

CCDC June Congregational Meeting

June 17, 2018

Call to Order, Opening Prayer, Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 11:23 am by Moderator Tom Csatari and the opening prayer was given by Sr. Pastor Mandy Lape-Freeberg. The minutes of the February 4, 2018 Winter Congregational Meeting and the April 29, 2018 Special Meeting to approve the revised Bylaws, were approved.

Highlights from The Boards of Deacons' Reports and the Staff Report

(Please refer to Board Reports section in, *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, 2017 – June, 2018* for greater detail.)

Congregational Life: Karen Williamson spoke fondly of the friendships that were nurtured this past year on the Congregational Life Board and highlighted the many events they oversaw from the Fall Picnic in September to the New Members' and Easter breakfasts in the Spring. Karen asked that people consider volunteering to host coffee hour twice a year (Twice be Nice).

Religious Education: Ann Gallagher summarized the breadth of the Board's work this past year such as on-going weekly Sunday School (overseen so well by Gail McPeck), Wednesday evening Church School for middle schoolers, Adult Bible Study, Sr. High Youth Group, the performance of *One Light Many Candles*, (a dramatic celebration of the global spiritual community through music and readings by Rev. Betty Stookey and her husband Paul Stookey of the group *Peter, Paul and Mary*) in October, many Second Hours, Campus Ministry and last, but not least the All-Church Retreat in March.

Stewardship: David Harrison referred people to the Board's written report in the "Report to the Congregation" but highlighted that the water leak in the apartment was fixed and the upgrades to the sound system in the sanctuary are scheduled to be completed by the end of June.

Outreach: Sarah Nordstrom asked that members and friends of CCDC let the Board know what interests them. She highlighted the newly formed Refugee Support Group that is working in many ways to bring awareness of the issues surrounding the refugee crisis to our church and surrounding communities, provide tangible aid (such as Christmas Gifts) and offer fellowship for many of the families in Manchester (they are planning a picnic at Storrs Pond July 21, 2018).

Staff Report: Mandy asked the group for their feedback regarding the sending of a letter to the *Valley News* about the treatment of immigrants at the border, especially the separation of children from their families that has recently been the subject of much public outrage and debate. There are currently two bills before Congress that address the problem. The United Church of Christ has a letter that we may submit with or without individual signatures, and/or church members may choose to sign a letter that Mandy and Rob plan to submit. After discussion, the group made a motion and voted to support submission of both the longer, UCC letter and a shorter letter written by Mandy and Rob to the paper. Tomorrow, Mandy will send a draft of their letter to the *CCDC Times* email list with information on how people may choose to be "signees" and links to contact information for our representatives.

Discussion of Level 2 Sanctuary Church: Mandy explained how churches may choose to respond to the immigrant crisis by becoming a Level 1 or a Level 2 Sanctuary Church. A Level 1 church must provide physical space on its property to house those at risk for being deported. The Meriden UCC church is a Level 1 church. A Level 2 Sanctuary Church supports the Level 1 church in many ways. Emily Dentzer from the Outreach Board has information about what assistance is needed, volunteer training, etc. that will be available on the credenza. Mandy hopes our church will address the possibility of becoming a Level 2 Sanctuary Church in the Fall.

Status of Membership at CCDC Report: The Bylaws state that an annual report on the church's membership is to be presented at the June Meeting. This will be one of the responsibilities of the newly re-instated Board of Deacons for Membership and Communication that will begin meeting in July.

Announcement of the Bicentennial Award – Board of Deacons for Outreach: The Bicentennial Award is generated from the interest accrued each year from a fund that is made up of a variety of gifts the church has received over the years. Most recently, Bob and June Russell's generous gift to the church increased the amount that may be awarded this year to \$1,000. The Outreach Board solicits proposals from organizations that church members may or may not be involved with and presents its recommendation for the award at the June Meeting. This year, the Board recommends that the gift be split between two organizations: 1) Careers CLiC will use the funds to offer the TIPS career readiness course to refugee, immigrant and underrepresented high school students in Manchester, NH and, 2) Manchester School District will use the funds to support the Refugee Youth Summer Academy that promotes English learning, self-confidence and healing for high school students and to support the Refugee Youth Summer program that will give more than 80 children from Manchester and Nashua activities and learning opportunities from June 15 – August 25. Members of the Outreach Board are actively involved with this effort. A motion to approve the granting of the Bicentennial Award to these two organizations was made, seconded and approved.

Announcement of the Linda White Cavanaugh Scholarship and the Harold C. Ripley Scholarship: Rob announced that Isabelle Hall and Hayden Smith are the two recent high school graduates who will be the recipients of these scholarships for their involvement in the church be it singing in the choir, emceeding the March Madness talent show or volunteering to help in Mississippi and the Dominican Republic.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Cinny Bensen noted that the Board of Deacons for Worship and Music was re-instated and that the Board of Deacons for Membership and Communication was newly formed which required the filling of more positions on our boards and committees than in a typical year. The revised, adopted approved bylaws state, "Each Board of Deacons shall have a minimum of three and a maximum of nine elected members", which provides boards the flexibility to choose the number of members that best suits their needs. The number of Elders at Large was decreased by 2 due to the addition of a representative each from the Worship and Music, and Membership and Communications Boards. After Cinny read the slate, a motion to accept it was brought forward, seconded and approved.

Report of the Board of Elders: Trish Jackson, out-going President thanked everyone who gave generously of themselves in many ways to our church this past year such as the staff, members of boards and committees and individuals who stepped forward to fill in when needed.

Other Business: Judy Csatari presented Trish with a lovely hand-blown glass bowl in appreciation for her 2 years of service as President of the Board of Elders. Cinny announced that there will be a collection box for toys, balls and other activities appropriate for middle school-aged children in the Refugee Youth Summer program. Bob Keene exhorted members to read all the reports in the *Report to the Congregation*.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Rob led us in prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 12:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Paulsen, Clerk