

**First Unitarian Society of Ithaca**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**  
December 10, 2019

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Vice President Wendy Salomon called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) to order at 6:04 pm on Tuesday, December 10, 2019.

**Trustees Present:**

Angela Zhang, Matt Hare (Clerk & Scribe), Elton Hall, Kim Wilkinson, Diana Nier, Lyn Staack, Wendy Salomon (Vice President), Jennifer Streid-Mullen (ex-officio; Treasurer), Rev. Margaret Weis (ex-officio; minister)

**Trustees Absent:**

Andy Turner (President)

A quorum was present being a majority of the full Board (currently eight members).

**FUSIT Members & Guests:**

None

**Handouts:**

FUSIT Sunday service attendance history

Personnel search process calendar (3 searches)

**Agenda Item # 1: Opening Reading and Minutes Approval**

Wendy Salomon shared a reading ('whose packing your parachute') and lit the chalice.

**MOTION:** Approve the BoT November 12, 2019 meeting minutes shown in Google Docs folder as of the date and time of this meeting ("2019-11-12 - BoT\_Minutes"). **PASSED .**

**Agenda Item # 2: Upcoming Dates**

Date	Event	Comments
12/15	Quiet Christmas Service	6:30 pm in Sanctuary
12/17	All Church Night	5:30 potluck, team meetings start at 6 pm
12/18	Pub Theology	Liquid State Brewery, 6:30 pm
12/21	Winter Solstice Celebration	2-4 pm
12/24	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	5:15 and 8 pm at Sage Chapel, Cornell Campus

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Date	Event	Comments
01/05	Newcomer drop-in circle	
01/25	Joint meeting of BoT and Staff	Rev. Margaret and Susan Weis house; 1:30-4:30pm at 685 Sheldon Road, Freeville, NY

**Agenda Item # 3: Unsung Heroes for November 2018**

Susan Weis	Helping Rev. Margaret while surgery-disabled
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**Agenda Item # 4: BoT minute - need volunteer**

Andy Turner was volunteered by the group for a January BoT minute the week before the scheduled Congregational Conversation on Finance (see below)

**Agenda Item # 5: BoT photos and Breeze update**

Photos of BoT members are on the web page (need a photo from Lyn), but will also be put on the bulletin board. If you want to change your photo, now is a good time.

Breeze listerve: People have to opt-in to the new Breeze equivalent to listserve (trying to determine whether to have listserve moderated or not).

Does the BoT need Breeze training, and if so, what aspects are critical for us?

**Agenda Item # 6: Finance Summary by Jennefer Streid-Mullen**

Earned \$13,800 from service auction. UUA retirement plan has changed, but no action is required by BoT.

**Agenda Item # 7: Minister Report by Reverend Margaret Weis**

Jessica has been with FUSIT one year.

Sage Chapel is being renovated with plans to remove ½ of pews on Dec. 23. Trying to negotiate a change in their plans. (this got resolved)

Service cancelation - Staff have been updating procedures & protocols. Discussion about alternative ways of dealing with bad weather in the future. How do we get the

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word out in a timely way? How can we serve the folks who show up at church anyway?  
Good feedback about Rev. Margaret's impromptu webcast sermon.

Searches: DRE team is assembled. Working on building search teams for the two other searches (Sextant and Membership Coordinator). Rev. Margaret is working with Sandy to learn some of his physical plant knowledge.

Should we institute a Committee on Ministry? No, EXCO can serve this function for now.

**Agenda Item # 8: Refine Recycle Sale (RS) conversation plan (Jan. 26)**

Congregational conversation - how advertise and structure the conversation to get people there and to do more than consider recycle sale fate. The conversation should be more broadly about fundraising at FUSIT, the volunteer effort required, and the degree of connection to vision/mission that we want associated with fundraising efforts. Board Minute could help frame this conversation - plan for week prior  
Recycle sale, Babies First and Sage Chapel are the three ways FUSIT engages the broader community - besides fundraising, what are the implications of dropping the Recycle Sale, both negative and positive (opportunities)?

Coordinate with Recycle Sale leaders in terms of structure & goal of this conversation  
Need to be explicit that current model for RS is not sustainable and we are considering an end to RS. Unsustainability is due to volunteer fatigue and because of the huge commitment required as currently conducted.

How do we make up \$35K if RS and auction are not sustainable? What does this amount of money represent in terms of staff or program?

Next steps - Wendy will circulate draft conversation talking points during December - Google Doc.

**Agenda Item # 9: Strategic Planning update**

Committee members are taking shifts next to bulletin board. Planning for next steps in engagement, both small and big gatherings.

Dreamcatchers could use more bulletin board space if available.

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**Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**

Minutes taken by Matt Hare (BoT Clerk)

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