

**Channing Memorial Church**  
**2010-2011 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**  
**Channing House; Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Present:** Jim Freess (President), Sue VanDerhoof (Program Coordinator), Al Benson (Secretary), Dave Banister (Fin. Comm.), Rachel Balaban (Vice President), Deb Wyman (Trustee at Large), Thor Thorson (Trustee at Large), Sarah Mermin (Trustee at Large).

**Guests:** Mary Alice Smith.

**Staff:** Rev. John Nichols (Interim Minister), Halcyon Westall (Dir. of R.E.)

**Process Observer:** Thor Thorsen.

**Approval of Minutes:** October 2011 Minutes were lost due to a hard disc failure. Board members were asked to aid in recreating these minutes.

**President's Report:** Jim presented a copy of Amy Freedman's Promissory Note which details the conditions for the minister's housing loan and the conditions for collecting a percentage of any capital gain realized when the minister sells his/her home. In a phone conversation with Jim Amy contends she does not owe a percentage of the gain when she sold her home as the sale occurred after she had left Channing. The Finance Committee Chair contends Amy does owe a percentage of the gain realized from this sale. Chris Ariel will be asked for a legal opinion on this matter.

**Minister's report:** Reverend Nichols indicated that Lark D'Helen would like to become a Community Minister associated with Channing Church. A Community Minister is a minister who derives their income from outside the church. The Channing Board would have to make a decision to formally recognize Helen as a Community Minister and generate a contract detailing Lark's responsibilities and functions as a Community Minister. John thinks Lark would be a tremendous benefit to the new Channing Minister.  
**A motion was made to explore this arrangement further via a meeting between Helen and a board subcommittee: Yeas – 7; Nays – 0; no abstentions.**

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**Program Council Report:** There was no Program Council meeting in October. See the attached Program Council report for October 2011.

**Search Committee Report:** Mary Alice Smith presented the latest update on this critical initiative. So far 6 ministers have showed interest in applying for this opening; she expects there will be more. Four applicants will be presented to the whole congregation on the following dates: Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, and Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> 2012. In order to make the new minister search process wide open and non-discriminatory, the Search Committee will hold a “Beyond Categorical Thinking” workshop in the Parish Hall on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011. See <http://www.uua.org/careers/ministers/transitions/bct/index.shtml> for more information on this topic. Mary Alice said this workshop is mandatory for all board members. There will be a half hour lunch after the service on the 4<sup>th</sup>, and the workshop will start around noon on that date. The workshop will be moderated by a member of the Ballou-Channing District UUA Association.

**New/Other Business.**

- Rachel reported that a plan is in place for the next Celebration Sunday similar to the last Celebration Sunday. The Celebration Sunday process is an alternative process for pledging money to fund the church’s annual operation expenses. Bob Janiesch and Sue VanDerhoof will host the pre-Celebration Sunday again at their home. The Stewardship (fundraising) Committee is also considering 50-50 Raffles to raise money to help finance the church budget.
- Thor Thorsen is forming a committee for ministry Learning Center. They plan to generate a budget and purchase a large screen video projector. Eleanor Doumato, Kristine Thorsen and Mike Armenia are researching video projectors in order to find one that will best satisfy the needs of the various church committees. Any ideas on this subject should be forwarded to Thor.
- Dave Banister, Finance Committee Chairman, said we could save about \$700 a year if we refinance the Bank of Newport loan. **A Motion was made to take this**

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- action: Yeas- 7; Nays – 0; 0 abstentions.** The church has a bunch of old organ pipes. Dave will talk to Janet Grant to see if there might be a way to sell them. \$1,450 was raised at the recent Craft Fair.
- The board has identified two goals (from the group of 6 identified at the recent retreat) for major emphasis this year—improved communication and long range planning. In support of the improve communication goal the board has already initiated project to update the Channing website to make it more attractive to prospective members. In addition a board subcommittee (Sarah, Thor and Jim) will work with the Membership Committee to develop ways to increase church membership like reactivating the Ministry’s column in the Newport Daily News newspaper and having events that engage the community outside Channing. To support the long range planning goal which includes projects like the Property Master Plan, board members will take a tour of the church undercroft. Chris Laudon will be the tour guide. This tour is scheduled for Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> after the service (bring a flashlight).
  - Jim noted that the Worship Committee does not have a chairperson at the present time. Deb Wyman indicated that Chris Ariel has offered to serve as an interim chair person for this committee for the rest of this year. **A motion was made to appoint Chris Ariel as the Interim Chairperson of the Worship Committee: Yeas – 7; Nays – 0; 0 abstentions.**
  - Thor volunteered to contact Russ Milham about the problem with the Parish Hall motion detector light (is not working now).

