

Unity in Edinboro
October 16, 2009
Board Meeting

PRESENT: Ray Sammartino, Leona Bickel, Joseph Briggs,

ABSENT: Martin Maly, Cheryl Wenslow

OTHER: Joanne Rowden, Caroll Boyer, Dennis Boyer

1. Open with prayer at 9:17 am
2. Minutes from September-LB/JB Unanimous
3. Financials from September-JB/LB
 - a. Caroll included information about financials in her column for November newsletter.
4. Election of officers-
 - a. Joseph Briggs has been nominated by Ray Sammartino as Treasurer. Joseph will take the minutes to CNB and sign signature card for our checkbook.
 - b. Ray Sammartino will continue to serve as president
 - c. Leona Bickel will continue to serve as secretary
 - d. Martin Maly has been nominated vice-president pending his acceptance by Ray Sammartino
5. Nomination needed for open board position due to Jean Kimura's withdrawal from reelection

Old Business:

- a. Ray Sammartino suggests Shelly Ropp; Joanne suggested Barry Hardman. Ray will talk with Shelly Ropp today. If Shelly is not interested, Ray will talk with Barry.
6. Annual meeting-board created minutes for this meeting. The meeting was very short and simple.

Old Business:

7. Create Team to consider "church growth"-Ray shared information with Joseph Briggs about what the board has been focusing on since our December meeting last year at Jim Aucutt's home.
 - a. Joseph shared that his first visit helped him to feel very welcome here
 - b. Joanne suggested that there is a great percentage of the population that does not know Unity exists, what we are about, and are ready and looking for Unity's message
 - c. Joseph believes that we need to focus on some need outside of us in the community.
 - d. Leona asked about how we can get the word out in the newspaper, radio etc. Joanne let the congregation know that she has been writing articles for the Edinboro paper.
 - e. Joseph asked if there was a way that we could create a community garden space in our backyard for a labyrinth space, or meditation garden space
 - f. Joseph reminded us that we have the resource of the University with a big student population that we could draw upon
 - g. Joanne reminded the board that an old survey indicated that personal invitation was the number one way that people began attending our service. As president of the Rotary Club, Ray suggested to the members that they come next month and invite a friend.

- h. Joanne suggested that we need to talk with the congregation about their hesitancy in inviting friends to the service. Ray thinks an informal meeting after service may be a way to find out some information from the congregation.
- i. Leona reminded us that we are not going to see results overnight. We need to give it time to develop and unfold.
- j. The board will continue this discussion next month.

New Business

1. Sound system-Gary would like to replace the speakers in the sanctuary. Dennis' band Grassfire has split up, and he should be getting his sound equipment back. Dennis may have used sound equipment, including speakers, that may be available for the church to purchase. Gary would like the board to consider allocating funds so that we could purchase this equipment from Dennis. Gary asked Dennis to give us a price on the equipment. Ray asked if we needed the speakers, and Gary reiterated that he does need the speakers.
2. Email from Jim on Vision-
 - a. Joanne shared the information with the congregation last week
 - b. Ray saw the letter as a "stream of consciousness" that contained a lot within it
 - c. Carroll liked the vision-felt that Jim hit the nail on the head. Where do we want to go with the vision?
 - d. Joanne believes that this can again tie into the visioning that we are doing with the congregation during our 7 week program. She is asking people to commit to an area that they are excited about developing here. There are commitment cards available for the congregation to let us know.
 - e. Carroll wonders how we can show the "outside" the diversity of who we are as individuals through an autobiographical way (i.e. newspaper)-Joseph suggested a show on the Community Access channel.
 - f. Ray questioned the creation of the CD that Joanne was working on in the past about why people are attending service here.
 - g. Ray suggests that we go to Jim and ask Jim to take one idea that we could focus on first; or tap a couple of people that would like to work on this idea. Joanne will talk to Jim about this.
3. Next call with Paula is Thursday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m. If you are unable to join please let Joanne know
4. Ray will call Marty and Cheryl to make sure things are ok and there is a commitment to be here next meeting.
5. Next board meeting-November 22 at 9:00 a.m.