

Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes for 1-10-2023 on Zoom

In Attendance: Greg Heyl, Danielle Jeanloz, Tracy Johnson, Ed Mangiafico, Jon Nye, Naomi Turner, Liz Van Wye, and Joe Zahka

Started at 4:05pm

Rev. Tracy: Opening words – poem on standing.

Ed added Stewardship to the agenda.

Unanimous approval of the minutes from the December 2022 meeting and the January 2023 special meeting.

Tracy – Minister's report discussed the meeting with Wren and provided feedback from our congregation as wanting to hear more about our progress with Cusp. A new member welcome is planned for 2/12/23.

Joe - Treasurer's Report - Finance revised the budget forecast to show payment of \$6,000 toward the principal. By November, the principal will be about \$50,000. CC5 has approved a 3.5% interest bearing account. Reviewed building rental agreement and the rates. Adjusted the sanctuary rate to be \$300 for 4 hours instead of a full day. The Board approved the change unanimously.

Ed – Regarding Cusp discussions, Ed is concerned that people may prefer we avoid making changes, but, that we need to deal with the reality of our congregation getting smaller. Membership takes a while to grow. It's important to focus on optimism and reality, as well. A potential affiliation with other churches should go beyond neighboring towns. A broad view of the options should be taken now.

Tracy asked what do we bring to other congregations as we consider an affiliation program? Naomi mentioned that shared ministry/yoking has a lot of possibilities. Speaking with Scott Taylor of Soul Matters could be helpful. Ed and Danielle encouraged Naomi to look into this. Naomi agreed to do this after Liz and Joe meet with First Parish Brewster. Liz explained that what we bring to other organizations, if we were to affiliate includes: strength of community, an active social justice group, a building for programing, collaboration in administrative costs, and promotional experience.

Jon mentioned that there are lots of options in moving forward but we need a timeline and people assigned including: Brewster UU – Joe and Liz, Soul Matters - Naomi, and Barnstable (recommended by Joan Caputo). Liz and Joe's meeting with First Parish Brewster had delays but they hope to meet by the end of the month of January. Liz would like to meet with them before we discuss ideas with other locations and the board agreed.

Danielle mentioned that Stewardship needs to be year-round starting now and including pledge reminders. Jon asked what type of pledging do we want to do year-round? Joe said that almost everyone is paying their pledges. Ed reminded us that the trend according to Wren/UUA is that many congregations are giving smaller amounts but more frequently in order to meet their goals. This does not seem to be an issue for UUMH.

Tracy reminded everyone that year-round stewardship is not just about pledging but being stewards, creating more engagement, events to engage people, visits to donors, phone call, dinner together. Danielle suggested that the board reach out to our members now by phone and/or email to talk about what we are doing and ask for feedback. Naomi suggested that we have a lot to talk about in these conversations, such as: upcoming events and speakers, solar panels, new boilers, and reaching out to other organizations to learn more about what they are doing and to explore possible affiliations.

Joe suggested we talk to people about our future and get their feedback before we start the spring canvas.

Liz mentioned that we need a Stewardship Chair. She recommended that the Program Council and the Board of Trustees both get involved in making calls to the congregation.

Ed summarized the next steps for Stewardship:

- Find a chair
- Develop talking points
- List questions about what we hope to find out
- Create a form
- Organize the calls

Ed reminded us that we are short on volunteers to get this done. Jon asked what role does the Council have? He will be meeting with Sue in the near future. Ed mentioned that unfortunately Sue was unable to attend today. He will focus on finding a Stewardship Chair once Program Council gets updated.

New Business:

Liz reminded Ed that finding a new minister (even a contract minister) will take time. We need to keep the focus on that timeline. Ed advised that need to define what we want by springtime, and to start looking by July 2023 for July 2024. **He agreed that a Ministerial Selection Chair should be appointed.** Tracy suggested looking into the Transitional Section of the UUA website to build a record.

Tracy also recommended that we keep each other posted by email on any important new developments even before the next meeting since there is a lot of work to be done.

Jon mentioned that the solar panel installation project is delayed until Mid-March.

The meeting ended at 5:38 pm.

Next meeting - 2/17/2023 by Zoom

Submitted by: Danielle Jeanloz