

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

September 12, 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 7:15 p.m. with chalice lighting. Laura Matson provided delicious marinated meat, potato salad and green salad, and apple pie!

Present were President Jill Fleming, Vice President Candace Sullivan, Secretary Karin Cumming, Treasurer Matt Aspin, Trustees Laura Matson, Eric Winiecki and Joe Rettenmaier and Rev. Peg Morgan.

Jill reported that the minutes of the August 8 board meeting had been distributed to the members of the Board for review. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Minister's Report

Rev. Peg presented her report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Peg provided copies of financial reports, which appeared to be on track for this time of year.

Strategic Planning

Jill said she had talked to Laura Pierce to confirm the process as described in last month's board meeting minutes. Jill suggested the first Sunday in November or December as the date for the congregational meeting for adoption of the plan, with town hall style meetings for the congregation during the prior month and board members being present for one or both. Laura Matson suggested we obtain committee input prior to board approval, particularly from the Social Justice Committee and the Membership Committee, which would be taking on sizeable tasks under the plan. Candace suggested we distribute it to all committee and group leaders for review prior to board approval. Jill added that we could identify board members to contact with respect to each goal and allow leaders a week to respond. Peg suggested we post it on the members-only website, announce that it is there and ask for input. Candace suggested we have a longer comment period and time for review. After discussion, it was decided that we would post it on the main website, not the members-only website. Jill suggested it be posted on October 10 after editing by the Strategic Planning Committee and approval by the Board, with paper copies available on the following Sunday; schedule comment periods after meeting with committee and group leaders, with town hall style meetings on November 4, after Sunday service, and Wednesday evening, November 7, in the sanctuary; board approval at its regular meeting on November 14 and final adoption by the congregation on December 2, 2012.

Candace expressed concern about the lack of connection with our prior strategic plan and how we got

to where we are now. Subsequent to the last meeting, Jill asked Laura Pierce to incorporate a description of the achievements under the prior Strategic Plan at the beginning of the new plan.

Revisions to the objectives and strategies under each goal were reviewed and revised for submission to the Strategic Planning Committee.

DRE Report

Natalie Briscoe arrived at the meeting to make her report. They had teacher training on Saturday. She gave out evaluation forms and some said that the training wasn't long enough, which is a good sign. It's been a little bit hectic with everyone learning new systems but all teaching slots have been filled and she is happy about that. She said we could use twelve new classrooms, but desperately need two. RE Council decided to combine elementary school classes. This Sunday Natalie, Betsy and Julie will meet to assess class size when the children come downstairs and if there are too many for a classroom, they will keep some in the social hall.

Jill announced that we need to confirm Betsy Lowry and Julie Forkasdi as RE Council co-chairs and they were confirmed unanimously.

Capital needs assessment

Jill reported on talks with potential consultants and upon motion made and seconded, it was unanimously agreed to increase the authorized cost for a capital needs assessment from \$2500 to \$3500.

Thank You Notes

Thank you notes were written and signed for Shelby Greiner and Amy Hance-Brancati for their work on the rummage sale and for Todd Carden for donating ales for the cookout.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Karin Cumming, Secretary

Minister's Report

Rev. Peg Morgan

September 2012

Administration:

CAPITAL FUND DRIVE:

We are sending the capital fund drive pledge statements to those who still owe on their pledge. Except for maybe three people who we know are having a very hard financial time. Their pledges outstanding are: 950 and 60.

There are two balances of pledges for people who have moved and cancelled: 1000.00 and 1990.00

Including those, we have 26 people who still owe on their pledges for a total of 67,795.23...So we can say approximately 64,700 collectable.

GENERAL FUND PLEDGES:

We have 205,786 pledged from 141 households. Budget is 230,000.

BUILDING:

Michael Armstrong cleaned out the south side stairwell storage space that was still very dirty and contained old crap from long ago and far away. He cleaned it of dust and even through some paint in there. He supervised the wall repair in that east stairwell from when we put in the garden water spigot, and then painted the wall. Dan Gage is getting little wood plugs for the pews...those little tiny circle plugs...we were missing 35 or so...I noticed...and all I have to do is mention something like that to Dan and he's all over it. He also installed the window blind in the office that need a longer brace in the wall to fit it...

PROGRAMS:

Women of Wisdom is completing its 13 month program in November with a crowning ceremony. It has been a good group to bond a bunch of women, even with some variability of attendance...everyone had to miss occasionally...we'll probably end up with 8-10 women participating in the final ritual...essentially we have reviewed the decades of our lives, mined them for wisdom, shared that wisdom and benefitted from stories and plays provided by the curriculum. Theresa McCormick has been a generous person to co-lead this with me.

RE: I heard teachers saying they were very happy with Natalie, and others on Sunday who loved her body prayer and the play about John Murray. I think she and I are forging a good relationship.

MUSIC: we will introduce the two new paid musicians this Sunday, John Hansen and Larry Jones, pianist and percussion, respectively. This is a tricky time in the life of a congregation. Depending upon people's self-confidence or their level of insecurity...some people could interpret excitement about the caliber of these two men as "we love paid musicians more than

volunteers"...not the case. They are being hired to support our foundational musicians, our volunteers and the congregational singing. Remember we hired John because Janet can't play anymore...for those of you who missed Sunday, we honored Janet Cermak for years of playing piano most Sundays and choir rehearsals. We still have 6 or so volunteer pianists (Betsy, Glenn, Lyndol, Lisa and I think a couple more) who will play for ensembles, preludes, offertories...particularly on non-choir Sundays when John won't be with us. They want the paid person because none of them can do the intensity that Janet did.

COMMON QUEST: Laurie Radin is working hard this week to get the common quest brochure ready to produce on Friday and available on Sunday.

OTHER:

There is an art show on December 1st (ha, my birthday!)...being produced by Theresa McCormick and Carolyn Matthews. It is technically a rental, but they get a good deal...and I feel ok about that...they pay about \$262 to use the social hall for the Saturday, and it involves a number of our artists...and thus supports the arts. And it is community building. but since it isn't technically a church run event, we will advertise in classified. If the Board thinks it should be done otherwise, let me know.

I bought a camcorder from Amazon last week and Patti McCall put it all together. Now we can record a whole service if we want! I'm using some wedding money.

DENOMINATIONAL:

Natalie is active in the local DRE group already, has gone to two gatherings already.

I'll be at my minister's retreat in federal way in late October. I will also be doing a special workshop for leadership role clarity at Vashon for their new minister ½ time Carmen McDowell...some of you will remember her as a student minister here. That workshop in on Oct 7 and is paid for by the district.

And of course Bert has attended his national UUMN retreat and is active in his certification program.

THAT'S ALL I CAN THINK OF.