

First Parish Cambridge  
Governing Board Minutes  
December 21, 2021, 7-8 pm  
(Virtual meeting via Zoom)

Present: Governing Board Members:

Jan Puibello, Chair	Jane Stabile, Member at Large
Sylvia Wheeler, Vice-Chair	Tod Hibbard, Member at Large
Cade Murray, Treasurer	Rashid Shaikh, Governance Advisory Committee
Carolyn White, Clerk	Carol Lewis, Director of Administration
Gloria Korsman, Past Board Chair	

Regrets

Regrets: Julia Gallogly, Member at Large	
Mandy Neff, Dir. of Lifespan Faith Development	

Tod Hibbard opened the meeting with a chalice lighting and check-in question.

**Consent Agenda:**

2021 11 16 Governing Board Minutes

Agenda: First Parish Governing Board meeting December 21, 2021

**Meeting Materials**

Draft Congregational Email 2021 Message

Approval of Ministerial Housing Allowance

**FPC Board AGENDA**

**Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda was accepted.

**1. Update from the Project Management Team -- Sylvia, Tod & Cade:** David Torrey, Architect, has been working with the selected contractor. They are still in the mode of investigation about additional issues discovered and getting a cost estimate. A big issue is that we would like to have an owner/manager for 6 months but we know we have the funds from the Endowment for Phase 1. Next is to try to get started on the work in January and that will be known next week. The contract is not yet signed as we are waiting for the additional estimates.

**2. Considering small indoor group meetings in January -- Jan 7:20-7:30:** Julia Gallogly was not able to attend the meeting but sent a detailed email in advance requesting the use of the Barn Room for Sanctuary Boston once a month for a singing group of 10-25 people who would sign up in advance.

*“-Would we be able to rent space in the Barn room on Sunday evenings (Jan. 23, Feb 27, March 27, April 24, May 22) 6:30-8:00?”*

*-Would you like us to pay a fee? If so, how much?*

*-Would the event be acceptable given that it follows Sanctuary Boston covid protocol but not First Parish Cambridge covid protocol because of the group singing?”*

There is so much different guidance on Covid-19 and the new variant Omicron. There was lengthy discussion about this request which also included considerations about Sunday Services with a hybrid option. We would like to respond positively to Sanctuary Boston. We decided to hold a Special Board Meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to review our current Covid-19 policies and Re-Opening. Many congregations are divided on this and, in addition, Covid-19 has had an effect on Stewardship.

**3. Y2Y issues and planned meeting in Jan. -- Jan and Tod 7:30-7:40:** Tod Hibbard reported an incident which occurred last week outside the Y2Y entrance involving two individuals who made threats involving guns to Y2Y staff. One of the individuals had already been permanently banned from Y2Y and has been re-housed elsewhere. The other is now temporarily banned. As there seems to be a mental health issue, there is a desire to be more lenient with him but uppermost is considering the safety of First Parish Staff and Y2Y Staff and to protect the building from potential vandalism. We would like to see more authority and consistency from Y2Y staff on all shifts. During the pandemic when students were not on campus, there was professional staff but they have transitioned out. PBHA (Phillips Brooks House Association) are the leaseholders, not the Y2Y Network, and are therefore responsible. Kate Johnsen has reached out to Harvard Police. A meeting with Kate Johnsen, Deputy Director of PBHA, is scheduled for Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> at 2PM. All Board members are encouraged to attend.

**4. Draft End-of-Year thank you message to volunteers and the congregation**

**Jan & Sylvia 7:40-7:45:**

The Board commended the excellent draft letter written by Sylvia Wheeler. Rashid suggested we add a mention about Rev. Becky Sheble-Hall who has been a warm and helpful presence for the Pastoral Care Team and for the Congregation. We are disappointed that her prior commitments do not enable her to continue with First Parish after February.

**5. Update on preliminary discussions re Rev. Adam Dyer's return 7:45-7:55:** Sylvia Wheeler and Jan Puibello will meet with Cade Murray and Eileen Sullivan. Hilary Allen of the UUA has provided guidelines for congregations to ensure a smooth return for Rev. Adam. We wish for him to be comfortable upon his return but we are also aware that some issues need to be worked out.

We approved the request to allocate 37% of Rev. Adam's salary as Housing Allowance. Sylvia Wheeler made the motion and Tod Hibbard seconded it.

Parking Lot for the next Regular meeting: **Re-evaluating Faith Formation & Development: (Mandy Neff)** This discussion did not take place due to Mandy's absence.

**NEXT MEETINGS:**

Interim meeting on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 to discuss building usage and Re-Opening.

Regular meeting on Jan 18, 2022:

Chalice Lightings: Julia Gallogly for Jan, 18, 2022; Cade Murray for Feb. 15, 2022, Carolyn White for Mar. 15, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn White, Clerk

Approved by the Governing Board on January 18, 2022  
Carolyn White, Clerk