

First Parish UU Arlington
Parish Committee Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2026
7:00 - 9:00 PM, via Zoom

In attendance: Marie Meteer (Chair), Amy Speare (Vice Chair), Carolyn Hodges (Treasurer), Joanna Pushee (Clerk), Susan Moore, Al Tosti, John Shriver, Kate Tranquada and Ellen Robie.

Minister: Rev. Stevie Carmody, Minister of Religious Education (MRE)

Guests: Transition Team representative Julie Garry and Settled Minister Search Committee representative Anne Quaadgras

7:03 PM Call to Order (Marie)

7:05 PM Reading and Chalice Lighting (Kate); Two minutes of silence. 7:09

PM Financial Review (Carolyn)

- Headlines; Indicator template for April
 - First Parish continues to run favorable overall through April.
 - Expenses tend to grow at the end of the program year.
 - The Town of Arlington bill surfaced and showed an increase in water usage by about 30%. The Property Committee is working with the Office and the Town to ascertain why.
 - A follow up with the Unitarian Universalist Association is needed for the annual pledge.
 - First Parish's mutual insurance bill is up for renewal in August. In June or July, the office will need to reach out to alternative insurance from UUA to ask for a workup with Church Mutual.
 - Questions:
 - Is the pledge consistent with previous years at this time? Yes.
 - The Assistant Treasurer, Annie Hewitt, and the Treasurer, Carolyn Hodges, send email reminders to people who have not paid their full pledge. The program year ends June 30th.
 - Is there a goal in mind? 2% range.
- A member asked a follow up about the Realm email that had gone out asking folks to consider increasing their pledges. The Office Associate did not have any new updates. ● From the special gift in 2024, are there remaining funds? There are remaining \$54,000.

7:22 PM - The Trustees and MOU for the Boiler System (total cost estimated at \$125K)

- Memo of Understanding with the Trustees stating they will pay an initial amount of \$25,000. The remaining cost is to be paid annually from operating funds at the end of the fiscal year and is estimated at \$10,000 annually, over a 10 Year period, with a first payment in June 2027.

- The change to a new boiler system will enhance the life of the boiler. We are looking for improvement overall and higher efficiency.
- Having the Trust fund and utilizing it in this way allows the Parish Committee to spread out the payments and to not pay interest.
- Commitment of Parish Committee to meeting with Trustees more frequently to keep communication open within the next program year
- The last significant loan that was taken was about \$40,000 and was for a cleanup aspect for A/C in 2014.

MOTION 1: I move that we approve the MOU with the Trustees for the \$25,000 gift for the replacement of the boiler. (Marie) Seconded (Amy) 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.

7:34 PM **Consent agenda items:** Minutes, Financials, Ministers' reports

MOTION 2: I move to adopt the consent agenda with the identified edits to the minutes from April. (Joanna) Seconded (Kate) 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.

The edited information in the minutes included:

- Sabbatical and adjunct ministers: clarifications regarding which buckets the funds are from.
- Note the \$10,000 raised from Taste of First Parish in May 2024.
- Add the official member numbers, before and after the clerk worked on the one-time spring clean-up of the updated, active member list

7:35 **Short reports** (Marie and Al)- Tabled all and decided not to vote on summer services ●

Vote to allow three in-person summer services - Clerk provided documentation offline.

Anne Quaadgras entered the meeting between 7:35 and 7:40 PM.

- Rose of recognition: Tabled to later in the meeting.
- Agenda for June Retreat: Moved to email discussion.

7:40 PM - **All Congregation Picnic** (Marie)

There will be a picnic on June 14th, after the last service of the program year.

7:41 PM **Delegates to the UUA General Assembly meeting** (Marie)

- The UUA GA this year will be hybrid: online with some in person satellite sites.
- Rev. Stevie pointed out that ministers and staff, such as the RE staff, do not need to be specially selected as they have credentials via their professional status.
- The Parish Committee discussed who to reach out to as delegates to attend GA.

