

Regular Attendees		Present
Fifi Ball	Director of Operations	Y
Jane Barnes	Treasurer	Y
Jeff Brainerd	Standing Committee member	Y
Rev. Howard Dana	Senior Minister	Y
Dave Elwood	Chair	Y
C. C. King	Standing Committee member	Y
Peter Nobile	Clerk	Y
Liz Rust	Standing Committee member	Y
Susan See	Standing Committee member	Y
Kate Svreck	Standing Committee member	
Lora Venesy	Standing Committee member	Y
Tom Wilson	Standing Committee member	Y
Rev. Liz Weber	Minister for Pastoral Care	
Alec Walker	Standing Committee <i>alumnus, serving tempus esse</i>	Y
Guests		
Brad Hubbard Nelson	Environmental Leadership Team	Y
Elizabeth Norton	Music Director	Y

PLEASE NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY (VIA ZOOM)

Howard lit our chalice and shared *The Limits of Tyrants*, written by Frederick Douglass.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: to accept the May 2020 Standing Committee (SC) meeting minutes, and to incorporate them into the permanent record.

Director of Operations Report

Fifi described three over-budget items in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 budget each worth more than \$2,000 and therefore requiring SC approval. These three items are:

- \$1,900 for money to pay for a Zoom technician through Annual Meeting,
- \$4,900 for laptops for staff to facilitate remote work, and
- \$4,900 for music staff bonuses for Gayle, Anderson, and Eric.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve increases to the FY 2020 budget as described above.

Senior Minister’s Report

There were no comments on Howard’s report, and his comments on the Social Action Council (SAC) situation will be covered later in the meeting.

Environmental Leadership Team (ELT) motion for Annual Meeting

Brad reviewed a proposed resolution for the congregation vote on at Annual Meeting, as well as background information on the motion. The group discussed the purpose and intent of the motion. The committee asked Brad to clarify that the ELT's first step will be to better define any potential project by hiring design professionals and then to begin a conversation about fundraising for any potential work. Peter will attend an Environmental Leadership Team meeting tomorrow evening, Wednesday June 10th, to help further clarify the motion.

Finance Director's Report

Fifi ran through final changes to the current version of the proposed annual budget, which is currently balanced at \$1,454,029. Jeff asked about how much flexibility there is in the budget for technology or other online-driven worship or other needs. Beth explained the reasoning behind the new music staff hires, and separately discussed this year's music staff bonuses. Lora and Jane reminded the group of the SC's strong suggestion that we work with a development consultant going forward, whether as a hired professional or by drawing from talent within the congregation.

After further discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the FY2021 Annual Budget of \$1,454,029, as presented.

Other Business

Liz Rust reviewed the Social Action Council's collective resignation letter and some of the background about how the decision came about, and the group discussed what the decision means and next steps for social action at First Parish. Alec and Tom offered some background on the Council's struggles in finding a real mission or common purpose given the strong personalities within the group. Howard stands by his words that the behaviors in the SAC meetings were toxic. Jane and others do not really understand the drama of this resignation, although Liz explained that the move is more about an acknowledgement of the changing structure of social action at First Parish than any subterfuge. The SAC is truly dedicated to social action at First Parish but given the new model for social action at First Parish – especially regarding funding – believes that it is time for a new constitution to the group. Howard has full confidence in Adrienne's efforts to help us find joy and meaning in social action work. The SC agreed that a clear message prior to Annual Meeting about what brought this change about will be very important, especially given the Zoom format this year. Howard will prepare an email to go out to the congregation tomorrow or Thursday.

CC asked the group how the church could better reach congregants who may be more interested in racial justice work, to be clearer for instance about specific actions that people could take. Are there learning opportunities or other ways to become more deeply engaged? Can we commit to some more concrete steps? Adrienne has compiled a great list of actions, and the Standing Committee statement was also an indication of steps we are taking.

Peter and the committee bid a fond farewell to Lora, Dave, Tom, and Alec. Specifically, Peter noted Lora's clear thinking, tenacity, and devotion especially to our church's youth; Tom's kind work and deep wisdom; Dave's calm and reassuring steadiness; and Alec both for stepping in to complete Val's term and for his careful, thoughtful and compassionate insight. Our community is better for having been served by these members, and we owe them all a debt of loving gratitude. Peter noted that First Parish is stronger

because of these four members' tireless efforts, and that they have earned a rest!

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter Nobile, Clerk