

FINAL

Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Board Meeting Minutes • February 9, 2006

Members Present: Tim Ransom, Mike Harbour, Mary Walton Cameron, Samantha Ritchie, Bernard Brady, Rev. Art Vaeni, Shelley Ferer, and Margaret Knudson

Members absent: Melissa Denton and Peter Teets

Secretary's Minutes: The January minutes were approved as amended; a copy will be sent to Darlene, and one to Sharon Love to post on the OUUC web site.

Treasurers' Report: Balance sheet and treasurer's report for 2005 received by e-mail. The final report will be presented at the March meeting for approval. Wim is doing a great job and is finalizing the accounts for 2005. At the present it appears that the 2005 pledges came in about \$5,000 short. Clarification is requested concerning pledges for 2006 given in 2005, and the amounts if any of those prepaid pledges that were spent in 2005. *Tim will request that a member of the finance committee be present at the March meeting to answer questions that the board may have regarding the 2005 report. In addition to prepaid pledges mentioned above, the extraordinary expenses incurred in dealing with the annex need to be clearly identified as well as the source of the values of real property that are stated on the first page. Additional questions and concerns should be submitted to Tim ahead of time to give the finance committee time to research items if necessary.

Administrator's Report: Written and accepted. One item of interest is the suggestion to be established as our own 501C(3). Apparently this has been beneficial to other churches in streamlining the process in applying for grants. Another concern is the impact of renting, other than on an incidental basis, to groups that may endanger our own 501C(3) status. Further research will be done on this issue. Membership is now 245, down a bit due to culling of membership in January. Darlene was authorized to purchase a cordless phone.

Minister's Report: Written and accepted. The Minister's report is e-mailed to Darlene.

Discussion on the OUUC involvement with ConneXtions as either an enrollment site or a referral site. Consensus is that currently we would operate best as a referral site due to need for intake volunteers available, confidentiality requirements, and space. No action taken. *Art will have discussion groups around the issue of poverty to determine interest level in such a program.

The minister of the North Shore church in New Orleans has resigned. Their effort to get an interim minister was not successful. Art requests that he be loaned out to them for twenty days in April. Discussion involved length of time away, coverage for Sunday services, costs, etc. Art said that he was willing to use his discretionary fund. Suggestions to solicit for donations, a special collection, a fundraiser, etc were put forth. No action on funding or additional expenses taken. *Request that Art present a budget of estimated expenses for the trip. Mary Walton moved and Sam seconded a motion to loan Art to the North Shore church for three weeks in April. Art would leave sometime after Carol McKinley's ordination April 2nd. Motion passes.

Liaison committee reports:

Partner church – New Orleans: Tim reported that the chair of the board has changed. There has been no other contact with board or committee members by the OUUC board. We are urged to do so.

There was no other board liaison report.

ACTION ITEMS

Tim came prepared with three motions to offer the board. The motions, or motions as amended, and actions taken are as follows:

1) Membership requirements:

In agreement with the congregation's wishes of January 20, the motion was made that at the next opening of the bylaws they shall be revised to make participation in new member classes a requirement for OUUC membership. The minister or the chair of the membership committee may grant waivers of this requirement. The membership book would be signed at the last class. Margaret moved and Mary Walton seconded Tim's motion as amended above. Motion passed.

2) Out of the Woods shelter next steps:

Tim presented a motion requesting that the board appoint an ad hoc committee of OTW and OUUC members to develop a proposal to address concerns including a time line and perhaps a budget. Revision of the current agreement will also be addressed. The motion was amended to say that the Board of OUUC and the Board of OTW will convene a committee of up to nine members to address their common concerns. It is to report to the Boards by May first. Mike approved the motion as amended by Sam, and Bernie seconded it. As time is of the essence, Tim will reword the motion and send it out to the board via e-mail for approval. The motion for Tim to take this action passed. See addendum below.

3) Compensation guidelines:

Mike suggested a simplified version of Tim's motion. Mike moved that the board requests the personnel committee review the staff compensation guidelines, using materials that they see fit, and report back to the board. Shelley seconded the motion. The motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Art distributed information about UU Voices for Justice, a legislative advocacy network. There has been a request that OUUC become the fiscal sponsor for the group in the state. There needs to be discussion on their activities as a lobbying group and our status as a 501C(3) organization. Sited in the state capital seems to make us the likely congregation to consider this partnership. Shall this be one of our projects as part of our ministry? Is this something that the Social Justice committee would be involved in? Further discussion and information is needed.

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Strategic plan: the SPACE committee met with a church architect recently who has an organization called Tent Makers. He works with churches to develop a master plan. The committee has already done much of the site analysis. The next step is to develop a master plan and conceptual drawings. It is important to have congregational input, and to consider a plan in stages. Demographics of the area should be considered and to understand what drives our growth, such as children's religion education versus sanctuary space. We will seek an updated draft of plans from the SPACE committee for the end of March all congregation meeting. If the SPACE committee meets with an architect before the March board meeting, we ask that they send the recommendation to the board, and perhaps meet together before the March meeting.

Board announcements length and protocol: We will try to keep the announcements limited to three additional ones, and try to keep them shorter than they have been. The announcements should be timely for items that day or the coming week in a caring, engaging, yet professional atmosphere. *Art will set criteria.

*Darlene will be asked to schedule board announcers.

- Board Goals – will be carried over for discussion in March.

*Items requiring action, notices written, info to be sent, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Next board meeting - MARCH 9, 2006 7:00pm at the church.

Respectfully submitted,

√ Margaret Knudson Co-Secretary
Samantha Ritchie Co-Secretary

Tim Ransom, President

ADDENDUM:

Between meetings the Board passed the following motions by e-mail following some discussion.

Board Motion:

“That the OUUC Board submit the application prepared by Harmon Eaton for HOME FY 2006 funding for repairs to the B&G Annex, and that acceptance of any funds awarded be contingent upon whatever decisions may be made in the meantime concerning the relationship between OUUC and OTW and the future of the Annex.”

The motion passed unanimously February 26, 2006.

Board Motion:

I move that not more than five representatives of OUUC and not more than five representatives of Out of the Woods, appointed by their respective boards, work together to revise the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between OTW and OUUC. The respective representatives will be charged to include in the MOU any steps to be taken by OTW and OUUC in addressing known problems regarding the shelter at the B&G Annex, including a timeline and, if necessary, a budget. The representatives' joint proposal will be sent to the boards of OTW and OUUC for their consideration and/or approval no later than May 1st, 2006.

The motion passed unanimously February 28, 2006.