

Regular Attendees		Present
Fifi Ball	Director of Operations	
Jeff Brainerd	Standing Committee member	
Rev. Howard Dana	Senior Minister	Y
Dave Elwood	Chair	Y
Michelle Fortier	Treasurer	
Kristin Haddad	Standing Committee member	Y
John Lowe	Standing Committee member	Y
Peter Nobile	Clerk	Y
Zach Roe	Social Action Coordinator	
Toby Smith Ropeik	Standing Committee member	
Kate Svrcek	Standing Committee member	Y
Valerie Vallancourt	Standing Committee member	
Lora Venesy	Standing Committee member	Y
Tom Wilson	Standing Committee member	Y
Laurel Gray	Ministerial Intern	Y

Howard opened our meeting with a poem by James Crews titled “*Fireflies*” and Laurel lit our chalice. We held a moment of silence, and then Dave read our Standing Committee (SC) covenant.

Due to low attendance this evening, minutes from our July meeting will be reviewed and approved by email or at the next meeting.

Senior minister report

In addition to his report, Howard discussed how he will be forming advisory committees to help with transitions around upcoming staffing changes. Howard will be looking to possibly expand the Pastoral Care ministry role to full time with a broader look at the Parish community. Howard is dealing with a health issue that will require some minor surgery and may result in a few days off this coming fall.

Dave discussed how the SC might collaborate with Howard on the development of other goals, which the committee has started to talk about this summer, and how those goals might align with the three outcome areas from this past year’s Year for Reflection and Visioning (YfRaV) process. Howard noted that the staff is very interested in continuing the good parish cultural changes that are happening.

Dave noted that Meg Hargraves has expressed interest in facilitating a fall SC retreat, which might be a stepping off process for our collaborative goal setting. Lora noted the need to be sensitive about timing given the staffing transitions, the Auction, and other long-term processes that are beginning this year. The group briefly discussed the Ministerial self-evaluation process.

End of fiscal year financial report

The committee briefly discussed Fifi’s report, and Howard provided a few clarifications. The bottom line is that fiscally speaking we are doing well.

Updates: what are we hearing?

John reported that Zach's recent Sunday service was amazing, with a lot of energy, interesting themes, and excellent music. The feedback in general is that the congregation is interested in more such services. John also reported to Howard about Jim Sherblom's terrific summer service.

Standing Committee goals discussion

The group discussed the best next step to solidifying our variable timeline goals. The goals included chartering various task forces, evolving our leadership model with Howard and the staff, and building on last year's successes. Peter asked about how we might grow a youth group, and Howard said that the current plan, being developed by him and Rev. Amy, to reenergize the youth group is to recruit youth leaders from within First Parish and to then more formally administrate that program. The SC expressed interested in working on other strategies for development of youth efforts. The committee discussed whether Meg Hargraves would be available either September 8th or 15th for a SC-only retreat to formalize goals, with the general topics to focus on continued excellent stewardship, outcomes from/next iteration of YfRaV, including new end statements, and clarifications to our policy governance.

The public meeting was closed at 8:00 pm and the committee entered into Executive Session. The Executive session was closed at 9:10 and the overall meeting was formally closed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter Nobile
Clerk