

September 18th Standing Committee call to order 7:02 by BB 100% attendance,
Guests Thomas admin, DYM Sam WUSYG, Rufus WAR WV chaperone 4 years ago

Chalice lit by James

Standing committee covenant read by group in turns as opening words.

Check in around the table....

Sam presented about WUSYG trip to Ware, W.Virginia (repeat trip of 4 years ago)

with Heather and Rufus there to give testimony in support. Presented all the info on the handout. Will be driving passenger vans, and staying over at a church (or someplace like that) on the way and on the way home. Instead of paying for 30 plane tickets \$600 each, group will reduce carbon footprint, save big bucks, and drive in vans. Haley, Sam, Rufus, Sally, and Don Foote, chaperoning need one more talented adult, may need a few more so the ratio is 1 adult for every 3 or 4 youth. Best to have expertise so we can be dropped off and do a project. Kids wanted to contribute significantly at the homeowners residence, working alongside family. Manual labor most of the day, preferred by kids to excursions, committed to completing projects. Ware is the 6th most poverty stricken community in the nation, no local government or zoning, left over from mining towns. No mailing addresses, just county government – dramatically different from here. Interesting to note: lots of other UU youth groups go there. Marsha, the person who runs the groups is a great storyteller and very much like a UU DRE (LOL)! Total cost \$650 per youth, charge is \$250 plus travel and food, 2 staff 2 chaperones, plus \$50 for incidentals. Family pays \$450, kids raise \$200. Fundraising goal \$6K for 30 kids. There's some escrow money (used for scholarships) goes up when fundraising exceeds goal, down when needed. YAC is considering purchasing some meals, \$75 per person per week for dinner. So, we'll do a combo of kids cooking and buying meals, probably first/last night. Mission overlap of organization is strong. Housing rehabilitation and social immersion is what we're looking forward to. No deal breakers, lots of room for reflection, spiritual growth, very local volunteer core runs the program – advantage for the group. Our trip last time inspired UU SJ to offer a similar trip, with built in social and spiritual components and living your values. Partnership with UUSJ is very helpful. 20 years of experience of the sponsor makes this a well organized group with well established rules and expectations. Safety issues are all addressed, chaperones will attend training, following UU youth safety guidelines. Testimonials from chaperones and youth stress that **this trip** is the most impactful of all the trips. Cell phone service in the mountains is spotty at best, so youth bonded quickly. Heather says political environment is very different, many are coal and Trump supporters. Kids travel an hour to school, families depend on coal for employment. Our youth bonded with them and grew soooo much, recognizing that the community is just trying to get by, like everyone else. Not a place that suffered from a natural disaster, this is the way it is there. They took over an abandoned High School (flooded basement) to offer day care, offer space for youth to gather, offer a meal for folks who need dinner, where youth will stay. Unemployment impacted by opioid. Steep mountains, no farming, no reason to stay there, except families have no place to go, "this is where our family is". Betsy says let us know how things are progressing and let us know if you need any help. James made the motion, seconded, **voted: all in favor of approving the WUSYG trip to Ware WV as presented.**

Consent agenda:

Approval of minutes, James motion and seconded. Unanimously passed.

Treasurers report about end of year. Unexpected un-included bills/expenses.

Treasurers' pledge report shows 95% of pledges are paid in full and 98% of pledge money is in thanks to some extra generous donors. WOOT!! As books are being closed, things come up that need minor adjustments. Calls from Standing Committee REALLY helped. Next month will report with closing details. Chuck is aware that Building Committee went way over budget with unexpected events. Sewage backups and cleanups. Electric bill was high because the heat tracers were left on all season (not turned off at all, ever). Office staff are aware and alerted to monitor going forward. James is attending Building Committee meetings to help set up procedures and policies for better communication. Budget is increased going forward (more realistic).

Bylaw correction need for Membership Committee. Save for annual meeting. Also, wording for liaison role – some are observers and some are (voting) members – needs to be consistent. Mary, the clerk, will track suggestions for bylaw changes for the spring meeting.

Standing Committee Retreat topics for Saturday, September 28th :

- Location: at the Willows clubhouse on Cross St.
- Need help for set up 8am, 8:30 – 9a coffee, lunch noonish, done by 3ish
- **2020 Capital Campaign**, Audio Visual funding and more...
- **2020 Fundraising Event, opportunity for creativity and leadership** (potentially controversial topic)
- **Building Safety and Security – adapting to current best practices.** Office staff can't see front door, access is to *all* areas to the building including nursery. We may not be meeting minimum current standard expectations for safety especially in the nursery. **Fire drill happening this fall.** Lots of checklists and policy potential. Let's not create a policy before we can honor it. Thinking about training staff for fire safety. Offer it to Sunday staff, RE staff, ushers, greeters. Let's talk about cultural transitions.
- Resend Kathy's list, choose top 5 and be prepared for discussions at retreat.
- Meal is "perfect potluck".

Upcoming dates to note:

Sat September 21st WUS booth at Farmer's Market

Sun September 29th Standing Committee photo before/after service

Sun September 29th 4-6 pm dance

Tues Oct 8th 10 am Exec Comm (8 days before Standing Comm)

Wed October 16th Standing Committee meeting

Friday October 18th first fall music concert

Sunday October 27th Potluck Theology

Gratitudes for:

Margaret Lowry for flowers and gardening this summer

Sue sewed Pride and BLM flags back to back before installation ceremony.

Sarah Milt crochet a laundry basket out of plastic bags and posted it on FB page!

Dennis Brett and Lee Barton for time and energy running summer services and a job well done!