

Unitarian Church in Charleston
Vestry Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2010

Members and Staff Present: Karen Abrams, Jeffery Fleming, Maureen Kelly, Charles Miller, Richard Hayes, Danny Reed

Guests: Anna Stephens, Elaine Aron

Opening Words: Maureen Kelly provided the opening words.

Minutes: Minutes for the April meeting were approved as amended.

Report on Covering Church Pew Cushions: Anna Stephens presented a proposal for covering the church pew cushions. There are a total of 1043 feet of pew cushions that need covering (including new padding). The best price so far is from Utter's Upholsterers at \$13.28/foot for a total cost of about \$13,850. The fabric and color need to be selected. Various options for funding were discussed. There was some question as to whether the contingency fund for the church restoration project could be used. One other option was for families to pay for a cushion, ~ \$250 each.

Introduction of Elaine Aron: Elaine Aron is a UU Seminary graduate, who will be working as Chaplain for Roper Hospital in September. She is in the preliminary fellowship stage of her ministry. She has asked that our Church help by giving feedback on how her ministry is going. It was proposed that a group be pulled together to meet periodically with Elaine. (Such as an Ad Hoc committee, or perhaps a group of church members, or maybe the Caring Committee.) She will maintain contact through Danny, after talking with the UUA.

Budget Review: The proposed budget for 2010-2011 was discussed. The new budget is only about \$3000 over the budget for 2009-2010. The amount from the Endowment has been cut from \$12,000 to \$6,000. The estimate for income from church tours was cut in half. The income and expense statement was revised. A motion to approve the proposed budget was made by Jeffery and seconded by Richard. The vote was unanimous for approval.

Plans for Annual Corporate Meeting: Names being offered by the Nominating Committee were discussed. Plans for handling nominations from the floor were also discussed. The proposed by-law change to permit voting by proxy was discussed. John Meffert and Ray Setser will be asked to get together to work out a proposal for handicap access to Gage Hall. The order of events for the meeting was revised. Danny's report will be included in handouts. Committee reports will be posted.

Plans for Church Rededication on October 17, 2010: List of potential speakers included Mayor Riley, Annette Marquis, Walter Edgar, Rev. Peter Morales, and others. Plans are to publicize in local papers. Needed funds for reception may come from this year's budget, if there is any leftover. Possible chairs for the reception: Barbara Goldberg and Mary Anne Hughston.

Plans for Alliance Sunday: Program will honor the Alliance members and Sue Prazak. The Vestry will be responsible for organizing the reception in Gage Hall after the service on May 9. Maureen Kelly offered to organize the reception.

Plans for Double Sunday Services: On Sundays planned for double services, the times will be at 09:30 am and 11:30 am. Vestry members doing announcements on those Sundays should plan to do both services. Date for double services are:

Definite: May 23, 30, and June 6 Maybe: September 12, 19, and 27

Wedding Fee Decision: A proposal was approved which makes it mandatory that persons be members for a least 2 years to have weddings in the Sanctuary.

Camera: A new camera was purchased to record the worship services.

TJ Meeting in Beaufort: Six church members are going to the TJ district meeting in Beaufort including: Ed and Anna Stephens, Sally and John Newell, Michael Carnell and Richard Hayes. One of the major issues that will be voted on is a proposal to change the name of the Thomas Jefferson district . Richard plans to write up the meeting.

Danny's Report: Danny made his report on what has been going on from his point of view. He listed numbers of weddings, services, etc. Things seem to be going very well. He is trying to make sure that goals that were set are being addressed.

Other Items: Plans by Buildings and Grounds and Churchyard Committees for adding handicap access to the front of Gage Hall were discussed. About \$17,000 leftover from the \$24,000 bequest to the Churchyard Committee by Ruby Hutchison would fund the work. Plans are to go to BAR for approval on April 14. Plans are also underway to inform the congregation about the proposed project and get feedback. Plans are also underway to install an ADA approved toilet in the handicap bathroom in Gage Hall.

Closing Words: Richard Hayes did the closing words to close the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Charlie Miller in Sally's absence