

- May 2, 2014 community meeting

- Terry provided a quick summary of the plans for Chas May 16 and 17th talk. We will have an organizational meeting at 9AM on Sunday May 11 to confirm details and plans. This was announced at the sitting that morning.
- We are interested in finding additional space for classes which would allow us a little more flexibility in location and times. It is not necessarily an effort to stop using Calvary Methodist Church.
- There's been a suggestion to allow people to make donations and/or pay for retreats using PayPal or other electronic pay methods. Phil said the board would discuss this in two weeks at their next meeting.
- Terry said he was looking for someone to take over the role running the public meetings. This requires about two hours a month (prepare the agenda, run the meeting, write up notes)
  - We reviewed the advertising that's been done for Chas' upcoming visit. Nothing will happen with MLive, as they do not seem to have very good communication set up for Ann Arbor yet (after the move from AnnArbor.com) The Michigan Daily does not appear to have any method to accept announcements like this. While we are on the A2 Observer's Email list, we somehow did not get listed in the events for May 16 or 17.
  - Most of the discussion today was about the idea of collecting some amount of money ahead of time for a retreat. The goal is to encourage people who sign up to come. There are always one or two who sign up and never tell us they are not coming (no shows) - costing extra money and possibly preventing another from attending the retreat.)
  - The discussion centered around the idea of asking for \$50 at registration. This brought up several issues:
    - Is this a donation or fee? Is it refundable? What's the policy?
    - Are you considered registered to come if you do not pay?
    - Does a lack of payment mean you may not come?
    - Are scholarships available?
    - Should we post a guess as to the total cost retreat? by individual?
    - Perhaps we should just oversubscribe the expected number of places?
    - As long as there are double rooms we can accommodate if more than the target attendees come.
  - The discussion revolved around balancing the ease of just asking for donations as we now do, versus the complexities of handling money ahead of time (handing checks for the initial amount, refunds if any, etc). Everyone understood the issues. There seemed a general agreement that asking for some amount ahead of time would pose little burden. If someone was unable to make this payment, a simple Email asking about a scholarship could be accommodated.
  - No definitive decision was made. A policy change for this does not need to be set in place for several months and this topic should be revisited once or twice over the next few months.