



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SALISBURY

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Salisbury, Connecticut

THE ANNUAL MEETING
Part II

REPORTS, BUSINESS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Sunday, April 27, 2014

269th ANNUAL MEETING, PART II OF
THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SALISBURY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY, April 27, 2014

AGENDA

PRAYER

CALL TO ORDER

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING, PART I

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF REPORTS:

The Clerk's, Report	Coordinator of Christian Education
Board of Deacons	Board of Christian Action
Board of Trustees	The Music Committee
Board of Ushers	Fellowship & Hospitality Committee
Board of Religious Education	

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE'S REPORT

ELECTION Officers and Committees

COVENANT WITH UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, BRIDGEPORT

OTHER BUSINESS

THE PASTOR

PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SALISBURY

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Salisbury, Connecticut

Call To The Annual Meeting

The 269th Annual Meeting, Part II, of the Congregational Church of Salisbury will be held following the worship service on Sunday, April 27, 2014 for the purpose of:

1. Presentation of Reports from Boards and Committees
2. The Nominating Committee's Report
3. The Election of Officers and Committees
4. Covenant with United Congregational Church, Bridgeport
5. Other Business

The Agenda

CALL of the Meeting

ACCEPTANCE of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting, Part I, of October 27, 2013

REPORTS as noted above

PASTOR'S REPORT



The Congregational Church of Salisbury
269th Annual Meeting, Part 1
October 27, 2013
Minutes

Moderator Kathy Mera called the meeting to order at 11:15, it having been determined that a quorum of fifty-seven members was present.

Pastor Diane welcomed the congregation and opened the meeting with prayer.

The Clerk read the call to the meeting.

The minutes of the previous annual meeting part II were accepted as distributed by e-mail (and regular mail to those without e-mail), subject to verification and correction, if necessary, of the numbers

Pastor Diane reported for the building committee that the project is almost complete. A successful capital campaign and successful building project have yielded a beautiful fellowship hall. The organ has been digitized.

A slate for the nominating committee, now under the revised by-laws to be elected in the fall, was presented and a motion to accept it was seconded and unanimously approved. The members are Dave Heck, Sarah Zarbock, Susie Belcher, Tom Key and Judith Frost.

Treasurer Bob Weber presented the proposed budget for 2014. Over all, there is a 4.5 % increase. Changes in income included rental income for the fellowship hall and a draw down from the endowment. On the expense side, there were compensation increases and it is hoped that fuel consumption will be lower. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, the 2014 budget was adopted.

The Moderator thanked Pastor Diane for the youth service, planned so that the confirmands could participate fully in the life of the church during the year.

Pastor Diane thanked the congregation and hoped to welcome new families into the church and to continue at the same level of vitality we now enjoy.

After she gave a closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise F. Brown, Clerk



CLERK'S REPORT

Received into Membership – May 5, 2013 – April 27, 2014

By Reaffirmation of Faith

Lyndell Giffenig
Susan Bucceri

By Confirmation

Matthew Chin
Eleanor Clulow
Isabel Conti
Katya Giffenig
Olivia May
Orrin Rydingsword
Elizabeth Stewart

In Memoriam

John J. Anderson	August 15, 2013
Elizabeth Barnes Leech	September 1, 2013
Alvord Miner Beardsee	March 21, 2014

Total Membership: 283

Louise Brown, Clerk



BOARD OF DEACONS ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

The Deacons continued their spiritual life together with few changes to their membership. We welcomed Linda Estabrook at the beginning of our year in May who replaced Laura Flores and bid a fond farewell to Jim LaPier in February. We remain steadfast in our covenant with each other and continue to deepen this special bond while we explore new ways to assist in the life of our church.

