

Update to the Board of Trustees  
Unitarian Church in Westport  
March, 2015

Look, it's spring! Well, there's still snow on the ground, but still the weather has been above freezing, the clocks have sprung ahead, and once more living in New England seems like a reasonable thing to do.

For this meeting we welcome back Reverend Roberta from her time away, and want to take time in our meeting to refresh ourselves on the role of the board in policy governance in times of transition. If it takes 3 years to really solidify governance in the new model, and we're in year 2 (or maybe year 1), and so many things need to be done now even though the policies aren't yet codified and the processes aren't fully defined, how does the Board determine what to do, what to delegate, what to oversee, and what to defer? (And can these guidelines be printed on a wallet-sized card for ease of reference?)

We will also take some time for a "big question" discussion. This month, I'd like to discuss the following short excerpt from the "confessions of an evangelical UU" blog on wizdUUm (which is "an inclusive, social justice-oriented online community through which we seek to model and co-create the tools to build Beloved Community")  
<http://www.wizduum.net/blog/confessions?page=20>

I had first heard about Unitarian Universalism in college. In my early 20s is when friends started getting married, and for those who weren't religious yet didn't want a wedding at City Hall, a Unitarian minister was the minister of choice. You told them what you wanted said, and more importantly what you didn't want said, and the minister would happily go along with it. No questions asked. My friends and I all liked that about UU, but it didn't strike me as a religion that I would commit to. It had struck me as "fluffy." What was the point of belonging to a faith where you could believe whatever you wanted to believe?

So this month, the Big Question is: "what IS the point of belonging to a faith where you can believe whatever you want to believe"?

February and March have been quite busy with a lot of church work: supporting the Ministerial Search Committee with answers to questions candidates have for the board and preparing for candidating week, working on the constitutional amendment recommendations, supporting the YRSC on the launch of the canvass, preparing for the annual budget process and annual meeting... a lot has been going on since our last meeting. I know we've been in a period of transition for years now, but it seems that the impact of being "in between" was particularly acute this month.

"In the space between chaos and shape there was another chance."  
□ [\*Jeanette Winterson, The World and Other Places: Stories\*](#)

Michelle