

First Parish Church
Parish Council Meeting
March 13, 2006

Minutes

Attendees:

Dunc Ballantyne	Ellen Hoy
Carol Ballantyne	Steve Hoy
Doug Baumoeel	Paul Knight
Elizabeth Grassin	Charlie Wainwright
Sue Hacker	Beth Williams
William Hines	Joleen Wilson
Sylvia Howe	

The Council reviewed and approved the minutes from the February meeting.

Committee Updates

Written committee updates were received. Verbal updates were as follows:

Building Committee

- The new sexton is working out well. Paul has some horticultural knowledge and may be helpful in replanting the grounds in front of Church.

Stewardship

- Canvass is not going well. We have received far fewer pledges than expected relative to budget timeline.
- Council agreed on a special announcement on the next Sunday about pledges. William will coordinate.

Investment Committee

- Outside managed funds have experienced a good return in calendar year 2005 and since inception.

Committee on Ministry

- Committee make up for FY 2006-7 was discussed.

Religious Education

- Megan Dowdell visited with the RE committee to discuss youth ministry at FPC. The RE committee is trying to get a meeting set up with other committee chairs to spread the word about the youth ministry.
- The RE committee has discussed Sunday School safety and other programs.

- The job description for the Director of Religious education has been updated and sent to the Personnel Committee.

Other Activities

Youth Group

- The Youth group service was well received.

Welcoming Congregation

- FPC needs to decide on involvement in the upcoming Gay Pride march.

Capital Campaign

- A letter describing the progress to date was distributed.

New Members

- Several new members of FPC were noted.

Website

There was a lengthy discussion of the FPC website and IT issues in general.

- The Church Administrator is the new webmaster.
- There was a discussion of the content of the website and who will have responsibility for addressing it.
- Some attendees feel the website content should include the FPC directory. Others felt this type of information should not be available to non-members and either should not be put on the website or should have some sort of password protection.
- Some attendees noted there may be potential personal liability associated with administering the certain aspects of the website such as passwords, content, etc..
- The Council did agree that more attention needs to be given to IT issues in general and the website in particular.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 19.

Annual reports will be requested soon.

Next Council meeting is scheduled for April 20. Sue Hacker volunteered to share some opening words at that meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
William Hines