1. The Deacons continued many activities that were instigated in previous years: hosting the annual September breakfast for the Opening Day of Sunday School; acting as Lay Readers for Sunday Worship in charge of the responsive Psalm readings and Old Testament; and contributing a faith based article each month in the Meeting House Times (MHT).
2. The group participated in a variety of special church services: Palm Sunday, Tenebrae, Easter, and Christmas. Several memorial services were held during the year where the Deacons served as ushers and assisted in the collation that followed.
3. For the second year, the Deacons led the service for the Sunday after Christmas. A highlight of this year's service was Larry Blades and Betsy Beck describing their own faith journeys. The descriptions of their experiences were compelling and set a wonderful example of how the power and growth of faith can be transformative. These faith stories became the model for Pastor Diane to initiate a new column in the Meeting House Times entitled "This I Believe." This addition to the newsletter provides an opportunity for anyone in the congregation to describe their own faith journey.
4. Each month, the lead Deacon accompanied Pastor Diane to Noble Horizons and helped her with the Worship service. A special honor was assisting her in serving communion to the attendees.
5. This year, Pastor Diane and the Deacons instigated a series of Lenten Dinners that were held in the Parish Hall every Wednesday night from 6 to 7:15. The entire congregation was invited to come once over the course of 5 weeks to share a simple meal of soup, salad and bread and to engage in lively conversation. Over 100 people participated in the Lent suppers. The seating was "assigned" to encourage everyone to get to know new people and to celebrate the Lenten season in an intimate and welcoming manner.
6. The Deacons continued their pastoral outreach by visiting members of the congregation in need – at the hospital, assisted living facility or in their own home. Some members also participated in social outings with several congregants. Our group sees that this type of activity furthers Pastor Diane's loving mission to her "flock" and as a very important part of our duties.
7. The Deacons once again supported the quilt exhibit as part of the Fall Festival celebration. This year's quilts almost filled the church and were a popular event that brought many people

into the church building. One of the quilt donors became interested in the life of the church and recently became a member, underlying again how God works in many places and at all times.

It has been a remarkable year. We look forward to the coming year and to further assisting our pastor in serving the congregation as we walk together on our faith journey.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Magowan and Sarah Zarbock



BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

For the past church year, the Board of Trustees has addresses a variety of building issues including: completions of the financial aspects of the parish hall and organ renovation; implementation of financial controls over remaining ‘punch list’ items for the renovation; procedures for addressing follow-on and new items for the facilities/grounds maintenance and the hiring of a church sexton. The board also addressed the question of near term renting/selling the Parsonage which brought to light the question of whether we actually owned the Parsonage land. Through the diligent work of Mark Capecelatro and Sue Morrill, it was determined that we do have legal ownership of the property. Lee Collins has been most helpful to the board in handling the sexton situation and follow up on everyday maintenance items. Ted Sands’ efforts, in all of the financial follow-on work, have been of particular value.

The board also undertook the Every Member Canvas as a group, rather than assigning this to one individual. This approach worked well enough, but put additional work on the church staff. We will probably return to a single responsibility for next year’s campaign. In actuality, Ted Sands carried much of the ‘asking burden’ for the Trustees. Unfortunately, Ted has served the maximum term as a Trustee and will be leaving the board. He will be missed, but takes away a “well done” from all of the board members.

At Pastor Diane’s request, the Trustees developed human resources guidelines for church staff personnel. This effort was led by Deb Pastore and now provides the church with a more professional personnel management framework.

Robert Weber has taken over the Treasurer’s responsibilities from John Arnold, who provided excellent service in this capacity for many years. John has been very helpful during the transition period for this most important position.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Key

Chair, Board of Trustees



BOARD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

The Board of Religious Education continued its focus on ministry to families with children during the past year, including a variety of activities and opportunities for people of all ages.

The Board helped plan and supervise special activities to enhance “Table for Five ... Thousand,” a musical play which was presented by the children of the Sunday School and their friends on May 12th.

In the fall, the Board joined the Board of Deacons for the Church School Opening Breakfast. The Board appreciates the support of the Deacons in providing this inviting occasion for greeting old friends and welcoming newcomers to the church school year.

The annual Christmas pageant featured Clara Davidson as the baby Jesus with her mother, Leslie, as Mary, and Orrin Rydingsword as Joseph. Members of the Board and other helpers costumed an impressive cast of shepherds, angels, wise men, animals and a star. Several families joined us as we went Christmas caroling at Noble Horizons and Geer. Unfortunately, the Advent workshop and potluck supper was cancelled due to winter weather.

There were several opportunities for children to participate in intergenerational worship this year, including Communion Sundays, Christmas Eve, Thanksgiving, and Easter.

We are grateful to Duane Estes and Theresa Carroll for leading discussion opportunities for our Middle School students.

