

Committee Reports – 2018 Mid-Year Meeting

Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM)

Completed revision to the Disruptive Behavior Policy.

Completed revision to our committee's mission statement, with emphasis on becoming the Committee on Spiritual Ministry.

Completed definition of the new Right Relations Council.

Began reaching out to committees to introduce ourselves and our new role.

Going forward, COSM will regularly touch base with the committee leaders to ensure the committees are in alignment with the church's mission and if we can be of any assistance to them in ministering to our congregation and the community.

Music Task Force

The Music Task Force staged two choral presentations for services since the last report, and we wrote (Thanks much to Amanda Hazel working with Shari) and submitted a grant request to NTAUUS for funds to keep the program supported financially over the next 18 months while Westside works on handling its mortgage without the income from the AMS. We are discussing now how to use the existing funds in the McConnell Memorial Music Fund and are looking at hiring an outside experienced director for at least one (and possibly two if we get the grant) presentations in the spring and early summer.

AESTHETICS AND BUILDING USE COMMITTEE

The ABUC has been researching mid-century modern furniture and décor—the architectural period of our building—with intent to select furniture for our building in this style as we prepare the entire building for our full-time use. We have identified several current manufacturers as well as some sources of authentic mid-century pieces that were constructed and sold for commercial use in the mid-20th Century.

The committee looks forward to working with the Building Transition Team and the list they have made of the building user groups' furniture needs. Depending on funds available, we look forward to having age-appropriate classroom furniture, refreshed restrooms, and tables and seating for small group gatherings, just to name a few additions.

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Building and Grounds

An October church work day was the most successful one in several years—with more volunteers who completed most of the items on the to-do list. Since our annual Congregational meeting, we have been dogged by plumbing repairs and a roof leak in the foyer after a new roof was installed. The roofing company has made several attempts to trace and repair the cause of the leak. We need another long, heavy rain following the most recent repairs to confirm that they, at last, have solved the problem.

Other than these issues, the remainder of Building and Use activity has been routine maintenance and repairs.

Dianne Nixon, Chair

Social Committee

Another very successful auction and dinner was held in November raising over \$25,000 which will go directly to the Building Transition Fund. Again, many thanks to all who participated in any one of the numerous ways and to the very generous underwriters whose contributions covered all production expenses giving us 100% profit for items won at the auction!

Social Committee coordinated a beautiful Fall Harvest of goodies and beverages for Bring A Friend to Church in October. December brought a nice variety of holiday snacks for Hanging of the Greens Sunday and the Tamale Brunch was enjoyed by many.

Plans for the second half of the church year include another Potluck and Games in January, the Geography of Beer Lecture and Tasting in February, and Mother's Day Mimosas and Brunch in May. Circles Suppers 2.018 (2 point 0-1-8) is being rolled out now and we look forward to many members and friends becoming involved in what will now be a quarterly activity rather than monthly. We are also looking at a Karaoke Night for June. Established activities have continued successfully through the year!

Respectfully submitted,

Linda and Myron Ice

Social Committee, Co-Chair

Digital Communications

- Continuing to update the existing website and various documents therein.
- Wrapping up loose ends on the new website, tentative launch January or early February.
- Some initial planning for a blog/news section for Shari and replacing the newsletter
- Updates to google team drives, mailing lists, etc.

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- Uploading church service/reflection videos to YouTube and archiving in Google drive

Endowment Committee

Accomplishments:

- Congregational approval of Endowment By-Laws at the June 2017 meeting.
- Congregation approved appointment of new committee member, Melissa Trask
- Updated the Giving Tips Handout.
- Hosted a committee table in November.
- Received additional donations totaling \$433.04 since July 1, 2017. The Endowment Fund Balance was \$54,736.73 as of December 31, 2017, up from \$50,462.21 at the end of 2016.

Goals for the coming months:

- Review our investment strategy.
- Increase our members' planned giving with the help of UUA's "Wake Now Our Vision" campaign.
- Continue to work with Reverend Woodbury to increase donations
- A year end 2018 Endowment fund balance exceeding \$60,000. This is a modest goal, because the transition into our new building will require additional member and friend donations to the general operating and building fund. Changes in the tax laws may also curb donations.

Thanks to all of you who have given to the future of Westside.

Leadership Development and Nominating Committee

The committee met twice in the fall (9/24/17 and 10/22/17). In addition, in response to a charge from the board to identify strategies for better integrating new members, the committee chair met with chairs of other committees (e.g., membership, religious education) once in the fall.

We accomplished the following:

- identified leadership development curricula (Harvest the Power and Faith Forward);
- worked with Adult Religious Education to begin implementing the Harvest the Power curriculum;

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- investigated the Faith Forward curriculum by contacting other UU churches in the area;
- updated a database of committee chairs and members; and
- nominated potential members of the Right Relations Committee.

