it “up to speed” – and then, it will be continually updated, of course. Some of you may be asked to give your input on issues with which you have been involved. Also, please feel free to send questions and/or suggestions to comm@uucc.org.

Reminder: The newsletter continues to be published by Oakridge – November 17th will be the last newsletter with which they will be involved.

The Communications team is tweeting! I noticed that “we” sent out a tweet about the youth collecting specific things needed by the Humane Educational Society (HES), and HES re-tweeted it to everyone that follows them! Very cool!

A Conversation with the Board

Next Sunday after church would normally be our 3rd monthly “Conversations with the Board”, however, my suggestion is we skip it this time. Father Lapsley will be here which may mean many more people coming to the service, and there is going to be a potluck after church.

When we do this in November, let’s think about a way to make our conversation a more “official” looking gathering – maybe using a table? Think about it.

Submitted by Linda Park, October 18, 2016

Minister's Notes

October 17, 2016

Church has been bustling with joyful noise this past month! If building Beloved Community is a goal of this church and can be measured by the energy and flow of the past month, UUC is on the right path.

Small Group Ministry has had a successful kickoff beginning with a lunch meeting after the service on September 18th. Several groups are meeting regularly at church and Jayne Trapnell is doing a fabulous job as coordinator.

The Service auction on September 23rd was a rousing success and lots of fun. The energy that went into planning and executing that evening was phenomenal!

The annual Pride Service was held at UUC for the second year in a row. Attendance this year topped last year and the reception following the service continued until 9:30 PM.

The SJ Movie presentation of Defying the Nazis was well-attended and the discussion that followed was engaging. Judith did a great job facilitating. The NPR spots attracted many non-members to the event.

The children's "Prayground" has livened up Sunday mornings. Kay and I have purchased and created several activities for the children to keep them happy. The coloring mandala cards idea to be used as greeting cards for congregants has been challenged because parents would prefer that their kids not have access to permanent coloring pens. A work in progress...

The Social Justice committee helped (Mary Lou and Betsy Reed) me serve dinner to 18 spouses and family members of our newest police cadets. They will graduate on December 1, 2016. Chief Fletcher has included restorative justice and victim-centered policing in their training. Having relationships with chaplains helps police officers and their families know that they are not alone.

Chief Fletcher asked if UUC would host the next chaplain graduation ceremony on November 17th from 6-7:30 pm. Unless there is an objection from the board, I recommend we accept. There will be publicity, distinguished speakers, and positive exposure in the community.

In addition to worship services, staff meetings, and office hours, I had 4 pastoral counseling sessions, I officiated at a non-member wedding rehearsal and wedding, taught a Bible class, attended the Service Auction, several meetings; Worship Associates, Finance Committee, Transition Team, met with Wendy Sapp regarding Fr Lapsley's visit and FAITHIFY (successful fundraising), CPD Chaplain Benefit Concert planning meeting held at UUC. I also met with Pam Johnson and Linda Park to discuss the highlights of the Multi-Site workshop that we attended on 9/17.