

**CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
GOVERNING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
November 11, 2008**

PRESENT: Chris Yalanis, Susan VanDerhoof, Russ Milham, Don Mallinson, Halcyon Westall, Kim Shute, Kelly Bailey, David Pedrick, Bill Hawkin, Coles Mallory, Sheri Lussier, Amy Freedman, John Burnham.

MINUTES:

The minutes from the October meeting as well as minutes from the special Board meeting held in October were approved with minor changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Russ Milham

The Smith Barney conversion is all set. An announcement will go in the Catalyst and on the web to let the congregation know the issue has been resolved.

Reported that: Account #2198 Van Beuren 07 Floor Grant over by \$8255.17 and #2199 Prince Grant 2007 Gutters over \$1271.90. That overage of these two amounts totaling \$9527.07 will be covered from #2204 S/B Funds Interest Income. A motion was made by Coles and approved by the board to authorize Russ to pay for this from the interest in the Smith Barney account as recommended by Russ.

Reported that he intends to zero out some accounts:

- #2202 Repair Reserves transfer \$.10 a Property account
- #2223 Sabbatical Reserve transfer \$.38 to #6107 Special Services
- #2218 Publicity Fund transfer \$1.50 to #6043 Publicity
- Then make these accounts “Inactive”

Russ also reported:

- That pledges are on track
- He cut last check for window repair and we over by about \$1,200 which will be taken out of the Champlain money. That will drop that account to just below \$50,000
- He took the 2 grants for the steeple; \$100,000 and \$50,000 respectively and put it into 3 money market accounts to increase the interest earned. If we

receive another grant, we will have to go to another bank in order to remain protected by the FDIC.

PROPERTY REPORT – Chris Laudon

The windows are back in. The documentation for them is all in the church office. The installation for the new furnace has been delayed slightly because we need to put a liner in the chimney. In order to do this we need to get a lift in. While the lift is in place we will be able to inspect the leak in the ceiling.

There was some discussion about the \$12,000 bill from Structures North. Russ wanted confirmation that we had received what we were suppose to from them and that he should pay the bill. Russ said he will review the agreement with Holly Grosvenor and Chris.

The Property Committee will be giving a presentation about the plan after church this coming Sunday, November 16th to the congregation.

PRE-CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE – John Burnham

Pre-Capital Campaign Committee Report to Governing Board
Nov 10, 2008

Many of you joined us in meeting with Tricia Hart, our UUA fundraising consultant, on November 1st as we began the process of developing a feasibility study looking ahead to a capital campaign to raise funds for the steeple. Thank you. This really helped orient her to our facility, our programs, and our community, as well as the project at hand.

Since that meeting, we have sent additional info to Tricia to help her prepare for the interviews, which she plans to do in the December 2-7 time frame. and we've developed a list of those we will invite to interviews with Tricia.

We've also drafted an invitation letter, which we hope to mail to those selected for interviews by the end of this week. The letter refers, of course, to the need to raise funds for the steeple; in addition, we plan to include an extra FAQ sheet that provides more detail on the costs and revenue sources available for the steeple project and refers to the projects to follow, once outlined in the master plan. I understand from Christine Laudon that, at your meeting, you'll be considering information regarding such costs and fund sources, which once agreed upon by you will help us complete the FAQ.

Our committee is currently also working on 1) the mechanics of following up to confirm and then support the interviews, 2) planning the communications needed over the next month or two (Catalyst article, etc.) and 3) planning the transition of our committee to

becoming a capital campaign steering committee if the feasibility study report results in a green light for the campaign.

--John Burnham, 401-835-2686 john.burnham@cruisingworld.com

As part of the PCCC report, Coles presented an idea he had for Channing to be part of the stimulus projects of the Federal Government. He thinks we may be able to obtain some funding from via this avenue. The requirements are that the project is quick to start and create jobs and that it doesn't involve policy issues. The State politicians, such as Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse and Patrick Kennedy would need to be contacted. Dennis Green has already laid the groundwork with those people with the initial work of the Steeple project.

RAFFLE PROPOSAL UPDATE – Don Mallinson

After presenting his idea of holding a raffle for a large item, such as a car, at the last meeting, Don selected some people at random to ask their opinion of the proposal. He said that he received no support for his idea.

The Board suggested maybe a lower ticket price would be better with a lower cost item for the grand prize and offer more prizes. It was also suggested that the raffle have a theme, such as "Going Green."

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS – Kim Shute

After the RE Committee's request at the last meeting for a special collection, Kim thought it was important 1) that we not change our policy mid-year and 2) that our policy should match our actions. Several people thought the special collections each year for the choir and care giving should not take place and those areas should be added to the budget for the year. Russ thought there should be no special collections at all. David thought the care giving collection should continue, but the music should be added to the budget. Chris L. thought special collections should be for community events. The issue was not resolved and will be revisited at a future board meeting. Sherri will continue to look into this topic and follow-up.

