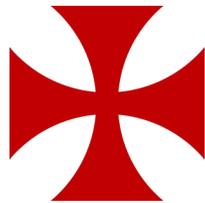


Annual Meeting of
The Society of King's Chapel
Sunday May 17, 2020 12:15 PM
via Zoom



Warrant for the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Society of King's Chapel

Directly following the traditional time for Morning Prayer, the Annual Meeting of the Society of King's Chapel will take place for the purposes of: (1) electing Wardens, Members of the Vestry, Committee Chairs, and the Nominating Committee; (2) hearing reports by the Senior Warden, Senior Minister, Trustees, Parish Council Chair, and Committee Chairs; (3) to consider an amendment to the Bylaws to permit virtual meetings, and (4) to address any new business that may come before the members of the Society.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agenda	3
Minutes of May 17, 2019 Annual Meeting	4
Report of the Trustees 2019	6
Reports from Standing Committees	
Parish Council	7
Adult Religious Education	8
Archives	11
Buildings and Grounds	12
Chancel	14
Church School	14
Community Action	15
Denominational Affairs	18
Fiscal Affairs	19
Hospitality	20
Membership	21
Music	21
Stewardship	23
Report from the History Program	24

2020 ANNUAL MEETING

The Society of King's Chapel

Sunday, May 17, 2020

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER – Miguel Gomez-Ibanez, Senior Warden

INVOCATION – Rev. Joy Fallon, Senior Minister

APPOINTMENT – Parliamentarian

MINUTES – 2019 Annual Meeting

REPORTS

Senior Warden – Miguel Gomez-Ibanez

Senior Minister – Rev. Joy Fallon

Trustees – Samuel D. Perry, Eugene H. Clapp, and William W. Park

Treasurer's Report – Daniel Taylor

ELECTIONS

Nominating Committee Report – Christopher Allen – VOTE to Accept

COMMITTEE REPORTS

To hear reports from the Parish Council and Standing Committees of King's Chapel

OTHER BUSINESS – Miguel Gomez-Ibanez

That Article V of the Bylaws be amended by adding a final paragraph thereto as follows:

Notice of the Annual Meeting or any special meeting of Members may be given by any electronic means including email. Any Annual meeting or special meeting shall allow Members to participate by any electronic means if and as specified by the Senior Warden so long as all Members, whether present personally or by electronic means, are able to hear, participate and vote concurrently with all other Members. The Vestry and all committees may discharge their respective responsibilities in like manner. –

VOTE to Accept

NEW BUSINESS

To hear any other business that may come before The Society

ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING
The Society of King's Chapel**

Sunday, May 17, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER – Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez, Senior Warden

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM following Morning Prayer.

II. INVOCATION -- Rev. Joy Fallon, Senior Minister

Rev. Joy Fallon opened the meeting with a prayer.

III. MINUTES --

On a motion duly made and seconded the minutes of the April 29, 2018 Annual Meeting were approved.

IV. REPORTS

A. Senior Warden – Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez

The Senior Warden thanked everyone for their hard work over the course of 2018, including the Vestry, Wardens, Senior Minister and Trustees. The Building and Grounds committee had their hands full with continued projects.

B. Senior Minister – Joy Fallon

Rev Fallon referred those present to her printed report which was distributed at the meeting

C. Trustees -- Samuel D. Perry

On December 31, 2018, the market value of the King's Chapel General Pooled Fund stood at \$21,218,209 as compared with \$22,015,803 at the end of 2017. Equities -- which accounted for 93.2% of the portfolio at year end -- depreciated by 1.2% in value during 2018. However, this performance compared favorably to decreases of 4.4% for the Standard & Poor's 500 Index and 3.5% for the Dow Jones Industrial Average over this same period. Cash -- which represented the 6.8% balance of the portfolio -- also provided some modest income. As such, the combined investment return recorded for the total portfolio represented a decrease of only 1%..

V. ELECTIONS Nominating Committee Report

Cliff Allen presented the slate of candidates for Vestry and Committee Chairs:

Officers:

Dan Taylor, Treasurer

Vestry:

Christopher LaRoche

Chelsea Lawson

Dorothy Waldron (previously appointed to fill a vacant seat)

Committees:

Fiscal Affairs: Amanda Cegielski

Membership: Christopher Allen

Parish Council Member at Large: Carol Genovese

VI NOMINATION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Miguel Gómez-Ibáñez presented the proposed Nominating Committee for 2019 as recommended by the Vestry: Christopher Allen, Stephen Courtney and Gary Riccio.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the slate of nominees for Vestry and Committee Chairs proposed by the Nominating Committee and the members of the 2019 Nominating Committee proposed by the Vestry were approved.

VII. REPORTS OF STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

All Committees presented a synopsis of their report, as written.

VIII NO OTHER BUSINESS CAME BEFORE THE SOCIETY.

IX ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1 PM.

King's Chapel Trustees Annual Report for 2019

On December 31, 2019, the market value of the King's Chapel General Pooled Fund (GPF) stood at \$26,177,520 compared with \$21,218,209 at the end of 2018. Equities accounted for 94.1% of the portfolio at year-end with the balance in an interest-bearing cash account. While last year's performance was strong, the current year has been challenging because of the Covid-19 epidemic. The GPF has recovered nicely since the market low of late February to a market value of \$23,120,080 on May 8. While it is unfortunate to have relinquished considerable unrealized gains since the end of 2019, the current market value of the GPF is well ahead of the 2018 year-end balance. Including the result of securities sold in January, the current cash balance is \$1,760,439, of which \$745,000 is dedicated to the greatly anticipated and necessary column restoration project at the church for which planning and approvals are underway.

The GPF generated \$643,547 in dividend income in 2019. Distributions to the Society and payments incurred on its behalf totaled \$691,719. Cash distributions to the Society were \$379,935 including the monthly draw which has increased to \$300,000 annually in 2020. Other expenses included the premium payment of \$87,015 to the Hanover Insurance Group for property and liability insurance coverage and \$105,018 in custody and investment management fees. Other cash transfers from income were \$67,668 to the Lyman Fund and \$8,098 to the Organ Fund. Additional disbursements of \$42,925 were applied toward the sanctuary ceiling painting project which has since been completed with funds from the GPF at a total cost of \$177,915.

