

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



**First Congregational Church**  
Lebanon, New Hampshire



Annual Meeting  
Sunday, February 10, 2019

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agenda for 2019 Annual Meeting	2
Warrant for 2019 Annual Meeting	3
Minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting	4
Pastor's Report	8
Church Council Report	11
Clerk's Report	12
Auditor's Report ( <i>*Not available in this edition*</i> )	14
Treasurer and Finance Committee (Budget for 2019) ( <i>*Not available in this edition*</i> )	15
Board of Governors Report	16
Board of Trustees Report ( <i>*Not available in this edition*</i> )	18
Diaconate Report	19
Diaconate Treasurer's Report ( <i>*Not available in this edition*</i> )	21
Church School and Christian Education Committee Report	22
Memorial Gardens Committee Report	23
Mission and Social Action Committee Report	24
Music Committee Report	26
Pastoral Relations Committee Report	27
Stewardship Committee Report	28
Women of the Church Report	30
Women of the Church, Treasurer's Report ( <i>*Not available in this edition*</i> )	31
Church History	32
Nominating Committee Report	35
Closing Hymn	37

**ANNUAL MEETING 2019**  
MODERATOR: Amy Driscoll

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation
3. Reading of the Warrant
4. Reading of the Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting
5. Reports:

PASTOR:	Rev. Stephen R. Silver
CHURCH COUNCIL:	Corrine Erskine
OFFICERS:	Clerk – Brian Clancy Auditor – Valerie Nevel (for Parkers Accounting) Treasurer – Terry Ellison
BOARDS:	Board of Governors – John Gilliatt Board of Trustees – Valerie Nevel Diaconate – Barbara Jones
COMMITTEES:	Committee Chairs
WOMEN OF THE CHURCH	
CHURCH HISTORIAN:	Corrine Erskine
6. Nominating Committee Report
7. Election of Officers and Committees
8. Old Business
9. New Business
  - A. Proposed Budget for 2019 (see pp. 16-17)
10. Closing Hymn: “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”
11. Benediction

## WARRANT FOR 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Lebanon, NH, will be held in the Parish Hall on Sunday, February 10, 2019, immediately following the worship service, for the purpose of:

1. The election of all officers provided for under the CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the church.
2. To hear the reports of all officers, committees, and organizations, as required under the CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the church.
3. To consider and act upon any other matters relating to the general church welfare that may properly come before this meeting:

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian C. Clancy, *Clerk*  
Lebanon, NH 03766  
January 18, 2019

## MINUTES OF 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 11, 2018

1. Moderator Amy Driscoll **called the meeting to order** at 11:15 and confirmed that a quorum of at least 25 corporate members were in attendance.
2. The **invocation** was offered by Rev. Stephen R. Silver.
3. Reading of the **warrant** for the 2018 meeting: ***Motion made*** by Linda Jacobs, seconded by Barb Laro, to dispense with reading the warrant. ***Motion passed unanimously.***
4. Reading of the **minutes** from the 2017 meeting: ***Motion made*** by Pete Mason, seconded by Terry Ellison, to dispense with reading the minutes. ***Motion passed unanimously.***
5. **Reports**

**Pastor** (Rev. Steve Silver): In addition to his report in the Annual Report document, Rev. Silver again expressed his deep gratitude for having time away in 2017 on his sabbatical. He thanked everyone who had helped lead the church during his absence, particularly the Rev. Jo Shelnutt. Steve then reaffirmed the importance of considering how to observe our congregation's 250th anniversary this year. He also encouraged us to reassess our organizational structure to make sure it works best for our current needs and capacities; he noted that churches in Lyme and Norwich had recently suspended their by-laws in order to deal with a similar concern. Lastly, Steve commended our church's strong leadership, thanking everyone for being so generous with time and service.

**Church Council** (Corrine Erskine, Chair): Report presented in Annual Report document.

**Clerk** (Brian Clancy): Report presented in Annual Report document.

**Auditor** (Vacant): Amy noted that a commitment at last year's meeting to conduct a professional audit had been fulfilled. Valerie Nevel added that the audit, conducted by Parkers Accounting, was clean and showed no major issues or concerns.

**Treasurer** (Terry Ellison): Report presented in Annual Report document.

**Board of Governors** (John Gilliatt): In addition to what is presented in the Annual Report, John Gilliatt explained that the Board of Governors was looking closely at FCC's carbon footprint, assessing insulation needs in particular arising from last year's energy audit. Surveying major capital projects that FCC could undertake in the coming year or two, he reported a rough estimate of \$37,000 for floor refinishing, new pew cushions, and new carpeting in the Sanctuary, noting that these items would have to be undertaken together. The church's kitchen also needs improvement, whether a "face lift" or a full renovation, and the installation of an elevator has been considered. At the Parsonage, possible projects include chimney repair and relining and potential sewer-line repairs.

John stressed that none of these things absolutely had to be done for safety or structural reasons, and certainly not all this year. He asked the congregation to provide clear indications about what projects should (or shouldn't) be done.

Linda Jacobs asked about an estimate for the insulation project, and John explained that while we don't yet have a full estimate, this would be roughly divided into three portions, with a focus first on the Parish Hall for about \$5,000.

**Board of Trustees** (Valerie Nevel): In addition to her report in the Annual Report document, Valerie Nevel noted that our investment income provides roughly half of our annual budget. She expressed confidence that market fluctuations would not adversely hurt our investments, which are diversified and allocated with only moderate risk. This year's withdrawal rate of 6% from our endowment income was higher than ideal, but not indicative of a long-term trend.

Valerie then read the list of names of those who had arranged for ongoing funding for the church in memorial gifts and bequests, including recent contributions from the estate of Elaine Cook. Valerie encouraged all members to consider providing some legacy for the church in their estate planning. Lastly, she thanked fellow Trustees Barry Schuster and Wendell Smith.

**Diaconate** (Barbara Jones, *not present*): Report presented in Annual Report document.

**Church School and Christian Education Committee** (Marcia Corkins): Report presented in Annual Report document.

**Memorial Gardens Committee** (Pete Mason): In addition to his report in the Annual Report document, Pete Mason officially welcomed Alyson Danyew-Ellison to the committee and thanked her for planting and caring for the gardens in 2017.

