

The Kingston Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Kingston, RI 02881

Annual Report
July 2015 – June 2016



Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey,
You are welcome here.

Mission Statement of the Kingston Congregational Church

“We are a Christian Church that supports each person's spiritual journey
through the communal pursuit of worship, learning, and service.”

(Voted on and approved by the Congregation on April 27, 2008)

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Annual Report of the Senior Pastor for 2015-16

Looking Outward and Looking to the Future

We began the program year of 2015-16 with new opportunities that had presented themselves in the latter part of the previous year, including the possibility of forming an ongoing relationship with our neighbors at the Muslim Community Center of Kingston (Masjid Alhoda), and the possibility of forming an ongoing relationship with a congregation of the United Church of Christ of Zimbabwe (UCCZ). We were able to take the key first steps that will allow us to develop those relationships fully in the coming years.

It seemed to me that these opportunities came to us at exactly the right time, at a point in our life as a congregation at which we were ready to undertake a more intentional outward-looking approach to our ministries. I shared these opportunities with our boards and spoke of my sense that they could be parts of a “Year of Looking Outward.” Finding that there was much positive response, both to these specific opportunities, and to the overall theme of Looking Outward, I asked the boards whether they saw other ways by which we could become newly outward-looking. They had great ideas.

Those discussions proceeded as we began moving toward the commitment we formally made in the spring to become an Open and Affirming Congregation, itself a prime example of our church looking outward. But the results of the discussions also included a renewal of our commitment to the Haiti Mission and to South Providence Neighborhood Ministries. From our boards also came a strong expression of support for looking outward by making our church building meaningfully handicapped accessible.

There had been numerous requests in recent years for opportunities to look outward by seeking greater understanding of other religious traditions, so we held a well-attended evening of Adult Education focused on the religions of East and South Asia.

We also expanded our means of looking outward by further developing our presence on social media, especially our (public) Facebook Page and our (non-public, members only) Facebook Group, both of which have grown steadily in participation and outreach over the course of the year.

The work of previous years continued to bear fruit within our congregation, as our boards grew stronger and more effective in their efforts, as our Church School offered new initiatives for our children (including the new Chime Choir), as our music program continued its beloved work among us.

I was able to have many conversations with our members over the course of the year about the future of our church, about the values and priorities we should uplift as a community of faith. And I was able to participate in helpful conversations within the Board of Deacons and the Church Council that will shape both the content and the style of my preaching in the year to come, and that will lead to offering after-worship sermon discussion times, beginning in the fall.

I want to thank all of you for your kindness to me, as I continue to learn how to be the best pastor I can be to this community of faith. Please hold me in your thoughts and prayers, as I will hold all of you in mine. And let us look with gladness to the future God has for us as a people of faith in Kingston and far beyond!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. L. Weldon Palmer

KCC Annual Report President's Message

June 2016

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9

Dear Member of Kingston Congregational Church,

When I consider the 300-year history of our church, I am inspired by the commitment of our predecessors, who guided our church through a revolution, the birth of a nation, a civil war and two world wars, and the emergence of a new branch in the Protestant tradition – the United Church of Christ. One can only imagine what the future holds for our beloved church as we move forward into uncharted waters. As Christians, we rely on our faith; faith in God and in each other.

In this year of Looking Outward, we have turned our attention toward the community. We are expressing our commitment to being an Open and Affirming congregation. We have established ties with a Muslim community. We have renewed our commitment to local charities – SPNM, Jonnycake Center, Habitat for Humanity, Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty, RI Power and Light, Doctors Without Borders, and RI Community Food Bank. We are exploring ideas to reach out and welcome members of the university community.

In an effort to lay a solid foundation, the Church Council is supporting the formation of two ad-hoc committees. The first is an evaluation team to study, review and evaluate the priorities and total ministry of our church. The second is a Pastoral Relations Committee to support and maintain an open relationship between the ordained minister and members of the congregation. It helps the pastor and members of the church share ideas, hopes, dreams and interpretations of mission.

As we enable the success of KCC's ministry into the future, it is our responsibility to be stewards of our church in the present moment. We have an obligation to remember events from the past in which our church stood as a beacon of hope to the community. Likewise, we must model good stewardship so our future leaders – our children, grandchildren and those whom we have yet to meet – will accept this responsibility.

It has been a privilege to serve as your Church President for the past two years. May God provide you with every blessing in abundance, so you may share in every good work.

