

**2018-2019
Annual Reports**



“An Historic Congregational Church”
**The Congregational Church
of the
United Church of Christ
Bradford, Vermont**

**208th Annual Meeting
May 16, 2019
7:00 p.m.**

FAITH and COVENANT of the Bradford Congregational Church, UCC

FAITH:

This Church acknowledges as its sole head, Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Savior of man. It acknowledges as brothers and sisters in Christ all who share in this confession. It looks to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the protestant reformers. It affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, it recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and The Lord's Supper or Holy Communion.

STATEMENT of FAITH:

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to His deeds we testify.

He calls the worlds into being, creates man in His own image and sets before him the ways of life and death. He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges man and nations by His righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, He has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to Himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the Church of Jesus Christ, bidding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into His Church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be His servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at His table, to join Him in His passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust Him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, His presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in His Kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto Him. Amen.

COVENANT:

We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the Word and the will of God. We intend to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshipping God and striving for truth, justice and peace. As did our fathers and mothers, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.



In Memoriam

Deni Clogston

Shirley Conrad

Susan Donnelly

Lurlene Hurlbert

Dean Osgood

Russell Smith



Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ, Bradford, VT

“The Church of the Lighted Window” “An Historic Congregational Church”

“Wherever you are on your Spiritual Journey, You are Welcome Here!”

May 1, 2019

Dear Members and Friends:

The 208th Annual Meeting of the Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ, Bradford, Vermont, will convene on Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Vestry.

The annual reports of the various officers, boards, committees and organizations for the past year are included in this booklet. We hope you will take the time to read these reports and bring the booklet to the meeting with any questions, suggestions or concerns you may have.

AGENDA

OPENING- Recite Covenant Together: Daniel Perry II, Assistant Moderator

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2018 ANNUAL MEETING: Barbara Joslyn, Clerk

HEAR AND ACT ON THE REPORTS OF:

1. Treasurer – page 6 and special handouts at Annual Meeting
2. Trust Fund Committee – page 15
3. All Other Reports

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Shall we renovate the Steinway piano given by Ms. Katrina Munn, and means to provide the necessary monies?
2. Nominating Committee Report for 2019-2020 – page 21
3. Proposed Budget - 2019-2020 – page 16-20
4. Other business.

ADJOURN

CLOSING PRAYER

Sincerely,

Daniel Perry II, Assistant Moderator

Barbara Joslyn, Clerk

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

May 17, 2018

Moderator Daniel Perry called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. There were 25 members present. We recited the covenant together and Interim Minister, Rev. Jeff Long-Middleton (Pastor Jeff) led us in prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE May 18, 2017 ANNUAL MEETING:

Gloria Fox made a motion to accept the minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting. It was seconded by Beth Button and approved by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017.

Randy Moore made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 24, 2017 Special Meeting of the Church Council. It was seconded by Gloria Fox and approved by unanimous vote.

HEAR AND ACT OF THE REPORTS OF:

1. TREASURER

Randy Odell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Sue Eastman.

Discussion:

- Per Gloria Fox – correction to the Profit and Loss statement (page 21) Net Income. Net Income should be \$-5833.13. This is a loss, not a profit.

There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a vote and was unanimous in favor of the motion. The treasurer's report will stand as approved until audited.

2. TRUST FUNDS COMMITTEE

Martina Stever made a motion to accept the Trust Fund Report. The motion was seconded by Penny Perryman and was approved by unanimous vote.

3. ALL OTHER REPORTS:

A motion was made by Martina Stever and seconded by Penny Perryman to accept all reports of the officers, boards, councils & delegate, and committees.

Discussion/Corrections:

- **Board of Mission and Social Action Report**
 - Question of clarification of '5-for 5 church'. Ginny Moore explained this means our church has the opportunity five times a year to donate to UCC sponsored charities – we give to Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, Hurricane Fund, and CWS Blanket Fund.
 - Basic Support (\$4,000) should be reflected in Our Christian Wider Mission (OCWM).
- **Trustees** –
 - Asked if there were any questions regarding the transfer of deed of the Old Church Theater, there were none.

There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a vote and was unanimous in favor of the motion with the above clarifications/questions.

OLD BUSINESS:

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. SHALL WE TRANSFER THE DEED OF THE OLD CHURCH THEATER TO THE OLD CHURCH THEATER BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE SUM OF \$1.00. SEE NOTES REGARDING THIS UNDER THE TRUSTEES REPORT.

A motion was made and seconded to transfer the deed of The Old Church Theater to The Old Church Theater Board of Directors for the sum of \$1.00. The motion was unanimously accepted with the following approved amendment to the motion:

“Add a right of way for theater use of the driveway to the main road. Have the land reverted back to the Bradford UCC if building is ever moved.”

2. SHALL WE AMEND THE 6-YEAR TERM LIMITS TO NO TERM LIMITS TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Board of Christian Education, Flower Committee, Music Committee, Nominating Committee, Publicity, Usher

Discussion:

- A motion was made/seconded (Barbara Joslyn/Gloria Fox) to add Inter Church Council to this list for No Term Limits. So moved.
- A motion was made/seconded (Ginny Moore/Sue Eastman) to add Grafton Orange Sullivan Association Delegates to this list of No Term Limits. So moved.

Motion made and seconded to approve Article 2 with additions of Inter Church Council and Grafton Orange Sullivan Association Delegates to the slate of No Term Limits. So moved.

3. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2018-2019

A motion was made by Beth Button to accept the slate of officers, committee and board members with the following additions/deletions. The motion was seconded by Storme Odell.

Added to the slate of nominations for the 2018-2019 year:

- Ginny Moore, Board of Missions and Social Action
- Storme Odell, Interchurch Council

Deleted from the slate of nominations for the 2018-2019 year:

- Randy Odell, Music Committee

This means that there is no one on the Music Committee! Problems include the piano needing attention. It was noted that Janice Blake continues to take care of the organ needs. It was suggested that the nominating committee work on finding people to serve on the music committee and report back to the Church Council.

There being no further discussion, the motion was brought to a vote with the above additions/deletions and was unanimous in favor of the motion.

4. PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2018-2019

A motion was made by Sue Eastman and seconded by Beth Button to accept the 2018-2019 Proposed Budget of \$89,725. It passed unanimously with the following comments from Finance Director, Rob Taylor.

Rob Taylor made the following observations about the budget before the vote:

- We will be using \$15,000 of Katrina Munn funds.
- Propane and fuel oil will be higher than in previous budgets.
- Insurance is going up.
- Pledges for this fiscal year are at \$37,000, which makes the proposed amount of \$37,500 a realistic amount.
- In using Microsoft Excel, he noted that there is some ‘line slippage’ showing some confusion in some areas of the report. He will send a corrected copy of the budget to the clerk for the church records.

