Minutes for the Social Justice Council Monthly Meeting
September 3, 2009 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Cedar Lane Library

Present: Betsy Devlin-Foltz, Sandy Shaw, Pat Karlsen, Heather Janules, Val Carter, Anne Thompson, Connie Nissley, Marge Dimond, Mike Benefiel, Mike Burski, Nancy Janssen, Kay Gottesman, Becky White. Helen Strang, who was attending the AIM leaders' meeting downstairs, joined us at the end to say "good-night".

Opening Words and Chalice Lighting: Heather Janules

Finances: Connie Nissley (Treasurer) discussed the budget for 09-10. Although the requested budget proposed in April was $24,050, the final amount approved by the Board is $23,200. Connie provided 2 alternate methods for decreasing budget items to arrive at the total. After reviewing the proposal, a vote was taken to approve the proposed budget that decreased all line items (except AIM) by about 7%. The $10,000 AIM budget cannot be changed by us. The amount for each budget item is not binding and can be adjusted, if necessary, during the year.

An amendment to the budget motion to initiate an individual donor campaign for UUSJ proposed by Pat Karlsen also passed.

An effort will also be made to keep track of individual donations by Cedar Laners to outside groups and activities (i.e., AIM).

Communication: The Lounge Lizards will be launched on September 13, the first Sunday with 2 services. Information about the following activities will be provided at the Lizard table.

- Town Hall Meeting on Heath Care Reform at River Road – Sunday, September 20 4:00-6:00pm (Mike Benefiel)
- A Wider Circle fund raising – Sunday, October 25 (Anne Thompson)
- UUSJ Awards Dinner – Sunday, October 25 (Pat Karlsen)
- LGBT Equality March – Sunday, October 11 (Marge Dimond)

Betsy passed around the Lounge Lizard schedule for 9/13, 9/20 and 9/27 and encouraged new members to sign up with an experienced lizard. She will e-mail the schedule to the group.

50/50 Collection: A proposal was approved to support a 50/50 Collection during the in-Gathering and Water Communion service on September 13. The group No More Deaths supplies water, food, and first aid to migrants walking across the Arizona desert. Mike Benefiel will say a few words about the group before the offering at each service.

Retreat: The SJC retreat originally scheduled for Saturday September 26 from 9:00am – 1:00pm now conflicts with the technology workshop to be held that morning 9:00am – 12:00pm. Betsy proposed moving our retreat to the afternoon so people could attend both events.
She will check with Alissa Glassman, AIM Lead Organizer, about her availability to provide training in the afternoon. Betsy urged members of the SJC to think about their roles, with the hope that at least one member will be a liaison to each SJC committee. She will send a message to the group about the revised schedule.

Closing: Heather Janules led us in a few minutes of silence.