

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair**  
**September 16, 2014**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting began at 7:37 pm**

**Staff:** Judy Tomlinson, Charlie Ortman

**Members:** Sue Raufer, Dennis Drew, Judith Rew, Dorothy Sommer, Dottie Hiebing, Chris Corbett, Arlene Dodge, Laura Kushner, Jerry Fried, Mike Mernin

**Guest:** Markus Hauck

**Opening Words:** Laura Kushner  
Readings by G.K. Chesterton and Ann Frank

Statement of Guiding Principles

**Music Program: Markus Hauck**  
"Music in Montclair" proposal

This will further our mission of providing arts as a means of spiritual expression within the community; make us more visible; and give an outlet for Tom Parente and others. A friend of Tom's came to Markus last fall with this idea. They have extensive experience with publicity, getting people to show up. We would like to start with a fall and spring concert. We are asking for \$1,000 each in seed money. (plus some funds for custodial work). The first one will be held in Mid-November (since changed to January).

Chris: We don't have a budget for \$2,000 to do something like this. The music committee has \$1,500 in the bank that it could use for the first one; and if it went well we could fund the second one. Music Committee already approved it. This is not about the Music Budget or the Music Fund. It's money they raised themselves.

Some questions raised:

Jerry: This is great because it's an audience that hasn't been invited here in awhile, different from Outpost and the Jazz program. What's the thinking about what has and what hasn't worked in the past? We haven't been able to get people here. What is your feeling about marketing chamber music here and now? Do you think there is a pent up demand? Do you know Deborah King (founder and director at ENCORE™ of Schola Cantorum on Hudson)?

Dotty: Who is going to take the flyers around? It's kind of a big job.

Dorothy: Do we have connections at Montclair State? Maybe we could reach out to Laurie McCann.

Markus: This is not about just the congregation; this is programmed for the wider community; we will reach out through press releases, etc. Amanda has a mailing list; and she is connected to some outstanding artists who she can get for a lot less.

Charlie: What made the previous programs successful was that both of these had traditions behind them. I'm wondering if we might be able to tap into both the Clarion Chamber Series and the Unity Concert Series.

Move that the Board enthusiastically accept Markus's recommendation; and that the first \$1,000 be taken out of the Music Committee's funds with that committee's permission; Dotty moved / seconded / passed

Adaption of the August Board minutes: Chris moved / seconded / passed

### **Minister's report: Charlie Ortman**

The one death was Penny McNaughton; Charlie thanked all for the goodies and well wishes that arrived in response to the accident and injury of his son-in-law. We need to thank Judy Ortman, who is currently doing Jaclyn Puleo's job (on maternity leave).

### **Judy Tomlinson**

Thanks the Board for the bonus. It was a surprise and much appreciated.

In August Judith Rew and Judith Stein-Farrell produced the RE curriculum book. The RE Committee convened for the first time. We had Start Up Sat. on Sept. 6 and referred to our five bullet points that are purposes of the RE Program. We are still in need of teachers from Pre-K to the Second and Third grade. We had 15 youth in the COA class on Sunday, a vibrant group. We had 12 attend Senior Youth including some people we didn't expect to see. We have a potential of 33 kids on the list. For senior youth the first order of business is decorating their room and they are having an open house on Sunday. They are getting rid of the old furniture. There are some couches available from the Rotunda. One of the things the youth want to organize is an ongoing prayer group, which will be for them, but they will open it up to the congregation. This weekend between services we will have a new parent orientation.

Covenant group leaders are back in the swing of things. There is a new group for primary parents; which brings it up to 10 Covenant groups. Small groups are important because people make meaningful connections.

Judith is going to put together the liaison list so the Membership committee can go out and explain the path to membership.

This past weekend Judy did the talk. One stayed and hung out with me, others who will come. We have talks and tours scheduled through January.

Harvest the Power is kicking off with a dinner at my house. We have 11 adults; our 2 youth withdrew citing junior year pressures; but I hope to recruit 2 or 3 sophomores.

Judy will go in the afternoon on Sunday to St. John the Divine for a service around climate change starting at 11:30. Andrea Werner sent out an email about where UUs are convening. Democrats are very well organized.

Judy will be taking a six-week sabbatical starting Christmas Eve. [Judy has take short Sabbaticals for the past two years in order to use up her Sabbatical time].

Judy would like to add to the thank you list our summer RE staff.

Finally, because we did that emergency fundraising for Dana's position we didn't have the luxury of creating a professional expense budget for her from the RE budget and also from the Senior Youth budget line. Though that should help fund the volunteers.

#### **Communications: Judith**

Mark Porter suggested we have a small piece now about Charlie's retirement and a longer article later. John Chadwick and I interviewed Dana Moore and John is reaching out to the Montclair Times who are interested in publishing it.

**Thank yous:** Judy Ortman for doing Jaclyn's job, Judy Strachen for training the bookkeeper; reviewed all medical insurance options with the new Affordable Care Act in place; Pamela Barnett, Arian Schoenweisner, Lexie Morrow Reilly for helping with summer RE.

#### **Defib/CPR: Laura**

Her contact could do a discounted price of \$45 per person for the course. He would want a minimum of five and top it off at 10. If we had a defibrillator all of these people would learn to use it. It has to be retaken every 2 years. So would we have to keep track? Something we should have all Sunday staff do? The cost of a defibrillator is closer to \$1,000 and could come out of capital funds. He could teach both adult and children's CPR. Chris will look into the cost.

