Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting, January 26, 2020.................................1-4

Church Clerk Annual Report 2020...............................................................5-6
Virginia Millington, Church Clerk

Notice 380th Annual Meeting Call, January 31, 2021.................................7
Virginia Millington, Church Clerk

Senior Minister’s Report.................................................................8-10
The Reverend Edward Rawls

Associate Minister’s Report.........................................................11-13
The Reverend Meg Williams

Board and Committee Reports
Church Council...............................................................................14
Jamie Dobovich, Church Council Chair
Trustees..........................................................15
Ben Branyan, Board of Trustee Chair
Diaconate................................................................16
Carolyn Ross
Benevolence......................................................................17
Mike Lofaro, Board of Benevolence Chair
Christian Education..............................................................18-19
Carl Larsen, Board of Christian Education Chair
Church Fair.................................................................................20
Frances Morra, Church Fair Chair
Music (Director’s and Chairman’s Report)...................................21
Andy Byrne & Sue Romatzik Co-Chairs and Dr. Joe Utterback, Music Director
Stewardship............................................................................22
Virginia Millington, Stewardship Committee Chair
Chancel..................................................................................23
Beth Turner, Chancel Committee Chair
Scholarship...........................................................................24-25
Carol Haberlin, Scholarship Chair
Women’s Service League.........................................................26
Gail McCarthy & Judy Therrien Co-Chairs, Women’s Service League
Librarian’s Report.................................................................27
Mary Jane Millington, Librarian Chair
Nomination of Officers for 2020................................................28-30
Carol Cabral & Cindy Buckley, Nominating

Financial Reports............................................................Listed under Separate Cover
Moderator William Cabral called the 380th Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Stratford, Connecticut to order at 10:28 a.m. The Reverend Edward P. Rawls, Senior Pastor, offered a responsive prayer and the 71 people in attendance joined in singing Hymn #272, *The Church’s One Foundation*.

**Approval of Minutes:**
Moderator Cabral called for a motion to approve the minutes of the 379th Annual Meeting held on January 27, 2019. *A motion was made by Jim Michel to accept the minutes of the 379th Annual Meeting of January 27, 2019, as written. Motion seconded by Teresa McKale. Motion carried.* (Pages 1-4)

**Member Concerns/Comments/Joys:** Dr. Joe Utterbach spoke about what an immeasurable help Allison Faye is to him and to the church’s music program. He would like to see a paid position created for Allison. Rev. Rawls mentioned that Bill Wilson was doing well after his heart surgery. Rich Elias, in honoring the 100th anniversary of both the Woman’s Suffrage Movement and the passing of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote, mentioned having a display created focused on women in our church (past and present) who have made an impact on this church. He mentioned creating a biographical booklet about these women.

**Approval of Annual Reports:**
Moderator, Bill Cabral, asked for comments on the 2019 Annual Reports as listed on pages 5-29
- Pages 5-6 2019 Report of Church Clerk.....................................................Virginia M. Millington
- Page 7 Notice of 380th Annual Meeting, January 26, 2020...................Virginia M. Millington
- Pages 8-10 Senior Pastor’s Report.............................................................The Rev. Edward P. Rawls
- Pages 11-12 Associate Pastor’s Report....................................................The Rev. Meg Williams
- Page 13 Church Council..............................................................................Bill Cabral
- Pages 14 Board of Trustees........................................................................Ben Branyan
- Page 15 Board of Deacons (Diaconate).....................................................Carolyn Ross & Eric Nyquist
- Pages 16-17 Board of Benevolence and Social Concerns...........................Mike Lofaro
- Pages 18-19 Board of Christian Education..............................................Beverly A. Burns
- Page 20 Church Fair ....................................................................................Frances Morra
- Page 21 Music.............................................................................................Andy Byrne, Sue Romatzick & Dr. Joe Utterback
- Page 22 Stewardship...............................................................................Virginia M. Millington
- Page 23 Chancel..........................................................................................Beth Turner
- Pages 24-25 Scholarship.............................................................................Carol Haberlin
- Page 26 Women’s Service League..............................................................Irene Breault
- Pages 27-29 Nominations of Officers for 2020.........................................Cindy Buckley & Carol Cabral

*Motion by Tammy Langston to approve the 2019 Annual Reports as written on the pages previously indicated by Moderator Cabral; seconded by Jamie Dobrovich; motion carried.*
Moderator Cabral called for a motion to elect the slate of officers, board and committee members for 2020 as proposed by the Nominating Committee on pages 27 through 29.

Motion made by Jim Michel to elect the Nominating Committee’s proposed slate of officers, board and committee members for 2020 as listed on pages 27-29 with the following corrections, additions and/or changes:

NOMINATION CHANGES:
Nominating Committee: – term ending 2021, remove Connie Branyan and Meredith Bump.

Motion seconded by Beth Turner; motion carried unanimously as amended.

2019 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS
Pages 1-2 Treasurer’s Report
Pages 3-6 Statement of Operations & Proposed 2020 Budget
Page 7 Board of Benevolence Statement of Operations & Proposed 2020 Budget
Page 8 Church Fair Report
Page 9 Financial Secretary’s Report

Motion made by Jim Michel to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented on pages 1-2 of the 2019 Annual Financial Report; seconded by Ben Branyan; motion carried.

Motion made by Ben Branyan to adopt the Proposed Operations Budget for fiscal year 2020 as presented on pages 3-6 of the 2019 Annual Financial Report; seconded by Jim Michel; motion carried.

Motion made by Mike Lofaro to accept the Benevolence and Social Concerns Budget for fiscal year 2020 as presented on page 7 of the 2019 Annual Financial Report; seconded by Jim Michel; motion carried.

2019 SPECIAL FINANCIAL FUNDS REPORTS
Pages 10-17 Special Funds Report
Pages 18-25 Regular Memorial Fund
Pages 26-28 Memorial Trust Fund
Pages 29-31 Special Music Fund Donations
Page 32 Special Gifts and Bequests

Motion made by Jim Michel to accept the 2019 Annual Financial Reports on pages 8 and 9 above and the Special Financial Funds Reports as presented on pages 10-32 of the 2019 Annual Financial Report; motion seconded by Ben Branyan; motion carried.
**Income** - 2019 Operations Budget (Line 52 on p.3) the 2019 amount budgeted for income was $299,930. The actual 2019 end-of-year income totaled $330,220.

**Expenses** - 2019 Operations Budget (Line 186 on p.6) the 2019 amount budgeted for expenses was $453,368. The actual 2019 end-of-year expenses totaled $455,841.

