

### First Word...

For only the second time in the history of the United Methodist Church (UMC), there will be a special session of the General Conference, the representative, global legislative body that normally meets every 4 years and is the only entity that can change the Book of Discipline or speak on behalf of the entire denomination. 2018 marked the 50 year anniversary of the UMC, formed by the merger of the former Methodist Church and the former Evangelical United Brethren Church. Since the founding of our denomination, there has been disagreement about the status of people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or who question their sexual orientation (or LGBTQ). The disagreements about membership, marriage, ordination and participation in ministry by LGBTQ people have grown with time. One way these arguments can be summarized are from the Social Principles of the UMC, including, from the “Human Sexuality” section, “We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God,” and, “The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.” The same section also states, “We affirm that God’s grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.” The Biblical and theological arguments are many and deserve more space than what I have available in this column. So, if you would like to know more about them or wish to discuss anything you see in this article further, I would be happy to talk with you. I can also recommend various resources for your study. Suffice it to say, in our own congregation, a wide range of views is evident. We have opinions ranging from those who want to continue current prohibitions against same-sex marriage and the ordination of “self-avowed, practicing” homosexuals to those who want to see the full-inclusion of gay and lesbian people in the life of the church. Many others fall somewhere in between, with a variety of views. I count among my own treasured colleagues and friends, people across this spectrum. What to do about this wide range of often conflicting, deeply held belief has been a conundrum. In the UMC as a whole, these questions frequently crowd out the energy and time for fulfilling many aspects of the church's ministry. So, the 2016 General Conference called a special General Conference to meet February 23-26 in St. Louis. The special session is to “focus on the issue of human sexuality and church unity with the goals of ending distracting and mission-compromising disagreement about how to be in ministry with LGBTQ people. The hope is that decisions made will allow the 2020 General Conference to focus on mission and the next steps for the church’s unified global witness.” The Commission on a Way Forward was created by the General Conference to develop one or more proposals for consideration at the special session. The Commission developed three proposals as part of their work. Depending on the decisions of the special session, which will also include voting on a number of amendments and counter-proposals, there is the potential for major changes to the organization of the denomination. You can read the full report of the commission at [www.umc.org/news/way-forward-commission-report](http://www.umc.org/news/way-forward-commission-report) or look at the summary of the 3 major proposals on the next 2 pages (copies are available in the church office).

Here are some actions you can take in the days ahead:

- pray for General Conference, including the 864 delegates from around the world (about 42% of whom come from countries outside the United States).
- Read the report from The Commission on a Way Forward
- read the history of the status of LGBTQ people in the church and the various points made
- watch some of the proceedings of the special session which will be streamed; more information will be made available from the [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org) website

There will be more information to share following the special session.

Overview of Proposals for General Conference	One Church Plan	Connectional Conference Plan	Traditional Plan
	<p><b>Summary:</b> This plan, preferred by a majority of the Council of Bishops, would remove restrictive language from the Book of Discipline that prohibits same-gender weddings in UMC properties and ordination of “self-avowed practicing homosexuals.” It would add language to protect churches and pastors who choose not to allow same-gender marriages.</p>	<p><b>Summary:</b> This plan would replace the current jurisdictional conferences with three connectional conferences based on affinity: Progressive, Traditional and Unity. All three would use a general Book of Discipline (Articles of Religion, General Rules, Confessions of Faith) with the ability to adapt other portions to their context for ministry.</p>	<p><b>Summary:</b> This plan, developed more fully toward the end of the Commission on a Way Forward process, broadens the definition of “self-avowed practicing homosexual”; puts penalties in place for disobedience to the Discipline; and requires bishops, pastors and annual conferences to certify adherence to the Discipline.</p>
Local Churches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Most likely would make no changes in practice at the local level.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> May rewrite wedding policies to explicitly allow or forbid same-gender weddings.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Will covenant with bishop on whether congregation will accept LGBTQ pastor.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Can choose affiliation.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Still will set wedding policies with churches in the “unity” connectional conferences able to set parameters for building use and/or wedding policies in either direction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No vote unless the church disagrees with annual conference’s decision to stay or leave the UMC.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Churches can leave if they disagree with annual conference’s decision to adhere to Discipline.</li> </ul>
Clergy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Can exercise individual conscience.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bishop &amp; cabinet would take theological convictions into account for appointments.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ends potential for church trials.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ candidates can be ordained and appointed to local churches that approve and can request transfer of candidacy if conference Board of Ordained Ministry or clergy session chooses not to ordain LGBTQ persons.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Will choose a connectional conference.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transfers subject to approval by Board of Ordained Ministry.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ordination would be recognized across all three connectional conferences.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Security of appointment determined by connectional conferences, with emphasis on protecting women and minorities.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Deacons and full-time local licensed pastors may see fewer opportunities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Must maintain Discipline or leave for “autonomous, affiliated or concordat church.”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Just resolutions from complaints must include commitment not to repeat offense.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> First offense results in one-year unpaid suspension.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Second offenses result in surrendering credentials.</li> </ul>
Annual Conferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No vote is needed.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Boards of Ordained Ministry and/or clergy session can discern whether to ordain LGBTQ persons.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> General Conference can craft a way for churches to exit with grace.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Jurisdictional and central conferences will vote to join a connectional conference on simple majority vote.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Annual conferences who want to join a different connectional conference than their jurisdiction chooses may do so on a simple majority vote.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Annual conferences could revote every years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Must certify that it will uphold the Discipline.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Annual conferences that won’t certify are urged to form “autonomous, affiliated or concordat” church, and churches that leave can’t use United Methodist name or logo past 2020.</li> </ul>

