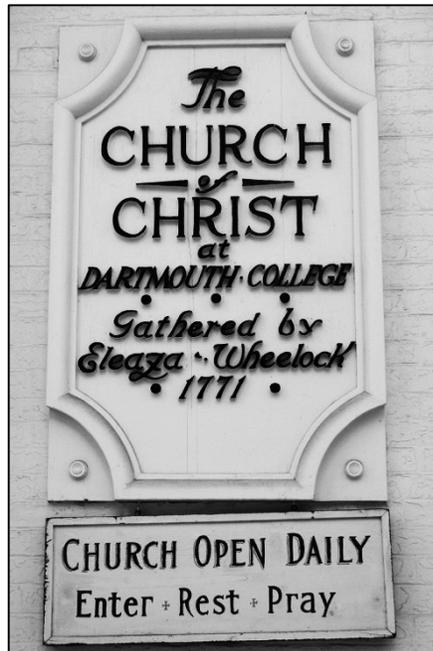


A REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

on the work of

The Church of Christ at Dartmouth College an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



July, 2016 – June, 2017

Presented to the Congregation for its Annual Meeting
June 18, 2017



Report of the Board of Elders

It's been a productive and exciting year for the Board of Elders, and I have been humbled to lead such an impressive group of dedicated, strategic and caring volunteers. As many of you know, the Board of Elders is composed of representatives from our Boards of Deacons, along with "at large" members who come from the wider Congregation. We meet on the first Monday of each month to discuss relevant topics of concern for and to the Church; to hear reports from clerical leadership, the Boards of Deacons and from other ad hoc committees; to transact business as dictated by our by-laws; and to keep our collective hands on the "pulse" of the Congregation.

In this year of "transition" for CCDC, we focused both on preparing the Congregation for new leadership through activities like recommending the formation of Pastoral Relations Committees for both our pastors, and important ongoing work like revising our by-laws to reflect both reality and our aspirations. Special thanks to Judy and Tom Csatari for shepherding this critical process. We expect to complete our work on by-laws revisions in next six months so they can be presented to Congregation for approval at the February 2018 Congregational Meeting.

We also have also been responsible for transacting some of the most meaningful work of our Church as we called Reverend Rob Grabill as our Associate Pastor after his successful and poignant Ecclesiastical Council. (I especially enjoyed watching his daughter who was beyond beaming with pride!) We will soon call our new settled Senior Pastor thanks to the amazing work of our Pastoral Search Committee which the Board of Elders happily commissioned early in our Congregational year. It is hard to imagine how best to thank the members of the Search Committee for their exceptional service, time, energy and dedication to their purpose--but we will aim to find a way!

The Board of Elders seeks to recognize many forms of exceptional service, and chose this year to honor our staff at the February Congregational Meeting. I suspect we all realize how fortunate

we are to have the team on staff that we do, and know we are limited in our ability to thank them enough, though again, we will keep trying to do our best!

A further example of exceptional service this year came in the form of many volunteers, too numerous to mention, who stepped up when we had some staffing challenges such custodian Ken Gagnon's broken leg and subsequent, lengthy recovery, and Cindy LaCasse, our part-time bookkeeper whose family required her travel and support. While we ultimately had to hire some outside help to cover both these fronts of essential Church functioning, our financial situation would be significantly different if we had not been able to rely on our membership to handle so many of these tasks. I am happy to report that the 2017 budget presented by the Elders to the Congregation at February's meeting still represents well and fairly our strong financial position.

We expect that the Call we make to our new settled Senior Pastor will have no detrimental impact on our budget either. Both the ad hoc Budget Committee and Financial Advisory Committee deserve much credit for their prudent and thoughtful planning which combined with our generous Congregation puts us in an enviable situation that enables us to honor our strong commitment to Our Church's Wider Mission. The Elders were also pleased to be able to approve funds from the June Russell Fund to support our tremendous Lenten program as well as other activities that we believe would make both June and Bob Russell proud that their own amazing legacy lives on at CCDC and well beyond.

From the beginning of his tenure, Intentional Interim Pastor Tom Nordberg has wisely counseled the Board of Elders, our Boards of Deacons, and the entire Congregation to take up more of the leadership and functioning of the Church. As we get ready to bid farewell to Tom--after an appropriate celebration sometime this summer--I hope he realizes that he has achieved great success on this front as we prepare to welcome our new Senior Pastor. That he has done this in addition to providing meaningful

worship, exceptional sermons, heartfelt pastoral care, a fair amount of physical labor, improved relations with Dartmouth College, a listening ear, thoughtful words and encouragement, and a chuckle or two demonstrates how fortunate we are that last year's Board of Elders called him as our Intentional Interim Senior Pastor; I trust you will agree, we are richer and stronger as a result.

In closing, I thank the entire Board of Elders noted below for all they have done to make us a stronger Congregation, and look forward to working with next year's Board of Elders in what I am confident will continue to be a transformative time for The Church of Christ at Dartmouth College.

Respectfully submitted,
Trish Jackson
President of the Board of Elders

Lee Arend, Cinny Bensen, Heather Benson (Cong'l Life), Ann Bradley, Charlie Buell, Judy Csatari, Brian Edwards (Outreach), Chris Jernstedt, Jackie Paulsen (Clerk), Bruce Riddle (Religious Educ.), Scott Rodi, Becky Torrey (Stewardship).

