

Minutes,  
Board of Trustees  
Emerson UU Church  
August 18, 2015

The meeting of the Emerson UU Church Board of Trustees was called to order at 7 pm by President Richard Loftin. Also present were Board members Beth Hammer, Shannon Butler, Kris Taylor, Tony Collins, Barbara Crotty, Craig Miller, the Revs. Mark and Becky Edmiston-Lange, Director of Religious Education Katy Carpmann, Business Administrator Karen Van Horn, secretary Mary Ann Stanley and visitors Ann and David May, Deborah Landis and Michelle Corron.

The **lighting of the Chalice** was followed by a reading by Rev. Mark. Craig was thanked for the Ethiopian meal.

## UUNO

Deborah Landis presented to the Board a report on the English as a Second Language project here at Emerson and the plan to continue this fall and spring. The first semester registered 28 students in two levels of proficiency. By the end of the semester 33 had come through the door, with 30 church volunteers making it happen. Second semester dropped to 15 students.

Norbert, Sally and Deborah met with representatives of Memorial Assistance Ministries, which runs several successful ESL programs. For them also, 65% of registrants who come to 75% of the meetings is about the national norm. This is just the way of this group does things. How do you measure success? The students were tested before and after and all teachers say they got better.

This semester we will offer 3 levels. Presently we have 10 volunteers for this session, including two who came as visitors. Deborah introduced Michelle Corron who has strong credentials in cross-cultural relations and grant writing. We will also offer Thursday night class with no child care or snacks. Deborah has distributed hundreds of flyers through the Memorial Assistance Ministries and Interfaith Ministry, and since we seem to have the only Saturday school we should have a good enrollment.

Budget: last spring from a grant of \$4500 the class spent \$3940, leaving \$560 to bring forward for 2015. In addition, \$220 income came from book sale. In addition to funds needed for supplies, we must have additional money for moving furniture. Outreach committee asked Board to make the decision and then the money will come out of endowment. A copy of the proposed budget is included in these minutes.

The question was asked as to the source of funds for the first and where it will come for this session. The initial funding came from the Innovative Fund. This year's program will be funded out of the Outreach Fund within the Schwab Designated Funds. The Outreach committee, which had control of distribution from this account, is still in organization mode and prefers not to make any monetary decisions now.

Tony moved that we inform the Outreach committee that the sense of the Board is that this project should be funded from the Outreach Fund as requested; seconded by Kris Taylor; passed without dissent.

| <b>UUNO Proposed Budget</b> | <b>Spring 2015</b> |               |              | <b>Fall 2015</b> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
|                             | <b>Budget</b>      | <b>Actual</b> | <b>Diff.</b> | <b>Proposed</b>  |
| <b>Expenses</b>             |                    |               |              |                  |
| Student and Teacher Books   | 1,800              | 1,971         | 171          | 1,800            |
| Class Supplies              | 200                | 211           | -11          | 200              |
|                             |                    |               | -            |                  |
| Marketing                   | 600                | 753           | 153          | 600              |
| Room Setup / Takedown       | 200                | 160           | 40           | 500              |
| Food and Snacks             | 400                | 432           | -32          | 400              |
| Child Care                  | 1,300              | 413           | 887          | 1,000            |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>       | <b>4,500</b>       | <b>3,940</b>  | <b>560</b>   | <b>4,500</b>     |
| <b>Income</b>               |                    |               |              |                  |
| Sale of Student Books       | 150                | 220           | -70          | 200              |
| <b>Total Income</b>         | <b>150</b>         | <b>220</b>    | <b>-70</b>   | <b>200</b>       |
| <b>Net Expenses</b>         | <b>4,350</b>       | <b>3,720</b>  | <b>630</b>   | <b>4,300</b>     |

### **Carbon Neutrality**

Ann May reported that all five churches on seven campuses have bought into Renewable Congregation Project. She proposed that the Board adopt the following four actions to move to carbon neutrality:

1. Commit to the overall plan of moving Emerson to carbon neutrality.
2. Accept Renewable Energy Certificates (or Credits) --RECS, for short -- donated on behalf of Emerson for the energy used in 2014 and first half of 2015. No change in the 2015 budget is required.
3. Approve the addition of a line item in the Emerson budget, beginning with the 2016 budget, to purchase or accept donated RECs for the energy used in 2015 and carbon offsets for the modest remainder of our carbon footprint.
4. Establish a policy of purchasing renewable energy, beginning as soon as feasible, keeping the line item in the budget to purchase (or receive donated) carbon offsets.

