

**First Unitarian Society of Newton
Board of Trustees
June 8, 2010**

Present: Jonathan Lilienfeld, Barney Freiberg-Dale, Pamela McA’Nulty, Gordon Moriarty, Margaret Costello, Carl Metzger, Phil Davis, Susan Bartlett, Jeannie Chaisson, also present: John Nichols, Barb Greve

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM

Invocation/Chalice Lighting

Covenant

As we, the members of this Board and staff gather to serve this congregation in leadership, we commit to ourselves and to each other: to be present and prepared for the work of this meeting; to listen well and contribute respectfully; to balance both our short and long-term visions with fiscal responsibility; to support the decisions of the Board; to uphold the democratic process; and to lead with goodwill and faith in the work we can accomplish together.

Administrative (Jonathan)

- Record DLRE search committee vote: email vote acknowledged; unanimous
- BOT Yahoo calendar: need BOT greeters at Sunday services – introduce new people; summer schedules. Next BOT meeting is August 10, so use email to fill out the remaining Sundays this summer. Date for next retreat? Will need to resolve by email. BOT dinner also to be scheduled.
- BOT booklets for new members: bylaws, governance presentation, governance docs: roles of OC; limitations document. Congregational priorities not yet included – lists purpose statement and list of tasks derived from them.
- Finance Committee chair gave a presentation on finances last year
- Youth representative, Conrad Buys – had not yet signed membership card when he was voted in at annual meeting, but has now signed. Motion to accept Conrad as youth representative to the BOT; motion unanimous.

Vote on Operations Council Proposed Slate (all)

- Jean Chaisson, Alan Cody, Carla Erb, Laurel Farnsworth, Pat Rohan, Kim Shanks: last year’s BOT had three members that were also members of OC. Would like to get Council chairs together with BOT chairs periodically. OC may also have a retreat. OC priorities will be derived from those of the BOT. Motion to accept proposed slate; no discussion. Motion passed with one abstention.

Ongoing Board Initiatives

- Leadership Development Committee: Jon spoke with Barbara Bates; she and Jeff Baker are looking for additional members for the LDC. They have a formal charter. Functions:

- general training initiative and recruit those interested in leadership of FUSN.
 - Need clarity on function, and will require bylaw change next year.
 - Operate this year in new model, tweaking as necessary, then prepare for bylaws change. Consult with Nominating Committee (appointed by Moderator; develops slate of candidates for new BOT members, etc.), which operates for one year.
- Social Action (Barney) – review of changes for new BOT members: Social Action was a BOT priority from last year; there was a recognized benefit to restructuring SA program to have organizational legitimacy and support – prioritize for funding, recruiting volunteers; enunciate FUSN positions on public policy; Social Action Council. Current structure is driven by individual interests. Funding is approx. \$9K (2% of pledges) of FUSN budget. How does FUSN compare to other UU congregations? FUSN has one of the best programs in the state, but could be even more focused. Benefit – binding, unifying force in our community. Next step is to have congregational discussion. Barney proposed resolution (see attached resolution) to form an ad hoc committee to lead congregational discussion. Ad hoc committee members who have agreed to serve: Bev Droz, Lynn Holbein, Carla Erb, Naomi Olson, Barney Freiberg-Dale – will develop the Ad Hoc Social Action Development Committee to generate congregational discussions, and develop a recommendation for an enhanced Social Action structure. Discussion regarding deliverables and end date ensued. Request a work plan from the Council and date for recommendation, which will define the structure, etc. Final recommendation by March 2011. Question: in general, how are committee members selected? Is there a potential for leaving someone out? In forming the ad hoc committee, looking specifically for people who can lead the congregational conversations, has recruited the chair of the Social Action Committee (Lynn Holbein). Use the model for recruiting ministerial search committee members – put out an email to the congregation for those with interest and the skills required, with the caveat that they may not be selected. Motion to accept Barney’s recommendation – unanimous. Another BOT representative? Jeannie volunteered.
 - Membership Development (Phil and Pam) – recommendations for BOT and OC. Major recommendations: 1) LDC established; 2) hire member coordinator (now in budget) – 20 hours for 6 months; 3) planning new member committee chair. Pat Rohan and Kim Shanks both interested but are currently committed in other positions for the year. Pat is actively recruiting for the position; 4) to be taken up by this year’s BOT: institute a formal list of rights and responsibilities of being a member, including financial commitment. May require bylaw change. Other recommendations that OC will be considering. Phil will email the recommendations to the BOT.

This is John's last BOT meeting – he was asked to share his thoughts:

- Impressed with FUSN's progress: he agrees that membership definition and SAC reorganization are top priorities. FUSN has much less definition of membership than do many other congregations.
- Need to emphasize worship more, since FUSN has a tendency to disintegrate into small service modules rather than congregation united in worship.
- Committee chairs need to be more cognizant of people's time commitment. Summarize more and be more efficient with discussion. Very optimistic about our direction.

Retreat action item: consider priorities and issues for retreat and send to Jonathan by email. Also consider a potential facilitator.

Carl offered to send annual reports and warrant to Erin. What other materials will Erin need for her orientation? Jonathan will be in touch with her in the interim to determine what other information she needs. (Also need to educate the congregation about governance.) Erin will need the summer to separate from her current congregation.

Who is in charge of orienting Erin? Clarification of roles may be needed. John: Erin knows what she will need help with; will need access to Jonathan, but can determine what she needs at the outset. Ministerial search committee is tasked with organizing contacts when she arrives. Staff will provide her with documents she will need.

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm

Respectfully submitted by Lesley Sneddon, Clerk

Social Action Development Committee Resolution:

The BoT hereby commissions the Ad Hoc Social Action Development Committee, to plan and lead a congregational discussion toward the objective of restructuring the Social Action program, hopefully creating a standing body that is endowed with the necessary organizational legitimacy and congregational support permitting it to

- Coordinate and prioritize the social action expenses and volunteer efforts of the community
- Raise money and recruit volunteer participation for social action programs
- Initiate formal positions on matters of public policy, to be approved by an appropriate body as defined by the By-Laws
- Strengthen the contribution of the social action program toward the congregational objectives of enhanced community and spiritual growth of families and individuals. Consideration should be given to developing congregation-wide social action projects, strengthening FUSN's connection with denominational social action organizations (e.g. UUSC, UU Urban Ministry), and creating opportunities for youth to participate in social action.
- Serve as the focal point for FUSN's relations with external organizations which we choose as partners in social action advocacy and direct action