

Unitarian Society of New Haven  
Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees, held on Zoom  
December 8, 2022  
Minutes by Sue Trotta-Smith, At-Large Trustee  
Approved by the Board on January 12, 2023

Board members attending: David Jones, President; Joanna Scaparotti Norris, Treasurer; Joan Ciano, Kyle Manning, Becky Reeve, Susan Trotta-Smith

Board members absent: Tina Santoni

Others attending: Jean Rosenthal and David Stagg, Management Team

1. The meeting was called to order, the chalice lit, and the covenant read, followed by check-in.
2. Becky Friedkin was approved to join the Management Team, replacing Bobbi Pace, effective January 1, 2023.
3. The minutes from the November 10, 2022 Board meeting were approved.
4. Discussion of Rev. Lindasusan's leave. The board would like to reach out to the UUA for counsel and guidance. We are awaiting an update on the situation and expect to know more in a few weeks. The board sees a need for another minister to aid in pastoral care which should be in place within a few days. The Worship Committee reports that January 8 and 15 are covered in case the Reverend isn't back from leave by those dates.
5. The Budget Planning Task Force reports that the theme for its focus group initiative is "Reimagining and Revitalizing Our Community." The Stewardship Committee will carry that theme into the pledge campaign and suggests that it be a congregation-wide theme for the year. There was a lively discussion and the motion to adopt this as our theme passed.
6. David Stagg presented the Monitoring Report on Policy 1.10 , Safety, which is attached.
7. Preparation for the Congregational Meeting on December 11 included assigning tasks of counting members and votes to Kyle Manning and Becky Reeve. Susan Trotta-Smith will monitor the Zoom chat. Joanna Scaparotti will take minutes.
8. The meeting was adjourned.

Attachment

- Monitoring Report on Policy 1.10, Safety

## **Monitoring of Policy 1.10; Safety**

Rev Lindasusan Ulrich, Jean Rosenthal, Bobbi Pace and David Stagg

Last reported 12.9.2021

Blue text is the approved interpretation; red text is the MT report.

### **1.10 Safety**

#### **The Management Team shall not fail:**

- a. To ensure that all appropriate activities and actions are performed to ensure that staff, visitors, and congregants are provided with a safe environment.
- b. To assess and report to the Board as appropriate regarding safety issues in order to give the Board information that should be addressed in the budget for the next year.

***Policy approved by the Board: March 12, 2015***

#### **MT Interpretation:**

We assume that a safe environment includes protection from threats such as fire and burglary as well as protection from acts of terror. We also assume our responsibility extends to maintaining and improving aspects of personal safety such as freedom from harassment and any situation that would diminish our goal of offering radical hospitality.

We will work with our B&G Committee on safety aspects of our buildings and our grounds and with all staff, committees and the congregation on all aspects of personal safety.

***MT Interpretation Approved by the Board: December 12, 2019***

#### **MT Report:**

Since June 2020 we have relied on advice from our Building Reopening Advisory Group (BRAG) for recommendations regarding the use of our building during the COVID pandemic. The group has been very ably led by Gwen Heuss-Severance during her tenure on the Management Team and this has continued to this day. Decisions about the use of sanctuary and protection for members when in-person visits are allowed for worship have been referred to the Worship Planning Group.

Although we opened the Sanctuary for in-person Sunday Service in September 2021, and remained open for the installation of Reverend Lindasusan in November, we closed again in January 2022 and reverted to live-streaming of our services due to a rise in COVID cases following the holidays. We opened again in late February and required proof of vaccination and the wearing of high-quality masks for in-person attendance.

In September 2022, we stopped asking for proof on vaccination and relaxed the requirement for masking in the Social Hall following the service. The BRAG committee is presently considering a request to make masking optional throughout the building but no decision will be taken until the end of the year.

The MT has started begun to establish a security task force that will review Congregation physical security in the light of our existing plans. As recovery from the pandemic continues we need to review and rehearse the emergency evacuation procedures.

Other safety procedures; testing the fire extinguishers and the security system, inspections of the handicap elevator and the sprinkler system have continued with their usual schedules. Our Parking Area Lighting has been changed from high-pressure sodium to LED lights. That should save us around \$500 per year on our electricity bill. We are working to address the very dark area beyond the daycare that this change has caused.

We report compliance with section 1.10.

MT December 8<sup>th</sup> 2022