

**NATURE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS, INC.**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

MINUTES  
July 12, 2021

**Attendees:**

**In Person:** Bree Hill

**Zoom:** Shirley Leonard, Connie Hart, Amy Haiken, John Ivens, John Comer, Margo Wilson

**Visitors Via Zoom:** Jean McCauley, Pam Ricker

**I. NCUU Covenant.** John read the covenant. All agreed to abide by it.

**II. Approval of the Minutes of June 14, 2021**

Amy and Bree moved the minutes be approved. John Ivens seconded. The minutes were approved.

**IV. Treasurer's Report.** Jean said the Membership Committee spent some money to print the NCUU brochure for the Juneteenth celebration. We had to pay extra money for the Sunday Service Committee last month because Dennis Woolridge spoke twice last year and because of the pandemic, he couldn't get to the bank in time. When he finally got to the bank, the bank wouldn't accept one of his checks. He's returning the check and we'll issue another. We also got a bill from the UUA bookstore for books that Joe Darling ordered. And there was a bill for the UUA annual fund.

There were no other unusual operating expenses in June. Jean was able to get connected to the Spectrum online account. The bill went up from \$133 a month to \$143 a month because the amount charged for Internet service went up. We collected \$110 for Citrus Blessings. We received a thank you letter from the Dementia Education group, to which we previously had donated our Share the Plate funds.

The Finance Committee recommended taking about \$100,000 from the savings account, which has about \$200,000 now, and investing the \$100,000 in four CDs of \$25,000 each. One CD would come due at six, 12, 18, and 24 months, respectively. The committee suggested Ally Internet Bank, Suncoast Credit Union, and Brannen Bank. Jean reported that former treasurer Rob DeRemer said when he had checked on CD rates, Brannen Bank, which is NCUU's bank, said it would match the rates of other banks.

John said the rate at Suncoast Coastal is slightly higher for the 18-month CD, but he would recommend staying with Brannen Bank because of convenience. John Ivens moved that we transfer \$100,000 from our savings at Brannen Bank into four Brannen \$25,000 CDs that would mature at different times. Connie asked if we would be locking into a low rate with the 24-month CD. John C. reminded everyone that a CD would be renewed every six months, so if the rate went up, we could take advantage of that. John

- C. also reminded everyone that over \$100,000 would remain in the savings that would be open to future investment plans.

John Ivens asked for clarification of why we would choose Brannen Bank for the CDs. John Comer said part of the reason is because we already have a relationship with them. Connie said it's more convenient to have a local bank rather than an online bank because NCUU changes officers rather quickly and it might be difficult to change the names of the top people who have access to the account with an online bank.

Margo said she's worked with the Brannen people and they've been accommodating. She asked if it might be wise to talk with a Brannen representative first and see if they will match the other rates before taking a vote. Shirley moved that NCUU ask Brannen if it will match the other rates and then bring the information to the board and vote on it at the next meeting. Margo seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Jean said she would inquire if Brannen would match the rates and said she'd also ask them what the need in terms of a letter or other documents to transfer the funds. Jean also said the latest information she had was from 2020, so the rates may have changed. Connie said it is important to know the current rate. John asked Jean if she also would check the rate for savings accounts with different banks.

- V. **President's Report.** John said he was going to combine the president's report and the Building Committee report. He said Matthew had spoken with the contractor. The contractor told him the new door won't be ready until November or December because of the shortage of lumber, the price of the lumber, and because nobody in a 50-mile radius could get the door together. John asked what the board wants to do about reopening the church if the board decides to wait until the end of the year to get the door. He said he had received emails over the weekend from people saying that enough is enough and the board should decide to reopen the church.

Amy asked if the contractor is "on the up and up." John said he is. The first time the door arrived, it wasn't satisfactory, and that wasn't the contractor's fault. This time, the contractor ordered the door to swing the wrong way. Now there aren't enough doors to order and none can get here quickly. John said he'd like to keep Aug. 15 as the official opening date.

John Ivens asked where is the door that swings the wrong way? John Comer said he didn't know but would ask Matt.

Bree, who was at the sanctuary, carried the laptop to the window. The window has been removed and covered but the opening has not been enlarged yet to accommodate a door. John Ivens asked if the church could open as is, with the window covered up. John C. said it could. Bree said the musty smell would have to be eliminated.