MOTION 3: I move that we delegate to the Executive Parish Committee the authority to appoint delegates for the 2026 UUA General Assembly (Carolyn) Seconded (Al T.) 9 of 9 in favor. None

opposed.

7:49 PM **Rose of Recognition** (Kate)

The Parish Committee discussed who to nominate for the next Rose of Recognition.

7:51 PM - 8:12 PM - **The Charge for the Settled Minister Search Committee**

(Marie M. and Anne Q.)

The Parish Committee has developed a document with the charge for the Settled Minister Search Committee. The Parish Committee chair introduced the document. Anne Quaadgras, as representative of the Search Committee, received the charge to convey to the rest of the committee.

MOTION 4: I move to approve the charge for the Settled Minister Search Committee (Marie) Seconded (Amy S.) 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.

Discussion highlights & questions included:

- The Search committee will select someone to be a representative at Parish Committee monthly meetings. It does not have to be the same person each time.
- The Parish Committee gave the Search Committee permission to not move forward if there is not a suitable candidate.
- A Parish Committee member expressed concern about communication being ParCom's job and not putting coordination of communication on the Search Committee. ● A Parish Committee member asked if ParCom had communicated the decision not to have inside candidates. It was agreed that ParCom does not have to include that information in the charge. The information has been publicized.
- There was a request to not only include congregational input but also input from the staff at First Parish: the Search Committee can receive staff input.
 - Rev. Stevie indicated that the UUA handbook has information on receiving input from staff. Rev. Stevie indicated a positive experience being interviewed during the interim minister search process by the interim search committee.

Point of Order: A point of order was made by ParCom vice-chair Amy Speare about being 25 minutes behind.

Anne Quaadgras indicated a few immediate next steps the Search Committee will be doing:

- Come up with roles for each member.
- Create a covenant as a group.
- The Search Committee will meet with Rev. Jonipher.
- There is some work to do around finding out the UUA dates and deadlines and the Search Committee will communicate what the timeline is to ParCom and the other committees (TT, Communications, etc.)

Parish Committee vice-chair Amy Speare indicated that she will be setting up a meeting with the Search Committee once the committee meets on its own and gets to know each other.

8:14 PM - **New Committees**

The votes to see if ParCom will form the two new committees were tabled to later in the meeting. The new groups would be the Bylaws Task Force and the Communications Committee.

8:13 **Transition Team** (Julie Garry arrived at 8:03 PM)

- Julie G. provided a summary from the Transition Team activities.
- The Listening Circles have been going well. The TT is putting a lot of time into the Listening Circles and is providing in person and online options.
- Led by Kay Snowden, the subgroup that has researched other congregation is showing its hard work has paid off. The research has been presented to the congregation and has been extremely well received.
- **Staffing Conversations**
 - The Listening Circles around staffing and the budget have been thoughtfully done.
 - There were about 20 people at the in person event on Saturday. There were about 20 people on Zoom a couple days later. Each meeting discussion the same three topics: guiding questions around ideas from other congregations, letting go of what FP can streamline and simplify, and our FP budget.
 - There is a lot of concern around pastoral care.
 - More than one attendee asked about fundraising and increasing revenue.
 - The format of a stronger administrative team was well received.
 - Questions that participants had included who decides staffing.
- Julie is working with Tina Schultz and the Covenant team.

8:18 pm - **Questions/Comments**

- A Parish Committee member encouraged the Transition Team to continue to share, when appropriate, with Exec who might be asking about additional canvassing and fundraising. There was a reminder that our Stewardship Committee is small.
- A Parish Committee member asked what the next steps with the research on other congregations would be. It looks like the combined number of attendees for the last round of Listening Circles was approximately 30 people (not counting ParCom and TT folks). How will the conversation be extended and what is the timeline? (Tabled to the ParCom/TT portion of the June retreat)
- A ParCom member expressed amazement at the good number of people who attended in person on a beautiful spring day. The TT is doing great work!
- Julie Garry and Anne Q left at 8:22 PM.