Overview continued from other side	One Church Plan	Connectional Conference Plan	Traditional Plan
<b>Council of Bishops</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Council continues as one body providing spiritual leadership.</li> <li>❑ Assignments will reflect convictions of bishops and annual conferences.</li> <li>❑ Bishops will be protected if their consciences will not allow him or her to ordain LGBTQ persons.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Funded by U.S.-based conn. conf. at comparable levels, with shared funding, as needed, for bishops outside the U.S.</li> <li>❑ Oversight and accountability falls to bishops of each connectional conference.</li> <li>❑ Each bishop, active and retired, chooses a connectional conference</li> <li>❑ All episcopal elections would take place by 2022.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Active and retired bishops must certify they will adhere to Discipline.</li> <li>❑ Bishops who will not certify adherence no longer receive compensation of expenses as of 2021 and will be encouraged to leave for "autonomous, affiliated or concordat" church.</li> </ul>
<b>General Agencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Continue to operate as they do now.</li> <li>❑ If funding declines, boards and agencies would need to consider a strategic restructuring. Sustainability issues, however, are separate from the Commission on a Way Forward's task.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Jointly funded boards include Wespath, GCFA, UMCOR, Archives, parts of GBGM and the Publishing House.</li> <li>❑ Task force would evaluate each general agency and propose new model for UMC by 2025.</li> <li>❑ Program agencies would only serve conn. conf. that desire participation.</li> <li>❑ Justice ministries structures would be determined by connectional conference, with expected emphasis on sexism and racism.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ All general boards and agencies continue.</li> <li>❑ Each agency can contract with churches that leave the UMC.</li> </ul>
<b>Related Institutions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Likely no changes.</li> <li>❑ Commission conversations with members of these organizations indicate this plan makes it more likely for most institutions to maintain their affiliation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Properties owned by annual and jurisdictional conferences follow them to their new connectional conference.</li> <li>❑ Institutions can choose to relate to one or more CS, as their bylaws allow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ No changes unless they choose to do so within the bounds of their own bylaws.</li> </ul>
<b>Finance &amp; Pensions</b>	<p>Two petitions are recommended for any of the three plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Any church that leaves would have to pay their proportionate liability of unfunded pensions for their annual conference.</li> <li>❑ Clergy would be removed from benefit and annuity risk pools and have accrued benefits transferred to an individual investment account.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Same two petitions as One Church Plan.</li> <li>❑ Legal fees to navigate legacy connections.</li> <li>❑ Wespath stays intact and extends to connectional conferences.</li> <li>❑ Medical and pension liabilities remain the obligation of the annual conference.</li> <li>❑ Wespath will reassign pension liabilities for churches that opt to go to another connectional conference.</li> <li>❑ Annual conferences manage budgets to care for boundary reconfiguration costs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Same two petitions as the One Church Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Episcopal Fund</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Salaries and benefits would be paid by each episcopal area in the United States.</li> <li>❑ Other expenses would be shared via apportionments.</li> <li>❑ No changes to central conference funding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Salaries and benefits would be paid by each U.S.-based connectional conferences.</li> <li>❑ No changes to central conference funding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ No changes to central conference funding.</li> </ul>

This overview provided courtesy of the Great Plains Conference. For more resources, go to [umc.org/gc2019](http://umc.org/gc2019) and [umcom.org/gc2019-resources](http://umcom.org/gc2019-resources).

