The First Parish Church United



48 Main Street Westford, Massachusetts 01886-2506

> Rev. Kathleen Hepler Interim Minister

December 18, 2019

Auditor's Report for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2019

The Auditor is chartered by the By-laws to "reckon and settle with the Treasurer, the Investment Committee, and any other persons and/or committees handling finances of the corporation".

During the audit of Fiscal Year 2019 ("FY19"), I met with Treasurer Linn Flint, Assistant Treasurer Alan Heinold and Investment Committee Chair Steve Smith. I reviewed the scope of work, the weekly/monthly statements, and the activities of the year. In addition, sampling was done for four weeks' receipts, randomly chosen, and I followed their accounting from Office Manager to Assistant Treasurer to Treasurer.

My conclusions are as follows:

- 1. In my opinion, after year-end reconciliations and adjustments and review, the books and records of the church finances as stated in the Treasurer's final FY19 reports are complete and accurate.
- 2. In my opinion, after review, the FY19 records and reports of the Investment Committee after audit adjustment are complete and accurate.

My review followed principles of internal auditing; as a part of that approach, internal controls and procedures were reviewed. Suggestions for improvements from the FY18 audit and actions taken were as follows:

- a. A Policy and Procedure book was established and content developed covering some major financial activities, some internal controls, and all financial automated systems used within the church.
- b. Job definitions of financial officers and others who work on financial activities, records, and reports were documented in the Policy and Procedure book.

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c. Monthly reconciliations of church records with bank and custodian statements were completed every month by Treasurer Linn Flint.

Additional suggestions for improving internal controls are listed below:

- a. Additional financial policies are needed for <u>Payroll process</u>, <u>Procurements and Approvals</u>, <u>Procedures for Square and PayPal</u>, <u>Procedures for Office Safe</u>.
- b. Assignment of duties among financial officers should be reviewed for good control and distribution of work.

Respectfully submitted (December 2019),

Leah Grenier, Auditor