Board of Deacons for Congregational Life

The Congregational Life Board is responsible for nurturing community and care within our congregation. This year we had seven members on the board. Thank you to Jessica Bell, Megan Culp, Carolyn Crocker, Sally Kesseli, Kathy Wilkerson, and Karen Williamson for their tremendous time and work in furthering the community of this church.

This year our board continued to provide and support a variety of opportunities and programs within the church. We also offered some new endeavors including Summer Suppers for Seven, a volunteer fair, on-line sign-ups for Coffee Hour hosts and on-line sign-ups for flower delivery volunteers. We have also worked on improving communication between the Congregational Life Board and our Parish Nurse and CCDC Cares.

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

- 1) Summer Suppers for Seven- During the month of August Congregational Life organized small groups for lunch or dinner. We had several wonderful willing hosts that provided a main dish. Guests signed up to attend the meal that fit their schedule and provided sides, salads, and desserts. These meals offered the congregation an opportunity to get to know one another in a small group setting.
- 2) Fall Picnic- The Fall Picnic has been a shared responsibility between Congregational Life and the Religious Education board. Both boards worked together to create a yummy, fun, community-building event. We had a lovely, well-attended picnic at Storrs Pond.
- 3) Coffee Hour- Coffee Hour continues to be one of the weekly programs coordinated by Congregational Life. Last year we introduced the pump style carafes and healthy snack alternatives. This year, Jessica Bell has helped us move to on-line sign-ups for Coffee Hour hosts and the volunteers who provide fresh, healthy snacks for Coffee Hour. Thank you to all who have served as hosts and provided snacks.
- 4) Sunday Flower Delivery- Each week Congregational Life coordinates volunteers to arrange and deliver a bouquet of flowers from the Sunday chancel flowers. Karen Williamson has helped us move to an on-line sign up system for flower delivery as well. Thank you to all who have volunteered to help deliver flowers. We also want to recognize Barbara Hall for scheduling and ordering the flowers each week.
- 5) Volunteer Fair- In October, Congregational Life hosted a Volunteer Fair during Coffee Hour. The fair highlighted more than 40 opportunities to volunteer with in our church community. Thank you to the members that signed up to help with various activities and opportunities throughout the church.

- 6) Kitchen Guru- The Congregational Life continues to take responsibility for the oversight of the UCCDC kitchens. This includes a thorough cleaning of the kitchen and stocking the kitchen with supplies.
- 7) Hospitality for New Member Sessions- Congregational Life supplies hospitality for the New Member sessions. This year we had New Members sessions in both December and May.
- 8) Lenten Dinners- During the season of Lent, the board organized, soup and bread suppers prior to the Wednesday evening programming. A huge thank you to Kathy Wilkerson and Karen Williamson for overseeing this effort.
- 9) Easter Breakfast- Once again, Congregational Life hosted the Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday. We had a wonderful meal in between the 9am and 11am services. Thank you to so many board members and volunteers, who were able to help set up tables and chairs, bake, serve and clean up.
- 10) Dine with Nine- In May we revisited Dine with Nine. We had nine wonderful hosts that agreed to host a dinner or lunch. The host provided the main dish and the guests contributed sides, salads, and dessert. This was another opportunity to gather in small groups over a meal and get to know one another.
- 11) Building communication- One of the goals for Congregational Life this year has been to foster better communication between the board and our Parish Nurse and the board and CCDC Cares. We have had a board member attend CCDC Cares meetings so that information can be reported back and forth between CCDC Cares and Congregational Life. Rita Severinghaus, our Parish Nurse, has also been able to attend a few Congregational Life meetings and we are finding new ways to increase communication. We continue to work on this important area.

Congregational Life has had a very busy, full year. We are striving to build community and care among our congregation, but that takes all of us.

Many thanks to everyone who has willingly helped this year, making coffee, hosting a “Dine with Nine” meal, delivering flowers, or baking a strata for the Easter Breakfast. We are always looking for willing volunteers to work with us to strengthen our church community and care for one another.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Benson, chairwoman

Jessica Bell, Heather Benson (Chair and Elder), Carolyn Crocker, Megan Culp, Sally Kesseli, Kathy Wilkerson, Karen Williamson.

Board of Deacons for Outreach

The Outreach Board has had another busy and productive year as we worked to engage the CCDC congregation in ministries beyond our walls— locally, nationally, and internationally. The Board continues to try to be intentional about our ministry, through thoughtful consideration of our long-standing activities, and ongoing discussion about new and meaningful ways for our congregation to engage in compassion and justice ministry. We see the role of the Outreach Board not as “doing” the mission work of the church, but as seeking ways to engage and involve the whole Congregation in such work. To that end, we hope to create more opportunities for teams of individuals modeled on the Z-Team’s work with the Ukama Partnership; such teams would fall under the auspices of the Outreach Board, but would operate independently of the Board.

The following is a summary of our work over the past year, beginning with some new— or newly-revived— initiatives:

New (and Renewed) Initiatives

Russell Fund—The purpose of the June Russell Fund— created through a gift to CCDC from long-time member Robert Russell, who passed away last year, in honor of his wife June— is to support the mission and ministry of CCDC through mission and outreach projects, educational efforts, financial support of seminary education for students affiliated with CCDC, and

support of ongoing education of clergy affiliated with CCDC. The Outreach Board and the Religious Education Board have been charged to come up with plans for expending money in the Fund.

After several months of discussion, the Outreach Board has decided to use its share of this year's Russell Fund money to support two projects in 2017: (1) the new Opening Doors Project of the Upper Valley Haven, created to help low-income people (identified by various Upper Valley social service providers) to move into safe and stable housing by providing funds to pay the security deposit and first and last month's often required by landlords; and (2) the legal services program of the Welcoming All Nationalities Network (WANN), which provides advice, support, and legal assistance to vulnerable foreign-born individuals in the Upper Valley and beyond.

