

Essex UU New Beginnings

Notes from Sunday meeting

August 14th, 2022

Review and re-assess
Poll from last year – ideas generated.

Communication
Make use of polls/surveys For rapid feedback loop/

Transparency in board and committee

Acknowledge past mistakes.

Schedule feedback sessions to and from board.

Schedule quarterly congregational meeting to assess where we are.

Consistent Service
sequence

Re-evaluate covid policy.

Clarify covid
guidance/options.

Coming Together

Encourage in person services
as much as possible.

How to warmly join
Zoom folks to in person
folks.

Encourage weddings?events.

Community /which
raise money using
basement room.

Create space for larger
community creative
events, nusic etc, to
monetize space.

Financial Health

Donate time, money
and skills.

Develop a fundraising
Committee

Balance the budget.

Move slowly to consider next steps. No rash decisions.

Need to look longer than 12 months.

Progress Forward.

Quickly find new leader. Temp or permanent.

Imagine a new paradigm\For prophesy and priesthood.

Will we imagine alternate long term approaches to community and worship, given the paucity of UU clergy.

Encourage/enable congregants to initiate robust adult education

Board/community aim to develop Lay led community new model with out minister.

Consider small group ministry

Alternate Futures

Engage Congregation.

Can we imagine the next 12 months as an experimental ie more educational events, excursions/events to enhance understanding of cultures, religions etc

Book groups, discussions groups art groups

Have fun, experience
joy!.

Structure social time.

Encourage Community events.

Rejoice in each other's
company.

More direct
youth
involvement

Host more family
gatherings outside of
Sundays.

RE and Youth Family Focus

I need help engaging
with our youth.

Intergenerational
activities.

Need RE to connect with
families no longer with us.

Add Members to various areas- Care, worship, social justice, administration etc.

Recruit new members for planning services.

Google Survey- based on Bethanys question with categories "What can I do"

Opportunities to celebrate individual talents.

Encourage congregants to volunteer for specific roles.

Create volunteer lists

Inclusion and Gratitude.

Encourage inner reflection, what role can I do, What can I do or suggest.

Identify and express gratitude for members stepping into responsibilities big and small,

Paticipation by many of us using our personal skills.

Encourage individuals to engage with leadership.

Strive to be more inclusive of all religions. Decrease dependency on Judao Christian

We should be more inclusive of wisdom-beyond Judeo Christian traditions.

Time in service for meditation.

Increase quality, effectiveness, standarsizing, evaluation of meditation, followed by personal sharing.

Spiritual Growth

Increase spirituality in rituals used in service.

Create spiritual moments and routines.

To experience spiritual nourishment.

Explore other faith traditions

Have someone available for spiritual direction

Increase evaluation in spirituality, what works/doesn't.

Build peer ministry skills, using congregation

Hire good minister-

Clarify the usual process ahead to find a new minister.

When doing minister search, think hard about the costs/benefits of Art's involvement.

Manage expectations for new minister.

Identify skills of ideal minister.

Take more time to search and choose

New ministry- Defined and managed.

Inclusion of others, besides board, in setting direction.

Develop a response to care/caring needs in the congregation.

Maintain UUA guidance in process of directions.

Involve congregation before final selection.

At least monthly e-mail from board, as to when decisions made.

Pay Art for his time.

Hire Artie

Engage in social
justice
opportunities to
engage congregation
in developing
community.

Help the community
around us.

Social Justice

Expand membership.

Engage personally with congregation

Welcome, engage, attract new members

Ways to attract new members.

Reach out to past members by phone.

UU education for new members.

We should be welcoming, inviting, desirable, and sustaining to potential members.

Establish membership committee

Membership development

Re engage folks
who have
stopped
Reach out
to folks no
longer
coming
to church.

Create relationships
between members.

To experience
connection on
many levels in
many areas.

Current Members – focus to
reconnect.

Members
need to be
proactive,
Don't wait to
be asked.

Develop pastoral care
delivery avenues.

Re- connect
through social
activities to re-
build belonging.

Make sure all
members have
connections.

Re-invigorate choir.

More music, more
joy.

Choir/music.

Clarify rules for
singing

How to energize
quality of music and
spirituality

Limit visiting
other churches
bt Zoom.

Need guest minister
series,

Guest speakers while
we do what we can
in finding a new,
caring , and
inspirational leader.

Develop list of
speakers for
services.

Guest speakers/Inspiring
Speakers.

Engage
interesting
speakers.

Find
compelling
outside
speakers.

We need to
experience
speakers who
move us to reflect.

Bring in guest
speakers that inspire.