

# UUCWI Social Action Committee

## Meeting Notes 8/6/2004 9:30 am, Trinity Chapel

Attending: Nancy, chair; Toyan, Malcolm, Bill, Jack

### 1. Old Business:

#### a. finances

Nancy shared a budget report that she had received from Roy (below). While this report answered some of the questions that the committee had regarding our finances, there remained some questions or corrections:

- i. Can we get a more detailed report of monthly activity? For example, rather than "Less June 04 checks written" as an entry for five contributions we made in June, we'd like a list of the five checks, the names of the recipients, and the amounts.
- ii. We'd like to revise our basket accounting to separate out expenses and contributions. These seem to be lumped together, and we want to be able to track and share with the congregation how much money was contributed to Guarani scholarships.
- iii. We asked that our initial \$312 purchase of baskets be a contribution from our committee and not taken from the proceeds of basket sales. This is not how the purchase is reported, and we'd like to change the books to reflect this. Roy Bingman, Treasurer, had told Bill that it would take Board of Trustees (BOT) action to accomplish this. Nancy will request this action from the Board at the next available meeting.

Nancy proposed a new method for making contributions from this committee: Have a portion of our service collection donated to a charity of our choice. The committee will designate a specific charity, such as Hearts & Hammers, to receive part of the plate collection each month. Congregants making donations during the service will be instructed that contributions placed inside marked envelopes will be used toward UUCWI's operations, but those left loose in the basket will go toward the designated charity. A check will be written from UUCWI to that charity at the end of that month for the amount collected.

The main benefit of this approach is that individual church members have direct input on how much money is sent to each charity. They will not surmise that they were contributing money to the church that was then given to a charity not of their choosing. However, individual donations will be bundled and given in the name of UUCWI, increasing their impact and our presence in the community.

Charities will be selected by this committee with suggestions from the congregation. Designated charities will be publicized in the newsletter, the Order of Service, and verbally by the service leader. When appropriate, the recipient charity will coordinate with a service topic. For example, our designated charity

last June might have been CASA since we had a presentation from that organization that month.

This approach was used very successfully at the UU fellowship that Nancy attended in Ohio. Fellowship leaders did not feel that this cut down on contributions to the UU group.

The committee chose to make this proposal to the BOT at the next available meeting. If approved, Nancy will write an article for the following newsletter explaining all. We will also need to be sure that the person counting the collection each week is fully aware of how to process the money.

**Actions needed:** Nancy will ask to have the accounting fixes added to the BOT meeting this coming Monday. Bill and Toyon will prepare a summary for her of our requests. Toyon will also create a file of our basket finances. Nancy will ask to have the proposal regarding service collections added to the BOT agenda.

b. Adopt-A-Road cleanup

Nancy has heard from Bill M. and Mike S. that they will be helping with the cleanup tomorrow morning. Jack informed the committee that he has found a business that can record a video on CDs for a fee. He would like to get the county safety video on CD for us to have.

**Action needed:** Jack will check on the price of having a CD made of the safety video.

c. voter registration

Malcolm shared that Toyon, Nancy and he staffed a table at Choochokam for about an hour and a half. We helped 7 people complete voter registration forms, and we met a couple who was walking about the fair registering people. We felt our table was redundant and were comfortable leaving voter registration to them.

Jack summarized the drive at the National Night Out in Oak Harbor on Tuesday. The table there was both voter registration and UUCWI publicity. Eight voters were registered and a few people expressed interest in the congregation. Jack felt unprepared to answer questions from families regarding our CRE and youth programs. He shared a recent newsletter from the Quimper UU Fellowship in Port Townsend in which the RE program was featured prominently on the second page.

Malcolm asked about voter registration at the Island County Fair later this month. Nancy indicated that individuals are encouraged to assist the political party of their choice, but we won't be having a drive of our own. Malcolm shared that he has requested that the League of Women Voters of Island County inform him of their voter registration activities. As he learns of any, he'll forward information to UUCWI membership asking for assistance.

d. topic/speaker for Sunday service

Malcolm indicated that he is ready to deliver a presentation on short notice any time needed. Bill suggested that we have a speaker from a food bank for the December 26th service. Nancy suggested Kathy McLaughlin from Good Cheer. Bill will take this suggestion to the Worship Committee. All agreed that the April committee presentation should be on an Earth Day topic, and Malcolm took responsibility for it

**Action needed:** Bill will inform us of Worship Committee action regarding the December service.

2. New Business:

a. vote suppression

Malcolm had sent an email message regarding vote suppression tactics and requested that this committee investigate whether any action on our part is warranted. Unfortunately, he needed to leave at this point in the meeting. The discussion was tabled until next meeting.

**Action needed:** Nancy will add this item to the agenda for the next meeting.

b. stem cell research video

Malcolm had sent Nancy an email message about showing a video about stem cell research. Without Malcolm here to explain this proposal, it was also tabled until our next meeting.

**Action needed:** Nancy will add this item to the agenda for the next meeting.

3. Next meeting

9:30 on Friday, September 10th at Trinity.