5. OTHER BUSINESS:

- None

ADJOURNMENT:

The annual meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Pastor Jeff led us in prayer to close out the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Joslyn, Clerk

REPORT of the PASTOR

I have always found the history of the Jewish people helpful in understanding my own. I mention this because I believe it can be helpful for a pastor and a congregation to remember that Israel wandered in a wilderness for forty-years. We, too, are traveling through a time when the future is not clearly defined. The search committee continues to do the hard work of searching for a settled pastor but, try as they might, they cannot manufacture candidates, if they have not applied and they cannot compromise the needs of the congregation simply because someone appears interested in serving. So we, like Israel long ago, must travel on.

Having said all of that, I continue to be thankful for the hard work of the Rev. Tom Kidder who helped this congregation move to a fuller manifestation of God's intention for the Body of Christ. He helped lead the church through the Healthy Community process and a new way of relating to each other moved from being a vision to a practice. Recalling Israel's experience, remember that it was Egyptian slavery and the oppression the people had experienced at the hands of their overseers that made them open to the leadership of Moses and gave them the courage to journey into unknown territory. So too, our institutional history of some dysfunctional behavior may have made folks open to the hard work of introspection and the change required to move into a new phase of our history.

I believe that day will come when our congregation is blessed with a settled pastor but, in the meantime, it is in God's hands. This is not empty prattle meant to avoid the facts of how long this process has taken. Being in God's hands means we have not been abandoned, that God's plan, though not always visible, is still unfolding even in the wilderness of our wandering and waiting. So let us both, pastor and congregation, remain patient as God's plan unfolds. Our task is not to manipulate it or hurry it along, but with eyes open, our ears alert, our senses heightened, we are to refocus our vision on what God is doing in this moment of time.

If that is our task, let me share what I see God doing in our midst. I see a deep sense of caring on the part of this congregation for those who are passing through times of personal struggle, pain and loss. It is in those moments that the face of Jesus is most clearly seen and it is in your continued care that we see Christ in our midst. I also appreciate your willingness to look at the hard issues of our day. There are moral questions being raised in the world that need an authentic Christian response. There are those in our church who continue to call us to respond to the needs of the less fortunate and who provide us the means to take action. For that, I continue to be thankful.

By way of reporting, I have performed four funerals and two weddings. I am eager to make pastoral visits to anyone in our church or wider community. Please let me know if there are any who might like or benefit from such a visit. I have been attending the Interim Ministers' Gathering at the Conference office each month and I attended a portion of the Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ.

I continue to be appreciative of the ministry of this church and pray that you feel the same. Let us seek to serve God by meeting the spiritual and material needs of those within our congregation and wider world. May God bless us as we travel together towards God's new vision.

Faithfully,
Pastor Jeff
Jeffrey Long-Middleton, Bridge Interim Pastor

PRAYER CHAIN

As spring approaches and the planting season is near, it's important to plant THYME.

“Thyme for God

Thyme for study

Thyme for prayer

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.”

Everyone is invited and welcome to join this important ministry of prayer for others. To become a link in the Prayer Chain, all that is needed is a commitment to pray. An email list or phone call is sent every week to all participating. We believe in the power of prayer. Prayer creates a bond of blessing and care with God, those whom we name and us.

When you have someone or something that you would like to have lifted up in prayer, contact Pastor Jeff by phone: 1-978-278-6399, or by email: pastorjeffuccbradford@gmail.com or Martina Stever by phone: 802-222-4655, or by email: martinastever@yahoo.com.

“When you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.” Jeremiah 29:32

Respectfully submitted,

Martina Stever, Prayer Chain Coordinator



OFFICERS

MODERATOR

Our Prayers for a positive recovery go out to Barbara Joslyn. We are very grateful for the excellent and strong attention to the duties of Clerk, Publicity, and secretary for Church Council. Anything you asked, she effectively carried them out. She will be greatly missed! Hopefully, she will be able to enjoy the future and the time with David.

The Vermont Conference Associate minister Rev. Pam Lucas, whom we all have greatly appreciated, has retired and Rev. Paul Sangree is our representative. The Search Committee and Diaconate members have met and found him helpful.

Since Harvey and Karen left, the attendance at worship has continually dropped. It has not changed with Rev. Kinder or Rev. Jeff. The Search Committee is experiencing the same because the Vermont Conference does not have a pool of applicants for either Part Time or Full Time. (Some have wondered if sharing with another Church is feasible. This causes problems with distance, time and which building to use.) What is our future, if we are unable to secure a Settled Pastor?

The Church Council also experiences the lack of bodies to reach the quorum eight to hold a legal meeting. The same problem faces the Nominating Committee with many positions open. The Trustees, Ushers, Flowers, Auditors and Nominating Committee are the only positions filled. There are twenty- one vacancies out of sixty-seven positions. The Music- no members (Church Council is operating for now), the Clerk, Assistant Clerk, 4-Diaconate, 2-Trust Funds, 2-Christian Ed., 2- Interchurch, 3- Board Mission, and all three Publicity are unfilled at this time.

The Diaconate, Christian Education, and the Social Action-Mission Board continue with their excellent work without full membership. It has been suggested that the By-laws revision is needed. We have already voted on the term limits which the Nominating Committee is aware of and one other minor wording for the Diaconate review. I have not called for a study at this time. We should wait for a Settled Pastor to inject.

You will find an Article for the Annual Meeting asking about the reconditioning of the Steinway piano, please see the full report. An assessment was completed by Chrystal Fielding and found much work needs to be done. She tuned it and has made it much better but suggested at least to follow her ideas. Bruce Stevens has submitted an estimate. Randy Odell contacted Chad Lindeblad of Lindeblad Piano Restorations and discovered this is a GERMAN Steinway which makes it much more valuable than an American.

We continue to Budget a Deficit expecting the contributions to continue to come in and individual pledges to increase. We may have to increase our withdrawal from Trust Funds to stay alive.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Perry II, Assistant Moderator

CLERK

The following events have occurred in the life of The Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ during the past fiscal year:

- 50 Active Members – 60 Inactive Members – 5 Associate Members
- 6 – Deaths: Deni Clogston, Shirley Conrad, Susan Donnelly, Lurlene Hurlbert, Dean Osgood, Russell Smith.

Having served the past 9 years as your clerk, I have resigned as of the end of this fiscal year. I would like to that all who helped with the end of year clerk duties that I could not finish because of unexpected surgery. Thank you all for your support.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Joslyn, Clerk

FINANCE CHAIR

I want to express my appreciation to the members of this committee. This year was the best attended meeting in several years and that level of participation is important. Money is always a difficult subject to discuss in relationships because it is about our personal choices. The communication at this meeting was open and at times differing views were expressed; however, the dialogue was open and respectful. The budget enclosed is based on our current hire of an interim Minister. Please note that the Ministerial budget expenses would be \$ 12,200 greater with a settled minister at 2/3 time.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert B. Taylor, Finance Committee Chair

HISTORIAN

No report.

