

**Community Church of Chapel Hill Unitarian Universalist
Board Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2016**

Attending:	Cathy Cole	Bill Poteat	Dan Hill
	Kathy Hodges	Mike Vann	Bill Rote
	Katie Heineman	John Ballantyne	Bryan Sexton
Ex Officio:	Thom Belote	Laurence Kirsch	Richard Edwards
Guests:	Maura Holt-Ling	Scott Provan	Andy Heinke
	Gwen Van Ark		

1. Welcome

a. **Chalice Lighting/Reading** – Thom Belote opened the meeting with a reading from the book, Walking Toward Morning.

b. **Sharing** – Each board member shared their preparedness for the meeting by way of a check in.

2. Consent Agenda

a. **February Agenda** – Reviewed the agenda provided in advance of the meeting. Katie Heineman made a motion to accept the agenda as written. Bill Poteat seconded the motion. All in favor with none opposing.

b. **January Minutes** – a motion was made in the last meeting to make a single word change to the Annual Vision of Ministry, however, this change did not make it into the minutes. It was not regarded as a substantive change, but Cathy Cole will research her notes, and if a change is warranted, will communicate that to the Board. Bill Poteat made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. John Ballantyne seconded the motion. All in favor with none opposing.

3. Minister's Report – Thom presented the Board Report in advance of the meeting. No discussion or questions noted. The report is attached to the minutes.

4. New Business –

a. **Report from the Endowment Committee** – Gwen Van Ark, Chair, of the Endowment Committee, along with Scott Provan and Andy Heinke made a presentation to the Board. Topics highlighted in the presentation included raising awareness of the Endowment Fund and encouraging members to engage with the fund; and developing additional means of memorializing members who have passed away. Asks of the Board include making a commitment to the Endowment Fund, and sharing that commitment with other church members as well as being

intentional about inserting the Endowment Fund into regular conversations in the business of the church.

- b. Annual Vision of Ministry Implementation** – Thom presented information to the Board in advance of the meeting on the Annual Vision on Ministry. Highlights of the report include substantial progress in the area of growth and stewardship with Mark Ewart’s group, and the work of the Membership Committee with Rachel Rose’s support. Discussed efforts to include a wider community in the implementation of the AVM by engaging church committees in developing signature activities towards the realization of the AVM. Discussion highlighted activities to support the Racial Justice and Equity goal including *Share the Plate* processes. Discussed methods for choosing organizations to whom the congregation donates—most of which is acted on by the committee according to charter written by the Board. Thom will be meeting with the chair of the committee to talk about the procedures going forward. Also emphasized the need and importance of anti-racism training to be made available to the church leadership.

The report is attached to the minutes.

- c. Annual Pledge Drive** – Cathy Cole provided a status report. This year, we are not doing a lot of written materials; however, we are doing a lot of publicity, including weekly announcements in church and in the newsletter; and soon, on the website. Cottage Meetings are going ahead—multiple sites have been scheduled; and sign-ups are nearly underway. Hosts for the cottage meetings have received training on how to engage members in questions of resources/money discussions. The big push will be in March—the cottage meetings are all scheduled in the first three weeks of the month. Each Sunday, there will be a member testimonial, as well as table discussions where each church committee will be made available to the membership after services to talk about each committee’s role in service of the church. We are also having another “mop up” campaign after March 19th to follow up with any households who have not pledged to date.

Bill Poteat led a discussion about the training session provided by Mark Ewart to lead and engage discussion in the cottage meeting leadership. Each Board Member had attended the training session with Mark Ewart and shared their insights and reflections on the training. Also discussed the importance and meaning of the recommendation by Mark that the Board set an example for the church congregation in stewardship. Bill Poteat challenged the Board members to assess their level of engagement with the church at the *Transformer* level. Bill further asked the Board members to contribute a paragraph of their own to a letter to the congregation, knowing that all members will not attend the cottage meetings. An email will come out to Board members to support that request.

d. Chapel Hill Community Preschool Proposal

Bill made a motion to go into closed session to discuss the proposal made by The Chapel Hill Community Preschool.

Katie Heineman seconded the motion.

All in favor with none opposing.

The Board went into closed session.

The Board came out of closed session.

Cathy Cole made a motion that the Board approve the addition of Marion Hirsch to the CHCP Task Force.

Mike Vann seconded the motion.

All in favor with none opposing.

5. Closing

- a. Process Observations** – Thom praised the process and participation of the meeting.
- b. Action Items** – All Board Members to pledge before March 1. Mutually constructed letter to the Congregation to be completed in time for the March newsletter.
- c. Closing Words** – Thom closed the meeting with a reading.

