

A REPORT TO THE **CONGREGATION**
on the work of
The Church of Christ at Dartmouth College
United Church of Christ

July, 2015 – June, 2016

Presented to the Congregation for its Annual Meeting
June 19, 2016

Report of the Board of Elders

It's been a very productive year for the CCDC Board of Elders. As you know, the Elders are comprised of representatives from our Boards of Deacons, along with "at large" members representing the wider congregation. We meet monthly to hear reports from the Boards of Deacons and from our several committees, to discuss and pass along important matters before the church, as governed by our bylaws, to provide critical support and guidance to our church staff as needed, and of course to set the direction and priorities for the church as guided by the congregation. This year was an especially busy one for the Board of Elders as we orchestrated the transition to the "Transition Period."

Meeting through the summer, we recruited Tom Nordberg as our Intentional Interim Pastor and he has proven to be a true blessing. His unrelenting energy, enthusiasm, and guidance has pushed us all. He has directed us expertly with sound advice, while always pointing out it is "our" congregation, not "his" and that ultimately; we have to skipper the ship ourselves. After performing the search for Tom the Elders then put forth an exceptional slate for our Senior Pastor Search Committee. The group well represents the demographics of our church and each member brings a unique perspective and has demonstrated active engagement in the ministry of our church. The fact that all nine members who were asked agreed to serve is a striking example of the commitment of this congregation. After the slate was approved by congregational vote in February the group immediately set to work and are moving along in this process right on schedule. We are certainly in very capable and dedicated hands. The Search Committee includes Jan Assmus, Jay Benson (Chair), Jennifer Casey, Emily Dentzer, Gail McPeck, Ray Sears, Amy Tietjen Smith, Evan Smith, and Tom Wilson

From a fiscal standpoint our Church is blessed with both a committed, generous congregation and a gifted and dedicated team of financial advisors. The Financial Advisory Committee led by Evan Smith, reports to the Board of Elders and continues to guide the finances of our church. The many hours of work this group has put in has led to stability and

sustainability in the church's financial model. They have employed a number of strategies including, overseeing a renovation project optimizing the utilization of church space and lease potential, the formation of a Planned Giving Committee, and a spirited and well-orchestrated pledge campaign strategy. The FAC is comprised of Evan Smith, Jay Benson, Brian Edwards, Trish Jackson, Nancy Marion, Tom Csatari, Tom Nordberg and myself.

We ended the fiscal year 2015 with a small surplus of approximately \$1400.

This year's budgeting process was approached differently than in the past. It was led by a team that included Jay Benson and Brian Edwards on behalf of the FAC, Jeff Colla and Pete Frederick representing the Board of Stewardship and Tom Nordberg. This worked out very well and we will continue to utilize this format (2 members from FAC and 2 members from Stewardship and the Senior Pastor). The intention is to seek more input from all boards when creating the church budget as well as to help ensure easier access to an individual board's funds over the course of the year. There will be more engagement of the congregation in the budgeting process moving forward. In this transition year, the group thought it was important to be as consistent with previous years as possible which was reflected in the 2016 budget. The FAC will also be working to consolidate and simplify some of the church funds over time.

Despite a spirited pledge campaign and higher pledges by many, increases in pledges were offset by some who lowered their gift amount and others that moved away or stopped pledging all together. Thus net pledges were down about \$12,000 for 2016. Leases however are up about \$17,000. Thanks to the hard work of Nancy Marion and Jay Benson for successfully securing rentals to fill our lease space.

With the retirement of Financial Secretary Doug Erhard, the Elders decided not to hire another financial secretary, but rather move to a system of contracting a bookkeeper for a few hours a week while expanding the involvement of our lay treasurer. This will be much cheaper in terms of personnel costs. Amy Tietjen Smith who has great

experience in financial accounting of non-profits agreed to help out and was hired temporarily to bridge the gap between Doug Erhard's retirement and the hiring of bookkeeper and she has assured a smooth transition. We have now contracted with a part time bookkeeper Cindy LaCasse who has been working very close with Amy and will take over completely in early June. (Thank you Amy!) As part of the financial transition the FAC also plans to review all of our accounting practices and we may hire a consultant to refine our current system.

It was out of book group discussions last year that a grassroots desire arose within our congregation to reexamine the wording of our covenant last revised in 1979. This led to the formation of a working group led by the Board of Elders that reviewed, revised and readapted our church covenant. A great deal of thoughtful consideration, time and effort including multiple meetings and discussions went into creating a revised version. A trial period of 2 months was then conducted using the revised covenant in worship. The Elders received only positive feedback over this trial period and the covenant was approved and adapted by congregational vote at the February meeting.