8:22 PM **State of the Parish** (Rev. Stevie)

Rev. Stevie provided a report to the Parish Committee. [See below summary of motions.]

Highlights on the Community Covenanting Process:

- Covenants for some committees and staff have been updated.
- The congregation having a covenant will be one of the things First Parish is asked about in our search for a settled minister.
- The “why” is to articulate our values to one another; from those values, how might we expect to treat one another?
 - Acknowledged the 2010 search that resulted in calling Rev. Marta Flanagan: First Parish went through a giant mission statement process including listening sessions on four Sundays leading up to March 2010. The congregation read the mission statement aloud. The whole congregation feels it out.
- Rev. Jonipher has been working with great lay leaders who have opted to join the process.
- Covenant team includes: Tina Schultz (chair), Tali Avery, Anthony Fernandez, Amy Hadley; Julie Gary as TT liaison. Rev. Jonipher has been a point person. Rev. Stevie has supported the process.
- The Covenant team started the work in the spring of 2026 and had the kickoff with about 30 members on May 17th as an event for familiarizing folks with covenanting. ● A congregational vote would be held in late October
- Rev. Stevie recommended to the Parish Committee, with the knowledge of ministerial peers: the expectation is to see that the covenant is “in process” and the congregation is engaged.

8:33 PM - Questions / Comments:

- A Parish Committee member asked how a covenant, once formed, would be integrated into the congregation: Is it read at the beginning of committee meetings, for example?
- A Parish Committee member asked about the mission statement process from 2010 and the result being an incredible statement of values, what is at the core of First Parish. It speaks to community and spiritual growth and social justice.

8:50 **Executive session** - tabled to after the rest of the Short Reports and the vote to see about creating the Communications Committee and the Bylaws team.

8:37 PM - **Form 2 additional committees (Marie)**

To help support the settled search, the Parish Committee chair is recommending the creating of two committees:

1. Communication Committee
2. Bylaws Task Force

The Communication Committee, as proposed:

- This committee will be spearheaded by ParCom member Kate T. Amy S and Marie M will be in supporting roles.

- The goals are to review the current avenues of communication, strengthen them, coordinate with a lot of activities going on, educate members who may not know about certain channels or how to use them, and find out what the most effective channels are with which constituencies.
- The committee would be charged with figuring out what the most important information is and how to get it out to the congregation from the Transition Team, the Settled Search, the Parish Committee, and the Covenanting team.

Policy considerations to look at:

- How do we manage the airspace?
- Can the committee come up with an information plan?
- Could we increase the use of Realm? Do we have a policy or can we have one for when we use Realm?
- Consider a staffing structure with a community engagement person: What part would we use a staff member for?
- How could we best clean up the FP website to look appealing to candidates? New photos, use the features we have effectively

Bylaws Task Force

Part of the process of the transition time is to review the congregation's bylaws and make sure they are in line with the current UUA guidelines.

One area of concern is that First Parish currently does not allow online voting for congregational meetings. The bylaws state that voting must be in person only.

8:41 PM Questions & Comments on the 2 committees:

- On the Communications committee: ParCom heard loud and clear from parents that none of the standard channels are working for them. The Communications Committee can reach out specifically to parents.
- A Parish Committee member commented on having a good number of ways to communicate. Rather than forming new ways or avenues, strengthen the ones we currently have. Communicate to the congregation to look for a certain item coming up.
- Are there any nominees for the Bylaws Task Force currently? No names were shared; follow up is needed to confirm appointees.

8:43 PM **MOTION 5:** I move the formation of the Communications Committee with Kate Tranquada as the leader. (AI) Seconded (Amy) 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.

Vote proposed: **Creation of a Bylaws Task Force to review the FP bylaws:**

- The qualities of the group doing the bylaws review would include:
 - Deep interest in digging into the current bylaws and comparing them to UUA guidelines
 - Recognition of the importance of doing a bylaw review
 - Having people who have been around in the community long enough to

remember the previous attempts over the past years and the difficulty in suggesting bylaws changes; people who are in tune with these anxieties but will not be deterred by them.

