Unitarian Society of New Haven Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees May 13, 2021

Accepted June 10, 2021

Board Members Present: President Nancy Apfel, Vice President Emily McCave, Clerk Becky Friedkin, Treasurer Larry Copes; Past President Al Bosch; Trustees at Large Bernice Marie-Daly, Tina Santoni, Rich Stockton; Youth Trustee Elizabeth S.; Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich, ex officio

Others Present: David Stagg (Management Team)

1. Gather

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board met online via Zoom.

Nancy called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Elizabeth lit the chalice and read a chalice lighting that she wrote.

We read the Board Covenant and did a life check-in.

Changes to the agenda: the monitoring of policy 1.3 is not ready and will be presented in June. Larry needs to leave early and will present his report next.

Financial Report from the Treasurer

Larry walked the Board through the Balance Sheet data from Year-End 2019 and 2020, December 31 2020, and March 31, 2021, which is appended to these minutes. The financial position of the congregation is generally stable.

Larry left the meeting at 6:58 pm.

2. Future Planning

Adoption of the 8th Principle by the Board

Nancy reflected that the May 8 retreat was very productive. In considering what to do next, one idea that came through very clearly was for the Board to adopt the 8th principle.

One member proposed adding to any motion for the Board to adopt the 8th principle: This is not binding on the congregation; there will be a congregational vote at a later date. The proposed 8th principle might not have the same wording as the version being adopted by the Board today.

Rev. Lindasusan stated that they like the idea of clarifying that this would be only the Board committing to the 8th principle; this is one area in which the Board **does not** speak for the congregation. They are, however, hesitant to add any wording about the proposed language. We are being asked to follow the lead of the two people who wrote the original principle and to vote on the spirit of it. Any wordsmithing will happen at the national level.

Discussion:

One person noted that the Board has educated ourselves in ways that have changed us. This person's perspective changed after reading about White Supremacy Culture and watching the

videos before the retreat.¹ They realized that we tend to want to tailor something so that it fits with our understanding and intellectual knowledge and we are actually being asked to do something different, which is not necessarily in our comfort zone. And that this is part of growing and being willing to change. They are going to trust the two people who wrote it because they have put a lot of thought into this. If the Board adopts the 8th principle it will also be an invitation to the congregation to become more informed.

Another said that we don't know what is going to happen at the national level and they are sitting with that discomfort. We often want to be in control but we are not this process. Let's recognize who has contributed and trust that the process will be okay.

Someone stated that they don't want to give the impression of paternalism – telling the congregation what they should accept, which others said they understand.

Another said they were so moved by Paula Cole Jones and others who have worked on it and adopted it. This is the only principle that mentions accountability. Their impulse is to edit the language, but we are being asked to do something different. This is time to allow ourselves to be led to a better place and to have confidence that the people who developed this are good leaders. Paula Cole Jones has assured us that the current language will not be the final language. The current focus is on the concepts.

Rev. Lindasusan said that we are not being asked to follow people who are saying "This is the only right way." They are saying "Follow us FOR NOW, in this early process. Trust that we did our homework. Let's get a lot of people on board, and then we will get to the final result together." The process is rooted in collaboration. The originators have distributed work to individual congregations to adopt it. Hopefully, that groundswell of support will get it to the national level, and that work will go beyond Paula Cole Jones and Bruce Pollack-Johnson (the original drafters).

Becky moved and Al seconded that the Board adopt the 8th principle for its work going forward. This is not binding on the congregation, which will vote on it separately in the future. The **MOTION passed** unanimously.

Congregational Meeting, May 23

Nancy went over the agenda for the congregational meeting, which is appended to the minutes and was emailed to congregation members and staff on May 9. Many people responded to the straw poll on naming Rev. Kathleen McTigue Minister Emerita. There was significant support for this action, but enough members expressed reservations, especially about proceeding so quickly, that the issue has been tabled for now.

Board Evaluation

Rich and Tina had shared a document (attached) with possible questions to ask in a self-evaluation. The idea is to add some sort of numerical score (e.g., 1-5) to most questions. Most would allow for comments, which will be very helpful. They had started looking for questions about effectiveness related to size, but shifted to more overall effectiveness measures.

¹ See a list of these resources at the end of the minutes, before the listing of attachments.

Discussion:

There seem to be too many questions to use all of them, but it was suggested that we pilot all the questions this year so we can get a feeling for which questions are most helpful.

Also, look at the Policy Governance Manual for the responsibilities of the Board and incorporate them into the questions.

