

UUC Board Meeting Minutes
Date: April 8, 2021
Approved May 13, 2021

In Attendance: Wayne Neu, Bob Stimson, Nancy Bodenhorn, Brandie Lemmon, David Hundley, Linda Powers (filling in for Meredith), Pam Phillips (ex-officio), Karen Hager (anticipated ex-officio)
Not in attendance: Mindy Quigley, Meredith Hundley (maternity)

Chalice Lighting, Reading (Wayne Neu)
Check-in

Review and Accept Agenda - Approved Unanimously

Member Forum (Patrick Feucht). Patrick provided a synopsis of the Baseline Solar company proposal to put solar panels on the UUC roof. If we approve of this proposal, we would have two options for paying for the solar panels, either through paying up-front (UUC owning the panels), or through having Baseline Solar provide the panels and we pay Baseline monthly the amount that we would not be paying Apco (the electric company). Questions included insurance coverage, and what the impact would be of: having a different percentage of usage offset (presentation was for 93%), size of array, and payback options.

Approve Consent Agenda – Approved Unanimously

Minister's Report
Administrator's Report
DLFD's Report
Previous Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's Report -

Old Business

- Building closure discussion. A group in which all members are vaccinated requested to be able to use the building for meetings. The Board expressed concern regarding establishing a policy that differentiates groups within the congregation. We recognize that the context and knowledge about COVID transmission and vaccine status have changed in the last year. The Safety committee will be asked to review and revise the current policy and consider opening guidance. The building will remain closed for another month.
- Policy for starting new groups – approved unanimously.
- Bylaws amendment proposal on signing the Membership Book for those outside the area – first reading. The proposal would allow people who are not physically available to sign the membership book in Blacksburg to submit a letter requesting membership. The Board changed some of the wording to be voted on next month.

New Business:

- Solar Panel proposal – (discussed earlier in Member Forum)

- 8th principle - <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/background>. The Board agrees with the intent of the 8th principle. We understand that there might be individual concerns about the wording of the principle, and believe that the intent and goals of the principle outweigh these concerns.
- GA Delegates –The Board approved Ellen Plummer, Steven Henninger and Bob Stimson as GA delegates for 2021. We can have two more delegates.
- Annual meeting votes – 8th principle, bylaws amendments (adding LFD to Board and process to become member), solar panels. The Board agreed that we support the 8th principle and will present it to the congregation for a vote. The Board also agreed to support the two bylaw changes for a congregational vote. We will wait to make a decision on the solar panel after more information is provided.

Upcoming:

Newsletter article (due 4/22) – Wayne

Next Meeting Reading – Nancy

Next Board Meeting: May 13, 2021

Meeting with the Finance Committee on April 22 at 7:00

Check-out (How'd we do?)

Meeting adjourned at 9:04



3/4/2021

Baseline Solar Proposal

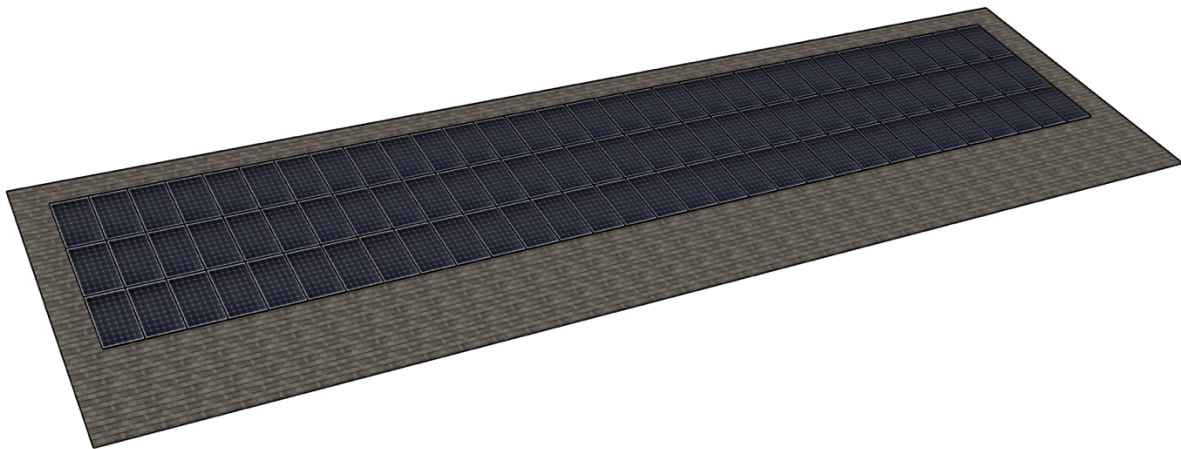
Blacksburg UUC
1301 Gladewood Drive
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Baseline Solar would like to partner with your organization to install and operate a photovoltaic (PV) system on your facility. Baseline will purchase and install all of the necessary equipment if you agree to a long term contract to purchase all of the power produced by the system.

