

Minutes of the
6/14/2026 ANNUAL MEETING
of First Parish Church of Chelmsford

Absentee Ballots: 10 collected in person on the day of the meeting, 2 collected online.
All voted yes to each article.

The Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Society (Unitarian) will be held on Sunday, June 14, 2026 at 11:30 AM in person (and online) to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE I.	To elect a Moderator (pulpit) and an Assistant Moderator (online). Motioned by John Schneider to nominate Joan Coyne for Moderator Seconded by Beth Benoit Vote: Unanimous Motioned by John Schneider to elect Neal Harmon as Assistant Moderator Seconded by Beth Benoit Vote: Unanimous
ARTICLE II.	To vote to accept the Minutes of the Congregational Meeting held on October 19, 2025. Motioned by Leslie Yauckoes Seconded by Eileen Mahoney Vote: Unanimous Point of order from John Fisher – All in favor cannot be unanimous until the absentee ballots are counted
ARTICLE III.	To vote on the admission of new members: Monica Lundberg Matthew Zimmerman Ron Peacetree Motioned by Ron Deschenes Seconded by Warren Flewellen Vote: All in favor
ARTICLE IV.	To vote on the following nominated candidates for the 2026-27 church year. Standing Committee: Susan Woodmansee 2026-2029 (3 yr) Bill Newhard (2026-2027) (will be a partial term) Clerk: Colleen Leary 2025-2026 (1 yr.) Treasurer: Sarah Manning 2026-2027 (1 yr.)

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	Assistant Treasurer: David Kaffine 2026-2027 (1 yr.) Collector: Diana Keohane 2026-2027 (1 yr.) Board of Investment: Barry Jefferson 2026-2027 (1 yr partial term) Nominating Committee: John Fisher 2026 - 2027 (1 yr renewable) Tip Rawling 2026 - 2027 (1 yr renewable) Motioned by John Schneider Seconded by Tom Coffee Vote: Unanimous
ARTICLE V.	To vote on the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget. Discussion: Dave talked about the canvass raising more money than ever, but we have increased expenses this year. We needed to make changes. We proposed to take money from CMF; the health care reserve is no longer needed and that \$4,000 is being used to meet operating costs. Reserves account is high so some of that was taken to use this year. Some cell money was redirected from the steeple fund, though not all, we are still putting money away for the steeple fund. John Fisher asked if we are increasing our expenses by 10% but pledges went up by 1%? A: Correct. Q: Is the CMF purpose to use this in this way? A: The hope is the CMF funds will not be exhausted for years and will continue to grow. Q: Is this sustainable? A: That is the question, we're going on faith right now but we need to talk about this in the summit in the fall. Warren Flewellen spoke saying the CMF fund is there to meet the needs of staff and this meets the requirements for use. Ron Deschenes thanked Dave Kaffine for all the work. Motioned by Dave Kaffine Seconded by Nancy Kalin Vote: Unanimous
ARTICLE VI.	To vote on the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Use of Cell Tower Revenue budget. Dave Kaffine spoke on the current plan to divide cell money into facilities and services (services = discretionary fund, faith in action, etc. Facilities = larger projects to include roof repairs.) Motioned by Beth Benoit Seconded by Christina Cervantes Vote: Unanimous

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ARTICLE VII.	To vote to approve the 2025 audit report. Motioned by John Schneider Seconded by Dave Kaffine Vote: Unanimous
ARTICLE VIII.	To vote on the delegates to the 2026 UUA General Assembly. This is a problem because GA is being held today. There is nothing in the bylaws that says we need to vote. Because it is online it is confusing. Dave Kaffine moved to elect no members to go this year. Seconded by John Schneider All in favor (this was not on absentee ballot so it is different)
ARTICLE IX.	To hear a presentation on the problems with the roof. Walter Cole spoke: This building is 180 years old as is the roof. Our roof is sagging. There are not enough boards. The insurance company inspected and we have done things to correct immediate issues. We need to add boards to support the current slate roof. There is a preliminary drawing to get quotes. No cost estimate at this point, will have them in October. Beth Benoit asked if the slate will all have to go off then the supports are put in, and then the slates put back on. A: Yes. Walter is going to the historical society to see if a look-like-slate alternative material rather than slate is acceptable. This will lower the cost but we will not get 180 years out of the room. Leslie Yauckoes asked if it is just the church roof not the RE wing and flat roof. A: Correct. Walter did the flat roof some time ago and the RE wing was done in with the rebuild. Big thanks to Walter.
ARTICLE X.	New ways and means task force. John Schneider spoke: The Standing Committee recently established a Ways and Means Task Force to study and recommend ways to improve our fiscal stewardship and ensure decision-making is aligned with our mission and values. “That the Standing Committee establish a Ways and Means task force for the purposes of 1) developing a revenue and expenses plan and recommendations for First Parish’s operational budget for FY28, 29, and 30; and 2) develop a program for improving Congregational engagement, awareness, and commitment to the practice of fiscal stewardship at First

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	Parish to ensure fiscal decision-making is aligned with First Parish’s values and mission. Task Force members shall include: Treasurer, Collector, one member of the Standing Committee, one member of the Board of Investment, and two at-large members chosen by the Standing Committee. The Task Force shall provide periodic reports to the Standing Committee on its progress and provide a progress report to the Congregation no later than January 2027 and make a full report no later than the 2027 Annual Meeting.” Looking for people to join (2 members)
ARTICLE XI.	Any other discussion. To vote to adjourn the meeting. Motioned by John Schneider Seconded by Mary Ganor Vote: All in favor

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