

NATURE COAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 13, 2022

Attendees:

Zoom: Connie Hart, Margo Wilson, Shirley Leonard, Don Wright, Rob DeRemer, John Ivens,
Lowell Smith, Mike Taylor, Carole Goodwin

Visitors Via Zoom: Bree Hill, Jean McCauley, Linda Myers, Gordon Hart

- I. NCUU Covenant.** Don read the covenant.
- II. Additions to Agenda.** Don said he wanted to discuss formation of an NCUU Safety Committee. Other UUA congregations are doing this.
- III. Comments from the Public.**
Linda Myers said she had found a negative comment on the NCUU website and wondered who is in charge of monitoring comments. The board agreed to discuss the matter at the end of the meeting or at the next meeting.
- IV. Approval of the Minutes of the May 9, 2022, Board Meeting**
Shirley moved and Lowell seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.
- V. Treasurer's Report.** Jean said we have a new BVR for the new fiscal year, so there aren't a lot of expenses yet. The Social Activities Committee has spent a fair amount of money already because of the Joan Burnett dedication of the sanctuary catered event. The power bill has been going up. May was \$173 and June is \$206. She suggested increasing the temperature of the building and pointed out the doors are kept open when people are on the patio. Pledges for the new year, so far, are \$8,665, including prepaid pledges and pledges that came in, in May. Last year, there was \$7,529 in pledges by the end of May. The Share the Plate for the Florida Springs Institute raised \$125. The Building Fund received some contributions and someone bought a T-shirt. The CDs are gradually increasing in interest.

Jean said she'd check to see if our use of power has increased or the rate increased. Bree said it's gotten hot early. Connie suggested putting the hot water on a timer. Several members suggested setting the building temperature at 80 degrees, not 78 degrees, when it's not occupied. A discussion followed about keeping the fans on, air exchange, etc. Lowell said the Building Committee will discuss the matter.
- VI. President's Report.** Don said he'd like to advocate for a Safety Committee. Other UUs are planning how to handle such problems as shooters, storms, falls in the sanctuary, and so on. Other UUs have the president, a minister if there is one, and others with expertise serving on the committee. UUA recommends passing out cards at the beginning of a service listing evacuation procedures, if they are necessary. Don said forming a new committee would require approval by the congregation, but an ad hoc

committee can be formed, just with board approval. Perhaps a video camera monitoring the door could be installed.

Linda said previously when the issue came up, it transformed into a feeling of paranoia, and some members left. Blackout paper was purchased for the windows. She said she feels it's friendlier and safer to leave the windows uncovered.

Don said a former member, a retired police chief, advocated for a mindful, but not paranoid, attitude toward safety. Shirley moved and Carole seconded that an Ad Hoc Safety Committee be formed. The motion passed.

Bree, Rob, and Mike volunteered to serve on the committee.

VII. Vice President's Report. Connie discussed the Council of Committee's Report (see below) and urged committee chairs to attend the council meetings.

VIII. Standing Committees

A. Building Committee. Connie asked Matthew or Lowell to call a meeting of the committee and asked that Safety Committee members attend. She said the Building Committee, in its goals submitted to the Council of Committees, and the Council, as well, brought up such things as improving the lobby area, adding tables and chairs to the patio – which already has been done -- and adding protection around the well. Lowell said he'd call a meeting. He said installing a patio door closure already has been done.

B. Bylaws Committee. No chair and no report.

C. Caring. Connie said one of our former speakers, Kurtland Davies, is gravely ill. Judy Capone has some cracked vertebrae. Connie is to get stitches removed after surgery. Her testing after surgery was negative for melanoma.

D. Council of Committees. Report submitted. Connie summarized the report. She said a lot of things are coming up with the building. She and Bree are attending the UUA General Assembly by ZOOM.

E. Denominational Affairs. Bree attended a candidate's forum and was able to vote, based on the information received. She also attended a mini assembly and learned UUA will be rewriting its bylaws.

F. Finance Committee. Report submitted. Shirley said the committee will be adding an assistant treasurer to serve as a backup to Jean.

G. Grounds: A list of things to do was presented at the Council of Committees meeting. The list includes making our sign more visible. Bree will trim the hedge to help in this matter. She said the new plaques for the Memory Garden haven't arrived yet. Several

board members supported the idea of getting more and/or better signs.