Minister's Report

Rev. Amy B. Freedman
Channing Memorial Church

This report covers the period of October 14- November 11, 2008

Adult Enrichment

On Monday, October 20, 7:00pm Margaret Starbird returned to offer a lecture and slide presentation on "*The Sacred Union at the Heart of Christianity.*" Even though we ran an ad in the Newport Daily News, only about twenty people attended. The turnout and presentation was not as exhilarating as last year.

On October 22 and 29, 7-8:30pm Christopher and Katherine Carbone offered Dances of Universal Peace in the Parish Hall. About 20 folks participated in what was an inspiring and uplifting gathering.

On Thursday, October 30, 7:30pm the Venerable Khensur Rinpoche Geshe Lobsang Wangdak, a Tibetan Buddhist monk and contemporary of the Dalai Lama offered an Introduction to Buddhism at our church. About 160 people were in attendance which enabled us to give honorariums to the speaker and translator as well as a good contribution to the Chenrezig Tibetan Buddhist Center of Connecticut. To offset our costs, Channing Church received 20% of the collected donations. I invited the Rinpoche to offer another teaching in our church and certainly hope that he will accept my invitation.

I will be offering a two-part series in feminist theology called *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven* exploring the tradition of ancient Goddesses, weaving their stories together with major concerns of women today. Save the date: Saturdays, March 21 and April 11, 2009, 9:30am-3:00pm.

Baby Shower

Peter and I are still glowing from Sunday afternoon! We are so touched by the support and affection of the congregation. Special thanks to the Board for your generous gift of a car seat and stroller. Obviously, your present will be put to good use! The outpouring of good wishes means a great deal to us as we await our newest family member.

Breakfast with the Minister

I usually visit all new members of the church. Given the number of people who recently joined and the limited time before my Maternity Leave, I invited all of them to a breakfast with me on Sunday, November 2 at 8:30am. Ruth Jernigan helped host the event. Eight people attended and it was a good opportunity to get to know them and to answer questions about our church. Two new members who could not attend the breakfast came to 100 Questions about Unitarian Universalism following the service.

Clergy Corner

On November 1-2, my article entitled “Times of hardship hold opportunities” appeared in the Newport Daily News. The article featured the thesis of biblical scholar, Walter Brueggemann that society must shift from an Empire consciousness to that of a Neighborhood.

Congregational Meeting

The turnout and discussion at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 19 was excellent. Thanks to Chris Yalanis and Mary Alice Smith for their presentations and fielding of questions. I was pleased that the recommendation of the Pre-Capital Campaign Committee passed and even more so by the engagement of our community in asking good questions.

Maternity Leave

The Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 23 will be my last before my Maternity Leave which begins December 1st (unless the baby has other plans!) An excellent series of services are planned during my absence. I am also preparing detailed procedures for staff and church leaders in case of any pastoral emergencies, snow cancellations, and other related issues that might arise.

Rites of Passage

Sunday, October 19, 10:00am, Blessing Ceremony ~ Audrey Sherman, Channing Church
Sunday, October 26, 2:00pm, Wedding ~ Jesse and Cadence Ellington, Channing Church
Saturday, November 1, 11:00am, Blessing Ceremony ~ Tuckerman Camera, Channing Church
Sunday, November 2, 10:00am, Blessing Ceremony ~ Lucy Amand, Channing Church

Soulful Sundown

Friday, November 21 will be the first Soulful Sundown of the church year. “Rhythms of Gratitude” will feature drumming and dancing at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to a Soulful Soup Supper beginning at 5:45pm in the Parish Hall. This exploration of the Arts and Spirituality is a soulful end to your week!

UU New England Conference

I attended the Regional Conference on October 18 in Worcester, MA. The two candidates for President for the UUA offered presentations as well as the UUA Board of Trustees.

Welcoming Congregation Program

Everyone is encouraged to attend a Potluck Dinner and Welcoming Congregation Program Wednesday, November 12 in the Parish Hall. Please bring a dish for dinner at 6:00pm, followed by an open and respectful discussion and brainstorming session addressing the following questions:

- Why is it important for us to be explicit in our welcome of the gay community?
- What are we doing to make our vision of an inclusive community real?
- How can we continue to open our hearts, minds, and doors to a group that continues to be oppressed and shamed by many religious groups?

Worship

Oct. 19, *Forgiving and Remembering*, Rev. Freedman, Lay Leader: Beth Jepson

Oct. 26, *All Souls Intergenerational Service*, Rev. Freedman, Lay Leader: Peter Bowden

Nov. 2, *Faith in Democracy*, Rev. Freedman, Lay Leader: Linda Beall

Nov. 9, *The Last Lecture- Message from a UU*, Rev. Freedman, Lay Leader: Norm Moore