

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco
Regular Board Meeting
February 17, 2009

Present

Jane Park, moderator
Thad Smith, treasurer
Carol Johnson
Mike McGirr
Stephen Schwichow
Don Williams
Sonnie Willis
Bill Wise
Claire Weber, secretary
Greg Stewart, Senior Minister
Nancy Evans, Executive Director
Peter Olandt, ministerial intern

Absent

Ben Bear
Matt Fuller, vice moderator
Tara Hernandez

Guests

Denis Paul

Call to order. The meeting was called to order by Jane Park at 7:10.

Opening. Denis Paul read from a Kay Ryan poem "Why We Must Struggle," provided by Tara.

Agenda review. No. 3 under old business, intern committee, was rescheduled as a new business item at the request of Amy Kelly.

Consent agenda. Claire pointed out that the bylaws require that each trustee's vote be identified when a vote is not unanimous and she had not so identified two non-unanimous votes at the January meeting. The trustee votes on those motions were as follows:
Motion to reduce the size of the board from 12 to nine. The motion was approved by a vote of 5 in favor, 4 against, 1 abstention and the vice moderator not voting. Trustees voted as follows:

Carol Johnson yes
Thad Smith yes
Don Williams yes
Bill Wise yes
Claire Weber yes
Ben Bear no
Mike McGirr no

Stephen Schwichow no
Sonnie Willis no
Tara Hernandez abstain
Matt Fuller, acting moderator, not voting

Motion to increase board terms to three years. The motion was defeated by a vote of 3 in favor, 4 against, 3 abstentions and the vice moderator not voting.

Stephen Schwichow yes
Thad Smith yes
Claire Weber yes
Carol Johnson no
Don Williams no
Sonnie Willis no
Bill Wise no
Ben Bear abstain
Tara Hernandez abstain
Mike McGirr abstain
Matt Fuller, acting moderator, not voting

The minutes were approved as corrected.

Reports.

Senior minister's report. There was no written report because January was Greg's study leave. Greg said his study leave was very productive and allowed him to design his services and sermons through mid-September. He announced that we were fortunate to have Joel Gilbertson White as our intern for next year.

Executive director's report. The written report was included in the board packet. Our total membership is 458 and our drop rate is consistent with other UU congregations.

Financial reports. The written report was included in the board packet. We are halfway through the financial year. So far, we are still in a good financial position. December pledge payments were well above the two previous Decembers. Events income and expenses also are favorable. The board appreciated the annotations in the report.

Old business/Updates.

1. Estate updates. The Ted Drenton probate court estate hearing was this morning. Jan Bernard, Elizabeth Lundgren and Nancy went to the hearing. The city attorney submitted a memorandum supporting the church's request and the court ruled that probate will proceed. It may be a year before any funds are realized.

The Margaret Coope estate will not be distributed for some time.

2. California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC). Bill noted that George Mayer is bringing in an expert to evaluate the state of the structure prior to construction. There will also be a walk through with architects, CPMC representatives and David Jones.

3. Intern committee. This item was postponed to later in the meeting.

Board initiatives.

1. Finance committee/Treasurer's report: update. Thad reported on a brain-storming Culture of Generosity (COG) meeting to make recommendations for changing bylaws concerning allocation of non-designated bequests. This matter was referred to the finance committee at the last board meeting (see item 3). It was noted that any change must be recommended by the board at the March meeting in order to be on the agenda for a congregational vote on May 17.

Next month we must also decide what kind of financial evaluation to recommend to the congregation on May 17. We can recommend either a full audit or a financial review.

2. Culture of Generosity/Fundraising update. The annual budget drive is on schedule. The first event will be a party for the financial leaders to thank them for their past support and to solicit their support this year. Thad reported on the Auction. Our goal for the auction is \$15,000. Last year, we made \$11,000. We also will sell some items, not just services. He explained that we should use the church letterhead to solicit donations because some businesses routinely contribute to community groups and churches when asked. Each board member should donate at least one item or service.

