

Minutes of Coordinating Council Meeting

December 3, 2024

In attendance:

Marcia Smith Joel Morrison Annie Harrison Thom Reeves John Spitzer
Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw John Van Camp Bill Dowling Eileen Leapley

Meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Chalice was lit, opening words were spoken by Marcia.

Annie reported on the status of the Membership team. We have 13 new members joining on Sunday. Another Pathways is scheduled for February 8th. Many visitors have expressed interest in joining our congregation. The C.C. congratulated Annie on a job very well done.

Now that we have been attracting new people, we must make sure we are keeping them interested, by coming up with interesting programs and events.

Sally Erb has volunteered to head the small group dinners, which was very successful last year, and several people have expressed their hope that the dinners will return.

Nancy Menaldi-Scanlan has offered to do a Trivia night.

John Van Camp and Rev. Amy will be hosting another congregational conversation about what "Social Justice Issues" the congregation wants UUCOV to pursue next year. Hopefully it will create a direction for the congregation as well as the Social Justice team, and will continue to help attract new members and friends.

Rev. Amy suggested that we may want to treat the Social Justice team like a small group ministry. For example, people with a specific interest, e.g. gun control, women's rights, abortion, etc., can meet in a small group, and then meet together as a larger group several times a year.

John noted that UUCOV needs to have an updated, perhaps 2-sided, brochure, as there are a number of venues where it would be helpful. John would be glad to work with someone who can create an attractive brochure. Perhaps Ayleen can work with John.

Rev. Amy will work on getting business cards made up for UUCOV.

The Social Justice and Membership team leaders met and discussed a collaboration between the two teams. They considered hosting an event that would welcome prospective members and allow people to discuss current Social Justice issues. After discussion, the teams welcomed Rev. Amy's idea of forming

small groups interested in various specific issues, which would get together several times a year to discuss, share resources, and take action steps. You wouldn't have to be a UUCOV member to join these groups.

The C.C. agreed to purchase a \$450 fire pit to be placed at the back of Waters Hall to be used for various gatherings during the cold weather.

John Spitzer reported on the return of the shareholder meetings. The first one will be held on January 9th, and then will continue once per week through March. They will use the same format as last year's, which were successful.

Bill discussed the Wish List. There is only one item left on the Wish List, the parking areas. Bill reminded us that Wish List items need to be initiated by the C.C.

Marcia talked about the garden improvements. She is waiting for proof of the required insurance from the landscape company. The hardscape company does have the required insurance. Two benches have been sponsored so far. Discussion was held regarding building of a water feature in the garden area. We had one a while back; however, they are notorious for needing intensive maintenance. Rev. Amy described one she helped build at another congregation; it was simple, easy to maintain, and could cost less than \$1000. It was agreed that a water feature should be a part of stage two. Refreshing of the shrubbery around the patio and Waters Hall should be a priority for stage two. We might get people to sponsor shrubs.

Thank you to John Van Camp for encouraging the congregation to vote during the Voter Challenge.

The concept of celebrating monthly birthdays with a cake was discussed. Perhaps we could get a cake on the first Sunday of each month, and those who have a birthday during that month could stand and be recognized.

Update was given on the Suncoast Sounds Concert Series. Plans are moving forward. Next meeting of the committee is scheduled for this Thursday.

Discussion was held re: mentoring people to replace each team leader, perhaps every two years. Rev. Amy suggested that it be a requirement to mentor people as replacements. We might consider sending people to a leadership training academy. We should require term limits. We might survey the membership, find new people who are interested in leading. People should ask in person: will you join my team?

John raised the idea of a monthly report from a Board member after the service. A Board member could talk about what's going on, such as the launch of the Social Justice fellowship groups. "You Ought To Know," could be the title, done before people leave to get refreshments.

Another possibility could be that an announcement could be made five minutes before the start of a service. A Board member would say, "Today you ought to know about..." It was decided that Rev. Amy will make an announcement this Sunday that Worship Associates will no longer make announcements

from the pulpit. She will remind people to look at the rolling slides. The A/V team should always be notified whenever a change is going to be made.

Rev. Amy discussed the use of a printed paper that should always be filled out and turned in to Ayleen in order for anything to be put on the calendar, stating "Who, what where, when, and why." Included should be the name of the person to be contacted in case of questions.

The C.C. approved the idea of Ayleen creating a twice monthly information newsletter.

The idea of putting together interesting programs both for the congregation and for the outside community was discussed. Rev. Amy reminded us that Ayleen is working on the marketing of new programs.

The C.C. approved putting the Gardening project on the Wish List.

Rev. Amy suggested several different ways that we might get the congregation to notice our present grounds, in order for them to understand why we need the grounds improvements that are being worked on.

Next meeting is Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Leapley