

First Parish Cambridge
Governing Board Minutes
September 15, 2020
(Virtual meeting via Zoom)

Present: Gloria Korsman, Julia Gallogly, Grace Hall, Tod Hibbard, Cade Murray, Jan Puibello, Don Tucker, Gordie Calkins; Rev. Adam Dyer, Carol Lewis, Mandy Neff; Sylvia Wheeler

The meeting opened with chalice lighting and check-in.

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of First Parish Board August 18, 2020
- Report on discussion of Introduction and Theology chapters of COIC report
- Administrator Report, September 2020
- DRE Report September, 2020
- Minister's Report, September 2020
- RET report to board, September 2020
- Two proposed additions to Policy Book
- Balance sheet 6-30-2020 (final)
- Balance sheet August 31, 2020
- P&L 6-30-2020 (final)
- P&L August 2020

Comments:

- David Pettee's recent death is a blow to First Parish Cambridge, of which he was a member, and to the UUA, where he had considerable impact.
- The relationship of Angeline Jackson to First Parish as an aspirant was further explained- she is encouraged to participate virtually in the life of the parish and we hope to become better acquainted with her as she studies at Meade-Lombard, but continues to live in Jamaica.

The Consent Agenda was then accepted.

Building Update: (Carol, Cade, Tod, Don)

- An information session will be held after discussion on Sunday, September 20 with Rev. Adam, Elizabeth Kline, David Torrey and Cade Murray. (Gloria to handle chat function; Carol, tech)
- The announcement included a short version of the mission statement. A longer version will be sent subsequently.
- Three discussions will follow: October 4 (focus on finance), October 18 and November 1
- The website will be kept up to date with plans and developments
- An application for a Certificate of Appropriateness has been submitted to the Cambridge Historical Commission, hopefully to be included in their October 1 meeting (approval normally takes several months).
- Grant writer: Several knowledgeable people have been consulted and they provided a few names. Don will be contacting one of those individuals.
- Issues likely to be raised during discussion include the endowment, silver, organ, and pews

Board work plan: (Gloria)

Main priorities are 1) Mission/vision/strategic plan and 2) the building project. These priorities are interrelated and must be considered together.

With respect to Mission/vision/strategic plan:

- We have some ideas presented last year, particularly by Rev. Adam and need to review.
- We need a stream-lined, not open-ended, approach.
- Is the vision/mission first, then the strategic plan?
- The strategic plan must consider both what is going on in the world and with our building
- Consider effect of having Ministry Teams
- Consider effect of being virtual and which of the current changes should be permanent.
- Use the RE revisioning process as a model. Some areas will differ, but likely in common are: volunteerism, sustainability, leadership development, deeper emotional engagement/spirituality, understanding Unitarian Universalism more deeply.
- Relationship between spiritual (ritual) and social (activism)
- Role of Faith Development
- Importance of strategic plan process being collaborative, involving communal thinking and working across interests
- Some difficulties, e.g. volunteers in a transient community, may be solved by a culture change
- Silo issue partially overcome by individuals involved in more than one area
- How do we get response from those not involved in any team?

FY20 financial review: (Cade)

- First Parish was at budget in March.
- By the end of the fiscal year (June 30) was overall still doing all right
- Capital costs included spending for building plans, etc., plus ceiling issue and Zero Church St door, leaving our reserves very low.
- In the current fiscal year, are operating at a monthly deficit, but the PPP loan will take care of that issue.

At 8:35, the board chair invited Rev. Adam to join the board in Executive Session to discuss staffing. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

At the next board meeting on October 20, Jan Puibello 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 September 2020

Director of Lifespan Faith Development proposal

Position Description – Director of Lifespan Faith Development

Approved by vote of the First Parish Governing Board on October 20, 2020
Grace Hall, Clerk