

FUSN Committee Chairs Meeting
March 18, 2017

Attending: Susan Bartlett, Sheila Ardery, Laurel Farnsworth, Gordon Moriarty, Kate Mason, Dan Brody, Ron Margolin, Pat Rohan, Josie Greene, Lynn Holbein, Judy Curby, John Brennan, Chris Krebs, Linda Ross (scribe)

Meeting called to order at 12:08 p.m.

Nominating committee

Sheila Ardery named members of the committee. They have set up a timeline for nominations. They will have a table at tomorrow's service (last time). They are doing OK with finding people, but could use more names of people willing to serve – they want a good pool. At the beginning of April they will reach out to the list and talk to each person individually. That's a month ahead of time; should have slate at the beginning of May. Pat Rohan asked about General Assembly nominations; Sheila said that there was some question about a change and that the current people would continue for another year. Kate said that there is no more Mass Bay; Gordon – bylaws have been amended so Board can appoint delegates at least 21 days in advance. Discussion; conclusion that interested people should be contacted now so that travel plans can be made.

Worship

Kate Mason - the committee has started the process for nominations for General Assembly, which is the June 21-25, 2017, in New Orleans. Dan Brody commented that it is now possible to participate remotely, including voting. FUSN has paid registration fees for delegates in the past. Historically, an email is sent out asking for interest.

Services Auction

Pat Rohan stated that the services auction brought in approximately \$16,500.

Membership

Sam Foster now here as the membership coordinator. He went to a national conference of member services committee from the entire country, in Milwaukee. There is now a credentialing program for membership coordinators. He is now starting to work on the new directory, and is working on cleaning up the database. He has emailed the community about this and received little negative feedback. Eventually FUSN will hopefully do away with the paper directory. Sam organized the fun night last night. It was a great time with mostly families with kids. There will be a newcomer potluck on April 29 and we will be welcoming New Members on Sunday May 7. Gordon Moriarty

asked how many new members were going to be joining FUSN. Pat stated that there were 3 in process, about 10-12 total (some held over that couldn't make last ceremony). In response to a question - FUSN has about 430 members, and it was estimated that about 175-200 attend each service.

Holiday Fair

Laurel Farnsworth – the holiday fair went well. She knows that a number of people don't like two separate fairs, but we don't have enough people to do one fair. Last year FUSN spent \$800 on hired help; this year, less. There are no young people working on the fair. There is a question of whether we should be continuing to do the fair = fewer people are coming and donating. FUSN is committed to one more year of fairs on two separate days, and then a decision will be made. The fair made a little over \$18,000; this does not include tree sales which netted \$7000.

Green Sanctuary

The Green sanctuary committee has become inactive; new leadership may be needed.

Buildings and Grounds

Laurel Farnsworth –they will be finishing landscaping and working on lights. They are trying to make the outside of FUSN more hospitable. A new exit is needed from the basement so that children can get out and around to the front of the building. She has put in the budget proposal to the finance committee (budget season).

Finance committee

Judy Curby — this year's budget had a projected deficit of \$70,000. The holiday fair came in a little under budget. Laurel Farnsworth – there is no slack in the budget, although she thinks that they will not need to take a loan from the endowment for sabbatical coverage.

Hospitality / Kitchen

Ron Margolin stated that about 100-125 people attend each community breakfast (9/yr). The breakfasts are making a profit this year. There should be enough money this year for a real dishwashing sink. He would like to have more kids and teenagers involved. The group does the barbeque in June and lunch at the holiday fair. He is looking for suggestions for more things to do. Lynn Holbein expressed thanks for the breakfasts. Ron said he was not sure how long he could do this because of some heavy lifting involved (actual lifting). There was a suggestion to find someone else to do the lifting. There is a succession plan (no specifics discussed).

Bylaws

Gordon Moriarty - they had a meeting to discuss proposed bylaws amendments.