Most will agree that the congregation is in many ways much stronger than at any time in recent years, because we have had to be more involved. This was not a year to sit on the sidelines, but to actively engage in the mission of our church and it has been a privilege for us to work with so many who have stepped up to take on our many new challenges. There has been a new focus on self governance and the various church boards, committees and ministries are alive and bustling. Looking back on this past year it is obvious our congregation is vibrant and that through us, God is hard at work.

For the upcoming year we will need to continue the work of the transition, which includes the call to ministry of Rob Grabill as our Associate Pastor who will provide stability and continuity during the time the new Senior Pastor is selected and gets settled in our church family.

Finally I wish to thank the Board of Elders for their

hard work and dedication this past year and their shared commitment to our church and ministry. The Board of Elders includes: Megan Culp, Ann Bradley, Trish Jackson, Susan Kessler, John McBride, Jackie Paulsen, Ray Sears, Amy Trietjen Smith, Gautier Wallaert, Karen Williamson, David Aman, and Becky Torrey

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Bensen
President of the Board of Elders

Board of Deacons for Congregational Life

Mission: The Board of Deacons for Congregational Life shall strive to contribute to the overall health and well being of the congregation by nurturing community and encouraging new membership.

I am pleased to be able to report to you all that the Congregational Life Board this year grew from 3 members to a solid 6. Thank you to: Kathy Wilkerson, Jessica Bell, Heather Benson, Rosalie Sainsbury and Carolyn Crocker for their good humor and hard work. For program year 2016-2017, all of our current members will be on board, plus we are excited to have Sally Kesseli and Megan Culp joining us.

Our primary goal for this past year has been to create a solid functioning platform, which will help to inform the current work of our board and to offer a way to proceed forward with future programming. Our focus has been on establishing policy and procedure for the events that we currently support and to use our creativity and organizational skills to inject new life into and to reclaim ownership for the events we are offering at this time.

Here is a brief summary of this year's programming.

Fall Picnic - The Fall Picnic has been a shared responsibility between the Congregational Life Board and the Board of Religious Education. This year the Fall Picnic was a beautiful, fun and memorable event in honor of Carla.

The New Coffee Hour Initiative - The new Coffee Hour Initiative has provided our community with healthy snack options, hotter and fresher tasting coffee with an additional choice of brew as well as tea. The new pump style carafes have also allowed individuals to take as little or as much coffee as they like. Thank you to Jessica Bell who has been our fearless leader and to all of you who have dared to try something new. This new effort has taken lot of work from those who have volunteered to help. Two Coffee Hour Hosts are needed each Sunday to make Coffee Hour run smoothly for everyone.

Sunday Flower Delivery - We have a small but faithful group of volunteers who have been arranging and delivering a bouquet from the Sunday chancel flowers. Thank you to those who deliver and to all of you who have so generously donated these lovely arrangements that add such beauty to our sanctuary. Barbara Hall deserves recognition for the work she does in the scheduling and ordering.

Cottage Meetings - This past fall our board did the scheduling and organizing for Tom's marathon of Cottage Meetings, which were held to help share our thoughts about our Past, Present and Future as a community of faith. Thank you, Tom, for all of your efforts! This was a meaningful experience for those of us who participated.

Kitchen Guru - The Congregational Life Board has taken on the responsibility for the oversight of the CCDC Kitchens including: use, storage, organization and supplies. We have instituted the new CCDC Kitchen Cleaning Check List. It is located on a clipboard to the right of the entry from the small kitchen into the large kitchen. All CCDC groups and outside organizations are being asked to use and sign the Check List. Thank you for your help with this ongoing effort!

New Member Orientation Sessions - Tom facilitated our New Member Orientation Sessions with the help of Congregational Life. We were introduced to the concept that our board is responsible for the structure and organization of these sessions.

Easter Breakfast - Easter Breakfast was a huge success with a lot of our congregation in attendance with family and friends. As in other areas we have taken on full ownership of this event and have been working on a procedural or "How to" document.

Connection with our Parish Nurse - This spring our board began a wonderful discussion with Rita Severinghaus, our parish nurse. Rita's work and CCDC Cares fall under the umbrella of the Congregational Life Board. We will continue our discussions about how we can work together and support each other in our individual and shared responsibilities. We are really looking forward to our partnership.

If any of you would like to take the lead on a **Summer Supper with Seven** series, please contact Karen Williamson.

Look for us in the fall at **Coffee Hour!** We will be recruiting members and friends who would be willing to help out once in while with our programming efforts. There are a lot of tasks that do not take continuous commitment. If everyone, who is able, were to help out with a small task just 2 times a year it would make an incredible difference! We are aiming for 90% participation!! Look for members of our board at our e-mail sign up fair in the fall. You would be signing up to be on an occasional "willing helper" list. Thank you ahead of time!

