

**Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Board Meeting
October 8th, 2013**

Telescope Deadline: October 14th, 2013

Chalice Lighting (David) 2 min
Check-In 10 min

Call to Order 7:08 PM

In Attendance

- David Cochran, President
- Misty Kirkman Brogan, President-Elect
- Dick Eiden, Past President
- Tim Pierce, Treasurer
- Marj Lacey, Secretary
- Beth Johnson, Minister

Approval of prior Board Meeting minutes: September 2 min

Minutes were approved

Review of Current Agenda 2 min

Announcements 2 min

Written Reports: (Discussion by exception only)

- Religious Education (Report Attached)
- Minister's Report (Report Attached)

Beth announced that the board is invited to attend In Good Company, a mixer for new members Saturday, 10/19, and the Pathways to Membership meeting 11/4. She also encouraged all board members to prepare theological reflections and present them to the congregation during a service. Suggestions for this are included in her current minister's report.

Verbal Reports:

Finance Report Tim 10 min

Tim announced the Finance Committee is still looking into changing investments and the way investments are handled. See "Investment Planning" below. (His written report is attached.)

Old Business:

Committee on Ministry Beth 10 min

Beth reported she has met with Katia, and they are developing a model for the Committee on Ministry (COM) which will be appropriate for our congregation. The COM has been suspended for the past 18 months. Daniel Stracka and Susan Lawrence are also on the task force working on this. Bylaws, terms of office, method of appointing members, and the COM's relationship to the board are being developed and will be presented at the congregational meeting in January.

New Business:

Vision and Values Town Hall David 30 minutes
Beth read some of the responses from the congregational meeting as members answered the questions . . .

- What brought you here?
- What keeps you here?
- What do you see here when you look five years into the future?

Plate Share David 5 minutes
Elizabeth Hospice was approved as the plate share recipient for this quarter.

Strategic Planning David 5 minutes
We discussed the need for a Strategic Planning Committee and taking the next step of recruiting members for that.

Investment Planning Tim 3 minutes
Tim announced the Finance Committee is hoping to take more control of our investments to ensure that they're in funds that are socially responsible and avoid managerial fees by managing the funds ourselves. Tim and Jon are researching the possibilities, including looking into the funds the UUA invests in as possibilities for us. We discussed the issue of board oversight of the Finance Committee and what the relationship between those two groups should be. Dick Eiden, who is now filling the position of past president at the board's request, suggested the Finance Committee should come up with a policy proposal, to be considered by the board, which should maintain general oversight of major decisions. A chart of sustainable and responsible mutual funds may be found at <http://charts.ussif.org/mfpc/>

Beth and David will create a format for all policy statements. Tim and the Finance Committee will write the suggested policy on the strategy for managing investments.

January Congregational Meeting David 5 minutes

Items for agenda are as follows:

- State of the Congregation
- Ask congregation to vote for changing 1st principle wording from all people to every being
- Committee on Ministry

Beth announced the San Diego UU Cluster summit (meeting of all congregations' executive boards) will be held Jan. 11th.

She also said the music staff would like to go to the UU Musicians Network Conference in San Diego at the end of July next year. The board approved using funds from Harry Wolcott's estate to cover that expense.

The appointment of Dick Eiden as past president was approved.

Next Meeting: November 12th, 2013

Executive Session (as needed) None

Adjournment: 8:30 PM 8:46 PM

Religious Education report from Kathleen Moscato

DRE Board Report for September 2013:

Class Attendance: 9/8 9/15 9/22 9/29

Nursery: 7(5) 5(6) 9(7) 9(7)

Explorers:	10	5	12	Multi
JRUU:	5	3	7	Multi
YRUU:	4	6	5	6

Coming of Age:

The COA program was postponed because of illness and will begin the week of 10/7/13. The program has a group of 12 youth between the ages of 12 and 16years. The program will run the whole church year, ending in June 2014.

Sunday Morning Classes:

The Sunday morning classes have begun their church year programming. My hope for this year, is to form another Explorers class (called Explorers 2) that will target the 4th and 5th graders. At this time I do not have enough teacher volunteers to add this class to the Sunday morning classes. I have asked my REC to please have their eyes and ears open to finding more leaders for our Sunday mornings.

The JRUU class will only be running on the non-COA Sundays. This way they do not suffer burn out on these Sunday mornings. There will be space created for the youth that show up during second service, a place to connect through games and arts and crafts.

