

**Draft of the Minutes of
The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County (UUCLC) Florida
Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting
On January 16, 2014**

Call to order: The formal meeting of the UUCLC Board of Trustees was held at 127 North Grove Street in Eustis, Florida. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by the President, Russ Littlefield. Prior to that time the members of the BOT had observed the meeting of the City of Eustis Commissioners which began at 6:00 p.m.

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: Frank Bishop, Don Stearns

Building Committee Report:

The BOT members, Egor Emery, Don Stearns, Frank Bishop, Karen Woolhouse, and David Lewis attended the meeting of the City of Eustis Commissioners. The meeting was to hear the first reading of the proposed annexation of the property at Mount Homer and David Walker Drive where we plan to build a church. The annexation of this 25.51 acres will make it possible to tap into the city water and sewer when the construction of the building proceeds.

Carl Skiles, Chairman of the Building Committee, reported we would need an Ecological Assessment (EA) stating a preliminary finding for the City of Eustis of the likelihood there are or are not scrub jays and/or sand skinks living on the 25.51 acres we are trying to buy for our church building. These animals are Federally Listed Species and the issue would have to be resolved according to Federal Fish & Wildlife standards before any building on the property could commence. If the animals are found to be inhabiting this acreage the resolution would involve several thousand additional dollars per acre and could make the price of the land too great for the amount of money we can pay for this site.

There were three professional engineering companies who made bids to provide the preliminary assessments: 1. GAI Consultants, in Orlando bid \$3275; 2. Kleinfelder Southeast, Inc. with an office in Mount Dora bid \$2500; 3. Atkins North America, Inc. of Orlando bid \$3600. We will use Atkins North America to make the preliminary assessment. This company outlined a very comprehensive study to be done over a period of four visits, with the duration of three hours each, to the property.

Carl Hommel made a motion to have the Ecological Assessment made by Atkins North America, Inc. Christina Higgins seconded the motion. **The motion carried by a vote of hands.**

We discussed the arsenic levels on the land, which were revealed in previous Environmental Studies. The arsenic levels are below commercial use levels and above levels for direct contact.

Carl Skiles asked for approval to request an extension to the contract for purchase of the site to be extended to March 20, 2014. The BOT members approved this action by a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Carl Hommel reported the Challenge from Roger Seidner had been met. We have accumulated enough money to match the \$1000 Roger Seidner donated.

Social Justice

Frank Bishop reported for the Social Justice committee. The first "Share the Plate" Sunday offering has not been designated to a particular group. Frank suggested having a representative from the Heart and Hands food bank speak to the congregation. The Hearts and Hands Ministries are listed in our local phone book and Frank Bishop found them on the internet. No other Food Bank that was listed in the phone book had a local address.

Frank also reported Christy and Bob Cleveland are donating a sixteen foot parade banner to the UUCLC emphasizing the "Standing on the Side of Love" theme.

Caring Committee

Pat Linfield reported to Russ Littlefield the Caring Committee had served one member in the past month with the delivery of groceries.

Carl Hommel said he knows of two members who are being treated with chemo therapy. He will call Pat Linfield and give her their names.

Publicity

Gina Rossi reported in writing that the Facebook page is going well. We had fifteen "likes" in the past month. She also, reported we have a new ad in *Velocity* magazine.

New Concern

Frank Bishop spoke regarding the 25.51 acres we are trying to purchase for a new church site. He thinks the congregation should discuss what we plan to do when we arrive at our new home. Are we going to offer community garden space? Should we look into a retirement village for UU's from around the nation? Are we going to offer a "commercial" school program? There are so many possibilities; maybe we could suggest to the Circle Dinner Hosts/Hostesses that we consider a guided discussion at each dinner related to this topic. In preparation for this, we could offer a short introduction to brainstorming rules to help insure that each discussion is productive.

The idea of using the Circle Dinners for this discussion was considered. After discussion we decided not to use the time together at the dinners in this way. Many members of the BOT expressed a preference to keep the Circle Dinners for getting acquainted with other members of the congregation.

Design Committee

Betty Emery who is chairman of this committee reported there were four new members added to the committee since her last report to the BOT. They are Carl Scott, June Sweeten, Julie Champion, and Gina Rossi.

Betty Emery reminded everyone of the meeting of the Design Committee on January 21 at 7:30 p.m. at 127 North Grove Street.

There will be some worksheets sent by attachment to emails to the Design Committee members. These were obtained from Joe Rispoli, of Rispoli & Associates, the architect who spoke to the Building Committee on January 7, 2014. The worksheets provide a general survey of the size and use of the proposed church building(s).

Discussion Group: Carl Skiles reported the discussion topics for the coming weeks are: January 19, 2014 we will hear Choice Edwards discuss open ballot in primary voting. On January 26 we will have an open discussion concerning the Congregational Study/Action Issues. Carl Skiles suggested a future Discussion Group where the members would present actions and issues that were important in their lives. February 2 would be a good time for a presentation from the Social Justice Committee regarding the Farm Workers. Also for consideration would be to have Ernie Rossi present a discussion of Religion and Science "The Star of Bethlehem".

Sunday Services: Jack Champion stated the effort to use congregation members to conduct the Sunday services has been well received by persons attending the Celebration of Life services.

Jack Champion also discussed using music by musicians playing Bluegrass music for a future COL service.

Continuing Concerns

Phone Service: Kit Tatum reported the price of a business white pages listing in the Lake County Directory by Century Link phone book is \$174 per year. A three-quarter inch by a column wide ad would be \$93 per month. An ad of one inch height would cost \$140 per month. To add another line to a member's personal phone would be approximately \$30 per month.

Certification of Membership with the UUA: This involves presenting six Congregational Study/Action Issues which have been proposed for the General Assembly (GA) 2014 to our congregation. The members of the BOT decided to present these issues during January 26 Discussion time with the goal of deciding which five issues we deem important to be proposed for action.

Carl Hommel reported he has taken the necessary steps to complete the Certification of our Congregation with the State of Florida.

UUA/UUCLC Distribution Agreement has been signed by Russ Littlefield, President and returned to the UUA.

Stewardship: Frank Bishop volunteered to be the head of a Stewardship Committee. He specified his vision of of this committee is different from a fund raising committee. He interpreted it as an informational program all year around and is not responsible for a fund raising campaign.

Website: Betty Emery noted we have not responded to Marianne Snyder regarding her proposal to set up a website for our church. Betty will contact Marianne to report to her that, to date, we have not made a decision regarding a new website.

Betty Emery also stated that the people involved in setting up a new website, Karen Woolhouse, Kit Tatum and Gina Rossi reported that there had not been any progress made since the last BOT meeting.

Karen Woolhouse reported in writing she would try to identify the requirements for a new website, including what information people are using, what they would like to see on the website, and what the requirements would be for keeping the website current. Her goal would be to arrive at a website which is attractive, easy to use and is maintained with information people want to find.

Betty Emery stated the website should be in the purview of the Publicity Committee. Russ Littlefield will contact Gina Rossi and request that she work with Karen Woolhouse on a plan to provide a new website.

Congregational Concerns: Becoming a Covenantal Fellowship was tabled and will be reviewed and discussed at a future BOT meeting.

New Concerns

Russ Littlefield noted we had fifteen people participate in the Book Group meeting this month.

Russ Littlefield also discussed using Social Justice as a ministry, a publicity tool and a recruitment tool.

A motion to adjourn was made ad seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

The date of the next meeting of the BOT will be on January 30, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at 127 North Grove Street in Eustis, Florida.

Submitted by Kit Tatum,

Date

Secretary