Refugee Support Group— In response to the global refugee crisis, threats to restrict the number of refugees admitted to the U.S., and reports of discrimination against refugees both at home and abroad, the Outreach Board has created a "Refugee Support Group" to begin to address the needs and concerns of refugees in NH. Spearheaded by CCDC member Nicole Ives and Outreach Board members Gayle Aspinwall and Sarah Nordstrom, the group has been in regular contact with the International Institute of New England (IINE), a refugee resettlement agency in southern NH, and with Sister Irene Marie, a Catholic nun serving refugees in the Manchester area. The group has made several trips to Manchester, meeting with refugee families from Democratic Republic of Congo, Bhutan, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The group organized CCDC's "winter boot drive" for refugees this January, and hosted a well-attended Second Hour presentation by representatives of IINE in March. Direct volunteer opportunities have been established with IINE. The group is committed to continue supporting refugees in NH and is reaching out to other organizations to learn about their involvement in refugee issues and explore partnering opportunities.

Advocacy Sunday and other Advocacy Efforts— In recognition of the UCC's long-standing commitment to social justice advocacy and our desire to support the work of UCC's Justice and Witness Ministry, the Outreach Board has revived CCDC's Advocacy Sunday tradition. So far this year, our Advocacy Sunday topics have included opposing the repeal of the Affordable Care Act; supporting immigrants and refugees; opposing the proposed Affordable Health Care Act; advocating for environmental stewardship; and opposing efforts to dismantle the Johnson Amendment prohibiting the endorsement of political candidates by churches.

The Board has sought to educate the CCDC congregation about social justice issues highlighted by the UCC, as well as to publicize justice and witness actions that might be of interest to CCDC members, such as the Candlelight Vigil Against Gun Violence on the anniversary of the Sandy Hook school shootings in December, the Women's Marches throughout the country in January, the March for Refugees in Hanover in February, and the People's Climate March in April. We were delighted that members of the CCDC congregation participated in all of these events.

Dismas House Dinners— In February, the Outreach Board added another opportunity for service to our schedule of monthly activities: helping to prepare and serve dinner once a month at Hartford Dismas House, which provides post-incarceration housing and support to former prison inmates. The mission of Dismas House is to reconcile former prisoners with society and society with former prisoners, and one way in which it seeks to do so is by inviting volunteers to help residents and staff to prepare dinner and then sit down together to share the meal. Many thanks to Outreach Board member Sarah McBride for spearheading this new volunteer ministry, and to the McBride family for staffing the first few months of Dismas House dinners.

Continuing Annual Activities and Collections

CROP Hunger Walk— CROP Hunger Walks are annual community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations, which raise funds to fight hunger at home and abroad. CCDC's participation in the Lebanon CROP Walk this past fall was once again led by Associate Minister Rob Grabill, with assistance provided by CCDC youth. The Lebanon CROP Walk raised more than \$10,000 in 2016.

Neighbors in Need— An annual offering of the United Church of Christ, Neighbors in Need supports ministries of compassion and justice throughout the U.S. Two-thirds of funds collected are used by UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a variety of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects, while one-third goes to support efforts to assist our Native American neighbor. CCDC raised \$1,470 for Neighbors in Need this year.

The Giving Tree— This past December, CCDC sponsored seven local families through the LISTEN Community Center's Holiday Basket Program. We had a wonderful response from the congregation, and were able to fulfill 127 individual gift requests. Our thanks to Joanne Hayes for her many frantic hours spent organizing this effort during an incredibly busy time of year.

Christmas Eve Offering— CCDC's 2016 Christmas Eve Offering collected nearly \$4,600, which was divided equally between our two designated recipients— the United Valley Interfaith Project, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for refugee assistance in Syria and Iraq.

CWS Emergency Kits Project— This Spring, the Outreach Board collected \$1,100 toward the purchase of Church World Service emergency kits— 5-gallon buckets full of supplies to assist victims of natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and tornadoes, in the U.S. and abroad.

One Great Hour of Sharing— In the past two years, CCDC has collected \$6,290 for One Great Hour of Sharing, an ecumenical relief effort of eight Christian denominations to help those in need throughout the world. Thanks to Roger Arend for his capable leadership of both the OGHS and Neighbors in Need collections this year.

CWS Blankets "Plus" Program and Tools for Hope— The Outreach Board sold Mother's Day and "all-occasion" cards on several Sundays this May, and will sell Father's Day cards the first three Sundays in June. As of May 31, we've raised \$150 for CWS through card sales this year.

Summer Lunch Program – Northwoods/Hollow Drive— We are pleased to join again with other area churches to provide healthy snacks and bag lunches throughout the summer for 30-40 children living in two affordable housing communities in White River Junction. CCDC's week this year is June 18-23. Many thanks to former Outreach Board Chair Cinny Bensen for once again coordinating this effort on behalf of the Board.

Bicentennial Fund Awards— Through CCDC's Bicentennial Fund, the Outreach Board is able to award small grants for mission projects identified by members of the CCDC congregation. The Elders have approved our recommendation that this year's \$500 award be granted to the International Institute of New England, the refugee resettlement agency in Manchester, to support a series of traveling live performances sharing the stories of immigrants and refugees in MA and NH. The congregation will have the opportunity to vote on the recommendation at the June congregational meeting.

