

UU Futurist meeting Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2023

Present: Cynthia Becker, Anne Mayall, Jessica Motherwell, Cara Elrod, Jilly Watson, Paul Symons, Laura McNaughton, Ryan Guenther, Lynn Sabourin, Catherine Strickland, Shelley Hrdlitschka, Arthur Berman, Cindy Leitner, Barbara Moore, Robyn Newton, Catarina Gomes, Allyson Yee, Barbara Moore, Sara Stevens, Sandra and Gary Robinson, Lindsay Hindle, Bill Richardson

Action Items:

- **Anne/Cara to send an e-mail reminder that the deadline to sign up for Soul Matters is Friday September 1st. E-mail will clarify that this program is separate from NSUC program.**
- **Cynthia will send out the link to Wild Apricot.**
- **Cynthia will set up a “Tech Party” (mid September) to show people how to access Wild Apricot and how to use it.**

Meeting notes

Chalice lighting - Barb - “Faith” by Patrick Overton

*“When you walk to the edge of all the light you have
and take that first step into the darkness of the unknown,
you must believe that one of two things will happen:*

There will be something solid for you to stand upon,

or, you will be taught how to fly.”

Check in Break out groups - 10 minutes

Facilitator: Catherine

Note taker: Robyn

Approval of Agenda

- Planning Committee’s busy summer -
 - Relationship with First Unitarian Church of Victoria

- Ryan has agreed to be our treasurer and liaison with the Victoria Church. As our sponsor church, they can issue charitable receipts for our donations (a separate bank account) until we get charitable status, and also to keep Barb's chaplain status
 - Victoria church is keen to help us out if we need it.
 - They have invited us to visit them (Barb's daughter is moving to Victoria, and she will be able to visit them once a month).
 - Still need to finalize our agreement with the Victoria Church.
 - September 7 - Catherine and Robyn to sign the documents so we will have a bank account.
 - People can send cheques or e-transfers to Ryan, but we don't need the money yet, so wait until we have a bank account at Coast Capital - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Lower Mainland. Ryan will let the group know when this is in place.
- Updates from committees:
 - Teams formed - Worship, Facilities, Resources, Communications

We welcome additional members on these teams

- Locations (Laura)
 - Allyson has offered to make calls to some places - for the worship service, hope to find something in North Burnaby or East Vancouver (many things have been on the North Shore)
 - Vancouver Community Centres - don't rent to religious groups. Looking at neighbourhood houses, other faith communities.
 - Ideas - Legion, Burnaby Lake Field House and Rowing Pavilion
- Resources (Cynthia)
 - John and Cynthia are on the negotiating team, looking for additional members
 - Requesting both items (program and RE materials, chairs, hymnals, books, windows, etc.) and funds
 - Discussion about asking for a proportion of NSUC assets. Cynthia clarifies that the negotiating team's approach is to ask for more and expect less.
 - Planning committee looking at grants, and what kind of supplies we need. West Trust Grant from CUC - applying for \$900 for projector, screen, camera.
 - Exploring Wild Apricot - tool for non-profit organizations for communications, membership records and directory, documents,

web site, etc.

- Worship and Faith Practices

- Cindy, Lynn, Cara, Laura (Sara in new year?)
- Lots of ideas out there - if someone is eager, we will support them. Biggest issue is finding locations. Don't want to take on too much and get burned out.
 - Inquiring Souls - Jessica and Bill
 - Soul Matters - Anne Mayall
 - Book Club
 - Potential: Liminal times (Barb - could do by Zoom)
 - Worship service once a month for now - first one will be Saturday September 23rd, early evening- circle worship, vespers, and finger food potluck. We hope to set the third Saturday of each month for this. Ideally will be held at different locations (North Van, Burnaby, East Vancouver)
 - Discussing worship materials, how to get them from place to place.

- Cares and Concerns

- Joy, Lynn, Jacky, are members and Barb Moore is our liaison with the Planning Team
- If you hear of anyone who could use the attention of C&C, ask them if they would like their name passed on to C&C (consent is important)
- Offerings - if you can help out in any way (healings, etc.), let Jacky know.
- At this point, we don't have formal structures, etc., so this may evolve, but let us know if you want to join C&C

If people want to find out more about us or join us, they can send an e-mail to uufuturists@gmail.com

This will go to the Planning Team, who will review the requests (this could change).

- Community Dialogues update - catherine

- Last session - What's in a name? You are welcome to watch the video. Cool conversation (values). There is some urgency around this - we need a name to start to develop our identity - web site, social media. Next step

is a proposal group - their proposed names will come to the larger group - hope to come to agreement by some time in October.

- Past Sermon by Arthur a few years ago at NSUC which provides some points and context which may be useful for us. March 18, 2012 “What’s in a Name”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOn72FFV8X4>
- Next session - Money and Resources - Thursday August 31 - Zoom and at Robyn’s (2104 Grand Boulevard, North Vancouver) - accessed from Moody Avenue and 21st Street
 - different format - will provide an opportunity to deal with some of the hurt/bad experiences around money, finances, a chance to hear different perspectives. Chance to talk in small groups, then share highlights.
 - Catherine will provide information about different models, approaches to dealing with the financial issues. If you have a model you want to share, let catherine know.
- Next steps options - turn information over to teams or create proposal groups?
- NSUC negotiation update - Cynthia
 - Will finalize the list by September 6. Will try and get a meeting with NSUC by the end of September. Happy to share the list.
- Upcoming calendar for fall -
 - Friday September 1 - Deadline to sign up for fall session of Soul Matters (will need to purchase the program- perhaps could be part of the NSUC subscription for the first year - Ryan clarifies that we can use FUCV subscription) - **Action: Anne/Cara to send a follow up reminder that clarifies that this program is separate from NSUC.**
 - September 6 - next Planners meeting
 - September 23 - Worship Service
 - Haven’t scheduled the next general meeting yet.
 - On-going - Thursday 3 p.m. counter-protest against the anti-SOGI protest. You can contact catherine, Cara or Robyn for details.

Clarification - when negotiating with NSUC, we need to assume we are an equal partner in the negotiation, rather than “asking” for things.

- Website/Wild Apricot - Ryan / Cynthia
 - Acknowledge that Lindsay got the ball rolling - we need a good system of communication, keep track of documents, etc.

- Wild Apricot is a tool for non-profits that allows us to do all this, plus a web site. We are still participating in a free trial. It will be \$60/month. We can implement this under our name. (e.g. UUFuturists.com)
 - We will also have Team pages.
 - We now have a link where we can send people.
 - It is very flexible, and will grow with us.
 - Request to remove NSUC documents (could be in an administrator's part of the site - cannot be seen by the public).
 - We will be getting YouTube, Zoom and Facebook accounts.
 - **Action: Cynthia will send out the link.** Everyone is encouraged to check it out.
 - Can we have a tech party to help people to get on and use the site? Yes, mid-September when we go live. Action: Cynthia will set up the tech party, and is developing a user's guide.
 - Can also use cell phone, tablet to access
 - We are open to suggestions for look and feel (e.g. colours, etc.) - just want to keep it simple.
 - simple lower case non-serifs fonts, minimal distractions on each page, are the new accessibility standards. Soft pastels are in fashion right now.
- Catherine expresses her gratitude to all the people who have gone above and beyond to get us going.

Chalice extinguishing: (Barb) We are on the precipice, we are stepping off, and learning to fly.