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Williamson, chair

Jessica Bell, Heather Benson, Carolyn Crocker,
Rosalie Sainsbury, Kathy Wilkerson, Karen
Williamson

Board of Deacons for Outreach

The Board of Outreach had a busy and productive year as we worked to engage the congregation in projects, issues and ministries beyond our walls: locally, nationally and internationally. The commitment of board members was demonstrated by near perfect meeting attendance (!) and together we enjoyed doing our small part to provide opportunities for the congregation to enrich its already strong faith community. It was a pleasure to have both Rob Grabill and Tom Nordberg actively involve themselves in our conversations and work.

A recap of endeavors:

The CROP Hunger Walk was spearheaded again this year by Rob Grabill and a band of enthusiastic young people. CCDC raised just over \$1,443 towards this great cause and the entire Lebanon area event brought in over \$11,500. Proceeds help support hunger relief efforts both locally and more broadly, via Church World Service.

Neighbors in Need: This is a special annual offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and passion throughout the United States. Two thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects. NIN also supports our American Indian Neighbors. Through the generosity of the congregation we were able to contribute over \$2,100 to this offering (up more than \$600 from last year!).

The Giving Tree: Our congregation sponsored fourteen local families through the Listen Center's Holiday Basket Program. We were able to support twenty-six children and seniors by providing clothing and grocery store gift cards (filling 100+ individual requests). Many thanks to all those who helped to make a real difference in the lives of our needy Upper Valley neighbors.

Christmas Eve Offering: The International Rescue Committee and Friends of the NH Drug Courts were the recipients of this year's ~ \$4,400 Christmas Eve Offering (we contributed \$600 from

our budget in order to distribute \$2,500 to both organizations). We felt the values and mission of these two organizations were consistent with those of our church. It was also our wish to provide support to truly current and pressing concerns.

One Great Hour of Sharing, the refugee, relief and development offering of a number of denominations, including the United Church of Christ, transforms lives through health, education, agricultural and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries. We collected \$4,112.00 towards this fund. Special thanks to all of the friends and members of our church who participated – we learned recently that we are within the top 100 OGHS giving congregations!

School Kits Project: We were able to collect, assemble, pack and ship 50 kits to CWS! Kits will be distributed to children in impoverished schools, refugee camps or other difficult settings such as following major flooding and tornadoes where schools have been destroyed. A special shout out to the Sunday school children and this year's confirmands for doing such a beautiful and clever job decorating the white canvas tote bags!

CWS Blankets “Plus” Program and Tools for Hope: We sold Mother's and Father's Day cards as well as all occasion cards several Sundays in May and June. Proceeds (\$800+) help people in need around the world to gain the resources and develop the skills necessary to build— or rebuild— their lives, their families, and their communities. The effort seemed to be warmly received.

Bicentennial Fund: Contingent upon approval at the spring congregational meeting, The Ruth Paz Foundation (Honduras) and Hope Through Health (Togo) will be the recipients of this year's Bicentennial Fund Award, receiving \$250 each. Both organizations are working to expand access to high quality health care for the populations they serve and have close ties to members of our congregation.

Summer Lunch Program – Northwoods/Hollow Drive: We are pleased to once again join other area churches in providing healthy snacks and bag lunches through the summer for the 30-40 children who live in two affordable housing communities. CCDC's week is June 26 through July 1 and volunteers will enjoy good fellowship when we gather to prepare the sandwiches etc.

Our monthly, standing assignments include:

Preparing dinner for volunteer physicians and nurses at **The Good Neighbor Health Clinic** (and newly added, **The Red Logan Dental Clinic**) as well as providing food, cooking and serving for the **LISTEN Community Dinner** in WRJ. A special shout out to Susan Weeks who, at this time, is single handedly providing meals for the GNHC. Also, continued kudos to Ted Frazer who has furnished and cooked the main community dinner meal for 35 consecutive years (!!!) and to Ann James who every month without fail provides popular homemade cookies, ice cream treats and fruit for all of our guests (often close to 100 people). The board has successfully used the volunteer sign-up sheet that circulates through the pews once a month to recruit the many volunteers needed to fulfill these regular tasks.

Food Drives: Our reinvigorated food collection program continues to provide meaningful support to both the Haven and Listen. With the enthusiastic and creative support of Tom Nordberg, Rob Grabill and an eager group of Sunday school kids, we've energized the congregation by inviting St. Nick to collect our food for the holidays, cows to take in our dairy donations, linebackers to receive soup on "Souper" Bowl Sunday and most recently with a lively peanut butter and jelly war! With a year of monthly themes under our belts we have decided to set a 12-month calendar that can be distributed in September.

We allocated funds from our crisis fund (**discretionary budget**) to The United Nations Refugee Agency. We have also supported as we usually do annually, The NH Council of Churches as well as Outreach House.

