

Unitarian Universalist Church of St Petersburg

Board of Trustees

Minutes: February, 12, 2014

Present: Greg Burton, Lori Price, Jane Fanning, Reggie Craig, Ian O'Hara, Marcia Piacentino, Barbara Rowell (representing Endowment)

Staff: Rev. Katy Korb, Albrecht Cornette-McCue, Nick Wheeler

Guests: Pierre Williams, Jessica Peters, Michael Pohl, Morgan Gresham, Milagros Padilla, Dale Potter

Absent: Dani Skyzypek, Keevy McKelvy, Clerk

Greg Burton called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Marcia Piacentino moved to approve the agenda with additions. Ian O'Hara seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ian O'Hara moved to approve the minutes of last month's meeting. Jane Fanning seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Greg announced that in coming months all committee reports would be supplied to the BOT in advance via email and, only if there were questions or other comments, would they be part of the agenda.

Minister's Report:

The Cluster meeting held at UU St Pete was successful, although, as the host church, we should have had more members there.

A photography company has offered to do free portraits of all members with the hope that they will then sell some of their products. There was a discussion of the difficulty in the past arranging for members to come in as scheduled and the idea was tabled for the present.

The Interfaith Clergy Association would like to hold a meeting at UU St Pete on a Thursday evening in March or April. It would involve providing a meal and a brief presentation on Unitarian Universalism to about 50 people. Katy will work with them to determine a date.

The Family Services group would like UU St Pete to host a homeless family who would stay in the church at night for a week. If we committed to this, we would be likely to serve as hosts about twice a year. We will attend an informational meeting on 2/18/14 at the Christian Fellowship Church Hall on 22nd Ave North to learn more about the program before deciding whether to commit.

The Social Justice Committee is recommending that the church join FAST (Faith, Action, Strength, Together). Pierre and Katy have committed to raising \$1000 to cover the fee to join this organization. Reggie moved that we approve Social Justice's involvement with this organization provided no outlay is required from church funds. Ian seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Board supports holding a special memorial service on a Sunday afternoon or evening for the boys who died at the Dozier School. Katy and Pierre will work with the Worship Committee to determine a date.

Treasurer's Report:

Weekly Deposits

We had a healthy deposit this week - \$3827. We need around \$3000 every week to run UUSP adequately, without turning to Endowment every month or so. The deposit was large because we received money from two weddings (\$200 and \$1000) and rent from two groups. This highlights the total necessity of renting out our buildings.

Our average deposits have not been running at the needed level. Here are the averages for the weekly deposits from all sources except Endowment:

September '13	- \$2472
October	- \$1586
November	- \$2838
December	- \$2159
January '14	- \$2182

10% Challenge

We have received 11 responses that brought in a total of \$2365. Katy suggested that we put a blurb in InfoNet and the Order of Service thanking those who have responded (without mentioning names) and reminding the rest of the congregation of the challenge and the end date. (Dani subsequently offered to write up the reminder and submit it for the OOS and InfoNet.

Gift Cards

We introduced the gift cards last Sunday. We sold \$510 worth of cards and that brought us a profit of \$18 and change. Dani thinks the numbers will go up as people become more used to the gift cards. Nick was asked to follow up with more aggressive marketing in the Sunday bulletin as well as SCOPE.

Greg reported that we have only \$261.74 left in our checking account after paying our outstanding bills. This is the case despite our having drawn \$62,000 from the endowment this year.

A discussion ensued about what would be needed to generate more rental income (See Special Congregational Meeting re: HVAC below).

President's Report

Greg reported that guests he brought to the church two weeks ago were tremendously impressed by how friendly everyone was. Regarding the endowment, he reported that Katy had told him that the day we began using the endowment for operating expenses, the church lost its freedom and the endowment took on a life of its own. Greg reiterated that a culture change is needed for the church to run in a sustainable way without relying on the endowment to pay operating expenses.

Board host assignments:

Feb 16 - Greg

Feb 23 - Jane

March 2 - Ian

March 9 - Reggie

Special Congregational Meeting on HVAC

Barbara reminded us of the requirements for attendance and voting at any meeting where a vote will be taken to invade the endowment.

