

Live Oak UU Fellowship
Congregational Meeting
January 29, 2012 (2:00-4:00 p.m.)
The Home of Truth -- Cottage

Peter Hand, President of the Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Richard Stromer read opening words and lit the chalice. We sang *Gathered Here* to start the meeting. There were 21 attendees (18 members). Quorum was more than met.

Agenda & Introduction: Peter reviewed the agenda. Vicky Jensen moved and Kathryn Duke seconded that we adopt the agenda as written. Passed: Unanimous.

Election: Two Board of Trustees slots and two slots on the Nominating Committee were up for election. Candidates for the Board were Krista Arrington (1st 2-year term) and Darlene Pagano (2nd 2-year term); candidates for the Nominating Committee were Kate Hand (2nd 2-year term) and Jay Roller (2nd 2-year term). Lisa distributed the ballots to members. Ginny Irving collected and counted the ballots. All candidates were elected unanimously. Gratitude was expressed to all who are serving and a special thank you to Vicky Jensen who is ending her term on the Board.

Treasurer's Report: Darlene explained the budget-to-actuals sheet. The handout was as of December 31, which is exactly half the fiscal year. Our income is on target (52% in at the half-way point of the year). Expenses vary. In some categories spending is considerably below target; in a few categories spending is higher (adult learning and worship expenses). David explained worship expenses includes the folding screens that we purchased to create our own space within the Christ Episcopal Church sanctuary, putting that line over-budget. He also noted that our rent is increased in the new space so we will go over in that category. But there are no concerns about the budget. We are pleased that each year we have been able to put money into savings for future needs (such as going to every Sunday programming). In response to a question, the finance committee reported they are taking a look at the question of WHICH financial institution we use for our funds. They are committed to take all savings/retained earnings into a local and community-focused financial institution.

Stewardship: David Fry announced the March 17th St. Patrick's Day Stewardship Party to be held in the parish hall at Christ Episcopal Church (CEC). Richard Arrington, who has a lot of experience cooking for large groups (including Irish dinners) has offered to be in charge of cooking. The Stewardship team (David, Darlene, and Roger Hallsten) will find a few people to assist Richard. They are also looking for a few people to plan the party and decorate. Judith Heller volunteered to help. And Vicky Jensen had a recommendation for a musical group. David will follow up with them.

Board Goals for 2012: Peter reported that the Board has set a goal to achieve every-Sunday programming during this year. Several members made suggestions for alternate Sundays.

Debra Temple suggested Social Justice programs (possibly education, possibly activities for children and adults; some topics mentioned were immigration issues, foster youth). Judith mentioned she has a contact with a minister in Alameda who is quite active in social justice. She will reach out to her.

Jody Savage told everyone about a Religion & Science curriculum she, Chris Celata, and Jay Marx (Live Oak members who now live in Pasadena) created a few years ago. All three are happy to have the curriculum used again. Chris and Jay said they would even try to come up to teach 1-2 sessions. The class would be multigenerational – people from age 7 or 8 on up to 100!

Richard Stromer suggested that he would be willing to lead some of the adult Tapestry of Faith classes created by the UUA. Richard has taught two of them in the past and feels they are excellent. Those are free and available for all to utilize.

All options will be explored. And other suggestions (and offers to help) are encouraged.

The second goal the board announced was to have a Leadership Retreat at a nice retreat center not too far from the bay area. Lisa will start looking for a retreat center that would be available either this spring or in the fall. Again, the board welcomes suggestions of sites – and also people who would like to be involved in the planning.

Listening Campaign: Peter, Richard, Jody, and Lisa spent time organizing the many responses from people who attended group listening meetings and from the one-on-ones. A handout (addendum 2) includes (hopefully) everyone's thoughts. People are encouraged to tell the board if something was missed or misinterpreted or if they've thought of something else they would like to add. The board will spend more time digesting the material and have another report at the April 29 congregational meeting.

Dyads & Reporting Out: Everyone present had an opportunity to react to the listening exercise and/or the information presented in a dyad. After the dyads, we spoke as a group about priorities and interests. At this point the discussion clearly began to include ideas for growing our community (the next topic on the agenda), so the two were melded together. Some topics that rose to the top included:

- Social justice, particularly something Alameda-focused – Darlene offered to convene an ad hoc, short term, interim Social Justice group to work on this. The following people volunteered to be on it: Richard Arrington, Kathryn Duke, Renee Harper, Judith Heller, Ximena Rossi, and Debra Temple.
- Program that supports youth in the community as well as our own – One possibility is to offer Our Whole Lives in the community), suggestion to check with Girls Inc who do offer a sexuality program for girls
- Importance of developing a Membership Task Force – Peter noted that the lack of emphasis on this has already cost us one member who was hurt when no one reached out when that member was absent for some time
- Welcoming Congregation: Going through the UUA program to take intentional steps to become more welcoming and inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

- Keeping our music program strong and using it to connect with other organizations, choirs, and for growth.
- Keep July 4th open for participating in the Alameda parade

District Assembly & General Assembly: This year the District Assembly (DA) will be held at the Oakland Airport Hilton, April 27-29. Events begin Friday evening and end after a worship service Sunday morning. There is an additional workshop offered during the day on Friday, usually aimed at congregational leaders and ministers. That's referred to as DA Friday. In the last few years about 300 people have attended DA from the district. Peter put in a plug for the children's program, saying Isaiah could not wait for the next DA – and loved it again the second time.

This year General Assembly (GA) will be different than other years. It is strictly focused on social justice and largely on immigration issues. Peter explained that at GA in 2010 there was heated debate about moving the 2012 GA which was scheduled to be held in Phoenix, AZ. Many UUs wanted it moved because a few months earlier Arizona passed what was then the strictest anti-immigration law, allowing police to stop people if they thought they looked like they might be undocumented. After spirited debate, the decision was made (with influence of the AZ UU churches) to have GA in Arizona, but to focus it in social justice. Lisa will send the congregation more information about both DA and GA and how/when to register.

Richard shared closing words and Vicky led us in song (*Spirit of Life*). We adjourned at 3:40 p.m. and had time for socializing.