

# MINUTES

## All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church Board of Directors

**August 17, 2010**

**7:30 – 9:30 p.m.**

**Attendees:** Susan Bettinger, President; Claudia Harris, Vice President; Virginia Villarreal, Secretary; Jared Davis, Treasurer. Members at Large: Amanda Lawrence, John Allen, and Mark Mullens. Ex-officio members Susan Caldwell, DRE and Barbara Jarrell, Chaplain

**Absent:** Robert Smith, Member at Large

### **Lighting of the Chalice/Reading of our Covenant**

The Chalice was lit, and Covenant was read.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from July 20 were read, and after a few corrections, Amanda moved to approve the minutes, and John seconded. The minutes passed without opposition

### **BPOD**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, **9/5:** Susan Bettinger/ Robert Smith

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, **9/12:** Amanda Lawrence/ John Allen

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, **9/19:** Mark Mullens/ Jared Davis

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, **9/26:** Susan Bettinger/ Virginia Villarreal

### **Chaplain's Report**

#### Ordination Update:

Barbara is still waiting to hear for clarification from the UUA. Also, the Board needs to write a statement of ministry declaring that Barbara is serving as chaplain of this church.

Fair Compensation Consultant Sarah Prickett can only come meet with us September 19<sup>th</sup> immediately following the Sunday service, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., or anytime during the first two weeks in October. The Board selected September 19<sup>th</sup> for the meeting. She would meet with a group comprised of the Board, Finance Committee, Staff and Visioning Team.

Attendance: Attendance is still down. It seems that during the months of August and first two weeks of September attendance us usually down. This may be due to Summer vacation and preparations for new school year. However, this year's attendance for these two months has been worse compared to last year's. This becomes a problem, since these are also the months when more people are looking for churches to attend. The visitors do not have the opportunity to meet our regular members, and our new members who are attending don't know everyone and cannot recognize new visitors. The visitors then leave feeling that we are a very cold and unfriendly congregation. We need ideas to help us increase the enthusiasm of our congregation, and encourage everyone to attend service. One idea that Barbara and Susan Caldwell were thinking about was the possibility of moving towards having education, worship and social time for the whole family. Faith development for all of the members. We would start with religious education for everyone earlier in the morning, followed by social time (the Choir will practice at this time), then service. This would: a) address requests turned in on Sunday on the little index cards regarding the wish for more education on Unitarian Universalism and spiritual pursuits, b) allow many members who would like to volunteer for RE, but do not, because they do not wish to miss service, c) allow members who cannot stay after church to socialize and meet and talk to other members before service and d) build a healthy community for the children to grow up in. Plans are to perhaps start in January.

OWL (Our Whole Lives) will be starting September 23<sup>rd</sup> –26<sup>th</sup>.

Barbara and Susan Caldwell are planning to attend Leadership School in late July 2011. Susan Bettinger is also interested in attending. We need to form teams and male partners are needed.

## **Office Report**

Alex Contess submitted her office report, and it included:

Credit Card: The office credit card is in the mail.

Office Computer: The office computer will be set up and running towards the end of August.

Newsletter: Alex reminds everyone in her office report that if anyone wishes to have something in the newsletter to please submit materials in a timely fashion, respecting the deadline. Alex cannot assemble the newsletter until she has at least a basic idea of what is going to go where. So again, if you wish to have anything included in the newsletter, please send it in before the deadline.

## **DRE Report**

Susan Caldwell will be starting a new UU Identity class every Tuesday beginning August 29<sup>th</sup> to October 10<sup>th</sup>. More details are in her full report attached to the minutes.

## **Council Report**

Harvest Feast: The Building and Grounds Committee is having their "Harvest Feast" September 3<sup>rd</sup> after Church.

"Park it Market": There will be a "Park it Market" fundraiser scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup> on the church parking lot (the 18<sup>th</sup> is an alternate date if there is bad weather on the 11<sup>th</sup>). "Park it Market" is when the people with crafts sell their wares from the trunk of their car. They keep the money of their sales; we collect the fee for parking. We do not have to worry about set-up or cleaning up after the event. We just rent the space.

Candidate Accountability Night: September 23, sponsored by Interfaith. Broadmoor United Methodist Church offered their church for the event.

Minister's meeting: Dozens of people attended the Minister's meeting held in the city, and there were many good ideas and projects in which we may want to participate. As an example, Woodlawn is sponsoring a mentoring program teaching children how to develop a dream, how to own and make it realistic. More details on the different projects will be provided later.

