

**Meeting of the Board of Trustees
July 10, 2016**

Quorum established
Meeting called to order at 12:30 pm.

In attendance, Corey Melton, Justin McCreary, Ann MacLaine, Joe Clayton, Jim Becker, Jerome Hicks, Susan Voisin; Ayika Foster guest.

Lighting of challis, greetings, reminder of board retreat next weekend. Check ins.

Reading of the minutes from 4/10/16:

Ann noted that her name was spelled wrong and that "Joe Mclaine" should be Joe Clayton. Ann moved that the minutes be accepted and Joe seconded. Motion Passed.

Current minutes will be finalized and emailed.

Reports

Minister's report attached. Accepted.

No written President's report. Corey noted that we need to schedule a work day. Get gutters and drain cleaned out. Corey will make a list of work needed.

Corey made a motion for a work day on July 30. Ann seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurers report: Ann said that we are ahead of projected pledges and income. On the expense side, the church spent only 31.4% of budget for 50% of year. Doing well. We overspent only on communications, including Internet and phone. Utilities costs are low, buildings and grounds are low. We haven't paid dues yet. The PO box is expiring and will be allowed to expire (was paid for for 6 months to follow church sale that fell through). Bank accounts: Regions account is not yet closed, and Ann has not figured where to put Bankcorp South savings. Ann says she is paying most bills online. Miscellaneous expenses include car rental for Yolanda to go to General Assembly, food for meetings, necklaces for bridging ceremony (will move to proper category). There was a question about the budget for the Homecoming event. We need to vote on special line item for that. Justin notes that Ann is doing a fabulous job. Joe made motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Jim seconded. Motion passed.

Trustee report: Jerome will make a list of books needed and will talk to Yolanda.

Past President's report is attached.

Planning for 65th Anniversary:

Jim made a motion that we put a line item in budget for the celebration. Ann seconded. Motion passed. Expenses will include Gordon Gibson's travel and payment. He has agreed to speak at church that Sunday. Jim said that usually we pay travel or motel, honorarium of \$200. But if Gibson needs both travel and hotel we should pay it. The \$200 should come from programs, and Ann will try to line item travel or hotel. We might need to give him 2 nights in hotel, mileage, honorarium. Or 2 out of 3. We

may also need funds for PR and food. Justin asked that we try to make sure there are good vegan options provided on Saturday. Potluck on Sunday. Friday reception will be dessert and drinks.

Ann suggested making a \$1000 line item from reserves to budget for celebration, the rest of funds to be taken from other areas. Justin wants to aim for getting the Easter crowd here. We will pay pianist Alan Black to play.

New Business:

Black Lives Matter banner: Members signed a petition to call a meeting to discuss placement of a banner. Members need to be notified two weeks in advance of a meeting. Susan will send a letter to church members. We need to have at least 30% of members to have quorum. Ann moved that we should hold the meeting on August 21st. Joe seconded. The motion passed. Susan will put it on the calendar.

We must be prepared to have the banner torn down. Might be nice to have security camera near. May need to start with a inexpensive banner.

Susan and Patricia should meet about getting new rental agreements signed.

Childcare: Hiring someone is the responsibility of the executive committee. The job pays \$10 per hour, and a service checks candidates' backgrounds. Ann offered to act as babysitter temporarily. She will also put an ad on Craigslist.

Justin: He stated he will start recording sermons to put on the website to try to extend community past the local area. We need to have waiver/release for people on camera. Just sermons/readings will be recorded.

Jim: Communication on Googlegroups email and on FB messenger seems to be working well. He and Corey will move documents from Yahooogroups to either Dropbox or Google docs.

Board retreat next weekend: The Policy and Procedure Manual is outdated. We need to start over and define positions, draft policies. It will be Saturday July 16 from 9-3. Food: Working lunch at 11:30 at Aladdin.

