

378th Annual Meeting, January 30, 2022

ANNUAL REPORT

For year 2021



*FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH*

(United Church of Christ)

1009 Main St., Branford, CT. 06405

203-488-7201 www.FirstCongregationalBranford.org

Ministerial and Administrative Staff

Rev. Joseph Perdue	Senior Minister
Kerry Stewart	Faith Formation Coordinator
Philip Rinehart	Director of Music & Adult Bell Choir
Katie Jones	Director of Vocal Choirs
Missy Van Vliet	Administrative Assistant
Pat Carroll	Bookkeeper
Deanna O'Connell	Moderator
John Woods	Sexton
Stephanie Linke	Director of the Child Development Center
Carol Hoadley	Historian

Phone: 203-488-7201

E-mail: info@firstcongregationalbranford.org

Web Site: www.FirstCongregationalBranford.org

Mission Statement of the Staff of First Congregational Church

May we be guided as we intentionally pray for our church, petitions brought to us, and each other. As a staff, we strive to treat each other as we'd like to be treated, and we vow to provide a safe place for each other to express our diverse opinions and views. As colleagues, we will respect one another and in doing so, hold all staff interactions and conversations in confidence. To maintain a healthy environment, we promise with the help of God, to honor ourselves and others.

Welcome Statement

The First Congregational Church of Branford affirms the full diversity of God's creation and welcomes persons of differing views, of all national and ethnic backgrounds, and of all sexual orientations, without regard to worldly condition. We hope you will share your particular gifts and faith journeys with us and join us in our worship and work.

The Table of Contents

2022 Annual Meeting Agenda	4
In Remembrance	5
Senior Minister's Report	6-7
Moderator's Report	8
Faith Formation Coordinator Report	9-11
Worship Team Report	12-13
Discipleship Team Report	14-17
Operations Team Report	18-19
Endowment Report	19
Caring Ministry Report	20
The Stephen Ministry Program Report	20
The Friendly Visitor's Ministry	20-21
Knitting, Purling, and Praying	21
377 th Annual Meeting Minutes – January 24, 2021	22-23
Special Congregational Meeting Minutes – September 19, 2021	24-27
Clerk's Report	27-30
Church Fair Report	31
Killam's Point Management Team Report	31-32
Scholarship Program Report	32
Camp Totokett Report	33
Community Dining Room Report	33-34
Registrar's Report	34
Church Historian Report	34
Treasurer's Report	35
Child Development Center Report	36
Child Development Center Financial Statement	37-38
2021 and 2022 Budget Report	39-45

378th Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Branford Agenda

Sunday, January 30, 2022

Immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

VIA Zoom

- Establishment of Quorum
- Call to Order
- Opening Prayer from Behavioral Covenant
- Reading of Church Covenant
- To approve the agenda
- To approve the minutes of the 377th Annual Meeting held January 24, 2021
- To approve the minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting September 19, 2021
- To transfer \$42,600 from the First Ecclesiastical Society Fund to the 2022 Operating Budget to offset ministerial housing compensation costs (2/3 Vote)
- To approve the proposed FCCB budget for 2022
- To receive the annual reports of officers, teams, committees, and organizations affiliated with FCCB
- To elect officers, team and committee members and delegates of the church for 2022
- To take any other action that may properly come before this meeting
- Benediction
- Adjourn

**In Remembrance of Members & Friends of the
The First Congregational Church**

Roseann C. Nygard	January 14, 2021
Stuart Miller	January 15, 2021
Ronald Bradley Tucker	January 29, 2021
Harry Hampton Jr.	April 20, 2021
*Marie (Doering) Donofrio	April 25, 2021
Karen E. Kelley	May 22, 2021
Richard C. Dormer	August 9, 2021
*Marjorie Joyce Crelin (McCain)	August 21, 2021
*Carol Heyl Titcomb	September 22, 2021
Sheldon Titcomb	October 14, 2021
Betty Cooper Mailhouse Dunston	October 23, 2021
Richard Gotay	October 26, 2021
Warren T. Kelley, Jr.	November 28, 2021

*Church Member

Minister's Report

Jesus stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." (~Luke 4:16-21)

Early in the pandemic, Julia and I waited impatiently for my UCC Ministerial Profile to be approved. Everything took longer than it should have because State and National offices everywhere were closed. We had to wait for months for requests that would have taken a few days before covid. We could sense for a long time that we were called to a new ministry, and we had already discerned we would likely end up in New England. We hoped that we might move to Connecticut to be close to family and the places we love. As time went on, our frustration grew as churches came and went on the Ministry Opportunities page. Finally, after months of waiting, I was granted the right to search for churches and began circulating my profile to search committees. One of the first churches that caught our attention was the First Congregational Church of Branford. It seemed perfect; a church in the part of Connecticut we love the most, just a few minutes from family and close enough for Julia to commute into Manhattan for work. Our excitement grew as we read the church's profile and got to know the Search Committee. What were the odds that this church in the perfect location would be passionate about the kind of ministries we care about? Finally, the delays that frustrated us so much proved to be a blessing because they made my availability overlap with FCCB's search. We have been here for almost a year, and it seems that time has passed quickly (you know what time does when you're having fun), even as it feels like we've always been here and always belonged here. We're glad we finally found our home.

One of my top priorities as your Minister is keeping our community safe. When the pandemic began, church leaders wisely decided to cancel in-person worship and quickly learned how to Livestream. In April, we finally began gathering together with social distancing and mask requirements. Later in the year, as the positivity rates decreased, we made masks optional for a short time before the Delta Variant impacted our community and necessitated their return. Now the Omicron Variant has once again made worshipping together in person impossible. I am looking forward to meeting together again soon, most likely in February. The sacrifices we make to keep one another safe are a powerful display of loving our neighbors as we love ourselves. I am proud that no one has contracted COVID at a church event. When we gather again, no seats will be empty.

One of the positive things to come from the pandemic is the ways it has forced us to adapt, improvise, and learn new ways of being together and reaching our neighbors. One obvious way is the numerous upgrades to our streaming technology. We are in the process of upgrading our sound

system, including changes that will make it easier for people with hearing difficulties to participate in and enjoy worship. We can now worship together across the world; people in quarantine, nursing homes, homebound friends, and even curious new neighbors can worship with us even when they cannot be in our building.

Our church isn't just surviving during the pandemic. It is thriving. Last year we had four baptisms, with more scheduled for 2022. Many old friends returned to the congregation for the first time in several years; we met many new friends interested in learning about who we are. I have often said that UCC churches are hidden at gems in their communities. They are places where people with diverse backgrounds and views can find a safe place to worship God in community. Our church is a place where it's okay to doubt, question, be friends without believing the same things, and serve God together. It seems that the secret is getting out, and I am excited to see what the future holds for us.

A church's growth is not connected to the things it says but how it serves its community. This year we have engaged in numerous Ministries and service programs that show we are a congregation that does more than talk about loving God and neighbors. We raised enough money to forgive more than \$250,000 of medical debt through our partnership with RIP Medical Debt, a non-profit that purchases debt for pennies on the dollar. We have provided and improved shelter through Branford Builds. We provided a camp experience for more than 60 kids a week at Killam's Point. We fed our hungry Neighbors at the community dining room and food pantry. We paid utility and medical bills, gave away gas cards, and provided temporary accommodation to houseless neighbors through the compassion fund. This short list only scratches the surface of how FCCB is living out the Gospel. I don't have enough space to write about our mission trips, refugee resettlement, our ecumenical worship services, the bond kids are forming in the youth group, in the small but significant ways members of the church love each other through formal Ministries and just in their daily lives. We aren't just growing through service. Our church's spiritual life is also thriving. You will read more about Sunday School and Adult Christian Ed in Kerry's report, but I would be remiss if I didn't mention the growing group of members and friends participating in Bible studies.

As we gather to celebrate 378 years of ministry, I am looking forward to many more years as your Senior Minister.

"Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly now, love mercy now, walk humbly now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it." -
Attributed to the Talmud

Rev. Joseph Perdue

Moderator's Report 2021

This has been a challenging, exciting, and learning year for our three new Teams: Worship Team, Operations Team and Discipleship Team, as well as the rest of us.

