

UUCSV Council on Committees (CoC)
Unitarian Universalist Church of the Shenandoah Valley
Summary of Meeting
Wednesday, November 12, 2014
6:35 pm – 7:55 pm
Lynnette Embree, UUCSV Board, presiding

Lynnette Embree began the meeting by asking Norma Riley to read the UUCSV Promises and with a brief check in by the attendees.

Attendees; Lynnette Embree, Owen Lowe, Paul Britner, Ed Jaffee, Jeph Embree, Teri Merrill, Willy Hayes, Deirdre Cochran, Mark Lore, Norma Riley, Kelsey Wilkes, Joe Schad, Zelda Zadnik, Dottie Cox, Ron Cox, Amy Thomas and John Elrick.

Board Members Attending: Lynnette Embree and Owen Lowe.

Mark Lore moved and Ed Jaffee seconded that the October 2014 CoC meeting minutes be approved as revised. The motion carried.

UUCSV Minister - Paul Britner

Paul's written report had been circulated before the meeting. In addition to the written report, Paul highlighted that he would participate in a webinar on men's role in ending domestic violence and invited all to attend the family worship service on November 15, 2014.

Director of Religious Education – Cory Ness

Cory's written report had been circulated before the meeting.

Board President – Lynnette Embree for Robert Hurt

Robert stressed the importance of each committee to plan for succession by identifying next year's committee chair. He also reminded us that we must all work toward implementing right relations.

UUCSV Committees and Task Forces

Green Sanctuary Task Force – Deirdre Cochran

The task force proposed that the congregation sponsor an Adopt-the Highway initiative for a portion of route 11 near the church and provided a handout (attached) explaining the details. The proposal was well received by the CoC. Deirdre asked that each committee chair recruit members for the task and report next month.

Worship Committee – Amy Thomas

Amy stated that Joe Farruggia had provided a written report.

Communications Committee – John Elrick and Ron Cox

The committee has arranged a new internet provider for the church. The next training session for posting items to the web page will occur soon. The committee has purchased a large format television for the library. It will be used for video conferencing and training and eventually for video streaming of services. The committee is also beginning a new church directory project that will let members select what information they want to have included in the directory. The committee is also evaluating church management software.

Ron Cox distributed a fact sheet (attached) on managing the sanctuary audio system. Congregants should contact Ron to schedule event support. He recommended that a member of the audio subcommittee be present at any event that requires use of the audio system or moving the pulpit or podium.

Stewardship Committee – Mark Lore

Mark reported that the Next Steps Weekend was a success. Following up the recommendations from the weekend will be hard work. Mark Ewert will deliver a written report within two weeks of the weekend. Mark Lore recommended that the annual campaign take place from February 15 to March 29, 2015. These dates are consistent with the current church calendar. Possible new ideas for this campaign may include a request for a three year pledge commitment. The committee is looking for a co-chair to replace Katie Mack.

Mark reminded those present of the Magic Lantern event at the church on Friday evening, November 14, 2014.

Membership Committee (informal report) and Caring Committee – Norma Riley and Dottie Cox

The committee has recruited several new members.

Finance Committee – Teri Merrill and Willy Hayes

Teri and Willy emphasized the need for committees to submit budget requests for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 to the Finance Committee as soon as possible. A budget request form is attached.

Social Action and Justice Committee – Kelsey Wilkes and Ed Jaffee

Upcoming volunteer opportunities include supporting WATTS by serving the shelter during Christmas Week and helping Dick Dugan's campaign to stuff the truck on November 21. The committee is working with Cory to find a leader for the General Assembly congregational study issue on escalating inequality. The committee is continuing to recruit youth to participate in committee activities. The next share-the-plate collection will benefit the Minister's Discretionary Fund. The January share-the-plate collection will benefit the Stephens City Volunteer Fire Department. The committee needs nominations for February and later share-the-plate collections.

Nominating Committee – Zelda Zadnik

Zelda stated that the Nominating Committee charter needs to be coordinated with the upcoming task to revise the constitution and by-laws. The committee continues to identify potential candidates.

Building Committee – Jeph Embree

Jeph asked if anyone present knew of objections to disposing of lumber located behind the grounds shed. No objections were stated. Two bids have been received for the roof repair at the dormers. Both are over budget and will be refined before they are presented to the Board. The building needs painting. Funds will be requested in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget.

Constitution and By-Laws Task Group – Lynnette Embree

Lynnette announced that she has recruited Ed Jaffee, Mike Duggan, and Joyce Badanes for this task. She would welcome more volunteers.

Other Information:

A motion to adjourn was made by Ed Jaffee and seconded by Willy Hayes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Summary submitted by Owen Lowe.

Minister's Report
November, 2014

This Wednesday, I'll be attending the regular meeting in Fairfax of my cluster group of UU ministers, and I'll be providing worship for our gathering. In the evening, I've got COC and COM, so it will be a busy day for me.

