

Minutes of Live Oak UU Fellowship Congregational Meeting
June 12, 2016
Christ Episcopal Church, Alameda, CA

Call to Order. Board President Jay Roller called the meeting to order at 4: 05 pm. Attending were 14 people, 13 of them members (the minimum number needed for a quorum is seven).

Opening. Jay led the group in song and lit the chalice. Richard Stromer read an opening reading.

Discussion: Board Recommendation – 2 services per month. Richard Stromer, Worship Committee Chair, explained to those present that UU minister Pam Gehrke, who has been preaching for us once a month (usually 4th Sundays) has taken a position as an interim minister in Alabama. Richard explained the process for finding a new monthly minister is long and time-consuming – and with no guarantee that we would find someone we would want to hire. He had brought this issue to the board a few days before the congregational meeting. The board had voted unanimously (one board member was absent) to strongly recommend to the congregation at this meeting that we go back to offering two services per month (1st & 3rd Sundays).

Action: Following considerable discussion, Jay called for the sense of those present. All 13 members present agreed that for the time being this was the right course though there was a sense of loss for many. In addition, it was suggested that the board review the situation periodically (perhaps in 6 months) to see if anything had changed enough for them to consider returning to 3 services per month.

Budget Presented for Review / Approval. Roger Hallsten, Treasurer, presented the budget, which was developed before the suggestion that we go back to two services/month. Roger explained that we would save about \$9600/year by dropping the one service. (That savings includes the payment to the minister plus the cost of renting the sanctuary and guild room one Sunday per month.) That savings will mean the fellowship should not need to dip into our reserve funds (in other words a small surplus, rather than a deficit budget).

Action: Richard moved (and Sally Kennedy seconded) that we approve the budget as presented by Roger, with the understanding that we expect to spend about \$9,600 less because of moving to 2 Sundays/month. The budget was approved unanimously.

Reports from Various Committees.

Children & Youth Religious Exploration (Kathryn Duke, chair). Kathryn was absent (attending her daughter's college graduation), so Jay read her report. The main item was that we are also losing Brooke Bishara, our wonderful CYRE leader. Now that Brooke's children will both be in school full days, she will pursue full-time work. For the summer months, we will do without a replacement for

Brooke. Elena Waller, the CYRE assistant and one adult from the congregation will take the children to Franklin Park on Sundays in July & August. In the meantime, the CYRE team will search for a new leader for the program.

Worship Committee (Richard Stromer, Chair). Richard said we have enough Worship Leaders (WL), but are short a few Worship Associates (WA). For services when there is no WA available, the WL will invite a selected individual to do some elements of the service (read a reading, e.g.) just to provide more than one voice in the service. They will also ask people who took the “Finding Your Spiritual Voice” class to occasionally help out in the service. The Worship Team is also looking at the question: “How does worship build loving community,” as our mission statement states. Finally, Richard intends to offer the “Finding Your Spiritual Voice” class again sometime this church year.

Membership Committee (Lisa Fry, Chair). Lisa reported that our membership number has not changed in the past fiscal year. We have 38 members. There are 8-9 who do not come to services or activities and the committee will try to reach out to them. A few of those stay in touch and/or pledge. We also have 4 newer people who have been coming regularly enough that it is time to ask if they wish to become members. A few of those are already pledging. Attendance on Sundays, is unfortunately down a bit. Lisa also noted we had 17 first time visitors, 13 of whom returned at least once (and 8 returned multiple times).

Music Committee (Judith Heller & Sally Kennedy, co-chairs). Judith reported there is one new member in the choir and that they have been rehearsing 3 Sundays a month. Guest musicians over the year have included Isaiah Hand, Dash Post, Eri Borcea-Ishigaki, and Bruce Silverman. The committee is starting a new evaluation process for the choir director. And they anticipate adding some new styles of music for services, including gospel and Taize, and perhaps others.

Closing. Jay led the group in a song and Richard gave a closing reading.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. and everyone stayed for conversation and snacks provided by the board.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa S. Fry, subbing for the Board Secretary, Kathryn Duke.