

UUCWI Board of Trustees Minutes - FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2009

Called to Order by Chair Baird B, 9:05 AM

Attendees: Baird B, Kit K, Mavis C, Camille L, Lois C, Mark B, and Joann R, (note-taker)

Chalice lighting by Kit K in Paula's absence.

Approval of December 2008 Minutes – Revised: substituted “should” for “need” in status report for occupancy permit, and report from liaison to Worship Committee included.

Minister's Report-Kit

1-*UUCWI as a nominating congregation for Gini Courter as UUA Moderator* was moved by Joann R, seconded by Camille L. Motion passed. It was noted in discussion that she will be our speaker on March 22nd, 4 PM dedication ceremony.

2-*Policy on use of church directory for commercial purposes* – Some complaints were received on a recent e-mail using the UUCWI Directory mailing list (naming the source) to advertise a local business, which created a need for policy/best practice.

Discussion: how to define the parameters, with a personal reminder to the sender. Mavis pointed out that the UUCWI Directory already has guidelines, but can include a request for use for UUCWI communication only. Camille moved to include that wording, and Lois seconded the motion. The motion was passed after discussion. Mavis will revise wording in the Directory, and Kit will compose a message for the Friday announcements and give a personal reminder to the sender.

3-*Offering UUCWI facilities and Minister free for same sex couples in 2009* – Kit introduced this item, suggesting this as a gift/gesture in response to recent Proposition 8 in California, and to reinforce our position as a welcoming congregation, via the So. Whidbey Record and the Whidbey News Times. It would demonstrate both the First and Fifth Principles of UUA.

Camille moved to offer the use of our sanctuary and Kit's ministerial services to be gifted for marriages for committed same-sex couples, within Whidbey Island in the year 2009. Second to the motion by Mark.

Discussed: time limit, members already “free” via pledges to UUCWI, other couples with monetary needs (Kit has a “sliding scale” according to perceived financial need), whether other venues on Whidbey Island are also available, and that this is a Principle statement to the larger community and therefore presents a larger view.

Kit will include this as a request for support during the January 18 service, and will include it in Friday announcements and in the newsletter.

4-*Status of services in July and August* - Worship Committee has requested and it is understood that as a committee they are not responsible for organizing July services as an additional task. Kit reiterated volunteering to work with persons interested in conducting July services, with any number of possible themes: e.g., discussions, picnics, readings, etc. Camille questioned pay for musicians – answer: these July services would be without remuneration, as there is no budgeting for that at this time.

5-Official weather policy – Mavis has researched the policy for Saltwater Congregation in Des Moines. Baird moved and Camille seconded a motion to approve the use of their wording, which includes: members use discretion, a recorded message announcing closure on the church answering machine, announcement on the web site and on the e-mail list.

(Mavis' e-mail message: *“During the winter season, we ask each individual to judge for him- or herself whether road conditions are safe enough to travel to church. However, in the interest of the safety of all our members, in the event of severe winter weather the leadership of the congregation may decide to cancel Sunday morning service or other church events. If events are cancelled, the following will happen: There will be a recorded message announcing the cancellation on the church's answering machine. And announcement will be posted on the church's web site at www.whidbey.com/uucwi. An announcement will be sent over the church's e-mail list.”*)

6-Attendance at AGM. Delegate representation – Baird asked which Board members plan to be delegates. Baird and Peggy will be delegates, and Kit Ketcham will attend as minister/non-delegate. Additional note: The Committee on Ministry training is February 7th in Edmonds. Mark B will canvass COM members to attend; Mark Brown might be able to go.

Discussed whether budget has money designated for leadership training. Baird checked budget categories suitable for funding this, and moved to authorize funding up to \$150 for three COM members to attend training on February 7th at Edmonds. Lois seconded, Passed by Board.

Reports

Treasurer's Report – Paula absent, but sent report via e-mail. Baird announced that three months' mortgage payments have been made, and the budget has a reasonable balance.

Discussed: Rentals – Mavis reported that building rental requests have not been “overwhelming”.

Status of Occupancy Permit- Baird reported – this is pending. Tom is working on the ramp project and needs two steps on the north side railings, plus gravel; sheathing exterior portion of the beams; and opening access panels to the attic. Weather has been a factor.