Along with the General Pooled Fund, the Trustees oversee the Society's General Reserve Fund. This portfolio had a market value on December 31, 2019 of \$652,201 versus \$541,570 one year earlier. The current balance stands at \$599,402.

The Trustees meet periodically with the Wardens and Treasurer to discuss the GPF and its ongoing support of building maintenance and Society activities. We also continue in the longstanding relationship with Fiduciary Trust Company as investment advisor and custodian of the GPF and the Society's General Reserve Funds.

Because distributions and expenses exceeded income, the unrestricted portion of the GPF continues to decline as a percentage of the GPF. Restricted funds, as the description implies, are restricted to a specific purpose or require that distributions are limited to income or subject to both requirements. With a decline in unrestricted principal, it is an important reminder to all of us to expand the Society's annual appeal to cover an increasing percentage of its annual operating budget. With growth in the annual appeal, GPF income and assets will be in a better position to meet the ongoing maintenance needs of the Church building and the two Beacon Street properties.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene H. Clapp
Trustee

William W. Park
Trustee

Samuel D. Perry
Trustee

May 11, 2020

REPORTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Parish Council

Responsibilities

As stated in the Bylaws, Article X, the Parish Council is charged “...to weigh any object of concern in the affairs of the Society and to advise and make recommendations to the Wardens and Vestry.” Its members have responsibility to "aid the Minister in developing and executing new programs for the benefit of the Society".

Goals and Activities

The Council’s primary goals are as follows:

- To build community and facilitate communication
- To identify both ideas and problems that affect parish life, and then to air views and, if possible, propose resolution
- To coordinate major events through use of the parish calendar
- To support the work of individual committees through hearing and responding to both formal and informal reports
- To explore ways to encourage engagement and support volunteers.

Council Meetings

The meetings themselves are a primary mechanism for all of these goals. We have had good attendance and always lively discussion. Luckily it has been a quiet year for the Council, as circumstances led us to meet less often than in the past.

The first meeting of the 2019-2020 Council was a joint meeting with the Vestry, primarily for the leadership teams to get to know each other better. As Joy was on sabbatical, the evening was hosted by Rali Weaver, Sabbatical Minister, and David Waters.

We thought the meeting on September 17 would be the first of six. The Council had decided in May 2018 not to schedule monthly meetings, but to meet less often for a longer meeting over supper. But we ended up with only four “routine” meetings. When I had to cancel the November meeting because of a family situation, the Council chose not to reschedule that meeting. We met on January 7 and again on February 27, but when the Council was called to join the Vestry for a special meeting on fundraising on March 9, we rescheduled again, replacing two spring meetings with one.

Then, of course, the coronavirus gave us a surprise ending to business as usual. Our final meeting on April 23 was held by Zoom.

Calendar

We give a lot of attention to the calendar, seeking to schedule our many activities as helpfully as possible.

Council Members

As prescribed by the Bylaws: the Ministers, the Wardens, Treasurers, chairs of the 14 standing committees, and two members-at-large. The 2019-2020 Council members were Joy Fallon and Amelia Nugent; Miguel Gomez-Ibanez and Levina Wong; Daniel Taylor; Council chair Betsy Peterson; committee chairs Chris Allen, John Appleton, George Boitano, Amanda Cegielski, Stephen Courtney, Denton Crews, Amanda Pickett, Anne Sexton, Sylvia Soderberg, Gregg Sorensen, Marie Wells, Kent Wittenburg; members-at-large Carol Genovese and Louise Perkins.

Council members serve a two-year term and can be reelected for a second consecutive term, then face term limits, which were first implemented in 2016. Notably, the 2019-20 Council included eight individuals who served for four years and are now subject to term limits: the chairs of Archives, Marie; Buildings and Grounds, Stephen Courtney; Chancel, Anne Sexton; Church School, George Boitano; Hospitality, Gregg Sorensen; Stewardship, John Appleton; one member-at-large, Louise Perkins, and the Council chair.

It has been a privilege to serve with this Council and its predecessors for the last four years. It gives me the opportunity for a close look at the dedication and energy and talent that Council members give to their work. My deepest thanks to you all.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Peterson, Chair



Adult Religious Education Committee

The mission of the Adult Religious Education (ARE) Committee is to deepen our religious understanding and spiritual development, to cultivate discourse on meaningful topics to our members, and to support and pass on the traditions of the Society of King's Chapel.

For the past year, the committee members have been Emanuel and Carol Genovese, Tim Nelson-Hoy, Betsy Peterson, and Kent Wittenburg. Friends of the committee include Amanda Pickett, Stephen Courtney, and Gary Riccio. Joy Fallon is the staff liaison to the committee.

Adult religious education took a variety of forms this year. In some cases there were events led by the ministers; in other cases by committee members. The ARE committee endeavored to support all these events to the extent possible. A number of events were coordinated with the Community Action Committee (CAC). Highlights follow.

Ongoing Series

First Wednesdays

Initiated last year, this series was comprised of events of general interest on the first Wednesdays of months that were available. The meetings generally took place at the chapel after evening services. Because of other events and holidays, and the corona virus stay-at-home orders, First Wednesday events were fairly sparse this year. In October, Joy Fallon led a discussion on mystic poets. In November, we had a member-led discussion of immigration and asylum. A four-part discussion of the poems of Rainer Maria Rilke took place in late April and early May led by Kent Wittenburg and Cynthia Perkins. The group read from the *Book of Hours: Love Poems to God*, and discussions were held virtually via Zoom.

Gatherings--the Search for Meaning

We concluded at the end of last year that this series, which we believe was highly valued by those who took part, should be moved to Sundays after the 11am service. Tim Nelson-Hoy led a gathering involving calligraphy on October 20. On April 19, a group of four in the congregation recorded a conversation around Earth Day and their experiences, thoughts, and actions regarding the climate crisis. We are expecting various follow-ups with those who self-identify as part of the King's Chapel Environmental Action Initiative. There will be an additional event in June with Betsy Peterson on the first women in Yale College (in 1969) that is being co-sponsored with Beacon Hill Village.

Retreats

ARE supported Joy Fallon's full-day retreat in the fall in Petersham at John Natoli's renovated barn. Twenty people participated.

