

First Parish Cambridge Governing Board Minutes  
February 21, 2023 7:00-9:00PM  
(Virtual meeting via Zoom)

Present: Governing Board meeting

Sylvia Wheeler, Chair	Valerie Fullum, Member at Large
Cade Murray, Vice-Chair	Jan Puibello, Past Board Chair
Carolyn White, Clerk	Carol Lewis, Director of Administration
Jane Stabile, Member at Large	Grace Hall, Governance Advisory Committee
Tod Hibbard, Member at Large	
Lindsay Lucke, Treasurer	

Absent: Rev Rob Hardies, Contract Sr. Minister

Guests: Charlene Galarneau, Cushing Giesey, Karin Lin, Julie Duncan

Note: Chalice lighting/check-in monthly rotation –2023 Feb:Carolyn/ Mar:Jane/ Apr:Tod/ May:Valerie/  
June: Lindsay/ (Jan is a substitute as needed).

**CHALICE LIGHTING:** Carolyn opened the meeting at 7:00PM with a chalice lighting, Love Can transform the World by Maureen Killoran and led the check-in question: Can you share a special memory of a favorite librarian or a favorite library?

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Tod Hibbard, seconded by Jane Stabile, made a MOTION to accept the Consent Agenda. All in favor, no abstentions.

**RACIAL EQUITY TEAM REPORT** – Karin Lin & Charlene Galarneau

Mistakes & Miracles discussion & follow up – 25 people participated and it was very successful. The March 12<sup>th</sup> service will bring the conversation back to the congregation.

- DRUUMM support: After discussion of the mission and value of DRUUMM [Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries] which represents several BIPOC groups [Black, Indigenous, People of Color], Karin and Charlene requested that FPC make ongoing support for DRUMM membership (\$500), or at least, to commit to this support for this year. In addition to supporting BIPOC members of FPC, it also helps to develop BIPOC leadership nationally. Tod, with Jan, suggested that all who receive an appropriation from the FPC funds could give the Board an in-person and written Annual Report and renew their request each year. Lindsay Lucke, Treasurer, agreed an annual request would be preferable. A MOTION was made by Jane Stabile and seconded by Lindsay Lucke to pay the \$500 annual membership of FPC in DRUUMM and to reconsider this on an annual basis. All in favor, no abstentions.

- Legacy of Slavery at First Parish Activities: A small group will form a strategy to involve members of First Parish with the Slave Legacy History Coalition. Cushing Giesey brought this to the Board to consider a formal affiliation with them. It has been approved to give the Sunday Plate collection in May to this Coalition. The Board thanked Cushing for bringing information and background to the Board.

[From their website:

*“The Slave Legacy History Coalition is a consortium of individuals, organizations, and institutions engaged in the preservation of the history of enslaved people in the Cambridge, Boston communities and beyond. The Slave Legacy History Coalition was established in the fall of 2021 by the Lloyd Family, descendants of Tony, Cuba, and Darby, whose enslavers Henry Vassall and Penelope Royall endowed the first law professorships at Harvard University, which eventually became Harvard Law School.*

*The Slave Legacy History Coalition was established to build a pathway forward for other families who are descendants of slaves and also the general public to help connect to the vast repositories of information on slave legacy history in the Boston and Cambridge communities and beyond.*

*The mission of the Slave Legacy History Coalition is to provide easier access to information and resources on the legacy of slavery before and after emancipation for the families of slave descendants and the general public.” ]*

- Cambridge Heart relationship building: Rich Lawson and Rae Simpson are working on this and will present to the Board at a later time.

**BBFS: BEYOND BORDERS/SIN FRONTERAS FUNDING REQUEST (SEE POSTED PROPOSAL) – JULIE DUNCAN** – Julie Duncan gave background on First Parish’s involvement with the CISC (Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition) for four years. Many members were involved in supporting this family along with other Cambridge churches. FPC was very generous financially -- this was a line item in the Annual Budget – and was very important to CISC. Although CISC has disbanded, the BBFS would like to continue to have these funds available, for flexibility as situations arise, for other worthy organizations with which they have been working such as for Immigrant Family Services Institute (IFSI) for the recent diaper drive. [IFSI tries to “*expedite the successful integration of recent immigrants into the social and economic fabric of the United States with justice and dignity.*”] Some people have been trained to help Haitians and others with a TPS application [Temporary Protected Status]. Another organization they have been working with is the Boston Immigrant Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN/Beyond): Court accompaniment, bonding people out; there are a variety of requests. Two other groups of interest are GreenRoots in Chelsea; Brazilian Worker Center, Inc. There are 6-10 people on the current committee. For CISC, there were 30 people involved in volunteering and who will step up when a need is identified. The Board was glad to learn of these worthwhile organizations and activities. After discussion, it was decided that it is preferable for BBFS to request the Board for funds for a specific project/activity with a group that would interest members of the congregation. It was noted, in fact, that Committees receiving funds should make an annual report.

Regarding flexibility, the Minister has a discretionary fund. Building relationships within our community and having a presence in the greater community toward mission-related efforts is key and the Board is most appreciative of the energy and guidance from BBFS on ways we can become involved in worthy activities in concert with our purpose, values, and principles.

**RECOMMENDED GOVERNING BOARD POLICY BOOK ADDITION ON NEW INITIATIVES – SYLVIA WHEELER**  
– Postponed to next month.

**BUILDING REPAIR PROGRAM FUNDING – CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION SESSION [on March 12 2023 at 4PM] AND VOTE ON ENDOWMENT FUNDS and Draft CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT: “What Building Improvements are Next for First Parish” – SYLVIA WHEELER** – Cade Murray, seconded by Jane Stabile made a **MOTION** that we accept the Draft Congregational Announcement. All Approved, no abstentions.

**RIGHT RELATIONS STUDY TEAM UPDATE – JAN PUIBELLO** – Jan and a group of members developed a guideline statement to increase the congregation’s awareness of the meaning and significance of the Covenant of Right Relationships. A Covenantal Right Relations Team (CRRT) of 3-5 people will be formed to provide assistance if a conflict between members cannot be easily resolved between them. This will be further discussed at the next Board meeting when Rev Rob is present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH PERSONNEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE & CAROL started at 8:37PM.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carolyn White*

Carolyn White, Clerk

Approved by the Governing Board on Mar 21, 2023

Carolyn White, Clerk

Meeting Materials

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of January 17, 2023
- Report of the Director of Administration: February 2023
- RE/Pastoral Care Associate Report: February 2023
- Minister Report to the Governing Board: February 2023

Other materials

- Agenda for Feb 21, 2023
- Building Advisory Committee Info and Vote Mar 12, 2023 Congregational letter, v2.docx
- BBSF (Beyond Borders/Sin Fronteras) Budget Proposal
- GBPB (Governing Board Policy Book) Addition on New Initiatives
- Guidelines for Right Relations (FINALv2)