

2016 ANNUAL MEETING
MAINE CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
October 21 – 22, 2016 – Bangor Inn and Suites & Husson University, Bangor, Maine

Friday, October 21, 2016

Pre-Annual Meeting Retreat: The Retreat was led by Rev. Chris Davies and held at the Hampden Congregational Church from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Rev. Davies is the Coordinator for Congregational Assessment, Support and Advancement (CASA) for the United Church of Christ. Thirty ministers and 7 laity participated in the Pre-Annual Meeting Retreat.

Banquet and Recognitions: The Friday Banquet and address by Rev. Davies was held at the Bangor Inn and Suites from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. After a formal welcome by Rev. William Walsh (Moderator), the following were recognized. (Lists of churches and individuals recognized are included in the Appendix to the minutes):

- Rev. William Walsh recognized two churches that had just recently voted to become open and affirming: Holden Congregational Church and North Parish Congregational Church in Sanford.
- Rev. William Walsh recognized the churches that had contributed to all five of the United Church of Christ special offerings.
- Rev. William Walsh and Rev. AbbyLynn Haskell (Vice Moderator) recognized the new pastors (either newly ordained/licensed or new to Maine churches).
- Rev. Steve Hastings (Mission Council Chair) and Rev. Susan Reisert (Mission Council Vice Chair) recognized Council members whose terms have expired: Rev. David Anderman, Rev. Evelyn Clowes, Ben Haskell, Cynthia Huggins, and Rev. Anne Roundy.
- Rev. Deb Blood (Conference Minister) and Rev. Darren Morgan (Associate Conference Minister) recognized ministers celebrating their 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 66th, and 68th anniversary of their ordination.

Rev. Chris Davies spoke about the state of the United Church of Christ churches across the nation and acknowledged that a frightening number of local churches have closed or will close in the next 5 to 10 years, that congregations are getting older and smaller, and that the reluctance to change is often the fear of the unknown. She described the process that many churches are going through as four of the five stages of grieving: denial, anger, blaming, and acceptance. She encouraged churches and church leaders to move to a “Second Reformation” where “the Internet has replaced the printing press.”

The evening ended with a worship service within which the names of ministers who had died during the past year were read and their service to the church honored. See Appendix for a complete list.

Saturday, October 22, 2016

Welcome: Rev. William Walsh (Moderator) and Rev. AbbyLynn Haskell (Vice Moderator) welcomed the delegates and visitors to the 2016 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.

Opening Jazz Worship: Music for the Worship Service was provided by the Second Sunday Jazz Trio from the Kittery Church. The Trio included Mike Effenberger on piano, Matt Langley on saxophone,

and Jim Rudolf on drums. Rev. Diane Wendorf, Rev. Deb Blood, and Rev. Chris Davies contributed by reading scripture or leading a responsive litany or unison prayer.

Call to Order and Declaration of a Quorum: Rev. William Walsh called the meeting to order and declared that a quorum, as defined in the Conference Bylaws, was present.

Plenary 1 - Saturday, October 22, 2016, 8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

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

The 85th Annual Meeting of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ (successor to the Congregational Christian Conference of Maine; it being the 105th Anniversary of the Congregational Conference and Missionary Society of Maine; the 191st Anniversary of the State Conference, the 209th Anniversary of the Maine Missionary Society, the 187th Anniversary of the Maine Congregational Ministerial Relief Society, and the 49th Anniversary of the Maine Conference as a Conference of the United Church of Christ), will be held at Gracie Theater, Husson College, Bangor, Maine and will convene at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, October 22, 2016. Items to be voted at this year’s meeting will be the:

- Use of Proceeds from the Sale of the Rockcraft Retreat Center
- Proposed 2017 Conference Budget
- 2017 Compensation Guidelines for Clergy
- Slate of Officers Elect

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

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

Consent Agenda Approval: The Consent Agenda included the following:

- The rules and procedures of the Annual Meeting.
- The minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting.
- The treasurer’s report.
- The 2017 Clergy Compensation Guidelines.

The Consent Agenda was adopted on a hand vote with no opposition or abstentions.