Clarified that "leaders" in the document is meant to be fairly broad – Board, Management Team, Committee and Task Force chairs, etc.

Rev. Lindasusan noted that under policy governance, the monitoring reports are a key way we hold the Management Team accountable. And staying in communication with the congregation, or linkage, is key concepts.

Rich and Tina will wordsmith and invite all who have ideas to share them; Becky will program in Google Forms; and Board members will complete in the next few weeks so we can discuss at our June 10 meeting.

Leadership Development

Leadership development was identified by most Board members as an area to work on during our last months. Nancy noted that the way the Board works and our processes are opaque to most congregants; that we need to develop pathways to leadership; that we need to bring younger and newer members into leadership; and make leadership less weighty and more manageable. She suggested that the Board establish an ad-hoc committee to conduct research on resources; brainstorm new ideas; and make recommendations about leadership development at USNH.

Discussion followed, including:

- The UUA has leadership development resources
- How do we make this sustainable over the long run where should we house a long-term charge for ongoing leadership development?

Everyone should think about this, who should be represented on an ad-hoc committee, what should its charge be, etc., so that we can act at our June meeting.

Board Summer Service

Emily reported that the Worship Committee, through Lisa Anderson, has asked if the Board would like to lead a summer service on whatever topic we choose. If we agree to do this, we would want some folks from the current board and hopefully some from the new Board. The service would be in July or August and would still be remote, so even people out of town might be able to participate.

One potential topic is **leadership as ministry**; how do we feel called to leadership, how is it connected to our spiritual growth, possibly welcoming others (non-Board members) to participate. Reflections are usually successful. **How we worked through understanding and lifting up the 8th principle** might be interesting for the congregation to hear.

Several people expressed interest in such a service and the Board agreed to make the commitment.

Appoint Bobbi Pace to the Management Team

David shared that Gwen Heuss-Severance has been on the Management Team for four years. Two years ago, she said she wanted to leave but then agreed to stay on for the interim ministry and then the pandemic. Jean Rosenthal joined a year ago, but Jeremy Hill resigned recently. The current Management Team recommends that Bobbi Pace, who is willing, be appointed to the team. Bobbi has a long history with the congregation and her parents were founding members. Bobbi has been President, and served on the Board, the Governance Task Force, and many other committees. She was instrumental in the development and implementation of policy governance and has a strong interest in leadership development.

The board agreed unanimously to appoint Bobbi Pace to the Management Team.

3. Reports

Stewardship Report

Becky updated the email she sent yesterday, which is appended to these minutes.

Budget Reports

David reported that Finance Chair Terry Durham has projected that we may end the year with a modest surplus. David shared the proposed operating budget for FY22 (appended to these minutes) and walked the Board through it.

The budget reflects the Board priorities communicated to the Finance Committee and Management Team.

Thanks to Greg Seaman for securing \$74,800 from the first round of Paycheck Protection Program in May 2020. We were notified in March 2021 that the loan and any interest were entirely forgiven. This money has been transferred to the Gifts and Donations line item, which is contributing \$60,000 to the operating budget.

There was a healthy discussion at Council of Chairs that we must remember that we will not have this money next year. We need to prepare the congregation on how to pay for the expenses we have and also to plan for the capital needs that have been deferred and are coming due.

Becky moved and Emily seconded to accept the FY22 budget as proposed by the Management Team. The **MOTION passed** unanimously.

Minister's Report

Rev. Lindasusan's report to the Board is appended to these minutes. They especially asked the Board to recommend good candidates for the Pastoral Care and Stewardship committees.

Building Reopening Advisory Group

David reported on the BRAG meeting of May 5. They are planning an expansion of the current policy to allow small indoor meetings. They have discussed requirements, including a prohibition on food. Rev. Lindasusan and Jesse will decide the maximum number of people to be allowed for each room.

4. Closing

Consent Agenda

The Board accepted the minutes from the April 8, 2021 Board meeting.

