
Friday evening, 11/14
The gathering began with an opening prayer offer by Gayle, then a warm welcome to Hallelujah Farm by Revs. Roger and Sandy Daly. They shared a brief history of the setting and facility as a contemplative space, then shared their understanding that every gathering is like a Christmas morning of joy-filled expectation. We moved into the dining room where Neal offered Grace.

The business meeting began at 7:35 p.m. New Board member, Rev. Paula Gile was introduced.

Rev. Gary Schulte gave an illustrative explanation of the Conference structure – a sturdy tree with six branches. Each branch represents one Ministry: Christian Formation, Clergy Support, Finance, Local Church Support, Peace & Justice, and Wider Church Relations and blossoms on each branch producing fruit are the mission groups of each. Some of the Mission Groups mentioned were Confirmation Retreat, VBS workshop, Gratitude Group, Ambassadors of Abundance, Interim Ministry Group, Outdoor Ministry Group, Mission In-site, New Thing Task Force, ONA concerns. The Board is represented by the trunk.

Gayle asked for evaluation regarding the new structure after one year. A few sample comments include: “benefit to be at Horton Center”, “written reports appreciated”, “4X year meeting appreciated” “focused agenda, helpful”, “seemed more business, less programmatic this year”, “if specific info needed, get that message to key leader”. Specific ideas to be implemented: end each BOD meeting summarizing a few key points for Weekly News; convene a meeting for all ministry chairs to get together.

The consensus regarding hopes for continuing into Year 2 were simply to move forward in this structure and to be in a stronger financial position.

Minutes from the September 20 Board of Director’s meeting were approved as presented.

John Herbert offered a brief overview of the financial report – no real changes since Annual Meeting. John’s concern is that there will be a substantial deficit at year end, but Gary offered a different perspective that was much more optimistic. Just have to wait for the final figures.

The printed list of names of those asked to chair or serve on the 6 ministries was presented. The motion was made and seconded “to appoint all people chosen as reported from the Nominating Committee.” The motion passed unanimously. There are currently 2 openings.
within the Christian Formation Ministry and a Chairperson to be determined for Local Church Support. When those positions have nominees, the BOD will be asked to vote via email.

Phil Kimball had raised concerns about social changes and the role of the church within those changes. His one page document outlining his thoughts was distributed so it could read and discussed in the morning.

Gayle closed the evening business portion of the meeting with a poem, “The Island this Season” and a prayer.

Martell then challenged us to write down 3 exciting, interesting aspects of our lives (which others may not know) to share with one another. And then to add one more sentence, a big fat lie. As he read each paper, it was a guessing game of who had done what or hadn’t, and it gave knowledge and insight of one another. Silly, interesting, easy fun. Then to help us sleep, Martell threw out some Bible trivia questions. The evening ended approximately at 9:30.

**Saturday, 11/15**
Silence and morning watch. Gayle had prepared a handout with poem, Bible verse and reflection questions if wanted to start the day in a contemplative space.

Breakfast began with song and grace offered by Martha at 7:30.

The business meeting began at 8:30 with an exercise to think & imagine a way to clarify the message and mission of the NHUCC with a Revolving Panel discussing Challenges for the Church Today. Phil offered historical background first of a limited world view and questioned how pastors in the 21st century can respond to the rapidly changing world. He offered a scenario to set the stage (an educated, but hurt, unchurched family with limited time and spiritual questions are looking for a church) and asked for responses. Eleven people responded with a variety of suggestions – healing, spirit, community, social media, out of church ministry, creativity, doctrine, prayer, conversation, web sites, no one answer, open invitation, faith, abundant life, grace, alternatives, luminescence, sanctuary, programs, services, UCC – to keep us thinking.

At 9:20 Gary detailed his Conference Minister’s Report which had been printed and available. It has been a complex, busy season with (among regular business) the new Employee Handbook, reconfiguring staff positions, work within the National setting, new capital expenses, Richard Slater on sabbatical, etc. Prayers for Gary would be appreciated. “Count us in!”

