

*First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Wilmot, NH*



*Annual Report for 2020  
Presented at Annual Meeting  
January 31, 2021*



**First Congregational Church of Wilmot, UCC  
Annual Meeting – January 31, 2021**

**AGENDA**

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**First Congregational Church of Wilmot, UCC**  
**Minutes of Annual Meeting – January 26, 2020**

The Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church was called to order by Moderator Paul Fenton at 10:40 a.m. on Sunday, January 26, 2020. A quorum was present.

Rev. Sara Marean offered a prayer.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of January 27, 2019, were approved as submitted.

**Staff Reports**

**Pastor:** Rev. Sara urged us to review the impact assessment of her time in eSwatini and spoke briefly of next year's sabbatical. She described our church as vibrant and growing, saying it had been a great year. Appreciation for her ministry was demonstrated by applause.

**Music Director:** Will Ogmundson said he loves being here, and he and Sara enjoy working together. The attendees showed their gratitude for Will by applauding him.

**Officer, Board, and Committee Reports**

**Moderator:** Paul referred to his report, emphasizing the last paragraph.

**Clerk:** The following corrections were made to the clerk's report: The figure under deaths should be 2, making the total active membership 69.

**Auditor:** Charlie Foss thanked Allan MacDonald for his service as our Treasurer.

**Treasurer:** Before discussing his report, Allan applauded the work of the "clean team" and encouraged anyone interested in joining to let him know.

Allan again pointed out that the treasurer does not receive funds (the collector does that) but spends funds. He reviewed and explained some of the items in the report. He urged us to give our new treasurer, Amber Gove, a year of grace as it takes time to learn this role.

**Trustees:** Robin Walkup briefly referred to the written report. Discussion of the budget was deferred until after the written committee reports were reviewed.

**Deacons:** Jane Norman stated that they are experimenting with having 6 deacons rather than the usual 4. The KIN groups have been reshuffled. Jane and Marie MacDonald are ending their service as deacons, and they were thanked for their work.

**Sunday School:** Nancy Allenby was thanked for her work with the children.

**Stewardship:** Susan Bruce gave a big thank-you to the congregation for the successful year.

**New Horizons Mission:** Marie MacDonald read an email from Shilla Adero thanking us for providing tuition support for a student. She pointed out that additional money has been allocated for the coming year, reflecting the increase in our income. She reviewed the mission statement of the NHMC and said that the committee reviews the funding based on the mission statement, thus adding and deleting some organizations.

**Budget for 2020:** Robin Walkup presented the budget and corrected the year-to-date column to read \$3689, not \$3774. The budget was increased due to the continuing increase in plate offerings. The radiant heating system for the front deck was connected, and the additional cost of propane will be assessed and the level of use revised accordingly.

Motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to accept the Trustees' budget as corrected.

**Safe Spaces Policy:** Moderator pointed out that the policy is to be included in the annual report each year.

**New Business**

**Nominating Committee:** Julianne Gachelin presented the proposed slate, thanking Marti Clark for agreeing to be assistant to the treasurer. Julianne said that the Time and Talent sheets are a really

important resource for the committee. Claire Moseley thanked Bethany Balford for stepping in and doing the plantings on the front deck.

Motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to accept the names listed in bold letters on the slate of officers and committee members.

**Thank-you and presentation of “Shoes Too Big to Fill” award**

The following persons completed their terms of office and were presented with a certificate of thanks and a potted plant:

Allan MacDonald - Treasurer

Jane Norman and Marie MacDonald for their years as Deacons

Bill Partridge - Trustee

Michiko Yamaguchi – At-large

Amber Gove– Assistant Treasurer and New Horizons Mission

Kristin Lizotte – New Horizons Mission

Julianne Gachelin – Nominating

Robin Walkup and Charlie Foss for representing us as delegates.

“**Shoes Too Big to Fill**” award was presented to Allan MacDonald for his four years as our Treasurer

There being no further business, Moderator offered a prayer of dismissal and adjourned the meeting at 11:30.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Howe, Clerk

## **PASTOR’S REPORT**

***“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God”***

Well, my friends, this has been quite a year! After what seemed to be a fairly normal beginning to 2020, our world was hit with the largest health crisis in a lifetime. Following the guidance of our denomination and health experts, the decision was made to move to online worship, with March 15 becoming our first virtual service. We began this ‘new thing’ worshipping with our friends at the First Congregational Church of Walpole, UCC, establishing a wonderful new relationship, and moving to our own services in mid-May.