**Deficit** – 2019 Operations Budget (Line 188 on p.6) shows $153,438 as the amount budgeted for the projected deficit. The actual 2019 end-of-year deficit *(Net Loss)* totaled $125,621.

**Ben Branyan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, shared the following information with regard to the 2020 Proposed Operations Budget:**

Ben reflected on his budget message of the previous year. In 2019 he spoke about the importance and significance of numbers. Numbers, such as the number of years that FCC has been an integral part of the lives of our members and of those in our local community. He spoke about the impact and significance of income, expenses and investment numbers on the church and the numbers related to personnel costs and maintenance of this historic building.

Ben stated that over this past year, along with the Trustees and other financial committee members, they “started thinking, reading and discussing our financial numbers.” They learned four key things:

#1 – We cannot grow our way to a balanced budget.
   *We can’t increase membership just to pay the bills – who is going to signup for that?*

#2 – We cannot cut our way to prosperity.
   *If you start cutting things from the budget you change the fabric of who we are as a church.*

#3 – Avoiding change/conflict is a road to slow death.
   *If you avoid change because it is hard, you will never grow or improve.*

#4 – Budget is the means to live out our mission.
   *This is the most important thing!*

Numbers are important but our WHY is the critical piece. WHY are we here as a church?

“We give to the church to make a difference not to maintain an institution. We like to know that our contributions have a positive meaning or will have an impact larger than ourselves. We want to align our passions with our time, talent and treasure.”

However, this past year, revenue ($293,580) is down by $6,350. Expenses ($452,858) though $510 less than 2019, were only held flat due to a 0% increase in salaries. Investment gains are drained each year to cover the ongoing deficit. This year $159,278 in investment gains had to be taken out to cover the deficit amount which reflects an increase of $5,840 from the 2019 total deficit.

As the First Congregational Church of Stratford, our WHY matters. WHY are we here? When we align our WHY with the three loves that have been talked about this past year, (the love of neighbor; the love of children; and the love of creation) we can then truly say, “We are the church where LOVE comes first.”

“The budget should reflect the mission and values of the church and should be the most inspiring document produced all year.”

*(See Ben’s complete report of January 2020 on file.)*
OLD BUSINESS: None brought forth.

NEW BUSINESS: Regarding revisions to the Church Constitution, Bill Cabral asked for a motion to change the wording in Section 9.5.1 regarding the Board of Christian Education (Sec. 9.5) as shown in red as printed on the back of today’s Annual Meeting agenda. The suggested changes are:

*Motion made by Tammy Langston to adopt the changes to the Board of Christian Education, Section 9.5.1 of the revised Church Constitution as presented; seconded by Beth Turner; motion carried.*

State of the Church:
Moderator Bill Cabral called for the State of the Church review to be given by the Reverend Rawls.

Rev. Ed Rawls asked the congregation to read his Senior Pastor’s report and to also read Rev. Meg Williams, Assoc. Pastor’s report. He asked us all to read the reports from the Trustees, Deacons and all the other committees and boards. Ed thanked everyone involved for their hard work and all that the church does for our children and youth in our community. Ed talked about the future. He was disappointed that we did not have a new members class this past year. It was hard to find time on Sundays after church to meet because something was always going on. Ed is beginning a new members inquiry class next week. He asked us to invite people that we know to come to church who may be interested in our church and in learning more about membership. They are welcome to join this informational meeting without feeling that they have to make any commitment whatsoever. Ed went on to express his concern that attendance was down this past year in both Sunday school and church but he does not see a trend. At a recent meeting with Rev. Kent Saladi, the SNEUCC Conference Minister, Kent suggested that everyone at that meeting invite one person to church and see how much that invitation would affect the church. Ed even asked how our children could help lead the way in inviting their friends. Ed said our church has a story to tell. It’s the gospel story lived out in a community where love comes first. “Where people experience the evangelical message that God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. They experience that love here. That means they experience God here because God is love.” Ed asked how will people find God unless we invite them into the church to experience that love. We have created a culture of welcome and love here inside the church for all people no matter who they are. We need to find ways to create a culture of welcome and love outside of the church, as well. One way was trying new things, like God On Tap, prayer groups, informal dinners in member’s homes, working with the Appalachian Service Project, and just finding ways to do other fun things. Ed and Meg can’t do it all alone. We as a congregation need to take the initiative as well. We need to let the community know what we have here at FCC. We need to invite them in to hear the sermons, to enjoy our wonderful music, to feel at home in this magnificent building and to feel the love that we have for one another. Many people have the wrong idea about the church and Christians. We can help change those misconceptions. Ed said, “We have something people are looking for, that they are hungry for.” God has a purpose for us as a church, we need to grab hold of it and begin to be the change that the world is looking for.

(See Ed’s notes on file, as well as reports from both pastor’s on pages 8-12 in the 2019 Annual Report.)

Benediction: Given by the Reverend Rawls

Adjournment: *Motion made by Jim Michel to adjourn the 380th Annual Meeting at 11:24 a.m. Motion seconded by Kiersten Nyquist; motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted by,
Virginia M. Millington,
Clerk of the Church
Church Membership as of January 1, 2020..............................592

2020 New Members:  
By Confession of Faith (COF)  5
By Reaffirmation of Faith (ROF)  1
By Letter of Transfer (LOT)  3
By Confirmation  7
By Reinstatement  0
Total Additions.................. 16

2020 Removals:  
Deaths  10
Transfers  0
Removal by Diaconate  0
Removal by Request  1
Total Deletions.................. 11

Church Membership as of December 31, 2020.........................597

New Members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asante Ewers</th>
<th>Faith Lawrence</th>
<th>Stephen Wasko</th>
<th>James Leson</th>
<th>Linda Leson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COF</td>
<td>LOT</td>
<td>LOT</td>
<td>COF</td>
<td>COF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fran Roth</td>
<td>Karen Rissolo</td>
<td>Ingmar Eggen</td>
<td>Louise Kiersten</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROF</td>
<td>COF</td>
<td>LOT</td>
<td>COF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Confirmation - Class of 2020:

Adam Dobrovich  Grace Garrigan  Jeffrey Holton  Paige Jockers
Conor Kane      C. J. Peterson  Madelynn Silberger

Transfers to Other Churches: None

Removal by Request: Brian Goodrich

Deaths: Member (M) or Friend (F)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>William D. Hickey  (M)</th>
<th>2/14/2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Conine  (M)</td>
<td>3/14/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Kopas  (M)</td>
<td>3/28/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Papp  (M)</td>
<td>4/12/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell Nyquist (M)</td>
<td>4/14/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trygve Angell (M)</td>
<td>5/10/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Breault (M)</td>
<td>6/1/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Ward  (F)</td>
<td>8/4/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth Burton (M)</td>
<td>9/20/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lenore Starratt (M)</td>
<td>12/10/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muriel Garlick (M)</td>
<td>12/20/2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other Church Records in 2020:

