

Meeting of the USNH Board of Trustees
July 11, 2024
Approved by the Board August 8, 2024

Board Members Present:

Bobbi Pace, President	Joan Ciano
Sue Trotta-Smith, Vice-President	Kathy Haskins
Tom Ward, Treasurer	Christine Shadle
Kyle Manning	

Board member absent: Alissa Chapin

Others present

David Stagg, Management Team	Cathy Jackson, GA Delegate
Terry Bohnhorst Blackhawk, note-taker	Becky Sandman, GA Delegate
	Sarah Forman, GA Delegate

1. President Bobbi Pace called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. Bobbi Pace lit the chalice and read “Pushing Forward” by Elandria Williams.
3. When asked to share (mostly recent) pleasant surprises, Board members told of receiving a scholarship from a State senator; installing a bird feeder that birds actually found; a surprise meal prepared by friends; finding and helping a turtle; waking up happy after sleeping to 6:30; one’s neighbors unanimously agreeing not to post No Parking signs on their community’s beach; hiring a contractor who repaired a porch in a timely, professional manner; a gift of Red Sox tickets that turned out to have excellent seats; good seats to a Sarah McLachlan concert and being remembered positively by Waverly folks after twenty years.
4. Board members added their names to a birthday sign-up sheet and also signed up for monthly chalice lightings and readings.
5. Board members took turns reading the USNH Covenant.
6. Following the reading of the Covenant, Board members discussed the expectation of *respecting confidential matters and speaking with one voice outside of meetings*.
7. Board members took turns reading the USNH statements of Visions & Aspirations.
8. After suggesting that discussion of items from Visions & Aspirations statements be moved from the current agenda to the August meeting, President Bobbi Pace moved and Sue Trotta-Smith seconded the change and acceptance of the agenda. The agenda was accepted unanimously.
9. President Bobbi Pace moved and Joan Ciano seconded a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting of June 13th. Clerk Terry Bohnhorst Blackhawk noted that the document be retitled

“Draft Minutes,” not “Draft Agenda,” which was a typo. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

10. President Bobbi Pace welcomed Christine Shadle to her first meeting as a member of the USNH Board. Board members introduced themselves, and Bobbi Pace gave Christine a bouquet of hydrangea blossoms.

11. UUA General Assembly Report. USNH delegates to the 2024 UUA General Assembly Cathy Jackson, Sarah Forman, and Becky Sandman reported to the Board concerning logistics, discussions and actions taken at the GA. The GA was held on line, and navigating between three different platforms presented challenges. The delegates reported that the Final Proposed Revision to Article II passed by ca. 80 percent with some rewording. By a vote of 91.8%-8.2%, the GA also passed a Business Resolution affirming that *Embracing transgender, intersex and nonbinary people is a fundamental expression of UU religious values*, and affirmed three AIWs (Actions of Immediate Witness) as follows: (a) *Solidarity with Palestinians* (73.5%-26.5%); (b) *Centering Love amidst the Ongoing Impact of COVID 19* (86.1%-13.9%); (c) *World on Fire: Humanitarian Work and Climate Change* (95.6%-4.4%). The delegates shared printed copies of the AIWs and the Business Resolution with the Board.

12. Minister’s report. Rev. Stephen was absent. Earlier in the week he had emailed his report to the Board. Sue Trotta-Smith read the email for those who had not yet seen it.

13. Management Team Report. No MT policy report was scheduled. In addition to the “Summary of MT Discussions” that he had shared with the Board, David Stagg reported that the MT is stepping up USNH’s solar activities, getting estimates for the work, and planning a re-application to the CT State Solar Lottery this August, or in 2025 if need be. The MT is also working with the Over the Rainbow accountant regarding a rent increase in their contract, which expires August 31. Dan Gelperin has stepped up to lead the solar initiative of the Energy Group for Building & Grounds. David also shared suggestions from the congregation for a tag line for the USNH website. Board members discussed the suggestions, suggested the addition of “OPEN DOORS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN HEARTS” to the list, and considered the possibility of narrowing the choices for the congregation to select from. Bobbi Pace asked Board members to send her their three favorite choices.

14. Treasurer’s Report. Treasurer Tom Ward reported that the financial picture continues to be good with a modest surplus projected for FY24. Preliminary numbers show a surplus of ca. \$18,000. The final numbers will be reported in August.

15. UUA Climate Justice Revival. The UUA Climate Justice Revival is slated for September 28-29. President Bobbi Pace asked for thoughts from Board members. Most felt that the timing isn’t right, given the level of USNH activism in UU the Vote, phone banking, New Haven’s Puerto Rican Festival, Pride Fest, Black Wall Street, postcard disbursement and more. Receiving CJ Revival materials from the UUA as late as August was also a concern. Board members Kathy Haskins and Kyle Manning have been working with SOIL (Skills Organizing Interdependency Liberation) and noted that SOIL meetings about climate justice are also taking place. President

Bobbi Pace moved and Kathy Haskins seconded that USNH postpone the Climate Justice Revival until after the November election. The motion passed unanimously.

16. USNH Nominating Committee. President Bobbi Pace noted that the Board does not have current representation on the Nominating Committee and asked for volunteers. As there were no other volunteers, Kyle Manning will continue as the Board Representative to the Committee. President Bobbi Pace pointed out that Clerk Terry Bohnhorst Blackhawk's term came to an end in June and encouraged the Board to help find a replacement for the clerk's position.

17. Meeting Process Observation and thank-you notes. Bobbi Pace said that thank-you notes need to be sent to Tag Sale organizers Laura Patey and Kathleen Schomaker. Re process observations, it was suggested that guests of the Board could be scheduled earlier on the agenda, but also pointed out that it was good for visiting members of the congregation to observe the Board in action.

18. Adjournment. Bobbi Pace moved and Christine Shadle seconded adjournment. The meeting ended at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Bohnhorst Blackhawk, guest note-taker