## The second word....

There is a sermon series I have thought about doing for several years, though with a degree of hesitance that I think you will understand as you read on. There are two sentences in the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church—a document that, though not considered church law, is a “prayerful and thoughtful effort ...to speak to the human issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation”...meant to be “instructive and persuasive” in providing guidance to Christians in thinking about and dealing with these issues—that regularly makes me wonder. The sentences, from the Nurturing Community portion of the principles, state that “We affirm that sexuality is God’s good gift to all persons. We call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift.” I have often wondered: if this is such a good gift, then why when it comes to sexuality is the church almost always silent or talks about sexuality in a negative—even destructive—way? Given the raging debates in the church and in our society, you can imagine why this might be and imagine the source of my reluctance. The problem is that when the church has been silent other voices have not. Movies, advertisements and other forms of communication certainly send their messages. Precious few of these voices have been constructive ones. So, if the church isn't able to be constructive, from where will those voices come? How will we truly know the nature of this good gift given to us at our own creation? The year after I graduated from college, I was invited to be on the “faculty” of a program at the church where I attended called CATMOS or Christians and the Meaning of Sexuality. It was designed for teenagers, their parents and trained leaders. The sessions were not always easy or comfortable, but it provided a forum for those who participated to receive accurate information, have a safe place where they could ask any question and build lines of communication. This experience showed me the church could be a constructive influence. The path of least resistance and, in this case, least controversy, means the church frequently chooses not to directly address the topic. Partly because I wanted to do any such sermon series while all my children were still at home and partly because tentative commitments meant available dates have been shrinking quickly, I am planning a two-part sermon series called, “The Birds, the Bees and the Bible” for February 17 and 24. Based on a series by the Rev. Adam Hamilton of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, this will be a PG-rated series focused on the nature of God's good gift of sexuality to us, Biblical and theological principles and how a Christian might approach related issues in their lives. I had not planned to have this series coincide with the special session of General Conference of the UMC, though it has motivated me to address the larger topic. I am fully aware that some of you may feel this is a series that we should not have in the church. I would encourage you to at least keep an open mind about the importance of this topic. Like few topics in our world, sexuality has affected all our lives and continues to have myriad effects on our lives today. Even if this is not the case for you particularly at this time, odds are it is of significance to family, friends, neighbors and other people in your life. Please contact me if you have any questions about anything related to this sermon series.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Tim



# Caribou Clock

---

Publisher - Gray Memorial United Methodist Church  
2 Prospect Street, P. O. Box 69  
Caribou ME 04736  
**E-mail:** [graymemorial@outlook.com](mailto:graymemorial@outlook.com)

Date: February 2019  
Church Office: 498-2103  
**Website:** <http://www.bgmumc.com>

Greetings from the Church Office!

For any committee/group who is sponsoring an event that should be posted on the outside sign, it would be very helpful if you would provide the wording and the dates you want the message posted.

The new Pictorial Directory is here! If you have not already received your free copy, please contact the Church Office. If you wish to purchase one, please bring \$6 (correct change or a check is greatly appreciated) with you the next time you come to church and see me!

I thought a long time before I decided that I need to be honest.....I try hard to keep church members/constituents informed of different events, meetings, deadlines, etc. by having the calendars in the weekly & monthly Newsletters and the weekly Worship emails. Rev. Tim also tries to bring attention to these calendars and special announcements. However, I continually feel that if I don't send out reminder emails to Committees/Groups regarding meetings and especially committee notes for Church Council meetings, the responses are very poor. Then attendance at Church Council Meetings is extremely low. I pray that each one of you make an extra effort to hold yourself accountable and not rely on "reminder messages".

Until next month.....

Bobbi Pelletier  
Church Secretary



## January Prayer Concerns

Prayer Concerns: Debbie & Lu Sharp, Reta Haley, Darlene Nelder, Sheila & Dave Belyea, Steve Cashman, Emily Stuart, Phyllis Sykes, Janie Lidey, Leona Michaud, Keith Drew, Glen Tagget, Faith Anderson, Pat Dobson, Diane McDonough, Ellen Corrow, Herman Wright, Dale Henderson, Judi Greenier, Faith Anderson, Barbara Dee, Robin Stuart, Ron Carson, Bruce Fitzpatrick, Sammie Haley, Linda Mayer, Phyllis Anderson, Anna Roberts, TJ Peterson & Family

On Family Death: The family of Patti Dorman

Other: Dawn & Cassie Westman (arrived safely in Florida!); Joy Steward (Peter & Marjie Edgecomb's daughter) - safe travel driving from northern NH to Seattle!; June Ledwith (passing of her father); Jillian Jandreau - safe travel to Haiti on a mission trip; highway crews (especially during recent big snowstorm!);

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PROVIDE A MAILING ADDRESS FOR PEOPLE OR FAMILIES YOU PUT ON THE PRAYER LIST SO WE CAN SEND THEM A NOTE FROM REV. TIM. WE OFTEN HEAR FROM RECIPIENTS ON HOW TOUCHED THEY ARE THAT WE OFFERED PRAYERS FOR THEM!

