

**First Parish in Concord
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2024**

Fifi Ball	Director of Operations	Y
Michael Beer	Governing Board Member	Y
Lisa Bennett	Governing Board Member	Y
Kimma Brainerd	Incoming Clerk	Y
Neil Brock	Incoming Governing Board Member	Y
Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd	Senior Minister (Interim)	Y
Jennifer Izzo	Clerk	Y
C.C. King	Governing Board Member	Y
Gib Metcalf	Chair	Y
Caroline Washburn Minkin	Governing Board Member	Y
Kristin Moore	Incoming Governing Board Member	N
Jim Reynolds	Governing Board Member	Y
Leah Russell	Treasurer	Y
Liz Rust	Governing Board Member	Y
Susan See	Governing Board Member	Y
Virginia Taylor	Governing Board Member	Y

THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN PERSON AT THE HOME OF CC KING IN CONCORD, MA.

Lisa Bennett offered opening words.

Everyone checked in about how they are doing, and enjoyed a potluck dinner.

INTERIM SENIOR MINISTER REPORT

- Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd offered a report on his activities during the previous month, as well as over the entire two-year interim period. He said that First Parish has come a long way. When he first joined the church two years ago, we had a deficit of \$170,000. We are in a much better

place now. We took a lot of steps to help First Parish prepare for the future. We should be proud of the work we've done in the interim period.

- Liz Rust praised Seth for bringing screens into the sanctuary. She stated that the screens have really made a difference, and she appreciates his efforts.
- Seth stated that he feels good about what we've accomplished together. Liz Weber's medical leave was a challenge because we couldn't get as much done as he had hoped, but it is OK. We are well positioned for Rev. Jennifer Johnson to come to First Parish next fall.
- Susan See stated that Seth has been the perfect transition minister. His skills are very well suited for this position. We have been blessed.
- Jim Reynolds echoed that he is impressed by the list of accomplishments in the two-year transition period.
- Susan See asked if congregants are still upset about the screens in the sanctuary. Seth answered the screens have been integrated into the life of church, as have the Welcoming Walls project. People have gotten accustomed to both changes.
- Seth reminded the Governing Board that there is still the disposition of the portraits to deal with. The portraits can't stay in the Buckley Room forever.
- CC praised Seth for the specificity and clarity with which he raised issues about which we should be thinking. His sermon on Sunday was bold and courageous.

GOVERNING BOARD OPERATIONS

Meeting Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded it was:

VOTED: to accept the meeting minutes from the May 7, 2024 Governing Board Meeting, and to incorporate them into the permanent record.

Upon motion duly made and seconded it was:

VOTED: to accept the meeting minutes from the May 14, 2024 Governing Board Meeting, and to incorporate them into the permanent record.

October 19 Governing Board Fundraiser Dinner

- Gib reminded the Governing Board that we committed to host a dinner for the Congregation as an Auction offering. We will be hosting a games and dinner night on October 19, 2024. We will try to sell more tickets in the fall.

Ascending Vice Chair Discussion

- Gib, Susan and CC discussed the need to identify an ascending vice chair of the Governing Board, who will serve as the vice chair next year and then chair in the following two years.
- Susan and CC developed the following process for selecting the ascending vice chair: Sometime in February, the current Governing Board chair will appoint a vice chair selection subcommittee of 2-3 people who are not eligible to be ascending vice chair themselves. The subcommittee will contact everyone on the Governing Board to ask what qualities are important for the next vice chair, and who might be interested and willing to serve in that capacity. The subcommittee will then nominate an individual to serve as ascending vice chair and present their recommendation to the Governing Board. The expectation is that the nominee will serve as chair for two years. This is a three year commitment: one year as ascending vice chair, and two years as chair.
- Susan and CC nominated Lisa Bennett to be the ascending vice chair next year. Lisa left the room and discussion ensued.

Upon motion duly made and seconded it was:

VOTED: to elect Lisa Bennett to be the ascending vice chair for the following church year.

Reflections on the Church Year

- A discussion ensued regarding the church year and how people are feeling about First Parish.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30pm.