**Mission and Social Action Committee** (Corrine Erskine): Report presented in Annual Report document.

**Music Committee** (Brian Clancy): Report presented in Annual Report document.

**Stewardship Committee** (Jon Scott): Report presented in Annual Report document.

**Women of the Church**: Report presented in Annual Report document.

**Church Historian** (Corrine Erskine): In addition to her report in the Annual Report document, Corrine Erskine asked for clarification of the number of new members who joined in 2017. Clerk Brian Clancy explained that although six new members had been received during a worship service in February, two of those (Harriet Oman and Nancy Ulf) had already joined by transfer of membership in December 2016; thus, they were counted as new members in 2016.

**Motion made** by Linda Jacobs, seconded by Ike Jacobs, to accept the reports of all the church's boards and committees. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**6. Nominating Committee Report** (Amy Driscoll): Referring to the new roster of committees, Amy Driscoll noted a few additions since the printing of the Annual Report (on separate handout at the meeting)—Stacey Steele is joining Church Council as an at-large member (succeeding Barb Teeter), Jo Shelnutt is joining the Music Committee (term ending 2021), and Linda Jacobs' new term on MSA would be only a partial term until 2019. From the floor, Corrine Erskine volunteered to remain on MSA; Steve Teeter volunteered to join MSA and Music; Valerie Nevel and Amy Driscoll volunteered to join Stewardship; and Terry Ellison volunteered to join Stewardship and Board of Governors. It was noted that Alyson Danyew-Ellison's name hadn't yet been added to the Memorial Gardens list. Amy thanked everyone for their generous willingness to serve in all these ways.

## 7. Election of Officers and Committees

**Motion made** by Corrine Erskine, seconded by Terry Ellison, to accept the full slate of nominations as presented at the meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## 8. Old Business

**Scouting at FCC.** Amy Driscoll asked for follow-up on a resolution from last year's meeting, to determine which church committee should/would oversee FCC's role as charter organization for Boy Scout Troop 279 and Cub Scout Pack 279. Corrine Erskine as chair of Council noted that this question is currently in discussion.

## 9. New Business

**A. Proposed Budget for 2018:** Amy Driscoll, speaking as Moderator and chair of the Pastoral Relations Committee, reported on the difficulty of determining an appropriate compensation package for the pastor, raising the question of whether the church By-laws actually assign this task to the PRC. Discussion ensued regarding which church group should have the responsibility for this task instead; while the Personnel Committee seems logical for issues of compensation, there are reasons the pastor's compensation should be handled differently. Amy noted that this question was too important to be settled in a rushed manner leading up to annual meeting, requiring further, more thoughtful consideration in Council going forward.

John Gilliatt noted that the budget assigned only \$10,000 for capital improvements, even though the Board of Governors had identified a number of potential projects that would far exceed that amount. John asked for explicit guidance from the congregation regarding which projects should be undertaken and when, as none of them were urgent safety or structural concerns. Rachel Silver suggested that such guidance could be deferred until a potential capital campaign, which would ask the congregation for funding purposes and ideas. Valerie Nevel agreed from the Trustees' perspective. Amy suggested that John submit a list of estimated costs for various projects, so that Council could take up this issue and a possible campaign plan at its next meeting. Terry Ellison, stressing the complexity of the budget, agreed that this conversation would support budget planning going forward.

**Motion made** by Valerie Nevel, seconded by Terry Ellison, to accept the church's proposed budget for 2018, allowing for potential changes in both pastoral compensation and capital expenditure. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**B. Proposed Resolution on Immigrant Solidarity Network:** Kathy Beckett read the full resolution, as proposed by the Mission and Social Action Committee, to support the work of the NH Immigrant Solidarity Network. The resolution's statement of support was adopted directly from the NHISN.

While expressing her support for immigrant advocacy in principle, Hilary Ryder noted two concerns: 1) the explicit commitment to resist or obstruct the work of a federal body such as ICE, and 2) the vague, undefined pledge of "time, energy, and resources" to the NHISN. Similarly, Valerie Nevel questioned whether we as a church could commit to endorsing the "strategies and tactics" of a group that wasn't familiar to much of the congregation. Linda Jacobs expressed her strong support for the entire resolution, framing these issues in terms of what Jesus

would do on behalf of immigrants. The question arose whether we could amend the language of the NHISN's statement, and Kathy confirmed that we could. Ron Bailey added that the last paragraph of the statement applied to each individual church supporting the resolution, while the penultimate paragraph was meant to apply to the entire group of churches.

**Motion made** by Valerie Nevel, seconded by Steve Teeter, to accept the proposed resolution, contingent on removing the specific mention of ICE, the phrase "strategies and tactics," and the word "resources." **Motion passed, with two votes against it.**

10. The congregation sang the **closing hymn**, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."
11. Rev. Silver offered the **benediction**, again thanking everyone for their service.
12. Meeting **adjourned** at 12:15.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian C. Clancy, *Clerk*



## PASTOR'S REPORT

With the 2019 Annual Meeting, First Congregational Church's 250th anniversary year formally comes to a close. But we know that it won't really be over. The banners will still hang from the lampposts on South Park Street, Paul Ayres has yet to come over from England to lead a special musical program commemorating our founding, and our capital campaign is running according to its own schedule. For those who like tidiness and neat boundaries, you have my apologies. But for those who can appreciate a reflection of God's messy, surprising, wonderful creation, you are welcome. You are welcome and invited to the reality of life as a Christian, of knowing what you believe, perhaps even what you want, but often never getting what you anticipated. That need not be bad. Great things can happen at the least expected moment, just as malign events may strike at any time. As followers of Jesus Christ, we need to be prepared to be flexible, for as Scripture tells us, only the Lord knows the future, what will happen at one moment in time.

That does not mean we are left in the dark, that we should just let life happen. We know from Scripture and the witness of the faithful that God has made promises to his people, a commitment that was revealed at Sinai and later brought to fruition in Jesus. So we have assurances about what will happen, ultimately. Jesus shall return in glory. That's good news. It's great news. But what should we do until then? Should we plan?

We read in Chapter 4 of the Letter to James the admonition, "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit'—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring." The author sees through our pretensions about forecasting what will come to pass. The truth is we can't know the future, and should not delude ourselves otherwise. He then continues, "What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that.'" All that has happened, happens now, and will happen is in God's hands, he says.

