

## **Excitement is Building! Moving Forward**

January 17, 2019

Dear FUUSE members and Friends:

You did it! We did it! This past Sunday morning, with a full sanctuary, the Board of Trustees presented a resolution for community vote, marking a substantial forward step in a building renovations project that has roots stretching back more than 10 years, involving many past and present congregants, and through many big and small design incarnations. The resolution read by Board member Jan Stevens was this:

“Will the Congregation of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Exeter approve proceeding with the renovation plan, subject to modification based on construction bids and available funds from the Building Renovation Capital Campaign. The plan is recommended by the Renovations Committee, has been made available for input and discussion by the Congregation, and approved by the Board of Trustees.”

Stephanie Marshall, serving as moderator for the meeting held immediately following the Sunday morning service, called for discussion, then a motion, then a second, and the voice vote was a resounding yes. Proxy votes, presented by Board member Jonathan Winsor, also were included in the total vote. The resolution required a quorum of members, which was easily met in the room.

There was one relatively swift vote capping a lot of hard work by many members and staff especially in the past year since the successful capital campaign, the forming of a renovations committee to work with selection of an architect and preliminary designs, all guided by the Board and the minister. This will be the first comprehensive update to FUUSE facilities since 1945.

### **What Happens Now?**

The next stage of the renovations is going to involve considerable planning and preparation, all with an eye to construction targeting a start date towards the close of this church year—a mere 5 months from now. We will continue the same process we have up until this point: meeting biweekly, working closely with the architect, soliciting input from all members of the community and staff, holding information meetings, asking for volunteers to help with readying the building (moving stuff!), and communicating via online postings, emails, and monthly letters to inform of progress.

### **What Is the Timeline?**

With project approval, the architect now will prepare bid set documents (deadline: by end of February). The bid process is estimated to take 8 weeks to the bid award and contract negotiation, including any adjustments to the scope of work. Estimated construction start date will then be set closer to the end of the church year. We will update you as we work with the minister to prepare for what worship and community will look like once construction begins and until it is completed. Construction is estimated to be anywhere from 6 to 8 months from start to finish, leading into the next church year.

### **How Do I Find Out More?**

We will update the website, the FUUSE Facebook page, and send monthly letters between now and the start of construction. Please contact any member of the Renovations Committee or the Board with any

questions during this exciting and transformative time. We are excited to be moving forward together and look forward to this next part of our community life.

Sincerely,

**Board Members**

Jane Oldfield Spearman janeellen.os@gmail.com

Jonathan Winsor, see above

Jan Stephens janstephens30@gmail.com

Cliff Sinnott cliffsinnott@gmail.com

Karen Patnaude kpatnaude11@comcast.net

Holley Daschbach peacecat123@yahoo.com

Jim Webber sagesinbloom@gmail.com

Roy Jones leroywjones@gmail.com

**Renovations Committee**

Deb Merrick merrick@earthlink.net

Dave Michelsen michelsens@comcast.net

Cliff Sinnott see above

Gwen Kenney sckenney2@msn.com

Nancy Fiske 9nancyfiske@comcast.net

Denise Short denise\_short@hotmail.com

Will Urban swurban@aol.com

Jed Waddell Jed.waddell@gmail.com