

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta Board of Trustees
July 26th, 2010 Agenda
Room 209-10

Call to Order/Organizational Matters - Marshall called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. In attendance were Marshall Orson, President, Ellen Beattie, President-Elect, Cyndi McFarland, Secretary, Beth Valentine, Clarke Weeks, Conrado Marion-Landais, Eric Pohl, Jerry Moore, Joetta Prost, Kristen Indermark, Pam Kilmer, Penni Dudley, and Rev. Marti Keller, Executive, Scott Howell, Executive Director.

Chalice Lighting - Conrado

"A church without a dogmatic creed but rather with the great and firm belief in the majesty of the universe and of the good and immortal soul which it inspires - what a grand church it would be, and how it would dignify discredited religion!

How it would contribute to keeping the religious spirit afire – the spirit in these anxious and money-tangled times!

And how might it gather all those who are enamored of the wondrous and in need of engaging with it, but who can't conceive that faculties could have been created in humanity disharmonious with nature which is all harmony, and who won't bargain away their reason and liberty in order to engage with the marvelous."

José Martí (1853 – 1895)

Comments at a school graduation ceremony in New York City, June 1884

Finalize Agenda - No changes were made to the Meeting's agenda.

Review Minutes from June 2010 - The minutes were approved via e-mail prior to the meeting.

By-Laws and Policies Committee (Kristen, Penni, Jerry and Cyndi) – The Committee is waiting for the final Absentee Voting survey results to come in and will also be meeting with Anthony about the policy on Resolution on Resolutions he recently presented to the Board when he returns from vacation. Following this, the survey results and any recommendations the Committee has on the Resolution on Resolutions will be presented to the Board for appropriate action.

Per Marshall's request, a report on other large UU congregations with regard to the use of committees on ministry and denominational affairs will be compiled and sent to the Board and Executive.

Congregational Life Committee (Eric, Conrado, Pam and Beth) – The Committee is moving forward on holding focus groups for the purpose of taking the pulse of UUCA and finding out the meaning of membership to those attending the groups. The first focus group will be held at the end of August on a Sunday afternoon consisting of 6 -12 people invited by the Committee with no particular affinity to one another.

There have been 3 responses so far to the solicitation for involvement on the Long Range Planning Committee. The plan is to have recommendations on the member of the steering committee ready to discuss with Marshall and Anthony when Anthony returns from break.

Finance Report – Scott Howell presented the financial report for June stating both income and expenses were at 52% of budget as of June 30. He said he was currently projecting year end pledge revenue to be right on target with budgeted pledge revenue, and other revenues lines to average out to the total expected year end revenue.

He was pleased with the responses that resulted from the mailing of the mid-year pledge statements and letters as they were very helpful with fine tuning the revenue numbers. Several large payments have been

received, a few pledge amounts were adjusted, and a few 2010 pledges posted in 2009 were corrected as well. A full report will be received next month. The breakdown of the letters is as follows:

- 100% of their 2010 pledge – thank you
- 50% or more on 2010 pledge – thank you/let us know of any changes
- Less than 50% on 2010 pledge – thank you/reminder/let us know of any changes
- No payment on 2010 pledge – reminder/let us know of changes
- “Pledgers” w/out a Pledge form – thank you/please fill out a pledge form

The Building and Grounds expense budget is depleted due to repairs and maintenance on the HVAC system and the contract for HVAC is up for a rebid to ensure that we are getting the best possible price. If regular B&G budget is depleted, the repairs will be covered with reserves.

Marti explained that the Kroger Fundraising program was a Board initiated program about 20 years ago and that it is a revenue source for the budget that should be emphasized. Going forward, it will be given more advertising attention to drum up more participants and to remind current participants to continue participating.

Marshall requested that benchmarks for cash-on-hand be established in order to give the Board a clearer understanding of our relative cash position. This information should help the Board be aware of impending cash shortages so we can anticipate and address potential problems early on.

Executive Report - The Board received Marti’s report as submitted with further discussion on the data on membership and attendance submitted with the report.

The inclusion in the report of the continuing education efforts by the staff this summer was a reminder that they are still going strong during the summer months even though it may appear on the surface that everyone is taking a break.

The fire drill was postponed until Pat is back in town and the Emergency Preparedness Plan is being tweaked.

Wisdom Conversations - Congregational Diversity <http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/158175.shtml>

Other Business – There will be a Large Church Conference in Minneapolis in March, sponsored by the UUA. This happens every 3 years, and Marshall plans to have Ellen and himself attend and will determine, if there is interest and the budget allows, for other Board members to attend, in addition to the staff. This conference falls in line with our previous discussion about the benefits of meetings and conferences that specifically address the needs and nature of large congregations.

Our Board badges should be in by next Thursday.

Adjourn – 9:00pm.

Next Meeting – Thursday August 26th, 7pm

Chalice Lighter – Eric