

The Community Church of Chapel Hill Unitarian Universalist
Minutes of Board Meeting of August 17, 2010

Present: Sam Brooks, Mariana Fiorentino, Mary LeMay, Erich Lieth, Susan McDaniel, Maggie Scarborough, Paige Smith, Josh Socolar, George Thompson, Bob Weston

Absent: Barbara Chapman, Steve Marshall

Ex Officio: Scott Provan

Staff: Andrea Sordean-Mintzer

Minutes: Laurence Kirsch

George Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Maggie Scarborough lit the chalice. Mary LeMay, the Board Member of the Month, expressed concern about various complaints that she heard over the summer; and so she read the wisdom of Eeyore, the Master Grump.



BOARD DISCUSSIONS

1. Governance

Susan McDaniel said that the Governance Task Force (GTF) has had three videoconferences with Dan Hotchkiss, author of *Governance and Ministry*. She believes that policies on discernment, which pertain to the large issues concerning the future of the church, are the job of the Board, not the GTF.

Erich Lieth noted that the current Board structure was created half a century ago when the church was much smaller. He is concerned that, because one-third of the Board leaves every year, decisions are often forgotten. Josh Socolar suggested that we ask Hotchkiss about ways to handle Board turnover.

Susan asked: Who evaluates the Minister as spiritual leader? Who evaluates the Minister as chief of staff? Because the congregation called the Minister, the congregation should evaluate the Minister as spiritual leader. A blue ribbon committee, acting on behalf of the congregation, could conduct evaluations and make recommendations to the congregation.

There was discussion about the role of the Human Resources Committee, or whether there should even be such a committee.

- Hotchkiss says that there should not be an HR committee because that creates a triangular relationship between staff, the chief of staff, and the committee. Confusion and conflict can arise from that triangular relationship. Josh Socolar said that such a triangle is created only if the HR committee reports to the Board instead of the Minister.

- Erich said that Maj-Britt Johnson has gone back and forth about having an HR committee, and now seems to favor such a committee as assisting her in getting things done. In any event, the committee's charge needs to be carefully defined. Erich also said that the HR committee can relieve the Minister of the onus of being solely responsible for hiring and firing.

There was discussion about the manner in which the Board can inform church members about governance changes.

- George Thompson said he sent a memorandum to the Church Council informing its members of governance changes.
- Susan said that some committees have the incorrect perception that the governance changes have been initiated by Maj-Britt rather than by the Board, and that there has been some grumbling about authority that has been taken from them. Josh asked whether the grumbings have been serious, and Susan replied that, although the grumbings are by only a few people, they are by people who have been making decisions for many years and now feel that they are being ignored. Mary LeMay said that there are only a few people who are grumbling, but ignoring them can lead to a schism.
- Susan suggested that the Board consider Hotchkiss' recommendation for a leadership retreat on governance involving 60-80 church leaders, with the Board in a fishbowl talking about what is good about the current structure, what is frustrating about the current structure, and what the vision is for a better structure; followed by time for questions and answers. Paige Smith and Sam Brooks want the retreat to happen before the January Board retreat. Sam said the committee leaders are the most important people to have at such a retreat. Josh asked whether it is really necessary to bring 60-80 people to address the grumbings. Erich has reservations about this retreat because we have trouble getting 60 people to a congregational meeting, so it might be best to ask people to put their concerns on paper.

2. General Assembly Report

Mary LeMay said that the UU General Assembly (GA) always has 50 meetings happening at the same time with 4,000 people. There is tremendous variety of activities. There are four or five major plenary sessions.

Frankie Price-Stern, Kari Andrade, and Mary were the only congregation members who attended the GA even though we have the right to seven votes. Our three representatives each went to different workshops. It is apparent that our church is not aware of what is going on the larger UU community.

Next year's GA is in Charlotte in late June.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Concert Series Publicity

George Thompson encouraged Board members to get the word out that Terry Baker says that he urgently needs help on publicity for the September 24 concert featuring Barefoot. Paige Smith says that she will call Ginger Long to see if she would help with publicity. There will also be need for volunteers on the day of the concert. Funds raised by the concert will be used to help close the budget deficit.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- For receipt:
 - Church Council Minutes
 - Religious Education Assistant Contract Information
 - Manse Committee Update
 - Fiscal Year Information
- For approval:
 - June 2010 Board Minutes
 - Coming of Age Fundraising Request

Susan McDaniel moved acceptance of the consent agenda. Mariana Fiorentino seconded. Unanimously approved.

