

**153rd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WINDHAM ASSOCIATION
Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ**

**May 3, 2016
First Congregational Church, UCC of Canterbury**

AGENDA

Potluck Supper

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Determination of a Quorum

Approval of the Minutes of our 2015 Annual Meeting (page 2)

Treasurer's report (page 4)

Registrar's report (page 5)

Report of the Moderator (page 6)

Report of the Regional Minister

Report of the Mustard Seed Grant Committee (pages 7 & 8)

Nominations and Election of the Windham Association Officers and Council (page 9)

Approval of the 2016-2017 Budget (page 10)

A Conversation Regarding the Proposed Southern New England Conference

Adjournment

Evening Prayer

**Annual Meeting of the Windham Association,
Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ
June 23, 2015**

Authorized Ministers, delegates and friends of the Windham Association gathered on June 23, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Willimantic Congregational Church. The Rev. Joseph Blotz opened the meeting with devotions and sharing of bread and cup. The group then shared a potluck supper.

Following dessert...

A quorum was established with representation from 11 of the Association's 18 congregations.

The Rev. Paul Doyle presented the **Treasurer's report**. It was noted that Timothy Grant funds were awarded to Storrs Congregational to allow 3 youth members to participate in a visit to the Holy Land.

Susan Waldron, speaking on behalf of the Mustard Seed Grant Committee, announced that a Mustard Seed Grant had been awarded to Hampton Congregational. Susan's report was omitted from the annual report packet and will be distributed separately via the website (windham-ucc.org)

There was a motion and second to accept the Treasurer's report. Upon voting, the motion PASSED.

The Rev. Blotz summarized his **Moderator's report** that was in the meeting packet. He highlighted the educational opportunities that the Association has coordinated as well as the periodic check-ins with authorized ministers that the Council is performing. He asked that authorized ministers contact him to arrange for a meeting with the Council.

The **slate of nominees** was presented with one addition – the Rev. Jon Chapman to serve as Association delegate to 2017 and 2019 synods. There was a motion and second to accept the slate. Upon voting, the motion PASSED.

The **proposed ballot policy** was presented. Rev. Blotz explained that our new governance structure provides capability to vote by means other than a face-to-face meeting, so we need a policy/procedure to address it. Rev. Harwood raised the question "Where is the room for the movement of the Spirit with this policy?" Rev. Blotz answered that when there is a straightforward question, the ballot process would be used. When there is need for discussion and discernment, such as the Unified Fitness Review proposal, the Association would meet in person. The point was made that the ballot process also does not provide space for nominations from the floor. There was no further discussion. There was a motion and second to accept the process. Upon voting, the motion PASSED.

The **proposed Unified Fitness Review Process** was presented. Rev. Blotz reviewed the Association's current procedure, which uses the process outlined in the Manual on Ministry

a committee is assembled that performs interviews, discussion, discernment and final determination.

Using presentation materials provided by the Connecticut Conference Committee on Ministry, there was discussion on the proposal. Delegate Blakney spoke to her experience with the current process in the past and expressed doubts that a statewide committee could be as effective as a local committee. Rev. Plumley spoke to her experience in the Massachusetts Conference with COMs and inconsistencies from committee to committee. Council member Waldron spoke to her experience in performing a fitness review and wondered if people from other areas of the state would have an understanding our local issues. Delegate Rucker asked Rev. Plumley about training, confidentiality and impartiality. Regional Minister Clough spoke about his experience with confidentiality. Rev. Harwood spoke about her experience and worries that the Windham Association would be relinquishing an important responsibility. Rev. Gardner Spencer echoed concerns already expressed, but appreciated that the proposal would provide a standard review process. She wondered if we might incorporate that benefit into our current local process. Rev. Brockmeyer asked how on-going training would take place at the Association level. Rev. Clough explained that currently there is a set of procedures in place from the Connecticut Conference Board of Directors. It is used among all associations. He also stated that training has already been set for September 18 with someone from national to do the training. If a complaint was brought forward, additional just-in-time-training would take place to ensure the committee is prepared. Six associations are needed to form the new committee; to date, seven have signed on. With 7 representatives from those associations plus 5 members of the Conference Board of Directors, eleven members of the new UFRC are prepared to be trained. Rev. Clough offered that it is essential that regional ministers be well-trained. There was a question from the floor: How many fitness reviews have taken place in Connecticut? Rev. Clough stated that since boundary training was instituted 15 years ago, there were 11 reviews in the first 5 years, there 7 in the next 5 years (2005-2010) and 4 from 2010 to present. This trend gives hope that the need for review is becoming a rarity. Question from the floor: How many Associations have voted No? Answer: 3 associations have voted No. Rev. Chapman asked "If we decline participation, are we still legally covered with the current process?" Answer: Yes. Rev. Brockmeyer asked "How large a committee would we constitute if we need to do it ourselves?" Answer: Current process calls for the WA Council to perform the review unless there was someone who needed to recuse themselves, in which case a replacement would be sought from past CAMACS members. There was a motion and second to accept the proposal for a Unified Fitness Review Committee. There was no further discussion. Upon voting, the motion FAILED.

