

UUCO Board Meeting

4/24/2019

Attendees: Walter Flaschka, Marge Holland, Marty Fino, Eunice Benton, Sandra Moss, Gail Stratton, Brittainy Westman, Dan Mattern, Dinorah Sapp

Recitation of and Re-commitment to the UUCO Board Covenant.

Approval of Minutes: Dan moved to approve the minutes from last meeting and Walter seconded the motion; motion was approved unanimously.

Stewardship Drive: Gail Stratton reported that members have pledged \$34,359 towards this coming fiscal year which is about the same as in recent years. She said that UUCO appears to be at a plateau and one suggestion for moving beyond this plateau, which may sound counter intuitive, is to give away more money. For example, giving away half the plate for the month to a partner organization. Eunice said that there is data from UUA that such a program actually increases monthly donations. In addition to the possibility of increasing donations, programs of this sort provide a weekly opportunity to talk about generosity as well as the realities of sustaining the congregation. On a related topic to pledge drives, Sandra reported that she attended a workshop several years ago that offered detailed suggestions for running fund drives; she will be passing that information to Gail. Dinorah also suggested several strategies for using social media during the next pledge drive.

Request for ministerial affiliation: Gail Stratton said that she would like to renew the ministerial affiliation agreement that was agreed upon last year. Eunice moved to renew the agreement, the motion was seconded by Dan; motion was passed unanimously. Eunice added that she felt it would be appropriate to inform the new Board about the affiliation agreement with Rev. Stratton so that future renewals could be done in a timely fashion.

Covenant Group: Gail proposed to start small covenants groups that would meet monthly. The groups would follow the Soul Matters' themes..

Expansion Committee: Eunice reported that she and Gail met with Iris last Saturday to discuss the UUCO's interest in purchasing her property (which was transferred to her by her step-father, Billy Smith, within the past year). Iris shared that she and her husband are intending to retire to the property for their retirement. Given her intention to live in Billy's trailer, Eunice asked if she would be willing to sell in the near future the area in front of Billy's residence that is next to the road; Iris said she would discuss that option with her husband. Board members discussed various options in the event that Iris were to agree to that proposal and if not.

Upcoming Annual Meeting:

Budget: Dan said that we are on track to stay within budget for this fiscal year. He reviewed issues surrounding the proposed budget to be presented at the Annual Meeting. Dan proposed to keep something in the budget for property expansion even though it does not look like we will be buying the Billy Smith property this coming fiscal year. The money could possibly be used for paying a professional space planner or other professionals needed to explore our expansion options. Dan questioned if the

proposed amount for Sandra's salary is sufficient and Sandra thought that it would be. Walter requested an increase in the communications budget that could be used for social media; the Board agreed. Dinorah said that given no one has volunteered to chair the Sunday Services committee that the Board may need to consider making that a paid position. The position is very time consuming and has weekly demands. Eunice agreed that Dinorah's suggestion is worthy of further exploration but, in the interim, a small group of congregation members would share the duties of the Sunday Services director. Eunice said that in conversation with Greg they felt it would be important for this group to meet with Dinorah before she leaves on sabbatical to map out the Sunday programs for the coming year. Dan reported that an anonymous donor has offered to fund purchase of the Soul Matters curriculum that will be used again for Sunday Services.

Monthly Reports: Religious Education. Brittainy said the committee is still looking for someone to replace Debra. Walter felt that placing an ad in the newspaper would be appropriate. Dinorah also suggested some local social networks that might be good resources. **Sunday Services.** Dinorah expressed some concern about safety surrounding Jaz's talk on Sunday since the topic deals with emotionally charged social issues. Eunice did not feel that safety would be an issue but noted that the greeters will be reminded to be especially observant of attendees and church safety guidelines will be reviewed. **Communications.** Walter reported that he met with Alan Leach who offered his home/backyard for UUCO small groups. Walter has also talked with Kate Lechler who will be taking over as the Communications chair. He has passed over to her his thoughts for how she might move forward with social media. Though he will be leaving the Board, Walter offered to still be available to help with Constant Contact or other issues that might come up from time to time. **Leadership Development.** Greg has worked diligently to recruit members to fill the five vacant slots. With the exception of Sunday Services, he has found members the fill the other four positions.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 20th, at 6:00 PM. (This meeting will also be a joint Board meeting with the old and newly elected Board members.)

Submitted by: Marty Fino