BHUU Board Meeting

February 14, 2021

**Present**: Judy Barisonzi, Jude Genereaux, Ken Hood, Valerie Rude, Patricia Shifferd, Mark Van Etten. Also, Linda Thompson, April Nielsen.

**Committee Reports**:

Treasurer’s Report:

* Reports of money available were sent; we are fine financially, especially since our costs for the building are less.
* A draft budget will be presented next month. Suggestions were made that the amount for guest speakers be increased and that we continue to subscribe to ZOOM.
* The certification of members/budget etc. was submitted successfully.
* The question was raised about the publication of UU World. Last summer it was announced that the print copy would be published twice a year, Sept. and March.

Buildings & Grounds:

* The filters have been replaced in the furnaces
* A meeting will be called next month to discuss spring projects.
* Faucets have been opened a bit to prevent the pipes from freezing during this cold spell. The toilet safety frames have been installed.

Communications:

* Ken will move our website to our Word Press account for efficiency of time and ease of payment. This will not change any functionality
* The newsletter deadline is February 27th for March publication. Articles are needed. Pat will send an email recruiting such. The suggestion was made to include the “Letter to Pres. Biden,” the outgrowth of today’s service on Unity.

Community Service:

* The monthly Benjamin House meal has been organized.
* The cold has led to a decline in “customers” for the little free pantry.
* Linda Thompson attended the annual meeting of the Community Outreach group to which we contribute. They continue to have a big demand for the money they provide to those in need.

Social & Environmental Justice

* The Climate Solutions group had no report
* The book discussion on the book *Caste* is well-attended and productive
* April Nielsen attended the meeting to the WI UU Social Action Network (WUUSAN). Their focus is on the Fair Maps movement to assure that redistricting will reduce gerrymandering in the state.

Grants available from Mid-America:

* There was a brief discussion of this program. Pat was instructed to send a group email regarding the Laughlin portion which provides small grants ($500) to assist elderly UU’s with living expenses.

Program:

* Covenant Groups: Jim Bradley described the Touchstones covenant discussion groups which he has been participating in in AL. The structured material allows small groups to meet and discuss various topics of spiritual concern. These are designed to allow people to get to know one another better and to share deep concerns about the topics. Judy explained how our program committee has been thinking about this option; next week’s service on Kindness will be a modified adaptation of the material. This will give people a chance to see how such a group might work. However, the program committee is loath to undertake a major initiative in this regard, although Pat is willing to provide ZOOM assistance for anyone interested. Jim will provide information about a current consideration of the topic evolution & spirituality. Perhaps this will be of interest and provide guidance about whether this sort of thing should be a program focus. While the Touchstones material is not free, April noted that there is an abundance of material available on the UUA Worship Web for such undertakings.
* Programming in the post-covid era:
  + The committee is considering what sort of technological options should be added to expand our service availability once we are able to meet in person, some sort of dual service modality. The committee will develop a plan for such options, such a live streaming, or other ideas. Some expressed concern that the use of such things (zoom, streaming, etc.) might reduce in person attendance and lead to decline in community solidarity. Others felt that we would not be able to judge this until we try it; perhaps it would increase attendance. Ken noted there are ways for 2-way communication to work with part-remote and part in person.
  + When do we re-open?: Mark suggested that the guidelines might be: everyone fully vaccinated, continued masks and social distance, 25% capacity, no snacks. He noted that if the state opens vaccination to teachers on March 1 that local health agencies will not comply since, given our area’s age composition, there will still be many over 65 who have not yet completed the series. April noted that while the rate of vaccination is increasing, it will take time for our rural area to be fully served. Ken suggested that sometime in May or June we should plan an outdoor gathering.
  + Time constraints led to a tabling of the matter of sister congregations until next month.

Annual Meeting: May 2 was set as the date. The nominations committee will be contacted regarding this.

Submitted by Patricia Shifferd