

**First Parish in Hingham, Old Ship Church  
Unitarian Universalist  
Hingham, Massachusetts**



**Annual Report 2023**

# Old Ship Church 2023 Annual Report

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## **Warrant for the 2023 Annual Meeting**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Warrant: May 11, 2023

First Parish in Hingham Annual Meeting

Old Ship Meeting House and on Zoom

Sunday, May 21, 2023 @ 12:00 noon

To: Trish McAleer, Clerk of the First Parish in Hingham, Hingham, Massachusetts:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the members of the First Parish in Hingham, Massachusetts, qualified to vote on Parish affairs, to meet in the Old Ship Meeting House and on Zoom on Sunday, the 21th of May, 2023, at twelve o'clock noon, then and there to act on the below articles:

Article 1: To receive and accept the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting dated May 15, 2022 (See meeting minutes in appendix.)

Article 2: To receive and accept the minutes of the Special Parish Meetings dated August 14, 2022, August 24, 2022, September 11, 2022, November 17, 2022, December 4, 2022, February 12, 2023. (See Appendix A-G)

Article 3: To hear the report of the President of the Board of Trustees and act on anything related thereto.

Article 4: To hear the report of the Religious Education Committee.

Article 5: To hear the report of the Director of Music.

Article 6: To hear the report of the Nominating Committee and to choose all Board of Trustee Officers, Trustees-at-Large, Collector, Assistant Collector, Trustees of Invested Funds and Nominating Committee members (See the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates.)

Article 7: To hear the Parish Deacon's nomination of Rich Elliott as a new Deacon. Article 8: To hear the report of the Treasurer and act on anything related thereto.

Article 9: To hear the report of the Trustees of Invested Funds.

Article 10: To determine what sum of money shall be appropriated for the support of preaching and all other Parish expenses for the ensuing year, and what method the Parish will take to raise and collect money to be appropriated for Parish expenses and act on anything related thereto. (See Appendix H)

Article 11: Will the Parish vote to approve funds for the repairs for the entryway of the Meeting House and to authorize additional funds if required?

Article 12: Will the Parish authorize the Treasurer to borrow money, if necessary, in anticipation of receipts for the ensuing year?

Article 13: Will the Parish authorize the Board of Trustees to adjust the budget based on final pledge results and other relevant information at the end of fiscal year?

Article 14: To hear the report of other parish committees and councils and act on anything related thereto.

Given under our hands this 11th day of May, two thousand twenty-three /S/ President Maureen Butler, Treasurer Jack Gomez, Clerk Trish McAleer, President Emerita Janet Asnes, Trustees-at-large Roy Harris, Janice McPhillips, Karen Churchill, Dennis Hogan, Clayton Handleman.

## DEACONS 2023 - 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Deacons are responsible for filling the pulpit in the absence of the Minister. We also receive funds from the Deacons' portion of the annual endowment distribution for disbursement to First Parish friends, members or employees needing financial assistance; to the Parish for purposes considered necessary for the welfare of parishioners; or for discretionary use by the Minister.

During the past year the Deacons have met with the Interim Minister monthly and participated in various discussions and meetings regarding issues facing the congregation, notably the Parish House sale.

We said a formal goodbye to retiring deacon Jane Malme during the November 6, 2022 Sunday Service. She remains a Deacon Emerita.

We worked with the Board of Trustees to nominate a new deacon for confirmation at the May 2023 annual meeting.

### Finances

Balance at close of church year 2021 - 2022	\$7,304
Disbursements in 2022	-\$699
Annual Distribution (requested April 9, 2023)	\$3,393
Balance at Annual Meeting May 2023	<u>\$9,998</u>

Turner Bledsoe, Mike Dwyer, Fan Leonard, Eva Marx

## **Old Ship Nominating Committee**

### Report for the Annual Meeting

Date: April 14, 2023

Nominating  
Committee

Members: Ralph Brown, Eric Espinosa, Clayton Handleman, Laura Harbottle,  
Susannah Thomas

The Nominating Committee offers the following persons as candidates for election at the Annual Meeting:

#### Board of Trustees

*Officers – One year term, limited to three consecutive terms*

President	Trish McAleer	1st term
Vice President	Maureen Butler	2nd term
Treasurer	Jack Gomez	3rd term
Clerk	Janice McPhillips	1st term

*Trustees at Large – Three year terms, limited to two complete consecutive terms*

Karen Churchill	1st term, 2nd year	replacing Abby Diamond-Kissiday
Clayton Handleman	2nd term, 2nd year	replacing David Petrie
Roy Harris	1st term, 2nd year	incumbent
Dennis Hogan	1st term, 3rd year	replacing Diane Morrison
Heather Nolasco	2nd term, 3rd year	replacing Joan Wilson
Vacant	2nd term, 1st year	replacing Leo Carrillo

#### Trustees of Invested Funds

*Five-year terms, limited to one term*

Janet Asnes	2nd year	
Ralph Brown	1st year	replacing Janice McPhillips
Michael Dwyer	4th year	
David Murphy	1st year	replacing Dennis Hogan
Craig Russ	3rd year	

#### Other Elected positions

*One-year terms, limited to three consecutive terms*

#### Collector

Rich Elliott	2nd term
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#### Assistant Collector

Jeff Lee	2nd term
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Nominating Committee

Eric Espinosa                    2nd term

Laura Harbottle                3rd term

Susannah Thomas            1st term

Calvin Larson                 1st term

Vacant

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **Annual Report, 2023**

#### **Message from President of the Board of Trustees**

Church year 2022/2023 has been a pivotal one for our 388-year-old congregation. Together we experienced an unprecedented amount of change.

Our church year began in July 2022 in the immediate aftermath of the retirement of Reverend Ken Read-Brown following his 35-year tenure as minister. This is a unique, long term stay in one place as a minister. Prior to Ken's retirement, the board of trustees selected a search team to work with the UUA Transitions Office to post our congregational record (application) and to interview and hire an interim minister. Having considered a number of candidates, the team unanimously selected Reverend Erin Splaine. Reverend Erin joined us in August 2022 following 20+ years of successful settled ministries in several Massachusetts Unitarian Universalist Congregations.

We also began this church year with our Parish House property at 107 Main St. under a purchase and sale contract. This buyer, a Massachusetts developer, pulled out of the contract in September following several extensions to close date. The parish house was put back on the market per the previous October 2021 parish vote: to list the property for sale, for the upcoming year. During this period, we received interest from several parties for either the parish house or land together, or for a portion of the lot. In December, we held a special parish meeting to vote on three possible offers. The congregation voted to sell the entire parcel of land including the Parish House to a single-family buyer for \$2.35 Million. Following an early February close date, a use and occupancy agreement with this buyer permitted Old Ship to remain in place until the end of March, 2023.

Immediately following the sale of the Parish House and property, the Board authorized the creation of an interim operations team (IOT) headed by Carol Valentine. This team was charged with finding appropriate interim space for our administrative and gathering needs. After an assessment of our needs and a search of local rental inventory, the team and the board recommended a rental space in Hingham Square, which was walkable from the Meeting House. A Special Parish Meeting was convened in February where members voted to fund a one-year lease for this property. In mid-March we moved down the block to our interim space at 14 Main St. Several weeks in February & March were concentrated on intensive organizing, packing, and cleaning out the old Parish House.

Our incredible office administrator Lisa Beck oversaw getting us operational at 14 Main St. It cannot be overstated, the remarkable amount of effort, organization and creativity Carol Valentine and Lisa provided in this short period of time to pare us down, pack us up and move us out of the parish house and effectively into the new space. Mark & Crissi Curren, our sextons worked with such dedication, as always, above and beyond what is scheduled and expected to ensure that the move occurred successfully. Hours of extra labor, cleaning, anticipating our needs, and suggesting solutions filled their February and March. Christopher Nickelson-Mann, our Music Director, accomplished vast amounts of music review, sorting & filing, assessed the piano, and assisted us with important recommendations for the immediate new space and beyond. We are very grateful for all their amazing, and focused work, individually and with the teams of volunteers that were effectively gathered and scheduled throughout the process.

It is important to note that the Parish House sale process proved to be a particularly divisive issue among our congregation members, including members in lay leadership roles. The differing perspectives, and heightened emotions, resulted in heated discussions in both our Board of



Trustees meetings and Special Parish Meetings during the summer and fall. The Board of Trustees engaged the support and consultation of the UUA regional office, congregational life consultants, to assist with managing any disagreements and focusing on effective communication and best practices in governance during such a charged time period.

In November eighteen congregants submitted a petition to the Board of Trustees to stop action to sell the parish house. While the above referenced December vote settled the issue, since a majority of members supported the parish house sale, the distrust and harsh tones expressed throughout the entire process has suggested a need to focus on and develop improved, respectful communication and conflict resolution skills in our congregation. To this end the Board of Trustees has suggested the congregation focus the Spring of 2023, on our congregational wellness, and on rebuilding trust and improved communication. To heal divides and address the broader issues that existed within the congregation that the conflict around the sale brought to the surface, The Transitional Committee on Ministry has initiated a series of Listening Circles in which members speak openly of their feelings and thoughts about many issues, via structured questions and prompts. (There is a comprehensive report of the Listening Circles available on the Old Ship Church website)

In August 2022 the board submitted Restated Articles of Organization to the State of Massachusetts. This extensive process required a deep dive into our archives, consultations with our attorney and the majority approval of members at a Special Parish Meeting. The Restated Articles of Organization allowed our Parish to be officially recognized by the state of Massachusetts as a corporation. While the process was undertaken as part of the aforementioned parish house sale, this accurate and updated designation as a corporation insures Old Ship greater ease in future real estate and financial transactions.

Interim Ministry: Interim ministry is a collaboration between congregational leaders, staff, and the interim minister to help the congregation move forward toward a new future and a successful, settled minister search. As alluded to previously, in many ways our initial interim year was quite overshadowed by the real estate transaction, the articles of incorporation submission, the many related parish meetings and board & congregation members' attention.

We entered a contract with Reverend Erin Splaine in June 2022 to be our Interim Minister. Rev Erin Joined us in August, attended part of our retreat at Craigville Beach, attended the board retreat day(s) and joined us at a welcome picnic at Old Ship in September. The previous Committee on Ministry served as the Interim Team, The Transitional Committee on Ministry. Much of the tasks of a typical interim year were challenging to launch. The 5 Focal Points, or tasks, of interim ministry usually include: Heritage - Reviewing how the congregation has been shaped and formed, coming to terms with history, Mission- Defining and redefining sense of purpose and direction, Leadership- Reviewing member needs and the congregation's ways of organizing and developing leadership and governance, Connection - Discovering and nurturing the relationships a faith community builds outside of itself, including connections with the UUA, Future- Preparing for the next era of leadership and the next settled minister. Typically, an interim ministry is a relatively quick, intense process of 1 to 2 years, occurring between 2 settled ministers. We were alerted that following such a long ministry (35 years) the UUA often sees extended periods between ministers. Please see this committee's report for additional detail, as well as an Interim Ministers Report to be submitted in June.

In January Rev. Erin advised the Board that she had decided not renew her interim ministry contract for a second year. She has recommended that Old Ship Church search for a contract minister for next year, and consider during that year, with the UUA regional team support, what the next, best steps

related to our ministry will be (i.e., developmental minister, interim minister, settled search). The Board of Trustees agree with this recommendation, and at this writing a contract minister search team is in place.

This year we also launched a new stewardship campaign “Love in Action/Forward in Faith” Campaign. During the last few years, the Board of Trustees, primarily due to no, or limited volunteers, has operated the annual stewardship pledge drive. This is a problematic practice, for many reasons. This year, with a renewed sense of hope and relief in the settlement of the physical space issue, 4 volunteers from the congregation took on the task of running the annual stewardship drive with the ambitious goals of increasing both dollars raised and congregational participation. To date the drive has been marked by enthusiasm, warmth, and joy.

At this writing we anticipate that 7 members of Old Ship will be attending our Association’s General Assembly in Pittsburgh in June 2023. We have elected our 4 delegates. This is an exciting development for us, a very important part of the interim process, and a development that we hope with congregational support can transform into a trend.

The Board of Trustees saw much change during the year as well, as 4 members resigned between August and January. We are grateful to Diane Morrison, Abby Diamond-Kissiday, Joan Wilson and Diane Jordan for their work on the board, sharing their time and perspectives, and the consistent dedication to Old Ship. The Board appointed Janice McPhillips (January), Karen Churchill (April) and Dennis Hogan (April) to complete this year's terms for the trustees at large.

We have been through a challenging year together *and* we are confident we will transform what we have learned into positive action that will strengthen our Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Together, with our congregation, over the next year we look forward to: fostering greater awareness of our community’s strengths and our learning edges and opportunities, continuing to improve the spiritual wellness of our community, strengthening our governance practices, and overseeing the planning & building process for our new parish house.

Warmly,

Maureen Butler, President of the Board of Trustees

Jack Gomez (Treasurer), Trish McAleer (Clerk), Janet Asnes (President Emerita), Trustees-at-large; Roy Harris, Janice McPhillips, Karen Churchill, Dennis Hogan

# STAFF REPORTS

## **Report of the Music Director**

Christopher Nickelson-Mann

This church year has brought change, transitions, and growth. We welcomed Interim Minister Rev. Erin Splaine, sold the Parish House, and moved into a temporary location at 14 Main Street. Music at Old Ship continues to grow and thrive post-pandemic.

