

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, 2018 – June, 2019

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REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ELDERS

President's Perspective

To the Members of CCDC:

What a wonderful year this has been! There is much good news to report; there is much to celebrate and even more for which to be grateful. Before launching into the litany of deeds done, ideas considered, tasks accomplished, and hopes realized, I would like to offer my deepest thanks to the Clergy, Elders, Deacons, and Standing Committee Members who give so much of themselves—their time, talent, energy, and devotion—to the work of our Church. I would like to add a special word of thanks to my colleagues on the Board of Elders. The Elders have shared their wisdom, asked difficult, even uncomfortable, questions, agreed on some things and disagreed on others, and exhibited a depth of passion and love for the work of this Church that has astounded me and strengthened my own resolve. What a privilege it is to serve with such dedicated seekers, disciples, scholars, and sages.

Elders agreed to strengthen their spiritual engagement at the outset of each meeting, and has done so throughout the year. We shared favorite passages of scripture and poetry with one another, and we sang hymns and listened to anthems of praise and light. We were held spellbound by an original meditation on Lent entitled “April Fool” (delivered at our April Fools’ Day Elders meeting), and we wept over God’s profound love for us despite (or is it in spite of) our foolishness. And recently, we recalled Pete Seeger’s 100th birthday and were inspired anew by his words of wisdom about so many things that still ring true today.

Elders promised each other (our very own covenant, if you will) to not forget to do the things that we ought to do as outlined in our Bylaws, in our administrative calendar, in our committee charges, and in our procedure manuals and protocol documents. We talked about how we make decisions and were satisfied that we are, in fact, doing a good job asking the right questions about ideas and projects that come to our table. We

do consider the effect and impact of our decisions in a variety of scenarios and across a number of areas; and we do establish methods for measuring the success of our decisions and what they will look like as we move into the future.

Elders collaborated significantly with Deacons and Committee Members and Staff throughout this year. Starting with the All Boards and Committees luncheon in late September and continuing with the Chairs of Deacons meeting in March, we listened to and learned about the work and worries of our six Boards of Deacons. We shared in the work with them, volunteering at community dinners, supporting book discussions, and attending events at our own Church and throughout the community. Recently, we all worked together to freshen and renew our beautiful building during CCDC’s annual spring clean-up. We invited representatives from Boards and Committees to attend our meetings, to share their ideas and plans with us, and to educate us about their particular areas of responsibility and oversight. In the same way, we invited staff to meet with us regularly and to share with us their perspective on the invaluable work they undertake on our behalf. These dialogues deepened our understanding of how we are all working together to do God’s will in our world, and how we are all seeking God’s presence in our lives each and every day.

Elders tended to the financial well-being of our Church throughout the year, but most visible to the congregation during the annual pledge campaign and budget-setting season. Elders reached out personally to members of the congregation, seeking input from them on the state of our Church and assuring them that their joys and sorrows are intricately woven into the fabric of our ministry together.

Elders encouraged members to think about God’s many blessings, and to share a portion of these blessings for the work of the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College. And you, the members of CCDC, responded generously so that the many programs and activities we offer or sponsor, and the events we hold dear as well as those we hope to launch might continue to be a beacon of God’s love here in the Upper Valley and around the world.

Elders examined the calls to our Clergy and, for the first time in a very long while, commissioned an evaluation of the ministry of our Senior and Associate Pastors. Areas of ministry to be reviewed were identified and members of the congregation along with Boards of Deacons Chairs and our Pastors themselves thought deeply and wrote about their strengths and areas for growth. The overwhelming response to the exercise was positive: our ministers are ministering to us with grace and love, and they are encouraging us, even exhorting us to live out our faith in all our deeds and actions.

Elders agreed to commit a large portion of each meeting to looking to the future, which, by September, morphed into our theme for the year (Moving Forward) as well as a year-long visioning process about our goals for this community of faith. We reached out to all the members of the Boards of Deacons and Standing Committees, and to Staff and Clergy for input and reviewed past congregational surveys (going back many decades) and the responses to the cottage meetings held just three years ago. We held a retreat in February, and a follow-up mini-retreat in April to imagine the future of CCDC, and we have identified areas for improvement and growth, and ideas for future engagement.

All the while, I have been listening to the voices during these conversations—the confident assurances, the in-between-the-lines intimations, and the quiet, still yearnings. I have also tried to listen for and discern God’s calling in each whisper. This is what I have heard and learned: we are a congregation deeply committed to serving our community through a myriad of outreach activities, and, if anything, we would like to deepen our connections with the people we serve. We are a congregation striving to understand and make a difference in the social justice matters of our time. We are interested in becoming activists on the local and national stage and are trying to learn how to do so, while at the same learning about the issues that plague our world. We are resolved that our relationships with the communities which surround us, especially Dartmouth College, must be strong, vital, and relevant. We are reaching out to Dartmouth students in renewed and new ways, and

we hope to offer them sanctuary and a faith community that will enhance their lives today and in the future.

There are a few things we would like to do differently right here at CCDC, including exploring ways to strengthen and broaden our music ministry, and renovating our church building so that it meets our program needs, is more energy efficient, and is welcoming and accessible to all who enter. We are discussing how we will fund the many initiatives being considered and discussed. We want to be both creative and prudent about these conversations and decisions. And we want to ensure that this congregation, this community of faith, is vital and boldly serving God’s purpose today and long into the future. We will continue our discussions, our listening, and our discerning as we move forward...with God’s blessing, grace, and love.

