

First Religious Society Parish Board

Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2018

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

Absent: None

I. Call to Order:

The monthly meeting of the First Religious Society Parish Board was called to order at 7:02 p.m. on October 10, 2018 in the Lower Meeting Hall by Art Henshaw, Parish Board Chair. Rich Johnson offered to fill the role of timekeeper for the meeting, and Forrest Speck volunteered to collect Process Checks.

II. Chalice Lighting, Reading and Check In

Reflections on “Service with Grace”, Chap 1

After lighting the chalice, Rev. Rebecca invited each person to offer an example of how FRS lives by the principle of “how we play the game” vs. “winning over losing”.

III. Strategic Thinking

September Retreat

1. A Good First Year – what we said

Art Henshaw asked the Board to “think backwards”: from what our goals are as a Board, work back using retreat comments into actionable Board work

2. Discernment – Year 1 in 3 Year Plan

Given Rev. Rebecca’s 3 year outline, how can the Board support that process?

Year 1: building trust through connection, experiences, relationship building

Year 2: develop clear vision, values, and mission in a way that members will own it and it will become “real” to them

Year 3: bringing mission to life

3. Choice – Board Roles and Goals for Good First Year

Referencing back to ratings given at retreat, what are qualities for a good first year?

“Having fun” was rated highly by many. Some discussion revolved around any budgeting that might be needed to accommodate mission-based activity.

At the end of the time allotted for this Strategic Thinking discussion, it was decided that the Board needs to re-visit this topic again in a later meeting.

IV. New Business

Gen FRS Report

- Julie Menin presented the report of the Gen FRS Study Group
- Julie and other members of the Gen FRS Study Group answered questions from the Parish Board
- The Study Group distributed its “Conclusions & Recommendations” for Parish Board members to consider

V. Communications

Minister’s Report

- Staff is keeping up but it’s at capacity
- For the size of its congregation, FRS has a small staff
- Parish Board need to address specifically, strategically and from a budgeting viewpoint (“aspirational budgeting”)

VI. Old Business

Weathervane Agreement – Final Document

- Kristin Fehlhaber reviewed one change made to the Agreement: if both the museum and FRS dissolve, the weathervane will go to the City of Newburyport

Motion: The following motion was made by Karen Young and seconded: “I move that the Board approve the final weathervane Agreement between the First Religious Society and the Historical Society of Old Newbury, Inc.”

Vote: The motion passed unanimously

Request for Policy on Hiring Members as Staff

- Create and pass a policy that FRS will not hire church members to be staff members
- Art Henshaw stated that a draft will be available by the next Parish Board meeting

VII. Routine Business

Consent Agenda:

Director of Religious Education, Sep & Oct

Director of Finance and Admin, Oct

Finance Committee, Oct

Community Human Services

Justice Action Ministry

Wilson Music Series & Parish Friends

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Motion: The following motion was made by Sophia Lyons and seconded: “I move that the Consent Agenda be approved.”

Vote: The motion passed unanimously

VIII. Process Check

- Forrest Speck collected Process Check forms.

IX. Closing Reading & Adjournment

After a closing prayer by Rev. Rebecca, the meeting was adjourned by Art Henshaw at 9:12 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Ann Haaser, Parish Clerk