

## **Revised Minutes of Ministry Council Meeting**

December 4, 2012 7 p.m.

Attendees: Rev. Hilary, Greg Blus, Grant Yokomoto, Colleen Vahey, Cathy Chay, Greg Swigert, Peyton Bendix, Sheryl Skifstad, Karen Noorani, Laurie Lantz, Dan Wiseman, Lois Phillips, Leslie Peet, Alan Greenland.

**\*\*Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m.**

Meeting opened with a reading from Hilary. Lois volunteered to be the note taker.

Staff Update: Jeff Hamrick is in Boston until Saturday. On Sunday he will be part of an inter-generational orchestra that will perform at both services. This is Joining Sunday and we will be welcoming 9 new members to our congregation, although fewer than that will actually be present on Sunday.

Board Update: We have had 239 people respond to the survey – final analysis should be available by January. On average, 1.8% of members' income is given to CCUU which is about the national average, but we want to encourage a higher percentage as this is not allowing us to make our UUA Fair Share contribution, nor does it live up to our Aspirations.

Outreach Funding Council grants have been awarded to: Journeys: The Road Home, 2 Lil Fishes, The Night Ministry and Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants.

We currently do not have anyone volunteering to lead our Stewardship Campaign for the coming year. The Endowment committee is drafting an investment policy. The Board is looking for a day in the spring for a retreat/advance involving both the Board and the Ministry Council.

Both the carpeting and reupholstering of the chairs in the Sanctuary have been gifted by two congregation members.

Budget Update: This was where we spent most of our discussion time during the meeting. The proposed operating budget was passed out along with an article by Dan Hotchkiss entitled "Fundraising Beliefs" to help articulate how we can educate our congregation about our programs and ask the question, "In what do I want to invest?" Keeping a positive attitude and outlook during our budget process despite current economic conditions will be paramount as we move through this stewardship campaign. As it stands right now, we are not meeting our real needs. One of each of the Ministry co-coordinators will be asked to become part of the Stewardship campaign and assist in educating members about the "why" of giving and the longer term benefits to the congregation as a whole.

We want to encourage as many members as possible to sign up for Countryside Express, the automated payment system, to even out the receipt of monies throughout the year. Currently, we have 45 members using this system while there are others (exact numbers not available) who use another form of Electronic Funds Transfer to pay their pledges.

In order for members of the Council to help educate the congregation about the worth of this program, Council members are encourage to send their questions to Paul Sneddon and/or Greg Blus who will then compile them into a list of FAQs. These will be made available to all so that everyone will have answers when speaking with members about the program.

Dan Wiseman suggested "I Pledged!" stickers to be put on name tags to help encourage folks to get their pledges in early.

Two "action" items;

1. All co-coordinators are encouraged to talk about the Budget process within their ministries and remember that we are "supporting the Mission" not simply "paying the bills."
2. [Please send all budget numbers to Bridget and Greg Swigert as soon as possible.](#)

There will be another Town Hall meeting on January 27th, between services, to update the congregation and answer any questions that may come up.

Communication Policy: There is still no team, therefore, there are no updates.

Outreach Funding Ad Hoc Update: This group will be meeting tomorrow (Wed. 12-6). Info to follow.

Coming Alive News: Dan Wiseman reported that 8 people have signed up for the Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> start of the next session. The first session will be a double followed by six more Sunday meetings.

Birth2012: This will be a celebratory event to be held on Dec. 22 (the day after the Mayan calendar ends!) and will be multi-generational, streaming events from across the globe. Come and hear and share futurist ideas. This is meant to be a "walk in, find what interests you and leave when you please" type of event. All are welcome!

Service Ministry: Green Sanctuary accreditation was applauded once more! Service will hold their next meeting on 12-12 to discuss budget numbers.

The Fair Trade Event was very well received – vendors reported it was the best ever! This was headed up by Marsha Balster and Sam Pureza. Congratulations!

It was decided that the Ubuntu budget will now reside in the Service Ministry.

Cross-Ministry Events: The Caroling party on 12-21-12. We may venture door-to-door if weather permits!

Additional Business: New Ministry directories were distributed. Grant asked for *new* names of members who know VOIP (not the usual characters; i.e. Jeff Phillips, Damien, etc)

The meeting ended at 8:15 with another reading by Hilary.