Finally, I’d like to offer a personal thank you to the congregation for offering me this opportunity to serve as your President. It has been a year at once humbling and uplifting; a year in which I have learned so much about the operation and organization of our Church and about the wonderful members and friends who make up our community of faith. I have been guided, always, by our CCDC Covenant, whose words are ever present in my mind’s eye and whose words take on new meaning for me every time I am able to recite them. I know I am truly blessed to be here in this place at this time, and I give thanks for all those who support and encourage me and this congregation to keep moving forward.

Faithfully yours,
Judy Csatari

Lee Arend, Heather Benson (Worship & Music)
Megan Culp (Congregational Life), Jennifer Casey, Dave Harrison (Stewardship), Trish Jackson (Past-President), Chris Jernstedt, Gail McPeck, Jackie Paulsen (Clerk), Bruce Riddle (Religious Educ.), Scott Rodi, Bruce Smith, Rebecca Torrey (Outreach).

BOARD OF DEACONS FOR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

The Congregational Life Board, along with other Boards of CCDC, supports the spiritual and physical well-being of the congregation. We do this by organizing fellowship opportunities and nurturing a sense of community among church members as well as guests. We started the year with eight members on the board. However, due to changes in situation, two members had to step down. So, our smaller but mighty group of six worked diligently to accomplish our tasks. Thank you to Ann Craxton, Megan Culp, Lois Frazer, Sally Kesseli and Xenia Heaton for their time and tireless effort in furthering the community of this church.

Our year got started with the Fall Picnic on Recovenanting Sunday. This event is co-hosted by Congregational Life and the Religious Education Board. Both boards worked together to organize a fun, community-building event. Lots of burgers, hot dogs, and veggie burgers were eaten as well as multitude of salads and desserts that were provided by the attendees. It was a beautiful sunny day and we had a lovely, well-attended picnic at Storrs Pond.

Our second event in September was hosting the potluck dinner that welcomed 91 members from the Community Baptist Church of Englewood and about 75 folks from local UCC churches (from Thetford, Lyme, and Norwich). A special thank you to Lois and Ted Frazer for organizing this event. All members of Congregational Life as well as past members of the Board all pitched in to make this a successful night. Our visitors had plenty of good food and company and we really felt our community growing even beyond our Upper Valley area.

Coffee Hour continues to be one of the weekly programs coordinated by Congregational Life. We have streamlined what is offered, French Roast, decaf, and tea (both black and herbal). We are continuing to offer fresh cream along with sugar and sugar substitutes. Juice and water are also offered. We had wonderful volunteers to host coffee hour and to also provide delicious and

healthy snacks. A big thank you to everyone who has helped and contributed in making coffee hour go smoothly each Sunday! A special thank you to Xenia Heaton for always pitching in when needed. Please consider supporting our "Twice is Nice" Campaign by volunteering to host coffee hour twice during the following program year!

Each week Congregational Life coordinates volunteers to arrange and deliver a bouquet of flowers from the Sunday chancel flowers. Please feel free to pop into the Big Kitchen during coffee hour on any Sunday if you would like to take some flowers to a member or a friend who could use some good cheer. A big 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 and Megan Culp for organizing the volunteers to deliver.

Holiday plant delivery during Christmas and Easter is also managed by Congregational Life. Many thanks to folks that have ordered poinsettias and Easter lilies and tulips to adorn our sanctuary. Many, many thanks to the group of volunteers that delivered them to the members of our congregation after the Christmas Eve Service and the Easter Service. (On a side note, going forward, the ordering of holiday plants and arrangement of them will be done by the reinstated Worship and Music Board. The delivery of the plants will still be the responsibility of Congregational Life.)

The Congregational Life Board continues to take responsibility for the oversight of the CCDC kitchens. This includes a thorough cleaning of the kitchen and stocking the kitchen with supplies. This year, we were fortunate to have the old refrigerator in the small kitchen get replaced with an energy efficient one that does not freeze anything stored in there. We also replaced the old stove with an "almost" new stove that does not produce smoke when in use. Many thanks to the Stewardship Board for making these replacements possible. We also supplemented much needed kitchen supplies including new water pitchers, serving utensils, and table runners. We are hoping to add more tablecloths and silverware in the next year.

During the season of Lent the board organized soup and bread suppers prior to the Wednesday evening book group. We hosted 6 Lenten suppers this year. A huge thank you to all board members for organizing this effort, and to all the volunteers that brought in soup and bread. A special thank you to Roger and Lee Arend, Megan Culp, Sylvia Field, Lois Frazer, Chris and Margaret Jernstedt, Bob and Jean Keene, Mandy Lape-Freeberg, Gail McPeck, Joan Weider, Kathy Wilkerson and Karen Williamson for not only bringing food but always staying later to cleanup.

Once again, Congregational Life hosted the Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday. We had a full crowd and a wonderful meal in between the 9am and 11am services. We had a record crowd of Dartmouth students attending this year. Thank you to so many board members and volunteers, who were able to help prep and set up, bake casseroles, serve and clean up!

