

UUCM Board Meeting June 17, 2017, 6:30 pm, draft

minutes of June 17 approved as revised (ps) on 7/19/17

Attendance: Board President Holly Hanauer, presiding. Past President Sherry Ware, Vice President John Bartlett, Treasurer Usha Shivaswamy, President-Elect Ginny Nilles, Treasurer-Elect Jennifer Hollems. Community Minister Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer.

Visitors: Bea Sousa, Pam ^{Harwood} ~~Tabberson~~, Coly Tabberson

The regularly-scheduled monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie began at 6:30 pm, with a check-in, chalice lighting, and opening words.

The agenda was approved as distributed by Hanauer.

The minutes of the May 17, 2017 meeting were approved as amended.

Revisions included revised wording on p. 1 in the paragraph describing Linda Hanson's report to the Board the findings of the Committee on Ministries.

On p. 2-3, the wording of the motion by Sherry Ware, seconded by Jerry McKean, was revised to read: Motion that the Board endorse the Citizens Climate Lobby's proposed legislation, on behalf of the congregation.

Bea Sousa, acting on behalf of the Two Services Task Force, was invited to present to the Board a proposal intended to foster some changes in social interactions, following the adoption of the Two Services proposal. She stressed the importance of changing the church's "culture" in various small ways, to enhance growth. Specifically, she requested authorization to purchase 3 small round tables (to seat 4 to 8 people), and 6 tablecloths. These purchases would come from the already-authorized funds raised to implement the Two Services trial project. She estimated that the cost would be approximately \$500.

Sousa stressed the importance of creating a new kind of "social hour" (replacing the current "coffee" time). People would be encouraged to sit down and talk to each other, and particularly to get acquainted with newcomers. The intent is to facilitate conversation and social connections.

Motion

Ginny Nilles moved, and Usha Shivaswamy seconded, that Bea Sousa and Sherry Ware be authorized to spend up to \$500 from the Two Services Special Fund, to purchase the small tables and tablecloths.

The **Motion was approved** unanimously.

Vice President John Barnett, speaking in his role as a Team Captain of one of the Hospitality Teams that provide coffee after Sunday services, usher, collect the offering, record the attendance, etc., noted that changes will be needed in the ways that coffee (or other beverages)

are served. There will not be enough ceramic coffee cups, and it will be difficult or impossible for Hospitality Teams to gather and sterilize used ceramic cups quickly. Sousa noted that the Saratoga UU church uses cups made from completely recycled and recyclable material.

President Holly Hanauer reported that she had received an expression of concern about the Social Justice Committee, which has been functioning without a chair. They will soon be without a strong leader or mission. Their primary function has been limited to selecting the recipient of the designated offerings.

Hanauer encouraged Board members to pay attention to General Assembly activities, and perhaps try live-streaming some sessions. She also encouraged everyone to check out the webinar videos, available on the MidAmerica UU region website. She thinks several might be a good follow-up to our discussion with Rev. Sharon Dittmar.

Past President Sherry Ware reported that committee member slots have been filled. This includes the "Safe Congregation" committee.

Pam Harwood reported to the Board that the Grounds Vision Task Force had made a presentation to the congregation last Sunday about their findings and recommendations. Responses have been very positive so far.

Coly Tabberson, Pam Harwood and Bill Tabberson's son, wants to develop a project that would help him earn the designation of Eagle Scout. He is seeking Board approval for proposing that he would work on one aspect of the overall projected plan the Grounds Vision Task Force is sketching out. Tabberson described the process he would have to navigate in order to get approval of his project from the Boy Scouts. The project would have to have a Beneficiary (UUCM). He already has experience in construction. Board members voiced generally positive reactions, but stressed that he would have to work within parameters set by the Board, and be mindful of concerns of Religious Education and Property Maintenance committees.

Motion

Vice President John Bartlett moved, and Ginny Nilles seconded, to approve that Coly Tabberson may propose to the Scouts a project developing a limited portion of the overall scheme presented by the UUCM Grounds Vision Task Force. (for example: establishing a "sensory garden", working on a portion of a walking trail, building Bat Houses). President Holly Hanauer will appoint one or more persons from UUCM to aid and advise Tabberson in this project. She asked that this group get organized, work on details, and report to the next Board meeting. **The motion was adopted** unanimously.

Vice President John Bartlett reported that the Program Council has investigated ideas that have promoted successful growth in other churches. One idea: getting groups to work directly on social justice projects, rather than have established committees talking about doing work.

Bartlett reported that the UUCM website has a problem with "currency" (i.e., appears to be out of date, doesn't report on current issues, etc.) The Communications Committee has not yet resolved problems that have occurred on Facebook.

He also reported that the instructions (on the screen) for the Text-to-Give option for loose offerings need to be revised.

New Business

Motion

Secretary Sharon Seager moved, and Sherry Ware seconded, to appoint Ben Ewing to the Committee on Ministries. The **motion was approved** unanimously.

Motion

The Kitchen Committee requested that a one-time gift (honoring the memory of a deceased person) be put in a special designated fund to be used for items requested by the KC, so that the money would be carried over to the next fiscal year, and not revert to General Funds. Usha Shivaswamy moved, and John Bartlett seconded, to carry forward the balance in the Kitchen Committee's fund, in order to honor this special gift. The **motion was approved** unanimously.

There was discussion about handling monetary contributions made to the church's Food Pantry. It was decided that this account should be moved into a "designated fund" to ensure that the money be carried over to the next fiscal year, and be spent only for the purpose intended.

There was discussion about the problem of funding the Pokagon Retreat Weekend. There are various problem areas: 1) is/has this been an official church-sponsored event? 2) If "yes," then there must be accountability in handling the money needed to pay for getting a reservation for the Group Camp, paying the rental fee for the Group Camp, purchasing food and supplies needed for meals, ensuring that those who attended paid for their accommodations.

There was general consensus that finances for the Pokagon event must not be handled as loosely as in the past. Those who participated in the Pokagon event last year still owe the church \$437. They apparently hope that a fundraiser, scheduled for July, will raise enough money. The ~~incoming~~^{past} President Ginny Nilles spoke ~~very firmly~~ about the need for transparency and accountability regarding money. There is an established procedure for getting legitimate expenses reimbursed, if the event is officially church-sponsored. Receipts must be turned in to the Office Administrator. President Hanauer requested that the Secretary look back in minutes of previous Board meetings, to see what policy has prevailed in the past.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Seager, Secretary