A winter retreat on the theme of forgiveness was also planned that dovetailed with Joy Fallon's sermon series. It had a significant number of signups also. Unfortunately, it had to be postponed because of the corona crisis.

Bible Study

There have been two ongoing series this year involving Bible study.

Tim Nelson-Hoy and Stephen Courtney began an ongoing discussion of liturgy beginning with the scripture in Lenten services. It is being held as a virtual meeting taking place Wednesday evenings. Due to its popularity, it has been extended after Easter and is ongoing.

The Senior Minister, with the assistance of Carol Genovese, held weekly mid-day meetings on Thursdays during the fall and winter for the practice of Lectio Divina, reflections on Bible passages. The meetings had to be suspended at the onset of the corona crisis.

Tuesday Morning Meditation

An early Tuesday Morning Meditation group led by Gary Riccio and Stephen Courtney continued this year. This was suspended because of the corona crisis.

Theology on Tap

David Waters, our minister for education and outreach, has led a lively, informal discussion on the third Wednesday of each month starting in September until Lent. We expect that it will start up again sometime soon.

Special Events

Athenaeum Exhibit on King's Chapel Library

ARE coordinated with the Boston Athenaeum on holding an exclusive showing for King's Chapel members of the exhibit featuring the historic King's Chapel Library currently on view at the Athenaeum. That took place on September 29 after the 11am service and was very well attended.

Book Talk by John Buehrens

John Buehrens, a long-term member of King's Chapel and former president of the UUA, gave a talk at the Parish House on his new book *Conflagration: How the Transcendentalists Sparked the American Struggle for Racial, Gender, and Social Justice*.

Parable of the Sower

Lee Glenn initiated a book group reading of the *Parable of the Sower* along with a planned attendance at an associated Arts Emerson musical. The latter has been postponed till the fall because of the corona virus. A book discussion group was led at King's Chapel by Lee and David Waters, and some members also took part at an event with the New Roots Church in Dorchester. The pastor of New Roots Church, Mariama White-Hammond, was a guest preacher at King's Chapel in March. This was all part of an outreach to the City of Boston and the New Roots Church of Dorchester.

Budget

The ARE committee has a modest budget that, aside from support for the annual retreat, is largely for refreshments connected with its events. We do not expect major structural changes for next year. The committee is continuously exploring the possibility of other relevant subjects and events, and it welcomes input.

Respectfully submitted,
Kent Wittenburg, Chair.



Committee members Carol Genovese, Emanuel Genovese, Tim Nelson-Hoy, and Betsy Peterson.

Archives Committee

As my tenure as Committee Chair winds down, I wish to again thank the appropriate Nominating Committees for affording me the opportunity to serve as Chair for the past four years. Additionally, the support of the Parish Council, even though (especially as!) I am rarely able to attend the monthly meetings, has been invaluable. While archives activity has been quiet of late, my hopes are that the incoming Archives Committee chair will not only continue the work already underway by various committee members, but also take the committee in previously unexplored directions.

Updates and additions to previous annual reports:

After months of preparation and negotiation, the Vestry generously approved the donation and transfer of the considerable material created by Senior Minister Emeritus Carl Scovel during his time at King's Chapel to the library of the Harvard Divinity School. While the donation is based on Rev. Scovel's wishes, it ensures secure, climate-controlled care of the material and unfettered access to the material by researchers for decades to come, more than the Parish House would be able to provide.

The Committee is still attempting to deal with the hundreds of very old and possibly valuable books held in the archives. Sadly, many are in very bad shape. As noted above, the Archives Room offers little in the way of climate control or security for these antique volumes. Finding an appropriate repository for the potentially priceless volumes is essential. A goal is to try to keep as many unique volumes that are in decent shape in the Parish House archives for use by future researchers, and to eventually locate a secure resting space for volumes that need more attention. This discussion will continue.

In addition to the groaning shelves of church documents in the Archives Room, there are unknown stashes of paperwork in various offices in the Parish House. These have not been examined for years.

Joan Hunt continued in her task of creating a finding aid for the contents of the journals of the Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship on hand in the Parish House. Rev. Scovel has been a prominent contributor to the publication, as can be seen in this page of the UUCF website: <http://uuchristian.org/publications/> Thus, the journals should be of great interest for any researcher concerning Rev. Scovel's ministry that might not directly pertain to King's Chapel.

As time would permit, sorting and cataloging of the books in the Parish House library could be an excellent future task for a volunteer committee member.

As time in his schedule permits, committee member Gary Riccio continues to sort through the reams of documents created before, during, and after the publication of the 1986 edition of the Book of Common Prayer. Because a future update is all but assured (though timing remains indeterminate), easy, logical access to the records of the previous committee is essential.

As many members as possible of the committee met regularly during 2019, specifically every 4th Sunday at the Parish House between services. With the mandated social distancing restrictions imposed by the Commonwealth in mid-March 2020, meetings have been suspended for the foreseeable future.

Again, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude for being able to serve King’s Chapel in this unique capacity, and my best wishes to my successor. Please be advised that while no longer officially Chair, I will be available to answer questions or requests concerning the archives for months to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Wells, Chair.



Committee members: Joan Hunt, Christopher LaRoche, Gary Riccio, Jennifer Roesch, and Dorothy Waldron.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

The Building and Grounds committee, in cooperation with the Trustees are charged with the facility stewardship of King’s Chapel, the Parish House and Parsonage.

The committee members have contributed substantial time energy and expertise to the tasks before us: **John Bowman, Sally Brewster, Miguel Gomez-Ibanez (with his dual role as Senior Warden), Sam Fey, Sam Perry (with his dual role as Trustee) and Joe Raffone.** Ex-officio committee members **Joy and Gretchen** have also contributed untold hours to our facility needs.

It was decided to discontinue our contract with property management firm, Beacon Services Inc. in part due to the fine services of our sexton, **Clark Aitkins**, who continues to contribute effectively to our facilities maintenance needs in many ways. Previously, we had been able to cancel the cleaning company contract due to his efforts and he has handled our snow removal needs economically as well. Clark is quite versatile and has been able to address many maintenance issues for us whether it be polishing our chapel stone tile floors, greasing our entrance gate track, touch up painting, fixing a table leg, verging for us, providing expertise and training relative to our security needs and more.

