

First Religious Society Parish Board

Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2020

via Zoom

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

Absent: Rich Johnson

Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the First Religious Society Parish Board was called to order by Rebecca Brodish, Parish Board Chair, at 7:01 pm on October 14, 2020.

Check-in/Reading

Opening reading and chalice lighting

Rev. Rebecca Bryan lit the chalice, followed by reading from Brené Brown titled “Armored Leadership” from her book *Dare to Lead*.

Welcome

Parish Board chair Rebecca Brodish gave a quick introduction to the meeting and the strategic thinking meeting format for the meeting.

Open Issues/Strategic

Anti-Racism Strategic Discussion

Rev. Rebecca shared a brief introduction about the UUA commitment to anti-racism (successes and failures), and gave a summary of the FRS response after the murder of George Floyd and the formation of the core group of 12 and the within, among, and beyond framework. She explained how it became clear that this needed to be a congregation-level commitment to addressing this theological, moral issue, and that it comes down to the question: Does the Board endorse the specific commitment to becoming an anti-racist congregation?

Vern Ellis introduced the UUA designations of congregations vis-à-vis social justice: status quo congregation, multiculturally aware congregation, and anti-racist congregation. The PB engaged in discussion around where FRS might fit/sit across the spectrum presented in the rubric document. Rev. Rebecca summarized the discussion and asked us to sit with the following question:

Do you feel it's right for FRS to commit to the transformative work of becoming an anti-racist congregation?

FRS Budget Pre-Planning

Rebecca Brodish introduced the strategic discussion around budget, again emphasizing that it is just a strategic-thinking conversation, not a decision-making or motion-driven conversation. Kristen Fehlhaber gave a background about the budget situation, and Tom Himmel shared the screen with the budget discussion overview. The PB engaged in discussion around the two main issues of expenses and income. The discussion concluded with some next steps: specific proposals for reducing expenses will be proposed in November meeting, and a committee will be formed to explore alternative income sources.

New Business

Director of Membership and Communications – accepted the position; will start Monday, Oct. 19 and will be splitting time still with Amnesty International probably through the end of the calendar year.

Consent Agenda

9.27.2020 Special Congregational Meeting Minutes

9.9.2020 Parish Board Minutes 2

Finance Committee Minutes

10.06.20 Chalice Circle Steering Committee Report

09.30.2020 Trustee Minutes

The following motion was made by Maureen Adams and seconded by Forrest Speck:

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Process check

Rebecca Brodish encouraged people to do the process check now while it was fresh in their minds. The link was posted in the chat.

Closing words

Rev. Rebecca Bryan shared closing words of reflection.

Motion to Adjourn

Tom Himmel moved that we adjourn; Judy Fayre seconded.

Motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

Rebecca Brodish adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by Holly Cashman, Parish Clerk