We would like to offer special thanks to Jean and Bob Keene and Susan Weeks for continuing to shepherd and nurture **The Ukama Partnership**. The Board of Outreach is committed to helping deepen our relationship with our partner church, Glenview UCCZ in Harare and to this end, are looking forward to hosting a regional gathering of sister/brother churches from our region of New Hampshire for a symposium on the Ukama Partnership Program. The event will be a potluck on Wednesday, June 22, 2016. It will be a chance for us to interact with members from other partner UCC churches and to hear from a Zimbabwe UCC pastor currently studying here in the US. It would be exciting to fill the Sanborn Room to overflowing! Later in the summer we will be collecting much needed supplies to be included in a container shipment to Zimbabwe.

While our board has no direct responsibility for **the Christmas Market**, it doesn't feel right to prepare a report on "outreach" and not mention it. This year's Market was once again a remarkable success raising over \$80,000 to help improve the lives of impoverished families worldwide. The congregation gave over 1200 volunteer hours to this effort!! We owe a huge amount of gratitude to Sarah Nordstrom, 2015 Market Chair, for her spirited leadership!

We spent part of most of our monthly meetings trying to be more intentional in our advocacy efforts. In an attempt to "walk the walk" rather than just "talk the talk" we discussed among other topics, refugee resettlement and gun control and how we might educate/engage the congregation in a meaningful way with these issues. We are informing ourselves of the rich resources available through The United Church of Christ and look forward to being more active in this realm in the future. Stay tuned!

Board members have worked well together and enjoyed the fellowship and reward that comes hand in hand with a wide variety of assignments. Many thanks to, Gayle Aspinwall, Emily Dentzer, Brian Edwards, Alicia Farrell, Sarah Nordstrom, Jackie Paulsen (Elder) and Molly Scheu for kindly sharing their time and talent. Terms are ending for Molly, Jackie and me but we will continue to stay involved

in other ways during this important period of transition and we are delighted with the strong slate of newly recruited deacons joining Outreach!

Respectfully submitted,
Cinny Bensen, Chair

Board of Deacons for Religious Education

This was a productive year for the RE Board of Deacons in terms of both programming and process. The latter aspect first: our larger roster of Deacons allowed us to meet more effectively and engage in the sort of policy discussions which are Deacons' responsibilities. We also benefitted from the regular participation of Parish Nurse Rita Severinghaus, who helped organize and lead several of our programs, particularly our successful Lenten series. We continued our valuable collaboration with other boards in programming, including our year-long effort with Outreach to promote our monthly food drives for LISTEN and the Haven.

Church School continued steadily and successfully, thanks to the outstanding leadership of Gail McPeck. All three of our classes were taught by lead teachers who were in place for the entire program year (Gail, Rob, and Olivia Bauer), assisted by a number of parent and youth assistants. It's a model that works well. Gail and Rob worked to make each monthly Allen Chapel Communion Service a meaningful and instructive one for the younger children.

Our use of a lectionary-based curriculum provided a weekly link with the Bible lessons offered to the adults in worship. We also attempted to involve the children regularly in mission-oriented learning, teaching them about many of the activities undertaken by the congregation (Christmas Market, Neighbors in Need, CROP Walk, Habitat Mississippi, Dominican Republic Youth Mission. One Great Hour of Sharing).

The children also provided Parish Nurse Rita Severinghaus with greeting cards for members of the congregation, collected money for UNICEF, and donated their weekly offerings to Heifer

International. As we have done regularly, we will be sending a survey to parents of church school children to secure their input about how we best shape our programs.

We remain challenged by the many outside sports and recreation programs which are scheduled for Sunday mornings, forcing our families to choose between popular and wholesome activities and Sunday School. We go long stretches without seeing a number of children, and feel that it is our responsibility to address this by working with families to find other times when children and families can take advantage of what we have to offer. One example of this programming was the rejuvenated children's choir program. Starting in Advent, we offered choir on Sunday afternoons, and expanded the sessions to include Bible study led by Tom Nordberg and a snack. This resulted in good attendance, good learning, an excellent Christmas Pageant, and two successful spring performances from the group. We are eager to find other days and times to "do church" with children and families.

We continued our successful regular intergenerational and family activities, increasing the number of potluck suppers in the fall, again in an attempt to find times other than Sunday to attract people. Hanging of the Greens in December was well attended, as was our Christmas Vacation Church School and March Madness talent show and potluck supper, which saw an uptick in attendance.

The year-long Confirmation class involved ten students and eleven mentors, whose monthly participation was a critical part of the program's success. Confirmands participated regularly in worship as ushers and lay readers, contributed to a number of mission efforts including all of the setup and breakdown of the CROP Walk, and participated in two weekend retreats. In October, the class attended the Conference-wide Confirmation retreat at Horton Center, and in May they made the traditional trip to Heifer International's Overlook Farm in Massachusetts.

