

NATURE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES
Sept. 13, 2021

Attendees:

In Person: Bree Hill

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

Visitors Via Zoom: Jean McCauley; Gordon Hart

Absent: Shirley Leonard

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

II. Approval of the Minutes of Aug. 9, 2021

John moved and Connie seconded that the minutes be approved. The minutes were approved.

IV. Treasurer's Report. Jean, the treasurer, said there were no expenses out of the ordinary last month. She said she compared last year's and this year's electricity bill because last month's electricity bill was a little high at \$154. But June of this year was \$110, compared to \$125 last year. July was \$154, but last year, it was \$167. August was \$145 and last year, it was \$215. So even though it might seem the bill is a little high, considering we have an empty building, it was empty at this time last year, too.

John and Margo signed the letter to authorize transfer of money from the savings account into four CD accounts and the letter was taken to the bank. John said he signed his portion of the bank papers and that the bank soon will call Connie, Margo, and Jean, asking them to go to either the Brannen Bank office in Dunnellon or Beverly Hills to sign the CD papers.

Jean reported the fellowship collected \$320 from Share the Plate for Equality Florida. Jean said the Finance Committee discussed posting in the newsletter how much the Fellowship collects each month from Share the Plate.

She said it's been confusing that September's Share the Plate is supposed to be the African American Scholarship Fund, but no one's announced this yet. There has been one announcement about UUA's Haiti Fund.

John recommended the Citrus County African American Scholarship Fund be the Share the Plate recipient in October. The Haiti Fund will be the Share the Plate for September. Connie moved and Don seconded to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed.

Jean asked if she should send the Treasurer's Report and the BVR to the committee chairs. John said it's the chair's responsibility to stay on top of the committee's

finances. Margo said it might be a good idea for the chairs to receive the BVR. They might not realize their committee has a financial issue if they don't request the BVR. Connie said the committee liaisons receive the BVR. Connie said she could email committee members and tell them they can get BVRs from their committee's liaison to the board or from Connie. John added they also can get a BVR from the treasurer.

John Ivens asked if members of the congregation can get the BVR. John Comer said they can.

- V. President's Report.** John said the President's Report would be mixed in with the Building Committee's report. He said the side door is done. The contractor took off \$500 from the final bill, including \$300 for a permit because he didn't need a permit. Amy said the final cost was over \$8,000. John said Matt will paint the doors so they all are the same color.

VI. Standing Committees

A. Bylaws Committee. Amy said the committee will meet soon.

B. Caring. John said Connie had submitted a report mentioning Maralyn Boysen. Connie said the report also mentioned that food had been taken to Sally. Connie recommended thinking about Sally and helping as we can. Connie said she's heard from Joe Wetzel and he's doing all right. Sally would like to have a service for Roger when the church reopens.

Bree said she had visited Sally, and Sally's son and daughter-in-law plan to come up from Port St. Lucie perhaps once a month to help sort through Roger's things. Connie said she and Pam had taken food from members to Sally.

C. Council of Committees. John said this will wait until Connie sets a date for the next meeting. Connie said she planned to send the committee chairs a list of the members of their committees. Then, it would be a good idea to get in touch with the committee members to remind them they are on the committee.

D. Denominational Affairs. Bree said at the latest cluster meeting, she learned that the only congregation that might reopen is the one in Tarpon Springs, and they might reopen in October. Clearwater met in person for a few Sundays in July and then closed again. Bree said most congregations are doing recorded services and then having discussion before or after. We're pretty much the only one that does everything live. Bree said the cluster includes congregations in Spring Hill, Odessa, Tarpon Springs, Clearwater, St. Petersburg, Tampa, and Lakeland, as well as us.

E. Finance Committee. The Finance Committee did not meet. Jean was representing Finance Committee Chair Shirley Leonard.

F. Grounds. Bree said she should have a lot to talk about next month. She said the committee meets the first Friday of the month, starting early in the morning, and whoever shows up that day is the committee for that month.

