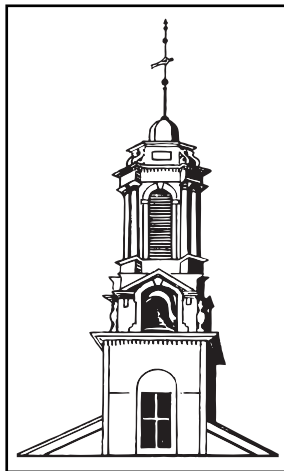


# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



**First Congregational Church**  
Lebanon, New Hampshire



Annual Meeting  
Sunday, February 13, 2022  
*(Held online via Zoom)*

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# ANNUAL MEETING 2022

*Moderator:* Barbara Jones

## AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation
3. Reading of the Warrant
4. Reading of the Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting
5. Reports for 2021:
  - PASTOR: Rev. Stephen R. Silver
  - CHURCH COUNCIL: Linda Jacobs
  - 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 Teeter
  - COMMITTEES: Committee Chairs
  - WOMEN OF THE CHURCH
  - CHURCH HISTORIAN: Corrine Erskine
6. Nominating Committee Report
7. Election of Officers and Committees
8. Old Business
  - A. Review of Committee Structure and Bylaws
  - B. Clarification of Responsibilities of Personnel and Pastoral Relations Committees
  - C. Campaign Planning
9. New Business
  - A. Proposed Budget for 2022 (see pp. 17-18)
10. Closing Hymn: “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”
11. Benediction

## WARRANT FOR 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of First Congregational Church of Lebanon, NH, will be held online in Zoom format on **Sunday, February 13, 2022**, at 11:30 am, after that morning's 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.
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 21, 2022

## MINUTES OF 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 14, 2021

1. Moderator Barbara Jones **called the meeting to order** on Zoom at 11:06 and confirmed that a quorum of at least 25 corporate members was in attendance. The Zoom call showed 34 participants, representing roughly 45 people.
2. The **invocation** was offered by the Rev. Stephen R. Silver.
3. Reading of the **warrant** for the 2021 meeting: **Motion made** by Terry Ellison, seconded by Brandon Mason, to dispense with reading the warrant. **Motion passed unanimously.**
4. Reading of the **minutes** from the 2020 meeting: **Motion made** by Linda Jacobs, seconded by Amy Driscoll, to dispense with reading the minutes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

### 5. Reports

**Pastor** (Rev. Steve Silver): Expanding on his report in the Annual Report, Rev. Silver noted that it has been a strange year, but fulfilling; he feels blessed to be FCC's pastor during this time. He has been gratified by consistent worship attendance on Zoom, including familiar faces as well as others who have reconnected from a distance.

Steve highlighted three items from his report. First, he asserted that our bylaws need to be updated and revised, noting that they do not account for some current needs and functions. Second, he suggested the creation of a committee to study how best to use technology for worship and other programs, during the pandemic and beyond it. Lastly, he reiterated a call to clarify our campaign plans, which have been sidelined by the pandemic closure. He asked what our church needs to do to support its mission and ministry in the 21st century.

Steve invited congregational participation and feedback on all of these questions. Jon Scott and Wendell Smith both volunteered to help with the technology committee. Amy Driscoll added her support for the bylaw review, explaining that an update is necessary both to avoid frustration and to strengthen and protect the church itself going forward.

**Church Council** (Linda Jacobs): In addition to her report, Linda thanked everyone who has shown up and come together online this year, despite the pandemic.

**Clerk** (Brian Clancy): Referring to his report, Brian drew particular attention to the recently completed membership review, which has significantly changed our membership total.

**Auditor** (Valerie Nevel for Parkers Accounting): Referring to the report from Parkers Accounting, Valerie reminded everyone that this is not a full, formal audit.

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

**Board of Governors** (John Gilliatt): Referring to his report, John highlighted projects at the Parsonage and plans for several phases of insulation work, both there and at the church.

**Board of Trustees** (Valerie Nevel): Referring to her report, Valerie noted that the church's investments were up 9% overall for the year. She thanked Rev. Silver for filing an application

for a PPP loan, which we expect to be forgiven soon. Valerie also gratefully referred to (but, in order to minimize Zoom time, didn't read) the list of names of those whose bequests have provided so generously for FCC over the years.

**Diaconate** (Barbara Teeter): In addition to her report, Barb thanked all the deacons for their time, adding thanks for Larry Doyle's service as he steps down and welcoming new deacon Chris Chase.

**Church School and Christian Education Committee** (Nan Parsons): In addition to her report, Nan expressed gratitude to the children for taking leadership roles and showing up on Zoom. She thanked parents and the congregation, committee members and volunteers, Rev. Silver, Marcia Corkins, and finally, the older children, for whom she suggested new opportunities would open up. Terry Ellison thanked Nan on behalf of the congregation.

**Memorial Gardens Committee** (Brandon Mason): Referring to his report, Brandon noted the revision and update of interment forms and documents and thanked Brian Clancy for his help with that. Wendell Smith thanked Brandon for caring for this important ministry. Linda Jacobs thanked Alyson Danyew-Ellison for her care of the gardens and flowers.

**Mission and Social Action Committee** (Kathy Beckett): In addition to her report, Kathy thanked the committee and welcomed new member Lola Baldwin. She thanked Council as well, for approving various MSA-recommended donations throughout the year.

**Music Committee** (Brian Clancy): Report presented in Annual Report document. Barb Jones expressed particular thanks to Ernie Drown.

**Pastoral Relations Committee** (Barbara Jones): Referring to her report, Barb called attention to the pastoral compensation recommendations and invited comments and questions.

