

**UU Board Meeting
November 14, 2012**

Board members in attendance: Ed, Patty, Warren, Erin, Mark, George, Jan, Ashley
Brenda (administrator)
Special guests: Kristin Quinlin, Mary Wichita

Chalice lighting and Opening reading at 0702

Minutes reviewed and Warren made a motion to approve as written; George seconded.

Treasurer's report: Warren says offerings are coming well; pledges are coming in slowly: 9,210 pledged currently (which is ½ our budget). Recommendations are that pledges should be up to 90% ideally. Mark mentioned that we may want to renew our request and bring it up an next service and put something in the next newsletter. Updated report reviewed.

Mark made a motion to approve treasurers report and Ashley seconded.

- 1) Ongoing business: Welcoming Congregation; Mary Wichita
Specific designation that UUA grants when we have met the requirements in three areas: a) education, b) congregational life and 3) community outreach. We have to address each area, have a fellowship vote to approve and then apply for designation.
In 2006, we did officially take a stand against the gay marriage amendment in WI.
Mary discussed how it's not automatic that LGBT individuals feel welcome in our fellowship. Deliberate outreach is important.
Messiah Lutheran church with Nancy Hanson (started PFLAG in Washburn) are pursuing this designation as well and have had very positive feedback. The committee currently consists of Mary and Kristin. There is guidance for putting welcoming language in service, on web-site, by-law changes etc. Timeline uncertain; much of this could be done by spring annual meeting and use that time to seek a vote of support from the fellowship.
David has identified two services that he would like to see; one with Nancy Hanson and another woman who present on LGBT issues. There are other ideas for this as well.

Brenda raised the question- as we being exclusive in our inclusion, as in focusing on only one group of people to explicitly do outreach to. We noted that examples of the welcoming language includes many groups. George wondered if by being welcoming, we are excluding those who may not feel comfortable with this. Mary discussed how designating a place as welcoming creates a "safe place" for those who are LGBT and members of other groups to whom we are doing outreach. Kristin reflected on this as an extension of our principles as UU people. Ed clarifies that this designation would reflect

on the entire fellowship and that all would still be welcome, regardless of personal feelings about the issue.

Brenda reflects that in the past, when there is an issue that someone wants the fellowship to support, the board may or may not choose to stand behind it. A recent example is voter registration. However, that is political example, and this is, according to Mark, a non-controversial issue that simply extends our current principles and foundational beliefs.

Erin stated that it's important to be proactive about our welcoming stance and to make a stand for our beliefs of equality. There are many things we could do better in terms of being inclusive- and this is a great place to start, and may help us to move forward in other arenas.

Ashley stated that she feels similarly, and that as a human rights issue it's important to reach out to all marginalized populations.

Ed proposed the following: The CUUF board supports an initiative by members to begin the process of becoming certified by the UUA as a Welcoming Congregation. Mark made a motion to support this initiative. Erin and George seconded this.

2. Lending library, PR and social media positions are still open. Mark made a suggestion that our contribution to the area reports is too long. Others agreed, and future bits may be shortened.

3. Parish nurse; Jan Perkins is introducing the concept of parish nursing, and has found several articles regarding UU and parish nursing. Approx. 20 congregations nationally have parish nurses. They do B/Ps and organize health fairs etc. Jan is specifically interested due to her time on the caring committee and saw that health professionals could be of service to our congregation members. Some examples include transporting/advocating at health appointments. These kinds of activities can help support each other in times of need. All of us agreed that this would add a wonderful aspect of care and depth to our support. Erin spent time with Esther Pufall who is the Parish Nurse at Saron Lutheran and reported that it was a valuable service. Jan discussed Deep Listening as a way to support other's mental health. Other ideas include support groups for special situation.

The board enthusiastically supports this idea and would like to see this move forward.

4. UU District Consolidation- (to consolidate 3 districts) UUA have offered to send someone to come and discuss this with our fellowship if we want more information. There is also information on line. Some ideas they may want to do this is to create consistency, to consolidate resources and simplify (ie: Wisconsin is split between

districts). Ed will propose to worship committee that we may want a speaker. It makes sense to do this before the annual conference. They will vote re: consolidation at Annual Conf. in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and we would like to have a representative present to vote.

5. Phone listings; nothing has happened with this.

6. iPod recordings; Ed has been taking care of getting recordings to Travis for editing and put it on website. He asked for feedback and all agree that we want the main speaker talk ONLY (not the joys & concerns and other extras).

7. Jan from worship committee; tentatively planning Annual meeting for our fellowship for April 14, 2013. Ed confirmed that this is indeed the case and we will plan on the meeting after the service, as usual.

8. Ed has old sound system (which does not work properly) in his basement and wonders if he can dispose of it. Someone offered him \$20 and we support him passing it along.

9. Ed proposed the strategic planning committee to meet for the first time early Dec. Mark noted that Kevin is not available until after Jan 1st, so it may be that we put off the first meeting. After discussion, we decided to wait until the new year. Other fellowship member that has expressed interest is Henry Quinlin, Mary Wichita (depending on schedule) and Kevin Stranburg have offered their assistance. In regards to board participation; a BOD member should not chair the committee but participation is open. BOD members that are interested include Ed, Mark (and others?)- who would be willing to be a liason.

Next BOD meeting Weds Jan 16th, 2013 7 pm Sand Island

Ed motioned to adjourn at 8:30. Patty seconded.