

Second Congregational Church of Stafford at West Stafford



2011

Annual Meeting: January 22, 2012
1:00 P. M.
Fellowship Hall

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The Second Congregational Church of Stafford
Established in 1764
West Stafford, Connecticut

481 West Stafford Road
Stafford Springs, Conn. 06076
Telephone (203) 684-2336

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 8, 2012

The Annual Meeting of the Second Congregational Church of Stafford will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2012. This date is in compliance with Article XII, Section B, 1, a of the Constitution.

The Annual Meeting will convene at 1:00 PM to hear the reports of the officers, boards, committees and delegates; elect officers, boards, standing committees, delegates, auditors and historian; act on the budget; act on business and petitions legally presented; review the work of the past year and recommend priorities for the coming year. No items other than those on the agenda may be acted upon at this meeting.

Signed,
Clerk

Agenda

12:00 P.M. Call to Order

- I. Reading of the Call
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Opening Worship
- IV. Determination of Voting Procedure
- V. Adoption of Minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting
- VI. Adoption of Agenda
- VII. Presentation of Annual Reports:
 - A. Pastor's Report
 - B. Church Council
 - C. Clerk
 - D. Trustees
 - E. Diaconate
 - F. Christian Education
 1. Christian Education
 2. Sunday School
 - G. Stewardship Committee
 - H. Missions Committee
 - I. Delegates
 - J. Historian
 - K. Auditors
 - L. Financial Secretary
 - M. Treasurer
- VIII. Nominating Committee
- IX. Election of Officers, Boards
- X. Adoption of 2012 Budget
- XI. Old Business

Recess - [Diaconate and Trustees will elect their officers if quorums are present. Church Council will elect a secretary, if a quorum is present.]

- XII. New Business
 - A. To establish a Search Committee to look for a new settled Pastor.
 - B. To determine if Rest Stop Fund Raisers will be held in 2012 and establish a Committee to organize them.
- XIII. Closing Worship

Adjournment

Minutes of 2010 Annual Meeting

The Minutes are missing.

Pastor's Report

On any long journey it's natural to ask, where are we? How far have we come? Are we still on the right road? Are we there yet? It's always unnerving when your GPS system says, Make a U-turn at the next intersection, or if you're a passenger and the driver is looking anxiously at the signs or at the gas gauge. In our case, the Second Congregational Church, UCC, our church family is in the car together. And the driver is - well - sometimes the Pastor, sometimes a church member or a committee of our church.

The annual meeting is a good time to assess the journey. I believe there are good people in our church and hopefully as we look to the future, it is with hope and anticipation.

So where does this journey go now? First it is a journey with God – a journey that goes through Jesus Christ to the glorious presence and fullness of God himself. That's why worship is the most important thing we do. We are on a journey to the Kingdom of God, to a new creation where God is truly king of every square inch of the universe and every aspect of human life. Even if the church is an imperfect microcosm of the kingdom looks like. We are on a journey to spiritual maturity; God is growing up in the glorious likeness and character of Christ himself.

As we continue forward into God's future, let us especially focus on two goals, to become a discipleship church and a mission church. It's very easy for a church to become stagnant and self-focused. Each of us needs to continually ask ourselves, are we continuing to grow and mature as Disciples of Christ in our knowledge and application of the Bible, in our Christian character, in our caring and connectedness with one another, and in the faithful and generous stewardship of our whole life? And do our children and grandchildren know the Bible, the truths of our faith, and the importance of the church?

Also we need to understand we can no longer be the church of our parents and grandparents. We live in a post-Christian and increasing pagan culture. We need to become like the 1st century church and take on an evangelization of our community and culture. And we need to do this in ways that are appealing and compelling to our culture that has become suspicious of and even hostile to what it thinks is Christianity. The mission field is still the whole world, but is also Stafford Springs and the neighbors next door. Do we know how to share our own salvation story and the gospel of Jesus with people put in front of us every day? A mission church is equipped to actively do this. A mission church is a growing church. What changes do we need to make to become the church that truly attracts the next generation of committed believers?

