

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN MARBLEHEAD, INC.

Minutes of the Annual Budget Meeting of the Church – February 2, 2025

Pursuant to notice duly given, the Annual Budget Meeting of the Membership of the First Church of Christ in Marblehead, Inc., a Massachusetts not-for-profit corporation (“the Church” or “Old North Church”) was held on Sunday, February 2, 2025 following the 10 o’clock service in the sanctuary on Washington Street.

Betsey Halbert, Church Moderator, presided over the meeting. Janet Doyle, Clerk, kept the minutes.

With a quorum (at least 50 members) present, Betsey Halbert called the meeting to order at 11:10 am. The Reverend Lindsay Popperson led us in an opening prayer. The minutes from the Annual Open Meeting in June 2024 were accepted after a motion to do so, followed by a second and a unanimous vote.

Betsey Halbert gave a Leadership Board update. It has been another busy year. We said goodbye to Don Remick, hello to Lindsay Popperson as our Senior Minister, hello to Christine Hribar as our Associate Minister and hello to Jessica Easter as our Youth Minister. We solidified our relationship with Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America). She gave a brief review of our ministries.

A motion was made to accept a By-Law change as pertains to the amount of money ONC gives annually to support the UCC Conference of Southern New England (SNEUCC). The motion was seconded and voted on unanimously. This change will be incorporated into the Bylaws of The First Church of Christ in Marblehead, Inc. (Old North Church).

Scott Fillenworth introduced the Prudential Board members which includes Mark Adams, Alan Freeman, Bob Hendricks, Kathleen Jasaitis, Rick Settelmeyer, John Tatum, Stow Walker, Dave Bennet and Blair Lord. He reported that the work of the Capital Campaign is on time and on budget. Scott encouraged everyone to fulfill their Campaign commitment at their earliest in 2025. The steeple/tower project will be started this spring. Scott reported that the last time ONC had an organized stewardship program was in 2015. The current aim is to reinvigorate an ongoing campaign to ensure the financial integrity of the church under the enthusiastic leadership of Rick Settelmeyer. The ONC is a home for people who need a home. We need to care for the church so it is here to care for us all.

Blair Lord presented a final accounting for the year 2024 which ended on a positive note. He reported that so far we are \$40K ahead of where we were last year in pledging dollars but behind slightly in pledging units. He is encouraging all who consider the Old North Church to be “their church” to pledge financial support. Pledges plus 4% of our investments equal 90% of the annual budget. In the 2025 budget we are choosing to invest in our church school, Community Life, mission, staff, music and staff salaries to include a 2-1/2% cost of living. A motion to accept the 2025 budget as presented was made, seconded and voted on unanimously.

With no comments from the floor, Reverend Christine Hribar led us in a closing prayer.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and voted on unanimously.

All retired to the parish hall for the Second Annual Chili Bake Off and lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Doyle, Clerk

