

Live Oak Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – Thursday, July 11, 2013

David & Lisa Fry's apartment

Board Members Present: Kris Arrington, Kathryn Duke, Darlene Pagano, Kate Hand.

Absent: Jay Roller **Guests Present:** David Fry, Lisa Fry. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Approve/Modify Agenda and previous month's minutes: The agenda was approved without substantive revisions, although discussion times for several items were shortened to allow for adjournment by 9:00 pm. The final draft of minutes from the June meeting was approved, and will be posted soon on the Live Oak website.

2. Finances: David Fry passed out and briefly summarized three budget sheets for the past budget year, plus a copy of the FY 2013-14 budget, which was reviewed and approved at the June 30 congregational meeting, and began July 1, 2013. As of July 1 Live Oak has stopped using both the Chase checking and savings accounts. Next step: transfer all funds to Mechanics Bank.

3. Second Sunday –The Board agreed the Speaking Of... program launched during the second Sunday afternoon of last month and expected to happen the second Sunday of each month is an activity under the jurisdiction of Adult Religious Education Committee. Live Oak has already had some ARE activities such as the monthly video viewing and discussion sessions that have been happening for the last year. These have been on Friday evenings at a member's home, and have used two Bill Moyers video series: Faith and Reason (interviewing various writers of different faith traditions), and Wisdom of Faith (interviewing Huston Smith).

Now, with the addition of the Speaking Of... program on Sunday afternoons, it is time to move ahead with creating an active ARE committee to oversee these kinds of activities and consider other ARE program ideas. Darlene volunteered to be the board liaison to the ARE Committee.

4. Pastoral Care. Kris reported she is working with two UU pastors who could be available for pastoral care as the need may arise among individuals within the Live Oak community. Mary Foran (UUs of Petaluma) and Joy Atkinson (new minister at the Berkeley Fellowship of UUs) responded to her email inquiry, and Kris will set up phone meetings with these two ministers. There may be other UU pastors who might also be a good fit for the kind of pastoral care availability referenced in the informational handout that was discussed and approved in earlier board meetings.

5. Congregational meeting report. The budget was discussed, and people listened and made suggestions. The bylaws change was approved, adding "[people of...any...] gender identity or expression" to the list of people that Live Oak specifically welcomes. The July 4 signs and other preparations done there were very helpful, and some will be used again next year. The singing went very well, and will probably be incorporated into future meetings and/or worship services.

6. Social Justice.

Ongoing: APC: Kathryn reported Live Oak received nice recognition as a sponsor of Alameda Point Collaborative's Garden Party last month. This appreciation of Live Oak and several other (business) donors was seen on APC's website and on a lovely color mailer sent as a thank you to everyone who purchased tickets to the fundraising party. Live Oak's funds came from two offertory collections directed to APC.

New: Textbooks for inmates. Lisa reported on her follow-up to a request discussed at the June board meeting. This was from a man who is a state prison inmate doing distance learning, and is also a member of the Church of the Larger Fellowship. This man wrote to Live Oak and other UU congregations in California for funding to provide textbooks to inmate students, who would use them

and then pass them along to other inmates. Based on a conference call Lisa participated in with people from some other UU congregations, plus a conversation with Unitarian Universalist Association staff member Patty Franz, Lisa and the board are comfortable recommending the distance college to any interested Worship Associates as a future recipient of Live Oak offertory funds. Such funds would be sent to the college's 501c3 foundation that has set up a line item for the prison textbook scholarships.

7. **Board training preparation and policies.** A question has arisen about Live Oak's policy on paying members for work done for the congregation. Darlene suggested and the Board agreed that during next month's board retreat, if we want to practice developing a policy, it could be on this issue.

Closing: Lisa gave our closing reading at 8:50 p.m.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: August 8, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm, home of David & Lisa Fry.