

First Parish of Concord Standing Committee

Meeting Date: February 9, 2021

Fifi Ball	Manager of Operations	Y
Jane Barnes	Treasurer	Y
Jeff Brainard	Standing Committee Member	Y
Howard Dana	Senior Minister	Y
Laurel Doggett	Clerk	Y
Jim Hawks	Standing Committee Member	Y
C.C. King	Standing Committee Member	N
Peter Nobile	Chair	Y
Jim Reynolds	Standing Committee Member	Y
Liz Rust	Vice Chair	Y
Susan See	Standing Committee Member	Y
Kate Svrcek	Standing Committee Member	Y
Jade Sylvan	Ministerial Intern	Y
Virginia Taylor	Standing Committee Member	Y

THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM

Howard opened the meeting with the poem, *Snow Geese* by Mary Oliver, and Peter read the Standing Committee covenant.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: to accept the January 12, 2021 Standing Committee (SC) meeting minutes and to incorporate them into the permanent record.

Senior Minister's Report

Howard noted that January was quiet and that he is interviewing for a ministerial intern for next year. He feels that there are members of the congregation who are struggling with depression due to the COVID isolation and restrictions. Looking ahead, there may be an opportunity for people who have been vaccinated to help others get to vaccination sites.

Director of Operations' Report

Fifi noted that the number of donors is down 15% , and the donation totals have been flat. She mentioned the PPP loan has been forgiven and is now on the books as miscellaneous income. She also recommended that the 2018 auction proceeds of \$25,000 be deferred to next year.

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Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: to defer the 2018 auction funds of \$25,000 to next year.

It was noted that a donation of \$10,000 was received for the SAC Reserve Fund, requiring a vote to accept the restricted funds.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: to accept the \$10K donation to the SAC Reserve Fund

FP Assets

Peter updated the SC on his conversation with the Concord Museum regarding FP assets. The Museum is willing to provide temporary storage for small items. Peter also received recommendations on how to secure valuables and will pass that along to Bruce and Fifi. One step is to begin a congregational conversation about how to improve the interior decorations and furnishings in the Church to better reflect our values

Review of UUA Annual Membership Report Data

We reviewed the UUA certification submission paperwork, which among other things shows membership numbers are down in part because people are not able to sign the First Parish membership book every month. Currently, we have 615 UU members and 191 friends.

Subcommittee updates

- **Ministerial Support Subcommittee:** Susan, Jeff, Peter, and Howard continue to meet and discuss a range of topics around Howard's ministry. Upcoming work will focus on the annual evaluation process.
- **All Committee Chairs Meeting** – Met 12/17/20. There was interest to meet again, possibly in February, on a specific topic or theme to collaborate.
- **Nomination Committee** – Please forward any suggestions to Peter, Kate or Eric Moore, of the Nominations Committee, regarding nominees for upcoming SC openings.
- **Finance Committee** – no updates
- **Governance Committee** – Need to identify someone who can review and oversee governance and succession planning

Black Lives Matter (BLM) Banner Six Month Review

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Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: to keep the banner up for another 6 months

Long Range Planning

Upcoming Events

- Valentine's Day idea has morphed into a Mother's Day / Spring flower event offered by the Congressional Life Committee
- There is a Sustainer Fundraising Event as part of the Annual Campaign in March – check your emails
- Beloved Conversations is highly recommended and still open for registration
- Online OWL program is going well

Standing Committee Goals

It was decided to eliminate the communication goal since communications is an intrinsic component to the other three goals. Next step is for SC members to provide a one-page update with timeline and action items

Goal 1: Reassess Governance Structure: Jeff, Peter , Liz

Goal 2: Focus on Community and Belonging: Susan, Liz, Virginia, Kate

Goal 3: Develop a Long-Term Fundraising Plan: Jane, Jim H., Jim R.

GFPC Task Force – Jim R. and Peter will meet with Environmental Team on Sunday. Next steps include identifying a Task Force chair.

Belonging Team / Congregational Life Committee-

VOTED via email by SC members to approve the Congressional Life Committee (CLC) Charter

VOTED: to appoint Jan Power the Chair of the CLC

Annual Campaign – Tim Whitney has shared the calendar of events which will be posted on the SC Google Drive page.

Pillar Reports – It was decided that these updates are valuable, and Peter will reach out to the two remaining staff: Adrienne in March; Amy in April to attend the beginning of the SC meetings.

Commission on Institutional Change - Widening the Circle efforts continue. The next step is a meeting with Howard.

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A motion was made to close the main meeting at 8:25 p.m. There was a brief executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurel Doggett, Clerk