

**BARRINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND**

**2025  
ANNUAL REPORT**



All church members are encouraged to attend the

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

in the Sanctuary

immediately after the 10 a.m. worship service

*Childcare will be provided*

# **WARRANT**

## **for the 2025 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING of the Barrington Congregational Church, UCC Barrington, Rhode Island**

A meeting of church membership of the Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, will be held Sunday, June 8th in the sanctuary immediately following the worship service. We encourage everyone to attend. The agenda will be as follows:

- ARTICLE I: To call the meeting to order.
- ARTICLE II: To approve the minutes of the Winter Congregational Meeting held January 26, 2025.
- ARTICLE III: To vote on new ministry team coordinators.
- ARTICLE IV: To provide the congregation with a Governing Board update regarding property usage, capital improvements and the solar project.
- ARTICLE V: To provide the congregation with an update regarding the search for an Interim Senior Minister.
- ARTICLE VI: To consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting.
- ARTICLE VII: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted: Greg Voigt, Clerk



## **MINUTES FROM CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS**

### **MINUTES of the 2024 ANNUAL MEETING of the BARRINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC held on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**A quorum** was in attendance.

**Meeting commenced** at 11:13 AM with Laura Ward presiding as Moderator.

**Articles of the Meeting** were announced as: 1) To call the meeting to order; 2) To receive the 2024 annual report; 3) To approve the minutes of the Congregational Meetings held over the past year; 4) To correct a mistake in the 2024 By-Laws\*; 5) To review and vote on the Congregation Policy; 6) To consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting; 7) To adjourn the meeting.

*\* Article 111.C.3.a.ii of the 2024 Church By-laws reads: "The personnel and role of the Deacons are defined in the Ministry Policy." This needs to be corrected to read: "The personnel and role of the Deacons are defined in the Deacons Policy."*

**II. Receive 2024 Annual Report** - Moved by Heather Williamson, seconded by Vickie Belmont.  
No discussion was had. Ayes voted, none opposed & no abstentions.

**III. Approve Minutes of Congregational Meetings**

Discussion:

- Marion appreciated having the information to read again, thanks everyone for doing that, appreciated the ability to read all of what has been happening in the past year and hear about it again.
- Laura Ward gave the governance ministry task force a special shout out for all the work they put in over the past year.

Motion to approve was made by Marion Fodor, seconded by Betty Vohr. Ayes voted, none opposed & no abstentions.

**IV. By-Laws – Correcting Previous Mistake**

- It was clarified that The Deacons' Policy will be its own policy rather than an addendum to Ministry Policy.

Dale Azevedo made the motion, Laurie Dubell seconded. Ayes voted, none opposed & no abstentions.

**V. Approving Congregation Policy**

Discussion:

- Dale reported that most of the content is from former by-laws. Dale also noted one change to highlight regarding a quorum and that it has been 45 forever. Now the quorum will be 40 or 20% of active members (as defined in by-laws)

Vickie Belmont made the motion to approve, and Tom Colby seconded. Ayes Voted, none opposed & no abstentions

**VI. Other business:** None.

**VII. Motion to adjourn** made by Laura Ward, seconded by Eric Ela.

*Minutes taken by Kimberly Fernandez*

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**held September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**A quorum** was in attendance.

**Meeting commenced** at 11:19 AM with Laura Ward presiding as Moderator.

**Articles of the Meeting** were announced as: 1) To call the meeting to order; 2) To approve the minutes of the 2024 annual meeting held June 9th, 2024; 3) To approve nominations for unfilled positions; 4) To receive a report on the sale of the 4 Nathaniel Road parsonage; 5) To consider the Governing Board's "Year of Engagement" vision for church year 2024-2025; 6) To consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting; 6) To adjourn the meeting.

**A motion to approve** the annual meeting minutes of the June 9th, 2024 meeting was put forth by Jay Buckley, seconded by Kim Fernandez, and unanimously approved.

**A motion to approve the appointment** of Gloria Wong-Forzano as Deacon and Kim Zeleznik as Service Ministry Coordinator was motioned by Viki Belmont, seconded by Charles Antone and unanimously approved.

**Charles Antone reported on the sale of the 4 Nathaniel Road parsonage**, stating "We are pleased to share that the sale of the Parsonage has been successfully completed. After the congregation approved the sale, a member informed us that a family member was interested in purchasing the property. To ensure fairness, we engaged an independent professional to appraise the property, which was valued at \$525,000—exceeding the initially approved amount. Given that this appraisal was acceptable to the buyer, we proceeded with the sale, which was finalized on August 1. Additionally, by selling the property directly, the church saved on realtor fees, further benefiting our financial position. The Endowment Team is now in the process of investing the funds."

**Kim Fernandez discussed the "Year of Engagement" initiative** of the Governing Board, while citing scriptural passages that exhorted the members of the congregation to use their gifts for the church's benefit. Pastor Dale outlined the ways that congregation members could get involved and start new ministries. He highlighted the fact that the current church governance allowed for plenty of flexibility in the kinds of missions that the church chose as priorities. Erik Ela motioned to approve the Governing Board vision, Steve Fodor seconded the motion and the assembled body unanimously approved that vision.

**There being no other business that came before the meeting**, Kim Fernandez motioned that the meeting be adjourned, Trinki Brueckner seconded the motion and the assembled body unanimously voted for adjournment.