TREASURER

Game Supper Report-2018 Will be available at Annual Meeting

Profit & Loss-2018-2019..... Will be available at Annual Meeting

Proposed Budget – 2019-2020 ... Pages 16-20

Account Balances April 30, 2019

Operating Account	\$ 2,573.46
Memorial Fund	3,189.40
Mission Fund/SERRV	1,464.67
Katrina Munn Trust	54,482.72
L. Hutchinson Fund	1,197.00
Game Supper Savings	38,086.01
Game Supper Checking	282.01
Capital Fund	6,258.00

Special Funds Pass through to Conference

Christmas Funds	\$ 307.00
Strengthen the Church	126.00
Neighbors in Need	252.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	384.15

Other Collections

Hurricane Funds	\$590.00
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BOARDS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Board of Christian Education has had another good year. In the fall, Pastor Jeff hosted Part 2 of the Bible Study series he began the previous year. He reported good attendance and engagement.

During Advent, Christian Education and the Diaconate distributed copies of a book called “The Christmas You’ve Always Longed For” to the congregation. The book is designed to lead all ages through daily devotionals and activities to remind us of the true, deep meaning of the Advent season.

The Diaconate hosted a Lenten event after church one Sunday in March. A light lunch was served and the attendees had the opportunity to explore more deeply some themes of Lent. The event was very moving for all who attended.

The Sunday School’s focus is always on the children and how we can keep them happy and involved in their church. Our numbers have dropped a bit, but it is a great group of kids, with several attending very consistently.

We work to present the lessons in different ways so that all ages can learn and relate. This is done through skits, readings, games and other hands-on activities. We will continue to present curriculum throughout the summer months to keep the children active and engaged.

Highlights from the year:

- *In December, we performed our annual Christmas pageant. The kids must be growing because our costumes seem to be shrinking! We will be looking to update before the next pageant.*
- *The Children's Sunday Service will return in May or June with a celebration of our children and teachers.*
- *The children have enjoyed helping with coffee hour and we look forward to finding other ways in which they can contribute to our wonderful church.*
- *We welcomed Kim Frydman as a board member and teacher this year.*

As always, we welcome new members and/or teachers to help us provide the best instruction for all ages. If you have any interest in working with our children, please contact one of the Christian Education members. The Board of Christian Education is represented by Angela Colbeth, Angela Conrad-Schlager, Valerie DiLorenzo, Kim Frydman and Bridget Peters.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela B. Colbeth

DIACONATE

The Diaconate agreed with Pastor Jeff to bring back the “Passing of the Peace of Christ” every Sunday. Now, when his Children's Story ends, he has them go out into the congregation to share the peace. The Board also discussed use of the sanctuary and agreed its use needs to first be mentioned to the minister, especially for weddings or funerals. Then the minister will consult with the Trustees.

Once again, our congregation was welcomed to West Newbury Congregational in August for a service of gospel music by the Frebergs. The Diaconate approved paying half the cost of this wonderful service.

Deacon Emerita Martina Stever has continued to be an invaluable help in securing guest ministers when Pastor Jeff is absent. This is an important part of the Diaconate's service to the congregation and we are so grateful to Tina for this.

We again organized a Welcome Back Sunday in early September, and this year included a “blessing of backpacks” during the Children's time. Each of us (students and educators) brought in our backpacks and placed them on the altar platform. After the service everyone gathered in the vestry for the much anticipated annual Sundae Sunday spread, served up by Kathy and Bob Munson and Ginny Moore. A most sweet treat!

On Labor Day weekend, Conference minister Rev. Pam Lucas filled our pulpit before she retired. It was an opportunity for us all to express our appreciation for all she has done for us over the years and for to learn just how much she has come to admire our hard work the past several years. This year Pam retired and the Conference has welcomed the Rev. Paul Sangree. In the coming months the Diaconate will host Paul in our pulpit and perhaps a Bradford Congregational potluck luncheon!

This Advent the Diaconate gave to every member family a copy of the book “Advent Calendar: The Christmas You’ve Always Longed For (How to Recapture the Wonder of the Season)”. It gave a devotional for each day of Advent, with an alternative page for families with children. The devotional calendars can be used every year and it was rewarding to know this gift was very appreciated by many.

Pastor Jeff and the Diaconate discussed the use of a Video screen/TV in the worship service. Several members have expressed positive remarks about it, that it enables them to read the scripture he references, for instance. The set was not used during Advent but was brought back in after the holidays. The reaction remains mostly favorable for having this audio visual in the sanctuary. Much more research will be needed regarding a more permanent, expensive and larger projection system. Another question facing the Diaconate is whether or not such a system should be installed before the arrival of a new minister. This discussion will continue over the coming year.

Something very unusual happened in January. Church had to be cancelled at the last minute when it became apparent the expected blizzard was going to make it hazardous going for both Rev. David Pruitt and organist John Atwood. The Diaconate made the call and alerted the entire congregation by email and phone, on the website and on the church's Facebook page.

The long-time minister at the West Newbury Congregational Church, Rev. Cindy Batten, retired the end of April after 14 years in the pulpit. Diaconate Chairman Marcia Tomlinson attended the farewell service and luncheon as a representative of the Bradford Congregational Church. Rev. BumShik Min of Grace UMC will also be leaving this summer and Marcia will attend his final service as a representative of our church.

As we have for countless years, the Diaconate assembled the Sunshine Bags to be distributed on the Sunday before Valentine's Day. These colorful and treat-laden bags contain homemade breads and cookies, candies, fruit, crackers, and Valentine's cards made by the Sunday School. It takes the Diaconate a couple of fun and joyful hours to assemble them all and get them upstairs onto the altar platform for dedication the next morning. This Diaconate effort is made possible by the generosity of Bob and Kathy Munson's time and spirit.

The Diaconate would like to give a special recognition of thanks to the Trustees and others, including young Aidan Morse, who recently replaced the lights in the sanctuary candelabra. The additional light will make such a difference next winter.

In March Pastor Jeff led a Lenten meditation/discussion at a potluck after church. Ten of us listened to each other's deeply personal recollections of times in our lives as represented by the item we chose from a Lenten Bag.

In mid-April our church once again hosted the annual Choir Festival, when all pews were laden with singers and hymn lovers. The service, under the direct supervision of the church's musicians, is a very popular and well attended worship-through-music service in the Bradford area.

We again hosted the Maundy Thursday Tenebrae (shadows) service for our congregation and that of Grace United Methodist Church. Readings were shared by the two church's members. Our churches also collaborated on the Good Friday and Easter Sunrise services. It was wonderful to be back at the Button's overlook at dawn.

