

Unitarian Society of New Haven
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
November 13, 2011

Accepted June 10, 2012

Attendance: 82 Members.

T. Bourke-Martin called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. and G. Burton recorded the minutes. A quorum of Members was present, and the meeting proceeded with T. Bourke-Martin presiding.

Board Goals

T. Bourke Martin presented the Board goals for 2011-2012 congregational year:

- Welcoming and growing new membership
- Engaging the congregation to deepen connection and community
- Shifting the culture of USNH toward generosity and stewardship

Canvass Committee Report

John Pawlek presented the Canvass Committee report. It was noted that increased budgeted expenses exceed the current revenue. Canvass Committee is working on a Lovefest themed campaign beginning in February culminating with the Lovefest event on March 3, 2012. Educational workshops are planned for the coming year regarding the finances of USNH. The Canvass Committee is also considering an effort to conduct in person connections with members to support the pledge campaign.

2010-2011 Budget Report.

Brett Berke presented the 2010-2011 financial report. It was noted that pledge receipts were below budget, but a higher percentage of pledges were received than is typical historically. Certain expenses from the previous year were paid from restricted funds, including expenditures for computer equipment. Some expenses for 2010-2011 were exceptionally high, most notably snow removal. These expenses resulted in an overall shortfall of revenue over expenses.

Brett Berke then responded to questions from the congregation. It was noted that:

- Unexpended amounts that had been allocated for the payment of the Director of Religious Education expenses were reallocated to payment of the Religious Education Administrator expenses.

- Upon changing the collection plate to the current model whereby the collections for a particular month are directed to a stated cause, group or organization, plate collections increased significantly. Since the collection plate “purposes” are included in the budget, plate collections are utilized to meet the budget lines for those items.
- Although personnel expenses budgeted for Director of Religious Education were greater than the expenses allocated for Religious Education Administrator, the overall expenditure remained virtually the same as was budgeted due to variances in health insurance expenses and the payment of severance.
- A suggestion was made that a luncheon be held in order to raise money and awareness about budget shortfalls.
- Most collection plate revenue was allocated to various social justice budget line items, but also to a few other line items, including national and regional denomination dues.
- The Social Justice Task Force also tracks the collection plate receipts that are allocated to social justice work and ensures that if amounts are received in excess of the amount budgeted, that a specific request must be made by the group receiving the excess contribution, which is subject to approval by the task force.

Endowment Committee Report

Bob Congdon of the Endowment Committee reported a significant increase in the Endowment due the receipt of the Winchell Fund. The Endowment Committee is considering the proposal of revisions to the bylaws governing the Endowment in order to allow more flexible use of the Endowment funds. At present the bylaws only permit the use of Endowment funds on items that are outside of the congregational budget. The Endowment Committee is considering whether to propose bylaw revisions to allow funds to be contributed to the budget.

Minutes

MOTION by Alison Cunningham, **SECONDED** by Richard Platt, To adopt the minutes of the February 6, 2011 congregational meeting. **PASSED** without dissent or abstention.

MOTION by John Watson, **SECONDED** by Sarah Whitson, To adopt the minutes of the June 12, 2011 congregational meeting. **PASSED** without dissent or abstention.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the congregation, **MOTION** by Alison Cunningham; **SECONDED** by Phil Wexler, To adjourn the regular meeting of the congregation. **PASSED** without dissent or abstention.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.