As in previous years, much has been completed and much is in process - or completed in the early part of this year 2020. In addition to the “normal” facility activity, we note the following project progress in 2019:

63 and 64 Beacon:

- Parish House Gardens: Improvements continued this year with the help of the Beacon Hill Garden Club and the garden tending of volunteers like Alecia Manning, Betsy Peterson, and others.
- Steel window replacements: The leaky windows were replaced with historically approved (BHAC) wood windows.
- Lead Paint Abatement: Completed the lead paint work begun in 2018 for 63 Beacon including radiator covers.
- Hot water expansion tank: Installed an expansion tank to the hot water tank to reduce maintenance needs.
- Fire Escapes: Contracted for fire escape evaluation/certification reports and repairs.
- Stair Balustrades: Repairs made at both 63 and 64.
- Entry painting: Through the efforts of John Appleton and others the main entrance and stairway were repainted.
- Fire Panel: Replaced outdated and malfunctioning fire panel at 63.

Upcoming projects at the Parish House and Parsonage: Fortunately (and most likely for the moment) no extensive projects have been identified for 63 or 64. The inevitable unplanned issue will likely arise.

The Chapel:

- Sanctuary Ceiling: The major ceiling staging and repair originally slated for 2019 was successfully completed early this year, in part due to the dedicated efforts of Sam Perry. Significant additional ceiling insulation for on-going energy efficiencies was accomplished as part of the ceiling project.
- Heating system repairs: Heat exchanger valves were replaced.
- Pew repairs: Various carpentry and fabric repairs were made.
- Exterior Lighting: We replaced the exterior lighting with energy efficient LED fixtures thanks in large part to the efforts of John Bowman.
- Fire escapes: We evaluated and repaired fire escape deterioration.
- Sprinkler System: The pre-action sprinkler system compressor failed and was replaced.
- Organ blower: The organ blower motor failed and was replaced.

Upcoming projects at the Chapel:

- Notwithstanding COVID-19 contracting complications in the coming year, we will be tackling a number of deferred maintenance items, such as exterior column/wood repair, painting, granite step repairs, copper louver replacement, brownstone repair and mortar repointing. One of the bell tower louvers requires immediate repair as well. We will also complete much needed repairs to the entry vestibule heating system. The organ is being scheduled for a major maintenance cleaning. And summer ventilation achieved through an attic exhaust fan is being explored.

General Miscellaneous Maintenance:

- Many smaller items get done annually such as cleaning and tuning of boilers, fire alarm testing, cleaning of gutters/downspouts, sprinkler system testing, elevator certification, air filter replacements, water filter replacements, window cleaning, replacement of light ballast and light fixtures, lubricating the Chapel sliding entry gate, cleaning of the main chandelier etc.

A mention must be made that ***all*** these activities are guided in some way by the diligence of our Parish Administrator, Gretchen Horton.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen E Courtney, Chair



Chancel Committee

The Chancel Committee's main responsibilities are to provide and maintain items used in all of the King's Chapel services. This includes on the first Sunday of each month preparing the communion table for the ministers, ensuring the Elements needed for communion are appropriately placed, that clean napkins and linens are available for use during communion.

Additional responsibilities:

- Keeping the flower donation sheet is current and updated in a timely manner,
- Arranging for the decoration of the sanctuary during Easter and Advent
- Placing flowers on the chancel table prior to Sunday morning prayer
- Ensuring a sufficient supply of the Elements used during communion.

King's Chapel currently has a standing order for Sunday delivery of flowers with Olympia Flowers in Boston. Olympia Flowers delivers the floral arrangements on the Saturday preceding the Sunday morning prayer service

During the past two years, at the ministers' request, we do not have flowers on the chancel table during the six-week Lenten period, which ends on Easter Sunday. The expense of having flowers delivered each week is been offset by a growing number of King's Chapel members and friends making donations in the name of loved ones. A total of 25 weeks was covered by donations.

The Advent Season is always a joyful time at King's Chapel. This past year we were blessed with many wonderful volunteers to help hang the greens and wreaths. These particular tasks are time consuming and frequently involve members precariously leaning over balconies or straddling ladders to reach stunning heights. One more year success was achieved as no lives were lost!

This past Easter, due to the restrictions placed on business and churches alike, King's Chapel was closed for Easter Sunday. Discussions are ongoing, with the minister, on how to celebrate, with flowers, once we reopen the chapel.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Sexton, Chair.



Committee members: John Appleton, Karen Hawthorne, Tim Nelson-Hoy, Louise Perkins, Cathy Price, Sylvia Soderberg , and Becky Wittenburg, with help from many others.

Church School Committee

In 2019-2020 the Church School continued its mission to educate our small but inquisitive group of youngsters in our shared faith and heritage, while attempting to expand our outreach and participate with the congregation in various service activities.

George Boitano served as head of the church school committee. Hallie White Speight, Carol Genovese, Eleanor Score, Cynthia Korb-Wellington and Sarah Graber rounded out the members on the committee, while David Waters, our minister for education and membership, facilitated our meetings. We convened bi-monthly on Sundays at 10:00 AM in the Parish House.

Our church school director, Julie Relyea, departed last year, and this year we made the decision not to replace her. Instead, Carol and Eleanor led Godly Play, storytelling and arts on Sundays after Morning Prayer, while Skip Lewan directed our musical activities. Our six or so Church School students clustered in the eight- to ten-year age range, which allowed us to unite them a single group.

The Church School itself met every Sunday after the Morning Light Service from the week after homecoming until the epidemic stopped us. On the first Sunday of every month, the children combine to attend Joyful Noise: a session led by Skip in which music is learned and sometimes performed during the Morning Light service. We continue to schedule social justice activities in which the children do hands-on work toward helping our neighbors who often don't have enough food or winter coats.

