

**FIRST PARISH BROOKLINE
PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2015**

PC Members Present: Sue Andrews, Michele David, Ben Davis, Steve Davis, Ann Dinsmoor, Elena Garofoli, Ann Gilmore, Stacey Raczek, and James Shillaber. Also present: Rev. Jim and Rev. Maria Cristina

Check-In How are we with transitions in our lives?

Rev. Jim's Resignation and Congregational Transitions

Ann D. has met with Worship Committee co-chairs to discuss feedback on Worship Services.

Rev. Jim updated us on the staff retreat last week and staff responses to the news of his resignation. He has met with the co-chairs of the Committee on Ministry as well as with Paul McLean who is coordinating the Pastoral Care Associates. They will be attentive to members who need a listening ear to help them process these changes. Stacey and James have met with Sonya to ensure a continuity of administrative systems.

Rev. Maria Cristina has been working on her thesis for her Th.D. all summer and is only a chapter and a half away from completion of the draft, which is due Feb. 1st. She will defend her thesis in late March or early April and is on track to graduate in June! She has resumed all her ministerial responsibilities. Congregational members are invited to contact her for pastoral care.

Mandy Beal, who was to be our ministerial intern for the next two years, has found a new placement.

Opening Sunday

Rev. Jim will be preaching about transitions, especially the one he will be undergoing upon his leaving FPB. The service will begin outside with welcoming drummers. Although the congregational feedback this spring indicated we should discontinue multigenerational services, the RE Committee would like Opening Sunday, as well as Thanksgiving and Easter to continue in that format. Rev. Jim has shortened the service to accommodate the children. Since families may be expecting RE classes on Sunday, Rev. Jim will ask Sonya to include a notice in Thursday's congregational email and on our website to let people know it will be a multigenerational service.

Listening Circles

We will hold Listening Circles after Worship for the next three Sundays to help the congregation process Rev. Jim's resignation and what our next steps will be as a congregation. Ann D suggested that people will come for different reasons – some to ask questions and get more information, some to express their feelings, some to reflect on our past, and some to envision our future. It will be important for Rev. Jim to be there to share his narrative. He and Rev. Maria Cristina will also be there to answer any questions directed at them. Ann D will frame the context, followed by Rev. Jim's brief remarks. We will then go around the circle, using a talking stick or stone, and people will have the option of speaking one by one, without any cross talk. James and Ann G will both take notes, and will make particular note of any

questions asked. Some we will be able to answer right on the spot and some we will need to work on answering in a subsequent FAQ which James is preparing.

Rev. Jim's Resignation and Sabbatical

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously **APPROVED** to accept Rev. Jim's resignation and award him 5 months sabbatical.

Interim Minister

A motion was made to take a request to the congregation to approve hiring a full-time interim minister from Jan. 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. Because we would need to draw funding from the endowment to pay an interim minister from Jan. 1, - June 30, 2016, our by-laws require us to take two separate congregational votes on this issue before we make any offer to a candidate. We discussed the possibility that we might find an interim minister who was willing to work less than full-time. We also discussed the possibility that we might not find a suitable candidate available to start in January, and might need to continue the search process into next spring when more candidates are available. The previous motion was revised, seconded and unanimously **APPROVED** to take a request to the membership to approve hiring an interim minister, with the funding to come from the endowment for the period Jan. 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017.

Birthday Party for Rev. Jim

Steve reported that plans are well underway to honor and celebrate Rev. Jim's 60th birthday (Oct. 6th,) on Saturday night, Oct. 3rd. Alice Mark and Anya Thomas are organizing this. It will include the congregation, along with Rev. Jim's extended family, and other local clergy. The PC will donate the space and custodial service. We will also organize a separate goodbye party for Rev. Jim in December.

Song – Sue led us in singing “Peace, Like a River.”

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Gilmore, Clerk