

Shared Ministry Committee Minutes

January 17, 2017

Present: Betsy Biesenbach, Barbara Bockner, Melanie Ham, Jeanne Larsen, Joan Petrus, Alex Richardson, Nancy Valle, Lynn Yates.

Absent: None

1. Chalice lighting and check in
2. November minutes approved
3. Future meetings – Feb.28, March 28, April 25, May 23.
4. Board Report – nothing to report. Council is happening, but they have no clear charge at this point.
5. Ministry assessment – The Children’s RE survey came from Karen Hager. The larger one from Hartford Institute has been sent off, and is back for draft revisions. Both are anonymous, but there will be an option to sign. We will work on how to guarantee just one response per person.

LFD survey will go out in Feb. The other survey will be open from March 20 to April 2. We will have dedicated laptops at church for those who want to fill it out on Sunday morning. We will consider offering a prizes to those who sign their names. Some suggestions are a hotel room for the weekend or a personalized sermon. Melanie will write a blurb – it will go to announcements, the order of service as a separate announcement, e-mail, bulletin board. Megan will take care of it. We will think of a clever name for the survey next month.

6. Town Hall assessment - The board thought the town hall went well. Barbara got positive feedback, but people want a chance to ask follow-up questions. We will consider a back channel for comments during the meeting. Speakers need to be more succinct. We need to decide who we want and how to get them there. Each person will get a set amount of time to check in. We will start at 12:15 next time. Next town hall – March 19 and June 11 unless non-theists are meeting. Kerry, Megan, Jessie for OUUT are possible speakers. We will work on it next month. We should consider doing a town hall meeting during a service.

7. Listening circles – Sun Feb. 19, Thurs Feb. 23, Sun Feb. 26. Topic – social justice. Rev. Alex will send Nancy info from UU College of Social Justice for ideas. The emphasis will be on doing things as a congregation.

Questions:

1. What are we called to do if, for instance Planned Parenthood is firebombed?

2. How would you feel about doing this?

3. Would you have the board's back or the minister's if they make such a decision based on our values?

Betsy will make sandwiches, Lynn and Rev. Alex will help. Melanie will bring chips, Barbara will bring cookies

8. Conversation with Rev. Alex – Assessment is critically important work. The survey is wonderful, so are town hall meetings and listening circles.

9. Covenant Corner – contest to condense the covenant down to 20 words. Nancy will work on that for February newsletter – deadline is Feb. 20. March – listening circle wrap up by Betsy

10. Other business – none

11. Extinguish the chalice.