

UUFVB Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Thursday April 21, 2022, 4:30 PM
*“To secure the spiritual and financial future of the Fellowship
by working together with the Congregation”*

Call to Order - Woody, filling in for the well-deserved vacationing Kathy Cossa, called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM.

Members Present: Sue Burt, Barbara Dunst, Rebecca Hornbuckle, Ken Klein, Jonnie Mae Perry, Woody Sutton, Tom Tierney, Patty Walker and Kaaren Anderson *ex officio*;

Guests: Diane Osiecki – *Asst Treasurer*

Patty Walker delivered the opening words focused on Earth day on Friday. Jonnie Mae agreed to be Process Observer:

The Minutes of the March 17, 2022 Board Meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurers Report: Rebecca reviewed the Treasurer’s Report that had been previously circulated. She addressed the \$24K loss for the month as a result of Pledge income being down but expected, March is a 3 payroll month (\$11K), and two bookkeeper salaries because of training the new recruit, and a semi-annual spiff to Kaaren for something about payroll. All were budgeted for. The new bookkeeper has been a great addition and that is a great relief to Rebecca as she narrowly avoiding a nervous breakdown.

Minister’s Report: Kaaren started by posting her objection to the agenda listing her as the “Unsettled Ministers”. Objection noted. She brought up the issue that Kim isn’t taking her vacation time and presented an idea that we close the office on Monday’s during July and August so that Kim could catch up on day’s off. This might be a bonus for the new bookkeeper as she could work with no other distractions. Summer service work is completed so this alleviates some of Kim’s summer work.

Motion made by Tom to close office on Mondays for July and August, Second: Barbara. Majority approved with Rebecca opposed.

Kaaren is getting feedback on Transition issues from various committees and has found something interesting: Social Justice, as originally assumed, is not the center of everything we do; people come because it is a liberal haven in a conservative community. She also mentioned some RE information: VB has a lower number of parents with small children that FL average. More to come under New Business – Item 6..

President’s Report: Kathy has passed along some comments that Woody will discuss in the appropriate reports below.

Board Committee Reports—to be emailed to Board

1. **Bridges** – Woody reported that the sale is moving forward and we are hoping for May 2 closing. Financials are on schedule. A loose end is that DCF license is forthcoming but has not been received.
2. **Facilities** – Report has been received by all and there were no further comment.
3. **Finance** – Woody referenced the Monthly Financial Committee report that indicated a \$13K anonymous gift has been targeted to be used for Projects.
The motion, after discussion, made by Ken is to put the gift into Reserves for facilities for Capital Improvements. Jonnie Mae second. Vote was unanimous.
4. **Emerson Center** – Patty reported the good news that Space Coast symphony is contracting to have 6 rather than 3 concert in the coming year, starting in June. This will offset a loss of some concerts with Musicworks.

Old Business:

Annual Meeting April 24 – Package has been sent out. Woody mentioned that RE Sunday school program is expected to be a hot button. More in New Business below. Also see below for comments to be made at the meeting on the Search committee.

New Business / Other discussion

1. **Ministerial Search Committee** - Communication with congregation
Woody announced that Christine Purcell from UUA, who assisted us with the Interim search, will be also helping us with the search for a Settled Minister. At annual meeting Woody will announce a Congregational meeting on May 15 with Zoom for updated communication on the Search Committee.
2. **Removal of members from Members list** – memo from Membership Committee
Motion from Tom: thank the membership committee for their good work and to approved removal of members, named in the memo, from the membership roles. Coco seconded. Unanimous approval
3. **Lobby Banner** – Coco mused that she is befuddled how she became associated with this. Answer: She spoke up. There was a good amount of response to the banners in the lobby after church. Kaaren thinks we can move forward with this as a lobby banner. Kaaren, Coco and Peggy will work it out.
4. **Wally Freisen's memo** regarding marketing UUFVB was discussed. There were two proposals: Advertise in UUA Bulletin and use the Emerson Center mailing list to reach out to people about UUFVB. The tenor of the conversation is to reject the second idea since the Emerson Center contact list should not be used this way. Woody will suggest to Wally and Jack Quinn to work with Kaaren on refining the first proposal.
5. **APF Request** – The request for annual dues for UUA is for a pledge of \$24K. There was no vote and it was just presented for our knowledge.
6. **Religious Education (RE) Situation 101 – Kaaren**
The situation is dire for liberal religion. Attendance is down 40% in last 10 years and it's down 60% after Covid. Zoom didn't work well for RE. Other issues: Sesame Street covers same liberal topics (2 moms or 2 dads, etc): Club Sports – on the road on Sundays for children from ages 10 – 18; Gen-X expectations for quality education options. Some options are Science museums, Children's Museums, Art Centers... that often have superior programming that we can offer. In other words this is happening all around the country. Kaaren intends to survey Florida churches about budgeting staffing, hours, school house model? For RE. For purposes of Annual Meeting Woody will outline the issues at the meeting.
7. **Joe Hardy's memo on "The Doors"**
Patty and Woody are in constant fear of being harassed by Joe on shutting the doors. Rebecca suggested some signage for the doors since other groups use other than the main entrance. Woody will investigate getting signs made. An unsubstantiated report from Jim Morrison stated: If Ed Sullivan couldn't do it why do we think Joe can!!! Answer: Jim didn't know Joe.

Afterwords:

1. Kaaren asked that the topic of getting an Historian back into place, for going after and filing minutes and other fellowship documents., be added as New Business next month. It will be included.
2. Jonnie mentioned that there will be a Keepsake Program booklet for Emancipation day (May 21) at the Gifford Cultural Museum and UUFVB might want to put an add in it. Kim has the info. Social Justice might want to fund it.
3. In a subsequent memo received after the meeting from Jack and Nancy Stiefel it was noted that they had requested an approval from the board on the proposed Sunday Fund recipients and the SF schedule. The

vote was taken and passed by email on April 22. Nancy and Jack were notified.

Closing up: Process Observer's Remarks: Jonnie Mae observed that it was a Good Meeting, efficient, and jovial.

Meeting Adjourned with alacrity at 5:47 PM.

Reminders

1. **Opening Words:** May - Woody
2. **April Board Schedule:**
 - a. Ex. Committee - Tuesday May 10, 2022, 11.00 A.M.
 - b. Board- Thursday May 19, 2022, 4:30 P.M.