

**The Church of Christ at Dartmouth College**  
**Minutes of the Congregational Meeting ~ June 22, 2014**

Moderator David Pierce called the meeting to order at 11:15 by asking Pastor Carla Bailey to lead us in prayer. He then asked for acceptance of the minutes of the Winter Congregational meeting. They were approved as read.

He then asked for reports from the Board of Deacons:

Jay Benson for **Stewardship** mentioned that the bump in the entranceway had been fixed and he thanked Ken for his excellent work.

Eileen Rawnsley for **Congregational Life**: She reported on the breakfast for the volunteers of CCDC Cares, hosted by Terry Martin and Ann Bradley. This was a first, but they hope there will be many more.

Stephanie Chesnut for **Outreach**: She presented the names of the two nominees for the Bicentennial Award: \$400 each will be given to 1) the after-school program at Romano Circle in Lebanon, which provides workshops and materials for children; and 2) to a sewing cooperative in Ruanda for the purchase of sewing machines.

Gail McPeck (for Margaret Jernstedt who had to be away) for **Religious Education** and the **Linda White Cavanaugh** award: She gave a brief report on how the award was established in 1983 for a deserving female student and then announced that this year it goes to a Dartmouth college freshman: Olivia Bauer. She worked in our Christmas Market last year and also taught Sunday School. She hopes to join the church in the fall.

Carla Bailey for the **Harold C. Ripley Scholarship** award: Carla explained that the church has long wanted to award a young man in like manner to the Cavanaugh award. This year, Mary Ripley donated a memorial gift to establish this award in memory of her husband and long time church member Harold Ripley. Carla explained that Rip was a model to all and that this award will be a most welcome way to remember him.

The moderator asked for a vote to support the choices for awards and all were unanimously accepted.

**Report of the Nominating Committee**-- Chair Ginia Allison nominated the following:

Moderator: David Pierce '15

Clerk: Libby Barry '15

Treasurer: Nancy Marion '15

Assist. Treasurer: Bob Kessler '15

Chair of Nom. Com.: Celeste Dakai '16

At large Members of the Board of Elders: Megan Culp, '16 and Trish Jackson, '17

Elders representing Boards of Deacons:

Congregational Life: Karen Williamson '16

Outreach : Jackie Paulsen '16

Stewardship: Gautier Wallaert '15

Deacons for Congregational Life:

Ella Erway: '16

Deacons for Outreach:

Emily Dentzer '17

4 Delegates to the Grafton-Orange Association: (one-year terms):  
Susan Kessler, Roger Arend, Bob Kessler and Lee Arend

8 Delegates to the NH Conference UCC Annual Meeting:  
Sally Foss, Audrey Sears, Ray Sears, Lee Arend, Roger Arend, Rob Grabill,  
2 youth delegates (to be approved by the Elders in the fall)

These choices were voted upon and approved unanimously.

Evan Smith then presented his **President's Report:**

He mentioned that much has happened in the life of the church this past year. There has been emphasis on financial matters, with the Financial Sustainability Working Task Force (now the Financial Advisory Committee) looking at increasing the financial stability of the church. In the building, work has been ongoing to renovate a lower level classroom. A more robust pledge campaign is planned for the fall. And though a deficit was reported at the February Congregational Meeting, much of the deficit will be resolved over the next several years.

Evan spoke at length of the Discernment meetings held in the spring in which some 70 members participated. There were rich discussions about faith formation and an intentional justice ministry. The minutes of these meetings are available to all. The Board of Elders discussed them at a meeting on May 31 and distilled them so that new board members can continue the discussion. There was a desire for greater connectedness. Suggestions included more small group meetings, and possibly restructuring Sunday mornings to allow new activities. As to Justice Advocacy, we wrestled with how to take on more difficult justice issues, how to have a meaningful impact, how to have a spiritual basis for what we do. There was some discussion whether to join the United Valley Interfaith Project. The Elders recommend forming a working committee (with Charlotte Quimby and Margaret Jernstedt at its head) to educate the congregation about this group and then to bring the idea to a vote at the next February congregational meeting. Evan also mentioned religious education and said that Richard Crocker can be a great resource in this regard. He also mentioned the good work of the Board of Religious Education and of Rob Grabill.

He thanked the whole staff and the volunteers who make so many programs possible.

He thinks CCDC is a healthy church, both in finances and leadership. We have great potential, he stated, but asked, how best to reach it? We are an active church doing many of the things that were themes of the discernment meetings.

The moderator then asked Steve Bensen, incoming president, and Carla Bailey to present the thank you gift to Evan, as outgoing president. They did so, praising his incredible hard work and faithfulness and presented him with a Simon Pierce crystal bowl engraved with words from the church's covenant.

The moderator then asked if there were any new business: Bob Keene asked to speak for a minute about our partnership with a church in Zimbabwe, encouraging members to learn more about our partner church by reading the resources in the Zimbabwe corner of the Batchelder Lounge.

There being no further business, Carla reminded us that we should note the summer activities posted on the bulletin board and urged us to share books, bring in unneeded yarn and fabric for use in good causes, then gave the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Field, Outgoing Clerk