But amazingly, in the midst of hardship and difficulty, what we have experienced is an outpouring of the Spirit like never before. We have seen a burst of energy in our congregation as new folks have joined via Zoom, out-of-state friends have been able to participate from afar, and we welcomed some wonderful new members to our midst. Despite this time of uncertainty, our congregation continues to bless others through our time, talents and treasures, our giving has increased and worship attendance is at an all-time high.

We have tackled the challenges of the day head on by adapting in many different ways. Throughout the year we had several opportunities to read and study with one another online. In the fall we held outdoor services and, while the technology was tricky, it was wonderful to be together in the beauty of a NH autumn. We made improvements to our horse sheds to accommodate outdoor church school and meetings, and a beautiful Spiral Walk. And this Advent our incredible deacons distributed Advent wreaths and materials so that we might celebrate the wonder of the season in our own homes. Our staff and volunteers have been a big part of this. This fall, recognizing the need for technology and administrative help, the Parish Committee hired Eunice Jadlocki to assist with the website management, newsletter production, database implementation and more. Her presence with us has been an incredible blessing and we thank her for her hard work and enormous skills!

Our Music Director Will Ogmundson adapted to this new reality by holding online choir practices, recording music for worship and bringing music to the places and spaces it was needed. Will

has worked so hard to make beautiful music and to engage the choir and congregation in this new virtual format. This is not gone unnoticed! Will, we thank you for all you bring to us.

And in the midst of an incredibly challenging environment Church School has continued. I want to thank Nancy Allenby for her creativity and energy in continuing to provide fun, educational and engaging activities and lessons, online and in-person, for a variety of ages. The pageant was a particular highlight this Advent and brought much joy and laughter to us all.

As we have delved into our theme for the year we have launched our initiative “Towards Becoming a Racial Justice Church”. Our Racial Justice Steering Committee members have poured their hearts and souls into doing this important work and we are so excited to be bringing you this time of study and learning, reckoning and reconciliation, listening and sharing. (Please see the RJSC report for more info.)

I want to end by lifting up a huge thank you to our officers and to each and every committee member. Your dedication to our congregation has been inspiring and energizing. I could not ask for a better group of people to lead our community through this difficult and challenging time. And this year I want to add a personal note of thanks; to Eric who every week spends hours creating slides, putting together pageants, being zoom host extraordinaire, etc. and to Zeph, Wren and Milo who have donated their home space to create worship every week.

Most of all I want to recognize what a joy it is to minister with, to and on behalf of this community. It is a blessing I recognize each and every day as I thank God for this church filled with justice seekers, kindness lovers and humble walkers! I look forward to another year of actively answering God’s call with you all.

In love,  
Rev. Sara

### **MUSIC DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

2020 was a unique and challenging year musically, but we pulled together and achieved many things. We kept up weekly choir rehearsals through zoom, and put together anthems on GarageBand. Choir members adapted very well to the new routine, and we had many virtual collaborations with vocalists and instrumentalists. Sara, Eric and I worked out a system for prerecording most of the service music and playing the recordings on Sundays. Hopefully 2021 will allow us to ease back into a more “normal” routine, but I’m really pleased and proud of the choir for rising to the occasion.

Respectfully submitted,  
William Ogmundson, Music Director

### **MODERATOR’S REPORT for 2020**

The year 2020 will long be remembered. With great enthusiasm, following a memorable Christmas Pageant, in December 2019, under the direction of our new Music Director Will Ogmundson, our church began 2020 by removing a pew up front to provide more room for the piano and choir. The pew was subsequently installed at the back of the church with room for a wheel chair beside it. There were those that commented that it looked like it had always been there. At the same time a cabinet was installed in the hallway, as you enter through the righthand door of the church, for the storage of all the music the choir uses. The work of rebuilding, building and installing was done by your Moderator.