We started the year at an outreach event at the Beacon Hill Fall Fest. Advents Crafts was its usual success, attracting a variety of older and younger participants. A highlight was the children's' creation of customized Christmas cards for some of our ill or homebound parishioners, with the help of Tim Nelson-Hoy's wonderful calligraphy. The Pageant, presented before the Lessons & Carols service on Christmas Eve, was another highlight, with many attendees participating. Our annual Shrove Pancake breakfast was delicious, thanks to Roger Wellington's very efficient pancake creation system and the help of many members of the congregation. For our service day in the spring, we assisted Fair Foods at UUUM in Roxbury, where about 15 members (including the children) helped unload trucks and distribute bags of vegetables. Thanks to Amanda Pickett, we combined this with a fascinating tour of the old meeting house (from 1630!) and the Dillaway-Thomas house next door. We also were happy to supplement our friends at Common Cathedral by making sandwiches several mornings throughout the year. Alas, our other spring events, such as Easter Crafts and the Mother's Day Walk for Peace, fell victim to the epidemic. We also did not manage to schedule our family game night, which was a success the previous year. We hope to resume this fun event later in 2020.

Strategically, aside from education, the Church School Committee's top priority is to expand our school. We have a beautiful and relevant tradition that we would very much like to share with other families! This is a topic of discussion every meeting, and we are always attempting new outreach activities, including notices in local city newspapers and online sites, tables at the various Beacon Hill outdoor festivals, our craft and game events, etc. We have also rented our Parish House to local scouting troops. We believe we have built awareness in Beacon Hill and beyond what a welcoming, generous and valuable place our Church School is. Our hope continues to be that this awareness will lead to more parents and children joining our Church School community.

Finally, term limits necessitate a new Church School Committee chair for the next academic year. Sara Graber has graciously volunteered, and her name has been forwarded to the nominating committee.

Respectfully submitted,
George Boitano, Chair



Community Action Committee

Role Statement:

The mission of the Community Action Committee (CAC) is to support carefully selected community organizations with volunteer time, expertise, and money. The CAC will also assist our partner organizations through projects and programs led by King's Chapel members.

Responsibilities and History:

CAC was established by the Society of King's Chapel at its Annual Meeting in April 2012, combining the former Social Action (SAC) and Charities & Appeals committees. Since then the CAC serves: (1) KC's partner organizations by consulting with partners' leaders and then using KC resources for maximum impact; and (2) KC itself, by engaging all members and friends, as they are willing and able, in aspects of service to our wider community. In 2017-2018, KC members participated in a visioning process sponsored by the Parish Council that resulted in a more focused mission, based on the selection of community organizations in which involvement of parishioners and funding assistance would be optimally meaningful and beneficial. A broad range of projects attracted participation during this period – two house-builds in Boston with Habitat for Humanity, collecting backpacks for the homeless, the Mother's Day Peace Walk, and the Boston Pride Parade. These experiences supplemented by research enabled the committee to narrow the selection and focus of support to three organizations: *common cathedral*, Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, and the UU Urban Ministry.

Community Action took a variety of forms this year, e.g. organizing and leading a vigil for detainees for the first time ever this year, and participating in activities of/supporting our three CAC partners:

common cathedral, Ecclesia Ministries, Inc. - an outdoor church on the Boston Common for people experiencing homelessness and their friends.

Louis D. Brown Peace Institute - a center in Dorchester transforming society's response to homicide; focuses on healing, teaching, and learning for families and communities impacted by murder, grief, trauma, and loss.

Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry – organization in Roxbury uniting communities across race, class, and faith and transforming lives through youth programs, domestic violence resources, and community engagement.

Highlights from the past year include:

Over the 2019-2020 period, the number of people involved has grown, project relationships have deepened, and organizational and community impact has increased.

common cathedral:

The CAC organized members of King's Chapel to make and serve bag lunches and worship with *common cathedral* on average every 1-2 months. King's Chapel is signed up to serve and worship together three times over the coming summer. The numbers of volunteers both in **sandwich-making and worship** on the Boston have increased. Since the outbreak of Covid-19, members of King's Chapel have responded to [common cathedral's request for deliveries](#) of sandwiches, soft fruit, and granola bars. The CAC hosted an **art show** for artists of *common cathedral* art program, Common Art, in the Parish House on June 2 of 2019. The CAC **donated 1 year's art supplies** to Common Art (\$5000.00). In collaboration with music director Heinrich Christensen, the CAC hosted a Piano Action benefit concert, which raised \$392 for *common cathedral*.

Louis D Brown Peace Institute:

King's Chapel participated in the 2019 **Mother's Day Walk for Peace** on May 6 of 2019, the biggest annual fundraiser for the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute (LDBPI). Several church members attended the fourth annual Peace B'que community cookout at the Peace institute on August 3. In collaboration with music director Heinrich Christensen, the CAC hosted a **Piano Action** benefit concert, which raised \$492 for LDBPI. In February 2020,

the CAC voted to pledge \$8,000 for the Peace Walk in the following ways: A) requesting \$3000 from the Minister's Discretionary Fund, B) using \$2000 of the CAC \$8500 annual budget, and C) pledging to raise \$3000 via walkers' fundraising and walk registration. This donation achieved the status of **Peace Advocate** for our team. As of April 20, the [King's Chapel team](#) had **surpassed the goal** and donated a total of \$8,500. King's Chapel members will participate in the 2020 **VIRTUAL Mother's Day Peace Walk** on May 10, 2020 at 9AM and further funds may yet be raised by that date.

Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry:

The CAC sponsored two Youth Historians to be trained via the UU Urban Ministry's Youth Historian program, part of the summer after-school college-readiness programming. We coordinated a **UUUM Day of Community Building and Service** at the UUUM on February 29 wherein members of King's Chapel volunteered with food rescue program Fair Foods, followed by historic tours of the UUUM and neighboring Dillaway-Thomas House. The tour was attended by UUUM youth historians-in-training as well as King's Chapel youth. King's Chapel members also partook in youth-led history tours on two other occasions this fiscal year. The CAC made an emergency donation of \$400 to a family in need at Renewal House, the UUUM's domestic violence shelter, in July 2019. Church members attended **Makanda Project Jazz concerts** September 14th, August 10th, July 13. Members of the committee attended ***We Who Believe in Freedom***, a talk about history and local racial justice organizing that was held at the UU Urban Ministry. In collaboration with music director Heinrich Christensen, the CAC hosted a **Piano Action** benefit concert, which raised over \$500 for the UUUM.

