

UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF HARTFORD
Board of Directors Meeting
Date: November 4, 2014

Members Participating: Bill LaPorte-Bryan, Virginia de Lima, Louise Schmoll, Patrice Fitzgerald, Martha Bradley, John Clapp, Tina Davies, Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Rev. Cathy Rion Starr (arrived 7:20)

Others Participating: Bruce Robbins, Janice Newton, David Newton, Edith Savage, Mike Winterfield, Peter Magistri, Esther McCone, Mary-Anne Mulholland, Jim Venneman, Jeff Howard, and Beverly Prager.

Members Absent: None
Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00

Subject	Discussion	Action Required/Responsible
Opening Words	Rev. Heather	
Public Comments	None.	
Minutes	October 2014 Board Meeting minutes approved, with minor corrections.	Approved.
Report: New Web Developers	Bruce Robbins: Purpose is to take a look at web presence and communications. Want to "spread our brand." First task is to redo website. David Newton plans to stay on as webmaster until the new plan is in place.	
Report: Endowment Divestment	<p>Jim Venneman: Board owns endowment. We were invested in Mutual Funds, and with them we couldn't control divestments. We changed that. Spoke to Schwab, Fidelity, and UBS. We went with UBS because of their flexibility.</p> <p>This discussion followed concerning the relationship between the Board and the Endowment Committee: Tina (recapping what Jim said): We've had our endowment invested in mutual funds, and now have spread it between mutual funds and individual stocks. Mike: Been confusing to have a constantly shifting process. "Fig leaf" compromise. As part of the process going forward, I would strongly recommend that you go to a climate divestment conference. The UU Common Endowment Fund said that the economic effects of divestment are trivial. Bill: Board members should do something specific in this meeting w / regard to next steps. Bill: Made motion that Board convene a meeting of the so-called group of 8 to consider and plan the next steps in the process of considering the green sanctuary request to the endowment committee. Patrice: Second.</p> <p>Group of 8 included representatives from Green Sanctuary and Endowment Committee, plus Virginia.</p> <p>Discussion: Rev. Heather: Has the congregation had any input into this to date? Louise: Folks who attended GA workshops might speak. Rev. Cathy: Or a presentation to the congregation. Tina: Need to define Group of 8. Define what request was. Motion carried, one abstention. Bill: We should move quickly. Virginia: Will do Doodle poll to get folks best times for meeting.</p>	Approved.
Approval Securing Meetinghouse Policy	John Clapp presented procedure, which had already been reviewed by Board. Motion: Attached as appendix to Minutes. Tina: Wonders why this rises to Board level.	Approved.

	Motion passed with one abstention.	
Music Update	We went into Executive Session from 8:08 until 8:26 and then back to General Session.	
Ministers' report Rev. Cathy Rion Starr Rev. Heather Rion Starr	Cathy discussed report, and mentioned specifically the unusually extended hours that Rev. Heather and Rev. Cathy have been working to date. They would like to talk about what the priorities are, so that they would know what is most essential to spend their time on. Heather would like to do a Birthday Party for the Meetinghouse to celebrate the 50 th Anniversary of the building.	
Installation Service April 19, 2015	Heather has a list of folks to ask to be involved in committee to plan Installation. Will draft budget and present to Board for input and approval. John Luopa and Terasa Cooley are confirmed to be here. Louise hopes it will be scheduled for early afternoon and not late.	
Date December Board Meeting; Who will be "under the stairs" Nov. 23	Tuesday December 2, 2014 Board Meeting. Tina will have to miss, Virginia may not be here. [Date later revised to Tuesday, Dec. 9 for next Board Meeting.] "Under the stairs" – who will be there? Bill and Virginia and probably Louise.	
Council on Administration — John Clapp	Rev. Heather: Brian Mullen intimately involved in updating telephone set-up.	
Council on Community Within — Tina Davies	Bill: Theresa Pelham's planned book signing postponed to future date.	
Follow-Up on Ministerial Start-Up Workshop	Bill: Workshop was overlong. Some left halfway through. His notes from Karen include - Who are we? Translate mission to a vision. Hold up the aspirational part of the mission statement. Prioritize ministers' efforts. Virginia: How do we achieve that? Tina: Heard corporate boilerplate. Patrice: Found it long because space wasn't great. But helped to see the big picture, and glad in the end that I went. Learned something about the Board's role and the way it is perceived. John: Has seen a lot of new mission statements in his time. Wants much shorter mission statement. Need to set limits on what Board does. How can we help the co-ministers succeed? Bill: So what should we do now in response to this? Tina: Sit with it for a bit. I may be more ready to address that in a month or so. Louise: To me the main thing of that day was for the new ministers to get to know more about what the Board and Sub-councils are thinking. Extremely helpful to know how people are thinking. Question to ministers - Did we teach you what you need to know? Rev. Cathy: Was super helpful in terms of that. What I reflect on is that this is not a ship that we two can steer. More like a catamaran. What's the Board's role in steering or setting a direction? Edith: I was just wondering if a novel approach would be to do things from the grass roots up? I think that what the ministers are doing now as well as	

	<p>the Board, is getting to know all members committees, etc., and you're understanding what their work is as of this moment. And seeing goals, etc. I was wondering – I know we have principles to live by – in terms of a mission and a vision, there are so many active people here. If the essence of what they do was analyzed and we saw what we have in common... if that could formulate upward into a mission statement.</p> <p>Cathy: Yes.</p> <p>Martha: At some point it's important for all of us to move toward a larger vision together. Where are we going with this? What is this church trying to do?</p> <p>Edith: Whenever we've done this in the past, if the community has not had input, there's been push back.</p> <p>Virginia: Not as if we're creating an entity out of the ether. Principles are our mission. Not sure where we want to move to find a north star.</p> <p>Cathy: What's our north star?</p> <p>Heather: What's unique to this community in addition to those principles?</p> <p>Bill: We're at a good place so let's move on and take this up after December.</p>	
Council on Spiritual Life —Martha Bradley	No comments except thank you to Martha and all the Council Chairs for their work and the work of those in the sub-committees.	
Comments from Board Members	Louise: Betty Arnold's son gave us a donation. Thanks to all for auction participation. We're now looking at bringing in a total of \$7600 or so. Sending letters to donors for tax purposes. No financial report this month. Sept./Oct. report available for discussion in December. Has looked into past installation costs and will give details to ministers. Adding us to Amazon's Smile program being discussed via email. The previously purchased iPad Mini has been located and available for use.	

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 (after Executive session). Next Board meeting scheduled for Dec. 2, 2014 at 7:00 PM at USH. [Board meeting date subsequently changed to Dec. 9.]
Respectfully submitted by Patrice Fitzgerald, Secretary

Appendix:

Proposed Board Policy: Securing the Meeting House

Proposed policy: USH staff members will secure the building during the week. The Sunday Sexton will secure the building following the Sunday service. During gatherings at the Meeting House when no staff person is present, a person designated by the group is responsible for securing the part(s) of the building used by the group. The procedures for securing the Meeting House will be regularly reviewed by the relevant Staff, Ministers, Board, and members of the Building and Grounds Committee.