Hospitality for New Member Classes and celebration of 50-year members was shifted to the newly formed Membership and Communication Board. We shared our protocol of these events with them and offered our help whenever needed. While we have shifted two of our duties to other Board groups, we have plans to fully add Memorial reception protocols under our umbrella. Over the years, this duty has been done by a group of dedicated members of our church. However, with the change in demographics and also to streamline the procedure, members of the Congregational Life board have been assisting in this year's memorial receptions to better understand the process and hope to have a workable method that a subcommittee of volunteers can follow and implement on any given time.

Now, we would like to thank everyone who has freely given their time to make all our programs run smoothly. Thank you to Mandy and Rob for giving us the theme and guidance in doing our work, thank you to Kendra and Ken for being adjunct members of our committee in helping us with communication and physical set-ups. We would also like to give a special shout out to Kathy Wilkerson and Karen Williamson for always being on deck to help whenever needed. A big thank you

to Megan Culp for representing us on the Board of Elders and also serving on the nominating committee this year. We would also like to thank our outgoing committee member, Sally Kesseli. Not only did she fully participate in our committee work but also took on extra duties to represent us on the nominating committee in previous years. Lastly, a heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers. Please realize that none of our programming would be possible without your help. We are always looking for willing volunteers to work with us to strengthen our church community and care for one another. Please consider helping in any way that fits you!

Respectfully submitted,
Sae-Im (Sam) Smith, chair

Ann Craxton, Megan Culp (Elder), Lois Frazer, Xenia Heaton, Sally Kesseli, and Sam Smith.

BOARD OF DEACONS FOR MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNICATION

This was the very first year for the Board of Deacons for Membership and Communication, and by most accounts it was a successful and productive one. We spent a good deal of time in our initial meetings trying to outline the scope of our responsibilities, and are continuing to evolve as we discuss the challenges and possibilities of our work. The most recent and visible result outcome of our work occurred last month when we received twelve new covenant members of the congregation representing eight families. It was particularly gratifying to see the range in ages and backgrounds of these individuals, representing the growing diversity of our church family. The membership process began many weeks before this celebration, when we began a dialogue with an even larger group to discuss the possibility of membership. There are a number of individuals and families who are very interested in joining, but could not be with us on New Member Sunday. Many of them, and several others who have since contacted us, will be hoping to join our next cohort of new members in the fall. In the meantime, several of our newest members are already making their presence felt, having volunteered to serve on a variety of church

boards, or to serve the church in a number of other capacities.

Pastors Mandy Lape-Freeberg and Rob Grabill offered a three-week New Member Class which allowed those interested to learn about CCDC and how it operates, as well as understanding the wider settings of the United Church of Christ, including the New Hampshire Conference and its many ministries, and the Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Association. Director of Music Ernie Drown and Parish Nurse Rita Severinghaus offered descriptions of their work, as did the chairs of many of the Boards of Deacons. Finally, and most importantly, everyone had the opportunity to share their stories about their lives and faith journeys. These are ongoing conversations, of course, but the process was well begun.

One of the most significant tasks for the Board in the fall was continuing to work on our membership rolls and directories. Led by Brian Edwards, Kendra Olson-Dow and Rob Grabill, we made many updates to these living documents, which allowed us to provide accurate, annotated lists of members to the Board of Elders, who successfully completed an outreach project to contact as many members as possible to hear their questions and concerns. We are continuing to update both the phone/contact directory and the photo directory regularly. Both serve as valuable tools for a number of our ministries.

We have been developing a system for processing the information we receive from our friendship pads, updating member information and following up on inquiries from visitors and individuals interested in joining. That has been particularly important with the many Dartmouth students who attend, and has perhaps been a factor in increased attendance and participation. We are continuing to work specifically on outreach to Dartmouth students, and have been gratified with the results.

We are part of a larger dialogue with the church staff to find the most efficient ways to handle member information, mailing and e-mail lists. There are currently different lists for different endeavors (financial, pledging, regular mailings),

and we hope to find ways to avoid duplication and improve accuracy.

We are likewise continuing to study the ways in which we communicate with our members and also the community beyond. Our webpage is a main focus, but we are also paying attention to our weekly CCDC Times and our small social media presence. Having made the switch from a monthly, printed newsletter to the weekly CCDC Times, which is sent by e-mail but also mailed to several dozen individuals, we are confident that we are evolving in ways that allow us to share information widely and accurately.

We have only begun to scratch the surface in many of the above areas, and will continue to evaluate both the results of our work and the evolution of our mission. We are pleased, though, with the feedback we have received and the positive outcomes which we have achieved in our first year.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Grabill, Associate Pastor

Dave Aman (Chair), Brian Edwards, Saeed Juggan, Kendra Olson-Dow, Amy Tietjen Smith, Jonathan Stallsmith.

BOARD OF DEACONS FOR OUTREACH

Outreach has had another fulfilling and busy year. We have the good fortune of doing the work that connects us to our larger world. Many good conversations about advocacy and social justice were had around our table.

We donated our Christmas Eve offering to Dismas House and held other special offerings for One Great Hour of Sharing and Neighbors In Need throughout the year.

We recommended and Elders approved two projects to be funded through the Russell Fund: The Opening Doors Program at The Haven with a gift of \$12,000, and The Cotui Partnership in the DR with a gift of \$3,000. The Haven continues to use the Opening Doors funds to help people hurdle

the many obstacles to obtain housing. The ripple effects of this project are many. The Cotui project is close and dear to CCDC with our own Rita Severinghaus connecting us to this project of educating children in English language (greatly affecting their economic potential) in the Dominican Republic.