Rev. Thom Belote
Minister's Board Report
February 9, 2016

Items of Interest to the Board

- I preached and led worship on 1/17 and 1/31 and will preach on 2/7. Church services and all other church programs were cancelled on 1/24 due to winter weather.
- Finished teaching the most recent Exploring Membership class. 11 New Members joined the church in January. (41 new members so far this church year.)
- One church member, Brad Barker, died in the past month.
- Met with Committee on Ministry, Finance Committee, Pastoral Visitors, Stewardship x3, Endowment Committee, and Worship Ministry.
- Held a January Council meeting that included sharing Annual Vision of Ministry, budget information, and Stewardship information with Council.
- Attended Annual Pledge Drive training with Mark Ewert.
- Met with Devin Ross of Justice United and held exploratory meeting for church members interested in a research action which would involve meeting low wage workers at UNC hospital and listening to the needs of those economically marginalized in our community.
- Attended Champions of Choice Planned Parenthood awards breakfast with Frankie Price Stern and Mary Hulett
- Began teaching “Harvest the Power” leadership development SEA course. Only five signed up for this class. (It is being offered in competition with 3-4 other SEA classes.) I’m leading it myself in a trial and error capacity and will consider offering it in a different format in the future.
- I am collaborating with Ivy Brezina and Carolyn Holt to offer a Legacy Checklist course this weekend.
- Mary George has taken over for Ivy as chair of the Pastoral Visitors. Ivy Brezina has agreed to chair the Auction in fall 2016.
- I attended the church talent show organized by Ivy Brezina and Linda Thompson and performed a juggling routine.
- I attended the Non-Fiction Book Group discussion of “Between the World and Me” by Ta-Nehisi Coates.
- I attended the “Sanctuary for Dialogue” event focused on religious / political exclusion.

Requested Board Action

- Approve Peter Witt as a member of the Committee on Ministry.

Rev. Thom Belote
Annual Vision of Ministry 2015-2016 Update
February 9, 2016

Vision Area #1: Racial Justice and Equity

- + Multiple sermons on the subject of Anti-Racism and Racial Justice.
- + Services by guest ministers Rev. John Crestwell (coming in April) and Rev. Randy Lewis (November)
- + Multiple SEA courses including classes on the book “White Like Me” by Tim Wise and “Between the World and Me” by Ta-Nehisi Coates, a course on diversity led by Susan McDaniel, and a course on Understanding Islam.
- + Standing on the Side of Love is coordinating our participation in HKonJ.
- + The youth groups of C3HUU and ERUUF will combine for a Be The Change anti-racism workshop in late February.
- + Unfortunately, I’ve not succeeded in scheduling an anti-racism training.

Vision Area #2: Leadership Development

- + Currently teaching “Harvest the Power” UUA leadership development curriculum. Only 5 members signed up.
- + Added Leadership Development component to committees I work closely with, including Worship, Pastoral Visitors, and Council. Working to schedule Pastoral Visitors training later this spring.
- + Marion and I are collaborating to host a regional Youth Rally in April. This will have a leadership development component. This is in addition to the leadership development work that youth are engaged in through the Insch Leadership Program.
- + Will begin offering my Preaching Practicum class again in March. This is a course developing worship leadership skills of congregants.
- + At least one member of SEA plans to attend General Assembly.
- + Our work with consultant Mark Ewert is helping to develop Stewardship leaders in our church.
- + April 1-3 we will host our first ever Distinguished Guest Minister. Rev. John Crestwell will join us for a weekend to preach, to do leadership development with the Worship Team, and to do a workshop on Congregational Singing.

Vision Area #3: Justice and Service

+ In sermons and in meetings with church leaders (Council, etc.) I've introduced the concept of greater focus and have tied that concept with the observations of our Stewardship consultant and also the organizational theory work of Alice Mann and others. This call for focus has met with a good deal of approval as well some uncertainty, anxiety, and pushback.

+ This is an area for greater exploration.

Vision Area #4: Growth and Stewardship

+ This is the area that I can point to with the most success and satisfaction.

+ The Stewardship work of Mark Ewert is well-known by the Board.

+ Tons of work has been done to take the Membership efforts of the church to the next level.

- Hiring Rachel Rose, re-dimensioning the Membership Director position for greater impact and success, training and coaching Rachel.
- Numerous new members of the Membership Committee (Shelley Golden, Dave Klibanow, and Carol Genovese) and a new chair (Gail McKinley)
- Development of the Exploring Membership class and materials. This class has been offered 4 times so far this church year.
- Holding a Membership Sunday in September.
- Improvements to the Greeter program and logistics for welcoming visitors.
- Sharing our Fire, Warmth, and Light initiative.