Josh Socolar moved that the June 2010 minutes be posted on the Wiki with the wage rates redacted. Mary seconded. 9 ayes, 1 nay. Motion passes.

ACTION ITEMS – NEW

1. Hymnal Fundraising Request

George Thompson introduced this item by saying that this is a fundraiser for purchasing books, not for the church general funds. Two issues were then the subject of considerable debate.

The first issue concerned how this request fits into the Board's general policy toward fundraising:

- Susan McDaniel said that this is a directed donation request, not a fundraiser that is subject to a 20% withholding for the church general funds.
- Erich Lieth said that anything other than a pledge, share-the-plates or rental income is a fundraiser, and that even these exceptions are subject to Board approval. Consequently, this particular request is subject to the Board's fundraising policy. Erich said that existing policies should be followed, and the Music Committee already has a fund that funds can be run through.

- Mary LeMay said that the Music Committee did not want to raise the cost of books to cover the 20% withholding requirement. Josh Socolar doubted that there would be any difference in donations if the cost per book increased somewhat.
- Josh asked whether somebody could just give money to some cause.
- It was noted that the Board sometimes waives the 20% withholding requirement for fundraisers.

The second issue concerned the timing of this request. Paige Smith said she is concerned that there are already four fundraisers to close the deficit this year. She therefore thinks that it would be best to postpone this request until next year.

Paige moved that the Board deny the Music Committee's proposed hymnal fundraising request. Sam seconds. 8 ayes, 1 nay, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

2. Voices Together

Erich Lieth says that no decision is needed at this time concerning Voices Together use of church space. The issue is that different groups are using church space on different terms, some paying for space while others pay nothing. For example, Balance and Accuracy in Journalism has been meeting in the church for free for decades, as has a Girl Scout troupe. Erich says that the Board needs uniform terms of use of space, including a process for approving use the space for free. Erich proposes that we bring these other groups into compliance with policy. Susan McDaniel asked whether we should wait until a new policy is in place.

George Thompson said that he will bring this question to the next Executive Committee meeting.

REPORTS

1. Minister's Report

Since Maj-Britt is away this summer, there is no report at this time.

2. Previous Month's Action Items

All action items were completed.

3. Second Quarter Financial Statement

Andrea Sordean-Mintzer said that the Stewardship Committee will put out announcements about fiscal issues like fiscal year change and the Fall Stewardship campaign. The staff will support Re-Commitment Sunday by running tables where people can sign pledge cards, hopefully supported by nice treats and a band in courtyard after service. There will be a series of followup phone calls and mailings to get pledges from member who don't attend church that Sunday.

Scott Provan led a discussion of the budget results for the first six months of this year. June saw a \$50,000 increase in revenues, primarily due to members' positive response to George

Thompson's letter asking for people to fulfill their pledges. Scott is cautiously optimistic about the budget outlook for the rest of the year.

Staff is taking the lead on budget development for the short fiscal year of January 2011 through June 2011. Scott said that this short fiscal year budget would basically be this year's budget adjusted for changed conditions. George said that there will be a congregational meeting on December 5 for the Board election and budget approval. Erich Lieth said that committees need to be told about budget process, and that there must be a congregational meeting to discuss the budget before December 5.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Board meeting is Tuesday, September 14, at 7 pm.

Mary concluded with another quote from Eeyore.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

FUTURE ACTION ITEMS

ACTION	BY WHOM	DUE DATE
Call Ginger Long about Concert Series publicity	Paige Smith	ASAP
Bring to Executive Committee the issue of free use of space	George Thompson	9/14/10

General Assembly Report

****Mary will overview the news from this year's General Assembly in Minneapolis, MN*

Kari Andrade, Frankie Price-Stern, I served as delegates to the General Assembly of the UUA in Minneapolis, MN, Jun3, 2010. We attended separately a variety of workshops which seemed pertinent to our congregation's needs. We will be calling on the ideas and energy as we work within this congregation over the coming year. The questions of managing growth and governance change-ever were primary. Mary LeMay"

Concert Series Publicity

****As one of the activities planned to help us narrow the budget deficit this year, the concert series will begin in September. Terry Baker needs someone to coordinate getting the advertising in local papers. Please consider this important job.*

Terry Baker has requested immediate help in getting out publicity on the September concert series fundraiser. Please contact him directly if you can help. He is at Silver Bay, Lake George, NY until September. Phone:610-220-8176 (please note: cell phone coverage in the Adirondacks is spotty at best. Email might work better). Email at bakerwt@yahoo.com The proceeds of the next few concerts will go to help defray our deficit.

