

DRAFT---UUSJ Board Meeting

September 29, 2018

River Road Unitarian Church

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Martha Ades, at large, UU Congregation of Fairfax
Peter Bishop, member, Washington ethical Society
Bob Blinn, member, UU Church of Arlington
Al Carlson, member, Reston UU
Bob Denniston, at large, Board Chair
Terry Grogan, alternate, Reston UU
Lavona Grow, at large, Arlington UU
John Gubbings, member, Cedar Lane UU
Osk Huneycutt, alternate, Bull Run UU
Pat Karlsen, at large, Cedar Lane UU
Ed Kringer, member, Accotink UU
Jack Lebowitz, member, River Road UU
Marti MacKenzie, member, Towson UU
Gary Magnuson, Frederick UU
Bob McCarthy, alternate, UU Congregation of Fairfax
Mike McCord, Treasurer
Karen Scrivo, member, Goodloe Memorial UU Congregation
David Strauss, alternate, Rockville UU
Larry Underwood, member, Bull Run UU
Armele Vilceus, member, All Souls Unitarian

Staff Present:

Pablo DeJesús, Executive Director

Guests Present:

Loretta Garcia, River Road UU
Anna Rhee, consultant
Adam Wasserman, former member, UU Congregation of Fairfax

Members Absent:

Jane D'Ambrogi, alternate, Towson UU
Linda Doyle, member, Mt. Vernon UU
Roger McIntire, member, UU Congregation of Columbia
*Betsy Osterman, alternate UU Congregation of Columbia
Kalman Rupp, member, UU Congregation of Rockville

*Voting Proxy received

Action Items:

- Follow up with those GA congregations who showed interested in UUSJ
- Update our handouts before next GA
- Provide plans for going national
- Follow up on getting a videographer to create UUSJ video
- Advertise Dec. 2 fundraiser at each congregation
- Announce fundraiser to CUUSAN
- Review how Paint Branch UU plate collections are recorded
- Martha to include in final survey results the list of who voted for what.

Meeting was called to order at 2:00pm. Jack Lebowitz welcomed all to River Road UU. Bob Denniston provided an opening reading. New Members (Jack Lebowitz of River Road UU, Bob McCarthy of Fairfax, Gary Magnuson of Frederick) and new alternates (Bill Cranmer of Frederick, Osk Honeycutt of Bull Run, Terry Grogan of Reston) were introduced and welcomed. All in attendance introduced themselves. The Board covenant was read.

What we did over the Summer:

Pablo Dejesus reported that we had a noteworthy impact with about 1000 UU's mobilized at March for our Lives, Poor People's Campaign and Families Belong Together. There were events at Arlington and Accotink and Pablo made two pulpit visits. Osk Honeycutt related the value of having Pablo visit Bull Run.

Bob Denniston reported on the value of the Poster Session at General Assembly as well as the networking events with UUJEC and UUMFE and meeting with CUUSAN Board Reps. Lavona thanked Rev. Karen Scrivo and John Gubbings for help with the UUSJ display at GA. Gary Magnuson recommended we look at the next GA as a stepping off point for going national. Armele Vilceus recommended we each explain we're part of UUSJ at our other organizations to build partnerships.

Advocacy Corps:

Lavona Grow reported that last quarter we made 233 office visits and delivered 954 letters with an average of 18 people at each Advocacy Day and that we are outgrowing our original work space. We need to determine a plan for how to keep this activity going strong as we transition to national and as we look to a time when Lavona doesn't have to do it all. Several Board members mentioned the importance of the Hill visits and building the relationships there. We are getting interest from outside our area and from other faith leaders. A list of Advocacy Corps members was distributed.

Get Out The Vote(GOTV):

Anna Rhee explained how this year's program is different from that in 2016 including work in Florida, Iowa and Wisconsin as well as the DMV. Coming soon are the questions we can ask our candidates when we meet with them. We are partnering with the REEB Project and State Action Networks (SANs). More information is on our Mobility Action website pages.

General Discussion for Activity:

Marti Mackenzie suggests we do a workshop at the next GA.

Larry Underwood is interested in our GOTV candidate set of questions.

Bob McCarthy suggested we reach out to our former interns with a message.