Throughout the church year the Diaconate administers the “Diaconate Fund” for folks who find themselves in need of help meeting the cost of heating oil, electricity, shelter, food, and medicine. Our church's Care Coordinator is Deacon Carole Taylor and she is always available to hear a request for aid. Each Communion Sunday we place envelopes for the Diaconate Fund in the pews; our congregation's generosity makes this mission possible. We provide this emergency aid for folks within a ten-mile radius of Bradford.

Our church year is filled with so many special worship experiences, from that preparation time of Advent, to the beauty of the Christmas Eve candlelight, to the penitential time of Lent, to the *glorioso* of the Palm Sunday Choir Festival, to the hushed serenity of the Tenebrae on Maundy Thursday and the gravity of Good Friday, to the joyous welcome of Easter.

As your Diaconate we are dedicated to providing the worship and spiritual growth opportunities that will help our congregation “shine like a lighted window into the world around us.” We look forward with eagerness and energy to the year ahead and remind you all: **“Whoever you are, wherever you are in your faith journey, you are welcome here.”**

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Tomlinson, for the Deacons

MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our wonderful church family and the Bradford community for all the participation and support of our Mission and Social Action activities.

Wild Game Supper - Each year the Wild Game Supper Committee earmarks 10% of their proceeds for charity. Our board decides where we would like to donate these funds. On a Sunday morning in January we invited Catherine Kidder to tell us about her trip to India and her amazing work with Help Kids India. We presented her with a check for \$700.00 for HKI and loose donations added another \$85.00. In the spring of 2019 \$400.00 was donated to Willing Hands. Willing Hands' mission is to recover food in order to reduce waste, improve health, and provide reliable access to nutritious food for our neighbors in need.

Reverse Advent Boxes - In late November Beth Button taught our Sunday School children about a mission effort right here in Bradford. The children decorated boxes and distributed them to church families and asked them to put a food or household item into it each day during Advent. On Christmas Sunday and Christmas Eve eleven boxes filled to the brim were on display to show our compassion and care for our neighbors. The Bradford Food Shelf was so pleased with all the generous donations.

SERVV - SERVV empowers small scale artisans and farmers to earn a fair living from their work, breaking the cycle of poverty and building stronger communities worldwide. We purchase items at a fair trade cost and sell them at several local events to support the great work this organization has been doing since 1949. In October we sold items at the Women's Fellowship Bazaar, in November we were at the Wild Game Supper and in December we attended the Giving Fair. In all we sold about \$2,000.00 worth of beautiful, hand crafted items thus making a difference in many families.

Book Group Brunch - Our book group is expanding! During the last year many people enjoyed reading and discussing books with challenging social topics. In September we read Refugee by Alan Gratz which traced the journey of three refugees in three different time periods. Their harrowing experiences left deep impressions on our readers. In March we discussed Small, Great Things by local author Jodi Picoult. This book offered us a chance to talk about prejudice, race and justice. Both books gave us much to share and discuss balanced with a delicious after church brunch. Please consider joining us next time!

Church World Service Kits - The Women's Fellowship got us off to a great start with a \$300.00 donation toward this annual event. Once again, we set up in the vestry to encourage folks to put together hygiene and school kits to aid in people's recovery after a natural disaster. These kits are shipped all over our country and around the world. A special thanks to our Sunday School children who eagerly help assemble kits with all the essential items. This year we donated 35 hygiene and 35 school kits!

Donations - We are a Five-For Five Church with the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ. This means that we offer an opportunity five times a year to donate to UCC sponsored charities. During the last year we donated funds as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Strengthen the Church \$126.00 | • Neighbors in Need \$252.00 |
| • Christmas Fund \$307.00 | • One Great Hour of Sharing \$384.15 |

In addition, the Diaconate encouraged us all to donate to the Hurricane Fund after another devastating year. They matched up to \$250.00 for a total donation of \$590.00.

Yours in Christ,

Lucia Button, Ginny Moore, Patrick Peters, Holly Young

TRUSTEES

What, another year has already gone by? Well then, here's a recap:

1. After a successful completion of the repair and painting of the exterior of our church last year, this year we turned our attention to the inside. The rear entry hallway to the vestry, the bathrooms and the main vestibule at the front entrance of the church have now all been repainted.
2. We will be installing better lighting in the main vestibule at the front entrance of the church. Our Women's Fellowship has generously donated the money to purchase and install this lighting. Thank You!

3. We are continuing the process of transferring the ownership of the Old Church Theater building to the Old Church Theater group. Progress has been very slow, but we hope to have this transaction completed by the end of 2019.
4. The old collapsing wooden bulkhead for the exterior basement entry of the parsonage has been removed and a new bulkhead constructed of pressure treated lumber has been installed in its place.
5. We are in the process of exploring the repair/restoration of the grand piano in our sanctuary and the related costs to do so. Stay tuned!
6. We are in the process of replacing all incandescent bulbs in the church with new energy efficient LED light bulbs.
7. And, as always, we attended to the usual maintenance and use of our church and parsonage, as well as addressing other routine issues that came before our board during the course of the year.

I think that's about it for the highlights of our 2018/2019 year from the Board of Trustees point of view.
Til' next time,

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Odell, Board of Trustees Secretary



COUNCILS & DELEGATES

BOY SCOUT TROOP #778

No report.

GRAFTON-ORANGE ASSOCIATION DELEGATE

No report.

INTER CHURCH COUNCIL

We do a lot to alleviate hunger in our community. The food shelf continues to thrive and provide food on a regular basis to families. We also had provided Thanksgiving meals to many in our community. Rob Elder delivers fresh fruit to the Bradford Public Library every Saturday. Our church has provided the food shelf with regular contributions as well as our special Reverse Advent Calendar Boxes at Christmas time.

Inter Church sponsored the movie RUBY BRIDGES during Black History Month. Little River Healthcare sent speakers to us so we could stay informed of the programs going on in our area. They shared information about medications for those with low income, counselors to help people quit smoking, pre-diabetes classes and chronic pain management. We also learned about Little Rivers' programs to help with opiate addiction.

The Lenten worship schedule is set for this year as well as Baccalaureate.

Respectfully submitted,
Holly Young and Storme Odell

VERMONT CONFERENCE - 2018

No report.



COMMITTEES

FLOWER

The Flower Committee is continuing to do the memorial flowers for Christmas and Easter. During the advent season we put wreaths on the front doors of the church and decorate in front of the windows in the sanctuary. We also put wreaths on the two doors at the parsonage. This year Christmas and Easter was a little different as the flowers go, anyone could bring in their choice of a memorial plant for the Alter floor. The Christmas flowers certainly made the sanctuary look very festive and the Easter flowers made it look like spring had arrived. The bushes around the church and the apple trees are trimmed as always at the end of the summer. If, at any time, someone wants to put their own flowers on the Alter Sunday morning feel free to do so. Just let one of the Committee members know ahead of time.

