

MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Unitarian Society of Hartford
Tuesday, July 7, 2015
Home of Martha Bradley

Present: Virginia de Lima, Vanessa Gonzalez-Rivera, Tina Davies, Gloria Mengual, Martha Bradley, John Brancato, Louise Schmoll, Margaret Leicach

Absent: John Clapp, the Rev. Heather Rion Starr, the Rev. Cathy Rion Starr

Guests: Janice Newton, David Newton

The meeting was called to order by Virginia de Lima, President.

OPENING REMARKS:

1. Virginia introduced two broad topics that will be on the Board's radar as we move forward:
 - a. Increasing clarification on the respective roles of the Board, Councils, and SubCouncils.
 - b. At their request, providing ongoing constructive feedback to the ministers about how things are going.
2. Virginia reminded those in attendance of an agreement made at the retreat to pause briefly in silence after the conclusion of a topic to make room for those who may have something to contribute but are perhaps not as apt to speak up while others are talking.
3. Those in attendance reaffirmed the **Board Covenant** in unison.
4. **Comments from guests:**
 - David Newton urged the Board to stick with the budget as approved and to resist requests from staff, individuals, SubCouncils or Councils for 'special' changes during the year.
 - Janice Newton urged the Board to re-institute a system of sending cards of sympathy and other special occasions from the Board as a whole.

SHORT REPORTS, UPDATES AND VOTES:

1. **Minutes of the previous Board meeting** were not available. Outgoing Secretary, Patrice Fitzgerald, promised to send them when she returns from her travels and the Board will approve them at the August meeting.
2. **Special Allocation to B&G.** Louise Schmoll, Treasurer, moved that the Board formally approve the allocation of \$10,000 from the endowment to the Building and Grounds (B&G) Sub-Council for fiscal year 2015-2016 for minor/routine capital improvements to the building. It was noted that this is distinct from the B&G's regular operating budget. Tina Davies seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
3. **Board Under the Stairs.** It was agreed that these monthly sessions would begin again in the fall on the 4th Sunday of each with the September topic being the budget.
4. **Board Logistics**
 - Virginia will follow up with Brian Harvey about getting new name tags made for the Board members to identify them as such.
 - We continue to have problems with the listserves, so when in doubt, Board members have created their own email groups in order to be sure that all of the intended recipients are getting email messages. There are now only two board-related listserves: Boardonly includes Board members and the ministers; boardextra includes the above plus Brian Mullen.
 - Louise asked whether detailed budgets and financial reports should be posted on the website or only summary financial information. David reminded the Board that the practice of detailed disclosure of all information, including budgetary information, began when Rebecca Bryan was President and, for various reasons, the congregation appeared to be suspicious of Board decisions. He pointed out that since that practice began, no further suspiciousness has been expressed.

DISCUSSIONS, NEW BUSINESS

1. The **Co-Chairs of Social Justice** proposed the following process for tallying their votes on issues presented to the Board.
 - a. If one is present, that person is authorized to vote.
 - b. If both are present and disagree on how to vote, they will abstain from voting on the issue.
 - c. If both are present and agree on how to vote, it will still count as only one vote.
2. The **directory of Councils and SubCouncils** has been up-dated since the version that the printed version that Board has in hand, though it may require some minor up-dating to reflect the recent elections.
 - a. The most recent version is on the website. Council Chairs will review what is on line and send Brian Mullen any changes that need to be made to make it fully current.
 - b. Virginia will contact Council Chairs to make arrangements to meet with all of the SubCouncil Chairs to get acquainted and learn more about their functioning and concerns.
3. Board members agreed to carefully read/study both the most recent Strategic Plan and the Directory of Councils and SubCouncils - both of which are available on the website - prior to the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Leicach, Secretary