

**UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF HARTFORD**  
**Board of Directors' Meeting**  
**Monday, November 09, 2015**  
**Meeting House**

<b>Members Present:</b>	Virginia de Lima, Louise Schmoll, Martha Bradley, John Brancato, Tina Davies, Margaret Leicach, Gloria Francesca Mengual, Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Rev. Cathy Rion Starr, Vanessa Gonzalez Rivera
<b>Members Absent:</b>	John Clapp
<b>Guests:</b>	David Newton and Janice Newton
<b>Call to Order:</b>	Virginia de Lima, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Decisions</b>	<b>By whom/when</b>
Opening Words by Rev. Cathy Rion Starr & Meditation on the Board Covenant	Those in attendance took time to read through the Board Covenant and USH Mission statement and reflect silently on those documents in preparation for the meeting.		
Comments from Guests	None.		
Minutes of October meeting	The minutes of the October meeting were approved with the following corrections: (1) the modifiers "helpful", "excellent", and "with regret" will be removed; (b) "foregoing" should be "forgoing" in the section on the revenue potential of the building; (c) in the section on the strategic plan, "it's" should be "its"; (d) on page 3, the word "ministers" is missing an 'i'.		
Ministers' Report	The ministers' written report included a review of Scott Thumma's presentation at the Hartford Seminary, updates on Music Staffing, the Ministers' recent meeting with our matching grant donors, notable upcoming events, and the Indoor Clutter Cleanup Day 1/30/16.		

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Update on Rental Policies	Rev. Heather and Margaret met with Brian Mullen and updated the decade-old rental policies and fees. The short-term plan is to (a) clarify which staff person will be responsible for handling rentals going forward, (b) implement increased rental fees, and (c) explore which existing staff might be interested in serving as 'custodian' for renters on an as-needed basis.	Rev. Heather will explore this with relevant USH staff and devise a strategy for moving forward. After we see how this goes, we will explore - at a date to be determined date - an expanded plan for rentals.	
Quarterly Report from the Council on Community Within	As there was not time to review the report at the October meeting, the report was available again at this meeting. The report included updates from the Caring Network, the Festival of the Season, Membership, Performing Arts, Women's Alliance and Communications.		
Quarterly Report from Council on Spiritual Life	The report included updates on: RE, Music, the Music Transition Staffing Team, Worship Arts, Chancel Arts, and Adult Programs. Adult programs would like to be moved from Council on Spiritual Life to Council on Community Within. At the recent gathering of the Council on Spiritual Life, it seemed apparent that Adult Programs didn't have a lot in common with the other SubCouncils.	It was agreed that this made sense. Tina and Martha will implement the change.	

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<p>Briefing on Solar Panels</p>	<p>The Board made a decision in 2011 to move forward with solar panels. The project will both increase the value of our church property and decrease the net cost of our electricity, especially after the initial 5 - 6 years. Jean Groothuis is heading up a project to raise up to 50% of the total needed for the installation of solar panels. Forming a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) for this purpose would provide federal tax credits and potential other savings to its members, thereby encouraging a larger donation at less expense.</p>	<p>The USH Board approves of the idea of installing a ground-based solar array at USH to provide solar power to the Meeting House over an extended period of time, in keeping with Unitarian Principles. The Board approves this concept provided that: (1) over time, this installation will be at no cost to the established USH Operating Budget, Capital Budget or to the Endowment; and (2) all members of the Congregation will have an opportunity to contribute to the project. The Board further agrees that if the best way to fund the solar project is through an LLC, the Board will sign an Agreement with the LLC for this project.</p>	

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Announcements	(1) The Westport Church will be installing their new minister on Sunday November 22nd. Virginia and Revs. Cathy and Heather will attend. If more Board members can go that would be good. (2) We will have an indoor clean-up/clean-out project on the morning of January 30th. In preparation for that day, staff and SubCouncils are asked to (a) make a list of the tasks for their areas, and (b) label things to keep and things to be disposed of.		Council Chairs by the December Board meeting.
New Haven UU Workshop	On April 9th there will be an all-day workshop at the Hamden church; they are asking via a questionnaire for suggested topics and workshops.	Council Chairs will gather input from SubCouncils and forward to Virginia.	Council Chairs by November 15th.
Evaluation of Ministry, Proposal for the Future	The Board reviewed the results of the recent evaluation and the agreement between the Board and the ministers for reference. We acknowledged that the terms of the contract need to be fulfilled. The contract has no expiration date but does say that it should be reviewed every three years. After weighing the pros and cons of various approaches, it was agreed that (a) we will do a formal evaluation every 2 years; (b) on alternate years the ministers will set goals with Board input; and (c) we will solicit congregational input periodically, frequency to be determined.	Virginia moved, Louise seconded, and the Board passed a motion to revise the Letter of Agreement between the ministers and the Board to require a structured evaluation of the ministry every two years. There were 2 dissenting votes.	Virginia by ???

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<b>Tri-Congregational Collaboration:</b>	Virginia submitted a written summary of her two-hour meeting with the Co-Moderator of the Fern Street church and the President of UUSE. Highlights included: (a) an agreement that the health of each of our congregations affects the health of the others; (b) an agreement to link our websites, include someone from each congregation in the eNews distribution of the other congregations, and share key documents; (c) unique projects at each of the congregations, and (d) and 13 ideas of activities/projects that the three congregations might share.		
Board Input to Stewardship Campaign	The goal is to start the campaign earlier this year. The Board requested that the campaign focus on exciting possibilities rather than financial pressures of the congregation. The Board needs to appoint additional members to the Stewardship Committee.	Council Chairs will ask SubCouncils to suggest "reach for the stars" goals/ideas & bring those ideas to the next Board meeting. Board members will bring recommendations for the Stewardship Committee to the December Board Meeting.	Council Chairs by the date of the December Executive Committee meeting. Rev. Cathy and Louise will compile these in preparation for the December Board meeting.
Comments from Board Members	None.		
Decisions, Follow-Up, Date of December Meeting	Next Executive Committee meeting December 1st and next Board meeting on December 8th		
Closing Words			
Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.		

Respectfully submitted,

*Margaret Leicach, Secretary*