We added a new activity for high school and college students during Christmas vacation, organizing two sets of singers for Christmas caroling. One crew visited seven CCDC families

on a whirlwind tour of Hanover and Etna, and a few days later we stopped at Outreach House and Kendall.

Although this year's Cottage Meetings occupied a good deal of time and energy, we presented a number of adult education offerings during Second Hours and on Wednesday evenings during Lent, with a superb five-part study of Atul Gawande's "Being Mortal". We worked with Rita to sponsor a three-hour Sunday workshop on Centering Prayer that will be revisited next fall with continuing opportunities for prayer gatherings. Our Second Hour programs throughout the year covered a variety of subjects, including a practical worship on transporting people with physical limitations, a presentation from United Valley Interfaith Project's Leah Torrey, assisted by Bob and Jean Keene, a presentation on mental health issues by Donna Stamper from the NH chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness, and a presentation by the Rev. Jim Antal, the Massachusetts Conference Minister of the UCC, on responses to climate change. Tom Nordberg ran a Bible Study series, looking at Paul's epistles. During the process of gathering information for the Search Committee, there have been suggestions by and through the Committee that adult education programs at CCDC need to be improved. We are eager to receive feedback and meet the congregation's needs, and are particularly interested in suggestions that are specific.

This has been a year of innovation with Campus Ministry. Working with the Dean's Office, we sponsored a Christmas Day dinner that provided good food and fellowship for Dartmouth students with no other option, many of them international students. This was such a success that we have agreed to host dinners next year on both Thanksgiving and Christmas. The change in Dartmouth's calendar has provided us with a wonderful chance for outreach and ministry. That outreach continued during the Winter Term, as Tom, Rob and a host of volunteers served 2500 cups of hot chocolate to shivering Dartmouth students passing to classes outside of CCDC.

These are challenging times for campus ministry at Dartmouth, given the Administration's conscious decision to further secularize campus life by dividing the Tucker Foundation into two entities, splitting Public Service apart from Spiritual Life. The Campus Ministers will continue to work hard to meet the needs of the Dartmouth community, working with the newly-named Dean of the Tucker Center. The monthly meetings of United Campus Ministers are a particularly strong opportunity for interfaith dialogue and activity, and we are proud to be active and participating members of this group. We are also excited by our newest initiative, a student Bible study which had a successful start before the end of the spring term.

We look forward to the coming program year eager to support the many programs which contribute to our growth in community faith and ministry, and hoping to make Board participation a valuable experience in itself.

Deacons: Sylvia Field, Jo Ellen Gardner (Chair), Elizabeth Greene, Sarah McBride, Eliza Rodi, Ray Sears (Elders Representative).

Staff: Rob Grabill, Rita Severinghaus

Board of Deacons for Stewardship

What a difference can a year make! After the departure of Carla and then Doug, the Board of Deacons for Stewardship used this year to re-establish itself.

Our first duty was to get re-involved in establishing the upcoming year's budget. Working with Jay Benson and the Financial Advisory Committee, two of our members, Geoff and Pete worked diligently to draft the 2016 budget as well as get brought up to speed on leases and insurance. The Board has also been working on creating and updating policies and hopes to have all Boards go through this process. The ultimate goal would be for all CCDC Boards to develop policies related to their charge, which would help to clarify roles and responsibilities in running the church. For example, Stewardship drafted a Paper Retention Policy, which was approved by Elders, which gives every Board guidelines on what documents should be kept

permanently, what should be discarded and how long they should be kept on file. This will aid in reducing waste and not take up very valuable storage space (physically and digitally).

Stewardship also undertook a comprehensive review of the physical plant, spearheaded by Jay Benson and Pete Fredrick. As part of that effort, Pete was able to bring in Steve Horton (of Construction Consulting Services, Inc.) to do a full review of the building and make recommendations about what future maintenance and capital needs will be. The board has concluded that we have some potentially large requirements coming and may want to consider reserving for them in future budget processes or undertake a capital campaign to make sure that the Church buildings can be sufficiently cared for. Using the aforementioned report, the Board reprioritized plans from last year to coincide with some of the more urgent concerns. Some of the current works in process are

1. Replacement of rotting wood around the window casing in the Batchelder Lounge and the rental apartment to prevent further structural damage to the church;
2. Way to prevent freezing of drain pipes in the winter thus further preventing major flooding in the boiler room;
3. Replacement of flooring in the Rand Room as well as the outer hallway. Due to frequent use of this area, the flooring is quickly deteriorating. Ken is currently getting quotes for asbestos abatement as well as new flooring material.
4. New pew cushions in the sanctuary. Fiona and Marion are working very hard to find creative ways to fund the project as well as interviewing possible companies to do the work.
5. Re-establish church chore week.
6. Ongoing efforts to clean up the building, clear offices, closets and attic of unneeded paperwork and items, and store what we need to retain in an organized way.
7. Look for ways to lease church space efficiently.

