

NATURE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES
Nov. 8, 2021

Attendees:

In Person: Bree Hill

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

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

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

II. Approval of the Minutes of Oct. 11, 2021 (Attached.)

Shirley moved to accept the minutes. Connie asked about a line under IV on Page 2, that said, "John suggested getting in touch with students from Cancel High School who attend Lecanto High School." She said she didn't know what that means. She also asked why, in mentioning the volunteer group at the state archaeological park in Crystal River, the minutes referred to the group as "Friends of the Mounds," when the group has another official title. Margo said for the volunteer group, she used the term that was used in the meeting, but if Connie would prefer, she can change the reference to the group's official name. She said she believed "Cancel High School" is a social movement and the term had been used in the meeting, so she had put it in the minutes. Connie said that all was OK. Amy asked that the meeting reports be resent to her. Connie seconded the motion to accept the minutes. The motion passed.

III. Treasurer's Report. (Attached.)

Jean said there were some different expenses over the past month. Connie had turned in receipts for the items she purchased to remove dampness and odor from the church. The Media and Technology Committee purchased an adapter so a microphone can be plugged into the laptop. The power bill was \$372. The bill for November is \$160, which is more typical of what the monthly electric expenses are. The other monthly expenses were in line. We raised \$265 for the African American Club of Citrus County (for its Scholarship Fund). Jean said, as Connie mentioned, the Friends Crystal River State Parks is the Share-the-Plate recipient for November. The December Share the Plate will go for the kids' Christmas (sponsored by the Family Resource Center) unless something changes. We earned \$34.93 from our four new CDs.

Connie asked why the electric bill was so high. It was twice what it usually is. Bree pointed out that the air conditioner had needed work and since it was fixed, it had been running at a lower temperature. Don said the people who installed the door may have been using power tools. It had been reported there was icing in the air conditioning unit and water in the base. Lowell said that will cause the air conditioning to work continuously. Amy moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. John Ivens seconded. The motion passed.

IV. President's Report. John said instead of the President's Report, he'd like to decide when to open the church – either Dec. 5 or Dec. 12. Amy moved the church open Dec. 12. She said the speakers scheduled that day, Gaia and Kurtland Davies, do a wonderful job. Bree and Don said they also support Dec. 12. Pam Ricker said the woman on Dec. 5, Adele Jacobson, is local and a dulcimer player. Pam said she doesn't have a specific reason for opening on Dec. 5, but that's when she would like to. Margo asked if the Dec. 12 speakers will be in person. It was unknown. Bree said she'd do some weeding and see to it there were a few plants and color by the doors. Pam asked if the area near the front doors has been power-washed. Bree said it has.

Amy said she feels it would be better if the speakers were at the church, rather than on Zoom. Therefore, it might be better to open on Dec. 5. Margo said she agreed. We had the same discussion in October, and at that time, we had agreed that it would be preferable to open when there is a live speaker. John Ivens asked for clarification on a number of items, including the landscaping. Bree said other than some weeding and tidying up at the new door, things are pretty much ready to go. Bree said Lowell had removed some vines.

John said he'd like a vote on whether we should open on Dec. 5 or Dec. 12. Margo suggested phoning the Davies to see if they can be in person on Dec. 12. John said he didn't want to do that, that the information might have been available before the meeting. Then, he reconsidered and said someone should contact them. Connie said she had their phone number and texted them. They texted back that they could be in-house on Dec. 12. John Ivens moved the church should open on Dec. 12. Shirley seconded. The motion passed. Lowell dissented. He said he didn't understand why we wouldn't open on Dec. 5 because that is live music. John said the speaker on Dec. 5 is willing to be live and play her dulcimer. The speakers on Dec. 12 are willing to appear in person, too. They do a speaking/singing presentation. Margo said the motion had passed. John said then he is going to abstain from the voting because he had not voted. John then said the church would be opening Dec. 12.

V. Standing Committees

A. Building Committee. No report. John said the painters had been contacted and they've retired. We were going to have them do the doors and other things. John said the situation is not that serious. Just a little touch-up is needed.

