

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco
Regular Board Meeting
June 16, 2009

Present

Matt Fuller, vice moderator
Thad Smith, treasurer
Ben Bear
Carol Johnson
Mike McGirr
Stephen Schwichow
Don Williams
Sonnie Willis
Bill Wise
Claire Weber, secretary
Greg Stewart, Senior Minister
Peter Olandt, Ministerial Intern

Excused:

Tara Hernandez
Jane Park, moderator
Nancy Evans, Executive Director

Call to order. The meeting was called to order by vice-moderator Matt Fuller at 7:03 p.m.

Opening. Matt read about creative endurance.

Agenda review. No change.

Consent agenda. In reviewing the minutes, Sonnie pointed out that she could not be both present and absent and Ben corrected the spelling of Catherine Savidge's name. The minutes were unanimously approved with these two corrections.

Reports.

Senior minister. Greg's written report was distributed and read by board members. Discussion was postponed until later in the meeting.

Executive director. Nancy's written report was distributed with the packet. Carol said that Nancy asked her to report that the church has been given \$10,000 from the Margaret Coope estate plus half of the residuary estate. The estate proceedings are completed. There was no further discussion as Nancy is on vacation.

Financial reports-May, 2008. Matt reported that Nancy's projections show us ending the fiscal year in the black. May actuals are also included in the report, which is faster information than we have had in the past. The board expressed its appreciation to Grace

for this speedy reporting. Mike mentioned that he would like the balance sheet to include comparison reference numbers, to last year's numbers for example. Matt will ask Nancy to include a comparison to the previous year in next month's balance sheet.

Old business/Updates.

1. California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC) EIR update. The church is planning to make a written response to the recent public meeting that was held for the purpose of scoping the environmental impact review. Ben commented that Nancy is showing effective leadership in representing the church at the public meetings and her spoken remarks were excellent. Ben said the letter representing the church position is also very good. Mike and Ben both noted that about 25 people at the meeting identified themselves as Unitarian Universalists, far more than any other group.

2. Request for emerita status for Kay Jorgensen. This item was postponed until later in the meeting.

3. Rheiner Committee. Don reported on his meeting with other Rheiner award recipients. They agreed that creating a select committee composed of Rheiner recipients removes the appearance of a potential conflict of interest when a committee member is nominated for the award. Don will convene the first meeting of the select committee and recommends this solution. Motion by Stephen to make the Rheiner award committee a select committee composed of Rheiner award recipients. Ben seconded the motion. New Rheiner recipients can decide whether they wish to be members of the select committee and, if so, the board will need to approve them as members. The motion was approved with 8 votes in favor, 0 votes in opposition, Don abstaining and the vice-moderator not voting.

Board initiatives

1. Annual Meeting debriefing. There was general agreement that the presentation of the May Treat fund language at the annual meeting was outstanding. Stephen described his disappointment with the tabling of the intern resolution and wondered whether such a topic would be better addressed by holding a town hall meeting before the vote on such resolutions. Mike noted that the intern committee brought the resolution to the board in a tight time frame to get it on the annual meeting agenda. Matt pointed out the difficulty considering such a topic at a meeting followed by lunch. Topics that require serious discussion are probably not appropriate for an annual meeting that precedes a meal. Stephen suggested this might be a good opportunity for the intern committee to hold a town hall meeting to explain the intent of the committee and determine what congregational support exists for the intern program.

Thad recommended that the board have a discussion with the intern committee about this because intern expenses are now paid through the annual budget drive because previous grants have been discontinued. He also wondered when the Castille fund will produce any funding for the program. Mike reported that, as an endowment, the Castille fund will

not produce significant income until it has a couple of hundred thousand dollars to work with. Matt noted that this is a topic that the board will need to address in the near future.

The board also discussed the annual meeting lunch, which was excellent, and the issue of using compostable plates versus hand-washing china plates.

2. Finance Committee/Treasurer's Report (motion authorizing account). Thad reported that, after reviewing other options, he and Nancy recommend continuing with Lautze & Lautze this year. However, he reported that we may be able to reduce auditing costs by using different software, which we might be able to fund through a grant. Thad said a member wants to make a transfer from her mutual fund to the church but he needs a formal board motion authorizing him to act on behalf of the board for purposes of handling the transfer. The board agreed to his proposal and postponed consideration of the motion to the end of the meeting to allow time to draft the motion language.

3. Culture of Generosity/Fundraising & Annual Budget Drive update. No update at this time. There will be more information at the next meeting after the committee has met again.