It has been my privilege to be your interim pastor for the past seven months. As you begin the task of searching for a new pastor, where will the journey take you? Hopefully you will find a pastor who is called by God and the church, and help you seek God's will for Second Congregational Church and that you will move faithfully and surely into the 21st century. I know you can do it because you are committed to and dedicated to see that this church will serve the next generation.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Stuart Charter
Interim Pastor

Church Council

Since June of 2010 the Council has had regular meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of every month except during bad weather and one meeting that business could not be conducted because we did not have a quorum.

Since that time many items have come before the Council. The last four Rest Stops have been successful bringing in more than \$5000 for the church and more than \$500 given to Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Our big thanks to all the people who ran these events, especially to Ross Kerr for his leadership.

We had our Conference sponsor in for a meeting on what we could do to help the church grow and show what our strengths are.

Our Web pages have been consolidated and we now have just one site that Dorraine Parker has graciously volunteered to keep up.

We voted in Beth Bolieau as Superintendent of the Sunday School and thank her for her service and job well done.

Our Constitution Review Committee did great work on the over half of our Constitution by eradicating some committees and lowering the number of people needed on others. Our thanks to all those folks who gave of their time for this extra work.

We are now in the process of organizing a Search Committee to find our new permanent minister.

Our thanks to Ken May for jumping in on the Clerk's work this past year and for doing all the copying and collating of the Annual Report.

Kay Myott
Moderator

Church Clerk

During the last eighteen months there has been a great amount of upheaval in the Church Clerk position. The Clerk at the beginning of the period was Suki Garrell. In February of 2011 a Church Meeting was held to vote on changes to the Church Constitution. The changes were approved, and the changes focused on two specific area of church life: the fiscal year was changed back to the calendar year with the Annual Meeting in late January; and, the Boards and Committees were reduced in size as well as the Church Council reduced in size. Due to the change in fiscal year, this period between Annual Meetings has stretched eighteen months.

There was further upheaval when our Clerk Suki Milan passed away unexpectedly in mid-year. It has been difficult to ensure that all Clerk records have been properly returned to the church.

Active Members on July 1, 2010	132
Addition - Moved from In-active to active	0
Addition - Letter of Transfer	0
Addition - Confirmation	1
Addition - Affirmation of Faith	1
Loss - Transfer to another church	2
Loss - Deaths	4
Loss- Move to In-active	3
Active Members on December 31, 2011	125

The following was Confirmed and added to the Church Family
Isabella Ostrowski on April 17, 2011

The following were called home to eternal rest and peace:
Suki Garrell

Respectfully submitted:
Kenneth May
Acting Clerk

Trustees

The church family has faced and handled numerous challenges over this period of time, first was the church steeple / cupola repairs paid for by the Church Steeple Fund (repaying loans from four members of the church one of the four has donated the money he had loaned.) While we have not yet reached the total needed we are on schedule to fulfill our commitments. We celebrated the steeple with a dedication ceremony on the churches birthday 10/31/2010.

The Trustees investigated options and decided to install a new concrete walk way in front of the parish house the total cost of this project was paid for by a generous member of the church.

In Dec. 2010 during a regular furnace cleaning it was discovered that the combustion chamber in the parish house furnace needed to be replaced, this project too was funded by a member of the church.

In Jan 2011 the furnace in the church was not working an emergency call was made and a transformer and primary control had to be replaced at the cost of \$500.00.

In order to raise awareness about our financial status the board asked the treasurer Ken to have monthly updates in each issue of KIT. The trustees concern of the draw of invested funds has prompted us to look into long range financial planning and we continue to investigate methods of securing the churches financial future such as an annuity plan offered by Prudential, ING or Wells Fargo. The financial arm of the UCC also has resources that we could employ. This investigation will continue. We are also doing "comparison shopping" for services we use such as our insurance coverage. We are comparing the coverage and price of our current provider to other companies in order to ensure we have the best coverage at the best cost.

