

FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY IN NEWTON

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

September 9, 2014

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

Absent: Becca Lozinsky

Staff: Erin Splaine, Rowan Van Ness.

Absent: Megan Cefalu.

Operations Council Member: Jeannie Chaisson.

Clerk: Ruth Comstock.

Invocation/Chalice Lighting/Introductions/Check-ins

Bobbie Sproat led the covenant reading and Erin Splaine provided the inspirational reading.

Motion to approve members of the Social Action Council

Jacki Rohan made the motion and it was seconded by Lesley Sneddon. The vote in favor was unanimous. This Council's charter requires approval of its members by the Board of Trustees.

The members of the Social Action Council are: Lynn Holbein and Betsy Simmons as co-chairs.

Other members: Joyce Pollock, Peter Smith, Dick Bail, Marysol Masse-Makimura, and a youth member yet to be named.

Motion to approve expenditures of approximately \$1600 for the Next Step Consultation weekend (November 14-16, 2014) before the Capital Campaign discussion begins.

Funds will come from the endowment and will be repaid from proceeds of the Capital Campaign. Jacki Rohan was coordinator of the previous campaign; she will distill and summarize her notes prior to the November BoT meeting. Lesley Sneddon made the motion and it was seconded by Cathy Morocco. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Motion to hold a Special Meeting of the congregation on October 5, 2014 to adopt the Statement of Commitment to Green Sanctuary Values, as the last part of FUSN's application for UUA certification as a Green Sanctuary Congregation.

Cathy Morocco made the motion and Jon Reuman seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Acting Director of Lifespan Religious Education's Report

Rowan Van Ness, the new Acting DRLE, introduced herself to the board. She discussed the programs and activities underway including: Sunday school, youth group, information given to parents and adults, her introductions to the families of the youth, Coming of Age program, and coordinating the church calendar with the business list e-mail. Teachers' Orientation and the presentation of the new Coming of Age Candidates both will be on the weekend of September 13-14.

Minister's Report

Erin Splaine announced the beginning of Sunday School. She discussed the Multicultural Ministry Initiative and her plans to have this group work with the Conflict Transformation Group on the multicultural issue. She is planning on visiting 1 or 2 churches that have intercultural leadership programs. A follow-up meeting to establish next steps is scheduled for September 23.

Board Administration Items:

- Sign-up sheet for 1 Board member to attend the Operations Council meeting each month.
- The Fellowship Dinner we hoped to have in September will be cancelled. An injury will prevent Ron from doing it as early as September, and there are no obvious weekends later in the year to reschedule it.
- Cathy Morocco reported on the Leadership Development Committee, which was established several years ago, but currently has no members. The purpose of the committee is develop processes that identify potential leaders within the congregation, and to train nominated leaders. The committee members of the LDC led a successful training for new Board members last year. Cathy Morocco, Lesley Sneddon and Jon Reuman will review the charter for this committee, meet with the former members of the LDC and communicate with Meghan, and report their findings to the Board at a later date.
- Bobbie Sproat led a discussion on fundraising. Allan Hartman will chair a group consisting of some former budget drive chairs to discuss ways to make fundraising an easier and more successful process at FUSN, and to provide recommendations. Bobbie requested help in recruiting this year's ABD team.

Jacki led a discussion on communication. The web site needs a revamp, and the combination of Facebook, listserv, and newsletter is still not fully effective in reaching everyone. The newsletter is being transferred to a new format, using Constant Contact. Meghan has taken the lead in improving communications, and will continue to work with the Communications Committee.

- The Financial Oversight Committee did meet last month and will report out at the next board meeting..

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Gregg DiBiaso and seconded by Lesley Sneddon. The unanimous vote adjourned the meeting at 9:35.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Comstock, Clerk