

2015 ANNUAL MEETING
MAINE CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
October 16 – 17, 2015 – South Parish Congregational Church, Augusta, Maine

Friday, October 16, 2015

Gathering Music: Each time the delegates to the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Maine Conference gathered in the South Parish Church sanctuary, they were welcomed by music played by Lynne Burney, pianist, or Jay Zoller, organist and music director at South Parish. The Conference Choir was directed by Virgil Bozeman, Jr., choir director at South Parish

Opening Worship Service: Rev. Geoff Parker, representing the 20-30 year-old, welcomed delegates to the 2015 Annual Meeting and led the Opening Worship Service, using Genesis 28:10-17 as the Scripture. The other 20/30 clergy participating in the Opening Worship Service were Rev. Rachel Johannan Bahr, Rev. Christina Cataldo, Rev. Vanessa Winters, and Rev. Kelli Whitman. Rev. Jane MacIntyre, Pastor of South Parish Congregational Church United Church of Christ in Augusta, also welcomed the delegates.

Plenary 1 - Friday, October 16, 2015, 9:30 – 11:35 a.m.

Call to order and Declaration of a Quorum: Moderator Rev. Sally Colegrove called the meeting to order and declared that a quorum, as defined by the Conference Bylaws, was present.

Reading of the Call: Clerk Walter (Ted) Ruark read the call:

The 84th Annual Meeting of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ (successor to the Congregational Christian Conference of Maine; it being the 104th Anniversary of the Congregational Conference and Missionary Society of Maine; the 190th Anniversary of the State Conference, the 208th Anniversary of the Maine Missionary Society, the 186th Anniversary of the Maine Congregational Ministerial Relief Society, and the 48th Anniversary of the Maine Conference as a Conference of the United Church of Christ), will be held at South Parish Congregational Church – United Church of Christ, Augusta, Maine and will convene at 9:00 a.m., Friday, October 16, 2015. Items to be voted at this year's meeting will be the:

- *Proposed 2016 Conference Budget*
- *2016 Compensation Guidelines for Clergy*
- *Slate of Officers Elect*

The Constituting Prayer: Rev. Deborah Blood offered the constituting prayer:

O Holy One, Alpha and Omega, Parent, Child and Spirit, here we are – gathered in one body – facing into two days of meetings, reports, workshops, worship – fellowship and food. Here we are, your people, seeking to find you in unexpected places and wondering how that is going to work out. Here we are, thinking we know where to look for you, and about to be surprised. Here we are, the churches and people of the Maine Conference, United Church of Christ, with friends and guests as well being the Body of Christ in this place – imperfect and beautiful.

As we gather to be your Church, O God, we are like Jacob, dreaming big dreams and hoping to find a little bit of Heaven. Following the teachings of Deuteronomy, we wonder what legacy we are leaving, and how we move forward together into God's future with creativity, grace and courage, and like the people on the road to Emmaus, we are going about our business, not even knowing that in doing so, we are seeking you.

Help us in these two days to remember that you are seeking us, God. You are leading us. You are sending us new dreams and imaginings. May we listen well, to you, and to each other. May we greet each new idea with gratitude as a gift to be welcomed and engaged. May we be fully present to one another, and bring our best selves, as we teach and learn, pray and praise, do the business of the Church and worship you throughout.

We pray all of this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Welcome: Annual Meeting Planning Committee Co-Chairs Rev. Jane MacIntyre and Rev. William Walsh welcomed the delegates and visitors to the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Maine Conference United Church of Christ. They recognized the members of the Planning Committee (All Conference Event Resource Team) and thanked them for their work of establishing the details of planning an Annual Meeting.

Adoption of the Agenda, Rules, and Procedures: The agenda and the rules and procedures, distributed through the Conference web site prior to the Annual Meeting, were adopted on a hand vote with no opposition or abstentions.

Appointment of Credentials Committee, Tellers, and Parliamentarian: Moderator Sally Colegrove announced the following appointments for the duration of the Annual Meeting:

Parliamentarian:	Rev. Diane Bennekamper		
Tellers:	Rev. Linda Gard	George Kimball	Rev. Evelyn Clowes
	Rev. Anne Roundy	rev. Susan Kaplan-Burgess	
Credentials Committee:	Beth Campbell	Rev. Anne Roundy	
	Andrea Kaplan	Sue Stevens	

Approval of 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the October 17 – 18, 2014 Annual Meeting were accepted as distributed in the Delegates' Packet. The motion passed with no opposition or abstentions.

