

Minutes – Thursday, May 26, 2011
Live Oak Board of Trustees Meeting
David & Lisa Fry's apartment

Board Members Present: Lisa Fry, Peter Hand, Darlene Pagano, Jody Savage, Vicky Jensen
Guests Present: None

Called to order at 6:20 p.m. Lisa read our opening words and we lit the chalice.

Approve/Modify Agenda: We added District Assembly (DA) feedback and removed financial report. Lisa moved, Jody seconded the agenda be approved as amended. Unanimous.

Consent Agenda, Approval of Minutes: March minutes were approved. April minutes were approved, pending one change (Peter will send Lisa the revised statement) and then the minutes are OK.

Affiliation Application: Peter has spoken with Jeanelyse Doran Adams, Congregational Services Director for the District. She is comfortable with the modification we made of the statement she requested of us. We are moving toward having our package together for the September deadline.

District Assembly Feedback: Peter, Darlene, and Jody all reported on events at DA. (Kate and Isaiah Hand and Mindy Mull also attended DA.) Some of the workshops they praised included Eight Keys to Multiracial/Multicultural Congregation, Leadership as a Spiritual Practice, Sticky Congregations, Copyright Law, US Immigration Policy, and Theism and Atheism. Darlene attended DA Friday, but thought it was not a particularly strong program. Peter and Kate loved Bill Sinkford's talk and all liked Mark Morrison-Reed's keynote. Thanks to Darlene and Kate Hand who created a banner promoting Live Oak we were able to participate in the banner parade. The Hand family carried the banner.

Location Search: The Board made the decision to focus the search for a new church home solely on the island of Alameda. Our survey from some months ago showed that Alameda was the first choice for most of the folks who were then members of the fellowship. And since then almost all of our new members and friends have come from Alameda. The board believes Alameda is the best place for Live Oak to thrive and grow. We felt the time had come to make a commitment to Alameda -- and to let everyone know about it.

The board also decided, in addition to looking for a new place to meet, we should find out what it would cost to make The Home of Truth wheelchair accessible. To determine that, we will arrange for an access specialist (someone recommended by the Center for Independent Living in Berkeley) to take a look at THOT. We would want to make the entries to both the sanctuary and the cottage ADA-compliant and safe and provide ADA-compliant bathroom facilities. Cost is obviously a major factor – and a question of how we might partner with THOT to share the costs. Lisa will contact the access specialist.

Meanwhile, Kate Hand has been checking out First Congregational Church of Alameda. In addition to knowing the costs to meet there, we would like to have the cost options for THOT by the end of June. We will schedule a congregational meeting for August to discuss the options.

Listening Campaign: Peter will write a longer piece more fully explaining the purpose of doing this campaign. We are aiming for one-on-one meetings with newer folks.

Engaging Membership: Lisa will write notes to people who are coming regularly, but have not become members explaining a bit about membership and inviting them to sign the membership book. Peter,

meanwhile, will talk to Richard Stromer about creating an Ingathering Service to welcome new members. Ruby Reay, Ginny Irving, and Lisa Fry hope to have Small Group Ministry groups put together and going over the summer. We also want to let people know more people are welcome to volunteer to serve in various roles, including leadership positions.

How Are the Board and Fellowship Doing? We need to create more interaction between older members and newer folks; feeling excited about ways of bridging this gap; glad so many of us went to District Assembly; appreciate the creative problem solving that comes out of our board discussions; worry about lack of participation; pleased to see new people bringing guests; glad to reach closure on staying in Alameda; pleased that there is a waiting list of people to serve as Worship Associates & Leaders; see some of what we are feeling as the first round of maturational growing pains.

Lisa read our closing reading and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Action Items – for Board members and guests

- Peter will send Lisa the correct text of the agreement for the April minutes.
- Lisa will draft an announcement for the congregation about our decision to stay in Alameda
- Lisa will contact THOT to get permission to contact the access specialist
- Lisa will then contact the access specialist
- Kate Hand will get more info from First Congregational Church, Alameda
- Peter will write a piece about the listening campaign
- Lisa will write letters to invite new members
- Peter will ask Richard to begin work on an Ingathering Service