

Minutes of the Meeting of the USNH Board of Trustees  
August 11, 2024

Approved by the Board September 12, 2024

Board Members Present:

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

Others present:

Rev. Stephen Kendrick, ex officio  
Mark Bauer, Management Team  
Terry Bohnhorst Blackhawk, guest notetaker

1. President Bobbi Pace called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.
2. President Bobbi Pace lit the chalice and read “Different, but United” by Pat Uribe-Lichty.
3. When asked to share a memory of a favorite vacation, Board members described the following: a cross-country trip in the western US; a trip to Greece; honeymoon to a fife and drum festival in northern Italy; a trip in Corsica; sabbatical in Mexico City with family; interaction with loons and serenity with boyfriend on a lake in Maine; sunrise and seeing a deer at seaside in Jekyll Island; family trip to Jasper in the Canadian Rockies, friendliness of people, beauty of town; a family wedding in Madrid, enjoying the city; summer camp and being the camp bugler as a twelve-year-old in W. Virginia’s Camp Cliffside; a 13-day trip to France accompanied by fluent French speakers, with the cathedral at Chartres, Mont St. Michel, and Cirque de Gavarnie as highlights.
4. Board members took turns reading the USNH Covenant.
5. Board members took turns reading the USNH statements of Visions & Aspirations.
6. To President Bobbi Pace’s question as to how the Board sees USNH fulfilling the first statement of Visions and Aspirations (to *boldly seek opportunities to grow, learn, and worship, embracing the transformative power of connecting to that which is larger than ourselves*) Board members mentioned sending delegates to UUA, participation in CONECT, visiting other congregations, the upcoming USNH retreat, music programs, small group ministries, and work with UU the Vote.
7. President Bobbi Pace noted that the word “agenda” itself was not listed on the Agenda. The agenda was corrected and approved.
8. The minutes from the July Board meeting were accepted.
9. Presenting for the Management Team, Mark Bauer announced that the contract with Over the Rainbow Day Care has been finalized, and the MT is working on procuring a solar array. Board members discussed the proposed SOP re: service and emotional support animals. Members of the MT will continue to discuss as well as report to the congregation and meet with Connections team about this.

10. Minister's report. Rev Stephen will lead a memorial service for Bruce Weston on September 6. He mentioned that his study leave is ongoing as we approach Election Day and reiterated that he continues to rely on the Board, as a kind of "ministerial relations team," for feedback, guidance, and assistance. He reminded the Board about the difference between a called vs a contract minister and urged the Board to talk about USNH's future vis a vis the next minister with "perfect freedom." Bearing in mind the possibilities of the election, Rev. Stephen nevertheless looks forward to a remarkable year, especially with Sunny McMillan's graduation from Yale Divinity School.
11. Treasurer's report. Tom Ward reported that USNH's financial health is excellent with a net income of \$26,000, due to 3.4% more income than budgeted and expenses under budget at 99.4%. He expressed kudos to the Management Team, the Finance Committee and the Endowment Team for the positive picture.
12. The Board will conduct a retreat Saturday, September 21 from 9:30 to noon.
13. By a vote of 7 to 0, Board members adopted *Open Doors, Open Minds, Open Hearts* as the tag line for the USNH website.
14. President Bobbi Pace will look into scheduling USNH's UUA Climate Justice Revival on November 16 & 17. The congregational meeting is set for December 8.
15. Board members shared opinions on contract ministry and considered it favorably.
16. Looking ahead to the 2024-25 year, President Bobbi Pace highlighted ministerial transition, climate justice revival, and UUA Article II for special focus. Board members discussed how to support the Pastoral Care team vis-a-vis companionship visiting and helping congregants with more serious health concerns. A discussion followed about reaching out to Zoom participants at Sunday services as well as small group ministries. Joan Ciano will contact tech support to find out who's tuning in on Zoom. Kathy Haskins will touch base with the Worship Committee, and Bobbi Pace will check with Jamie Ross.
17. Board members discussed sending thank you notes to those who helped with summer services, and Bobbi Pace presented Terry Bohnhorst Blackhawk with flowers in thanks for her serving as Clerk of the Board.
18. Until a new Clerk is found, Kyle Manning will help with clerk duties, along with Sue Trotta-Smith and Bobbi Pace.
19. Process observation. Board members expressed appreciation for the discussion and especially for the delicious potluck dinner that was shared during the meeting.
20. President Bobbi Pace moved and Alyssa Chapin seconded adjournment. The meeting ended at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Terry Bohnhorst Blackhawk (she/her)