Receipt of Printed Reports: The reports were received as distributed in the Delegates' Packet and on the Conference web site.

Greetings from the United Church of Canada: Rev. Deborah Blood read a letter from the Rev. Matthew Fillier, President of the Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada. President Fillier was not able to attend because of the pending birth of his first child.

Greetings from the Maine School of Ministry: Rev. Dr. Robert Ross, Dean of the Maine School of Ministry, greeted the delegates with a welcome and a description of the School's mission and programs. He identified three constituents of the School's programming: those wishing to enter the licensed ministry, those wishing to strengthen their own spiritual growth, and ordained clergy wishing to continue their education.

Greetings from Bangor Theological Seminary Center: Rev. Dr. Robert Grove-Markwood, Executive Director of Bangor Theological Seminary Center, included in his report to the Annual Meeting a description of the programming of the Center for experienced and new ministers and indicated that the Center is exploring the development of a regional consortium of seminaries.

Greetings from the Maine Council of Churches: Rev. Allen Ewing-Merrill, Co-Pastor and Vice Chair of the Maine Council of Churches, briefly described the composition (9 denominations) and work of the Council. He emphasized that the mission of the Council is to promote “justice, compassion and peace.”

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Marc Precourt presented his report. He reviewed the income and expenditures figures from the 2014 budget year. He reported that, while income from Our Church’s Wider Mission, Pilgrim Lodge, and Friends of the Maine Conference was below budget (\$29,000 - Our Church’s Wider Mission and \$73,000 - Pilgrim Lodge), income from Invested Funds and Fellowship Dues was above the budgeted amounts (\$6,000 and \$5,000, respectively). The 2014 Income was \$153,000 below the budgeted amount and expenditures were \$118,000 below the budgeted amount. The deficit of \$35,000 (2.6%) would be taken from Conference reserves.

The treasurer’s report was accepted with no opposition or abstentions.

Hymn Break: Rev. Anne Roundy led the delegates in two hymns from the Pilgrim Lodge Songbook.

New Dimensions Implementation Team Report: Rev. Dr. Steve Hastings (Chair, Mission Council), Rev. Susan Reisert (Vice Chair, Mission Council), Rev. William Walsh (Vice Moderator), and Rev. Franklin Anderson (Convener, New Dimensions Implementation Team), reported the following:

1. The Moving Forward Together Strategic Plan had been adopted at the 2014 Annual Meeting.
2. Organizational changes have taken place: the Coordinating Council has become the Mission Council; the Implementation Team was created to facilitate and monitor the implementation of the Strategic Plan; the All Conference Event Resource Team was created to plan and coordinate the Annual Meeting and other Conference events; and the three commissions (Spiritual Life, Community Life, and Witness Life) have been replaced by resource teams.
3. The Communications Resource Team is currently developing a plan for instituting a networking system which will include more than just technology.
4. Conference Deacons are an essential part of the network among and between churches, associations, and the Maine Conference.
5. Three Administrative Resource Teams (Personnel, Nominating, and All Conference Event) will require representatives from each association.
6. The Mission Council will meet with representatives of the associations in November to discuss the interface between the organizations.

Pilgrim Lodge Report: Rev. Bryan Breault, Director of Outdoor Ministries and Director of Pilgrim Lodge, presented a brief summary of the highlights of the 12 months since the last Annual Meeting:

1. The contract with the New Hampshire Conference terminated on December 31, 2014. He reported that the New Hampshire camping program at Horton Center has had its second successful, including being accredited by the American Camping Association.
2. Rev. Breault thanked all those who have worked so hard on the Capital Campaign which met its goal in 2014.
3. Friends of the Cobboosecontee Watershed have presented ecological information for all campers. Rev. Breault presented representatives of the Watershed with a check for \$5,084.
4. Rev. Breault also paid tribute to Bettie Kettel, a long-time friend of Pilgrim Lodge who died while attending the Women in the Wild Retreat earlier this year.

