

First Religious Society Parish Board

Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2019

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

Absent: Rich Johnson, Lynn Kettleison

I. Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the First Religious Society Parish Board was called to order at 7:04 p.m. on February 13, 2019 in the Lower Meeting House of the FRS by Art Henshaw, Parish Board Chair.

II. Chalice Lighting, Reading and Check In

Rev. Rebecca read “Love Beyond God” written by a UU minister in Cambridge.

Serving with Grace - Chap 4: “Mindful Meetings”

Are we mindful enough? Or can we strive for more? The consensus is that we already do many of the suggestions in this chapter. One suggestion we might consider is to schedule all/many of the church’s meetings on one night, preceded by a meal and short worship service.

Art Henshaw asked board members to think about the practice of having committees submit their minutes for the Parish Board Packet: do we really need this? Or can committees better communicate their news via the website?

III. Communications

Minister’s Report

Regarding Governance and Leadership, how can we make Parish Board and other positions more “available”, that is, to let people know they can “self-nominate”? Parish Board members agreed they are open to having an informational event to speak with interested people.

Rev. Rebecca introduced her idea for a “Wizards & Sages” group for people over 65 years old. The initial meeting has been scheduled.

People are asking about what happens at FRS over the summer. The Board discussed possibilities of summer services, perhaps led by laypersons. Other ideas include summer camp, and possibly having outdoor services.

Rev. Rebecca wanted to check with the Board about handling certain types of issues that arise which require an immediate response. Organizationally, the Executive Committee can handle these requests, especially when they involve church resources.

IV. Strategic Thinking

Proposed FY2019 Budget

At 7:56 pm, the following motion was made by Tim Fountain and seconded:

Motion: “I move that the Board go into Executive Session.”

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

After the Board came out of Executive Session, the following motion was made by Forrest Speck and seconded:

Motion: “I move that the Parish Board adopt the Proposed Budget as the Annual Campaign Budget.”

Discussion centered around Susan Ricker’s document, “Campaign Goals for Supporting 2019-2020 Vision and Programs”.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

V. New Business

GenFRS

The following motion was made by Sophia Lyons and seconded:

Motion: “I move that the GenFRS Task Force or Forces be charged per the “Charge to the GenFRS Task Force” and that Julie Parker-Amery, Director of Religious Education, be authorized to appoint members to such task forces necessary to complete the charge for Stages I and II.”

Discussion:

Art noted that this work will need to be coordinated with Mission/Vision work. That should be conveyed to the task force(s).

What role will the Parish Board have on this in the future? Monitoring the work, especially as it related to the Mission/Vision process. (The actual work will be done by staff.)

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Mission/Vision Task Force

The following motion was made by Ann Haaser and seconded:

Motion: “I move that the Parish Board authorize creation of the “Mission/Vision Process Selection Task Force”, whose charge will be written by the Executive Committee and whose members will be appointed by the Minister in collaboration with the Executive Committee.”

Discussion:

Rev. Rebecca asked the Board to think about who might be interested in serving on the task force.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Old Business

None

VII. Routine Business – Consent Agenda

- Minutes of January 16, 2019 Parish Board Meeting
- Minutes of January 22, 2019 Program Council Meeting

The following motion was made by Ann Power and seconded:

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Process Check & Adjournment

Process Checks were completed by Board members.

Art Henshaw moved to adjourn the meeting, which passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Ann Haaser, Parish Clerk