Respectively submitted,

Charlotte Welch, Janice Larabee, and Carol Stickney

MUSIC - A SPECIAL REPORT (by one of the Trustees)

We have all heard in the news about the 1%ers. But, did you know, that we have our very own 1%er that has been in our church sanctuary every Sunday for the last 27 years? That's right, never missed a Sunday! Give up? It's our beautiful grand piano, sitting gracefully right up there in the front!

Due to the generosity of our beloved former music director, Katrina Munn, who bequeathed her Steinway grand piano to our church, we are in possession of a very special instrument. Special for at least three reasons:

- First, of course, it was Katrina's pride and joy;
- Second, which is where the 1%er comes in, it is estimated that approximately 99% of all Steinway pianos in the United States were and are made in the Steinway factory in New York. However, our Steinway was made in the Steinway factory in Hamburg, Germany! Only about 1% of the Steinway grand pianos located in the US were made in Hamburg. How it got from there to little ol' Bradford, VT, we may never know; and
- Third, the German-made Steinways are considered by many world renown musicians and composers, including the likes of Rachmaninoff himself, as being superior in sound, character and feel to the US-made Steinways. As they say in the piano community: the US factory makes Steinways for the US; the Hamburg, Germany factory makes Steinways for the rest of the world!

Our Steinway is a 1925 model "O" and it is in much need of restoration. The model "O" was originally made by Steinway only from 1900 to 1925, some in New York, some in Hamburg. The model was then discontinued for 80 years, until it was reintroduced in 2005. It is specifically known for its clarity of voice, especially for its relatively small size.

At our November Trustees' meeting, Pastor Jeff asked me, as a former chair of the Music Committee and a current Trustee, if I would be willing to locate a Steinway expert to evaluate our piano and provide us with the information we would need, should we choose to proceed with the restoration of our piano. It has been a very interesting, enlightening and educational project! The information I have gathered is much too lengthy and detailed to present here in this report. **Please** attend our Annual Meeting on May 16th, at which time we will discuss our options and determine if and how we will proceed from here. See you at the meeting!

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Odell, Trustee

NOMINATING

It has been our privilege to serve as your Nominating Committee this year. Thank you to all who have volunteered to fill a position when we contacted you.

This year's report from the Nominating Committee has been prepared with some positions still unfilled (all underlined positions are currently vacant). Nominations from the floor are always welcome.

Respectfully,

Virginia Crowe, Janice Larabee, Vida Perry-Munson, Bridget Peters, Carole Taylor, Charlotte Welch

PASTORAL SEARCH

This year has been pretty uneventful as far as seeking a settled pastor. We have had only one interested candidate and after reading the profile and listening to sermons on tape, we decided not to pursue him any further. We take our job very seriously and want to make sure we pick the right person to guide us in the years ahead.

We did have a meeting with, Rev. Paul Sangree, the new UCC Associate Conference Minister and he shared some ideas with us that we are pondering.

Like you, we are very disappointed that the right person has not come our way, but remain faithful that God has a plan for our Church. We ask that you keep us in your prayers and hang in there as we patiently wait for God's plan to be revealed.

Respectfully,

Susan Eastman, Recording Secretary

PUBLICITY

With help from 'unofficial members' Bridget Peters and Marcia Tomlinson, the church's website and Facebook page has been taken care of very professionally. The church's website, www.bradforducc.org, is a great resource to keep up-to-date with what is going on in the Church. It includes a calendar of events, the Epistle newsletter and sermons, history, programs (library, Christian Education, music, mission), children and youth news, community events, and contacts for all your church and pastoral needs. Church and community family, near and far, have sent many thanks as the website keeps them in touch. We maintain a Facebook Page for ongoing events, posting photos, videos, slideshows and comments in real time, often as an event is underway, urging folks to "come on down!" Its wide array of friends now linking to it include former members from across the country, community folk, and our sister churches.

Using e-mail, bradfordvtucc@gmail.org continues to be the most successful way of reaching a large percentage of our church family quickly and efficiently. We continue to use USPS for those who don't have email accounts or access to a printer, about forty-five (45). The all-church email list and the Excel spreadsheet containing church member addresses is kept up-to-date by this committee.

The Epistle has been sent through the mail and via our church e-mail list each month in a timely manner

We have utilized the UCC Vermont Conference calendar, the Bradford Town Calendar, Listserv, newspaper calendars and letters to the editor, radio stations, and television calendars to announce events in our church.

We try to keep the bulletin boards up-to-date and welcoming; any committee or board is welcome to use them as well. The two outdoor changeable letter signs continue to come in very handy for special events and meetings – all are welcome to use these.

We used Copies and More in Wells River, VT to do the printing and assembling of the report. Church Council decided this year that the Annual Report will be sent out via e-mail and there will be about 30 copies available in the back of the sanctuary. You can also find it on the Church's website.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Joslyn, Marcia Decoff-Perry

TRUST FUNDS

Trust Fund Committee meets throughout the year to go over the portfolio with Ken Kinder. He goes over the portfolio and recommends what he feels is best for our church. The Committee again this year voted to allocate the monthly amount be \$2500.00 in order to maintain our portfolio where it should be. Last year, after we recommended this same amount, the church withdrew an amount of \$3000.00. This did not help the portfolio so the committee has voted to be more aggressive in our portfolio in order to recover from this larger withdrawal amount. So again our recommendation to the Trustees for monthly withdrawal is \$2500.00 in order to maintain the portfolio where it should be.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracey Smith, Secretary

USHER

If anyone else would like to usher on a Sunday just let one of us know. The elevator is being used regularly without an usher. If there was someone who couldn't run the elevator without an usher, we are available to do so.

Respectively submitted,
Susan Eastman, Janice Larabee, Charlotte Welch

WILD GAME SUPPER

The 2018 63rd Wild Game Supper sold a total of 681 tickets (children and Adults) staying in the range of the past several years. The participation and fellowship the night of the supper is unbelievable. There is not a worker or guest who ever go away hungry. We also send many leftovers to the local food shelf, therefore, feeding even more in the community. It is a job well done and we should all be proud that our church has been doing this for 60 plus years.

There are not many, if any, community events like the Bradford UCC Wild Game Supper. An event that we (Tracey and Dan) have participated in for at least 46 of the 63 years. The Supper has thrived with church and community support, along with the many hands that take on pre-food prep details (i.e., rolls, gravy, rabbit, pheasant, vegetables, etc.) and make things happen. Unfortunately, there are fewer and fewer every year to pull these details together. When we took over the Supper as Co-Chairs, we also took on more details as people had stepped aside. We have tried, but have not been able to fill those important pieces that help make the Supper a success. We are not able to keep on taking more details every year. It is with regret that we will be making the 2020 Supper our last as Co-Chairs. After many years of service, Paul and Amy Perry have agreed to stay on with us through the 2020 Supper, however, they will then also be stepping down. Dave McLam, without whom the Supper just could not continue, is willing to stay on beyond 2020 in his current capacity, dependent upon who steps forward.