Pilgrim Lodge Building Committee Report: Rev. Evelyn Clowes, member of the Pilgrim Lodge Building Committee, described the planning work of the Building Committee. Construction will begin on Monday, October 19th. Rev. Anne Roundy, Chair of the Pilgrim Lodge Advisory team, thanked the

Building Committee for its diligent work in the planning and (soon) the construction of a new dining hall, amphitheater, and other projects funded by the Capital Campaign.

Report of the Associate Conference Minister: Rev. Darren L. Morgan illustrated his perceptions of the organizational and cultural changes anticipated in the Moving Forward Together Strategic Plan by presenting his impressions from his 2014 trip to the Holy Land. He commented on the sense of loss when a new way of doing things is introduced and how a closer inspection reveals exciting qualities. In closing, he invited Conference delegates to seek and find new ways to use their gifts and talents to further the work of the Maine Conference.

Speak Out Overview: Rev. Anne Roundy reviewed the procedures that would be used in conjunction with the Speak Out sessions at the Annual Meeting. Those wishing to present information at the Speak Out sessions would be given one minute and could sign up for one of the Speak Outs. Anne would invite the listed speakers to the microphone and monitor the time of their presentation.

Theological Reflection and Grace – Rev. Deborah Blood: Rev. Blood commented on the spirit of unity that pervaded the Annual Meeting. She noted that the “darkness” of the sanctuary was quickly overcome by the “brightness” of the content of the reports and presentations. She concluded with the recognition that, even when we walk in Darkness, God is still with us.

Moderator Rev. Sally Colegrove turned the meeting over to Vice Moderator Rev. William Walsh who introduced the afternoon workshops and sent the delegates to Lunch.

Plenary 1 ended at 11:35 a.m.

Lunch was served at in two locations in order to accommodate all those attending the Annual Meeting.

Workshop Session 1: The following workshops were scheduled from 1:15 to 3:00 p.m.:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Leader(s)</u>
On the Road Again: Lay Pastoral Care Visitors	Doug Dunlap
Earthly Blessings: Resources from the Celtic Tradition	Holly Morrison
U.S. Sneezes, Honduras Gets Pneumonia	May Schumacher, Bob Healy
“Don’t You See Me?” Opening to the Homeless and Marginalized	Mair Honan
Pilgrimage to The Holy Land: Spiritual Graces in Holy Places	Darren Morgan
Praying in Color	Alice Anderman
So Your Minister is Leaving: . . . Interim Ministry	Leslie Anne Chatfield
Reconnecting with the Feminine Divine	Linda Costelloe
To Be or Not To Be – ONA	Bill Walsh
Invitational Ministry: The Elevator Speech	David Anderman
Course Correction: Navigating Life-as-Ministry	Bob Grove-Markwood, Alyssa Lockwick
The Art of Effective Storytelling	Ruth Thibodeau
Recycling – More than you ever wanted to know!	George Kimball

Speak Out 1: Moderated by Rev. Anne Roundy

Plenary 2 – Friday, October 16, 2015, 3:30 – 5:15 p.m.

Special Maine School of Ministry Appropriation: Rev. Evelyn Clowes introduced a motion from the Mission Council requesting a special, one-year appropriation of \$10,000 from the Rockcraft Center sales proceeds to support an increase in the Maine School of Ministry Dean’s time from three-eighth to one-half. The motion was adopted on a hand vote, with 3 in opposition or 1 abstention.

2016 Budget Presentation, Discussion, and Vote: Jeff McDonnell, Chair of the Finance Committee, used graphs and charts to present the proposed 2016 budget that had been developed by the Committee and was recommended by the Mission Council. He indicated that the 2016 budget reflects the following income differences from the 2015 budget:

1. a \$909 decrease (.2%) in expected Our Church’s Wider Mission income
2. a \$5,100 increase (2%) in income from Fellowship Dues (\$.30 increase – to \$15.38 for 2016)
3. a \$2,017 (2%) increase in investment income
4. a \$536 increase in the Friends of the Conference gifts
5. a \$56,387 increase in Miscellaneous Income (\$87,000 from the Rockcraft Center sales proceeds to support the Communications Director position, if filled)
6. a \$525 increase in Special Council Fundraising
7. a \$110 increase in the Resource Center
8. a \$18,943 increase (2%) in Pilgrim Lodge
9. a \$1,500 decrease in Clergy Community of Practice
10. a \$600 increase in Small Church ministry Team
11. a \$1,000 increase in State Youth Council
12. a \$4,000 increase in Maine School of Ministry

The total income in 2016 budget will be \$1,508,505 (5% higher than 2015 budget).