4. Leadership/Policy Governance:

- Committee charges: Stephen will have info in July.
- Next steps on Larry Peers Leadership Project. Item is postponed.
- Update on Up On Top. A draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was distributed with the board packet. Thad asked about the fund-raising and publicity language allowing Up On Top access to the church membership list. He noted that church members do not know they can opt out of being solicited by such groups. He recommended that Up On Top include opt out language in its mailings stating that church members may opt out of future mailings. The info should clearly indicate how a member can opt out. He also noted that the free rentals provided to Up On Top are worth about \$50,000 a year and the church should get appropriate recognition. Matt suggested adding a paragraph in the MOU to specify this fact. Carol asked why the MOU provides for a three-year term. Matt said it was simply a period of time with which both parties were comfortable but it could be changed in the future if appropriate.

Matt said the next action is to have the board give preliminary approval. Then the MOU goes to Up On Top for their review. That will be followed by the two parties working out any differences. Then both groups will give final approval. Matt volunteered to be the board member responsible for dealing with Up On Top over this matter.

Motion by Stephen to grant preliminary approval for the Up On Top MOU with two changes: requiring opt out language in Up On Top mailings and adding language to the MOU that recognizes the financial value of the church's space contribution. Don seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a

unanimous vote of 9 to 0 with no opposing votes, no abstentions and the vice-moderator not voting.

Matt reiterated that the board retreat dates are set and he asked board members to e-mail him with topics for consideration at the retreat.

Greg arrived a bit late after attending the marriage equality meeting elsewhere in the center. We reverted to the two agenda items that were postponed earlier:

Old Business/Updates. Item 2. Request for emerita status for Kay Jorgensen.

Greg reported that Kay is delighted to accept emerita status if we offer it. We need to schedule the reception for Margot and conclude her emerita status events before we begin with the emerita process for Kay. Margot's reception will likely be on an October Sunday. Stephen volunteered to head up the party for Margo in October.

Reports. Senior Minister. Ben asked for more information about bringing our congregation closer together with the Sunday Afternoon Fellowship. Greg explained that establishing financial cooperation will require more planning than previously expected. So he recommends that we first begin interacting at justice, social and worship events so congregants can begin to meet each other. Then the more difficult issues of membership and money/offering division can be addressed. He noted that there are a few new members who already consider the afternoon service to be our second service. The Fellowship holds services on the first and third Sundays at 2:30. Greg said that the Insight meditation group is also interested in becoming more closely involved with the church. He commented that the Lutherans continue to meet in our building.

Greg commented on the annual budget drive. We are now at 90% of goal but the last 10% will be tough to get. He recommends that we go back to our top givers for an increase in pledges. Board members and annual budget drive members are going to need to ask for specific amounts from the top givers. He pointed out that because of the bad economy, our income from investments is reduced. So achieving 90% of our goal puts us in the position of being able to do only what we did last year. Greg pointed out that he and Nancy have cut an additional \$25,000 out of the budget by paring useful but non-essential expenses such as color copying. There is nothing left to cut. Staff has already been told there will not be raises on July 1. When we achieve the budget goal, we can grant raises retroactive to July 1. We greatly need the final 10% to add the Beyond Sunday position, which would probably start in January.

Mike asked what Greg expects to come out of the Larry Peers project. Greg said the board needs to continue with the leadership development effort from the Peers project if the board is truly committed to leadership development.

Stephen commented that Greg has done something he has never seen before in a UU church: Talk about money from the pulpit and get increased pledges because of it. Board

members commented that we have not heard complaints about this direct approach to financial needs.

New Business. None.

Upcoming events and board commitments.

Upcoming events are listed in the agenda.

Appreciation. Lee Most and Kate Kuckro for retreat.

Everyone who helped in the kitchen for the annual meeting, who have already been thanked by email.

Good and Welfare. Fred's grandchild in Ireland is recovering from burns and our thoughts are with him and the child.

Closing. Matt read a haiku about the ripple effect.

The board returned to consideration of the item postponed earlier so a motion could be written:

Board Initiatives, Item 2.

2. Finance Committee/Treasurer's Report (motion authorizing account).

Motion by Stephen Schwichow to authorize the board treasurer to act regarding a fund transfer from Natalie Shuttleworth. Don Williams seconded the motion. The motion is as follows:

The Board of Trustees of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco hereby authorizes Treasurer Thad J. Smith to act on behalf of the First Unitarian Universalist Society Board of Trustees for the following specific purposes:
Create an account and do whatever else is necessary at Evergreen Investments for the sole purposes of accepting a transfer of funds from Nathalie Shuttleworth to a new account in the name of the Society and subsequently transferring funds from that account to the Society.

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

Adjournment. Matt adjourned the meeting at 8:25.