

**Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 26, 2009**

MINUTES

Call to Order & Welcome Guests. Margaret Wilcox called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

Board members present: Margaret Wilcox, John Abbott, Carrie Cornwell, Fred Schlaepfer, Barbara Hopkins, Denis Edgren, Lisa Malkin, and Judy Morrison. Linda Klein arrived at 8:15.

Staff present: David McMorris, Rev. Doug Kraft, and Rev. Roger Jones

Guests: Michele Ebler, Natalie Ebler, Glory Wicklund

Guest comments: Natalie explained that she was attending this meeting as part of the Coming of Age process.

Consent agenda: The February Board meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

ORGANIZATIONAL/RELATIONSHIP MATTERS:

Community garden proposal. Glory Wicklund presented the community garden group's request for \$4,788.13 from the Heritage Fund to pay for fencing, soil, beds, and irrigation supplies for the garden to be installed between Room 11 and the shed. Glory and Margaret noted that those proposing the garden ran the idea of where to place it by the Vision into Action Task Force Chair Barbara Gardner, who indicated that the space would not likely be used for another purpose in the next five to ten years. Carrie moved and Barbara seconded that the board provide the funds requested from the Heritage Fund. Passed unanimously.

Strategy for the use of bequests: matching funds to priorities. Margaret reviewed the board's prior discussions on prioritizing the use of the bequests. Denis presented his further refinements for possible distribution of bequests based on feedback he received at the February board meeting, including specifically that the amount for the Endowment Trust would be \$100,000 or 10% of bequests. Margaret agreed to draft a set of guidelines, which Denis will edit, that will be made available to the congregation. Denis moved and John seconded that the board adopt the guidelines embodied in Denis' document. Passed unanimously.

2009-10 Budget. Lisa explained the Executive Committee's recommended adjustments to the Finance Committee's proposed 2009-10 budget. That budget was approximately \$90,000 in deficit. In recognition of the importance the board has placed on having a

balanced budget, the Executive Committee recommendation reduced the deficit to \$5,000. This included reducing the PCD and UUA dues to \$6,000 and then having a special contribution drive to raise the \$6,000 or more to pay dues to PCD and UUA. (Total or "fair share" dues would be about \$32,000, but these are not included in the proposed budget.) In addition, the board added the new part-time membership coordinator position as an expense at \$18,000 plus benefits (totaling \$75,000 over three years) and a corresponding revenue item from a bequest. Carrie moved and Linda seconded that Executive Committee's proposed budget be approved for presentation to the congregation. Passed unanimously.

Weilgart Fund. Previously the board had made available \$30,000 to cover the 2009 budget deficit, should it occur. There was discussion that the board could use any of that \$30,000 remaining after covering the 2009 deficit to cover any deficit realized in the 2010 budget year.

1999 Member Notes. David explained that in 1999 UUSS borrowed \$90,000 from about 18 or 20 members of the congregation via promissory notes. UUSS still owes 16 (some have forgiven their loans) about \$27,000 in principal. The Executive Committee recommends that the loans be paid out of bequests -- and that those making the loans be given the option to forgive the principal they are owed -- to save \$2700 in annual interest costs. Linda moved and John seconded that we call the 1999 member notes and that in the letter to those holding the notes ask if they would like to forgive the remaining principal UUSS owes on the note. Passed unanimously.

Entry way project funding request. The Campus Development Task Force of VIA requests \$1,400 to complete architectural drawings for the entry way project. John moved and Judy seconded that \$1400 be allocated from the Parness Fund to provide a building and grounds match for this project for which the board expects significant independent fundraising to occur spearheaded by the Campus Development Task Force. Passed unanimously.

Building the Future Task Force update. Margaret reported that this task force has developed a revised long-range plan. The task force has three goals. The April 5th Congregational Conversation will be about the plan plus it will be posted on the UUSS Website. It will be before the board for action on April 23. The congregation will consider it at the May 17th Congregational Meeting.

Membership Growth & Support Task Force Update. Linda reported that the task force met with a consultant, Bob Miess, to develop a job description, duties, and desired qualities for a new membership staff person who would strengthen our connection with and support new and existing members.

Program Council report. Fred reported that the Ch'maj event went very well and the Program Council sent a note of thanks to Celine Walker, who spearheaded the event, The Program Council discussed its budget and avenues for savings. Religious Education Committee reported on kicking off its Spirit Play religious model program.

MINISTERIAL MATTERS:

Roger reported that seven people attended the March 21 new member orientation and that all have or are planning to join. Also, the RE program will launch a new religious education model for younger grades called Spirit Play in May and is recruiting teachers. Also, Kathy Canaan is running for the board and so is leaving the Adult Enrichment Committee, which is a challenge for Roger, as she is the only member of the committee. Sally Lewis and David Libby will be receiving the PCD award for their work on OWL.

Doug will be on sabbatical in April, during which he plans much self retreat to focus on integrating his spiritual practice into everyday life. Last night he sat on a panel of religious leaders at CSUS for its Philosophy Club. Doug has four or five applications for his spiritually grounded leadership program for the fall. Doug will be lead chaplain for this year's General Assembly.

OPERATIONAL MATTERS:

Treasurer's report. Lisa reported that income YTD is at 100% of budget and expenses YTD are 97% of budget. Both pledge and plate incomes are ahead of budget for the year and for the month of February. Thus, UUSS is currently not running the expected deficit.

Business Administrator's report. UUSS currently has 413 members, but on April 1st, 16 are likely to be converted to inactive for lack of pledge/financial contribution. We have about 100 pledges to go for the 2009-10 pledge drive. So far, 46% have increased, 40% have stayed the same, and 12% decreased with 2% new.

Recap - parking lot - dates to remember: Next board meeting is April 23rd. Congregational meeting is on May 17th.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00.

Respectfully submitted, Carrie Cornwell, Secretary, UUSS Board of Trustees