

Unitarian Society of New Haven
Minutes of the Meeting of the Society
December 2, 2012

Accepted October 20, 2013

Attendance: 100 Members. Confirmed by Alan Price

Alan Price called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and Gregg Burton recorded the minutes. A quorum of Members was present, and the meeting proceeded with A. Price presiding.

Minutes

The minutes of the June 10, 2012 regular meeting and June 10, 2012 special meeting were reviewed and corrections of typographical errors to correct the names of Susan Meredith and Brian Eitzer were noted.

MOTION by Patrick Deak to adopt the minutes of the June 10, 2012 regular congregational meeting as revised; **SECONDED. MOTION PASSED** without dissent and with 4 abstentions.

MOTION by Brian Eitzer to adopt the minutes of the June 10, 2012 special congregational meeting as revised; **SECONDED. MOTION PASSED** without dissent and with 4 abstentions.

Message From the President

A. Price presented a message from the President. A. Price noted briefly that improvements to the exit to the memorial garden are underway to make that area wheelchair accessible. A. Price thanked all those working on that effort and called for volunteers to assist in the construction of those improvements. He noted that the congregation is in the midst of change as part of the ministerial transition process and that the congregation is fully engaged in that effort. An important part of the transition discernment process is to assess the effectiveness of the congregational governance structure. Good governance is one of the key characteristics considered by ministerial candidates as they evaluate the congregation and is crucial to the success of the settlement of a new minister. In its consideration of the board goals for this year, the board created a list of activities that require attention and then eliminated those activities that can be undertaken by various groups within the congregation. Those activities that could only be undertaken by the board all pointed to the need to clarify the roles, responsibility, authority and accountability of leadership of the congregation. As the board looks at governance issues, it will review the past efforts of governance reform at USNH and the many resources available on congregational governance. The board also welcomes suggestions and thoughts from the congregation. Times of transition are the time to try new things and to do things differently. There are more opportunities than ever for service to the

congregation from large roles to roles with very minimal commitments and all are encouraged to find the opportunities that suit them. A. Price closed by noting that as previously published in the newsletter, due to professional commitments, he will be resigning as President effective at the close of the congregational meetings today. A. Price also noted that the Board will hold a forum on December 16 regarding the interim transition process.

Message from the Minister

Emily Melcher presented a message from the Minister. She noted that Tom Barron, the long-time sexton of USNH will not be continuing in that role and is moving to Maine. E. Melcher reported on the status of the interim process and relayed her satisfaction with the progress made to date. The transition team and the board are playing supporting roles in those processes. There are also significant resources of the UUA being utilized in the transition process, much of which may not be apparent to the congregation. The processes that are ongoing in this transition period were described. Efforts are underway to clarify the roles of the board, minister, staff and lay leaders. The staff structure of USNH was created at a time when the congregation was much smaller and the structure does not work for the current size. New job descriptions are in the process of being formulated with an emphasis on ensuring that staff roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and meet the needs of the congregation. E. Melcher reviewed the upcoming steps in the transition process, including the visit of the Ministerial Settlement Representative of the UUA on Jan. 27th. The other dates in the transition process were reviewed, but noted that it is possible that the time frames may shift due to changes in the UUA ministerial candidating processes. The process of forming the search committee will involve input from every member of the congregation.

Election of Officers and Trustees

A. Price presented the following candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee for election by the congregation:

- Margaret (Peggy) Rae - Vice President 2012-2013 (to fill the vacancy created by A. Cunningham's assumption of the office of President upon A. Price's resignation)
- David Jones - Trustee at Large 2012-2015 (to fill the vacancy created by M. Rae's assumption of the office of Vice President)
- Bobbi Pace - Trustee at Large 2011-2014 (to fill the vacancy created by Larry Rizzolo's prior resignation)

MOTION by Patricia Duff, to elect the officer and trustee candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee; **SECONDED** by Meredith Fahey; **MOTION PASSED** without dissent or abstention.

Election of Members of the Endowment and Legacies Committee

A. Price presented the nomination of Fred Morrison by the Nominating Committee to serve on the Endowment and Legacies Committee.

MOTION by John Watson, to elect Fred Morrison to serve on the Endowment and Legacies Committee; **SECONDED** by Tom Weil; **MOTION PASSED** without dissent or abstention.

Treasurer's Report

Sandy Frawley presented the Treasurer's Report. The final 2011-2012 actual income and expenses against the budget for the same period were reviewed. As a result of reductions in some staff expenses and substantially lower than expected snow removal expenses, the congregation ended 2011-2012 with a net surplus. The income and expenses to date for 2012-2013 against the budgeted amounts were reviewed. The generous contribution of Turnpike Players to the fundraising efforts was noted. 2012-2013 began with a balanced budget, but the board has since approved additional staff expenses of approximately \$8,645. A referral will be made to the finance committee for recommended budget modifications to meet the additional expense obligations.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the congregation, **MOTION TO ADJOURN** by John Watson; **SECONDED**; **MOTION PASSED** without dissent or abstention.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:41 p.m.