### **Choir**

The number of people involved with the choir has gradually improved since September. We are now averaging between 10 to 15 singers on a typical Sunday. Thursday rehearsals continued to be sparsely attended and the members were surveyed about potential changes in the rehearsal schedule. Of the more than a dozen responses, it was almost unanimous that we should no longer rehearse on Thursday evenings and instead begin rehearsals earlier on Sunday mornings. This change is working well and is better meeting the needs of the ensemble. The choir typically sings three Sundays a month in addition to special services like Christmas Eve, Easter/Passover, and Music Sunday. This year for Music Sunday the choir is preparing music that will be accompanied by string quartet.

### **Section Leaders / Vocal Soloists**

Our choir section leaders/vocal soloists have done a great job preparing and performing the wide range of music we sing for Sunday services. Not only do they support the choir in a musically sense, they also support members of their sections by taking the time to build rapport and make interpersonal connections. A familial and supportive environment is an important aspect of singing in a volunteer choir and I can't thank the section leaders enough for the gifts they bring to Old Ship, both musical and otherwise. I am thankful to work with such wonderful musical colleagues and I look forward to more music in the future.

### **Guest Musicians**

We have had several guest vocalists fill in on various Sundays in the absence of our regular section leaders/vocal soloists. This has been very helpful in providing consistency for our volunteer choir members, ensuring that all voice parts were covered on a given Sunday. A brass quintet was hired to play for the Christmas Eve service again this year, as per tradition. They played stand-alone pieces and joined in accompanying the choir and several carols. Additionally, Violinist Ken Mok joined us for the Christmas Eve service as well as the winter solstice poetry event hosted by Elizabeth Torrey. We plan to have other guests later this spring, including a string quartet.

### **Music Library / Office**

In preparation for the move from the Parish House to 14 Main St, I continued cleaning, organizing, and purging the music materials in the library and attic. Everything was edited down to a manageable size which allowed for an easier move. (Many thanks to Carol Valentine for her help with this process; she helped make this move as smooth and seamless as possible.) There are materials and documents that need to be digitized and moved to the cloud so that we can continue to downsize our physical storage needs. My hope is that much of this will happen this coming summer. Digitizing music will not only help ease the demand on space, but will allow for more streamlined cataloging, research, and access to the music we need for services. When the time comes to move out of 14 Main St and into a final location, my goal is to have the music library in a better state of affairs.

### **Resources**

- The Meeting House piano was serviced twice this year: September and April. The organ is scheduled for regular maintenance later this spring.
- The 1922 Mason & Hamlin grand piano in the Parish House Fellowship Hall has been sent out to be refurbished by Louis Gentile. Several congregants have generously contributed to fund this project.

### **Thanks**

*Thank you to those who sang in the Christmas Eve choir:*

*Soprano*

Heather Nolasco

Louise Smith  
Janine Thurston  
Emma Ujifusa  
*Alto*  
Deb Bayer  
Susan Carrillo  
Jacqueline Carvey  
Ellie Handleman  
Lee Rumsey  
*Tenor*  
Michael Jordan  
Christopher Maher\*  
Steve Nickelson-Mann  
*Bass*  
Clayton Handleman  
Rich Jensen  
Stuart Patterson  
Chris Sullivan

*Thank you to our vocal soloists:*

Heather Nolasco, soprano  
Jacqueline Carvey, alto  
Christopher Maher, tenor  
Richard Jensen, bass

*Thank you to our guest musicians:*

John Mahoney, trumpet  
Liz Jewell, trumpet  
Cassandra McDonald, trumpet  
Fred Aldrich, horn  
Walt Bostian, trombone  
Austin Comerford, tuba  
Ken Mok, violin  
Emma Ujifusa, alto/soprano  
Katherine Beckvold, soprano  
Allison Silletti, alto  
Bryan Pollock, alto/tenor/bass  
String Quartet (TBD at time of writing)

*Thank you to the Worship and Music Committee:*

Karen Churchill, chair  
Pat Bianco, member  
Catherine Mayes, member  
Christopher Sullivan, member  
Bonnie Baynes, member

## **Report Director of Religious Education**

A Report of the Director of Religious Education is not available at the time of printing. The Director's position is open.

# NOURISHING THE SPIRIT MINISTRY



## **2023 Annual Report**

In last year's report, I wrote the Committee was eager to resume live concerts in the Meetinghouse, but was mindful of possible continued impacts of the pandemic. The time for live music performance has clearly returned, and with case numbers down and grant funding available, we have been working with Music Director Christopher Nicholson-Mann to book one to two concerts before the end of the year.

Over the longer term, we need and will seek out new members to carry the concerts forward. We may also explore a remote viewing option, as is done now with services, which could lead to a replayable archive of concerts. Time will tell what the future holds!

I wish to acknowledge the work of long-term volunteers Ralph Brown and Laura Harbottle, and all who have helped in whatever capacity over the years. And thanks as always to the Old Ship Board and community for their support and patience as we, too, start anew.

Respectfully,  
Christopher Sullivan, Chair



**Coffeehouse Off the Square Annual Report**  
**Submitted by Davalene Cooper, Treasurer**

The Coffeehouse Off the Square has been suspended since the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic. Coffeehouse volunteers continue to discuss when, and if, the Coffeehouse will return as COVID 19 protocols expire. However, with the sale of the Old Ship Parish House, there is not a venue for the traditional Coffeehouse to take place. Again, volunteers have discussed other possible locations, having fewer concerts, or whether the Meeting House might be used as the venue. We will continue these discussions over the next year. In the meantime, we will continue to pay our annual dues to the Boston Area Coffeehouse Association (BACHA)

Although the Coffeehouse Off the Square was unable to take place given COVID 19 protocols, we did host a special memorial coffeehouse in honor of long-time volunteers Jim Watson, Sherman Whipple, Carol Schuler, Jim Richmond, and Joan Cellini. Jim Watson coordinated the coffeehouse with enthusiasm for many years, Sherman designed posters, helped get the word out to the community, and often performed during the open mic time. Carol baked and then served refreshments during intermission, Joan greeted coffeehouse fans at the door and handled ticket sales. Jim Richmond helped with the coffeehouse set-up. We are grateful for the many contributions of these volunteers.

We also were inspired and touched by the musicians who volunteered to perform to honor these volunteers. Southern Rail, one of the Coffeehouse's regular performers for almost 15 years headlined the show. Other performers included Bob Hawes & Jeff O'Neil, Marc Meyer, Duncan McLore, and Eric Cornetta, as well as Marty Blumberg, Bob Uvello, and Dave Jackson. It was a festive evening full of good music and many remembrances of these fine people. We raised \$1011, which was donated to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee in memory of these volunteers.

Additional thanks to Marc Meyer and John Leonard for organizing this wonderful tribute!

## **SUNDAY FLOWERS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT: 2022-2023**

The Sunday Flowers Committee coordinates the flowers placed in the Meetinghouse for Sunday services and for the Thanksgiving Eve and Christmas Eve services. The Sunday flowers are usually donated by Old Ship members or friends in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. The Order of Service carries an announcement of the name of the donor and the name of the person honored or the occasion commemorated.

The Committee Chair keeps a schedule of all the Sundays of the church year, with donors offered the same date from year to year (for example, the third Sunday in March), and notes are kept of the flower types, colors, and design styles preferred by each donor. This schedule also includes the name of the Committee member who will arrange each Sunday's flowers.

Donors may use the services of a commercial florist, create their own flower arrangements, or have the Sunday Flowers Committee provide the arrangement for them. There is a charge of \$50 for arrangements done by the Committee which covers the cost of flowers and supplies.

Although the Committee has no operating budget and is supported entirely by the donors, it does have its own bank account and its own treasurer. Receipts for purchased flowers and supplies are submitted to the Sunday Flowers Committee Treasurer for reimbursement. The Treasurer also keeps track of payments by donors for their floral arrangements. The balance as of April 5, 2022 was \$1,314.58. When purchasing flowers, we try not to spend the entire \$50 received from donors, with the leftover money used to buy flowers on the Sundays when there is no donor and to maintain our supplies (OASIS, preservative, and containers).

People who wish to donate flowers may check with the Committee Chair for open dates. Notices of available dates can also be found in the newsletter and in Constant Contact.

Additional floral arrangers are always welcome.

The members of the Sunday Flowers Committee are:

- Pat Bianco
- Sharon Prehn
- Abby Diamond-Kissiday, Treasurer

Submitted by Sharon Prehn, Chair

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT April 2023**

2022–2023 marks another successful year for the combined Worship and Music Committee (WAM) at Old Ship Church. The purpose of this committee is to encourage and assist the congregation in the creation of meaningful services, events, and worship traditions that encourage life-changing challenges, comfort and education.

This past year the Worship and Music Committee worked with the Minister and Director of Music at Old Ship during our monthly meetings. WAM assists in planning all regular and special worship services of the congregation. It also provides the recruitment and training of members of the congregation to serve as worship leaders including worship hosts, chalice lighters, readers, and ushers.

In June we said goodbye to our beloved minister of 35 years. His retirement party was a mix of joy and sadness. It was sad to see him retire but being together as a community to celebrate his accomplishments was wonderful. There were so many shared memories and such a fantastic feeling of the history we all had together. We look forward to continuing to enrich our mission together as we move forward.

Our new interim minister began service in July and started us off with our first worship service in September. She reminded the Worship and Music committee that it is our duty to assist the Minister and Music Director in providing a meaningful worship experience for the congregation involving as many members of the congregation as possible according to their gifts. This year we have seen so many more community members take part in our Sunday worship services which is uplifting. Church members have also shared personal stories in a “This I Believe” segment of the service. It has been heartwarming to see so many familiar faces sharing in worship together.

Our new minister also brought changes to our traditional service format. This provided the opportunity for WAM to discuss with many more community members the elements of the church service that were really important to them. We are looking forward to these conversations continuing into the future.

As the COVID-19 pandemic slowly abated, masks were required then simply encouraged for non-immunized and compromised church attendees. Masks are provided at the entrances to the church and an announcement in Constant Contact helps to remind people of best practices. The choir held on to wearing masks as a requirement until an agreement could be reached between the choir members. A policy was put in place that any choir member attending services will test for COVID-19 the morning before the service. If they test negative, they may sing with or without a mask depending on their comfort level.

It is a joy to hear the beautiful voices of the choir, especially as the members are coming back in full force. We are so fortunate to have an incredibly talented Music Director as well as gifted soloists and adept members. The incredible variation of music, paired with these accomplished people, create a truly memorable church service.

We were also able to offer our traditional Vesper and Poetry services in person and on zoom. The music for these events was mainly provided by church members themselves who, upon suggestion of our new minister, were compensated for their time and talent. We were finally able to tap in to a fund that is sponsored by a church member's family to help enhance our music budget each year. Due to the pandemic and a hold on in-person events, the fund has not been used for a few years. This year

we were able to draw money from the fund to pay for extra musicians. Our regular music budget covers the brass quartet for the Christmas Eve service. It was wonderful to be able to offer an in-person and zoom service for Christmas Eve this year. The pews were overflowing with what was, once again, a spectacular event of stories and music.

One very talented member of the church has provided tech support throughout the year which has allowed us to offer a hybrid service. Being able to zoom the Sunday service each week is so important for any member of the community who is unable to attend in person. Some community members are confined home due to illness or have just simply moved out of the area. It is a joy to see their faces on zoom and know that they are able to join us, albeit remotely, from the meetinghouse.

WAM hosted Summer Services this year including recruiting speakers. All Summer Services were offered through the Zoom format only due to the imminent sale of the Parish House and our possible loss of meeting space. The services were well attended and many congregants accepted the challenge to try their hand at speaking on a virtual format. Summer Services lend an important, yet informal way, of keeping our Community connected during the summer months. Since the services are lay run, we have the opportunity to continue seeing the gifts and talents our Community has to offer.

WAM procured and scheduled all of the Chalice Lighters and Readers for this church year. We also acquired the additional tasks of procuring the Greeter as well as the ushers for each Sunday service. WAM was unable to host the annual Strawberry Sunday event due to Covid-19 health restrictions. It is planned for June of 2023 in our new meeting area at 14 Main Street. It will be great fun to once again host this event in the summer sunshine.

WAM continues to absorb the Labyrinth Committee as a sub-committee. There were many Labyrinth events hosted this year much to the elation of the Community. When the Labyrinth is lit with candles and music fills the air, a slow deliberate walk with Community members and public alike is not soon forgotten. There becomes an air of sacred space. The sale of the Parish House also meant the loss of the Labyrinth, so this year we celebrated our last Labyrinth walking event together.

The Worship and Music Committee is truly the heart of Old Ship Church. Our purpose is to help provide a meaningful, moving, and spiritual experience with our church services so that re-kindled light in each heart can be carried throughout each members' life. Sunday service, as well as additional service events, provide a starting place for our community to gather, share, and find comfort so that each member may share their light wherever they go, in or out of, Old Ship Church. We look forward to our next year of wonderful and beautiful experiences.

Karen Churchill, Chair of Worship and Music Committee

# EDUCATING HEARTS AND MINDS MINISTRY

## Life Learning Programs

The statement of purpose for adult programs at Old Ship, formulated by the Life Learning Committee many years ago, is: *In harmony with Unitarian Universalist principles and sources of inspiration, learning opportunities at Old Ship serve our community by encouraging spiritual growth and the free and responsible search for truth and meaning.*

In addition to seeking to fulfill this mission, along the way we hope to foster new friendships, good conversations, and stronger bonds of community.

Our committee meets from time to time to reflect on current programs, to generate ideas for new programs, and to organize the schedule of classes, groups, and workshops. The work of leading the variety of programs is carried out by many Old Ship folks.

