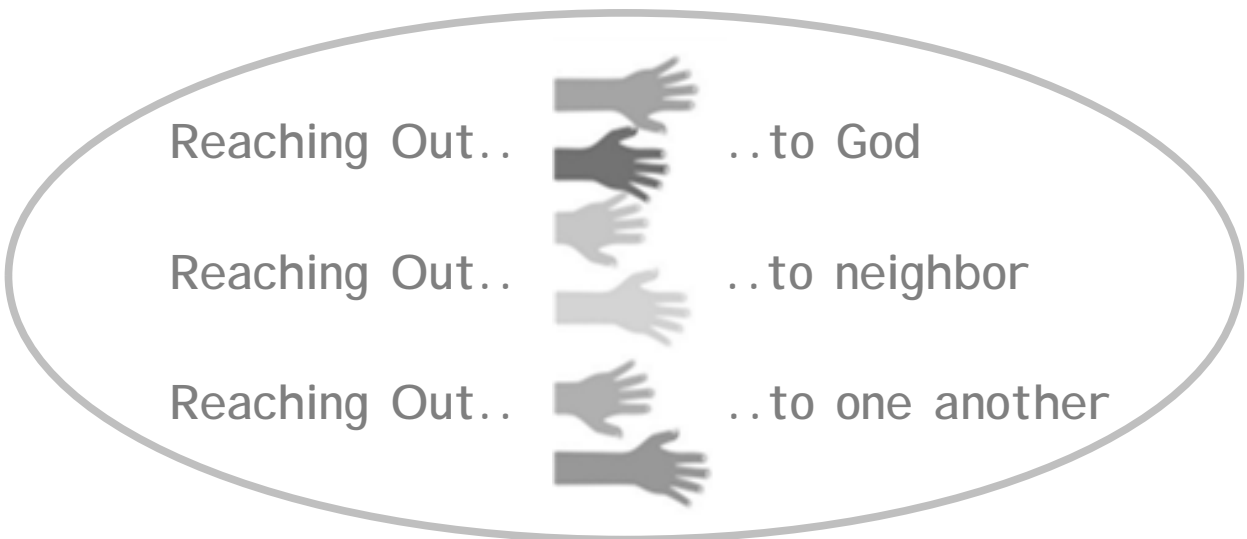


Barrington Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Barrington, Rhode Island

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



All church members are encouraged to attend the

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

**Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

in the Sanctuary

immediately after the 10 a.m. worship service

*Childcare will be provided*

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**WARRANT**  
**for the 2023 ANNUAL MEETING**  
**of the Barrington Congregational Church, UCC**  
Barrington, Rhode Island

The annual meeting of the Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, Barrington RI, is hereby called to take place on **SUNDAY, JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2023** in the Sanctuary **immediately after worship**.

The business to be transacted is as follows:

- ARTICLE I: To call the meeting to order.
- ARTICLE II: To share a discussion from the Governance Ministry Task Force on the work they are doing in regard to a proposed new church structure.
- ARTICLE III: To ask current officers and team members to stay in their current roles until January 2023
- ARTICLE IV: To consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting.
- ARTICLE V: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:  
Susan Seader, Clerk

**3**

**MINUTES of the 2022 ANNUAL MEETING**  
**of the BARRINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC**  
**held JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**

**A quorum** was in attendance at the conclusion of in-person worship in the sanctuary.

**Meeting commenced** at 11:05 AM with Tom Strolla presiding as Moderator.

Articles of the Meeting were announced as:

- ARTICLE I: To call the meeting to order.
- ARTICLE II: To make a By-Laws revision retitling the Christian Education and Youth Ministry team to the Faith Formation and Youth Ministry team.
- ARTICLE III: To share a presentation on the long-term sustainability of our Church.
- ARTICLE IV: To receive and vote on the slate of nominees for officers, ministry teams, and delegates.
- ARTICLE V: To consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting.
- ARTICLE VI: To adjourn the meeting.

Susan Rotblat-Walker motioned that the **name change** of the Christian Education and Youth Ministry team to the Faith Formation and Youth Ministry team be made in the By-Laws. Phyllis Buckley seconded the motion and the assembled body unanimously approved the motion.

Tom Colby presented a **financial sustainability Power-Point presentation**. He defined sustainability as “support, maintenance and nourishing”, and indicated the historical numbers presented were consistent and showed a marked trend. Income between 2011-2022 was comprised of pledges, offerings & gifts, endowment, rentals, other income and one-time (i.e. PPP, and large gifts) showed increases. Expenses between 2011-2022 were comprised of staff, buildings & grounds, capital improvements, missions, committees, and office also showed increases. Surpluses are expected to decrease between 2022-2030. Deficits are expected to increase between 2022-2030. Tom mentioned an appropriate reserve was about 3 months worth of expenses and that risks due to lack of operating funds were currently minimal; but that 3 years out, reserves would be fully depleted without a change to the balance sheet. He recommended that a committee be formed to review alternatives about what the church’s future income, future expenses, future ministry focus, future mission work, future buildings and grounds initiatives and future volunteering might look like and what effects such changes would have on the church. Tom Strolla said that anyone willing to help with such committee work should contact the church office, and he thanked Tom Colby for all his work.

Liz Rosenholm motioned to **approve the slate of church officers and ministry team assignments**, and Trinki Bruekner seconded the motion. The assembled body unanimously approved the motion. Susan Rotblat-Walker also called on others to assist with delegate work at the Southern New England Conference.

**No other business** came before the assembled body.

Marion Fodor motioned to **adjourn the meeting** at 11:25 AM, Steve Fodor seconded the motion and the assembled body unanimously approved the motion.

Faithfully submitted,

*Gregory A. Voigt*, Church Clerk

**3**

**MINUTES of the 2023 ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING  
of the BARRINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC  
held JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

A **quorum** was in attendance.

**Meeting commenced** at 10:50 AM with Tom Strolla presiding as Moderator.

**Articles of the Meeting** were announced as:

- 1) To call the meeting to order;
- 2) To review and vote on the proposed church budget for January 1-December 31, 2023;
- 3) To consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting;
- 4) To adjourn the meeting.

**Chair of Finance Reviewed Proposed 2023 BCCUCC Budget:**

- Tom Colby indicated 2023 revenues to the church were expected to be good with endowment interest, rent on parsonage, on TOTS Cooperative, and on RIDOT parking lot, and pledge income to total out at \$554,000 (an increase from 2022).
- 2023 expenses are due to increase as well with an extra \$8000 for staff (mostly from Racquel Ray’s housing allowance), an extra \$9000 for energy costs, and an extra \$9000 for property insurance.
- A \$1500 Loaves & Fishes expense has been deleted from the 2023 budget.
- The church will run an operating deficit of \$17,000 for 2023.

Pat Stoddard asked how the church would address the operating deficit and Tom said operating reserves were sufficient to meet all 2023 operating needs.

A motion to approve the budget was put forth by Vici Belmont and seconded by Dale Azevedo. The budget was unanimously approved, and thanks were expressed by Tom Strolla to Tom Colby and the Finance Ministry Team for all the work they put into the budget.