Does that mean we are just things to be manipulated by God? Do we have no agency? No, that's not what it means. We are told in Genesis that we have free will. We can and do make choices, some inconsequential, some of great import. The truth is what matters is the context in which we decide. Do we live in a random universe, or one that is shaped by the grace and love of God? Do we live in a cosmos in which there are no consequences to our actions, or one that is ultimately judged by the Almighty? I believe that God is indeed the architect of our reality, that he cares about what we do, and it is in that environment that we must think about our future. And to do that we need to know where we have been.

The past year at FCC Lebanon has been good, but while there is much in which we may rightly take pride, we should not be satisfied. Our worship services are filled with great music and visiting musicians who share their talents with us, and I appreciate that the congregation demands a high level of preaching. I have often told my ministerial colleagues that 'mailing it in' is not an option with the people of First Congregational; you pay attention to what is preached here. We have a loyal core of worshipers and a larger community from which we regularly draw. As your pastor I would like to see more people at worship, and I think in the year ahead we should focus on how we can achieve

greater numbers, not because “bigger is better” but because we are called to be evangelists who share the word of God with others.

Seemingly little things can have a significant impact. As an example, I would ask you to consider the banner welcoming immigrants and refugees that we hung over our front door. This may not have seemed like a lot but it has been noticed by a lot of people in the wider community. That banner says something about who we are and want to be. My hope is that we can build on this declaration in the months ahead and give some serious thought about the public witness we offer.

We’ve been blessed with great kids, from toddlers to pre-teens, and we have been blessed with the gifts of Marcia Corkins, who leads our Church School program. One notable challenge we dealt with this year is that attendance by children on Sundays has been an up-and-down affair, making it difficult to administer a curriculum. Going forward, we will have the opportunity to re-imagine our Church School program, and I hope that we will have wide participation in this endeavor.

Vitally important to our ministry, we continue to make our building available to the wider community. The Scouts, the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program, West Central Behavioral Health, Lebanon Opera House, Valley Improv, and various musical groups from Bel Canto to Classicopia all meet here or have programs in our space during the week. With church attendance on the wane nationally and competing for people’s attention with so many other interests and causes, this will be an increasingly important way for us to make ourselves known and valuable to those beyond our congregation.

Our long-rumored capital campaign has meandered this past year, revealing some challenges for us but not a lack of interest. We will continue to discuss this in the months ahead and will soon consult all of you on what we might do to secure the future of this church’s ministry.

The next part of my report will seem familiar to those who have read my messages in previous years, and it should. It’s the part where I offer my thanks. Doing so is important, especially in a world where courtesies are often lacking. More to the point, our faith is grounded in gratitude, and we should offer our thanks, not just to God, but to those who do his work, whenever possible.

You, the congregation and friends of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, have given so much of yourselves to make the mission and ministry of this church happen, and for that you have my heartfelt thanks. Our committee chairs and members, fellowship participants, and those who just chip in all make this church work. I would love for there to be more of you!

And the church staff: Wow! Brian Clancy, our Church Administrator, always goes the proverbial extra mile serving our congregation and the wider community with grace, humor, and patience; Henry Danaher, our Organist and Music Director, continues to bring dedication and vision to our services and has cultivated fruitful ties to the Upper Valley music community; and Barb Teeter, our Sexton, keeps our church neat and tidy with a welcome smile and lots of hugs. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Rev. Jo Shelnutt, for filling the pulpit during my summer break.

And then there’s Marcia Corkins, our beloved Church School Superintendent, who has done so much for the children of our church. To her we give our thanks and recognition—and good wishes. I mentioned earlier an opportunity to rethink what we do in Church School. This opportunity has

arisen because after many, many years of working with our kids, Marcia has decided to step down from the children's ministry. While we will love having her in the Sanctuary, her presence in the classroom will be missed. As the old saying goes, she can be succeeded, but never replaced.

As we have lived through our 250th year, I've been reminded of why anniversaries are important but also of why in some ways they don't matter. The 251st year of our common ministry is important too, and in some ways much more important. While it's nice to see where we've been, we as Christians are called to live for Christ's future. The work ahead of us is exciting, what will happen in many ways unknown. A great adventure in faith awaits us!

Yours faithfully,

Steve

## CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

At its January meeting, Council discussed the necessity of hiring a company to take care of the sidewalks and parking lot during the winter when it becomes icy in order to prevent injuries. We also gave Terry Ellison permission to arrange for a debit card for use by the Pastor, Church Administrator, and Board of Governors chair. This card will be subject to limits decided by the Finance Committee.

We also need to appoint an ad hoc committee to decide on how to celebrate our 250th Anniversary.

Also, the Diaconate proposed submitting a faith-based letter of endorsement for an anti-hate resolution that is currently being considered in Lebanon City Council. Members of Church Council voted unanimously to support the Diaconate's letter.

The church's historical archive is in a fireproof cabinet in the basement, which we agreed should be catalogued and moved to a more suitable location. Laurel Stavis has submitted a proposal for archiving and summarizing the contents of this cabinet.

Wendell Smith has offered to acquire a granite bench (in memory of his late wife Ginger) to be installed by the Memorial Garden for the comfort of visiting family.

Council also approved the hanging of a banner over the front door of the Sanctuary welcoming immigrants and refugees.

We hired a campaign consultant for our 250th Anniversary capital campaign. He met with us, and we decided to use him only when needed. We will begin working on this after the holidays.

Respectfully submitted,

Corrine Erskine, *Chair*

## CLERK'S REPORT

### Membership Changes

During 2018 four people joined the church as covenant members, and nine members died; two members transferred their membership. With these changes, we begin 2019 with 202 members.

*Note:* It has been several years since FCC has conducted a thorough review of its membership list. Thus, although each year's Annual Report correctly calculates total membership according to the preceding year's changes, our total membership number no longer accurately represents how many covenant members are actually involved or associated (on at least a minimal level) with FCC-Lebanon. Total membership is reported annually to the NH Conference and used to calculate a recommended amount for conference dues. We plan to review our membership list this year, with the intention of reporting a revised, more accurate membership total in the 2019 Annual Report.

#### *New Members Received:*

Jen and Brendan Callahan, joined 4/22/2018.

Gloria and Philip Hammond, joined 4/22/2018.

#### *Members Who Died:*

Reuben D. Cole, d. 1/4/2018.

Mary E. Skinner, d. 2/1/2018.

Doris M. Dubie, d. 2/12/2018.

Margaret M. "Ginger" Smith, d. 3/8/2018.

Nancy N. Ryder, d. 3/26/2018.

Louis A. Audette, d. 4/12/2018.

Marjorie A. Audette, d. 4/18/2018.

Nancy M. Laren, d. 9/3/2018.

Alisha M. Boice, d. 11/13/2018.

#### *Members Who Transferred:*

Marty and Mark Rowell, transferred membership to Orangeville Charge UCC (Orangeville, PA), by letter of transfer 6/22/2018.

#### *Members Who Withdrew:*

(None)

### Baptisms

Rev. Stephen R. Silver performed the following **baptisms**:

(None)

### Weddings

Rev. Stephen R. Silver presided at the following **service of Christian marriage**:

Deserai Stone and Walter Scott, married 8/18/2018 at FCC.

## Memorial Services

Rev. Silver presided at the following **memorial and graveside services**:

### *Members of the Church:*

Margaret M. “Ginger” Smith, d. 3/8/2018, memorial service 3/24/2018 at FCC; committal service 6/30/2018 at FCC Memorial Garden.

Doris M. Dubie, d. 2/12/2018, graveside memorial service 6/4/2018 at Hartland Village Cemetery, Hartland, VT.

Alisha M. Boice, d. 11/13/2018, memorial service 11/19/2018 at FCC.

### *Friends of the Church:*

Christine Drakopoulos, d. 4/14/2018, graveside memorial service 4/23/2018 at Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA.

Carol Dustin, d. 5/22/2018, memorial service 6/16/2018 at FCC.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian C. Clancy, *Clerk*

## AUDITOR'S REPORT

[ *\*Not available in this edition. For questions or additional information, please contact First Congregational Church directly at 603-448-4281 or church@fccleb.org.\** ]

TREASURER and FINANCE COMMITTEE

Report for the year January 1 to December 31, 2018 / Proposed Budget for 2019

[ *\*Not available in this edition. For questions or additional information, please contact First Congregational Church directly at 603-448-4281 or church@fcclb.org.\** ]



## BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPORT

“The Board of Governors shall have general charge and care of the church’s physical property,” according to our church’s Constitution and By-Laws. The Board has traditionally met on the fourth Sunday of the month. All meeting agendas and meeting minutes are available in written or digital form.

Following is a summary list of our work this year:

### ***Maintenance and Repairs Completed:***

- Parish Hall ceiling crack repaired
- Trees and bushes trimmed around entire property, visual obstruction of apple tree removed at entrance of rear parking lot
- Nate Cole replaced by Chip Silver to clear and treat walkways in winter
- Additional labeled calcium-chloride containers added, and supplied with dispensing scoops

### ***Finished Projects:***

- Balcony stairway lighting added
- Relocation of fireproof cabinet containing church’s historical documents
- Clean-out of custodial closet and office storage area
- Creation of Board of Governors storage area in basement anteroom

### ***Unfinished Projects:***

- Altar railings
- Evaluation of Parsonage sewer obstruction
- Paint registry

### ***Major Projects List (Church and Parsonage):***

<i>Description</i>	<i>Project Category</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
Insulation: Parish Hall, kitchen, office areas	Energy Savings	\$ 5,000
Insulation: Sanctuary ceiling	Energy Savings	29,400
Insulation: basement	Energy Savings	10,100
Parsonage energy audit and insulation	Energy Savings	TBD
Sanctuary: replacement of pew cushions	Cosmetic	10,000
Sanctuary: floor refinishing	Cosmetic	9,000
Sanctuary: replacement of carpet (incl. balcony)	Cosmetic	18,000

Resurfacing of front walk	Cosmetic	3,800
Basic kitchen “face-lift” (paint, flooring, countertops)	Cosmetic	5,000
Full kitchen renovation and elevator installation	Cosmetic/Accessibility	TBD

The chair wishes to thank all the committee members, as well as Brian Clancy and Steve Silver for all their support given.

Respectfully submitted,

John Gilliatt, *Chair*

Walter Scott, *Vice Chair and Secretary*

Terry Ellison

Brandon Mason

Nan Parsons

Wendell Smith

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT**  
For the year ended December 31, 2018

[ *\*Not available in this edition. For questions or additional information, please contact  
First Congregational Church directly at 603-448-4281 or church@fcclb.org.\** ]

## DIACONATE REPORT

How amazing it is to consider that our congregation has been in existence, with members contributing to this church and our community, for 250 years! Our church was started in 1768 by six farsighted men who journeyed north to settle here. It is hard not to wonder what they would think of what we have become, especially of the important role of women in the church—at one point this year, seven of the twelve deacons were women!

The Deacons are responsible for the lay spiritual needs of our congregation, together with serving communion, encouraging and dispensing the ever increasing need for funds for our Open Door Ministry, supporting the Parish/Community Nurse project, and generally caring for our church members through prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, and our Prayer Shawl Ministry. Our church also is involved in Cub Scout and Boy Scout programs affiliated with our church, services at Genesis Nursing, as well as hosting Bike and Build and the CROP walk. We celebrated Praise in the Park and also the pulpit exchange with the West Lebanon church. We helped gather clothing for Epilogos, and Phil Hammond let us know of the opportunity to support Samaritan's Purse (33 boxes collected), which provides boxes of children's gifts beyond the Upper Valley—not to compete with Barb Teeter's coordination of our support of families at Christmas through Listen. We are supporting Eliot Fay in his Member-in-Discernment journey. This may even be the year when we resolve all issues related to serving communion and solve the Sanctuary's sound system quirks so everyone can hear.

Our church put up a prominent banner to indicate that immigrants and refugees are welcome. This is in addition to our being Open and Affirming in support of people of any sexual orientation or gender identity. The Deacons endorsed a Lebanon City Council resolution against hate to validate the church's stand against hate crimes. We welcomed Denise Moriearty, Phil Hammond, and later Bob Gerlach as new Deacons. We mourned the loss of Deacon Ginger Smith and will miss Susan Montmagny, who has shifted her energies to the West Lebanon church.

One of our goals continues to be greater lay participation in our services, including preparing stewardship messages and children's moments. We worked to be more sensitive to privacy in our sharing of Joys and Concerns in addition to acknowledging the importance of that portion of the service. We decided that video recording of our services was too complicated to be done at this time. We had successful summer pulpit coverage thanks to Jo Shelnutt. Deacons Susan Pratt and Barbara Jones reported on a worthwhile two-day seminar they attended on mental health first aid.

Thus far our 250th anniversary celebration and plans for the next century or so are not fully fleshed out, but Peggy Bendroth from the Congregational Library in Boston was guest preacher for a special service and coffee hour on September 23, 2018, closest to our actual founding date of September 27. Charles Buck, interim NH Conference Minister, brought greetings from the Conference to our service on September 30. Rev. Randall Balmer preached a thoughtful message to our church in November. Paul Ayres has been commissioned to write a new piece of music and lead a choral workshop in March of 2019. Bob Barr has been hired as a consultant for an anniversary campaign, and preparations continue for securing congregational input.

Several members of the Diaconate continue to be involved individually with community and social justice matters. These include fighting racism, advocating open and affirming issues, abolishing the death penalty in New Hampshire, and addressing immigration issues. Other social-justice causes include No Pipeline, Fight for \$15, Black Lives Matter, and a program to train us on active-shooter awareness.

I wish to thank all of the Deacons who have served so faithfully this past year, and I am grateful for all they have done for this congregation and community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Jones, *Chair*  
Barbara Teeter, *Vice-Chair*  
Bob Gerlach, *Secretary (partial year)*  
Alyson Danyew-Ellison, *Treasurer*  
Kathy Beckett  
Edward (Larry) Doyle  
Phil Hammond  
Susan Montmagny (*partial year*)  
Denise Moriearty  
Susan Pratt  
Biff Simpson  
Ginger Smith (*dec.*)  
Steve Teeter

## DIACONATE TREASURER'S REPORT

[ *\*Not available in this edition. For questions or additional information, please contact First Congregational Church directly at 603-448-4281 or church@fccleb.org.\** ]

## CHURCH SCHOOL AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Our 2017-18 Church School year began with Kick-off Sunday in September, which included fun activities on the front lawn followed by lunch for all with pizza, veggies, and ice cream.

Our Church School theme for the year was “Bible Beliefs,” which considered such topics as Jesus and God, Christian Life, Families Today, Giving and Taking, Making Good Choices, Bullying, Love, Truth and Lies, and the Ten Commandments.

The children and our committee prepared and served two Community Dinners. The children also prepared special food for a coffee hour.

Many children participated in the Christmas pageant on Christmas Eve.

Our “Lenten Lunch Bag Collection” provided much-needed supplies for David’s House, which the children helped deliver. We also sent half of the collected funds to Epilogos for a student scholarship. The children also used regular offering to fund the purchase of a goat through the Heifer International program.

On Children’s Day in June, the children were presented books and bibles and shared a display of projects representing the year’s theme. For coffee hour that day, Christian Education served a selection of “Bible food.”

Our summer Musical Drama Camp was held in August, led by Jo Shelnutt, Marcia Corkins, and Henry Danaher. Several children from outside our congregation joined us for this week of music, crafts, fun, and the performance, followed by a pizza dinner.

Thank you to our church family for all your love, help, and support.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Corkins, *Superintendent of Church School*

Laurie Braley

Ike Jacobs

Linda Jacobs

Nicole Mason

## MEMORIAL GARDENS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Memorial Gardens Committee is responsible for overseeing the maintenance and planting of our two memorial gardens. The garden in front by the church sign is in honor of Betty and Ellis Howard, given by their family. The Memorial Garden in front of the stone is where cremated ashes of deceased church members and their families may be buried.

On June 30, 2018, the ashes of Margaret “Ginger” Smith, who passed away on March 8, were interred in front of the stone. Wendell Smith and other family members were present for the committal service, conducted by Rev. Silver.

In addition to Ginger Smith, the stone is engraved with the names and birth/death years of these other deceased members of our church: Leif and Beryl Thorsrud, Frank and Helen Wallace, Hank Watson, Robert Bassett, Dr. Gordon Place, Ellis Howard, Willmott “Bin” Lewis, and Marilyn Guild Mason. (The names of spouses may be engraved at the same time, whether or not both are deceased.)

Committee members maintain the gardens and plant flowers in the garden each spring. Alyson Danyew-Ellison did the planting work again for both gardens in 2018.

Anyone who would like more information about either of the Memorial Gardens or would like to contribute to them should please contact one of the committee members. To reserve a spot in the interment garden, please contact a committee member or the Church Administrator.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Pete Mason, *Chair*  
Alyson Danyew-Ellison  
Ike Jacobs  
Brandon Mason



## MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT

This year was marked by a congregational focus on the difficulties that immigrants face in New Hampshire and the Upper Valley. Consequently, FCC joined the New Hampshire Immigrant Solidarity Network, a network of faith communities that pledge to support the state's immigrants. FCC followed this commitment in meetings last spring with immigrant community members and with local immigration attorney Kate Semple Barta from the Welcoming All Nationalities Network. The goal of these meetings was to determine the needs of immigrants who are our neighbors.

MSA is considering how we might contribute to a fund to provide financial support to local immigrants facing economic burdens due to their status. MSA also met with Asma Elhuni, UVIP's new Lead Organizer, who informed us regarding efforts to influence immigration policy in NH and at the national level.

Regarding other initiatives of UVIP, FCC participated in a "Get Out the Vote" campaign, in which members of the congregation pledged to vote in the November 2018 election. FCC members also signed a petition to support a moral economy in NH, with the specific request to raise the state's minimum wage.

Through UVIP's Micah Awards event, FCC honored congregation members Ike and Linda Jacobs for their years of dedicated work both within our church community and in the wider Upper Valley community.

In order to solidify FCC's relationship with Epilogos Charities and their philanthropic work in San Jose Villanueva (SVJ), El Salvador, MSA met with founders Mike and Susie Jenkins and Dr. Ed Warren, Board President. While mission trips to El Salvador are key to establishing relationships with the people of SVJ, the decision to make such a trip is now complicated by the reality of gang violence in that area. The Jenkins and Dr. Warren also noted the importance of supporting the Epilogos schools in SVJ as a way for students to escape poverty and gang violence. Our Church School's Lenten offering program donates to the Epilogos schools.

In June, FCC again hosted Bike & Build's Northern U. S. group. The young adults who participated this year were provided meals, entertainment by Valley Improv, and a place to sleep for two nights. The community is encouraged to meet and support these young people, who travel the northern U. S. helping local affordable-housing affiliates with their building projects. Bike & Build has the larger goal of promoting affordable housing through their advocacy efforts and grant programs.

Ron Bailey once again organized the "Souper Bowl" in January. Through this effort, much needed soup and other canned goods are collected and donated to the Haven, Listen, and Headrest.

FCC again hosted the CROP Walk luncheon for Upper Valley participants in October. Soups were contributed by the Lebanon Diner, by Linda Jacobs, and by Jim Oronte, who again made his delicious sausage soup. A number of FCC members walked and raised funds for the project.

FCC's Community Dinners continue to be well received, and the efforts that our church members put into making and serving fresh, homemade meals is greatly appreciated. While our guest numbers have often been relatively low, this service is important to building and maintaining relationships with members of our wider community.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Beckett, *Chair*

Ron Bailey

Corrine Erskine

Linda Jacobs

Barbara Laro

Denise Moriearty (*partial year*)

Jon Scott

Wendell Smith

Laurel Stavis

Steve Teeter

## MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

The Music Committee benefits from the support of so many in our congregation who value and appreciate the role of music in our spiritual life. In surveying the past year, we notice great strengths and growth in our music ministry, even as we acknowledge some challenges.

Music Director Henry Danaher has cultivated a vibrant community here of singers, instrumentalists, and appreciative listeners. An integral presence in worship, FCC's choir has evolved into a mutually supportive and faithful group within our congregation. And Henry continues to enhance FCC's reputation for featuring a variety of superb guest musicians in worship. We enjoyed the music of visiting instrumentalists, vocalists, and ensembles in worship on 33 of 52 Sundays in 2018, including a number of "regulars" who have become fond of sharing their music with our congregation. Some highlights include the appearance of Jacqueline Schwab, who has played on numerous Ken Burns documentaries; several Sundays of jazz saxophone with Mike Parker; and a visit by Vermont composer Gwyneth Walker, who premiered a new piece at FCC for Pentecost. Henry again worked with Hal Sheeler to provide three more Open Sing events at FCC, each drawing from 30 to 50 singers.

Supported and recommended by an increasing share of the musical community, the Music at the Meetinghouse series is now widely recognized as a highly desirable venue for performers from around the Upper Valley and beyond. We hosted 32 events in the series in 2018, as well as several student recitals. Classicopia and the Upper Valley Music Center continue to be our most consistent guests, but new ensembles such as the Samara Piano Quartet and the Faiella Folk Duo also performed. The Bel Canto Chamber Singers rehearse here weekly for their April and December concert sets, and Cantabile Women's Chorus, Harmony Night, and the renowned choral ensemble Counterpoint all sang at FCC this year as well. We sustained LOH on Location, our partnership with the Lebanon Opera House, with popular appearances by Night Tree and the Egyptian singer-songwriter Youssra El Hawary. All these performers and their audiences routinely commend FCC for both our Sanctuary and our promotion of musical culture in the area.

One challenge for our music ministry is securing volunteer support for producing the increasing number of musical events that we host, from advertising and publicity to house management to occasional receptions. The committee has also discussed adding a more intentional charitable benefit component to our concert series, such as regular partnership with local service organizations. We have also begun to consider the maintenance and repair needs of our faithful but aging organ.

Music has long been fundamental to our worship life at FCC, and it continues to invite the wider community into our building. Many thanks to all those who have supported our music ministry!

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Clancy, *Chair*

Henry Danaher, *Music Director (ex-officio)*

Meghan Davis

Jo Shelnuitt

Steve Teeter

Gail Wasson

## PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Pastoral Relations Committee met twice with Steve Silver during 2018. However, most of our time and efforts were spent without Steve, educating ourselves about the components of the pastor's compensation package and making recommendations for an increase. Some of the items in the package had not been reviewed or increased in a number of years. The committee consulted best practices as well as recommendations for clergy compensation made by the NH Conference of the UCC. The committee recognized the need to become better informed on a number of issues associated with compensation packages, and will continue to learn in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Driscoll, *Moderator and Chair*

Barbara Jones

Valerie Nevel

Nan Parsons

Jon Scott

Wendell Smith

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Stewardship in any healthy faith community is about much more than numbers. In fact, the financial dimension of stewardship is often the least important compared to the others. People tend to put their money where their heart is—in the organizations and causes which mean the most to us, where we spend our volunteer time, where our friends and family are, where we find ourselves nurtured and refreshed by the people we find and make community with.

This year's report focuses mainly on numbers—the dollars and cents. As you review that information, please be sure to keep in mind that those other dimensions, if they could be as easily measured and compared apples-to-apples, would likely be a multiple many tens if not hundreds of times larger than the dollars alone. We are truly blessed.

**2018 Pledges, Offerings, and Special Gifts.** Between fall 2017 and early 2018, our members pledged \$47,530 for 2018. Those same individuals and families ultimately contributed \$52,994 in offerings for the year. Offerings and gifts from people who had not submitted formal pledges added another \$44,994, for a total of \$97,988 received in 2018.

Also in 2018, the church received \$7,171 in special offerings for our Open Door Ministry, which provides food, fuel, and other financial assistance for people in need in our community. Our Communion Sunday offerings are the main source of these collections, but we also received a number of Open Door Ministry gifts at other times.

Other special offerings collected in 2018, including four national UCC-sponsored campaigns, our church's Blanket Sunday (Mother's Day) and Shelter Sunday (Father's Day) collections, offerings from ecumenical services, and the Church School's Lenten Lunch Bag and Heifer Project offerings together totaled \$5,508.

The church also received \$6,993 in special gifts designated for support of our music ministry, mission and social action, and other church programming. Legacy gifts (bequests by will) received in 2018 and in many earlier years continue to be a critically important part of our church's financial health (details available elsewhere in this Annual Report).

**2019 Pledges.** Participation in our fall 2018 pledge initiative for 2019 dropped off dramatically compared to what happened a year earlier. Though it is much more challenging, the church is still able to budget responsibly for 2019, based on what we know and can project from the current makeup of our congregation and historical patterns of giving in our church.