Process Observation

Emily noticed that although we are 11 minutes behind, it is because we had rich and meaningful discussion on the 8th principle and leadership development. She also noted the sympathetic joy during check-in as people are vaccinated and able to see family and friends in person after many months. We were accommodating about the break, which was only two minutes. She will also resend the Zoom link about 10 minutes before future meetings, although it seems to be going to Spam/Junk for some people

Thank-you notes

Tina and Al will write the thank you notes this month.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Becky Friedkin, Clerk

The following resources were used by the Board in preparation for its May 2021 retreat:

- GA 2020 Webinar Why Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity Matter to Your Congregation
- 8th principle learning community; four ministers sharing experiences in congregations that have adopted the 8th principle
- White Supremacy Culture, by Tema Okun
- <u>To All Get Free Together</u>, by Chris Crass
- Moving From Invitation to Inclusion to Radical Welcome
- Invitation to Brave Space, by Micky ScottBey Jones

Attachments:

Summary Balance Sheet Agenda for the May 23, 2021 Congregational Meeting Stewardship update Proposed FY22 budget Rev. Lindasusan's report to the Board

Summary Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2021

Summary of balance sheets, approximate				
values	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2020	Dec 31, 2020	Mar 31, 2021
Assets				
Checking, savings (CDs —unrestricted cash	330,000	320,000	284,000	300,000
Other minor (grocery cards, etc.)	19,000	19,000	7,000	10,000
Fixed assets (building, furniture, etc.) – including annual depreciation	1,793,000	1,700,000	1,825,000	1,700,000
Endowment	1,185,000	1,214,000	1,452,000	1,200,000
Total	3,327,000	3,253,000	3,568,000	3,210,000
Liabilities				
Payroll Protection loan - moved to equity— Gifts and Donations		75,000	75,000	0
Endowment mortgage loan	363,000	346,000	337,000	330,000
Other (mostly payroll taxes payable)	25,000	15,000	11,000	12,000
Total	388,000	436,000	423,000	342,000
Assets minus liabilities, or equity ("net worth")	2,939,000	2,817,000	3,145,000	2,868,000

Agenda for USNH Congregational Meeting May 23, 2021 at noon, on Zoom

- 1. Call to Order, Nancy Apfel, President
- 2. Invocation, Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich
- 3. Reading of Covenant, Emily McCave
- 4. Reflections Rev. Lindasusan
- 5. Establish quorum and describe voting procedures Becky Friedkin, Clerk
- 6. Report from the Board Nancy
- 7. **Approval** of Minutes from Dec 13, 2020 Congregational meeting Becky
- 8. Nominations and **Vote** Robb Camm, Nominating Committee chair
- 9. Report from Stewardship Cindy Chelcun/Laura Patey, co-chairs
- 10. Report on the FY21 Budget, Larry Copes, Treasurer
- 11. FY22 Budget Remarks and **Vote** David Stagg, Management Team
- 12. FY22 Capital Budget Remarks and **Vote** Jason Kyle, Chair, Buildings & Grounds
- 13. Proposed 8th Principle 8th Principle Working Group
- 14. Installation of Rev. Lindasusan and USNH's 70th Birthday Celebration David
- 15. Report on Council of Chairs and BRAG Gwen Heuss-Severance, Management Team
- 16. Motion to Adjourn

Stewardship Committee Update as of May 10

Submitted by Becky Friedkin

The Stewardship Team has completed our work of reaching out to members and those friends who pledged last year. Unfortunately, the pledge total shared in the May 6 newsletter was too high by \$4,000 – there was a mistake in a report. Following is the result of our campaign as of today:

Dollars raised: \$450,140 - 92% of \$490K goal

Participation: 230 pledges – 92% of 250 pledge units

\$ range	Number	\$ Amount	% of pledgers	% of pledge total
waivers	11	0	5%	0%
< \$500	48	12,420	21%	3%
\$500 - \$999	42	26,205	18%	6%
\$1,000 - \$1,499	38	42,991	17%	10%
\$1,500 - \$1,999	27	45,150	12%	10%
\$2,000 - \$2,999	22	51,100	10%	11%
\$3,000 - \$3,999	10	31,824	4%	7%
\$4,000 - \$4,999	7	30,100	3%	7%
\$5,000 - \$7,499	14	86,750	6%	19%
\$7,500 - \$9,999	5	41,400	2%	9%
\$10,000 - \$24,999	6	82,200	3%	18%

11% of our pledgers (25 households) are providing 47% of pledge \$\$, similar to for FY21 44% of pledges (including waivers) are less than \$1,000 median pledge including waivers is \$1,000; excluding waivers it is \$1,200

Following is a summary of changes in pledges:

Pledge Category	#	\$ (lost) or gained	Notes
decreases	57	(34,416)	aggregate reduction of 40%; (note: \$7K of this is from 3 members in memory care who pledged for FY21)
increases	83	20,095	aggregate increase of 10%
same-level	87		
new	3	1,220	
Total pledges	230	(14,321)	aggregate reduction by 3.1% among households pledging both years
Status of remai	ning house	holds:	
	19	(10,104)	households either not yet heard from or waiting to pledge until the fall
	9	(10,170)	lost to resignations, moving

