

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana

Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World



Board Minutes

March 26th, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

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Attending: Deb Hutton, Kathleen Sideli, Drew Schrader, Abby Gitlitz, Doug Cauble, Arzetta Hulst-Losensky, Von Welch (via Skype)

Ex-officio: Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

Submitted by Abby Gitlitz, Secretary

I. Call to Order

Call to order by Kathleen Sideli, President, at 7:12

Changes to the agenda: None

II. Chalice Lighting and Reading

Chalice lighting and reading by Drew “Velocity” by Billy Collins.

III. Check-in

Attendance and check-in.

IV. Consent Calendar

A. Staff Report: Campus Ministry

Jose Toledo

Jose served as campus ministry coordinator from September to January. He faced challenges including ministers being on sabbatical and his campus advisors, Paul Losensky and John Sommerlot, being very busy.

Originally he proposed two meetings a month for the Campus ministry group, one at the church and one on campus, with guest speakers. He had very small attendance for the first few meetings and then no attendants. He used social media, personal invitations and other means to encourage people to come. He changed tactics to make events more social and less serious but still there was no attendance.

Based on Jose’s experience we will look at other means to encourage student and young adults to participate in campus ministry. The Board also recognized there is a perception that campus ministry is not integrated with other Church activities and may benefit from efforts to make it feel more connected.

B. Approve February 2014 minutes

All

Motion by Deb: To approve February minutes.

Seconded by Drew.

Vote: approved unanimously.

C. Minister’s Report

Mary Ann Macklin

Our church is hosting a MidAmerica Regional meeting April 12th which is taking staff and volunteer time to set up.

There will be a congregational retreat May 9th and 10th at Waycross.

The staff is trying to schedule their vacations before the interim ministry starts.

Sunday March 30th is membership celebration and the start of the stewardship campaign.

There is a new time chart on the wall reflecting where the church is at this moment.

Reverend Macklin is reevaluating theme ministry and whether we would like to continue with it in the future.

The 21st century course that the staff is involved in has really impacted them. April 16th there will be a meeting to create a strategic plan for 2015-16.

The Paoli group is still active and Bill will go down and preach there before he leaves. We have offered them a variety of services, but they do not want to do small group ministry, or streaming. We are more of a touchstone for them, rather than them being a satellite of our church.

We have been working to produce more press releases recently and the question came up with regards to how these relate to Board policies regarding Directors not speaking for the Church. The Board agreed it was a good idea for the Executive Minister or President to vet any press release going out on behalf of the Church.

V. Discussion Calendar

A. Old Business

1. Minister Emeritus Working Group Deb Hutton

Deb reports that the group continues to meet and council with Bill.

2. Interim Selection Committee Update IMSC

The committee continues to work on the application. The IMSC will circulate to the board their responses to the questions from the application which are due on April 17th.

3. 'Beyond Congregations' debriefing All

As a result of Tandi's encouragement at the "Beyond Congregations" workshop people are saying that they are doing more evangelism about being a UU. Although the workshop did not offer many specific directions for the future, it connected to what some people really needed right now in that she was very positive in her appraisal of UUCB successes.

B. New Business

1. Monitoring <http://www.uubloomington.org/uucb/govt/boardpolicies2013.pdf>

a) All Ends Statement Policies

Direct inspection by the Board. Required exhibits: Exec Minister Report [& Membership Coordinator report].

See March 2014 Executive Ministers Report Ends Statements for UUCB.

See Report to Board from Membership Coordinator.

b) Town Hall Meeting debriefing

The Town Hall meeting went well and Bill was moving in his comments. More than 50 people attended. There were also concrete questions about the called minister process.

Members of the congregation besides the Board contributed greatly to answering questions.

We would like to keep the momentum going. We will ask congregants who have been through the interim process before to write testimonials for the Prologue about what it is like to live through the interim process.

c) Regional Meeting (April 12)

We are looking for Board representation at the meeting. At least four board members plan to be there.

d) Stewardship

There is now a Stewardship website. There will be an email from the ministers to the congregation soon. There will be also be a mailing that goes out to the congregation with the suggested pledge chart and pledge cards. There will be fabulous music (Carmina Burana) and food at the Commitment Sunday, April 6th.

