

Council Meeting 4/19/2014 Minutes

Agenda Items:

- Council restructuring discussion
- Touch group job jot proposal
- Task force discussion (for continued possible meetings/discussions with the district and/or josh)
- Bea and Ashley (and maybe Lara) talk about orientation and leadership culture
- Quick discussion about restructuring Captain McHelpyPants (Travis and Jenna)
- Lynn concerns
- Another council group photo
- Sias's mom (Tamara) comes in to talk about adults/concerns/etc
- Article 6, Section 8 of the bylaws is no longer accurate

Job Jots:

- Emma: Post our covenant online; update the bylaws; change “touch group torah” to “touch group guide.” Make a separate, clear “for parents” tab on the website, if that’s not already a thing.
- Emma, Travis and Jenna: Update the bylaws and policies and procedures madness
- Phoebe and/or Sophia: Deal with the WUUKY registration madness: email that out to everyone who needs it
- Emma: Put all WUUKY info onto the website (as soon as she gets all the information she needs)
- OREO (Ruby): Be aware of the Pot of Gold RE Conference, keep eyes peeled, figure out how we can have a workshop thing at that?
- KD, Casey and Rosemary: Lead workshop at upcoming con about the discussion of TG Co role; how that may change; how people feel about that
- Casey: Update/write in the info on our new energy chair and appointee situation; how that applies to how we fix things in between cons.
- Both closed session related groups: continue the job jot at the upcoming con; continue investigating. Much communication!

1. Tamara (Sias's mom) visits!

- We all know LRY was disbanded, so for a small period of time (about a decade) there was no kind of organized youth group
- The founders of YRUU were very aware of what they wanted from the community. They were under the microscope for everything (they insisted it was youth run rather than adult run)
- When the district or larger higher-ups hold the youth to a standard they don't with other leadership organizations, it frustrates her
 - How would things have been handled if this was an adult community?
 - In what ways does the minister support the community when a covenant is broken?
- She thinks it's a good idea to inform the nuubies constantly about how hard we have all worked to sustain this community

- It's a little bit of a liability for the adults to be coming in with an attitude of "the youth should always respect me all the time!"
- There's a lot of conversation of liability, but there's no such thing as "no liability." The question should be how to manage some of it, not get rid of it.
- Maybe we can create a reflection people can take and share at their own churches?? Most churches do not have a picture of the dedication we have in this community, and it might help if some sort of reflection gave them that picture.
- (Basically Tamara is totally on our side on everything and is also somewhat frustrated)

2. Insurance Company We Met

- They love us and would be totally willing to support us if we ever needed them to
- Their whole point is to serve independent UU-ish communities
- They have a long history with the woodlands
- Questions:
 - Actual costs of being a member group?
 - It would probably be 5 dollars per person per event
- Are they expecting a very immediate action?
 - Nope, they're laid back
- MUUGs?
 - We didn't mention MUUGs, but they probably would support MUUGs too.

3. Article 6, Section 8

- "We will deal with the rules of behavior." Problem is, we don't follow the "rules of behavior" anymore, we follow the covenant, which basically has all our basic policies.
- Just change "infractions of rules and behaviors" to "breaches of covenant"
- Our covenant needs to be posted online
- Bylaws are not current
 - (^**Job jots for Emma**)
- Emma Jenna Travis: **Job jot** for policies and bylaws and blagh check with Emma

4. Job Jot Check In

- Bea, Ashley, Lara-- leadership culture and orientation
 - Took notes on what needs to be in dean guide; wrote all of orientation
 - Basically put everything on post-its
 - Different things in orientation should be led by different people
 - People have been speeding through orientation. The updated type orientation comes out to a little longer; and it has a shuffle break in the middle to meet people
 - Put at the end-- rooms and schedule (and calling parents)
 - Making dean guide (will share with council)
- Casey Ashley Suzannah Lara Jesse- fact finding in between cons committee thing
 - Created a step by step list of what should happen between cons when finding facts, and then making decisions based on what needs to happen