Baptisms:
Date:          Name:                        Parents:
8/22/2020     Averie Blair Owens         Avery & Jacqui (Delgado) Owens
9/13/2020     Penelope Margaret Carleton  David & Ashley Carleton

Marriages: None

In-Church Funerals/Memorial Services: Member (M) or Friend (F)
William D. Hickey (M)              David Ward (F)                          Virginia Crory
2/19/2020          11/6/2020                      11/28/2020

Graveside Funerals/Memorial Services: Member (M) or Friend (F)
Richard Breault (M)         Stephen Kopas (M)         Lenore Starratt (M)          Trygve Angell (M)
10/24/2020               06/22/2020                        12/15/2020         09/18/2020

Respectively submitted by:
Virginia M. Millington,
Clerk of the Church
NOTICE
381st ANNUAL MEETING
January 31, 2021

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF
STRATFORD, CONNECTICUT
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WILL BE HELD SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021
FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE VIA ZOOM

TO REVIEW 2020 ACTIVITIES & ANNUAL REPORTS
ELECT OFFICERS, BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS
TO NEW TERMS

TO ADOPT A 2021 BUDGET

TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH MAY
PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE MEETING

Virginia M. Millington
Church Clerk
In 2019 we adopted this statement as our core value, “Love comes first; love of neighbor, love of children, love of creation.” Our goal was to prioritize every program, every mission project, everything, around this statement. If a program or project didn’t fit into these parameters, then we were not called to do it.

We had plans. I was going to continue to work with the youth one Sunday a month during worship. We hoped to have more involvement in mission projects like Appalachian Service Project. We wanted to continue to create avenues of fellowship beyond Sunday mornings similar to the dinners that we shared at the home of Rev. Williams and to create different opportunities for more people to break bread together. We wanted to build on what we had learned from those meals; more programs for our children and youth, more involvement of lay people in worship; but the most important thing we learned was how much these new people loved this church, and that simply being together as we did at those dinners, was something they wanted to do more.

Then in March I came down with the flu. I missed two weeks of worship, and I was so looking forward to coming back the next Sunday when COVID happened. We decided for a brief time to stop worship; at least I thought it would be brief. But as the virus spread, the numbers of those dying continued to grow. Bridgeport Hospital had to put up tents outside their entrance to meet the vast need of the sick and dying, and as we began to witness our own members getting sick and dying, we had come up with new ways of being faithful, of being the church, while keeping our members safe.

In the beginning we were making decisions by the seat of our pants. We put together a team, a team that met every week to help us figure out how we could worship, fellowship, teach our children and do it safely. It wasn’t a committee or even something we voted on. We didn’t have time. It was a team of people with medical expertise concerning this virus, technical people who could teach us how to worship online, and church leaders. I am so grateful for that team, and the technical skills of Rev. Meg Williams who in the beginning, dragging me along, (kicking and screaming), to find new ways to gather together, to worship, to continue to reach out to our members without endangering them or ourselves.
We were figuring out things each week as we were met with new challenges. How do we do Christian Education? How do we celebrate Holy Communion? How do we do funerals and grieve together for those we’ve lost? How can we comfort people we can’t visit? Would our members get tired of online worship and lose interest? How do we receive pledges and support the church? It was frightening. How do I be a pastor in this new time with these new challenges? I did come to realize that the church belongs to Christ, not me. His promise became more vivid when he said, “I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” He was responsible for building his church, not me. My job was to be faithful, to learn from the experts and to make decisions that I felt were the right things to do, and to trust. Some may disagree, but all of us this year have attempted to do what we felt was right for the church.

I am so grateful for my colleague, Rev. Meg Williams, who adapted far quicker and far easier than I did to this new reality. She talked me into believing that even Holy Communion could be done remotely. I am so grateful for those people who stepped up, and shared their expertise; Jamie Dobrovich, Ben Branyan, Carolyn Ross, and Walt Dunbar who all exemplified the leadership we needed; Carl Larsen and Mike Morra for their technical expertise; Sue Collazo, Jane Hartigan, and Sue Romatzick who provided such important medical expertise. Thank God for our Parish Nurses. I appreciate the hard work of Kristine Bacon in helping to develop ways to reach our children and Allison Fay, who showed us new and creative way to worship using Zoom. And I am sure there were many more I’ve overlooked. Please forgive me for that. You were all so important.

And if the Pandemic wasn’t enough, we also had such deep divisions in our nation, and expressions of hatred and bigotry. Our church stepped up again responding to our core value that love comes first, especially the love of neighbor, because many of our neighbors, and more and more of our members are people of color. We created what is now called the Racial Justice Team. It is being co-chaired by Walt Dunbar and Avery Owens.

We have pressed on and God has been faithful. We are still here. We may have made mistakes but we are trying to learn from them. There have been surprises along the way, good surprises, such as reconnecting with people who live long distances from here but are now able to join us and take part in worship; new
people coming and joining, and others are planning to join. We found new ways
to do baptisms and to reach out to our seniors.

I know this is long. And yes, we will be making plans to return to our building and
will return when we believe it’s safe. But I would like to close with these words
from the Apostle Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians.

“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in
despair;” God has made a way for us, and will continue to make a way. We’re still
here. And I believe confidently that God has a future for us regardless of what the
world throws our way in 2021.

Rev. Ed Rawls
Report of the Associate Pastor 2020

I ended last year's report with these words:

My questions for us as a church, at the start of 2020, come from the book Liberating Hope, by Michael Piazza and Cameron Trimble:

Why are we here?
Why are we still here?
Why are we needed here?
What does the name of our church mean in our community? What should it mean?
How can we give it more meaning?
There are many good and wonderful things a church could do. What are we uniquely called to be?*

I have a snapshot in my mind of Thursday, March 12, 2020. News of the new virus was appearing more and more in news articles, emails, and other communications. The President of the Stratford Clergy Association had just sent us a note confirming that we were no longer allowed to visit medical facilities or nursing homes; he had been turned away at the door of a facility. News came that the town schools would be closed.

So, not knowing what was coming at us, but aware that we had generally always followed the school guidance for weather-related closings, Ed and I made the decision we would not hold worship that Sunday. It was not a decision we made lightly. We were very excited about the upcoming service: we were going to receive a wonderful, large class of New Members.

We did not hold a service on Sunday, March 15. I participated in an online service conducted by my friend, the Rev. Dr. Beth Hoffman, in Eliot, Maine. I sat at my trusty old desktop computer with no camera and no microphone and used my cell phone to text in prayer requests until Beth's daughter Lydia, who was acting as tech support, taught me how to find the Zoom “chat” function.