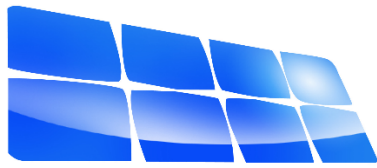
The PV system will be connected to the AEP grid in a net metering arrangement. This means power to the building can come from both the solar array and AEP simultaneously. This guarantees you will always have power when you need it, even if the sun isn't shining. It also means that you will still have an AEP bill, as well as a monthly bill from Baseline.

A power purchase agreement (PPA) is a financing mechanism that allows you to enjoy the benefits of renewable energy without the typically high up front investment.

Details of our proposed PPA and outright purchase options can be found on the following pages.



Proposed 37.2 kW PV array on SE roof



3/4/2021

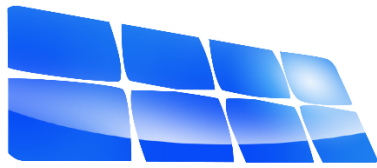
Solar Power Purchase Agreement

System size: 37.2 kW
Annual production: 42,000 kWh
Annual usage offset: 93%

UUC	Baseline Solar	Apco
Hosts PV array	Installs and owns array	Provides net metering for Baseline array
Buys 100% of power from array*	Maintains array	
Billed monthly by Baseline and Apco	Utilizes tax credit and depreciation	
No upfront cost besides \$1,000 connection fee		

*25 year contract with 10 year buyout option

Current Apco rate	\$0.10 / kWh
Baseline rate	\$0.10 / kWh
Annual Baseline escalation	2.5%



3/4/2021

Outright Purchase

System size:	37.2 kW
Annual production:	42,000 kWh
Annual usage offset:	93%
Installed cost:	\$74,400
Annual savings:	\$4,200

Policy on Groups

The following types of groups are recognized by the UUC.

a. Sponsored Groups

A Sponsored Group (SG) is a group sponsored by the Congregation as it furthers the goals of the Congregation and provides a service to the congregation and the New River Valley community and has successfully completed the process to become an SG. If space is limited, Congregation members will have first priority to participate in an SG. SGs enjoy preferential building use privileges and may have a link to their web materials placed on the UUC website.

The representative for an SG must be a Congregation member.

To become an SG, a presentation outlining the services provided by the group and the time and space needs of the group must be made at a Board meeting. The Board shall vote on whether to sponsor the group at a subsequent meeting in order to allow time for input of members of the Congregation. The Board shall vote on whether to renew sponsorship of previously sponsored groups at the August Board meeting.

b. Congregational Groups (CG)

Congregational groups are made up of Congregation members whose purpose(s) further the goals of the Congregation. CGs enjoy preferential building use privileges.

CGs may be formed for a number of purposes including spiritual practice groups, study groups, support groups, service groups or advocacy groups. CGs may be of short-term duration or on-going.