He also indicated that the 2016 budget reflects the following expenditure differences from the 2015 budget:

1. a \$1,102 increase in Resource Center
2. a \$23,391 increase in Pilgrim Lodge
3. a \$850 decrease in Clergy Communities of Practice
4. a \$100 decrease in Honduras Partnership
5. a \$1,000 decrease in Small Church Ministry Team
6. a \$3,040 increase in State Youth Council
7. a \$750 increase in Pilgrim Lodge Advisory Team
8. a new \$2,500 in Anti-Racism Resource Team
9. a new \$1,950 in Faith formation resource Team
10. a \$11,960 increase in Maine School of Ministry
11. a new \$20,580 in Mission, Justice and Ministry Resource Team Initiatives
12. a \$49,919 increase in Mission Council (includes an across-the-board 2% salary raise for staff)

The total expenditures in 2016 budget will be \$1,508,505 (5% higher than 2015 budget).

The 2016 annual operating budget was adopted on a hand vote, with no opposition or abstentions.

Special Appreciation Presentation: Moderator Rev. Sally Colegrove and Conference Minister Rev. Deborah Blood presented Business Manager Mark Schussler with a token of appreciation for his dedication and service to the Maine Conference. Note was made of Mark’s tenure as “head of staff” from June through August, as well as in his position as Business Manager.

2016 Clergy Compensation Guidelines: Rev. Alexis Fuller-Wright presented the recommendations of the Clergy Compensation Committee and Mission Council, indicating the two changes included in the 2016 Guidelines.

1. Consistent with action taken at the 2015 Annual Meeting, to increase the recommended compensation for Associate Clergy from 80% to 85-90% of the base for Senior Clergy, with the view to increase that percentage to 100% in future years.
2. The length of Parental Leave should be at least 6 weeks at full salary and benefits with encouragement to allow up to 12 weeks.

An amendment was offered to extend the Sabbatical Leave provision to all authorized clergy. The amendment was adopted on a hand vote, with 7 in opposition or 8 abstentions.

The 2016 Clergy Compensation Guidelines were adopted on a hand vote, with 3 in opposition or 6 abstentions.

Anti-Racism Resource Team Presentation: Rev. Allison Smith, Team Leader of the Anti-Racism Resource Team, introduced members of the Resource Team and presented a PowerPoint of the Charlotte killings and a participatory litany for anti-racism.

Interim Associate Conference Minister Report: Rev. Ineke Mitchell told her service dog General's three stories about his experiences in Maine churches and communities.

Worship with Necrology: "Ordinary People/Unexpected Lessons" – A service of music and litany honoring clergy who have passed away in the year since the 2014 Annual Meeting:

Rev. William Booth
 Pastor Dixie Lee Piper
 Rev. Nancy Salisbury
 Rev. Robert Howes
 Rev. Birger Johnson

Rev. Douglas Robert Hare
 Rev. G. Dale True
 Rev. David Wigley
 Rev. Dr. Robert Veon

Plenary 2 ended at 5:05 p.m.

Friday, October 16, 2015, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. – Le Club Calumet:

Delegates to the Annual Meeting gathered at Le Club Calumet for dinner and the keynote address by Rev. Dr. Jim Antal. In addition to the fine meal, the following celebrations were included in the evening's agenda:

Recognition of New Ministers

Rev. Deborah Blood
 Rev. Jackie Thornton
 Rev. Debra Girard
 Rev. Alyssa Lodewick
 Rev. Becca Lockwood

Rev. Tamara Torres-McGovern
 Pastor Thad Lacasse
 Pastor Rhonda McNally
 Pastor Heather Sylvester

Clergy Anniversaries

5 Years

Rev. Kate Dalton
 Rev. Geoffrey Parker
 Rev. Susan Kaplan-Burgess
 Rev. Jane MacIntyre

