

First Universalist Church of Yarmouth, Maine  
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
**January 21, 2007 4:00 PM**

Attending: Debbie Woodbury, Barbara Trentacosta, Marge Titcomb, Steve Thomas, Ken Nye, Sue Myers, Jenn McAdoo, Jane Makela, Diana Levin, Isabel Denham, Jane Cleaves, Rev. Gail Collins-Ranadive.

Also attending: Brent West                      Unable to attend: Anne Turner, Roger Comstock

- Meeting commenced at 4:00 with Marge reading a quote from the Annual Canvass brochure. Each Board member received Sarah Marshall's generous gift of the book, *Tips to Make Good Group Decisions* by Craig Freshley.

### Reports

- ❖ The Board agreed that approval of the minutes shall occur via email; upon receiving the minutes after each meeting, Board members will email corrections/additions to the clerk.
- ❖ Minister's Report: Rev. Gail's January report outlined upcoming interim topics we should be evaluating: normal ministry duties, processing emotions around Erik's leaving, clarifying who we are as a congregation, clarifying leadership through revision of the by-laws, connecting with UUA resources and renewing our vision & stewardship while preparing for a new minister. Rev. Gail notes that members of the congregation have indicated they want to continue the small forum format of discussing what's going on. Rev. Gail also passed out the form for evaluation of her interim ministry which is to be completed by Board members by Feb. 11; we will meet Feb. 4 noon -1:00 to prepare the evaluation.
- ❖ Treasurer's Report: The Board received Roger's report but as Roger couldn't attend the meeting, questions were deferred until he can be present.
- ❖ DRE's Report: Jenn's report brought up the Village Nursery School possibly leasing space in our church; the space will still be available evenings for the youth group, Sunday RE, etc at times other than weekday mornings. The Board unanimously approved of encouraging this opportunity. As there will be some work to do to prepare the building for this, Steve T., Jane M., Diana L. and Isabel D. will join Jenn in this transition work, targeting organization of a spring yard sale of leftover, unnecessary nursery equipment in the church. Debbie will write up a contract for the Board's approval; rent of \$500/month was approved by the Board.
- ❖ Building and Grounds Report: Both furnaces—the defective one in the sanctuary and the aged vestry furnace—must be replaced; cost is estimated at \$34,379.
- ❖ Steeple Report: Jerry Myers' financial report indicates that the goal of beginning Phase II, repair of the belfry, has been met: the \$94,500 needed to commence this work in the spring has been raised. Roxanne Eflin of Maine Preservation notified Ken that grants of \$50,000/year may soon be available to churches for restoration work. The Board endorsed the following statement by Ken: *"By unanimous vote the Steeple Committee recommends to the Board that the 2007-08 Canvass be focused exclusively on raising the money needed to fund our operating budget and that it not include raising money to restore the steeple...the goal of the Canvass this year (should) be not simply to raise the money to fund the operating budget, but to change the prevailing attitude in the congregation toward financial support of the church programs."*

## Actions

1. Mid-Year Meeting: The agenda of the January 28 meeting was presented. After Ken's upbeat introduction, Jane will present the steeple project update and display the historical plaque from the Village Improvement Society to be posted on our church building.

Brent explained the Financial Overview slides he will present. He described the considerations driving the 16% budget increase. He floated the idea of member loans (to finance the capital expenses, most notably the furnaces), putting amounts into the yearly budget to make annual interest payments and to, eventually, repay principal. The Board supports this approach. Brent will emphasize the ethical component of the proposed budget, including paying fair share of UUA dues and compensating church employees fairly, in compliance with UUA guidelines.

Marge will present the Canvass Update as outlined in the Canvass Team's minutes of Jan 10. Brochures will be sent the first week of February, conversations with key supporting families to follow. Info sessions will be held Feb.18 and 25 (sponsored by the Finance Committee) leading up to March 4 with Rev. Sinkford preaching. Jane C. and Diana are in charge of food; a reception on Mar 4 at 1:00 will be held at the Swardlicks' home. **Board members & lay leaders are charged with the responsibility of spearheading the Canvass spirit of generous support.**

Eva will present an update on the ministerial search. Nancy Dix's Jan. 20 report announced that the Search Committee is in the pre-candidating stage. They anticipate that their selection will be made by March 14, to be voted on by the Board promptly. Two possible candidating weeks for the congregation to meet the candidate have been identified as Mar 24 - Apr 1 and Apr 22-29.

2. Revised by-laws: Copies of the revised by-laws were distributed to Board members. Twenty copies will be available at the mid-year meeting; they will also be posted on our website. Info sessions will be held in April; voting to adopt the by-laws occurs at Annual Meeting in June.

## Visioning and Planning

1. Measurable Objectives: The chart of Board Goals FY07 was handed out, with dates projected for completion and individuals signed up for each objective (see attached).

## News to note

1. Jenn announced that a "chill chaser" potluck will be held Saturday, Feb. 24 at 5:30. This is not a fundraising event—just an opportunity to get together socially and eat good food.

2. The UUA has invited congregations to organize workshops to re-examine the wording of the UU Principles. It was suggested that this could be incorporated in our congregation forums.

3. Isabel recommended a new DVD in the library about 'break-through congregations'.

## Closing

Unsung Heroes for this month: Isabel Denham for her many years guiding Green Spirit; the anonymous donor for funds for a new dishwasher given in gratitude for the amazing work of our Evening Alliance; Tom McAdoo for once again generously donating printing of our Canvass materials; Lois Howlett for her ongoing yoga classes, which not only yield healthy bodies but also contribute financially to our church. Thanks also to Lois for representing us on the Tri-community Inter-faith Council. Jane Cleaves for helping us all feel we have a trusted connection to the medical world, as well as nurturing us with food in so many venues over so many years. Debbie Woodbury for the sparkle that she brings to our church office—always a warm greeting.

The Board Meeting efficiently adjourned at 5:55pm. **The next Board Meeting will be Sunday, February 18, 4:00-6:30pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Trentacosta, Clerk