

UUCWI Leadership Council Meeting

Draft Minutes, April 14, 2018

Present: John Fetrow, Dennis Reynolds, Mavis Cauffman, Gene Berg, John Long, Corinne Ludy, Gary Piazzon, Gaye Simpson, Suzi Pengilly (minutes), Mary Goolsby, Mary Ann Imkamp

Membership: Gaye Simpson

Gaye reported that Lois Chowen stepped down from the committee, but the committee gained Sherry Zoars and Kate Sheppard. Membership has been working on refining the Directory. They have been examining “Friend” status, the need to first Visitors if they would like to be moved from the Visitors list to the Friends list, and clearly explaining to them what it means to be a Friend. That is, a person agreeing to move from Visitor to Friend needs to know that he or she will be canvassed. Moreover, that person’s information will be on the Directory that is password protected, but nonetheless accessible to Members and Friends.

The committee would like to develop a specific list of criteria for moving a person from a Visitor to a Friend. The Friends list is and will continue to be used as a place holder for people who have left membership but with whom the congregation still has a relationship, e.g., long-term members who are no longer active, partners of members, honorary Friends. The committee is also developing a protocol for working with people on the pathway to membership.

The discussion continued by noting that we do not do a good job asking Friends for financial support, nor do we adequately explain, in UU101, that being part of this community means committing financially, to the extent one is able.

Social and Environmental Justice: Gary Piazzon and Corinne Ludy

Gary described a busy quarter with the legislature in session meaning several trips to Olympia, and working with the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy and Greening Congregations. SEJC has been working on a number of issues, including safe food packaging, PSE’s integrated resource plan and promoting clean energy, and Initiative 1631 to establish a carbon tax. Gary has been distributing the I-1631 petitions. Gary gave two talks about climate change and health. SEJC has been collaborating with WEAN and others on the Navy’s plan for using parks for training water issues and noise issues. The film, *Sonic Sea*, will be the final event of Earth Month. The film documents noise pollution on aquatic resources due to active sonar and seismic testing for drilling off shore. Gary also discussed the need for the removal of the lower Snake River dams, promoted by the Nez Perce Tribe and essential to the survival of Orcas in Puget Sound.

Reporting for the Justice Awareness and Advocacy Group, Corinne Ludy announced that Shelly Tochluk, author of *Witnessing Whiteness*, may be able to give a Sunday morning service and afternoon workshop. She also noted that Tom Ewell has kept the group informed about law enforcement and prisoner issues. Specifically, after being released from prison, one comes out with a prison-stay debt at financed at 12% and accrued while still in prison. That rate was recently dropped to 4%. Also, 850 UUs are serving time in prison. Fellowships are working to offer a UU pen pal program and supply UU World to these inmates. Finally, the group, with the Quakers, sponsored another *Alternatives to Violence Workshop*. Several members participated.

Building and Grounds Committee: Gene Berg

Gene said that the Long Range Plan calls for repainting the entire building within the next five years. This will be a major project. The decks also need to be rebuilt, sooner rather than later. Any ideas or suggestions are welcome. Another large project that may be needed in the future is parking lot expansion. Gene continued by reporting that someone broke into the basement and stole some surplus sound equipment.

Internet Communications Committee: Mavis Cauffman

Mavis described the recent issues related to website security. The website was hacked and crashed. It took a few days to get it cleaned up and relaunched. We now have better security, and the committee appreciates the assistance of treasurer John Fetrow who helped with finances for these improvements. Committee pages and links to committee documents are being designed and posted. Individual committees need to look at the pages and suggest revisions or additions. The committee held a Website Scavenger Hunt; attendance was rather low, but interest among those who attended was high.

Worship Committee: Mavis Cauffman

Mavis reported that forty members of the Bellingham Unitarian Choir will be presenting the May 6 service. A potluck lunch will follow for the choir and for the new art exhibit reception. She asked that all consider bringing a potluck dish.

Visual Arts Committee: Mary Goolsby

Mary noted that Paula and Tim Keohane's photographic exhibit was successfully shipped to, and exhibited in, a Colorado UU church.

She continued by stating that the Aesthetics and Visual Arts Committee is charged with managing not only the visual arts within the building, but also the aesthetics of the building and grounds. There has been some discussion about the use of the foyer, so the Committee has called a meeting, on April 20, to discuss the various uses of the foyer and unmet needs. This comment led to a broader discussion about the Long Range Plan. The Plan briefly addresses foyer use, and we should all be mindful about not implementing the plan prior to final approval. Mary agreed that the April 20 meeting should be postponed until after the plan is approved and executed.

Library Committee: Corinne Ludy

Corinne reported for Library Committee, although Joan Gerteis is now serving as the committee chair. Andrea Fink and Kathryn have recently joined the Library Committee. The committee would like to present a proposal moving the library from the hall to the middle classroom. The middle classroom could still be used for small meetings or gatherings. Richard Cooper has taken measurements for bookshelves, and the cushions on the benches would be replaced to provide more comfortable seating. With the library moved, the collection will be safer. We currently have a collection of 850 books; it also could be enlarged with the move. A Friends of the Library group may be established to help fund this project. (It was noted that a committee-specific Friends' group may set a bad precedent.)

Questions were asked about the use of the current library space: Suzi needs office storage space; Mavis needs space for the UUCWI choir music collection; Visual Arts needs some storage space.

The discussions broaden again to discuss the need to approve the Long Range Plan before proceeding with projects outlined in the plan. The group decided to postpone a meeting on foyer use and to slow down on the library proposal until plan approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

(The next meeting was subsequently set for July 14, 10:00 a.m.)