Continuing ongoing groups and activities this year – sometimes Zoom and sometimes hybrid — have included:

Monthly Tuesday Ceilidh (song circle), monthly Sunday Men’s Breakfast, monthly Sunday Women’s Breakfast.

Fiber Funship continues to be a weekly Wednesday afternoon gathering.

“The Way of the Bodhisattva” a Buddhist study group, led by Catherine Mayes and Lisa Sawyer, met on Zoom every Sunday morning year round with a group of 18-24. After 20 minutes of sitting meditation, we discuss a reading. Last year we finished reading *No Death, No Fear* by Thich Nhat Hanh. Currently we are reading *Zen Mind, Beginner’s Mind* by Shunryu Suzuki.

“The Sacred Texts Study Group”, led by Rich Elliott, continued to meet twice monthly on Thursday afternoons, via Zoom, this year focusing on the *Tao Te Ching* by Lao Tzu; this group has an attendance of about a dozen.

The Autumnal Equinox Poetry Circle, Winter Solstice Poetry and Song Evening (from the Meeting House), and the Spring Equinox Poetry Circle were held and hosted by Elizabeth Torrey, in person and on Zoom.

The monthly anti-racism book group on Sunday evenings via Zoom has continued, with different folks leading monthly discussions about racism and white supremacy.

Classes this year included:

“Gender and the Importance of Allies” – three sessions in the fall led by Abby Diamond-Kissiday and Mary Diamond-Kissiday. There were about 8 attending. Discussions were centered around three parts of gender (identity, expression and role), importance of pronouns, being an active ally and what improvements, we can make at church. In addition, Mary and Deb Bayer presented a shorter version at Linden Ponds.

“On The Path” — a new offering of four sessions led by Susan Trausch and John Stobierski. This January class enabled participants to explore religious traditions: those that shaped them as children, and those guiding their lives now. Twenty-two participants attended, via Zoom. Readings from Richard Rohr’s *Falling Upward* sparked conversations.

“Living With Dying” — six sessions on Zoom — was led by Rich Elliott and Claire Petrie. This class offered a process of personal reflection, learning, and spiritual growth focused on topics relating to death and dying. The class drew 15 participants, who learned to experience death and dying as a natural part of life.

“Spring Poetry”, led by Elizabeth Torrey, viewed one DVD at 14 Main.

The first was “Grow Old Along With Me: the Poetry of Aging”, a one-hour documentary co-hosted by Richard Kiley and Julie Harris, about seeing aging as a creative process. Other speakers were opera singer Shirley Verrett and Buddhist monk Pema Chodron.

The second was “Living By Heart: a Unitarian Universalist Guide to Devotional Practice”, with Harry Scholefield and Laurel Hallman.

“Engage And Create” was a new program led by David Nelson designed to bring people who create together to engage. Creativity is about relationships, with objects and with people. Sessions included conversations, and showing and making artworks.

Ralph Brown once again created a beautiful and colorful flier for our programs.

Finally, many thanks to all participants and leaders of adult programs. We always welcome your suggestions for future classes, workshops, and groups. Please share your ideas with one of us soon as we plan for next year.

*Ralph Brown, Rich Elliott, Judi Flaherty, Claire Petrie, and Elizabeth Torrey.*

## **Children and Youth Religious Education Report**

Annual Report, May 2023

Submitted by:

Maureen Butler

RE Team: Janet Asnes, Susan Carrillo, Morgan Morales, Diane Elliott, Heather Nolasco

General:

This year was our first year following 2 years of Interim Religious Education support at Old Ship (DRE retirement June 2020).

We posted a ½ time DRE (Director of Religious Education) position last summer for our Religious Education program and have not yet hired a staff member for this post. There have been limited applicants and as a congregation we need to further discuss and determine the focus of a DRE hire. We can't simply hire a person who can "operate a running program" as there has been at Old Ship, as with many churches emerging from the pandemic years, a big shift towards fewer children attending church and registering for our religious education opportunities. We may consider a deliberate partnership between a strong, development-oriented DRE and our next minister(s). This is a broad congregational and leadership conversation and decision, with values and mission as well as investment implications.

As noted in other parts of this report, this year was noteworthy as our initial year of interim ministry and the year that the complex, multi-year, process of selling our parish house finally resulted in a sale. We sold the property in February and in March moved to new interim offices and meeting/classroom spaces. Our RE team spent many an evening this year sorting through RE Curriculum, so many books, furniture, and supplies of every sort and type. Thank you to the IOT committee and volunteers who helped with this process. Fortunately, we were able to donate many items to other important organizations.

Generally speaking, our religious education committee has been supportive of a parish house sale and moving into new space, coming to an actual decision, and a plan, and proceeding with an eye towards the future, vs. the past.

Program this year:

This year we offered a yearlong OWL (Our Whole Lives) Program to 8th & 9th graders. We invited other churches to send their youth to our program with 2 of our trained volunteer teachers. Ten youths are participating in the yearlong class. There are participants from Old Ship Church as well as the Unitarian Universalist churches in Cohasset and Norwell.

We will offer The COA (Coming of Age ) program next year.

Youth group: our Sunday AM youth group has been attended this year usually by 2 youth members. They have participated in a few of the worship services as chalice lighters and readers. On the 4th Sunday of each month, we make 80 bagged lunches, sandwiches for Father Bill's & Mainspring programs. The youth are always doing this activity, elementary school children when in attendance join in as well as adults during fellowship hour, when there is still work to be done to wrap up the project.

There was a start at creating a regional UU Youth Group in the first half of the year but it did not take off yet. We will check in with the regional DRE/ Youth Advisor contacts and see what might be possible for next year.



Nursery: last year we staffed the nursery consistently, with no interest by visiting or attending families. This year we set up 2 pews with family friendly supplies, rocking chairs, rugs, stuffed animals, etc. to welcome families with very young children.

Elementary school aged children: we were set up to welcome this age group this year with activities related to Unitarian Universalist identity & values, outdoor exploration, arts and crafts and other projects, and a modified storybook curriculum. Participation was sporadic, up to 3 kids a couple of times, but usually 1 child, intermittently. After January there were no attendees from that age group.

Special Events: The RE committee team hosted a gingerbread house making and chili dinner in December, an Easter Egg Hunt, and will coordinate & host a Pride Day after church on June 11th. A few of our families, and youth, attended the multi- age Craigville Retreat in August 2022.

# NURTURING COMMUNITY MINISTRY

**NURTURING COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23**

The Nurturing Community **Committee was not active this year.**

## **PASTORAL CARE LEADERSHIP TEAM**

### PASTORAL CARE LEADERSHIP TEAM

The purpose of the Pastoral Care Leadership Team is to share in the pastoral care of Old Ship members and friends.

Our Team meets monthly to review some of the pressing pastoral needs in the congregation and to arrange for care as necessary. Care might include providing meals during an illness or helping to arrange transportation to an appointment.

For the twentieth year the Pastoral Care Team led a Service of Remembrance in the fall on a Sunday close to All Saints and All Souls Days.

On Valentine's Day we hosted an open house in the parlor where we served seasonal refreshments and shared in conversation.

And as always, we sent cards and made calls to parishioners in need of support for one reason or another.

Members of the Pastoral Care Leadership lead the Joys and Concerns candles during the Sunday service and make certain Erin is aware of any concerns that need a follow-up response from the minister.

We always welcome ideas and support from the congregation, and of course we hope that everyone in the congregation feels that they are informal but important members of the Pastoral Care Team.

Joan Wilson  
Louise Smith  
Claire Petrie  
Fan Leonard  
Elaine Gomez  
Patience Gardner  
Elizabeth Flint  
Ralph Brown  
Erin Splaine

# SERVING OTHERS MINISTRY

**Social Justice Council  
Annual Report  
2022-2023**

**Social Justice Council Members:** Brenda Black, Davalene Cooper (Chair), Ellie Handleman, David Murphy, Kate Philbin, Jean Railton, Lisa Sawyer, Patti Smith, and Trish McAleer (Board liaison).

The Social Justice Council (SJC) works to facilitate and support social justice activities and projects at Old Ship Church. At our 2021 Annual Meeting, the congregation unanimously approved our recommendation that the major focus of our social justice work be on racism, dismantling white supremacy, and climate justice. We also welcome suggestions from the congregation for specific activities or projects to support. If you have an idea, contact us for assistance and support.

This past year we have done the following things consistent with the specific issues described above.

- Last fall, we participated in the UU the Vote campaign, a campaign which works to get out the vote in national and state elections. We held a forum after church on the UU the Vote program in September. We thank the 21 people in our Old Ship community who wrote 875 postcards to voters in Arizona, Florida, and Texas as part of the Reclaim the Vote initiative from UU the Vote. We also know other members of our community wrote postcards as part of other community efforts to get out the vote. Thanks also to those who have participated in phone and text banks. We plan to continue working with UU the Vote in future elections, and in the future, we plan to be involved in the primaries as well as the general election. Thanks to Ellie Handleman for leading this effort.
- We continued to sponsor an anti-racism/social justice book group that has met monthly during the 2022-2023 church year. This group has read a variety of books, both fiction and non-fiction, authored primarily by persons of color. This “drop in” group usually had 10 to 12 participants at each session. Our group includes people who have a connection to members of Old Ship, and as a result, we have participants from Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, and Missouri. This has made for richer discussions as the issues of social justice sometimes have different challenges in different parts of the country.
- We continue to support the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry (UUUM), as Old Ship is a supporting member congregation of this organization. We continue to consider how to be more directly involved with the UUUM, as it fits into our anti-racism work. As a supporting congregation, we are entitled to three delegates to the UUUM Annual Meeting and representing Old Ship as delegates are Davalene Cooper, Lisa Sawyer, and Dianne Walcott. We have continued to advertise their online Artist Catalog as a possible site for gifts during the holidays. We also advertise their Community Conversations programs in our newsletter and have received feedback that some Old Shippers have attended these programs, which feature the intersection of race, poverty, education, and other social justice issues. Our January special plate supported the UUUM’s domestic shelter, Renewal House. Vinnie Myles, UUUM’s Director of Development, spoke briefly before this special plate offering, and then stayed for an informal conversation during coffee hour. About 20 congregants dropped by for this conversation.
- We continue to explore how Old Ship can best acknowledge that our Meeting House is on land that was originally the home of the Massachusetts and other First Nation Tribes and on how we might acknowledge our history of supporting white supremacy and slavery. We have been speaking with the Hingham Historical Society as to how we might work together on these issues.

- The congregation supported our recommendation at last year's Annual Meeting to become a member congregation of Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light. Our Earth Day celebration on April 23 will feature two short films made available to us through IPL, and the Executive Director of MassIPL, Rev. Cynthia Davidson, will preach the sermon during our service and participate in the program that follows the service.
- With the assistance of Ron Pollara, we continue to monitor and support the specific green building design requirements for a new Parish House. The overall goal is to consider the latest sustainable technologies, practices, and products that will make the new Old Ship Parish House Building "green and sustainable" and works toward a Net Zero Environmental Impact.

Finally, we want to thank everyone, including our SJC members and friends, for their support in our efforts to create a more just and peaceful world!

**In addition to the efforts discussed above, this year, the SJC has continued to lead Old Ship's efforts to:**

- **Provide meals for Father Bill's:** The six cooking teams staffed by Old Shippers and others from the area have continued to provide full dinner meals for those served at Father Bill's Shelter in Quincy. Each group makes dinner for the shelter four times during the year. Father Bill's has expressed deep appreciation for the consistency and commitment from the six teams during these challenging times. Thanks to Brenda Black for coordinating these teams. We also want to thank those who participate in this project, providing meals for the shelter four times per year. Here is the list of our six cooking teams. Thank you all!
  1. Charlotte Champagne (Team Leader), Mary Petrino, Bob Casey, Kathy Lynch, and Kevin Mulvey & Bruce Mauer
  2. Sharon Prehn (Team Leader), Nina Wellford, Erica Goode, Carolyn Locke, Judy Sneath, and Mary Markel & David Murphy
  3. Peggy Weymouth (Team Leader), Nancy Hill, Ronnie Scott, Julie Kembel, Avis Goldstein, Stephanie Connolly, and Kathi Lesko
  4. Dave Petrie (Team Leader), Frank Cheney, Mid Walsh, Brenda Black & Ron Pollara, Paul Stone, Stewart Lewack, and Libby Benson
  5. Janice McPhillips (Team Leader), Janet Blampied, Susan Read-Brown, Roseanne Bush, Diane Clarke, Caryn Schneider, and Gail Moran Slater
  6. Pia Young and Lisa Sawyer (Team Leaders), Allan Greenberg, Fan Leonard, Susannah Thomas, and Davalene Cooper
- **Lunches for the Anderson Veterans Home:** We at Old Ship are part of a community wide interfaith effort to provide six lunches twice a week (Tuesday and Friday) to the Anderson Veterans Home on Fort Hill Street in Hingham. Lunch consists of a deli-meat sandwich, chips, fresh fruit, cookie, and water or juice. Last August, Lisa Sawyer and Jean Railton provided the lunches for these dates. Thank you, Lisa and Jean.
 

This coming August, we would like to involve more Old Shippers in this project. If you would like to be a part of this effort, by agreeing to provide lunch for one or two days during the month of August, please contact [Davalene Cooper](#). You could do this individually, as a family, or as a group of friends. The lunches are left in a cooler outside the side door of the home.
- **Support the Hingham Food Pantry:** We have reminded the congregation of how to support the Hingham Food Pantry during COVID. We have resumed collections as part of our Sunday morning services and hope our collection will increase as more people return to the Meeting House. We also supported the Hingham Food Pantry through one of our

special plate collections. The Pantry's Executive Director, Susan Kiernan, attended the service and spoke briefly about the work of the food pantry. We hope we will be able to hold our annual Stop and Shop food pantry collection next year, something we have not done since the pandemic.