Appointment of Parliamentarian, Tellers, and Credentials Committee: Rev. William Walsh announced the following appointments for the duration of the Annual Meeting:

Parliamentarian:	Martha Phillips		
Tellers:	Herb Oliver	George Kimball	Jonathan Henry
Credentials Committee:	Beth Campbell	Rev. Susan Kaplan-Burgess	

Nominating Committee Report: Rev. Susan Reisert (Nominating Committee Chair) presented the following slate of officers for the Nominating Committee with the recommendation of the Mission Council:

- Mission Council Chair:** Rev. Susan Reisert, Hallowell (2018)
- Mission Council Vice Chair:** Rev. Geoff Parker, Brunswick (2018)
- Mission Council Clerk:** Mark Terison, New Gloucester (2019)
- Mission Council Treasurer:** Marc Precourt, North Berwick (2019)
- At Large Members:** Vanessa Winters, Thomaston Federated (2018-1)
- Lynette George, Holden/Dedham (2019-1)
- Allison Towne Di Matteo, First Parish, Saco (2019-1)

The slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee was approved on a hand vote with no opposition or abstentions.

Walter (Ted) Ruark, who is retiring as Conference Clerk after 9 years of service, was honored with a gift and recognition of his contributions to the Conference.

Recognition of Visitors:

Greetings from the United Church of Canada: Rev. Catherine Stuart (President) and Mr. David W. Hewitt (Executive Secretary) of the Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada represented their Conference at the Maine Conference Annual Meeting. Rev. Stuart brought greetings for the Maritime Conference and spoke about the common concerns expressed by the two conferences.

Greetings from the Maine Council of Churches: Rev. Alyssa Lodewick, the Maine Conference representative on the Maine Council of Churches Board of Directors, briefly described the composition (9 denominations) and work of the Council. She reviewed Council of Churches programs that illustrated the mission of the Council to promote “justice, peace, and civil discourse.”

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 review of the programs of the Center and described the transfer of the Bangor Theological Seminary archives to the Maine Historical Society in Portland.

Greetings from Evangelical and Reformed Church of Honduras: Pastor Samuel Bastillo, President of the Evangelical and Reformed Synod of Honduras, speaking through an interpreter, thanked the Maine Conference for its continuing support of the Synod’s ministry in Honduras. He reminded delegates of the common mission that the Conference and the Synod share, bringing the Gospel to the rural villages, building an educated clergy, and assisting local churches in developing social and economic programs. He was accompanied at the Annual Meeting by Pastor Maximiliano Guzman, a local church minister who serves on the Synod’s Junta (like our Mission Council).

Jazz Break: The Second Sunday Trio provided music for the break.

State of the Conference Address – Rev. Deborah Blood: Rev. Blood explained some of the program and staff changes reflected in the proposed 2017 budget. She also described the church vitality initiative that would be developed, the need to address the issue of sustainability of the Pilgrim Lodge program, and stressed the need for an attitude to address the grieving she has seen in the churches over the closing of Bangor Theological Seminary.

2017 Budget Presentation, Discussion, and Vote: Jeff McDonnell (Finance Committee Chair) presented and responded to questions concerning the proposed 2017 Conference budget. The proposed budget includes:

1. Reductions in and the reorganization of Conference staff;
2. The reallocation of the \$250,000 from the proceeds of the sale of the Rockcraft Retreat Center (approved at the 2014 Annual Meeting) to cover the projected 2016 Pilgrim Lodge deficit, hiring a consultant to assist in developing a sustainability plan for Pilgrim Lodge, and funding a Church Vitality Initiative;
3. Transfer the approximately \$400,000 in the Rockcraft Proceeds account to an investment account to procure earnings; and,
4. transfer \$45,000 from the Conference reserve fund to balance the 2017 budget.

A motion to transfer the approximately \$400,000 in the Rockcraft Proceeds account to an investment account was approved with 6 opposed and 3 abstentions.

A motion to adopt the proposed 2017 budget was approved with 7 opposed and 4 abstentions.

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.

Keynote Address – Rev. Chris Davies: Rev. Davies used “the 3 R’s” as the theme of her address: Reckoning, Rumbling, and Revolution. She described “Reckoning” as the process for studying the current conditions of the church (local, regional, national, and international) and gathering realistic information about how and why the church has lost its primacy in the larger community. She described “Rumbling” as the process of individually and collectively struggling to accept the fact that the church must change to meet the challenges of a new and different world. She described “Revolution” as the process for determining a course of action that meets the world with an understanding of how the Gospel message can be interpreted to a new generation.

