

**Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist  
Minutes of the Board Meeting  
March 19, 2014**

The following members of the Board of Trustees were present in person at the meeting: Kathy Dahlgren, Gloria Kinney, Beth Ligouri, Tom MacTavish, Deb Quentel, Sheryl Skifstad, and Bridget Smith. President Bev Sneddon attended by Skype.

Additionally, Reverend Hilary Landau Krivchenia attended. An in-person quorum was present.

The following individuals were present as visitors:  
Lisa Hagenbuch (Nominating Committee)

Vice-President Bridget Smith served as lead for the meeting, as President Bev Sneddon was participating by Skype. Smith called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Opening Reading and Board Covenant**  
Board Covenant

The members of the Board of Trustees read the Board Covenant aloud, as a reminder of our purpose.

**Consent Agenda Items**

Sheryl Skifstad made a motion to approve the February 19, 2014, Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes and the March Reports (Consent Agenda Items: Finance Committee Minutes, Assistant Minister's Report, Senior Minister Report, Assistant Minister for Lifespan Religious Education Report). Gloria Kinney seconded the motion.

Discussion followed the motion. Treasurer Beth Ligouri reported that January and February saw a decrease in anticipated pledged amounts for 2013-2014 coming into CCUU. Thus, the Finance Committee is recommending to the ministries that they all hold off on discretionary spending at the present time to avoid a net loss for the year.

Bridget Smith called for a vote on the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Unfinished Business**  
Budget / Stewardship

Treasurer Beth Ligouri reported on the Finance Committee February meeting and its recommendations. Budget Team suggests that the Board go out to the congregation with a request for members to increase their pledges for 2014-2015. Presently, 89% of the 2014-2015 draft budgets is covered by pledges received to date and 91% of households have pledged. Thus, Budget Team thinks with the present level of contribution, CCUU will fall \$25,000 below its

needed budget. The budget for 2014-15 anticipated just a 5% increase to meet the exciting planned needs for 2014-15.

The Board discussed the programs designed in anticipation of an increased budget for adult religious education. There was discussion of whether Countryside Congregation Unitarian Universalist should charge for religious education, as other UU congregations do. Alternatively, the position is that as a community the religious development of everyone is critical to CCUU; and when Countryside does not charge individual parents for their children's religious education then each member of Countryside is responsible for the child's religious education. There is already precedent for charging for religious education at Countryside Congregation Unitarian Universalist. For example, OWL has a modest fee associated with participation. Finally, it was recognized that charging a modest fee for RE would also suggest the formation of a pattern for future contributions.

The Board must decide the budget at the April meeting. So, we have approximately 2 weeks to fund the potential deficit.

#### Ministerial Evaluation

Reverend Hilary Krivchenia asked the Board whether it was able and willing to have a special session to work on this issue. It was agreed that this discussion should be a special and separate session distinct from a typical board meeting and would be conducted as a closed session because of the nature of the discussion. This extra meeting would be the actual ministerial evaluation. In addition to attendance by Board members, one or more members of the Ministerial Committee would be present as well. Ideally, this meeting will happen by the end of May 2014. Bev Sneddon agreed to organize a date for this meeting.

#### Gender Neutral Bathroom

Discussion was moved to the April Board Meeting.

#### Social Media Policy

Sheryl Skifstad presented an update on the draft version of the Social Media Policy. The Board was reminded that social media would be used to promote the congregation not to weaken the compassionate communication already present in the congregation. The Board discussed that the CRT needs to create the training manual.

#### New Business

##### Resignation of Board of Trustee Member

The Board acknowledged John Mosman's resignation from the Board of Trustees for personal reasons effective February 21, 2014, and thanked him for his service.

##### Retreat Planning All Fall Board retreat, Facilitator, Board / Ministry retreat

There was a discussion of the various retreats held in the past, and about how best to schedule retreats for the next year considering the anticipated turn-over of trustees on the Board. It was suggested that a May or June meeting might be the best time for new and old board members to

all participate in the meetings. Because of the date of the Annual Members Meeting, the May Board meeting can be a joint transition meeting for the Board. New Board member will be invited to attend as guests.

The Board discussed that having more detailed agenda would be desirable before scheduling a joint retreat with the Ministry Council. It was decided that members of the Board of Trustees will attend Ministry Council meeting on June 03, 2014.

Further, it was decided that the May Board meeting would have an early start time of 6:00 p.m. for a potluck dinner, with the official meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Finally, there was discussion of dates for the fall retreat for the Board of Trustees with a facilitator. The suggested date is September 12-13, 2014 and all Board members were asked to hold that date in reserve.

At this point in the meeting, Lisa Hagenbuch left.

#### MidAmerica Region Meeting in April

There was discussion about the multiple, simultaneous locations for the April meeting. There was further discussion of which Trustees might be able to attend. The Board will reach out to the congregation to find delegates.

#### **Wrap up**

The Board members reviewed all Action items from the meeting.

#### **Reading and Adjournment**

Beth Ligouri made a motion to adjourn. Sheryl Skifstad seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board meeting adjourned at 8:50p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees is Wednesday, April 16, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. at Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Deb Quentel, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, CCUU