VI. Executive Session 8:50

VII. Check-out All

VIII. Adjourn 9:11

Motion by Deb: To adjourn.

Seconded by Arzetta.

Vote: approved unanimously.

*April monitoring: IID1. Annual Budgeting, II E. Financial Condition, II H. Comm and **Counsel** to Board III. Fin Cmte*

Upcoming announcements: 3/23 Arzetta 3/30: Kathy 4/6 Doug 4/13 Drew 4/20 Von

March 2014 Executive Ministers Report
Ends Statements for UUCB

Seeking the Spirit

We have a meaningful liberal religious experience which includes:

1. A rich diverse worship life

Began theme based ministry in January 2014, which brings together worship experience with religious education, chalice circles and other aspects of the congregation. Worship service by our youth service as well as youth singing Same Love by Macklemore and Al Yankovic song by youth – Amish Paradise (Google Paradise); these musical experiences added rap style to our worship services. Our choir has a broad base of musical styles including International and African inspired music at Christmas, which featured our percussionist in residence, Colleen Haas. Since Oct we premiered two new pieces, Welcome Prayer by Don Freund, text Clarke Dewey Wells and Meditation by Mary Goetze based on spoken common prayer by Reverend Breeden. Singers of United Lands participated in our worship services; thanks to a connection through our International Outreach Task Force. We have more extemporaneous preaching as part of worship, encouraged by ministers’ retreat on this topic. We continue our Spirit Play for all Ages, Equinoxes and Solstices as additional congregational worship. Also our Earthkin group does cross quarter ritual services. We are experimenting, rather successfully, I think, with using technology inspirationally and appropriately during worship.

2. Compassionate pastoral care

Co-Ministry and Minister of Religious Education and Caring Committee provide foundational pastoral care for members and friends. Our Membership Coordinator was recently designated as staff liaison for the Caring Committee which utilizes her breadth and depth of knowledge re pastoral needs in our congregation. She continues her “anniversary calls” to members which often uncovers unknown pastoral situations, both positive and challenging in nature. Our Chalice Circles continue to be a rich resource for the extension of our pastoral ministry to congregation. Our memorial services continue to be compassionate and meaningful for congregation and community members. Various staff members (music director, administrative, religious education) offer pastoral care to members they are directly involved with. For example Sue offers ministry to choir members and religious education staff keep track of teachers in their moments of joys and sorrows, and Carol and her staff offer frontline ministry for those in need. Also, they notify a minister when a need deepens or requires more professional training.

Elder Focus Task Force provides compassionate care to elders in need. They are exploring workshops and trainings focused on those who are supporting elders in need, either locally or in other locations. We adapt worship to respond to losses in our society. For instance,

the December special music Sunday, featuring the music of Nelson Mandela, was intentionally planned to honor his life after his death the week before.

3. Life-long opportunities for spiritual growth through religious practice, leadership roles, and community action

Our Tai Chi is well attended and appreciated, and we are reintroducing Shambhala Meditation on Mondays at noon. Many volunteers described their phone bank experience for Freedom Indiana (opposing HJR3) as an inspiration for spiritual growth (stretching themselves in ways they didn't know possible); this was encouraged from the pulpit. Religious Education classes did social justice on several Sundays. Ex. Making lasagna for Shalom Center; Mentor Program – Coming of Age (9th graders); 6-8th graders focusing on community action for the whole year. Our Adult Religious Education classes and Humanist Forums continue to offer opportunities for spiritual growth and intellectual exploration. We continue to nurture Chalice Circle facilitators through monthly meetings with co-ministers.

