

FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY IN NEWTON
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
October 8, 2013

Present:

Board: Charlie Watts, Strom Thacker, Ann Woodbury, Jonathan Reuman, Bobbie Sproat, Michael Costello, Cathy Morocco, Erin Splaine, Perry Montrose

Absent: Maura Hess-Mahan

Clerk: Sheila Ardery

Guests: Andrea Kelly, Barbara Deck, Jonathan Lilienfeld

Introductions and Check In

The Board members read the covenant and Charlie lit the candle. Cathy Morocco provided the inspirational reading.

Approval of the Minutes

Strom moved that the August 13 minutes be accepted with the removal of Charlie's updates in the brackets. **The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.**

Annual Budget Drive

Charlie introduced Jonathan and Barbara as the co-chairs of the annual budget drive. He invited them to the meeting so that members could offer ideas and support.

Barbara reported that Sharon Sisskind was also on the ABD leadership team. She reported that it was their intent to continue the party format. Jonathan stated that he would like to have a clear understanding from the Board about the priorities of the budget drive and potential increases. He also asked that we get a comprehensive picture of all the ways that FUSN touches people. A discussion of party types and activities ensued as well as discussion of other aspects of the drive. The Board discussed the idea of "mindful growth" as an ABD theme, so that the purpose of the drive would reflect the priorities of the organization.

Staff Report

Perry reported that the youth had a retreat to plan their activities for the year. The youth's social action theme is "Education." The Justice RE support circle is starting up and that will coordinate with the youth social action.

The RE Council is having a meeting this month and invited people who are interested in one of the RE circles to come to the meeting and the attendees will break out into interest groups. About 50 people expressed interest. All the teacher spots are filled for the year. Teachers teach once a month.

Perry will be away October 14 to 20 at Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) conference.

Erin reported that this is a very busy time for staff. Staff are doing planning for the new position as well as covering the time before Megan arrives. There are many pastoral situations and the lay ministers are

invaluable. There are seven to ten folks signed up for the New UU class. Student choir and orchestra members from the [Unitarian] Channing School in London are going to give a concert on October 22, so-sponsored by the Music and Membership Committees. Erin is away the 21-23rd. The numbers were still very good for the month of September. Ann added that she attended a Membership Committee meeting and the committee is very active and busy.

Erin reported that Meghan was excited and energized, as well as exhausted, by her trip to FUSN. Erin thought that Meghan's Sunday morning visit went really well. The membership committee heard many positive comments. Megan will preach once a month, which means that lay-led services will now be during the summer months.

Ministerial Review

Ann reported that she and Cathy have been meeting about this topic. Ann referred to our covenant with Erin in the Ministry Agreement of 2010, which states that every three years an evaluation of the Minister will take place. Despite the fact that Erin has the right to pick two members of the committee, she will defer these choices to the Board. Ann then reviewed past evaluative activities of seven years ago (2006). Ann highlighted the issues and lessons of the past.

Cathy presented the UUA recommendations, focusing especially on what the UUA has to say about evaluating ministry without becoming so broad it is overwhelming. She went on to highlight the purpose and approach recommended by the UUA. Cathy offered a model that would focus primarily on Erin's goals with a process that uses open small group conversations regarding specific areas using a small set of questions that brings together the work of the laity and the minister. In this way, the total picture of ministry can be evaluated.

Charlie asked for the members to react to the presentation and offer opinions and ideas. Also, he encouraged Ann and Cathy to recruit the committee as detailed in the Minister's agreement. Andrea said that she would report it to the Ops Council which should have representation on the committee.

New Member

Gregory Csikos and Jason Harris have requested to become members. They moved to Newton from Biddeford, Maine. Cathy met them and reported they are delightful. Jason is a Newton teacher. **Strom moved to approve their membership. It was approved unanimously.**

Nancy Forsythe and Eli Ingraham have also requested membership. They have been attending for about a year. Erin gave some background on them. **Ann moved to approve their request. It was approved unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Ardery
Clerk