

First Religious Society Parish Board

Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2018

Present: Maureen Adams, Rev. Rebecca Bryan, Micah Donohue, Kristen Fehlhaber, Tim Fountain, Ann Haaser, Art Henshaw, Rich Johnson, Lynn Kettleon, Sophia Lyons, Ann Power, Forrest Speck, Karen Young

Absent: Rebecca Brodish

I. Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the First Religious Society Parish Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on November 14, 2018 in the Lower Meeting House of the FRS by Art Henshaw, Parish Board Chair.

II. Chalice Lighting, Reading and Check In

“Serving with Grace”, Chap 2

Rev. Rebecca began by reading “History Chooses You” from the book Perseverance. She then asked board members to consider what they admire in a leader, and invited them to share about someone in their lives whose leadership qualities they would emulate.

III. Strategic Thinking

GEN FRS – Next Steps

Jane Touhy presented her summary, “Moving the Work Forward”, in a printed series of slides. Julie Menin, a member of the original study group, was present to answer questions. Discussion of each slide ensued.

- It was agreed that the congregation may not be aware of the issues related to Young Church
- A GEN FRS Task Force will be assembled to move forward with the following approach:
 1. Develop goals for short term improvements
 2. Inform Parish Board of costs involved
 3. Once the Board’s Vision-Mission work has progressed, develop a plan to integrate long-term goals in coordination with that work

IV. New Business

Parish Board Goals

- Art Henshaw led a discussion of the Draft Parish Board Goals FY2019, developed by Art with input from the Executive Committee
- It was decided that PB Goal 2 be re-phrased to “Develop framework for Vision and Mission Work Next Year”

- Micah Donohue asked about future plans for the Parish Hall. Art Henshaw suggested, given everything else that is happening this year, we keep our attention on finishing the capital campaign begun last year, and which is still ongoing, before starting to make plans for Parish Hall
- Sophia Lyons suggested, and it was agreed, that Parish Board goals should be guided with a “basis of spirituality” in mind
- Art will make suggested changes and distribute to Parish Board for review before sharing with congregation

Church Size Models

- Art Henshaw called attention to the documents in the Parish Board Packet relating to church size and staffing requirements, as well as a summary of the board’s discussions at the September retreat
- Rev. Rebecca asked the board to send her any requests for additional information the board might need to prepare for a more in-depth discussion at December’s board meeting
- December’s discussion will be of short-term and long-term needs to accommodate a more appropriate model for the church
- Karen Young asked for a summary of current staff hours, to compare with staffing levels for a growing church. Kristen Fehlhaber has this information and will share with the board.

V. Communications

Minister’s Report

- Forrest Speck noted a comment about a congregant wanting to bring committees back. Does this reflect a sentiment of some people wanting to be more connected to the church?

Annual Campaign Update

- Susan Ricker reviewed the document she prepared for the board meeting titled “Annual Campaign for 2019-2020”
- Last year the church had an “every member canvass”, which is done every few years
- This year, we will go back to a more hybrid approach, including: Giving Sundays, one-on-one meetings with lead givers (in addition to new members and anyone requesting a meeting), “circle dinner”-type events (not necessarily circle dinners per se, but an event of that type and size) – the aim is to have 15-20 events with diverse groups of people taking part in each one
- Historical pledge levels indicate that we should be able to increase the number of pledges beyond current level
- Campaign will begin in March
- Key is to engage members
- Need new pledges (people who have not pledged in the past); Susan asked board members to take a lead in getting pledges from their own committees/other spheres of interest within the church

- Lynn Kettleson volunteered to lead communications for the Campaign

Music Director Search Update

- Search committee has met twice and ads have been placed (due date for applications is 1/7/19)
- They have received two applications already, and are hopeful they will receive more
- Hope is to have a music director who is also a strong organist
- Committee has planned meetings with the choir, with members of the congregation and with qualified individuals who know about conducting this type of search process

VI. Old Business

(none)

VII. Routine Business Consent Agenda Rpts

Dir of Finance and Administration

Dir of Community Engagement

Dir of Religious Education

Program Council

Climate Action

Community Human Services

Minutes of Meeting Oct 10

Minutes of Meeting Nov 4

Art Henshaw asked if any items should be removed from Consent Agenda. Hearing none, the following motion was made by Lynn Kettleson and seconded:

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Process Check

Forrest Speck collected Process Check forms.

IX. Closing & Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Art Henshaw at 9:04 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Ann Haaser, Parish Clerk

