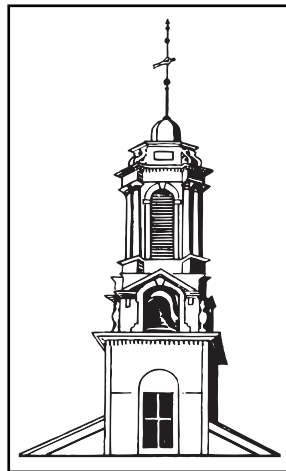


# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



**First Congregational Church**  
Lebanon, New Hampshire



Annual Meeting  
Sunday, February 14, 2021  
*(Held online via Zoom)*

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# ANNUAL MEETING 2021

*Moderator:* Barbara Jones

## AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation
3. Reading of the Warrant
4. Reading of the Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting
5. Reports for 2020:
  - PASTOR: Rev. Stephen R. Silver
  - CHURCH COUNCIL: Linda Jacobs
  - OFFICERS:
    - Clerk – Brian Clancy
    - Auditor – Valerie Nevel (for Parkers Accounting)
    - Treasurer (Acting) – Terry Ellison
  - BOARDS:
    - Board of Governors – John Gilliatt
    - Board of Trustees – Valerie Nevel
    - Diaconate – Barbara Teeter
  - COMMITTEES: Committee Chairs
  - WOMEN OF THE CHURCH
  - CHURCH HISTORIAN: Corrine Erskine
6. Nominating Committee Report
7. Election of Officers and Committees (see Warrant proposal, p. 3)
8. Old Business
  - A. Review of Committee Structure
  - B. Campaign Planning Update
9. New Business
  - A. Proposed Budget for 2021 (see pp. 15-16)
10. Closing Hymn: “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”
11. Benediction

## WARRANT FOR 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, NH, will be held online in Zoom format on **Sunday, February 14, 2021**, immediately after the online worship service, for the following purposes:

1. To hear the reports of all officers, committees, and organizations, as required under the CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the church.
2. The election of all officers provided for under the CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the church.

***Proposal:*** Due to the unusual circumstances of the past year caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, circumstances which will persist into this year, Church Council proposes that all current officers and committee memberships continue unchanged for 2021, except in specific individual circumstances as needed. The proposal will be offered for a congregational vote, in lieu of the election of a full slate of new nominations, at the Annual Meeting.

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 22, 2021

# MINUTES OF 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 9, 2020

1. Moderator Amy Driscoll **called the meeting to order** at 11:22 and confirmed that a quorum of at least 25 corporate members was in attendance.
2. The **invocation** was offered by the Rev. Stephen R. Silver.
3. Reading of the **warrant** for the 2020 meeting: **Motion made** by Barb Jones, seconded by Ron Bailey, to dispense with reading the warrant. **Motion passed unanimously.**
4. Reading of the **minutes** from the 2019 meeting: **Motion made** by Linda Jacobs, seconded by Barb Jones, to dispense with reading the minutes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## 5. Reports

**Pastor** (Rev. Steve Silver): Report presented in Annual Report document.

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

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

**Auditor** (Vacant): Report from Parkers Accounting presented in Annual Report document.

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

**Board of Governors** (John Gilliatt): Report presented in Annual Report document.

**Board of Trustees** (Valerie Nevel): Referring to her report in the Annual Report document, Valerie Nevel read aloud the list of names of those whose bequests have provided so generously for FCC over the years.

**Diaconate** (Barbara Jones): Report presented in Annual Report document.

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

**Memorial Gardens** (Brandon Mason): Report presented in Annual Report document.

**Mission and Social Action Committee** (Kathy Beckett): In addition to her report in the Annual Report document, Kathy Beckett noted that the committee wanted to serve the congregation more effectively in determining purposes and beneficiaries of mission support. Kathy also pointed out that Linda Jacobs should have been listed as a committee member; the Church Administrator had inadvertently omitted her name.

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

**Pastoral Relations Committee** (Amy Driscoll): Report presented in Annual Report document.

**Stewardship Committee** (Jon Scott): In addition to his report in the Annual Report document, Jon Scott commemorated the thousands of congregation members over the years who, like those on the bequest list, have so generously contributed to FCC.

**Women of the Church:** No formal report submitted or offered. Barbara Jones asked if the WoC bank account is fully independent of the church's other financial holdings. WoC

Treasurer Barbara Laro confirmed that it is, adding that the account accrues no interest.

**Church Historian** (Corrine Erskine): Referring to the church history for 2019, Phil Hammond asked that a record be added of the collection of 23 shoebox gift donations in November for Operation Christmas Child and Samaritan's Purse.

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

## 6. Nominating Committee Report (Amy Driscoll)

Amy Driscoll referred everyone to the revised committee slate handed out at the meeting, pointing out several updates since the printed report. She explained the difference between positions that are marked vacant (mandated by *By-laws*) and those that are open (allowable but not required). Acknowledging the number of positions that need to be filled, Amy invited everyone to consider volunteering. She thanked all those who already have come forward and found meaning in some service context or volunteer calling, but she recognized that we are often asking and relying on the same group of people.

Barb Jones added a plea specifically for help on the Nominating Committee. Terry Ellison and Kathy Beckett both volunteered to join that committee. In another nomination from the floor, Steve Teeter volunteered to serve on Christian Education.

Wendell Smith confirmed that he would continue as the Board of Governors' representative on the Finance Committee. He also asked whether the Scouting Program had formal representation on any committee, offering to serve as such; it was clarified that Council oversees our relationship with the Scouts.

Valerie Nevel confirmed that representatives on the Finance Committee will be chosen by the other relevant committees, and she pointed out that the Auditor role is being filled by Parkers Accounting, a hired consultant. Amy clarified that both the Auditor and Assistant Treasurer positions still have to be listed because they both remain in the *By-laws*.