Some Board members attended special Christian Education evenings in Cornwall, Goshen, and Salisbury, where they were able to share fellowship, ideas, concerns, and inspiration with folks from other churches engaged in faith formation.

The members of the Board of Religious Education serve as leaders in the Sunday School activity centers, as nursery caregivers, and as support for the Coordinator of Christian Education. In conversation and action, the Board continues to address the reality that today, more than ever, families have to make difficult choices for their children’s time, with church activities often coming in second. We value Pastor Diane and her infectious enthusiasm as we explore how best to serve the spiritual needs of young families in a secular society.

Barbara Collins for the Board

April 2014



COORDINATOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

The Sunday School began its school year in September with *God Calls Abraham and Sarah*, a rotation model unit that explored the biblical story of the patriarch of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The rotation model of learning provides 3-6 activity centers (for example: art, storytelling, drama, games, community life, music), all centered around the unit theme. The children, grouped by age, move each week to a new center, experiencing a different teacher, space, and learning experience.

O Little Town of Bethlehem! was the theme of our Advent rotation, as we approached the Christmas story from the point of view of place and time. January brought a new unit, *Jesus' Early Life, Baptism, and Temptation*, which followed the life of Jesus before his ministry began. Our Lenten and final unit of the year, *A Technicolor Promise*, which includes our annual musical of the same name, is based on the story of Noah.

Our second full year of rotation model learning has been very successful. Children who miss some Sundays are still exposed to the core stories and tenets of our faith. The traditional commitment and preparation time for Sunday School teachers is no longer an issue. Many wonderful people, both parents and "civilians," have come forward to serve for two or three weeks, teaching the same material each week to a new age group.

In the summer, I attended a three-day workshop in Syracuse entitled *Faith Formation for the 21st Century* which was led by John Roberto. I learned about trends and transformations in religion, technology, and society and their impact on faith formation. I'm grateful that Pastor Diane was there with me because, together, we were able to contemplate and plan how some of these strategies could best serve our church. In November, I trained and served as a facilitator in a Connecticut regional event called Refuel through Relationship. I continue as a North Central Region representative to CAUCE (Connecticut Association of United Church Educators). In the process of monthly board meetings, communications, and workshops, I am reminded again and again of what the Connecticut Conference of the UCC has to offer us. Karen Ziel, our Conference Minister of Faith Formation, is an invaluable resource. I am also grateful to have the opportunity to get to know and learn from many of the fine people who are charged with the Christian faith formation and education of the children and youth in our Connecticut UCC churches and beyond.

Barbara Collins
April 2014



**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN ACTION
ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014
Board of Christian Action**

Most who serve on the Board of Christian Action feel that they come away with more than they give due to the tremendous appreciation and gratitude from those whom we help. We have nine members on our board, each with different talents and interests. We work together on a wide variety of projects and are responsible for the outreach of the church. Our mission is to spread God's love locally and globally, and we have found many ways to achieve this.

Within our community we support Owl's Kitchen, our local food pantry, through donations and a percentage of LaBonne's receipts. Our Christmas Giving Tree project brings special joy to both children and parents at the Astor Early Childhood Program and the Grace Smith House in Millerton. We make financial donations to ten local organizations and charities, as well as to Silver Lake's summer camp in Sharon.

Our global projects include participation in the CROP walk, which benefits Church World Services and helps end hunger locally and abroad. Our Global Crafts sale of "fair traded" items during the annual Salisbury Fall Festival supports artisans in many developing countries.

This year we have been very excited about our increased support of two special projects that our church is committed to: our mission trips through Simply Smiles and our partnership with UCC Bridgeport. This relationship started after Hurricane Sandy when our church provided much needed clothing and food. Then for the past two years we traveled to Bridgeport to help prepare Thanksgiving dinner for 500 people. This was such a wonderful experience that we decided to host two community suppers called "Feel the Warmth". We have collected and delivered warm clothing and gloves, as well as diapers and formula for infants. For the second year in a row, we will provide scholarships for two children from Bridgeport to attend summer camp at Silver Lake.

Many of us have been truly transformed by our experiences in Bridgeport. As Pastor Sara Smith said when she came to speak at our church, "You can't give someone a tray of food and stay the same." We look forward to expanding this relationship by welcoming their youth and other exchanges.

