



**Minutes
Parish Board Meeting
March 3, 2021**

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

The Board meeting began at 7:14pm with Rev Lisa lighting the chalice and reading Amy Schmidt's poem, *Abundance*, written in memory of Mary Oliver.

Connecting Activity: we recorded a video to support the 2021 Canvass campaign launch on March 7th, each member responding to the prompt: *What is one thing from FPB that you have been grateful for during the pandemic?*

Let's Talk about Money: compared to what? (Board Goal #1)

Addressing Board Goal #1, Treasurer Margaret Williams shared with Board members a 14-slide presentation about First Parish Finances. The Finance Committee (Margie Beal, Michael Kobran, Steve Pratt-Otto, Charles Sandmel and Margaret) researched how First Parish and five area UU congregations compare in terms of getting and spending money. They are preparing a comprehensive report they will share shortly. The Finance Committee found three ways in which FPB's finances differ significantly from our peers: our building expenses are higher, our income from fundraising is lower, and our draw from endowment is dramatically higher. We draw \$75,000 annually from endowment principal in addition to +/- \$75,000 of interest income.

The Finance Committee described four possible paths forward:

- ☐ The Sustainability Path
- ☐ The Do Nothing Path
- ☐ The Go Radical Path
- ☐ The Blue Sky Path

Board members and Finance Committee members shared both what had surprised them – as well as the ways in which the report confirmed information we already knew or suspected. Members applauded the clarity of the presentation and the insights it revealed. Discussion first focused on possibilities for generating additional income through rentals, pledge increases and fundraising. Margaret urged the Board to give serious consideration to the Finance Committee's proposal to pursue the Sustainability Path. She and others urged us to pursue the path through a framework of "abundance". Members wondered if our questions should focus on "how to get members more deeply engaged and committed." After discussing possible next steps, Janet, Emily, Alfred Margaret and Rev Lisa volunteered to meet before the next Board meeting to explore how to bring the insights from the Finance Committee's to the congregation in ways that lay the foundation for informed and engaging congregational decisions and action in the future.

Budget Process Planning (Goal #7)

Chair Janet Britcher announced the following planning and community meetings designed to achieve the Board's goal of insuring an inclusive and transparent budget development process:

- Community meetings:
 - April 14th 7:00 – 8:30
 - April 15th 7:00 – 8:30
 - April 25th 1:00 – 2:30

- Added Board meeting for Budget deliberations:
 - April 7th 7:00-9:00 pm

Committee Chair Recruitment (Goal #7) - deferred due to limited time available

Updates

- **Canvass Team**
 - Training for Canvassers held on March 2nd
 - Canvass Sunday: March 14th
 - Report of Canvass to Board: April 2nd
- **Rev Lisa's Annual Review**
 - Janet will be sending information about the Board's role in Rev Lisa's Annual Review; the deadline for Board Members' feedback will be April 30th
- **Nominating Committee**
 - Mitra Morgan (chair), Sarah Griffen, Janet, Whit, Rev Lisa.
 - Deadline for nominations is approximately April 15 given requirement to send slate to the congregation 10 days before Annual Meeting which is May 16th
- **Minister's Report**
 - Rev Lisa offered highlights
 - Rev Lisa reminded members of the opportunities to greet our new parish administrator, and bid farewell to Alisa
 - Ebire Omoregie: Thursday, March 11th 4:00-5:00 and Tuesday, March 16th 2:00-3:00
 - Alisa Halliday: Thursday, March 25th 3:30-4:30
- **Coffee Triads**
 - March 5, 2021 or thereabouts

Karla, Micaela, Margaret	Emily, Janet, Bob	Jen, Alfred, Steve
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- **Board Chair Selection Process**

Janet described the process used in recent years to select vice/co-chairs and chairs and asked for direction moving forward. The Executive Committee will consider options and frame the conversation about Board Chair selection for the April Board meeting.

Rev Lisa extinguished the chalice and Janet adjourned the meeting at 9:03pm.

Respectfully submitted

Karla Baehr, Board Clerk