- **Maintain the Social Justice Action Alert Network:** We share information about actions members of the list may take to support issues affecting vulnerable populations. The list has about 65 members of the community. Davalene Cooper maintains the list and sends out the alerts. If you would like to join the list, contact Davalene at [davalenecooper@verizon.net](mailto:davalenecooper@verizon.net).
- **Support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC):** This year, as was true last year, our support was primarily through the annual Guest at Your Table fundraising program. The latest UUSC Annual Report includes the following awards for Old Ship for the last fiscal year: Creating Justice Banner Award (25-50% of the congregation are UUSC members) and a special recognition for our Guest at Your Table program. Our action alert network also sent out action alerts from UUSC.

The Coffeehouse Off the Square was unable to take place given COVID 19 protocols, although we did help to host a special memorial coffeehouse in honor of long time volunteers Jim Watson, Sherman Whipple, Carol Schuler, Jim Richmond, and Joan Cellini. Jim Watson coordinated the coffeehouse with enthusiasm for many years, Sherman designed posters, helped get the word out to the community, and often performed during the open mic time. Carol baked and then served refreshments during intermission, Joan greeted coffeehouse fans at the door and handled ticket sales. Jim Richmond helped with the coffeehouse set-up. Thanks also to our musicians who volunteered to perform as a way to honor these volunteers. Southern Rail, one of the Coffeehouse's regular performers for almost 15 years headlined the show. Other performers included Bob Hawes & Jeff O'Neil, Marc Meyer, Duncan McLore, and Eric Cornetta, as well as Marty Blumberg, Bob Uvello, and Dave Jackson. It was a festive evening full of good music and many remembrances of these fine people. We raised \$1011, which was donated to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee in memory of these volunteers. Additional thanks to Marc Meyer and John Leonard for organizing this wonderful tribute!

- **Support for the South Shore Friends of the Homeless:** This year, we were able to provide the space and the meal for a holiday dinner serving those living in shelters or temporary housing through the South Shore Friends of the Homeless (SSFH). Old Shippers prepared and served the food—an amazing feat given the lack of a working kitchen!

Thanks to Brenda Black for organizing the food! Thanks also to our many volunteers who helped prepare and serve the food and then to clean up the kitchen and Fellowship Hall, including Asher Baynes, Bonnie Baynes, Liz Bienfang, Davalene Cooper, Abby and Mary Diamond-Kissaday, Kate Doyle, Diane Jordan, Trish McAleer, Karen Plaskon, Ron Pollara, Jean Railton, Lisa Sawyer, Gail Moran Slater, Patti Smith, and Carol Valentine. Thanks also to everyone who donated to the November special plate that provided funds to purchase the food and supplies for the dinner. Finally, thanks to the Hingham Women's Club who provided crafts, decorations, table centerpieces, and boxes of cookies for the families to take home. And to Santa who brightened everyone's evening!

SSFH will be looking for a new site for the dinner given that we no longer have the space—at least at this time—to host, but we will have an opportunity to cook and serve the meal again, if we choose to do so. This is ultimately a project of the Old Ship Board of Trustees, but this year, the SJC agreed to organize the dinner given the sale of the Parish House, which was a major focus of the work of the Board.



We again participated in SSFH's holiday gift program. We adopted 9 families for the holidays, consisting of 7 fathers, 10 mothers/grandmothers, 5 teenagers, 18 children, and 2 infants. These families were either currently living in shelters or had just moved into more permanent housing. All together, we purchased about 126 presents for these families. It was an incredible success, and we were so excited to deliver these gifts to the SSFH. We plan to participate in this holiday gift program again next year. Thanks to all of you who participated in the program and made the holiday a lot brighter for those being served by the SSFH!

- **Old Ship Website:** Thanks to Dave Murphy, we have kept social justice information, including organizations and programs in need of financial donations and/or volunteers during the pandemic, updated on the Old Ship website.
- **Social Justice Special Plate Collections:** As was true last year, the congregation has been especially generous in supporting our special plates. We thank everyone for this incredible support in a time of increased need, and at a time when many in our congregation are dealing with increased costs due to inflation. Here is the list of recipients for this church year, with the amounts donated as available.

Month	Recipient	Amount Collected, if known at the time of this report
October 2022	UU the Vote	\$1725.45
November 2022	Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore Holiday Dinner	We collected a total of \$963.88, and after deducting the expenses for the holiday dinner, we sent a check for \$544.93 to the Friends.
December 2022	UUSC Guest at Your Table Program	\$7889.54
January 2023	UU Urban Ministry—Renewal House	\$1771.81.
February 2023	Hingham Food Pantry	\$1,757.77
March 2023	International Institute of New England for the Unaccompanied Minor Program	Not yet determined
April 2023	Mass Interfaith Power & Light	To be determined
May 2023	Holly Hill Farm's Farm Food to Food Pantry Program	To be determined

In addition, our Christmas Eve Offering of \$1602 was evenly split between UUSC, Father Bill's and Urban Ministry (\$534 each). We are deeply appreciative of these special plates and Christmas Eve donations that serve to lessen the suffering in our world. This is one of the ways we are making a difference in our world. Thank you!

## Welcoming Congregation Report for 2022-2023

Church year started out with our being recertified as a Welcoming Congregation church.

Class this year at church was “Gender and Importance of Allies”. A 3-week course discussing:

*Transgender, gender-fluid, non-binary, they/them are everywhere! It's in the news, legal battles, movies, neighbor's kids, everywhere. What is it really? Why is it important to you? We will explain the three parts that make up one's gender, what a good ally is — it's more than using your pronouns — and current anti-LGBTQ+ laws/bans.*

Our outreach class was at Linden Ponds, an hour-and-half synopsis of “Gender and Importance of Allies”.

Our monthly meetings changed from primarily committee work to open discussions about life events that affect far more than the LGBTQ+ community, as a way to involve more participation. On one very special night, those of us on Zoom call were able to support a Grandmother in VA that she was already being an ally for her trans grandchild. Also provided her with organizations in her area.

Members of WCC took part in the first ever honoring Transgender Day of Remembrance by reading all the names of trans people killed last year.

Currently we are in the initial discussions on Pride at church in June.

*Abby Diamond-Kissiday*  
*Welcoming Congregation Committee ChairPerson*

## **Task Force on Widening the Circle of Concern Annual Report 2022-2023**

This task force was created late in 2021 by the Old Ship Board of Trustees to review “Widening the Circle of Concern,” a report issued in June 2020 from the UUA Commission of Institutional Change. This Commission was charged “to conduct an audit of the power structures and analyze systemic racism and white supremacy within the Unitarian Universalist Association.” The report makes findings and recommendations regarding the problems of racism and white supremacy within Unitarian Universalism. The report itself is grounded in the premise that our faith is calling us “into living the fullness of the theology we inherit and proclaim.” The report is available on the UUA website at [The Commission on Institutional Change | UUA.org](https://www.uua.org/institutional-change).

At our 2021 annual meeting, the congregation unanimously affirmed that “the major focus of the social justice effort at Old Ship for the next three years will be centered around issues of racism, white supremacy, and climate change? This task force is a crucial step in dismantling white supremacy and any other obstacles that get in the way of welcoming everyone to Old Ship. Our work is to study the report, ask questions about our Old Ship community, and then make recommendations as to how we might create a more beloved community at Old Ship—a community grounded in our theology of love and acceptance.

As part of this work, we are called to imagine an Old Ship community where all who come here feel fully welcomed and free to join in all our activities and programs? How would we create this community? How would this atmosphere of radical welcome change us as a community? What hidden obstacles, or perhaps overt obstacles, get in the way of someone feeling truly welcomed here? These are some of our initial questions.

Our plan is to consider how we can best understand the culture of white supremacy and how we at Old Ship might be inadvertently supporting it. This past year, Rev. Erin Splaine and Davalene Cooper offered a sermon on the culture of white supremacy as an introduction to this work. Ralph Brown and Davalene Cooper intended to offer a class on the report this past March, but postponed it until the coming church year, as the Task Force did not want to take anything away from the ongoing work of the Listening Circles and the efforts to heal our community from recent decisions and events. Our intent is to re-engage in the difficult, compelling, and transforming work of dismantling white supremacy in the coming year.

The Task Force is open to any person in our community who would like to be like to be a part of this work. We welcome more members to this work. To join us, or if you have questions about this effort, contact Davalene Cooper, Chair of the Task Force, at [davalenecooper@verizon.net](mailto:davalenecooper@verizon.net) or 781-749-0790. Other Task Force Members are Ralph Brown, Ellie Handleman, Laura Harbottle, Fan Leonard, and Eva Marx.

# STEWARDING RESOURCES MINISTRY

**Old Ship Building and Grounds Committee**  
**Report FY2022-2023**

The Building and Grounds Committee has been primarily in "maintenance mode" during 2022-2023, keeping the Parish House in working order as it proceeded through the selling process. Fortunately, no major issues have occurred. Town inspections requirements and all other mechanical inspections and routine repairs have been completed on both buildings throughout the year. One major project was undertaken with the Meeting House: replacement of the wooden gutters, and many of the adjoining fascia and soffit boards around the building. We discovered a major vertical corner beam in the east entrance (near the handicap parking area) had markedly deteriorated, and were able to replace it before more serious damage occurred to the building.

The Meeting House continues to be in very good condition overall due to the major restoration projects from 2008-12, the addition of a privy in 2014 and the steeple repairs in 2018. Three major projects lie ahead:

First: The building was last painted eleven years ago and will need to be painted again within 2-3 years.

Second: The heating system is over thirty years old, inefficient, no longer dependable and needs to be replaced. The plan is to have one highly efficient, green system shared by the new Parish House and the Meeting House. The potential failure of our current system creates a financial risk to First Parish, and a structural risk to the Meeting House.

Third: While many have worked hard over the years trying to maintain the Meeting House grounds, much more is needed to bring the grounds to a level equal to one of the country's most iconic buildings. Achieving the significant National Historic Landscape designation is in reach. A Historic Landscape Report was recently completed by a renowned Landscape Historian documenting the property's fascinating history and structure, much of which remains today. A Landscape Design Plan needs to be created to reflect that history and provide a blue print going forward. This was the same approach we used for the Meeting House restoration with our Historic Structures Report of 2004. The Landscape Plan will effectively integrate our new Parish House with the Meeting House, Memorial Garden, and take into account the potential requirements of the Town of Hingham in terms of parking, handicap accessibility and conservation.

Finally, the Building and Grounds Committee wants to thank Crissy and Mark Curran for their decades of service excellence caring for our old Parish House and Old Ship. Our spiritual home and our community gathering place, simply wouldn't have been the same without their consistent dedication and commitment. Thank you.

And thanks to Rick Mattila who has stepped down after serving as Chairman of Building and Grounds over the past several years....thank you for a job very well done.

Tom Willson

Building and Grounds Committee Member

## Friends of Old Ship Meeting House

The Friends of Old Ship Meeting House is a non-sectarian, non-profit organization that was founded in 1973 for the purpose of raising funds to support the preservation of the Meeting House. Its Board is composed of members of First Parish and residents of the broader South Shore community who appreciate the Meeting House's immense historic significance.

The Friends Board receives requests for funding as needed, from the Board of Trustees of First Parish. In April 2023, the Friends contributed \$7,000 towards replacing gutters and repairing the East entrance. This leaves just over \$10,000 in the Friends' bank account - an amount we need to augment.

Goals and related accomplishments for this year included:

- Recruiting new members from the community to replace two who resigned in the Fall: We welcome Beverley Vernon, who recently retired from teaching 3rd grade in Hingham public schools. We also welcome suggestions for non-Old Shippers who appreciate history, are active in the community, enjoy putting on events, and have some marketing and fundraising experience.
- Sponsoring events that raise funds and awareness by bringing the community into the Meeting House: We are hosting Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky and jazz pianist Laurence Hobgood in a return performance of PoemJazz on April 30, with a reception following in Ames Chapel.
- Ramping up tours: We have expanded the number of trained tour guides (always looking for more!) and have rewritten the tour script to include history from pre-colonial times and information about slavery in the region. We also decided to add a \$10 per person fee for tours requested by organizations. This year we have received requests from several major groups of 20 to 60 people who are including Old Ship on their itinerary, often along with a visit to the Historical Society's properties. These groups of historians, educators and architects are prepared to support historic preservation with such a fee, which will help build the Friends' reserves. Families and individuals may still tour for free, but a donation is always gratefully accepted. Many thanks to parish administrator Lisa Beck for organizing the calendar of tours.
- Strengthening the relationship between Old Ship's Meeting House and the Schools, the Hingham Historical Society, and the Hingham Cemetery Association: New Trustee Bev Vernon created and received grant funding for a civics program where all third graders in Hingham public schools will reenact their own Town Meeting in the Meeting House. In conjunction with the League of Women Voters, they are learning about the process of generating a Warrant, advocating for issues they have chosen, and voting in Town Meeting. These meetings will take place over two days in June, and are open to their parents as well as Town officials - we expect over 250 people to attend each day. Plus, every 5th grade class will take part in a field trip to the Meeting House and the Historical Society properties, over 8 mornings in May and June. Our tour guides will give modified tours for these events.
- Building up the Friends marketing and tech infrastructure: We have updated the website ([www.oldshipfriends.org](http://www.oldshipfriends.org)) and are rebuilding our emailing list, so that we are ready to reach out to the community with news about the Meeting House and eventual requests for funding.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Friends of Old Ship Meeting House. In June we plan to hold a small gathering to recognize those who have been active over the years. We are looking forward to planning more activities to coincide with the state-wide celebration in 2026 of the 250th anniversary of the beginning of the American Revolution. Our Old Ship Meeting House is a unique National Historic Landmark, and the Friends are pleased to be able to help fund its preservation into the future.

