

NATURE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES
Oct. 11, 2021

Attendees:

In Person: Bree Hill

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

Visitors Via Zoom: Jean McCauley, Gordon Hart

Absent: Lowell Smith

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

II. Approval of the Minutes of Sept. 13, 2021

Shirley moved and Amy seconded that people who are absent from the board meetings should be listed as absent. The motion passed.

Amy moved and Bree seconded that the Sept. 13 minutes be approved. The motion passed.

III. Treasurer's Report. Report attached. Jean said there were no unusual expenses. The electric bill for October is going to be \$372. There was a problem with the air conditioning. She said we're \$4,000 ahead. We raised \$240 for the Haiti emergency fund. The October Share-the Plate will be for the African American Scholarship Fund. Connie asked why the electric bill was so high. John said the door was finished. Emergency exit lights were installed.

Bree said the air conditioning is running at a lower temperature, so it runs more. Jean said Matt reported there was icy buildup on the air conditioner and some dirty water at the bottom that might have contributed to the smell in the sanctuary. John said people have been opening the doors to air out the church and that may have increased the electric bill because the air conditioner had to run more frequently. Last year, the electric bill was \$185 in September and \$184 in October, according to Jean. Connie asked Bree to check if the hot water heater is on. If it's turned off, more electricity could be saved. Connie suggested the refrigerator also might be turned off because no one is using it. Bree said the breaker for the hot water heater is off.

IV. Vice President's Report. Connie said UUA has a lot of material available on various topics. Jean showed a book, *Unlocking the Power of Covenant*. Connie said committee chairs should be meeting with their committees. She will be sending out a list of committee members and chairs. She said we will be having some kind of service for Roger Adams and for Joan Burnett. John said there have been some social justice issues that have come to the fore. A lot of people like the idea of social justice but just a handful follow through. He said the church was built with the idea of "worship and go home." So, although some people still have this

attitude, others are trying to change the culture of the church, which he said is difficult to do.

Amy said in Toastmasters, members received awards, such as Member of the Month. Perhaps NCUU could do something similar, by mentioning a particular member before the Sunday Service. Connie asked which committee would decide who was to receive the award. Amy said in Toastmasters, it was the President's Award, or the board could decide. Amy suggested the award be called the Joan Burnett Achievement Award. At the April meeting, the member who was judged to have contributed the most could receive an actual award. John Ivens asked who is a founding member. Jean said she is and so is Scott Forbes. Bree said she's been a member for 12-13 years. John Ivens said he thinks one problem is that the members are older. John suggested getting in touch with students from Canel High School who attend Lecanto High School.

Amy said if we want to reach younger people, the Social Activities Committee and Sunday Service should gear activities and services toward a younger age group. Shirley said the problem with a small group is those people who do the work can suffer from burnout. John suggested that along the social justice line, members could write letters to the editor and then be recognized in the NCUU newsletter. Don said the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee provides letters to Congress people that members can sign.

John Ivens asked if there are rules that apply about identifying oneself as an NCUU member when writing a letter to the editor. Don said if a member is writing about a political issue, he or she should just sign a name and address. Declaring oneself a member of NCUU when writing about a political matter could jeopardize NCUU's nonprofit status.

- V. President's Report.** John said many of the committees either had submitted reports or had no business to report. Connie said Holly Alexander would like for the information about "Share the Plate" to be in the newsletter. Discussion centered around who would get the information to the newsletter. Jean said she sent information from the Finance Committee about the amount of money raised. She said it might be nice to state who the current "Share the Plate" group is, as well as the amount of money raised the previous month, but that would mean the board would have to decide early who the upcoming "Share the Plate" would be. John Ivens suggested the November "Share the Plate" be the Friends of the Mounds to help them with their "Moon Over the Mounds" monthly event. It was the board's consensus that the Friends of the Mounds will be the November Share-the-Plate group. John Ivens is to forward John the information about the group and the URL. John will send the information to Amy, the newsletter editor.

VI. Standing Committees

- A. Bylaws Committee.** No report.

