

**First Parish
Unitarian Universalist
of Medfield**
26 North Street, Medfield, MA
(508) 359-4594
www.firstparishmedfield.org



September 2018 Newsletter

The Parson's Packet

David W. Chandler, Minister

Dear friends,

Welcome to the new Church year, from your new minister. *Wait a minute, did you say "new minister." Aren't you the same guy we had last year, and the year before?* Well, yes and no. As of August 16, by Ministry Agreement with your Governing Board, I am now "minister," and no longer "Interim Minister."

The interim ministry of First Parish officially concluded Aug. 15, 2018. That means the two-year interim period is completed and you no longer need an Interim Minister. There is no longer an interim process for that minister to lead. The specific interim responsibilities formerly in my

Ministry Agreement have been removed in the new version, except for assisting the Ministerial Search Committee. They have already begun the new round of Search for the new settled minister who will greet you this time next year. They plan to present a candidate for member approval next May, and my agreement ends on Aug. 15, 2019. The MSC has the same seven members as last year and is again chaired by Karen Wians and Shirley Riga.

While no longer in an interim period, FRUU is still in a transition period. I am pleased to be with this wonderful community for another year. My job is to help the Board and the Search Committee, who are already working on the most

effective ways to present the opportunity here to the ministers who will be "in Search" in early 2019. I am not a candidate for your settled pulpit and will not become one. I am also, by agreement and professional ethics, not to discuss specific individuals who are or may become candidates for your pulpit. That leaves me free to give the best advice I can.

Our first Sanctuary worship is Sept. 9 – Ingathering Sunday. We hope you will share our Water Communion for all ages. Bring some water;

bring some words of renewal or reflection; come ready in your heart to renew and reconnect your individual water and your individual self into our shared community.

We live every day headed into the future. It will be new, and it is most excellent to travel through this amazing universe in such good company.

Best wishes, Rev. David

Ingathering Sunday – Special Offering



Our Ingathering Service on Sept. 9 will include a Special Offering to replenish the Minister's Discretionary Fund. Last year we received more than \$500 in donations from generous members and friends.

The MDF meets pastoral needs that emerge suddenly. The funds are not part of the FPUU budget. They are kept in a separate account and disbursed directly by the minister. This makes the response quick and also maintains confidentiality about who receives aid. The minister is responsible for record keeping and reconciliation for the annual audit.

Much of last year's Offering was used to help people attain or continue in permanent housing. MDF is also available to assist people who come to or call the church needing a tank of gas or a meal or help with heating oil.

Ingathering Sunday is a service that connects all of the giving and receiving that sustains our community. If you wish to donate on Sept. 9, please designate your checks to the MDF. Contributions to your Pledge are also welcome, of course. Please mark them "pledge," so the collectors can be clear.

Thank you for the generosity of the people of First Parish.

– Rev. David



Upcoming Services

Sunday – September 9

Ingathering Sunday

Rev. David W. Chandler

Our first Sunday is to renew and reconnect. Please bring water and words of the heart for Water Communion. Your water can come from anywhere. Your words can tell us where your spirit has journeyed. Whether you were happy or sad or sunburned, whether you felt stretched or squeezed, you are invited to share.

All-ages Service.

Sunday – September 16

“Ask the Minister”

Rev. David W. Chandler

As you are quite aware, Rev. David knows lots of semi-useful stuff. He may just have an answer for your question. So come prepared to ask away! Ask the big ones; ask the small ones. Taking them one at a time, the minister will try to explain it all. **Religious Exploration for children.**

Sunday – September 23

“A Quantum of Forgiveness”