Things will lighten up for me considerably after this Sunday's service. The next Sunday is a pulpit exchange. I'll be taking a previously written sermon to Sterling, and UUCSV will have the opportunity to hear John Manwell and Phyllis Hubbel from our sister church in Leesburg. I'm in the pulpit on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, but I'll be adapting a family-oriented sermon I gave in Montgomery days. Then, I'm preaching the next week at our sister church in Cumberland, Maryland. (I'll be using the same sermon I'm giving to Sterling.) This is not a pulpit exchange. Rather, settled UU ministers like myself are encouraged to use Sundays out of the pulpit to speak to smaller congregations that don't have part- or full-time UU ministers. I did this last August in Harrisonburg. It's nice to be out with other UUs and see how they do things. I always bring back some fresh ideas. So, just because I'm not here on a given Sunday, it doesn't mean I'm not working.

When I do get a relatively lighter week, I catch up on pastoral visits to our homebound members, service planning for the future, and office and personnel matters.

This Saturday is our next Family Worship service at 5 p.m. Cory, Jennifer Fox, and I have been planning this one. It will be centered on the themes of gratitude and generosity.

Last week's Healing Service went very well. We went from 3 attendees to 12. The ideal number for this service is 15-20, so I'm happy with where we are on this. I expect to offer this again in February or March.

Report to the UUCSV Board --- November 2014

Correna M. Ness, Director of Religious Education

Professional Development

- Received a Honor Plus after completing the course “Being There” When It Counts: Spiritual Care for DREs online through Church of the Larger Fellowship
- Attended the LREDA Conference in mid October where Shared Ministry was the theme.
- Attended recent staff meeting.
- Met with Paul to review goals for the coming year.
- Signed up for a Word Press class
- Attended a Missionalism & Unitarian Universalism --- Study Group for Religious Educators on Nov 4 & 5. Most of our time was spent focusing on the material in the book titled “Simple Church” by Thom Rainer & Eric Geiger. For your convenience I have attached several videos, an article and a blog that you may find of interest.
 - Video: “Loving the Hell Out of This World, GA 2013 Workshop. (1:03:09) Red Pill Brethren Revs. Tony Lorenzen, Joanna Fontaine Crawford, Jake Morrill and Eric Posa explain missionalism and how you can love the hell out of the world at UU General Assembly 2013 in Louisville, KY.
<http://redpillbrethren.tumblr.com/post/53954324235/loving---the---hell---out---of---the---world---ga---2013---red---pill>
 - Video: The Missional Church...simple (2:00) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=arxfLK_sd68
 - Video: Joanna Fontaine Crawford asks how Unitarian Universalist theology might respond to and intersect with the Missional Christian movement.
(5:53) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpSROVi6ud8>
 - Article: The Liberal Church Finding It’s Mission: It’s Not About You by Rev. Peter Boullata
<http://peterboullata.com/2011/12/29/the---liberal---church---finding---its---mission---its---not---about---you/>
 - Blog: The Missional Church and Unitarian Universalism by Peacebang
<http://www.peacebang.com/2012/01/04/the---missional---church---and---unitarian---universalism/>
- Attending the 4 hour class (2hrs for 2wks) by the Church of the Larger Fellowship on “Digital Presence: Online Ministry in the 21st Century” led by the Rev. Nate Walker – Rev. Nate impresses on us the “imperative for religious professionals to be individually and collectively conscious about the primary purpose of using technology: to advance human relations.”

Adult Education (AE)

- Met with our AE Committee.
- Check in regularly with our leaders of our AE offerings offering support whenever needed.
- Currently making arrangements for a storyteller to come in to teach us storytelling skills.

Children & Youth Religious Education (C&YRE)

- Met with the C&YRE Committee.
- Each week Classroom Notebooks are reviewed.
- Send out emails updating our families as to our children and youth experiences in their classes.
- Preparing “Miss You” postcards for those we haven’t seen for a while.
- In search for a childcare provider.
- Update C&YRE registration.
- Attended the bonfire at Paul and Karen’s home with parents and friends of our youth.

- Corresponding with teachers and YG Advisors.
- Prepared and facilitated our Teacher Connection on Sunday, November 9 at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of these meetings are for our RE Teaching Teams to meet and review classroom progress, discuss any issues or concerns, and to work on calendaring.

Worship

- Recruit volunteers for the Message of All Ages or I prepare to lead our Message of All Ages.
- Facilitated the Day of the Dead service on Sunday, November 2nd with the assistance of several volunteers.

Connecting with UUCSV Members & Friends & the Wider Community

- Continue to connect with members and friends as stated in October's board report as well as...
- Joined the Off---Beats (UUCSV's drumming group)
- Attended the Next Steps Weekend
- Will be attending the Sharing Suppers this year
- Spent Tuesday morning, November 11 acquainting/volunteering/engaging with the Highland Food Pantry. Discovered that 5---6 members of our church spend a significant amount of their time supporting this important cause. Will be looking into ways our Children & Youth program can engage.