Exciting because we welcomed Rev. Joe Perdue and his wife Julia in early February. How challenged he must have felt as he and Julia had only met the Search Committee members and the rest of us were wearing masks! He met the challenges and soon was settling in and began his work as our new minister. After several weeks of attending church services on Zoom, it was wonderful to be back in the Meetinghouse even if we were mandated to wear masks.

The new Bylaws were adopted at the Annual Meeting in January 2021 and implementation has been slower than we had wanted with all the challenges and new learning we had to overcome. It took faith and perseverance as many of us tackled Zoom for the first time. All church events were cancelled except those held online. We missed seeing our friends and working together on our varied tasks. One connection was the Coffee Hour time after church services were we could share our joys and concerns and keep informed about our friends.

Our church will focus on one short term and one longer term goal for 2022.

1. **Sponsor, develop, encourage, or promote programs/events that build relationships and trust in our own community.** Each Team, Faith Formation Director and Church Board will plan either programs or events to strengthen these relationships and trust in our church. Already a few events have brought families together and more programs and events will be planned for this coming year,
2. **Establish a Church Policy Book to gather and articulate a guide for Church Board, Governance Teams, and all Task Groups.** We will need this Policy Book to guide us in our implementation of the new Bylaws. We need easy to follow policies and procedure to keep some consistency in our work, work efficiently knowing what is expected and how to do the work and a satisfaction of undertaking a task with support from others.

I want to personally thank the church staff, Missy, Pat, and John for the dedication during this Covid-19 year. Thanks for all the support I have received this past year. While more challenges and problems lie ahead of us, we are strong. God will guide us if we listen with open hearts and minds. Let hope and prayer lead our way.

Deanna O'Connell
Moderator

Faith Formation Coordinator Annual Report 2021

So here we are again! Another crazy, anything but normal, year and yet again we turned as we needed to keep Christ at our center and our children, youth and families connected.

Our Sunday School Curriculum has been Sparkhouse and we have fluctuated between different programs within the digital programs. While on Zoom in the first four months of the year, we mainly used the Whirl program as it translated best to the virtual format. We have also used the Spark Classroom and Spark Rotations. There were monthly mailings and porch drop offs of supplies and at home faith formation supplies to our 14 or so families.

When we returned to in-person Worship, we did also offer the opportunity for in-person Sunday School. We did meet in May in Pilgrim Hall to work on the mobile project for Pentecost before we celebrated Youth Sunday on June 13th. We had 8 youth participate in the service, in-person, with a theme of the folk tale, Tale of Three Trees. We then took the usual break over the summer for Sunday School. Faith at Home kits were distributed to all families with materials from our Spark Curriculum for use over the summer.

We kicked off the 2021-2022 program year with a Rally Sunday Commissioning Service and Brunch. We had a preview of our curriculum and activities for all. Sunday School started off slow with a unit on Communion in September and October and into some projects including our FCCB Gratitude Tree and our Jesse Tree projects. We saw growth in numbers as the fall went on. Our Sunday School year capped off with the Christmas Pageant which included over 20 participants, children, youth, and adults, and we used a script called “A Very Mixed-Up Pageant” which had everything from a GPS modeled Star, Mary and Joseph riding in on a Unicorn and Mary being played as a superhero in the form of Wonder Woman. Youth also received a 12 days of Christmas bag with family activities and fun to celebrate those special 12 days of Christmastide.

Pilgrim Fellowship Youth Group was able to start up again with in-person meetings in February with stuffing goodie bags for our “Love Fest” and also being there to volunteer on February 14th as we collected food for the Branford Food Pantry and warming items for the community. The focus for the group in general has been service, community, and fun. We generally meet twice a month and were focused on outside activities the best we could for Covid safety. We worked on the Lenten walk with putting together and installing the art wall, trying out the Lenten walk technology with our resident technology “experts,” our teens. We did move our meetings out to Killam’s Point as soon as the weather allowed and enjoyed evenings of pizza and movies, kayaking, game nights, and working on service projects for the community. As a team, we were able to complete a 3-mile Crop Walk as we walked in circles around the center of town and did a scavenger hunt to learn about food, water, and housing scarcity. We gathered to pack baggies of treats and information about the church for our Halloween event and had a great time making soups in the kitchen to sell for the 2022 Mission Project, which we did for two Sundays in November. And an old tradition

returned with our youth and families packing our turkeys and other contributions for the Branford Food Pantry. We walked across the green in the dark to deliver and unload 29 turkeys, 330 pounds of food and a lot of cheer! We were also granted a tour and were able to return to the church and enjoy some pizza and fellowship. Due to the uptick in Covid cases and general illness, this was our last activity for 2021.

Our major change this year was to have a Local Youth Mission Service Project. The Youth Group, along with many adults and community partners, came together to sponsor fundraising efforts and to execute a 4-day Local Mission experience right here in Branford, CT. Our Fundraising efforts included: Bake Sales during Coffee Hour once in-person, an All-Church Picnic at Killam's Point in May on a Sunday evening, complete with Shoregrass providing wonderful Bluegrass music. This picnic was well attended by over 60 people and a wonderful time was had by all. We also sold our limited edition FCCB "Be the Church" t-shirts that were used for our Mission Project.

We met for 4 days in August, from the 17th-20th at Killam's Point and FCCB. We had a total of 8 youth attending and 15+adults supporting. Our theme was "Be the Church" and each day we worked on a few of the tenants of that philosophy. Day 1 was spent team building with Andrew Wick from Incredible Days, LLC. Day 2 was spent shopping, organizing, and packing our collected donations for Project M.O.R.E. in New Haven (a prison re-entry program) and for IRIS and their backpacks for school aged children. We had Pastor Greene from New Antioch come and speak to us about forgiveness and second chances. Day 3 was spent organizing and packing hygiene kits for the St. Thomas More Chapel at Yale's Soup Kitchen. We also had a speaker, Pat Leahy, who runs the soup kitchen come and speak to us about how the program runs, how he shops for and stretches every dollar and he also spoke about the guests the program serves. Day 4 was spent at two different homeowner's homes doing yard work, home repairs and dismantling and setting up furniture. An entire tree was taken down and we were able to help with drainage and a flooding basement as well. It was a very successful program and, in the end, we were able to pack, bless and deliver:

- 12 backpacks for Project M.O.R.E Reentry program (for men)
- 24 backpacks for IRIS Back to School Backpacks
- 108 hygiene kits for the St. Thomas More Soup Kitchen

We learned a lot, from our programs and also from the execution. Many thanks to everyone who donated food and supplies. We were able to provide breakfast and lunch daily as well as snacks and cold treats at the end of the day. Can't wait to do it again in 2022!

Intergenerational activities were able to resume, and we were able to partner with the Youth Group for some events. In February, we were able to have our drive by Love Fest and distribute Lenten Materials. During Lent we were able to facilitate Lecto/Visio Divina over Zoom utilizing the Lenten Sanctified Art program. We also had a Lenten Walk through the center of town, on FCCB property and on Trinity Episcopal property, that had a family and adult portion. May was the All-Church Picnic at Killam's Point and Shoregrass music. In September we enjoyed Rally Day

together. October had our Crop Walk and the wonderfully successful Halloween Night Open House and Trunk or Treat where we saw over 400 children and youth come by and visit for a wonderful community event! In November we had a small Advent craft program, open to all. And in December we concluded with our all ages Christmas Pageant!

In 2021 I successfully completed the Faith Formation Leadership Program through the SNEUCC with the Faith Formation Team. The program culminated in a virtual Zoom ceremony where I did receive my Certificate, which I proudly display in my office and use every day I am here with the work I do. I thank the church for their support of my participation and completion of the program. I continue to value continuing my education and look forward to more learning in the coming months.

2021 also saw a change in my title. This came at my request. The title of Faith Formation Coordinator was supported and approved by the congregation at a congregational meeting. Faith Formation reaches far beyond the Sunday morning implications of a Christian Education Coordinator. It reaches into providing programs for at home faith opportunities; it brings mission to the forefront of what we teach and practice and brings to light that our faith is forming our entire lives.