**Adjourned:** 9:15 pm.

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**Program Council Reports  
November 2011**

**MUSIC**

The choir continues to sing at services for 3 out of 4 Sundays, and will begin practice soon for the Christmas eve service. We welcomed new member Ginny Eastman (alto) in October.

The chimers report that Chris Laudon orchestrated the repairs to the chimes. Chimers Jim, Janna, Chris and Linda are back playing for one-half hour before service on Sundays. They will be getting lights soon, and will play for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

**INTERWEAVE**

Interweave hosted a Pot-Luck and film on Oct.2nd. Despite competing with many other good causes that day, including the Walk for AIDS in Providence, we had a good turn out. The film was " For the Bible Tells Me So". This award winning documentary explores the personal effects of religious teachings on several families and their Gay children. It was difficult to see & hear but everyone was patient and we didn't loose anyone due to tech problems.

We also had a meeting to plan for the coming year.

Our focus will be on supporting anti-bullying in our local schools . Interweave will be working closely with the Social Action Com to make our efforts available to other anti-bullying organizations in our area. We have obtained an excellent curriculum provided to us through the Teaching Tolerance program of the So. Poverty Law Center. There was no cost to us.

We will also be holding a TDOR ( Transgender Day of Remembrance) in the sanctuary on Nov 27th at 11:30 after the reg service. . This is to join the Nat'l Standing on the Side of Love and the RI TDOR Com. to remember those who who have been murdered simply because of their gender identity. Our friend Evan Gallo will be helping with this service. We also have the support of Lee Whitaker in Berkley who is involved in the TDOR Com at Starr School in Berkley, CA.

Interweave will be sharing a service in Feb with the Social Action Com.

Our Facebook page continues to post info of interest to LGBTQ folks from RI and all over the country. Our page is an excellent resource to connect with other UU organizations such as Standing on the Side of Love, MERI and other human rights orgs.

Peace and love  
Pam Goff

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co-chair of Interweave

**Membership Committee Report**  
**November 6, 2011**

Things have been rather quiet around here this fall, although we recently have had a few more visitors and people signing blue cards asking for information on Channing. Two people attended 100 Questions today and we have 6 people signed up to attend UU 101 on November 13.

Michele has been working hard on keeping our lists of Members, Friends and Visitors up to date. She had directories available today which list the current Members and Friends

Bonnie Kniskern signed our membership book today.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Mallory, Membership Chair

**RE report October**

Teachers needed. All families are now participating as a teacher or volunteer for RE. We need other members of the congregation to step up and fill the gaps. Barbara and Halcyon working to develop a teacher tips and question area on the blog. Working on fine tuning our Curriculum map.

Fall frolic held Oct 28<sup>th</sup> following intergenerational service. Participants had a good time but attendance was somewhat low. There has also been some concern about low attendance for RE classes this year. Committee members will be doing outreach to families with registered youth. Names will be shared with membership regarding families who may not be participating in Channing at all at this time.

Youth group has started to meet. Very motivated group in the junior youth group. They have set some short term and long term goals and enjoy their time together. This age has an active Sunday morning RE program and many are participating in the OWL program. The Senior high youth will have their first meeting at Empire Tea. High School group has some possible participants but less active number of youth.

Jr High OWL has started with a great group of kids. They had their first sleepover which went well.

RE program has submitted info to Bill Peresta for update of the Web. Have also submitted policies and job descriptions for inclusion in the program manual being developed.

Faith in Action hopes to work with SAC and Interweave on anti Bullying activities and program. First Faith in Action session will be November 27<sup>th</sup> As we usually kick off

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Guest at Your Table in November the activity will look at bullying on a more political level. How countries bully their citizens or their neighbors denying them access to basic needs, such as water rights. Guest at your Table boxes will go out in November and be collected in January. ( Eleanor Doumato had planned to take over role as UUSC contact from Joy Benson this year. Barbara Copolla to follow up)

Worship committee member Jessica Thomas is working to organize a holiday play with the children. Will be looking for support with rehearsals, costumes etc.

RE is working with property to address the play ground issues. Exploring safe play options and parental supervision. We hope to develop a small play area for the younger children. We have researched a play mat to go over the driveway area that is no longer supposed to be used by cars. Considering trying to develop a way to contain the area with an elevated planting area to expand garden.

There will be the annual holiday adopt a family program. The Giving tree will go up on Second Thanksgiving. We will also plan to collect toiletries for the community supper guests. We are also planning the annual cookie sale in December. We will hope to use the funds raised for the play ground development ideas. We will be having a Great Cookie Bakeoff competition with December 19<sup>th</sup> as cookie drop off day. PRIZES awarded!