Rev. David W. Chandler

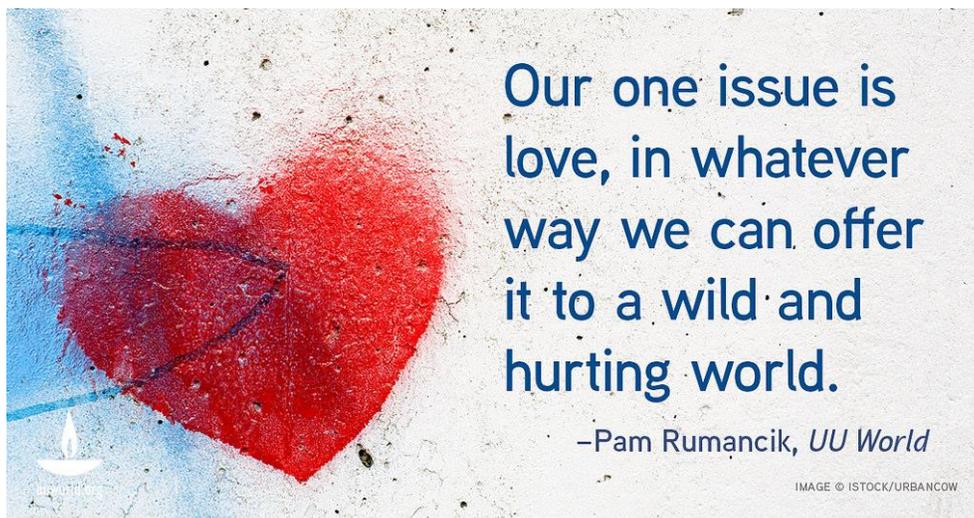
Way too much forgiveness is needed these days – way too much. But then, hasn't it always been so? Ancient practice reminds us the motion is what is required. We are not asked to be perfect at forgiving either, just willing to try on occasion. **Religious Exploration for children.**

Sunday – September 30

“Of Time and the Reverend”

Rev. David W. Chandler

It takes at least seven years to become a UU minister, but nobody knows how long it takes every week to do the job in a congregation. The responsibilities and the tasks don't align. It is important to understand what that means for FPUU. **Religious Exploration for children.**



Message from Your Executive Board



Your Executive Board met for its first official meeting in the 2018/2019 church year on Thursday, August 23rd. As you might recall, the following are your Executive Board members:

Rich Mastronardi, Chair
Mary Corthell, Vice Chair
Reverend David Chandler, non-voting member
Nate Razza, Treasurer
Bill Wians, Clerk
Darline Lewis, At-Large member
Margaret Rolph, At-Large member
David Russell, At-Large member

The entire Executive Board (EB) was excited to get started on what proves to be an exciting, yet challenging, year for our congregation. An EB Retreat has been scheduled for early September to develop our strategy, including Ministerial Search, EB Goals and Congregation Growth.

The Ministerial Search Committee is meeting at the end of August to start the process of our search. We have contracted with Rev. Dave for at least one more year to help in our search and to be our minister. He is officially a "contract minister" and no longer our "Interim minister", therefore he is titled our "Minister". The EB will be discussing strategies for attracting the best ministerial candidates at its retreat and sharing those thoughts with the Search Committee shortly after.

Many of the Committees have met through the summer to start planning for the coming year. Building and Grounds is carrying the momentum started last year forward into this year. You may have noticed some upgrades to our vestry kitchen and some general clean-up around the grounds. David Russell, as the EB's liaison to B&G, and will work with Eve Potts, the B&G's chair, to continue

their splendid work. Please feel free to contact them, if you have any comments or suggestions.

Medfield Day is rapidly approaching (September 15th) and we are expecting a good time for all. The RE Committee has a number of activities in the works for kids of all ages. We have decided not to have a bake sale this year due to a lack of volunteer coordinator and much stricter health stipulations by the town. We hope that you can attend Medfield Day and maybe volunteer to help out with our activities in order to make our Medfield Day celebration reflect this Congregation's spirit.

David Maxson is in the process of installing a new audio system in the sanctuary and hopes to have it operational by our first service on September 9th. We thank David for his continued dedication to making our place of worship well taken care of.

A new Task Force has been formed to explore avenues of funding to help maintain "Medfield's Old Meeting House" as a site of historic importance to the town of Medfield and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Fritz Fleischman and Kay Bennett have agreed to be co-chairs of the Task Force and are looking for others to help in this important effort. If successful in raising awareness and funds to maintain the Old Meeting House building, this would obviously ease the burden on our resources, freeing them up for other needs. This Task Force will be reporting to the EB once they have a plan to recommend.

All in all, we are off to a good start. Your EB remains committed to the wellbeing of our Congregation and its members. All members of the EB are available to support you and to entertain your questions and comments. Feel free to let us know how we are doing.
All the best, Rich Mastronardi

We are
**Unitarian
Universalists**

with
minds
 **that think**

HEARTS
THAT LOVE

and 
HANDS
that are ready to serve

Religious Exploration

Hi everyone- it is hard to believe that school is about to start!! The RE Committee has been working hard this summer to plan for the coming year and want to update you on some of the upcoming changes and important dates. We will be implementing a



curriculum called the Tapestry of Faith which is a program through the national UU organization. The theme this year is Love Will Guide Us. We are incredibly lucky that the program will be led by our fantastic RE Coordinator, Samantha Decker Nemeth who is returning for her 4th year with us. The kids will also be returning to a spruced up RE Classroom in the UU house!!!

