

Splinters from the Board: Oct. 10, 2010

Present: Mary Alsager, Norma Bailey, Vicki Chessin, Joyce Henricks, Alan Jackson, Gisela Moffit, Rev. Dr. Nana' Kratochvil,
The Chalice was lighted by Nana' and Mary called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

1. The minutes of the Board meeting in Sept were approved as part of the consent agenda.
2. Treasurer's report (Alan) – Presented a report showing the fiscal year to date as well as a report on the Capital Campaign pledges, income and expenditures – (attached). Vicki will create a visual aid for the Capital Campaign and Dawn Daniels will be asked to provide reminders as a part of worship.
3. Worship Team report (Nana')
 - a. Responses, positive and negative, are being noted as we trial our first alternate format for Joys and Concerns. Another approach to come.
 - b. Worship team will design the Founder's Day service on Oct 24 when those in attendance at the original picnic have responded to a series of questions posed to them.
 - c. Dawn's contract renews in November. She is due for a performance review with Mary. Mary may want input from the personnel committee, Alan and Guy Newland. We will offer Dawn an interim contract to bring her renewal date more in line with the church's fiscal year for budget planning.
 - d. As part of her contract Dawn is supposed to be involved in professional development. To that end the RE Committee recommends that Dawn not be responsible for the worship service on the fifth Sunday in any month and attend services at another UU Church where an experienced minister is delivering the service. The board has authorized coverage of her mileage.
4. Religious Education Report (Norma)
 - a. The RE Committee still needs an additional member.
 - b. We have had up to seven 5th through 8th graders attending and the middle school program is currently developed only for the third and fourth Sundays each month. Norma has suggested the first 2 Sundays of the month might utilize the "Chicken Soup" stories for this age group with discussion of the stories. Possibilities of someone to consistently meet with these students the first two Sundays of the month were discussed. Norma will contact some potential people.
 - c. A letter to permit the children to travel and limit the church's liability is still needed.
5. Social Action Committee report (Norma)
 - a. The workshop on stereotyping: "Ouch! That Stereotype Hurts!" was very well done and held at the St. John's Episcopal Church parish house on Oct. 7. This may be offered again, perhaps here with St. John's invited.

- b. Our “Mini Film Festival” will be Friday, Oct 22 at 7:30PM showing Milk. Sat. Oct. 23 at 3PM we will show Truth about Jane and at 7:30PM TransAmerica will complete the film fest. Popped corn and cider will be available. It is hoped people will chose to find their dinner together continuing discussion of the films. Child care will be provided parents who have contacted Norma by this Wed.
 - c. There is still a need for an alternative clergy group to the Christian Church Clergy. Dawn and Norma will meet again with Father Wayne on Oct. 13.
 - d. Michigan UU Social Justice Network is sponsoring a conference about Standing on the Side of Love. There will be two topics: a LGBT and Immigration workshop and secondly, What does one do after becoming a Welcoming Congregation? Sat. Nov. 20 for \$30 per person in Southfield. Dawn and Norma are going. Others are welcome.
- 6. Building Report (Gisela and Mary)
 - a. The initial estimate from the plumber for moving water, sinks and sewer connections came in at \$3700. The plumber pointed out the hidden cost of construction permits could be high. The board regards the concept of moving the kitchen to the end and providing improved quality and space to the Fellowship Hall a high priority. We need a more complete estimate on the entire project which will allow us to reevaluate our priorities and long term goals to realign the Capital Campaign budget to make this feasible.
- 7. Membership Committee Report (Gisela) –
 - a. The potluck with Nana’ last night was a blend of new members, recent visitors, Gisela and Laura. It was well received and effective at opening a dialogue with potential new members. Gisela proposes continuing to mix new members, at least one board member, some older members and recent visitors each month. Next potluck: Nov. 13.
 - b. Next Orientation Meeting for potential new members will be Oct. 30 or Nov. 6 and there could be 12 people attending.
- 8. Bylaws Committee Report (Norma) –A proposed revision of the bylaws was passed. The board is asked to read it in preparation for discussion at the next meeting.
- 9. Name revision - Mary has received a response from 32 of 63 congregants asked to make their initial cut to 5 choices. Mary will send a reminder that the deadline for this phase is Oct 15. The top 3 vote getters will be announced. The Congregational Meeting will be scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 31 after the worship service. Each voting member in attendance will be asked to rank the three in a weighted fashion.
- 10. Founders’ Day – Worship team is planning the service. Vicki will send an Email to all explaining the idea behind the “picnic” and organizing the potluck by last name initial. Gisela will give a copy to those who do not get Email. Vicki will do the table decorations; get the hot dogs, buns, condiments, beverages, cups and plates. Other board members will help

set things up beginning at 9:30 that morning, Oct. 24 and the clean up crew who have volunteered for that day will be assisted by others.

11. Harvest Feast – will be Nov. 21 this year. The library annex has been reserved. Gisela and Mary will cook turkeys and the remainder of the Feast will be potluck.
12. Communication System – Kirsten and Dawn proposed that Kirsten be contracted, separate from her duties as our assistant, to create a superior website that will serve as a better representation of us to new contacts, but also as an ongoing source of current information about activities, services planned, calendar of events, and could include blogging on a selected topic and even recent sermons. This can include all that the newsletter currently conveys but on a more timely basis. Dawn will work with Kirsten on the content. It was moved, seconded and following discussion, passed that Mary is to direct Kirsten to develop and present to the board a plan for redesigning our website for a cost not to exceed \$2500. This will utilize the amount budgeted for publicity this fiscal year.
13. Norma has offered and the board supports the concept of a UUFCM garage sale to be held at Norma's house in May or early June. Dates TBD. The congregation will be asked to save items they are willing to donate to the garage sale and to volunteer to help.
14. We will have a "Rake Sunday" when more leaves have fallen, before the city picks up at curbside the final time unless it has been contracted and is already part of the yard maintenance duties.

Next meeting will be Sunday, November 14, 2010 at 7 PM at the UU Center
Meeting adjourned at 9:50PM Minutes submitted by Vicki Chessin