The Rev. Blotz led the assembly in a closing prayer and sharing of bread and cup.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. with passing of the peace.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Hubbell
Windham Association Registrar

TREASURER'S REPORT
Windham Association Connecticut Conference, UCC
2015-2016 Financials Year End Through April 2016

	2015-2016 Budget	2015-2016 Actual	Percent of Budget
<u>INCOME</u>			
Total Dues from Member Congregations	4,584.00	* 4,343.00	95%
Cornerstone Fund Interest	50.00	0.00	0%
Delegate Expense Reimbursement/Synod	0.00	0.00	0%
Misc. Income	0.00	0.00	0%
Clergy Gathering (Other Associations)	1,200.00	1,200.00	100%
TOTAL INCOME	5,834.00	5,543.00	95%
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>			
Administration	200.00	8.28	4%
Delegate Expenses – Synod	3,250.00	2,262.45	70%
InDiscernment Support/Scholarships	0.00	0.00	0%
Mustard Seed Grant	1,000.00	1,000.00	100%
Programs and Special Projects**	0.00	** 150.00	0%
Strengthening Our Voices Grant	0.00	1,000.00	1000%
Registrar Honorarium	1,000.00	1,000.00	100%
Seminary Gifts	600.00	0.00	600%
Special Scholarships	0.00	250.00	250%
Misc. Expenses	0.00	0.00	0%
CAT Assessment	0.00	**622.50	622.5%
Clergy Gathering	1,600.00	1,600.00	100%
Website	300.00	0.00	0%
Association Workshops	0.00	0.00	0%
Refugee Resettlement	0.00	0.00	0%
TOTAL EXPENSES	7,950.00	7,893.23	99%
<u>ACCOUNT BALANCES</u>			
LIBERTY BANK CHECKING 3/25/16	\$3,462.34		
CORNERSTONE INVESTMENTS	\$6,893.05		
TOTAL ASSETS	\$10,355.39		

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR
Windham Association
Ministerial and Ecclesiastical Changes

06/15/2015

Rev. Hilary Himan transferred her Standing to the Central Pacific Conference

08/26/2015

Rev. Martha Nilsen transferred her Standing to the Eastern North Carolina Association of the Southern Conference

12/10/2015

Thomas Gregory Gray was approved as a Member in Discernment

02/28/2016

Rev. Theresa Hood ended her term as Pastor at First Congregational Church of Plainfield

12/31/2015

Frank Perkins ended his term as the Pastor of South Killingly Congregational Church

01/01/2016

Kevin Williams began his term as the Pastor of South Killingly Congregational Church

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Hubbell, Registrar
May 1, 2016

REPORT OF THE MODERATOR

Dear Church,

It has been an exciting year here in the Windham Association as we serve our Still-Speaking God and are equipped by the Spirit to carry out the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Highlights of the past 12 months include

- meeting with 6 authorized ministers for periodic support consultations in their home churches
- welcoming Greg Grey, member of Westfield Congregational Church, as a Member in Discernment seeking ordination in the United Church of Christ
- hosting workshops for authorized ministers of the Eastern Region of the Connecticut Conference led by the Rev. Dr. April Stave Vega and the Rev. Dr. Mary Luti on preaching the liturgical seasons of Advent and Easter
- relicensing Brian Baeder as pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd and bidding Godspeed to the Rev. Terry Hood as she ended her pastorate of Plainfield Congregational Church
- supporting the Catalyst and Collaborative Grant to send members of our Clergy Communities of Practice to the Festival of Homiletics and for Connecticut participants of the National Youth Event.

Goals for the coming year include

- continue meeting with each of the Association's authorized ministers for periodic support consultations
- host a series of workshops for lay members as well as authorized ministers (2 midweek, 1 weekend)
- continue with policy writing for our Association's Policies and Procedures Manual

I look forward to our continued journey together as we live out our mutual covenant as the Windham Association of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ.

In peace,
Rev. Joseph Blotz
Moderator

Report of the 2015 Mustard Seed Grant Recipient Hampton Congregational Church

“Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” (John 20.27)

In the fall of 2015, with the approval of the Diaconate, Pastor Jinny Smanik introduced a new idea to worship. She presented the introduction of well-planned Prayer Stations during worship in place of some of the Sermon. Prayer Stations are designed to enable worshippers to enter the biblical story and reflect on the ways that their story and the biblical story interact.