I thank the Discipleship Team for their support through this challenging year and their willingness to try new things and be open to different ideas. And to Rev. Joseph Perdue for his support, guidance, and encouragement of the ministries I am charged with facilitating here at FCCB. It is truly a blessing to be here as a part of the team, community, and family here at FCCB.

In Peace,

Kerry Stewart
Faith Formation Coordinator

Worship Team Annual Report 2021

The Worship Team (WT) began their 2021 activities by saying farewell to Interim Senior Minister the Rev Suzanne Personnette. As she left FCCB to pursue another call on January 3rd, she was presented with numerous letters of friendship, a bouquet, and a purse.

What followed over the next ten weeks was a series of invited guests who occupied FCCB pulpit... some familiar to the congregation... some not. The Worship team was among those who undertook the responsibility of trying to organize a consistent and meaningful worship experience to the FCCB congregation until the newly called Senior Pastor, the Reverend Joseph Perdue, would begin his service. The Covid pandemic and the presentation of those worship services on the Zoom platform added to the weekly challenges.

The WT assumed an obligation to conduct the biennial member survey to review and update the membership list. This review has not been completed as of this writing, despite WT meetings being held more than once a month several times.

The events of Easter Week, with the exception of the sunrise service at KP, were all conducted remotely on the Zoom computer platform. The WT wishes to thank Al Mahan for helping out with ongoing flower deliveries.

It was agreed to have a “soft opening” for in-person worship on April 25th, to be followed by an in-person communion service on May 2nd. Use of masks was required, and pew seating was arranged to provide for social distancing. Reservations were taken and attendance logs were kept to facilitate contact tracing if it was needed. Special sealed communion cups were purchased, and ushers showed attendees how to exit safely after the postlude.

Donna Giddings of the WT joined the newly created tech crew which is responsible for recording the Sunday services. Neil Titcomb provided training. WT was involved in the solicitation and analysis of audio-visual vendors who quoted on the job of upgrading the FCCB system. Ultimately, a vendor was chosen, and the purchase order given. Currently prevailing supply chain issues affecting needed equipment have stalled the start of the project.

Reverend Perdue and the WT agreed to cancel services on August 22nd, 2021, due to the effects of storm Henri.

Reverend Joseph Perdue was installed as Senior Minister of FCCB on September 26th, 2021. A Special Service of Installation was held in the meetinghouse with several UCC dignitaries, other local Branford pastors and previous associates of Reverend Perdue in attendance. An excellent outdoor reception was given for all attendees in the turn-around. The WT provided charcuterie

plates and locally produced adult beverages and many tasty dessert treats were prepared for the occasion by members of the congregation.

The WT lost one of its pillars to cancer this year – Carol Titcomb. Like everything else she participated in at FCCB (and the list is long) she was active, supportive, and she participated faithfully with energy and a wonderful sense of humor. She will be missed. RIP from us, friend Carol. The WT had the honor to help to observe Carol's memorial at church.

In addition, the WT helped with the memorial for long-time faithful and wonderfully musical FCCB member Joy Crelin.

The WT was pleased to welcome Peggy Keck to our team in the fall. She is a valued addition, and we look forward to working with her.

We have observed new faces in recent FCCB services, and we hope that this trend will continue. It is hoped that continued work on updating the membership rolls will bear fruit. To this end, the WT will reestablish contact and encourage familiar faces to reappear.

Finding members to assume a share in the preparation and clean-up of the weekly after-service coffee hour, serving beverages and finger foods to facilitate conversation and fellowship, is an ongoing challenge for the WT. Donna Giddings has written a new job description which will help to organize and simplify those duties.

A beautiful Christmas eve service of Lessons and Carols culminated in an outdoor candle-lit acapella singing of Silent Night on the steps of the church.

The WT wishes to thank Nancy Beccia and Margot Hardenbergh, who are leaving the WT, for their many contributions during their tenure. Without them, much less would have been accomplished in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Shaw – Worship Team Leader

Discipleship Team – 2021 Annual Report

Discipleship Team Members: Fred Cotton, Betsy Dorsi, Jennifer McCaughtry, Cheryl Tripp, Cyndie Neely

The Discipleship Team has 4 areas of responsibility: Missions, Stewardship, Christian Education, and Nominating.

Missions has a budget of \$5,000 which was allocated over the last year to the following organizations:

RIP Medical Debt Program	\$500	Mar-21
Easter Baskets CDR	\$42.59	Mar-21
CDR	\$250.00	Apr-21
Camp Totokett	\$300	May-21
Youth Mission Project	\$231	6-Jul
IRIS	\$500	31-Aug
Youth Mission Project	\$189	31-Aug
Crop Walk	\$300	5-Oct
Secret Santa	\$500.00	7-Nov
Branford Food Bank	\$500	23-Nov
Toys for Refugees	\$200	7-Dec
Branford Teachers Fund	\$287.00	7-Dec
Minister's Compassion Fund	\$700	7-Dec
MLK Breakfast	\$500	7-Dec
Total	\$5,000	

Donations from membership as follows:

- OGHS = \$1,460
- Storm Relief = \$1,300
- NIN = \$2,025
- CROP Walk = \$1,800
- Thanksgiving = \$555 (Branford Food Bank)
- Christmas = \$2,784 (1/3 to UCC for retired ministers and 2/3 to Minister's Compassion Fund)
- CDR = \$75.20
- RIP Medical Dept = \$1,945

Thank you all for supporting these missions!

Branford Builds worked on a few projects this year as follows:

- Participation in the youth mission week filling in some holes and cleaning up a yard and cleaning out another home's basement and rerouting the gutter to prevent further water leakage into the basement
- This fall replaced 13 windows in a veteran's home
- Replaced the rotted sheathing, re-shingled the area that was rotted in the porch, and replaced the gutters so water would drain properly resolving leaking into the kitchen when it rained in another home

We are so grateful for those members who provided this service to our community! Special thanks to Brad Hotchkiss and Peggy Keck who used their extraordinary gifts to be the project leaders for all Branford Builds Worksites.

Stewardship

The Stewardship campaign for 2021 was based on the theme "Rooted in Love". This year we were able to run the campaign during a time we could have in-person church as well as on-line viewing through Facebook and YouTube. We were able to have the members present in church to bring pledge cards forward to the front of the Meetinghouse on Commitment Sunday.

The campaign included:

- An initial letter and pledge card mailed out to members and friends in October to introduce the campaign and encourage pledging
- Campaign messages were placed in the e-Spire in October and November

- Stewardship Moments were done by a member of each Team to educate members on how the pledges assist in the church's overall Mission
- Another Stewardship Moments was given by David Hoadley who was very inspirational in how the church was so important in his life as he grew up as it is today

As of January 5, 2022, we have received 74 pledges for a total of \$152,256 compared to last year's total of \$165,309. If you have not pledged yet, you are invited to do so by email at stewardship@firstcongregationalbranford.org, or by calling the church office at (203) 488-7201.

Thank you all for your support!

Nominating

The following Nomination Roster to be voted on is as follows:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2022

CHURCH OFFICERS

MODERATOR (two consecutive one-year terms)

Deanna O'Connell (2nd of two consecutive one-year terms)

MODERATOR-ELECT (one to two-year term)

Joe Cutrona 2nd year

TREASURER (two consecutive three-year terms)

Eleanor Radune (3rd year of first term)

CLERK (two consecutive three-year terms)

Mindy Yester (1st year of first term)

GOVERNANCE TEAMS (five members of each team for a two-year terms)

WORSHIP TEAM

Frank Shaw 2nd year second term, Donna Giddings 1st year 2nd term, Bill Hall 1st year 1st term,

Peggy Keck 2nd year, 2nd term, **opening 1st year 1st term**

OPERATIONS TEAM

David Colley 1st year, 2nd term; Susanne Lendler-Marsh 2nd year, 2nd term; Neil Titcomb 1st year 2nd term; Colin Gershon 2nd year, 1st term, **Opening 1st year 1st year**

DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

Jen McCaughtry 1st year, 2nd term, Fred Cotton, 2nd year, 2nd term, Cyndie Neely 1st year 2nd term, Cheryl Tripp 2nd year 1st term, **open slot 1st year, 1st term**

There are a few openings available on Teams. Please contact a member of the Discipleship Team, or the church office, if you are interested in joining a Team. You all have wonderful talents that God has given you which could help the church with your participation in these areas.