B. Bylaws Committee. No report. Amy said the committee will be meeting to work on some wording that will be brought to the next meeting.

B. Caring. No report. Connie said some people from the church had visited Maralyn Boysen, who is ailing but seems to be doing relatively well. Everyone will be contacted about the church opening.

C. Council of Committees. Report sent under separate cover. Connie talked about the things the committees will have to do to get ready to open the church.

Building and Grounds: Jean is going to contact the lawn man about the grounds. Connie said someone had mentioned the patio chairs should be cleaned. She and Gordon could use some help hanging the shade sails. She said the chairs in the sanctuary need to be arranged in sets of twos. Bree said she had seen the note about the chairs. Bree asked if the technical people know where the camera will be because that will impact where the chairs go. Amy said someone will need to run the camera. She and Mike don't want to be in-house, and Gordon can't do everything by himself. Connie said she thinks the camera will be in about the same position each time. When it's known where it will be, Bree will be informed. Gordon said the Sunday Service Committee should decide what they would like the shot of the service to look like. Gordon said he can't run the video and the audio at the same time. He's willing to help facilitate the Zooming, but the Sunday Service Committee will have to start handling the service.

Media and Technology: Gordon said the Media and Technology Committee will have to meet with the Sunday Service Committee to work out the details. One thing that will have to be decided is whether the service will be livestreamed or not. Gordon said his feeling is that it would be preferable to not livestream because problems arise when things are happening in real time. Also, why would people come to church if they can stay home in their pajamas?

Connie said the two committees need to work out a schedule and plans so one person is not stuck doing the work each week. Connie said Margo should change the ad in the Chronicle to say the church is open. Margo asked when the ad should start. Gordon said he thinks that should be up to the Sunday Service Committee. Margo said she could do the video some of the time. Gordon said we also should have a policy about masks and vaccines when we open. Connie said she would get to that point. Connie said the opening date also should be on the website and Facebook.

Membership: Connie said all members need to be reached by phone and email about the opening of the church. She said she can do the eblast, but she hopes Holly will make up a list of people who will call the members. Membership will arrange for an extra greeter. There will be extra masks on hand.

Music: Connie will arrange for the piano to be tuned. Sally will arrange for hymns and music.

Religious Education. John Ivens is the new Religious Education chair. Connie said that committee will be meeting to discuss what to do if visitors appear at the first in-house meetings accompanied by children.

Social Activities: Connie said there had been previous discussion of what to do. There's nothing crucial, just things like Pam's going to take the coffee pot home to clean it. Pam said she already had done this.

Sunday Service: Connie said the committee needs to arrange for decorating the sanctuary and work with the Media and Technology committee to make sure things are ready for the hybrid service and work to notify the speakers that we are opening.

Policy for Masking: Connie said the Council of Committees discussed this and hoped that everyone coming in would wear a mask, be vaccinated, and social distance. If people were to get coffee, it would be desirable if they moved to the patio or back into the sanctuary and social-distanced. The speakers and service leaders wouldn't have to wear a mask when speaking. Amy said she agrees with this recommendation but wondered if the governor would give us a hard time. Connie said we are a private building and a private organization and we can ask anything we want. John said we can't ask about vaccinations because that goes against HIPPA, but we can ask people to wear masks. Don said he thinks we could word an eblast to say: Those who are fully vaccinated are invited to participate; those who aren't are welcome to join us on Zoom. He said we also could make the previous statement during the service, and also say that according to CDC guidelines, masking is strongly encouraged. Gordon suggested that people who aren't masked might sit in a separate section. John Ivens suggested we say that we insist that people who are feeling sick or who are having COVID symptoms not attend. Connie asked if someone would read over her opening eblast words to make sure they're OK. John Ivens volunteered.

