

Minutes – Thursday, November 17, 2011

Live Oak Board of Trustees Meeting

David & Lisa Fry's apartment

Board Members Present: Lisa Fry, Peter Hand, Darlene Pagano, Vicky Jensen, Jody Savage

Guests Present: David Fry

Called to order at 6:25 p.m. Lisa read our opening words, we lit the chalice, and checked-in.

Approve/Modify Agenda: Four topics were added to the agenda (New board meeting time, Adult Religious Education offering, New Years' Day flowers, and Christmas Eve event). Vicky moved we approve the agenda. Jody seconded. Unanimous.

Financial: Pledges are coming in strong. There are a couple of people who asked for reminder statements and will catch up. Newsletter/advertising line is way overspent because July 4th parade expenses went in there. Adult Learning is also over budget, but board members are happy to see that we are using some of our money.

Stewardship: David asked that we have 5 minutes on every board agenda for Stewardship. Darlene is requesting that the worship team include a personal testimonial in each service – 2-minute testimony what about Live Oak motivates person to give time, talent, or treasure.

Leadership Retreat Brainstorming: Ideas: Nurturing new leaders, outcomes of listening campaign, moving social justice forward, learning from breakthrough congregations, include/invite our professional leaders (Susan and Carol), leadership as a spiritual practice, crafts, magic, beautiful site close to bay area. Peter and Lisa will try to find a few more people to work on a team to plan this event. Lisa will research some locations, including the retreat in Alamo used in the past by Leadership School, place where Ruby attends yoga retreats.

Listening Campaign: 17 members and friends have participated or are signed up for one of the next two meetings. Lisa will send a notice to congregation to drum up more for the next meetings and to start lining up people who want a one-on-one conversation.

Goal(s) for 2011-2012: We accomplished our major board goal to help Live Oak become wheelchair accessible (while also meeting our other location/space criteria). At Peter's suggestion, we brainstormed ideas for a main focus for the coming year. Ideas: social justice work, develop new leaders, more faith development programming, intergenerational religion & science program, being able to meet every Sunday. Peter moved and Vicky seconded that we choose the every Sunday idea. Unanimous. This may not be worship every Sunday. We could do a social justice project together, an intergenerational RE program, more worship (with UU ministers and leaders from other faiths).

Congregational Meeting Planning: The agenda will include opening, a song, election of new trustee and nominating committee members, introduction of every Sunday idea, intro of leadership retreat plans, follow-up on listening campaign (including an exercise/dyad), talk of "growing" into our new larger space, intro of General Assembly in Arizona, song, closing, and time for snacks and fellowship. Peter shared that our congregational meetings have been mentioned several times in listening meetings as times that inspire Live Oak'ers. We have good meetings.

Adult Religious Education (ARE): A friend of Live Oak would like to invite people from the congregation to participate in a dreamwork class she will be offering. We are happy to allow her to publicize this class through our regular media. This would not be a Live Oak ARE program.

Flowers for New Years' Day at Christ Episcopal Church (CEC): Darlene spoke with Rev. Crary and offered that Live Oak would provide the pulpit flowers for CED on Jan. 1, the first day we will meet for worship at CEC. Cost will be \$35-40. We just need to provide a check and their usual florist will take care of the floral arrangements. This is a gift to help start us off on the right foot with CEC. The board approved the idea.

Rescheduling Board Meeting Time: Now that Peter works some days in Belmont, he has a hard time making it to the meetings at 6:15 p.m. We had chosen to start/end early to accommodate the child of a board member who sometimes came, but that need is no longer there. So we will go back to starting at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Event: A new friend of Live Oak has offered to organize and host a gathering on Christmas Eve. The 1-hour event would include singing, candlelight, an updated version of the story of Jesus' birth, and a dessert potluck. We also have been invited to attend the Berkeley Fellowship's Christmas Eve service. Lisa will work with the organizer of the Christmas Eve event to see how many people would participate. She will also contact Richard to get details on the BFUU service.

How Are the Board and Fellowship Doing? Excited about our goal to move to every Sunday feel more energized after the meeting than before; feels like we are emerging into a new phase; with our location settled, we can now look forward in other areas; good meeting, good vibes.

Lisa read our closing reading and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Action Items – for Board members and guests

- David will email pledge letters to some pledgers
- Lisa will look for retreat sites and aim for February dates
- Lisa and Peter will form a team for retreat-planning
- David will talk to Rev. Crary about contract to rent there
- Lisa will email congregation about Listening doodles and deadline
- Peter will contact Neil and Richard to do one-on-ones
- All: Start thinking about every Sunday goal
- Lisa will ask CEC about space for the congregational meeting
- Peter will add times to the items for the Congregation meeting and send the agenda to Lisa
- Lisa will send it out to the congregation
- Darlene will arrange for flowers for Jan. 1 at CEC
- Lisa will be in touch about Christmas Eve events
- Peter will write a paragraph about Live Oak's backstory, to be inclusive with people once they are coming regularly (per advice from some new folks)

Action Items – Continuing from previous meeting

- Lisa will get brochures printed with our new address once the contract is finalized
- Lisa and David will get Adwords going soon
- Lisa will set up reminder for Peter, Jody, and Lisa about agenda-planning meeting