

UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF NEW HAVEN
MINUTES OF THE FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
March 31, 2019

Approved June 2, 2019

Attendance: 89

Quorum requires 36 members.

P. Myers called the Meeting to order at 12:01pm and P. Miller recorded the minutes. A. Bosch and B. Pace counted 89 members present for a quorum. N. Apfel read the USNH Covenant of Right Relations.

MOTION by D. Wade, based on the significant value that USNH has found in working on multiple social justice issues as a member congregation of CONECT, the Unitarian Society of New Haven will continue our membership in Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut (CONECT). **SECONDED by S. Tworkowski;**

PASSED: 93 approved, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions.

K. Foscue spoke about his activities with CONECT. A list of CONECT actions is attached at the end of the minutes. He is a member of the CONECT strategy team. CONECT represents over 20,000 members of congregations in New Haven and Fairfield counties. A key concept of CONECT is that we build relationships within and between congregations, and with government representatives. Attorney General Tong has requested support from CONECT. That is recognizing us as a power. Our congregation's long-term work on various social justice areas spring from our seven principles.

S. Connolly is co-chair of Do Not Stand Idly By, the CONECT gun safety group. They meet every month. They have met with Gov. Lamont, who is interested in safe gun technology. They are trying to get Connecticut to use pension funds to influence gun companies. Shareholders of two companies have passed resolutions requiring a report on gun safety as related to their companies. This makes more of a difference than we could as an individual congregation.

C. Estabrook, an associate organizing fellow with CONECT, spoke about one to one meetings. These meetings help CONECT learn what matters to individual congregations. USNH has had a positive impact on CONECT. Members have worked with Our Lady of Guadalupe on immigrant issues. M. Goodwin has worked to lobby for clean slate legislation. K. Foscue, S. Tworkowski, S. Connolly, and others consistently show up to work on issues that are important to USNH. CONECT is stronger with USNH as a member.

B. Congdon is in favor of the motion but notes that it has budgetary connotations. Make your pledge.

D. Stagg answered that the budget is a worry given search expenses. Membership will cost \$7000. CONECT is in the budget, paid for partly by Social Justice funds, a fundraising effort for \$2500, and \$2500 from the USNH budget.

L. deVos noted that we had a matching grant from UUA for the first year for congregation-based community organizing. We raised the money that we needed. The total amount is \$20 per member. We have confidence that we can raise the funds.

G. Feeley said that we can get \$.40 per week per member to cover the cost.

J. Shapiro had been concerned about how we can do all we want to do for social justice. CONECT will make us more effective. Talking about money is for transparency.

S. Foreman said that she has been participating at UU Meriden on the sanctuary team. CONECT found 2 synagogues to show a video that they had prepared on this subject. CONECT has been an incredible resource.

D. Gelperin asked whether this is the end of the trial period for membership? He has confidence that we can raise money for this but we also must raise money for USNH. Make your pledge.

MOTION by P. Trotta, to call the question. SECONDED by P. J. Deak;

PASSED: 75 approved, 2 opposed, 0 abstentions.

MOTION by G. Feeley, to adjourn the meeting. **SECONDED by L deVos;**
PASSED: unanimously.

The Congregational Meeting adjourned at 12:24 pm.