

Unitarian-Universalist Church of Nashua, NH

Board of Trustees Meeting

March 09, 2015

Present: Harry Purkhiser, David Hudson, Mike Wilt, Kate O'Shea, Mary Licking, Lance Pratt, Rick Spitz, Carol Wagner, and ex officio member, Reverend Doctor Janet Newman.
Absent (excused): Pat Ladew.

The timekeeper was Rick. Rick lit the chalice after David performed the reading. BoT members were invited to Check in.

A motion passed made by Lance and seconded by David to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the minutes to the February 09, 2015 meeting. Those minutes can be accessed at the uunashua.org website, by clicking on Our Church, then clicking on Governance, then clicking on Board of Trustees.

A motion passed made by Mary and seconded by Lance to approve the appointment of Elizabeth Clark as UUCN's new Assistant Treasurer, to enter the position vacated by John Brobst, who resigned. This vote served as confirmation of the vote taken during the February 09, 2015 teleconference meeting of the Board of Trustees. The BoT's covenant requires that decisions be made while BoT members are face to face.

A Town Hall Meeting was held on March 1st, 2015 following the January 25, 2015 Deep Listening Session (see BoT minutes for February 09, 2015 posted on uunashua.org for more on the Deep Listening Session). A handout at the Town Hall meeting listed the three (3) BoT goals for the year and showed a chart providing a listing of what the BoT has done toward those goals. The BoT went over the comments made by participants at the meeting. Thirty seven attended and the meeting was recorded to allow those not attending to be able to access it. A major point in the BoT's discussion of how the Town Hall Meeting went had to do with how better in the future the BoT could perform its linkage function. The thought is that the BoT needs to tell congregants what the BoT does. Reverend Doctor Janet mentioned that there was not anything she recognized at UUCN as a long range plan, and no short term plan either. The answer the BoT provided is that there is a plan that includes things to be accomplished by the year 2018, a plan that included a lot of time and energy to develop. However, that plan has been overtaken by events and probably a new plan could be made that would better take into account current conditions. The BoT has a blog that can be accessed through a link appearing in the Weekly nUUws, which in turn can be accessed by signing up with Sherri in the office to be on the newsletter e-mail list.

The results of the Skype session with Laura Park of Unity Consulting were discussed. Harry also shared with the BoT, during that discussion, things reviewed during a meeting with Gary Lerude about the genesis of Policy Governance at UUCN. Board Notes on Training Session with Laura Park, is a document generated from that discussion that will be stored in the BoT's online area for Long Term Planning. Reverend Doctor Janet sent around the table a Monitoring Schedule from another church so that BoT members could view it. Some members said it was reminiscent of a schedule they had seen at one of the UUA

NNED training sessions they had attended. A motion passed made by Rick and seconded by Carol: The Board is to create a congregational survey to evaluate and create a baseline that will tell us progress against our Ends statements. Carol and David are tasked to carry out the directive prompted by that motion. After the survey is performed and its results analyzed the BoT may know more about what the next topic with Laura Park could be.

A discussion was held regarding the Executive Director's policy interpretation on IV: Executive Limitations, Policy B: Treatment of church members, visitors, and groups. Please see attachment addressed To: Board of Trustees, Date: March 9, 2015, From: Janet E. Newman, Interim Minister Interpretation. Points in the discussion included editorial ones, such as how to arrange the text to make the areas of emphasis stand out. Ones related to content were offered, such as what other information could be included to provide more of an understanding as to the thinking behind the points that were made. It was expressed that the word, videotaping, needs to be used judiciously because the action is becoming sparse now that live streaming is replacing it.

Annual meeting and special congregational meeting (to be held regarding calling a minister) deadlines were reviewed in order to ready the BoT to meet the administrative needs, including notices, coinciding with those dates. The annual meeting was set at June 4, 2015, a Thursday evening. There was discussion about voter requirements that are necessary to meet, per the bylaws, in order to vote at those meetings and ways those requirements could be made known. Note: The bylaws are available on the uunashua.org website under "Our Church" and on the drop down menu, click on "Governance". A discussion was held on a proposed script for the special congregational meeting to call a settled minister.

A discussion was held regarding how the BoT could appropriately participate in a church effort to emphasize a social justice project. As individuals there are things we could do to encourage a more outward facing congregation, such as talking about the project to others.

A motion passed made by Rick and seconded by David to make a change to Policy A: Mission. To change it from reading as: "The mission of the Unitarian-universalist Church of Nashua is to engage people in a search for truth and meaning within a supportive liberal religious community that encourages personal / spiritual growth, embraces diversity, and promotes social justice." to reading as: "The mission of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Nashua is to engage people in a search for truth and meaning within a supportive liberal religious community that encourages personal and spiritual growth, embraces diversity, and promotes social justice."

