

## Splinters from the Board

### March 9, 2014

Present: Ricky Courlander, Vicki Chessin, Scott Daigle, Laura McBride, Gisela Moffit, Janet Simon, Rev. Joe Cleveland (Grace Rollins is at DeVos with Izzy who has JDM-DKA)

1. Chalice lighting with reading (Joe) at 6:38 PM  
“A Poem for Leaders” by William Schulz
2. Welcome and check in
3. Consent Agenda – Minutes of Feb. 16. 2014 meeting- approved with corrections
4. **Updates/ Announcements**
  - a. Handbills/handouts of committees, interest groups with pics (Laura) - done and beautiful!
  - b. MidAmerican Regional Assembly (RA) is Saturday, April 12 in Ann Arbor. The early- bird deadline is March 15 for a registration fee = \$60/\$80 after March 15. Joe will be driving and can take 3 others. Must get a 6:30 start to be there by 9 AM. Scott will see if Cynthia is interested. Gisela will check with Annette Pratt. Michelle Hawley Whitney has expressed interest. Vicki will check with her. This is open to all who may be interested.
  - c. General Assembly is June 25 – 29, 2014 in Providence, RI ([www.uua.org/ga/](http://www.uua.org/ga/)). The early registration fee is \$335 (\$100 less for President of congregations) Hotels are booked up, but there are 60 local church families to stay. Open to all.
  - d. A webinar on Conflict and Intercultural Competency will be offered on Thursday, March 13 and again on Tuesday, March 18 at 7:45 PM. One must be registered in advance on line. This is one of the lectures that will be presented at the Regional Assembly on April 12 in Ann Arbor.
  - e. Annual Reports are due April 1 and to be sent to our Administrator, Kirsten, with a copy to Gisela. Board liaisons are to remind their committees and Joe will remind the staff.
  - f. The planned Board Retreat that was set for May 17 must be rescheduled, because this is now known to be the date of Margaret Nash’s memorial service at 11 AM at Clark Funeral Home. May 24 will not work because it is Memorial Day weekend and we are hoping for participation in the Highland Festival Parade in Alma. Several board members are not available on May 10 so we are looking at May 31 tentatively. Gisela will check with the Transition Team members and potential new board members about that date.
5. **Interim Minister’s Report** (Joe) – He is back from the First Year Minister’s Retreat in Boston. This has allowed reflection on his role in “stirring the pot”. Now he believes it is time to work on reformulating our Mission and Vision. Strategic planning on our goals for next year is needed so we can define what success would look like. Set realistic goals toward ideal outcomes.

6. **Transition Team's Report** (Joe) –attached report from Norma Bailey –With an Interim Minister it is the TT's job to manage this transition. If we had a long term minister this management function would be served by a "ministerial management committee". Joe asks that people bring concerns about the issues including degree of provocation or even the pace of that to the Transition Team or directly to him.
7. **Worship Team report** (Vicki) – No meeting report because the committee will meet next Wednesday the week following this board meeting. Joe is asking the Board members to provide the "welcome" portion of the worship some or all Sundays. Members volunteered through April.
8. **Treasurer's report** (Ricky) – attached. The large Minister's retirement benefit was a catch-up. There was an additional donation to the Minister's benefit fund recently. Joe's salary is split between housing expenses he turns in, salary, and "in lieu of FICA" portions. Joe has registered for General Assembly and Ministry Days of the UUMA that meets before the General Assembly. Currently we are still taking in less than we need. It has been suggested we list our investments on the proposed budget at the Annual Meeting. This is a good idea as long as a history of these investments and the prior uses of same are provided for perspective.
9. **RE committee report** (Scott) – attached with 2 action items: 1) Asking a donation by board members for a gift certificate to thank our retired RE Director. Collection taken. 2) The team had a question about who was to provide the job description and do the interviewing and reference checking for the next RE Director? The RE Committee is to do so and present their recommendation to the Board. The committee will meet next week to review the job description and their plans. The RE program is strong and well organized and meeting the ongoing needs of our youth since the departure of the RE Director. Policy should identify if the DRE is expected to administrate in classrooms on Sundays or be present and visible at the worship service on Sundays.
10. **Social Action report** Norma Bailey – Guest at Your Table collected \$457.69 for the UUSC. On February 9 we signed postcards to Senators Levin and Stabenow urging support of new EPA emission standards for new power plants. On February 23 the congregation passed a resolution in support of the right of same sex couples to marry. On March 2 Linda Brundage from the UU Church of Greater Lansing spoke representing Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and collected signatures a petition to Representative Cotter.
11. **Membership committee report** (Laura) – attached report from Gisela Moffit Our next Path to Membership class will be Sunday, March 16 at 1 o'clock.
12. **Miscellaneous Reports**
  - a. Social Fun (Laura) – no report.
  - b. Building Manager (Janet) – attached – we have publicized the ways to contact Tina. A new orange "work order" sheet on a clipboard located on the piano in the social hall and a new Gmail address [tina48853@gmail.com](mailto:tina48853@gmail.com) can be used to let her know of building needs or to see if she is already working on them. In case of an emergency one should use her phone number: (989) 506 -2985. It

