



***Congregational Church
of Somersville
United Church of Christ***

Reports for Annual Meeting

January 26, 2013



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CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOMERSVILLE, UCC

VISION STATEMENT

We will be a faith-based church welcoming diversity, empowering the individual, growing in faith and doing God's work in the global community in unity and love.

BEHAVIORAL COVENANT

- We will follow a process that includes unconditional listening and time to collect thought, enabling all individuals to comfortably express their opinions.
- Our actions and demeanor will support and empower all participants.
- All opinions will be welcomed, reflectively considered and respected.
- Opinions will be expressed with humility, self-control, gentleness, and kindness.
- We will look for common ground as we search for consensus, and we will respect that consensus.
- We will affirm by our works and actions our common goal to serve God.

ACCEPTED 1/31/2004

Congregational Church of Somersville
Minutes from Annual Meeting, January 30, 2012

Members Present: Rev. Van Keuren, R & A Carey, J & R Bruch, L Longueuil, R & J Roster, M Chillson, E & L Sharpless, D & P Pinney, P Scully, A Andrews, E Hancock, E & M Morrill, N & C Wood, A Matczak, G Farnham, Y Wood, P Forbes, S Comparetto (arr. 7:20)
Others Present: C Andrews, T Hancock

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Ray Foster, moderator; Rev. Graham Van Keuren offered an opening prayer that was followed by the unison reading of the Behavioral Covenant and Vision Statement. Mr. Foster thanked all for allowing him the honor of serving as moderator for three years; it has been a pleasure, fun and rewarding. He expressed his opinion that the church is financially and spiritually sound. Ruth Bruch, clerk, read the roll call of active members who responded with a verse of scripture.

The minutes of the January 29, 2011 meeting were adopted by consensus after Gen Farnham questioned the missions trip fund. Reports were reviewed with the following comments/additions.

Pastor: Graham echoed the opinion that the church is financially and spiritually in good shape. He, too, said it has been a pleasure to serve this church. The paid staff has developmental plans in place ... Graham's goals are to improve his singing and has taken 8 lessons to date. He is learning and understanding more on social networking and he plans to work with three board to work on church strategies on develop goals (CE, stewardship & property).

Treasurer: Ed Sharpless reported in the absence of Sydney Cohen that we did have a good financial year – that it was better than expected and it reflects the ministries.

Deacons: The professional development plan is off to a good start; there was good feedback at the meet the deacons session.

Christian Ed: Our vision is to grow and to get the youth more involved. The committee should be more financially sound.

Missions: We had a good year and donations were very generous, especially with some new programs (kiva). We've made the green usable and we have used it for our first ice cream social. Dave Pinney added all the volunteers assisting at Food Share distribution come from this church even though distribution takes place at the Somers Congregational Church parking lot. Ed Sharpless added he is excited about the new opportunities presented by missions.

Nominating: Mae Chillson stated we are more diverse in personalities and talents as our church membership grows. People are fitting nicely into categories.

Trustees: Ray Foster remarked a lot has been accomplished with our capital campaign but we still need to do the parking lot (the contractor ran out of time in 2011). Donors were thanked for their generosity.

Finance: Ed Sharpless commented the Committee is pleased with the financial outcome but they hoped we didn't have to use funds from the endowment. A double payment was made to the retirement board this year. The committee is a strong group and we're trying to make reports open and understandable for all.

Property: Patrick Forbes elaborated the first and last sentences of the written report are absolutely true! Jack Bruch asked if work on the sign on the green was an upcoming project and he offered to make the necessary repairs. Everett & Millie Morrill comments on the difficulty in mowing around the shrubs by the new parking area (because they are planted in a staggered pattern).

Ladies Aide: Linda Longueuil reviewed Mavis Collins' report saying it seems we deal with a lot of food. She added the group continues to support the community and church.

New Business:

- 1) Election of Officers/Boards: Mae Chillson made a motion the slate be voted on at one time; seconded by Jean Foster; motion carried – slate of nominees elected.

- 2) Use of Facilities: Graham reviewed the hopes of Somers Congregational Church to make use of our facility with 2 AA groups (Thursday and Sunday evening), possibly a brownie troop, a monthly community dinner, and two concerts (to date). They have been using the church and told it's contingent upon approval by our church membership. Discussion and questions followed: Some saw no reason why they couldn't use our building while others asked who would be a gatekeeper? When we expand activities at the church, our expenses expand? Would there be more issues for property? Would they make donations? What about insurance?
The AA group meeting here already pays rent; the other two groups would also pay. The church is supposed to help those in need and they are in need. Outside groups usually carry their own liability insurance but that does not include AA .. it's a non-organized group that comes together. Perhaps the trustees should review those dealing with expenses and take it up with each instance. If we open up our church, we should have guidelines set up by the trustees. It's the Christian thing to do ... to reach out to our sister church. Even though some members did not come to this meeting, "use of facilities" was on the agenda and we have a quorum so we can vote. Members are always urged to attend meetings.
Ray Foster called for a show of hands of those in favor of having groups come into our church? Vote in favor in the majority. Graham added their requests are simple and low cost.
Jack Bruch made a motion, amended by Dave Pinney that we should open our doors to community groups. The initial decision will come from our pastor and if he determines a request needs more discussing, it will go to the Board of Trustees. Motion seconded by Everett Morrill; motion carried by a majority vote. Ray Foster stated the Board of Trustees may develop a protocol for AA meetings; however Somers may already have their own guidelines that can apply to meetings held here.

