

**Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
Board Meeting Minutes  
August 12, 2014**

Telescope Deadline: August 18, 2014

**Chalice Lighting (Misty)**

**Check-In:**

**Call to Order:** 6:52 PM

**Members Attending:** Misty Kirkman Brogan, Tim Pierce, Jon Schwestka, Marj Lacey, Rev. Beth Johnson

**Guest(s) Attending:** None

**Approval of prior Board Meeting minutes:** Approved

**Review of Current Agenda**

**Announcements:** None

**Written Reports:** (Discussion by exception only)

*Religious Education:* Attached

*Minister's Report:* Attached

*President's Report:* Attached

**Verbal Reports:**

*Finance Report:* (Written report attached)

Report was accepted and discussed. Topics of discussion were 1) what the figures in the "fixed assets" category mean: 2) how those amounts were established, and 3) Peace and Justice Ministry and Social Concerns funds.

**Old Business:**

*Strategic Planning:* Reverend Beth will confirm with those named to the committee that they are willing and able to serve.

*Communications Committee:* Dave is getting the committee together.

This led to a discussion of the process and policy related to forming new committees. Who should do this: CCAT or the board? The general consensus was that the two groups should make a joint decision on this. We will discuss it further at the board retreat. Whoever is responsible for creating new committees would be responsible for identifying the committee chair and recruiting members.

*Financial Audit:* (Tim) There's a site on line which will help in doing an internal audit. The cluster meeting on finance also is expected to be helpful.

*Cluster (SUUN) Representatives:* Dave will be president of SUUN. We also need to appoint another representative.

Association District Rep: Beth will contact Dick Eiden to ask him to take on the job of association district representative.

*Soil/Slope/Parking lot:*

Jon Schwestka volunteered to take on the job of following up on the issue of the inadequacy of the contractor's work in installing the parking lot and the resultant problems created by the continued sloping. Per Beth, the general direction we would like to go is to sue the contractor and the supervisor of the project if they don't agree to repair what they've done. Patricia Gamza, George DeNeef, and Al Cox were suggested as resources in this endeavor.

*Refrigerator for Preschool/ Refrigerator donation from Daniel Stracka:* Since the refrigerator Daniel offered to donate is not operating, Misty will follow up with a company that may donate a used fridge and haul out the other one for \$20.

*On-Property Sexton:* (Jon)

It was decided not to create an on-property sexton position this fiscal year.

*Board Retreat:* Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> (Marj's home) 9:30-3:00 – potluck lunch.

### **New Business:**

*Cluster Event; Board Orientation/Training @ Summit*

9/20 at Summit in Santee 1-4 pm

*Intern for Reverend Beth:* Reverend Beth announced she has been given the opportunity to have an intern from Meadville-Lombard Seminary work with her. The board approved.

*YAV Fundraising :*

The board was unable to support a non-member young adult 's request to seek contributions from the congregation for a service year with Young Adult Volunteers, an organization of the Presbyterian Church.

*Climate March (9/21)*

SD350.org wants us to endorse the Climate March in San Diego from 12:30 to 3:30 on 9/21. Misty suggested the Peace and Justice Ministry take responsibility for this. The fellowship will get public recognition. The focus of the March is climate action, sustainable water policy, and transit.

*Casino Night (req by William Leslie)*

William Leslie has requested the use of our build for a fund-raiser casino night for Amnesty International. The request was approved.