1. Breach occurs; energy chair is informed
2. Energy chair and appointee review info already available and talks to council about it; decide if more info is necessary
3. Communication through email with person who came to them
4. If there is enough info, council makes a ruling, but if not, we get more info
5. Incentive if an important party is not responding: we can possibly deny registration
6. Possibly make this a procedure
7. Appointee-- (we will leave this for council restructuring)
 - All this policy makes us do is make sure the energy chair is informed, provides a summary for council and then council decides where to go from there
 - More specific info in council restructuring
- Captain McHelpyPants (Jenna and Travis update)
 - This needs to be more of a responsible role: every 15 minutes make a round, mention it in orientation
 - It's supposed to be 2 people on council per shift, but for practicality it's been one person on council and one friend if they choose
 - (Night controls is scary though, we have to have some amount of trust)
 - Vigilance, not police work
 - It's more like night check in, not night control
 - This needs to be something we address and talk about during orientation

Emma update-- Touch group guide instead of touch group torah

5. WUUKY Team Check-in

- Casey Travis and Livy are the deans!
- General status overview:
 - Small group of core YELLers already picked out (we have most of YELLers)
 - Little bit of schedule, but they're gonna work on it more as time approaches (a little over 50% done)
 - Problem with registration right now, it has opened but the email has not gone out to everyone it needs to

Job Jot-- Phoebe or Sophia should send that all out

- Dropped the idea of an extra YELLer day
- What they need: treasurers; love and support; fixing registration issues

Emma-- put all info on website as soon as she has all information

6. Rosemary and Ashley and Luka wrote a funny passive-aggressive Cook guide, they're posting it on the website, yayyy

Abbie and Phoebe and Trevor-- Closed Session Job Jot

Phoebe and Jenna Closed Session Thing

"Problem Children" Closed Session In-The-Loop Discussion

- Kaitlin has been put on the fact finding committee
- Closed session committees will communicate!

7. Discussing concerns from Lynn

- Lynn expressed concern among ministers. They are not aware of how we deal with problems at cons
- Ministers should probably be contacted
- Ruby and Abbie are writing a letter of a step by step process in how we deal with everything, and ministers can read that
- The district has a lot of concern about youth programming in general and liability
- There's basically not a lot of trust or clarity, and people are making a lot of assumptions on how we run
- We need to communicate with DREs; see what they think about Ruby and Abbie's letter, make sure they know where it is, be TRANSPARENT
- Basically this is more serious than we thought and we have potential of getting shut down or losing churches to stay at
- It's not that no church likes us, it's that there is a lot more concern than we thought among ministers
- Many DREs/ministers think our program should be much more adult run
 - Our method of youth empowerment is not something they agree with
 - Each DRE/minister is kind of expressing different thoughts and concerns for what our program should look like, but many believe it is "toxic" and it all creates a feeling of disrespect
 - Our best course of action may be to engage in a really active mission of information sharing (so be VERY TRANSPARENT)
 - Many circles feel like the youth circles are knit so tightly that there is no room for young adults and adult leadership to come in
 - Ministers for years have been saying we run under an "unhealthy model"
- District is worried about the liability in sexual circumstances (they're afraid that it would take one parent suing for the entire district to go under)
 - (Note: this would only go on PCD but not UUA in terms of being sued)
- "Just because one or two people complain doesn't mean everyone is complaining"
- But COMMUNICATION OUTREACH IS IMPORTANT!
- Integration problem-- let the district know they're not meeting an entire group of peoples' needs
- Plan of action ideas: send out Ruby and Abbie's letter, have people talk to DREs and ministers on the phone, have a DA workshop, have strong connections with our churches and be very transparent with them

Brainstorming ideas for outreaching:

- Ruby and Abbie letter
- Phone/conference call (specific, one on one phone convos)
- Webenar
- DA workshop?
- Instruction video: who are we? What do we do?? DocCONumentary??

- Extend an invitation to all concerned parties to email us and ask questions
- Extending invitations for anyone concerned to drop by
- Worship or workshop activity
- Some type of active publicized social action would help
- Post meeting reflective essays and post con reflective essays just to talk about highlights
- Approaching DREs and ministers and concerned adults and being nice and answering any questions they have (in any setting, at church, DA, a con, anything)
- We all have to be super informed about what we are telling people-- so we all need to get educated this next week for anyone who is going to DA
- Phone call might be beneficial to do AFTER Abbie and Ruby send out the letter
- Some type of spreadsheet for a list of people to contact in phone bank situation
- For anyone on the spreadsheet: make sure you have an outline of main points so that we know what we are going to say to the DREs and ministers, and that we are consistent. (note, anyone on the spreadsheet should be someone who really WANTS to help and communicate and who is confident in their speaking skills).
- Having workshops at the Pot of Gold RE Conference? (First weekend of September)
- **Job Jot: Pot of Gold RE Conference, OREO keep aware of it, find out if we can have a workshop**
- Starking invites every week worships and workshops and things; just ten minute long things, we could try holding something there
- 5 minute worship thing to services from youth council (Tamara brought this up) this would include the kinda reflective essay piece-- how would we make this so that people would want to feel involved and informed? Spiritual, reflective, answering: what is our community, what are our choices?
- (Jeanylse writes things similar to this, they're newsletters from the district website email list, this is an example of what we might want to pursue) We would be doing this after every meeting and after every con
- For Parent section on the website (making it its own tab so parents can easily find it)
That's pretty much an Emma job jot

