

NAIC MEETING MINUTES, WEDNESDAY, 3 MARCH 2021

Present:

Jon Spira-Savett, Andy Armstrong, Judie Bryant, John Rowntree, Susan Holden, Karla Tolemeo, Meta Vornehm, Melissa Miller, Nancy Meyer, Carlos Jauhola-Straight, Meg Hamm, Bobbie Knickerbocker, Tom Woodward, Mike Apfelberg, [Sally Newhall](#), Justin Munroe, [Matthew Hodgkiss](#), Karl Hester, [Rich Bensinger](#), Greg Baker, Kelly Turney, [Kristy Besada](#), Michael Greene, Awilda Muniz, Greg Baker, Rosalie Dunbar, Jim Jensen, [Kim Hester](#), Nonny Egbonu, [Michael Reinke](#), [William Manseau](#), [Aron DiBacco](#), Allison Palm, Pam Wellman, [Anna Molettieri](#)

Rabbi Jon convened the meeting at 12:02 p.m. with introductions followed by an opening prayer.

Rev. Sally Newhall introduced the “program” for this month and next: in keeping with efforts across previous years, we’ve tried different means and modes of getting to know each other. For March and April, we have invited different faith communities to share three things: 1) Who and where you are; 2) What makes you unique; and 3) One of your growing edges.

Presenting Congregations:

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints: Meta Vornehm (Nashua Ward) and Melissa Miller (Manchester Ward) shared.

Judaism: Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett shared about Judaism and specifically about Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua, which is a member of the Conservative Jewish tradition. There are several Jewish communities in greater Nashua, including Reformed synagogues.

United Church of Christ: Rev. Andy Armstrong shared an “elevator talk” about UCC history and traditions; Andy (First Church, Nashua) , Rev. Judie Bryant (Pilgrim Cong’l., Nashua), Rev. Carlos Jauhola-Straight (Pelham Cong’l.), and Rev. Tanya Stormo Rasmussen (Hollis Cong’l.) shared about their own congregations.

Rabbi Jon, in wrapping up our conversation/sharing, noted that our effort to share our differences of faith are rooted in the recognition more than four years ago that at times of cultural stress and crisis, it’s good to know where our differences as communities of faith lie, while also remaining rooted in the understanding that we are nonetheless people of faith in the one God, so that we can also find our points of connection and commonality and work from there. He mentioned that he would like to arrange for a

virtual open house at the Temple, and encouraged the rest of us to consider envisioning something similar for the future in our own respective communities.

NAIC Business:

Another NAIC representative is being sought for the **Mayor's Cultural Connections Committee** to serve with Nonny. They meet every fourth Wednesday of the month from 9-10 a.m. Please reach out to Rabbi Jon if you'd like further information.

Prevention Coalition: Mike Apfelberg spoke about the **Drug-free Communities Coalition**, which is also seeking another NAIC representative. Focus is primarily on youth. Coalition has extensions into all of the Nashua schools; involved with SADD (students against destructive decisions). Part of government funding stipulates that faith communities may be involved--which is why NAIC participation is being solicited.
Contact

Treasurer's report:

Balances (pasted into "Chat"):

Main:\$2989.87, CropWalk:\$1353.97, Choir: \$811.75

General Announcements:

Adalena [?? Jon --name?]

Latinx congregation seeking space for worship. Please contact Rabbi Jon if you've got space you can provide.

Nonny Egbunu: A spirituality group formed in 2018, collaboration between the UMC and Emmaus Institute stemming from Cafe Agape; meeting virtually. Welcome to join Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. Details on Emmaus Institute website.

From [Mike Apfelberg](#)/United Way in Chat:

Hey everybody! We're working with a professional videographer to put together a fun, upbeat short PSA video to address "why" get vaccinated and ultimately address vaccine hesitancy. It will be a very diverse video, with faces representing all walks of life in our community. Young and old. Black, brown, and white. English and non-English speaking. Male, female, and non-binary. If you want to get involved in this exciting project, please email me right away at mapfelberg@unitedwaynashua.org

Meeting concluded at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tanya Stormo Rasmussen

Post-meeting gathering for those interested in learning and sharing about “Hybrid Worship” experiences. Rabbi Jon shared the following link for a “wiki” for anyone interested to contribute with resources that may be helpful for this conversation:
<http://towardpostcovid19forclergy.pbworks.com/w/page/143266809/Hybrid%20Worship>