**Stewardship Committee** (Jon Scott): In addition to his report, Jon emphasized stewardship is about much more than money, lifting up the variety of non-financial acts of stewardship. He noted, however, that it's important for us to "own the numbers" as a congregation, to be familiar with and transparent about the finances of our church—not so that we obsess about the numbers but so that we can do the work beyond them. Jon also reported that we are working to secure IRS certification of our non-profit 501(c)(3) status and asked for volunteer help with that effort.

**Women of the Church:** No formal report submitted or offered.

**Church Historian** (Corrine Erskine): Barb Jones commended Corrine on her thoroughly documented history.

**Motion made** by Amy Driscoll, seconded by Valerie Nevel, to accept the reports of all the church's boards and committees. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## **6. Nominating Committee Report** (Barbara Jones)

Barb referred to the committee roster in the Annual Report and invited Church Council chair Linda Jacobs to read the proposal from Council to maintain all officers and committee memberships unchanged for 2021, except for specific cases as noted. Terry Ellison noted the ongoing vacancy of the Assistant Treasurer position and invited help; Wendell Smith

offered his help, outside of a formal position. **Motion made** by Amy Driscoll, seconded by Barb Teeter, to accept the proposal from Council. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## 7. Election of Officers and Committees

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

## 8. Old Business

**Review of Committee Structure.** Barb Jones welcomed input regarding our committee structure and a review of our bylaws, topics that have long needed to be addressed. It was noted that Church Council will be taking up these issues later in the month.

**Campaign Planning Update.** Despite our preoccupation with the pandemic in the past year, Rev. Silver encouraged us to revisit our campaign plan and have conversations to affirm or adapt our goals. Wendell Smith, speaking for the planning committee, supported reviving it as well; Phil Hammond pointed out that launching a campaign could strengthen FCC despite the shutdown.

## 9. New Business

**Proposed Budget for 2021:** The Moderator invited Treasurer Terry Ellison to introduce the proposed budget for the coming year. Terry reiterated Jon Scott's appeal to "own the numbers," adding that the Finance Committee seeks to facilitate that for the congregation.

Terry pointed out a few particulars, including our receipt of the PPP loan in April, pay raises and vacation compensation for the staff, and the provision for contributions to our escrow account at Mascoma Bank. This escrow account, totaling roughly \$34,000, has been set aside for many years but mostly dormant; the Finance Committee recommends that we resume annual contributions to it for "rainy-day" contingencies in several expense areas (e.g., organ repair, building maintenance, pastor's sabbatical, etc.).

Phil Hammond asked how we plan to spend \$15,000 budgeted for capital improvements. Terry (who also serves on the Board of Governors) explained that we intend to complete insulation projects and other deferred items that we'd hoped to address last year. Phil and Wendell Smith also asked about plans for organ maintenance, recalling a past suggestion to budget \$10,000 annually for this. (The 2021 budget allots \$5,000.) Ernie Drown replied with details about a modest, imminent repair that will be undertaken in the coming month, adding his endorsement of the escrow plan but also cautioning that the organ will not last indefinitely. Music Committee chair Brian Clancy explained that we've always budgeted sufficient funds annually for regular maintenance, doing what's required to sustain our aging organ; a full renovation or replacement of the organ would require extensive analysis, congregational discussion, and far more than \$10,000 a year. (An estimate is \$250-300,000.)

Some wondered whether the escrow account balance should appear in the annual report budget. This report, however, is a summary statement of income and expenses, rather than a statement of our assets. Transactions to and from the escrow account will appear as they happen. Corrine Erskine asked whether that amount could serve as a start-up fund for a

campaign, but the escrow funds have already been earmarked for specific purposes that already exist, independent of (though perhaps related to) new campaign projects.

Regarding our planned capital expenses, Jon Scott observed that these will yield a return in energy-cost savings, as they improve our buildings' efficiency. Terry added that the Finance Committee intends to clarify what counts as a "capital expense," either by amount or type of project.

No further discussion ensued. **Motion made** by Jon Scott, seconded by Barb Teeter, to accept the church's proposed budget for 2021. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Raising another item of new business, Rev. Silver related a discussion from the Mission and Social Action Committee of how we as a congregation might best support the new Welcoming Lebanon ordinance. We've offered gestures of support for immigrant and refugee populations before, and MSA is determining what public stance we can take to bolster the new ordinance. Kathy Beckett, who led efforts to pass the ordinance, added some background and encouraged follow-through by both the city and our congregation. Jon Scott explained that our public statements and actions should back up what the banner above our front door proclaims.

Amy Driscoll reinforced the need to review the process of personnel and compensation evaluations for everyone, especially non-pastoral staff who currently have no such process. Terry Ellison and Linda Jacobs both responded that Church Council has prioritized this on their agenda for its February meeting.

10. Ernie Drown played the **closing hymn**, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

11. The Rev. Steve Silver thanked staff members Brian Clancy, Ernie Drown, Barb Teeter, Ashley Oronte, and Nan Parsons, and he added appreciation of Susan Sorensen, who served several months as interim organist during the pandemic. Steve closed the meeting with the **benediction**.

12. Meeting **adjourned** at 12:18.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian C. Clancy, *Clerk*



## PASTOR'S REPORT

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup>It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

—1 Corinthians 13:4-7

“Now what?”

This simple-to-ask yet complex-to-answer question is one that we all should be asking. We need to think about and discuss what it is we as a church want to do in the year ahead, and beyond. And we need to ask what we will do post-pandemic.

Post-pandemic? What am I talking about? The pandemic is still with us, and some variation of it seems destined to be with us for a long time.

Okay, but to resort to clichés, this too shall pass. There will be a “day after,” when the coronavirus is no longer our primary worry. Really.

It may be hard to imagine this future, especially when we still wear masks, maintain social distance, are careful about gathering in person, and find it harder to remember life in what some have come to call “the before times.”

