

## **Synopsis of GALA Board Retreat/Board meeting, January 16, 2010, Independence, MO, Stone Church**

1. Six GALA Board members were physically present in Stone Church for the meeting; P. Danielson was present via voice technology.
2. D. Howard asked C. Frey to review & advise the Board of the positions that would be up for election in 2010; C. Frey indicated that the position of Secretary would be one of those.
3. C. Frey, Secretary, indicated that 2010 Membership Invoices had been sent out by surface mail and e-mail on Thursday, January 14. Reminded everyone that we are on a calendar year basis for membership going forward.
4. P. Danielson, Treasurer, provided a verbal report; D. Howard distributed a printed copy of the GALA 2010 Budget.
5. D. Howard reported that the 2009 Retreat Evaluation responses were all very positive!
6. The length of time that the retreat auction was open could have been extended; some felt it was shorter than it could have been.
7. There was a discussion about the number of classes offered at the annual retreat & what would be a "happy medium."
8. Games that kept people in a more centralized area received higher participation at the 2009 Retreat.
9. The Talent Show was one of the positive highlights; using a simple theme like "Pink Party" made it easier for everyone to participate on some level at the retreat.
10. Communications with Community of Christ (World Church) continue in a positive manner.
11. Facebook has provided increased exposure to GALA.
12. The GALA newsletter has been well received.
13. The redesigned GALA pin, presented at the 2009 Retreat, has been well received with very positive response.
14. The plantings outside The Temple in Independence were exceptional; we look forward to doing plantings again this spring.
15. The 2010 Retreat will be held in Samish Island, Washington State. We are in the process of beginning to pull things into place for the Labor Day Weekend event. **BEGIN PLANNING NOW TO ATTEND!**
16. 2010 Pride Celebrations are expected to take place again in Buffalo, Kansas City & San Francisco; GALA will provide support for these events. If you are having a Pride Celebration & could use some support, kindly provide GALA with the specifics of when, where, what you expect to do & how we might be able to provide support.
17. Donation was approved in the amount of \$500 through Outreach International: \$300 Haiti & \$200 HIV.

18. Board discussed possibility of expansion of size of the Board; consensus was that the current size works & we will continue to advertise when spots become available.
19. Discussion of content for a January/February newsletter were held & assignments were made for article submissions.
20. Discussion of ideas for incorporation in the shared booth space in "diversity booth" at World Conference were held.
21. Discussion of programming, off-site drop-in center, worship service, reception & other items that pertain to activities or events at 2010 World Church Conference were held.
22. A joint session with GALA & WCN was held during the afternoon at which discussions were held about activities & events that each would be holding during 2010 World Church Conference.
23. Everyone was invited to share with the Kansas City GALA Chapter in a "Chili Cook-Off" themed potluck in Walnut Gardens, Community of Christ, Saturday evening, January 16. We had a wonderful turn-out with six different styles of chili & we played "musical chairs" & "duck-duck-goose" with C. Frey's grandsons; we all felt so much younger!
24. Everyone was also invited to share with the Walnut Gardens, Community of Christ on Sunday morning, January 17 in worship; Ken McLaughlin, speaker. The worship service was exceptional, the Spirit was present & touched our lives & each witnessed of their being touched through music & the spoken words.
25. Everyone was reminded that we would gather a half hour before the presentation of President Steven Veazey in The Temple, Sunday, January 17. The spirit of peace was exceptionally strong, before, during & after President Veazey's presentation of inspired counsel to the church. What a way to conclude the weekend!