Rev. Becky asked about a teaching program within the church, and was assured that it was in the plans. The first move in the campaign is to get people to use renewable energy. Green Mountain actually rewarded Emerson monetarily for household changes during the campaign held in connection with the opening of our LEED building.

Tony moved to accept the four actions including accepting the certificates. Craig seconded. The motion passed without dissent. The full report is included with these minutes.

### **Approve July Board Minutes**

Barbara moved, Tony seconded acceptance of the July minutes. Rev. Becky pointed out a mistake—"for to order"—that should be corrected. With that correction, the minutes were accepted without dissent.

## **Consent Reports:**

### **Ministers**

Back from GA and their summer vacation, the minister reported a busy summer. Rev. Becky read a note from a couple who had been married expressing their profound gratitude for the personal involvement of our members in their wedding and that they would always remember it as one of the best days of their lives. Responsibilities during the summer included the search for a new Music Director as well as several serious pastoral situations. The death of Emerson member Mina McDuffie saddened them. "Today would have been her 82<sup>th</sup> birthday," Becky noted, a benchmark she had long wished to reach. A written copy of the report is on file.

### **Director of Religious Education**

Katy reported that the fall schedule for Religious Education of the young ones is in place, with a different format:

- One Sunday to have a children's chapel: meditation, story, songs
- One Sunday, the children will participate in Social Action type activities
- Two Sundays, the children will concentrate on strengthening their Unitarian Universalist understandings and identity in age-graded classes

### **Business Director**

Pledge Income during the month of July

- Total pledged for 2015 is \$\$547,780
- Total Income and Expense Figures
  - 2015 Contributions \$24,698
  - 2014 Contributions 0
  - New Member Contr. 90
  - YTD Total Contributions \$ 355,330
- Comments:
  - Line Item 5170: honorariums to summer pulpit guests;
  - special collections checks have been signed by Karen;
  - building maintenance and repairs: multiple
    - p. 8 line item 5650 \$17,388
    - repair for electricity for WWH taking place \$5,000
    - end of August \$3,000 over budget.

### **Treasurer**

In spite of the repair bills, our budget still should be OK for the year, although we still don't have pledges in hand to cover our budget. Virtual pledges -- \$11,000 from 19 units not pledged but given-- are part of the solution.

We now have a treasurer: Linda Condit. She agreed, but made it clear that it will be for 2 years only.

### **Committee Liaisons**

Beth Hammer reported on Social Action's current project, underwear for everyone. The usual social action projects such as Crop Walk, UNICEF, "Socktober" for Meals on Wheels are all being planned.

**Communications** meeting postponed because report not ready.

**The A/V committee** continues their considerations and is nearing a decision.

## **New Business**

### **Bonnie Wellington Rosensteel Farewell Celebration (August 23)**

Usually have a congregation collection for a staff member leaving that averages about \$2,000. There will also be a reception after church. Lori Reeder and Barbara Crotty will ramrod eating part after church. Judy Taylor may also help. Becky will talk to Mike Condit about presiding since Richard will be out of the country.

### **Music Director Search**

Barbara Crotty moved to accept the Search committee recommendation of Adrian Rodriguez for the job of Artistic Director. The choice was made after conducting a search that included four applicants and included input from the choir itself. Seconded by Craig Miller; passed without dissent.

### **Roof Repair Update**

Tony said that Carlson Roofing was called in to replace the roof on the two towers. The contractor suggested also roofing over part of chancel again so that the air handlers are covered also. If roof leaks, at least it won't be over most expensive things. The cost of \$14,340 will be taken out of capital reserve. Currently a complaint by neighbor resulted in new poles to bring electricity to Westwood Hall; cost: \$5,000.

### **Stewardship**

We have to have a campaign even if it's not called a campaign. We'll have a long conversation about making sure people know that we need their pledges. This will be a retreat item.

### **BOT Retreat Timing, Location and Agenda.**

Karen suggests Westwood Hall for the retreat.  
Saturday, 9 am – 1pm, Aug. 29.

Tony remarked that he wanted to go on record that the loans to the general fund are treated as they have no liquid value.

Mark provided the "thoughts to ponder" on the way home.

The meeting was adjourned.

| ~~Respectfully~~Respectfully submitted

Mary Ann Stanley

Secretary to the Board

**UUNO  
Proposed  
Budget**

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