**Next Meeting:** September 9, 2014

**Executive Session:** None

**Adjournment:** 9:10 PM

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### **August DRE Board Report from Kathleen Moscato**

**May Attendance:**

|                   | <b>5/4</b> | <b>5/11</b> | <b>5/18</b> | <b>5/25</b> |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Nursery:</b>   | 5(3)       | 4(2)        | 7(2)        | 6(5)        |
| <b>Explorers:</b> | 7          | 6           | 7           | 7           |
| <b>YRUU:</b>      | 5          | 4           | 3           | 6           |

**June Attendance:**

|                   | <b>6/1</b> | <b>6/8</b> | <b>6/15</b> | <b>6/22</b> | <b>6/29</b> |
|-------------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Nursery:</b>   | 16(12)     | 2(3)       | 6(5)        | 5(6)        | 8(3)        |
| <b>Explorers:</b> | In service | 8          | In Service  | 14          | 8           |

**YRUU:** In Service 6 In Service 8 6

### **July Attendance:**

7/6 7/13 7/20 7/27

**Nursery:** (need to get these numbers from Bob Kintz)

**Explorers:** 7 In Service 6 5

**YRUU:** 4 In Service 5 ?

-Summer's numbers have held steady and have been very consistent. The children really enjoy the open format for the summer. Playing out in the Gazebo is exactly what they need to connect with each other.

-While the lazy days of summer have been wonderful at PUUF, our Camp de Benneville Pines summer camps were anything but lazy or quiet. My first summer as Dean of the Junior High Summer camp went well. I had a HUGE learning curve and am pretty sure I did not take a breath, until about 5 days into the process. It was a great learning experience and I have agreed to do this again next summer. We need to be proud as a community of our hard work at our PSWD camp, my hard work and Marianne Swift-Gifford's, PUUF had an amazing showing this summer at camp. We had at least 9 children and youth attend camp this summer, 7 of which were given very generous scholarships.

-Registration for the new year will begin on Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup>. Classes will resume on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

-This year we will have Children's Chapel every third Sunday of the month. This will take place during the 1<sup>st</sup> service. Children and youth will go straight to chapel and not be in the beginning part of the service. Grades 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> will attend the service and my hope is that the children and youth will become co-creators of these services.

-I have started heavy recruitment of volunteers for the new year, it is a slow start. I am hoping once school starts in the next couple of weeks and people's schedules present themselves, I will hear from more people. I really want to get the message out there that RE needs leaders and helpers from the whole community, not just from the RE families. At the same time I am stressing to the parents that I really need everyone to give back to RE by volunteering in some form, even if they cannot/or don't want to help in the classrooms.

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**Rev. Beth Johnson**  
**August 2014 Report to the Palomar Fellowship Executive Board**

The first two months of the Fellowship year have been rich and rewarding in many ways.

The **Sunday Services** summer theme: Love, Compassion, Joy, Peace has been lifted up in the variety of services we have held this summer. Most notable was our Hands of Peace service and the follow up service. But all of them have been inspirational in their own way. At the Intro to UUs gathering Sunday, August 10, a man told me that his first service at Palomar Fellowship was the July 20 drag service. He has been to numerous other churches and groups, and when he walked in and looked at David Wirth in drag he initially thought “that’s an interesting looking woman – feminine, but...” Then he realized he was seeing a man in drag and our visitor said he felt like he was home. We never know just what will touch the hearts and minds of those who find their way to us. I was so honored to have worked with the Building Your Own Theology class. I am seeing a spiritual deepening in our community that is very exciting.

Although I have been in the pulpit only one Sunday in July and will have two Sundays in August, with the exception of my vacation to Chicago July 22 – July 30 and my retreat the weekend of August 15-17 in Madison WI, I have been working on plans for the coming year, doing spiritual direction and counseling, as well as working on immigration, and Peace and Justice ministry.

### **Peace and Justice Work**

I am a member of the Vista Climate Action Stakeholders Group representing Palomar Fellowship. (Along with Rev. Carol Hilton) This summer I began working with a subgroup of the stakeholders group that is working on “reducing vehicle miles traveled and single occupancy use.” This is an area of focus that is part of the Vista Climate Action Plan. I will attend meetings and participate as I can.

I returned from the UUA General Assembly just as the Central American refugee humanitarian crisis came to San Diego. I spoke at press conference on July 2, and on July 3 as president of Interfaith Center for Worker Justice, I accompanied a delegation of immigration and faith agencies to the Department of Homeland Security to meet with ICE, Border Patrol, and others to determine the best way to meet the needs of the refugees. Palomar Fellowship and UURISE have been participating in providing donations and relief to these refugees. And a Palomar Fellowship family has offered their home to a refugee who is waiting to join a family member in another part of the country. I was interviewed by Don Skinner of

the UUA Interconnections magazine about what Palomar Fellowship is doing on immigration.

