

UUFM Board Meeting Minutes
14 April 2015

The regularly scheduled Board meeting was held on this date. The meeting was called to order by Katie Kingery-Page, Chair Elect. Present were: Jane Pelletier, Mark Clarke, Tom Phillips, Sandy Nelson, Rev. Michael Nelson, Sue Turner and Betty Banner. Additionally three members of the Phoenix Circle (Pagan Group) were present to make a proposal. They were Heather Mingo, Adrian and Laura.

The first order of business was the presentation by the members of the Phoenix Circle. They reviewed their group's history, relationship to and involvement with UUFM and more recent conflicts and re-organization. The group as studied the UUA CUUPS alliance and wish to persue this designation. (**The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) is an organization dedicated to networking Pagan-identified Unitarian Universalists (UUs), educating people about Paganism, promoting interfaith dialogue, developing Pagan liturgies and theologies, and supporting Pagan-identified UU religious professionals.** Source UUA.org CUUPS page)

The leadership of the Phoenix Circle understand the requirements to be met in order to be so identified. They are working on their by-laws and will have a proposed set completed by June 21, 2015 and would request that the Board be willing to submit a letter of endorsement once the requirements have been met. The members of the Board verbally agreed t this plan.

Members of the Circle requested to be able to report to the Board on a regular basis. During the discussion it was recommended, and felt more appropriate, for a representative of the group participate in the Council of Committee meetings. This would also help other members of the congregation become more familiar with the members of Phoenix Circle and provide opportunities for shared activities.

The Phoenix Circle members departed following their presentation and the discussion.

Minutes of the March Board meeting were approved as corrected. Pelletier was misspelled.

DRE Report – to be attached in the office file

Minister's Report: Michael reminded us that sometimes we are too reserved and we need to express our excitement about our growth and forward action.

He also reported that he has spoken to one prospective candidate. It was a good conversation but the candidate indicated that he/she was somewhat confused about our goals. We may need to restate them more clearly.

The search committee members are Katie Kingery-Page, Jessica Simpson, Shirley Hobrock, Marissa Larson and Scott Tanona. The committee has met and is preparing for interviews.

Summer ministry is being arranged. Sarah Olgesby (Topeka UU) will be in the pulpit twice in June and Jordan Nelson-Long (All Souls KC-intern) will provide coverage twice a month in July & August. Michael is still working on arranging pastoral care support.

When Sarah Olgesby comes on June 14, she would like to meet with members of the Board to discuss the joys/concerns of the transition to a new minister.

Stewardship Report: Scott Tanona provided written recommendations regarding changes to the UUFM Handbook prior to the meeting. Following discussion the recommended changes were approved by the board.

Scott also provided a recommended Stewardship Policy. Following discussion a motion was made to approve this policy by Tom Phillips and seconded by Mark Clarke. The motion was passed by voice vote.

Scott further reported on the status of the Ministerial fund which has been established to develop funds to fill the money gap between the current ministerial salary and the anticipated salary of the new minister at full time. We will need an additional \$45,000/year. At this point \$70,000 has been set aside from our funds received from the Kirmsers bequest. A Chalice Grant has been approved and is expected to be about \$10,000. At this time commitments have been made, or donations made, for \$35,000. It is possible that years one and two will be funded by the special funds and Chalice Lighter grant. This would mean that we would not need to dip into the reserved Kirmsers funds until the third year.

Betty reported on a meeting held to review our practices in support of grieving families. This meeting was attended by Shirley Hobrock(Membership), Linda Kroeger(Caring), Scott Tanona(Stewardship), Barbara Hacker(Memorial Garden), Rev. Nelson and Betty. Committee representatives agreed to review their committee roles and what we offer to families. Improved communication between committees can be expected.

Mark Clarke discussed the changes that are being made to the UUFM website. Mark showed a beta site and several comments or recommendations were made. The changes to our web site are an evolving process.

In drawing our meeting to a close Rev. Nelson said that he had been reviewing some of the Fellowship's historical documents. He pointed out that an indication of our continued growth is the budget. Here are some annual budget figures he found:

1962 = \$1800.

1972 = \$3725

1982 = \$3400

2004 = \$44,000- \$48,000

2015 = \$134,935

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.