

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP of LONGVIEW

Governing Board Meeting

November 8, 2009

MINUTES

Board Members Present: President Jessica Noble, Vice President Marolen Mullinax, Secretary Sky Mitchell, Treasurer Huey Mitchell, Director-at-Large Celeste Fisher, Director-at-Large Chip Koepke, Director-at-Large Amanda Koepke, Director-at-Large Tina Rushing

Also Present: Sherry Kircus

Jessica called the meeting to order at 12:45 PM by lighting the candle.

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes as submitted. Huey made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Chip seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The shoe molding for the Child Care room awaits painting and installation.

Appreciation was expressed for Ruth's excellent compilation of a job description for a UUFL Music Coordinator and for Sherry's inspiring and encouraging leadership of the congregation's nascent musical ability. Sherry said she was happy to continue what she originally volunteered for (choosing and leading the songs) and she is perfectly willing to collaborate with speakers and musicians. Sherry is in the process of making copies of two discs from the Church of the Larger Fellowship that contain 30 hymns sung by the Atlanta UU choir in a way that we will be able to sing along with. Marolen, as Program Director, said she would establish and Chair a Music Committee (made up of three to five volunteers from the congregation). This committee will find and schedule musicians who will play for our Sunday services. Sherry suggested that the piano be put on a tuning schedule. It was noted that someone will be needed in the sound & video booth. Chip suggested a wireless remote that Sherry could use from the stage.

Jessica said she and Jay will try very hard to be the other NTAUUS representative and anyone else who could help would be greatly appreciated.

A runner cannot be inserted into the existing carpeting. If attached to the top of the carpeting, it would become a tripping hazard. Huey suggested filling the holes, left by the seats that were removed, with putty mixed to resemble the current carpet color. Huey suggested we drop the runner idea, develop a carpet fund in the budget over the next couple of years, and then replace all of the carpeting. Everyone agreed this would be the most practical way of handling the situation.

Amanda said she and Marolen were the only two people at the last Social Justice mUUvie Night program despite extensive advertising (two radio stations, four newspapers, two web sites). She had decided to not host any more films but regained her "sense of humor" and will continue. Marolen said she felt it was very important for the area we live in to continue offering these opportunities for awareness.

Celeste reported that Saturday's garage sale was a success ~ a *smaller* success than the previous one, but nonetheless, a success. Specifically: \$279. The Board proceeded to discuss other fundraising possibilities: silent auction, bake sale, fish fry. Chip noted that doing something at a larger community event, like the Alley Fest or Fire Ant Festival, could possibly be more productive. Amanda suggested having a winter Holiday sale in conjunction with other churches with our items being from Fair Trade companies like Ten Thousand Villages. Huey said that we face two constraints in planning and carrying out activities other than our regular Sunday services. One, we are a very small congregation, and, two: 65% of our membership lives outside of Longview. We really need to look at who we are and what our priorities are.

Celeste said that leads us directly to the next item on the agenda: creating congregational vision, mission, and covenant statements. She and Tina discussed the information from the UUA. Celeste said she would convene and chair a committee to draft the vision and mission statements by the end of November. Tina will convene and chair a committee that will use the vision and mission statements to draft a covenant and, hopefully, have it ready to present to the Board a few weeks later. If the Board approves, the statements will then be presented, with the Board's recommendation for approval, to the congregation.

The drawing for the vacation week at Silverleaf Resorts on Lake Palestine was held today during Announcements. Marolen won!!!

Jessica has not received any further information about a Board of Directors Orientation Retreat to be held this summer.

Today is the last day Jerry will take pictures for the UUFL Directory.

Huey and Amanda have not done anything further with setting up the Photo Album on our web site. Sky said she had found some more pictures and will upload them to the site.

The Board then turned to New Business. Huey presented the Financial Report. Marolen again expressed appreciation for the new format. There were no questions. The report will be filed for audit. Huey said that, after the last quarterly report, Sherry suggested that we announce a one-month addition to our fiscal year to give people the opportunity to make an extra month's contribution to the Fellowship. We will hold that idea in reserve until after the next quarterly report in January.

Marolen listed the speakers and programs in place for December. December 6-Tina Rushing, December 13-Tom Stoval (Five Smooth Stones of Liberalism), December 20-Megan Dalby Jones, and December 27-open. Discussion ensued about the open date. It was decided to hold our own service, sing Christmas carols, have a pot luck dinner, and play games afterwards. Marolen said that Jonna would be doing a World Religions program for us in January, Amanda had requested a program on Buddhism, and that we would like to have another Muslim speaker talk to us about Islam. People were impressed by a Hindu man who was at one of the Healthcare Reform meetings. Jessica said Marolen could call Steve Crane to get his name and number. Huey said that he thought we should hire a part-time minister to help "ground us a little bit." Questions were raised about how that would help strengthen our Fellowship. Jessica suggested we go see and talk with our District Executive, Susan Smith.

Sky said that Happy had given the UUFL \$150 because her daughter, Lillian, will be using the building for her wedding. Sky suggested the money be used to pay for a thorough cleaning of the building. Everyone agreed. Marolen asked if we have any other responsibilities, as far as the building is concerned, before the wedding. Huey said he would check our Church Mutual policy to see what provisions are in it for this type of event. Marolen said she would call another agent and get a quote.

Jessica agreed to present Betty Ready with a hymnal in recognition for all her voluntary services to the Fellowship. Huey said that NTAUUS is starting an annual award in 2010 for outstanding volunteers, paid staff people, and ministers.

Richard's last day as our piano player will be this coming Sunday, November 15th. Sherry is bringing a cake, Sky will send an email inviting all members and friends to bring cards, and Amanda will have a plaque made that Jessica can present to him in recognition of all the years he has provided piano music for the Fellowship.

Huey said he is concerned about the lights on the outside front of the building that stay on all the time. It is a waste of electricity and costing us money. We as Board Members have the responsibility of securing the building on Sundays. That includes checking around the outside of the building. If there is something wrong, it needs to be reported so it can be fixed.

We are paying \$65 a month to the Longview News-Journal for advertising, but only two of our ads have been printed since the beginning of September. Julie is submitting the ads by email. Huey said he has gone to their website and there is a place where you can type in your ad and submit it directly to them. Amanda said she can submit hers quickly and easily by phone. Huey said we need to get a credit for all the missed ads. Marolen said she would talk to the person responsible at the newspaper.

There being no further business, Jessica extinguished the candle and ended the meeting at 2:45 PM.

Sky Mitchell, Secretary