

VILLAGE RINGERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Monday, January 19, 2026 – 10:00 am

17652 SE 82nd Woodlawn Avenue

The Villages, Florida

I. MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bonnie Fisher, Ron Drozd, Donna Kagan, John Higbee, Amy Cornwall-Robinson, Emily Spann

II. CALL TO ORDER

President Bonnie Fisher welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. A packet of meeting documents was distributed to members.

III. AGENDA CHANGES/APPROVAL

Bonnie asked members to look over the agenda and let her know if anything needed to be added. Emily Spann mentioned a previous board email vote item taken on December 4, 2025. Bonnie agreed that this vote should be added to her section in the President's Report. Amy moved that the agenda with edits be approved and John seconded the motion. All members voted in approval.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A copy of the last board meeting minutes from April 3, 2025, were included in the provided packet of documents. Several changes were noted in the distributed minutes. Bonnie asked that Emily Spann make the corrections to file. Ron made a motion to adopt the minutes with the noted minor changes and Amy seconded. All members approved the corrected minutes.

V. REPORTS

1. Treasurer's Report

Amy presented members with copies of the Treasurer's report indicating revenue/expenditures and a current balance of \$5,010.55. The 60% amount received from the New Covenant United Methodist Church for the Christmas Concert was \$2,418.00.

The Village Ringers 2026 dues will be reflected on the next Treasurer's report. Discussion followed as to the amount of paperwork required to send to the IRS in May 2026.

Bonnie requested that Amy provide a breakdown of expenditures with descriptions of each expense. Amy agreed to give this to Bonnie, using bills she has received.

Bonnie noted the treasurer's report shows that Gary Powell was given \$350.00, and a \$100 gift card for serving as the organist for the 2025 Christmas Concert. She emphasized that Gary would not name a minimum price for his services, but Bonnie made sure he received a fair honorarium.

John moved to adopt the Treasurer's Report and Ron seconded the motion.

2. President's Report

- A. Bonnie gave a huge "Bravo" to the Village Ringers for the Christmas Concert," entitled "Carols and Candlelight," held on December 9, 2025. She said she was very proud of the ringers.
- B. Bonnie requested feedback regarding the Christmas Concert.

- 1. **How the Village Ringers looked and sounded in the new Fellowship Center.**

John enthusiastically told the board that he felt that the large number of candles made the whole concert! Other members agreed with John, stating that the glow of the candles in the new room added greatly to the concert. Members felt that the acoustics in the new room also added to the concert.

Ron thought the bell tree processional was wonderful and meaningful.

John mentioned to the board that he thought having a longer concert was very appropriate for the price of admission and the season.

All members felt that ringers could be seen well in the new fellowship center.

Bonnie mentioned that during the concert, ringers demonstrated more use of the handbells, as John Higbee had suggested this instruction at a previous board meeting. John told the board that he

appreciated seeing the additional handbell instruction and thought it was very appropriate.

Other members noted that showing the video of the actual industrial creation of the handbells made a great pre-concert addition. In addition, the video played before the ringers played “Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace” song, was emotional and effective.

2. How the organ worked with the handbells.

Members felt that the organ added so much to the concert. Bonnie explained that a speaker is located inside the organ itself, and wondered how the board members thought the organ sounded with the handbells. After discussion, all members agreed that the organ sound was just right and not too loud or soft.

3. Other Concert Feedback.

Bonnie told the board that part of the concert admission fee percentage to the church is now used to develop and provide copies of the concert program. The design of the program was actually the same format for all organizational concerts supported by the New Covenant United Methodist Church.

Bonnie explained that the church A/V Team worked very hard on the concert slides and videos to ensure that all worked well for the concert. She was very appreciative of the team’s hard work.

Bonnie wanted the board to know that 74 concert tickets were sold at the door and 140 tickets were sold online for a total of 214 tickets sold.

Noting that the number of walk-in ticket sales was high, Bonnie said she was not sure of the reason. Bonnie reminded the board members that the online price is no longer higher than the walk-in ticket price. The \$20 admission price covers all fees paid to the church. She enthusiastically told the board that the Village Ringers 60% of the admission price was \$2418.00.

Bonnie thanked the spouses of the board members who served as ushers and greeters at the Christmas Concert.

Bonnie asked if there were any other concert problems and the members told her that none were noted.

- C. Bonnie told the members that the Village Ringers had to cancel their performance at the Trinity Springs on Monday, December 10, because so many ringers had the flu. Bonnie talked with the activities director and plans are for the Village Ringers to play at Trinity Springs on Monday, April 20 (after the Spring Concert).
- D. Bonnie expressed gratitude to the Village Ringer substitutes; and was very pleased that, in general, regular ringer attendance was excellent.
- E. Bonnie was very pleased with the three newspaper articles and one magazine article that appeared in the Daily Sun newspaper and magazine during the fall. She noted that all of this advertising had been FREE. Bonnie has already contacted the Daily Sun regarding the upcoming Spring Concert.

Bonnie noted that there has been a 3% increase in advertising in the Daily Sun for 2026. She further explained that the Club Connections section is normally priced at \$250.00 to run twice a month. Bonnie stated that she ensures that the Club Connections ad appears before the concert.

- F. Bonnie told the board that the Village Ringers organization/club will no longer be included in the Thursday Rec News section of the Daily Sun. She felt that this is very unfortunate, as new members of the Village Ringers have told her that this was how they found about the Village Ringers. When she asked why the Village Ringers were not included in the Rec News, she was told that the Village Ringers no longer met the criteria for inclusion since they did not meet on Villages property.