He shared as a matter of awareness the letter from the Concerned UCC African American Pastors and Ministers regarding the search for the new General Minister and President of the national UCC. After discussion, it was moved and seconded “to write a simple acknowledgment; and the NH Conference Board of Directors will hold them in prayer.” The motion passed unanimously. Gayle will draft and send the letter.
Gary also shared some statistics of each Conference relative to OCWM support. One document prepared by the Nebraska Conference, compared 1993 giving adjusted for inflation, to 2013. The other document compared 2013 to 2014 for every Conference. New Hampshire looks pretty good! The question was if or how this information could be shared. No action was taken.

**Annual Meeting Minutes** were considered and corrected. The motion, moved and seconded, “to accept them as printed pending corrections” passed unanimously.

Tabulated, collated printed evaluation responses from the Annual Meeting were reviewed. In addition to the printed pages, discussion continued concerning that day. Mostly positive, a few specific ideas were to NOT have round dining tables in the plenary session, particularly if not having a meal, but to configure the room differently; perhaps the Speak-Out sessions could be better [differently] pre-planned; separate reporting from the worship; music could have been more succinct; and in general, too much to do in too little time.

The Board of Directors serves as the Calling Body in the spirit of the Gathered Conference. Moved into Executive Session at 11:40, out at 11:50. The motion was moved and seconded “to direct the Human Resource Committee to amend the Outdoor Ministry job description to include an ‘ordainable and callable position’.” The motion passed unanimously.

Lunch – John offered the blessing; Mollie and her husband Andrew Hatt joined the group.

The meeting reconvened at 12:45, and began with a conversation with Mollie Landers Hatt about her faith journey that brought her to this point. Following that, she and Andrew were excused and the meeting went into executive session. Out of executive session, the motion was made and seconded “to extend the call to Mollie Landers Hatt to position of Director of Outdoor Ministries.” The motion passed unanimously. They returned amid thunderous applause and a standing ovation.

In accordance with Section 107 of IRS Code, the BOD acted on the request of the 3 Authorized Ministers to authorize a designated portion of their cash salary as a housing allowance. Three motions followed, moved and seconded: “to designate up to 50% of Rev. Richard Slater’s cash salary as a housing allowance.” Gary was excused from the room and the motion was moved & seconded “to designate up to 50% of Rev. Gary Schulte’s cash salary as a housing allowance.” He returned and Mollie left the room and the motion was made and seconded “to designate up to 36% of Rev. Mollie Landers Hatt’s cash salary as a housing allowance.” All three motions passed unanimously.

Neal reported on the update on the roof/shingles project. The property manager feels the roof would be okay through this winter, but then the entire roof should be re-done later, probably in the spring. The cost of that will be $87,88,000.00. That led to a brief discussion of how it would be paid. Gary suggested now is the time to think about a capital campaign; a small group will be needed to look into that question.
In April, 2014, the Conference was informed that it was the beneficiary of a portion of an invested fund of former UCC pastor, C.E. Finertie. The check was received October 30, in the amount of $17,781.48. It has been deposited into the restricted account but will follow the guidelines of the Unrestricted Planned Gift Allocation Policy. (10% to OCWM Basic Support National UCC; 20% to be determined by Conference Council; and 70% into Consolidated Investment Fund) Following discussion, including that the language of the Policy be changed to reflect the new structure, the motion was moved and seconded “to accept the bequest from the Finertie Estate following the policy.” The motion passed unanimously. A second motion was then moved and seconded “to use the 20% of the Finertie bequest toward allocation of the roof repair of the Conference Center.” The motion passed unanimously. Paula will follow up to the estate with a thank you note that you that it was received including the motion of how it will be used.

A special BOD meeting will be needed to review and approve the new Employee Handbook when it returns from legal counsel. Gary will set up a Doodle Poll to find the best time to meet; a teleconference link will be available for that as well.

