

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I've recently been approached by several people wanting the Board to discuss or vote on issues related to UUSS, so I want to take time in my letter to revisit the process for accomplishing that.

First of all, with the establishment of the Program Council, all issues related to program (activities and most committee issues) should be brought to that body. Edie Isaacs and Jeff Voeller are the co-chairs. You would approach the Board of Trustees if you have issues related to financing, building and grounds, long range planning or personnel. For example, the recent Art Exhibit Committee worked with the Program Council to get a charter approved, and then went to the Board to discuss the process for displaying and selling art in the auditorium. It was a wonderful example of how this new system works, and I appreciate Anna Andrews' patience, because the process was a little rocky.

The agenda for the Board meetings is set about a week before the 4th Thursday meeting, after the Executive Committee meets. That body (the Executive Committee) discusses issues at hand and decides which ones can be dealt with outside of the board meeting and which need the input of the entire board. If a member or committee wants an item on the Board agenda, a written proposal must be submitted to the President of the Board about two weeks before the board meeting. This gives the president time to look at the proposal, clarify issues and put it on the Executive Committee agenda.

UUSS members are always welcome at Board meetings. Attending one is an eye-opener into the process and policies necessary for UUSS to function smoothly. The Board does a lot of footwork before the meetings, via email. Members who drop into meetings are often unaware of an issue's history, so if guests were allowed to be a part of the discussion, our meetings would tend to be unfocused and much longer. This "be seen and not heard" policy may seem cruel and unnecessary, but I assure you, there are other opportunities for members to voice their opinions and ask questions.

Board members are always available via phone or email if you have a question or issue you want help with. I'm also delighted with the interest and turnout at the monthly Congregational Conversation meetings, held on the first Sunday of every month after the 11:00 service. This is where questions are asked, rumors are squelched and issues are raised. Together we can move mountains and

calm waters. I so appreciate being a part of this spiritual community.

Mary Howard

President, Board of Trustees

GET ON BOARD

The Board is delighted to announce that UUSS member David McMorris has been hired as our new, permanent Business Administrator. David comes with 30 years' experience in managing and a passion for seeing that UUSS grows and flourishes. He has worked on the Stewardship Drive and, since November, has been doing the finances in the office. Look for him in the bass section of the choir! He began his job on February 27th.

Acting Business Administrator, Marsha Kilian, will be resuming her civilian role at UUSS. We can't express fully our gratitude to Marsha for asking the Board to make some much-needed policies and for bringing professionalism and accountability to the office. We hope that Marsha can now find time to paint and attend Sunday services in peace!

With the resignation of board member Diane Ramsey, the Board approved the appointment of John Abbott to fill her spot for the remainder of this fiscal year. John will be the board liaison to the Endowment and Personnel Committees. Since Rev. Cox will have more responsibilities without an intern minister, we increased RE Coordinator Liz Leavy's hours so that she could assume a larger role in RE affairs.

The Board, with the help of an outside contractor, reviewed the bids for the new RE roof and chose Sierra SPCV Company as the roof contractor. More information on the roof can be obtained in the office. Work will begin as soon as the loan is secured.

Finally, the Board began setting priorities for next year's budget. These are the items we're examining and will prioritize at our February meeting:

Membership Coordinator
Bookkeeper
Program Council
Intern Minister -- budget ½ salary for hiring in 2007-08
Capital Outlay
COLAS/Staff Compensation.