

Agenda & Minutes

Board of Trustees, Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua

Date of Meeting: June 13, 2024

Attendance:

Present: Rev. Allison Palm, Erin Scott (Ministerial Intern), Lindsey Hedrick (President), Burns Fisher (Vice President), Karen Murray (Clerk), Emma Rearick (Treasurer), Cecile Bonvouloir (Member at Large), Victoria Agnew (Member at Large), Anne Smith (Member at Large), Paul Cardone (Member at Large), Robin Trudel (Member at Large), Anne Smith (Member at Large), Robin Trudel (Member at Large)

Agenda	Decision and/or Action Items
<p>6:30 (20) Check In</p> <p>6:50 (5) Chalice Lighting: Story Telling (Emma) Theme: Renewal</p> <p>How you have experienced this gift?</p> <p>How you have experienced our congregation embodying this gift?</p> <p>6:55 (5) Follow Up Story Telling (Open)</p> <p>7:00 (5) Consent agenda (Lindsey)</p> <p>Motion by Victoria to accept the May minutes, Burns Second, one Abstention, motion passes.</p>	
<p>7:05 (15) Minister's Report (Rev Allison)</p> <p>Highlights and discussion:</p> <p>Discussion: Hiring process for the sexton is still ongoing. Question about if the annual survey success for doing it at the annual meeting, and we are over 50 responses which is a great improvement already in number.</p>	
<p>7:20 (20) BOV/Displacement/Endowment Update (Rev Allison)</p> <p>Highlights and discussion:</p> <p>Temple Beth Abraham will be our summer location for summer services. Planning is going well, we are official for July 14th and have access to the building.</p> <p>One example of moving logistics that are coming is moving the piano within the church for storage during construction. So we will hire professionals for that to ensure its safety. We may have</p>	

<p>someone interested in buying the organ pipes (the ones behind the wall.) We have received the Historic District Commission approval.</p> <p>Rev. Allison asked the group about the process for decision making regarding the BOV project as some decisions will need to be made over the summer. There will be decision points that should include Board involvement. Approach on decision point: Some examples will include the facts that the pricing has gone up for many things, and the grant money option for adding funds did not work. Other examples of decisions might be to come up with ideas to encourage more funds to come in to help fill this gap. So over the summer we will have to make these kinds of decisions.</p> <p>Question posed by Rev. Allison: How does the BOV fit into the decision process? The Board could give power to the BOV for some decisions, but not to raise more money.</p> <p>Decision: We can have the BOV provide needs and updates via email for change decisions that need to be made, then as needed we will triage decisions by starting with an email, then a call for an online meeting with a quorum of the Board (this is 5) in order to make clear decisions, avoiding confusion that could happen with email conversations. We acknowledge that making quick decisions is important in order to keep costs down and keep the project on track.</p> <p>Endowment Update by Lindsey: Bank of America could run some projections about taking out the money from the endowment and paying back ourselves the interest.</p>	
<p>7:40 (10) Annual Meeting Debrief (Lindsey)</p> <p>Preparation made the meeting run very smoothly</p> <p>Process of Nominations done as a slate was effective</p> <p>Check In - Online check in went very smoothly, and perhaps we don't have to have so many people to do check in. The online check in video should be redone</p> <p>Hard Copies - Just enough copies of the hand outs</p> <p>Food: Next year we could ask for potluck to supplement sandwich, some asked for more cookies, better food aligned to the children such as pizza.</p>	
<p>7:50 (10) Congregational Survey (Lindsey)</p> <p>Highlights and discussion:</p> <p>20 more responses than last year, which is great and email reminders will go out soon. The con to this method was that less short answer responses. We will review the results at a future meeting.</p> <p>Ends Statements:</p> <p>Rev. Allison discussed that our Ends are now five years old, which is a typical life cycle. That made her realize that there are no ends related to building community. Rev. Allison suggests this is a topic for one of our upcoming meetings. Lindsey to consider this for a future agenda.</p>	
<p>8:00 (5) Retreat Date and Meetings Next Year (Lindsey)</p> <p>Highlights and discussion:</p> <p>After a bit of discussion, we will need to retain every 2nd Thursday for our meeting.</p>	

<p>Retreat Date: Lindsey will send out a doodle poll to determine dates. Robin offered to have it at his house in Dracut.</p>	
<p>8:05 (5) Check Out (Lindsey)</p> <p>Thanks from Lindsey</p> <p>How did we do this evening? Did everyone feel heard?</p> <p>Are there any concerns or compliments you want to give to the group?</p> <p>8:10 Closing Words (Rev Allison)</p>	

Addendum 1: Minister's Report for June

Minister's Report to the Board of Trustees

Rev. Allison Palm

UU Church of Nashua, NH

May 8, 2024

Covering April 10-May 8, 2024

Worship highlights from this month:

- This past month included an all ages reverse question box service led by our Worship Associates; our new member welcome, with reflections from three longer term members; an uplifting Flower communion service including a postponed child dedication, and a final Children's Choir performance of the year, which was one of the most robust we have had in awhile.
- We have just one more church program year service this Sunday, and we will be celebrating Pride.
- We had an evening to brainstorm themes on May 23 with Covenant Group Leaders, Music Team Members and Worship Associates present. Sadie and I are still working on distilling this into a final list of themes for next year.
- The Summer Worship Workshop wrapped up earlier this month.
- I visited Temple Beth Abraham with members of our Tech Team in May to figure out how we will set up logistically and tech-wise for worship there this summer. We are working out all the details and are planning a practice run on June 23 in the evening.