Any member may form a new group within the church as long as (1) the group's general purpose is in alignment with the mission, vision, and values of the congregation, and (2) there are at least three UUC members who are interested in actively organizing and participating in the group. To form a new group, a member should begin by discussing the possibility with the minister or DLFD. If encouraged to do so, the member should fill out the "Group Application Form" available from the administrator and submit it to the minister or DLFD for approval. Before approving a new group, the minister or DLFD should consult with any appropriate ministry team. New groups will be assigned to an existing committee or ministry team as appropriate.

c. Member Groups (MG)

A Member Group is a group not affiliated with the Congregation, but organized by a member of the Congregation for personal reasons. The representative for an MG must be a Congregation member.

d. Non-member groups (NMG)

Non-member Groups are independent groups that have no connection to the Congregation.

e. Non-Profit Groups (NPG)

Non-profit groups are independent groups that have no connection to the Congregation and are a legal non-profit organization.

UUC Board Meeting Agenda
Date: April 8, 2021

7:00 – 7:15

Chalice Lighting, Reading (Wayne Neu)
Check-in

7:15 – 7:20

Review and Accept Agenda

7:20 – 7:30

Member Forum (Patrick F.)

7:30 – 7:45

Approve Consent Agenda:

Minister's Report

Administrator's Report

DLFD's Report

Previous Meeting Minutes

7:45 – 8:00

Treasurer's Report

8:00 – 8:25

Old Business

- Building closure discussion (Sages)
- **Policy for starting new groups** - vote
- **Bylaws amendment proposal on signing the Membership Book for those outside the area**
- first reading

8:25 – 8:50

New Business:

- **Solar Panel proposal**
- **8th principle** - <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/background>
- GA Delegates
- Annual meeting votes – 8th principle, bylaws amendments, solar panels

8:50 – 9:00

Upcoming:

Newsletter article (due 4/22) – Wayne

Next Meeting Reading –

Next Board Meeting: May 13, 2021

Check-out (How'd we do?)

* Items in **bold** are to be reviewed before the meeting

Leads Worship and Officiates Rites of Passage

Services in March explored Commitment, the perfect theme for the kick-off of our stewardship pledge drive. Alyssa Short did a great job of recruiting members to share reflections on why they commit to UUC (thanks to Catherine Copeland, Clyde Marshall-Teets, Jean Crane & Sharon Elliott, Judy Snoke, and the Myers—Brian, Katie, Hazel, & Eliza)—for this service and throughout the pledge drive. Commitment was also a great theme for us to recognize and welcome 13 new members to the congregation, in a service exploring what makes commitments difficult to make, ably assisted by Tommy Iafate. On my Sunday out of the pulpit, the “guest” speaker was Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, president of the UUA; I appreciate Stephen Henninger and Ellen Plummer coming to the sanctuary to weave worship for that service.

We had a multi-generational service for Easter, complete with a wonderful re-telling of the Ostara story by the children and youth, put together by Karen Hager, and a touching reflection by Kimberley Homer. The rest of the month, we'll be continuing to explore the theme of Becoming.

I led a very small and brief memorial for member Bill Patterson, who died on March 17th.

Provides Pastoral Care and Presence

I continue to meet with people on Zoom and over the telephone, and now that I am fully vaccinated I'm feeling more comfortable visiting with people at their homes. I've also had several meetings with people on the grounds of UUC now that the weather is getting warmer.

Encourages Spiritual Development for Self and Others

Transgender Inclusion in Congregations will conclude next week. The discussions in both afternoon and evening sessions are lively, and I plan to offer this workshop again next year. It has been especially well-suited for Zoom sessions. I have set the dates for a new class called [Sacred Language & Sacred Translation](#), created by Rev. AJ van Tine and Rev. Lisa Garcia-Sampson. So far, five people have signed up, all of whom prefer evening meetings.

I enjoyed meeting with the Coming of Age youth and their mentors, invited by facilitator Victoria Taylor, on a cold and breezy afternoon on the grounds. I've missed meeting regularly with the youth but continue to hold story time for the younger kids weekly.

