

UUFBR Board of Trustees Meeting October 22, 2025
Minutes

Present: Minister Rev Edith Love, Co-president Rajeev Arora, Secretary Judy Keiser, Treasurer Howard Prentice, VP Patrick Larson, Carole Stephens, Lynn Smith, Nader Tavakoli

Guests: Mitch Major, Linda Prentice, Celia Hirsch, John and Betty Tilton, Mary Wickensheimer, Susan Holahan

7:00 Gathering: Chalice Lighting /Opening Words (Rev Edith), Check-in (Rajeev), Vibe-checker (Nader), Time-minder (Patrick)

7:18 Call to order; Welcome to guests and visitors

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting 9/24/25 as revised: Discussion included a reminder that reports are to be sent to Board in advance, a note that Program Planning team minutes are on Google Docs, and a related Action Item for Ruth to send Program Planning minutes to Board. Minutes approved.

Reports

- a. Minister's Report – Rev Edith submitted written report. Summary: she's doing customary things, with increased need for pastoral care. Mending covenant meeting between Exec Team and facilitating minister Rev Doug McCusker will take place on Friday. Attending SEUMMA meeting in November, planning remaining worship services, prepping congregation for period without minister. End date is Jan 12, with a party; request for her to preside at worship service in January.
- b. Treasurer's Report – Howard submitted written report. Summary: Treasurer met October 10 with Rajeev, Bill, Mitch, Nader and Robert about next 2 years projected budget. Robert analyzed finances, concluding they are in pretty good shape for this year and next year (given Malusis legacy and new Sharex revenues), and the group agreed. Time of year makes a difference to cash flow. Pledges come in lump sums at various times. Suspected shortage didn't take into account past years' history. Though this year still has a \$40k deficit, \$4k pledges came in this month. From pledging and Sharex perspective, we're better off than last year, though we're still down over the past 3 years. The recent trend is a slow increase of attendees and members.
- c. VP-Facilities – Patrick submitted written report. Summary of action items:
 - i. Tree work: Boca tree svc submitted a good bid, 3 yr commitment including annual pruning, we'd need to shuffle money around to pay whole bill. Goal to keep one longterm relationship, with periodic reassessment. Suggestion to triage most urgent work this year, put off cosmetic work, request payment plan of three 1-year contracts that fit into annual budget. **Motion by Bill, second by Carole with friendly amendment, to hire Boca Tree Service for 3-year annually-based plan.** Discussion: Oak tree in front parking lot can be taken out now or wait. **Motion passed** unanimously. Also, request to include removing the oak tree in the parking lot repair project. Reserve fund is still substantial. **Motion by Bill, seconded by Howard, to remove oak tree, necessitated as part of parking lot maintenance.** Discussion

about consequences of removal, opinion given by Boca Raton city officials, replacement with gravel, choice of replacing tree or paying into tree fund, consequence of removal, negligible effect of tree shade on roof. **Motion passed with 1 objection.**

- ii. Question raised about all night lighting in front and back parking lots, including options (light only front since park provides ambient light to back), cost savings. Consensus: Patrick can decide without board input.
 - iii. Fire system progress: we have GC, permits are notarized and ready to submit to city, now it's up to the City to move forward.
 - iv. Bathroom remodeling project: it's on the back burner, due to difficulty finding convenient meeting times.
 - v. Access through back doors and side gates: should remain unlocked to be welcoming. Possible conflict with goal of safety for children and other attendees. Idea: put up welcoming sign, make entrance friendly, explain safety concerns.
- d. Sharex – Linda Prentice: Team is being assembled, more want to join. Recognition that this is a time of transition. Progress has been made:
- i. Review of existing contracts: Ted Seidle and Nancy Hutter started reviewing existing contracts, Nancy and Judy Keiser will evaluate fees in light of needs of congregation, mission and vision.
 - ii. Contract template being created by Raj and Ted. Goal to create new contracts and be ready when new groups want to rent space, and transition to new contract in January 2026.
 - iii. Ongoing work: keeping partners happy, space sharing by schools and other groups, replacing Buddhists (leaving Dec 10) with other groups. Nursery has been cleared out and will be rented by Grow Coop starting in November at \$500/month. Other past partners: acting camp not returning. Rajeev will make stored props available to the schools.
 - iv. Sharex Plan: goal to bring materials together and develop plan to present to BOT and congregation. Next meeting Nov 8. Praise for efforts to communicate with Sharex partners.
Observation that board has more business than we have time. Suggestion to find an adaptive approach to have enough time for the business before us.

