

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia

Board of Trustees

Minutes of December 21, 2016 Meeting

Attendance

Phil Turner (President), Richard Culler (President Elect), Sandy Chubon (Secretary). Members at Large: Donald Griggs, Emilio Perez-Jorge, Cheryl Soehl, Tim VanDenBerg, Joan Watterson. Marc Drews & Patty Drews (Past Co-Presidents), Rev. Jennie Barrington.

Absent: Bob Whitaker, Joe Long.

Call to Order

Phil Turner called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Patty Drews lit the chalice and provided a reading. Phil offered another reading.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the November 16, 2016 meeting were approved.

Staff Reports

Staff reports and the minister's report were accepted. Rev. Jennie expressed dismay about behavior she has observed in church meetings recently. Some individuals talk too much and dominate meetings. Committee chairs/leaders seem unable to stop this behavior. Rev. Jennie said the behavior violates our covenant with one another. Perhaps we could use the covenant to change those behaviors.

Treasurer's Report

Revenue in November was less than in October. As of December 11, we have payments totaling \$88,561 for the Capital Campaign. At the end of November we had a positive variance of \$12,841.45; last year at this time we had a negative variance of \$6,202. Concern was expressed because pledges are \$4,000 below our expectations. Questions were raised about how many people are receiving the Unigram by U.S. mail. Perhaps that list could be curtailed since we don't mail enough to warrant bulk mailing and each issue runs between 15 and 20 pages.

Approval of Settled Minister's Contract

At our November meeting we learned that we needed to approve the contract the Search Committee will use to negotiate with a prospective settled minister. Board members had not had an opportunity to review the document. We agreed to review the contract and vote on it via e-mail. On November 22, Phil reported that Board members had voted to approve the contract for a settled minister.

Committee Reports

Building & Grounds The tree overhanging the back of our building was cut down by the city. The library is being painted; Stephanie Palmer-Smith is leading that effort.

Adult RE Emilio reported there is interest in a Christian support/discussion group. They are looking for a facilitator.

UUCG Governance Committee met December 14. They are processing terms and definitions. Their current assignment is to study the various structures presented and decide on the preferred one. They are also trying to understand processes employed. They are slowly moving toward some suggestions to offer.

Worship Committee would like to revise Trustees' welcome message by using the LGBTQ acronym instead of using all the words as we do now. Trustees were in agreement with that change.

Leadership Development is asking board members to help think of people to fill positions for next year. Several committees need new chairs: Membership, Personnel, Endowment. Shared Ministry Committee will resume functioning when the search process is finished.

CYRE Stephanice Palmer-Smith has asked to have her title changed from Director of Religious Education to Director of Religious Exploration. The CYRE Committee has discussed this request and approved it. They are also asking to have their committee name changed to the Children and Youth Religious Exploration Committee. Board members generally favored the change. It will be placed on the agenda for a vote at the January, 2017 meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Coffee House Phil reported there is an inventory of the equipment; he actually held it in his hands! That equipment becomes the property of UUCG. Tim is concerned because the public perception is that we dropped the Coffee House. Their staff are not offering a different explanation to people who raise questions. After some discussion it was decided that Tim will work with Lis Turner on a blurb to be posted on our website. We will publish that at the time of the last concert in February.

NEW BUSINESS

Islamophobia Workshop The Social Action Committee has plans to host a workshop on Sunday, February 5, at 2:00 PM presented by Manzoor Cheema. His work includes all types of discrimination (Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ). His material is very educational and timely. SAC plans to publicize the workshop to the community at large. The Board approved their plans for this activity.

Jubilee! Circle's Request to Rent UUCG Space Cheryl Soehl reported that Candace Chellew-Hodge has asked to rent our Social Hall on Sundays from 5:30 to 8:30 PM. They would be using the social hall only, not the kitchen or any of our equipment. They would set up and take down any furnishings they use for their service. Andrea Dudick said we can rent that space for \$44 per week. UUCG would have first refusal for the space with 60 days notice when there are conflicts. Jubilee! Circle has been meeting in a room at a gym and their current landlord has asked them to find another meeting place. It was suggested that we check with their current landlord to find out why they are being asked to move. Board members commented that it would be a positive move for us to offer this support to another liberal religious group in the community.

Building Renovation

Ad hoc Committee Report The committee will be holding their first meeting on Saturday morning. They are asking Peck for a contract; he is having computer problems. Their next meeting will be January 15. They hope to have Peck's contract by then. In February they hope to be putting some plans out to the congregation for feedback.

Financing Renovations The banker estimated they could offer us a loan of \$100,000 at 4.5 -5% interest for three years. Getting a loan from the UUA Endowment means that we would cash in a portion of our

endowment and then pay it back. Bob hopes to have firm offer from the bank within a week. The Finance Committee could then give a recommendation to the CBR and they will send their recommendation to the Board.

Council of Committee Chairs Phil proposed this idea to some committee, but the majority of responses indicated a belief that time constraints would prevent this. He is thinking about some kind of social media like a google group, some way to bring them together and get them to communicate.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Minutes recorded by

Sandy Chubon, Secretary