Financial Oversight

. Dan Brody reported on the status of the joint recommendations of the Financial Oversight Committee and the Board of Investment concerning the management of endowment funds. The two committees presented a number of recommendations to the Board of Trustees at the January meeting. Several of the proposals are being implemented by either the BOI or the Planned Giving Committee. The proposal for a change in the bylaws will be discussed at the “financial summit” being planned for the fall, with the expectation that it will be considered by the 2018 Annual Meeting. The recommendation that the Board should adopt an Endowment Spending Policy and an Endowment Loan Policy will also be discussed at the summit, with the expectation that the Board will consider them in the fall.

The committee is also working on a checklist of its responsibilities, based on a list prepared in a Virginia congregation.

Multi-cultural Ministries

Josie Greene – the Black Lives Matter banner had to be taken down and is being repaired. Meg Holland is working with groups interested in multicultural initiatives. Many walks are coming up. Walk for Hunger – May 7. Many people are signed up for the Mother’s day walk for peace on April. On April 2 there will be a program for white men to discuss their experiences in relation to our society that discriminates against those of color. Jacqui James is working on a 4 part program on Muslims.

Council for Social Action

Lynn Holbein - they are trying to draw a larger audience at monthly meetings by having guest speakers. Last month they had a speaker from the interfaith organization Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries. On April 9 Julia Huston is leading a discussion on how to get families with school age children involved in social action. In May, someone will discuss immigration. Special collections this year included Project Zambia, UU Urban Ministries, Waltham day center, and UU Mass Action. April 11 is UU action day.

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Immigration: The new Administration is causing much fear in our immigrant communities, and various people are FUSN are responding. Newton recently became Welcoming City.

- Multi-cultural ministries is launching a program to become an ally of Muslims.

- “Meet Your Muslim Neighbors” series will start on April 11th from 7-9 at FUSN.
- Brooke Welles is hosting a meeting next Sunday before service to brainstorm with families with young children about what we can do about immigration.
- FUSN will likely host a “Know Your Rights” program, led by an immigration lawyer, at FUSN for people who fear deportation.
- One Deportation center in Boston is located at the Suffolk County House of Corrections near the Greater Food Bank.
- Deb Donovan has many things going on outside FUSN about helping refugees; Lyn will be speaking to her to find out about it.
- Josie Greene will be discussing refugee support with the Board and Erin. Some churches in New England are considering becoming physical sanctuaries for refugees. This has many logistical and legal consequences; refugees cannot leave the building. FUSN is more likely to be part of a coalition to resettle refugees in apartments.

Off topic – Lynn Holbein asked if we know the average age of our congregation; her perception is we are aging. Laurel Farnsworth said that historically we have mirrored the age of the Newton population, i.e. more younger and older people. There was a long discussion of a possibly aging membership and how to recruit younger members.

Religious Education Council

Susan Bartlett gave the report for Kim Shanks. The adult faith task force has been working and is now working on a report. A small group of younger people with children are working to think about their generation. The last formal day of religious classes is April 9. They will be beginning teacher recruitment for next year.

Operations council

John Brennan —They are looking for someone to help Vern Ellis with Ferry Beach, to take over in future; he has done for 13 years and is ready to step down.

Welcoming Congregation Team

Chris Krebs – the Welcoming Congregation Implementation Team is shortening their name to the Welcoming Congregation Team. On May 7, Cindy Beal is coming to give a co-sermon with Erin. Shel is the former director of religious education at Northampton UU, and now does consulting. From 12-3 p.m. that day, there will be a workshop titled “Pre-emptive radical inclusion”. This committee has a narrow focus – to get FUSN’s Welcoming congregation status renewed. The Welcoming Congregation designation is specific to LGBTQ issues. Mark Leicester is looking at FUSN’s archives to find out what we have done in past (since 1993). Linda Ross will inform the

community of LGBTQ anniversary days. The goal is re-certification by late 2017 or the first half of 2018. On a broader level, the team would like to encourage efforts toward welcoming, both outward and inward. Rowan suggested the webinar on transgender inclusion that the Welcoming Team is taking. The team is brainstorming additional events for the fall, similar to the seminars on Uprooting Racism and Waking up White.

The question asked if we ever recognize those who volunteer or chair committees. The answer was that we have done this in the past, not recently. There was a discussion of how to do such acknowledgments. The consensus was that thanks should go in the newsletter/FUSN news.

Meeting adjourned 1:45 p.m.