

## **UUCM Board Meeting Tuesday, November 15, 2016**

Attending were Reverend Justin Osterman, President Michael Mernin, Vice President Sue Raufer, Treasurer Dennis Kurtti, Secretary Sheila Eby, Associate Minister Judy Tomlinson and Trustees Jim Abramson, Doug Andrews, Ellen Fenster-Kuehl, Dottie Hiebing, Steve Mintz, Mary Moriarity, Steve Ramschur and Denise Rodgers. Shannon Gattens also attended, addressing RE matters.

Coming of Age visitors included students Maggie Arian, Matt Brown, Jade Lytle, Matthew Schroeder-Towe and Con Zylstra, mentors Laura Kushner, Jason Brome and Kitty Cullina-Bessey, and parents Elliott Zylstra and John Lytle.

We called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

The board prepared a card thanking Jerry Fried and Connie Thames for managing coffee hour. The chaperones for the Coming of Age Boston visit were similarly recognized.

### **Consent Agenda**

- Sue Raufer moved to accept the minutes from our September and October meetings; Dottie Hiebing seconded the motion, which was adopted.

### **President's Report**

- Board members must sign up electronically to staff coffee hour, board moments, Gazette entries and weekly announcements.
- Sue and Mike attended a governance and ministry workshop in Shelter Rock on Long Island. "I was heartened by how well we are doing and very proud," Mike said.
- UULMJ will meet with the board early next year; they seek funding.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Pledges are off, but Justin is not alarmed. People will receive notes asking them to catch up on their payments.

### **Search Committee Update**

- We'll receive profiles of interested ministers in January.
- "Candidating" week is scheduled for April 29 through May 7. Imperative that board members are in evidence for this key portion of the selection process.

### **Senior Minister's Report**

- We've had 14 visitors since our last board meeting. The election presents an opportunity for growth as people pursue social justice. We must respond, doing a better job ushering people to their seats and managing coffee hour.
- The overburdened nature of the custodial staff needs to be addressed, Dottie observed. Are there models from other congregations? Denise suggested forming a personnel committee. "We have to resolve these issues for the new minister."
- Justin reported that he is taking a scuba vacation.

**Associate Minister's Report**

- The key goals of the Boston Coming of Age trip were met.
- Iris is organizing the holiday pageant.
- Micheal Hetrick continues to work very well with the senior youth group.
- Laura Kushner and Laura Wilson are looking at two Tapestry programs for the coming year.
- The Five Questions program, led by Jerry Boucher, ran this year with nine participants.

**RE Staffing Discussion**

- Doug moved and Sue seconded that we go into executive session.
- Sue moved that the board authorize Judy to take ownership of the nursery school issue; Sheila seconded the motion, which was adopted.

**Discussion to Plan Staffing for Judy's Departure**

- Steve Ramshur will create and place on Kona an electronic document the board will use to indicate their staffing choices.
- We'll focus on the positives of our own decision, not the negatives of the other choices.

**Communications Task Force Update**

- The task force looked at online workspace tools and recommended Kona, which is free, easy to learn, hosts Windows, PowerPoint, PDFs, etc., accommodates calendars and allows for threaded conversations in one place. You can associate your Google account with it.
- To guide the creation of actual content, the task force will construct a set of key messages.

**Process Observation**

- Sue believes we stayed on track until we got to the nursery staffing discussion, but considering the diversity of opinion, that is understandable.