John Gilliatt asked for clarification of the membership of Church Council, as only four positions are listed on the nominating roster. It was explained that Council consists mostly of the chairs or other representatives of all committees and programs, chosen by committees themselves and thus not elected by the congregation at Annual Meeting. These representatives and the four elected positions make up the voting members of Council. Steve Silver pointed out that any member of the congregation may attend any meeting of Church Council (or any other committee) without voting on any business.

## 7. Election of Officers and Committees

**Motion made** by Linda Jacobs, seconded by Ike Jacobs, to accept the full slate of nominations as presented at the meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## 8. Old Business

**Review of Committee Structure.** Amy Driscoll, as both Moderator and outgoing chair of the Nominating Committee, asked that we seriously consider our collective volunteer load. This has long been a challenge for our congregation's regular membership, and the various committees and roles established decades ago do not necessarily align with the activities,

responsibilities, and interests that we as a congregation currently need to accommodate. Steve Silver cautioned that the process of assessing and revising our committee structure requires careful deliberation and may be long, as he's discussed with pastoral colleagues who have recently undertaken this process at their churches, such as the Rev. Amy Hayden at Lyme Congregational Church.

**Campaign Planning Update.** While recognizing the importance of committee restructuring, Steve maintained that our capital campaign should now be the church's priority. Despite wide agreement about its necessity, campaign planning has been moving slowly, and it's important to make some public, congregational affirmation of its goals. Steve reviewed these three broad purposes, as the planning committee has refined them—Community Care (our facilities for congregational service and ministry), Creation Care (environmental stewardship and resource conservation), and Mission (our commitment to direct ten percent of the total raised toward local and global mission purposes). These areas each offer scalable goals, which can be addressed in whole or in part depending on money raised. The active campaign will have a short duration of just three months, after which pledges may be paid over a period of years. Steve thanked the individual members of planning committee (Lola Baldwin, Kathy Beckett, Amy Driscoll, Corrine Erskine, Barb Jones, Barb Laro, Sue Pratt, Jon Scott, and Wendell Smith). **Motion made** by Jon Scott, seconded by Amy Driscoll, that the congregation at Annual Meeting fully endorse the capital campaign, as the planning group has outlined. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## 9. New Business

**Proposed Budget for 2020:** Moderator Amy Driscoll invited questions and discussion of the Finance Committee's proposed budget for 2020, printed on pages 13-14 in the Annual Report. No further discussion ensued. **Motion made** by Valerie Nevel, seconded by Barb Jones, to accept the church's proposed budget for 2020. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In another item of new business, Steve Teeter proposed that the **church's music library** be named in honor and memory of Ruth Friend, who passed away in June of 2019. There was general agreement that such recognition would be an appropriate and thoughtful gesture, and it was recommended that the Music Committee follow up.

10. The congregation sang the **closing hymn**, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

11. The Rev. Steve Silver thanked everyone for participating in the meeting, and for offering such kind recognition (at coffee hour, prior to the meeting) of the tenth anniversary of his service at FCC. He expressed his gratitude for the congregation's vital role in his own faith journey, and he observed the passage of time, the growth of families, and the ongoing history of congregational events, again offering his thanks. He expressed hope for our future and reflected that we are together called to be servants. Steve closed the meeting with the **benediction**.

12. Meeting **adjourned** at 11:58.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian C. Clancy, *Clerk*

## PASTOR'S REPORT

- <sup>19</sup> But you, O LORD, reign forever;  
your throne endures to all generations.  
<sup>20</sup> Why have you forgotten us completely?  
Why have you forsaken us these many days?  
<sup>21</sup> Restore us to yourself, O LORD, that we may be restored;  
renew our days as of old—  
<sup>22</sup> unless you have utterly rejected us,  
and are angry with us beyond measure.

—*Lamentations 5:19-22*

In years past, I've begun some of my annual report messages with a quote from Scripture, often verses taken from the New Testament. This year, I've turned to the Hebrew Bible, and if you had asked me back in early March if I thought I'd ever look to the Book of Lamentations for an epigraph, I would have confidently replied in the negative.

How times have changed.

This past year has been a reminder of why we need to offer up our laments to God. If we are unable to confront the darkness that has beset us, if we are unable to mourn those people and things we have lost, if we are unable to ask the one we know in Jesus just why everything is going wrong, then we must ask ourselves why we claim to be people of faith.

Our relationship with God is meant to be grounded in trust and honesty. If we can't bring our concerns, our worries, and yes, our laments to God, then the ties we have to the one who made us are not worth much.

Offering our grief and frustration to God is not simply a matter of complaining, of wondering why God doesn't just make everything right for us. Instead, it is a sign that we know we can tell God anything, at any time, even, especially, when we are hurting.

As a community, there is no denying that we have suffered this past year. We have been unable to gather in our sanctuary for worship since mid-March. We've been deprived of the opportunity to see, to touch, to shake hands with or hug our fellow church members. We had to forgo some long-standing traditions, like decorating our church for Christmas, or welcoming outside groups like Bel Canto into our sanctuary to share their music with us. We were unable to freely gather together to mourn the death of beloved members of our community.

But in addition to suffering, this community has endured, and in a way that makes me proud to be your pastor.

Attendance at Sunday worship has been steady. People were willing to participate virtually in two adult-education offerings in the fall. Our children showed up on Zoom for the Children's Community Corner. Members of our church continued to provide material support for our mission and ministry. Volunteers continued to make their various contributions. A search committee handled the hiring of a new organist by email and Zoom meetings.



This past year we had the opportunity to see anew what it is that makes First Congregational Church of Lebanon so special. It's not the music, it's not the preaching, it's not the building. No, it's each and all of you, joined together in fellowship and service by the Spirit.

As we read and saw reports of upheaval in our communities and political tension roiling the nation during the past twelve months, FCC kept its collective head. Our church has provided a refuge, a sanctuary for people, where one could seek the comfort of God made known to us in Jesus, the God of love and grace that we proclaim when we read the Gospel. My hope and prayer is that our church will continue to be such a place in the time that is to come.