Breath break

- e. Quarterly Reports—October reports:
- 1. Endowment: Mitch Major submitted written 3rd quarter report. Summary: 3 funds all invested in index funds. Stock 75%, bond 25%, doing well along with stock market. 10.6% avg annual return. Grants given for photography, outreach coordinator, Delray Beach children's garden, Tomorrow's Rainbow. Compliments on report.
 - 2. Operating Expense and Capital Improvement Funds: Bill Jensen gave report: Doug Hughes Fund at Fidelity has \$168K, 11% growth, Capital Improvements Fund at \$24K yielded same return. Malusis funds at \$108k yielded 12% return. That fund started with \$115k, \$25k was deducted for operating funds. Gains brought us back to within \$7k of original amount. Next projects to fund with Malusis funds: new bathrooms and sound system/acoustics projects.

- f. Program Committees and Groups/Action items
 - i. Landscape-- Memorial Garden—Celia Hirsch submitted minutes. Summary: Question about volunteer positions open for landscape and memorial garden. Currently there's no separate memorial garden team- Admin and minister handle administrative end (space is reserved on signing contract) and burying, not scattering, ashes. There are very few volunteers. If people are interested in learning how it works, we have a new brochure to give out. Action Item for Ruth to find and make copies of new brochures. Landscapers need advance notice of services, and minister needs file to conduct memorial services.

Old Business

- a. By-laws Update: Mitch Major gave report: He sent email to groups asking for input by early November on bylaws changes. Some groups have replied with a few changes. He will follow up with other groups, including Membership after their November meeting. Plan is to hold a workshop Nov 23 after service open to all.
- b. Mission and Vision/Strategic Plan Update: Rajeev gave report: Nancy Hutter is working on strategic plan with current team of Nancy, Lynn Smith, Myra Terry and Rajeev. Looking to expand team. Will continue to articulate pillars and plans. Powerpoint is being edited and shared among team members.
- c. Hope for Us Workshop schedule: Can start any time – Carole suggested starting with 20 people in January (invite specific people/team leaders) and running 8 weekly Saturday sessions on Zoom. Need coordinator. Plan was for H4U team reps to attend board meetings quarterly; exec team meetings every week. Concern that experience of Trustees coming off board is harvested by H4U. Good idea to send a save the date well in advance. Also need to get early commitments. Lynn is willing to contact Rev Jude, using Carole's schedule.
- d. Safety/Security Plan update: Rajeev reported that ICE signs are being worked on and No Weapons sign was put up by membership committee. Formal signs are being ordered. One way sign exists near driveway, but is being disregarded. Suggestion of traffic monitor in yellow vest. Also, members are parking in visitor spots.

New Business

- a. Minister Search update: Rajeev reported that Christine Purcell gave form and access to portal. Could not get editable copy of job posting but got pdf. Need search team. Nader and Jim Smith are interested. Jim Smith volunteered to lead team. Bylaws have language for search teams, not clear if it applies to contract minister search. Consensus to choose leader who will find others, up to five members. Suggestion to conduct listening sessions with questions found by Carole Stephens.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:09.

Our Vision:

A beloved community welcoming all and promoting truth, spirituality, love, inclusion, compassion and justice.

Our Mission:

- **nurture** spiritual growth and connection,
 - **build** inclusive community,
 - **work** towards justice and equity,
- heal** the world one interaction at a time.