3. Knowledge of denominational and congregational history and traditions

Thomas Benjamin musical piece featuring text by Theodore Parker was offered by our choir when UUA consultant Tandi Rogers was here highlighting our Unitarian heritage. We have many congregational traditions including the Bazaar, Thanksgiving, Soul Food Dinner, Passover Seder, democracy at congregational meetings, Splash of the Sacred. We generate music as part of our tradition, Meditation and Benedictus by Mary Goetze and other music by local composers. Our K-2 Spirit Play makes use of denominational stories and stories of our members; for example, they will be sharing a story re Cookie Lynch next week. Exploring UU offers both denominational and congregational histories. Elof Carlson, our historian, is currently working on a history of our congregation and Unitarian Universalist, due to arrive on our web page by next fall.

Building Community

We have a policy of nondiscrimination – we welcome all and are supportive of people of all ages, races, gender, sexual orientation, abilities, education, and politics.

1. We are generous with our time, talent, and resources.

A few concrete examples: We've provided snacks for Planned Parenthood, space for Freedom Indiana, local community GLBT youth meeting – Prism – providing space for this. NAMI class, providing space. Macaroni for Shalom. Our Elder focus task force is helping with many issues for elders, (ie helping with hearing ability). We now have accommodations with PVC pipe “phones” to help people in choir sing in tune. (Guy made these for us) Meanwhile we continue to root out assumptions regarding education, politics, abilities, age, race, gender, and sexual orientation through continuing education and self awareness. There is always room for improvement here. The fact that we have more stories in worship is important: stories help with nondiscrimination; they break down

barriers and assumptions and raise our awareness regarding other's lives which are different from our own.

Our members bring friends which increase the diversity within our congregation.

We look forward to new means of being out in the Bloomington community in the years ahead.

We actively encourage shared ministry and lay leadership.

Our Chalice Circle program trains new facilitators each year as an extension of our ministry. Leaders from this program become leaders in other areas of the church.

They often send a Chalice Circle executive team member to an annual training.

Our Leadership Cultivation Committee sends youth and members to MidWest Leadership School and is currently working on a more strategic plan for cultivating new members. UUA consultant Tandi Rogers brought leadership expertise to many of our lay leaders.

We share the pulpit with other voices in our membership (ie social justice moments). Having our children present to light our chalices each Sunday is sharing our ministry as are our Children Hymn Sings in which children have direct influence with the content of a worship service. Staff are flexible enough to allow members and friends to step up and share their positions for special moments (ie Susan Swaney inviting Mary Goetze to lead our Gift of Music). Executive Minister (Coach) meets with lay leaders individually outside of regular meetings to nurture their leadership and understand their future goals and hopes. Again, religious education teacher breakfasts and teacher orientation are provided for ongoing support of our many teachers. Many aspects of our congregation have ongoing trainings and support.

2. We responsibly manage our staff, resources, and facilities.

The Greening of building continues. This year our finding that our thermostat use/heating of the building is challenging but achievable. Our new LED in the sanctuary is efficient, although we are working out a few techno-bugs. We now have mid-week standing staff meeting to offer ongoing support and integration of activities for staff. We continue to stay within budgets pretty well Stewardship campaign is emphasizing support of fair compensation last year, this year and next year. Congregational Librarian is helping us to make our library and children's library more accessible and up-to-date, along with religious education staff. 21st Century Class with the Church of the Larger Fellowship has been an inservice training for staff and lay leadership this year (2013-2014) and has already paid off. Executive Minister is planning a brainstorming/strategizing morning session with class participants off-site in mid-April. Visitors to Facebook increased. Our 21st Century class recognized in Interconnections on UUA website. Big thank you to Church Administrator Carol Marks for her work with Facebook and GK Rowe who co-chairs communication and Von Welch who is our technology consultant.

Changing the World

We are leaders in our community and world.

