

Notes from the Standing Committee Meeting, May 7, 2017

Next Meetings: Sunday, June 4, 6:00 p.m., Emerson Room

On May 7, the Standing Committee met in the Brooks Room to hear regular reports, to review progress on our goals, to go over our evaluation of Rev. Howard Dana and to discuss a preliminary budget for FY18. We also discuss some of our preparations for annual meeting scheduled for June 11, 11:30am. On Sunday, June 4, we will vote to endorse a finalized budget ahead of annual meeting.

Slate Nominations

The Standing Committee voted to present Mark Russell Prior on the slate for the Nominating Committee at this year's annual meeting. The Standing Committee also ratified the nomination of Laura Bernstein for a second 5-year term on the Trustees.

Ministerial Evaluation

Lora Venesy, Mark Russell Prior and Kate Svrcek submitted an evaluation of the work of Rev. Howard Dana from this past year. They collected responses from the Standing Committee, a selection of parishioners, as well as parishioners and staff who directly observed the progress on his self-appointed goals. The report highlighted his strengths as a worship leader and steward, while it made suggestions in other areas. If you are interested in seeing a copy of the report, please contact Kristin Haddad at Kristin.haddad@gmail.com or 978-254-5012, e-mail preferred.

Budget Presentation

Director of Operations, Fifi Ball presented the first draft of a budget for FY18. The shorter duration of the pledge campaign made estimating the overall income for FY18 easier than in previous years. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, it looks like we will be able to achieve many of our goals, including increasing our support to the UUA and providing our staff with cost of living increases. The Finance Committee will present a draft budget to the congregation on May 21 at 11:30 a.m. The information gathered at that event will inform the version of the budget presented at the June 4 Standing Committee meeting.

Annual Meeting

The First Parish Annual Meeting will be June 11 at 11:30 a.m. At the meeting, the congregation will receive reports from staff and committees, vote on officers and committee members, approve delegates to General Assembly, and approve the budget for next year.

In addition, the Standing Committee will be presenting background information on our congregational policy of reserving 7.5% of the proceeds from the annual pledge campaign to support social action. This will launch a congregation-wide policy review throughout FY18. The Standing Committee will also be asking the opinion of the congregation on our Back Lives Matter Signs in front of the Meetinghouse.

Childcare is available during the meeting. If you will be using this service, please pack your child a nut-free lunch. If you have any questions or concerns about the meeting, please contact Kristin Haddad, Chair of the First Parish Standing Committee, at Kristin.haddad@gmail.com or 978-254-5012.