

UUFCM Board of Trustees Minutes - December 11, 2011  
7:00 pm at the UU Center

### **UUFCM Covenant**

Granting each other freedom of mind and spirit, we commit to this community of mutual care. In that spirit of caring, we pledge to be mindful when speaking of and to one another. We will walk in the ways of truth and loving-kindness that we and our children may always be fulfilled. So that the world may be fulfilled, we dedicate ourselves to the work of justice and peace, seeking always to soothe sorrow and to inspire joy.

### **UUFCM Mission Statement**

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Michigan, believing that we have something precious to share, supports its members in their pursuit of lives worth living through:

- Reason - understanding our complex lives and the world
- Spirituality - exploring the indefinable and transcendent
- Community - celebrating and nurturing individuals and families of diverse circumstances
- Social Justice - transforming our shared values into action

1. Chalice was lighted and Nana' provided a reading: The Season of Blue Funk by J Bradbury Mitchel.
2. Welcome by Norma and each member reported in.
3. Consent agenda and Minutes of November meeting approved after correction of the title.
4. Treasurer's report (Alan) – None this month with scheduled quarterly report in January
5. Minister's report (Nana') attached. – she is attempting to make contact with Rick Mills at the Morning Sun to facilitate writing articles for them. The series of Virtues by Galen Guengerich have been put aside to return after the holidays.
6. Worship Team report (Vicki)- attached – The Board acknowledged the request by the worship team to schedule the Worship Team meetings 1-4pm each month on the Saturday of the weekend Nana' is here. Next meetings Jan 7 and Feb11. Worship Director's report included progress on investigating a new sound system as the old system has several flaws rendering it unwise to try to just upgrade it. Attempt to move the congregation from an Email based newsletter to link into the Web site was met with significant dissatisfaction and there will be a return to the E-News format.
7. RE committee report (Grace) – attached –Work continues on plans to move to a ¼ time RE Director for the future. The RE committee intends to present the peace pole to the congregation as a whole and select the languages to be on the pole at the Fellowship Life meeting in January. The Board supported their request for Jan 15 (third Sunday). Grace, Nikki and Irv will present the concept.
8. Social action report (Norma and Valerie) – (Norma) A web site is now available for those who support the Human Rights Ordinance to sign a petition. Norma will meet Tuesday with the Mid-Michigan Interfaith Coalition to get supporting letters written to the editors of local papers. Grace and Dawn will also be at the meeting representing UUFCM. An original letter of support was signed by several ministers.  
(Valerie) Mari Potter is doing the Adopt-a- Family for Christmas. Valerie has contacted the GoodrowFund and Free Clinic people re getting them their funds and where the donation will be published.  
Codi Brown is planning a food collection in February and May-June filling a truck.  
Grace plans "Guest at your Table" to start January 22 and has already set up a display re the Heifer Project. Glenn and Pam Lewandos plan to do the bulletin board for Social Action. Norma will get bulletin boards for Tina to hang for Social Action and a church calendar.
9. Oversight (building) report (Gisela's report) furnace bids are still under consideration. May be less expensive to wait until warmer weather in spring than now as long as the current furnace is working. Mary will follow up on this.

10. Membership committee (Gisela's report, including the one on growth) – We need to generate a list of people to work with Gisela on the membership committee – Need a visitor's packet for first time visitors. Dawn and Gisela are already working on "path to membership". New members who might soon be a possibility for involvement in committee work include Mimi, Sally VanCise, Glenn Lewandos.

Rather than a full retreat the board suggests holding a discussion on growth at a Fellowship Life meeting on a Sunday. March's Fellowship Life Sunday is available. (Jan RE program / Peace Pole. Feb budget, March re growth.)

The Board reviewed attendance data tracked over the last year. We need data from prior year to evaluate trends. Alan will provide a graph from data Valerie has recorded.

Visitor packets should include: UU brochures, letters from our Minister, Board President and Worship Director, calendar of programs, RE program, What is UUism. reference to the website and our Welcoming congregation designation.

11. Old business - Welcoming Congregation posters need to be framed to display (Norma) Valerie will get them framed.

Calendar options presented by Chris. – the Board approved purchase of the flip chart and anticipate we will mount the pages on a bulletin board. Chris will purchase for \$16.

WCMU 89.5 Public Radio results –we gave \$910 and Midland gave \$810 = challenge grant provider and we have a 52 week contract for Morning Edition and All Things Considered. 2 spots a week. (Mary), We decided not to get the pulpit and liturgical table that was offered. Still need something smaller than the current table.

12. New business – upgrade sound system (Mary and Dawn) will put together a proposal and get it to sound people requesting suggestions and quotes, Need to get more information about the induction system, surround sound, etc.

Board Tickler Calendar first attempt handed out with attention to financial management (Norma) - attached, All liaisons will get a budget requests in to the finance committee by our meeting in Jan.

Facebook Policy Proposal from Guy and Liz read, Moved by Alan and seconded by Mary. Wording modified and passed.

It was moved and seconded by Grace and passed that Guy and Liz will be appointed as the Facebook Committee. (Norma),

Policy re naming UUFCM in letters to the editor (Norma), attached, Proposed by Mary and seconded by Valerie that the policy be accepted as amended.

Noisy collection to fund youth selected social action will be moved into March after the youth group finishes OWL. (Norma)

Policy for submissions for the UUFCM web site, eNews, and e-mails (Norma)- attached from Kirsten, re article submission policy – encourage timely submission of pieces on upcoming special events or recent experiences on occurrence basis, but do not change them every week nor can we demand more from committee chairs than they are doing already. We will encourage event reporting.

The Board authorized Norma to use her judgment to forward selected MUUSJN E-mails to all UUFCM members with their option to opt out. Mary so moved, Grace seconded and the board passed.

Norma and Alan did talk to Dawn about her role in pastoral care and she shared in the discussion about how to utilize the arms around volunteers recognizing there is a limit to what a small congregation can do. Ricky will have a list of other community resources to offer and have wording for her initial response to a request for volunteer services. We need to identify someone who will make phone calls to follow up when Email requests for help have been put out by Ricky.

Norma will write a President's column about what we can and cannot do for people.

Deferred for next meeting:

Policy /statement for Caring Committee (Norma),

Conversation about growth (all)

13. Adjourned at 9:47PM

Next two meetings will be Jan 8, 2011 3:30 – 6PM and Feb 12, 2011 time TBA at the UU Center.  
Respectfully submitted by Vicki Chessin, secretary UUFCM