Other Projects (in addition to relationship-building with the three Community Action Partners)

On August 25, King's Chapel hosted a **vigil for detainees** with Massachusetts Communities Action Network ([MCAN](#)). The vigil consisted of prayers and song and took place outside the South Bay detention center with key organizing coordinated by Sabbatical Minister Rali Weaver, CAC chair Amanda Pickett, and friend of the CAC Tim Nelson-Hoy.

Plans for participation with Habitat for Humanity and the Pride Parade are being adjusted due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The CAC budgeted to support these two organizations as well as BAGLY, the Boston Area LGBTQ Youth organization.

Community Action Multi-Year Strategic Plan

CAC is developing a *Community Action Multi-Year Strategic Plan*, with a key aim of establishing and sustaining relationships with our three partners, as well as channeling meaningful, impactful contributions. Members Denton Crews and Ciel Hills drafted an initial outline; thereafter, Chair Amanda Pickett and friend of the Committee Tim Nelson-Hoy developed the plan further. The *Multi-Year Plan* will be a synopsis of the recent accomplishments of the Community Action Committee and priorities for the future, including goals for growth and funding. We hope that this plan will inspire an enlarged and enriched engagement in community service for the congregation of King's Chapel and the community it serves. One source may be the Minister's Discretionary Fund (MDF). We have been strategizing around requesting MDF funds with the hope that use of the MDF in year one of a multi-year plan could lay the groundwork for relationship-building with our three partners in ways not yet determined. Development of the plan is stalled in light of the Covid-19 pandemic but will allow for mindful reflection on how best to channel King's Chapel resources and meet internal and external needs.

Financial goals moving forward include (A) securing regular annual funding in order to more effectively carry out strategic plans and impact the community through service and fund allocation and (B) strategically increasing the amount of money accessible for us to channel into supporting community programs and building relationships with King’s Chapel’s Community Action partners.

Committee Membership 2019-2020:

For the past year, the committee members have included Denton Crews, Carol Genovese, Emanuel Genovese, Crael Hills, Amy Meyer, Louise Perkins, and Dan Sullivan. Friends of the committee included Amanda Cegielski and Tim Nelson-Hoy.

The committee looks forward to continuing to build relationship with our partners and to increase the community engagement of King’s Chapel members and friends going forward.

Budget:

Community Action is funded by the King’s Chapel investment portfolio funds that have been earmarked for community action and also receives 10% of the Sunday offertory plates. Community Action is not funded by operating expenses or the Stewardship Appeal.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Pickett, Chair.



**Denominational and Ecumenical Affairs Committee
(aka Partner Church Committee)**

In 2019-20, the primary focus of the Denomination and Ecumenical Affairs Committee (DEAC) has been the partner church relationship between King’s Chapel and First Unitarian Church of Kolozsvár in Transylvania, specifically the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the oldest partnership between an American and a Transylvanian Unitarian congregation in the world, predating the UU Partner Church Council, and also to discover new ways of making the partnership an active part in the life of our communities.

Our two historic Unitarian churches launched a new phase of communications on Sunday, January 19, and Sunday, March 1, by connecting on the Internet using Zoom video and audio conferencing. Participants were located in Kolozsvár in the Bishop’s Conference Room at the headquarters of the Consistory of the Transylvanian Unitarian Churches and in a second floor classroom in the Parish House of King’s Chapel. These meetings have focused on planning two trips: a visit by King’s Chapel people to Transylvania, May 23-31, 2021, and a visit by First Unitarian people to Boston in 2022. The conversations have also focused on building a strong relationship in each location using video conferencing, scheduling regular meetings with one another, sharing experiences and perspectives, discussing matters of faith and planning activities that can be accomplished remotely.

Most recently, the subject was how to achieve a living partnership – one that could continue for another century. Emőd Farkas (member of First Unitarian Church) summarized his research on the partner church relationships in Transylvania and Reverend Roger Bertschausen (executive director of the UU Partner Church Council) provided a summary of best practices among partner churches in the U.S. Similar themes emerged from both presentations: ensuring mutuality and depth of a partner church relationship built upon common interests, establishing clarity about why the relationship matters, effectively organizing and sustaining communications between congregations, sharing in programs and activities, making periodic visits, and practicing inter-cultural listening and learning. The discussion of how to achieve a living partnership will be continued in future videoconference meetings between the two congregations.

Several specific initiatives have also emerged from these conversations: a project to reprint and distribute a booklet about First Unitarian of Kolozsvár; the preparation of a similar booklet about King’s Chapel, translated into Hungarian; a more extensive publication with details of the partner church relationship collaboratively developed and displayed in a bi-lingual format; musical connections including choir visits; live discussions of theological interests, liturgical connections, and Unitarian Christianity concerns; and cultural exchanges in person and long distance. Other activities of the committee include creating an exhibit on the partner church relationship and celebrating communion in the Transylvanian tradition (planned for Sunday, June 7, 2020).

The committee continues also to foster engagement in denominational affairs by maintaining membership in the UUA and the UU Partner Church Council. Committee members have planned to attend the annual UU General Assembly in June in Providence, RI. However, the convention has been cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic and will be held virtually. The committee is awaiting further word about registration and it is hoped that members will be able to participate in sessions via telecommunications.

Members of the Committee: Denton Crews (chair), Stephen Courtney, Joy Fallon, Kathe German, Carol Kemp, Bill Kuttner, and Louise Perkins; Friends are Cliff Allen, Tim Nelson-Hoy, Betsy Peterson, Cynthia Perkins, and Gary Riccio.

Respectfully submitted,

Denton Crews



Fiscal Affairs Committee

Role Statement: The Fiscal Affairs Committee prepares the budget for the Society of King’s Chapel for each fiscal year and submits its proposals to the members of the Society, who vote on the budget at a meeting designated for that purpose. The Committee reviews the Society's finances throughout the year.

On February 2, 2020 the membership of King’s Chapel approved the annual budget submitted to them for the 2019 Fiscal Year (January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020).

The proposed budget had been reviewed by the Vestry in its monthly meeting on December 16, 2019. Funding provided was made retroactive to operations beginning January 1, 2020. The budget was created based on actual spending on the FY2019 budget by King’s Chapel Treasurer Dan Taylor, Parish Administrator Gretchen Horton, and Fiscal Affairs Chair Amanda Cegielski.

