

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Los Gatos
Board Meeting Minutes of May 17, 2006
DRAFT

This meeting was a continuation of the May 11, 2006 Board Meeting

Board members present: Walt Main, Pamela Rhodes English, Lynn O'Keefe, Jim Beebe, Sabine Omvik, John Omvik, Harry Campbell and Irving Yabroff

Member Emeritus: Rev. Nancy Roemheld

Visitors: Bob and Nan Bixler, Ann Campbell, Lou Yabroff and Sharon Graham.

Meeting called to order: 6:40PM

DRE or Paid Teachers

To set the stage for the ensuing discussion, Walt read the announcement of the meeting, shown in Addendum 1, which listed considerations to be taken into account when considering adding a DRE or paid teachers to the basic budget.

After extensive discussion of these two options, the following motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously:

The RECCE will assume the duties of the DRE for next year, FY2007. The RECCE is authorized to hire two classroom teachers for next year. The total RECCE budget is established at \$7,000.

Budget Presentation to the Membership

Irving presented a budget to the Board which will be modified to encompass the above changes. The following motion was made and passed unanimously:

The Board will present the budget as Irving has it formed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.

Minutes prepared by Irving Yabroff

Addendum 1 – Announcement of the Continuation Board Meeting.

Members, Friends, and Other Interested Parties

The canvass campaign looks to be eleven thousand dollars short of the amount we need to support both our interim minister and a DRE. The big choices before us are whether to plan for a DRE for next year, and

if so, how to finance that. Financing involves cutting other expenses or running a deficit budget or some combination of the two. Increasing income by eleven thousand dollars is just not on the cards.

The board discussed this matter at some length Thursday evening, and will continue next Wednesday (May 17) at 6:30. We want to gather your views and bring to the membership meeting on May 21 a plan for next year, including a budget, that expresses the best thinking of as many people as are interested.

Just to get you started, here are some points from last night's board discussion.

About a DRE

Having a professional DRE does not by itself produce increases in membership or flocks of kids showing up on Sunday mornings. Kari has, by all reports, been doing an excellent job, and we often see just a couple kids here. No one knows why.

A minister will want to have a DRE to work with, and not having a DRE may make us look less attractive to ministerial prospects.

If we have no paid DRE, the minister or some member(s?) will have to direct the RE program.

A quarter-time DRE is hard to find. We should hear from Sabine and Ann on this point.

We cannot pay for a DRE without running a deficit budget. An estimate was that after all the cost-cutting to be found, we still needed to run \$7500 in the red.

About paid teachers with no paid DRE

Institutional memory tells us that at the height of the RE program in the past, we had paid teachers but no paid DRE.

Paid teachers are estimated to be substantially cheaper than a DRE, and are believed to be in plentiful supply. Probably still need deficit spending.

These folk do not have to be UU's; many curricula are available from the UUA.

Paying teachers would free members to attend services.

The program would need active supervision by -- whom?

All-volunteer program

Cheap, money-wise.

I don't recall more being said about this option.

And now, the money

DEFICIT FINANCING

We have substantial reserves, and we can certainly spend them if we want. The proposed \$7500 draw from reserves is equal to 6.4% of our pledges, so to restore our reserves to their current level next year, we would have to increase pledges by that 6.4%.

COST CUTTING

There are some places we could cut. Support for people going to leadership school, canvass expense, and Sunday speakers are all possible targets.