

**North Universalist Chapel Society**

**Board Agenda**

**16 September 2014**

~ we are the trustees of the spirit of this church ~

1. Opening Words/Check In            15 minutes
  
2. Committee Visit: Resource            20 minutes
  
3. Daniel's Time            20 minutes
  
4. Next Steps/Updates            15 minutes

Vision Work

October Committee Café

5. Board Work            30 minutes

Debriefing from August 31st Gathering

What Next? Planning for Daniel's Departure

6. Consent Agenda, including Committee Reports            10 minutes

7. Closing

## **North Chapel Board Minutes**

**August 19, 2014**

Present: Daniel Jantos, Susan Inui, Anne Marinello, Elizabeth Reaves, Anne Macksoud, Mary Jeanne Taylor, Ann Wynia, Denise Lyons, Deb Rice, Hope Yeager.

The meeting convened at 6:15 p.m. Board members checked in.

### **Committee Visit**

Sherry Belisle joined the meeting at 6:30 p.m. to report on the activities of Membership Committee. She reported that the committee is doing well. Sherry said she is always looking for activities that the congregation could do together. She is looking for suggestions from the Board of possible activities for the committee to organize. She reported on the upcoming picture directory plans. One idea for a community event is to have members of the congregation who are musicians get together after church and play together. Sherry reported that Committee Cafe is working well but summer is a hard time to consistently attend. Denise asked Sherry's impression of how it is for new people to engage with being a part of North Chapel. Sherry said she works on it but it depends on the person. Some new people engage right away, others are shy, have a harder time. Sherry said she makes an effort to make conversation with people she knows are new to the church. Daniel suggested that membership could take on introducing visitors or people new to the church during the church service. Sherry said that Joanna Garbish will be joining their committee. Mary Jeanne expressed the Board's gratitude for all of the work that membership committee does. Sherry thanked the Board for all the work the Board does.

### **Daniel's Time**

Daniel spoke about his process of deciding to move on. Board members spoke of their gratitude to Daniel and needing to plan intentionally for allowing the church community to respond as they need to Daniel's news. MJ suggested Daniel announce his plans soon. Susan suggested having a special meeting where people can hear from Daniel. Denise suggested that there will

need to be some kind of electronic message and invitation to the event where Daniel's plans are made clear so people don't hear about it from another source. The Board and Daniel discussed the announcement with Daniel's letter in the September Quest and the In Touch for the week of Aug. 25. Then the Aug. 31 Sunday service with a potluck afterwards could be a time for people to come and talk about it. MJ said she would tell Geraldine to include in this Sunday's order of service an announcement of a community potluck on Aug. 31 after church.

### **Updates and Next Steps**

Anne Marinello gave an update on the status of welcoming signage. She said that Wendy Smith has come up with a lot of examples of welcoming signage. Barbara Bartlett is willing to take on creating welcoming signage.

Daniel reported on the status of the CTWK space. He said that one person is doing an estimate who is an individual contractor. He will estimate the cost of an emergency door from the upstairs space to a small deck at the top and an outdoor stairway down from their second floor space to the ground.

Denise reported that the Planning Committee, including Anne Macksoud, Susan Inui, Barbara Bartlett, Brooke Beaird, Christine Cimini, Richard Schramm, Michael Stoner, Peggy Kannenstine, Peg Brightman, Rick Fiske, Richard Waddell, and Daniel will meet a couple of times in the next couple of weeks. Delia Clark has agreed to do the Open Space meeting. The Planning Committee will be gathering data from the Board, from other committees, from the choir, etc., and then bringing that data to the Open Space meeting.

Deb asked for advice on how to shape the Board message in the Quest regarding the Planning Committee. Denise suggested that the Board message reference Daniel's message. MJ asked that the updated Vision statement be sent to the Planning Committee. Anne Marinello read the updated Vision statement. Elizabeth raised the possibility of including words about fostering open, compassionate dialogue. MJ asked Elizabeth to update the Board on how that language could be included in the Vision statement.

