

**Draft of the Minutes of
The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County (UUCLC) Florida
Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting
On December 5, 2013**

Call to order: The formal meeting of the UUCLC Board of Trustees was held at 127 Grove Street in Eustis, Florida. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by the President, Russ Littlefield.

Board Members in Attendance: Russ Littlefield, Christina Higgins, Jack Champion, Carl Hommel, Carl Skiles, Betty Emery, and Kit Tatum.

Members of the Congregation in Attendance: Alicia Sparks, Frank Bishop.

Approval of Minutes: Jack Champion made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2013 meeting of the Board of Trustees. Carl Skiles seconded the motion; **the motion passed.**

Treasurer's Report: Carl Hommel reported the balance of the Ruth Gray Bequest Fund total on October 31 was \$9,760, with two bills due the first week of December (\$44 for AAA Mini Storage and about \$609 for office rent). A deposit for an offer to purchase a lot will deplete it more. Last week's bill payment of \$1,558 for Shutts & Bowen LLP for preparing the offer for the Hospital site brought the balance down more. Carl Hommel asked if we will be able to have this fund replenished.

We collected \$173 for the Fountain of Hope Food Bank. A donation of \$100 in honor of Barbara Coats was received. Carl Hommel suggested this donation could be added to the Lucy Landis fund. Carl also reported we have received \$640 toward the Challenge.

Committee Reports:

Discussion Group: Carl Skiles reported the discussion for December 8 will be a continuation of the subject Russ Littlefield started on Compassion. On December 15 he will offer some Ted Talks (subject to be announced). On December 22 we will have an open forum and on the 29 the subject will be announced later.

Sunday Services: Jack Champion stated that Randy Becker will speak on December 8, Hinda Ramsey will have poetry reading on December 15, and Roger Seidner will speak the last two Sundays in December.

Roger Seidner will speak to the Muslims on December 14. Chris Higgins will get the time and location information to disseminate to all who would like to hear him speak.

Public Relations: We reviewed the ad from the Angler Magazine. Gina Rossi is working on the price for an ad in the Focus Magazine. She also sent a request with Russ Littlefield to ask everybody to sign up for Facebook, and "like" our page.

Caring Committee: Pat Linfield reported in writing there had not been any members in need of help during the month. The committee has put a “We Care” sign on the sign-in table with contact information if you or someone you know needs help. She also noted that if you notice someone has not been in church on several Sundays let her know so she can check on their wellbeing.

Social Justice: Alicia Sparks reported her committee will support local efforts to be decided on a monthly basis and devise a system to disburse funds from a “Share the Plate” Sunday. This date has not been decided. It was suggested they could also get nominations from the congregation of causes to support. Alicia has worked with the Farm Workers Youth and Young Adults organization in the past and hopes to schedule a visit to the congregation in January.

Continuing Concerns

Roger Seidner Challenge: Roger wants one-half of the money for the UUA to be applied to the “Join the Move” effort being conducted by the UUA to help pay for their move to new headquarters.

Adopt and Acre at Trout Lake Nature Center has been completed with a \$100 donation to the center.

Status of the Website: Kit Tatum reported she was not able to find other designers. She contacted Cox and the Orlando Sentinel at addresses furnished by Jack Champion. Neither company designs websites. Various other designers found on the web were not helpful.

Kit Tatum did state that using a list of UU websites furnished by Ted Fessler would be a good exercise for board members to become educated about UU Church sites in Florida.

Frank Bishop suggested asking Karen Woolhouse to help with the marketing/website effort. He related Karen has an extensive background in marketing.

Status of Play Sponsorship with Bay Street Players: Russ Littlefield contacted the Bay Street Theater and was told they prefer sponsorship for the Second Stage productions. The sponsorship would be \$500 to \$1500. It was not known if we would be listed with the sponsors on the program. This item was tabled to be updated at the next BOT meeting.

UUA/UUCLC Distribution Agreement: Russ Littlefield talked to Katrina Foster regarding the Distribution Agreement sent to us from the UUA. She told him she would prefer if we move on with this agreement in good faith. Some of our board members have voiced concern because the copy of the Agreement does not stipulate funds for upkeep after the completion of a church building.

Russ Littlefield will call Katrina Foster to clear up any doubt regarding future upkeep of our future church building and grounds

Building Committee:

Carl Skiles, the chairman of the Building Committee, reported that an offer of \$740,000 as the full purchase price for twenty-five acres of land at the corner of David Walker Drive and Mount Homer Road had been accepted by the owners.

A prospective purchaser of this land had Environmental Reports made in two phases, in June of 2013. Carl Skiles has reviewed the reports and reported there are no environmental problems we would have to correct. There is debris on the land, which will have to be cleared away, but there were no contaminated materials in the debris. The owners will provide a disclosure statement upon their approval of the sales contract.

The owners of this land want to close by February 15, 2013. They have been informed we must make an Application for Annex and Conditional Use to the City of Eustis. This is necessary in order to tie in with city utilities. This will involve two readings before the City Council, each will be one month apart. We will file for the first reading on January 15, 2014. Upon passage by the City Council on the first reading we can commit to close three days after the first reading.

Title Insurance will be provided by the current owner. They do not want to furnish the title insurance more than ten days in advance of the closing. However we will get a Proposal for a Title Commitment, which will inform us if there are any problems with the title.

Chris Higgins made a **motion to go forward** with the purchase of this property in the terms of the counter proposal(s) from the seller. The motion was seconded by Jack Champion and **passed by a show of hands**.

New Concerns

Rental Agreement with the City of Eustis: Our present agreement with the City of Eustis terminates in January 2015. We pay \$85 per Sunday, which is a special rate. Russ Littlefield noted the rental should be \$549.40. We will contact the City of Eustis to discuss an extension.

Russ Littlefield acquired the information regarding open flames. Floating candles will be allowed.

Stewardship Drive: By mutual agreement the Board members agreed to defer this project until January 2014.

Adopt a Child or Two, Inc. in Mount Dora sent a letter requesting a donation. Fifty dollars will buy an age appropriate gift, clothing and a toy. Russ Littlefield suggested a gift of \$100. This could be considered a Social Justice item in the budget, if the chairperson of that committee is in agreement. The Board members agreed to send \$100.

Salvation Army Drive: We did not designate an amount to contribute to this charity. However, we thought it would be a good idea to invite a representative from the Salvation

Army and other charities to address the congregation about the work they accomplish and use as a Share the Plate for that Sunday.

Becoming a covenantal fellowship was deferred to a later date.

Kit Tatum will explore the price of a **separate phone line** for our church.

The **next meeting of the BOT will be on January 16, at 5:00 p.m.** in the building at 127 Grove, in Eustis, Florida.

Chris Higgins **moved to adjourn** the meeting. The move was seconded by Carl Hommel. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Kit Tatum, Secretary

Date of Approval