



Chris Carter

Mowing our Values

Your church is renewing its commitment to reducing our environmental impact this year. In addition to renewing our contract with Austin Energy's Green Choice program, we have renewed our contract with the environmentally-friendly Clean Air Lawn Care.

Clean Air works in partnership with our Grounds Committee to keep our lawn and landscaping looking good. They use clean, quiet battery powered equipment powered by solar energy during the work day and Austin Energy's GreenChoice at night. To top it off, they buy certified carbon offsets from Carbonfund.org reducing total emissions to zero and thereby making the entire company carbon neutral. This partnership shows that First UU is making a significant commitment to Austin's environment and further reducing our carbon footprint. How much?

First UU will prevent over 609 pounds of air pollution from being released into Austin's environment on the turf maintenance alone. This is the equivalent of the pollution from a car driven more than 18,665 miles. Chris Carter is the person on site getting the work done.

When you see Chris Carter, from Clean Air, working on our grounds, please stop and say hi!

Summary of March 15th Board meeting

Lisa Carrell reported on progress for the Sparkle Plenty auction and suggested ways that board members could contribute to the event's success.

During negotiations, the candidate for settled minister indicated a desire, if called, to begin work Aug 15 rather than the Sep 1 date stated in the contract. The board agreed this would be beneficial for the church and approved \$6,000 to cover this time period.

The treasurer reported on efforts to recruit members with experience in finance issues for the audit committee. Because of the important nature of this committee's work, the board will revisit this issue monthly until such committee is adequately formed.

To better understand the use of executive interpretations under policy-based governance, the board requested the minister and executive director provide an interpretation of the following board policy at the April board meeting: "The Senior Minister shall not fail to maintain and enforce procedures to ensure the safety of congregants and children while at the Church or at Church functions." This is an exercise only. Official interpretations will be the responsibility of the settled minister. The board participated in a governance exercise with a role play of a typical board meeting not using, then

using policy-based governance. We also reviewed a typical board agenda under both conditions and discussed the implications for our own work.

The board discussed preparation for the pre-congregations meeting April 10 and board meeting May 15. With the number of items being discussed and the scope of change involved (board slate, new coordinator position, proposed by-laws changes), we want to provide sufficient and complete information to address previously stated and anticipated concerns so that members are making fully-informed choices. To assist in informing members, the board will hold a brown bag luncheon Apr 3 at 1pm to present and discuss proposed by-laws changes.

Susan Thomson presented plans for the Mar 16 FUUCAFE. This event uses a dialog model designed to elicit deep conversation from participants. The event, combined with Meet N Eat, asks questions about our end of promoting radical hospitality. We want to discover what differences radical hospitality will enable us to make in our own and others' lives.

The board reviewed the need for a trustee to be available at each service to greet and be available for linkage with members. A sign-up sheet for the next six

See Page 12 for Info on Board Brown Bag, Sunday, April 3rd and Pre-Congregational Meeting Sunday, April 10th