

<b>Regular Attendees</b>		<b>Present</b>
Fifi Ball	Director of Operations	Y
Jeff Brainerd	Standing Committee member	Y
Rev. Howard Dana	Senior Minister	Y
Dave Elwood	Standing Committee member	Y
Michelle Fortier	Treasurer	Y
Kristin Haddad	Chair	Y
John Lowe	Standing Committee member	Y
Peter Nobile	Clerk	Y
Patty Popov	Standing Committee member	Y
Toby Smith Ropeik	Standing Committee member	N
Lora Venesy	Standing Committee member	Y
Tom Wilson	Standing Committee member	N
Kate Svrcek	Standing Committee member	N
<b>Guests</b>		
Zach Roe	Social Action Coordinator	Y
Katharine Esty	First Parish Member	Y
Eric Van Loon	First Parish Member	Y

Howard lit our chalice and read a short piece called “To the Standing Committee.” Michelle read our Standing Committee covenant.

Minutes from our June 10 meeting were approved unanimously.

**Jericho Road Update**

Eric Van Loon dialed in to the meeting. Eric is hoping that at the September 10<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee (SC) meeting we will consider two motions: first, whether to accept a \$300,000 gift for a new endowment fund, to be managed by the Trustees and tentatively called the Greely Endowment Fund, for uses to be determined more precisely but to be generally earmarked for social action. Second, Eric is suggesting that the SC vote to form a group to explore, for 3 to 4 months, whether to absorb the 501(c)(3) organization of Jericho Road. Although First Parish is also tax-exempt, it is possible that having another non-profit dedicated to social action, with differing eligibility for grants and become eligible for government funds. If it is not deemed worthwhile to maintain the additional 501c3, Jim Smith of Foley Hoag, LLP, has offered to help dissolve the 501(c)3 pro bono.

The proposed endowment has come about as a result of the dissolution of the Jericho Road organization. As background, Eric expanded on Jericho Road’s origins, achievements, status and long relationship with First Parish. Jericho Road is undergoing a major transition and due to meeting significant financial and organizational headwinds (including staff costs and loss of mission focus) has voted to dissolve as an organization. An existing \$300,000 Jericho Road endowment would be given to and managed by First Parish, ideally by people who already have ties to Jericho Road and/or social action at First Parish.

The committee expressed concern about the fate of Jericho Road, and we discussed the context and possibilities of this new direction for the Jericho Road assets.

**Level 2 Sanctuary Status**

In June, the Immigration Justice Task Force came to the Standing Committee to request that we consider becoming a Level 2 Sanctuary Congregation in support of First Parish in Bedford. Kristin read updates from conversations with Tony Rodriguez who reported on several efforts that First Parish is engaged in, including work by the Immigration Justice Task Force (IJTF) in and around Boston, including connections to First Parish in Bedford which has already committed to Level 1 status. The committee discussed logistics around commitment to Level 2 status. As First Parish supports the IJTF wholeheartedly and UUA Sanctuary Status efforts in principal, but felt that the congregation as a whole ought to be better educated about the significance of Level 2 sanctuary status before we call a vote. The committee agreed to discuss further and to formally vote on the issue in October.

**Black Lives Matter (BLM) banner recommendation**

Kristin reported on the Race Congregation Group's (RCG) suggestion for replacing the secondary banner that blew down last year. After that group surveyed the congregation, they found that those surveyed overwhelmingly preferred "no second banner" over any of the proposed phrases and action statements. They noted that this was consistent with the recommendations from the Black Lives Matter organization. A motion was made to accept the RCG's recommendation to not replace the second banner; the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**Minister's report**

Howard's report was gratefully received. The committee discussed how best to support Howard's goals around the Annual Pledge Campaign, including levels of involvement by SC members and how best to help Howard build community.

**Director of Operations report**

Fifi briefly reviewed her June 2017 finance report summary and answered committee questions. Fifi reported a FY2016-17 surplus of \$60,000! Fifi then discussed possible uses of our current total \$155,600 of available cash, e.g. how much to allocate to expenditures, long-range planning, savings goals, and so on. The committee will continue this discussion at our September meeting.

**Chair's Report**

September's SC meeting will start at 6:45PM in order to allow members to attend the Homecoming Sunday event. The SC chair review is due soon, and Kristin delegated this process (creating, filling out and compiling the initial document) to Dave. Kristin also suggested that she send out a letter on this coming year's theme ("Year For Reflection and Visioning") to all committee chairs with whom we liaise.

**Goal Review and Annual Planning**

Kristin reviewed a document titled "Proposal for the First Parish in Concord: Year for Reflection and Visioning, FY18." The group discussed the goals as articulated, including the need for the SC to create a 5-year evaluation and the review of the current 7.5% social action reserve policy.

- A leadership development workshop, part of a UUA curriculum called "Harvest the Power," is

planned for September 30<sup>th</sup> of this year. The group discussed how best to schedule and lead the workshop, tentatively set for 8AM-12PM with breakfast and coffee served. Lora and Kate are coordinating this effort. Kristin has also scheduled listening sessions around the 7.5% discussion. These sessions are scheduled for September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, and October 1<sup>st</sup>.

- The congregational survey process was discussed, with Tom heading up that effort. The survey will be conducted and analyzed through the winter holidays of this year, with listening sessions scheduled for early February of 2018.
- Results from the 7.5% discussion may be ready for presentation to the congregation in April 2018, which could occur as a Sunday Forum. Zach suggested a series of dinners at congregant's homes to discuss social action in a less formal atmosphere – extroverts on the committee were excited by the idea, introverts less so.
- The group discussed the possibility of an all-day congregational workshop to consider the future of several selected areas of our ministry. The topics would need to be responsive to the interests of the community and the format would depend at least somewhat on the number of parishioners interested in attending. The tentative date for this workshop is early March 2018.
- Evaluations will take place at the end of the year.

The motion was made, seconded and approved to close the main meeting at 9:10, and the group entered into an Executive Session.

The Executive Session was closed at 9:25, and a motion was made to adjourn the main meeting, was seconded and unanimously approved. The meeting ended at 9:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Peter Nobile  
Clerk