## REMINDERS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LITURGIST</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>COUNTER</u>	<u>COFFEE FELLOWSHIP</u>
Feb 3	Dean Rauch	Nathaniel Adams & Barbara Van Kirk	Shirley Bowman	UMW/Jennie Lyon Circle
Feb 10	Sue White	Melonie & Erika Carlson	Shirley Bowman	Memorials Committee
Feb 17	Alden Wilcox	Tamara & Friedrich Wilcox	Elsie Doody	SPRC
Feb 24	Friedrich Wilcox	Debbie Pringnitz & Diane McDonough	Elsie Doody	Worship Committee

February Usher Coordinator: Ralph Ferguson

February Communion Steward: Richard Clark

Organist/Pianist: Feb 3-Margaret Cyr; Feb 10-Margaret Cyr; Feb 17-Susan Clark; Feb 24-Susan Clark

Acolytes: Feb 3-Alden & Friedrich Wilcox; Feb 10-Darrell Adams; Feb 17-Friedrich Wilcox; Feb 24- Neal Genz

Child Care Volunteers: Feb 3-Debbie Barnes; Feb 10-Diane Fitzpatrick; Feb 17-Duska Franklin; Feb 24-Meagan Irving

**Each individual or committee is responsible to make arrangements for changes to these various calendars.**

Please contact the church office if any changes to these lists are made so the weekly bulletins are correct!



# \* \* February Birthdays & Anniversaries \* \*

Birthdays and Anniversaries are celebrated on the first Sunday during Coffee Fellowship.

Remember your birthday & anniversary by making a special offering!



- |    |   |    |                                       |
|----|---|----|---------------------------------------|
| 1  | Vince Bell, Deneane Bentum, Miles Collier,<br>Judi Greenier, Carl Soderberg | 14 | Avon Brown, Sirena Cyr                |
| 2  | Joanne Smith  | 15 | Whitney Smith                         |
| 3  | Lisa Chase  | 16 | Dale DeMerchant, Jeff Irving          |
| 5  | Austin Branscom, Gerry Willard  | 18 | Nova Cyr, Barbara Dee, Cassie Westman |
| 8  | Stephen Cashman   | 19 | Winnie Bentum, Kelly Wardwell         |
| 12 | Robert Locke  | 20 | Gary Merritt                          |
| 13 | Jennifer Barker, Ryan Branscom, Jennifer Craig,<br>Page Espling, Kathy Snow | 25 | Diane McDonough                       |



12 Patricia & Darrell Adams

If your name or the name of someone in the Gray Memorial Family  
does not appear on this list and you would like to add it,  
please contact the church office, 498-2103.

Corrections are ALWAYS appreciated!!! If you know someone whose last name  
has changed, please let Bobbi know so she can update the database.



STEWARDSHIP/  
FINANCE  
COMMITTEE

Worship Attendance and General Fund Offerings:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Operating Fund Offering</u>
Jan 6	87	\$7,922.55
Jan 13	76	\$1,926.31
Jan 20	20	\$1,445.00 (Big snowstorm!)
Jan 27	85	\$3,059.00

\*\*\*\*\*

Needed to meet 2019 Budget: \$4,246.45 weekly

Capital Account Seed Money (CASM):

We continue to receive donations for the "Capital Account Seed Money" account each month. The expenses related to the electrical work for our new propane heaters (\$1,284.03) was paid in January. Additional donations towards the "Furnace Replacement" we received; that total now equals \$32,768.00. The balance in the CASM account as of January 27<sup>th</sup> is \$42,143.92. All future donations towards the "Furnace Replacement" will be held in this account until needed.

\*\*\*\*\*

**NEW CHURCH DIRECTORIES ARRIVED DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>!**

**Anyone who had their photos taken or submitted an image gets a free directory.  
We have additional copies of the directory and the individual copy cost is \$6.00.**

**Changes (December 2018):**

Ayers, Mary & Mike – new address P. O. Box 366, 56481 Colorado Avenue, Strasburg CO 80136  
Craig, Andrew & Jennifer – correction to new address: 1508 Horn Rd., Milan OH 44846

\*\*\*\*\*



**Pictures from our Worship Services!!**  
(photos by Dale Sharp, unless otherwise noted)



Dec 30 - Several family members & friends joined Rev. Tim in blessing Cassie & Dawn Westman as they prepare to move to Florida! We will miss both of them!



Dec 30 - Jim Chabot from Attleboro MA shared his vocal talents with us, singing "I Know My Redeemer Liveth" (from Messiah). Jim is a friend of Elsie Doody and Bobbi Pelletier – he visits with them at Tim Horton's when he comes north to snowmobile!

Jan 13 - flowers on the altar were in memory of Richard P. McDowell (Bobbi Pelletier's brother) on the first anniversary of his death (Jan 13, 2018)





Jan 13 - Rev. Tim invited the children/youth to dip their fingers in the baptismal water as we "remember our baptism".