**The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.**

Faithfully submitted,  
*Gregory A. Voigt, Acting Church Clerk*

**Reports from our Ministers**

**SENIOR MINISTER**

**DALE AZEVEDO**

The 2022-2023 program year has been an incredible year for BCCUCC. Coming out of the pandemic last summer we had many questions about what our future would hold and how different it might be from what it had been in the years leading up to 2020. I am thrilled to see where we are as a church community and to hope where we may be headed in the future. This past year has seen a marked increase in worship attendance, church participation, and financial stability along with a significant shift in staffing.

One glaring question we had one year ago was whether our church ministries could regain the momentum we had in 2018 and 2019. Those years brought a significant increase in young families participating in church school, the nursery, and worship. We were concerned that many of these families might not return after two years of constantly adapting to changing health conditions. We quickly found out last fall that many of those families DID return and throughout the year we continued to welcome many more. In fact, this past spring we welcomed 10 new members, bringing with them nine additional children. This has kept Andrea and our FFaYM Team quite busy through the year!

Another rebirth that is worth celebrating this year is our Youth Group. With Racquel coming on board as our settled Associate Minister of Congregational Life, she put renewed effort into this defunct group, and we witnessed a resurrection. Focusing on the younger children, late elementary and middle school students, the group had consistent attendance in the double digits

and met nearly every week! She also had tremendous support from some of these new and seasoned parents to make this happen. What a success story!

The biggest changes of the year came in our shifting staff. We were thrilled this year to be able to call Rev. Racquel Ray to serve as our settled associate minister, after spending the prior year as an “acting” associate. This brought some well needed stability to our ministerial staff. We were surprised to also be confronted with the loss of our long-time, much-loved Music Director, Marina Zabinski. Marina needed to take advantage of an opportunity to continue her music ministry in a church much closer to her home. This was a loss to our community and especially the choir. However, our loss was also our gain as we welcomed Matthew Marion onto our staff as our settled Music Director. Matthew has brought new life and spunk to our music ministry and there are many who have commented to me that they come to church early “*just to hear him play.*”

Finally, I must take a moment and mention our Governance / Ministry Task Force (GMTF). The GMTF was formed last fall to continue the work of our former Vision 2020 Team. That team had been charged in 2019 with exploring possible ways of restructuring our church to better meet the needs of our membership and our ministry with the community. Their work was disrupted by the pandemic in 2020 but began anew with the GMTF. We have worked diligently over the past year, meeting nearly every two weeks, to reimagine how our governance and ministry could function. This group has done tremendous work and will be presenting their preliminary proposal during this Annual Meeting. Be sure to check out their report contained herein to gather a little bit more information on their work and timeline.

As we close out another year in ministry, it is also helpful to look ahead to the future. I can say that our immediate future is far brighter right now than it appeared one year ago. We have a strong community of faith that upholds so many of our long-time dear members while also welcoming so many new voices and interests. There is a sense of stability in our midst that we have not felt since 2019. And we have a God that continues to speak to and through us. As long as we continue to listen and respond with, “Yes, Lord, here I am,” we will continue to have a purpose here and throughout God’s world.

## **ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

**RACQUEL RAY**

The role of the Associate Minister of Congregational Life is a new one at BCCUCC. After a thorough search and call process, I was selected in September 2022 and Installed in January 2023. The role of the Associate Minister of Congregational Life, according to our covenant and call, shall under the direction of the Senior Minister, be responsible for the full spectrum of ministry for and to the congregation of this church and serve as preacher, teacher, and counselor for the congregation in all aspects of the life of the church. My primary focus is on the congregational life of the church to nurture all members and groups of our community so they may feel embraced by God’s love, welcome in our community, engaged in Christian fellowship, moved to explore their faith, and inspired to do God’s work within our community and out in the world.

To accomplish that call, I work directly with Dale to provide pastoral care, counseling, visitation, and worship leadership. I work with Dale and Andrea to meet the spiritual needs, cares and education for all members from youngest to oldest. I work in coordination with Dale to call on members in homes, hospitals, nursing homes and partner with the Lay Visitation team in those needs. I partner with the Faith Formation and Youth Ministry team to address the needs of Church School, Nursery, and OWL. I develop and lead programs for Youth Ministry and Confirmation including their families. And, I am called to strengthen connections to those who may be underserved such as seniors/elders, young adults, or families with young children. In addition, I am personally called to respond to the needs of church and surrounding area Veterans by receiving calls from the Veterans Administration when a Veteran needs pastoral care or a funeral. I am also called to partner with local entities to care for the extended community including Barrington Public Schools and the Barrington Interfaith Partners.

In addition to BCCUCC Congregational Life, I serve on the Rhode Island Association Committee on Church and Ministry, and participate in the Rhode Island Ministers Association. I also participate in the Southern New England Conference clergy groups, the Barrington Clergy Association, and the Barrington Interfaith Partners.

### **Faith Formation and Youth Ministry**

- **Youth Group:**

This year, youth group began in September with a campfire and hot dog cookout. The group met from 6 – 7 pm weekly on Monday evenings concurrent with the Barrington Public School calendar. Throughout the year, over seventeen youth joined the group with a core weekly participation of about twelve. Youth from grades 5-8 are invited. This year, with several families having older children in the group, many younger siblings wanted to join as well. We now have three ‘Jr. Youth Group’ members. The group shared a very special Youth Quiet Day evening prayer service during Advent. We’ve also invited the Confirmation class to come and help lead activities. The group plays, shares a meal, and ends with a prayer circle.

The Youth Group held two special fundraisers this year with a Christmas Cookie Bake Sale which raised \$240 that the youth voted on sending to Samaritans Rhode Island to support the Teen Talk mental wellness hotline. The second fundraiser was a Pancake Breakfast which raised \$480 that is dedicated to provide Silver Lake Camp scholarships for future BCCUCC campers.

The group has formed such an incredible bond that they will continue to meet throughout the summer on Monday evenings at Barrington Beach and/or Bicknell Field as some parents join the BCCUCC Softball Team.

- **Confirmation:**

This year’s confirmation class has 4 participants and the Confirmation service is scheduled for June 18, 2023. The class met monthly on Sundays after church. This year, the BCCUCC Deacons stepped up to mentor the Confirmation Class of 2023 by each deacon joining a class and contributing to the class discussion. Rev. Racquel wrote a new confirmation curriculum for this year’s class to reflect the current context and reality of the church with pandemic, technology, safe space, open and affirming, accessible and accommodating, and wellness themes built into the program.

## Congregational Life

We have seen an increase in church attendance this year. We welcomed 10 new members on May 7<sup>th</sup>! And that increase in attendance and membership has also led to an increase in our events and programs. In addition to the standing ministry teams that the Associate Minister supports such as Mission and Justice, Faith Formation and Youth Ministry, and Lay Visitation, I also worked on the following church and community-wide events:

- Town of Barrington Memorial Day Events guest speaker 2022
- Town of Barrington PRIDE Flag Raising and Parade 2022
- Coffee Hour!
- Welcome Home Baskets and Guest Speaker Ric Wild from Crossroads RI
- Guest Speaker: Marilyn Kendrix
- Trunk or Treat
- Thanksgiving Food Drive
- Youth Group Bake Sale
- Youth Quiet Day
- Christmas Story Stroll
- Soup-er Bowl of Caring
- Loaves and Fishes Backpack Program
- Pancake Breakfast
- Barrington Public Schools Teacher Wellness Day
- Earth Day Sunday
- Prayer Garden
- Unveiling of the Pokanoket Land Acknowledgement Plaque
- Veterans Administration Memorial Day Chapel Service

It has been a year of transitions and changes! Wading and waiting through the search process was difficult! And, we had so much fun around those changes and challenges. Both of the ministers had covid for the New Year! We saw the return of Coffee Hour thanks to Von Ray for brewing and teaching others how to brew the coffee. Who could ever forget the Summer of Elijah? We spread hundreds of paper hands around the sanctuary to remind us to ‘Reach Out’ to each other and our neighbors. We filled the chancel with laundry baskets, a HUGE Christmas tree, dozens of mittens, and hundreds of flowers. We welcomed and embraced our ‘shortest members’ with active and engaging Childrens’ Messages and activities. Our All-Ages Worship services were kinetic and accessible. Who could ever forget the children’s Hand Washing service and the spontaneous singing of *Sweet Caroline*! We finally got Rev. Dale some deviled eggs in our summer 2022 potluck suppers and some scheduled and well-deserved breaks. We celebrated with ice cream and wet sponge tosses. We mourned the tragic passings of beloved members. And we did it together as one body of believers – one vibrant, living, loving, and faithful congregation.

