

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP of LONGVIEW
Governing Board Meeting
March 21, 2010
MINUTES

Board Members Present: Vice President Marolen Mullinax, Secretary Sky Mitchell, Treasurer Huey Mitchell, Director-at-Large Chip Koepke; Director-at-Large Amanda Koepke, Director-at-Large Celeste Fisher

Absent Board Members: President Jessica Noble, Director-at-Large Tina Rushing

Also Present: Betty Ready

Marolen called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM by lighting the candle.
The covenant was read by the board members.

The minutes from the February 14, 2010 board meeting were reviewed. There were no additions or corrections. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. It passed unanimously.

Celeste presented her draft of the **behavioral covenant**. Marolen asked her to review the process of how the covenant was made. Celeste explained that the need for a behavioral covenant was recognized by the Board. Celeste prepared and gave a talk one Sunday to the congregation about covenants. Everyone in the Fellowship was invited to participate in the process of creating a covenant for our Fellowship. Daniel Polk, NTAUUS Board President, was asked to present a workshop on how to develop a covenant. About 20 to 30 members and friends participated in the workshop. Marla Loturko, RRUU Board President, co-presented the workshop and shared the results of their recent experience of creating a congregational covenant. She also brought their covenant and said we were welcome to use it verbatim or any parts of it we found useful. The workshop participants discussed what they thought needs to be in our covenant. Celeste then posted this first draft of our covenant in the sanctuary and invited everyone to add any further ideas directly to the posters. After several weeks, Celeste took the posters down and incorporated all further suggestions into a final draft to present to the Board.

The Board will review this final draft and let Celeste know if there are any typos that need to be corrected or wording that needs to be changed for clearer understanding. This document will then be presented for approval to the Fellowship as the first item on the agenda at the Annual Congregational Business Meeting in May.

In response to several **requests for money from people calling or coming to the Fellowship**, the Board decided to prepare a pamphlet or letter with the pertinent information for getting help in the Longview area in times of need or crisis. These pamphlets will be kept in the lobby so that any member or friend can assist someone asking for help.

While in Austin this past weekend, Chip and Amanda found a liturgical supply company that sells liquid candles and brought one of their catalogs back with them. This would eliminate the problem of the large candle in the chalice dripping wax all over the place. Marolen said she would take the catalog to the Worship Committee and see what they would like to do.

It has come to the Board's attention that the **wiring in the R E building** was not done correctly. Chip noticed that the furnace was not heating the building very well. An electrician was called and he found the problem: a heat strip jumper had been removed and was lying in the bottom of the unit. He would not reattach it because there was not enough power. In the R E building circuit breaker panel, there are three 30-amp circuit breakers. One of these 30-amp circuit breakers was being used to feed the 60-amp A/C unit. To make the A/C unit work in the heater mode without blowing the 30-amp circuit breaker, one of the two heater strips was removed by the A/C technician.

Huey called the contractor, Patrick Sweeney, who did the R E remodeling job, to tell him of the problem and ask how we could get it resolved. Mr. Sweeney has basically said that we agreed to have it wired that way and so it is our problem. We are neither electricians nor A/C technicians. We paid Mr. Sweeney to see that the job was done well and to code. Therefore, we have gotten the name of an attorney. Marolen will contact him, give him the facts, and ask what our legal options are.

Jerry has finished taking pictures for the **UUFL directory** and John has collected the contact information but has not compiled them in a directory. John has not responded to emails asking for a status report. Marolen and Jessica are therefore going to contact John and ask that all the data be sent to Amanda. It was suggested that Gabi and John Phillips be asked if they had the computer equipment and skills to make a booklet.

Celeste said she could ask Elizabeth Kidd if she knows who made the UU Tyler **sign** and how much it cost. Huey suggested we work on getting a **NTAUUS grant** to have a sign built for our Fellowship

Sky said she has done a bit of research on the computer to find examples of a **grievance process** but has not found any yet. Marolen said the word "grievance" sounds so negative that we could find a better word. Sky said Marolen's proposed Suggestion Box would be a natural place for people to put notes about things they would like to have done or changed or don't like, so "suggestion" could be a first step in a grievance process. Celeste found a synonym for grievance: squawk. Everyone agreed that squawk sounds better than grievance. Amanda said it will be important to contact people who put suggestions in the Squawk Box.

Advertising on Channel 31 will be considered after the Biker Ball.

The Board then moved on to New Business. Huey presented the **financial report**. There were no questions or corrections. It will be filed for audit.

Marolen listed the **speakers** for April: Tom Stoval, Megan Jones, Jay Noble, and Ruth Semrau.

Huey said that he spoke with Dwight Parish from **Network Communications**. They are in competition with AT&T. They would give us basic local service for about \$37 per month. Marolen asked if we would still be in the phone directory. Huey said he needs to check with AT&T to find out if we are being charged for having a **long distance line**. Sky asked if there would be a charge if we needed to return to AT&T after we switched service.

Amanda said she received a request from Daniel Polk to distribute a questionnaire from NTAUUS in an attempt to find out what services the North Texas UU congregations would like to receive from NTAUUS. Huey noted that, since we moved into our present location, we have received \$26,000 in grants from NTAUUS. Amanda said that NTAUUS has recognized that most people in UU Fellowships do not know about NTAUUS or what their mission is. Amanda agreed to send the questionnaire to all the Board Members. We agreed to fill them out and return them to her in the next day or two so that she could compile the results and send them to Daniel.

Sky said that the FCC has ruled that **wireless mics** using the 700 MHz band must stop using them by June 12, 2010. The UUFL has two wireless mics that are used during Talk Back. Huey said that he could find out what bandwidth they used.

Huey then raised the topic of the **incoming Board**. Marolen asked if we have a Nominating Committee. Amanda said no, we just discussed who we could ask if they would like to serve on the Board. Marolen said it should be announced every Sunday, beginning next Sunday (March 28th), that the Annual Congregational Business Meeting will be held in May and that we will be voting for people to serve on the Board. Celeste said she would make the announcements inviting members who are interested in serving on the Board to give their name and the position desired to a Board Member. People will also be invited to submit names of other people they feel are qualified. Nominations will be accepted through May 2, 2010.

Huey suggested that Board meetings start immediately after services and not after Talk Back. Everyone agreed to this modification in our start time.

There being no further business to discuss, Marolen adjourned the meeting and extinguished the candle.

Sky Mitchell, Secretary