

## **Westside Unitarian Universalist Congregation**

West Seattle, Washington, USA

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, April 11, 2011

**Event Catering:** President VanHaagen brought the pizza tonight.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:12 pm by President Paula vanHaagen in the Fireside Room at 7141 CA Ave SW. Present were Vice President Linda Tally, Treasurer Melissa Lang, Secretary Michael Armstrong, Trustees Steve Becker, Peggy Abby and Clifford Houlihan. Also in attendance were the Rev. Peg Morgan, RE Director Kari Kopnick, Allan Lang, and Rand Cuffley.

**Chalice Lighting:** Trustee Abby lit the chalice with words of Elizabeth Taylor and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

**Reconvened into Executive Session:** Rand Cuffley presented a slate of nominees for the upcoming election in May. The report was received by the board.

### **Regular Session Resumed**

**Check In:** is getting shorter all the time. Everyone was OK.

**Secretary's Report:** The revised minutes of the March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting will be circulated in final form for review at the next meeting.

**Report from the Minister:** Rev Peg presented a verbal report. A transfer of approximately \$4000 may be forthcoming from the Rainier Valley Congregation. The video prepared for the GA is nearing completion and it looks good. Busy with lots of details and big picture issues.

**Religious Exploration Director's Report:** Kari Kopnick's written report was presented and is appended to and forms a part of these minutes. OWL has been done at three levels this year. Busy programming and dealing with all the growing pains. We are short of space again with 120 children on the roll. Kari noted the beneficial and friendly connections with other churches in the local UU community.

**Treasurer's Report and Budget Update:** Treasurer Lang presented a report and it appears we may have a surplus of \$1700 this year. LOLA receipts will be about \$24,000 this year including \$4300 for the music budget. It is forecast that we will be about \$21,000 low on pledge income this year. There was an extensive discussion on the pledges for capital campaign and associated issues.

**Labor Of Love Auction:** It was moved by Steve Becker that board allocate the sum of \$75 as a gift for Laura Matson from LOLA proceeds in recognition of her

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leadership on this fund raising event. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cliff Houlihan. The motion was carried with Secretary Armstrong opposed.

**Rental Policy:** The rental policy document is still under review. The insurance agent advised that lessees have their own insurance; Family Promise should be covered by their own insurance; our insurance policy seems to cover more items than was originally thought; other variables also affect the exposure and cost such as the nature of the event, the number of children and activities. Melissa and Michael will meet with the committee to review the policy and document within the next two weeks.

**Safety Policies:** Allan Lang presented the report from his committee. Some small changes were made. It was moved by Trustee Becker and seconded by Clifford Houlihan that the reports entitled Disruptive Behavior Policy; and, Sexual Misconduct and or Abuse Policies be adopted. The motion was carried.

**Proposed Bylaw Amendments:** Trustee Becker presented the report of his committee. The document was reviewed on a paragraph by paragraph basis by Trustee Becker. The paragraphs that were in need of further discussion were set aside for additional review.

**Reconvened into Executive Session:** Treasurer Melissa led a discussion on a draft budget for the upcoming year.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting scheduled at 7:00 pm on May 9th, 2011.

**Chalice Lighter:** Vice President Tally light the chalice for the next meeting.

**Pizza:** Secretary Armstrong will bring dinner.

**Thank you Notes:** The Board members identified individuals to send thank you notes to and divided the responsibility to write and send the notes. The Board will send notes to the following individuals in recognition of their efforts for the Labor Of Love Auction: Tracy Burrows, Alice Britt, Cynthia Becker, Laura Matson, Peggy Abby & Kevin Lane-Cummings

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 by President Paula vanHaagen with closing words read by Peggy Abbey.

Recorded by

Michael Armstrong  
Secretary

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Report to the Board of Trustees de Director of Religious Exploration

All is well in the world of children and youth at Westside. We've completed the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade OWL, which means in the last year we've completed 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade OWL, K-1 OWL and Jr. High OWL. Quite an achievement! We'll start over with 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade OWL next October.

The volunteer needs of our RE program continue to be huge, and the busy lives people lead in the spring are necessitating many substitutions to be made nearly every week. This is taking a fair amount of time from the Religious Educators.

Our enrollment continues to grow. We've had a number of 60+ attendance days this spring, topped in numbers only by one date last fall. And while our enrollment number is always a moving target, we're confident that we're approaching 120 children at Westside. Half of the enrolled children attending on any given Sunday is the norm for most faith communities. The summer schedule has been set and we're filling the volunteer spaces. The fall teams are being envisioned, and recruiting will begin in May with teams in place by June.

Our first in house Coming of Age program (UU Confirmation) is beginning to be planned, we're taking a long view approach beginning with a visioning meeting, followed by a working group meeting and then bringing in a consultant for a few sessions with the working group and to train the mentors. We'll begin the actual program in either winter of 2012 or the following fall.

I do have the sense of a looming issue. I see no reason to expect that we'll stop growing anytime soon, word is that Westside is a "*happenin' place*" for families. But our RE space is very tight right now. In the next few weeks we'll need to do some creative planning and thinking in innovative ways to anticipate the influx of new families next fall. Some of the very early ideas involve renting space in nearby buildings for groups. I didn't even have this on my radar to put it in the budget, but we may need to find some creative sources for money if this is the direction that we need to go. Other options in the early brainstorm are to have RE for some classes following the service, have an "active" class that meets and goes down to Lincoln Park every week—rain or shine, send the middle schoolers to a coffee shop, pitch a tent on the front lawn, build a yurt, or find a cheap source for the room of requirement found in the Harry Potter books—the one that expands to meet the needs at hand. I know many of our board members don't want to hear it, but we are going to have to move to two Sunday morning services eventually. The timing of that step may need to be influenced by the numbers of children.

So our problems are good ones to have. Our staff is fabulous; Shannon Day is one of the most efficient and hardworking people on the planet. Our volunteers are committed. The consistent care and attention offered by almost every church group to our children is inspiring. And the working relationship with the SweetPea preschool is absolutely fabulous. We are blessed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kari Kopnick