

Minutes of the UUFCC Board Meeting

November 13, 2007

Revised and Approved December 11, 2007

Motions Passed

That once we have stopped making payments on our current mortgage, we keep this amount of money reserved for a capital improvement fund and/or a building expansion (to be decided later), and not use this money in our annual operating funds. (See paragraph 12.a.)

That we approve the Annual Budget Drive budget as presented. (See paragraph 13.a.)

That we accept the timeline for the 2008-09 dream budget process as presented. (See paragraph 13.b.)

Lois Durran called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Lois Durran, Marian Dornell, Mark Hayes, Paula Ralph, Ken Riznyk, John Schmidt, Andy Lau, Jean Wiant, Bob Newnham, and were present. Julie VanEerden was also present as a Young Adult representative.

1. ***Chalice lighting & sharings.*** Lois Durran asked Board members to share their thoughts or reflections about recent events here at the UUFCC (Frankie Price Stern's visit, Small Group Meetings, Mid-Year Meeting.)

2. ***Approval of the minutes.*** The minutes from the October 9, 2007 Board meeting were approved with several corrections.

3. ***Minister's report.*** Mark Hayes sent out a written report prior to the meeting. Mark added that the UUFCC will be sponsoring a Blood Drive in December on the same day as Wonderful Soulful Wednesday (Dec. 19).

4. ***Director of Lifespan Religious Education report.*** Jean Wiant submitted a written report prior to the meeting. Jean has successfully completed the work to become a Credentialed Religious Educator. Lois Durran read a congratulatory letter that was sent to the UUFCC from Beth Williams, Director of the Religious Education Credentialing Committee.

5. ***Music Director's report.*** Matt Travis submitted a written report prior to the meeting.

6. ***Treasurer's report.*** Ken Riznyk distributed a budget report prior to the meeting. Ken brought several questions about our finances and bookkeeping practices for the Board to consider. (See below, paragraph 12.)

7. ***Trustee liaison areas.*** No reports this month.

8. ***Program Council.*** John Schmidt sent out the minutes from the Sept. 16, 2007 Program Council meeting prior to the meeting.

9. ***Feedback on member attrition - update.*** John Schmidt reported that after meeting with Laura Brown (Membership Committee), he decided not to go ahead with the plan to contact people who have left the Fellowship to get feedback about why they left; it seemed logistically daunting, and John decided he would rather put his energies into looking forward rather than backward. Lois mentioned that during this year's budget drive, members will be receiving a form

where they can share information about their experience at the UUFCC. If no form is returned, that will be an opportunity for a phone call.

10. ***Building the World We Dream About workshop series update.*** Marian Dornell reported that this pilot curriculum is attracting a committed group of people. The curriculum has touched on some areas of discomfort, but for the most part, it has been well received. Marian and Jean Wiant will be sending feedback to the UUA about the curriculum. Jean and Marian recently attended the JPD's 3rd Annual Anti-Racism Conference where they learned about another curriculum that might be a little less intensive. They will pursue this and other ideas for future use at the UUFCC.

11. ***Leadership Training Module*** – Bob Newnham facilitated a leadership training module which focused on group leadership roles. Next month's leadership training module will be on "Biting Off More Than You Can Chew." Lois Durran agreed to facilitate.

12. ***Questions for the Board from the Finance Committee.*** Ken Riznyk asked the Board to examine and make decisions about the following financial practices:

- a. **Mortgage line item.** Once we have paid off our current mortgage, what do we want to do with the money that would otherwise have been going toward mortgage payments? Lois Durran commented that everything she has read on the subject advises keeping that money earmarked toward building uses (either for a future building fund or for building maintenance) rather than putting it back into the general budget. Mark Hayes noted that another acceptable use would be an investment in a one-time capital improvement John Schmidt moved **that once we have stopped making payments on our current mortgage, we keep this amount of money reserved for a capital improvement fund and/or a building expansion (to be decided later), and not use this money in our annual operating funds.** Marian Dornell seconded. The motion carried.
- b. **Targeted gifts.** One of the recommendations from Frankie Price Stern was to discourage targeted gifts because this practice undermines the democratic process of having the whole congregation participate in the budgeting process - those who can afford it, can end up dictating the programming/budget. Mark Hayes said he agrees with the idea in principle, but also acknowledged that targeted gifts need not be discouraged when it is for a special or short-term need, such as a new piano. He suggested that one way to encourage giving without affecting the budgeting process would be to have a list of "approved" needs that people could support with a targeted gift. There was general agreement that we need a policy in place to help evaluate when to accept a targeted gift. In the meantime, we should encourage donors to give undesignated gifts, and encourage them to participate in the democratic process as we draft the budget. Ken offered to write an article for the newsletter explaining why it is better to give undesignated gifts in support of the overall budget.
- c. **In and Out Accounts.** Frankie Price Stern has recommended that we drop the practice of keeping In and Out funds (where money is earmarked for a designated project, program or group, and is not part of the overall budget)

because it tends to hide our real operating costs. The Board consensus was to move toward eliminating most of the In and Out funds, making them line items in the budget instead. Lois Durran mentioned the need for miscellaneous or President's Discretionary Fund to cover unexpected expenses that come up throughout the year.

13. *New Business.*

- a. ***Budget for the Annual Budget Drive (ABD).*** Lois Durran presented a proposed budget for the ABD totaling \$1,166, including a kickoff event that would cost an estimated \$600. John Schmidt moved **that we approve the Annual Budget Drive budget as presented.** Marian Dornell "heartily" seconded. The motion carried.
- b. ***Timeline for the Dream Budget Process.*** Lois Durran presented a draft of a timeline for this year's budgeting process developed by the ABD team with advice from Frankie Price Stern. (For clarification, our "base budget" is what we cannot function without. After that, we would like to prioritize the things we would like to be able to do beyond that, based on feedback from committees - our dream budget.) Bob Newnham moved **that we accept the timeline for the 2008-09 dream budget process as presented.** John Schmidt seconded. The motion carried.
- c. ***Next visit by Frankie Price Stern.*** Lois Durran reported that Frankie Price Stern will be making a return visit Jan. 11-13 to meet with the budget drive team, the Long Range Planning Committee, and the Program Council (in its LRP capacity). After that, she will visit again Feb. 15-17 for stewardship orientation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Ralph

Upcoming important dates

December Board meeting	Dec. 11
Program Council meetings	Dec. 18
Frankie Price Stern visit	Jan. 11-13, Feb. 15-17
Annual Meeting	May 18