

Unitarian Society of New Haven
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
June 14, 2018

Accepted July 12, 2018

Board Members Present: Jeannette Faber, Kathy Garner, Dan Gelperin, Megan Lloyd Joiner, Pamela Miller, Peggy Myers, Bernice Marie-Daly, Pat Trotta

Board Member Absent: Bobbi Pace

Also Present: Gwen Heuss-Severance, David Stagg, Al Bosch, Dan Wade, Linda Mehta

Gather:

P. Myers called the meeting to order at 6:40pm. B. Marie-Daly lit the chalice and read from John O'Donohue's *Bless the space between us - Presence*. The covenant was read and was followed by a life event check in and a check in with each person answering the question, "What gives you hope?"

Assess the Past (Monitoring) part I:

Minister's report

The Minister's report is attached at the end of the minutes.

We have received some additional pledges in the last few days.

We are in conversation with the State of CT and DCF about using the parking lot across the street. People can park in the far parking lot at Miskan Israel.

The finance committee is studying trending of pledges. We may want to discuss stewardship at a future Board meeting.

Update on Monitoring of Policy 1.4 Compensation and Benefits (Management Team).

This will be discussed at July's meeting. Policies 1.1., 1.8, and 1.10 will also be done in July.

Create the Future & Learning:

Overview of last year's (2017-2018) process and goals

D. Gelperin gave an overview of policy governance and monitoring. We have met with some of the operating committees to learn what is needed to achieve the goal of strong committees. We read the "Folly" book to learn about congregational growth and how to deal with it. A congregation needs a shared vision to flourish. What animates us? We did not find an easy answer. We may need to continue looking at it. The board has started to have a second monthly meeting to allow more time for discussion.

B. Marie-Daly described the Safety Circle discussions which were held with members of the congregation. Some members did not feel seen, heard, or respected. The original

intent was to meet with members of committees, not the committee chairs. We worked with PCRR on this. The Board has handed the continuing work in this area to PRCC.

Overview of this year's (2018-2019) process and goals

P. Myers continued the discussion of a congregational meeting. Our thinking tends to be insular. Our vision will be bigger than we are. We are starting with CONECT and other activities. Barber's book will be discussed in relation to the need for a bigger vision. We need to continue working with other committees. Some committees are now using guided check-ins. Latham talks about an "energy audit". What are we doing? That will indicate the mission. We are going to do an energy audit this year. We need to improve communication with the congregation. Board chats have not been enough. We need help with social communication. We will look for people or ideas to help with this topic.

How shall we spend our summer?

6/26 CONECT Gather at USNH at 6pm, leave at 6:15.

7/12 Review of transition to Policy Governance – (hopefully Dan and Bobbi??)

7/24 Discussion: Latham 1-90; Barber 1-66

8/9 Understanding our website (hopefully Pam??) PG: Review of Hotchkiss notes;

8/21 Discussion: Latham 91-184; Barber 67-130

Set date for September retreat

We will meet on Saturday, September 15.

Is it desirable/realistic to continue having Board representatives available after the Sunday service during the summer?

Peggy, Dan, and Jeannette will attend a chat on June 24.

Access to the board site

Invitations have been sent.

Consent Agenda:

MOTION – B. Marie-Daly, to approve the consent agenda; **SECONDED – D. Gelperin;**

PASSED unanimously

Thank you's: Bernice, Kathy, and Dan.

Adjournment:

MOTION – P. Myers, to adjourn; **SECONDED – P. Trotta;**

PASSED unanimously, _ in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.

Attachments:

Minister's Report

Minister's Report
June 14, 2018
Rev. Megan Lloyd Joiner

State of the Congregation *(recent successes, challenges, observations about the congregation's functioning in relationship to the mission, ministries, members, staff, or other Board concerns)*

Stewardship

The Stewardship Campaign resulted ~ \$430,000 in pledges. Calls are still being made the few outstanding households. We have budgeted \$445,000 in pledges.

Personnel

We had to rescind an offer that we made to an individual to serve as the Hospitality Coordinator. We will resume the search and start the search for the Membership Coordinator (starting date: August, 2018).

