

The First Church of Christ “Old North” in Marblehead

Minutes of the Leadership Board – October 13, 2022

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 Betsey at 7pm. In attendance were Don, Lindsay, Betsey, Janet, James, Stephen, Roy, Gary, Flory (via ZOOM). Our treasurer, Blair, was absent as he is getting married on Saturday. Our best wishes to him! Linda D and Marcia H were guests. Lindsay led us in an opening prayer. The September minutes taken by Betsey were approved and will be sent to the office for the archives as well as for appearance in the bulletin.

Note: The next Leadership Board meeting will be on Thursday, November 10, 2022.

We are 75% through our fiscal year and continue to be adhering to our budget for the most part. Received payments versus pledges are running about 70%. Dave and Stow continue to be our “maintenance angels” with their many projects they have undertaken. Thank you to both of them.

The capital campaign that was originally slated for last spring has once again been postponed until next spring. We are hoping to schedule this during Lent and Easter months (February to May). We continue to pursue grant opportunities and will be reaching out to the greater Marblehead community around Christmas when appreciation of our music program is at its height.

Don reminded us that one of his jobs as interim minister is to guide us through our search for our next settled minister. We need to form a search committee with people the congregation trusts, who are grounded in God and have no agenda. Stephen reminded us that our new minister should be an anthropologist like person as we seek to approach the next period of our church’s life. Gary shared that part of the current anxiety comes from the interim minister having a specific departure date and that the new minister must be found using a certain time frame. Let’s enjoy this interim period and the questions that will arise during this time.

During this time of our stewardship campaign Don led us through some facts and figures that he found that can be thought about as we are planning our giving for the next year. The last couple of years most of the campaign activity has been generated through the office. This year Gary, James and Stephen have volunteered to be directly involved. A letter and pledge envelopes will be going out this week.

Under old business we desperately need a Personnel Manual. Flory has stepped up here as she has been involved off and on for several tries to get one. There is no time like the present and this time we should keep on it until it is completed.

Lindsay has just returned from a leadership initiative in Nashville for ministers under the age of 35. It is a 15 person cohort chosen to meet for several times a year for the next six years. Lindsay returned with much enthusiasm and hope for the future.

Lindsay reported that the town wide youth group ministry project has yet to gel but is meeting and discussing how to go forward.

The leadership board retreat that has been talked about for a while during covid needs to get traction and to that end Betsey suggested maybe getting together for a half day in January. We will do more with this at our December meeting.

Under new business the flower committee is making noise that they would like to start up again and the deacons are working on making the distribution of flowers a little more streamlined.

Sally will check in on snow removal both in the parking lot and the shoveling of the front of the church and back ways. Because of covid that hasn't been an issue for the last couple of years.

The festival chorus has around 65 voices practicing. There will be no bell ringing or children singing this year.

The trunk or treat in the parking lot has been cancelled this year.

Don gave a closing prayer and our meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Doyle, Clerk