The Fiscal Affairs Committee is indebted to Dan Taylor for providing timely monthly financial statements of all fiscal activity for FY 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Cegielski, Chair.



Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee was chaired by Gregg Sorensen. This past year was chock full of good food, community and a wide-array of new initiatives. The Committee expanded its activities to support other initiatives at the church.

Refreshments and delightful light foods were served after most Sunday morning services. Gathering after a service gives church members, friends, and new visitors a golden opportunity to catch up, introduce themselves, and share details about their daily lives. Hosts generously provided baked goods, appetizer-type foods, and other delectable items.

The Committee hosted a number of special events, including the annual Homecoming (September) and Milk Punch (December) luncheons. A special farewell luncheon was hosted in honor of former Assistant Minister Amelia Edson (April). The Hospitality Committee provided a cake in honor of KC's 333rd birthday after Sunday Morning Prayer (June). To thank sabbatical minister Rali Weaver for her service to the church, a cake and other culinary treats were offered at Coffee Hour on her final Sunday (September). For all occasions, many returning and new individuals signed up to assist, attesting to the famous phrase "many hands make light work."

There were additional opportunities for the Hospitality Committee to share its culinary gifts with the church. The Hospitality Committee hosted a luncheon in the Parish House garden for those who marched in the Gay Pride Parade (June). Light refreshments were also provided to those individuals caroling on behalf of King's Chapel at the Beacon Hill Holiday Stroll (December).

The Hospitality Committee dinner series, Bistro 64, returned for a third season with one event: a festive Mardi Gras event at the Parish House (March). Originally, four dinners were scheduled, but busy schedules on the part of the committee and the church as a whole resulted in the cancellation of the dinners in October and January. The April Seder dinner did not take place because of the COVID-19 crisis. Bistro 64 was co-chaired by Gregg Sorensen and Anne Sexton.

Gregg was assisted by Becky Wittenberg in cleaning and organizing the Parish House kitchen, hospitality storage shelves in the crypt, and the kiosk located in the church.

Overall, the year was a resounding success. A number of new individuals have signed up to host coffee hour. We will continue to reach out to members and friends who have never hosted or rarely participate. Barriers to signing up are personal finances, a lack of knowledge regarding "how to host," and a general sense of volunteer fatigue.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregg Sorensen.



Committee members: Amanda Cegielski, Anne Sexton, Becky Wittenberg, and Dean Lynch (advisor).

Membership Committee

I'm happy to report that we inducted the following members in December:

Asitha Jayawardena, Gretchen Jayawardena, Mary Katherine Morn, John Reidy, and Dorie Seavey.

Gretchen and Asitha joined at the 9 AM service, continuing the tradition of offering this option for people for whom it is their primary service.

We did not have a member induction this spring (the coronavirus, of course), but have several people seriously interested to follow up with when we return to something approaching normalcy.

A notable mishap this year was the cancellation of our prospective member dinner - the combination of a relatively small roster and two last-minute cancellations (only from the dinner, not the joining) caused us to have to cancel the event. The good news is that this means we're not over our budget!

Some things I would like to look forward to in the next year:

- Supplementing our outreach past evites - I think these are easy to ignore or miss and require a lot of follow-up - may be better to just do the outreach up front anyway.
- Considering the responsibilities of Membership that may exist prior to "this person is interested in joining". John Appleton and Stephen Courtney have both spoken with me about ideas for canvassing the Beacon Hill neighborhood, which is a community that we draw a lot of our easiest-to-get new members from. Some form of outreach to let the community know that we exist and what we're about in the first quarter that we can leave our homes would be great.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Allen, Chair.



Committee members: John Appleton, Cindy Korb-Wellington, Cathy Price, Alison LaRosa, Anne Sexton, and Sylvia Soderberg.

Music Committee

The King's Chapel Music Committee supports our Concert Series in several ways, including fund-raising, consciousness raising, and giving receptions after concerts.

For this Concert Season, Heinrich Christensen, our Organist and Music Director, programmed six Sunday concerts and an organ recital before Evensong in Eastertide. Cheerful post-concert receptions were enjoyed after the events.

On Sunday afternoon, September 22 in the Little Chapel at the Parish House, Heinrich, playing our “new” Steinway piano, and our friend, violinist Zina Schiff presented a free concert, **Piano Action**, to benefit the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry. The Chapel was full of enthusiasts, and the donations were generous.

Mortal Musings (October 25) was a solemn commemoration of All Souls Season. Heinrich, our choir and Jeremy Bruns, organist, gave us the Desenclos Requiem, Parry’s Songs of Farewell, and Carols of Death, by William Schuman.

Advent Baroque brought Heinrich, our choir and orchestra performing two of J.S. Bach’s Cantatas, Wacht auf, and Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, and also the Magnificat in D, by J.D. Zelenka.

In January, King’s Chapel was filled with scaffolding, as our ceiling was being painted. Always flexible, Heinrich and a group of Choir members performed **The Big Chill**, a cabaret-style soiree, held at the Parish House around both of our pianos, with chili dinner served at intermission. We managed to accommodate a large and ardently appreciative audience, who expressed the hope that this kind of concert can be repeated. It was stunning.

On February 23, Heinrich gave a memorable organ concert, a survey of Organ Sonata works from Scarlatti to the Bach Family, and finally to our friend James Woodman. It was a remarkable gift to all who attended.

In March, the Covid 19 virus shut the City of Boston down, and canceled the culminating concert of the season, which was to have been G.F. Handel’s Oratorio, **Alexander’s Feast** on March 29, presented by our long-time friend Suzette Schochet. We were all very disappointed to miss it. Heinrich and Mrs. Schochet agreed that all scheduled musicians be paid.

Heinrich was to have played an organ recital as prelude to **Evensong In Eastertide**, on April 26, but that too was canceled.

All concerts were well attended, and enthusiastically received. Although the ticket income (we keep ticket prices reasonable, as community outreach) is vital, it’s clear that without the generosity of our Guarantors, whose names are listed in every program, we could not present the variety and breadth of the concerts we have enjoyed. We are deeply grateful to all of our supporters, nineteen of whom gave at or above the “Season Pass” level (gifts of \$250 or more) this year. We are pleased to note that many concert-goers are using the advance sale on-line brown paper ticket method of purchasing tickets at a reduced price. Thanks to Mary Sears for managing this aspect of ticketing.

