

UUCO Board minutes
November 17, 2103

Present: Luanne, Allen, Cheryl, Cris, Shaundi, Greg, Lizzy
Guest: Chris Schwanke

Started at 12:30 p.m.

Greg presented chapter 3 of *Growing a Beloved Community*. Cris will present a chapter at our next meeting.

Allen moved, Cris seconded, board approved October 20 minutes.

Shaundi was appointed process observer.

Financial officer report: Cheryl received paperwork from Ashley and is migrating it to mint.com, which will make the information more accessible from more places. On a related matter, Luanne reported that FNB has changed our tax status to conform to reality, namely that we are a non-profit rather than an association. As a result, all signatories on the account will have to sign new documents, which she will get from the bank and bring to relevant board members this coming week.

The board noted with great regret Ashley Brewer's resignation as staffer, effective December 9. Ashley has offered to train her successor. The board voted to note her service with a certificate and gift, which Shaundi will arrange.

The office computer is being set up and the on-premises office should be in operating order by the end of the year. Since this will be a locked office, as per UUA guidelines for best office practices, board members raised the question of access to items kept in that room. This in turn led to discussion about external groups using expensive equipment kept in that room, such as a projector.

Luanne will look at the building policy, reword if necessary to make sure external groups accept their financial responsibility for use of equipment, and send the reworded policy to the board for approval. She also will ask Pat Miller, ever-faithful building steward, about the existence of an inventory of our building contents.

Compassion committee - Shaundi reported that members are Laura Hall, Paul Goggans, Mari Kuhnle, and Elaine Gelbard. She will contact them this week about getting started on their activities.

LDC update - Dan Mattern and Eunice Benton are on the committee. A third person will be asked by Shaundi this week. Regardless of the number of members, we will ask the LDC to help us staff committees and develop leaders ASAP.

President Morales visit – Greg has sent our preferred dates that overlap with when he might be available. They are the week of St. Patrick's Day (March 17) but not that Sunday itself, or a date in May.

Luanne shared notes taken at "first impressions" Sunday service earlier this month.

Lizzy talked about a holiday drive for Graceland and the VA home, as well as future local efforts that we can spearhead or support. We plan to make UUCO a drop-off location to encourage giving.

Allen moved, Greg seconded, and the board approved making the Graceland/VA home our target for local giving this holiday season. We approved a 2014 calendar to continue to support local charitable efforts, understanding that circumstances might cause us to make changes in order to address more urgent needs. We also approved setting up a nominating process for these efforts. The board also approved holiday decorations for the building, understanding that we want them to be inclusive. This may include a tasteful Charles Darwin ornament or two.

Lizzy asked for help in creating the outreach/community building committee that will oversee the Graceland/VA home type of activities previously described. She requested names of people who might like to assist.

Luanne presented our past policy on Give Away the Plate. It has been informal, with a goal of alternating between local needs (ICM, individuals, Habitat for Humanity, etc.) and the larger community (No More Deaths, UUSC, the Heifer Project, etc.). The previous board set a goal of six times a year, in alternating months. This board requested that we formalize it more so that it can be on a calendar and advertised. The board approved a committee to formalize the policy and create a calendar. Allen will lead this effort. Lizzy will help to create a GATP nomination form once the committee has reached that point.

Luanne brought in the current Safe Congregation Policy, approved by the previous board at their May 2103 meeting. We will revisit the policy as soon as time permits. We also will consider offering CPR and related first-aid courses as part of the SGP and as a form of outreach.

The communications policy is to be discussed and put to a vote after Lizzy and James can talk about Creative Commons licensing.

Other communications items – Lizzy would like to have a committee work with her to revisit website and pamphlet wording. She also is investigating changes for the layout of our Constant Contact communications. Lizzy is willing to talk over the newsletter and weekly updates in the short term, while we work out the staffer situation (if Luanne knew how to make fireworks or other expression of joy explode around previous sentence, she would).

Discussion about the future of UUCO – Shaundi has put together survey questions solicited from the board and will work to have them vetted by non-board members who have expertise in surveying. We would like to have the survey ready by mid-December, for a potluck kickoff the first half of January, followed by cottage dinners. Ultimate goal is to have a big conversation about our congregation and plan for the future.

Allen discussed his concern about recent studies of congregations in danger of extinction, and thus his concern about how best to focus congregational planning for the future. Luanne will consult with UU resource people to see if we can find a speaker to address these issues.

Returning to the staffer issue, Luanne is to send staffer description and get input about the relevance of the current description from board members who work with the staffer. The board explored the possibility of using some staffer money for a bookkeeper and will continue the conversation, once Luanne gets feedback on our current description and its relationship with reality.

Someone is supposed to remember something about the fire alarm battery. Replacement of it, perhaps? Luanne doesn't remember.

Board meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Luanne, taken by her (at board's risk) in the absence of secretary