*Approved UU Executive Board Minutes*  
Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Present:

Board Members: Tom Phillips Chair, Scott Tanona, Kathleen Tanona, Betty Banner, Sue Pray

Staff: Sandy Nelson, Susan Turner, Michael Nelson

Absent: Laura Bonella, Katie Kingery-Page

Start time: 7:00pm

# Reading by Michael Nelson Fate and Destiny, the Two Agreements of the Soul, Michael Meade. Candle was lit and the group shared the “check-in”.

1. Review of February 2014 minutes/notes from  presentation by Brice Hobrock and Michael Oldfather.

**Action:** February minutes were accepted by consensus.

1. Savings, endowment etc. proposal from Scott.
   1. Discussion of the February meeting and also Scott’s document.
      1. See decision page handout titled, “Decisions for board to make March 11, 2014 re: Steward endowment and stewardship proposal; submitted by Scott Tanona”. Scott explained the document that had been shared before the meeting and that there were decisions for the board to make that were isolated on this separate handout.
      2. **Action:**

* **Document 1a:** Proposal motioned by Scott Tanona and seconded by Kathleen Tanona: “It is proposed to use $20K of our “endowment” currently in savings to set up a new GMCF permanent endowment, with no GMCF restrictions on use. U UFM policy to be to use disbursements for non-operating budget

.”

* + Vote outcome: 5 yes, 1 yes by proxy (Katie Kingery-Page)
  + Chair directs Treasurer to establish the proposed and approved endowment
* **Document 1b**: The fellowship vote is not required
* **Document 1c:** Note: Amend the handbook TBD
* **Document 2a/2b**: Proposal motioned by Scott Tanona and seconded by Tom Phillips: “Use the term “quasi-endowment” in our bookkeeping to refer to our investments and savings operating as endowment. Of the remaining quasi-endowment not currently invested (roughly $102.4K), use $70K to go to set up a new UUCEF quasi-endowment (which particular funds in UUCEF to choose is at Treasurer’s discretion), keep the roughly $10K quasi-endowment CD as is, and invest the remaining, about $22.4K, into PAX”.
  + Vote outcome: 5 yes, 1 yes by proxy (Katie Kingery-Page)
* **Document 3a**: Proposal motioned by Scott Tanona and seconded by Sandy Nelson: “Establish a new UUFM savings fund titled “(Non-Capital) Growth Fund” in addition to the new Capital Fund.Growth Fund to be used for new, major, or multi-year non-capital expenses that lie outside normal operating expenses. Board must approve spending out of either Growth or Capital Fund”
  + Vote outcome: 5 yes, 1 yes by proxy (Katie Kingery-Page)
* **Document 4a/4b:** Proposal motioned by Scott Tanona and seconded by Kathleen Tanona: “Consolidate UUFM savings funds as follows: Move funds in the Building Fund and Computer Fund into the Capital Fund; move Of the funds labeled “Kirmser Gift” and “CD-Kirmser Funds”, move ½ into the Capital Fund and ½ into the (Non-Capital) Growth Fund.”
  + Vote outcome: 5 yes, 1 yes by proxy (Katie Kingery-Page)
* **Document 5/6/7/8:** No decision Throughout the upcoming Stewardship campaign, focus will be on pledging to the Operating Fund, but additional giving opportunities to the Capital Fund, the Non-Capital Growth Fund, and the endowment (both quasi- and permanent) will be suggested.
* **Document 9a/9b:** Policy on unrestricted donations made after death through wills discussion was tabled.

1. **Proposed Budget discussion, Betty Banner**
   1. Betty had sent an email in the previous week with financial documents for review to be read before tonight’s meeting. In particular, the proposed budget for next year is complex and the electronic file had four worksheets included for review. It was also noted that Tom Phillips, as Chair of the Board, must sign the new UUA 2014 Employer Participation agreement.

**Action:** There was a motion to accept the budget for the fiscal year 2015 and it will be presented at the annual UUFM business meeting along with a narrative that may be in the form of a visual statistical pie chart.

* 1. Scott will work on talking with interested persons in serving on the 2014-2015 Exec. Board and nominations. The vacant seats are the Chair elect, and the Member at Large (replacing Laura B.), and the Treasurer.

1. **DRE Report, Sandy Nelson**
   1. OWL training next week to Topeka.
2. **Minister’s Report, Michael Nelson**

I deeply appreciate the board’s understanding of how important it is to have time to delve into the creative realm without having to tend to the many duties of being a minister for the Fellowship. The sabbatical allowed me to completely rework my manuscript and work closely with an editor whose challenges I could not have met without this stretch of time. I am a happy camper. Thank-you for your progressive vision. Being in Guanajuato City, a cultural mecca for Mesoamerica, with its deep roots in pre-Spanish culture helps me to value how a diversity of influences increases a society’s capacity for true tolerance and the celebration of the richness it brings---relaxed yet vibrant!

I spoke with Nancy Hegee, our Midwest Regional Executive Director about finances—how we have struggled to reach a workable agreement of using the Kirmser funds. Recently she has had conversations with other congregations who have similar questions about endowments, quasi-endowments and special funding.

A willingness to compromise, to find a good mix, allowing for more than one way to handle funds, is recommended. She will instigate a workshop for the Kansas cluster geared towards treasurers and people interested in long range financial planning. It has occurred to me that the amount of time it has taken the board to grapple with these issues has been more productive than I initially believed. Though, it has been a bit of a struggle, I think ultimately the board has done good work. As Nancy advised, we need to move on.

I have been thinking about Stewardship as it relates to our visioning process.

We still do not have a long range or strategic plan. This is an essential part of the next step in helping the Fellowship evolve in its understanding of how we share our resources, how we commit ourselves wholeheartedly to our vision.

The board needs to focus on these goals.

Our region’s annual meeting will be held in Topeka April 11 through 13. I will be speaking about the history of Unitarian and Universalist efforts to form congregations in the 19th century. I am also helping to plan the Sunday service in which I will talk about Marriage Equality as it relates to Kansas’s effort to remain a Free State and the impact of supreme-court decision on Brown vs the Board of Education. Much of our music team will help lead the music for that service.

The Deepening UU class has five participants. The adult class on The New Jim Crow begins this Wednesday. The Spiritual Ecology group continues to meet. Owl… So we have a lot going on!

* 1. Additions to the above report: Nancy Hegee was suggested to conduct a session with our fellowship involving a deep conversation and intentional visioning action using the technique of “Appreciative Inquiry”.
  2. To prepare the new 2014-2015 Board that begins in June, we should have a Board retreat with an outside facilitator, perhaps Thea Nietfeld?
  3. Michael and Charles want to have a May 3 wedding ceremony and celebration in the UUFM.

1. **Stewardship, Scott Tanona**
   1. Stewardship visits are to be facilitated by the Board members in April. Remember there are different ways to give: time/talent/treasures.

**Action:** Michael will work with Scott to prepare the stewardship process. Marisa and Katie are creating a Stewardship brochure with a narrative statistical chart.

1. **Brief Updates: Council of Committees summary, Kathleen Tanona**
   1. The next meeting will be in May for long-range planning.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sue Pray

Handouts and attachments were included in the original email and to be archived by Sue Turner