Well, “the before times” is another way of describing the past. We may remember days-gone-by as some halcyon golden age, but others may remember things differently. We should be able to agree on this: that what has passed has passed. We live in the present, or, to use another cliché, the “here and now.”

But is that what we should be living for, the present moment? Or is there something more, something better to which we can look forward?

To get some perspective on all of this, I recently reread the book of Nehemiah, found in the Hebrew Bible. It's a relatively short book, just 13 chapters, though it should be seen, and read, in conjunction with the 10-chapter Ezra. And it tells a story with relevance for our times.

The Persian king Artaxerxes appointed Nehemiah governor of the province of Judah, and so this man who reports that he was the king's cupbearer returned to the city of Jerusalem, his ancestral homeland. There, his family had been royalty. With Ezra, the priest and scribe, he sought to rebuild the city's walls and revive civic and religious life.

Imagine rebuilding your hometown. The buildings, the public spaces, the rhythms of daily life—everything—are all in ruins. Strangers have moved in and made a place for themselves. People might daydream about gleaming towers and beautiful parks, but the reality is lots of rubble, questions about the future, and oftentimes difficult relations with the neighbors.

The citizens of Jerusalem, both those who had been able to stay behind when the Babylonians exiled the people and those who returned from the Babylonian Captivity, had a lot to dream of. And perhaps it all seemed too much. But they had great leaders like Nehemiah and Ezra, backstopped by the God of Israel. It was possible to believe that nothing was possible after the losses of the Babylonian exile. Instead, these figures led the people in the way of hope.

You may know some history and have some questions: Had not the Babylonians fallen to the Persians? And weren't the Persians different, ruled by a king who wanted Israel to return home and rebuild? Had not Cyrus been seen by the prophets of Israel as doing the work of the Lord?

Yes, we can look at the historical record and comment on the policies of the Persians, who ruled in a very different manner from the Babylonians and their rivals, the Assyrians. We can appreciate the relatively enlightened views of Cyrus and his successors, and their respect for the peoples whom they ruled. But we, as a people of faith, also look at things through the lens of Scripture, and take seriously the idea that the proverbial hand of God was at work. If we can see that, we see that God was with Israel, even when they were in exile. God, their steadfast companion, would be Israel's aid, and their great hope as they looked to the future.

So, *let us look to our future*. Let us confess that we have felt like exiles, borne away from normal life by the pandemic. But as trying as the past two years have been, we still are blessed with much. We have great resources here at FCC Lebanon, and we can and should envision a bright future, one in which we work together, support one another, and look to our common future, with an appreciation of our past.

Much has happened over the past year. We resumed in-person worship, saw the return of our choir, and we improved our live-streaming capabilities. We began a review of our bylaws, and much productive work has been done, with more to come. We have slowly resumed some of our activities, and our building has once again been used for concerts and music education.

But there is so much more to be done.

We need to dream, to think big. It will not surprise you that our congregation is older than we might prefer. That's not to say our current membership is not a great source of joy, wisdom, and experience, but we would like to see more children, more families amongst us.

Now, that's not easy. New Hampshire and Vermont have the lowest percentage of churchgoers in the nation, less than a third of all adults in those states.

So, are we looking at a desert? Or do we have a lot of people who are spiritually underfed? People who might respond to the Good News we have to share with others?

I hope you know where I stand.

We have the best message in the world to share, that of God's love. We welcome newcomers and we treasure old-timers. All in our pews have something to contribute. I hope you agree and you will work to welcome people into our church.

I will repeat some encouraging news I shared last year: "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." I will add that while we had to suspend our community dinners due to virus-transmission fears, we continued to help our neighbors through a robust, ongoing Open Door Ministry, and by hosting the tiny-house shelter, which provided two unhoused people a place to stay in the fall of 2021.

Who wouldn't want to be a part of this kind of caring, resilient community?

Now, I will not say that we have reached the proverbial Promised Land. We have work to do and a way to travel.

I would like for us to finish our bylaws review. I plan to offer more adult-education opportunities this year. I would like for us to develop and implement a plan to welcome people into our church. I would like for us to embrace the spirit of Paul's letter to the Corinthians—for us to remember and live out the idea that “Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

We need to work together, and to remember that working together requires patience and a willingness to compromise, to listen and to help one another. We may even need to learn how to do some things all over again. I know that is not beyond us, and we will be able to move forward together, as a community rooted in the love of Jesus Christ.

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 show your love for our church. Most every congregation seems to be in need of more volunteers, and ours is no different. We know we need a committee and volunteer structure better suited to our size and your lives. We are working on that and will complete our work. But know that you all continue to work hard for FCC Lebanon, and you achieve much. Your efforts make a tremendous difference to our ministry, to our worship, and to our community. I would like to offer a special word of gratitude to those who have worked so hard to bring our livestreaming capacity to where it is now. I am grateful. We will continue to offer a livestream of our services beyond the pandemic.

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 Ernie Drown has been great to work with, bringing us wonderful music on Sunday mornings and leading the choir with aplomb.

Special thanks are due to Nan Parsons for her leadership of the Children's Community Corner. This was the second 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. That so many children have become part of this virtual community is a testament to Nan. We are truly blessed!

I wrote these words in closing last year and will share them again: “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

Throughout 2021 Church Council regularly considered the changing local circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, prioritizing the safety of our congregation. There was a unanimous vote in January to continue the suspension of in-person worship until at least Easter Sunday. By April Council members were more open to the idea of resuming in-person worship, as long as strict precautions were followed. Council further recommended a survey to assess the vaccination status of the congregation and its general level of comfort with reopening. The survey reported that an extremely high proportion of respondents were both vaccinated and comfortable with resuming in-person worship.