Thank you to those members who are leaving positions:

- Clerk -Nora Vetrano
- Operations Team – Don Patenaude
- Worship Team – Margot Hardenburgh and Nancy Beccia
- Discipleship Team – Betsy Dorsi
- KPMT – Betsy Hyde

Christian Education

It has been another challenging year with Covid, but sometimes programs could be held inside and outside the church. We primarily supported Kerry, our Faith Formation Coordinator, in programs. We assisted with distribution of Lenten material to those unable to drive through to receive the packet which the youth put together, assisting with some mission projects, especially for the Youth Mission Project, recruiting members to assist in making a scarecrow for the Green prior to Halloween, and assisting with Trunk or Treat. We also supported the CE programs with curriculum and supplies.

For specifics on Christian education programs, please refer to the report of the Faith Formation Coordinator, Kerry Stewart.

Respectfully submitted,

The Discipleship Team

Fred Cotton, Betsy Dorsi, Jennifer McCaughtry, Cyndie Neely, Cheryl Tripp

Operations Team Annual Report 2021

At monthly meetings through 2021, the Operations Team discussed the church activities that are the Team's areas of responsibility. Included are oversight of church finances, including monthly budget reports, operating and investment accounts; maintenance of all church buildings, including Killam's Point; consultation with the Senior Minister regarding concerns and policies involving church personnel.

The Income and Expenses of the Operating Budget were reviewed each month, as was the Account summary of the FCCB Endowed Funds prepared by Merrill Lynch. In consultation with the FCCB ML advisor, the FCCB investments were rebalanced to reflect the church investment policy and changes in the market. Year-end figures for the Endowed Funds and the Operating Budget as well as the proposed Operating Budget for 2022 are found elsewhere in this report. Despite the continuing interruptions caused by COVID, pledges and donations were still faithfully presented. Thank you all!!

After prolonged discussion that began in 2021, the OT agreed that it would greatly benefit FCCB to increase the annual distribution from the Evans Fund. The fund was established in February 1989 with a balance of approximately \$375,000 which has grown to more than \$1.3 million. Only income could be disbursed. The trust agreement was modified to allow an annual distribution of 4% of the 3-yr. average principal balance. The modified agreement was approved as required by the Church Board and then by the Congregation at a Special Meeting on 9/19/21.

Following the major project of the roof replacement over the Pilgrim Hall section of the Church in 2020, other projects requiring attention included painting of the Russel Room ceiling, painting high areas outside of the Sanctuary, brick repairs identified by the roof contractor and patching a small section of ceiling at right front of the Sanctuary. The Russel Room ceiling has been painted; other projects are still being researched.

Arrangements were made with a contractor for the repair of the Killam's Point causeway. However, the project became more complicated when the issue of state permits arose, and the contractor withdrew. The project is still pending. In other areas of the Point, trails were cleared of fallen trees and brush with the help of resident Richard Braddock. FCCB is extremely grateful for his assistance.

Rev. Joe Purdue discussed several policy and compensation issues regarding church staff with OT. An updated Employee Manual is being written and Joe asked OT for authority to identify several people to serve as a Human Resources Committee. OT approved his request.

As the work of the Operations Team is ongoing, it is expected that projects that were not completed in 2021 will be addressed in 2022. Members of the Congregation are encouraged to report to the office any situation they observe in the building that appears to require attention, and it will be addressed by the Operations Team.

Report submitted for the Operations Team:

Donald Patenaude, David Colley, Neil Titcomb, Colin Gershon, Susanne Lendler Marsh
 Eleanor Radune, Treasurer, ex-officio

Endowment Funds

First Congregational Church of Branford

Account Summary

All figures taken from attached Merrill Lynch CRC Report

Account	Balance a/o 12-31-2021
SEG	\$1,773,614
FES	\$1,246,641
Evans	\$1,455,517
Unrestricted- SGC	\$242,103
Total =	\$4,717,877

Cash Flow YTD	
Opening Balance (1/1/2021)	\$4,365,269
Contributions	\$0
Withdrawals	(\$183,700)
Interest / Dividends	\$137,943
Appreciation / Depreciation	\$398,365
Current Balance	\$4,717,877

	Asset Allocation	Performance % thru (12/31)	Bench Performance %
Cash	5.95% - \$280,764	+0.00%	
Stocks	70.88% - \$3,344,220	US +21.22% International +8.94%	Russell 1000 +25.16% MSCI EAFE +10.89%
Bonds	23.16% - \$1,092,893	(1.18%)	Barclay AGG (1.54%)
Est. Income next 12 months	\$77,348	Portfolio Yield 1.64%	

Recurring Distributions	
FES	\$7,680.17/month to Key Bank
SEG	\$975.38/month to Key Bank
Unrestricted- SGC	\$610.83/month to Key Bank

Caring Ministry Report

Clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together (Colossians 3).

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness.... (Galatians 5:22).

Words from the Apostle Paul which offers wisdom, guidance, and encouragement for all followers of Jesus. Words which especially inspire and instruct those from our church who feel called to caring ministries.

The Stephen Ministry Program Report

FCCB's Stephen Ministers continue their care-giving relationships by offering support to care-receivers in the safest means possible since the pandemic has closed our church to in-person worship services and gatherings. The current small group of Stephen Ministers are very willing, faithful, and dedicated lay ministers who remain eager to continue their ministry and find new ways to serve in addition to the prescribed 1:1 care-giving model. In the past our Stephen Ministers have structured and offered Continuing Ed/Adult Ed/Second Hour programs around such topics as death, aging and caregiving. Church members who seek the support of a Stephen Minister should inform the church office, and efforts will be made to accommodate their needs.

The Friendly Visitor's Ministry

On July 15, 2021, a formal meeting was held to re-ignite the Friendly Visitor's Ministry of FCCB. The purpose of the Friendly Visitor's Ministry is to help church members who are no-longer able to come into church for worship and activities feel connected and part of our church family. Co-chairpeople Deanna O'Connell and Betsy Dorsi hosted a dinner meeting held at the home of Carol Rutt. Following dinner, Betsy provided a brief Bible Study meditation on the role of the caregiver in the church. Then the aims of the ministry were outlined and possible ways of providing care were discussed. Special consideration was given both to the extreme need of this program now, and the health concerns presented by covid 19. It was determined that while this program could do much to alleviate the boredom, depression, and loneliness our homebound members feel, during the pandemic, it is best to visit either by telephone or porch/outdoor visits.

12 people attended this re-vitalization meeting. All were matched with at least one homebound person to connect with and agreed to do so within the month. 16 homebound church members

and friends were identified and matched with a visitor. Furthermore, one family with young children agreed to make cards to send and 7 people were identified to receive those cards. A list of 5 people were identified as people we had lost touch with. Deanna O'Connell agreed to try and locate these people so we could reach out to them as well.

The group was unable to meet again in October due to scheduling conflicts, but members checked in via phone and email and any issues with visitor matches were discussed and worked out. Rev. Perdue was given a copy of the list and will be part of the ongoing efforts to keep this program active. Quarterly-19 meetings will resume as soon as covid-19 allows.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Dorsi, Co-chairperson

Knitting, Purling, and Praying

Knitting, Purling and Praying women do just that. They use their nimble fingers to knit (or crochet) yarn into items of warmth and care for all sorts of people. Folks who are ill or grieving, babies that are new to this world, kids whose hands or heads are cold – all in need of reminders that they are cared for. And each garment bears a card that says, *Knitted by hand and threaded with prayer of love and hope, this is a gift for you. May it bring blessings of comfort, layers of warmth, and the knowledge that you are loved.* And the group prays...for the folks on their hearts, on our prayer concerns list, and for the blessings and banes of the world.