Because Hampton is blessed to have people of all ages, it was our hope that this ministry, with its intergenerational focus, would help to deepen our worship experience as the “whole people of God”. As individuals saw the ways their story and the stories of scripture are interwoven, they were encouraged to “do their own theology”, thinking deeply and entering into conversation with the text. It was our hope that making these connections may enable people to talk within their family, and maybe even to others about the way their faith unfolds. The idea was also to address the needs of the families already in our midst, hoping that this new model would appeal to other families with young children, by connecting them with mentors and friends of all ages.

Prayer Stations were set up once in the fall of 2015 and again in the winter of 2016. These two opportunities gave us the feedback we needed to pursue this system three to four times a year and to realize that to continue this adventure, we needed supplies that would support the congregation in moving around in the space that we have and in using supplies that were efficient and effective.

In the spring of 2016 we applied for and received the Mustard Seed Grant. This wonderful gift has allowed us to purchase several tables that fit in our small space, and materials that work for all generations. It has given us the freedom to feel unlimited in our pursuit of intergenerational worship.

We appreciate the opportunity that the Mustard Seed Grant has given us. We presented the Prayer Station Model at the Super Saturday workshop recently. Our reviewers found it both inspiring and an opportunity to assist congregations in exploring their faith in a “hands on” way.

We thank the Windham Association for this opportunity.

Sincerely,
Karen Burnham
Chair, Board of Diaconate

MUSTARD SEED GRANTS 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Mustard Seed Grant guidelines were mailed to all of the UCC churches in the Windham Association in late January of this year.

In March, the Windham Association Council began a conversation about a possible gift to the Refugee Resettlement efforts that several of our UCC churches were involved with. In early April, we received a grant application from the Quiet Corner Refugee Resettlement Project. It was decided to continue the conversation the Council was involved in since the final outcome would be more advantageous to the sponsoring group than awarding of the \$1000 as a Mustard Seed Grant.

A \$1000 gift will be made and the Association churches will be invited to make matching gifts, up to an additional \$500 that the Windham Association will fund.

As mid-April approached, an application was received from the Westfield Church in Danielson. The heart of the application is summed up by the church Moderator, Betty Merow, "We're thrilled to share the new and exciting ways we've been caring for the heart of Killingly by proclaiming God's love for everyone...from doors, to wreaths, to cookies, to banners, we're committed to proclaiming Christ's welcome not just to Danielson, but to anyone who will listen." The two committee members not directly involved with Westfield made the decision to grant this application \$1000 as a Mustard Seed Grant.

Submitted by Susan Waldron on behalf of the Committee

Committee members:
Susan Waldron (Westfield)
The Rev. Oscar Brockmeyer (Canterbury)
Steve Stellitano (Brooklyn)

PROPOSED 2016-17 COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

Windham Association
Connecticut Conference of
The United Church of Christ

Windham Association Council (3 year terms with 2 term limit; except Treasurer and Registrar – no term limit)

Officers

Moderator, Rev. Joseph Blotz (Mansfield)	2 nd term	Term expires 2019
Vice Moderator, Rev. Rick Haverly (Willimantic)	2 nd term	Term expires 2019
Treasurer, Rev. Paul Doyle (Scotland)	2 nd term	Term expires 2017
Registrar, Ms. Deborah Hubbell (Mansfield)	2 nd term	Term expires 2017

Members-at-Large

Rev. Jon Chapman (Westfield)	1 st term	Term expires 2017
Ms. Emily Logee-Savoie (Canterbury)	1 st term	Term expires 2017
Ms. Susan Waldron (Westfield)	2 nd term	Term expires 2017
Rev. Nancy McLaren (Storrs)	1 st term	Term expires 2019
Ms. Kathleen Brown (Canterbury)	1 st term	Term expires 2019

General Synod Delegates

Ms. Brittany Lafleur (Woodstock First)	Term expires after the 2017 synod
Rev. Jon Chapman (Westfield)	Term expires after the 2019 synod

Mustard Seed Grant Committee (3 year terms, no term limits)

Ms. Susan Waldron (Westfield)	Term expires 2017
Open	Term expires 2018
Open	Term expires 2019

**Windham Association Connecticut Conference, UCC
Proposed 2016-2017 Budget**

INCOME	
Total Dues from Member Congregations	4,584.00
Cornerstone Fund Interest	50.00
Delegate Expense Reimbursement/Synod	0.00
Misc. Income	0.00
Clergy Gathering (Other Associations)	1,200.00
TOTAL INCOME	5,834.00
EXPENDITURES	
Administration	200.00
Delegate Expenses – Synod	2,000.00
InDiscernment Support/Scholarships	0.00
Mustard Seed Grant	1,000.00
Programs and Special Projects**	0.00
Strengthening Our Voices Grant	0.00
Registrar Honorarium	1,000.00
Seminary Gifts	600.00
Special Scholarships	250.00
Misc. Expenses	0.00
CAT Assessment	0.00
Clergy Gathering	1,600.00
Website	300.00
Association Workshops	0.00
Refugee Resettlement	1,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,450.00