

Unitarian Society of New Haven
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
July 11, 2019

Accepted August 8, 2019

Board Members Present: President - Al Bosch, Vice President - Nancy Apfel, Treasurer - Linda Mehta, Clerk - Becky Friedkin, Past-President - Peggy Myers, At Large: Craig Machado, Bernice Marie-Daly, Emily McCave, Pat Trotta,

Board Members Absent: Jeannette Faber

Others Present: Gwen Heuss-Severance, David Stagg, Rev. John Marsh

Gather:

Al called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm and thanked Peggy Myers for her service as President. David lit the chalice and Pat read the poem *The New Colossus*, by Emma Lazarus (1883), which is on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty, for the chalice lighting. Attendees read the covenant. This was followed by a life event check in and a check in with each person answering the question, "Where would you most like to vacation this summer (if time and money were no object)?"

Changes to the agenda: None

Assess the Past:

Minister's report

The Minister's report is on hiatus until our August meeting, when Rev. John Marsh will have joined us (effective August 1) as Interim Minister.

Monitoring of policies

No monitoring is due in July or August.

Linda reported that some confusion with the Bookkeeper about distribution of financial reports has been resolved. Reports on FY19 will be reviewed at the August meeting.

Create the Future & Learning:

Board members signed up for **Chalice Lightings** through June 2020

Technology for the Board

Becky led a tutorial on using the USNH Board of Trustees Google Site, the tool we use to share Board- and Management Team-related documents. She shared a "Cheat Sheet" which is located in the 2019-2020 General Board Material page on the Google Site.

Fall Board Retreat

We discussed dates for the fall board retreat. September 7 and 28 were possibilities. We tentatively settled on September 7, from approximately 8:30 or 9 (with the first 30 minutes for a light breakfast) to 3 pm.

There was discussion of topics for the retreat. Ideas for discussion included:

- The goals previously set for this year around Belonging
- What this transitional year will look like and how we can best leverage it.
- Anti-racism and dismantling white supremacy, which is the [2018-21 Congregational Study/Action Issue](#)
- The denomination has called on congregations to do more on LGBTQ issues and we do not have a designated task force or support group.
- Covenantal relations also underlie much of what we do and needs more attention
- Thinking about Tara Humphries' recent sermon about which chairs are at the table, discussion of what chairs are missing, keeping people here during transitions - do people feel that this is a home for them.
- A more in depth look at where the lines are in policy governance
- How do we best engender more action from the congregation on issues we think are important

This led to a discussion of the **role of the board under policy governance**

Rev. John Marsh identified key functions:

- Vision casting
- The board owns the budget and has the authority to make adjustments to the MT's proposal
- Protecting the church's reputation among its own members and in the community is an essential task
- Board needs to reinforce decisions of the MT. Don't second guess or micromanage the MT.

Executive Committee will discuss further and bring back recommendations to the Board.

Should we have a Youth BoT Member?

Al has discussed this with Rev. Megan and Jesse Greist, both of whom are in favor of changing the by-laws to allow a youth member to serve as a full voting member of the board. Al recommends that there be a mechanism (e.g., a recommendation from the DLRE) for recommending interested youth to Nominating and also allowing for the possibility that there are no interested youth in a given year (i.e., that this position is not required to be filled).

Emily will work with Jesse on this regarding educating the congregation, with the possibility of proposing it at the November Congregational Meeting.

Should we have a parliamentarian at Congregational Meetings?

There was very brief discussion.

Bernice moved and Nancy seconded that we have a parliamentarian at Congregational Meetings, if one is available.

PASSED unanimously.

Becky asked that, in the near future, we consider a different model for congregational meetings, as was tried at General Assembly this year. This would require a by-laws change.

Rev. John Marsh

Rev. Marsh sees his role here to be helping the ship move along, strengthen the institution, and occasionally shake things up. How can we all be nicer to one another is his go-to theme. He also wants to focus on the goals of belonging and decentering whiteness and institutional change.

Rev. Marsh also plans to modify the Minister's Study to create a closet in the alcove to the right of the door. This will be easily reversible if the settled minister would like.

New time for second meeting

AI noted that one member cannot meet on Tuesdays beginning in September. We settled on the 3rd Wednesday for the second meeting of the month, commencing on August 21.

Do we need two meetings a month?

Peggy stated that we were changing so fast from a pastoral to program culture, the second meeting was an effort to keep up with what was happening. It was an opportunity for the board to look at overall dynamics of congregational life.

Consent Agenda:

No corrections or additions to the Minutes from the 6/13/19 Board meeting were offered, so they are approved.

Announcements:

Thank you's:

Adjournment:

MOTION – Bernice to adjourn; **SECONDED** Craig;

PASSED unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

Attachments:

Board meeting dates for 2019-20.pdf (also found in 2019-20 General Board Materials on the Google Site.)

Board Meetings, 2019-20

Second Tuesday of the month - regular meeting
Third Wednesday of the month - additional meeting
(except for 3rd Tues in July - July 23)

	Regular meeting (Thursdays)	Additional meeting (Wednesdays)	Notes
July 2019	11	23	A Tuesday
August	8	21	Note the skip of a week
September	12	18	
October	10	16	
November	14	20	
December	12	18	
January 2020	9	15	
February	13	19	
March	12	18	
April	9	15	
May	14	20	
June	11	17	
July 2020	9	TBD	