

## **UUFCM Board Minutes: March 14, 2011**

Present: Mary Alsager, Norma Bailey, Joyce Henricks, Alan Jackson, Gisela Moffit, Valerie Stephens

1. The Chalice was lighted and Mary called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM
2. Members of the Board checked in.
3. Consent Agenda: The Minutes of the Board meeting of February 13 were approved as part of the consent agenda with an addition to # 12 which should now read:  
"An Email from Joyce Henricks was read by Norma suggesting a policy be put in place whereby the board solicits input and recommendations from a committee involved in implementing decisions the board may be making related to this committee."
4. Treasurer's report (Alan)
  - a) Alan shared the report showing the General Fund Activity from July 1 to March 13, 2011(attached).
  - b) He was instructed to send 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the annual donation (\$ 450) to Malawi while we wait until the Social Action Committee has decided how they want to proceed with supporting this orphanage in the future.
  - c) Since the proceeds of the 10 000 Villages was not deposited immediately, we have run into problems with checks not being cashed and one check for \$ 120 being returned for insufficient funds. Alan will try to locate the people who wrote the check.
5. Worship Team report (written report by Dawn)
  - a. The building dedication has been re-scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 25 at 3PM. Lisa Presley will be able to attend. Laura McBride will speak as one of the Founding Members. Sending Bob Franke a videotaped message is being considered as well as other options to include him in the celebration.
  - b. Board members who are willing to read announcements or welcoming words signed up for the upcoming two months.
  - c. The Board will inform the Worship Team that plans for a second service for the coming year are premature (see Nr. 11 of the Minutes)
  - d. Beth and Dawn are looking into buying a digital keyboard, which was approved by the board not to exceed \$ 1000.

- e. Dawn asks to meet with the Trinity to share her concerns about training new worship associates, opportunities for professional development, and pastoral care issues and needs. Mary will arrange for such a meeting soon.

6. Stewardship Committee (Gisela)

- a. Gisela reported that the stewardship drive is well under way. Testimonials are ongoing, canvassers and hosts have been matched for the Circle Dinners.
- b. The Cabaret/ Talent Show is planned for Saturday, March 26 at 7 p.m. as the kick-off for the stewardship drive. Tom and Gisela will provide wine, juice, cheese platters, and crackers with dip. Valerie, Mary and Norma will bring cookies or something sweet and Alan will pour the drinks. Valerie and Mary volunteered to help Gisela with the clean-up.

7. Religious Education Report (Norma)

- a. Norma reported that Niki Henry had to resign as chair of the RE committee. Cynthia Damer and Brooke Bradley joined the committee, but nobody has stepped up to be the chair as yet.
- b. Sabrina Brewer will take charge of turning the attic into a teen room. This project will not be undertaken until the kitchen has been moved and the fellowship hall renovated.
- c. A new policy was implemented in cases when only one child and one adult teacher attend the Re program. In such cases, the child either returns to his/her parents or both the child and the adult join the regular RE program.
- d. Mary Alsager has volunteered to take the upcoming OWL training for younger children.
- e. May 1<sup>st</sup> will be "Children's Day". Each child will be matched with an adult who will give the child clues about his identity during the weeks before. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the identities will be guessed or revealed.

8. Social Action Committee report (Norma)

- a. The Welcoming Committee has been very busy. The "Ouch" workshop was attended by 13 people. Two films ("Torch Song Trilogy"

and “If the Walls could talk”) were shown as part of the film series. “The Celluloid Closet” (March 18 at 7 p.m. ) and “Serving in Silence” (March 25 at 7 p.m.) will conclude the film series.

- b. On April 17 at 1:00 p.m. the Readers’ Theatre ensemble will present “The Laramie Project” as part of the Welcoming Congregation initiative. A potluck meal will follow the morning worship service that day as well.
- c. The newly created Mid-Michigan Interfaith Coalition meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at the UU Center. At the last meeting, a representative of the Jewish Synagogue and two new people from Presbyterian churches attended the meeting.
- d. Norma contacted Equality Michigan for help and information regarding our plan to ask for a change in the city ordinance. They are willing to come when we have invited representatives of all the groups we deem important to be included in this venture.
- e. May 14 is the “Interfaith LGBT Conference” in East Lansing at the Pilgrim United Church of Christ. It offers two strands – “How to become a welcoming congregation?” and “How to practice advocacy. “ There is no cost and we hope a large group from our fellowship will participate in the second strand.
- f. Questions re. when and where to display our newly purchased rainbow flag were raised. A lengthy discussion ensued. It was moved and seconded that the rainbow flag be displayed on the exterior of the building every Sunday and on other times deemed appropriate by the Board. The motion passed unanimously.
- g. Joel had asked that the Board discuss and support the Union in Madison, WI on behalf of the fellowship. It was decided that it was too late for this event and that the Board could not speak for the entire fellowship on political matters. Since most of these political issues are also issues of social justice, we will use the email list of the Welcoming Congregation to share information and encourage individuals to respond to them.
- h. The Board asked Valerie to inform the Social Action Committee that they need to decide what kinds of projects they want to undertake in addition to the activities of the Welcoming Congregation. Since we have a limited number of volunteers, we need to schedule events carefully. Therefore a list of events with dates, name(s) of leader(s) and budget requests need to be submitted to the Board ahead of time.

## 9. Building Report (Gisela )

- a. Bob Nace finished the ceilings in the 2 bathrooms and installed blinds. The committee accepted a bid for wall papering, but ran into problems as the chosen wall paper was no longer available. Vicki will find an alternative pattern so that this job can be completed soon.
- b. The oversight committee accepted a bid by Terry Lott, contractor in Alma, to move the kitchen to the storage area. The bid was for \$ 13,541. The project is scheduled for early May and will take 2 to 3 weeks. Gisela will contact the library to see if we can use the library annex for the RE children during this time.
- c. Volunteers will be needed to help clean out and store items currently in the kitchen cabinets and in the work room.
- d. To provide an opportunity to share these plans with the congregation, Mary will ask Dawn to schedule the Fellowship Life meeting for Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> after the service. Gisela will run off copies of the building plans for distribution.

## 10. Bylaws Committee Report (Norma)

- a. The Board discussed the revised version of the Bylaws and suggested changes for 10.4 to read "The treasurer is responsible for custody of the Fellowship's funds and for keeping financial records and for preparing the annual budget."
- b. In an effort to reduce the number of committees and increase their effectiveness, the recommendation was made to set up 5 broad committees with subcommittees who will report to a liaison Board member. 15.1 should read: ... The standing committees shall be
  1. Administrative (Finance, Building & Grounds, Publicity)
  2. Worship (worship team, music)
  3. Education (Re for children and teens, Adult RE)
  4. Membership (Membership, caring, social fun)
  5. Outreach (social justice)
- c. Wording in Article 16 was changed to read "... Proposed changes to the bylaws become effective by a simple majority vote of members at the annual meeting."
- d. Norma will make the changes and send the updated version to the Board for approval via email.

11. Membership Committee Report (Gisela)

Gisela shared her concerns that we have not been attracting visitors who might want to become members. It is of great concern as we are losing members who have moved away from Mt. Pleasant.

12. Other:

- a. Raeanne Lohner is willing to do the taping of the services. She will engage help from fellow students to convert the tapes to CDs.
- b. The garage sale has been moved to June 10 + 11<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds will go to purchase audiovisual equipment for the UU Center.

Next meeting will be Sunday, April 10, 2011 at 7 PM at the UU Center  
Meeting adjourned at 10:12PM

Respectfully submitted by Gisela Moffit (Secretary pro tem)