

First Religious Society Parish Board

Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2019

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

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

Absent: Judy Fayre

Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the First Religious Society Parish Board was called to order by Karen Young, Parish Board Chair, at 6:48 p.m. on September 11, 2019.

Chalice Lighting, Reading and Check In

Opening Reading

Karen Young read a piece by Margaret Atwood, “Whose Are We?” from The Moment.

Welcoming Words

Rev. Rebecca spoke of how FRS is “bucking the trend” of declining membership in other congregations, and of her hopes for a transformative year.

Being the first board meeting of the new church year, members were asked to introduce themselves.

Open Issues/Strategic Thinking

Mission Vision: Big Question

At 6:59 p.m., a Zoom conference call was initiated with Laura Park from Unity Consulting. After introductions around the table, Laura read “Fire” by Judy Brown: FRS will be “building the fire of prophetic imagination” during the Mission Vision process.

Forrest Speck described how the Mission Vision Core Team and the Parish Board will participate in the Mission Vision process. Laura Park expanded on the Parish Board role and the minister’s role, and what those will look like during the course of the process. A list of facilitators is being developed by the Core Team; Parish Board members should send any suggestions to them. A board member (or 2) should be present at each of the workshops

The Parish Board then brainstormed on “what is the topic?”, which will lead to development of the “Powerful Question” used in the Mission Vision process.

The next meeting with Laura Park and the Parish Board will be on Wednesday, September 18, at 7 p.m.

The Zoom conference call ended at 8:09 p.m.

Debrief Phone Call

More details of facilitated meetings were discussed, as well as how to publicize the entire process.

The Core Team then left the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Review Board Goals

This topic was tabled by Parish Board Chair Karen Young.

New Business

Rebecca Brodish has agreed to be Parish Board Vice-Chair for 2019-2020.

Stewardship Committee Charter

The following motion was made by Maureen Adams and seconded:

Motion: “I move that the Parish Board approve the Charter of the 2019-2020 FRS Stewardship Committee.”

After discussion, it was decided that #4 of the FY2020 goals will be re-worded. A friendly amendment was offered by Maureen Adams and accepted by the Board to add the phrase “as amended”.

Final Motion:

“I move that the Parish Board approve the Charter of the 2019-2020 FRS Stewardship Committee, as amended.”

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

New Sexton

The following motion was made by Rich Johnson and seconded:

Motion: “I move that the Parish Board approve the hiring of Donald Rogers as Sexton effective September 1, 2019.”

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Minister’s Report

No one has been found to fill the Religious Education position for kindergarten through 8th grade. Many churches are having the same problem finding someone to take a similar position. Rev. Rebecca asked the Parish Board members to “think outside the box” about how to lead the children’s religious education for the year. Board members brainstormed about possibilities. It is a ½ time position. Rev.

Rebecca asked that people talk to any contacts they may have who might be interested.

Sound System

The new sound system was used at the September 8 service. There are a few issues that are being worked on. The system needs to be fine-tuned without interference from congregants.

Conflict of Interest Forms

Karen Young collected the signed forms.

Financials

Kristen Fehlhaber gave a brief update. The Finance Committee met to review last year's financials and plan for the upcoming year. Last year the numbers ended up in the positive by approximately \$5K.

Consent Agenda

- Minutes 6.12.19
- Executive Session Minutes 6.12.19
- Investment Performance QE 6.30.19 & Rebalance

The following motion was made by Art Henshaw and seconded:

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

Due to the sensitive nature of Executive Session Minutes, a new process of distributing and approving those minutes will be instituted. Therefore, the Executive Session Minutes of 6.12.19 were not included in the packet, and it was agreed that the item would be excluded from the Consent Agenda Motion.

Final Motion:

“I move that all items on the Consent Agenda, excluding the Executive Session Minutes of 6.12.19, be approved.”

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Process Check

Members were asked to bring their Process check forms to the next meeting of the Parish Board.

Adjournment

Karen Young adjourned the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Ann Haaser, Parish Clerk