

UUCM Board meeting minutes, August 17, 2016 (approved 9-21-16)

Attendance: Board: Holly Hanauer, Usha Shivaswamy, Sherry Ware, Susan Bossung, Jerry McKean, Sharon Seager, Seth Carrier-Ladd. There were 6 Board members present, which constituted a quorum.

Attendance: Visitors: Alice Bennett, Leslie Duvall, Bill Frederick, Linda Gregory, Diane Hill, Judy Lowe, Tom Lowe, Linda McKean, John McKillip, Steve Robert, Kirk Robey, Amy Shaw, Caroline Sullivan, Mike Sullivan. There were 14 visitors present.

Check In The meeting was convened at 6:35 pm by President Holly Hanauer.

Chalice Lighting & Opening Words

Covenant: We promise to:

- Treat each other with respect.
- Practice healthy communication: directly communicate and actively listen to each other.
- Support each other in the work of the Board.
- Publicly support the decisions of the Board.
- Maintain confidentiality where appropriate.
- Honor our commitment to the work of the Board.
- Model healthy leadership practices and UU values to the congregation.
- Encourage honesty and acceptance of diverse opinions.
- Create an atmosphere of safety and trust.
- Work unselfishly for the betterment of the whole church, present and future.
- **The Board** supports the minister's professional leadership (Read by the Board),
- **The Minister** respects the policies and priorities of the Board (Read by the minister)

Approval of the Minutes 07/28/2016

Minutes of the Board meeting of 07/28/2016 were approved as distributed.

Approval of the Agenda, 08/17/2016. Sherry Ware moved the addition of two items to the Unfinished Business category: Item 4. The Grounds Vision Task Force, Item 5. The Membership Committee. The motion was seconded and passed.

New Business

Motion: Usha Shivaswamy moved, and Sherry Ware seconded to appoint John Bartlett to the Committee on Ministries. The motion passed unanimously.

Secular Humanist Presentation. Mike Sullivan served as spokesman for the group. Sullivan read his remarks, and presented a written copy to Board President Holly Hanauer.

A copy of Sullivan's remarks is attached to these minutes.

Several visitors made brief comments endorsing the sentiments expressed in the presentation.

Humanist Presentation before the UUCM Board

August 17, 2016

I wish to make four general points, to be followed by comments and statements from other members of our Humanist group.

First, we want the board to **appreciate the sincerity and earnestness** of the group requesting this meeting. We represent more than 220 years of collective membership in this congregation: we have been on the board, we have been officers, we have been committee chairs and members—we have invested and received much from this congregation. We are not a fringe group and wish our concerns to be addressed in a manner commensurate with our proven dedicated services to the congregation.

Second, we believe that the **Freethinker Friendly Program** initiated by the UU Humanists Association could be a good beginning in addressing our concerns. It encourages congregations to include atheistic language in its welcoming statement and challenges congregations to consider how non-inclusive language (references to the holy, sacred, divine, god, prayer—in hymns and sermons) trigger feelings of exclusion among non-theist members.

Third, we feel strongly that our welcoming statement that appears in our Order of Service and Unigram include a statement welcoming non-believers. It might read: "We welcome all people without regard to age, race, national origin, ableness, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, **or belief/non-belief in god.**"

Fourth and last, it is our belief that to whatever extent our congregational leadership successfully addresses our concerns and suggestions, our congregational goal **of expanded inclusivity** will be more credible, and additionally will contribute positively to **a congregational growth agenda.**

We look forward to hearing from the board regarding our expressed concerns in the near future, and **surely before the congregational meeting in October.**

Sincerely,

Michael Sullivan

President Holly Hanauer: Hanauer thanked Board members for continuing to deal with important issues during her recent absence.

She reported that 3 trees that were shading the solar panels have been removed.

The Board Retreat is scheduled for Monday, August 22, from 9:00 am until 4 pm.

The meeting to decide on property insurance needs to be scheduled.

Past President Sherry Ware: The membership committee has been reorganized.

Vice President Susan Bossung: The membership committee is not yet functioning.

The Religious Education committee is concerned about the need for leaders, especially for the middle-school and high school youth. The OWL program needs leaders.

Treasurer Usha Shivaswamy: Presented 2 financial statements as of July 31, 2016:

Income and Expense as of July 2016, and Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison, as of July 31, 2016. Copies of these documents are attached to the minutes.

Usha reported, regarding the church's property insurance policy, that she now has quotes from three companies. A decision must be made before Sept. 11, 2016.

She also reported she has a software issue with the accounting system being used. Adam Abner has suggested moving to online accounting.

Minister Seth Carrier-Ladd: Summer Sunday worship services were successful. The Religious Ed. Summer program was successful.

David Calvin has made a new storage cabinet for safely storing objects used in Sunday Services.

He attended General Assembly. He received Final Fellowship from UUA.

He met with the Two-Services Task Force during his summer break and study leave.

The Fundraising committee needs someone to coordinate it; Judy Lowe will convene it, Susan Bossung will attend.

The Safe Congregation committee recommends adoption of policies regarding "disruptive behavior." Jerry McKean will assist on this.

A new software app. "Text to Give" is available for use in the Sunday offering.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Seager, Secretary, Board of Trustees, Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie