

UCC
BOARD OF STEWARDS MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2009

Attending: Terre Balof, Rita Beasley, Eric Gee, Barbara Lent, Brian Stevens, Lisa Poe and Kandy Fielo

Eric read the opening remarks. We read the Board covenant together, followed by individual check in.

Old Business:

Montana had distributed the minutes from our last meeting through the Yahoo Group. The July 15, 2009 minutes were approved with the correction of a few typos.

Kandy Fielo asked to stop by the meeting to share a few ideas about membership but said she'd enjoy staying for the meeting.

Minister's Report: Terre sent out her written report in advance of the meeting. She said the church had a long-term rental opportunity with a local sect of Islam who is looking for a place to worship. This is a group of Muslims who are a minority within Islam and is a much more moderate and peaceful group than some others within their denomination. This group usually has between 45 to 50 persons attend worship and they have outgrown the living rooms where they had met previously. They cannot afford to pay a lot at this time, but if their congregation grows with the availability of a larger worship space, that could change. As a small denomination, we have some commonalities. The group was very gracious and excited about the opportunity, especially with the start of Ramadan this week. Their request would be to use the sanctuary on Friday and Sunday evenings starting around 4 P.m. and then one Saturday for the end of the holiday. Terre had checked and there is no conflict with our church calendar after this coming Saturday.

Additional discussion focused on the risks, if any, our Building Use Policy, and the Social Justice implications. It was decided that we would approve it on a trial basis through Ramadan only after checking with our insurance carrier. We will revisit this at our September meeting, which will give us some time to consider other related issues, e.g. the possibility of outside negative reaction, the terms of a long-term relationship, etc. We are interested in being supportive but feel we haven't really had time to think thoroughly about this and discuss the potential consequences. We will need a sincere desire on each of our parts to build a relationship of trust if this is to go forward for a long-term commitment.

Eric is going to address the issue of the Alcohol Policy with a committee pulled together for this purpose.

Katie Wheeler has at step down from the Committee on Ministry. Cindy White has been suggested as a possible replacement.

Terre suggested it was time to update our photo directory.

Terre mentioned that she may be invited to serve as the T.J. District's Ministerial Settlement Representative. She is interested but needs to find out more details re; the amount of time and work involved.

Leadership Committee: Rita reported that they had a great retreat led by Elaine Kiziah. They set three goals, though they may need refining to be clearer. There was also concern that three goals may be too much. Decision-making, though crucial to the congregation, did not stay on LC's list because that's being addressed by an ad hoc committee. The Board goals were posted at the LC retreat. It was recognized that the LC can have narrower goals than the Board's but they should be compatible.

Eric said that he felt much of what goes on this year will focus on reestablishing ourselves as a community. Next year may be when we really try to focus on social action. We are more inwardly focused this year and establishing our foundation.

Rita said that all three of the LC's goals relate to integrating, involving, and welcoming new members. She said the Leadership Council may need to look at the Board goals again but didn't have time to do that at the retreat.

Kandy Fielo addressed the Leadership Council's #1 goal and asked that the Board help deliver the message to our congregation that it is everyone's responsibility to greet visitors. Kandy said we don't focus enough on returning visitors, and one or two greeters is not sufficient to do this. We have averaged one to three visitors per week this summer and we do well at immediate follow-up. The Gold Name tags indicate a returning visitor. We call and send letters to first and second time visitors but need to be more vigilant with those returning a third plus time.

Kandy's idea is to ask folks to focus only on socialization during the first 20 minutes of coffee hour-no church business, which tends to isolate veterans from newcomers. It was also suggested that Board members be more a part of the service, as we did in the past, and identify themselves as such and making an effort to speak to visitors.

This idea seemed acceptable to everyone present. It was also suggested that adult RE is a good way to attract and keep visitors.

Finance Report: Brian gave the financial report. Income for July was very poor, though it has appeared inflated in the past due to a very generous July donation annually by a member. We will cash in a CD in the near future to increase our cash on hand. Our surplus is \$270.00 less than shown due to funds being used for the Appreciation Cafes.

We may need a new Coordinator for the Yard Sale. Barbara asked if all FY09 pledges had been paid. Brian said bills had been sent to individuals who were significantly short but thus far, had not netted a

great response. Brian suggested we probably need to bring the fact that we are behind in pledges to the congregation's attention.

The Decision-making Committee has done lots of work. They are developing a recommendation to be presented to us and to focus groups with possible implementation in December. They would like to test the process in January with some actual decisions. A lot of education will need to be done around this. The hope is to formally approve this new process at our April, 2010 Congregational meeting. We scheduled the first focus group meeting for their presentation to the Board for Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at 7 P.M.

Eric thanked Rita and Brian for their hard work and participation in developing the proposed Decision-making Process.

We reviewed pending items. Right Relations met last week and addressed issues. They are considering a workshop on handling conflict. Sharon DeFur is hosting a gathering on 8/24/09 to begin looking marketing /publicity issues. Sharon said they have drafted the initial purpose statement. She does not wish to chair this.

There has been a recommendation that UCC get a credit card with Michelle and Susan as the authorized signers for use in obtaining repairs or other items on short notice. The proposed limit is \$2500.00. We would like to avoid having staff use their own credit cards. Use of this card would follow internal fiscal procedures. We can discuss controls for this next month.

Bob and Terre are working on an emergency plan.

Prior to concluding the meeting, we did a process review. A suggestion was made to get the agenda and any accompanying reports out earlier to allow for review. We did a nice job of renegotiating the agenda.

Eric gave a reading to close. The meeting adjourned around 9 p.m.

Prepared by: Lisa Poe

September 25, 2009