

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County
Annual Meeting Minutes



February 15, 2018

Present members:
Ken Sizemore, President
Janet Cross, Vice President
Lynne Siegfried, Treasurer
Helen Johnson, Secretary
Sandra Dielenschneider, At Large Member
Heather Ogilvie, At Large Member

| Agenda Item | Presented By | Comment/Action |
|--|-----------------|---|
| Call to order 6:30 p.m. | Ken Sizemore | |
| Check In | Ken Sizemore | |
| Approval of January Minutes | Helen Johnson | Heather motioned to accept the January 2018 minutes and Lynne seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed. |
| Approval of January Treasurer's Report | Lynne Siegfried | It was discussed that the playground expenses should be separated from the Grounds category as it appears that the Grounds budget is now over budget. The playground materials were not budgeted for. We were able to purchase the playground materials because the Fundraiser category exceeded expectations. Janet motioned to accept the January 2018 Treasurer's Reports, Heather seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed. |
| Social Justice Committee Request | Helen Johnson | During the February Social Justice Committee meeting it was suggested that the Dream building and Red School House building would benefit from having speakers installed to listen to the service on occasions. Would Matt be able to check out the cost of WiFi/Bluetooth speakers? If he cannot, Helen will look into it. We need costs first as we want to use the Wish List funds for this purpose. Ken will talk with Matt Raver. |
| Annual Stewardship Campaign | Ken Sizemore | Ken and Lynne will begin developing the 2018-2019 Budget for the Annual Meeting. We'll have a brief meeting on March 11 after the service to review the proposed budget. The proposed budget will be announced at the April 1 st service. April 27 th will be the end of the Pledge Drive dinner. Just a reminder. |

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| Interfaith Youth Group | Ken Sizemore | Should DRE Gienah Harris reach out to members from the Interfaith Youth Group. The board feels this is a good idea. Since Sandra Dielenschneider represents the board on the Interfaith Council she offered to help with this outreach. Lynne motioned to move forward with this initiative and Janet seconded the motion. All in favor. |
| Sunday Openers | Ken Sizemore | It was discussed at a prior board meeting that members of the board will help open the church for Sunday services. Janet created a sign-up list for this purpose. We also created a sign-up list for counting the basket, preparing the deposit slip and making the deposit. |
| Leadership | Ken Sizemore | Ken Sizemore, president and Lynne Siegfried, treasurer will be stepping down from their positions; Helen Johnson, secretary, term will end on June 30, 2018. Sandra Dielenschneider and Heather Ogilvie will continue their terms. Janet Cross is not sure. The Leadership development Committee needs to be notified by email of each person's position so they may develop the 2018 slate. |
| Adjourned | | Janet Cross moved to adjourn, Dielenschneider seconded, all in favor at 7:41 p.m. |
| Next Meeting | | March 15, 2108 |
| | | Respectfully submitted by Helen Johnson |

Minutes UU Social Justice Team

January 10, 2018

Present: Jo Shaffer, Cindy Wilker, Arlene Garner, Harriet Meyers, Randi Tucker, Ardella Moran, Bob Gilmore and Gienah Harris (Director RE), Helen Johnson (Board), and Henry Lawrence (guest)

Respectively submitted by Bob Gilmore

1) **Acceptance of minutes** from November 2017, and December 2017 monthly SJ Team Meetings. Unanimous.

2) **UU Legislative Days** in Tallahassee sponsored by Florida UU Social Justice on Jan 22 & 23.

Henry Lawrence will be attending and Pat and Ardella Moran may attend if they can resolve commitment conflict. Henry has been in contact with Senator Gainers office and Rep Jay Trumbull to set up appointments on the 23rd.

We will be having an after Church service meeting to discuss legislative issues and to encourage UU members to participate. Helen will make an announcement of the meeting in news and on Facebook. Jo will write up an announcement to be read during Sunday Service.

3) **Review of Holiday Caroling suggestions for 2018:**

The 2017 event at the Bay Center Nursing home included children from the UU. This was the first year we did not collaborate with the CHS Independent Living Program . The addition of the children with performing was a big hit with the residents, the parents and UU kids.

a) Staff pulled oranges and candy from gift bags; we assume due to controlling for medical reasons. Next year we should bring bowls of fruit and trays of cookies that the staff can help pass out.

b) We need about 20 dozen cookies for the practice/party at the Fellowship and for platters to pass out to residents and Bay Center staff.

c) Residents love the Santa hats and want to keep them. Suggest we just plan on passing out Santa hats to the residents to wear and keep.

d) Plan on having helpers follow Santa (Bill) around passing out gift bags to individuals; helper can give a hat and help open gift bags - encourage one on one interacting with residents.

e) Have some novelty hats for older kids.

f) Think about adding interactive "Twelve Days of Christmas" song

g) Slow down event so it lasts between 45 - 60 minutes.

h) Younger kids do not need to practice singing being "angels" or playing jingle bells.

Bring the props to the Bay Center and dress them up there.

i) Have a child care person to be with the kids for at least the time we are practicing to cut down on confusion during practice and save kids from boredom.

4) **Black Lives Matter**

ML King Week end activities:

a) **ACURE ML King Parade** Saturday, Jan 13 will start at the Court House. We are trying to get more young people to participate with parents. Gienah will bring sunscreen and water and encourage parents to bring strollers or wagons and stage a relief car half way for tired kids. Bob will prepare the banner. Helen Johnson will update news and Facebook

b) Monday Jan 15th from 10-5 there will be a festival with booths, music, speakers & Food at McKenzie Park

c) The annual Saturday breakfast and speaker will be Saturday Jan 20th at Bethel AME on the corner of Hamilton and 7th St.

d) **PRIDE house painting.**

Friday Jan 12th house preparation from 1:00 - 4:00 at 1009 E 8th Court. This will involve pressure washing and some brush trimming

Monday Jan 15th will be the house painting. We encourage all UU's and Friends to help.

e) Oscar Patterson: There seems to be some organizational issues in the school following up with integrating volunteers into school as mentors and tutors.

f) Washington Carver resident displacement no clear way we can help. There is a legal team that might offer some assistance.