Jan 27 - Tamara Wilcox directs the handbell choir, performing "Be Thou My Vision"



*Rev. Tim dedicates the Angel counted cross-stitch picture donated by Debbie Pringnitz*



*Would you like to receive the weekly email newsletter summarizing events at worship and upcoming events? Also, special bulletins, notices of changes of events, etc.? Send an email to the church office (498-2103) so we can add you to the email list!*

-----



*The Worship Committee continues to sponsor a church-wide Mission Project to provide local school children with a variety of items, such as socks, underwear, toiletries (sample/travel size), hats, mittens, gloves, school supplies, etc. Collection boxes are available in the Library and the Fellowship Hall. Please place your donations into the appropriate box (marked "Clothes", "Toiletries", and "School Supplies"). We hope everyone in the Gray Memorial family will help with this project! We just gave the schools all those donations received through January 6, 2019. Our next **deadline for donating items is Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>** – we will collect the donations and pass them on to the schools and then start another campaign for a few more months until at least the end of the school year.*



The Worship Committee is sponsoring a Boiled Ham Dinner on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6pm. Plan to attend and enjoy a great meal and fellowship! More information will be included in weekly bulletins and next month's Newsletter!



## Special Session of the Gray Memorial Church Conference

At the request of the Board of Trustees of the Gray Memorial United Methodist Church, our district superintendent, the Rev. Jackie Brannen has called a special Church Conference session to be held following worship at 11:00am on February 10, 2019 for the purpose of acting on accepting (or not) funds from the Jean and Philip Turner Trust. The meeting is being called as a Church Conference rather than a Charge Conference so that all professing members of the congregation may participate and vote.

The reason Church Conference action is needed has been a surprise to many as there has not apparently been a similar bequest or trust in recent memory. However, the Church Conference has long-standing authority over the receipt of gifts from such legal processes. The historic roots of this come from the trust clause for all property held by entities of the United Methodist Church and its predecessors. One way you can think about this is that we have a responsibility to our sister churches and church organizations and they to us in using our resources to advance the mission of the church. Church Conference approval is both a double check to make sure we have dotted our i's and crossed our t's and an accountability step, not only to the denomination but also to involve a greater number of people from the church. Relevant paragraphs are excerpted and reprinted below from the 2016 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church.

¶ 2529. *Charge Conference Authority*—In a pastoral charge consisting of one local church, the charge conference, constituted as set forth in ¶¶ 246-247, shall be vested with power and authority as hereinafter set forth in connection with the property, both real and personal, of the said local church. In fulfilling that duty, the charge conference may delegate certain duties and responsibilities to the board of trustees as described below. However, the board of trustees shall always be subject to the direction of the charge conference. The charge conference may:

3. Direct the board of trustees with respect to the acceptance or rejection of any and all conveyances, grants, gifts, donations, legacies, bequests, or devises, absolute or in trust, for the use and benefit of the local church, and to require the administration of any such trust in accordance with the terms and provisions thereof and with the local laws appertaining thereto. (See ¶ 2533.5.)

### ¶ 2533 *Board of Trustees' Powers and Limitations*

5. Subject to the direction of the charge conference as hereinbefore provided, the board of trustees shall receive and administer all bequests made to the local church; shall receive and administer all trusts; and shall invest all trust funds of the local church in conformity with laws of the country, state, or like political unit in which the local church is located. Nevertheless, upon notice to the board of trustees, the charge conference may delegate the power, duty, and authority to receive, administer, and invest bequests, trusts, and trust funds to the permanent endowment committee or to a local church foundation and shall do so in the case of bequests, trusts, or trust funds for which the donor has designated the committee or the local church foundation to receive, administer, or invest the same.

The board of trustees is encouraged to invest in institutions, companies, corporations, or funds that make a positive contribution toward the realization of the goals outlined in the Social Principles of our Church. The board of trustees is to act as a socially responsible investor and to report annually to the charge conference regarding its carrying out of this responsibility. When such property is in the form of investable funds, the board of trustees shall consider placement for investment and administration with the United Methodist foundation serving that conference or, in the absence of such a foundation, with the United Methodist Church Foundation. A conscious effort shall be made to invest in a manner consistent with the Social Principles and the creation of an investment policy.



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES  
1-17-2019

ATTENDEES: Roy Alden (Chair), Clarisse L. Hodgkins (Secretary), Bobbi Pelletier, Tamara Wilcox, Lee Frost, Judson Drake, Colleen Harmon, Debbie Barnes, Rev. Tim Wilcox

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM in the church kitchen by Roy Alden who said a brief prayer before requesting that members consider what their New Year's resolutions for the Church might be while we continue with the church's business.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP: Debbie Barnes announced that all bills had been paid by December 31<sup>st</sup> due to an influx of offerings not previously tithed that went above and beyond.

