

Unitarian-Universalist Board Meeting

December 12, 2007

Present: Peter Kandis, Mike Paget, Joe Long, Ann Cargill , Glenn White, Mary McGriff, Mike Kelly, Cheryl Soehl, Jessica Kross.

Others Present: Gin Beery, David Crockett, Didi Doggette, Carita Barr

Minister: Neal Jones

7:15. Meeting called to order.

MOTIONS PASSED:

* Accept Consensus Agenda

* Accept postponing buying a bicycle rack until we see what the Boudreaux bill is and what monies are left from the CD which comes due in January.

CONSENSUS AGENDA:

Consensus agenda drawn up by Peter which approved:

- October minutes approved
- Reports
 - Minister—report sent
 - I spoke at the annual summit meeting of the SC Progressive Network and discovered that churches can be members of the Network. Right now, two others are: Garden of Grace United Church of Christ here in Cola (the gay church) and Open Door Christian Church of Charleston. I think we should be the third congregation to join. The Progressive Network champions the kinds of causes we support -- human rights, environmental

protection, workers' rights, and preservation of the democratic process in government. In addition to the two churches, some of the other member organizations are: Carolina Peace Resource Center, Common Cause, NAACP, National Association of Social Workers, PFLAG, Planned Parenthood, SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Fair Share, SC Equality Coalition, Gay & Lesbian Pride, NOW, and the Black Legislative Caucus.

Based on our budget, our fee would be about \$160, and I would be glad to serve as our congregation's rep on the Progressive Network board.

- President
 - Talking with Wayne Clark, UUA Congregational Stewardship, about an assessment visit re a Capital Fund Drive and to advise about our next canvass. I filled out and returned an Intake form as he requested.
- President-elect
 - The Coffeehouse held two shows in November. Chuck Pyle performed November 3rd to 55 attendees, and One Leg Up gypsy jazz performed November 17 to 89 attendees. Shows scheduled for December include Barrett Smith for December 8, and the 5th annual New Year's Eve show December 31, featuring Jack Williams, Susan Taylor, Danny Harlow, and Don Porterfield.
 - The Master Plan Committee had no meetings or activities during November. Following up on one of the Long Range Plan activities, I have asked the Green Grants Group to be prepared to continue exploring resources to support our renovation.

- Treasurer—working with Organizational Structure committee to document policies and procedures of the treasurers office
- Administrator—report sent
 - All correction have been made to the list for receipt of the UU World
 - Congregational information has been updated on the UUA website
- DRE—report sent
- Finance Committee—David Crockett, Ann Cargill
 - We plan to have year end tax statements ready for distribution by 2nd Sunday in January. I'll put an announcement in the Unigram when I confirm that we should be ready by then.
 - New members are pledging and Finance is keeping track of who has not for near future followup.
- Buildings & Grounds—Morgan Maclachlan, Glenn White,
 - Morgan is picking up smoke detectors to install throughout the building.
- Denominational Relations—Dean Smith, Ruth Sproat,
- Membership—Larry Siegel, Cheryl Soehl,
- Ministerial Relations—Pat Mohr, Kathy Paget, David Crockett
- RE Committee—Sonya Jones, Peter Kandis, RE committee will be this Sunday 12/08 report to follow the meeting.
- Social Action—Toni Jones, Cheryl Soehl
 - Are working on Justice Sunday with the UU Service Committee

- December loose plate collection will be for Families Helping Families
 - Welcoming committee
- Worship Committee—Judy Turnipseed, Joe Long, working with the Technology Service Committee to get sermons on our website and also on CDs.
- Master Plan Committee—Mike Paget, the MPC and the Board met with Boudreaux on December 3 to review and give Boudreaux feedback on their work to date. The next meeting for the same group will be scheduled for mid January.
- UU Coffeehouse—Mike Paget, the coffeehouse has two shows during November including the most recent with Chuck Pyle the artist performed at Sunday’s service.
- Technology Service Committee (TSC)
 - Technology Support: Hardware/Software
 - UUFC Website working on creating procedures for handling the digital recordings of the Sunday Sermons so that the work can be distributed evenly among committee members/volunteers.
- Public Relations
 - Ann Eckert sent note to Free Times thanking them for their recent article “G” is for God...and Green and for the good press for us in the article.
 - Did advertising for Media Matters: Women and Men in a Rape Culture event which we co-sponsored.
- Partner Church sent \$500 to the Rev. Zsolt Solymosi and Unitarians in Beszerce from money they fund raised.

DISCUSSION

Correction: Cheryl is Board liaison to social action, not membership; membership is Mike Kelly.

Motion to accept Consensus Agenda, Glenn moved, Mike Paget seconded. Agreed.

Treasurer's report.

We are taking money from savings for Bourdreaux.

Zeroed out Carnisale Fund and put it in Master Plan Fund and then into Unrestricted.

Moved training expenses from Carnisale leadership.

Each committee getting report on their budget/expenses.

Reminder that we giving away plate 2nd Sunday.

Two Bourdreaux bills still to come.

Carita asks where extra money from racism conference in 2005 has gone. Ann and Glenn to look and Carita to find out what she can.

Ann Cargill reported back on the Tax Exempt Seminar she attended:

We are tax exempt. 501 (3c). Need to be careful about activities. If we donate money it has to go to another 501 (3c).

Question: Do we get special postal rates—Gin will check.

Need to treat employees according to IRS rules. Nursery workers will need to be independent contractors. Didi will get form and handle that. If they make more than \$600 they need a 1099 form.

Ways to lose tax exempt status: 1) money goes to a private insider; 2) lobbying—we can lobby for causes/issues consistent with our mission but we can spend a very little amount; 3) political activity in favor of candidate or party; minister can speak but must identify self as a private citizen. We can put out information sheets and do registration drives; 4) engage in business activities. It isn't a business if run by volunteers.

Rental income doesn't count if we own the building and don't provide services. If a mortgage on building then rental income does count and is taxed. Question if rental to member counts. Probably not.

Dave Crockett asked if there is a budget threshold over which you have to do an IRS audit. Ann not know. There's a website.

President membership reporting time line.

ABC is Annual Basic Cost.

Need for a calendar which shows what needs to be done when.

Transformational stewardship conference: Peter, David, Neal, Mike P., Cheryl, Carita. Will go

Bicycle rack. Mike Paget asked that we install a bicycle rack. Jonathan Thompson suggested 7 bike rack; Morgan suggested 9 bike rack. About \$4-\$600. These secure racks. Propose that we do this. Ask Jonathan to deal with this under Morgan's supervision. Peter—it an investment. Fund—from B & G. Glenn—let's wait until Jan or Feb so we can see where we are as to CD and Boudreaux. Mike Paget moved, Cheryl seconded. Agreed.

Cheryl. Social Action. We listed under religious resources.

She found free training for social justice organizing. In Florida. They pay. Congregation-based community organizations.

Peter. Spoke to Wayne Clark—what kind of social organization are we doing; how are we presenting gender? Peter asks Cheryl to get together with Neal and Toni and bring a proposal to the Board.

Joe. Worship. Proposal. Budget shows \$1000 for music and only \$250 for visiting ministers. Asks that \$800 for music be moved to direct worship for paying guest speakers. Joe needs to speak to Bill Moody.

Mike Paget. Van accessible parking. We need van accessible space which different from handicapped accessible. It cannot be parallel parking on the street but must be angled so can have blue lines on each side of car.

Mike Kelly has our name tags. Membership wants mentors. Mike put together form for buddy so new people can choose mentors.

8:40 adjourned.