

First Religious Society Parish Board

Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2019

Present: Maureen Adams, Rebecca Brodish, Rev. Rebecca Bryan, Micah Donohue, Kristen Fehlhaber, Tim Fountain, Ann Haaser, Art Henshaw, Rich Johnson, Lynn Kettleison, Karen Young

Absent: Sophia Lyons, Ann Power, Forrest Speck

I. Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the First Religious Society Parish Board was called to order at 7:04 p.m. on April 10, 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 “Black Lives Matter” from A Good Cry by Nikki Giovanni.

The Board read the FRS Purpose aloud together.

Serving with Grace - Chap 6: “I Put My Hand in Yours”

With Sophia Lyons being absent, it was decided to reflect on this chapter at the next Board meeting.

III. Strategic Thinking

Mission/Vision Update

Rev. Rebecca provided an update on the Mission/Vision process selection. 13 people attended a meeting on the process selection. Rev. Rebecca reviewed a suggested timeline for the Consultant and Process Identification, with the aim being to present the top two prospects to the Board at a special Board meeting on May 29.

Journey of a Lifetime Pledge

Rev. Rebecca reviewed how and why the pledge was developed. The Board then took turns reading each statement in the pledge. The pledge is available online and printed copies are on the Visitors Table.

Environmental Stewardship Policy

Bill Clary joined the meeting to review Climate Action Project (CAP) programs and activities at FRS, and to discuss what further actions the church might take. The UUA has a “Green Sanctuary” program that has taken up to 2 years for churches to become certified. A suggested approach for FRS might be to proceed with implementation of policies that may help towards certification at some point in the

future. To that end, Bill reviewed a proposed “Environmental Stewardship Policy” as a first step, with more definition of practical steps to follow.

Maureen Adams and Micah Donohue will check with the Governance Committee on where, within our policy-based governance, social justice-type “faith in action” policies belong.

Futures Fund Policy

Art Henshaw reviewed the purpose of the \$100,000 Futures Fund, which is meant to be used for projects with a cost of less than \$7,000. Art, Micah Donohue and Tim Fountain will develop a “Futures Fund” policy to bring to the Board at the May meeting.

IV. New Business

Gift Acceptance Policy & Gift to accept

The following motion was made by Ann Haaser and seconded:

Motion: “I move that the Parish Board Policy 4.5.9 on Planned Giving and Bequests be amended as recommended by the Executive Committee by replacing paragraphs 4 and 5 with the following:

Unrestricted gifts will be apportioned among the funds above at the discretion of the Parish Board. The Parish Board has the power to disclaim a gift or bequest for any reason, including restrictions or provisions deemed unacceptable to the values of the FRS community and its mission, or for noncompliance with guidelines that may be set by the Parish Board in the future.”

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Kristen Fehlhaber suggested that Board members read the FRS gift policy prior to the next Board meeting, so that the Board may make a decision on the distribution of a particular gift at that time.

Annual Campaign Update

Kristen Fehlhaber gave the following update: 249 households have pledged (goal is 300) and \$406K has been raised (goal is \$500K). Some households that have made substantial pledges in the past have not pledged yet; campaign members will reach out to them.

Stewardship Direction

Lark Madden joined the meeting to discuss changes in the stewardship structure at FRS. After meetings with the Finance Committee, Governance Committee and other volunteers, a consensus was reached that Stewardship functions should be separated

from the Finance Committee. However, FRS by-laws codify that fundraising should be a function of the Finance Committee

- Lark Madden suggests that the Board consider suspending this by-law
- Mark Ewert had recommended not having stewardship be the responsibility of the Finance Committee, to encourage everyone to be invested in ownership of fundraising as a “communal responsibility”
- Lark would like 2 people (himself and one other) to work on this

The following motion was made by Karen Young and seconded:

Motion: “I move that the Parish Board endorse the Stewardship Team concepts as outlined in the Parish Board Packet for a trial period of 2 years, and that all bylaw changes needed for implementation be drafted for approval of the Parish Board at the next meeting, and then by the Membership at Annual Meeting.”

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

The following motion was made by Rebecca Brodish and seconded:

Motion: “I move that the Parish Board appoint Lark Madden as Acting Stewardship Team Co-Leader, with the authority to start now making plans and organizing team(s) for FY2020, and that position descriptions for the Team and Team Co-Leaders be drafted for review by the Parish Board at the May meeting.”

Discussion followed regarding who should draft position descriptions, and the consensus was that Lark is best suited to do that.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Replace and Upgrade Sound System

Kristen Fehlhaber updated the Board on an offer from a congregational family member to design and implement a new sound system which would accommodate hearing-impaired people. The cost to FRS will be \$15,000, a substantial savings compared to what would normally be paid for equipment and labor. The congregation must approve the expenditure; therefore, a special member meeting will be held on April 28. The work will be done at the beginning of the summer.

The following motion was made by Karen Young and seconded:

Motion: “I move that the Parish Board approve the project to upgrade and replace the sound and recording system in the amount of \$15,000 and to hold a special meeting on April 28, 2019 for a

congregational vote on the Warrant as presented at the Parish Board meeting on April 10, 2019.”

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

The following motion was made by Karen Young and seconded:

Motion: “I move that the Parish Board utilize restricted building endowment funds to fund the project to upgrade and replace the sound and recording system in the amount of \$15,000 in the event the Congregation does not approve Article 2 of the Warrant at a special meeting to be held on April 28, 2019.”

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

V. Communications

Financial Report

No discussion; no “red flags”.

Minister’s Report

The Board agreed that it would like to take the staff to lunch again this year.

Governance Committee Update

Micah Donohue reported that the committee is ahead of where it was last year in filling the slate of positions.

Parish Board Chair Report/Executive Session

There were no items that required an Executive Session.

VI. Old Business

None.

VII. Routine Business – Consent Agenda

- Dir of Finance and Admin Reports
- Program Council Minutes
- Community Human Services Report
- Climate Action Project
- Parish Board Mar 13 Process Check
- Parish Board Mar 13 Minutes
- Parish Board Mar 13 Exec Session Minute

The following motion was made by Art Henshaw and seconded:

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Process Check, Closing & Adjournment

Process Checks were completed by Board members. Art asked that if people could not complete them tonight, please email responses to Forrest Speck.

Art Henshaw moved to adjourn the meeting, which passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:25 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Ann Haaser, Parish Clerk