

THE STANDING COMMITTEE:

The Standing Committee manages all the prudential affairs of the Society, controls the property of the Society except property entrusted to the Trustees of Permanent Funds, and generally conducts the business of the Society subject to direction by vote of the Society. The Standing Committee works closely with the co-ministers.

This committee meets once a month, and more frequently as needed (such as in the process of finalizing the annual budget). There are eleven members of this committee, nine to be elected by ballot, plus the Treasurer and the Clerk. All Standing Committee members must be members of the Society. Three members are elected annually for a 3-year term.

THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE:

The Fellowship Committee plans and coordinates activities at the church, which promote “cordial and friendly relations in the Society.” We oversee Coffee Hour by coordinating volunteers from the congregation to bring refreshments, as well as maintaining the linens and milk/cream supply. In addition, we host the annual Opening Day and Closing Day Potlucks. We have coordinated successful Holiday Potlucks, complete with carol singing, a Cookie Walk, and the delivery and wrapping of RE Mitten Tree gifts. We have also collaborated with the Pledge Team to offer the Annual Chili – Cook- OFF Our thought is to become more of a coordinating group, welcoming ideas and energy from anyone who is inspired to help us in the mission of offering Fun and Fellowship opportunities throughout the year. We will continue to coordinate the Coffee Hour refreshments. Ideas that are brewing currently include: providing more activities for the younger kids during the all-church potlucks; indoor and outdoor game events; and utilizing the Metcalf Kitchen for more fellowship opportunities.

THE GROWTH AND LEARNING COMMITTEE:

The purpose of the Growth and Learning (Adult Programs) Committee is to provide life-long growth and learning opportunities. It organizes and promotes educational, cultural, and spiritual enrichment for adults and youth including a Prayer Circle, A Book Circle, a series on Immigration reform, and workshops on our forbears such as Emerson and Thoreau and by accomplishing the following:

- Brainstorming programming ideas
- Recruiting facilitators and presenters
- Communicating with ministers and church members interested in leading programs
- Publicizing programs in the weekly Highlights, website, and in a monthly flyer
- Organizing and facilitating the monthly Book Circle
- Planning and facilitating special events, such as Spa for the Spirit
- Following up on the quality and success of each program

THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

What We Do: The Membership Committee fosters a congregation-wide spirit of welcoming; attracts, greets and follows through with newcomers and visitors; collaborates with co-ministers on a systemized "Path to Membership" and a plan to recognize and celebrate new members; collaborates with the new Communications and Visibility team to ensure Winchester Unitarian Society maintains a vibrant presence in the immediate and surrounding communities.

By-Law Section 1. Duties

The Membership Committee shall act to attract, welcome, encourage and assist newcomers to become and remain engaged Members of the Society.

THE MUSIC COMMITTEE:

The Music Committee oversees the music program of the WUS in cooperation with the Music Director. It is responsible for the Music Program budget and its disbursement, the maintenance of the musical instruments of the church, as well as the support and development of the overall music program at WUS. The Music Committee supports the Music Director and it takes an active role in broadening the music program to include performances by members of the congregation, our youth and guest musicians. Throughout the year, the Music Committee develops and manages a concert series that offers three performances per year to WUS and surrounding communities. The concert series has attracted newcomers to WUS as well as raised additional revenue through sponsorship and donations. In addition, the Music Committee oversees the Cerny-Thomases Fund, which supports music ministry for children at WUS. Monthly meetings are held after the service from 12:00 to 1:00 PM, usually on the second Sunday of each month. Additional meetings are scheduled as needed.

THE NOMINATING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

The Nominating Leadership Development Committee's responsibilities are to identify resources to nurture the long-term health and vitality of the congregation's leadership pool through education and the recruitment and nomination of elected leaders.

The NLDC has biannual committee fairs for elected and appointed committees and affinity groups of the church. We have sponsored workshops on the spiritual practice of leadership. In addition we have assumed the responsibility of the Committee Chairs biannual meetings. Through our budget we have sponsored attendees at Mass Bay District Workshops on leadership development topics.

THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

The RE Committee focused on Pre-K through 8th grades, committee members commit to three-year terms, attending monthly meeting where programs are planned, supported and implemented. In the past few years we have created social action opportunities for children and families, planned our infamous JanFest program, and so much more! We continue to search for more social outreach programming for our younger ones. If you've got ideas, come on board with us!

The committee reviews and works towards improving content, curriculum based and otherwise, creating and enhancing current opportunities to mix it up across all ages. We wish to build a culture of caring relation in our classrooms, and an ethos of service within and without the walls of the church.

THE SOCIAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

The Social Outreach Committee's first mandate is to assist members and friends of the Society in finding ways to study and act upon issues of ethical, moral or social concern. Secondly, SOC is charged with making funding decisions that donate five percent of the Society's annual operating budget to not-for-profit organizations doing social justice work aligned with our UU values.

The committee's work might especially appeal to members of the congregation who are passionate about social justice, have skills in such areas as research, initiative, event organizing, communications, motivation and leadership, and who see themselves engaging the congregation in various kinds of activities to address a wide range of social justice issues. Once-a-month meetings are the minimum requirement of members, with additional time spent helping the congregation to be more thoughtful about, and connected to, issues beyond our walls. Members also devote time to learning about organizations that are under consideration for grants and participating in the grant decision process.

There are ten members of the SOC. Three members are elected annually for 3-year terms and the Standing Committee chooses the tenth member from its membership.

THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) oversees the high school age youth program known as WUSY-G (Winchester Unitarian Society Youth Group). We meet monthly to help plan and guide the events of our youth program led by Director and Assistant Director of Youth Ministry. They are responsible for the general programming and service/outreach projects undertaken by the youth. They have been instrumental in establishing the group as a supportive place for the youth of our town to gather, worship, talk and serve. YAC also supports the on-going interest of the youth and many adult members of the Society to further integrate our high school youth into the overall fabric of the Society, for example, through assisting in religious education, contributing to our music program, attending community activities, serving as members on committees, as well as the annual planning and delivery of a worship services. Our challenge is the happy one of supporting the continued growth of an already highly successful program.

Six members, two elected annually for 3-year terms, plus up to 2 youth members.

Service/outreach projects have included: service projects in North Carolina, offering a free vacation day camp for children in Roxbury, Hurricane Katrina relief work in New Orleans and Mississippi, Mohawk Valley work camp in New York, and Habitat for Humanity throughout the US. In addition, WUSY-Gers have spearheaded workshops and talks about youth service work at local churches and other organizations in New England.