

| <b>Regular Attendees</b> |                           | <b>Present</b> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Fifi Ball                | Director of Operations    | Y              |
| Jeff Brainerd            | Standing Committee member | Y              |
| Rev. Howard Dana         | Senior Minister           |                |
| Dave Elwood              | Standing Committee member | Y              |
| Michelle Fortier         | Treasurer                 |                |
| Kristin Haddad           | Chair                     | Y              |
| John Lowe                | Standing Committee member | Y              |
| Peter Nobile             | Clerk                     | Y              |
| Patty Popov              | Standing Committee member |                |
| Zach Roe                 | Social Action Coordinator | Y              |
| Toby Smith Ropeik        | Standing Committee member | Y              |
| Lora Venesy              | Standing Committee member |                |
| Tom Wilson               | Standing Committee member | Y              |
| Kate Svrcek              | Standing Committee member | Y              |
| Rev. Jo VonRue           | Minister in Residence     | Y              |
|                          |                           |                |
| <b>Guests</b>            |                           |                |
| Eric Moore               | Nominating Committee      |                |
|                          |                           |                |

Kristin opened our meeting with a reading of Theresa Soto’s *“Now I Love You, Now I Witness.”* John lit our chalice, and Jeff read our Standing Committee covenant.

Our January minutes were approved unanimously.

**Standing Committee (SC) Goal Status Review**

There have been several recent YfRaV activities including leadership development meetings with Jim Sherblom and others. Other SC goal related activities included:

- Kristin reported good connections with colleagues in Lincoln.
- Dave proposed that we formally engage a couple of other congregations to connect with, Board to Board.
- Several of us are participating in Beloved Conversations.
- First Parish (FP) Concord has around 30 volunteers helping with First Parish Bedford’s Sanctuary program.
- Jo is collaborating with FP Lexington in starting a regional Youth Advisory group.
- YfRaV congregational survey results so far show a preference for merging the Social Action 7.5% back into the full church budget (option 4 on the survey).
- SC policy streamlining efforts continue.

**Chair’s Report**

Kristin sent a letter of thanks and support to Eric Van Loon regarding the Jericho Road.

**Director of Operations' Report**

Fifi reviewed the current financial report that was distributed by email, and she answered several questions from SC members. Fifi then reviewed the UUA certification process and how she responded to some of the data questions that the UUA process is looking for.

Fifi also reported that First Parish has recently accepted three restricted gifts, one for repairs to the steeple and two directed to the SAC Grant Funds reserve.

Finally, Fifi described the new Fair Share criteria for determining what our congregation should contribute annually to the UUA/New England Region (NER). The FY19 request from the UUA/NER is \$58,484.00, ten percent more than this year's requested contribution (\$53,167). Without a 10% cap on annual increases, and without the geo-index rate adjustment for our region, our annual requested contribution would be over \$77,750.00

Kristin reported that Michelle and the Finance Committee are continuing their good work on several fronts.

**Subcommittee and Task Force updates**

- Jeff reported that a recommendation for SC chair succession should be ready for the March meeting.
- Kate reported that the Nominating Committee is looking for one nomination for that committee. Additionally, the Trustees are looking for a nominee, and there will be vacancies come June on both the Finance and Standing Committees.
- John and Kristin reported that the governance subcommittee is working on a review of operating policies and will be ready to report on that effort in March.
- Tom reported that three people have submitted Legacy forms to Fifi, and that others are intending to do so.

**Member's reports**

- Kate reported that people have been responding very favorably to the Year for Reflection and Visioning (YfRaV) process.
- Peter reported that several people commented on being happy to see the banner during today's service, as well as on the happy chatter during the postlude.
- Dave reported on the success of the Funderberg scholar dinner.
- Kate reported very good feedback on Beloved Conversations, and Jo commented on the level of First Parish's commitment to that process.
- Kristin reported that Mark Richards, who is a preliminary UU ministry fellowship candidate, has asked to be ordained at First Parish. We will discuss this further at upcoming meetings.

**YfRaV update, ideals and goals**

Kristin reminded the committee that the congregational retreat is coming up on March 9-10. Kate reported that close to 150 people have attended listening sessions. Tom reported that so far 91 people have filled out the survey, and that the deadline has been extended to February 20<sup>th</sup>. Planning for the retreat continues, and Kate reported that Jim Sherblom and Jim Tull will be facilitating portions of the

retreat, with a broad focus on readjusting how we relate to one another at First Parish. Through the process, several priorities have come up repeatedly, and such a pattern will help develop both the structure of the retreat and possible end statements. There will be logistical and other jobs for SC members. Tom requested that SC members forward the survey with personal invitations to help increase participation.

**SC Policy Review update**

Kristin reviewed an updated version of the SC's Governing Policies, which had been distributed by email earlier. The group discussed several proposed modifications and adjustments, focusing both on eliminating redundancies and/or procedures duplicated in the SC Better Practices (to be retitled as "Best Practices"). A general goal is to keep our policies general enough to allow for flexibility and future maneuvering. An updated version of this document will be distributed to the SC for review prior to any vote to accept revisions.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded and unanimously approved, and the meeting ended at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Peter Nobile  
Clerk