Denise asked for a clarification on how the Board articulates the need for this open space meeting and the work of the Planning Committee. Daniel suggested: what is vital and important about a spiritual community in our lives? Susan suggested that intentionality comes to mind: we only have so many resources. We need to know what our community's needs, desires, and priorities are and put our resources towards those things. Deb pointed out that the Resource Committee needs to know the focus of the church community to know how to focus the fund raising to address that focus. Daniel suggested making sure we have a clear picture of the needs of the community so that we are sure to meet those needs. MJ said she sees it as a way to bind us all together so that we head into the future with a common sense of purpose.

MJ clarified that the Sept. Committee Cafe will be brown bag and she will let Geraldine know to include that information in church publications so the committees know.

The board passed the consent agenda unanimously.

Daniel announced that the North Chapel is working with the Donella Meadows Institute and others to form a contingent to travel to New York City for the Sept. 21 March on Climate Change.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hope Yeager

Secretary to the Board

North Universalist Chapel Society  
August 2014 Financial Report  
Ann Wynia, Treasurer

	JUNE	JULY	AUG	YTD	2014 Budget
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
1 Loose	1,487.40	1,291.00	1,565.00	9,374.50	16000
2 Pledges	17,981.08	9,478.50	19,258.50	105,650.43	145000
3 Gifts/Donations	0.00	0.00	50.00	2,572.00	4000
4 Rentals	1,630.00	1,450.00	1,775.00	7,115.00	13000
5 Nursery School	625.00	0.00	625.00	4,375.00	6750
6 Fund Raising	0.00	4,055.50	0.00	6,287.00	16000
7 Reserve Fund	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	9,000.00	9000
8 Balance forward	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,361.13	1350
9 <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	22,723.48	16,275.00	23,273.50	145,735.06	211100
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
10 Electric	333.35	307.02	285.06	3,173.34	5400
11 Fuel/Furnace	838.64	54.89	0.00	8,269.25	9500
12 Grounds	0.00	19.01	0.00	3,924.01	5000
13 Insurance	0.00	0.00	1,088.00	4,827.00	4340
14 Janitorial	35.75	522.07	341.32	1,739.91	3000
15 Maintenance	131.45	356.75	584.53	3,436.70	5000
16 Water/Sewer	0.00	0.00	0.00	621.29	850
17 <b>TOTAL CHURCH</b>	1,339.19	1,259.74	2,298.91	25,991.50	33090
18 Electric	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
19 Furnace	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	225
20 Maintenance	0.00	53.86	708.40	762.26	1000
21 Water/Sewer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
22 <b>TOTAL PARSONAGE</b>	0.00	53.86	708.40	762.26	1225
23 Administrative Ass't	2,061.25	1,372.75	1,394.00	11,874.50	16184
24 Office Supplies	92.00	11.02	237.29	1,071.24	1000
25 Postage/Printing	65.00	0.98	5.92	125.58	200
26 Telephone	90.22	90.04	91.35	722.22	1200
27 Website Host/Upkeep	0.00	0.00	0.00	383.76	600
28 Copier Lease	213.19	119.94	213.19	2,103.08	3500
29 UUA Fair Share	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	5,375.00	8375
30 NNED Dues	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,006.00	3006
31 Miscellaneous(Vanco)	194.13	31.68	31.68	389.51	360
32 <b>TOTAL ADMINISTRAT</b>	2,715.79	1,626.41	3,973.43	25,050.89	34425
33 FICA	772.70	742.94	732.05	5,910.58	8584
34 Medical Ins.	1,075.48	1,075.48	1,075.48	9,402.54	15000
35 Pension	912.00	912.00	912.00	7,296.00	10950
36 Auto Expenses	165.00	165.00	165.00	1,320.00	2000
37 Professional Exp & Dev	0.00	0.00	248.47	248.47	5475
38 Workers' Comp	0.00	0.00	475.00	1,416.00	1888
39 <b>TOTAL BENEFITS</b>	2,925.18	2,895.42	3,608.00	25,593.59	43897
40 Salary	3,916.00	3,916.00	3,916.00	31,328.00	47000
41 Housing Allowance	2,600.00	2,600.00	2,600.00	20,800.00	31200
42 <b>TOTAL MINISTER</b>	6,516.00	6,516.00	6,516.00	52,128.00	78200

