

UUPCC Board Meeting
Friday, October 12, 2012
Minutes

Members Present: Roger Bertschausen, George Davenport, Ann Gary, Beverly Moore, deForest Ralph, Diane Rollert, Gary Smith, Dick Van Duizend, Scott Prinster, Bruce Johnson, Executive Director Cathy Cordes

Members Absent: Kelly Crocker, Cathy Perry

Also Present: Margot Fleischman

A meeting of the UUPCC Board was held by conference call on October 12, 2012. Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

Van Duizend (M), Bertschausen (S)

Voted: to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2012 meeting.

Treasurer's Report

George Davenport submitted the Treasurer's report to the board in writing. Cathy Cordes noted that it looks like we took in less revenue than what we spent, but that is because we collect the funds over the course of 2 financial years, 2011 and 2012. Cordes noted that the international exchange rate continues to be in our favor.

Travel Committee Report

Ann Gary reported that the surveys are ongoing and the report is not yet ready. People can submit responses as late as the end of October. Gary met with John Dale to review the overwhelmingly positive responses we have received thus far. This was a very good travel season, and next year looks to be as strong if not stronger. There are three congregations planning choir trips, in addition to the Festival Choir trip.

Gary noted that we need to make sure that the organizational benefits and support of the UUPCC are stressed during these trips. What we communicate about the UUPCC during trips will be a main focus for next year. \$2600 was given to the ICUUW last week in Marosvásárhely – this was the excess revenue from the ICUUW trips, and there may be an additional \$1000. This will go towards the scholarship fund that was used to help pay for the Transylvanians to attend the Convocation. This was a win-win for UUPCC and ICUUW.

Gary further reported that we have also realized that we can leverage Ron Cordes' UU History DVDs to support travel - the feedback from several groups was that it helped them make a connection with the places that they visited. We should encourage people to view it before trips, but there may be time to watch it on the buses as well. Gary further noted that visiting Deva has become a highlight of trips.

One of the issues that did come up from the surveys is that there are unclear expectations regarding the language barrier during home stays. Travelers report this as a missed opportunity to make a connection with their non-English speaking hosts. Gary suggested that we pursue solutions for this communication issue during village visits. We also need to set expectations appropriately. There is also an issue with the stay in Kolozsvár, due to the number of stairs up to the rooms at the dormitory. Although John Dale always offers an upgrade, there are few people who take advantage of this option.

John Dale has also reported that our audio guide machines need some work. They can be very useful and it makes sense to maintain them in good condition. He will put together a cost estimate.

In terms of India, we may need a better screening system for future travelers with mobility issues. There is a congregational choir trip to the Khasi Hills being planned, which is very exciting. Van Duizend also reported that while in India, he met Arki Milliemngap, who served as the translator and guide in the Khasi Hills and seems interested in continuing to work with our travelers.

India Report

Van Duizend expressed his gratitude to the Board for enabling him to attend the anniversary celebrations in the Khasi Hills marking the 125th anniversary of the founding of the first Unitarian congregation there. As part of the celebration in each city and village there was a torch-light parade through the streets. The pride and joy the Khasis take in being Unitarian was obvious, with the homes of Unitarians all decorated and lit for the celebration. It was an honor to be there.

Van Duizend reported that a change in attitude among the leadership of the UUNEI was also evident. There is a new sense of equality in partner relationships that is also filtering down into the congregations. For the first time, Van Duizend reported that he had home stays almost the entire time; and the two times he stayed in the guest house, it was covered by the UUNEI. The Khasis take a lot of pride in being able to provide this hospitality, and Van Duizend felt that we should honor this in our future work together.

Regarding the orphanage negotiations, Van Duizend reported that the meetings went very well thanks in no small part of the superb preparation and facilitation of Eric Cherry. There were some very difficult moments, and issues that needed to be worked though, but the UUNEI were extremely flexible. In keeping with the change of attitude, they are moving to take responsibility for the AMBCV and are expanding the number of people outside the UUNEI leadership who are involved. The congregations in Shillong and Jowai are sophisticated and well positioned to deploy human and financial resources to this and other efforts. The UUNEI has set a goal of reducing the percentage of financial support coming from the US by getting local sponsors and villages to support the children, and by creating some limited and controlled revenue sources to support the AMBCV.

Van Duizend has prepared a draft of the MOU and sent it to Rev. Nangroi Suting with a copy to Eric Cherry, who will add the protocols that were developed during the meeting so that everything is spelled out with greater clarity. As far as the organizational structure, currently there is an international advisory committee made up of American and British individuals as well as an American-based Khasi, who finds sponsors and reviews reports from the AMBCV. Van Duizend expects to be able to present the MOU to the Board by the December meeting.

20th Anniversary Celebration

Cordes reported that we are moving forward with the plans for a conference after the Winter Board meetings. We have learned that hotel reservations for Saturday night will be very expensive, so Board members who cannot get out of the DC area on Saturday need to be sure to arrange a home stay. Van Duizend noted that he would be happy to host Board members. We have created a flyer with a registration form that will be included in the Annual Appeal mailing to individuals who live within driving distance of Bethesda. We have confirmed Eileen Higgins for the Community Capacity workshop and Dick Ford may be available to come as well. In addition, Adel Nagy, the Balazs Scholar will be there. The program is not finalized yet, but we are working on it.

Cordes noted that she also has prepared a grant application designed to coordinate with our 20 year celebration, to give us new marketing tools including a redesign of our webpage so that we are multi-media capable, to do a short marketing video about the UUPCC, and to launch an endowment.

Ralph (M), Moore (S)

Voted: To authorize Cordes to submit the grant application to the UUFP Fund for Unitarian Universalism.

GA Program Proposal

Last year, we submitted several proposals in conjunction with the consortium of international organizations and got only one workshop slot, which we shared. This year, although we will continue to work with the other international groups, we will also apply individually for a workshop so that we can do something to mark the 20th Anniversary. We also hope to have some sort of afternoon event to launch the endowment. **Moore volunteered to look for alternative, less costly locations for the Annual Meeting.**

Board Goals

Smith noted that we are continuing to work on compensation guidelines. Cordes is working on Kenyan partnerships. Smith encouraged board members to continue to pursue the Board outreach interviews and conclude them by November 1. This is a great way to reach out to congregations.

Membership report

Fleischman reported that of the 96 past travelers who received a special membership renewal letter, we have received 12 responses from these individuals, some of whom have also made generous contributions.

Executive Director's Report

Cordes reported that the International UU Women's Convocation was a great success. It was exciting to see the energy and enthusiasm there, particularly among the Transylvanian young women who attended. Cordes has the registration list from the convocation and will do a follow-up letter to everyone from the US who is not already a member of the UUPCC.

The meetings in Kolozsvár also went well. The staff at the TUC is new and they are still working out the details of their organizational system. There will be an election in November for district deans. They have eliminated the district representatives for partnerships and intend that the deans will take more responsibility for the programs within their own districts and will find volunteers to help with this effort.

Regarding our joint program with Meadville-Lombard to send seminarians to teach English at the Seminary, there are some issues to be worked out to make sure everyone is in agreement about what this program is intended to do relative to the existing English teaching there. Bertschausen reported that he, Eric Cherry, and Lee Barker are scheduled for a conference call next week to work on this.

2013 Winter Board Meeting

Board members are encouraged to make their travel arrangements for the Winter Board meeting.

Next Meeting: November 16, 2012, noon, Eastern Time.

Meeting adjourned 12:50 pm.

Submitted by Beverly Moore, Secretary

Approved by the Board on Nov. 16, 2012/bdm