

MINUTES, KOL AMI STEERING COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL,
NOVEMBER 15, 2011, 8:15 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS: Elizabeth L-B, Don K., Susan F., Toni P., Rabbi Leila G-B, M. Linick, Lance F., Erika F., Mary K., Ed B.

The Agenda for the meeting was approved with the addition (after “Committee Reports”) of a project presented by Rabbi Leila for consideration by Kol Ami. The Minutes from the October 18, 2011, were approved with one correction: page 2, second full paragraph, 6th sentence: change of the word “yahrzeit” to “yizkor”.

Elizabeth presented a treasurer’s report indicating that Kol Ami is in good financial shape, “where we ought to be”. There is over \$44,000 in the bank, plus about \$9,000. in outstanding dues (some of which are being sent in installments). JCEP fees have been received. There are two new member families. Rabbi Leila requested being sent an email with the name, address and phone of the families, so she can call and welcome them to the community. It was agreed that Amy S. should assume the responsibility of informing the Rabbi about new members.

As part of the Administrator’s Report, Don indicated that Amy has sent a draft of the Directory. A copy of this will be sent to Steering to look over after this call. The Activity Room at the Church will be available until May.

Relating to High Holy Day (HH) feedback/lessons learned, Don indicated that responses have been placed on the website, and that he will pull these into a report, along with the discussion from the Ritual Committee, so that they can be used for next year. Michael L. noted that the Ritual Committee discussion included the topic of lay led services. Toni P. indicated that there needs to be more input from members on this important topic.

Don indicated that Amy S. has hours available to use for working on acknowledgments and thank you’s. Stationary, including thank you notes are available for this purpose.

Under “Committee reports” ,adult education, Don indicated that Richard R. has talked with teachers regarding Adult B’nai Mitzvah policy. He has been working on an adult education program with Harriet E, considering options. The Steering Committee agreed that he should go ahead and use a classroom if needed, considering the low cost involved. Don indicated that Harriet E. will be involved as a resource person with the Care and Concern Program. A description of her responsibility will be sent to the Steering Committee.

For “Children & Family Program and Services”, Erika F. indicated that there are four new kids for JCEP. There have been three meetings with B’nai Mitzvah parents. The Rabbi indicated that she needs to receive timely information from Hope about the meetings, since communication

with parents can be difficult. The next planned event planned is the Hannukah party on Friday, Dec. 23rd, at Erika's house. Information about the party will be sent to everyone, not just JCEP families.

Relating to "Fund Raising", Don noted that the first full Tzedakah box has been received. Noel L. is taking care of it. Abbot H. is leaving the Community. Noel will make a pitch to find someone to help with fund raising. Don asked for suggestions on this. He will contact Abbot to discuss his situation relating to Kol Ami.

For "Outreach" Lance indicated that the new member event will be held on Sunday, Feb. 12th at 11 a.m. Elizabeth L-B volunteered to host the event at her house. She indicated that there is a cat in the house, which will be mentioned in the notice about the event. Ed and Lance will work on coordinating food arrangements, asking Steering Committee members to bring things. The Rabbi will introduce herself, and talk a bit about reconstructionism. There will be time for questions and discussion. Don will be introduced. It was suggested that a parent or teacher talk about JCEP. In related to HH followup, Lance indicated that a new member/visitor meeting will be scheduled as part of HH activities, to be done shortly after HH. There is a list of HH visitors, and letters have been sent out with announcements of upcoming activities.

Michael L. speaking for the Ritual Committee will coordinate with outreach with respect to dates for new member activities. He indicated that the Ritual Committee perception is that there is a need for community dialogue and clarification of expectations relating to lay led services. Differences have been expressed about this issue, even though basic, essential elements of the service structure have been identified. The Steering Committee should set aside time for discussion of the issue at the next face to face meeting in January. In addition, time will be spent during the community meeting to discuss the issue. The difficulty and complexity of the issue was recognized, as well as the need for a stronger sense of what the community feels; how decisions should be made concerning ritual issues. The Ritual Committee will get the conversation started, bringing up questions to consider, which will be brought to the steering committee in preparation for the community meeting. Michael indicated that Herb C-L had requested funds to support the participation of Robyn Helzner in Shabbat services. Since this is budgeted, the request was approved. Don indicated that committees do not need to bring decisions to the Steering Committee if they are within their budget, and can be worked within the designated budget.

For strategic planning Mary K. indicated that she sent out a redraft of the audit form, a rewrite of the form prepared in the spring. The form needs to be made easier to answer, restructured, focusing on how and what, the information needed, questions to be asked. She requested that people edit the draft form using google docs. Mary, Don and Susan will examine and discuss the form, and feedback received before the next Steering Committee meeting. It is important that the completed form be sent out as soon as possible, so that information received can be considered in the budgeting process.

Rabbi Leila G-B presented a project to be considered by Kol Ami as part of Tikkun Olam. It involves a non political, humanitarian organization in Israel, the Lone Soldier Center in Jerusalem. This organization was founded to help soldiers alone, without families in Israel, providing support and help while they are on leave. The Center, staffed by mostly volunteers, has a small budget and many needs. The Director can be invited to speak to the community, and the Center can be adopted by Kol Ami, as other congregations have done. Questions can be directed to the Rabbi, who will start working on this project. It will be put on the agenda for the next Steering Committee meeting, as well as the face to face meeting.

January 29, 2012, was identified as the date for the next Community Meeting. It will be held in the Church from 5 to 7 p.m., and include child care.

The next Steering Committee conference call will be Monday, December 19th at 8:15 p.m.

The date for a face to face steering committee meeting in January (before the community meeting) will be identified by using meeting wizard.

Prepared by Susan Freiband, Secretary, 11/18,22/2011