Leaders’ Circle Meeting, Dec 8, 2021. Unitarian Universalist Church of Lancaster

Reading provided by Marianne Smith encouraging us to “Go forth with Courage”.

Comments by S Lithgoe requesting respectful of time. Give name, pronouns, Committee that your are representing.

Introduce Sindy Pollard. New Communications person. Design and implementing a way so that it can be more holistic. Here to request what each of the committees to do. If you have vetted information that you want to share, send to her and she will share with UUCL as a whole. Help her help the church.

Focus: Committee activities that we have done with awareness of our Mission: Recent, Present and going into Future activity, plans.

Membership, S Lithgoe. Meet monthly. Reading Widening the Circle. Designing our February 12th retreat. Organically reaching out to folks who are visiting us on ZOOM worship. Have developed steps to working with office regarding formalizing steps to membership records.

Worship Associates, Heather Gehron Rice –first in-person worship Samhain in County Park. Winter Solstice is being planned for Tuesday, Dec 20 in County Park. Heather and Lenore will supply support, and are meeting with Rev Israel discuss fulfilling the Worship design for the Park event.

Caring team, Carole Campbell, co-chair, with Candy DeGreen. Good captains of each of the teams. All are poised and ready when there is a need. Want to explore offering Death and Dying Curriculum/Learning.

Board of Trustees rep, C. Campbell says looking at possibility of Christmas Eve services announcement. Leslie Laird (BOT) reported with Dec 24 plans put forward by BOT…important to honor with ritual. Read the BOT created statement regarding Dec plans.

Auction Chair, Leslie Laird, Auction is May 13-May 20, Celebration is May 21. Virtual Auction. Dates are chosen so that we don’t conflict with Stewardship. Theme not yet developed.

Labyrinth, Linda Dobbins, reports not been meeting because labyrinth is located in our church. New idea is expanded first Sunday of each month opened from 9-1. Before, during and after the service to meet our mission, to provide more sacred space for congregants to pursue spiritual development and to find new ways to celebrate UUCL and our stated mission by developing new ways for Regular and expanded space for spiritual seeking. There are No plans for New Year’s walk. Intend to open when we get the go signal.

Racial Justice and Healing, Kay Welty. RJH has not met for last two months. Mural Task Force came out of RJH . Congregation feedback was collected by using link on our website online and outfront on the day that artist McGinty was there to describe. This gathered information was given to Susan Dyson Harkleroad and Sindy Pollard to synthesize and then will go to the artist.

Committee on Ministry, Kay Welty, reports that there are new members and have not yet met. Currently Building our foundation for our team, then will meet.

Walters Grants, George Kerekgyarto reported that Final date to submit grant proposals for this cycle is Dec 31, 2021….Wanted to correct the date that may be on the website. UUCL Members encouraged to apply and would get priority.

Operations Team: GKerekgyarto reports that not much is happening. They will be meeting next Tuesday to form how they will move forward. Committee includes Alan Jacobs, Dave Dussinger, GKerekgyarto and will operate to support Robert Close, Facilities Manager.

Faith Development, Lenore Bajare-Dukes reports that we have had 2 multigenerational services since October. Continuing children’s worship, outdoors and monthly outreach to families at home like opening up mail at home. Partnering with Eli Sauls and Diane Toigo for Music. Hanukkah development. Johanna Lowenstein and Amanda Mayer assist. Multi means of connecting. Have ten families and 19 children. Growing it. Capabilities for event listing.

Adult Faith Development: a few going strong. Others not so much. Book discussion Emergent Strategy going strong. How do we get the parents of those children involved?

Rev Israel reports:

* the decision to offer the service came from some people. Community really needed it right now. Conceptualizing that we need a space for some people to come in and sit in the building. This is an exception not a new ruling of us using the building. We have lots of measures to try to put into place to do this safely. The outside inperson thing will happen. Early afternoon outside and a way to do it electronically.
* Widening the Circle of Concern…begin acquiring and reading it so that we can start discussing it in Feb. Available as free PDF. Can Purchase from UU Bookstore or we do have a few. Good discussion opportunity for everyone.
* Looking forward to having the Church World Service person at our service. Walters has funds to settle and walk with a refugee family.
* Little library outside in front of church. We have some materials out there including some brochures. Inviting all of you to help fill the library with books more like an engagement with the community. Bring to the little library. A book that was meaningful to us.

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS:

* What kind of volunteering do you need for the Christmas Eve service? We are providing masks for those who do not have one. People will have to register for this event.
* Reimagining of office space…shifting gears of how it is being done.
* BOT and Ops team is being reformed and Alan Jacobs will be the BOT rep.
* BOT Fred Foster Clark is here for committee structure research.

Financial Management, Kelsey Holl, gave up communications things to Sindy Pollard. ZOOM meetings and online calendar is still her domain. Room reservation for room or ZOOM will go to her. Mailbox discussion: Curious about mailboxes…behind the door, heavy, difficult to mount on the wall. Who needs one, who does not need one? This is something for us to think about.

* Open Discussion: Volunteer recruitment, Board Committees are in need. Our next meeting is Feb 2. Who will facilitate? Propose Feb 9th. Kay Welty will facilitate.

OTHER: Kay Welty, question from COM…shared ministry, and connect in love. Question for feedback: aware of folks who are engaged and my concern is that there are lots and lots of folks that are not involved in any way. Any concern that there is less involvement? After discussion, likely Little Sparrows will be on that as Carole Campbell reported. Who we are? What is the value of this community? We could more deeply ask the questions of why they stopped coming? What is it about the culture of this community that causes folks to not come back. Some will come back, we need to keep asking why. If we want this congregation to survive. Opportunity to continue to do the internal work. More inclusive, more just, when we reopen…for them to want to be here.