

Splinters from the Board: Jan. 9, 2011

Present: Mary Alsager, Norma Bailey, Vicki Chessin, Gisela Moffit, Valerie Stephens, Rev. Dr. Nana' Kratochvil,

The Chalice was lighted by Nana' and Mary called the meeting to order

1. The minutes of the Board meeting from December were approved and Treasurer's report showed the fiscal year-to-date expenditures are just less than 50% of that budgeted. Contributions are just over 50% of pledged. The Capital Campaign pledges total \$41,080 putting us about \$10,000 short of our goal thus far.
2. Worship Team report (Nana')
 - a. Earle Canfield has approached us with an offer to provide a worship service around www.answernepal.com, an organization and website that raises funds to educate students in Nepal. The worship team approved the service. This might become a service project for our congregation or the children in RE.
 - b. The building dedication is scheduled for Sunday April 10 at 3PM. Invitations need to be sent out in February to : Ginni Courter, Doug Gallagher, Lisa Presley, a representative of Art Reach, the local religious leaders with whom we are dialoging, (Father Wayne of the St. John's Episcopal Church, Wesley Foundation, First United Methodist, Quakers, Open Grove Society, Islamic Center and the local Synagogue), the religion editor of the local papers, the mayor and vice mayor of Mt. Pleasant, all Michigan UU ministers and presidents, UUFCM members, friends, former members and founding members. Refreshments are planned in the Fellowship Hall to follow.
3. Religious Education Report (Norma)
 - a. Ten 7-12th graders from our congregation will be participating in the OWL (Our Whole Lives) program.
 - b. The Brewers are providing our middle school students with RE on the first, second and fifth Sundays using the "Chicken Soup for Teens" book. The third and fourth Sundays continue with the planned curriculum.
 - c. All teachers have passed background checks.
 - d. There is consideration of converting the attic into space for our teens.
4. Social Action Committee report (Norma)
 - a. None of the half-tithe has been paid yet this year to Malawi or the Goodrow Fund. There is some discussion that a project in Nicaragua might provide more feedback for our donation than Malawi.
 - b. Welcoming Congregation Committee is moving ahead with plans for a worship service the last Sunday in Jan. provided by people who participated in the fall WC RE classes.
 - c. The All Congregation Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 12 from 9-4 here with lunch and childcare provided. The essence of the Welcoming Congregation classes will be presented to further the memberships' understanding of what it means to be a Welcoming Congregation.
5. Building Report (Gisela and Mary)

- a. The initial estimate to move the kitchen into the storage room and create a pass-through for food, thus enlarging the Fellowship Hall seating capacity from the current 36-40 to 64 came in at \$14,500. Some of this cost is already in the budget. About half will need to be raised outside the initial Capital Campaign. Other sources and fundraising ideas were discussed. (Auctions; silent and spoken, Garage sale, etc) More are welcome.
 - b. The board voted to move the kitchen to the storage room and finish the Fellowship Hall to begin in spring after the April building dedication. Additional quotes for the entire project will be requested to compare with the one we obtained to decide project feasibility.
 - c. The Bosch dishwasher has been purchased. The refrigerator has not. We have nowhere to install it as yet. The dishwasher will be installed as part of the project to move the kitchen.
 - d. The front sign has been refurbished. New doors are needed and the base needs secured. The cost of a new sign versus completing repairs was discussed. The board voted to complete repairs on the current sign and use the remaining funds budgeted for signage to purchase a sign with lighting over the south entrance.
 - e. Specifics regarding our outstanding Chalice Lighter grant proposal will be reviewed. The Chalice Lighter program needs to be brought to the attention of the congregation and participation invited again.
 - f. Building repairs will now shift to the entrance, hall and the bathrooms.
 - g. We need a building manager and hope to find a member who will be the point person for repairs and maintenance needs.
 6. Membership Committee Report (Gisela) –membership is down 7 due to moves and up 10 new members. There will be more soon.
 7. Bylaws Committee Report (Norma) – discussed changes and the next revision will be forth coming.
 8. Communications –Kirsten may have the new web site design up and running by next month.
 9. NPR program sponsorship – Midland UU purchased sponsorship air time and included our name. The board proposes asking members to pool our 2011 individual donations to NPR and use it to purchase program sponsorship in later 2011 and include Midland UU.
 10. Valerie volunteered to tabulate the results of canvassers' interviews and asks that every canvasser send their written notes to her.
- Next board meeting will be Sunday, February 13, 2011 at 7 PM at the UU Center
- Minutes submitted by Vicki Chessin