

Unitarian Society of New Haven
Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees
May 24, 2012

Accepted July 26, 2012

Board Members Present: Sarah Berke; Gil Belaval; Gregg Burton; Patricia Duff; Sandra Frawley; Alan Price;

Board Members Absent: Lisa Anderson; Thea Bourke-Martin; Sue Linsley; Larry Rizzolo; Jessie Whitehead

Also Present: Jeremy Hill; Marion Visel; Tansy Birenbaum

S. Berke called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m. and G. Burton recorded the minutes. A quorum of Board Members was present, and the meeting proceeded with S. Berke presiding.

Canvass Campaign

S. Berke presented the recommendations of the Stewardship Working Group, which was charged with developing ideas for future canvass campaigns. Among the recommendations were:

- Research other congregations of similar size for possible models for canvass
- To significantly increase contributions, there must be an increase in the sense of ownership and belonging. Canvass cannot be separate from membership initiatives.
- Consider a year-round canvass model; provisions for online pledges should be considered by the board
- Consider the creation of a formal stewardship group comprising members of canvass, membership, finance and endowment
- Consider changing the name of the canvass committee. E.g. Development Committee etc.

The Working Group only offered suggestions and did not make any formal recommendation. Since no one in the Working Group was willing to be the committee chair the group felt that the person that is selected to lead the committee should have maximum flexibility to develop a new model.

Proposed Budget

J. Hill presented the proposed budgets prepared by the Finance Committee. There are two options one with and one without a contribution from endowment, which is dependent on the outcome of the bylaw vote. The Finance Committee worked to meet the priorities expressed by the Board, particularly to restore the denominational dues. Budgeting was made easier due to significant reduction in personnel expenses.

The Board discussed the budget and the presentation of the budget and the bylaw revisions. It was noted that the budgets should be distributed to the congregation in advance, but should be presented separately from the bylaw revisions to the extent possible.

MOTION A. Price: that the Board approve the budgets recommended by the finance committee and the submission of both budgets to the congregation for approval **Seconded. Passed without dissent or abstention.**

Interim Minister

The Board discussed the timing of Rev. Melcher's start and the appointment of the Transition Team.

Minutes

The minutes of the Board meeting on May 10, 2012 were reviewed. No corrections were offered. The minutes were accepted.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.