

## Parish Board Meeting

Nov 5, 2018

In attendance: Michele David, Stephen Pratt-Otto, David Cave, Laura Hatfield, Charles Sandmel, Alice Mark, Rev Lisa (via Zoom)

Absent: Gene T-G, Janet Britcher, Dave Demerjian

We **opened** with Determined Seed by Laura Wallace

We **checked in** by asking where we gain our support in hard times?

We **approved the October minutes** with one correction which **Alice will send to Alisa**

We **reviewed the Minister's report**. We discussed these action items:

1. UUA would like to hold a first-year minister's facilitated retreat. This is a Friday-Sat event with Friday being open to the congregation and Saturday being within the Parish Board and shared leadership. We discussed getting more information from the UUA about the retreat and setting dates. **Rev Lisa will follow up with Meck on this.**
2. 11/18 Pie making. There will be a few board members in attendance to be present in support. Bob Williamson is leading this activity.
3. We discussed changing the safety task force which was called together for a limited scope to a standing safe congregation committee. This committee would have a larger scope of work and be ongoing. There are many congregations who have this committee and there is guidance from the UUA. We discussed that especially in these times we also need to have a conversation from the pulpit about what sanctuary and safety ARE and how we can be both open, welcoming, and safe. Rev Lisa was interested in this idea but acknowledges that it might not be until January that we can have this broader congregational conversation. **In the meantime, the board reached consensus that we would create a "Safe Congregation Committee" in accordance with our bylaws about calling a committee.** Members of the current safety task force are willing to serve on the committee but do not want to chair it. We will begin discussing the committee with congregants to see if there are others who want to serve and expect to generate interest after a congregational discussion in January.
4. A BU student wants to do field ed with this congregation. We discussed wanting to be able to offer FP as a field position for students. We discussed the budgetary implications of being a placement site. We want to offer all field ed students the top of the pay scale regardless of the student who applies for the position, which is currently \$1500. To do this, we need to have a standing line item in the budget for education. **The board reached consensus that we want to be a teaching parish and have budget allocated for teaching activities.** **Charles will take this back to the finance committee.** He feels we will have \$1500 budget to add during this calendar year and then we can vote on it at annual meeting as a recurring line item. If we take on an intern, the needed budget will be higher line item. This cannot happen until Rev. Lisa has reached full fellowship. The board's wish is that candidates are paid fairly and budget is not determined on a case by case basis.

We were visited by Kristen McIntyre of the safety task force to **request that we run a fire drill during worship service**. She and the task force feel that this is important. They will train the welcoming committee and others as “fire marshalls”, train the RE teachers about evacuating classrooms, and do preliminary work before the fire drill to make sure that these leaders are prepared. The drill will be held after the benediction so it doesn’t interrupt service. The safety task force will let congregants know beforehand that we are planning the drill. **The board reached consensus that the fire drill can take place during a worship service.**

We reviewed the finance committee report. Canvass leaders have not yet been confirmed. Charles is reaching out to last year’s canvass leads and has some other ideas as well.

We discussed **stewardship** as a standing agenda item. As Rev Lisa described it, stewardship is “every one of us to the best of our ability contributing to the financial stability of the church.” Stewardship is an ongoing discussion and does not happen only during canvass. Stephen Pratt-Otto expressed his vision that a stewardship committee would be formed, that there would be ongoing 3-5 year participation, and that the committee would own the long term financial strategy for the church, be a resource for canvass, and ultimately envision a capital campaign. He acknowledged that with the current climate the approach to stewardship needs to be gentle. We asked whether the finance council might morph into a stewardship committee or council. For next steps we discussed that we would:

1. Re-read Gene’s article on stewardship. **Alice will ask her to resend the link.**
2. **Rev Lisa will reach out to other churches** that have a stewardship committee or council to see what they do
3. **Stephen Pratt-Otto, Charles, and Rev. Lisa will continue this conversation** to come up with some next steps.

We heard Laura about installation planning. She feels that the committee is forming, that she and Rev. Lisa are in touch, and that the first meeting is planned for December. At this point the Board does not need to be more involved as the committee is almost off the ground.

We ended with our usual check-out.

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Zoom meeting – it was nice to see Rev. Lisa although she couldn’t see all of us that well	
Thank you for the binders Janet and Alisa!	
We were happy with how we managed the ask from our guest	
We had good discussion and we managed to also move forward on some decisions	
The consensus format worked well – we didn’t get stuck even if we weren’t thrilled about an idea. Consensus meant we could disagree but didn’t feel the need to dig in about it.	