

Splinters from the Board: May 8, 2011

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

1. Mary called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM by lighting the Chalice and Nana' read "The Courage of Patience" by Richard Gilbert.
2. Consent Agenda: The Minutes of the Board meetings of April 10 and April 19 were approved as part of the consent agenda with corrections made.
3. Treasurer's report (Alan)
 - a) Alan presented the YTD financial status including expenses, income from pledges, and current status of the Capital Fund.
 - b) The Stewardship drive has resulted in pledges totaling \$70,700.00 thus far with no response from several people who have made pledges last year. This is down from the \$75,590.00 for 2010-11.
 - c) The Proposed Budget for 2011-12 was reviewed in detail and revised. The final draft budget totals \$79,635.00. The Board approved this budget for presentation to the congregation at the annual meeting May 15. There is the expectation that there will be some increase in the pledges, an income stream from rental of the building and assets that can be used to cover any deficit.
4. Worship Team report (Nana')
 - a. The Worship Team met as a whole and addressed its role and responsibilities. The conclusions were outlined in an email from Guy Newland that Nana' discussed. She proposed the Board support this clarification of the Board's charge to the Worship Team to be responsible for creation of policies and procedures for the scheduling and conduct of worship services to assure consistent, high quality worship. The authority for these functions derives from the Board and the Worship Team reports to the Board. The Board will resolve any deadlock should it occur. The Board accepted the input from the Worship Team and approved the charge.
 - b. The liturgical calendar has been defined for May and June.
5. RE Committee (Norma)
 - a. At the April meeting Brooke Bradley was suggested as the new Chair for the RE Committee; however, after the meeting it was clarified that only members of the congregation can be chairpersons. Justin will take minutes. Megan Helms will write the pieces for the newsletter.
 - b. Cynthia Damer may be available after April 23 to help our teens organize the attic as their meeting space.

- c. The middle school students will be asked to research the Peace Pole history and concept and present their findings to the congregation. They may have a service pledge drive to raise the money needed for the pole.
 - d. Megan will be doing the curriculum for the summer program. Only one child care person will be used each Sunday over the summer.
 - e. All four of the current child care providers, two alternating each Sunday, have committed to return next fall.
 - f. Fall curriculum is in the planning stages. As always, the inconsistent number of students attending each Sunday is a challenge.
 - g. The pre-school RE room has been completed.
6. Social Action Committee /Welcoming Congregation (Norma)
- a) Welcoming Congregation resolution has been distributed to the congregation and will be presented for approval at the Annual Meeting on Sunday May 15.
 - b) A Q & A was held after the worship service today. There was wide support and no questions or challenges.
 - c) The strategy for passage of a Human Rights ordinance in Mt Pleasant was the topic of a meeting on April 25 held at the UU Center with Equality Michigan. It was well attended by many (43 total, of which 19 were UUs).
 - d) This coming Thursday, May 12, there will be the first meeting of those interested in coordinating the plan to write and pass such an ordinance.
7. Building Report (Gisela)
- a. The sign has been repaired and replaced. There remains wording to be selected for one side. Cynthia Damer has offered to plant flowers, perhaps with student help.
 - b. Gisela is organizing our contractors to complete the relocation of the kitchen, paint the fellowship hall and kitchen and strip and resurface the floor. Gisela will be gone and Tom Moffit will coordinate the workers. Help will be needed at key points to move the furniture and stuff from the Fellowship Hall. Tom will send out a call for help as each stage arrives.
 - c. Colors have been selected for the kitchen (light green) and the Fellowship Hall (yellow). The ceiling and trim will all be white. Vicki will arrange the table lay out. Valerie will organize the move back into the kitchen and research table cloths.
8. Bylaws Committee (Norma)
- a. The proposed bylaws revised version has been distributed to the congregation and a Q & A held today following the worship service for those who wished to discuss the proposed changes before the vote on May 15. There were no questions or challenges.
9. Membership Committee Report (Gisela)

- a. The planned new member orientation was rescheduled for Sunday, June 5, to accommodate new members' schedules. Gisela will meet individually with the one potential member who was still not able to come June 5.
 - b. The next Sunday where new members sign the book will likely be held later in June, if it can be coordinated with the new members who wish to do so.
10. Dawn's contract (Mary) – latest version was discussed and revised. There was concern that the amount of time and effort the various duties Dawn has been given or has taken on exceeds that for which she is paid. A means of identifying how much time she is spending with her various responsibilities would help assure her priority areas are getting the time they need and she is not over committed to areas with which others should be helping. To ease the burden on Dawn we should send information for the newsletter/web site directly to Kirsten, but copy Dawn so she can maintain the calendar.
11. Agenda for the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 15 was presented and approved. The Annual Meeting will follow the worship service immediately. The intention would be to invite friends to stay and participate with the clear understanding that only members can vote. Extinguishing the chalice would occur at the end of the meeting. Gisela will get Mary a new list of current members so she can determine a legal quorum and who has the right to vote at this meeting.
12. Board Installation: the Board supported the suggestion from Nana' that she model an Installation Ceremony for the new Board in July and at that time complete her series of sermons on "Deepening."
13. Other: the next Board Retreat will be scheduled in August to orient the new members, enhance board development and plan for the year ahead.

Next meeting will be Sunday, June 12, 2011 at 7 PM at the UU Center
 Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM Submitted by Vick Chessin, secretary