H. Long-Range Planning: No report submitted.

I. Media and Technology: No report submitted. Gordon said a laptop had an HDMI port failure in the sanctuary Sunday just before the service. The laptop will have to be shipped in for repairs. Bree has offered to make her laptop available and Jean has said another church laptop is available, but Gordon does not know where that laptop is. He said the sound is running directly into the mixer, so ambient room noise is not being picked up.

J. Membership. Connie said the committee is meeting July 13. She said she will follow up with new visitors.

K. Religious Education. No report submitted.

L. Social Activities: No report submitted.

M. Social Justice: Report submitted. Linda said when the fellowship is closed in August, the Social Justice Committee will be encouraging members to attend other churches. The committee will set up a church to visit each Sunday in August. Margo said the Citrus County B'hai's want to know if we'd like to join them for a potluck on Aug. 20. The board suggested the Social Activities Committee work with Margo to coordinate the event. It was the consensus of the board to offer the B'Hai's the use of our air-conditioned building. Linda asked for help in publicizing to the congregation the upcoming church visits in August.

Connie thanked those who have been attending rallies – mostly Linda and Jean.

N. Sunday Service: Report submitted. John Ivens and Linda asked if it was OK with the board if the Sunday Service Committee occasionally spent some money to bring a speaker to a Social Justice Kitchen Table event. The board had no objections.

VII. Old Business. None mentioned. However, an addendum is that at the May 9, 2022, board meeting, the new Executive Committee members were announced: President Don Wright, Vice President Connie Hart, Clerk Margo Wilson, Finance Committee Chair Shirley Leonard, and former President and Treasurer Rob DeRemer.

VIII. Unfinished Business.

A. The Eighth Principle. John Ivens proposed we move ahead and adopt the Eighth Principle in the next several months. Don said the board previously had recommended having a Kitchen Table Forum for the whole congregation on the Eighth Principle. It was the consensus of the board to maybe set October as a goal for moving forward since it's hard to do much business during July and August. Some board members said it probably wouldn't be feasible to propose changes

to the wording since it's a UUA, not NCUU, proposal. Linda said when the Kitchen Table event is held, it would be a good idea to prominently publicize it to the congregation and that it should be presented as a board, not a committee, event. Connie recommended people view the video of Alberita Johnson, who addressed NCUU about the Eighth Principle at the June 12 Sunday Service. She said UUA also has videos available. Linda recommended watching the documentary, "Wilderness Journey," available on YouTube about previous UU problems when blacks felt UU was not being supportive enough of their struggles for recognition

- B. Share the Plate for July.** Lowell and Connie moved and Don seconded that The Share the Plate for July will be for Ukrainian students at the University of South Florida. The motion passed.
- C. Wearing of Masks in the Sanctuary.** Lowell moved and Rob, John Ivens, and Shirley seconded making wearing of masks in the sanctuary optional. The motion passed, with Connie, Mike, and Margo dissenting.
- D. Continuation of Joan Burnett Volunteer Appreciation Award.** Margo moved and Shirley seconded that the award be discontinued and replaced with an annual recognition of volunteers. Bree suggested it could be named the Joan Burnett Annual Recognition of Volunteers. The motion passed with Carole abstaining.

IX. New Business.

- A. Long-Range Planning.** John Comer had asked to have this placed on the agenda but wasn't available. The board agreed to postpone discussion until the July meeting.
- B. Linda Myer's Proposal About Putting ZOOM link on Facebook.**
Linda would like the ZOOM link for the Sunday service to be posted on Facebook, for the Sunday Service Committee to be able to post information about the Sunday speakers on Facebook, and for there to be better publicity. Margo suggested that the Media and Technology Committee meet to discuss this once again and to bring a proposal to the board in July. She said Gordon has opposed having a direct ZOOM link on Facebook and he should have input. Connie said Gordon might resign as head of Media and Technology if the board approves posting the ZOOM link on Facebook. She also said that Jean is able to post on Facebook. The board agreed to table the matter until July.

Linda also asked if the board were going to take action about how to handle comments on the website. Mike Taylor volunteered to pass on the information to Amy Haiken, who does the website.

- X. Adjournment.** Margo and John Ivens moved to adjourn. Rob seconded. The board voted to adjourn.

The next board meeting will be July 11 at 10:30 a.m. on ZOOM.