Throughout this newsletter, you will read about our many projects and activities. We are not a large church, but we have a large heart for meeting the needs in our own community and in the larger world. This is what Christian Action is all about and this is what we love to do!

They will know we are Christians by our love!

Donations by Board of Christian Action

One of the responsibilities of the Board of Christian Action is carrying out the mission of the church in the wider community—locally, nationally and internationally. The funds are provided by the generous support of the congregation through the Every Member Canvass, the careful stewardship of the investment accounts conducted by the Trustees, and the proceeds of the Fall Festival (which are directed to local organizations).

This year the Board again decided to support projects and organizations that focus on children, families and education. Our donations are divided into three categories:

Local Organizations

\$5,000 to Silver Lake and its youth ministries
\$1,000 for two scholarships to Silver Lake for children from Grace Smith House
\$1,000 to EXTRA'S enrichment program at Salisbury Central School
\$500 to SOAR's enrichment program at Salisbury Central School
\$500 to Housatonic Day Care
\$500 to Grace Smith House which aids victims of Domestic Violence
\$500 to Owl's Kitchen
\$500 to Chore Service
\$500 to Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association (SVNA)
\$500 to Operation Fuel
\$500 to Women's Support Services (WSS) for Community Education
\$500 to Community Mental Health Affiliates (CMHA)

Bridgeport Project

\$1,000 for two scholarships to Silver Lake for children from UCC Bridgeport
(\$1,000 for two community dinners is in the general church budget)

Simply Smiles Project

\$3,000 to sponsor Rev. Diane Monti-Catania and Joanne Taber on the Mission Trip to South Dakota.
Underwrite sale of tickets to "Food and Folk" dinner on May 9th.

These donations have been made possible by the generosity of members and friends of our church.

Thank you!

Peggy Heck, Chair
Jeanette Weber, Co-Chair
Board of Christian Action



**USHERS COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014**

Once again we had twelve responsible members who each ushered for two months of Sundays. In fact, considering that Bob Palmer joined his wife Debra for the month of December, we actually had thirteen people involved. The 12 or 13 ushers are disciples of sorts in that they convey an open and accepting welcome to those attending our church. Diane joins the ushers in greeting arrivals at the door. This enables guests to meet her, and parishioners to update her with any concerns or news of themselves or other members. We take our responsibility as ushers very seriously.

Rotating off this year is Janet Accardo since she has served for two successive three year terms and is required to step down from the committee according to our Bylaws. She will continue to usher with Sal during his month as an unofficial member and as a way of continuing to be involved. Vincent Hanlon, Erik Rydingsword and Bob Weber will continue to serve for another three year term.

The class of 2015 and 16 will continue to serve until the end of their terms. We have one opening in the class of 2016 which the nominating committee will be addressing.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Accardo
Chair of the Ushers' Committee



**MUSIC COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014**

Members Peggy Hayes (chair), Tim Hughes, Jo Loi, Karin Noyes, Deb Pastore,
Sarah Sprague

Committee meetings held

9/4/13, 10/ 2/13, 10/29/13, 11/20/13, 1/8/14, 2/9/14, 4/9/14, (5/7/14 scheduled)

Musical Events September 2013 - May 2014

Al Sly Celebration: October 5, 2013

Alice Parker: Vocal Conductor, Coach, and Composer, directed a private session with the choir and a community sing-along November 2, 2013. She led the congregation in hymn singing November 3, 2013.

Senior Choir and Bell Choir Christmas Concert: December 8, 2013

Chorus Angelicus: December 22, 2013

Stephen Katz "Flying Pizzicato" cello concert: February 7, 2014

Student Concert: February 23, 2014

Food and Folk dinner to benefit Simply Smiles: May 9, 2014
w/ Kristen Graves performance

Respectfully Submitted,
Peggy Hayes



Nominating Committee Report
2014-2015

Committee Members

Susie Belcher
Judith Frost
Dave Heck
Tom Key
Sarah Zarbock, Chair
Kathy Mera, Moderator

At the time this report was submitted for distribution, several vacancies had not been filled, either because specific recommendations had not been finalized or there currently were no candidates for a particular slot. As a result, several openings will remain past the date of the Annual Meeting. The Committee members, upon consultation with Pastor Diane, believe the process of identifying candidates to serve or of congregation members expressing an interest in serving can occur throughout the year.

