

Parish Committee Meeting Minutes

First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington

Saturday, May 31, 2025, 1 - 1:30 pm

Via Zoom

**Marie Meteer, Kate Tranquada, Joanna Pushee, Susan Moore, Al Tosti,
Carolyn Hodges, Amy Speare, John Anderson**

1:06 pm Call to Order (Marie)

This is a special meeting to see whether the Parish Committee approves the Interim Search Committee's selection of interim minister and to see if we empower Parish Committee Exec to approve delegates to the UUA's General Assembly.

1:07 pm Reading / short quotation (Joanna)

Marie Meteer noted that Jeff Keffer submitted his resignation in writing on May 30, 2025, to the clerk, and Jeff will not be continuing in his position on the Parish Committee. The Parish Committee is deeply grateful to Jeff's dedication, service, and expertise. He has done an incredible amount of heavy lifting particularly with contracts over the past year.

1:09 pm **Vote 1:** approve Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong interim minister

Proposed motion: I move that the Parish Committee approve Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong as interim minister with the offer and contract as written.

Discussion: 1:10 to 1:23 pm

Parish Committee members asked Marie Meteer, who served as chair of the Interim Search Committee, questions about the process and candidates. Highlights of questions included whether Rev. Jonipher had leadership experience, where Rev. Jonipher had served in congregations as interim in the past, and where he was coming from (Toronto). Parish Committee members also asked the Treasurer for information on the updated contract which was shared prior to the meeting.

A Parish Committee member noted that the ParCom retreat on June 1 could include discussion on how to ramp up First Parish staff to our next size, as the Unitarian Universalist Association guidelines noted that the congregation is right at the cusp of the UUA's range of various sizes of church membership.

The motion was moved (Al Tosti). Seconded (Joanna/Kate) 8 of 8 people in favor. None opposed.

A Parish Committee noted that Rev. Jonipher was solidly recommended by the Interim Search Committee and that much gratitude is expressed to the members of that committee for their hard work.

1:29 pm **Vote 2** empower Exec to select and approve UUA delegates

I move that the Parish Committee empower ParCom Executive to select and approve Unitarian Universalist General Assembly delegates. (Joanna) Seconded (Al Tosti) 8 of 8 in favor. None opposed.

Gratitude to Marie and Kate for making sure the Parish Committee completed this process. First Parish has more seats than interested members to join the General Assembly this year.

All other business:

- Gift to Rev. Marta Flanagan
- The Parish Committee discussed the amount of the gift and about how much First Parish would support in terms of taxes; A Parish Committee member mentioned that First Parish does have the amount available in the surplus to cover the tax amount.
- The Parish Committee discussed the difference in the tax rate increases and mentioned that the category is considered a bonus.
- The Parish Committee has until July to make a decision.
- At the picnic on June 8th, a member of the Parish Committee will present Rev. Marta with the gift, including the symbolic "big check" which Al Tosti is having printed.
- June 4th is the Parish Committee's internal deadline, and so the Parish Committee will discuss this decision about the amount and coverage on June 1 at the retreat.

Vote 3: adjourn

I move that we adjourn. (Joanna) Seconded (Al Tosti) 8 of 8 in favor. None opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 PM.

Preread(s): interim minister contract