

November 13, 2016

UUFD Congregational Meeting Minutes

President Bill Lamb called the meeting to order at 11:15.

We have a quorum – 36 members present. Bill gave an opening reading

- Motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting.
 - Passes
- Motion to approve minutes from the May 2016 meeting:
 - Passes

Elect Nominating Committee

- Ashley Ford explained what the nominating committee does and proposed the slate of Mary VonZellen, Ed Miguel, and Cathy Schneider.
- Passes. Slate is approved.

Minister's Report: Rev. Linda Slabon

- Priorities:
 - Organized Ministerial Transition meeting with Rev. Lisa Presley.
 - Worship Associates training
 - Coordinators Ed Miguel, Irene Faivre, and Sue Willis have agreed to serve as coordinators. They will maintain the Sunday schedule and work with the Interim Minister (if there is one).
 - Maylan Dunn Kenney has agreed to set up an “altar guild” to beautify the sanctuary and change the seasons on the altar.
 - Currently there are 8 lay persons serving as Worship Associates. Mid-year meeting on January 29. Come apply to be a WA.
 - November 1 – Met with Steve Taylor & Ron McCutchan from Open Prairie UCC, Princeton, Il re: the development and experience of our Worship Associate program. We offered our assistance. They are going from a full time to a part time minister.
 - Music Program and Choir (Toni T.) Bonnie Anderson will continue in her role and will also take on choir. We are asking for new choir members.
 - Bridging & Coming of Age Schedule:
- Sundays in 2016
 - October 30, 3:00PM – 5:00PM. Vanstrom's presentation on spirituality and healing religion.
 - November 20, 1:00PM – 3:00PM. Interview Discussion topics #3 “Life & Death” and #4 “Spiritual Practice and Values”.

- December 18, 3:00PM – 5:00PM. Maddie's presentation on social justice.
- Sundays in 2017
 - January 22, 4:00PM – 6:00PM, with Pizza. Interview Discussion #5 “Sacred Teachings” and #6 “A Ministry of Justice”.
 - February 19, 3:00PM – 5:00PM. Gabriel's presentation on UU history.
 - March 19, 3:00PM – 5:00PM. Josh's presentation.
 - April 23, 3:00PM – 5:00PM. Rehearse your finished credo statements.
 - May 14, 10:00AM. Flower Communion service with Bridgers & CoAers Ritual and Celebration.
- Intern minister Allen Harden (Ruminations, Hopes, Plans, and perhaps some Deep Thoughts ...)
 - Personal goal focused on his own formation as a minister.
 - Willing to do anything for UUFD that a minister would do.
 - Finding ways to help UUFD cross borders (e.g. racial borders), help understand others.
 - Can do dinners, diversity programs at NIU.
 - Hopes to further Black Lives Matter
 - There may still be resistance to this – meeting about this after service on November 20.
- WomanSpirit Conference February 3 – 4, 2017 and Emma's Revolution Concert February 4.
 - Just Women: Just World, with Sister Simone Campbell, Justice advocate, attorney, activist. For information and registration, see www.womenandreligion.org.
 - Emma's Revolution Concert, Saturday, February 4, 8:00PM at UUFD. \$22.00 in advance, \$25.00 at the door, \$18.00 student or low-income.
 - Reserve your tickets via office@uufdekab.org or call 815-756-7089 or see www.revolution.com.
 - Linda has two copies of the available workshops at conference, they were passed around for viewing during this meeting.
 - We have committed 200 tickets.
- Ministry Council Leadership and Rev. Linda and Toni's final worship service and ceremony of separation
 - Ministry Council work and decisions
 - Pam Wicking off in January – Thank you! Recruit a new member per our process.
 - Clark Neher, chair, will connect with President Elect Jack Lazzara.
 - Diane Johns and Mike Clifford will assist with staff support and supervision.
 - Rev. Linda & Toni's final Worship Service
 - Date – July 16, 2017.
 - Farewell team leaders: Diane Johns and Pam Wicking
 - What Toni and Linda want:
 - Listen, love and help each other.
 - Do not give up, even when it's hard.

