

Regular Attendees		Present
Fifi Ball	Director of Operations	Y
Jeff Brainerd	Standing Committee member	Y
Rev. Howard Dana	Senior Minister	Y
Dave Elwood	Standing Committee member	Y
Kristin Haddad	Chair	Y
Peter Nobile	Clerk	Y
Patty Popov	Standing Committee member	Y
Toby Smith Ropeik	Standing Committee member	Y
Mark Russell Prior	Standing Committee member	Y
Lora Venesy	Standing Committee member	Y
Tom Wilson	Treasurer	Y
Kate Svreck	Standing Committee member	Y
John Lowe	Standing Committee member	Y
Jan Hutslar	Ministerial Intern	Y
Guests	(none)	

PLEASE NOTE: this meeting took place via conference call due to hazardous winter conditions. The agenda was accordingly abbreviated.

Kristin read our Standing Committee (SC) covenant, and then each committee member checked in.

Minutes from January’s meeting had already been revised and approved via electronic vote.

Chair’s Report

Patty Popov and Kristin Haddad met with Mark Giddings, chair of the Historic Districts Commission, and Chris Whelan, Concord Town manager, to discuss our “Black Lives Matter” and “Join the Conversation” banners. The mutual respect between the town and our parish was evident. After we shared our own practices for reviewing the banners hanging between our front pillars, we agreed to notify the commission if that process changes.

Treasurer’s Report

Tom reviewed the Legacy Giving Policies and Guidelines, and described today’s Forum that outlined the program. Attendees at the forum asked several good questions.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Legacy Giving Policies and Guidelines, that was edited to reflect the suggestions made at our January meeting. The motion was then approved unanimously.

Tom then discussed the Finance Committee’s proposed Congregational Survey that is intended to analyze Stewardship patterns at First Parish. The survey will be completed electronically using Survey Monkey, and survey results will be analyzed and presented to the Congregation in April. The survey, which will be anonymous, looks at both financial and emotional data about peoples’ connection to the church, in other words not only how much money parishioners can and will give but how people feel about the church. The survey will go out to all members in all pledging households, and a good response rate would be around 100. Members suggested that the letter introducing the survey come from both the Standing Committee (Kristin) and Howard, acknowledging the Finance Committee’s imprimatur and hard work, that the term “Stewardship” be clearly defined, and that Tom should be identified as a contact person in

case of questions.

Governance Charter Review

A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft Governance Subgroup charter that was presented in January. The motion was approved unanimously.

Nominating Committee Size Discussion

Patty reported on conversations about the size and purpose of the Nominating Committee with Kristin and others in the past few weeks, and in the context of those discussions is proposing to reduce the size of the Nominating Committee from 9 to 7, to occur over two years. This is in part because the Nominating Committee is no longer responsible for leadership development and therefore has a somewhat redefined role. Leadership development is appropriately the responsibility of the Standing Committee and the Senior Minister. The SC discussed the broader purpose of the Nominating Committee, as well as the merits of 7 versus 9 members, and there was some concern about the ability of a smaller committee to both reach widely enough into the congregation for future leadership or to do outreach. This discussion will be continued.

SC Goals Review and Updates

Governance goals are on track, with the approval of the subcommittee charter. The governance subcommittee is scheduled to meet on February 28, 2107 at 7:00pm.

Leadership goals are moving forward beginning with last week's successful SC meeting, discussion and lunch with Sue Phillips at the UUA. Another Leadership goal, the Leadership Development workshop, is currently planned for Thursday April 27 from 6:00-9:00pm. Howard will be working with Kate and others to finalize the program, and pizza will be served. And finally, as part of goal to better connect with our peers and the wider denomination, several SC members are planning to attend this year's regional UUA meeting in April, to be held in Woburn on April 21-22.

Regarding SAC goals, the SAC board has approached the Standing Committee about forming a taskforce to accomplish 4 main goals:

- Review & evaluate the SAC grant polices and process;
- Develop a new process and criteria for spending the reserve of unspent SAC funds that we have accumulated;
- Plan and implement pilot share the plate collections; and
- Develop recommendations for SAC giving in the future.

There was a clear consensus that this taskforce is appropriate and good way for the Social Action Community to move forward. It is encouraging that the SAC group is concerned about adhering to our congregational policies. They are inviting Standing committee members to collaborate, but there is a concern among members that it could lead to "dual reporting" and potentially subvert Howard's role as the Head of Staff. Members are welcome to be involved in the process, if desired, but are reminded that Social Action is a congregational group that Howard is responsible for leading. As such, it was suggested that Standing Committee members that are interested in participating in the task force be state explicitly that they are participating as congregants, not as members of the church's governing board. It was noted that being a member of the Standing Committee may provide a policy expertise that would be well used in such an initiative, and that was welcome. The desire is to have the Social Action community be a thriving, healthy and fully integrated program of the church as an operational group.

The public portion of the meeting ended at 7:50 PM. There was a short Executive Session, and the meeting formally adjourned at 8:02 PM.

/pn