There is no question this has been a weird year to be in ministry. I know that I'm not the only pastor to find himself having to become a TV preacher these past months. I've been incredibly grateful to all of you who have borne with the ups and downs of online worship. New rhythms needed to be mastered and new technology tamed. While we've adapted well to virtual worship, once we return to the sanctuary I firmly believe we will need to continue to integrate an online option for those unable to physically join us on Sundays. Of course, some good has come from all this: inclement weather should never again preclude a church meeting or worship service!

I should mention that this past year saw a strange entanglement of church and state with our congregation's participation in the Payroll Protection Program. When the stock market cratered last March, I worried about our long-term financial position. Fortunately, congregational giving remained strong and the market recovered, ending the year up. As things began to settle down, I wondered whether we really needed this loan, but the money was there and we, along with many other churches—two thirds, by some estimates—took advantage of the government's largesse. The upshot of all this is that nobody on the FCC payroll had his or her salary cut or delayed and for that I am grateful.

On a personal note, I will remember 2020 as the year without a vacation. In a period when people died or had their health irreparably compromised, when jobs were lost and industries ravaged, this isn't a big deal. But I can say that I'm better able to empathize with those who don't benefit from a chance to take a break from their work, and I feel deep gratitude for the way in which this church takes care of its staff.

As I've written in years past, what comes next may seem familiar to those who have read my messages in previous years: this is where I offer my thanks.

You, the congregation and friends of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, continue to go the proverbial extra mile. Every church seems to be in need of more volunteers, and ours is no different. Our volunteer structure was designed for a world that no longer exists, but to your credit, you continue to punch above your weight, to get so much done. Your efforts make a tremendous difference to our operations, to our worship, and to our community.

Our church staff has gone above and beyond the call of duty this past year. Brian Clancy, our Church Administrator, has been a dedicated, valuable presence in the church office, doing everything from soup to nuts, and probably a bit more; Barb Teeter, our Sexton, continues to care for our building with affection and diligence. And then there is the newest member of our ministry team, the incredibly accomplished Ernie Drown, who joined us after a national

search and has been great to work with. Let me say: he is extremely talented and he knows his stuff. I look forward to the day when our congregation is able to enjoy his musical gifts in person in our sanctuary and not just on Zoom. I would also like to thank our interim organist Susan Sorensen, who was a joy to work with. Her flexibility, especially as we were finding our sea legs at the start of the pandemic, was a gift for which I will long be grateful.

Special thanks are due to Nan Parsons for her leadership of the Children's Community Corner. This was the first full year of her stewardship of our Christian Education program, and she has been resourceful, creative, and faithfully committed as she has brought the 3Cs into cyberspace. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ashley Oronte, our ever-reliable childcare provider, who does so much for the 3Cs and provides invaluable support to our children's ministry. We are truly blessed!

Looking forward to the year ahead, there are a few things we must address as a congregation:

1. *Our by-laws need revision and updating.* We've danced around this issue for a time, and now is the time to act. We should take a hard look at what we have, keep what works, and change or eliminate what doesn't. Our current by-laws date back to 1963—that makes them older than me. What made sense almost sixty years ago may not be appropriate for the present day. Let's adopt by-laws that work for us, rather than continue with a set that asks us to work for it.
2. *Technology Committee.* One of the reasons that I did not take any vacation in 2020 was my concern about what would happen with worship in my absence. I had to learn a lot to make all the technology work. During the current year, it would be nice to have a group of people at FCC-Lebanon who could chip in and help out during worship and while I take my vacation time.
3. *Campaign.* If we are going to do this, we should do it. Our 250th anniversary is behind us, but the future beckons. We can do all of this to make sure that our ministry is fit to purpose for the 21st century.

In closing, I look forward to continuing our shared journey of faith, our collective mission to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and our work of helping to make known to one another and to the wider community the beauty of the Christian life, in the year ahead and beyond.

Yours faithfully,

Steve

## CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Council began meeting on Zoom in March, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. That month it was agreed that we would cancel our monthly community dinners to minimize the risk of spreading the virus. The Mission and Social Action Committee reported its intention to survey the congregation about mission beneficiaries, and Council unanimously approved its request to fund four Epilogos scholarships (\$480) and additional support for the Open Door Ministry.

In April, to make up for our inability to host community dinners, Council unanimously authorized a \$680 donation from the Dole Fund to Listen Community Services. Council returned to this important need in December, approving an additional \$1,200 from the Dole Fund to local organizations for hunger relief.

Council also approved a proposal from MSA in May to donate \$1,000 to UVIP's Asylum & Sanctuary Support Fund. The same month Council officially transferred responsibility for the Open Door Ministry to the MSA Committee from the Diaconate, where it had originated years earlier as the "pastor's discretionary fund," before MSA existed.

At its May meeting Council agreed that because of the COVID-19 risk, the church would remain closed at least through June, with remote worship continuing on Zoom. A month later Council extended the suspension of in-person services and decided on Labor Day as a tentative target date for reopening. We did decide to hold three in-person worship services outside on the front lawn (August 9, September 20, and October 11). As we continued to assess the pandemic threat in our region into the fall, Council again postponed any possible reopening to mid-October, then to Epiphany, and finally, at its December meeting, to Easter 2021. Throughout the year, all agreed that the safety of our congregation required the utmost caution, despite everyone's desire to resume worshipping together in our Sanctuary.

In December Council was delighted to have our new organist Ernie Drown join its Zoom meeting. Ernie took up his position October 1 and has been a great addition to the FCC family.

For more in-depth information about Council's activity in 2020, meeting minutes are available from the Clerk and are summarized in each issue of *Grace Notes*.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Rev. Steve Silver, Brian Clancy, and Ernie Drown for their dedication to planning and leading our worship services during this challenging year.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Jacobs, *Chair*

Corrine Erskine, *Vice-Chair*

Linda Oronte and Leslie Thomson, *At-large*

Brian Clancy, *Clerk*

Committee Chairs

## CLERK'S REPORT

### Membership Changes

During 2020 no new covenant members joined the church, two members died, and no one withdrew or transferred membership. These changes result in a net decrease of two members from the total of 208 reported in the 2019 Annual Report.

