

First Religious Society Parish Board

Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2019

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

Absent: Kristin Fehlhaber, Rich Johnson, 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 7:00 p.m. on November 13, 2019.

Check-in/Reading

Opening Reading

Rev. Rebecca read “Do Not Fear Agitation” by Tanya Marquis, and then invited Board members to answer the question “What Enthralls You?”

Discussion

Minister’s Report

- Rev. Rebecca informed the Board that the 3rd floor office in the Parish Hall is now unoccupied; \$1200 has been the budgeted income for the space; does the church need the space, or what else can be done with it?
- Karlene Griffiths’ interest in an internship with FRS will be discussed more at December’s Board meeting. FRS needs to decide if it wants to be a “teaching” church in this way, on an ongoing basis
- FRS will continue its tradition of using real candles at its Candlelight service again this year
- Rev. Rebecca will be attending the “Revolutionary Love” conference in Washington DC, and wonders if it should be publicized to the congregation even if FRS is not able to subsidize

Mission Vision Feedback- moved to later in the meeting.

Open Issues/Strategic Thinking

Care for the Health and Vigor of all our Ministries: Budget/Endowment Overview

Endowment & Investment Policy

Walter Power joined the meeting at 7:40.

- Reviewed fiduciary responsibilities of trustees of the endowment
- They are happy with Pathstone; very responsive
- Walter reviewed policy and performance statements
- Board discussed possibly change to distribution percentage to maintain purchasing power

Walter left the meeting at 8:15.

Budget Process/Financial Review

In Kristen Fehlhaber's absence, Kim Kenly brought to the Board's attention two issues from the November meeting of the Finance Committee

- FRS needs a second person with authority to sign checks. The Finance Committee recommends having an Assistant Treasurer with signing capability
- How often should the Finance Committee be communicating with the congregation? Currently it's limited to the Annual Meeting. The Board suggested September and January in addition to the Annual Meeting.

Stewardship: Annual Campaign

Annual Campaign/Campaign Chair

Rev. Rebecca suggested having a number of leads on the Stewardship Committee, each with their "target" audience, to increase bandwidth (i.e. not have one "chair" to do so much of the work)

New Business

Statement of Social Justice

Ann Haaser presented a proposed display for outside the church during the beginning of December, to coincide with the December 4 Vigil of Remembrance for Gun Violence Victims. The display will consist of 100 black ribbons representing the 100 people killed each day by gun violence, and a banner with statistics to hang from the fence.

The following motion was made by Forrest Speck and seconded:

Motion: "I move that the Parish Board approve the statement of social justice regarding gun violence presented at the Parish Board meeting on November 13, 2019, consisting of a display outside of the church to be erected for a period of not longer than 2 weeks."

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Safe Church Policy

In the absence of Kristen Fehlhaber, this item was not discussed.

Governance: PB Manual/By-law Changes

Maureen Adams reviewed changes to the manual and by-laws, mostly consisting of gender-related language and title changes.

Consent Agenda

- Minutes 10.9.19 Parish Board Meeting
- FRS Community Human Services Report
- Governance Committee Minutes 10.22.19
- Director of Community Engagement Report
- FRS Climate Action Project Report
- Draft Notes: Finance Committee, November

- Auditor's Report

The following motion was made by Forrest Speck and seconded:

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

Mission Vision Feedback

Karen Young requested feedback from Board members about the process thus far. Tom Himmel had prepared a document with a summary of participation numbers, and with comments provided by participants. Discussion of Board members' experiences followed.

Karen passed out "Thank You" cards and assigned Board members a facilitator to thank on behalf of the Board.

Process Check

Process Check forms were collected.

Adjournment

Karen Young adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Ann Haaser, Parish Clerk