**The church meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.**

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

**MINUTES of the WINTER CONGREGATIONAL & Annual Budget Meeting**  
**held January 26th, 2025**

**A quorum** was in attendance.

**Meeting commenced** at 11:10 AM with Laura Ward presiding as Moderator.

**Articles of the Meeting** were announced as: 1) To call the meeting to order; 2) To approve the minutes of the Fall Congregational Meeting held September 29th, 2024; 3) To vote on the annual budget; 4) To elect an Assistant Treasurer; 5) To provide the congregation with an update from the Solar Team on the solar project; 6) To consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting; 7) To adjourn the meeting.

**A motion to approve the annual meeting minutes of the September 29th, 2024 meeting** was put forth by Greg Voigt, seconded by Susan Rotblat-Walker, and unanimously approved.

**Tom Colby presented the 2025 annual church budget.** His synopsis was that the level of 2025 pledges was expected to be similar to 2024 pledges, endowment income would increase, personnel expense would decrease, buildings & grounds expense would decrease, oil/energy expense would decrease, and justice & peace ministry expense would increase. Bottom line for the 2025 budget was that the church would operate with a \$14,000 operating deficit that could be covered by reserves. Laura opened up the discussion for questions prior to voting on the budget. Steve Fodor asked how personnel compensation had been derived and wondered that since 2/3rds of the expenses were personnel-related, if a breakdown could be presented in the future to differentiate for the congregation which personnel were being paid what amounts. Tom said that personnel expenses had been derived through a joint effort between himself and the Senior Minister. Tom Strolla applauded Tom Colby for his efforts, Vici Belmont motioned for a vote to approve the 2025 budget, Cheryl Muth seconded the motion and the congregation unanimously approved the 2025 budget.

**Steve Fodor of the Solar Team presented an update on phase 1 of the solar project.** Through the hard work and due diligence of Steve, Tom Colby, Paul Dennis, Dick McWhirter and the REV Racquel Ray, construction of phase 1 of the 16-panel project providing 25,000 kW of power to the Education Building will begin soon. The signed contract with Beacon Solar (the winning bidder of a competitive bid process with 3 energy companies bidding) is fully funded by private donations at a net cost after rebates of \$53,000 with a \$0 cost to the church. The panels will be up and operational somewhere in the next 3-9 months with a savings of \$7500/year to the church. Phase 2 of the project to power the sanctuary will be started in the next year after some hard numbers regarding electrical usage have been gathered and evaluated.

**Dale motioned that Joe Judge be elected the Assistant Treasurer** with his term beginning on or about March 15, 2025. Tom Colby seconded the motion and the congregational vote in favor of Joe's positioning was unanimous.

**There being no other business** that came before the meeting, Marion Fodor motioned that the meeting be adjourned, Tom Colby seconded the motion and the assembled body unanimously voted for adjournment.

The church meeting was adjourned at 11:37 AM.

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



## **REPORTS FROM OUR MINISTERS**

### **Senior Minister**

### **Vacant Position**

- Rev. Dr. Dale Azevedo announced his retirement in January of 2025.
- Lent and Leave-Taking was the 2025 Lenten Theme.
- April 27th 2025 Celebration of Ministry, Reception Luncheon, and Tree Planting.
- Interim Minister search profile was published May 2, 2025 with an Interim Search Committee consisting of Laura Ward chair of the Governing Board, Patricia Stoddard chair of Deacons, Deacon Fred Rocco, and Deacon Liz Wiedenhofer.

### **Associate Minister of Congregational Life**

### **Rev. Racquel Ray**

- Building Community Partnerships: Atria Senior Living, Crossroads Rhode Island, Barrington Public Schools, Barrington Public Library, Barrington Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Barrington Town Hall, Barrington PRIDE, Barrington Veterans Council, Barrington Land Conservation Trust, Barrington Farm School, St. Vincent de Paul, Good Neighbors Soup Kitchen, TAP-IN, We Share Hope, Women's Resource Center, The RI Grange, Blue Skies Rhode Island, Thrive Behavioral Health, East Bay Recovery Center, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Rhode Island Council of Churches, and RI Congressional Delegation.
- Congregational Life: Fellowship, Hospitality, Visitation, Worship, Formation, Wellness, Bereavement support, Youth Group.
- RI Association: Committee on Church and Ministry.
- Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ: Board of Directors.
- United Church of Christ: Disaster Ministries, Disaster Relief Emotional and Spiritual Care Response Team.



# REPORT FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD

Governing Board Chair

Laura Ward

- The Governing Board has been meeting 1-2 times per month with the Director of Ministries (Senior Minister Reverend Dale Azevedo through his departure in April 2025, now with Associate Minister Reverend Racquel Ray). We have hosted guests such as the Finance Coordinator, Property Coordinator, and Endowment.
- In August 2024, the Board approved the sale of the Nathaniel Road parsonage for \$525,000. Endowment has overseen the investment of those proceeds.
- The Governing Board completed and approved a Governing Board Policy.
- At our September 2024 Annual meeting, Reverend Dale Azevedo and Board member Kim Fernandez launched the “Year of Engagement”. Our new church governance structure allows the flexibility for members to use their gifts and passions to start new ministries or to participate in successful established ministries.
- In December 2024, the Board approved the Solar Team’s Phase 1 plan for installation of solar panels on the roof of the education building in order to provide electricity for that building. Phase 1 was financed by donations from several anonymous donors.
- The Board worked with our Finance Coordinator Tom Colby to present a budget to the congregation at the January 2025 Congregational Budget meeting. The budget was approved by a Congregational vote.
- The Board was saddened to learn that our Senior Minister Reverend Dale Azevedo was retiring after nine years of service here at BCC. The Board worked on a transition plan. Laura Ward, Governing Board Chair is supporting an interim senior minister search led by Pat Stoddard, Chair of Deacons, and two Deacons. The Board gave Associate Minister Reverend Racquel Ray authority as Head of Staff and Director of Ministries in the time period prior to the arrival of the interim minister. The Board has a system in which Board members liaison with Ministry Coordinators in order to support Reverend Racquel.
- In May 2025, the Board sponsored a Visioning Workshop facilitated by church guest Sarah Whiting for Board members, Reverend Racquel, Ministry Coordinators, and two deacons.