Council ultimately decided to reopen the Sanctuary for worship starting on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, with the requirement that everyone wear masks and observe distancing in the pews, as marked off by ropes. Council reaffirmed these precautions for the remainder of the year, adding the requirement of vaccination in September. During the summer Council also approved the resumption of concerts, meetings, and other events, mandating that any group who uses the church needs to require masks, distancing, and proof of vaccination.

Early in the year Council picked up a discussion begun in the Diaconate, regarding the role of the Gloria and other familiar elements of worship. More progressive versions have evolved in our country, and individual churches follow a variety of approaches. Many Council members voiced a strong affinity for the familiar text and music, noting that the Gloria is a spiritually vital moment in worship.

Rather than rely on the umbrella 501(c)(3) status of the national UCC, Council has long intended to secure IRS certification of our non-profit status for several reasons. We voted to hire a professional accounting firm to manage this process, which requires a substantial filing of our financial records. The certification will confirm our non-profit status and enable us to set up online giving.

In the spring Council voted to create an ad-hoc committee to review and revise FCC's bylaws, primarily to address the difficulty of filling volunteer positions with a decreasing congregation size. Volunteers on the ad-hoc group hoped to examine and revise the bylaws to reflect our current needs, practices, membership, governance, and committee structure. This group has met several times and continues its work into the new year.

Scouting Troop 279 submitted a formal request in September for FCC to release its charter, as it has become increasingly difficult for our congregation to offer the Troop an effective charter representative to conduct essential administrative business on their behalf. Despite unanimous appreciation of our church's long history with Scouting, Council agreed that the Troop should be able to pursue whatever they feel is in their best interest.

In the fall the Recreational Vehicle Emergency Shelter Program approached FCC about placing a temporary, mobile homeless shelter at the back of the church's parking lot. After gathering more information and addressing potential obstacles, Council voted to host the tiny house for a six-week period as a ministry of compassion and a reflection of the church's community

presence. The shelter arrived November 1, but soon afterward, unfortunately, the City of Lebanon informed FCC that the temporary dwelling structure violated the Zoning Ordinance. The shelter was forced to relocate just before Thanksgiving.

For more information about Council's meetings and discussions in 2021, summaries appear each month in *Grace Notes*, and meeting minutes are available from the Clerk.

I would like to thank the Rev. Steve Silver and Ernie Drown for planning and leading our worship services. A very special thank-you to Brian Clancy for attending every meeting, taking notes, then writing up an accurate and concise accounting of each meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Jacobs, *Chair*

Corrine Erskine, *Vice-Chair*

Linda Oronte, *At-large*

Brian Clancy, *Clerk*

Committee Chairs

## CLERK'S REPORT

### Membership Changes

During 2021 two new covenant members joined the church, and one member—already counted in our total since 2000—was confirmed by official transfer from her longtime home church. In addition, four members died during the year.

The Clerk also completed the comprehensive membership audit begun in 2020, as described in the 2020 Annual Report. The audit identified two groups of inactive members whom it was still possible to contact for confirmation of their membership status. The first group of 42 members were sent a letter in January from Council Chair Linda Jacobs, asking that they reaffirm their membership or withdraw; those who did not respond were removed by default at the end of the year. For the second group—children of still-active members who were confirmed as teenagers but have become inactive as adults—the Clerk contacted either them or their parents to ascertain their membership preferences. The resulting withdrawals for both groups are listed below.

**Based on the above changes and the audit results, First Congregational Church of Lebanon begins 2022 with 113 members, a net decrease of 41 from the 2020 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 (2):*

Lola F. Baldwin, joined 5/23/21.

Nan Luebbert, joined 5/23/21.

Virginia F. Bennett, joined by transfer of membership from United Church of Danbury (NH), 10/19/21. (**Note:** Already counted as a member since 2000.)

#### *Members Who Died (4):*

James D. Oronte, d. 2/10/21.

Harriet S. Oman, d. 3/4/21.

Marjorie F. Cole, d. 5/14/21.

Ardell A. Mansfield, d. 10/2/21.

#### *Members Who Transferred:*

(None)

#### *Members Who Withdrew (11):*

Lisa and Brian Bennett, withdrew per conversation with Ginny and Lloyd Bennett, 11/5/21.

Cathy and John Bourgon, withdrew per email 6/2/21.

Priscilla Carr, withdrew per phone call 2/5/21.

Jennifer Corkins, withdrew per conversation with Marcia Corkins, 12/30/21.

Caitlin Oronte, withdrew per email from Linda Oronte, 12/29/21.

Eric Petersson, withdrew per email from Jennifer Grant, 12/23/21.

Allison Schuster, withdrew per email from Barry Schuster, 12/27/21.

Julia Schuster, withdrew per email from Barry Schuster, 12/27/21.

Betty Tedeschi, withdrew per email 6/10/21.

*Members Removed by Default for Inactivity, 12/31/21 (28):*

Catherine Anderson  
Melinda and John Blodgett  
Mary-Thérèse Braun  
JoAnn Breault  
Marjorie Cummings  
Deborah and Richard Goodwin  
Ethan Guyer  
Ann and Patrick Hayes  
Sonya Janson  
Carol Kingston  
Debbie and David Lemere  
Eden and David Levesque  
Lisa Matthews  
Shawn Poirier  
Hilary Ryder  
Dana and Dawn Silver  
Audra and Ian Smith  
Janine and Tim Stammers  
Lisa Thompson  
Matthew Yeager

**Baptisms**

(None)

**Weddings**

(None)

**Memorial Services**

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

*Members of the Church:*

Closey F. Dickey, d. 12/30/20, memorial service 5/4/21 at 27 Jenkins Road, Lebanon, NH.  
James D. Oronte, d. 2/10/21, memorial service 8/28/21 at FCC.