- A Parish Committee member made an observation that there will be a need for more congregational meetings in the 26-27 program year

- Covenanting (adopting a covenant at the end of October)
- Changes in the bylaws (online voting and other items the task force proposes)
- Settled Minister - calling a settled minister (April)
- Annual Meeting - budget, elect lay leaders, etc. (May)

8:48 PM - **MOTION 6:** I move that the Parish Committee begin to construct a Bylaws Task Force to review the bylaws in the coming program year (Carolyn) Kate T. 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.

8:48 PM - **Front Corner Project** (Al T.)

● Al Tosti provided a report on the activities of the Front Corner Project. The Front Corner Project (FCP) was part of the themes and goals that came out of the retreat in 2025. ● The FCP met in April and had 110-120 respondents complete the online survey. Some of the questions were straightforward such as what do you like the most about the front corner? What do you like the least?

- The FCP created a Word Cloud out of the survey results. The word “tree” came up as the most mentioned for both most/least liked.
 - Respondents noted that the door to the building feels blocked by the current architecture / arch.
- Design ideas were posted on a moving bulletin board during coffee hours ● The FCP folks met with the Trustees and asked for \$30,000. The Trustees have said no so far. They would like to see the plans and responses further along.
- The current one-time cost is \$15,000 for the landscape architect plan. The FCP is identifying other sources of funding.

Questions / Comments:

- Will there be a Zoom follow up to the June 7th in person meeting?
- Is there a detailed summary of the survey results? Can those results be shared with the wider congregation?
- The Parish Committee chair offered to help with making a webpage on the FP site for the result information.

8:54 PM --- **Other short reports** (Marie)

Agenda for the retreat in June: moved to email discussion

● Parish Committee members: different roles, such as liaison for the nursery school, work through the lease; role / job - contact person for the UUA and following up - September.

● Do a review of the last year and do reflections: What does the Parish Committee do?
Rev. Stevie left the meeting at 8:57 PM.

8:58 PM to 9:06 PM - **Executive Session**

MOTION 7: I move that we go into executive session. (Carolyn) Seconded (Amy) 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.

MOTION 8: I move that we go out of exec session (Marie) Seconded (Carolyn) 9 of 9. None opposed.

9:07 PM - **Limited Access Agreement**

MOTION 9: I move that the Parish Committee moves forward in principle with the Limited Access Agreement. (Marie/Carolyn) Seconded (Al T.) 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed. The Parish Committee chair asked if there was any other business we did not get to yet.

- One reminder from the Treasurer: the lease agreement with the school needs to be signed between First Parish and Adventures in Montessori. Carolyn will send a note to Marie and the Office Manager. Ebiere has dropped off the lease with the new lead teacher. The lease needs to be signed by June 30th.

9:11 - Adjourn

MOTION 10: I move that we adjourn (Amy S) Seconded (John S /Al) 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS:

MOTION 1: I move that we approve the MOU with the Trustees for the \$25,000 gift for the replacement of the boiler. (Marie) Seconded (Amy) 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.

MOTION 2: I move to adopt the consent agenda with the identified edits to the minutes from April. (Joanna) Seconded (Kate) 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.

MOTION 3: I move that we delegate to the Executive Parish Committee the authority to appoint delegates for the 2026 UUA General Assembly (Carolyn) Seconded (Al T.) 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.

MOTION 4: I move to approve the charge to the Settled Minister Search Committee (Marie) Seconded (Amy S.) 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.

MOTION 5: I move the formation of the Communications Committee with Kate T as the leader. (Al) Seconded (Amy) 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.

MOTION 6: I move that the Parish Committee begin to construct a Bylaws Task Force to review the bylaws in the coming program year (Carolyn) Seconded (Kate T.) 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.

MOTION 7: I move that we go into executive session. (Carolyn) Seconded (Amy) 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.

