

Minutes -- Tuesday, August 25, 2009
Live Oak Board of Trustees Meeting
David & Lisa Fry's apartment

Board Members Present: Lisa Fry, Peter Hand, Ruby Reay, and Sharon Slaton

Note: Bill Pezick was absent due to acute illness

Guests Present: David Fry and Darlene Pagano

Peter Hand started the meeting at 7:08 p.m. with a reading and chalice lighting.

The minutes of the previous Board meeting were approved unanimously. The agenda was accepted with minor changes to the order of items.

Brainstorming Ideas: The Board brainstormed ideas for a recruitment event, something suggested by Vicky Jensen. We brainstormed program areas, but realize others may have ideas, too. It is our hope such an event will identify program areas and provide information on what various committees and task forces do, what time commitment might be required, etc. We will promote the event ahead of time, provide some method (perhaps signs or stick-on nametags) to help people find others who are interested in the same area (membership, RE, worship, e.g.). Program areas identified by the Board include:

Core Programs:

Religious Education for Children
Religious Education for Adults
Membership
Stewardship/Finance
Worship
Social Justice
Music
Pastoral Associates

Other Program Areas:

Community Life, including, e.g.:
- Social events
- Potlucks
- Baseball games
Intergenerational and family ministry
Interfaith and denominational connections
Administration
Special fundraising

Two ideas we will pursue include: 1) having a meeting of those who have already offered to lead one of the program areas; 2) testimonials from people during worship or possibly a worship service that is dedicated to the concept of service to the congregation. Lisa will contact Richard Stromer to ask about that idea.

Nominating Committee Proposal: We need to elect three members to serve as the nominating committee, giving them enough time to find candidates to run for the Board of Trustees next year. (We did note that current Board members whose terms are expiring should be asked if they wish to run again.) We also will ask this committee to help find leaders and members for other committees and task forces.

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the following timeline:

- Election of trustees & nominating committee for the coming year – January
- New trustees installed – February or March

- Stewardship campaign – March (for pledges to cover July 1-June 30 of the next fiscal year)
- Congregational meeting to share budget with membership, get input, approval – May
 - This allows time for the finance team to plan a budget based on actual results from the Stewardship campaign
- Fiscal year ends June 30

Because we need a Nominating Committee *now* -- to nominate the trustees who will be elected in January (per the above timeline) -- we will schedule a meeting to elect three people in September or October.

Follow-up and Feedback on Visioning Process: Peter offered to create a Mind Map to post on the Live Oak website that will help people visualize the outcomes (and relationships) from the Visioning process led by Robert Mittman on August 23. Lisa will write up a one-page summary of the outcomes. Jody Savage will transcribe Robert's oral synthesis of the process. Jim Freschi is typing up each concept that was written down by individuals at the meeting, keeping them in the groupings created by Robert. And Vicky Jensen took photographs of the cards that formed the "concept map" created as we shared our ideas for the congregation's future direction.

We will ask people who are interested to form a few small groups to draft a few versions of a vision statement based on the process. From those, we will come up with a final statement which will be posted on our website along with the mind map.

We also will ask our Children's RE Committee if a similar visioning process might be appropriate for the children to do. We would love to have their input – and perhaps some pictures from the children to demonstrate our vision graphically.

We also suggested the Personal Ministry statements people wrote on the 23rd (and/or statements they will write or re-write in the future) might be very appropriate for personal reflection statements in worship.

Healing Workshop: Rev. Jeanelyse Doran Adams, PCD, suggested a specific healing workshop she thought might be appropriate for our congregation. Lisa Fry contacted Rev. Mary Grigolia, the minister who offers the workshop (titled Singing Your Way Through) and reported to the Board. We have put this item on hold for now, but feel the Board should make an effort to find out from our membership if such a workshop would be of value. Lisa will let Rev. Grigolia know that we do not plan to do this right now.

Frequency of Congregational Meetings: Peter commented on how much energy and excitement came out of the Aug. 23 congregational meeting (including some volunteers stepping up to leadership roles). He proffered the idea that we consider more congregational meetings that are interactive and creative. The Board agreed -- and will work with the leaders who have already agreed to chair core committees to explore this idea further. We will select a date to meet with these leaders. Ruby and Lisa will coordinate this event.

Report on 501(c)(3) Status: Deferred because Bill was sick and unable to attend the meeting. We do know the UUA hopes to provide answers to our questions in the next week or so.

Finance/Budget: David Fry reported Bill is setting up a Chart of Accounts and assigning account numbers. The Finance Committee (David, Bill, and Ruby) will soon work on procedures and policies. They set Feb. 22, 2009, as the official date that Live Oak began (for purposes of IRS records). That is the date we had our first congregational meeting and voted to start a new religious community.

The Finance Committee also created an interim budget, identifying how much money they anticipate Live Oak will need between now and November when a budget for the coming year-plus will be created.

A Stewardship campaign to support the fellowship will begin on Sunday, Oct. 4. People will be asked to make pledges for more than the usual one year. Pledges will be for the period of November, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

Darlene Pagano suggested Live Oak participate in the UUA's Association Sunday program which will raise money specifically for programs aimed at growing the denomination's diversity. The Board approved unanimously that we participate. David Fry offered to follow up and be the point person.

Communication Norms: We all agreed we are, as Peter put it, "part of a larger family," meaning the larger UU community. As in any family, it is important to speak respectfully of one another. As Board members of Live Oak, it is particularly important for us to refrain from being disrespectful of others, especially the members and leaders of FUCO. We all agreed we need to lead in the bridge-building that will ultimately better serve both congregations.

We then added that this "norm" goes beyond our relationship with FUCO. Our aspiration is to speak kindly to -- and about -- others at all times, particularly during our meetings, in writing, and in public. And we agreed if one of us does speak disrespectfully, we will kindly point it out, to help all of us build better habits. Rather than declaring this a board policy, we are looking at it as a *spiritual practice*.

Lisa read the closing reading and we adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Action Items

- Lisa will contact Richard Stromer to ask about the possibility of a worship service on service to the congregation and to suggest Personal Ministry Statements might be useful in future worship services.
- All Board members will consider people to ask to stand for election as a nominating committee. We will discuss names by email and set a date for the election.
- Peter will create a mind map of the visioning process for our website.
- Lisa will write a one-page summary of the visioning meeting.
- Lisa will ask Kathryn Duke & Laura Prickett if they see a way to modify the visioning process for use with the children and youth.
- Lisa will let Rev. Grigolia know that we do not plan to pursue using her workshop right now.
- Ruby and Lisa will coordinate a gathering for those people who have already committed to chair a program area.
- Bill will complete the Chart of Accounts.
- Bill, Ruby, and David will write finance policies and procedures.
- David will register Live Oak as a participating congregation in the UUA's Association Sunday.