

Annual Report
Resourcing the Local Church Committee

Maine Conference – UCC

October 12, 2016

The Resourcing the Local Church (RLC) Committee approved 13 requests for funding from congregations and one individual for a total sum of **\$20,099** since the last Annual Meeting in 2015. These grants are detailed on the next page. It should be noted that these approvals are a very small fraction of the 25 total requests we received during the same period, seeking **\$92,755**. This has led to difficult and prayerful decision-making.

In December 2015, with the National Youth Event scheduled to take place in July 2016 in Orlando. With expectation that we would receive many requests for support and the knowledge that we would need to treat all requests fairly, the Committee reached out via the website and email and established a special deadline to consider all NYE funding requests. By the February deadline we had received applications from six congregations who wished to send a total of 29 youth to the event. We were able to provide \$150 per youth, for a total of **\$5,850**. These grants are part of the totals provided above.

Similarly, in 2014-15 and 2015-16, the Committee has received more than one request for help in supporting the Nickerson workshop. We have established a procedure to help ensure that we respond to these and any future and similar requests in a manner that is fair to all.

In the past, our Committee has been filled by appointment of the Coordinating Council. This year, the Council delegated that responsibility to the various Associations. This has not only increased overall membership in the committee (a good thing considering our increased workload), but it has meant that for the first time in a number of years, *all* of our Committee positions are currently filled. Thank you, Associations!

The financial reports we receive from the Conference determine the work we can do. Unfortunately, and despite various requests for more timely transmittal, we have been receiving these reports with minimal notice – most typically the morning of our scheduled meetings. This situation came to a head the morning of our September meeting, when the financial report showed that we had quarterly earnings of only **\$257** available to disperse. As a result, we cancelled the meeting; asked the six congregations that had applied for funding to wait until the December meeting, and are currently working to determine why the fluctuations are occurring in the RLC account and how we can gain sufficient notice of available funding in order to better manage the work of this ministry.

After six years of service on the Committee, the last three as Chair, I step down as of the Annual Meeting. During the past three years we have experienced tremendous growth in the number of applications received by the RLC – I expect this reflects both increased need and better knowledge of the RLC ministry – and the workload of the Committee has increased accordingly. I am fully confident in

every way in my successor, Cynthia Frye-Macomber, in our ex-officio Conference representative Darren Morgan, and in the dedication and hard work of all RLC Committee members. The disparity between requests and available funding has led to much prayerful discussion on the difference between *want* and *need* and just how the RLC's finite dollars can be stretched furthest. I am proud of this Committee; it has been a pleasure to serve on it.

Respectfully submitted:

Marty Peak Helman
Outgoing Chair, Resourcing the Local Church Committee
Member, Congregational Church of Boothbay Harbor

RLC Grants Awarded in 2015-16

Funding for National Youth Conference: \$150 per youth attendee; 39 youth total

South Portland: 11 youth
Saco: six youth
South Freeport: five youth
South Parish-Augusta: five youth
West Paris- Bethel: four youth
Cumberland: eight youth

Total NYE funding: 39 youth at \$5850 total expenditure

Other grants:

Ellsworth—community VBS: \$500
Bruce Burnham-- interim training: \$175
Winslow --mold abatement: \$3020
Center Street Machias--facelift: \$4500
Harrison—heat system: \$4500
Mexico – renovation/emergency repairs: \$1200
South Berwick – Nickerson workshop follow-up: \$354

Total: grants to seven congregations/individual: \$14,249

Total grants by RLC committee in 2015-16: \$20,099