

Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio (UUJO) Board Meeting
Monday, February 8, 2016 6:00 pm

Attendees: Carol Temerson, Howard Tolley, Dan Schneider, Pam Patsch, Rev. Denis Paul, Rev. Lynda Smith, Scott Piepho, Ginnie Vogts, Samuel Prince, Rev. Greg Martin, and Alice Diebel

Actions and Agreements:

- **Action:** Howard will talk with Rev. Melissa about the name of the Cleveland workshop.
- **Action:** All of the UUJO board will promote the GA public witness on June 23rd in their home congregations.
- **Agreement:** The Board agreed to put together the UUJO Executive Director search committee and members will include Dan, Pam, Alice, and Rev. Lynda.
- **Action:** Rev. Lynda will ask Revs. Susan Ritchie and Joan Van Becelaere to be on the UUJO Executive Director search committee.
- **Agreement:** UUJO will begin to publicly advertise the Executive Director position after the May Board meeting so that interviews can be conducted in Columbus at GA if necessary.
- **Action:** Dan will talk to people who agreed to be on UUJO Executive Search Committee to set up their first meeting date.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Check-in

2. Executive Committee Chair Report. Dan. Evaluation + Appointment Letters

Dan completed Howard's performance evaluation. Howard did great job in highlighting his accomplishments this year. Howard also identified UUJO's objectives for 2016 which include finding a new director, securing more funding, and building a statewide coalition. Howard completed Carol's performance evaluation. She did great job with all the administrative work UUJO has assigned her. Dan talked about his role on two new boards (AMOS and the Cincinnati Workers' Center).

3. Treasurer's Report. Alice and Carol

Budget YTD, January income and expenses, cash reserves, Project Accounting, IRS
Alice said UUJO has good cash flow right now. She too identified our need to find additional sources of funding to secure UUJO's future. She also reiterated our need to have a separate line item for Witnessing Race in the budget so we can track staff time and submit accurate reports to UUPF.

4. Membership Report. Pam Patsch. Renewals and past due congregations + Advocates

Membership in 2015 included 64 individual advocates and 21 congregations. She noted that she is not getting a good response on renewal letters. Carol said that once we move to Salsa, the membership renewal process should become easier and more automated.

5. Witnessing Race Project Reports:

MeetUp4Racial Justice Workshops

- a. Cincinnati 4/9 Alice
- b. Columbus 4/23 Lynda, Ginnie
- c. Cleveland 5/7 Carol "Black Lives Matter: All Lives are Precious"

GA Racial Justice Public Witness Event 6/23 -- travel arrangements, program

GA Racial Justice Workshops

Note: CUUSAN Conference at GA 6/22

Board or JA delegates adopt a UUJO Statement on Racial Justice?

Carol, Howard, and Rev. Denis were on the MeetUp4RacialJustice Workshop call for the Cleveland area. Rev. Melissa Zeimer-Carvill led the discussion. This workshop will occupy most of the day and will include lunch. The money to support this event comes from a grant the WACKY/Cleveland ministers received for advertising. The Cleveland workshop would like to use the name, "Black Lives Matter: All Lives are Precious". The SOTSL campaign director believes the second part (all lives matter) might offend BLM movement supporters. Another member of the Board noted the problem as well. **Action: Howard will talk with Rev. Melissa about the name of the Cleveland workshop.** Next, Rev. Lynda reported on the Columbus workshop. Stand Up for Racial Justice and People's Justice Project will jointly support the April 23rd workshop. They are working on getting keynote speaker. Rev. Lynda noted that Columbus is holding diversity discussions so people have a proper background for attending the workshop. The workshop will combine education and strategy focus. Members of other faiths will be invited. Howard reported on the Cincinnati workshop which will be held on April 9th. Al Gerhardstein and an African American pastor will be the speakers. Their focus will be on criminal justice (more advocacy related and talk about what reforms need to be made).

Howard wants to make sure all workshops result in concrete goals and promote the June 23rd GA public witness event at the Ohio Statehouse (4:45pm). **Action: All of the UUJO board will promote the GA public witness on June 23rd in their home congregations.**

At General Assembly, the Coalition for UU State Action Network (CUUSAN) will have an all-day workshop on Wednesday, June 22nd. Board members and Staff are invited to attend. Howard will be doing workshop on Friday with other SANs. Again, all are invited to attend. Howard noted that the winner of the Service Project is Horizon Prison Initiative (proposed by North UU congregation).

Regarding the UUJO statement of Racial Justice, we will see how people are feeling and what they are thinking with regard to UUJO issuing some kind of statement on Racial Justice. Howard noted that we will voting on CSAIs at GA and he would like us to support Racial Justice as a CSAI.

6. People's Justice Coalition: OJPC, OOC, ACLU of Ohio, Juvenile Justice Coalition

Rev. William Barber of North Carolina is calling for fusion politics for statewide movement. Howard sees connections here in Ohio. The Ohio Organizing Collaborative (OOC) has received a multimillion Ford grant to work on voting rights. Other groups have received money as well. They are pooling their resources to build a coalition. Should UUJO be a part of this coalition? Howard sent the OOC a blurb about our June 23rd event. They may take part (their summer week long training is scheduled for the same week as GA and they may move it so they can participate). Ginnie wants UUJO to focus on the education of our congregations. How much discomfort are we willing to endure? What can we do to help?

7. Voting Rights Litigation: UUJO or UU Plaintiff

The state of Ohio has purged millions of voters who have not cast ballots in the past years. Howard is hoping UUJO will become an organizational plaintiff on this issue (if we truly care

about it). We need to find UUs who have been purged from the voter rolls in order to take part. Howard will advertise in our newsletter to see if he can find someone who was removed from voter registration.

8. 2016 Legislative Priorities: Death Penalty bills, Serious Mental Illness, Racial Justice

Lobby Days – Legislative Black Caucus Feb. 24, OTSE April 7,

Climate Action April 20, LWV April 26

Howard: info here. if anyone knows of any other, let Howard know.

9. 3/1 Nomination/reference for Al Gerhardstein for UUA Holmes-Weatherly Award

The Board previously approved nominating Al Gerhardstein for this award. As he started to put together letters of nomination, he found out someone else from Cincinnati has already put forth Al's nomination. Howard believes UUJO has unique perspective and would like to support this effort in some way (perhaps we can put a tribute to Al our website?).

10. Long Range Planning/Staffing

a. Search/long range planning group: Executive Committee or specially appointed ad hoc committee?

b. Possible Timing: Posting of Job Description and application process immediately following the 5/21 Board meeting in Columbus to permit meetings with prospective applicants at June GA. Prior to the public announcement, should Board members and staff share information about the upcoming search with selected individuals identified as promising candidates?

c. Fundraising Plan. Three years of UUFPP funding will end in 2016, so \$15,000 to \$25,000 needs to be raised for staffing in 2017 – new foundation support and major donor solicitation

Dan would like to put together a search committee for Howard's replacement. The Board should feel free to put forward informally any names they like. We should also consider the possibility of having an interim director until we secure the necessary funds for a new director.

Agreement: The Board agreed to put together the UUJO Executive Director search committee and members will include Dan, Pam, Alice, and Rev. Lynda.

Action: Rev. Lynda will ask Revs. Susan Ritchie and Joan Van Becelaere to be on the UUJO Executive Director committee.

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11. Future Meetings 6 pm 2nd Monday of every month, with *exceptions

Executive Committee *3/21, 5/9, 7/11, 9/12

Board of Directors 4/11, *Sat 5/21 Columbus, North UU 8/8, 10/10, *Sat 11/12, 12/12

12. Adjourn