

First Parish Cambridge
Governing Board Minutes
March 16, 2021, 7-9 pm
(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 plus, for a portion of the meeting, Monica Bueno, Nina Lytton and Josh Sheldon to report on the Plan for the Strategic Plan, and Rashid Shaikh

The meeting opened with chalice lighting and check-in.

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of the 02/16/2021 meeting
- Administrator March 2021
- Lifespan Faith Development Monthly Report March 2021
- Minister's Report March 2021
- Building Project Updates 3/15/2021
- RET Board Report March 2021
- GBIO grant board letter March 2, 2021
- Proposed Worship Progression

After a brief discussion related to the worship service calendar, health issues on reopening, reviving the Response Team, and the need for technical help (camera) upon reopening, the Consent Agenda was accepted.

Plan for the Strategic Plan:

Members of the ad hoc team (Josh Sheldon, Monica Bueno, Julia Gallogly, Jan Puibello, Nina Lytton, Sylvia Wheeler and Rev. Adam Dyer) were charged with developing a plan for creating a Strategic Plan. They presented their ideas, with some of the main points being:

- The overarching goal is for the congregation, grounded in spirituality, to define who and what we will become moving into the future.
- The team envisions an iterative, collaborative process, with planning steps running from April 2021-February 2022 and action steps to follow.
- The output from each step in the process will be the input for the next step.
- The planning team provides leadership, the board provides support and feedback, while staff and ministry teams participate throughout the process.

The plan was well received by the board. It was noted that this process will be occurring simultaneously with other work (building, adopting 8th Principle) and may be interacting with and supporting these projects.

Ordination of Sana Saeed:

Sana Saeed requested ordination at First Parish on May 8, 2021 at 4 p.m. It was moved, seconded (Jan, Cade) and unanimously approved to accept the request. Her committee, Rashid Shaikh, Gloria Korsman and Jan Puibello, are working on the details, including a stole as a gift.

Motion concerning virtual meetings (and annual meeting draft):

Since March 2020, all board meetings have been virtual. According to our by-laws, all decisions made virtually must be confirmed at the next in-person meeting. The board unanimously agreed to

approve a motion (motion Grace, seconded Jan) that: “All decisions made at virtual meetings during the pandemic are considered final.” There were no comments concerning the draft agenda for the annual meeting.

Stewardship:

- Cade reported for the Stewardship Team (Cade Murray, Ian Evans, Tod Hibbard, Gloria Korsman, Don Tucker, Carol Lewis).
- There has been an initial announcement.
- To come are a sermon at the end of March and several oral or written testimonials.
- The focus is on converting the process to on-going giving rather than annual giving. This fits better with a sizable transient population.
- Volunteers will be needed for follow-up and board members will be asked to participate.
- The website will have an updated Stewardship 101 as well as a new donations page.
- For the future, the aim is to spread out contact over the year (on anniversary of membership?), to engage in obtaining feedback and to focus on counting our blessings rather than dollars.
- It was mentioned that a separate group, the Special Gifts group, will be contacting some members of the congregation in relation to the building fund. This will be later, to obtain matching funds. Board members will be contacted at that time, with a focus on 100% participation (rather than size of donation).

The board then went into Executive Session.

At the next board meeting on April 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)

FPC agenda for March 16, 2021

Proposed motion on virtual meetings

Annual Meeting Proposed Agenda- DRAFT

Documents added following the meeting:

- Slides from the presentation on Planning for the Strategic Plan
- Copy of reading prior to the Strategic Plan presentation

Approved by the First Parish Governing Board on April 20, 2021
Grace Hall, Clerk