

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

February 13, 2013

The meeting was held in the Administrative Office of the Congregation's church building at 7141 California Avenue SW, Seattle, Washington, and was called to order by President Jill Fleming at 7:10 p.m. with chalice lighting words from Rev. Peg Morgan regarding community building, and everyone checking in. Eric Winiiecki (actually his wife, Wendy Swyt) provided delicious homemade pasta, vegetables and berry pie.

Present were President Jill Fleming, Vice President Candace Sullivan, Secretary Karin Cumming, Treasurer Matt Aspin, Trustees Laura Matson, Eric Winiiecki and Joe Rettenmaier and Rev. Peg Morgan. Also present was Betsy Lowry, Director of Religious Exploration.

Jill noted that proposed minutes of the January 9, 2013 board meeting had been distributed to the members of the Board for review. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Copies of the report were distributed. Matt announced that the reports will be circulated to members of Finance Committee for thorough review prior to board meetings in order for them to bring any matters of concern to the board's attention. All auction income is not yet shown in the report. If it were shown, we would be at 63% of our income and expense budget, which is good. He will be looking at line items to see if they are off target. Peg said she cancelled the ad in the West Seattle Herald, which included an announcement regarding offering same gender weddings, but added that we can revisit that in a few months. Peg reported that we had received \$2800 from UUA in recognition of the outlay in the short-term hiring of Natalie and upon motion duly made and seconded, the suggestion that we take the money from UUA and allocate it to a restricted fund for continuing education of our new DRE, Betsy, was unanimously approved. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Minister's Report

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

DRE Report

Betsy distributed and discussed her report (attachment available from Betsy). She had discussed with the RE Council the routine of having separate reports from the DRE and the RE Council and they agreed that unless the Board requested otherwise, one report would be submitted for both. There was no objection by the Board to that reporting method. She will post a report on the youth visioning session on SkyDrive.

Child and Youth Safety Policy

Jill reported that Betsy was still engaged in fact finding and research and, therefore, it would be best to defer the board's approval of the safety policy until April. Betsy reported that she had obtained good information from other DREs at a meeting this date.

Strategic Planning Implementation

Jill noted that the bylaws provide that it is the Board's duty to create committees and appoint chairs. She suggested we start with the **Finance Committee**. Jill reported that she had recruited past Treasurers, after advertising in the *Uniclarion* for persons interested in membership on this committee. Matt reported on the duties and proposed policies discussed at the first meeting of the Finance Committee, which he attended with Jill and past Treasurers Melissa Lang and Paula vanHaagen.

Social Justice World Café planning: Jill, Eileen Duffy, Theresa McCormick and John Britt will be interviewing current members of the social justice committee for input, expectations and concerns. We will be keeping our connection with Westside Interfaith Network. They were thinking about October for World Café, which is our 50th anniversary, and the Board discussed how we could work both in. Jill suggested we pick different Saturdays in October for each. Joe suggested we have a young adult on the planning committee and Betsy said she had given two names to Eileen. Joe also suggested that October 18, 19 and 20 would be a good weekend for the WSUU 50th anniversary celebration because we have a Peter Mayer concert, and the World Café could be the prior weekend. In response to a question from Matt, Jill said we will need to work on estimates in order to get these events into the budget process.

Two other committees that we need to get launched are **Transition** and **Building**. Candace met with Mark Newton and got his input regarding the **Transition Committee**. He suggested a group of six, plus consulting advisors. As to who would chair it, a candidate with the appropriate background has been identified. Candace and Jill will speak with her about it. Candace nominated Jill to be chair of the **Building Committee**, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Leadership Development Task Force: Laura reported they are considering something based on "Harvest the Power" Learning Objectives on UUA website, a UU curriculum, which uses examples of UU leaders and organization and how our principles are infused in the training. She noted that Saltwater was going to do four modules a year for three years. Jill and Peg said that Saltwater had contacted us about participation.

Governance

Jill raised the question of the Board needing an executive committee, or a way for us to make certain quick decisions on time-sensitive matters between board meetings. Jill suggested we think about it and defer that discussion until our next regular board meeting.

Leadership Day

Jill suggested we change the title of the event to something like "Community Development Day," to attract anyone who wants to come, along with the committee chairs and group leaders. She suggested

the agenda include such matters as church-size theory, communications between groups, calendaring, exploring the idea of a committees council, and practical information, such as security system, reimbursements, etc. To structure the event, Candace suggested Matt because she liked his ideas and Laura Matson due to her involvement with the Leadership Task Force. Due to conflict with a choir event, the hours of this event were shortened to from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., still on March 2, 2013. Candace suggested and all agreed that it would be best if the board members personally contacted the chairs, leaders and active members that we would like to attend the event and the board members each agreed to contact some of those individuals.

Pledge Drive Update

The report submitted by Laura Pierce was discussed and the Board agreed to support Laura in her efforts.

Makeovers

It was announced that \$3300 was raised for makeover of the administrative office by "Raise the Paddle" at the Labor of Love Auction. Joe reported that Mike Cox had been retained to do some planning for that makeover and Mike hopes to be available in that regard mid-March. Joe would like to meet with Peg, Laurie and those using the office to see if they have specific needs. It was reported that Alice Britt and Joe were charged with makeover of the social hall. Alice, Joe, Peg and Jill met on Sunday afternoon. Weddings are already scheduled and we need to do something to make it better quickly, such as repainting, buildout of cabinetry for serving counter from kitchen and hiding trash cans (Joe is getting a bid from Rob Fenwick), adding trim around doors and a new garbage can in the women's restroom. Joe will email the Board a proposed budget amount.

