

Board of Trustees for Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church Board Minutes November 22, 2016
In attendance: Rev Dave, Greg Blackman, Sonia Reed, Kate Tomlinson, John Luff and Jay Poliziani
(quorum reached)

- Absent: Liz Dell and Mary Jo Sontag
- Check in: Rev Dave reported that a congregant was concerned about the direction joys and concerns took on the Sunday after the election. One person in particular spoke too long and gave too political of a concern. Another congregant is going to look at alternative formats for joys and concerns and report back to Rev Dave.
- Assent Agenda Approved Financial report noted that we are in a much better financial place than anticipated.

Ministers Report:

Minister's Report, October/November 2016

Congregation in the community:

1. Met as a member of Youth Opportunities Development board.
2. Attended a public outreach opportunity with our Worship band, The New Recovery.
3. Organized our Halloween presence in the neighborhood.
4. Attended City Council proclamation for Cluster Assembly and participated in Cluster Assembly.
5. Evangelized in Lawrenceville with Robbert.
6. Did weekly outreach to Guests.
7. Continued planning for public Winter Solstice event with neighbor organization.
8. Put out videos promoting worship.

Worship services:

1. Worship for "Some" Ages will occasionally be designed for older kids to stay in the worship service.
2. We're trying to have more and more volunteer music. Matt from our volunteer Worship band, The New Recovery, may not be returning due to personal reasons.
3. We'll have Christmas Day worship, but not Christmas Eve. We'll have a Watch Night (New Year's Eve) gathering. Will host Jim Donovan in the new year but he is NOT going to drum.
4. We're looking at a regular time for bi-monthly Taizé-inspired worship. I'm looking to bring Rev. Tines on a bi-monthly basis.

Health of the congregation:

1. It's a great sign of health that the Trustees are spending time during their meetings on the global needs of the congregation by engaging "Revitalizing Smaller Congregations."

Please publish your discoveries among those you talk to and in the various Communications outlets the church has.

2. We were unable to capture contact information from many of the recent Guests. There's a smart-phone based service that I'm willing to fund from my Professional Expenses (since we don't have money for outreach) for a few months.
3. In general, there continues to be anxiety about church life. This is not unique to Allegheny, and even that fact should help alleviate some anxiety. Nor is it unique to congregational life. All life is in flux. What used to work doesn't work anymore. Being creative and flexible is the only way we'll make it through.

How the Trustees can help:

1. Make sure you have at least one "action item" coming out of each Board Meeting.

2. We have had new and long-unseen attendance. Trustees and other church leaders could reach out to these people. In my opinion, the Trustees could most help by encouraging growth doing outreach to Members, Friends, and Guests. Notes. Emails. Calls. Whatever suits your style. A call from the church is never a "cold call." People still like to know that they've been seen and appreciated.
3. Show up at worship and let people know you're a Trustee and what that means.
4. Get your picture in the Emerson Room staff picture board.
5. Thank volunteers.
6. Contribute to the Newsletters.
7. Read and apply the messages sent to Leadership Council.
8. Revitalize the Leadership Council with the agenda being one aspect of the training from these messages or "Revitalizing..."
9. Develop, foster, and pursue a vision for Allegheny that you discern will bring us into the future. Grow and support the church that we need to become, fully aware that it's not going to be the church you were attracted to. Every generation needs to do this. It's just that the turn-over is happening much faster now.

- Business There was a discussion about the need to better capture visitor's information. The group
- agreed to ask membership to consider possibilities such as a welcome sign in sheet located in each pew.
- The group also discussed the need to make it easier for folks to donate money on Sundays. The finance
- team (led by John) will look at the envelopes we have and see if they can be located in the pews. Also
- we will try for a few weeks to let folks know they can make a credit card donation in the back of the
- church after service with John.
- Rev Dave will investigate the option of donating money via text and report back to us about the
- feasibility of such an option.
- Rev Dave discussed the possibility that we may market ourselves as an Alternative Spring(year round)
- Break destination site for college students. Conceivably we could refer some service projects for the
- young folks with our justice partners. John will confirm that our insurance covers guests sleeping in the
- house. We will revisit the possibility at a later meeting.
- Planning for the Mid-Year meeting will occur at the next meeting –at this point we know that we want
- to include a time for gratitude for each other and a look at the Revitalizing Small Congregations
- materials we have been viewing for a couple months in the BOT meeting.
- Share the Plate Celebration the group agreed to build on the success of the champagne toast with other
- things in coming months during church services.
- Committee Liaisons

- Membership—Jay met with the membership committee and the group decided to host movies after
- service during the winter. They also revisited the draft of a Welcome brochure for new members. The
- committee is working to finalize the brochure before the first of the year.
- RE- Kate reported that Lisa S offered to fill in as Religious Educator until a new person is designated.
- Greg will get a childcare provider job description from Betty so it can be widely distributed to local
- organizations.
- Stewardship- Kate reported that the yearend canvass letter went to all members and friends from
- several years past.
- Revitalizing a small congregation video the group watched a short segment of the video related to a
- congregation in Orange New Jersey that focused less on using their space for worship and more on it for
- social justice focused activities sponsored by the community. The group discussed the possibility of the
- U house being utilized as an Interfaith Center and possibly used by community groups and nonprofits.
- The group agreed that the possibility is worth further discussion.
- Sonia motioned to close the meeting and John seconded it –all agreed
- Next meeting December 15, 2016 at 7 pm at U House.