

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

MINUTES  
Jan. 10, 2022

**Attendees:**

**In Person:** Bree Hill

**Zoom:** Connie Hart, Amy Haiken, Margo Wilson, John Ivens, Shirley Leonard, Don Wright,  
Lowell Smith

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

**I. NCUU Covenant.** Connie called the meeting to order and read the covenant.

**II. Approval of the Minutes of the Dec. 13, 2021, Board Meeting**

Amy moved and Bree seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion passed.

**III. Clerk's Report.** The church has received notification from UUA that it must fill out some electronic forms about the number of members, finances, etc. Connie said she, Holly, and Wanda will work on the "Congressional directory" part of the form. The financial part has to done by Shirley and Jean. Connie said the membership certification part of the form will be worked on by Holly and her, and Jean will help at the next Membership Committee meeting, which is Jan. 19. Connie said she would do the diversity part. Bree said the average attendance is 32. Connie explained that UUA requires congregations to update its website, telling how many people are members and accounting for those who joined or left. She said the certification is done each year, and it helps us to attend certain meetings for free and other things. Margo and Bree said the material that originally was sent to Margo has to be filled out online.

**IV. Treasurer's Report.**

Jean said December was a busy month. We opened. The door got painted. More Media and Technology supplies were purchased. The piano got tuned. We're also paying mileage for speakers. Under Operating Expenses, we had more Housekeeping expenses because the chairs were cleaned. The cleaners are coming twice a month, instead of once a month. Gordon mentioned in an email that the Internet phone WIFI is going to go up. It's \$143 at the moment but will go up in a month to \$280. We did well with pledges and donations and some money is coming in from collections at Sunday services. We've collected \$345. For the December Share the Plate, we collected \$720. Jean rechecked, and we did get just one check for November's Share the Plate.

Our CDs are slowly growing. Since we opened them, we've earned \$106. Jean said some budgeted items may run out of money. The insurance is more than expected and the amount of funds needed for mowing also has increased. But most of the other budget items are doing well. Shirley moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Amy and Margo seconded. The motion passed.,

**V. President's Report.** Connie said she expects everyone heard that John's father passed

away. Amy said his mother broke her ankle and had to go to the hospital.

**VI. Vice President's Report.** Connie said she wanted to find out how others feel about keeping the church open. She said that even though one visitor tested positive, we are getting some friends and visitors to check us out. Pam said she wasn't sure if the speaker for Jan. 16, Bishop Al Hopkins, would appear on Zoom, but the speaker for Jan. 23, the Rev. Brock Leach, would do the service on Zoom. Gordon said the CDC now is saying the Omicron variant should peak in January. Pam said that for February, the Feb. 6 speaker will do it on Zoom. The speaker on the 13<sup>th</sup> is local and on the 20<sup>th</sup> is local. The speaker on the 27<sup>th</sup> is on Zoom.

Amy said she thought people who are involved in producing the service, like Gordy and Sally, should have a say in whether the building stays open or not. Lowell said that with this variant, we are more likely to have problems, and he would be in favor of shutting down for a month or so. However, he said he felt we've done a good job keeping people separate when they are in the building and the crowd is not large. Because of the way NCUU is handling the situation, he thus supports staying open. Shirley said she favors staying open. Gordy said he favors staying open. The doors are open and there's cross ventilation. Everyone is masked and socially distanced. He said he's back in the corner and doesn't feel particularly threatened. He said he feels more threatened by just going about his daily activities, like going to the chiropractor or getting gas.

Don said he agrees. His caveat would be that people should keep their masks on when they go to the patio. He said his daughter got COVID, even though she's had three shots. Hers is a mild case, but even vaccinated people can get the disease. Bree said she has upgraded her mask, and others might want to do the same. The spacing Bree set up seems to work well. She said she agrees people should stay masked on the patio. Some have been unmasked on the patio and then have come in and have forgotten to put on their masks. Another thought would be to not have the coffee and food. Gordon said perhaps the coffee and food could be taken outside.