North Universalist Chapel Society  
 August 2014 Financial Report  
 Ann Wynia, Treasurer

	JUNE	JULY	AUG	YTD	Budget
43 Sabbatical Savings Accoi	637.50	0.00	0.00	1275.00	2550
44 Substitutes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500
45 Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300
46 Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100
<b>47 TOTAL WORSHIP</b>	<b>637.50</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,275.00</b>	<b>3450</b>
48 Organist/Choir Direct.	1,362.00	1,362.00	1,362.00	10,896.00	16340
49 Special Services	100.00	50.00	100.00	450.00	800
50 Supplies	85.50	9.99	0.00	95.49	500
<b>51 TOTAL MUSIC</b>	<b>1,547.50</b>	<b>1,421.99</b>	<b>1,462.00</b>	<b>11,441.49</b>	<b>17640</b>
<b>52 Coffee</b>	<b>76.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>218.50</b>	<b>350</b>
<b>53 Resource Comm</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>300</b>
Margaret Lampe Kannenstine					
54 Leadership Developmer	0.00	0.00	154.03	169.03	500
55 Outreach	0.00	0.00	0.00	119.00	150
56 Quest	0.00	301.75	136.00	1734.66	2300
<b>57 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>301.75</b>	<b>290.03</b>	<b>2,022.69</b>	<b>2950</b>
58 Staff	425.00	0.00	0.00	2,875.00	4900
59 Supplies	173.18	0.00	23.69	196.87	500
60 Child Care	160.00	128.00	160.00	1,120.00	1670
63 Recognition	80.00	100.00	0.00	380.00	200
<b>65 TOTAL R.E.</b>	<b>838.18</b>	<b>228.00</b>	<b>183.69</b>	<b>4,571.87</b>	<b>7270</b>
<b>66 TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>16,595.34</b>	<b>14,303.17</b>	<b>19,040.46</b>	<b>149,055.79</b>	<b>222,797</b>

North Universalist Chapel Society

August 2014 Financial Report

Ann Wynia, Treasurer

JUNE JULY AUG

**PEOPLES' UNITED ACCT # 640322721**

67 Beginning balance	-15,653.74	-9,525.60	-7,553.77
68 Receipts	22,723.48	16,275.00	23,273.50
69 Expenses	16,595.34	14,303.17	19,040.46
70 <b>Ending balance for</b> operating budget	-9,525.60	-7,553.77	-3,320.73

**RESTRICTED FUNDS**

71 Withholdings	0.00	121.00	242.00
72 Minister's Fund	1233.01	1113.01	1013.01
Cold Relief	812.50	812.50	812.50
73 Organ Preservation	596.93	596.93	596.93
74 NYE/Cranna	3200.09	2700.09	2700.09
75 Sabbatical Savings	68.33	68.33	68.33
76 Memorial Gardens	1223.05	1223.05	1223.05
77 Legal Funds LP	762.88	762.88	762.88
77a Pizza Oven	94.52	209.52	202.90
77b VT/Quebec grant	0.00	941.27	941.27
79 Spiritual Practice Explor	2940.51	2940.51	2940.51

**TOTAL CHECKING ACCOUNT** 1,406.22 3,935.32 8,182.74

**INVESTMENT - Vermont Community Loan Fund - \$3760.25 at 2.5% Matures September 2016**

Wells Fargo Acc't #3605-39446 Balance 8/31/14 - \$81444.56

The only restricted funds now are \$1000 for Memorial Gardens

**EXPLANATIONS**

- (4) 8/5 wed-850,8/3015wed-850,Doolittle-150, Bel Canto-150, Garden Club-75, Less wed dep ret-300
- (15) Driveway redo-549.53, Boiler inspection certificate-35
- (20) BR floor repair
- (49) S.Saul
- (54) Committee café
- (77a) About 360 has been raised for roof. Other expenses eat away at it !!