Tamara Wilcox went over the Tithes and Offerings for December as follows:

Regular offerings	\$31,360.50
Other Sources of Operating Funds:	
Christmas	1,594.00
Wedding	150.00
Thanksgiving Dinner	20.00
Elizabeth Cochran	1,000.00
To Honor Bob Thompson Retirement	50.00
Total Operating Income	\$34,174.50

Reimbursements	16.00
----------------	-------

Special Funds for Church Use:

Furnace Replacement	\$27,988.00 (moved to the Capital Account Seed money account)
Coffee Fellowship	62.00
Fuel Oil	135.00
Prayer Shawl Ministry	100.00
Memory of Bob Ellinwood	45.00
Capital Account Seed Money	415.00
Education Breakfast	5.00
Wedding	50.00
Photo Directory	52.00
Angel Tree	1,025.00
Christmas Tree Sales	6,877.25 (Gross)
Tree of Lights	505.00
SUBTOTAL OF FUNDS FOR CHURCH USE:	\$37,259.25

Special Funds NOT for Church Use:

Jeff Cyr Mission	45.00
Ecumenical Food Pantry	315.94
United Methodist Student Day	25.00
TOTAL TITHES & OFFERING FOR DECEMBER:	\$71,835.69

Bobbi Pelletier reported on the December check book as follows:

Beginning Balance	\$1,858.78
2018 Operating Income	34,174.50
Interest	8.29
Less EFT fee	(22.67)
Less Expenses	(28,947.59)
Ending Balance	7,071.31

Reporting on the Special Funds for Church Use, the Christmas tree sales grossed \$6,877.25 of which \$3,750.00 goes to pay for the trees contracted by Bouchard. Del Ramey will be paid \$692.80. The net profits from the sale amounted to \$2,434.45 for the Youth account. The \$28,103.00 for furnace replacement fund was moved to the Capital Account Seed Money (CASM). Special funds of \$37,259.25 were deposited in December and \$34,396.90 was spent or moved to CASM. There is only \$1.93 in the Camp Mechuwana account so it was suggested that it either be moved into another account or we hold another offering to increase the funds in that account. It was suggested we try to raise more money for Camp Mechuwana. All other Funds Not for Church Use have been dispensed to their proper destinations.

The CASM account: Beginning balance: \$21,678.13; Deposits \$28,523.82; Spent \$11,905.00 (5 propane heaters); Ending Balance: \$38,296.95.

All bills including Mission shares were paid up as of Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>.

The church requires an average of \$3,989.24 wkly.

Dead River monthly cost as of June, 2018, C=\$955; P=\$249; (Increase of \$303/month)

Dead River Balance as of December 31: C= (\$491.6); P= (\$466.92)

Debbie Barnes reported on the Budget as of December 31<sup>st</sup>:

Target = \$207,440.50; Tithes & Offerings= \$209,955.38; Total Expenses= \$204,976.53 No unpaid expenses

Average attendance for December was 92 and the average YTD was 89.

Debbie Barnes passed out copies of the GMUMC 2019 Budget which was approved at the December 23, 2018 meeting.

#### THE TOTAL 2019 NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE BUDGET:

Area Episcopal Reimbursement	\$104,560
Mission Related	150,000
Hebrews 11 & TFT	482,000
Camps' Retreat Center	1,861,000
Services	345,000
Property & Liability Insurance	3,632,000
Pensions & Benefits	8,198,000
TOTAL	\$14,772,560

Next the Council addressed the new credit card meant to avoid a lot of reimbursing issues which only Bobbi and Rev. Tim would use.

Roy Alden (Council Chair) asked, "Does Gray Memorial United Methodist Church Council vote to establish an account with the United Methodist Federal Credit Union and apply for VISA cards to pay for incidentals needed by either Bobbi or Rev. Tim so that they would not need to be reimbursed by the church for small expenses?"

The following summarizes the information that must be included with the VISA application:

Number of authorized signers: 2

Number of cards to be issued: 2

Names of signers and their titles: Rev. Timothy Wilcox, Pastor; Roberta M. Pelletier, Treasurer/Church Secretary

Individual limits on each card: \$500 each (for total card limit of \$1,000)

Church name is to read "Gray Memorial United Methodist Church" on the cards

Copy of these Church Council minutes on church letterhead

Judson Drake (Chair of Trustees) made a motion to agree to the above request. It was seconded by Colleen Harmon (Chair of Education and Family Ministries). The motion was passed unanimously.



**EDUCATION & FAMILY MINISTRIES:** Colleen Harmon, the New Chairperson, reported that the Sunday morning breakfast program will end in a couple of weeks and restart in late March. Two new Sunday school teachers are on board - Adam Langworthy and Mary Ouellette. A movie night is planned in late March. The committee is getting small so a sub-committee is being formed to brainstorm ideas for improvement. She plans to change the date of Terrific Tuesdays, both times and days. There will be a small seminar in Houlton on April led by Brad Roth entitled "Small Rural Church". More on that issue later. Colleen was excited to report that the Youth earned a profit of \$2,434.45 from Christmas tree sales. Thank you Judson Drake for all you did to assist the youth. And also all others who helped on the project.

