

3/21/14-3/23/14 Council Meeting Minutes

Agenda:

- Training
- Con Debrief
- WUUKY Update
- Council Restructuring Discussion
- What is our relationship with district?/ District Staff Situation Discussion
- Sexuality Policy

Job Jots:

- Sophia, Casey, Sias, Ruby-- Discuss and find solutions for touch group problems and madness
- Jesse, Ashley, Lara, Suzannah, Casey (Dylan?)-- “What are our procedures?” team handling problems found between cons
- KD, Kaitlin, Jenna and Travis-- Investigate and find out facts
- Bea, Abbie, Dylan-- Type up legal adult attendee separate covenant-ish thing “I am 18 so I understand my adult responsibilities and consequences...”
- Ruby and Abbie-- type a thing to the UUMA (what it is we actually do about people who do things!)
- Resource potatoes and consultation with cococos-- Dean Guidebook and Orientation Deal
- Nikki, Ruby and Dylan Grinder-- Nom Com Guide
- Jackie-- find adult advisor training guide!
- Kaitlin, Jackie, Mikey and Laura-- Adult advisor training!
- Phoebe, Mikey and Jackie-- Adult emails to next con and WUUKY
- Theo Trevor and Jenna-- continue compiling master list of finances
- Luka (Ruby?) (Abbie?)-- Meeting with Lara and insurance people (camps)

Dates:

3-week Spirit Con Council Meeting: April 19th, 10-5

Spirit Con: May 2-4

WUUKY: July 7-12

3-Week Meeting: August 2nd, 10-5

Summer Con: August 15th-17th

Council Retreat: September 12-14th

3-Week Meeting: October 18th

Fall Con: November 7th-9th

Training? (Chaplain Training? Adult advisor Training? We will see): Jan 9th-11th

Council 3-Week Meeting: Jan 24

Elections Con 2015: February 13th-16th

Spirit Con 2015: May 1st-3rd

WUUKY 2015: Probably be July 5-11? Kinda have no idea? TO BE DETERMINED

Summer Con 2015: August 14th-16th

Fall Con 2015: Nov 6th-8th

Elections Con 2016: February 12th-15th

Con Debrief

<u>Good</u>	<u>Not-so-good</u>
Food was great	Ending with big council meeting was less than ideal
Nom com had access to high-tech resources	Nom Com miscommunication situation
Most people attended coffeehouse and service	Some Touch groups were a little out-of-focus
7 Principles Activity	People wandering off site
Chaplain team was awesome	Inappropriate drawings in a sacred space (labyrinth)
No receipts or money was lost	Card throwing
Good worships	Exclusive relationships
Relatively good cleaning (mostly by council)	A group of youth who wandered off-site (onto the hill)
New adult advisors jumped right in	Broader community cleaning wasn't super satisfactory
"Silent coyote" is becoming effective again	Certain youth forgot to take medication
Cooks bought food before con (efficient!)	Broad community laziness/unwillingness to clean
Bridging went well	Disrespectful feel towards nom com
Dance was fun and appropriate	Orientation went a bit too fast, we need to spend more time on orientation and the rules next time
New council is great	Certain touch groups got interrupted, other TG Leaders didn't really know how to lead
Closing was good and statements were original	The "Hushing" situation was better, but not as respected as it should be
Workshops	Needed better recycling situation
No snoring in service	Inappropriate drama
(Some) touch groups were very good	People going on Gofer runs who aren't Gofer

	Towards the end of the dance, inappropriate dancing began to occur
	District relations became even more complicated
	Adults making youth uncomfortable

Elaboration--

Nom Com:

- Make sure the community and nominees know this is NOT set in stone, just nominations.
- Maybe give time to the nominees to process after being nominated and before being interviewed?
- Interviews sometimes interrupted TGs
- When the community clapped for the non-set in stone nominations, that was a problem

Adults

- Adults making youth uncomfortable
 - Adults overstepping youth leadership
 - Ageism and “you’re flat out wrong!”
 - Adults discussing bigoted opinions which made youth uncomfortable
 - Just certain adults that made youth uncomfortable to be around
 - Awkward strange situations where adults overstep boundaries?
 - Too personal at times, felt like an invasion of youth privacy
 - A lot of these problems are particular people, not advisors as a whole
- Adult Clique
 - Goal: adults integrate with community; mentorship; stable presence
 - No adult cliques because it causes safety issues (if they’re all in one room or something)
 - Youth Leadership? “We don’t need you, we got this handled”?
 - Some adults need to interact more with community
 - Feel like it might make sense to get more of an introduction for advisors? Adult contact with leadership!
 - Reaching out to adults just like youth in a corner is also YOUTH’s responsibility
 - CABBAGE and Adult Co should work on introducing Adult Cos to groups and people and community more
 - We as YELLers and leadership people should approach adults and set example
 - Clique problems apply to adults and adults feeling isolated too
 - All adults should know about guidelines but youth shouldn’t be FULLY aware
 - Adult advisor training, kind of like chaplain training? (But we don’t have the same authority as that so undecided) But we can probably research and ask for help, look for resources
 - Guidebook? Email the adult advisors the week of the con

