

Live Oak UU Fellowship  
**March 28, 2:00-4:00 p.m. -- Congregational Meeting**  
Home of Truth, Sanctuary

Peter Hand, President, welcomed everyone into the circle. Kate Hand led us all in song (*Let Holy Love*) and the chalice was lit.

Peter went over the agenda, read aloud our [vision statement](#), and explained why the board chose to have this meeting:

- To invite feedback from the congregation on how the board is doing
- To invite feedback on how the fellowship is doing
- To offer an apology from the board: The board recognized we dropped the ball regarding the chalice gift presented to Live Oak recently. The board had intended to notify the congregation before the presentation was made, but did not communicate that need to the worship leaders. We apologized for our role in causing hurt to some of our members.

After explaining we were present to listen to one another, we began with each person saying aloud a word or phrase that described how they were feeling about the fellowship. After explaining the next step was to experience deep listening in dyads, Ruby and Peter modeled the process. Then we paired off and listened to one another for about 20 minutes. This was followed by a period of silent meditation and then together we sang the Metta prayer.

Peter then invited anyone who felt the need, to speak aloud their thoughts or concerns. A number of people spoke from the heart at this point.

After a brief break, Ruby introduced the Personal Ministry Exercise which most of us had done before. Some chose to share what they had written, noting that it was different than what they had written the first time we did this exercise.

Finally, people used individual post-its to put suggestions or comments in three categories: 1) We want more of ... , 2) We want less of ... , and 3) New directions/other. Everyone had a chance to walk around to see what others had written and to talk informally about the ideas. We then held hands and sang our closing song (*We are Going, Heaven Knows Where we are Going*).

The next two pages are the responses from the last exercise.

## Suggestions/comments from the exercise "What We Need to Realize our Vision"

During the March 23, 2010, congregational meeting, those present were asked to write their thoughts in three categories:

- What we need less of ...
- What we need more of ...
- New directions/other

### Less of

- Waiting for "someone" to start something so you can join - You're someone!
- Fiddling with the sound system

### More of

- Our great "documentation" process - Put as much as we can out for others to read
- Discussions of topics, e.g. the theme of the worship service or sharing our spiritual journeys
- New members
- People inviting their friends to services
- People making calls to Live Oakers they haven't seen in a while to invite them to services
- Chances to hang out, parties, game nights, meetings like this
- Making beautiful music together like we did yesterday
- Inspirational kids' RE program that my kid says "I loved it!" about afterwards
- People stepping forward to fill the spots when Judith puts the call out for kitchen help or when a part planner for July 4th is needed
- Asking each other "what do you mean...?" and it not be a challenge or criticism.
- Finding ways for the children to feel seen and cherished by the adults.
- More folks stepping up to take leadership roles
- I love lay-led worship services
- Music (not a criticism, just like it)
- DYADS for the choir, anyone -
- Time TOGETHER in meaningful relationship
- Group gatherings for FUN.
- Outreach to larger community, esp to help us grow; publicity about us
- People taking leadership role
- Activities for all
- Social Justice activity
- Being Open, joining in, accepting others
- Contact folks we have not seen in a few weeks
- Effort to get new people (bringing friends, publicity, sign in front)
- Effort to bring visitors / new folks into activities, planning, being part of "us"
- Ties to other organization(s) whose work we admire
- Support and welcome for visitors & newcomers - systematically
- Relaxed social occasions
- Guest worship leaders & musicians
- Pastoral care resources

## **New directions / other**

- Would like to expand the worship program to include outside guests, i.e.:
  - Buddhism
  - Hindi
  - Sufi
  - Islam
- Would like to have a great variety in the music program - i.e. classical, Cajun, Zydeco, Salsa, Jazz
- We need a congregational CALENDAR where everyone posts, of course
- Social justice support and visibility
- A fellowship men's group
- Social service project for adults and kids
- Specialized interest covenant groups
- Be careful not to burn out our leaders
- Outreach
- Initial discussions about how big (ideally, if not realistically) we want to be in the next year or so; what is a size to sustain programs we want
- RE, social justice, music, etc. -- How do we get there?
- Intergenerational, where adults & kids are paired up (as in secret buddies) or activities that include all ages (not sure what, but I'll come up with some), game times, craft times, music activities, etc.
- Regular covenant groups meeting possibly in people's homes
- Special interest groups, play readings, inspirational or humorous readings
- When we are bigger
  - Multi-week adult RE classes, e.g. couples class, Low Carbon Diet
- Welcoming Congregation
- Having people write brief biographies to be published so we can get to know each other better