

NATURE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES
June 14, 2021

Attendees:

In Person: Bree Hill

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

Visitors Via Zoom: Jean McCauley

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

II. Additions to the Agenda. John Comer said the new door has been received but instead of having a smooth finish, it has a wood grain finish. We would have to paint it white. It also is designed to open the opposite way than expected. John wanted to know if this would be a deal-breaker.

Bree said we've gone for years wanting to get the door, and she said she felt that if we're going to have a new door, then the project should be done right. Amy said she'd go along with whatever Bree says. Connie asked John how long it would take to get the other door. John said he wasn't sure. Connie said she thought Matt said it would be another 4-6 weeks. Connie asked how a delay might affect the start of the hybrid services. Amy said the hybrid services won't start until the door is in place and the sanctuary is cleaned.

Shirley asked when the sanctuary might open with the delay. John said it might be Aug. 8 or 15. Connie said this is the second door delivered. John said the first door mistakenly was delivered by the trucking concern. This time, the error was the contractor's.

Don said at the Council of Committee's meeting on June 12, someone proposed using the door, that opens to the left, but extend the concrete slab, so it goes around the door, and thus, people won't run into it. Bree said she thinks if a fire broke out in the kitchen or there was a shooting situation, people fleeing the building would have a better chance if the door opened the correct way. Connie said she's concerned about the time it already has taken this contractor and wondered how much additional time it would take. She said when she calls members, everyone asks, "When are we going to open? When are we going to open?" Connie also said that Holly pointed out at the Council of Committee's meeting that the longer the church is closed, the longer it will take to get new members.

Margo said it might be worth waiting a couple weeks to get the right door and, in the meantime, we might try evening services outside or some alternative to get people in the mode of returning.

John said Covid is still real, and Citrus County has less than 50% of the population vaccinated. John said he thinks some members of the population just don't understand what the board is trying to do by getting a functional door and protecting members from Covid. John said he'd put the matter to a vote. John Ivens moved to use the door that's on hand. He said he made the motion simply to move the process forward. He asked what the time difference would be in accepting the door that opens the wrong way and a door that would open as expected. Amy and others said it seemed there would be a one-to-two week delay in opening the church with the proper door. Shirley asked if it might take longer than two weeks to get the proper door.

Connie said that after the door is installed, the slab still has to be installed and asked if that would delay the opening further. Bree pointed out the new door is just an emergency door and people could get out in an emergency, regardless of the condition of the slab. The existing main door still will be functional.

John Ivens said it is mid-June and if we used the door that opens the wrong way, it would seem the building could open sooner. John Comer said the board already has agreed upon an opening date for the church of Aug. 1.

Connie asked if the board had voted on opening Aug. 1. Margo said the board did not vote on the date, but after John proposed Aug. 1 as the date, the board seemed to concur and the idea became the board consensus. She proposed that perhaps some alternative, like an outdoor service, might serve as a way to transition people back into returning. John Comer asked what would happen if people had to use the restroom. Bree said she didn't see a problem with making the facilities available if people used masks.

Connie said the Council of Committees recommended the building be available for small meetings. She asked if Matt had a date for how long it would take to get the proper door. John said it should take four-to-six weeks. John Ivens' motion was then called for a vote. Margo and Amy seconded. The motion is to keep the door that opens improperly and keep the Aug. 1 opening date. The motion was defeated, 3-5.

John said he'd have Matt get in touch with the contractor to order the proper door. John set the date for the church opening as Aug. 8.

Shirley asked if the board needed to move to open the church when the door we want arrives. Margo made the motion and Amy seconded. The motion passed, 7-1. John said that's not to say we couldn't try some kind of gathering earlier if it were outside. Jean asked if that means the Sunday speakers won't be inside until Aug. 8. John said that's correct.

III. Approval of the Minutes of May 10, 2021

Amy said the minutes should state the fee for Zoom will be \$120 per year, up from \$110 this past year. The minutes inaccurately state the fee is \$120 per month. Connie said in the third paragraph, the minutes should say Lowell has been appointed to fill out Pam's

“term,” not “turn.” Connie moved and Amy, Shirley, and Bree seconded that the minutes be approved as corrected. The motion passed.

- IV. Treasurer's Report.** Jean said about the Budget Variance Report that there wasn't anything unusual in the discretionary expenses or operating expenses for May. The insurance went up a little bit. The phone bill also went up \$10, and when Jean called about it, she needed an account number and secret code. If she calls from the church, Spectrum (the phone company) can call back and verify the account. She said there was \$5,335 in prepaid pledges, and we received an additional \$2,194 for May. A member who didn't pledge also sent a donation. A check for \$175 will be sent to Dementia Education from Share the Plate. Jean received an amended insurance document that removes the mortgage holder's name from the document. She submitted a proposed revision of the charter of accounts to the Finance Committee and the committee thought the changes looked OK, so she will revise the charter of accounts.

John Ivens asked how long it would take to liquidate CDs. Jean said she is looking at rates for six, 12, 18, and 24 months. The committee's thought was to put \$25,000 in each one, but nothing has been voted upon yet. Jean also said UUA had sent a form asking for us to pledge some money to them but haven't sent us the bill yet. John and Amy moved to accept the BVR. Shirley and Bree seconded. The motion passed.

- V. President's Report.** John said most everything was covered with the discussion of the door.

VI. Standing Committee Reports

Building (Matthew Ciszewski, John, or Connie). John said Matt had alerted the air conditioning people after Connie mentioned the air conditioning was quirky. Connie said NCUU is waiting to get a solar bid and Matt will be meeting with the appropriate people.

