

First Religious Society Parish Board

Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2020

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

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 7:00 p.m. on January 15, 2020.

Check-in/Reading

Opening Reading

Rev. Rebecca read a short piece by David White.

Open Issues/Strategic Thinking

PB Goal: Care of Staff/Resources/Ministries

Minister's Report

Rev. Rebecca reviewed report and asked for questions. She also shared thoughts around the status of children's ministry position: interim vs. permanent.

At 7:17 p.m. the following motion was made by Rebecca Brodish and seconded:

Motion: "I move that the Parish Board go into Executive Session."

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

After returning from Executive Session, the following motion was made by Vernon Ellis and seconded:

Motion: "I move that the Parish Board include salary recommendations as presented by the Human Resources Subcommittee at the January 15, 2020 Parish Board Meeting in the proposed budget."

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Leslie Lawrence left the meeting after the motion was passed.

Environmental Stewardship Policy: Second Reading

Annie Madden joined the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

The Parish Board reviewed and read the new policy statements.

The following motion was made by Kim Kenly and seconded:

Motion: “I move that the Parish Board adopt as final the Environmental Stewardship Policy as set forth in the 12.29.19 Second Reading version and that the Parish Board Manual be updated accordingly.”

Discussion:

- The Governance Committee will decide where the policy goes in the Parish Board manual
- How to communicate the policy to congregation was discussed

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Annie Madden left the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Mission Vision

PB Goal: Mission Vision

Renee Wolf-Foster joined the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Rev. Rebecca began by reading a section from “Letter to A Young Poet”.

Juliana Beauvais presented a PowerPoint of Mission Vision data analysis and reviewed the need for Parish Board members to do their own analysis and develop ideas to bring to the Mission Vision retreat. Juliana and Renee answered questions from board members.

Renee left the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

New Business

PB Goal: Stewardship

Annual Campaign - Update

- Lark Madden is working with Nicole Salemi regarding communication of the campaign
- Eileen and Steve Costello are coordinating the canvass
- Fellowship Dinners will be starting up in February

Planned Giving - Update

Karen Young and Kim Kenly are working with Lark on making Planned Giving part of a Stewardship Culture

Safe Church – Active Shooter Policy

Kristen gave an update on consideration of a policy:

- They are talking to people involved with ALICE drills at Newburyport schools
- Rev. Rebecca and Kristin are looking at UUA recommendations on adding to the Safe Church policy

Governance: Policy Manual Update & Nominations

Maureen Adams gave the following updates:

- Policy Manual Updates are still being discussed with Rev. Rebecca
- The Governance Committee is taking nominations for board members, and will be communicating with the congregation about this soon

Consent Agenda

- Minutes 12.12.19 Parish Board Meeting
- Draft Minutes 1.9.20 FinComm Meeting

The following motion was made by Rich Johnson and seconded:

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Process Check

Process Check forms were collected by Forrest Speck.

Adjournment

Karen Young adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Ann Haaser, Parish Clerk