I participated in an Interfaith Iftar, the breaking of the Ramadan fast, sponsored by the Islamic Center of San Diego and accepted an honor on behalf of ICWJ.

While on vacation, I was so pleased to have been able to attend the Hands of Peace banquet in Chicago that took place at the same time as the San Diego banquet. Our Fellowship was famously lifted up as great supporters of Hands of Peace San Diego. What a treat!

I will be in New York City on September 21 for the Great Climate March, but am also working with San Diego350.org on involving faith communities in the local actions that day.

**The Peace and Justice Ministry** is progressing in an exciting and prophetic manner. The core team created a powerful mission statement that was affirmed by the general meeting. This mission will guide the work of the P&JM. As you can see from the mission statement below, the P&JM is committed to integrating spirituality into our justice work. Attached you find a flyer created by Michael Mufson that beautifully shows our mission. We are grounding our work in the work of eco-philosopher, Joanna Macy.

“In response to the unprecedented, interlocking global crises of Climate, Economy and Systems of Oppression our mission is to immediately and urgently Educate, Explore, Empower & Embody spiritually grounded transformational practices to bring about radical social, economic and political justice.”

The last General Meeting approved going forward with engaging the congregation in a conversation around the lenses that the P&JM will use as a focus to guide our work. It is the intention of the P&JM to educate the congregation about this approach and to seek a vote in January to affirm this approach. The lenses identified include: Climate and Environmental Justice; Economic Justice; Peacemaking. (I am writing from memory as my notes are not near me at this writing, but I will make sure the board is informed of other aspects that I may have neglected here) This is an innovative approach that recognizes the intersectionality of social justice issues and systems of oppression. It is a departure from an issues-based approach, which is less nimble and generally encourages “silos” that neglect the interconnectedness that constitutes the issues facing us. I’m extremely impressed with the Core Team and the General Meeting. The group was so gratified and impressed that three presidents attended the meeting: our current president, Misty Kirkman; past-president, David Cochran; and former president Tamara Lowell. It should also be noted that our esteemed minister emerita, the Rev. Carol Hilton is also a committed member of the General Meeting. The next meeting is Monday, August 25 at 6:30 pm.

## **Washington DC and Civil Disobedience**

### **Here is a facebook post I wrote that describes the action on July 31:**

“First, let me thank all of you who have been so supportive of the action yesterday - both with your encouraging posts and financial donations. You were with me throughout the day. I'm so grateful to Katia Hansen for her leadership and her unfailing support of me and others, Laura Davis for showing up, and my colleagues and traveling companions, Lora Brandis and Susan Frederick Gray. I'm bowing deeply to the organizers, activists, and immigrant community for permitting me to walk beside you in this work. And, for the children, who are deserving of love, care, refuge, and all good things I am prepared to continue to give all I can.

Yesterday's action was well-planned and executed. 112 clergy and immigration activists committed civil disobedience with the support of approximately 500 others cheering, chanting, and singing. The action began with a prayer service, some speeches, and a beautiful blessing for those getting arrested. We walked in three lines to sit and stand in front of the White House to send the message to President Obama to stop the deportations and extend DACA. We sang and chanted bearing witness to the need for justice-love. We sat and stood for about an hour or so

The police were respectful as they arrested us for the offense of standing with signs in front of the White House. You can walk with signs, but not stand. We were given three warnings and then the police began to arrest us one by one. This civil disobedience entailed going peacefully when asked. We were handcuffed, put on buses, and taken to a detention center where we were processed quickly, easily and respectfully. They have done this before. Our spirits were high as we were released to supporters cheering, bearing water and food. We were returned to the Methodist Building around 6 pm where our trainings have been held.

