

State of the Fellowship Feb 2019

Discussion: How well is BUUF serving its mission now? What else could we be doing to serve our mission?

Fellowship

“For every person searching for spiritual meaning, BUUF provides a welcoming and caring religious community...”

How are we building community within?

Adult Faith Development/RE: Offering events at a variety of times helps keep programming accessible

Sunday Services: Whole Congregation Worship; Contemplative (worship arts)enhancements; BUUF Musicians

Children’s RE: World of Wonder, Change for Change, Summer Camp

Membership: Potlucks, Joys & Concerns in Announce, PNO, New member ingatherings, Anniversary Celebration Dinner, Rev Jim’s 10thAnniversary recognition, Pledge Celebration & Cabaret, enhanced member directory, Membership video, new logo wear, informal Circle Suppers; Visitors—Visitor follow up, UU Allcomers

What else could we be doing?

Programs: Our Whole Lives—OWL human sexuality; More cabaret, evening events, poetry reading, Religious & Spiritual book club; Different classes (Goddess theology, Building Your Theology); hymnals

Supporting each other: Concern: burnout—how do we address? Ridesharing? Babysitting/childcare...might help bring others to leadership; Evening events—carpooling/ridesharing, childcare (cost sharing, volunteers); Improve audibility for hearing impaired; Disability Network; Publicize how accessible the building is/list on website/fb; Automatic doors/ramp

RE: Youth Group; better include children in worship; ‘make church fun for kids’

Membership: Promotion...not just money, in-kind contributions, time/talent; Acknowledge donations of bookkeeping, janitorial, mowing; monthly breakfast

Getting out the UU word: Marketing/Advertising—library, OutCenter, increase community awareness of what we are doing; UU community outreach—communicate UU principles; Sermons posted online—sample BUUF from the comfort of your home; variety of sermons

Honoring our past: Gardening at BUUF—rehab current gardens; Plaque for memorial garden

Diversity of Thought

“...dedicated to diversity of thought...”

How do we demonstrate this dedication?

Welcoming Congregation recertification process

Losing conservative members and friends

What else could we be doing?

Politics: Better Angels, All Sides programming to promote improved conversation between conservatives/liberals

Religion: World Religions education; Consider how we can be more welcoming of varied theologies; Young people—invite children from another church to share Sunday (Gloria); Children attend other churches service (older children/middle school +)

Social & Environmental Justice

“...dedicated to ... social and environmental justice...”

How are we serving others?

Soup kitchen ministry

Individual members working on several local s/e justice issues (Prop 2, local protests regarding gun control, women's rights)

Environment Justice film series

Speakers on economic issues (fair wages, UBI, economic justice issues)

Environmental Justice Film Series, Fresh Start Children's Garden, Sustainability efforts:

composting, fair trade coffee, plant based emphasis for potlucks/ethical eating focus (new)

What else could we be doing?

Be careful not to overreach—quality of support vs quantity of groups served

Knitting/Crochet group—Merry at SK allows handing out hats/scarves (Katharine)

Local partnership/speakers: SJ HS teacher recycling program; environmental group to partner with? Sierra Club active in Kalamazoo (SC-Michigan facebook page); Creek fish re-stocking project? ? Presentation; Chickaming Open Lands group—invite for presentation?

Promote current activities: Join us with film series; Barbasol sign project (lawn or online)—"have you seen our children's garden, EJ film series"

Property: Native plantings on property; Green Sanc + RE milkweed circle

Peace for all

"...dedicated to ... peace for all"

How are we building external relationships?

What else could we be doing?

Learn about local groups: Immigrant reform, inter faith

Self-promotion: BUUF Banner for justice marches; Tell people about this fellowship—evangelize; Wallet card to share