MOTION 8: I move that we go out of exec session (Marie) Seconded (Carolyn) 9 of 9. None opposed.

MOTION 9: I move that the Parish Committee moves forward in principle with the Limited Access Agreement. (Marie/Carolyn) Seconded (Al T.) 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.

MOTION 10: I move that we adjourn (Amy S) Seconded (John/Al) - 9 of 9 in favor. None opposed.

Minutes prepared by First Parish clerk, Joanna Pushee. Edited 6/12.

Interim Lead Minister's Report

May 19 - June 16, 2026

Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kūpono Kwong
First Parish UU in Arlington, Massachusetts

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Parish Committee for your leadership this year. There were many difficult conversations and decisions that needed to be made with bumps along the way, but overall, I think we got through it with grace and resilience. More work needs to be done, of course, and I'm glad we have a new Communications Committee with a clear charge, and we welcome the addition of the Settled Minister Search Committee to the mix of what we're prioritizing this coming program year. Exciting stuff ahead!

This summer will be one of experimentation. First with the two ministers continuing to provide pastoral care and preaching half the sermons. We will have a "dress rehearsal" on 6/15 to ensure things go smoothly on 6/28 as we engage with greater inclusivity and accessibility in worship. Many thanks to the task force working on this project.

I'm also grateful I was able to get some rest during the winter and spring. I hope you do the same this summer and will come back renewed for the upcoming program year.

Heritage

Leadership

- Connected with Cathy Modica about replacement for Amy Anderson on Shared Ministry
- Brainstormed with Exec around the future of LDC

Connection

- Met with Hilary Allen to talk about future goals, updates
- Met with Accredited Interim Ministry mentor Rev. Joel Miller

Mission/Vision

- ParCom/TT retreat 6/6

Future

- Help with planning for staffing conversations and covenanting process
- Met with Settled Minister Search Committee to go over expectations/clarity around search process and tend to pastoral care

Conflict & Trust

- Covenanting Task Force held two post-Sunday service events to further education on covenants

Interdependently Yours,
Rev. Jonipher



Key upcoming dates:

June 28	Multiplatform service (experimentation with projection)
---------	---

Attendance:

Date	Total	Preacher	Title
5/17	180	Rev. Stevie	"The Ones Who Choose to Go Together"
5/24	157	Rev. Carolyn	"A Memorial Day Reflection"
5/31	216	Religious Ed.	Coming of Age Sunday
6/7		Rev. Jonipher	"Celebrating Gender Euphoria"

Pastoral care provided:

Office/Home visit: 3

Staff and Lay Leadership support provided:

Appointments with lay leaders regarding projects and committee work: 8

Committee meetings attended:

- *ParCom Exec: 6/2, 6/9*
- *ParCom Retreat: 6/6*
- *Worship Associates: 6/10; Summer Service Training: 5/30*
- *Transition Team: 6/11*
- *Clergy Advisory Group: 6/8*
- *Settled Minister Search Committee: 6/10*
- *Leadership Development Committee: 6/14*

Weekly individual meetings:

- *Parish Minister: Rev. Carolyn Patierno*
- *MRE: Rev. Stevie Carmody*
- *Office Manager: Ebiere Omoregie*
- *Music Director: Dr. Daniel Parsley*

Community and Denominational Activities

- *Individual meeting with UU ministerial colleagues: 4*
- *Celebration of Life Service for Rev. Pat Trudeau: 6/4*
- *Ordination of Rev. Kyle Belmont: 5/31*

State of The Parish (May 2026) – Rev. Stevie Carmody

Community Covenants

Covenant Task Force

Members, assembled March 2026

- Tina Schultz (chair)
- Tali Avery
- Anthony Fernandez
- Amy Hadley
- Julie Garry (Transition Team)
- Rev. Jonipher Kwong (Point Minister)
- Rev. Stevie Carmody (Support Minister)

Timeline of Work (*italics = tentative*)

