

Unitarian Society of Hartford
Board of Directors
Unitarian Meeting House –November 11, 2008

Members Participating: Heather Ferguson-Hull, Nina Elgo, Martha Page; Jim Venneman; Rev BJ Jamestone,
Others Participating: Gail Syring;
Members Absent: Carolyn Cartland; Brian Mullen Mike Roy
Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Item	Discussion	Motion/Action
Report: Bill Young	<p>Bill reported on the Building the World We Dream About (BTWWDA) program, which was a Board initiated program discussed two years ago. In his update, he shared a little bit about BTWWDA, which is an anti-racism, anti-oppression program sponsored by the UUA and where the participants in the program are at this point. Some of the background includes Bill's attendance at a UUA conference on these issues in 2007, leading to our application for and acceptance by the UUA to participate in the BTWWDA program by May 2007. In January 2008, the curriculum was introduced to the congregation from the pulpit to determine initial interest, initially drawing 70 people, from which 50 attended an information session. About 25 people started the program in earnest. The curriculum, which involves intensive self-discovery and examination is demanding and difficult personal work which takes an inevitable toll, resulting in a strong, committed and stable group of 15 since May 2008. Bill noted that the group is moving to the next stage from self-discovery to focusing its efforts externally, toward congregation action. Bill also reported that with the depth of commitment and feeling may come anxiety and concern regarding what can happen within the congregation, especially given the experiences and increased sense of urgency on the part of the participants. Discussion around the hope that the Board can support and nurture the energy of the participants who have made such an intense commitment to this work.</p>	
Martha Page, Treasurer	<p>Martha raised her concern and asked the Board to resolve an Festival of the Season request that we consider whether the cost of the FOS of \$1500, which</p>	

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	<p>is budgeted to generate \$1300, and thus purportedly resulting in a loss of \$200 is acceptable. She further advised that she thought the \$1300 figure was far too optimistic, and thus a shortfall of some much greater amount was very likely. Gail reported that having done a review of the craft materials in stock, she was convinced that the expenses could be significantly less, especially if we do only 4-5 crafts. In any event it was agreed with a basic Coffee House, we would be able to limit the FOS expenditures to a \$200 budget shortfall.</p> <p>Much discussion then ensued about the funding of a volunteer coordinator. After a review of our finances, a recognition that our endowment has taken a hit as a result of the market crash and thus are at risk of falling out of compliance with our constitutional requirements of maintaining the endowment at twice the level of our operating budget, it was agreed that we would not pursue hiring of a volunteer coordinator at this time and reconsider this for next year. It was agreed that more communication to the congregation as to the need for a volunteer coordinator should occur when we revisit this issue but at this time, all agreed it would be prudent to put this on hold.</p>	
President's Report	<p>Heather reported that the Hartt Community Division would like to use our space for rehearsal in exchange for providing musicians and/or soloists for our services to help us defray the costs of our music program. Hartt might also offer us a benefit concert. Agreed that we could try this as a pilot for six months and that we would benefit from increased exposure as well as assistance with our music program; if Hartt would pay for security, the consensus was in favor of working with Hartt on this.</p> <p>Heather also reported that Mattie sent a thank you note for the compensation increase. Heather also sent flowers, on behalf of the board, to Manchester to our facilitators for their work with us on the retreat.</p>	

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Minister's Report	In addition to her report, BJ discussed worship issues, neighborhood network initiatives and conflict resolution and how we might find productive and appropriate ways to channel concerns expressed by individuals in our congregation. Gail strongly suggested that we review the article she distributed called Meeting People where they are and Moving on. We discussed the specially called meeting this weekend as an opportunity to also discuss BJ's concerns re: whether the finance committee should meet monthly or not, the frequency of meetings in general, as well as governance, mission/vision issues and conflict management. BJ indicated her hope that we would divide ourselves into fully "empowered" pockets which would then come to the Board to make recommendations, as opposed to our hashing out details within the Board meetings.	~
DRE report	Gail had submitted her written report and given there were no questions or concerns, added nothing additional to her report.	
Process check-in		

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for December 9, 2008 at 7pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Nina Elgo, Board Secretary