Popsicle/Registration Party: This THURSDAY, August 30th

This Thursday, August 30th from 3:30-5:30pm we are holding the Popsicle Party during the Farmers Market. It is a time for current families to register as well as to give new families the opportunity to learn about our RE program. There will be water/juice and of course popsicles!!! As well as a craft for the kids to do and maybe even some bubbles!!! Hope you can stop by!!!

Ingathering/First Service: SUNDAY, September 9th at 10am

Our first Sunday is to renew and reconnect. Please bring water and words of the heart for Water Communion. Your water can come from

anywhere- someplace you traveled or somewhere close to home. Tap is fine too!!

Medfield Day- SATURDAY, September 15th 9-3pm

First Parish has several church sponsored activities during Medfield Day and two of them are sponsored by the RE Programs. The older kids run a henna tattoo station and the Religious Exploration Program runs a Paint-a-Pumpkin station. We will be looking for parent volunteers to help out for an hour or so with the Pumpkin table. More to come

First RE Class- SUNDAY, September 16th at 10am



We will kick off the first RE class with the first lesson from the Love Will Guide Us Curriculum which talks about the constellations and how they guided our ancestors on things like the time of year, location and directions.

Please let I or anyone on the Committee know if you have any questions. We look forward to reconnecting with everyone!!!

The RE Committee
Leanne Harvey, Rev David Chandler, Samantha Decker Nemeth, Mary Corthell, John Kornet, Jessica Razza, Cissy Hull-Allen

Religious Exploration Open House

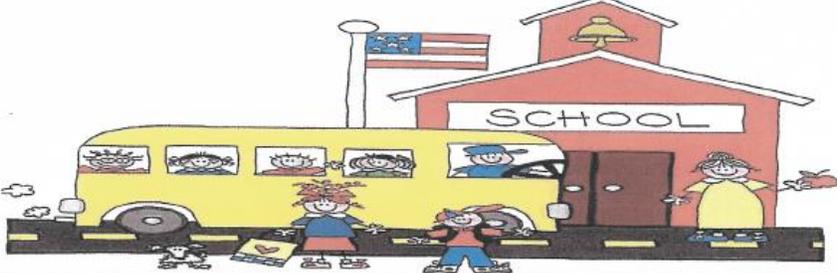
Curious about Universalist universalism? Want to know what questions and answers our children are seeking? Come by for an open house and registration event with Popsicles and a craft. Current members please come by to register for 2018/2019



The Popsicle party open house and registration was a success!

Meeting House Supper Club to Meet on September 4th

***The Meeting House
Supper Club***
for LGBT Seniors, Friends and Allies
Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual & Transgender



**Please Join Us For
A Light Supper and Presentation**
**Assisted Living
I'm Not Ready...Or Am I???**
By Louise Rachin

4pm-6pm
First Parish Unitarian Church
26 North Street
Medfield, MA

For further information or to register
call HESSCO Nutrition Department at 781-784-4944
Or email Louise Rachin at lrachin@comcast.net
To ensure a meal please RSVP by Aug. 29th
Support for this event provided in part by MetroWest Health
Foundation
Suggested meal donation \$3.00 for seniors over 60,
\$5 charge for anyone under 60

HESSCO Care. Support. Solutions.  **EU** LGBT AGING PROJECT

Green Sanctuary Committee News



Our first meeting of the 2018-19 church year was held on August 24 at the home of Fritz and Katrin. After a delicious potluck supper, the business part of our meeting commenced.

Thea Iberall, committee chairperson, announced she was stepping down as chair but will continue on as a member. Jeanette Ruyle volunteered to step up as chair, and by consensus, the members present approved. Thea agreed to assist in the transition with her wealth of knowledge and records. We are all deeply grateful for Thea's instrumental role in the growth of the Green Sanctuary Committee and its work—
THANK YOU THEA!

The next meeting is scheduled for September 28, Friday 6 pm, at the home of Eve Potts. This will be a potluck supper plus business meeting to discuss planning a re-visioning meeting and process in October. *It has become the tradition of this committee to invite everyone in the congregation who is interested, even if you just come for the potluck. So, come!* Watch for more notices.