Soul Matters covenant groups continue, as does the spiritual aging monthly meeting. I continue to attend the mid-week gatherings, usually led by members of the worship team. I led the last meeting in March.

Witnesses to Social Justice in the Public Square

The Anti-Racism Group continues to educate the congregation about racism in advance of consideration of adopting the 8th principle. This month, they are working with Clyde Marshall-Teets to facilitate explorations of environmental racism, and I encourage board members to attend. The [exercise](#) will take place from 7-8 PM on April 21st.

Mark Benson has been collaborating with other members of VICPP (Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy) from Roanoke and Blacksburg who are planning a [meeting](#) to discuss this year's General

Assembly session with Kim Bobo (the director of VICPP) and Delegate Sam Rasoul on April 22nd, from 7-8.

Leads Administration

Choir director Ella Kromin has requested guidance/permission on in-person choir rehearsals—outdoor or indoor, with probably ten people in attendance. Choir manager Jennifer Thomas has sent out a survey to choir members to assess their interest and comfort in attending. I ask that the board consider their request. Here is an [article](#) addressing choir rehearsal in the time of COVID (scroll midway down the article to see the question and response).

The Safety Committee has been gathering information and will meet on April 11th to continue working on criteria and protocol for gathering in person outdoors and indoors. The technology committee will be meeting on April 16th to continue planning on what we'll need for such gatherings.

The Building Committee met on April 7th for the first time since we closed down to review any projects that need to be completed before we reopen the building. We are currently seeking a new chair person for the building committee. While knowledge of buildings and all it entails is helpful, perhaps more important is someone who can convene meetings of the skilled and knowledgeable members of the team. Please let me know if you have suggestions.

The Strategic Planning Committee continues to gather information through meeting with groups. I met with the Community Service Team, which had lots of ideas on how we can better connect congregants to opportunities to serve.

The stewardship pledge campaign will end this Sunday. I want to lift up the hard work of the committee led by Andy Roberts, who trained the several stewards who are contacting members, Lisa Evanylo, who is receiving all the pledges, Arthur Snoke, who is updating the web page, and Alyssa and Noemi Short, who are keeping us up to date with the most creative pledge reports I've ever seen.

Serves the Larger Unitarian Universalist Faith

Participating in the joint service of Lamentation, Gratitude, and Hope sponsored by ministers from the Joseph Jordan Cluster on March 12th, was very moving and convinced me that we need to do more gatherings of Virginia UU's. It was good to see members of UUC attending.

I was delighted to see several other members of UUC attending the Interfaith Brown Bag Lunch when Stephen Henninger presented on Unitarian Universalism. He did a great job representing us. I led the conversation at the next meeting, sharing principles of interreligious dialogue. These lunches are attended by faculty and staff at Virginia Tech, as well as community members.

Leads the Faith into the Future

Exploring technology and other needs for moving into hybrid services will be a major focus in the foreseeable future.

Time away from Blacksburg

I will be "attending" the SEUUMA retreat on April 8-10. Some of the ministers are actually down at The Mountain, but I decided to attend virtually.

Administrator's Report to the Board

April 8, 2021

New Copier: The 5-year lease on our current copier is running out shortly. I was contacted by a rep from the company to upgrade, so on April 8, they will be delivering our new (certified pre-owned just as the current one is) copier and removing the old one. We will actually be saving money with the new copier. With the old copier, we paid a total of \$283.54/month which included the copier lease and the maintenance contract. We are allowed 6000 B&W copies/month (overage cost is 2 cents/copy) and pay 17 cents/color copy. However, as we are not using our allotted B&W copies due to going with more online options for notices, newsletters, etc, the new contract allows for 3600 B&W copies/month (overage cost is just 0.8 cents/copy) and 325 color copies/month with overage at 8 cents/copy. The monthly cost will be \$259.72 which is a savings of \$23.82/month. Maintenance costs do go up annually but include all supplies and repairs which are very minimal with newer copiers.

