

Joint Council Meeting Minutes June 7, 2016

Attendees: Hal Schulman (ERT), Sherri Casterline (Facilities), Pat Ward (Heritage), Christy Hickey and Jamie Carrol (Hospitality), Jim Frazier (Nominating and Welcoming), Bill Scown (Social Justice), Jeff Stibal (Technology), Glenda Peck (WOW), Lindsay Bates (MAD Fund, MOM, Worship), Scott Talbot Lewis (LRE), Christine Imielski, Debbie Leoni, Nancy Christensen, Jan Miller

No representative: Communications; Green Sanctuary; Stewardship; Personnel

No report: Finance, Heritage, Lay Ministry, LRE, MOM, Nominating, Personnel, Stewardship, Technology, Welcoming, Assistant Minister, Administrative Assistant

Meeting began at 7 p.m. with an opening meditation, plus a 10-minute check-in on the subject of the members' most significant or outstanding moment of the past year.

Previous Month's Board Minutes, Joint Council Meeting Minutes, Staff Reports

There were no questions or comments on last month's Board or Council minutes. Regarding Staff Reports, Hal Schulman commented that there were more missing reports than normal. Sherri Casterline questioned the "Goals" section on the template, asking if goals are suggested or required. Hal explained that there are two types of goals: congregational goals and ministry team goals. He said that some of the goals are not relevant to every team, or needed. Debbie Leoni suggested that goals are not necessarily required, but team leaders should use them if they are helpful.

Bill Scown said that we are still in need of 30 volunteers, including four Day Managers, for the pizza booth at Swedish Days. He asked everyone to ask their team members to sign up. Christine Imielski will send an email blast to remind congregants to sign up. Bill also reported that there is an upcoming delegates assembly for the Fox River Valley Initiative on Tuesday, June 14, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Charles. He said this is an opportunity to come forth with concerns and propose topics for consideration, and invited everyone to attend.

Thanking Those Who Have Served and Welcoming the New Team Leaders

Hal Schulman said that one of the Board's agenda items is to approve the Ministry Team Leaders and their charges. He announced the new Ministry Team Leaders: Jaime Carrol, Hospitality; Sherri Casterline, Facilities; Scott Talbot Lewis, LRE; Bill Scown, Social Justice. Regarding Ministry on Ministries, Lindsay Bates said that Bev Coe and Sean Hruby are the new members – with the Council meeting representative to be determined. Hal also introduced Nancy Christensen and the new Board Vice President, who will co-lead the Council with Debbie Leoni. He welcomed the new members, and thanked those who are stepping down. He commented that their investment in passion, time and energy is what keeps UUSG vibrant.

Discussion of Congregational Input from Annual Meeting

A document entitled: "2016 Annual Meeting suggestions and discussion" was distributed, and Hal Schulman encouraged discussion of the points that relate to each team's goals, programs and charges. Regarding item #1 (Saturday night services), Lindsay commented that while funding is not currently available, it may be possible in next year's budget.

Regarding item #2 (more programs aimed at wider community), Glenda asked for clarification. Examples of current or recent programs aimed at the wider community were given – Friday Flicks; location for the Geneva Film Festival; having peace marchers stay at the facility; the outreach program for the introduction of the Affordable Care Act; the Mental Health Ministry series; facility tours following bus trips at last year's Swedish Days; participating in Preservation Partners' historic churches event. Scott Talbot Lewis commented that LRE may do something in that area, and he said that our 175th anniversary is an opportunity to promote UUSG as a foundational element of the community.

Regarding item #4 (what brings you to church?), Jim Frazier said that the New UU program is a great resource for answering that question. He said that many come because of our LRE program and/or because they are searching for a place to work out their theology. They come because of those needs; then the services help entice them to stay.

Regarding item #5 (exposure in social media and marketing to the community), Hal encouraged everyone to send their news and input to the Communications Team so it can go to the wider community.

Regarding item #6 (sharing with friends about our church), Scott Talbot Lewis asked why “evangelizing” is a dirty word – he said we can talk about the great things we are doing without proselytizing.

Regarding item #15, Nancy Christensen said that at a UU church where she was previously a member, they had a “Mom’s Day Out,” which was open to the community. She said that for a small fee, moms could leave their children with the program, and then have some time to themselves; she said many of the moms went out together. Glenda Peck commented that UUSG does not offer a lot of programs for young singles or young families.

In summary, Hal Schulman observed that most of the comments were recommendations or requests for *more* – suggestions to bring people together. Deb Leoni encouraged the Team Leaders to bring these points and the discussion to their team members.

New Business and Future Agenda Items

Sherri Casterline said the Facilities Team is investigating document sharing providers, and suggested it might be useful for other teams.

Hal Schulman reported that there are 25 to 28 attendees coming to the June 18 Leadership Orientation.

Glenda Peck asked about templates for teams’ annual reports; Hal said it would be sent to the Team Leaders as soon as it’s completed.

In adjourning the meeting, Hal Schulman noted that it was his last meeting, and said it has been an honor and a privilege to serve with the Council -- working through challenges as a group -- and that he is leaving a Council that looks, feels, and operates differently than it did a year ago. The experience reinforced something he already knew: the richness of UUSG and the amazing passion and talent of its people. He also thanked Debbie Leoni for mentoring and challenging him. Glenda Peck closed with “*We are a stronger community in part because of you, Hal.*”

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, July 5, at 7 p.m.