

Unitarian Society of Hartford
Board of Directors
Unitarian Meeting House – February 10, 2009

Members Participating: Nina Elgo, Martha Page; Mike Roy; Jim Venneman; Rev BJ Jamestone, Carolyn Cartland; Heather Ferguson Hull
Others Participating: Gail Syring; Brian Mullen,
Members Absent: Amy Hines
Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. Reading 568 – by Heather Ferguson Hull – HAPPY BIRTHDAY MIKE!

President's Report	Testimonial for Stewardship?	
Minister's Report	In addition to her written report, BJ asked that we consider what we would need to do to accommodate growth if we go back to one service.	~
DRE report	In addition to her written report, Gail reported that the communication Sub-Council and youth group are working together to put together a Facebook for the congregation. Conflict resolution group meeting is scheduled on the 26 th .	
Strategic Plan update	Martha shared with the Board the Council on Administration Strategic Plan Update, noting the progress we have made with respect to the hiring of administrative positions. She observed that we should probably change #1 from Society Administrator to Business Mgr. and Administrative Assistant. Roles of staff and board positions should be better defined, in particular to the extent that that the staff works with individuals like the Treasurer, as the interaction is idiosyncratic. There was agreement that after the next budget cycle, there ought to be some discussion re: whether roles and responsibilities should be more clearly articulated, e.g. "position expectations" for the role of Treasurer. Administrative Support for the congregation is consistent with the governance structure. How much infrastructure can we carry given our size? Next step should be how can volunteer coordinator work be best accomplished given limitations in our financial resources. As to constructing a communication system – agreement that with David Newton and Brian Mullen's work, much progress has been made. As to adapting the building and grounds to accommodate the strategic vision initiative, we need to assess the feasibility of our current structure, including an analysis of sunk costs, opportunity costs, implementation plan, financial resources. The board was in agreement that USH probably made the most progress with Strategic	

	Initiatives for this Council.	
Brian Mullen	Brian reports that he is finishing end of year work and is segueing to Stewardship and budget	
Martha Page	<p>Searching for Sexton; still tracking on the money coming in. Budget process kicks off this week. Council Chairs will be beginning this process.</p> <p>Green Sanctuary Fund – They are asking for permission to plow their profits back into the greening of the sanctuary, to extent they are self- funding.</p> <p>Issue needs to be clarified as to our policy around groups who generate profits, and that they be allowed to seek approval by the board to reinvest in something that benefits the congregation at large.</p>	<p>Motion by Carolyn Cartland that we ask the Green Sanctuary committee to send us a request as to what they want to do with their profit with the understanding that if it benefits the meeting house at large, it may be submitted to the Board for approval; Martha Page second. Approved.</p>
Mike Roy	Becky Pardoe has agreed to be Chair of Council for Community Within. Mike also discussed with IASC re: sign policy. IASC is on board with our policy and steps, which need to be taken before acting on such measures, e.g. Torture is a Moral Issue sign, especially with respect to ensuring there is a educational component to the action taken.	
Carolyn Cartland	Social Justice Strategic Initiative up next; Carolyn and COSJ will be meeting with COM on 3/2/09 to prepare for the next report at Board. At large report- COSJ doing survey.	
Two services	<p>Board members shared some sentiments and discussion: Parking lot issues, lack of feeling of camaraderie because don't see those who might be at the other service, effect on choir members with kids having to go to early service. Are more people coming? In total – 157 attending both services reflecting a number which has gone down from when we first went to two services. People not coming regularly. 300 is capacity of sanctuary. Hard to see less people in the service. Everything takes on more energy. Whether we are focusing on the two services as the culprit when it may be just a convenient focal point for our pain. Do we need a way to review for renewal of the two services? How will we know how we are doing? The plan to grow and have the capacity to grow was behind the two services issue. Effective use of our</p>	

	staff to have two services?	
Vision 2018	Discussion around worship, continuation of good music, sense of ease and consistency; Not as much going on in Jon Luopa's time with respect to programs. Policy board now enjoys more leisure, more staff doing the work. Want congregation feeling excited, energized, instead of feeling tapped. Consistency in service? Worship predictable. Multi-use facility, green sanctuary, natural light, fabulous spaces for children and youth, make money, perceived as a community asset – (community meeting place, church as integral part of the community in which it resides, day care, soup kitchen, clinic, building exists to serve the people not the other way around. Be a place that has something to offer to the larger community, learning tree – community continuing education.	
Process check-in		

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for March 10, 2009 at 7pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Nina Elgo, Board Secretary