- 3) Safe Proposal: Finance has been looking into this for a while now but the discussion has expanded after the fire at Somers. Committees are to give feedback on what's needed size-wise. The original proposal was to spend up to \$2000 for a safe or safes. Ed Sharpless made a motion finance be given the responsibility and freedom to spend up to \$2000 for a safe(s) to store documents and other items; seconded by Mae Chillson. While this expenditure is not in the budget so the cost would come from checking or a special appeal. Sue Comparetto asked if the cost is more than \$2000, would Finance come back for approval? Gen Farnham added the size of a new safe would determine where it is placed. Ed replied it would probably be on a lower level because if there's a fire and water, it would fall to a lower level. Rich Carey, after investigating prices at banks, said that would be temporary at best with a cost of \$400-\$600 a year for a normal size safe-deposit box. Mr. Foster called for a vote; motion carried.

There being no other business to come before the membership, a motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn at 8:32 PM. All formed a circle to sing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds".

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth M. Bruch, Clerk

REPORT OF THE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

Paul writes to the church in Philippi with great gratitude, telling them, “I thank my God every time I think of you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you.” (Philippians 1:3-4) I feel similarly for you as Paul felt for the Philippians. I am extremely grateful for the good work God is doing through the Congregational Church of Somersville.

We have made great progress in various aspects of ministry over the last year. This year I particularly want to celebrate the giving nature of our community, for I see the generosity of this congregation continuing to grow and grow. For example, we again increased our pledges year over year as we have for the last several. In addition to our increasing pledge giving, we have seen exemplary financial generosity in missions outreach giving, too. This is true not only in our various extra mile mission collections, but we also put together more than 230 health kits under the leadership of Ladies Aid Society – a new high! As Paul writes to another church, the one in Corinth, “the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” (2 Corinthians 9:7) I can attest that we have indeed reaped bountifully, experiencing many blessings of faith, hope and love in our church. I am convinced that we shall reap yet much more.

Many people not only give much financially, they also give much of their time and talent. I think of our officers, board members and committee members. I think of our Sunday school teachers and choir members. I think of those who regularly volunteer at the Blacksmith Shoppe or at our fundraiser dinners. I think of those who fulfill many and varied property needs with little or no public acknowledgment. Paul writes this also the Corinthians, reminding them that, “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-6) All are necessary for the proper functioning of the Body of Christ. “The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you,’” Paul reminds them. (1 Corinthians 12:20)

Now our congregation, at its most recent membership meeting, has seen fit to undertake major building renovations consisting of the replacement of the social hall floor, repainting of the bell tower and repair of the roof. These property commitments necessitate further generosity on our part in both money and time, as some of the work will be done by the talented hands of our own members. But this is a good thing, for we use our building (as do others) in many ways to serve God. The proper care of our building today will help ensure that future generations will have the same asset for ministry.

It takes the freely given time, talent, and treasure of all members of the Body of Christ for it to perform at its optimal health. In Christ Jesus, God withheld nothing from us, offering even God's own self for us and for our salvation. In Matthew's gospel, as Jesus commissions his disciples to go out two by two for ministry, he reminds them, "Freely you have received, so freely give." (Matthew 10:8)

To echo Paul once more, I thank God for each of you and for the many ways you freely give to the work of Christ Jesus here in Somersville. I pray you may continue to have open minds, hands and hearts to the work of Christ our church strives to accomplish.

May God abundantly bless each of you and our whole church family,

Graham Van Keuren

REPORT OF THE CLERK

Activities relating to membership, baptism, marriages and losses for the year have been recorded and include:

New Members (7)	Edgardo Abello Cheryl Andeson Sarah Flynn Carol Webb	Susan Abello Brian Flynn Virginia Mangels
Losses (6)		
Dismissals	Jimmy Graham	Linda Graham
Deaths	Charles Foxe Maryanna Morris	Ruth Graham Linda Percoski

As of December 31, 2012, active membership at the Congregational Church of Somersville was 105.

Minutes of meetings of the Church have also been recorded, distributed, posted and are on file in the office.

And, after serving as your clerk for the past thirty years, I have decided it is time for a break and will be stepping down from this position. It has been an honor to serve in this capacity.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth M. Bruch, Clerk

Report of the Treasurer

2012 was a quiet but busy year. Quiet in the sense that we did not undertake any major capital campaign, but we were kept busy with continued repairs of the church and the parsonage. We ended the year with a total income of \$136,712.00. The total expenses were \$128,272.00. So we finished in the black with a net of \$8,441.00. This has not happened in this church for a long time. The Treasurer's report will reflect a substantial increase in unrestricted donations for 2012, which went a long way in producing this end of year gain.

Some notes of interest:

Income

- Pledges exceeded the budget by \$684.00. This reflects our generous giving hearts.
- Fundraiser net total was \$22,200.36. This number is greater than last year, even with one less dinner. Great job done by Ruth Bruch and the dedicated workers of our church.
- For the first time since I have been treasurer, I did not take any money from the Endowment Fund to aid in the expenses.
- As stated above, the unrestricted donations were at an all time high, due to facility donations, funerals, weddings and other generous donations.

