

**154<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WINDHAM ASSOCIATION  
Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ**

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**June 22, 2017  
Westfield Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**

**AGENDA**

Potluck Supper

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Determination of a Quorum

Approval of the Minutes of our 2016 Annual Meeting

Treasurer's report

Registrar's report

Report of the Moderator

Greetings from the Regional Minister

Nominations and Election of the Windham Association Officers and Council

Approval of the 2017-2018 Budget

Adjournment

Worship



**Annual Meeting of the Windham Association,  
Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ  
May 3, 2016**

Authorized Ministers, delegates and friends of the Windham Association gathered on May 3, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, UCC of Canterbury. Following a potluck supper, the Rev. Joseph Blotz called the meeting to order.

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

There was a motion by the Rev. Jonathan Chapman and a second by Ms. Emily Logee-Savoie to accept the **minutes** of the June 2015 annual meeting. Upon voting, the motion PASSED

There was a motion by Ms. Susan Waldron and a second by the Rev. Richard Duvall to accept the **Treasurer's report**. Upon voting, the motion PASSED.

Rev. Blotz summarized his **Moderator's report** that was in the meeting packet and included a blessing for Mr. Greg Gray as he begins his journey of discernment. There was a motion by Ms. Waldron and a second by the Rev. Paul Doyle to accept the report. Upon voting, the motion PASSED.

At a prior monthly meeting, the Windham Association Council had voted to donate \$1000 from the Association to the **Quiet Corner Refugee Settlement Program**. Ms. Waldron presented the check to the co-leaders, Mr. Steve Lane and the Rev. Ann Plumley who spoke about the current plans for the program. Rev. Doyle then announced a challenge whereby the Association would match up to \$500 donated collectively by the local churches of the Association.

The **Mustard Seed Grant** was presented by Ms. Waldron to Wendy and Hank Fusco of Westfield Congregational Church.

The **slate of nominees** was presented. There was a motion by Ms. Logee-Savoie with a second by Ms. Waldron to appoint Ms. Kathleen Brown (Canterbury First) to serve on the Windham Association Council and to accept the subsequent slate of officers and council members. Upon voting, the motion PASSED.

Rev. Doyle presented the **proposed budget** for 2016-2017. A motion to accept was made by the Rev. Susan Foster with a second by Mr. Steve Lain. Upon voting, the motion PASSED.

A discussion on the **Season of Discernment** was initiated by the Rev. Dr. Thomas Clough and the Rev. John Nelson (Niantic) with these questions: Is this collaborative ministry among the three Conferences of Southern New England something God wants us to do? How might it be a sign of faithfulness to God's call?

The discussion led to the following questions and statements being made by the assembly:

How would legislation advocacy work with three states working together?

Are the other two states as interested as Connecticut seems to be?

“Season of Discernment” doesn’t seem accurate. It’s more of a “Season of Convincing.” What are the implications of a “super conference” at Synod/national level? The perception among other conferences is that it’s a good old boys’ club.

Concern around the loss of personal touches with regard to state committees.

I don’t believe the three Conferences are ready or able to embrace the technology needed.

Concern about the distance volunteers will need to travel.

Concern that small rural communities will not get the attention they need.

“All things are not equal.” Concern for Rhode Island – two large conferences will “gobble up” the small conference that has few resources to bring to the table.

What will the assimilation plan look like?

In favor of the opportunities the merger might bring. For example – Silver Lake is so far away so eastern Connecticut might make more use of Irons Homestead in RI.

Can we do both? Remain separate state conferences but combine the use of duplicative resources.

Comparison of experience with Methodist Southern New England Conference. Found that ecumenical resources had to be called upon because the mission was lost in the large structure.

Would like to see a mutual cooperative agreement to share resources.

700 churches in one large conference – seems like it would be unwieldy, particularly to a conference minister.

Would like to see years of discernment. Approach more slowly; initially sharing resources and programs.

Likened this to corporate bank mergers where customers felt like they lost the personal connection.

A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Williams and seconded by Ms. Waldron to adjourn following worship. Upon voting, the motion PASSED.

