

Minutes

Board of Trustees, First Unitarian Church of Oakland
May 27, 2008 – 7:35 to 9:55 p.m.

Trustees Present: Richard Bruehl, Noemi de Guzman, Claire Eustace (Vice President), Dan Goss, Jon Greer, Chris Palm (Secretary), Mark Savage (President), Gail Schulz (Treasurer).

Others Present: Eva Bunce, Michelle Favreault, Judith Hunt, Chris Long, Charles Masten, and Charla Weiss.

1. **Consent Agenda** – Gail Schulz moved and Chris Palm seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously, and accordingly, the Board approved the April 2008 minutes; acknowledged the Church Manager’s Financial Report, the Executive Team’s report from the April meeting, the Church Manager’s report from the April meeting, and the Asset Management/Building Utilization report from the April meeting and approved Chuck Rosene and Joani Blank as delegates to the General Assembly. In addition the Steering Committee was authorized to consider any additional applications.
2. **Vision 2012** – The conversation regarding the tensions between our implementation of Vision 2012 and other principles we hold dear was continued from the April Board meeting. Board members appreciated the courage to ask the difficult questions and to communicate the painful feelings experienced when the questions are asked. They shared individual thoughts and experiences about our journey so far to grow the beloved community, and visions for the future. The hope is that our intentional plan will make our congregation both accessible and welcoming to all.

The conversation was also a practice session for the Board-hosted conversation with the congregation on June 1. It is hoped that this discussion can be viewed as a “safe” forum where different and even difficult topics are brought forth.

3. **Fiscal Updates** – A new chart of accounts is being developed to better track income and expenses. It will be in use by the next quarter.

The appeal for donation of the stimulus checks has resulted in contributions of \$1500 at a cost of \$500 for the mailings.

The Prom Night fundraiser needs more help.

The Cabaret is scheduled for September 27. A comedian has been found but more acts are needed to round out the entertainment.

The canvassing of new members was discussed. The New Member Reception after the last in gathering did not provide a good forum for a pledge appeal. The Membership Committee is aware of the problem. The next in-gathering will be in October.

The Executive Team announced that the budget might need reallocations among the salary lines to provide some professional support for the lay-led summer services.

- 4. Board and Executive Team Monitoring and Reporting** – The question has come up in many forms about how we as a Board should monitor performance/compliance with Board Policies, how much detail we need, what areas we need to cover, etc. The retreat discussion and list frequently touched on "monitoring". Board members discussed various forms and processes of the interaction of the Board and Executive Team as relates to the business aspects of the church.
- 5. Board Tasks Ranking** – The group ranked the Board tasks identified at the retreat in order of perceived priority for the coming year. It was felt that the creation of Board polices and practices that make it anti-racist was of first priority, then connection and accountability to the congregation, and foreseeing and managing congregational anxiety related to change were second. It was agreed that Mark would circulate the list of identified priorities and Board members would indicate which tasks she or he preferred to address.
- 6. Chris Long Appreciation** – The Board expressed its appreciation to Chris Long for his dedicated service to First Unitarian Church of Oakland during the two years he has spent with us as an intern. We will be proud to sponsor his ordination when he completes his studies next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eva Bunce, Scribe