Expense

- Work was done on the east wall and foundation in the fellowship hall this summer. Thanks to all who donated their time in this project. The half moon window on the north side of the church was fixed by Doug Miller, and was generously paid for by the Ladies Aide.
- The Ladies Aide also donated the funds needed to complete the exterior painting done on the church, as well as the work to be done on the parking lot and the garage.
- The work done on the gutters was also completed from the 2011 Capital Campaign.

As the year was ending, the membership had time to reflect on areas of the church still in need of repair. We are gearing up to tackle the replacement of the floor in the fellowship hall and the repair of the church steeple. It will take the diligence of our church community to follow through on the financial support for these projects.

I would like to express my appreciation to our collector, Dan Dunn, and his Efforts. Many thanks go to the finance committee: Dave Pinney, Angela Ceppetelli, Johanna Karbonic and Graham an Keuren. Ed Sharpless is leaving the committee and I appreciate all his contributions over the past years. Praise be to God.

Respectfully submitted,
Sydney Cohen

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOMERSVILLE
TREASURER'S REPORT 2012

			1/1/12-12/31/12	1/1/12-12/31/12
INCOME			ACTUAL	BUDGET
	COLLECTOR			
		Loose	2,044.60	2,652.00
		Pledges	85,577.00	84,893.00
	DIVIDENDS		2,439.25	2,200.00
	DONATIONS			
		Facility	1,065.00	300.00
		Keeney Foundation	800.00	400.00
		Ladies Aid	6,000.00	3,000.00
		Unrestricted	11,454.00	1,000.00
	FUND RAISERS			
		Non Designated	26,848.50	25,000.00
	INTEREST		22.01	30.00
	MISCELLANEOUS		459.00	500.00
	REFUNDS		3.01	0.00
	TOTAL INCOME		136,712.37	119,975.00
	ENDOWMENT INPUT		0.00	0.00
	TOTAL OPERATING INCOME		136,712.37	119,975.00
	EXPENSES			
	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION			
		Supplies	1,202.78	1,400.00
		Youth Ministry	387.52	500.00
	COMMITTEES:			
		Deacons	217.86	700.00
		Music	569.34	700.00
		Stewardship	0.00	175.00
	COMPENSATION			
	Pastor	Salary	43,486.08	43,486.00
		Insurance & Pension	10,181.97	10,900.00
		Professional Expenses	1,110.69	1,000.00
	Church Adm.	Salary	12,700.08	12,700.00
		Social Security	971.55	972.00
	Music Director	Salary	11,705.04	11,705.00
	Sexton	Salary	2,260.00	3,120.00
	FEES			
		Insur: Property & WC	3,450.59	5,000.00
		UCC Assessments	816.00	1,016.00
		Tolland Association	61.20	0.00
	FUND RAISERS			
		Fund Raisers	4,648.14	4,200.00

	MISCELLANEOUS		514.95	450.00
	OFFICE SUPPLIES			
		Copier Maintenance	0.00	500.00
		Copier Consumables	1,094.46	500.00
		Postage	687.70	700.00
		Printing	168.00	150.00
		Supplies	1,302.20	700.00
		Website	0.00	69.00
	PROPERTY			
		Groundskeeping-snowpl	525.00	2,500.00
Church		Building Maintenance	4,485.87	2,700.00
		Fuel	6,310.56	6,500.00
		Electricity(Inc. parking light	3,218.10	3,000.00
		Telephone	1,418.27	1,360.00
		Water	152.84	150.00
		Sewer Assessment	250.00	250.00
Parsonage		Building Maintenance	1,261.03	1,500.00
		Fuel	2,979.55	2,700.00
		Electricity	1,481.47	1,400.00
		Water	232.88	250.00
		Sewer Assessment	250.00	250.00
	MISSIONS OUTREACH			
		UCC Wider Mission Support	3,499.92	3,500.00
		Elective Disbursements	3,190.20	3,200.00
		Missions Programming	294.74	200.00
		Pastor's Discretionary	1,225.00	1,250.00
TOTAL EXPENSES			128,311.58	131,353.00
	NET INCOME/LOSS		8,440.49	-11,378.00

FLOW-THROUGH ITEMS				
			1/1/12-12/31-12	1/1/12-12/31/12
	INCOME		ACTUAL	BUDGET
		Missions Bake Sale	1320.00	2300.00
		Monthly Missions Collections	4331.39	4100.00
	Restricted Income			
		Pastors Designated Fund	3063.27	
		Sunday School Acct.-Silver La	892.73	
	Other-	Purchase of safe	500.00	
		Capital Campaign	125.00	
		Parking Lot	93.00	
		Property Fund	802.00	
		TOTALS	11127.39	
	EXPENSES			
		Missions Bake Sale	500.00	
		Mon. Miss. Collect. Disb.	4915.80	4100.00
	Restricted Funds Disbursal			
		Pastor's Designated Fund	3084.50	
	Other	Capital Campaign	777.50	
		Ext. Church paintin	1575.00	
		Silver Lake	742.73	
		TOTALS	11595.53	