## REPORTS FROM OUR MINISTRIES

### Worship Ministry

Rev. Racquel Ray, Worship Coordinator

- Summer Worship 2024: Grab Bag Sermons and Hymns.
- Open Doors Sunday with Picnic.
- Thanksgiving Service.
- Advent: Mitten Tree covered with scarves, hats, gloves, socks and Youth Quiet Retreat.
- Christmas: Christmas Eve with Nativity Stories and figures, Candlelight Service.

- Lent: Lent and Leave-Taking.
- Easter and Pentecost: New Beginnings and Transition.
- Matthew and the choir delighted with vibrant Anthems and Introits, exceptional Easter music and solos from Amanda Colby and Violet Milliken.
- Deacons assisted with Communion, Baptisms.

**Chancel Team,** Beth Buckley, Team Leader

- Chancel Team: Bethia Rosner, Cheryl Muth, Paula Rooks and Beth Buckley.
- Altar flowers: Celebrate or commemorate loved ones and special events.
- Christmas and Easter flowers were beautifully arranged.
- Thanksgiving: Harvest decoration with fruits and vegetables donated to TAP-IN.
- Membership changes: Paula Rooks joined in December. Barbara Lee resigned in March. Liz Rosenholm moved away in January. New members are invited to join.
- Our annual meeting was in September and met again in January to honor Liz before her move to New Hampshire.

**Deacons,** Patricia Stoddard, Chair

- The Deacons provide support to our pastors, our congregation and to our community.
- We delivered plants to the recently bereaved, sick or homebound folks at Christmas and Easter, including an in-person visit in most cases.
- Assisted the congregation in making Valentines for college students and the homebound.
- Assisted the pastors with Communion and provided worship assistance when the pastors were away.
- Tenebrae Service held on Maundy Thursday during Holy Week offered by Deacons and Emeriti.
- Each Deacon assisted Rev. Racquel with 1 Confirmation class during the year.
- A Deacon assists the pastor in a conversation/information session with those interested in becoming a member of the church.
- Through donations from the congregation to the Deacons' Fund Offering 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.
- A sub-group of the Deacons, with assistance from the Governing Board Chair Laura Ward, is currently conducting a search for an Interim Senior Minister, with the hope that we will fill that position by the fall.
- There are currently 7 Deacons, which leads me to invite anyone that is a member of our church and is interested in being a part of the spiritual life of this church to contact me or any other Deacon to discuss the possibilities. I believe we get more out of being a Deacon than what we give!
- We look forward to continuing our mission of service to this special faith community.



**Music Team, Matthew Marion, Music Director, Team Leader**

- As we wrap up the 2024-25 church year, the BCC Music Ministry Team would like to thank the patrons and members of the congregation for their never-ending support. Our team works in great pride to provide music that continues to connect our members and community to the word of God.
- We were fortunate to have guest musicians this year for our special events and services. Huge thanks to trumpeter Moira Applebaum for bringing life to Easter Sunday. In addition, thank you to vocalists Arielle Rodgers and Kate Norigian for sharing their talents.
- Our own congregation has always been one full of talent. This year we enjoyed solos from Amanda Colby and Violet Milliken. The BCC Music Ministry team would like to remind our members that our doors are always open to those who would like to join. Also, for soloists interested in providing music for special events. We utilize a host of resources/ databases for our music selections as well as modern technology for performance and live streaming. Weekly rehearsals during the church year are held on Wednesday nights from 7pm-8:30pm.

**Pageant Team, *\*Vacant Team Leader Position\****

- This year's pageant was led by Revs Dale and Racquel in the form of storytelling through the use of Nativity Figures.

**Sing and Celebrate Team, Kate Colby, Team Leader**

- No activities this year.

**Usher Team, Tom Strolla, Team Leader**

- Revised the usher manual & held a formal usher training session.
- By consensus, agreed that only one usher per side for all the church year would suffice. This would lead to less of a commitment for the ushers and hopefully, allow us to recruit more ushers in the future.
- Usher's responsibilities include:
  - Before the service help to ready the church by placing the flowers in the vases, lighting the candles, opening the shutters, checking the hearing devices.
  - During service, greeting and seating the churchgoers, handing out bulletins, collecting the offering and presenting it at the altar.
  - After the service, the ushers restore order to the pews, douse the candles, close the shutters, turn off the lights, lock the offering in the safe, close the doors, and lock the building.
  - We thank our ushers for a successful year and if anyone has an interest in joining the ushering team, please contact the church office. We would love to have you!

**Worship Tech Team, Tom Colby, Team Leader**

- This past year has run rather smoothly in terms of streaming our services.

- Team of 4 that run the streams on a rotating basis.
- This coming year we plan on upgrading the sound system to improve our aging system.

