

Hopedale Unitarian Universalist Community

Board of Directors Meeting

January 15, 2008

Minutes

Present: Liz Woedl, Sallie Killian, Amy Driscoll, Ann Fuehrer, Genevieve O'Malley Knight, Pete Carels. Absent – Mary Fox. Guests – Carol Sroczyński.

Chalice Lighting/Checking In: Recent events were shared, including the good progress Liz is making with her wrist injury.

Minutes: There was a change in the spelling of liaison in the December minutes, which were then unanimously approved. (Motion by Sallie, second by Genevieve).

Treasurer's Report: Written report was submitted by Ann. Page 2 of the agenda. This report reflects 33 % of the fiscal year. Pledges continue to come in at a good rate. Under earmarked income, \$400 was marked as for the projector, which also has already been spent. Under expenses, UUA has been paid through the end of the fiscal year (June). Certificate will be displayed on the wall. We have received a letter of thanks from the UUA for being a fair share congregation. Under payroll, the large expense in December was from Kat's severance pay of 3 months. Administrative expenses are over budget as is usual, due in part to a lot of mailing to the congregation. Payments to the building fund are being worked on. At the last finance meeting the plan was to pay \$5,000 to the debt but due to the large check for Kat's severance pay, this will be delayed a little while and then paid in a smaller amount.

President's Report: Written report was submitted by Liz. Page 7 of the agenda.

- 4) Intergenerational services issue. Liz spoke with a member who is withdrawing from the congregation for a while due to concerns about some members attitudes and meanness, along with how the survey was handled this past year. Liz also brought a book called "Big Ideas for Small Congregations" which has good suggestions for how to welcome children into a congregation, among other things.

Guest Report: Carol Sroczyński brought a draft policy for Intergenerational Services. Amy asked if there are plans for summer services being all intergenerational or if we plan to continue RE during the summer. Carol said this has not been decided yet. Liz stated that we need to work on the wording of this draft. She would also like to ask Sunday

Services committee to respond to this draft by a certain date. Ann stated that she missed the intergenerational services over this past year since there had been a lot less, and would like to have more in the future. Liz would like to form an ad hoc committee between RE and Sunday Services. Genevieve volunteered to chair this committee.

Carol also discussed child care coverage. Child care during a service is typically 1 ½ hours. 2 years ago the rate had been \$20 for this time. This past year the rate was \$15 due to budget constraints. Liz suggested continuing this rate, which is \$10 per hour, and developing a written job description also so that expectations are clear.

Committee Reports:

VP -Religious Services: Sallie Killian. Deferred to old and new business.

VP -Administrative Services: Written report submitted by Pete Carels. Page 6. Committees have been reminded to keep all their receipts for expenses and turn them in for reimbursement.

VP –Member Services: Mary was absent.

VP -Outreach: Genevieve had nothing new at this time.

Commission on Opportunities: Pete Carels submitted a written report. Liz heard that Nancy Combs Morgan has been very ill. This is likely the cause of the delay in her report, which is still pending. There is a meeting with the CO and Julie Denny Hughes on January 20th. She has arranged to meet with just the CO, but it was discussed that this would be better to have the meeting be as open as possible. Suggestions included allowing members to observe the meeting. Pete asked what the budget is for the CO, and what the process is for reimbursement. They need \$150 to pay Julie for this next meeting. Sallie moved to approve this amount, Genevieve seconded. All were in favor. Pete agreed to email the board for budget items that need to be approved, in order allow the CO to rapidly make progress and not have to wait for each board meeting.

Sallie brought a handout called “Characteristics of a Healthy UU Congregation” for all to read, and feels the congregation is in crisis right now.

Old Business: 1) Updates on Operations and Procedures submissions – Liz suggested we should call people who have not responded yet. 2) Eunice and Evelyn Ruth were confirmed as representatives to the UUA General Assembly and Heartland. Amy moved to approve, Genevieve seconded. All in favor except Ann abstained. 3) Intergenerational services – see earlier discussion. 4) Liz stated that she had been approached by some ministers asking what opportunities we had open. Sallie asked, what are we planning and how is the congregation supposed to invest money for the canvass when people don’t even know what is planned for the next year? Pete said the CO is working on these

questions and would likely present the congregation with options to come to a consensus on for the spring meeting. However it is noted that the canvass would be before then. Amy said that members would be deciding on the canvass based on the community and the values and beliefs that it currently holds.

New Business: 1) Budget discussion. Requests should be submitted by committees by January 27th. Ann felt it would be very difficult for Sunday Services to develop any kind of budget when we don't know how much, if any, minister time to plan for. It was suggested that they submit a few different options for the budget, based on different scenarios. Liz said a draft budget will be submitted, then this will be used to help plan for the canvass. Ann recommended that the chairs and VPs think about several different scenarios for the next year. 2) Canvass – Celia is working on this, will send board ideas. A dinner meeting was mentioned and everyone was interested in learning more about this idea. 3) Spring Congregational Meeting will be April 20th. Sallie moved, Genevieve seconded, all approved. 4) Counting the collection will be done after the service by Ann and the person greeting. Ann will tell Celia this should be added to the greeter job description. 5) Childcare pay was discussed earlier.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Amy Driscoll.