Gayle will write a synopsis of this meeting to be included in the Weekly News. Suggestions included: Mollie’s call as Director of Outdoor Ministry; accepting the gift of the Finertie Estate; the appointment of Ministry Chairs; and the approved housing allowances complying with the IRS.

The meeting concluded at 2:50 with a closing worship service and Holy Communion offered by Gary and Mollie.

Faithfully submitted,

Martha Clement
New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ
Board of Directors Minutes -- Saturday, January 17, 2015

Missed: Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen, Rev. Martell Spagnolo

The meeting opened at 9:00 with Gary leading worship and Communion.

A few typos were corrected and the minutes of the November Board meeting and special meeting on December 10 were approved as presented.

John actually began the financial report with the words “pleasantly surprised” and “flabbergasted” with the final figures of the year. Pledges had been received and expenses kept low, so the budgeted $22K deficit was reduced to $5-6K. Final adjustments still to be made after the January 15 closing date, but very close. Ken made the motion and John seconded it to “accept the preliminary year end financial reports pending adjustments as needed.” The motion passed unanimously. Gayle asked that John write up a short celebratory report for The Weekly News.

In addition to the Conference Minister’s Report as posted on BOD web page, Gary updated:

- national UCC news: The Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo, executive minister of the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries will be resigning at the end of September; the candidate for the new General Minister & President will be presented at March board meeting. (Some discussion followed that the National news/setting/info should be more transparent and easily available to local churches.)
- the opportunity to hear Don Clark, General Counsel of the United Church of Christ, who will be doing a workshop on legal issues for local churches at Prepared To Serve. It would be advantageous for board members at any level to attend. Spread the word.
- The retention agreement with Attorney Scott Harris who will assist in review work for litigation issues—with a focus on policies and procedures and in drafting policy helpful for the local churches and associations. Because he has offered to join us at the Board table, there was some discussion about that role. It was decided that it would be invitational, not ex-officio.
- Although there is not a listing agent currently for the rental space in the building, Gary has shown it; if there is an option to rent, Gary will share those details and get approval from Executive Com.

There has been discussion about the potential for a capital campaign ($80K for the roof replacement, also server, supplement for small church staffing, property needs and a mission component.) To get the conversation started, Neal made the motion, seconded by Carolyn “That the Board of Directors authorize the Executive Committee to proceed with planning for a Conference wide capital campaign and further authorize the hiring of a consultant to assist with the campaign. The consultant will prepare a feasibility study that will be presented to the Board of Directors who then authorizes further action.” Discussion centered on the components of the campaign, particularly the mission piece – how to get to the heart of those who would be giving. Other thoughts: it should be a campaign for the churches, not simply the Conference - it is a creative partnership; what is the cost of the feasibility study? How much groundwork needs to be done? Whether or not to go forward will be brought to Annual Meeting – is there enough time? Who will bring it? With so many scattered thoughts, it was determined to table the motion for the time, and return to it later in the meeting.
Rev Richard Slater joined the meeting and reported on the initial work of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee. Neal moved that “the Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ, take place on Saturday, October 24, 2015, at the Grappone Center in Concord, NH.” The motion carried.

Gary asked for authorization to raise funds so that Rev. Richard Gomendo, Ukama Chairperson, and Rev. E. T. C. Ngadziore, President of United Church of Christ Zimbabwe, can travel to New Hampshire in June and also attend the General Synod in Cleveland. Approximately $4,000. will be needed. John made the motion “to authorize Gary Schulte to raise funds for President Ngadziore’s travel.” It passed unanimously. (Ukama funds will pay for Rev. Gomendo.)

Richard reported on the highlights of his Sabbatical fall of 2014. It was a wonderful opportunity and he is deeply grateful for this gift. His power point presentation gave a glimpse of his restful time & family ties, prayer/meditation, reading, traveling, (West Park, NY monastery, Toronto, Chicago, St. Louis, Biloxi Mississippi – Back Bay Mission –, New Orleans, Georgia & North Carolina among others) learning, unwinding, and even guarding of exotic cars. Nice to have him back in New Hampshire!

