

BCD UUMA BUSINESS MEETING
Draft Minutes
OCTOBER 27, 2004

I. Chalice Lighting

II. Chapter Visit - John Weston, UUA

- Last year there were only 47 ministers settled. That's about a 30% decrease. John expects that may continue for a while. The number of ministers leaving their situations for new situations is down. This year there are only 17 churches open so far. Conversion from denominating ministerial compensation to "Salary and Housing" from "cost of ministry" is happening. Suggest that contracts which reflect this conversation should include a statement about making adjustments to the other categories. Fair Compensation Congregation guidelines are still working, including 80% of health insurance.
- With Harlan Limpert - recommendations to congregations and groups on precautions to take on hiring staff and volunteers, ie. background checking, etc.
- A new DRE pilot interim ministry program will be offered before GA this year.
- Concerned about demographics of the ministry. The only ministry cohort growing (by percentage) over the past ten years is the number in their 50s.
- Good news - about a dozen ministers who are persons of color have been settled or called during the past two years. There are 8 ministerial interns who are persons of color currently.
- Community Ministry remains a step-child among us. David Hubner is looking after it, a community ministry groups is forming and seeking better support from MPL. Some progress.
- David is also paying attention to collegueship between ministers/DREs/administrators/musicians. One key to church growth is good teams including ordained and non-ordained folks. Credentialed DRE's will be recognized at SLT.
- Fellowship is under redesign. Preliminary Fellowship in '06 will be awarded without track or category, probably. One in PF, ministers will be asked to choose a specialty to focus on. Community ministry may turn into, ie. hospital chaplaincy, interim ministry, teaching, etc. Any non-parish ministry. Final Fellowship will require a plan for a specialty.
- Religious Education credentialing is going forward. 43 non-ordained persons are participating currently. Will MRE designation or degree remain viable given this option.
- Continuing Education funds - please use them. 1/3 of the cost up to \$500 per year. Apply early - year starts in July.
- Preparing to purchase a "document management" system that would be used for minister's files at UUA headquarters.

III. Chapter Visit - Bill Zelazny, DE

- BCD Nominating committee has started its work looking for members, if ministers are interested in having their name considered, speak with Bill or Committee. Also looking for lay-leaders.
- New directory will be coming out next week, including the pulpit supply list.
- We are seeking a new district compensation consultant - a lay position. Bill seeks names of people with long-term involvement in UUism and commitment to fair compensation.
- Communication survey is on its way to congregations. Very simple, 5 minutes, please take it.
- UUA Trustee, Eva Marx, and BCD president Eric Kluz would like invitations to visit congregations during worship or board meetings.
- We have a new "program associate" position at the office. It is not related to RE. Working with Bill on growth, social justice, and media outreach. Uncommon denomination cliff notes are going out to congregations. Press releases from UUA to go to congregations for adding congregational information and then sending to media.
- Board is looking carefully at Cedar Hill Conference Center. What is our vision? Does it fit into our mission? What is its purpose, and what kind of money does it need?

- Bill is thinking about holding a "What do we do now conference". Sometime after the election, maybe January, hold four meetings on one evening in response to the election.
- District Religious Education Committee has been re-formed. And, new DYSC committee. Sue Bolens is the new district youth ministry consultant, helping to design good youth programming.
- Bill is organizing "conclaves" (conversation gatherings) for treasurers and finance committee chairs.
- Last year Bill purchased three videos on racism. Murray Church, in February or March, will probably have 3 consecutive Mondays to view them. That's this year's anti-racism program.

IV. Thank yous to Steve and Kathy for a terrific retreat, and a reminder that a replacement for Kathy will be necessary to find. Volunteers are being sought.

V. Treasurers Report - currently have a surplus of approximately \$2000.00 in our account. Would like to know in what ways having a surplus is helpful. Are we meeting the need for assisting people to attend retreats, etc.

VI. Sabbatical Policy

Our district is not good at putting together strong committees. The board is concerned about creating a long-term committee. The District office would be willing to take on the responsibilities of the committee, provided the information is sent in. Also would like to suggest putting together a speakers bureau who could be called upon to assist congregations whose minister's are planning sabbaticals.

Ann and Steve will take up amendments for the document and report in January.

VII. North Korean Interfaith Project - Diane Teichert

Diane described the letter she sent to contributors to the North Korean trip that didn't happen. Should plans to give the money to the Church World Service. But, wants to give people permission to have the money refunded first. Does the chapter want to have its \$250 refunded?

Motion: That the chapter does not expect its donation to Diane for the North Korean initiative to be refunded, and that Diane should contribute that money to a different North Korean initiative. Passed Unanimously.

VIII. Support for Trauma Response Ministry - Jan Carlsson-Bull

Jan described a "care package" project in which the chapter could provide pastoral support to UU ministers serving congregations in Florida who are experiencing "Compassion Fatigue." Deb Cayer and Wendy Jones volunteered to help Jan create the care packages.

Motion: That the chapter support the "care package" project and provide up to \$500 for the creation, packaging, and mailing of these care packages. Passed Unanimously.

IX. Odysseys and Record Keeping

The Chapter invites Dorothy Boroush to present her Odyssey at the 2005 retreat. The chapter discussed the possibility of filing copies of Odysseys with the permission of presenters. No action was taken. There will be further discussion on this issue at future meetings.

X. Doolittle Home Update - Dorothy Boroush

Dorothy updated the chapter on the status of the Doolittle home controversy, and she asked whether members of the chapter thought their churches would provide financial support to this effort. Many colleagues spoke to say that they didn't think it was likely that financial support would be forthcoming from their congregations.

XI. Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Cherry, Chapter Secretary