

## **Minutes of the Board of Trustees February 15, 2016**

Members Present: Margaret Lawrence, Judy Pate, Linda Fetters, Jillian Whitbeck, Sylvia Wilson, Joe Pierce, Lauren Cantatore-Causey, Rev. Roger Mohr.

Members Absent: Kerri Cockerham, Angela Leach.

Guests: Deborah Sundermann, George Clower, Jerry Jones.

After members checked in, Rev. Mohr led the board in centering. President Margaret Lawrence read the board covenant. The agenda was adopted, as well as the January board minutes and the Leadership Council minutes.

Vice President Judy Pate gave updates for the Leadership Council. Eight people have signed up for the Loaves & Fishes meal service. We are waiting to receive our schedule.

The Membership Committee is very active and now have 10 members. They have developed a strategic planning process and are focusing on priorities, including a process for making members of visitors; getting new members involved and finding out what has happened to members who have quit coming; working on community outreach, and hosting regional events for UU groups who have no minister. The first of these is scheduled for May 1 and will be a picnic on church grounds.

### Financial Planning Committee.

- Margaret reported that she is encouraging members to adopt gifting tree tags that were not fulfilled during the holiday season. She has 26 tickets left.
- The chili luncheon fundraiser raised \$648. All foods were donated.
- Voter registration continues at Trinity Towers.

### Painting of building.

The painting contractor painted four color samples on the building. A motion was made and seconded to approve the color "Vintage Vessel" for repainting the exterior of the church. The motion carried. Painting will begin Tuesday, 2-16-16.

### Religious Education.

Lauren reported that she will attend a conference this weekend and has left Tess Cherry in charge to handle any questions. The Wizarding Camp is scheduled for June 6-10 with tuition of \$75 for children up to 12. Prefect positions are available for children who have demonstrated leadership qualities.

### Minister's Report.

- Rev. Mohr reported that he has begun making video trailers to post on his FaceBook page. He will send the files to Jillian so she can post them on the church FB page as well. He is working with the Communication Committee as well.
- Work on selecting equipment for video streaming of church services to outlying groups continue. Margaret spoke to Ray Rose about the need for buying quality equipment rather

than top-of-the-line equipment for our budget's sake. Jillian reminded us that a faster Internet connection would be required for streaming.

- Sermons are mapped out for the rest of his tenure. He plans to attend the men's retreat at U-Bar-U on the second Sunday of May.

#### Worship Committee.

Joe Pierce reported that worship services are planned through the end of April. New worship associates are Peggy Mooers and Sandie Weiss. Guest speakers are also plentiful but he will find more speakers to cover the summer months.

#### Treasurer's Report.

Linda Fetters asked the board to consider whether to get a safe deposit box, either at the Coastal Community Teachers Credit Union or Bank of America. She obtained a price from Bank of America but will get information from the credit union this week.

An alternative to a safe deposit bank is a fireproof, waterproof floor safe that could be bolted to the floor of an office or closet of the church. It would be a one time cost of about \$190 and would provide a generous amount of space.

The board decided a safe deposit bank would be safer and authorized the treasurer to pick the institution with the best price.

#### Ministerial Search.

Margaret reported for Ray Rose. The interviewing process is underway with three candidates. The chosen candidate will be brought here for a candidating week in April. After the congregation meets the pastor and hears the sermon, they will vote whether to accept the candidate as our settled minister. The candidate is expecting a 90% approval vote; if the vote is less than that, the candidate may decline the position. Linda pointed out that we would have no time to find an interim minister if that happens, but Rev. Mohr stated that the UUA Transition Office will help us find one. Rev. Mohr may or may not be available for a second year as interim minister, but he will know by the time we host the candidate. If the candidate accepts our offer, he/she will start in August.

#### Communications Committee.

Deborah Sundermann reported that the committee is working on an ad campaign, as she reported in a special edition of her *Dispatch*. Slogans and advertising plans were outlined in the *Dispatch* as well. A meeting with interested congregational members will be held after the service on Feb. 21st.

Deborah stated that we need to be careful with our advertising to preserve the "sanctuary" status of our church. Rebekah and Jillian are working on graphics. The committee believes that advertising should be focused on KEDT and FaceBook. The KEDT advertisement is gelling. This ad would cost \$500 out of a \$1300 budget.

The new chalice designed by UUA will be used instead of the old chalice.

#### Cornerstone

Sylvia Wilson reported that she and George got a free sample of marble from Granite Unlimited. They are working on getting the names of the cornerstone pledge donors engraved on the marble piece.

### Safety Committee.

Joe Pierce reported that he contacted the CCPD to get a representative to speak to the committee on the active shooter issue. He will pick a date and inform the committee members and board officers who wish to attend.

Joe came in this morning to help the painters. He found that the gate to the shed area has the same entry code as the church door keypad. He wants to change the church code to avoid problems.

George Clower found smaller signs to post at all entrances to inform the public that no open carry or concealed carry weapons are allowed.

### New Business.

Item 12 (b), Islamic guest speakers was tabled. Margaret said it requires more discussion with the congregation.

The board next discussed "**Going Forward**," i.e. what should the board, the leadership council and the congregation concentrate on between now and August.

Jillian said she needs photographers to record church events and activities to post on the website (or advertising). Judy said both Mike Reed and Carroll Pate are good choices.

Sylvia asked if there was a committee or person who is in charge of changing the look or freshening the entrance and foyer to make it more attractive. Rev. Mohr stated that most churches no longer have such a committee. Judy suggested that we should change our attitude when someone comes up with a new idea for improving the appearance of the church; however, anyone who wishes to make a change should check with the appropriate committee before going ahead with the change or removing an item in case a plan or procedure is already in action.

Deborah suggested that we should think more about our identity or branding; how do we want to present ourselves to the outside community. She said "we should strive to develop a consistent image of our church as a 'sanctuary' for liberal religious thought and safe diversity. This means not trying to be something we are not (like a mega-church) and projecting our branding (as developed by your communications team) so that we can be more easily identified and distinguished."

Joe asked how we do follow up on members who have quit coming to church, how to get guests to come back and become members, and how to inform new members of activities that they may want to participate in. He was told that the Membership Committee has put procedures in place for doing this.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Fetters