

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

Well, this summer has just flown by for me (though it's technically only about half over I guess). While the Board has not formally met over the summer, quite a lot of work has continued through this normally quiet period.

Is it just me, or are the summer services better attended than usual? The ones I went to were really well done and well appreciated. The worship and pastoral care associates have done a great job keeping that vital aspect of our community supercharged over the summer.

As I write this, tag sale preparations are in full swing, and I certainly took advantage of the opportunity to rehome some gently used items from games to sports equipment to household goods – and from the look of the storage area many of you did the same. I am SO appreciative of the efforts of the tag sale team, and I look forward to seeing it blossom this weekend. And I am hoping to bring home less stuff than I donated!

Our efforts in documenting policies continued through the summer, and I know drafts of several sections are (or will be) circulating in the days to come. This is a vital step in our move to policy governance and I hope all of you are similarly working on your sections.

Clearly one of the most significant areas of work over the summer was with Buildings and Grounds – paving the way (pun intended) for putting our best foot forward for homecoming with various upkeep projects. Some critical work on paving and roofing is coming to fruition shortly, and I also want to recognize the work done to keep the congregation informed about these efforts – great job! And, of course, the lift took a key step forward with the successful of the amendment to the zoning rules simplifying administrative requirements for the lift. I am hoping for clarity soon on the next steps in getting to a formal timeline, final budget and project plan for the actual installation.

I also want to note appreciation for the work of the Governance Committee in putting together the first formal new board member orientation that I can remember, and I appreciate the time you all put in to attending and preparing for board service.

I am really looking forward to the August board meeting - while this is not technically the first meeting of this board, it will be our first with Reverend John and will set the tone for governance for the year. Some sound advice for this year:

Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible. -**Saint Francis of Assisi**

See you soon!
Michelle