

UUCO Board meeting December 14, 2014

In attendance:

- Greg
- Luanne
- Vicki
- Walter
- Victoria
- Shaundi

Appoint process observer

Walter to make sure we are done with business by 2:00 pm

Approve minutes

Greg motioned to approve, Walter seconded, unanimous approval.

Financial update

We have sufficient funds and will find out from Sandra about pledges met. We are three months behind on budget statements; Cheryl is not able to provide us a financial update at this time, due to home reconstruction.

Report on Southern Regional Fall Multi-Track training (Sumatanga anyone?)

Shanda Taylor's discussion with Luanne stressed that the children's program was a huge selling point to this training. She and Kirina attended a workshop that generated some disagreement and conflict, and there seemed no productive way to address these. Victoria reports highlights from her participation (attached), which focused on a few key points from her workshop with Susan Smith's comprehensive presentation on stewardship. Most important point of this workshop, for Victoria, was about how to steward people to avoid burnout.

Victoria's sharing, particularly on fundraising, generated much discussion. We would like to revisit this using more details from the workshop, which all agreed would take us beyond 2:00 today. The group particularly expressed its interest in networking with Pat Smith, who has much wisdom and experience in her own lay-led congregation in Texas. We would like continued correspondence with Pat; perhaps Victoria can be a conduit for this.

New agenda item: **Discussion of an easy way to raise more funds for UU**

Walter brought up the often-overlooked opportunity to donate to UU when buying books, via the link provided in our newsletters. He indicated his interest in sending an email to the congregation to help them take advantage of the Christmas buying season, to generate funds for UUCO. Luanne motioned to approve this action. Greg seconded and all approved. *Victoria noted that by the time the entire congregation would be made aware, it might be close to the end of most folks' buying schedule.*

Discussion of When to present By-Laws Amendment to Congregation

We need to ask the Sunday services committee to determine a good date for a congregational meeting. This amendment will allow us to stagger terms for the board, so we have the continuity we need. This will give us the vision to plan for the future and retool what we are doing now to make it work better.

Discussion of findings from Cottage Dinners and next steps to take:

We discussed that the cottage dinners are great at collecting feedback from members who are likely most committed to our fellowship. They are also great at relieving social anxiety, particularly for those who like the intimacy of cottage dinners and eating in someone else's home! Luanne did emphasize that cottage dinners build community, and give or Board one or two ideas about what to do or improve on in the coming year.

From the cottage dinner discussion, we agreed we liked community building in particular, with no agenda. Victoria brought up the idea we could do a progressive dinner occasionally. We might be able to start this tradition, by beginning with members living near one another, going to one another's homes to get to know one another better. Natural neighbor groups could be Dan and Elaine, Mary, Ross, and Scotty are examples (though they are not being volunteered)! Walter, Copleys, Smith-Jenkins also live near one another. Another idea came up for community building, about carpooling, particularly since we have learned one new attendee would need a ride to get to UU.

From this founded an action question--**What could we put our name on in the community that we can all "gang up" on?** Habitat for Humanity was suggested. Other ideas?

New Business Item: possibly hiring service coordinator.

This would place value on what is actually done in making our services a reality and service to the community. Discussion went to the fact that we need someone to make Sunday services happen (logistically). It seemed to several board members this person would have to have special skills (an awareness of what it is to be UU, and yet not be a member). Discussion initiated by Walter—for us to conceive of a job description for a Sunday service—that would describe a logistics person. Good ideas, however, we ended up tabling the steps of action required to hire someone at this point.

Leadership Development Committee

Luanne asked who could serve on the leadership development committee, and decided it needed to be someone not on the board. We could consider asking Bethany to be persuasive in this regard; it is a professional skill of hers. Walter suggested Bethany could be called on to mentor Brittany W, and it was discussed that she would be able to work well with Terry or Dan. In considering possibilities, Luanne suggested that Susan Zachos would also be a good person to be on the committee.

Offices of concern at this time are Membership chair and religious education. Shaundi needs relief from membership chair, and we could use a new Sunday services trustee, and Cheryl as finance officer may wish to rotate out.

Sandra's work hours, her needs, and our appreciation

Luanne brought up that Sandra is short hours and needs more work to do. She is anticipating surgery in Jan (this brings up need for compassion committee to step in). Sandra's birthday is in December; we can celebrate with her and give her a gift to recognize our appreciation.

Last but not least: a sign out front

Walter, in spirit of getting financial support for a concrete item, brought up our need for a sign. He volunteered to do the research necessary, look at the communication budget and/or possibly test a fundraiser... it would be a clear goal for funds of perhaps \$2000?

Next meeting

With the holiday weekend (honoring MLK/ Robert E. Lee), the Board decided it was best to meet the 4th Sunday in January the 25th, after the service.

Meeting adjourned by 2:15 pm.