First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta

Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting

12:30 p.m., Sunday, July 17, 2016

FUUSM RE building - parlor

**Attending:** George Banziger, Dawn Hewitt, Ralph Olander, Jim Grecni, Debra Miller, Gary Hamilton, Heather Royer, Cindy Taylor, Susan Cady, Paul Dunn, and Adeline and Mike Bailey.

Committee chair **Dawn Hewitt** led the meeting.

**Agenda**

***Minutes of the May meeting*** were approved. GS did not meet in June.

***Report on FUUSM solar panels project*** George Banziger reviewed steps in the project. In October 2015, Athens-based solar company Third Sun submitted an estimate of $45,000 to install panels on the church roof to cover electricity needs for the church building only. In spring of 2016, Dave Ballantyne stepped forward with the offer to fund the project through his LLC. On June 1, Dave, George and Kevin Morey met with Chip Pickering, solar installer based in Williamstown, WV. Pickering offered an alternative estimate of $75,000, which would cover more of the roof and provide power for the RE building as well. On July 14, Dave, Kevin and George met again to review the estimates. Dave said the $75,000 estimate was more than he could commit to the project. They also discussed multiple unknowns involved in taking on the $75,000 project: switching to gas heat for the RE building, possibility of aggregate billing for both buildings, etc. Their recommendation was to scale back to the $45,000 project, but go with Pickering. Dave is still ready to invest the $45,000, and he does not expect repayment. Dave will discuss the scaled back project with Pickering.

George raised the possibility of GS recommending that the solar panel expansion be added to the upcoming capital campaign. Ralph Olander, who serves on the capital campaign committee, said that priorities for the campaign are to be established by the congregation as a whole, and that specifying pledges to the campaign for specific projects and goals is not the direction the campaign will take. The GS committee will have opportunity to express support for the solar projects during the congregational discussions to define goals for the campaign.

***2017 Earth Day plans - Parkersburg.*** Although the **Parkersburg Earth Day** event at the Art Center has been approved for 2017 with a shortened schedule (open from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.), Heather Royer said that the disappointing turnout in the past two years leads her to consider combining with the Marietta Earth Day event to offer an art project there instead of a separate event in Parkersburg. Discussion followed, with various suggestions for keeping an event in Parkersburg: choose a different date (since Every Day Should Be Earth Day); hold an event at Heather's school; move the event outside, perhaps at City Park; drop the competition aspect. Heather will look at what might work to scale back the project

***Just Dinner August 19, 2016.*** The next Just Dinner, to be held from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Friday, August 19 will be publicized, offered as a potluck, and interested community groups and friends will be invited. Since the theme for discussion in May (GMOs) was not addressed, we will plan to discuss it in August. Mike Bailey said that GS spent $45 for pizza at the May dinner, to accommodate the extra guests from the Universalist Convocation.

***Community Meals responsibilities*** Dawn reminded the committee that we are to have a representative on each community meal team. A quick review of those present seemed to show that we are covering that responsibility. Dawn also said we may need to cover costs for the biodegradable carry-out containers and napkins that we recommended for use at the meals. The committee members present affirmed that GS had agreed to provide funding support as necessary.

***Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action report*** Mike and Adeline Bailey updated the committee on activities of the Faith-based Initiatives wing of MOVCA: the group is looking at a paddle boat trip or visit to the Ohio River Center to gain better understanding of climate change effects on the rivers in our area. MOVCA is also looking as ways to work with area educators to add climate change education to school classrooms as advised in state curricula. MOVCA members will be invited to the next Just Dinner.

***LCD team for FUUSM.*** Challenges in combining the proposed survey with a simpler, on-line survey are still being addressed.

**It's Easy Being Green *revisions.*** The team working on the electronic version of the booklet will be meeting soon.

***GA report*** Adeline reported on one of the environmental workshops at General Assembly, from which she and Mike got a video (*Groundswell Rising*) concerning opposition to fracking. The Baileys requested GS support for showing it in collaboration with MOVCA sometime in October. The group suggested October 15 or 16. The dates will be proposed to MOVCA.

***Appalachian Renewable Energy Consumer Cooperative report*** Mike said in the near future he hopes to have specific information about a solar co-op in Washington and Wood Counties through OHSun. The nonprofit will likely be working with ARECC to organize a co-op in Athens County.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adeline Bailey, scribe