Finance Report from Tim Pierce

Attached is the Budget Report for September, 2013. Items of note are

Income

- 1) Pledge income increased to 96% of amount budgeted and is now up to 86% of the amount budgeted for the quarter.
- 2) We have one new direct depositor, for a total of 20. We pay \$25 per month for up to 25 direct deposits, so I have been trying to get that number up to at least 25. Any in excess of 25 would cost us 25 cents each.
- 3) Identified plate income was down a little in September, but is very close to budget for the quarter.
- 4) Unidentified plate is now up to \$3257.80, we will be sending Hands of Peace a check for \$1502.65, half of the amount raised in July, August and September. The \$1755.15 remaining is 117% of the amount budgeted for this period.
- 5) Total income for the quarter is 88% of the amount budgeted.

Expense

- 1) Bookkeeping expense continues to be less each month, but still high for the quarter.
- 2) Office equipment Maintenance (\$300 budgeted for the year) is already overspent due to our Power Church (\$455)

and web site (\$107.88) fees.

- 3) Office Equipment (New) can still come in under budget this year, if there are no more major purchases.
- 4) Total expense for the quarter is 88% of the amount budgeted.

The Finance committee met on October 7, 2013.

We have received the new credit card from Chase Bank, to be used by Janice for the Fellowship's office expense and by Beth for professional expenses. The statement will keep each person's charges separate so it will be easy to track expenses.

David and Tim have become the authorized signers for the Fellowship's investment accounts, and we should have online access to these accounts soon.

We are looking at alternatives to the Chase Bank investment account. If we selected and managed our own investments, we could save over \$1200 a year in management fees. We should probably be looking at reducing or eliminating bond funds, since we are looking for long-range growth. The UUA has a Common Endowment Fund open to all member congregations, but we need more information to determine if that would be any better than the current Chase account. And we would like any changes to move us away from investments in fossil fuels. There are detailed listings of socially responsible investments on line at charts.usif.org that can help us to do this.

The committee is hoping to design a report that somehow combines the information in the monthly Budget Report and the Balance Sheet report that would show monthly income and expense, as well as the status of funds in reserve for future building projects and contingency funds that can be used in emergencies. We think it is essential to our financial stability and any long range planning that we maintain and nurture these funds.

Minister's Quarterly Report from Beth

The first quarter of this year (July-Sept) has gone well. The summer **Sunday Services** were very well conceived, executed, and received by the congregation. The theme, "Moving Beyond Our Comfort to be All We Can," was a great fit for where the congregation is. We are, in many ways, moving truly toward "love beyond belief," which means that we can stretch and grow in different ways. I was in the pulpit four Sundays this summer and out four. That means this year's preaching schedule will be a little different this year – I'll be in the pulpit more throughout the year.

Our **monthly themes*** started in September. We did start later in the month with the theme of "faith," due to delaying Ingathering. My first Spiritual Theme group was fairly well-attended. It will offer people a chance to deepen in the theme. I'm so very pleased that the Christian group, and the Buddhist Sangha (once a month), will explore the theme. I believe SEE will as well. Kathleen and I are working together to integrate the theme across generations.

This summer the Peace Team sponsored Will Tuttle and Geshe Phelgye, who both provided a beautiful message of compassion for all beings. Each event drew around 60 people many of whom from outside our fellowship. It is very good be creating a presence in a less explored demographic of our community.

I was so happy to lead the **Executive Board retreat** and applaud you on the good work you did defining mission and goals! Good for you! I recommend keeping the goals before you and developing a plan to work toward them, as well as some objectives that are measurable so that you can assess your progress.

Because I had only two weeks off this summer, I was able to be involved in numerous **social justice actions**.

As you know, I attended a two-day training in Los Angeles to train people to participate in dignified, peaceful civil disobedience if necessary **to resist the Keystone XL Pipeline**. I am a member of the planning team training people to resist and also with 350.org. I spoke at Pipeline rally on 9/21, and co-facilitated an-all day training on 9/28. There will be more trainings offered.

Immigration Reform:

July 1 I attended a beautiful immigration rally at the San Luis Rey Mission. Over 2000 people were in attendance. I gave the closing remarks and prayer.

I visited Congressman Darryl Issa's office three times for meetings with staffers – with San Diego Organizing Project, ICWJ, and a clergy group. I also spoke at two rallies outside of Issa's office.

