

Annual Meeting
First Unitarian Society of Newton
June 9, 2013

Moderator Bill Horne called to order the 166th Annual Meeting of the Society following the Annual BBQ luncheon. The meeting took place in the Parish Hall. Written copies of the Annual Reports were distributed to the attendees.

Invocation: Rev. Erin Splaine gave an invocation with a reading from E.B. DuBois.

Approval of the Minutes from the 2012 Annual Meeting: Barney Freiberg-Dale moved to pass the minutes as written. The motion was passed unanimously.

Warrant Article I: To review the committee reports submitted and to act on them as appropriate.

Reports were submitted in writing and the following chairs spoke on behalf of the committees:

Gordon Moriarty summarized the Board of Trustees work for the past year.

Gordon first acknowledged the leadership of Bruce Henderson and Josie Greene during the pledge drive and announced that they would each receive a gift certificate for a massage. Gordon thanked the members of the Board of Trustees for their work during the year. Gordon reported that growth has been the focus of the Board during his three year tenure both in terms of membership and in deepening the relationship of members to the community. He reported on the following Board activities:

- Approved the addition of an assistant minister to assist in pastoral care, outreach, and membership support.
- Received the recommendations of the Conflict Transformation Committee and began developing protocols to implement the recommendations.
- Admitted 42 new members to the Congregation.
- Continued the Open Questions sessions for the Congregation.
- Approved the implementation of a computerized membership data base.

Warrant Article II: To review the report of the Nominating Committee and to elect various officers and representatives for the following positions:

On behalf of the nominating committee, Cindy Orell nominated the slate of nominees as follows:

One Year Appointments

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| Moderator | Bill Horne |
| Clerk | Sheila Ardery |
| Assistant Clerk(s) | Leslie Sneddon; Wendy Schwartz |
| Treasurer | Alan Cody |

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| Assistant Treasurer(s) | Karen Lein; Faith Kreider |
| Board Of Trustees Youth Rep | Michael Costello; Maura Hess-Mahan (split role) |
| Delegate(s) —Mass Bay District | Ted Hess-Mahan; Gordon Moriarty |
| Delegate(s) —UU Service Cmte | Karen Lein |
| Delegate(s) —General Assembly | Patsy Leibensperger; Julie Brody; Jacki Rohan Pat Rohan; Carolyn Mapes |
| Delegate(s) —UU Urban Ministry | Judy Friedman; Josie Greene |

Three Year Appointments

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|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Board Of Trustees | Cathy Morocco; Bobbie Sproat |
| Operations Council | Susan Bartlett; Andrea Kelley |
| Board Of Investments | Peter Farago (2 nd term) |

Peter Smith moved to accept the slate as presented. Jacki Rohan moved to amend the slate to include two additional positions for absentee delegates and the amendment was seconded. Barney Freiberg-Dale asked for a clarification on the role of the absentee delegate and Tom Bean explained that they would be allowed to vote.

Beverly Droz and Jacqui James each nominated themselves to be absentee delegates. Each nomination was seconded and added to the slate.

Gayle Smalley moved to instruct the clerk to cast a single ballot for the slate as presented by the nominating committee and amended by the motions above. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Warrant Article III. To hear the budget recommended by the Board of Trustees and to act upon an annual budget for the Fiscal Year 2013—2014 ("FY14")

Brian Gill moved that the budget created by the Operations Council and the Finance Committee and reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees be approved by the membership. The motion was seconded.

Brian then reviewed the highlights of the budget explaining that there was a deficit of \$7,536 at the end of FY2013 significantly less than the \$65,848. The projected deficit for FY 14 is \$39,098. The operating reserve is \$112,001 which exceeds the minimum of one month of operating expenses. The Board approved the substitution of an assistant minister for the position of membership coordinator as Kristin is leaving this position. This addition is seen as an appropriate investment to meet the needs of a growing congregation. This will cause a marginal increase in expenses in the short run but income is expected to grow over the next several years. Chris Goldsmith asked what increase in membership is assumed over the next five years. Brian responded that there is assumed to be a small growth and a deficit is also assumed but there is enough in the operating reserve to cover the short term deficit.

Barbara Bates and Wendy Schwartz asked for clarifications regarding the budget report. Barbara Bates also asked if there was included a cost of living for the staff. This was affirmed by Brian.