Your Stewardship Committee respectfully requests that all members of our church community who intend to provide financial support during 2019 complete current pledge forms documenting their commitment, if they have not already done so. Additional forms will be distributed at the Annual Meeting and are also available from the church office and in our Parish Hall, where we gather for coffee hour following worship. The pledge information on these forms is critically important as it allows us to manage church budgets and finances as responsible stewards.

**Legacy Gifts and Stewardship.** Every adult, no matter their financial circumstances or charitable intent, should have a plan for what will happen when they die. If any church member would like

assistance preparing a will or making other end-of-life plans, we encourage you to contact the church office. We have individuals in our congregation who have the expertise to help you get started. Making a bequest by will is only one of the ways you can make a Legacy Gift commitment. For example, you can also plan a Legacy Gift by designating the church and/or other charities as beneficiary(ies) of a savings, investment, or retirement account or life insurance policy. Please let us know how we can help you make or update your end-of-life or Legacy Gift plans.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Scott, *Chair*

Amy Driscoll

Terry Ellison

Valerie Nevel

Steve Teeter

## WOMEN OF THE CHURCH REPORT

The Women of the Church purchased three coffee carafes and a vegetable steamer for the church kitchen in 2018. They also purchased and donated food to the Upper Valley Haven, organized and served the annual Senior Luncheon in May, and prepared two Community Dinners during the year, as the group has done for several years.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Laro, *Acting Chair*

## WOMEN OF THE CHURCH, TREASURER'S REPORT

[ *\*Not available in this edition. For questions or additional information, please contact First Congregational Church directly at 603-448-4281 or church@fccleeb.org.\** ]



## CHURCH HISTORY

We began 2018 with a Sunday worship service while it was 4-below weather outside. The services in the Parish Hall began on January 14. Much warmer! This was a quiet month for the church, with two concerts and a community supper. We also collected for the Souper Bowl, which brought over 200 cans for the Haven, Listen, and Headrest

Our Annual Meeting took place on February 11. We barely had a quorum, but we had some very good discussions about budget and improvements to the building. Kathy Beckett read the resolution to endorse the N.H. Immigrant Solidarity Network. After changing the language a little, we voted to accept the resolution, with plans to have a future congregational discussion of questions as to how we are going to help. Following the meeting we had a delicious potluck meal.

Ash Wednesday fell on Valentine's Day. Steve again distributed ashes to passersby in front of the church this year. This day also brought the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school in Florida. That following Sunday Steve called for all of us to get involved somehow in fixing the growing gun problem in our country, and Mission and Social Action will be following up on this.

On the same Sunday we also had the pleasure of listening to music from two flautists, Martin Hanft and Leslie Stroud. A week later music was provided by Martin Hanft and guest violinist Judy Wild, with Henry Danaher on harpsichord.

February 25 was supposed to be our annual Fire and Ice winter walk at Ron Bailey's house, but because of warmer weather there was no snow, postponing this event. Oddly, that morning it was snowing during the service!

March and April were busy months for our music program here. We had concerts by UVMC (Trois Trios and their Faculty Showcase), Aged to Perfection, Night Tree (an LOH on Location event), and a benefit concert for Headrest by Meghan Davis and friends. We also hosted Classicopia and, at the end of April, the Bel Canto Chamber Singers. Biff Simpson's Valley Improv comedy troupe also performed a benefit for our Open Door Ministry.

Missions held an open forum on immigration on March 18, attended by around 25 people. Many questions were asked and it was a good discussion. We decided to have a banner made welcoming immigrants, to be hung between the columns on the front of the church; when it was hung later in the spring, it brought many positive remarks. We planned to have another discussion later, after some details have been worked out as to how we can help. We did decide that for the foreseeable future, we will not be a "sanctuary church" but will help the Meriden church with this role in any way they need. When Our sign welcoming immigrants went up between the pillars this month. We have had several positive remarks about it.

Toward the end of March, we lost Ginger Smith after a short illness. We will miss her sense of humor. A memorial service was held on March 24 and the church was filled to capacity. What a legacy she left.

The last week of March was Holy Week, a full week as always. On Palm Sunday we collected the Lenten offering bags that the children had made, followed by services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. On Easter—April Fools Day this year—came the Ecumenical Sunrise Service (which was

pretty darn cold!) and a breakfast to benefit Wise (raising \$184.00), followed by our festival worship service and an Easter Egg hunt.

Later in April we invited Ed Warren and Mike and Susie Jenkins from Epilogos to church so the children could present them with a check for \$450, which was half of what was collected in the Lenten Lunch Bag offering. The other half of the money went to supplies for David's House. On April 22 we welcomed new members to our church: Phil and Gloria Hammond, and Jen and Brendan Callahan, along with their sons Mac and Jack.

We had a treat in store for us on May 13. Jacqueline Schwab, pianist for numerous Ken Burns documentaries, played for Sunday worship and held a concert that afternoon. On May 20 we installed three new deacons: Bob Gerlach, Phil Hammond, and Denise Moriearty. The Senior Luncheon was held on May 23, although unfortunately, only thirteen people attended.

June was a busy month for concerts, with four in addition to an Open Sing of *The Mikado* just before the June community dinner. While cooking for dinner we could hear the beautiful voice of Elizabeth Montmagny. Also in June the FCC Outing Club took a hike to Boston Lot and Indian Ridge.

July was a slow month. Steve was on vacation, and Jo Shelnutt took his place in the pulpit. Her children's moments are always so funny and exuberant!

Having hosted the Bike & Build group in June as in years past, we also hosted another group at the beginning of August. This group was 30 young adults who were walking across the country to support the Ulman Fund for cancer research. As with Bike & Build, they spent the night at our church and we provided them with dinner.

On August 12 and 19 our church again did a pulpit exchange with West Lebanon Congregational Church. We worshiped in their church the first week, and on the 19th they came to FCC. The following week (August 20-24) we held our third Musical Drama Camp, featuring *A Not So Terrible Parable*. About 40 people watched the young thespians perform on Friday afternoon, followed by a pizza party. Thanks to Marcia and Jo for all their hard work.

Sunday worship on August 26 was filled with the sound of Betty Kim on the violin. Thanks to Henry Danaher for bringing all these wonderful musicians to our church services.

In September we hosted three concerts, with the Samara Piano Quartet, folk artists Liz and Dan Faiella, and Open Sing VII. For Kick-off Sunday the Church School resumed with the theme "Calling All Disciples," and we had a pizza lunch and the ever-popular bouncy house.