3. Next steps on bequest decisions. This was referred to the finance committee at last board meeting.

4. Leadership/policy governance.

- Committee liaisons: Claire had no report on the music committee but promised one soon.
- Update on Larry Peers Consultancy. The date of the all-church event has been moved to Friday and Saturday, May 8 and 9. Jane explained we want to get more church engagement through the interviews of people talking about when their gifts were used, when this church made them feel empowered. Those members who have already participated have been very positive about the process so we want to engage more members. The process will involve summarizing the results of the interviews about what we are doing right, and then we will build on those results.

Up On Top MOU update. No update.

New business.

1. Sponsorship of Bryan Ferguson's candidacy for the UUA ministry. By sponsoring Bryan, the board states that he has been an active member of the church, which is a requirement for ministerial candidates. The board packet included a statement of congregational sponsorship. Motion by Stephen to sponsor Bryan Ferguson's candidacy for the UUA ministry according to the statement of congregational sponsorship. Thad seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9 to 0 with no opposing votes, no abstentions and the moderator not voting.

2. Affiliated minister status for Denis Paul. The governance policy of the church includes a written policy for becoming an affiliated minister. Greg and Denis have been following

the procedure outlined in the policy. Denis' affiliated ministry is with Faithful Fools. Denis explained his commitment to perform specified tasks and participate in church activities and he distributed a budget for his ministry. Denis will provide a proposed covenant to the board at the March regular meeting. If the board approves the covenant in March, Denis' ordination could also include approval of his affiliation with the church. Denis explained that the board needs to charge three committees for final fellowship—one each for Denis, Alyson and Fred. Since each committee needs three to five members, this is a significant workload increase for the current ministerial relations committee and would change the charge of that committee. The board needs to approve committees and their charges. Jane said the leadership group could address this issue and asked Greg and Denis to provide her with suggestions for the leadership group to consider. Mike asked if Denis was requesting a specific budget amount for his affiliated ministry and Denis said he would not need money. Typically, congregations pay only certain specific amounts for affiliated ministers. When an affiliated minister preaches on Sunday, he or she receives the customary honorarium. The church may also pay for some professional expenses such as UUMA dues and attendance at professional meetings.

3. Equal Access Committee Charge. The board packet included an application for recognition of the committee. There is a national Equal Access group and the local group was to formalize its work. The group has been meeting for some time and is now seeking approval of its charge, approval of Lori Guidos as chair and recognition as an official committee. Motion by Stephen to recognize the Equal Access Committee and approve its charge and chair, Lori Guidos. Mike seconded the motion.

The charge is very broad concerning the range of interests for the committee, including equality of access for mentally and emotionally limited persons, not just physically limited persons. The board discussed whether the scope of the charge was too broad or might commit the church to take certain actions. There was also discussion of whether any potential conflict might exist because the committee chair is personally associated with a business or non-profit related to equality issues. Carol noted that board members have to disclose any conflicts of interest when voting on projects and the board concern relates to such conflicts.

Following a discussion about fund-raising activities and rental payment, the board determined that this group is similar to the School of the Americas Watch group, which pays to rent rooms and keeps the funds it raises. The equal access group would follow the same arrangement. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9 to 0 with no opposing votes, no abstentions and the moderator not voting.

4. Intern committee. This item is continued from last month, as the board wanted to hear what Greg thought of the proposed resolution about complying with UUA guidelines for interns. Greg noted that there is no formal designation of a "teaching church" on the UUA website. He does not oppose the resolution and appreciates the work of the intern committee. He pointed out that interns in San Francisco struggle financially because of the high cost of living. One effect of the resolution is to keep the congregation aware of the importance of the intern program. Motion by Mike to adopt, and submit to the congregation, at the annual meeting the draft resolution, with a technical change substituting the full name of the society for the acronym FUUSF. Stephen seconded the

motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 9 to 0 with no opposing votes, no abstentions and the moderator not voting.

Upcoming Events and Board Commitments.

District assembly is the first weekend in May.

March 29 is a big music Sunday service with combined choirs.

Appreciation. Thanks to Guy Burns for his service as web master and to Rob Pakenham for his work on the web.

Good and welfare. Greg read the list of names provided by Fred of the people he has been visiting this year, letting us know that people are being cared for. Nancy noted that Jonathon is not well so the next couple of weeks will be particularly stressful for office publication work such as orders of service.

Closing. Sonnie read Shel Silverstein's "No Difference" selected by Tara.

Adjournment.

Jane adjourned the meeting at 9:20.