With gratitude,



Frank Lenox, President

Annual Report from the Board of Deacons, July 2015—June 2016

Board Members: Susan Berman (Co-Chair), Meera Viswanathan, (Co-Chair), Jan Kraus, Dottie Leduc, Linda Mendillo, Tom Heald, Jim Aukerman, Wayne Lee, Charley Sweeney, Craig Urian, Dave Remington, Nancy Ross (Resigned, December).

The Deacons focused on promoting and supporting the Pastor's "Year of Reaching Outward" and on formalizing the guidelines and procedures for carrying out the work designated for the Deacons, as described in the By-Laws. The Deacons approved adding the rainbow decal indicating Open and Affirming (ONA) status to the Kingston Congregational Church sign and displaying the rainbow banner periodically. We participated in reaching out to the Muslim community in Kingston. We helped to support visiting sermons by Rev. Edward Matuvhune as a way of developing a connection with a UCC church in Zimbabwe.

The Deacons are responsible for recruiting volunteers for many of the offices of the weekly service—Greeting, Ushering, Lay Reading, Hosting Coffee Fellowship; and we provide the elements and serve Communion on the first Sunday of each month. We are responsible for special seasons and services—Christmas Eve, Lent, Palm Sunday, Tenebrae—and are represented at each funeral and Baptism and in welcoming new members. We are also responsible for pulpit supply during the Pastor's study leave, vacation, and any other time that the Pastor is away. We are grateful to Eric Widmer, Meera Viswanathan, Frank Lenox, Sharon Davis and Michael Northup for conducting services this year.

In terms of the service, we worked with the Music Director to provide words to the choir music when possible. We began a practice of Deacons' Reflections in order to consider the effectiveness of our program of service in promoting the spiritual health of the church.

We received from Trustees a report on the accessibility of the Sanctuary. We arranged for preservation architects to look at the Sanctuary and we approved removal of the last pew on the west side of the main level as a starting point to accommodating either more than one wheelchair or additional seating so that a person in a wheelchair can sit with other people. Also hymnal and Bible will be where someone sitting in a wheelchair can reach them.

The Deacons approved KCC as a venue for the production of a play by Ana Bess Moyer Bell and others bringing attention to the issue of addiction in Rhode Island. The church was approached by Rachel Bartels, Outreach Coordinator for COASST (Creating Outreach About Addiction Support Together), a South Kingstown - based organization with a mission of creating an ongoing dialogue about addiction and recovery using community engaged practices. The February performance was well received and inspired discussion. This community engagement worked well with the "Year of Reaching Outward" program.

A major project this year, along with documenting the guidelines for the Deacons in carrying out their responsibilities, was to finalize written guidelines for the various offices involved in worship services, so that we now can distribute to those volunteering to usher, greet, read and provide coffee hour. Having this document will facilitate orientation of new Deacons, as well as providing a reference for the whole church describing how we come together in weekly worship, how we celebrate special services and the seasons of the church year, how we recognize rites of passage and how each of us participates in making the church whole.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Berman

Meera Viswanathan

Kingston Congregational Church Board of Music Annual Report 2015-2016

Members of the Board of Music: Lori Ann Hiener (Chair), Elizabeth Candas, Frank Osterman, Clay Sink, Ann Ross. Enrico Garzilli attended meetings as a non-voting member.

The Board of Music met three times over the course of the year.

Enrico continues to do a wonderful job leading the choir, selecting music and securing guest musicians to perform during Sunday Worship. Many thanks to all of the musicians who performed this year and contributed to the service.

The Chimes Choir began this fall due to a generous donation that enabled the church to purchase a three octave set of chimes. The chimes choir, composed of adults and children, plays under the direction of Alice Babcock. Practice occurred weekly from October through early June. The chimes choir performed 3 times during Sunday Worship this year.

The Board of Music reviewed the job description for the Music Director under the request of the Human Resource Committee.

The instruments were tuned as needed during the year.

The choir robes and vestments were professionally cleaned.

Money allocated to the Board of Music was spent on music, guest musicians, maintenance of the instruments and the cleaning of the choir robes.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Ann Hiener, Chair

Annual Report 2016 Music Director/Organist

I very much enjoy being organist and music director here at Kingston Congregational Church. I believe this past year again has truly been a wonderful musical and worshipful experience.

