

**Minutes - August 10, 2010**  
**First Unitarian Society in Newton**  
**Board of Trustees**

Trustees present: Susan Bartlett, Conrad Buys, Jeannie Chaisson, Margaret Costello, Phil Davis, Barney Freiberg-Dale, Jonathan Lilienfeld (Ch), Pamela McA'nulty, Gordon Moriarty. Carl Metzger was present for part of the meeting, as noted below

Also present: Rev. Erin Splaine, Mr. Barb Greve, Gayle Smalley (Asst. Clerk)

1. Jonathan called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Barney read the invocation, and trustees read the covenant together aloud. Board members welcomed the Rev. Erin Splaine to her first Board meeting.

2. "Administrivia."

- Jonathan read into the record an email vote regarding the Pine Village lease negotiation. The committee appointed at the 7/20/10 meeting, having consulted with counsel, reported its conclusion that certain lease terms would provide adequate protections for the Society. By vote of 9-1, the Board voted to authorize the committee to undertake negotiations toward a lease that includes such terms.

- Gayle noted that the Minutes from the 7/20/10 meeting were approved by email, by vote of 8-0.

3. Pine Village lease:

Jonathan opened an opportunity for a short discussion about the pending lease negotiation with Pine Village Pre Preschool. Noting recent correspondence with Pine Village, Jonathan stated that there has been a staff change at Pine Village -- the CEO has left, and FUSN's communication is once again via the business owners. Jonathan noted that Attorney Tom Bean has been helpful to the negotiating committee. It was noted that simultaneous negotiations are taking place between Pine Village and other landlords; thus, it may take some time to reach a resolution.

A brief discussion took place concerning aspects of the proposed lease terms.

4. Update, Social Action Task Force:

Barney, chair of the task force, reported on its progress, describing his impressions as optimistic. Two meetings have taken place. Barney's objective for the third meeting is to reach a time table with benchmarks, including a target date of March 2011 for a report to the Board. Among the task force's key decisions to date is that it intends to present a single proposal for the congregation's final approval.

Jeannie, who is a member of the task force, explained that under consideration generally is a proposed council structure that would make one or more social action projects central to the larger congregation.

Trustees inquired about the task force's plans for outreach to the larger congregation. Barney described some ideas about a series of discussions for the congregation. Jeannie noted the possibility of a try-out period as part of transition to a new system. The potential impact on governance as a result of any such social action change was noted.

5. Update, DLRE Search Committee:

Jonathan reported that he has spoken with Chair Concetta Daurio regarding the search for a Director of Lifespan Religious Education ("DLRE"). At this time, the committee is still gearing up.

6. Update, Leadership Development Committee:

Jonathan reported that this committee is also just getting going. Its membership includes Barbara Bates and Jeff Baker; additional members are being sought.

7. Update, Membership Committee:

Phil reported that the Membership Committee has a meeting scheduled at the end of the month. A brief discussion took place regarding the role of the committee, including its relationship to projected by-law amendments.

8. Retreat Planning:

Jonathan sought the board's involvement in planning topics for the upcoming retreat, scheduled for Saturday Sept. 25 in Needham (Carl Metzger arrived at the beginning of this item).

Suggestions included: Nature of a visioning board; the Board's relationship to the Operations Council, and how the two bodies work together, including streamlining the process to avoid repetitive meetings; getting acquainted with Rev. Erin Splaine, and reflecting upon how the Board can help her in the transition; developing a 2010-11 priority list for the Board; Board membership structure, including number of members, and the possibility of longer, or multiple, terms for some or all trustees; high level calendar/agenda, including timing of matters such as a capital campaign.

Jonathan asked Trustees to continue to think about the retreat agenda, and to let him know about additional ideas.

9. Employment of members:

In executive session, there was a brief discussion of the policy that precludes consideration of FUSN members for employment in certain positions, which was adopted in April

Respectfully submitted,  
Gayle Smalley, Assistant Clerk