In humble service and abundant gratitude for calling me as your Associate Minister of Congregational Life,

*Rev. Racquel R. Ray*



## **Special Report**

### **GOVERNANCE / MINISTRY TASK FORCE**

**TOM STROLLA**

Over the past year, the Governance/Ministry Task Force (GMTF) has been working diligently to prepare a major overhaul of our church structure. This work is a continuation that began in 2019 as the Vision 2020 Team, that paused during the pandemic. When we reconvened, a few of the original Vision 2020 team were no longer able to continue. We added two dynamic members and have been full speed ahead ever since. The GMTF has been meeting bi-weekly over the past year and has made great progress.

The proposed new structure is designed to be more agile, responsive, and inclusive that will provide ministries that work better for families now and in the future. It will create less burnout on the more active folks and make it easier for those busy people to become more involved. It will also allow for long-term and strategic planning.

The GMTF will present their vision at the Annual Meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>. We hope you can attend, and we are excited to show the work we have done so far and to get the congregation's feedback and answer any questions you may have.

The GMTF is: The Rev. Dale Azevedo, Kate Colby, Vanessa Kiley, Dick McWhirter, and Tom Strolla.

## **Reports from our Church Officers**

### **MODERATOR**

**TOM STROLLA**

It has been another incredibly busy, challenging, and yet still rewarding year in the life of our church. As you read the annual reports of our ministry teams, you can clearly see the dedication and deep faith each team has as it goes about its work.

The ministry of Rev. Dr. Dale Azevedo has continued to bless us with his thought-provoking sermons and his inspiring leadership. In September, The Associate Pastor Search Committee recommended, and the church voted to call Rev. Raquel Ray to BCCUCC as the Associate Minister of Congregational Life. Racquel has shared her many gifts with us and has revitalized the youth group. We are fortunate to have them, and we thank them for their unending faith, humor, and for challenging our faith and helping us grow spiritually.

I would like to thank the members of Church Council for their incredible dedication this past year. Your work is appreciated as is the work of all the ministry teams. I would also like to thank the office staff for all the work they do throughout the year.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed being your moderator this past year. While it has its challenges and difficulties, I find it to be a truly rewarding experience and I am thankful for the

opportunity to serve. With changes hopefully coming in the way in which the church is structured, the role of moderator may look completely different in the future, but I continue to feel blessed to be a part of this great church and church family. We have accomplished much in this year, and we have more of God's work to do. I can't wait to see what is ahead of us. Peace.

**AUDITOR**

**JOHN LOERKE**

Owing to Auditor procrastination and elder-care issues, completion of the Audit has been delayed. When complete, results will be included in the eBridge.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**LEO DRURY & BARBARA WUTH**

**Operations**

Better than anticipated revenues to include one-time gifts and parsonage rental partially offset by increased staff and utilities expenses produced income of \$29,400 compared to the budgeted surplus of \$19,500.

**Capital Improvements**

Sources of capital improvement funding:

Gift	\$100,000
Seawall Repair Donations	27,000
Contribution from Operations	20,000
Interest Income	<u>400</u>
Total	\$147,400

Capital improvement expenditures:

Seawall Repair	\$23,400
Exterior Painting	18,700
Carriage Sheds	14,400
Electrical Upgrades	11,200
Plumbing Upgrades	6,100
Fireside Parsonage Maintenance	5,600
Terrace Grading	4,900
Church & Ed. Bldg. Driveways	4,500
Gutter Downspouts	2,900
Other	<u>600</u>
Total	\$92,300

## Summary of Financial Activity and Financial Position for 2022

### Statement of Activities for the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	Operations	Capital Improvements	Endowment <sup>Note A</sup>	Total
Revenues				
Pledges, Gifts and Offerings	\$465,020 <sup>Note B</sup>	\$147,353 <sup>Note C</sup>	\$190,067	\$802,440 <sup>Note E</sup>
Investment Income or Loss	87,925 <sup>Note D</sup>	0	(355,160)	(267,235)
Rentals	23,778	0	0	23,778
Other	<u>16,451</u>	<u>493</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16,944</u>
Total Revenues	\$593,174	\$147,846	\$(165,093)	\$575,927
Expenses				
Staff	\$365,800	0	0	\$365,800
Office	17,094	0	0	17,094
Church Life/Christian Education	14,714	0	0	14,714
Buildings & Grounds	106,821	0	0	106,821
Capital Improvement	20,000	92,312	0	112,312 <sup>Note E</sup>
Missions, Disbursements & Fees	<u>39,390</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>95,646</u> <sup>Note D</sup>	<u>135,036</u>
Total Expenses	\$563,819	\$92,312	\$95,646	\$751,777
Change in Net Assets	29,355	55,534	(260,739)	(175,850)
Net Assets 12/31/21	<u>166,477</u>	<u>51,810</u>	<u>2,463,488</u>	<u>2,681,775</u>
Net Assets 12/31/22	\$195,832	\$107,344	\$2,202,749	\$2,505,925

### Statement of Financial Position for the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Assets				
Cash and Investments	\$304,135	\$135,568	\$2,202,749	\$2,642,452
Receivables and Other Assets	<u>11,582</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>11,582</u>
Total Assets	\$315,717	\$135,568	\$2,202,749	\$2,654,034
Deferred Income & Liabilities				
Funds for Designated Purposes	119,201 <sup>Note F</sup>	0	0	119,201
Other	<u>684</u>	<u>28,224</u> <sup>Note G</sup>	<u>0</u>	<u>28,908</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>119,885</u>	<u>28,224</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>148,109</u>
Net Assets	\$195,832	\$107,344	\$2,202,749	\$2,505,925

#### Notes to the Financial Statements

- A The Endowment account balance is held in various funds some of which are subject to terms significantly restricting the Church's use of the principal balance.
- B Includes one-time gifts of \$108,000. For reference, gifts for 12/31/2021 and 12/31/2020 were \$38,100 and \$8,800, respectively.
- C Includes receipts from Operations of \$20,000.
- D Includes disbursements from Endowment Funds to Operations Investment Income of \$86,500.
- E Total does not eliminate transfer from Operations to Capital Improvement of \$20,000.
- F Includes Flood and Property Damage reserve of \$52,000.
- G Amount is Due to Operations.

