

Live Oak UU Fellowship  
**Congregational Meeting**  
March 24, 2013 (2:00-4:00 pm)  
Parish Hall, Christ Episcopal Church

Darlene Pagano, President of the Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order. Others in attendance were Kris Arrington, Richard Arrington, Nancy Balassi, Kathryn Duke, David Fry, Lisa Fry, Peter Hand, Renee Harper, Sally Kennedy, Niels Kjellund, Ty Meier, Cecilia Owen, Jay Roller, and Richard Stromer. With 12 members present, quorum was met.

Kathryn led the group in an opening song, and Jay lit the chalice.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the agenda, as modified to include a 15 minute discussion of the Chalice Lighters' offer of a \$5000 congregational growth grant.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept minutes of the January 27, 2013 meeting, with Niels abstaining and all others present voting Aye.

Richard Stromer summarized his conversation with Ben Meyers about Live Oak's interest in being a monthly guest minister for Live Oak. Ben is interested and excited about this possibility, and clearly communicated that if he is to become our consulting minister, he wants his involvement to go beyond coming in on Sunday to include engagement with the Worship Team and the larger worship development process. However, he needs more information on what his position will be at BFUU in the coming year before he can plan any specifics of taking on an additional, smaller professional commitment to another UU congregation. When he knows more, we will be able to make more specific plans.

Darlene reported that, due to recent information on Christ Episcopal Church space availability, the plans now are to expand to three worship services every month on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>d</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of every month. There are still a few wrinkles to be ironed out with our rental agreement with CEC, and we need to be flexible in our planning, but this will be the basic framework.

As for 2d Sunday activities, Live Oak's Vice-President of the Board of Trustees Kris Arrington led a discussion of how best to move us ahead with this aspect of Every Sunday Programming. First she summarized the responses to the Every Sunday Programming survey sent out earlier about people's specific interests. Then she opened the discussion for comments and ideas about the survey results and related thoughts or comments.

Kathryn asked about the possibility and interest in moving either of two current monthly activities to fill the 2nd Sunday time slot: the monthly video-discussion series that has been hosted at the Fry's house on Friday evenings, and the small group meetings happening on other weekday evenings. Peter raised the possibility of combined choir events. Renee asked "What are we trying to accomplish? Who is the intended audience?" David responded that our goals are to be here every Sunday, and to think about growing, and also to be inclusive of families with children. Peter noted that the primary goal of expanding to Every Sunday Programming was "welcome."

Main Ideas (based on survey responses and post-survey thinking):

1. Multi-generational services and/or activities
2. A discussion group aimed at deepening connections among people (Ty's suggestion based on his experience organizing a breakfast club).
3. Taizé, evensong. (These were popular among survey respondents).
4. Tapestry of Faith ([UUA curriculum](#)). (This and TED talks were also popular among survey respondents).

The people present broke into 3 groups and discussed the options above.

Richard Arrington reported out for the multigenerational programming group. They will be contacting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Alameda to learn more about what needs there are for young people. There is definite interest in having more multigen programming.

Jay Roller reported for the Taizé/Evensong group. They have people interested in leading such services. He believes the Guild Room at CEC would be an appropriate place for these services.

Ty Meier reported from the largest of the three groups, which would like to move forward with Ty's idea of discussion groups that deepen connections. Ty will lead the group and come up with topics. If there are too many people for one group (which is anticipated), Peter Hand and Nancy Balassi both volunteered to lead other groups. We believe we can divide into separate spaces (Guild Room, Room 210 of Ed building, outdoors in nice weather). Another idea out of this group was to see if some of those who come might want something a bit more structured and spiritual than the very personal and humanist perspective Ty suggested. If so, Richard Stromer volunteered to lead Tapestry of Faith classes (perhaps using separate space as mentioned above). As we get going with this, we can determine the level of interest in each style of group and proceed from there.

At this point, Peter explained the status of our grant proposal to the Growth Committee of the PCD. They very much liked our proposal and have offered us \$5,000 to help with our costs moving forward on Every Sunday Programming. But they added two contingencies: 1) That we create a covenant with the First Unitarian Church of Oakland and 2) That we apply for affiliation with the UUA.

Peter has had a conversation with Jeanelyse Doran Adams of the PCD about these. He's been assured that if we make a good faith effort to covenant with FUCO and they are not open to the idea, that is all we need to do. Regarding affiliation, if we do that, it will involve paying our Annual Program Fund (sometimes called Fair Share) to the UUA and the district. That would be approximately \$89 per member. That would mean we would be paying out about \$2,700 of the \$5,000 grant. And we would then pay our Fair Share each year. (Live Oak made a commitment to be a Fair Share congregation once we are affiliated.) There was a great deal of discussion about this. The sense of those present was that it did not make a lot of sense to affiliate right now. The Board will take this up at their next meeting. Peter said we have to accept or decline the \$5,000 by 6 months from the date it was offered. Six months will be July-August timeframe.

Finance & Stewardship – David Fry and Jay Roller went over the Budget vs Actual statement and our Balance Sheet, answering questions. We have enough money to move forward with our plans for Every Sunday programming without the grant money. We have a total of \$39,329 in the bank (as of March 7). David and Jay said they are asking each major committee (worship, music, membership, religious education, outreach, e.g.) to get them their budget request as soon as possible – and to be sure it includes funds for extra Sundays.

Announcements – Jay reminded all about the Seder dinner coming up on Tuesday, March 26 at the Berkeley Fellowship of UUs.

Then he led us in song (Sing & Rejoice), the candle was put out, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m. Folks had a little time for snacks and conversation.