

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2014**

Meeting began at 7:37 pm

Staff: Judy Tomlinson

Members: Dennis Drew, Dorothy Sommer, Arlene Dodge, Laura Kushner, Mike Mernin, Dottie Heibing, Mary Moriarty, Scott Seale, Judith Rew, Jerry Fried

Opening Words: Mike Mernin

Mark Twain, Henry David Thoreau
Statement of Guiding Principles

Adoption of June minutes

Questions: Mary Moriarty asked about Charlie's retirement.

Mike explained: We fill out an application to the UUA on line and they don't accept the application until April. A small task force is selected by the Board; we had discussed having seven people on it. From that you get three names and the task force will review that. We mostly hold not in-person interviews: more Skype, etc. In advance of our retreat we'll talk about it. There is a settlement handbook on line.

Motion to adapt minutes: Arlene moved / Jerry seconded / Mary abstained
Minutes passed with the understanding that new ones would be sent.

President's Report: Mike Mernin

I don't have a lot to report on except that I was really thrilled to go to GA. Was the most energizing thing I could imagine. There was too much to do that was interesting and everything was run so well, I'm sorry that I didn't go a lot sooner.

Minister's Report: Judy Tomlinson

This month I've been preaching and if you were at the July 6 service a number of delegates spoke. I'll be doing two weddings this month: one member of our congregation, one a former member.

A word of caution: There is a woman who is in need and has some mental illness. She has shown up here and some people have given her their cell phone numbers. Her name is [redacted]. We shouldn't give our cell phone numbers out to people we don't know. This will take mental health professionals.

We have reached our goal in terms of Harvest participants. We have 12 people: 10 adults and 2 youths. One facilitator had to drop out for important personal reasons. We need to fill this quickly.

The really exciting news is that Carolyn Burr has agreed to follow Patty Dow as the OWL program coordinator. In preparation of that she has agreed to take the Harvest training.

GA: I was there from Sunday night for the minister days; walked in the banner parade with Markus; went to the FAHS lecture, Mark Morrison Reade has been monitoring African American representation in RE materials and the lack thereof since the mid 1960s. Even with that, 30 of the thousand youth who went on the Freedom Summer busses were UU.

I went to a workshop about one of the themes that we do in one of our covenant groups. I am mentoring a new minister in preliminary fellowship. He is a second minister in the Germantown, PA congregation.

We've had one serious and a couple of tentative inquiries about the Youth Coordinator job.

We've had five visitors sign the guestbook or fill out a connection card.

Ministry days explained: Ministers who have given 20 or 25 years are honored and each gives a sermon. A lot about organizing. Marshall Gantz gave a good lecture.

Thank you notes: Deborah Lipp. Giancarlo Ponticello for the work he did as an Eagle Scout candidate.

Question was asked about what happens to guest book signers: They get a letter of welcome and Judy calls those who fill out the connection card and requests that.

Office Administrators Report: Mike Mernin

Rentals: We ended up with a couple of unexpected rentals and the coming year is looking promising. Theater camp is in Rotunda and Fletcher Hall this summer. In the office we are entering the new pledges but we have changed the process so it's tedious. We need to complete that in order to reach out to those who did not pledge this year, perhaps by the Membership Committee.

Matthew Warden is on staff from Montclair State, working with Gerry McCort.

Operational issues/scheduling for Donna: For example, if we schedule a board retreat we need to make sure we have the room.

Treasurers Report: Mike Mernin

Nice surprises: Our income ended up \$4,800 higher, so we balanced our budget. The rest is explained in Chris's report that he sent.

Motion to accept this report:

Dottie so moved / Dennis seconded / passed

Judy Tomlinson: It's important that the Board be well informed about Charlie's retirement because the congregation is starting to ask about it. She encourages us to read the settlement handbook. It will be good to be able to answer questions.

Scott: We do need a simple timeline.

Mike: We will have to make a decision as to how long to retain an interim: one or two years; then we will have a selection committee for the minister.

September retreat

Will by September 12-13; Friday night will be a dinner and the retreat will be 9-3 here at the UU the next day with some kind of breakfast and lunch provided. The agenda for Saturday is still to be determined. We were trying to retain Terry Sweetzer, a UU development and fundraising person, but he's unavailable (he's doing the Summit retreat that same day). We will work out our plans for the next year and do some modest team building exercise. We will discuss the coming year in terms of Charlie's retirement. The rest of the agenda is yet to be worked out.

Auction leadership

Mike will not be running it this year and Nick doesn't want to. We have some ideas but welcome any others. We need new, "young" recruits, maybe a couple in their 30s or 40s to do it together. Nick and Mike and other volunteers will be there to help. Needs new management, fresh ideas, etc.

Scott Seale: A friend of mine is part of a church in Jersey City who has a very successful one. Could promote good will. We could look at this model (which is based on artwork).

Mike encouraged Scott to make suggestions for improving ours. We should improve the technical process as well (collecting money, etc.).

Mary Moriarty: I think it might be a good thing to reach out to the congregation [about the auction]. There might be people with information. Mike: I caution you that if you schedule a meeting that has the word auction in it: I come, Francesca comes, Christian Turick comes and that's it.

Board moments/greeters

We need a board moment to talk about the budget revisions. It should be Chris. We'll pencil him in for some time in September. He can also include the good news. Another Board moment: Membership Committee and liaisons will go out to committees to tell them about the new membership path starting in September.

Board liaisons to committees:

Jerry: I remember asking if there was any document that says what being a liaison means. Each board member is assigned two or three committees. Then your obligation is to reach out to the chair of that committee. One of the things we're

going to be doing with the liaisons and membership committee members is asking the committee chairs and leaders to explain the new membership system to their members.

Donna has sent Mike a fresh list of committees. He will circulate a list and ask for changes and ask for volunteers to be liaisons. Sue suggested: Why don't people each pick top three choices. Then we'll assign if we have to.

Homecoming Sunday (formerly UUville) is Sunday, Sept. 7. Last year it was abbreviated and some people liked it much better (Laura). Some tables kind of got lost and we were jam packed but there was a closeness to it. It's a lot of work and we don't have the time to do what Sabine did in the past. Maybe we can get some of our custodians to haul the tables. We need a person to coordinate it. For the kids we can do something in our playground.

We will send out letters to all the committees reminding them to participate. (Who will send this letter? Mike? Laura?) Laura will forward emails to Mike about Homecoming.

Greeters: Sign up now.

New business

Dorothy: Ramona Hilgenkamp, a new member, offers a "driver safety for seniors" presentation, which she would do for us if there is interest.

Judith: We had talked about offering CPR training and/or purchasing a defibrillator. Judith said she would inquire about it through the Adult School where she learned it. Laura will ask about hers. We'll put this on August agenda.

Judith: Publicity plan: I will be meeting with John Chadwick, an experienced communications person in our congregation, who has offered to help develop a publicity plan.

Executive Session:

We are putting off staff bonuses discussion until next month when Chris will be here.

Process observation:

Conscious of looking at all different sources (opening words), Wiken woman came and gave a service (which was mostly about human sexuality); Judy mentioned that the FAHS lecture is about making RE materials more inclusive. Publicity reaches out to the community.

Move to adjourn meeting: Laura moved / Dennis so moved/ Passed

Adjourned about 9:30