### Welcome Ministry

#### **Welcome Coordinator** (*Vacant Position*)

- Barbara Lee was elected in January of 2024 and will be shifting to other volunteer roles for 2025-2026. THANK YOU, Barbara!
- Position remains open and is the support for: Greeters, Open Doors Sunday, Easter Egg Hunt, Elevette Team, and Trunk or Treat.
- The budget will carry over for 2025-2026 for Easter Egg Hunt and Open-Door Sunday.

#### **Greeter Team**, Trinkie Brueckner, Team Leader

- The Sunday Morning Greeter Ministry has been successful this year.
- Seventeen individuals or family units each volunteered at least once during this programming year.
- In the future, I plan to develop a more organized system of recruitment, and I hope to engage more congregational members in this joyful ministry.

#### **Easter Egg Hunt Team**, Jack Mycroft, Team Leader

- The 2025 Egg Hunt was a huge success and was enjoyed by members and community visitors alike.

#### **Elevette Team**, Jay Buckley, Team Leader

- The elevette has been running smoothly all year and was re-inspected in 2024.

#### **Open Doors Sunday Team**, Kim Fernandez, Team Leader

- Provided a really fun program year kick off with picnic, bubbles, playdoh, and bracelets for all!

#### **Trunk or Treat Team**, *\*Vacant Team Leader Position\**

- Another successful event for the community, church members and visitors.
- The team was led by Elizabeth Azevedo prior to the Azevedo family's ministry retirement in April of 2025.

### Congregational Care Ministry

#### **Rev. Racquel Ray, Congregational Care Coordinator**

The Congregational Care Ministry Teams: Lay Visitation, Coffee Hour, Youth Group, Women of Faith, Pot-Luck, Book Club, Softball, Bereavement groups. The CCM Teams are focused on wellness, well-being, community, and connection at BCCUCC.

**Lay Visitation, Rev. Racquel Ray, Team Leader**

- Meets monthly from Sept – Jun; some meetings were virtual and via email.
- New Members: Trinkie Brueckner, Paula Rooks, Vici Belmont.
- Vici sends greeting cards and notes.
- Monthly chapel services and Coffee with Veterans at Atria Senior Living.

**Coffee Hour, The Ray, Antone and Lee families, and Carol Strakosch**

- Weekly coffee, tea, and snacks for after worship fellowship; tea and lemonade in the summer.
- Sign-up sheet in kitchen.
- New volunteers are always welcome.

**Youth Group, Rev. Racquel Ray, Team Leader**

- 10-15 weekly participants
- 6 Adult volunteer helpers
- Meets weekly when Barrington Public Schools are in session 6-7p with shared meals, activities, sports, and a prayer circle
- Trip to LaSalette Shrine and Advent Quiet Retreat were highlights this year

**Women of Faith, Jane Tonn, Team Leader**

- Meetings were held from October through May in the church library from 1:30 – 3 pm on the first and third Thursdays of the month.
- New members are always welcome.

**Pot-Luck Team, Rev. Racquel Ray and Trinkie Brueckner, Co-Leaders**

- Quarterly, seasonal potluck meals for the whole community.

**Book Club, Helen Schall, Team Leader**

- The Book Group of the Church meets monthly in the church library.
- It is made up of church members and members of the community.
- This past year, we had an average attendance of 6 members and read books that included a memoir, fiction and a non-fiction.
- At the end of each discussion, the group chooses the next month's book from a list of suggested books.

**Softball Team, Tom Kiley, Team Leader**

- Summer of 2024 the softball team played well as a team and added many new members.
- New team players are always welcome and needed to remain active in the Inter-faith Softball League.
- They are looking forward to a great 2025 season.

**Bereavement, Rev. Racquel Ray, Team Co-Leader**

- Monthly meetings on the second Monday at 10am in the church library.
- Meetings are confidential.
- Open to all in the community experiencing grief and loss.

**Justice and Peace Ministry**

**Nancy Arena, Justice & Peace Coordinator**

**Creation Care Team, Rev. Racquel Ray, Team Leader**

- Solar Panels at BCCUCC: Phase I and Phase II. Phase I is in progress, made possible through several large donations from church members, and will power the education building. Phase II will be dependent on the Congregation's financial support and will power the historic church building. All panels will be installed on the education building.

**Barrington Interfaith Partners, Trinkie Brueckner, Team Leader**

Meetings were held in the BCCUCC church library on the second Monday of each month. BIP now includes members from eight houses of worship and includes four members from BCCUCC. During the reporting period key activities included:

- Spring Forum 2024 – Congressman Gabe Amo spoke on “Engaging Democracy.”
- BIP participated in postcard writing campaigns to registered voters prior to the election and to legislative leaders after the election.
- Fall Forum 2024 at Temple Habonim. Forum addressed Christian Nationalism and Project 2025.
- BIP held a candlelight prayer service on November 4 in the church library. The service included music from Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and secular traditions, as well as poems and prayers, and moments of silence. This was a non-partisan event to pray for the country on the night before the presidential election. The turn-out was overwhelming.
- Spring Forum 2025 – March 17 - Attorney General Peter Neronha addressed the topic “Democracy in Crisis! Where do we find hope?”

**Royalties for Negro Spirituals Team, Helen Schall, Team Leader**

- On October 13 Helen Schall presented a Moment for Mission honoring the many contributions of Afro-descended people to our collective culture. She acknowledged that the original creators of many songs and stories were never compensated for their work. In addition to Moment for Mission, acclaimed storyteller Valerie Tutson presented a special story for the all ages worship service. The congregation was encouraged to contribute to Community Music Works in Providence. This organization's mission is to create a cohesive urban community through music education and performance that transforms the lives of children, families, and musicians.