10 years

Rev. Deborah Blood
 Rev. Patricia Keeler
 Rev. Patricia Rowe-Jones
 Rev. Dr. Susan Tierney

10 years (continued)

Rev. Daniel Johnson
Rev. Karen Janus
Rev. Darren Morgan

20 Years

Rev. Susan Reisert

15 years

Rev. Kathryn Booth
Rev. Dr. Kate Winters
Rev. Dr. Timothy LeConey
Rev. Jane Rich

25 Years

Rev. Janet Dorman
Rev. David Macy
Rev. Eleanor Mercer
Rev. Margaret Proctor
Rev. Jill Staples-Vogt

30 Years

Rev. Sandra Bauer
Rev. Richard L. Bennett
Rev. Bonnie Haase
Rev. Herbert Henry
Rev. Robert McCall

35 Years

Rev. Dr. Bruce Burnham
Rev. Marriotte Churchill
Rev. Nash Garabedian
Rev. Dr. Jeanette Good
Rev. Diane Wendorf
Rev. Mark Wendorf

40 Years

Rev. Dr. David Anderman
Rev. Franklin Anderson
Rev. Jeffrey Belcher
Rev. George Bland
Rev. Dr. David Bowling
Rev. Nancy Foran
Rev. Peter Foss
Rev. Dr. Rex Garrett
Rev. Marshall Hughes
Rev. David Pillsbury
Rev. Larry Zimmerman

45 Years

Rev. William Baran
Rev. William Dalke
Rev. Gary Delong
Rev. John Ellis
Rev. George Frobige
Rev. Daniel Johnson
Rev. Edgar Jones
Rev. Philip Rider

50 Years

Rev. Thomas Caton
Rev. William Huber
Rev. Lawrence Merkens

51 Years

Rev. Charles Erb
Rev. F. Gary Hubley
Rev. Michael Stevens

52 Years

Rev. Arthur T. Lutton, Jr.
Rev. Bradford Payne
Rev. Roger Plummer
Rev. E. Lamar Robinson

53 Years

Rev. Ronald Speckman
Rev. John Swanson
Rev. Dr. Richard Waddell
Rev. Jean Wallace-Fearon
Rev. Robert Witham

55 Years

Rev. David Hall
Rev. Gordon Miller
Rev. Merle Steva

57 Years

Rev. Dr. T. Lawrence Gilbert
Rev. Charles Hume
Rev. John MacDuffie
Rev. John Moyer
Rev. James O'Brien
Rev. Robert Simon

60 Years

Rev. Dr. Henry Wyman

62 Years

Rev. Robert Howes
Rev. Frederic Pease
Rev. Frederick Robie
Rev. Philip Shearman

70 Years

Rev. William Booth

54 Years

Rev. Clifton Davis
Rev. William England
Rev. John Heinl
Rev. Garvey MacLean
Rev. John Tolman

56 Years

Rev. Ted Hoskins
Rev. Charles Ilhoff
Rev. Clayton Reed

58 Years

Rev. Ronald Beinama
Rev. Carl Beyer
Rev. Ronald Kurtz

61 Years

Rev. Bradford Pusey
Rev. Paul Varga

67 Years

Rev. Harry Conroy

72 Years

Rev. Ronald Mosley

Recognition of 5 for 5 Churches

The following churches of the Maine Conference have collected all 5 of the annual appeals of the United Church of Christ (Basic Support, One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, Strengthening the Church, and The Christmas Fund):

Alfred Parish Church
High Street Congregational Church, Auburn
Hammond Street Congregational Church, Bangor
First Church in Belfast UCC
West Parish Congregational Church, Bethel
Deer Isle/Sunset Congregational Church
Dover-Foxcroft Congregational Church
First Congregational Church, Bridgton
Brownville Community Church
First Parish Church, Brunswick
Casco Village Church
Cumberland Center Congregational Church