Old Ship Members: Elaine Gomez, Eileen McIntyre, Ron Pollara, Nina Wellford (President), Tom Willson, Community Member: Beverley Vernon (Treasurer)

Nina

## Memorial Garden Committee

### Committee Members

Carol Valentine, Chair and Head Gardener  
Lorraine Varney Riggs, Secretary and Family Liaison  
Charlotte Champagne, Treasurer and Records Keeper  
Elaine Gomez  
Diane Willson, Historian  
Janice McPhillips, Board Liaison

The Memorial Garden serves as the repository for ashes (cremains), a space for quiet reflection and a place to memorialize family members interred in the garden or elsewhere. The garden is available only to Old Ship Church members, friends and their families. Maintenance of the Memorial Garden is financially supported with tax deductible contributions and memorial donations. Contributors may have their names engraved on the granite walkway for the cost of the engraving, which is done at one scheduled time each fall.

The account balance of the Memorial Garden fund was \$20,488.15 as of April 14, 2023. Engraving costs this year totaled \$3,626. There was no expenditure for the maintenance of the garden. A total of \$300 was donated in remembrance for maintenance of the garden by members and friends of Old Ship.

The committee's accomplishments this year include;

Counseled and provided information about the garden via phone and literature.

There were 4 internments.

Had engravings completed for 7 people, including payment towards their future dates of death. 2 dates of death were added to original engravings, and 4 cinquefoils.

Continued to update the master spreadsheet for all persons connected with the garden.

Unfortunately, there were few opportunities to physically gather to tend the gardens, benches and walkway during the 2022-2023 church year. Individuals tended the gardens as they were able. We hope to have more volunteers join us during the coming months to weed, water, augment the soil and add additional plantings.

We are grateful for the services sexton Mark Curran provides including preparing for internment of cremains, grass cutting and raking leaves around the Memorial Garden site. The fountain was maintained by John Leonard.

We would like to honor Martha "Marty" Saunders (April 7, 1930 – January 5, 1923), artist, gardener, historian, member and friend of Old Ship. Marty exemplified the mission of Linden Ponds where she most recently lived. It is, "to share our gifts to create a community that celebrates life." She shared her many gifts with Old Ship as well, including designing the garden and fountain in the Memorial Garden in 1994. Marty was certified in historical landscape and used only historically appropriate plants in the garden. She was a force of nature, and we will miss her guidance and many artistic talents.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Valentine



**Social Outreach Committee**

**The Social Outreach Committee was not active this year.**

**Treasurer's Report**  
**Jack Gomez**

April 12, 2023

**Summary Treasurer's Report**

**Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Results**

- Through March we have a \$31k ytd surplus
- Pledges are running behind budget (\$20k) and unrestricted donations are ahead of plan (\$15k).
- The Religious Education program is not incurring any expenses, providing a \$46k savings.
- We have about \$24k of unbudgeted legal expenses for the Incorporation issue.
- We are projected to realize a slight surplus for the fiscal year due to higher unrestricted donations, a strong Merri Market income and RE savings partially offset by lower pledge income and higher legal fees.

**Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Preliminary Budget**

- Salaries, with the exception of the minister, are increased 3% (\$3,200)
- Minister compensation and benefits are held flat.
- Endowment revenue will be down \$10k due to market declines.
- The Religious Education program is budgeted for a ½ time Director.
- The budget reflects enhancements to the music program which has been unaltered for many years. The primary changes are: a compensation increase for the professional quartet to better align with market practices, allowance for some additional guest vocalists, and an increase in Christopher's hours from 15 to 20 per week.
- \$20k savings from vacating 107 Main will be used to fund 14 Main Street rent.
- Budgeted pledges are a plug to balance the overall budget resulting in a very challenging budgeted pledge increase of 25%.
- The Meeting House is in need of \$200k - \$300k of critical projects plus about \$100k for an integration project plan, both of which are currently unfunded.
- The Board should be provided with the discretion to amend the budget as appropriate to reflect updated pledge results.

**Cash Balances & Designated Funds**

- OSC bank balances and designated fund balances are detailed in attached material. Designated funds are comingled with operating cash, but separately accounted for.

**Cash Surplus**

- The cash surplus currently stands at about \$219k which would include the traditional \$90k buffer. The surplus does not reflect any operating surplus or deficit from the current year.

**New Parish House Financials**

- Cash and financial records for the new Parish House development project are separated from the OSC operating cash & financials.
- The financial report for the new parish house is attached. March 31 cash is \$2.17 million which will be revised going forward by interest income, rent, shed purchase, moving costs, and Parish House development costs.







## Trustees of Invested Funds

### Overview of Accounts

The Old Ship invested funds consists of two segregated endowments

1. The General Endowment (“The Growth and Income Fund”) valued at \$1,365,570 as of 12/31/2022, is managed for both growth and income. There is a small portion of this fund which belongs to the Deacons (5.1%) and is managed as a convenience for this organization. Yearly distributions have been taken by the Parish to supplement the annual budget and are limited to 4% of Assets by Parish bylaw. The General Endowment had a return of negative (18%) in 2022.
2. Building and Social Outreach Income Fund (“The Income Fund”) valued at \$99,368 as of 12/31/2022 is designed to provide income to the Parish to be used specifically for social outreach programs (70% allocation) and building maintenance (30% allocation). This fund had historically been managed for income production though due to historically low interest rates this has changed somewhat in recent years and as of year-end had approximately 30% of its assets invested in equities. Distributions have been determined by the trustees to accommodate for this change. The Building and Social Outreach Income Fund had a return of negative (11%) in 2021.

Please see the table below for a performance and distribution summary.

### Update on Activities

The investment manager for both funds is F.L. Putnam and they continue to earn our confidence in their overall financial performance and service. Performance compares favorably to the UUA’s own Common Endowment Fund (UUCEF). Comparative historical performance is shown below.

After three years of solid investment returns, 2022 proved much more difficult with the onset of inflation, increasing interest rates, growing concerns of a recession, and the market turmoil created by the war in Ukraine alongside a general increase in geopolitical unease. Equities in the fund were down 24% (below the benchmark) and the fixed income portion was also down 8% (in line with benchmark). Below benchmark performance in equities was largely a result of not owning the traditional energy sector which was up 63% during the year. Positive and improving investment performance was achieved for the fourth quarter of the year, and this trend has continued and strengthened through the first quarter of 2023 (up 5% in the quarter).

A \$20,000 one-time special dividend was authorized at the February 12, 2023 Parish membership meeting to cover interim Parish House expenses. This will be paid in the second quarter and is not reflected in the performance summary shown below.

The funds are managed in a socially responsible manner. We avoid sectors related to adult media, military, gambling, and tobacco, fossil fuels, companies with poor human rights practices, poor environmental practices, and/or non-compliant animal testing. The entire investment strategy is also analyzed and scored for Environmental, Social, and Governance Factors (“ESG”).

### Composition of Trustees

The following are the 2022-2023 members of the Trustees of Invested Funds. Janice McPhillips (Chair), Dennis Hogan, Michael Dwyer, and Craig Russ. Dennis has reached his end of term, and Janice has been recruited to the Parish Board. New board members for the 2023/2024 period include Janet Asnes, Ralph Brown, and David Murphy.

**Trustees of Invested Funds  
Endowment Summary - 2022**

<b>Performance Summary</b>		<b>Disbursements Summary</b>		(to be paid in 2023)
Growth and Income Fund (12/31/2021)	\$ 1,631,057	Endowment value as of 12/31/2022	\$	1,365,570
Distributions and fees paid in 2022 (2)	\$ 74,263	Distribution percent		4.0%
Contributions in 2022	\$ 30,000			
GIF net of distributions/contributions (3)	\$ 1,586,794	Distribution Amount	\$	<b>54,623</b>
Growth and Income Fund (12/31/2022)	\$ 1,365,570	Operations	\$	51,837
Total return (int/div+change in market)\$ =	\$ (286,466)	Deacons (5.1%) (1)	\$	2,786
total return percent =	-17.6%			
Income Fund (12/31/2021)	\$ 114,465	Income Fund Annual Distribution (override)	\$	3,975
Distributions and fees paid in 2022 (4)	\$ 2,055	Social Outreach 70%	\$	2,782
Income Fund net of distributions	\$ 112,410	Building 30%	\$	<b>1,192</b>
Income Fund (12/31/2022)	\$ 99,368			
Total return (int/div+change in market)\$ =	\$ (13,042)			
total return percent =	-11.4%			

- (1). The share of the Deacon's portion of the General Endowment reduced from 5.2% to 5.1% as a result of a \$30K contribution to the Endowment made in Q2 2022.
- (2). Pro forma for 2021 distributions actually paid in February 2023. Also includes \$9k of FL Putnam management fees.
- (3). Pro forma for 2021 distributions paid in February 2023.
- (4). The 2021 social outreach distribution amount of \$3,205 was withheld at their request and will be paid along with the 2022 distribution above.

**December 31, 2022  
FL Putnam vs UUCEF  
(all numbers are net of fees)**

	1 Yr. Dec-22	3 Yr Annld	5 Yr Annld	10 Yr Annld	Inception Annld	Inception Date
FL Putnam	-17.9%	4.3%	6.0%	7.4%	5.7%	Mar-07
UUCEF	-16.0%	1.4%	3.3%	4.7%	5.5%	Jul-02
+/-	-1.9%	2.9%	2.7%	2.7%	0.2%	

## The Transitional Ministry Committee 2022 - 2023

The Transitional Ministry Committee is the former Committee on Ministry. Because we are now working with an Interim Minister the name and nature of the Committee on Ministry has changed until further notice. This year we were working with Rev. Erin Splaine. Our work focused on creating Listening Circles.

The circles were designed in hopes of bringing our friends and members together to talk with each other and to rebuild the relationships that suffered due to the many changes that arose for us to examine and accept. That being the change in ministers, the sale of the parish house and a new awareness that we were not prepared for the challenging year we have just experienced. We may also know that we are better off than we were at the beginning of the year and we will continue our work to support our beloved Old Ship Community.

Below is a report from our Fall Listening Circle Series. A second round of Listening Circles began in March and will continue through May. These have not been as well attending as the fall series.

Ninety people participate in the Fall and approximately 40 have participated this spring.

Below is a summary of the report that was written by a Deacon Eva Marx.

To see a more detailed version you can go to our Website: [HOPE AND HEALING February 2023: Highlights of First Round Old Ship Listening Circles](#)

For the past three months the Transitional Ministry Committee (TMC), in addressing its role to improve relations and strengthen the overall ministry of the Parish, has facilitated Listening Circles. The TMC, which was formerly the Committee on Ministry, meets monthly with our Interim Minister Erin Splaine to find ways to help our congregation make changes in preparation for a settled minister. One way for us to prepare is for us to develop a deeper understanding of who we are. To initiate this process, the TMC organized Listening Circles, which are based on Native American practices for dialog, problem solving, and conflict resolution—practices which have been adapted for use in many venues. We were asked three questions:

- What brought you here to Old Ship?
- What is working for you here?
- For what do you yearn?

Almost 90 people participated in the Listening Circles. They were invited to speak and listen deeply and compassionately without discussion. The voices from the circles offered sincere, intense, and wise beliefs about what we care for. As you will see below, the TMC has chosen to report direct quotes to share your thoughts in your own words. The TMC is grateful for your participation and hopes that what was heard will help to build a foundation for next steps toward building a stronger, more cohesive spiritual community.

### CONCLUSION

We have experienced an extraordinary number of disruptions. COVID interrupted our ability to gather in person, to carry out our committee functions, to be a community. Our longtime minister has retired. We have experienced years of controversy over the disposition of our parish house, which has now been resolved. As a result, we face challenges—rebuilding our governance, our committee structure, community; finding a new minister; adapting to our interim parish house and constructing a new one. All of this in the context of a world that is rife with economic and political uncertainties. We seek a community that offers a haven and a platform for action.

Our Listening Circles give us hope. A substantial proportion of our members and friends took the time



to meet and share what is important to them. We are concerned about the future of our congregation. We yearn for a return to normalcy and for the community connections we cherish. It won't be easy but the will is there.

Diane Elliott, Michael Jordan, Lorraine Varney-Riggs, Chris Sullivan, Janet Asnes, Paul Stone

## ***Our Ministries***

### **Old Ship Covenant, Mission, Vision**

Old Ship welcomes and affirms persons of diverse backgrounds and interests, regardless of race, class, ethnic background, sexual orientation, or political belief.

#### **Old Ship Covenant**

As a congregation committed to Unitarian Universalist principles, we join with one another in the spirit of respect, reverence, humility, and love:

- To seek truth freely,
- To nurture spiritual growth and ethical commitment,
- To care for one another,
- And, seeking justice, peace, and ecological sustainability, to serve life.

#### **Old Ship Mission**

We agree to nurture and challenge one another to become our best selves. Inspire one another to act courageously consistent with our UU principles. Welcome all seekers in the spirit of love. Work together for peace and justice, and to cherish the earth.