However, for several years now, our reported totals have not accurately reflected membership involvement at FCC. Thus, in the fall of 2020 we completed a thorough audit of membership rolls in order to update our total. (This number is reported annually to the NH Conference, which uses it to calculate a recommended amount for conference dues.)

In addition to the current, active congregation, the 2020 audit identified a large group of long-inactive members who had never formally withdrawn or transferred. These were divided into three groups:

- 1) Members who have not meaningfully connected with FCC within the past five years or so, but for whom we still have contact information. These members have been asked to clarify or reaffirm their membership status. *This group (42 people) has been retained in FCC's membership, pending their responses; they will be removed if they request that, or if we receive no response after a sufficient period.*
- 2) Members who joined by rite of confirmation in their youth, and whose parents are still actively connected or involved, even though they themselves may have been only minimally connected as adults. *This group (17 people) has been retained in FCC's membership, pending confirmation via their active-member parents; they will be removed if they request that.*
- 3) Members who have not connected with FCC within the past 10 years, are generally unknown to the current congregation, and for whom we have no active contact information. Some of these joined by rite of confirmation in their youth but have had no connection at all as adults, either on their own or through their parents. *This group (104 people) has been removed from FCC's membership.*

**Based on the above changes and the 2020 audit, First Congregational Church of Lebanon begins 2021 with 154 members, a net decrease of 54 from the 2019 Annual Report.** The complete list of members and the years they joined, including the groups of inactive members identified in the audit, is available from the Clerk.

*New Members Received:*

(None)

*Members Who Died:*

Laura W. Place, d. 8/29/2020.

Closey F. Dickey, d. 12/30/2020.

*Members Who Transferred or Withdrew:*

(None)

## **Baptisms**

(None)

## **Weddings**

(None)

## **Memorial Services**

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

### *Members of the Church:*

Laura W. Place, d. 8/29/2020, service at FCC and interment in Memorial Garden  
10/10/2020; interment service 10/10/2020 at Pleasant View Cemetery, Ludlow, VT.  
Closey F. Dickey, d. 12/30/2020, home service at time of death, Lebanon, NH.

### *Friends of the Church:*

Lloyd C. Smith, d. 2/2/2020, memorial service 2/7/2020 at Ricker Funeral Home,  
Lebanon, NH.  
Jonathan D. Stearns, d. 9/5/2020, graveside memorial service 9/12/2020 at Pine Knoll  
Cemetery, Hanover, NH.

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, 2020 / Proposed Budget for 2021

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

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPORT

According to our church's *Constitution and By-Laws*, "The Board of Governors shall have general charge and care of the church's physical property." The Board traditionally meets on the fourth Sunday of the month. All meeting agendas and meeting minutes are available in written or digital form.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board had but one meeting this year, in January 2020. Noteworthy work for the year included the design and installation of new chancel railings in the Sanctuary, the completion of an energy audit at the Parsonage, and the replacement of the Parsonage sewer line.

Interested readers are asked to refer to the Board of Governors' 2019 report, which included a full listing of 10 currently pending projects and their estimated costs. Our current priorities are a series of insulation projects at both the Parsonage and the church.

The chair wishes to thank all the committee members, as well as Brian Clancy and Steve Silver for all their support given. The chair would add a special shout-out to Gordon Sargent for his annual help with the bush trimming around the church yard.

Respectfully submitted,

John Gilliatt, *Chair*

Walter Scott, *Vice-Chair and Secretary*

Terry Ellison

Brandon Mason

Wendell Smith



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

For the year January 1 to December 31, 2020

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

## DIACONATE REPORT

Indeed, 2020 has been a very unusual year for the Diaconate in many ways. We have had to make many adjustments in our lives, as we try to deal with keeping away from all the people we serve in all areas of our lives! We have managed to keep our church family together by resorting to online media in the form of Zoom, for our weekly Sunday services and also for our monthly group meetings. Rev. Steve Silver and Church Administrator Brian Clancy have done a wonderful job keeping us connected. Thank you both very much!

The Deacons have been keeping track of our church family with phone calls, cards, emails, even some visits whenever safe. I was a little worried about how we were going to do our yearly mission project with Listen's Holiday Baskets and our Samaritan's Purse gift boxes, but lots of folks jumped right in and, through their computers, made it happen! Listen asked our church for a \$900 goal and we nearly doubled that as our commitment! We have also supported immigration and social-justice issues.

We welcomed Linda Gerlach and Dawn Troutman as new deacons this year. I want to thank everyone for all that they have done to keep us going, even when it is so hard not to be able to meet face-to-face with each other. Let's pray for the world to open up again real soon in this new year of 2021!

*Addendum:* In May 2020 the Diaconate and Council agreed to formally transfer responsibility for the Open Door Ministry to the Mission and Social Action Committee. Begun many years ago as a "pastor's discretionary fund" overseen by the Diaconate, this community assistance ministry more appropriately belongs with MSA (which didn't exist when the ministry began). Traditionally, the Open Door Ministry has been funded by monthly communion offerings, but in recent years demand for assistance has far outpaced communion collections. In May of 2018, moreover, the Diaconate voted to close its separate checking account and transfer it to FCC's general treasury, from which Open Door expenditures now primarily come. As of May 2020, the Diaconate no longer has its own Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Teeter, *Chair*  
Stacey Steele, *Vice-Chair*  
Bob Gerlach, *Secretary*  
Kathy Beckett  
Alyson Danyew-Ellison  
Edward (Larry) Doyle  
Linda Gerlach  
Phil Hammond  
Susan Pratt  
Steve Teeter  
Dawn Troutman

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

As 2020 began, the Children's Community Corner continued the theme of "Finding Christ in Our Lives," which they started exploring the previous fall. They learned about the dispositions of a Christian, as noted in Galatians 5:22-23: "[T]he fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, and against such things there is no law." The group looked closely at Biblical figures who demonstrated these dispositions by telling stories through Godly Play, which allows our children to explore their faith through story, to gain religious language, and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. They learned about Ruth, who displayed the disposition of love; Daniel, who displayed the disposition of self-control; David, who displayed the disposition of courage; the Holy Family, who displayed the disposition of peace; Sarah, who demonstrated the disposition of joy; Job, who displayed the disposition of patience; and Jonah, who reflected on the compassionate character of God.

