

UUCM Board Meeting October 17, 2017

Attending were President Sue Raufer, Vice President Denise Rodgers, Secretary Sheila Eby and Trustees Jim Abramson, Doug Anderson, Peter Arian, Kitty Cullina-Bessey, Ellen Fenster-Kuehl, Erin Krupa, Steve Mintz and Laura Wilson. Also in attendance were Reverends Anya and Scott Sammler-Michael and guests Teresa de Sousa, Johanna Foster, Jerry Fried, Nick Lewis and Steve Ramshur. Guests represented the Social Justice Coalition.

Consent Agenda

There were no objections to the consent agenda.

Erin moved to adopt September minutes. Kitty seconded the motion, which passed.

Co-minister's Report

Erin moved to convene a task force led by Secretary Sheila Eby to determine how we are saving and making available the minutes and other documents the board engages in. Peter seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Social Justice Coalition

The congregation has been working for years on widespread social issues, but different groups have been involved and they've not always coordinating with each other. These organizations now want to unify their work, organizing, educating and acting in an interfaith way through community partners as well as the congregation. Three layers will be involved – the membership body, the social justice coordinating team and the chairs of that team. Undoing Racism, the Green Sanctuary and the Rainbow Coalition, among others, will be included.

- It was observed that, at times, we will need to determine whether the group is acting on behalf of the congregation or on behalf of the organization within the congregation.
- The board will have the power to veto efforts the organization wants to do.
- Rev Scott noted that this group will help us find disciplined focus, and encourage us to see our work as addressing that focus.
- Ellen said we need to understand where the group's responsibility ends and where the congregation's responsibility begins when things like money are involved.

Ellen moved to create the proposed Social Justice Coalition as a standing committee of the UUCM, replacing the Peace and Justice Coalition as the body responsible for identifying and organizing social action opportunities at the congregational level and functioning according to the Social Justice Coalition Charter dated October 17, 2017. The motion was seconded by Erin. Jim was also in favor of the motion, but asked that we amend the charter to state that prior to any action the coalition takes in the name of this congregation, the group will consult the Executive Committee of the UUCM. All voted in favor of the motion, which carried.

Council on Ministries

Sue said we must institute a Council on Ministries. The council is extremely important, deserving our best and brightest. It was disbanded during the interim, with the understanding it would start up again with the arrival of the new settled minister. The bylaws describe the selection process used to build this group. All of us should think about sending a few names to Sue and Denise by midnight Friday. We will compare that to the list the Reverends have offered with a

view to gaining a representative group. They should be truth tellers, but not bomb throwers. They should also be people who know how to hold a confidence. We should stagger the terms.

October Retreat

On October 28, there will be a morning and afternoon session for the board. We want to get any unwritten expectations on the table, understand what we're expecting of each other, how we each contribute toward our passion and where the gaps are.

Board Table

We discussed the Board Table, where congregational questions can be received. Do we want to grow? Are we welcoming? We could use the board table to present a specific question that has a larger focus. For example, how do we envision our congregation as we gain new members? Sue pointed out that we don't need to respond to each question. But we should acknowledge we got the question. "Your comments have been posted to Kona for all to see."

TCongregational questions received at Board table. It is a question the board brings to the congregation for reflection. Do we want to grow? Are we welcoming? Gives the board leverage to raise new possibilities based on what the congregation does. Could use the board table to present a specific question that has a larger focus. We could lead change by posing the right questions. For example, how do we envision our congregation as we gain new members? Sue pointed out that we don't need to respond to each question. But we should acknowledge we got the question. "Your comments have been posted to Kona for all to see."
We should frame questions positively: What brought you here today?

Old Business

Steve created a list of participants to work on the Installation, representing different functions within the congregation. Twenty-five people are receiving letters asking them to be involved.

Task Force Reports

Communications

- We met once and articulated three primary goals: Take in info, share it, and design a system that lets leaders communicate easily and effectively.

Financial Stability

- A seven page outline has been drafted

Organizational Structure

- We're writing an email for the congregation saying we're reaching out to committees, then following up to ask how they function, what they do, where they are right now and who they report to.

Strategic Planning

- More to come

Denis moved we go into exec session; Erin seconded the motion and the session began. Klitty moved that we exit executive session; Ellen seconded the motion, and the session ended.

Sue motioned to adjourn and we did so at 9:50