- On May 11 Helen Schall presented a second Moment for Mission and again encouraged contributions to Community Music Works.

#### **Open and Affirming (ONA) Team, *\*Vacant Team Leader Position\****

- Dale Azevedo was the team leader. No replacement leader has been identified as of the writing of this report.
- Church members and friends were encouraged to participate in Pride Month celebrations and events. Of special significance was BCCUCC's representation at the raising of the Pride Flag at the Barrington Town Hall and participation in the Pride parade.
- The ONA Team placed a new progressive pride flag in the large frame outside the church.
- There were no other activities for this team during the reporting period.

#### **Asylum Ministry Team, Gabrielle Sclafani, Team Leader**

There was one key activity for this team, which is briefly described below. In the fall the decision was made to combine the Asylum Ministry Team (originally under Justice & Peace) with the Refugee Resettlement Team (originally under Service) and to locate the combined team under the Service Ministry Area. The one activity that occurred under Justice & Peace was:

- On Saturday, July 13, BCCUCC hosted Atwater-Donnelly for a concert and silent auction to raise money to reunite Khaled, a refugee from Afghanistan, with his family. His family was living as undocumented immigrants in Iran. The event included music, food, silent auction, and an opportunity for fellowship and community. This event raised \$3,000 and, combined with other sources of financial assistance, resulted in \$12,500 to assist Khaled and his family on their journey to a new home in Canada.

#### **Other Key Activities Not Tied to A Specific Team**

- **BCCUCC Peace Flags** - During coffee hour on September 15 & 22, congregation members made Peace Flags in recognition of the International Day of Peace (Sep 21) and in support of the American Library Association's Banned Books Week (Sep 22-28). The flags were given to Barrington Public Library. The library not only displayed them, but also posted videos of them along with a thank you note to our church on their FB page. The library post was subsequently shared to our BCCUCC FB page. They wrote: "Thank you to the members of the Barrington Congregational Church for creating and donating these flags to help celebrate Banned Books Week! They are a great addition to our Banned Books Week display on the first floor of the library. The flags will remain up to remind us that fighting censorship and book bans is an around the year job. Check out the flags next time you are in the library!" Thank you to everyone who created a Peace Flag in support of peace and 'Freedom to Read'.
- **Wear Orange in support of Gun Control** – In 2024 the 10th National Gun Violence Awareness Day, also known as Wear Orange Day, was Friday, June 7 and the weekend of June 8 & 9 was Wear Orange Weekend which features virtual and in-person events across

the nation. BCCUCC will once again be lighting up the front of the church in orange and encouraging everyone to wear orange. Gun Violence Awareness Day was founded to honor survivors and victims of gun violence. It originally began on June 2, 2015, on what would have been the 18th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton. Pendleton was shot and killed on a playground in Chicago on January 29, 2013, just a week after she had marched in President Obama's second inauguration parade. Why Do People Wear Orange? Not long after Pendleton was killed, her friends began to wear orange as a tribute and commemoration of her life, as safety orange is the color hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others. We WEAR ORANGE to honor Hadiya, and all of the other people who are wounded or killed due to gun violence.

### Service Ministry

**Kim Zeleznik, Service Coordinator**

- Coordinated Coffee for Crossroads.
- Currently working on Church World Service emergency kits.
- Organized Thanksgiving Food Drive for TAP-IN.
- We can do so much for the church and others, so reach out if you would like to join in.

**Knitting for Others Team, Nancy Arena, Team Leader**

- Met monthly including hybrid participants.
- Prayer Shawl Ministry.
- Contributed hats, scarves & mittens for Mitten Tree.
- Members made Prayer Squares.

**Loaves and Fishes Team, *\*Vacant Team Leader Position\****

- No Activity this year.

**Local Outreach Team, Nancy Arena, Team Leader**

- Mitten Tree was a huge success.
- Giving Tree, Thanksgiving Food Drive for TAP-IN, Coffee for Crossroads.

**Mission Trip Team, JoAnne Waite, Team Leader**

- No activity this year.

**Refugee Resettlement Team, Lory McCoy, Team Leader**

- No activity this year.

## Faith Formation Ministry

**Andrea Terni, Faith Formation Director**

### **Nursery School**

- We have three paid caregivers with one paid caregiver per Sunday.
- There has been an average of 1-2 children in attendance each Sunday.

### **Church School**

- 12 Adult teachers.
- 39 children registered with an average of 12 children each Sunday.

#### **Programs Offered**

- Godly Play Grades PK – 2nd
- Deep Blue (rotation stations) Grades 3rd – 5th
- World Religions Grades 6th – 8th

### **Major Activities & Highlights:**

- Advent Arts, Easter Extravaganza, Jubilation Sunday (Theme = “Peace”) & approximately one All-Ages Worship per month.

### **Confirmation**

- Six youth will complete the program which had been held once a month (in person, online or self-directed). Each class was facilitated by Rev. Racquel Ray and a Deacon.
- They will celebrate the completion of the program with the release of doves on June 15th, 2025.

### **Our Whole Lives (OWL)**

- Inactive this year. Plans are underway to start again for the upcoming program year.

### **Adult Education**

- 5 Bible Study meetings were held with Rev. Dale Azevedo with 6 – 8 attendees.

## Property Ministry

**Paul Dennis, Property Coordinator**

- Ridge vent was added to the church roof by Roofing Doctor to improve air circulation in the attic.
- Termite damage in the wall in the front of the church under the stained-glass window was repaired by Catanzaro Painting.

