

**First Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalist, Auburn, Maine**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**November 6, 2024**  
**Bonnie Soper Room**

**Present:** Anne Perron (Vice-President), Linda Greathouse (Clerk), Claire Hebert (member-at-large), John Spruill (member-at-large), Jane Pentheny (member-at-large), Ed Bell (member-at-large),

**Excused:** David Das (President), Rev. Terry Sweetser (minister)

**Guests:** None

**7:00 PM: The meeting was called to order** by Anne Perron, followed by the chalice lighting by Anne.

Anne shared opening words.

**7:03 PM: Executive Session:** There was a motion by Linda, seconded by John, and approved by all to go into Executive Session. Discussion ensued and Executive Session was ended with a motion by John, second by Jane, approval by all at 7:51 PM.

Brief sharing was done by all those in attendance.

***Board Chalice***

**Approval of Consent Agenda item:**

**October 2, 2024, minutes:** A motion to approve the Board minutes of October 2, 2024, was made by seconded by , and approved by all.

**Open Session:** No guests in attendance to present items for open session.

**David Das provided the following President's Report:**

A constructive President's Report – literally. The next few months will witness some much needed and anticipated renovations and repairs at 159 and 169 Pleasant St. On October 21, the Finance Committee gave the green light for:

- Repairs to the church roof (above Terry's office) and for some shingle replacement at 159 Pleasant St. There are currently sufficient funds to cover the cost – somewhere in the neighborhood of \$10,000 (a generous estimate)
- The Board to call a special congregational meeting to authorize the use of monies from the Hackett Fund to address renovations to the 1st floor apartment at 159 Pleasant St. (We have a very enthusiastic prospective tenant)

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The Hackett Fund resulted from the sale of the parsonage (yes, we did have a parsonage at 181 Park Avenue, Auburn; the house is no longer standing and the lot is now part of the Park Avenue Elementary School campus) in the 1980s. The Fund has been used intermittently to address ministerial housing costs in various ways. Esther Tucker suggested that we close out the Hackett Fund and put those monies to good 21st century use. The Board will ask the congregation at a special meeting on December 8 to approve the use of some of the Hackett Fund proceeds for the 159 renovations and that the balance be transferred to the Building Endowment Fund in the Maine Community Foundation account.

So, expect an extra lift (mechanical in this case) at church and activity over at 159. If you are interested in helping with the 159 project – there are various opportunities to do so – please contact Anne Perron. Don't be shy.

We plan to be increasingly intentional in seeking out grants and outside funding to address the needs of our historic building. For example, if Question 3 is approved on November 5, \$10 million will be available for non-profits to fund repairs and renovations. Perhaps we can link a grant project to the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the building.

Yours in mortar,

David

**Samantha McCune provided the following Religious Exploration Coordinator report:**

In the month of October 2024, Religious Education classes began. So far we have held classes for children ages 5-6 years old. Although, there is room to add additional ages as we are flexible to using a "one room schoolhouse" approach for the time being until the program grows more. We are still in need of volunteers to teach classes. So far the classes have been reliant on myself and one volunteer. In October, we also had a car representing our church at Mr. Drew and His Animal's Too Trunk or Treat event. We won 1st place for businesses/organizations that participated. This means we won a party or presentation from the center. No details are confirmed yet. I will be reaching out to them in order to schedule an event. Lastly, I also handed out some Religious Education flyers at the Trunk or Treat event to some families that asked. Thank you to everyone who provided candy donations! There was plenty for all of the children in attendance.

Submitted by: Sam McCune

**Board Member Communications:**

- A member of the congregation questioned if members who resign their

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membership receive follow-up communication from the church acknowledging their resignation.

- The Men's Group has expressed an interest in adding additional rental days.

**Discussion and Delegation:**

**Congregational Meeting Requested by Finance for December 8, 2024:**

Jane made a motion to authorize the request for a special congregational meeting on Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 11:30 AM to review the following:

- A brief review of the status of the 2024-2025 budget.
- To approve the dissolution of the Hackett Fund with funds to be distributed for use in renovations of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor apartment at 159 Pleasant Street, and all remaining funds to be transferred to the Building Endowment Fund in the Maine Community Foundation investment account.

The motion was seconded by John, and approved unanimously by those present.

**Peter Drucker Discussion:** The Board's planned discussion of Peter Drucker's Question #3 was deferred until a future meeting due to the absence of David Das and Rev. Terry Sweetser.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

**Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Bonnie Soper Meeting Room, all are invited to attend.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Greathouse  
Board Clerk