

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SARASOTA

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting Minutes – February 21, 2017

Attending: Charles Lee, Diane Happy, Ward Pallotta, Dale Anderson, Mary Lou Keller, John Yoder, Lynda Hill, Bill Payton, Nancy Thomas

Excused: Ava Whaley

Staff: Roger Fritts, Roberta Druif, Susan Cook-Hallock

Members in Attendance: John Clark, Klaus Obermeit, Bob Meadows

1. **Welcome/Check-In:** Charles called the meeting to order at 7pm. Charles opened the meeting with a reflective prayer and members shared current life happenings.
2. **Review/Approval of Minutes:** The minutes were approved as submitted.
3. **Projector Demonstration:** Klaus provided an overview of the new ceiling attached video system which connects to a device (tablet, pc, phone, etc.) in a wall plug-in outside the storage closet. The system includes a projector, screen, audio and controller with extra cables (stored inside the storage area next to the door). Klaus encouraged users to practice with the system before attempting to use it.
4. **Administrative Reports**
 - **Director of Religious Education:** Susan's report highlighted a Valentine's Day party and Parents Night Out. Youth are designing a T shirt for the RE program. Outreach efforts with UU youth in Venice and St. Pete are underway.
 - **President:** Charles' report recognized the Success of:
 - ✓ New times and parking arrangements for Sunday's 2 services
 - ✓ Current 7.8% growth rate and its potential impact
 - ✓ New piano capital campaign
 - ✓ Recent board strategic planning retreat
 - ✓ Worship Committee's strong ongoing performance
 - ✓ Kick-Off of the 2017-18 Stewardship Campaign
 - **Minister:** Roger discussed the possible future need for increased ministerial support if/when the church reaches a membership size of 600. This month the church passed the 500-member mark.
 - **Treasurer / Director of Finance and Operations:** Bill and Roberta reviewed our church's financial performance to date which is strong. They also summarized a revised 2017-18 operating budget, noting Finance Committee changes and recommendations.

Motion: Bill brought a motion from the Finance Committee to delete a proposed Audit included in the preliminary budget. After discussion, the board elected to table the motion, pending the outcome of the Pledge campaign.

Discussion of the value and benefit of a capital campaign in the fall to support various unfunded special projects and equipment was also deferred pending additional work and the charter of a Finance Sub-Committee charged to develop a Capital Plan. The Sub-Committee will bring recommendations to the Finance

Committee on the number, priority, costs and preferred budgetary method to support the capital needs of the church over a 10-year period.

5. Old Business

- **Board Retreat Summary:** Dale reviewed the SWOT analysis and supporting SMART objectives developed in the board's recent planning retreat. The board's Executive Committee will propose a time-line for the objectives completion and will suggest additional church leaders to assist in completing them. Susan as RE Director, requested and was assigned to assist in the objective 'To Attract More Children'. Roberta as Director of Finance and Operations, requested and was assigned to assist in addressing 'Policy and Procedures Development'. Ward agreed to lead a discussion within the Executive Committee to recommend priorities and a time line for phased objective completion.
- **Mission Statement Refinement:** Due to its importance and complexity, the board agreed by consensus to defer finalization of a new UUCS Mission Statement until after the next Congregational Meeting.

6. New Business

- **Building and Grounds:** Diane reviewed current and planned capital needs developed by the B&G Committee. Parameters for future plans included focusing on non-recurring projects and/or equipment that exceeds \$5,000. Diane advised the board that the B&G Committee has a 10-year plan which it will share with the chartered Finance Capital Plan Sub-Committee.
- **UUs of Lakewood Ranch Matching Grant:** John updated the board on current UUs of LWR membership growth and plans to submit a 3rd year grant request to the UUA Funding Program, in support of the Lakewood Ranch ministry.
Motion: That the board proposes the contribution of \$3,000 (dependent on Pledge results) as UUCS matching funds for a grant application to the UUA Funding Program, in support of Unitarian Universalist of Lakewood Ranch 2017-18 operating year. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Social Justice Recommendations:**
 - **Motion: Ward proposed that the board support and forward to the Congregation for endorsement at its Annual Meeting the 'Declaration of Conscience from the UUS and UUSC (see web sites for details). The motion passed unanimously.**
 - Ward proposed the renaming of the Jefferson Room. Discussion centered on the need and benefit of changing the name in response to the historical review of Jefferson's position on slavery. The suggestion was made to involve RE youth in the renaming.
Motion: To charge the Social Justice Committee with leading a process that will result in a recommendation for a new name for the 'Jefferson Room' to the board. The Motion passed 8 to 2.

7. **Adjourn:** Charles adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm. **The next scheduled board meeting will be Tuesday, March 21, 2017.**

Respectfully submitted,

John Yoder
Secretary