



Minutes
Parish Board Meeting
December 6, 2020
Sunday, 1:00-3:00

Present: Karla Baehr, Janet Britcher (chair), Alfred Brownell, Emily Cherry, Micaela Coady, Jen Guillemine, Steve Pratt-Otto, Margaret Williams, Bob Williamson, Rev Lisa Perry-Wood

The Board meeting began at 1:06pm with Rev Lisa lighting the chalice and reading John O'Donohue's *For Belonging*. We took turns reading each element of the Covenant.

Fun Activity: We checked in by each sharing a simple nearby "artifact" and its meaning for us in this season.

Committee Visit: Worship

The Board continued its practice of inviting members of one FPB Committee to each meeting to learn directly from its members accomplishments, barriers, and needs. On behalf of the Worship Committee Co-chair (and Board member) Emily Cherry shared the current status of the Worship Committee. This year's committee is smaller, consisting of 5 to 7 members of the congregation plus staff. The co-chairs meet with Rev Lisa bi-weekly to plan. Developing worship that engages the congregation is a major challenge in the online environment required during the Covid pandemic. *Think Like a Filmmaker* by Marcia McPhee is helping guide the development of more visual elements in worship. They have developed tools, guidance and other supports to help worship associates feel more comfortable with the technology and other demands required by online streaming. Emily and co-chair Elizabeth McIntire are focused on helping Worship Committee members stay connected with purpose and one another. They asked Board member(s) to consider a) hosting an online gathering on Christmas, and b) recording a greeting or serving as a worship associate for a service this winter.

Let's talk about money

- Context
 - Janet invited Karla to explain the Executive Committee's thinking behind having the topic, "Let's talk about Money", on every agenda. The goal is to make progress resolving questions that have been raised over several years regarding the Board's responsibility and accountability for ensuring that the income anticipated in each year's approved annual budget is raised.
 - Board members were invited to briefly share their feelings at the prospect of "talking about money" at every meeting of the Parish Board. Board members' responses confirm that they see "talking about money" as a key Board responsibility.
 - Karla shared her sense of the history of the decision to embrace an aggressive approach to renting space to increase income. Members identified "lessons" from that experience that might apply going forward, including "we may be more flexible and resourceful than we think we are"
 - Members explored the concept of "competing commitments" as a way to understand past and current challenges related to raising income, e.g., raising money vs alienating members
- Canvass
 - Representing the 2020 Canvass Team (Micaela, Steve Pratt-Otto, Karla Baehr and Whit Larrabee), Micaela described lessons learned and recommendations for the future, including clarity and explicitness of the message and the value of a "mop up" campaign. She reported that she, Karla and Whit will continue on the Canvass Team and that they are looking to add a newer member of the Board and another member of the Congregation to join the team. The hope is to

“institutionalize” the process of rotating terms of service on the Canvass Team. Margaret volunteered to join the 2021 Canvass Team.

- Members explored how the same lessons and recommendations related to Canvass might apply to developing an effective auction fundraiser

2020-21 Parish Board Goal Updates and Next Steps

Goal #1 Comparative church analysis actions (Margaret Williams)

- Deferred until March

Goal 2: Develop and pilot a Capital Project Congregational Decision-making Process (Bob Williamson, Alfred Brownell, Margaret Williamson and Karla Baehr)

- Board members reviewed a written update and responded to questions about what they will need in order to be ready to vote on the draft policy in January.

Goal #3 Action Steps: Dashboard to monitor health of congregation (Micaela, Karla, Rev Lisa)

- Deferred until March

Goal #4 Digital Ministry Action Steps (Margaret, Alfred, Bob)

- Deferred until January when committee will attend the Board meeting

Goal #5 Anti-Racism and Climate Action status update (Jen, Karla, Alfred)

- Deferred until January

Goal #6: Feedback to minister. Janet, Bob & Rev Lisa

- Janet, Bob and Rev Lisa have met to discuss Rev Lisa’s developmental goals and priorities.

Goal 7: Inclusive and transparent budget development and monitoring

- Deferred until March when the focus will be on processes and structures to ensure the budget is developed and monitored in an inclusive and transparent way

Report Updates

- Minister’s Report (attached)
 - Rev Lisa highlighted portions of her report including the hope that every Board member will participate in the tree ceremony by sending their pictures to Barbara Simonetti
- DRE Report
- Treasurer’s Report
 - Margaret reported that income and expenses are under control. Steve reported that pledge income is running ahead of this month last year.

Other updates Coffee Triads

- Next Triad “Coffee Date” is January 4:
 Alfred, Steve, Jen Bob, Karla, Micaela Janet, Margaret, Emily

Next Board meeting: Wed 1/6/21, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Committee: Digital Task Force

Janet adjourned the meeting at 3:00pm.

Respectfully submitted

Karla Baehr, Board Clerk