We have a UUSJ QR Code (Quick Response code) and should use it on all literature.

Pablo DeJesus recommends that each Board member plan to attend one Advocacy Day each year.

Development Team Report:

The Development Team reported on its progress to meeting the goal of raising \$20,000 to cover a new Administrative Assistance, continued efforts of the Advocacy Corps and moving UUSJ in a sustainable way to the next level. They have a 4 prong attack:

1. Hold a fundraiser on Dec 2nd at River Road UU. US Representative Jamie Raskin has agreed to speak.

Each congregation will be asked to sell at least 10 tickets.

2. Reach out to high donors.

3. Reach out to non-member congregations

4. Ask each Board Member to give-or-get an extra \$500 from their congregation in addition to the congregational fair share.

Al Carlson suggested we look at our own congregation's endowment funds. Peter bishop suggested looking at large donors. It would be nice to get some Virginia legislator to talk too, to draw Virginia attendees. General opinion was that we need to frame Rep. Raskin's talk to be general national issues to draw people from both states and DC. Larry recommended we frame it with "green" thoughts to draw more people. Bob McCarthy recommended that attending the fund raiser will qualify as donating for membership. It is important to look at growing this year for sustaining next year. Board members should hand out flyers about the event at their congregation. Armele Vilceus mentioned that the tables at the last Gala was a good draw. We need to consider what announcements we need to do to CUUSAN for this fundraiser.

A motion was made by Larry Underwood to commend the work of the Development Team, accept the report which includes the congregational give-and-get of \$500 which is not part of Fair Share or fundraisers and to move ahead on the December 2nd fundraiser program. Seconded by Jack Lebowitz. Approved unanimously.

Financial Report:

Mike McCord, Treasurer, reported that our financial status is good. We have had savings by not having expenses of an administrative assistant. Our budget shows positive but it contains our full-year grant income which is dedicated. Contributions have been strong. Modifications for the next report include adding UU Frederick to Fair Share report, adding GOTV grant to budget, and aligning Fair Share Report and contributions on budget. Mike McCord moved to accept the report; seconded by Bob Blinn. Approved unanimously.

Priority Issue Survey Report:

Martha Ades provided initial review of the Survey results. Final results will be reported at the next board meeting. Because there was a lower than expected response from Board members, the survey

will be left open for board member submissions until Friday, October 5. A discussion followed on how to look at our final decision on the issues to select.

- Peter B and Bob B stated that the GOTV could be used as a strategy to address the Elections/Voting/Democracy issue
- Pat K believes we had more than three issues in years past and that some voting issues are people not being able to get to the polls
- Lavona G says we may not have opportunity for the Voting issue. She suggest looking at a model that would have each issue group work at the level they can support
- Al C wondered if we just have a high ranking for the Voting issue due to the current election cycle
- Bill C believes we can look at voter suppression for this topic
- Larry U believes people are also looking to elections in 2020 and 2019 in Virginia
- Adam W believes we are not showing progress if we keep doing the same issues every year
- Peter B stated that most voter suppression is a state issue
- Pablo D thinks we should move ahead with the democracy focus and we can do multi-level task groups as they are being done now
- Lavona G suggests looking at current CSAI as issue for democracy
- Peter B wants us to ask individuals how much they are willing to address each issue. Martha will compile the list of who voted for what.

Follow up tasks for evaluating the final results after polling is closed on October 5 includes getting several

groups to assess how each issue should be evaluated using the determined fitness criteria. The Core Group will direct who should be included in that group. That group will provide a recommendation to the Board of selecting the final Priority Issues.

CUUSAN Covenant:

The covenant with the Coalition of Unitarian Universalist State Action Networks (CUUSAN) was presented and discussed. Discussion covered when we should notify CUUSAN about our fundraisers. Lavona Grow moved to accept the covenant as written. Jack Lebowitz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Membership Drive:

Pablo DeJesus reported that the membership drive was a success even though we ran it a little late. We received \$3,050 between August 18 and September 19 and \$7,335 through the full drive of which only about 50% shows in the end-of-month August Financial report. We still need to address large donors. Board members were asked to think of curating members in their churches who could be asked to donate.

Announcements were made and the meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

Submitted by Martha Ades, Board Secretary