

First Parish Cambridge Governing Board Minutes
November 19, 2024, 7 pm (In person)

Present: Board members Cade Murray, Tod Hibbard, Rich Lawson (virtual), Jane Stabile, Nina Lytton, Patrick Sullivan, Sharon DeVos; staff Rev. Rob Hardies, Carol Lewis; GAC chair Grace Hall; guests from Y2Y Necati Unsal, Amelia Heymach and Ben Rio and from PBHA (Phillips Brooks House Association) Kit Carroll and Kate Johnson.

The meeting started with introductions all around, followed by a presentation from Y2Y by Necati, Student Administrative Director, and Amelia, Student Data Director. They provided background information, then thanked First Parish for helping Y2Y thrive in a variety of ways and requested volunteers during vacation periods, especially the winter break. The monthly deep cleaning is another time when First Parish volunteers could help.

Jane Stabile read from The World of Mr. Rogers and asked each person to consider our reactions and what we look for during this time. Reactions included sadness, rage, and disappointment as well as a deep appreciation for having a community. We were encouraged to remember our first principle, considering the worth and dignity of each individual, including those with whom we disagree, and to find something we can do even if it is something small.

After minimal discussion, the Consent Agenda was unanimously accepted (motion Jane Stabile, second Nina Lytton).

Rev. Rob indicated that in January he would like to consider graphics to lead into discussion of how we may help move people from the periphery toward the center of First Parish life.

With respect to financials, four months into the fiscal year the budget is on course overall. The money spent on sprucing up the Parish House (carpet and paint) was well worth it. With respect to repairs in the chimney area, the beam is welded and supports are removed. Some outside work remains but it should be complete and scaffolding removed in early December.

Julie Duncan spoke about the team (Carol Lewis, Patrick Sullivan and Julie) that is considering how we can become more involved with Y2Y. One idea is to have teams volunteer during the winter break. These could be cohorts from established teams with members of the board setting the tone by participating as a group. January 7 or 19 are possible dates. In addition, the next deep cleaning is Saturday, Dec. 14. This will be in the announcements. Could we help monthly with the cleaning? Rev. Rob will make sure that volunteering is addressed from the pulpit.

Another upcoming volunteer opportunity is a Christmas Eve lunch for Tuesday Meals. The various volunteer opportunities will be presented together.

The Trans Day of Remembrance is Wednesday, 11/20, and will be acknowledged in the Sunday morning service. We have more trans and non-binary individuals attending. Would establishing an identity group be helpful? It is happening organically, but should there be an intentional step taken at this time to support them? Should there be training for the congregation?

After thanking Carol for arranging the dinner we shared with Y2Y guests and the choir prior to our meeting, the meeting adjourned (motion Jane Stabile, second Julie Duncan).

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Hall (substituting for the Clerk)
Approved by the Board on 17 Dec 2024