

MINUTES, KOL AMI STEERING COMMITTEE FACE TO FACE MEETING,

JANUARY 8, 2012, 1527 Oronoco St., Alexandria VA, 12 – 2 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS: Don K., Elizabeth L-B, Ed B., Britt R., Susan F., Mary K., Lance F., David L., Janice C-L, Jane S., Toni P., Erika F., Peggy R.

The agenda for the meeting was approved. The minutes of the December 19, 2011, were approved with no corrections or changes. Elizabeth presented the treasurer's report. She has sent reminder emails for membership payments still due. She will send out the charitable 1099 form for the Rabbi. It was suggested to include the dates when bar/bat mitzvah fees are due on the annual membership form. Hope W. has agreed to be the organizer for the Jawer bat mitzvah on April 21. JRF dues have been budgeted in part.

It was announced that on Feb. 4th, 5 to 8 p.m. there will be a potluck Havdalah at Erika F. house. On Feb. 12th there will be a new members brunch from 11 to 1 p.m. with the Rabbi at Elizabeth L-B's house. Steering Committee members were urged to attend, and to bring a friend. Coordination of the potluck for this activity will be done online by Elizabeth.

As part of the discussion of the agenda items for the Community meeting, Jan.29th, 5 to 7 p.m. in the Chapel, it was agreed that there would not be no separate formal committee reports. As part of strategic planning, Mary will talk about volunteer needs. Members should let Mary know of any volunteer needs, immediate or long range. The community meeting is to be the deadline for receipt of programmatic audits. Dianne will talk about Shabbat hosting, how it is going. As part of the concern about communication among the Kol Ami community, preparation of a handout was suggested with useful listservs (obtained from Amy), as well as a list of members' emails that can be updated. The question was raised about whether everyone has an email and looks at websites.

Jane indicated that an item for discussion from the ritual committee will be Shabbat services and what the community wants. She indicated that the ritual committee has received both positive and negative feedback about services, with some people liking traditional services and others not. The Rabbi has identified those elements basic for a Shabbat service. However the process of omitting, revising or changing these elements needs to be transparent. She will facilitate a discussion to get input from the community. Questions will be raised about the amount of structure desired for services; what people expect and want in a service, for example what should be the length of services, when are they too long.. People will be asked about when Kol ami services worked for them and when they didn't. As a result of the discussion and information gathering process, a proposal will be prepared to present at the annual meeting. Those members who have led services will be invited to participate in the preparation of this proposal. It appears clear from the strategic planning process that a mix of both lay lead and rabbi led services are

important. The autonomy of both lay lead service leaders and the Rabbi will be respected. Before the community meeting Jane will send out questions to be considered at the meeting.

Peggy indicated that when the Rabbi presents ideas about tikkun olam, she will present these to the steering committee for making a decision. It was mentioned that the policy for social action is different, and should be separate from that of tikkun olam. The four issues involved are gleaning, service to the community, tzedakah and social action. There is no process yet on how to handle or support each of these, no clear view of each. This topic will be brought up at the community meeting to hear what the community feels. Peggy and Mary will lead the discussion. Then a policy or proposal will be presented in June at the annual meeting. Ed reiterated that members' opinions should be solicited about this issue, including how to spend Kol Ami funds. Elizabeth volunteered to represent tikkun olam on the steering committee.

The rough agenda for the community meeting includes the following:

- Welcome and introductions
- Treasurer's report
- Short (5 minutes) president's report
- Short (5 minutes) rabbi's report
- Conversation about religious services (Jane, from ritual)
- Report on volunteerism and our needs here (including someone for the nominating committee) (Mary)
- Conversation about tzedakah and tikkun olam (Peggy)
- Report on Shabbat hosting (Diane)
- Announcements

There will be 30 minutes of kids care provided. Hilary .K and G. Jawer will be asked to help with this. Erika will send a note to JCEP parents to get a count of how many kids will be needing child care.

Promotion for the community meeting will appear in every edition of This Week. Jane will send a reminder note. Members will be invited to bring Jewish themed books to share and to bring in tzedakah boxes. It was mentioned that donations to the Rabbi's discretionary fund should be sent to the treasurer, who will then send them to the rabbi. It was decided not to have food at the community meeting.

The discussion about Shabbat service attendance included mention of the fluctuation in attendance, the concern about low numbers at some services, exploring other ways to get people to come. Even though b'nai mitzvah students do have a responsibility to attend services, they do not have to go to Kol Ami services. It was mentioned that the kids need a special environment, creative services. Rabbi Leila has cut down the time for her services. It was agreed that data needs to be collected to see just what the numbers at services are. Shabbat hosts can count the number of people who attend, and put this number on the website.

The date for the annual meeting was set for Sunday, June 10, 4 to 7 p.m. This is the last day of JCEP, so that certificates can be given and pictures taken. It was agreed to start early, so that food could be eaten before or after the meeting. Erika will represent the children & family program at the event. A flyer will be prepared to distribute at the upcoming community meeting with upcoming events, including services, to the June 10th date.

In order to help with process and continuity and insure a better means of succession, the position of past president has been added to the nominating slot. Don and Mary will review the by-laws in relation to this, and bring up these changes at the annual meeting. Don, Brit and a third person (to be requested at the community meeting) will comprise the nominating committee. This was moved and seconded, then approved. The committee will look at who has served and who hasn't, and invite new people to serve. Liasons to the steering committee can help get more people involved.

The date for the next steering committee conference call will be Tuesday, Feb. 7th at 8:15 p.m.

Prepared by Susan Freiband (with help from Lance Feiner), 1/12/2012