Faith Formation highlights:

- OWL for 4th-6th graders finished up on June 2.
- We continued to have good UU Nashua participation at the NAIC book group
- Faith Formation workshops wrapped up on June 2 with an end of year chapel reviewing all the Wonder Boxes from the year

Despite the rain, we had a fun End of year Party on Sunday, including a rousing all ages game of seated volleyball. Gratitude goes to Paul and Alice Introcaso, Megan Holmes and Sue Cooper for organizing.

The Social Justice Team is planning a forum on Israel and Palestine on June 23. They want to focus on education and are being very intentional about how they present different perspectives. They have asked me to facilitate the event.

The Nashua Historical Society reached out and is planning to do another cemetery tour in early September. The new Cemetery Trustees are already hard at work on updating records.

Our GA delegates held an open conversation for whoever wished to talk/share opinions about the Article II changes. Only one non-delegate showed up, but it was really nice for the delegates to get a chance to share with each other about their thoughts on Article II prior to the start of GA. They will also be leading a service in August reflecting on GA.

We have officially signed a contract with Temple Beth Abraham to use their space from July 14-September 1. I think the space will work well for us and I am looking forward to the ways in which it may deepen our relationship with that community.

The BOV Team was grateful to be able to present at the Budget & Brownies event, which was well attended. We tried to go back to the Historic District Commission on May 20, but they did not have a quorum. Luckily, they were able to set up a meeting before the end of June and our architects presented the updated plans on May 10. The updated plans were approved, with the gray color scheme. In the meantime, the architects completed the needed documents to go to Hutter, our construction management company. They are now working on pricing and we should get that back by the end of the month.

Ericka, Chris and I interviewed one more Sexton candidate this month. We are not having a lot of luck hearing back from candidates when we offer interviews. We have put the job description in a few more places this week, and continue to hope we will get more applicants. Indeed has been the only source of applicants so far, but we are hesitant to spend more money keeping it up there because so many of those applicants aren't responsive to requests for an interview. Mark's last day is July 3, but he is willing to come back to train a new person after that. We have plans to honor Mark this Sunday in worship.

Professional Development/Collegial Connection

- Attended weekly meetings with Nashua clergy
- Attended Elevation Retreat on worship planning May 13-17
- Planning for a "Blessing It All" Book Launch on June 15
- Attended info session the new virtual hymnal that the UUA is creating.
- Attended Rev. Ben Atherton-Zeman's installation service and offered the "Charge to the Minister"
- Attended two parts of the UUMA Virtual Annual Meeting

Community/Social Justice Activities

- Participated in GSOP Faith Leader Caucus planning call, and conversation with gubernatorial candidate Chuck Morse
- Attended GSOP Annual Meeting and offered report on the Faith Leader Caucus
- Attended NHCC Hiring Committee meeting and conducted 3 interviews. Participated in onboarding session with new staff person.
- Met with GSOP folks and Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett about GOTV work in the fall.
- Attended NAIC Annual Meeting. I was elected as president of NAIC and will serve in that role for the next two years.
- Attended two meetings of the Interfaith Housing Justice Group

Children's Winter Garden with White Wing School

- School year has ended, and the teachers have wrapped up two weeks of camp.
- Teachers are working on wrapping things up and cleaning out classrooms this week.
- Budget numbers continue to look good as they come to the end of the year. They will likely end with something of a surplus.
- The teachers and I successfully surprised Chris with gifts from the school and the church at graduation for her 30th anniversary. She was very touched.

Minister's Schedule

- I will be around but attending virtual Ministry Days and General Assembly all of next week: June 17-23
- I have been shifting around my plans for summer time off based on the shifting timeline of construction and may need to continue to do so. I have two weeks when I will definitely be away:
 - Vacation: June 24-30 (out of town June 24-28)
 - Study Leave: July 14-21 (Star Island Faith Development Week)
- Right now I am also planning on being out of the office these two weeks, but I may move those around as needed:
 - Study Leave: July 8-14
 - Vacation: July 22-28
- Erin and I have complementary summer schedules, so she will be able to cover any pastoral needs that arise while I am away.

Monitoring Reports

There are no Monitoring Reports this month

