

Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
October 10, 2012

Present

Board Members: Greg Burton, President, Karen Coale, Eric Mitchell, Margie Manning,
Jack Reed , Dani Skrzypek, Katy Korb, ex-officio

Clerk to the Board: Ginny Oppenheimer

Visitors: Dorothy Byrne, Dave Coale, Keevy McAlavy

1. Greg Burton opened the meeting at 7:05. Reverend Korb led us in reciting the Covenant, after Margie performed the Unitarian Universalist Leadership Worship by reading a selection of *Serving with Grace* by Eric Walker Whitstrom.
2. Open Items were reviewed. Two items are still pending
 - a. Greg will speak to the major handbell fund donors to explain the reasons for sweeping the balance of \$115 into the general fund.
 - b. Jack and Dave Coale will report to the Board on the feasibility of adopting Provincetown's "friend" status.
3. Treasurer's Report: Margie reported that our checking account had just over \$3,600, a bit lower than she would like to see it as she doesn't want us to get into a cash crunch. Historically pledge income and other income has picked up in the October-December time frame, so she not overly worried at this point. However she reiterated the need to raise additional income for the church.

She also explained we also have just over \$1750 in a "pastor fund," to be used at the discretion of the minister for those he/she deems in need. This fund is longstanding and has not changed in several years.
4. Minister's Report:
 - a. Katy is currently attending a ministerial conference the subject of which is a look at multiculturalism from the standpoint of cultural competency. She is struck by the fact that the numbers show that nothing seems to have changed either in demographics or attitudes in the last 20 years. She will report to the Board and the Congregation when the meetings are concluded.
 - b. She will give two workshops on October 22 and October 29. The topic will be: An Introduction to Unitarian-Universalism. The first program will deal with the History and Identity of the church, and the second one on Governance and policy both in our church and the larger denomination.

- c. She clarified how prospective members may join the church. While for the last year or two, people have been encouraged to take a course on UU101 before signing the book, Katie thinks that an unnecessary obstacle to membership. From now on, the procedure will be that prospective members will have a discussion with the minister before joining.
5. There will be a Board Retreat, facilitated by Ken Hurto, on Friday, October 19.
6. Church business
- a. Dan Greenfeld tendered his resignation from the Board of Trustees for personal reasons.
 - b. Ian O'Hara will be appointed to fill out Dan's term.
 - c. Keevy McAlavy presented a proposal for the church to host a one-time music percussion concert by a group called Tampa Peiko. The Board chose to rent the church to the group, rather than take a percentage of the ticket sales. Eric made a motion to that effect. Dani seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
 - d. Dorothy Byrne presented a request from a group called "Launch the Stampede," to use the church, gratis, on the evening of December 11 for a workshop to train participants. Katy noted that this is a cause strongly supported by the UUA. Eric moved that the church allow the group to use the church for a token rent of \$10.00 for insurance purposes. Dani seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
 - e. Karen Coale presented a proposal made by Rick Melchionno for a two-semester course on World Religions, to be taught by a professor from St. Pete College. The course, open to the public as well as church members, will cost participants \$60.00 for each six-session semester, which will cover the cost of instruction and materials and might generate a surplus for the church. Karen moved to accept the proposal. Eric seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
 - f. Eric presented specs for an improved sound system for the church. More information will be presented next month.
 - g. Greg suggested that the money for audio improvement be raised with a special fundraiser. Eric moved that a special fundraiser for a new mixer, speaker, and microphones be started with the cost not to exceed \$4000. Margie seconded the motion. The motion was passed.
 - h. Eric will restart and chair a new committee, the Communications Committee, to deal with publicity for the church in all types of media.

7. Board Update and Process Review

Dave Coale presented a Congregational Life Report. UU St. Pete currently has 117 members and is carrying 13 non-pledging members. In the last year we have gained 10 members and lost 25.

8. The Board went into Executive Session at 9.15.

The meeting was formally adjourned at 9:45.

Open Items:

1. The board will discuss a consent agenda for certain reports, starting with approving the minutes of the previous meeting. Margie noted that other reports would be added as appropriate.
2. The board will discuss having meetings with the congregation about the Mission Statement and the Covenant.
3. The Board will continue to plan for a new sound system
4. Greg will talk to the donors of the Handbell fund to explain why it was closed
5. Jack and Dave Coale will report to the Board on the feasibility of adopting Provincetown's "friend" status.

Action Items:

1. Margie will post the corrected minutes each month to the website.
2. Eric will investigate the feasibility of a Communications Committee
3. Karen will ask Victor and Rick to write a charter for the Adult Education Committee
4. Each Board member will contact two of the UUSP members who have not yet pledged for this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Oppenheimer, Clerk to the Board