

AGENDA
UUCR Board Meeting
March 7th, 2005

Attendees: Mark Howley, Lillian Christman, Karen Curnow, Joyce Kirk, Bill Eisnaugle, Maxine Jaubert, Peter Deschamps, Scott Randolph, Alison Eskildsen, Sydney Wilde, Ana LaPera, Terry Mitchell.

Please note: A list of action items that emerged from this meeting appear at the end of these minutes.

I. Chalice Lighting & Ingathering

II. REPORT: WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Ana LaPera reported that we don't have to read all the exact words in the order of service. Now that we have greeters, we can invite people to talk with greeters. She reported that the Worship Committee had decided to allow no more than three announcements during Sunday services, commenting that we can't make everyone happy – some want to hear the details of what's going on while others want to just read about them.

When asked, "Can you educate the congregation about this?" Ana agreed to send to Mark the new language for how announcements are to be done. This will include guidance on the content of announcements. For example, we don't want politics in our announcements – issue advocacy yes, but politics, no. We need to define what we mean by "political." If there is a committee doing something, okay to do announcement. Ana will make sure that Salena gets the language for the newsletter and will make sure this language makes it into the order of service inserts. We may want to have people make announcements by first stating their affiliation with a specific committee.

III. REPORT: MINISTERS' REPORT

Sydney provided highlights from the ministers' report and invited feedback on the variety of music. She reported that Wilson is still not back in good health, but is getting better. He has made a commitment to try to be as present as he can be. She also explained that Dennis was home enjoying time with his son, that Adult RE was going well, and that the lay ministry training was under way. Sydney also reported that they had received some feedback from UUA on how to handle the challenges with the banner.

IV. REPORT: RE DIRECTOR

Alison invited the board to attend the RE parents' meeting coming up and to provide any feedback on the RE goals. Karen reported that Alison has groupies in the church, referring to a comment from one participant in the spiritual journeys program that Alison was leading ("I'll attend any program Alison leads.").

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Music Committee: Bill and Lillian reported having three names to put to Wilson to approve for the Music Committee (Ed Houck, Fran Lovace and Helen Shore) and asked for the board's approval to present them to Wilson.

Joyce Kirk moved that we accept these three names to be presented to Wilson for approval. Karen seconded. All voted in favor and the motion carried with no discussion.

Long Range Planning: Lillian presented the new draft of the plan for the long range planning committee, which included language that empowers the committee to create task forces and language that limits a person's length of service on the committee to 6 years. Bill expressed concern about term limits. Two concerns were raised: ensuring that this long-range planning group work closely with the lay ministry team and making sure that the plan is funded. All agreed that the committee has to be in contact with the finance committee.

There were some suggestions for rewriting the language that Lillian presented, including the addition of language that prevented micromanaging the process (the addition of the word "significant"), clarity about what kinds of activities would be funded and how this new committee would handle funding requests. Bill asked that Lillian rewrite #5 on the list of responsibilities and that she send this out for changes and a vote via email.

Children's House Lease increase: Mark reported that Keturah is self-managing and helping to maintain the facility. He also recommended that we put in an escalation clause of 4% annually and that we do a three-year lease rather than a one-year lease. Emily asked if there was any way to protect ourselves in the event of a rapid increase in inflation rates. Could we tie the rate to the CPI? Normally with leases, you specify a rate of increase, not linked to a standard or industry rate. Figuring out how to do that, would involve more time than we would probably want to put in. Bill put in a positive word about the benefits of having a 3 year lease. Another option that Bill suggested is to word it as an option - we could write the language that we could increase the rate of up to 4%, rather than automatic 4%. Challenge will be if the board doesn't stay on top of it, we could miss the deadline and would have a 0% increase. We can also make amendments to the lease later if needed.

Following discussion, Mark asked the board if a 3 year lease with 4% increase per annum was okay with everyone and if he could propose that to Keturah. The board responded yes. The 4% increase will begin in July.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Financial Review: Terry Mitchell provided a financial review to the board focused on stewardship campaign needs. Terry ran through some documents that he had emailed to the Board prior to the meeting. He mentioned that the main thing that the Board needed to do during this meeting was to set the goal for the Stewardship Campaign.

The group talked about the need to publish some of the financial info through a series of “did you know?” announcements in the order of service inserts and newsletter to highlight some of the financial realities of the church.

One person questioned the increase in music program fees, wanting to see some notable improvement in the music during services before approving an increase.

Last year, we came in just over \$200,000 with 126 pledge units at just under 1600 average per pledge unit. If you increase the number of pledge units to 140 and increase to 1786 average pledge, you reach just above \$250,000. Terry commented that the \$250K number is a stretch – maybe realistic but a stretch.

The group debated whether 240 or 250 should be the number. At 250, our recommendation would be to start building – the congregation would then decide. The \$250K starts the process, we’re off hold, still have some hoops to jump, but we’re back on track. One person suggested jokingly that we could have a Giving Sunday, then a second chance Sunday then an arm-twisting Sunday.

MOTION AND VOTE: Karen moved that we direct the Stewardship Committee to use \$250,000 as the stewardship campaign target. Joyce seconded that.

Discussion: this 250K will it be presented as the point at which we can begin building, takes the building off hold, move forward with the process. Bill suggested that \$240,000 be the target to achieve what we need to grow toward building and \$260,000 being the number that allows us to begin building. Concerns were raised about being clear and simple in the message we send to the congregation who are focused on the building. All voted in favor.

Banner: Mark reviewed the letter received from Reston Association requiring us to get permission to have the sign. Sydney reviewed the letter from Mr. John Hurley from UUA. Mark will write a letter and circulate to the Board and the ministers. The letter will propose leaving the banner up until after Easter. He will go to the press on it.

Keturah has expressed concern about the reaction to the sign and the safety of her students and parents. Mark agreed to go to the police to ask for increased patrols of our property.

Social Action Charter and Special Collections Policy – MOTIONS AND VOTES: The Social Action Charter was approved by the board, moved by Joyce for approval and seconded by Maxine. The policy regarding Special Collections was also passed, moved by Joyce for approval and seconded by Lillian.

Board Social – Maxine will host a party for visitors and new members in April.

Board Voice – Bill volunteered to write the next Board Voice for the newsletter.

The meeting was then adjourned.

FOLLOW-UP/ACTION ITEMS FROM MEETING:

WHO?	WHAT?
Ana LaPera	Send Mark the new language for how announcements are to be done. Also, make sure that Salena gets the language for the newsletter and that this language makes it into the order of service inserts.
Lillian	Present to Wilson the names of the three Music Committee members approved by the board.
Lillian	Incorporate changes to Long Range Planning Committee responsibilities and send via email to board.
Mark	Make changes to lease language to include escalation clause for lease with Keturah.
Terry Mitchell	Report to Stewardship Committee the \$250,000 stewardship goal.