

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
July 21, 2009

***Present***

*Board Members*

Matt Fuller, moderator  
Claire Weber, vice moderator  
Thad Smith, treasurer  
Jane Park, secretary  
Ben Bear  
Laura Gilmore  
Stephen Schwichow  
Don Williams  
Bill Wise

*Staff*

Nancy Evans, Executive Director

*Guests*

Marc Calvey, Investment Committee

***Excused***

Judith Stoddard, Board Member

**Call to order.** The meeting was called to order by Moderator Matt Fuller at 7 o'clock.

**Opening.** Claire read from Adlai Stevenson, *From One Unitarian to Another*, "Nothing to fear in differences..."

**Agenda review.** Two items were added to the leadership/policy governance update: committee charges & Up On Top Memorandum of Understanding.

**Consent agenda.** The minutes of the June 16, 2009 meeting were accepted with no revisions.

**Reports**

Senior Minister's report. No report for June. Greg is on vacation for the month of July.

Executive Director's report. Nancy submitted her written report. Board members asked several questions about the break-in on Saturday, July 11. Nancy explained that while several rooms and offices were broken into (with major door damage), it appears that nothing of value is missing, nor does there appear to be damage to our computer server. A suspect, found with a laptop bag containing Greg's business cards, is being prosecuted for other burglaries. (The case is unlikely to involve the church burglary.) Nancy is following up on several fronts, e.g., talking with the police & our insurance company, fixing the broken doors. A major concern is that our security system's motion detectors, properly turned on at facility closing, failed to alert Donald to any motion. Nancy is working with ADT to address this.

Financial reports. No financial reports. The Board reviewed the May financials at its June meeting and end of year statements will be available in August.

**Old business/Updates**

1. California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC) update

Bill reviewed the update that he emailed to Board members on July 11, in which he reported on a July 8 meeting with CPMC officials and consultants. Items included: the installation of

noise and vibration monitors in the sanctuary for use during construction and CPMC's plan to have a community relations manager who will handle concerns regarding construction activities. Currently CPMC plans to work primarily Monday through Friday. Bill noted that Sunday parking for the worship service remains a major concern. CPMC's plan provides very limited employee parking. Employees will be able to park in the neighborhood on Sunday without getting parking tickers and public transit is reduced. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is expected to be issued in late 2009 or early 2010. The church's letter was distributed to Board members. The entire letter with attachments is available upon request. Ben noted that he attended a community meeting where participants voiced concerns about reduced services at St. Luke's hospital that is part of CPMC's plan. San Francisco Board of Supervisors members David Campos and Bevan Duffy were in attendance. The proposed expansion will eventually need to be approved by Supervisors.

## 2. Intern Resolution

The Board continued its discussion from last month about next steps on the Internship Program resolution that was tabled by the congregational at the Annual Meeting. After some discussion, consensus emerged that the Board should lead a Town Hall Meeting. Ideally, the meeting will allow for a discussion of all aspects of our internship program, such as budget implications, status of the Castile Intern Endowment Fund, and implications for the minister's time. The Board agreed we should coordinate timing of the meeting with the Intern Committee, as it gears up for selecting next year's intern. Matt will follow up with the Committee.

## **Board initiatives**

### 1. Board Covenant

Matt opened the discussion by noting the Board adopted its covenant a year ago, making this a good time to revisit the document. Most discussion centered on interpretation of the "supporting board decisions" language under the first bullet. Issues addressed included how the Board can model conflict, the Board's role in deliberating, and how to communicate our differences when votes are not unanimous, especially when items are brought before the congregation with a Board recommendation. There was some concern at not being able to voice dissent after Board votes. Others believe that we have a greater voice by being able to deliberate as Board members and that part of modeling conflict is to support decisions made after full Board discussion where everyone is heard. The value of repeating the Board's debates at congregational meetings was questioned. It was agreed that "unanimity is not a goal," and that it is okay to be frank when votes are not unanimous (this information is available in the minutes posted on the website.) Differing views were voiced about when and whether it was advisable to put a resolution before the congregation without a Board recommendation. There was general consensus that overall the covenant is working well and there were no suggestions for revising the document. There was support for further discussion at the Board's retreat, including how we to use covenants in other areas of church life.

### 2. Finance committee/Treasurer's report

Thad reported that the Finance Committee, a Select committee, is currently composed of him, Don W., former Treasurer Matt Anderson, and former Moderator Linda Enger. Scheduling meetings is hard given time constraints for Linda and Matt A. Thad would like to reconstitute

the committee, including Don and Ron Weber (who has served as treasurer of the Milwaukee and Baton Rouge UU churches), calling on Linda and Matt A. for special circumstances. Thad noted we need a new treasurer for next year. That person would either need to come from the current Board or be recruited by the Nominating Committee. Thad welcomes suggestions from the Board for both the treasurer and other Finance Committee members.