Within a week we had our Zoom services up and running. After a few weeks of running them myself, I asked Mike Morra to step in and take over as “host” and Mike has done this: Every. Single. Sunday since, even at times which have been at great personal inconvenience. We convey to Mike and the whole Morra family many thanks on behalf of the whole congregation!

Huge thanks also go out to Allison Fay. We thank Allison for her knowledge, skills and time for so much, including: recording Dr. Joe (we learned early on that recorded music sounded much better than “live” music on Zoom) or adding video images to music already recorded by Dr. Joe. She has added captions to our hymns so we can sing along.
Allison also put together not only the virtual choir piece for Christmas, but she put together the readings and music for our Christmas Eve service.

I believe our challenge for 2021 is to continue to look at those words from *Liberating Hope* but now to study them from a different perspective, a post-2020 perspective. As First Congregational Church of Stratford:

*Why are we here?*
*Why are we still here?*
*Why are we needed here?*

Our reason “WHY” is that *Love Comes First*. So maybe the question for us is “HOW”? The world has changed. Restaurant-going has changed. Shopping has changed. Office habits have changed; many people will likely continue to work from home, at least to some extent. Train ridership has changed; will people ever again commute from the Stratford train station in the numbers they once did? I believe that we, as a church, need to look at the changes all around us as we look to understand how we can best show that *Love Comes First* in a post-COVID era.

I am so incredibly proud of us for making inroads into the future! Our online services have had definite benefits. We have become a national church; we regularly include people from Massachusetts to Florida, and sometimes we are joined in worship by people as far away as Maine and California. Our homebound folks or those unable to drive have been able to worship with us Whatever the future brings, we need to continue to offer online worship.

We have several ways of electronic giving up and running on our website. I recently had a Zoom visit with a family member in her mid-30s who told me she has never carried cash. I am sure she is not alone, and by having opportunities for online giving, we enable the younger generations to participate in the work of the church.

We have continued to be a witness for God's love in this difficult year. We have come together and cared for one another. An ad hoc group of leaders met weekly on Zoom at the beginning of the pandemic to share knowledge and discern how we might support our official structures in finding their way forward. We supported one other through Project Togetherness, chaired by Walt Dunbar. We connected through Zoom “Coffee Break” times and prayer sessions with Linda Leson. We talked in small groups, outdoors, in Prayer Garden Office Hours. Our 7 pm bell ringing has been a reminder of God's love to all the people in the area, several of whom, not even church members, have written notes of thanks. Our early winter drive-by clothing drive and monthly drive-by food drives are publicized on social media in the area, inviting a wider range of people to join with us in the joy of helping others.

For us, *Love Comes First*. The challenge for this coming year will be to keep that in
mind as we ask what new work the Spirit brings us, what we have learned from this pandemic that will help us minister effectively in the future.

**Rev. Meg Williams**

In 2020 I officiated at these outdoor events:
one wedding: Megan Morra and Cody Studdiford, August 15
two baptisms: Averie Owens, August 22
    Penelope Carleton, September 16
two graveside services (co-officiating with Rev. Rawls)
    Richard Breault, October 24
    David Ward, November 7

*Piazza and Trimble, *Liberating Hope*, p. 150, Pilgrim Press, 2011*
Church Council had an unprecedented year in 2020 - as did the rest of the world. We were busy working closely with all the boards and committees and with Rev. Ed and Rev. Meg.

The Church Council is the organization that brings together all the church boards and committees and shares information from these different groups with members of the congregation. In addition, Church Council oversees some of the key functions of the church throughout the year.

In January 2020, the Annual Meeting was conducted in the Sanctuary with the exchange of questions and answers between the boards and congregation members. We explored the church’s new sentiment of Love Comes First — love for our neighbor, love for children and love for all of God’s creation.

The New Year began with the normal flow of activities. The Music Committee hosted the Valentine’s Day Potluck Supper and we were able to begin hosting the Lenten Fish Dinners with the help of some new volunteers in the kitchen. We were also trying new recycling procedures to demonstrate our love for God’s creation - our planet.

Unfortunately, everything changed abruptly in mid-March with the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus. Very quickly, a group was assembled to move our church worship services to an online program using Zoom, which is still being utilized. We have been able to live-stream our Sunday worship services on Facebook and record-to-post them on our YouTube website. Also, there was a group assembled to discuss the metrics and trajectory of the virus. Church Council discussed and shared health and safety information as it became available and relevant to the church. We were able to meet again in-person, in the Sanctuary for a brief period of time in October and November with a long list of safety precautions and procedures in place. Sadly, by late fall, the COVID numbers began rising sharply again which lead us to return to our Zoom-only services again.

During this pandemic, our church demonstrated our love for our neighbor and children by calling our membership and those in our community who were isolated. We offered to gather food for those with food insecurities or those unable to grocery shop due to pre-existing conditions or safety concerns because of the COVID-19 virus.

This year has been a year like no other and we hope never to see another one like it. The stress that the community has gone through has taken its toll on all of us. Many of the activities that normally would have happened in the church throughout the year were unable to occur. The Town of Stratford was unable to host the Main Street Festival Day; we could not have our all-church picnic or church retreat. We could not have the traditional church fair - but with the year being unconventional - we did have a “Fair-sharing” fundraiser and an “Un-Fair” in the parking lot for several Sundays during December.

At our December meeting, we spoke of ways to make the 2021 events happen whether they will be held in-person or virtually. The planning has begun. Let us re-train ourselves to find all the good things that have happened and will continue to happen in the coming year. We cannot go back and change yesterday or control tomorrow, but we do have the ability to find gratitude everyday in the small things.

I would like to thank all the members of the Church Council for their dedication and commitment to serving our church. I would like to thank each board and committee who sent a representative to the monthly meetings. A special thank-you to Virginia Millington for work as the Clerk of the Church for keeping all the Church Council minutes and agendas organized.

Church Council Members for 2020: Jamie Dobrovich – Chairperson, Bill Cabral – Vice Chairperson, Andrea Byrne, James Fisher, Ryan Jockers, Mike Morra, Mike Lofaro, Lucia Smith and Bill Wilson

Respectfully submitted by,
Jamie Dobrovich, Chairperson
The Board of Trustees is responsible for the finances of the church, paying the bills, repair and upkeep of the church properties, raising funds excluding the annual pledge drive, preparing annual budget, and administering investments.

As in years past, the Board scheduled several events to supplement the annual pledges. However, as we have all come to know, 2020 had other plans. The pandemic had a determinantal impact on our personnel lives and our church operations were not immune.

