

First Parish in Cambridge
Annual Meeting
June 28, 2020 (Virtual)
4:00-6:00 p.m.

Lighting of the chalice and a reading were provided by chair Gordie Calkins, followed by the reading of the Covenant of Right Relations by Jan Puibello. Grace Hall, clerk, announced that the meeting would be moderated by Monica Bueno with Michael Wiggins as parliamentarian. Fifty-six voting members of First Parish participated, comprising well over the 15% quorum (24 members) required.

The congregation acknowledged Rev. Adam Dyer's absence by listening to excerpts from a letter he co-signed, read by Julia Gallogly, followed by a reading of names of Black lives lost in Massachusetts in the recent past related to police action.

The slate for governing board election, presented by clerk Grace Hall, consisted of:

- Chair (1 year term)- Gloria Korsman
- Vice Chair (1 year term)- Jan Puibello
- Treasurer (second 2 year term)- Cade Murray
- Member at Large (initial 2 year term)- Tod Hibbard

The slate was approved via a poll.

Gordie Calkins thanked the staff for their extraordinary efforts during the pandemic. He briefly reviewed the past year, thanked Rashid Shaikh for his service on the board, welcomed Tod Hibbard onto the board and also welcomed 7 new members into the congregation.

In response to a recent attack in Wisconsin on a young Black woman, Althea Bernstein, who is UU, Carol Lewis invited everyone to donate to one of the three organizations she selected.

Looking ahead, Kyle Eichner confirmed that services will remain virtual at least through the end of 2020.

Treasurer Cade Murray presented the current fiscal picture, noting that because of the Payroll Protection Program and by not setting aside funds for capital improvements, he and Carol Lewis anticipate that First Parish can run through the coming year without laying off anyone, although there is currently no plan for pay raises. Instead of a standard budget, Cade showed how a month-to-month budget would work. The budget was overwhelmingly approved.

Gordie Calkins explained that David Torrey had presented an update with pricing to the Building Team and Governing Board the previous week on the Historic Building Preservation project. Once figures have been reviewed, more information will be available. There was discussion about possible funding and the need for congregational discussion of priorities.

Based on the work of the RE Visioning Team, Mandy Neff presented a plan for religious education during the coming year. *Soul Matters*, with monthly themes, will be the basis for all RE, including programs for children and youth, and for adults through Covenant Groups. This approach lends itself to a virtual format and will be the focus of one worship service per month.

Cushing Giesey reported that an expanded Pastoral Care Team contacted all members of First Parish once and is starting to contact everyone again. During the first round of calls, everyone seemed to appreciate the contact and there were some requests for assistance. He thanked all former and current members for their work and suggested that everyone should make calls from time to time.

Monica Bueno showed the white board she had assembled with comments and suggestions from throughout the meeting to be used by the board or relevant teams.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned and the chalice was extinguished.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Hall,
Clerk

Meeting Materials (available on the website)

Agenda Annual Meeting FPC 6/28
Slate of Candidates
Proposed budget FY21
White board with notes from the meeting & election results

Approved by the First Parish Governing Board on July 21, 2020
Grace Hall, Clerk