

TRUU Board of Trustees Meeting  
May 2, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Spence at 4 P.M. at River Valley Ranch Clubhouse.

Those present were Trina Haines, Mike Schermer, Bill Spence, Sue Coyle, Cathy Schermer, Sue Edelstein, Thelma Zabel, Kathy Feinsinger and Joanne Clements.

Kathy Feinsinger noted that her name had been omitted from the list of those present at the previous meeting. Subject to that correction, the minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Sue Edelstein gave the Treasurer's report and went over the Profit & Loss statement. She said that the income for this year was greater than anticipated. There followed a discussion about reimbursing the Schermers for the expenses they have incurred providing food, flowers, etc. for Sunday services. Thelma moved that TRUU reimburse them for \$20 per service for 15 services. Trina seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Sue E. announced that Jim Calaway had donated \$5,000 to next year's operating fund.

Kathy Feinsinger reported on the pledge campaign and said there were 27 pledging units (units meaning a household) of members, and of that number 13 pledges had been received. Four pledges had been received from "friends," for a total of \$20,509. \$4,100 was pledged for the ministerial fund. She also said there are still people who have promised to pledge but haven't yet done so.

There followed a discussion about the minimal amount a person should pledge in order to remain a member. Kathy Feinsinger moved the amount be \$10 per individual per month, and in the event of a financial hardship, the member needed to consult the minister. This motion passed unanimously.

Bill noted that we should have a financial committee for next year.

Questions to be resolved: Are new members pledging? Who follows up with pledging new members? Should members who are employed by TRUU be asked to pledge?

It was generally agreed that ministers should not be asked to speak to individuals about pledging.

Bill then gave an update on the bylaws revision project. He said the bylaws are a work in progress and suggested we keep the process open and noted that Nancy Bowen said that

bylaws are hard to change once they've been established. Trina said there wasn't enough time to finish the revision between now and the annual meeting.

Reporting for the Program Committee, Cathy Schermer said that next year the committee will be divided between "set-up" and "worship." Nicolette and Barbara Palmer have already volunteered to be on the "worship" part of the committee. The chairperson will coordinate volunteers to do set-up.

Bill noted that we need an accurate list of members for the upcoming annual meeting.

As to the Nominating Committee, Cathy Schermer said that Kate Feinsig and Garry Zabel will join her on that committee. Sue E. said the committee should alert all members of openings in cases they're interested in serving. There followed a discussion about creating a Leadership Development Committee, as recommended by Nancy Bowen and the MDD. One primary function of this committee will be nominating people for vacant positions. Thelma moved that we begin the process of transitioning the Nominating Committee into the Leadership Development Committee, which will include at least two more members in addition to the present members of the Nominating Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill noted that members need to be notified 15 days prior to the annual meeting of all matters to be taken up at that meeting. Cathy S. added that there are openings for the Board and for committee chairs.

Gwen Garcelon has asked TRUU to help sponsor a film, "The Economics of Happiness," to be shown at the Third Street Center, and it was agreed that the Social Justice Committee look into this.

Mike Schermer said 60 people were now signed up for Circle Suppers, and about 80 percent of those were in favor of continuing Circle Suppers into the summer.

Trina said the results of the survey will be available on the TRUU website.

Reporting for the Communications Committee, Sue E. said there were questions regarding advertising and how best to market to the community at large. The Communications Committee will meet with Gretchen to discuss this.

Bill reminded the Board that any issue of church governance that needs discussion should be discussed by the entire board at a board meeting. This is necessary so that opinions can be shared by all board members and thus avoid misunderstandings.

Due to time constraints, the meeting was continued the following Monday at 4:30 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Coyle, Secretary

TRUU Board of Trustees Meeting  
May 7, 2011  
May 9 TRUU Board Meeting

This special meeting of the Board of Trustees was a continuation of the May 2 meeting. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by President Bill Spence. Those present were Bill Spence, Sue Edelstein, Sue Coyle, Thelma Zabel, Mike Schermer, Kathy Schermer and Kathie Feinsinger.

Reporting on the pledge drive, Kathy F. said that \$28,404 has been raised in pledges from 16 out of 27 pledge units. \$6,100 is in the minister's escrow account.

It was agreed that we need to continue raising funds for the ministerial account, with an estimated total of \$30,000 to \$31,000 needed.

Sue E. said we need to think about how we're going to use the Chalice Lighter grant. She said there should be \$8-9,000 left in the TRUU account at the end of the year, and that money could go to operations or to the ministerial account.

Bill said that next year we should begin the pledge campaign earlier and try to have it finished by the end of March. He also reminded the group of lessons from Robert Latham's workshop, which emphasized personal visits to each pledging unit.

Trina went over the survey results and said most people seemed to appreciate the opportunity to express their opinions. The survey results are available on the TRUU website.

Bill said that Robert Latham may have less availability next year, partly due to his involvement with UU workshops in Canada. Robert and Gretchen have discussed the possibility of Robert about conducting fewer services and Gretchen conducting more services. Both are amenable to that situation. The Board voted unanimously to accept this suggestion and looks forward to how this will translate into next year's schedule.

Responding to the ministers' question about the highlights of this past year, Board members mentioned membership workshops; many memorable services and sermons; Jimmy's music; the solstice event; Circle Suppers and potluck get-togethers; enjoying

Gretchen's growth as a speaker and minister; and the guidance and counseling TRUU has received from its ministers.

There followed a discussion about the high quality of the ministers we have experienced, the desire for TRUU to develop a relationship with a settled minister, and the need for the congregation to realize the financial costs of having such quality. Bill noted that modern ministers should expect to live comfortably in our region.

Responding to the ministers' question about what needs still remain, Board members mentioned more "community" within the church; more availability of personal ministerial counseling; a full-time minister which could be active within the larger community, could conduct weddings and funerals, be a voice for TRUU, and help with pledge drives; and ways to attract young families.

Discussing possible special events, Mike S. said his previous church held an annual "Blessing of the Animals" on St. Francis Day during the first week in October. Sue E. mentioned the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Peace Corps coming up next September. Sue also said we need a focal point for such ideas/ suggestions, perhaps a special events committee.

Thelma added that we need to recruit members for the various committees at our upcoming annual meeting.

Bill said there will be a webinar on May 25 on Stewardship in Small Congregations. Cathy S. shared her notes from the MDD webinar on Leadership Development Committee Transition.

Regarding eligibility to vote at the annual meeting: members who have pledged for the current year are eligible to vote; but if members want to vote at next year's annual meeting, they have to pledge for next year.

Summer events will include an interactive performance on Aug 14. by Jennifer Friedman, a UU from Fort Collins. There will be a UU retreat in the Four Corners area July 8-10.

The next Board meeting was set for Tuesday May 17 at 4:00 PM, at the RVR Conference Room.

Volunteers and donations are needed for Extended Table on May 30.

The annual meeting will be on May 22, following Gretchen's service, and a potluck will follow the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Coyle, Secretary