

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

February 4, 2006

Minnesota Valley UU Fellowship, Bloomington, MN

Present: Sam Wormley – Chair, Eric Severson, Suzanne Owens-Pike, Virginia Wolf, Elaine Rockwell, KarenKress, Gina Dugan, Phil Lund (last hour).

Minneapolis local arrangements for 2007: Lisa Friedman, FUS

Minutes To: Nancy Heege, Sarah Greene

Introductions and Check-In

Review Minutes of October 29, 2005 – Minutes accepted

Agenda Accepted

Iowa City Conference Report

Discussion of brochure. It was noted that this is a draft and had just been completed, as it did not appear to have been proofed. Committee made some editing suggestions and confirmed that Sarah Greene would also be proofing it before it will be printed.

Discussion of the loss of “UU.Con” from the title. Discussion of the increase in registration fee, which the Iowa City church increased. After some discussion, it appeared that the Board had approved the increase and there is nothing to be done about it at this time.

Discussion of this year’s evaluation form: The Board wants some questions added about scholarships: who would need or access them if we make them available.

We went over the conference schedule and mad suggestions for some changes, including a start time of the Banquet at 7:00, to end at 9:00 so that the youth worship can start at 9:15 and end at 10:00pm.

We discussed the Youth participation and registration. We want the youth to be able to attend the regular conference if they want, at the same youth registration fee. If it becomes a budget problem, we will address it in the fee schedule next year.

Somewhere in the brochure, there should be a text box that includes who is actually providing the conference, produced by this committee and put in the brochure by local arrangements.

We discussed the child registration and childcare. Cheryl Wallace wants children’s programming to relate to the theme (part of Lifespan Faith Development planning).

Elaine recorded all of our suggestions and will send them to Peggy Houston of the Iowa City local arrangements and Sarah Greene.

We recognize that we need better communication among the five conference related committees of the Program Council: Awards, Site Selection, Local Arrangements, Archives and Program Planning. **Question:** Is the Award Committee communicating with the Local Arrangements Committee this year? Sam has contacted the Site Selection Committee. There was a suggestion that we have breakfast meetings again at the conference and first have all five Committees meet together with the Local Arrangements Committee from FUS (and perhaps Omaha) invited, as well. The second day's breakfast meeting will just be our committee.

For FUS next year: Tell them about our intent to include youth and give them options for participation.

Sam will talk with Brian Eslinger about Board visibility (local welcome, greeting, etc.)

Archives Report: Gina Dugan

Gina will be meeting with Sarah Greene, Karen Kress, Carol Jackson and maybe Nancy Heege (these may occur over the phone) to discuss needs and begin prioritizing her work. She plans to begin compiling reports from the data we have (like trends in fees, attendance, speakers, workshop presenters, themes, etc.). Eventually this will all be in a database and our website that we can access by laptop – even at our meetings! To which we say, yeah! We would like to be able to find out more about ;the needs of people in our district. What compels people to attend the conference? What is it accomplishing for our district?

The conference evaluation form was recently done by Mildred Larson. Sam will revised for this year. It should include a question asking people to suggest themes for future conferences.

2008 Conference Discussion

We discussed a variety of possible themes, including some aspect of the environment, worship and families. We asked what is the purpose of the theme: to spark creativity, grow the district, strengthen best practices, education, inspiration, have a spiritual experience, build community and skills. That is a lot.

Youth Report: Phil Lund

First, Phil reported that the conference registration increase was because of the cost to the district office of the paypal account that allows online registration.

Phil will attend a Family Matters taskforce meeting. He suggests that there should be family tracks in every conference – tracks within the theme. The Lifespan Program Council will work with us on Conference planning for this. Lori Allen and Cheryl Wallace will do the children's programming. Local Arrangements will do logistics. The YAC is doing a youth con this year only.

We should encourage congregations to send Youth as actual delegates (for those 16 years and older).

Discussion of speakers for next year. Roland Martinson, a Lutheran Youth Ministry expert, who specializes on keeping youth as lifelong church members will do the Judy Lecture. There should be a track of three workshops for youth.

The UUA will be there for their "Consultation Ministry to and with Youth" project. Youth will be involved throughout the conference and do some special ritual. Under this plan, there won't be a separate youth conference in 2007 and thereafter, but the youth will be integrated throughout, with a focused youth track.

There research is showing that families and youth need/want programming that focuses on the importance of a relationship to the transcendent or holy. Hopefully Roland Martinson will challenge us on this.

Sam will run the 2007 title by Nancy Heege, and if she agrees, it will be shortened to: "Nurturing Our Faith Communities."

Gina suggested that a confirmation letter be sent to the youth, spelling out their logistics, where they will sleep and eat, the banquet details, worship, etc.

We need multigenerational workshops. We should have at least one next year. This could be a social justice activity, could be a family activity that includes younger kids, etc.

UUA presence next year: Every timeslot will have one workshop opportunity to come talk with the UUA reps. for consultation on youth. Phil suggests a Sunday opportunity at FUS for non-conference goers.

Phil mentioned the Storycore project, a sound booth from NPR that travels around. Parents tell children stories they want passed on, they are archived and go to the Library of Congress.

Summation: Use a family lens in a similar way as we have tried to use an anti-racist lens, etc. The PSD is still growing and families are an important part of this.

Next Year: The annual conference will meet at the City Center Marriot in Minneapolis from April 13-15, 2007

Next Meeting: June 11, 2006, 11:00-3:00. Location to be determined

We discussed the possibility of having longer meetings or possibly adding a meeting during the year. No decision was made. FUS should work on their Logo and site info.

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne Owens-Pike