## HISTORIAN

DIANNE WILKIN

The remainder of the health precautions due to the Pandemic remained with us into the summer of 2022, with multi-platform worship services, HEPA filters in place, and masking continuing to be optional. By Fall, most church activities had resumed. Just as we felt the worst was certainly behind us however, both our Pastor Dale and Associate Pastor Raquel tested positive for Covid 19 and had to cancel Sunday Worship services on New Year's Day!

Spring 2022 saw a busy schedule. Our Faith Formation and Youth Ministry continued to grow and flourish. We had ongoing groups for book readings, knitting to donate prayer shawls and baby hats, Women of Faith discussions, and bereavement support. Summer brought a potluck supper and a pancake breakfast, wellness walks, the Softball Team, and Interfaith Partners participation. By September our search for a settled Associate Minister of Congregational Life culminated with inviting Rev. Raquel to join us! In November we bid a fond farewell to our Music Director of 20 years Marina Zabinski, then welcomed Margaret Clark as our Interim Director. By January 2023 we were excited to invite Matthew Marion who brings a new energy to the position of Music Director, and we had the official Ordination of Rev. Raquel Ray. This May we were pleased to welcome 10 new members into our Congregation.

Here at BCC, we continue to try to practice what we preach. We joined with the Poor Peoples campaign with a call for a moral revival, joined with the UCC's Reproductive Rights and Justice work, and provided information about voting as well as substance abuse and mental health awareness education. We participated in a Townwide Day of Caring, held a clothes and toy swap for families, and collected provisions for the previously homeless through Crossroads RI. We addressed food insecurity by participating with the UCC Neighbors in Need, provided assistance to our local Tap-in food pantry, and delivered backpacks with healthy foods to children living in a low income area of Providence. Our Green Team focused on our stewardship of the earth with talks on climate change, Power & Light initiatives, as well as activities with our Barrington Farm School. We collected funds for earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey, began to uplift the voices of Indigenous peoples, promoted awareness of antisemitism, and provided support for our LGBTQ community. We began participation in a program to provide royalties for the Negro spirituals we sing in worship, and we further tried to address injustice by inviting speakers to examine issues of mass incarceration and environmental injustice which have so disproportionately affected marginalized persons & communities.



## **Reports from our Ministry Teams**

*Listed alphabetically*

### **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MINISTRY TEAM**

**PAUL DENNIS**

This past year B&G accomplished several improvement projects in addition to normal maintenance of our Buildings and Grounds.

The seawall along the river which was re-built last year was topped by a new galvanized steel railing.

Sealcoating and striping was done to protect the church parking lot.

The exterior of the Education Building was prepped and painted. The foyer bathrooms were also painted and some areas of Fellowship Hall.

A new motorized projector screen was installed to replace the damaged one on the stage in Fellowship Hall.

The terrace on the river side of Fellowship Hall was re-graded to prevent water collecting along the foundation wall.

A major landscaping improvement was the creation of a memorial garden at the north entrance of the river walk ramp leading to the terrace. This work included planting trees, bushes and decorative grasses and was funded with donations by some very generous church members.

Just before Christmas the high river water flooded the church vestry and ruined the steam boiler condensate return pump in the boiler room pit. With the help of volunteers, portable electric heaters prevented the church pipes from freezing until the steam system was repaired.

More recently glazing was replaced in many of the double paned windows in the Education Building to restore insulating properties.

Throughout the year electrical and plumbing upgrades continued and included replacing old plumbing fixtures and converting lighting to LED in both church buildings funded by a generous donation by church members.

At the Fireside parsonage the dishwasher was replaced and at the Nathaniel parsonage the washing machine was replaced.

Many thanks to our dedicated custodians Jay Buckley and Frank Lee for keeping up with maintenance and implementing many improvements.

## **CHANCEL MINISTRY TEAM**

**BETH BUCKLEY**

The Chancel Team is responsible for the weekly altar flower arrangements, care and maintenance of the sanctuary, altar cloths, communion linens and polishing the brass altar rails. Chancel is under the umbrella of the Deacons.

Altar flowers are from The Greenery in Warren. Two bouquets are given each Sunday by members who want to commemorate or honor loved ones on special occasions. After the service, the flowers are given to someone experiencing a loss or recent illness, or given to those who donated them. Two holidays are celebrated with extra flowers: Christmas and Easter. On the Sunday before Thanksgiving we fill the altar with fresh vegetables and fruit grown in Rhode Island. They are then donated to TapIn.

Funding for the Chancel Team's ministry is from the donations for the Sunday Flowers, \$30 per vase. For the larger arrangements on Easter and Christmas, members offer contributions to the Chancel Fund and specify loved ones for whom they make a donation. Extra monies in the Chancel Fund are used for anything that might enhance the worship service, e.g. sound system, altar tables, etc. Over the past year 2 altar chairs were given a new coat of stain to renew the finish.

The Chancel Team meets every September to plan for the year. Liz Rosenholm hosted the meeting and served a delicious lunch. Through the year we meet informally after the worship service, and keep in touch with emails and phone calls. We were fortunate in adding a new member, Barbara Lee in September 2022.

## **DEACONS**

**PATRICIA STODDARD**

The Deacons are moving forward and reaching out, along with the congregation, after the pandemic years. We have built upon our commitment to provide support to our pastors, our congregation and to our community. One new Deacon (Fred Rocco) was added to the team and sadly, one Deacon, Jeff Stumpff, died last fall. We still miss him and are grateful for the contributions he made to our mission.

We continued a number of activities this year, including delivering flowers to the grieving or homebound folks at Christmas and Easter, including an in-person visit in most cases. We assisted the congregation in making Valentines for college students and the homebound. We assisted the pastors with Communion and also provided worship assistance when Rev. Dale or Rev. Racquel were away. The most noteworthy example of this assistance was on Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, when Rev. Dale and Rev. Racquel were recovering from Covid and could not lead us in worship. As they have done before, the Deacons responded to my short notice request for help in modifying the already planned service so that we could lead the congregation in a meaningful way. Every one of the Deacons responded to me with "What can I do to help?". Originally, a Laity Sunday service was planned for later in January but was "moved up" due to the situation. This is a highly invested and dedicated group, and it has been my honor to lead them this past year.

The Deacons, along with some Emeriti, also led the Tenebrae Service held on Maundy Thursday during Holy Week. Two Deacons spoke in advance to the congregation about this important service and what it means to them, and encouraged folks to attend to see for themselves how powerful it can be. I believe that we did have some new faces in the congregation that evening.

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation through their donations to the Deacons' Fund Offering taken on every Communion Sunday, we were able to provide financial support to church members as well as to local organizations that provide crucial assistance to the larger community. The Deacons actively research and seek out these organizations and bring their mission to our meetings for discussion and possible financial support. The need in the community continues to be great and we are thankful that we can help in some way.

We look forward to what the coming year will bring and will continue our mission of service to this special faith community.

## **ENDOWMENT MINISTRY TEAM**

**KATE COLBY**

2022 was a difficult year for investment markets, with both the equity market and the bond market in negative territory. BCCUCC ended the year with a total of \$2,202,749 under management; down from \$2,463,488. Of the 2022 total, \$244,902 are designated for specific use. Rhode Island Foundation did generally better than the markets with -10.6% returns. As our largest manager at \$1.2 billion in total investments, the foundation has been able to add investments in long-term flexible and private capital which helped reduce the effects of the downturn. The Ocean State Incubator Fund returned -14.1% and United Church Funds had a -16.6% return. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in which United Church Fund's returns seem somewhat out of line compared with our other 2 managers. Considering this performance, this investment merits reevaluation to determine if we need to adjust allocations.