As the hymn goes:

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love,
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
Before our [Maker's] throne we pour our ardent prayers,
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear. **

* and of course, we are also happy to celebrate good news and share a smile.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Rutt and Sue Miller

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BRANFORD

377th Annual Meeting via Zoom

January 24, 2021

Minutes

After establishing the presence of a quorum, Moderator Bill Hall called the meeting to order at 10:56 a.m. He then read our Church Covenant, and the prayer from the Behavioral Covenant.

The Moderator suggested that due to the difficulty in counting votes on a Zoom meeting, he would first ask for any objections. There were no objections to this procedure.

The Agenda was amended to include the approval of the minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting as well as the minutes from the Special Congregational Meetings of February 9th and October 25th.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the amended Agenda.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting and Special Meetings of February 9th and October 25th.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the transfer of \$39,600, the remainder of the money received from the sale of the Manse, from the First Ecclesiastical Society Fund to the 2021 Operating Budget to offset ministerial housing compensation costs.

The motion was passed with no objections.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed FCCB Budget for 2021.

The motion was passed with no objections.

A motion was made and seconded to receive the annual reports of officers, boards, committees, and organizations affiliated with FCCB.

The motion was passed with no objections.

The Nominating Report was amended to move Charlotte Evans from the Discipleship Team to the Killam's Point Management Team and also add Jim Boak to the KPMT. It was noted that there remains a vacancy on the Discipleship Team as well as vacancies for Delegates to the New Haven East Consociation and the Southern New England Conference.

A motion was made and seconded to elect officers, board and committee or Team members and delegates of the church for 2021 as amended in the Nominating Report 2021.

The motion was passed with no objections.

David Reif offered a Thank You to Bill Hall for his excellent leadership as Moderator during two very difficult and action filled years.

Bill Hall offered his own Thanks, saying it has been an honor and a blessing to serve.

Betsy Dorsi offered the Benediction.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora Vetrano
Clerk

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BRANFORD

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Sunday, September 19, 2021

Minutes

Following an announcement by Frank Shaw about the Installation Ceremony for Reverend Joe Perdue on Sunday, September 26th, a quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m.

Rev Joe offered an opening prayer and Moderator Deanna O'Connell read from the Behavioral Covenant.

The agenda was approved.

1. **Act on the recommendation of the Church Board to approve up to \$50,000 to purchase equipment to upgrade sound system in the sanctuary. (Requires 2/3 Vote)**
- **A motion was made and seconded, Phil Rinehart/Parker Fox, to approve up to \$50,000 to purchase equipment to upgrade the sound system in the Sanctuary.**
 - **An amendment was made by Nora Vetrano to change sound system to audio/visual system, seconded by Bud Beccia and approved.**
 - **An amendment was made by Fred Cotton to include from the FES Fund, seconded by David Colley and approved.**

The original motion, as amended, was approved unanimously:

UP TO \$50,000 FROM THE FES FUND IS APPROVED TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT TO UPGRADE THE AUDIO/VISUAL SYSTEM IN THE SANCTUARY.

2. **Act on the recommendation of the Church Board to approve the Revision of the Evans Fund Governing Document, including an introduction narrative attachment describing the history of the Evans Fund. (See Attached) (Requires 2/3 Vote)**
- **A motion to approve the Revision of the Evans Fund Governing Document, including an introduction narrative attachment describing the history of the Evans Fund was made by Colin Gershon and seconded by Sharon Reynolds. Following a recitation on the history of the Evans Fund by Colin Gershon, the motion was approved unanimously.**

REVISION OF
THE EVANS FUND GOVERNING DOCUMENT
2021

1. Name. The name of the endowment fund shall be “THE DR. GEORGE E. EVANS MEMORIAL FUND OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT (“the Fund”).
2. Purposes. The purposes of the Fund shall be to make grants or below-market rate or market rate loans:
 - (a) to such charitable organizations headquartered in Connecticut whose purposes are consistent with, and in furtherance of, the principles and beliefs of the First Congregational Church of Branford (“the Church”) and
 - (b) to be used to pay for any expenses in support of the Church in fulfilling its mission and purposes.
3. Administration.
 - (a) Evans Memorial Committee. The Fund shall be administered by a committee known as the Evans Memorial Committee which shall be composed of three (3) active members of the First Congregational Church of Branford Connecticut, composed of the following:
 1. The Senior Minister, or in the event of a vacancy in this position, the Moderator of the Church, ex officio.
 2. The Chair of the **Worship Team**, ex officio.
 3. Member-at-large **appointed by the Church Board for a period of three (3) years**. In no event shall an active member of the Church serve more than two (2) successive terms as a Member-at-large.
 - (b) **Distribution Policy**
 1. **The Evans Memorial Committee shall distribute annually to the Church, in quarterly or more frequent installments, for the purposes described in Section 2 above, four percent (4%) of the average of fair market values of the trust on the first business days of the three (3) prior calendar years. Such distributions shall be made to such Church accounts determined by the Operations Team.**

2. The Evans Memorial Committee may annually distribute in the aggregate up to Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) beyond the distribution set forth in Paragraph 3 (b)(1) to such organizations and programs allowed under Section 2 as the Committee shall in its sole discretion shall determine; provided, however, the Committee shall give preference to organizations and programs benefiting the Branford community.
3. The Evans Memorial Committee shall distribute from time to time such additional amount or amounts beyond the distributions set forth in Paragraphs 3(b)(1) and 3(b)(2) as is or are approved (a) by a two-thirds vote of the Evans Memorial Committee (b) by a majority vote of the Church Board, and (c) at a duly-called meeting of the Congregation at which quorum is present, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Active Members present.
 - (c) Investments. The **Operations Team** shall be responsible for overseeing the prudent management of the Fund at such financial institutions located in the State of Connecticut as such Team shall appoint.
4. Accountability. (a) The **Operations Team** shall engage an independent certified public accountant to prepare a financial statement at a level selected by the **Operations Team** and approved by the **Church Board** no less frequently than every **three years**. The cost of such engagement shall be borne by the Fund. The **financial statement** shall be delivered to the **Church Board** for its review as soon as practicable following its preparation.
 - (b) The **Operations Team** shall furnish an **internal financial** statement to the **Church Board** on an annual basis or more frequently **if requested** by the **Church Board**.
5. Nature of Fund. The assets of the Fund shall be deemed as assets of the Church and not a separate trust.
6. Amendments. All amendments to this document shall require (a) the approval by a **two-thirds** vote of the Evans Memorial Committee and (b) the approval by a **majority vote of the members of the Church Board** at two (2) consecutive Church Board meetings with a pre-announced agenda of the specific proposal, and (c) the approval by at least a two-thirds vote of the congregation present at a meeting held in accordance with the By-Laws of the Church.

3. Act on the recommendation of the Church Board to amend the Church By-laws, Article IV, section 4, to change the title of the Sunday School Coordinator to that of Faith Formation Coordinator with the following changes to duties:

- a. **From:** Shall carry out Church School policies
To: Shall carry out Child and Youth policies
- b. **From:** Shall have the general management and supervision of all departments and activities of the CHURCH SCHOOL.
To: Shall have the general management and supervision of all departments and activities of the Child, Youth and Family programs.

- A motion was made by Cyndie Neely and seconded by Kathy Fox to amend the Church By-laws, Article IV, section 4, to change the title of the Sunday School Coordinator to that of Faith Formation Coordinator which more accurately aligns with best practices for Christian Education in the UCC. This would include the change of Church School policies to Child and Youth policies, and change Church School to Child, Youth and Family programs for general management and supervision of all departments and activities. The motion was approved unanimously.

A Benediction was offered by Rev Joe.
The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora Vetrano
Clerk

CLERK'S REPORT 2021

JANUARY

- Following a presentation from KPMC Chair Betsy Hyde and Insurance Agent Michael Krause:
A motion was made, seconded, and approved to not carry flood insurance at Killam's Point.
- A motion was made, seconded, and approved that the Killam's Point Management Committee would be under the umbrella of the Operations Team, while still submitting Quarterly Reports to the Church Board.

