

UUCR Board Meeting October 4, 2004 – Minutes

Attendees: Lillian Christman, Joyce Kirk, Maxine Jaubert, Scott Randolph, Peter Deschamps, Mark Howley, Emily Curry, Karen Curnow, Sydney Wilde, Dennis Daniel, Bill Eisnaugle, Alison Eskildsen.

This report provides highlights of the discussions from the meeting. A comprehensive list of action items appears at the end of the minutes.

I. WELCOME TO EMILY CURRY!

The Board welcomed Emily Curry who introduced herself as formerly with River Road, UU her whole life, currently working as a budget analyst for a federal agency.

II. REPORT: MINISTERS' REPORT

The ministers reported being very busy. Referring the Board to their written summary of activities, the ministers called the Board's attention to: custodial care on Sunday nights, the tentative proposal for Fran Lovace to co-chair the Forums for Free and Responsible Discourse, and the question of church incorporation to provide additional legal protections.

III. REPORT: DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Civil Marriage Banner: Members of Denominational Affairs Committee joined the Board at this meeting to share with the Board their thoughts relating to the posting of the "Civil Marriage is a Civil Right" banner. They spoke about issues of social justice, ethical aspects (damages our moral fiber if we are silent), church history on this issue (we've taken strong stands on other issues), and practical aspects of posting the banner. They referred us back to what it means to be a welcoming congregation and proposed that the Board vote to put the banner up as soon as was practical.

Bill mentioned that he understood there were 3 options relating to civil marriage:

- 1) individual members can sign
- 2) We can sign as a board of UUCR
- 3) We can sign as a congregation.

Maxine moved to accept the committee's proposal, seconded by Scott. There was some discussion about media coverage and workshops. The Board then voted with all in favor, no opposed or abstaining.

III. REPORT: DRE REPORT

Alison reported that the RE Committee would need to make decisions about summer camp at the November meeting. Alison agreed to speak with the RE

Committee about putting together a proposal for doing summer camp for the Board to consider and vote on at a later Board meeting.

IV. REPORTS: OTHER BUSINESS

Stewardship Workshop/Canvass Chair: The board was given an article about Jerry King that talked about his stewardship workshops. The Board agreed that any ideas we had for Scott for Canvass chair, to be sure to let him know as early as possible. Karen moved to support having the new canvass chair attending the stewardship workshops, a move that was seconded and approved by the Board (6 votes for; 1 abstention)

Flea Market: Caroline Hemenway and Annie Simpson have both indicated an interest in co-chairing the Flea Market for this coming year. Ruth Grubb has said she would be available as a “consultant” as well. Joyce moved to appoint Caroline Hemenway and Annie Simpson as co-chairs of the 2005 Flea Market. After being seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve this. Scott offered to email all 3 of the people in this situation to let them know.

Special Collections: Joyce shared with the group the new forms she drafted and got some feedback. The Board decided not to vote on it at this meeting, but rather to deal with this by email or at the next Board meeting. Joyce offered to make changes as recommended by the Board and will email to everyone the changed documents.

Letter from Katherine Marsh: Mark spoke about a letter we received from Katherine that expressed some concerns about our growth. Bill offered to reply to Katherine acknowledging receipt, draft more detailed response, and coordinate with Dennis who is writing a Parson’s Pen on this. Bill then agreed to send what he came up with to Mark and Dennis.

Alternative Gift Market: after someone raised the question of sponsors for the Alternative Gift Market, the group decided that this was not something that the Board needed to vote on, but would trust the group organizing this to handle this issue.

Exit surveys/surveys of members of the congregation: Maxine raised a concern about the need to get data from members who are leaving. The Board talked about having the Membership Committee report to us their recommendation on how best to survey the congregation. Bill offered to ask the Membership Committee to evaluate various tools and methods for surveying the congregation and report back to the Board. (Bill moved, Karen seconded with all votes unanimously in agreement.)

Social Justice: There was some conversation about Social Justice becoming a committee. The Board decided that they would need to present a charter to the Board for approval to be considered for committee status.

Denominational Affairs: When asked about church guest speakers, the Board decided that the Denominational Affairs committee can handle this issue – that it really did not need a Board decision but could approve speakers itself.

V. REPORT: TREASURER'S REPORT

After handing out the Church Windows financial report, Peter noted some corrections to it. He invited the Board to call him or Salena with any questions. Peter reported that there was an increased budget for three things:

- (1) Amount set aside for Audit – doubled from \$2,000 to \$4,000 per our decision as a Board at the last Board meeting.
- (2) Increased budget for janitorial services for one additional cleaning per week.
- (3) Increased budget for day care provider.

Peter reiterated that there were some glitches in the current system, and offered to speak with Terry to look at discrepancies and make sense of them. He also offered to have finance come to talk with the Board to walk us through changes to the budget. Alison asked the question where we should cost-account for expenses relating to the Sabbatical Committee. She agreed to contact Terry to ask about this.

VI. ACTION ITEMS:

Some of these items are carried over from September meeting:

- Sydney and Peter - draft a procedure for working hours time reporting process, following input from Kathie and Salina.
- Bill - draft thank you letter from board
- All - send Dennis your retreat check!
- Scott and Mark: Following input from Lori Dodd, handle the "hospitality committee" decision by email.
- Who? (Mark?): Ask each committee to describe what they are doing now and their plans for this church year.
- Karen: Email Scott with charter ideas.
- Tom Day: Continue taking care of banner logistics.
- All: send any additional ideas you have about media coverage/publicity of our banner to Al and Hank.
- Alison: Put together with the RE committee a proposal for doing summer camp for consideration at a future board meeting. Raise this issue with the RE Committee at their November meeting.

- Scott: email Caroline Hemenway and Annie Simpson about their appointment as co-chairs for the 2005 Flea Market.
- Joyce: make recommended changes to Special Collections guidelines and form and email to Board for final input.
- Bill: reply to Katherine Marsh, acknowledging receipt of her letter (which expressed "growth" concerns), draft a more detailed response with what we think we need to say, coordinate with Dennis who is writing a Parson's Pen on this, and email your draft to Mark and Dennis.
- Peter: Ask the Finance Committee to work us through changes to the budget, looking at discrepancies and helping us understand them.
- Alison: email Terry to get info about what line item to cost-account for expenses relating to the work of the Sabbatical Committee.
- All: send your suggestions for a Canvass chair to Scott.
- Bill? (not sure I have correct person): Contact Membership Committee asking them to evaluate different tools and methods for surveying the congregation and report back to the board.

The Board then went into executive session.