

Ballou Channing District UUMA Chapter
Business Meeting
October 26, 2005

I. Chalice Lighting at 9:08 by Deb Cayer

II. Reports:

- a. Treasurer – Ann Fox reported that we have a healthy account, but that when we have an expense it's usually a big expense. After paying the retreat bill (for retreat center and presenter, and misc.) we will have \$1160 in the treasury. And, we can expect to receive \$400 subsidy from the UUMA, and perhaps another \$200 in dues. In general, we don't receive dues from members who don't participate. Our retreat presenter submitted an unexpected program fee of approximately \$200 which the Exec recommends that the chapter reimburse. **Motion:** Reimburse Harrington for program fees (**Cherry/Teichert**). **Unanimous.**
- b. District Executive – Bill Zelazny. BCD Board is in good shape. Nominating committee will start working in November, with 7 positions available, including the officer positions. All are invited to assist in the nominating committee process. There will be a gathering on November 9th for a conversation between the BCD board and the minister's chapter. It will take place at First Parish Cohasset. We'll be looking at shared missions and how the Board can support the professional ministry in our district. Beth MacGregor will be our facilitator. Bill introduced the issue of developing a vision and plan for the BCD Cedar Hill Retreat Center. In the Fall/Early Winter conversations will start, and input is being solicited. Congregations are invited to submit answers to a questionnaire. The Board is trying to help the BCD Endowment grow, for the sake of "Faith Development". Bill passed around a sheet describing a workshop to be led by Jerry King on "Giving". Congregations will have to send a team of 4 people. Bill is, as always, interested in hearing chapter's input and suggestions. He hopes that we are liking the new "BCD In Brief". A better online version/calendar version is in the works.

There was discussion of the origins and intentions of the Cedar Hill gift.

- c. Good Offices – Carol Rosine reminded the chapter that if anyone has a question or a difficulty in your ministry, to feel free to call your good offices persons. They provide a listening ear and perhaps counsel if that is necessary. It doesn't have to be a "big" thing. Even if you just want to bounce an idea around, please know that Carol and Bob Thayer are available. Bob has been doing outreach work to chapter members who don't often participate in meetings.
- d. Nominating Committee – By-laws don't call for one, but executive committee asked one to form. Our by-laws called for an election last April which was missed. Steve Landale and Diane Teichert shared their nominating report with us. Slate includes: Deb Cayer as President, Steve Landale as VP, Ann Fox as Treasurer, Eric Cherry as Secretary. Good Offices will be filled by Carol Rosine and Bob Thayer. Center Representative is to be filled. **Motion** (Teichert/Cherry) to move the slate of candidates for positions through April 2007 for election. Unanimous with one abstention.

Deb noted that a "by-laws review committee" has been formed.

- e. President – Deb Cayer shared that there is an understanding that chapter meetings serve to support vital and dynamic ministries. We have a reputation as a "colleagial" and "friendly" chapter. The Exec wants the chapter to know that we're not all about poetry

and picnics. We are in covenanted relationship as UUMA members and as leaders in a religious movement. Last Spring we had a wonderful program with A. B. Wesley opening a dialogue on covenant. We are very concerned that we are not operating as effectively as a group as we could. ie. there was no agenda for today's meeting. We've always been very relaxed and informal. Deb would like to help us not to scramble at the last minute. We've also talked about the membership "Issue". We regularly do not see a portion of colleagues at our meetings. A letter will be sent out saying how we need them, their vitality, and that they are expected to attend. The letter will be followed up with visits. This is for the purpose of supporting a vibrant Unitarian Universalism. Our religious movement can't afford "drift". Deb calls us to "step up" to the task.

- III. Small Groups: The chapter breaks into small groups to consider two questions:
1. What do we expect of each other as members of this chapter.
 2. What do we expect of leaders of the chapter.

Reports from the Small Groups included the following comments:

Question 1:

- Expect each other to show up to retreat, monthly meetings, and installations/ordinations.
- To welcome each other better than we do.
- Not only show up, but serve in standing positions.
- Live up to UUMA guidelines, which include participation in a chapter.
- Expectation that we be nice to each other and leaders.
- We should be supportive, but accountable.
- There should be consequences for not meeting minimal expectations.
- Be prepared to play with meeting structure/tradition.
- Our chapter acts like it wants to stay small.
- Gather in service of something greater than ourselves.
- That we reach out to UURMPA, interim ministers group, community ministers.
- Confidentiality.
- To encourage our teaching congregations to model UUMA participation to their interns.
- Meeting frequently has benefits, but so might less frequency of meetings.
- If we are going to raise expectations, holding people accountable might be more successful if frequency changes.

Question 2:

- Cultivate new leadership
- Mentor each other.
- congregational transition point support
- process of getting involved/finding info in district more clear. Transparency.
- website with UUMA info.
- UUMA info in BCD directory.
- Inform people who are new to district about "ongoing issues"/manage "sausage-making" process.
- To have a vision and move us towards it – to grow UUism in our district and to model that growth in how we are as colleagues.
- share leadership.
- intentionally covering different areas of ministry in chapter programs so that there is a "flow" to the year.
- consider varying (not always "touchy/feel" or "trendy") needs of the chapter members.

- meeting with DREs should be JUST meeting with DREs.
- That the process leaders use conveys the message.
- expectations should be “realistic

Suggestions:

make our covenant explicit – with a worship ritual. (Book of Life)

make membership status/categories explicit.

that we welcome students more carefully with greater intention.

Membership committee to be formed including Ken, Sarah (liaison to students), Christana (liaison to community ministers), Judith, and Good Offices to be considered for appointment by Exec with a long-term planning horizon. Let us acknowledge that this is a “Work in Progress” that is not in lieu of “Mission/Vision” work, nor that any decision has yet been made.

Vivian offers to work on “Mission/Vision” with the chapter.