

Live Oak UU Fellowship
Congregational Meeting
January 10, 2010 (2:00-4:00 p.m.)
Home of Truth, Alameda

Our first annual meeting!

Attending: Members Laurel Eber, David Fry, Lisa Fry, Vera Gassner, Kate Hand, Peter Hand, Judith Heller, Jackie Jenks, Vicky Jensen, Sally Kennedy, Ruth Levitan, Lolly Miller-Branda, Darlene Pagano, Kim Rankin, Ruby Reay, Jay Roller, Jody Savage, Debra Temple, and Carol Thornton; Non-members Roger Hallsten, Sharon Potts, and Laura Prickett.

Peter Hand, President of the Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m. We started with a song and lighting the chalice.

State of the Fellowship: Peter gave a brief report: We are making good progress in Worship, Children's Religious Education and Pastoral Care. Adult RE is just starting up. We had a very successful Stewardship Campaign and the Board is starting to address some needed policies. Peter emphasized he is pleased that, as an organization, we are demonstrating patience, not trying to do too much too fast. He noted that Live Oak started on mushy ground, when we were not sure who we were or what we wanted. But once we decided to become a new religious organization we found ourselves on solid ground. We already feel like a durable institution thinking ahead to future generations and creating deep roots.

In the coming year we will have to think about our church home. We can remain at the Home of Truth as long as we want to, but may need more space for the potlucks and more space for the children soon. Alameda is very appealing despite the limitations of public transportation or bikeability for people coming onto the island.

We also need to develop a solid membership function to help us integrate both new people and current members.

Sally Kennedy and Carol Thornton read aloud the Vision statement that came out of our visioning workshop in August:

- We gather to remind ourselves of the sacred privilege of being alive.
- We worship to enhance our spiritual growth; we do this with humility, open minds and hearts, and in vibrant, meaningful and musical ways.
- We provide a safe and exhilarating place for our children and adults to learn and grow, appreciating our differences, showing understanding, compassion, and respect.
- We govern ourselves with transparency, accountability, responsibility, under the guidance of our shared ministry
- We give generously of our time, talents and treasure for the greater good of our fellowship and larger community around us.
- We help each other find ways to live more responsibly, sustainably, and justly; and to work for justice.

Peter then reviewed the agenda, noting that we had started the meeting a little late and suggesting we reduce the breakout time.

Children's RE: Kathryn Duke & Laura Prickett, co-chairs. Laura introduced the current members of the RE Committee, reviewed where we are (and where we began), talked about the excellent and substantive assessment by Carol Bodeau, and Carol's belief that we are poised for growth. There is some interest in looking into hiring a ¼-time Director of Religious Education, per Carol's suggestion.

Adult RE: Darlene Pagano, Chair, said she will be creating an on-line survey to determine when a majority of Live Oak congregants would like to have Adult RE classes and how frequently they would like to meet. She could use more people to work with her, particularly to evaluate curricula. People from Live Oak are signing up for Emily Stoper's class on UU history, the first adult offering available for Live Oak (and folks from other congregations).

Worship: Kate Hand read Chair Richard Stromer's report. We have 4 regular worship leaders, 4 regular worship associates, several ad hoc worship leaders and associates, and plan to bring in outside speakers. They have created worship guidelines and soon will have a feedback mechanism for folks to tell them of any concerns or praise for worship services. Kate noted that 50% of the 22 people present for this meeting had been up front doing a part of worship at least once.

Pastoral Care: Vicky Jensen, Chair, said there is not yet a formalized committee, but that Jay Roller, Kelly Jonick, and Dick Bailey have all offered to assist. In the 5 months since Vicky took on this role, there have been 5 opportunities for us to provide assistance to members and friends of Live Oak. In several cases, PAs from Live Oak and FUCO jointly coordinated care for people. Ruth Levitan pointed out that she put out a call for assistance on her own and had "five angels" respond. Not only have they assisted her, but she and the helpers have enjoyed the opportunity to get better acquainted.

Membership: Lisa Fry, Acting Chair, reported the need for leaders and volunteers in this area. We need to establish a team of greeters for Sunday worship, a regular program for integrating new people into the community, perhaps a small group ministry program, and more opportunities for socializing (intergenerational and not). Rev. Ben Meyers, Berkeley Fellowship, has offered to assist us with ideas and advice on how to get this going. Lisa pointed out that we started with 22 members in March, 2009, and now have 40. We also have a number of new people attending regularly, many of them from Alameda.

Generosity & Stewardship: David Fry, Chair, said we were celebrating the successful Stewardship campaign (which raised more than \$40,000 in pledges) that day with some special desserts. Because our initial campaign was for the coming fiscal year (July, 2010 – June, 2011) as well as the 8 months of this fiscal year, we do not need to plan an all-out stewardship campaign this spring. But he and the finance committee are talking about using a stewardship style effort to increase our understanding and knowledge of one another and what we want from this congregation.

Budget: Following these reports, we turned to the budget. There were very few questions because everyone had already had a chance to provide input and to review the proposed budget. Vicky Jensen moved and Jody Savage seconded that we accept the budget proposed by the Finance Committee and Board of Trustees. Passed unanimously.

