

Draft of the Minutes of
The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County (UUCLC) Florida
Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting
On July 31, 2013

Call to order: The formal meeting of the UUCLC Board of Trustees was held at the offices of Jack Champion, in Mount Dora, Florida. The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. by the President, Russ Littlefield.

Board Members in attendance: Christina Higgins, Jack Champion, Carl Hommel, Carl Skiles, Betty Emery, and Kit Tatum. Russ Littlefield attended via electronic medium.

Congregation Members in attendance: Barbara Coats who is President Emeritus and head of the Denominational Affairs Committee. Gina Rossi attended via Go to Meeting.

Opening Statements: Russ stressed the Covenant of the Board of Trustees which was adopted in December, 2012. He stated we could review it again when he returns to Florida from New York state, no later than the October 2013 BOT meeting. The BOT members can discuss revisions they may want to make to the Covenant at that time.

Chris Higgins reviewed the statement of Major Milestones in the Building and Growth Project. She will post a copy in the office at 127 Grove Street in Eustis, Florida.

Chris has compiled and documented a history of our progress in the Bright Futures and Building Progress programs. This is in a three-ring binder notebook, which will be kept on display in the office on Grove Street.

Approval of the Minutes: Jack Champion made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 28 meeting. Carl Skiles seconded the motion and **the motion passed.**

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer, Carl Hommel, reported an opening balance in the checking account of **about** \$10,000. He also reported the funds for the insurance and rental of the office **had been** charged to the **Ruth Gray Bequest Fund**. **Chris Higgins pointed out that only the portion of the Hillcrest Insurance policy related to the office rental should be charged to the Ruth Gray Bequest Fund, and the portion related to officer liability should remain with the UUGLS checking account. Carl said he would correct the Treasurer's Final Financial report accordingly.**

Chris asked Carl Hommel to send a copy of the UUCLC Budget FY 2013-2014 to Robyn Kelly to be posted on the UUCLC website.

Carl has composed a thank-you letter to members of the congregation who made pledges for the fiscal year 2013-2014. We reviewed the proposed letter and agreed the opening and closing date of the fiscal year should be included in the letter. Any other comments or suggestions regarding the letter can be sent to Carl by email.

Committee Reports

Membership: The chairperson, Eleanor Fessler, was not present to make a report.

Sunday Services: Carl Skiles reported he has ordered CD's for the Sunday morning meetings in August. If the CD's do not arrive in time for the dates in early August we will have open forums. On August 25 Roger Seidner will speak.

The briefing on the General Assembly to be given by Alicia Sparks has not been scheduled. Carl said he will consult with Alicia about setting a date later in this year.

The service to commemorate deaths in the transgender community has not been scheduled at this time.

From the UUA website: "October 6, 2013 will be our official '**Join the Move!**' Sunday, although you can hold this service any day that works for your congregation's calendar." The Board agreed to hold a service and become members of the Farnsworth Society. Russ will complete the required registration. We did not schedule a date for the service.

Denominational Affairs: Barbara Coats stressed the importance for us and for the District to attend Workshops. Barbara said you bring back valuable information to benefit our congregation and make your congregation known in the District. The Workshops are usually held close to our location.

Barbara also urged us to attend the General Assembly. The housing, entrance fee and food can become costly. The UUA has various methods to reduce these costs by working at the Assemblies, scholarships, and having the Board of the UUCLC provide some of the funds. The transportation costs can be reduced if the Assembly is held within driving distance of the congregation's home.

There is a President's Meeting, held in the spring by the District. This is a three-day event and many of the points stressed at this meeting will be helpful to the home congregations.

The BOT agreed to sponsor three people to attend the August 24 meeting at Nature Coast UU Church. This is a meeting stressing hospitality.

Social Justice: The chairperson of this committee, Alicia Sparks, was not in attendance at this meeting of the BOT. Russ said he would have a conversation with Alicia regarding this committee.

Public Relations: Gina reported she had tried to start a Facebook page, but found she needed help with setting it up. Betty said she would ask for some help from her daughter who is familiar with that process.

Caring Committee: Chris Higgins reported she had enlisted help for this committee from several people who will call members, send cards, transport to doctors and help with meals. However, she stressed we still need a chairman for the committee.

Continuing Concerns

Committee Revisions: Tabled

Building Committee: The chairman of this committee, Carl Skiles, reported he had contacted the owners of several large tracts of land in the hope they would consider selling

parts suitable to our needs. None of the owners he contacted would consider dividing the large tracts.

Carl indicated this committee is continuing the search for property and has not ruled out any of the parcels on which we have had Due Diligence reported.

The Building Committee made some revisions to the statement of Vision for Our New Home. The revised suggestions are denoted in red as follows:

Vision **and Goals** for Our New Spiritual Home**

Our new home will embody the values, purpose and place in the greater community of the UUCLC. It will invite **and welcome** all who work for a just community and who are searching for personal spiritual fulfillment. We value lifelong learning, freedom of belief, caring fellowship, spiritually meaningful services, and engaged social action. We envision our new home as being respectful of the land with a strong connection to nature, full of natural light and fresh air. To the extent possible, it will be a green, sustainable, energy-efficient, low maintenance building—a model for the community. We will create a **home** that allows for flexibility and growth and is universally accessible. We see it being simple, but well done, aesthetically pleasing, and of a timeless quality.

This will be a warm, inviting, and welcoming space. We will make every effort to make it **multigenerational** attractive **and useful**. There will be outside areas for gatherings, gardens, meditation, and play. Most importantly, we are building a home that allows us to provide fully for the programs that are our reason for being. This home will include space for religious education and social issue programs that inspire curiosity and lifelong learning and service for both young people and adults. It will be a living space—not just on Sundays, but throughout the week, and will be an asset not only to our own congregation, but also to the greater community.

This revised version will be presented to the congregation via email and bulletin board.

Website Upgrade: The subject was discussed, but no process was decided.

Memorial Gifts: The status of the Lucy Landis chalice and plates has not been updated. We have not received a gift donation in the name of Rema Herzberg .

The Grove Street Office has moved: We are now situated in the front of the building at 127 Grove Street, in Unit D. Since this is a more prominent position Carl Hommel will make use of one of the windows for a road-side-pulpit. He can have some signs made for this purpose. We have also decided to use our banner in one of the other windows.

New Concerns

Approval of Advertising: District advertising should go through Barbara and Gina for approval.

The motion was made and seconded: All advertising will go through Gina and will be approved by the President or Vice President. **The motion was approved.**

Storage unit: Barbara and Russ have keys to the unit; they will have a key made for Carl Skiles.

Note: The donation will pay \$11.71 of \$44.39 of the rent for the storage unit for the August rental; the remainder will be paid from the Ruth Gray Bequest. The future rentals will be paid from the bequest.

Sound System: Wayne Linfield has, in the past, worked with the sound system in the Woman's Club. He has worked to coordinate our equipment with the system installed in the building by the City of Eustis. We will ask Wayne to purchase and/or repair our equipment in order to have better sound for use during our meetings.

The next meeting of the BOT will be at 5:00 p.m., on August 28, at the offices of Jack Champion.

Motion to adjourn was made by Kit and seconded by Jack. **The motion carried at 7:40 p.m.**

Katherine Tatum, Secretary
UUCLC Board of Trustees

Date of Approval