

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

First and foremost, let me apologize for the lateness of this report – the month got a bit away from me.

The most exciting development, of course, is the culmination of the work of the search committee in recommending a final candidate for Senior Minister, and the upcoming Candidating Week. The Board has two sessions planned with Reverend Morehouse – a welcome pot luck dinner on Sunday night, meant to be a “getting to know you” event with spouses – and then a meeting with just board members on the Saturday preceding the call vote, to discuss any follow-up questions from the week’s activities. Please give some thought you what you’d like to discuss with/hear from John, so we can get the most out of both events. And of course, we are all welcome to participate in the generally available events as well, and I encourage maximum participation in whatever events call to you.

Another advantage of being so late with this report is that I am delighted to be able to say that we have successfully concluded the process to finalize the recommended constitutional revisions, with today’s unanimous favorable vote. I was very heartened at the level of participation in both meetings, and the active interest taken by the congregation in making sure the Constitution is a living document that works well for us all. We were all concerned about the number of congregational meetings this Spring, and while obviously I am happy to have the recommended changes passed, I am even happier to see the level of active engagement taken by a significant core of the membership in this participation.

Kudos also to Buildings and Grounds, for a great turnout on Cleanup Day! The place is looking sharp.

Speaking of “sharp”, we are all on pins and needles awaiting the completion of the canvass. Several board members have volunteered to make outreach calls to some not-yet-pledged congregants, and I thank you all for that. I know we are looking forward to an update from Deborah Quinn on the overall canvass status and next steps.

For tomorrow’s Big Question discussion, we get a do-over on last month’s topic, which we delayed due to an overstuffed agenda. So, in a repeat from my last report: 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”?

*Please understand my friend, that where you find yourself tomorrow is
a function of the positive decisions and actions you take today*

Akin A. Awolaja

See you tomorrow!
Michelle