Endowment funds supported 2022 operations with distributions of \$86,500. Although 2022 had negative returns, good returns on investments in 2021 plus sizable donations between 2021 and 2022 totaling almost \$90,000, allowed endowment funds to support increased budgeted distributions of \$91,500 for 2023. The first quarter returns for 2023 were positive, with all our managers in the 5% range, but inflation has stayed stubbornly high. Given the market's volatility and unpredictability, we will have to wait until September to determine possible distributions for 2024.

It is also the endowment team's responsibility to promote endowment funds, both general and designated, to the congregation. As COVID continues to abate and the BCCUCC congregation becomes more comfortable coming back to church services, we will revisit outreach options. Our goal is to remind members of the meaningful work our church is doing, and that gifts and/or bequests to our Endowment Funds is a viable option to help finance those important efforts.

*The Endowment Team: Kate Colby (Chair), Dick McWhirter and Seth Forman*

**FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM**

**TOM COLBY**

We finished 2022 on a high note with about a \$29,000 surplus, about \$10,000 above our budgeted surplus of \$19,000. This was due to a few large gifts which were and some that were not built into the budget. Unrestricted income (which includes pledges and gifts) was about \$40,000 above budget but was partially offset by about \$31,000 of higher than expected expenses.

Looking at the status for 2023, the budget has a bottom line that is about \$15,000 negative. Although the surplus from 2022 can offset this deficit, we need to be aware that the bottom line also relies on above average gifts. 2024 will not have the prior year surplus to supplement any deficit and gifts are unpredictable and may not be available to increase income. Adhering to the 2023 budget in the current environment of rising costs will also be a challenge. However, if we can maintain our budget targets, this will still leave an operating reserve balance that is equal to about 4 months of expenses, within the target range of 3-6 months.

One significant change we made in the accounting structure was to consolidate several insurance deductible reserve accounts into one. These were designed to cover deductibles for flood, property, and health insurance. These reserves have been building over many years, and are now adequate for any likely need, therefore, we can reduce the supporting annual contributions. Sustaining a sufficient balance in the future can be achieved by a combination of interest income on these monies and/or from operations as we have done in the past.

Over the next few months, we will be looking at the second parsonage. Since it is not currently being used by a minister, we need to decide whether the best option is to rent it long term or sell it. Each option has significant pros and cons and will need to be assessed fully.

Respectfully,

*Tom Colby* Finance Chair, *Sam Sylvester, Vanessa Kiley*



## 2023 OPERATIONS BUDGET

Income		
Unrestricted Income		
Total Pledges (2023 anticipated)		365,500
Total Offering and Gifts		38,400
Total Investments		96,500
Total Rentals		36,131
Total Other Income		<u>1,050</u>
Total Unrestricted Income		537,581
Restricted Income		
Total Missions Income		4,500
Total Non-Missions Income		12,550
Total Restricted Income		<u>17,000</u>
Total Income		<u>554,581</u>
Gross Profit		554,581
Expense		
Total Personnel		387,535
Operations		
Buildings and Grounds		
Capital		20,000
Total Church and Education Building		52,300
Total Parsonage – Fireside		8,700
Total Parsonage – Nathaniel		7,800
Total Insurance		<u>34,149</u>
Total Buildings and Grounds		122,770
Total Office		15,300
Total Church Life		17,530
Missions – General Funds		
SNE Conference Dues		20,095
RI Association Dues		2,233
Loaves and Fishes Truck		-
Missions – non UCC		<u>1,900</u>
Total Missions – General Funds		24,228
Total Restricted Missions		4,500
Other Expenses		
Miscellaneous Expense		
Total Other Expenses		<u>          </u>
Total Operations Expense		<u>184,507</u>
Total Expense		<u>572,042</u>
Net Income (Loss)		<u><u>(17,461)</u></u>

## **FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRIES TEAM**

**FRED ROCCO, RACQUEL RAY, & ANDREA BULLARD**

The most salient feature for the past year is the name change from Christian Education and Youth Ministry to Faith Formation and Youth Ministry, noting that the emphasis is on developing faith, not exclusively Christian faith. The name change was approved by Church Council and later officially changed in the By-Laws following a vote at the June 2022 Church Annual Meeting.

There was a return to in-person FFaYM meetings, as well as in-person children's messages and Church School, thus the year was back to pre-covid conditions. Enrollment/attendance in Church School varied over the year with 54 students enrolled among all classrooms. Over the course of the year Church School attendance grew.

Significant effort was placed on developing participatory activities for children during the service. Highlights including hand-washing, story-telling, and opportunities for children to participate in parts of the service such as readings and the call to worship; children have had key roles for the all-ages worship Sundays. On any Sunday there were generally at least 10 children present for Children's Time in worship services. With the end of Covid restrictions, the Sing and Celebrate Choir returned, directed by Kate Colby. The children's choir sang in church in November, then again on Palm Sunday, Negro Spiritual Sunday, and Jubilation Sunday.

Major activities for the year included: Trunk or Treat (12 cars were decorated and church families visited them as well as people from the community), Advent Arts craft activities, Christmas Story Stroll (35 church volunteers were involved in making it happen and both church and community members came to the Stroll), Valentine's day cards, Lenten Lollapalooza, Easter Egg hunt (33 children participated), and the year concluded with Jubilation Sunday. The theme for Jubilation Sunday was 'Reaching Out' and focused on the work done by church member Ben Flynn during his gap year, at an orphanage in Ghana and a school in Tanzania. He gave a presentation during the service and FFaYM arranged to make a donation from the group, adding to donations from the congregation. Activities for the day included a hot-dog lunch, an ice-cream truck, and a bounce-house.

Racquel Ray was able to meet in-person for all confirmation classes this year. Each class was attended/assisted by one of the Church Deacons. Four youth participated in the confirmation program this year which will conclude on Confirmation Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup> with the traditional doves being released outside at the conclusion of the service. This will be the first in-person Confirmation Sunday without any covid restrictions since June 2019.

Over the year, Racquel has built and maintained a large Youth Group that meets on Monday evenings. The group has approximately 13 children who attend. Due to the popularity of the group, they will continue to meet over the summer months, albeit on a less frequent schedule. Parents and younger children have also routinely attended. Youth Group held two major events this year - a pancake breakfast that raised \$240 (half went to a Samaritan's helpline for teen mental wellness, and half to support youth group activities), and a cookie/bake sale that raised \$480 that will provide camperships to SNEUCC's Silver Lake Summer Camps (no BCCUCC kids have applied to date).

As with last year, there are just enough teachers for each Sunday class, however, several church members have consistently stepped in when a class needed to be covered. The FFaYM group will focus on OWL education this coming year and is in the process of identifying teachers to serve. Members who are able to teach the curriculum have been identified. OWL had been suspended recently due to covid restrictions.

**LAY VISITATION MINISTRY TEAM**

**RACQUEL RAY**

The Lay Visitation team works collaboratively with the Senior Minister and Associate Minister of Congregational Life to support the needs of church members who may be homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or just needing some care. The group meets monthly throughout the program year. We have had a difficult year from 2022-2023 with the illness and passing of a beloved member, George Bolton. George and Rose Marie worked as a team to make phone calls and visits to church members and George was a great keeper of our BCCUCC and town history. The group welcomed the addition of Barbara McWhirter whose notes and phone calls have been received by many members. The group now includes Helen Schall, Laura Ward, Rose Marie Bolton, Barbara McWhirter, and Rev. Racquel.

**MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY TEAM**

**RACQUEL RAY**

Throughout the pandemic shutdown, the membership team was difficult to maintain with the by-law recommended (8) members and the clergy. We have a few remaining congregation members whose Membership Team support has transitioned to supporting Coffee Hour, Congregational Life Events, one-time events, and Mission and Justice ministry. New people to our church were welcomed by the congregation and ministers throughout the year with ten new members officially joining in May 2023.

**MISSION AND JUSTICE MINISTRY TEAM and THE GREEN TEAM**

**NANCY ARENA**

The purpose of the Mission and Justice Team, as stated in the Church Bylaws, is to promote an awareness and response to local, national, and world problems. We seek to promote a more peaceful and just society by developing programs and activities focused on such issues as environmental justice and sustainability, food insecurity, income inequality, and the intersection of social and racial justice. To reach these goals we partner with other groups and follow guidance from the United Church of Christ resources to create educational and advocacy experiences, as well as opportunities for reaching out to others. In all these instances, we hope that members of our church and wider community feel that they were invited to be participants in the mission and justice issues of the church.

In 2022 the Green Team was formed as an offshoot of Mission and Justice to focus specifically on climate change, sustainability, resiliency, and environmental justice issues. It was also formed as a next step after reading *Climate Church, Climate World* by Jim Antal.

The following report highlights activities which occurred from May 2022 – May 2023.

### **THE GREEN TEAM**

The Green Team held its first meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022. During this initial meeting team participants discussed various projects to help BCCUCC care for God's Creation and protect the environment. Various ideas were discussed such as:

- How to start conversations on issues of climate change
- What is the church's role in caring for God's Creation?
- How can BCCUCC be an advocate for environmental justice?
- What projects are Green Team members interested in pursuing?

Over the past twelve months, the Green Team has:

- Showed a movie sponsored by Interfaith Power and Light. The movie focused on a federal lawsuit, which was filed on behalf of several minors, who claimed that their constitutional rights were violated due to the current state of the environment and the current and future impacts of climate change.
- Encouraged church members to focus on plant-based meals to reduce the emissions and water usage associated with eating beef.
- Hosted Coffee Hour on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and featured plant-based products and the elimination of plastic and paper goods.
- Supported the global challenge to reduce consumption of single-use plastic products and to live plastic free for one month.
- Urged members and friends of BCCUCC to contact their elected officials to emphasize the importance of the EPA's enforcement powers, in recognition of a Supreme Court decision to limit those powers.
- Used the eBridge to publicize various webinars, book studies, and links to educational and advocacy materials on topics related to climate change, environmental legislation, resiliency, and the impact of environmental hazards on health and wellness.
- Invited the congregation to explore A Daily Reflection and Action Step Calendar for Lent. In Lent, we reflect on Christ's ministry, death, and resurrection. We slow down and examine our internal spiritual lives as well as the way we live out our Christian faith in the world. Our faith teaches us that humans were put on this earth with the responsibility to be stewards. We also know our individual as well as collective U.S. lifestyles have led to serious harm to God's creation. The UCC's Creation Justice Ministries created a 2023 Lent Resource which was a daily reflection and action calendar to cultivate creation justice. It helped individuals take time to learn, reflect, repent, ask God for forgiveness, and take concrete steps to change course.
- Invited the congregation to meet a member of the Town of Barrington's Resilience and Energy Committee on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> following the worship service. Hans Scholl spoke about the work that the Resilience and Energy Committee is doing, including the Hazard Mitigation and Flood Management Plan, 2022.

- Took the initial steps to prepare the soil to plant a pollinator garden on the north side of the church building near the tree planted in memory of Helen Wuth. Native plants and/or seeds will be planted in early June.
- Decorated the sanctuary for Earth Day, in recognition of the beauty of God’s Creation and of the responsibility of all to protect and sustain it.

## **MISSION & JUSTICE TEAM**

### **Mission and Outreach**

One of the key aspects of the Mission & Justice Team is to focus on mission opportunities and to lend a helping hand to local, national, and international communities. Here are some of the highlights of this year’s mission and outreach work.

- Collected donations for the four (4) national UCC special mission offerings. These offerings were:
  - Strengthen the Church was taken June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and \$204 was collected. This offering supports leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.
  - Neighbors in Need was taken on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, which was World Communion Sunday. This offering supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. \$820 was collected.
  - Christmas Fund was taken on December 18<sup>th</sup> and \$1,520 was collected. This offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties.
  - One Great Hour of Sharing was taken on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and \$1,228 was collected. This offering responds to humanitarian and development needs in the world. The UCC joins forces with domestic and international partners, as part of the Church’s Wider Mission, to provide sources of clean water, food, education, and health care. OGHs also provides short-term and long-term support to refugees and displaced persons and victims of man-made and natural disasters.
- Authorized donations of \$250 to two food pantries – We Share Hope and Good Neighbors Pantry - to help address food insecurity for children and families during the summer months.
- Welcome Home Baskets – Reverend Racquel Ray contacted Crossroads Rhode Island to determine what BCCUCC could do to assist clients dealing with homelessness. The idea of filling Welcome Home Baskets was born from this effort. Mission & Justice assisted Reverend Ray in organizing this effort. Forty-three (43) Welcome Home Baskets were filled and delivered to Crossroads Rhode Island in October. The baskets were given to clients moving into permanent housing. Ric Wilde from Crossroads Rhode Island was also a guest speaker at BCCUCC on October 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Thanksgiving Food Drive - For many years, BCCUCC has joined with other houses of worship to support a Thanksgiving food drive for TAPIN. This year the food drive ran from November 1<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> and was a hybrid event. TAPIN accepted donations of specific food

items and also accepted monetary donations. The specific food items were instant mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, stuffing, and brownie mix. TAPIN planned to give each client a grocery store gift card and a bag of food items. They anticipated a significant increase in the number of clients needing assistance with food insecurity during the holiday season.

- Giving Tree – Mission & Justice again supported the Women’s Resource Center and domestic violence survivors during the holidays. The need was especially acute due to food insecurity, financial hardships, and the ongoing impacts of the pandemic. The Women’s Resource Center used the donations to buy gift cards for families in need. The campaign raised \$1,595 for the Women’s Resource Center. Of this \$1,595, \$525 was contributed from the M&J line-item budget.
- Mitten Tree – Mission & Justice collected handmade and store-bought gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, fleece blankets, and socks for children and adults. Two (2) large bins plus one (1) bag were dropped off at House of Hope on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **Justice Issues**

Another key aspect for the Mission and Justice Team is to focus on various justice issues and their intersections. Here are some examples of this year’s highlights related to social, racial, economic, gender, and healthcare justice issues.

