

UUPCC Board Meeting
June 10, 2016
Minutes

Members Present: Executive Director Designate Roger Bertschausen, Executive Director Cathy Cordes, Catherine Van Praagh, Richard Van Duizend, Eric Meter, Ann Gary, Eileen Higgins, Carol Cook, Rick Irwin, Eric Cherry, Andrew Weber. Via phone: Melody Moberg

Members absent: Gary Smith, Diane Rollert, Catie Scudera, Jennifer Emrich

Also Present: Amanda DiMiele (Recording)

A meeting of the UUPCC Board was held by Zoom video conferencing on June 6, 2016. The meeting was called to order at noon EST/11am CST.

Consideration of the May Minutes: The spelling of Ann's name was corrected, and then the Minutes approved.

Board Chair Report

Van Duizend shared that Rev. Cynthia Prescott died on Saturday, May 28, 2016. Bertschausen agreed to send a note of condolence and support to the UUMAN Congregation.

Van Duizend raised the suggestion that we start using an automated calendar system for meetings. Bertschausen and Cook agreed to test out some possibilities and report back.

Executive Director's Report

Bertschausen shared updates on the transition process from Bedford, MA to St. Louis, MO:

1. Hired Sharon McCarron as a quarter-time Office Assistant. She starts Mon, June 13.
2. Financial operations are in the process of moving. Bertschausen promised to send Cherry job descriptions, per his request.
3. Some new partnerships are looking promising, and a few congregations who have been less active have ended their partnerships.
4. Bertschausen met with Emrich about the Start-up/Refresh Program. He and Moberg are going to meet about the Youth Initiative as Sara Ascher and Emrich step back to focus on Start-up/Refresh.
5. Bertschausen concluded that he plans to set up training sessions by Zoom for new board members, and also to have individual conversations with them this summer.

Van Duizend shared Cordes' news that Barishisha (Barri) Mukhim's trip is just about set. She has her visa and will be at GA and then visit several congregations afterwards to fundraise.

Regarding the building fund for the boys' orphanage at the Annie M. Barr Children's Village, the British Unitarians have agreed to contribute £10,000, which amounts to around \$15,000. The money has not actually come through yet.

Cordes added that we have received a \$25,000 matching grant from The Emmons Bradley Trust. The UUPCC will hold a \$7500 fundraising campaign that will last while Bari is in the U.S. If necessary, in September we could do a Faithify campaign. Cherry added that the UUPCC has done well already, and that what we do not have, the UUA will provide.

Bertschausen is in conversation with Rev. Daniel Kanter, minister at First Unitarian Church of Dallas, about partnering with the orphanage.

Van Duizend wanted to know if the current sponsors for the orphanage will continue. Cathy answered that it will need to be discussed. It will take 2 – 3 years after the building's completion before the government certifies the orphanage and begins paying operating funds. Until then, the only ones paying those expenses are the sponsors. There will need to be some negotiation between existing sponsors and Dallas (if they become a partner) until the government begins providing funds.

Treasurer's Report

Irwin noted that financial reports through May are not available yet. He sent the April financials with one change from what he reported last month: there's a \$12,000 increase in mission initiative revenue. Irwin promised to send out the May financial reports via email when he gets them, rather than waiting until the next meeting.

Updates:

1. St. Louis Office

Bertschausen clarified that Libby Hanna our bookkeeper, is staying on with the UUPCC, working remotely. (See above for more on the transition to St. Louis.)

2. GA – General

Cordes noted that Van Praagh has worked on a schedule for the booth. Rollert is working on and order of service for worship and will have a copy of that to the Bedford office by Monday.

The Balazs Committee wanted a meeting at GA with the Board. It was agreed to have at least some members meet with the Committee following the annual UUPCC lunch on Friday.

Eileen Higgins and Andrew Weber are unable to attend GA.

3. GA – Youth Caucus

Moberg is focusing on preparing for the ICUU meeting in the Netherlands. She also has 15 minutes to speak at GA about opportunities for youth to get involved with UU youth around the globe. She requested that if anyone has youth who have gone on an international trip, please let her know. She would like to recruit them to speak with the youth caucus. Moberg will connect with Bertschausen and Ascher about moving forward with the initiatives.

4. Cuba

Higgins reported that the grant was approved, but visas were denied. Higgins talked to Rev. Jorge Espinel, and he continues to be in conversation with Cuban officials.

Cherry suggested that a short visit ahead of time this summer might help get local leaders mobilized around the program.

Higgins summarized that we have ongoing communication now, and that it is more institutional and less dependent on a single individual. In the end this will benefit everyone.

5. Minns Lecture Series on November 11-12

Bertschausen highlighted this series, which is sponsored by First Church in Boston and King's Chapel. Ministers from two of the three Kolozsvár churches will be the speakers. Bertschausen will be attending. Board members are invited to attend as well.

A.Gary has volunteered to help with non-Minns activities while the Kolozsvár guests are in Boston.

6. Khasi Leadership Trip

Cordes is applying for visas for a second time. The trip is now scheduled for July. They will join Kelly Crocker's trip in Transylvania. All we can say for now is that hopefully it will happen.

7. Rev. Fulgence Njdagijimana's Status

Van Duizend shared Rollert's news that Rev. Fulgence has been granted refugee status in Canada. He moved to Saskatoon where there is a small group of members from his former congregation. He is getting great support from UU congregation there. Once he gets his residence permit, he'll be able to see his family. Several more members of his congregation had to flee, but the community is still alive, and Fulgence is able to be in contact with them.

Cherry added that Fulgence is pursuing ministerial credentials with the UUA. First steps take place at GA. He'll be a featured speaker at the International Reception at GA.

Travel

A.Gary noted that the travel report shows that the number of trips has picked up significantly from what was first anticipated. The travel surveys will need to be transferred to DiMiele to follow up on.

GA Clarifications

Cherry is introducing International Guests during Plenary. It should take about 4 minutes.

Van Duizend shared that Catie Scudera's been in touch with Arman Pedro, Petr Dolak Samojsky, among others, and it looks like all of them will be speaking. There is also at least one other speaker. Barbara Beach will be the MC. He is still working on the Auctioneer.

Van Praagh reported that three people, not including the Board, had RSVP'd for lunch. She requested that if anyone knows of international guests, please let her know. It's important for the budget to have a good head count.

Celebration and Cathy Cordes Fund

Van Praagh and Bertschausen both have several checks for the fund.

A.Gary encouraged the Board to celebrate Nancy Daugherty's long-term commitment as a volunteer and staff person. Cathy will think about good gift ideas.

It was decided not to do anything to highlight Pat Rogers, as there have been other occasions for that and indications are that she plans to continue at least some of what she's been doing for the UUPCC.

Van Duizend mentioned that DeForest Ralph is doing well, sends his greeting and is sad that he can't be at GA.

Cordes added Leon Hopper's regrets that he is unable to attend GA. He is in hospice now.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05pm CST/1:05PM.

Next Meeting: June 24, 2016 at GA