

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

I am contemplating the end of the church year and the upcoming summer. Most years, summer is a bit of a pause in church life – there are more vacations and fewer meetings, summer lay-led services vary widely in topics and formality, and the weather can create a bit of a laid back vibe. This year in particular, it's a time of transition – saying goodbye to Roberta, getting ready to welcome John, new lay leadership assuming responsibilities following the annual meeting ... it feels more like an inflection point than usual.

The annual meeting will be over by the time we meet, but preparing for it was absorbing this month. Budget preparation and financial assessment was the main focus for communication over the past month, with spirited conversation at the town hall.

I am looking forward to the formal orientation for new board members, and hoping as many of us as possible will attend. Thanks to the Governance Committee for organizing this and building the foundation for improved documentation and training materials.

The June board meeting holds a lot of potential from my perspective, and has a real past/present/future breadth of focus. We will review our and Roberta's feedback on the interim process (past), move the ball down the field on some ongoing efforts like the policy manual and repairs and maintenance planning (present), and we'll welcome our new board members and plan for our goal setting offsite in the late summer (future). A pretty robust meeting agenda!

We didn't have a "big question" discussion on the agenda (because, well, "someone" *cough cough* forgot to submit one for consideration) but, if we have time, we can decide if we want to devote time to this – and if not, we'll be par for our course of carrying big questions over month to month. So if we do want to spend this time, I propose that our "big question" for consideration is:

What does "community" mean to us? What does it mean to be part of a church congregation?

And as we contemplate endings and beginnings:

"No, this is not the beginning of a new chapter in my life; this is the beginning of a new book! That first book is already closed, ended, and tossed into the seas; this new book is newly opened, has just begun! Look, it is the first page! And it is a beautiful one!" ~ C. JoyBell C.

See you Wednesday!
Michelle