This year we look to fund two more projects with the Bicentennial Fund Award: Acts Honduras with crucial funding for a new generator and air compressor to continue their medical and dental work in Honduras. Upper Valley Interfaith Project - Asylum funding for local families seeking asylum. Members of our congregation have supported Acts Honduras over the years, and, as a UVIP member, we are supportive of the work they undertake on behalf of those seeking asylum.

We also continued our ongoing work with monthly dinners at Listen and Dismas House. We delivered monthly food to the Haven and the Listen Center. The Refugee Support Group was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support for the December collection of winter items. The Group facilitated its third annual gathering of RMS students and Manchester school district students at Derryfield park in Manchester on June 4th. In July, the Group will host, for a second year in a row, a group of children from Manchester at Storrs pond. It will be our second annual gathering and they are very excited about this activity.

We look forward to next year being another busy and fulfilling year.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Hayes, Chair

Roger Arend, Bill Boyle, Kyle Doucette, Matty Gardner, Kathryn Hourdequin, Connie Loescher, Peggy Norbury, Becky Torrey (Elder).

BOARD OF DEACONS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Board of Deacons for Religious Education has exciting news to share about a new curriculum that was implemented this year. The OWLs (Our Whole Lives) program was directed towards the 7th and 8th grade boys and girls. This year there were 10 youth who attended and participated regularly. The human sexuality curriculum, which included a spiritual component, was taught by Rob Grabill, Mandy Lape-Freeberg, Dave Harrison, and Judy Csatari. The class was so successful that we are now considering offering the Our Whole Lives curriculum to a younger group as well as a "senior" group. Students of the class reported that the teachers were always well prepared and made the kids feel comfortable enough so that they could talk openly about any and all issues of human sexuality.

The church school program continues to serve children from preschool through grade seven. There are several new families who became members and love having a lively church school. So much so that we are developing a Vacation Bible School to be held Aug 5th - 9th at CCDC. We will be hosting the Horton Center counselors for the Vacation Bible School week, and the program will be supported by other local churches.

The Church hosted Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for Dartmouth students in collaboration with Dartmouth College's Office of Pluralism and Leadership (OPAL). Mandy and Rob offered "ashes to go" on Ash Wednesday for college students on their way to classes. The senior high school youth group met regularly, and continues to grow.

RE is responsible for campus ministry, and this was one of the best years we have had in this respect in a long time. The number of Dartmouth students attending CCDC every week is up significantly, and so are the numbers of students who can be considered regulars. We have Dartmouth students who are Deacons and choir members, and we have hosted a number of Dartmouth groups (Agape Christian Fellowship and Cords—an *a cappella*

singing group). We have also started a weekly Thursday evening discussion group for Dartmouth students that has attracted several students, and has the potential to grow in future years.

RE sponsored several adult education events, including the current group discussing climate change and the book "The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming" by David Wallace-Wells. Average attendance has been 25, and there is a lot of energy in the discussions. Bruce Freeberg has done a wonderful job leading this group.

We are currently in the process of organizing a women's all church retreat to be held Oct 25th and 26th. This will be held at a retreat center in Starksboro VT for women 18 years and older.

Ann Gallagher, Jo Ellen Gardner (Chair), Deb Kennedy, Bruce Riddle (Elder), and Eliza Rodi

BOARD OF DEACONS FOR STEWARDSHIP

We have had another very busy year carrying out projects necessary for the care, restoration, and improvement of our buildings and grounds. We are also keenly aware of the global climate crisis and are moving aggressively to reduce our Church's impact.

Key activities of this past year included:

Lighting Efficiency Project Planning: - Early in the year, we performed a detailed lighting audit on the entire church complex. After careful consideration, we are recommending a no-frills LED lighting upgrade project, covering most areas. The project is estimated to reduce the church's electrical energy usage by close to 50% and will be eligible for cost-reduction incentives from Liberty Utilities. We are considering financing the project with a 5-year, 0% interest loan also made available through the Liberty Utilities program. This would essentially fund the project with no capital outlay on our part and would be paid back over 5 years by the savings in electrical cost.

Solar Energy - We are considering addition of renewable energy to the church following the lighting efficiency project mentioned, above. This would involve installation of solar PV panels on a portion of our roof areas. It turns out that we have more than enough roof area to provide all of the Church's reduced electrical energy following the LED lighting upgrade. Various financial models are being considered, including a no-capital, 3rd party power purchase agreement (PPA). The Stewardship committee feels strongly that installation of solar power will be a good long-term investment and furthers our Church's covenant to "restore and protect all of God's creation".

Moving Off Fossil Fuel - Currently, the church burns about 10,000 gallons of fuel oil each year for heating. We are beginning to study the best options for reducing or eliminating our dependence on fossil fuel. The heating system infrastructure is aging and includes a hot water system for the 1962 addition, and an old steam heating system for the Sanctuary, Sanborn Hall and the entire old Parish House. Options exist for moving toward more electrically-driven heating sources, such as heat pumps (which could be partially powered through installation of a larger solar system), or perhaps connecting to the College's planned renewably-fueled hot water heating system.

Water Leakage Issues - Throughout the year, we uncovered and sealed many cracks in the exterior walls of the apartment, laundry room, and vacant classroom, below. It was a painstaking process, but we believe that water leakage issues that have plagued the church for the past couple of decades, are now solved. As a result of these improvements, it appears that we can avoid undertaking a major exterior foundation drainage project.