*Friends of the Church:*

Consuelo Cotter, d. 5/30/21, graveside memorial service 6/11/21 at Mt. Auburn Cemetery,  
Cambridge, MA.  
Merle W. Schotanus, d. 11/4/20, memorial service 6/13/21 at Grantham Memorial  
Cemetery, Grantham, 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, 2021 / Proposed Budget for 2022

[ \* *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 Bylaws*, "The Board of Governors shall have general charge and care of the church's physical property."

Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the Board had no formal meetings in 2021. The committee had a "spring clean-up" day in May to maintain the property and complete several repair projects, including partial re-siding and painting of the church's utility shed.

Following their February 2017 inspection, the consultants Building Alternatives reported "no insulation of any sort" in the main sanctuary portion of the building. Using the "ABC" rule—attic first, basement second, and center of building third, Chey Insulation quoted and was contracted to do the insulation work in 2021. The sanctuary and apse ceilings were insulated with a combination of cellulose and spray foam. Attic stair bottoms and exposed wall and interior stairwell walls were treated with spray foam, and cellulose was blown into the stairway's flat landing. Spray foam was also applied to the walls of the earthen basement, with a Stego plastic vapor barrier installed on the dirt floor. Committee members provided carpentry services in installing sanctuary ceiling insulation dams and enabling access to stairway steps and ceiling areas. Committee members also had previously completed other elements of the insulation project, including work in the church offices, custodial storage closet, Parish Hall and Parlor.

At the request of Church Council, the committee submitted for review a revised description of the Board of Governors for the church's bylaws.

Looking ahead to 2022, following previously identified project priorities, the committee will secure quotes and complete insulation of the Parsonage.

The chair wishes to thank the committee members for all their support given. A very special thanks goes to Brandon Mason, who will be suspending his committee involvement in 2022. The committee is grateful for his physical skills, knowledge and expertise, organizational impact, and commitment to the work of the committee.

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, 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](mailto:church@fccleb.org). \* ]*

## DIACONATE REPORT

*Please Note: The Clerk compiled this report from 2021 Diaconate meeting minutes.*

Since Council recommended the continuity of all volunteer positions from 2020 through 2021, only one new Deacon joined the group this year. Chris Chase was elected at Annual Meeting to fill the spot of Larry Doyle, who was no longer able to continue for health reasons. Barb Teeter continued as chair, Stacey Steele as vice-chair, and Bob Gerlach as secretary.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect the work of the Diaconate in 2021. Primarily, that meant extensive discussion of the format and regulations around worship, as we progressed from an all-remote model in January to the hybrid offering of both in-person and Zoom options. The Deacons advised Rev. Silver on aspects of Zoom worship before and after the transition back to in-person worship on Pentecost in May. A consulting engineer and friend of Kathy Beckett presented an air-flow analysis to church staff, and other safety precautions of masks and distanced seating were instituted. One adaptation called for the use of individually packaged elements for communion. The Deacons also assisted in developing the newly essential role of Zoom Greeter, a liaison between remote viewers and the live service.

Other aspects of the Diaconate's work were more familiar. They offered liturgical support for special services during Holy Week and Christmas Eve, and they helped Rev. Silver plan online reading groups. They also assisted with coverage of worship responsibilities during Rev. Silver's vacation weeks in June and August.

Throughout the year, each Deacon made efforts to connect with individual congregants on their own member contact lists, a vital means of offering lay pastoral care to our congregation. This remains perhaps the most fundamental service of the Diaconate.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Teeter, *Chair*

Stacey Steele, *Vice-Chair*

Bob Gerlach, *Secretary*

Kathy Beckett

Chris Chase

Alyson Danyew-Ellison

Linda Gerlach

Phil Hammond

Susan Pratt

Steve Teeter

Dawn Troutman

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Our theme through June 2021 asked, “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. We brought the story of the church that lives 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 how the stories of the Bible are relevant to our lives today, and how they can help us to face and overcome challenges. We examined these questions and many more through the reading and telling of the following stories:

- 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*)
- The Days of Creation (*Genesis 1:1-2:3*)
- The Great Family: God’s promise through Abraham and Sarah (*Genesis 12, 15, 17, 18, 21, 24*)
- 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

We’ve come a long way in time since the story of the Creation. The People of God were led out of slavery; they ruled their own country; they were defeated; and they were carried off into exile. They returned to rebuild the temple of Jerusalem and God was with them all the way—but they were not always with God. These are the stories we learned and shared last year.

The Children’s Community Corner began the fall of 2021 with an introduction to the lessons of the Prophets, with special attention given to Elijah and Jonah. Our studying helped us to prepare for the mystery of Christmas through the stories of the Prophets, the Holy Family, the Shepherds, and the Magi. During this time, we tried to relate to the stories and mystery of Christmas by thinking of ourselves as being on the way to Bethlehem. We sought to prepare our children to experience the holiday season as a holy time, the celebration of God’s love for us in sending his son, Jesus—the fulfillment of His promise.

Throughout the season of Christmas, we engaged in the Mystery of Christmas by better understanding the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Nativity, the Presentation, the Adoration of the Magi, the Massacre of the Innocents, and the Flight into Egypt. We ended the season of

Christmas with the study of Epiphany, setting our own intentions about the gifts we would bring to Jesus this year. We promised to give Jesus our heart by admitting our sins and asking for forgiveness; we promised to give Jesus our minds by learning more about God and praying each day; we promised to give Jesus our willpower by asking Jesus to be more like Him; and we promised to give Jesus our treasures by giving gifts of money and our talents to grow God's kingdom. Finally, we created individual promises that we placed in our Epiphany prayer box to open and read each time we pray to remind us of our commitment.

