

Minutes of Coordinating Council Meeting

December 2, 2025

In Attendance:

Jean Barlow Sally Erb Annie Harrison Olga Hebert
Joel Morrison Thom Reeves Marcia Smith Eileen Leapley

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

Team Reports:

Steve Leapley came by to visit, and reported that we're having problems with our solar panels. He is meeting with the MiraSol people this morning to figure out how to correct the problem. They seem to not be able to monitor the panels, and as a result our electric bills have been higher than they should be.

Sally noted that if anyone wants an event advertised, the Communications Team should be notified.

Joel noted that we are changing numbers in the accounting system. A/V was added; Sunday Hospitality was added; Greens and Grounds was added. We're saving Lifespan Education for the future Director of Education and Engagement position.

We discussed the high price of Fair Trade certified coffee, which we would like to use except for the fact that it's cost prohibitive. We discussed the possibility of placing a basket for a small donation when people get coffee. We agreed to table that idea for now.

The importance of leadership development was discussed. We need to be more intentional about cultivating new members into Leadership.

Marcia stressed the importance of each team reviewing the goals they had set for 2025-26. The committees under each team should also review their goals.

Annie's Membership Team recently held a Pathways event. Six people signed the book since April. Nine have left, due either to death or to resignations because people have moved away.

On January 11th, after service, a follow-up to Pathways was discussed. It would be called Checkpoint, and we'd invite any of the people who feel "newer," as well as the team leaders. We will ask if people are going to various activities, have they met people, etc. If we have it at the Sanctuary, and provide a light lunch, people will tend to stay and attend. This is also the date of the new member ceremony. Sally will make up a flyer when Annie gives her the information. Annie will need help organizing the Checkpoint event.

Visitors may not know that they can belong to two congregations. Annie would like to see a "visitor push"; she will talk to Rev. Amy about it. There is a basket on the signup table where supporting friends can pledge.

Sally asked if UUCOV has to pay the U.U.A. "per person." We have 190 members, around 20 supporting friends.

Joel said we don't differentiate between members and supporting friends.

We could have visitor forms at of our events, such as Meatless Monday, and ask attendees to fill them out. We should also have a sign-in sheet at events, to include names and email addresses.

Each team should think of a simple, bite-sized task that a new person could do, and then ask that person directly. This has been found to be the best approach to receiving a positive response from volunteers.

Anna needs a lot more support with the Social Justice Team; the Shareholder committee will also need help.

"Things You Should Know" that Rev. Amy reads from the pulpit was reviewed. It's very important that any requests need to get to Rev. Amy by Wednesday or Thursday, and not at the last minute. It was noted that the time for Joys and Concerns should not be used to make announcements.

The recent Food Drive was very successful. Every two months we'll have a big drive, but all our food will continue to go to the Sarasota U.U. food delivery project.

Annie read the very inviting letter that she sends to every visitor who fills out a visitor card. The words should be said from the pulpit.

How do we grow our leadership, volunteers, involvement? This is a most important challenge to the congregation.

The Chamber of Commerce will have a rally in their parking lot. UUCOV be represented, with our tent and our banner. Cards and bookmarks should be handed out.

Old Business:

Marcia, John, and Barb have been going through Policies and Procedures.

Meeting ended at 10:45 a.m. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 6th at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Eileen Leapley