Bylaws (Amy Haiken) Amy said the committee will meet and bring up its concerns the following month.

Caring (Connie Hart) Connie said in addition to what was in the submitted Caring report, Dave Koveleski had knee surgery and would probably appreciate calls.

Council of Committees (Connie Hart) The Council of Committees discussed maybe having a fundraising drive for the door. The committee came up with recommendations for attending a meeting, including that members should be fully vaccinated to attend a meeting. We should determine that the air flow and air conditioning is maximized for attending a meeting. There also was a request to purchase external mics for hybrid Zoom meetings so that everyone can hear. Committees should decide among themselves how they want to meet: all in person, hybrid, or all Zoom. This would probably open up the building for the Meditation Group, at least in the lobby. Some other UU congregations are open for meetings and some discussion groups.

John said the last time he attended the Sunday Service Committee, they said they liked Zoom. He said committees also don't have to meet at the church but could meet at a coffee shop, restaurant, house, or park – wherever the members feel comfortable

Denominational Affairs (Bree Hill) John said he is actively trying to get NCUU in an interfaith cluster. Bree reminded the board that the UUA General Assembly is the following week. Bree said she'd be interested in seminars about what other UU congregations are doing about opening. Bree said we are not going to be later than many UU congregations in reopening. One congregation that is reopening in August will be taking reservations and limiting the number of people who will be able to attend. Another congregation has an outside pavilion and is working on how to livestream services from outside. A lot of UU congregations are acting at the same pace as we are. We're not an outlier in getting back in our building.

Connie and Bree emphasized there needs to be adequate air exchange when the congregation moves back in the building. Connie said she had sent everyone a copy of UUA guidelines for reopening.

Finance (Shirley Leonard) Shirley said Jean had covered the information from the Finance Committee and praised her for her work doing both the minutes and the treasurer's report.

Grounds (Bree Hill) Bree said as soon as the door comes in, she'll start the process of laying the pathway. She said before the building opens, the sidewalk will need to be pressure-washed. She suggested she might be able to borrow Sandy and Monique's and said she'd talk to them. Shirley said she also has a pressure washer.

Long Range Planning (Bob Madeiros) No report.

Media & Technology (Amy Haiken, Gordon Hart) Amy said the committee is in a holding pattern until the door arrives.

Membership (Holly Alexander) John asked Margo if she is familiar with 95.3 Citrus radio station, WXCW-FM, based in Lecanto, and said we could get free publicity as a nonprofit group. Bree suggested WUFT-FM and WJUF-FM as other places where nonprofits can get their events mentioned. John suggested the Membership and Media and Technology committees should work together to get radio coverage. Connie mentioned that we need to send out membership directories at least twice a year to those who don't use computers.

Religious Education (No Chair)

Social Activities (John Comer & Pam Ricker) John said the activities will wait until the building reopens. Then, the church will host a catered event, something like an open house. Connie suggested a sunset cruise, or a picnic at Rainbow Springs might be a good idea and said Margo had proposed an evening service. John said once we know the opening date, a couple weeks to a month prior, and maybe during the week, we can start having some

activities so people will get in the habit of being together. Don said several years ago, NCUU held a picnic at Manatee Springs, and there was a good turnout.

Social Justice (Don Wright/Tom Hibberd) Don said the committee wants to bring back the Kitchen Table series. But instead of just having lectures, maybe have an open forum on various topics. The committee might work with Membership to promote this, and those attending might be given snacks, even beer or wine.

John said he's been proactive with NCUU's Facebook page. There are 340 people who like the page and 350 people who follow NCUU. He said he's been including information from UUA, and UUA is very social justice-oriented. For example, when the library did a PRIDE event, John posted the information and believes people have become interested in the page because of the information on it.

Connie said Linda Myers is heading a table at the Juneteenth celebration in Ocala.

Sunday Service (Pam Ricker) Jean said most everything was covered in the report submitted. Bree said she will be taking care of the message board, but there is a need for a backup person. Bree said she also takes Sunday attendance.

Jean asked if any progress is being made on putting the Zoom link out to the public. Amy said she thought we weren't going to put the Zoom link out to the public. Margo said she has been sending the video link of the Sunday service to both Amy, to put on the website, and to John, to put on the Facebook page. People can see the service after the fact on these pages.

VII. Old Business

- A. John said there is no old business.

VIII. Unfinished Business

The agenda had called for discussion of the UUA recommendation for opening procedures for small groups, as well as discussion about opening the church for the Sunday service. John said he thought the issues had been dealt with previously.

IX. New Business

Jean said that for Share the Plate, UUA was recommending that money be sent to protestors of such groups as those who marched in the George Floyd rallies, were jailed, and need help with bail. Amy suggested money be given to an organization affiliated with Juneteenth.

John said he understood Linda Myers was going to have a donation jar at the Juneteenth booth to turn over to the Juneteenth Coalition. Jean said someone is coming

from Lifestory on July 25, and the Sunday Service Committee is recommending that group be the Share the Plate group for July.

Connie suggested the Share the Plate funds go to a food bank for June. Bree said the Annie Johnson food bank might be the best bet since it services people in both Citrus and Marion counties. Connie said we tried to do something with them before, and they didn't want to do anything with us. She said they thought NCUU was not Christian enough. The board decided the June Share-the-Plate group would be Citrus County Blessings. Shirley moved to adjourn. Amy seconded.

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