

Ministry Team Council Meeting November 15, 2007

Members:

Ex officio: John Davis, Convener, and Kay Chandler, Secretary
Worship and Programs – Rev. Arvid Straube, Sharon Wylie
Denominational Affairs – Rev. Arvid Straube
Generosity – Rev. Arvid Straube, Thelest Stewart, and Iris Masotti
Lifespan Religious Growth and Learning – Liz Jones and Betty Grant
Social Justice – Rev. Kathleen Owens, Sue Haskin
Community Life— Rev. Kathleen Owens, Suzette Southfox, Steve Howard
Caring—Rev. Kathleen Owens, Peggy Holl
JTW—Tony Brumfield

Attending:

Rev. Arvid Straube,
Rev. Kathleen Owens
Liz Jones
John Davis
Iris Masotti
Steve Howard
Kay Chandler
Ardath Schaibly
Sharon Wylie
Ellie
Thelest Stewart
Sue Haskin
Suzette Southfox
Tony Brumfield
Guest Presentation: Marge Wurgel

Absent:

Beverly Joy, Betty Grant, Dan Heiserman

Check in

Members and guests conducted a brief check-in.

Earth-Friendly Kitchen Policy

Marge Wurgel presented the earth-friendly kitchen policy that has been under development. She told us that changes to the kitchen policy are designed to enable us to live out our commitment to the environment and minimize waste. She asked for comments and questions from the MTC, especially in regards to how the new policy might impact activities at the church.

The MTC is enthusiastic about the new kitchen policy; however, some members noted the difficulty in getting volunteers to clean up the kitchen after an event. Hiring paid staff to clean up is under consideration. Tony commented that he objected to hiring brown people to clean up after white people. Perhaps people should clean up after themselves. Arvid responded outlining the care that is taken to insure that all employees are paid a fair wage and are hired using non-discriminatory procedures. The church is committed to such policies as outlined in the Outcome statements of the Board.

Empowered Organization Update

There is an ongoing discussion at the Board regarding how many Board members there should be in the Empowered Organization. No resolution has been reached. The Governance Action Group is consulting with the Board on the number of Board members. The Constitutional Revision Committee is waiting for the Board to decide

The Campus Renovation Task Force is drafting a letter to all members and friends of the Church regarding the Special Membership Meeting that is coming up on December 9, at which Voting Members will decide whether to proceed with a rebuilding of Bard Hall into a 2-story structure on the existing footprint. There will be informational meetings open to the congregation that will be held on December 2 after each worship service.

The combined annual fund drive and capital campaign will be asking the leaders of each ministry team to find volunteers to act as visiting stewards.

UUA Large Church Conference

The UUA large church conference is scheduled for March 13-16 in Louisville, Kentucky. Neither a full schedule of workshops nor registration materials are available yet.

Ministry teams are encouraged to use their budgets to send leaders to this conference, subject to program details, when the UUA releases them.

Reports

Administrator. Thelest reported that a new administrative assistant will start on November 16. She will assist Thelest, leaving Abby freer to assist Arvid and Kathleen

Denominational Affairs: Ardath reported that the Denominational Affairs Ministry Team will be recruiting delegates to General Assembly and to the District Assembly after January 1. The Friends of de Benneville Entertainment Book sale is almost complete. There will be a pilgrimage to Transylvania in late July. We have been sending arts and crafts supplies to our partner church in the Philippines.

Caring Ministry: Kathleen told us that a Lay Pastoral Case Associate meeting was held, involving UUA training in trauma recovery. The Lay Pastoral Care Associates were trained to do small group ministry. Although no small groups met after the recent disastrous fires in the county, there were many positive one-on-one interactions. Tom Grogan, Intern Minister, is now assisting the Practical Care Network. Dan Heiserman has resigned as co-leader of the ministry team and will be on sabbatical for awhile.

JTW. Tony talked briefly about the 6 oppressions: Classism, sexism, ablism, racism, agism, and sexual orientation-ism. He talked about his vision that our church will someday have a “resource person” who will understand and focus on each of these “isms.” He commented on YRUU’s focus on understanding and ending oppression, and said that their youth empowerment is a model for all of us to emulate.

He and Kathleen offered separate comment on Building the World We Dream. At this time, participation has dropped. Classes will not start up again until January. Evaluation of the program is ongoing.

Generosity: Iris and Thelest offered kudos and thanks to Aggie Sweeney, our fund raising consultant, who conducted interviews of a cross section of church members as to their commitment to the church and to the Bard Hall project. Iris emphasized how important it will be to have everyone involved in the project; we will need to reach every church member. Our ministry team leaders will have to take a big role in being visiting stewards and recruiting others to be visiting stewards.