The snowfall amounts of last winter caused multiple issues for the Trustees and the church members as a whole. The barn roof collapse and slippery conditions on our property necessitated two insurance claims. Also due to the severity of

the weather the bill for the plowing, shoveling and furnace repairs exceeded the budgeted amount so money had to be reallocated to meet obligations.

The spring brought more issues, there was no electricity on the second floor of the Sunday school building so an electrician was hired and we had to change a sub- service breaker. The Trustees performed a test of the fire alarms and emergency lighting and found some of the lights to be inoperable. We are working on replacement batteries / lights. The warm weather and spring rain highlighted the "pond" in our lower parking lot as well as the fact that low rider tractor trailer trucks were regularly using the lot to turn around in. The trucks being so low did a great deal of damage to the ground when they exited. Quality Paving Co. was contracted to put in two paved aprons and to add material to and level parking lot in order to eliminate the water issue. They also moved granite blocks to strategic locations in order to discourage trucks from turning around in the lot. To further discourage trucks the trustees installed a chain across one of the entrances to limit use. Quality Paving has finished the job and will evaluate the lot in the spring to see if any additional work needs to be done. A very generous member has offered to pay the \$3500.00 bill for this project.

In June the barn roof was completed and we laid plywood flooring on the upper level of the barn to minimize debris falling on the items in the lower level. It was arranged for the insurance co. to pay for repair of the grounds around the lower parking lot and barn that were dug up by heavy equipment used in the repair of the roof. It also covered additional cost of structural repairs as some beams supporting the upper level of the barn had to be repaired.

In the fall our frequently broken down copy machine was replaced with a new model and service contract. We also had to acquire a new water treatment system as the old one was not functioning and the water smelled and tasted terrible. Banner water was contracted and the system installed, the water is now free of odor and tastes fine. The cost of \$2100.00 has been covered by another generous church member. New lights for the barn have been donated and then installed by 3 members of the church. In addition the old knob and tube light fixtures have been removed and sold.

The Trustees have maintained the church property and overseen the church's finances and have successfully faced and handled issues and projects as they arose.

My heartfelt thanks to the members of the Board of Trustees for their dedication and hard work, it has been my pleasure to serve with you. Special thanks to our treasurer Ken May for managing all our accounts and budget preparation. Thanks also to the extremely generous members that have funded a number of the projects in this report. I offer my personal thanks to two former Trustee chairmen, Ross Kerr and Bill Gowdy for their support and guidance over the last 18 months.

Submitted by
The Board of Trustees,
Bruce Ladr
Chairperson

Diaconate

This report is unique in the sense that the term of certain Deacons was extended due to the change in the Church reporting year.

Current Deacons are Jennifer Schoolnick, David Schoolnick, Alan Bolieau, Ross Kerr, Peg Ekenbarger and Jason Hatch. Jennifer, David and Alan extended their time on the diaconate by an extra half year in order to accommodate the change in the church calendar year and will be leaving the Board.

The diaconate met a total of 13 times during this report period, flexing meeting times to accommodate the diaconate members' hectic schedules. This was often necessary in order to have all members present at meetings.

The Diaconate was faced with many challenges, most specifically being designated to search for the Interim Pastor following the retirement of Pastor Wayne Strevor. The Deacons approached this task prayerfully and with the guidance of Susan Torolli from the Conference, were blessed to find Stuart Charter who is the current Part time Interim Pastor.

During this period of the search for the Interim Pastor, the Diaconate took on the duties of ministering to the church with the leading of worship. Many thanks to all who led worship through readings and sermons during this time.

The acolyte program was less structured this year due to variables including the decrease in the number of children of age to participate. Despite this, there were still those in the congregation that consistently assisted with this very important aspect of our worship when the smaller children weren't present.