- Vestry project- asbestos testing and removal of old steam heat pipes in the vestry allowed for demolition of interior plaster and lathe walls. It was necessary to expose the inside of the brick foundation walls to evaluate water damage discovered when insulating the building last year. Northeast Engineers has designed a repair to rebuild the interior brick walls which has been sent to contractors for estimates.
- Nathaniel Parsonage was sold and proceeds were added to the endowment fund.
- Old steam boiler was removed to make room for the new solar panel electrical equipment. Panels are now on the Ed building. roof and will be activated this summer to help with our electric bill.
- Fire alarm system required a major upgrade.
- Ed Building air conditioning continues to be a problem and some units may need to be replaced.
- A new electric hot water heater was installed to make hot water available throughout the Education Building.
- A bronze plaque describing the church's history was installed on the south wall of the church donated by the family of Rick Browning.
- Jay Buckley retired as one of our custodians this year and will be sorely missed. Frank and Barbara Lee have increased their hours and are doing a great job maintaining our facilities.

#### **Landscape Team, Eileen Dennis, Team Leader**

- The trees, shrubs, and plants purchased and planted on the church and education building grounds from spring 2023 to June 2024 are all growing nicely.
- To assist in watering the new plantings in the long gardens across the front of the education building we hired Rainman401, an irrigation company, to install an irrigation system. This consistent watering has and will continue to ensure the trees and shrubs will receive enough water to grow. There will be fees to turn the system on and off to prevent freezing each year.
- The large holly tree next to the steps with the rainbow doors developed sooty mildew, a fungal disease caused by insect infestation. We had Staton's Landscaping to treat the tree. Even though the tree looks better, it will need a second treatment.
- The donated Beach Plum on the bridge side of the church died this year. Staton Landscaping removed the tree and replaced it with a donated Witch Hazel from Barbara Wuth.
- Two dead Maple trees by the carriage sheds were removed. A Juniper was replaced next to the church. Annual pruning and mulching were done. Work was done by Staton Landscaping.
- Weeding became difficult for our small team so in addition to mulching and pruning we had Staton's Landscaping weed the beds this year. We will do this again going forward. Once the beds fill in, additional weeding will require less work for the team.



## Finance Ministry

Finance Coordinator, Tom Colby

- 2024 finished about in line with our budget. Our approved budget anticipated a loss of about \$37,000. This was improved by the sale of the Nathaniel parsonage of around \$17,000. In the end, the result was negative at \$15,149. 70% of our income was from pledges and gifts, 30% from endowments and rentals.
- We completed the sale of the Nathaniel Rd parsonage for \$521,000. This money was invested with endowment funds and future earnings will be used to support housing for the associate minister.
- A team reviewed the electric usage for the education building and solicited proposals for solar to offset our electric usage. With gifts in hand and the approval of the Governing Board, we are now in the process of installing solar power on the education building. Our expectation is that this will offset between \$7000 and \$8000 in electric expenses. The solar team hopes that we will be able to raise funds for a second project to supply solar power for the church building as well. (Panels for the new project would also be installed on the education building.)
- **Stewardship Report:** Another successful Stewardship Campaign. See below and on the next page to review the 2025 (and 2024) pledge/statements of giving

### Pledge/statement of giving for 2025

Group	Number	Amount
New or increased pledge	36	207,604
Pledged the same amount	42	151,781
Decreased pledge	8	8,640
Total	86	368,025

### Pledge/statement of giving for 2024

Group	Number	Amount
New or increased pledge	41	189,840
Pledged the same amount	38	144,416
Decreased pledge	8	14,020
Total	87	348,276

**Auditor, Jon Loerke**

- I performed review procedures on the Church's financial records for the twelve months, ending December 31, 2024. No material issues in our internal controls or report balances were noted.

**Endowment Team, Kate Colby, Team Leader**

- 2024 investment markets were generally solid. At year-end 2024, BCCUCC had a total of \$3,058,680 under management; up from \$2,382,102 at the end of 2023. Included in the 2024 total were \$319,350 designated for specific uses and a new fund from the sale of the parsonage of \$515,018 designated for Associate Minister's housing support.
- BCCUCC uses 3 investment managers: Rhode Island Foundation, Ocean State Incubator Fund and United Church Funds. Their returns were 10.5%, 9.3% and 10.3% respectively. These were all slightly lower than their respective benchmarks of 11.4%, 10.1% and 12%. Total distributions to support 2024 operations were \$113,500. Budgeted distributions for 2025 operations are \$127,000. In addition to the parsonage proceeds, there were \$30,000 in donations to the Endowment funds.
- First quarter 2025 investment markets were volatile. All fund managers reported slight losses.
- The endowment team is actively working on updating its policy for Governing Board approval this calendar year.
- One goal for the endowment team is to promote raising funds. With big changes to the church over the last 2 years, a new governance system, and the loss of our Senior Minister, outreach has not been our focus.

**Treasurer, Leo Drury**

**Operations**

- Increased investment income and decreased personnel expenses resulted in net deficit \$22,000 less budgeted.

