

Notes from Open UUA Committee

June 21, 2012

Committee members Rev. Sam Trumbore, Dick Jacke, Jennifer Carver and Cheri Cody met with UUA Board Member and communications liaison, Rev. Erik David Carlson at a lunch meeting during General Assembly.

The Open UUA Committee met with Rev. Carlson to get a better understanding of the Board's expectations for committees and how systems had changed under the policy governance model.

1. Expectations of Board/Staff Communications
 - No process for people to see criteria for staff decision-making process
 - Some issue between monitoring activity rather than results
 - Is it reasonable to have requirement that committee cannot meet unless:
 - They have posted an agenda
 - They have invited outside observers
 - ____ (*Spaces added for future inclusion of other items?*)
 - ____
2. Working groups will be Board and/or staff appointed
3. Propose conversation with board covering these items:
 - Why openness matters (does it deepen commitment of people to organization)?
 - What do we hope to gain?
 - What do we want to know? What do we need to know?
 - What should not be open?
 - What does accountability look like?
 - How to impact communications?
4. Focus on:
 - Board processes/timing for posting, doing follow-up. What about working groups?
 - Do evaluation of committee work/transparency and report to Board
 - How would Board like to change our mission as related to policy governance? Will become staff committee?
 - Monitoring governance still within committee job which is purview of board?
 - Who does board feel accountable to? Rev. Carlson suggested attending the Board's feedback session at General Assembly.
5. Recommendations:
 - Do not embed working groups. Make accessible on website.
 - Policy need to be developed for monitoring staff in Board actions/processes for coming years in next 8 months. Define limits of "governance" in by-laws.

Notes from Open UUA Committee

June 23, 2012

Attending were Rev. Sam Trumbore, Dick Jacke, Jennifer Carver and Cheri Cody.

Committee members reported on workshops attended – Jennifer attended UU Grant Funding, Dick attended the Accountability session and Dick and Cheri attended the Board Feedback session.

The committee discussed the following items and will continue follow-up:

- What can Open UUA Committee do to help committees get info to congregations? Committees can determine self-interest and connection to transparency
- How has the charge for the Open UUA Committee changed with policy governance? Any change having to do with staff?
- Finish review of committee information available on website
- Talk with committees about expectations for transparency