[lunch]

Doug Hatfield joined the meeting to report on Havenwood/Heritage Heights. Since September he has represented the New Hampshire Conference on their board, but has had a long time relationship with HHH. He gave abroad overview of the facility, the 7 levels of care (starting with total independent living) within a faith based community. It is financially strong. There is a covenantal relationship with the NH Conference, but each is a distinct entity. The yearly meeting is valuable in keeping the established covenant viable.

Return to the earlier motion of the Capital Campaign - More ideas and concerns including: marketing, demographics, ‘wrap around’ campaign with other churches already in a capital campaign, focus on immediate needs, raising dues (No!), visioning process, mission tie-in : perhaps a Horton Center something. After thinking and listening, it was decided to withdraw the original motion. A new motion was made by Ed, seconded by Neal, “to establish a Capital Campaign Exploration sub-committee, to be made up of 3-5 members who will report back to the Board of Directors in April.” The motion passed unanimously. It was suggested that Gayle look for those people, but Phil and Neal volunteered, Stacy said yes to request, and Ed is considering it.

It was agreed that the date of June’s overnight BOD meeting at Horton Center be changed from June 12 & 13 to June 19 & 20 in order for the Horton Center staff to be present.

Gayle asked for suggestions from this meeting for the quick report to be put in Weekly News.

The closing prayer was offered by Paula. The meeting ended at 2:05

Faithfully submitted,
Martha Clement
Alleluia!! The meeting opened at 9:00 with Gary sharing the leading of worship and Communion.

The agenda was approved and the minutes of the January Board meeting also approved as presented.

Treasurer John Herbert briefly went over the operating statement/budget analysis as printed through March 31, and suggested everyone take some time to look more carefully. But with one quarter of the year past, it is pretty normal and where expected; 21% of the budget has been expended; most line items are ahead of last years numbers (particularly Outdoor Ministries;) and gently remind local churches that OCWM support can be sent to Conference office throughout the year.

Gary highlighted his Report as had been posted on the web page. In particular he mentioned:

- Open House at Horton Center for Merle Cole on May 17
- Lane Trust petition has been approved, no separate accounting needed
- Lease has been signed with Weaver Brothers Construction for one room April – December, 2015 @ $400. Mo.
- NH Council of Churches is considering a 3yr lease of another room @ $250. Mo & 2 hrs of staff help
- Separate agenda items for Search & Call support; discussion with Vermont Conference

In addition, there was lengthy discussion about National UCC Board of Directors who had voted in March 2015 meeting to repurpose the annual Strengthen the Church offering. Rather than keep 50% within each Conference, 100% would go to national setting with half going to new and renewing churches, and half going to members in discernment. Although effective in 2015, if decided the Conferences may retain up to 50% now and in 2016 before complying with motion. That money in NH had been used for grants and support for Youth Ministries. Several inconsistencies within that decision were discussed, but then voted that Dick Leavitt will draft a letter to National Board with the strong suggestion there be other uses for those funds and that we will be keeping the 50% in ’15 & ’16 and why. Carolyn Keilig made the motion, seconded by Marcie Miller “That Dick Leavitt to draft a letter questioning the process of this repurposing, that there may be other uses of that fund and that the NHCUCC will be keeping the 50% on 2015 and 2016.” The motion carried.

The UCCB also proposed significant By-Law revisions which basically eliminates the Collegium, makes the General Minister and President the only officer, and changes Synod to ‘regular intervals’. It came up fast with little discussion and will be put to a vote at GS in June, 2015. Although ultimately it may work, it is contrary to the historical covenantal polity of the UCC. An on-line letter is available for signatures asking that no action be taken at GS30, but allow a two year deliberation that would unify and move forward together and also offer the recommendations be available 6 months prior GS31. Dawn Garrett-Larsen made the motion, seconded by Neal “to encourage individual BOD members to add their signature to the on-line letter.” The motion carried. The link to that letter will be published in The Weekly News.