Although we are still not able to be physically together, we seek to maintain the important connections that have been developed in the Children's Community Corner through familiar routines. We all look forward to gathering, when it is safe to do so, in our 3 C's space. It is our pleasure to engage in the stories of the Bible with your children.

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.

No new interments occurred during 2021. The memorial stone is now engraved with the names and birth/death years of the following deceased members of our congregation: Leif and Beryl Thorsrud, Richard and Helen Wallace, Henry “Hank” Watson, Robert Bassett, Laura and Gordon Place, Elizabeth and Ellis Howard, Willmott “Bin” Lewis, Marilyn Guild Mason, and Margaret “Ginger” Smith. (The 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 2021.

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

*Please Note: The Clerk compiled this report from 2021 Church Council meeting minutes.*

The Mission and Social Action Committee had a transitional year in 2021, due to both the challenges of the pandemic and changes in volunteer leadership.

In January MSA recommended a \$1200 donation to the Asylum and Sanctuary Fund of the United Valley Interfaith Project, in conjunction with the transfer of that fund to a new local organization called SHARe (Supporting and Helping Asylees and Refugees). The donation was to subsidize a local immigrant family's living costs, and Church Council unanimously endorsed FCC's support of SHARe. In April MSA member and State Representative Laurel Stavis was among those advocating against HB266, an anti-sanctuary bill proposed in the NH House.

The annual Souper Bowl in February set a record of 338 cans collected, divided as always among Listen Community Services, the Upper Valley Haven, and Headrest. In March MSA agreed to a new commitment to supply monthly meals to Hartford Dismas House, a residence for recently incarcerated men and women in transition. FCC volunteer teams delivered dinners from April through October. MSA also explored the "Letter by Letter" program, in which volunteers exchange either informational or personal messages with incarcerated people in VT and NH.

In addition to the Open Door Ministry managed by staff, FCC has tried to maintain its shopping-cart collection of non-perishable food and other items through the pandemic. In the spring FCC also hosted vaccine clinics for local underserved groups, organized by Listen and DHMC.

In September the organizer of a pilot program for temporarily housing homeless individuals approached FCC about hosting an RV shelter on church property for six weeks. Posing little impact or expectation on FCC's resources, the proposal was unanimously supported by Council, and the RV shelter arrived November 1. Despite positive local reception, however, Lebanon's Zoning Board mandated the shelter's removal three weeks later due to a zoning violation. In December Rev. Silver helped lead the annual vigil for our unhoused population.

The MSA Committee is in need of new leadership in 2022, and interested volunteers are asked to speak with Rev. Silver.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Bailey  
Lola Baldwin  
Kathleen Beckett  
Corrine Erskine  
Linda Jacobs  
Barbara Laro  
Denise Moriearty  
Jon Scott  
Wendell Smith  
Laurel Stavis  
Steve Teeter



## MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed an ongoing challenge to FCC's music ministry. Even after the total shutdown through the winter and spring of 2021 lifted, the resumption of in-person worship and performances in the summer and fall brought new complexities of how to gather and enjoy music safely.

When our congregation returned to the Sanctuary for worship in May, hymn singing was still discouraged and FCC's choir remained disbanded. Ernie Drown was finally able to share his talents as an organist with a live congregation, but Brian Clancy continued to sing all hymns as a soloist, as he had during 2020. The choir gathered occasionally to rehearse during the summer, but it wasn't until September that it sang in worship again, and then only with a mandate that singers be masked like everyone else. Ernie, however—now settling into his second year as FCC's Organist and Choir Director—has overcome these challenges, not only sustaining but also increasing the choir's role in worship. A tightly knit, supportive group, the choir now manages two pieces on most Sundays, continuing its tradition of making the most of its minimal size. Ernie has also brought guest musicians back to our services, and his own excellent organ playing provides as strong a musical foundation as worship has ever had at FCC.

Musical performance also returned in the summer of 2021, as Classicopia offered a handful of concerts from August to December and the Anonymous Coffeehouse quickly revived its broad popularity in six shows over the course of the fall. Ernie's Cameo Baroque group offered two benefit concerts, supporting our church's mission efforts with superb programs. The Bel Canto Chamber Singers—all masked, as was common for post-pandemic choral groups—resumed their weekly rehearsals in September, although the latest COVID surge prompted them to move their December concerts to the slightly larger Norwich Congregational Church. The Upper Valley Music Center strengthened its neighborly reliance on FCC, using our grounds for outdoor classes during renovations and then scheduling its entire Suzuki program in our building on Monday afternoons during the school year.

The music ministry at FCC is emerging from the pandemic in a healthy, hopeful state, as our esteemed director grows more comfortable with choir and congregation alike, and our church sustains its reputation as a supportive and beloved performance venue. We look forward to continuing this musical recovery in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Clancy, *Chair*

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

Meghan Donahue

Jo Shelnut

Steve Teeter

Gail Wasson

## PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

During 2021 the Pastoral Relations Committee did not meet, and that is a situation which needs to be remedied in 2022. We have been somewhat in a state of flux due to the COVID pandemic, and due to the efforts to do a thorough review of the church's bylaws. Many things are not as clear as they need to be. Church Council and the bylaws study group have both reaffirmed the necessity of the Pastoral Relations Committee as it is currently described in the bylaws, assigning compensation and benefits oversight to a more appropriate location than the Pastoral Relations Committee.

It is safe to say that not only the members of the Pastoral Relations Committee but also the congregation as a whole are appreciative of all the efforts that the pastor and all employees and volunteers have made in sustaining our church during another very difficult year.

