

UUCM Board Meeting April 18, 2017

Attending were Reverends Justin Osterman and Judy Tomlinson, President Michael Mernin, Vice President Sue Raufer, Treasurer Dennis Kurtti, Secretary Sheila Eby and Trustees Jim Abramson, Doug Andrews, Ellen Fenster-Kuehl, Dottie Hiebing, Steven Mintz and Denise Rodgers.

Consent Agenda

Denise moved to accept March minutes with Justin's edits. Ellen seconded the motion, which was adopted.

President's Report

Sue has identified congregants going to the GA: eight lay people, the most ever. We need seven delegates, but at least one person has already expressed a willingness to bow out. Michael recommended that we go to the Web site and take an interest in what we find there.

- Sue and Michael are working with Danielle Carlo and Jaclyn Puleo to effect Annual Meeting communications -- one big notice and two smaller ones.
- We're not appealing the increase in our tax assessment because the change is in keeping with regulations and a challenge might drive an increase. We should rethink our management of our rental space.
- Our June meeting is the 13th, a week earlier than it would normally be, because the ministers are going to the GA. This will be the last meeting with Justin and Judy present.
- The Ministerial Transition Team's survey to ascertain former members' reasons for leaving is complete. Mike will post results on Kona. Everyone should look at it, post their comments, and then we will share it collectively.
- Mike spoke to CERG's Andrea Learner, who asked for the job descriptions so she could post them immediately. We should go to LREDA, the Liberal Religious Education Association, and post it there, too, as well as on our Web site so people can find the relevant information there. Doug will reach out to Danielle to handle that. Mike told her we were open to a pair to fill the roles.

Treasurer's Report

- Pledges and contributions exceed last year by about \$26K, in line with budget projections.
- Sunday collections YTD are up by about \$4K.
- Rental income also exceeds last year by \$1.75K.
- Total income exceeds last year by approximately \$23K, and is in line with budget projections.
- Due to a three-payroll month, we are operating at an ostensible deficit. But when the extra payroll is taken into account, we are at \$2.6K, well below last year and within expectations.
- Denise questioned a projected increase in pledges, and discussed the relevance of new members to an increase. Justin pointed out that new member pledges are based on past performance and are projected modestly.
- Dennis presented the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year. He emphasized the amount of money we've taken from reserves in the past few years, a practice we cannot continue, even as we face new expenses, in technology, for instance, as we add staff.
- Justin clarified that we still have a way to go to bring longstanding staff up to fair compensation levels. Denise pointed out this becomes a reason why we need greater pledges, and Doug pointed out that we pledged to be fair compensators by 2020.
- Denise moved that the 2017/2018 operating budget as presented by the treasurer be approved, and Denis seconded the motion. But a discussion of the UUCM MESH Café, and the treatment of funds contributed to that organization, ensued. Justin advised we table

the vote for now, conduct a broader discussion about the issue and vote after that discussion. The motion was withdrawn.

- A bequest from Alicia Rehl was discussed. Dottie moved that, regarding that \$5K bequest of Alicia S. Rehl toward the endowment or capital fund, the board authorize our treasurer, Dennis Kurtti, to sign the refunding bond and release on behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Montclair. Ellen seconded the motion, which was adopted.

Candidating Week

- Our congregation's candidates for settled ministers will meet congregants at events from April 29 to May 7. We want one or two board members at all these events. The board is hosting a potluck dinner on April 29. Also a Friday lunch, May 5, for the executive committee.

Personnel Committee

- Mike distributed resumes for three volunteers to serve on the Personnel Committee. Sue moved that the congregational members of the Personnel Committee be David Hanley and Teresa DeSousa and that Denise Rogers, board trustee, be named chair. Doug seconded the motion, which carried.
- Sue motioned that we go into executive session, and Doug seconded the motion, which was adopted.
- Denise moved to come out of executive session, and Sue seconded the motion, which carried.

Minister's Report

- Justin shared a note he sent to Nancy Felix, Mike Mernin and Sue Raufer. "There will be two services on 7 May, with the meeting to call the candidates following the second service. People who attend the 9:00am service can return for the meeting or cast proxy votes."
- This will avert crowding, allow the selected ministers to see us as we are, and enable us to begin acting like a congregation committed to growth.

Associate Minister's Report

- April 23 is the Harvest the Power celebration; please attend.
- New member coffee hour will be held between services April 23 this year. We have 25 new members.

Process Observation

- Denise suggested we shorten our monthly meetings by reducing our discussions of materials we are sent in the Friday packet.

Sue moved that we adjourn. Denise seconded the motion, which was adopted. The meeting adjourned.