RISE for Climate, Jobs, and Justice Rally September 8 in East Boston

<https://actionnetwork.org/events/peoples-climate-movement-boston/>

Some of us are attending this, which is a nation-wide effort.

Interested in Serving on New Task Force?

Dear Members and Friends,



Kay Bennett and I have agreed to co-chair the new task force that will look into outside funding opportunities for First Parish; this task force was proposed and approved by the congregation at the May annual meeting. One of our tasks is to research the possibility of establishing a not-for-profit organization (to be called something like "Friends of the Old Meetinghouse") that can help with soliciting support from the larger community for the maintenance of our historic building.

To date, our group has four members; in addition, Rich Mastronardi will serve as the liaison from the Executive Board. We are looking for one or two more members. If you are interested in joining us for this exploration, please let us know! (kay8941@gmail.com; ffleischmann@comcast.net).

FPUU MUSIC 2018-2019

I hope you have had a great summer! I am very excited to start the church year!



First, I'm putting out an annual call to choir for any people who would like to join! I will put out the full schedule shortly but we will be meeting Friday, September 7th at 7:15 p.m. to rehearse a song for our In-Gathering Service on September 9th. If you would like me to add you to our e-mail list for rehearsals, please let me know! Choir is made up of a very fun and welcoming group of singers. No experience necessary.

I am also excited to announce that we will be performing my opera *Emily*, based on a day in the life of Emily Dickinson, as a fundraiser for the church. It will star Becca and John Kornet, Fritz Flesichmann, Meg Fisher (who was in my musical *Operator*) and more! The performance dates will be October 19 and 20. Ticket information will be available soon. *Emily* was performed at FPUU six years ago, and I am very excited to revive it again this year with so much incredible talent!

I look forward to seeing everyone again!

Eva

Join the Larger Circle Band!

The Larger Circle band, now in its third year, is seeking to add a few players. We are particularly interested in a clarinet, but would welcome almost any instrument, even if we already have it (with the exception of the piano, where we are happily supplied with the only one we need).



Our repertoire, as most of you know, consists of European, Middle Eastern and North American folk dances. All of them are technically easy to play, so we can welcome players of various levels of proficiency. We practice once a week in the vestry.

If you learned an instrument years ago and would like to resurrect it, this may be the place for you. Or if you know a young person who would like to try us, let me know!

I can be most easily reached at ffleischmann@comcast.net.

Thanks!
Fritz

Join us for Medfield Day - September 15



The RE Committee has a number of activities in the works for kids of all ages.

Volunteers needed! We hope that you can attend Medfield Day and maybe volunteer to help out with our activities in order to make our Medfield Day celebration reflect this Congregation's spirit.

Building & Grounds

A huge thank you to our worker bees who prepared and painted the U house porch. Sara Drumm headed up the group with Greg Beatty, Mike Drumm, and David Russell doing a terrific job. David Maxson purchased and installed the new porch light. When you have a chance, check it out to see a professional looking job!



Susan S., Kirsten and Glen, Jeanette and Dan all pulled the weeds in the front garden by the fence. There are still more to pull, but a little bit at a time will do it.

Also a special thanks to Fritz and David Maxson who removed the left over wood from the porch in spite of both of them being stung by, I think yellow jackets!

For the past two years our front lawn has been mowed every week and our North St. shrubs have been pruned by Tim McCormack for FREE. In return we can put up his small sign advertising his gardening co. And he is NOT a member of our church. What a nice guy.



If you would like to spend a small amount of time or more pulling weeds, give me a call or just show up. That nasty weed black swallow root is everywhere. Thanks,

Eve Potts,
Building and Grounds Chairperson

Farmers' Market Continues!



The Farmers' Market runs every Thursday from 2 to 6:00 until October. Come by and visit us.



EXPRESSO YOURSELF COFFEEHOUSE

Location: First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, 26 North Street, Medfield

Feature: Storyteller Helena Leet-Pellegrini plus open mic

Theme: We're All Immigrants

Date: Sept 29th, 2018

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Cost: \$10 (\$5 to open mic participants, \$3 for youth)

Teens and adults, Safe space

Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse to feature storyteller Helena Leet-Pellegrini



Helena Leet-Pellegrini, Ph.D. tells humorous, thought-provoking tales about the ordinary and not so ordinary events of everyday life and relationships. Helena won a storytelling award at a MassMouth Boston Story Grand Slam, has performed her one woman show at the Boulder Fringe Festival and at Passim's in Cambridge, and is a favorite at MA storytelling spaces. She is a psychologist and mentor is one of Boston area's dynamic storytellers. Helena will present "The Luigi Code," a moving, humorous look at growing up in an immigrant family with an anarchist grandfather.

