

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis
Minutes of the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
August 19, 2007

Present: Peter Lamb, Fred Muir, Dick Roop, Pat Simons, Olivia Stewart, Phil Tawes
Staff: Amber Beland

ACTION ITEMS

Olivia and Peter will meet to plan the UU Principals and Purposes Initiative workshop.

Fred will draft a statement supporting the Diversity of Ministry Initiative for the Board to vote on.

Pat will contact Toni to revive the Metrics Committee.

Call to Order

Peter called the meeting to order at 11:50 am.

Olivia lit the chalice and offered the opening words.

Board Procedures

Timekeeper – Dick; Process observer- Pat.

Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of July 8, 2007, were approved as corrected.

Old Business:

a) Olivia reported on the **UU Principals and Purposes Initiative**. She would be willing to facilitate one or two three-hour workshops. It would be a good opportunity for the Board to connect with the congregation and to reflect on board policies. Board members should attend. Olivia and Peter will meet to plan the event.

b) Pat reported feedback on **Ends Policy 1.10 Fellowship** from Staying On the Side of Love. SOSL suggested that the first sentence of Policy 1.10 should read “creed, sexual orientation, or gender identity.” SOSL reviewed all of ends policies and recommend that Policies 1.1 and 1.2 add “gender identity” to lists where we have “sexual orientation.”

The Board voted to approve and adopt the above changes.

New Business:

1) Town Meeting Review

Olivia shared the results of the August Town Meeting. The participants suggested grammar changes to the fourth paragraph of **Ends Policy 1.11 Stewardship**. The Board voted to approve and adopt the fourth paragraph of Ends Policy 1.11 Stewardship to read: “We support and care for our staff, both paid and volunteer, *endeavor* to ensure they have a satisfying and rewarding life, and properly *recognize staff* for the contribution that each makes to the church. They receive the backing and support of the Board of Trustees in their work.” Participants at the Town Meeting were also interested in church maintenance, church usage, and the building campaign for a new church.

2) Diversity of Ministry Initiative

Fred informed the Board about the Diversity of Ministry Initiative. The Board viewed a video of Bill Sinkford's speech at GA. UUCA has been selected by UUA to welcome a full-time minister of color. This initiative will be a very intentional approach to become anti-racist and multi-cultural. It will be a real pivotal and historical moment in UUA ministry and for this church. Paula Cole Jones from All Souls in DC is our consultant. Concerns include finances and program continuation. Skill matching (ministry alignment) will be important to have a meaningful ministry for our church and for the minister. Financial commitment from UUCA will be necessary. Expect to see growth in our church. Discussion included: Is our church ready? Will AART be overshadowed? What is the selection process? How will the congregation and management team be impacted? What makes UUCA a candidate church? Assets of UUCA include: located in a community of African Americans and Hispanics; a congregation which embraces anti-racism; we pay our UUA dues; we are a large congregation and a reliable partner to UUA. UUCA is offering a new program for adults called Building a New World. Fred plans to write a newsletter column to disseminate information about the Diversity of Ministry Initiative. Fred will also draft a statement of support for the Board to vote on.

Ongoing Concerns:

Budget

Dick reported that market fluctuations affect pledge income. Fifty-eight people have not pledged who pledged in the past. Only 14 of the 58 have contributed to UUCA this year. The average pledge is down. A fundraiser may be necessary. Follow-up is necessary to secure the offer of \$10,000 by Bill Curtis. A \$40,000 deficit is projected by the end of the year.

Metrics Committee

The Metrics Committee needs to be revived. Pat will contact Toni.

SPARC

Fred discussed the meeting with St. John Neumann and shared Bryan's notes of the meeting. Signage and road drainage were two current concerns. The Board viewed the survey of church property in relation to the Catholic expansion. Discussion included church expansion and the work of SPARC. The committee is reshaping for the next phase. Evelyn and Peter will meet with a UUA consultant on a fall weekend to plan for a capital fund drive.

New Policy Review

The Board will review the Stewardship Policy at the September meeting.

September Meeting

The Board voted to move the next meeting to September 16th. The meeting will start promptly 45 minutes after the service ends.

Meeting Evaluation

Today's meeting began 25 minutes late.

The agenda needs to be published 24 hours in advance.

Tech equipment should be set up and tested in advance.

Today's meeting included good discussions and participation.

When discussing policies and other precise matters, projecting them on a screen helps avoid confusion and aids clarity.

Adjournment

Olivia offered closing words.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 2:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip Tawes, Secretary