

# Notes for Church Council August 23,2021

## Opening Words-Lisa Ross

### Check-in 6:35-6:55pm

**Discussion of Second Principle-** We affirm and promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

Think about how our committees implement and relate to this principle:

General discussion and sharing of how people feel their focus areas support this principle.

### **Discussion of Welcoming Ideas from Board/Council Retreat**

Council discussed the first discussion topic: How we can enhance our skills of being truly welcoming to those whom we don't know well in our church family.

*Greeter training was assigned to the Membership Committee and Large Church Project to Social Responsibility cluster.*

*See end of these notes for additional retreat ideas that were discussed and decisions regarding them.*

### **Report from Policy Board Rep- Steve Wilke**

The Board is spending much time discussing COVID and the situation since case numbers are increasing.

### **Report from Minister-Rev. Kim Mason**

Looking at the feasibility of having some outside worship services. Logistics are being worked through. Live streaming equipment is installed and we are working on hiring a new tech person.

### **Reports from Cluster Chairs:**

#### **Social Responsibility and Outreach: Lisa Ross**

Toward Justice continues social witnessing every Saturday and a speaker on Defund the Police will be on Sept. 26th. Also will be offering a workshop on Difficult Conversations starting in October. Looking for ways to expand into environmental justice.

Holy Ground -- participated in a food drive and prepared the Trinity Hot Lunch.

Social Responsibility -- met to line up the Designated Collections for the new programming year. Are planning discussion forums.

FCCF is gathering RFPs with a focus on marginalized groups.

Sandwich making - working on the certification process now that the kitchen sinks have been repaired.

Partner Church - the UU Partner Church Council is dissolving. This leaves logistics of the program up in the air.

Is generally hoping to have more coordination between the various committees.

### **Growth and Engagement Cluster**-Erin Milligan

Membership Committee completed membership calls. Circle Suppers were organized but it is unclear if any group has actually had theirs. Norma Vogelweid is working on new member profiles.

Alliance is active.

### **Programming Cluster**-Sue Herzberg

ERDE has been on hiatus.

Worship - see Rev. Mason's report.

RE -- parents are very happy with the in person programming with Claire Weichselbaum. There was a pizza party for Coming of Age and Youth Group. Search for a permanent director is ongoing.

Play space -- we received the permit from the City. The installation will be moving ahead.

### **Stewardship Cluster**-Steve Smidowicz

Last fiscal year ended with a surplus of about \$27,000. We received a generous bequest from the estate of Doris Pree.

### **Facilities cluster**-Clint Cruse

Finance will discuss potential funding for new Fellowship Hall furniture.

Hope Chapel was repainted by church volunteers and the floor is being refinished this week.

Plumbing work is completed in the preschool and the floor will be repaired.

There is still some electrical work that is coming up.

Trees on the west side of the parking lot will be trimmed.

Landscaping is looking at a potential grant from MSD.

Landscaping is looking at what to do with the Memorial Garden.

## **Closing Words and Adjournment**

### **Retreat Follow Up Discussion:**

- **Building a better Fellowship Hour.**

- a. Reducing competing interests.** So that people can socialize more freely and with fewer interruptions, we could refrain from scheduling meetings between 11 am-12 pm after the Sunday service. For members' convenience, these meetings could be scheduled remotely at other times.

*Committees will be asked to think about their meeting times, but it was understood that not all groups (i.e. groups with parents) would be able to postpone meetings till a later time on Sundays.*

- b. Replicating random breakout rooms in Fellowship Hall.** Those who have participated in Zoom fellowship after Sunday services have expressed interest in maintaining the randomness of group assignments, which foster interactions between members and groups that haven't typically interacted after in-person services. Those who are interested can choose to be assigned to a table. To enhance conversation around shared interests, we can assign different topics per table.

*It was felt that this might be difficult to implement given the fluid nature of Fellowship time. The idea of having conversation starters on the tables seemed like a good alternative.*

- c. Group outreach during Fellowship.** Different committees, leadership groups and/or committees can take turns hosting coffee hour, actively serving table to table to increase visibility of these groups and allow members to find out more about them.

*General interest in trying this. Need to understand what coffee hour will look like with COVID protocols before implementing.*

- d. Ice-breaking activities during Fellowship.** We can replicate activities that have been used successfully in church social events, such as a scavenger hunt where you have to search for people who have certain skills, experiences, etc.

*It was generally felt that this is better suited to a large group gathering like a potluck rather than the casual gathering at coffee hour.*