First Congregational Church of Durham
 First Congregational Church, East Millinocket
 First Congregational Church, Eliot
 First Congregational Church of Ellsworth
 Falmouth Congregational Church
 First Congregational Church, Farmington
 Frankfort Congregational Church
 First Congregational Church, Fryeburg
 First Congregational Church, Gray
 Old South Congregational Church, Hallowell
 Union Congregational Church of Hancock
 United Parish Congregational Church of Harrison & North Bridgton
 First Congregational Church of Houlton
 First Congregational Church of Kittery Point
 Madison Congregational Church
 Mexico Congregational Church
 Second Congregational Church, Newcastle
 First Congregational Church, North Yarmouth
 Second Congregational Church of Norway
 Oxford Congregational Church
 Poland Community Church
 State Street Church, Portland
 Williston-Immanuel United Church, Portland
 Woodfords Congregational Church, Portland
 Windham Hill United Church of Christ
 Winslow Congregational Church
 Day's Ferry Congregational Church, Woolwich
 First Parish Congregational Church, Yarmouth
 First Parish Congregational Church, York

Keynote Address – Rev. Dr. Jim Antal: Keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Jim Antal, is the Conference Minister of the Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ. He was the primary author of that Conference's first-in-the-nation divestment of fossil fuel companies in 2012 and an influential proponent of the United Church of Christ divestment resolution in 2013. Rev. Antal's presentation centered on the nation's reliance on fossil fuels as the major cause of climate change and the church's responsibility to create a "moral commitment" to seek the reduction and eventual elimination of the world's dependence on fossil fuels. Rev. Antal referred frequently to Our Children's Trust and its lawsuits against the federal government as the type of organization and action that is needed to bring about dramatic attention to the issue of climate change. Citing the examples of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi, he also advocated for the use of civil disobedience and divestment as legitimate avenues of protest to raise the consciousness of the American public and to exert pressure on state and national lawmakers.

Saturday, October 17, 2015

Speak Out 2: Moderated by Rev. Anne Roundy

State of the Conference Address – Rev. Deborah Blood: Although Rev. Blood acknowledged that being the Conference Minister for only 6 weeks was a short time in which to assess the state of the Maine Conference, she began by indicating the many places she had already visited and the variety of

groups to which she had been asked to speak. The latter included clergy organizations, associations, and local churches. She also spoke of attending the national Council of Conference Ministers meeting in Cleveland.

Rev. Blood spoke determinedly about NOT being “from away,” because she was from “the church.” She saw herself as a part of the national and world-wide church as well as a member of the Winthrop Congregational Church and the Maine Conference.

Speaking more specifically about her impressions to-date of the Maine Conference, she listed the following as definite strengths:

1. A strong, knowledgeable and competent staff.
2. An administrative body, the Mission Council, which has exhibited tremendous leadership.
3. The reputation of Pilgrim Lodge and its leadership in the Christian camping and retreat fields.
4. An organizational commitment to the creation of Conference Deacons as the kingpin of the Moving Forward Together networking model.

Rev. Blood also indicated what she believes to be the greatest challenges of the next few years:

1. Increasing the number of Conference Deacons and supporting them through continuing education and the development of a group identity.
2. Recognizing and responding to the needs of ALL local church pastors (she pointed out that only 28 of the 160 church in the Conference have fulltime pastors).
3. Assisting local churches (and the Conference as a whole) as they (we) shift to a new way of doing church by training new leaders and reaching into our communities.

Conference Worship and Installation: The Service of Installation for Rev. Deborah Blood as Conference Minister of the Maine Conference United Church of Christ was conducted as part of the Saturday Morning Worship Service. Participants in the Installation were:

Rev. Diane Bennekamper – Declaration of Installation

Rev. Richard Bennett – Old Testament Reading

Rev. Christina Cataldo – Call to Worship

Rev. Sally Colegrove – Service of Installation Litany, Presentation of Gifts

Rev. Susie Craig – Prayer of a New Beginning

Ms. Carolyn Delgado – Charge to the Local Churches

Mr. Ben Haskell – New Testament Readings

Rev. Dr. Stephen Hastings – Service of Installation Litany

Ms. Mary Laiuppa - Charge to the Local Churches

Rev. Jane MacIntyre- Welcome

Rev. Holly MillerShank – Charge to the Maine Conference, United Church of Christ

Ms Laura Robinson – Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Kent Siladi – Sermon, Presentation of Conference Minister’s Medallion

