

**Draft MINUTES of the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County (UUCLC) Florida
Board of Trustees Meeting
Meeting date: January 8, 2013**

Call to order: A formal meeting of the UUCLC Board of Trustees was held at the home of Gina and Ernie Rossi, in Leesburg, FL on January 8, 2013. The meeting convened at 5:45 pm, President Barbara Coats presiding.

Members in attendance: Barbara Coats, Russ Littlefield, Jack Champion, Christina Higgins, Pat Linfield, Gina Rossi and Carl Skiles.

Members not in attendance: none

Congregation Members in Attendance: Ernie Rossi

Approval of minutes: A motion was made by Jack Champion and seconded by Carl Skiles to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2012 meeting. **Motion carried.**

Officers' reports

President – Barbara began the meeting with the Chalice lighting and then turned the meeting over to Russ, asking him to review changes in her role and Russ's which were outlined in the January 2013 issue of the Communicator.

Vice President – Russ began by stating that Barbara remains President of UUCLC and will conduct all official business, including the signing of documents. She is our senior adviser and the UUCLC contact with the Florida District. Russ will take the lead with Bequest related matters and problem solving.

Treasurer – Pat summarized her December financial reports which were copied to the Board on January 6. In response to a question prior to the meeting, she had advised Chris that November Outreach expenditures of \$407 comprised \$307 for Hurricane Sandy relief and \$100 for Adopt a Child.

Total income through the end of December of \$12,945.82 includes \$1,770 dedicated to the Seidner fund. This means that income available for expenditures is \$11,176. Since expenditures through December were \$13,725.82 (including the full annual payment of UUA dues), we are \$2,550 in the red for the current fiscal year. With the exception of the Dues and Outreach categories, other expenditure categories are at 43% or below. Income from the first six months of this year exceeded the 2011-2012 income by over \$1,000, therefore the Board determined that no action to curtail spending is needed at this time.

Board and Committee Reports

Program – Jack advised that the Reverend John Higgins will be speaking on January 13 on “Spiritualism”. Kit Tatum has arranged to have Paul Deritter present a musical program with a focus on Social Justice issues on January 20. Given that MLK day is 1/21/13, Gina will call Kit to ensure that the MLK/Black history theme is addressed.

Roger Seidner will be speaking about Ecumenical Sunday on January 27, reflecting on the Judeo-Christian heritage of the UU movement.

Pat indicated that she had heard several comments about the good quality of our Sunday Service programs. She also advised Jack that she intends to kick off the Fiscal Year 2014 Pledge Drive on Sunday March 3, 2013.

Membership – The Membership Committee met recently and prepared a draft Job Description which was shared with the Board. The Committee will be meeting again soon to elaborate on their description, hopefully adding some items geared toward growing the membership.

Adult Education – A report about the Saturday January 12 Mission and Goals brainstorming session will be provided to the congregation during the Adult Discussion on January 13.

Social Justice – The Social Justice Committee will be meeting on January 10 and 14. A major agenda item is preparing a float for the Martin Luther King Parade in Leesburg which is on Saturday, January 19 at 11am. Chris will remind Alicia that Carl Skiles offered use of his truck and Jack offered use of his trailer. Since Carl and Jack will not be in town on 1/19, prearrangements must be made for use of the vehicles.

Cynthia Barnett, author of Blue Revolution: Unmaking America's Water Crisis will be speaking at the Trout Lake Nature Center on January 13 at 3 pm and the SJ Committee helped sponsor the program with a \$50 donation.

Unfinished business

Peter Morales Nomination – The Board reviewed a letter requesting congregations to nominate Peter Morales for a second 4 year term as President of the UUA. It is understood that congregations may nominate multiple candidates. Russ made a motion that the Board approve the nomination of Peter Morales. Gina seconded. **Motion carried.**

Defining Standing Committees – Russ asked Barbara and Chris to work together to consolidate the existing UUCLC committees, as it is generally recommended to limit the number of committees. It is envisioned that each committee will have a Board member liaison who will work with the committee to help it to define its purview and responsibilities. The committee descriptions will be presented to the Board for review and approval.

