

**First Unitarian Society of Newton
Board of Trustees
May 4, 2010**

Present: Dede Vittori, Pat Rohan, Adrian Bishop, Alan Cody, Jonathan Lilienfeld, Barney Freiberg-Dale, Pamela McA’Nulty, Phil Davis, Susan Bartlett, Jeannie Chaisson, Will Batchelor; also present: John Nichols, Barb Greve

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM

Invocation/Chalice Lighting (Pamela)

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 (Adrian)

- Vote to request transfer of Downey gift (Pat/Adrian): from endowment to operations. Motion approved unanimously.
- Discuss Annual Meeting (Pat/Adrian): Attendance is not restricted to members, but only members may vote. Child care to be provided; Pat will recruit via email listserve. Meeting to be held in sanctuary. Agenda items so far: approval of last year’s minutes, vote on new BOT members and officers, vote on budget. Draft budget will be posted on the web site prior to the meeting, with appropriate caveats. Questions go to Ops Council. Pat suggests beginning next year’s budget drive a month earlier to avoid the unknowns in the budget by the time of the annual meeting.
- Annual Budget Drive update (All): Numbers as of May 3 circulated at meeting. \$418,274 received in pledges, which is 93% of 2009 pledge total. Median pledge is up by \$75. However, budget will be tight and cuts may be needed. Next BOT meeting in two weeks will have presentation by budget drive chairs.
- Nominating Committee requirements (Jonathan): Still need one Board member (out of three), Assistant Clerk, Assistant Treasurer. A member of Ministerial Search Committee has agreed to be a Board member, assuring a close relationship with new minister. Last year the Board voted to have 3 members of the BOT be part of the OC as a transitional step toward the new Governance Model. Two more years of interim Ops Council. What is length of commitment from vote last year? One-year appointments, with plan to keep the same assignments. One member is leaving, so at least

one replacement is needed. OC is eventually to be voted on as part of the BOT slate. Bylaws change would occur after the third year. New Board will vote on Ops Council members. Also need to replace one OC member who is leaving. Jeannie and Alan are remaining on both BOT and OC the coming year. Eventually the number of BOT members will be reduced, changed by bylaw. Eventual goal is to recruit BOT members from OC. Need process to develop slate of OC members next year.

Budget overview and discussion Bill Dusett

- Budget reviewed by OC in detail; goal tonight is to prepare for next BOT meeting and vote to pass to congregation
- Major issues:
 - The changes from FY10 in the budget include the prior year surplus in the FY10 budget but excludes the surplus in the FY11 budget; in past years, surplus was rolled into the next year's operating budget.
 - FY 2010 Highlights:
 - Special building use fees: on target to make more than budgeted.
 - Ministerial costs: includes search costs, approx. \$7500 surplus;
 - Committees: underbudget
 - The FY10 budget is projected to run a surplus of \$42,453 (includes prior year roll-over).
 - FY2011 highlights:
 - \$12K for transition expenses won't be coming this year.
 - Endowment income down;
 - landscaping: increase in budget.
 - Membership Coordinator: \$9K budgeted (half time for half year).
 - Other accounts: Finance committee is working on this. Ferry Beach and Sandy Island; small revenue source; community breakfast not showing up as income. Christmas trees are accounted for.
 - Bottom line: \$75K deficit prior to applying the 2010 surplus.
 - Income possibilities:
 - Carry over \$42K, so only \$33K deficit, but this is a cumulative total, would be a one-time solution;
 - Incorporate cell tower income into operating budget;
 - Grow pledge base
 - SAC impacts may increase commitment from our members
 - Expense reduction possibilities: Possibilities to do what? Not clear what this means.
 - Salaries
 - major maintenance (Laurel's plan is to put \$50K towards organ repair, so this may not be an option);

- membership coordinator;
- contribution to building reserve fund. Income:
 - OC will continue discussions, massage numbers, and make some recommendations to BOT at May 18 meeting: finance committee will have met; salary decisions will have been made; budget drive numbers will be refined. OC will bring new numbers and recommendations. Bill's work was recognized.

Board Retreat Priorities Updates

- SAC process (Dede/Barney): (see proposal provided to BOT today)
 - UUA recommends that SAC speaks only for itself, not the congregation
 - Ad hoc committee commissioned by BOT
 - Revised structure that the BOT votes on, then congregational discussion – garner consensus from congregation
 - How does one become part of the Social Action Council? Questions to be addressed by Ad hoc committee. Encourages disparate groups to coalesce around themes
 - who's on the ad hoc committee (task force)? Representatives from BOT; from OC; RE; chair / co-chair of SAC; perhaps 6-7 people; revise charter and have it ready to vote on by beginning of FY11

Regular meeting adjourned at 9:33 pm

An Executive Session of the Board was then convened

Respectfully submitted by Lesley Sneddon, Clerk