

Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees of
Westside Unitarian Universalist Congregation

August 8, 2012

The meeting was held in the Fireside Room of the Congregation's church building at 7141 California Avenue SW, Seattle, Washington, and was called to order by President Jill Fleming at 7:05 p.m. with chalice lighting and opening words of gratitude by Rev. Peg. Joe provided delicious chicken, cole slaw and rolls.

Present were President Jill Fleming, Vice President Candace Sullivan, Secretary Karin Cumming, Treasurer Matt Aspin, Trustees Laura Matson and Joe Rettenmaier, Rev. Peg Morgan, our new DRE, Natalie Briscoe, and RE Council co-chair Heather Hisatomi. Trustee Eric Winiecki was absent. Jill asked everyone present to introduce themselves and describe his or her history and favorite spiritual memories with the Congregation.

Jill reported that the minutes of the July 11 board meeting had been distributed to the members of the Board for review. Corrections were requested in Retreat Follow Up to show that Laura chose goal area ""Refining Our Infrastructure" only and Jill chose goal areas "Maintaining our Close-Knit Community" and "Financial Stability." Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved as so corrected, with Candace abstaining because she did not attend the meeting.

New Director of Religious Education

Heather expressed how happy she is to have Natalie join us. She advised that the new RE Council co-chairs for the coming year will be Betsy Lowry and Julie Forkasdi. Natalie said that she spent her first week meeting people, had lunch with Betsy and found out how summer had gone, met with Stina and talked about supplies. However, before making any further plans she wants to run her ideas by the RE Council at its meeting later this month. A leadership assimilation event with Nan Fawthrop as facilitator is being planned for September 23 to include leaders and chairs of all groups having interaction with Natalie. Peg mentioned that the start-up process is important to be clear about responsibilities as between the DRE, minister, RE council and staff.

Strategic Planning

Jill Jackson arrived to explain the Draft for Board Input that she had distributed. Karin requested access to the compilation of comments recommendations at the Board Retreat on July 7 and Jill J. said she would give the Board access to the on-line Dropbox of the committee. Jill J. asked how quickly the Board may be able to return the completed Draft. After discussion it was agreed that Board subgroups for goal areas would meet to work on the proposed strategies and hold a special board meeting prior to the next regular board meeting to finalize all strategies. It was agreed that the Board will meet for this purpose after the service on Sunday, September 9. Jill F. suggested we email subgroup proposals to other Board members a week prior to the September 9 meeting. After Board approval of the completed Draft for Board Input at its September 12 regular meeting, the Strategic

Planning Committee will finalize a draft of the Strategic Plan for approval by the Board at its regular October meeting, then distribute it to the congregation for comment, with submission to the congregation for final approval in November or December. The timing of this process would necessitate postponement of Open Leadership Day and Peg suggested that in lieu of it, we can write up some procedures to give to the new leaders.

Treasurer's Report

Matt distributed a report dated August 6, 2012. Peg noted that the preschool rental income will be high all year because the April 2012 check was received in July. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the treasurer's report was accepted unanimously.

Minister's Report

Rev. Peg had distributed a report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Committee and Task Force Updates

Jill noted that the Rummage Sale moved into summer (August 25 & 26), that we were given a significant amount of material from one family and that we will be looking to recruit volunteers to help Shelby. She noted that we have reports from the Music Council and the Social Justice Committee and are working on establishing a Finance Committee. Karin asked if we should have a committee fair similar to last year and it was agreed that she would send out an email similar to last year, asking if they want to set up a table on *Ingathering Sunday*, September 16, let the office know and we will make a sign. Peg suggested we also remind them that, as mentioned in eNews, if they would like to have a storage box on the shelves on the social hall stage, to let us know.

Thank You Notes

Thank you notes were written and signed for Matt Earnest, Dan Gage and Patti McCall for carpentry and other services performed at Peg's request.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned and Jill extinguished the chalice at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Karin Cumming, Secretary

Minister's Report

Rev. Peg Morgan

August 2012

Hello Board!

Below are some comments on the state of the church. Really, all is VERY WELL! Peg

ADMINISTRATION

All is calm on the bookkeeping front.

I've had the joy of having a college student volunteering for the church which has allowed us to get a lot of sorting/cleaning projects done...the office closet is now amazing! And decluttering the office itself, removing all the no longer needed family promise supplies allowing for better use of the archive storage room. I really feel the need for a very flexible person who can do all sorts of work. It takes a load off of me. Stina Lane-Cummings and I are working on clearing away junk on the social hall stage, getting ready to have attractive containers on the shelves there for committee supplies.