Due to the storm of the Century in October 2011, the service on the 30th was cancelled. Due to widespread power outages the cancellation couldn't be broadcasted on television.

Advent discussion in December of 2010 went well and the Christmas Eve services for 2010 and 2011 were at earlier times to appeal to families with small children. This seemed to be well received.

Beth Bolieau was welcomed as a new member of the church in July 2011.

Brookside service was in September 2011 and feedback was mixed due to the cooler but bright and sunny weather. We had a wonderful cookout following the service

September 11, 2011 service was a special service "A Litany of Remembrance, Penitence and Hope" in remembrance of 911.

Book discussion of Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet on November 10th, 2011 went well
Baptisms November, 2010 of Jacoby Joseph and June 2011 of Tyler Salisbury
Poinsettia and Easter Lilly sales continued as with tradition with proceeds going to the campership fund for Silver Lake.
Pastor Stuart has been working with Alaina Bolieau on her confirmation since September 2011
Madrigals came to the church on December 11, 2011 for a carol sing, enjoyed by all
Many thanks to the congregation as a whole for their support of the Diaconate and the many works that have been accomplished over this report period. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Diaconate members for all of their dedication in being the Lay Ministers of the Congregation. It is truly a privilege to have served on the Diaconate.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Board of Deacons
Jennifer Schoolnick
Chairperson

Board of Christian Education

No Report Submitted

Sunday School

From September, 2011 to the present we are using the David C. Cook curriculum.

The teachers are:

Pre-K	Kathy Ladr
K, 1, 2	Beth Bolieau
3, 4, 5	Heather Hatch
6, 7, 8	Dorrain Parker
Substitutes	Myrna Gambino and Ed Parker

There are between 14 and 22 students who attend Sunday School.

The Middle School class attends church on the first Sunday of the month. The under classes spend time together on the first Sunday and we have watched Davy and Goliath stories with morals as well as working on the Christmas pageant during that time period. The Christmas pageant was part of the Church service on December 18, 2011.

Respectfully submitted
Beth Bolieau
Sunday School Superintendent

Stewardship Committee

We have been going along with the 2010 pledge agreements since we extended our year by 6 months from July 2011 thru Dec 2011. Most of the congregation agreed to the extension and continued with their 2010 pledge amounts. No formal letter was written regarding that extension but the request was given by word of mouth.

In November of 2011 we met and discussed the upcoming pledge request. We went over several options and Lisa typed out a final draft which we approved and then gave it to Pastor Charter for his input. Once it was given the okay by him, we made copies and the letter was mailed to all active members and friends of the church.

We chose December 18th as our date for "Stewardship Sunday" and asked weekly for people to hand in their pledges at their earliest convenience. We were happy to have received 22 pledges by the December 18th date. We then received two additional pledges bringing our total pledges for 2012 to 24 and a total pledge amount of \$33,532.

The pledge goal given to us by the treasurer was \$35,000. Although we did not meet that goal, we are grateful for the generosity of the congregation during these financially uncertain times.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Stewardship Committee
Linda Sprague, Chairperson
Lisa Ostrowski and Barbara Robinson

Missions Committee

Over the last year and a half we have had two offerings for Neighbors in Need and The Christmas Fund (Veteran's of the Cross).

At Thanksgiving the congregation provided a total of twelve food boxes in 2010 and ten in 2011. At Christmas we did another twelve food boxes in 2010 and ten in 2011. In addition to the food boxes we also had the Hat and Mitten Tree and the Angel Tree each year. In 2010 we initially had twenty names on the angel tree and when all were distributed on the first Sunday, we requested ten more for a total of thirty names. In 2011, we distributed twenty five names on the angel tree. The Hat and Mitten Tree was well stocked each year and winter coats were donated from The Little Shop. Due to generous monetary donations from Kay Myott, the Hassman family, Alice Webb and George McGuinness, we were able to provide turkeys, hams and pork roasts for the holidays. I would like to thank the Mission Committee members and church volunteers for assembling the food boxes and packaging everything for delivery. The committee would also like to thank Kay Myott, Lee Kerr and Ross Kerr for delivering everything to Stafford Human Services over the last two years.

