Minutes of October 3, 2023 Coordinating Council Meeting

Attending: Steve Leapley, Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw, Eileen Leapley, Judy Houston, Barb Gundy, Pam Palmer, Joel Morrison, Annie Harrison, Bill Dowling.

Meeting began at 9:36 a.m.

Chalice was lit, brief check-in was done.

Old Business –

Easement – Steve Leapley and Bill Reynolds met with our attorney, Ben DeMarsh. He is preparing the wording for the easement, as well as the contract for use of the playing field by IVMS. Mr. DeMarsh discovered that if IVMS ever closes and their property is used for anything other than a school, the easement would be canceled. Mr. DeMarsh has been in touch with the IVMS attorney, and things are progressing.

Use of Asta Linder - It was mentioned that, in order to attract a settled minister, we might possibly offer them the use of Asta Linder as a parsonage. Joel noted that Rev. Susanne Nazian had used Waters Hall as a parsonage for a time, but didn’t feel safe there alone. It was mentioned that alarms could be installed in our buildings. Bill cautioned that the new Campus Utilization Task Committee, which is presently being formed, will be considering various options for our buildings. Rev. Amy said it’s not likely that a parsonage will come into play, but many churches are in search, with far fewer ministers searching.

Update on the Right to Read Book Event – Steve installed No Firearms signs in various places on the campus.

New Business –

The Board and Rev. Amy recently participated in a retreat, where three goals were agreed upon.

Goal #1 – Membership - Within the next 12 months they would like to reach 225 members. Five-year goal – 250.

Goal #2 – Make sure the congregation is aware of our financial status, and to be transparent about where our funds go.

Goal #3 – The teams are all in need of more volunteers. We have a group of 25 or so volunteers who bear most of the burden, and we need more help.

Annie agreed that a membership total of 225 by April 1, 2024 is a realistic goal. Pathways is being planned for November. Prospective members will be encouraged to volunteer. Barb said many visitors have cited our new electronic sign as the reason for their attendance. Steve noted that Bill Reynolds has agreed to learn how to use the sign, to keep it up to date and interesting.

Steve noted that again he has seen visitors not being engaged in conversation by members, and we could very well lose these visitors. Rev. Amy noted that we need to consider welcoming ambassadors to reach out to visitors and engage them in conversation. Perhaps we could set up a small table with a sign, encouraging visitors to gather and talk to a member or two.

Annie brought up the Neighborhood Gatherings as one reason why she and Laurie joined UUCOV. We need to revitalize the neighborhood gatherings. Rev. Amy mentioned that newer members should be specifically invited to the 25th anniversary.

Judy discussed publicizing the 25th anniversary event to the public. Perhaps an open house, with refreshments and a concert would help. We need to create opportunities to make the public aware of us.

Joel noted that the Finance Team still needs a budget from the 25th Anniversary committee, as well as a budget for the Right to Read event.

Pam announced that, due to moving, health reasons, etc., she must resign from chairing the Activities Team. She briefly discussed a Thanksgiving dinner held at a restaurant. Flynn’s is a possibility, but we need to find an Activities Team chair to organize this.

Janet Knudsen submitted a request to solicit donations for the Good Samaritan Pharmacy on October 22nd and 29th. Donations would include unopened, unexpired over-the-counter medications, such as Tylenol, Advil, etc., for the Good Samaritan clients. All agreed.

Rev. Amy mentioned that VICA is having their Thanksgiving Eve service on November 22ndat the United Church of Christ. Joel reminded us that UUCOV received a grant to start VICA, and it’s been going strong ever since.

The Clean Water group has requested permission to put a petition on the lanai, to get a referendum passed that addresses red tide, pollutants, etc. All agreed to grant them permission.

Betty Barriga of the Immigration Justice Committee of UUFCC sent a thank you note for our donations to the asylum-seeking family that they are supporting. The note will be put in the November Connection.

Joel noted that the Finance Committee will meet Thursday to come to a decision on how to implement the new method of pledging.

Rev. Amy mentioned that she thinks UUCOV should have a plaque installed to dedicate our 25th anniversary. Judy mentioned that we should ask the City of Venice to make a proclamation for Maxine Barritt and Monty Andrews, both UUCOV members as well as community members. Joel mentioned that Maxine Barritt Park should have a plaque indicating that she was a UUCOV member.

Steve reported that he had seen a heavy duty, portable sandwich board sign at a local sign shop, with removable inserts that could be used for numerous functions. Cost is $220, plus $43 per removable insert. Rev. Amy agreed that this would be a good investment, and the funds could come from her professional ministerial account. It was agreed that Steve would order the sign and one panel. Other panels could be made elsewhere at a lower cost.

Rev. Amy talked about the possibility of creating a new chalice for our 25th anniversary, which is often done in UU churches.

Meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Leapley