

First Parish Cambridge
Governing Board Minutes
July 21 2020
(Virtual meeting via Zoom)

Present: Gloria Korsman, Julia Gallogly, Grace Hall, Tod Hibbard, Cade Murray, Jan Puibello, Don Tucker; Nina Lytton, Rashid Shaikh, Sylvia Wheeler, Linda West; Elizabeth Kline for a portion of the meeting.

The meeting opened with chalice lighting and check-in.

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of First Parish Board June 16, 2020
- Minutes of First Parish Annual Meeting, June 28, 2020
- Governance Advisory Committee (GAC) Annual Report 2019-2020

Sylvia Wheeler highlighted key points in the GAC Annual Report. The Consent Agenda was then accepted.

Comments on potential renovation based on David Torrey's report:s:

- While the board attended the meeting with David Torrey, members have not yet received access to the report. It will be provided soon.
- The Building Team will continue to communicate with the congregation while the Development Team will focus on fund raising. Communication may include use of breakout rooms for discussion. Members can also be invited to send in comments.
- Part of the process should include finding constituencies to support various aspect of the project (e.g., access, external appearance, etc.).
- The Development Team could use more members, including grant writers. Should the team consider paying an experienced grant writer?
- Sources of revenue will need to include grants, the endowment, and a capital campaign, although the current pandemic makes this a bad time for a campaign.
- Sources of grants include historic preservation foundations, but such grants often come with strings attached. Mission driven grants may work well- need a database of sources.
- The Development Team has spent July developing a series of questions for David Torrey.
- Cade Murray and Carol Lewis will be responsible for consolidating and organizing questions from both the Development Team and the Board into a single list.
- The Board and Rev. Adam both need to be involved in this project.
- One point of note is that the building is an important investment.

Considerations of Rev. Adam's June report:

Gloria invited the Governance Advisory Board to attend and share their thoughts from a prior meeting on the topic. Some of the points made were:

- Rev. Adam raised broad issues and the board need to engage. This shows that the current governance model is working as Rev. Adam is coming to the board for assistance.
- It is also important to consider the second part of the report, noting that Black ministers in largely white congregations often experience difficulties.
- We are not sufficiently involved in relationship building with the Black churches in Cambridge.

- Find out about the Social Justice aims of Black churches in Cambridge, perhaps housing, and follow their lead.
- We need to balance taking care of ourselves and relating to others.
- UUs everywhere struggle with individualism vs. community.
- Note that disagreements can lead to a different way of looking at things.

The board decided to meet in about two weeks for board discussion of these issues.

The board is asked to read the report from the Commission on Institutional Change, *Widening the Circle of Concern*. Julia will pick out chapters to focus on.

At the next board meeting on August 18, Grace Hall will have the opening words and the check-in question.

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Hall, Clerk

Related documents:

Documents listed in Consent Agenda (see above)
Agenda for July

Approved by the First Parish Governing Board on August 18, 2020
Grace Hall, Clerk