

New York State Convention of Universalists
Annual Meeting 2024
President/Board Report

2024 was an active year for our Board of Trustees!

We met in February to consider a record number of Grant and Loan applications, and we awarded 27 grants for a total of \$121,000. We also considered committee appointments and operations and reviewed financial results.

We met in May with a full agenda, including consideration of budgets, investments, the archives, Bylaw updates, the nominating process, and more.

And we meet the day prior to the Annual Meeting to pass a budget for the organization and for the Service Gratuity Fund.

It takes a team to keep this organization ticking. Our Treasurer, Melissa Lesley-Fox, ably manages the financial matters. Our Clerk, Tom Hackett, keeps us on top of communications and deadlines. Our archivist (at least for one more year!), Karen Dau, works to transition the archives to digital format, and asks the tough questions about the changing world of archives management. Our Webmaster, Michael Scott, ensures that critical information is on our website. Jim D'Aloisio, who has acted as our Grants and Loans chair, skillfully leads us through the process of organizing and processing the many grant requests each year. We were joined this year by a new Secretary, Reverend Linda Anderson, who smoothly took on the duties of that office. And our Board members, Vice President Sally Hamlin, Mark Berninghausen, Gay Canough, Barb Fillips, John Roleke, and Jo VonRue, take seriously their tasks to carry out the mission of the organization.

All of these people matter, and so do YOU- every delegate, grant recipient, each member congregation, and all who participate in the Annual Meeting.

We have continued to streamline and modernize our operations, and we are looking to go even further. We continue to seek out new Board members, Nominating committee members, and active participants, and to spread the word about the good things that NYSCU is doing. And this year, we are hoping to do some work aligning our investment policy with our current investments. If you are interested in helping in this area, please do let us know! Our contact information can be found on our website, nyscu.org.

My thanks to Barb Fillips, who is completing her Board term this year. Barb has been incredibly helpful, particularly as a member of the planning committee for the Annual Meeting.

Best blessings to all!

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Rhody, President

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