

Program Council Minutes for Meeting of Sept. 7, 2011

Present: Kendra Ford; Laura Stevens; Jane Oldfield-Spearman, chair (Caring); Sylvia Foster (Green Sanctuary); Frank Heffron (Social Justice); Gwen Kenney (Outreach); Frank Merrick (Lego); Anne Tufts (Hospitality); David Weber (Adult RE)

We began the meeting with introductions and membership updates: Jane Oldfield-Spearman and Jeremy James will facilitate the PC this year with Jane taking the lead through December and Jeremy taking over in January. Changes in membership are as follows: Kendra will act as the Board Representative instead of having a Board Member join us as we have done in years past. Gwen Kenny will represent Outreach Task Force, Dixon Hummel will represent the Green Team, Frank Heffron will represent Social Justice and Donna Morgado will represent the Nominating Committee.

1. Committee updates

Gwen K reported that the beneficiary of September's Give-It-Away Sunday collection will be the New Outlook Teen Center and that the week of September 11–18 is one when FUUSE provides volunteer hosts for Seacoast Family Promise.

Frank H mentioned (a) Marion Mengert's outreach to recipients of eviction letters from the Exeter Selectmen; (b) the 9/7 showing of the DVD about engineering and scientific disbelief in the official account of the fall of the Twin Towers; (c) the public poetry reading sponsored by Ten Thousand Poets for Change, to be held in Town House Common on 9/24 in the afternoon; and (d) the social-justice-related ARE course on gross income disparity.

Jane O-S and Kendra talked about the abundance (10-25) of volunteers for the Caring Committee's plan to visit people who feel connected to FUUSE but are physically unable to attend services. There will be substantial orientation and training in preparation.

Frank M noted that Lego is under way and that this year's topic is food safety. Our team of ten fourth through ninth graders plan to focus on bacon. Computer recycling will be transferred to Green Sanctuary.

Kendra announced that Warren Siecke has accepted appointment as FUUSE's treasurer (there was fervent approval from all present) and that a Stewardship program will begin this year, a multi-step project. E.g., Pathways (see the Adult RE brochure) will include a segment on various ways to support FUUSE financially. She also reported that the church's fiscal year ended 6-30-2011 with only a modest deficit (\$206); and that this week's second service (6:30-7) as well as the first (10 a.m.) would be about the legacies of September 11, 2001.

Laura Stevens said that recruitment of teachers is under way, also of two nursery workers. RE is seeking more interaction between the children and other members of FUUSE. This year the regular children's classes will be held during the 9 o'clock service; at 11 there will be a multi-age activity.

Sylvia F reported on behalf of the music program. Mary Doane has plans for building a singing congregation (details to follow). Green Sanctuary plans include (a) the posting of information about action projects on the bulletin board; (b) a course at the Retreat; (c) the GS-related ARE program (see brochure); (d) participation in Take Back the Tap, a national effort to reduce use of bottled water; (e) Cliff Sinnott's work for education and advocacy on behalf of Great Bay.

Anne Tufts reported that Hospitality needs members; there was support for advertising by the Committee in the E-FUUSE. There was some discussion of the issues around committee recruitment and the feeling on the part of some, perhaps many, members of being overwhelmed with tasks. At our next meeting we will discuss a recruitment plan for committees this year. Anne also noted that on 9/24 there will be a potluck to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Kendra's leadership of the church. Also the Committee will oversee an experimental designation of the couches in the Community Room as an area for quiet conversation during coffee hour. This is one of several efforts to meet and reconcile the needs of the children and of more sedate older members. Kendra expressed her view that it is really a space issue. 70 people will be attending the Retreat, where the program will include various workshops. Kendra will divide her time between the Retreat and the church.

2. Discussion items

1) The organization of new FUUSE directory. Tish Lewis is planning to include photos, work IDs, and indications of interests and skills. The sticking points are cost and security issues, esp. those pertaining to the publication of photos of children. We discussed various possible models. Jane will convey our recommendation to Tish that she explore the cost of the Olan Mills commercial program with that of a more homespun version in which photos would be taken by Tish and Lyn Rodger.

2) Intra-church communication modalities. We revisited the issues that arise when trying to meet competing needs: Getting news out vs. making publications readable; disseminating information widely vs. being green; keeping updates succinct vs. being accurate; expressing points of view for advocacy purposes vs. checking facts. It was agreed that the E-FUUSE should have short postings that convey news about church related activities. One suggestion was a new publication ("The Program Council Pulse"?) with in-depth articles from program committees about their work that would allow a separation between the Order of Service and more secular information items. These articles could serve to convey some of the richness that our work involves so that members might learn about what we do and be inspired to join in! This was envisioned as being available monthly on an optional basis. 3) There was preliminary thinking about the budget and the fact that program committees have

not been utilizing the funds that they request in the budget. JB Gardiner asked us to consider why this is and take it into account as budget planning begins again in a few months - save this item for next month's meeting.

3. Conclusions: The meeting lasted until 9 pm because of lengthy committee updates which were expected given that this was the first meeting of the church year. Members were asked to submit items for discussion in advance so that we can use our time efficiently with the intention of ending the meeting at 8:30 in future sessions.