

**Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
March 12, 2003
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia**

Members Present: Becky Dickey, Kevin Meredith, Mary McGriff, Bill Meller, Regina Moody, Sloan Christian, Amy Grimm, Sandy Chubon, Dwight Pregler, Andrea Derrick

Members Absent: Joe Long, , Mary Heriot

Ex-Officio: Patrick Price

Guests: Audrey Muck, Sej Harman

Call to Order: Kevin Meredith called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Opening Words: Mary M. read the opening words.

1. **Last Months Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were read. It was noted: in item #7 that Sloan distributed the memo for Mary H; in item 10, third paragraph, second sentence, change 'do' to 'so'; and in item 12, second paragraph, fourth sentence, change 'sanctuary' to 'all other areas'. The February minutes will be updated as such. Amy made a motion to accept the minutes, conditionally pending update, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
2. **Staff Reports –** The staff reports were read. Patrick gave the Board an update on Sandra Carnesale's death and the arrangements being made. Sloan proposed we, the UUFC, assume responsibility for the party Sandra had intended to have for Paul's upcoming graduation. Amy suggested we plant a tree in memoriam.

Susan Corbett's report was not available. In Isabel's report Regina questioned if the issues with the SPIRAL concert were resolved, and Patrick stated that they were. Mary M. made a motion to accept the reports, pending the receipt of Susan's report at the next Board meeting, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

3. **Treasurers Report:** It was noted that we are currently in the 'red' and will cash in our CD if we need to. It was discussed that our cash flow varies with what is due to be paid so we may not need to cash the CD just yet. Sandy noted that the Endowment Fund balance had decreased from last month and that we should not have distributed any funds. It is likely that the UUFC mutual fund had itself decreased in value and Kevin will contact Joe for details. Sandy questioned, that based on our current numbers, it looks like we can only pay salaries for six more weeks. Patrick stated that funds are being held pending tax time.
4. **Furnace Repairs:** Kevin stated that the contributor of the furnace funds has approved our holding the contribution in an interest bearing account until next fall and applying the donated funds to repair the furnace then, when we really need it.
5. **Canvas Update:** Becky reviewed the content of the follow up letter sent to those who could not make the kick off meeting. The letter offered a one-to-one meeting to those who would like one and that a donation box will be available at the UUFC. Becky read Dave Dickey's

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report on the kick off meeting. The report indicated that pledges of \$14,000.00 have been received already, which is a good sign. There is planned a pulpit editorial about the canvas program for each of the next three Sunday's.

6. Audit Status: We are still waiting for Joe's report.
7. Survey on Ministry: Audrey stated that recommendations on the survey and cover letter are being gathered and consolidated and will be available by the June Board transitional meeting. The results should give us a snap shot of the fellowship's feelings and position. Regina noted we should be very clear with the congregation if we are expanding the role of the MRC and expanding the term 'ministry'.

Audrey stated that it was difficult to get past the definition of Minister and of Ministering To Each Other. Becky stated she felt we could be more clear in our language regarding the need for the survey and she suggested we state what the Minister's job is and how we interact as a fellowship. Regina requested a copy of the survey be distributed for review. Sandy expressed concern that we are doing this survey at the same time we are doing the canvas survey, particularly at a time when the UUFC is generally concerned about surveys that receive little follow up.

Regina stated that she has studied the way the Augusta, Georgia UU congregation is structured and thinks we should look at their areas of ministry as a model. And Regina feels that our bylaws are outdated. She suggested we review our structure and goals. Amy reminded the Board it was planned to do that last summer with our retreat. Patrick stated there is an educational aspect to how we minister to each other. There was a general discussion on what the UUA calls the Ministerial Relations Committee. Patrick stated there are currently two district models and each are being applied at fellowships. Kevin suggested we defer the discussion. Regina suggested that smaller groups could discuss the issue before the next Board meeting as the issue needs more definition. There was a general discussion of some of our options and it was generally agreed that the objective of the survey was not clear in the cover letter. Patrick stated the objective may be to establish a baseline of important staff and administrative issues. There was a general discussion of the lack of cohesion of one survey's results with another.

Sej asked the Board if they want to continue with this survey. Kevin asked for a general opinion and the consensus being that we need more time to review the survey. Sej will provide Kevin with a current copy of the survey for distribution to the Board. Sej requested the Board be in a position to decide at the April Board meeting if the survey should go forward. The Board agreed to act on the survey via email, within two weeks.

8. How To Kill a Religion... or Help It Grow: Becky distributed this article on what can kill or save a fellowship. Becky stated that we all have the power to act and we can all be canvas leaders. Sandy stated that some members have an issue with the 'large dollar contributors' being invited to the canvas leaders dinner based only on the amounts of their contributions. There was a general discussion of the types of contributions (alternate to money) that can be made and the value of each to our fellowship. It was generally agreed that we should

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make an effort to recognize each type of contribution as openly as we do the large dollar contributions.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM. Next time, Sloan will bring the food and Amy will provide the reading.

Humbly Submitted by:

Bill Meller
Secretary, UUFC Board of Trustees