Proposed FY22 Budget

		Draft Operating Budget 2021-22 Version	2020-21	3/31/21	% of	2021-22	2021.22.2	Т
		2.8	Budget	Actual 75%	Budget	Proposed	2021-22 Comments	
								1
Ţ		INCOME						1
1		Pledge Goal	488,000.00				Assume Full Open September 2021	4
2		Pledges	473,360.00	382,291.53	80.76%	446,200.00	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	4
3		Collection Plate	22,000.00	12,207.58	55.49%	16,500.00		4
4		Coffee and Flower donations	1,500.00	0.00	0.00%	1,125.00	3/4 of full year income	4
_		Rentals	40 122 22	42 210 07	00.000	50,000,00	B	+
5	4310		48,133.33	43,319.97	90.00%	60,000.00	Daycare is increased per lease terms	+
6	4320		7,000.00	1,385.00	19.79%	1,280.00	incidental is a BIG unknown	-
7		RE Income	500.00	115.00	23.00%	495.00		4
8	4500	Fundraising	14,000.00	2,906.75	20.76%	14,000.00		-
9	1.000	CONECT Fundraising	2,500.00	2,150.00	1101-	1,250.00		4
10 11		Interest	3,500.00	1,571.70	44.91%	1,600.00	CD rates low and not raising anytime soon	-
11	4700	Release from Temporary Restricted Funds				60,000.00	Gifts/Donations released for Board Priorities	
12	4800	Miscellaneous Gain/Loss	0.00	1,795.60		3,153.28	Profit/Loss from sales of stock	1
13		Endowment contribution (2%)	38,854.41	25,143.51	64.71%	23,767.00		T
14		Total Income	611,347.74	472,886.64	77.35%	629,370.28		1
		10181 8110 1110		,				1
		EXPENSES						T
15	5100	Facility						
16		Utilities						1
			25,500.00	16,527.74	64.81%		water 15%, gas 25%, electricity 60% save \$1000 on cooling Jul-Sep)
17		Maintenance and Repair	7,000.00	1,369.55	19.57%	5,000.00	Expect return to previous levels	
18	5130	Property management					cleaning 20%, waste removal 40%, hvac contracts 35%, elevator	
			9,500.00	5,468.59	57.56%		10%, pest control 10%	
19		Custodial Supplies	2,109.00	337.18	15.99%	600.00		
20		Landscape	11,000.00	10,627.14	96.61%	11,000.00		_
21	5160	Security/Alarm system	4,000.00	3,054.97	76.37%	4,200.00	expect 5% increase	
22		Facility total	59,109.00	37,385.17	63.25%	54,600.00		-
23	£200							4
24		Communication, Media	1,282.00	1 454 62	113.47%	2,000.00	nuesha sina sunnilias for navu nrintar	+
25		Office Supplies (copier paper, supplies) Postage	500.00	1,454.63 376.76		500.00	purchasing supplies for new printer	+
26		Office service contracts (copier, Poland	300.00	370.70	13.3370	300.00		-
20	3230	Spring)	4,666.00	2,654.70	56.89%	800.00	New copier maintenance \$50/month	
27	5240	Cable service: internet, phone, TV, wi-fi	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	_,				1
		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	4,000.00	2,788.47	69.71%	4,200.00	5% increase expected	
