

Minutes – Thursday, August 18, 2011

Live Oak Board of Trustees Meeting

David & Lisa Fry's apartment

Board Members Present: Lisa Fry, Peter Hand, Darlene Pagano

Absent: Jody Savage, Vicky Jensen

Guests Present: David Fry, Richard Stromer

Called to order at 6:20 p.m. Peter read our opening words, we lit the chalice, and checked-in.

Approve/Modify Agenda: Peter moved we approve the agenda. Lisa seconded. Unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: The July minutes will be approved by email. Awaiting two responses.

Accessibility/Location: The Access Specialist recommended we consider contracting with an architect to determine how much it would cost to improve wheelchair access at The Home of Truth. Peter will contact an architect several of us know. And the Access Specialist gave us names of others we might contact. David will follow up with Christ Church Episcopal to see if we can schedule a worship service there. He will talk investigate possibly using their sanctuary instead of the parish hall. Nancy Balassi checked with a friend of hers who is involved with the Disability Rights Education Defense Fund in (DREDF) in Berkeley. This friend is willing to talk with us and perhaps evaluate a space. Lisa will contact her (through Nancy). Note: David and Lisa have been in contact with the church manager and board members at First Congregational to explain our concerns with some aspects of the access in their facilities. They seem to appreciate the input and plan to look into some of the problems.

Adult Religious Education Program: Darlene, Peter, and Vicky Jensen have made arrangements for a Friday evening and Saturday daytime class on UUism. This course was written for new UUs, but our ARE team believes it will be a source of strength for everyone in our congregation. This class will be offered to all on Friday, September 30 and Saturday, October 1, at THOT. Darlene, Peter, and Vicky will be three of the instructors, but they are looking for a few others to take portions of the curriculum. We will begin to promote this as soon as possible. Childcare will be provided, but with advance reservation.

Congregational Meeting: Once again, we are postponing this meeting. We are rescheduling it for Sunday, October 23. Lisa will confirm space with THOT. Discussion of location will be the primary topic for this meeting.

Small Group Ministry: Ruby Reay and Lisa are moving forward with these groups. People should receive their invitations to the groups next week.

Listening Campaign: Peter will draft some materials for us to use for one-on-one listening meetings and for a couple of cottage-style (group) meetings. We hope to complete the one-on-ones in September and October. We will hold two group meetings, on Oct. 30 and Nov. 13, both at THOT. Lisa will arrange the meeting space.

Board Meeting Agendas: We have been slipping on getting agendas together early enough to send them out to congregants. We discussed ideas of getting this done. We will add a slot to plan for the next meeting at the end of each board meeting, Lisa will change the wording on the reminder that goes to board members about creating the agenda, and we'll ask Vicky and Jody for ideas or help.

Leadership Retreat: We all agreed it would be very beneficial for us to schedule and plan a retreat for the board and other church leaders during the coming church year. We have money to help pay expenses.

Nominations for January Meeting: It is time to see who will be running again and who will not and getting this information to the Nominating Committee. Lisa will follow up.

Ingathering Ceremony: Richard Stromer helped with this portion of the meeting. He said he sees such a ceremony as a “commitment ceremony,” a two-way commitment and important for new members and existing members. We brainstormed ideas, first for what new members will be committing to and then what our commitment to them should be. The process was very affirming to all of us present and gave Richard enough ideas that he will draft a ritual for us to review. We all agreed that merely signing one’s name in the membership book is insufficient. As we have learned from books and workshops, new members actually will welcome higher (but reasonable) expectations. We decided that the ingathering service should be held on Oct. 2, which will also honor the Jewish High Holy Days. It was suggested that everyone (current members, too) be invited to participate in this ceremony. We are all “new to Live Oak.” Right now our aim is to hold an ingathering twice a year.

We also expressed a desire for Worship to develop a Child Dedication ceremony that perhaps would come early in 2012.

How Are the Board and Fellowship Doing? Several were very energized by the brainstorming activity and expressed a need for something along those lines at every meeting – something that is forward-looking rather than just the regular details that we’ve been attending to.

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

Action Items – for Board members and guests

- David and Darlene will work on the Quickbooks problem
- David will contact Christ Church Episcopal about a worship service and using the sanctuary
- Lisa will talk to Nancy Balassi’s friend at the DREDF.
- Darlene will line up a few more helpers for the ARE class and provide info to Lisa for publicity.
- Lisa will reserve time for the rescheduled Congregational meeting.
- Lisa will notify the congregation of the changed date.
- Ruby and Lisa will invite people to the newly forming Small Groups.
- Peter will draft Listening Campaign materials.
- Lisa will reserve space at THOT for two Listening Campaign meetings.
- Darlene will prepare cards for us to match listener pairs
- Lisa will write letters to invite new members
- Peter will add a slot to our agendas for planning ahead for the next month.
- Lisa will revise the email reminder about agenda planning.
- Lisa will follow up on who is running again for the board and notify Nominating Committee of any needs.
- Richard will draft an ingathering ritual.