

**First Unitarian Church of Oakland Board of Trustees
Minutes of August 23, 2011 Board Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm, in the Starr King Room at church.

In attendance: Giselle Ampuero, Rinda Bartley, Bob Crowe, ReeAnn Dixon, Jon Greer, Andy Lee, Jill Miller, Margaret Woodside, Beverly Smrha and Rev Kathy.

Julie Baeder attended to present the Quarterly Financial Report.

Opening Reading and Chalice Lighting

- Reading was presented by Giselle Ampuero

Consent Agenda

- Approved the minutes of August 20, 2011 Board Retreat after it was first pulled for clarification. It was then moved and approved. Final edition to be available on the web site.
- Acknowledged the receipt of the Executive Report.

Quarterly Financial Report

- Presented by Julie Baeder, Lay Person for Financial Health of the Coordinating Team.
- Questions and discussions followed so that the Board would better understand the significance of some of the numbers as well as the accounting system that is used.

Connecting with the Minister

- Rev Kathy reviewed this church year's learning/worship theme: "Destino: Destination Vision 2012".
- The Board then took one of the reflection questions related to Family of Origin and used it as a conversational exercise.
- Rev Kathy presented the board with additional resources about multiculturalism, multicultural competencies, institutional change and the Continuum on Becoming and Anti-Racist, Multicultural Institution.
- The Board was encouraged to read "The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb: A Spirituality for Leadership in a Multicultural Community", by Eric H.F. Law, Chalice Press. We were reminded that the author will be presenting the upcoming training during the Lead Weekend of Nov 4-5, 2011.

Guidelines for Minutes-taking for Board Secretary

- We received a memo we requested from Louise Wolfgramm of Unity Consultants with regard to guidelines for Board Minutes using Policy Governance.
- An in-depth discussion followed with a wide range of perspectives presented.
- Rinda will draft a document for Board review detailing five characteristics that this Board will provide as Guidance to the Board Secretary.

Process Observations

- Bob Crowe and Rinda Bartley presented their observations of the first part of the Board Meeting.

2011-2012 Board Annual Priority #3: Mobilizing our church community around the anti-racism continuum experienced at the Jubilee Two Workshop

- The planned action was deferred to the following Board meeting.

2011-2012 Board Annual Priority #1: A full cycle of monitoring of Church Ends: including using a Congregational Survey

- This priority was addressed by means of reporting in of Linkage and Congregation Reports.
 1. **Joy Full Noise** – a new music group is forming at the church
 2. **Throw Down For Oakland** – 40 folks participated in the cleanup at Old Man's Park
 3. **Clothing Exchange** was very successful and the group is considering how to include our neighbors in this exchange.

Transylvania Trip and Project Harvest Hope

- Rev Kathy will inform us as to the link to a slide show of the Pilgrimage
- The age range of the people on the pilgrimage (18 church members and 2 guests) was from 9 to 81 years, with a strong youth contingent..
- There is interest in a follow up to this pilgrimage with Ok'land and joining with the Athens congregation to bring perhaps 5 people from the Ok'land community, perhaps in February 2013.
- Project Harvest Hope is changing how it operates and more information will be forthcoming.
- Harvest Hope was born out of this church's Transylvania Economic Development Task Force many years ago and now survives independently. Other than annual donations we do not have any formal connection.

Items for Institutional Memory

1. Reminder that this agenda item is for issues raised and ideas for the future
2. Capturing the in-depth discussion of minute-taking with simple guidelines and to 4-5 bullet points
3. Going further in the future with the Multiculturalism Reflection Questions.
4. Talk in greater depth about the budget and financial reports after we have worked with stewardship consultant
5. Write meeting rules of our own vs relying upon Robert's Rules
6. Due to significant Time limitations, how do the Board Meetings and Board Retreats differ in focus
7. Writing Guidelines on how we, as a group, reflect on growing an anti-racism organization

Assignments and Next Meeting Agenda

- Discussion tabled because of lack of time.
- Next Board Meeting is scheduled for September 27, at 7:30pm.
- Margaret will be pulling together the Draft board calendar.

Process Observations

- Jill Miller and Beverly Smrha presented their observations of the second half of the Board Meeting.

Closing Circle

- Giselle read the Closing Words
- The Board Meeting closed at 9:20pm

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