- March: Rev. Jonipher and Tina process planning
- April 12th: First committee meeting, printing
- April 19th: Community Covenant process introduced at Transition Team meeting
- May 17th: Covenant “Gallery”
- May 31st: Joint Transition Team & Covenant Task Force including Listening Circles
- Summer: Drafting Process
 - Input from Committees, groups, constituencies
- Fall: Trialing Drafts in First Parish
- October 2026: Congregational Meeting to approve Covenant)

Resources

- UUA's LeaderLab *The Congregational Handbook*
 - [“Congregational Covenants are Foundational”](#), with links to trainings:
 - Training: Covenant Calls Us In
 - [The Why of Covenant](#)
 - [Living Into Behavioral Covenant](#)
- UUA's *Becoming A Safer Congregation Handbook*
 - [“Destructive Behavior, Safety, and Covenants”](#)
 - [“Covenant of Right Relations”](#)

Religious Education Report

Parish Committee Meeting – June 16th, 2026

Submitted by Rev. Stevie Carmody, Minister of Religious Education on June 16th, 2026.



Dear Parish Committee,

Another year of our Religious Education program is in the books! As I spoke of in the Annual Report, my deep appreciation to all the volunteers and staff who helped navigate a year that is remembered by much transition, and my parental leave!

Above is such a fitting image (from RE Volunteer recognition) of the truth that it takes a village to help raise our children. Thank you for supporting that community endeavor!

Warmly, Rev. Stevie

Sunday Morning Programs

Spring Term Updates

Francis O'Donovan, **Katie Limb**, and **Cal Robie** finished out a strong term with our **Pre-K** class, helping them continue to feel First Parish as a place of warmth, familiarity, and friendship.

Madeleine Duke and **Lauren Cosgrove** made for a great teaching team, engaging the **Grade K/1** class with playfulness, in their "Discovery Year" curriculum.

James Brooks and **Cale Pennington** finished out another term together teaching **Grade 2/3**, helping that class develop solid routines and interactive experiences, as they finished the story of *Charlotte's Web* as a means by exploring our **Connections to the Web of Life**.

Megan Shand and **Genevieve Baldwin** accompanied **Grade 4/5** that focused on Unitarian Universalist values, through a play-based curriculum. Their classroom environment was inviting and



Finally, **Ellen Robie** and **David Whitford** finished up **The Lessons of Loss** with our Grade 6 folks. Recent lessons have included exploring Beliefs about the Afterlife, Planning a Memorial Service, and a **field trip to the Children's Room**, a grief support center in Arlington for children and their families.

All-Together on Memorial Day

On May 24th, our grades K-6 explored themes of **Memory** and **Collective Storytelling**—both in reference to the Memorial Day holiday and also about our wider community. This included a **storytelling challenge**, where each kid got a different picture from a landscape where a forest fire strikes. Then the group placed those pictures in the correct order, and later, told the story together of the fire and the recovery of the mountaintop community. Then the idea of how stories change was explored through the game of telephone and mime telephone. It was an interactive and really multi-age cohesive group.



Of special note is that each All-Together Sunday, we have a practice of Stones of joy and sorrow. Over the course of the year, the group has improved in their practice of listening to one another, and taking a risk to be vulnerable. On this All-Together, several kids shared about deaths in their families, and we had a moment to talk about grief and remembrance responsively: the children offering each other advice, and the RE staff adding their wisdom.

Teacher Recognition on May 31st

On the day of our Coming of Age ceremony, First Parish also honored the **over fifty different volunteers who supported our Religious Education program this year**, including those who served in roles as Sunday morning teachers, Coming of Age mentors, Youth Group adult advisors, Our Whole Lives facilitators, classroom aides, Religious Education Committee members, and substitute/All-Together support adults. Rev. Stevie and Betsy honored the group with a reflection on fish, and with a Shrinky-Dink keychain of a goldfish (home-made by Bella and Rev. Stevie!)



Closing Sunday: UUlympics!