1. We are committed to social justice and equality for all people.

We go outside our walls for important connections with other groups. For example, our choir sang at 2nd Baptist for Black History month and our Coming of Age worked on MLK Day at Hoosier Hills food bank. Gratitude to Social Justice Chair Jackie Hall and the large number of social justice task forces who are very active in Bloomington, Indiana and the world. We continue to include a social justice moment once a month in the worship service. We are planning re-design of SJ bulletin board to give more emphasize on ALL the task forces we have, with continued emphasis on the one for the month,

2. We advocate against prejudice, injustice, and oppression of any person or groups.

Again, our many social justice task forces () have ongoing advocacy in this area from the Elder Focus Task Force nursing home advocacy to Reproductive Justice advocacy work with Planned Parenthood to the Homelessness Task Force and its work with Winter Shelter to Habitat Humanity builds and promotion for decent housing for all people. This year our Freedom Indiana phone bank mobilization and participation was key to defeating HJR3. Members of our congregation and our minister went to the Statehouse and spoke to representatives and were visible in the media against HJR3. We have differently abled persons as active members of our congregation who participate fully in the work of the congregation. We continue to provide large print orders of service, hearing assist, and various levels of support for MCUM, including our bounty-full Sundays

3. We work with other congregations and institutions with shared values and goals

Our Winter Shelter, which involves many volunteers from our congregation along with Reverend Breeden and Alan Backler, is interfaith work and our work with MCUM is interfaith. We have ongoing connections with Beth Shalom and Rabbi Brian Besser. Through Monroe County Religious Leaders, Reverend Macklin stays current with networking regarding community and state issues. This group is becoming more diverse in terms of the liberal-conservative spectrum, which creates more dialogue but may diminish advocacy. Youth climate summit, which our youth are participating in, is interfaith, Red Cross is organization we support through blood drives here on site. Reverend Macklin has begun conversation with Sherwood Oak clergy after participating on a panel together regarding violence against women. Earth Care, which is an interfaith group in Bloomington, involves some of our Green Sanctuary members as does Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light.

4. We work with the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Heartland Association District.

Board will need to reword this since this now involves the MidAmerica Region. We will be hosting the MidAmerica Regional Assembly here in mid-April. Lay leaders and staff are involved in helping with the hosting. Reverend Macklin and Reverend Breeden will be doing the opening worship and Ministerial Candidate Shari Woodbury will be doing the closing worship. Again, we participate in MidWest Leadership School. Abe Leite, a youth and member of our congregation is helping to lead youth Midwest Leadership School this summer. Our Ministers and staff participate in local cluster meetings with colleagues as well as district collegial meetings and often larger UUA gatherings. We are hosting a large Chalice Circles facilitators training for the UU region in late April. Our staff and lay leaders continue to attend Center for Congregations continuing which enhances and inspires our work (for example, Art of Worship, Sticky Faith, Stewardship, etc)

5. We help heal the earth.

Some of our Green Sanctuary leaders are taking their message and workshops to other congregations and sites in Indiana in conjunction with Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light. We are concluding our successful capital campaign, Green Spaces this year. Money saved on utilities due to Solar Panels will go to Green maintenance fund for next three years as requested by Executive Minister and Green Sanctuary. We have new dishwasher, new windows, LED lights in the Meeting Room We practice ongoing mindfulness about replacing equipment and materials with green alternatives. Our new Order of Service covers use less paper due to weekly recycling. Our quarterly Solstice and Equinox services celebrate the seasons and honor our connection to the earth, which is healing and of itself. We will have an All Church Retreat this May to honor our connection to the earth at Waycross Retreat Center.

REPORT TO BOARD FROM MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR
March 26, 2014

Membership 12/31/2013 492
Membership 3/26/2014 491

We had 3 people sign the Membership Book in February 2014.
Since December 2013 we have had 2 deaths and 2 resignations of membership.

The number of guests who completed registration cards this year is low, but of course the weather may have been a factor:

January: 9 typically we had up to 30

February: 7

March : 8 to date

We have used more than this number of Welcome Packets so I think there are more guests "lurking" out there.

At the beginning of the year we reduced the number of Exploring UU classes from bimonthly to quarterly. I am happy that we have 17 people signed up for the class in April- a great improvement in participation.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Bennett
Membership Coordinator