

**University Congregational United Church of Christ
Church Council Meeting, Ostrander Hall
June 15, 2009**

Next meeting:
Monday, August 17, 2009, 7:00 pm, in Ostrander Hall.

Attendance

Board/Office	Council Member
Moderator	Kathy Kripps
Assistant Moderator	Christian Halstead
Treasurer	Tim Croll
Secretary	Jo Evans
Past Moderator	John Lewis
Christian Formation for Adults	Rockwell Moulton
Child Care Board	Sally Pritchard
Communications	Eleanor Sundqvist
Elementary Education	Rebecca Schmidt (also Preschool Ed)
Facilities and Equipment	Bob Bourdeau
Fellowship	Vicki Farmer (absent)
Mission	Helen Bereiter
New Members	Gina Massoni
Parish Care	Mary Paananen (also At-Large)
Personnel	Carol Christoferson
Preschool Ed. and Fellowship	Rebecca Schmidt
Social Action	Elizabeth Dickinson
Stewardship and Finance	John Coleman
Worship and Music	Susan Landeen
Youth Ed. and Fellowship	Marla Murdock
At-Large / Exec (Stewardship)	(absent)
At-Large / Exec (Worship and Music)	Elaine Mathies
At-Large / Exec (Christian Education)	Beth Gatewood (absent)
At-Large / Exec (Parish Life)	Mary Paananen
At-Large / Exec (Mission and Outreach)	Jan von Lehe
Staff:	
Church Administrator	David Anderson
Pastor	Catherine Foote
Pastor	Peter Ilgenfritz
Pastor (Interim)	Lisa Domke
Guests:	
Pastor candidate	Amy Roon
UCCUC rep to UDECC	Marty Curry
UDECC Task Force & interested parties	Val Thiel, Nancy Wiesner, Mary Elizabeth Maltman, Kathryn Robinson, Aileen Pruiksmas, Jerry Landeen

Moderator Kathy Kripps opened the regular meeting of Church Council in Ostrander Hall #2 on June 15, 2009 at 7PM and reported a quorum present.

Opening Prayer – Catherine Foote

Introductions of Lisa Domke, new interim minister, and Amy Roon, minister elect.

Spotlight was on Lisa Domke. Today is Lisa's 1st day on job. She discussed what excited her about ministry among other topics.

Consent Agenda

Kathy invited the Council to consider the Consent Agenda, consisting of:

- Approval of May 18 and June 7 Church Council meeting minutes
- Approval of Financial Report
- Approval of the AIR form for housing allowance for Lisa Domke
- Approval of the AIR form to elect Jo Evans as Secretary and Elaine Mathies as At-Large member.

Motion: Approve the Consent Agenda and AIR forms.

M/S Lewis / Paananen. The motion passed.

Full text of AIR Forms:

AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING OF June 15, 2009

AIR # 1

Requested by David Anderson

Action/Motion or Discussion Requested:

Motion:

Whereas, Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code permits a minister of the gospel to exclude from gross income (in computing federal income taxes) a church-designated allowance paid to him/her as part of his/her compensation to the extent used by him/her for actual expenses in owning or renting a home; and

Whereas, Lisa Domke is compensated by University Congregational United Church of Christ exclusively for services as a minister of the gospel; and

Whereas University Congregational United Church of Christ does not provide any clergy with a parsonage; therefore it is hereby

Resolved, that of the total compensation paid for calendar year 2009 the housing allowance pursuant to Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code is as follows:

for Lisa Domke \$15,000 maximum

Resolved further that these designations as housing allowances shall apply to calendar year 2009 and all future years unless otherwise provided.

Resolved further that forty percent of the salary of any minister on staff, regardless of when hired, is hereby designated as a housing allowance for the current year and each future year, unless otherwise specifically provided (as has just been done for the above clergy).

for the following reasons:

IRS requirement to designate clergy housing allowances

Date of Request May 27, 2009

Person to be contacted by the Executive Committee if clarification is necessary: David Anderson

AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING OF June 15, 2009

AIR # 2

Requested by Kathy Kripps

Action/Motion or Discussion Requested:

To accept the resignation of Elaine Mathies as Secretary, with thanksgiving for her faithful work in recording the minutes of the council meetings, and for graciously returning to the position when a vacancy occurred.

And to name Jo Evans to the position of Secretary for the year.

And to name Elaine Mathies as an At-Large Council Member and liaison to the Worship/Music Ministry.

for the following reasons:

As called for in the UCUCB bylaws:

Article VI:

A vacancy in an at-large position will be filled by a vote of the council until the next annual meeting, at which time the vacancy will be filled by a vote of the congregation. A vacancy in a board designated position will be filled by the responsible board. Vacancies in church officer positions shall be filled in accordance with Article X.

ARTICLE VIII

BOARDS

2. The church council fills by election any board vacancy until the next annual meeting of the congregation. Board members hold office until replaced.