In regard to the assumptions for future income, Bruce Henderson stated that there are currently 340 units of pledges and it is projected that 420 units are needed to cover the deficit. Alan Cody stated that it is important to increase pledging among the current membership in addition to expanding membership through that addition of staff. Jonathan Reuman stated that the increase relies as much on the congregation members as the staff. Roberta Humez asked if there was a retention issue and Bruce responded that our current pledge base is solid but there is a normal attrition of 20 units a year.

The question was called and the budget passed unanimously.

Warrant Article IV: To transact such other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Eric Olsen brought before the annual meeting the following Resolution and moved that it be accepted.

Resolution to assess the importance of fossil fuel company profits to the performance of FUSN endowment growth, and to explore ways to reduce our reliance on these profits.

Whereas the Unitarian Universalist 2006 Statement Of Conscience noted that there is a scientific consensus that the Earth's climate is changing primarily due to human use Of oil, coal, and natural gas,

Whereas that 2006 Statement Of Conscience affirmed that we as Unitarian Universalists are called to join with others to halt practices that fuel global warming/climate change, to instigate sustainable alternatives, to mitigate the impending effects Of global warming/climate change with just and ethical responses, and to [u]se congregational financial resources to positively address the global warming/climate change crisis

Whereas a startling new analysis in 2012 by financial experts in London found that the stock prices Of the major oil, coal, and natural gas companies are significantly dependent on the value of these firms reported reserves, which in aggregate amount to FIVE TIMES what current climate science estimates the Earth's atmosphere can safely absorb,

Whereas, in an attempt to awaken the world to the imminent dangers Of extracting and burning all these fuels, and to convince fossil fuel companies to stop all activities contributing to the crisis, environmentalist Bill McKibben has initiated a global movement ("350.org") calling upon universities, pension funds, public entities and religious institutions to divest their investments in 200 fossil fuel companies;

Whereas the Unitarian Society Of Milwaukee Board Of Trustees heeded McKibben's call and voted to divest from fossil fuel stocks on 25 March Of this year, and our neighbors at

First Parish UU Of Cambridge are expected to vote to divest on June 2nd of this year, thereby joining a growing list Of institutions including colleges and foundations that have taken this step,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the First Unitarian Society Of Newton, in general membership meeting on this 9th day of June, 2013, that the Society will:

1. Direct a subcommittee Of the Green Sanctuary Committee and the FUSN Board Of Investment to meet at least twice during the coming year, in an effort to assess to what degree our endowment growth currently depends on stock holdings from the 200 companies identified as Of particular concern by the London study and
2. Ask that this joint Green Sanctuary / Board Of Investment Team, drawing on the lessons learned by other UU congregations and a wide variety Of other sources Of information, assess the feasibility and financial impact Of reducing our reliance on investments in those companies and
3. Require that this Green Sanctuary / Board Of Investment Team report to the Annual Meeting Of 2014 its findings, especially concerning financial impacts Of reduced fossil fuel investments, and significant obstacles that may make it difficult for FUSN to achieve full divestment at some point over the next five years.

The motion was seconded and was opened for discussion. Wendy Schwartz asked what other actions should be done either instead of or in addition to? The Moderator stated that these were not questions directly related to the motion.

Tim Wells stated he would not support it because it does not solve the problem. The Society should concentrate on conservation and the use of alternative sources of fuel.

Peter Farago stated that 25% of FUSN investments are in social responsible funds and two of those funds have fossil fuel companies in them. He did not think that the resolution was needed because the investment committee has always been open to discussion. He stated that there were other issues that came before the Society such as tobacco, armaments, etc. and the decision was to focus on fiscal responsibility.

Erik stated that this was an opportunity to understand why and how we manage our investments.

Tom Bean stated he was ambivalent because it was too narrow and doesn't understand what the trade offs are. For example, does it then promote the use of nuclear power? Erik stated there is new research on alternative fuels that respond to that concern.

The motion was adopted by a clear majority.

The Moderator thanked all the members who were going off the Board of Trustees. Pat Rohan thanked Kim Shanks who was leaving the Operations Council. Alan Cody announced that Pat Rohan was leaving the Operations Council and thanked him for his leadership through this major reorganization and establishment of the Operations Council.

The Moderator asked if there was any further business. Allan Hartman stated that he wanted the 2012 resolution on the Open Question meeting regarding the FUSN name to be honored.

Nothing further was raised and Bill asked for a motion to adjourn. It was made and seconded and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Ardery, Clerk