

February 2, 2015. Meeting commenced at 6:02 pm.

In attendance were Sandra Moss, Vicki Reithel, Greg Johnson, Victoria Smith, and Marge Holland.

1. We each checked in with a personal update.
2. Compassion team is really on the ball; some concerns were brought up about new member, David, and his need for reliable transportation to UU, especially since this community means a lot to him, and he is proving an important link for us.
3. Marge was appointed as process observer.
4. We'll approve the minutes via email, at Vicki Reithel's discretion.
5. Gail addressed the Board about where she is in her ministerial training. She has been having the opportunity to research our UU roots here in Mississippi, which once was home to a UU group in Meridian as well as an African American fellowship. Gail anticipates graduating in May. She shared that she is reading a book, "Sacred Service and Sacred Space," which is a book about being non-dogmatic. She wants all expectations to be clear, as this is the last semester of her ministerial training. She could be doing something like the OWL program or liberal campus ministry, but her call is not going to be ministering to UU. Once Gail completes her call, she will be doing community ministry, and outreach perhaps on campus. She'll be going through ministerial credentialing on April 8-9th. Gail will get her news almost immediately after the presentation of her work and passing her orals. It will prove important to have a congregation conversation about Gail's boundaries. She'll be becoming ordained through the call from our fellowship. We will go through the process of approving her ordination, and supporting her, but she will not be a minister to UU. We need to be clear that the process for our laity is a separate choice, we need to be able to chose anyone we want to serve us. We do have a say in her ordination, again because the call to ministry came through her work with UU. Gail's ordination will be celebrated here, and she would invite her faculty to come here and speak as part of the service and to celebrate afterwards.
6. Sandra presented us with the certification forms for UUA Congregational Update. We'll need to opt out of the congregational poll at this point, because it needs full membership. We'd like to participate in the poll the next time we are certified.
7. We had dialogue about asking Carleton Smith's upcoming visit to our congregation, he is the congregational life consultant for our region of UUA. He may be able to advise us on how to create structure for the dialogue about visioning. We may need more money in our budget for future speakers, and to ask Carleton if he will accept a speaker's fee.
8. Subject of having a donation box for UU supplies, and collect sometime this spring, perhaps March?

9. If we buy the play set for RE at the UU garage sale it will cost \$300. We need to ask RE staff where the play set should go; Deborah needs to be involved in the discussion. Some talk in the past was to have the play set out at the side of our church. Greg thought it would be distracting during service and also that there would be a liability if neighborhood children were to get injured playing on it. Greg asked if we could have a conversation on this, and simply ask if we can decide if it is a community play set or not. Victoria agreed to speak with Carla, as well as with Deborah and Emma.
10. Retreat. We scrutinized our calendars and decide that May 21-22 was the best date. Sandra will do a poll to see what folks are interested in doing, low ropes, high ropes, canoeing, archery ETC at Camp Lake Hopewell.
11. Visionary Process, has had one person interested and that is Elaine. We're going to table any decisions on how to recruit more people until after Carleton Smith's workshop on the 14th of February.
12. Leadership development committee (LDC). Susie Pettigrew has decided that she will be chair of this committee. Greg would like to touch base with her about how to proceed with this team. Cheryl Conlee needs to be allowed to step down from her role as treasurer, and Sandra is willing to take charge of treasury. LDC now is Susie, Brittainy Westman, Luanne Buchanan, Cris Serbeck. We need to look for ways that Carla can serve outside of RE.
13. New business was the announcement that Andrew's getting a raise.
14. Next meeting will be March 8th at 6:00 pm. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm