

## Blessing our new community

### Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2009, 3-5 PM, Home of Truth, Alameda, CA

#### Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 PM on Sunday, February 22, 2009 at the Home Of Truth in Alameda, CA. by Carol Thornton. Richard Stromer led us in the responsive reading “Impassioned Clay” by Ralph Helverson (see *Impassioned Clay.PDF*, included in the emailing of these minutes).

#### Present:

Lisa Fry, Carol Thornton, Janet Griffith, Mike Griffith, Laurel Eber, Jay Roller, David Fry, Darlene Pagano, Ron Weisberg, Kim Rankin (& Will), Jackie Jenks, Sharon Slaton, Jim Freschi, Vera Gassner, Peter Hand, Kate Hand, Richard Stromer, Sally Kennedy, Ruth Levitan and Ruby Reay. Childcare was provided by Sara Gassner.

#### A. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed (see *Agenda 2\_22\_2009.doc*). The 501c(3) presentation was placed after the Naming exercise later on to allow for Jody to arrive in time.

#### C. Agenda

Carol took a moment to thank Lisa Fry for all of her hard work and dedication.

##### i. Survey Presentation

Lisa Fry presented the survey results from both hand written and online results. The results were emailed by Lisa to the group on Feb. 20 (see *Survey Results.doc and Comments from the Survey.doc*), included in the emailing of these minutes). In summary our attendance has been as follows ~ 60 individuals at the November worship event, December we skipped but had a holiday singing fellowship of 30 individuals, January we had 70, and in February we had 55. The group discussed issues of sustainability, frequency of services, and level of commitment, with an understanding that these topics need to be addressed further.

##### ii. Call for Affirmation and Vote

The group of 20 held a vote to affirm to “*create a new religious community, to help it grow, help it sustain itself, as we are all individually capable of doing.*” We voted with 3 options, thumbs up, down, or sideways. We had 18 thumbs up, and 2 sideways. Prior to the vote there was discussion about the purpose and scope of our community, which led us to the simple affirmation paraphrased above.

##### iii. Naming of our group

The group brainstormed on possible names for our new community. We did not decide on a name at this juncture so we could open up the naming process to those not able to attend. People

were encouraged to send other names to Lisa Fry; she will organize a voting Doodle. The intent is to select a name at the next meeting on 3/22.

iv. 501c(3)

Jody Savage led us in a discussion describing the process for forming a non-profit. She presented a one-page document summarizing considerations, the utmost being that we become tax exempt and are able to receive donations that are tax-deductible for the donor and to have a bank account for making payments for rentals, etc. She purchased a Nolo Press book that outlines the process and brought it to the meeting. She suggested we name ourselves, draft Articles of Incorporation, apply for federal and state tax exemptions, create bylaws, appoint initial directors, hold the first meeting of the Board of Directors and obtain licenses and permits that we might need. Her summary document is included (*see 501c(3) Summary.PDF, included in the emailing of these minutes*).

We established 3 teams to be overseen by Jody. The teams are as follows: Bylaws (Lisa Fry, Ruby Reay & Sharon Slaton), tax exemptions (Bill Pezick who was not there was suggested, Kim Rankin will consult with a resource of hers), Articles of Incorporation (David Fry, Jim Freschi, Peter Hand). Jody handed off the book, which has CDs of document templates that we can use, to David Fry. The teams are encouraged to meet on their own as soon as they can arrange to do so. Others are invited and encouraged to participate, especially regarding the tax exemption process.

v. Beloved Community

Richard Stromer led us in a rich discussion about what Beloved Community means to us individually; people shared their concerns and desires with the group.

vi. Offering to cover expenses: \$94.00. Expenses for this meeting were \$80 (\$60 for rent, plus \$20 for childcare).

**D. Agenda for Next Meeting**

i. Naming process

ii. Non-profit status update (bylaws, articles of incorporation, tax exempt filings)

iii. Director selection

iv. Signing a Membership Book

v. Listserve

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 5 PM. The next general meeting will be at 4PM on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the same location. The next service will be on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, at 4 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Ruby Reay, February 25, 2009