

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Santa Rosa

17 February 2011

Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Andrew Hidas. Board met in RE Wing.

Members Present: Craig Work, Laura Jean Hageman, Bonnie Daines, Mary Louise Jaffray, Phyllis Heagney, Lois Nagle, John Farison, Anne Chambers, Andrew Hidas.

Non-members Present: Rev. Chris Bell, Member Betty Miller. Absent: Recording Secretary Terry Graham.

Discussion of Check-in Question: *Have you ever lost your faith? (In God, existence, humanity, your family, yourself...) How did you find it again?*

Approval of Minutes from January meeting, no corrections.

Open Mic: Phyllis Heagney related that husband Fred Dodge is using his credit card to purchase goods for the church and is then reimbursed. She wonders why doesn't the church have its own credit card. Chris responded that credit cards are not issued to institutions without a real person named as accountable. This led to expanded discussion about getting merchant accounts at hardware stores, etc. Is it also possible to get wholesalers to work with us, for better prices? The problem is that our needs may not be consistent or volume-intensive enough to be of interest to wholesalers. Citing time constraints for what could be a long discussion, Andrew suggested that this conversation be continued at another time in another venue.

No resolution or proposal.

Treasurer's Report: Laura Jean reported that we are slightly behind in our income, but it is not yet a cause for worry; the winter months are typically sluggish. She has prepared what she hopes is a fairly easy-to-read one-page budget summary for the February 21 congregational meeting. The intent is to shift the focus from excessive details to overall trends so members can more readily understand our budget situation.

Bonnie commented on changes in the budget process as our new governance process continues to evolve and take root. The emergence of the council system has complicated the process, but we should be happy about that even though the new system is taking time to develop.

Solicitation Policy: Chris reviewed minor revisions to a version he circulated at a previous meeting. It details acceptable business solicitations and transactions among, between and to UUCSR members and staff during congregational activities or staff workdays. It included a question of paid advertising in the UUCSR newsletter. Discussion ensued on this latter point. Consensus emerged that newsletter advertising is not a pressing or desirable need at this point, but that some opportunity for members to formally make their businesses known to other members can always be explored in another format. Laura Jean Hageman moved that the final item under 6 (newsletter advertising) be stricken from the policy, and so doing, that we adopt the policy without further amendment.

Phyllis seconded. All but one in favor, opposed by Lois Nagle, objecting only to the striking of the final item.

Council of Councils Meeting: Chris reported on the recent meeting attended by Phil Harriman for Ops Council, Mary Wolfe for Program Council, Gretchen Vap for Membership Council, Rose St. John for Financial Stewardship Council, and Andrew Hidas.

It was decided that the Councils should meet three times per year, perhaps best shortly before each congregational meeting. The question arose of who should convene the meeting? Chris convened this one, but does not intend to again, as it seems more appropriate for a member to head up this effort. Andrew suggested that the Board of Trustees Vice President may be the logical choice to convene the Council of Councils meeting.

Also discussed at the Councils meeting was the desire for good communication between the Councils and the Board. Mostly working fairly well, including the Google groups, etc. All Council chairs present felt that it was a useful meeting.

Ann suggested that she would like to see the Council chairs brief the board at Board meetings on occasion, as has been done in the past.

President-Elect: Andrew reviewed the Board goal to establish a President-Elect process whereby the Board and congregation would know who would be the incoming president prior to convening of the new church year in July. Everyone who is continuing on the board next year is eligible. Self-nominations are allowed, as is voting for oneself. You can nominate yourself. Andrew asked if anyone objects to an oral, open vote. No objection heard.

Not eligible because no longer on Board next year: Andrew, Bonnie, Bob, Phyllis
Bonnie nominated Laura Jean and listed many reasons for doing so, including her work on the Finance Committee and her overall knowledge of the organization and many members.

Laura Jean accepted the nomination but emphasized the importance of selecting a reliable VP, which would enable her to continue enjoying occasional travel during her term if she is elected. No other nominees, Laura Jean Hageman elected by unanimous acclamation as President for 2011-2012.

Spectator and member Betty Miller asked for clarification on length of board and officer terms, as well as for clarification on the relationship between councils and committees.

Andrew initiated a break in the meeting and reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

Krasny Fundraiser Discussion:

Event is Saturday March 5th. Andrew asked every Board member to attend and serve as reception hosts and helpers. He encouraged Board members to promote the event with friends. Fundraising goal: \$10,000. Andrew will post details to the focus list. He also asked Board members if they would personally invite 8-10 UUCSR members, a list of which he would distribute, along with contact information, to each Board member. He emphasized the importance and impact of direct invitations and reminders of congregational events, many of which can be lost or overlooked by members in the busy lives they lead.

Congregational Meeting Preparation:

Budget: Laura Jean spoke of her intention to present the “goal budget” for 2011/2012. She distributed her one-page budget sheet for review. The goal budget calls for a 13% increase over 2010/2011 budget. Various speakers will present specific portions of the budget at the meeting.

Appreciations: Lillian Reid (stepping down from Finance), Jeanie Bates (stepping down from Advocates for Social Justice), Frances Corman for her many contributions over the years. (

Visioning: Chris will address the congregation’s present and future

Quorum counter: 20% of 326 members = 65.

Child Care: We need two caregivers. Lois will contact possibilities from our usual list.

Review of District Executive Controversy: Chris summarized the situation of Cilla Raughley’s dismissal as our PCD district executive after 8 years at the helm.

She was terminated by UUA over the objections of the PCD Board.

Chris was among a large group of district ministers who supported the vote to terminate, based on what they considered an irreparable relationship between themselves and Cilla moving forward. He expects an interim executive will be named, then a search for a new permanent hire.

Two-Signature Financial Transactions: Laura Jean moved to approve the Financial Transactions Policy (for checks & online transfer transactions). John seconded, unanimous approval.

Facebook Ads: Chris reported he purchased a low-cost (\$30) ad for UUCSR’s Facebook page that targets 5,000 people who are friends of those already connected to UUCSR. Promising results thus far.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Sowers, Acting Recording Secretary