Future goals include continuing to move forward with prioritizing efforts to maintain and improve our church's largest asset, namely our beautiful

building in this prime location in Hanover. This will involve continued evaluation of building needs as well as continued planning to budget for them.

Lastly, the Stewardship Committee would like to thank the church staff, especially Kendra and Ken, for their tireless work behind the scenes work in keeping our church running so smoothly. We would also like to extend a very special thank you to our unofficial member, Jay Benson. Due to his heroic effort, time and wise guidance, Stewardship was able to stay on course in its mission, to be good stewards of our church.

Respectfully submitted,
Marion Buchard, Geoff Colla, Pete Fredrick, Fiona Heaney, Sam Smith, & Becky Torrey

Report of the Intentional Interim Pastor

From my perch as your Intentional Interim Pastor, a whole lot has happened in the past eight months (October 2015 through May 2016)! 1) I became acquainted with the majority of the congregation in fairly quick order. Everybody wore nametags. That was really helpful. 2) I have also been warmly welcomed into so many of your homes and lives! 3) The fall of 2015 brought *Christmas Market with a Difference*. It was a magnificent highlight of the fall season. I was so impressed that so many participants involved in setting up and staffing the market. 4) To date, I have had a great time working with your magnificent staff: Ernie, Ken, Kendra, Rita and Rob! They are all such super talented colleagues in ministry! No words can be said other than: THANK YOU EVERYONE!

Many congregants have offered hours and hours of service to supporting a renewed sense of "lay governance" **that is truly emblematic of the authentic Spirit of Congregationalism**. What a great showing of the other two tenets of Sound Stewardship, i.e., Time and Talent. "Thanks" to so many of you for your participation, most welcomed ideas, and actions within our various Board functions and programming. The 2016 Budget was very properly prepared and passed with the able assistance of a Stewardship and FAC membered team.

Report of the Director of Religious Education

I was reviewing my calendar of the past year for this report, and counting the number of nights that I spent away from home on the job for CCDC. Once I got past 30, I reasoned that this metric might be a good way to summarize my year in review.

My sojourns started last June when I was fortunate enough to spend six days in Cleveland at General Synod as one of the elected delegates from the New Hampshire Conference. Being a participant in this setting of the United Church of Christ was a rich experience that has helped inform my ministry in many ways. The worship services with 3,000 others, led by many of the leaders of our denomination in all of their diversity and experience was moving and inspiring. The committee work on a resolution considering responses to the conflict in the West Bank of Israel was challenging and informative. The opportunities to connect and network both within the NH delegation and with delegates and visitors from across the country and the world was transforming. I am fortunate that my term as a delegate continues next summer at the next General Synod in Baltimore.

In July I spent a week working as a volunteer Dean at Horton Center, helping run the camp session for elementary school children. I believe that faith formation ministry in an outdoor setting is one of the best things our Conference offers its member churches, and I was delighted with how many CCDC students participated. This summer, I'll be joined by several other adult volunteers from CCDC as this ministry continues to flourish.

In early October I spent two nights back at Horton Center with the CCDC Confirmation Class as part of the NH Conference Confirmation retreat. This experience allowed our group to bond early in the program year, and also gave us the chance to learn about wider settings of the United Church of Christ. I served on the original planning and oversight group that created the Retreat four years ago, and marvel at how it has grown, and received national notice for innovative youth ministry.

In terms of worship, we have observed together the liturgical cycle nearly full circle: the so-called "Ordinary Time" of fall, then Advent and Christmastide, Epiphany, Lent, Eastertide, Pentecost, and now back into "Ordinary Time." We have hosted New Member Orientation sessions and welcomed 11 new members into the congregation. In-between the seasons we had Bible Study programming, and I made the rounds to 14 different "Cottage Meetings" throughout the congregation during January and February. Also, in the cold of winter we served 2,500 free cups of *Eleazar's Hot Chocolate* delivered to bypassing Dartmouth students. In Lent, we had a magnificent Wednesday evening series of Soup and Bread suppers, Lenten Worship and our "Being Mortal" Book Study program, as well as a series of Sunday afternoon presentations from very reputable guest speakers. There have been mission trips to both Mississippi and the Dominican Republic. Recently, we received four more new younger "Disciples" into full membership through the Rite of Confirmation.

