

**FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY IN NEWTON**  
**Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
**August 13, 2013**

**Present:**

**Board: Charlie Watts, Strom Thacker, Ann Woodbury, Maura Hess-Mahan, Jonathan Reuman, Bobbie Sproat, Absent: Michael Costello, Cathy Morocco, Erin Splaine, Perry Montrose**  
**Clerk: Sheila Ardery**

**Introductions and Check In**

- The Board members read the covenant and Charlie lit the candle.
- The Board individually introduced themselves.
- Bobbie reported that she and Jud went on a two week UU Choir tour to Transylvania and learned a lot about UU history of Transylvania. They hope to plan a slide presentation for the congregation.

**Approval of the Minutes**

The June 2013 minutes were approved with comment by email.

**New Members**

- Mansi Saboori was voted in as a new member by email.
- Charlie reported that attendance at summer services was good and we might gain more new members from that.

**New Staff**

Meghan Cefalu, the new assistant minister, will be coming East the end of September. Erin has invited her to come to Newton and has requested to use funds to support that part of her trip. She will be able to participate in some activity at FUSN to enable congregants to meet and greet her. **Charlie will ask Erin to describe her plans for Meghan.**

**Orientation of New Trustees and Ops Council Members**

The original date of September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting is not feasible for Andrea. Jonathan Lilienfeld who is on the Leadership Development Committee is working on another date.

The Agenda will include: Governance and Policy Review, Finance and Budget, and By-Laws which are the content pieces. Also, there will be a conversation on aspirations and expectations. Ann suggested that, if not during this session, there be a session on Robert's Rules and leading committee meetings. Also, it was suggested that the orientation be video taped.

Bobbie stated that the UUA has training programs for new board members of local congregations.  
**Bobbie will keep track of UUA trainings and report them to the Board.**

### **Annual Budget Drive and Related Financial Planning discussions**

- Charlie stated that the Trustees need to recruit chairs for the annual budget drive. Bruce had informed Charlie that Jonathan Lillienfeld and Barbara Deck would be willing to help but not lead. The Board explored possible names. **Charlie is going to talk to Bill Horne about possible leads.** The goal is to have leadership in place by October. **Charlie asked the Board members to forward any ideas to him.**
- There was a question on the status of the Capital Campaign. Erin will be able to bring the Board up to date at the next meeting. (On a related note, Charlie confirmed a desire to make a better connection between the Board and the B&G committee and their plans/vision.)
- It was suggested that a Trustee attend the Ops council meeting on a rotating basis and report back at the next BOT meeting. Gordon and Pat had met with Erin and Perry monthly in the past which helped keep the BOT and Ops Council communication open. **Bobbie will ask Laurel to bring the Board up to date on needs. Ann will explore BOT meeting attendance with Susan. Ann will also sit in on a membership committee meeting. Charlie will contact Susan for a general conversation on Board and Ops activity**

### **Newsletter Schedule**

Charlie wanted to discuss theme and values of topics. Bobbie stated she would like to include something about what the Board has been talking about that month. It might be a way of helping congregants to understand what the Board is concerned about. Charlie said that the themes of the retreat might be well used. Such as the theme of "growth". Charlie stated he would write about Board priorities. **Charlie is going to send out a spreadsheet with the schedule and it will have a topics column people can fill in.**

### **Board Retreat**

The retreat will be on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 8:30 to noon. Charlie asked "Do we get outside help?" He put forth a couple of names of facilitators. Ann asked "What do we want to get out of the retreat?" She stated that if the Board started with priorities and mapped out the tasks, etc. Strom suggested a check in on the changes of the Board since the reorg. Charlie suggested developing the agendas for the remaining meetings. It was decided that a facilitated discussion of the issues in Raising the Roof would be the topic of the retreat and then do a master agenda for the year at lunch. Jonathan stated he would like to know what are the successful elements of a program congregation and where are we and what do we need to do to gain the remaining elements. **Charlie is going to bring these ideas to Erin and continue planning for the retreat.**

### **Committee-Based Initiatives: Status**

- Strom and Charlie met last year to develop an audit committee charter and now there needs to be an establishment of the committee.

- Also, the Conflict Resolution Committee has to be reconstituted into implementing the policy. **Charlie will ask Bill Horne and the LDC for ideas of potential members. Jonathan will also ask Dwight Golann to head up the Conflict Resolution Committee.**
- Ann stated that Lisa Gresser was pulling together a Ministerial Evaluation Committee. **Ann will contact Lisa to see what is the status of the effort.**
- Jonathan reminded the Board that the congregation voted on an action to review the possibility of divesting funds in non-renewable energy. No action was taken on this item.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Ardery  
Clerk