

Unitarian Society of New Haven
Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees
March 19, 2013

Accepted April 11, 2013

Board Members Present: Alison Cunningham; Thea Bourke-Martin; Gregg Burton; Sandra Frawley; Russell Heinrich; David Jones; Georgia Jennings; Sue Linsley; Bobbi Pace; Margaret Rae

Board Members Absent: Jessie Whitehead

Also Present: Emily Melcher

A. Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and G. Burton recorded the minutes. A quorum of Board Members was present, and the meeting proceeded with A. Cunningham presiding.

Check-in

Ministerial Search Committee Budget

S. Frawley presented a proposed budget for the Ministerial Search Committee. The Board discussed the budget line items and the anticipated expenses related to the ministerial search process in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. It was noted that expenses may vary significantly depending on travel needs of candidate and his/her family.

MOTION D. Jones to approve a budget of \$2,500 in 2012-2013 and a budget of \$18,500 in 2013-2014 for the Ministerial Search Committee **SECONDED** T. Bourke-Martin; **PASSED** without dissent or abstention.

Ministerial Search Process

A. Cunningham reviewed questions received related to the Ministerial Search Process. The Board discussed the issues raised. The Board discussed a request for an absentee voting process. The Board reached a consensus that absentee voting should be allowed and that a process would be formulated and published by April 7.

ACTION ITEM: G. Burton to update frequently asked questions re MSC on USNH.org.

ACTION ITEM: M. Rae to prepare and circulate an absentee voting process.

Board Covenant

A. Cunningham brought to the Board's attention that for a variety of reasons the Board has not created a covenant. It was noted that the formation of a Board covenant would need the input of all Board members. The Board discussed scheduling a special meeting to address a covenant.

ACTION ITEM T. Bourke-Martin to send out a Meeting Wizard to propose possible meeting times.

Governance Process

The Board discussed the next steps in the discernment of governance reforms. The Board discussed holding mission discernment exercises with the congregation. Questions were raised regarding the appropriate format and facilitation for the exercises. The Board reached a consensus on holding the first mission discernment sessions on Sunday, May 5 after the MSC vote and Saturday, May 11th. The Board also decided to schedule a values/mission retreat for June 14, 15 and 16.

ACTION ITEM: Exec committee to participate in follow up call with Unity Consulting to discuss process for mission discernment exercises.

The Board discussed the need to facilitate discussions between Board meetings in order to keep momentum.

ACTION ITEM: G. Burton to set up Forum/Discussion page on Board Website.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.