

FINAL

Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Board Meeting Minutes • January 12, 2006

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

Special Guests: Karol Erickson

Treasurers' Report: Preliminary December 2005 (calendar year 2005) report sent by Pam Davidson. The final report will be presented at the February meeting for approval. Peter pointed out that just 91 percent of the 2005 pledges came in compared with the average of 95 percent. Darlene has sent out quarterly reports to pledging units. This year she will also send a notice out in November with a follow up in December if needed.

Under Income Special Gifts the general fund will retain \$1,050 and \$1,050 has been put in the endowment fund in memory of Milton Bard.

In 2005 most committees have under spent their budget, but there may still be some outstanding payments due for 2005. Additional 2005 revenues may still come in from pledge reminders recently sent out. Final 2005 numbers are not yet available. Karol will check to make sure that advance payments, 2006 pledges paid in 2005, have been coded correctly.

Tim suggested that the value of land and improvements be updated in future reports. A formal appraisal was not done at the time of the refinancing for the new loan, but the bank used more recent numbers than are reflected in the treasurer's report.

Karol Erickson of the Finance Committee reviewed the process of selecting a bookkeeper that was approved in the October 2005 meeting. Wim Verhoef has been selected. He has double entry accounting experience. *The Personnel Committee is also checking to be sure that the position will be an independent contractor."

Tim suggested that a maximum amount of time, i.e. "Hours not to exceed 520 number of hours per year without further written approval of the board," be included in the contract. Karol expressed appreciation for the board's support of hiring a bookkeeper and for all the work and training that Mary Welsh has done.

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

Administrator's Report: Written and accepted as amended concerning the March 18th date.

Minister's Report: Written and accepted. The Minister's report is e-mailed to Darlene. Number three in the report regarding training is addressed below in the action items. PNWD meeting is in Port Townsend February 17 - 19. All are encouraged to attend. OUUC is entitled to three voting delegates.

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Liaison committee reports:

Leadership Team - January 8 meeting was very productive, including a good turnout from board members. A lively discussion of ideas generated by the Mike Durrall leadership conference should lead to productive changes. It is not clear how further discussion or implementation of > such changes will be structured - responsibility may need to be assigned so this does not just drop. The next Leadership Team meeting is April 2.

Personnel - has been reconstituted and discussed the issue that OUUC should have a formal policy about who participates when we hire someone or contract for services. It is also working on a personnel policy handbook that should be provided to the board this year, possibly by June.

Buildings & Grounds - now have a rotating chair with Tyra Lindquist the current chair. A couple new volunteers have stepped forward to take charge of the landscaping portion of the B&G program.

ACTION ITEMS

Board Announcements: Schedule for the rest of January sent around along with February's to be filled in. Once completed they will be e-mailed out as a reminder with a copy to Darlene.

Mary Walton would like a discussion on presentation of announcements. Tim asked that the discussion be moved to the end of the meeting or, lacking time, put on February's agenda.

- Share the Plate: The group selected for January, Works in Progress, was found to not be a 501C3 organization per the approved criterion. The money collected the Sunday of January 8 will go to the group from the prior month, Bread and Roses.

A motion was made by Mike H. and seconded by Mary Walton C. that the Raffa Sister City organization, a group on the original proposed list by the Social Justice committee, be the next recipient of Share the Plate collections. The motion passes with one abstention.

- Leadership Training: (Number three in Art's monthly summary.) Training for Leadership Development Follow-up: Art met with Tandi Rogers, District Program Consultant, and the Reverend James Kubal-Kumoto, Saltwater Congregation on January 3. The training would be geared primarily toward committee chairs, but it would also provide more general foundational leadership development as well. If this training does all that is hoped, it will become an annual event. While this one will be open to the whole District, future trainings would be regional; for example we might host one for the Puget Sound congregations. The tentative date initially set has been changed to Friday evening- Saturday, September 8-9 (though still not finalized). OUUC congregation has been asked to host it. Art would like us to do so as this could increase our participation. But it means we would need to commit to providing home hospitality, and refreshments for Saturday breakfast as well as lunch, the costs for which would be covered by the District. It would also mean that we may need to use one of the four times we're able to displace World Wide Church of God and forfeit that Saturday's rent. Art's question is, Are you willing to commit us to assume hosting responsibilities?

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A motion that OUUC host a training weekend in September 2006 was made by Mike and seconded by Melissa D. Motion passes unanimously.

- Covenant with our Partner Church in Kissolymos: The work on a covenant began when Istvan was here with examples from other churches that were compiled by Tom Mumford. Melissa moved and Mike seconded a motion to forward covenant to the congregation for approval. Bernie has a concern that the phrase “we will support each other as needed” is rather broad. There is no legal obligation to the document. Motion carries with one opposed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- OUUC-North Shore UU (New Orleans) partnership, Ginny Taylor discussed the experience of her visit to New Orleans; the need for support, emotionally, spiritually as well as financially that the displaced people there need. The church still standing was built just four years ago, but had its roof blown off. One church is destroyed and the other severely damaged. Ginny sees an opportunity to assist with documents, committee structure, and general church guidance in addition to the above. There is a fundraiser January 22nd (soup for New Orleans) that Evelyn Greenberg is coordinating.

- Preparation of Congregational Conversation meeting January 20, 2006. Be aware of board speaking with one voice versus an individual opinion.

- 1) Membership – Wish to review how one becomes a member of OUUC. What do by-laws say? Are changes needed? It is felt that clearer guidelines are needed for membership and for separating from membership. National and regional dues plus the monthly bulletin total nearly \$100. Would a requirement or the strong expectation to participate in the New Membership class before becoming a member be beneficial? What does the congregation think? What is the board’s position?
- 2) Out of the Woods (OTW), separate from the B&G annex - What is our current relationship to OTW, and what does the congregation envision for the future? Does OUUC want to support a shelter as part of its future? How does our relationship with OTW fit into the community’s plan to help the homeless population? Shall OTW be one form of OUUC’s outreach to the larger community? What liability does OUUC have currently?
- 3) Facilities and Strategic Plan – review draft with congregation, and seek input.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

√ Margaret Knudson Co-Secretary
Samantha Ritchie Co-Secretary

Tim Ransom, President