The plan in 2022 is to be more proactive in looking at regular communication between church members and the pastor, in both directions, in order to respond to any concerns of the pastor and members of the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Jones, *Moderator and Chair*

Bob Gerlach

Jon Scott

Wendell Smith

Barbara Teeter

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

This year's report is briefer than usual. Although many churches are reporting severe financial hardship as a result of pandemic-related declines in membership and worship attendance, First Congregational Church of Lebanon continues to do well. We are grateful for the loyal and generous support of our congregation—gifts of both money and time, countless volunteer hours—and we have seen a modest uptick in regular offerings and special gifts. Pledge commitments received so far for 2022 have allowed your Finance Committee to prepare a solid budget for the coming year. Most families and individuals who pledged and gave during 2021 have promised to give again in 2022, many at increased levels.

We can expect to receive gifts and offerings throughout 2022 in the form of cash, checks, gifts of stock, small grants, and donations from IRA retirement accounts. Our endowment funds, created through legacy gifts by earlier generations of church members, continue to deliver strong returns to bolster current giving. As a result, we have been able to continue with solid worship and mission programs. We've also been able to increase the support provided through our Open Door Ministry (funded in part by special communion Sunday offerings) for those in our community with urgent food, fuel and housing needs.

Last year's report noted how blessed we all are to be part of such a caring, compassionate, and generous faith community. That is every bit as true today. Many thanks to all in our congregation and extended Church Family!

*Please refer to the 2022 Budget and related financial information for additional detail on 2021-22 giving and projections.*

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Scott, *Chair*  
Meghan Donahue  
Valerie Nevel  
Steve Teeter

## WOMEN OF THE CHURCH REPORT

The Women of the Church did not submit a full report for 2021. One purchase was made for the church kitchen in August.

Balance on January 1, 2021			\$ 3,882.26
Receipts			\$ 0.00
Expenditures			
Aug 30	Purchase of baking pans (2)	( 46.98 )	
			( \$ 46.98 )
Balance on December 31, 2021			\$ 3,835.28

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Laro, *Treasurer*

## CHURCH HISTORY

We opened 2021 in a holding pattern because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We all waited our turn to have vaccinations, which had just been developed at the end of 2020. Luckily, few if anyone in our congregation had been directly affected by the disease to that point, and case numbers in Lebanon were still low.

We lost two beloved members of our church family early in the year. Closey Dickey passed away at the very end of December 2020, and Jim Oronte passed away on February 10. Each contributed so much to the life of our church over many years, and they are missed.

On Valentine's Day we had our first and hopefully last Annual Meeting on Zoom! There were about 30-35 people who attended virtually. Barb Jones did a good job despite having to lead her first meeting as Moderator in this unusual way. We also finished up the Souper Bowl on the same day. Amazingly, our total of 338 cans beat last year's total, even though we were not meeting in person at church.

The ecumenical Ash Wednesday service with other local churches was held online via Zoom. Ashes were given out in little baggies, another first for the church!

As of the end of February, the world had seen 112 million cases of COVID-19 and 2.4 million deaths, including 500,000 in the U.S. The rollout of vaccines during winter and spring slowed the disease's spread. Many hoped that we might be able to meet at church again by the summer.

The weather warmed up enough to hold Easter services outside in person on April 4, broadcast via Zoom for those staying at home. It was nice to hear the church bell ringing again! A month and a half later on May 23, Pentecost Sunday—Hallelujah! We met in person in the sanctuary for the first time in fourteen months. The pandemic had slowed down, and a survey of the congregation revealed that all of us had either gotten fully vaccinated or were planning to do so by early June. The church sanctuary looked different, with every other pew roped off so that we would sit six feet from each other. We all wore masks, and we listened to Ernie Drown play the organ and Brian Clancy sing hymns. We did not offer coffee hour but hoped to do so soon. There were about 45 people in attendance.

On Pentecost we welcomed two new covenant members to the church family, Lola Baldwin and Nan Luebbert. Also in May, however, we lost a loyal, longtime member of the congregation, Marjorie Cole. Hopefully she and her late husband Reuben are watching out for us up there! On the last Sunday of May a musical guest, Ernie's wife Beth Hilgartner, sang two songs by Handel accompanied by Ernie on the piano.

June 13 was Children's Sunday. A few of the children led readings and presented a review of all they had been studying in their Zoom meetings this year. Chip Silver played the postlude on his cello. Kudos to Nan Parsons for doing such a great job despite the limitations of Zoom—it couldn't have been easy!

The Rev. Steve Silver took a week's vacation in June (his first in over a year), so the Rev. Jo Shelnuttt took his place for a Sunday. She gave a very humorous children's sermon about Job!

Our guest musician Chris Rua did an amazing job playing the recorder. Steve took the rest of his vacation during the month of August, so we had three guest preachers—Beth Hilgartner, the Rev. Gail Dimick (twice), and lay preacher Chris Chase. Ernie also took a couple summer Sundays off, and Susan Sorensen filled in for him on the organ.

We had another outside worship service on August 1. We had continued to wear masks during worship since reopening earlier in the summer. Later that month the church opened up to live music again, with a great Classicopia program on August 15. At the end of August we held a service of celebration for the life of Jim Oronte. We all miss him.

As we headed into September, the City of Lebanon reestablished its mask mandate because of the COVID-19 delta variant. One step forward, two steps back! Kick-off Sunday that month was a little different—no bouncy house this year, but the service was held outside, beginning with the blessing of the backpacks and ending with a pizza lunch.

The Anonymous Coffeehouse resumed later that month, and a benefit concert by Cameo Baroque was held on September 19 to support Hearts You Hold. October brought two more concerts from Classicopia and one with Roseminna Watson and Melody Fader.

The CROP Walk also returned in October, although without the familiar lunch at FCC. Later in the month Ron Bailey also got to lead a walk up Farnum Hill. The weather and scenery were beautiful; unfortunately, only five people took advantage.