Marcie Miller happily reported that the Budget Committee 2015 will continue with the same positive process as last year, and all previous members are returning. There will be a late spring planning meeting, a July ‘summit’ with all those directly concerned, an August meeting to evaluate and analyze the details, a September meeting to finalize it before going to BOD then Annual Meeting for vote in October.
An overview of the Capital Campaign Exploration Team had been on the web site, but each member shared what they learned. The roof replacement should be distinctly separated from a capital campaign. Ed suggested that there is no urgency for the capital campaign, but to continue to move forward with a feasibility study. More conversation will be held on that at the June BOD meeting. And the roof will need replacement, probably before next winter, so a small ad-hoc committee of Neal, Carolyn and Dan will get a few proposals and bids for the project, explore loans, look at budget, etc. and report back in June.

Gayle explained the process of the re-engagement of our relationship with Havenwood Heritage Heights and presented the newly worded covenant. The motion was made by John and seconded by Paula that “the Covenant in Community with the Board of Directors of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ and the Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ Retirement Community, Inc. (D/B/A Havenwood Heritage Heights be approved as revised.” The motion carried.

As per the Governance of the HHH Board, the names of new Board Members were offered for election. Anna Marie Sparks was nominated for a second three year term, and Jeffrey A. Graham, John Udaloy, Jr. and Leo G. VanBeaver were nominated as new board members for a three year term. In addition, Doug Hatfield was considered for reappointment as representative from NHCUCC. All were approved as presented. Martel questioned the connection with the UCC as it is not obvious in their everyday materials. He will draft a letter asking for clarification and Gayle will graciously ask the same question when meeting with Michael Palmieri. (There is no management or financial responsibility, but there is a historical and mission connection.)

Nice to meet Scott Harris, new Conference attorney, who reported on the Conference of Conference Attorneys held in Charleston, SC in February. He attended via conference call. There are many forms and resources available from the National UCC. The CEO of the Insurance Board spoke, suggesting that may be a good place for the local church to look to identify risks. Highlighted concerns may be liability of outside vendors, sexual offenders in the church, financial accountability/fiduciary responsibility, copyright infringement. The process of a church dissolution and those assets had also been discussed.

As the coordinator for the Ukama Mission Group and Local Church – Global Ministries Partnership coordinator, Michele Bagby Allan gave an update on the Zimbabwe Partnership including: 2 more partnerships in the works, to bring it to a total of 47; enough funds have come in for plane ticket for Rev. Ngadziore, but more would be helpful; there will be a mission component with Horton Center this summer; three adults and six young adults from the Newport church will be traveling to Zimbabwe in August; a container shipment is scheduled out of Keene in September; and prayers are always needed, but in particular for the cessation of violence and xenophobia in South Africa.

Mollie joined us after lunch to bring everyone up to date on Horton Center. Beyond her written report, she shared the summer brochure and highlighted: registration opened a little earlier than previous years and right now there are 90 campers registered; there are alternate and exciting opportunities for the week of the July 4th holiday; Cabin Hope will become a reality after the plumbers and electricians do their work; a nurse is needed for August 3-8; three tiered pricing is a new alternative to one standard rate; a new mission group is hoped to be formed for short term work of visioning a long range plan for Horton Center.

Gayle had written a letter to a broad base of NH Conference members for the Friends Annual Appeal. It was sent via bulk mail and hopefully to be delivered than get a good response. Mention was made that 100% participation by the board would send a positive message.
The Vermont Conference invited Gayle and Gary to a conversation about potential ways to minister together. They will meet on May 6. Gary shared statistics comparing the two conferences and invited us to brainstorm preliminary ideas, concerns, programs, etc that could be within the scope of collaboration.

The Rye church which is not UCC is in the process of a looking for settled pastor and asked Gary for support. There was a question if there should be a written policy for this regarding fee for service and expectations. Although it was felt there should not be a fee, there should be a Search and Call Policy for those not in the UCC. The conversation will go to the Executive Committee for more clarification and vote at the BOD meeting in June.