Ann L. Wynia, Treasurer

Resource Committee Meeting, August 22, 2014  
With Board delegates Denise Lyons and Susan Inui  
And finance Committee Chair Chris Lloyd

Present: Susan Inui, Chris Lloyd, Denise Lyons, Jack Nelson, Lynn Peterson, Neil Stannard, and Karen Wolk

The meeting began with some tips on fund raising Lynn had gleaned from the General Assembly in June:

1. Approaching significant donors directly is essential in modern fund raising. This should be done with a Program Budget in order to stimulate the importance of the church and what it accomplishes and hopes to accomplish.
2. A line item budget is not helpful and should be avoided.
3. There is a difference of opinion amongst experienced UU fund raising experts over the appropriate way of having a capital campaign. One expert said he thought having a small campaign along with the regular annual fund raising was a good idea. Others believe a capital campaign requires a much larger need and is best done as a major multi-year effort.

We discussed the idea of a direct approach to significant donors and decided we should do that this year. Susan and Denise, as Board members, will clear this with the Board of Trustees.

Karen mentioned she had talked with Peggy Kanenstine about this and Peggy felt this was a good idea. Karen also thought that her husband might be willing to help us with a role play of how to approach individual donors.

Lynn presented his draft of a Program Budget which seemed ok other than some of the numbers needed to be adjusted. Jack suggested including \$35,000 for capital expenses. This would bring the goal up to \$180,000 for this year's annual pledge drive plus this mini-capital campaign.

This coming Sunday Denise and Susan are starting a series of Planning discussion with church members. This will provide additional input into crafting our Pledge Drive + mini-capital campaign.

- Next steps:
1. Create the Program Budget
  2. Identify the potential donors for personal requests
  3. Create a brief guide or pitch for the requests
  4. Move forward with plans for our annual Celebration Dinner on Oct. 18. This year we thought it would be a good idea to not use this as the launch of our pledge drive.
  5. Plan a practice session for those doing the individual requests

Submitted, Lynn Peterson



Minutes Resource Committee Meeting 9/7/2014

Present: Lynn Peterson, Deb Rice, Neil Stannard, Karen Wolk

For the Board:

1. We ask the Board to approve partnership with the Library for a Used Book Sale as part of Bookstock 2015 on the weekend of July 25<sup>th</sup>. This will be similar to 2014 requiring use of the Social Hall for about 10 days at the end of July. It is important to decide now since efforts need to begin now.
2. We ask the Board of Trustees to join the Resource Committee to make their 2015 pledges in early October before the Annual Church Dinner on Oct 18<sup>th</sup>.
3. We request that the members of the Board join the Resource Committee in hosting tables at the Annual Dinner, Oct 18.
4. We ask Board members to help support the Oct. 10 – 13 Western Wind event by helping find places for participants to stay (especially in the Village) for the weekend: this is one of our major sources for funds.

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1, Used Book Sale, Final reports were reviewed last week from organizers of the 2014 Bookstock. Everyone was pleased with the results and felt this was the best Bookstock and Used Book Sale yet. For the Book Sale, we need to review our pricing levels, plans for reduced prices on Sunday and search for better places for the leftover books. We also need to have a better plan for rare books that are donated to the Sale.

2. We reviewed plans for the upcoming annual pledge drive. Lynn prepared a draft letter and committee members suggested changes. We will seek input from the Planning Committee. Suggestions were made for developing a Program Budget based on our current budget; this means putting costs under programs like ministry, RE, etc. This is a work in progress.