- A motion was made, seconded, and approved that vacancies of the Killam's Point Management Committee will be handled by the nominating function of the Discipleship Team.
- A motion was made, seconded, and approved to allow the use of the Sanctuary for Taig Egan to make audio recordings for his college auditions.
- A motion was made, seconded, and approved to authorize Bill Hall to apply for and represent FCCB in the Yale Divinity School Program, Reimagining the Church, New Models for the 21st Century.
- A motion was made, seconded, and approved to appoint Margot Hardenbergh to the Evans Fund Committee.

FEBRUARY

- A motion was made, seconded, and approved to allow the KPMT to reopen for the 2021 season, following all CDC and State requirements and guidelines.
- A motion was made, seconded, and approved to allow the operation of the KP Day Camp for four weeks and Camp Totokett for one week during the 2021 season.
- A motion was made, seconded, and approved to allow Memorial Services in the main level of the Sanctuary, following all State requirements and guidelines.
- A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the request of the Youth Bell Choir to hold rehearsals and recording for Sunday Services, as well as to allow groups of not more than ten to use the building with the approval of the Senior Minister. All must follow the Covid-19 requirements and guidelines. The Sr. Minister will keep a log of use.
- A motion was made, seconded, and approved to place responsibility for nominations and overview of the Scholarship Committee with the Discipleship Team. Financial decisions will come from the Operations Team.
- A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the re-balancing done by Merrill Lynch, reducing the percentage of stock from 74 to 71%. The remaining balance will be placed in a money market for future use.
- A motion was made, seconded, and approved to recommend to the by-laws committee that the title of CE Director be changed to Faith Formation Co-Ordinator.

MARCH

- A motion was made, seconded, and approved to reopen the building for functions under the prerogative of the three Leadership Teams, as of March 19th, while consulting State guidelines and Conference resources.

- A motion was made, seconded, and approved to authorize the Moderator to appoint a By-laws Committee to revise the By-laws to reflect the change in title from Sunday School Coordinator to Faith Formation Coordinator.

APRIL

- A motion was made, seconded, and approved to move the charge accounts from Citizen's Bank to Key Bank.
- A motion was made and seconded, Neely/Patenaude, that the Church Board accepts the revised FCCB Safe Church Policy. The motion was passed with one nay vote. (Policy available in office)

MAY

- A motion was made, seconded, and approved to appoint Cheryl Tripp to the Discipleship Team and Paul Chaplin to the Killam's Point Management Committee.
- A motion was made, seconded, and approved to allow the Branford Health Board to hold a vaccination clinic in the APR or outside in the Circle Drive, if so desired.

JUNE

- The following Motion was made by Suzanne Lendler-Marsh that the revised Evans Fund Governing Document be approved and include a narrative attachment describing the history of the Evans Fund. Cyndie Neely seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to accept. (First Reading)
- A motion was made Neely/Patenaude, seconded, and passed unanimously as follows:
 - The Church Board charges the Pastoral Relations Committee to implement the 360 degrees Professional Plan to reflect and evaluate the Minister of the First Congregational Church of Branford and submit a summary by the Pastoral Relations Committee to the Church Board meeting annually.

JULY

- No Meeting

AUGUST

- A motion was made, seconded, and approved to allow the Day Camp to be held again next year at Killam's Point.
- A motion was made, seconded, (Dorsi/Patenaude) to approve the second reading by the Church Board of the Draft Revision of the Evans Fund Governing Document and refer it to a Special Meeting of the Congregation on September 19, 2021. Motion Carried.

- A motion was made and seconded (Patenaude/Colley) to approve up to \$50,000 to purchase equipment to upgrade the audio/visual system in the sanctuary, and to send to a Special Meeting of the Congregation for approval on September 19, 2021.

SEPTEMBER

- A motion was made, seconded, and approved that the Church Board will attempt to set up a process to allow members at home to view and vote via Zoom at the Special Meeting on September 19th.

OCTOBER

- A motion was made by C. Neely to Approve Joe Cutrona as Moderator-Elect, Peggy Keck as a member of the Worship Team, and Betsy Dorsi as a member of the KPMC. The Board unanimously approved motion.
- Betsy Dorsi made the motion that the Board give approval for the BHS Music Makers to use the Church Meeting House in early December to present a concert for the purpose of raising fund for the refugee resettlement, following the protocols of this Congregation for Covid-safety and with the stipulations set forth by Reverend Perdue. David Colley seconded, and the Board unanimously voted in favor of the motion.
- A Motion was made that every 2 years, non-ordained staff members will have a criminal background check. Ordained employees will follow their denomination's policies. The motion was seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.
- A motion was made and seconded, for placing banners of Be The Church, with church logo on the bottom, in the front of the church and in the back on the fence. An amendment to the original Motion was made and seconded to maintain banners and replace as needed. The motion as amended was unanimously approved

NOVEMBER

No actions were taken.

DECEMBER

No actions taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora Vetrano
Clerk

Church Fair Annual Report 2021

After last year when most of the Fair was done online, we didn't know what this might mean for the 2021 Fair. Once a Fair Team began to form, plans began to take place. Most of the chairs signed up for another Fair. A large banner was hung across Main Street in early November allowing many to be aware that the Congregational Church was having its Annual Christmas Fair. All the workers were busy leading up to the Fair baking cookies for the Cookie Walk, crafters made several Christmas ornaments and decorations, our golden treasures were gathered on the stage and sorted and many gift certificates were donated to make over 12 baskets for our Silent Auction table. Fair day arrived and we were ready.

Late on Sunday we knew we had worked hard, had fun along the way and had another successful fund-raising fair for the church with over \$12,000 collected at the 96th Christmas Fair.

Church Fair Committee

2021 Annual Report **Killam's Point Management Committee**

The 2021 season was busy at Killam's Point Conference Center. We hosted 36 different groups and had activities on 99 days. Killam's Point hosted church groups, weddings, family reunions, baptisms, funerals and memorial services, educational institutions, day camps and other non-profit organizations. We estimate that there were more than 4000 "people days" at the Conference Center!

Income from rentals totaled \$27,627.00 paid in 2021. Several groups who cancelled their paid reservations in 2020 due to Covid restrictions, simply rolled over their 2020 payments towards their 2021 reservation.

Operating expenses totaled \$45,344.46. Unfortunately, there were unbudgeted major expenditures as the refrigerator, freezer and pump for the septic system all failed in the midst of the summer season. The Regional Water Authority bill from the disastrous water leak was finally paid in full. Expenses were paid from the following sources: \$27,672.00 income, \$5,000.00 transfer from the Evans Fund, \$9,226.26 from Killam's Point Endowment Fund and \$3,446.20 from the operating account (the operating account started 2021 with a balance of \$3,623.75). We ended the year with a balance in the operating account of \$177.55 and in the Endowment/Memorial Gifts account of \$2,254.05.

We are grateful for the volunteer efforts of Neil Titcomb and a Killam's Point resident who cleared numerous fallen trees from the 2020 storms and allowed us to reopen the trails for walkers. Thanks to our resident caretaker, Tony Buonfiglio for all his work in 2021.

The www.killamspoint.org website and our email address info@killamspoint.org continue to work very well for outreach, questions, making reservations, and making and tracking payments. A video tour of the Point House was added to the website in 2021. We plan to add a client satisfaction survey to the website in 2021 to receive comments from guests and to help us improve our service.

Betsy Hyde, Chair

Jim Boak

Paul Chaplin

Betsy Dorsi

Scholarship Program Report

The purpose of the First Congregational Church of Branford Scholarship program is to provide some financial aid to needy and worthy young men and women who are members or are children or grandchildren of members of the First Congregational Church of Branford (UCC). An applicant must be a senior at a private or public secondary school who has maintained at least average in 11th grade and the fall term of 12th grade. Applications, which are due April 1st, are available in the church office.

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the recipient of the award for the upcoming academic year:

Mallory Preiss, daughter of Edward and Tracey Preiss, granddaughter of Rowena Gatta, attending SCSU.

