

UUFLG Board of Trustees Meeting
12/09/04 Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:40pm

Chalice lighting: Nan Bixler: Hope is like a road in the country; there was never a road, but when many people walk there, the road comes into existence.” Lin Yutang

Board Members in Attendance: Jim Beebe, Bob Bixler, Nan Bixler, Bill Crawford, Hollie Dunham and Walt Main
Hollie Dunham standing in as Secretary in Margo’s absence

Guests: Irving Yabroff, Harry Campbell
Welcome Guests

CONSENT ITEMS:

Approve minutes:

RESOLVED: The minutes of the October and November Board meetings be approved as written.

PASSED

DISCUSSION:

Members to be removed from Membership: Jim Beebe

No names were submitted at this time but there was discussion about who is brought to the board for their membership to be removed. At this time the process is only to bring those who need to be removed, not those who resigned themselves.

Nan believes that the Board should be told of resignations too because people want to know. For next meeting: what member status changes should be reported to whom how?

We have three new members for ingathering on Sunday.

REPORTS

Nan Bixler: Sunday Services

There was a Sunday Services Committee meeting last week with Ben. We are working well with Ben and scheduled otherwise through at least February.

The committee talked about reviewing the script used for the service. If anyone has any comments on what works, what is stale or some other ideas for change would be appropriate.

NEW BUSINESS

1. PHYLLIS’ RESIGNATION/HIRE INTERIM Phyllis has officially resigned as our DRE as of March 9th, 2005. Regarding the period from March 9 to June 30, when Phyllis' contract expires, article IX section 2b authorizes the board's designee to hire someone to finish out the year, staying within the established budget.

RESOLVED that Hollie Dunham is authorized to hire an interim DRE under the terms of the

existing DRE contract, which ends June 30, 2004.
PASSED

2. DRE SEARCH COMMITTEE/MAIL BALLOT Since DRE is a "professional staff position" in the meaning of Article IX of our bylaws, the membership must (yet again) elect a five-member search committee to find a DRE candidate. The RECCY team is already searching for members willing to serve on that search committee. Rather than calling a special business meeting to elect the search committee, I propose that we use our yet-untried mail ballot procedure.

RESOLVED, that when sufficient candidates have been found, a mail ballot will be used to elect members of the DRE search committee. The ballot will include the slate proposed by RECCY and anyone not on that slate who wishes to be included. Write-ins will be allowed.
PASSED

Having the search committee in place does not preclude discussing options. Hollie would like to have a town hall meeting, maybe in February, to discuss options and opinions about how we have been faring with this staff position over the last few years.

3. CANVASS: Bob Bixler

Bob has talked to some people from the Redwood City church about how they have run successful canvases in the past. Bob received a packet of information from them with recommendations. Our committee had a budget of \$250. Redwood City budgeted \$5,000 for their canvas.

There is \$2000 in the budget for social justice. Bob wondered if it could be moved to be used in the canvas. The Redwood City group said you have to spend money to make money.

Bob would also like to talk to Sunnyvale and maybe some other churches about how they budget for their canvases. If we really want to have a minister, we have to be able to raise the money.

We need a minimum of \$40,000 added to the current budget. We do have some money in our reserve funds, but what do you do once it is gone? We could get a loan on the building. We as a board need to decide what way we really want to do this.

Bob would like the finance committee to interview various churches and come up with a plan for our canvas.

Bob wants to have the \$2000 reserved for the canvas if they determine they need it.

4. SOCIAL JUSTICE / CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$2000

Walt: This is a budget item of significant enough size that I don't think we should divert it to other use without some approval from the congregation that approved the budget in the first place. If we're about to have a mail ballot anyway, we could present a list of choices, and let people decide whether the money goes to Third Street, our reserve fund, or what. Either let the biggest vote getter take it all, or divide it in proportion to the number of votes.

Jim feels that that the membership could feel hijacked if we move this amount of money that they approved for social justice.

Bill Crawford agrees that we should make a proposal to the membership. Or at least the board should seriously discuss.

Nan has qualms about moving the money around.

Our tying the social justice money to the canvas committee's need for money bothers Irving. Just taking the social justice money is obviously a controversial issue. This type of a loan is exactly

what the reserves are for.

Another way to look at the issue is that perhaps the Fellowship is the worthy cause. If the money is not spent, it goes back into the reserves.

However we don't want to have the appearance that social justice isn't important.

People who don't come to the board meeting but hear about it may feel penalized just because they are not organized at this time.

Bill would like to propose Walt's resolution.

People making contributions to things that they feel inspired by will give more money. This \$2000 is approximately \$20 per member. If it is all spent in one place, it is probably significant for that worthy cause. But if it is sending \$5 to many causes, that is not useful.

We could expect to get better money if we get contributions per worthy cause.

When the membership approved the budget, it approved this money for Social Justice. It is up to the membership to decide what to do with it.

In the beginning it started out supporting our peace center. We had one project. Later it transformed into something different; our own service committee.

Traditional Unitarian Covenant: We join for the worship of God and the service of man. Not writing checks, providing service.

RESOLVED that on the next mail ballot or business meeting, the disposition of the Social Justice contribution budget will be resolved.

FAILED

Meeting adjourned at 8:05

Respectfully submitted by: Hollie Dunham