The Espresso Yourself Coffeehouse is an opportunity for spoken word artists to share their poetry, stories, and songs. It is held the last Saturday of every month at 7pm at First Parish Unitarian Universalist, Medfield, MA. Open mic readers have 6 minutes to share. Original or non-original poetry, stories, performance art, music or songs welcome. Sticking to theme encouraged. Teens and adults welcome.

Refreshments from Starbucks are served.

Medfield TV films event and posts to Youtube.

Among Ourselves

As a member of First Parish UU in Medfield, Shirley Riga, recently opened a part-time office in Natick as a Spiritual Director.

Liz Budd Ellmann, MDiv, former Executive Director of Spiritual Directors International defines spiritual direction as a way to "explore a deeper relationship with the spiritual aspect of being human. Simply put, spiritual direction is helping people tell their sacred stories everyday. Spiritual direction has emerged in many contexts using language specific to particular cultural and spiritual traditions. Describing spiritual direction requires putting words to a process of fostering a transcendent experience that lies beyond all names and yet the experience longs to be articulated and made concrete in everyday living. It is easier to describe what spiritual direction does than what spiritual direction is. Our role is not to define spiritual direction, but to describe the experience. Spiritual direction helps us learn how to live in peace, with compassion, promoting justice, as humble servants of that which lies beyond all names."

It is of the utmost importance that we find balance and comfort in these challenging times in this world. Finding support and guidance within can enhance our ability to be more focused and calm. There are practiced tools easily learned to achieve these goals. I'd be happy to talk with you about any questions or inquiries. Bottom line - take care of yourself!

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed



Another church year is soon upon us, and I'm looking forward to being together again. So, of course I am seeking coffee hour volunteers.

I will coordinate September: Provider hosts are needed for the following Sundays:

September 9th ***** Ingathering

September 16 Ann Cunningham

September 23 _____

September 30 _____

That leaves the following months requiring coordinators. Please let me know which Sundays you can host in September.

Enjoy the remaining summer days! Thanks in advance

Ann Cunningham
Coordinator of coffee hour coordinators

Volunteer Opportunities at New Life Furniture Bank, Walpole



Recycling furniture. Rebuilding lives.

The mission of NewLife Furniture Bank of MA is to distribute “gently used” household goods at no cost to individuals and families who need help to rebuild their lives. Our clients come to us through referrals from social service and government agencies, as well as area clergy.

First Parish is scheduled to volunteer at NewLife Furniture Bank **from 8:00 AM to Noon on Saturday morning September 22** (normally it’s the third Saturday of the month, but due to Medfield Day we will volunteer at NewLife the 4th Saturday of September) at the warehouse in Walpole.

Please sign up on the "VolunteerSpot" website via the following three easy steps.

1. **Go to the** invitation page on the following website: VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/S3QU18>
2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on VolunteerSpot)
3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots - VolunteerSpot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. The warehouse is located on Route 27 at the Walpole Station Business Center. The address is 102 Elm Street, Walpole. From Medfield, take Route 27 South towards Walpole. Just after passing under a railroad overpass, take a right into the warehouse parking lot. You will see three loading docks. Enter the door to the left of the loading docks. A NewLife volunteer should be waiting for you inside the warehouse on the first floor. The NewLife space for the stored furniture is on the fourth floor.

If you have any questions please contact Duncan Glover at 508-528-8456 or duncanglover@comcast.net

Other ways to help: NewLife relies on the generosity of residents of Medfield and the surrounding towns. They accept most basic furniture and household items in good condition. Those who are downsizing or redecorating can recycle their items, knowing they will be put to good use and kept out of landfills. Donations are tax deductible.

Information on how you can arrange for a donation can be found at www.newlifefb.org.

**FPUU's Next Volunteer Date for NewLife Furniture Bank :
8:00 AM to Noon Saturday September 22**

Food Cupboard Donations Needed



As in the past, First Parish will be collecting food items for the Medfield Food Cupboard. Donations of non-perishable, unopened, unexpired food items may be dropped off in the narthex. The Food Cupboard exists to provide assistance to residents of Medfield who are in need of supplemental or emergency food. The Medfield Food Cupboard is generously supported by the residents of Medfield, the town's churches, and various community organizations.

