

Splinter from the Board
Sept. 8, 2013 @UU Center

Present: Vicki Chessin, Ricky Courlander, Scott Daimer, Laura McBride, Gisela Moffit, Janet Simon, Rev. Joe Cleveland

1. Chalice lighting (Rev. Joe) and blessing at 6:35PM. Meeting called to order.
2. Welcome and check in (Gisela) by all.
3. Consent Agenda – Minutes of August meeting approved
4. Updates:
 - A. Memorial Service for Burnie Bonnell, Sept. 14 at 11 a.m. (Gisela) greeters are arranged.
 - b. Changes in hospitality practices (Laura) new plan includes three people assigned to bring snacks (fruit/vegie, salty/savory, and sweet for 6 portions of 8) placed on tables with beverage condiments on each table to reduce lines and share the load among many. People are welcome to trade responsibilities among themselves.
 - c. Reimbursement forms (Ricky) – are located on the piano in the Fellowship Hall and were sent to the committee chairs.
 - d. Directory updates: (Gisela) Gisela has met with Kirsten and the addendum will go to press tomorrow. Will reprint some original directories for new people as well. New Directory is produced every February, but a current directory is available at all times on our website.
 - e. Updating Web site (Gisela) – Gisela met with Kirsten, updated the Food Pantry site and contacted Norma, Joe and Niki to update their respective areas.
5. Interim Minister's Report (Joe) – since last board meeting: attended the Interim Orientation for Transitional Ministry. He is still going through the material. There are tools to analyze congregational life and power lines, where do decisions get made? He is continuing to get to know people. Pastoral visits have started. Posting on the Facebook page.
6. Transition Team's Report (Joe) - attached
7. Worship Team report (Vicki) - attached. The last two Sundays have been challenging for the hearing impaired. It is unclear if the mic was on at the beginning of service. There is an inherent conflict between children in attendance with their spontaneity and the hearing and focus of others. We continue to need to tend to the sound system and our tolerance. "Welcoming" means being welcoming to noise and activity with kids. Crayons and activities for the smaller children need to be provided. The worship team is working on filling out the liturgical calendar and the mechanics. Open to greater participation.
8. Treasurer's report (Ricky) –attached. Norma is going through old treasurers' reports and Joe will be looking over the last 5 years when sorted. We will cross off the spot to write

amount donated on the outside of offering envelopes to improve confidentiality.

8. RE committee report (Scott) – attached. We still need volunteers to work in teams of 2 for the elementary curriculum. Will attempt recruitment at the Fellowship Fairs. Someone is being hired to care for the young ones in the nursery. Background checks will be done. Volunteer teacher training planned for September 13 will be postponed until after Fellowship Fair recruiting efforts. Plans for youth choir from 12:00 – 12:30 to be held in the sanctuary will be on a trial basis. We will see how popular it is. How regularly it will be meeting and how we can work around other needs for the space at that time. Conflicts if they arise will be resolved as best for all.

10. Social Action report (Grace) – Jim Dealing will be hosting Citizens Lobby for the Monday 9/23 at 7 pm at UU Center. Environmental movement proposing a tax on carbon generation. They are trying to activate people to lobby at the state and federal levels.

11. Membership committee report (Laura) – attached. Crystal and Elliot Schott have moved. They will be missed. That puts membership down to 67. Next path to membership not set yet. New people are attending each week. It remains to be seen how many return. Gisela asked Joe to look over the materials we hand out at the Path to Membership classes. He is interested in participating in the classes in the future.