Apartment Kitchen Reconstruction - Now that exterior water leakage issues have been resolved, we have begun the process of reconstructing the apartment kitchen. This will be a complete renovation with a new layout, resulting in a larger, more functional kitchen than before. Much of the work is being accomplished with volunteer labor. Before completion, the apartment will also be repainted and fitted with efficient LED lighting fixtures. We can now begin the process of finding a

new tenant who will be responsible for routine responsibilities around the church property (nighttime lock-up, snow shoveling, managing audio system controls in the Sanctuary on Sundays, etc.).

Main Kitchen Upgrade - We are currently working on developing schemes and costs for the first of several modernization phases to make the main kitchen more functional and easier to prepare and serve meals. The first phase includes replacing the large gas range and non-functional range hood with two smaller ranges and individual hoods. Fire suppression systems would be added to the new hoods. We will also plan on adding more electrical receptacles in the kitchen and serving pantry to support appliances used during the Christmas Market. Seed money for the first phase was gifted by two generous church members as an incentive to move the project forward. Future upgrade phases will include replacement of the 55-year old dishwasher, and may also include replacement of the pot sink, and addition of hand-washing and mop sinks. During planning, we are considering making the space work in a secondary, teaching role. Ideas for teaching programs include instruction of Dartmouth students in the life-skills of cooking, baking and hospitality, while providing opportunities for our membership to engage more fully with students. Planning work for all phases is being conducted with the support of the Board of Elders. It is quite certain that even the first phase of work will exceed the initial seed money. Once we have developed more accurate cost estimates for the upgrade phases, we will work with the Board of Elders to develop strategies for fund raising. Our desire is to move ahead with Phase 1 upgrades as soon as possible.

Sanctuary Audio System Upgrade - During the summer and early fall, we managed installation of a new audio system. High fidelity speakers, amplifiers, and associated wireless microphones and hearing devices were added to the Sanctuary, as well as supplemental speakers for the Kate Sanborn Room and Masland Chapel. The upgrade was made possible by very generous gifts from two church couples and has resulted in great improvements in audio quality. Since installation, volunteers have been trained to operate the audio

system for Sunday worship. More audio system operators will be needed for the long run, so we continue to actively seek volunteers.

Leases - Jay Benson continued his behind-the-scenes activities to ensure that spaces are filled and that our tenant leases are kept up to date. Jay was successful this year in negotiating increases in some of the rents. As always, we thank Jay for his continued effort in helping to secure and manage the leases, which currently include: 4 cell phone companies, Toddlers Morning Out (TMO), Dartmouth-related administrative spaces, the North Country Chordsmen, and a small professional office. An accounting of the total income for all leases can be found in the CCDC budget report. Currently the church nets approximately \$175,000 from its leases. This income pays for church upkeep, supplies, utilities and custodial services, and also helps to recharge the capital renewal fund. It should be noted that the apartment generated no income for the year due to mold abatement, repair of water leaks, and use of the space to house an asylum-seeking foreign student.

Grounds and Gardening - Susan Shadford and Ginny Bayliss, our volunteer gardeners, continue to care for and improve the church gardens and plantings. Daffodil bulbs were planted in the fall and provided many cheerful blooms this spring. A soaker hose has recently been added, making it easier to water the lower garden. We are appreciative of the care given to the gardens and planters which help provide a warm and inviting feel to the church grounds.

In summary, we have accomplished a lot during the past year and are currently setting the stage for additional improvements in support of our Church's evolving mission.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Shadford (Chair)

Dave Harrison (Elders representative), Mark McPeck, Marion Burchard, Gert Assmus, Curt Oberg, Ryan Calsbeek, and Ted Frazer

BOARD OF DEACONS FOR WORSHIP & MUSIC

The Worship and Music Board was assembled for the first time this year. During this inaugural year, we focused our efforts on stating our purpose and goals, and making steps towards organizing our work. The board decided to focus its efforts around four high level tasks:

1. Assisting with creating worship by providing feedback and advice to the ministers
2. Becoming more educated about the elements of worship and why we do what we do
3. Managing the nuts and bolts of running the service where appropriate
4. Providing assistance and feedback related to the music program

A key task of the board is to provide feedback to the ministers as they plan, carry out, and review worship services. For our board this took the form of listening to ministers plans for several seasons of worship (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter), and providing a sounding board for Mandy's and Ernie's ideas. In addition, we reviewed and provided feedback on issues related to how we worship, including things like when we sit and when we stand, how music following the sermon might be more reflective, the content of the call to worship, among several issues.

This year we sought to become more educated about the elements of worship. This learning was largely guided by a perceptive question asked by Jan Assmus, "What are the essential elements of worship?" We considered this question and brought forward a variety of elements: scripture, prayer, music, sacraments, and others. We realized that the essentials might vary from person to person, but that as a church our goal is to help everyone experience the presence of God, both the comfort that brings, as well as the challenges. This means that some combination of continuity and change are needed in our worship.

As with all of the boards of the Church, we spent plenty of time on the details. Examples of the nuts and bolts tasks that we took on and added to board's ongoing charge were: getting volunteers to

serve as head ushers and overseeing the duties of the heads and of the ushers (including developing written documentation), reviewing budget issues, decorating the sanctuary with flowers for Christmas and Easter, providing refreshments after Ives recitals, and coming up with some emergency fake flowers for those rare occasions where we don't have the real thing. Barbara Hall kindly continued her service organizing the flowers that beautify our sanctuary every week.

