

Spliners from the Board
Feb. 13, 2011

Present: Mary Alsager, Norma Bailey, Vicki Chessin, Alan Jackson, Gisela Moffit, Valerie Stephens

The Chalice was lighted and Mary called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM

1. The minutes of the Board meeting in Jan. were approved as part of the consent agenda with a corrections (there are 10, not 8, children taking the OWL program) and the date of the next Board meeting is February 13, not 12.
2. Treasurer's report (Alan) –
 - a) Report showing the fiscal year to date expenditures, Contributions, and the Capital Campaign, was discussed (attached).
 - b) A draft budget was presented from the finance committee. After discussion it was decided to present a tentative budget totaling \$88,500 to the congregation in May, an increase of \$4,650 over last year (attached).
 - c) The process used to derive the budget has, to this point, started with the finance committee and come to the Board. It was proposed that beginning next year each committee be asked in November to present any needs anticipated for the coming year in a report to the finance committee for review and inclusion in the proposed budget presented to the Board in Jan or Feb. This will strengthen the committees and require more long range planning.
3. Worship Team report (Dawn via phone)
 - a. The building dedication is scheduled for Sunday April 10 at 3PM. Invitations need to be printed and sent out in February. Lisa Presley has agreed to be our keynote speaker. A list of names and addresses to receive invitations has been constructed. Vicki, Norma and Gisela will work on wording tonight. When finalized this wording will be sent to Kirsten for a proposed design. When approved it will go to Gisela who will get them printed at the Copy Corner. Joyce will hand-address envelopes. Others are needed to help her.
 - b. Kirsten and Dawn are working on publicity for the dedication and it is already on the Heartland District web site.
 - c. A plan to transition to two services will be forth coming with input from Catherine Birch of the Lansing UU Church where this was recently done. Cost considerations will be suggested for the 2011-2012 budget.
 - d. If Nana' cannot do the service on 3/27/11 as planned due to her surgery delay, Guy will do it. Dawn has a prior commitment.
4. Religious Education Report (Norma)
 - a. At the meeting on 1/20/11 the RE Committee voted to propose the Board grant the RE Committee permission to move ahead over the next year involving the middle and high school age youth in creating a meeting room of their own in the attic. This will require creative use of storage space in the closet and other locations. The board supported the proposal.

- b. The board has asked the RE Committee to devise a policy to handle the circumstance where there is only one adult and one child in the middle school group on a Sunday.
 - c. More people are needed to take the training for the younger children OWL program.
5. Social Action Committee report (Norma)
- a. None of the half-tithe has been paid yet this year to Malawi or the Goodrow Fund. The board authorized the treasurer to pay the first half of the portion we give to the Goodrow Fund and arrange to have it delivered.
 - b. The board will ask the Soc. Action Com. to review the decision to support the Malawi program or propose an alternative. That portion of the half-tithe will not be paid at this time.
 - c. Welcoming Congregation Committee met on Jan 15. Plans included the All Congregation Retreat held yesterday and attended by 23 people for the entire program and 6 others half the time.
 - d. The "Standing on the Side of Love" service was presented today.
 - e. A film series re GLTB issues is planned for Friday nights at the UU Center at 7PM on 2/18, 2/25, 3/18 and 3/25 . The first movie will be "Torch Song Trilogy. "
 - f. The "Ouch, that Stereotype Hurts!" Workshop will be repeated at the UU Center on 3/3/11.
 - g. The Sunday, April 17 worship service will support Pride Week and that afternoon the Readers' Theatre group will perform "The Laramie Project."
 - h. The congregation will officially vote on becoming a Welcoming Congregation at the May 2011 All Congregation business meeting.
 - i. A second meeting of clerics took place at the UU Center with representatives from 3 Methodist churches (Wesley, Free, and First), Quakers, St. John's Episcopal, UUFCM and Faith Weavers (Catholic). They have named themselves the "Mid-Michigan Interfaith Coalition" and will be creating bylaws designed to create a widely inclusionary group.
 - j. Preliminary fact finding has been started regarding a nondiscrimination policy which includes sexual orientation and gender identity and expression for Mt. Pleasant - the only city in Michigan that contains a large university that does not have one. The current nondiscrimination ordinance approved 7/7/1975 does not include these protections. Wording passed elsewhere, as well as a clearly defined process, will be obtained from those who have done this before. Norma is looking for both a broad base of organizational and individual support as well as someone to spearhead this process outside UUFCM.
6. Stewardship Drive (Gisela) – "Together we grow" –
- a) Mary's letter went out last month and Gisela will send one this month. We have 5 testimonials, 8 hosts for dinners and 6 canvassers. Dates are being tied down.

- b) The “Cabaret - Talent Show” to launch the pledge drive will take place on Sat. March 26 at the UU Center at 7PM. No childcare is planned for this adults-only event.
 - 7. Building Report (Gisela)
 - a. Additional bids are pending for the kitchen. The renovation of the bathrooms is underway.
 - b. The Chalice Lighters’ grant has been approved. The exact amount depends on the funds available to the Heartland District UUA. Mary is still working on a list of UUFCM members who have an active Chalice Lighter’s Pledge at present. Their records are not complete.
 - c. Elliot Schott has agreed to be our building manager, taking the responsibility to be the point person for repairs and maintenance needs.
 - 8. Membership Committee Report (Gisela) – none this month
 - 9. Bylaws Committee Report (Norma) – discussed. Each board member asked to review them for the next meeting. Final proposal when approved by the board must be submitted to the congregation 30 days in advance of the All Congregation Business Meeting on May 15 when a vote will be taken.
 - 10. Valerie handed out a summary of canvassers’ interviews (attached).
 - 11. Nominations Committee – Gisela reported the following nomination recommendations for the 2011-2012 Board of Directors: Past President: Mary Alsager, President: Norma Bailey, President-Elect: Chris Nace, Trustee-at-large: Grace Rollins, Trustee-at-large: Valerie Stephens, Secretary: Vicki Chessin, remaining as treasurer: Alan Jackson.
 - 12. An Email from Joyce Henricks was read by Norma suggesting a policy be put in place whereby the board solicits input and recommendations from a committee involved in implementing decisions the board may be making.
 - 13. Norma discussed the Garage Sale. Date will likely be 6/3 and 6/4. Norma will get input on planning the days involved as well as other ideas from members who are more familiar with garage sales. Chris Nace has volunteered to help Norma organize this.
 - 14. The worship service is no longer being taped. This is a valuable process so someone else will be sought to take responsibility to have the service recorded each Sunday, then downloaded onto a CPU and burned onto a CD. Norma will ask one or more of our college students.
 - 15. Norma reminded us we still need to know from Alan which of our assigned people in the Capital Campaign has not responded.
- Next meeting will be Sunday, March 13, 2011 at 7 PM at the UU Center
 Meeting adjourned at 9:42PM Minutes submitted by Vicki Chessin