- Cake and nice cards that thank us for our 26 years of professional service and trying to do our best.
 - Donations to the Building Our Future campaign and world peace.
- Building Our Future campaign fund
 - Goal is to raise funds to update building, create a reserve fund, and pay staff fairly,
 - Pledges to be paid over a three-year period.
 - Different from annual pledge campaign for operating budget.
 - Goal is \$350,000.00.
 - Team members: Wayne Albrecht, Mike Clifford, Ed Miguel, and Beau Anderson.
 - Accomplishments to date
 - Set priorities
 - Training
 - Drafted materials
 - Conducted silent campaign
 - Contacted those who might pledge substantially – hope for 1/3 of the goal from silent campaign.
 - We have almost \$60,000.00.
 - We should be able to raise \$120,000.00 to \$180,000.00
 - There is a lot we can do with \$120,000.00.
 - BOF team will talk to Board to determine which of three priorities to begin.
 - List of donors so far \$60,000.00.
 - Commitment forms handed out to congregation.
 - Beau Anderson presented UUA Giving Program
 - Umbrella giving – Make one gift to UUA and let them know how it is to be given.
 - Types include cash, stocks, mutual funds, annuities.
 - Costs nothing – a service of UUA. See www.uua.org/giftplanning.
 - Wayne Albrecht presented Reserve Fund
 - One example of building issue on the horizon is the rooftop furnace.
 - Parts are hard to find.
 - A new furnace will cost over \$10,000.00.
 - Reverend Linda presented Staff
 - It's difficult to determine how to move forward with regard to staff
 - Need to work and come together to support staff needs and salary.
 - Struggles with money is a common experience for congregations.
 - Linda & Toni's pledge is earmarked for staff.
 - We can take steps together to move into the future.
 - BOF Campaign will end 03/31/2017.
 - Contacts will be made until the end date.

Treasurer's Report from Lon Clark

- Lon will contact Spring 2016 Champions.
- We are doing well financially
- Charged those present with a challenge: Think of someone who is not here today. Connect with them, and see if they have a dream (thoughts) for support of UUFD.
- Lon is not a worried about deficit as he was at the last Spring Congregational meeting.
- As savings account was opened at 2nd National Bank with \$12,000.00 for Building Our Future.
- Motion to accept Treasurer's report, seconded
- Motion approved and budget approved for the next six months.

Religious Education report from Gladys Sanchez

- Video presented of Kara Becker sharing a poem.
- Gladys sent around a volunteer sheet
- Slides presented
 - Five Pillars of RE
 - Mission Statement
 - Shared email address and phone number
 - Volunteer support needed for successful RE program
 - Program components described
 - Faith in Action
- In the Name of Justice event was held
 - Gladys received a grant for this event
 - It remembers lives lost to violence
 - May be presented to City Council
 - Hope to be included in DeKalb strategic plan
- Hope Haven event in January 2017.
- Moving forward
 - Volunteer
 - Issue letters
 - Attend events

Transition Team report from Virginia Wilcox

- Facilitate transition over next two years
- Discussions after services
- Discussions with Matt Johnson, UU minister in Rockford
- Surveys
- Lisa Presley providing support
- Today: A short survey. Place anonymous form in green box.
- Next: Present finding to Board.

Dave Becker – public comment

- It is important to be a part of UU now, at this point in time. Some of our principles may be more important now
- We are challenged now to act with love
- Struck by white, rural men voting for Donald Trump, and wondering “What can I do to break through the gaps?”
- I want to learn about the president-elect.
- We need to hope for the best and prepare for the worst.
- We need to help keep each other safe. How do we learn to do this?
- Worst fear – cabinet members histories do not bode well for the future.
- Asked for all of us to research the members of the Trump cabinet and how to keep each other safe
- Resistance movement? Do we need to look at this?

Motion made to close the meeting. Seconded. Meeting closed.

These minutes submitted by Annemarie Clifford