4/14/14

**OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES OF THE CHURCH
2014-2015**

Moderator: Kathleen Mera
Treasurer: Bob Weber

Assistant Treasurer: Larry Blades
Clerk: Louise Brown

Board of Deacons

		Richard A. Dwelley -- Deacon for Life		
Ron Jones	'15	Sarah Zarbock	'16	Malcolm Brown '17
Theresa Carroll	'15	Betsy Beck	'16	Larry Blades '17
Ashley Allyn	'15	Linda Estabrook	'16	Carol Magowan '17
Chico Aller	'15			Mike Clulow '17*

Board of Trustees

David Rich	'15	John Estabrook	'16	Lee Collins '17
Tom Key	'15	Mark Capecelatro	'16	Sue Morrill '17
John Arnold	'15	Deb Pastore	'16	Tony Good '17*

Church Council Member-at-Large

Cynthia LaPier	'15	Mike Fitting	'16	Judith Frost '17*
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Board of Religious Education

Judith Frost	'15	Carrie Smith	'16	Jennifer Kronholm Clark '17*
Jenn Good	'15	Bob & Susan Maxwell	'16	

Board of Christian Action

Jano Fairservis	'15	Amanda Roberts	'16	Peggy Sands '17*
Jeanette Weber	'15	Susie Belcher	'16	Anne Hughes '17*
Laura O'Niel	'15*	Peggy Heck	'16	Cynthia LaPier '17
		Dick Taber, Ex-Officio		

Music Committee

Tim Hughes	'15	Sarah Sprague	'16	Jo Loi '17
Peggy Hayes	'15	Sara Wardell	'16*	Karin Noyes '17

Ushers Committee

Nancy Tuckerman	'15	Stephanie Tierney	'16	Sal Accardo '17
Orrin Rydingsword	'15	Martin Nweeia	'16	Erik Rydingsword '17
Ellie Owens	'15	Bob & Debra Palmer	'16	Bob Weber '17
Jim LaPier	'15	Kevin Wolgemuth	'16*	Vincent Hanlon '17

Fellowship and Hospitality Committee

Jane Capecelatro	'15	Rosanne Lamson	'16	Sarah Rydingsword '17*
Linda Estabrook	'15	Cynthia LaPier	'16	
		Debbie Mark	'16	

Delegates to State Conference and Litchfield North

Lee Collins, Ruth Tyrol, Scott Frost (alternate)*

Nominating Committee 2015

(To be determined)

*first term;

highlighted names are those standing for election

COVENANT BETWEEN UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, BRIDGEPORT AND SALISBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The United Congregational Church of Bridgeport, CT and Salisbury Congregational Church of Salisbury, CT agree to this mutual covenant of trust and care.

It is our hope that together we will build new relationships that will take us into a future that knows no divide between urban and rural, rich and poor, white and color, straight and gay, abled and disabled, young and old.

We come together as God's people, beloved followers of Jesus Christ.

As members of the United Church of Christ we embrace the belief that:

Covenant is a holy promise of devotion that is shared. It's God's good glue that keeps us together. When that glue sticks, God forms a bond of unity that is pliable and dynamic, not rigid or unresponsive.

Unity is a result of a covenantal way of life and an amazing gift of God.

Acknowledging our roots in the tradition of the Congregational Church we embrace the covenant of our ancestors:

We covenant with God and with one another to walk in God's holy ways. We unite for the worship of God and for continued striving to know and to do God's will and for the service of God and humanity. We acknowledge this Church to be part of all those in every age and nation who are united by the Holy Spirit of God in Christ, and we dedicate ourselves to serve this fellowship according to our strength, ability and opportunity.

Understanding that God is Still Speaking in this day and age we promise the following:

Each week we will pray for all the members of each congregation.

As often as we can, we will join efforts to serve our neighbors.

We will gather resources to support the ministry being carried out in our diverse communities.

We will share our blessings with one another in as many ways as we can imagine.

We will be neighbors and friends, carrying each other to Christ. We will be blessed.