

First Religious Society Parish Board

Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2020

via Zoom

Present: Maureen Adams, Juliana Beauvais, Rebecca Brodish, Rev. Rebecca Bryan, Holly Cashman, Micah Donahue, Vernon Ellis, Judy Fayre, Kristen Fehlhaber, Tom Himmel, Rich Johnson, Michelle Kimball, Forrest Speck, Renee Wolf-Foster

Absent:

Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the First Religious Society Parish Board was called to order by Rebecca Brodish, Parish Board Chair, at 7:02 pm on September 9, 2020.

Check-in/Reading

Opening reading and chalice lighting

Rev. Rebecca Bryan lit the chalice, followed by reading titled "Sacred Unknowing".

Welcome

Parish Board chair Rebecca Brodish officially welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Opening Issues/Strategic Thinking

Minister's Report

- Rev. Rebecca shared the Minister's Report, which she will be doing every other month
- She started by mentioning a couple of things that had happened since the report was sent to the board.
- 20 applications for the manager position; Rev. Rebecca and Kristen will be interviewing three people next week.
- Invited to talk at virtual Jeanne Geiger walk today; she is delighted to do that.
- Anti-racism committee is doing a "hate has no place here" video that they hope to get distributed widely.
- Question about fundraising; if you have ideas, send an email or call Kristen.
- The outdoor service was great. Possibility of streaming the next outdoor service on Oct. 11; possibility of offering registration for the next outdoor service to those who were on the wait list for the September service first.
- Rev. Rebecca took questions about the report.

Theological Interpretation – Values, Missions, Ends

Rev. Rebecca Bryan gave a brief introduction to the Theological Interpretations document before opening up time for questions.

Rev. Rebecca closed by emphasizing that the document is a draft, she welcomed feedback, and she asked for editing help. Rebecca Brodish and Renee Wolf-Foster both agreed to offer editing.

Re-engaging the congregation: VME

Kristen Fehlhaber announced that the postcards are going out, and a phone call training will take place tomorrow. Details about the process were shared, including that there will be about 36 people making calls, about 10 calls per person, and that there will be a mechanism for sharing what the members tell us.

Parish Board vacancy update: (under new business, but discussion on this started during the previous topic)

Micah Donahue shared the update that the Governance Committee invited their “top candidate” for a PB Youth Member, Sadie Fountain (daughter of Tim & Sarah Spaulding), who accepted an hour before the meeting.

The following motion was made by **Juliana Beauvais** and seconded by Rich Johnson:

Motion: “I move that the Parish Board move to the warrant for the Congregational meeting on September 27th the nomination of Sadie Fountain to the Parish Board as Youth Board Member for a one-year term.”

Vote: The motion was passed unanimously.

Reminder of Parish Board Retreat

Rebecca Brodish reminded everyone about the board retreat and explained the basic outline of the program. The retreat will take place Saturday, Oct. 3, 1-4.30 pm, via Zoom. Laura Park will be joining us.

Strategic Topics for the Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be centered around two big strategic topics, which Rev. Rebecca introduced:

(1) Is the board committed to FRS becoming an anti-racist congregation?

What does that mean? Is that where we are?

There is not an official UUA set of guidelines or “blessing” to this process; it’s important for each congregation to go through this work on their own.

Is there any preparation or homework that the board should do? (will ask core team)

(2) How will the board respond if there is a deficit? What is the commitment/priority/focus?

New Business

Conflict of Interest Forms

Rebecca Brodish reminded new and existing board members to send the COI forms to Kristen.

Financial update

Kristen Fehlhaber shared her screen for a “big picture” update about the financials.

We are likely to miss out on about \$20,500 of rental income, about \$42,500 of fundraising income in the upcoming year. We will end in the positive this year. We raised over \$20,000 in the FRS Recovery Fund, which replaced the income from the spring raffle. We were able to set aside \$7,000 for capital reserve, and we gave out over \$17,000 in contributions from the collection plate. We have expectation but not certainty in the PPE forgiveness; they are working on the application for forgiveness.

Youth Parish Board Member

Covered this earlier. Rebecca Brodish expressed thanks to Governance Committee for their work on this!

Reopening team update

Judy Fayre reported on the reopening team's work, which is on-going, although there is no fixed meeting time. They balance and weigh a concern for safety/well-being and a concern for need for connection; there is a diversity of opinion and backgrounds on the committee, and they all agree before a decision is made. There were 120 responses to the survey, with people expressing a wide range, even conflicting, opinions. They are open to ideas all the time, so share with them if you have ideas.

Other New Business/Next Month

Consent Agenda

- 8.19.2020 Parish Board Minutes
- 8.20.2020 Finance Committee Minutes
- 9.3.2020 Finance Committee Minutes
- 9.1.2020 Justice Action Ministry report
- Climate Action Project report/Energy savings update

The following motion was made by Maureen Adams and seconded:

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Process Check

Rebecca Brodish posted a link to the new Google form in the Zoom chat window and went over the questions and required items.

Judy asked that the Zoom link for tomorrow's phone call training be added to the chat.

Closing

Closing words

Rev. Rebecca Bryan shared the quote that she currently has on her computer, stating that her wish for each and every one of us is that this wish comes true at least once every day:

"Any moment of truly being is where we slip into eternity".

Motion to Adjourn

Judy Fayre moved that we adjourn.
Motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

Rebecca Brodish adjourned the meeting at 8:31 pm.

Minutes submitted by Holly Cashman, Parish Clerk