

Westside Unitarian Universalist Congregation

West Seattle, Washington, USA

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, May 2, 2011

Event Catering: Secretary Armstrong brought the pizza and juice tonight.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 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, and Clifford Houlihan. Also in attendance were the Rev. Peg Morgan, RE Director Kari Kopnick. Absent: Trustees Steve Becker and Peggy Abby.

Chalice Lighting: Vice President Tally lit the chalice with words of some unnamed luminary from the UU Church in Belleville, Ohio.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the meetings of March 7th, 2011 and April 11th, 2011 meeting were reviewed. The rental policy should have the words "but may not be" added following the words covered by their own insurance for Family Promise. There was the need for an additional sentence in the paragraph dealing with Proposed Bylaw Amendments: "Some changes were identified as ready for board action". That added sentence should be the penultimate sentence. It was moved by Vice President Tally and seconded by Trustee Houlihan that the minutes be adopted as amended.

Report from the Minister: Rev Peg presented a verbal report. Pastoral care is continuing. There is also a lot of new members joining the church. Membership is up to more than 180 members. All is well in the office and the ministry.

Religious Exploration Director's Report: Kari Kopnick's written report was presented and is appended to and forms a part of these minutes. Kari reported on a pen pal program with a UU church in Newport, Rhode Island. They will not be doing the same number of soup lunches in the upcoming year. They will be doing soup lunches on the first Sundays of October, January, March and May. There may be an opportunity for other church groups to sponsor an event like that next year. Details are in her written report.

Treasurer's Report and Budget Update: Treasurer Lang presented a verbal report. LOLA receipts were very good this year. There was discussion on the various issues.

Slate of Nominees: The final slate of nominees was presented.

Compassionate Care Committee: It was moved by Linda Tally and seconded by Cliff Houlihan that Mike Wold be appointed to be a member of this committee. The motion was carried.

Team Sanctuary: Paula will talk to Steve Burrows about some specific needs getting things set up for Sundays. It was noted we have not filled the role of the

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facility operations person. It was noted some committee members are having difficulty getting tables and other equipment set up for Sunday mornings.

Certified Building Coordinators: There was discussion about training of these people. The training session will be at 1230h on June 5th. Peg will notify the committee chairs.

Preparation for Annual General Meeting: Paula will prepare agenda and motions will be prepared in advance. We will need some assistance getting members signed in and making certain quorum is maintained.

Rental Policy: There was interest in extending the current policy for another 60 days. It was moved by Cliff and seconded by Linda that the current policy be extended by 75 days. The motion was carried.

Chalice Lighter: Rev Peg will light the chalice at the next meeting.

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

Pizza: Paula will bring dinner of Red Star Pizza.

Thank you Notes: The Board will send a note to Laurie Radin for designing new thank you cards.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 by President Paula vanHaagen with closing words read by Linda Tally.

Recorded by

Michael Armstrong
Secretary

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Director of Religious Exploration Report to the Board of Trustees
May 1st, 2011

Dear Westside Board,

Things are going well for children, youth and families at Westside. We continue to welcome visitors and newcomers every Sunday. Our volunteers are active and engaged and our staff is working hard to make things at least look like they're running smoothly every Sunday! Thanks to the hard work of Shannon Day, our ADRE, our fabulous teachers and the members of the REC, we often actually succeed in having our program run like clockwork.

Numbers

From our first Sunday in September through last week, we've had a total of 153 children attend classes at Westside. Some have only visited once or twice, some have become regular kids and some have even registered. That's a lot of children. We have about 122 registered in our program.

Limitations

Because of staff and volunteer time, energy and focus restrictions, we've had to let go of a number of programs this year. We're suspending our teen feeds at Orion center until we can find a volunteer coordinator. We ended our monthly Chalice Chapel and Service Sunday in October because of sheer numbers of children and the logistical issues involved in supporting the hands-on nature of the Chalice Chapel and Service Sundays. We hope to reintroduce them on a smaller scale on a trial basis in May, perhaps able to be back in force in a very different format in the fall. While we're trimming extra programs as we're able to maintain the core of our program, we miss these offerings and the fullness of experience they provide for our children and families.

I am wondering if we should be very, very cautious in starting new things in our lovely church community. We want to be sure we don't branch out so far that our strong trunk begins to creak and crack. Our staff and core volunteers may be weary.

With our time and focus limitations in mind, the REC plans to offer only four soup lunches next church year. With the blessing of the board we'd take the first Sundays of October, January, March and May. We'd then encourage the board to invite other committees or groups to offer lunches on the first Sundays of other months to provide a monthly gathering for our members and friends. It's also a very simple way to make about \$400 in one day.

Summer

Our summer program "Passport for Fun" is coming together well. For the first time we'll offer two age group classes for the children during the summer, and we'll use classroom "tourists" to bring a variety of folks in to spend time with our kids.

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Fall

We've been extremely heartened to find that nearly every teacher is planning to return to teach again next year. Our "Dream Teams"--teams of teachers who are carefully chosen to reflect a balance of people-- are shaping up, and we're considering making some changes to some of the ways the teachers rotate. The REC has excellent ideas about moving forward and we'll meet to reflect on our options and make some decisions. Curriculum planning is also well underway. And with some room assignment revisions, we feel we'll be able to take an influx of new children. Soon, we'll have to buy a new building or another building or an apartment building or go to two services or put yurts in the parking lot.

Planning for youth group and milestones

Our teen group is growing fast, and while the youth group has been on a temporary hiatus for April, we do hope to be back in full force for the fall. To make that happen with our larger size it's time to form a **Youth Advisory Committee** or a **YAC**. It would be very helpful to have a board member either as liaison or to serve on this YAC. Work will begin this spring but roll into full force next fall. Part of what I hope will come from the YAC is a movement to invite youth to leadership roles in the church; some of this is already happening with Ryan Han being invited to serve as a full member of the Music Council. Is this something the board supports? Is there a member of next year's board who would be a good fit?

Planning for leadership development

We are sending two youth to leadership development training events this summer. Lewis Brancati is very likely to be accepted to Goldmine Youth Leadership Development week this summer in the PNWD, and Ryan Han is planning to go to GA and participate in the youth caucus (pending approval from the director of his summer musical). I am also hoping to bring some of our RE leaders to ongoing leadership development training offered by the UUA and the PNWD. There are opportunities for leadership training for many different kinds of church leaders available from the UUA and the PNWD as well as through classes we can offer right here with the Tapestry of Faith curriculum available for free online at UUA.org.

Transitions on the REC

Davonna Cufley will end her service as the chair of the Religious Exploration Council after three very busy years of excellent service as chair. Ruth Herman-Dunn will be leaving the RE Council after five years of dedicated service. Heather Hisatomi and Amy Hance-Brancati will be co-chairing the REC (with board acceptance, of course). That leaves Kristina Surface, Vanessa Shaughnessy, Laura Pierce, and Julie Forkasdi. The REC will need to add a new member to support the rotation plan adopted last year.

I am not sure exactly where the bylaws finally fell on this issue, but I do not believe that the DRE or the ADRE actually serve *on* the REC, I believe we *serve* the REC.

And finally.....

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I've been invite to serve on a committee of people planning the next Association Sunday. I'm working with Don Southworth, executive director of the UUMA; Sarah Dan Jones, president of the UUMN; Katheen McTigue from the executive council of the UUMA and Jessica York, UUA staff member in charge of children and youth programming. This requires no travel, but continues to keep our congregation and our success on the radar of the powerful folks at the UUA. I'm offering the perspective from a highly functioning professional team.

Thank you for your kind attention!

Respectfully Submitted,
Kari Kopnick, DRE