

First Parish Cambridge
Governing Board Minutes
February 16, 2021
(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 the 01/19/2021 meeting
- Report of the 02/02/2021 board meeting on COIC
- Administrator February 2021
- Lifespan Faith Development Monthly Report February 2021
- Minister's Report February 2021
- Building Project Updates 2/14/2021
- RET Board Report February 2021
- Grace Nono sponsorship letter
- Tracy Corley membership application

After a brief discussion, the Consent Agenda was accepted.

Board letters on Widening the Circle and 8th Principle:

- At the February 2nd meeting, the board members decided to send a letter to the congregation about our study of the book *Widening the Circle of Concern*, as well as what steps we plan to take to implement some of the suggestions.
- At the request of the Racial Equity Team, the board will send a letter to the congregation voicing our support for adoption of the 8th Principle.
- Gloria will draft letters and board members need to contribute and edit.
- How do we share this information further? Post on website and on Facebook page. (The Prayer Chest is frequently accessed online and we have attracted quite a few newcomers who must be visiting our website.)

Other items:

- Sana Saeed's request for ordination at First Parish on 5/18/2021 will be voted on by the board at the March meeting.
- The board was asked to review the UUA Denomination FAQ written by Karin Lin prior to sending it to the congregation and posting on the First Parish website. There will not be a formal UUA liaison at this time, but information will be published from time to time.

Annual Meeting Preparation- draft agenda and member engagement:

- Agenda items include financial review and a vote on the budget, elections, a vote on the 8th principle, a vote on changes to our Bylaws to support the 8th Principle, a review of the status of the Building Project and related finances, and possibly a report on other proposed changes (e.g., removing the pews).
- Member engagement:

- The Racial Equity Team and the board will be engaging with the community concerning the 8th principle. There is a messaging calendar to make sure as many people as possible understand the principle.
- Something similar is required if we wish to consider removing the pews at this time, e.g., listening sessions with board members.
- Ideas to consider in addressing questions about pew removal
 - Present a vision of what is gained rather than a discussion of what is lost.
 - Based on beauty outside and at the entrance, need an enhanced interior also.
 - Focus on spiritual as well as financial advantages.
 - Acknowledge other needs (e.g. in parish house)
 - Present more information on costs and benefits
 - There is already considerable support but can anticipate some resistance
 - Note: A poll is a bad idea because it hardens a person's position
 - The Strategic Planning Design team will address some of these issues during March presentation to the board.
- The agenda will not be finalized until later.
- The meeting will be on a Sunday in June, date to be determined

The board then went into Executive Session.

At the next board meeting on March 16, Cade Murray 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 February 16, 2021
Discussion of UUA Liaison
UUA Denomination FAQ
Draft Annual Meeting Agenda

Approved by the First Parish Governing Board on March 16, 2021
Grace Hall, Clerk