Rev. Cathie Wallace – Call to Confession, Words of Assurance

Rev. Dr. Kate Winters – Prayer of Installation

20/30 Clergy – Charge to the Conference Minister

Rev. Rachel Johannen Bahr

Rev. Christina Cataldo

Rev. Vanessa Winters

Rev. Geoff Parker

Rev. Kelli Whitman

Conference Choir (directed by Mr. Virgil Bozeman) - Anthem

State Youth Council Singers (49 young people from Pilgrim Lodge) – The Lord’s Prayer (song)

Mr. Jay Zoller - Organist

At the conclusion of the Service of Installation, Moderator Rev. Sally Colegrove and Vice Moderator Rev. William Walsh presented Rev. Blood with gifts in recognition of her installation as Conference Minister. Gifts of a rose bowl filled with Maine sand, rocks, shells and beach glass were presented to Ms. Carolyn Delgado and Ms. Mary Laiuppa (representatives of the First Congregational Church, Bloomfield, Connecticut) and to Rev. Blood.

Lunch was served at in two locations in order to accommodate all those attending the Annual Meeting.

Plenary 3 – Saturday, October 17, 2015, 1:10 – 2:00 p.m

Vice Moderator Rev. William Walsh moderated Plenary 3.

Economic Justice Awards: No information had been received so no awards were presented.

Recognition of Open and Affirming Churches:

- Somesville Union Meeting House, Mt. Desert
- United Church of Christ Congregational Church, Bath
- First Parish Congregational Church, Saco
- Woodfords Congregational Church, Portland
- Alfred Parish Church
- First Congregational Church, Wilton
- First Congregational Church, South Portland



Churches celebrating
Over 15 years as
Open and Affirming

- Congregational Church in Cumberland, Cumberland Center
- First Parish Congregational Church, Gorham
- Union Congregational Church, Hancock
- Williston-Immanuel United Church, Portland
- Hammond Street Congregational Church, Bangor
- The Union Church of Northeast Harbor
- The Union Congregational Church of Seal Harbor
- First Congregational Church, Waterville



Churches celebrating
Over 10 years as
Open and Affirming

- Stevens Avenue Congregational Church, Portland
- State Street Congregational Church, Portland
- First Congregational Church, Blue Hill
- Old South, First Congregational Church, Farmington
- Windham Hill United Church of Christ, Windham
- Broad Bay Congregational United Church of Christ, Waldoboro
- Falmouth Congregational United Church of Christ
- Casco Village Church, United Church of Christ
- Old South Congregational Church, Hallowell
- Centre Street Congregational Church, Machias
- The First Church in Belfast
- First Congregational-Christian Church, United Church of Christ, New Gloucester
- Forside Community Church, Falmouth
- First Parish Congregational Church, Yarmouth
- South Congregational Church, Kennebunkport
- First Congregational Church of Kittery Point
- Second Congregational Church, Newcastle

Rangeley Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Rangeley
 Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ, Augusta
 First Congregational Church, Bridgton
 Madison Congregational Church
 Milbridge Congregational Church
 Deer Isle/Sunset Congregational Church, Deer Isle
 First Parish Church, Brunswick
 High Street Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Auburn
 West Parish Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Bethel
 Congregational Church of Boothbay Harbor United Church of Christ
 Union Congregational Church, Ellsworth Falls
 First Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Houlton
 Christ Church, Kennebunk
 Second Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Norway
 North Windham Union Church United Church of Christ
 First Congregational Church of Camden
 Williston-Immanuel United Church, Portland
 Frankfort Congregational Church
 Second Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Norway
 Bar Harbor Congregational Church
 Pride's Corner Congregational Church, Westbrook

Rev. William Walsh reported that 34% of the churches of the Maine Conference are Open and Affirming (compared to 23% nationally) and that 58% of the members of churches in the Maine Conference belong to Open and Affirming churches (compared to 28% nationally). There are 8 churches that are currently considering becoming Open and Affirming.

Other Recognitions and Presentations: The Honduras Partnership presented 2 pounds of Honduran coffee to Mike Wilson.