In honor of the lovely weather and concluding a great year, our RE Program held an All-Together program for Grade K-5 called the "UUlympics". Broken into multi-grade teams, and engaged in collaborative challenges (hula hooping relay, constructing the longest chain, paper airplane contest), the group had a blast out in the sun!



Sunday Evening Programs

OWL Program

Our middle school **Our Whole Lives** program concluded the program year with workshops on Gender, Body Image, and Sexual Orientation. Additionally, congregation hosted the **LGBTQIA+ Panel** with local community members who come from a range of identities, to share about their experiences coming out, finding queer



community, and navigating difficulties around homophobia and transphobia. Our OWL cohort was attentive and asked such good questions!

COA Program

Across the month of May, the Coming of Age cohort, gracefully mentored by **Carolyn Hodges, Phil Speare, Pamela Baldwin,** and **Peter Heller,** completed their Coming of Age credo statements, with extra writing support from other members of our community.



On May 31st, the congregation celebrated **Coming of Age Ceremony** during our regular Sunday morning service, with those credo reflections providing the “sermons” for the service. This amazing class cohered as a group, really took the reflecting seriously, and bravely shared before a very receptive and appreciative audience. It’s awesome to see a community so supportive of recognizing this transition into adulthood, and the responsibility and connections that come with it.

After the ceremony and service, the mentors and Rev. Stevie hosted the families for an additional gift-giving ceremony. Each family gave their Coming of Age an “intangible gift” (e.g. equanimity, balance, foresight) in the form of a tangible item.

Youth Program

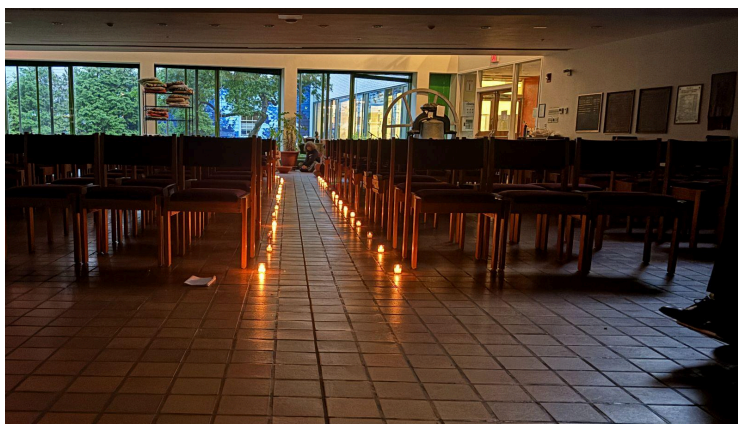
May and June have brought the 2025-2026 Youth Program year to a meaningful close, with celebrations, transitions, and one big event still to come.

On May 17th, the congregation gathered to honor **six graduating seniors with a Senior Blessing** — four Youth Group regulars alongside two First Parish seniors who have not been part of the regular program. It was a special occasion as each youth received a personalized blessing and a handmade Book of Sacred Texts from the community.



On May 29th, the group made **dinner for the Coming of Age class** — a particularly meaningful moment, as they cooked for the nine incoming freshmen who will join Youth Group in the fall. The following evening, the group held their second Lock-In of the year, during which they voted on next year's YAC council. In an

exciting development, next year's leadership will be structured around three Co-Leaders: **Lydia Rauh, Sean Maher, and Lauren McNeill. Arthur O'Donovan** was voted in as Chaplain, **Toby Fernandez** as Fundraising Coordinator, and **Brendan Maher** and **Calvin Qazilbash** will reprise their roles as Food Coordinator and Music Coordinator respectively.



