## Florida District Unitarian Universalist Association Board of Trustees

Minutes – Sept. 28, Sept. 29, 2013 The Mountain, Highlands, North Carolina Minutes approved Oct. 30, 2013

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2013

**Present:** Ila Klion, president; Harvey Heckes, vice president; Al Tweedy, treasurer; Margie Manning, secretary; Sarah Ritzmann, trustee; Connie Goodbread, congregational life consultant, UUA Southern Region; Maggie Lovins, congregational life consultant, UUA Southern Region

Ila Klion called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. Following the guidelines for discussion questions suggested by the organizers of the Southern Region conference, board members discussed what has excited us about the discernment process we had just gone through, what we learned, and what decisions we need to make.

Al Tweedy moved, Sarah Ritzmann seconded the following motion: We will take a leap of faith. We will take the steps needed to dissolve the Florida District at the annual assembly, and take the interim time to have deep conversations with congregations, educating them about what we are doing, and commit to work with other districts to build a regional fiduciary body and a structure for a council of elders.

The motion was approved unanimously.

ACTION ITEM: We all agreed to check calendars to find a time for a conference call to consider next steps.

We agreed that we would need to reach out to the Leadership Development Council and Dream Builders participants early on and we discussed in general terms the kinds of responses we might get from congregations.

The Florida District Board meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm to rejoin the other districts in the Southern Region in a large group discussion. [NOTE: All four districts in the Southern Region independently agreed to move away from a governing board at the district level and dissolve

the legal entities of the districts; give up roles of staff supervision, and share assets.]

Sunday, Sept. 29, 2013

**Present:** Ila Klion, president; Harvey Heckes, vice president; Al Tweedy, treasurer; Margie Manning, secretary; Sarah Ritzmann, trustee; Connie Goodbread, congregational life consultant, UUA Southern Region; Maggie Lovins, congregational life consultant, UUA Southern Region; Scott Taylor, director of congregational life, UUA

Ila Klion called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Sarah Ritzmann moved approval, Al Tweedy seconded minutes from the joint meeting of the Florida District Board of Trustees-Leadership Development Council on July 26-July 27, 2013. The motion was approved unanimously. We discussed steps for moving forward in the Florida District after the four District presidents send out initial communication.

We agreed we would reach out to all 44 congregations in the Florida District, initially through existing clusters and/or other geographic meetings that would draw several congregations in a particular area. We will have prepared material that is identical for all the meetings to keep the message on track. We will use multiple methods of communications – including verbal discussion, powerpoint and printed materials and making the information available on the website.

We will reach out to individual congregations that don't attend the group meetings, through a personal invitation to talk, knowing that some will respond to the personal invitation and others will not.

Connie suggested we ask in these group meetings, "What is it has been helpful from the Florida District?" emphasizing that we'll keep those things and those things are still possible. Maggie suggested we use appreciative inquiry model to gather positives and then say we now have a chance to make all this possible.

Scott Taylor suggested we ask: what do you want/what do you not want to lose in governance, management and service. Categorizing those three sends a message that there's a conversation we had with Jim Key, UUA moderator, about governance, a conversation with Scott Taylor,

congregational life director, about management and a conversation with the Southern Region staff about service. Scott can be used to reach out to ministers and other professional groups.

We will reach out to the Florida chapters/members of the UU Ministers Association, LRADA, UU Musician's Network and the professional administrators group. Connie and Maggie and other staff can help us with contact information. Maggie suggested we emphasis to congregations that they should keep their information current through myuua.org

We agreed we need to touch base with the Leadership Development Council.

ACTION ITEM: Al will touch base with Dani Slader (co-chair of the LDC), to find out what is going on with the LDC and when their meetings are scheduled

The next meeting is a conference call scheduled for 8:30 pm Wednesday, Oct. 23.

ACTION ITEM: Margie will send a calendar invitation for the Oct. 23 meeting.

We did a checkout by discussing how we felt about the work we did. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.