So we are again putting out the call. If there are volunteers willing to take over the Wild Game Supper (as co-chairs and detail heads), please step forward and we will be more than willing to train over this year and next. Our suggestion is, if no one comes forward by Sept 1st of this year, we start making plans for the 2020 supper to be the last which will be the 65th Annual Wild Game Supper.

This was not an easy decision for us as we get so much joy doing the supper. Also, we are looking for someone to assist us this year and next to help with advertising/publicity about the Supper to increase ticket sales. Please pass the word for us. We want to thank the church community for allowing us to be a part of this very special event.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan and Tracey Smith, Co-Chairs

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP and YARD SALE

This year we brought back the Bakeless Bake Sale to support the many kitchen needs we have. We netted about \$925.00 and used the money to purchase some dish towels, had the stove top cleaned, and are in the process of finding someone to clean the stove fan. We also have noticed that there are a lot of forks missing from the kitchen drawer. If anyone knows anything about that, please let Janice know. Otherwise unless someone has some they would like to contribute, we will have to buy some.

We also updated the Family Directory this year. If you did not get one you can find them on the back table in the sanctuary or you can e-mail or call Sue Eastman at (esneastman@fastmail.fm) or (802-333-4815) and request one.

The Bazaar was yet again a great success. It was held on October 20th and brought in about \$1,497.00. As in the past the leftovers were sold at the Game Supper and that brought in about \$663.00. Thanks to everyone who stepped up by working on it, making items and/or food and donating their attic treasures to share with the Bradford Community. Any items that we didn't sell will now be available at our church yard sale. Mark your calendars as this year's Bazaar will be held on October 19, 2019.

The Steering Committee met on February 12, 2019 to discuss how we could help the Church and/or the Community with the \$6,901.78 that we currently have in our checking account. We decided to continue our support of Atkinson Residence, continue to contribute to the Missions Fund, and continue to give a Christmas gift to our interim pastor. Some new ideas were to check to see if anything needs to be done at the Parsonage, replace the light in the vestibule, and think about contributing to the Margaret Pratt Residence.

YARD SALE

The yard sale was held on August 25th & 26th and the vestry was filled with many a treasure, At the end of this 2 day event about \$1,283.00 was contributed to the church general fund. It will be held on August 23rd and 24th this year.

So please, when doing your spring/summer cleaning keep us in mind and hang on to your boxes of goodies for these events. We're also looking for volunteers to help set up and break down for these events, so if you have some spare time and are interested in helping, please let us know. Thanks again!!!

Respectively submitted,
Susan Eastman Steering Committee member

AUDITORS

The below listed church auditors met on June 5, 2018 to inspect the records of the church treasurer for the financial year ending April 30, 2018.

As a result of our review, we feel that the financial information provided to us is accurate and correct to the best of our knowledge.

Respectfully,
Storme A. Odell, Anthony Brainerd, Penny Perryman

BRADFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC TRUST FUND ACCOUNTS
TREASURER'S REPORT, MARCH 31, 2018 - MARCH 31, 2019

Investment Portfolio Balance as of 3/31/18: \$492,623.42 (Stifel, Nicolaus & Co.)

Investment Portfolio Balance as of 3/31/19: \$471,374.78 (Stifel, Nicolaus & Co.)

COMMUNITY BANK ACCOUNTS

(formerly Merchants)

Checking balance 3/31/18	\$1,059.42
Received from investments	\$35,500.00
Paid to Church Treasurer	(\$35,500.00)
Safe deposit box	(\$25.00)
Hutchinson music fund (2017 & 2018)	(\$700.00)
Deposit from closing CD	\$2,405.06
Transfer to Stifel Investment account	(\$2,000.00)
Settlement from Pfizer Class Action suit	\$29.09
Checking balance 3/31/19	\$768.57

Trust Fund CD balance 3/31/18	\$2,404.25
Interest Received	\$0.81
Closed CD: transferred to checking account	\$2,405.06
Trust Fund CD balance 3/31/19	\$0.00

GRAND TOTAL OF ALL TRUST FUNDS AS OF 3/31/19: \$472,143.35 (\$496,087.09, 3/31/18)

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Perry, Trust Funds Committee Treasurer

Our Trust Funds are made up from bequests and gifts over the years from which income only may be used for the benefit of the church. They are as follows:

1864 Betsey Ayer, \$500	1947 Emma V. Eastman, \$100
1883 Johnson A. Hardy, \$1000	1949 Ann M. Prichard, \$3000
1883 Lucy L. Brewster, \$100	1950 Addie K.B. Carpenter, \$2000
1897 Deacon John H. Sawyer, \$500	1954 Edith P. & Carleton Johnson, \$500
1898 Philena McKeen, \$200	1963 Florence Farnham Osgood, \$5500
1902 Israel C. Willard, \$400	1964 Warren H. Prichard, \$1600
1905 Amanda N. Sawyer, \$3000	1964 Mary G. Chamberlain, \$10,000
1905 Daniel K. Pearson, \$5000	1965 E & I Fund, \$500
1911 Charlotte E. Strickland, \$200	1967 Lorna Hutchinson, \$4050
1912 Edward C. Sawyer, \$5000	1968 Elizabeth E. Hale, \$19,700
1914 Martha E. Stearns, \$1000	1969 Nina St. John, \$23,900
1918 Mary Ann Corliss, \$500	1978 Bernard Crafts, \$5000
1925 Elizabeth P. Baldwin, \$2000	1983-1996 Madeline E. Haskins & Grace P. Renfrew Trust, \$26,000
1925 Deacon William E. Norcross, \$500	1984 Ethel McClellan Memorial, \$1466
1926 Alma G. Hale, \$200	2012 James J. & Eva R. Hutchinson Music Fund, \$25,000
1928 Elizabeth Smith, \$500	2012 John & Lettie Hay Fund, \$5000
1938 Alice E. Bacon, \$1500	2015 Frances P. Hyde, \$20,000
1942 Edward E. Baldwin, \$1000	
1945 William LaFleur, \$30	

