

Minutes for the March 2015 Board Meeting

March 19, 2015, 6:30 pm, BUUF Library

Attendees: Roger, Sue, Robyn, Claudia, Bryan, Craig, Marcia, Dana, Carrie Bastian, Suzanne Woodcock

Board Agenda Topics:

Read Covenant

Ingathering: Dana

Vote on Consent agenda items

Minutes of the previous Board Meeting (posted)
PMC Report (posted)
Treasurer's Report
DRE Report (posted)
Minister's Report (posted)

Marcia Lyons

Debbie Johnson
Emmie Schlobohm
Dana Worsnop

Accepted

Motion: Sue, Second: Robyn... ayes: unanimous

Pass Around Action Item Review

Monthly: Thank You notes – Marcia

Search Process Update

- Candidate will visit April 27 through May 2
- Candidate will meet with committees, not individuals
- Bellingham has been advising us because they recently called a new minister. They took their ministerial vote with no discussion – they felt it was better for them that way, we don't have to go that route.
- Debbie and David will host candidate at their home on April 30

Retire the Debt Campaign

- The Launch Circle of 13 members have committed \$88K toward annual mortgage pre-payment campaign
- This year's prepayment will be made by April 17, 2015.

Endowment Discussion – Debbie

- Besse LaBudde's donation letter read by Board
 - Endowment details discussed, including the UUA endowment fund option
 - Craig, Debbie, Dana indicate that there is not enough in place right now re a building or sanctuary fund to justify putting Besse's funds there.
- Proposal:** Fund BUUF endowment fund with all \$31K (100%) of Besse LaBudde's bequest.
Motion: Debbie, Second: Craig... ayes unanimous

Endowment fund, cont.

Proposal: In the future, a minimum of 75% of unspecified planned giving donations will be put in the endowment fund, with the remainder of funds to be used at the Board's discretion.

Motion: Robyn Second: Craig...ayes unanimous

Planned Giving – Debbie and Craig

- Planned Giving Committee is currently: Craig, Ed, Bob H. and Allie. Craig will check to see who is going to be Chair of Planned Giving Committee.
- The organizational chart may need updating – question to ponder: should Stewardship Committee or Board provide oversight to Planned Giving Committee.
- A reminder that any change to the Endowment Committee has to be approved by the entire congregation in the Annual Meeting.
- Debbie will submit paperwork to begin the Endowment Fund with the UUA.

Music Program presentation – Carrie Bastian

- BUUF is fortunate to have some great musicians like Will Smith, Michael Stevenson donate their performances for no charge. Most churches would have to pay.
- The Fellowship used to have more pianists able to donate time to play in services, now we need to pay professionals more and more. We're getting a lot of talent for very little money right now. (only \$25 per hour, not counting practice time.
- If we had more \$ in music budget we could have more guest musicians, add a few professional singers to the choir, children's choir possibly, more research time for good music choices, better sound equipment.
- Concern that slashing the accompanists budget could significantly erode Carrie's ability to put forward excellent musical performances at Sunday Services. Carrie has set it according to the scheduled music performances.
- .Current piano is not staying tuned. It will have to be replaced at some point.
- Roger wonders if it wouldn't be better for Carrie to control the music budget, in concert with the music committee. Currently the budget is managed by the music committee. If it was Carrie's budget it would be more like R.E. and she would be able to control the priorities, and not worry about line items being cut, like accompanists
- Board will continue this discussion in the future.

Leadership Development

- Being able to offer Leadership School training would be a great incentive for nominating committee to offer future Board members.
- Robyn shared how transformative the experience was for her, Mathew Sabin and Tony Zornik last year. They continue to use the chat groups and other resources of the Russell Lockwood Leadership School.

Leadership, cont.

- It would be a good idea to send more new leaders to Leadership School – a PIFF type fund, line item in the operating budget or planned giving donations could make March scholarships for a few people each year. It would be a good investment in BUUF’s future.
- Bryan and Wanda have provided some scholarships for UUA PNWD meetings and Russell Lockwood scholarships (Robyn and Matthew) in the past – Bryan thinks we are improving in being interested in the wider UUA, and that this is very important.
- Dana says that the PMC has put some money in the budget for training, but Cathy says that PMC was not necessarily thinking of Russell Lockwood Leadership School for that money.
- Suzanne feels training would assist some BUUF “diamonds in the rough” to develop into board-ready participants.
- This year we should emphasize sending a good contingent to GA. Excellent training can be accessed there.
- Bryan will write up a notice about scholarships for GA, and Nancy will refer questions about scholarships to Bryan. Ed will issue checks for scholarships.
- Emmie will be contacted by Bryan to tell youth about scholarship opportunities.
- A scholarship fund should be established for leadership and spiritual growth. Robyn will work on a proposal.
- Bryan will also write a notice encouraging people to become delegates to the GA.

Proposal: \$3K be taken from the Jo and David Douglas Fund to provide scholarships of up to \$500 per person for this year’s G.A. in Portland.

Motion: Robyn Second: Sue...ayes: unanimous

Bridge Event Center – Suzanne Woodcock

- BEC is on target for its budget projection this year with some recent bookings. However, the income is not always predictable as we don’t know who and when we will have renters.
- Additional benefits of the BEC is great PR as we show our facilities to people, incentives to keep the building neat and clean, good organization and use of storage, and general good policy development for proper use of our facilities.
- Cathy and Suzanne indicate that most visitors are impressed with our facility, no complaints about anything have been noted.
- Craig’s List and Google are our best referral sources. More people seem to be wanting September and October, which is in conflict with our program year activities.

Budget Presentation – Dana

- Dana shared slides showing “big picture” rather than strict “line item” format for budget. Slides demonstrated barest, bare, good and wow options for ministries, along with examples of new programs that could be implemented with more money.
- Dana is recommending adding a Congregational Administrator position in the future, but not before the new minister is on board and can weigh in.
- Dana will send her PPT to Robyn for dissemination to the Board.

General Business – Roger

- The Board will identify non-negotiables for budget cuts at the next meeting.
- Robyn has been talking to a new person at BUUF (Aaron?) and he is going to help with a website update.
- BUUF transitions to weekly newsletter (basically already happening). The last paper newsletter is this month.
- Interim Ministry report – Bryan and Sue will complete this.
- Chelan property needs work, and we need to make some decisions about it soon.
- Should all program budgets be under PMC – a discussion for the future.

Meeting adjourned: 10:20 p.m.