

FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY IN NEWTON
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
August 14, 2012

Present:

Board: Lisa Gresser, Gordon Moriarty, Strom Thacker, Ann Woodbury, Charlie Watts, Jonathan Reuman, Margaret Costello

Clerk: Sheila Ardery

Absent: Conrad Buys, Carl Metzger, Bruce Henderson

Ann opened the meeting with a meditation poem by Mary Oliver. Gordon lit the chalice and the Trustees read the covenant.

Pledge Drive Update

Gordon related that Bruce reported in writing that we hit 99% of the goal and have only \$5K+ to go. The average collection rate was reported as averaging 95% a year.

Election of the Vice Chair

Gordon thanked Strom for serving as the temporary Vice Chair. Gordon reported that Bruce stated he would agree to be nominated as the Vice Chair. Strom stated that he was willing to be vice chair as well but does not want to be the chair the next year. Gordon stated that Bruce reported that he would not rule out being chair next year. **It was decided that, since Bruce wasn't present to answer questions about his intentions, Strom would serve as temporary vice chair for another month.**

RE open house

The new DLREM, Perry, is going to have an RE open house September 16th, 9:15 AM. There was some discussion on how to meet the possible increase in the RE program with new resources, such as utilizing young people who have gone through the program.

Retreat Planning

Bruce provided an outline for the retreat. This year, there is not a joint BOT-Ops Council retreat. There was discussion on how to integrate the priorities that the BOT identify with the work of the Ops Council and Committees and the Congregation. Ann noted that the members now want to know what the BOT does now that there is an Ops Council and the BOT needs to determine how to communicate their work. Therefore, she suggests that we prioritize the role of the BOT in developing the vision. Gordon suggested that we go "lighter" on the financial aspects and focus more on the role of the Board.

Discussion ensued as to how to structure the day by first reviewing the information gained from the last retreat. **Gordon and Ann will send out a package of materials from last year's retreat and develop a timeline for the day's agenda.**

By Laws Committee

There needs to be more work on changing the by-laws. Several items still need to be addressed, such as changing the size of the BOT, moving the Treasurer to the Ops Council, the makeup and terms of the Ops Council, etc. Gordon asked that a member of the BOT become a member of the by-laws committee. **Gordon asked that the members give it consideration and, hopefully, a volunteer will emerge at the next meeting.** It is important that there be a process developed that incorporates membership hearings on proposed by law changes before the requested votes are brought to the annual meeting.

Audit Committee

Since the BOT is taking the Treasurer off the BOT, there needs to be an audit committee of the BOT to ensure that the fiscal responsibilities of the BOT are met.

Individual Goals of the Members of the BOT

Gordon asked that each member speak for a moment on their individual motivation and goals of being a BOT member.

Capital Campaign Committee

FUSN needs to gear up for the Capital Campaign and a BOT member should work with Laurel and a consultant to develop the goals of the campaign. **The BOT member on the committee should be determined at the next meeting.**

There is an in-service for new Board members on August 26, 1-4 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Ardery
Clerk