

Board Meeting Minutes for April 18, 2017

Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga

Present: Monique Lewis, President; Bart Solomon, President-Elect; Cecile de Rocher, VP Religious Growth Ministry; Linda Park, VP Outreach Ministry; Greg Cruz, VP Congregational Life Ministry; Pam Johnson, Secretary; Bill Derrickson, Treasurer; Rev. Cathy Harrington, Developmental Minister.

Guests: Jim Welborn, Daidee Springer, Lynn Higgins, Lynna Ruth Standridge, and Connie Cowherd.

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

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

Nominating Committee: Jim Welborn presented the proposed slate of officers for the Board of Trustees.

- President: Bart Solomon 2017-2018; Past President 2018-2019
- President Elect: Nicky Ozbek 2017-2018; President 2018-2019; Past President 2019-2020
- VP Religious Growth: Mary Lou Reed 2017-2019
- VP Resources: David Benn 2017-2019
- Secretary: Connie Cowherd 2017-2019
- Treasurer Elect: Lynna Ruth Standridge

Continuing Members of the Board of Trustees

- Past President: Monique Lewis 2017-2018
- Treasurer: Bill Derrickson, 2016-2018 (first term)
- Vice President for Congregational Life Ministry: _____*
- Vice President for Outreach Ministry: Linda Park 2017-2018

*Greg Cruz intends to resign as VP Congregational Life as of June 30, 2017. The Nominating Committee will look for a candidate to fill this position and propose it by the May BOT meeting.

The proposed new members of Nominating and Leadership Development Committee are Dan Hickey (2017-2019; first term) and Linn Boshers (2017-2019; first term).

Monique moved that we accept the proposed slate of officers for the BOT. Bart seconded the motion and the slate was approved.

Monique moved that we accept the proposed slate of officers for the Nominating Committee. Linda seconded the motion and the slate was approved.

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

Cathy also noted that we did not get Community Foundation grant to fund Father Lapsley's visit, but that the executive director of HOM said to proceed anyway. We won't have the three-day workshop

here, but will use the time to build community relationships to develop enthusiasm for a HOM site in Chattanooga.

Contacted by Oxygen TV show related to Cathy's daughter's murder. Cathy doesn't want anything to do with this pornography of violence.

Four-part documentary on the anatomy of hate. The fourth episode will be on forgiveness; she may be interested in participating in that, depending on how the subject is treated.

Treasurer's Report: Finances are doing well. Guardedly optimistic that we will be in a positive position at year end. YTD is comparable to last year's YTD. The WE Church is current in their payments of rental fees. Denominational expenses are caught up.

Resources Report: ???

DRE Report: Kay's report is attached to the end of the minutes. The nursery worker is resigning because she will be spending three months this summer at her parent's home.

Religious Growth Report: Cecile had no report but relayed a question by Kay McCurdy who wants guidance on how she can use her professional expenses. What can those funds be used for? Cathy suggested using the IRS guide for ministers' professional expenses.

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

Congregational Life Report: Greg had no report.

New Business:

- 1) Stewardship Report: The committee sent out 120 pledge packets, Monique estimates we might get back 102 pledges; have received 51 answers so far; have collected \$118,501 in pledge to date. Schedule of events is as follows: article in newsletter 4/20, 4/23 invitation for celebration Sunday and pledge update; 4/30 end of stewardship campaign; 5/21 is celebration Sunday.
- 2) Proposed Option/Administrator Position:

Cathy sent the church administrator job description to Oak Ridge and they came up with a proposal for some options on how we could use some of their services to manage database, communication, and faith building functions, while hiring a part time person to take care of finances and a second part time person to serve as membership coordinator.

There was extensive discussion of the pros and cons of the Oak Ridge proposal along with suggestions for other alternatives.