Church Council Minutes

****This is the latest from the Church Council. Note that they did not have July minutes.*

Church Council Minutes

June 22, 2010, @ Manse

B&G	Gary Giles	DC		SEA	Jean Genova Steve Warshaw
Board Rep		ECO	Cecilia Warshaw	Stewardship	
Caring		IT		W&A	
Council Convener	Tifani Hencke	Membershi p		Youth Programming	
CRE		Music	Linda Thompson		
CSM	Sue Brewer	Minister		GTF	Maggie Scarborough
COM	Jim Magaw	P&J	Elsbeth van Tongeren		

Chalice Lighting – Tifani

Council Learning -- Governance Task Force (GTF)

Cecilia Warshaw and Maggie Scarborough discussed the work of GTF. A core issue GTF is addressing is that the organizational structure of the Church needs to be brought in line with the fact that it has grown. Members and staff need to understand which bodies within the Church are responsible for various areas. GTF has chosen the model set forth in *Governance and Ministry*, by Dan Hotchkiss, to guide its work. GTF is working to adapt the model to C3HUU.

GTF's vision is that the Board should be the governing body of the church, providing policies, and overseeing their fulfillment. The Board will have committees to oversee various areas, such as personnel. Staff should be responsible for day to day management. The congregation plays multiple roles, with members serving on the Board, helping to discern what Church policies and strategy should be, and functioning as ministers and volunteers. GTF is working to develop written policies, and presenting them to the Board for its affirmance. The vision is that policies the Board affirms will be put through a trial period, contemplated to be in 2011, before they are put to the congregation for adoption.

GTF welcomes feedback from committees as its work goes forward. Newsletters regularly discuss GTF's work. At present, C3HUU continues to operate under its present governance system.

Business Meeting –

▪ **Announcements** – Tifani

- No Board or Council meeting in July.
 - July 26 deadline for getting August Board agenda items to George Thompson
- No July meeting on the budget. Instead, Maj-Britt and Andrea will solicit budget requests in Sept.
- Deadline for Share the Plate for Jan – June 2011 is October 17.
- The Church office will be staffed throughout its regular hours this summer.

▪ **Discussion** – ECO Draft Balloon proposal

- Cecilia Warshaw led a discussion of the draft proposal on helium balloons that was circulated before the May meeting. Committee representatives discussed the views of their committees or members on (1) banning mass release of helium balloons on Church grounds, and (2) considering what other uses of helium balloons should be permitted on Church grounds. There was general agreement that mass release on Church grounds should be banned. Varying views were offered on whether other uses on Church grounds should be allowed. But there was consensus that, if other uses are permitted, helium balloons should not be allowed to leave Church grounds intact. ECO will now work further on a draft proposal.

▪ **Check-in** –

- **P & J** – Four speakers have been lined up for the Straley Speaker series this summer. A speaker has also been arranged for the Labor Day service.
- **Music** – Further work has been done on a fund raising initiative to purchase hymnals and supplements. The leading idea is to solicit members to fund the purchase of hymnals, and allow contributors to place a dedication to family members, loved ones, and so on, in purchased hymnals. A final decision and announcement will be made between late August and mid-Sept.
- **COM** – One purpose of the committee is to deal with conflict resolution within the Church, and so it is now setting about to draft a conflict resolution process. The committee has also gathered all committee charters, to see if they are consistent with the recently adopted Mission Statement of the Church. COM will also be working with committees to help them set goals and assess how well committees are doing in reaching their goals.
- **B & G** – B & G has hired an arborist to take down large trees on Church grounds that need removal. The committee is also working on removing smaller trees and unwanted vines, and on replacing filters at the Church.