Monthly Activities:

LISTEN Community Dinners— CCDC volunteers continued to prepare and serve dinner for 75 people once a month at the LISTEN Community Services Center in White River Junction, as well as to provide salads and desserts. Many thanks to CCDC head chef Ted Frazer, sous-chef Lois Frazer, the Benson Family, the Confirmation Class and CCDC Youth Group,

and all the other CCDC volunteers who have helped with LISTEN dinners throughout the year. Special thanks to Ann James for providing fruit, ice cream treats, and homemade cookies for dessert every month (!), and to Gayle Aspinwall for coordinating each month's dinner volunteers.

Good Neighbor Health Clinic and Red Logan Dental Clinic Dinners—Thanks to Susan Weeks for continuing to oversee the dinner for volunteer physicians and nurses at the Good Neighbor Health Clinic, and for volunteers at the Red Logan Dental Clinic.

Monthly Food Drives—Outreach continues to oversee CCDC's monthly food collections for the food shelves at The Haven and LISTEN, and tries to ensure that our collections are tailored to the needs of each organization. To that end, when Outreach learned that The Haven provides bagged snacks for patients in recovery groups at DHMC's Perinatal Addiction Treatment Program, but rarely receives nuts as a donation for trail mix, we decided to make the theme of our May Food Sunday "Let's GO NUTS for The Haven." Both The Haven and LISTEN have expressed their heartfelt thanks for our efforts, and Outreach wants the congregation to know how meaningful its steadfast generosity is to our grateful community. Thanks to Outreach Board member Susan Kessler for bringing new and creative energy to this long-standing Outreach activity.

UCC Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate Sales — The UCC Fair Trade Project is a partnership of the UCC and the fair-trade organization Equal Exchange. This year, with the capable leadership of Outreach member and Hanover High School Senior Alicia Farrell, the Outreach Board took over responsibility for this program from the Congregational Life Board, selling Equal Exchange coffee and chocolate in the Bathchelder Lounge on the third Sunday of each month.

Outreach-related Ministries

Z-Team—The Outreach Board would like to thank Z-Team members Bob and Jean Keene and Susan Weeks for their continued commitment to

the Ukama Partnership, and for shepherding and nurturing CCDC's evolving relationship with Glenview, our sister church in Harare, Zimbabwe. Z-Team activities during the past year included hosting a gathering at CCDC in June with former UCCZ president Rev. Edward Matuvhunye and thirty-five members of thirteen UCC churches, all of which have UCCZ partner churches. Last summer, the Z-team collected items for the Ukama Shipment Project, which gave us an opportunity to send needed items to Glenview at a reasonable shipping rate. Fifteen boxes containing 548 pounds of items— including clothing, books, school supplies, athletic equipment, sewing machines, fabric and sewing supplies, and over-the-counter medicines— were packed and transported from CCDC to Keene, loaded onto a shipping container, shipped to Zimbabwe, and recently received by Glenview.

The Z-Team wishes to thank all those in our church family who contributed items, packed boxes, wrote letters, and supported the Z-Team's efforts to improve our connections with the Glenview UCCZ this past year. The Z-Team has received the support of four new members this year and looks forward to continuing the Ukama Partnership with Glenview.

Christmas Market With a Difference—While the Outreach Board has no direct responsibility for the Christmas Market, we want to express our gratitude to Market Chair Sarah Nordstrom for once again leading this incredible effort. The 2016 Market raised a remarkable \$76,509, including an impressive \$1,675 in café sales.

The Outreach Board would like to thank the congregation for its generous support of all our activities and charitable collections this past year. We are blessed to be part of a congregation that responds so generously and enthusiastically to God's call for compassion and justice. Our Board will continue to work to help our congregation fulfill the promises of our church covenant "to become more faithful to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ," "to care for all people, reconciling ourselves to them in love," and "to take up [God's] mission around the world, striving for justice and peace."

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Dentzer and Brian Edwards
Outreach Board Co-chairs

Roger Arend, Gayle Aspinwall, Emily Dentzer (Co-Chair), Brian Edwards (Co-Chair and Elder), Alicia Farrell, Joanne Hayes, Susan Kessler, Sarah McBride, Sarah Nordstrom

Board of Deacons for Religious Education

During a year of interim pastoral leadership and impending change, the RE Board of Deacons did an excellent job maintaining our ongoing programs for youth and adults. Our larger number of Deacons allowed us to meet more effectively and engage in the sort of policy discussions which are Deacons' responsibilities. We continued our valuable collaboration with other boards in programming, including our year-long effort with Outreach to promote the monthly food drives for LISTEN and the Haven, and our discussions of uses for the Russell Fund monies.

The establishment of the June Russell Fund through Bob Russell's bequest to the church has provided an extraordinary opportunity for us to enhance our programming and support of ministry. Both the RE and Outreach Boards have the opportunity to utilize a significant sum over the next 10 years, and both have been consulting with each other and with the Elders to establish protocols for utilizing the Fund. We already had a dramatic example of how well this bequest will work, with the highly successful Lenten Lecture series organized by Tom Nordberg. Our guest speakers included Dartmouth Professors, Randall Balmer and Robert Baum, as well as Dartmouth Campus Minister, Allyn Field. We ended the series with a very well attended Seder Service led by Rabbi Daveen Litwin, the Dartmouth Campus Chaplain. Each of the first five Wednesday night programs was preceded by a simple supper, which added to the quality of the experience. The well advertised lectures were also regularly attended by members of the greater community. The June Russell Fund is also providing support to defray

some of the divinity school expenses of our Member in Discernment John Torrey, who has completed his second year at Andover-Newton Theological School. This was a specific wish of Bob's and it is gratifying to see it realized.