Social Responsibility Council Report - Next Potluck to be held January 25, after church, with discussion concerning the March 29th service. Joann will inquire about March 29th on Monday Jan. 12th about any concerns, and reiterate that the Worship Committee is not responsible for March 22nd, 29th or any July services.

Building Use Committee Report – Peggy B. has suggested more use of the building for each committee meeting, such as Book Club, Meditation Group (when begun), and any future projects. Discussed when this is appropriate or desired by groups.

Report of new business from committee liaisons:

1-Stewardship, Lois – The Committee Chair is starting to assign jobs for the April Stewardship Campaign. They need more visiting stewards – there are five now, and would like 20 so each has approximately three households to visit/contact. The goal is to visit both members and friends. The group suggests that direct approach is best.

Mavis will contact those on Lois' list and Lois will announce the needs during services.

2-Membership, Lois – Sara Heath has joined the Committee. Other member names were suggested during discussion. Mavis asked about generating member help in contacting names on the guest register. First step in contacting guests is by sending the newsletter; Mavis will send a cover letter with the newsletter and trifold information brochure, but has passed the responsibility to the Membership Committee, to send further appropriate materials.

3-CRE, Paula (absent, so Kit reported). Committee Makeup includes new member Vicky Pitt, as CRE Chair. Thirty-seven students are registered; there has been a recent drop-off in attendance, although personal contact via phone may bring results. Shannon O'Phelan has volunteered to be leader for OWL (Our Whole Lives) curriculum, which includes MAGs and Quaker Youth, combined.

Child Dedication will be February 8th.

CRE requests that there be childcare at every event at the church. MAGs may help; the Board will provide funding.

Young Adult Group is beginning, via a dinner along with child care on January 16th, postponed from December.

Lori has organized a Talent Show for Sunday March 29th at 4 PM – it will be on the calendar. CRE is asking UUCWI to purchase a movie license for showing movies in our building. Mavis has some information, but Kit will take response to CRE/Vicky to find out more on what this involves.

4-Worship, Joann – will report to the Worship Committee (WC) that the Board understands that Worship Committee is not directly responsible for organizing July services, and that Kit has volunteered to work with persons interested in conducting July services. Camille questioned pay for musicians, and it is understood there will be no remuneration, also a message to Worship Committee on Monday. In addition: (a) BOT is inquiring about plans for the March 22nd Dedication Service, and assure WC they are not responsible for conducting/planning this service, but may need help with the music. (b) Kit will discuss the plans for the March 29th "Justice Sunday" with Social Responsibility Committee when they next meet.

Old Business.

Status of new member biographies, picture, bulletin board and newsletter - Lois and Baird volunteered to work together: Baird to get phone list for requests for biographies. Camille will ask to get Aesthetics Committee input on location for best visibility. Several ideas were discussed for appropriate display. Lois asked if we might generate a way for new members to get reciprocal familiarity with current members, perhaps via password protected photos on the web site. The group also discussed using photos in the Directory. Celia will take photos; we may investigate how Trinity Lutheran does member pictures. No decision; no assigned task as yet.

History of UUCWI Project – Malcolm is planning to burn CDs to offer to member at \$6.00 per disk, to cover costs. Mavis suggested wiki/online is still an option. She will talk with Kim Jones and Malcolm about keeping the History current via web uploads as a more desirable option.

New Business. –Report on Pat Lewis: she is recovering slowly at home, and is on oxygen.

She was visited in hospital twice by Joann R.(Caring Concerns rep for No. End) Pat has been sent flowers and a card by Baird and Peggy, along with our best thoughts for her speedy recovery.

Action item – Bobby Crosby is custodian. Baird submitted a simplified time sheet sample to BOT; Camille suggested some revision, as a detailed checklist with specific jobs. Camille, Lois and Mavis will add these items to the basic template.

Vanco issue: Budget Committee is not interested – “too difficult” for UUCWI, but individuals can set up their own recurring payments via their banks, to issue checks for pledges to UUCWI.

Chalice Lighter for February 13 BOT meeting: Paula Keohane.

Adjournment