Originally named Peace and Justice Ministry within the new structure, that name was confusing to the Peace and Justice Mission Group. To change it requires a By-Law change. It was approved to bring the name change from Peace and Justice Ministry to Justice and Witness Ministry to the Annual Meeting for vote. Justice and Witness Ministry fits more easily with the national setting and accurately reflects the work they do.

The slate of Delegates going to General Synod in Cleveland has changed a bit. Maren Tarabassi will be replaced by Harli Webb who was on the list as an alternate, and Rebecca Dopp from First Church Nashua will be the third Youth delegate replacing Sydney Evans. Approved.

Gayle will write and submit a brief overview of this meeting for The Weekly News.

The meeting closed at 3:00 with some NH highlights and a familiar sounding prayer offered by Ken.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Clement
New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ
Board of Directors Minutes
Friday, Saturday, June 19-20, 2015   Horton Center

Host: Rev. Mollie Landers Hatt

Board members arrived late Friday afternoon for sunshine and porch sitting, moved inside for dinner then gathered together with the staff of Horton Center to begin the meeting. It was a time of conversation and reflection interspersed with song and prayer; small groups and the whole group answering questions from the local church perspective raising the joys, concerns and visions.

[campfire, songs, s’mores, story ]

[Morning Watch/ silent reflection – / breakfast – Spiritual practice/Mandala]

The meeting was called to order at 9:00a.m. The agenda was approved as presented. Minutes from the April 18 meeting were amended to change ‘fun’ to ‘fund’, correctly spell Harli’s name, and clarify Becca (Rebecca) Dopp as replacement as Synod youth delegate.

The Financial Reports were highlighted. John reported 42% into the year, 28% revenue has come in, 37% has been expended, $107K in the red. Nothing is very much different from previous years. He asked that everyone take a look through the various reports, particularly the details for OCWM support as well as the fact that the restricted funds have been drawn for the year.

The Auditor’s Report from Howe, Riley, and Howe had been posted. John reviewed the procedure and clarified the suggestions that had been mentioned; a cash register, with tape, will be purchased for Horton Center store – Mollie will work with Bill to tighten up procedures; the money reserved each year will move from the regular budget to a restricted fund to comply with accounting standards; a written Asset Capitalization Policy should be in place. The accounting procedures have been in place for depreciation of assets, but there had not been a written policy. John re-worded a sample policy as offered by the auditors, presented the Asset Capitalization Policy and moved to “accept the Asset Capitalization Policy”. Neal seconded it and the motion carried.

Beyond Gary’s prepared Conference Minister’s Report as submitted on-line, he highlighted:

✓ the many events happening within the Conference. Good news/bad news – Yay!! there’s a lot going on. Boo!! when so many scheduled together it may take away some participation in one to go to another and it is very staff intensive. After discussion of how to address this, there was the recognition that that’s how it is in NH – there will be reminder in The Weekly News to try for coordination.

✓ With Bill Hoy’s retirement at the end of the year, it may be a time to look for alternatives to administer the financial side of the Conference. Bill has been asked to detail the various aspects of each service he provides now.

✓ This is a season of major change in the pastorates of NH.

[executive session]
Per the April BOD meeting, Dick Leavitt had drafted a letter to the National UCC regarding the Strengthen the Church Offering. The letter was discussed and affirmed. A few edits – ‘authorized minister’ to ‘members in discernment’, and ‘level’ to ‘settings’. It will be sent to Rev. J Bennett Guess, executive director of Local Church Ministries with a cc to UCC Board Chair Bernard Wilson. Gayle will personally sign it with a list of BOD names. John made the motion, seconded by Marcie “to accept the letter with the changes and signature.” The motion carried.