Congregational Church of Somersville
 Memorial Funds
 As of November 30, 2012

	Value 11/30/2012	Value "@Donation
	\$	\$
MISSIONARY SOCIETY FUND:		
UNRESTRICTED:		
Belbruno	\$ 492.90	\$ 220.00
Butler	\$ 772.65	\$ 624.24
Blain	\$ 1,859.70	\$ 1,070.00
Chism	\$ 1,380.09	\$ 1,115.00
Chouinard	\$ 35,565.55	\$ 22,677.00
Cooley	\$ 497.56	\$ 255.00
Cowan	\$ 1,255.93	\$ 1,014.69
Daniels	\$ 289.08	\$ 145.00
Follansbee	\$ 692.72	\$ 364.00
General Memorial	\$ 5,119.49	\$ 2,946.00
Hartwick	\$ 458.26	\$ 232.00
Hastings	\$ 241.36	\$ 195.00
Holcolm	\$ 12,377.52	\$ 10,000.00
Luddy	\$ 4,845.07	\$ 1,000.00
Pease	\$ 459.59	\$ 287.00
Persson	\$ 1,065.70	\$ 861.00
Pinney	\$ 919.99	\$ 410.00
Schnare	\$ 2,321.96	\$ 1,035.00
Smith	\$ 30,856.85	\$ 15,216.00
Trimmer	\$ 196.87	\$ 100.00
Unas	\$ 908.53	\$ 500.00
	\$ -	
TOTAL	\$ 102,577.39	\$ 60,266.93
RESTRICTED:		
(1) Brink	\$ 3,692.29	\$ 2,500.00
(1) Collins	\$ 2,474.39	\$ 1,675.00
(1) Gowdy	\$ 2,319.19	\$ 1,570.00
(1) Griswold	\$ 738.55	\$ 500.00
(1) Henry	\$ 1,477.01	\$ 1,000.00
(1) Keeney	\$ 2,652.38	\$ 1,795.00
(1) Liberty	\$ 3,655.47	\$ 3,300.00
(1) Meacham	\$ 7,385.12	\$ 5,000.00
(1) Wood, E.	\$ 407.34	\$ 500.00
(1) Holcomb Scholarship	\$ 4,094.02	\$ 3,000.00
(1) restricted - use earnings only	\$ 28,895.75	\$ 20,840.00
TOTAL	\$ 131,473.14	\$ 81,106.93

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOMERSVILLE
ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

	As of Jan 1 '12		As of Nov. 30 '12		As of Nov. 30 '12		As of Nov. 30 '12	
	Amount	Value @ Jan 1 '12	Amount	Value @ Nov. 30 '12	Realized Gain/Loss	Unrealized Gain/Loss	Realized Gain/Loss	Unrealized Gain/Loss
Savings Accounts:								
Holcomb School Aid MM	\$ 4,092.13	\$ 4,093.86						
Jr. Pilgrim Fellow	\$ 864.26	\$ -						
Sunday School	\$ 27.91	\$ -						
Rockville Bank Acct.	\$ 12,335.34	\$ 9,721.19						
Total Savings Account & Money Market	\$ 17,319.64	\$ 13,815.05						
Stocks:								
Company	Net Unit Change	Y-T-D Units	\$/s @ Jan. 1 '11	\$/s @ Nov. 30 '12	Value @ Jan 1 '12	Value @ Nov. 30 '12	Year to Date Realized Gain/Loss	Year to Date Unrealized Gain/Loss
Miss. Soc. Of Conn.	1,086.68	94.40	89.56	94.40	\$ 95,173.96	\$ 102,577.39	\$ 1,617.23	\$ (798.32)
Miss Soc. Restricted	262.74	94.40	89.56	94.40	\$ 23,011.69	\$ 24,801.73	\$ 391.02	\$ (193.02)
Total for Endowment Calculation					\$118,185.65	\$127,379.12		\$ 1,307.01
Miss. Soc. Pastor's	1,4304	722.80	89.56	94.40	\$ 65,184.14	\$ 68,229.47	\$ 1,073.57	\$ (529.94)
Unit Change /Month	1.4304							
YTD Unit Change	(21.4548)							
Total YTD -Units	2,072.22							
Checking Accounts: Operating Acct:								
					\$ 183,369.79	\$ 195,608.59	\$ 3,081.82	\$ (1,521.28)
Total Assets, not including property.					\$ 201,631.10	\$ 215,784.23		
Net Change					\$ 14,153.13	7.02		
Investment Earnings/Month	\$ 479.50							
Investment Earnings/YTD	\$ 4,102.27							
Pastor Account = Value as of 1: Nov. 30 '12								
Value of net earnings: as of 11/30/2012								
Net Value as of 11/30/2012								
					\$ 68,229.47	\$ 68,229.47		
					\$ (996.12)	\$ (996.12)		
					\$ 67,233.35	\$ 67,233.35		
							Ending Book Value	\$ 170,753.05
							(Purchase Cost of Securities)	

REPORT OF THE HISTORIAN

On Saturday, May 5, 2012, Everett Baker and I attended a very interesting workshop on digitization of records. After Opening and Devotions by the Rev. John Van Epps, Archivist of the CT Conference, presentations were given by Martha Smalley, Archivist at Yale Divinity School, "Procedures of Digitization" and Dr. Greg Dawson, Pastor of Seymour UCC, "Digitization of Records in the local church". What we learned is that most of this digitization process is beyond Everett and my capabilities and hope that in the future this process could be a possibility. It was a very informative workshop and I wish more of our congregation could have attended.

