

Board Minutes – February 12, 2012

Amarillo Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Board Meeting

February 12, 2012

Present: Members: Eric Berg, Gary Schack, Kenny White, Terre Moore, Martin Sauer, Ryan Webber, Krista Lee, Cyndy Walton, Minnie Venable.

Guests: Nina Stein, Nancy Stephens, Sarah Brown, David Green

The meeting was called to order. There were minutes to consider from the Annual Meeting on November 6, and the two previous board meetings on December 11 and January 8. Ryan moved, and Kenny seconded, to approve all three sets of minutes as presented; motion carried.

New Business:

Eric called on Nina Stein to present her report on Healthy Congregations following training she recently attended. Three districts participated, including ours; many district duties have been consolidated for cost effectiveness and some district staff are now employees of the UUA. Our congregation is eligible to receive training paid for by our district related to six broad areas. (See copy of Nina's report attached.) Eric appointed Nina and Cyndy Walton to form, along with two other members of the congregation, an ad hoc committee to decide what kind of training we should request; one important issue brought up was healing our past religious wounds: we seem to be accepting of every spiritual background but Christianity, and we are in an area where our biggest potential growth is from Christians who may seek a more liberal theology.

Treasurer's Report:

Eric mentioned that letters had been mailed containing contributions received for 2011; he anticipates some feedback regarding these statements. He pointed out that our financial statements are prepared at the end of every month before the bills are paid within the first week of the month, so we always look a bit "fatter" than we are; we may need to do another transfer of funds into our checking account this month. Ryan pointed out that our income last month was \$6700, a bit short of the \$8000 that would keep us on schedule with our projected expenses, so we are doing fine. Cyndy reported that we are still not getting some of the information we need on cash donations intended toward a pledge; Ryan suggested putting envelopes in the cover with our Order of Service so people would have time to get the envelopes ready before the offertory. The new windows have now been installed all over the building; we all noticed the lack of drafts around the windows on this cold windy day. The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Committee Reports:

Eric reported that the **Nominating Committee** has candidates for all open positions and will present their list to the board in the April Board meeting in time for the Annual meeting at the end of that month. They made the suggestion that one of the members of the committee stay on the committee for the next year, in order to provide continuity of

information from one year to the next. They had met with members of the previous year's nominating committee initially and felt that had been very helpful; if the board approves, Wendy Hearn will remain on the committee for the coming term also.

Ryan reminded us that the board did direct all committees to hold public committee meetings, announced, inviting new people to attend if interested, as a way to get new people involved. This quarter is about to end and not all committees have yet fulfilled that new requirement.

Terre reported for Claudia that a number of new volunteers have been recruited and are working for Catholic Family Services in the area of **Immigration services**; she submitted a written schedule of our volunteers, hours, etc. (See attached.)

Nancy reported for Membership that three new people have signed our membership book: Cyn Kerbs, Amy Koffman, and Emily Polster. Cyndy moved, Ryan seconded, that we accept these as voting members; the motion carried.

Old Business:

David reported on the Path to Membership gatherings that 18 new/prospective members are attending; the number of long-time members attending varies. He feels the process is going well; he hopes to see a high rate of retention among these folks; he intends at one of the next two meetings to talk about the opportunities to get involved here, including to attend a committee meeting.

David reminded us that we volunteered to host the spring meeting of our cluster, which will be in April, the weekend of the 21st. He would like to have a committee to make all the preparations and arrangements, including a Friday night event, the Saturday meeting, finding hosts within the congregation for the expected 20-25 people for the two nights, a Saturday night event or outing of some sort, and invite those who are able to stay to participate in our Sunday worship service. He feels other congregations in our cluster are looking to us for guidance in how to grow and flourish, as their sizes are much smaller. There is the possibility we can invite all our youth to participate and provide some activity such as OWL training. Eric Berg and Martin Sauer volunteered to meet with David for such a committee. We need to move ahead on the development of our Policy Manual as the By-Laws provided. Minnie volunteered to ask Claudia to help as she has those skills. Kenny stated that it is possible to divide the work up so that it can be done in pieces by many people.

Eric reported that Martha Baird hopes to be able to get back to work soon on content management of the website, following her hospitalization.

There was much discussion on the need for a clear policy of some sort on Building Use. A member has complained that the Bahai group, who is using our building again on a regular basis, is homophobic and therefore not in

compliance with our seven principles. In the past, the building had been rented to the group on a regular basis; this same issue was debated then with no real resolution before they ceased to use it because they had access to another space owned by one of their members. David had agreed to follow up on the complaint and had requested a response from the Bahai group regarding their position on homosexuality. Cyndy Walton read the response, which had been received in our office by mail. See entire written response attached. The consensus of the board was that this group is in compliance with our principles to the same extent that various other religious groups would be considered to be, such as groups from St. Andrews or the Temple, who might still differ with us regarding some specific beliefs, but that they should be charged some minimum fee, perhaps \$25, to cover the expenses of the utilities.

Ryan moved and Cyndy seconded, that regular meeting events require Board approval before meeting; one-time events can be approved by the minister and the president in lieu of Board approval. The motion carried. There was also discussion on the need to have someone present at the building at the time of any event scheduled on our website calendar, in case someone does show up, to communicate with that person, even if the event itself does not materialize; the Spirit Realms group has scheduled meetings on Friday, which sometimes do not happen and no one has been here in case someone checking our website does show up. We need to address the issue of when to remove an event from the calendar if it is not happening. It is also important to schedule where in the building a group is meeting, so that it may be possible for two groups to use the building simultaneously.

Gary brought up the issue of the board's decision to have the congregation discuss and vote on a proposed resolution by the board to change the name of this organization to the Amarillo Unitarian Universalist Church. There were several people who had expected such a meeting and vote, and it never happened. Eric had indeed reported that because he had missed a board meeting, he had assumed, that the whole issue had died after a decision of most board members, acting as an Executive Committee, had postponed that discussion/meeting, because the By-laws were undergoing a total revision. Gary requested that when such a decision is made by a board majority, outside of an official board meeting, that that decision be reported back to the board. (Board secretary acknowledges that such report was brought to the board and she failed to document it in subsequent minutes.)

Final item for discussion: David stated Kenny needs money for more software to complete the new audio project; consensus was to get the software as required.

Meeting adjourned.

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