Several of our funding raising events were negatively impacted: Main Street Festival and wine tasting were canceled, and the volume of gifts cards were substantially lower. On a positive note, we welcomed members of New Apostolic International Ministries in Christian fellowship as they have started using Lower Packard Hall for their Sunday worship.

We continue to offer the Ambit Energy program that reduces the price of electricity for your home and promote the Amazon Smiles program. These programs offer valuable services to individuals while helping to generate funds for the operation of the church. Please see any member of the Board of Trustees if interested in any of these programs.

The Board worked with People's United Bank to secure a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan of $62,887. This loan was vital to ensure our paid staff remained employed during the Coronavirus (COlVD-19) crisis. The Board is confident that the loan will be forgiven and is currently working through the process of loan forgiveness.

Working with our Financial Advisor Morgan Stanley, we "harvested" $250,000 of investment gains. This financial strategy allowed our investment gains to be protected from market volatility. The cash generated by the sale of some of our investments will contribute to the fiscal health of our church.

The Board of Trustees is grateful to the First Ecclesiastical Society's continued financial support of the operating budget of the church and the Boys Scouts who manage the paper recycling throughout the church.

Lastly, the Board of Trustees would like to thank all church members and friends who have volunteered their time, talents, and money towards the church. Without the hundreds of volunteer hours and donations to the church we would not be able to come together to share in the worship of God.

Respectfully submitted by your Board of Trustees,

Ben Branyan (Chairman), Walt Dunbar (Vice Chairman), Dick Ross (Secretary), and members: Shawn Arnette, Irene Breault, Sue Collazo, Don Coulson, Jamie Dobrovich, Amy Elias, Sheniqua Ewers, Harold Greist, Carol Haberlin, Ed Matosian, Mike Morra, Virginia Millington, Mike Nunno, Ed Rawls, Carol Vass, and Meg Williams.
DEACONS REPORT FOR 2020

This is a year we will never forget! And it's not because of our accomplishments, but because of our lack of accomplishment! We did our best to support Pastor Ed and Pastor Meg as they confronted the pandemic and all that this time meant to the church! Though the physical building may have been unoccupied, the BODY of the church moved forward! And for that we must thank our pastors! They became ZOOM masters with each service getting technically better!

As Deacons, we participated in the church wide calling program to keep in touch with those who were homebound or in care facilities. At Thanksgiving, we were unable to do our usual fruit trays. So we sent cards and calls instead. The Sunday school children, who usually design lovely cards to go with our trays sent them out to those who would usually get trays. At this point, it looks like they will even expand that “in touch” program!

At this point, we pray that the positive things that have come from these many months will have an impact on the better times ahead of us!

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Ross
Board of Benevolence and Social Concerns
Annual Report 2020

It is the mission of the First Congregational Church of Stratford’s Board of Benevolence to administer financial support to those in need throughout the Local and Global communities.

In this regard our Church members have the opportunity to be both financially and “hands on” missionaries wherever the need exists. Our Church Family has once again been very generous and allowed us to meet our budget goals. This year we’ve been understandably “hands off”. Many of us have felt the frustration of not being able to reach out and lend our hearts and hands to those neighbors most in need of our help.

Through God’s blessings and the generosity of the FCC Stratford community we have been fortunate to fully fund the 2020 budget. This has allowed us to continue our financial commitments to our many missions and organizations who rely on us for assistance.

Our usual physical involvement in such organizations as The Lord’s Kitchen, Nourish Bridgeport, Habitat for Humanity, Tag Sale and Church Fair, Breakfast Sandwich Fundraiser, and The Crop Walk were ALL severely modified or eliminated as we continue to battle the Covid-19 pandemic.

On the brighter side, we did find other ways to show our support for our local community through our very generous Red Bag Sunday food drives held outdoors. Our one day Winter Clothes drive collected more bags of donated clothing than ever before. The White Gift Sunday toy drive was also a huge success as we surpassed our previous years of generosity.

I’m sure I echo the sentiments of many of our parishioners when I say we look forward to the days when we can resume our activities once again. FCC Stratford has always been generous in both our financial support but more importantly our volunteerism with our many local organizations. Its is our opportunity to give back to our community and demonstrate how God’s Love Comes First.

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank our current board members who’ve served our Church well this past year. Lynne Pert, Beverly Burns (leaving after 6 years), Sue Wilson, Mindy and Hank Mayer, Harold Greist, Keri Jockers and Greg Carleton.

Thank you to Reverends Rawls and Williams for their continued guidance and support. Most especially, we thank our very generous Church community for their continued, selfless support of all of our missions.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Lofaro (outgoing) Chairman B of B
2020 Annual Report of

Board of Christian Education

The Board of Christian Education defines the goals of Christian Education in our church. Our primary goal is to help guide our children and youth in their development toward a Christian way of life through the Sunday School, Pilgrim Fellowship and family-oriented programs. The board is fortunate to work with two dedicated leaders, Kristine Bacon, the Director of CE, and Tammy Langston, the Director of Youth. Tammy and Kristine have years of experience and they both maintain an excellent working relationship with the board.

Sunday School: After a few weeks off for Christmas and New Year’s, Sunday School was once again underway with lessons from the New Testament planned. For Valentine’s Day the children created Valentine cards to be distributed to troops deployed overseas and to VA Hospitals as part of the “Valentines for Veterans” program.

The Sunday School choir joined the joyous Fat Sunday service singing "Hallelu Hallelu" for the Benediction. While the Sunday School and Youth Choirs were not able to perform as much as usual this year, we very much appreciate the work and talent of Dr. Joe Utterback, Laurie Delgado and Allison Fay.

By mid-March, in person Sunday School was suspended and all involved in Sunday School began to navigate uncharted waters of distance learning. In April, Kristine began using Google Classroom to post new lessons, videos and Bible Trivia for Sunday School to be utilized in an on-demand fashion. Keeping with tradition, the last day of Sunday School had been planned for May 17th and during that morning’s Zoom service Teacher Appreciation and Attendance Awards were presented by Kristine.

During the fall Sunday School was not able to return to in person lessons. Kristine reached out to the families and based on feedback, determined that a combination of on demand lessons, posted on Google Classroom, as well as periodic, live-streamed lessons led by a teacher were the best ways to move forward. In early November lessons were once again being posted in Google Classroom. Teacher Jordan Bacon held the first virtual lesson on The Annunciation on Sunday, November 29th in Google Meet.