Margo said it would be a good idea for the board or a group to meet with the contractor and ask him what he can do to solve the problem temporarily and in the long run so we

can open the church in August. She said it's not really possible to decide what to do until we talk with the contractor. Bree said she was watching the UAA General Session from the church but had to go elsewhere because the musty smell was so strong.

John C. brought Matt in. Matt said the contractors in this area mostly order from one supplier and there are supply issues. Matt said he suspects that building supplies are going to homebuilders first. Matt said the contractor told him a semi with the door we need wouldn't come in until December. Matt said the contractor tried three of the other area manufacturers and all of them told him the same thing. Matt said we have two options: Wait until December – which might turn into January – to get the door we want, or accept the door that opens the wrong way and has a finish we didn't want.

Connie asked if the contractor still has the wrong door. Matt said he did. The supplier won't take the door back and the contractor will have to pay out of his own pocket the \$450 for the door. Connie asked when the contractor could start the work if we told him to install the wrong door. Matt said the contractor could start as soon as possible, depending on his schedule. Amy asked if the wrong door could be temporary until the correct door arrives. Matt said No. Matt said the opening also could be covered up better so it looks more presentable.

Connie moved that the wrong-swinging door be installed so the church can open with a safety door already installed. Matt said he's 50-50 on the issue. Matt said it's been a losing situation since we started the project. First, we couldn't find anyone to do the project. Then, the current contractor has had nothing but issues since he started. John Ivens said he seconded Connie's motion. Amy asked Matthew if the door could be painted the proper color, at least. Matt said the door could be painted. Amy asked if the contractor would paint the door or if we would paint the door. Matt said the existing door also is nicked and needs to be repainted, so we should probably paint both doors ourselves.

Margo asked Matt if we could just seal up the opening, clean the air, reopen, and wait for the correct door. Matt said that is an option. Bree said the opening doesn't look that bad right now. It could be made to look presentable, and the church could reopen in August.

Connie asked about the poor quality of the air. Bree said the doors rarely open and the church doesn't air out. Matt said he had changed the air conditioning filters. He said the smell is not mold because the air system is set up to remove mold. Bree said the smell could be in the upholstery of the chairs and said the smell is not just stale air.

Connie said she's worried there's no guarantee the contractor will be able to install the door in December. John Ivens called the question. John C asked if there was any more discussion.

Margo asked if we could ask the contractor if he would guarantee that if we waited until December, he would still install the door. Matt said the contractor is sorry the door

installation has gone the way it has and is eager to install the door as soon as possible. The contractor has been in business for a while and there's no reason to distrust he won't install the door in December, except for the fact that he's a single contractor, and also, he, like anyone, could die at any time.

Matt said he probably is 51% in favor of waiting till December and 49% in favor of installing the door now. Matt said with the door swinging the wrong way, it will be a little more difficult getting people out of the building than it would be with a door that swings the correct way. If NCUU ever wanted to sell the building, the wrong-swinging door might affect the price of the building.

The vote was 4-3, with John C, Connie, Shirley, and John I voting to accept the wrong-swinging door, and Bree, Amy, and Margo voting against the motion.

Bree said she's concerned that if there were a fire, the wrong-swinging door would channel people toward the patio. But the patio is near the kitchen, which is where a fire most likely would break out. Matt said people most likely would escape from the patio door as well, and those people would run up against those people fleeing from the safety door and moving toward the patio.

Connie said if that's the case, we could explain the situation to people and have a fire drill, as well as a big arrow telling people which way to go. Margo asked if there is a fire code that we would be in violation of if the door opens the wrong way. Matt said No. John Ivens said a fire could start from a candle in the front. John C said everyone would then run to the back.

Pam asked if we've seen the door. Matt said he has, and it looks fine. It has a blind in the window and a slight wood-grain texture. It is not white and is vinyl. John said Bree should start getting any plants moved to accommodate people leaving the wrong-swinging door. Bree said she would have to cut through some bushes. John said he'd be available weekends to help. Bree said she's attended safety seminars with UUA, and they said that despite signage, people will seek the easiest way out during an emergency. That was the reason for having the door swing the other way. Thus, with the wrong-swinging door, there needs to be an opening through the existing hedge. Bree said she will have to plant something on the other side of the door, so that people can only go one way.