Affiliated Minister

The Rev. Kathleen Green, Executive Director of the Yale Humanist Community (YHC), was introduced to the congregation on June 10. She will preach on August 12. We will also arrange Q&A and hope to vote on affiliation with her in the fall of 2018.

Summer Services

Our summer services are planned and will include a mix of lay-led worship and guest ministers. I will preach the last two Sundays in August.

Major Accomplishments *(Large, new, or not regular-duty projects)*

None to report at this time

Primary Ministry Focus *(Areas of intellectual, mental, or spiritual study)*

- Our theme for June: Blessing
- Budgeting, Membership and Stewardship

Upcoming Time Away *(vacation, study leave, UUMA or UUA gatherings)*

- I will be away at our UUA General Assembly June 18-24.
- I will be away on vacation June 24-30.
- I will be in town on vacation July 1-8.

Activity Report for Areas of Ministry for Preliminary Fellowship Evaluation

(not exhaustive)

Counseling and Pastoral Care

This summer, I have plans to continue some "catch up work" I have been doing on pastoral care—visiting folks in area assisted living centers and nursing homes.

Practical Arts *(administration, organizational development in and out of congregation, management of staff, attention to detail, support and leadership development, recognition and appreciation of others, delegation of responsibility and authority, follow through and completion of tasks, time management, attention to finances, fundraising, funding ministry, public relations and publicity skills, ability to work with boards and committees, clarity of roles, attention to long range plans, etc.)*

- I have been in conversation with the state of CT regarding the Highmeadows property across Hartford Turnpike. We are still in negotiations about the possibility of us using the parking lot.

- I am disappointed with the Stewardship drive numbers and am thinking about how I need to be involved next year.

Organizational Ministry (*integration of new members and clients, creates a welcoming environment, encourages a sense of community, encourages growth, supports broad variety of programs, involvement of others in planning and conducting programs, nurtures lay leadership, professional presentation of self, pastors to various age groups, etc.*)

- We welcomed 16 new members on 5/20
- I am thinking a lot about how we nurture leadership across the years.

Personal and Professional Growth

- I continue my meetings with my professional resources (mentor, spiritual director, coach).
- I attended a UUMA Clara Barton Chapter meeting on 6/6.

Teaching

- I concluded the Newer to USNH Small Group Ministry that I co-led with Jesse Greist. We plan to lead a similar group in Fall 2018.

Worship

- May 13: Mother's Day. Delivered a sermon on inequality in birth. "Co-creating Justice"
- May 20: Michelangelo and Creative Process
- 5/27 Jim Peters delivered a Memorial Day sermon on "re-membering"
- June 1: (Friday) Affirmation Service—participated and offered blessing to eighth graders
- June 3: CYRE Service
- June 10: YRUU Service
- June 17: Flower Communion

Membership and Attendance (with thanks to Jane Ferrall)

- The month of May saw an increase in membership. We had one resignation in June. We are currently at 362 members.
- The five Sundays in April had the following attendance:
 - o 5/6 – 9am 12, 10:30am 170
 - o 5/13 – 9am 26, 10:30am 150
 - o 5/20 – 9am 11, 10:30am 197
 - o 5/27 – 10:30am (only) 111
 - o 6/1 (Friday) – no attendance taken
 - o 6/3 – 10:30am 203
 - o 6/10 – 10:30am 150
- (Attendance includes every person in the building on the morning of the service whether in the Sanctuary, the Social Hall, in CYRE or teaching CYRE, except for staff.)

Denominational Activities

- I attended the ordination of Rev. Valerie Fresman on June 10 at Fourth Universalist Society in New York City.
- I will attend the UUA GA June 18-24.

Prophetic Outreach

- I am working to bring the curriculum/program Beloved Conversations (<http://www.meadville.edu/fahs-collaborative/fahs-curriculum-catalogue/beloved-conversations/>) to USNH in Jan/Feb 2019.

Respectfully Submitted by Rev. Megan Lloyd Joiner