might help to put a “Building corner” in the Enews addressing issues as they arise.

- c. Caring Committee (Laura) –efforts continue to meet current congregant needs as best we can.

### 13. **Old business –**

- a. Update on Stewardship (Vicki/ Gisela) – letter has been sent, 4 testimonials are lined up. Circle suppers are set and ambassadors have been committed. Training for some of the ambassadors will be March 21 at 7 p.m. at Gisela’s house. Jim Dealing, Laura Frey and Joyce Henricks are gone. Vicki and Gisela will make Ambassador Instruction Packets We hope to include Joe’s approach to “Giving as a spiritual practice” he will present on for March 23. Pledge forms as they are completed need to be given to Ricky either directly or through the Ambassadors. Ricky will let the respective ambassador know if there has not been a pledge card from someone at their Circle Supper. The Ambassador will remind such people and write a thank you note to the people who have already pledged.
- b. Proposed Candidates for next year’s board (Grace) – Annette Pratt has agreed to run for President Elect. Gisela will explore Annette’s interest in MidAmerica Regional Assembly and or going to General Assembly.  
Proposed Treasurer: Dave MacLeod is considering this. Gisela will ask him again. Ricky suggests we consider splitting accounts receivable and the work of accounts payable between the treasurer and an assistant. She offered to serve in the capacity of assistant for the next year.  
Proposed Trustee-at-large: Janet Simon is willing to run for a term of two years of her own given that she has been serving the second year of Sarah Curry’s position.
- c. Creation of a Congregational Life Committee (all). This committee could be a combination of the current Membership Committee, Hospitality Committee, Caring Committee and possibly the Social Fun Committee joining the “caring” and social functions of the congregation together with several members supporting each other in joint meetings.
- d. Gisela handed out a selection of chapters from the book “Church Do’s and Don’ts” to be read before the spring board retreat.
- e. New vision/mission statements needed (deferred) – to be addressed at the Board Retreat rescheduled to May 31.

### 14. **New business –**

- a. Proposed Bylaw changes - re the minister as the head of staff - reviewed.
- b. Policy needed re “room aesthetics” – Who decides what goes up and down on the walls? Issues arise at several levels including the appearance of the walls when the building is rented. Creative use of art opportunities for the walls also discussed. Janet and Scott will make an Excel spreadsheet flow chart of the timeline created at the first Congregation Transition Team meeting. The board has designated the Worship Team/Minister in charge of Sanctuary changes. The RE committee is in charge of the Green room with a reminder of the many

uses of the room. The bulletin boards in the Fellowship Hall will be under the control of their respective committees, Social Justice/Glenn Lewandos. Fellowship Life/Congregational Life Committee and the calendar remains Norma's for the present. Gisela, as the person who rents the building to others, will consider the overall effect of wall hangings and what is in the "Holy Hallway". The Board has the responsibility to act as mediator if there is conflict. We might find interest in forming a task force, "Arts committee," to make quarterly changes in the art, but previously approached artists from our congregation declined to display their art when it is not always under lock and key. We hope to engage the creativity of others in the congregation in this.

- c. Board tickler for March – reviewed and done
- d. Fellowship Life Meeting on March 16 is cancelled because there is no pressing issue of which we are aware and the next Transition Team/Congregation Workshop will be March 23 titled "Unchurched Church".
- e. Audio system upgrades for the hearing impaired and those in the nursery remain a dream, but are not anticipated to be in the budget again next year. We would like to look into pricing options again. We are unclear if we need a new hand held microphone, as the problem is inconsistently present, so hard to diagnose or fix.

15. Adjourned at 9:18 PM.

Next Board Meeting will be April 13 at 6:30 PM at the UU Center.

May Board Meeting is moved up to May 4 at 6:30 PM at the UU Center

May 31 Saturday Board Retreat with Transition Team and new board members invited from 9 AM -3 PM. Location TBD.

Respectfully submitted by Vicki Chessin, secretary