

Unity in Edinboro
Board Meeting
November 22, 2009

PRESENT: Ray Sammartino, Martin Maly, Joseph Briggs, Leona Bickel, Shelly Ropp, Cheryl Wenslow

ABSENT:

OTHER: Joanne Rowden, Caroll Boyer

Meeting opened with prayer at 9:10

1. Appoint and welcome Shelly Ropp to the board
2. Minutes from October-JB/CW Unanimous
3. Financials from October-Joseph presented the financials and we shared the two sizable donations that we received in November. We believe that in November we will be "in the black" by the end of November. LB/CW Unanimous
4. Vice president nomination acceptance-Martin accepted the nomination

Old Business:

5. Church growth-continued discussion
 - a. Joanne shared Spiritual Growth series vision and Visioning Council
 - b. Leona reminded us that it is important to share this information regularly
 - c. Shelly suggested that this Visioning Council go to the congregation regularly and invite them to participate in the process
 - d. Martin suggested that once the visioning council decides on the first goal, that we invite the congregation to hold that vision in prayer. We could invite someone with passion for the idea from the visioning council to share that prayer with the congregation right then and there. Cheryl suggested that we could incorporate the prayer right into the service each week.
 - e. Leona asked that we come up with a method to ask people to take the Spiritual Gift Survey. Ray suggested that we ask people to fill out the Spiritual Gifts survey when they ask to be a member.
 - f. The discussion led to our process of inviting people to join and become members. What does it mean to be a member? Members are allowed to be on the board, chaplains, and to vote.
 - g. Congregational meetings, newsletters might be a couple of ways of encouraging people to understand what it is to be a member.
6. Email from Jim on Vision-
 - a. Update from Jim on Contest for university students by Jim-Jim has contacted several schools (i.e. Gannon, Mercyhurst, Slippery Rock, U of Pittsburgh, Erie Business Center, Great Lakes Institute, Allegheny) and asked the universities to distribute them to the students. He has gotten positive results from his conversations with the university

- b. Ray asked what the result was for this? Jim would like to broaden the students understanding of God and Unity. The topic of the essay is Unity history and the principles of Unity.
- c. We need to determine the way to establish the \$1000 scholarship fund. Unity Institute is covering the costs of room/board/education if they make the choice to go to Unity Village.
- d. Jim and Joanne believe that we can raise the funds for the scholarship by asking for donations from the congregation. Jim also suggested that perhaps the board could reallocate the remaining funds from UIE scholarship fund since they have learned about Unity principles.
- e. Ray asked about who will read and grade the papers. Unity Institute will take care of that by providing support in reading and grading the papers.
- f. Edinboro University was one university that did not give a positive response. Martin suggested that we reconnect with Edinboro University letting them know the other schools that have agreed to participate.
- g. Martin asked what else we will do with the essay. Unity Institute will be publishing it in their bookstore/website. We will be posting it on our website. The student will be invited to share the essay at our service. Ray suggested that we also submit it to the Erie Times to be published in their faith section. Martin suggested that we also notify the winner's school so that they can be recognized there also.

New Business:

- 7. Martin asked about a community garden (pulling from last month's minutes). Joe shared that he was inspired to suggest that from the DVD that was shown in service about what Unity churches have done. Martin likes the idea of creating a labyrinth in the back yard. This way there would not be a lot of gardening involved. Joseph and Martin are interested on working on this project. Jim is willing to provide the shovel and labor. Choosing the right material that is reasonable and with low maintenance will be the key.
- 8. Next call with Paula is Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. If you are unable to join please let Joanne know
- 9. Next board meeting-December 20 at 9:00 a.m.