2019-2020 PROPOSED BUDGET

	Actual 2015-2016	Actual 2016-2017	Actual 2017-2018	Proposed 2019-2020
INCOME				
Game Supper: 10 % to Missions	0.00	1142.00		1000.00
WF to Missions				300.00
Missions Savings				1000.00
Christian Ed: Winter Warmer	0.00	125.00		
Fundraisers:			38.00	
Yard Sale	899.85	1171.73	1242.69	1000.00
OTHER: Bakeless Bake Sale, others	721.91	985.00		0.00
Total Fundraisers	2691.52	2605.68		1000.00
Katrina Munn:				
Total Katrina Munn Trust	0.00	0.00		2500.00
Hutchinson Music Trust: Special music		250.00		250.00
Memorial Funds: Christian Ed				560.00
Loose Collections & Regular Contributions	11276.70	13101.90	10010.75	5000.00
Pledges	30471.00	37797.00	41765.00	41000.00
Donation: Other	260.00		4505.92	
Rental Income	2400.00	3200.00	2400.00	0.00
Trust Funds	36000.00	36000.00	30000.00	30000.00
Vestry Use	384.00	790.00	779.00	500.00
Sanctuary	175.00	175.00	200.00	175.00
TOTAL INCOME	83701.22	95728.46	90941.36	83285.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH				
Bibles, Certificates & Children's Sunday		263.95		210.00
Supplies and Food	220.46	179.34		100.00
Equipment & Other		0.00		200.00
Sunday School Curriculum	152.36	148.88		
Adult Education	150.06	0.00		50.00
TOTAL BOARD OF CHRISTIAN ED	522.88	592.17	410.62	560.00
Board of Missions & Social Action				
10 % Game Super Fund Disbursement		1142.00		1000.00
Basic Support OCWM	3000.00	4000.00		3500.00
Grafton-Orange Assoc. Per Capita Dues	1380.00	654.74		738.00
Mission Contributions (W.F.)	700.00	350.00		300.00
Servv				700.00
Total Board of Missions & Social Action	5080.00	6146.74	6516.36	6238.00

	Actual 2015-2016	Actual 2016-2017	Actual 2017-2018	Proposed 2019-2020
Church Maintenance				
Custodian Wages	2467.50	1312.50	1182.50	1500.00
Fica 6.2 %	153.00	81.38	70.22	93.00
Medicare 1.45 %	35.78	19.03	16.43	21.75
Custodial & Kitchen Supplies	653.34	57.36	283.36	300.00
Total Custodian	3328.60	1728.16	1552.51	1914.75
General Repairs				
Elevator	150.00	150.00		200.00
Fire Ext. Inspection/replacement	78.00	40.00	124.50	70.00
Furnace Inspection		0.00		70.00
Furnace Repairs	70.00	0.00		500.00
General repairs-roof, other	303.97	411.35	1929.39	1500.00
Misc: Lighting			2196.98	
Repair: Materials & Supplies		212.51		0.00
Total General Repairs	601.97	813.86	4250.87	2340.00
Tree & Brush Maintenance		220.00	220.00	250.00
Mowing		500.00	465.00	360.00
Snowplowing		0.00		0.00
Rubbish Removal	645.50	716.00	1125.00	1000.00
Utilities				
Electric	1899.07	1798.43	2217.18	2200.00
Fuel Oil	6199.77	5188.02	8921.94	10000.00
Propane	1541.36	1314.64	1045.75	1200.00
Telephone & internet	679.92	990.97	1033.77	1200.00
Internet				
Water and Other Utilities	1125.12	757.68	769.08	800.00
Total Church Utilities	11445.24	10049.74	13987.72	15400.00
Total Church Maintenance	16021.31	13307.76	21601.10	21264.75
Insurance				
Property & Umbrella	7183.00	9281.00	9870.75	8850.00
Workmans Comp	582.00	512.00	485.25	550.00
Total Insurance	7765.00	9793.00	10356.00	9400.00
Total Church Maint. Utilities & Ins.	23786.31	23100.76	31957.10	30664.75

	Actual 2015-2016	Actual 2016-2017	Actual 2017-2018	Proposed 2019-2020
Ministerial Compensation				
Minister's Annuity	2940.00	3920.00	327.00	4038.00
Minister's Cont. Education and Minister's Conference/Retreat	43.00	0.00	412.00	400.00
Minister's Health Insurance	7029.00	7813.00	741.61	8200.00
Life and Disability Insurance	312.50	420.00		425.00
Interim Minister			461.30	
Interim Minister-mileage	877.45	210.00	3361.66	1500.00
Minister's Car Allowance				0.00
Vision	100.00	100.00		95.00
Dental	489.00	489.00		490.00
Professional Periodicals	121.65	0.00	138.31	350.00
Office Supplies			634.24	0.00
Pulpit Supply	1050.00	750.00	1800.00	1000.00
Misc./ Office Expense	295.25		114.55	300.00
Salary: Minister	19266.59	20300.00	21003.16	20604.00
FICA 6.2 %	936.23	1568.00	1641.48	1277.00
FICA & Medicare on HSG Allow (40 % of Salary)	488.56	493.00		630.00
Medicare 1.45%	102.96	406.00	383.91	299.00
New Hire: CBC		0.00		180.00
Sabbatical Reserve				0.00
Search Committee		51.00		500.00
Total Ministerial Compensation	34397.19	36520.00	31194.22	40289.00
Music Expenses				
Choir Director		-2100.00		
Organist/Director	10200.00	10700.00	12700.00	16900.00
FICA 6.2 %			709.90	1047.80
Medicare 1.45 %			166.03	245.05
Organist/Pianist (Guest)	100.00	220.00	475.00	600.00
Copyright License/renewal	116.00	124.00	124.00	125.00
Katrina Munn Memorial Concert	935.80	0.00		
Mileage Reimbursement	50.40	45.92	45.92	
Care of Organ *	475.00	790.00	640.00	0.00
Piano Tuning	190.00	290.00	155.00	250.00
Purchase of Music /special music	130.00	150.00	835.00	250.00
Hymnals			940.00	0.00
Total Music Expense	12197.20	10219.92	16790.85	19417.85

* The exp. for the care of organ & music for the choir will be covered by the bequests

	Actual 2015-2016	Actual 2016-2017	Actual 2017-2018	Proposed 2019-2020
Parsonage Expense				
Parsonage Repairs & Maint.	393.82	955.00	250.00	750.00
Snow plowing	125.00	400.00	400.00	400.00
Mowing			695.00	700.00
Parsonage Roof & Other Repairs				
Utilities:				
Phone/internet	831.01	908.21	1023.57	1100.00
Electric	580.70	528.40	522.36	800.00
Fuel Oil	2778.00	1867.07	2392.02	3000.00
Propane	348.20	336.52	408.03	500.00
Water and Other	763.38	729.18	712.08	800.00
Maintenance				
Total Parsonage Expenses	5820.11	5724.38	6403.06	8050.00
General/Adm/Other Expenses				
Advertising	311.60	374.40	394.80	500.00
Bookkeeper/Payroll Expense		3550.00		
Web page	302.40	145.94	119.95	200.00
Software & Software support		523.86	200.00	175.00
Annual Report	78.40	146.90	146.30	100.00
Bank Service Charges				
Box Rent	88.00	84.00	88.00	90.00
Bulletins & inserts(paper&toner)	1332.25	1407.00	495.99	150.00
Bulletins Exp for Prior Year		158.98		0.00
General/Adm/Other Expenses Cont.				
Delegate Expenses		0.00		200.00
Diaconate Expenses	101.73	150.67	628.25	450.00
Epistle	440.00	480.00	360.00	500.00
Beautification;prior Flower Committee		623.25	427.25	0.00
Miscellaneous		66.15	103.76	
Paper: Checks & Bulletins	256.53	0.00	17.12	150.00
Christian Enlistment Pledge Envelopes	181.54	0.00		0.00
Postage	703.41	812.29	495.88	600.00
Historian + Archives (safe deposit box)	45.00	45.00	25.00	45.00
Pulpit Supply, Candles		47.00		125.00
Total General/Adm/Other Expenses	3840.86	8615.44	3502.30	3310.00