We heard from our music director Ernie each month about the details of the music program. He kept us up to date on the chancel choir, the bell choir, special music contributors, the intergenerational choir, maintaining the organ (and dealing with the organ screen), Ives concerts, and helped us understand the management of the sound system during worship. We feel this is an area where the board could spend more time in the future to help provide strategic direction and guidance.

Our first year was a good one, helping to lay the groundwork for this board. We had many meaningful conversations, and the opportunity to reflect on our faith through worship was a gift.

Respectfully Submitted,
John McBride

Jan Assmus (Secretary, Head Usher and Communion Preparation coordinator), Heather Benson (Representative to the Elders), Corinne Fortune (Nominating Committee representative), Jeannie Mallery, John McBride (Chair), Jean Sibley

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PASTOR

Becoming part of a new community is a gradual experience, but there comes a moment when you no longer say, “Hi, I’m the **new** teacher /librarian/dentist/town manager...and you simply say, “Hi, I’m the Senior Pastor at The Church of Christ at Dartmouth College.” In the last few months I have dropped the word “new,” from my introduction. CCDC feels like my church and I sense that for most of you, I have begun to truly feel like one of your pastors. This is a really exciting time in a relationship. When a friendship or romance is new you are completely focused upon the other, but when the relationship is established you begin to look outward, thinking about how you can work together and journey as a team. You focus upon what you can achieve in the world around you.

If I were to title this year it would be, “The Year of Broadening and Deepening Our Connections.” Last year might have been entitled, “The Year of the Deer in the Headlights.” 2017-2018 truly was an awe inspiring and occasionally overwhelming time as I came to understand some of the depth and breadth of this extraordinary community that I’ve been so blessed to join. This past year moved beyond getting acquainted to a time when we worked faithfully together.

In order to write this report, I went through my calendar for the last twelve months. It was a larger and more demanding task than I had anticipated. Reading the entries took me back to many powerful encounters. I relived meaningful conversations with community members, joyful visits planning for baptisms, worship moments that drew us all in, and time spent with families preparing for and in the wake of death, to name just a few. My calendar hinted at the richness that we’ve shared as a congregation and as participants in many other communities. In particular we’ve been enriched as we’ve connected with and grown through our relationships with other member churches in our beloved United Church of Christ and with members of other denominations. Part of what accounts for the fullness of this time is that our experiences defy easy categories and titles, nevertheless, I’ve tried to group the very life-filled

times that what we’ve shared under the following descriptive titles.

EDUCATIONALLY

- Initiated Understanding White Privilege Study Group in July, our work is ongoing
- Trained for and initiated 7th - 9th grade Our Whole Lives human sexuality class
- Transgender Sunday, a guest preacher and 2nd hour speaker broaden our understanding
- The first of ongoing Intergenerational Cooking Classes began in November
- Established a Joint Bible Study class with St. Thomas Episcopal Church January - February
- Lenten Supper and Book Discussion, reading Stand Up! focusing upon Community Activism
- Attended the first Annual William Sloane Coffin Speaker Series on Climate Change
- Initiated an ongoing Book Discussion and action group on Climate change

SPIRITUALLY

- The Board of Deacons for Worship and Music helped curate our worship and music offerings
- Conducted worship regularly with music, liturgy, and preaching
- Began meetings with devotions and prayer and honest seeking of God’s direction
- Worshiped with vitality and joy with 400 others as a culmination of our One Faith weekend

CHURCH INFRASTRUCTURE

- Board of Elders focused regularly upon assessing our community and discerning God’s call to our future
- Changed our bookkeeping person/system
- Installed our new sound system, and trained lay people to operate (this an is ongoing need!)
- Revived the Board of Deacons for Membership and Communication
- Revived the Board of Deacons for Worship and Music
- Lived into our revised By-laws

- Offered New Members Class and had 12 good souls officially join the church

CONNECTING IN COMMUNITY, EVEN GLOBALLY

- Both Rob and Mandy offered various pastoral care and direction on Campus
- Welcomed nearly 60 New Americans at Storr's Pond summer party
- Hosted nearly 100 members of Community Baptism Church from Englewood, NH, for our One Faith weekend
- Hosted Abby Shithole with the Zimbabwe Visiting team and had her preached
- Hosted International Students for Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners
- Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic led by our own Rita Severinghaus
- Hosted the Annual Campus Ministry Recognition Dinner
- Hosted the Pete Seeger Birthday Party Sing Along sponsored by the ACLU and Hanover Friends

PASTORAL EVENTS

- Under the auspices of the Elders the Personnel Committee conducted thorough and helpful Pastoral Evaluations
- Race Matters @ 25, Cornell West Symposium, 7.13.18 -7.14.18
- OWL training 8.24.18-8.26.18
- Clergy Convocation 9.17.19-9.19.19
- Islam 101 9.25.2018
- Understanding Race 5.4.19
- Festival of Homiletics 5.13.19-5.17.19
- Racism of the Well-Intentioned 5.20.19

MILESTONES

We conducted the memorial services or walked with the families of the following beloved:

Roger Smith, Connie Zea, Dexter Foss, Martha Lape MacDougal, Sarah Dowds, Bea Alexander, Jane Freeberg, Jackie Johnston, and Rena Smith. And we shared the joy of baptizing David Milley and Lillian Henderson.