- **SEA** – The committee is finalizing plans to sponsor in the fall various Thursday evenings when adults would have the chance to attend one of multiple SEA offerings at the Church.
- **CSM** – CSM has organized five Share the Plates for this summer. The committee also has a new chair for its school supplies project for Chapel Hill and Chatham County.
- **ECO** -- At its last meeting the committee discussed an event to encourage bike riding. It will also have a retreat in Aug.

****We have hired a new Religious Education Assistant to replace Wren. Following is the letter of agreement and details of the compensation package.*

**Letter of Agreement between Religious Education Assistant and
The Community Church of Chapel Hill, Unitarian Universalist**

This letter of Agreement, when signed by both parties, becomes a contract between and The Community Church of Chapel Hill, Unitarian Universalist.

1. This Agreement shall begin upon signing. The terms of the Agreement shall be reviewed annually thereafter and may be changed by mutual consent of the Religious Education Assistant and the Board of Directors.
2. The Board of Directors (hereafter called the Board) contracts with the Religious Education Assistant. All actions taken by the Board are official church actions.
3. The Religious Education Assistant contract is awarded by the Board, which sets the responsibilities of the position as stated in the Position Description for Religious Education Assistant.
4. There is a 90-day probationary period for new employees during which time the employee can be terminated at will. This probationary period will include 30 and 60-day reviews for performance and goal setting, where necessary.
5. The Director of Religious Education provides supervision and direction of the Religious Education Assistant. The Director of Religious Education and the Minister, acting as Chief of Staff, consult in the annual evaluation of the Religious Education Assistant.
6. Employment with The Community Church of Chapel Hill, Unitarian Universalist and Compensation for the Religious Education Assistant will commence August 1, 2010. The initial rate for the Religious Education Assistant compensation is \$12.75 per hour. The position is funded for 20 hours per week. The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) status is Non-Exempt.
7. As a regular employee, this position is subject to the church's Personnel Policies and Procedures.
8. The Religious Education Assistant will seek approval from the Director of Religious Education for additional work hours, if and when determined as necessary. The Religious Education Assistant will arrange with the Director of Religious Education for any time away from regular workday hours, i.e. holidays, vacation, sick time, medical or dental appointments, etc.
9. The Religious Education Assistant may resign at any time, but the church requests a minimum three week advance notice when possible.

10. This contract may be terminated for cause by joint agreement of the Minister and the Board.

Signed: _____
Religious Education Assistant Date

Signed: _____
Board Chair Date

Signed: _____
Minister Date

****Details on the compensation package.*

Community Church of Chapel Hill Unitarian Universalist

Religious Education Assistant Compensation Package

Compensation:

Wage range is \$12.75 per hour for 20 hours per week

Benefits:

Health Reimbursement Account estimated at 32.5% of UUA Health Plan Premium

Life Insurance – coverage 2 times annual wages

Long Term Disability Insurance - 66.7% pre-disability income

401 K Contributions – monthly at 10% annual wages

3 Weeks Paid Vacation accrued at 1.25 days (5 hours) per month

3 Weeks Paid Sick Leave accrued at 1.25 days (5 hours) per month

12 Paid Holiday days (4 hours each day)

New Years Day

Martin Luther King Day

Good Friday
Easter Monday
Memorial Day
July 4th
Labor Day
Thanksgiving - 2 days
Christmas - 3 days

Employee Elected Benefits:

UUA Health Plan - If elected, plan will begin 1 month from hire date
Dental Insurance
401 K Contributions

Manse Committee Update

****Bill and Joan Meade had a need for temporary housing for their son Bryan. The Manse Committee explored the possibility and consulted with Marion, me, and others. Following is the letter of agreement and details.*

July 7, 2010

Dear Joan and Bill,

I think that we can accommodate your needs up until R.E. kicks in again in the fall. There are some things to be worked out and set down in writing, probably in the form of a letter of agreement between you and the Manse Committee. Marion has indicated that it is not a conflict over the summer and several of us agree that helping a member in need in this way is part of our mission that we should accommodate when we can.

You say you are leaving town for along weekend, and I will not be back in Carrboro until late on Tuesday July 13th. I would hope we could meet and reach agreement as soon as possible after that next week.

We would expect that you would be responsible for the supervision, at whatever level needed, of your son; we do not have staff or others that can do that. The room is unfurnished; you would have to supply and remove whatever you need. There are of course side chairs and such at the Manse that could be used temporarily. The kitchen is supplied with basic kitchen equipment and dinnerware.