The Scholarship Committee

Camp Totokett Annual Report

Camp Totokett was able to be back at Killam's Point the summer of 2021. The returning campers were so excited because they knew what fun they would have. The new campers were just happy to have something to do and enjoy the outdoors. Modifications were made to conform to COVID-19 protocols, but they changed only a little of the way Camp is run (mainly in the procedure for serving lunch). We didn't want a large group either, so we had about 35 campers, including several refugee children.

No matter what the size, the camp still depends on the faithful volunteers, monetary donations and other gifts of time and talent. We thank the congregation and others for support through now 26 years!

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Colley on behalf of Tim Dinneen and Hailey Nelson



Community Dining Room Report - 2021

During 2021, the Community Dining Room (CDR) has been serving takeout meals due to COVID-19. FCC Branford cooked and served on the first Saturday of every other month, six times in all. We have a dedicated and hard-working group of volunteers that arrive at the CDR at 9:00, vaccinated, masked, and gloved, to prepare a Brunch that is served outdoors at 11:00. We generally serve from 30 – 50 people who come to the kitchen door. Although it is not as pleasant as a sit-down meal, we are able to chat with the guests outdoors and they receive a hot, nutritious meal.

The Community Dining Room has been a mission of our church since its beginning. Our members have served on the board of the CDR and have volunteered in many ways. Hopefully, when

COVID becomes less of a concern, we will be able to go back to the more personal dining-in experience for our neighbors in need.

We are always looking for additional volunteers. For more information contact Missy at the church office or me.

Sue Miller

Registrar's Report

CHURCH REGISTRY

Active members as of January 3, 2021	315
New members received	0
Confirmands received	0
Baptized	4
Married	0
Deaths	3
Letters of transfer – sent/received	0
Removed to Inactive Roll	0
Moved to Friends Roll	0
Affiliate Members	0
Friends	29

Church Historian Report

The Church Historian is responsible for keeping a record of current happenings, which will be tomorrow's history. A large manila envelope is kept in the receptionist's desk and newspaper clippings, funeral bulletins, the membership list, etc. are added throughout the year. At the end of December, it is put in the Archives with previous years envelopes.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Hoadley
Church Historian

Treasurer's Report

Year 2021 continued with a deficit budget. Fortunately, as in prior years, the investments have done very well (See Endowment Report) but the Church still has had to draw from the cash funds at Merrill Lynch to cover operating expenses above what were budgeted. A positive was that the pledged amounts paid were within \$51 of what was budgeted. Although the Church was opened for in-house services with limitations due to Covid-19, the plate offerings were minimal as were facility usage fees and grocery card sales. The Church building was opened as was the Child Development Center with Covid-19 restrictions in place. All necessary administrative, operating and maintenance expenses continued. The importance of upgrading our audio-visual abilities became very obvious and have and will increase expenses. Hopefully they will bring in new members and revenue from younger people and those who cannot attend Church in person.

The Compilation of the Church accounting practices was begun by TM Byxbee PC. This will be completed in 2022. The Church will be provided with a professional overview of all accounting practices, making sure that things are being done properly but also giving guidance and advice for the future.

It has been another tough year for the Church because of Covid-19 restrictions. Events had to be limited and participation was down. We welcomed a new Minister, Rev. Joe Perdue, who has been working hard to make us visible in the Community and bringing us up to date on things such as services on YouTube and Facebook, having people able to use their charge cards to purchase things at the Church Fair or sign their children up for Camp or even pay their pledges. Thanks go to Susanne Lendler-Marsh for all of her Budget work and support, to Don Patenaude for overseeing our investment accounts and to Pat Carroll, our bookkeeper, who keeps our financial things straight, organized and always there to help.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Radune, Treasurer

Child Development Center Annual Report

The Child Development Center of the First Congregational Church of Branford continued to receive positive feedback in 2021 from current and prospective families.

This year we faced many challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There have been children and staff who have had to quarantine, and, at times, we have had to quarantine entire classrooms. We have worked hard to ensure that most of our staff received the COVID-19 vaccine. In consultation with the East Shore Health Department and the Office of Early Childhood, we have made changes to our COVID-19 policies.

We have received a grant from the State of Connecticut that was used to remodel our infant room floors and to provide a staff salary increase. This grant will also continue to be used to cover the loss of tuition that occurred due to COVID closures, as well as other COVID related expenses.

We have continued to offer CrossFit classes twice per month to our children. We were also able to hold our trunk or treat event and Halloween Parade through the town this year.

Our continued mission:

- To provide a healthy and safe learning environment for children of all abilities.
- To promote personal and professional growth of children, families, and teachers.
- To design our curriculum based upon the physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development of each individual child.
- To utilize the community as a learning tool.
- To honor each child as a unique individual and to respect the creativity that they possess.

Thank you all for your support over the past year. We look forward to continuing to work together in the new year and always welcome inquiries about our program.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Linke
Director, Child Development Center

Child Development Center				
Budget FYE 8/31/21				
		Actual FYE Aug 2020	Budget FYE Aug 2020	Variance Better Than (Worse Than)
Income				
Fundraisers		0	0	0
Misc. (interest, donations, etc.)		20,097	0	20,097
Registration		0	0	0
Tuition		63,628	47,437	16,191
Grand Total Income		83,725	47,437	36,288
Expenses				
Staffing:				
Life Insurance and AFLAC		9	25	16
Payroll Expenses		537	489	(48)
Payroll Taxes		4,657	3,271	(1,386)
Replacement		5,457	2,500	(2,957)
Salaries		51,318	33,844	(17,475)
Sub Total		61,978	40,129	(21,850)
Operational:				
Church Contribution		4,000	2,333	(1,667)
Church Loan Repayment		0	0	0
Cleaning		1,444	1,000	(444)
Food		946	458	(488)
Medical Supplies		483	417	(66)
Paper Products		527	667	139
Playground		65	83	18
Repairs/Maintenance/sewer		0	42	42
Sub Total		7,465	5,000	(2,465)
General:				
Conferences		0	0	0
Consulting and Legal fees		0	5	5
Dues/Subscriptions& advertising		0	50	50
Workers Comp and AD&D		310	417	107
Office Supplies (incl postage and telephone)		435	500	65
Permits/Fees		0	0	0
Special Events		485	500	15
Visiting Nurse		400	167	(233)
Sub Total		1,630	1,638	9
Classroom Costs:				
Art & Educational supplies		296	100	(196)
Enrichment & Activities		111	100	(11)
Equipment		234	250	16
Sub Total		641	450	-191
Total Expenses		71,714	47,217	-24,497
NET INCOME		12,011	220	11,792

Notes for the month:				
<p>Misc. Inc is from State of CT grant for COVID relief This will be used for increased salaries, loss of tuition due to COVID closures, extra cleanings, other COVID related expenses.</p>				

First Congregational Church of Branford
Balance Sheet

Cash Basis

As of December 31, 2021

	Dec 31, 21
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1103 · KEY BANK CHECKING	48,066.46
1104 · KILLAMS PT CONF CTR - KEY BANK	2,431.60
1105 · KEY BANK-CREDIT CARD ACCT	1,003.45
1130 · Merrill Lynch	
1132 · FES Equity (812-04062)	900,406.08
1133 · FES Cash (812-04063)	71,772.17
1133a · FES Bond (812-02518)	274,447.88
1134 · SEG (02519, 04065 & 04066)	1,773,594.05
1135 · Unrestricted Equity (812-04068)	232,420.19
1136 · Unrestricted Bond (812-04069)	9,682.43
1140 · Evans Equity (812-02511)	1,029,087.29
1141 · Evans Cash (812-02512)	32,159.31
1142 · Evans Bond (812-02517)	394,249.08
Total 1130 · Merrill Lynch	4,717,818.48
Total Checking/Savings	4,769,319.99
Accounts Receivable	-150.00
Other Current Assets	
12000 · Undeposited Funds	1,430.00
Total Other Current Assets	1,430.00
Total Current Assets	4,770,599.99
TOTAL ASSETS	4,770,599.99
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	-865.00
Credit Cards	2,118.28
Other Current Liabilities	
22125 · Benevolence Projects	2,834.00
22150 · Prepaid Pledge	29,457.44
Total Other Current Liabilities	32,291.44
Total Current Liabilities	33,544.72
Total Liabilities	33,544.72
Equity	4,737,055.27
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	4,770,599.99

