

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**  
**February 19, 2013**

**Staff:** Charles Ortman

**Members:** Terry Cummings, Jerry Fried, Laura Kushner, Carol McGough, Michael Mernin, Judy Strachan, Judith Rew

**Guests:** John Carlton, Chris Corbett, Sabina Ernst, Kurt Goggin

Michael Mernin called the meeting to order at 7:45.

**Approval of January minutes**

*The January minutes were adopted with no amendments (Cummings/Fried)*

*A motion was made (Cummings/Fried) and carried to receive the minutes of the 1/27/13 congregation meeting*

**Thank You Notes**

Allison Sosinsky, Dionne Kurtti, Dolores Davis – Undoing Racism presentations

Diane Specht – Undoing Racism art exhibition

Silke Springorum, Sabine Ernst, Judith Lin Hunt, February focus month

Markus Hauck – Valentine’s Day concert

Ed Boyle, Jason Brome – website development

**President’s Report**

Teresa will be out of town 6 days per week for the next 3-4 weeks. She can be reached at [tdesousa@updatehq.com](mailto:tdesousa@updatehq.com). The Metro District Annual meeting is May 3-4 at the Hyatt in Morristown. She reminded the board to get in pledges or expect a call from her. Jerry Fried will write up a document outlining our vision for the UUA liaison. She will circulate it to the board upon completion and also speak with Irene Sanderson to determine whether she wishes to remain in the role.

**Minister’s Report**

There have been seven visitors since the last board meeting and there are 23 members in the New UU class. During Judy Tomlinson’s sabbatical, Judith Rew (Harvest the Power) Claudia Sanders (covenant groups) Allison Sosinsky (religious education) have been fulfilling her responsibilities. Charlie will be in Trenton this week for the introduction of some of the 48 pieces of gun control legislation to be introduced in the legislature. He presented certificates of appreciation to Judy Strachan and Carol McGough for volunteer service to the congregation.

**Office Administrator’s Report**

Donna is making steady progress toward rental to a day care center for the fall and she has rented space for Saturday to speech and behavioral therapists for \$250 monthly. The theater camp will rent again in the summer of 2013. The building has recently undergone radon and lead testing. Donna has sent out letters for the pledge

drive as well as letters for tax purposes to all who pledged in 2012. UUCM has 360 UUA certified members.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Financials are strong through the end of January; YTD revenues are up \$92K and assets are up \$12K over December. Pledge income YTD is 11% over budget. The auction is on budget and total revenue is 6% over budget. Facilities operating and water and sewer are both under budget. Debra Hollfelder has just started as our part-time accountant. The board discussed and rejected the need for terrorism coverage and changed the minimum amount for pension plan contribution. *A motion was made (Cummings/Fried) and carried to compensate Jaclyn Puleo for one week's salary earned during her maternity leave.* Current pledges for 2013-14 amount to \$172,000, from 57 pledge units, with \$6,000 in dues; 68% of those who have pledged have increased their pledge.

### **Rain Garden – John Carlton**

John explained the system whereby we would retain water on our property, fix erosion problems and provide more diverse habitats for insects, birds and butterflies. The board gave the Green Sanctuary Committee the “go ahead “ to investigate the rain garden further and discussed the possibility of funding the rain garden through Memorial Garden funds and constructing it in concert with Blue Jean Sunday.

### **Music Committee – Markus Hauck and Judie Rinearson**

Markus and Judie presented two proposed budgets (\$39,850 and \$49,500) both of which increase Markus' salary and benefits, establish a professional development budget and increase funding for new programs. The larger budget proposes an increase in Markus' hours and the addition of an assistant. While the board acknowledged the energy and expertise that Markus has brought to the life of the congregation, an increase of this scale to be incorporated into a larger conversation about growing our community.

### **Council on Ministry – Charles Ortman**

The council has completed its interviews and is in the process of compiling them. They are in need of two members.

### **Congregation Council – Mike Mernin**

Council is instituting a more formalized reporting relationship with congregational committees. Markus Hauck will be included as a member.

### **Building One NJ – Jerry Fried**

It is similar to NJ Together/IAF with focus on housing, transportation and education equity.

**New Business**

Georgiana Hart, of the First UU Church of Essex County, requested financial assistance for bail for someone in immigration detention. *A motion was made (Cummings/McGough) and carried to take \$125 out of social justice funding.* Charlie will provide the remaining \$100 requested from the minister's discretionary fund.

Teresa, Donna and Jerry Fried will meet to discuss changes to upcoming Haiti benefit concerts.

**Board Moments**

3/3 - Mike Mernin – Ms. Hart request

**Process Observations**

The board realized goals of inclusivity with discussion of gun control, our environmental well being, and immigration issues. Discourse was meaningful and respectful.

*A motion was made (Fried/McGough) and carried to adjourn at 9:25.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol McGough