Then, in March, COVID-19 changed our lives at home, at school, and at church. During the spring and throughout the summer, the children of FCC received notes, crafts, and packages to help them remain connected to their faith and to our church. When it was decided that we would not be able to meet in person in the Children's Community Corner, we moved to a once-a-month Zoom time to continue our learning.

The theme through June 2021 asks, "Where does the Church's story come from?" When children walk into our Godly Play room, we tell them that they are walking into the Bible. This year, we brought the stories that live in our Godly Play room to life for our children at our monthly Zoom time. Being a Christian asks us not only to know the stories of the Bible, but also to understand the lessons that still apply to our lives today. By focusing on the stories of the Old and New Testaments as an oral tradition first, sometimes told around desert campfires or in people's homes, and then finally written down on paper, the children are encouraged to share the stories of the Bible along with their own family stories. Children are learning the value of the storyteller in keeping the Bible alive as well as keeping their own family stories alive from generation to generation.

Our essential, guiding questions for the year ask the following:

- How are the stories of the Bible relevant to our lives today?
- How can the stories of the Bible help us to face and overcome challenges?

We are examining these questions and many more through reading and telling the stories of the Bible:

- The Holy Bible: The story of the Church
- The Holy Family: The center of the Church's story (*Luke 2:1-20, Matthew 2:12*), told by Chip Silver
- The Days of Creation (*Genesis 1:1-2:3*), told by Kailyn Rappaport
- The Ark and the Flood: A new beginning and God's promise (*Genesis 6:5-9:17*), told by Dominic Watson

- The Great Family: God's promise through Abraham and Sarah (*Genesis 12, 15, 17, 18, 21, 24*), told by Mac Callahan
- The Exodus: The Passover of God's people (*Exodus 11:1-15:2*)
- The Ten Best Ways: The Ten Commandments (*Exodus 10:1-17*)
- The Ark and the Tent: God's present in the Tabernacle (*Exodus 25-31, 25-40*)
- The Ark and the Temple: A house for God (*1 Kings 5-8; 2 Chronicles 2-8*)
- The Exile and Return: God's presence with the people in exile (*2 Kings 25; 2 Chronicles 36:13-23; Ezra; Nehemiah*)
- The Prophets: The words of the prophets to the people of God

Upcoming plans include:

- Research organizations, both locally and around the world, to support with our weekly offerings and Lenten Lunch Bag Collection, which the children will lead.
- Provide opportunities for middle- and high-school students to gather in the evening to continue their spiritual growth.

Although we're not able to physically be together, we seek to maintain the important connections that we have developed in the Children's Community Corner through familiar routines. We all look forward to gathering together, when it is safe to do so, in our 3 C's space.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Parsons, *Superintendent*

Ashley Oronte, *Childcare Assistant*

Linda Gerlach

Nicole Mason

Steve Teeter

## MEMORIAL GARDENS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Memorial Gardens Committee is responsible for overseeing the maintenance and planting of our memorial gardens in front of the church, as well as preparation and documentation for interments. The garden 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 October 10, 2020, the ashes of Laura Place, a longtime and beloved member of our church who passed away on August 29, were interred in front of the memorial stone. The gathering was limited to family and close friends due to COVID-19 precautions, but a Zoom link was also provided for remote attendance. The memorial service and committal were conducted by the Rev. Steve Silver.

In addition to its normal operations, the committee also worked to improve its documentation and procedures, including updates to the Interment Agreement and Burial Policy. The content of these documents has not changed, but we have added more specific questions such as the preferred listing of names on the memorial stone. In addition to keeping our records current, these changes ensure that we will be best able to meet the wishes of families at the time of interment. All those who have reserved a spot were asked to fill out the updated forms.

The memorial stone is now engraved with the names and birth/death years of the following deceased members of our church: Robert Bassett, Elizabeth and Ellis Howard, Willmott “Bin” Lewis, Marilyn Guild Mason, Laura and Gordon Place, Margaret “Ginger” Smith, Leif and Beryl Thorsrud, Richard and Helen Wallace, and Henry “Hank” Watson. (Names of spouses may be engraved on the stone at the same time, whether or not both are deceased.)

Committee members maintain the gardens and plant flowers each spring. Alyson Danyew-Ellison did the planting work again for both gardens in 2020.

Anyone who would like to receive more information about the Memorial Gardens or make a contribution to them should please contact one of the committee members. To reserve a space in the garden for interment, please contact a committee member or the Church Administrator.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brandon Mason, *Chair*  
Alyson Danyew-Ellison  
Ike Jacobs

## MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Compelling circumstances affected the work of the Mission and Social Action Committee in 2020. FCC's annual Souper Bowl in early February, faithfully led by Ron Bailey, collected a record number of canned goods for Listen Community Services, the Upper Valley Haven, and Headrest. A month later, however, the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for social distancing severely limited our ability to engage in our familiar community outreach activities.

Beginning in March, we suspended monthly community dinners for the sake of the health and safety of our neighbors and volunteers. Our "Fill the Cart" effort to provide groceries for local food shelves became an online appeal. The annual visit by a group from Bike & Build—when we provide meals and a place to sleep for these young advocates for safe, affordable housing—was canceled by the national organization due to the pandemic. In October the CROP Hunger Walk was a virtual event, precluding the luncheon that FCC usually hosts for walkers.

