

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta Board of Trustees**

**October 25, 2010 Agenda**

**Room 209-210**

**Call to Order/Organizational Matters** – Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:45. In attendance were Marshall Orson, President, Ellen Beattie, President-Elect, Cyndi McFarland, Secretary, Beth Valentine, Conrado Marion-Landais, Eric Pohl, Penni Dudley, Jerry Moore, Kristen Indermark, Anthony David, Executive, and Scott Howell, Executive Director. Clarke Weeks joined the meeting in the second hour.

**Chalice Lighting** – Penni

The International Council of Unitarians and Universalists Global Chalice Lighting from April 2010

In the name of compassion and loving-kindness :

Following the paths of Ibn Arabi, a Sufi master,

we let our hearts dilate to enable them to fit all spiritual or existential kinds.

For those who seek, our hearts have become church, temple, synagogue, mosque, sanctuary;  
stronghold for the poor, for those who are suffering, for minorities wherever they come from.

We believe in the religion of Love, which has no gender, and to which all personal stories are leading.

Because Love is our religion and our faith.

Yohann Amal

Conseil des Unitariens et Universalistes Français (CUUF)

**Finalize Agenda** – An NLDC request was included in the By-Laws report, the Executive's request for grants from the UUCA-EF was added, and the Wisdom Conversation was removed due to time constraints.

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

**Executive Report** – The Board received Anthony's report as submitted with Anthony highlighting the Pay It Forward Initiative and reading an additional letter he received. This initiative is being well received and people are enjoying participating in it.

It was brought to our attention that this Executive Report is different from others in the past as the format is addressing the progress of the Executive's workplan for the year instead of addressing the adherence to Executive Limitations. The new format for the Executive Report will be complete by the time the February Executive Report is due and will be much more useful to the Board and Executive.

Anthony was asked about the completion of the Safety Plan & would UUCA be investing in defibrillators. Due to the cost and liability if they were to be misused, there weren't any plans to buy defibrillators. Conrado said he could provide information about less costly defibrillators that require little or no knowledge of how to use them, making the liability virtually a non-issue.

The numbers from the Phoenix 5K are not in yet, but they will be in the October financials. Anthony will follow up with APP about the absence of a link to the UUCA website on the APP web page.

In discussion about the commissioning of the Long Range Plan Steering Committee, the question was raised as to their ability to represent the congregation's diversity. Anthony pointed out that they were chosen on the qualifications put forth on their applications only, rather than on their demographics, but said that their committees will be very diverse. They will be making sure that all voices at UUCA will be heard and represented during the Long Range Planning process.

**UUCA-EF Proposals** – The Executive asked for approval of two UUCA-EF grant proposals. One request is for funding for two Board Officers and eight congregants to go to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary General Assembly held in

Charlotte, N.C. in June 2011. The other request is for seven Senior staffers and three lay leaders to go to the Large Congregation Leadership Development Conference in Minneapolis in March 2011.

Marshall asked that the airfare to Minneapolis be increased by \$75 for each participant and that the number of funded congregants going to General Assembly be increased from eight to ten.

The Board approved both proposals as amended per Marshall's request.

**By-Laws and Policies Committee (Kristen, Penni, Jerry and Cyndi)** – The Board approved as submitted, with no discussion, the amendment to Article VII. Section D.2., regarding absentee voting, that was reviewed by the Board last month. The proposed amendment will be presented to the congregation for approval in the December Congregational meeting.

With respect to the Resolutions Policy, the By-Laws Committee is awaiting guidance from the Board and Executive on the issue of what constitutes an official UUCA group. Although the Committee has anecdotal information from various sources on what makes groups official in other congregations, Kristen would like the Board's input, too. She asked that "What Is An Official UUCA Group?" be a Wisdom Conversation in the near future. Once it can be determined what an official group is at UUCA, the Committee can move forward with completing the Resolutions Policy.

The NLDC asked the By-Laws Committee for guidance on filling NLDC vacancies that occur before terms expire. Kristen reported that the Committee has interpreted the current By-Law's language as requiring the Board to request the NLDC to prepare a slate to fill any vacancies. (See Article VIII. Section A.2.(e)) The Board agreed that no action needed to be taken at this time as no resignations had been received by the NLDC. Kristen will report back to the NLDC with the Board's decision.

Anthony asked the Committee for guidance on content with regard to a Leadership Development packet he was preparing for the NLDC, but the By-Laws have no specifics on Leadership Development. It was agreed that Anthony should move forward with preparing and submitting the packet, and per Marshall's request, the Committee will review the By-Laws further for gaps, inconsistencies, and ambiguities.

**Congregational Life Committee (Eric, Conrado, Pam and Beth)** – November 14<sup>th</sup> is the next Focus Group but the roster of participants is still pending.

The Committee thought the Board making use of the UUCA Blog would be a good mechanism for shedding light on what the Board does as this was one of the concerns raised at the first Focus Group. Suggestions for Blog content were a condensed version of the minutes, the Absentee Ballot timeline, and other Board activities. Eric said this would be an undertaking of the Committee, not the Office of Secretary.

Anthony suggested that a successful use of the Blog would be as an advertisement/recruitment tool to potential Board members. Members who are Board material could be invited to read the Blog and hopefully be moved to join the Board by the content they read.

**Finance Report** – Executive Director, Scott Howell, presented the financial statements for September, and reported that both Income and the Expenses are in line with the operating budget. We are currently projecting a surplus of \$22K at the end of 2010.

**Finalize 2011 Budget** – The Executive presented for Board approval the proposed Operating Budget for 2011. The total budget was for \$1.3 million. The 2011 Budget is based on an \$875K gross pledge target and includes the APP general compensation numbers and the two UUEF grant proposals.

Anthony reminded us that even though our pledge total has been flat for the last three years due to decreases in membership and pledges, we have a lot to celebrate nonetheless.

Scott will follow up with Pat Kahn about the missing IDN (Interfaith Disability Network) dues and Anthony will follow up with Marti Keller about the absence of the Cultural Mosaic Group budget.

The Board approved the budget as it was submitted and will review via e-mail an amended budget if the IDN dues and/or the Cultural Mosaic Group budget need to be included. The costs for these two items are minimal.

**Other Business** – Stewardship results so far – We have \$546,000 in pledges received by 235 units. The increases and new pledges are greater than decreases by \$12,000. We have 384 units outstanding.

The Director of Welcome Ministries and Director of Religious Education are sending pledge solicitation letters to their constituents and anyone who has given within the last two years.

Next Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, is Board Sunday – we are serving as greeters, ushers, and plate collectors at both services.

November's meeting was moved to December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

**Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:47

**Next Meeting – December 7<sup>th</sup>, 7pm**

**Congregational Meeting – December 12<sup>th</sup>, between services.**

**Chalice lighter** - Clarke

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

**December Above Board article (final due 11/21/10)** - Conrado

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