Following our March Parish Committee meeting, the COVID 19 pandemic descended upon us. Following State of NH recommendations, the church was closed, and all committee meetings and church services were conducted by Zoom meetings. Needless to say, this required major changes in how we approached our activities. Surprisingly, our robust enthusiasm was not diminished and we carried on. A great deal of effort by many was done to make sure that masks were available and social distancing was

maintained to reduce the spread of the virus. We even managed to have a takeout chicken barbecue fund raiser and some outdoor church services in the fall. All collections had to be mailed to our collector, Carol Foss, which worked out quite well. These and many other changes in our routine were made without any serious problems.

In August a steering Committee was formed with the purpose of our church becoming a Racial Justice church. This group is very active and moving forward towards the achievement of their goal.

In September at the urging of Rev. Sara and with the support of the Pastoral Relations Committee a temporary paid office assistant was recommended to be hired and a Review Committee of all church activities was recommended to be formed. Its purpose is to look at all church activities, staffing and bylaws to determine if changes should be made. Our church is growing and it is becoming difficult for a few volunteers along with the Minister to keep up with the church needs.

I wish to thank all Committees for their help and corporation during this difficult year and a “Great Big Thank You” for what Rev. Sara and husband Eric have done to make our Zoom meetings so successful. It has made my job so much easier. Here’s to a prosperous and productive new year.

Your Moderator, Paul Fenton Jr.

### CLERK’S REPORT

Beginning active membership	69
New Members	<u>4</u>
Total	73

Deaths of active members - 2 (Jane “Cherry” Fenton and Rev. Les Norman. Ginny Higgins, a dear friend of the church also died )  
Removed on request - 1 (Susan Morse)

Total active membership 70

Average worship attendance last year 39.

This year the Conference wants us to report actual in-sanctuary worship and then the number of devices at Zoom worship. Not knowing this until mid-January 2021, when I first took attendance at Zoom in August after we discontinued the combined worship with Walpole, I did not separate the devices plus other people appearing on the squares. These are the numbers you may be interested in:

Average for in-sanctuary worship Jan 5 – March 8: **37**

Average for Zoom & outdoor worship combining devices & others Aug. 20 – Oct. 25: **50**

Average just devices Nov. 1 – Dec. 27: **42**

Average devices & others Nov.1 – Dec. 27: **54**

Janet Howe, Clerk

### AUDITOR’S REPORT

An audit of the Treasurer’s records was completed on January 6, 2021, and I am happy to report the results are good. Our Treasurer, Amber Gove, demonstrated that she had the proper checks and balances in place to ensure receipts and disbursements were properly recorded, resulting in accurate financial statements. I am especially pleased with the work done in 2020 to make “Quick Books” our financial tool for reporting and reconciliation. Amber and Marti Clark worked many, many hours to make this happen.

Respectfully submitted, Charles L. Foss, Auditor

# Welcome to our 2020 New Members



Ralph English



Sally Olsen



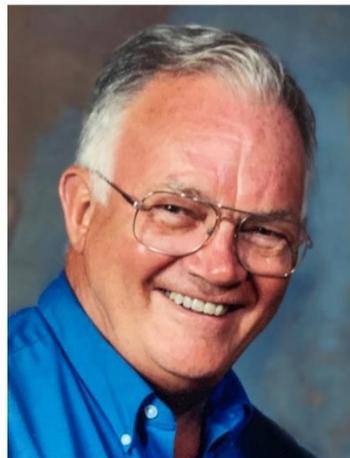
Annedore & Hardy Hasenfuss

## We remember & will miss you!

Ginny Higgins, wife of our former pastor, Chuck Higgins, passed away.



Cherry Fenton passed on June 22, 2020.



Les Norman passed on August 29, 2020.

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT for 2020**

We welcomed David Balford as the newest member of the Trustees in February. We showed him around the building and showed him how to test the AED battery. The battery did not need to be replaced.

The floor in Fellowship Hall was stripped and re-waxed in January. By March, we were no longer meeting in person at the church due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We filed the Real Estate Tax Exemption paperwork in April with the Town of Wilmot.

There was some rearranging of pews in the sanctuary this year. The front left pew was removed to make more room for the choir to stand and be closer to the music director. The pew was re-installed in the back of the sanctuary. The choir also got a new music cabinet, which Paul Fenton built, and is located at the end of the entry hall next to the stairs. Many thanks to Ed Weaver and Paul Fenton for their help and carpentry skills.