Connie said she wasn't sure if there needed to be a motion to stay open. Lowell said he thought the matter might be agreed upon by consensus. John Ivens said he didn't want his personal concerns about COVID to constrain others. Gordon said there might need to be a motion about moving the refreshments outside, and/or doing away with refreshments, and requiring masks outside. Lowell moved that refreshments be served outside and that masks be left on inside and outside. Shirley seconded. Jean asked what would happen if it were cold or raining outside. Connie said maybe if it were raining, the church doors could be left open, and people could socially distance in the sanctuary. The board voted to require people to keep masks on inside and outside and to serve refreshments outside.

## **VII. Standing Committees**

**A. Building Committee.** No Building Committee report was submitted. Connie said the doors were painted. Gordon put doorstops on all the doors except one.

- B. Bylaws Committee.** No report submitted.
- C. Caring.** Connie said she's still looking for someone to help her with Caring. She said she wasn't able to find Ginny Fitzgerald's obituary in the Chronicle. Shirley said it had run but was under Ginny's maiden name. (Note: It ran in the Dec. 23, 2021, edition of the Chronicle. One way to see it is to look on [chronicleonline.com](http://chronicleonline.com) and in the search box, type "e-edition." Then look for the Dec. 23 edition. It's on page A6 and is under "Virginia 'Ginny' Hausmann.")
- D. Council of Committees.** The next meeting is Feb. 6, 2022, at 12:30 p.m. on Zoom.
- E. Denominational Affairs.** Bree said a meeting is planned for Jan. 14 and more should be learned about whether other congregations are closing again or staying open.
- F. Finance Committee.** Shirley said the Finance Committee met Jan. 8 and is starting to focus on the pledge drive and the budgeting process for the coming year. The committee will be contacting committee chairs about their budget requests for the next year. Envelopes for the pledge drive will be available at the church at the Jan. 23 service. She said those who don't pick up the forms will be mailed a letter and pledge form. It is hoped all pledges will be returned by Feb. 20, 2022, so the committee can use the pledge information in planning the budget. Connie asked if the Finance Committee will have a pledge goal. Shirley said that starting Jan. 23, a Finance Committee member will address the congregation during the Sunday service. Shirley also said that new member Woody Harding has joined the Finance Committee. Amy volunteered to create a video to help garner pledge support.
- G. Grounds:** Bree said two posts on the patio that support the sails should be better anchored. Other than that, the grounds just need to continue to be maintained. She said in spring, some of the plants on the front side of the church, which are dormant now, may need to be replaced. Connie said we should maybe think about putting something in between the new exit door and the patio that looks nice. Bree said she and Sally are discussing perhaps adding some benches to the area.
- H. Long-Range Planning:** No report submitted.
- I. Media and Technology:** Gordon said the committee has been updating hardware to accommodate hybrid services. He read the committee report he had submitted that outlined the various upgrades. Margo said she's updated the ad that runs in the Chronicle. If anyone has suggestions, the ad can be updated again. Connie said new members Delores and Woody Harding had seen the ad.
- J. Membership.** Connie said the Membership Committee will be involved with the UUA's recertification of NCUU. She said Jean will be involved in determining how many members there are. Two members joined in the past month: Delores and Woody Harding. Connie said she thinks the membership is around 40-42 members.

**K. Religious Education.** John Ivens said he's been creating an inventory of the religious education material that was passed along to him. The committee will meet sometime soon.

**L. Social Activities:** No report submitted.

**M. Social Justice:** Don said the committee hasn't been able, for a while, to attract more than one person at a time to a meeting. He will try to have a meeting. He said most social justice activities have been done on an individual basis. He continues to write letters to various outlets about different issues. He said he may need to look for another day to meet than Saturday afternoon. Connie said Wanda is helping coordinate getting several people to march in the Martin Luther King Day parade Jan. 17. Several members also participated in a candlelight vigil Jan. 6 to mark the takeover of the U.S. capitol a year ago. Connie said Wanda and Linda Myers have been active in organizing participation in these events. Connie said the committee might meet and coordinate the participation in similar events. This might also attract new members.

**N. Sunday Service:** Pam said the Sunday Service Committee is proposing having no services in August. That would give the committees and the board a month of vacation. Shirley said her church in Massachusetts closes in summer, but the board meets once a month. Pam said she thought longer than a month might not be a good idea. Shirley moved that the church close in August. Don seconded. The motion passed, with Bree voting against the motion. Pam suggested the board continue to meet. Margo proposed the board take a vacation the month of August, as well. Shirley said there could be an emergency board meeting, if needed. Jean said the board is required to meet 11 times a year. Lowell seconded the motion that the board not meet in August. The motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. Old Business.** None.

