

Summer Greetings To All From Your Board Of Trustees

We hope you are all safely enjoying your summer, whether you are traveling or just staying put here in Florida.

The purpose of this letter is to clear up a misunderstanding. It has come to our attention that there is a misperception surrounding the Board's summer activities, and we have learned that concerns are being voiced in small gatherings that we are having "secret" meetings. We would like to correct this misperception.

We had announced prior to going into to our summer schedule that although there are usually no Board Meetings scheduled during July and August, this summer there would be one or two. That said, there will be one Board Meeting in August. The date will be set and announced in the next few weeks. Please rest assured that we have had no secret Board Meetings.

We have had some workshops. Workshops are just that. They are for planning, research and organizing. No minutes are taken, no motions placed, no votes, no final decisions, and no policies set forth. During workshops we simply discuss the work ahead of us and how we can best achieve a full understanding of the issues we will be presenting to you.

We had also announced that we would be meeting by video chat, so we could speak with Russ face to face while he is up north. The only way we can do this is to meet in Jack's office in Mt Dora, which is set up for virtual meetings. So far, we have had two Executive Committee meetings, both called by Rev. Randy. The purpose of the meetings was to educate us about what is ahead of us, what we need to think about and to do as we begin to consider Ruth Gray's bequest. In these learning sessions we were advised of what committees to set up, and we have been given guidelines for

proper procedures. We also learned what help is available from Boston and the Florida District.

There is so much to learn and to do. Many of you have offered to be on the committees, and we are grateful that you are willing to give of your time and talents to move us toward our goal of our own building. You can be sure that no decisions will be made without congregational approval.

But we cannot go full force until after October when everyone is back. There is a lot of work to be done and it will be, over a considerable space of time. There will be ongoing committees and ad hoc committees. Lots of manpower will be needed and enlisted before this goal is accomplished. We on the Board are being trained and guided by experts in these matters, so that we can present you with a coherent plan that will allow us all to work together efficiently and effectively.

The Board was elected by the congregation to carry forth your desires and this is what we have been working on. This fall, updated documents will be presented for your approval, as well as a Mission & Goals Report. These are what workshops handle---preparing for open congregation discussions, and then putting together the results of the discussions.

Our Board Meetings are always open to all. If you have a concern or suggestion you would like to present, just let us know and you will be placed on the agenda.

Barbara Coats