In addition to members of the Mission's Committee we rely on many volunteers to help us with our projects throughout the year. We appreciate their assistance and any new volunteers are always welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

The Missions Committee

Kathy Ladr, Amy Deane, Judy DelBene, Karen Miner and Lesley Bourque

Delegates

No Report Submitted

Historian

No Report Submitted

Auditors

To be given at the Annual Meeting

Financial Secretary/Missionary Secretary

Amounts received during the period July 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011

Pledges	\$ 52,607.00
Contributions	14,135.00
Freewill	2,166.11
Missions	3,494.00
Special Missions	2,823.60
Steeple Repair	10,801.00

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Robinson

Financial Secretary

Proposed Budget

2012 Budget				
RECEIPTS				
			Estimated	
Account	Description	2011 Proposed	2011 Actual	2012 Proposed
R16	Property Insurance Claim	0.00	14,111.65	0.00
R18	Maintenance - Buildings & Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00
R19	Maintenance - Grounds	0.00	2,500.00	0.00
R21	Freewill	3,000.00	2,166.11	800.00
R22	Pledges	56,400.00	52,607.00	33,532.00
R23	Contributions	11,250.00	14,225.00	8,000.00
R24	Fund Raising	30,000.00	16,973.11	14,468.00
R25	Checking Account Interest	22.50	11.72	10.00
R26	Transfer of Invested Funds	22,590.00	20,000.00	0.00
R27	Memorial Gifts	0.00	17,867.74	0.00
R28	Living Endowment Gifts	0.00	0.00	0.00
R29	Lighting of the Cross	600.00	282.00	200.00
R33	Postage	25.00	0.00	0.00
R34	Music	0.00	0.00	0.00
R36	Youth Group	0.00	0.00	0.00
R37	Summer Conferences	750.00	700.00	500.00
R38	Stewardship	0.00	0.00	0.00
R39	Miscellaneous	750.00	1,395.14	500.00
R45	Sunday School Offerings	750.00	339.50	200.00
	Sub-Total Receipts	84,100.00	143,178.97	58,210.00
BENEVOLENCE BUDGET				
R51	Basic Support	4,500.00	3,494.00	3,000.00
R52	UCC Special Missions	1,125.00	1,054.86	750.00
R53	Other Special Missions	1,500.00	1,789.74	1,000.00
	Total Receipts	88,850.00	149,517.57	62,960.00