Budget Summary Sheet

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Proposed
	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2019-2020
Total Income	83701.22	95728.46	90941.36	83285.00
Budget Expenses				
Total Christian Education & Youth	522.88	592.17	410.62	560.00
Total Board of Missions & Social Action	5080.00	6146.74	6516.36	6238.00
Total Church Maintenance	23786.31	23100.76	31957.10	30664.75
Total Ministerial Compensation	34397.19	36519.60	31194.22	40289.07
Total Music Expense	12197.20	10219.92	16790.85	19417.85
Total Parsonage Expenses	5820.11	5724.38	6403.06	8050.00
Total General/Adm/Other Expenses	3840.86	8615.44	3502.30	3310.00
Total Budget Expenses	\$85,644.55	\$90,919.01	\$96,774.51	\$108,529.67
 Budgeted Income Less Expenses	 -\$1,693.33	 \$4,809.00	 -\$5,833.00	 -\$25,245.00

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2019-2020

Starred (*) are to be voted on at Annual Meeting

*Moderator: Dan Perry II

*Assistant Moderator: Martina Stever

*Clerk: _____

*Assistant Clerk: _____

*Treasurer: Gloria Fox

*Assistant Treasurer: Charlotte Welch

*Historian: Marcia Tomlinson

*Finance Chair: Robert Taylor

Clerk Emerita – Eris Eastman

DIACONATE (Members only; 6-year limit)

Emerita Martina Stever ~ Emeritus Larry Coffin

2019 *Daniel Perry II

2019 * _____

2019 * _____

2020 * _____

2020 Bridget Peters (1-2020; 2-2023)

2020 Carol Taylor (1-2020; 2-2023)

2021 _____ (1-2021; 2-2024)

2021 Marcia Tomlinson (1-2018; 2-2021)

2021 Virginia Moore (1-2018; 2-2021)

TRUSTEES (2/3 Members; 6-year limit)

2019 Randy Moore (1-2019; 2-2022)

2019 *James Perry

2020 Charlotte Welch (1-2020; 2-2023)

2020 Gloria Fox (1-2020; 2-2023)

2021 Randy Odell (1-2018; 2-2021)

2021 Janice Larabee (1-2018; 2-2021)

TRUST FUNDS (2/3 Members; 6-year limit)

2019 *Joseph Button

2019 * _____

2020 Robert Munson (1-2017; 2-2020)

2020 * _____

2021 Erin Odell (1-2018; 2-2021)

2021 Martina Stever (1-2018; 2-2021)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (2/3 Members; no term limits)

2019 Bridget Peters

2019 Angela Colbeth

2020 Angela Schlager

2020 Valerie DiLorenzo

2021 Kim Frydman

2021 * _____

INTERCHURCH COUNCIL (Membership n/a; no term limits)

2019 * _____

2020 Holly Young

2021 * _____

GRAFTON ORANGE SULLIVAN ASSOCIATION DELEGATES (Members only; no term limits)

2021 Marcia Tomlinson

2021 Virginia Crowe

MUSIC (Membership n/a; no term limits)

2019 * _____

2020 * _____

2021 * _____

AUDITORS (2/3 Members; 6-yr. limit)

2019 *Susan Eastman

2020 Penny Perryman (1-2017; 2-2020)

2021 Tony Brainerd (1-2018; 2-2021)

BOARD OF MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION

(2/3 Members; 6-yr. limit)

2019 * _____

2019 * _____

2020 Beth Button (1-2020, 2-2023)

2020 Holly Young (1-2017; 2-2020)

FLOWER COMMITTEE

(Membership n/a; no term limits)

2019 Janice Larabee

2018 Carol Stickney

2020 Charlotte Welch

PUBLICITY (Membership n/a no term limits)

2019 *Holly Young

2020 * _____

2021 * _____

USHERS (Membership n/a no term limits)

2020 Sue Eastman (1-2021; 2-2024)

2021 Charlotte Welch (1-2018; 2-2021)

2019 Janice Larabee (1-2019; 2-2022)

NOMINATING (2/3 Members; no term limits)

2019 Charlotte Welch

2019 Janice Larabee

2020 Carole Taylor

2020 Bridget Peters

2023 Vida Perry Munson

2023 Virginia Crowe

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT

We, the members of the Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ, Bradford, Vermont, regard all people as beloved children of God. We give thanks for the many and diverse gifts of God among us.

Jesus welcomed all. As First John says, “God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.... The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.”

We declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation, welcoming and accepting into full membership and participation people of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith background, marital status and family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, addiction, economic and social status, and educational background.

We affirm all lives and all relationships founded on the principles of God’s love and justice. We pledge to work to end oppression and discrimination whenever we encounter them, and, guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, to help create the beloved community of God’s realm,

“Whoever you are, wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”

IDENTITY AND ASPIRATION STATEMENT

The Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ, Bradford, Vermont, strives to be a loving church family where we make everyone feel welcome and at home, appreciated and supported. We want our faith community to be a safe and comfortable place for worship and spiritual growth, offering high quality worship services and sermons that feel personal and meaningful and programs for children, youth and adults. We value our music program, which draws from diverse traditions for worship and provides a vibrant center of musical performance for the community. We honor the rich history of contributions to the town of Bradford made by our church and its members. We respond to the Christian message by coming together as a united force in times of crisis and serving those in need as well as by supporting local and global missions. We cherish our church building not just for its physical beauty and as a peaceful place to worship, but also as a resource for serving the greater community.

We aspire to grow in numbers as we make this an increasingly welcoming, loving, helpful congregation when we take the love we find here out into the world around us, and where people want to participate because the church makes a positive difference in their lives throughout the week. We will seek to maintain healthy communication and a positive, hopeful attitude as we face inevitable challenges. We want this to be a church where we feel joy, peace and a steady deepening of Christ-like love and faithfulness among us. We intend to continue to be a church where children are cherished, and where we offer encouragement, support and programs for youth and young families as well as people of all ages. We dream of being a church that shines like a lighted window into the community, a beacon for social justice, increasingly engaged in works of mission and widely known for generously serving those in need.