I have left out so much more than I've included, this is just a taste of how we've grown and been blessed this year. I'm grateful for each and every day that I am a part of The Church of Christ at Dartmouth

College. I am particularly honored to be working with such a fine staff and lay leadership. We have so much to be thankful for, we're growing, we have and can gather resources to improve our physical plant and to be more responsible environmental and global citizens, we're a part of the Dartmouth College community, and most importantly we are an integral part of the lives of our vast and lovely church members. We are a beautifully varied community made up of children and youth, students and workers and retirees, full of faith and doubt, hope and concern, determined to walk together into an uncertain but assuredly blessed future.

The best is yet to come,
See you at church,
Mandy

REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Since my annual reports are usually chronological in nature, I'll begin my review of the past program year with my arrest for criminal trespassing last June. As part of a carefully planned action by the revitalized Poor People's Campaign, I was part of a nationwide mobilization on the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s effort to call attention to economic injustice. Mandy Lape-Freeberg and I participated in the four-hour training program, and the following day I was one of ten volunteers to risk arrest with an act of civil disobedience. I was part of a group that occupied the Executive Council Chambers in the NH State Capitol. After a rally in front of the NH State House, 70 demonstrators marched into the Capitol, and through the Governor's Office, and into the Executive Council chambers, where we held a People's Hearing, listening to testimony from those most impacted by New Hampshire's lack of a fair wage law. At 5:00, the State Police informed all of us that if we remained we would be arrested. Sixty in the group left immediately, quietly, and carefully. The 10 of who remained were arrested, handcuffed, taken to State Police headquarters, booked, photographed, and released on bail. After months of legal process, were assigned court dates. Four other defendants and I appeared in court on Good Friday, and pleaded guilty. We were fined \$250,

which would be suspended upon one day of good behavior. Does protest work? I believe it does. There has been much positive progress in the NH Legislature this year, and groups such as NH Voices of Faith have been steadfast in bearing witness. Last month, years of work resulted in the repeal of the death penalty by two razor-thin votes. Every vote, every letter, every act of witness counts.

Last July, I spent a week at Horton Center, the wonderful summer camp for all ages operated by the NH Conference. I was the Dean for a week for elementary school-aged campers, including several from CCDC. This was my fifth year, and I will be headed back there next month for my seventh. We also had several CCDC “grads” helping as volunteer counselors. Horton Center is very simply one of the best faith formation ministries we offer at any level in this dynamic denomination. The lessons learned on Pine Mountain stay with campers for the rest of their lives. Last fall, I was asked by the Conference to lead a new Annual Fund effort, and we successfully raised \$10,000 to help support Horton Center.

This fall, as a follow-up to a workshop presented at our all-church Retreat, we began teaching a class for 10 middle school students using the highly-regarded *Our Whole Lives* curriculum. *Our Whole Lives* helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, *Our Whole Lives* not only provides facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality. It was developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ and has been in use for more than 40 years. It goes far beyond what students are typically learning in schools, and at home. But it critically acknowledges the primary role of parents in educating their children and offer avenues for dialogue. While the program repeatedly recommends abstinence, it is not built on abstinence, but rather on empowerment. It is the

best possible thing that our church can be doing for these young people and their families. It is a gift, and we have all benefitted from our participation. We will be spending the next few weeks evaluating and planning for our educational programs next fall, which include a Confirmation class for many of these same students.

In February, 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. Nine high school students and eight adults had the opportunity to work in an underserved city elementary school as part of an exciting initiative to teach English as a second language to students in grades 3-6. This is a social justice issue. Only private school students are generally taught English in the DR, and this imposes an economic hardship on students who cannot enter the workforce with a knowledge of English. With the help of Juan Valdez, an inspiring educational leader, and two dedicated teachers, the program has been highly successful, and is moving towards sustainability. We still need to help raise the significant funds to guarantee a second year, but are already seeing success as we plan for the future. In addition to significantly adding to the overall quality of education in this school, the mission trip provided an important learning opportunity for our students. The trip also continued the growth of a wonderful working relationship with the Meriden and Norwich churches in the area of youth ministry, and we look forward to building on this.

This has been a particularly good year with respect to Campus Ministry. Mandy and I have taken full advantage of our membership in the Tucker Center’s United Campus Ministry, and built excellent relationships with other ministries and Tucker Center staff. We have hosted several student groups, including the Agape Christian Fellowship, and the Cords a cappella group, who joined us in worship one Sunday. Our Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for international students were well-subscribed and we had help from a number of the members of the congregation in making these students feel welcome during the long Interim. We initiated a new Ashes to Go program on Ash Wednesday, and

offered the imposition of ashes to dozens of students throughout the day. Great outreach! The number of Dartmouth students in worship is increasing, and several are joining us in the life of the church, including a new member of our Board of Deacons for Membership and Communication. We were proud to award this year's Harold Ripley Award to Balt Von Huene, a graduating Dartmouth Senior.

Finally, I am grateful for the hard work by President Judy Csatari and the Board of Elders, who undertook a comprehensive evaluation of my work as a minister. Many people were involved, and the insights shared with me will certainly enable me to continue to grow in this vocation. I have been working at CCDC for ten years, and this was my first significant performance review. I believe it was worth the effort.

