

## USH Board Meeting – July 12, 2022

Present – Eve Pech, Dana Donovan, Peter Meny, Judy Sullivan, Paul Cipriano, Jon Covault, Tina Davies, Sarah McKenzie

Guests – David and Janice Newton, Rick Tsukada, Stu and Bev Spence, Richard and Jean Groothuis, Laura Cipriano, Jim Venneman.

6:33 – Started with check-ins.

6:42 – Meeting called to order, and Eve welcomed the new members of the Board and those who have moved to new positions (Paul and Judy, new; and Dana and Jon, changed Board positions), and thanked the outgoing members of the Board, Rob Spector and Bob Hewey.

6:43 – Dana read the Board Covenant.

6:45 – Approval of June Board Meeting Minutes. Peter Meny moved to approve, Tina seconded

Aye – 6

Nay – 0

Abstain – 2 (new Board members)

6:50 – Village Memorandum of Understanding. MOU was approved by the Board at the June Meeting, signed on June 22, and is entered into these minutes.

6:51 – Worship Associates: The WAs would like Board participation at the Ingathering Service in September. Eve also received an email from Sue Smolski regarding the events of the past few months. WAs are looking at time commitments, and think that maybe an incoming minister might only preach twice a month (like at UUS:E), to allow for more time for other ministerial duties. What is our focus and mission right now, how many members do we have, how many children are involved in RE right now? Information would be helpful for the WAs as they plan for future services. Rick gave us an overview of his view of how Ingathering will potentially work this fall. If any Board Members would like to be involved in the Ingathering Service, please let Peter know. Date of Ingathering is September 11. WAs are tentatively planned all the way through December, just in case.

7:12 – Governance Proposal. (see attached) Vote was postponed from last meeting. The Board recognizes the work the Governance Committee did, we feel that it has merit, and we support moving forward and presenting the proposal for Constitutional change to a vote of the congregation. Eve made the motion, Dana seconded.

Aye – 8

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

7:19 – Update on ministerial search. We interviewed a potential candidate, and made a verbal offer; unfortunately, he decided not to pursue interim ministry in the fall for this year. Eve has reached out to the UUA, Rev. Keith Kron is on vacation until August 1; Christine Purcell is covering for him, and has reached out to another candidate and will keep us posted as to the availability of other candidates. Rick would like us to find a name for the process for ease of understanding with the congregation. We are looking for a contract minister.

7:28 – Budget Update – Vote on the 2022-2023 Budget will be taken at the August Board Meeting. Bob H had prepared a balanced budget as of June 20, 2022; but Jon may need to make some additional adjustments to that budget depending on what happens in the minister search. Jon would like to meet with Eve and Dana regarding signatories for various accounts, but especially the minister’s discretionary fund (which has no current signer).

7:45 – Council Reports? No written reports this month. Judy filled us in on Social Justice: USH was represented at West Hartford Pride, in conjunction with the Universalist Church of West Hartford. Hartford Pride is on September 10 & Judy will coordinate our presence there. The UUA is holding a reproductive justice training to work with the congregation and the community. Judy will send out additional information to the e-news for anyone who is interested.

7:53 – Guest comments? David made a comment on the frustrations of the current search for a contract minister, we should be proactive with plan B – maybe increase \$ for single services and look for pulpit supply who are willing to come in for more than one service (not necessarily in a row). WAs are also already working up a plan for the fall assuming that we don’t have a contract minister in place. If people have questions regarding services/pulpit supply, reach out to the Worship Associates. Rick wanted to know how to organize an after-service meal or potluck after Thanksgiving, or Rosh Hashanah, etc... Who takes that on? It doesn’t really fall under the WA aegis.

8:08 – Quick Break for the Board

8:18 – The Board went into Executive Session. Dana will arrange to hold a meeting with the staff of the church. Meeting tentatively scheduled for Tuesday July 19 at noon, pending staff availability. Peter made the Proposal – to contract with Annie Witzler for a 6-month contract as an Interim RE Coordinator with an option to renew. Paul Seconded.

Aye – 8

Nay – 0

Abstention – 0

Board will form a committee to draft an office administrator job description. Hopefully to have a job description for the August Board Meeting.

The Board adjourned at 9:32



Sarah McKenzie <sarah.h.mckenzie@gmail.com>

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## Agenda for this evening's Board meeting

1 message

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**Eve Pech** <elpech@sbcglobal.net>

Tue, Jul 12, 2022 at 10:06 AM

To: DANA DONOVAN <dedanu49@gmail.com>, Sarah McKenzie <sarah.h.mckenzie@gmail.com>, Jon Covault <jncovault@hotmail.com>, Christina Davies <daviesush@gmail.com>, Peter Meny <plmeny9@gmail.com>, Paul Cipriano <pcipriano01@gmail.com>, Judy Sullivan <jasullivan57@gmail.com>

Dear Board,

See below agenda for tonight's Board meeting. Let me know if you feel there are any omissions.

Eve

USH BOARD MEETING AGENDA -7/12/22 at 6:30pm, via Zoom

6:30pm Check in, All - 15 mins.

6:45pm Opening Words, Eve - 3 mins.

6:48pm Board Covenant, Dana - 2 mins.

6:50pm Approval of June Board Minutes, Sarah - 2 mins.

6:52pm Village Memo of Understanding- (to be entered into Minutes)- 2 min.

6:54pm WA input and questions- 6 min

7:00pm Discussion and vote on Governance Proposal-10 min

7:10pm Update on Minister search- 5 min

7:15pm Updates on 2022-23 Budget, Stewardship- 10 mins

7:25pm Acceptance of Council Reports, Comments, Questions- 15 mins

7:40pm Guest comments- 10min

7:50pm Executive Session

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**June 20, 2022**

For many years the Unitarian Society of Hartford and The Village for Families and Children has enjoyed a mutually amiable and supportive relationship and looks forward to continuing that relationship.

Understanding that The Village in responding to current needs will be constructing a perimeter fence around their property, we have consulted with each other on any thoughts about the nature of the fence against the USH property.

We have determined the solar installation at the Meeting House will be most effective if no trees, shrubs, or obstructions are "planted" that would now or ultimately cast shadows on the solar panels when the sun is at low angles to the south. We have agreed this can be avoided and USH greatly appreciates this planning for the applicable portion of the fence and open space to the South.

From time-to-time events at the Meeting House have used some of the open space adjacent on the Village property. Understanding this infrequent use, a gate will be appropriately placed to accommodate such use upon permission and when not impacting any planned Village events.

The Unitarian Society of Hartford supports the Village plans for the new fence and is pleased to have been consulted thereby continuing our amiable relationship with the Village.

Over the years the Meeting House Sanctuary has been made available for certain Village meetings as a good neighbor guest arrangement and the option remains.

Signed

The Unitarian Society of Hartford  
Robert M. Spector  
Rob Spector  
President

Digitally signed by Robert  
M. Spector  
Date: 2022.06.24  
11:21:31 -0400

The Village  
  
Hector Glynn  
Chief Operating Officer