

Minutes WRG Meeting March 18, 2023

Attendees: Linda Harris, Bick Simpson, Susan Anthony, Katie Anthony, Louise Diskerud, Lori Lai, Judy Strachan, Kimberly Gila, Margaret Levitt

Next WRG meeting: April 15, 2023 from 9:00 am to 10:30 am

1. Planned Parenthood Partnership

Louise spoke about our efforts to partner with Planned Parenthood. She has been reaching out to Margaret Martinez Frank to discuss further details about volunteer opportunities. Louise is planning to have a discussion with her soon. Lori emphasized that we needed to get specific information about opportunities, dates and time and process for signing. In addition, we will be looking to invite her to one of our Saturday meetings.

2. Informational Session on May 3 and May 20 – in preparation for the congregational vote

The group reviewed the original Training slides and discussed the key parts of the curriculum that needed to be covered in the congregational information session. The sessions are only one hour long compared to the 14 hour curriculum and even the two hour forum presentation from March. So the content really needs to be boiled down to the essentials. The key points identified are:

- Focus should be on the resolution on which the congregation will vote. Julia Wald has agreed to take the lead writing this resolution.
- We need to address right up front, the issues many congregants have with the word SACReD. There are secular definitions of the word sacred that we should include in our presentation.
- We should emphasize the other UU congregations, All Souls in NYC and UU Dallas, which are founding members of SACReD
 - Statement from know and respected humanists supporting our resolution should be requested to speak as part of the presentation
 - Laura Shennum, Don Matson and Marty Vanderlaan were all suggested as potential humanists to speak on this point
- From the curriculum, the following should be highlighted:
 - Reproductive Justice Principles
 - Social justice and racial equity issues involved in limiting access to reproductive care – including the impact on men and families
 - Morality of reproductive choice the framing and retaking of the moral high ground through the SACReD curriculum (slide 25 from training)

- Commitment to counter the shame our culture has built around reproductive decisions and actions/statements we as a congregation can take to counter that shame (slide 35 from the training)
- Parenting takes a village – this is an important part of the curriculum to emphasize. SACReD and our efforts are not just about abortion but about the whole range of choice to have or to not have children, including how better to support families – one of our action items is to work with RE to better understand family’s needs and what the congregation can and should be doing to help. Consider asking Ben Bear to talk about his work with families? If not time during the forum at least to the WRG group to help us focus on the work we might do to support families.
- Action Steps – the SACReD resolution requires the congregation to commit to actions such as educating ourselves and others, supporting reproductive justice organizations in our community and working for change in local and national policies around reproductive justice. During the training the following areas of action were identified by the group and these should be highlighted during the townhall presentations:
 - Cosponsoring with the Forum, lectures on reproductive justice issues
 - Working with the local Planned Parenthood organization
 - Working with other UU congregations and with liberal religious organization in the Bay area
 - Working with RE group to identify areas where we as a congregation can better support our member’s families
- Drafts of the slides need to be completed and circulated to the WRG members by April 12 to allow members to review and circulate suggested changes prior to the next meeting on April 15, 2023.

3. Congregational vote

- The resolution must be approved by the board prior to the congregational meeting. A draft of the resolution should be available to the WRG members by April 12 to allow members to review and circulate suggested changes prior to the next meeting on April 15, 2023.

4. Other actions steps suggestion

5. Next Steps

As already mentioned above

- Judy Strachan will reach to to UU Dallas, All Souls and SACReD looking for resources to help us in building our presentation.
- Drafts of the slides need to be completed and circulated to the WRG members by April 12 to allow members to review and circulate suggested changes prior to the next meeting on April 15, 2023.

- A draft of the resolution should be available to the WRG members by April 12 to allow members to review and circulate suggested changes prior to the next meeting on April 15, 2023.