

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta Board of Trustees**  
**December 7, 2010 Agenda**  
**Chapel**

**Call to Order/Organizational Matters** – Marshall called the meeting to order at 7:06. In attendance were Marshall Orson, President, Ellen Beattie, President-Elect, Cyndi McFarland, Secretary, Beth Valentine, Conrado Marion-Landais, Eric Pohl, Penni Dudley, Joetta Prost, Pam Kilmer, Clarke Weeks, Kristen Indermark, Rev. Anthony David, and Scott Howell, Executive Director.

**Chalice Lighting** – Clarke

Excerpts from “Unitarian Jihad”; Humorist Jon Carroll received it via an anonymous spam remailer while at The San Francisco Chronicle. He included it in the April 8, 2005 edition. The full article is included here

<http://tinyurl.com/ygdvp2v>

Greetings to the Imprisoned Citizens of the United States. We are Unitarian Jihad. There is only God, unless there is more than one God.

Too long has your attention been waylaid by the bright baubles of extremist thought. Too long have fundamentalist yahoos of all religions made your head hurt. Too long have you been buffeted by angry people who think that God talks to them. You have a right to your moderation! You have the power to be calm! We will use the IED of truth to explode the SUV of dogmatic expression!

People of the United States, why is everyone yelling at you??? Why is the news dominated by nutballs saying that the Ten Commandments have to be tattooed inside the eyelids of every American, or that Allah has told them to kill Americans in order to rid the world of Satan, or that Yahweh has instructed them to go live wherever they feel like, or that Shiva thinks bombing mosques is a great idea?

We have not been born again, nor have we sworn a blood oath. We do not think God cares what we read, what we eat or whom we sleep with.

We are Unitarian Jihad. We are everywhere.

**Finalize Agenda** – We added “Old Business” as a category to the agenda with no other changes being made.

**Review Minutes from October 2010** – Minutes were approved via e-mail prior to the meeting.

**Old Business** – Regarding the absence of the Cultural Mosaic budget from the 2011 Operating Budget, Cultural Mosaic is a fellowship group and thereby isn’t included in Operating Budgets.

We approved via e-mail, Jim Kelley’s nomination to fill the vacancy on the NLDC.

**Town Hall updates** – No substantive issues were raised at the Town Hall meetings with regard to issues that will be voted on at the December 12<sup>th</sup> Congregational Meeting.

For the most part, attendees were requesting additional information or clarity with regard to revenue and expense details, YTD actuals, staff changes and the true cost of the net effect, and Social Justice New Initiatives. Ellen and Scott will work on a different format for future mailings to include these details and others like them.

Another issue raised was Stewardship – Are we doing the best job we can do?

Due to the level of detail of some questions at the Town Hall meetings, we decided to have the detailed 2011 Operating Budget available for viewing at the Congregational Meeting in case questions were raised on specifics.

**By-Laws and Policies Committee (Kristen, Penni, Jerry, and Cyndi)** – With regard to the Absentee Voting amendment the Congregation will vote on at December 12<sup>th</sup> Congregational Meeting, the idea of absentee voting was initially well received by the Congregation and there were no concerns raised about the amendment during the Town Hall meetings leading the Committee to believe it should receive a passing vote.

The next two items on the Committee's agenda are exploring the use of Ministerial Life Committees in other UU congregations our size and getting input from the Board with regard to what a UUCA Group should be. The next action items presented to the Board from the Committee will be about defining official UUCA Groups.

**Congregational Life Committee (Eric, Conrado, Pam, and Beth)** – Beth reviewed the results from the November 14<sup>th</sup> Listening Session noting that it was as successful as the first one.

The three recurring themes in the discussion were: Outreach into the greater community, Spirituality through social justice, and UUCA is a space to make a difference. The Committee circulated a report to the Board with the rest of the findings from the session.

The Committee is going to schedule another Listening Session but will schedule it so as not to interfere with the plans of the Long Range Planning Committee.

**Executive Report** – The Board received Anthony's report as submitted with some discussion on the date of the multi-cultural worship service on April 10<sup>th</sup>. This is the last weekend of Spring Break for all metro Atlanta school systems and that could have a negative effect on attendance. At this point, there are no other Sundays available, but if the church retreat on the 17<sup>th</sup> falls through, the service could be moved to that date.

Although Marti's working title is Minister of Congregational Life and Denominational Affairs, per the By-Laws, her role falls under the definition of Assistant Minister.

Anthony has heard a lot of sadness from the congregation on the elimination of the Welcoming Minister's position, but not anger. Marshall suggested that Anthony reach out to members who joined UUCA via the Welcoming Minister's classes as a way of filling the void they might be feeling now that their point of contact is gone. Anthony plans on leading the membership classes from here on out as a way of having a closer relationship with the members.

**Finance Report on application to UUCAEF** - The UUCAEF turned down our requests for funding for both the Large Congregation Conference and GA. Some of these items are related directly to the cost of governance which must be funded through the budget if funding is not otherwise available. To this end, Anthony intends to provide funds from the Growth Initiatives Fund to cover the required costs which should be an acceptable solution and, therefore, not require additional stress on the operating budget.

The reasoning for denial of these grants is that they were not consistent with UUCAEF funding policy which stipulates a priority be given to funding capital endeavors and non-recurring expenses. Nonetheless, an example of a recurring expense they have funded in the past is leadership training, which is why the Board felt confident the proposal would be approved. Marshall expressed a desire to have a better and more clearly defined relationship with the UUCAEF in order to have a better understanding of their priorities.

In a review of the UUCAEF charter, Ellen noted that they are to submit to the Board an annual report, but none has been received by the Board in some time.

**Finance Report** – Scott handed out and reviewed a new budget worksheet comparing the Board approved 2011 budget based on a pledge projection of \$875,000 less 5%, with a revised budget based on a new pledge projection of \$840,000 less 5%. Also included in the worksheet were YTD Actuals as of the end of November and Projected 2010 Year End totals.

As of the last Sunday in November, \$830,000 in pledges had been received including significant increases in pledges already made. We need \$45,000 in additional 2011 pledges to meet the budget we approved in October.

Letters were mailed at the end of November encouraging people to give extra if they had fulfilled their pledge already or if it was obvious they would fulfill their pledge before year end. Letters to those whose fulfillment was questionable, simply asked for confirmation of their intent with regard to fulfilling their pledge.

In an effort to provide more education and encouragement to the congregation with regard to pledging, a pledge trivia Q&A e-mail will go out next week.

A lot of hard work has gone into the budget since it has been approved and the Board is very grateful for the talent and persistence that has been shown by Scott and the Executive Team during the budget process.

**Motion on time sensitive adjustments** – We agreed that any cost-reducing measures the Executive needs to take before the next Board meeting in order to adjust to reduced revenue projections could be implemented subject to our approval at the next full Board meeting.

**New Business** – No new business was raised.

**Wisdom Conversation: Board Service—time, tenure and size** – No handouts, just a brainstorming session on increasing the tenure from 2 years to 3 years. The By-Laws Committee was tasked with researching requirements to changing the bylaws to modify Board terms and there was a consensus that a 3 year Board term would be appropriate.

**Adjourn** – 9:35pm

**Congregational Meeting** – December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 10:20am

**Next Meeting - January 24<sup>th</sup>, 7pm**

**Chalice lighter - Kristen**

**Wisdom Conversation - Alliances and Allies**

**Article:** "God Beyond Borders: Interfaith Education and Congregations."

**Wisdom Conversation for February - What Should Congregational Meetings Accomplish**

**January Above Board article (final due 12/19/10) - Clarke**

**February Above Board Article (final due 1/16/11) - Joetta**