Green Corner  
Beth Milham, Chair

Our stewardship mission--faith in action

Taking a moment to bask in our accomplishments, complemented by some fine, healthy dining, your Green Congregation Committee has moved into its next phase of environmental awareness and action. As our president, Jim Freess, said at our dinner, Green Congregation is a great example of UUs engaged in action, beyond the talk we so enjoy.

We've launched our Sharing Locker, inspired by Westminster UU Church's fine program. By the Social Action table in the Parish Hall, a large bucket and list of suggested non-food necessities awaits your donations for distribution by our local food pantries.

We've donated a "Kill A Watt" to the Channing library. You may check it out, like a book, to verify consumption and operating costs of various home or office appliances, with a view to making usage and replacement decisions. We've also begun donating books and other media to the environmental library's collection. For example, there are videotapes of Bob the Builder's excellent Sunflower Valley series for young children, too.

Among our projects for spring are another potluck dinner, probably in support of our CROP Walk team and hunger awareness, a "green" service during Earth Day month, work with RE's Faith In Action program, and co-sponsorship with The Learning Center of a series of talks about our nation's energy future by Bob Kieronski. More about that in a future Green Corner.

These are a few highlights of our plans. Our meetings are every other month, the next being January 9. We totally welcome your suggestions, in the ongoing mission of fostering our congregation's and community's spirit of stewardship of our precious gift of Earth.

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Learning Center  
Minutes of Oct. 3 Meeting  
prepared by Eleanor Doumato

Attending: Kristine, Thor, Mike, Eleanor and Sam

**Publicity for TLC events**

We spent a lot of time discussing outlets for publicity, especially in regard to the Lyme disease program. Possible outlets suggested are targeted e-mail lists, flyers in Middletown and Newport Public Libraries, notices to the other island churches, Jamestown Press, the Providence Journal, in addition to Newport This Week and the Newport Daily News, as well as their on-line sites, and Newport Patch. Also suggested was exploring the possible networks at Newport Hospital via Anna, and nursing students at Salve, via Patty Patrillo, in regard to the Lyme program.

It was suggested that we need to produce a publicity guide with a list of publicity sources that could be used for all TLC events to which the community outside Channing is invited. No one volunteered to be in charge of publicity.

**Budget**

For next year's operations, TLC should submit a budget request to the Finance Committee by Jan. to David Bannister, chair of the Finance Committee. How much money does TLC need? Thor suggested asking for a flat amount, without offering a break-down. Areas for which funds will be needed include honoraria for speakers, incidentals, such as admission fees, duplicating materials, & transportation and lodging for speakers, possibly consultation fees for setting up a web site.

**Ideas for New Programs**

**Book Group:** Kristine indicated that there is currently no book group that is specifically associated with Channing. Additional approaches to organizing a book group were discussed, which are in addition to suggestions made for a woman's book group made at the last meeting: [1] book discussion announced in Catalyst and in weekly calendar, open to anyone who shows up. Titles selected [a] according to a theme or [b] whatever interests the organizer. [2] a more formal book group, with sign-ups.

Suggested topics: Unitarian Universalism

Conclusion: Still need someone to be the organizer. Kristine has offered to work in collaboration with another person.

**lecture series: on UUism? We have offers from Chris Yalanis and David Cooper**

Eleanor will try to come up with a program of speakers

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**THE LEARNING CENTER**

**INCOME & EXPENSES REPORT, Nov. 7, 2011**

**INCOME RECEIVED FROM REGISTRATION FEES & DONATIONS**

Rhode Island Landscapes [on-going]		
13 registrants, 13 paid	\$130	
Saturday Night at the Movies with Film Noir [on-going]		\$260
25 registrants, 4 walk-ins, 26 paid one, 3 payments outstanding		
Medical Science and the Politics of Treating Disease [completed]		
Channing registrants: 23@ \$10= \$230 [minus 1 double payment]	\$220	
attendance session 1 about 30		
attendance session 2 about 70		
Donations [paid]		
Armenia and Doumato		\$140
Newport Lyme Disease Support Group		\$ 25
UU Social Justice History [on-going]		
9 registrants		\$ 90
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>\$865</u></b>

**EXPENSES**

Medical Science and the Politics of Treating Disease [completed]

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speaker's expenses	[pd]	\$330
after-program social event	[pd]	\$140
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>\$470</u></b>
<b>ASSETS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b><u>\$395.</u></b>