John said Matt just phoned the contractor and the contractor said he can start the work the week following this board meeting. John said cleaners will be contacted to clean once the door work is done. The cleaners will clean the chairs and carpet, as well as other areas. Bree asked if the cleaners could take an air sample to find out what is causing the odor. She said it's the board's responsibility to protect the congregation from the air.

Connie said the air was sampled about three years ago. She said the air should be sampled before the chairs are washed. Bree said the air problem could be related to mold

and/or an issue with the carpet. When the carpet was installed, there was a formaldehyde issue. Bree said she couldn't go to church for three months. John said Matt will call the company that did the last air sample. Pam said the evacuation plan will have to be updated.

## **VI. Standing Committee Reports**

Building (Matthew Ciszewski, John, or Connie). The report was combined with the President's report, above.

Bylaws (Amy Haiken) No report submitted.

Caring (Connie Hart) Connie said Maralyn Boysen told her that Carole Baker is in Citrus Health and Rehab.

Council of Committees (Connie Hart) Connie encouraged committee chairs to get prepared for the church's opening.

Denominational Affairs (Bree Hill) John said he went to the cluster meeting. The people there are trying to think of something the member UU churches could do together, like a picnic.

Finance (Shirley Leonard) Shirley said the information was covered in the treasurer's report.

Grounds (Bree Hill) Bree said Sandy Sondheim is happy to lend the church his pressure washer to help clean the building before reopening.

Long Range Planning (Bob Madeiros) No report submitted.

Media & Technology (Amy Haiken, Gordon Hart) Amy said the group will be more active after the door is installed and the air taken care of. She said Mike will be retiring soon and that could affect when the committee is able to test the equipment at the church prior to reopening.

Membership (Holly Alexander) Connie said some new people have contacted NCUU by email and a new person is coming to Connect With Conversation.

Religious Education (No Chair)

Social Activities (John Comer & Pam Ricker) John said once the door is in, he, Pam, and Matt will discuss whether to have a welcome-back celebration the first Sunday or a week after that. Connie asked if we could dedicate Joan Burnett's portrait at the same time. John said Yes. Pam said we will need for people to tell whether they plan to attend the event since it will be catered. John said he will help handle the situation and said the committee will meet soon after the door and air are taken care of.

Amy said she recommends having a powerful speaker the first Sunday we reopen. Pam said all the people in August also could be Zoom people. The woman speaking on Aug. 15 is a singer, and if she could appear in person, it would be more powerful than if she were on Zoom. Pam said all the speakers are scheduled for August. She said she could ask the singer to tailor her program to be a welcome-back presentation, but everything is up in the air at this time, depending upon when the church reopens.

John said Aug. 15 is a tentative reopening date and we still have to tackle the air issue. He said he doesn't think it matters that the woman is a singer or if it's someone who is a puppeteer or a mime. People just are ready to come back. John said if people could see the email he's been receiving about opening the church, they'd understand how eager people are to return. He said we need to get the door in, check the air, get the sanctuary really clean, and get the technology ready to offer a hybrid service,

Social Justice (Don Wright/Tom Hibberd) John said he's glad there was NCUU representation at the Juneteenth event in Ocala.

Sunday Service (Pam Ricker) Pam said she didn't need to add anything to the report she had submitted.

## VII. Old Business

- A. John said there is no old business.

## VIII. Unfinished Business

- A. John said the matter of contacting the cleaning people had been addressed.
- B. John said on the matter of calling the piano tuner, we might as well wait until the door is in and the air checked.
- C. John said the Welcome Back/Dedication Party already had been addressed.

## IX. New Business

- A. Jean said the Share the Plate for July is the Life Story Club and that the Share the Plate for September may be Equality Florida. Bree said we could publicize the Equality Florida speaker and that might help attract LGBT people from the tri-county area.
- B. John told Bree if she encounters expenses removing the shrubs so there is access from the new door, to let him know. Bree said the problem will be digging up the roots. John said members of the congregation could be notified when Bree gets ready to cut through the greenery and probably, others will help.

Amy moved and Connie seconded to adjourn. The motion passed.

The next board meeting is Monday, Aug. 9, at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom (unless otherwise notified).

The next board meeting is July 12 at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom.