

Report
PSD 2008 Conference LAWG
7PM, August 23, 2007, at Second Unitarian Church

Call to order

The meeting came to order at 7:08

Round of introductions

Accomplished

Attendance

Judith Wright, Jo Anne Draper, Darrel Draper, Bill Ross, Dave Richardson,
Laura Neece-Baltaro, Nancy Amsler, Nancy Round, Betty Segell, Laura Shennum, Cheri
Codi, Jaime Alexander,

Tasks and Team Leaders

We now have team leaders for all of our listed tasks. Teams will need various numbers
of helpers to be determined. Thank you to everyone for the commitment!

Banner Parade – Darrel Draper

Darrel mentioned he had been at the last conference but not at the banner parade.
A response came “that’s OK we don’t want to do it that way anyway”.
Discussion continued about whether we could hang the banners in the hotel. The
idea of stands for the banners was also mentioned. We will have to review the
lay out at the hotel and coordinate with the hotel.

Bookstore – Betty Segell and Gwen Eurich

A decision about which bookstore to use for obtaining books should be made in
due course. Janet Grojean, representing the local bookstore “Bookworm” has
expressed interest in working with us. They have experience with this sort of
event, perhaps would have someone on site, and the ordering and returning
could be easier. The other and traditional source is the UUA bookstore. That
has advantages also. The relative costs need to be determined.

Titles and other offerings need to be selected. Conference speakers and
workshop presenters should be reminded to notify us of appropriate items for the
bookstore.

The location of the bookstore was not discussed. Will be in conjunction with the
other exhibits?

Budget – Cheri Cody and Jaime Alexander (LAWG Co-chairs)

Cheri reported the budget needs refining by October to be ready for sending to the PSD board prior to their November meeting.

Entertainment – Mark Dickmeyer

The hotel does not have a piano. We will have to supply whatever we need for the entertainment as well as the Sunday service and the usual Saturday choir practice. First Unitarian has been given an electric full keyboard piano. Mark will stop and see if it is sufficient for his needs. Jaime will also ask Bob McMeen to evaluate it for the choir use.

Jaime received an email about a year ago from Nancy Heege about a volunteer pianist. It is pasted below.

At the Annual Conference last spring in Iowa City, a member of the Sioux City congregation, Pat Cook, submitted a District Volunteer Suggestion Form, saying she would be happy to volunteer to do some music during the 2008 District Annual Conference. Pat says that she's an entertainer and has played cocktail piano at various events, including at the piano bar in the Camillia Hotel in China. [Her husband is a professor and they've spent several semesters in China where he's been teaching.] She says she could play soothing cocktail lounge piano music during the Saturday night dinner, if it would be wanted.

Reach Pat by email at tigertom43@hotmail.com or by phone [when they're not in China] at 402-375-1171. She lives in Wayne, Nebraska

The Saturday after dinner entertainment needs to be arranged. Music is often a big part of this. Last year they had group dancing. The idea of active involvement is good but some did not participate. There are some qualified musicians in our congregations.

Our budget is not generous. Cheri said she had put in \$200 though the budget process is not done. We aren't experiencing a surplus.

The master of ceremonies for the evening has at times seemed to be done as an afterthought. We should give this proper attention

Exhibits – Sandy and Tony Host

Subsequent to this meeting, Jaime met with Sandy and Tony and they agreed to lead this task. They have the task descriptions and plan on attending our meetings.

Hospitality – Laura Neece-Baltaro

The scope and variety of tasks was discussed. This task will require a good number of helpers on hand, especially at the beginning.

Hotel – Cheri Cody

The issue of “Green” items and procedures at the hotel came up. Cheri will check with the hotel.

Publicity – Bill Ross

Bill passed around a draft article for the PSD electronic mailer. The deadline is Aug. 30. Publication date is uncertain as this is a new way of doing this for the PSD.

Bill also mentioned that last time the conference was in Omaha the various churches were asked to create and bring a “Church Poster” describing their church. This provides a nice visual at the conference and also gets people involved which may encourage their attendance.

Another idea suggested by Bill was to provide the district churches with email “Blurbs” suitable for inclusion in their newsletters.

Registration – Nancy Round & Nancy Amsler

Coordinating online registrations, mailed in registrations, and address was discussed. These things are not all worked out. One issue is the probability that the PSD Board will opt for some professional help in the registration process. Apparently the various LAWG’s have had to invent the process each year and the thought is to get a standardized system.

The effect on our budget of both credit card costs and the professional help is a concern. The cc fees are probably in the \$3-\$4 range themselves and the professional help will likely increase that.

Visual Arts – Judith Wright

Judith reported that she and Cheryl have discussed creating center pieces through a project involving sculpted items created by the children and adults. She thinks this could provide many interesting and different pieces. However if it doesn’t work out we could fall back to more traditional items.

Worship and Ceremonies

The Friday night service is not yet well defined as to what should be included and who will do it. The consensus was that probably readings, songs, and ritual are often utilized.

The Youth traditionally create and present the Saturday night service.

Both Kate and Josh have expressed enthusiasm about collaborating on the Sunday service. The question has come up if the theme of the conference, “Rebuilding a Faithful Democracy”, should also be part of the Sunday service.

Choir – Bob McMeen

Bob is enthused to do it, and highly qualified, but needs familiarization since he has not previously been to a district conference.

The usual Saturday session for the choir to practice needs to be included in the program.

Treasurer – Jo Ann Draper

Jo Anne reported that our account has been established and she has written the first check.

Youth and Children’s Programs – Cheryll Wallace / Laura Shennum

Cheryll provided some more detailed estimates of child care requirements and expenses for inclusion in the budget development process.

Old business

The logo was discussed. Bill passed around a sheet showing the logo and the versions with and without words. The final artistic version with words is not yet ready.

New business

Jaime reviewed our current “model” of meetings and communication, i.e. monthly meetings with the co-chairs meeting in between. Jaime requested that anyone with comments and ideas concerning how we should be doing things to please share those thoughts.

Other

We should get the programs from recent conferences for reference and comparison.

Bill asked everyone to gather for several group pictures after the meeting.

Next meeting(s)

Cheri and Jaime – Tuesday Sept. 11, noon, Cheri’s office

All of LAWG – Monday, September 17, 7:00PM, Second Unitarian, downstairs

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00PM and the group pictures were taken.

Respectfully submitted,
Jaime Alexander