This arrangement is both within the purview of the Manse Committee as we are authorized to rent it out under some circumstances and unusual as we did not propose this sort of situation to the Board. I have talked with Board Chair George Thompson who is comfortable with it and will inform the board as we move forward.

My understanding is that this would not be a traditional lease but an arrangement for temporary quarters with firm beginning and ending dates.

I hope this is helpful to you and your son. We appreciate all you have done for and with the church and are glad to help if we can.

Let me know if this outline seems satisfactory.

Allen.

From: Allen Spalt, Chair, Community Church Manse Committee
To: Bryan Meade, Joan & Bill Meade
RE: Manse Memorandum of Understanding
Date: July 18, 2010

Whereas:

- An important part of the mission of the Community Church of Chapel Hill Unitarian Universalist is to support its members in need when such needs can be readily accommodated.
- The Meades, active members in good standing over many years, have a need for temporary respite housing for their adult son Bryan.
- The Manse, now primarily used to accommodate the church's Religious Education program, was built as a residence and is still suited for such on a short-term basis.
- The church is not in a position to provide long-term housing but does have a window this summer when the former master bedroom is not in use.
- This is not a normal or customary lease/rental situation but an exceptional circumstance of mutual accommodation.

Therefore:

- The Church and the Meades agree that Bryan may live at the Manse for the period **starting July 24th and ending by September 8th, 2010** as interim, temporary, respite housing.
- Bryan will use the ground floor master bedroom, with attached bath, as his primary living quarters. He will have kitchen privileges upstairs and may use the sitting room.
- The Meades will provide supervision of Bryan, if needed, understanding that the Church cannot do so.
- The Church will continue to pay the electric and water/sewer utilities for the Manse during this period.
- The phone in the Manse is for church use. It can be used for local and emergency calls, but it should not be used for long-distance calls. Any calls incurring extra charges are the responsibility of whoever makes them.
- Bryan will be responsible, with Joan and Bill's help if necessary, for supplying necessary furniture for his bedroom.
- No permanent changes/additions (including paint) may be made to the Manse **WITHOUT** the prior approval of the Manse Committee and Marion Hirsch, Director of R.E.

- Bryan will be responsible, with Joan and Bill's help if necessary, for removing any furniture, etc., that he supplied by the end of the period UNLESS he wants to donate it AND it is accepted by Marion Hirsch, Director of R.E.
- Bryan will be responsible, with Joan and Bill's help if necessary, for having the areas he used cleaned and returned to their current state **understanding that the Manse is needed for use by R.E. beginning September 10, 2010.**
- Recognizing that the church will incur some expenses and they some savings, the Meades will make a contribution of their choosing to the Church in lieu of rent.
- Bryan can be reached by phone and e-mail at:
 Cell: 919-302-0090
 E-mail: bdmeade09@gmail.com

N.B.: Bryan prefers to have both a phone message and an e-mail to be sure he gets it.

Agreed to:

 Bryan Meade July , 2010

 Joan Meade July , 2010

 Bill Meade July , 2010

 Allen Spalt, Chair
 Manse Committee July , 2010

Fiscal Year Information

****As a step in keeping the congregation informed about the coming change in the fiscal year, the Fiscal Year Task Force will be including the following in the newsletter and announcement sheet.*

Dear Members and Friends,

The Board, with recommendation from the Finance and Stewardship Committees, has decided to change our fiscal year end from Dec. 31st to June 30th. This decision is driven by the desire for a more organized and efficient Stewardship Campaign and the need to manage our Income and Expenses in a more predictable manner.

As a result of this change there will be a short fiscal year of six months beginning Jan. 1st and ending June 30th, which will get us on track for our new fiscal year that begins July 1st, 2011. The 2010 Stewardship Campaign, which kicks off in the fall, will be seeking pledges only for the period January 1 - June 30. There will be another Stewardship Campaign in 2011 for the period July 2011- June 2012.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued commitment to our Church Community. In the efforts to sustain and improve our vibrant and welcoming community, the Stewardship Committee appreciates your willingness to work together to construct a more effective and efficient program to serve our needs. We will be sending out more information about this change and the 2010 Stewardship Campaign in the newsletter and in the Sunday bulletins.

