

FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY IN NEWTON
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
May 13, 2014

Present:

Board: Charlie Watts, Jonathan Reuman, Bobbie Sproat, Cathy Morocco, Ann Woodbury, Strom Thacker, Maura Hess-Mahan, Michael Costello

Staff: Meghan Cefalu

Assistant Clerk: Lesley Sneddon

Guests: Anne Hess-Mahan

The Board members read the covenant and Jon lit the candle. Jon provided the inspirational reading.

An EXECUTIVE SESSION was held immediately following the reading.

Board of Trustees meeting resumed at 8:30.

Procedural:

Approval of the Minutes

- April 8 minutes were approved by email
- **Other Email vote votes:**
 - Allowing the Green Sanctuary Committee to present a motion for certification to the annual meeting
 - Approving UUA pension plan restatement.

New Member Applications

- **Very large number of candidates:**
 - Julia Huston: attorney with Foley Hoag; with the approval of her firm, she is doing pro bono work for FUSN on copyright issues, largely affecting the music program. Daughter is 4 and comes to RE and participates in the Family Choir.
 - Catherine (Kit) Ryan: nurse for the navy; also chaplains in the military. Her parents have been long-time members here; her mother is B.J. Winslow.
 - Amy Hunter; single mom of 2 young girls. Has attended for 6 weeks as of April. Looking for progressive spiritual community
 - Anne Ellsworth from Cambridge; has attended since Jan 2012. Single mom of adopted son. Attracted by Coming of Age program
 - Catherine Willinger: has attended for 8 months; interested in social action. Was at First Church in Cambridge previously.
 - Carin Roberge and Christopher Krebs; Chris was a member of FUSN as a youth. Moved back to Watertown recently. Both are psychologists.
 - Alta Hodges: has attended for 2-3 years; came from a Baptist church but stopped attending. Interested in a community; attends SGM and Chalice circles.
 - Ashley Reynolds. Has come for 2 years; went to Star Island with a UU friend as a youth. She's a teacher and wants to be involved in RE. She's in CreationDance. Has a young daughter Kira.
 - Kieran Reynolds; married to Ashley.

- Jules and Helen Delamar, and their sons Gracen and Elias. Jules has been UU. They are in the Family Choir, and Jules sings in the Sanctuary Choir. Jules would like to be a COA mentor.

Strom moved to approve the slate. Motion passed unanimously. Letters are going out to new members; last slate of new members received their letters.

Check-in with Meghan:

- COA was excellent and morale is great.
- Went to UU Mass Action meeting today, handed out marriage equality cupcakes and distributed information on a number of issues. Great turnout.
- Getting ready for Pride Parade June 14.
- Going to Sandy Island.
- Soup lunches have been a great success with an average of 12-15 attendees.
- Getting ready for New Member Sunday May 18.
- Working on more smooth and uniform communications.
- Meghan, Beth, Kim, and Dana are covering RE and COA in Perry's absence.

DLRE search updates:

Search is in process: Acting DLRE and Youth Coordinator positions were posted; recruiting headed by Erin, Kim Shanks, and Susan Bartlett. Erin recruited members for and established the Search Committee; Charlie will follow up with names. The search is focused on a one-year Acting DLRE position with option to hire permanently. A separate Search Committee is being assembled to manage, next year, the search for a permanent DLRE.

Conflict resolution initiative follow-up (Jonathan Reuman)

Jon met with Alice Nichols (an original member), Dwight Golann, and Erin. They developed a plan to use the lay minister format as a means of implementation. Erin will send note to congregation looking for nominations of good mediators. Candidates will be vetted by Erin and Meghan. Members who are selected would be on call to step into situations requiring it. A formal training session is not planned, as there have been ongoing training sessions available. Team members will call on their own abilities but not receive formal training unless the group feels the need. They will consult the materials developed thus far by the Conflict Resolution Committee. Conflict resolution initiative is complementary with conversation with the congregation on multi-cultural differences. Meghan has extensive experience in addressing conflict resolution.

Financial Oversight Committee (Strom Thacker)

The committee has been in development for two years. Next steps are to staff the committee, per the charter approved by the Board earlier this year, so they can start to work over the summer. The charter calls for one Board member to serve on the Committee, along with two other members of the congregation to be appointed by the Board, one of whom would ideally have financial expertise. Some potential candidates were discussed. Jonathan and Cathy are the only Board members who are eligible (two are rotating off, and Bobbie will be Chair and won't be able to serve on the Committee), and they will discuss further.

Budget

Operations Council is meeting tomorrow about the budget. Charlie distributed information from Eric Riak illustrating the percentage draws that other congregations take from their

endowments; by comparison, FUSN does not draw more heavily than other congregations on the endowment. Bobbie and Charlie will be at the meeting tomorrow. Next BoT meeting May 27 to approve the budget. Susan Bartlett and Charlie co-authored a thank you letter to the ABD team and the congregation, while also alerting everyone that we are facing an ABD shortfall of \$40K below the target. This is one last appeal, which will go as a paper letter with a pledge card, as well as in the newsletter, etc.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35.
Respectfully submitted,

Lesley Sneddon, Assistant Clerk