

Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento
Draft Minutes - Board of Trustees
January 25, 2007

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members present: John Abbott, Virginia Dunstan, Denis Edgren, Steve Hoverman, Alice Lopes, John McMillan, Judi Morrison, David Paul, Terry Preston, Kate Throop, Celine Walker

Board members absent: None

Staff members present: Doug Kraft, Connie Grant, David McMorris

I. Agenda Review: There were no changes to the agenda.

II. Consent Agenda: The Consent Agenda was accepted as presented.

III. Ministerial Matters:

Connie Grant, Minister of Education, reported that she and a task force have been planning for the beginning of affinity-based groups. These groups would be similar to Ministry Groups in organization, but different in that each group would have a common interest. Interests could be young parents, seniors, simple living, etc. Existing groups would not be affected and would continue as before. The plan will be taken to the Program Council in February with registration for groups April 22d when a service on covenant groups will be led by Thandeka.

Connie has been leading 1st to 5th graders in a worship group every third Sunday.

Sr. Minister Doug Kraft reported on the highlights of the past month. There has been increased Sunday service attendance. Pastor Charles Cooper will be interim choir director. It may be eight weeks before a permanent director is found. Jim Scott will be doing the service on the coming Sunday. He is composer of some of our hymns and a fervent environmentalist.

Doug has been leading a Spiritual Journey group. They will meet for eight weeks. The group has eight participants with some on the waiting list. Doug will offer another series when the current one ends.

Stefan Jonasson will be with us February 24th (Saturday). He is a UUA consultant with extensive knowledge about large group dynamics. He will lead those attending the Saturday meeting in guided discussions about growth, organization and governance structure.

Doug shared information about what is considered adequate staffing for churches. A fully staffed church would have one program staff for every 100 members. UUSS is staffed for decline with only two program staff.

We have many visitors who come during the year, possibly as many as 400, but many do not return. The Membership Committee is working on how to improve the integration of new members so that they are more likely to continue their membership.

Doug will be away the two Sundays after Easter.

IV. Operational Matters:

Denis Edgren, Treasurer: The cash situation so far is healthy, pledges are being paid in a timely manner, plate collections are 61% above projections, and expenses are under budget. The current surplus of \$19,000 will be needed for operating expenses in the next five months

with the loss of Refer a Chef income. The Finance Committee is working on the 07-08 budget. They will present a budget to the board on February 22d.

Administrator's Report:

David McMorris: Dave will be meeting with a representative of SMUD to get recommendations about the electrical situation in the sanctuary. A donation of \$12,000 has been designated for electrical improvements. The SMUD representative is particularly knowledgeable about churches. Other monies have been received for "wish list" items and Dave will be buying carpets for the Fahs Room. New hexagonal garbage cans, recycling bins, and replacement carpets for the two main entries of the sanctuary are among the improvements being made with these additional donations. Dave will also be talking with contractors and getting bids to resurface and/or repair the parking lot.

Certification of members to be reported to UUA and PCD was completed with a new total of 402 members. This is a reduction of 32 members from last year. UUA dues are going up – UUA dues are \$54 for UUA and \$23 for PCD, making a total of \$31,031 for 07-08 budget.

Refer a Chef plan to leave the end of January. They have donated two refrigerators.

V. Organizational/Relationship Matters:

a) Kate reported that the Music Director Search Committee has placed advertisements in newspapers, on the web, with PCD, etc. Reverend Charles Cooper will be the interim choir director, not music director.

b) Betty Ch'maj Fund Proposal:

A draft of the Betty Ch'maj Fund proposal for the Program Council was presented. Under the proposal any member can approach the Program Council with a proposed program. Fund expenditures will be approximately \$1700 per yr. Details of the procedure will be decided by the Program Council. Some suggestions for changes to the proposal were made and Kate will email it to board members for their approval or disapproval and forward it to the Council.

Dates to remember: February 4th, congregational conversation; Feb 24th, all congregation discussion with Stefan Jonasson; evening of Feb 24th, board potluck at Steve Hoverman's.

The regular Board meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Trustees and officers, minus the staff, met until 9:15 p.m. to discuss salary recommendations for 2007-08.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Dunstan, Secretary
UUSS Board of Trustees