

**First Unitarian Church of Oakland Board of Trustees**  
**Approved Minutes of January 24, 2012 Board Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 7:17pm in the Starr King Room by Giselle Ampuero, President. In attendance were: Rinda Bartley, Bob Crowe, Jon Greer, Andy Lee, Jill Miller, Margaret Woodside, and Beverly Smrha. Also in attendance: Rev. Kathy Huff.

**Opening, Chalice Lighting**

- Reading was presented by Andy.

**Consent Agenda**

- (Any trustee may request removal of any item from the consent agenda; otherwise, items are accepted without discussion.)
- DRAFT of the 1/7/12 Board Retreat Minutes was accepted.
- Receipt of the Senior Minister's Report of January 2012 was acknowledged.
- Committee on Ministry's recommendation to sponsor Marcus Liefert in his pursuit of ordained ministry in the UUA was accepted.
- (Approved Minutes will be posted onto the Board Bulletin Board as well as posted onto the Church Website.)

**Connecting with the Minister**

- Unity Consultants are available to provide a day of learning about policy governance to the new Board for \$1500 plus travel = \$2000. The Board last consulted with Louise Wolfgramm a couple of years ago.
- There is much to learn from the Outreach Survey and additional data is coming in.
- Jon agreed to participate in the statistical review of the Survey.
- The Board will schedule a special meeting (February 7, 2012, 7pm) with a representative of the Committee on Ministry to analyze the results of the Survey.
- A report to the congregation about what was learned in the Survey will be included in the Annual Meeting (March 18, 2012).
- Rev. Kathy shared information that she learned through the Dreaming Big program of the UUA.
- Bev agreed to continue to be the point person for denominational relations (UUA and PCD). A task force has been formed to encourage participation in Justice GA June 2012 (Heather MacLeod, Kurt Kuhwald, Daphne Parson).

**Connecting with the Executive**

- Rev. Kathy presented a status report on how the new administrative process (the Coordinating Team) is working.

**2011-2012 Board Annual Priority #3**

- Jill led the group to individually explore the issue that was begun at our last meeting: What makes our church our cultural home? What would make you culturally more at home here?

### **Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, March 18, 2012**

- A special Board Meeting was to be scheduled to design the agenda and process for the Annual Meeting. (February 7, 2012, 6pm).

### **Board meetings vs Board retreats Guiding Principles**

- In addition to the monthly 2 hour Board Meetings, the Board has been meeting once each quarter for 4 hour Saturday retreats in order to have more in-depth time.
- Beverly urged the Board to schedule no more than 2 subjects during 2 hours of the 4 hour retreats; material for these reflections/discussions to be disseminated at least 5 days in advance; non-board members might be invited to facilitate such discussions.
- What practices, tools, expectations would it take to support the blossoming of each Board member's leadership to this religious community?

### **Board Covenant Revision**

- Bob and Bev reviewed the current Board Covenant and did not make any recommendations for revision.
- It was suggested that Rev. Eric Law's "Respectful Communication Guidelines" be incorporated into the next revision. Integrating these valuable guidelines would need some language work.

### **Summary of Discussion Highlights and Decisions for Institutional Memory**

- (Reminders of Issues Raised and Ideas for the Future)
- The discussion in our Board Retreats item.
- The work that we need to do to prepare for our Annual Meeting.
- Status of the Austin organ.
- The paper distributed: "The Illusion of Congregational 'Happiness'" by Gil Rendle of the Alban Institute.
- The congregational meeting to be planned.
- Jill's workshop piece "what would make you culturally more at home".
- Timing for the Unity Consultant's policy governance training.

### **Next Steps: Assignments and Next Meeting Agenda**

- Reviewed the upcoming events on the Board's Calendar
- Planning for the Annual Congregational Meeting, Feb 7, 6-7pm.
- Survey analysis with the Committee on Ministry, Feb 7, 7-8pm

### **Process Observations**

- The Board members each participated in this.

### **Closing Circle**

- Closing reading was presented by Andy.
- The meeting was closed at 10:00pm.