

**The First Unitarian Society in Newton
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
August 11, 2015**

PRESENT:

Board: Brian Burba; Gregg DiBiaso; Eric Haas; Julianna Lakomski, Youth; Becca Lozinsky, Youth; Cathy Morocco; Lesley Sneddon, Co-Chair; Bobbie Sproat, Co-Chair.

Staff: Rowan Van Ness, Director of Lifespan Religious Education.

Absent: Erin Splaine, Minister, is away on vacation.

Clerk: Sue Skoler

Members of the Congregation: Jeannie Chaisson, representing the Operations Council.

INVOCATION /CHALICE LIGHTING/COVENANT:

Gregg lit the Chalice and offered an inspirational reading. Lesley led the group in reciting the Board Covenant.

CHECK-IN:

A moment for each person to say what they needed to let go of in order to be present for the meeting, and to bring others up-to-date on their activities since the previous meeting.

PROCEDURAL:

1. Clarification re. approval of May 2015 Minutes: Minutes from the May 12th meeting were approved on May 28th, and the May 28th minutes were approved by email. Both sets of minutes were posted in early June.
2. An email vote was taken on July 23rd to approve the appointment of Danielle Negus as Youth Programs Coordinator.

3. Financial Oversight Committee – A motion to approve appointment of Jacki Rohan, Gregg DiBiaso, and Dan Brody as the 3 members of the Financial Oversight Committee was seconded and approved unanimously.
4. Assignments: Rather than asking for sign-ups, Bobbie said she will just assign names to dates for jobs like writing for the newsletter, making Sunday announcements, etc. An Excel spreadsheet will be sent with the assignments. Each person is responsible for keeping track of their dates and arranging coverage for dates they will not be available
5. Does the Board need to be involved in CORI checks (Criminal Offender Record Information) and who needs to review them? After a discussion of the possible need for CORI checks, the general opinion was that CORI checks should be limited to those individuals who are working with our youth, for now. The Safe Congregations task force will be looking into the question of extending the CORI process to other volunteers working with vulnerable populations.

STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES:

Rowan Van Ness, DLRE:

1. Danielle Negus, our new Youth Programs Coordinator, will start work on Sept. 23rd. She is quite excited about starting.
2. Rowan has been accepted into the UUA Religious Education Credentialing Program. She detailed the requirements of the program. It takes 2 to 3 years to complete.
3. She has been busy preparing for the fall. Working with Greg Sullivan, she is setting up one Google calendar for all the RE programs.
4. She has been talking with Jacqui James, Alice Wood, and Erin about creating an Adult Faith Development Task Force to reexamine our direction and goals with Adult RE.
5. She will be working with Danielle to strengthen the youth program. Dana Hanson and Lisa Carbone have agreed to be mentors to our youth RE teachers.
6. The OWL program at the 4th-6th grade level will be introduced to FUSN for the first time in our 4th/5th grade class and emphasizes respecting one's own as well as others' bodies.
7. The components of the OWL curriculum are undergoing revision at the UUA, one level at a time. The newly revised 7th-9th grade OWL curriculum has a component on bullying.

BOARD UPDATES:**1. Developing Leadership Team:**

Cathy Morocco reported on her continuing work with Lesley to form a Developing Leadership Team.

Members of the Developing Leadership Team (DLT) are Karen Edwards, Lorenz Glaser, Josie Green, Kate Mason and Chris O'Donnell. Two FUSN members have agreed to advise the DLT during this start-up year: Dede Vittori and Jules Delamar.

The first meeting, an informational introduction to the issues and roles, will be held Sunday, September 27th, from 2 to 4 at Cathy's house. This orientation meeting is for the three Board of Trustees members who did the leadership groundwork last year (Cathy Morocco, Lesley Sneddon and Jon Reuman) and the five members of the DLT team listed above. Future meetings will probably be open to FUSN.

The Leadership Development Committee was chartered several years ago. After several years, it lost momentum, and the Developing Leadership Team has been established as its successor.

Cathy Morocco handed out books that she had ordered for the Leadership Team and for the Board. The book is "Serving With Grace – Lay Leadership as a Spiritual Practice."

2. Membership Coordinator Search

Bobbie reported that the search for a new Membership Coordinator has been delayed by scheduling difficulties.

STRATEGIC:

- Discussion of BOT priorities for the coming year. Possibilities include: "Right Relations," conflict resolution work, and strategic planning.
- Discussed the idea of a former-FUSN-BOT-Chairs Advisory Group. Sounds as though it would be beneficial to the current co-chairs.
- Retreat planning: The BOT Retreat will take place from Friday night, 9/11 to Saturday afternoon, 9/12. Urban and Barbara Larson have offered their vacation home in Gilford, N.H.

CLOSE:

- Review of assignments:

Writing Newsletter column, attending Ops Council meetings, attending services and making announcements.

- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sue F. Skoler, Clerk