In July I also attended the New Jim Crow Study Group. Dick Eiden has done a fabulous job of carrying this, and Lisa Shapiro assisted. You may know that the group continues to meet and will be doing action as well.

I am participating in a four-week Dialogue on Race with 16 others from the San Diego Organizing Project.

As you know, Rachel Rott resigned as Chair of the Social Justice Ministries. I hope we will find a way to publically thank her for this important ministry. We will need to use this time to evaluate social justice in our congregation. There has been frustration with the lack of participation in initiatives. I know the frustration is one that is found in many congregations I hear from ministers and social justice folks all over the UUA. This is not a challenge that the Executive Board, CCAT, or minister can solve – as much as I wish I could single-handedly. I have asked Rachel if she will consider joining a team that will look at our needs and process. I see this as an opportunity to invite the congregation, once again, into this aspect of stewardship.

Committee on Ministry: Katia and I have met twice, and she has talked to the other team members. We are pulling together a model that should be very appropriate for our congregation. The COM should appear on the agenda for the congregational meeting. We will have the final draft in November for the December newsletter.

Have we set the date of the congregational meeting?

Membership Committee is doing a great job of continuing to mentor new members. There will be a mixer, **In Good Company, this month, October 19**, for new members and leadership. I hope you will attend.

Leadership Development Training – We are going to try again this year to have it take place in CCAT. This important area needs to be addressed. It is my hope that the Nominating Committee will participate. I will be using the UUA's Tapestry of Faith, "Harvest the Power," leadership program.

I continue to provide a good amount of pastoral care and spiritual direction to members. It is a very rewarding aspect of my ministry.

Vision and Values – our first meeting was very fruitful. I'm looking forward to seeing the written responses of the congregation members that were in attendance. I would like to see the categories that have emerged, and to reflect on the values that they identified. The Vision and Values conversation is a good first step in developing our Strategic Plan.

Remember that you are invited to develop your theological reflection to present in a service this year. **

Professional Development

PSWD UUMA Fall Retreat – September 23-25

Upcoming:

PSWD UUMA/LREDA Programmed Retreat – January 27 – 30, with DRE.

Malibu Study Group – March 4-6

And here is a very exciting invitation I have received:

“Starr King School for the Ministry and Meadville Lombard Theological School, we

would like to invite you to participate in an ecological justice dialogue and strategic planning summit.

The purpose of this summit – which we are calling a “collaboratory” because of its collaborative and laboratory-style format – is to bring together a small, diverse set of key UU leaders. We want to explore together how we might transform the culture, institutions and practices of our denomination so that clergy and laity are better equipped and more effective in meeting the multi-dimensional challenges of the 21st century (including climate change and its consequences). Our central question is: how can UUs help to bring about a more just, sustainable and spirit-filled society and economy? (We understand the term “ecological justice” to be an integration of anti-racism/anti-oppression work and environmental justice.)

This will take place - Monday, March 10, 2014 and run until lunch on Thursday, March 13.

*Monthly themes 2013-2014

Faith
Death
Forgiveness
Hope
Justice
Love
Brokenness
Transformation / Resurrection
Transcendence

****Theological Reflection Guidelines**

These guidelines are provided to allow you a basis upon which to reflect on what moves, grounds, and motivates you to action and service **within our religious community**. The first set of reflections and questions are meant to invite you to go deep into what is of ultimate value and worth for you and how that informs whom you are and what you do. The

second set of reflection questions are meant to allow you to apply the insights you uncover to your service at Palomar Fellowship and as a Unitarian Universalist.

- Reflect on how you are personally moved emotionally and or spiritually.
- Reflect on a time when that has happened in your religious community.
- How was it related to that which you call the Ultimate/God/the Holy/the Sacred/the Universe/ethical principles?
- Reflect on how you felt, what did you do?
- How did this experience and the feelings inform your ethical behavior, your ongoing spiritual life, your Unitarian Universalist identity

After reflecting on these questions, think about an area of service and stewardship that you participate in at Palomar Fellowship. If you participate in more than one area, feel free to weave them together, paying attention to the common spiritual grounding upon which the service rests.

- How does the experience of service and participation move you emotionally and spiritually?
- How does this participation make you feel?
- Where is the Ultimate in this for you?
- What motivates you in this service?
- How does it inform your ongoing spiritual life and your identity as a Unitarian Universalist?

Start writing your reflection using these questions as a guide. Keep your reflection to around 725 words or less. That will be about 5 minutes of reading. You can do less if you'd like!