

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia

Board of Trustees

Minutes of January 18, 2017 Meeting

Attendance

Phil Turner (President), Richard Culler (President Elect), Sandy Chubon (Secretary), Bob Whitaker (Treasurer). Members at large: Donald Griggs, Emilio Perez-Jorge, Cheryl Soehl, Tim VanDenBerg, Joan Watterson. Marc Drews (Past President), Rev. Jennie Barrington.

Absent: Patty Drews.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Phil Turner. Emilio provided opening words and lit the chalice.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the December 21, 2016 meeting were approved with two corrections.

Staff Reports

Phil will remind staff that we would like to receive their reports a week before the meeting. Rev. Jennie noted that we are having more new-comers at our worship services since the presidential election. She also pointed out that our Committee Night does not work for a minister who wants to attend several committee meetings that are held at the same time.

Treasurer's Report

Overall, we have a positive valence of \$18,379.53, an increase of \$5,500 since last month. Pledges are not being paid as anticipated but non-pledge donations and fund-raisers have compensated for that. Capital Campaign payments are at \$99,622.

Committee Reports

Technology Services Donald Griggs reported that Laura Hartwig will edit the Social Action page on our web site.

Building and Grounds Painting continues in the library.

Membership They plan an information meeting on January 22. They will be having Friendship Dinners this year instead of Circle Suppers.

Finance Committee Bob Whitaker shared the options that are being considered for financing our building renovations (about \$100,000). We could withdraw the money from our endowment and pay it back later. We could borrow money from BB&T using our property as collateral; BB&T is concerned because we had a budget shortfall last fiscal year. A member has offered to loan us \$75,000 for 3 years.

We will kick off our canvass on February 19.

CYRE Committee requested that we change the title of the Director of Religious Education to “Director of Religious Exploration”. The name of the committee will change to the “Children & Youth Religious Exploration Committee”. **Trustees approved this change.** It will be forwarded to the congregation for a vote at the next Congregational Meeting on June 4.

Stephanie Palmer-Smith wants to add management of the library to her job description. Trustees asked the CYRE Committee to bring that to the board.

Building Renovation Richard Culler reported he and Phil met with Peck and they are revising Peck’s proposed architect’s contract. At the moment they are waiting for a response from Peck. They are interested in meeting with different constituencies within the congregation to get input on the design plan. Specifically, they want to meet with the (1) Sound Team, (2) Choir/Worship Committee, (3) CYRE Committee, and (4) everyone else. They want to complete those four meetings by mid-February. The Committee on Building Renovations is going to make a list of potential contractors. They would like to begin construction in June.

Social Action Cheryl talked about working with the Interfaith Partners of SC to put some of our events on their calendar and to put their calendar on our web site.

Ministerial Search Phil reported that the Search Committee can call their prospective settled minister on March 30. They are doing well, meeting all their deadlines.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Coffee House Tim reported continued misunderstanding about the reasons for closing the Coffee House. He suggested the following statement for publication:

“After a nearly 25-year partnership with our congregation, the UU Coffeehouse has finally outgrown its charter as a program group. This needed reorganization is as much attributable to the program’s success at bringing recognition to the artists who have performed under our roof as it is a sign of how much the coffeehouse has expanded beyond the confines of 2701 Heyward Street and become a fixture in our wider community.

You may have noticed the recent announcements through social media that this endeavor will live on as the “Blue Moon Concert Series”. Several events are planned over the next few weeks and we encourage you to show your love and support by sharing a few hours of your time visiting with friends, while enjoying good music.”

Harmony School As we have discussed at several previous board meetings, the school still needs a facility to house their programs since suffering flood damage. They would like to use our RE space during the week if that could be made feasible. Funding is the major stumbling block.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed UUA Statement of Conscience The UUA is asking our congregation to vote on whether a proposed Statement of Conscience (SOC) on Escalating Inequality should be placed on the agenda for General Assembly in June, 2017. **We voted to approve this SOC appearing on the GA’s final agenda.**

Banner Proposal from Social Action Committee The Social Action Committee has designed a banner (5 ft X 8 ft) to express a sentiment of tolerance and acceptance. The message, printed in three languages, is “No matter where you are from, we’re glad you’re our neighbor.” They propose hanging the banner on our building

or elsewhere on our property. They are waiting to hear from Building & Grounds Committee about the logistics of hanging a banner. There is some question of the need for a permit from the city to display banners. The Board supported the project.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes recorded by

Sandy Chubon, Secretary