

UUCM Board Meeting, January 17, 2018

Attendance: President Jerry McKean, presiding. Vice President John Bartlett, Past President Holly Hanauer, Treasurer Jennifer Hollems, Youth Representative Anna Dillinger, Ministerial intern Joel Tishken, Secretary Sharon Seager, Minister Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd.

Steve Chalk and Jamie Butterbaugh attended as representatives of the Committee on Ministries. About 30 people attended the meetings sponsored by the Committee on Ministries.

Reports

President Jerry McKean reported that in addition to performing the regular duties of the position, he recruited members to serve on a Long-Range Planning Task Force. They are: Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, Dylan Ford, Margaret Reeder, Bruce Perkins, and John Taylor.

McKean reported that he met with the Finance Committee, where they reviewed the Treasurer's report and analysis of the ten-year trends in giving and expenditures.

He met with Seth and Steve Chalk regarding planning a joint meeting of the Board and the Committee on Ministries. The joint meeting will be for a videoconference with Lisa Presley, of the UUA, to be held on January 18. McKean noted that there has been some resistance to the idea of writing a covenant. McKean and the COM are debating about ways to address the toxic behavior which has emerged recently. Some churches have established formal grievance procedures, and some define and try to discourage "difficult behavior."

Past President Holly Hanauer met with the people who have led Fundraising Activities during recent years. They are looking for new ideas and approaches to fundraising. Ideas they are exploring: Customer Reward Programs, which would provide a stream of money (Scrip) when UU members shop at their stores. Some have suggested selling items on eBay, with profits going to the church. Vice President John Bartlett reported that the Membership Committee is struggling. They will put the Inquirers Sessions on hiatus for a while. It needs to be advertised more clearly. The Property Maintenance Committee is going to contract for some necessary work to be done.

Religious Education personnel are adjusting to the new schedule. Stewardship Committee decided not to do one-on-one canvassing this year.

There is a need for more coordination in the kitchen on Sundays when brunch is held. Hospitality teams are being

expected to do more work than they agreed to do.

The Social Justice Committee will be asked to do one designated offering for the 2nd Harvest Food Bank.

Treasurer Jennifer Hollems reported that financial matters are similar to last month. Pledges are up, income is on a par with last year, and there is currently a strong balance. She is concerned that many members are misinformed about the financial situation, and

has prepared a series of slides to illustrate their concerns. She picked two points in the recent past: 2010- 2011, and 2013-2014, compared the expenditures, and explained the reasons why there were increased expenditures. (primarily spending for items not in the budget at an earlier time, increases in insurance costs, utility costs, etc.

Youth Representative Anna Dillinger reported that the Youth Service will be January 25. The youth have held several planning sessions and a rehearsal.

Six youth have confirmed that they are going on the Service Trip.

The Coming-of-Age program will have a Wilderness Trip during the last week of April.

Minister Seth Carrier-Ladd reported that he has been away much of the time recently. He thought the Christmas services went well.

Mambers appear to be adjusting well to the time changes on Sunday mornings.

Attendance has been down recently, explained mostly by bad weather.

Rev. Seth reported that the very old, small sign posted beside the front sidewalk on Bradford Street has problems: broken or missing letters, a general old-fashioned and tacky appearance, etc.

Bartlett moved to ask the Property Maintenance Committee to take down the sign. The motion passed, unanimously.

The Stewardship Committee will contact some members personally about their pledges, but not everyone. They will concentrate on the top givers, and will hold an afternoon reception. V-P Bartlett suggested adding a PayPal option.

By consensus, it was agreed that the Bridge-the-Gap financial campaign has run its course, and has ended. Church member George Wolfe has decided to try to get the Green Party nomination as Secretary of State, and requested to set up a table after church services, to collect signatures. The Board decided to let George talk to people and ask for their signatures, but not to have a table (which might be misinterpreted as a political endorsement).

Rev. Seth reported that formal interview of Marcel Ramalho de Mello to be Choir Director will be held tomorrow. A special committee will conduct the interview. Choir members have responded favorably to his candidacy.

Motion

Past President Holly Hanauer moved, and Anna Dillinger seconded, to give Board approval to hire Marcel Ramalho de Mello as Choir Director, pending the decision of the special committee tomorrow. The motion passed, unanimously.

President McKean introduced the last agenda item. UU congregations are being asked to vote on Congregational Study/Action Issues that this congregation thinks should be added to the 2018 General Assembly agenda for four years of study, reflection, and action. The item is: Undoing Intersectional White Supremacy; Dismantling Intersectional Oppression.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Board members will meet next for a special meeting with the Committee on Ministries, for a videoconference with Lisa Presley, of the UUA. This meeting will be tomorrow, January 18, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Seager, Secretary of UUCM Board.