All is well with Sweetpea Preschool.

The Wednesday morning volunteer time has resulted in lots of work getting done...Margaret Smith, Charlotte House, Patti McCall have helped. They did a deep cleaning of the kitchen on the first week. Patti is continuing every week. Margaret is helping with a music filing project now.

I helped Matt Earnest with logistics on his approximately 8 days of skilled carpentry work for us, his wage being paid by his mother, Penny Earnest. That was very generous, allowing us to finish the risers project, putting hinges on storage doors, hanging a new door in the marimba storage area. He did a fabulous job.

Dan Gage is a new volunteer who has completed a number of handi-man projects..including painting the doors of the middle floor toilet stalls, replacing the defecting door knobs, finishing the window (calking, sanding, priming, painting) in that bathroom, finishing the wall boarding in RE and my office where the heater replacements left a hole in the wall. Dan seems ready for more projects. He is VERY skilled.

Cliff Houlihan continues to do many routine and special projects around the church. Yeah Cliff!

Lyndol Pullen put the baseboard wood on two walls of my office (something I've wanted for two years!).

Laurie Radin has filed our annual corporations report to the Secretary of State, which requires updates on Board member names. She has also been working on getting our State Patrol records checks accounts transferred from Kari to Natalie and others.

Janet Cermak is the chair of Team Clean, and has just resigned her paid gig as Sunday Coordinator/Custodian. I have hired Dejon Shegrud to fill this job, which is 2-4 hours per week. Dejon used to have his own janitorial business. Janet and he are happy to be working together.

Safety Committee: we have been without lay leadership in this area. We now have a new person in our midst, Will Giammarese, willing to chair the Safety Committee. I am delighted. He is a retired Lt. Colonel. After he turns in his membership paperwork, I will bring his name to you for confirmation...unless you want to confirm it at this meeting contingent upon his joining. We are reviewing other congregation's policies for safety and will be prioritizing our future efforts. Recall that the last committee effort a couple years ago established a policy for Sexual Abusers in our midst and for Disruptive Behavior. We will be bringing the Children and Youth Policy to you in October after Natalie has a chance to make changes to the draft policy, which has been approved by the RE Council.

Ron Corley spent an hour with me the other day to help sort the interior color paints. We have labeled all the cans and placed them on the side of the furnace. This will allow us to do a touch up session around the church. Michael Armstrong and I hope to get that whole furnace room cleaned up this month (my role is to encourage and prod!)

PROGRAMMING

My Women of Wisdom and Spiritual Study Groups are both continuing well.

I am extremely grateful for Betsy Lowry serving as our summer RE coordinator...and donating the stipend to the church. She is this month taking up co-chair of RE Council with Julie Forkasdi...the Board should confirm those appointments.

You know from eNews that the Pastoral Care team now has a phone number for voice mail messages and an email which allows people to report pastoral needs, either for ourselves or others. We have a team member rotating a week or two at a time checking those sites daily.

I'm delighted to be helping Natalie get settled into her new position. She is such a blessing to us. Bert has been away for a couple weeks, one week at his continental UU Musicians' Network conference and then a conductors' high powered training on the coast. Bert reports that both conferences were really good. He is now on vacation in Oregon seeing his mom.

I have been in conversation with the President of the Gurudwara Singh Sabha of Washington Renton Sikh community, Gurdev Singh, expressing our condolences for the killing of Sikhs in Wisconsin.

Summer Services have gone well, with variety of topics and consistent feelings of community celebration. Mark Newton works hard to take care of all the details.

DISTRICT AFFAIRS

Our congregation will host a training on pledge drive/canvassing/stewardship on either January 12 or January 26. We will need a handful of people to arrange for or make a lunch. We will be reimbursed for expenses.

I've been asked by the District Executive, Janine Larsen, to facilitate a leadership covenant for the leadership of Vashon UU and their new "developmental minister" Carmen McDowell.

I continue to be the official mentor for Rev. Julia McKay serving our congregation in Kalispell, Montana, beginning her third year there.

PERSONAL: My health feels good. My only treatment for breast cancer is now a pill every day which is not affecting me. I'm back with a roar! I will try to take a partial week off later this month and then perhaps a vacation in November.