

Notes from UUBC Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday January 16, 2014
Jeff Tate's home, Rogers, AR



DRAFT

NEXT MEETING: To Be Scheduled.

January Attendees		
Jim Jensen	Julie Jensen	Melissa Jordan
Harris McKee	Hannah Roberts	Dave Sippel
Jeff Tate		
<i>Not in attendance:</i>	Michelle Harvey	Tony Miltich

1. The Board **welcomed Melissa Jordan** to the Board.
2. **Designation of Secretary—Harris McKee** agreed to serve as Secretary in the absence of any other volunteers.
3. **Treasurer's Report—Jim Jensen** reported that the current balance in our banking account is approximately \$13,000. Revenue and expenses have been about \$2,000 per month.
4. **Current Status of Musical Program.** With Claire Detels' departure, our music program has reverted to a dependence on our musical members. **David Sippel** will be in charge of 1st Sunday Music and **Charles Faulk** will handle 3rd Sundays. No choir activities are planned for the immediate future but it was noted that **Charles Faulk** has conducted choirs previously. If we are able to again muster a choir under his direction, we may switch responsibilities for 1st and 3rd Sundays. For 2nd and 4th Sundays we will depend on canned music. (Our existing system can accommodate inputs from iPhone and Android phones as well as MP3s, etc.) **David** indicated that he plans to provide lyrics to well-known singable songs for the services that he supports.

David Sippel also reported on his review of a possible P.A. system to complement our current audio capabilities. He has noted that we need a system distinct from the Elks system for performers. He considers the Elks system inadequate for singers and stated that it is located too far from the location of our performers. (This is ironic, since the Elks system was moved from a position immediately above the usual location of our keyboard after we began to meet there to permit adjustment without distracting the audience!) The board authorized **David** to proceed to acquire the system that he identified for approximately \$870 after a substantial discount from the provider.

The board discussed hymn selection in some detail. Only your secretary felt that recent hymns had been singable.

5. **Communication to the fellowship of UUBCAB Decisions/Actions and, in particular, 2013 Building, Minister, and Member Task Force Results.** **Jeff Tate** agreed to provide a brief announcement at the January 19 service summarizing the results from our three task force efforts. Both the Building and Minister studies concluded that at the present time we cannot afford either a building or even a half-time Minister. The Member Task Force has proposed an initial approach to member designation that will be used to report our status to the Unitarian-Universalist Association. A draft of this proposal is appended as Appendix I to these minutes.

In order to improve the transparency of UUBCAB activities, members will be notified by email when minutes are posted on the Members-Only website and a limited number of hard copies will be available on the 4th Sunday on the membership table.

6. **Meet-Up RSVPs.** UUBC's services have been announced on Meet-Up, an internationally recognized site for registering meetings and a number of our visitors found us through Meet-Up. Earlier we were frustrated by results of the RSVP part of the service when only a few RSVPs were submitted for our Sunday services even though normal attendance was 30-40. To address this problem the RSVP interval was limited so much that those who wished to RSVP were frustrated. As a revision to this approach, the board resolved that the RSVP should be reopened but each posting should include a note to the effect, "Average attendance is 30-40 and while RSVPs are encouraged, UUs have been notoriously delinquent in their submission".
7. **Sunday Programming Consolidation.** **Julie Jensen** reported that in a meeting on Sunday of the 1st and 3rd Sunday teams they forwarded a proposal to work more closely together in scheduling speakers and to modify the 2nd Sunday sessions as follows: there will be three groups, 1) the homily group, 2) a discussion of the previous 3rd Sunday talk, and 3) an "As You Like It" group which will discuss any topic the group selects; presumably the third group could split into subgroups if more than one topic is of interest. UUBCAB approved trying this approach.
8. **First Sunday Speaker Qualifications.** Our specified procedure has been to require 1st Sunday speakers to be ordained ministers. **Julie Jensen** noted the team has experienced occasional difficulties in meeting this requirement and asked for an alternative approach. In discussion of the topic, and noting that implementation of this requirement had caused past problems, the board adopted the following guidance: 1) It is preferred that 1st Sunday Speakers be ordained ministers, 2) Speakers clearly qualified for 3rd Sunday presentations will be placed as back-ups for 1st Sundays and at the discretion of the 1st Sunday team may be scheduled for 1st Sunday if necessary.
9. **Marketing in Print and Radio.** We have reinstated the KUAF ads. They are broadcast during morning and evening drive times during the week before 1st Sundays. In discussion about the proposed *Peek-a-Boo* ad, Hannah noted that such an ad really needed to be eye catching to get reader recognition. Jeff agreed to talk to his daughter about ideas for achieving this goal.
10. **Scheduling the Next World Café.** Board agreed to schedule our next World Café to coincide with the April 4th Sunday service and asked **Melissa** to coordinate with the 4th Sunday team leaders. We need to refine the questions to ask in the World Café but agreed they should focus on "Where We Are".
11. **Joint Board Meeting.** Members of our Advisory Board met at the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Fayetteville on January 12 with UUFF Board members and Board Members of the Eureka Springs Fellowship. Key Ideas from this meeting are appended as Appendix II. **Jeff** noted that he had agreed to serve on a team tasked with identifying a name for the Joint UUs of NWA.

Appendix I. Membership Draft-- Here is an idea about UUBC membership to get us started toward the definitions that we need, both for UUBC and the UUA:

1. Voting Member
 - a. Attends greater than 25% of Sunday meetings
 - b. Makes and pays an annual pledge
 - c. Attends educational sessions on Unitarian Universalism: History, UUA Administrative Structure, UUA Annual Meetings, and so forth
2. Member
 - a. Makes and pays an annual pledge
 - b. Attends educational sessions on Unitarian Universalism: History, Administrative Structure, Annual Meetings, and so forth
3. Friend--All others who want to be officially affiliated with UUBC
4. Attendance and pledge payment determined on an annual basis
5. Membership status would be adjusted annually depending on attendance and pledge payment the previous calendar year

This system could be announced to our congregation this month. We could set up a series of educational classes throughout 2014 that those who wish to be members could attend. Requests for 2014 pledges could be made right away.

We could postpone membership classifications for one year, and then in January of 2015 classify membership based on 2014 attendance, educational participation, and pledge payment.

For purposes of the UUA, we could look at 2013 attendance data and count as voting members all those who attended greater than 25% of meetings, and who made a financial contribution. We could report these persons as our current voting members to the UUA, and report our 2013 operating expenses. This would give the UUA the data they need to continue UUBC as an official UU congregation. We might be asked to pay dues to the UUA.

Appendix II. Key Ideas from Joint Boards Meeting of 12 January 2014
Eureka Springs UU, UU Fellowship of Fayetteville, UU of Benton County

1. Links for each fellowship on each fellowship's website
2. Share list of good Sunday speakers, including members of each fellowship
3. Use UUFF clerical staff jointly for administrative-clerical tasks
4. Joint service projects that will be bigger, more impactful, and more meaningful
5. Fayetteville UU to share their recently revised Policies & Procedures manual
6. Create a joint Grievance Committee for better impartiality in handling problems among members and staff
7. Joint funding to bring UU leadership training to our area
8. Host joint social events at least three times per year
9. Joint young-adult programs
10. Joint annual membership retreat with programs and socializing
11. Create an alliance of our three UU fellowships, such as "UU Alliance of NWA"
 - a. UUANWA website with information on UU, and on each fellowship
 - b. Joint marketing of UU in NWA
12. Continue regular joint meetings of our three Boards