

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN MARBLEHEAD, INC.

Minutes of the 340th Annual Meeting of the Church - June 15, 2022

Pursuant to notice duly given, the Annual Open 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 at 7 pm on Wednesday evening, June 15, 2022 via Zoom.

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

With more than a quorum (quorum being 50 members) of church members checking in, Betsey Halbert called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. Rev Lindsay Popperson led us in an opening prayer. The minutes from the Annual Budget Meeting in February 2022 as well as the Annual Open Meeting in June 2021 were accepted after a motion to do so, followed by a seconding and a unanimous vote.

Betsey Halbert gave a brief Moderator's Report thanking various people and ministries for their services and flexibility as we continue to act vigilantly around the Covid situation. With the departure of Dennis Calhoun we are very fortunate to have Lindsay Popperson remaining with us. Because of the epidemic, we suddenly have a surge of funerals and memorial services and without Lindsay we would be unable to accommodate these families.

Lindsay introduced Rev Don Remick, our Interim Minister. Don comes to us with incredible skills and wisdom and will be ready to lead our church come the beginning of September. During the summer he will be meeting with various members and staff so that come the fall he will jump right in to guide us. Several members of our church had prior experiences with Don and he was our first choice so we are very glad he chose us also.

Blair Lord presented his Financial Report. Although the report contained both positives and negatives, overall we are in a fortunate position for the current time. However, there are challenges going forward and much planning is needed. We are an older congregation and have lost several large pledgers in the past couple of years. Pledging in general has declined in recent years. Blair gave an explanation of property and salary lines in his report so as not cause concern.

Sally Sands gave the Prudential Report. High on the list for the coming year is bringing our staff salaries up to standard. The cost of living has gone up 8.5% and we have not kept up. This will be a priority. Second issue will be supporting a Capital Campaign which hopefully will launch in September and run for fourteen weeks. The final area Prudential will concentrate on is Stewardship as the success of that determines the services and programs our church will be able to provide. Sally was also very complimentary of the volunteers who have kept our church and property at the level it deserves. The "dirty job guys", Stow Walker and Dave Bennett are without a doubt "the best" and Ginny VonRueden and her "garden angels" keep the Memorial Garden and other areas of our property looking well cared for.

While Sally thanked the people who have come forward so far to lend their time and talents to the Capital Campaign she wanted to express that there are many areas that still need the talents people have to share in order to get this off the ground and have a chance to be successful. Here are some suggestions and if anyone has any inclination to lend his or her services please contact either Sally or Lindsay sooner than later. The Capital Campaign has a beginning and an end and its success depends on all of us to "give a little, give a lot". We want the Old North Church to be here 340 years from now so we need to take care of our historical property today!

The List: Executive Team (currently it is Stow, Betsey and Sally), Lead Gifts, Commitment Opportunity (getting packages of information out into the community), Communication, Administrative Support (working with the office on mailings etc), Group Meetings (hospitality, hosting small group of people offering information), Follow up and Recording team.

The Roster for the year 2022-2023 was presented. There was a motion to accept. It was seconded. It was voted to accept as presented. There are still some areas in need of people so if you are inclined please contact someone on the ministry you are interested in and remember “many hands make light work”. Thank you to Dave Hostetter for his years of Nominating Committee leadership.

Under other business, Lindsay spoke of an initiative that the ONC has committed to for the next five years regarding our youth. Young people attract young people and currently none of the town churches have enough youth for a movement. Clyde Elledge, the pastor of St. Andrews, has proposed the open and affirming churches in Marblehead join together have one large youth group with one adult leader (most likely a seminary student recently graduated). The funding for this would be outside the church budget and a generous person from ONC has come forward to say he/she would be willing to fund the ONC’s first year (\$20,000 each church) but of course would be happy to have others come aboard. The four churches are: ONC, St. Andrews, St. Michaels, and the Clifton Lutheran. This should be an interesting experiment and if successful will revitalize the youth group movement in Marblehead.

Maria vanKalken was back from her injury last fall and at the organ as of the Easter service. Such a welcome sight she is. She is excited for fall and, depending on the Covid situation, has many exciting program in the works. She especially wanted to thank Rick VonRueden for his medical expertise during Covid as well as his stepping up when we were lacking the services of a tenor soloist in the choir.

There being no further business a motion for adjournment was made, seconded and approved. Rev Don Remick led us in a closing prayer and we adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted, _____, Janet Doyle, Clerk