

First Parish Cambridge  
 Special Meeting with UUA NE Region Liaison Hilary Allen and Governing Board Minutes  
 September 14, 2021, 7-9 pm  
 (Virtual meeting via Zoom)

Present: Governing Board Members:

Jan Puibello, Chair	Gloria Korsman, Past Board Chair
Sylvia Wheeler, Vice-Chair	Carol Lewis, Director of Administration
Carolyn White, Clerk	Mandy Neff, Director of Lifespan Faith Development
Cade Murray, Treasurer	Grace Hall, Governance Advisory Committee
Julia Gallogly, Member at Large	Guest: Carita Anderson, Minister Advisory Committee
Tod Hibbard, Member at Large	Guest: Hilary Allen, UUA NE Region Liaison

Regrets:

Jane Stabile, Member at Large	
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AGENDA

1. Chalice Lighting & Check-in
2. UUA NE Region Assistance – Hilary Allen, NE Region Liaison
3. Temporary Minister Selection Process and Recommended Team Members
4. R Team Status and Potential Expanded Role/Members to Help Staff for Sunday Gatherings (worship, indoor and outdoor events)
  - Postponement of Jonathan’s celebration to October
  - 9/19 Potential Zoom visit to No. Andover, MA UU
  - Music program staffing options – Joe Reid as Interim Music Director
5. Update from Project Development Team on contractor bids
6. First Parish “Volunteer Central” Concept and Organization
7. Preliminary Discussion of Draft Leave Letter for Rev. Adam

The meeting was opened by Tod Hibbard with a chalice lighting and check-in question.

Sylvia Wheeler co-chaired the meeting having been in teleconference meetings with Hilary Allen, the UUA New England Region Liaison, concerning how to move forward when a minister needs to take a Medical Leave.

Hilary and her superior, Woullard Lett, have been in conversation with Rev Adam during the year. Many congregations were anticipating being back in person and this new rise in Covid cases is taking its toll. Indeed, many ministers are needing emergency medical leave. UUA NE has seen this before and can offer their accumulated wisdom and experience with how other congregations have dealt with it.

Keith Kron in the National office will be a more direct liaison with those retired or non-working ministers who could serve our need for a Temporary Minister and Pastoral Care.

There are some creative options to consider: worship with other congregations [potential ZOOM visit with the North Andover UU Congregation] ; guest preaching in our pulpit. We do not necessarily have to have someone who is in our region if we continue with virtual services. We could separate the pastoral aspect from the worship side. We could have some Lay Leadership. We need to build a better volunteer base going forward: “Volunteer Central”.

Hilary mentioned that we need to be mindful of boundaries, of the possible “romance” with a temporary minister as we fully expect the return of Rev Adam and must make this clear to all parties.

For the interviewing process, clarity makes for success. Our expectations should be spelled out

The board has established the desired composition of the Selection Team: former church leaders, young members and recently-joined new members. They have identified some specific people who fit these parameters.

Hilary mentioned that the Board needs to be involved so that the Congregation has trust in the process. We must not cede our authority.

The “R” Team’s purpose has changed now that we are not “Re-opening” in-person. We wish to hold this group together to help imagine new events and ways of increasing participation and volunteerism.

The Tribute for Jonathan Barnhart , 25 year Music Director for FPC has been postponed to October.

The first part of the meeting ended at 8:50PM. Jan Puibello, Hilary Allen, Carita Anderson, Carol Lewis and Mandy Neff departed.

The Governing Board (Sylvia Wheeler, Jan Puibello, Cade Murray, Tod Hibbard, Julia Gallogly, Carolyn White) continued in a closed Executive Session.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn White, Clerk

Approved by the First Parish Governing Board on September 21, 2021

Carolyn White, Clerk