

Unitarian Society of New Haven

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees
January 14th, 2016

Present: Holly Hawkins, Mary Donohue, Dan Gelperin, John Manning, Bobbi Pace, Bernice Marie-Daily, Russ Heinrich, Mary Losee

Guests: Bob Congdon, Fred Morrison, Georgia Jennings, Sandy Frawley, David Jones

Absent: Pam Miller, Megan Lloyd Joiner

The board covenant was read by BoT and MT members

Check-in occurred by the members and guests - this centered mainly around Megan's leave of absence.

Dan lit the chalice and did a reading: I Am Only One

MT report

Georgia has been meeting with staff - encouraged them to work as a team. She reviewed the emotions the staff is hearing from the congregation regarding Megan's medical leave. The hardest thing is the members not knowing what the cause of her medical leave is. Need to keep in mind her illness is personal and it is only public because of her position.

Sandy explained the budget process is underway and the committees are to turn in their budgets by the end of the week. Holly asked that the current staffing and its value be considered in the new budget. Draft budget will be presented to the council of chairs in February.

Stewardship chairs are John Watson and Marybeth Congdon.

Energy changes at USNH reviewed. Lighting proposal was approved by the utility company. The heating proposal will be in soon. Some costs will be passed on to the Green Energy Fund and some of the costs will be paid by USNH. B&G and Green Sanctuary committees are helping with this.

UUA certification is underway. The form required has been extended and it asks for innovative things we are doing. Members of the board discussed that we are experimenting with the Sunday morning schedule to allow different forms of worship and we have Cluster Connections coming up. The management team will also be looking at more accurately determining membership. Last year it was 324.

USNH cash management proposal reviewed. Proposal involves creating an investment account for money over and above the operating reserve so that the money keeps pace with

inflation. This would be money that was not felt to be needed over the next 5 years. This account could be used to replenish the operating reserve as necessary.

Financial report

Mary Losee, the treasurer, reviewed current finances. We are currently \$4,500 in the black.

Discussion occurred about donations to USNH that are not designated to a certain fund. Bequests and tributes have typically gone into a "Board Designated Fund". The board suggested that these moneys go into a congregated fund that is designated "unrestricted gift/donations" fund. Mary Donohue made a motion that all moneys given to USNH that are not designated to a certain fund be placed into the "unrestricted gift/donations" fund - the "board designated fund" would no longer exist. Mary Losee seconded the motion. The vote was approved unanimously with 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

MT interpretation of policy 1.5 and 1.5.1

Mary Donohue made a motion to accept the MT interpretation of policy 1.5 and 1.5.1. Russ seconded. The vote was unanimous with 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

Consent agenda

Holly made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. Russ made a second. Vote was unanimous with 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

Holly discussed her email in December and stated that she appreciated the feedback she received and would like to move forward in a spirit of respect and cooperation.

The board's newsletter item was discussed. Bobbi will summarize the current on goings and reflect some common emotions around Megan's leave.

Announcements

The Board retreat was discussed. Sandy can not make it. A total of 13 will attend. Sandra Griest will provide the food. The retreat will be at Mary Donohue's house, Saturday 1-23-16 from 9-3pm.

Thank you notes

Suzanne will send notes to members who worked on the cash management plan: Fred Morrison, Bob Congdon, Greg Seaman, Jeremy Hill, and Kathy Lindbeck

Adjournment

MOTION Holly, to adjourn; SECONDED Dan
PASSED unanimously, with 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm