

# THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN MARBLEHEAD, INC.

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Church Council March 1, 2010 (pending approval)

Pursuant to notice duly given, an open meeting of the Church Council of the First Church of Christ in Marblehead, Inc., and a Massachusetts not-for-profit corporation (“the Church” or “Old North Church”) was held on Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup> in the Stacey Street offices of the Church.

A quorum of Council members for the conduct of business was present and participating throughout the meeting. A list of those in attendance is attached to these minutes.

Moderator Tim Sheehy presided at the meeting. Sally Sands, clerk, kept the minutes. All materials referred to in these minutes have been filed with the record of this meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM. Rev. Dr. Dennis Calhoun led the Council in prayer.

***The February 1, 2010 minutes and meeting attendance record were reviewed and approved by vote of the Council.***

### **Financial Reports:**

Treasurer Stowe Walker distributed and reviewed three financial reports for January and February 2010: Statement of Activities vs. Budget; Statement of Financial Position; plus a Statement of Fund Balances. It was noted that the interest rate on the housing loan to the Senior Minister was decreased from 7% to 2% to be more in line with the current economy.

### **Trustees:**

Ken Taylor distributed and reviewed new procedures for the collection of funds from church events; and the rationale behind their implementation. These procedures are consistent with those in use by the Deacons and will insure the timely crediting of funds to church accounts as well as reimbursement of expenses to event organizers. Balance sheets for each church event will be created by the Treasurer. Council members were asked to inform their committee members of these new procedures in order to assure compliance. A copy of the procedures is attached to these minutes.

Marilyn Smith reported that 40 shingles blew off the Parrish Hall roof during the February 25<sup>th</sup> storm. George MacDonald, acting as temporary sexton, is getting bids for repairs from contractors.

### **375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:**

Dennis Calhoun is looking at fall dates for a series of activities and events in celebration of the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Old North. Ideas plus volunteers to organize events are needed. A steering committee is being formed. Dennis hopes to invite former minister Rev. Dr. Randall Niehoff to preach one Sunday in October or November. Other ideas so far include a Sunday of historic church music (Dennis recently learned that the office building was part of the underground railway); Old North cookbook; 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball. African a cappella singers, Thula Sizwe will be in residence for the week of October 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Board of Deacons:**

The Diaconate continues to move forward with educating the congregation about the proposed bylaw changes. An open forum co-hosted by Appraisal & Search and the Board of Deacons is being planned.

Senior Deacon Michael Perez reviewed the services planned for Holy Week:

March 28<sup>th</sup> - Palm Sunday reading of the Passion

April 1<sup>st</sup> - Service of Tenebrae (Maundy Thursday)

April 3<sup>rd</sup> - Easter Vigil

April 4<sup>th</sup> - Easter Services at 6:00 AM, 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM (family)

It was suggested that a letter be sent out to the congregation listing the schedule of services and inviting everyone to participate. Council was encouraged to spread the word about Tenebrae and encourage others to attend this moving and beautiful, but sparsely attended, service of 'shadows'.

### **Appraisal & Search:**

Flory Denhard reported that the committee is meeting weekly. They have met with conference leaders as well as with Dennis Calhoun & Heather Mabrouk. Next they will meet with Melissa MacDonald. They plan to hold focus groups in April and hope to complete the Profile by summer. Council and committee members are invited to provide input.

### **Fellowship:**

Gigi Breed reported on the success of the Burns Night Supper and the Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday celebration. Both were well attended and delicious! Future events include the Mashed Potato Buffet and an Easter Sunday breakfast. Fellowship Committee members are also hosting the Meet the Artist receptions following the music concerts.

### **Music Committee:**

Susan Stone reported that the Music Committee is trying to plan an event each month. One hundred people attended Mark DeMille's evening performance of classic show tunes in February, netting \$680. for Old North. Megan Roth will be performing on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. The choir is preparing a Palm Sunday Requiem concert. A Youth Talent Night is planned for May.

## **Other Business:**

### **Christian Service**

Lifebridge (formerly Salem Mission) Sunday will be held on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Virginia Healy-Kenny reported that Old North members donated \$8,200. for relief efforts in Haiti. The CS Committee will work with the Rotary Club program to provide Shelter Boxes. Jojo Wallace and Marina Hare are planning a Haiti Relief fundraiser for their high school senior project. April is Old North's month to supply the Marblehead Food Bank. Sunday School children will help to distribute grocery bags in the Narthex after services. April 25<sup>th</sup> is the HAWC Walk. A team of ONC and Temple Emanu-el youth is being organized for the Walk.

### **Stewardship**

Eliza Cushman reported that outreach to non-pledging families who enroll in children's choirs and church school is being planned. A letter will be sent followed by phone calls to gather information which will educate the Stewardship Committee as to why these families choose not to pledge and why they chose Old North. It costs \$270./child/program to run the church school and choir programs.

### **Church School**

A BINGO night fundraiser is planned for March 11<sup>th</sup> in the Parrish Hall. Pizza at 5:30 and Bingo at 6:00 pm!

### **Youth**

The Senior Youth Group is planning a Habitat trip to Martha's Vineyard during April school vacation. Youth will be working on housing for Vineyard workers and will be staying at Heather Brine Martin's family summer home. Should Habitat plans fall through, the alternative is a local Heifer project. Youth groups will be cooking an Easter supper at Lifebridge on Easter Sunday. Family members are welcome and encouraged to help make up this Easter Sunday Feeding Team.

***Council voted to move their April meeting to Monday, April 12 at 7:30 PM.***

Heather Mabrouk offered a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally B. Sands, clerk

3/1/ 2010 ONC Council Attendance  
(Quorum = 12 members)

**Officers:**

Minister	Dennis Calhoun
Moderator	Tim Sheehy
Clerk	Sally Sands
Treasurer	Stowe Walker
Fin. Secy.	Sandy Barrett
Historian	
Ch. Svc. Treas.	Richard Thibedeau

**Chairpersons:**

Deacons (2)	Michael Perez
Trustees (1)	Marilyn Smith
Church School (1)	
Adult Education	
Christian Service (1)	Virginia Healy-Kenny
Music (1)	Susan Stone
Nominating (1)	Ellen Nash
Stewardship (1)	Eliza Cushman
Youth (1)	Janice Foss
PPR (1)	David Cross
Membership (1)	
Fellowship (1)	Gigi Breed
At-large members (2)	Blakeslee Detels; Andrew Oliver
Assoc. & Conf. Delegates	

**Ad Hoc Cttee. Chairs:**

Open & Affirming	
Appraisal & Search	Flory Denhard

**Others :**

Heather Ramsey Mabrouk, YEFL  
Ken Taylor, Trustee  
Melissa MacDonald, Church School Director