

# memo

## Unitarian Church in Westport

To: Board  
From: Tom Croarkin  
CC:  
Date: October 16, 2015  
Re: Town Hall Meeting Report

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### September Town Hall

We held two well attended Town Hall Meetings on 9/27. I didn't count the number of participants but there were about 30 after the 9AM Service (standing room only) and about 15 after the 11AM Service.

We had presentations about Board Goals, Finances, Endowment (after 11AM) and Buildings and Grounds. The presentations were well received and the questioning was very respectful and thoughtful. People seem to very much appreciate the "open book" and "transparency" that these meetings convey. There was a fair amount of detailed info from Finance and Endowment and they ate it up.

The questions that came up were in the following areas:

- Mission/Vision - will the congregation be involved in revising the Mission/Vision.
- Will the Endowment assist in funding the Operating Budget?
- When can we fund the David Vita position that was cut last year?
- Automatic Renewal of Pledges - Why can't we do this?
- Information on Tax Implications for giving to the Endowment. Can there be some education about this?
- Oil in Endowment Portfolio seems inconsistent with our values. Can we get rid of this? Can we have a policy on socially responsible investing?
- Endowment being used for Operating Budget items like paying our "Fair Share" Denomination costs.

Some info from Chuck that was conveyed about the Lift. First, he said the Lift being done before Winter is a long shot. They will still try to make it happen but they need to get architectural drawings before we can engage the Land Use Consultant and go back to P&Z for the parking spaces. He also said that we may still have to go before the Wetlands Commission which could entail additional time and cost.

Many Board Members attended on or the other Town Hall (Lynda was at both).

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I thought it was a good day for the Board and that seemed to be the consensus.

## **Future Town Halls**

The following dates have been reserved for future Town Halls:

- November 15
- January 10
- March 6
- April 24
- ~~May 22~~ – moved to June 5?

I don't have a specific topic planned for November but if you think it appropriate perhaps we could introduce our new Communications Committee and the Fundraising Committees....and then provide an update on Financials and the B&G stuff.

Other possible topics include the Pledge Drive Plans in January, and Financial Review in June right before the Annual Meeting. Other topics that may need to be addressed are Lift/Building & Grounds, Fund Raising, Policy Governance Progress, and Communications.

That's all for now. Let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.