Everett and I also traveled to the State of Connecticut Library to explore the possibilities of storing some of our original records so they will be protected forever. Unfortunately this is still a work in process which we will continue with in 2013. I had a copy of the original proposal to start the church in 1870 framed. Before hanging it in the church, I want to have a computer printed copy of the proposal so that the original could be read. Some of the letters in the names are hard to interpret so a copy is with the Somers Historical Committee to see if they can interpret the names correctly. They are working on it at this time. Some of our records will also be kept in the new safe. The original architecture plan of the church was photographed and is now on a disk.

I will continue to interview more members of the church to get some background information about our church. Four prominent members were interviewed in 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Johanna Karbonic, Historian

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS

January 1st, 2012, Somers Congregational Church destroyed by fire Graham will meet with Barry Cass to find ways we can help them. Our discussion turned to our church. How would something like this affect us? Our records are backed up off site. Records kept on site are in a fire safe and our insurance has been updated. Still, so many unreplacable things would be lost.

February meeting we welcomed newly elected members Allison Matczak and Mavis Collins, A chair and secretary were elected as per bylaws. Delegates were named for music, nominating and evaluation committees. People needing deaconal outreach will be called or visited.

Unfortunately, we were not able to have a student pastor this year as non were available.

Graham is to take sabbatical this summer and we began discussing his plans. We will need pastors and/or lay people during this time.

Worship services at Blair Manor and Evergreen Healthcare will continue.

An offer of an original mural has been given by a professional artist. The deacons met with him to decide where the mural would go and what it would contain. He will start at his convenience as he works out of town.

Lenten, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services were scheduled.

Graham is meeting with possible new members who will be welcomed early November.

Requests for baptisms were made and a deacon will assist with each one.

Deacons did not meet during July and August, however, they are always available on request. Regular meetings began in September.

Community Thanksgiving service was held at our church this year. Other pastors, choirs, speakers and First Selectman were invited.

A request for a meeting of Women of Faith or Women of the Bible was considered. Graham will oversee this.

We have some discussion about involving children in the worship service. Graham wants the kids to understand and appreciate the service by being a part of it. This would be a way for them to understand better why we worship. More next year.

Advent services started on Wednesday November 28.

Christmas Eve service was held with assistance of deacons and volunteer ushers, etc.

Due to the holiday and conflict with other meetings, the next meeting of this board is January 15, 2013.

My thanks to Pat Pinney for being secretary and to all the other deacons for their input during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

George Liberty, Senior Deacon

Board Members

Pat Pinney

Bert Chillson

Al Andrews

Mavis Collins

Allison Matczak

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education program has two board members and four Sunday School teachers. The program currently has about 20 children who are participating in programs. CE events from this past year include: Souper Bowl of caring, children's baking for the church bake sale, Easter Sunday, Children's Sunday and All Church Picnic, Vacation Bible School, Rally Sunday, A Hike to "Sue's Mountain", Halloween party at CT Trolley Museum, and our annual Christmas Pageant.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Scully, Chairman

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MISSIONS

Once again this year, the congregation was extremely generous when asked to support our mission collections and providing items for bake sales. The various collections totaling \$4,023 were used to provide support for the following organizations: Female Soldiers Forgotten Heroes, Champs Place, Somers Congregational Church, One Great Hour of Sharing, Church World Services Tools and Blankets, Loaves and Fishes, Heifer International, Unicef, Neighbors in Need, KIVA, and the Christmas Fund. In addition, numerous ties and scarves were collected for Bible college students in Kenya. In December, we had an angel tree with gifts needed for Loaves and Fishes guests. The response from the congregation was fantastic. Close to 40 gifts were purchased and delivered to Loaves and Fishes for their Christmas party.

In addition to the monthly 2nd Mile Missions, we also sent donations from Missions Elective Disbursal budget to the following : Network Against Domestic Abuse, Spread the Love Strengthen the Church, Champs Place and Cornerstone. Money from this budget was also used to supplement some of our monthly collections.

In place of the December fund-raising supper, the Missions Board raised money from the bake sales held at select suppers as well as one on the Saturday before Easter. In November the money raised at the Easter bake sale was sent to UCC for the Super Storm Sandy Relief Fund. In October, the Missions Board held a pumpkin sale on the green and the money raised was donated to the church in anticipation of a future capital campaign for projects deemed necessary by Property.

At the end of July, we hosted our second Ice Cream Social on the green for the Somersville community. Once again, face painting was very popular as was the small menagerie provided by Lee Pinney. Of course, the ice cream was a hit. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't very cooperative but everyone still seemed to have a good time. Thanks to all who helped set up, serve, paint faces, and clean up for this event.

Financial Analysis for the year:	Collections	4023.80
	Bake sales	1209.10
	Budget	3200.00
	Total	8432.90

The Missions Board would like to thank the congregation for their generosity and commitment in supporting all the missions which help those in our community as well as around the world.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Longueuil, Co-Chair

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

I know filling a post for the church takes away from our daily life but it's so necessary for us to go that extra little bit. I would like to thank everyone that accepted a position in the church this year. Volunteering to hold a position is very important in the function of our beloved church.