A structural change was made this year: we brought our treasury in-house, which precludes our need for a treasurer. **Our fervent thanks go to Walter Chapin, who has been Treasurer of the Concert Series for decades.** He deserves a thank-you celebration when we all come out of isolation!

We are discussing the possibility of dividing the duties of the Chairperson, as the job description naturally falls into two or more categories.

Special thanks to the Concert Committee for the remarkable help and support that they give. They have cheerfully and tirelessly hung posters, advertised, ushered, manned the ticket booth, baked, served and cleaned up at the receptions. They are Bob Gulick, Joan Hunt, Betty Lykins, Melinda Riccio, Mary Sears, Nadia Stevens, and Friends Gregg Sorensen, Sara Arnold, and Anne Sexton.

The last is the first. Mega applause and adulation for Heinrich Christensen and the King’s Chapel Choir.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Soderberg, Chair



Stewardship Committee

Thanks to old and new supporters, the Stewardship Committee can report that the Congregation helped mightily to try to bridge the gap between King’s Chapel’s budgeted expenditures and expected revenues.

2019 was a difficult year for the Annual Appeal. If we had not received two unexpected generous extra contributions, we would have raised less than the amount raised 5 years ago in 2015.

	<u>Results:</u>				
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Total No. of Givers	105	122	140	142	133
Total funds received (000)	\$195	\$209	\$221	\$215	\$206
*Goal (\$000)	\$195	\$200	\$200	\$225	\$225

*Our goal is each year’s projected net budget deficit after all other sources of revenue are taken into account.

In reviewing all the activity of the Stewardship Committee for the year 2019, we were engaged in a never ending battle all year, to encourage participation :

January: Joint Vestry and Stewardship Committee thank you letter to all givers, 4 pages with pictures.

March: Sent initial letter announcing 2019 Annual Appeal, with return envelopes inviting an early response. [“Spring Branches” motif]

June: Sent personal emails to selected “Non Responders” [\$1000. and over]
 Sent “Gentle Reminder” letter to 100 “Not yet givers” [Under \$1000]
 Sent 64 thank you letters & gift to pledgers and givers so far
 sent 33 encouraging letters to “irregular givers”

September: Running a \$80k, deficit.

Sent a new member letter of introduction with tote bag welcome.

Homecoming Sunday – poster with new pledge envelopes.

October: Sent 30 email personal reminders to selected “Not yet Givers”[\$1000. and over]

Sent letters to “other not yet given” [under \$1000.]

November: Expanded “Ask” mailing list from 165 to 198.

Sent out special “Thanksgiving Appeal” to all, suggesting to already givers, to give more.

Sent update letters to pledgers on their fulfillment status.

December: Sent personal notes or emails to selected “not yet heard from”.

Sherry Party at the Church as a reminder and thank you.

Sent 32 thank you letters and gift to givers since June.

All year: Barbara Fay and Pam Bergeron’s handwritten thank you notes to each, and every giver!

Thankfully submitted,
John Appleton, Chair.



Committee members for the 2019 Annual Appeal were Mike Bergeron, Pam Bergeron, Barbara Fay, Gail Danckert, and Patrick Wilmerding. Alison LaRosa joined the committee in 2020.

King’s Chapel History Program: Annual Report

Despite the hardships facing the History Program this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the previous year and start to 2020 were strong illustrations of the History Program’s scope and influence. By the end of 2019, the History Program:

- Welcomed 261,699 visitors to King’s Chapel
- Raised just under \$160,000 in donations
- Generated a gross income of over \$215,000
- Accomplished a new record of a \$0.61 per person donation, up \$0.05 from 2018
- Led special programs for 40 youth and school groups
- Continued its multi-year tour partnership with the Marriott Custom House
- Led approximately 3,500 visitors in touring the crypt and bell tower

Prior to King’s Chapel’s physical closure on March 13, the History program had welcomed 10,958 visitors, raised \$9,127.50 and brought in an average per person contribution of \$0.83 this year. While the History Program is currently facing an unprecedented series of challenges that have been detrimental to our regular operations and revenue stream, the History Program is grateful to have all staff supported and able to continue working for King’s Chapel through June 30. During this time, we are continuing research, producing new content, exploring new methods for sharing the church’s history, and planning for how the program will need to grow and evolve moving forward.

Looking Back: Program Growth in 2019 and Early 2020

Over the past year, the History Program has introduced a variety of new thematic programs and begun forming new partnerships. In addition to the work coordinated with the History Program regarding King’s Chapel’s history with slavery. New programs introduced in 2019 and early 2020 include special signage and activities related to King’s Chapel’s birthday and how the church has commemorated major anniversaries, content sharing King’s Chapel’s connections to the May and Alcott families in anticipation of the new *Little Women* movie, a special lecture hosted in partnership with the National Parks of Boston, launching a blog at the beginning of 2020, and programs inviting visitors to try their hand at reading and interpreting primary sources. Existing programs that continued to be successes for the History Program were October’s *Tales from the Crypt* and February’s *Till Death Us Do Part* evening candlelit crypt tours, which brought in about \$12,000 combined.

Since March, the History Program has worked to present its history through new, digital methods to reach audiences in their homes. This has included revisions and new content on the History Program webpage, history video series and a YouTube channel, and our first digital exhibit, launched in April to commemorate National Literature and Poetry Month. Most recently, the History Program has begun hosting weekly conversations and presentations each Thursday at noon to share and discuss different aspects of the church's history with members of the congregation.

Looking Forward: Planning for the Future

Looking forward, the History Program is continuing to explore new methods and platforms for engagement as visitors are unable to tour the building. Staff are currently working on several video series, organizing a virtual lecture in partnership with Mount Auburn Cemetery, and working on future digital exhibits and virtual programs. Additionally, the closure has provided time to hone in on the group tours previously offered and work toward developing remote options for school and youth field trips, creating educator resources, and investigate the possibility of in-classroom field trips in the future.

Faye Charpentier, History Program Director
May 17, 2020