Speak Out #1: Moderated by Rev. Anne Roundy

Plenary 1 ended at 12:15 p.m.

Vital Visions Session 1: The following workshops were scheduled from 1:40 to 2:40 p.m.:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Leader(s)</u>
Oh No! It's Jazz Sunday!	Rev. Brad Hirst
Earth Care & Communing with Earth	Earthcare and Spirituality Resource Team
Annual Datahub Updates	Beth Campbell
How to welcome 400 people and inspire 100 church members on a single day	
...Nuts and Bolts to planning a Communities Care Day...	Rev. Diane Wendorf
“A PRAYERFUL CHOIR COMMUNITY”	Dr. Peter Stickney
“Good Morning” Monroe Community Church, UCC	Bernys Doak, Alison Rector, Other Members
“When the Cat’s Away” or “Supply Aside” or the more descriptive, but boring, “Lay Leadership of Worship”	Rev. Susan Reisert, Cynthia McGuire, Bonnie Nielson, Walter (Ted) Ruark from Old South Church, Hallowell
Beyond Bricks and Mortar	Rev. Dr. Robert Grove-Markwood

Vital Visions Session#2: The following workshops were scheduled from 2:40 to 3:40 p.m.:

LUNCH

<u>Title</u>	<u>Leader(s)</u>
“MUSIC FOR THE SMALL CHURCH CHOIR”	Dr. Peter Stickney
Vibrant Worship, Sustaining Fellowship, Bold Service: Reports from The Small Church Story Project of 10 of Maine Conference’s Smaller Congregations	Rev. Doug Dunlap Rev. Susie Craig
“From Now On” An Inquiry Into Church as Christ-Event	Bill Bliss, Joanna Krejsa, Holly Reid
Your Maine School of Ministry	Rev. Nicholas Davis
Greater Bangor Area Street Pastors	Renee Garrett, Becca Timms
Attracting and Retaining Enthusiastic Church Volunteers: Are you challenged in filling your call or task-based ministries/committees with enthusiastic volunteers?	Mandy Schumaker

The Little Church that Could

Larry Zimmerman, Marty Resotko

Speak Out 2: Moderated by Rev. Anne Roundy

Plenary 2 – Saturday, October 22, 2016, 4:15 – 4:45 p.m.

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

Lay delegates	90
Clergy with standing	87
Clergy without standing	4
Mission Council.	6
Association Officers	11
Members in Discernment	4
Non-delegate youth	46
Visitors and exhibitors	24
Total attendance	227
Churches represented	59

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

Speak Out #2: Moderated by Rev. Anne Roundy

Conference Recap: Moving Forward: Rev. Deb Blood summarized the atmosphere and actions of the 2016 Annual Meeting, assisted by Rev. Chris Davies and Mr. David W. Hewitt of the Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada.

Closing Worship with Communion: Rev. Diane Wendorf and Rev. Brad Hurst led the closing worship, and were joined by Rev. Deb Blood, Rev. Steve Hastings, and Rev. William Walsh to serve communion to the delegates.

The 2016 Conference Annual Meeting ended at 4:35 p.m.

**ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES
2016 Annual Meeting**

Recognition of New Ministers

Rev. Judith Ann Ahles
Rev. Debra Ann Girard

Rev. Allison Oldenburgh Curry
Rev. Alyssa Lodewick

Clergy Anniversaries

5 Years

Rev. Joseph Francis Cistone
Rev. Timothy Hall
Rev. Susan Kaplan-Burgess
Rev. Alice Louise Lester
Rev. Annette Mott
Rev. Shelly Lynn Snow
Rev. William Michael Walsh
Rev. Kelli Beth Whitman

10 years

Rev. Linda Hatch
Rev. Elizabeth Hope Hoffman

15 years

Rev. AbbyLynn Haskell
Rev. Virginia Marie Snapp-Cunningham

20 Years

Rev. John Dunn
Rev. Roland L. Hutchins
Rev. Allison Cecelia Smith

25 Years

Rev. Iris K. Burnell
Rev. Barbara Dudley-Thompson
Rev. Susan Gilpin
Rev. Ann T. Purdy
Rev. Martha B. Shaw

30 Years

Rev. Evelyn Joyce Clowes
Rev. Dale W. Holden
Rev. Debora Marie Jenks
Rev. Cynthia N. Lepley
Rev. Dana C. Reed
Rev. Victor Stanley

