

Splinters from the Board  
October 9, 2011  
7:00 pm (6:42pm) at the UU Center

Present: Mary Alsager, Vicki Chessin, Norma Bailey, Chris Nace, Grace Rollins, Rev. Dr. Nana' Kratochvil, Valerie Stevens and Guests: Bob and Kathy Lovell from E. Lansing UU Church.

1. Chalice was lighted by Kathy Lovell and Nana' read meditation: Singing in the Bathtub – Bruce Marshall
2. Welcome (Norma) - Nana' introduced our guests: Kathy and Bob Lovell from E. Lansing UU
3. Second service considerations – Bob and Kathy Lovell from Lansing. Vicki will summarize the discussion – notes to be appended to these minutes. Vicki will send a thank you note.
4. Consent agenda – Minutes of September meeting – approved
5. Treasurer's report (Alan) – none
6. Minister's report (Nana') – Nana recently attended a minister's conference. Topics included "contemporary worship" and intergenerational worship. Millennial generation now 18-35 yr olds have different brains because they have never known the world without technology. They are better at multitasking so some churches welcome technology if there is no ring or talk. Most disconnected generation ever with religion. If the decline continues, we "churches will be gone by 2020." If we want to survive and grow, we need to shift how we think and meet them. They are more tactile and multi-media oriented.
7. Worship Team report (Nana' and Vicki) – The Worship Team met just before this meeting. Issues addressed included:
  - a. The need to look at newer technology for the sound system including more wireless mics, headsets for the hearing impaired and possible sound to remote rooms for larger events or parents in the infant room.
  - b. Ways to develop the welcome element and the board participation in the worship service.
  - c. Service Planning: Move Association Sunday- Gratitude Sunday to Nov 13. Harvest Feast Nov. 20. Rabbi Gahli on Nov 4. if arrangements can be made.
  - d. Review of the Thematic Plan using the Seven Virtues by Guengerich
  - e. Questioned if we will be getting an Adult RE program or more informal discussions around the theme – addressed later in this Board meeting.
8. Youth RE Committee report (Grace) met yesterday – attached. Requested the board budget \$100 to use for decorating the upstairs to be supervised by Raeanne & Dave. Moved by Mary and seconded by Vicki. -Passed. This will come from the Capital Campaign budget for the building. Discussing ¼ time position for a paid RE director. The board recommends the Youth RE Committee work out a proposal in time for the budget process this winter. Youth choir being discussed needs a volunteer director. Nana' suggested RE work with worship team on December intergenerational service. Introduced Dave Brooks and Raeanne Lohner who are working with our older youth group.
9. Social Action report (Norma) – Norma is the only one going to the Power Summit training meeting on 10/14 to learn about how to pass local anti-discrimination ordinances. There will be a community wide meeting at the First United Methodist Fellowship Hall 10/29 to train community members to do the work needed to pass the ordinance.
10. Oversight (building) report (Gisela's report) – Remaining work to be done: New furnace still in bidding process. The Signage on the South side off the building over or to the right of the door needs to be planned and executed. The Oversight committee asked the Board for input for the side of the building...we still have money from the chalice lighter's grant. The Board suggested a "Welcome" directly over the door and a Chalice with UUFCM spelled out in the "triangle" to the right as a possibility. Tina Christy is our new Building Manager and is doing an excellent job.

11. Membership committee (Gisela's report) – 2 new members signed the book last Sunday. Norma reported that Gisela will continue to lead the Membership Committee.

#### OLD BUSINESS

12. Kirsten's contract (Mary) not finalized.

13. Dawn's amended contract (Norma) – attached.

14. Calendar (Mary and Norma) - next month report

15. Furnace (Mary) - waiting for a second estimate

16. Committee Structure: (Norma) Sign up sheets for interested people are currently in the Fellowship Hall. Leaders for the committees are being sought: Individuals are being identified and approached individually. Chris Bailey- has not accepted building and grounds as yet. Membership Committee – Gisela Moffit has accepted.

17. September 25 Dedication celebration follow-up – wonderful!....Laura McBride, Bruce Kilmer, Father Wayne Nicholson and Lisa Presley need thank you notes – Vicki will make cards and send. Dawn will contact Morning Sun to get a human interest story for the Morning Sun regarding Irv's award which will include information about the building dedication and the 10-year anniversary. Chris N. will help Dawn make the connection with Morning Sun. A second story is planned when we get the Welcoming Congregation documents.

#### NEW BUSINESS

18. Renew video license? (Norma) - Last year we purchased a Christian Video license to assure we were in compliance with copyright laws. Norma proposes we maintain it at \$199 a year. Vicki moved, Grace seconded and the Board voted to renew the license first using any money remaining from Welcoming Congregation budget.

19. Chris Nace will advertise our chairs on Craig's list for \$10 and we may have to replace the other chairs with the purchase of more new brown chairs.

20. Mary will follow up with Midland regarding WCMU public radio and we will collect individual's donations. We'll bundle the checks and coordinate the purchase of time and the message with Midland UU as we did last year.

21. Mary will be talking to Sound Productions (Steve Roth) who sold us the original equipment about new upgrades to our sound system to see what we could do for personal hearing assistance, invisible mics, and various sound locations.

22. Adult RE – Norma has talked to Jim Dealing about Adult RE curriculum... he is willing to participate but wants and the board agrees to use UUA planned curriculum. People participating need to understand the commitment. Regarding the Guengerich Sermons: There is no planned curriculum – only DVDs. Norma will find people who would take the DVDs, watch them and each facilitate one theme with lead questions for a discussion.

Jim Dealing will be asked to find and lead (possibly with a co-leader) a short 4-5 week curriculum for this fall. Then Jim is willing to lead Building Your Own Theology (8-10 weeks) Jan – April.

23. Oct 22 All-Congregation Retreat (Norma, Valerie, Alan, Jim) – Tentative Plans (attached) - Half-tithe – presentation of ideas and vote to decide where to put our money. Jim to present Central America project. Norma will present Heifer Project from information Grace finds. Others welcome.

Out Reach – Our approach will be to take on those actions where there is at least one person who feels passionately enough to take the lead. Find people and ask them to make a commitment to lead. The board liaison to Social Justice, Valerie, will then contact the leaders as their project is scheduled to be active to see how they are coming, offer support and report to the board. There may not need to be Social Action meetings as a whole or only rarely if organization is needed.

Publicity of our Social Action is very important within the congregation – so others know who to contact and how to be involved. Publicity outside UUFCM will serve an important recruiting role at many levels. Mary and Chris Nace will be working on Publicity. Our E-news will carry word of our social actions.

Plans for the Retreat on Sat. Oct 22 from 9-noon. Simple lunch and optional 1-3 pm training for legislative impact and letter writing. Need to have a one on one calls to people to come to the retreat. Soup and bread lunch. Beverages. The Board members will call to invite people and ask for help with lunch. Mary – Directory pages 1-3 (beverages), Vicki pages 4-6 (fruit or veggies), Grace pages 7-9 (bread), Valerie pages 10-12 (soup), Chris N pages 13-15 and Norma pages 16-18. Child care needs assessment. Record number and ages of children. If someone has a project they would like to present for consideration for the half-tithe or congregational action– contact Norma to be on the agenda.

After the retreat Mary will write up notes.

24. Adjourn at 9:23pm. The next meeting will be November 13 at 7PM at the UU Center.

Respectfully submitted by Vicki Chessin, Secretary