

Minutes

Welcoming & Engagement Committee

December 7, 2017 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Present: Barbara, Pru, Zoe, Laurie, Moira & Leon

Absent: Joby & Polly

CHECK IN AND SHORT SILENT MEDITATION

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Welcoming and Engagement Committee is to develop an ongoing welcoming and engagement process rooted in kindness, inclusivity and relationship building, directed toward the creation and support of a loving community.

We wanted to work on better communications.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 2 MEETING

MEETING FOCUS:

To review and update ongoing initiatives. To hear about Leon's vision for integrating new members and beginning to explore ways in which the WEC can help to facilitate those goals

CURRENT INITIATIVES FROM LAST MEETING :

We discussed improving communications about ongoing activities. Laurie will talk to Communications about listing ongoing activities on the bulletin board.

Polly was working on recruiting more Welcomers and putting a sign-up sheet in the social hall.

The Potluck was moved to December 17th. Rick will help set up the tables on December 16th. Pru will send an email to the committee members with set up time so we can help.

Rich S. is interested in joining our committee. All were in favor. Barbara will invite him to attend our January meeting to check us out.

Barbara talked to Leon about his welcoming and engagement ideas for new members. Barbara, Moira and Leon talked about planning dinners for members who have joined in the past 3 years. No more than 10 people at a dinner. A few long time members will also be invited to attend to share their experience. Geraldine will be asked to generate a list. Ken Woodhead will do the cooking. Invitations will be sent. Wendy will photograph. We will enlist the Membership Committee to assist.

NEW INITIATIVES/ MAJOR MEETING FOCUS

Richard Shramm is interested in putting together a future LGBT service. Moira will talk to Shoshana (themes) to ask her to take it to the Worship Committee to see if they want to work on it. Should it be linked with LGBT events, such as Pride Day, etc.

We want to put up a couple tables downstairs during coffee hour so that folks with physical limitations will be able to sit down.

Leon led us in brainstorming about reasons why new members might be drawn to the North Chapel and what they find upon entering. What would a new person notice? He honed in on four qualities (light, simplicity, cleanliness and sparse beauty). He noted that people walking into the church for the first time are likely feeling unsettled, maybe nervous. These four qualities bring peace, stillness and a welcoming space. He noted that the North Chapel has two unique things in its backyard: a river and a pizza oven. We should market that. He talked about idiosyncratic detail. Everyone coming in will have stories to tell and qualities to be valued. They are temporal. What is being welcomed is the play that may happen in the backyard (whiffle ball, etc). Leon suggested we focus on (1) how we recognize our gifts, (2) how we value our gifts and (3) how we invite people into it. Leon said that there is an incredible spirit in what WEC does and we can invite others into that enthusiasm. We will continue talking about a pathway to membership from when someone first enters the church to signing the book to joining a committee.

Focus for the January 4 meeting

Organizing the newcomer dinners (keeping in mind that the circle dinners will begin January 20th).

Moira Notargiacoma, acting Secretary

WINTER MEETINGS

Moirra will be chairing the meetings Jan. through April while Barbara is away.

CLOSING READINGwho would like to bring a reading for next meeting?

Next meeting Thursday January 4, 5:00 PM.

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