

First Parish Cambridge
Governing Board Minutes
November 17 2020
(Virtual meeting via Zoom)

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

The meeting opened with chalice lighting and check-in.

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of the October 20 meeting
- Report of the October 27 COIC discussion
- Minister's report, November 2020
- Director of Lifespan Faith Development November report
- Report of the Director of Administration, November 2020
- RET Board Report November 2020
- 2020 Strategic Planning Design Team Process
- New Members November 2020 (Ian Evans, Lindsay Lucke, Justin Jimenez)
- Responses to our position on "Cookies"

General comments included congratulations to Carol for being selected as a Good Officer for the AUUA (Association of UU Administrators). The purpose of a Good Officer is to provide support for other administrators who are having difficulty in their congregations. The Consent Agenda was accepted.

A motion to congratulate the Rev. Adam Lawrence Dyer on his being awarded Full Fellowship at the Ministerial Fellowship Committee meeting (October 30, 2020) was unanimously approved. After brief discussion, the board decided to request that those attending the Sunday morning discussion make a congratulatory poster to display. Carol will get the word out. Julia will take screenshots to share with Rev. Adam.

In preparation for the Special Business Meeting of the congregation on November 22, the agenda was worked out. Tod will be moderator and will secure a parliamentarian (either Margaret Drury or Linda West). Julia will provide the chalice lighting. Carol will post the Covenant of Right Relations for Tod to read. Voting will be a simple poll. Any non-members who attend will temporarily be placed in the waiting room. Grace will take the minutes.

With respect to the proposed *ad hoc* Strategic Planning Design Committee, all individuals who were contacted accepted: Rev. Adam, Monica Bueno, Julia Gallogly, Nina Lytton, Jan Puibello, Josh Sheldon, and Sylvia Wheeler. The committee's initial meeting will be in late November or early December. They will contact others members of the congregation as they develop a strategic planning process and timeline for board approval by March 15, 2021.

A discussion concerning fostering participatory culture was facilitated by Gordie. The question is how to get more people to participate actively. Comments included:

- Invite someone into the community or to join a team. Take a community organizer mindset to pull people in.

- Use Breeze better. It contains the names of team members.
- Small group discussions allow people to get more comfortable and better acquainted.
- Initially make small asks such as helping with hospitality or lighting the chalice, a one-time commitment.
- In the continuum of fun to obligation, start with something fun.
- Consider the vibrant church model- people want to do ministry (not necessarily serve on a team, at least not initially)
- A database tracking system can be a powerful tool
- People sometimes say it is hard to get involved. Why is that? What are the barriers?
- At this point Zoom fatigue may be high, especially for those who work on Zoom all week.
- Social hour in small groups?

The board role is supporting the marijuana project received positive feedback. It was pointed out that there may have been negative reactions that were not communicated to us. Should we try to engage more in this way? Yes, but limiting these occurrences to situations where we are in relationship or where the issue is racism. This occasion did provide a way for congregants to know what we are doing and the 8th Principle group has suggested we should be more visible, perhaps via the announcements. This is a good idea, but perhaps only occasionally.

Next month, Grace and Julia will report on a potential UUA liaison role.

On Tuesday, December 1, from 7-8 pm, the board will meet to continue discussion of *Widening the Circle of Concern*, using the chapters “Educating for Liberation” and “Innovations and Risk-Taking”. At the next regular board meeting on December 15, Julia Gallogly 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 November 17, 2020
Building Project Updates 11-16-2020
Draft Charter Strategic Planning Design v2
Dyer Adam -MFC Fall 2020- Full Fellowship Granted
Fostering Participatory Culture

Approved by the First Parish Governing Board on December 15, 2020
Grace Hall, Clerk