Touch Groups

- Touch Group Torah is not often used; TGCos often don’t know what to tell TG leaders
- 2 separate meetings could be held, one for YELLers one for TG leaders

- Try and make TGs something more, not just games all weekend!
- Make sure TG Co has sufficient information and is prepared
- This is a long standing problem too!
- Nothing has ever seemed to work in the past 2 years, not even the trainings!
- Solo leading-- The Co thing has gotten a bit over the top
- Too much co leading with their friend
- More communication between past and present TG Cos is needed
- “6 components of a balanced touch group” should be created?
- DEEP FUN packets need to be utilized more
- TG Co restructuring will be discussed later-- check job jot

~Closed session~

- We made working groups and job jots, and we are planning on pursuing action at the upcoming con and possibly disciplinary action

WUUKY Update

- Registration will open in April
- WUUKYpedia is now open! (This is a guide for every WUUKY YELLer)
- Casey Lynn, Travis Hyer and Livy Songster are deans

Council Restructuring Discussion

__(push to next meeting)

Board Meeting with Jenna and Abbie

- Regionalization is being majorly discussed
- staff is 100% employed by UUA
- What things are regional, and what things are more district?
- Jennika might get more involved in the next year (regional youth consultant)
- District is somewhat unstable currently
- Who’s accountable to who??
- Could the district file a complaint to the UUA?
- Scott= Director of congregational life!
- Communication breakdown and situation-- communication between us and the board about conference incidents is currently somewhat sketchy
- May start sending minutes and policies and bylaws and everything to board directly (Dan Cane)
- We told the board if they didn’t do a restructuring and defining our relationship meeting in the next few weeks, council will initiate that
- Council and board must have a direct talk! (Also, job descriptions?)
- **Task force:** Jeanelyse created task force for all youth programs to help implement the age range change and similar topics. So far, task force has no actual power to change policies or bylaws.
- Board is just now acknowledging and realizing our concerns. However, they do not yet fully understand why we are angry
- Judy Young was very quiet (board president). But we think she recognizes there are issues that must be addressed?
- UUA has been trying to regionalize (where they group districts together based on population)

- For us, there is no way they can meet the needs of all districts in our area, it would be like the whole western half of the country. But the board hates the idea of regionalization, too.
- Josh is dropping hints that he is on our side
- Board is pro-good-relations with us
- Lynn Gardner has questions on mandated reporting and breaching covenant; she's scared about transparency.
- Miscommunication with board about incident report except "the youth leadership are making unsafe choices for the community"

Meeting with Josh

- We are continuing forward with our youth programming
- Josh is on board with everything aside from budget line. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Redefine/Clarify our relationship with the district
 - District staff to be aware who on youth council to specifically contact for different case scenarios
 - Board should ratify our policies and procedures after each Elections Con
 - Well-defined process for creating and implementing policies and procedures
 - Recognition from the district staff of the rupture in right relations between the district admin. and PCD YRUU

District Staff Situation Discussion

Basically for now, we are planning on solving all problems and major situations presenting themselves at the moment, and work from there, being sure to constantly discuss among council and the broader community

Sexuality Policy

- Before, we had about 6 policies
- Our new one is yet to be approved by community, which shall be taken care of at the upcoming conference
- Added a parent signature to the covenant
- "Reverend Lynn Gardner has concerns" And Abbie had a really good conversation with her. She's respectful and awesome, though we do disagree with her on a couple things. That aside, her concerns include:
 - Concerns about transparency
 - How do we communicate issues breaching covenant?
 - (Internally dealing with if non mandated, but if mandated reporting we contact Jeanelyse)
- Lynn is under the impression that if there is a breach of covenant from a youth of their congregation, they are informed. We don't do this, but Lynn thinks we should. Thinks we should send updates to PCD UUMA about our policies-- concern of lack of mutual understanding
- In all honesty, there is stuff in our handbooks and refrain from sexual behavior, yada yada wow so much why this is like the exact same thing as what we've been saying but somewhat separate and too long and why
- Decided on official policy, done; added parent signature as well
 - OUR REVISED POLICY:

“Sexuality that includes respect for others, yourself, and the community is an important part of human development, but also an area for caution and care. Each person’s sexual development and comfort with sexuality varies, and sexual behavior is by nature an exclusive activity. Exclusive relationships and overtly sexual behaviour, or actions with sexual intent, are damaging to our community and will be dealt with at the discretion of conference leadership and adult advisors. As part of respecting the physical and emotional boundaries of community members, all participants are to abstain from such behaviour. The conference community and leadership reserves the right to deem any behavior inappropriate. All members of the community must respect and abide by this policy.”

- Jason George came, and we discussed and got updated between MUUGs and YRUU, which is incredibly important.