A new lapel microphone for Sara was installed, which has made outdoor services easier to provide.

In May, we held the annual Spring Clean-Up over the course of a week, to help keep social distancing. David Balford shampooed the rug in the sanctuary, and several members cleaned windows and installed screens in Fellowship Hall. Doug MacDonald took care of the lawn and planted a lilac bush, that was given in memory of Bryan Jones by his wife Cindy. We had a painting party to prepare the primed clapboards for the back of the church, which was re-sided by Chris Gaherty Carpentry from Grantham, NH. Doug MacDonald re-sealed the outside walkways in August.

This fall the elevator was inspected and passed, the screens were removed from the lower level windows and stored in the shed, and the lower boards were replaced on the back of the carriage shed, because they had too much water damage. The sandbox was removed, and a new crushed blue stone floor was laid down to make it more level for tables used by the Sunday School when they meet outside. Thank you again to Doug MacDonald, David Balford, Paul Fenton, Paul Currier, Bill Partridge and Bill Clark. Electricity will be added in 2021.

The church office has a new computer, thanks to a very generous donation. Records from Sara's laptop are in the process of being transferred to the new computer. The church also needed to upgrade its financial software. The current version of QuickBooks was purchased by Amber Gove for the treasurer and asst. treasurer to use. Amber was reimbursed by the church. As a result of these purchases and the need to buy office supplies and other items, it was determined that the church needs a credit card. The people allowed to use the credit card will be the Pastor and the Chair of the Trustees. The card will have a \$500 limit. As of yet, we have not decided on which card to apply for.

Since we are not meeting in person, we will not be paying for snow removal on the upper walkway this winter. The lower walkway will still be cleared.

The Consolidated Investments for 2020 total \$218,430.71 and the total amount of pledges for 2021 is \$103,910.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Balford, Doug MacDonald, and Robin Walkup

## Updated Budget with Proposed Budget for 2021

				Jan - Dec 2020	Budget Jan - Dec 20	\$ Over Budget	Proposed Budget	Variance to 2020 Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>								
<b>Income</b>								
Other Income								
			Miscellaneous Income	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	0.00
			Interest Income	10.82	10.00	0.82	0.00	-10.00
			<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>260.82</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>250.82</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-10.00</b>
Consolidated Investment Fund Di								
			Dividend - Fiske	688.87	2,000.00	-1,311.13	919.00	-1,081.00
			Dividend - Wilmot Church	2,580.06	2,000.00	580.06	2,399.00	399.00
			Consolidated Investment Fund Di - Other	4,788.33	0.00	4,788.33	4,500.00	4,500.00
			<b>Total Consolidated Investment Fund Di</b>	<b>8,057.26</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>4,057.26</b>	<b>7,818.00</b>	<b>3,818.00</b>
			Consolidated Invst Fund WD	0.00	984.00	-984.00	0.00	-984.00
Fund Raiser - Operating								
			Yard sale	1,656.11	3,000.00	-1,343.89	2,000.00	-1,000.00
			Fund Raiser - Supper	2,148.26	4,500.00	-2,351.74	3,000.00	-1,500.00
			Apron	20.00			0.00	0.00
			<b>Total Fund Raiser - Operating</b>	<b>3,824.37</b>	<b>7,500.00</b>	<b>-3,675.63</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>-2,500.00</b>
			NH Charitable Trust	3,349.44	3,300.00	49.44	3,300.00	0.00
			Plate Offerings	107,234.85	98,000.00	9,234.85	113,610.00	15,610.00
			<b>Total Income</b>	<b>122,726.74</b>	<b>113,794.00</b>	<b>8,932.74</b>	<b>129,728.00</b>	<b>15,934.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>								
			Emergency Fund	-1,000.00	0.00	-1,000.00	0.00	0.00
			Poinsettia	-340.00	0.00	-340.00	0.00	0.00
			Ukama	-100.00	0.00	-100.00	0.00	0.00
			Professional Fees	600.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	0.00
Administrative Expenses								
			Music supplies	158.47	300.00	-141.53	300.00	0.00
			Website/Search Committee	0.00	60.00	-60.00	0.00	0.00
			Admin/Technology & tech support	917.38	0.00	917.38	2,000.00	1,940.00
			Advertising	3,162.35	3,300.00	-137.65	3,500.00	200.00
			Child Care /Christian Ed	0.00	300.00	-300.00	300.00	0.00
			Deacon Funds	62.48	600.00	-537.52	880.00	0.00
			Office supplies/postage	713.08	1,000.00	-286.92	2,200.00	500.00
			Pastor Discretionary Fund	200.00	300.00	-100.00	1,000.00	700.00
			Racial Justice Steering Committee				1,500.00	1,500.00
			Printing and Reproduction	631.69	700.00	-68.31	0.00	0.00
			<b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>5,845.45</b>	<b>6,560.00</b>	<b>-714.55</b>	<b>11,680.00</b>	<b>5,120.00</b>



