Minutes of September 5, 2023

Coordinating Council Meeting

Attending: Steve Leapley, Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw, Kathy Avery, Eileen Leapley, Judy Houston, Thom Reeves, John Spitzer, Barb Gundy, Brad Hardin

Meeting began at 9:35 a.m.

Chalice was lit, opening words were spoken.

Brief check-in was done.

Steve thanked everyone for pitching in during Salli Clark’s extended leave and the treasurer’s vacancy, specifically Kathy Avery, Judy Houston, Sally Erb, and Tom Hartley.

Rev. Amy met recently with Salli; she gave an update regarding Salli’s health. It will be January or February before she will be able to walk. Rev. Amy suggested that she will drop her position to 16-20 hours per week. Salli thinks she will be able to start back to work from home in about 4 weeks. She will assist us in transitioning to another employee.

IVMS issues – Steve noted that it was decided not to pursue “Church Only” parking signs.

Speed bumps have been purchased and installed by IVMS.

Regarding the easement issue, our attorney has not responded to emails or phone calls. Steve will continue to try to contact him.

Rev. Amy remarked that a solution to the easement issue would be important to any potential minister.

John Spitzer discussed next year’s Annual Giving Campaign. The Finance Committee’s intent is to strengthen the connections between the congregation and the leadership. The Committee would like to move to a year-round format, with monthly shareholder meetings. This model has been used by other UU congregations, including some that Rev. Amy has been involved in. There would be ten shareholder meetings, one per month except in August and December. He discussed the provisional meeting format. Steve suggested using the term “share” rather than “pledge.”

Members and friends would attend meetings by invitation. If a person cannot attend their assigned meeting, they can attend another meeting, but they will remain in the initial group to which they’ve been assigned. There will be a steward assigned to each group.

Rev. Amy discussed the pros and cons of this type of giving campaign that her previous congregations experienced. It was agreed that there will be some problems to work out. John said the Finance Committee will be putting on informational presentations to explain the procedure. Rev. Amy will ask the A/V team to record the meetings for those who cannot attend. This is still a work in progress.

Steve reported that Kathy King of Blue Lotus recently mentioned the possibility of either leasing or buying Asta Linder House. Kathy Avery requested that she be told whenever something comes up regarding Asta Linder House, as she, as D.R.E., uses the building most often. No discussion or decisions are anywhere near being made at this time.

Judy brought up the need for upgrading the looks of Asta Linder House and Waters Hall, to match the Sanctuary.

Rev. Amy discussed an option, if we were to sell Asta Linder House, of using those funds to put in a prefabricated building for a more modest amount.

Barb noted that during Strategic Planning meetings, a high percentage of people did not want to sell any of the buildings on our property.

Steve discussed the Wish List. A handicapped parking sign and space near Waters Hall would cost $4800.

Kathy submitted a Wish List form for the purchase of a device called an Owl, to be used at Zoom meetings. She and Thom had researched it; Rev. Amy has used one, and said it’s very helpful. Steve will bring it to the Board.

Steve recognized the G.A. banners as being perfectly placed. Judy would like to take a photo of Thom’s sister with the banners for a press release, but she is not planning to visit any time soon.

The Right to Read (banned book) event was discussed. It is scheduled for February 24, 2024. John Van Camp and a steering committee are organizing it. Steve is working on hiring police protection for the event. There is a fire ant issue in the field; Steve will work on that.

The lanai upgrade was briefly discussed. When more people return next month, that will be addressed.

Installation of a labyrinth on the campus was discussed. Pavers could be purchased to pay for it. Rev. Amy noted that at one of her previous churches, a Boy Scout built a labyrinth to earn their Eagle Scout badge. It was noted that perhaps Blue Lotus would be interested in helping build a labyrinth, which could be used for meditation.

It was noted that several of our congregants made donations to the asylum-seeking Venezuelan family who is being sponsored by the Port Charlotte UU Fellowship. We may want to consider helping the family by making additional donations. Kathy will find out what their present needs are.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3rd, 2023.