12. **Miscellaneous Reports**

- a. Social Fun (Laura) – attached, Silent Auction – Saturday, October 19 at 7 PM in the works. Gisela and Vicki will meet after this meeting to plan details. The library annex is reserved for the Harvest Feast Sunday, November 24.
- b. Building Manager (Janet) – report from Tina attached. Help is needed to construct shelves for the basement.
- c. Publicity – Mary Alsager is collecting the money for CMU Public Radio by the end of Sept. – We need articles about Joe in Morning Sun and Gratiot County Herald. We would like to see Joe get into the rotation to write for the religion section of the Morning Sun. Joe will check with Father Wayne for the best procedure. We need to improve the information we have Kirsten put in the morning Sun to include other events on Sunday beyond the sermon title. Joe proposes we celebrating an RE program that doubled in size as an example. Other areas we could highlight include music, Child care and RE events. Vicki will ask Kirsten about how to get articles of news into the paper. Need to get people to do publicity.

The Chalice lighter grant was intended for publicity purposes. It was originally designated to purchase a camcorder and tech help for video – done but ultimately we did not buy a camcorder. We put that entire portion into a professional videographer who took and produced the video we have. A portion of the grant was to be used to print fliers. We did make some but had little success with public placement and this did not seem particularly effective. We have spent \$600 and have \$400 left. Thoughts included purchasing posters for the wayside pulpit versus getting more letters to allow more flexibility in changing the wayside message indefinitely. We also wanted to look for posters from the UUA bookstore and Beacon Press for general UU promotions. UU

Media Works Collective could be used to make posters with “pithy phrases” and on the other side “Are you a UU? See Belief Net. com”. The board approved Ricky to order a whole new set of letters for the Wayside Pulpit for \$92.00 plus tax in Roman. It was decided to use the remaining money to design brochures about UUFCM to be handed out to newcomers and Path class members.

- d. Communication Task force – no report. Grace and Joe will work on social media.
- e. Caring Committee (Laura) – attached by Mary Alsager

11. Old business –

- a. Commitment Survey (Vicki)- the interest in completing the survey has waned as those who heard the services the first two Sundays in July have participated and others return who have little frame of reference. This has provided information from about 50% of the congregation that can be referenced by Social Action planning down the road. The final numbers will be posted by Vicki in the Fellowship Hall and reported in the E news.
- b. Fellowship Fairs: Sept. 15 and 22 (all) come at 9:45 set up tables.
- c. Repurposing of green room for Niki’s office and the elementary RE class. (Vicki) – Done or nearly so.
- d. Update on CUUPS (Joe) Annette is working on getting CUUPS designated officially. Joe wants them more integrated into the life of the congregation.
- e. Employment Assessment tools, new contract design (Scott) Scott will reschedule a meeting.
- f. Chalice Lighter Grant (Gisela) reviewed – reviewed above under publicity.
- g. Silent Auction (Gisela, Vicki and Norma) – underway.
- h. Coat Rack – is still needed. with the Green Room now in use for RE, the entryway will be needed for coats. The two options Vicki has found range widely in cost and quality. Gisela suggested we check an auction on Wednesday for a coffee shop that closed. - ask Tina to go to the auction. Janet will see what Consumers has at their Investment Recovery Center next Tuesday. Hold on ordering anything new until we see what others can find.

12. New business –

- a. New ideas/initiatives for the upcoming year (all) – Joe reports the Transition team is reading the book In the Interim. Several board members got this book at GA. Joe suggests we start to put together a search committee for a permanent minister. Budget planning: Joe reports we need a budget of ~ \$8,000 or 20 % of a minister’s cost to undertake the search process. Expenses include travel and lodging for the minister, for the search committee, and to secure neutral pulpits. One required workshop “Beyond categorical thinking” Joe will send a calendar.
- b. Fellowship Life meeting for Sept. 29 –possibly needed for Service Auction communication. Or perhaps cancel.

- c. Board Tickler for September (Gisela) - final setting of church calendar for the year. Holiday tea/December 15/Laura McBride. Harvest Feast/November 24
- d. Staffing committees deferred until after the Fellowship Fair. Hospitality, RE, Social Events, WT,
- e. Safety webinar (all) - deferred
- f. Membership Webinar (Gisela/ deferred) -
- g. Weapons in places of Worship (all/deferred)

13. Adjourn at 8:55PM

Next meeting will be Sunday, October 13 at the UU Center at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Vicki Chessin, secretary