G. Long-Range Planning. No report.

H. Media and Technology. Amy said Jeanie has been added as an editor of Facebook. Amy asked Jean if she'd be willing to serve as a Zoom host on Sundays and Jean agreed. Discussion followed about the pros and cons of allowing people to enter Zoom sessions unmuted.

John Ivens asked what's being done to prepare for hybrid services. Amy and Gordon said they are waiting until it gets closer to the time that the church reopens. Gordon said the church has the capacity to project onto a screen in the church the people who are Zoom speakers. We also have the ability to stream what's going on in the church. All the equipment is ready to go, Gordon said.

John Ivens said he was wondering if it might be a good idea to practice so there won't be technical issues when the church reopens. Gordon said the equipment has been disconnected, but once there is an opening date, he will hook everything back up and there will be a dry run.

I. Membership. Connie said she's sent links to people who've expressed interest in the congregation. At least one person has expressed interest because of the ad in the newspaper.

J. Religious Education. John Ivens asked if religious educators need to get a background check. John Comer suggested looking on the UUA website for guidance. Bree said Pam dropped off a box of materials for John Ivens and he can pick it up by notifying Bree or someone else to open the church. John Ivens said he'd probably drop by Sunday during services. He also asked how to establish a budget for the committee. John C told him to try to calculate his costs and then to bring a budget to the board. Don said Jeannie and he had worked with Joan in religious education previously. Don said he has some material that he will take to the church Sunday. He said he'd also like to join the committee. Bree reminded John there is a library of material at the church that he's welcome to use.

K. Social Activities. No report.

L. Social Justice. No report.

M. Sunday Service. Lowell said Linda is organizing a presentation for Day of the Dead and would like to use the Sanctuary to pre-record it. It will involve four or five people. John asked if all participants have been vaccinated. Lowell said he did not know but would like to make that be a stipulation. Gordon said vaccinations are no guarantee.

Lowell asked if the concern is about persistence of COVID on surfaces. He said the virus is respiratory and airborne. It does not linger on surfaces long. Amy said the concern is that the participants would like the Media and Technology committee to record the performance. The committee would be willing to help the participants use Zoom but is not willing to go in the sanctuary, especially if the people would not be wearing masks or socially distancing.

Lowell said the group had discussed using Zoom and felt it wouldn't be conducive to good timing, interaction, and so forth. After some discussion, John said if all the participants have been vaccinated, they can use the space, provided they socially distance and wear masks when not on camera. Margo said she'd help with filming if needed. John asked Lowell to contact Linda to find out what she has planned and relay the information.

N. Old Business. None.

O. Unfinished Business.

1. John said discussion of reopening is tabled until October. John Ivens asked what indices we're using to judge whether to reopen. John Comer said we're looking at the number of new cases, what other groups are doing, what the UUA is recommending, and what the CDC says. He also said many of the congregations in our UUA cluster remain closed, so he's taking that into consideration, as well. John said we're trying to be extremely cautious.
2. John said the information about the side door was handled under his president's report.
3. John asked if we should table discussion about adding a solar system to the church until after we reopen. Connie asked if anyone got in touch with the people who were promoting a solar co-op. NCUU joined the co-op and someone was supposed to give the church a bid on solar. Connie said we could just drop the issue for now.
4. John Comer said the Sunday Service Committee has asked Lynn Westmoreland to speak about the 8th Principle. John said people could read the 8th Principle language on the UUA website. Connie said a group on Connect With Conversation discussed the 8th Principle, felt it was kind of wordy, and also felt the congregation should discuss it. She said she was going to try to sit in on a Soul Matters discussion from the UU in Ormond.
5. Jeanie has become an editor on Facebook, as mentioned previously.

P. Adjournment. Lowell and John Ivens moved to adjourn. Connie seconded. The motion passed by consensus.

The next board meeting is Oct. 11 at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom.