3. We need to add to the size of the Committee since we have lost 2 members and the plans for personal requests this year will require more help than the 4 or 5 of us. We chose Wed, Sept 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm for a meeting to rehearse our pledge requests. We plan to have a mini-capital campaign included in our fund drive this year.

4. We reviewed plans for Western Wind on the weekend of Oct 10<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>. Deb Rice will organize this event again. She needs places for people to stay especially in Woodstock village. The caterer has been contacted and church space reserved.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Peterson



Membership Committee September 2 2014

No action needed from the board at this time.

Present: Ann Wynia, Fran Lancaster, Pru Schuler, Sherry Belisle and Joanna Garbisch (new member)

Greeters for upcoming Sundays are:

September 7 Sherry

14 Pru

21 Fran

28 Joanna

October 5 Ann

Circle dinners will be held on Saturday, November 15th.

We discussed signups for the directory photograph appointments. Twenty nine families have registered so far. We will look for those not yet registered on this Sunday. Those who no longer attend church will be called. Joanna will be available this Sunday to register more.

Sherry will ask Linda Galveo and Deb Rice to submit photos of church activities since they have been doing this already.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry

Music and Worship Committee 9/2/14

Attending: Daniel Jantos, Brenda Johnson, Jessica Horak, Hugh Belton, Anne Macksoud, Diane Mellinger, Maryjeanne Taylor, Judith Taylor, Kathy Astemborski

Opening Words: Jenny read from Mary Oliver

Check in

Review of August services – appreciation of the reflections for the past month was shared. The suggestion was made that the topic of work can be looked at from a spiritual perspective and perhaps more people could share about their work experiences.

Planning:

9/21 – This is the day of the March for Climate Change in NYC. It is also the Fall Equinox. As of now we're expecting 8-10 may attend the March from our community. There will also be a gathering at the church in the afternoon to be in solidarity with those in NYC. Suggestions for the service that day include:

- Asking Simon Dennis to give a reflection. Anne will reach out to Simon and let us know if he's willing to do that.
- Reading documents related to the topic of climate change (Earth Charter). Looking for readings/poems on the interconnection with the earth and sustainability could offer the opportunity for several people to share a reading or a passage.
- Having a service of "quiet" with some readings was another suggestion.

All Thursday nights in September there are people gathering at different spots in the community to prepare for the March for Climate Change. This will involve making banners, posters, thinking about what needs to be said. This is a process of self-educating and being in solidarity. The meetings will be held from 6:00 to 8:00. The meeting this Thursday (9/3) will be at the North Chapel.

October 19<sup>th</sup> we're in need of a service coordinator. Len Cadwallader is speaking – having a coordinator who knows him would be great. (note – we were going to ask Daniel for names and didn't, that I'm aware of). Hugh is the back up if we can't find someone who knows Len.

October 26<sup>th</sup> – Daniel

Geraldine met with Let's Grow Kids – we can ask her for a report out.

The question was raised about clapping in church. This is an issue that has come up many times in the past. We discussed the value of keeping silent and appreciating the gifts that people bring through music, dance, etc. We also discussed there are some occasions when clapping may be appropriate – how to decide when it is/isn't? We will keep this topic on the agenda for next month.

Brenda spoke about needing to step back from her role as chairperson of this committee due to the new journeys she's been finding herself on. Tasks for the chairperson included:

- Creating the meeting agenda
- Putting the service together – getting biographies and other related pieces of the service

- Putting the schedule together when Daniel is gone
- Doing group emails to people who have been service coordinators looking for volunteers for upcoming services
- Following up with a “thank you” to the people that do the reflection and service coordinating

Daniel offered that if we’re planning 3 months out, instead of a few weeks ahead of time, people might be more willing to participate in services with more lead time.