The Rev. Blotz then led an Order for Prayer at the Close of Day after which the assembly adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Hubbell  
Windham Association Registrar

**Windham Association, Connecticut Conference, UCC  
2016-2017 Year End Financials & 2017-2018 Budget**

	<b>2016 Budget</b>	<b>2016-2017 Actual</b>	<b>Percent of Budgeted</b>	<b>BUDGET 2017-2018</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				
Total Dues from Member Congregations	4,486.00	4,436.00	99%	4,286.00
Cornerstone Fund Interest	50.00	33.69	67%	50.00
Delegate Expense Reimbursement/Synod	0.00	0.00		0.00
Misc. Income	0.00	0.00		0.00
Pastoral Formation	0.00	800.00		
Clergy Gathering (Other Associations)	1,200.00	1,200.00	100%	1,200.00
Refugee Resettlement – Member Congr.	0.00	2,100.95		
Transfer from Cornerstone Fund	0.00	1,000.00		
Scholarship Donation (Gray Ordination)	0.00	599.00		
Overdraft Deposit	0.00	15.00		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$5,736.00</b>	<b>\$10,184.64</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>\$5,536.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Administration	200.00	8.28		200.00
Delegate Expenses – Synod	2000.00	750.00	38%	2000.00
Association Chaplain to Retired Clergy	0.00	0.00		300.00
InDiscernment Support/Scholarships	0.00	0.00		0.00
Mustard Seed Grant	1000.00	1000.00	100%	1000.00
Programs and Special Projects	0.00	0.00		0.00
Registrar Honorarium	1000.00	1000.00	100%	1000.00
Seminary Gifts	600.00	0.00	0%	600.00
Special Scholarships	250.00	1000.00	0%	250.00
Misc. Expenses	0.00	0.00		0.00
CAT Assessment	0.00	207.50		0.00
Clergy Gathering	1600.00	1600.00	100%	1600.00
Association Workshops	0.00	0.00		0.00
Refugee Resettlement Grant	1500.00	1500.00	100%	500.00
Refugee Resettlement – Member Congr.	0.00	2100.95		0.00
Pastoral Formation Support	0.00	1200.00		0.00
Timothy Grant	0.00	585.00		0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$8,150.00</b>	<b>\$10,951.73</b>		<b>\$7,450.00</b>

**ACCOUNT BALANCES**

<b>LIBERTY BANK CHECKING 3/25/17</b>	<b>\$4,087.42</b>	
<b>CORNERSTONE INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>\$5,960.77</b>	(\$33.69 interest)

**TOTAL ASSETS** **\$10,048.19**

**REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR**  
**Windham Association Ministerial and Ecclesiastical Changes**

June 2016

Brian Baeder's licensed was renewed for his work at Church of the Good Shepherd  
Rev. Oscar Brockmeyer ended his term as Pastor at First Congregational Church of Canterbury

August 2016

Stephen Finlan was granted licensure for his work as Senior Pastor at First Congregational Church of Plainfield  
Kevin Williams was granted licensure for his work at South Killingly Congregational Church  
Rev. Theresa Hood transferred her Ministerial Standing to the Florida Conference

October 2016

Rev. Dr. Stephen Finlan was Ordained at Edgewood Congregational, Cranston, Rhode Island

November 2016

Rev. Cheryl Caronna began her term as Pastor at First Congregational Church of Canterbury  
Death of Rev. Robert B Fichter, retired pastor who served the CT UCC churches in South Killingly, Burlington, Scotland and as Pastor of Visitation in Columbia

December 2016

Rev. Thomas Gregory Gray was Ordained at Westfield Congregational Church, UCC

January 2017

Jace Paul, formerly Jason Bachand, (First Congregational Church of Willimantic) was accepted as a Member in Discernment

February 2017

Kate Alexander (Storrs Congregational Church) was accepted as a Member in Discernment

March 2017

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Cook retired as Pastor from Thompson Congregational Church, UCC  
Rev. Dr. Stephen Finlan was installed as Senior Pastor at First Congregational Church of Plainfield  
Rev. Alice O'Donovan appointed as Windham Association Chaplain to Retired Clergy

