

Parish Board Minutes, 1/8/2018

Attendees: Michele David, Ben Davis, Dave Demerjian, David Cave, Alice Mark, Gene Thompson-Grove, Laura Hatfield, Rev Rebecca, James Shillaber, Charles Sandmel

We began with a **chalice lighting** and a reading from “Governance and Ministry” by Dan Hotchkiss

“Ministry and money should not be separated into different departments...”

Laci Adams joined us to talk about the **RE program**.

Laci joined us to talk about her perspective on the RE program in her first six months as CRE. Currently we have about 100 children enrolled in the program with about 60% attendance each week. The “coming of age” group is particularly robust with 44 kids enrolled from Neighboring Faiths to OWL to Challenge.

The strengths of the program including the social justice lens, diversity, and the rich environment of FPB. Laci wants to be sure the curriculum is able to engage with the kids and make social justice more focal, especially around issues of race.

The weakness is still the “2 church problem” – RE is seen as separate from the rest of the church - and how to engage non-parents in the program and also integrate RE into the broader congregation.

This year Laci started the year really just supporting the REC and teachers to make them feel supported – ensuring classes are running and teachers are in classroom. In the spring, she is planning to do more teacher training and enrichment including CPR, child development, and trauma. She wants to look at teacher recruitment and training without a scarcity lens to make sure that teachers feel supported in their teaching and want to keep coming back. Looking forward, she wants to build the youth group. Currently, she acknowledges that it will be hard to bring the youth back, but wants to make sure there is something in place when the current Challenge class graduates.

The Board can help Laci by encouraging non-parents to be involved and also talk about teaching as an enriching and spiritual practice. We were encouraged to connect people with potentially valuable skills and stories to Laci to see how she could use them in the program.

The entire board was grateful to Laci and expressed joy and hope in the future of the RE program!

We **checked in** with each other.

Confidential **minister’s report** was reviewed with Rev Rebecca and questions clarified.

Ben Davis gave the **finance committee** report.

Finance committee and canvass have met to talk preliminarily about budget. If we are to meet goals related to endowment, the finance committee feels that we need to increase fundraising goals, as we have cut as much from the budget in the last year that we can.. To decrease the draw down from endowment, goal is to increase fundraising by \$60,000. Canvass has increased their fundraising goal from 420,000 to 450,000. We also will talk about a fundraising event in the fall and building revenue.

The board was in agreement that the budget cannot be cut further. The board is optimistic about canvass’s goals. The board is interested in supporting fundraising but wants to make sure it’s inclusive of

all types of donors. Gene will reach out to BEF about their fundraising at their gala to see how to do this better.

Canvass Sunday is 3/11. Canvass committee would like to meet with congregants after service and is wondering about location. In the interest of not separating ministry and money, the Board recommended that this meeting take place in the sanctuary.

Motions and other business:

Ben made a motion that Alisa replace Sonya as FPB's credit card signatory. This motion passed unanimously.

Michele moved that the minutes from December meeting be approved. Dave was asked to put safety committee members' names in the minutes. Currently they are Ann Dinsmoor, Sue Andrews, Alisa and Laci. Rev Rebecca recommends one more member. Gene will ask if another church member is interested. The motion was made to approve the minutes with the corrections. This motion passed unanimously.

The board affirmed again that there will be no committee on ministry for the settled minister (see minutes from November meeting). **James** discussed a possible onboarding committee to sit for the first 90 days of the minister's tenure. He will send us information about onboarding. We deferred how to organize that committee until a future meeting.

Next meeting will be 2/5 with DEEP and 2/15 as board meeting. **Laura** will clarify the time with DEEP.

Our neighbors are not shoveling, and people are walking in the street. **Alice** will call the town.

We ended with plus/delta and our usual prayer.

Plus	Delta
GREAT to hear from Laci - should we have Alisa come and talk with us?	Minister's report goes long and can feel a little random. Next time, we will ask for clarifying questions and Rev Rebecca will guide us on issues that she feels are important to discuss
Helpful to hear finance committee report at every meeting	Structure and timekeeping could be improved
Happy that we made time to check in even though it was in the wrong order	
Deadline by search made things hard but good	
We moved things along by narrowing to consensus	