

## **The First Universalist Church of Yarmouth**

### **Board of Directors Meeting 1/9/12 Minutes**

#### **Opening Remarks and Lighting of the Chalice Rev. Jennifer**

**In attendance** – Jane Cleaves, Tom Settlemyre, Deb Rice, Brian Peters, Dorothy McAloney, Ruth White. Cindy Guernsey, Marge Titcome

**Warrant** – The board signed the warrant for the Mid-winter meeting and Ruth posted it in the gathering room

#### **Stewardship Report - Marge**

##### **Good news:**

Education: 2 forums on what do you receive from this place (what fills your cup)  
33 families invited to 12/9; about half came  
Family Forum 1/9: 6 families plus Stewardship + Jane. 4 “new” families (1 pledges)

Oral history project  
Board Development ~ Polarity Mapping

##### Building Community:

2 Fun Nights (Knots & Games) ~ more to come  
The 2 above forums  
(Pot luck lunches; Hungarian dinner)  
Pledge Campaign 2 dinners planned  
Co-launching Member Services Task Force

##### Pledge Campaign

2012 planning well underway ~ 3 pronged approach (2%+; 24 visits; 2 dinners)  
Letters to go out by next week. (also, pledge quarterly reports to go out)

##### Short Term:

2011 support to Bridge Campaign & 2011 Pledge Campaign follow-up

How many are we? The Stewardship Committee contacted people who are listed on our books as members but who do not pledge. It turns out that we have 158 members not 204. Changing our numbers with the UUA will require that Reverend Jennifer and Jane write a letter to the UUA asking for a change in the amount of dues we pay.

#### **The Challenge**

Culture change is very very slow ~ 5 years is expected ~ and we spend ahead of ourselves. Our reserves are exhausted. The income is likely to be \$14,000 short for the year. Congregation voted to see a review of the budget at the mid-year meeting, with recommendations on next steps.

**Determined: The Executive Board and the Stewardship Committee will meet Sunday, January 15 at 4:30 to plan the agenda for the Mid-Year Meeting.**

**Reports – Reverend Jennifer:**

Two people will report about the current RE program at our next Board meeting. They would like to be placed early on the agenda.

There have been vast improvements in counting the money and helping Suzanne but at auction and fair, money needs to be counted by someone on the Board or on Stewardship. Money comes in in dribs and drabs after the main event. David is doing a great job but he is not able to come sit with Suzanne to go over finances and that causes stress on Suzanne. If Ben or anyone else is taking the part of Logos program can they work with Suzanne. How can we train up a leader who is willing to do that part of the treasury position that is missing.

**Report** : Financial - The financial report is not available at this moment but will be available for the mid-year meeting.

**Report - Buildings & Grounds**                      January 6, 2012

*The following items have been completed:*

**Inspections**

The Fire Marshall's Office performed their annual inspection for the Village Nursery School.

**Parsonage Furnace**

Annual service was performed on the Parsonage furnace.

**Church Boiler**

A failed component in one of the church boilers was replaced under service contract.

*The following are in progress:*

**Snow Shoveling**

A sign-up list has been posted for volunteer snow shovelers. In the past, we have never gotten this effort fully subscribed (but it always snows!).

**Apse Painting**

Scaffolding arrangements have been made. The tentative date to start is Jan. 14.

**Steeple Maintenance**

The steeple inspector has been contacted for a report and plan for any follow-up work.  
*Awaiting further investigation:*

### **Electrical Work**

Two remaining items a installing new light switches for the Sanctuary and reinstalling the lantern over the side entrance. This work is on hold until funds are available.

### **Common Room Carpet**

The committee looking into increasing the rental potential of the church facilities is interested in moving ahead with carpet replacement. The project needs a decision on what flooring to use based on the funds available.

### **Assisted Listening in Sanctuary**

It would be desirable to have assisted listening devices connected to the Sanctuary sound system for use by persons with hearing impairment. The UUA has been contacted to see if they still have trial equipment available to loan to us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce Butler and Pete Titcomb, *Buildings & Grounds Committee*

### **Old Business**

**Voted:** The Personnel Committee **recommended that we give Suzanne an additional week of vacation after the Clam Festival. This is appropriate given the current level of compensation. Now she gets one paid week off a year for a 25 hour a week job.**

Deb Rice moved we give her the extra week. Jane seconded. All voted in favor. The Board thanks Suzanne for all the hard work she does for us!

**Nominating Committee** – Jane will talk to them again about the treasurer’s position. They are talking about offering Skyping if people can’t get to the meeting.

**Personnel committee** - At annual meeting or Mid-year we need to vote on the by law changes.

#### **By-Law Change:**

**Proposed: we move the personnel committee from the executive committee to a standing personnel committee..**

We hired someone to do cleaning. Person cleaned once and then quit. Personnel is looking for another person to clean until Ted is able to come back

**Rentals** - Cindy and Tom have collected rates and ideas from other churches to see what they charge so that we can raise revenue by charging more for rentals. Painting the apse, replace flooring in common room. Painting sanctuary, paint bathrooms. Flooring in common room and possibly painting floor in gathering would help and cork around wall instead of lots of bulletin board would be less cluttered looking. They also propose freshening up other walls with art work with our own people to charge more for parties and gatherings.

They want to honor work that aesthetics committee so will be doing so they will do things that aesthetics isn’t working on.

Dorothy reported that Anne McClain had emailed the shopping notes information about the church but they have not put it in the paper. Dorothy will take the announcement to the shopping notes and hand deliver it.

### **New Business**

Nursery School Rent notification – Must be done before January, 2013. This should be part of the budgeting process.

Result of Christmas Eve plate envelopes – Will be split between Minister's descretionary fund and the operating budget;

Date for Lunch after church in February – Feb. 12, 2012

Grant writing – Laural Amabile, Ann Swardlick and Rev. J have worked on this. It is possible that we will be granted money this year but more likely that we should go for a larger amount next year. We are going for a large growth initiative for churches of our size and it needs to benefit both UU as a whole and other churches in our area. Reverend Jennifer is taking a study week next week to write the pages and pages of analysis needed to apply for the grant.

### **Communication –**

From Ted, our sextant thanking the board for their support.

The board sends a big thank you to the Worship Council and Welcoming Committee for listening and responding so quickly to the board's concerns about announcements.

### **Other**

Preble Street – April 3

Remember to count the plate

1/15 - Jane

1/22 - Ruth

1/29 - Deb

2/5 -Cindy

2/12 - Tom

2/19 - Dorothy

2/26 - Brian