Bonnie told the board that she would be willing to pay additional funds to include the Village Ringers information more often in the Club Connection section of the newspaper. One of the board members suggested that the

board hold their meetings at a Recreation Center, providing a way to be included as a club in the Rec News section of the newspaper.

- G. There are currently 13 members of the Village Ringers TOO! group this year. All of the board members agreed that Cathy Bullock does a great job as the director of that group! Lana has 9 members in the beginning Inspiration group, held at 10:30 am on Wednesdays. Bonnie suggested that the board members would enjoy attending at least one of the Inspiration concerts.
- H. Bonnie reported that on December 4, 2025, all members of the board voted approval via email for John Higbee to purchase a two-year web hosting service with Wix.com. The renewal rate of \$324.000 for the Village Ringers' website provided a savings of \$120.00.
- I. Bonnie expressed great appreciation to John Higbee for continuing to keep the Village Ringers website up-to-date and relevant! All of the board members expressed their gratitude to John, and stated how much they look forward to and recognize his hard work compiling videos from the Christmas concert.
- J. The spring Village Ringers season began on Monday, January 5, 2025, with the first rehearsal at 1:00 pm. A copy of the new Village Ringers roster was included in each board member's packet of documents.
- K. Included in the packet of documents was the first Letter of Agreement with the New Covenant United Methodist Church, spelling out all of the requirements. Bonnie emphasized that proceeds from the Village Ringers concerts will be 40% to New Covenant United Methodist Church and 60% to the Village Ringers organization.

The Village Ringers will hold rehearsals in the new choir room, with storage room above the steps into the Christian Life Center. Members expressed concern about having to move the equipment up and down the steps. Bonnie stated that a ramp may be needed to roll the large bell cases up the ramp. Bonnie will discuss this with the church.

The Church Marketing Team will be available to assist the Village Ringers with any concert branding.

The new Fellowship Center will seat up to 450 people and doors will always open at least 30 minutes prior to the concert. All concert information must be provided four months prior to the event. Bonnie noted that the Village Ringers have a waiver in place that will meet the church Insurance/Waivers requirement.

Bonnie explained that the church will no longer provide Video and Audio recording services at concerts. The new Agreement covers the Christmas Concert 2025 and April 19, 2026 Spring Concert.

- L. Discussion was initiated regarding the upcoming Spring Concert to be held on Sunday, April 19, at 3:00 pm. The final concert name is: Ringing Reflections, as the concert will contain some of the group's favorite songs over the past years.

Bonnie asked the board how they would feel about having the following at the Spring Concert:

- a. Round Tables – Bonnie would like to have separate tables decorated with items representing each of the songs in the concert. For example: one table would have Beatles items, another would have Star Wars items, etc.

Bonnie explained that when the Village Ringers start playing the particular song, the table with the noted Beatles, Star Wars items, etc. would stand up and start using the decorations – hats, horns, etc.

The board had a good bit of discussion on having round tables. The board agreed to try this for the Spring Concert.

- b. Food – snacks will be put at each table. Examples of such items include Oreos, pretzels, salami, cheese, and crackers.

M. Bonnie explained to the board members that the Homosassa Wildlife Refuge State Park invited the Village Ringers to play at their annual Light Show on Tuesday, December 22, 2026. Approximately 1500 people are estimated to be in attendance on that night. The Village Ringers would be paid for participating.

Bonnie and her husband went to the park for a guided tour and found that the stage would be set up in an open area. One row would be on the stage and one row on the ground. The Village Ringers would play for 30 minutes, then a 15 minute “crazy” light show would be held, and then the Village Ringers would play the final 30 minutes. Total playing time would be from 6:30-8:30 pm.

Amy asked how long the drive would be to the facility and Bonnie explained that an hour of driving is required. Amy further asked how the equipment would be set up. Bonnie explained that golf carts with truck beds would be provided to move the equipment into the facility. Other board members were concerned about rain, cold weather, and wind. Bonnie explained that if there is rain, the event is canceled, but the event would continue with cold weather and wind. Bonnie stated the possibility of renting a vehicle to carry all of the equipment.

John made a motion to approve the President’s report and Ron seconded. All members voted their approval.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. In the board member packet of information, a document explaining the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) and the Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) was included. Bonnie asked John Higbee to explain the document. He summarized the contents of the document and informed the board that these requirements would not involve the Village Ringers at this time.
2. John explained to the board that the Village Ringers organization is a part of the Florida State Charitable organizations and donations to the Village Ringers organization could be provided via Deferred Taxes and Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs).

John stated that he could make this information available for the Village Ringers website and the church could put the information on the concert program in a short format. John will share his ideas and information with the board at the next meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. John Higbee stated his belief that the minutes of this current board meeting should reflect that six (6) members now make up the board and that Emily Spann was appointed to be Secretary and Donna Kagan was appointed to be Member at Large. Discussion ensued as to whether Bylaws needed to be changed, but neither Bonnie nor John felt that this would be necessary.

John moved that the Village Ringers board affirms that the membership is now six (6) members and Emily Spann was appointed as Secretary and Donna Kagan was appointed an At Large member. Amy seconded the motion and all voted in approval.

2. Bonnie asked the board what the procedure should be if an additional person expresses interest in being on the board. Discussion ensued and members decided that nominations would need to be made and an election of officers would take place at the next annual board meeting election date.
3. Bonnie told the board members that she will verify, but she believes that if the Village Ringers board met at one of the Recreation Centers at least three times a year, the Village Ringers would then be considered eligible to be included in the Rec News in the Daily Sun Thursday edition. All members asked Bonnie to check on this possibility.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT/DATE OF NEXT MEETING

1. The next Board Meeting date will be Monday, April 13, 2026, 10:00 am.
2. Emily Spann moved to adjourn the meeting and Donna Kagan seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.