During the fall two other traditions continued, the presentation of 3rd grade Bibles and creating holiday greeting cards. On November 8th, three 3rd grade students were each presented with their own Adventure Bible in a socially distant ceremony held in the Prayer Garden. Typically, the Sunday School children create Thanksgiving cards that are included in a Thanksgiving basket and delivered to our members who are not able to attend church. This year several Sunday School families kept the tradition alive by creating cards at home and mailing them to members. Building on the success of the Thanksgiving cards, Kristine has followed up with Sunday School children about creating and mailing Christmas cards and as well as being part of a new “Sunday School Pen-Pal Program”. The Pen-Pal program would pair a Sunday School child and a church member with the hope of building a stronger relationship between the generations.

We were not able to end the year with our usual Christmas Pageant, but Kristine and her son Jordan put together a ‘virtual pageant’ comprised of photos from previous years’ pageants and videotaped readings.
from current 7th & 8th grade students. The virtual pageant was shared with the congregation at the December 20th service.

**Youth Group:** In February, the youth members conducted the annual "Souper Bowl of Caring", collecting $60 in donations and over 200 food items that were delivered to the South End Community Center Food Pantry. Tammy led the Members of JPF in making Prayer chains as the season of Lent began. She also led a team of Senior PF members who volunteered for "The Bridge", helping those in need by distributing food and supplies under a bridge in Bridgeport. In March, when we stopped having in person worship services, Tammy organized the youth members to make phone calls reaching out to all our members and reading to them an inspirational line of scripture.

When fall came PF resumed with virtual meetings on Zoom but attendance was low and the meetings were temporarily suspended. As we end the calendar year, Tammy is working on new ways to reengage with the youth members.

Assisting Tammy are PF Advisors Shawn Arnette and Heather Murphy, and we appreciate them volunteering their time to support our youth program.

**Fundraisers & Family Events:** Unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions prevented the board from hosting its annual fundraisers and events. Hopefully, in 2021 we will be able to resume some of these activities.

**Safe Church:** The board oversees the Safe Church program which includes training and background checks. All church employees and any volunteers who work with children are subject to Safe Church policies. The online training program provides a consistent training experience that can be completed at a time convenient for each individual. Our Church Administrator, Sandy O’Neill, manages all background checks while Carl Larsen handles all online training user accounts.

The BOCE members wish to thank Rev. Rawls and Rev. Williams for their support in all our endeavors.

Carl Larsen, Chair of BOCE
Church Fair Report 2020
(or, as Pastor Meg has coined it, the “UnFair!”)

As with everything this year, we were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and were unable to hold our annual Fair the way we normally do. However, thanks to a bit of brainstorming and that very determined, no-quit spirit that our Church family has, we still were able to have portions of our Fair and a bit of fellowship too.

Carolyn Ross and Don Coulson came up with the “Church Fair Share” concept where people could contribute what they would have spent at the Fair. Carolyn wanted to call it the “I’m So Glad I Didn’t Have to Work at the Fair This Year!” letter (which I’m sure many can relate to in a lighthearted fashion!) The Fair Share was a terrific idea and there were definitely some loving and generous contributions made in that way, and we are grateful for those. In addition to the Fair Share letter idea, Carolyn also made her famous cookies and sold and delivered them as well.

Other loving contributors also carried on. Jean Vail made her delicious relish which Lynne Pert sold on Red Bag Sundays; Richard Elias made his famous Maine Blueberry Jam, along with baked goods; and Sue Wilson baked her family’s renowned sour-cream coffeecake (and Carolyn made even more cookies, which sold out before she arrived!) and all of this was also sold at Red Bag Sunday.

The crowning jewel to all these loving contributions was Irene Breault and her gorgeous baskets. Irene put together such a wonderful array of small to large baskets—and pillowcases as well—that we were also able to add to the sales that happened on Red Bag Sunday (Facebook) and the following Sundays as well.

It’s been wonderful seeing everyone at these events. The fellowship—even with the masks, chasing bags across the parking lot because of the strong winds, and warming by the fire pit that Mike Lofaro brought—has been really uplifting in these limited gathering times.

Even though we weren’t able to hold our traditional Fair, our Church family still rallied. To share a story: my daughter Michele and I had a customer from outside of our Church come one Sunday. She said that although not a member of the Church she is a regular attendee of the Fair, and follows the Church on Facebook. When she saw that we were going to be selling the baskets, she “just had to come!” and related how much she missed attending the Fair this year. I share this to illuminate something: I know that someday this may all be passé, but I hope that before that happens we will have the opportunity to come together again and gather for another Church Fair. As we all have discovered this year, those fellowship and community connections are just so very vital and precious.

Many, many thanks to everyone who contributed and helped in any way, and especially those who shopped! Your loving generosity is so very deeply appreciated.

Sincerely and respectfully submitted,

Frances Morra, Church Fair Chair
Music Committee Annual Report ~ 2020

Due to the pandemic, the activities of the Music Committee of First Congregational Church were drastically curtailed. Dr. Joe Utterback, our creative and tireless Director of Music, and Allison Fay, who so ably assists him in many duties of the Music Dept., had their hands full creating music for our virtual church services. Their efforts were deeply appreciated by those who attended services via zoom, as well as those attending the brief period of services held in the sanctuary.

Dr. Joe and Allison have also provided virtual hymn sing-alongs twice a month, which many members of the congregation have enjoyed.

This year our well-loved Michael Jovovich, long-time tenor soloist and section leader, announced his resignation from the choir. However, we look forward to his participation in future concerts.

It is our deepest hope that in the new year we will return to in-person services where all can enjoy our extraordinary music programs on a weekly basis, as well as our Rose Window concerts, Valentine’s Potluck and other special events.

Once again, our deepest thanks to Rev. Ed Rawls, Rev. Meg Williams and the entire congregation for their generous participation in and support of the music of First Congregational Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Romatzick, Music Committee Co-Chair
Andy Byrne, Music Committee Co-Chair
Dr. Joe Utterback, Director of Music
For our 2021 pledge campaign, the Stewardship Committee chose "Rooted In Love" as our theme. To illustrate this theme, we used an image of a tree with a heart in the center. If you look closely at the image, you will notice that all the leaves on the tree are shaped like hands to remind us that we each have a hand in showing God's unconditional love to others.

Our 2020 pledge letter talked about the COVID-19 virus and how this pandemic has affected every area of our lives. However, in spite of everything that we have gone through this past year, we have continued to show love for our neighbors, for all children and for our planet.

This past year, on our church website, (www.firstchurchstratford.org) we listed several ways of donating funds to support the church during this difficult time. Through ways like EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer); mailing in or dropping off pledges; using PayPal or Venmo; your pledges and donations have allowed the church to continue to pay our dedicated staff and to keep our vital church outreach programs going.

