

Unitarian Society of New Haven

Board Meeting

Minutes for August 10, 2023

Approved September 14, 2023

Board Members present:

Bobbi Pace, President

Tom Ward, Treasurer

Joan Ciano

Alissa Chapin

Sue Trotta-Smith, Vice President

Terry Bohnhorst Blackhawk, Clerk

Kyle Manning

Board member(s) absent: Becky Reeve, Kathy Haskins

Others present: David Stagg, Management Team

Reverend Stephen Kendrick, ex officio

1. President Bobbi Pace called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and welcomed Reverend Stephen to his first Board meeting.
2. Chalice lighting by Kyle Manning who read “Chalice Lighting for the Work of the Congregation” by Eric Walker Wilkstrom.
3. As a check-in, Board members responded to Bobbi’s question to identify what values guide them in their lives. Those present identified the following core values: humility; joy as a serious business; integrity; loyalty; empathy for others; fairness; keeping calm/carrying on; choosing kindness; trust in oneself and others.
4. Board members took turns reading the Board Covenant. President Bobbi Pace suggested that the Board revisit the Covenant, one item per meeting, to discuss and possibly amend.
5. The agenda was unanimously approved.
6. President Bobbi Pace thanked the Board for approving the Finance Team’s August 4, 2023 request for a housing allowance (as per UUA requirements) for Rev. Stephen Kendrick to be included in the budget. Approval of a 33% allowance was needed prior to August 10 for payroll purposes. The request passed unanimously with all members having voted via email by August 5th.
7. The minutes from the Board meeting of July 13, 2023 were unanimously approved.
8. There was no official Management Team report. David Stagg was happy to share that the sealing of the sanctuary roof has been completed.
9. Treasurer Tom Ward presented Board members with copies of a summary of USNH Financial Highlights (Budget Totals, Balance Sheet, Capital Fund and Restricted Funds) for easy reference.
10. Reverend Stephen Kendrick introduced himself to the Board and told about his journey as a UU minister, with service to congregations in Columbia MD, West Hartford CT, and the First Church in

Boston where he served as minister for twenty years before retiring in 2021. His good feelings toward USNH stem from his friendship with John Marsh from Harvard Divinity School and a sense that our congregation is “cohesive and strong.”

11. President Bobbi Pace presented the Board with the resume of Sunny Joy McMillan, a candidate for ministry through the Yale Divinity School, with the intent that she engage in a two-year part-time internship to integrate her experiences at USNH with coursework at YDS. The proposed internship will be supervised by Reverend Stephen, with Lisa Anderson forming a support committee of USNH congregants per UUA requirements. Bobbi Pace moved and Vice-president Sue Trotta-Smith seconded that USNH bring on Sunny Joy McMillan for a two-year internship. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Bobbi Pace reported that a date for the Emeritae celebration for Kathleen McTigue and Linda Pawelek is still under discussion.

13. A discussion of Policy Governance followed, with Bobbi Pace noting how fortunate USNH is to have a Management Team that helps to guide policy and Sue-Trotta Smith encouraging Board members to become familiar with *The Nested Bowls*, a book that helps congregations discern guiding principles in the application of essential values. Per the “nesting” concept, our values determine our mission which echoes within, among, and beyond us as individuals. Vice-president Sue Trotta-Smith shared three handouts: one pertaining to effects of values within and beyond our congregation as well as a USNH glossary of terms and rosters of USNH Board and Committees.

14. Bobbi Pace encouraged Board members to zero in on how to engage congregants with issues that matter most and shared a hand-out describing the roles of Participant Observers that Board members may sign up for to aid in facilitating meetings. Sign-ups for chalice lightings and readings will take place via email for future meetings.

15. The next meeting of the Board will be on September 14th at 7:00 p.m. in person at USNH.

16. Bobbi Pace motioned to adjourn and Alissa Chapin seconded. Adjournment at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Bohnhorst Blackhawk (she/her), Clerk