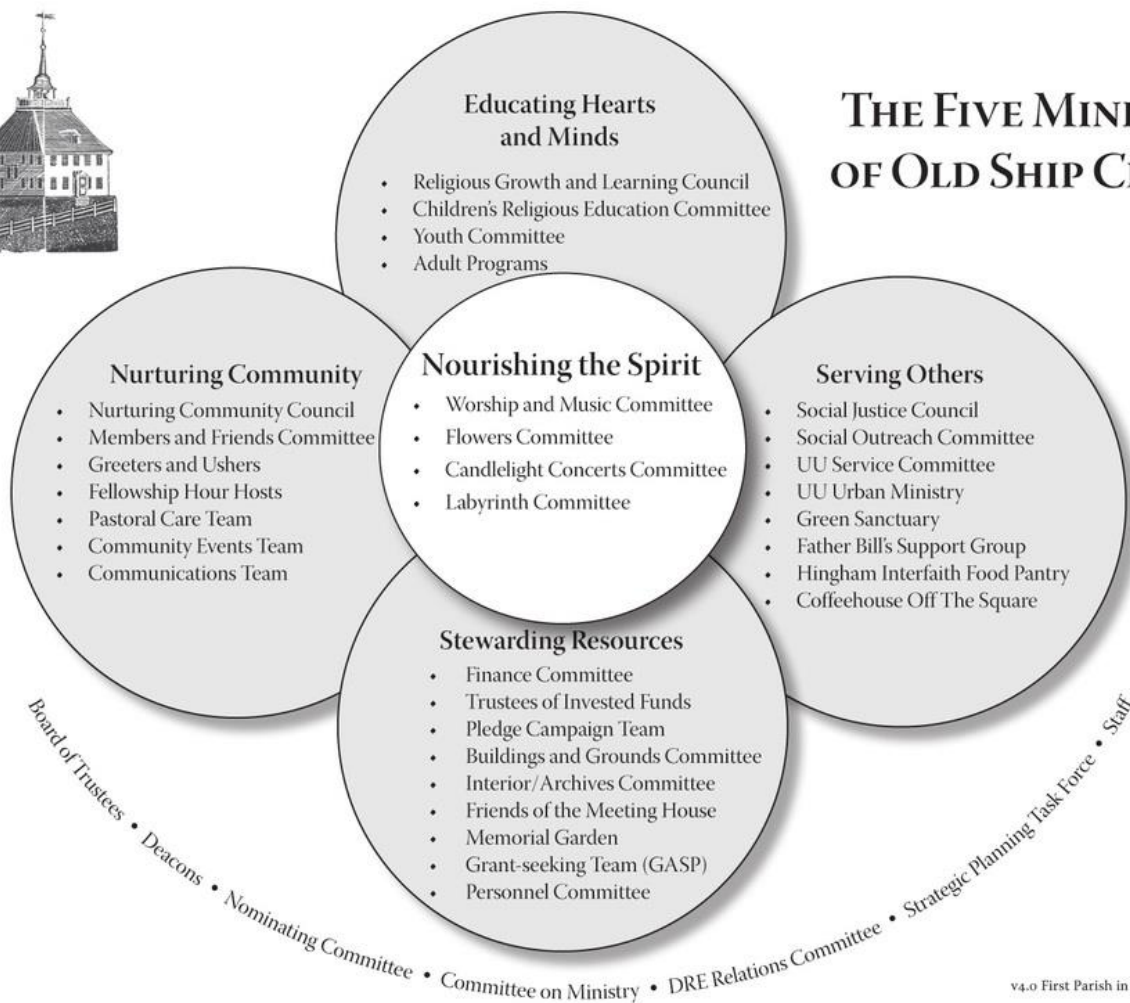
#### **Old Ship Vision**

We would be a vibrant, evolving, spiritual Unitarian Universalist congregation with a large, diverse, multigenerational community, where all are welcomed warmly; bursting at the seams with full participation; and an active ethical and spiritual force working together to make the larger community a better place to live.

**The Five Ministries of Old Ship Church**



**THE FIVE MINISTRIES  
OF OLD SHIP CHURCH**



v4.0 First Parish in Hingham, May 1, 2013

## APPENDICES

### Appendix A: Minutes of the Annual Meeting, May 15, 2022

First Parish in Hingham, Old Ship Church  
Annual Meeting  
May 15, 2022

In Attendance: Vice President Roy Harris, Treasurer Jack Gomez, Clerk Diane Jordan; Trustees Joan Wilson, Dana Kintigh, Maureen Butler; the Reverend Ken Read-Brown; Director of Music Christopher Nickelson-Mann; A quorum of church members.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the annual meeting was held as a multi-platform format with both in person participation and Zoom attendance.

Joan Wilson called the meeting to order at 12:04pm then offered words of welcome.

Ken Read-Brown lit the chalice then offered his words of welcome and proceeding in unity.

**Article 1: The minutes of the Annual Meeting May 16, 2021, were approved.**

**Article 2: The minutes of the Special Parish Meeting held November 3, 2021, were approved.**

**Article 3: The minutes of the Special Parish Meeting held May 1,, 2021, were approved.**

**Article 4:** Will the Congregation approve the recommendation of the Social Justice Council to become a Member Congregation of Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light?

It was moved, seconded, and voted that we accept Article 4 as written.

**Article 5:** Will the Congregation receive and accept changes to the bylaws as written in bold and underlined below:

**Article III Membership: Section 2. Voting Membership.** Each member who, either individually or as part of a pledging unit, has made a recorded financial contribution toward the general support of the Parish within ~~twelve (12) months~~ **eighteen (18) months** immediately preceding the date on which notices of any Parish meeting shall be posted shall be entitled to vote at such meeting. The decision of the presiding officer shall be final in event of a dispute as to the qualification of any member to vote at a particular meeting. Nothing in this section should be seen as limiting the individual financial participation of any member of the Parish, including youth members.

#### **Article IV Meetings:**

Section 1 Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the Parish shall be held on the third Sunday of May each year, **unless another date is authorized by the Board of Trustees because of extraordinary circumstances. Ordinarily, the annual meeting shall be in person. The Board of Trustees is authorized to call for an electronic meeting when appropriate to do so. In considering whether to conduct a meeting in person or electronically, factors to be considered include the best way to complete the business of the Parish, the safety of the**

**gathering, and the financial cost of the meeting. A blend of an in person and an electronic meeting is permissible.**

Section 2. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Parish may be called by the Board of Trustees. The Board also shall call a special meeting after receiving a request signed by fifteen (15) voting members of the Parish specifying the purpose for the meeting. **Ordinarily, special meetings shall be in person. The Board of Trustees is authorized to call for an electronic meeting when appropriate to do so. In considering whether to conduct a meeting in person or electronically, factors to be considered include the best way to complete the business of the Parish, the safety of the gathering, and the financial cost of the meeting. A blend of an in person and an electronic meeting is permissible.**

**Section 3. Electronic Meetings. Electronic meetings must provide for simultaneous oral communication among all participants in order to allow for discussion of the issues being considered. Collaborative technologies such as Zoom or Skype meet this requirement. The Board of Trustees may use other appropriate technology as long as it allows for members of the Parish to access the technology and participate in the meeting. Meetings held electronically shall abide by the same policies and procedures as in person meetings. This provision permits committee meetings to be held electronically as long as the above requirements are met.**

~~Section 3.~~ **Section 4. Quorum.** At any meeting of the Parish a quorum shall consist of twenty percent (20%) of voting members.

~~Section 4.~~ **Section 5. Warrant.** Each meeting of the Parish shall be called by a Warrant, signed by a majority of the Board of Trustees, which shall specify the matters to be brought before the meeting. Any member of the Parish may submit an article or articles for insertion in the Warrant for the annual meeting, provided, however, that each such article be delivered to a member of the Board of Trustees not later than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of such meeting.

~~Section 5.~~ **Section 6. Notices.** Notice of each meeting of the Parish shall be given to the Clerk, or to any member of the Board of Trustees. The Clerk shall post the warrant for such meeting in the vestibule of the Meeting House, in the foyer of the Parish House, and on the Old Ship internet website and mail and/or e-mail a copy to each voting member of the Parish at least ten (10) days before such meeting.

~~Section 6.~~ **Section 7. Voting.** ~~(Section revised per Parish approval on March 6, 2016)~~

Each voting member of the Parish shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted for a vote at annual or special meetings of the Parish. No member can vote who is not present at the annual or special meeting at which the matter is discussed and completely submitted for a vote. The Board of Trustees may, at their discretion, establish electronic access to the meeting. Members present using such electronic media may be considered present for the vote.

Votes may be taken by paper ballot at the discretion of the Board of Trustees. **(Section revised per Parish approval on March 6, 2016)**

## **ARTICLE XII** Reports

The President, Treasurer, Clerk, Collector, the Chairperson of each Committee, elected and appointed, the Director of Religious Education and the Minister shall make a written report on ~~his or her~~ **their respective** activities and recommendations to the Parish at its Annual Meeting and at any special meeting the warrant for which contemplates such a report. Each such report shall be filed by the Clerk with the records of such meeting and shall be available for inspection by any member of the Parish. Such reports may be distributed electronically by e-mail, placed on the internet website, and a paper copy shall be placed in the archives of the Parish.

## **ARTICLE XVII** Indemnification

The Parish shall indemnify any person who is, or was, an employee, agent, representative, member of the Board of Trustees, or volunteer of the Parish against any liability asserted against such person and incurred in the course and scope of ~~his or her~~ **such person's** duties or functions within the Parish to the maximum extent allowable by law, provided the person acted in good faith and did not engage in an act or omission that is intentional, willfully or wantonly negligent, or done with conscious indifference or reckless disregard for the safety of others. The provisions of this article shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which such person may be entitled under any bylaw, agreement, insurance policy, or otherwise.

A small discussion ensued, and it was moved, seconded, and voted that we accept Article 5 as written.

**Article 6:** Will the Parish vote to formally dissolve the Social Outreach standing committee? Article V, Section 4 includes Social Outreach as a standing committee. The function of that committee, which distributes Saniter Trust grants for social justice efforts, has been incorporated into the curriculum for the Coming of Age program. These funds will be distributed every two years when the Coming of Age program occurs.

In 2017 the Board approved the transfer of the grant-making function to the Coming of Age program, to be used in conjunction with their community service work. The benefits of this new process are as follows:

Creating a more efficient process for disbursement of Saniter Trust funds, while still keeping with the original intention of the Trust

Providing greater impact for the Coming of Age Community Service project

Doubling the amount for disbursement, since the funds from "off-years" will roll over to be combined with the "on-year" distribution

Instilling in our youth a sense of philanthropy with the hope of planting the seed for a lifetime of charitable giving

Empowering our youth to discern among charitable giving options and to objectively evaluate organizations for proper stewardship of their donations

A small discussion ensued with the congregation regarding the dissolution. It was moved, seconded, and voted that we accept Article 6 as written, and formally dissolve the Social Outreach standing committee.

**Article 7: Report of the President of the Board of Trustees**

In absence of President Janet Asnes, the complete report is included in the Annual Report.

**Article 8: Report of the Minister**

Ken Read-Brown offered a few words. This is his final Annual Report due to his retirement as minister. Ken offered many thanks, recognizing all committees and their wonderful contributions to furthering our ministry. He also recognized our amazing staff, his work in nursing homes, and with the Hingham Hull Religious Leaders Association. His complete report for the year can be found in the Annual Report.

**Article 9: Report of the Religious Education Committee**

Maureen Butler gave an update on the future of RE. The future is moving forward with what we've done, appropriate change, family ministry, and work with other churches. The complete report for the year can be found in the Annual Report.

**Article 10: Report of the Director of Music**

Christopher Nickelson-Mann invited everyone to read his full report. Music is still difficult due to the pandemic; chorus members attendance inconsistent; we do have a new Alto soloist. It has still been a lovely year and has spent time exploring new music. His complete report for the year can be found in the Annual Report.

**Article 11: Report of the Nominating Committee**

Ralph Brown read the slate of nominees. A motion was made to close the nominations with the slate of officers accepted and have one vote to approve all nominations.

It was moved, seconded, and voted that we accept the slate as written.

**Article 12: Report of the Treasurer**

Jack Gomez reviewed the budget. Reported that we have a surplus of \$50K and income is higher than predicted. For details, please read the complete report in the Annual Report.

**Article 13: Report of the Trustees of Invested Funds**

Dennis Hogan reported the endowment has had extraordinary growth over 12 years and is at about \$1.4 million. Please read the complete report in the Annual Report.

**Article 14: Proposed Budget for 2022-2023**

Jack Gomez previously reviewed the budget in the Treasurers financial report.

A small discussion of the budget ensued, then a motion was made to vote to approve the budget, seconded, and voted that we accept the 2022-2023 budget as written.

Jack then made a motion to authorize the Board of Trustees to make adjustments to the budget as necessary and inform the parish of such adjustments.

A small discussion ensued, then a motion was made to vote to approve, seconded, and voted we accept as stated.

#### **Article 15: Authorization to Borrow**

Will the Parish authorize the Treasurer to borrow money, if necessary, in anticipation of receipts for the ensuing year?

Jack Gomez gave an explanation with assistance from Mike Dwyer, and a small discussion of necessity to be able to borrow for unforeseen circumstances ensued. It was moved to vote to authorize the Treasurer to borrow money, if necessary, in anticipation of receipts, seconded, and approved.

#### **Article 16: Other Committee Reports**

Abby Diamond-Kissiday gave a report that the Welcoming Congregation Committee is back; had a wonderful service and appreciate the youth; thank you for using pronouns; will offer gender classes this next church year. Dana Kintigh shared that this was his last year on the Board of Trustees, and he will be back. There were no other representatives requesting to speak.

