

UUPCC Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 17, 2014
Minutes

Members Present: Eric Cherry, Kelly Crocker, Carol Cook, Jennifer Emrich, Ann Gary, Rick Irwin, Melody Moberg, Gary Smith, Executive Director Cathy Cordes

Members Absent: Roger Bertschausen, Beverly Moore, Diane Rollert

A meeting of the UUPCC Board was held by Zoom video conferencing service on December 17, 2014. Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm.

Start-Up Program

Executive Director Cordes noted that Higgins is not available to stay at the meeting for very long, so the agenda will be taken out of order to allow her to comment on the Sarasota meeting.

Higgins shared that the Start-up weekend in Sarasota was a smashing success. There might be a few things to do differently, but overall the Sarasota Partner Church committee really appreciated the program, which brought a lot of new people out of the woodwork who had not previously identified as having roots or experience with that part of the world. Congregants were exposed to the international web of UUs, many of whom had no idea that there were UUs all over the place and that they were already partnered with some of them. One great thing that was done was that the group used Skype to talk with their partner minister in Transylvania during the weekend, and people were very excited to see him up on the screen. In retrospect, Higgins regretted that they missed an opportunity to collect all the names and emails of everyone who attended and to distribute membership materials to attendees. This would be something to do differently next time.

Emrich reported that she felt that the Start-up workshop was very successful, as well. The feeling that we were giving more than we were taking, in terms of excitement and energy, built during the weekend. There were opportunities to talk to members of all ages, and this made it very energizing and successful. There is probably a lot that can be done to make it even better next time, but it was a really good start.

Cordes presented a summary of John Dale's comments about the program. He feels that this event pushed the Sarasota congregation 2-3 years ahead in the trajectory of their partnership's development, that we exposed so many people within the congregation to the partnership movement, and that it really gave a boost to their identity as a partner. The minister and some members of the congregation have already been to Transylvania, and about 25 people approached John about travel after the workshop.

Cordes noted that she has distributed to the Board the remarks that were presented by herself, Higgins and John Dale at the workshop. There were a variety of messages, but they all worked together beautifully.

Smith wondered if this concept could be packaged for 1-2 people to make it less costly and to extend the model to existing partnerships that could use a boost. He also noted that there is another Start-up planned in Savannah in March, and Bertschausen, Higgins, Emrich and Cordes have all expressed interest in participating. Higgins noted that she might not be available, and deferred to John Dale as the more critical participant to include.

The minutes for the November 14, 2014 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Smith noted that the Treasurer's report was distributed by email and thanked Irwin and Cordes for preparing it with great clarity. Irwin stated that the big picture is looking good relative to budget. Cordes noted that donations have slowed, but that the Office is about to send out a reminder email to donors before the end of the calendar year.

Executive Director's Report

Cordes reported that she has hired Nancy Hickey who will begin work on January 5. She has also done staff reviews. One question that she asked staff was how we could support them better. Nancy Daugherty noted that it would be very helpful to have newsletter submissions on time. John Dale expressed appreciation for the support that the Board gives him. Cordes explained have done bonuses this year in lieu of salary increases, and we included Libby Hanna, who is a contractor, since she does such an amazing and efficient job for us as our bookkeeper.

Regarding GA, we have received our program slot, so we will have a worship service again. They did not like our title, and wanted it to be more descriptive, so we will change it. Rollert will once again organize the worship service, and she deserves a lot of credit for making this a popular and successful GA event in the past two years. Last year we had about 250 participants.

Chair's Report

Smith reported that we are putting together a fundraising event in San Mateo in advance of the meetings in Bellevue. Cordes, Smith and Laurel Amabile will attend, and we hope for about 30 attendees. It will be great to report to this group of donors and potential donors on the success of our new initiatives.

Smith also noted that Van Duizend has distributed a written report about activities of the international coalition.

Travel

Gary sent out an email to help prepare for the Seattle meeting. She would like to solicit participation for visioning about the Travel Program, so that the full Board can discuss

ideas for the future during the Winter Board meeting. Board members should contact Gary after the holidays about interest in participating in this effort.

Philippines Update

Cherry reported that UU Church of the Philippines (UUCP) is on track to transition its leadership model over the course of the next 2-3 years as Rev. Rebecca Sienes looks towards retirement. This is a very important transition, and Cherry is feeling very confident about where they are in this process. As an organization that needs a level of competent bureaucracy, the UUCP is in a pretty good place at this moment. They are able to handle the administrative activities that running a national leadership office requires, so this bodes well for what they are able to accomplish. Programmatic ideas are proliferating, including the "Reach Out" program, which is a faith development weekend training that they have been bringing to every congregation. Rebecca believes that about 800 UUs have been touched by this program. The evaluations of the impact are really remarkable and it appears to be a very cost-effective program.

In other big news, the Dormitory project is finally about to happen. They hope to break ground on a scaled-down project this January, and it should be finished by May or June. It's a great project that will also provide income for the UUCP. Finally, Cherry noted that there are many more youth and children in the UUCP now than there have ever been in the past, which creates a tremendous amount of optimism for the future of the UUCP.

GA Planning

The UUA GA Planning Committee has informed all exhibitors that we will no longer be allowed to share space. Cordes wrote back to them on behalf of the International Coalition to explain how hard this group has tried to brand themselves as an entity at GA and that the new policy is detrimental to this effort. Therefore, we are requesting to be exempted from this policy in 2016. Cherry noted his disappointment with this change of policy, and anticipated that the reasons for us sharing space, as articulated in Cordes' letter, would be convincing. Cordes will keep the Board informed on this issue.

Winter Board meeting

Cordes has heard from Crocker and Rollert that they will not be able to attend, but everyone else will be there. Plans for the Regional Conference are coming along, and there have already been a number of registrations that have come in, which is really good. The pace of registrations will certainly pick up in January.

Next meeting: January, 28-31 in Bellevue, WA

Meeting adjourned at 12: 42 PM.

Submitted by Beverly Derington Moore, Secretary

Approved by the Board, Jan. 28, 2015/bdm