

MINUTES, KOL AMI STEERING COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

May 16, 2012, 8:00-9:30 p.m.

Participants: Toni P., Rabbi Leila G-B, Don K., Susan F., Michael L., Elizabeth L-B., Brit R., Lance F., David L., Erika F., Janice C-L, Ed B., Mary K., Amy S.

The agenda was approved with no changes or revisions. The minutes from the April 6th meeting were adopted with the addition of a suggestion by Toni P. relating to opening homes for others in the community for holidays where family meals are an important part of the celebration. This information was added to the 6th paragraph in the revised version of these minutes.

The treasurer sent out the budget ahead of time, and reviewed items in the draft budget. The overall consensus was that we were generally on target. On the income side the plan was for 33 families and 22 single members, and \$7000 in dues reductions. This reflects that not everyone can make full payments. These deductions were higher than what had been budgeted. The High Holy Day figures on the budget reflect where we were this year. General fund donations were down, since people have tended to give for special projects. Money for classrooms was included in the budget. B'nai mitzvah program fees may be higher. The expenses include rabbinic support (the largest portion), funds for service leaders for children's High Holy day services and for invited outside lay service leaders, building costs, insurance, bank fees, phones, JRF dues, requests from committees. Elizabeth will add the actual expenses and figures for the 2011/2012 budget which will be distributed at the community meeting in June. A motion was passed to recommend the budget to the community. The President expressed gratitude to Elizabeth for her work as treasurer.

Amy presented a report on the UU construction process. This will start in mid June, assuming permits are received from the County. The process will result in changes for Kol Ami. For example, the chapel will be used for services and the library for the oneg. The current closet will be lost. There is a possibility, which needs to be checked out, of using a closet in the chapel to store Kol Ami items. There will be access at all times to the parking lot, with 25 to 35 spaces. The whole parking situation needs to be verified, including parking at the Masonic Lodge across the street. Other issues include access to classrooms, the phasing of the construction, its projected length, closing off of the hallway, dust accumulation. Amy is working with the facilities manager. A suggestion was made to request a map of the church with different spaces, phases and schedule. Lots of patience is needed during this time. It was also suggested to include an update about the construction in This Week, to inform and prepare the community.

The nominating committee has come up with a good slate, though there are still some openings to work on, including vice president, outreach and strategic planning. Brit R. and Adam W. were thanked for their work in this area. Don reviewed the list of members on the slate. Richard R. will continue as JRF liason. Although Diane may continue with Shabbat hosting, someone may need to help out now. The webmaster position is open, which demands technology and

computer skills. The nominating committee will continue work on the slate. It was moved and seconded, then approved, to recommend the slate. Don also mentioned the bylaws change, to facilitate continuity, having a past president to play a role on the steering committee.

The issue of an adult b'nai mitzvah policy was discussed. Rabbi Leila indicated that this policy is not a ritual committee matter, since each class or individual represents a case by case situation. There is no set list of requirements, as with children's bar or bat mitzvah. The intent of the adult policy is to create a parallel document that considers financial obligations, expenses that occur. The process is under the aegis of adult education. Richard, Don and Leila have consulted with others about the policy, and prepared a simple, straightforward and clear document (one page). However a feeling has been expressed for more discussion on the issue, including the opportunity for the community to provide feedback. The question was raised: "Why the hurry?" Two options were considered for voting: (1) recommending the policy to the community for discussion and feedback; (2) slowing down, setting up a task force to discuss the issue and present findings. The vote was 9 to 4 against setting up a task force. A second vote passed (with three opposed): to bring the policy to the community for discussion, including putting it on the members page of the web, asking for comments, then bringing it to the community meeting in June.

The draft agenda for the June 10th annual meeting was reviewed. The bylaws amendments to be presented include adding the "Kol Ami" name and creating a past president position to be an ex officio member of the steering committee, to provide a better flow of succession. The proposed new text will be sent to the steering committee for feedback, and then sent out by May 31st to the community. It was stressed that committee reports included on the agenda which allow people to know what's going on, should be short. Mary will handle the volunteer sign up list. Committees should let her know (by email) if they need people. Since the meeting, to be kept to three hours, will be in the chapel, there will be no food. There will be someone to hang out with the kids at the start of the meeting. Elizabeth and Toni will handle getting a group picture. It was suggested to get the kids involved by counting the tzedakah boxes.

The decision to affiliate with the Jewish Renewal Movement, as requested by Herb C-L, was put off for a task force to consider.

Lance indicated that he, Rachel and Mara will be working on the Israel Fair in June.

Arlene and Gerry have been holding off sending yahrzeit letters. They were requested to go ahead and do this. It was suggested that names of people for yahrzeit should be put on "This Week", and the announcement made to encourage others to attend and support getting a minyan. The ritual committee will continue to talk about getting a minyan at Shabbat services.

The steering committee was thanked for their role and their work. Both new, existing and old steering committee members will be invited in June or July for a retreat, to share learning experiences. An appropriate date will be found for this meeting.

Rabbi Leila indicated under “new business” that she needs to know which High Holy services she will be leading. The ritual committee in consultation with the steering committee will discuss this issue. Don will talk to Jane S. about this. R. Leila is not available the first two weeks of July.

(Prepared by Susan Freiband, Secretary, 5/25/2012)