

To: Members of First Parish in Brookline

From: Your Parish Board

Subject: Invitation and Notice of FPB 202 ANNUAL MEETING on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:30pm via ZOOM  
<https://zoom.us/j/95692297257?pwd=cm4rRW9ldnJzczRxTGfQVINOcHh1UT09>

Meeting ID: 956 9229 7257

Passcode: 963936

Mobile: +13017158592

Dear First Parish Member

We hope our message finds you continuing to navigate these uncertain times in ways that are keeping you close to the people you love and at least some of the passions you hold most dear.

We hope, too, that you will join us for our second virtual **Annual Meeting via Zoom on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:30!** It's important that we have a quorum of members in good standing<sup>1</sup> and that we have the benefit of your best thinking about our budget – so **please mark your calendar now** to join us!

You will be able to participate by joining Zoom's video conferencing link above

\*Have questions about how to access Zoom? Want practice? Contact Ebiere Omoregie at 617-566-1933 or [admin@firstparishinbrookline.org](mailto:admin@firstparishinbrookline.org) She'll arrange a practice session for you on Thursday, May 20th.

The Parish Board is once again planning a virtual meeting that is **connecting, celebratory** and **efficient!**

- The core of our official business will be **voting to adopt the FY 2021-22 budget.**
  - To help you prepare, here is the link to the [Parish Board's Recommended budget for FY 21-22](#) as voted May 5<sup>th</sup> after considering feedback from three congregational budget conversations.
  - Here also is the link to an updated [Budget Building Blocks](#) document designed to give useful background on each component of the First Parish in Brookline budget for FY 21-22.
- We will be **electing officers and members** of standing committees as required by our bylaws.
- We will also **welcome and celebrate** new members and outgoing committee chairs and officers.
- We also want to continue our experiment with **consensus decision-making** used at our last two Congregational Meetings when we broke into smaller groups to discern whether consensus could emerge about issues before us. We will use it to identify what portions of the budget will require discussion before we take a vote. As an introduction (or refresher for those who were there), here is the link to the [Levels of Consensus \("Fist to Five"\)](#) guide we used last year.

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<sup>1</sup> Our Bylaws define a "member in good standing" as a member who has made a "financial contribution of record" to First Parish within the past church year. If you are unsure of your membership status, please contact our parish administrator, Ebiere Omoregie.

- We'll use an online only version of the [Annual Report](#) posted to the FPB website on May 12<sup>th</sup>. If you need us to print and mail a print version to you in time for the Annual Meeting, please let Ebiere know by Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at the latest.

At the end of this message you'll find the official **Annual Meeting Agenda** along with a note on early voting. Here's the [link](#) to the document the Agenda you can download.

All of us on the Parish Board are looking forward to "seeing" you on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Physical distancing requirements will prevent us from being together in person, but they need not prevent us from taking collective action as a community and connecting with one another and our mission.

Please feel free to reach out to any of us if you have questions or suggestions!

With gratitude and appreciation,

Your Parish Board: Janet Britcher (chair), Karla Baehr (clerk), Alfred Brownell, Emily Cherry, Micaela Coady, , Jen Guillemain, Stephen Pratt-Otto, Margaret Williams (Treasurer), Bob Williamson (vice chair)

*PS: You are receiving this Notice of Membership Meeting via email this year as the pandemic has made preparing and sending individual letters, a group activity, unsafe this year. We will send letters to members who do not communicate via email.*

<b>Annual Meeting Agenda for May 23, 2021</b>
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1. Call to Order
2. Welcome and overview
3. Election of the Moderator - Jami Jordan
4. Mission, Ground Rules and Voting process
5. Combined vote on
  - a. \*Acceptance of the Annual Report and Minutes from May 31, 2020 (Virtual) Annual Meeting, Janet Britcher, Parish Board Chair
  - b. \*Acceptance of New Members, Rev Lisa
  - c. \*Acceptance of Officers and Committee Members, as required by Bylaw
  - d. \*Acceptance of the Agenda
6. Recognition of out-going Board members, Bob Williamson, Parish Board Vice-chair
7. Review Parish Board's Recommended FY 2022 Budget, Janet Britcher, out-going Board co-chair
8. Small group facilitated discussion of Budget with Parish Board members, using these Questions:
  - *What clarifying questions do you need answered?*
  - *What concerns do you have about the budget?*
  - *Think about FPB's mission and what works for you about the budget, and ask: Where are you on the consensus ladder about the budget?*
    - 5 = "unqualified yes"
    - 1 = "don't agree and feel the need to stand in the way of its acceptance"
9. Clarifying questions addressed and concerns summarized

10. Review of Consensus from Small Groups, Janet Britcher
  11. **Vote to approve the budget** as proposed by the Parish Board for FY 2022 and a withdraw from endowment principal to pay a portion of operating costs (requires 2/3 vote\*\*), Moderator
  12. Any other business on the agenda, as accepted, Moderator
1. Closing Words and Extinguishing Chalice, Rev Lisa Perry-Wood
  2. Adjourn, Moderator

*\* To save time without sacrificing the opportunity to ask questions and discuss, we will have a single vote on the typically more routine business of Annual Meeting: accepting the agenda for the meeting, accepting new members, electing new officers and members of Standing Committees, and accepting the minutes from past congregational meetings*

*\*\*Budget approval requires a 2/3 vote because it involves withdrawing principal from the endowment, not just earnings*

**Ground Rules for Congregational Meetings:**

1. One speaker at a time
2. Listen with an open mind
3. Speak for yourself (“I”)
4. Tell your own truths and let others tell theirs

**The Mission of the First Parish in Brookline**

Called by Love, Sustained by Community, Committed to Justice

*We strive to be a welcoming, diverse and loving congregation that nurtures spiritual growth for individuals and families, celebrates multicultural community, and works together to demand social justice, dismantle racism, and care for our living Earth.*

**New Members**

The following two people have signed the membership book (in person or virtually) since our last Annual Meeting:

Barbara Cone	Tai Melendy
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**Officers and Standing Committee Members**

The Nominating Committee nominates the following members:

For the Parish Board:

- Jody Leader
- John Mignano

For Officers:

- Moderator: Jami Jordan
- Alternate Moderator: Marilyn Tressel
- Treasurer: Margaret Williams

- Clerk: Karla Baehr

For Nominating Committee:

- Lori Day
- Carol Spitzer

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Baehr  
Clerk of the Parish

**A note on early voting:** First Parish in Brookline Bylaws permit early voting for members who are not able to join an Annual Meeting. If you cannot join Annual Meeting by Zoom or phone and wish to vote on the FY 21 Budget and the Nominating Committee recommendations, please let our church administrator, Ebiere Omoregie know by phone or email (617-566-1933 or [admin@firstparishinbrookline.org](mailto:admin@firstparishinbrookline.org)). Ebiere will send you a ballot which you need to return to her before Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> in order for your vote to count. Please note, too, that if a motion on the ballot is amended during the Meeting, early voting ballots on that original motion have to be disregarded.