

UUFCM Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
October 14, 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

Present: Norma Bailey, Vicki Chessin, Ricky Courlander, **Gisela** Moffit, Grace Rollins and Dr. Rev. Nana' Kratochvil.

1. Chalice Lighting (Nana') – read a Mary Oliver poem.
2. Welcome (Grace) and check in by all.
3. Consent agenda – Minutes of September meeting (Vicki) attached – approved as presented.
4. Treasurer's report (Ricky) – attached. This quarter we have an income of \$23,657 and expenses of \$24,306. We have received about 10% of what we have pledged in the Capital Campaign for this year. Ricky will send a status report to each person re both their **pledges** for this year and their **commitments** to the Capital Campaign. **Gisela will help hand these out on consecutive Sundays. The remaining reports will be mailed.**
5. Minister's report (Nana') – attached. Encouraging UUFCM to send at least 2 voting members to the Heartland District meeting the first weekend in April when they will be voting on regionalization which she supports. **The 2013 General Assembly will be in** Louisville this year and we need to plan for people to go there as well. Nana' has additional names of potential part-time ministers who might be of interest and available: Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi at Paint Creek UU in Rochester, MI and a newly separated minister from Ludington, MI, Rev. Catherine Harrington. She may be doing some pulpit supply where we could go hear her. Need to plan how to pursue finding a minister to replace Nana' and cannot expect help from the district. The Trinity will contact Rev. Cassie Howe of the UU Community Church in Portage, MI and Leonetta Bugleisi and invite them to visit informally to see the building, our packet and meet some members at a lunch. We can do the same for other possible ministers. Noon, March 15 is the first call/match date each year for UU ministers and a target date to shoot for to make an offer to one minister. Nana' recommends the first step is to make a packet to show candidates both on-line and hard copies to look at here or give. (CD is a good format). The packet should include our history, finances with the last 3 years budgets, what we have paid our current minister, what we are looking for, etc. Gisela will be the designated contact person from the board and **Nana'** will send some ideas and examples of items for our "packet" / CD to her. We can talk about our beautiful building and how we purchased it with no debt and share our internal organization, etc.

We need to have an internal educational process with the congregation so people understand what Nana' and other ministers do that is different from what Dawn does now as our Worship **Director**. Need several ways to present this information to the congregation. Need an All Congregation meeting planned **that will tentatively take place on** Saturday, Jan. 26 from 9-12PM. The topic would be to discuss what kind of minister we should be looking for. Time line: November start to advertise the January meeting. (E-news inserts for Sunday handouts and 1-2 minute announcements at the

beginning of Sunday worship) Talk about it. Finalize plans at the Board meeting on Jan 13<sup>th</sup>. A reference that may help plan our workshop can be found at UUA. Org/transitions – that provides a congregational handbook for churches doing a ministerial search. “What kind of minister do you want?”

To promote the All Congregational meeting and educate the congregation: Grace will write a President’s Column for the October 23 e-News explaining how we are in a transition year. Nana’ will write about what a **consulting** minister does for us for November 6<sup>th</sup> e-News and Sunday handout. We will ask Dawn to write about “Why go to seminary?” for publication Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> E-news. How will Dawn the Minister be different from Dawn the Worship Director? First spoken announcement of the meeting will be at worship on Oct 28. We may ask Jim Dealing to reflect on “Why I first asked Nana’ to come?” We need a consistent paragraph to add to the end of each handout about the upcoming congregational meeting. Vicki will draft one.

The initial steps to finding a new minister need to start now. To find a minister we need to define a search committee and eventually invite just one person with a formal offer. We need 3 people or more to hear potential candidates speak at other venues. Vicki will research preaching schedules for Cassie and Leonetta. Grace will contact both for separate informal visits here to let each take a look at us.

6. Worship Team report (Vicki) - The Board approved purchase of the first pedestal and a removable round top from the Capital Campaign funds to be ordered by Dawn and the purchase of a total of 20 more Hymnals from the general funds. Gisela will order them. Nana’ discussed her recommendation that we have the UU ministerial intern in Lansing come preach to us to give us an experience of a good male preacher. The board did not support the added expense to this year’s budget.