Respectfully submitted

Marilyn Hare

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The financial condition of the church is very favorable, a reflection of faithful commitment and hard work of the members and friends of the church. 2012 represents the first year in recent memory that the church has supported all church activity and maintained church property without the need to tap any of church's endowment funds. The Treasurer's report details the revenues and expenses supporting this significant achievement.

The financial condition of the church continues to benefit greatly from the dedicated support and hard work of Sydney Cohen, Treasurer, and Johanna Karbonic, Assistant Treasurer. They have faithfully implemented recommended changes arising from a comprehensive audit performed in accordance with UCC guidelines. The results are clear, detailed recording of all church financial activities and affairs.

During this past year the Finance Committee has reviewed and finalized requirements for a fireproof safe for important church records. The safe is on order. The committee has also been reviewing options for financial recording software in an effort to put in place church owned resources to support the work of the treasurer and the committee. The committee plans to proceed with acquiring software and support materials to enable the treasurer to work without having to rely on providing any of these resources from her own sources.

Working with faithful leadership of our pastor, Graham Van Keuren, and committee members Angela Ceppetelli and Ed Sharpless, the committee developed and presented a proposed budget for 2013 that was adopted at the Financial Annual Meeting in December. It represents continuing the church's commitment to strengthening our congregation and doing God's work in Somersville and the larger community. It will be a challenge to accomplish all that this budget represents, but our church has risen to this challenge in the past and we are confident will continue to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

David Pinney, Chair

REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to the faithful members who have supported our church in myriad ways in 2012. From leading worship; to working with our young people; to working on fundraisers, missions and committees; to doing repairs and cleaning – all of your gifts of time and talent are an integral part of keeping our community functioning.

The Stewardship committee would like to especially thank those who supported our church financially this year. During our spring Stewardship campaign we received 36 pledges for a total of \$71,484. By the end of 2012, our pledgers' donations to the church exceeded our pledged amounts by more than \$14,000! We truly praise God for these generous givers and their gifts.

The Stewardship Committee also had the privilege of participating in the kickoff of our new 2013 Capital Campaign Project, to put in a new social room floor, and repaint the bell tower and repair the roof. We have received an enthusiastic response to this project and as of this writing have already received \$16,000 in pledges toward our \$26,000 goal! We are confident that the rest of the funds can be raised prior to initiating the work. Thank you all for your unwavering support of this church.

"I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until the day of Jesus Christ" Philippians 1:6

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Robidoux
on behalf of the Stewardship Committee:
Deb Robidoux, Lois Sharpless and
Graham VanKeuren

REPORT OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Synopsis

1. Spring – Fall cleanups accomplished
2. Proposal was made to repair or replace social room floor. Extensive research was conducted with recommendations and prices obtained. Reported to congregation.
3. Concrete patching done
4. Replacement window to attic received and to be done
5. Again patches and striping of parking lot have been put off to 2013

Details

1. Cleanups:

The spring and fall cleanups saw leaves raked, windows cleaned, debris removed, storm windows put on and off, etc. Work done by congregation.

2. Social room floor:

The social room floor was proposed for possible repair. The property committee, along with Pastor Van Keuren did extensive research to find a solution. Approximately twenty contractors were called and the final determination was to remove the existing floor. The bring the old concrete surface up to floor level and cover with a vinyl surface. The cost was estimated to be approximately \$18,000. This was reported and had to be voted to be done by the congregation.

3. Painting and repairs:

The sanctuary had been painted last year and it was noticed that paint in places was sagging and peeling. The contractor was called and repairs made. During the year contract work was done on the front chapel door and the rear kitchen door. This included repairs and painting. An estimate was obtained for the bell tower, the storage garage and the concrete block building attached to the kitchen wall. This will be funded along with the social room floor. Cost is approximately \$7,000.

Everett and Millie Morrill, on their own, repaired the floor that had been removed to access the old stairway. They then replaced the wall and painted the paneling on two walls.

By the way, Millie has been doing volunteer custodial work as we no longer have a sexton. In December the Morrills and Careys cleaned extensively the altar area and the chapel. Mr. Morrill and Mr. Carey re-stained the ends and rails of all the pews and some trim work.

4 & 5. Other repairs:

The concrete repairs were done by volunteers. Mr Doug Miller has been working on the replacement/repair of the attic window of the church that faces the parsonage. New window replacement parts are obtained and will be installed. Electrical and updating repairs have been done on the parsonage. Recently the hot water tank was replaced.

6. Parking lot:

Again we ran into a problem with ur paring area repairs. Sealing, patching and new lining has been funded but a scheduling problem has put this off til spring Hopefully, 2013!

7. Finally:

As all of us are aware, we have two old buildings. They sit on stone and brick foundations. As they settle and age through use and Mother Nature's sun, rain ice, snow and wind, periodic and continual repairs are needed. Your property committee has tried its best to stay on top of these requirements We always welcome the input by all as to observations of property needs. We also thank and continue to ask for your volunteer work assistance and continued patience and support.

