

**OLD NORTH CHURCH MARBLEHEAD
PRUDENTIAL MINISTRY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 12, 2021 7:00 PM**

Present:

Sally S., Chair
Rev. Dennis C.
John T.
David B.
Blair L.
Betsey H.
Scott F.
Mark A.

Absent:

None

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Sally S., Chair, called meeting to order at 7:05 PM. The meeting was opened with prayer from Dennis.

Review of September Meeting Minutes

Mark A. read the minutes from the meeting of Sept. 14th. They were approved.

Financial Review

Blair gave the finance report. Through the end of September income was 77.7% and expenses were 73.7% of the annual budget. Thanks to the PPP and Employee Retention credit, we are projecting a budget surplus for the year. Our PPP loan was officially forgiven so it won't need to be repaid. Blair estimated that we would have a deficit of approximately \$50,000 in 2021 if we weren't able to take advantage of the PPP and Employee Retention Credit programs.

Sally requested a first cut on next year's budget. Subtracting the \$130,000 we received through the PPP and Employee Retention Credit programs, and using this year's budget as a baseline, we are projecting a deficit of \$50,000 (plus/minus) for next year.

It was noted that we established a Challenge Fund several years ago to address such shortfalls. Blair is to investigate the status of the Challenge Fund and report back at the next meeting.

Sally reported that she will be asking the departments and groups that require funding to submit their 2022 budget requests in the next few weeks. For this year, the Garden Committee has been asked to develop a budget for the first time in an effort to mitigate the need for committee members to use personal funds to support the Garden Committee efforts.

Property Projects

David B. reported that the pouring of hydraulic cement has greatly improved the water flow in the back of the Parish Hall, dramatically reducing the strong odor that was present.

Additionally, due to water damage, he and Stow have ripped up the flooring and first level of stairs in the back of the Parish Hall and we'll hire a contractor to re-build.

It is estimated that this work saved the church in the neighborhood of \$10K in contractor fees. Thank you, guys!

It was shared that we are currently not running the Matterhorn system with any regularity. But, when it is run, it greatly improves the air quality in the Parish Hall.

Update on Feasibility Study/Capital Campaign

Dennis reported that most of the sensing interviews conducted by our consultant have been completed. There are about 5 – 7 interviews that should be completed this week.

Feedback thus far has generally been very positive with members appreciating the need to raise additional funds. For that reason, we are cautiously optimistic that we remain on-track to start the campaign in the first quarter of 2022.

Several of those that were interviewed pointed out that they were unclear about the goals and needed more information. The committee discussed how important communications will be if we are to achieve our goal. This is an effort we intend to initiate fairly soon with the support and leadership of Mark A..

Our UCC consultant, Jill, will provide a brief update this week and then a more formal feasibility report toward the end of Oct. Jill has a full slate of key job roles and descriptions in support of the capital campaign and will share those with church leadership.

The intent is to try to complete the annual stewardship campaign by late Dec/early Jan to clear the way for the capital campaign.

Stewardship Campaign

Sally reported that we, at the current time, no longer have a functioning nominating committee and therefore, do not have a staffed stewardship committee. This responsibility will fall largely on the Pru Board with support and assistance from the other church boards.

A variety of strategies were discussed to support the stewardship pledge drive, including: coffee hours (coming back this Sunday), families to offer their personal testimonials at Sunday services, phone call blitzes, and more. Asking all boards to have 100% participation was agreed as an important first step.

Dennis will be working on the initial letter to the church community regarding the upcoming pledge campaign. It was discussed that we could draft different letters for different audiences to tailor our appeal to the various circumstances of the church community. Betsey H. is taking the lead on defining the various audiences that comprise the church community.

Other Business

Dennis will confirm that we are now a registered charity within the Amazon Smiles program. This will allow us to start communications with members on how they can generate revenues for our church through the Amazon program.

The meeting was closed at 8:08 PM

Next meeting will be held on Zoom on Tuesday, Nov 9th at 7:00PM.

Minutes Prepared by
Scott F.