Davalene Cooper was given special recognition in a donation in her name to the UUSC as our parliamentarian over the many years, and for keeping our Social Justice mission vibrant.

At the end of the meeting, parishioners were asked to stay for another special recognition. Acknowledging that this was our last Annual Meeting with Ken, led by Christopher Nickelson-Mann, the attendees sang Ken out with "Go Now In Peace".

**The annual meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm.**



## Appendix B

### Special Parish Meeting Minutes Old Ship Meeting House August 14, 2022 @ 5:00 pm

-Voting members were checked in by BOT Trustee Abby Diamond-Kissiday and Clerk Trish McAleer.

-Meeting commenced at approximately 5:10 PM.

-BOT President Diane Jordan opened the meeting with a statement regarding the necessity of having the Restated Articles of Organization.

-BOT Clerk Trish McAleer read the follow warrant article

**Article 1. Will the Parish vote to approve the attached Restated Articles of Organization? It requires a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority to pass**

A 'Yes' vote approves the Restated Articles of Organization. If approved, then it will be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval.

A 'No' vote does not approve the Restated Articles of Organization and will prevent the State of Massachusetts from recognizing First Parish Hingham as a corporation. We will not be able to move forward with this sale or any future sale.

-The floor was opened for discussion.

-Parish member Mary Thomas was acknowledged and requested to show a 5 minute video entitled "The Legacy of the Copper Beech Trees" which she said expressed her view. Mary then made a brief statement advocating for a "NO" vote.

-A motion was made by OS member Nina Wellford to end discussion and call the vote. This motion was seconded by OS Member Jeff Lee to close discussion.

-After a consultation on correct procedure per Robert Rules, BOT Jordan accepted the motion and allowed the vote.

-A vote was made of eligible members to close discussion resulting in **34 YES/ 29 NO**.

-A vote to eligible members to accept the Restated Articles of Organization was then taken by a show of hands by voting members. This vote resulted in a total of **67 YES/5 NO**.

-Trustee Kissiday then tallied **58 proxy votes (57 YES and 1 NO)** for a combined total vote of **124 YES/6 NO**.

-BOT President Jordan announced that, as the number of voting members was established as totaling 205, per MA regulation  $\frac{2}{3}$  of voting members or 131 YES were needed for the Restated Articles of Organization to be approved. Therefore, the RAO was not approved.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:45 PM

### **Appendix C: 08/24/22 Special Parish Meeting Minutes**

BOT Attending; Diane J. (President), Maureen (VP), Jack (Treasurer) Trish (Clerk), Roy, Janet. On Zoom: Joan, Diane M.

Meeting commenced at 7:10 PM with 16 members live, 31 people on Zoom

Diane J. began the meeting with a welcome and by reciting the Old Ship mission.

Abby offered words of welcome and provided the order of the meeting:

- We want to hear from the people and answer questions to stop misinformation.
- Will provide an update on the sale of the Parish and where we are going
- Need for updated RAO.

The information will be provided in reverse order.

Member Jennifer Burner requested the meeting be recorded. The board agreed to record the presentation portion of meeting.

#### Restated Articles of Organization

Diane M provided this information on Restated Articles of Organization:

*“Articles of Organization are necessary for us to conduct business in the State of Massachusetts including selling property and opening certain accounts with financial companies. These Articles of Organization must be filed with and approved by the MA Secretary of State. The Articles of Organization are needed because they evidence our corporate existence which was established by acts of the State of Massachusetts in the 1700’s. Although we believe we are a corporation and have been conducting ourselves as such for hundreds of years, we cannot produce a formal document.*

*The closing for the sale of the Parish House on July 21 did not happen because the Secretary of State’s office did not have the required Articles of Organization for our corporate status. Per the Purchase & Sale Agreement, we had 30 days to provide that documentation. Through our attorney we will be applying to the Massachusetts Secretary of State a package of supporting documents which will include evidence of our corporate history and Articles of Organization.*

*Board members worked tirelessly to find and scan documents in support of our Articles of Organization. The effort was significant since documents were located in archives at the Parish House, the Hingham Public Library, the Hingham Historical Society, and with our lawyer through the Massachusetts Historical Society.*

*Another important part of this process included the in-person All Parish meeting we held on Sunday, August 14th to vote on approving the Restated Articles of Organization. The Secretary of State requires approval by a vote of 2/3 of the voting members on the Restated Articles of Organization. According to the Secretary of State, for a proper meeting, any votes cast by approved voting members of Old Ship must be in person at the Meeting House or have submitted a proxy vote. For*

our vote on Sunday, August 14th , we had 130 votes, which is 60% of our 205-voting membership. There were 124 votes to approve the articles and 6 votes to not approve the articles.

It came to our attention after the meeting ended that the comments and questions section of the meeting was ended erroneously. The vote to “call the question” should have been approved by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of members present. It was approved by a simple majority of 34 to 29, falling short of the  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority needed to conclude the conversation. Due to this parliamentary error, the resulting vote on approving the Restated Articles of Organization was determined to be invalid.

It is imperative that we follow all procedures correctly, not only to ensure a proper discussion and legitimate outcome of the vote but perhaps even more importantly, because we are a community dedicated to listening and hearing one another.

We will schedule another in-person All Parish meeting on September 11 th to re-do the vote on the Restated Articles of Organization. The Secretary of State requires approval by a vote of 2/3 of the voting members. Your participation in this vote in person or by proxy is important and appreciated because the approved Articles of Organization are critical to our ability to conduct business in the State of Massachusetts.”

### Parish House Sale Update

Maureen provided the following timeline/update on the PH sale:

“Related to the PH sale between 5/2 and now several things have occurred (This list we all know could contain 5 items, or 105 items. For today we are hitting the highlights to meet the above goals) As we know parish authorized the board to sign P and S with Matt Smith after the May 1 st parish meeting presentation/ discussion/vote We entered into a pretty Standard Purchase and Sale agreement for the No Contingencies and AS IS sale, on may 2 – with close date june 27th Agreement included the opp. to stay in PH for approx. 30 days post sale

Since then the following has occurred:

- 2 extensions on close date granted to buyer, different reasons for each- to 7/7 and 7/21
- 2 Hingham planning board meetings related to PH property subdivisions, submitted by buyer ·
  - Question of our clear title raised- with need to clarify First Parish incorporated status and need to submit Restated Articles of Organization (we just heard about that from Diane M)
- Buyer sent Written withdrawal, with deposit return request, on July 21, before the 3 rd close date
- We engaged a 30 day cure period in P and S at that time in order to attempt to resolve articles of organization issue (including 8/14/22 parish meeting)
- Participated in Multiple meetings with attorneys seeking legal advice on contracts issue as well as managing risk
- We Notified our buyer that we would be holding a second vote on the articles of organization on September 11.
- In the last several weeks, decision making around this P and S has intensified, and become more complicated, in part with increases in Mr. Smith’s engagement with town boards, the public nature of that, management of this active contract, juggling matters of confidentiality & liability, incoming opinions that vary from A to Z from parish and community members, the new church year fast approaching, and the like.
- We requested a meeting with Our Deacons last week ( “ Emergency Meeting with Deacon’s”) to bring them up to speed , seek their perspectives, guidance and recommendations

*· Based on our legal team's recommendations we were prepared, and ready to appear at the real estate closing this past Monday. Neither Old Ship nor Mr. Smith requested an extension. He withdrew from the deal Monday morning, requesting his deposit.*

*It was our intent, since last week to gather the congregation for a listening session like this around this sale- no matter which way it ended up moving on Monday. And indeed, here we are together."*

Rev. Erin set the parameters of the meeting, and encouraged people to speak their feelings. Questions would be given first and the board would give their responses.

### Questions From Parish Members and Friends

Mary Thomas asked a question about the nature of the RAO.

-Diane M. Stated the RAO do not change us being a non profit, or religious organization. It will allow us to do business, open a bank account.

Keely Jordan asked if there were more reasons why the sale failed? What were the reasons for two extensions? Was the board completely truthful in their May 1 presentation?

-Maureen advised that the buyer withdrew. Jack further explained that we failed to perfect the title, so the cure period has expired. OS does not have grounds to retain deposit.

-Janet A. explained the board presented truthful and presented

Rick Hall asked if there has been consideration to establish a "Friends of OS" to finance keeping the PH as such.

-Maureen added that this may be something we can look into.

Eileen McIntyre commented that in COVID we functioned well in a virtual environment. We should be wise regarding the financial pressure of maintaining the PH.

Mary Nelson asked about steps to reexamine what is required to build a new parish house.

-Janet answered that based on the previous exploration we still can.

Jennifer Burner spoke about OS tenants vs. alleged actions of OS which did not abide by our principles. Proposed a future meeting with town officials and neighbors to explore private funds to restore the parish house.

-Janet said that is something the board can take into consideration.

Davalene apologized for parliamentary error and acknowledged support that she had received for Parish in light of this error.

Fan Leonard asked for information about costs involved with restoring PH versus building a new PH.

Diane M. expressed appreciation for the deacons.

Michael J. wanted more information regarding the signing of the ANRs. Why did the board not tell the congregation of the buyer's intention, which was contrary to what the congregation had understood? -

Janet explained the circumstances around her signing an ANR for the buyer. Laura Harbottle expressed concerns about the change of streetscape and the copper beech trees.

Michael Weymouth (identified himself as “friend of OS”) asked why did the buyer pull out and do we have another buyer in the wings? Why did the board vote to extend after the ANR dispute?

-Janet said the reason for the buyer pulling out was previously answered.

-Janet said our realtor told us another party made a “backup offer” but explained the concerns over engaging with another buyer while under a P&S.

-Maureen stated that the board was acting within the terms of the P&S

Dennis Hogan asked how many people have seen the inspection report? Explained the tremendous expenses required to upkeep the PH.

Ursula stated she thinks we are in a bad cycle. Even though she disagrees with the decision to sell, she abided by it. She thinks we should have a new PH vote if people’s views have changed.

Diane J. Spoke about the stress of being on the board. Explained why she voted No on the RAO. Said she wanted to be certain that we could build across the street before we sell the PH.

Mary D. Kissiday acknowledged the tremendous amount of work done on the board. Asked about how many affirmative votes to pass the RAO.

-Abby replied that 2/3 of the voting members at the last vote were at 205. So we would need 137 YES Votes.

-Diane explained that the parliamentary error both contributed to not being able to submit. Mary Nelson thanked the board for ensuring that we could build before selling.

Keely Jordan asked if any maintenance funds were diverted to sell the PH and pay for rent at Baptist. Advocated for a pause before trying to sell again.

-Jack replied that the no funds were diverted.

-No money has been expended so far for rent at Baptist Church.

Fan Leonard said she would like to know the pros and cons of building vs. fixing up the parish house so folks can make a decision again about going forward.

Rick Hall asked if there was an entity in the church which blocked members from pursuing a public/private partnership to fundraise for the parish house. -Jennifer Burner asked to speak. Jennifer began to describe her previous experience in detail with church leadership in which she stated she was “silenced”. After a prolonged period of speaking, in the interest of time, she was asked to yield by

Rev. Erin. Rev. Erin thanked everyone for coming and gave a closing reading.

Meeting was ended at approximately 8:46. Trish McAleer, BOT Clerk

## Appendix D

### Special All Parish Meeting Minutes Old Ship Meeting House 12:00 pm, September 11, 2022

BOT President Diane Jordan called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM

Diane J. made opening remarks reminding members that today, September 11th, is a day of remembrance. "Let's consider our time together today with care and kindness, appreciative of the fact that we are gathered here and have the privilege of being able to vote in community."

Diane J. then acknowledged the work of 3 resigned Board members Leo Carrillo, Dave Petrie, Diane Morrison.

#### **ARTICLE 1**

Next Diane J. gave a brief summary of recent events the sale of PH followed by the requirements for submitting to the Secretary of State's Office consists of 2 major performances:

1. Paperwork filled out properly including documentation proving our existence as a corporation dating back to the 1700's (as stated in our By-laws).
2. Having a proper meeting. This includes all of the following: meeting in person for in person voting, no electronic voting is allowed; proxy voting is allowed by the state even though we do not use proxy voting for regular Old Ship business; having a proper discussion or debate; having 2/3 majority of our voting members vote. If we are just short of the 2/3 of our members voting, we can apply requesting a waiver, as some corporations have thousands of members and aren't always able to get 2/3 of their people present. It is always best to have the 2/3, we do have this option.

Clerk Trish McAleer read Article 1.

Article 1: Will the Parish vote to approve the attached Restated Articles of Organization? It requires a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority to pass.

The floor was then opened for discussion:

Member Michael Jordan was recognized. Michael asked if it really necessary to have done this or did the previous buyer (Matthew Smith) have another avenue to get a purchase property?

Diane J. responded that the previous buyer did have another avenue. But that it was necessary to have the RAO to make certain financial transactions for example to open some types of bank accounts. It was also noted that several other parishes in MA who's founding predated the Commonwealth founding needed to also do this same process.

Member Davaleen Cooper was recognized and expressed that it was important to keep the ROA consideration separate from a vote to sell the PH.

A motion was made to call the vote and approved by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority. A vote was then taken to approve **Article 1. The votes of the members present were then combined with the member proxy votes. Article 1 is passed 145 YES, 0 No, 0 Abstentions. This count meets the threshold for  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of voting members as established by MA Secretary of State.**

Article 2

Diane J. then read a summary for the background for needing Article 2:

**Summary for Article 2:** Many of the gutters on the Meeting House are in need of urgent repair or replacement due to falling into disrepair or rot. This work is essential before any more damage is sustained and the colder, wetter months of late Fall and Winter set in. The scope of this work also includes repair or replacement of fascia and soffit areas and the like, man lift and dumpster rental, stock, labor, fuel, debris removal, etc. The estimated cost for this contract is \$27,200. with the understanding that any major problems will be discussed at time of discovery. Work would begin approximately the third week of September, and will take at least 3 weeks to complete

Trish M. then read Article 2.

