

## **Ministry Team Council Minutes**

### **November 19, 2009**

**Next meeting: Thursday, January 21, 2010**

**In attendance:** Tomas Firle, Roger Lundbohm, Kathleen Owens, Peggy Holl, Elka Cartmell-Ladd, Nancy Fisk, Arvid Straube, Karen Walter, Benita Berkson, Patty Hinojosa

**Board report:** The Board unanimously decided to sponsor Sharon Wylie as a ministerial candidate.

**Arvid:** Passed out copies of the *Almost Church Revitalized* by Michael Durall. He and Board President Susan Weaver felt this was an appropriate book for the leadership and staff to read and critique. The Board will discuss it at their December meeting. The Ministry Team Council will begin discussing it at the January meeting. The subtitle of the book is *Envisioning the future of Unitarian Universalism*, which may give direction to our conversation. Arvid requested all members read the book, then pass it on to other church leaders.

**Director of Operation (Karen):** Gave an update on the website. We have hired a new website consultant, Ame Stanko, who has already made many updates to the website. Karen pointed out the Donate Now button on the front page. There was a discussion of the many innovations that may become possible in the near future for the website.

Karen also talked about a binder she has created of the history of the Bard Hall renovation. She recommends that all leaders read it to catch up on the past history of the decisions concerning the renovation.

**Philippine Partner church tour:** Benita talked about the partner church tour scheduled for this spring. Only 3 members from First Church are scheduled to go so far. All those who are interested should contact Len Pelletieri or Liz Jones for more information.

### **Ministry Team Reports:**

**Generosity (Karen):** Selling scrip may be phased out after we use up the current stock. The Generosity table is going to combine with the Welcome table on the patio. Karen talked about the South Bay grants. She also is working with Susan Riegel Harding on a history of Planned Giving. Arvid reminded Chalice Lighters to respond to requests for money, because it benefits South Bay. He also announced that Everett Howe will be setting up a Café Press website for items with church logos.

**Lifespan (Patty):** The Midweek Meal sign up sheet was posted in the room. There's still space available in December and after February for volunteers to sponsor the meals. Patty also reminded people to attend the Coming of Age service on November 22.

**Denominational Affairs (Benita):** The Ministry Team and the UUA have been talking about completely paying for delegates to go to GA. GA attendance is skewed towards retirees who can afford to go every year. Different ideas have been to change it to an every other year event and have regional conferences. The discussion is ongoing. The chili luncheon had a smaller turnout than usual. Also there was some discussion of how to hold delegates accountable to attending plenary sessions at GA if the church is paying their registration.

**Caring (Peggy):** Procedures for allowing members to set up information tables on the patio was discussed because a new member set up a table with some controversial material on it. Kathleen will look into the legality of distributing the information on our campus. The new member agreed to wait for the decision about the material.

**Social Justice (Kathleen):** The new Social Justice Coordinator, Kristen Kuriga, has been instrumental in getting food assistance to members and friends. She has also put together an outside resource packet that was made available last Sunday and 15 were picked up. She has held one on ones with every leader in the church. South Bay Social Justice is now an action group of the Social Justice Ministry team. First Church was recognized by the Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice for 100 years of social justice in San Diego. Kathleen gave the remarks at the awards ceremony. Kathleen said the team is looking for ways to link the efforts of the different task forces on Social Justice. Some ideas centered on economic justice or compassion.

**Community Life (Kathleen):** The team has been meeting to figure out the impact of Bard Hall construction on community life. Intentional social events on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday has been proposed, either on or off campus.

Tomas Firlle suggested that a current list of leaders of the Ministry Teams be created so that members can easily contact the leadership. The present brochure is out of date. Some suggestions were made. Staff will consider an appropriate way to make such a list available.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.