

FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY IN NEWTON

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

June 10, 2014

Present: Alison Costello, Gregg DiBiaso, Cathy Morocco, Jonathan Reuman, Lesley Sneddon, Bobbie Sproat

Absent: Jacki Rohan, Becca Lozinsky

Staff: Erin Splaine, Meghan Cefalu

Clerk: Ruth Comstock

Invocation/ Chalice Lighting/Introductions/Check-in

Bobbie Sproat led the covenant reading and Erin Splaine provided the inspirational reading. Bobbie Sproat led the introductions and check-in.

Approval of the Minutes of May 13, 2014

Nominations for the Chair of the Board of Trustees

- Cathy Morocco nominated Bobbie Sproat. Seconded by Lesley Sneddon
- No other nominations. Vote was unanimous.

Nominations for the Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees

- Bobbie Sproat nominated Lesley Sneddon. Seconded by Gregg DiBiaso
- No other nominations. Vote was unanimous.

Confirmation of New Members

- Applications of Alison Costello and Becca Lozinsky
- Vote to accept both for membership was unanimous.

Appointment and Confirmation of Committee Chairs

- Bobbie Sproat asked for a vote to accept the nominations of the Committee Chairs indicated below, as required by FUSN bylaws. Seconded by Lesley Sneddon.

Operations Council members - Jeannie Chaisson

Finance Committee co-chairs - Karen Bottar, Brian Gill

RE Council chair – Kim Shanks

Building and Grounds chair - Laurel Farnsworth

Council for Social Action - Lynn Holbein

- Vote was unanimous to approve.

Assistant Minister's Update

- 22 new members were welcomed into the congregation on New Member Sunday
- The Sandy Island Retreat strengthened the ties among congregants and between the ministers and the congregation
- Peter Farago (Communication Committee Database Task Force) is setting up a new database for the congregation, to organize data and facilitate coordination and communication among the ministers, lay leaders and the congregation. It should include weekly or biweekly newsletters with several points of entry. It should also be available on phone applications.
- Gay Pride Parade is Saturday June 14.

Questions from the Board

- Bobbie Sproat mentioned that a new/updated directory is needed.

Minister's Update

- Erin thanked the Board of Trustees and the Personnel Policy Committee for their support during the last 2 months. The matter seems to be settled, but she is receiving counsel from John Atkins, an employment lawyer and a member of FUSN. She also expressed her gratitude that several members of the congregation, including Dana Hanson, Jamie Freed, and Kim Shanks, along with Beth Walton, had taken over the most pressing parts of the DLRE job. They are working hard and well.

- Initiative Plans for the coming year are:

1. Multicultural Ministry Initiative - Erin suggested that Board members attend a one-time intercultural competency workshop at FUSN on Sept. 6, at a cost of \$75/person to be paid by each participant. The Board is contributing \$250 from its budget line, to help cover the facilitator's fee. In addition, the book *Waking Up White* by Debbie Irving will be a fall community read for FUSN, and the author will speak here on Nov. 1.

2. Conflict Transformation – continuing implementation of plans formulated over the past several years

3. UU name – follow up to last spring's open discussion, to include a logistical assessment of changing FUSN's name, and an RE component, looking at our Unitarian and Universalist strains and histories

4. Reorganizing Worship Committee and worship opportunities (including Vespers and possible rock and roll band led "Soulful Sundown" services)

- 5. Integrating Social Action into Religious Education and church life more seamlessly

Suggestions from Board

- Jon Reuman suggests the Board's monthly newsletter column to relate to monthly worship topics
- Gregg DiBiaso would like (more) well-marked fire extinguishers in the basement

Board Administration

- Monthly newsletter column- schedule to be constructed by Jon Reuman
- Summer services coverage - schedule to be constructed by Jon Reuman
- Regular services coverage-- schedule to be constructed by Jon Reuman
- Readings and snacks for Board Meeting coverage- - schedule to be constructed by Jon Reuman
- Board Retreat - September 6th 9-3, Intercultural Competency workshop suggested as an appropriate fall retreat for the Board. Should it be combined with the Operations Council? Unlikely, due to limits on number of participants.

Strategic Discussion and Plans

Cathy Morocco submitted her report on last year's Board, which reviewed the Board's actions last year and made suggestions for areas of growth and areas of issues for the coming year. Fuller discussion of this report will be taken up at the August meeting.

Updates

1. The new Budget Drive chairs and the Board will look at other methods to run the budget drive. A study group will be created with the charge to reexamine fundraising process at FUSN.
2. A new Capital Campaign initiative is being discussed and evaluated.
3. There will be a Fellowship dinner in the fall with a new format.

Closing

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 9:35.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Comstock, Clerk