

**Draft of the Minutes of
The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County (UUCLC) Florida
Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting
On September 10, 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 4:58 p.m. by the Vice President, Christina (Chris) Higgins.

The members of the Board of Trustees attending the meeting were Chris Higgins, Carl Hommel, Katherine (Kit) Tatum, Betty Emery, Jack Champion, and Carl Skiles.

A motion was made by Jack Champion to approve the minutes of the July 30, 2014, meeting. Betty Emery seconded the motion. **The motion was** approved by a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report:

Carl Hommel proposed a change in the Budget amount for Professional /Minister in the amount of \$17,500. This amount would be the salary for Susan Berryman, who is being hired to perform ministerial functions for our congregation. Jack Champion moved, Betty Emery seconded the motion to have the Budget reflect this change. **The motion passed.**

Jack Champion made a motion to move \$1,000 from the Programs/Speaker line in the Budget to the Professional Staff/Minister; Carl Skiles seconded this motion. **The motion passed.**

Carl Hommel also requested assistance from the BOT Members and the Congregation in carrying out a Fall Pledge Campaign. It was suggested we kick off the Pledge Drive on October 4 at an event on our new property.

Carl Hommel also noted that he had transferred funds collected in the past in memory of deceased members and from the sale of greeting cards from the checking account into a Memorial Fund and a Children's Fund respectively. Carl made a motion to establish these funds. The money for the funds is currently in the Money Market Fund. The motion was seconded by Carl Skiles. **The motion passed.**

The contents of a letter from Roger Seidner was shared with the Board Members. In the letter Roger Seidner noted a donation of \$2000 to our treasury as the amount he donated to double his and his wife's annual pledge.

The Share the Plate funds from June, July, and August are in the checking account. In general agreement the BOT members recommended we make an in-depth study of several charities before we make donations.

Building Committee Report:

Carl Skiles reported Joe Rispoli will be making a report and presenting what could be a final plan for the new church building, along with some elevation drawings on September 11.

Ted Fessler submitted a floor plan design, which was sent to Joe Rispoli. This design, in contrast to the design from Rispoli and Associates, showed a reduced total square footage with a redirecting of the front of the sanctuary. This alternate plan will be discussed at the meeting on September 11.

The tree marking on the property should be done after the building has been sited and a bush-hog has been brought in to mow. Carl Skiles will get bids on the mowing. A possible date for a congregational event on the property will be October 25.

Carl Skiles reported we had received an inquiry from Glen Tyre concerning the sale of some of the acreage on the Mount Homer Property. No price was discussed and there was no discussion of the use a possible buyer would have with the land if purchased. The discussion among the BOT members noted they were not in favor of selling any of the land at this time; no motion was made.

The Building Committee is making progress and is pleased with the participation from the congregation.

The hiring of Susan Berryman:

Chris Higgins reviewed the modified UUA model letter of agreement between Susan Berryman and our congregation.

Carl Skiles made a motion to move forward with the finalizing, with Susan Berryman, to provide ministerial services. The motion was seconded by Jack Champion. **The motion passed.**

A general discussion followed: a. to add Susan Berryman to our insurance; b. set up a committee on ministry which should be appointed by Russ Littlefield.

The Board of Trustees will have a workshop type of discussion with Susan Berryman on September 17.

Renewal of the Contract with the City of Eustis:

We have not received a written response from a representative of the City of Eustis to our letter of May 27. This letter requested an extension of our present arrangement of the rental amount of the Woman's Club until we move to our new building.

New Concerns

A **discussion** of the cost of utilities at the Grove Street Office was tabled.

Committee Reports

Social Justice and Environment: Alicia Sparks has resigned as the leader of this committee.

Public Relations and Website:

Gina Rossi reported:

- We now have ads placed in both the Ice House Theatre and Bay St Players playbills for the entire coming season. The ad in Ice House is in color. I have updated the ads in the *Daily Commercial*, *the Sentinel*, *the Triangle Leader*.
- We are pleased to announce the launch of the new website. It has not been finalized yet, but Chris Ayres. The designer will work with us for 30 days free for unlimited help post finalization. And he will be available to us on a limited basis after that forever. He has been most helpful and accommodating. He recently moved his family to Austin TX for a new job but will remain in touch with us when needed by email or phone.
- Kathy Collins and Kit Tatum were trained by Chris Ayres. Kathy is the web mistress, and Kit Tatum, an administrator. Marge Hommel has expressed a desire to be trained as well. Once Kathy and Kit are comfortable with the site, they can help Marge learn WordPress .
- Our Facebook page is visited regularly for news about the services, and our activities. We now have 47 followers.
- The signs on the building site need to be cleared of brush that obscures them.

Once we have the architect's rendering, we will be replacing the wording with that picture and adding contact information.

There were no reports from the Caring, Liturgy (now the Service Committee), or Religious Education committees.

Membership: Eleanor Fessler summarized her concerns for building, maintaining and diversifying the congregation. She addressed the need to define what it means to be a member, strengthening ties to the District and the broader UU community. She suggests becoming a transformative community.

Upcoming Discussion Topics:

Carl Skiles listed the following:

September 14, The New Testament, “An Overview” by Professor Bart Ehrmann.
September 21, How Schools Kill Creativity, which is a Ted Talk, by Ken Robinson.
The next two weeks of topics are tentative and may be changed. The topics are “My Favorite Universe”; and the “UU Building Program”.

Sunday Services:

Jack Champion noted it is necessary to plan services around available speakers. On September 14, Maggie Lovins will speak on the “Web of Change”. On September 21 Susan Berryman will speak on a “Covenant for New Beginnings”. Then on September 28, Roger Seidner will present the annual Yom Kippur service.

In October Dr. Vibert White, Susan Berryman and Ernie Rossi are scheduled to speak.

The next meeting of the BOT will be on October 9, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be at 127 Grove Street, in Eustis, Florida.

Katherine Tatum, Secretary

Submitted, September 15, 2014