Pledge Chair: We still need a Pledge Chairperson. Jared is going to be on the council, and he will ask Sherry Walker and Dave McCarty if either one of them would serve as Chairperson.

Denominational Affairs Team Report: Steve Caldwell submitted the Denominational Affairs Team Report with upcoming Unitarian Universalist events for 17 of August 2010 and beyond. Included in the report was information about the events, lists of online services, "Blogs", etc. The list will be posted with the minutes.

News report: The Fox news affiliate will not be interviewing Barbara for report on our Gun policy.

## **Building and Grounds**

Church sign: The 4' feet high by 10' feet wide sign will be made of treated wood, at a cost of \$1,000.00 per side. This does not include the cost for the lighting. A single sided sign will be placed on the other side of the driveway, facing the highway. Spotlights will be used, and the electricity will be either moved to other side (less costly) or we could opt for "greener" (but a little more expensive) spotlights with solar panels. The problem so far in placing the sign now is the uncertainty we have as to when, and how far the new road construction will be. John will call the city, and hopefully the city will finally give us a date of road repairs. In the meantime, consideration was given to hold the placing of the sign in hiatus and instead putting a banner with our church name. We will look at the old banners we already have and/or inquire about the prices of a new banner.

Adopt a room: The church needs upkeep. We are asking members to form a group, ask family and friends or simply sponsor monetarily with prepping, repairing, and painting a room, hallway, Choir Loft, restroom, kitchen etc. The Building and Grounds Committee will place a plaque on the door of the room with the donor's name and reason for helping. Colors and plans will have to be approved by the Board. If you cannot "adopt", you can still help by donating money to hire painters from the half-way houses for \$10.00 and hour. The deadline for completion of the project is November 20<sup>th</sup>. Contact Betty Parent to sign up and have more details of what's needed.

Carpet in office: Barbara needs to get new carpet samples to complete the work. The ones she has now are obsolete.

Programmable Thermostat: We were mistaken in thinking that we had the thermostats already. Betty Parent will get information on electronic thermostats, which would be less expensive.

Leaves and branches: Betty Parent is working on getting a chipper and having all of the felled trees, branches, leaves and overall debris on the church grounds removed.

Bees: Alex reported in her office report that Ricky Bretherton from Vexcon Pest Control came out last week and applied a funnel cap (nicknamed a “witch’s hat”) on the beehive outside the sanctuary doors; the funnel cap is shaped like an ice cream cone. The tapered end is left open, and while the bees can get out through that end, they cannot get back in. Eventually the queen is forced to relocate, taking with her the rest of the bees. Everything cost \$175.

Plumbing problems: It seems like the plumbing problem in the men’s restroom has been solved. No other plumbing problems reported as of this date.

### **Treasurer Report**

Jared noted that in July we had 24K in the checking account and in August we had 15K. So far no need to worry, since July was somewhat of an anomaly (in June the bank account balance was 14K). The Treasurer’s report is attached to these minutes.

### **Welcoming Congregation**

Amanda had a very productive meeting with the Welcoming Congregation Committee. They went through the 15 steps, talked about the upcoming Social Justice Action taking place September 12<sup>th</sup>. The committee will discuss at length the step regarding Social Justice, since this one seems to be our weakest point. There was also a reminder that the Mayoral Candidate Meeting will be taking place soon.

Buttons: Many members of this church attend various meetings, but are not recognized as a group. Very visible buttons with our logo were designed to give to the members as they enter the meetings; with everyone wearing the buttons we would be more visible, and recognized as a group. John Mitchell has volunteered to make the buttons.

### **New Business**

Pictures: Tony Austin has agreed to take pictures of the congregation, starting with the new members. Tony will work with Ron Thurston to set up dates for picture taking.

Fundraisers: It was suggested by Amanda that it would be convenient for the church to have a PayPal Account. This would make it easier for members to set up fundraisers selling their crafts and having a percentage of sales go to the church. Also, it would make it much easier to sell any items left over after the Silent Auction by paying through PayPal. Pam Holt has also set up an ETSI account (this is a way to sell crafts).

Jared reminds anyone wishing to set up a fundraiser for the church to fill out the proper papers necessary stating exactly what they are doing, and for whom the proceeds would go, etc. John motioned to set up the PayPal Account, Jared seconded, and the motion was passed without objections.

### **Adjournment**

At 9:15 p.m. Claudia motioned to adjourn and Amanda seconded. Motion passed.