

Minutes of Coordinating Council Meeting

June 3, 2025

In attendance:

Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw	Steve Leapley	John Spitzer
Donna Jewett	Anna Drallios	Thom Reeves
Jean Barlow	Eileen Leapley	

Via Zoom:

Bill Dowling	Annie Harrison
Sally Erb	Marcia Smith

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

Reports from Teams:

John Spitzer requested that in the future, the agendas of the C.C. and the Board be put on the UUCOV website.

Donna reported that the irrigation by the edible garden is not working at all. Steve is meeting with the irrigation company representative on Thursday. Bill said that area of the garden, near Asta Linder, is at the end of the system, and there is no pressure, but it's being worked on.

John reported on Joel Morrison's Finance Team report. The garden project is wrapping up. \$62,000 was raised, and a bit less was spent. All agreed this was great news.

The Pledge Campaign target was \$300,000, and a bit more was raised. This was also excellent news.

Seventeen responses to the Hurricane survey were received. All have either a safe home to stay during a hurricane, or have an evacuation plan in place. Several people offered a room in their home if needed. All supplied their cell phone number, so that we can contact them to make sure they're safe after a storm.

Anna reported that sign making for the June 14th "No Kings" demonstration was successful on Sunday at UUCOV. Moe had handed out several signs. Anna asked whether the Social Justice Team could have a minute every Sunday to talk about various important Social Justice events. Rev. Amy said that if Anna sends her an email with a short script by the Thursday before the service, she will announce it during "Things You Should Know." In addition, Anna will supply relevant literature on the Social Justice table.

Anna will set up a table at the June 21st Juneteenth event in Punta Gorda. She would like to hand out brochures advertising UUCOV, but hasn't been able to find any on the lanai. Annie noted that we have several hundred outdated brochures that can be used in a pinch. Rev. Amy and Ayleen are working on an updated brochure, with a QR code that will bring people to our website.

The recent meeting about continuing summer activities was well attended. Several events, including Mat Making, Arts and Crafts, Meatless Monday, the Ladies Open Gathering, and the Book Group, will continue

throughout the summer. Several new events, such as summer group dinners, game night, trivia night, and computer tips and tricks, are planned.

The Arts and Crafts group would like to make UUCOV magnets to hand out as a welcome to the new season in October. The estimated cost would be around \$75. Annie's Membership Team has that amount in their budget.

It was noted that basic computer classes were very much needed, as many in our congregation would benefit by them. Ayleen could talk to Nathan, our tech person, about giving these classes. Alternatively, Jean said perhaps basic classes could be given during her Ladies Open Gatherings.

New Business:

A new Wish list item was proposed by the Campus Team. Bill and Steve would like to connect the church's irrigation network to the City of Venice's reclaimed water supply. We've put quite a lot of money into our gardens, and the present drought conditions are ruining the new plantings. Even though the rains will eventually come, we still need a steady, reliable water supply.

Projected cost for the infrastructure connection and necessary system modifications is \$4,500. Bill noted that during periods of drought, if the reclaimed water supply is not usable, we would still be able to use our pond's water, but the City's reclaimed water supply would be used as our main form of irrigation.

All agreed that we should proceed with putting the hookup to the City's reclaimed water supply on the Wish List.

The question was raised of how to advertise this as a Wish List item. Since the C.C. has approved it, the Board will need to approve it. John said that since three Board members are present today, if we call one more person on the Board for their approval, it could be approved quickly.

Steve noted that, because the Campus Team is "aging out," it is important for UUCOV to hire a sexton. In addition to performing routine maintenance chores around the campus, the person hired would mow the lawns. The sexton would probably need to work twenty hours per week, at \$25 per hour. UUCOV would have to purchase a ride-on mower, at an estimated cost of \$4,500, but the cost in savings by not using our present lawncare service would still save money.

After discussion, the C.C. approved hiring a sexton to replace our volunteers and our lawncare service. This will happen in mid-August, when Steve returns. It will go to the Board for approval.

Steve asked Thom if we are covered for volunteers for the A/V booth throughout the summer. Thom replied that he has several volunteers, along with Eddie and an assistant whom Eddie is working with.

Jean remarked that she is having trouble finding out people's birthdays for her monthly birthday celebrations. She created a signup form that she asked everyone to bring to events and ask for attendees to submit their birthday.

It was noted that without the Owl device, it is impossible for our Zoom attendees to hear the conversation. John asked if a new Owl device is on the Wish List. After discussion, the C.C. approved adding to the Wish List a 55" or 60" Smart TV, at a cost of up to \$600 for both rooms A and B. These would be added to the Wish List, plus \$100 for brackets.

Meeting ended at 10:26 a.m. Next meeting is Tuesday, July 1st, at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Eileen Leapley