

Live Oak UU Fellowship
Congregational Meeting
May 7, 2011 (2:00-4:00 p.m.)
Christ Church Episcopal, Alameda

Before our formal start of the meeting, Rev. Kathy Crary, Rector of Christ Church Episcopal (CCE), spoke to us and took interested people on a tour of the facilities. We are very grateful for the hospitality of CCE and Rev. Crary.

When everyone returned to the Parish Hall, Peter Hand, President of the Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order (2:30 p.m.). Richard Stromer read opening words and lit the chalice and Kate Hand led us in song. There were 24 attendees, including 19 members. Quorum was more than met.

Agenda Approval and Ground Rules: We added several items to the agenda: Darlene's Inspiration Fair; report on search process; and gratitudes. Lisa Fry moved, Jody Savage seconded that amended agenda be accepted. Unanimously approved.

Budget Review: David Fry and Darlene Pagano presented the budget (which had been sent out ahead of time to the congregation). Following brief discussion and questions, Mindy Mull moved, Richard Stromer seconded that the budget be approved as presented. Unanimously approved.

Reports

- **Searching for a New Location:** Mixed response to the CCE parish hall where we held this meeting. The search team had 2 other locations to suggest: one in Berkeley and one in Oakland. And, of course, we are still able to stay The Home of Truth. We had decided that we would not make any decisions at this meeting. It was clear we had not communicated enough to newer folks about the background on why we were looking for a new venue. Kate Hand volunteered to carry on the search for other possible venues.
- **Inspiration Fair:** Darlene introduced the sign-up sheets all around the room for various activities and tasks.
- **Children's Religious Education:** Kate Hand has taken on leadership of this program and is looking for a couple of other people willing to be rotating teachers.
- **Adult Religious Education:** Darlene spoke about a UU survey course that might be good for the whole congregation (not just new UUs).

- **Worship:** This is a thriving program with a dedicated team of people. Richard Stromer, chair, spoke of the need to balance the sense of continuity/process with creativity/freedom. He reminded folks of the feedback mechanisms.
- **Membership:** Our membership numbers are down a bit: several members moved out of the area; one has joined another UU church because it meets weekly; one was disappointed that we have not developed a social justice program; a few have moved on to other things. We have one new member and several others who are ready to sign the membership book. We welcome people to work on Membership (planning, greeters, people to follow-up with first time visitors, e.g.).

Singing: As planned, we tested the acoustics of the hall at this point. Those in the choir sang at the front of the room while the rest of us listened. Debra played the piano for us. Sound check went well.

Listening Project / Mission Discernment: Peter led this discussion. We plan to use this program to help us all articulate what the congregation means to us and how we can strengthen it. We need to first identify our mission and then assure that everything we do is done as a conscious choice, knowing how the action helps us to fulfill our mission, our dreams. Peter noted we need to do more than what is satisfying us -- the current members and friends -- and to look more to the future and those who will be joining us in the future.

Banner: We demonstrated our appreciation to Kate Hand for designing and creating our banner and to Darlene Pagano for instigating this and building the banner pole. The banner will be carried in the Banner Parade at District Assembly.

Kate led us, once again singing “We’re Going to Keep On Moving Forward,” a song which has great meaning for us all. We adjourned the meeting and had time to socialize and to enjoy the tasty spread brought by Darlene Pagano (with a few additions from Jay Roller).