

**Universal Unitarian Fellowship of the Emerald Coast  
Minutes of the Board of Director's Meeting – June 17, 2013**

Call to Order, Karen Lauer. Present were Karen Lauer, Diane Gibson, Rece Howley, Josh Ashley, Rev. Debs (ex-officio), Ed Farley, Don Hawkins, Kathy Roniger, Amanda Piburn, Beth Reindl Madrigal, Micah Krider, Board Members and Guests present were John Drury and Jane Montgomery, CMC Committee Chairperson.

**Welcome – Check In**

Everyone discussed the events taking place in their world over the past month. There are many blessings and positive things going on as we enjoy our summer.

**Chalice Lighting**

Covenant of Right Relations – Rod read and discussed the covenant that was adopted by the Board this year.

**Treasurer's Report**

Ed Farley, discussed the Treasurer's report that was sent out this week. The income in May looks very promising as it is over budget. Ed said the large income from the last month is in part due to the pledges of some people being paid for the year. He named two congregants that did this. Thus we are over the income projection by \$6,331 to date.

2013 – 2014 Budget was discussed and that we were at approximately \$130,000. Beth suggested we had finalized the budget at approximately \$124,000 instead and we are tabling further discussion until Ed can clarify these numbers.

Karen, Ed and Don discussed the MidSouth Gift Program that is a basis for how we will be paying our UUA membership dues. It is an overall positive change for us given our small membership and the structure they use to take some expenses into account with regards to our building interest expense and some other factors.

**President's Report**

There were three meetings in the Mid-South Region area and Karen attended the meeting in Ocala, Florida. The attendees were all from Florida even though it was a district meeting that includes other States. They discussed the book "Growing a Beloved Community" and Karen found it beneficial and relevant. Connie Goodbread, was here several months ago for some congregation discussions. She led an invocation and was a part of the conference in several leadership roles.

Karen read some Chapter titles and discussed some details of the conference. Karen also discussed the lack of participation among Religious Exploration leaders at the fellowship she attended that this fellowship did not have any room for children and there were no children being cared for (i.e., we usually provide for that as our members and leaders have children and are active here at UUFEC) . Karen discussed the importance of RE and the lack of growth in the some of the fellowships in the District. The separation of the children from the adults and the relationships among them appears to be an issue with the UUA fellowships at large. Keep growing RE!

**Endowment Committee** (a committee report out of Agenda order)

Don reported for the Endowment Committee that met and discussed the By-Laws and the election of officers. He and Karen discussed the possibility that Officer's Terms and Commitments would be changed

because of the level of understanding for investment and finance issues this committee needs to make educated decisions on the investments of the fellowships money. Don Hawkins discussed the financial complications of the committee and how it works.

### **CMC Report**

Jane Montgomery discussed the release of one of our members from jail and some details of our understanding of the members' probation. There is an ongoing suspension from church for this member and the suspension dates should begin upon the members' release. Jane said we would like to have another meeting with Connie to possibly discuss issues in the church and that is what the CMC would like to see happen.

Reverend Rod discussed the situation and communication with the member and that he had family in town to help at some point and an attorney that contacted the member and was going to provide legal advice. Subsequently the member was released from the jail and support is continued as possible.

A long discussion ensued about the physical and mental deterioration of the member over the last year and over his incarceration. Discussion was in depth and complicated. Karen decided, at Don Hawkins suggestion, that the executive board will meet and draft a letter to present to the board that would follow up the suspension letter to clarifying the Board's position on his suspension and subsequent support from us as a fellowship. We will meet next Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, here to decide the detail and draft the letter.

### **DRE Report**

Beth discussed the retreat and the amazing attendance by our Committee. We had sixteen people attend the RE retreat conducted here at the fellowship by Jane Park, RE Committee Chairperson. Ed Farley asked about the completion of the Playground and Micah discussed the need for 40 additional boards at around \$25.00 per board so we can complete it this project for the playground and the arbor that connects to it as an entry to the fellowship. Food Fun and fellowship will get with the playground people and come up with a fundraiser to get this complete as soon as possible.

### **Minister's Report**

Reverend Rod has vacation time coming and will be starting next week. August 11<sup>th</sup> he will be back in full force after those four weeks of vacation. He will be working with Opportunity Place and their committee that he sits on with regards to professional development and many other community interests he has.

He also wants to work with us to collect policies and get them on the website. Karen says she has many of those policies and will get with Rod to review and disseminate this information. He has also met with the Webmaster and wants to get a calendar program on the website. Professional time is a time off. He will be working with congregates in need as well. He will try to see his family but not sure of the coordination of this.

Reverend Rod discussed the possibility that we (the congregation, leaders, board and whoever may deem it appropriate and valuable) may not say "thank you" enough to everyone in the fellowship who volunteers for any activity or role. We need to be sure to be appreciative of all of these people as they are vital to the survival and success of the fellowship. THANK YOU..... and he followed up with some specifics not necessary to mention.

### **Committee Reports**

*Religious Services* – Amanda was not in attendance to report.

*Program Council* – Josh reported some new programs “out of the box” and other interested programs that we will all look forward to attending.

*Religious Exploration* – already reported – DRE Report

*Facilities* – Don, no new concerns mentioned from Committee Chair, Fred Boyer.

*Membership Committee* – Four new classes – for membership orientation. Ed reported for Shar Farley, the Committee Chairperson.

*Aesthetics* – Karen stated no new developments on this committee.

*Endowment Committee* – Don Hawkins (Committee liaison) reported \$41,000 current value of funds – consists of \$39,000 in investments and \$2,000 in cash, Endowment Treasurer is Sandy Fowler.

Committee wants to do a service to educate the congregation about the investments and the Endowment committee's role in them. UUA adopts a policy to provide Socially Responsible Investments – 100% of ours comply with this policy.

*Nominating Committee* – Micah has spoken with several congregants about interest in the open board position. He should have several choices for the board to vote on by the next meeting.

*Communications* – Beth reported that we are meeting in the next few days to move forward with the development of the committee and its established members and the transference of the webmaster's duties to Miriam Williams, who has agreed to take over as webmaster.

### **In Summary – Karen summarized**

Executive Committee will meet in the next week, time and place to be established. Food, Fun and Fellowship will be meeting with Playground Committee to establish needs and fundraising efforts for the completion of the playground and arbor. Policies are being gathered by Rod and Karen and posted on the UUFEC website and for permanent records retention in the fellowship office. RE is having a retreat Saturday at the fellowship at 2pm. Food, Fun and Fellowship needs is having a July 4<sup>th</sup> event at the fellowship with cold cuts and other treats and activities. Please get your tickets now to attend.

### **Closing**

Go out into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold on to what is good. Return to no person evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak. Help the suffering. Honor all beings. Thessalonians, adapted.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm and the next meeting will be July 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM in the board room.

Democratically submitted by Beth Reindl Madrigal, UUFEC Board Secretary.