Our Pastoral Search Committee has begun its composition of the *UCC Local Church Profile*, as well as engaged the membership in an after-worship congregational "Forum" as a follow-up to the earlier Cottage Meetings. In all likelihood, this congregational process of discernment will continue for a bit before the actual and active "search mode" for a new "settled" pastor commences.

I think that we are well on our collective way in making it through this interim, "transitional" period. I feel sometimes like Moses leading CCDC through the Sinai wilderness. BTW, Moses never quite made it past Mt. Nebo and into the Promised Land – but the good news is that the gathered People of God did!

Follow the Spirit! It's a pleasure to serve among all of you. And do know that this "Interim" business won't last for 40 years -- *my wife, Sue, will assure you of that!*

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Thomas G. Nordberg, Ph.D.
Intentional Interim Minister

In February I returned to Mississippi with a delegation from CCDC to continue our 19-year ministry with Habitat for Humanity in Jonestown. Our small group worked efficiently and hard, and accomplished a great deal in a week. There are Habitat opportunities closer to home, to be sure, but there is nothing our church does that is even close in helping us understand the challenge of dealing with the toxic racial divide in this country. Confronting our national legacy of racism is a top priority of the UCC, and this service/learning opportunity opens these doors for us.

In March Christina Robison and I attended an overnight training in Maine for leaders of the outdoor ministry programs in Northern New England. Outdoor ministry is in the forefront of creating cooperative ministry between Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, part of a national trend that sees UCC Conferences sharing resources and working together on a regional basis.

In April I spent eight days and nights in the Dominican Republic on the youth mission trip organized by Rita Severinghaus, and jointly sponsored by CCDC and the Norwich Congregational Church. Eleven high school students and six advisors worked to establish a learning center at a small, rural elementary school. We brought new backpacks for every student in the school, and distributed dental and medical supplies to several area schools. In addition to significantly adding to the quality of education in this village, the mission trip provided a transformative learning opportunity for our students. The trip also established a wonderful working relationship with the Norwich church in the area of youth ministry, and we look forward to building on this.

In May I spent two fairly sleepless but fulfilling nights with the Confirmation Class at Heifer International's Overlook Farm in Rutland, Massachusetts. This trip has been a culminating experience for our class four times in the last seven years. It is a wonderful way to learn first-hand about the challenges and potential solutions for world hunger. The students did farm chores, had several classroom sessions, and participated in a 24-hour role playing immersion as a family in a developing country. This is one of the most

valuable learning opportunities we offer our class, and they acquitted themselves wonderfully.

That makes a total of 34 nights on the road in the past year, and the start of the next cycle is beckoning with another week at Horton Center coming up in July! I love my comfy bed at home, but have treasured every one of these times away, and what they offer me in terms of the chances to grow in my ministry and serve this church as it serves others.

It's been a good year on the home front, too. I have greatly enjoyed establishing a ministerial partnership with Tom Nordberg, sharing worship opportunities and taking advantage of his experience and mentorship. In addition to my regular duties as RE Director, I have had the opportunity to officiate at five memorial services, participate in community ecumenical worship services and Dartmouth ceremonies, and significantly expand my pastoral care work in conjunction with Tom and Rita Severinghaus. It has been a rich time.

My journey toward Ordination has been slow but steady. Last month the Grafton Orange Sullivan Association of the UCC voted to approve me as "ordainable pending call". This was a huge step forward. The next, and final stage of the discernment process is an Ecclesiastical Council, which will be held in September at CCDC. I will present my Ordination Paper and be examined by a gathering of ministers from the Association, who will then confer and vote on my approval for Ordination. If the vote is affirmative, I hope to be ordained in November. This journey toward ordained ministry is not the only part of my continuing faith development, but it has been a significant and meaningful one, enhanced by the support I have received from so many at CCDC. I am grateful beyond measure for that.

Rob Grabill
Director of Religious Education

Report of the Director of Music

This report comes at the end of my 17th year as Director of Music. How time flies!

On the asset side, the Handbell choir continues to offer beautifully played music in worship about once a month. The "new" organ, now 11 years old, continues its trouble-free, worship-ennobling life. The two annual Ives recitals draw large, enthusiastic crowds. With more funding, we could offer many more recitals and concerts in the sanctuary, which has the best acoustics in town. I work with many faithful, dedicated musicians, who keep challenging me to do my best.

Our Chancel Choir is increasingly frail. It seems likely that it won't be far in the future when CCDC no longer has a SATB choir that can offer music on a weekly basis. This will be a large adjustment to our thinking, and our style of worship, and some planning for coping strategies is urgently needed.

I hope that we will be able to reconstitute the Music Board. Many decisions about how we worship will be on the table as we prepare to call a new Minister.

