

BUC Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees Minutes for October 20, 2014

Present: Lisa Demian, Bruce Webber, Kathy Hurt, Marilyn Mast, Dick Cantley, Dave Graham, Marilyn Kelly, John Hammer, Barbara Woolf

Absent: Eric Sargent

Guests: Carol Lee, Fellowship Coordinator

Call to Order

Centering: Mary Oliver poem “Angels”

30 second check-in

Recitation of Board covenant:

Listen to each other with respect

Support each other's leadership

Speak honestly for mutual understanding

Respect confidentiality of the Board and Minister

Consent Agenda

1. **Minutes** from September 15 meeting approved with the change of “Agenda” to “Minutes” in the header – Marilyn K./John
2. **Status Report** – Ticket sales for BUC events may continue to be made. Concern had been expressed that we might need to call these “donations”, but legal advice says that such a change would be more for the benefit of the purchaser than BUC.

Monthly Reports

1. **Treasurer’s Report** -e-mailed by Dick

Our expenses are being well managed, but pledges are down a bit. Dick and Kim Ruiz feel all will right itself by the end of the calendar year.

2. **Senior Minister Report** – Lisa pointed out that this should be changed to “Executive Report”. Attendance at services is down a bit this fall. Kathy

e-mailed us her written report on developments in all our Ends areas: Worship, Fellowship, Learning, Service and Stewardship. When there are no volunteers to serve coffee, we are trying out a self-serve format.

3. Monitoring: Ends Policy #4: Fellowship

Carol Lee reported that almost all our BUC activities have a fellowship component. Most of the activities that fall under this umbrella run themselves off-site. We have a history of ad hoc development in this area: as someone is enthused about an activity, it becomes active. When leadership disappears, programs sometimes wither.

Kathy was asked how we compare with other churches she has led. She responded that we don't have as much going on for young families, or inter-generational all-church activities, or year-end parties. This may be a result of our larger size, and/or present-day highly programmed family life.

Revision of the monitoring schedule will be e-mailed by Lisa, to include Stewardship and reflect our new fiscal year.

Generative/Reflective: Does the Board speak for the congregation? If so, when and under what conditions?

- Policy from 1974 says we don't.
- But the Board is the legal representative of the church
- Yes, the Board can speak for the congregation, but do we need to define criteria or talk through the issues each time? No conclusion reached.
- The denomination (UUA) does take stands, but they are voted on by delegates to the General Assembly (GA)
- Putting controversial questions to the congregation for a vote risks divisiveness.
- Specific example: a request from Green Sanctuary group to support the UUA and UUSC in Commit2Respond effort to alleviate climate change.

MOTION: That Birmingham Unitarian Church join the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee in their commitment to respond to the dangers of climate change – Marilyn K./Barbara – passed unanimously

Board Business

- 1. Campus Development and Prioritization Committee (CDPC)** – Dick Cantley presented a written report. CDPC is meeting frequently to make sure the architects have full and complete inputs. Communication between architect and fundraisers (CCS) needs clarification. Dick will work on a communication plan, with inputs from CCS and some from us, to develop what will be included and information on the progress of the campaign. InFORM is on track to provide visuals at the end of Nov. and present them to the congregation on Sunday, Dec. 7. The initial presentation could be made as part of a “special message” via e-mail (which gets the most attention) and drawings could be included.
- 2. Capital Campaign** – Lisa reported we are now in our third week. Letters are to go out to potential major gift donors this week. 20% of our goal has already been reached (from 12 households). Lisa will announce the percentage participation of Board members at our Nov. 17 meeting.
Nov. 2 will be the public launch of the capital campaign – Lisa and Kathy are doing the service that day and will make the announcement (and possible excited response).
- 3. Volunteer of the Month** – for November will be Alvin Harris.

Meeting adjourned: 9:00 pm

Next meeting: Monday, November 17, 7 pm