

First Parish in Brookline Board Meeting Minutes: October 2, 2022
Submitted by Nancy Clark, FPB Board Clerk

Present: Lori Day, John Mignano, Ed Page, Kathryn Kirshner, Alfred Brownell, Margaret Williams, Jen Guilliemin, Nancy Clark, Rev. Lisa Perry-Wood. Jody Leader was unable to attend, but she sent her reflections (see below).

Here is a link to our shared Google Doc, as a repository for our documents, including meeting minutes, supporting board materials, etc: [2022-2023 Board](#)

The Board read the FPB covenant, and agreed to a minor wording change in our covenant.

Covenant - to be our best selves and do our best work Our goals will be mission driven. as we emerge from this liminal time**, we will:

Energy: We will focus our work on policy level issues

We will be responsible for our own limits and self-care

We will invite fun and joy

We commit to listen to understand and learn.

We will practice deliberate ways to give all voices a chance, making space for minority views, and for differences in processing and reflection time.

We will bring clarity and focus to our work.

The board will be a small group ministry with each other, providing support and personal and spiritual growth as we accomplish our work

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** Later, Jody sent the following words, as an addition to the board covenant that we voted on:
"For this year, we will adopt a shared leadership model that focuses on growing, diversifying and expanding our community. We will collaborate with committees to better integrate goals, action, and responsibilities."

Jody was unable to attend this meeting, but she sent reflections on the MTF report.

Rev. Lisa:

- Regarding governance and leadership, Rev. Lisa is thinking of responses to the task force report and the "right relations team."
- FPB is hiring a "Director of Family & Community Ministries."
- Lisa is working with Keith and the choir to replace a "standing worship committee"
- The pastoral care team is seeking new members.
- Lisa has joined a supervision group
- The Internship committee is seeking a team of FPB members to help the intern to develop - Jen recommends Shasha Vandersee and Wendy Grossman
- Lisa is planning to start a "spiritual aspiration group" that will include meditation, readings, prayer, and discussions
- Lisa made the distinction between "spirituality," which is personal, and "religion," which is communal

- The Committee on Shared Ministry (a.k.a. The Right Relations Team) met with Lisa to think about the health of the congregation. Also, people can bring concerns to this team - it is a “drop-in” group. Alfred asked Lisa to send a flowchart for this process. Ed, Lori, and Jen will work with Lisa to decide what is needed, e.g. a narrative and/or checklist.
- Lisa needs to set goals for this year, and will work with members of the Board to develop goals.
- In response to a request for guidance related to “executive sessions,” Alfred will send a link

Ed reported that a child care company is proposing to build a pre-school on the ground floor, in the space currently used by the Dana room. The proposal was due on Wed. Oct. 5, and Bob advises that we respond to the proposal within 2 weeks. The finance committee will act on this.

Regarding finances, Margaret reported that we ended the year “in the black,” but that was because we had no RE director.

Executive Session: Board members held an executive session to discuss the findings of the Ministerial Task Force.