## DEACONS' ANNUAL REPORT - 2020

This year has brought many challenges not the least of which has been the physical separation from our church and church family. The Deacons have strived to meet these challenges by checking in with our KIN group members - sometimes visiting at a distance masked, but mostly through correspondence, phone calls and contact via Zoom. It is remarkable how technology has provided such a wonderful way to “gather in His name” and experience our faith community virtually. We are deeply grateful to Sara and Eric Marean, Will Ogmundson and Paul Currier among others who have helped us adjust and created a meaningful worship experience via the internet.

We have embraced the call to “do justice, love kindness and to walk humbly with God” through education on racial and immigration justice, finding ways to reach out and help others while reminding ourselves that God is walking with us during these stressful times. The Deacons assisted with community outreach efforts through the Church Yard Sale and the Takeout Chicken Barbeque. We participated in the outdoor services this fall and distributed Advent Celebration Kits to bring some of the traditions of the season to our homes in an effort to create a sacred space for worship. We were so impressed by the beautiful wreaths and candle lit “altars” that were shared through photographs during worship.

We recognize that the pandemic continues to require limitations for in person gatherings in the near future but pray that with greater vaccine distribution and lower Covid cases we will again be able to return safely to our lovely sanctuary in 2021. Our Zoom services have been well attended and have allowed our friends in distant states and countries to join us which has been a special blessing. The Deacons want to express our gratitude to Peggy Blair and Julianne Gachelin who will be completing their commitments as Deacons. We recognize their many contributions and efforts and will miss their wise counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Balford, Peggy Blair, Julianne Gachelin, Lucy Mueller, Art Urie and Paul Wentworth

## SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

Children of all ages are in Sunday School together, this year ranging from age 4 to 15! Traditionally, the first Sunday of each month is an intergenerational service when children are invited to remain and participate in Worship. We often use Power Xpress curriculum units. Each unit runs 4-6 weeks and uses a rotational model of “stations” such as Art, Science, Games, Video, Stories, and Cooking to explore a Bible story or topic through a variety of modalities.

One station during each unit is a Mission/Service project. In January and February 2020, we explored a unit called “*Who Is Jesus*,” which looked at the names of Jesus such as *Light of the World* and *Bread of Life*. We made fleece lap robes as our service project, which were blessed by the congregation, and delivered to some of our homebound friends. We also baked communion bread in a Cooking Station.

The Sunday School was just beginning our “*Becoming Easter People*” unit when COVID hit, and the church went to Zoom worship. We did have one Zoom call just for the kids after Worship one Sunday, but were not able to have regular Sunday School sessions from March through May. This September we held Sunday School outside during the in-person Worship services on the lawn. Following in the congregation’s “Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly” theme for the year, we made individual artwork on canvas of Micah 6:8. We went on a ‘Walk Humbly-Love Kindness’ hike on the Greenway, and we did a session focused on racial justice in the carriage sheds on Ukama Sunday. In November, we talked about Thanks and Giving, and had a Zoom Thanksgiving Jeopardy game. Older

students were given an opportunity to re-write some of the Hanging of the Greens paragraphs, and many of the students participated in the Hanging of the Greens Service.

Most of our December 20th Virtual Christmas Pageant was video-taped with the students ahead of time, distanced and outdoors, with the choir recording the accompanying songs and members of the congregation participating. It was quite an adventure, both to make and to watch, and we appreciate the congregation's open acceptance of its uniqueness!