To meet the needs of their clients, food distributions are held approximately every 2 weeks at the Food Cupboard home: the United Church of Christ, 496 Main Street, Medfield. If you need the services of the Food Cupboard, please call us at 508-359-4958 and leave a message.

Donations of canned tuna and chicken, canned pasta, canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, applesauce, juice, pasta sauces, paper products (paper towels, Kleenex, and toilet paper), cleaning products, and health and beauty aids such as shampoo, toothpaste, and shaving razors or refills, are always welcome. Financial donations may be mailed to the Medfield Food Cupboard at PO Box 172, Medfield, MA 02052. Financial donations are used to supplement food contributions by purchasing meats, cheese, frozen items, and any item in short supply.

Church Office Reminders

Church Newsletter: Third Sunday of the month. This month it is on September 16th

Order of Service: Wednesdays by 5:00 pm.

Church Office Hours: Mondays & Thursdays from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Email: admin@firstparishmedfield.org

Sandra Andreassi-Administrator



Annual Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2018
First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield
Medfield, MA 02052

Meeting commenced at 11:52 p.m. A quorum was reached, 29 members signed in. Fritz Fleischmann as Chair called the meeting to order.

1. **State of the Church Report:** Fritz welcomed members of the congregation in attendance. Rev. David spoke briefly on the state of the church, reminded us to continue to agree with humility and disagree with restraint. He reiterated that he will be our minister for another year. He also pronounced the state of the church to be healthy and full of life. Then, Fritz referred to the annual report, minutes and various committee reports submitted to the congregation.

2. **Reports:**

Approved: After discussion, Fritz moved to accept and approve all annual reports as presented from the Minister, the Executive Board, various officers, standing committee chairs, and representatives of various Church organizations and the annual and semi-annual meeting minutes. The motion carried, accepted and adopted by the congregation, with no abstentions.

3. **Ministerial Search Committee:**

Shirley and Karen spoke to the congregation on behalf of the Ministerial Search Committee (Chris Flaherty, Duncan Glover, Jessica Razza, Shirley Riga, Rebecca Stephenson, Karen Wians and Sarah Zitoli). They concluded that the listing of the minister's position at 2/3rds time did not seem attractive, and there were not enough candidates for a variety of reasons. The good news is that the committee worked extremely well together and have agreed to continue this coming year if asked to do so by the congregation. It is important to not repeat what did not work this year, and therefore the congregation needs to have a continuing discussion about how to revise our listing with the UUA Transitions report, most especially with respect to whether the minister would be 2/3rds or 3/4ths time. Fritz mentioned there will a thorough analysis continuing in to the Fall and a Special Meeting of the Congregation will be called to discuss and vote on this point.

Approved: After discussion, Fritz moved to extend by one year the formal Ministerial Search Committee in order to conduct a search process for a new Minister to begin serving on or about August 16, 2019, such Minister to be called and settled only by affirmative congregational vote as specified in the Bylaws. Don Rolph seconded. The motion carried, accepted and adopted by the congregation, with no abstentions.

Approved: Don made a motion to thank the members of the Search Committee for its diligent efforts this past year. Marshall seconded. The motion carried, accepted and adopted by the congregation, with no abstentions.

4. **Nominating Committee Report:**

a. **Executive Board elections:** Jen Bartle presented and moderated the process of electing the slate of officers for the Executive Board, to fill vacancies with nominees as follows:

Chair: Richard Mastronardi
Clerk: William Wians

At-Large: David Russell
Darline Lewis

Approved: After discussion, Fritz moved to put the above names on a single slate. David Stephenson seconded. The motion carried, accepted and adopted by the congregation, with no abstentions.

Further Approved: After discussion, Fritz moved to accept and approve the slate. Don Rolph seconded. The motion carried, accepted and adopted by the congregation, with no abstentions.

b. **Election of the Nominating Committee:** Fritz then presented and moderated the process of electing the slate of officers for the Nominating Committee:

Chair: Jen Bartle,
Vice Chair: Glen D'Abate

Approved: After discussion, Fritz moved to accept and approve the slate, Marshall Sugarman seconded, and the motion carried, accepted and adopted by the congregation, with no abstentions.

