

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Emerald Coast

## Minutes of the Board Meeting September 19, 2011

### **Call to order**

President Denny Lauer called the meeting to order at 6:43 pm. Also present were Rod Debs, Ed Farley, Karen Lauer, Chris Larson, Kathy Roniger and Sandra Topp

### **Minister Focus**

Rod Debs gave a reading

### **Review of Agenda**

Denny Lauer reviewed the meeting agenda. The discussion of the flag pole was removed from the agenda as there is nothing new to add to the previous discussion.

### **Review of August Minutes**

The August minutes were reviewed. Sandra Topp made a motion, seconded by Kathy Rodiger, to accept the minutes as written. The minutes were unanimously approved by the board.

### **Finance Report**

Ed Farley gave the financial report. The money from a matured CD combined with \$4,796 from checking were used to pay down the mortgage by \$10,000. Summary from the first quarter showed lower than projected income in pledges and unexpected expenses for a net overage of approximately \$2,500. Dining for dollars raised \$6,015, with \$2,870 paid to date.

Ed asked if the members of the board agreed that the finance committee has the authority to make financial decisions, such as using the money from a CD to pay down the mortgage since the board members had asked the finance committee to look into paying down the mortgage. Denny stated that this was certainly within the finance committee's scope as the board had discussed using the CD to pay off the mortgage on several previous occasions.

### **Annual Business Meeting**

The annual business meeting will be October 23, 2011 just after the first hour service. This meeting will be longer than the spring meeting as it will cover slate, financial reports and proposed bylaw changes.

Karen Lauer discussed proposed bylaw changes to Article 8. As it is written the board does not have say over the budget. The proposed changes give authority to the board to give the final approval of the budget. The changes to article 8 would make it more clear to the congregation what role the board has over the church's finances.

Ed expressed concern about the proposed changes in article 8. He stated that as part of the finance committee he knows that there are many hours spent working on the budget not only making the budget balance, but making it fair for all parties. He is concerned that the board could make changes that could result in a budget that is not balanced or that results in a less fair allocation of funds because the board does not have the benefit of hours spent with the interested parties. This was discussed by the board.

### **Discussion on Posting Policy**

Denny proposed that we vote decide if major changes are needed in the Board's Content Posting Policy and the Aesthetic Committee's Policies and Procedures separately. If a Board member believes major changes are needed to either Policy, than a motion to do so should be made and the Board would then vote on the motion. If passed, then the president would assign an ad hoc committee to review the Policy. If only one Policy is voted to be considered for changes, that Policy would be reviewed. If both are voted on the be reviewed then the ad hoc committee would review both.

Kathy stated that she was concerned about the wording of the Board's Content Posting Policy. She has read through the Content Posting Policy, the Aesthetic Committee's Policies and Procedures and the CMC report and believes that there are incongruencies that should be looked into further before it is approved by the board.

After discussion by the board, Kathy made a motion to form an ad hoc committee to review the Board's Content Posting Policy further, this was seconded by Karen. It was approved by a 5 to 1 vote. Ed expressed concern that people may be reluctant to take on the responsibility of president if the posting policy puts too much of the burden upon the president.

The Aesthetics Committee Posting Policy was discussed by the board. No motion was made to make an ad hoc committee to suggest changes to the Aesthetics Committee Posting Policy. No changes will be made to the policy.

Note: after the Board meeting Denny Lauer asked Kathy Roniger to head up the ad hoc committee to review the Board Content Posting Policy. He asked her to suggest who she would like to join with her to form the ad hoc committee.

### **Minister's Report**

The membership committee is working on making the church a welcoming place for all including those in the military.

Opinion solicitation regarding the possibility of flying U.S. and Earth flags was discussed. Rod Debs stated that there should be a high degree of agreement among the congregation before the flag is hung. So far there is not a high degree of agreement concerning flying the flag outside. The next question to be proposed to the congregation will be whether or not the Earth flag and the American flag should be hung in the vestibule.

Also discussed was the wayside pulpit as a message that draws people into the church. Chris Larson suggested asking for members of the congregation to submit suggestions. Rod stated that that would be a great idea. As spiritual leader, the Minister is largely responsible for such public messages reflecting UU religious perspectives. However, in keeping with UU collaboration, the Minister will screen and consult with the Congregational Ministry Committee regarding the Minister's selections of Wayside Pulpit postings under consideration for use.

### **Closing**

A reading was provided by Rod.

### **Set October Meeting Date**

The meeting was adjourned by Denny at 8:25 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for 10/13/11 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Topp