We plan to continue with twice-monthly Zoom break-out Sunday School sessions during the months of January and February. We'll explore the story of Moses, while continuing our focus on Racial Justice by learning about Martin Luther King Day and Black History Month.

We thank all of our many teacher volunteers for the time, preparation and love they share with our children, and we want to thank our children for all of the energy and enthusiasm they bring into the life of the church!

Nancy Allenby, Christian Education Coordinator

## **STEWARDSHIP**

In a year where we have all been presented with challenges, the Stewardship committee is happy to report that the congregation has more than met the challenge of supporting the work of our Church. There have been 38 pledges totaling just under \$104,000. Pledges allow the Budget committee to construct an operating budget for 2021, knowing that we can meet our responsibilities both within and beyond our doors. As we go forward into the New Year, we are grateful to all for your continued commitment to our Church.

Robin Albing, Susan Bruce, Margaret Campbell

## **NEW HORIZONS MISSION WORK 2020**

In spite of the virus this year, all designated gifts were able to be given, annual offerings collected and fund raisers done. We had the KREM breakfast just before the virus began and raised \$780.

We had to cancel the lasagna supper as it was just when the virus shutdown began, but in August we were able to empty Janet's barn and have a yard sale! This was our first time with the "make an offer" process and we set up to enforce social distancing. Due to the virus, we did not include a food sale or any of the other special things we usually do. Again, we had so many helpers that it went smoothly and we raised just over \$1600.

In September we hosted a drive through BBQ which was our first and very successful. A large grill team cooked 144 chicken halves and numerous others provided the sides and cookies prepacked. We had a lot of very positive feedback from the community about our set up and of course, the food. This raised just over \$2000! Thank you to everyone for making these events possible and successful, keeping our congregation out in the community!

Our Church World Service activities continued with 55 school kits completed by the committee and delivered to the drop off in Sept. We were able to increase our usual number of kits as we received a \$250 grant for that purpose. Additionally, we collected \$890 for Church World Service Tools and Blankets.

Even though we worshipped via zoom most of the year, we were able to collect the annual offerings. One Great Hour of Sharing totaled \$940, Neighbors in Need \$905, and the Christmas Fund \$1110. Additionally, we had an offering for Ukama which generated \$270 and Christmas Eve offering for Turning Points Network which collected \$930.

Our Flex amount was split three ways – for Kearsarge Kares to help feed our needy students, some for the Ukama offering, and the remainder to Zimbabwe. We continued to support our usual list of groups in need but added four new ones: eSwatini via Global Ministries, support for immigrants and

refugees via NH UCC Conference, help for LGBTQ refugees through a church asylum task force in Worcester, Mass., and help for Project Chacocente in Nicaragua. We helped Camp Wilmot as they requested since they had several emergency repairs to do. The two things we were not able to do were collecting household supplies for Turning Point Network, and helping to facilitate the CROPWALK.

Our proposal for 2021 is the same as this year, with an additional \$500 which is yet to be designated by the Committee. Here is the list:

**Proposal for designated gifts in 2021:**

KREM -	___800
Kairos -	___400
Wilmot Christmas Baskets -	___200
NH Conference Camp	___1000
Turning Points Network -	___800
Shilla/Uganda -	___600
CWS kits	___100
Flex \$600	___1100
eSwatini	___500
Zimbabwe textbooks	___500
NH UUC Conf. Immigrant/Ref. Support.	___500
LGBTQ Asylum Task Force, Worcester, MA	___500
Total:	\$7500

We are very grateful for everyone’s continued support in so many ways! This has made the help for assisting in needy situations and projects possible!

Submitted by Marie MacDonald, Marty Hopkins, and Paul Wentworth (deacon rep.)

## **TOWARDS BECOMING A RACIAL JUSTICE CHURCH**

*Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God- Micah 6:8*

In the fall of 2020 we launched our racial justice journey by sharing: The resolution of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ (NHCUCC) for walking with God through this commitment, our steering committee membership, and our framework for our plan (I. Learners in history, II. Interrupters of current cycles of oppression, and III. Allies for future impact).