**Capital Improvements**

**Sources of capital improvement funding:**

Gift	\$93,900
Contribution from Operations	10,000
Interest Income	<u>1,800</u>
Total	\$105,700

**Capital improvement expenditures:**

Vestry Renovation Project	\$14,500
Church West Face Rot Repair	7,800
Solar Project	7,600
Ridge Vent & Rubber Roof Repair	6,900
Church Heating Pump Project	6,300
Stage Curtain	3,000
Electrical Upgrades	2,100
Reset bricks near Vestry door	1,600
Kitchen Steps Railing	<u>1,500</u>
Total	\$51,300

**Summary of Financial Activity and Financial Position for 2024**

## Statement of Activities for the Year Ended December 31, 2024

	<u>Operations</u>	<u>Capital</u> <u>Improvements</u>	<u>Endowment</u> <sup>Note A</sup>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Revenues</b>				
Pledges, Gifts and Offerings	\$397,512 <sup>Note B</sup>	\$105,704 <sup>Note C</sup>	\$551,413 <sup>Note G</sup>	\$1,054,629 <sup>Note E</sup>
Investment Income or Loss	123,493 <sup>Note D</sup>	0	248,642	372,135
Rentals	22,731	0	0	22,731
Other	<u>26,106</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>26,106</u>
Total Revenues	\$569,842	\$105,704	\$800,055	\$1,475,601
<b>Expenses</b>				
Staff	\$388,590	0	0	\$388,590
Office	14,634	0	0	14,634
Ministries	31,030	0	0	31,030
Buildings & Grounds	111,669	0	0	111,669
Capital Improvement	10,000	51,294	0	61,294 <sup>Note E</sup>
Missions, Disbursements & Fees	<u>29,068</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>123,477</u> <sup>Note D</sup>	<u>152,545</u>
Total Expenses	\$584,991	\$51,294	\$123,477	\$759,762
Change in Net Assets	(15,149)	54,410	676,578	715,839
Net Assets Beg. of Year	<u>205,190</u>	<u>101,483</u>	<u>2,382,102</u>	<u>2,688,775</u>
Net Assets End of Year	\$190,041	\$155,893	\$3,058,680	\$3,404,614

## Statement of Financial Position for the Year Ended December 31, 2024

**Assets**

Cash and Investments	\$349,818	\$155,893	\$3,058,680	\$3,564,391
Receivables and Other Assets	<u>17,303</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>17,303</u>
Total Assets	\$367,121	\$155,893	\$3,058,680	\$3,581,694

**Deferred Income & Liabilities**

Funds for Designated Purposes	178,277 <sup>Note F</sup>	0	0	178,277
Other	<u>(1,197)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(1,197)</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>177,080</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>177,080</u>
Net Assets	\$190,041	\$155,893	\$3,058,680	\$3,404,614

**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 \$32,000. For reference, gifts for 12/31/2023 and 12/31/2022 were \$41,000 and \$108,000, respectively.
- C Includes receipts from Operations of \$10,000.
- D Includes disbursements from General Endowment Funds to Operations Investment Income of \$94,500.
- E Total does not eliminate transfer from Operations to Capital Improvement of \$10,000.
- F Includes Flood and Property Damage reserve of \$39,000.
- G Includes proceeds from the sale of the parsonage of \$521,000.

**2025 Budget****Income**

Unrestricted Income	
Total Pledges (2025 anticipated)	354,399

Total Offerings and Gifts	35,900
Total Investments	132,000
Total Rentals	21,231
Total Other Income	<u>1,000</u>
Total Unrestricted Income	544,530
Restricted Income	
Total Missions Income	6,250
Total Non-Missions Income	<u>5,000</u>
Total Restricted Income	<u>11,250</u>
Total Income	555,780
Gross Profit	<u>555,780</u>
<b>Expense</b>	
Total Personnel	385,412
<b>Operations</b>	
Buildings & Grounds	
Capital	10,000
Total Church & Ed. Bldg.	59,620
Total Parsonage - Fireside	8,450
Total Insurance	<u>37,726</u>
Total Buildings & Grounds	115,796
Total Administration	7,000
Total Office	9,100
Total Finance	2,750
Ministries	
Total Congregational Care	2,350
Total Faith Formation	4,750
Total Justice and Peace	7,700
Total Service	1,900
Total Welcome	950
Total Worship	<u>9,050</u>
Total Ministries	26,700
Total Missions-General Funds	23,975
Total Other Expenses	<u>-</u>
Total Operations	<u>185,321</u>
Total Expense	<u>570,733</u>
Net Income (loss)	<u><u>(14,953)</u></u>

### Administration Ministry

**Administration Coordinator** (*Vacant Position*)

**Vacant Position, Administration Coordinator**

- The Administration Ministry will need to be re-created with the transition in leadership following Rev. Dale Azevedo's retirement.

**Historical Team, *\*Vacant Team Leader Position\****

- Dianne Wilkin, the church Historian and former Team Leader has moved out of town and stepped down from the team lead position.

**Nominating Team, *\*Vacant Team Leader Position\****

No report submitted, please see coordinator's report.

**Personnel Team, *\*Vacant Team Leader Position\****

No report submitted, please see coordinator's report.



## LIST OF ELECTED LEADERS AND MINISTRY TEAMS

### Church Officers and Elected Leaders

Those designated with an \* were elected at the special meeting held on January 28, 2024, and will serve until June, 2025, with the exception of the Governing Board members who will serve until June, 2026.

