

Splinters from the Board - July 8, 2012
7:00 pm 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.

Present: Norma Bailey, Vicki Chessin, Ricky Courlander, Sarah Curry, Gisela Moffit, Chris Nace, Grace Rollins.
Guest: Justin Henry

1. Chalice was lighted as we read the Covenant aloud together.
2. Welcome (Grace) and check in with all.
3. Consent agenda – Minutes of June meeting accepted as presented
4. Treasurer's report (Ricky) – no report
5. Minister's report (Nana') – attached. Board Retreat scheduled for Sat. Aug. 11, 2012.
6. Worship Team report (Vicki) – No worship team meeting this month but a worship director's report was submitted by Dawn. The July and Aug. Worship team meetings will be combined at the Worship Team Retreat on Wed. Aug. 15 in Muskegon.
7. RE committee report (Grace and Justin) – Report of the meeting of June 28 was received. It was moved, seconded and approved to support the concept of a ¼ time RE Director to be hired to establish a high quality religious education program for the coming year. A hiring team has been appointed to include Norma, Chris, Grace and Gisela. Norma has the position ready to post tomorrow in several locations including our web site, The Morning Sun and by eNews.
8. Social action report (Norma) – Reminded us there is a crucial meeting for the Human Rights Ordinance tomorrow at 7pm at City Hall. It is expected the City Commission will pass the ordinance and we will host a brief celebration following at the UU Center. Alan Jackson will spearhead an Interweave program for the coming year.
9. Membership committee report (Gisela) – Guy Newland is the new chair of the Membership Committee. Gisela will be the board liaison. Gisela reported we have 2 new members and several additional people interested. The path to membership will be modified to include the orientation meeting for people considering joining, and then individuals may sign the book, vote and pledge whenever they are ready. There will be regularly scheduled "in-gathering" celebrations every 3-4 months to introduce and celebrate our new members as a part of our Sunday worship. Dates to be established between Membership Committee and the Worship Team.
10. Old business - A) Chris will be meeting with Mid Michigan Sign company this coming Tuesday to discuss the design and production of the sign over the Wisconsin Street door (Chris)
B) The storage units off the green room have been assembled by Tina Christy. One has been sent back because the materials of construction were not the quality we wanted and the Pulpit will also be sent back. It also did not meet Dawn's expectations. Tina will be asked to contact FedEx or UPS and have it returned. Refunds for both will be expected minus the cost of packaging and shipping them back. We will consider Mark Rehor to make a custom pulpit.
C) At the last Fellowship life meeting Dawn spoke about the areas with which she will need help while as she attends seminary training. This includes "Arms Around," pastoral care, and the phone system. Two new members volunteered to provide some training in active listening - (Deferred), Dawn's list of specific needs will be addressed more next month.
D) New phone system- phone donated by Ricky. Gisela will be getting us a phone number and

having the phone installed in the office –the program we are purchasing provides unlimited calls and voice mail. Gisela will check the voice mail up to twice a day and keep track of the number and nature of the calls to see what training we will need for others to help field calls. There are several locations where our published phone number needs to be changed. Gisela will take of those (Gisela)

E) RE Director concerns- response from RE committee was addressed earlier in the RE committee report (Justin & Norma)

F) Arm's Around Oversight team: – Ricky needs help. This team handles requests for assistance from congregants as needs come up and organizes meals with Nana'. Reformulation of this team will be addressed as we review committee structure at the upcoming Board retreat.

G) General Assembly Report from Dawn (Grace) - attached.

H) \$1000 Chalice Lighter Grant (Grace) - Guy took the lead to request a \$1000 for advertising and we have not heard back yet.

I) Ricky is not certain how much we raised for MUUSJN (Michigan UU Social Justice Network) with our special collection on June 24 yet.

J) UUFCM will support the Michigan Project for Informed Public Policy (MPIPP) training session chaired by Kristin Sheridan titled "Show Us." The board approved cosponsoring this in the fall by offering the use of the UU Center for the event location. When the ordinance passes tomorrow night, it should be easier/safer for people to speak out so an opportunity to learn how is timely (Norma)

K) Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) – (Vicki) now available on site – location to be determined and marked clearly. Fire extinguishers – there are three on site: one on the wall by the stairs to the restrooms, one in the kitchen and one in the front entry way to the Sanctuary. (We may need one in teen room upstairs) Notice of the locations of first aid equipment and fire extinguishers will be published for congregation's awareness. (Vicki)

11. New business – A) Review & renewal of Board Tickler Calendar (Norma) – deferred to the retreat

B) Need for Arms Around policy (Norma) – deferred to the retreat

C) Board Policy handbook (Norma)-Norma distributed a draft and asked we review it . Provide Norma with any feedback and additional stuff by July 16 so she can have a modified version ready for approval at the retreat.

D) Building & Grounds committee – need to recognize those who have been doing this and formalize for next year.

E) Contract(s) Renewal for paid professionals – Grace will establish dates to meet for evaluation and renewal of contract(s). Relative to feedback to Dawn: With the new demands on her time with seminary, it is ever more essential for Dawn to set limits with the always unexpected pastoral care issues of members. She needs to prioritize early preparation of upcoming worship services in order to provide reliable publication of the topic and maintain the quality she has provided up to now. Norma suggested her own approach using "let me think about that for a day and get back to you" when she is asked to take on new things. Arms Around requests go to Ricky, not to Dawn. We will try the "shared ministry" concept with an offer to provide training to volunteers in listening skills from our new member who does this professionally (Ashley Stevenson). Consider changing the name of the pastoral care committee to be more androgenous.

F) UU Archive Historian – Nancy White has assembled photos, notes, articles, etc., from 2000 to 2011. We need someone to take this over.

G) We need a new volunteer Coordinator – Danielle is leaving in August

H) Fellowship Life meeting topic for July – will have an open discussion providing prompts such as "I like that our UU Fellowship...", "I wish we...", and other thoughts or ideas.

Next meeting: Annual Board Retreat on Saturday, August 11th at Chris Nace's house 9 Am – 5 PM. Sarah Curry will be unable to attend in person, but may be able to Skype with us during critical portions.

Adjourned at 9:45PM –

Respectfully submitted by Vicki Chessin, secretary