

January 30, 2014

Meeting of Strategic Planning Committee

Attending: Ben Cuperman, Rabbi Justin David, Norbert Goldfield, Mordi Kamel, Gillian Kendall, Lauren Weinsier, Penina Glazer (by phone)

Spirituality task force- how to address members of the conversation; we need to come up w a set of questions;

Finance task force– looking at all issues; both short term and long term. In addition the following topics are under active discussion: Capital campaign for endowment and operations; income from Banquet Hall renovation; Membership Dues structure; High Holy Day seating policy; Rental of space

Torah - good track; we are still in an information gathering ; curious to see how we transition into an action and idea phase; Barbara lerner is chair; Jacob is engaging. One thing we did decide – we would all like to have a cradle to grave approach – torah and life long learning. What goes a culture of learning look like. It is not just about putting in this program or that program but it is about learning. One of the ideas that was raised was to have a theme for each year. So that all of our learning aspects of our committee – from gan keshet on. Seemed like a good idea

We've looked at some web sites; e.g. music that some – how to sing a song and how to daven – u tube etc

Welcoming committee – unanimous feeling around the table that we need to get handle on what that the term welcoming means; they are all working; what does it mean to create a culture of welcoming in the synagogue; we don't have strategies; we are reading ron wolfson's web site; geri kleinman was a greeter; there walk thru with an architect to get a sense of the space

When I spoke to jill borden (penina speaking) for people who are in the margins – they need five different interactions to feel that they've been included – nothing magical about that number. Might be good to bring that back to the committee.

Committee outreach – met with beit ahavah and lga; we met with jewish family services last nite; they expressed the same attitude that whatever was happening they were grateful that cbi was reaching out to them. Some expressed a "siege" mentality in part coming from cbi and grateful that people were trying to break that down. Jewish family services just finished a strat planning process. Assessment of people and resources rather than place. Yes they were interested in doing things in the upper valley but they are tight on resources. Worried about services that would be offered and not produced. Jcc meeting and federation for next week. I , Mordi speaking, am loving the bonding that has taken place.

Suggestion: Reach out to temple Israel in Greenfield as they are going thru a major transition- eisen is leaving either just before or after a transition.

Contact w smith college – suggestion. Mandate was issue of jewish institutions. Something that needs to be further considered. We (mordi speaking) are not going to do non Jewish institutions in the current timeline because plate is full. Maybe an ad hoc committee.

Tikkun Olam Task Force: has met once and meeting again on Friday January 31. We are doing internal (CBI) and external interviews (both local and national). Internal interviews in February. External interviews in March. The members of the task force are the members of the committee. We have begun to lay out questions. Also considering and exploring an informal network of Conservative synagogues to exchange ideas on Tikkun Olam.

Next meeting Feb 27 – 630-730 pm