

First Parish in Brookline Board Meeting: April 2, 2023

Present: Jody Leader, Ed Page, Margaret Williams, John Mignano, Nancy Clark, Rev. Lisa Perry-Wood, Jayleigh Lewis, Erin Scott

Report from Jayleigh

Jayleigh summarized her responsibilities, with the caveat that her role is still a “work in progress.” She is currently working with 3 advisors, including Jen Guillemain, to help identify areas of focus and priorities, including:

- Religious Exploration (RE) for children & youth, and for adults
- Adult RE is currently less structured than the children’s RE
- Community involvement through events in the First Parish immediate vicinity and in the wider inter-religious community.

Jayleigh will be at First Parish throughout the Summer. Jayleigh requested that the Board keep her informed of candidates as the board works through the Interim Minister search process

Report from Erin

Erin confided that she had felt hurt and misled because she has not been invited to our 2022-23 Board meetings to date. This was the first time Board members had heard this request, and some of us expressed surprise and dismay that we did not realize the Ministerial Intern should be included in our Board meetings. Erin cited the following needs going forward:

- An “experienced teaching pastor”
- Training for Board members, e.g:
 - <https://www.uua.org/leaderlab>
 - <https://www.uua.org/leaderlab/training-role>
 - <https://www.uua.org/leaderlab/programs/board-training>
- Ed: took an action item to keep Erin and Jayleigh informed about Interim ministerial candidates and progress
- Erin and Jayleigh will be at First Parish throughout the Summer, and will serve with the Summer Worship Team led by Carol Spitzer and Karla Baer. Erin will lead Sunday worship services in July.
- Jen is the point person for Jayleigh, at least through June, but there was a question whether Jen would continue this role after the end of her Board term in June.

Vote to Share Findings from March Congregational Meeting

The Board voted unanimously to share the findings from the recent congregational meeting.

- Action: Board members should review the Google Doc that Meck created after the recent congregational meeting

Assigned Tasks

- Nancy: will ask Ebierie to set up a Doodle poll to identify possible days/times for a meeting of Board members, Erin, and Jayleigh. Agenda TBD.
- Kristin McIntire and Whit Larrabee will be nominated to the Board. The nomination committee includes Jody Leader, Kiara Zani, Lori Day, Carol Spitzer, Bob Williamson
- The new board will vote on who will be the Chairperson

- Experienced board members will be responsible for orienting the new Board Members.
- Note: see the church bylaws related to “Nominating Committee”

Findings from Congregational Discussion Facilitated by Meck Groot: the Board voted unanimously to share the findings from our recent congregational meeting.

- Rev. Lisa will send a copy of the findings for the Board to review
- Margaret and Jen will create a final draft of the Google Doc that Meck created:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uhOe12cLZ6ZVDha9YLoDb-QFxCJea6JOGRWxUJ84qpo/e/dit#heading=h.dq3qntzc5u5h> ... and will post it in the weekly Bulletin

Upcoming Board Projects and Assigned Tasks

- Orienting new Board members
- Meetings with congregation to discuss budget and finances
 - Finance committee will set dates for 3 congregational meetings at various times for budget reviews
- Alfred and Nancy will be responsible for the annual meeting. Tasks include:
 - Nancy will work with Ebierree to proofread the Annual Report
 - Creating the agenda - Action item: Nancy will set up a meeting with Alfred, Nancy, Karla Beahr and Bob Williamson to seek their recommendations about Board Meeting logistics
 - Technology – a technology-competent FPB member will be recruited (later, Bob Williamson recruited Noah Gabriel Press McIntyre for this position because he is qualified, and is a friend to First Parish
- The finance committee will set 3 dates (at various times of day/week) for congregational meetings to discuss the budget and finances.
- Jen is currently the point person for staff, and Jody will take this role on July 1
 - If a disciplinary issue arises, it should be taken to the Board