

First Parish in Concord Standing Committee

Meeting Date: March 9, 2021

Fifi Ball	Manager of Operations	N
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	Y
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	N
Virginia Taylor	Standing Committee Member	Y
Ellen Whitney	Guest	Y
Amy Freedman	Minister of Religious Education	Y

THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM

Howard opened the meeting with the poem, *Singularity*, by Marie Howe.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: to accept the February 9, 2021 Standing Committee (SC) meeting minutes and to incorporate them into the permanent record.

Senior Minister's Report

Howard noted that he, Jade, and Liz had experienced twice the usual pastoral requests this past January and February. Issues ranged from elderly single folks feeling alone, kids struggling with virtual school, job loss, and death. Howard attended Laurel Gray's ordination, a former ministerial intern at First Parish.

Director of Operations' Report

Howard mentioned that the pledge campaign is going well.

There have been some preliminary discussions on technical equipment and personnel requirements to offer virtual and in-person attendance options to the congregation this fall. Jane and Peter welcome thoughts prior to reviewing the budget, which will occur in the next few weeks.

Subcommittee Updates

- **Ministerial Support Subcommittee:** A draft of the SM evaluation is underway and will be completed in April. The Standing Committee also undergoes an evaluation. Liz and Peter will investigate the SC evaluation process.
- **All Committee Chairs:** The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 25th and will provide an opportunity for all to share updates for spring and summer plans.
- **Denominational Affairs:** Currently Defunct. Liz, as an SC member, will coordinate the FP GA delegates for 2021. There was strong support to reach out to all FP members to illicit interest in attending the UUA General Assembly annual meeting this summer.
- **Nominating Committee:** Jim Reynolds and C.C. King volunteered to work with Kate for the remainder of this year, and then serve as the SC representatives to fill open positions on the Nominating Committee moving forward.

Pillar Update: Religious Education

Amy Freedman, Minister of Religious Education, provided an update to the SC on FP religious education program. Amy, together with Dawn, have been adjusting programs and services to meet the needs families. This year they did not require families to register for RE.

FP parents have been at capacity juggling work and children at home. To meet a broad range of demands, Dawn and Amy have offered a variety of programs on pets, cooking, parenting circles, family video tapes, and a Sunday young children's Zoom service. Amy noted that it was wonderful to have Adrienne's support around activities related to social action within the Children's RE program.

The Junior Youth Group and Coming of Age ninth graders have been meeting both in-person, adhering to socially distance protocol, and virtually. The High School Youth Group meets almost every Sunday.

Amy welcomes any and all support from the SC in reaching out to families who live in Concord and the surrounding towns of First Parish.

SC Other Business

- Ball House has been rented @ \$2,400/month
- Cairn/Memorial Project – Peter is working with Bruce Davidson, Jade Sylvan, and Amy Freedman on long term plans for a campus memorial project.
- Ellen Whitney noted that it was challenging to find information on the FP website regarding the SC meetings. Howard mentioned that moving forward a Zoom meeting link will be provided in the *FP Weekly*. The committee noted that as the Church's primary outreach/communication tool, the web site while functional is in need of a third party review and/or some other kind of post-COVID overhaul.

Long Range Planning

SC Two-Year Goals

SC members are to meet, review relevancy, and provide a one-page assessment on the scope and projects for their assigned goal. Howard reminded the SC to think creatively and focus on strategic activities. The committee reminded Howard of the importance of developing joint goals, which did not happen again this year.

- **Goal 1:** Reassess Governance Structure: Jeff, Peter, Virginia, Jim Hawks, and CC
- **Goal 2:** Community and Belonging, Improve Communications: Susan, Liz, Laurel, and Kate
- **Goal 3:** Develop a Long-Term Fundraising Plan: Jane, Jim H., Jim R.

GFPC Task Force: A \$25,000 gift was made to First Parish toward an engineering study to help reduce First Parish's carbon footprint.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: to accept a \$25,000 gift toward an engineering study.

The primary challenge for this effort has been recruiting people to participate in the task force and finding a project manager to lead the effort.

Congregational Life Committee (CLC): SC chartered the group. Jan Power has been appointed Chair. Liz and Susan are on the Committee. Meetings have occurred with Howard and Chuck McDonald, Chair of the Membership Committee. Recruitment has begun to fill positions on this Committee with the hope of having it operational by September.

Commission on Institutional Change: Preliminary steps are being made to recruit interested members.

A motion was made to close the main meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurel Doggett, Clerk