

Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Board of Directors' Meeting
May 18, 2011

PRESENT:

Beth Reed
Irene Blakely
Diana Granger
Warren Kehn
Jan Perkins
Andrea Haugo
Erin Tenney
Patty Dufek
Brenda Brouder

CHECKING IN:

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 by outgoing co-chair, Beth Reed. After the lightening of the chalice, and a reading on patience, new members were welcomed and time was spent catching up on what each member had been doing. Warren has been entertaining his brother which typically includes lively exchanges about politics and religion. Diana visited family in southern Wisconsin and Michigan. Beth is involved in the many activities which are tied to the end of the school year. Andrea will be working at the Great Lakes Visitors' Center this summer and has been working as a substitute teacher most recently. Jan has been fully certified as a Healing Touch practitioner and is close to resolving problems with her blood pressure and resident bats. Patty accurately diagnosed her husband's incipient Lyme Disease and he is receiving treatment. She is also organizing the June picnic which will take place June 12 at 10 am. Erin has been kept busy with her midwifery practice. Brenda's family is well and Brenda is looking forward to having Emma home more, though her days will be more hectic. Irene surprised all of us by announcing she has purchased a house near Milwaukee which her son will use temporarily as a home office and in which she will be able to stay and be closer to her grandchildren.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the April 20 UU board meeting were approved with one minor correction.

TREASURER'S REPORT and BUDGET

Warren reported that as of the meeting time, \$16,281.67 has come into fellowship from contributions of record, offerings and fundraising efforts. The expenditures to date have been \$11,849.80 with most of our yearly expenses already paid out. The 800 dollars apportioned for conferences and workshops was not utilized. More effort needs to be made to encourage members to attend these events. New board members asked questions on budget categories and spending priorities and time was spent explaining why a yearly budget surplus was vital to the fellowship's ongoing security. The treasurer's report was approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Overview of Board Responsibilities and Annual Calendar

Beth described the ongoing projects, board responsibilities and relevant timelines. Among the topics presented were:

- a. Brenda passed out a handout she had prepared which defined the different membership categories and the board distributed the rationale for having membership distinctions.
- b. Notebooks for new members and updated member contact sheets were given to board members.
- c. Brenda informed new members about the software online system she uses called Congregation Builders.
- d. There was discussion about the purpose and organization of CUUF committees and how board members acted as liaisons to these committees. There will be additional discussion on just which member will work with which committee at the next meeting.
- e. New board members were given copies of the membership survey. It is important to understand the stated priorities of the membership so we, as a board can be more in tune with the wishes of the majority and sensitive to the concerns of all members.

2. Farewell to outgoing board members, Beth Reed and Irene Blakely

All the remaining board members and the members beginning their service thanked Beth and Irene for a job well done. Saying good-bye was sad because all of us enjoyed working with Beth and Irene very much. The only tangible gifts given to our former leaders were mugs. There was a feeling that the board needed to come up with guidelines on recognition awards and gifts since there have been inconsistencies in what was bestowed and for what type of service. Beth and Irene left the meeting at this point.

NEW BUSINESS

1 Who does what?

The board decided to retain the administrative option of having two co-chairs. After considerable discussion, Andrea Haugo and Diana Granger agreed to serve in those roles. The defining reasoning for that selection was that it is helpful for a member to have served on the board prior to becoming its co-chair. Warren who was re-elected to

the board agreed to remain the board treasurer. Jan will be the new board secretary with Erin as back up. Patty and Ed will be members at large for the present.

2 When and Where Should the Board Meet?

Since the majority of the board members live in Ashland, it seems more logical to hold our board meetings in that community. Because the Vaughn Library no longer allows groups in the library after 8pm, we cannot meet there. Jan offered to look into other venues, perhaps a meeting room at the hospital. For the June 15 meeting, the board will still meet in the Washburn library. The board agreed to continue with the third Wednesday of the month as our designated meeting. Whether the board needs to meet in July will be decided at the June meeting.

3 What next?

The first major task of the new board will be to set spending priorities and compute the fiscal needs for the next operating budget. Last year's allocated amounts and how much was actually expended in a given category will provide guidance. In some cases we may want to allocate money to projects which we would like to see get done but which have not been acted upon in the past. Andrea will be conducting the June meeting so email her with your ideas for agenda topics

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will take place on Wed. June. 15 at 7:00pm, downstairs in the Washburn Library. The May meeting concluded at 9:40.