

Minutes of Coordinating Council Meeting

November 4, 2025

In Attendance:

Jean Barlow Marcia Smith Rev. Dr. Amy Petrie Shaw John Spitzer
Joel Morrison Thom Reeves Sally Erb Olga Hebert Eileen Leapley

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

Team Reports:

Joel reported on behalf of the Finance Team. He asked that each Team Leader send him a requested budget for FY 2026-2027 as soon as possible, as the Budget Committee is meeting on November 11th.

Joel noted that there is a line item for Education funds. Funds designated for Education from the estates of two recently deceased members will be placed in the Education line item.

It is hoped that the Education funds line item will inspire the Board to move forward in hiring a director of Education and Engagement. It was noted that the plans are in place to begin the process of hiring someone to fill the position.

Jean wants to make sure her new team, the Sunday Hospitality Team, will have a budget. Joel requested that she email him her budget request.

Jean noted that she would like to see more photos in the Venice Gondolier concerning our UUCOV events. When we have an event planned, Sally will contact Fran Valencic, social columnist for the Gondolier, to ask her to come and take photos of the event.

All acknowledged that Joel's book is an excellent compilation of UUCOV's history. All the proceeds from sale of the book will go to the Education fund.

Sally discussed advertising in the Venice Chamber of Commerce Business Directory. It was agreed that an additional \$200 to have the words made **bold** in the Directory is not a worthwhile use of our funds.

The next Pathways class will be held on November 16th after the service in Waters Hall. Annie is making preparations for the class.

The Coordinating Council Covenant was signed by each Team Leader.

UUCOV Goals for 25-26 were reviewed:

- 225 members/contributing friends by the end of April 2026.
- Hire a Director of Education and Engagement. Rev. Amy has created a job description, and she will hold three listening sessions in order to get input from the congregation. The first one will most likely be held on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

- Develop a strategy to redistribute the giving curve.
- Collect demographic and emergency info on all members and contributing friends, in both paper and digital format.
- Leadership development and training. A follow-up class to Pathways, called Check Point, is in the planning phase.
- The Board will come to new agreements with IVMS by November 2025.

The special Food Bank Donation will launch this Sunday, November 9th. Bins will be located in the lanai every other month on the same Sunday as the Special Offering. Food will be delivered to the Sarasota UU.

Until we have a Director of Education and and Engagement, we are officially not booking any events. Ayleen has permission from Rev. Amy to inform anyone who calls of this decision.

Marcia urged us all to read the monthly minutes of the Board.

Old Business:

The online UUCOV Boutique will be retired with one last closing push. Rev. Amy has a plan to do so.

The monthly printed calendar was discussed. It is available at the Welcome Table on the lanai. Some people are still requesting a printed directory. It can be easily done, and will be made available on an as-requested basis.

Marcia, John Spitzer, and Barb Gundy are working on updating the Policies and Procedures, many of which are outdated. Marcia requested that Team Leaders look over those pertaining to their team, and submit updates to her.

John raised the issue of the wish list being put on the slides. He thought we should consider including the amounts already funded, to incentivize others to donate. It was noted that a “thermometer” type display to show amounts received so far would be eye catching.

Steve Leapley entered the meeting. He discussed how we might harden the exposed north side of the sanctuary. Boulders would cost about \$4500. Another idea is to purchase two or three telephone poles, lay them horizontally. The cost would be approximately \$250 per pole. They could lay at an angle, with a garden in the middle, either with Muhly grass, other plants, or a community garden. Maximum cost would be about \$1,000 counting planting. We would still need 6 boulders for the front area.

All agreed that the telephone poles should be purchased, using funds from the general budget.

The Legacy Friends brochure was discussed. Sally will review the brochure.

Meeting ended at 10:20 a.m. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 9th at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Eileen Leapley