April 2017

Death of Rev. Vernon Phelps, retired Methodist Pastor who was one of our strongest advocates for Public Education

May 2017

Brian Baeder retired as Pastor from Church of the Good Shepherd

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Hubbell, Registrar  
May 31, 2017

## REPORT OF THE MODERATOR

Beloved of God,

What a gift it has been to serve our United Church of Christ as moderator of the Windham Association Council. We have been about faithful ministry these past twelve months, and I would like to share with you the highlights of the year as well as some invitations to ministry with us.

We have continued our practice of gathering authorized ministers of the Eastern Region of the Connecticut Conference for days of continuing education. In September, we welcomed Paul Vasile, the Executive Director of Music that Makes Community to share with us the ways in which congregational worship with Paperless Music is transforming Church life, particularly as we anticipated the liturgical season of Advent. In May, we spent with day with the Rev. Dr. Adam Hearlson, associate professor at Andover Newton Theological Seminary who led us in reflecting on the Art of Subversive Worship.

After many years without candidates seeking authorized ministry we have been blessed with three individuals discerning the Spirit's call in their lives...

In November, we gathered as an Association for the Ecclesiastical Council of Greg Gray who was subsequently Ordained in December at the Westfield Congregational UCC. In January and February, the Council meet, prayed, and listened with Jace Paul Bachand (First UCC, Willimantic) and Kate Alexander (Storrs UCC) and voted to receive them as Members-in-Discernment. Jace Paul is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School and Kate is a seminarian at Chicago Theological Seminary. We ask your prayers for them both.

In March, the Council voted to create a new volunteer outreach position - Association Chaplain to Retired Clergy. We have asked the Rev. Alice O'Donovan to take on this role and she has accepted. This will primarily be a TeleMinistry, with Alice staying in touch with our retired authorized ministers by telephone, ensuring a connection to the Association and the Conference.

In May, we joined together as an Association for the Installation of the Rev. Dr. Stephen Finlan as pastor and teacher of Plainfield UCC

The Council hosted the Exit Interview of the Rev. Dr. Jenny Cook as pastor and teacher of Thompson UCC

We continue to meet with authorized ministers for Periodic Support Consultations. Our hope is to meet with each minister at least once every three years in their ministry context to provide support and prayer for their work.

The Association also provided financial Support for the Quiet Corner Refugee Resettlement Project. Co-Led by the Rev. Ann Plumley and Steve Lane of Mansfield UCC, this project is a coalition of faith communities, area nonprofit organizations, and individuals supporting families through the resettlement process. Since its inception a year ago, QCRR has already resettled two families in the Mansfield-Willimantic area.

May we who have been blessed beyond measure continue to be a blessing to the world as we serve the God who has been so faithful to us.

In peace and in grace,  
Joe

Rev. Joseph Blotz  
Moderator, Windham Association Council

## PROPOSED 2017-18 COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

Windham Association  
Connecticut Conference of  
The United Church of Christ

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### **Windham Association Council**

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

#### Officers

Moderator, Rev. Joseph Blotz (Mansfield)	2 <sup>nd</sup> term	Term expires 2019
Vice Moderator, Rev. Rick Haverly (Willimantic)	2 <sup>nd</sup> term	Term expires 2019
Treasurer, Rev. Paul Doyle (Scotland)	3 <sup>rd</sup> term	Term expires 2020
Registrar, Ms. Deborah Hubbell (Mansfield)	3 <sup>rd</sup> term	Term expires 2020

#### Members-at-Large

Ms. Emily Logee-Savoie (Canterbury)	1 <sup>st</sup> term	Term expires 2017
Rev. Nancy McLaren (Storrs)	1 <sup>st</sup> term	Term expires 2019
Ms. Kathleen Brown (Canterbury)	1 <sup>st</sup> term	Term expires 2019
Vacancy		Term expires 2020
Vacancy		Term expires 2020

### **General Synod Delegates**

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