- D. Denominational Affairs.** No report.
- E. Finance Committee.** Shirley said the Finance Committee has decided to start preparing the new budget and launching the pledge drive in January. She said there have been no unusual expenses. We have the air conditioner fixed and the electric bill is back to normal.
- F. Grounds.** No report. Grounds issues were discussed previously.
- G. Long-Range Planning.** No report.
- H. Media and Technology.** No report. Media and technology issues were discussed previously.
- I. Membership.** Report sent separately. Membership issues were discussed previously.
- J. Religious Education.** John said he had sent some information about religious education from the UU in St. Petersburg to John Ivens, Connie, and Don.
- K. Social Activities.** No report.
- L. Social Justice.** Report attached.
- M. Sunday Service.** No report. Pam said the committee had a very informal meeting; thus, she didn't submit a report. She said speakers have been lined up through February and

into March. There are service leaders through January. She said she'll let the speakers know the church is open. For example, the Rev. Brock Leach, who lives in the Clearwater-St. Petersburg area, has said he will speak in person. Pam said many others have said they can appear in person.

VII. Old Business. None.

VIII. Unfinished Business.

- A. The Eighth Principle.** Lynn Westmoreland will be speaking about it on Nov. 28. Margo asked if she should keep listing the Eighth Principle as an agenda item, as previously had been recommended. John said yes, because board changes will happen in April, and the Bylaws Committee might want to take it up, as well.

IX. New Business.

- A. Share the Plate.** Connie said Holly has volunteered to write something up about the organization that benefits from Share the Plate. The information would go in the newsletter, and perhaps on the website and in an eblast. The Share the Plate for December is the Family Resource Center. Pam said she wasn't sure if it would be OK to wait until December. There might not be enough time to get the kids' gifts. Then she said it should be OK, because we'll just be writing a check, not purchasing gifts, as we have done in the past. Margo said we had voted to make the Friends of Crystal River State Parks the Share the Plate recipient for November. We haven't voted for Share the Plate for December. She moved that the Family Resource Center be the Share the Plate recipient in December and that the information be sent to the congregation as soon as possible. Congregants would be asked to donate funds early so the Family Resource Center has the money in time for Christmas. Lowell seconded. The motion passed.
- B. Posting Sunday Videos on Facebook. (Motion attached.)** Margo asked for permission to post the Sunday videos on Facebook. They would be the recorded video, posted after the service, not livestreamed. Many churches are doing this. She feels it might enhance efforts to increase membership if the general public could watch our Sunday service videos on Facebook. Connie began to move that Margo be given permission, but then Connie said there should be discussion. Margo said she had sent a motion to the board, outlining what she was asking. She moved the motion. Amy seconded. John Ivens asked if putting the videos on Facebook would expose members of the congregation to Facebook's algorithms that put tailored ads on people's pages. John Ivens said it takes him increasingly longer to sort through his emails each day. Nevertheless, he said putting the video on the Facebook page also might be a good thing. Margo said she didn't know what would happen, but her feeling is that since we already are posting all sorts of things on Facebook, she's not sure why a video would make any difference. John Ivens said Margo might be right.

Margo said she believed the board had voted several months previously to put the videos on Facebook. She has been sending copies of the video not only to Amy, who

posts them on the website, but also to other congregation members, whom she thought had agreed to post them on Facebook. That has not happened. Thus, she is asking for permission to post them herself. If we want to attract new members, maybe the videos will help. Connie said we'd have to make sure the speakers agreed to have their videos posted on Facebook. Margo said part of the motion was for the speaker to sign off on what would be an updated Sunday Service speaker's agreement. If someone didn't want the video posted on Facebook, the Sunday Service Committee would have to notify Margo.

Connie said there also might be some videos that just aren't appropriate to post on Facebook. Margo said if that were the case, they probably shouldn't be posted on the website, either. Connie said there have been some that weren't posted on the website. Connie said posting the video would be up to the speaker, and the change would need to be added to the speaker agreement. Margo said that's what her motion states. Amy seconded the motion again. The motion passed.

X. Adjournment. By mutual agreement, the meeting adjourned.

The next NCUU Board Meeting is Dec. 13 at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom.

