

Minutes of the UUFCM Board Meeting
September 8, 2012
7:00 p.m. 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
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Present: Norma Bailey, Vicki Chessin, Ricky Courlander, Sarah Curry, Gisela Moffit, Grace Rollins, and Rev. Dr. Nana' Kratochvil

1. Chalice was lighted as Nana' shared a reading by Mary Oliver
2. Welcome (Grace) and check in from all. Need to divide up Grace's responsibilities.
3. Consent agenda – Minutes of August meeting. Passed
4. Treasurer's report (Ricky) - July showed expenses \$4786/Deposits \$5079 and August had expenses of \$11,670 that included the once a year Fair Share payment to UUA of \$4560 with intake of \$9997. Revised 2011-2012 report received from Alan. (Attached)
5. Minister's report (Nana') - attached.
6. Worship Team report (Vicki) - attached. The new configuration of the Sanctuary will result in seating about 100. The pros and cons were discussed. In the interest of growth the "friendship circle" needs to be modified at the close of worship. The Board authorized the purchase of the final 24 new brown chairs. Vicki will order them. The memorial service for Joel Welty is set for Sunday Oct 14 at 3PM. The requested report on models for two worship services was provided to begin Board consideration.
7. RE committee report (Sarah) – Kick off for the year is next week with a picnic after the service. Plans for youth events include a family paddle event on 9/23, an elementary sleep over on 9/29 and middle school age programs to come with input from the youth. Curriculum has been selected for all three levels. New brochures about the RE program are coming as well as published guidelines for conduct and permission slips. Leader training is planned. Current teachers have had background checks. Location for the Peace Pole was discussed. Irv wants to invite people from outside the congregation to the ceremony which the Board supports. With long term considerations for visibility the Board is leaning toward locating it on the South - Southeast side. Changes in landscaping may be necessary.
8. Social action report (Norma) – Union Township is working on their human rights ordinance and will probably be voting on it at their October 10 meeting. Supporters' presence at the beginning of the meeting will be helpful. The committee plans to use an upcoming Fellowship Life meeting to gauge and create interest in social issues for this year.
9. Membership committee report (Gisela) – Attendance has been good and new people come

every Sunday. Report from Guy received: the video is underway. Flyer has met mixed reception. It has brought new people but it is more difficult to find community locations that will permit them than previously anticipated. The Path to Membership classes will have a board member at each. Sarah will give our names to Guy and ask him to let us know upcoming dates as far ahead as possible so we can commit to being there.

10. Old business - A) Sign over Wisconsin Street door (Gisela) should be done by next week.
B) Lectern (Ricky) Mark is looking for veneers in Detroit and is working with Dawn to produce a series of matching pedestals for variable arrangements on the stage.
C) Co-chair/Chair for Arm's Around Committee (Norma) – attached. Discussion about renaming the committee to be more gender neutral resulted in a motion that passed to the previous name “Caring Committee.” The contact persons will need scripts for tangential contacts and answering requests that exceed our ability to meet. Need a list of other resources in the community to which people can be referred. Still need a first line contact person but perhaps Laura McBride or Mary Alsager would consider being a secondary resource person to the chair? Norma will check with them.
D) Norma reported Michigan Project for Informed Public Policy (MPIPP) will create the invitations to send to our congregation, other progressive churches and community people, and we will send them out via an e-mail blast as well as contacts at CMU, etc. They will give us the names of attendees who RSVP and we provide the location and snacks on November 4 **from** 2-5 pm, at UU Center.
E) Archive Historian, (Gisela) Susan Powers has accepted the position. We are asking her to store the information in digital form.
F) New volunteer coordinator needed (Gisela) Gisela will continue in that role for now.
G) Automatic External Defibrillator (Vicki), Glenn Lewandos has offered to get us a storage cabinet for the AED. The next Fellowship Life meeting will introduce the congregation to the AED and location of fire extinguishers as part of a What You Need to Know – an Assortment.
H) Board Policy handbook (Norma) handed out a new policy book as approved previously and requested the board approve two more policy additions regarding RE safety and the need for Board approval of capital expenditures under \$500. The Building Manager job description was also approved for addition to the handbook. Norma will bring inserts to the next meeting.
I) Contract(s) renewal for paid professionals (Norma): Kirsten’s contract was approved with the proposed changes. Gisela will get this signed. Dawn Daniel’s contract will be reworded to include continuation of her salary and the use of her “5th Sunday for profession development” concept during the time she is gone for her intensives. She remains responsible for arranging quality worship in her absence as she has been to date. RE Director Contract presented and approved for Niki. Gisela will get them all signed.
J) Job Fair results (Gisela) Job fair was successful to a large extent in finding interested volunteers in all the areas for the Committee Chairs to engage this year.
K) Service Auction (Vicki) the committee, Norma, Vicki, Gisela and Chris Nace have been planning and will introduce the concept next Sunday with a display in the Fellowship Hall and begin soliciting services and items for the auction. Asking for donations from the Board and others for the wine, beer, and finger foods to serve to limit the cost of the event. Nana’ committed to bring a tray from the “Cheese Lady” in Muskegon.
L) Building manager report accepted from Tina and the board approved her requests to purchase heavy duty shelving for the basement (3-4 units at ~\$50 each) and a storage shed for outside at ~\$400 to cover the shed, lock, shelves and hooks) as she deems necessary.

11. New business – A) ¼ time minister / consulting minister (Nana) Cassie Howe from Portage may be available and interested, but she won’t know for several months - Tom Schade from Wooster, Mass. is retiring and moving to Ann Arbor. He has very good reputation and might be interested in consulting perhaps ¼ time. To begin the process Nana’ suggests we prepare a packet for prospective ministers to include our history from the founding early years to the present, a sample of our programs, pictures of the interior and exterior of the building, people and activities. Make it digital and have printed packets available. Nana’ will find a sample packet and perhaps Susan Powers would help with this.
B) Board tickler for September – all items have been addressed. (Norma)

C) House Manager job description approved as presented (Norma).

D) Fellowship life meeting for September (all) will be "Need to Know" items including safety issues, what is a service auction? and a presentation of the On-line Ministry concepts by Crystal Schotts. Date changed to September 23 to accommodate the RE picnic.

E) Workshop on effective listening (Norma) is about caring for one another, compassionate listening and healthy boundaries. This would be a ~1 ½ hr. training provided by Ashley Rae. Norma will set this up.

F) Furnace Purchase (all) - on temporary hold as long as furnace is working and no one complaining about the noise just yet. Will need to be rebid when we take this up again.

G) Policy of Background check for persons working with our children in RE (Norma) - policy approved.

H) Memorial Service for Joel Welty – Oct 14 at 3 PM at UU Center- Dawn will set this up (all).

I) Task coverage for Grace while she recovers from surgery was addressed all evening (all).

J) Adult RE: A Welcoming Congregation workshop will not be offered this fall, but Jim Dealing proposes two books – one for men and one for women – as a short program.

Wrestling with Adulthood, UU Men Talking about Growing Up and Breaking Free, Women of Spirit at Midlife and Beyond. Norma will tell Jim we support him in this.

K) (Ricky) Readers theater interested in presenting Grapes of Wrath as a performance. The Board supports this.

12. Adjourned at 9:30 PM

Next meeting will be October 14, 2012 at 7 PM at the UU Center.

Respectfully submitted by Vick Chessin, Secretary.