

Board of Directors' Meeting

UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF HARTFORD

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

Members present: John Brancato, Phil Gardner, Chris Wilt, Margaret Leicach, Rev. Cathy Rion Starr, Rev. Heather Rion Starr, Martha Bradley

Members absent: Katharine Ann Buck Anderson, Gloria Francesca Mengual, Hank Murray

Guests present: Rayla Mattson, David Newton, Janice Newton.

Call to Order: John Brancato, President called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Chalice Lighting and Opening words

The chalice was lit. Open words were from Josh Pawlek's charge at the installation of the minister at the New Haven congregation and entitled Our Lives are at Stake.

Board Covenant and Mission Statement

Members read and reflected on the Board Covenant and USH Mission statement in silence.

Minutes

Discussion: Minutes of previous meetings were distributed as a packet for members' review at their leisure.

Actions: Margaret will email to absent members for comment and approval prior to the next meeting.

Ministers' Report

- January updates: 2016 was our ministers 3rd winter season with our congregation and they sent out holiday cards with the solar panel photo on the cover.
- Our membership certification to the UUA is due February 1st. Our annual dues to the UUA are calculated at \$85 per adult member. The process includes reaching out to members who haven't made any contribution to USH in two years to find out whether they want to remain members. In 2016 we removed the criteria that to remain a member one had to have made a minimum pledge of \$250 per household. This year it has been expanded to 13 pages with a detailed questionnaire

Decision: None needed

Actions: None needed

Progress Report on Creation of the Playground

Discussion: Rayla Mattson updated the Board on the ad hoc task force's progress toward having our new, accessible playground available by spring. The task force working on this is a collaboration between RE and B & G.

Decision: The Board expressed unanimous support for the task force's work and agreed that, while we will be excited to hear about their progress, they only need to come back to the Board with details if there are issues with staying within the allocated budget, site issues, or other things that may need Board approval.

Actions: None needed

Recap of Semi-Annual Meeting

Discussion: Virginia had a well-received leadership video. Peter Meny gave an enthusiastic introduction to the stewardship campaign and encouraged people to come to the February meeting for more updates. Opinions included:

- It was upbeat, positive, had good energy.
- It was very worthwhile, sorry we skipped it last year, let's do it again.

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- Let's be as deliberate about planning the annual meeting on May 21st.
- There was some discussion about the building – should we stay and improve it, sell it and rent it back, or leave...or something else. Note that Hugh Schweitzer will have some input on this to John in time for our February meeting.

Decision: None needed at this time

Actions: None needed at this time

Parental Leave

Discussion: The Parental Leave Team of Martha Bradley, Sue Smolski, Phil Gardner, Eve Peck, Erica Richmond and the ministers have detailed coverage and back-up plans for all aspects of congregational life during the ministers' parental leave. Excellent guest speakers have been lined up and there is a point person for everything which will be published to the congregation in various ways, including the USH website and on the back of the OOS. The baby shower is coming up.

Decision: None needed at this time.

Actions: None needed at this time.

Audit Committee

Discussion: Two of three positions on this committee have agreed to serve. John is working on getting a 3rd and asked for suggestions.

Decision: We will vote on the three candidates via email, once the 3rd has been identified.

Actions: Board members will watch for an email from John with the three candidates and will reply with their vote.

Outcome: *Via subsequent email, the vote was unanimous to (a) appoint members to the Audit Committee via email vote, and (b) appoint the following to the Audit Committee:*

Nancy Mandley

Thomas Richardson

Sue Tenorio

Adjournment: President John Brancato adjourned the meeting shortly before 9:00 PM.