Budget Report 1/1/2021 - 12/31/2021 and Proposed Budget 2022

	Budget 2021	Actual 2021	Budget 2022
Receipts			
Income			
Current Pledges	\$ 165,000.00	\$ 164,949.00	\$ 165,000.00
General Donations	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 14,654.99	\$ 15,000.00
Plate Offering	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 941.00	\$ 1,000.00
Prior Year Pledges	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,993.68	\$ 2,500.00
Amazon Income	\$ 60.00	\$ 76.59	\$ 80.00
Child Development Center	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 24,000.00
Christmas Fair, Net	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 8,658.91	\$ 10,000.00
Facility Usage	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 1,370.00	\$ 5,000.00
Killams Point Rental Fees			\$ 30,000.00
Killams Point Misc. Receipts			\$ 5,100.00
Grocery Card Sales Revenue	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,000.00
Miscellaneous Income/Refunds	\$ -	\$ 9,271.77	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 228,560.00	\$ 228,915.94	\$ 259,680.00
Doxie Funds	\$ 11,704.61	\$ 10,729.13	\$ 11,624.00
Evans Fund Donation	\$ 4,343.00	\$ 19,312.00	\$ 52,731.43
FES Fund Contribution (L&Bonly)	\$ 52,562.00	\$ 57,652.61	\$ 51,205.79
FES Fund for A/V upgrade		\$ 9,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Income Funds-Quarterly	\$ 5,946.00	\$ 5,512.94	\$ 5,885.00
FES Fund Contribution Housing Allow.	\$ 39,600.00	\$ 36,300.00	\$ 42,600.00
Hotchkiss Fund	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,540.00
Marjorie & Ford Dickie Fund	\$ 10,781.00	\$ 10,781.00	\$ 11,318.00
Marjorie Dickie Fund	\$ 10,975.00	\$ 10,975.00	\$ 10,761.00
Scholarship Funds	\$ -	\$ 750.00	\$ -
Unrestricted Funds*	\$ 7,330.00	\$ 26,719.13	\$ 7,263.00
Total Transferred from Funds	\$ 153,241.61	\$ 197,731.81	\$ 233,928.22
Total Receipts	\$ 381,801.61	\$ 426,647.75	\$ 493,608.22

	Budget 2021	Actual 2021	Budget 2022
Expense			
Discipleship Team			
BENEVOLENCE			
Consoaction Dues (326 X \$1.50)	\$ 495.00	\$ 478.50	\$ 478.50
Conference Proportional Giving 2020	\$ 4,780.00	\$ 4,780.00	\$ 4,780.00
Total BENEVOLENCE	\$ 5,275.00	\$ 5,258.50	\$ 5,258.50
INTERDENOMINATIONAL			
Mission Board	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,989.02	\$5,000
Special Disbursement	\$ -	\$ -	
Total INTERDENOMINATIONAL	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,989.02	
EDUCATION			
Christian Education Sunday Scho	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,541.13	\$ 1,500.00
Adult Education Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,748.52	\$ 1,500.00
Christian Ed. Youth	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,900.33	\$ 2,000.00
Total EDUCATION	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 5,189.98	\$ 5,000.00
MISSION PROJECT			
\$3000 total, \$1500 fundraising			\$ 1,500.00
Total Discipleship Team	\$ 13,775.00	\$ 15,437.50	\$ 16,758.50
Worship Team			
WORSHIP SUPPLIES			
Worship	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 6,043.48	\$ 2,000.00
Flowers	\$ 600.00	\$ (375.75)	\$ 835.00
Hospitality	\$ 500.00	\$ 468.53	\$ 900.00
Guest Preaching	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,100.00
Zoom/Facebook/YouTube	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 800.00
Total WORSHIP	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 6,136.26	\$ 6,635.00
Pastoral Search Expenses	\$ -	\$ 1,991.93	

	Budget 2021	Actual 2021	Budget 2022
MUSIC EXPENSES			
Special Musicians	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 2,630.00	\$ 3,500.00
Sheet Music & Supplies	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,041.64	\$ 1,650.00
Piano & Organ Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 180.00	\$ 500.00
Total Music Expenses	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 3,851.64	\$ 5,650.00
Total Worship Team	\$ 10,100.00	\$ 11,979.83	\$ 12,285.00
Operations Team			
STAFF EXPENSES			
Payroll Expenses	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,357.14	\$ 2,500.00
Ministerial Salaries	\$ 58,011.71	\$ 57,307.89	\$ 64,525.25
Other Staff Salaries	\$ 124,243.00	\$ 131,888.45	\$ 155,592.00
Deferred Salaries	\$ 17,438.24	\$ 17,438.24	\$ -
Pensions	\$ 15,660.63	\$ 11,233.19	\$ 10,893.04
Insurance	\$ 27,170.36	\$ 28,886.53	\$ 30,207.84
Workers Comp. Insurance	\$ 2,321.00	\$ 3,567.01	\$ 3,027.00
Ministerial Telephone Expense	\$ 900.00	\$ 730.54	\$ 900.00
Misc. Ministerial Expenses	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,582.71	\$ 3,000.00
Auto Allowance	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 190.37	\$ 2,500.00
Payroll taxes employer	\$ 9,504.59	\$ 10,097.14	\$ 11,902.79
Housing Allowance	\$ 36,038.38	\$ 36,038.38	\$ 42,600.00
Misc. Staff Expenses	\$ -	\$ 1,845.87	\$ 750.00
Minister Conference Expense	\$ -	\$ 405.00	\$ 500.00
Faith Formation Conference Expense	\$ -	\$ 491.00	\$ 500.00
Total STAFF EXPENSES	\$ 298,787.91	\$ 305,059.46	\$ 329,397.92

	Budget 2021	Actual 2021	Budget 2022
ADMINISTRATION			
Vanco Fees	\$ 425.00	\$ 428.15	\$ 25.00
Timely Processing Fees		\$ 116.25	\$ 400.00
Office	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,217.94	\$ 3,000.00
Computer Related Expenses	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,178.30	\$ 6,000.00
Copier Related Expenses	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,348.62	\$ 5,400.00
Professional Fees (legal and accounting)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 833.85	\$ 2,000.00
Postage	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,624.25	\$ 1,250.00
Permit 6	\$ 500.00	\$ 245.00	\$ 500.00
Telephone	\$ 3,760.00	\$ 4,659.95	\$ 4,000.00
Website Expenses	\$ -	\$ 2,957.74	\$ 2,500.00
Bank Charges	\$ -	\$ 15.00	\$ 75.00
Total ADMINISTRATION	\$ 22,185.00	\$ 23,625.05	\$ 24,725.00
Technology Equipment		\$ 2,026.34	\$ -
Deposit on A/V upgrade		\$ 11,470.74	\$ 28,412.00
BUILDING OPERATIONS			
Supplies & Services	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,486.99	\$ 3,500.00
Rubbish Removal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Snow Plowing	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 10,275.00	\$ 7,500.00
SCGC	\$ 8,200.00	\$ 6,639.36	\$ 8,200.00
Electric	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 10,069.01	\$ 12,500.00
Water	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,454.66	\$ 2,300.00
Building Repair	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 970.52	\$ 10,000.00
Plumbing Repairs	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,786.79	\$ 1,500.00
Electric Repairs	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 42.00	\$ 1,000.00
Recurrent Building Maintenance	\$ 5,200.00	\$ -	\$ 5,200.00
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 800.00	\$ 596.97	\$ 800.00
Painting(Exterior)	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 433.45	\$ 15,000.00
Service Contracts	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,059.65	\$ 2,500.00
Liability Insurance	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 47,301.75	\$ 51,253.00
Killam's Point	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Center Cemetery	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Gutter Cleaning & Maintenance	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
Recurrent Roof Maintenance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Total BUILDING OPERATIONS	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 88,616.15	\$ 126,253.00