Immigration as a Moral Issue – Pat reported that UUA is requesting congregation feedback regarding whether to entertain this issue on a future GA agenda. After lengthy discussion, the Board voted to endorse Immigration as a Moral Issue for the GA agenda.

Status of the Nominating Committee – Per current bylaws, the Board is responsible to select the nominating committee. The Board suggested candidates for this year's committee and Barbara will approach the nominees.

Stewardship Committee – The need for a Stewardship Committee was reiterated. It was determined that Barb, Pat and Jack will approach a candidate(s) to suggest that she become that committee chair.

Update of Bylaws - The Board edited most of the draft bylaws at a Saturday afternoon workshop on January 5, 2013 at the Simpson House. The Board completed their review of the bylaws during this Board meeting. Carl will make the needed revisions and recirculate to the Board. After another review the draft bylaws will be presented to the congregation for review and approval.

Dream Builders – A Florida district conference will be held on February 9, 2013 at the First Orlando Church to build connections across congregations. Plans call for attendance of the Minister, Board President and Vice President, and a Youth Congregation Member. Russ will be unable to attend and asked for another Board member to attend in his place.

Mission and Goals Workshop – A congregational workshop to define UUCLC mission and goals will be conducted by Frank Bishop and Russ with committee support on Saturday, January 12, 2013 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Simpson Farm House in Mount Dora. Approximately 24 congregation members are expected. Chris will check on the number of chairs in the building and will let Barb know by Friday if we need to borrow some from Eustis City.

Bequest Activities

Building related Committees – Russ and Carl met to discuss and refine the committee structure, tasks and possible composition of committees. It is envisioned that there will be one overarching Building Committee with two primary sub-committees: Location, Planning and Construction (LPC) and Use and Facilities. In addition, congregation members will be asked to serve on Building Finance, Arts and Aesthetics and Publicity committees. Nominees will be asked to review the nominations and provide feedback.

Three Member Decision-making Panel – The Bequest “Governing Document” outlines the function of a panel to make “decisions about whether conditions have been met....probably (to) include her attorney, someone from the congregation, a paid third party (totally neutral) to be chosen by unanimous consent of the other two...” Russ reported that Mary McDaniel has agreed to serve as one of the panel members. A candidate, suggested by the Board, as the congregation panel member will be approached to determine interest in the assignment.

Request for Funds Transfer from Bequest – The UUA confirmed their agreement to transfer \$20,000 in start-up funding for the Building Project in response to Barbara's letter of December 31, 2012 to the UUA. Barbara will advise Katrina Foster to send the check to the UUCLC Post Office Box. Pat will establish a separate checking account for the funds with Barbara, Russ and Pat as signatories to the account.

Webex Tele-conference with UUA – Monday, January 14, 2013 at 1:00 pm. Our agenda will include:

- Thank you for the \$20,000 advance
- Notice of Panel Member Selection: Mary McDaniel and Phyllis Gillette
- Are UUA officials bonded?
- Request for advice regarding liability insurance for UUCLC
- Update regarding our Building Project activities

Public Relations Program for UUCLC – Jack indicated that he would like to approach

representatives of a PR firm regarding a PR program for UUCLC. The firm may be interested in donating their services and the cost of advertising might be eligible to be included as demographic study work, which can be funded from the Ruth Gray bequest. An alternative would be to use some of the UUCLC reserve funds towards a marketing program designed to attract new members (recognizing that new members represent future income streams.) Jack's suggestion was well received and he will advise the board at our next meeting.

New business

Offer to buy Hymnals – Paulette Stewart-Johnson has offered to buy approximately 30 copies of the teal hymnal, Singing the Journey. Her offer was gratefully accepted. There was discussion about the logistics of projecting song lyrics onto a screen. This will be discussed further with Paulette.

Next Board Meeting

'Brown Bag' dinner meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 5:30 pm at the Simpson Farm House in Mount Dora. Congregation members are welcome to attend.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Christina Higgins, Secretary
UUCLC Board of Trustees

Date of approval