Article X:

7. Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy in any office other than that of moderator or immediate past moderator, the church council shall fill that vacancy by election. In the event of simultaneous vacancies in the offices of moderator and of assistant moderator, the church council shall elect a moderator who shall serve until the next annual meeting of the congregation. In the event of a vacancy in the office of immediate past moderator, such position shall remain vacant for the remainder of the term.

Date of Request June 3, 2009

Person to be contacted by the Executive Committee if clarification is necessary: Kathy Kripps

Reports and Updates:

Peter Ilgenfritz:

- Summary of Jim White leaving, Lisa Domke arriving, new preaching summer series of I Wonder As I Wander.
- Hillary Coleman, David Anderson, Amy Roon, and Margaret Irribarra going to Synod.

Catherine Foote:

- Laura Genoves job sharing starting 3/09 interim w/Kris Garrett for Christian Education

David Anderson:

- Catherine met with governor, mayor, and Nickelsville folks.
- Mike O'Donnell, Facilities, is out recovering from surgery.
- Tewolde works full-time @ UW & David spoke of concern for him in potentially losing job.

Kathy Kripps:

- Asked for 8-10 helpers for 6-21-09 congregational meeting. More than enough volunteered!
- Normally Council doesn't want a substitute (for voting) if regular member can't attend. Interested parties are always welcome to attend.

- Kathy requested that Council members print council meeting agendas and necessary handouts prior to coming to the meeting to save printing costs for UCUC.

Youth Mission Trip:

Catherine reported that the youth mission trip has now sold \$2,400 in shares, well above original goal of \$500 - \$1000 with even small children buying shares.

Communications Board:

Eleanor Sundquist asked all to please contact her if you want something communicated. She wants to do this. They took a hiatus last year, but more than ready to return to action.

UDECC Feasibility Study Using Lot C

The following two AIR forms were presented at meeting by Kathy Kripps with discussion following, including going around table and each person saying his/her piece. At end of discussion AIR Form #4 was voted on with the additions as noted in italics.

AIR Form #3:

Requested by Kathy Kripps

Action/Motion or Discussion Requested:

A) The Moderator shall communicate to UDECC that:

1. UCUC is willing to allow Lot C and the Gold House to be part of the site analyzed for UDECC's financial feasibility study, with the understanding that

- This in no way establishes a commitment for UCUC to participate in an actual redevelopment of Lot C, and
- There are a number of vital concerns that would need to be discussed and satisfactorily resolved for UCUC to seriously consider participating in a possible future redevelopment, including but not limited to:
 - i. Working with UDECC and UDEP to engage other congregations in ecumenical discernment
 - ii. Reconciling our principle of full recognition and support for our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters in the ecumenical project
 - iii. Determining how parking will be maintained or improved and how traffic congestion from several simultaneous worship services will be avoided
 - iv. Aligning this project with principals of the previous Crossroads study

B) Furthermore the Moderator is requested to establish a task force to

1. Advise our UDECC board members on UCUC's interests and questions, and,
2. To conduct a parallel process of internal engagement and discernment on this issue among our congregation

Date of Request June 15, 2009

AIR Form #4:

Requested by Kathy Kripps

Action/Motion or Discussion Requested:

The Moderator will communicate to UDECC that:

UCUC needs an additional 30 days for its own discernment regarding its vision compatibility with UDEP/UDECC.

1. If at the conclusion of this work, UCUC is willing to allow Lot C and the Gold House to be used in the feasibility study, the understanding would be
 - This in no way establishes a commitment for UCUC to participate in an actual redevelopment of Lot C, and
 - There are a number of vital concerns that would need to be discussed and satisfactorily resolved for UCUC to seriously consider participating in a possible future redevelopment, including but not limited to:
 - i. Working with UDECC and UDEP to engage other congregations in ecumenical discernment
 - ii. Reconciling our principle of full recognition and support for our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters in the ecumenical project
 - iii. Determining how parking will be maintained or improved and how traffic congestion from several simultaneous worship services will be avoided
 - iv. Aligning this project with principals of the previous Crossroads study.

2. Furthermore the Moderator is requested to establish a task force to
 - Advise our UDECC board members on UCUC's interests and questions, and
 - To conduct a parallel process of internal engagement and discernment on this issue, among our congregation

Additional:

In the event that UDECC concludes it must move forward and UCUC has not made a decision (or UCUC votes no on the feasibility study), UCUC commits to fully engaging in the feasibility study for another site as a member of UDECC.