Next fall, the June Russell Fund will be sponsoring an exciting performance by the duo of the Rev. Betty Stookey and her husband Noel Paul Stookey, of the well-loved trio, Peter, Paul and Mary. Their critically acclaimed program entitled "One Light, Many Candles" is a dramatic celebration of interfaith understanding through music and readings. It will be held in the Sanctuary on Saturday, October 28th, and should attract a significant audience. Be sure to circle the date on your calendars!

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 parents and youth. 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.

We successfully initiated a new program this spring for older church school students during Lent as a response to the regular Sunday morning absences occasioned by sports programs. On six Wednesday evenings, we welcomed six seventh graders for supper and then an hour-long class.

Not every student was able to come every week, but regular attendance and enthusiastic participation suggest that this is a model well worth repeating.

Our other major innovation this year was the successful return (after decades!) of a high school youth group. We met regularly on Sunday evenings, alternating with Confirmation class, and shared supper and conversation. Co-leader Judy Csatari, who doubled as a Confirmation Mentor, was critical to the success of this group. Our high school students were active as worship participants and lay readers, church school assistants and nursery care givers, and participants in the full range of mission activities offered by CCDC. Our culminating experience was an exciting trip to New York City to participate in the Nightwatch program offered by the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine. Our time in the city also included visits to Riverside Church and Trinity Church, and a Broadway matinee of "School of Rock". We gained members throughout the year, including several whose families do not attend CCDC.

We continued our successful regular intergenerational and family activities, including potluck suppers in the fall, again in an attempt to find days and times other than Sundays 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.

The year long Confirmation class involved six students and six 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 the monthly community dinners at LISTEN, 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. The participation of the whole class in the culminating Communion Sunday and the strong likelihood that all six will continue their full participation in the

life of the church suggest that this year's class experience was a successful one.

We continued last year's innovation for high school and college students during Christmas vacation, organizing a crew of singers for Christmas caroling. We visited six CCDC families on a whirlwind tour of Hanover and Lebanon, delighting a number of young church school regulars.

Our Second Hour programs throughout the year covered a variety of subjects, including an Advent workshop, a presentation by Bob Keene about his dental mission work in Honduras, a presentation by Sally Foss on her experiences in Czechoslovakia during the "velvet Revolution," and a presentation by the Rev. Jim Antal, the Massachusetts Conference Minister of the UCC, on responses to climate change. Tom Nordberg organized a wonderful series of fall afternoon workshops under the heading "Family of Faith", which began with a presentation by Chris Jernstedt, reprising his findings on brain function and faith.

We have had an exceptional year with Campus Ministry, working closely with the Tucker Center and Dartmouth Chaplain Daveen Litwin. We have a regular cadre of Dartmouth students attending not only Sunday worship but other CCDC programs as well. Working with the Dean's Office, we again offered a Christmas Day dinner that provided good food and fellowship for Dartmouth students who remained on campus through the holidays, many of them international students, and added an equally well attended Thanksgiving Dinner. CCDC has now become the regular home for Dartmouth's Martin Luther King Day reception, as well as the Agape student ministry group. Our connections with the Dartmouth community are very close and mutually beneficial.

We are grateful for the superb ministry to our entire congregation from the Rev. Dr. Tom Nordberg, who successfully challenged us to new levels of lay leadership, and prepared us with consummate professionalism for the coming of our new Senior Pastor. We are eagerly anticipating

the many new ways in which we can grow as a congregation, with the hope of serving God by serving others, and by finding ways in which we can all continue our faith journeys.

Sylvia Field, Jo Ellen Gardner (Chair), Elizabeth Greene, Carol Keeffe, Tiffany Pache, Eliza Rodi, Bruce Riddle (Elder). Staff: Rob Grabill

Board of Deacons for Stewardship

It has been a busy and productive year for Stewardship. We have continued to expand and re-establish the Board's role in the oversight of our beautiful, large, and complex church building, while making good use of the considerable expertise and experience of our Board members.

Cleaning and sorting projects continued over the summer of 2016, with thanks to Kendra, Sam Smith, Jay Benson and Amy Smith. Core efforts included organizing papers and files in the church offices, a thorough cleaning of the financial secretary's office, overseeing the removal of stored items in the attic and the Sanborn Room stage, and cleaning/maintenance in the church apartment.

We began the fall with the installation of the elegant new pew cushions in the sanctuary. Fiona Heaney and Marion Burchard led the effort to design and order the new cushions, which arrived on a weekday in October. Rob Grabill had rallied the confirmands to remove the old cushions; a team of volunteers met the delivery truck and unpacked and installed the new cushions into the pews; Dave Harrison disposed of the old cushions, which had outlived their useful life. The entire project was made possible by the generosity of Jim and Carol Baum who truly are angels of this church.

We continued to participate with FAC in the budgeting process established last year. Geoff Colla represented Stewardship on the FAC budget committee. Jay Benson of FAC continues to oversee the leases for CCDC; currently our long-term lease agreements with Dartmouth College, Toddler's Morning Out, and the North Country

Chordsmen are in place through 2018. We are in the process of reviewing and revising our short-term rental policies.

We implemented a new method for counting the Sunday offering in order to streamline the process and bring it into better compliance with UCC best practices. It is working well.