To increase the availability of seating for visitors at the beginning of services the Worship Team recommends we create a “children’s corner” in the front to the minister’s right with a quilt Norma has offered where the children, teachers and in some cases, parents (temporarily) gather. At their next meeting on the 10/18/12 the RE committee is asked to work out details necessary to lay the background needed with RE parents and children to get an understanding of what we are trying to accomplish and get their support.

7. RE committee report (Sarah was unable to be here) – attached. They have been busy. Background checks continue to be done.

8. Social action report (Norma) - Union Township passed the Human Rights Ordinance unanimously. The “Know Us Project” announcements - attached. Norma will be sending them out tomorrow. MUUSJN is sponsoring a conference “Protect Access to Health Care” on Oct 27. Norma will contact everyone who has organized a social justice activity in the past to determine their willingness to do so again. Grace will do “Guest at Your Table” and the Heifer project. Tom Moffit will continue the collection of canned goods monthly here as well as the Thrift Shop. Mari Potter will take charge of the Christmas project. We need to ask Codi Brown about repeating the food truck. We will postpone starting Interweave until the spring - need one leader who is straight and one who is gay. A consortium in SE Mich has Interweave activities but we are not close enough to participate.

9. Membership committee report (Gisela) – attached. Six new members have joined. Next “Path to Member ship” is planned for Nov 7 by Guy Newland.

10. Old business - Lectern/pedestals (Ricky) – Dawn will order, approved first purchase of one pedestal and the round top for a cost of \$175 as above. New chair of the Caring Committee – Mary Alsager may be interested. Norma will follow up. Michigan Project for Informed Public Policy (MPIPP) sponsorship of training (Norma) see above. New Volunteer coordinator (**Gisela will fill in until somebody else is found**). Announcement about Automatic External Defibrillator (Vicki) will be done this coming Sunday by Norma who will ask Tina Christy to help at a 15 minute Fellowship Life meeting. Vicki has made a safety poster and will leave it with Dawn’s mother tomorrow. It demonstrates the location of fire extinguishers, exits and the

use of the AED. Vicki will contact Glenn Lewandos and accept his offer to purchase a wall mounted cabinet for the AED. Service Auction Results (Vicki/Gisela/Norma) – highly successful in terms of participation, fun and raised over \$2200.00. Plans for replacement of our ¼ time minister/consulting minister – discussed above. Workshop on effective listening by Ashley Rae – we have so much going on at this time that we will ask to postpone this. (Norma). Board Handbook was updated to reflect approval of items from last meeting and new RE materials (Norma). There are still a few committee descriptions to come. The rest is done.

11. New business – Creating an Online Ministry presented by Dawn (attached) – There are clear guidelines from UUA that indicate we need to make some changes in our Facebook page and chat room opportunities to reduce risk exposure. We will ask Crystal Schott to take the lead in the process of evolving our On-line Ministry and to work with Kirsten Keeton and Liz Busch if she is **interested**. Dawn will ask Liz. Grace will be the primary contact person for Crystal. She has skills and could help us make podcasts of our services, a suggestion which is being discussed by the Worship Team. She might also improve our search ability on various search engines. Safety Planning Webinar (all) - ask Tina to watch it with Grace on Oct 25 at 8PM at the UUA web site. There is another Webinar about Membership the week prior at 8 pm. **Gisela and Guy will watch it, but others are encouraged to do the same or see it later when it is archived.** Board tickler for October (Grace) - Next item is Harvest Feast - Laura McBride is the new Social Fun Chair and Gisela will give her the sign-up sheets from last year. Preparation of the annex is scheduled for 3-6pm Sat Nov. 17 and the Harvest Feast will follow the worship service on Nov. 18. Fellowship Life meeting for October (all) will last 15 minutes and cover the Safety Poster presentation by Norma and Tina Christy if she is willing. Business cards are here for all to add their name and contact info on the back and give out as desired. Gisela will put them on the shelving unit to the right of window in the office.

Adjourned at 9:40PM

Next meeting is set for 7pm, Sunday, Nov. 11 at the UU Center.

Respectfully submitted by Vicki Chessin, secretary.