Discussion/Comments:

- Need to understand UCUC vision. Congregation hasn't had a chance to consider Lot C in conjunction with vision. Use time at October leadership conference to discern.
- Need more time to inform congregation about UDECC.
- Excitement about imagining and getting more folks involved in imagining.
- This is ecumenical not interfaith. We're deeply ecumenical now.
- Not now tied in with ecumenical campus ministry or ecumenical ministries in U District now.
- Need to get our vision piece clear first on this project. Do we want to be ecumenical in this particular opportunity in this particular way?
- Why the rush ahead?
- We have a role to be good neighbors & partners.
- The other folks have had 5 years to discern and we need to do our own discernment about what we want to do in matching with our vision.
- Is this the best use of the property?
- Understand their frustration & delay and I think that helps them understand our need for time.
- We need to be faithful. This is an opportunity to be a leadership church and it's tough.
- Enthusiastic
- Need more time to process this while leaning toward doing this.
- Way to reach out to the U District.
- Stewardship & Finance Board: Felt it was a moral commitment to UDECC by saying yes to the feasibility study. Board doesn't understand why the low or no cost items couldn't be done in evaluating the site prior to proceeding with the costly full-blown feasibility study.
- U Methodist member said that there is no consensus in their membership for UDECC.
- Is there harm in doing the feasibility study?
- This didn't grow from us. It came to us. It feels sudden.

- Individual doesn't want other congregations at a loss. Wants to keep UCUCC playground where it is.
- Concentrate on our own congregation.
- If we could take on Nickelsville in a few days, then we could do this. This doesn't eliminate our faith journey & visioning. We go through process of rethinking ourselves every year.
- Feasibility study is a lot of money.
- Doesn't think all of it is physically possible to fit into space.
- It doesn't feel like our vision.
- Already feel like this is a large church & now we're going to multiply it by two or more.
- We're prime site as our SF is about same as U Christian parking lot. However Lot C feels bigger due to playground and alley. UDECC is asking city to vacate alley, increasing usable space, and that's why we're the prime site.
- We aren't making a good return on our investment with UDECC given our interest in social justice. The proposed building is primarily worship space, not social justice space. This isn't a social justice site as currently described in Clint's description. This is an opportunity for us to take a leadership position. We could demand that U Christian parking lot be sold to a developer of low income housing, if we're giving up Lot C. Clint's estimate of the building cost is \$60 - \$70 million. Let's not build a building without an equivalent amount of \$ going out for social justice. We'll go in if only the whole facility is open & affirming.
- Activity with other churches is like a date. Feasibility study is like an engagement – promising something to each other. If one backs out, then there are hard feelings. Going ahead with project is like a marriage. There are governance issues down the road if congregations get bigger. If UDECC dissolved in future, then would have to sell building.
- We may not have this opportunity again
- I always say no when someone who is trying to sell me something gives me a deadline. November may be long enough. With Nickelsville we worked hard to get to yes for just a 3 month loaning of our parking lot. This isn't a loan. The difference between us and other churches is that if we say no after feasibility study, we're the linchpin. The other churches aren't.
- This is closely in alignment with our vision.
- It's a distraction. Open space in building plan not a good use of space as there is the UW campus across the street, which is like a park.
- Brings bigger questions about how this structure lines up with what may be the future of the church. Most helpful questions are as to how this fits with how God works with us through this project.
- One thing we can't do on our own is witness to being one with Christ.
- Feels more like a transplant than a transformation. Need to consider further how this furthers social justice.

Motion: Send a letter to UDECC that we need until November 15 to discern. M/S Tim Croll/Mary Paananen. Motion passed.

Motion: Change wording on AIR #4 from "Aligning this project with principals of the previous Crossroads study." To "Aligning this project with principles of the previous Crossroads study and with our current vision statement, particularly its focus on social justice." M/S: John Lewis/Tim Croll. Motion passed.

Complete text of action as passed:

The Moderator will communicate to UDECC that:

UCUCC needs until November 15 for its own discernment regarding its vision compatibility with UDEP/UDECC.

1. If at the conclusion of this work, UCUCC is willing to allow Lot C and the Gold House to be used in the feasibility study, the understanding would be
 - This in no way establishes a commitment for UCUCC to participate in an actual redevelopment of Lot C, and
 - There are a number of vital concerns that would need to be discussed and satisfactorily resolved for UCUCC to seriously consider participating in a possible future redevelopment, including but not limited to:
 - i. Working with UDECC and UDEP to engage other congregations in ecumenical discernment
 - ii. Reconciling our principle of full recognition and support for our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters in the ecumenical project
 - iii. Determining how parking will be maintained or improved and how traffic congestion from several simultaneous worship services will be avoided
 - iv. Aligning this project with principles of the previous Crossroads study and with our current vision statement, particularly its focus on social justice

2. Furthermore the Moderator is requested to establish a task force to
 - Advise our UDECC board members on UCUCC's interests and questions, and
 - To conduct a parallel process of internal engagement and discernment on this issue, among our congregation

3. In the event that UDECC concludes it must move forward and UCUCC has not made a decision (or UCUCC votes no on the feasibility study), UCUCC commits to fully engaging in the feasibility study for another site as a member of UDECC.

Motion: That a letter be sent to the congregation summarizing the process with UDECC and Lot C so far.

M/S: John Coleman/Elizabeth Dickinson. Motion passed.

Closing prayer and Adjournment at 9:35PM.

Respectively submitted,
Jo Evans
Secretary