

UUCWI Board of Trustees April 10, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Prepared: 4/20/06 by Susan Crowell
Revised 5/3/06

Meeting began at 6 pm

Present: Board Members and Kit Ketcham, Guest: Ken Merrell on behalf of the canvas committee, absent: Tom

Chalice Lighting

Reading: Sandy Welch

Report on Bylaw research from Kent Vandervelde

Kent had to leave and gave an early report on his research into other UU bylaws showed that a 40 to 50 percent quorum is common in churches similar to UUCWI. The question for the board to consider is possible policies regarding votes on major decisions affecting the congregation.

March minutes approved

Toyan's report

Toyan gave a special report on a decision to allow Roy Bingman to move on an onsite decision to accept a bid. Sandy reports: Roy's site work bid was \$9070.10 which was but was significantly over the forecasted amount of \$5-6,000. The decision to approve the expenditure was disseminated to board members before the meeting by email for review.

Treasurer's report

Kathleen updated the board with operating and building reports. She will provide balance sheets for March and April at the next scheduled board meeting.

Toyan alerted the board to her efforts to determine the UUCWI budget for committees. Sandy asked how this would fit with the budget projections prepared by Tom and Dave. The need for increased giving from the congregation generally was discussed. Kit suggested framing this as monthly payments as other churches have done.

Discussion of the Social Action Committee included differentiating between funds for the committee and funds that are collected for other organizations. There was discussion on the potential role of the Social Action Committee in regards to community outreach and how this might require greater funding.

There was discussion regarding making sure members of the congregation are well informed regarding an understanding of how funding from congregation is used. A 10 percent increase in church expenses is expected. There was some discussion on how the need for giving would be presented during the home canvassing as members talk to each other.

Arrival of Ken

Ken polled board members to see who might serve as a canvasser. Unanimous, excepting Susan Crowell who declined.

Ken emphasized that canvassing was vital to UUCWI because it allowed important face-to-face contact between members and provided an opportunity to hear both visions and concerns about the church. ACTION ITEM: some simple chart/s or graphs will be included in a packet to be prepared by Baird Bardarson.

There was discussion of dates for the canvas training. It was decided training would take place April 22. Board members considered whether a canvas dinner should be held this year and decided to go ahead with plans for a canvas dinner to be held April 28, 2006. Ken noted that this affair brought in new people and people who do not attend UUCWI services on a regular basis. Ken observed that he was going to provide a budget affair and had arranged to reduce costs.

The canvas dinner will be advertised in the order of service possibly as an announcement insert.

Minister's Report

Kit said she would like to move closer to a third time position with UUCW. Perhaps combined with worship budget. She would deliver sermons two times a month replacing an outside speaker. She will pursue this in discussions with the ministry committee.

She reported that the welcoming committee would meet to change the language in the UUCWI bylaws to be more inclusive of sexual minorities.

Building Committee Report.

Sandy reported for the building committee in the absence of Tom. She reported that there were two avenues to explore regarding bonding for Roy re: his contractor's license. The first option, that he posts a \$500 bond, puts Roy at undue risk in terms of his personal assets. The second option requires having \$12,000 in escrow. The filing fee is \$100.00. The board recommended the second option. When Roy is finished with the need for a contractor's license then that escrow money can be used for furnishings.

Kathleen noted that that money could also gain interest. Kathleen also asked about insurance in terms of providing for volunteer labor on the construction site. She said worker compensation requires very accurate records. She said the best parallel was Habitat for Humanity. The need for accurate records calls for recorded hours and social security numbers before any labor is done.

Toyan noted that there is a need to recruit people to coordinate cleanup of the site. At this time, Baird and Roy need to be relieved of some of this responsibility.

There was discussion of the June Congregational meeting. Toyan asked the board to consider the topics that will be ready to be voted on then. Sandy said that Tom and Malcolm have invested time in selecting the right materials for the building. Roy should have all figures together in time for review before the June Congregational meeting (end of may). He will have site application complete. There is then a 45-day approval period. This should work out time wise in terms of a loan application.

Sandy discussed why parking up front has proved problematic for some people who would prefer to leave the front area “pretty” and more untouched. There will not be much more walking involved.

The board agreed that email could be used to expedite the approval process for decisions made on the construction site and will be ratified in the minutes. Tom agreed at the last meeting to monitor the budget vs. actual expenditures.

The question arose as to who has the authority to actually sign contracts.

Committees

Committee memberships must be beefed up. Kit will help develop the caring connections membership. Toyan is waiting for final budgets from committees

Toyan noted that discussions of bylaws and amendments, including creation of a position for vice president needs to be tabled for now but scheduled for a future board meeting.

Susan recommended that program planning be given special consideration.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next board meeting, May 15, 2006

