

UUFCM Board Minutes: June 12, 2011

Present: Mary Alsager, Norma Bailey, Alan Jackson, Nana' Kratochvil, Gisela Moffit, Valerie Stephens.

Guests: Chris Nace, Grace Rollins.

1. The Chalice was lighted and Mary called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM
2. Members of the Board and future members (Chris and Grace) checked in.
3. Minutes:
Since the Board Minutes of April were sent inadvertently, Norma will contact Vicki and have her send the corrected May Minutes via email to all Board members. Upon receipt, Board members should submit their approval via e-mail to Vicki.
4. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. Alan presented the YTD financial status and the expenditures from the capital campaign fund (attached).
 - b. Mary will send Alan the budget approved at the business meeting for reformatting.
 - c. In order to get credit for cash donations, it was decided that we provide collection envelopes. Gisela will take care of that and notify Dawn and Kirsten to publicize it.
5. Worship Team:
Nana' reported about the worship team meeting (attached) at which it was decided to have a thematic worship design next year. They suggest to use Rev. Dr. Galen Guengerich's "The Necessity of Virtue" as the basis for Nana' sermons and build an Adult Re program around it in order to deepen the experience. The team is also working on tweaking the worship service structure and exploring the possibility of creating and participating in a Lay Speakers' Bureau. The series on the virtues (wisdom, courage, compassion, justice, temperance, transcendence and hope) will not start until October since September is already filled with special programs (Sept. 11 – remembering 9/11; Sept. 18 – water service; Sept. 25 – 10th Anniversary and Building dedication).
6. RE committee:
Norma reported that the biggest problem we had again this year was the lack or inconsistency of attendance in the preteen RE program, which was very discouraging for Lewis and Marcie. Norma suggested having a parent meeting before the fall as well as changing format by creating a youth group, which will meet at a different time (perhaps Sunday evening). This would not be just a social group, but would use a special curriculum. Volunteers would be needed to lead this group. It was also suggested that we work together with the Midland UU fellowship for some RE programs. The Re committee purchased 3 new curricula for use at different levels. Childcare is confirmed for next year as all 4 current child care providers will stay on.
7. Social Action:
The Welcoming Congregation Committee organized an information meeting where 43 people from different faith communities and organizations showed up. A steering committee was

created with representatives from various faith communities whose task it is to devise strategies for the implementation of a human rights ordinance in Mt. Pleasant so that GLBT people are protected in the areas of employment, housing, and accommodations.

Nana' addressed social action choices. She spoke about three ways in which social action can occur in a fellowship and suggested that we have a congregational retreat in the fall to discuss the various possibilities and decide on the direction of our efforts.

One way of approaching social action is through donations. Currently, we are using a half-tithe split equally between the Goodrow Fund and the Malawi orphanage. It was suggested that we re-visit this choice at the congregational retreat in the fall because we do not get any feedback from Malawi. This money could be used for sponsoring a child or the college education of a student in a third world country. Other options would be to donate money to a new UU church in Kenya or support efforts in Transylvania.

Next to donations, there are social action programs, which contribute to changes in society. The implementation of the human rights ordinance, which we will be working on qualifies in this category.

The third social action choice is direct hands-on action where people help other people directly. Jim Dealing is interested in developing a program that is our own. Valerie is the liaison to the Social Action Committee. She will get in touch with him to find out what he has in mind.

Nana' suggested that we might want to follow up on ethical eating after this issue is voted on at the GA. Ideas from the conference could be discussed at the Board retreat.

8. Building Report:

The Board discussed the Report of the Oversight Committee (attached), which had been sent to the members prior to the meeting. There are 5 projects that we could/should undertake in the near future because they are necessary, solve annoying problems, and improve the quality of church life and/or aesthetics. They are: replacing the annex furnace (is 26 year old, inefficient and noisy), get acoustical ceiling tiles for the fellowship hall (reduce noise level), get the cracked joist over the sanctuary fixed, have the pillars and front wall scraped and painted, and turn the attic into a teen room.

Alan gave an update on the pledges for the Capital Campaign and the expenditures for the remodeling projects so far (attached). Total capital expenses were \$ 68,318.80 and donations (paid pledges, chalice lighter grant, donated piano) were \$ 62,875.00. The Board decided to pursue all 5 projects dependent on cost.

Gisela will ask for bids on the furnace replacement, the installation of ceiling tiles, repair of the joist, and the painting of the pillars and West wall.

Norma will get together with the RE committee to make plans for the attic remodeling.

Mary will write a follow-up on the chalice lighter grant for Heartland documenting in text and photos how we spent the money.

9. Committee Reports:

Dawn submitted a request to use half of her monthly phone bill towards her pledge. After a short discussion it was decided that Mary talk to Dawn about more details of her phone needs. Regardless of the discussion, it was decided that Dawn would submit her phone bills to the treasurer and be reimbursed rather than her suggestion of half the phone bill toward her pledge.

Norma moved and Alan seconded a motion that the fellowship purchase Wi Fi installation and monthly support for at least one year. The Board approved this as it considers internet access necessary in the building. Gisela will contact CMS re. costs.

10. Membership Committee:

Gisela gave an update on the recent membership orientation meetings. Due to vacation and graduation schedules, it was impossible to have a common meeting. So Gisela met with 3 potential members on two different days. She will arrange another orientation meeting for other interested people soon.

Gisela has volunteered to stay on as membership committee chair and plans to have the greeters be part of the membership committee instead of hospitality.

11. Dawn's Contract:

Mary had drawn up a new contract for Dawn. Since there was confusion re. the wording of several items, she will send a new version via email to the members for approval before her meeting with Dawn.

12. Other:

- a. Danielle Schmutz is willing to be the new volunteer coordinator.
- b. Aug. 13, 2011 will be the date for the annual Board Retreat. Chris Nace volunteered her house at 1115 Greenbanks Drive. Norma will inform Vicki re. date.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

The next meeting is on Sunday, July 10, 2011 at the UU Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Gisela Moffit (Secretary pro tem)