Even before the pandemic, MSA recognized the importance of involving the congregation in our choice of local mission partners going forward. The committee intended to invite representatives from local nonprofits to speak directly to the congregation, which then was to complete a survey to indicate their preferred partner organizations. These presentations would have offered better understanding not only of the good work of local agencies but also of volunteer opportunities with them. Unfortunately, the survey was postponed due to the pandemic.

On May 25 George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, was killed by police in Minneapolis. The video of Mr. Floyd's death, as he pleaded with the officer who knelt on his neck while other officers stood by, shocked the nation and, indeed, the world. The murder laid bare a history of cruel and unjust treatment of our Black neighbors, and many, including people of faith, felt compelled to respond. MSA members initiated an open meeting in June, resulting in a well-attended, weeks-long study group on Zoom led by the Rev. Steve Silver. The group used Kathryn and Stephen Reid's faith-based book *Uncovering Racism*, and conversations were deep and moving, as members reflected on their personal experiences and the need to strive individually and communally toward faith-based anti-racism.

While pandemic restrictions and the need to confront systemic racism affected the MSA's work, we also responded to financial needs in our local community and beyond. With our community dinners on hold, Church Council agreed to give Listen \$680 to fund one take-out dinner for our hungry neighbors. A \$500 donation was made to UV GEAR (Giving Emergency Aid and Resources), a local organization that supports individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness. A \$480 donation to our longtime partner Epilogos funded the education of four students in San Jose Villanueva, El Salvador, for one year. And FCC's Open Door Ministry for community assistance officially transferred from the Diaconate to MSA in May. This changed little in practice, but it reinforces MSA's larger purpose of serving our local neighbors.

Also in May, Council approved our request to donate \$1,000 to the United Valley Interfaith Project (UVIP) for its Asylum and Sanctuary Support Fund, which supports basic needs for local asylum seekers. UVIP, which FCC has now supported for many years, will cease to exist as of

June 30, 2021. Congregations can now choose to join either the Granite State Organizing Project or Vermont Interfaith Action. While FCC has not committed to join GSOP, it does intend to support SHARe (Supporting and Helping Asylees and Refugees), a new successor to UVIP's Immigration Support Network.

Prior to FCC's closing in March, congregation members also supported the Milk with Dignity Campaign, an effort to convince Hannaford Supermarkets to purchase milk from farms that practice fair and safe treatment of their workers. Initiated by the Vermont-based Migrant Justice, the campaign generated signed postcards from across the Upper Valley to Hannaford's CEO. October 2020 marked the first anniversary of this continuing effort.

In addition to committee initiatives, MSA encouraged the FCC community to make personal donations in support of our local community. The pandemic's escalation of joblessness has placed many of our neighbors in precarious financial circumstances, and local agencies have sought donations all year to provide basic needs of food and shelter. Those agencies continue to rely on our financial support.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Beckett, *Chair*

Ron Bailey

Corrine Erskine

Linda Jacobs

Barbara Laro

Denise Moriearty

Jon Scott

Wendell Smith

Laurel Stavis

Steve Teeter

## MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

While the COVID-19 pandemic has obviously affected our congregation as a whole, it has been particularly hard on FCC's music ministry. The shutdown in mid-March effectively ended all musical performance and choral activity for the year. We have fortunately preserved and adapted the vital role of music in our worship life, but sustaining a sense of our musical community has been quite a challenge.

As 2020 opened, Music at the Meetinghouse continued the momentum it's built in recent years, with concerts by Cantabile Women's Chorus, pianist Will Ögmundson, and Classicopia, as well as the return of violinist Johnny Gandelsman, who had inaugurated our LOH on Location partnership in November 2017. The popular Anonymous Coffeehouse offered three dates in the Parish Hall, including a Valentine's Night show. The Bel Canto Chamber Singers were rehearsing weekly for their spring program, and UVMC prepared to offer its annual Faculty Showcase in our Sanctuary. Then the pandemic made public gatherings—and ensemble singing in particular—unsafe and inadvisable. Concerts were canceled, and FCC's dedicated choir disbanded.

FCC's music ministry also saw a change of leadership this year, after Henry Danaher's departure in January. Our longtime friend Susan Sorensen happily served as our interim organist and directed the choir for a few weeks prior to the shutdown. As worship services went online to Zoom and YouTube, Susan generously collaborated with Steve Silver and Brian Clancy each week to provide hymns and other music, not to mention continuity for our congregation in an uncertain time. We are grateful to Susan for her almost nine months of service.

In mid-August a great search committee—Brian, Steve, Chris Chase, Meg Davis, Jo Shelnuitt, Laurel Stavis, and Gail Wasson—reviewed applications and interviewed five excellent candidates for the organist and choir director position. The committee's unanimous, enthusiastic choice was Ernie Drown, a highly accomplished, knowledgeable musician respected across the Upper Valley and beyond. Ernie started in October and quickly became a valued colleague, lending his musicianship, insight, and good humor to online worship. Playing hymns and organ music, collaborating with guest musicians, and enlivening an unusual Advent, Ernie has sustained our music ministry despite pandemic limitations.

Ernie happily offered the following note for this report:

As I write this, I am in my fourth month as your new music director. I'm grateful to Steve and Brian for all the help they've given, and continue to give, as I find my way into a new position in this confusing and challenging time. It has been difficult, without the choir and without opportunities to get to know most of you. I look forward to becoming an integral part of life here, when we are able to resume being an in-person worshipping community. I'd be happy to have any input you want to share. My email is [music@fccleb.org](mailto:music@fccleb.org).



With Ernie's new leadership, the faithful support of the congregation, and hope beyond the pandemic, 2021 promises an eventual return to our familiar patterns of worship music and public concerts. We look forward to reviving FCC's vibrant musical community in the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Clancy, *Chair*

Ernie Drown, *Organist/Choir Director (ex-officio)*

Meghan Davis

Jo Shelnut

Steve Teeter

Gail Wasson

## PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

In December 2020 and January 2021, the members of the Pastoral Relations Committee met virtually to review how the congregation and the pastor were meeting each other's needs during these unprecedented times. The meetings offered an opportunity to make suggestions, to get feedback, to review performance, and to update the pastor's compensation package. We had excellent discussions, using guidelines developed in prior years, and we plan to meet again early in 2021 to finalize some suggestions on both sides.

