

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

It is beginning to look a lot like fall out there, even for us diehards who were unwilling to accept the end of summer. The church year has officially begun, attendance is high, with great enthusiasm, and I see returning friends along with new faces, and the energy in the congregation is palpable.

I am grateful for the ongoing work of the Stewardship committee, and am looking forward to an update on all of the fall activity, which included a renewed canvass appeal, a leadership appreciation event, and a fashion show fundraiser. Buildings and grounds work is in full swing, with the roofing, paving, and ongoing lift activity (also very much looking forward to that update!)

The board retreat a few weeks ago was a great opportunity for this year's board to get to know each other better, revisit our progress on last year's goals, confirm our goals and ambitions for this church year, and reaffirm our covenant for how we work together. Later this month we will have our board retreat and reset our goals for this year. I want to especially thank Andrea Lerner for her ongoing support and guidance. Later this fall we will start a new tradition with the leadership startup weekend; this is somewhat slower to come together than we had thought with all our competing priorities but I look forward to learning more about it in the weeks to come.

I had the opportunity to attend a Fortune magazine conference last week with over 400 of the most amazing women I have ever met, and one of the topics covered in several sessions was about what it means to be purpose-driven. We've done some work as a board around the "big questions" including what is it we come to church for and what the meaning of our community is, I think the purpose-driven inspiration and connections we find here are a big part of that answer.

We are constituted so that simple acts of kindness, such as giving to charity or expressing gratitude, have a positive effect on our long-term moods. The key to the happy life, it seems, is the good life: a life with sustained relationships, challenging work, and connections to community.

- Paul Bloom

Let us improve our lives, and our moods, by finding these things here, in community with each other.

See you Tuesday!
Thanks,