

Regular Attendees		Present
Fifi Ball	Director of Operations	N
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	N
Zach Roe	Social Action Coordinator	Y
Toby Smith Ropeik	Standing Committee member	Y
Lora Venesy	Standing Committee member	Y
Tom Wilson	Standing Committee member	Y
Kate Svrcek	Standing Committee member	Y
Jo VonRue	Minister in Residence	Y
Guests		
Eric Moore	First Parish Member	Y
Eric Van Loon	First Parish Member	Y
CC King	First Parish Member	Y

Howard lit our chalice and read a short piece by Ralph Waldo Emerson. Dave read our Standing Committee (SC) covenant. Minutes from our August 13 meeting were approved unanimously.

Jericho Road Decisions

The committee discussed issues and parameters around a possible gift from the Jericho Road organization as it disbands. First, we discussed the technical arrangements of the transfer and operation of an approximately \$300,000 fund, which was the Jericho Road endowment. Second, we discussed the formation of a committee to determine whether there are any advantages to forming a new 501(c)3 social justice-focused organization to operate and manage this fund in parallel to First Parish – essentially continuing the Jericho Road “brand.” Eric Van Loon briefed the committee on the origins and history of the Jericho Road project. Questions about organizational, operational and technical aspects of the arrangement were discussed. John made the following motions:

- 1) That the SC accept an approximately \$300,000 gift from the Jericho Road board on behalf of First Parish, with the understanding that the principal would not be spent, only interest. Given that rates of interest are not predictable the fund might, for example, generate around \$15,000 per year if returns are around 5% annually. This money would be managed by the Senior Minister and focused on operations dedicated to social justice, with details to be worked out in the future.
- 2) That an exploratory committee form to study whether continuing the existing 501(c)3 structure represents any advantage to First Parish. Committee membership is TBD.

Chair's Report

Kristin reported that she has joined a UU Lay President Conference Call group. Next month Kristin would like to have Liaison reports and Chair feedback from all SC members. Next month will also see an update on Level 2 Sanctuary Status. Kristin reminded the SC about coffee hour greeting duties, especially during this Year for Reflection and Visioning, and will generate an assignment list. John will arrange with Doug to have an SC table set up each Sunday at coffee hour.

Minister's report

Howard's report was gratefully received. Lora thanked Howard for his beautiful handling of the Dylan Smith service, and Howard reported on a good lunch meeting with Minister Emeritus Gary Smith. The group discussed the challenges around beginning the Beloved Conversations process.

Treasurer's report

Michelle reported on the recent Finance Committee (FC) meeting, including updates on the Legacy Giving Fund, upcoming budget listening sessions, and analysis of our current budget surplus. Fifi continues to provide excellent support to both Howard and the FC.

Member's Reports

- Lora thanked Howard and Zach for their handling of the social action discussion this morning.
- The group discussed the current sound system in the sanctuary.
- Tom reported hearing negative feelings about First Parish from a former member and feeling sad about this person's experience.
- Michelle expressed gratitude for our church's actions, including hurricane Harvey relief and Dylan Smyth's service, and how that reflects creditably on how we are perceived in the community.
- Lora asked about the Youth Director position, especially considering the recent youth deaths in our community. Howard reports good progress on finding a new person for this position.

Stewardship Report

Kristin made a motion that the SC accept the August 2017 Stewardship Report as submitted by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Leadership Workshop Update

Kate discussed particulars and updates around the UUA curriculum that will be used as a guideline for the workshop, scheduled for 800-1230 on September 30th. Several SC members stepped forward to facilitate and scribe. Also, the leadership survey process continues to develop.

The committee checked out around the table, sharing thoughts and impressions. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, was seconded and unanimously approved. The meeting ended at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter Nobile
Clerk