Lifespan religious growth: Liz presented a written report, which is attached.

Social Justice: Sue Haskin provided a written report, which is attached.

Community Life: Suzette presented a written report, which is attached.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Chandler
Your Secretary

Life Span Religious Growth and Learning Ministry Team
Report to the Ministry Team Council
November 15, 2007
Liz Jones

The Ministry team held a meeting on November 6 to help update the member groups of the team about the Strategic Plan update and to answer questions. Few teams were able to send representatives.

Team Reports:

Adult Religious Education: The first meeting of the newly formed Adult Education Committee was held October 29. The team received an overview of the existing program, and the UUA's new Tapestry of Faith Curriculum. Members had a lot of information and ideas to digest and have set another meeting to begin thinking about the steps to take to begin moving the program into a form that might better meet the Mission and Outcomes of the Church.

Archives: -- No committee at the moment.

Book Room: The Bookroom committee continues their work and is still waiting for their new carpet.

Children's Religious Education: The Children's Religious Education Ministry Team organizes various events throughout the year for the religious education program. U.N. Sunday is utilized as an opportunity for the children to actively participate in a social action event with the Food Faire. The children learn a little bit about the country's geography, culture and food while raising money to donate to UNICEF. This year the four classes: PreK/K; 1st/2nd grades; 3rd/4th grades; and 5th/6th grades raised \$312.03. This is remarkable since many church members were attending Women Together or the Men's Retreat.

Our Whole Lives Program began with a parent orientation with classes for the enrolled children and a separate class for their parents.

The children and their parents are continuing their contributions to the "donation box" which will be sent to the Philippine UU Congregation. The social action outreach was in conjunction with hand written letters and pictures which the children completed during a Children's Chapel Service.

- Submitted by Dorothy Pearlman,
Chair CREMT [Children's Religious Education Ministry Team]

Family Ministry: A Mid-week Steering Committee has begun to form. Julie McKain has stepped forward to recruit and coordinate a group. Several people are in conversation with her about joining her.

The first of the Intergenerational RE classes was held on November 3. The theme was “Peace Within Myself”. An equal number of participants and facilitators attended. The next session will be on January 5 with the theme of “Peace in the Family.” Individuals of all ages are invited to attend!

The Multi-racial Parenting Support Group has changed its meeting time to Wednesdays once a month to take advantage of the Mid-week gathering and meal.

Humanist Discussion Group:

Leadership Development:

Library: -- No committee at the moment. Some individuals are working to assist with re-shelving materials.

Unitarian Cooperative Preschool: October Happenings at the Preschool

The week of October 22nd was a huge event and challenge for all of San Diego’s citizens and certainly for many Church and Preschool families. All our families were safe, though several were evacuated. My main job during this week was to stay in close communication with the families and determine the timeline for a safe return. We all learned a lot and we are putting out information for families to understand how children perceive these situations and what parents should do and how should they respond to questions. We plan to pursue a social responsibility project school wide to help victims of the fires.

We did celebrate Halloween with a costume parade and marched through the Church offices to share the spirit of the day. Many parents came to watch and we all enjoyed the festivities. It was a busy month with Parents Meetings and a Board Meeting. This is always a very dynamic place!

-Patty Eshleman, Director

Youthful and Open-minded:

Youth Programming: November meeting was sparse in attendance- but we got a lot done. Youth want to have “more overnights” and we need more Adults to help plan and implement Youth Events. Sr, High group is working on a fixed proposal to paint the Sr.High room- I am offering Artistic support as needed. Both groups are interested in helping victims of the recent fires as their service project. We came up with a plan to do a “giving tree” of sorts- and we will discuss what types of items to put in gift boxes. CD’s, soaps, shampoos, etc. were some suggestions. The advisory committee for the Youth Director will meet Nov. 8th. Youth are very interested to hear on this progress- so I hope someone will give a report to both groups at some point- or pass the info to me. That’s enough “yakking” for now.

-Diane Lowrie

Social Justice Ministry Team
Report for Ministry Team Council
11/15/07
Sue Haskin

Saturday, November 10, at the SJMT Leadership Council meeting we asked our three congregation-based Action Groups and Affiliates to give both a written and verbal report on their progress to date.

EarthSpirit Team is included as one of SJMT Strategic goals. For the past year they have offered a variety of programs that are intended to draw a wider audience, support and awareness by the congregation of their actions. One of the strategies they are planning to implement is arranging with other Ministry Teams and their groups do a short program on what they have accomplished and plan to accomplish in the future and the need for more players. So as not to leave the impression they have not accomplished much to date, note that tonight on our agenda is a draft of their proposed kitchen rules. Among other things, they publish articles in First Words and notices in the Window of upcoming events; have a new website; wrote letters to city elected official proposing renters be protected from lead paint in older homes; and completed 7 of the 12 actions needed to gain Green Sanctuary certification.