- Joined with the UCC to advocate for reproductive healthcare for women, including the right to safe, legal abortion. Urged Congress to pass the Women’s Health Reproductive Act.
- Planned a visit to Stages of Freedom Museum and Book Shop for June 26<sup>th</sup>. This was a follow-up to Ray Rickman’s visit to BCCUCC to discuss various racial justice initiatives, including the Swim Empowerment Program. Note: Unfortunately, due to a family emergency, the visit was canceled the day of the event.
- Supported the 8<sup>th</sup> National Gun Violence Awareness Day (June 3<sup>rd</sup>) and Wear Orange Weekend (June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>) to highlight the critical need for gun control laws. Unfortunately, valiant attempts to light the front of BCCUCC in orange light are no longer very successful due to the brightness of the LED floodlights that we now have shining on the church.
- Encouraged members and friends of BCCUCC to participate in a local interfaith coalition vigil in front of BCCUCC to proclaim NO MORE! No more racial terrorism, no more white supremacy, no more gun violence, no more hate, no more denying truth. The vigil took place on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- Encouraged members and friends of BCCUCC to celebrate LGBTQI PRIDE! All were invited to join BaySidePride, Barrington High Gay-Straight Alliance, the Barrington Equity Collaborative, and the Town DE&I Committee to celebrate the raising of the Pride Flag at Barrington Town Hall on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Supported the Poor People’s Campaign and the moral march on Washington. The campaign focuses on the five interlocking injustices: (1) systemic racism; (2) poverty and inequality; (3) ecological devastation and denial of health care; (4) the war economy and militarism; and (5) the false narrative of religious nationalism.
- Welcomed Reverend Marilyn Kendrix to the pulpit on October 23<sup>rd</sup> as a guest preacher. Her sermon topic was system racism and the controversy over critical race theory.

- Supported the Truth, Healing and Accountability for Indigenous Boarding Schools in honor of National Native American Heritage Day, which was observed on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>. This year, the UCC is asking Congress to pass S. 2907/H.R. 5444 and create a Truth and Healing Commission to not only confess past sins but move our nation toward a restored future and a right relationship with tribal nations.
- Participated in the Shine a Light on Antisemitism. Temple Habonim invited the Barrington interfaith community to Stand in Solidarity against Hate on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at Temple Habonim. All were invited to gather on the front lawn of the Temple to receive a candle. In honor of the first night of Chanukah, there was singing, prayers, brief remarks, and then each lit a candle, reminding us that only light can lead us out of the darkness.
- Displayed the Ramadan sign in front of BCCUCC.

### **New Faith-Based Racial Justice Initiative – Royalties for Negro Spirituals**

The Mission and Justice Team worked with BCCUCC clergy to introduce a new faith-based racial justice initiative on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. This initiative is called Royalties for Negro Spirituals. Royalties for Negro Spirituals initiatives recognize the deep biblical connection between justice and worship, and acknowledge that congregations have been blessed by hearing and singing Negro Spirituals for centuries. The original creators of this music were never compensated for their work, and the initiatives seek to right this injustice, albeit in a small way, by paying this debt forward to local organizations that support musicians and artists of color. Accordingly, a voluntary offering will be collected periodically, when BCCUCC sings Negro Spirituals.

Though this is a national movement, it is being introduced to local houses of worship through the leadership of Barrington Interfaith Partners. Our church's Mission and Justice Team recommended that our church participate in this initiative, and with the support of Dale and Racquel, as well as Church Council, we are the first house of worship to devote a service to Negro Spirituals. Other houses of worship in the East Bay and in Providence plan to follow suit over the coming months.

The organization to receive the royalties collected from the congregation is Community Music Works. It is important to note that the royalties are paid with no strings attached and are to be dispensed at the sole discretion of Community Music Works.

Mission and Justice contributed \$250 to this initiative and as of this point, the congregation has contributed an additional \$1,109 for Community Music Works.

### **Mission and Justice Donations**

Financial donations were made to the following from church members and friends:

- Giving Tree - \$1,595 (includes \$525 from Mission & Justice)
- Royalties for Negro Spirituals - \$1,359 (includes \$250 from Mission & Justice)

Financial donations were made to the following from the M&J budget:

- Ukraine banner- \$178
- Good Neighbors Pantry - \$250

- We Share Hope - \$250
- Welcome Home Baskets - \$182
- Honorarium for Reverend Marilyn Kendrix - \$250
- Women's Resource Center - \$525
- Royalties for Negro Spirituals - \$250 (these funds are committed but not yet sent)

There was also one expenditure of \$200 for the Audubon Society of Rhode Island to complete a habitat assessment for the pollinator garden. This expense was taken from the Mission & Justice Funds.

Thank you to the M&J team for all their hard work and thank you to the congregation for their support.

## **MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM**

## **PATRICIA STODDARD**

As our church and the congregation continued to move forward following the pandemic years, so did the church's music program. There were some big changes for the program, beginning in the fall. Marina Zabinski, whom we were blessed to have as our Music Director for over 20 years, left our church for a position closer to her home. Her last Sunday here was Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and she and Greg Voigt played magnificent music that day. The Music Ministry Team was able to quickly secure the services of Margaret Clark as Interim Music Director from Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

A search for a permanent Music Director commenced immediately – that team included Rev. Dale, Kate Colby, Erik Ela and Pat Stoddard, with assistance from Music Team members Heather Williamson and Greg Voigt. Through the grace of God, the team connected with a strong potential candidate very quickly. Two interviews and a choir rehearsal later, and some intense deliberating by the team, Matthew Marion was selected as the new Music Director. His first Sunday was Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 which turned out to be a Laity Sunday Worship Service led by the Deacons (due to both Rev. Dale and Rev. Racquel not being well enough, due to Covid, to lead us). Matthew hit the ground running with the choir and we've really gotten to know each other musically over the past several months. The choir, small but mighty, continues to provide meaningful anthems in worship, and also sang at Rev. Racquel's Installation Service. Vocal solos from Amanda Colby during the Christmas season were a wonderful addition to worship. The Sing & Celebrate Choir, led by Kate Colby, also sang several delightful choral introits during the year. We've enjoyed some instrumental participants as well. The Greenwich Bay Brass brought beautiful music to the Palm Sunday worship service this year, which was enjoyed by all.

The congregation has given the choir and Matthew some very positive feedback, for which we are grateful. We look forward to what we can accomplish in the coming year.



## **STAFF PARISH RELATIONS TEAM**

**KIM ZELEZNIK**

The Staff Parish Relations Team (SPRT) consists of five members. Current members of the team are our Senior Minister, Dale Azevedo, Adam Grenier, Laura Ward, Heather Williamson, and Kim Zeleznik (chair.)

SPRT offers an opportunity and place for our ministers, staff, and members of the congregation to share their thoughts, ideas, or any concerns they may have. We are a sounding board for staff-parish relationships and are available at any time a need arises. We also receive and review goals from the ministers each fall and discuss how they are being met as the year progresses. During our regularly scheduled meetings, we listen to the joys and concerns of the ministers and offer support and guidance when necessary. Typically, in May, our team organizes smaller teams to oversee staff reviews, in accordance with the by-laws. We try to meet one last time in June to discuss these reviews and plan for the upcoming year.

During the 2022-2023 calendar year, SPRT welcomed our newest member, Adam Grenier. Our team met after church on 11/27/22, 2/5/23, and on 4/30/23 to assign members to each of the staff reviews. These reviews will be completed and filed by the end of June. For a third consecutive year, Laura graciously agreed to act as the liaison for SPRT and attend the Church Council Meetings held each month.

