

FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY IN NEWTON
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
September 11, 2012

Present:

Board: Lisa Gresser, Gordon Moriarty, Strom Thacker, Ann Woodbury, Charlie Watts, Jonathan Reuman, Margaret Costello, Carl Metzger, Bruce Henderson, Alan Cody

Staff: Erin Splaine, Perry Montrose

Clerk: Sheila Ardery

Absent: Conrad Buys

Lisa opened the meeting with a meditation from a 1974 UU “pocket guide”. Gordon lit the chalice and the Trustees read the covenant. The minutes of August 14th were approved without comment.

Election of the Vice Chair

Strom stated that he was willing to be vice chair but does not want to be the chair the next year. There was discussion on how the proposed by-law changes would impact the rotation of the officers. It was determined that it would be acceptable to have a vice chair that would not commit to becoming the chair as there are other issues related to by-law changes that need to be addressed. **Alan made the motion to approve the candidate by acclamation and Carl seconded. It was approved unanimously.**

Annual Budget Drive – Bruce has agreed to co-chair again this year.

Ministerial Evaluation and Contract Review – Lisa has volunteered to participate on that committee. Awaiting input from the Personnel Policy Committee as to the responsibilities of the Min. Eval. Committee.

Capital Campaign Committee – No report.

Membership - Membership Committee is reviewing process for removing members from the membership roll.

External Communication through Ops Council – Need to develop a strategic approach for external communications.

Conflict Transformation – Alan and Carl will make a formal presentation next month.

Audit committee – Charlie Watts has volunteered to chair. Alan stated we need to “charter” the committee. Alan will provide materials and model charters. Alan suggested that we consider another name since in the short run we won’t be doing an audit. Gordon asked for another trustee to be on the committee. Strom volunteered.

By-laws Committee – Gordon requested that one member of the Board participate. Gordon is going to participate as well. Ann volunteered. It was recommended that the congregation meeting to vote to

change the by-laws be held in March. It was recommended that we have a communication plan for announcing the changes to facilitate a successful meeting and vote.

Nominating Committee – Margaret volunteered to be the Board representative on this committee.

Leadership Development committee – Jonathan volunteered.

Retreat review

Ann led the board in a review of the notes. Gordon suggested that we discuss the vision statement. Jonathan passed out a sheet with a process for developing a vision, mission, and strategy. Gordon asked how much effort we can put into this effort given our other obligations. Charlie and Jonathan have agreed to work on the vision/mission statement.

Gordon noted that in the open questions session last year, there were concerns raised about the impact of growth on the community. Ann reported that most people wanted the community to grow and “get the message out” but that we needed mindful growth. People were really interested in us as a spiritual community and wanted to grow and enrich it.

It was recommended that we have another forum on growth to report back on how the board has heard and reacted to the information gathered at the past forum and keep the conversation going on a deeper level. It was determined that a task force would plan and present a structure for the next open question forum. Ann agreed to work on it and to work with Erin to find available dates.

Budget Priorities

Alan listed some possible budget priorities, including an intern minister, outreach, etc. He proposed that we have a strategy based on priorities. Carl asked that we step back and ask how much do we have to spend? How are we going to get the increased funds for bumping up the budgets? Alan said that rather than have the finance committee trend out the budget, that the Board states its priorities in regard to spending and using the endowment as an “investment”. After discussion, it was recommended that the priorities for the next budget include more funds for outreach and development of a database to track members and activities.

There was discussion about how to purchase and implement a useful database program and what the cost and effort to implement it would be. It was recommended that an IT committee be established to lead this effort to purchase and implement the program. A determination of the amount of funds needed for outreach still needs to be made.

R.E. Open House

Perry reported on how the open house in Westport was conducted. The R.E. open house is this Sunday.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Ardery

Clerk