A major focus of the year has been to continue to review and address the long and short term needs of our physical plant. Following on from the comprehensive review done last year by Horton Consulting, Steve Shadford, Mark McPeek, and Marion Burchard have identified a list of renewal and maintenance priorities, many of which can be done by volunteers. Several projects have been completed; others are in process. The repair work on the windows in the Batchelder Lounge was started by Trumbull-Nelson last fall and will be finished this spring. The Board is in the process of reviewing bids for some of some additional major renewal work in preparation for the arrival of the new settled pastor, which includes painting the front facade and exterior doors on the College Street side, as well as painting the brickwork on the parking lot entrance.

During Ken's medical leave this winter and spring, the entire staff and many church members stepped up to fill in the gaps. We are especially grateful to Bob Keene, Ted and Lois Frazer and their team of volunteers who cleaned the building until Upper Valley Cleaning was hired; to Rob Grabill for undertaking all the snow removal and grass cutting; and to Mark McPeek who served as resident handyman. Tom Nordberg was on call 24/7 from the apartment and took on innumerable behind-the-scenes tasks, large and small. We look forward to welcoming Ken back full-time in June.

We have been fortunate this year to have an experienced group of Board members that enjoys working together. Many thanks to Marion Burchard, Geoff Colla, Dave Harrison, Mark McPeek, Jay Pierson, and Steve Shadford. We'd also like to extend special thanks to Tom Nordberg for his leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Torrey, Chair
Marion Burchard, Geoff Colla, Dave Harrison,
Mark McPeek, Jay Pierson, Steve Shadford,
Becky Torrey (Chair and Elder)

Report of the Intentional Interim Pastor

My job has been something like that of the job description given to Moses: 1) get the faithful people over the Red Sea, 2) through the circuitous Sinai wilderness and 3) point them toward the Promised Land – but (and it is a BIG “but”), you are not allowed to enter that land with them.

It has been nothing short of a pleasure to have served as your transitional minister during the 2016-17 programming year.

I have watched a wonderful collective embracing of the many and varied responsibilities of doing Christian ministry, by a very devoted team of congregants and lay leaders. There are so many to thank: to start, the chairpersons and members of the various church boards of Elders and Deacons (viz., Congregational Life, Outreach, Religious Education and Stewardship). In each group, various tasks have been prioritized, strategies have been contemplated, goals have been approached, accomplishments have been achieved. A special word of thanks goes to your Pastoral Search Committee as they approach what one hopes will be the fruitful and enduring culmination of their endeavors. “Thank you” also goes out to the very committed President of your Elders, Trish Jackson.

Differing committees have also been about their work: The Financial Advisory Committee has sought to streamline bookkeeping operations in the Financial Office; the Personnel Committee has addressed new Human Relations regulations and met with the CCDC Staff; and, a Pastoral Relations Committee has been initiated for the newly ordained Rev. Rob Grabill.

Working with each and all of the CCDC Staff members has been nothing short of a marvelous experience for me. I wish to express my personal

gratitude and indebtedness to Associate Pastor Rob Grabill, Music Director Ernie Drown, Parish Nurse Rita Severinghaus, Office Manager Kendra Olson-Dow (Yes, the “Dow” part is new!) and (the newly returned to active duty) Custodian Ken Gagnon. God bless and be with each one of them. They have empowered me, and I hope that each of them feels as if they have been somewhat reciprocated in that regard. Your next “settled” Senior Pastor will certainly have a very fine group of colleagues with whom to conduct ministry.

I have greatly enjoyed leading all of you in your worship life (An old Canadian ministerial colleague of mine once described these duties as three-fold: “Make ‘em laugh, make ‘em cry, make ‘em feeel religious!” – I hope that I have succeeded, to some degree, in all of these departments!). I truly got a kick out of organizing the Russell Lecture Series this past Lenten season, and I hope that it will be an offering to the wider Upper Valley community that will be carried forward into the future. I have been humbled and honored when you have allowed me to enter into the holiness of your homes, and attend to your personal lives and circumstances. May the peace and grace of God be with all of you and sustain you. I also solemnly remember your saints now past into God’s hands. May they each experience the true meaning of “eternity” as their witness to all of you endures.

You are a wonderfully progressive and faithful congregation! It has not quite been 40 years, but it does seem as if it is almost Mt. Nebo time for me. I now have to get back to wiping down a few more sets of fingerprints -- this time, my own!

Good luck to everyone, and as Eleazar would no doubt say: “God bless CCDC! Amen!”

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



Report of the Associate Pastor

This is my first Annual Report as Associate Pastor. It's been seven months since I was Ordained, and six since I began my call, the culmination of a seven-year journey towards licensed ministry. I have felt the support of this congregation in many, many ways since then, and I am full of gratitude for the trust that's been placed in me.

Last September, CCDC hosted my Ecclesiastical Council, which was conducted by the Committee on Church and Ministry of the Grafton Orange Sullivan Association to publicly examine my suitability for ministry. After presenting a summary of my Ordination Paper, I was questioned for 90 minutes by delegates from the Association churches, and subsequently by anyone in the audience who felt moved to inquire about my theology, my thoughts about the UCC, and my faith journey. The process was daunting and exhilarating, and included a well-posed query from one of the members of my very recent Confirmation class. The affirmative vote by the Committee opened the way for my Ordination in November, and my call by the CCDC Congregation at a special meeting.

