

UUFEC Board Meeting Agenda

Monday, February 24, 2025, 6:30 PM

Deborah began the meeting at 6:31 pm

Amanda Piburn

Deborah Baker-Rian

Jane Park

Stephen Harris-Dixon

Melissa Winn

Judy Byrne-Riley

Ellen Holt

Opening Words & Check In

“Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.” – Robert Collier

Meeting Minutes from January 27, 2025 – approval needed

Ellen motioned, Steve seconds approving the minutes from last meeting. Approved.

Update from the President – what I have been doing

- Exit Interview with UUFEC DRE Sarah Searfoss (Need to meet soon with RE interim teachers & parents.) Deborah has been talking to parents and will continue to do so. Josh is considering applying, but has not done so yet.
- Helped plan & execute our UUFEC service January 26, “Many Hands Make Light Work”. Several volunteers stepped up during this service.
- Planned and held our Hawaiian Board Retreat for February 22, 2025.
- Still addressing concerns from members and Committee Chairs (one-on-one).
- Assisting the Ministerial Search and Finance Committees with administrative decisions.

Treasurer/Finance Committee Update – Judy Byrne Riley, chair, Finance Committee, Budget, and Pledge Drive 2025/Annual Canvassing reports

We are in very good shape. We have 2 CDs, one for \$42k, one for \$60k. The only account that still has not been moved to Synovus from FNB is savings until all checks have cleared. Pledge drive is in full swing. Goal is 125k, we are at 50k currently. Went out in the mail on Monday. Pledges must be anything that is signed by members. Annual meeting is 4/27/25. Nothing needed from the Board as of yet.

Kal moved to accept the financial report, Ellen seconds. Accepted.

Ministry – Jane Park, UUFEC Ministerial Search Committee update.

No major update. After conferring with Denny and Judy that we can support a 50% minister. We have not gotten much further than confirming that we are still open to talking to the candidate. Once the committee is ready to recommend a candidate, details will be made available. It’s a board decision whether to make an offer. We neglected to enumerate in the portal that this would be a split between us and Bay County, so that will need to be made clear.

The committee is preparing to draft a contract and solidify interview questions. Amanda has been conversing with the candidate and they are still excited about us. Reminder that we have agreed to pursue a minister with Bay County UU.

Religious Services – Amanda Piburn, requests from the RS Committee

- Board address RS recommendations in February report.
- Seating area for kids – RE people are not supervising kids in the RE area. There is some confusion around responsibility. Deborah posits that the children's seating area needs to be moved. There was a recent incident where a child was rude to a congregant, and it is still not resolved.
- We need to be very clear with parents that our expectations are that parents need to be with their kids and supervising them closely during services.
- Ellen says that we should remove the drawing area and put the pews back.
- Another meeting is needed to discuss this matter more in depth..
- Technology management is a little touch and go, and we have had some mishaps where PowerPoints aren't available until the last minute. We need a more formal committee and training process. There has not been follow-through with new volunteers.
- Recommendation is to set up a new committee on setting standards and procedures for services.
- Deborah will meet with Adam and Rose to identify technology needs.

Other Standing Committee Reports – Religious Exploration, Membership

RE - No info has been collected from RE yet. Deborah will talk to the committee about March.

Membership – He will deliver the updated membership list to the board after pledge drive. No digital lists will be given out when requested.

Steve put together the following procedure.

1. Anyone who needs a hardcopy of the membership list should contact Alyssa to have it printed and then pick it up from the office.
2. Anyone who wants to contact a member can email me and leave their information. I will pass the information on and have the other member contact them.
3. I'll create a database detailing who reached out for information and when they reached out and such. Everything will be logged.

Old Business

- Help update UUFE Membership List -- Chair & Board members
 - Deborah will send May 2024 list for review. It has ostensibly been updated as of January, but we will have a definitive list in April.
- UUA General Assembly, June 18-22, 2025, Baltimore, MD
 - More info to come in March.

New Business

- Discuss action items from our Board Retreat Feb. 22nd –
 - tracking cash donations towards pledge--cash slips or envelopes
 - Ideas:
 - Announce that if anyone needs an envelope/pen to let the ushers know.
 - Place envelopes and pens at the table behind the pews by the front door.

- Deborah will check on printing and having envelopes ready.
- email to congregation to counteract financial and other phishing scams (print in OOS each week)
 - when there's an incident, we can reaffirm that no one will reach out to them through an announcement during the service
 - continue to print it in the OOS
- email to congregation concerning access to UUFEC Membership List. – already covered above.
- Discuss Policy for protecting immigrants in UUFEC services?
 - The part of the executive order revoking religious sanctuary has been struck down by a judge. UUA has made a statement about
- New RE Director application/advertisement?
 - A person emailed from Stone Mountain GA seeing that we were seeking an RE teacher and was upset by some statements that were made when they visited last weekend.
 - Deborah believes that we all need to be reminded that we came from all different places and it's not ok to disparage an entire faith to other members at UU services or events.
 - Melissa says that we should give people a heads up before services where there will be a service that is centered on bible teachings so they are not surprised.
 - Melissa would like to give a speech on supremacy culture during a service.
 - Deborah would like to incorporate UU origin stories into this service.
 - This service should be soon.
- Discuss Rev. Willie Farrow's proposal for interaction with our online community?
 - Will revisit this next month because we need to hear from Amanda.
- No Reservations program – UCC Asst Pastor Ivy Lake Light has introduced Kal and Stephen to the No Reservations program and we have a plan to meet with the Reverend Harold Marrero, who runs the program. They are excited about the possibility of incorporating this into the fabric of our congregational offerings.

Next UUFEC Board meeting

- Monday, March 24, 6:30 PM, UUFEC
- **Meeting adjourned 7:52 pm by Deborah Baker-Rian**