8. Council Restructuring

- **Touch Group Co Discussion**
 - TG Co should be a council position!
 - TG Co picks CABBAGE; they're the only one who knows
 - If TG Co can not be at a con, then a back up person should be chosen (but only a council person)
 - Separate meeting than the YELLer meeting in the beginning for TG leaders and TG co
 - TG Co should be responsible themselves for choosing leaders (there is a guide Ruby and the rest of the job jot typed up)
 - Anyone who wants to co-lead has to have a good reason for it
 - Guidelines for tg leader-- show awareness of community, be at least 3rd con, ability to take control of a situation, "known to have an affinity for leadership"

- TG Co needs to be prepared to inform leaders of the closing and of guides; assess situations, range from games to appropriate depth, touch group leaders are mini CABBAGEs (brussel sprouts!)
 - TG Co should make sure leaders aren't skipping programming; make sure the co's are talking before the con happens; bring closing materials in case anyone forgets
 - TG Leaders need to be prepared for brown bag situations
 - TG Co should be aware what the TG schedule looks like
 - Remind them that they're brussel sprouts!
 - We should rewrite new guide, keeping a lot of the old things in but editing new changes
 - Should this be a one year or staggered position?
 - Part of the job definitely should be to check in with the cococo's
 - As of right now, we are thinking of bringing the idea to the community, and if they approve it then we can appoint someone until elections 2015 rolls around and we can try and make everything more official.
 - **Job Jot: KD Rosemary and Casey lead the workshop about TG Co discussion**
- **Energy Chair/Appointee situation?**
 - Case by case situation
 - Energy chair chooses the appointee, notifies council, and if anyone has a principled objection, they can privately discuss it with the energy chair
 - **Job jot-- writing in the appointee/energy chair thing-- Casey**
- **Brainstorming about Council Restructuring**
 - Democracy instead of consensus
 - GRUUST and Resource position
 - SAC Community Resources-- more like a coordinator than a leader
 - Breaking cococo up into multiple positions
 - Official photographer
 - Our own bank account
 - 1-2 positions that don't do anything besides be community representatives
 - What are adults even??
 - Council groups!
 - Sooo many people for the 6 month period
 - Meetings before cons INCLUDING DEANS OF THOSE CONS
 - 3-week meetings AT church where con will be (THEN YOU CAN DESIGNATE ROOMS BEFOREHAND AND AH)
 - More meetings among our council groups and the meetings would consist of the groups updating each other
 - Positions more consolidated
 - Adult co and registrar co positions
 - Adult co and registrar same position
 - More facilitation about meeting sites
 - SAC put into one of cococo positions if split

- Combine OREO and board liaison
- Shorter or longer council meetings
- Council meetings set to be once a month
- Board Rep should also go to council meetings; update council on what the board is doing
- Combine board rep and board liaison
- Send out final version of agenda 24 hours in advance
- Make council retreats better by making food situation more organized
- Regionalization of UUA -- position to keep an eye on that
- Council internships
- Meetings at monterey?
- Combine board liaison and secretary

9. District Assembly

- Next weekend-- noon to 3 on sunday
- Ashley, Jenna, KD, Abbie, Phoebe, Suzannah, Kaitlin, Travis, Bea?, Sophia and Merritt?, Heather
- **Brainstorming what to bring up with the board:**
 - How can we develop better avenues of communication?
 - What do we want our relationship to be?
 - Ask Josh and Judy what the most appropriate course to addressing our problems with Jeanelyse would be.
 - Assuming we keep our relationship with them, can we ask them to approve our bylaws?
 - Money procedures (like the BART situation)
 - CLARIFYING RELATIONSHIP-- and clarifying job descriptions
 - The letter Abbie and Ruby are writing (bring copies)
 - Clarify someone tasked to keep things updated between the board and council (KD's job for this meeting)