My Ordination in November was such a special event that I am still trying to reflect on how deeply it has affected me. I still feel the weight of the hands laid on me by family, mentors and ministers, and many members of this congregation. I can still hear both the children's choir and the amazing group of adult and young adult choristers who came together to sing two of my favorite anthems. I am still moved to speak and act prophetically by the sermon given by my Mentor, the Rev. John Gregory-Davis. I cannot wait for the advent of Advent, when I can again don the beautiful blue stole given to me by the Elders on behalf of the congregation.

For many in our church community, the program year starts in September, when we reconvene and recovenant, following the rhythms of the academic year. I actually get somewhat of a head start during the summer, thanks to my continuing connection to Horton Center, the New Hampshire

Conference's wonderful summer camp on Pine Mountain. Last July I spent a week working as a volunteer Dean, helping to 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 the wider settings of the United Church of Christ. I served on the original planning and oversight group that created the Retreat five years ago, and marvel at how it has grown, and received national notice for innovative youth ministry.

In February I returned to Mississippi with a delegation from CCDC to continue our 20-year ministry with Habitat for Humanity in Jonestown. Our 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 to 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 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 Churches. Eight high school students and ten adults, including six registered nurses, worked to install a library at a small, rural elementary school and, at the same time running a well attended four-day health clinic. We distributed vitamins, dental and medical supplies to several area health clinics and schools. In addition to significantly adding to the quality of education in this village, the mission trip provided an important learning opportunity for our students. The trip also established a wonderful working relationship with the Meriden 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 five times in the last eight 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.

In a few short weeks I will be traveling to Baltimore to serve the New Hampshire Conference as a Delegate to the 31st General Synod of the UCC in Baltimore. I attended Synod two years ago, and as a relatively seasoned participant I am eager to make as many connections as possible. There will be close to 3,000 participants, and our collective agenda is best described by the UCC: "Together, we will discern resolutions of witness, church structure, and function. We will stand up for issues that demand a faithful witness. And we will join together in worship each day to lift up the Stillspeaking God."

Many of the activities described above are familiar to me, well-established parts of a ministry which I feel serves our church well. We've also made some very effective changes in the past year, and these are described in some detail in the report by the RE Board. We have re-established a senior

high school Youth Group that is growing and gaining momentum as an important part of this congregation's notably large contingent of young adult members. We initiated a midweek church school session for middle school students that seems to successfully counter the frustrating attendance challenges of Sunday morning sports, now a given in this steadily secularizing nation. The most significant change for me as a minister since my Ordination, though, has been my pastoral care. Almost immediately after I became the Associate Pastor at CCDC, people have brought their cares and concerns to me in increasing numbers. This goes mostly unseen and, of course, that's as it should be. Not all of these connections result in easy solutions or happy outcomes. That's not how ministry works. But I am humbled by the trust placed in me. This is what I signed up for, and I am grateful that this care has become part of what I do.

Finally, I am pleased to have the opportunity to express gratitude to Tom Nordberg, my partner in ministry for 18 months. I have had the chance to be an up-close observer of his skillful administration, his carefully designed interim protocols, his deeply faithful worship leadership, his tireless pastoral care, his successful cultivation of campus ministry and, in his spare time, his wonderful mentorship. It's clear that he has helped us to grow as a congregation, and has primed us for an exciting future. He has always made time to answer my questions, gently point out my mistakes, and show me how to be a better minister. Godspeed. Onward.

Robert Grabill
Associate Pastor

Report of the Director of Music

With this, I am wrapping up my 18th year as your organist and choir director. I want to express my deep gratitude to Tom. It has been such a delight to have a colleague like him.

Thanks are due to the excellent handbell ringers, and their substitutes: Susan Kessler, Rosalie Sainsbury, Lee Arend, Klaran Warner, Kathy Wilkerson, Karen Sluzenski, Judy Csatari, Jo Shute, Joan Wilson, Jan Assmus, Corinne Fortue, Karen Williamson, Caryn McCoy, John McBride and Nancy Marion.

And to the loyal singers in the Senior Choir: Terry Martin, Ted Matthews, Ray and Audrey Sears, Nan Green, Megan Culp, Kathy Wilkerson, Jean Mallary, Jean and Bob Keene, Janet and Lee Hurd, Heywood and Bea Alexander, Carolyn Crocker, Bruce and Amy Smith, Barbara Payson, Sylvia Field, John McBride and Roger Arend.

Respectfully submitted,
Ernest Drown
Director of Music

Report of the Parish Nurse

Reviewing the health ministry and pastoral care activities of the past year provides me with an opportunity for lessons, discoveries and reflection.

The thoughtfully crafted CCDC Parish Nurse job description is well-aligned with the American Nurses Association Scope and Standards of Practice: Faith Community Nursing (aka Parish Nursing) is “the specialized practice of professional nursing that focuses on the intentional care of the spirit as part of the process of promoting holistic health and preventing or minimizing illness in a faith community.” (Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice ANA, 2005, updated 2012).

This past year the brochure “Parish Nursing at CCDC” was produced in an effort to provide more information on services offered. It has been shared broadly at CCDC through meetings with

Elders, new member orientations, and in our UV community. 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. Health advocacy.
- ◆Assistance exploring coverage from private and long term care insurance.
- ◆Coordination of care and services with local MD offices and staff. Community referral source for managing illness and fostering wellness.
- ◆Resource during health and life’s transitions. Promote understanding of relationship between faith and health.
- ◆Assistance with determination of home care needs, meeting those needs, and if permitted communicating with family to assure continuity.
- ◆Coordination of health education programs and oversight of health and church ministry volunteers.
- ◆Pastoral care, developed and provided in collaboration with the Senior and Associate Pastors.

