

November 17, 2013 UUFD Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m. There were 41 signed members present, which was sufficient for a quorum. After President Sue Willis shared a brief reading, the agenda for today's meeting was approved. The minutes from the May 19, 2013 semi-annual congregational meeting were also approved.

Treasurer's Report

In Treasurer Beau Anderson's absence, Kathy Clark gave his report, which was handed out to members. She asked if we are confident in the pledge amount (\$85,000) listed. Sue reported that it's really only about \$75,000 so far and we need to raise more. A discussion was held about the fact that we no longer have emergency funds. That money went to pay the architect. We have never used the credit line from the loan we obtained for this purpose. After a question about the status of the architect pledges, Dan Kenney said he would get with Bonnie to track this information and report back to the congregation.

Long Range Planning Commission Report (Copies were available)

Beth Schewe gave an overview of the task given to the committee, which met weekly for three months and worked many additional hours, as well. The process consisted of three phases.

- History and Values (The latter consists of: Community, Diversity, Democratic Process, Freedom of Spiritual Exploration, Sustainability, Self-Examination)
- Presence and Awareness
- Vocation

Six Coffee Chats were held after services with questions developed by Dorothy Coleman. Materials gathered were used to create dot voting held in October. Dorothy discussed recommendations made regarding Stewardship. The first is to create sustainable & staff systems to support UUFD into the future.

- The board needs to create a more sustainable fundraising system, to develop a multi-year staffing plan to anticipate future needs, and to ensure transparency.

The second is to create a nurturing and productive and aesthetic environment.

- In the first quarter of 2014, we need to create a Capital Campaign, beginning with the kitchen area as Stage 1. Stage 2 will encompass RE and the minister's office. Stage 3 will include the restrooms and main fellowship hall areas.
- We will prioritize being green, with members doing the work whenever possible.

Dave Becker talked about Lifespan Faith Development, RE for all ages; children, youth and adults. Three goals were determined.

- UUFD (Board, Leadership Council, DRE, LFDP coordinators and UUFD volunteers) will work to create and sustain a strong volunteer program within one year. We all share.
- In January 2014, the Board will appoint an adult coordinator to coordinate deepening groups and more.
- To ensure RE groups are sustainable; the Board will assess the structure to determine that they are still relevant. We should engage in conversation about our structure.

Carey Boehmer spoke about goals for Congregational Support and Development.

- Foster connection by organizing and maintaining a Circle Dinner program
- Promoting and supporting fun nights, retreats and more that strengthen interactions

Jenny S. gave the aspirations of Social Justice and Outreach.

- Volunteerism- The Board will establish a part-time paid volunteer coordinator and request that all members fill out a time and talent form.
- Outreach, which has these goals for improving visibility: UUFD branding, advertising or direct mail campaign, radios spots.

Tom S. spoke about Worship and the Arts goals.

- The Leadership Council will hold 1-3 multicultural events with community partners
- Annual choir festivals and other musical events and capital campaign for the new piano
- Annual UUFD Open House worship service
- Worship Associate feedback and utilizing UUA and MA Region resources

Accolades go to the Long Range Planning Committee for their enormous amount of work in a short time. The Board already voted to accept the committee recommendations. They may not be able to do all of them (right away, anyway).

A motion was proposed to establish a Capital Campaign for the next phases of the building renovation as funds allow. The proposal passed.

A motion was proposed to establish a Capital Campaign for a new piano, with a price from five to twenty-five thousand dollars. It will be in the used category and probably around fifteen thousand. The motion passed.

Kathy Clark resigned as At-Large Board Member and we need to replace her. Frank O'Barski was nominated to fill out Kathy Clark's one and a half year term. After a brief discussion, nominations were closed. Frank was elected.

Nominating Committee:

Dan Kenney discussed the *Nominating Committee*. Susan Dorbeck, Beth Schewe and Bill Lamb have been asked and have agreed to serve. These three potential members were confirmed by the congregation.

Remarks from the President:

Sue is still concerned about finances. We're short of where the pledges should be. We could do much if we have the resources. We have done much so far. We're hopeful for fund-raising. We ARE UUFD.

DRE Report:

Dave Becker sent around sign-up sheets for volunteering. He spoke about upcoming community tree-trimming at Brookfield Zoo, RE potlucks, and opportunities to assist with the children's RE program. We have lots of resources available for volunteers to use. Dave announced his resignation from RE Director, due to an opportunity available which will tie in with his doctoral work. He will be here until January. We are looking for a replacement and Dave will help the new director. He thanked everyone who's assisted him with the work he's done.

Minister's Report (Hard copies were available)

Rev. Linda is leading a deepening group around "Science and the Search for God", by Gary Kowalski. Her report is divided into three areas: Re Director, Worship and Adult RE Development, and Long Range and Strategic Plan, Building Renovation and Capital Campaign. She read the announcement of the RE Director's position posting and job description and the date due. She asked members to think about and reach out to anyone they know who might be interested. We are excited about the Sunday March 30th Choir Festival. There are four or five choirs expected and up to ninety voices combined. Thank you to Toni for organizing this and for many dedicated years of service as choir director.

President Sue Willis gave a closing reading and the meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Schneider