In September we welcomed a new baby into the fold, Emory Lee Scott, the son of Walter and Deserai Scott. Congratulations to the whole Scott family! A month later, however, we lost longtime member Ardell Mansfield. Ardell was one of the great cooks who graced our church kitchen many years ago.

In November Rev. Silver started a weekly book club, discussing *Thy Will Be Done* by Stephen Cherry. About ten people participated on Zoom.

On November 19 the church hosted a silent auction to benefit local resettlement efforts for Afghan refugees arriving in the region. The event was planned to coincide with the Anonymous Coffeehouse show on the same evening. We also resumed filling our shopping cart in the fall, with donations going to Listen Community Services and the Upper Valley Haven.

There was an ecumenical Thanksgiving service held at FCC on November 22. The West Lebanon Congregational Church and the Lebanon and WRJ United Methodist Churches joined us. Advent began the weekend after Thanksgiving on the 28th, so we once again decorated the sanctuary for the season. We did not decorate the hall or parlor this year; they were not being used so much, so we decided to make it easy on ourselves this year!

We had three musical events at the church in December. In addition to the last Anonymous Coffeehouse of the season, Classicopia offered a holiday-themed program for four-hand piano. The Upper Valley Music Center organized its familiar Messiah Sing in a reduced format, with selected arias and an outdoor community sing of the Hallelujah Chorus in our snowy yard.

By December COVID-19 had reared its ugly head again with the new omicron variant. Case numbers increased sharply across the country and around the world. Our congregation

continued to worship in person as well as on Zoom, being very careful to wear masks at all times and still forgoing coffee hour. We all want everything to get back to normal but I'm not sure that will ever happen!

This year Christmas landed on a Saturday, so on Friday we had two Christmas Eve services, a 5:00 family service and an 8:00 service of lessons and carols. Despite COVID precautions, Nan Parsons managed to pull together both children and adults for our annual Christmas pageant. Snow and freezing rain on Christmas Day made it difficult for anyone to travel to family.

On that cheery note, I will say Happy New Year to everyone and hope 2022 is a little more hopeful. Life is precious!

Respectfully submitted,

Corrine Erskine, *Church Historian*

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

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

*MODERATOR	Barbara Jones
*CLERK	Brian Clancy
*TREASURER	Dawn Troutman
*ASSISTANT TREASURER	Terry Ellison
*HISTORIAN	Corrine Erskine
*AUDITOR	<i>Vacant (Parkers Accounting)</i>
*CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT (Term: July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023)	Nancy Parsons

### CHURCH COUNCIL

*CHAIR	Jon Scott
*VICE CHAIR	<i>Vacant</i>
*MEMBER-AT-LARGE	Linda Oronte
*MEMBER-AT-LARGE	<i>Vacant</i>

### DIACONATE (12) (end of eligibility)

Bob Gerlach (2025)	2025
Philip Hammond (2025)	2025
<i>Vacant</i>	2025
<i>Vacant</i>	2025
Chris Chase (2027)	2024
Alyson Danyew-Ellison (2024)	2024
Linda Gerlach (2027)	2024
Dawn Troutman (2027)	2024
Susan Pratt (2023)	2023
Stacey Steele (2026)	2023
<i>Vacant</i>	2023
<i>Vacant</i>	2023

### PERSONNEL SUBCOMMITTEE (4)

*Council Chair (J. Scott)	2023
*Diaconate Chair (TBD)	2023
*Bd of Govs Chair (J. Gilliatt)	2023
*Mem Finance (V. Nevel)	2023

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS (4-9)

Terry Ellison	2025
Walter Scott	2025
<i>Open</i>	2025
<i>Open</i>	2024
<i>Open</i>	2024
<i>Open</i>	2024
John Gilliatt	2023
Brandon Mason	2023
Wendell Smith	2023

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES (3)

Barry Schuster	2025
Valerie Nevel	2024
Wendell Smith	2023



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMM. (4-6)

Open	2025
Open	2025
Linda Gerlach	2024
Steve Teeter	2024
Nicole Mason	2023
Nancy Parsons	2023

FINANCE COMMITTEE (5)

Vacant (Member-at-Large)	2025
*Treasurer (D. Troutman)	2023
*Mem Bd of Govs (W. Smith)	2023
*Mem Stewardship (J. Scott)	2023
*Mem Trustees (V. Nevel)	2023

MEMORIAL GARDENS COMM. (3)

Alyson Danyew-Ellison	2025
Ike Jacobs	2024
Brandon Mason	2023

MISSION AND SOCIAL ACTION  
COMMITTEE (6-8)

Corrine Erskine	2025
Open	2025
Jon Scott	2024
Steve Teeter	2024
Lola Baldwin	2024
Linda Jacobs	2023
Barbara Laro	2023
Denise Moriearty	2023

MUSIC COMMITTEE (4-6)

Steve Teeter	2025
Open	2025
Meghan Donahue	2024
Gail Wasson	2024
Brian Clancy	2023
Open	2023

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (3)

Terry Ellison	2025
Barbara Jones	2024
Vacant	2023

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (5)

Jon Scott (Member-at-Large)	2024
Mem Bd of Govs (W. Smith)	2024
*Moderator (B. Jones)	2023
*Diaconate Chair (B. Teeter)	2023
*Other Deacon (B. Gerlach)	2023

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE (4-6)

Barbara Jones	2025
Vacant	2025
Open	2024
Open	2024
Meghan Donahue	2023
Jon Scott	2023

NHC-UCC DELEGATES (4)

*Vacant	2023
*Vacant	2023
*Vacant	2023
*Vacant	2023

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Jones, *Chair*

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)*