A Resolution to Address Climate Change through Investments in Renewable and Clean Energy Sources, Energy Conservation, and Energy Efficiency in Order to Reduce Dependence on Fossil Fuels:

Rev. Dr. Steve Hastings, Chair of the Mission Council and Team Leader of the Earthcare and Spirituality Resource Team reviewed the background and content of the Resolution and requested Annual Meeting support. The discussion that followed included:

1. The aesthetic and (possible) health concerns of wind power should be considered when making alternative energy investments.
2. The Conference should support and encourage the use of carpooling for Conference and association events, recycled paper products in the Conference office, and locally produced food for Conference events.
3. Churches should participate in and support weatherization surveys and projects and explore the use of wood pellet furnace for heating.

The Resolution was adopted on a hand vote, with 5 in opposition or 4 abstentions.

Plenary 3 ended at 2:00 p.m.

Workshop Session 2 – Our Passions in the Maine Conference: The following workshops were scheduled from 2:00 to 3:15 p.m.:

Title

Leader(s)

Resource Teams: Moving Forward Together – New and Unexpected Ways	Darren Morgan
Small Church Ministry Team	Resource Team
Clergy Communities of Practice	Resource Team
State Youth Council	Resource Team
Maine School of Ministry	Resource Team
Pilgrim Lodge Advisory Team	Resource Team
Anti-Racism	Resource Team
Faith Formation	Resource Team
Outdoor Ministries	Resource Team
Mission Implementation Team	Resource Team
Honduras Partnership	Resource Team
Communications Resource Team	Resource Team
Resourcing the Local Church	Resource Team

Plenary 4 – Saturday, October 17, 2015, 3:30 – 4:35 p.m.

Nominating Committee Report: Rev. Dr. Steve Hastings reported the following slate of officers for the Nominating Committee with the recommendation of the Mission Council:

Moderator – Rev. William (Bill) Walsh Vice Moderator - Rev. AbbyLynn Haskell

Both terms would be for 3 years, terminating in 2018. The slate of officers was adopted on a hand vote, with no opposition or abstentions.

Credentials Committee Report: Beth Campbell reported the following for the Credentials Committee:

Lay delegates	87
Clergy with standing	94
Clergy without standing	6
Coordinating Council/Commissions	7
Association Officers	10
Members in Discernment	4
Non-delegate youth	46
Visitors and exhibitors	<u>26</u>
Total attendance	277
Churches represented	81

The Credentials Committee was accepted on a hand vote, with no opposition or abstentions.

Moderator Rev. Sally Colegrove handed the gavel over to the newly elected Moderator, Rev. William Walsh. Rev. Colegrove was presented gifts in recognition of her years of service as Moderator of the Maine Conference.

Closing Worship with Communion – “Ordinary Table/ Unexpected Grace”: Leading the Closing Worship were the 20/30 clergy (Rev. Geoff Parker, Rev. Rachel Johannan Bahr, Rev. Christina Cataldo, Rev. Vanessa Winters, and Rev. Kelli Whitman). Providing the music were Scott Stevens & Doug Dickey of First Parish Church in York. As part of the Closing Worship, Rev. William Walsh and AbbyLynn Haskell were installed as the newly-elected Moderator and Vice Moderator. The Conference also dedicated the Conference Deacons. Six sets of clergy and Conference Deacons conducted the Communion Service.

The 2015 Conference Annual Meeting ended at 4:35 p.m.

**Addendum to the Minutes
2016 Annual Meeting**

Resourcing the Local Church Grants: The following grants have been awarded since the 2014 Annual Meeting:

1. West Brooksville – installation of heat pump	\$1000
2. Paul Stickney – organist – expenses toward UCCMA event in Chicago	\$500
3. Farmington, Old South – part-time communications manager	\$1500
4. Somesville/Alcyon Center – upgrade database and advertising	\$2500
5. Cumberland Center – polity course for C. Thomas	\$400
6. York Association – paid to churches involved in coaching by MEUCC	\$2478
7. First Brewer – refurbish church exterior	\$2150
8. Bangor – funds to pay for lunch of HS students at Maine UCC Conf.	\$900
9. Cherryfield – refurbish parish house for use by mission groups	\$5000
10. Old South Hallowell – handrails to pulpit	\$1000
11. Williston – camperships for youth travel	<u>\$2000</u>
	\$19,428