35 Years

Rev. Kent Emerson Allen
Rev. Linda Kay Gard
Rev. Diane Louise Harvey

40 Years

Rev. Alice Z. Anderman
Rev. Jean Peterson Bass
Rev. Russel Mayne Ingalls
Rev. Robert Frederick Morse

45 Years

Rev. James Lewis Haddix
Rev. John Brierly McCall
Rev. Peter Winston Mercer
Rev. Joanne Elizabeth Painter
Rev. John Philip Potter

50 Years

Rev. Rebecca S. Erb
Rev. Harry William Gregory

51 Years

Rev. Thomas Leslie Caton
Rev. Lawrence E. Merckens

52 Years

Rev. Charles E. Erb
Rev. Floyd Gary Hubley
Rev. Michael Stevens

53 Years

Rev. Arthur T. Lutton, Jr

54 Years

Rev. Karl Soren Anderson

Rev. Bradford Payne
Rev. Roger Plummer
Rev. E. Lamar Robinson

Rev. Philip Frick McKean
Rev. David Walter Smith
Rev. Ronald Speckman
Rev. John Swanson
Rev. Dr. Richard Waddell
Rev. Wallace-Fearon
Rev. Robert Witham

55 Years

Rev. Clifton Davis
Rev. William England
Rev. John Heintz
Rev. Garvey Maclean
Rev. John Tolman
Rev. Raymond Woodrow Williams

56 Years

Rev. David Hall
Rev. Merle Steva

57 Years

Rev. Charles Ilhoff
Rev. John Harrison Petter III

58 Years

Rev. Dr. T. Lawrence Gilbert, Jr.
Rev. Charles North Hume
Rev. John Norman MacDuffie
Rev. John Robert Moyer
Rev. James Henry O'Brien
Rev. Harold Leroy Shepard
Rev. Robert Evans Simon

59 Years

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

60 Years

Rev. John Rutledge Crowe

61 Years

Rev. Dr. Henry Wyman

62 Years

Rev. Bradford Pusey

63 Years

Rev. Frederic Arnold Pease
Rev. Frederick Robie, Jr.
Rev. Philip A. Shearman

66 Years

Rev. Paul Bush
Rev. Herbert Macy Whitehead

68 Years

Rev. Harry Conroy

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) in 2015:

High Street Congregational Church, Auburn
Hammond Street Congregational Church, Bangor
West Parish Congregational Church, Bethel
First Congregational Church, Brooks
Brownville Community Church
First Parish Church, Brunswick

Elm Street Congregational Church, Ellsworth
Casco Village Church
Cornish United Church of Christ
Cumberland Center Congregational Church
Deer Isle/Sunset Congregational Church
Dover-Foxcroft 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, Gray
Old South Congregational Church, Hallowell
Hampden Congregational Church
United Parish Congregational Church of Harrison/North Bridgton
First Congregational Church, Houlton
First Congregational Church, Kittery Point
Madison Congregational Church
Mexico Congregational Church
Second Congregational Church, Newcastle
First Congregational Church, North Yarmouth
Congregational Church, North Saco
Second Congregational Church, Norway
Poland Community Church
State Street Church, Portland
Williston-Immanuel United Church, Portland
Presque Isle Congregational Church
Rangeley Congregational Church
Raymond Village Community Church
First Parish Congregational Church, Saco
Somesville Union Meeting House, Mount Desert Island
Standish Congregational Church
Broadbay Congregational Church, Waldoboro
Windham Hill United Church of Christ
First Congregational Church, Wiscasset
First Parish Congregational Church, Yarmouth
First Parish Congregational Church, York

Resourcing the Local Church Grants: The following grants have been awarded since the 2015 Annual Meeting:

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

South Portland: 11 youth

Saco: 6 youth

South Freeport: 5 youth

South Parish - Augusta: 5 youth

West Paris - Bethel: 4 youth

Cumberland: 8 youth

Total National Youth Event funding: \$5,850

Other grants:

Ellsworth—community VBS: \$500

Bruce Burnham-- interim training: \$175

Winslow --mold abatement: \$3,020

Center Street Machias--facelift: \$4,500

Harrison—heat system: \$4,500

Mexico – renovation/emergency repairs: \$1 200

South Berwick – Nickerson workshop follow-up: \$354

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

Total grants by Resourcing the Local Church Committee in 2016: \$20,099