Respectfully,

2010 Stewardship Committee

Hymnal Fundraising Proposal

****Given our need for more hymnals, particularly the hymnal supplement (Singing the Journey), the music committee proposes the following to raise money to purchase the hymnal supplements and additional copies of the grey hymnals. Currently there are not enough supplements to use for worship services and we are also short the regular hymnals. Worship and Arts is supportive of this project. While this is not a fundraiser, as such, it is a proposal for people to contribute to purchase the necessary hymnal supplements so this item will not need to be included in the budget for next year.*

FUNDRAISER PROPOSAL FORM

1. Name Of The Event

Purchase of additional hymnals and hymnal supplements.

2. Contact Person for Event

Linda Thompson

3. Brief description of Event (1-2 sentences) this is to raise monies for the purchase of additional copies of the hymnal Singing the Journey which is a supplement to Singing the Living Tradition. The church currently has about 80 copies of this and would like to acquire more for a total of 150 for use during Sunday worship.

4. Proposed Date(s) : September 5 to October 17, 2010

The event: Music Committee with support from Worship and Arts and as yet undetermined volunteers. We propose to use the tabling system and church avenues of publicity to raise money for the hymnals. Willing participants would be asked to make a donation for an inscribed copy for the church's use. Inscriptions would be determined at the time of purchase (copy could be dedicated to someone in memoriam or in honor of another person, the purchaser or anonymous).

Administrative dates (may be n/a)

Closing date for out-of-pocket reimbursements: Unknown

Closing date for donations: unknown

5. Who (e.g., which committee) Is Sponsoring The Event

The Music Committee

6. Budget

none needed

7. What The Event Will Cost The Church

Andreas' time in placing a one-time order for hymnals

8. Anticipated (Estimated) Income From The Event

A number of new hymnals and supplements will result, but there's no way to know how many at present. The requested donation to cover the cost of the teal supplements (Singing the Journey) will be \$16.00 and for the grey hymnals (Singing the Living Tradition) it will be \$32.00.

9. How The Sponsor Would Like To Distribute The net Income From The Event (after the dedicated 20% stewardship contribution)

The committees request waiver of the 20% stewardship contribution. The hymnals and supplements would become church property.

10. Impact On The Church In Terms Of Volunteers And Space Resources

Sunday morning tabling for 7 weeks

11. Any Additional Information Or Concerns

Coming of Age Fundraiser

****Marion is proposing specific fundraising to raise money for the coming of age trip to Boston in 2011*

Football Parking Fundraising Request (7/14/2010)

1. Name Of The Event:

Football Parking 2010

2. Contact Person for Event:

Marion Hirsch

3. Brief description of Event:

Selling parking spaces in the church parking lot for UNC home football games on 7 Saturdays during in the Fall. This fundraiser has been sponsored by the Youth Programming Committee for the last 15 years.

4. Proposed Date(s):

9/18, 10/2, 10/9, 10/30, 11/13, 11/20

5. Who (e.g., which committee) Is Sponsoring The Event:

The Youth Programming Committee

6. Budget

None. Items to support this project were purchased years ago. (vests, signs, cash box, vests, cones)

7. What The Event Will Cost The Church

The time of the Congregational Administrator to prepare and record the deposit. The time of the DRE to support the volunteer coordinators.

8. Anticipated (Estimated) Income From The Event

\$4,000

9. How The Sponsor Would Like To Distribute The net Income From The Event (after the dedicated 20% stewardship contribution)

To fund the Coming of Age Boston Heritage Trip in 2011 for the 10 youth participants.

10. Impact On The Church In Terms Of Volunteers And Space Resources

Volunteers come from youth families. We use the parking lot at time when no one else is using it. If it conflicts with a church event then the church event takes priority and parking places are reserved for the event or the lot is completely closed to football parkers.

11. Any Additional Information Or Concerns

This fundraiser is necessary to make this trip affordable for the youth. We ask youth and chaparons to pay \$250 each for the trip, plus they need to bring \$120 for food that it not provided. The fundraising covers the rest of the trip.

Voices Together

****For the past year or so, a local group of persons with high functioning autism have been given permission to use the Straley Room for a couple hours Wednesday afternoons. Since they have no funds the Board granted them permission to use the room rent free for a program called Voices Together. The stipulation is that they check with Andrea quarterly to see if we will allow them to continue. So far, the arrangement has worked well and provides an important service in community outreach.*