

Stevens Point Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

11-19-06

VISION STATEMENT

Stevens Point Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is a caring, liberal religious community that supports the spiritual and intellectual growth of members and friends of all ages; promotes compassion and justice in the wider community; and seeks to be in harmony with the natural world. To advance this vision Stevens Point UU will grow its ministry and its membership and develop the physical and human infrastructure to support such growth.

1. Vision for Growth in Ministry:

Stevens Point UU will nurture the spiritual and intellectual development of its members through its *services* and programs that challenge the mind and nourish the spirit in an atmosphere of honest, open and respectful dialogue. Stevens Point UU will minister to the needs of its members and friends during times of joy and sorrow. Stevens Point UU will be a strong and vocal force advocating compassion and justice for the underserved and disadvantaged in the wider Central Wisconsin community. The Stevens Point UU will minister to the Earth and the interdependent web of which we all a part. The Fellowship understands that carrying out this ministry will require a combination of professional ministers and staff along with members and leaders dedicated to the Stevens Point UU community and its out reach in the wider world. The Stevens Point UU Fellowship will minister to its leaders and support them in their work for this community.

ACTION STEPS

a. Professional Staff presence

- Hire Office Administrator to relieve the pressure from members of the Board from the day to day operation of the Fellowship
- Provide stipends for chairs of RE, and music
- Connect to the larger UUA community by scheduling guest UUA ministers from around WI
- Partner with Meadville Lombard Theological School to schedule intern minister to obtain a consistency to our ministerial presence
- Hire part time ordained or lay minister to provide consistency in ministry and help grow the fellowship

b. Religious Education

- Use UUA RE curriculum for thematic units
- Provide RE training to our teachers
- Open RE program to non-members
- Advertise RE program to the central WI community
- Develop youth and adult RE brochures
- Develop a sequence of curriculum plan to outline the kindergarten through high school program
- Encourage and support attendance at regional and national UUA workshops & conferences
- Provide financial stipend for RE Coordinator
- Develop a rights of passage program for our high school students
- Support formation of self guided, church sponsored adult special interest groups
- Recruit adult members to mentor teens
- Hire 1/ 4 time RE Director
- Provide for UUA RE certification for Director of RE

c. Social Justice

- Recruit a volunteer Social Justice coordinator to handle UUA information and act as the “go to” person for individual members to share concerns / opportunities for involvement social justice involvement
- Establish a social justice committee to help coordinate projects for the Fellowship and keep members informed on national and local issues
- Define what we are currently doing in social justice action and communication with members
- Incorporate the UUA Social Justice Sunday into our Sunday schedule
- Determine if there is a state advocate in Madison that funnels information to local churches and advocates the UUA position with the state legislatures
- Expand and promote the SPUUF Discussion Listserve as a vehicle for members to share information / opinions on social action issues.
- Work with The Springs on social justice projects, i.e establish a joint social justice committee, bulletin board, start using “Fair Trade Coffee”, develop a schedule of monthly “Pass the Plate” collections of money for donations to community events / charities
- Establish one national advocacy program and one local service project for the Fellowship
- Hold yearly Fellowship meeting to set the year’s national and local projects. Members can nominate and explain their recommended project.

2. Vision for Growth in Membership.

The Stevens Point UU Fellowship recognizes that while growth in numbers is not an end in itself, in order to have impact in the community and to nourish its members and leaders, the Fellowship must attract additional members to support and advance its purpose. The Stevens Point UU will seek to increase the prominence of the Unitarian Universalist message in Central Wisconsin and actively encourage those who find solace and inspiration in such a message to join our community.

ACTION STEPS

- Support RE Programming to our fullest ability
- Improve music -
 - initiate informal singing groups
 - ensure diversity of musical styles
 - use lead singer to “lead” congregation singing
 - use alternative hymnals
- Welcoming of Visitors -
 - scheduled greeters
 - encourage members to informally approach and welcome visitors
 - obtain visitor contact information
 - send visitors follow up informational packets, emails and phone calls
- Encourage ALL Members to Participate in the Fellowship – find your niche
- Recruit Membership Coordinator
 - monitor and develop membership tasks
 - establish membership calling system (phone tree or calling team)
 - outreach to current members
- Establish Active Membership Committee
- Encourage informal word of mouth advertising by members
- Partner with other groups
- Develop marketing plan
 - aggressive advertising

develop brand image, “stand for something”

3. Vision for Growth in Facilities.

The Stevens Point UU recognizes that a community needs a home – a place to which its members can go to revive and refresh their minds and spirits for their daily lives. Any such facility must reflect the values of Unitarian Universalism and must exist in harmony with the natural world, stepping lightly and leaving a small footprint on this fragile planet. The facility must be a visible symbol of the Unitarian Universalist message.

ACTION STEPS

- Work on developing a UU sanctuary
 - Hang curtains and/or banners to disrupt visual field on cross
 - Purchase larger chalice that is easier to see
 - Purchase a higher table to raise chalice, flowers, candles
 - Use more plants
 - Use an easel to display member artwork
 - Purchase remote/wireless microphone to put speaker on same level as pews
 - Place hymnals in pews
 - Inquire about flexibility of moving pews
- Increase UU visibility in the vestibule
 - Create a permanent space for our name tag board
 - Display UUA brochures in rack
 - Display Fellowship charter or other UUA posters
 - Create own bulletin board
- Work with The Springs RE committee to improve RE & childcare rooms
 - Help with painting, cleaning, and purchasing of supplies
 - Use large basement room for additional RE classes as needed
 - Use large basement room for intergenerational services as needed
 - Utilize upstairs library room for RE
- Improve visibility of UU Fellowship from outside the building
 - Use in ground sign for posting name of UU Fellowship and service time
 - Create sandwich board sign for display on Sunday mornings
- Develop an outdoor place of tranquility
 - create an outdoor labyrinth
 - create a meditative garden with benches
- Develop outdoor area supportive of children
- Work on becoming a “Green Sanctuary”
- Continue to follow up on leads on potential facilities to rent or own.