

First Parish in Brookline: Monthly Board Meeting, November 6, 2022

Board members present: Alfred Brownell, Ed Page, Jody Leader, Margaret Williams, Lori Day, Jen Guillemain, Kathryn Kirshner (via phone), Nancy Clark. Alfred Brownell was absent. Other FPB members present: Rev. Lisa Perry-Wood, Jeff Cadow, Janet Britcher, Barbara Simonetti, Charles Sandmel, Elizabeth McIntire

Agenda:

The Board members voted to accept the minutes of the previous meeting, and to modify the Board's covenant, as agreed at our September meeting:

- 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.
- We will work to be our best selves and do our best work.
- We (the whole board) will focus our work on policy level issues especially as they relate to the community's well-being and rebuilding of a sense of community
- 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
- Our goals will be aligned with the mission of the church.
- We commit to hold each other and ourselves with tenderness and care, especially during this liminal time.

Ed Page and Charles Sandmel reported on the recent proposal from an outside organization to operate a daycare/preschool business at First Parish. The project involved gut/renovation of the ground floor of our church, and also involved constructing bathrooms on the first floor. The project would require a significant draw on the endowment. Charles summarized the results of the Finance Committee's cash-return analysis:

- It would be expensive for us to accept this proposal, and we would not recover our investment until after year 4. In contrast, we have never lost money over any three-year period with the UU Common Endowment Fund (starting 2013).
- It is risky to invest in a startup school.
- The proponents had an ambitious plan to grow enrollment once open and they did not have any advance enrollment commitments in place.

- The timeframe and cost were not controlled
- The organization proposing this project did not provide any financial statements.

Based on this analysis, the Finance Committee will not accept this proposal.

Rev. Lisa and Jody reported on the proposal to move our Sunday services to Lyon Chapel for the winter. Rationale: oil prices have doubled, and it will be very expensive to heat the Sanctuary in the coldest months.

- Sunday services have been held in Lyon Chapel in the past, for example during World War II and in the 1970's.
- Bob Williamson recommends that we experiment using Lyon in January and February, noting that a new oil monitoring system has been installed.
- Keith Kirchoff is concerned about the inability to live-stream from Lyon, because it is not set up for live streaming, and it would cost approximately \$10,000 to bring the technology in Lyon up to the quality that we have in the sanctuary.
- **Final Decision is still pending:** We did not definitely decide to use Lyon throughout January and/or February, but board members expressed willingness to experiment with a service or two in Lyon in Jan or Feb, perhaps trying some less expensive options for live streaming.

Executive Session

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