

Minutes of Coordinating Council Meeting

January 2, 2024

In attendance:

Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw	Thom Reeves	Judy Houston	Jan Simon
Kathy Avery	Steve Leapley	John Spitzer	Bill Colagrande
Joel Morrison	Eileen Leapley	Brad Hardin	John Van Camp

Chalice was lit, opening words were spoken. The purpose of the Coordinating Council was clarified and discussed, for the benefit of newer team leaders.

Team reports –

Finance – Joel Morrison - updated us on the changes in the Pledge Campaign format. The first shareholders meeting will be held on January 10th. Joel asked that we respond quickly when we get our invitation, so the hosts know who to expect. There will be two meetings per month through May. Every person who pledged last year will get an invitation. Joel and the Stewardship committee are very hopeful that the new format for pledging will be successful.

Music Committee – Jan Simon - The choir director transition has gone smoothly. Including the Music Committee on the Coordinating Council will enable Jan to be aware of what is going on among the teams.

Social Justice - Brad Hardin – It's time to pick up trash on Venice Avenue again. Brad will get a small group together and decide on a date.

Brad and several other people are interested in drafting letters to the editor that will be shared with others so we can focus on educating the public about ideas that reflect our UU values.

Social Activities – Bill Colagrande updated us on the Small Community Dinners. He filled us in on the Lip Syncing event to be held on Friday, January 26th, and the Trivia Contest/Pizza Party on February 16th. Possibilities for mid March could be either an Ides of March party or a celebration of Pi Day.

The problem of getting volunteers was again discussed.

Audio/Visual – Thom Reeves thanked Kathy Avery and Jean Sibbers for running the Christmas Eve service in his and Eddie's absence. Thom would like to get additional volunteers trained.

Caring and Remembrance – Eileen Leapley reported that Cindy Bouman has stepped up to replace Ginny Chappelle as volunteer grief counselor. Cindy has scheduled two meetings scheduled, January 10th and 24th.

Social Justice - John Van Camp updated us on the Right-to-Read Festival. Floridians for Democracy will livestream it. We have funds to hire a videographer. Rev. Amy wants to make sure we'll be able to pull clips from the video.

John reported that the next Social Justice Social will be held on the grounds of the SEE Alliance – Social Equity through Education – on January 17th from 5-7 p.m. at 615 S. Orange Ave., Sarasota. Also presenting will be the executive director of the Fabulous Arts Foundation, formerly the local Harvey Milk Festival.

John noted that the Social Justice folks are looking at changing the name to Pro Democracy.

Discussion was held regarding forming a 501c3 or a 501c4 for the Right-to-Read Festival. John Spitzer asked if there is a timeline for forming the 501c3 or 4. There is presently not, as there are no plans to collect any money after the festival is held.

Campus Team - Bill Dowling reported that the new signs have been installed. Minor water problems were taken care of. An expanded covered gathering area in the Memorial Garden is being considered.

Religious Education – Kathy Avery talked about the Wish List, and how we need to advertise it more effectively.

Kathy reported that ARE will start before services at 9 a.m. beginning this Sunday.

Sermon chats seem to be more successful when they are held in the Sanctuary.

Great Decisions will start again soon.

The Owl device for Zoom meetings is ready to be purchased.

Kathy will retrain people on the Google Drive.

Membership – Annie Harrison was unable to attend the meeting today. Steve said we all need to make sure to read her report, as she's doing a lot of important work on membership.

Old Business –

Steve Leapley met with the two principals of IVMS. They were told that they are in violation of the easement, since we do not have access to our property for about 3 hours per day. They were asked to come up with a solution to the problem. A follow-up meeting is planned for January 14th.

We still have a good relationship with IVMS. They have agreed to tear down the wooden bridge that they built without our knowledge. They installed posts that we requested to prevent parents from running over our equipment.

The Board's plan is to charge IVMS a certain amount for their use of our field for parking, possibly \$2,000 per year, or \$100 per use.

New Business –

Discussion was held about clarification of UUCOV Policy and Procedure IV.E., related to commercial activities at UUCOV. It was agreed that the policy is clear and must be enforced. Kathy offered to do so.

The meeting concluded at 11:15 a.m. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6th at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Leapley