- B. Caring.** Connie said Pam Reader has agreed to be a friend of NCUU, even though she has moved. Connie, Pam Reader and Pam Ricker have been calling the members whom Connie said “probably need it the most.” This includes people who haven’t been using Zoom. Connie asked that members notify her if they know of someone who could use a call or who is ill.
- C. Council of Committees.** Connie said the committee will be meeting soon and she is preparing the list of committee members.
- D. Denominational Affairs.** No report.
- E. Finance Committee.** Shirley said the Finance Committee doesn’t have anything to report now. As it gets closer to the end of the year, the committee will start working on the budget. Connie and Shirley agreed that Connie will send out an e-blast, asking for one more member of the Finance Committee so the committee can have a quorum.
- F. Grounds.** No report.
- G. Long-Range Planning.** No report.
- H. Media and Technology.** No report.
- I. Membership.** Connie said Samantha Carter is joining as a member. Connie said when she looks at the list of active members, there are 43, down from about 65 before COVID. Thus, the Membership Committee needs to get in touch with people.
- J. Religious Education.** John Ivens said he hopes the Religious Education Committee will meet by the end of the month. John said Don and Connie have said they’d like to be on the committee. Connie said maybe Pam Ricker would like to be on the committee. John Ivens said he’d contact Pam. John I. said it might be a good idea for when we open to have someone sit with children. He also said he’s inventorying the religious education material he’s received.
- K. Social Activities.** No report.
- L. Social Justice.** No report.
- M. Sunday Service.** Report attached.
- VII. Old Business.** None.
- VIII. Unfinished Business.**
- A. Reopening.** John said UUA is suggesting that congregations that reopen be mindful and follow CDC protocols and use common sense. We cannot insist that people be vaccinated. But we can wash our hands, We can insist that people wear masks

because we are a private institution. Connie said the Council of Committees has to get together to decide what we're going to do and when we're going to do it. Connie said there are reopening guidelines on the UUA website. We should talk to the Sunday Service Committee to make sure there's a good speaker the day we open. Connie proposed reopening in December.

John asked Amy how long the Media and Technology Committee would need to put together a hybrid service. Amy said if the committee knew a date ahead of time, she doesn't think it takes long to do a practice. Gordon needs to say when he's available because he does the audio. Connie said Gordon stepped out but she doesn't think there should be too many problems. The committee just is waiting for an opening date so it can set up a practice. Jean said the members who are putting on the Day of the Dead skit will be Zooming it live from the church.

Jean said the Rev. Brock Leach is speaking at NCUU on Jan. 23 and he always does a good job. John said he was thinking more like Jan. 9 for opening. Jean said on Jan. 9, Judy Siegel is the speaker. Vanessa Fuller Brown is doing a drum circle Jan. 2 and would need to be onsite, Jean said. Amy said the public was invited to the drum circle last year and the event felt more like Vanessa's event than an NCUU event. On Dec. 19, the speaker is Greg Greenway, a musician who will be Zooming. On Dec. 26, the speaker is UUA Rev. Ben Bortin, who also will be Zooming. On Dec. 12, the speakers are Kurt and Gaia Davies, and on Dec. 5, the speaker is Adele Jacobson.

John Ivens said the discussion seemed to be going round and round and not getting anywhere. Shirley said it might be a good idea to have a separate meeting just to discuss an opening date. Margo moved that the Sunday Service Committee recommend what date to open and who the speaker will be. The recommendation would be voted on by the board at the next meeting. Shirley seconded the motion. Bree suggested there should be a Plan A and Plan B. Margo amended the Motion so there will be a Plan A and Plan B recommended. Connie said members of the board should be invited to the meeting.

Jean said the Sunday Service Committee wouldn't be able to come up with much more than a date and who the speaker would be. Did the board want them to consider such things as the number of COVID cases? Margo amended the motion again that the Sunday Service Committee is to consider not only the speaker and date, but also the number of COVID cases and anything else that might pertain. John said the committee should use common sense. The motion passed 7-1. Connie objected. She said she didn't feel the recommendation should solely be put on the Sunday Service Committee. She said she thinks that's a lot to ask. Amy changed her vote so the vote was 6-2.

Margo then asked if everyone wants to have a special meeting of the board to decide a date. Shirley said she doesn't feel there's a need for a special meeting of the board. The Sunday Service Committee can

make a recommendation. Anyone can attend that meeting who wants to. Then, the recommendation can go to the board to vote on it at the Nov. 8 meeting. Shirley said the information could be in the newsletter. Jean said it's too late to put anything in the newsletter. John said that's what e-blasts are for. John I. said we should move on. Margo said there still is a majority for the motion. John said the board thus will abide by the motion.

B. The Eighth Principle. John said we'd discuss this at another time. Jean said Lynne Westmoreland will be speaking in November and will discuss the 8th Principle.

IX. New Business.

A. Linda Myers has proposed that in lieu of giving gifts to children at Christmas that NCUU pay the bail of someone who can't afford it. Amy said she thinks Christmas should be for kids. If there were a vote on the issue, she would vote nay. Shirley said she would, too. Connie suggested that we could keep up the gifts to children but let people know they also could donate to someone's bail. Shirley suggested doing a Share the Plate for the bail. Don said he agrees it shouldn't be either/or. We can do both. Shirley moved that we donate money for gifts for children in December. Margo seconded. The motion carried. Connie asked if Share the Plate could be for the bail. Jean suggested maybe the Share the Plate in January could be for the bail. John said we'll discuss the matter later.

X. Adjournment.

Shirley moved and Amy seconded to adjourn. The motion passed. The next NCUU Board meeting is Nov. 8 at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom.