Thanks to all who help and will continue to. Without you, it would be a very daunting and almost impossible task.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Carey for the
Property Committee

December	Kiva				\$37.00	
December	Xmas Fund				\$785.00	
December	Total Mission	\$8,883.00	\$ 153.61		\$822.00	\$9,858.61
Total		\$22,368.00	\$ 494.21		\$1,271.00	\$24,133.21
YTD Total		\$ 85,577.00	\$2,044.60		\$ 3,647.40	\$ 91,269.00

REPORT OF THE LADIES AIDE SOCIETY

The majority of the income for Ladies Aide comes from the operation of the Blacksmith Shoppe. This income is used to support the church through pledges or for special projects/purchases. Much hard work goes into preparing the building and goods for shoppers. Special thanks to Barbara Abbe, Marge Morgan, and Joan Lange for assuming this responsibility during 2012 as well as in many previous years. Their dedication keeps this enterprise going. Art Lachance and Dan Dunn were present every Saturday that the Blacksmith Shoppe was open—setting up, assisting customers, and putting items away at the end of the day. There are several people who contribute by cleaning before the seasonal opening, carrying items in and out on Saturdays, keeping the grounds looking beautiful, and providing the ever-popular baked goods. The efforts of all these people are greatly appreciated and contribute to the success of the Blacksmith Shoppe.

Throughout the year, Ladies Aide provided 5 funeral receptions and hosted one other. We purchased roasters and crockpots to be used at the dinners and luncheons. We served two senior luncheons this year, one in March and one in April. We provided two Thanksgiving dinners and two Christmas dinners to the Somers Social Services for distribution to a couple of Somers families. We also funded some plumbing repairs and have pledged and set aside funds for additional property repairs as weather permits. In addition, we fulfilled our church pledge.

In January, 2012, officers were nominated and elected. Graham provided us with program suggestions for the year. The first was to make care packages for mothers with young children. In February, we were treated to a Valentine's luncheon prepared and served by several of the men in our church. The luncheon was followed by the installation of officers which was officiated by Graham.

In March we enjoyed an informative presentation by Tim Keeney on the probate court. In April, we assembled 234 hygiene kits and delivered them to the Middletown Methodist Church for shipment to the warehouse in Maryland. The Ladies Aide donated \$2 per kit for shipping. Many thanks to our generous church family for your wonderful response to this mission.

In May, we enjoyed a pizza luncheon and then got busy assembling May baskets for 25 shut-ins in Somers as well as for some members of our church family in nearby towns. Our annual picnic took place in June at the home of Ardie and Rich Carey. It was a little windy but still a nice day to enjoy each other's company on the deck of their home.

September took us once again to the Golden Corral in Springfield for a buffet luncheon. In October, we made our plans for a busy November. November 3, we hosted a chili cook-off which was organized by Pat Scully and Johanna Karbonic. The Saturday before Thanksgiving we held a bake sale and once again, members of the church were very generous in providing numerous bake sale items. Between the sale of nuts from The Nut Lady and the baked goods, it was a very successful event.

In December we had our annual Christmas pot luck luncheon and carol sing. Unfortunately, this year we lost Ellie Parker who lent us her musical talents at this event every year. We were fortunate to have Lori Bourret to step in and play the piano for us this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Longueuil, President
Ladies Aide

SLATE OF NOMINEES

* NEW NOMINEES TO BE VOTED UPON

One Year Positions

Clerk	* Linda Pease
Treasurer	* Sydney Cohen
Assistant Treas.	* Johanna Karbonic
Collector	* Dan Dunn

Two Year Positions

Christian Ed.	Judy Liberty (term remaining thru 2013) Sue Comparetto (term remaining thru 2014)
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Missions	Ulysses Orduz (term remaining thru 2013) Laura Elwood (term remaining thru 2013) * Linda Longueuil * Geneva Farnham
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Nominating	Ardie Carey (term remaining thru 2013) * Judy Liberty
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Stewardship	Lois Sharpless (term remaining thru 2013) * Sharon Miller
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Property	Rich Carey (term remaining thru 2013) * Everett Morrill
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Three Year Positions

Moderator	Yvonne Wood
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Deacons	Bert Chillson (term remaining thru 2013) * Donna Pendleton (term remaining thru 2013) Allison Matczak (term remaining thru 2014) Mavis Collins (term remaining thru 2014) * Elaine Hancock * Chuck Elwood
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Finance	Dave Pinney (term remaining thru 2013) Angela Ceppetelli (term remaining through 2014) * Jack Collins
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Christian Ed.	* Deb Robidoux
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The Ministry of the Connecticut Conference, UCC, in 2012

For a while, it seemed as if 2012 would be a relief from the storms and disasters of 2011. The churches in Plainville, Saugatuck, and Somers each made great strides in recovering from the building losses they suffered in 2011 from ice and fire. The 2012 winter was mild, church giving met the 2011 Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support goals, and in the spring the General Assembly fulfilled a nearly forty-year-old dream of the Connecticut Conference, and passed a bill which will end capital punishment in the state.



The national and state economies, however, continued to struggle, and Conference leaders fear the impact on the state's most vulnerable residents as the legislature considers addressing a significant state budget deficit in the next session. Hurricane Sandy took a left turn and left a huge swath of destruction in Connecticut and in the neighboring states of New York and New Jersey. And as the year drew to an end, the state's residents and churches prayed, not with the joy of the Christmas season, but with grief and horror at the twenty-eight violent deaths in Newtown.