Jim: Would like to do a second offering, which has been approved, once a month. The Social Justice committee needs to be involved. We need to send out an announcement to the congregation ahead of time.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45.

Justin McCreary

Minister's Report

June 2016

During the month of June I preached twice, I preached through the concept of forgiveness and the idea of fear as a political tool. I made the decision to preach on these subjects based on the need for healing in the church around the failure of the building sale. During times of frustration it is easy to forget to forgive the emotions of others. I also preached on Fear and the Bomb trying to prepare the church for a difficult political system in the country, it will be easy to become divided and to divide ourselves if we fall prey to the politics of fear, it is also important to remember as a non-profit entity we must be very careful that we do not make any statements that can be construed as the bodies support of either political candidate.

It was great to get a visiting Candidate for Ministry Edith Love preach for us. Opening up to hear different UU Ministers at all levels is very important, first because it connects us to the greater church and also because it lets us help up and coming ministers. I think it is also good to get visiting ministers so that the congregation gets to hear other ideas and perceptions. Our voice can become rather isolated if we are not careful.

We had a very successful and well attended congregational meeting, which leaves me looking forward to working with the new and old members of the board. We also affirmed the decision to hold a 65th anniversary celebration, and sign onto the Statement Against Extremism created in part by the Dialogue Institute of Mississippi. We very easily made quorum. It is, however, important to note that since that meeting we have been having very low numbers. At this time I don't believe that is something to worry about, being that it is summer and many of our members are on vacation. If we had a low number during the meeting I would be concerned, however, we must pay close attention that this trend does not continue into August.

I also worked in the community with the Veteran's Hospital's, Clinical Pastoral Education Program.

Sadly I attended two vigils during the month of June, both for the same event, the mass shooting in Orlando Florida at an LGBTQ Nightclub. The first vigil held at a historic LGBTQ Club in Jackson, this vigil was well attended by various members of our church, the second was held at the Historical Chapel at Tougaloo College, by the Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference. I spoke during the latter vigil. I believe that we should always push to the public that we are welcoming to the LGBTQ community not just in our services but in offering them space.

This month I attended General Assembly in Columbus Ohio, Jermaine Hicks and I road together and Yolanda Walker came up later. A lot happened during general assembly and I would love to offer a special report on that, but there are key things that I believe the board should know. I made important contact with the Southern Region Staff and they want to help us, as we battle the struggles as a Mississippi Congregation. I believe that we must hold them accountable, however, that means we need to invite them here. Gale Stratton, newly fellowshipped minister from the Oxford Congregation and I

along with Rev. Carlton Smith would like to plan a Mississippi Cluster Meeting for February 2017, along with the bodies of the UU churches and fellowships in Mississippi.

It is also important to note the strong push during the General Assembly to support “Black Lives Matter.” While there, I was asked if we could hang a banner, Yolanda Walker later started a petition to call a meeting to vote on hanging a “Black Lives Matter” banner. I feel shame that we have not taken this step already. It is important to note though, hanging a banner is minimal. There is much more we should do, the problem is I don’t know what those things are, and I am not sure how to move forward beyond hanging a banner.

There is much to discuss as we move forward and I look forward to working with all of you.

Past President Report
Leadership Development Council
Members: Alicia McCreary, Stacy Callender, Jim Becker

July 2016 Report

The council has not officially met since the May Congregational Meeting. Stacy and I have collaborated on upcoming events in the fall to promote leadership within the congregation, concentrating on who would be a good president-elect for the next board.

One of the immediate goals for this council is to promote a retreat for the incoming Board.

As the chair of the council, I'm proposing the following goals for this year.

1. To review the policies and procedures manual and begin the process of bringing them in line with the new bylaws. I believe this will take more than one year to achieve.
2. To provide leadership skills to members of the congregation through workshops, forums, and other venues.
3. To work with the Southern Region and local Mississippi leaders to promote a cluster meeting in early 2017.
4. To work with the board in the timely administration of their annual goals.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Becker, Past President
