

Minutes of Coordinating Council Meeting

March 4, 2025

In attendance:

Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw	Marcia Smith	Donna Jewett	Kim McHugh	Bill Dowling
Eileen Leapley	Sally Erb	Joel Morrison	Annie Harrison	Steve Leapley

Meeting began at 9:30 a.m. Flashlight/Chalice was lit, opening words were spoken by Rev. Amy.

Steve presented an update on our irrigation system. Since the pond level has been getting steadily lower, we probably will need a well, both to irrigate our new plantings and also the established ones. He received a quote from Guest Well of \$11,470. The location of the well would be in the back left corner of the Sanctuary. It will work independently of the old irrigation system, but if it stopped working, the old system in the pump house would take over. It's a necessary expense. Discussion was held about whether it should be a wish list item, or a capital expense? Should it come under the garden renovation project?

Rev. Amy commented that \$11,000 is a good price. She thinks it's a good idea, and we should do it. She thinks it's a capital expense, not a wish list item. Bill commented that the pond is getting very low. Several years ago it would have cost \$8,500. We didn't proceed with it then because a big storm had filled the pond and we ended up not needing it.

Should it be a part of the wish list for the Garden improvement project? We just renovated the Garden with new plantings, and they must be watered. The Coordinating Council all agreed that we need a well. Joel suggested we take it to the Finance Committee, and have them decide if it should be a wish list item or a capital expense. Marcia noted that we need to address irrigation on the property, even if we had not updated the garden.

Steve discussed the upgrade of the UUCOV library. He had asked Cathay Keough, retired Sarasota County librarian, to study its present state and make suggestions on how to better organize it. The budget would be \$500 at the most. It was noted that Ruth Boysworth should be offered the upkeep of our Little Free Library, if she would like the job.

Steve brought up the problem of parking with IVMS. It is evident that IVMS is trying to take over our field for parking. Steve told us to expect an attorney expense in order to solve the problem. He plans on putting up a No Trespassing sign today at 5 p.m. By next month, Steve will have more information from our new attorney. Up until now, we've had a good relationship with IVMS, but besides the problem of the field, their use of both lanes of our road is a huge problem for us. Bill mentioned the possible use of the field as a "cell phone" type lot, and charging IVMS for it.

Communications -

Marcia welcomed Sally Erb as team leader of Communications. Sally will meet with Judy Houston, in the hope that she will continue to write press releases for our events. Rev. Amy agreed to make up new brochures; Sally will provide the verbiage.

Membership –

Annie reported that we presently have 197 members, and 28 friends. Annie's goal is to have 200 members.

Marcia would like each team leader to work on developing more volunteers, and cultivating new leaders. The next six Sundays will highlight one team each week; the team leader will make their pitch for more volunteers, especially to our newer members. We should each send Barb Gundy a graphic to put on the rolling screen.

The Peace Pole will be installed this Friday, March 7th. The dedication will be on March 23rd after the service. It will be a lovely addition to the garden.

Concert fundraisers – The first two were great but not well attended by UUCOVERs. It is hoped that Priscilla Fullerton's concert will be better attended.

Update on landscaping design –

Bill and Marcia are still working on refreshing the shrubbery on Asta Linder and Waters Hall. Marcia will call Todd Foster to complete the job. Donna asked what the budget is so far. The gardening committee was folded into the greens committee. Kim mentioned that we should solve our watering problem before we plant more shrubbery. We should not be in a hurry to have a ribbon cutting event. Perhaps we can do it in October.

Kim noted that if we had used a tree service that she and Donna had suggested a year ago, our landscape would now look a lot better. Rev. Amy asked that Kim get another proposal from that tree service company to the entire Board. Marcia agreed that we should have gotten the original proposal to the Board, and we will do better going forward. Bill noted that we cannot depend upon volunteers to keep up the landscaping.

Sage groups – “Social and Group Engagement” – were discussed. Rev. Amy explained how they work; they are short-term focus groups, in contrast to long-term fellowship groups. The groups will start at the end of March, and meet monthly, with a theme decided on each month. Marcia especially was enthusiastic about the idea; she would like to lead a group. All agreed that this type of group is very important to our health as a congregation.

Discussion was held regarding publicizing UUCOV events. Rev. Amy and the Coordinating Council are working on a policy for general dissemination of material.

Discussion was held regarding a draft guide to publicizing UUCOV news and events that Marcia introduced.

Rev. Amy mentioned the plethora of scams that are going around. We should have some type of class on this.

A draft of Communications Guidelines was presented and discussed. This will be fine tuned and disseminated to the congregation.

Meeting ended at 11:00 a.m. Next meeting is Tuesday, April 1st, 9:30 a.m.

Submitted by
Eileen Leapley