

## ***Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Emerald Coast Board Meeting Minutes***

**Date:** November 18, 2013

**Time:** 6:32PM

**Place:** Unitarian Universalist Fellowship; Valparaiso; Florida

**Members Present:** Karen Lauer called the meeting to order at 6:32pm; Beth Reindl Madrigal, Ed Farley, Rece Howley, Reverend Rod Debs (Ex-Officio), Kathy Roniger, Amanda Piburn, Josh Ashley, Don Hawkins, Board Members. Micah Krider and Loren Boyer were absent Board Members.

**Guests Present:** Jane Park, Denny Lauer, John Drury, Elisabeth Ashley, Debra Baker, Chris Larson, Deborah Bruning, Jane Montgomery, Jennifer Conroy.

**Welcome and Check In** – All reported what is right and interesting with their world.

**Chalice Lighting** – Reverend Rod gave a spiritual reading.

**Treasurer's Report** – Ed reported on the October financials. The fellowship is falling behind in collections of about \$678 monthly as we are progressing.

**Special off Agenda topic** - Karen read a letter that was not on the Agenda. It was sent from Connie Goodbread and was applicable to our guest's situation and regarding some meetings held between the Brunings and a few congregants.

**Secretary's Report** – Minutes were reviewed and passed for September and October meetings. Minutes will be presented via electronic communications from the October Executive Session but put on hold until further review.

**Results from October Executive Session** - UUA composed a letter to Bruning's with suggestions for them of a private nature.

**Agenda Review** – The board was asked to add Deborah Bruning to the agenda and let her speak again with regards to the situation with the past issues.

**Point of Order** – Allowing Deborah to speak was voted on and it was agreed that there would be no dialogue as there have been decisions made on all issues by the board and these issues have been addressed and resolved to the best of the board ability and jurisdiction in the matters. The board agreed not to discuss this again at the last meeting but took a vote to allow Deborah some time to speak..

**Congregational Meeting** – We briefly discussed the meeting procedures for the Annual meeting. Diane reported on the nominating and election procedures and said she and Micah were working on it.

**Moving Forward -**

DRE Search – Jane reported that the search was moving forward. We have two applicants and interviews are being set up.

Town Hall was discussed as well. We have a tentative date of January 12<sup>th</sup> for this. Karen said she would look for a task force to move forward with some mediation if it is deemed necessary. Jane Park is not available to hold another Town Hall in January.

Chris Larson presented the board with some suggestions on mediation. We have the CoRe class that is addressing some individual needs of the congregants.

**CMC Structure** – Karen discussed the CMC members, it's inactive status and who the members are. A suggestion was made to create an "Ad Hoc" committee to handle complaints from the congregants that involve the minister and the board since we are in support of each other and it is a situation that is a possible conflict of interest for the CMC to review itself. The conflict resolution portion of the CMC could be dissolved as well and this was mentioned.

Kathy discussed a COM (Committee on Ministry) and Right Relations guideline from the UUA, Karen stated that the UUA has a document (22 pages) available for our modeling and structuring these type of committees. Reverend Rod discussed the modeling of the Pensacola fellowship since their structure was similar to ours.

**Bylaws Committee** – Kathy is finalizing the bylaws with the Ad Hoc committee, which consists of Miriam Williams, Chris Larson, Kathy Roniger, Jane Montgomery, and Debra Rian-Baker. The goal is to have a draft to the board by the next board meeting in January.

**DRE Report** – Beth (interim DRE) reported all is well with the children. The Coming of Age and Love Connects Us programs will be ending soon. A new curriculum needs to be chosen for both classes.

**Minister's Report** – Reverend Rod reported that he may attend 12/05 through 12/09 SUUMA (Southeastern Unitarian Universalist Ministry Association) conference. Matthew Fox was of special interest with emphasis on mysticism, openness to intuitive spirituality, diet, etc.

#### **Committee Liaison Reports:**

**Religious Services** – Amanda reported that the teen's youth service is the end of January.

**Program Council** – Josh reported that all is well with programs. Buddhist meditation continues with much success. Green hour needs a leader and the program council is always open for new suggestions.

**Caring Committee** – Rod reported that the Caring Circle is still in operation and available and if anyone needs some attention we should e-mail [caring@uufec.com](mailto:caring@uufec.com) or call Rod or other members.

**Religious Exploration** – No report.

**Facilities** – Don reported that there appears to be an issue with the soffit because of some birds. It is suggested that we try to apply for the Chalice Lighter grant for repairs on the soffit. The door from the building to the playground is in and the contractor should be installing it the first weekend in December. Micah has volunteered to get ramp built and oversee that project.

**Membership** – Ed reported that Shar is working on updating the membership list for the end of the calendar year information

**Communications** – Beth reported that the website had a crash and that a lot of the information on it is missing or outdated as it may not have been restored to the proper crash date. Please check your information on the site and send all correction to [webmaster@uufec.com](mailto:webmaster@uufec.com) (Miriam W.) and it will get corrected. Patience is appreciated.

**Food, Fun and Fellowship** – Diane discussed a successful Dining for Dollars event, successful coffee house (it raised \$377), upcoming Eve of Christmas Eve and Spring Yard sale. GSA movie night on January 17<sup>th</sup> is also coming up.

**Aesthetics** – no report.

**Executive Session** – The guests were asked to leave and the board held an executive session so that the new board could be updated with information that is relevant to the future plans and private needs of the congregation.–

**Closing** – Rod closed.

Board adjourned the meeting at 9:45pm.

Democratically submitted by Beth Reindl Madrigal, Board Secretary.