

Agenda UUFCM Board of Trustees
November 13, 2011
7:05 pm at the UU Center

Present: Norma Bailey, Vicki Chessin, Alan Jackson, Grace Rollins, Rev. Dr. Nana' Kratochvil, Valerie Stephens

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

Meeting called to order by Norma Bailey at 7:05 pm

Agenda

1. Chalice (Grace) lighted as the Covenant was read together.
2. Welcome (Norma)
3. Consent agenda – Minutes of October meeting with correction to spelling of Valerie Stephen's name
4. Treasurer's report (Alan) attached – shows we are in deficit spending as expected in part due to one time payment for the year of our Fair Share donations to the UUA and Heartland District.
5. Minister's report (Nana') – attached – numerous pastoral care items required attention this past month. Dawn's extensive involvement in the urgent, complex needs of some congregants was very appreciated but also raises concerns that she is involved in more than we intend for her to do. The board began a discussion about just how similar needs of individuals could be handled in the future. It is recognized that there occurred this time a "perfect storm" of events never before occurring in the life of this congregation requiring much care from several members and Dawn at this time. The Board both wishes to recognize the time and energies Dawn spent meeting these crisis needs and also plans that Norma and Alan will meet with her to discuss our expectations of her as future situations arise.

Nana plans a sermon in January regarding issues of Native Americans in a white supremacist society. November 2012 will be planned to include many educational opportunities including a workshop by Rev. Grubbs, a number of movies and other possibilities to allow the congregation to explore the experience of being Native American within the dominant white culture.
6. Worship Team report (Vicki) – attached. The worship team is discussing ways to bring "different voices" to the sermon as well as readings. There is no money in the current budget for funds to bring other ministers to speak, but Nana' is willing to participate in a ministerial exchange with the newly ordained minister at the Midland UU Church for no fee. Mary Alsager and Dawn will cooperate on selection of a new sound system to recommend to the board next month.
7. RE committee report (Grace) – attached. The committee is considering a change back to the concept of a ¼ time RE director. Vicki and Alan will look for documentation from our earlier arrangement from several years ago.
The idea of a peace pole is again supported and the committee will present the details and options to the leaders and youth. Ideas for monthly themes will need to be coordinated with the Lead Teacher to see if they can be integrated without disrupting the curriculum.

8. Social action report (Norma) – The work on the Human Rights Ordinance is progressing. The steering committee has been expanded to 10. There will be canvassing of the community on November 19, and the ordinance will be presented to the Mt. Pleasant City Council on Monday November 28. Pam and Glenn Lewandos have agreed to maintain a Social Action bulletin board – plan to move it to the Fellowship Hall wall.

9. Oversight (building) report (Gisela's report) – Grace moved and Valerie seconded that the Board accept the recommendation of the committee to purchase and install the new sound reduction acoustical ceiling tiles for the cost of \$1800. The motion passed. Selection of the new furnace is still in the bid process. An urgent need for a higher stool in our handicap accessible bathroom exists and the board authorizes the purchase and installation ASAP – hopefully this week-Norma will contact Tina.

10. Membership committee (Gisela's report)- attached. Gisela has agreed to continue as Chairperson. She and Dawn plan to redesign the Orientation Meeting. The entire process of recruitment and retention is being reexamined.

11. Old business - Kirsten's contract has been signed with the added cap on her monthly hours at 25 to allow for the variance in our demands on her. (Norma), Calendar – attached. (Mary and Norma), committee structure was reviewed- attached (Norma), video license has been renewed but Alan will confirm whose name is on it. (Norma), disposal of red chairs is proceeding nicely with the help of Burnie Bonnell who has made this a project of hers and moved the chairs from Norma's garage to Margaret Nash's garage.(Norma), WCMU Public Radio request from Midland church (Mary)- report deferred . Adult RE (Norma) Joyce Henricks is willing to organize monthly sessions corresponding to the Virtues Theme currently being explored in Worship. Jim Dealing remains interested in repeating the Building Your Own Theology program in the Spring.

Results of October 22 all-church retreat (Norma) – report attached. As a result of the congregation's decision to designate our ½ tithe monies Grace moved, Alan seconded and the Board voted to expend the full \$500 to the CMCH Free Clinic and ½ the \$2035 to the Goodrow Fund at this time with the idea that we would invite someone from each agency to receive the check at a worship service where photos could be taken and press releases written to submit to the papers. Alan will arrange equal portions of the donation to the Commission on Aging to be made timed with each news bulletin produced by the Commission on Aging from now through the end of our fiscal year. Valerie will take responsibility to contact the Goodrow Fund and CMCH Free Clinic.

12. New business – We have received e-mails from Joel Welty asking us to “sponsor” a group “Transition Central Michigan”. It is unclear what it means to sponsor this organization-movement, but the Board asked Norma to indicate to Joel that he is free to invite all members to participate in this group and the building, when available, may be used for meetings (Norma), He also requested we recognize Evolution Week. This was supported. Dawn plans to use this theme in the worship that Sunday and we may be able to show the movie “No Dinosaurs in Heaven” as well.

Proposed Facebook policy from Guy Newland and Liz Busch was distributed to be discussed at the next meeting (Norma), Welcoming Congregation posters (2) have arrived – the Board authorized the framing so they can be displayed (Norma), Previously proposed policy regarding the use of the UUFCM name in letters to the editor was distributed and will be discussed at the next meeting (Norma).

The Board granted authorization for Norma to sign a letter of support for the human rights ordinance as the Board Chairperson of UUFCM and Nana' will also sign as our ¼ time minister (Norma).

Nana has received word there may be a pulpit and matching liturgical table located in Indiana available for the cost of moving it. The Board asked her to confirm its continued availability and what would be required to move it, then communicate with Alan who might be able to recruit his son and find the requisite truck or van to move it.

Noisy collection (Norma) – deferred to next meeting, Proposed Policy for submissions to the UUFCM web site and eNews from Kirsten was deferred to next meeting. There may be other areas we could include (Norma), Conversation about growth (all) – deferred to next meeting.

Norma shared a very gracious note of support and a gift of \$100 we received from Rev. Wayne Nicholson of St. Johns Episcopal Church. After discussion about its use, the Board agreed to make a donation to the local soup kitchen from the UUFCM to “feed the hungry” as suggested in the accompanying note. Norma will send a thank you. Vicki has a card she can use.

13. Adjourned at 10:06 PM

Next meeting will be at the UU Center at 7PM, Sunday, December 11, 2011.

Respectfully submitted: Vicki Chessin, Secretary