

The First Church of Christ “Old North” in Marblehead

Minutes of the Leadership Board – December 12, 2024

Old North Church Vision Statement

Old North Church is an inclusive Christian Community called to bring to life God’s love and grace by sharing the gospel for this time and place; extending the hospitality Christ showed; embodying God’s love and compassion to those in need; and growing together in our understanding and experience of the Holy Spirit at work in our midst.

Leadership Board

The Leadership Board shall set policy and facilitate the execution of congregational priorities for the church. It shepherds the ongoing visioning process and makes decisions and acts within the stated vision and approved budget that are outside the scope of a single ministry. It listens with faith and facilitates communications and coordination within and between ministries, the entire congregation, and the wider community. It conducts ongoing strategic planning for the church. It may task ad hoc teams with specific action in support of its responsibilities. Sub Committees: PPR, Nominating.

The meeting was called to order in the Great Room at Stacey Street by our moderator, Betsey Halbert, at 7pm. In attendance were Betsey Halbert, Lindsay Popperson, Janet Doyle, Gary Eisenhower, Stephen Ainlay. Roy Martin, James Horgan, Flory Denhard, Lisa Nahatis, Christine Hribar, Blair Lord attend via Zoom. Christine led us in an opening prayer.

Note: The next Leadership Board meeting will be on Thursday, January 9, 2025.

A motion to approve the November Leadership Board minutes was made and seconded. Motion carried.

With expenses being about \$2,000, the recent fair netted approximately \$13,000. Job well done and a lot of community spirit was achieved. Thank you to the co-chairs Linda Duvel and Marcia Hostetter. Who will step up to lead us another year? Contact either Linda or Marcia if you think this interests you. All committees are ready to be led!

So far in the Stewardship Campaign 129 pledges have been received in the amount of \$333,000. Still a way to go to get to \$500,000 that we would like to see for our 2025 budget. Another letter going out this week. So far average pledges have increased 10% which is the amount we asked people to consider if they are able.

Regarding the Scouting America proposal we have been considering, all we are waiting on is the “Certificate of Insurance”. Accepting the proposal as presented was put forth, seconded and unanimously agreed to assuming we get this from our insurance agent. We need to sign by December 31, 2024.

Because there is still some misunderstanding dealing with the by-law change regarding the amount of money Old North gives to the UCC conference and where the money actually goes, it was determined that Lindsay would work on a one-page clarification piece that addresses issues brought up at the three information sessions that were held regarding the change. This is to be considered by the LB in January after being reviewed by Outreach at their December meeting.

Annual Budget Meeting set for Sunday, February 2nd followed by 2nd Annual Chili Bake Off lunch in the parish hall.

Blair reported that the financials will end the year balanced for 2024. He put a 2.5% cost of living increase in the 2025 budget for all staff and will meet with Betsey to determine a total amount that can include merit increases.

The Prudential Board voted to set up a property fund to take care of ongoing property upkeep. Flory suggested it might be an endowment fund which may be discussed further and will be reported back.

The North Shore Youth Ministry is off to a slow but steady start getting the youth from the four participating churches involved in different giving services allowing them a way to show outward growth in our communities. Jess is doing a great job identifying and drawing youth participants.

Ministry and other reports:

Church school continues to show consistent growth with up to 15 children participating each Sunday morning. We are at a point where we are considering teaching to two age groups – younger and older children. Right now, they all meet together with a couple of teachers.

Community Life has several upcoming events and services including making meals for people after surgeries, the chili bake off, movie and author lectures etc.

Lindsay recently attended a young ministers' leadership conference in Phoenix that she said was very valuable. We need to confirm who does PPR for each of our ministers.

Christine is hosting a longest night pasta family dinner and short service on Friday December 20th. So far she has about 40 people signed up representing three generations of families.

Under new business, it has been suggested we have an all ministries get together a couple of times a year – March and October potential dates. We have done this in the past and it was very educational for all to hear from other ministries.

With no further business Lindsay led us in a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Doyle, Clerk