The Committee is very appreciative of all of the work Steve has done as pastor in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. We are aware that the unusual circumstances of the pandemic made it difficult for him to take his vacation in 2020. In addition, we believe that he felt it would be helpful to the congregation to maintain a consistent presence in the pulpit on Zoom each week, and the steady and even increasing number of people logging in for our services met a real need that helped sustain and potentially grow our congregation.

We recommend a cash supplement to compensate for the unused vacation time; this would be a one-time payment, non-pensionable and not to be included in future salary calculations. The supplement appears with the rest of Steve's compensation package in the proposed 2021 budget, to be submitted for congregational approval at Annual Meeting.

In addition, we have talked with Steve about our belief in the importance of the pastor taking vacation, a belief that he shares. We expect he will do so in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Jones, *Moderator and Chair*

Bob Gerlach

Jon Scott

Wendell Smith

Barbara Teeter

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The past year was not an ordinary one. In the face of many frustrating challenges, the stress of a global pandemic, and the inability to meet safely in-person for most of the year, the First Congregational Church of Lebanon responded in many extraordinary ways.

While stewardship is about more than just dollars and cents, that is the focus of this year's Stewardship Committee report. More than 80 individuals and families, including visitors and guests, contributed almost \$xx,xxx in regular offerings during 2020. In addition, the church received almost \$x,xxx in special offerings throughout the year, including our participation in the United Church of Christ's four annual mission offerings, the Lenten Lunch Bag Offering, Blanket and Shelter Sundays, and the Listen Holiday Basket program. Our congregation gave almost \$x,xxx to our vital Open Door Ministry, as well as over \$x,xxx of support for various other specific purposes. With in-person worship suspended from mid-March onward because of the pandemic, almost all of this support came in by mail, as congregation members generously continued to support FCC from home.

We have received gifts and offerings in the form of cash, check, gifts of stock, small grants, and donations from IRA retirement accounts. The church has also continued to benefit from many generous legacy commitments, in the form of gifts planned within members' wills and other estate plans, the majority of which provide ongoing support via our church's endowment funds.

The Open Door Ministry provides financial assistance for food, fuel, heat, rent, and other emergency support to anyone in our wider community. While we were unable to collect our usual offerings on communion Sundays, we augmented Open Door support with additional allocations from dedicated endowment funds such as the Dole Trust, as approved by Church Council. We also continue to receive gifts of food items at various points during the year, which we share with our community partners.

We are blessed to be part of such a caring, compassionate, and generous faith community. Many thanks to our congregation!

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Scott, *Chair*

Meghan Davis

Valerie Nevel

Steve Teeter

## WOMEN OF THE CHURCH REPORT

The Women of the Church did not submit a report for 2020. No receipts or expenditures were reported by Treasurer Barbara Laro.

## CHURCH HISTORY

We began the year 2020 with a party, sad though it was. On January 5 we said goodbye to Henry Danaher, our organist and choir director since July 2014, as he left for a new position at the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College in Hanover. Henry received a few standing ovations during worship and memorable testimonials from many church members at the party. Needless to say, he will be missed. Susan Sorensen started as our Interim Organist a week later.

In late January FCC hosted a concert, “Words of Wisdom,” by the women’s chorus Cantabile. February brought violinist Johnny Gandelsman, pianist Will Ögmundson, and Classicopia. We also hosted the Anonymous Coffeehouse three times in the first two months of the year.

We were determined to try and break our record for most cans collected for our annual Souper Bowl in early February. The previous year we collected 247 cans, but in 2020 we broke the record with a whopping 313 cans!

On February 9 we had another party at coffee hour, this time to celebrate the Rev. Steve Silver’s 10th anniversary as our pastor. We gave him a few gift certificates and a can of lima beans, which he promptly donated to the Souper Bowl collection! After the party was our 2020 Annual Meeting, attended by about 30 people and followed by a yummy potluck.

Scout Sunday was February 16, when Troop 279 and Pack 279—including girls as members this year!—participated once again in the worship service. We also welcomed Dawn Troutman and Linda Gerlach to the Diaconate with the laying-on-of-hands by children from Sunday School.

On February 26 FCC hosted this year’s ecumenical Ash Wednesday service to open Lent, and Steve Silver again offered “ashes-to-go” on the front sidewalk. Alas, our annual Fire and Ice snowshoe event on March 1 had to be canceled (again!) for lack of snow.

In the middle of March we had to contend with a problem we never considered would happen: the novel coronavirus hit the world with a vengeance. We had to make the hard decision to close the church for the safety of everyone. Kudos to Steve Silver and Brian Clancy for providing us with the use of Zoom and YouTube to keep us united as a congregation. We have conducted church business this way and worshiped every Sunday at home. Through the spring and into the summer we continued to contend with the coronavirus. New Hampshire has been relatively lucky among the states with the smallest outbreaks, and there were periods during the summer when things seemed to be going well and businesses opened up again. But the virus remained a threat all year, and case numbers worsened everywhere into the fall and winter.

This year also saw many despicable actions by police departments and others across the country in the discriminatory treatment of Black and Hispanic people, and Americans everywhere confronted the painful realities of systemic racism. Many in our congregation joined peaceful protests in support of Black Lives Matter in and around the Upper Valley.

In June we as a church decided to stay closed to in-person worship and other events until at least the end of August, with meetings and services continuing on Zoom. With case numbers relatively low in Lebanon, we decided to try an outdoor worship service on August 9. About 25 of us gathered on the front lawn of the church; to maintain physical distance, we each had a designated circle to sit in, using our own lawn chairs and wearing masks. Rev. Silver said that

painting circles on the lawn had to be one of the strangest things he had ever done! Susan Sorensen played an electric piano, and Brian Clancy sang, joined by Phil Hammond on a special-request hymn.