Anne volunteered to chair the October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. We’ll try and rotate chairs of the meetings in the coming months until a permanent chairperson is found.

THANK YOU BRENDA FOR TAKING ON THE CHAIRPERSON ROLE AND DOING A FABULOUS JOB!!!!

October will be multi-cultural month – looking at different spiritual practices.

Daniel suggested a possible theme being created by asking people to identify things/thoughts which cross our paths throughout the month – books we’ve read, something that struck us in the news or in conversation with others – which might generate a theme for services. Perhaps we can post the question on the Facebook page and collect ideas from there. The suggestion was also made to use a group email to discuss different ideas amongst ourselves on the committee.

Closing Words - Jenny

Building & Grounds 9/2/14

Present:

Agata, Jack, Cheryl, Vassie

Sexton:

Grease trap – the pipe was blocked, Radek cleaned it out and flushed it so that it is now working well.

Nursery School – Radek will let Ann know when the chips are up. Ann will use her State # and date for the paperwork and send it in to the State so that we are in compliance for the Nursery School. Agata will let them know where the toilet paper and paper towels are while the Sextons are away. Cheryl will send lead paint pamphlet to Agata and Ann.

Weddings – Natalia will do one wedding. Daniel is officiating so he will lock up. Vassie will open for the wedding of September 13 at 10 am. Natalia will be coming in on Fridays to do the normal cleaning for the week.

Lawn – Radek will cut it very short on Monday and it will be fine for the wedding on the 13th and the 3 weeks they are away.

Chairman's Notes:

The Nursery School lease is signed and they have insurance. However, NUCS is not named on the binder. Donna or Vassie will make sure that we are named.

Water Fountain

The valve is frozen so we are going to live with it as it is rather than take a chance on breaking it.

Pentangle has cancelled their need for the backyard.

The ADA ramp gutter, the faucet backer plate in the Parsonage and replacing the sewer line will all be done next week.

Driveway – Vassie and Gina had the bottom of the driveway ditch filled in with stone and 4 ruts were dug out with gravel in the water bar on the far side of the driveway.

Steeple – Cheryl will find out who the roofer was on the Wilder Church roof. This is tabled until next month.

Strips on steps – Gina has completed the strips on each side of the steps coming into the Sanctuary.

Cost of removing the Pine tree – Timber Tenders gave a price of \$2100. Vassie will call Al Romero to see what he can do.

River Steps – on hold for now.

Wedding Rates – Members who cannot afford the rate can always ask the Board of Trustees for relief.

Memorial Requests – Donna will get back to us at the next meeting with costs for the plaques.

Clean up – Scheduled for November 8th from 9 to 1 – a few thoughts are; cleaning chairs, gardens need cutting back, loam needs to be used up, clean up leaves and cut back branches

Nursery School Fence – approved by the Town of Woodstock Review Board.

Wedding Publicity – We need to put our wedding rates on our web site and then send a link to the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce and the Killington Chamber of Commerce.

Ann gave the paid bills to Jack who will in turn bring them to the next meeting to give them to Gina, since she is keeping a book/box of all our bills.

Next meeting will be in the Social hall at 5:30 on October 7th.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Brush

Social Justice Action Committee 9/2/14

Attending: Wendy Smith, Anne Marinello, Richard Schramm, Akankha Perkins, Peter Rousmaniere

### **Welcoming Community**

We were asked to come up with some Welcoming Community images.

Wendy reported how she brainstormed by selecting a sample of images from the internet. She sent them to the SJA committee, and to the welcoming committee of Wendy, Mary Jeanne, Bob Riccio, Anne Marinello. The most popular image sourced by Wendy was a tree.

Anne talked with Barbara Bartlett and they agreed this is bad time to promote a welcoming community image. Anne will bring it to the board. There is no sense of urgency tonight that the Board create an image in the near future.

