

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.