

FPUU PARISH COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

The Chalice was lit and our meeting commenced at 7:05pm.

Attendance: Erin Splaine, Ann Svensen, Richard Kermond, Charlie Ruddy, Jen McGonagle Dziedzic, Erica Boyle and Carol Sullivan-Hanley.

Previous Minutes: A motion was made to accept the April 10, 2025, minutes. It was seconded and approved unanimously by Parish Committee members.

Update from the Search Committee:

Members including Abby Diamond, Kissiday, Jack Duff, Mary Ann Perry, Laura Carson and Mary Beaulieu were present to share their "journey" and UUA advice and feedback.

This is an unprecedented year with the number of churches looking for ministers, both developmental and settled. The minister availability is incredibly low, and it is a palpable challenge for many churches, including our own. The UUA made a recommendation for us to emphasize our "top figure" and promote it in our listing. Their, too, was the recommendation to offer the possibility of initial rental housing by including the parsonage. There is currently an excellent tenant, and she looks forward to signing a year long lease in July of 2025. There was a great deal of discussion on whether to make her a "tenant at will" so that the residence may solve a potential candidate's dilemma with the current cost of very expensive local real estate. This is a considered option but needs continued analysis and discussion.

Treasurer's Report: Erica reported that we are within reasonable shape. The Finance Committee, Endowment Committee and the Parish Committee have all donated to the Canvass and we are still awaiting promised pledges. There is money earmarked from the donation of \$25,000 from Gail Anderson and her family to update and paint the minister's office the "admin" office and the kitchen. This was unanimously agreed upon at a previous Parish Committee meeting. Work has started in the offices. Bids continue to come in for the kitchen.

Minister's Report:

Erin shared her upcoming "in the pulpit" Sundays and those with a guest speaker or lay-led. We all agreed that her service for the Donaldson family grieving the passing of Alan was poignant and showcased his many gifts to our church community.

Annual Meeting Prep:

Reports need to be in shortly and the Warrant posted.

Summer: Worship/Plans

We will meet the first two Sundays in June with June 8th and Annual Meeting being the last service.

The Parish Committee will meet on Thursday June 12, 2025, at 7:00.

Staffing:

Our administrative position has been filled (!)

The Music Director position still needs to be filled with a potential candidate returning on May 11th for a second visit.

Upcoming Events and Updates:

Spring Fair: It will occur on May 17, 2025, and volunteers are needed...

Beth's "Good-Bye" luncheon will happen on Sunday, May 18, 2025. This celebration and gift presentation will be a potluck lunch to honor our beloved music director.

Annual Meeting Convened/Recess will occur on Sunday, May 25, 2025, immediately after the service.

Annual Meeting Pre-Meet will happen on Sunday, June 1, 2025, immediately after the service in the Sloop Room.

Annual Meeting will happen on Sunday, June 8, 2025, immediately after the service.

Last Day Celebration is still being planned, but there are lots of creative (and funny) plans being circulated.

Adjournment: 8:35pm

