

## **TRUU Board of Trustees Meeting, Feb. 8, 2011**

The TRUU Board convened at the River Valley Ranch clubhouse at 4:00 P.M. Present were Cathy and Mike Schermer, Bill Spence, Sue Coyle, Joanne Clements, Trina Haines and Thelma Zabel. Sue Edelstein arrived later in the meeting due to a conflicting obligation.

President Bill Spence lit our chalice with a statement and called the meeting to order. He announced the purchase of a new lectern on the internet for only \$94, using "Miscellaneous Funds" in the budget. (The lectern we have been using had to be borrowed from the library.) Tom Tomasovic will assemble it and put wheels on it so it can easily be moved in and out of our meeting place.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved without changes.

Bill said, referring to our being approved for a Chalice Lighter Grant, that the MDD office wants us to identify specific issues on which TRUU will focus. Thelma said the congregation should vote on these issues. Because we need to let MDD know soon what we are thinking, the Board continued this discussion. Mike said the Dream Act is most important to him. Thelma said she liked Sue Coyle's suggestion of making literacy one of our issues. Joanne has experience in teaching illiterate adults and offered to teach others the reading approach she uses. Bill noted that Kathy Feinsinger had attended a Social Justice workshop and has learned that the Social Justice committee should tie their projects into local needs. Robert Latham believes that the Chalice Lighter Grant should support projects that will lead to growth of members and income of TRUU.

Bill will prepare a statement for the MDD and noted that our actual projects will become better defined as we move forward in this church year.

Caring Committee (Trina): Nothing new to report..

RE Committee (Joanne): Showed a sample of the materials she using for R.E., teaching children the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism. Bill: TRUU is running an ad on the "Carbondale Moms to Moms" web site, and Kate Friesen's daughter will promote TRUU in that organization.

At this point in the meeting, Jimmy Byrne made a scheduled appearance to explain his reasons for his request for an increase in his compensation. He explained that his time involved much more than just playing at the services; he brings, sets up and takes down his own audio equipment, learns and practices hymns, works with the ministers to coordinate music with the service, etc. He expressed his interest in being the musician/music director for TRUU for the long term. He requested a raise of \$100 per service.

Sue Coyle suggested that TRUU might plan a community event featuring Jimmy's music, and there followed a discussion about where this might take place. Jimmy was thanked and told his proposal would be discussed, and he then left the meeting. Following a discussion, Thelma moved to increase Jimmy's fees by \$50 per service, with the hope that next year we could give him the amount he asked for. Joanne seconded, and following further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Circle Suppers (Mike): More than 50 people are now signed up for Circle Suppers, including a lot of new people.

Communications Committee (Trina): Trina said that she is not "in the loop" as to how much money is being spent on advertising. Bill said that he would be sure that this situation is improved. Bill noted that there is a new style of ad for TRUU in the *Sopris Sun*. There was some discussion about whether advertising in other local papers has been/would be productive. Mike said the *Sopris Sun* is primarily read only by people in Carbondale and that it doesn't reach other communities. Thelma said that she would survey the yellow visitors cards to see which newspapers have led to their attending TRUU services.

Thelma presented the new membership flyer that will be available on the information table during services and will also be in membership folders.

Bill asked that Board members bring ideas for a revised mission statement to the next meeting. He reminded those present that Robert Latham will present an "All Church Envisioning Event" on Saturday, Feb. 12, which may yield ideas on this topic.

Regarding the upcoming church canvass, Bill said we need a committee to lead the canvass, including assembling packets and structuring contacts. Mike noted that last year's coffee and dessert events were generally not successful.

Mike mentioned a person at his previous U.U. church in Dallas who had loaned the church money to become established and suggested we should think about a similar possibility for TRUU.

Sue Edelstein gave the Treasurer's report and said that the Mountain Desert District (MDD) will offer accounting, bookkeeping and treasurers support for smaller MDD congregations such as ours. The MDD has engaged Mike Halloran, a CPA and Treasurer of the MDD, to provide this support. Sue noted that there is sufficient money in our budget to pay for this service.

Bill presented a "Declaring A Vision", which is a motivational statement prepared by Robert and Gretchen.

Sue Coyle said she considers Jimmy Byrne's music and contributions to our services to be of vital importance and said she would like to raise private funds as a bonus and as an incentive for him continue to be a part of TRUU. There followed a discussion as to whether or not such a bonus would be appropriate. Sue Coyle moved that the Board permit her to proceed with this idea, a vote was called, and the motion passed with four members voting for, one voting against, and one abstention.

Bill noted the importance of creating a leadership development team and asked Board members to think about who might be on this team.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.  
Respectfully submitted,

Sue Coyle, Secretary