### 3. Culture of Generosity/Annual Budget Drive (ABD) update

Thad reported on the ABD committee meeting held Tuesday, July 14. We have raised \$540,000 in pledges, 90% of our goal of \$600,000. A Beyond Sunday Coordinator would cost about \$60,000, and it seems unadvisable to hire one until we have raised the entire amount. The committee will ask a few big donors to offer a “challenge grant” for half of that amount, and ask church members to raise the remaining \$30,000. The committee is organizing house dinners with these donors in August (to be scheduled so that Rev. Greg can attend). We will “roll out” the challenge on Opening Sunday, September 15 and set a mid-October or Nov. 1 deadline to raise the funds, as we need to end this year’s ABD before starting next year’s process. There will be Board involvement in getting the match, with Board members being asked to increase their pledge, and to approach members to respond to the match. Board members will receive some guidance, e.g., a suggested script for “the ask.”

### 4. Leadership/policy governance

*Update on Larry Peers Consultancy.* Larry will send Jane and Matt guidelines for next steps in early August, based on discussion and flip charts from the May workshop. The Board’s leadership group will use these guidelines in preparing for the Council of Committee Chairs meeting on September 12.

*Committee liaisons.* Stephen distributed a overview of committees discussed at Board meetings over the past year, including approvals of charges & chairs. Generally, there are only charges for social justice committees; other committee clusters were discussed, but no charges were approved. Jane agreed to help locate documentation for the CPMC task force.

*Up On Top Memorandum of Understanding.* Matt summarized progress to date. He will meet with Nan Parks, UOT executive director, and Matt Anderson, UOT Board member, before the August Board meeting.

## **New business**

### 1. “Rites of Passage” Officiants

The Board usually approves the entire slate of officiants at its July Meeting. Because there are questions about some names on the current list, the Board agreed to revisit the issue at the August meeting, when Greg will be present. In the meantime, the Board took action on the proposed motion in the packet, related to outgoing intern Peter Olandt, incoming intern Joel Gilbertson-White, and church member Michael Walker, whose ministerial path is described in the packet. There was a **motion** by Stephen that Michael Walker and Joel Gilbertson-White be added to the list of authorized officiants and that Peter Olandt be removed from said list. Ben seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 8 to 0 with no opposing votes, no abstentions and the moderator not voting.

## 2. Approval of Solar Task Force

The Board reviewed a request in the packet from Buildings and Grounds chair David Jones to establish a Solar Task Force. The task force proposed to study options for installing solar panels in the building. There was general enthusiasm for this project and gratitude for the grant from SCW. There was a **motion** by Claire to approve the task force, its charge, chair and membership, as presented in the packet. Ben seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 8 to 0 with no opposing votes, no abstentions and the moderator not voting.

## 3. Change on draw of Building Endowment Fund.

The Board considered a request to change the draw on the Building Endowment Fund. As explained in the packet, this change would essentially retroactively establish a payout that conforms to standard church policy for other endowment funds. This fund had been subject to special regulations that were changed earlier this year. There was a **motion** by Don to modify the budget and increase Building Endowment income line #4534 from \$23,200 to \$36,000, an increase of \$12,800. Claire seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 8 to 0 with no opposing votes, no abstentions and the moderator not voting.

## **Upcoming Events and Board Commitments**

Upcoming events are listed in the agenda. A few additional items were noted.

*Board Retreat:* Matt invited items for discussion at the Board retreat. Topics on the agenda include the covenant and revisiting the board's goals established in 2008, including creating a culture of generosity; leadership and goals delegated to Rev. Greg.

*Buildings and grounds:* Jenny S. A new member with great skills is developing a good plan for upkeep and upgrade of the courtyard and TSK corner. The facility will be closed August: 24-29 for building maintenance. (This is a change from dates announced in the newsletter. The changed was made to accommodate Up On Top's schedule). Keith H., church member, will come on 8/29 to refurbish courtyard; extra volunteers would be welcome.

## **Appreciation**

Ruth Cowan for initiating the creation of UUSF bumper stickers for Marriage Equality.

## **Good and welfare.**

Maddie Gerlach's spleen surgery went well.

**Closing.** Claire read from George Bernard Shaw, "My life belongs to the whole community..."

## **Adjournment**

Before adjourning the meeting, Matt thanked the board for electing him as moderator and stated that he hopes to doing right by the Board and congregation. He adjourned the meeting at 8:57.