Election:

For Nominating Committee (Vote for 3):

Kate Hand (2-year term)

Sally Kennedy (1-year term)

Jay Roller (2-year term)

For Board of Trustees (Vote for 2):

Vicky Jensen

Darlene Pagano

Each member (19 were present) was handed a ballot as he/she signed in for the meeting. Carol Thornton asked if there were any nominations from the floor, first for the Nominating Committee (there were none) and then for the Board of Trustees (again, there were none). Members then completed their ballots and put them in a basket. Following a rousing song, Ruby Reay reported all candidates received 19 votes.

Music Program: The remaining portion of the meeting was devoted to our music program. Knowing that music is where many live their spirituality, we want to make sure our program reflects this need. Kim Rankin and Debra Temple led this portion of the meeting and gave each person a questionnaire to complete and ten minutes to work on it. We then discussed the topics listed and provided a lot of input on what people are looking for. Working with Kim, Debra is going to compile the results of the discussion and the written answers and get them out to the entire congregation.

One need was to have Music Leaders who will work hand-in-hand with the Worship Leaders in decision-making and lining up musicians for each service. Vicky Jensen and Debra Temple both offered to take on that role. Several other names were suggested and will be contacted. Debra will also be the Music Program Coordinator while Kim will be an ongoing resource in many ways, including being the accompanist once a month.

Many voices expressed the need for weekly choir practices and having the choir sing at all/most of our services. In addition, Debra and the Music Leaders will help create and utilize ensembles for services and will survey the congregation to find who (adult and children) play instruments. We will also leave space (and budget) for bringing in guest musicians.

There was interest in learning more about the idea of hiring a choir director.

We closed the meeting at 4:15 p.m. with the group singing “We’re Going to Keep On Moving Forward,” a song which has great meaning for us all.

Live Oak Fellowship
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 10, 2010
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Home of Truth Cottage (Alameda)

Welcome, Agenda, Ground Rules	Peter	0:03	02:00 p	02:03 p
Opening Song & Chalice Lighting	ALL	0:03	02:03 p	02:06 p
State of the Fellowship	Peter	0:05	02:06 p	02:11 p
Our Vision Statement	Carol, Sally	0:03	02:11 p	02:14 p
Q&A	ALL	0:07	02:14 p	02:21 p
Vision in Action: Programs and Opportunities	ALL	0:02	02:21 p	02:23 p
Children's RE	Laura	0:03	02:23 p	02:26 p
Adult RE	Darlene	0:03	02:26 p	02:29 p
Worship	Richard	0:03	02:29 p	02:32 p
Pastoral Care	Vicky	0:03	02:32 p	02:35 p
Membership	Lisa	0:03	02:35 p	02:38 p
Generosity & Stewardship	David	0:03	02:38 p	02:41 p
Budget Q & A and Adoption	David	0:05	02:41 p	02:46 p
Election of Trustees & Nominating Committee Members	Moderator	0:05	02:46 p	02:51 p
Song	Kate	0:03	02:51 p	02:54 p
Break, Program Breakouts	ALL	0:15	02:54 p	03:09 p
Song	Kate	0:03	03:09 p	03:12 p
Music Program: Next Steps	Debra, Kim	0:45*	03:12 p	03:57 p
Closing Song	Kate	0:02	03:57 p	03:59 p

*Note: If we need more time for the discussion of the Music Program, we can stay in the cottage longer.

All members and friends of Live Oak UU Fellowship are invited to attend this meeting. According to our bylaws, only members (who signed the book at least two weeks before the meeting) are allowed to vote on the budget or in the election.

Addendum 2: Budget

Live Oak UU Fellowship Budget Draft Final Fiscal Year Nov 2009 - June 2010 (8 Months)	
<u>TIME PERIOD</u>	<u>11/09-6/10</u>
<u>Total Pledges for a 12 month Year: \$40,080</u>	
Total pledges for 8 months (as of 11/09)	<u>\$26,720</u>
Committing Individuals & Families	35
Expected income (conservative assumption, based on 90% of pledges coming in as planned) <i>Note: FY ending in 2010 is 8 months</i>	\$24,048
<u>REVENUE (total)</u>	<u>24,048</u>
total stewardship & gifts	24,048
total sales, fees, and fundraising	0
misc. income	0
use of reserves	0
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>22,440</u>
<i>worship & faith development</i>	<i>9,500</i>
worship program	1,200
worship space (rental)	3,200
adult learning	1,000
ministry for children & youth	2,300
music ministry	1,800
<i>organizational development & operational support</i>	<i>4,900</i>
misc. Board expenses & training and development	800
stewardship, finance and personnel operations	400
government fees and accounting expenses	800
accessibility improvements	500
misc. (non worship) room rentals	500
child care provided for non-worship meetings	200
publications (hymnals, etc.)	1,700
<i>membership support</i>	<i>1,440</i>
newsletter / advertising / web	700
membership services and hospitality	240
retreats and fundraisers	500
<i>community presence & denominational mission</i>	<i>4,600</i>
social justice program	500
community and individual assistance	500
denominational representation - sponsorship	800
district, denominational & UUSC support (\$80 per member)	2,800
operating Reserves	2,000
contingency Fund	1,600
NET TO WORKING CAPITAL	\$0