## **STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM**

The 2023 campaign theme was “Reaching Out to God, Reaching Out to Neighbor, Reaching Out to One Another”. The message stressed the importance of reconnecting, both physically and spiritually, as we emerge from the pandemic years. Without an “official” team in place, the campaign was jointly run by Rev. Dale and Financial Secretary Pat Stoddard, with much appreciated assistance from the Tech Team for production of video messages. Lacking an official team is not a sustainable approach going forward. Now that we are reconnecting, we’re hopeful that a team will be formed for the 2024 campaign.

That being said, we view the 2023 campaign as a success. 96 Giving Cards were received prior to the budget meeting, totaling \$376,161. This is a \$31,000 increase over the 2022 total. We continue to be blessed with donors that increase their commitment each year.

Analysis of the financial commitments includes:

New commitments – 9 = 9% of the total

Commitments with increase over 2022 – 32 = 33% of the total

Commitments with same amount as 2022 – 40 = 42% of the total

Commitments with decrease from 2022 – 15 = 16% of the total

Lost commitments due to attrition & other factors – 12

We have welcomed new members into the congregation and look forward to continuing the ministries of this church in the years to come, with the financial support from this generous congregation.

## USHERING MINISTRY

BETHIA ROSNER

In September we welcomed two new ushers, Frank and Barbara Lee. We currently have a total of 13 ushers but more are needed and would be most welcome.

The year is divided into three for scheduling:

Schedule A	covers	September through January
Schedule B	covers	February through June
Summer Schedule	covers	July and August

Schedules A and B require that 4 ushers be scheduled each Sunday with one designated as captain. For the Summer Schedule only 2 ushers are needed.

Before a service, the ushers arrive early and are responsible for putting the altar flower arrangements into the brass vases, opening the shutters, lighting the altar candles, and turning on the lights in the sanctuary. They also need to check the batteries in the hand-held mikes and hearing assists and change them as needed. They hand out bulletins and seat the congregation as they arrive. They also have available large print bulletins and hearing assists for anyone who requests them.

During the service, the ushers seat any latecomers, take the offering at the appropriate time, and record the attendance.

Following the service the usher captain is responsible for putting the offering in the church safe. The ushers are also responsible for turning off the lights, closing the shutters, tidying up the pews, and finally making sure that all of the doors out of the church building are latched properly and locked.

In the event of an emergency, the ushers ensure that emergency responders can access the church if necessary and/or the congregation can safely evacuate the building.

Anyone interested in becoming an usher is invited to contact Bethia Rosner or the church office.

### 3

## NOMINATIONS REPORT

Due to the ongoing work of the Governance and Ministry Task Force (GMTF) there will not be a full slate of nominations for the 2023-2024 program year. Instead, the Church Council has asked that all Team Members and Chairs, along with all Officers continue in their current positions for another six months. It is hoped that by the January 2024 meeting we will have adopted a new structure and will hold elections at that time.

In the meantime, it is worth noting that Barbara Wuth is stepping down as Co-Treasurer and Susan Seader is stepping down as Clerk. Leo Drury will continue as Treasurer and **Greg Voigt is being nominated for Clerk**, to be elected at the June 11, 2023 meeting.

### 3

## FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS

June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

This report covers the 12 month period from early June 2022 through early June 2023. The categories shown are also requested each December for the United Church of Christ Yearbook Report (see page 26).

### NEW MEMBERS (10)

5/7/23

Steve Almeida  
Donald Corbishley  
Shelly Corbishley  
Ria Costa  
Erin Dwyer-Frazier

Melinda Groff  
Ivy Milliken  
Ralph Milliken  
Jack Mycroft  
Sarah Mycroft

### CONFIRMATIONS (0)

### MARRIAGES (1)

Grace Baldwin and Keith Fairbrother

### BAPTISMS (2)

#### Infants and Children (2)

Scarlett Luisa Peters  
Madeline Mae Winslow

#### Adult (0)

### DEATHS (9)

#### Active Members (4)

Jeff Stumpff  
Gary Clark  
George Bolton  
Flo Fairfield

#### Inactive Members (3)

John Hazen White III  
Edwin McKinlay  
Simeon Hawes

#### Friends (2)

Marcia Hess  
Alex Robertson

**3**

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP AS OF JUN 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 was 243 (*Number reported in 2022 Annual Report*)

Between June 7, 2022 and June 6, 2023 the following changes occurred:

Additions to Active Membership (10)

0 - Confirmation  
10 - New Members  
0 - Return to Active Membership

Losses to Active Membership (5)

3 - Death  
2 – Moved away

**ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP AS OF JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**  $243 + 10 - 5 = 248$

*(see next page for further explanation)*

## MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

*reflecting changes in the membership that occurred between Jan 1<sup>st</sup> and Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022*

The membership statistics are collected at the end of each calendar year and reflect the changes that took place during that year. They are then submitted to the National Office of the United Church of Christ in the form of the Yearbook Report and appear in the UCC Yearbook.

Active Membership as of 12/31/2022 was 239 (see following table for breakdown).

<i>From the Yearbook Report Form:</i>	
<b>Statistics for January 1 – December 31, 2022</b>	
Active Membership as of 12/31/2021	263
Additions during year:	
Confirmation	0
Confession of Faith	0
Letters of Transfer	1
Reaffirmation of Faith	2
Losses during year:	
Death	4
Transfer	0
Other removals	23
Active Membership as of 12/31/2022	<b>239</b>

*Note: The information listed on the previous pages reflect those changes that took place between June 7, 2022 and June 6, 2023, as opposed to the information directly above, which is for changes between January 1 and December 31, 2022.*

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Between January 1, 2023 and June 6, 2023 there were the following changes in ACTIVE membership:

+ 10	New Member
0	New Members (by Confirmation)
0	Return to Active Membership
- 1	Death of Active Members
0	Removals (moved away/no longer active etc)

**ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP AS OF JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 is  $239 + 10 - 1 = 248$**

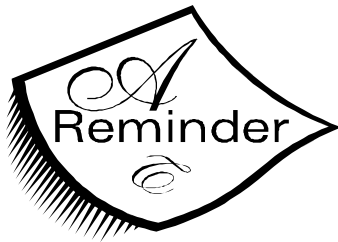
## **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

The Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is a Christian community that worships God, embraces all people, ministers to one another, works for justice and peace, and renders loving service to God's world.



## **AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME**

We believe that all people are blessed and loved equally by God. Following the teachings of Jesus we heartily welcome everyone into God's covenantal community. Whatever your race, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic or marital status, variety of thoughts and beliefs, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression - whoever you are and wherever you come from you are welcome into the full life and ministry of our church.



All are invited to attend the  
**Annual Meeting**

of the Barrington Congregational Church, UCC on  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

in the Sanctuary immediately following worship.

As always, church members are encouraged to make every effort  
to attend this important church meeting.

*Child care will be provided.*

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**Barrington Congregational Church**

**United Church of Christ**

**461 County Road,**

**Barrington, RI 02806**

**Telephone: (401) 246-0111**

**e-mail address: [office@bccucc.org](mailto:office@bccucc.org)**

**website: [www.bccucc.org](http://www.bccucc.org)**

**Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/bccucc](http://www.facebook.com/bccucc)**

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**Senior Minister: The Rev. Dr. Dale Azevedo**

**Associate Minister for Congregational Life: The Rev. Racquel Ray**

**Faith Formation Director: Andrea Terni Bullard**

**Music Director: Matthew Marion**

**Office Administrator: Christine Wallis**

**Financial Secretary: Patricia Stoddard**

**Custodians: Jay Buckley, Frank Lee**