

First Unitarian Society of Newton
Board of Trustees
May 8, 2012
Alliance Room

Present: Board: Susan Bartlett, Conrad Buys, Alan Cody, Barney Freiberg-Dale,
Bruce Henderson, Pamela McA’Nulty, Gordon Moriarty, Ann Woodbury
Staff: Erin Splaine, Barb Greve

Strom Thacker came at 8:05pm
Absent: Margaret Costello, Carl Metzger

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM
Ann shared a reading

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.

Administrivia –Susan

- Approval of Minutes
Motion: To approve April minutes with correction of spelling of Karsten’s name
Vote: Approved unanimously
- New Members –reviewed bios of 7 new members. Demie Stathoplos, Dan Stoll, Dr. Lynda Bolduc-Hicks, Karen Honig, Todd and Erin Farrell and Jamie Freed
Motion: Pam moved to accept all 7 and Bruce seconded.
Vote: Approved unanimously
- Update: issue of non-pledging/non-attending members-
Susan discussed with Pat from the Ops Council and they felt this should be something addressed by the Membership Committee. They will then bring their recommendations to the BOT. Bruce agreed to share what he learned while running the annual budget drive about membership with membership committee.

Staff Update- Barb and Erin

Barb reported registration for Children's R.E. next year has begun. 47% have registered so far which is twice where they were last year at this time.

Registering in the spring for the upcoming fall is new so people are just getting used to it. He has already had volunteers for 1/3 of teachers for nursery to 7th grade and amazingly all mentors have been matched and they only need one more for COA. Also need 1 youth advisor.

COA graduation is this Sunday. There are two services: 10:15 and 1:15. They rehearsed last week and Barb reports the credos are stellar. Barb thanked everyone for time off he took last month which he needed to recover from surgery.

Erin is amazed it is the end of the year and so much is going on. She met with the staff to work on the vision for next year and plan the calendar and the new DRLE Perry was able to attend. He is transitioning already. He is enthused and his entry has been made easier due to Barb's hard work. The service on the 20th will be welcoming new members and new lay ministers Gail Yeo and Cris Goldsmith. Brenda Roberts will be cycling out after many years of service. Erin will be attending a minister's study group next week and will see John Nichols. Friday she has been asked to give the opening and closing prayer at Mount Ida's graduation ceremony this week and will attend the Mayor's prayer breakfast on the 23rd.

BOI Recommendations-Alan, Pam, Gordon

Susan had sent out BOI recommendations for Board approval.

Recommend:

Changing the annual distribution to operations to 3% of unrestricted endowment funds. The change should be made over a period of four years reducing each subsequent years distribution to operations target by 0.5% starting in FY 2012-2013.

The BOI also recommended keeping the investments at 80% stock and 20% fixed income consistent with the BOT's view that the endowment should be managed as a long-term asset. They will re-evaluate market conditions annually. The BOI agreed to provide a revised policy to the BOT for approval.

Motion: Barney moved the BOT accept the recommendations made by the BOI and asks the BOI to update their policies to bring back to the BOT for approval
Alan seconds

Vote: approved unanimously.

Proposed FUSN name change/Allan Hartman –All

Allan proposed a name change to FUSN at the last annual meeting. He is still interested in having this pursued. The BOT did not know how much interest there was in this. It was included recently in an open question but did not get much feedback. Allan again is proposing that the BOT study the possibility of a name change and make recommendations to the congregation. He will present his request again at the FUSN Annual meeting June 10th. There was discussion of the time and effort this would take and how it might possibly interfere with the

board's current priorities, which take precedent over this. Strom asked if there was a committee already functioning that could take this on, but there is not. There were questions about the current process of how suggestions are made to the BOT. Other discussion about how does the BOT communicate with the congregation about goals and priorities. Susan is also going to follow up with Bill Horne regarding the process of Allan putting his motion on this year's warrant for the annual meeting in June.

Motion: Pam moved the BOT request Allan Hartman to form a committee to study the name change and bring its recommendations back to the BOT
Barney seconded.

Vote: 7 approved, 1 abstained

CSA proposed guidelines for congregational resolution-Barney

Barney presented: Guidelines for Preparing a Resolution for Congregational Support on Matters of Public Policy. The BOT has asked for this as some FUSN members were asking for the process. The guidelines were reviewed by the BOT, who thanked the CSA for the excellent guidelines. How to present to the congregation? Barney will put it on the FUSN Web Site.

CSA: Death with dignity resolution – Barney

Barney updated the BOT on ways the CSA has educated the FUSN community about the resolution. There has already been one congregational meeting to discuss the resolution, and the resolution has been posted on the FUSN web site and on the business list serve. CSA has planned a general congregational meeting before the annual meeting to continue the discussion. Barney asked the BOT to support the resolution and move to have a congregational vote at the annual meeting.

Motion: Alan moved to refer to congregation for vote at the annual meeting.
Gordon seconded.

Vote: unanimously approved

Motion: Gordon moved that the BOT vote to approve the Death with Dignity resolution. Pam seconded.

Vote: 5 approved, 2 opposed, 1 abstention (motion failed)

Wrap Up of year-All

- Donautal partnership moving forward
- Leadership and Conflict committees going forward
- Policies and Bylaws-Susan and Gordon working with Pat -Ops Council.
- Susan volunteered to be on the Bylaws Committee
- Policy change discussion included acknowledgement that the BOT has already voted in favor of a reduction in BOT size from nine to six, each serving a three-year term.
Ann hopes to continue to focus on growth
- Erin's newsletter column is going to be about the success of the pledge drive this year. Will include most recent numbers.

There was a lot of discussion about this year's successful pledge drive. Alan really enjoyed hosting a pledge party. Barney felt the leadership of Bruce and Josie were critical to the pledge drive's success. Everyone feels the FUSN community is energized and moving forward. Bruce has been focusing on the community and finances as well.

Bruce had presented to the BOT in writing "Thoughts on Priorities for the BOT". Ann suggested using this document as a springboard for the 2013 BOT. Make it the focus of the retreat for next year. Include Ops council and BOT and focus on growth. Bring feedback, data and new ideas. Some ideas that were suggested:

- Regular adult R.E. Program held on Sundays before FUSN service
- Find ways to express and share spirituality
- Make sure to find a way to keep Bruce's ideas in front of the Board
- How to integrate members into the community
- Barb has been working with young families in R.E. making it the expectation that the youth stay through RE, COA and Youth Group

Executive Session Called.

Meeting adjourned at 10 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Wendy Atamian, Board Clerk.