Respectfully submitted,
Ernest Drown
Director of Music

Report of the Parish Nurse

The past year at CCDC has been punctuated by a change in pastoral leadership, and much planning in the pastoral search process. This change called for greater engagement in the evaluation of my role as staff member. In August 2015, at the request of the Board of Elders a self-evaluation and check list of work responsibilities was completed. Compiling this summary of responsibilities carried in the context of the 15 hr/week position prompted me to develop the flyer, "Parish Nursing at CCDC" This information was discussed with our interim pastor, presented to the Pastoral Care Advisory members, and later distributed during the new member orientation in the fall. Below is a summary of some of its components.

At CCDC-UCC the Parish Nurse provides:

- ◆ Regular home visits, phone calls, health/medication education. Crisis hospital/Emergency Room visits, and visits to local rehabilitation units.
- ◆ Assistance setting up appointments, accompany to appointments.
- ◆ Assistance investigating private insurance and long term care insurance coverage.
- ◆ Coordination of care and services with local MD offices and staff.
- ◆ Assistance with determination of home care needs, meeting those needs, and if permitted communicate with family to assure continuity.
- ◆ Additional ministry to include the coordination of health education programs and oversight of health and church ministry volunteers.
- ◆ Pastoral care - developed and provided in collaboration with the Interim Senior Pastor and the Director of Religious Education.

Ongoing accountability since the start of the position September 2014 has been maintained through weekly meetings with Senior Pastor and the Director of Religious Education, as well as a quarterly Pastoral Care Advisory meetings, a mentoring support to the Parish Nurse. I am generally in and out of the office Monday to Thursday, but a request or need may find me at your home or on a call other days of the week.

In addition to the activities mentioned above many of you found me offering healthy home visits to address concerns or questions, while also helping coordinate several ministries. Last September we kicked off the start of the program year by reviewing the Pastoral Care Survey compiled during the summer of 2015. We discussed recommendations made and agreed to follow-up on topics such as: Safety and Transportation Seminar held in November, a visit from the Hanover Fire Department, as well as the request for increased communication amongst members regarding concerns about each other's health needs.

CCDC Cares members took the initiative to assist with the cost of printing "Hymns for Healing", a booklet and CD of of hymns, meditations and music conceived many years ago by past member Harriet Baldwin. The winter months found us engaged in

discussions and presentations on the topic of mortality, this included guest speakers and a workshop training on Centering Prayer. The book reading of Atul Gawande's book *Being Mortal* generated great response and participation during the Lenten Series. There were also several other presentations: Listening with Purpose by Rev. Frank Macht, Chaplaincy at DHMC, Advance Care Planning from Partners in Community Wellness-DH, UVIP, and several members of our community, and a recent presentation by NAMI (National Association on Mental Health).

During the month of May a display and description of the many Pastoral Care Ministries at CCDC was presented on the Parish Nurse bulletin board—a venue used to keep us current on new information and health education. The Widows' Group continues very engaging luncheons with guest speakers four times per year. This past year I have also attended Religious Education and Congregational Life Board meetings. Finally, the Youth Trip to the Dominican Republic was an event that brought many of us and the members of Norwich Congregational Church to support education and social justice in a village school. The trip afforded me the unique opportunity to work with our high school students—they excelled in their commitment and mission.

Regarding growth in the role of Parish Nurse, I had the opportunity last year to attend the NE Parish Nurse Conference, and hope to do the same this year. Attendance facilitates network opportunities to maintain excellence in practice with Parish Nurses in the NE region. In addition, monthly participation in local meetings such as the Upper Valley Community Nursing Project (UVCNP) maintains resources and channels of communication with Community and Parish Nurses in the Upper Valley. Under the oversight of Laurie Harding, RN and Dennis McCullough, MD this group has grown to 10 members, and continues expanding as local communities make the decision to fund a nursing position. As a group we were fortunate to collaborate in an IRB (Internal Review Board) study sponsored by Colby-Sawyer nursing seniors. Although small, the study a strong response rate, and demonstrated the value of the role and the benefits received by community members. The UVCNP continues working systematically to

strengthen our communication with medical and nursing providers at DHMC.

Other meetings attended during the year included, Aging in Place, and the Elder Forum at APD—a monthly consortium of local providers who meet to address the health needs of elders in the Upper Valley.

I am particularly impressed by the recent commitment to the health and safety of our parishioners demonstrated by a group of members who supported the funding of two Automated External Defibrillators (AED). In order to make an informed decision regarding appropriate equipment and placement we welcomed a visit from Bill Wood, Preparedness Coordinator NH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. The two devices have now arrived and are pending installation. We expect to soon share information on appropriate management and oversight through an orientation program currently being arranged during the month of June.

Thank you for enriching my professional experience as your Parish Nurse. Carrying out this ministry has been made all the more rewarding by your ongoing kindness.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Severinghaus
Parish Nurse