Rob Grabill
Associate Pastor

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

This year, I completed 20 years of service to the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College. How the years have slipped by!

Of note this year are the continuing excellence and wide community support for the Ives Concert Series, and the excellence of the Handbell Choir. I am grateful to these dedicated ringers: Joan Wilson, Karen Sluzenski, Judy Csatari, Rosalie Sainsbury, Kathy Wilkerson, Jan Assmus, Nancy Marion, Lee Arend, Corinne Fortune, Jo Shute, Karen Williamson, and our substitutes Susan Mullens, Klaran Warner, Sarah and John McBride and Caryn McCoy.

I am grateful that we have re-established the Board of Worship and Music, led ably by John McBride. It is good to have a seat at the table.

And I thank the faithful singers in the Chancel Choir: Megan Culp, Janet Hurd, Kathy Wilkerson, Sylvia Field, Carolyn Crocker, Amy Smith, Barbara Payson, Jean Mallary, Heywood Alexander, Roger Arend, Joan Wilson, Bob Keene, Ted Matthews, Terry Martin, Lee Hurd, Bruce Smith and Ben Gilson.

And I thank my faithful, observant page turners at the organ, Carolyn Crocker and Megan Culp.

Respectfully submitted,
Ernie Drown, Director of Music

REPORT OF THE PARISH NURSE

The services of the Parish Nurse have been available to you our parishioners for the past 10 years. In 2009 the congregation appointed Ann Bradley, RN, who formalized the model of professional health ministry at CCDC. For the past 5 years my practice and care to this congregation has been guided by Ann's consistent support as well as quarterly meetings with the CCDC Health Ministry Advisory, the Board for Congregational Life and the support of the Upper Valley Community Nursing Project (uvcnp.org). I feel privileged to serve your community!

Professional definition of the Parish Nurse role:
"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). The UCC presented a paper on the role in 1997 at the 21st General Synod Meeting. Excerpt: *Why do we do this? "Good health is a part of God's intention for all people, Health involves the whole person: body, mind and spirit. Local congregations are encouraged to commitment to health and wholeness by providing programming for parishioners and the community around them"*

In that spirit, I share a summary of services provided by the Parish Nurse at CCDC-UCC:

- Healthy home visits, phone calls, health/medication education.
- Hospital/emergency room visits, and visits to local rehabilitation units.
- Follow-up and participation on health and life transitions for parishioners. Resource and health advocacy during transitions.
- Assistance with setting up appointments, availability to accompany to appointments.
- Resource on 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.

- Assistance with determination of home care needs, ways to meet those needs, and if permitted communicating with family to assure continuity.
- Coordination of health education programs.
- Pastoral care is developed and provided in collaboration with the Senior and Associate Pastor.

The assistance of the Parish Nurse as resource and advocate continues to be well-utilized at CCDC. Under our pastors' spiritual guidance, I endeavor to promote understanding of the relationship between faith and health in our faith community.

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. Thank you for your visits to my office or welcoming me into your homes for healthy visits where we can have more in-depth conversations on health questions or concerns.

I maintain competency in my role and license requirements by attending meetings, workshops, and presentations. In the Upper Valley: Upper Valley Community Nursing Project, Elder Forum, and Aging in Community Programs through the Public Health Council. I also attend professional education nursing programs.

In the past year, I helped coordinate CPR recertification to more than 18 CCDC members and community residents. Through CPR recertification we are able to maintain competency in the use of the two AEDs (portable defibrillators) in the CCDC building. Recently I came upon a booklet published by the American Heart Association. It lists the AEDs at CCDC!

2018-2019 Second Hour presentations:

Internet Privacy and Security—presented by member Bruce Findley, experienced on internet safety.

Nutrition as We Age—presented by our member Deb Kennedy, PhD-Nutritionist.

Everyday Fitness-Is It Worth my Time? Balance in Aging -- presented by Dawna Pidgeon, PT,

Balance Expert DHMC and NH, and Joanne Hayes, FNP, APD.

Ongoing smaller offerings have included weekly Meditation & Prayer, and blood pressure checks twice/month. Our widows group continues hosting speakers and holding well-attended luncheons 4x/year. I assist with coordination of these programs. For the 2019-2020 program year I am hoping to coordinate a Second Hour on **Resources to assist with Transitions**, stay tuned! *Please remember that we continue to store a limited number of walkers, commodes, canes and crutches. This equipment is available for free to our members, family and friends should a need come up. Just contact us with your request, or stop in and pick up needed equipment.*

Throughout the year the Parish Nurse bulletin board located in the balcony, and the new electronic newsletter are venues used to share pertinent health information topics.

Finally, for the fourth year, the Youth Trip to the Dominican Republic brought together representatives from CCDC, NCC, and the Meriden Congregational Church on a mission trip to support implementation of professional English Language acquisition in a town primary school. CCDC joined members of the UV community contributing donations to make the program a reality, thank you! We have many photos and documentation of the first 6 months of a successful endeavor. Through Rob Grabill's (Assoc. Pastor) leadership, the annual indoor yard sale as well as funding support from the Byrne Foundation and Pembroke Foundation (UCC), facilitated student participation and travel on the Youth Trip. Our February mission trip was especially rewarding as CCDC, UV and Dominican students came together to work, encourage and play together.

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 work together.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Severinghaus, RN, MA
Parish Nurse