

Minutes: February 8, 2016

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis

Board members present: Ann-Catrin Van, Chair; Mari Perla, Vice-chair;
Ramon Urbano, Pat Moore-Pickett, Carol Corbett, Lisa Baker, Barbara Bower

Others present: Mary West, Operations Co-chair, Jerry Friis, Operations Co-chair;
Jack Whitsett, Congregant;

Opening Activities:

Ann-Catrin Van, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Ramon Urbano offered a personal reflection.

The agenda was approved with minor changes.

Congregational input from Jack Whitsett: Two spiritual practice groups met in the new cottage. All were impressed with the space and the energy of the room. Meeting room takes 10-12 people comfortably. It could use more chairs.

Announcements:

There will be a congregational meeting after church on March 13, to discuss and vote upon having a "Black Lives Matter" banner displayed at the entrance to the church. Tomorrow night the United for Racial Justice Group will meet and prepare a statement regarding the banner. Board responsibilities include having two ushers to count people and to guide them in, counting of votes, taking of minutes. Donna Sachs will take minutes. Mandy Dawn has asked for a written announcement to go into the bulletin.

District Assembly will be in April 23-24, in Fremont.

GA will be June 22-26, In Coloumbus, Ohio. We need to set up a list of delegates and encourage people to attend.

Consent Agenda

Pat Moore-Picket moved that the two items on the Consent Agenda, the Staff Reports and the Financial Report, be accepted. Carol Corbett seconded. Motion passed.

Discussion and Action Items:

1. Search team report: As Jill Pickett was not present, she will be asked for a short written report.
2. Change to the minutes of last month. Donna Sachs asked to expand the information that describes the new policy person. Pat Moore-Pickett moved that the change be made and the minutes accepted. Carol Corbett seconded, motion passed.

3. Stewardship Report: Marty West was happy to report that our pledge drive is doing well. For the 2016-17 Pledge drive: We have received pledges from 11 new pledgers for a total of \$11,560.

We have received pledges from 64 regular pledgers; the amount of increase in these pledges totals \$17,215. So, our increase in pledges over last year's is \$28,775.

On the other hand, we have lost \$13,300 in pledges during the 2015-16 year, due to deaths, move-aways, and financial difficulties. For the 2016-17 year, we have lost another \$15,050 in pledges. This makes our total losses \$28,350.

Our net gain so far for 2016-17 over 2015-16 is \$425. But by counteracting the losses, we now look forward to significant gains from the approximately 148 folks remaining to pledge for next year.

Among those pledging so far, 48% have increased their pledge by 10% or more (some even 20% and 25%!). 25% of pledgers have increased between 3% and 9%, and 23% have stayed the same. Only 2 have reduced their pledges.

As of now, increases are a little ahead of losses. We still have time and more people to hear from about their pledges.

Marty will share this information with the congregation on Sunday.

4. Finance Issues: Karen Naliboff presented two questions:
 - a. Will the "We are UU Committee" be funded this year?
 - b. The Board discretionary fund is now budgeted for \$1000. What should happen in the future? Should this funding be continued and should unspent funds accrue into the next year? A motion to this effect was proposed by Carol Corbett, seconded by Mari Perla. A vote was called. There were 2 ayes and four nays; motion not passed. Discussion indicated different opinions about accrual.

Pat Moore-Pickett moved that the Board Discretionary Fund be renewed annually to replenish it up to \$1000 (no accrual). This motion passed with one negative vote.

5. Web Migration: Mari Perla reported that she has met with Ann Halsted and Mandy Dawn. We have a new framework from the UUA for updating and improving our website. Chris Hendrix-Chupa, our facilities manager, is knowledgeable about such tasks and has experience with web migration. There would be no time frame, the job would take less than 100 hours, and the cost estimate is 1500\$. Mari Perla moved that we use the left over money from the Sabbatical fund to pay Chris for this web migration work. Lisa Baker seconded. Discussion: There is still \$3200 in the Sabbatical fund. Has the job been put out for bids? Mari Perla said, no, and that in her experience in this field, the rate Chris has offered to us is about half of what others would bid. Lisa Baker amended the motion to say that "up to \$1500 from the Sabbatical fund be authorized to fund the web migration". The vote for the motion was called, and the motion passed unanimously.

Also, Mandy Dawn will handle the content revisions. She is preparing a spreadsheet on who is the church to consult regarding individual pages. Mari will be working with Chris and Mandy Dawn.

6. Board Security Roles: Ramon Urbano shared that Board members are feeling stressed by having to be at two services for the offering introductions. There was discussion of ways to ease this burden. There was also recognition that Board presence at services is appreciated by the congregation. Ramon moved that the Board Members do the introduction for the offering at only the 11:15 service. They will arrive at the end of the first service and still count the money for both services. Motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Baker brought that there can be trouble finding a second counter, and also being the one to close up when others are still in the church.

Mari Perla said that we will revisit these important Board roles at the next annual retreat.

Pat Moore-Pickett announced that she will be resigning from the Board at the end of this year for personal reasons.

7. Board recognition of volunteers. Mari Perla brought up this topic. She would like some kind of plan and policy, and gave an example of how the Celebration of Life Team did this. Beth pointed out that there is a worship service on the second Sunday in June when the Board would participate and could at that time recognize volunteers.

Mari also suggested that we recognize milestones, such as a staff marriage. Marty observed that the Board used to do more cards. She suggested it. Ann-Catrin agreed that it is important to send cards. Specific people might be: Lindsay Weston for her shelter work and Virginia Thigpen for the Cottage work.

8. Evaluation forms: Ann-Catrin distributed sample forms for evaluating our meetings. Some edits were suggested. This form will now be used by the evaluator at the end of each Board meeting and then will be kept with the minutes. Donna will scan each filled out form with her i-phone, and add it to the attachments section at the end of the minutes.

9. Auction. It is time to start planning. Are we going to have one? Who will be the lead? No one has come forward to be involved. Who might? Can we ask around? The auction raises \$20,000. Carol Corbett raised the possibility of hiring a manager—an event planner. This issue to be continued.

Closing

Barbara Bower gave the meeting evaluation (using the form from Ann-Catrin)

Beth Banks gave a closing reflection

Ann-Catrin adjourned the meeting at 9:05 pm.

Attachments

1. Minutes, January 11, 2016
2. Staff Reports
3. Operation Report
4. Finance Summary Report
5. Social Justice Budget for the “Living Our Faith Day” on Feb. 13
6. Meeting evaluation form for Feb. 8, 2016