

Minutes of Coordinating Council Meeting

January 7, 2025

In attendance:

Marcia Smith Thom Reeves Judy Houston Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw John Spitzer Donna Jewett
John Van Camp Brad Hardin Bill Dowling Eileen Leapley

Meeting began at 9:30 a.m.

Chalice was lit, opening words were spoken by Rev. Amy.

Several teams had sent their online reports to Marcia. (See addendum at bottom of page.)

The “fresh flowers on the pulpit” program was discussed. It was decided that any fresh flowers brought in will be placed by the candle table, and not close to the pulpit.

The UUCOV Auction was discussed. In order to encourage attendance, it was requested that we all share the Auction posts from the public Facebook page to our own pages. Publicize as much as possible!

The Suncoast Sounds concert fundraisers are beginning this month. The first one is Saturday, January 18th at 7 p.m. Encourage attendance for the concerts as well by sharing posts from the UUCOV public Facebook page to our own pages.

Update on landscaping design was presented for the seating area and the Garden of Remembrance. Marcia reported that the hardscape will hopefully be started next week.

Monthly birthday celebrations were discussed. It was decided that they will be more general, without specific birthdays being posted, in order to avoid private information being made public.

Bill Dowling presented his proposal for creating a new staff position to coordinate UUCOV Education and Leisure programs. The “Director of Congregational Engagement” would create or facilitate social and learning opportunities for the congregation. The funds for this position were in last year’s budget, but are no longer included in the new proposed budget. Rev. Amy noted that she knows several other congregations that employ a person in a half-time position. Ayleen is presently working on the marketing of our events, and she will continue doing that. Her position will not affect this new proposed position. If approved by the Board, an Engagement Team could be created to determine the types of programming the congregation wants.

John Van Camp remarked that he hopes this position will be approved by the Board, because his Social Justice programs would greatly benefit.

John Spitzer noted that if UUCOV is planning to increase the number of events offered to the community, it is more important than ever for our access road to IVMS be moved to the west side of the campus.

Rev. Amy noted that if we can increase the number of our programs and events enough to create a course catalog, the community as well as our congregation will respond positively.

The C.C. approved the proposal to create the new Coordinator of Education and Leisure Programs staff position.

John Van Camp discussed the importance of attending the Social Policy Issues meeting this Saturday at 1 p.m.: Moving from Discussion to Action.

John discussed the upcoming Martin Luther King Day parade. People from the Port Charlotte church made UUCOV aware of it. It would be a good opportunity to start interacting with the African American community. The parade will be held on Monday, Jan. 20th, starting at 11 a.m. in Punta Gorda. It was agreed that UUCOV should sponsor it in some way. We could put out an email blast to encourage people to attend. Signs will be posted on Brad's flatbed truck and taken to the parade. This year we will support the Social Justice Alliance table at the parade; we will get an earlier start on participation in next year's parade.

The Social Justice team is very supportive of the issue of separation of church and state. A meeting is scheduled for immediately after this C.C. meeting.

New Business:

Rev. Amy has requested permission to purchase, at her own expense, an 8'x8' shed outside of the fence, for her own use. Donna said the Green/Gardening group could also use some space in a shed for their tools. Discussion was held about placement of the shed. The C.C. approved the purchase. Placement will be decided shortly.

Donna discussed the cement raised beds that Roger Rowell created for the garden. Donna will place them in appropriate places.

Donna reported that she needs people to be educated on how to compost. She can give a class on composting and recycling. We should be getting a few truckloads of mulch soon. Marcia noted that we could advertise our new garden, our new peace pole that Marianne Koerner recently ordered, and the edible garden, all at the same time.

Discussion was held regarding where the peace pole should be placed. Once we've decided on the location, and when the new garden is completed, a dedication ceremony will be planned.

The use of the "Music Room" as a storage area was discussed. It needs a thorough cleaning out. It was decided not to move the music into the bathroom. The bookshelves that were in the former minister's office can be removed. Where to put them? We will offer them for free on In Touch.

Clarification was discussed about the announcements before the service. Rev. Amy will be reading them. Any announcements should be sent to Ayleen by the Tuesday before the service, but there can be exceptions for special announcements. Thom and Barb Gundy have been making slides, but they are not absolutely necessary for every announcement. This Sunday, Rev. Amy will reiterate to the congregation

that she needs to receive announcements by the Tuesday deadline, with Friday the absolute deadline for truly important emergencies. When Rev. Amy is not in the pulpit, the worship associate will read the announcements.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Leapley

ADDENDUM: Synopses of Team Reports for 1/7/2025 C.C. Meeting:

Annie Harrison – Membership:

Numbers are good: 190 active members; 5 emeriti; 27 friends.

List will be reviewed in February; will try to contact people we haven't heard from in a while. Will probably remove 5-10 people from active status.

Next Pathways is Sunday, February 9th; 50 people have been invited.

Judy Houston – Communications:

News release and photo on upcoming Suncoast Sounds event were distributed to the Gondolier and Herald-Tribune.

"Raise the Roof" auction event and photo were taken to accompany release.

Thom Reeves – A/V Team:

Thom was able to retrieve analytics of people viewing the sermons on line in December. Total number of views was 332.

John Van Camp – Social Justice:

A congregational gathering is planned for Saturday, January 11th to create action teams around social justice issue areas of interest/concern.

Should UUCOV be a sponsor and participate in the January 20th MLK Jr. parade and celebration in Punta Gorda?

Should UUCOV support the Suncoast Citizens for Separation of Church and State?

Bill Dowling:

Bill presented a proposal to enhance the educational, learning, and leisure opportunities at UUCOV, to benefit both the congregation and the wider community. He proposed that a formal adult education and leisure programs body, administered by professional staff, be established to support religious and secular education, learning, leisure, and advocacy opportunities for the congregation and the community.