Peacemaking, the UUA Study/Action issue has been in place as Affiliate of SJMT. The monthly book club is going strong and they have anywhere from 12 to 15 people attend who have read each month's book and are looking forward to discussing it. Liz Jones can tell you more about the Lifespan classes that being offered about peacemaking. The size of the planning group for peacemaking never grew beyond a few loyal members, Sylvia Ollinger, John Schaibly, and Maxine Levaran, who wrote an article for First Words, about the book club the included the names of some of the books they are reading.

The New Sanctuary Movement that got underway in September is struggling to attract the attention of our members and friends. It is both an effort of the Organizing for Justice Action Group and the SJMT leaders. Locally we are working with the Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice. In the New Sanctuary Movement one individual or one adult family member must have a deportation order filed against them. Emphasis is placed on families that have American born children who may be separated from their parent(s) if the deportation is carried out. We also have an Affiliate within the SJMT, Immigration Equality, that is concerned about children of lesbian/gay parents one of whom may be in deportation proceedings. UUA President Rev. William Sinkford strongly endorses the New Sanctuary Movement.

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November 15, 2007
Community Life Ministry Team Report
Suzette Southfox

The mission of the Community Life Ministry Team is to build a vibrant, progressive spiritual community filled with opportunities to develop positive connections and personal meaning while living out Unitarian Universalist Principles and purposes.

Leadership: Rev. Kathleen Owens, Suzette Southfox, Director of Community Life, and Steve Howard

Points to Share in Meeting

- Presenting on Strategic Plan activities to Board of Trustees December 11.
- Working with new Membership chair to implement new “First 12 weeks” program for visitor follow up which looks like this: 1) initial follow up greeting via e-mail or letter 2) phone call thank you 3) facilitate connecting them with are of interest 4) 6 week post card to redeem for dinner for 2 at Wednesday evening meal 5) 12 week follow up letter, SASE survey card and invitation to quarterly visitors tea with minister 6) tea with minister.
- October Ministry Team ingathering cancelled due to fires. Rescheduling for Jan.

Brief Reporting of Groups in Team

All Church Camp – Liz Jones, Suzette Southfox

The 2008 All Church Camp is scheduled for May 30, 31, June 1 at de Beneville Pines.

Affinity Groups – Kathleen Owens, Suzette Southfox

This new program of open and ongoing interest based groups has just begun with 13 groups:

Bible Study
Chess Players
Drumming
Book Lovers
Job Changes
Life Transitions
Military/ DOD Employees
Movie Fans
Parenting Support
Pokémon For Children
Readers Theatre
Renaissance Choral Music
Supper Club

Awards – Bob Stevens

An order is being placed for more chalice lapel pins that are given to award recipients.

Community Building – Dave McCain

Variety Show is happening this month.

Covenant Groups – Kathleen Owens

We have 13 groups meetings, nearly all are full. Groups are currently choosing service projects.

Dynamic Duos – Alice & Doug Diamond

Monthly activities continue.

Hospitality & Membership – Susan Riegel Harding

Susan has developed a new “First 12 weeks” follow up program for visitors, is recruiting hospitality helpers and setting up some motivational meetings for all church.

Kitchen – Linda Sola

Led a hugely successful reception for Kathleen’s installation. Needs more volunteers.

Men’s Fellowship – Chris Guelich

Had men’s retreat in October.

Neighborhood Groups – Dave McCain

Neighborhood groups continue.

Singles (Discovery) – Corlee Ann Morris

Meeting with Suzette to discuss ways to reignite the original “Discovery” program.

Singletarians (60+ singles) – Dory Scantlen

Meets off campus for lunch. Locations and dates set through December 30.

Social Hour – Lane Cole

Continues to provide excellent after service refreshments. Always looking for more volunteers.

Voluntary Simplicity – Anne McDonald

Next event is holiday dinner on December 10.

Women’s Federation – Dorothy Pearlman

Held successful annual tea. Next event is Conversation on peace and viewing of film "Is War Obsolete?" on November 24.

Women Together – Diane Lowrie, Rose Van Oss

October retreat successful, over 100 women attended. 2008 date fixed Sept. 26-28, at Camp Stevens. (with attention to not having both women & men’s retreat on same weekend)

Young Adult and Campus Ministry – Alice King

Conducting regular midweek worship services at UCSD. Staff is facilitating 18 to 24 retreat this weekend at Sierra Club Lodge in Julian. Leadership team has arisen for 25 to 35s.