Insurance Payment Error: I mistakenly paid our workers' comp insurance twice – once in February and once in March - \$933 each time. Church Mutual is sending a check for one payment reimbursement shortly which will be deposited back to insurance line item.

Stewardship Update: As I write this, we have had 113 pledges for \$262,517 with a week to go. Hoping this week brings in many more. For the most part, people are continuing to give at the same level or a bit higher than this current year.

Committee Meetings: Attended Stewardship Committee meeting in the past month.

Vanco Update: It's been a year since we added the texting service with Vanco due to Covid. Most are using the app or website option, but we are getting some donations via texting, so I believe it was a good decision to offer this service.

Pledge Reminders: Going out this week for the 3rd quarter.

Directory Update: Will be available shortly and includes pics of new members.

Attendance/Members: See the Google Doc. Note that the numbers reflect the number of computers logging in via Zoom and not the actual number of people. Membership is up due to 13 signing the membership book last month.

DLFD Report to the Board – April 2021

Submitted by Karen Hager, Director of Lifespan Faith Development

Registration

To date, 54 families, representing 93 children and youth have registered. As expected, those with Nursery age children with no online program are not registering. The breakdown by class is:

- Nursery: 3
- PreK: 12
- K-5: 36
- Middle School: 20
- High school: 22

Children and Youth Programs

- Our Shamrock Hunt, held throughout the month of March, was another successful family activity. Many families have contacted me with emails and photos to let me know that they love these on-site, outdoor activities.
- We are participating in a giant virtual egg hunt in the month of April. 78 UU congregations across North America have joined together to create this hunt. Visit <https://uuvirtualeasteregghunt2021begin.blogspot.com/2021/02/dearest-friend-well-here-we-are-again.html> to participate; the hunt will expose you to UU websites across the country, ending in a prize page for kids.
- A survey was sent to YRUU parents to ascertain their comfort level with high school youth meeting in person outdoors at UUC this spring (with masks and social distancing). Based on the results and a high comfort level among parents and advisors, some meetings will be held in person beginning April 11. The survey and conversations with youth and advisors indicated that they preferred that some meetings remain online. We are also investigating the possibility of having monthly meetings at UUC throughout the summer.
- Two additional surveys are currently in circulation, concerning reopening in fall:
 - RE Parents, grades PreK-8: a survey on their comfort level in meeting in person this fall.
 - RE Past Teachers: a survey on their comfort level in teaching in person this fall.The results of these surveys will help inform our planning for fall. We are questioning meeting both outdoors and indoors. Ideally, we will need to firm up fall plans this spring to allow sufficient time for volunteer recruitment.
- The potential reopening of UUC is occupying the majority of my time now, as there are considerations concerning families that must be taken into account, particularly the availability of vaccines for children. The latest projections are:
 - Youth 16+: will be available in VA for all beginning in mid-April.
 - Youth 11-16: now projected to be available by fall, with a push for vaccination before school starts. (Note that this projection concerning general availability by the start of school marks school starting as September after Labor Day, whereas MCPS begins August 12; Radford has not yet published their start date.)
 - Children 5-11: will be the next group, but currently not slated to be available until 2022.
 - Children 6 mos-5: last group to receive vaccine approval.

I have been attending meetings with the VA religious educators in our cluster and will also be attending the OH cluster meeting this week. I am also attending Safety Committee meetings and reviewing webinars and meetings offered by LREDA and the UUA.

Adult Programs

- *The Fifth Dimension* for adults continues this month with our fourth episode, “Four O’clock”, and a discussion the dangers of judgementalism – a topic everyone should be able to relate to! We’ve had strong attendance and terrific discussion in previous classes.
- Our “Transgender Inclusion in Congregations” class concludes this month; we’ve had strong attendance for this important class.
- Pam is adding a new class for April-June, *Sacred Language & Sacred Translation*.