On June 7th, the group gathered for a candlelit Senior Bridging ceremony, welcoming **Lettie Carswell, Conard Anderson, Onyx Hopwood, and Walter Hopwood** into adulthood at First Parish. It was a tender and joyful send-off for four young people

12/7	62	36		0	2	-	-	7	12	9	6	14	-	12
12/14	59	34	<i>All-together</i>	0	2	32	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	13
12/21	-	-	<i>Multigenerational worship</i>	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12/28	-	-	<i>No RE Program, just childcare</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1/4	41	28		1	2	-	-	6	6	6	7	-	-	13
1/11	44	29		1	1	-		2	6	10	9	-	-	15
1/18	21	21	<i>All-together programming for holiday weekend</i>		2	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1/25	23	23	<i>Snow Day for Evening Programs</i>	0	3	-	-	3	6	6	5	-	-	-
2/1	58	40	<i>*Youth Group Lock-in and Multigen dance</i>	0	3	-	-	6	11	11	9	-	9	9
2/8	42	34	<i>Super Bowl Sunday</i>	1	6	-	-	5	11	7	4	-	8	-
2/15	25	19	<i>All-together programming for holiday weekend</i>	1	3	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
2/22	43	26		0	1	-	-	4	9	6	6	-	9	8
3/1	50	24		0	2	-	-	4	6	12	0	12	8	6
3/8	53	29		0	2	-	-	8	8	8	3	10	7	7
3/15	69	38		0	2	-	-	7	13	12	4	11	8	12
3/22	53	22	<i>Youth Sunday (older grades join worship)</i>	0	0	-	-	3	7	5	7	12	9	10
3/29	55	29		0	3	-	-	5	8	9	4	11	8	7
4/5	42	36	<i>Easter Multigen Worship and Egg Hunt</i>	1	5	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
4/12	56	27		0	1	-	-	3	10	9	4	11	9	9
4/19	9	9	<i>All-together for the start of April Break</i>	0	0	9						-	-	
4/26	50	25		0	3			5	9	6	2	9	6	10
5/3	52	27	<i>Kids' Annual Meeting</i>	1	2			6	9	7	2	10	7	8
5/10	13	13	<i>Mother's Day</i>	0	0	-		3	5	3	2	-	-	-
5/17	50	22	<i>Senior Blessing</i>	0	2			5	7	6	2	10	8	10
5/24	27	17	<i>All-together for holiday weekend</i>	1	2	14						-	-	10
5/31	33	18	<i>Grade 4-6 in worship, YG Lock-in</i>	0	1		12	2	3	-	-	8	-	7

6/7	41	17		0	2			3	6	4	2	12	-	12
6/14	31	31	<i>Grade K-5, All together Field Day activity</i>	1	3	24	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-

Religious Education Committee

Our **Religious Education Committee**—Betsy Carlton Gysan (chair), Janis Fleishman (treasurer), Sharon Jacobson, Kat Cass, Eric Breck, Lauren Newton, and Cathy Slesnick—will wrap up their year of overseeing and supporting the RE Program with a closing dinner and retreat on June 21st.

The Religious Education Committee is **considering adding one or two members**, to cover our needs around Treasurer, and to fill out the committee membership. Around the time of Annual Meeting, one candidate had to step away from consideration, and we were waiting for another member’s results of the Search Committee selection process. The Committee may approach the Parish Committee about a possible appointment this summer.

Kat Cass has been elected chair of the RE Committee next year! She brings a UU background, a number of year experience on the RE Committee and volunteering in the RE Program, and experience as a parent to Hayden and Emmy.

The RE Program is discerning whether to expand the range of ages we offer **Our Whole Lives**. Rev. Stevie has prepared this discernment document for your review:

[☰ Proposal: Expanding Our Whole Lives @ FPUUA](#)

To reach the whole Religious Education Committee, you can email recommittee@firstparish.info. To reach the Religious Education Committee Chair, email, betsycarltongysan@gmail.com.

STAR Committee

The STAR Committee wrapped up the year with a review of the many programs that have been offered, and started to dream about the upcoming Adult programs that may be offered next year.

The STAR Committee will meet for a planning retreat in August.

Personnel Update

As of time of writing, all the RE Staff (MRE, RE Assistant, Youth Program Coordinator) annual evaluations have been completed, and are being finalized for submission to the office. Both Bella and K are planning to return to their positions next year!