

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Emerald Coast Minutes of the Board Meeting March 18, 2013

Call to Order

President, Karen Lauer, called the meeting to order 6:34pm. Present were Don Hawkins, Amanda Piburn, Kathy Roniger, Josh Ashley, Beth Reindl Madrigal, Rece Howley, Ed Farley, Diane Gibson, Derick Reding and Reverend Rod Debs (ex officio).

Review of Minutes

February minutes filed as submitted with no changes.

Finance Report

Ed discussed the Pledge Campaign and Bridge the Gap campaign and stated that some of the congregants were behind on their pledges. He said that since the letter about pledges and financial status was distributed, one member paid the remaining balance on their pledge and an extra \$500 for the "Bridge the Gap" campaign. The income exceeded expectations at over \$6,000 but we also had some expenses that were paid as well so that depleted most of that revenue.

The budget is still ongoing and looking good. There will be another meeting of the finance committee on April 14th before the Annual meeting on April 21st to finalize a budget to be presented. The pledges are all to be turned in by the end of the month so the income will be more accurately projectable.

Chalice Lighter grant – applicable could be available. Grant for this should be written and completed/applied for if available. We could use someone to step up and look at this and apply.

Committee Reports

Shar is reporting for the CMC (Congregational Ministry Committee) and they had a very long and extensive meeting today. There have been many issues with this committee in regards to some current issues with the church and the procedures and policies of the CMC and how they apply to the congregation. A request was made to the CMC to have a third party, non-member from UUA provide guidance with conflict resolution in the fellowship and the CMC. Connie Goodbread suggested that Reverend Grey from Tallahassee could help with the CMC review and workshops about doing employee reviews and ministry reviews.

Fred Boyer agreed to contact Reverend Grey to get the review underway. Shar asked for a motion to get this agreed to. There were many questions about this process and what it entails and what the cost to us would be given our financial constraints and budgeting issues at this time. The answers were that it would involve conflict resolution and some assessments and no information about the cost is available at this time. Rece made a motion that we authorize the CMC, via Fred Boyer to contact UUA and Reverend Grey to find out the process and cost on this review. Both the

process of conflict resolution and our leadership review would be the information needed along with the cost to do this. The motion passed with all in agreement and one abstention.

The CMC also had many questions about the composition of the group. There was contact made with the UUA and what COM and CMC composition normally includes and if the minister is on the committee. Quite some time ago our fellowship decided to form our COM (Committee on Ministry) as a CMC with the minister as a member, as a COM has always included the minister as a member.

CMC has been the conflict resolution vehicle between all the church members as a whole and the minister as well. The By-laws were changed long ago to include the membership COM to a CMC.

The CMC would like to amend the Board By Laws but that was referred to the By-Laws Committee for consideration. Much discussion ensued about the CMC Policies and Procedures and we subsequently moved on to the other Committee reports.

Food, Fun and Fellowships

Diane gave the report and said they have been discussing a dance. Easter was discussed, different foods and other goodies to be brought. Jeannette brought up an idea of a plant sale with the Niceville Garden Club on April 13th. We would be “renting” the parking lot and building and that issue would be referred to the facilities committee.

Religious Education

Beth gave a short report as DRE and in the absence of the Committee Liaison. RE is moving along with the new “Love Connects Us” program and we have several new volunteers to teach Sunday AM 2nd to 5th graders on this lesson. Jan Mullins, Sandy Urbanczyk, new member Tracey Lindsey and possibly a few others and as tradition, Denny does the second Sunday lesson. We will have a schedule with the lesson plans soon. Will be having an Easter Egg hunt and getting prepared for RE Sunday as well. Beth, Loren Boyer and Jane Parks have agreed to form a committee to get that organized.

Religious Services Committee - Amanda

Endowment Committee - Kathy

Program Council Committee – Josh stated he had a short meeting this month. Questions were asked about Porch swing and facilitators. Contemporary services were mentioned (like chocolate communion Sunday) and since Ashleigh Rhodes was doing these, we are looking for a replacement. Josh said he believes he has someone and this month will be interesting

Facilities Committee

Don Hawkins stated that Fred is planning a Spring Clean-up event. This event will be on May 4th. Bookcases were mentioned and that the books would be here soon. Don

said he would be dropping them off. Karen mentioned that she was going to be forming an Aesthetic Committee and didn't want any other decisions being made about the library and things being placed in unapproved places in the fellowship.

Board Retreat

Karen discussed the Board Retreat. Amanda talked about the responsibilities of the Committees and Liaisons and she wrote policy and we (Kathy, Amanda and Beth were volunteers for this) all agreed to the document. Kathy Roniger sent out the UUFE Board of Director's Covenant of Right Relations. She has worked on this for quite some time and she now has a working draft and it is ready for approval with a grammatical change.

The Board of Directors would like to be able to agree to this as a Covenant of Right Relations for the 2013 Board of Directors. Kathy made the motion and Diane 2nd this. All approved with no abstentions.

Ministers' Report

Rod discussed the Communications Committee and various discussions he had with the Webmaster and the calendar Jennifer Jordan has created and that we can use this to communicate with congregates so they know what the various activities are within our fellowship.

Rod discussed the Caring Circle and its existence on our website and the formation that will be on the website. We can go to the website under certain tabs and it will lead you to information about those in the fellowship who need visits from the "Caring Circle". An electronic mail can be sent and we can update the member's communication "page" and visit members and post updates as well.

Karen mentioned the General Assembly will be June 19th to June 23rd and SUUSI will be taking place July 21st to July 27th and is at Radford College in Radford, Virginia.

Closing – Reverend Rod

Go forth in fellowship that quality of information among human beings invites hidden possibilities, and gently summons each to our better selves..

Anonymous

The next board meeting will be an April 15 at 6:30. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.