We reminded everyone that, "...everything we have actually belongs to God and that we are merely His stewards. Therefore, as His stewards, we ask that you continue to pledge your financial support, great or small, to the church during this time of uncertainty." We thank everyone who has sent in their 2021 pledge, so far.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the members serving on the Stewardship Committee this past year, they are: Cindy Buckley, Jamie Dobrovich, Melissa Ezarik, Lisbeth Greist, Jennifer Nyquist, Helen O'Brien, Lynne Pert and Carol Vass for their dedication, hard work, and commitment to the Stewardship Committee.

Virginia Millington, Chairperson
Stewardship Committee
December 2020
Chancel Annual Report 2020

Ed Dillon is still supplying us with beautiful flowers. The Memorial flowers have been on hold since the Pandemic. With the building closed, it made no sense to have them.

Ted and Tom Pert and I, along with Mike Lofaro and Cindy Buckley have put the candles in the windows. This year we also put lights in the bushes out front.

I would also like to thank everyone who helped make our Church building a light shining in the darkness.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Turner, Chairman of Chancel
2020 ANNUAL REPORT

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Kate Sterling Bunnell Scholarship (KSB) awards program and the Church-funded scholarship awards were successfully completed for the 2020/21 academic year. It should be noted that the KSB awards are made to parents, rather than “scholarships” to students to preclude financial aid being taken back by the institutions when our funds are disbursed.

1. For the KSB program, the Scholarship Committee solicited applications from Stratford-resident students having a financial need for their college education. Application packets were furnished to Guidance Counselors of 11 secondary schools attended by Stratford students. In accordance with the Will of the Fund’s founder, Catherine Mitchell, notice of the availability of this program was made to the Superintendent of Stratford Schools, and to local newspapers for publication. Upon receipt of applications, interviews were held with first-time applicants and their parents to clarify any financial questions and to explain our procedures in disbursing funds. From submitted financial information for all students, new applicants, and re-applicants (all those who have previously applied) a Need Analysis was completed by two members of the committee. A summary of need was compiled and from available funds, award recommendations to be made by the Scholarship Committee to the Board of Trustees were made.

2. This year there were 32 applicants. A total of $63,800 was awarded to parents of these 32 students. The highest award given was $2,000 and the lowest award given was $1,800. There were 4 applicants showing limited or no need or who missed the application deadline, or failed to re-apply, who were not given an award.

******

The Church-funded scholarships are available to students who are members of the Church:

1. **The Frances C. and Harriet B. Blakeman Memorial Scholarship** of $2,000 is funded in the Church budget for an undergraduate student. Criteria for this award, as well as the Cebik and Zorn awards are academic achievement, volunteerism and demonstrated leadership qualities. This scholarship was awarded to Susan Poisson

2. **The James and Ella Cebik Memorial Scholarship** of $500 is funded by a bequest in the will of their late son, Roy Cebik. This scholarship was not awarded this year
3. **The John Edward Miller Zorn Memorial Scholarship** of $500 is funded by his late father, Bob Zorn. This scholarship was not awarded this year.

4. **The Joel and Mary Vodola Memorial Sacred Music Scholarship** of $2000 is funded by a $50,000 bequest in the will of the late Rev. Esther Vodola. This is awarded to a Church member majoring in music, or, secondarily, to an education major. This scholarship was awarded to **Susan Poisson**

5. **The Edna Viner Memorial Scholarship** of $2,000 or more, funded by a bequest from the late Edna Viner, is for a **graduate student only**. The scholarship was not awarded this year.

Our scholarship program is a major out-reach effort that has benefited thousands of worthy students in their pursuit of higher education. The contributions of the time and dedication of the members of the Scholarship Committee (Bill Haberlin Treasurer,), Jennifer Nyquist, Lynne Pert, and Deb Perman) is truly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

**Carol Haberlin**

Carol Haberlin  
Scholarship Officer
The Service League meetings and projects were unfortunately cut short due to restrictions and safety measures followed due to COVID 19.

We met in January and February. Our group supplied greeters and after church refreshments for our two Sundays in February.

In February, new co-chairs, Gail McCarthy and Judy Therrien began chairing the meetings. A warm thank you and a floral bouquet was given to Irene Breault for all the years of dedication in leading the Women’s Service League. We remembered the many projects completed by WSL - renovated kitchen, new freezer, industrial dishwasher ovens, carpet in parlor, sink, toilet in pastor’s area, new parking lot, etc. Many of the projects were planned and designed by Dick Breault.

We did begin plans for the Bake Sale in March and several other projects were in planning stages. However, the March meeting and subsequent monthly meetings were canceled due health and safety precautions for our members.

During the year, “Project Togetherness” wellness calls were made to the members and “Thinking of You” and “Get Well” cards were sent for illness or surgery.

We look forward to the time when we are able to meet and continue our projects and plans.

Respectfully submitted.

Gail McCarthy and Judy Therrien – co-chairs
Librarian’s Report

Hello! My name is MaryJane Millington, and I’m the Librarian here at First Congregational Church. For those of you who might not know me, I’m a lifelong member of our church, and in my day job I work as a rare book cataloger at the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Yale University (I’ve held the Gutenberg Bible!) I’m currently working on a donations policy for our church library; but in the meantime, if you have newer books on religion (published within the last 15 years or so) that you’re thinking of donating to the church, feel free to contact me at maryjane.millington@gmail.com.

In 2020 the church received the gift of a book that has a connection to our church, donated by one of Ed’s former parishioners in North Carolina. The book is an 18th-century volume containing four pamphlets bound together; all four are sermons written by Timothy Cutler (an early pastor of our church and rector of Yale College) and Samuel Woodbridge. They date from roughly 1717-1747, and were printed here in Connecticut. I’m still in the process of cataloging all four titles, two of which are very rare; but I’ll send a full report to the church in an upcoming Courier when the cataloging is complete. It’s a very exciting volume for those of us who catalog books; if anyone has questions about it, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me via the email address above. Thank you!

---

THE Firm Union OF A PEOPLE Represented; AND A CONCERN for it, Urged UPON ALL ORDERS and DEGREES of MEN, IN A SERMON Preached before the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the Colony of CONN E C T I C U T, at Hartford, May 9, 1717.

By TIMOTHY CUTLER, M.A., Pastor of the Church in Stratford.

Published by Order of Authority.

NEW LONDON.

