

Florida District Unitarian Universalist Association
Board of Trustees
Minutes – Jan. 24-25, 2014 business meeting
Orlando, Florida
Approved March 26, 2014

Present: Ila Klion, president; Al Tweedy, treasurer; Margie Manning, secretary; Sarah Ritzmann, trustee; Maggie Lovins, Southern Region Congregational Life Staff

Ila Klion called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. Jan. 24, 2014. Margie Manning provided opening words and read the board covenant. There was a brief check-in.

Minutes: Al Tweedy moved, Sarah Ritzmann seconded approval of the minutes of the Jan. 6, 2014 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

UUA Retirement Plan: Sarah Ritzmann moved, Al Tweedy seconded approval of the following motion:

The UUA Florida District (participating employer) hereby adopts the 2014 Restatement of the Unitarian Universalist Organizations Retirement Plan, becomes a participating employer under the Plan, and agrees to be bound by the terms of the Plan subject to federal law and regulations. The restated Plan document, Summary Plan Description (SPD) and other pertinent information can be found at www.uua.org/retirement. By agreeing to this Plan restatement, the UUA Florida District commits to establishing internal procedures to ensure compliance with all Plan provisions.

In order to comply with changes in federal laws relating to employee benefit plans or to implement changes determined necessary by the UUA, the UUA Board and/or Retirement Plan Committee may amend the Plan or the Participation Agreement. The UUA will notify Participating Employers in advance of any amendment to the Plan that changes the duties or liabilities of the employer. If the employer objects

to any changes to the Plan or the Participation Agreement, the employer may terminate its participation in the plan by providing written notice to the UUA Retirement Plan Committee.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Budget: Board members discussed and reviewed the proposed budget for Southern Region UUA Fiscal Year 2014-2015. Maggie Lovins, Southern Region Congregational Life Staff, said she would get an answer to a pending question prior to a board vote.

Break for dinner 6pm – 8 pm

UUA Southern Region Update: Margie and Ila reviewed proposed Powerpoint slideshow illustrating transitions to regionalization.

The meeting recessed at 9 pm Friday evening and resumed at 9 am Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014 with a brief check-in and opening words.

Discussion items: Each board member provided an update on the work of the regional task force on which he/she serves. Board members discussed existing clusters and potential new clusters. Board members discussed their own evolving roles as the district/region moves toward an “Elder” model.

Affirmations: Board members discussed, voted and approved unanimously each of the following motions/affirmations:

We reaffirm our commitment to the Orlando Platform. Sarah moved, Al seconded, approved unanimously.

As our Boards assess their approach to the evolution of governance, we will not delay in finding ways to immediately live into the new vision of boards shifting from governance work into cluster, Elder and advisory work. Margie moved, Al seconded, approved unanimously.

Commitment to live into a new vision of boards shifting from governance work into Cluster, Elder, and advisory work. Sarah moved, Margie seconded, approved unanimously.

Move to generative thinking, Elders, and other parts of the model and away from governance at the district level as much as possible, as UUA Board of Trustees is responsible for this (no need to be duplicative). Sarah moved, Margie seconded, approved unanimously.

Live into a common regional structure, with collaborative committees of staff and board members on the following councils: Regional Advisory Council to DCL, Trustees Linkage Council, Elders, Clusters, Fiduciary, Communication.

- We will work with staff as active partners to ensure effective service delivery to our congregations
- We will empower staff to enhance their role in fiduciary and policy-making activities
- We will educate ourselves, with the help of staff, to understand their roles.

Sarah moved, Al seconded, approved unanimously.

Affirm fiscal strategy of one ask, one unified budget, equity across region. Margie moved, Al seconded, approved unanimously.

Communicate to constituents what boards and councils do. Margie moved, Sarah seconded, approved unanimously.

Chalice Lighter Program moves forward at district level, district may share best practices and recommend a different approach over time. Al moved, Sarah seconded, approved unanimously.

Boards review bylaws in 2014-15 to propose reconciling those in 2015 with how things are working, which could include dissolution of the district boards. The intention is to eventually get to one legal organization representing the region with appropriate fiduciary responsibilities. Al moved, Margie seconded, approved unanimously.

The Florida District commits to regionalization with or without solidarity of all the Districts in the Southern Region to regionalization. Al moved, Sarah seconded, approved unanimously.

Budget: After getting clarification on a question, Al moved approval of the Southern Region UUA budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 as presented. Sarah seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Break for lunch 12 pm-1 pm

President's Convocation: The Southern Region's President's Convocations for congregational presidents will be held in Birmingham, Dallas, Orlando and Richmond July 11-13. Margie agreed to take a teaching role at the Orlando convocation and the full Florida Board committed to help with planning.

District Annual Assemblies: The Florida District, Mid-South District, Southeast District and Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference will each hold annual assemblies April 25-26 (in some cases ending April 27), with a shared keynote. Board members reviewed potential agendas.

Young Adult Con: A Young Adult Con will be held in Orlando this year. There was a suggestion that the Young Adult leadership apply for a Chalice Lighter grant. Al moved that the Florida Board request staff consider offering some funding for the event. Sarah seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. Margie will communicate the motion in a letter to Rev. Kenn Hurto and Rev. Susan Smith. Al moved and Margie seconded a motion to communicate to the Young Adult group that they have board support. The motion was approved unanimously.

The next Florida Board meeting will be a conference call at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014. Topics will include District Assembly, President's Convocation and Task Force updates.

Action items:

Sarah is communicating with Leadership Development Committee,

Margie will communicate with Kenn/Susan regarding board support for Young Adult Con funding.

Margie agreed to take a teaching role at the Orlando convocation and the full Florida Board committed to help with planning.

All agreed to be on the Feb. 26 conference call.

After a check-out, Margie offered closing words and the meeting adjourned at 3 pm.