

Minutes for USNH Board Meeting
June 9, 2011

Attending: Michael Clorite, Sandy Frawley, Sue Linsley, Brett Berke, Thea Bourke-Martin, Patricia Duff, Richard Stockton, Margaret Ariori

Staff: Tansy Birenbaum, Marion Visel, Kathleen McTigue

Guests: Jeremy Hill (Finance Committee), Alan Price, Larry Rizzolo, and Greg Burton (New Board Members), Paul Trotta (Fundraising Proposal Report)

Absent: Lisa Anderson, Pat McGregor, Gil Belaval

At 7:05, the meeting was opened by Kathleen with a chalice lighting, a prayer for Lisa and her family, thanks to the retiring Board members, and welcome to the new Board members. Thea also welcomed the new Board members.

Congregational Meeting

There was discussion about a proposed agenda for the June Congregational Meeting.

Fundraising Task Force

Sue and Gil have laid out the structure for a Fundraising Committee which facilitates fundraising events, but does not run the events. Sue and Gil are members of an Interim Fundraising Committee and are looking for people willing to be on a permanent Fundraising Committee. A person who is familiar with outside publicity is being sought for the Committee.

A major fundraising event creates a profit of at least \$5,000. Seasonal fundraising events need better publicity, using a fund raising calendar which should be available in September. Sue has an application for prospective fundraising people to fill out. At the Congregational meeting, Sue will discuss how people will not be overburdened, and will describe major and seasonal fundraisers. Thea doesn't want to solicit volunteers at the Congregational meeting. She wants to have a group evaluate volunteers for the Committee.

Sandy wants to coordinate Fundraising with Canvass, and Endowment with the Stewardship Group. Thea would like to delay the fundraising ideas until the fall. Kathleen would like to focus on having at least 2 major fundraising events. Kathleen also thought that there should be concrete examples of major fundraisers announced at the meeting including asking for volunteers. Sue wants to institutionalize the fundraisers so people are aware they are coming. Brett thought that the fundraising group should have a meeting with volunteers after the Congregational meeting. Jeremy noted that additional fundraising money is already included in the budget.

Fundraising Proposal – Car Raffle

Paul Trotta provided answers about raffling a fuel efficient car. Paul has offered to lead the project. Paul stated that you sell tickets for twice the price of the car creating a profit of 50%. The upfront costs are \$150 for a state application fee, plus publicity. The event can be cancelled if tickets are refunded. A web site can be used for advertising. The vehicle does not have to be purchased in advance. The state allows 3 car raffles per year.

Paul would like to make a presentation to the Congregation this Sunday and distribute a FAQ and a questionnaire about whether Congregation members would purchase tickets and how much they would pay. The raffle would begin in September with December 4th for the raffle. We'd need to sell 600 tickets at \$100 and 1200 tickets at \$50. Records must be meticulous. It is a taxable event for the winner who cannot receive cash, but could receive a gift certificate. Paul is looking for assistance in running the car raffle and is looking for help at the Congregational meeting. An informal poll of the Board supports the car raffle. Kathleen would also like Paul to speak at the flower ceremony.

Budget For 2011-2012

Jeremy provided a handout which will be handed out at the Congregational meeting. He will speak about the difficulty in making a budget and the steps to balance the budget such as furloughs.

Carol Holloman of Personnel will speak about the difficulty in proposing furloughs. She will speak about the necessity of increasing pledges to reduce or eliminate furloughs.

Shuttee matter.

The motion previously approved by the Board will be presented to the congregation by Pat McGregor.

Board Goals

Thea will speak about the progress of the Board goals of Membership Development and Leadership Development.

Staff Reports

Associate Minister Marion Visel provided a written year-end report. She stated that focusing on spiritual enrichment is a struggle due to the concentration on pastoral care. Marion might alternate Planning Your Memorial Service with Perspectives on Death and Dying in the coming years. She would like to add resources to the USNH web site.

Small Group Ministry was very successful. A mini SGM was added to the Pathways class, which provides experience to new members with Small Groups. In Pastoral Care, a new elder support group is going well. Also, having children make cards for those who cannot get to USNH was well received.

Marion wants to create Regional Cluster groups for next year. Marion determined that she works with about 75% of the congregation over the year.

Treasurer's Report

Brett explained the report for the new members. Pledge payments are well under last year's figure, and total fund raising is less than was budgeted. Rental is well over the amount budgeted (a good thing). Facility expenses are well over the amount budgeted. The shortfall is less than it was two months ago. The payment of denominational dues have also been frozen for the rest of the year. Kathleen has noted that it appears that denominational dues are optional, but they should not be. Sandy said that there are several targets for raising additional money in addition to rescinding the furloughs, such as paying denominational dues. The congregation should be made aware of this.

The letter sent by the Board asking people to pay their pledges immediately seemed to have little effect. Brett said that the money for painting the Social Hall has already been committed and is not available for the operating fund. The relationship between the Turnpike Players and USNH should be clarified in the fall.

Board Items

Thea is requesting a Board goals meeting some evening this June. There will also be a Board retreat and a get together. Thea would like to know if Board members who are also members of a standing committee who could talk with their committee about the new committee structures.

Minutes

Approval of the minutes for April were moved by Margaret and seconded by Brett and unanimously approved. Approval of the May 12th minutes was moved by Patricia and seconded by Rich, and unanimously accepted. Approval of the May 19th minutes was moved by Sandy, seconded by Brett, and unanimously approved.

Solar Panel Report

Sandy provided a FAQ on the Solar Panel report. Tansy offered some other people's expertise to check out the report. Alan stated that there are risks to the roof, maintenance costs and wiring costs. Alan works for CL&P. It was noted that the maintenance costs to the roof after 5 years would cost more than the savings in electrical energy generated. Sandy suggests that the proposal could be pursued without assumption of Board approval for the proposal.

Upcoming Board Events

June 12th is Congregational meeting. An additional June board meeting is on meeting wizard. The Spring Board on June 10th was cancelled and may be rescheduled later in June. A pot luck will be

scheduled for July.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Mike Clorite
Clerk