**Governing Board**

- \*Laura Ward, Chair
- \*Charles Antone
- \*Chris Brady
- \*Kim Fernandez
- \*Vanessa Kiley

**Officers**

- \*Laura Ward, Gov. Board Chair
- \*Greg Voigt, Clerk
- \*Leo Drury, Treasurer

**Director of Ministries**

*Vacant*, Sr. Minister

**Ministry Coordinators**

- Rev. Racquel Ray, Worship
- Vacant*, Welcome
- \*Rev. Racquel Ray, Congregational Care
- \*Nancy Arena, Justice and Peace
- Kim Zeleznik, Service
- \*Andrea Terni, Faith Formation
- \*Paul Dennis, Property
- \*Tom Colby, Finance
- Vacant*, Administration

## LIST OF ELECTED LEADERS AND MINISTRY TEAMS

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*Vacant*, Sr. Minister

### Ministry Coordinators

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*Vacant*, Welcome  
 \*Rev. Racquel Ray, Congregational Care  
 \*Nancy Arena, Justice and Peace  
 Kim Zeleznik, Service  
 \*Andrea Terni, Faith Formation  
 \*Paul Dennis, Property  
 \*Tom Colby, Finance  
*Vacant*, Administration

## Ministry Areas and Teams

Team leaders are listed

### Worship Coord.

Chancel Team  
 Deacons  
 Music Team  
 Pageant Team  
 Sing & Celebrate Team  
 Ushers Team  
 Worship Tech Team

### \*Racquel Ray

Beth Buckley  
 Pat Stoddard  
 Matthew Marion  
*Vacant*  
 Kate Colby  
 Tom Strolla  
 Tom Colby

### Welcome Coord.

Easter Egg Hunt Team  
 Elevette Team  
 Greeters Team  
 Open Door Sunday Tm.  
 Publicity Team  
 Trunk or Treat Team

### Vacant

Jack Mycroft  
 Jay Buckley  
 Trinkie Brueckner  
*Vacant*  
*Vacant*  
*Vacant*



**Congregational Care Coord. \*Racquel Ray**

Bereavement Group	Racquel Ray
Book Club	Helen Schall
Coffee Hour Team	Ray, Lee, Antone & Strakosch
Lay Visitation Team	Racquel Ray
Pot-Luck Team	Racquel Ray & Trinki Brueckner
Softball Team	Tom Kiley
Women of Faith Team	Jane Tonn
Youth Group Team	Racquel Ray

**Justice & Peace Coord. \*Nancy Arena**

5 for 5 Team	Nancy Arena
Asylum Team	Gab. Sclafani
B.I.P. Team	Trinki Brueckner
Creation Care Team	Racquel Ray
Negro Spirituals Team	Helen Schall
ONA Team	Vacant

**Service Coord. Kim Zeleznik**

Knitting for Others	Nancy Arena
Loaves & Fishes Team	Vacant
Local Outreach Team	Vacant
Mission Trip Team	JoAnne Waite
Refugee Resettlement	Lory McCoy

**Faith Formation Coord. \*Andrea Terni**

Adult Formation Team	Racquel Ray
Church School Team	Fred Rocco
Confirmation Team	Racquel Ray
Nursery Team	Andrea Terni
O.W.L. Team	Andrea Terni

**Finance Coord.**

Stewardship Team	Vacant
Endowment Team	Kate Colby
Treasurer	Leo Drury
Budget Monitoring	Tom Colby
Accounting	Tom Colby

**\*Tom Colby****Property Coord.**

Church Buildings Team	Paul Dennis
Landscaping Team	Eileen Dennis
Parsonage Team	Vacant
Building Rental Team	Sara Bagwell & Sam Sylvester

**\*Paul Dennis****Administration Coord.**

Personnel Team	Vacant
Nominating Team	Vacant
Historical Team	Vacant

**Vacant**

## Membership Statistics

### Changes in membership since the 2024 Annual Report:

Between June 3, 2024 and June 3, 2025 the following changes occurred:

#### Additions to Active Membership

0 - New Members  
0 - Adult Baptism  
0 - Confirmation  
3 - Return to Active Membership

#### Losses to Active Membership

5 - Death  
11 - Other reasons (moved away,  
were inactive, etc)

Active Membership as of June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 was 219 (*Number reported in 2024 Annual Report*)

**Active Membership as of June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 is 206**

### Changes in membership from January 1 to December 31, 2024:

Active Membership as of 12/31/2024 was 212 (see following table for breakdown).

*From the UCC Yearbook Report Form:*

#### **Statistics for January 1 – December 31, 2024**

Active Membership as of 12/31/2023	221
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#### Additions during year:

Confirmation	0
Confession of Faith	0
Letters of Transfer	3
Reaffirmation of Faith	3

#### Losses during year:

Death	6
Transfer	2
Other removals	7

Active Membership as of 12/31/2024	212
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### **Changes in membership from January 1<sup>st</sup> to June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025:**

The following changes in ACTIVE membership took place in 2025 thru June 3:

0	New Active Member
0	New Members (by Confirmation)
0	Return to Active Membership
-1	Death of Active Members
-5	Removals (moved away)

Active Membership as of 12/31/2024 was 212 (see earlier).

Active Membership as of 6/3/2025 is 206.

*Note: All of these membership statistics only include those who officially joined our church and become a 'member' and are also still active. If you'd like to become an official member, please reach out to the church office to find out about the next New Member Class. Regardless of membership status, all are welcome to fully participate in the life of our church.*



### **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 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

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.*



**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](https://www.facebook.com/bccucc)



Associate Minister for Congregational Life: The Rev. Racquel Ray

Faith Formation Director: Andrea Terni

Music Director: Matthew Marion

Office Administrator: Sara Bagwell

Financial Secretary: Patricia Stoddard

Custodians: Frank Lee & Barbara Lee