Thank You Notes

Thank you notes were written and signed to Laura Ehret for her help in compiling historical information for the 50th anniversary celebration and to the Labor-of-Love-Auction volunteers.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Karin Cumming, Secretary

Minister's Report
Rev. Peg Morgan
February 2013

Hello Board: I'll also put this on skydrive...Peg

Administration

Cell Tower: 1) our lease is up for review and possibly better terms if we negotiate...this fall...if we do not raise any issues, it just rolls over with a slight increase. I think this page is instructive, and I would suggest we decide how we will determine what is a fair rate...this article says anything under \$1000 is not ok. Ours is 800.00/month.

<http://www.ucc.org/cblf/Cell-Tower-Leases-Do-s-Don-ts-for-Churches.pdf>

2) The other issue with our cell tower is that they are not getting back to me about whether they should be paying electricity reimbursement to us. Since City Light tells us their usage is going through our counts of use, we looked at the contract and it is not clear...it says that if they do not pay their electricity directly the landlord can bill them. I will call one more time tomorrow. If I don't get a good answer, I think I might want to sick Alan Lang on them...I'll let you know at the meeting.

Storage: all the Christmas related storage is now stored in the west wall storage...a space accessed from both stairwells that you may not realize is there. That is to make more room in the dunk tank.

Hami Bahadori: this is a young Persian man (raised Bahai) who is doing a photography book as part of degree requirements at the University of Washington...on diverse places of worship. He asked if he could take pictures in our sanctuary and of me. I really liked him. He was quite deeply impressed with our faith and what it stands for as he wanted to do the project to find commonality in religions...he grieves the deadly fighting between religions. He will be here on Sunday to experience us, and to take a few more pictures.

Auction Tax Deductions: the new auction software allows for a great report that indicates if a person paid more than the fair market value of the item. So we will be noting on people's tax report that "more" amount, plus any contributions to raise the paddle and desert dash (we have determined that desert is already paid for in the \$40 entry ticket, so desert dash money is an out and out gift.). For 2012 we did note the raise the paddle on people's reports.

Electronic manual: Laurie is working on polishing up our electronic policy and procedure manual. I had a number of pages in the notebook typed this summer by a volunteer when a policy page wasn't available in electronic form. We have a little more review to do before handing to the Board or whoever wishes to see it.

Property Tax Exemption: Laurie has registered our renewal (done on-line) for our property tax exemption with the State of Washington. This is an annual task. The Secretary of State Corporations non-profit report is also annual and comes up in July. Both of these are on our Administrative Calendar so we don't forget to do them, should the reminder postcards not come.

Charities: The Nickelsville collection was about 224.00 for their share. So these are continuing to be doubling the money going into the baskets. The theme this month is people's basic life needs...First week Burundi (400+). Next two weeks: Mary's Place new Women and Children's Shelter; 4th week: Southwest Youth and Family Services families basic life needs program.

Pastoral Care

Viv Monahan and I are welcoming 6 potential pastoral listeners to a training on 2/23. We'll announce their names after that training when they each confirm they want to commit. These people will be available to check in on folks we haven't seen for a while, to visit the homebound, and to be available to anyone who wishes to have someone to listen to a problem they are having.

Weddings: I have a few gay and lesbian weddings lined up now...couples within the congregation are beginning to come to me. And I have a couple non church couples, one a couple where one of them used to be a member of Rainier Valley...but now lives in the south. Another couple coming up from Portland...their wedding is in large part in the negotiating hands of our wedding task force made up of JJ, Cynthia Becker, Alice Britt...our biggest question with that one is how many people we can serve dinner to in the social hall.

Child Blessing: I will be doing a private child blessing for soon to be members Tom Townsend and Dana Delmonte for their little child Mia. On 2/23 at 4 pm.

Testaments: How has the church made a difference in your life? I have asked and have confirmed the following people to offer testaments on Sunday mornings...leading up to the pledge drive Sunday. One author I read said we should have a testament every Sunday of the year! Maybe we could include that question in our chalice lighter answers...

3/3 – Don Wahl—topic includes but not limited to RE for children

3/10 Cecilia Hayes –topic includes but not limited to participating in music

3/17 Jennifer Slatkin—topic includes but not limited to pastoral care received while husband was so very ill

3/24 Lewis Brancati—(NOT YET CONFIRMED) topic includes but not limited to how being part of this congregation makes a difference in your teen years.

Community Service Worker

I am connecting a community service worker with Janet Cermak to do some deep cleaning for us. This person was a good worker in the office a few months ago, then got busy with other things, and now wants to get the rest of her hours done. She has a fair amount to do yet, but I don't know how many. I also hope she and her family will clean our two streets that we are behind on.

Teaching Church

Remember we will be a teaching church this fall with Michelle Conklin. I'll be meeting with her next week to talk more about that. I expect her to at least be involved, in her 10 hours per week, in preaching every 6 weeks, pastoral care, new visitor interactions/nurturing, and Adult RE.

There has also been some talk of her supporting social justice. We'll have to see where that is going and when. She'll be with us every Sunday, will want to observe the Board meetings, Sunday Services meetings, and will have another evening to teach, etc.

Seabeck

I plan to attend the Seabeck retreat 4/26-27 on Friday and Saturday, returning Saturday evening for Sunday morning preaching.

Personal

I'm happy to report my mammogram was clear and my cancer doc appointment was also totally positive.

I'm going to be out of town for the first two weeks in March...I'm taking vacation! I'll be on a cruise in the southern hemisphere...final plans will be secured this Thursday.

During early April I'll be in Oregon for 4 days at a minister's retreat, at which it is my turn to share my Spiritual Odyssey. That is based upon seniority in the district as an ordained minister.