



Minutes
Parish Board Meeting
February 7, 2021
Sunday 1:00-3:00

Present: Karla Baehr, Janet Britcher (chair), Alfred Brownell, Emily Cherry, Micaela Coady, Jen Guillemmin, Steve Pratt-Otto, Margaret Williams, Bob Williamson, Rev Lisa Perry-Wood

The Board meeting began at 1:05pm with Rev Lisa lighting the chalice and reading an excerpt from Maya Angelou's A Brave and Startling Truth. We took turns reading each of the eight elements of our Covenant.

Connecting Activity: In trios or quartets, we shared responses to this prompt, "What did you add or discover during quarantine that you will keep?"

Committee Visit: Religious Exploration

DRE Laci Adams joined the meeting to update us on activities, successes and needs in the face of the pandemic. Highlights include:

- Based on family feedback, Laci has shifted programming away from online to more in-home.
- She continues to do outreach to families, having initiated direct contact with 49 of the 59 families; 19 have responded to date
- Three "UU-at-Home" activities and 7 "family pods" have been launched; positive feedback from K-5
- There is unlikely to be a Challenge Class because of low interest
- The necessary changes in programming have given Laci opportunity to work with others to reexamine content of each of our regular programs with a racial equity lens
- *Pen Pals* will launch with about 40 adult volunteers
- The Nominating Committee has helped Laci identify potential candidates for the RE Committee
- Assessing satisfaction and impact is challenging, e.g., the "open rate" for emails is quite high, but the "click through" rate is very low
- Laci's report next month will include an update on RE Committee members who have tentatively expressed interest in joining the committee

Let's talk about money: Fundraising Options

Margaret Williams reported on the Finance Committee's work to develop a comparative analysis of revenue and spending of other UU churches comparable in size to FPB. She shared how she and members of the committee are enjoying their work and each other! They are gathering both quantitative and qualitative information about fundraising, canvass, endowment and other revenue and spending patterns. Early findings include:

- Our pledge revenue is on par with peers
- Our rental income is lower
- Our draw from endowment is much higher

The Board discussed how we might engage one or more members of the congregation to take on responsibility as a "Virtual Party Planner" for an online auction and/or other fundraising effort. Rev Lisa is willing to reach out to members of the Nominating Committee, Deacons and Barbara Simonetti to identify potential candidates. She is also interested in convening a group interested in learning more about grant writing to support FPB. This group could become a kind of small group ministry.

Let's Talk about Money: Canvass Team Update

Micaela updated the Board on the Canvass Team's plans. The team (Micaela, Margaret, Karla, Whit and Rev Lisa) met on January 29th and will be meeting at least bi-weekly. They are reviewing and updating canvass lists and are developing a "digital outreach strategy". She identified dates most relevant to Board members:

- Training for Canvassers: 3/2/21 at 7:00-8:30
- Canvass Sunday: 3/14/21
- Report of results to Board: 4/2/21

Let's Talk about Money: Capital Expenditure Congregational Meetings

Bob reminded members of the upcoming congregational meetings related to capital spending, explaining that the Board is the host for these meetings, so a Moderator is needed to facilitate the meeting while Bob manages the technical aspects:

- **Wednesday, February 17th 7:00-8:30 on Solar Panels** (Jen will moderate)
- **Saturday, February 20th 9:30-11:00 on Buildings and Grounds** (Jen, too, if this meeting is held)

Members discussed the value of holding both meetings even if, as is likely, attendance is modest. Our goal is to pilot our new capital expenditure policy and model good governance through transparency and clarity.

Report Updates

Ministers' Report (attached)

Rev Lisa offered highlights including:

- How a Personnel liaison from the Board will be identified
- Progress on the search for a new church administrator to replace Alisa Halliday
- Progress and early results of Pastoral Care Team outreach calls to all members

Updating Committees-at-a-Glance

The Board had produced a guide to First Parish Committees and Task Forces for 2019-20 as a way to build transparency about decision-making and encourage broader congregational engagement. These Board members and Rev Lisa are being asked to update the 2019-20 information about chairs and members for committees they are members of or associated with: Karla Baehr, Alfred Brownell, Emily Cherry, Margaret Williams, Bob Williamson, Rev Lisa

The document to be updated, *2.7.21 Committees at a Glance UPDATED*, is available at

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KOJ5O9E_ffDZ7nOuSlJ_weMxQIAJZhC5kDM1LZZ8jtw/edit?usp=sharing

Nominating Committee

Rev Lisa and Janet explained that current members of the Nominating Committee are Sarah Griffen, Whit Larrabee, Mitra Morgan, Janet and Rev Lisa. The nominating Committee is responsible under our bylaws for assembling a slate of candidates for Board and Officers, and also for identifying people to serve on the Nominating Committee and chair it. Janet and Steve will be rotating off the Board next year. All Board members were asked to reach out to Janet, Rev Lisa or members of the Nominating Committee if they have suggestions for members to consider for future positions.

Other Updates – Coffee Triads

February 11th or thereabouts:

Micaela, Alfred, Bob Karla, Margaret, Janet Jen, Emily, Steve

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 3rd 7:00-9:00 (invited Committee: Digital Ministry)

Janet adjourned the meeting at 3:03pm.

Respectfully submitted

Karla Baehr, Board Clerk