

First Religious Society Parish Board

Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2019

Present: Maureen Adams, Juliana Beauvais, Rebecca Brodish, Rev. Rebecca Bryan, Micah Donohue, Vernon Ellis, Judy Fayre, Kristen Fehlhaber, Ann Haaser, Art Henshaw, Rich Johnson, Kim Kenly, Forrest Speck, Karen Young

Mission Vision Core Team Members:
Renee Wolf-Foster, Tom Himmel

Absent: Jason McLin

Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the First Religious Society Parish Board was called to order by Karen Young, Parish Board Chair, at 7:02 p.m. on October 9, 2019.

Check-in/Reading

Opening Reading

Rev. Rebecca read a poem from “Reaching for the Sun” by Angela Herrera. Micah Donohue invited Parish Board members to read the Parish Board covenant together.

Having a few minutes before the start of a Zoom conference call with Laura Park, Karen Young moved the following “New Business” items up in the agenda:

Election of Vice Chair

The following motion was made by Juliana Beauvais and seconded:

Motion: “Pursuant to Article VII, Section 6 of the By-laws, I move that the Parish Board elect Rebecca Brodish to serve as Chairperson Elect for the 2019-2020 church year.”

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Dir. Of Children’s Ministry

The following motion was made by Vernon Ellis and seconded:

Motion: “I move that the Parish Board approve the hiring of Mara Flynn as Acting Director of Children’s Ministry for the balance of the 2019-2020 church year, effective October 1, 2019.”

There was some discussion of the “acting” status, because the position is not permanent at this point.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Open Issues/Strategic Thinking

Mission Vision Promotional Materials

At 7:14 p.m., a Zoom conference call was initiated with Laura Park from Unity Consulting to review workshop materials for upcoming facilitated congregational workshops. Before reviewing the slide contents, Laura had some items to confirm with the Board:

- Is the “A Call to Create” title OK? Answer: yes
- Is the William Stafford opening reading OK? Answer: yes
- Reviewed the idea of “covenanting” to be presented by the facilitator, which essentially asks “what promises shall we make and in what interest?”
- Reviewed the “core values” wording. After some concerns were raised that the wording may not be fully understood initially, it was decided to let the wording remain as is.

The Zoom conference call ended at 7:45 p.m.

MV Communications Breakdown

Nicole Salemi joined the meeting at 7:20 and, after the Zoom conference call ended, reviewed the “FRS Mission Vision Communication Strategy and Campaign”, a plan to provide all necessary information to the congregation about participating in the development of the new Mission Vision.

Parish Board members were encouraged to share their thoughts about the MV process with members of the congregation. That is, “talk it up”!

The MV Core Team and Nicole left the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Policy Development 101

Frances McLaughlin and members of the Climate Action Group (Yvonne McQuilken, Annie Madden, Mark Hodgson, Walter Power, Pat Skibbee and Bill Clary) joined the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Frances discussed the Policy Development process as outlined in the document “FRS UU—Board Policy Development Steps”. The Board’s role is fundamentally to make policy.

- The minister transition process and steeple renovation project has taken up the Board’s time for the last few years
- The draft “Environmental Stewardship Policy” submitted by the Climate Action Project is the first policy requiring the Board’s focus in awhile
- The policy is somewhere between steps 4 and 5 of the Policy Development Process (a draft policy has already been developed)

After a discussion including support of, and concerns with, the wording of the draft policy, Karen Young suggested that the Board discuss future action at its November meeting. In the meantime, one or two board members will work with CAP on re-engineering the policy to align with the board’s conversation tonight and with an eye

to language of existing policies. CAP and a board member will also meet with staff on December 4 to consider the policy.

New Business

Minister's Report

Rev. Rebecca asked Board members if the report is helpful, and received a resounding "yes".

Safe Church Policy

This topic was tabled by Parish Board Chair Karen Young.

Stewardship Committee

Karen Young tabled this topic after a brief update by Kim Kenly.

Consent Agenda

- Minutes 9.11.19
- Executive Session Minutes 6.12.19
- Draft Notes – Finance Committee, Sept. & Oct. Meetings
- Stewardship Committee 2019-2020 Charter
- DFA Report
- Financials to 9.30.19
- Report of FRS Community Human Services

The following motion was made by Rebecca Brodish and seconded:

Motion: "I move that all items on the Consent Agenda be approved."

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Process Check

Forrest Speck collected Process Check forms.

Adjournment

Karen Young adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Ann Haaser, Parish Clerk