

## MINISTRY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 9, 2013

Attendees: Bridget Smith, Greg Blus, Lisa Bohne, Karen Noorani, Alan Greenland, Lois Phillips, Grant Yokomizo, Cathleen Chay, Dan Wiseman, Sheryl Skifstad, Colleen Vahey

### A. Opening Reading

### B. Administrative

- Jeffrey Hamrick will not be attending the Ministry Council meetings going forward due to the logistical challenges of getting to church on a weekday evening.
- Hilary was absent due to Study leave.

### C. Membership Report

- Dan distributed a Visitors Attendance report and reported that we are having high visitor traffic.
- **Action Item:** it was suggested that Dan compare the new data with the data for the prior year that Richard Chay gathered.
- Chalice Circle facilitators have agreed to ask their participants to serve as Sunday greeters. This will help alleviate burnout of Siri Laurin who has had responsibility to recruit greeters for many years.
- 8 people have signed up for the January Path to Membership class. Dan will extend a specific invitation to this class to visitors who have attended Sunday service at least 3 times.

### D. Study Ministry

- Dan reported that Countryside's Coming Alive Leadership class is scheduled for January 20 and 12 people are registered. Sheryl encouraged attendance of current leaders as this class can help to re-energize people as well as provide instruction in church leadership skills.
- Countryside is hosting a Coming Alive Leadership workshop for the Chicago Area UU Council on Saturday, March 23. Dan Wiseman will facilitate the workshop.
- Colleen reported on:
  - the Winter RE "mUUusic expeREnce" - Music and RE Committees worked together to create a new popular 6-week program to help young people learn about various faith traditions through music, singing, and dancing
  - Spirit Play - we are hosting the district Spirit Play teacher training (with attendees from 4 states and 12 congregations) on Feb. 2 with the founder of Spirit Play, Rev. Nita Penfold; our program considered a model program from which other churches can learn

### E. Board Update

- Richard Chay is targeting to present the results of the all congregation survey to the Board in January. The Board will discuss and interpret the results then share these with the Ministry Council for further discussion before taking the results to the congregation.
- Housing allowance was approved for Scot Giles in the last Board meeting. Scot is interested in raising congregational awareness of his role, his credentials and his practice. He may visit the Ministry Council to share this information with church leaders; additionally it was suggested that Scot write an article for the FOCUS describing his role and practice.

### F. Building Campaign / Sanctuary Renovation project

- Greg Blus reported that we have taken in and spent \$460K to date on the building campaign.
- We have \$45K outstanding in capital pledges.

- Paul Sneddon has developed priorities and sequencing for the recommended remaining work on the sanctuary.
- Estimated cost for the near term work required in the sanctuary is \$75K.
- Estimated cost for the longer term work required in the sanctuary is \$80K

#### G. Stewardship Campaign

- No Stewardship chair has yet been identified for this year's campaign but activities are underway.
- Greg distributed pledge forms to the Ministry council attendees; the aim is to have pledge forms submitted by church committee and ministry participants early in the process as a model for the congregation.
- **Action Item:** Ministry council members should submit their pledge forms as soon as possible.

#### H. Budget Communications Plan (*see attachment*)

- A March 1 target date has been established for pledge submissions.
- A budget communications plan was distributed for discussion.
- A townhall meeting will be held on January 27; it will include a brief segment about each Ministry. The aim is to raise awareness of each Ministry's activities and contributions in support of the church mission and to inspire greater support from congregation members. The Ministry Directory used in the Path to Membership class will be provided as a handout at this townhall meeting.
- On one of 5 consecutive Sundays, beginning with Jan 27, each Ministry will include a testimonial in the Sunday service. On their appointed dates, Ministries are encouraged to provide a handout in the Sunday order of worship that highlights their activities / purpose.
- Study Ministry will be featured in the Jan 27 service; Matt and Margaret Myron have agreed to speak on behalf of the Children's Religious Education program to highlight the Study Ministry.
- **Action Item:** Other Ministries should coordinate and commit to their dates with Greg Blus and Bridget.

#### I. Communications Policy (*see attachment*)

- A revised policy was distributed electronically.
- NOTE: there is a new section added at the end of the policy entitled Guidelines for Healthy Dialogue.
- **Action Item:** Council members are asked to review the changes in the policy, particularly the Guidelines for Healthy Dialogue, and provide any feedback directly to Laurie Lantz.

#### J. Feasibility Study of a Preschool at Countryside

- Bev Sneddon discussed a new idea under consideration: to establish a preschool at Countryside. The preschool could serve our members and people outside of the church and could be a source of new members.
- Some other UU churches have done this, with mixed results. One example of a successful endeavor was the UU church in Madison with which Bev is familiar.
- In the short term Bev will be the point person for this initiative.
- **Action Item:** Anyone interested in assisting with the research / feasibility assessment should contact Bev Sneddon.

#### K. Outreach Funding Ad Hoc Committee

- The task force is developing a policy that proposes that a single group own all aspects of Outreach and Fundraising – including choosing the recipients of the funds and organizing the fundraising activities.

#### L. Foundations Ministry

- Marty Farrington is drafting a policy for the naming of rooms in the church building.

M. Policy Update process – this topic was discussed by Hilary and a few church leadership members and it was agreed that the current policy development / update process is working as is and does not need further change.

N. Worship Ministry

- Sheryl reported that the Ministry council would like to develop a copyright policy. They are comfortable identifying the areas of need (typically around the use of music) but feel that they need professional legal guidance. Bridget indicated she would discuss this with Chuck to determine if he could lend a hand.
- It is requested that visitors who are featured as outreach recipients be allocated no more than 5 minutes during the service. If a longer presentation is desired this could be scheduled between services.

O. Closing Reading