

Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2011

Members: Ed Billy, Cheryl Crawford, Teresa DeSousa, Terry Doemling, Carol McGough, Thom McKennon, Judy Strachan

Guest: David Sailer, representing the Council on Ministry

Meeting called to order at 7:45

July minutes were not officially approved because there was not a quorum at the start of the meeting.

Thank you notes: Sabine von Aulock and Geri Huemphner-Gatz (clean up of memorial garden) Laura Stakiwicz and Janine Mueller (summer RE program) Jonathan Drucker (summer music) and Charlie Ortman (get well card). Teresa added another person to the RE summer lineup in her follow up email – Pamela Barnet – **REMINDER** – send a thank you in September.

President's Report: Concern that memorial garden is not being tended, followed by general discussion about status as wildlife sanctuary and Andrea Parente request to place a sign on the lawn stating that we use no pesticides to which board agreed. Terry Cummings request for liturgist for September and October. All board members will have picture badges. Teresa will check with Nick that there are pics for all.

Minister's Report: Charlie is still incapacitated; hopes to return on Sunday. Comments sent through Teresa about pledge drive/budget reflecting a message of fear vs. a message of vision. Discussion followed about how to allocate surplus, one shot outlay or for ongoing expenses. To be discussed at retreat. Lauren and John to attend. Suggestion that pledge drive begin earlier in the year.

Council on Ministry: David described the mission and work of the council. Members chosen on recommendation of the board, the ministers and the current council. Currently looking for one member. Council serves to report on ministries, act as a sounding board, give all a voice and provide feedback to ministers and board. Goal is to keep board better informed. Last year the council conducted four focus groups, representing different factions of the congregation in an effort to gauge the pulse of the congregation and report back to the board. David will check on the whereabouts of the minutes of the focus groups. Visibility is a challenge. Recently, Charlie, Teresa and Mike Mernin have begun an ongoing conversation with the council.

Treasurer's Report: Surplus is \$30, 987. Total in reserve is \$73,000. Board will decide disposition of surplus at retreat. As of July we received \$50K in pre-paid pledges. Last year the amount was \$64,500. Judy hoping for 6% unpaid pledges for the year. Sending thank you notes helped. Board discussed means for easing use of debit vs. credit, which

included placing a scanner in the building and using an iPhone app. One half of pledges are paid using a credit card, board moment proposed to make a pitch for debit/ACH. Thom McKennon will incorporate Deb Corbett's email comments into third paragraph of non-payer letter. Board discussed change to QuickBooks because of universality. Cheryl Crawford and David Sailer volunteered to assist with the conversion.

Old Business: The board discussed and approved (Judy/Terry) the partnership with Eat Play Live...Better initiative. Thom McKennon will investigate the details of our commitment. Jazz Vespers will take place on 9/10, 5-6 in the sanctuary, with a free will donation. Ed Billy has commitment from Karen Fried and Roseann Shaiman and will get same from Bob Benno and Doug Andrews within the week. Board discussed options for funding ongoing monthly jazz vespers. We will hold a congregational meeting in mid to late October about bylaws. Teresa will check calendar and propose tentative dates to the board.

New Business: We discussed UULMNJ dues, which were not budgeted for 2011-2012 year. Dues came from social justice program last year. Minimum of \$5 per member is required. Teresa will check with Charlie and Nick Lewis before any decision is made. UUville theme will be "Green" this year. We need volunteers.

Board Moments:

- 8/14 – Mike Mernin – Auction
- 8/21 – Ed Billy – Jazz Vespers
- 8/28 – Carol McGough – UUville
- 9/4 - Teresa DeSousa – Debit pledges

Board Retreat: Teresa will hold orientation for new members on 8/21 or 8/28. Board suggested a catered dinner in the rotunda for Friday night 9/16. Retreat will begin at 6-6:30 with dinner served at 7:30. September 17th activities will run from 9-3 or 4. The focus of the retreat will be on communication, within the board and with congregation and committees. Budget and the pledge drive will also be on the agenda and the structure of board meetings. We will review our strategic plan and vision and goals.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 (Terry/Thom)

The next meeting is September 8, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol McGough for Sue Raufer