

**FIRST PARISH BROOKLINE
PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
December 5, 2016**

Attending: Sue Andrews, Rev. Rebecca Bryan, David Cave, Michele David, Ben Davis, Ann Dinsmoor, Laura Hatfield, Alice Mark, James Shillaber,

Chalice Lighting /Reading: Rev. Rebecca provided a reading by Robert Weston

Check in: Rev. Rebecca invited us each to speak briefly about the message we are hearing in our hearts during the holiday season.

Minister's Report

Updates:

1. **RE:** Alice Mark reported that 10-12 people will come together on Wednesday evening, December 7. This task force will discuss qualities desired in a potential new DRE, and types of work this person would accomplish. She will report back to the Parish Committee at our January meeting.
 - Michele mentioned that her task force on staffing models will be discussing whether FPB will continue with the past model for a DRE, or consider creating a very different model.
 - The Parish Committee will reserve a Transition Conversation date, maybe in January, so that the congregation can participate in determining FPB's vision for RE.
 - Rev. Rebecca will attend the RE Committee meeting on December 13.
2. **Quarterly Financial Update:** Ben Davis reported that all in all FPB is doing well capturing income from pledges since the end of the 2016-17 Stewardship Campaign.
 - A major unplanned expense this quarter was the purchase of new software for the church computer.
 - The Finance Committee has met, and the Finance Council will meet on December 19. Programs represented on the Finance Council have been asked to think ahead and report about their projected financial needs. The Finance Committee continues to work toward more transparency re: the financial state of FPB. They will be discussing our physical assets (whether to maintain or sell) in detail.
3. **Survey:** Rev. Rebecca reported that 176 members/friends completed the online survey. Results of the survey will be presented to the Parish Committee at our January 9 meeting, to the congregation both before and after the service on January 15, to the Finance Committee on January 17, and to the Program Council on January 25.

Strategic Issues Discussed:

I. Providing Physical Sanctuary for Immigrants at Risk of Deportation

Ellen Blaney and Tania Erij, co-chairs of the Immigration Justice Committee, attended the meeting. Both are also members of Boston New Sanctuary's Steering Committee. They reminded the PC that there have been 3 congregational meetings between January 2016 and May 2016 to discuss FPB's possible commitment to either acting as allies and supporters of any local church which would choose to provide physical sanctuary, or to actually providing sanctuary in FPB's building. In May the congregation voted to resolve to be supportive to all efforts to provide physical sanctuary.

A task force consisting of the members of the Immigration Justice Committee, 2 pastoral care associates, and 2 representatives from the Building and Grounds Committee have recently met, including a tour of the building to assess possible living/hygiene space should FPB decide to provide physical sanctuary.

Centro Presente has recently (on December 2) requested that FPB provide physical sanctuary. There is a sense of urgency brought on by the general atmosphere of insecurity among immigrant communities after the recent presidential election.

The Immigration Justice Committee would like to know whether FPB is ready to provide physical sanctuary as soon as possible.

It was agreed that the issue should be brought to the congregation by the PC, and that the PC does not have adequate information with which to present a proposal, including financial, human resource, legal assistance, and other costs to the congregation should a decision be taken to provide physical sanctuary. The PC will ask Ellen and Tania to provide a written proposal, specific to FPB, so that a congregational conversation with detailed information can be scheduled.

2. Multicultural/Antiracist Consultant Task Force Report: James, along with Ann Gilmore (attending), and Ron Wilson and George Maryniuk by phone conference:

Note: This Task Force consists of FPB members Karla Baehr, Almas Dossa, Ann Gilmore, Jami Jordan, George Maryniuk, James Shillaber, Gene Thompson-Grove, Sara Warren, Ron Wilkinson, Bob Williamson, and Rev. Rebecca Bryan.

The task force has interviewed 3 possible consultants to “help First Parish in Brookline build multicultural capacity through exploration of our past, facilitation of needed conversations, and learning from our own experience and the experience and wisdom of others who have done anti-racist, anti-oppression, and multicultural work.”

The task force recommends that we engage with Meck Groot from the UUA New England Region, to help us articulate about the place we find ourselves with respect to multiculturalism and racism, and to plan specifically with Visions, Inc. what their consultation would involve. They would also like to meet with Community Change, Inc., a local non-profit, to determine how they may be able to help.

Ann Dinsmoor suggested that the PC schedule a time other than a monthly meeting to meet and discuss plans with Meck Groot.

The PC unanimously agreed with the Task Force’s recommendations, and look forward to meeting with Meck Groot soon.

3. Selection of a Ministerial Search Committee

Rev. Rebecca presented the Keyes Model, recommended by the UUA, for selection of our Ministerial Search Committee. This model is considered best practice for insuring that all members of a congregation have a say in the selection of those who will represent them in choosing a called senior minister.

After discussion, it was decided that Sue Andrews will prepare a draft of a “Policy for the Selection of the Ministerial Search Committee”. This draft will be sent to all members of the PC well before the next meeting on January 9, so that we can decide by vote at that meeting whether to employ this method when we select our search committee in Spring of 2017.

After a short debriefing, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Andrews
Acting Clerk