



Notes from UUBC Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, September 5, 2013

Jeff Tate's home Rogers, AR

Attendees		
Carol Bobek	Michelle Harvey	Jim Jensen
Julie Jensen	Harris McKee	Tony Miltich
Hannah Roberts	Jeff Tate	

Financial Issues

Treasurer's report: Things are good; our balance continues to go up each month.

Action item: Jim will confirm that, despite all the transitions, all religious education (RE) teacher payments are up to date. (Add Jim's report). Jim will also secure a credit card (w/minimal limits) for major Sunday school and other UUBC purchases; the credit card will be used only by designated signatories.

Board issues

Carol Bobek announced that she will rotate off the Board in December, once the new RE program and staff are up and running.

Advisory Board vacancy: Jeff invited Dave Sippel to fill the current vacancy, and David accepted.

Update on the progress of the Task Force groups

The Board discussed the various findings from the joint meeting of the ministerial and membership definition task forces with Gary Yokie, a colleague of David Sippel's from Dallas. It turned out that Yokie's UU fellowship is actually planning to seek a part-time minister to attract new members, as additional fellowships in the area have drawn members away. However, they do have an area-wide jointly populated website for UU that then offers info on each of the Dallas-area fellowships

Membership Definition Task Force – has drafts after two meetings; probably need one more gathering to finalize recommendations.

Ministerial Task Force – Need one more meeting to confirm recommendations. UUFF asked for a UUBC proposal to jointly host a minister, but UUFF appears likely to seek their own full time minister. Eureka Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (EUUF) is interested in discussing the joint appointment; UUBC would need at least an additional \$3,500/month in revenue to hire a part time minister.

Building Task Force – no likely better option to propose.

Staffing issues:

Religious Education (RE) Program staff and budget:

Holly announced that she will be leaving due to her school workload and other work responsibilities. Carol and Hannah have been working on staffing and materials; two teachers have been invited to UUBC and interviewed and both will be offered employment. Schedule: for the new teachers: they will attend on September 3rd Sunday w Holly (Holly's last Sunday); meet parents at 4th Sunday; use 5th Sunday to plan; and officially roll out Spirit Play on the 1st Sunday in October.

A Sunday school supplies budget was approved, authorizing up to \$200/month during October, November, and December to reimburse purchases of program start-up supplies; requests for additional funds can be submitted.

Music Substitutes:

The Board discussed paying musicians who perform in Claire's absence, and agreed that all substitutes would be paid at the same rate as Claire would have been for the given Sunday.

Pastoral Counseling:

The Board discussed the possibility of hiring one or more people to be available as spiritual counselors for the UUBC fellowship.

Action items: Jeff and Jim will explore the topic on UU discussion groups and review insurance policy for liability issues associated with such an arrangement; Julie will initiate conversation with potential candidates for possible proposal.

Marketing and Communications Support and Board Liaison:

Given the increasing need for an active marketing and communications committee, the Board agreed to seek more members for the committee and then groom interested people for future Board membership. Caroline Lennox at UUFF is also interested in digitally linking NWA UUs.

Action items: Jeff will follow up with Caroline. Julie is also talking w EUUF about a more interactive relationship with UUBC.

Sunday Services

Julie noted that UUES has one large committee that addresses all Sunday programming; UUBC will explore such a coordinated approach.

September Fifth Sunday will be a float trip and Elk River clean-up; UUBC will cover the cost of boat rentals. Visiting another church as a group was suggested as a future activity, but the Board agreed that 5th Sunday should stay focused on service.

There was a brief discussion on what makes an appropriate announcement to be shared on Sundays, and the Board reaffirmed that announcements must be for the good of UUBC participants. Noting that one announcement was skipped recently, it was also agreed that simply having Mary ask each week if anyone's card – for a joy, concern, or announcement – had been overlooked was likely the best way to proceed.