5) **SOAR** December was a great month for collections of items for homeless. The program now includes not only youth but all ages.

The annual homeless count: "Point in Time" will be conducted on January 27th and SOAR donations will be used for that event.

6) **Interfaith Harmony Council** -

a) Quarterly pot luck dinner will be on January 20th at Temple B'nai Israel 1910 Frankford St from 4:30 - 7 PM.

b) February 3rd Celebration of Diversity - we are waiting on updated information

c) IHC organized a food drive and were over whelmed with the response, Hiba has asked for help sorting and organizing the donations Wednesday Jan 17th from 9-11 and in the afternoon 1-3. Location: 1515 June St, Panama City Building #2.

7) **Power to Vote Rally** sponsored by Bay Indivisible to commemorate last years historic Women's March. January 20th from 9 - 12 at Mckenzie Park. There will be booths and speakers (Cindy and Harriett) encouraging voter participation in the 2018 election cycle and beyond. The event will end with a march to the DWC and pizza.

8) **BASIC** funding is in jeopardy. Increasing HIV testing will preserve an important funding source. Randi and Cindy are going to try and encourage increasing testing through the Anchorage and SOAR.

9) **Social justice project for youth** this spring. A collection for Alaqua Animal Rescue culminating with a field trip to see the operation was met with some enthusiasm. This will be explored for feasibility.

10) **LGBTQ teen space**. Cindy announced that funding has been secured and the St Andrews

Episcopal Church on Beach Drive, Panama City will provide space for an after school support program, counseling, and a 24 hr crisis hot line. This has been a project pursued by UU members Susie Sizemore, Cathy Rifenberg, and Cindy Wilker and others. Much appreciation for the dedication of these capable organizers.

Adult RE

The event at Unity went well, however it was not well advertised and the turn out was low. I was able to complete my 45 minute presentation to a 6 person audience with some time for questions before I had to leave. This was a fantastic opportunity to meet with other religious educators in the area and I renewed my acquaintance with Mike Starkman, President of B'nai Israel. He will hopefully be coming to talk to the kids sometime this Spring and again in the Fall. I was also able to have a good conversation about the youth and children who attend Unity, I spoke with one of their teachers, Rosa Peralta. Please see my attached SWOT for more information on the event.

Intergenerational RE

We are continuing with Yoga on every Sunday except the 4th. We continue to have low attendance, however this class is very easy for me to facilitate and does not take any preparation time during the week.

Friday Feb. 23 we will have a movie night for the adults with a fun play night for the kids. Lauren Atkins has volunteered to make a light dinner. I will report back after the event. Our movie will be "Building Wonders" produced by PBS

Kid's RE

The Kid's have been enjoying our projects lately. They get involved in creative concepts especially when it allows them to further explore different cultures. We have consistently had roughly 10 children in class with 5 families in regular attendance.

Recent services have been ending well before 11:30 and the kids have been left with half finished projects. The kids are also unable to clean up the room which is an important part of their activities. I am now asking that when possible the parents leave their children in RE until 11:30 if service finishes early.

Strengths

This event was a fantastic opportunity to meet and discuss our values and beliefs with neighboring faiths. My Unitarian Universalist faith calls on me to be responsible for my own education and events like this one provide an excellent space to encounter new and wonderful ideas. It is important to provide spaces for people who are curious and encouraging open communities promotes the health of the larger group.

The space where this event was held was large and welcoming. We were able to set up our tables effectively and in a welcoming manner.

We will hopefully take our contacts with fellow churches and set up other interfaith events.

The 15 minute introductory sessions are a fantastic compliment for the longer presentations and allow someone who can only attend 1/2 of the day to get a glimpse of the longer talk.

Weaknesses

The day conflicted with several other events in an already busy week. The Mardi Gras parade/celebration on Beck is a huge draw for many people and our own group was conflicted on where to spend their time.

We signed up to speak in November, and I did not hear anything from the time I signed up until 6 days before the event. This made it difficult to plan both my schedule and also to provide publicity within our organization.

Having the 45 minute presentations held in a different room split the audience and made it impossible to both man the booth and listen to the various groups in attendance. It would have been nice to have the presentations in the larger room with time in each presentation for a discussion and/or questions. This style would also be more welcoming to people who were joining in late or who have to leave early.

We have a fantastic opportunity to create a welcoming space for diverse faiths and I was sorry to see that we did not have anyone representing more traditional Christian denominations.

We did not have a large turn out from our own UU community outside of the Social Justice team. I suspect that this at least partly occurred as we were only able to advertise the event one week out.

I did not see spaces that were child welcoming during this event. This event was scheduled during a peak family day (Saturday) with nothing to welcome or engage a family.

Opportunities

I was able to renew my acquaintance with B'nai Israel's President and Mike Starkman who has offered to come to our UU and talk to the children.

Events like this one are a great opportunity to get our name and values out there for the community to see.

This event was a fantastic opportunity to exercise our 4th Principle: A Free and Independent Search for Truth and Meaning by exploring ideas that are new.

Threats

Lack of communication on the event between the coordinators and the participants. Two weeks prior to the event, we were unsure if it was going to take place. The lack of communication may have

There was no conversation with the representatives on what date the event would be held on.