

**UUPCC Board Meeting
March 27, 2015
Minutes**

Members Present: Roger Bertschausen, Eric Cherry, Carol Cook, Kelly Crocker, Jennifer Emrich, Ann Gary, Rick Irwin, Melody Moberg, Beverly Moore, Diane Rollert, Gary Smith, Executive Director Cathy Cordes

Members Absent: Eileen Higgins

Also Present: Sarah Ascher

A meeting of the UUPCC Board was held by Zoom video conferencing service on March 20, 2015. Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm EDT.

(M) Moore, (S) Bertschausen

Voted: To approve minutes of January Winter Board meetings

(M) Moore, (S) Bertschausen

Voted: To approve minutes of February 27, 2105

Treasurer's Report

Irwin distributed a written report in advance of the meeting. Overall expenses are a little higher than expected for the year, but this was driven by direct travel expenses. Irwin pointed out a correction in the restricted account for the Philippines Build project. Otherwise, expenses are tracking as expected. Next month's reports will also include all the accounting codes from QuickBooks to allow for easier tracking. Cordes noted that the new mission activities, like the Start-Up programs, are showing up on the books, and also the travel grants may be higher than in the past.

Executive Director's Report

Cordes highlighted a few items from her written report. Cordes encouraged anyone from the Board who knows the minister in Naperville IL, whose partner minister from Dak is coming to the US to be the Balázs Scholar, to contact him. This is a young, energetic minister who speaks English. It would be a pity to miss this great opportunity to strengthen the partnership.

Chair's Report

Chair Smith reported that there was a reception in Concord, MA attended by 25. These were very devoted UUPCC folks from Concord and Bedford. On April 19, Smith will be at Mt. Vernon to preach, and he will also make a fundraising pitch while he is there. Likewise, he and Cordes will be at St. John's in Cincinnati, and will do the same.

Nominating Committee

Crocker reminded the Board that the Nominating Committee is composed of herself, former UUPCC Board member Rev. Harold Babcock, and Rev. Hank Peirce. There are two positions opening this year. Crocker identified three very wonderful candidates the Nominating Committee has contacted. The hope is to have this wrapped up later this week, but Cordes explained that normally the Board would accept nominations at this meeting, so there may have to be a quick Board call or take a vote via email to confirm the nominations. Alternatively, it was suggested that the Board could approve any of the three potential nominees.

(M) Bertschhausen, (S) Gary

Voted: To approve any of the three identified candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee for nomination to the UUPCC Board.

Crocker will update the Board with the outcome of the discussions with the potential nominees.

Stewards Awards

Crocker explained that six wonderful nominations for Steward awards have been received, which is below the Board's threshold of 8-10. The nomination letters are very inspiring. The nominees are Mary Darner, Elizabeth Campbell, Cathy Brown, Julie and Jerry José, and Mary Kathryn Wallace.

(M) Crocker, (S) Rollert

Voted: To accept the slate of Stewardship Award nominees.

Youth Initiatives Taskforce

Sara Ascher joined the call to report on the Youth Initiatives. Two of the three areas of focus are moving along nicely. The pilot Virtual Youth Group meetings have gone very well, although sound did turn out to be a bit of an issue. Inexpensive speaker and microphone options are being researched. The taskforce should be able to offer a proposal about moving forward to international application. Transylvania contacts have already done their domestic testing. They are ready to move ahead with an international pilot, hopefully before the end of April and definitely before GA. The Madison congregation is also moving ahead with this.

The super exciting piece is that since Emrich's youth will be traveling to Transylvania in 2016 to do a summer camp, the taskforce is looking at inviting youth from other congregations (and their chaperones) to take part in this. She has also been in touch with Jill McAllister about involving young adults in a similar initiative. Cordes noted that there was a lot of excitement at the Concord event about this initiative. **Smith requested that some photographs of these calls be taken.**

Start Up/Refresh Weekends

Bertschhausen reported that the last weekend of April, Cordes and Emrich will go to Savannah for a Start-Up program, and he and Moburg will go to Fort Collins for a Refresh program. We really need to help congregations get clarity about their hopes and expectations for themselves and their partners. **Smith reiterated the importance of taking pictures, and congratulated everyone on the great energy around this topic.**

Unitarian Kalácka

Emrich explained briefly about the Unitarian Kalácka, a new crowd-funding initiative of Project Harvest Hope. This is an online micro-grant program, in which Hungarian communities in Transylvania apply through a local non-profit. If their project is accepted, it gets posted as a crowd-funding opportunity. If they reach 80% of their fundraising goal in Transylvania, Unitarian Kalácka gets a hold of the information and shows it to American Unitarians who can choose to support the project financially. As a former Unitarian Kalácka board member, Emrich hopes that the UUPCC will consider becoming involved with this organization, since many of the communities involved have been through the Community Capacity Building Program. She also noted that young adults who have been to Transylvania are very excited about pledging through this platform.

Philippines Update

Rollert shared that the trip was amazing, and that she is very grateful for the opportunity to go. The trip gave her a perspective on the partnership relationships. Since Nihal left several years ago, there has been a lot of concern on the American side that things were not working. What she observed from being there was that the people in the Philippines are very focused on strengthening their congregations, and that the need to have someone fill the role that Nihal had is not so great from their perspective. He did a great job working with congregations, but he was never really part of the Filipino communities. Now they seem to be building their own capacity, and developing transition plans. Rollert is very hopeful about their changes in leadership. From the perspective of someone coming from the outside, she felt that the travelers had a really great connection while there.

As a member of a partnered congregation, Cook noted that her foremost concern is the lack of communication. Rebecca Sienes is really interested in having partner-to-partner communications, but the technology is lacking, so there are glitches. In some of these remote areas, there simply are no telecommunications. Traveling to a city requires people to take time away from their farms and businesses. For some congregations that distance would represent a major hardship.

Travel

Gary informed the Board that she, Higgins, Emrich and Cordes held a “visioning” call for Travel. She and Cordes would like to work on a sample itinerary to take to Fort Collins, to consider as a “reengagement” trip. Travel Grant applications were received last week. Gary will set up a telephone meeting with the committee to consider them.

GA Planning

Cordes has circulated a schedule and would like to know who plans to be there, at least for the Thursday and Friday. Cordes is working with Laurel Amabile to plan a reception. **Cordes also requested that Board members let her know if there are people from their congregations planning to attend GA, so that they can be invited.**

Transition Report

Gary informed the Board that the Transition group had its kick off call last Wednesday afternoon. The group consists of current Board members Smith (ex-Officio), Gary, and Emrich. Other members are former Board members Dick Van Duizend, George Davenport and Scott Prinster. Gary will serve as the point person for this group, both for Cordes and for anyone who express interest or concern about the transition. Job inquiries should be referred to Gary. An announcement will be made in the spring newsletter and during GA. Cordes also noted that if the Board wishes to discuss transition subjects, she can leave the call a few minutes early so that the Board can feel free to speak candidly.

Next meetings: May 8 and June 3 at noon Eastern.

Meeting adjourned at 12: 50 pm.

Submitted by Beverly Moore, Secretary

Approved by the board May 8, 2015/bdm