**CLUSTER:**

**Social Action Award.** The social action award was presented to Lisa Reed at the Thanksgiving Service.

**Akeley Scholarship**

Holly O'Leary and Ashley Yeager each received a \$750 scholarship. Holly was present to receive her award at the Cluster Thanksgiving Service. Ashley was still at UMO and received her scholarship the following week at her church. Both recipients are members of Mars Hill UMC.

**Pulpit Exchange**

Pulpit exchange is still being considered – perhaps some dates can be considered at the next meeting.

**Celebrating Families**

Tabled until our next meeting.

**Cluster Mission Project – St. Apollonia Festival of Trees**

The St. Apollonia Festival was a huge success netting nearly \$97,000 for the St. Apollonia Dental Health Clinic for children. We are so grateful to have been participants in this festival and to represent the Aroostook Cluster of United Methodist Churches in our community. Question: shall we participate in this community event in 2019?

**Cluster Thanksgiving Service**

Cheryl thanked all those who participated. Many thanks to Cheryl for putting together such a meaningful service!

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Our intended speaker was unable to be with us due to illness.

It was suggested by Tim that we consider a Blue Christmas Service for 2019. It was discussed and a decision made to add that to our meeting agenda for 2019. Tim suggested perhaps we might consider partnering with a local hospital (Cary).

**Lenten Services**

It was decided to set aside March 31<sup>st</sup> for a Cluster Lenten Service. Mars Hill UMC will host with a potluck to follow. Music Festival!! All churches will be invited to provide one or more selections - an uplifting sharing of sacred music. It was discussed to perhaps give half of our offering at that service to Homeless Services of Aroostook. Final decision will be made at our next meeting.

Please continue to send cards to Leona Michaud in her ongoing battle with pancreatic cancer. Her address is 14 Garden Court, Limestone, ME 04750.

**Church Activities:**

Limestone UMC – Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> Bean Supper and Game Night 5pm/games at 6:30pm

Grant Memorial – March 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Mission Team to W. Virginia. Any skill set is needed and welcomed.

Please contact

Dave Adams at 207-764-5662 if you would like to be a part of this team.

Cluster Event – Brad Roth will be at Houlton UMC on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Next Meeting:** – Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am at Mars Hill UMC. Tim Crowley will be invited to share at that time on The Northern Maine Growth Initiative.

#### SPRC:

Met on Thursday, January 10, 2019. Discussed the vacant Children and Youth Position. We will continue to advertise in the bulletin and newsletter. Reverend Tim will follow up on potential leads that surfaced when it was first posted. Colleen Harmon will continue to cover until a candidate is hired. The committee has begun their review of the Church Profile. This will be an ongoing review and update over the next couple of months. The next meeting is Thursday, March 14, 2019.

TRUSTEES: Judson Drake stated that there was no Treasurer's report due to Judi Greenier being in the hospital at the time of the meeting. A discussion of the Philip Turner Trust Fund remains on-going as there are questions around changing some language which now presents possible liability, possibly even debt, which could put the church at risk. The immediate fix to the heating solution was to purchase and install 4 propane heaters at \$12,000. Then one more heater was installed because of logistics issues and to help heat the Narthex. A task force will convene 1-23-19 to discuss heating options and especially look into Geothermal heating. At the time of the meeting, the heating fund held \$29,763.00. Further discussion was tabled. Trustees have passed a Building Use Guidelines document. After a brief discussion on the Parsonage and church roofs and the possible establishment of a Capital Campaign to raise funds for roof repairs; the discussion was tabled until more information was available.

#### PASTOR'S TIME:

- The Companions in Christ is nearing the halfway point. Due to unforeseen health and life circumstances the class is smaller than expected for this stage but continues with a core group of 5.
- Will begin a new GMUMC 101 class next week with the Carlson family and will offer another section of the class in the spring. There will be a new member Sunday to be scheduled in February.
- Continue to aim to have at least a couple scheduled visits each week along with work that those on the Congregational Care Team are doing. Late fall and early winter have been pastorally intensive to date with larger than usual amounts of needs in the congregation and community.
- Blue Christmas Service was meaningful for those who attended, all of whom had experienced loss or difficult challenges during the past year. The choir's anthem for the service was moving. It would be worth doing the service again, perhaps in conjunction with the cluster.
- In combined work with the Worship Committee and Margaret Cyr, he has sketched out worship themes and sermon series for the first half of the year. The Sundays between now and Lent will have two sermon series. One is called "Lessons from Corinthians" including a Sunday or two tying in to the Christianity and World Religions class the Jr/Sr High class is studying. The second series will be a two part "The Birds, the Bees and the Bible." Although our social principles state that "sexuality is God's good gift," the church is typically silent or gives negative messages about this gift. This series is designed (in a PG rated format) to both biblically affirm this gift and to help us think about how we navigate being a person of faith in our close relationships in today's society. More information will be in the February Newsletter. In addition, there will likely be a Scouting Ministries Sunday.
- Rev. Tim is in the stretch run of his participation in the Creating a Culture of Renewal program. A major part of this segment is in developing and integrating a compelling vision from the perspective of the community that is being served. He will work with leaders on some of the material that relates to our congregation.
- Rev. Tim shared a document explaining the New England Conference Local Church Mission Share Budget. It reads in part:  
"Our Mission as the New England Conference is to equip, connect, and support local, regional, and global ministries to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to serve all in His name." Our Mission Shares help fulfill that Vision and Mission. The money goes to help compensate and benefit pastors, staff, and programs as well as operating expenses for the Conference which was created in 1994. The document explains mission shares, both how they are calculated and the ministries they fund. Additional copies are available in the office or from the racks in the library.

