

MINUTES

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church Board of Directors

July 20, 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 Robert Smith. Ex-officio members Susan Caldwell, DRE and Barbara Jarrell, Chaplain

Absent: Mark Mullens, 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 April will be posted and saved in folder in office. No minutes from June meeting, they will be provided soon.

BPOD

Dates: BPOD for the fifth Sunday was selected. BOPDs for August will be:

8/1: Susan Bettinger/ Robert Smith

8/8: John Allen / Susan Bettinger

8/15: Mark Mullens/ Jared Davis

8/22: Claudia Harris/ Virginia Villarreal

8/29: Amanda Lawrence/ John Allen

BPOD Duties: BPOD Duty list will be updated to include access to alarm codes, location of alarm systems, fire extinguishers, codes to overflow parking lot gate, better preparation for service, etc.

Building and Grounds

Church sign: It would cost over \$5,000.00 to repair/replace components of our existing sign. Alternatives were investigated. John Allen spoke with Grace Community United Methodist Church and inquired about their sign, price, etc. They were very helpful. Further investigation on a wooden sign, 4' feet high by 10' feet wide would cost between \$1,000-\$1,500 per side. Spotlights would be used for lighting. Sign would be placed on other side of driveway and electricity would be moved to other side or more "green" spotlights with solar panels could be used.

Carpet in office: Progress has been made for replacing office carpet. Its color still has to be chosen.

Overflow parking: On days when overflow parking is necessary, the parking lot across the street will be used. BPODs will be provided with the combination to open the gate.

Programmable Thermostat: Thermostats have been selected, and just need to be installed.

Bees: Big honeycomb and bees in back of building by drain must be dealt with as soon as possible to avoid possible entrance into the building and/or damage. Removal will be costly and challenging. We may call "Billy the Exterminator". He might just want the challenge, and it wouldn't cost us anything. Other companies will also be investigated.

Leaves and branches: All of the dead leaves, branches and debris that have been over the years pushed into the ravine should be removed. Removing it ourselves would be very difficult, may never be completed, and all would be exposed to mega poison ivy/oak. John Allen will get an estimate of limb and debris removal.

Plumbing problems: Urinal in men's restroom gushes water like a fountain when flushed. Kevin will be asked about any other plumbing problems to have them all together before plumber is called.

Wi-Fi: Seeking to boost signal from upstairs in order to have internet access in lounge.

Chaplain's Report

Ordination Update: Barbara talked with Rev. Susan Smith, our District Executive, about the ordination. She and Rev. Burton Carley had had a discussion. Their recommendation is to postpone the ordination till spring. It's important to establish chains of accountability, so that Barbara maintains right relations with SWUUC and UUA. Should the need arise, they can't come in and help us with ministerial issues if Barbara is not in right relation with them.

Barbara needs to find out about Associate membership in UUMA (UU Ministers Association), and try to get that designation. She needs to look into continuing her education, going to seminary, working toward fellowship even if it is at a glacial pace. All of this helps her to be in right relation – a “good faith effort.”

Also, we need to bring in Sarah Prickett from Little Rock (Fair Compensation Consultant) to work with us on compensation issues for Barbara and Susan.

Barbara will call Sarah to see what she wants to do when she is here.

Clay Walker receives award: Congratulations to Clay Walker for recently receiving the 2010 Award for Leadership in Juvenile Justice from the National Juvenile Justice Network.

New Louisiana Gun Law: a reporter from a Fox News affiliate approached Barbara for information regarding our policy on concealed weapons in church. Due to the change in the Louisiana law, which would allow people to bring concealed weapons to church, we needed to update the policy to cover this issue. We moved to declare All Souls a Weapons Free Zone. Signs will be posted in building affirming this fact. Susan moved to adopt the policy and Amanda seconded. The motion was passed.

Pastoral Care: John Rosser still needs to be visited. He is very ill.

DRE Report, Office Report and Attendance

Credit Card: Alex pointed out in her office report that we really need a credit card for office use. This had already been approved, but a Trustee was needed (a Board member) willing to provide personal credit references to expedite the process, and Claudia Harris volunteered to do it.

Attendance: There were 24 more people here for Artists Sunday than last year, a successful turnout; however, congregation overall attendance is slightly down. BPODs were encouraged to keep a better and more accurate count of congregation attendance

Susan Caldwell submitted her DRE report to the Board. It included:

IAF Training: Susan Caldwell attended a 5-Day training on behalf of Interfaith to learn more about the IAF style of community organizing, which included a “field trip” to a Public Action put on by the COPS (Communities Organized for Public Service) and Metro Alliance organizations of San Antonio. Susan will have notes for anyone who is interested. Susan will continue to work with Interfaith, and with the Relational Culture workshops here in the church.

Brown Bag Discussion: resumes on September 14th.

2010-2011 Pillar Schedule (Draft):

UU Identity-August 29th – October 10th

UID InterGen – October 17th

Jewish and Christian Heritage- October 24th - December 12th

Winter Holiday InterGen-- December 19th

Movies and PJ's Day-- December 26th

World Religions --January 2 – February 13th

World Religions InterGen- February 20th

Peace, Social Justice and the Interdependent Web - February 28th - April 10th

InterGen – April 17th (Earth Day?)

Easter is April 24th

Personal Spiritual Growth and Development -- April 24th - May 29th

Affirmation Sunday-- June 5th

Council Report

Steve Caldwell submitted the Denominational Affairs Team Report with upcoming Unitarian Universalist events for 20 July 2010 and beyond. Included in the report was a detailed summary of significant business accomplished by the 2010 UUA General Assembly.

Welcoming Congregation

Information has to be completed. Amanda will work on it.

New Business

Treasurer report – So far we are where we need to be in terms of budget and pledges; however, if we don't have a raise in pledge money, then we would have to make cuts in our budget. Any money that we spend between now and December will include last year's carry over and we need to raise money now for next year's carry over; if not, we will be short for next year and would have to make serious budget cuts. We would have to have either a very good fundraiser or more increase in pledge money. Treasurer report is attached to the minutes.

Welcoming newcomers: More effort should be made to welcome newcomers to church. We many times stand or sit in "clicks" in lounge and don't notice and welcome newcomers. For the next three Sundays we will try to move people away from the lounge by placing the coffee machine closer to the entrance (by the little enclave where the old copy machine is).

Pictures: Amanda will speak with Ron and Tony Austin about taking the pictures of newcomers and posting them on the board. Barbara will work on having a nice display board to post them. These pictures will be kept updated.

Fundraisers: Everyone should be encouraged to attend the various fundraising workshops, especially the Financial Consulting Workshops that are provided. These will help us in raising much-needed funds for the church.

Adjournment

At 9:40 p.m. Amanda motioned to adjourn and John seconded. Motion passed.