

FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY IN NEWTON

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

November 11, 2014

Present: Alison Costello, Gregg DiBiao, Jonathan Reuman, Jacki Rohan, Lesley Sneddon,

Bobbie Sproat, Becca Lozinsky

Judy Curby- Operations Council Representative

Staff: Erin Splaine, Rowan Van Ness, Meghan Cefalu

Clerk: Ruth Comstock

Bobbie Sproat led the covenant reading and Alison Costello provided the inspirational reading and chalice lighting.

STAFF UPDATES

Rowan Van Ness:

Ferry Beach was an opportunity for connections between FUSN families and an opportunity to connect them to RE. She is preparing a new registration letter to provide more information and opportunities for new and former families. The current planned RE activities are the Heads, Hearts and Hands Spirituality Program and letters to veterans.

Mandy's work with the youth group is going well. Rowan attended the LREDA conference at which re-establishing Youth CONS with other congregations was addressed.

More planning is underway for Circles of Justice and outreach to families.

Megan Cefalu:

The Connections Group will reach out to new families in combination with Judy Zacek and the Member Services Committee. The name of this group will be changed as it includes more ways to reach out to and involve new members.

The FUSN FUN night was a success with 45 congregants enjoying the gathering.

Meghan and Erin both spoke about the congregation reaction to Meghan's sermon on courage. They acknowledged that some people are angry and upset. Both encouraged congregants to come and speak with them. Both desire an exploration with open communication.

Erin Splaine:

The Multicultural initiative has continued with 3 movies and the Debbie Irving talk on Waking Up White.

DLRE search committee has been formed and the job description has been posted.

Erin will not be at church for 2 weeks in January to care for her wife after her major surgery.

Ted Hess-Mahan and Ellen Metzger have taken on leading our Safe Congregation effort.

BOARD UPDATES

Lesley Sneddon updated the board on the **Fundraising Revisioning Group**. Three co-chairs have been identified: Linda Rhinearson, David Morocco and Urban Larson. Urban Larson is considering leading the drive next year. The ABD group sees this as a transition year as the Leadership Development Group works to set up procedures to sustain and transfer leadership over several years. The Fundraising Revisioning Group is researching changes including: a sustainer status category for those who will give each year without the need for a canvass and an electronic transfer of monies.

Erin stated that she has identified 15 to 20 people who might lead budget drives in the future with support and training. She feels that these congregants should be brought into to leadership process as it is set up.

Jon suggested these congregants could also be considered for other leadership positions.

Cathy Morocco updated the board on the **Leadership Development Committee**. Please refer to her 4 page report for more detail.

The group is exploring how other churches develop pathways to engagement and leadership, and she and Lesley Sneddon will be attending the UU leadership conference which includes this topic. The group is also discussing the role of canvassing the congregation every 3 years using "Appreciative Inquiry" to gather information about how FUSN can foster a community making stronger connections (e.g. What do you love?; What do you long for?).

Gregg DiBiasco would like to exchange choirs and possibly ministers with the Myrtle Baptist Church as part of the **Multicultural Ministry initiative**.

The **FUSN Slogan Initiative** presented their 2 page report. Please refer to the report for more detail. Becca Lozinsky, Alison Costello, Jacki Rohan and Bobbie Sproat discussed how to obtain input on the Purpose Statement, Themes and Goals of FUSN as they represent our current

congregation. The slogan and tag-line information that may be generated from RE classes could serve as one of the sources of input for a mission statement. Planning will continue.

Bobbie Sproat briefly updated the board on the **Budget** for the coming year. More discussion will take place at the December meeting. The major areas are:

Staff levels will be the same and UU suggested levels of salary and benefits will be examined. The intention is to continue to adhere to UUA guidelines related to salaries and benefits.

The Multicultural Ministry funding will be discussed.

Reducing the draw from the endowment and bringing in an intern minister for the first time in several years will be discussed.

The Capital Campaign and its effect on pledging is another topic.

Jacki Rohan moved to adjourn the meeting and Gregg DiBiasco seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Comstock

Clerk