

Unitarian Society of New Haven  
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
July 8, 2021, Via Zoom  
Accepted Aug 12, 2021

**Board Members Present:**

President - Emily McCave	Bernice Marie-Daly
Vice President - Joanie Messner	Becky Reeve
Clerk - Aimee Cotton Bogush	Tina Santoni (left at 7:50 pm)
Treasurer - Larry Copes (left at 7:11 pm)	Rich Stockton
	Susan Trotta-Smith

**Others Present:**

Nancy Apfel (Past President), Becky Friedkin (Past Clerk), Elizabeth Soderholm (past Youth Trustee), Al Bosch (past-Past President), David Stagg (Management Team), Jean Rosenthal (Management Team), Bobbi Pace (Management Team, arrived at 7:39 pm).

**Board Members Absent:** Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich, ex officio

**1. Gather & Chalice Lighting**

Emily called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm and the chalice was lit. New Members were welcomed, and all present introduced themselves. Deep gratitude was extended to those members who are rotating out. The covenant was read.

**2. Future Planning**

**Board Evaluation Survey Results**

Gratitude was expressed to Becky for putting together the survey and summary. It was noted that the questions are based on the policy governance manual. Rich and Tina reviewed the results and shared initial thoughts and discussion followed.

{Larry Copes left at 7:11 pm}

Nancy congratulated the board for this self-reflection – this is unique. It is recommended that all board members read the policy governance manual.

Regarding reports: If reports are given to trustees ahead of time (with the meeting agenda) they can be read in advance. This provides more time for discussion of policy governance and Rev. Lindasusan's reports. It is recommended that new board members read through the last 6 months of meeting minutes and Rev. Lindasusan's reports.

Discussion of the board survey ended, and Nancy, Becky F., Elizabeth, Al, and Jean left the meeting. The board survey presentation and report are appended to these minutes.

### **Covenant for New Board**

The covenant was reviewed to ensure it fits the current board. Suggestions were made to add language about “laughter/humor/silliness,” wording about “taking risks/leaving comfort zones,” and possibly referencing the “8<sup>th</sup> principle.” Officers will review suggestions and propose something for August. In addition, the 8<sup>th</sup> principle will be read at the next meeting for consideration about what it might mean for board processes.

### **Nominating Committee Member Rep from the Board**

There is a need for a board member to be a full voting member on the nominating committee for one-year term (non-officer). The function of the role was discussed. Joanie will gather more details about the time commitment to share at the August board meeting with the goal of having someone in place for September.

{Bobbi Pace arrived 7:39 pm}

### **Meeting Date/Time for Board Meetings**

After discussion about a workable schedule, it was decided officers will discuss with Rev. Lindasusan the possibility of alternating meeting dates on 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays from September through February.

{A 10-minute break was taken.}

### **Chalice Lighting/Process Observer Sign Up, Thank You notes tracking**

Aimee will assign chalice lighting and process observer roles for the year. Any conflicts can be handled on a per meeting basis. We will continue to volunteer for writing thank you notes.

### **Board Summer Service**

The theme is “the gifts we give and the gifts we receive.” A board chat is scheduled for after the service. Bernice, Rich, Becky, Sue, and Emily will attend to answer questions and provide updates on board work including the 8<sup>th</sup> principle, policy governance, etc.

### **LCD Monitors for Sanctuary**

David Stagg presented a proposal for mounting two video monitors on the wood panels above the exit doors in the sanctuary by September. The proposed cost (estimated at \$10,000) would be covered by David and Bob Congdon as a gift to the congregation. He shared a photo of what it would look like and explained both the reasons for installing them as well as some of the challenges to doing so such as electrical access and glare. The desire for the monitors stems from lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic about making services as inclusive as possible. Note: Services will be streamed regardless of the decision on the monitors.

Discussion took place about the use and benefit as well as the location and logistics of installation. David was asked to find if there are other UUA congregations that have something similar that we can consult.

It is unclear who has the authority to approve or disapprove of a proposal to alter the sanctuary. Emily will seek guidance from past presidents and Rev. Lindasusan. This item will be put on the August agenda to seek some resolution.

### **Carryover Board Items for 21-22**

This item was tabled until the next meeting due to the time.

### **3. Reports**

#### ***Building Reopening Advisory Group (BRAG)***

Emily reported the proposed date to return to in-person services is Sunday, September 12, 2021. The BRAG continues to work out the logistics of making that happen (mask requirement, availability of social distancing sections, etc.). They meet next on July 14.

### **4. Closing**

#### **Consent Agenda**

The Board accepted the minutes from the June 10, 2021, Board meeting.

#### **Process Observation**

Rich: The unique welcome in place of the check in felt very nice. A good discussion took place about the evaluation survey including how it is based on the second section of policy governance and education about policy governance is linked with future work we must do. It is good to see new ideas for the covenant, especially the addition of humor. The discussion about a nominating committee member from the board may have gone longer than necessary. These meetings work well in terms of tracking times. Regarding the updated system for getting people to sign up for the chalice lighting and process observer roles, asking individuals directly or assigning them seems to make sense. The discussion about LCD monitors was interesting with a lot of meaty things brought up.

#### **Thank-you notes**

The following people will receive thank you notes (author in parentheses): Al (Rich), Elizabeth (Emily will ask Tina), Becky (Bernice) and Nancy (Emily).

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aimee Cotton Bogush, Clerk

#### **Next Meeting:**

8/12/21, 6:30pm