

**FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY IN NEWTON**

**Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

**February 10, 2015**

**Present:** Gregg DiBiaso, Jonathan Reuman, Jacki Rohan, Lesley Sneddon, Bobbie Sproat, Becca Lozinsky, Alison Costello

**Absent:** Cathy Morocco

**Staff:** Erin Splaine, Rowan Van Ness

**Member of Operations Council present:** Jeannie Chaisson

**Clerk:** Ruth Comstock

**Invocation/ Chalice Lighting**

Bobbie Sproat led the covenant reading and Jacki Rohan provided the inspirational reading.

**Annual Budget Drive**

Co-Chairs: David Morocco, Linda Rinearson, and Urban Larson presented their report to the Board.

Erin and Bobbie participated along with three ABD co-chairs in a conference call with Mark Ewert.

David reported that the theme for this year's ABD will be "FUSN Matters". 19 pledge parties and a Leadership Reception are set up for March. A testimonial schedule has been arranged. He reports that there has been terrific support from last year's ABD team and from Peter Farago, Fran Clancy and Erin.

David requests that the Board return their pledges by February 20th and consider being visiting Stewards.

Urban reported that he has completed the draft FUSN Giving Guide. This guide includes the financial data for FUSN and includes:

The goal for the Budget Drive.

The amount requested for giving.

How the money is used by FUSN.

Where the money used by FUSN originates.

This guide will soon be available for the congregation.

### **Finance Committee**

Kevin McCormack summarized and reviewed FUSN's Long Term Forecast Report FY16-20 previously presented to the Board.

The committee's projections are based on pledges increasing by 4%/year and expenses by 3%/year. If this forecast is accurate, there will be a deficit in the budget by next year.

The Board discussed some of the larger issues including the role of Assistant Minister and whether this position should be left in the budget. At this time, the Board is leaving this position in the budget.

### **Board Work**

Board Meeting Minutes from June through December 10<sup>th</sup> were unanimously approved by e-mail. They will be posted to the FUSN website and made available on the FUSN bulletin board.

### **Acting Director of Lifespan Religious Education's Update**

Rowan discussed the programs and activities underway:

- Ted Hess-Mahan, Ellen Metzger and Rowan attended a training on Safe Congregations. They met with the Operations Council to discuss implementation and have posted related information.
- The Children's RE program now has special Sundays and Comparative Religions has been added to the 7th grade program.
- COA raised \$2,500 from the frozen food sale for the Ecclesia Program.
- The Youth Group will be hosting the Coffee House on March 7, 2015. The Youth directed Service is on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Some members of the congregation talked to the youth about spiritual practices at a recent meeting. The youth sold cookies for their Kiva Account. They are also working with Project Hunger. There is now a "youth circle" within the RE Council, consisting of (adult) representatives from Youth Group, Coffee House, and RE Council, that has met once or twice to consider connections between youth activities in the congregation.
- Adult RE has a new spring catalogue.
- The RE Council continues the conversation of increasing services to families in the RE program and those who would like to join. These include methods to attract more families to the program, improved communication, and making the OWL program available throughout the RE. Calling families has been successful. Having Connections Circles for families to interact outside of RE and Event Circles for families to set up events are two methods that are being discussed.

### **Minister's Update**

The minister discussed the following:

- The Family Fun night had 40-50 participants.
- Erin will soon meet with the Membership Committee.

- The DLRE Search Committee will be meeting this week.

### **Financial Oversight Committee Update**

No report

### **Leadership Development Committee**

Lesley Sneddon and Jon Reuman reported that the proposal for a name change of the LDC will be made to be called the Developing Leadership Team (DLT).

Several issues were discussed, including:

- Should nominations be accepted from members and from self-nominations vs only the committee making nominations?
- How transparent should the process be for the congregation?
- How many members should be on this team? They are suggesting 3 to 4.
- Will the LDC become the Nominating Committee? They will work with the Moderator on this question.
- How should the LDC be linked to the Board? It is a committee of the Board, but who has oversight?
- The charter needs to be rewritten to be more specific.

### **Board Projects**

- **The Next Steps Report**- No update

- **Communications Revamp**- No update

- **FUSN goals and “slogan”**- No update

- **Conflict Resolution Group**- No update

- **GA Delegation Selection**- A slate will be presented to the Board by email before the March 1st opening of early registration. The email vote will be affirmed at the March meeting.

- **Bylaw proposal made by FUSN member James Frances** - No update

- **Small Group Discussions**

- Bobbie reported on the **Small Group Discussions** from Bill Horne. 69 people responded with interest. 48 responded to participate and to date, 16 have participated so far. More groups are being arranged.

### **Closing**

A motion to adjourn the meeting and start the Executive Session was made and unanimously approved at 8:30 PM.

The Executive Session was called to consult with the minister regarding staffing needs.

A motion to adjourn the Executive Session was made and unanimously approved at 10:10PM.

With a motion from Jacki and a second from Gregg, the Board voted to approve conducting a search for someone to fill a staff position of Membership Coordinator.

The meeting adjourned at 10:14.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Comstock, Clerk

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