

Open UUA Meeting notes – January 2, 2011

Present: Evelyn Spurgin, Carol Agate, Sam Trumbore, Nancy Bartlett, board liaison. D. Jackoway, observer

1. We discussed the letter Carol wrote regarding the request to the UUA board to record meetings. We liked Nancy's proposed edits and it was agreed to forward the letter to the board and appropriate staff.
2. A discussion was also held about the proposed edits to our guidelines to include phone meetings. There was also language in the guidelines that appeared outdated with the change in governance at the UUA. We agreed to new language and to forward the new guidelines to the Board before posting them online and distributing them to committees.
3. We also finalized the edits to "What Transparency Looks Like." Our discussion included an interesting discussion on what goes in minutes and/or reports – how do we capture the conversations and decision making process in addition to the decisions that are made. This document will also be sent to the Board before posting and distributing.
4. We addressed the question from a member of the District President's Association (DPA) about whether they are subject to the rule and our guidelines. We agreed that the question is part of the bigger question everyone is grappling with now on the relationship of Districts to the UUA and that we could not answer it. Evelyn will report to them, however, that we strongly urge them to comply with the guidelines, particularly because they are also addressing these important issues.
5. We talked about how to facilitate compliance by the committees. (Thank you to our observer for the language!) We agreed that after we send out the new guidelines and "What Transparency Looks Like" we would contact our assigned committees and begin tracking again compliance. We will discuss in a future meeting creating some type of annual report card.
6. Nancy reminded us to start thinking about the meeting with the Committee on Committees at GA and how we can use that opportunity to inspire people on the importance of transparency.
7. We agreed to meet again in about 8 weeks to talk more about committee compliance.

Evelyn Spurgin
Chair