28	5250	Office contingency	100.00	114.98	114.98%	100.00		T
29	5260	Tech: hosting, software, licensing	3,000.00	1,021.50	34.05%	3,000.00		
30		Communication total	13,548.00	8,411.04	62.08%	10,600.00		T
31		Committee Support/Member Services					Keep allocations the same as Fiscal 21	4
32		Membership Committee	750.00	0.00	0.00%	750.00		4
33		Covenantal Relations Committee	562.50	0.00	0.00%	565.00		4
34		Sunday Morning Team	1,125.00	102.96	9.15%	1,125.00		4
35		Stewardship/Canvass	1,125.00	171.00	15.20%		Stewardship suggestion	4
36		Endowment & Legacies	1,000.00	523.30	52.33%	1,000.00		4
37		S mall Groups	112.50	0.00	0.00%	115.00		\dashv
38		Library/Archives	150.00 150.00	0.00	0.00%	150.00 150.00		-
40	2200	Pastoral Care Team Committee/Member Sycs total	4,975.00	0.00 797.26	16.03%	4,755.00		-
+0		Committee/weilder Svcs total	4,973.00	/97.26	10.03%	4,/33.00		-
41	5400	Denominational Affairs						-
43	5410	UUA dues	12,500.00	9,375.00	75.00%	15,935 00	Increase from 40% to 50% of \$31,873 UUA request	+
-		Conduct	12,500.00	7,575.00	, 5.00 /6	10,755.00	and to to both of \$51,075 Confrequent	-
44	5500	Finance						-
45		Mortgage	37,715.00	28,286.42	75.00%	37,715.38	Endowment provides our Mortgage	
46		Insurance	7,485.00	7,977.00			Annual premium paid in October	
47		Accountant's Review	3,900.00		100.00%		No increase this year	
48	5540	EFT (VANCO) Fees	0.00		0.00%	0.00	Discontinue Vanco	
49	5560	Bank fees	50.00	20.79	41.58%	50.00		
50	5570	Paypal Fees (~3.0% fee)	500.00	1,012.62		1,000.00		
51		CT Sales Tax	250.00	0.00	0.00%	200.00		
52	5580	Merrill Edge sales commission	50.00	21.06			Fees associated with stock donations	
53		Finance total	49,950.00	41,234.96	82.55%	50,872.38		
54		Personnel						
55	5610	Salaries (Minister, DLRE, Administrator,					Law gove papers and the second	
		Directors of Music, Associate Director of	257 054 40	193,356.66	74.99%	267,094.30	1.2% COLA. DRE Salary adjusted reflecting new credentialing	
56		Music)	257,856.48	193,336.66	74.99%	207,094.30		
56		Hourly Wages (Sexton, Membership Coordinator, Hospitality Coordinator, Child						
		Care)	42,305.00	29,062.48	68.70%	42,598.76	1.2% COLA	
57		Contractor (Bookkeeping Services)	14,250.00	10,687.50	75.00%	14,250.00		_
58		Medical insurance (Minister, DLRE,	1.,250.00	10,307.30	. 2.0070	1 .,25 0.00		
		Administrator, Sexton)	47,420.00	33,954.10	71.60%	52,772.46	Increased 10% 7/1/2021 and again 1/1/2022	
	5640	Other Insurance (dental, disability,						
59		workers comp, life)	11,408.00	7,146.20	62.64%	9,934.51	l .	

