

Unitarian Society of New Haven  
Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
April 26, 2012

Accepted May 10, 2012

Board Members Present: Sarah Berke; Thea Bourke-Martin, Gregg Burton; Patricia Duff; Sandra Frawley; Larry Rizzolo,

Board Members Absent: Lisa Anderson; Gil Belaval; Sue Linsley; Alan Price; Jessie Whitehead

T. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and G. Burton recorded the minutes. A quorum of Board Members was present, and the meeting proceeded with T. Martin presiding.

### **Interim Minister Search Update**

T. Martin reported that the task force has reviewed the application packages and will begin interviews on April 28th.

**ACTION ITEM:** G. Burton to issue next newsletter update.

### **Conference Call with Sue Phillips**

The Board participated in a video conference call with Sue Phillips of the UUA regarding transitional ministry and the Interim Minister selection process. It was noted that the Board and the Committee on Ministry need to lead in the transition process by creating spaces for the congregation to discuss the transition and the discernment of the next ministry. The Transition Team that will be formed when the Interim Minister starts will be a liaison to connect the interim minister to the members of the congregation. The Transition Team should have a Board representative but should be composed of deeply-connected members representing various constituencies within the congregation. Sue Phillips clarified that Georgiana Green's role is essentially as a search process consultant and that she will be involved later in the transition period to assist with the search process.

### **Canvass Update & Budget Planning.**

A number of people that pledged last year still have not pledged this year. Board calls have been successful in getting about 20-25% of the outstanding pledges returned. The Board discussed strategies for soliciting constructive input from the congregation on priorities for the Finance Committee to consider in identifying budget options.

A timeline for budget preparation was discussed: (1) May 3 - Finance Committee and Personnel Committee meet; (2) May 10 - Finance Committee will report to the Board on the status of the budget and the Board will provide Finance Committee with priorities to be pursued in formulating the budget; (3) May 24 - Finance Committee to present budget to

Board; (4) June 1 - Budget to be approved by the Board and circulated to the congregation; and (5) June 10 - Budget to be approved by the congregation.

**ACTION ITEM:** G. Burton is to collaborate with S. Frawley on newsletter inclusion regarding the state of budget process.

T. Martin reported that the Canvass Committee is not planning to do Lovefest as a canvass event for next year. The Board noted that work must begin on a new model for Canvass for 2013-2014.

**ACTION ITEM:** S. Frawley to ask Stewardship Work Group to reconvene to discuss options for a new Canvass model.

### **UUA and District Dues Proposal**

The Board discussed a proposal for a drive to have members of the congregation contribute the amount of their individual portion of UUA and District Dues. Concerns were raised that this drive would conflict with other fundraising efforts.

### **Prior Meeting Minutes**

G. Burton asked for any corrections to the minutes of the Board's March 8, March 22 and April 12 meetings. Revisions and corrections to the minutes were noted. The minutes were accepted with the revisions and corrections.

### **Request to Record Workshops and Presentations**

The Board received and discussed a request to have workshops and presentations recorded. Concerns were raised about whether recording would have a chilling effect on participation in workshops. It was noted that recording of the narrative portions of a presentation would be subject to the consent of the presenter. It was suggested that recording of presentations should be addressed on a case by case basis by the person or group hosting the presentation.

### **Listening Board Report**

The Board discussed the matters raised at the last listening board session:

- There are recurring technical difficulties with the wireless microphones used during worship and presentations/workshops
- Concerns expressed about joys and sorrows being heard and lifted up.

**ACTION ITEM:** G. Burton to contact the Information Technology team to determine whether the microphone problem has been identified and the corrective action that is recommended.

**ACTION ITEM:** P. Duff to share the concern regarding joys and sorrows with Worship Committee to see if there are suggestions as to how the approach could be improved.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.