

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta Board of Trustees
Minutes of the Meeting of April 26, 2011

Call to Order/Organizational Matters - Present: Scott Howell, Executive Director, Alicia Karpick, APP Director, Rev. Anthony David, Kristen Indermark, Joetta Prost, Conrado Marion-Landais, Marshall Orson, President, Clarke Weeks, Penni Dudley, Pam Kilmer, Eric Pohl, Beth Valentine, Jerry Moore, Lyn Conley, Norm Horofker, Intern, Ellen Beattie, President-Elect, and Representatives from The Long Range Planning Steering Committee - Lanie Damon, Wynn Montgomery, and Mary Ann Oakley

Chalice Lighting – Jerry Jerry opened the meeting by lighting the chalice and sharing a reading.

Each in His Own Tongue

William Herbert Carruth (4/5/1859-12/15/1924)

A fire-mist and a planet,
A crystal and a cell,
A jelly-fish and a saurian,
And caves where the cave-men dwell;
Then a sense of law and beauty,
And a face turned from the clod,--
Some call it Evolution,
And others call it God.

A haze on the far horizon,
The infinite, tender sky,
The ripe, rich tint of the cornfields,
And the wild geese sailing high,--
And all over the upland and lowland
The charm of the goldenrod,--
Some of us call it Autumn,
And others call it God.

Like tides on a crescent sea-beach,
When the moon is new and thin,
Into our hearts high yearnings
Come welling and surging in,--
Come from the mystic ocean
Whose rim no foot has trod,--
Some of us call it longing,
And others call it God.

A picket frozen on duty,--
A mother starved for her brood,--
Socrates drinking the hemlock,
And Jesus on the rood;
And millions who, humble and nameless,
The straight, hard pathways plod,--
Some call it Consecration,
And others call it God.

From Each in His Own Tongue and Other Poems. G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York

Finalize Agenda - Marshall confirmed that the agenda was in place without needing any changes.

Review Minutes from March 2011 –

Presentation on Atlanta Progressive Preschool (APP) Alisha Karpick Director - Marshall welcomed Alicia Karpick who directs our Atlanta Progressive Preschool. She went over the history and, philosophy of the preschool, explaining the Reggio Emilia approach and how the curriculum works. She shared their successes, and explained how the school incorporates UU values. Alicia led the Board on a tour of all the classrooms. Alicia reported that APP is at full enrollment with waiting lists for every classroom.

During questions and answers, board members expressed concern about the visibility of the connection between APP and UUCA and whether that is clear. They asked why there was no link on APP's website to UUCA's website. Alicia explained that that APP is secular school, but that they are very proud to be a program of UUCA.

Alicia expressed that she considers the wages of APP teachers are not competitive with the progressive preschools that she sees as competitors for students. She also noted that there is also no health benefit offered to teachers, as they are part-time. Asked about the credentials the APP teaching staff, Alicia reported that they are not required to be certified teachers, and most are not. Alicia also noted that the tuition at APP is higher than most preschools in the area.

Final Report and Vote on LRP - Mary Ann Oakley - MaryAnn, Wynn and Lanie from the LRP Steering Committee joined the Board to present the final Phase 1 plan for approval.

The LRPSC met with about 30 people in focus groups in April to go over the drafts of what was presented to the Board at the March meeting. There has been a lot of participation in focus groups and the document has changed and edited with every turn.

Mary Ann discussed the importance of having "buy in" from the congregation to support the plan long term. The LRPSC will be recruiting groups to work to develop the implementation plan for each aspiration in the Phase I document. Launch of the implementation plan will influence Rev. David's executive plan, and the monthly executive report.

Unanimous approval from the Board vote. Jerry moved, Pam seconded the motion. Congregational mailing ahead of the congregational meeting. Posted to website.

Congregational Life Committee (Eric, Conrado, Pam, & Beth) Eric – Notes from the listening session were distributed to the Board ahead of the meeting. Eric went over the list and the stronger points.

By-Laws and Policies Committee (Kristen, Cyndi, Penni, Jerry) Kristen – Kristen reported that they have had positive feedback from board members about the draft absentee voting policy. Though some had expressed concern about the name of the member appearing on the ballot, the BY=Laws Committee determined that a secret ballot is not a requirement of absentee voting since the congregational meeting votes are not anonymous. In order to ensure that those who cast absentee votes are voting members, the names of the voting member must appear on the on the absentee ballot. There will be safeguards to ensure there is not duplicate voting in absentee and in the meeting, etc. Committee recommends adopting the policies and procedures. The Board voted unanimously in favor of adopting the proposed policy as presented by the committee. The By-Laws

team will take steps to ensure policy is implemented for the upcoming May elections.

Executive Report: Anthony presented his Executive Report, which was distributed to the Board in anticipation of the meeting . He reported that he had a productive lunch with Mayor Reed, discussing recreation programs for at-risk youth, beautification projects and LGBT issues among others. Marshall pointed out that given that UUCA is located in unincorporated DeKalb County, it would also be a good idea for us to develop relations with the DeKalb CEO and other officials. Anthony reviewed the points in his report, including the Spirit of Service volunteer initiative which is ready to launch.

In addition, Anthony reported that Norm has been in conversation with the county about changing our street address from Cliff Valley to Northeast Parkway. The goal is to help visitors to locate us more easily. Our current address does not come up properly on systems such as Google maps, and it also leads people to the side of the building without parking . UUCA has been pursuing this change for some time and we are closer to getting a formal address change.

Finance Committee report (Scott/Clarke) Scott went over the financial statements for March. They showed that revenue came in this first quarter very close to the budgeted amounts, with only rental income falling below projections. Payments on pledges are trending comparably to last year and are strong. Expenses are trending somewhat below projections, especially in APP. Overall, we are on target at the end of the quarter.

Town Hall Meetings/Cong Meeting - Marshall asked for Board members to sign up to attend the upcoming Town Hall meetings in anticipation of the May 22nd Congregational Meeting. General Assembly: encouragement for as many Board trustees as possible to attend the UUA General Assembly in Charlotte NC June 22 – 26th.

Other Business - Endowment Fund Board nominations: Marshall reported that, as per the Endowment Fund request, he has been working on identifying nominees for their Board. The Board will vote on a slate of nominees to be presented for election by the UUCAEF Board. Marshall also reported that in the coming months, he and Eric will serve on a special Board taskforce to work with UUCAEF to review their current policies to ensure they allow UUCA to have sufficient voice in how the proceeds of the endowment are used in benefit of the congregation's goals.

Jerry expressed concern about the warm temperature in the sanctuary the previous Sunday. Scott replied that the HVAC maintenance contractors had inspected the units just the week before and said they were fine, but then, gave contradictory reports only a few days later. He is working to resolve this with them or change the contractors.

Final Comments - Marshall, as outgoing president, thanked the Board for their service this year. The Board has been engaged in the concerns of the congregation. Eric thanked Marshall for his leadership.

Adjourn

Calendar Items

May Board Meeting – 7:00 pm May 24th (Tuesday)

-- May chalice lighter -

--June "Above Board" article (final due May 15th) -

--Wisdom Conversation for May: Stewardship