Printed and Sold by Timothy Green, Printer to the Honourable the GOVERNOUR, the COUNCIL, 1717.
ANNOTATIONS:
New Officers are indicated in bold face type. Only the nominees whose names are in bold print are being elected.
(*) An asterisk denotes a person filling an unexpired term.
(1) Denotes 1st term
(2) Denotes 2nd term
(vacant) Member needed
Chairperson indicated in CAPITAL LETTERS

CHURCH OFFICERS NOMINATED FOR ONE YEAR: Church officers are eligible for re-nomination to the same position without interruption of service.
Church Moderator: Jamie Dobrovich
Clerk of the Church: Virginia M. Millington
Treasurer: Carol Vass
Historian: Richard Elias, Virginia Millington
Scholarship Officer: Carol Haberlin
Chancel Committee (5 members): Beth Turner, Ted Pert and Tom Pert
Delegates to Fairfield East Association (2): Lynne & Ted Pert
Delegates to UCC State Conference (3): Virginia Millington
Alternates to UCC State Conference (2): Lucia Smith and Tammy Langston
Delegates to Council of Churches of Greater Bpt: - Elected chairperson of all boards.

USHERS: (Total of 10 members in each group)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GROUP 1</th>
<th>GROUP 2</th>
<th>GROUP 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Charlie Cable</td>
<td>2. Maryjane Sjursen</td>
<td>2. Jeffrey Thompson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSITIONS BELOW ARE NOMINATED FOR MORE THAN ONE YEAR:

AUDITORS – 2 year term
Carol Vass (Jan. 2021) Richard Ross (Jan. 2022)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - 3 yr. term (9 members) Note: Church Council fills Nominating positions.
Lynne Pert (1) Greg Carleton (1) Cindy Buckley (2)
Carol Cabral* Donna Reynolds (2) Richard Ross (1)
vacant Debbie Perman (2)

PASTORAL RELATIONS: 3 yr. Term (5 Members) 3 members are chosen by Nominating (N) and 2 chosen by Minister (M) (quarterly day-time meetings)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carolyn Ross* (M)</td>
<td>Irene Breault (1)(N)</td>
<td>Mike Lofaro (1)(N)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant (m)</td>
<td>Donna Reynolds (1) (N)</td>
<td>Lynne Pert (1) (M)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
First Congregational Church
2021 – Nomination of Officers

PASTORAL RELATIONS - continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walter Dunbar*</td>
<td>vacant (N)</td>
<td>Irene Breault (1)(N)</td>
<td>Meredith Ripley (1) (M)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eric Nyquist (1)(N)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Greg Carleton (1) (N)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MUSIC COMMITTEE: 3 years (9 members)  Note: Symbol (C) indicates choir member (4)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lynne Petro-Rodas(c) (1)</td>
<td>Cheryl Yanosy(1)</td>
<td>(Co) ANDREA BYRNE (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Linden (c) (2)</td>
<td>Mike Morra (2)(c)</td>
<td>(Co) SUE ROMATZIK (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gail McCarthy(1)</td>
<td>Richard Elias (1)(c)</td>
<td>Becky Oakes (2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHURCH COUNCIL: 3 years (Total 9 members) — first Monday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike Lofaro (2)</td>
<td>Bill Wilson (1)</td>
<td>Mike Morra (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Jockers (1)</td>
<td>James Fisher (1)</td>
<td>JAMIE DOBROVICH (moderator)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrea Byrne (2)</td>
<td>Lucia Smith (2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: 3 year term (Total 9 members) — first Sunday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debbie Perman (1)</td>
<td>CARL LARSEN (1)</td>
<td>Holly Fry (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristin Taylor (1)</td>
<td>Sue Wilson (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karla Mazzey (1)</td>
<td>Donna Iodice (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BOARD OF BENEVOLENC E AND SOCIAL CONCERNS: 3 year term (Total 9 members) — fourth Sunday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sue Wilson (2)</td>
<td>Lynne Pert (2)</td>
<td>Greg Carleton (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keri Jockers (2)</td>
<td>Mindy Mayer (1)</td>
<td>Michael Langston (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Harold Greist (1)</td>
<td>Henry Mayer(1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: 3 year term (Total 9 members) — Second Sunday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Ezarik (2)</td>
<td>Lisbeth Greist (1)</td>
<td>Cindy Buckley (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynne Pert*</td>
<td>Co-HELEN O'BRIEN (1)</td>
<td>Judy Therrien (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jen Nyquist (1)</td>
<td>Co-CAROL VASS (1)</td>
<td>Ingmar Eggen (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BOARD OF DEACONS (men): 4 years (Total 7 members)  Third Thursday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vincent Martire*</td>
<td>Paul McKale (1)</td>
<td>Ted Pert (1)</td>
<td>Mike Nunno (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Wilson (2)</td>
<td>Jeff Reaney*</td>
<td>Jim Michel (1)</td>
<td>David Coulson (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Eric Nyquist (1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BOARD OF DEACONS (women): 4 year term (Total 7 members) — Third Thursday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Co) CAROLYN ROSS (2)</td>
<td>Meredith Ripley (2)</td>
<td>Jamie Dobrovich (1)</td>
<td>Judy Therrien (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Co) BETH TURNER (2)</td>
<td>Jean Martire (2)</td>
<td>Liza Hickey*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BOARD OF TRUSTEES: 4 year term (Total 12 members) — second Monday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheniqua Ewers (1)</td>
<td>E. Harold Giest*</td>
<td>Irene Breault (1)</td>
<td>Mike Morra (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Elias (1)</td>
<td>Dick Ross (2)</td>
<td>BEN BRANYAN (1)</td>
<td>Mike Lofaro (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisbeth Greist*</td>
<td>Susan Colazzo*</td>
<td>Walter Dunbar (2)</td>
<td>Shawn Arnette (2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATIONAL ITEMS—ACTION FROM CONGREGATION NOT REQUIRED

APPOINTED BY TRUSTEES:
Financial Secretary: Don Coulson
Assistant Financial Secretary: Virginia Millington

APPOINTED BY CHURCH COUNCIL
All Church Retreat: Mike and Fran Morra
Constitution: Bill Cabral
Church Fair: Fran Morra
Librarian: MaryJane Millington
Main Street Festival
Picnic: Greg Carleton and Mike Lofaro
Public Relations: Greg Carleton
Social Media
Website: Website Coordinator: Carl Larsen, Jr.
Scouting Programs Boy Scout Troop #71
Scoutmaster: Brian Opp
Chartered Organization Rep: Carl Larsen
Committee Chairman: Carl Larsen
Executive Officer: Rev. Edward Rawls
Committee: Tom Pert, Ted Pert, Robert Anderson, Al Bushinsky, Leonard Bloom Jr., John Boltano, Dominic Christensen, Michael Connor, Jamesette Dobrovich, Christopher Murphy, Thaddeus Rudzinski, Adam Tremallo, Robert Tremallo

January 7, 2021

Respectfully submitted, Carol Cabral and Cindy Buckley