

UUFCM Board of Trustees Minutes – January 8, 2012
3:30 PM UU Center

Present: Norma Bailey, Nana' Kratochvil, Grace Rollins, Chris Nace, Valerie Stephens, Mary Alsager

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 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 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

- I. The chalice was lit. Nana' spoke about the importance of our covenant and the need to keep it in mind especially during the coming months.
- II. Welcome by Norma and each member reported in.
- III. No final minutes from December 11, 2011 board meeting available. Will approve at next board meeting in February.
- IV. Treasurer's Report - attached. Alan Jackson was not present, but his report was reviewed. Some categories of the budget were high, especially supplies and rental. This may be because Valerie bought supplies to last a while, the license for video may have been added to this category and it was \$199. Also, many miscellaneous items may have been added to this category. The minister category was a little high, but this should be offset as we will not be paying Nana' for February. Alan had reported to Norma that he thought that overall we were on track regarding the budget and that lots of contributions had come in during the last quarter.
- V. Minister's Report (Nana')- attached. Nana' outlined the classic division of a minister's work – preacher, pastor, prophet and rabbi. Her sermon today, "Covenant and the Courage to Learn" has already provoked much comment and discussion, and she hopes it continues to do so. She read an email from Guy Newland presenting feedback (some positive and some negative) he had received from eleven people about the sermon.
- VI. Worship Team Report – attached. The worship team report related to budgetary issues and will be discussed later in the board meeting and referred to the Finance Committee.

- VII.R.E. Report (Grace) – attached. The committee did not meet this month, but presented a proposal for hiring a salaried director. This person would not teach but would train others to teach, organize RE volunteer teachers, run meetings, select curriculum, orders materials, etc. The position would require 10 hours a week and the salary would be approximately \$7,000 per year. The proposal also suggests hiring a preschool teacher for 3 hours a week at a salary of approximately \$2,000. This person would plan lessons, attend RE meetings, etc. The hiring of a preschool teacher might mean we would no longer need a helper (depending on numbers/growth).
- VIII. Social Action Report (Norma and Valerie). On February 13, there will be a work session related to the Humans Rights Ordinance at the City Commission with their attorney. There will be a formal presentation of the proposal on February 27. There are now ten people from various groups (not just UUFCM) on the steering committee. Norma has a phone call this Thursday with MUUSJN. A GLBT interfaith toolkit will be available in January. Norma and Alan met about the Interweave group. It was decided that for the time being the focus should be on continuing to educate ourselves about GLBT issues and whatever we can do to help with the passage of the Human Rights Ordinance. Jim Dealing will be working on a submission to the eNewsletter related to Commission on Aging. Valerie will talk to Codi Brown about process for signing up volunteers for food truck.
- IX. Oversight (building) Report (Gisela) – No report. Lots of praise for the new acoustical tiles in the fellowship hall. Discussion about the library's offer for us to put our trash in their dumpster. If this works well we may make a donation to the library. Also, we will try to sell the tags for trash that already have been purchased and which we don't apparently need as we are a non-profit entity.
- X. Membership (Gisela). Individual Board members present signed up for specific Sundays to talk with new people, introduce them to others, etc. This is to make sure that any new visitors are not left alone.
- XI. Old Business.
- A. Welcoming Congregation posters have been framed and are now hanging – one in entryway and the other in foyer outside the office.
 - B. There will be a congregational calendar on the fellowship hall bulletin board. This is to relieve Dawn of responsibility for the calendar and so that everyone can see what is going on and what dates are still available for scheduling activities, meetings, etc. However, permission has to be obtained from the board president or Dawn before adding or deleting anything on the calendar.
 - C. Dawn will meet with Bill Gilbert of Alma regarding estimates for new sound system. If his proposal is not acceptable, another proposal from Mr. Cook will be obtained. Mary was instructed to move forward asap on acquiring a new sound system as the current one is becoming more and more dysfunctional. Mary thinks a new system could cost as much as \$5,000. This money would come out of the capital campaign funds. Mary will ask the person who does the new sound system whether they might want to buy from us any equipment or components from our current sound system.

- D. The policy for submissions to Kirsten for the website, eNews and emails has not been completed yet.
- E. Other items from old business will be addressed at the next board meeting.

XII. New Business.

- A. Chris Nace is unable to be board president for the next term due to other commitments. It was decided that Grace Rollins will switch roles with Chris. Therefore, Grace will be the next board president and Chris will be a trustee on the board. Grace needs to be able to meet with the trinity so Mary will notify the congregation of this change. We will have an official vote on this at the Fellowship Life meeting next Sunday (3rd Sunday). We will need a quorum of 30% of membership in order to vote.
- B. The peace pole project also will be discussed the next FL meeting. It was decided to hold the Fellowship Life meetings right after the service in the sanctuary and before coffee hour so that there will be no conflict with the Adult R.E. meetings.
- C. Mary presented ideas for the spring canvassing. The theme will be Team UUFCM, and the motto will be Together Everyone Achieves More. Nana' discussed how face to face canvassing is most effective with circle supper canvassing being next most effective. The least effective form of canvassing is via email or letter. She says that typically a congregation sticks with one form of canvassing for three years and then makes a change.
- D. Gisela sent data to the Heartland District on our R.E. numbers – 8 children and 5 teens as well as the financial information required.
- E. Alan will send out end of year financial statements.
- F. Norma will ask Alan to reassess our insurance needs since changes have been made.
- G. The board will recruit people to attend the Heartland District annual meeting on March 30 (evening) and March 31 (daytime). The meeting is in Lansing at Lansing Community College. Norma will put an announcement in the Enews. The registration fee is \$115 for early bird (before Jan 31). This cost includes snacks and lunch. One person free for every 8 that register. The registration fee is \$60 for college students. We will encourage people to attend the Heartland District annual meeting in Lansing; UUFCM will offer scholarships for those who would like to register. Motion made by Norma, seconded by Chris, and the motion carried. Mary will gather the names of those who wish to attend and make our group reservations.
- H. The Heartland District is offering a Board Responsibilities Webinar on Thursday, Jan 12 and on Tuesday Jan 17, both at 7:45 pm. Registration for webinar has to occur by 4 p.m. the day before. No registration fee but we may incur charges on phone bill for long distance. At this time, Grace, Mary and Chris plan to participate.
- I. Budget requests from the Worship Team were reviewed – storage for music and folders onsite, new music for choir (Libana choral books – 15 copies at \$14 each, \$210), guest pianist/musician (\$75 per visit- \$375), hymnal supplements for congregation (\$18 per copy X 45 = \$810), materials for making base for existing pulpit (\$80-100), variety of cloths for table (\$50) and guest speaker fees (\$250 per engagement plus expenses X 2= \$750). These will be forwarded to the finance committee.

- J. Discussion about whether to pay our cleaning person a flat rate vs. hourly. Norma designated a sub committee to address this issue and will present the results to the finance committee.
- K. Social Action budget requests included \$300 for ethical eating films, etc., \$50 for food truck, and money to go to the President's discretionary fund (for congregant emergencies) and some monies to go toward Welcoming Congregation activities. These will be forwarded to the finance committee.
- L. There was a brief discussion regarding caring/ministerial responsibilities for Dawn and how best to serve members without overtaxing Dawn.

Meeting adjourned 6 p.m. Next meeting February 12th, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Stephens
Secretary *pro tempore*