

**Massachusetts Bay District Board of Directors Meeting
October 3, 2009 Meeting Minutes
APPROVED**

Present:

Pat Manley, president

John Laurenson, vice president

Directors: Geoff Beckwith, Laura Graham, Jackie Rohan, Jeanette Ruyle

Sheldon Bennett, Moderator

Paul Rickter, UUA Trustee

Terasa Cooley, District Executive

Sue Phillips, Director of Program Development

Absent:

Lilli Nye, secretary

Chalice lighting – led by Jeanette Ruyle

Minutes of June 6, 2009 corrected; to be sent to Lilli. (Take Jackie off In Attendance; Jackie and Laura were absent.)

MBD Report from the District Executive (highlights)

\$ Ministry Intensive workshop very successful

\$ Facilitating congregational retreats is happening and is a lot of work. Need to pick and choose– cannot keep doing it with same congregations year after year.

\$ (More below under Regional Lead District Staff.)

UUA Trustee Report from Paul Rickter

\$ He oversaw the presidential election at General Assembly; it went smoothly.

\$ Peter Morales, new president of UUA, has reorganized the staff (handout of UUA staff organizational chart).

\$ A major issue is the evaluation of the UUA retirement plan and trying to find the best option. Decision to be made in April.

\$ UUA Board will meet in Texas in January for the first time.

\$ GA may become less than annual, maybe every 2 years.

Discussion:

\$ Pat: Possible change to one 6 year term for the president. This will be decided at the next GA. Also, there are efforts to make the nomination process more open.

\$ Terasa: GA Planning Committee will restructure the way programming happens. All the workshop slots will be organized according to mission areas, e.g. Growth, Adaptive Ministry, Social Justice, Public Witness. There will no longer be 2 slots per district; people will need to apply to present a workshop within a mission area.

Regional Lead District Staff – Terasa

\$ There are 5 regions across the country– West, Mid-south and Southwest, Central

West, NRG (comprised of Metro New York, Ohio-Meadville, St. Lawrence and Joseph Priestley districts), and North Atlantic District (NADS). NADS = Northern New England, Clara Barton District, Ballou Channing District, and Massachusetts Bay District.

\$ Terasa to be the Lead District Staff (LDS) for the NADS region. This is a “strategic visioning role.” The idea is for the current districts to share in development and specialized staffing so that there is consistent quality and better delivery. Because the Clara Barton District Executive has resigned, there is a “ripe opening” to try a new shared staff structure and share expertise between districts and in the region.

\$ This is not a governance merger. It may be that districts come together in some way over time, but not yet.

\$ This is a temporary plan that could reflect the future. Terasa will have regional responsibilities for 6 months Jan. - July.

\$ What can be lost? A sense of identity; feeling a loss of staff.

What can be gained? Greater range of specialization that is coordinated rather than in “silos.”

Discussion about how this might play out:

\$ Jackie: Could grants be shared somehow?

\$ Terasa: Programing is complex, but districts could share in notice of workshops and expertise in presenting workshops.

\$ Pat: MBD can offer workshops within another district; there are shared examples already– Mary Higgins from NNE with Policy Governance and Deb Levring from CBD with RE.

\$ Terasa: Funding all this is a big question.

\$ John: Keep in mind our policies, ends, executive limitations; how will this help us fulfill our ends? Is it within our ends that Terasa take this on?

\$ Terasa: Assuring that MBD services will remain. Sue Phillips can do a lot. Terasa has given up denominational affairs position at Harvard Divinity School. No congregation is in crisis right now.

\$ Several people: This points to the need to have clearer end policies.

\$ To summarize: Terasa does feel it supports our ends but a long-term plan is needed. Right now it is too early to fully assess.

Policy Governance and Ends Discussion – John, governance officer

\$ The current ends are worded as means rather than ends. Example: #2 is definitely a means and relates to outcome of congregations.

\$ Ends should be measurable, able to be checked every 3-5 years as to progress.

\$ Need to tighten them up– What do we want to do??

\$ Ends need to be broad enough to be workable and specific enough to mean something.

\$ The Annual Meeting was a good way to get information from congregations. Connections to congregations is important; need to be at functions as board members.

\$ **ACTION ITEM:** John, Pat, Jackie – come up with a draft ends statement to present.

Adjourned at 12:54 p.m.