

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia

## Board of Trustees

### Minutes of February 15, 2017 Meeting

#### Attendance

Phil Turner (President), Richard Culler (President Elect), Bob Whitaker (Treasurer); Ex-Officio members: Joe Long (Finance Chair), Rev. Jennie Barrington; Members at Large: Donald Griggs, Emilio Perez-Jorge, Cheryl Soehl, Tim VanDenBerg.

Absent: Sandy Chubon (Secretary), Joan Watterson, Patty Drews (Past Co-President), Mark Drews (Past Co-President)

#### Call to Order

Phil Turner called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Cheryl Soehl provided a reading from The World According to Mr. Rogers.

#### Approval of Agenda

Approval of the agenda for the meeting was requested and the members approved the agenda as presented.

#### Staff Reports

Staff reports from the Director of Religious Education and the Administrator, were accepted, along with the minister's report. Rev. Jennie noted that a ministerial candidate visit has been tentatively scheduled for May 7-14 of this year by the search committee.

The recognition provided for Bill Moody to thank him for his years of service organized by Janet Swigler was noted. It was observed that Bill is not retiring, but the choir wished to honor him for his many years of service to the congregation.

#### Treasurer's Report

Bob Whittaker presented the treasurer's report and noted that spending to this point in the fiscal year is less than had been planned. No major repairs or expenses have been needed this far, and Building and Grounds has almost \$5,000 remaining to cover any needed repairs through the end of the fiscal year. Non-Pledge giving was higher than anticipated. Capital Campaign payments reached \$108,685.

#### Committee Reports

**Technical Services** – Donald Griggs noted that the committee had met at the home of our architect, Peck Drennan to provide feedback for technical equipment and services. David Roof volunteered to provide an estimate of future needs for audio visual support. A donor has agreed to provide \$5,000 for equipment to support members and guests with hearing impairments. A Wi-Fi based system has been proposed for this purpose. It was noted that additional constituent group meetings will be held to solicit feedback on desired features of the building renovations, with a congregational meeting scheduled following the service on February 26 for this purpose. Tim Vandenberg asked whether sermons might be "web-cast." Donald Griggs noted that

this has been discussed but questioned whether this might be address by Technical Services or Worship. He noted that sermons are recorded as audio files for those who are interested.

**Building & Grounds** A temporary welcome sign in three languages has been posted outside the building, with Social Action working on plans for a larger banner. Quillen and Julie Davis have volunteered to underwrite the cost of replacing the sink in the kitchen with a commercial grade unit.

**Membership** – In Patty’s absence, Phil noted the need for improved communication among committee chairs. Posting reports so chairs can read was recommended as a possible measure. Quarterly meetings were also suggested as a way of improving information flow among committees, but Phil noted not everyone was enthusiastic about this proposal.

**Finance** – Joe mentioned the Canvas Sunday festivities with mimosas and tacos provided for a congregational celebration, along with door prizes. Budget proposals are being solicited and committees are encouraged to provide these as soon as possible for inclusion in the budget for the coming fiscal year. He noted the healthy status of capital campaign contributions this far.

**CYRE** - Tim VanDenBerg reported that budget requests for the coming year had been submitted. He noted the success of the Chocolate Auction and Cake Walk and announced that additional fundraisers would take place during the month of March. A youth lock-in is planned for the weekend of February 24-26. The request for a name change for the Director of Religion Education and the committee to Director of Religious Exploration and Children and Youth Religious Exploration Committee was supported by the members, and it was noted that many UU congregations have adopted this nomenclature. Official approval of this change would be by vote of the congregation as a revision to the By-Laws.

**Adult RE** – Emilio reported that the library is currently being used for Adult RE classes. God is Not One is ongoing. New member classes are planned for this spring. A budget request for Adult RE has been submitted. Books are being ordered to supply the renovated library, and Regina Moody and Dan Cooper will be working to select the volumes to be retained from the current stock. The Committee will supervise the ongoing library work, which is not estimated to significantly increase the workload for the DRE. He noted that Pat Mohr will resign as chair at the end of June.

**UUCG Governance** - Richard Culler reported that the committee met on January 31 at the home of Regina Moody with an assignment to review how other UU congregations govern themselves and provide an evaluation of governance structures that seem to work well. At the next meeting of the committee, a summary of what works well in our current structure will be offered, with a goal of moving toward a decision on appropriate changes. Bob Whitaker noted that the term “governance” is not well understood and suggested using the term “structure” to describe the changes that will be suggested. Rev. Jennie added the need to clarify assigned duties and lines of authority – who reports to whom, and who is responsible for which duties in support of the congregation.

**Social Action** – Social Action has been conducting ongoing discussions on immigration policy and support for refugees as a concern for our congregation. Laura Hartwig will assume leadership of the committee at the start of the next fiscal year, following the resignation of Linda MacLeod.

**Leadership Development** - Continues to request assistance from the Board in recommending members for leadership roles to assist in filling the roster for the upcoming Board elections and committee vacancies.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Coffee House** Tim reported that the Coffee House will be ending with the final concert in February. He anticipates that the supplies for the Coffee House may be removed following this event.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Bridge Loan for Building Renovations**

Joe provided information on an offer from a couple active in the congregation to provide a bridge loan for supporting the implementation of renovations. The loan would amount to the difference between \$170,000 and the amount already received in capital campaign contributions with an interest rate of 1.75% of the loan principal at the end of each 12 month period or the prorated amount if the loan is paid off before a 12-month period ends. The members present agreed to support the exploration of this option by the Finance Committee, which will prepare documentation and details for consideration by the Board.

### **Approval of Draft Architect Contract**

Richard Culler presented the revised proposed contract with architect, Peck Drennan for services to be rendered in the development of renovation plans for our building. The contract has been reviewed by Building and Grounds and changes recommended. It was noted that meetings have been held with the AV team and RE Committee, with a congregational feedback session scheduled for February 26. An additional meeting for feedback from the choir has been recommended but not scheduled.

Donald Griggs moved to approve the contract as amended, Tim VanDenBerg seconded, and approval by the members present was unanimous.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Minutes recorded by

Cheryl Soehl, substituting for Secretary Sandy Chubon