

**First Parish in Concord
Standing Committee Meeting
March 8, 2022**

Fifi Ball	Director of Operations	Y
Michael Beer	Standing Committee Member	Y
Howard Dana	Senior Minister	Y
Jim Hawks	Standing Committee Member	Y
Jennifer Izzo	Clerk	Y
C.C. King	Standing Committee Member	Y
Gib Metcalf	Standing Committee Member	Y
Caroline Washburn Minkin	Standing Committee Member	Y
Heather Packard	Treasurer	Y
Jim Reynolds	Standing Committee Member	N
Liz Rust	Chair	Y
Susan See	Standing Committee Member	Y
Virginia Taylor	Standing Committee Member	Y

THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM

Howard started the meeting by reading a poem by Mary Oliver.

Director of Operations Report

- Last month First Parish was given a gift of \$1,000,000 from Ian and Liesel Simmons, a portion of which was designated for specific purposes.
- The church also received a gift of \$15,000 from Ted Bayne and Lea Delacour, designated for the Social Action Reserve Fund. The Standing Committee discussed the origin and purpose of the Social Action Reserve Fund. After adding this \$15,000 donation to the Fund, the Fund will contain approximately \$33,000. The Standing Committee tasked Rev. Paul Langston-Daley to look into the Fund and how the proceeds are allocated.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: to accept the 2 restricted fund donations of \$1,000,000 and \$15,000.

Pledge Campaign. As of the date of the meeting, the church has received \$76,000 in pledges for the 2022-23 church year. It is anticipated that many more pledge cards to come in soon because members will receive pledge letters and envelopes this week.

Annual Meeting Planning

- First Parish’s annual meeting is scheduled for the second Sunday in June, 6/12/22.
- Annual Reports will be sent out to the Congregation in May. The SC discussed whether to send out annual meeting materials digitally and/or on paper. A final decision has not been made.
- A discussion ensued whether the annual meeting should be Virtual, Hybrid or In-person. Given the nature of the annual meeting, the logistics of a hybrid meeting would be difficult. The SC and staff look forward to loosening Covid restrictions and would like to have the meeting be in-

person if possible. The weather will be warmer by June and the downward Covid trend will hopefully continue.

- The SC decided that the Standing Committee will meet in person in May.

UUA General Assembly Convention.

- The UUA General Assembly is scheduled for June 22-26, 2022 in Portland, Oregon. This is the annual gathering of the Unitarian-Universalist denomination with workshops and meetings.

Loan to Museum

- Gib asked about the status of the loan of artwork and table to the Concord Museum. Liz, Heather and Jen are working on the terms of the contract and will meet to discuss the loan the following week. The SC will be asked to vote on the loan at a later date.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: to accept the February, 2022 Standing Committee (SC) meeting minutes, and to incorporate them into the permanent record.

May 14 Spring Celebration

- Liz asked for volunteers to plan a church event on May 14, 2022. Susan, Jim H., Caroline, Liz and Jen volunteered to help plan it.

Retreat

- The virtual “Leadership in Shifting Times, Transitioning to a New Future” retreat was held on February 26, 2022. CC, Susan and Liz are compiling the information from the facilitator summaries and will distribute the consolidated information soon.
- Everyone spent a minute sharing their experiences with the Retreat.

Minister’s Report

- CC asked if there are plans to address the low Religious Education engagement rate. Howard responded that the program is small, but there seems to be strong interest in revitalizing it. The need is to find volunteers for the cooperative aspect of the program. As the pandemic wanes, people will likely have more bandwidth and willingness to participate again.
- CC asked if we could bring more joyful worship to the weekly services (e.g., the Adult Vocal Contemporary Chorus Assemble). Howard responded that everyone wants it to return, but Beth and Howard just haven’t figured it out yet. It’s another victim of the pandemic.
- Susan asked if there is any plan to have a ministerial intern next year. Howard answered that there is not a plan to have an intern at this time.
- Howard announced that he is resigning from First Parish. A message will go out to the congregation tomorrow. The SC reviewed Howard’s proposed communication to the congregation and suggested a few edits.

Executive Session

- The SC went into Executive Session.