

Minutes

Board of Trustees, First Unitarian Church of Oakland

August 26, 2008 – 7:40 to 9:45 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), and Charles Williams.

Others Present: Eva Bunce (scribe), Rev. Michelle Favreault, Rev. Kathy Huff, Charles Masten and Charla Weiss (Executive Team), and Maud Steyaert, visitor.

1. **Welcome Back** – Trustees welcomed Rev. Kathy Huff back from her sabbatical.
2. **Well-being of Trustees and the Executive Team** – Although not on the agenda, Board and Executive Team members paused to express feelings, hurts, hopes and resolve as we move into the future. The meeting on August 24, 2008, was particularly hard.
3. **Consent Agenda** – Jon Greer moved and Claire Eustace seconded a motion to approve the July 2008 minutes, acknowledge the Church Manager's report for July and August, and acknowledge the building usage report for April to September, 2008. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Vision 2012 Topic** – The discussion about Vision 2012 was postponed to the next meeting.
5. **Stewardship Committee Charter** – Gail Schulz, Claire Eustace and Jon Greer submitted a proposed charter for the Stewardship Committee. This committee does its work throughout the year, not just during the annual canvass in the fall. Gail Schulz moved, Jon Greer seconded a motion to adopt the charter. Approved with one abstention.
6. **Monthly Financial Report** – Church Manager Charla Weiss presented and explained data showing income and expenditures to date.
7. **Spirit Fund-Raising** – Claire Eustace reported on the progress of plans for the Cabaret night on September 27, 2008. More help is needed.
8. **Limitations Policies** – Discussion of possible changes to the limitations policies was postponed to the October meeting.

9. **Executive Team's Report** – Postings to and use of the church web-sites and list-serve were discussed. Concerns were expressed regarding potential problems since this is information available to the general public. Charles Masten suggested that Trustees could send him questions in advance of the meeting if Trustees generally prefer to have the report be part of the consent agenda.
10. Rev. Kathy Huff introduced the Executive Team's recommendation to hire an outside consultant to aid in moving the church forward. The Board of Trustees agreed with the Executive Team to hire an outside consultant soon to help the Board and Executive Team with issues the congregation is experiencing, including those described in the Board's letter to the congregation dated July 29, 2008. The Executive Team is gathering ideas for facilitators. A selection committee comprising a member of the Board of Trustees, a member of the Executive Team, a member of the Committee on Ministry, and a member of the Journey Towards Wholeness Transformation Team would review potential candidates and make a recommendation to the Executive Team for selection in consultation with the Board of Trustees. The Board will postpone the third meeting currently scheduled for September 14 until after the consultant has an opportunity to advise.
11. Jon Greer moved, Richard Bruehl seconded a motion to send a letter of apology to the congregation regarding the meeting on August 24, 2008. The Board will send it electronically via the Chalice Chatter as well as hard-copies available after services. Approved. Mark Savage will draft the letter and solicit input from trustees. A letter of apology to Chris Long for the breach of confidentiality was also discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

Eva Bunce, Scribe