5. **Amendment to By-laws:**

Approved: After discussion, Fritz moved to accept and approve a change to the existing Bylaws and Policies and Procedures as follows: the term "Communications Clerk" in the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Bylaws and related documents be changed, wheresoever it may appear, to the word "Clerk" including without limitation in the following Articles:

- Article 4.4** entitled "Notice";
- Article 5.4** entitled "Executive Board Officers";
- Article 5.5** entitled "Term Continuity"; and
- Article 6.1** entitled "Executive Board Meetings".

David Stephenson seconded. The motion carried, accepted and adopted by the congregation, with no abstentions.

6. **Budget for Fiscal Year 2019:**

Nate Razza discussed basics of the proposed budget for next year as presented in the Annual Report. The proposed budget is very similar to last year's budget and shows a deficit. Pledges are coming in a bit slower this year than last. There have been several B&G issues that were costlier than anticipated, the UHouse porch had to be rebuilt and utilities have been subject to higher rates and a higher degree of usage due to frozen pipes in the vestry this winter. Expenses other than B&G are in line with the 2018 budget. Discussion ensued about the results of the last fiscal year and projections for FY19. We are expecting some increases in pledges but not enough to override the projected deficit.

Dan Bibel asked how long can the congregation continue to have a deficit budget? In the past few years, Nate indicated we have not had to dip into funds to solve our deficit problem, and that we have cured the deficit by fund raising and other activities, but that did not happen this year because of unusually high B&G costs. Don Rolph suggested the EB engage in an exercise to determine what it will take to have a balanced budget for FY 2020. Our budget will impact the charge to our search committee.

Fritz stated that inheriting the care of the church's historic building is difficult. He proposes we try to get larger community involvement in the building. The Gloucester UU church for example has set up an historic meeting house foundation. Katrin, Kay Bennett, Rich and Fritz will meet soon to start reviewing the feasibility of doing something similar. The front lawn serves as a public space, so the town should be in conversation with us about how to maintain it as well. This year the church is not increasing funds in capital reserves. If there is a major repair, the congregation will have to raise funds very quickly.

There was a consensus that the congregation needs to continue having these important conversations about its "business model". The EB also needs to look at fiscal issues in the entirety, not just consider how to sustain the building. Don Rolph suggested that the EB go through a set of activities to come up with a plan for a sustainable budget by 2020 for this church. Dan mentioned that the church continues to believe "tomorrow, things will be better". Perhaps there is some way to put the building into a trust, so townspeople could help maintain the building. There was also some discussion as to what might be other options, such as selling the property and moving the congregation elsewhere.

Approved: Dan moved that the EB appoint a committee to explore the potential formation of an overarching organization (such as but not limited to, a nonprofit foundation or trust) to own the Historic Meeting House, determine what grants might be available to it, review issues and concerns related thereto, and report its research results to the congregation in 12 months. Glen seconded. The motion carried, accepted and adopted by the congregation, with all but 2 in favor and 2 opposed. No abstentions.

Rev. David then indicated that this committee and the congregation will need to think about how much control over the building they are willing to lose, which could change the church's polity. While it would be attractive to have a vehicle that could be potentially funded by grants etc., it is likely there would also be some negative consequences that need to be considered. A number of congregants commented on the positive upward trajectory of the church, including the reinvigorated children's program, the Chili Kick-off Cook-off and other events. David Stephenson mentioned engaging in a more aggressive outreach to new members. Others mentioned that perhaps we can do more with rental space, weddings and memorial services. The church's former treasurer reminded the congregation that the balance sheet is actually improving, we tended to outperform income projections and have fewer expenses than anticipated.

Approved: After discussion, Fritz moved to accept and approve the 2019 Budget as presented in the warrant with a deficit of \$16,723 as of today. Don seconded. The motion carried, accepted and adopted by the congregation, with no abstentions.

7. **Approved:** Fritz moved that the congregation take a vote of appreciation for Dawn Amaral in thanks for her hard work coordinating and tracking pledges over many years. Don Rolph seconded. The motion carried, accepted and adopted by the congregation, with no abstentions.

Margaret Rolph then presented flowers to Susan Stromgren who is retiring from the EB. Darline Lewis presented several gifts to Fritz Fleishmann, who is also retiring, with grateful appreciation from the EB for his leadership and many years of service and a standing ovation from the congregation.

There being no other business put forward by those present, Fritz moved to adjourn, and Marshall Sugarman seconded the motion. The Annual Meeting concluded at 1:20 PM. Respectfully submitted by Darline Lewis, Clerk on June 14, 2018.