

First Parish in Concord Standing Committee

Meeting Date: August 11, 2020

Fifi Ball	Manager of Operations	Y
Jane Barnes	Treasurer	Y
Jeff Brainard	Standing Committee Member	Y
Liz Weber	Minister for Pastoral Care	Y
Laurel Doggett	Clerk	Y
James Hawks	Standing Committee Member	Y
Peter Nobile	Chair	Y
C.C. King	Standing Committee Member	Y
Jim Reynolds	Standing Committee Member	Y
Liz Rust	Vice Chair	Y
Susan See	Standing Committee Member	Y
Kate Svreck	Standing Committee Member	N
Virginia Taylor	Standing Committee Member	Y

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

Peter offered a reading. C.C. guided us through a centering exercise. Liz Weber lit a chalice and offered a blessing.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

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

Pastoral Care Report

Liz Weber noted that July was an especially busy month for pastoral care. The ability for staff to take a month off during the summer has provided a necessary reprieve from the intensity of the last months. During the upcoming church year, pastoral care is going to partner with social justice on activities.

There was some discussion around possible gathering a small group ministry of six to eight congregants for spiritual growth and learning during the church year.

Director of Operations Report

Fife Ball noted that the total budgeted annual pledges were down this year 96.3% from 97%. The number of pre-paid pledges taken in July reached a new record high kicking off a strong start to FY21.

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With the suspension of Share-the-Plate program, monthly income has been down. The program will restart in September; however, it's anticipated that monthly collections will be lower this year than last.

Liaison and Subcommittee Assignments

Standing committee staff will serve as liaisons to various committees as part of a communication feedback loop. Assignments will occur in the coming months. Subcommittee members will need to review charters.

- Governance
- Ministerial Support - Peter, Susan, Jeff
- Finance – review how to support Fifi, mission, and who might be important to have on the committee
- ELT *Greening the Campus* –Liz and Peter are working on a charter and would require Bruce Davidson, the new Facilities Manger's involvement
- Belonging Team will be issuing a report next moth
- Denominational Affairs
- Wright Tavern Task Force - Jane
- Membership Committee
- Nominating Committee – someone in addition to

There was discussion around the possibility of having an SC liaison for music and a task force for the reopening of the Church.

Coffee Hour

There was discussion around the operational procedures for Zoom coffee hour following the service and the need for a script and technical support.

Long range planning, strategic thinking, visioning

The SC will have a retreat in October to discuss goals. A preliminary brainstorm of possible goal ideas included: how do we facilitate a deeper, richer connection in the community during virtual operation; how are we anticipating and managing transitions; how to we position ourselves to be vital moving forward; how do we use digital technology to reach a younger audience, how do we continue to move forward with a shared leadership model that is supportive.

SC Projects and Reports

1. Five Pillars: When looking at FP through five pillars: pastoral care, religious education, social action, music & worship, and administration, Liz Rust suggested the following high-level questions to guide conversations and to avoid getting into operational micromanagement:

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- Programming under virtual a church - how has participation been?
- What new ideas does virtual a church brings us?
- What is the temperature of the engagement of the congregants in your area?
- How's technology working in your area?
- What kind of help do you need?

Additional comments noted were: Do we want to make the questions focused only on the virtual the experience? Can we be more specific with the last question regarding help?

2. Communication to Congregation: Should the SC prepare a monthly message or blog posts of encouragement from the SC? If so, who will write these? Virginia expressed interest. There was some discussion around the membership survey led by Nan Jeffries in which Jane was the featured member. Privacy issues were discussed. Fifi noted that there is Directors and Officers liability insurance that also protects committee members.

3. Report from General Assembly – to be coordinated with Howard in September

4. How do we communicate or enhance belonging and connection?

- A. Pastoral calls
- B. Chipotle Gift Cards

The main meeting was closed at 8:55PM and then entered into an Executive Session.

Executive Session

The Executive Committee adjourned at 9:36 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Laurel Doggett