Rev Mollie Landers Hatt joined the BOD for her report on Horton Center:
- ACA accreditation – not only good in itself, it has made things smoother and easier with procedures, expectations, and organizational structure
- 6 new staff, 6 returning. Successful joint training with Pilgrim Lodge
- New this year: Clergy Camp and Women’s Weekend
- New site manager is seeing with new eyes and perspective
- Hope Cabin will be finished this year. She is looking forward to flushing new toilets
- Maintenance budget will be expended – routine work and many safety upgrades
- The tier payment plan has been successful – a breakdown was shared
- Hut-to-Hut camp week had to be cancelled - costs within the AMC huts prohibitive
- Conversation with AMC leadership – looking to build connections with facility usage
- Hoping to put together a mission group for visioning the future

Gary and Gayle met with their counterparts in the Vermont Conference and began then agreed to continue the conversation to broadly explore ways to share and collaborate within the two ministries. First glance is an interest in Vermont youth coming to Horton Center.

Neal explained the process for determining the roof replacement at the Conference Center. It does need to be done before real winter sets in, it should be a 3-5 day job, new shingles will have a 50 year warranty. After getting 3 bids, and on recommendation from Foxfire, he recommended going with Manchester Roofing Company for $63,960.00. The credit from A & B Lumber for the poor shingles has been used within the bottom line. Sometime after the completion of the roof, the option of solar panels will be considered. Carolyn explained the financing end of the project, again looking at 3 different institutions, determined the UCC Cornerstone Fund offered the best rate. Also within the Cornerstone Fund there is a way to lower the interest rate if submitting matching funds. Carolyn will offer a fuller explanation and encourage others to think about that.

Neal made the motion seconded by Carolyn “to accept the bid from Manchester Roofing Company, Inc. to replace the roof.” The motion carried. Carolyn then made the motion seconded by Marcie, “to finance the roof replacement and authorize the execution and full requirement of paperwork with the United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund.” The motion carried.

Changing the name of the Peace and Justice Ministry to the Justice and Witness Ministry requires a by-law change. Neal moved “to recommend to Annual Meeting the proposed by-law change.” All agreed.

Marcie reported on the preliminary work of the Budget Committee. The same process as last year will used. Each Ministry will submit a budget, as well as Mission and Income from Gary and Bill, all will come
together on July 15 for dinner, discussion and visioning. Each Ministry has been asked how the structure and changes have impacted them.

Gary gave a brief overview and invitation to the Ambassadors of Abundance evening which will be held on Saturday, September 19 at the O Conference Center, Laconia. Three course meal! Live music!! Videos!!! Keynote Speaker Quinn Caldwell!!!! $20.00 per person. Wicked fun. . . get a table. . . be there.

The question of Association Dues vs. Tithing was discussed. There was some feeling that perhaps eliminating paperwork and bills and dues for Association membership, a greater gift would be given directly to OCWM. A thoughtful discussion followed including autonomy vs. responsibility, who already gives to either or one or the other, etc. Consensus was to return to Finance Ministry to give it more thought and research.

The Clergy Support Ministry proposed a Resolution for Continuing Education for Clergy. Although there were a few minor questions regarding policies or enforcement, it was moved by John and seconded by Ed “to send the Resolution for Continuing Education for Clergy to Annual meeting.” The motion carried.

Gary reported on the planning/anticipation for General Synod 30. Richard Slater has been doing all the detail work; there are 14 delegates, 2 associates “voice without vote”, and many other visitors from NH attending. The open letter which many of us signed on-line will be handed to people OUTSIDE the convention hall in Cleveland; A Friday morning vigil will be held at the site of the youth shooting; NH will caucus with the Nebraska delegates in the hotel early mornings; hot button topics include the sale of the building, the transparency of the Board decisions; the tragedy in Charleston SC church.

The Clergy Compensation Guidelines have not been re-written; John made the motion, seconded by Bill to “add a 2% COLA to the current guidelines for 2016”. The motion carried.

Other items – there is a man in Rochester NH who is creating a contest for a drawing of Mohammed with the winner determined in August. He believes it to be a free speech issue. If it becomes an issue or more in the forefront, it will need a careful, thoughtful response.

Please download and sign the Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement Disclosure if you have not done so.

All Horton Center Staff joined the BOD for closing worship and sharing of Holy Communion.

The meeting closed at 3:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Clement