Bart moved that we table any further discussion and that we form a subcommittee to investigate this further and contact the Oak Ridge church with questions and report back to the church board. Greg seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Quick Report Items:

- Building Usage Policy: Since Buck has not been able to oversee this, subcommittee will come up with some revisions to our policy by the end of the summer. Problem has arisen when certain groups pay less or nothing and we need a standard, consistent policy. Greg pointed out that sextons are needed for outside groups. Pam mentioned that decisions should keep in mind congruence with church mission.
- Board Rep/Usher Schedule: 4/23 Cecile & Bill; 4/30 Greg & Pam;
- Next meetings: May 16, June 20
- Opening/closing readings for May: Linda
- Quarterly Council meeting is Saturday, May 13 at 9:00 am

Closing Words: Monique read our closing words. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

DRE Report for BOT

April, 2017

- Attendance

March 05: 27

March 12: 26

March 19: 15 (Spring Break)

March 26: 24

- DRE participated in Lay Pastoral Care training in March, and joined as a team member in April. Thanks to Cathy, Wendy and all the LPC associates for making me feel so welcome!
- We held a very successful RE Committee annual retreat on April 9: a full day of brainstorming, planning, and policy review. Curriculum for 2017/2018 was chosen, as well as a new system for registration and volunteer recruitment.
- On April 28th, Sandy Kurtz, tashi kunesh-Kurtz and Sophie McCurdy will board a bus bound for Washington, D.C., and (after an all-night bus trip) will participate in the People's Climate March on Washington! Many thanks to Sandy for serving as a positive role model/Social Justice Warrior for our children and youth (not to mention being the coolest chaperone ever.)
- Speaking of fabulous...how many ministers do you know who are also master bakers? This Saturday, April 22nd, Reverend Cathy will teach a group from our Medievals class the art and science of making bagels. (Samples available for noshing before service on Sunday!)
- We held our annual Easter Egg Hunt this past Sunday, April 16th, and enjoyed, as always, the sight of so many little ones gathered on the lawn. Next year, however, we plan to devote our energies to an Earth Day celebration (Earth Day falls on a Sunday next year) rather than to an Easter Egg Hunt. We feel Earth Day is more in keeping with our UU values, and are excited to plan a meaningful (and fun!) experience for all our UU kids.
- Destiny Tyehimba (Nursery caregiver) has given her notice. Her last day will be April 30th. The DRE has identified a qualified candidate for her replacement, and hopes to make the transition as seamless as possible.

Board Report – VP Outreach Ministry – April 18, 2017

Social Justice

EARTH DAY is Saturday, April 22, and the UUCU Social Justice team will be showing a movie, "Ingari". It is about a woman in Africa who planted trees and eventually won recognition for her tireless efforts. Attendees are being asked to bring something (a poem, song, natural object...or whatever suits you) that shows their appreciation for the environment and the world which we all inhabit. Popcorn and lemonade will be available. The movie will be shown downstairs in the "much more comfortable" forum room.

Also, there will be an Earth Day "March for Science" the afternoon of the 22nd at Main Terrain Art Park on Main Street at 1:00. The weather should be great, and we hope to have a lot of UUCU members and friends participating!

The UUCU Social Justice Committee and members of the East Third Street Church of Christ met for the 2nd time for an evening of food and purposeful conversation on race and racism in March. There was a large, diverse group that met to listen and tell our stories and personal experiences.

There are members of our committee/church who are leading and/or volunteering for many organizations; such as, Fathers of the Fatherless, Welcome Home, CALEB, Women's March - 10 Actions in 100 Days, Indivisible and many other events/organizations.

Social Justice continues to set up a SJ table periodically after Sunday service to enable church members to sign-up for activities and learn more about community and Social Justice activities.

Membership

Connie Cowherd is organizing a Beginnings Point class for anyone interested in learning about Unitarian Universalism on April 26th. Jim and Sue Welborn are planning the Connecting Points class on May 10th. The date for New Member Sunday has not been set yet, but it will be a couple of weeks after the 2nd class. These classes will be advertised in the Newsletter and with an insert in the Sunday of service. Connie Cowherd is organizing it. Then there will be a Connecting Points class on May 10th.

Communications

The Communication team continues to communicate effectively to our members, friends, visitors and the greater community via the website, Facebook, tweets, and WUTC. They are meeting this week to discuss future needs and plans.

Submitted by Linda Park, April 18, 2017