

Minutes – Thursday, April 19, 2012
Live Oak Board of Trustees Meeting
David & Lisa Fry's apartment

Board Members Present: Kris Arrington, Lisa Fry, Peter Hand, Darlene Pagano, Jody Savage
Guests Present: David Fry

Called to order at 7:15p.m. Peter read our opening words, we lit the chalice, and checked-in. Consent agenda (minutes of last meeting), approved.

Approve/Modify Agenda: Modified the agenda as follows: Increased time for budget discussion and added an item (discuss board meeting start-time). Lisa moved we approve the agenda as amended. Kris seconded. Unanimous.

Pastoral Support: Following a brief discussion with our caring committee, Lisa contacted Rev. Ben Meyers, Berkeley Fellowship of UUS, to ask if he would be interested in discussing a contract to provide pastoral support beyond the capabilities of our caring committee (e.g., memorial services, places that limit visitors [intensive care units, hospice, rehab centers, more]). Ben is very willing to work with us on this. Kris Arrington volunteered to work with Jay, Sally, and Ben on this. She will rely on the board for the financial arrangements.

District Assembly Attendance: Live Oak members attending include Nanci Armstrong-Temple, Kris & Richard Arrington, Lisa Fry, Kate, Peter, & Isaiah Hand, and Darlene Pagano. Carol Cissel, our CRE teacher will also attend. We will talk at breakfast at DA to see who will attend various workshops. Live Oak is covering registration for a couple of people. Note: Peter will also attend GA in Phoenix in June.

Financials: We're in good shape and staying within our budget.

Stewardship: The St. Patrick's Day party was a great success, with 50-some people attending. David reports we have 33 pledges totaling \$32,786. There are still a few more to come in.

Budget Discussion: With careful consideration, the Finance Committee will present a budget this year that includes the possibility of dipping into our reserves for up to \$5,000. But they note that they do not think we will actually have to do that. Reason: The budget for the next fiscal year was created assuming expenses for every Sunday programming from the start of the year when, in fact, it will take us a number of months to ramp up to that level. Therefore, they know we will underspend for several months. They also note that the budget was created to meet our dreams, our aspirations. Again, we know from past years' experience, that most of our committees do not get all the programs they hope for going as quickly as they plan, again meaning some of the expenses will not be incurred. And last, past history shows that we have had \$5,000 balance left at the end of each year. With all of that understanding, Jody moved and Kris seconded that we accept the budget as proposed. Approved unanimously. David and Darlene will write a cover letter to explain the budget and Lisa will send both out to the congregation.

Grant Proposal Update: The Pacific Central District's Growth Committee has a fund available only for helping new congregations in the district. Live Oak has written and submitted a proposal asking for \$5,000/year for three years (or a sum total of \$15,000) to assist us with moving to every Sunday programming. Lisa wrote the proposal. Kris, Jody, Darlene, David, and Nancy Balassi all assisted with editing it. At this point, we do not know when the proposal will be considered or when we'll get a response.

All Fellowship Retreat: The members of the Palo Alto UU congregation will begin registering for their all-church retreat at Bass Lake on May 1. Other congregations (including Live Oak) will be allowed to register for any remaining spaces after May 15. Their retreat is in early September. Darlene will keep us informed.

Planning Congregational Meeting (4/29): After the usual opening words and song, the ad hoc Social Justice team will present the official proposal to partner with Alameda Point Collaboraitve followed by an activity related to that work. We'll then have a discussion and vote on the proposed budget. Other agenda items will include Jody presenting something on the Religion & Science class, a report on the preceding meeting on developing a mission and mission statement. Peter will put together the agenda and get it to Lisa to distribute. Refreshments: Darlene, fruit; Kris, drink; Peter, gluten-free sweets.

Mission Planning Meeting (4/22): Lisa will email the whole list looking for suggestions of mission statements that people recommend. She and David will prepare sheets with the various selected statements and bring dots to use for voting. Lisa and David will bring refreshments. Ideally, we'll all agree on something at this meeting. If not, we'll continue the process.

Every Sunday Programming: Jody is still looking for someone to handle the religion side of the Science & Religion class. She will speak to Richard and may look for a seminarian. Lisa suggested one person who is interested, but will not know for sure if she will be in the area until mid-May. Darlene said we should not plan on SJ being in charge of one Sunday a month yet though that is a possibility.

Christ Episcopal News: Lisa has been in touch with the Senior Warden and the Junior Wardens now that Rev. Cray unfortunately is no longer at CEC. They both have been very welcoming and assure us they want to work with us to make sure we succeed at CEC.

New Start-time for Board Meetings: Agreed to move the start-time to 7:15 p.m.

How Are the Board and Fellowship Doing? People are excited about the proposal itself (not just the possibility of getting funding); feeling the loving compassion of our congregation; felt really good about the meaty agenda for this meeting; one person said we are church nerds.

Peter read our closing reading and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Action Items – for Board members and guests

- Kris will work with Jay, Sally, and Ben Meyers on pastoral support
- David, with Darlene, will write a cover letter to go out with the proposed budget
- Darlene will keep board informed about All Fellowship Retreat idea with Palo Alto
- Peter will create the agenda for the congregational meeting and get it to Lisa
- Darlene will create SJ discussion/activity for the meeting
- Darlene, Kris, Peter will bring refreshments for 4/29 meeting
- Lisa will solicit mission statements from the congregation
- Lisa and David will prepare sheets with mission statements for discussion and vote at 4/22 meeting
- Jody will look for someone to teach the religious part of Science & Religion