

Church of the Larger Fellowship Board of Directors Teleconference

February 23, 2006
MINUTES

Present: Denny Davidoff, John Lees, Terry Robinson, Frank Wells, Brad Greeley, Lois Reborne, Harold Babcock, Tad Crawford, Lynda Bluestein, Ken Gross. Unable to be present: Laurel Amabile, Alicia Forsey. Staff: Jane Rzepka, Lorraine Dennis, Paul Sprecher

Opening Words

By Lynda Bluestein, "Reach Out and Touch Someone"

I. Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 2005 meeting of the Board. (Lynda/Terry) Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2005 meeting of the Executive Committee (Tad/John) Passed unanimously.

II. Minister's Report

Jane read a testimonial from a CLF member. She reported that Lorraine (Executive Director) will be on sabbatical from April 24-May 30, 2006, and from July 10 – September 5, 2006. The staff is preparing for coverage during this time. Jane then announced the creation of a Spanish language page on the CLF Website called *En Espanol*. It contains several *Quest* sermons that have been translated into Spanish and many links to UU Websites in Spanish. She then reported that we will soon have *Quest* available as podcasts on the Website. Paul Sprecher (Intern Minister) explained that the technology is just about ready to allow for subscription to *Quest* podcasts from the iTunes Website. The target date to announce the podcasts is March 1, 2006. Jane then reported that the CLF will have two interns next year. The UUA Ministry Dept will fund the cost of the second intern. Both are from Starr Kind School for the Ministry. They are Barb Greve and Kelly Asprooth-Jackson. Jane read introductory bios from each of the interns.

III. Executive Director's Report

Lorraine reported that we have received several grants in the last few months—from the UU Funding Program, a grant for \$10,000 for the Make Your Own Sunday worship resources Web-based database. Also, from the UU Women's Federation, a grant for \$2,500 for the Women in Prison project, to create a plan for outreach to women in prison. We also plan to submit a grant request to the March 15th deadline for the UU Funding Program.

CLF Staff has stabilized with Donna, Iris, and Beth well settled into their roles. Lorraine is looking forward to her sabbatical and has confidence that the rest of the staff will be able to manage well while she is gone.

IV. Nominating Committee

Harold Babcock, Nominating Committee Chair, reported that the committee has been hard at work recruiting for the four openings on the CLF Board. The Rev. Maureen Killoran, the Rev. Ahbi Janamanchi, and Lucia Santini Field have all agreed to serve on the board. The committee is still recruiting for the final slot. Lynda Bluestein has agreed to fill the CLF Board slot on the Nominating Committee. The Board will vote on the final slate at the April meeting

The CYF did not submit a name to the Nominating Committee by the February 1st deadline, so Nominating Committee could not consider anyone from the CYF.

V. CYF Steering Committee

Frank Wells reported that the CYF held their election in the fall and elected 3 Steering Committee members. Frank's role is as liaison to the CLF Board and is ex-officio. The Steering Committee has been meeting sporadically, but about once a month. They have not yet elected a facilitator and things have been going slowly. Membership continues to grow and is at approx. 240 members. Michael Tino, UUA Young Adult and Campus Ministry Director, is a member and has taken on the CYF Stewardship. They are presently at about 35% of the 2006 goal. The CYF has pledged for about \$5,700 on a budget of \$15,000. The content of the CYF Website continues to grow, with their first video sermon up on the site. They have appointed a Finance Committee. **Denny will write to the Steering Committee and ask for a report from the Steering Committee for the April CYF Board meeting which includes details of the CYF's plans for a presence at GA and their plans for time with the Young Adult Caucus at GA.**

V. Prohibition on Electronic Voting for CLF Elections

Denny reported to the board that an attorney has told the staff that electronic voting is not legal in Massachusetts, so, we must rescind the CLF's policy allowing it. **Motion to rescind policy of Electronic Voting for CLF Elections (Lois/Terry). Motion passed 10 – 1 with Tad voting against the motion.**

VI. Finance Report

John Lees and Lorraine reported that we ended the year with a small surplus. We are delighted that the member contributions budget was slightly over budget for 2005. January member contributions are \$36,600, so we are starting the year well.

The Executive Committee passed the budget in December, as instructed. **Lorraine will send copies of the final 2006 budget to the Board right after the meeting.** There was no action on the CYF budget since it is incorporated in to the CLF budget which was approved in December.

VIII. Investments

Ken Gross reported that the \$100,000 transfer of the final distribution of the Otto Estate into the UUA GIF fund doesn't show up on the UUA's statement. Jerry Gabert, UUA Treasurer, is checking on it. The funds in the UUA GIF show a 6.6% gain from March 1 – December 31, 2005, with the S & P at 4.7%. We have \$400,000 in Treasury Direct notes with various maturities. The latest is early 2007. Ken and John are disappointed that the UUA statements for the year end are not available at this point in the year.

VIII. Fundraising

Since Brad had to leave the meeting, Denny gave a short report for him. We have done a great job on the Annual Canvass and a terrible job on the Second Offering project. He would like to have a discussion (probably in April) about the Board's willingness to do the project. Denny will provide time on the agenda in April for a discussion that includes Brad and Laurel. **Lynda Bluestein has some suggestions for replacing the Second Offering and will write a letter to the Board to outline them.**

IX. General Assembly

We have met all the deadlines for GA so far this year. There will be some discussion about GA delegate requirements at the April meeting during the time we spend updating policies. It was pointed out that the requirement to make a gift of record to be a delegate is already in place since our bylaws require a gift or a financial waiver for CLF membership.

X. Board Committees

The Executive Committee will meet and work on the committee questions before our April meeting. The Finance Committee is already in place (John, Ken, Denny, Frank).

XI. Jason Shelton grant request

The Rev. Jason Shelton, Director of Music at the Nashville, TN church, asks the CLF to sponsor a UU Funding Program grant request for *Sources—A Unitarian Universalist Cantata* to be composed by him and the lyrics written by the Rev. Kendall Gibbons. The CLF's role would be to house the scores and make them available from the CLF library for only the cost of shipping and handling. Jason has an excellent reputation and plans to debut the chorale piece at the 2007 GA. He asks that we do four things: 1) co-sponsor the grant, 2) house the scores at the CLF, 3) become a \$1,000 sponsor, 4) handle the finances. We will ask Jason to add some money to the grant request to cover any costs incurred by us. Jason is also raising money through sponsorship.

Motion: that we accept Jason Shelton's proposal to house the scores for the cantata in the CLF library and take responsibility for distribution and that we sponsor the grant to the UU Funding Program. The other two requests will be taken up at the April meeting. (Frank/Lois) Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn (John/Lois). Motion passed unanimously.