Social Justice Council

Social Justice Council Highlights since July 1, 2017

- 1) The Social Justice Council continued its service work with wonderful participation from Westsiders in the August toiletry drive for SCAC, and the holiday services of the Thanksgiving baskets for SCAC, Christmas Cards for Worthy Now (the UU prison ministry network) and the Angel Tree donations to Alliance for Children.
- 2) A plea went out to Westsiders on the Social Justice Alert list to call ICE for the release of a DACA immigrant who had been detained in south Texas. He was released within days of ours and other UUs and peoples' calls for justice.
- 3) At the request of TXUJ and the Texas Freedom Network, the Social Justice Council set a goal for Westside to become a Reproductive Justice Congregation. To inform the congregation of this endeavor, we held a workshop in August which included UU and other churches, and then a worship service in November. We are hopeful that, today, the membership will ratify the Board's approval of Westside becoming a Reproductive Justice Congregation.

The Social Justice Council heartily thanks every Westsider who has participated in any of these endeavors!

Membership Committee

Membership numbers have remained consistent, losses equal to gains. We started a mentorship program.

Green Sanctuary Committee

Our activities are mostly unchanged since our last report for the June 2017 meeting. We continue to work with other Westside committees to further environmental awareness at Westside and to help make our church more environmentally friendly. With the Adult Forum, we are sponsoring a return visit by Jon Fripp, international expert on providing water for developing nations at both the regional and local level. This time accompanied by his young daughter, he will present on his Drip Bucket Irrigation project, as well as some solar information, Sunday morning

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January 28th. We hope as many Westsiders as possible will join us at Arlington's Rush Creek Christian Church in February for our second go at constructing Jon's drip bucket kits for distribution to villages in the third world and community gardens in this country.

Green Sanctuary sponsored Westside's involvement in Fort Worth's Litter Stomp last September. We scoured nearby streets for trash and picked up fifteen plus big bags full. This spring, the committee will likely return to the Trinity Trash Bash.

After eight years on the committee, I will be resigning as chair and taking a break from the committee as of March of this year. This will be a chance for a committed environmentalist to take over and lead the committee to new heights. This will also create a need for someone to take over our recycling from the blue cart in the Fellowship Hall. I have very much enjoyed my time on the committee, and would like to thank Westsiders for your participation and support.

Bob Vann, Committee Chair

Building Transition Task Force

In preparation for the day our whole building will be devoted to church use, the Building Transition Team has recorded the needs and wants of staff members and user groups. These have been entered into a spreadsheet for their easy reference. During the month of January, the Team will continue seeking input from individual members of the congregations regarding all interior spaces. Very soon, the Team will be presenting a recommendation to the Board for whom each space will be designated.

As required by state law, the Team secured an asbestos survey of the 1967 addition to our building (the west end containing the kitchen, fellowship hall, classrooms, restrooms, etc.). This survey confirmed the presence of asbestos in many building products that would be disturbed during construction. Then, the Team secured an estimate from a state-licensed firm for asbestos abatement in preparation for new flooring which came in at approximately \$25,000. Once the old flooring and carpet in the west wing is removed, new vinyl flooring is estimated to be another \$25,000. Once AMS moves out, classrooms and foyer will be empty. Team members are now engaged in researching products and prices for many essential needs from classroom furniture to paint, and everything in between. They will make every effort to stretch the budget as far as possible as they create a priority list. They ask that the congregation be aware that the needs and wants, expressed to-date, far exceed the resources currently earmarked for this project. They are excited about the possibilities our building holds and look forward to a "bare bones" event to view all our spaces as soon as AMS moves out in June.

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Children’s Religious Education

Looking over the work the CRE Committee has done since June 2017, here are a few highlights.

We completed the Coming of Age program with the second cohort of students to go to Boston as a capstone to that program. Feedback on that trip from students and chaperones was very positive.

Cameron, Shari, and I had a professional development meeting with Natalie Briscoe in late summer, which led to the programming for our October CRE committee retreat in Hillsboro. At that retreat, we made an outline of the connections between our committee’s work and Westside’s mission statement, as well as made adjustments to our own mission statement and governing materials.

We organized two church-wide events for youth and families, the Halloween Trunk or Treat and the YUULE Ball. We also co-organized a family game night with the Social Committee and hosted events to build community among middle school students and families and for CRE volunteers.

We coordinated Middle School OWL programming, which has/will run from October-April and which 9 students are regularly attending.

We held a training for Sprit Play at Westside and began a Spirit Play program for K-2nd grades.

We organized a fall RE in the Park program.

We continue to staff and plan weekly Children’s Chapel, RE for preschool-high school, biweekly youth group, and childcare for church events.

We plan a midyear training for CRE volunteers for Feb. 3.