

UUCOV Board of Trustees
Minutes of January 11, 2024 Meeting

Attending

Jack Head, Steve Leapley, Tom Hartley, Barbara Buehring, Bill Reynolds, Barb Gundy, Pat Wellington, Rev. Amy

Guests: John Spitzer (Zoom)

Committees Reporting Directly to the Board

By-Laws: We do not have a new bylaws committee. We need to change the bylaws from Roberts Rules to Democratic Rules before the annual meeting.

Chief of Staff: Ayleen Howe was hired as Campus Administrator; we will add a Ring doorbell at Waters for her safety and convenience.

Denominational Affairs: The last Article 2 meeting will take place February 6 unless more people sign up. Another congregation proposed an amendment to add the 7 principles as a preamble to the new Article 2 text. The amendment needs 15 congregations to sign on by February 1 to be considered by UUA. We will conduct a Zoom meeting with a poll to vote on this here. We will have a listening session first— maybe Sunday the 21, after service, then follow with the Zoom meeting and vote that night. Rev. Amy will put the announcement together.

Search Team: Things are going well with Search.

Personnel: New Campus Administrator has begun training . We will invite her to a Board meeting.

Health and Wellness: All three respiratory viruses are surging. We will not require masks at this time, but no holding hands or turning around to sing or greet neighbors. Emphasize that people should stay home if they're sick.

Strategic Planning: The Strategic Planning Committee has determined that there is no potential for Asta Linder to be used as a Fellowship hall. We can't afford to build one right now: We need to increase membership and to increase pledges to be able to build and maintain one. Bill Dowling has suggested adding paving, awning, benches, fans on side of the Sanctuary. Most important for our congregation is to have a road on the west side of our property for IVMS to use instead of the current easement. Would we share the cost with the school? City and Sarasota School Board would have to approve. Other ideas for our campus: Fund a social hall by offering to name it after a donor contributing half the funds needed.

Safety Committee: Steve moved that the name be changed from Security Committee to Safety Committee. Pat Wellington seconded. The motion passed.

Shareholder Committee: The Shareholder Committee held their first meeting, which was successful.

Opening words/light chalice: Rev. Amy

Appoint process observer : Bill Reynolds will act as process observer

Call the meeting to order: Bill Reynolds

Establish that a quorum is present: Secretary Barbara Buehring established that a quorum was present.

President's Report: none

Vice President's Report: none

Minister's Report: Rev. Amy suggests that we give Jan Simon the title of Music Director. She will do the job as a volunteer. The Board agrees.

Treasurer's Report: A print copy of the report was distributed at the meeting. We are in a fairly strong cash position but large bills are coming up. We are not meeting our fundraising goal of \$10,000—we have only made \$1500 because there has been no auction, no travel event. Add agenda item for budget—unrealistic fundraising goal. When ready, ask Naomi to create a members-only page on UUCOV web site to post the first page of the treasurer's report. Tom will write a paragraph for the next Connection without identifying the investments by name or amount. Marcia Smith will talk to Naomi about creating a members-only page with password protection. Rev. Amy suggests there be one password for the whole church.

Secretary's Report:

Approval of Minutes: December minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting were approved by email; need a formal motion to approve. Steve moved that the December minutes be approved, Tom seconded, the motion passed.

Votes taken by email: Vote to deny permission for Bounce house at R2R event PASSED. Vote to reverse prior vote to add insurance for Steve as armed Security Director FAILED, with only 3 votes in favor. The motion is tabled for the time being.

Correspondence and Thank Yous: Thank you note to member for large donation.

Unfinished Business

- Easement—Jack, Steve, Bill will meet with IVMS next Thursday to discuss their plans to mitigate the problems caused by their pickup line of cars. Their use of our field for parking will also be discussed at this meeting.
- Road paving-- Once this is settled IVMS will pave the road because it's in the easement agreement. They're responsible for both the drive in front of Waters and the main road through the campus.
- Campus security will be discussed after service next Sunday. Change the name from to Security to Safety, to be more transparent about the committee's functions. We need a program where we check fire extinguishers to see if they work, etc.
- R2R event (Tom) --There are issues getting contracts--insurance. nonprofits, book vendors, food trucks--each have a different wording of contract. R2R can't sell merchandise because it would

involve getting sales tax. There is \$22,000 in donations and the budget for the event is \$17,000. John Van Camp can sign unamended contracts for us but the contracts must come back to Jack within a week for review. Tom moves we give John authority to sign the contracts we approved, without variation, with the signed contracts to come back to Jack for review within 7 days. Steve seconded. The motion passed.

- Wind insurance is asking for a large rate increase. Bill is getting quotes. Maybe just insure sanctuary and self-insure Asta Linder or Waters (create a fund to mitigate any loss). Maybe take a large, flat deductible. It's a growing percentage of the operating budget. Roof is old, insurance companies don't like roof over 10 years. Could new roof be a Futures Fund item? Get quote for removing solar panels from roof and putting them in field?

New Business

- Proposed budget for 2024-2025. Budget sent in email previously. Need an auction to meet fundraising goal. Will have a deficit of about \$20,000. Will vote on the proposed budget during February Board meeting because wind insurance is not settled yet.
- Need two members of the Board on the Search negotiating team, date for naming the members is March 15. The third member will be Bev Lieberman from the Search committee.
- Affordability of events. The minister's discretionary fund will cover any shortfall for people who can't afford the anniversary luncheon.
- Safety committee as a standing committee needs to be put on the agenda for annual meeting because it requires a change in the bylaws (bylaws lists standing committees). We need to name a new bylaws committee. Jack will appoint a bylaws committee chair. Rev. Amy suggests quarterly fire drills. Wrap an active shooter drill into building security.
- 2024 annual meeting. Things to be discussed at annual meeting:
 - o Change of name from Finance committee to stewardship, shareholder
 - o Legacy team update
 - o Number of organizations that used our campus year 2023-2024
 - o Hiring of campus administrator (Rev. Amy)

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am. Next meeting will be February 15, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Buehring
Board Secretary