MEMORIALS: NO CHANGES

UMM: NO REPORT

UMW: NO REPORT

MISSIONS & EVANGELISM: NO REPORT

WORSHIP: NO REPORT

Rev. Tim asked the Council to approve a slight change in a sum of money related to the health flexible spending arrangement (FSA) from \$2,650.00 to \$2,700.00 for 2019. The \$2,650.00 was previously approved at the Church Conference in October but the increase was approved by the IRS after that date. Judson so moved and Bobbi seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

The Council agreed to change its next two meeting dates to Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> (due to School vacation) and March 28<sup>th</sup> due to conflicts.

Roy revisited the resolutions question he opened the meeting with. He offered his own resolutions as follows:

More Membership

More inviting others to church.

Bobbi mentioned that her committee had discussed with Rev. Tim about having a Reconciliation Sunday where we invited people back to church who had not been coming for a while.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Clarisse L. Hodgkins, Church Council Secretary

## LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY 2019!!!!

Sunday	03	9:00am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship - Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany
Monday	04	6-8pm	Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
Tuesday	05	6:30pm	"Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Colleen
Wednesday	06	9:30am	Companions in Christ Study in Library
		5:30-7pm	Bible Study Class in Fellowship Hall
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	07	9:30am	Aroostook Cluster Meeting in Mars Hill
		6:30pm	Worship Committee Meeting in Kitchen

---

Sunday	10	9:00am	Sunday School
		10:00am	Worship - Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany; Scouting Sunday;
		11:00am	<i>Special Church Conference following Worship Service</i>
Monday	11	6-8pm	Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
Tuesday	12	9:30am	UMW Meeting in Kitchen
		6:00pm	Caribou Ecumenical Food Pantry Board Meeting at Pantry
		6:30pm	"Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Colleen
Wednesday	13	9:30am	Companions in Christ Study in Library
		5:30-7pm	Bible Study Class in Fellowship Hall
		6:00pm	Handbell Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	14	6:00pm	Finance/Stewardship Committee Meeting (note date change)
Saturday	16	1-2:30pm	Brownie Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen

---

Sunday	17	10:00am	Worship - Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany
		11:30am	<i>Missions &amp; Evangelism Committee Meeting in Library (tentative)</i>
Monday	18	<i>FEDERAL HOLIDAY - PRESIDENTS' DAY - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i>	
		6-8pm	Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
Tuesday	19	1:00pm	Caregivers Support Group in Fellowship Hall
		6:00pm	Trustees Meeting at Church
		6:30pm	"Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Colleen
Wednesday	20	9:00am	<u>DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER INPUT</u>
		9:30am	Companions in Christ Study in Library
		5:30-7pm	Bible Study Class in Fellowship Hall
		6:00pm	Handbell Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Saturday	23	8:00am	UMM Breakfast & Meeting

---

## LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY 2019 (continued) !!!!!

Sunday	24	10:00am	Worship - Seventh Sunday After the Epiphany
Monday	25	10:00am	<u>COMMITTEE REPORTS ARE DUE TO CLAIRE &amp; CHURCH OFFICE</u>
		6-8pm	Girl Scout Troop in Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
Tuesday	26	6:30pm	"Terrific Tuesdays Ministry" with Colleen
Wednesday	27	9:30am	Companions in Christ Study in Library
		5:30-7pm	Bible Study Class in Fellowship Hall
		6:00pm	Handbell Practice
		6:30pm	Senior Choir Practice
Thursday	28	6:30pm	Church Council Meeting (note date change)

---

### IT IS TAX SEASON AGAIN!!!! BOBBI VOLUNTEERS WITH OTHER AARP MEMBERS TO PROVIDE FREE TAX PREPARATION

Thank you to Rev. Tim and SPRC for allowing this schedule variation:

Beginning Monday, February 4th, the church office hours are changing.

The office will be closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays until April 16th.

The office hours will be Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 9am - 2pm.

Regular office hours (Mon-Fri, 9am-noon) will resume on Wednesday, April 17th.