

## OUUC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2007

Present: Shelley Ferer, Mary-Walton Cameron, Harmon Eaton, Melissa Denton, Mike Harbour, Bernie Brady, Art Vaeni, Samantha Ritchie and Tim Ransom.  
Absent: Ingrid Kail  
Guests: Curtis Tanner, Leslie Romer, Pam Davidson, Karol Erickson

Meeting called to order on time by Board Pres. Tim Ransom

### **Minutes:**

December Board minutes were approved with minor grammatical changes..

### **Treasure's Report**

Harmon's detailed report was emailed, distributed, reviewed and accepted. He went on to note new pledges and that pledge income is "OK" with a 5k shortfall considered to be "good" and that expenses were in line. There was some discussion regarding accounts vs funds and the status of building rental.

### **Administrators Report**

Copies of the report were emailed, distributed, reviewed and accepted. The question of Church Closure Policy will be deferred to a future meeting.

### **Minister's Report**

Copies of the report were emailed, distributed, reviewed and accepted. Art discussed emergency preparedness and congregational responsibility for our at-risk members. There was a brief discussion about hymnal distribution and pick up since the current practice is clumsy.

ACTION ITEM. Moved and seconded that the Board send a THANK YOU note to Deb Ross and the Space Committee for their good work.

### **Liaison Reports**

OUT OF THE WOODS: Mary-Walton reported that all is well with the exception of defunct appliances – which have been replaced with used but functional pieces.

Fund Raising/Canvass: Mike reported that the pre-canvass/celebration dinner had been taken out of the budget. He went on to note that most members of the canvass/stewardship committee had resigned after years of diligent work. There is some concern about committee task or charge and how to implement changes. There was further discussion about Stewardship and Capital drives with repeated emphasis that if members feel they have to choose, for heaven's sake fund Stewardship first.

Leadership. Melissa said the next meeting is 2/10/07 and encouraged Board attendance.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

BOOK KEEPER CONTRACT: Carol invited questions so there was some discussion of “salary caps”, ratio of raises to other personnel and value of book keepers services relative to community standards.

Action Item: The Board decision was an agreement that contract negotiations for private contractors comes from the relevant committee (Personnel, etc) who will forward the proposed contract to the budget committee for approval. Mike moved for approval, it was seconded and approved.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE: Leslie talked about recycling policy as part of “Green Sanctuary” as well as describing the “Environmental Audit” to tract our environmental practices, especially as those relate to expansion. She talked about the process to become a “Green Sanctuary Congregation” which costs about \$100. There was a question if that application needed member or Board approval.

Action Item: Leslie proposed recruitment of a committee to do the Environmental Practices Audit and agreed to serve as chair. Bernie moved for approval of Leslie’s proposal. It was seconded and approved.

Linda Hart: Linda has accepted a ministry in England. A farewell party will be held 2/11/07 at 4:00.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE: There was a request from the Endowment Committee to revise policy to designate a member of the Board to serve on the committee. That was agreed to. *Action Item.* Tim moved to approve Brian Coyne as a member of the Endowment Committee. Tim’s motion was seconded, discussed and approved.

VOICES FOR JUSTICE: Samantha had a question about receipt of regular feedback. Art said it was still a bit disorganized but hope is to have board in place with refinement of purpose and task by July 2007.

BUDGET UPDATE: The budget will be presented to the Congregation 2/12/07. Curtis expressed concern that the budget allowed so little for fundraising efforts. There was animated discussion about effective techniques for fundraising including emotional vs pragmatic appeals, long range thinking and congregational buy in to the expressed goals. There was agreement that the fundraising committee did a quality job in 2006 even though there were fewer pledging units and 29 units who pledged in 2006 but declined for 2007. Curtis will check the data for new pledges. Curtis’ work and leadership in Stewardship is/was lauded. There was some discussion about presenting info to congregations at this time. Tim urged that Board awareness of the budget issues –especially around funding the annual dinner - be noted in the minutes. Sam urged continued Board transparency to the congregation and that the “big cuts” in raises for personnel and programs that are cut or eliminated be highlighted for the congregation. Tim expressed concern that there were so many items to be discussed at the meeting.

Financial Feasibility Study: Mike described how that study works as part of the Capitol Campaign. He said Larry Wheeler will interview a member sampling of 36 to assess their level of financial commitment. Larry projects that we “should” be able to raise \$1 to 1.5 million. Mike reminded the Board that the cost of the study is \$9k which will come out of the Capitol budget if the campaign is approved and out of the “sinking fund” if it is not.

Larry will present his initial impressions to the Board via a conference call 2/2/07 with a conclusive report due 3/1/07. There will be two additional congregational meetings then the congregation will be asked to vote for proceeding with the Capitol Campaign. If the campaign is approved, Mike says we need “a ton of Visiting Stewards” (40-60) who will be appropriately trained.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY: Tim listed these topics as on the table for the next meeting. 1) Anna from City of Olympia to discuss possible financial assistance with Annex/OTW. 2) Review UUA guidelines for staff compensation and 3) revisit strategic plan.

Action Items: Bernie reviewed the following tasks to be accomplished: 1) Tim to write thank you note to Deb Ross and Space Committee 2) Board to attend Congregational Meeting 3) Board to attend leadership meeting and 4) Linda Hart Goodbye event.

Art delivered some calming, closing words and the meeting was adjourned.

Transcribed from tapes and respectfully (if belatedly) submitted by

Ingrid Kail February 7, 2007 Revised/edited 2/16/07

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Tim Ransom, Pres.

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Ingrid Kail, Sec.