Some miscellaneous thoughts were expressed. Harry reminded BoT members to fill out and submit pledge forms to the current pledge drive, even if BoT members had earlier submitted pledges for 2015-2016 to the Treasurer by e-mail. Completing the form is important. There was mention that we may want to develop a packet that could serve as an orientation for new BoT members. The BoT has been stopped (and rightly so, was the consensus) in mid-conversation this year to be reminded of the need to provide background on certain topics to members who joined the BoT this year and last year.

A covenantal check out was performed providing members with a chance to express how the meeting went. Reverend Doctor Janet provided the closing words accompanying the extinguishing of the chalice.

Volunteers slated for BoT tasks are named in Lists #1 and #2 below. List #3 below includes upcoming dates of events and List #4 describes attachments to these minutes.

Lists #1 through #4

List #1 Words of Welcome

& Church Service Announcements:

March 15 David, March 22 Kate, March 29 Mary, April 5 Lance, April 12 David, April 19 Kate, April 26 Rick, May 3 Mike, May 10 Carol, May 17 Harry, May 24 is blank, May 31 is blank, June 7 Mary, June 14 is blank

List #2 Chalice lighting Apr 13 - Mike, Jun 8 – Kate. May 11 is blank.

Timekeeper schedule: Jun 8 – David. April 13 and May 11 are blank.

List #3 Upcoming Dates:

Event Dates Listing (non-administrative):

Saturday, April 11th, UUA NNED Spring Conference & Annual Meeting, UU Church of Concord, NH 10 am – 3 pm with coffee hour and on-site registration starting at 9 am

Monday, April 13th, 7 pm, Regularly scheduled BoT meeting, Youth Room

Thursday, April 30th, Mailing of Notice of Special Congregational Meeting (deadline is 10 days prior to meeting)

Sunday, May 3rd, Beginning of Candidate Week

Sunday, May 10th, Special Congregational Meeting to Call Minister at a time to be announced

Thursday, June 4th, UUCN Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 14th, Last Regular Worship Service

Sunday, June 21st, First Lay-Led Summer Service

Event Dates Listing (administrative):

Sunday, March 15th Deadline for Announcement Date of Special Congregational Meeting to Call Minister

Thursday, April 4th, Deadline for Announcing Date of Annual Meeting (8 weeks prior)

Monday, May 25th, Mailing of Notice of the Annual Meeting (at least 10 days prior to the Annual Meeting)

Sunday, May 31st, End of Church Fiscal Year, 2014-2015

List #4 Attachments to these minutes:

- February 09, 2015 BoT meeting minutes - access these minutes by following the instructions in the text above directing the reader to uunashua.org

- Interim Minister's Interpretation (of text of policy) – March 9, 2015, 2 pages

//// End of attachments listing ////

Minutes submitted by,

Mary Licking,

Clerk, Unitarian-Universalist Church of Nashua, NH

///Beginning of attachment///

To: Board of Trustees

Date: March 9, 2015

From: Janet E. Newman, Interim Minister Interpretation

Text to be interpreted:

IV: Executive Limitations

Pol. B: Treatment of church members, visitors, and groups

1. The Executive shall not cause or allow conditions or procedures that are unsafe, disrespectful, or unnecessarily intrusive to members, friends, or visitors, including children.

Draft Interpretation by the Executive:

This policy relates to the Ends policies in the "Among" category: "Creating a beloved community..." and "Supporting and respecting one another.."

What does it ask of the Executive in answering the question, "Does a projected practice of live-streaming and archiving video of services at UUCN violate the policy by causing unsafe conditions for children and others who wish to remain off-camera?"

At this time I believe that videotaping and live-streaming services does not violate the policy.

To fulfill my responsibility as the Executive, I propose:

1. to research various resources (UUA policies on safe congregations, policies of other religious institutions, legal opinions, and more)

2. to conduct a survey of adults who bring children to church, with the help of the Director of Lifespan Religious Education, to ascertain the adults' concern about the safety of videotaping children

3. to investigate via other means, eg., informal conversations and polls of the congregation.

3. to develop a Means policy by which the outcome of this research can be implemented.

My interpretation of the Limitation is that the Executive is to provide reasonable safety measures for the congregation, keeping in mind that there is the possibility of exposure of congregants via various media and that the prospect of eliminating the possibility is unfeasible or impossible.

Respectfully submitted, Janet E. Newman, Interim Minister/Executive
///end of attachment///