**Article 2:** Will the Parish vote to approve the Board of Trustees to enter into and sign a contract with contractor John Patrician for the repair and replacement of gutters, cost of and address repair and replacement of components related thereto? It requires a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority to pass.

**A 'Yes'** vote approves the Board of Trustees to sign a contract with contractor John Patrician for the repair and replacement of gutters and address repair and replacement of components related to the scope of the work thereto.

**A 'No'** vote does not approve the Board of Trustees to enter into and sign a contract with contractor John Patrician.

Diane J. opened the floor for debate/discussion.

Member Mary Thomas: How is the Meeting House gutter repair being paid for? Is it from a separate account from the Parish House funds?

Diane J. Responded that the funds for gutter repairs are being taken from the Meeting House account which is separate from the Parish House.

Member Diane Elliott: Is there funding available from the Friends of the meeting house to repair the gutters.

Member Mike Dwyer (Responded to Diane Elliot) Engaging with the Friends of Meeting (FMH) house for funds is a more involved process. If we have the funds we should use them. There was discussion regarding if the MH account could fund repairs costs if additional work was needed and Diane said she thought we had sufficient funds.

Member Eileen McIntyre. Stated she was on the Friends of the Meeting House. She initiated that The Friends can supplement repair costs on Meeting House but that funds are somewhat limited.

Member Derek Wadman stated that we should expect the cost of the gutters to run at least 30K.

Diane J. then asks if all questions have been asked. A clear majority vote YES

Trish M then read Article 2 again and a vote was taken.

**Article 2 was passed by vote count of 80 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSENTIONS.**

**Diane J** thanks everyone and asks for a motion to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:58 PM.

Submitted by:

Trish McAleer  
Old Ship BOT Clerk



## Appendix E

### Special Parish Meeting Minutes Old Ship Meeting House November 17, 2022

Meeting commenced at 7:20 pm.

BOT: Diane Jordan, President, Maureen Butler, Vice President, Jack Gomez Treasurer, Trish McAleer, Clerk, Janet Asnes, President Emerita, Trustees at large Joan Wilson, Roy Harris, Abby Diamond Kissiday.

Meeting was recorded on Zoom.

Welcome: Diane J.

Opening Remarks: Rev Erin.

Remarks from the board Trish M and Jack G. based on advice of counsel, there is legal exposure from accepting one offer from a potential buyer over another without giving all buyers the same chance to submit offers. Hence, no vote would occur. Instead potential buyers will be asked.

The floor was then opened for questions.

#### Questions and Statements from the Floor:

**Mary Diamond Kissiday:** Confirming the date of the warrant. Also critical of the wording of the warrant article.

**Dennis Hogan:** We do not need to be specific with the information as it lead to counter offers.

**Davalene Cooper:** Warrant articles do not need to be specific aside from providing what is going to be voted on.

**Ursula Stone:** Why is there no timeline to stop accepting offers after the last one fell through.

**Derek Wadman:** There is a severe penalty for backing out of the deal.

**Michael Jordan:** Board will sell to any developer.

**Brook Weir:** Please reevaluate the spreadsheet on Parish House expenses.

**Nina Wellford:** Conditions for why we want to sell have not changed. Parish wants to know what's going on. There is nothing nefarious going on with people wanting information.

**Dana K:** We are a negative cash flow organization.

**Mary Diamond Kissiday:** She has presented a petition to stop the sale.

**Dennis Hogan:** Gave recommendations for wording of the new warrant.

Zoom Attendee: Can we have a straw poll on the 3 questions.

**Davalene Cooper:** Straw Poll is not permitted.

**Brian McPhillips.:** We are not financially solvent and can not afford to maintain PH.

**Mary Diamond Kissiday:** Mandate to sell parish house does not exist. Zoom

**Attendee:** What have we spent on legal fees? Diane J: Approximately 64K.

Meeting ended at approximately 8:50.

Submitted by:

Trish McAleer, Old Ship Clerk

## Appendix F

### Special Parish Meeting Minutes Old Ship Meeting House December 04, 2022

Present from BOT: Diane Jordan, President, Maureen Butler, Vice President, Jack Gomez Treasurer, Trish McAleer, Clerk, Janet Asnes, President Emerita, Trustees at large Joan Wilson, Roy Harris, Abby Diamond Kissiday.

Initially 73 members were checked in at the Meeting House and 41 on Zoom.

Meeting commenced at approximately 12:20 PM.

Diane J. made some opening remarks.

Rev Erin. lit the chalice and gave an opening reading.

**Agenda for Meeting.** Maureen B. gave remarks concerning the agenda for the meeting and also noted that the meeting would be more strictly adhering to Robert's Rules of Order.

**Deacon's Statement.** Deacon Mike Dwyer (representing Deacons Eva Marx, Turner Bledsoe and Fan Leonard) read a statement, previously sent to the Board of Trustees, concerning the Deacons' recommendation that the members should not vote to sell the parish house at this time. The Deacons adopted this unanimous stance based on concerns over the divisive atmosphere amongst members and the attention needed to find a new minister. Several congregants presented alternative opinions.

**Congregants Petition Presentation.** Mary Diamond Kissiday gave a statement on the concerns raised by signatories of a petition to pause the sale of Parish House. Mary noted that the petition had been signed by 18 members and presented to the Board of Trustees. Mary DK stated that there is no plan in place for the parish or the staff to relocate following the sale of the Parish House. Louise Smith also spoke about monies from grants that could be procured for the refurbishment of the current Parish House as it is a historic building. In a question and answer portion, a number of members offered comments in response to this presentation.

**New Parish House build Information.** Nina Welford, Tom Willson and Dennis Hogan made a presentation about the cost, scope and timeline for building a new parish house adjacent to 90 Main St. In a question and answer portion, several members offered statements and asked questions.

**Article Overview.** BOT Member Jack Gomez gave an overview of the three offers for the parish house and property at 107 Main St. them being Article 1; the Weibley offer, Article 2; the Rankin Offer and Article 3; the Town offer (as shown below.) Jack advised that the BOT by a majority of the vote was recommending the Weibley offer as it offers the most proceeds and does not close on the same day the parish would need to move.

#### ARTICLE 1

Article 1: Will the Parish authorize the Board of Trustees to negotiate and sign a standard "Contract to Purchase Real Estate" and to negotiate and sign a standard "Purchase and Sale" agreement with Laura and Greg Weibley for the entire parcel of 107 Main St., to include the Parish House?

SUMMARY FOR ARTICLE 1: The Board requests permission to negotiate and sign both a standard form "Contract to Purchase Real Estate" and a standard form "Purchase and Sale Agreement" with Laura and Greg Weibley for the purchase of the entire parcel at 107 Main Street property (to include the Parish House). The current offer price is \$2,350,000, yielding \$2,246,250 after commission. This offer has no contingencies. This article must receive a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority for approval.

NOTE: Should this Article pass it would preclude voting on either of the remaining two articles and voting ends. A "YES" vote authorizes the Board of Trustees to negotiate and sign a standard form Contract to Purchase Real Estate and negotiate and sign a standard form Purchase and Sale agreement with Laura and Greg Weibley.

A "NO" vote does not authorize the Board of Trustees to negotiate and sign a standard form Contract to Purchase Real Estate and negotiate and sign a standard form Purchase and Sale agreement with Laura and Greg Weibley.

## ARTICLE 2

Article 2: Will the Parish authorize the Board of Trustees to negotiate and sign a standard "Contract to Purchase Real Estate" and to negotiate and sign a standard "Purchase and Sale" agreement with Rankin Residential for the entire parcel of 107 Main St., to include the Parish House?

SUMMARY FOR ARTICLE 2: The Board requests permission to negotiate and sign both a standard form "Contract to Purchase Real Estate" and a standard form "Purchase and Sale Agreement" with Rankin Residential for the purchase of the entire parcel at 107 Main Street property (to include the Parish House). The current offer price is \$2,250,000, yielding \$2,193,750 after commission. This offer has no contingencies. This article must receive a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority for approval.

NOTE: Should this Article pass it would preclude voting on the remaining article and voting ends.

A "YES" vote authorizes the Board of Trustees to negotiate and sign a standard form Contract to Purchase Real Estate and negotiate and sign a standard form Purchase and Sale Agreement with Rankin Residential.

A "NO" vote does not authorize the Board of Trustees to negotiate and sign a standard form Contract to Purchase Real Estate and negotiate and sign a standard form Purchase and Sale Agreement with Rankin Residential.

## ARTICLE 3

Article 3: Will the Parish authorize the Board of Trustees to negotiate and sign an "Offer to Purchase Real Estate" and negotiate and sign a standard "Purchase and Sale" agreement to sell ONLY the back .25 ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) acre portion (noted as "Parcel A") of the 107 Main St. property to the Town of Hingham Affordable Housing Trust.

SUMMARY FOR ARTICLE 3: The Board requests permission to negotiate and sign an Offer to Purchase Real Estate and negotiate and sign a standard form Purchase and Sale agreement to sell ONLY the back .25 (¼) acre portion of the 107 Main Street property to the Town of Hingham Affordable Housing Trust. The offer price is \$250,000, yielding \$250,000. There are three (3) contingencies related to standard Town requirements/approvals for such a purchase. No commission on this sale.

A “YES” vote authorizes the Board of Trustees to negotiate and sign an Offer to Purchase Real Estate and negotiate and sign a standard form Purchase and Sale agreement to sell ONLY the back .25 (¼) acre portion of the property of 107 Main St. to the Town of Hingham Affordable Housing Trust.

A “NO” vote does not authorize the Board of Trustees to negotiate and sign an Offer to Purchase Real Estate and negotiate and sign a standard form Purchase and Sale agreement to sell ONLY the back .25 (¼) acre portion of the property of 107 Main St. to the Town of Hingham Affordable Housing Trust.

**Voting Instructions;** BOT Member Abby Diamond Kissiday gave members instructions for voting. Voting members would be given a ballot in the meeting house and would submit the preferences if voting on Zoom. It was noted that each article would be voted on separately and each needed a ⅔ majority to pass. As each article was mutually exclusive, if Article 1 was passed, voting would end.

**The Vote.** The vote proceeded for Article 1. 67 members returned ballots in the meeting house and 38 members submitted votes on Zoom. The total needed to pass the Article with ⅔ majority was 70 votes. The results were as follows;

**Article 1 Votes**

Live: YES 39 NO 28 Abstention: 1

Zoom: YES 31 NO 7

Total: YES 70 NO 35 Abstention: 1

**Article 1 was passed with a ⅔ majority.**

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 pm.

Submitted by:

Trish McAleer, Old Ship Clerk

**Special Parish Meeting Minutes  
Old Ship Meeting House  
February 12, 2023**

Attending from the Board of Trustees: Maureen Butler (President), Jack Gomez (Treasurer, on Zoom), Trish McAleer (Clerk), Roy Harris (TAL), Janice McPhillips (TAL)

Voters were checked in at the meeting house by Karen Churchill & Mike Dwyer and on Zoom by Bonnie Baynes.

Meeting Commenced @ 12:10 PM

1. Welcome/Robert's Rules reminder was made by Maureen Butler
2. Interim space proposal summary was given by Trish McAleer
3. Article 1 this summary was made by Clerk Trish McAleer

ARTICLE 1: Requires 2/3 approval to pass.

Will the parish authorize the Board of Trustees to sign a one year lease agreement with 14 Main St. LLC for the first floor space at 14 Main St., Hingham?

A YES vote authorizes the Board of Trustees to sign a one year lease with 14 Main St. LLC for the first floor space at 14 Main St. A NO vote does not authorize the Board of Trustees to sign a one year lease with 14 Main St. LLC for the first floor space at 14 Main St.

4. Discussion was opened and the following topics were addressed.
  - How is the coffee hour going to happen in shared space (Abby Diamond Kissiday)
  - What are the spaces that have been considered. (Stuart Patterson.)
  - What are the options for storage? (Mary Diamond Kissiday)
  - What is the occupancy rate in the space (Michael Jordan)
  - Does money actually exist? (Abby Diamond-Kissiday)
  - How does hiring a DRE change the ability to fund the lease? (Diane Jordan)
  - We need to have trust in the Old Ship leadership. (Davalene Cooper)
  - What percentage of the endowment will be needed to be taken (Mary Thomas.)

5. A motion was made and seconded to move the vote. The vote proceeded and Article 1 was Passed with greater than a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority.

6. Clerk Trish read the following Article 2 summary:

ARTICLE 2: Requires 3/4 approval to pass.

Will the parish authorize the Board of Trustees to fund a \$66,000 lease for the first floor space at 14 Main St. from the sources indicated below?

FY 22/23 Operating Budget - \$26,000, Surplus funds.

FY 23/24 Operating Budget - \$20,000, Funds to be collected based on previous Parish House expenses.

Old Ship Endowment - \$20,000, Returns on invested money.

A YES Vote authorizes the Board to fund the \$66,000 cost of the 14 Main St. lease from these sources.

A NO Vote does not authorize the Board to fund the \$66,000 cost of the 14 Main St. lease from these sources.

7. A motion was made and seconded to move the vote. The votes were counted with Article 2 passing with greater than a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority.

8.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 PM.

Submitted by:

Trish McAleer, Old Ship Clerk