During the first phase we shared information on white privilege, sponsored the viewing and discussion of Dr. Henry L. Gates 6-part film series, *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross*, and invited our greater community to join us during a presentation on *NH African American History* with Rev. Renee Rouse. Additionally, four members of the Racial Justice Steering Committee shared their own racial justice insights during the Sunday Service. Many other opportunities for integrating social and/or racial justice were provided by the liturgy, music, and Christian Education.

We also created a Racial Justice tab on the church website that takes the viewer to 1. Programs: ongoing program summaries and suggested resources that now appear in each Friday newsletter and 2. Resources: an extensive bibliography and readings. Members of the RJSC also consulted with various FCCW members about future current topics that we might explore during Phase II.

Based on a survey sent to all church members and our collective assessment of Phase I, the RJSC has drafted a guide for our second phase that provides a deeper dive into a few current topics and continues many of the activities that have emerged in these past few months.

Please remember to check the **church website** ([wilmotucc.org](http://wilmotucc.org)) for ongoing updates about Racial Justice programs, resources, and highlights, as well as our weekly Racial Justice newsletter column, and thanks for your support and participation!

*Nancy Allenby, Bonnie Better-Reed, Paul Currier, Nan DeVries, and Donna Reade*  
The Racial Justice Steering Committee (RJSC)

## UKAMA 2020

This has been a year of challenges and hurdles due to COVID-19, but we as a congregation still seem to make such an impact on the community and continue to build our bond stronger than ever with our sister church, Eastlea Church.

In the spring we received a very uplifting letter that was full of blessings and prayers that lifted our congregation up in these unpresented times. We reciprocated and exchanged a few letters of encouragement and with a prayer exchange.

Our congregation celebrated Ukama Sunday with a prayer exchange and members from our church did so through video. Rev Nan did a moment for social justice. Mary Jane Ogmundson led us with a drum circle and African musical instruments. It was a great time had by all.

Our delegation that was to go to Zimbabwe this year had the trip postponed due to COVID-19. It will be rescheduled at a later date.

Our Congregation supported two groups by sending \$700.00. \$350.00 supporting the Harare children's Home and \$350.00 supported the Hatcliffe children/widows support.

If you would like history on our Ukama, one of members has updated our website and added things regarding Ukama.

Please reach out to me if you are interested in becoming a pen pal. Most of their communication is done through WhatsApp, so if you need help I am happy to assist with that.

Blessings, Amber Gove

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee (Jane Norman, Roy Finney, and Charlie Foss) recommends the following persons to fill the open positions on committees, boards, and offices. We are grateful to all who agreed to share their time and talents in service to our church. A special note of appreciation to Rev. Sara whose advise was most helpful. As of this submission, we still have to select an additional member to the New Horizon' committee.

Note: Persons to be voted on are in bold

Moderator (1yr)	<b>Paul Fenton</b>
Clerk (1yr)	<b>Janet Howe</b>
Treasurer (1yr)	<b>Amber Gove</b>
Asst. Treasurer (1yr)	<b>Marti Clark</b>
Deacons (2 yrs)	Lucy Mueller ('22) Art Urie ('22) Paul Wentworth ('22) <b>Bethany Balford, ('23)</b> <b>Paul Currier ('23)</b> <b>Michiko Yamaguchi ('23)</b>
Trustee (3 yrs)	Doug MacDonald ('22) David Balford ('23) <b>Marty Hopkins ('24)</b>
CE Coordinator (1 yr)	<b>Nancy Allenby</b> Ex-officio: Rev. Sara Marean
At-Large Parish Comm. (1 yr)	<b>Susan Bruce</b>
New Horizons (3 yrs)	Marie MacDonald, ('23) <b>Sherrie McKenna ('24)</b> <b>Roy Finney ('24)</b>

Stewardship (3 yrs)	Margaret Campbell ('22) Robin Albing ('23) <b>Holly Tabor-Hall ('24)</b>
Nominating Comm. (3 yrs)	Roy Finney ('22) Jane Norman ('23) <b>Carol Foss ('24)</b> Ex-officio: Moderator Paul Fenton
Auditor (1 yr)	<b>Charlie Foss</b>
Collector (1 yr)	<b>Carol Foss</b>
Delegates to 2 UCC meetings	<b>Bill Clark, Holly Tabor-Hall, Kris Tabor-Hall</b>
Pastoral Relations Comm.	Paul Fenton, Janet Howe, Jane Norman, Art Urie, Rev. Sara Marean
KREM Representative	<b>Ralph English</b>