**IX. Unfinished Business.**

**A. The Eighth Principle.** Nothing additional was brought up.

**B.** Share the Plate for January is the Spot Family Center in Crystal River. Connie said she understands that Share the Plate for February is CASA. Margo said there was discussion that included Linda Myers, who would like Share the Plate to go some month to someone who needs to raise bail. Margo said John said CASA was the Share the Plate group for February. Jean said maybe Share the Plate for March could be someone who needs bail. Amy said we would need to find out what someone who needed bail was charged with. Something like domestic violence would not be appropriate. Gordon and Don agreed. Gordon said we would need to find someone who was being unjustifiably held, and that he wouldn't want to raise the bail for someone charged with domestic violence.

Connie agreed. Jean said she'd talk to Linda and suggest that she let the board know by February if she wants to support someone in March. Margo suggested Linda come to the board and discuss what she has in mind. Margo said she wasn't sure if setting a deadline of March for Linda would give her enough time. Gordon said the board would need to talk to an attorney. If the board paid the percentage of the bond that guarantees a person's release, the board and/or church might be liable for the rest of the bond if the person skipped out of town. Lowell said it would depend on whether the bail went through a bondsman or not. Connie said we should check out the legalities before moving forward. Jean said she would share the board's concerns with Linda. Shirley asked that Linda come to the February board meeting to discuss what she has in mind.

#### **X. New Business.**

- A. LGBT Group Meet and Greet at Church.** Connie said John had requested that the Citrus County LGBT group be able to hold a meet and greet at the church. Connie said this might work in February, but she didn't know the details of how many might be coming or what would be involved. Shirley proposed that John bring the details to the next board meeting. The board agreed by consensus to table the matter until then. Amy said the group would need to wear masks and observe social distancing.
- B. Wildlife Society Wants to Use Building.** Connie said the Wildlife Society also would like to use the building but is flexible about when it could return to the building. Someone would have to let the group in and turn on the p.a. system. Bree said the group would have to limit attendance to the 52 or 53 we can accommodate with the current setup of chairs that are socially distanced. The group would need to keep the seats in their current positions. Amy asked if we should charge a small cleaning fee because we would have to spray the chairs afterwards. Bree said she wouldn't oppose such a fee. Connie said the group gives us a stipend of sorts. They sell something like 50/50 tickets and we get part of the proceeds. Connie said the group had been meeting once a month in the building and most likely would continue to do so. Connie said she'd talk to a member of the group and tell her we're kind of on hold but maybe they could use the building in February. We'll have another board meeting before then.
- C. Plaques for Memorial Garden.** Connie said we need to get plaques for the memorial garden for the members who recently passed away. Bree said somewhere in the Grounds budget there's an item that would cover plaques for the memory garden. Bree volunteered to look in the memory garden to see whom the last person is who received a plaque. She said Joan Burnett does have a plaque in the garden and there's one other person from 2018 or 2019. No one's been added since the pandemic. Connie said we need plaques for Charlotte Langley, Hal Butler, June Wetzell, Lynn Carole Baker, Roger Adams, Charlotte Johnson, Carol Dinmore, Ginny Fitzgerald, and Barbara DeRemer. Connie said she'd email Bree the names, and Bree said she'd get the plaques. Bree suggested they be installed when we have the welcome-back picnic for members that's planned to celebrate the reopening

of the church.

- D. Joan Burnett Volunteer Award Recipient for February.** Margo moved and John Ivens and Lowell seconded a recipient of the award for February. Jean suggested not putting the name in the minutes to keep it secret. Amy said she was strapped at the moment and would prefer not doing the certificate for February. Margo said she could create one on paper.
- E. Lowell Is Co-Chair of Building Committee.** Lowell has agreed to assume some of the duties of the Building Committee.

**XI. Adjournment.** By consensus, the board agreed to adjourn.

**The next NCUU Board Meeting is Feb. 14 at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom.**

