FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY IN NEWTON
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
August 12, 2014

Present:
Board and Staff: Bobbie Sproat, Cathy Morocco, Gregg DiBiaso, Jacki Rohan, Becca Lozinsky, Erin Splaine
Absent: Jonathan Reuman, Lesley Sneddon
Acting Clerk: Susan Bartlett

Invocation/Chalice Lighting/Covenant

- The Board members read the covenant and Jacki lit the candle; Cathy read the invocation.

Approval of the Minutes

- The Board approved the following minutes by email: March 4, 2014, April 8, 2014, May 13, 2014
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Staff Update

Erin noted that she was on vacation during July and on study leave for August. Two new staff members will be starting Friday August 15th: Rowan Van Ness, Acting Lifespan Religious Education Director; and Mandy Beal, Youth Programs Coordinator. Rowan has spent some time during the summer getting to know staff and key leaders in the RE program.

The offices will be closed the last week in August as the hallway carpet is being replaced and the contractors need to deal with asbestos tiles that are under the existing carpet. Over the summer, the floor in Meghan's office was refinished.

Administrative

Bobbie reviewed key dates for the fall:

- 9/ 6 - Intercultural Competency workshop = Board's fall "retreat"
- 9/20 - MBD orientation, Northborough (currently 4+ from FUSN attending)
- 9/21 - congregational vote on Green Sanctuary commitment
- 9/27 - Fellowship Dinner (tentative date; may change)
- 11/1 – Debby Irving, author of Waking Up White, speaking at FUSN at 4:30
- 11/14-16 – Next Steps Weekend, capital campaign step 1

She also provided a brief update of new/continuing initiatives:

- FOC = Financial Oversight Committee—is now staffed by Dede Vittori, Dan Brody, and Jackie Rohan (BOT representative)
- LDC = Leadership Development Committee—will work on revitalizing the committee this year

- Fellowship Dinner revisioning—Bobbie has been working with a small group to revision the fellowship dinner to focus on fellowship and to require less work
- Fund-raising revisioning—Bobbie is also convening a small group to consider our approach to the annual budget drive

FUSN Orientation

Several FUSN members provided a brief overview of key aspects of FUSN's governance and operations:

- Governance model—Susan Bartlett described FUSN's current governance structure, focusing on the roles of the BOT and Operations Council. She also discussed the overall process and timeline for developing and monitoring the annual budget.
- Finance overview—Brian Gill reviewed the FUSN annual budget, including major income sources and expenses. He discussed the Finance Committee's role in developing and monitoring the budget.
- FUSN by-laws—Bill Horne discussed aspects of the by-laws particularly pertinent to BOT members, including: powers granted to the BOT; organization and procedures; and some related policies.

Review of 2013-2014 Board year

Cathy Morocco prepared a summary of Board goals and accomplishments during the 2013-2014 church year which she reviewed. Activities covered the areas of: planning and visioning; financial stewardship; staff and leadership support; congregational concerns; and outreach and development. The document also considered what issues remain or have emerged for consideration in the 2014-2015 church year. Cathy highlighted areas that were priorities for the BOT, those that were ongoing and need continuing support, and those that the BOT should ensure are integrated into church life. The full document is available from the BOT.

Miscellaneous

Operations Council meetings

Starting last year in order to improve communication among the leadership groups, one BOT member attended the monthly Operations Council meetings and one member of the Operations Council attended BOT meetings. Bobbie will set a schedule for BOT members to attend the Operations Council meetings.

UUA trainings

Bobbie stated that the UUA has training programs for new board members of local congregations. Bobbie will keep track of UUA trainings and report them to the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Bartlett