

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

January 11, 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 by Vice President Jill Jackson.

Present were President Jill Fleming, Vice President Jill Jackson, Secretary Karin Cumming, Treasurer Melissa Lang, Trustees Michael Armstrong, Candace Sullivan and Cliff Houlihan and Rev. Peg Morgan.

The minutes of the December 14, 2011 Board Meeting had been distributed. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

Melissa reported that some members have asked why fiscal year and pledge year cannot be the calendar year and various reasons for it were discussed. Melissa had distributed the December 2011 and to-date January 2012 income, expense and budget reports. Peg noted that "donor unknown" income, which includes the Sunday offering unidentified cash contributions, is doing well. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Treasurer's report was accepted unanimously.

Minister's Report

Rev. Peg distributed a general report to the board just prior to the meeting, a copy of which is attached. In response to a question, Peg reported that there was not an exact count but Christmas Eve attendance was very good at the early children's service and also good at the adult service, along with 60 at Christmas morning service. Michael commented that the Christmas Day service was lovely, casual and flowed nicely, sharing memories of holidays and three children were blessed.

DRE Report

No general report was submitted.

"Raise the Paddle" at Labor of Love Auction

Peg reported that we will be visited Friday by Berry Neon Signs, who did the Baptist sign that Jill had emailed to the Board as an example, to determine feasibility of such a sign and said it could easily cost \$20,000. We do have someone who would be willing to donate half of that amount. He will give us some ideas and rough estimates next week, which Peg will circulate to the board. Depending on the results of the feasibility study, the board will appoint a group to work on it.

Committees

- Team Safety and Security - Peg needs to follow up with T.J. McDonald further as to whether

he may be willing to chair this committee.

- "FUUN" committee - Jill F. said she may schedule a meeting after LOLA.
- Storage Coordinator - Cliff is drafting a job description for the board to review.
- Greeter Scheduler - taken over by Alan and Jean Mendel.
- Kitchen - Charlotte House has taken over in place of Jeannette Jacobson and Linda Tally will continue.
- Strategic Planning - Committee will be meeting and Jill J. will report back to the board with a timeline.

Member Involvement

Candace said she has talked with Jeannette Jacobson about setting up a database of biographies to share and identify interests, for use in scheduling structured meetings to bring people together and assigning a mentor to new members. Jill J. suggested we have a bulletin board with pictures of board members and staff.

Compassionate Congregation Committee

Arline Borella attended the meeting to report on the kind of things the Compassionate Congregation Committee does and results of a recent survey. She noted that some people incorrectly assume that this committee would be the one to deal with death or illness of a member, but its role according to the Bylaws is to manage and resolve conflicts among congregation members in a compassionate, non-confrontational way. They had one educational program offered by Moreah and conducted a survey last spring to compare with the 2009 survey of congregants. They presented survey results two Sundays in a row and one person came, so it was kind of discouraging. Only a couple of people have come to discuss concerns but really just wanted someone to listen and there was nothing to be resolved.

Suggestions for a more descriptive title for the committee were Reconciliation Committee, Congregational Concerns Team, Congregational Communications and WSUU Relationships. Another suggestion was a blurb in eNews about this committee as a resource. Arline would be willing to discuss it briefly at a service. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was agreed on a vote of 5 to 1 to change name to Congregational Concerns Team, to be taken to the congregation as a bylaws amendment, with Michael Armstrong abstaining. On a related issue, Peg requested approval of a new Care Team to be formed, which will be discussed in her next sermon.

50th Birthday Party

Rev. Peg raised the subject of planning for the 50th birthday on September 4, 2013, suggesting we advertise for ideas and ask prior ministers to make a sermon during the year. Also, perhaps the children could do a skit on the past and future of the congregation.

Fundraising Coordination

Jill F. suggested the need to coordinate fundraising efforts and special projects of small groups and will initiate communication with chairpeople in that regard. Jill J. suggested committees be formally reporting their activities to the board and there be a council of committee chairs.

Executive Session

The Board then adjourned to executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Adjournment

The executive session ended at 9:50 p.m. and the meeting adjourned at the same time.

Minutes recorded by Karin Cumming, Secretary

Minister's Report
Rev. Peg Morgan
November 2011

ADMINISTRATIVE:

All seems calm on admin front.

Bookkeeping: Our bookkeeper is such a godsend...even in a UU church. I haven't had to do a lick of bookkeeping in so long. She's fast and smart and ethical. More per hour but less hours. In the last five months she has averaged \$626.00 which if we annualized would be 7,512. Our budget is 9,360. Average of 15.5 hours per month. A little more in recent months. All good.

Sweetpea: all is well with Sweetpea. I have started billing them for the extra two garbage pickups per month, when I bill them for their copy usage.

Janet Cermak/Sunday Coordinator: wow were we lucky to get Janet. She's a gem, and reliable. She and Matt Aspin (Team Clean) and Cara (Sweetpea) had a coordinating meeting today, since one of her jobs is to make sure the building is ready for Sweetpea.

Financial Records: we have been shredding old checks, etc 7+ years old. Joanne Gertig has been coming in weekly and sorting and shredding.

PROGRAM MINISTRIES:

Women of Wisdom is going well, a monthly gathering of older women 40+. Much bonding and story telling going on, following a curriculum I bought. I am fortunate to have Theresa as co-lead. It will culminate next fall with a crowning ceremony. 7-12 women each month.

Yoga: Janet is continuing to offer yoga. Saturday mornings. Everyone who goes says it is wonderful...Men and women. And there is bonding there and kindness between those attending, including special support for one person who just had a big crisis with her daughter. She and her husband feel such support in this church. Makes me so proud of us.

Cheryl Colehour Memorial: I've met twice with the family group to plan the memorial. The order of service is done, along with guest book sign in sheets and memory cards. I have to praise Laurie Radin for such fast turnaround on those, allowing the family to critique and for us to not be doing things at last minute. I could use ushers. We are planning for 250 people, but probably will get 175-200? RE folks and a group from East Shore will handle the reception. Steve Burrows and Cliff are doing technology. 1/21 Saturday at 1 pm.

Spiritual Study Group: This group was quite large this last month even the week of Christmas. Wonderful sharing in response to Eckhart Tolle's book A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose.

Friday Night Movie: Richard Clark is a movie buff and collector. He will begin a Friday night (monthly) movie...and we'll see how it goes. This is not all ages just because kids wouldn't be interested in the movies. First one coming up in February, 3rd Friday...watch for details.

OTHER:

50th Birthday. Our certificate of our congregation's joining the UUA is Sept 4, 1963 so I guess that is the date we will use for our birthday? We didn't incorporate in WA State until much later.

Membership Data: it's time to turn in our annual data. Our membership is 201 at this moment. Which means we will have 5 delegates to PNWD and UUA meetings. Besides my delegate credentials.

I think that's about it for tonight!

Peg