

# memo

## Unitarian Church in Westport

To: Board  
From: Tom Croarkin  
CC:  
Date: November 15, 2015  
Re: Town Hall Meeting Report

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### November Town Hall

We held two Town Hall Meetings on 11/15. I didn't count the number of participants but there were about 20 after the 9AM Service (standing room only) and about 10 after the 11AM Service.

I gave brief updates on Overall Trends (Attendance Up, Finances Improving), Buildings and Grounds, and on some recent Fund Raising Events (Poker Fundraiser and Story Slam). Then we provided overviews of the new Communications Committee and the Fund Raising Plan with Felicia Keeton giving a really well thought out overview with a 2 year planning cycle. We also covered the Legacy Giving Committee. I was unable to reach Doug Davidoff to represent the Communications Committee. (I emailed him a couple of times but perhaps I have the wrong email because I never heard back.)

In general the presentations were well received and the questioning was very respectful and thoughtful.

The questions that came up were in the following areas:

- **Fund Raising** –
  - Question about fundraising for the Partner Church's Parish Hall
  - A couple people expressed an interest in giving away the collection plate once a month (instead of share the plate)
  - Some expressed an interest in getting a collection from the Choir on Share the Plate Sunday. Because they are singing they don't have the opportunity to donate.
  - Some would like Share the Plate to be done every week.
- **Idling Bridgewater Buses** – concern was expressed about the pollution from those buses and that they aren't supposed to be idling as long as they are.
- **Sexton** – someone had heard that we were getting a full time Sexton and Anne corrected them. Anne told them we'd had a hard time finding someone and someone suggested contacting Workplace in Bridgeport (Cheryl Paul?).

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- **Planning Committee** – Charles Klein said that we should have someone to coordinate the scheduling of the Fund Raisers and other activities.
- **Light** – apparently the light on the street near our sign is out and made it hard for people to see the sign for Voices Café.

A few Board Members attended one or the other Town Hall (Anne was at both).

I thought it was a good day for the Board and that seemed to be the consensus. People are really happy that we are doing this.

## **Future Town Halls**

The following dates have been reserved for future Town Halls:

- January 10
- March 6
- April 24
- ~~May 22~~ – moved to May 29?

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.