#### Other Special Groups/Committees to Recognize

Racial Justice Steering Committee- Donna Reade, Bonnie Betters-Reed, Nan DeVries, Nancy Allenby and Paul Currier  
Clean Team Organizer- Allen MacDonald  
Secretary- Janet Howe  
Assistant Secretary- Michiko Yamaguchi  
Green Team Organizer- Robin Walkup  
Ukama Coordinator- Amber Gove  
Publicity Comm. - Nancy Allenby, Janet Howe, Robin Walkup  
Church Organizing Comm. - Janet Howe, Jane Norman, Charlie Foss

### **SAFE SPACES POLICY**

First Congregational Church of Wilmot (FCCW) is committed to creating a safe and healthy environment in which people of all ages can learn about and experience God's love. FCCW has approved and implemented the following Policy to help ensure the safety and protection of our children, adults and visitors.

Church leadership shall encourage all persons participating in the life of the church to know and practice our Safe Spaces Policy.

Persons 18 years of age and older (adults) who are leading programs for our children and youth will participate in a safe church training at least every two years. They will be certified through a New Hampshire criminal background check. Background checks shall be reviewed by the Moderator and Vice-Moderator. The background checks shall remain confidential and stored in a secure location. The church will pay for background checks.

No known sex offenders will be engaged by FCCW to work with children.

Two trained and certified adults will be present in groups of youth and children whenever possible during church school. Two trained and certified adults will be present at all times during an offsite event.

All volunteers who work with children or youth will be a member or friend of FCCW, known by church leaders, and will have been involved in other church activities.

"Drop in" visits will be encouraged by parents, pastor and church leaders to Christian Education classes and youth events.

Parents or guardians are responsible for picking up their child(ren). Leaders and participants in church activities will not drive children home without prior arrangement and written parental consent. Leaders may not release a child to a person other than the known parent or guardian without prior written notice from the parent or guardian. These written consents shall be kept on file in the church office.

No adult shall make any individual communication to any child through texting, email, or social media without also copying such communications to the child's parent or guardian. Adults involved in the life of the church will be aware of potential unsafe situations in which children and youth may be engaged and will encourage young people to avoid unsafe behaviors. Programs for children and youth shall consistently promote values of respect, welcome to all, and safe behaviors.

Children and youth involved in the church's programs and ministries shall be encouraged to be respectful of property and persons, and to behave in ways which are safe for themselves and for others. Complaints or allegations of inappropriate behavior or abuse by anyone towards a child shall be referred to the Division of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF).

Complaints or allegations of inappropriate behavior by children or youth shall be discussed with the child or youth and their parent, guardian, or other appropriate adult.

Complaints or allegations of inappropriate behavior or abuse by anyone towards an adult shall be brought to the Moderator and referred to the appropriate authority.

In all cases, an Incident Report will be filed in a secure location in the church.

This policy will be posted in visible locations in the church and published annually in the church's Annual Report.

Adopted at Parish Committee meeting of Nov. 20, 2016

Approved by congregation at Annual Meeting of January 28, 2018

Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# 2020 Events



Blanket dedication



CWS Kits Assembled in Garage



Outdoor worship



Yard Sale

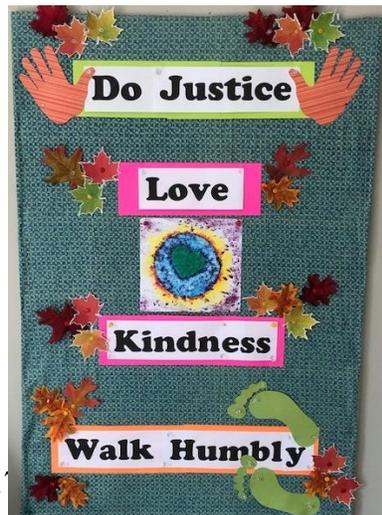


Chicken Barbecue  
Drive-up/Take Out



Back Wall Painted

Church  
School in  
Carriage  
Shed



Annual  
Theme