Dorothy said: If there already are a number of people who have the certification maybe this could start as a Board moment to figure out who those people are.

**Administrator Report:** Charlie has given a go-ahead to the Crazy Quilters to do the couches in the Rotunda.

#### **Mike: President's Report**

Heard from Cecilia Cosca that the event that we sponsored at the Morris Fellowship around Campaign Finance Reform went very well. More than 60 showed up; a lot of momentum to go forward.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

The good the bad and the interesting

**Good:** Our income is ahead of our expenses but that's just normal

**Bad:** Our pledges are coming in very slowly; we are 19% off from last year. Could just be that people are away in August and haven't gotten their checks in, something to watch. Maybe Chris should put something in the Gazette and then later do an early mailing. And our expenses were high. We have a lot of one-time expenses; work on the building; \$2,100 up front for the UULMNJ (see full treasurer's report). It's a little surprising, just something to watch.

August we spent less than we took in; for the year we are running a surplus of \$32,200 but last year we were \$88,627 ahead.

Funds mostly went down very slightly, but not a big concern. Last few years they've only gone up. Chris explained where the money comes from in the funds (overview—see treasurer's report).

Chris reiterated that the \$27,500 won't be here next year, that we used to fund the Youth Coordinator, Green Sanctuary and expanded music program. Can come from surpluses, etc., but the lion's share has to come from the pledge campaign. We can't anticipate how it will go this year.

RE Fees are off to a better start. We have collected \$5,795, better than last year.

Discussion about fundraising:

The income from things like prom and gift cards, etc. are pretty small. Charlie explained that few other congregations do better at this. Funds come mostly from the pledge in healthy congregations.

If Music in Montclair takes off and we make profit it will be available to the music program. But we have only approved one concert.

By comparison, the theatre group was surprised and pleased to find that it was able to use funds earned at performances to keep rolling.

In answer to questions about oversight of the budget:

Donna looks at it very closely as do the bookkeeper and Chris. She highlights how it's going. And it will also come up in staff meetings.

Questions about curtains, etc. for Fletcher Hall: When money was put towards the curtains, etc., the money was pulled back. We do not have a place to take it out of right now but let's see how the year goes and revisit it

Accept the treasurers report / Mike so moved / seconded / Charlie abstained / passed

We received a request from Nancy Brach's estate of \$9,200; we are supposed to place it in one or more of our funds. We need to find an appropriate place to put it. Donna brought up that we need a name for A5—the purple room—maybe it could be the Bill and Nancy Brach room. We need to come up with a photograph of them. Their daughter Tara could supply a picture. Jerry has it; table it until next month.

**Discussion about MESH funding:** Kitty Besse and her husband gave \$1,000 to MESH. The UU MESH Café is in really good shape. They have in their fund over \$6,000 from the collection plate and donations made by the volunteers. We keep it in our savings account. They just paid for renovations in the kitchen, which Beth hired somebody to do. So we will ask for some clarification about how spending decisions are made; whether Gerry McCort is involved in order to follow up with the contractors. There is some concern that MESH may operate differently than the Quilters or Theatre Group, for example. We will just reach out to Beth and Joel, of course, reiterate what a wonderful job they are doing and ask for some clarification.

**First UU of Essex reporting procedures:** We need to very soon reach out to the committee, still constituted, about some repairs we discussed. At the last meeting Charlie passed the baton to Gordon and Gordon has yet to call that into being. Sue as vice president could reach out to them and ask to reconvene the committee. We need to get a status from our ad hoc groups and new sort of goal. Worship is the only area Charlie had report about: Anticipating in October having the first recorded service. The equipment will be in place. Jason has been working with them. Might be same day or might not be same day (on a thumb drive). Gordon is back and is still recovering somewhat.

Let's put out a date and invite people to get together. We need a plan: to know what we want to do in terms of social justice; RE; worship. Someone from their congregation signed up to teach RE here in order to learn.

We want something in place so everybody knows the procedure, set up safety nets, etc., because of what happened with Essex UU around the merger, but also in terms of other issues that could come up in the future. It's important that the ad hoc committees meet very soon irrespective of the new reporting structure. We still want to go forward with creating the process so we know. Laura will contact the ad hoc committees.

Board moments:

Sept. 28 Judith Mass Incarceration

Oct 5 Laura will be CPR/Defib

Oct 12 Communications Committee

## **Greeters: sign up on Sunday**

Dotty noted that at the High Coffee it was hard rounding enough greeters because of people's other commitments: RE, choir, etc. But the Greeters now have ribbons to attach to their name tags. An ongoing discussion is needed.

Scheduling issues for Donna? There will be when we set the UU Orange meeting. They have one service at 11.

## **New business:**

Drivers safety class: need to send out the information electronically.

Jerry has a little announcement: October 8 is bike and walk to school day; but this Oct 8 we are going to have the first pop up bike lanes on Walnut St. between Park and Fullerton.

Dottie: Process observation:

Antiracist/antioppression process: We discussed MESH funding; Orange church quite a bit; Malcolm X (as a potential name for a room or building); the readings (GK Chesterton, who Charlie pointed out an antisemite); Ann; several members are attending the People's Climate March; Mike reported on Cecilia's Campaign Finance Reform; mass incarceration piece.

We started on time and Laura convened the meeting smoothly, as Mike was detained commuting from the city. All conversations were productive. No dissent or conflict.

Practically a perfect board meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Chris moved / seconded / passed

Meeting ended at 9:17.