At the end of August we lost longtime member Laura Place, who died peacefully in her sleep. Although she had moved to Concord a few years ago, she had remained a beloved friend to our congregation, and we will remember her always. On October 10 we allowed a limited number of people to attend a memorial service for Laura in the Sanctuary, following strict safety precautions amid the ongoing risk of COVID-19. Despite the restrictions, it was a beautiful day, and Laura was surely looking down on us.

In September the city and state instituted water restrictions amid prolonged drought conditions; we had hardly any rain the entire month. (Unprecedented wildfires, meanwhile, raged in California and the Pacific Northwest.) We did take advantage of the clear weather by having another outside service for Kick-off Sunday on September 20, attended by around 40 people. We tried one last outdoor service a few weeks later on October 11, which still drew 30 people despite a chilly morning that required everyone to bundle up under coats and blankets. The service also offered the opportunity to introduce Ernie Drown, our new organist and choir director, who had started on October 1. The congregation welcomed him with a round of applause, and we have thoroughly enjoyed his music since.

Normally in October we would have served a hot lunch to the people participating in the annual CROP Walk. This year's walk was a virtual event, with people walking on their own in small groups; the congregation was asked to donate online.

During the fall, as COVID-19 case numbers steadily rose locally and nationally, Church Council continued postponing any possible reopening of the church for indoor worship and other events, first to mid-October, then to the beginning of January, and finally to Easter, April 4, 2021.

We also spent the fall on the edge of our seats, as we awaited the results of the Presidential election on November 3, which ultimately was won by Joseph Biden. Later that month we offered the annual ecumenical Thanksgiving service on Zoom, which was free of technical difficulties but, in the view of this historian, not nearly as good as the in-person version!

The month of December brought the season of Advent, as always. Despite the limitations of remote services, the children of our church did a great job, making Advent wreaths at home and lighting their candles each Sunday during Zoom worship. They also presented their annual Christmas pageant as a virtual event on Zoom. Many thanks to Nan Parsons for pulling this together along with our tech team, Steve, Ernie, and Brian. The 11:00 service on Zoom had a smaller attendance, but we still managed to have communion and light the candles. Everyone dimmed the lights in their own homes, so it was almost like being in church!

With the possibility of everyone eventually receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, may 2021 be a better year. Hopefully it can't get much worse, right?

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.

*Proposal for 2021:* Due to the unusual circumstances of the past year caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, circumstances which will persist into this year, Church Council proposes that all current officers and committee memberships continue unchanged for 2021, except in specific individual circumstances. (Term years have been updated accordingly in the roster below.)

*MODERATOR	Barbara Jones
*CLERK	Brian Clancy
*TREASURER	Terry Ellison ( <i>Acting</i> )
*ASSISTANT TREASURER	<i>Vacant</i>
*HISTORIAN	Corrine Erskine
*AUDITOR	<i>Vacant (Parkers Accounting)</i>
*CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT	Nancy Parsons
<i>(Term: July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022)</i>	

### CHURCH COUNCIL

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

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS (4-9)

<i>Open</i>	2024
<i>Open</i>	2024
<i>Open</i>	2024
John Gilliatt	2023
Brandon Mason	2023
Wendell Smith	2023
Terry Ellison	2022
Walter Scott	2022
<i>Open</i>	2022

### DIACONATE (12)

Christopher Chase	2024
Alyson Danyew-Ellison	2024
Linda Gerlach	2024
Dawn Troutman	2024
Kathy Beckett	2023
Susan Pratt	2023
Stacey Steele	2023
<i>Vacant</i>	2023
Bob Gerlach	2022
Philip Hammond	2022
Barbara Teeter	2022
Steve Teeter	2022

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES (3)

Valerie Nevel	2024
Wendell Smith	2023
Barry Schuster	2022

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMM. (4-6)

Linda Gerlach	2024
Steve Teeter	2024
Nicole Mason	2023
Nancy Parsons	2023
Open	2022
Open	2022

MEMORIAL GARDENS COMM. (3)

Ike Jacobs	2024
Brandon Mason	2023
Alyson Danyew-Ellison	2022

MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE (6-8)

Lola Baldwin	2024
Jon Scott	2024
Steve Teeter	2024
Kathy Beckett	2023
Linda Jacobs	2023
Barbara Laro	2023
Denise Moriearty	2023
Ron Bailey	2022
Corrine Erskine	2022
Wendell Smith	2022
Laurel Staviv	2022

MUSIC COMMITTEE (4-6)

Meghan Davis	2024
Gail Wasson	2024
Brian Clancy	2023
Open	2023
Jo Shelnuitt	2022
Steve Teeter	2022

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (3)

Barbara Jones	2024
Kathy Beckett	2023
Terry Ellison	2022

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (4-6)

Open	2024
Open	2024
Meghan Davis	2023
Jon Scott	2023
Valerie Nevel	2022
Steve Teeter	2022

FINANCE COMMITTEE (5)

Vacant (Member-at-Large)	2024
*Treasurer (T. Ellison)	2022
*Member Bd of Govs (W. Smith)	2022
*Member Stewardship (J. Scott)	2022
*Member Trustees (V. Nevel)	2022

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMM. (5)

Jon Scott (Member-at-Large)	2024
Member Bd of Govs (W. Smith)	2024
*Moderator (B. Jones)	2022
*Diaconate Chair (B. Teeter)	2022
*Other Deacon (B. Gerlach)	2022

PERSONNEL SUBCOMMITTEE (4)

*Council Chair (L. Jacobs)	2022
*Diaconate Chair (B. Teeter)	2022
*Bd of Govs Chair (J. Gilliatt)	2022
*Member Finance (T. Ellison)	2022

NHC-UCC DELEGATES (4)

*Chris Chase	2022
*Karen Chase	2022
*Vacant	2022
*Vacant	2022

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Jones, *Chair*  
Kathy Beckett  
Terry Ellison



*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)*