NATURE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS, INC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

12 NOVEMBER 2018

Members Present: Joe Verdi (President), Sheila Woods (Vice-President), Rob DeRemer (director), Nancy Pettus (Director), Ellen Saunders (Director), Bree Hill (director), Gordon Dinmore (director), Linda Myers (director)

Guests: Judith Englert, Sandy Sondheim, Connie Hart, Gordon Hart, Pam Ricker

The meeting was called to order at 2:04. A quorum is present.

The President, Joe Verdi, read a letter from Bill Howat who is resigning from NCUU. (attached)

I. Additions to Agenda

1. Thanksgiving Meal

2. Instruction on new copiers

3. Interfaith meeting at Beth Shalom

II. Minutes of Previous Meeting

1. No corrections were made, so the Minutes stand as distributed.

III. Sunday Service Welcome and Announcements

IV. NCUU Covenant of the Board of Directors

1. Board members took turns reading a section of the Covenant.

IV. Reports

1. President’s Message

The first meeting of the Book Club was successful with 19 people attending. The book discussed was Fear, by Bob Woodward. The second book will be The New Jim Crow by Michelle Anderson and Cornel West. The second meeting will be held 12 January at 3pm.

2. Treasurer’s Report

Rob DeRemer reported that the document has been sent, and there were no questions. We are half-way through the fiscal year and we are right on target. We are short $241 to pay our Fair Share to UUA. We had budgeted the correct amount based on the percentage of our operating budget that UUA had given us in the past, but they upped the percentage, so we were short.

**MOTION by Linda Myers, second by Sheila Woods that we take $241 from the Sunday Service Committee to pay our Fair Share to UUA.** Passed unanimously.

3. Committee Reports

Committee reports have been distributed, including the report from the Council of Committee.

V. Unfinished Business

1. Fall Concert

Ticket sales so far: Friday - 54 , Saturday – 52. We can sell up to 100 tickets for each performance. Expenses are minimal - $300 for the drummer, $75 for one-time ad in the Riverland News. We had a free public service announcement from WUFT, and Ed Youngblood wrote an article for the Citrus County Chronicle. Connie Hart said that the Citrus Springs Villager article about NCUU mentioned the concert.

Coffee and water will be available for purchase, and Joe Verdi will clean and recycle the styrofoam cups. Profit should be more than $1000, and having our name out there is priceless. It is important that the concert committee evaluate the event to see if we want to do this again.

2. More P&P

Sheila Woods will send a digital copy of the revised changes with changes in darker print. We still need to change sections that are outdated, but other changes are done. Board members and committee chairs must look at it.

3. Fair Share Resolution

See the Treasurer’s Report above.

4. Hymnals

Nancy Pettus and Pam Ricker examined all the hymnals. They found 22 damaged and at least 8 that need to be replaced and we probably should order a few more new copies. Hymnals are available from UUA and from Amazon, or we could have the damaged book rebound. D&B Bookbinders in Brooksville could do this. They would need to trim ¼” from each side, so the books would be slightly smaller than the others. it would take 2 weeks.

Cost: New from UUA - $34 each x 36 = $1080 + $60 shipping

Amazon (new not available) used $24-$40 each, condition unknown

D&B Bookbinders (Brooksville) $16/book = $480 for 30 books

We would need to replace the plates in the front of some hymnals. We need additional hymnals, so we could buy these first and then take the old ones for rebinding. We could ask members to sponsor a book to help with the cost. Nancy Pettus has experience with rebound books, and they hold up very well.

Bree Hill pointed out that hymnals are damaged when they fall out of the chairs, so we could hand out books every week and collect them after the service. In the past the books were kept in the bookcase that now is where the Joys and Concerns book is placed.

Music from the concert could pay for new books, or we could have a Hymn Book Fund.

VI. New Business

1. Sling TV/YouTube

Nancy Pettus asked to have Andy Arevalo from Al’s TV give a description about Sling TV/YouTube. We could post our Sunday Service on YouTube, and this could help recruit new members.

Any camera, even an iPhone, could be used to record events, such as our Sunday Service, that could be live-streamed and posted on YouTube or Facebook. We could use a tablet to add messages, not just at the time material was recorded. These could be available on YouTube, Facebook, or on the Dish Community Network which is available to anyone who has Dish TV. Sling TV is free. The software would cost about $1000 plus the cost of a camera (about $200 if we didn’t want to use an iPhone), tripod, and a tablet ($300). Someone at NCUU would be an administrator, but Andy can help set up the YouTube channel.

Nancy Pettus urges that we do something like this to make our Services more accessible.

2. Screened Lanai

Joe Verdi presented a proposal from Blackshears Aluminum for a covered lanai. The cost would be about $10,000, and they want 1/3 prior, but the rest could be paid with a credit card. There was considerable discussion. We could have an open meeting of the congregation to get ideas, and we would need 2 more estimates.

**MOTION by Bree Hill, second by Sheila Woods that we make an announcement about a meeting to discuss having a screened patio before asking for a show of interest from the congregation.** Motion passed with5 in favor, 3 opposed.

3. Allotted Time for Agenda Items

Anyone adding something to the Agenda for this meeting is also expected to provide an estimated time for discussion. This is not being done, so the Clerk is providing a time, but asks that the person placing the item on the Agenda do this.

4. Thanksgiving Meal

John Comer is coordinating the arrangements, and Matt Ciszewski will help with set-up.

5. Interfaith Service

The service will be held Thursday, 15 November, at 7pm at Beth Shalom Synagog in Beverly Hills. Linda Myers is interested in expanding our interfaith relationships and urges people to go.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Letter from Bill Howat, 13 November 2018

Dear Ones

For quite some time now the level of fulfillment I get at the fellowship has been diminishing, as the tone and feel has changed. By my observations there has been a gradual loss of respect for the sanctuary. Many of us are not being seated and quiet before opening words, we talk through the service, and are not being present in the service. We bicker, interrupt each other, gossip and talk politics. Political discussion has no place in a UU fellowship. Initially these things were minor but over many months it increased to the level where I became involved in some of those behaviors myself. I am so ashamed.

I have been losing my “Zen” in bits and pieces, I had no idea how much had been lost until I found myself yelling. I have not had a full-on yell for over 7 years. I have raised my voice and argued. This is not who I am. I am ashamed.

The events of last weekend spoke deeply to me and had a profound effect. The feel of love and peace has been diminished. 3 words; Anger, fear and hate are spoken too freely at our fellowship.  Mostly, but not exclusively, in the political arena. I am not attempting to mend this, I will not fight, they have chosen their path.  Who am I to blow against the wind. I was planning to transition out gradually, but I no longer see the point. I have done what I can, one cannot pour from an empty cup, and my cup has been drained.

Love and blessings to those wonderful members whom through their peace, compassion and love have tried to keep my cup full. I am so sorry for leaving it is a matter of spiritual health. It is time for me to move on and a clean break is best

May all be well

See you next time

Bill