As civil disobedience goes, this was an easy action. Everything was coordinated with the police, we all knew what we were doing and what to expect. And, still, it was a powerfully moving experience for me and all who were there. The gesture was deeply appreciated by those whose lives are so seriously affected. I am humbled to have been able to do this thing, determined to continue, committed to living my faith and responding to the call of justice-love.”

Fundraising for DC: Special collection and crowd funding:

The total for the July 20 special collection = \$524, and the crowd funding total to date is \$1045. I am completing a Standing on the Side of Love matching grant to cover Katia's and my expenses.

Follow up Actions on immigration:

People are being asked to contact their representatives, attend town hall meetings, and contact the White House. I will be on a follow up call on Thursday while I'm driving through Wisconsin.

### **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service**

Plans are underway for a celebratory service on Sunday Sept 7<sup>th</sup> In gathering Sunday. We will have two services with a special vegan brunch between to celebrate our 10 years of ministry together. Lots of great music and special speakers, including Rabbi Laurie Coskey.

### **Strategic Planning**

I will be sending out an email to convene the Strategic Planning Task Force  
Members include:

Ann Kay  
agrees

Brad Dre  
Brenda Balmer  
Rachel Rott

Debbie Cox-need to confirm she

Pat Bentz  
Megan Kajitani  
Nicole Kent-will consult

**Staff contracts** are being finalized and will be presented at the September board meeting.

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## **Presidents**

### **Report to the Executive Board**

**August 12, 2014**

#### *Preschool Sign:*

I informed Rebecca that we are in the process of looking for a new sign for the fellowship (or raising the current one). Once this is complete then we can revisit the Preschool having a permanent sign. In the mean time the one they are using now is fine. I have also sent an email to Al Cox/Building and Grounds, asking him to look into the cost, get some estimates for raising the sign and/or new one; whichever would be least expensive. I will continue to follow up with Al on this issue.



*Policy for hanging items:*

It was brought to C-CAT that perhaps we need a policy for hanging pictures, etc. on the walls of the fellowship so as not to cause any damage. I also sent an email to Al Cox/Building and Grounds asking him to draft a simple policy for this issue and present it to the Board for approval. I will follow up with Al on this item as well.

*Interfaith donation basket:*

Interfaith has gone through some changes in leadership with new policies for donated items to different locations. Interfaith donations have been taken on by the Peace and Justice Ministry. Any further questions in regards to this should be taken to P&JM.

-Misty Kirkman, President

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**Finance Director's  
Report to the Executive Board  
Aug 12, 2014**

The July Budget Report and Balance Sheet showing balances as of 8/11/2014 are attached.

All figures are tentative, pending entry of all data for July into the Power Church program.

Total expense for July was 84% and income was 74% of the amounts budgeted.

The Building Fund consists of \$122,712.03 which includes \$7,712.03 in checking and \$115,000.00 in TICRX shares (market value 8/13/2014 is \$118,982.00).

Assets in the General Fund include:

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Wolcott Bequest:              | 32,435.00 |
| Unrestricted Net Assets:      | 18,019.14 |
| Savings Interest in Reserve:  | 20,745.85 |
| General Discretionary Fund:   | 16,249.54 |
| Vonnahomme Bequest:           | 12,958.64 |
| Building Reserve for Repairs: | 7,410.96  |

These funds and all other Board Designated Accounts include \$94,497.07 in savings, between eight and ten thousand dollars in checking, and \$35,993.33 in our Chase investment account (market value is \$46,028.06 as of 8/12/2014).

The account numbers in Power Church have been changed so Power Church budget reports are listed in the same format as the budget that was presented at the annual meeting.

Contribution statements were sent out in July, with only a few responses that required adjustments to be made.

The Finance Committee met July 15, and will continue to meet on the third Tuesday at 4 pm. We hope to be more active in the budget process next year, supporting a line item to raise money for the building fund and full dues to the UUA. We look forward to working with the strategic planning committee this year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim Peirce, Finance Director