Adopt-a-Highway program; proposed by Green Sanctuary committee

In order to be a green sanctuary we need an ongoing project. This one would also give us publicity via a sign on the highway as well as foster community and hopefully youth involvement

Details:

clean trash from two miles of Rt 11 twice a year at our convenience; one mile each side/ both sides of road
VDOT would give us bags and orange vests and clear instructions on what to bag and what not to pick up
teens welcome/ we need one adult per 6 teens
no kids under 10 along this road
participants must hear a short safety review once/12 months
VDOT suggests once in spring and once in fall

A Green Sanctuary member will co-ordinate
We would like this to be an all-church project; people can sign up for once a year or once/2 years. We could do a pot luck lunch afterward or go out to lunch :)

What do you think of this project?

Would you take this to your committee and see if there is interest in doing this and then let me know next month at COC?

Whom else should I give this to?

Deirdre

**UUCSV Sanctuary Audio
Sub-committee Chair, Ron Cox
at
UUCSV Council on Committees
November 12, 2014**

Audio sub-committee responsibilities are to manage and maintain the sanctuary audio system for:

Sunday worship services, and

Other events including Memorial services, concerts, large meetings, etc. (on request).

The audio group will move (on request) the pulpit & platform without damage.

Tips for Pulpit welcomes & other pulpit speaking

Should not lean into mike, rather stay at least 8-10 inches away.

For Sunday Welcome, practice until you can smile and really sound welcoming.

Should not to tap on the podium as it makes sounds like a drum.

Cautions

Only trained members of the Sanctuary Audio Sub-committee should adjust audio (past problems).

Only sub-committee members know how to move the platform or podium (audio wiring is sensitive).

Do not expect audio to be available unless booked with Chair of Sanctuary Audio.

Worship Committee Report to the Council on Committees

Nov. 12, 2014

The Worship Committee held its fall planning retreat at the church on October 11, 2014.

At this meeting, the following business took place:

- Members were instructed regarding their responsibilities as Service Leaders who are in charge of all Worship Committee (lay-led) services, including how to plan services and work with guest speakers and with the Music Director
- Service Leader assignments were made for Worship Committee services from December through June
- Topics were assigned for most services through June, including those that are the responsibility of the minister

In addition to these tasks, the committee accepted the offer of Amy Thomas to become the Chair-designate of the Worship Committee.

Following that meeting, I met with Amy on two occasions (most recently this past Sunday), and shared with her by e-mail some written descriptions of the Chair's responsibilities. Subsequently, Amy has agreed to take over full responsibility as Chair beginning with the Jan. 4, 2015 service. At that time, I will step down as Chair and will resign from the Worship Committee. I will still assist the committee during January's month long Worship Committee Sundays, particularly as Service Leader for Jan. 18, when a UU seminarian will be the guest preacher. I will also serve as Service Leader on Feb. 1, assisting Jim Peters with his Auction service. But after that, my tenure with the Worship Committee will come to an end.

In other business to report this month: There are still some issues related to keeping the sanctuary in order and moving the pulpit and pulpit platform. I would like to applaud the Next Step group for putting the chairs back in order this past weekend, only some minimal adjustment needed to be made on Sunday morning. But on a number of occasions over the past couple of months, that has not been the case, and we really need for everyone to understand that chairs need to be placed back in the proper order after events on Saturdays and Saturday evenings. An instructional guide is stapled to the back of the blue wall for use by all committees and groups who use the sanctuary.

The other issue is moving the pulpit and pulpit platform. Someone has been tampering with it recently, and that may have been contributing to some of the feedback that has returned to the sound system over the past couple of Sundays. I have asked Ron Cox to brief the COC on this, and I ask again as I did a couple of months ago – please do not move either the pulpit or pulpit platform, under any circumstances, without consulting me, Ron Cox, Jim Peters or Robert Hurt. They are both arranged in a certain way to protect the wiring that connects the pulpit mike to the sound system, and any movement will have an adverse effect on the sound system. Ron will explain this to you in his presentation.

I will be able to attend the Dec. 10 meeting of the COC and will give a final report on my tenure with the Worship Committee at that time.

-Joe Farruggia

UUCSV BUDGET REQUEST FORM

FISCAL YEAR 15-16

Date:

From: UUCSV Finance Committee

To: _____ Committee, _____ Chair

Please complete and return by _____

Current Year Budget: _____

Your estimated increase (decrease) over this year's budget: _____

Reason for increase (decrease): _____

How does this request fit with the UUCSV five-year strategic plan? _____

Comments: _____

Thank you,

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Willy Hayes willhayes2@comcast.net (914) 584-8121