Later that month the Church Council met with fundraising consultant Bob Barr. We hired him to do a feasibility study for our proposed anniversary campaign. On September 23 we celebrated Anniversary Sunday, the 250th anniversary of our congregation's founding (September 27, 1768). That morning we had a guest preacher, Dr. Peggy Bendroth, Executive Director of the Congregational Library and Archives in Boston. Following the service the Deacons hosted a special coffee hour with treats authentic to 250 years ago. Phil and Gloria Hammond even came in costume! The surprise of the morning was having Laura Place, Carolin Bassett, Closey Dickey, and the Beldings all there.

October was a busy month. The CROP Walk was on the 7th, a dreary day, but we fed about fifty people at the post-walk lunch. We also hosted a conversation on immigration with Kate Semple Barta after church on October 14. She gave us a few ideas on how to help, and we planned to have

another discussion shortly. The FCC Outing Club trekked to Balch Hill in Hanover on the 21st, and we also hosted two concerts, by Classicopia and Youssra El Hawary, another LOH on Location event. Lastly, at the end of the month on the 28th we celebrated Ike and Linda Jacobs at the UVIP Micah Awards.

At the beginning of November we welcomed guest preacher Randall Balmer, Phillips Chair of Religion at Dartmouth, to help us continue celebrating our 250th Anniversary. The Ecumenical Thanksgiving service was held this year at the West Lebanon Congregational Church. Stewardship Sunday was November 25.

At the end of November we had the difficult task of holding a memorial service for Alisha Boice, who was killed in an early-winter car accident. The church was full and a gathering was held in the Parish Hall afterward.

After church on the first Sunday of December the church was transformed into its Christmas splendor by those magical elves! Barb Teeter put out the Christmas "Giving Tree" needs for Listen families again this year, and again, we met the challenge.

There were four concerts in December, with Classicopia, Bel Canto, the UVMC Messiah Sing, and Soir d'Automne, which had been postponed in November because of weather. On December 9 we were treated to beautiful music during worship by Henry, Meghan Davis, Laurel Stavis and Marty Singer. After worship was our annual caroling outing to the Towers, Harvest Hill, and Genesis.

On the 16th Rachel and Steve opened up the Parsonage to us for our church Christmas Party. About 25 people attended and sang their hearts out!

We ended the year with three services on Christmas Eve. Rachel Silver was in charge of the children's pageant at 5:00, followed by the 8:00 lessons and carols service and the 11:00 communion service.

Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Corrine Erskine, *Church Historian*

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

*Note:* All positions are three-year terms, ending in February of the year listed; positions marked with an asterisk (\*) carry only a one-year term. Membership size or ranges specified in FCC's By-laws are shown in parentheses. Positions marked *Vacant* must be filled to meet minimum membership; those marked *Open* are available but not required.

*MODERATOR	Amy Driscoll
*CLERK	Brian Clancy
*TREASURER	Terry Ellison
*ASSISTANT TREASURER	<i>Vacant</i>
*HISTORIAN	Corrine Erskine
*AUDITOR	<i>Vacant</i>
*CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT (Term: July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020)	Nancy Parsons

### CHURCH COUNCIL

*CHAIR	Corrine Erskine
*VICE CHAIR	Linda Jacobs
*MEMBER-AT-LARGE	Linda Oronte
*MEMBER-AT-LARGE	Leslie Thomson

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS (4-9)

John Gilliatt	2022
Brandon Mason	2022
Wendell Smith	2022
Terry Ellison	2021
Walter Scott	2021
<i>Open</i>	2021
Nancy Parsons	2020
<i>Open</i>	2020
<i>Open</i>	2020

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES (3)

Wendell Smith	2022
Barry Schuster	2021
Valerie Nevel	2020

### FINANCE COMMITTEE (5)

<i>Vacant</i> (At-Large)	2022
*Treasurer	2020
*Member Board of Govs	2020
*Member Stewardship Comm	2020
*Member Trustees	2020

### DIACONATE (12)

Kathy Beckett	2022
Stacey Steele	2022
Barbara Teeter	2022
Steve Teeter	2022
Larry Doyle	2021
Philip Hammond	2021
Denise Moriearty	2021
<i>Vacant</i>	2021
Alyson Danyew-Ellison	2020
Bob Gerlach	2020
Barbara Jones	2020
Susan Pratt	2020

### PERSONNEL SUBCOMMITTEE (4)

*Church Council Chair	2020
*Diaconate Chair ( <i>or designate</i> )	2020
*Bd of Govs Chair ( <i>or designate</i> )	2020
*Member Finance Comm	2020

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (4-6)

Nicole Mason	2022
Nancy Parsons	2022
Vacant	2021
Open	2021
Laurie Braley	2020
Open	2020

MEMORIAL GARDENS COMMITTEE (3)

Brandon Mason	2022
Alyson Danyew-Ellison	2021
Ike Jacobs	2020

MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION  
COMMITTEE (6-8)

Kathy Beckett	2022
Barbara Laro	2022
Denise Moriearty	2022
Ron Bailey	2021
Corrine Erskine	2021
Wendell Smith	2021
Laurel Stavis	2021
Jon Scott	2020
Steve Teeter	2020

MUSIC COMMITTEE (4-6)

Brian Clancy	2022
Open	2022
Jo Shelnutt	2021
Steve Teeter	2021
Meghan Davis	2020
Gail Wasson	2020

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (4-6)

Meghan Davis	2022
Jon Scott	2022
Valerie Nevel	2021
Steve Teeter	2021
Amy Driscoll	2020
Terry Ellison	2020

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (3)

Amy Driscoll	2022
Vacant	2021
Barbara Jones	2020

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (5)

*Moderator (A. Driscoll)	2020
*Diaconate Chair	2020
*Other Member Diaconate	2020
Nancy Parsons (At-Large)	2020
Wendell Smith (Member Bd of Gvs)	2020

NHC-UCC DELEGATES (4)

*Vacant	2020
*Vacant	2020
*Vacant	2020
*Vacant	2020

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Driscoll, *Chair*  
Barbara Jones  
Barry Schuster

## BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS

Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne  
We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
Our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes,  
Each other's burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows  
The sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part  
It gives us inward pain,  
But we shall still be joined in heart,  
And hope to meet again.

— John Fawcett (1739/40-1817)