Utilization of services in this 15 hrs/week position showed comparable numbers to 2015. What is missing is the story behind these numbers, such as intervention, outcomes, or follow-up required. A summary record of April 2016 to May 2017 shows the following:

- Home visits- 87
- Phone calls- 338 (includes coordination of services with MD offices)
- PN office visits - 64
- Crisis visits - 16
- DHMC - 18
- Rehab visits - 8

I am generally in the office Monday to Thursday, but a request or need may find me at an urgent home or emergency room visit or on phone calls with parishioners, family members or medical providers. In addition to the activities mentioned above, many of you welcome me for healthy home visits to address questions or concerns.

Throughout the year weekly update meetings are held with the Senior Pastor and Associate Pastor/Director of Religious Education; quarterly meetings are also held with the Health Ministry Advisory which offers mentorship and guidance to the Parish Nurse (PN). During our meetings, we discuss activities, challenges, needs, and outcomes in PN role.

I oversee the work of our short-term ministry, CCDC Cares. We continue to address the need for increased communication amongst members regarding each other's health needs, as well as attend to requests for assistance with periodic needs or through Chores Week 2x/year. This past year, to learn more about this local initiative, we invited Community Care of Lyme for a presentation. A foundation established in Lyme to address community needs working in collaboration with the community/parish nurses. We shared many aspects in common and agreed to stay in touch. For the benefit of the new pastor and new members alike, CCDC Cares has been recently engaged in completing a document describing its history, defined purpose, and its direct relationship to the Congregational Life Board.

I've continued my work with the Widows Group assisting in the coordination of luncheons and arranging for guest speakers 4x/year; the luncheons are attended by an average of 20 widows. This past year I have also participated in Congregational Life Board meetings, we are endeavoring to establish stronger ties of communication, support and collaboration.

The Youth Trip in April 2017 was an event that brought the members of CCDC and the Meriden Congregational Church together to promote literacy and social justice in a village community in the Dominican Republic. Students and adults from both countries worked together to complete the installation of the library in a middle school; needed school supplies were also distributed. In addition, our team of health professionals offered blood pressure/diabetes screenings to adults, and dental health and multivitamins for families and children. For many years, the Norwich Congregational Church has facilitated the

financial basis of support for these projects. Through Associate Pastor Grabill's leadership, we were fortunate to receive funding support from the Byrne Foundation and Pembroke Foundation (UCC) to assist students and their families with travel expenses.

I've had the unique opportunity to work with high school students from CCDC for two consecutive years —they offered friendship and care to so many; their commitment to our efforts, and openness and love in an unfamiliar culture was inspiring.

Regarding development within the Parish Nurse role this past year:

- I attended the New England American Holistic Nurses Association annual conference in Maine. This conference facilitates network opportunities that support education and excellence in nursing practice.
- In February, I was pleased to receive an invitation to the American Heart Association conference in Hanover. Valuable educational information was presented on cardiovascular health; some was shared through multiple News and Views articles.
- I have just recently completed the UVIP Facilitator Training "Useful Tools for Aging" Ann Bradley, participated as well. Our commitment is to present a course at CCDC based on this curriculum in the new program year.

In addition, I participate in monthly meetings with the Upper Valley Community Nursing Project (UVCNP.org) which maintains resources and channels of communication amongst community and parish nurses in the Upper Valley. With oversight provided by Laurie Harding, RN, and Bob Rufsvold, MD, the group has grown to 10 members, and continues expanding as local communities and churches make the decision to fund an R.N. position. This past year UVCNP was once again fortunate to collaborate in an IRB approved (Institutional Review Board) study sponsored by the Colby-Sawyer nursing senior class. Although small, the study had a strong response rate from MDs and local professionals,

and highlighted the value of the community/parish nurse role from the provider perspective. The UVCNP continues working systematically to strengthen community/parish nurse communication with medical and nursing providers at DHMC. In order to develop effective data collection tools and further establish the value of our practice, UVCNP is currently engaged in utilizing the data resources of The Dartmouth Institute ReThink Health Initiative.

The Parish Nurse, with the assistance of volunteer RNs at CCDC continues offering blood pressure checks 2x/month; this draws 4-6 members, families, and friends interested in monitoring their blood pressure; it also provides an excellent opportunity for health education. In the last several months the monthly N&V article has focused on pertinent health topics: information on blood pressure healthy guidelines, science of motivation, and the value of physical activity and exercise. Throughout the year the Parish Nurse bulletin board located in the balcony is a venue used to keep us current on health information topics. Finally, our weekly gathering for Meditation and Prayer at CCDC takes place in the Masland Chapel. Please join us in this practice of renewal for mind and body.

I am particularly pleased by the installation of 2 Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in the building. This was fulfilled through generous funding support from various members, and the diligent stewardship of our Interim Pastor and the PN Health Ministry Advisory. Devices are now installed in strategic visible locations on the first and third level of the church building. I also coordinated 2 CPR Basic Life Support classes which included training on the use of the AED. Fifteen CCDC members were certified. In the new program year, I anticipate offering an "AED video review" and practice every 4 months. My goal is to increase familiarity with this lifesaving device.

For use by our members, family and friends, we continue to store in the basement a limited number of walkers, commodes, canes and crutches. This equipment is available for free should a need come up. Just contact us with your interest.

Thank you for enriching my professional experience as your Parish Nurse. I am rewarded through this ministry by your continued engagement in important health conversations, and look forward to our continued ministry together.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Severinghaus, RN, MA