(5) Quorum Sixty percent (60%) of the members of the Church must be present, either in person or by Absentee Ballot, in order to constitute a quorum for the Special Meeting for a Special Request for Invasion of Endowment.

(6) Vote to Approve Once a quorum has been established pursuant to Article III, Section 12, subsection (5), above, seventy-five percent (75%) of those present, either in person or by Absentee Ballot, must vote in favor of the Special Request in order for it to pass.

Michael will emphasize these requirements in the next InfoNet.

Reggie Craig and Fred Russell will run the informational meeting after the service on 2/23/14. Jane suggested that we use the relevant PowerPoint slides from our last congregational meeting to help remind people of the key issues. The meeting for the final vote is scheduled for 3/16/14.

Lori stated that we must clearly communicate our intention to request an invasion of the endowment (not a loan) to the Board of Endowment. Greg will send them an email reiterating this.

Reggie reported that we are furnishing a letter of intent, contingent upon the congregational vote, to the HVAC contractor to be sure we hold our place in their schedule. We discussed the need for building improvements beyond the AC to make it more attractive for rentals. The building would need painting, kitchen and bathroom upgrades, and a deep cleaning. Reggie stated that the latter could be done for little outlay with volunteers.

In addition to building improvements, success in generating ongoing rentals - ideally one per week -- would require a great deal of time and coordination, described as nearly a full time job.

Canvass and Fundraising Ideas/Programs

Marcia reported that several BOT members met with Cynthia Pattison, who has volunteered to chair this year's canvass. Jane passed around the materials Cynthia has prepared, adapted from a successful canvass in Lakeland, with the theme of "Gimme Five in Five".

Cynthia has asked that each Board member bring a bottle of wine and appetizer to the March 1 Fellowship dinner. We are still looking for a possible donor for the food for the dinner. Board members additionally have volunteered to host follow-up meetings w congregants re pledging.

Jane reported that in order to allow more time for the canvass, some dates would have to be pushed back. Budget preparation and approval by the Board would be at a special BOT meeting on 3/26/14. The annual meeting would be 4/27/14.

Marcia moved and Jane seconded the motion that we accept these new dates. The motion was unanimously approved. Nick was asked to make note of these dates on the church calendar and in SCOPE.

Michael Pohl mentioned that, in the past, a BOT member has sat in on budget preparations by each committee. The following were mentioned as Board assignments for this process:

RE Committee - Ian

Canvass Committee - Jane

Building and Grounds - Reggie

Membership - Marcia

Worship - Lori

RE Search Update

Michael Pohl reported that Albrecht's last day will be 4/6/2014. The RE Committee is developing a short term plan to cover the 11 weeks between that time and summer vacation. Michael has asked Connie Goodbread for help with long term visioning to prepare for hiring a new RE Director. Connie would like to meet with the BOT as a whole on this issue, and that of congregational health as a whole. Greg will write Connie to try to arrange a time for this meeting.

New Business

Recognition of Bequests & Memorials

Dani recommended that we have some kind of ongoing tribute for bequests and memorials. Several ideas were discussed and the topic was tabled until next month when Dani will be present.

Meeting in November of the Downtown Neighborhood Association at UU St Pete

Marcia reported that Dave Coale and Barbara Riddle had requested BOT approval of this meeting that would bring 40-50 downtown people into UU St Pete on a weekday evening in November. Dave and Barbara will make arrangements and will try to avoid a Wednesday evening when Gilmour is used for yoga. Jane moved and Marcia seconded a motion to approve this usage. The motion passed unanimously.

Nominating Committee

The bylaws require that 3 voting members of the congregation serve on the nominating committee to propose new BOT members. We will need to replace Dani, Jane, and Reggie whose terms are up after this year, as well as get a Treasurer and replace any officers who do not choose to run again.. Suggestions for the nominating committee were Teresa, Jesica, and Keevy. Lori suggested we verify with Teresa the exact length of BOT terms - Greg agreed to do this. Katy offered to have a brief training session for the nominating committee.

The date to turn in the nominations is 1 week prior to the Annual meeting.

Greg adjourned the meeting at 9 p.m.