

Parish Board Virtual Meeting
May 3, 20120
1:00pm – 3:00pm

Present: Gene Thompson-Grove (co-chair), Janet Britcher (co-chair), Karla Baehr, Ellen Blaney, Micaela Coady, Dave Demerjian (arrived 1:15), Steve Pratt-Otto, Charles Sandmel, Bob Williamson
Others: Rev Lisa

Gene called the meeting to order at 1:03 and Rev Lisa lit a chalice and shared a reading, Morning News, by Alberto Rijos. Gene then led the Board through its opening “fun” activity: we each drew the picture of a person secretly assigned to us; we held them up to replace the Zoom Gallery, and then guessed which drawing was associated with which person.

Budget Building Blocks

Karla led Board members through the latest draft of the “Budget Building Blocks” document that Charles, Rev Lisa and Karla had been developing to help Board members and members of the congregation understand the components of the FPB Budget. A streamlined version appears below:

Income 596,183 recommended for FY 21 % of Budget			Spending \$595,126 proposed for FY 21 % of Budget		
Pledges	\$365,000	61%	Payroll	\$411,366	69%
Building Use - Rental	\$36,000	6%	Program Related	\$33,500	6%
Fees & Other Income	\$25,000	4%	Denominational (UUA)		
Fundraising	\$7,500	1%	Sunday Services (Music)		
Endowment Draw	\$160,000	27%	Religious Exploration		
			Committee Funding		
			Functional	\$110,260	19%
			Administration & Office		
			Building Operations		
			Insurance		
			Capital Expense	\$40,000	7%

Responses to Board members’ clarifying and probing questions led to “on-the-spot” edits and the identification of other revisions needed before the document will be ready to share with members of the congregation at next week’s congregational budget meetings, including:

- Clarity about outside sources of funds on both the income and spending sides of the ledger i.e., UUA grant for ministerial intern, Cedar Tree grant for social justice work, and Organ Fund
- Reduction for FY 21 in the UUA grant for ministerial intern
- Total proposed percent draw from the endowment, divided between the draw from interest and the draw from principle
- Savings anticipated from full year of part-time custodian and part-time cleaning service
- B&G budget and criteria by which expenditures are decided (Janet, Bob and Rev Lisa agreed to review and report to the Board)

Gene asked **Karla** to complete the edits to the Building Blocks document. Charles will provide her with information about the Endowment draw.

Canvass Report

Steve offered highlights of this year's Canvass effort, including:

- 2021 Canvass total was \$365,000 to date - 95% of the 2020 Canvass despite doing the Canvass at the start of the COVID-19 "stay-at-home" order and plummeting employment
- 2021 Canvass has had 125 households pledging to date compared to 123 in FY 20
- Pledge distribution improved:
 - o Higher median pledge (from \$1,500 to \$1,800)
 - o Reduced the proportion of the total pledges contributed by top 5 givers (from 27% to 24%)
- Positive impact of this year's explicit and specific ask:
 - o Average new pledge nearly double the average of new pledges last year
 - o 4 members increased their pledges from below \$5,000 to above \$4,000, likely the result of learning that this year's budget required an average pledge per household of \$5,000.
- Positive impact of Rev Lisa's active role on Canvass Team as strategist and canvasser
- Canvassers reported making meaningful connections

FY 21 Budget Deliberations

Gene led a discussion of the Finance Committee's recommended budget for FY 21. Board members asked Charles, Steve and Rev Lisa clarifying questions, including:

- How the staff feels about not receiving the UUA-recommended cost of living raise of 1.8% for FY 21
- What the likely impacts of a 20% reduction in "admin and office expenses" will be
- How to determine what level of budget reductions for committee expenses could be made
- Whether a realistic role for nursery caregivers exists given likely social distancing requirements
- How to account for the \$5,000 Cedar Tree Grant and the Organ Fund

Board members agreed that certain budget recommendations need to be examined more closely at the Board's meeting on Tuesday, and identified Board members who will identify for full Board discussion considerations, options, and where funds can be taken from funds are to be restored:

- Denominational Giving (Micaela, Bob, Karla, Rev. Lisa)
- Endowment Draw for Buildings and Grounds Reserve Fund (Bob and Janet)
- Committee Funding (Ellen and Gene)

Charles and Rev. Lisa will work together to update the Draft FY 21 Budget Worksheet for Tuesday's Board deliberations.

Planning Congregational Budget Meetings

Gene, Janet and Karla volunteered to facilitate congregational budget discussions planned for:

Monday, May 11th 7-8pm
Thursday, May 14th 7-8pm
Sunday, May 17th 12:30-1:30pm

Gene asked other Board members to consider volunteering to participate and assist with facilitation.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06pm after sharing our appreciations for one another's contributions.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Baehr, Clerk