### **Food Shelf**

Anne had been tasked to explore when we can do to help the Food Shelf the most. Anne expects to talk with the Food Shelf this month. She did talk with Phyllis Arata-Myers and learned that CTWK was the first group to talk about Social Justice, and that they may want to do a church service on the topic of Food Justice.

Daniel is on the board, and Pru works at the Food Shelf on Saturday. Wendy makes the monthly announcements at end of the month and Anne Wynia delivers the collected food. Anne recommends that more information on the Food Shelf be included in the Quest. The Communications Committee will place something on the website.

Action: Anne to talk with the Food Shelf: how can we best help?

### **Short-term housing**

Joanie Rothstein was going to talk with Robbie Blish and the Ottaquechee Foundation. Goal, find a place, and get a screening system. Anne does not know if this is too big for us now, beyond raising awareness.

### **Distribution Hub for fresh food to food shelves**

Peter researched and found good contacts in FL, TX, CA and possibly NY. It appears there are useful models of fresh food sub-state regional food distribution programs. He asked Lauren to connect with the Food Shelf and the VT Food Bank before going forward. He did not hear from Lauren, so the project is on hold.



## **Sept 21 Climate Change event**

Richard asks, should we do anything? Shall we make banners? Richard will reach out to people. CTWK and perhaps Sustainable Woodstock to do something. There was no clear consensus the committee should do anything,

## **Affordable housing – the Grange**

Anne Marinello reported on this. Abutters, of which she is one, were notified, and some ground breaking in the month or two. Anne said mistakes were made in tone, attitude, and letters to the paper at the time the project was launched.

There will be community center there, according to Anne.

## **Life and Hope Association**

Peter reported on LHA's fund raiser. He asked what people thought about LHA in the context of the North Chapel.

Anne said: concentric circles of local, national and international scope.... our eyes are lifted beyond our own needs. Not like your sending money to the Red Cross, we know where it is going. It is one international commitment that we are making.

Richard: what do we do when we raise more than the \$7K? SJA committee was making the case that if extra money goes there, it may not go somewhere else. Should we send the extra or hold for the next year. And hold for reserve. Say a crisis in a year when everyone gives a lot to another cause, and LHA fails to raise \$7K.

A proposal was raised and agreed to that the finance Committee to asked to address the issue of holding off surplus giving. Peter to write the Finance committee: Chris Lloyd. The SJA committee as such does not want a say on this. Our goal is to get clarity: when we go over on a fund raising, and to hold for future years and possibly for other purposes.

Action: Peter to write Chris.

## **Winter Agenda, other programs**

Raised by Anne. We will discuss at the next meeting. Richard: we had talks after service. Maybe we should renew this program.

Action: we to discuss post service talks and a Winter agenda in our next meeting.

## **RE September Meeting – September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Present: Geraldine Fowler, Anthea Lavalley, Chris Orcutt (excused early), Ben Fox, Hope Yeager, Peg Brightman**

The RE team met and had an opportunity to check in, meet the newest members of the team. Ben will be joining us from ArtisTree and we will be hosting a monthly drum circle for the children at ArtisTree. Peg Brightman is now also participating with RE. Thank you!

We posed the question “What do you consider to be spiritually most beneficial to children?” and enjoyed a lengthy conversation around this topic. Some words included: feeling of community, comfort and belonging. A safe space to ask tough and easy questions. A creative space that allows ourselves to expand our minds – without structure? Exploration of their own spirituality. Mindfulness, emotion, feel acknowledged.

We also spoke about how we could further involve children in the church services – we discussed having the children do things that they enjoy such as a reading, or song, helping with a “job” such as the offering etc.

The team worked through the calendar to confirm dates and logistics.

Items to work on or discuss further:

- Norman Williams Library – book by the children?
- Enrollment forms – to include what the parents goals are and photo permissions
- Roles the children would like to play in church
- Suggestions from congregation / support cards / wishes for the children

Thank you – Geraldine Fowler