

Summary of October 20 Visioning/Objective Session

- We discussed our **Congregational Covenant** and appointed a Task Force comprised of Mary Van Valin, Jane Watts and Dusty Culton, to refine the Covenant and, also, make recommendations on how we work with out of Covenant behavior. Our goal is to have a revised Covenant for Congregational approval at our June Annual Meeting
- We also discussed our **Mission Statement** and decided we needed a much briefer statement. It was recommended by our facilitator that we canvass past Presidents for ideas. Mike McDonald has done that but only four responded. Mike is going to make a second try at that. If that fails, Mike will try a different tack. Mike would like to find a way to get the congregation involved in this. Our goal is a recommendation to be approved at our June Annual Meeting
- We established four goals and steps towards those goals:
 - **Long term sustainability (membership and financial) – five year goal** We have not established leadership for this goal. Following were the actions suggested at the Visioning Session by Barb Conley, Dusty Culton, Ann Swaney, Jane Watts, Eric Isenberger, Chris Walter and Jane Fochtman:
 - Be welcoming for potential new members – this will help make our community sustainable in both membership and financially
 - Be more obvious we are UU's at the Christmas sing at State Theatre and get UU credited when we volunteer
 - Create forums that can be held at UUCGT and in other places (i.e. State Theatre, NMC classrooms) on issues of importance to UUCGT and UUs in general. Could be panel discussions. Examples: homelessness, guns, world religions/spirituality series... Perhaps a task force can brainstorm these ideas, or ideas may be solicited from Committees (e.g. Social Justice, Membership)
 - Continue to work with other congregations, and show up at marches, rallies – but identify ourselves as UU's (e.g. T-shirts, banners, other)
 - Get local press coverage for our social justice events
 - Have various kinds of events:
 - Multigenerational weekend events – fun + service project that all ages can participate in
 - Fundraising events at UUCGT: Garage sale, Arts/Crafts exhibit and sale, holiday bazaars, etc.
 - Have childcare available to allow parents to participate in UUCGT committees, other events
 - Advertise ourselves: Oryana, notice of our services, events in newspaper, other media

- Work to have a first rate religious education program to attract families and grow spiritually
 - Assure strong community to be able to sustain minister long term, and attract the next minister
 - Endowment needs to grow – currently donations at a memorial service, if not otherwise designated, go to endowment. But more needs to be done to be sure the endowment grows.
 - Eventually we will need a capital campaign when we do grow - engage the congregation in working toward a goal we need to stretch to reach. Could visit with congregational members – not just to ask for money but to see what is important to them about UUCGT.
- **Having an engaging, viable and strong religious education program for children, families and adults – five year goal** - We have a Religious Education Task Force already working on aspects of this goal. The task force is Jolynn Paige, Laura Matchett, Kat Norman and Maya LaForest. Following were the actions suggested at the Visioning Session by Mary Van Valin, Lauren Keinath, Amanda Mangiardi, Laura Matchett, Bernard Hanchett, Jalene Moore and Jan Zerbel:
 - Have folks in the congregation learn the names of the children and their parents. Laura M will make a list of questions that the person doing the story wisdom could ask children as we all get to know them better.
 - “All about You You!” posters will be a part of a Sunday Service once a month, with one child introduced with his/her family and the poster they made.
 - Get creative with meeting needs of young families, as they may not be attending just on Sunday mornings. Soup lunches, maybe kids make lunch and serve parents, etc. Monthly themes from Sunday Services shared in RE.
 - There needs to be further collaboration with Sunday Services Committee
 - We need a large and robust RE Committee in place before we hire a new person to lead.
- **Broadening the base of active participation – one year goal** – Hal Gurian has volunteered to lead this effort and will be forming a task force to work on the goal. Following were the actions suggested at the Visioning Session by Judith Halsted, Andi Kramer, Hal Gurian, Karl Keinath, Chris Lautz, Kay Wentzel, Pat Light, Chris Innes and Dave Halsted:
 - Fund raisers which involves the membership no only in raising money but also by social activities with the fund raisers
 - Once or twice a year, committees set up tables to explain to the congregation what each committee is involved with
 - This December 2, after the service, during the coffee hour, the Sunday Services Committee will be doing their annual Christmas tree decorating

with a different twist. We are inviting families with children to come and help decorate the trees while “Ze Kat in Ze Hat” roams around. Pizza, cookies and drinks will be served. Laura and Kat have committed to bringing their families and to spread the word.

- Revitalize Wednesday evening supper with guest speakers once a month.
- Movie night
- Music Fest

- **Simplify our Committee Structure and provide better leadership training – one year goal** - Judy Myers has agreed to lead this Task Force with the able assistance of Donna Stein-Harris. Following were the actions suggested at the Visioning Session by Judy Myers, Sandra McDonald, Jerry Schatz, Tom Darnton, Donna Stein-Harris, Rick Walter, Linda Fletcher and Kat Norman:
 - Develop a Board Task Force to:
 - Develop criteria for evaluating the current committee structure including, but not limited, to how each committee relates to our mission and outreach
 - Collect all the existing data and documents that have already been developed from past reviews
 - Document all the existing Committees and their current work to better understand their mandate/program of work. (For example, the Program Council meets once a month to report out what each committee is doing. They currently do not have a mandate to ensure that there is no overlap, etc. or look for ways that some of the committees can work together on specific or time limited projects.)
 - Review other successful UU Congregational structures.
 - Make recommendations to the Board
 - Recommend to the LDC that they develop and conduct ongoing Leadership Training Programs for Board Members and Program/Committee Chairs.