Proposed FY22 Budget

		Draft Operating Budget 2021-22 Version 2.8	2020-21 Budget	3/31/21 Actual 75%	% of Budget	2021-22 Proposed	2021-22 Comments	
60		Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) Tax	22,962.00	15,752.91	68.60%		7.65% of salary total	60
61		Pensions (Minister, DLRE, Administrator, Sexton)	24,254.76	18,231.91	75.17%	25,147.25		61
62		Payroll service, admin fees, etc	3,200.00	894.03	27.94%	628.66		62
63	5680	Professional Expense Accounts (Minister, DLRE, Administrator, Director of Music)						63
		·	15,747.00	4,921.85	31.26%	14,900.00		
64		Personnel total	439,403.24	314,007.64	71.46%	451,017.46		64
65		Minister UUA Training	1,500.00	1,500.00		0.00	Fiscal 21 only	
				,			•	
66		Installation of New Minister				5,000.00	Tentatively scheduled for November 2021	66
67	5700	Trustees Research and Development	500.00	0.00	0.00%	500.00		67
68	5710	Management Team Discretionary Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	Discontinued for Fiscal 21	68
			0.00	0.00	0.0070	0.00		
69		Music			0.00=/		Keep allocations the same as Fiscal 21	69
70 71		Paid instrumentalists	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	Use Apfel fund for paid instrumentalists	70
72		Accompanist for memorials Sheet Music/Library	500.00	16.47	3.29%	500.00		72
73		Piano Tuning/Repair	700.00	125.00	17.86%	700.00		73
74		Dues, Tapes, Misc	100.00	0.00	0.00%	100.00		74
75		Music total	1,300.00	141.47	10.88%	1,300.00		75
76	6200	Religious Education					Keep allocations the same as Fiscal 21	76
77		Adult RE	900.00	285.95	31.77%	900.00	neep unocutons are same as 1 Bear 21	77
78		CYRE discretionary fund	300.00	0.00	0.00%	300.00		78
79		Teacher Training & Support	225.00	0.00	0.00%	225.00		79
80		Curriculum, supplies, equipment	900.00	204.46	22.72%	900.00		80
81		YRUU Support	525.00	444.46	84.66%	525.00		81
82 83		Family Multigenerational Activities Teacher/volunteer background checks	375.00 150.00	0.00	0.00%	375.00 150.00		82 83
84		OWL TeacherTraining	375.00	0.00	0.00%	375.00		84
85		Affirmations Class Expense	1,350.00	0.00	0.00%	1,350.00		85
86		Religious Education total	5,100.00	934.87	18.33%	5,100.00		86
87 88	6301	Social Justice Abraham's Tent/Columbus House	4,500.00			4,500.00	All programs other than Waverly Regular donations to Columbus House are now in a temp restricted fund	87 88
89		(HEART) Anti-Racism TF					lulid	89
90		Peace TF						90
91		Kids' Service Team TF						91
92	6305	Immigration and Refugee TF		43.98				92
93		Green Sanctuary TF						93
94 95		Preventing Gun Violence TF	9,000.00	6 407 75		0.000.00	Keep Waverly at \$9,000 per Board Request	94
96		Waverly/USNH Partnership TF UU-UNO TF (Dues)	9,000.00	6,407.75		9,000.00	keep waveny at \$9,000 per Board Request	96
97		UUSC TF (Dues)						97
98	6311	Social Justice Council Reserve						98
99		Mental Health Awareness						99
100	6300	Social Justice Programs - Other						100
101		Social Justice total	13,500.00	6,451.73	47.79%	13,500.00		101
102	6313	CONECT	7,000.00	5,250.00	75.00%	7,000.00	70% of the \$10,000 CONECT request.	102
103	6400	Worship					Keep allocations the same as Fiscal 21	103
104		Speakers	1,125.00	600.00			\$250/guest speaker fee.	104
105		Sanctuary supplies	300.00		116.67%	300.00		105
106 107		Sunday Flowers Worship - Other	1,462.50 75.00	30.00	2.05% 145.52%	1,465.00 75.00	Seder expense	106 107
107	0400	Worship - Other Worship total	2,962.50	1,089.14		2,965.00		107
109		Capital Fund Contribution	0.00	0.00	0.00%	6,225.44	Provide some funding for Capital Budget	109
111		Total Expenses	611,348.19	426,578.28	69.78%	629,370.28	Total Expenses	111
112		Income - Expenses	0.00	46,308.36		0.00	Negative means Deficit	112

Rev. Lindasusan's Report to the Board

May 13, 2021

What do you notice?

- As this unusual period in congregational life winds down with the promise of reopening in the fall, many people have decided to step down from leadership roles, particularly from the Pastoral Care and Stewardship teams. Their reasons for leaving are all perfectly reasonable there isn't any drama. Several people noted that they'd stayed on their committee far longer than they'd originally planned and felt like this was the right time to cycle off. While finding new people to serve will have its challenges, I also see this time of transition as hopeful: people must have a certain level of confidence in where USNH is right now to feel as though they can safely step back.
- I'm excited that so many people have said yes to being part of the Installation/ 70th Anniversary planning committee! Having such a robust team can only help when it comes to avoiding burnout.
- The monthly Saturday drive-thru events continue to be a source of connection and community. This Saturday (5/15) will include the new member ceremony for the five people joining USNH following the successful New to UU class on 5/1.

Do you have questions?

- What kinds of programming would the Board like to see or host! as part of the 70th anniversary celebration this November?
- I've started looking ahead to 2021-22, and there's no shortage of work to accomplish in support of the USNH mission. For those staying on the Board, do you think we'll keep **Among** as the emphasis for the coming year as well? (We don't have to solve this right now, but I wanted to ask the question.)

What do you need?

- I'd love to hear your thoughts (whether in the meeting or by email) on folks who might be a good fit for the Pastoral Care or Stewardship teams. My limited contact with congregants this year has put me at a disadvantage for recruiting. Fortunately, I'm not doing this work alone.
- Here's a reminder about the upcoming conferences I'll be attending:
 - Festival of Homiletics (for preachers): May 17-21
 - Ministry Days/General Assembly (for UU ministers/all UUs): June 21-27

Anything else?

- Updates to SOP-0005 (Burials and Memorials) and SOP-0014 (Fees for Memorial Services) have been released and are now on the website.
- I'll be preaching in June for the Church of the Larger Fellowship on the theme of embodiment. I'll have an accompanying piece in *Quest*, their monthly newsletter.
- I've had a piece accepted for an anthology about parenting that will be published by Skinner House Books.