	DISBURSEMENTS			
D1	Minister's Salary	33,900.00	29,810.71	18,720.00
D2	Substitute Pastors	0.00	750.00	0.00
D3	Travel Expense	1,800.00	150.30	1,200.00
D4	Book/Study Allowance	0.00	0.00	0.00
D5	Housing Allowance	18,000.00	13,470.80	6,240.00
D6	Professional Expense Reimbursement	600.00	468.00	400.00
D7	Annuity & Family Protection	9,600.00	4,650.00	0.00
D8	Social Security	4,500.00	2,556.02	0.00
D9	Health Insurance	14,100.00	7,473.75	0.00
D11	Custodial	2,250.00	2,250.00	1,500.00
D13	Organist	11,250.00	12,401.99	7,500.00
D14	Church Utilities	9,000.00	8,973.40	7,500.00
D15	Parish House Utilities	3,300.00	6,143.91	3,200.00
D16	Insurance	3,125.00	3,753.00	2,600.00
D17	Employee Insurance	900.00	807.25	600.00
D18	Maintenance - Buildings and Equipment	2,250.00	18,707.50	1,500.00
D19	Maintenance - Grounds	3,000.00	5,630.30	2,000.00
D24	Fund Raising Expenses	3,600.00	1,414.00	2,400.00
D26	Transfer to Invested Funds	0.00	16,387.74	0.00
D31	Worship Supplies	450.00	893.52	400.00
D32	Supplies	375.00	1,890.66	300.00
D33	Postage	0.00	124.75	0.00
D34	Music	0.00	0.00	0.00
D35	Christian Education	1,500.00	729.72	1,000.00
D36	Youth Group	0.00	0.00	0.00
D37	Summer Conferences	600.00	1257.50	400.00
D38	Stewardship	0.00	0.00	0.00
D39	Miscellaneous	75.00	655.00	50.00
D41	Conference Dues	1,200.00	536.00	600.00
D42	Tolland Association Dues	150.00	160.80	100.00
D43	Conference Delegate Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00
D44	Tolland Association Delegate Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00
D45	Sunday School Offering Gifts	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Sub-Total Disbursements	125,525.00	142,046.62	58,210.00
	BENEVOLENCE BUDGET			
D51	Basic Support	4,500.00	3,242.00	3,000.00
D52	UCC Special Missions	1,125.00	1,054.86	750.00
D53	Other Special Missions	1,500.00	1,720.00	1,000.00
	Total Disbursements	132,650.00	148,063.48	62,960.00

Nominating Committee

<u>Position</u>	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Moderator	<u>Bill Gowdy</u>	1-Feb-13
Clerk	<u>Lee Kerr</u>	1-Feb-13
Asst. Clerk	<u>Shirley Salsbury</u>	1-Feb-13
Treasurer	<u>Kenneth May</u>	1-Feb-13
Ass't Treasurer		1-Feb-13
Financial Secretary	<u>Barbara Robinson</u>	1-Feb-13
Asst. Fin Secretary	<u>Claire Richens</u>	1-Feb-13

<u>Boards & Committees</u>	-	-	-	-
Name	Member	Term Expires	Member	Term Expires
Trustees	<u>Don Sanger</u>	1-Feb-13	<u>John DelBene</u>	1-Feb-14
	<u>Bruce Ladr</u>	1-Feb-13	<u>Alan Bolieau</u>	1-Feb-14
Diaconate	<u>Ross Kerr</u>	1-Feb-13	<u>Kay Myott</u>	1-Feb-14
	<u>C. Lingley/ P. Ekenbarger</u>	1-Feb-13	<u>Heather Hatch</u>	1-Feb-14
	<u>Jason Hatch</u>	1-Feb-13	<u>Carol Dwyer</u>	1-Feb-14
Deacon Emeritus	<u>Jack Richens</u>			
Deaconess Emeritus	<u>Claire Richens</u>			
Christian Education	<u>Alan Bolieau</u>	1-Feb-13		1-Feb-14
Stewardship	<u>Linda Sprague</u>	1-Feb-13	<u>Myrna Gambino</u>	1-Feb-14
	<u>Lisa Ostrowski</u>	1-Feb-13		1-Feb-14
Missions	<u>Amy Deane</u>	1-Feb-13	<u>Nancy Minor</u>	1-Feb-14
	<u>Kathy Ladr</u>	1-Feb-13	<u>Jen Bourque</u>	1-Feb-14
Missions: Ex-officio	<u>Bruce Ekenbarger</u>			
Nominating	<u>Kathy Ladr</u>	1-Feb-13	<u>Myrna Gambino</u>	1-Feb-14
Auditors	<u>Bruce Ladr</u>	1-Feb-13	<u>Don Sanger</u>	1-Feb-14
Delegates	<u>Cindy Meyer</u>	1-Feb-13		1-Feb-13
Alternate Delegates		1-Feb-13		1-Feb-14
Historian	<u>Alice Webb</u>	1-Feb-13		
Church Council	<u>Claire Richens</u>	1-Feb-13	<u>Janice Gowdy</u>	1-Feb-14