The state's UCC churches responded to each of these tragedies with generous gifts of money, space to assemble resources or to pray, and an outstretched hand.

As local church contributions to OCWM Basic Support and per capita dues come in for 2012, the giving goals are in sight, but barely. Fiscal realities forced the Conference to cut a Regional Minister position on June 1st, as the Rev. Sarah Verasco departed to take up a new ministry in Guilford. In October, on the recommendation of Interim Conference Minister the Rev. Charles L. Wildman and the Board of Directors, Conference delegates voted with a heavy heart to change the ratio by which they would allocate Basic Support dollars, reducing the share for the national ministries of the United Church of Christ from 63% to 50%.

The Conference's Regional Ministers — Michael Ciba, Thomas Clough, Ineke Mitchell, Tamara Moreland (who joined the staff on December 1) and Mike Penn-Strah — stood with the grieving, aided search committees and association committees on ministry, developed education programs, preached, taught, and prayed. Rev. Mitchell departed at the end of the year for Tolland, succeeded by Rev. Moreland in the Northwest Central Region.

Conference Registrar Sue Furness retired in October after nearly thirty years with the Conference, and the staff welcomed her successor, Sioux Wilusz. Sacred Conversations on Race Coordinator Mia Douglas also left the staff in May as she took on full-time responsibilities at Faith Church in Hartford.

The Conference Minister Search Committee labored throughout the year, collating the vast amount of information they had collected and distributing the Conference profile (www.ctucc.org/cmsearch). Since the end of September, when they closed applications, they have reviewed candidate profiles and begun the work of discernment. They plan to interview candidates in the coming weeks.

The Conference gathered in May in Suffield to hear the challenge of the Rev. Lillian Daniel, who called on the UCC to be open minded, but still to "know what you think." In October, UCC Local Church Ministries executive the Rev. J. Bennett Guess declared that amidst all the difficult challenges the church faces in this age, there is still hope and promise. He called for new energy for ministries that affect people where they are, even offering an off-the-top-of-his-head goal of 10,000 new UCC ministries in five years, some large, some small, that would make a difference. The Conference honored Carole Fanslow of Trumbull with the Living Waters Award for her earnest, dedicated work in a variety of local settings.

During the summer, seventy-four Connecticut youth and advisers joined 2,500 others from all over the UCC for the National Youth Event on the campus of Perdue University, a week of service, learning, forming friendships, and sharing the love of God. Giv², the Conference's youth service program, expanded with new chapters and gave hundreds of hours of labor to local helping agencies. In January, young people Thinking About Working for God for a living had their first annual retreat at Silver Lake, and it was a powerful experience. Connor Wood, one of their number, was one of the youth preachers at the May youth revival in Hartford.

Silver Lake Conference Center had 1,031 registrations for summer conferences from over 140 Connecticut churches. They came together to "love God, love their neighbor, and love themselves" in one of the state's most beautiful settings. A few shared their stories of grace on the Conference's new CTUCCYouth YouTube channel (youtube.com/ctuccyouth). The renovated Retreat Center opened to rave reviews from weekend guests in the fall, many of its bedrooms adorned with quilts handmade by a sewing group from Naugatuck. New climbing elements rose on the challenge courses, and during the spring and fall 2,789 retreat visitors in 105 groups found a sacred space to learn and to grow in faith.

The *March in the Son* event, a day of workshops for church educators and leaders, proved so popular that the waiting list grew to 81. Those fortunate enough to attend heard the Rev. Dr. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Minister for Christian Faith Formation Research for the UCC, describe some of the changes in the world around the church. "Clinging to 'our own way,' she said: "That is the challenge we must deal with." This year's workshop event, *Leadership Matters*, is scheduled for March 9th in South Glastonbury.

ConnTact published four themed issues in 2012. The *CTUCC This Week* email was joined by *CTUCC This Month* in September, offering highlights of activities in the churches as a "clipping service" and in a ready-to-insert format for local church newsletters. The weekly *CTUCC ConferenceCast* podcast reached episode #100 and gained a video edition, while the *Spirit Calendar* reflections offered wisdom, prayer, and renewal via email, the CTUCC.org website, Facebook, and Twitter every Monday.

The Conference Environmental Ministry Team continued its work encouraging local churches and members to treat more lightly on the planet. As the year turned, they had begun work on "Mission 4/1 Earth," fifty days of environmental service and advocacy scheduled for the Easter season of 2013. Conference delegates passed a resolution calling for study of genetically modified organisms in foods at the Annual Meeting in October.

The Board of Directors approved a new plan for implementing Sacred Conversations on Race in the fall, dedicating significant resources of dollars and staff times to a Big, Inspirational Goal: to end racism. Both new resources and programs are anticipated in the coming year to begin this significant work.

In his final address as Interim Conference Minister this fall, the Rev. Charles Wildman raised a question he heard from Episcopal Bishop Ian Douglas: "What kind of church does God need?" he asked.

"What would it mean to abandon the usual question of what kind of church or conference serves our needs? In one phrase, we would renounce consumer theology," Wildman said. "Instead, we would bow before our Still Speaking God and seek God's desires for what we are to be as Christ's Church and Conference.

"Now that's going big -- that's embracing God's plan in a bold way! That's courage that requires a lot of faith, and getting past all of our assumptions and moving truly into 21st century thinking."