

First Religious Society Parish Board

Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2019

Present: Maureen Adams, Juliana Beauvais, Vernon Ellis, Judy Fayre, Kristen Fehlhaber, Ann Haaser, Art Henshaw, Rich Johnson, Kim Kenly, Jason McLin, Forrest Speck, Karen Young

Absent: Rebecca Brodish, Rev. Rebecca Bryan, Micah Donohue

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 December 11, 2019.

Check-in/Reading

Opening Reading

Karen Young read a piece by Christine Robinson, and then invited Board members to share what they are most looking forward to during the holidays.

Open Issues/Strategic Thinking

Care of Staff/Resources/Ministries

Environmental Stewardship Policy: 1st Reading

With the Climate Action Project (CAP) team present and represented by Annie Madden, the Board reviewed the proposed policy paragraph by paragraph and made changes.

The following motion was made by Kim Kenly and seconded:

Motion: “I move that the Parish Board approve revisions of the Environmental Stewardship Policy as discussed, and place it on the agenda for a 2nd reading at the January Parish Board meeting.”

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

The CAP team left the meeting after the motion passed.

By-Law & Manual Changes

Maureen Adams summarized changes made to these documents based on recommendations of the Governance Committee. The Board asked her to do the following:

- Director of Childrens’ Ministry will be added to management section
- Maureen will further research changing the wording from “Executive” to “Minister” (intended to be “forward looking”)

The following motion was made by Maureen Adams and seconded:

Motion: “I move that the Parish Board approve gender neutral language changes to by-laws be brought forth to the congregation for a vote at the Annual Meeting.”

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Congregational Size & Salary

Because Rev. Rebecca was absent, this item was tabled.

Discussion

How Change Occurs in Churches

In Rev. Rebecca’s absence, this item was tabled.

Mission Vision Update

Juliana Beauvais reviewed the process of analyzing the qualitative data gathered during the Mission Vision workshops. She is working with Renee Wolf-Foster on the analysis.

New Business

Safe Church Policy

The following motion was made by Forrest Speck and seconded:

Motion: “Pursuant to FRS Operational “Safety Policy for Children and Youth”, Section XII, I move that Sarah Spalding and Jon March be appointed to the Safe Congregation Response Team for the 2019-2020 church year.”

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

January Parish Board Meeting

Karen Young notified the Board that the January Parish Board meeting will be moved to January 15. John Barnes, author of Radical Transcendentalism, will be doing a reading at FRS on January 8.

Consent Agenda

- Minutes 11.12.19 Parish Board Meeting
- Minutes 11.14.19 JAM Meeting
- Draft Minutes 12.3.19 FinComm Meeting
- Report 12.6.19 Stewardship Committee
- Minutes 10.30.19 Trustees Meeting

The following motion was made by Juliana Beauvais 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.

Adjournment

Karen Young adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Ann Haaser, Parish Clerk