

First Parish Cambridge
 Special Meeting Governing Board Minutes
 October 05, 2021, 7-9 pm
 (Virtual meeting via Zoom)

Present: Governing Board Members:

Jan Puibello, Chair	Tod Hibbard, Member at Large
Sylvia Wheeler, Vice-Chair	Grace Hall, Governance Advisory Committee (GAC)
Cade Murray, Treasurer	Carol Lewis, Director of Administration
Carolyn White, Clerk	Mandy Neff, Dir. of Lifespan Faith Development
Julia Gallogly, Member at Large	
Jane Stabile, Member at Large	GUEST: Rev Rebecca (Becky) Sheble-Hall

Regrets:

Gloria Korsman, Past Board Chair	
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The meeting opened with a chalice lighting and check-in question.

Jan Puibello acknowledged and thanked Sylvia for handling matters during Jan's absence.

Part-time, temporary minister and pastoral care team status

The first order of business was to review the position of the temporary minister and pastoral care team status and for the entire Board and Staff to meet Rev Rebecca ("Becky") Sheble-Hall who has been endorsed by the Executive members of the Board. Becky had previously met with Sylvia, Jan, Cade plus Eileen Sullivan. She also met with the Staff. All had very positive comments about the qualities and experience she brings to this pastoral care position.

As for finances, Cade assured that there are adequate funds in the budget for a 10-15 hour Pastoral Care Minister position with Becky's qualifications.

A **MOTION** was made by Jane Stabile, **SECONDED** by Tod Hibbard, that the Board endorse the Executive Board's vote to hire Rev Rebeca Sheble-Hall as our temporary Pastoral Care Minister. All were in FAVOR.

At the request of the chair, Carol and Mandy provided the scope of First Parish's pastoral care. It ranges from accompaniment to the hospital or doctor visits; help with grief and loss around death as well as life changes such a retirement or divorce. It includes active listening and spiritual support and visits to those who are isolated. Mental health issues are a good percentage of the needs.

Future Congregational pastoral care might also include Vespers or small group gatherings or implementing a structure for support among lay leaders.

"Volunteer Central" and staff support for priority plans (worship, Sunday events, pastoral care)

This concept emerged from the meetings of the "R" team (Re-opening) on how to engage people and tailor church plans so that participation does not necessarily require being part of a committee. There could be a choice of "one-and-done" tasks and longer-term responsibilities. Some of the suggested tasks are Chalice Lighter, Chat Host, Sunday Afternoon outdoor activity, Youth Group, Pastoral Care Team.

Another Phase of Volunteer Central would create Small Group Rituals, or alternative holiday rituals, musical ensembles, rolling these out slowly to gauge interest. The possibility of opening up the church during this Covid period for small groups will be explored. It is hoped that Breeze could be used and that a "Project Manager" would coordinate opportunities with those who wish to volunteer.

Update from the Building Project Management Team - Carol & Sylvia

The team has learned that the Meeting House floor is not level and should be fixed before starting the exterior work. This changes Phase 1 as this would require removing the pews. One of the visions of the renovation is to attain true accessibility and to make a space adaptable to multiple types of meetings for the congregation and for groups in our community. It was recommended not to start work until Spring 2022.

A discussion with the Congregation about the change in the Phase 1 plans and use of the Endowment is planned for Sunday, Oct 31st, 2021. A Congregational vote is planned for Nov 14, 2021. A 40% Quorum is required to make decisions about taking withdrawals in excess of the annual distribution from the endowment.

MOTION: Jan Puibello made the motion that the Governing Board endorses the Project Management Team's recommendations regarding Phase 1. Cade Murray SECONDED the motion. All were in FAVOR. The motion was approved.

MOTION: Cade Murray made the motion that we hold a Congregational vote on Sunday, Nov. 14, 2021 for the purpose of approving the use of the endowment funds for the Building Project, Phase 1. All were in FAVOR. The motion was approved.

Visit with Rev. Rebecca Sheble-Hall

The Governing Board welcomed the opportunity to meet Rev. Becky before making a motion to hire her as our Pastoral Care Minister. This also gave her the opportunity to ask us some questions. She is an ordained minister serving as Community Minister at First Parish Waltham (MA)

Frequency of Board Meetings: It was agreed that Board meetings could be held once a month on the 3rd Tuesday.

At the next regular board meeting on October 19, Jane Stabile will have the opening words and the check-in question.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn White, Clerk

Related Documents:

Sunday Chat Notes for September 26th, 2021 Sylvia/Tod

Volunteer Central Preliminary Plans (Draft)

Job Description for Pastoral Care Minister (part-time, temporary) (DRAFT revised 2021-9-23)

Rev. Rebecca Sheble-Hall, Mdiv – Resume

Approved by the First Parish Cambridge Governing Board October 19, 2021
Carolyn White, Clerk