



First Parish Church of Groton Information Sheet

First Parish Church of Groton was gathered as the town church in 1664. The congregation worships in its fourth Meeting House, which was completed in 1755. The congregation is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, a liberal faith that affirms the worth of all human beings, the freedom of individual belief, and the wisdom gained through individual experiences and the teachings of religious faiths from around the world. We seek to provide a warm, open, and supportive community for adults and children who seek insights for their own spiritual journeys.

First Parish Church of Groton is a full-time church. Formal services are held in the Sanctuary from September to June and informal lay-led services are held in the Vestry (room below the Sanctuary) from June to September. The Church Office in the Parish House is staffed from September to June but the Minister, Religious Education Director, Sexton, and Bookkeeper work year-round.

Financial figures below are as of August 1, 2019.

Buildings and Contents: \$4,394,300 (insured value).

- Old Groton Meeting House (sanctuary and vestry) and East Wing (class/meeting rooms), 14,700 sq. ft. Includes pipe organ (\$300,000).
- Parish House (offices and class/meeting rooms), 4,400 sq. ft.

Church Antique Silver: \$70,775

- Held at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts. Estimated fair market based on 2004 appraisal.

Endowment funds

- Groton Ministerial Fund¹: \$1,095,000
- Endowment Fund²: \$155,000

¹ The Groton Ministerial Fund was established in 1804 by the Massachusetts Legislature to "support the gospel" of the First Parish Church of Groton. It has a Board of Trustees that invests money donated by members of the church in a broadly diversified portfolio of assets. The principal of the Fund cannot be reduced. The annual income of the Groton Ministerial Fund is used for a portion of the Minister's salary. The Board of Trustees provides an Annual Report to the church membership at each Annual Meeting.

² The Endowment Fund of First Parish Church of Groton was formed in 2006. It supports the mission of the church. It has an Endowment Board (the Endowment Committee) that invests money donated by members of the church in a portfolio of investment assets. The Endowment Committee provides an Annual Report to the church membership at each Annual Meeting.

Employees: 8 professional staff plus 5+ youth employees

- One full-time Minister, Rev. Elea Kemler (since 2000)
- Three 50% or more: Religious Education Director, Office Administrator, Sexton
- Four less than 50%: Minister of Music, Bookkeeper, Youth Programs Coordinator, Office Assistant
- Five or more Youth Workers: Sunday Childcare and Coffee Hour

Members: 225

FINANCES

Annual Budget: \$364,000 (FY19) – see below for details

Number of Pledges: 153 individuals and families

Reserve Funds in Bank Account: \$78,493

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|-----------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|----------|
| • Building Reserve | \$46,543 | • Technology Reserve | \$2,500 |
| • Emergency Reserve | \$2,000 | • Board of Trustees Reserve | \$967 |
| • Sabbatical Reserve | \$3,830 | • Operating Reserve | \$22,653 |

Restricted Funds in Bank Account: \$26,935

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| • Caring Committee | • RE Council |
| • Carlene Owen/Ed Speare Fund | • Recovery, Rebuild, Build Fund |
| • Collation | • Social Justice |
| • Music Committee | • Student Minister |
| • Organ | • Youth Connections |
| • Priest Fund | |

Operating Funds in Bank Account: \$46,768

Cash Donations to Specific Church Programs: \$29,209 per year

Fundraisers for Operating, Restricted, and Reserve Funds (average past 3 years): \$50,481 per year

FY 19 Operating Budget and Reserve Savings:

INCOME		% of Total Income
Donations		
Collection Plate	\$ 7,558	2.1%
Pledges	\$ 258,950	71.2%
Non-Pledge Donations	\$ 12,084	3.3%
Ministerial Funds Support	\$ 38,000	10.4%
Fundraising	\$ 30,650	8.4%
Facilities Usage	\$ 16,518	4.5%
Total Income	\$ 363,810	100.0%
OPERATING EXPENSES		
		% of Total Expenses
Employee Compensation	\$ 250,801	68.9%
Committee Programs	\$ 5,939	1.6%
Buildings & Grounds	\$ 39,468	10.8%
Denomination Dues	\$ 14,654	4.0%
Church Office	\$ 10,872	3.0%
PayPal Fees	\$ 541	0.1%
Insurance	\$ 11,423	3.1%
Loan Interest - East Wing	\$ 306	0.1%
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 334,005	91.8%
RESERVE FUND SAVINGS		
Building Reserve	\$ 19,957	
Emergency Reserve	\$ 1,000	
Loan Principal - East Wing	\$ 5,849	
Operating Reserve	\$ 2,000	
Technology Reserve	\$ 1,000	
Total Savings	\$ 29,805	8.2%
Total Operating Expenses and Savings	\$ 363,810	100.0%

PROGRAMS

Children in Religious Education Program: 85 (~30 are teenagers)

Classes/Programs for All Ages in Religious Education:

- Spirit Play (Pre-K to 2nd Grade)
- Workshop (3rd to 5th Grades)
- Middle Matters (6th to 8th Grades)
- Our Whole Lives (Human sexuality for 5th-6th Grades and 7th-9th Grades)
- Youth Group (teenagers)
- Coming of Age (mentoring program for 14 years and older)
- Pathways (9th-12th Grades; to encourage active involvement in community)
- Bridging (12th Graders; transition to young adulthood)
- Young Adults

Committees/Boards/Working Groups of the Church:

- Archives Committee
- Board of Trustees
- Book Discussion Coordinator
- Buildings and Grounds Committee
- Caring Committee
- Cash Counter Coordinator
- Chalice Lighter Coordinator
- Choirs (Adult, Youth, and Children)
- Church Checkers
- Church Historian
- Collation Committee
- Committee on Ministry
- Endowment Committee
- Finance Committee
- Flower & Gardening Committee
- Furnishings and Décor Committee
- Leadership Development Committee
- Librarian
- Ministerial Fund Committee
- Music Committee
- Pastoral Visitors Committee
- Prison Ministry
- Racial Justice Ministry
- Religious Education Council
- Renewal of Giving Committee
- Small Group Ministry Working Group
- Welcoming All Group
- Worship Committee

GENEROSITY

Cash Donations to Outside Organizations (average of past 3 years): \$16,455 per year

- American Red Cross
- Bialystok Cemetery Restoration Fund
- Caring Committee
- City Reach
- Giving Tree
- Greater Lawrence Relief Fund
- Groton Community Dinners
- Guest At Your Table
- Haiti Relief Fund
- Heifer Project International
- Hurricane Harvey Relief
- International Institute of New England
- Kigali Reading Center
- Loaves and Fishes
- Local Women's Shelters
- North Central Massachusetts Faith Based Community Coalition
- Puerto Rico Relief
- Sanctuary Boston
- Townsend Fire Relief
- Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge Flood Fund
- UU Service Committee

Non-Cash Donations to Outside Organizations:

- Christmas Giving Tree (clothes, toys)
- City Reach (clothes)
- International Institute of New England (clothes, food)
- Kigali Reading Center (books)
- Loaves and Fishes (food, personal hygiene supplies)
- Merrimack Valley Relief for Gas Explosion Victims (clothes, food)
- Sterling Animal Rescue (blankets, food)

Church Address

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Groton, MA 01450

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