

UUCO Board Meeting

12:20 pm, October 19, 2014

Attendees

- Luanne Buchannan
- Carla Carr
- Cheryl Conlee
- Walter Flaschka
- Greg Johnson
- Victoria Smith

Appoint process observer

- Greg Johnson volunteers as process observer

Approve minutes

- Greg Johnson moves we approve the minutes from last meeting
- Walter Flaschka seconds

Financial update

- Cheryl has no financial data to report.
- Cheryl reports that she got the pledge reminder to Sandra Moss, after delay, by Friday. The reminders were sent out to people who pledged last year; Cheryl suggests more people are contributing (basket) rather than pledging. Cheryl told Sandra to expect responses from people who no longer participate with UUCO.
- Cheryl reviewed the criteria for UUCO membership: They must join the church, and they must pledge/contribute. UUCO has 57 members by this criteria. The UU rules changed recently, UUCOs payments to UU are now based on budget size rather than membership size.
- Cheryl observed that some people who are contributing to the plate are not getting credited as members.
- Victoria recommended that members leaving the church should be polled for their reasons for doing so. During the following discussion, it becomes clear that the departing members are asked why, and they give replies.

Brief discussion on the Southern Region Fall Multi-Training

- Several UUCO members attended the training event on Oct 10-12, 2014. Email report received from Kirina Knight.
- Before the meeting, Victoria Smith gave a pre-report on the training. Early findings:
 - UU's 7 Principles should be visible in sanctuary
 - Services can't merely be intellectual
 - There should be a spiritual element to all services
- Victoria will present more in detail at next meeting.
- Cheryl observed that "We [UU's] don't have an elevator speech."

- Luanne suggested tabling Victoria's report until the next meeting, to give Victoria time to collect her findings.

Discussion of UUCO By-Laws Regarding Board Terms

[[[[Agenda item #6 of October 19, 2014 meeting: **Request made by 2013-2014 Leadership Development Committee to amend by-laws**

From our current by-laws:

ARTICLE V.B. CONGREGATION BOARD

The Congregation Board shall consist of four (4) elected Officers and four (4) elected Trustees. These Officers and Trustees shall constitute the Congregation Board (the Board). The Board shall have general responsibility for the property of the Congregation, the conduct of all its business affairs, and the control of its administration, including the appointment of any ad hoc committees it may deem necessary.

All Officers and Trustees must be voting members of the Congregation in accordance with Article III.A. No Officer, Trustee, or member of the Congregation shall speak for the Congregation without the approval of the Board.

Officers shall be President, Vice-President, Financial Officer, and Secretary. Trustees shall consist of the Sunday Service Programming Trustee, Membership Trustee, Communications Trustee, and Religious Education & Youth Trustee.

ARTICLE V.C. TERMS OF OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Terms for all Officers and Trustees shall be one year each. Officers may serve for up to three consecutive years (three one-year terms).

The Board may fill vacancies with who shall serve until the next annual meeting by appointing individuals recommended by the Leadership Development Committee in accordance with Article V.D.

To recommended change:

ARTICLE V.B. CONGREGATION BOARD

The Congregation Board shall consist of four (4) elected Officers and four (4) elected Trustees. These Officers and Trustees shall constitute the Congregation Board (the Board). The Board shall have general responsibility for the property of the Congregation, the conduct of all its business affairs, and the control of its administration, including the appointment of any ad hoc committees it may deem necessary.

All Officers and Trustees must be voting members of the Congregation in accordance with Article III.A. No Officer, Trustee, or member of the Congregation shall speak for the Congregation without the approval of the Board.

Officers shall be President, **President-Elect**, Financial Officer, and Secretary. Trustees shall consist of the Sunday Service Programming Trustee, Membership Trustee, Communications

Trustee, and Religious Education & Youth Trustee.

ARTICLE V.C. TERMS OF OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Terms for all Officers and Trustees shall be two years each. Officers may serve for up to four consecutive years (two two-year terms).

When possible, terms shall be staggered so that half of the board is retained and half of the board is new.

The Board may fill vacancies with who shall serve until the next annual meeting by appointing individuals recommended by the Leadership Development Committee in accordance with Article V.D.]]]]

1. Discussion of proposed changes to the by-laws. These changes propose to stagger the periods of office of the board members, to improve continuity of leadership. At present, the whole board changes every two years.
2. Other changes: "Vice President" to be termed "President Elect". This is a 4-year term, one term as President Elect, one term as President; the purpose of the sequential periods of office for this position is to improve continuity
3. Question of whether the President Elect should only serve 1 year before taking the office of president, to reduce the burden on the individual. General discussion concluded that this would create problems with succession.
4. Decision: President / President Elect will not have staggered terms; President & President Elect will serve concurrent terms.
5. Cheryl recommended explicitly listing which positions are offset from the others, so planning can be simplified and made predictable.
6. Luanne proposed the following changes to the by-laws:
7. "President, President Elect, Membership Trustee, and the Sunday Services Trustee shall begin their terms on odd numbered years; Secretary, Finance Officer, R.E. Trustee & Youth Trustee (a single office), and Communications Trustee shall begin their terms on even numbered years."
 - Walter moves to approve these changes
 - Seconded by Cheryl, Carla, Victoria

Discussion of notes taken during the UUCO "ConGROWsation" service

- Discussion of member retention and members who have recently departed UUCO.
- Based on communication with departing members, they are not motivated by a common issue or a systemic problem.
- Feedback ranges from "too Christian" to "not Christian enough"; and from "UUs don't do anything" to "we don't see enough of what UUs are doing."
- Cheryl observed the challenge of getting people who come only periodically to see the whole spectrum of UUCO activity.
- [Walter to ENTER INTO MINUTES the congregational conversation]

Official thank-you

- The board gave its thanks and gratitude to Kirina Knight, Shanda Taylor, Ava Taylor, and Victoria Smith, for participating in the Southern Region Fall Multi-Track Training, Oct 10-12, 2014; as funded by the UUCO membership.

Cottage dinners

- Luanne reported she met with Greg this week to discuss Cottage Dinners. So far, Cris Surbeck, Greg Johnson, and Luanne Buchanan have volunteered to host events at their houses.
- After discussion, it is decided to let the host decide whether it's a dinner or a potluck, and the host decides how many attendees.
- Discussion of the best times for these events. Wednesday and Thursday nights seem most free at the moment; some cottage dinners should be hosted on other nights, however, to accommodate UUs whose schedules don't permit Wednesday or Thursday participation.
- After discussion, it is decided that at least one board member attend each dinner. Their role is to steer conversation toward two topics. At the moment, these topics might include:
 1. What's important to you in relation to UU right now
 2. If you have some desire to see the congregation accomplish something by the end of the year, what would that be?

Greg Johnson

- 1:34 pm, Greg Johnson has to depart meeting.

October 25 event at UUCO

- Walter presents current status of planning for the "HalUUween" pot-luck at UUCO.
- All board members discuss, and offer assistance for the event.

Meeting terminated

- The meeting concluded after 2pm.