The Senior Choir continues to be outstanding in its dedicated contribution to Worship. The repertoire of anthems for the choir consists of the best available music from the past as well as new musical texts. The adult choir continues to meet every Thursday evening to prepare for Sunday Worship. I deeply appreciate their great contribution to Worship. Easter was truly wonderful with Trumpets, Percussion and Violin. We were fortunate to have Jenny Collins play trumpet for Palm Sunday and several other services this year. Her student, Luca Simeone, a ninth grader, also played for several services. He promises to be a terrific trumpet player. For the summer months we were fortunate to have wonderful guest musicians, among whom were Manuel Morales, Stephen Grueb, and Patti Stout.

On a personal note, I have continued to compose music for both Concert performances and Services.

I have also continued to conduct the South County Chamber Singers. On Palm Sunday, we performed the magnificent Requiem Mass by Faure at St. Francis Church in Wakefield. In November of last year, we performed a concert at the Courthouse Center for the Arts. Entitled "Broadway Meets the Met", the program was a definite hit. The Chamber Singers performed two concerts with the Sunday afternoon concert completely sold out. Several members of our choir regularly sing with the Chamber Singers. One of our very dedicated sopranos, Margaret Bradley, is the president of the organization.

I would like to thank Lori Ann Hiener and the Music Board for their excellent leadership. Their help, advice, and encouragement have been invaluable. I would also like to thank Diana Geisler and Grace Woodward who have provided a very much appreciated service as choir librarians. And to all of you I express my gratitude once again for your support, encouragement, and inspiration.

Respectfully submitted,
Enrico Garzilli

KCC Trustees – Annual Report 2015 - 2016

Ongoing coordination of: Kingston Fair; snow removal; cleaning the furnaces; Blue Jean Sundays; erection and removal of Christmas tree and decorations of the tree; parking issues; the grounds and shrubbery maintenance.

Special Studies of:

- Possible increased insulation of the church buildings
- Parking lot sealcoating studied and deferred due to cost

Special projects:

1. In conjunction with Deacons:
 - a. Main sign in front of KCC redesigned to incorporate the Rainbow emblem.
 - b. Study of handicapped accessibility to sanctuary.
2. Children's furniture (27 chairs) repainted by way of the Boy Scouts as part of an Eagle project.
3. Fireplace Room restoration effort underway including lighting upgrades, rug replacement, and artwork, and new donated chairs.
4. Secured a supplemental Sexton for Andy's extended winter vacationing.
5. Repaired and upgraded two new wooden posts in concrete which will hold temporary banners and which again was part of an Eagle Scout project. Posts replaced the old plastic posts in front of sanctuary along Route 138.
6. New Bathroom fans installed in men's and ladies' rooms.
7. KCC office desk replaced and upgraded.
8. Lamp post repaired in front of sanctuary.
9. Initiated multiyear restoration project of the KCC Building Complex (3 buildings) funded by the Champlin Foundation, the Potter Fund and the KCC Congregation.
10. Initiated repair and upgrade of the KCC Steeple bell and clock funded by special donations from the congregation.

Respectfully submitted:

Steve White, Trustees Chair

Annual Treasurer's Report Kingston Congregational Church 2015-2016

The Annual Report by the Treasurer should include two parts. In our case that is a Treasurer's Report on the operating fund (colloquially "the budget") and a Balance Sheet.

I will explain the Balance sheet first. This report consists of the monetary assets, which we have two, KCC Endowment at Vanguard and the checking account at Bank of America, any liabilities if any, and a list of the church's funds. One of those funds is the operating fund, "the budget". I point out that the checking account had a \$139,016 balance at the end of the fiscal year.

While this may sound like a lot, there are numerous other funds in addition to the operating fund which have a claim to the checking account.

I broke out the funds into three separate categories, 1) operating fund, 2) board funds and 3) other designated funds. The operating fund is discussed in the treasurers' report.

Not all of the church's boards have a fund associated. A board, such as Mission, Music and Trustees, has a fund in addition to their budget. This allows record keeping respecting the wishes of a giver for a designated use. Money in a fund is carried over from year to year, just as the ending balancing of the operating fund is carried over to the beginning balance of the next fiscal year. You see from the balance sheet these board funds have an \$18,068 claim on the checking account.

The "Other Designated Funds" have an \$112,021 claim on the checking account. A couple of these other designated funds have a largish balance, such as cemetery, \$17,815, and our revitalization fund has a balance of \$44,490. These categories of funds leave a beginning balance in the checking account of \$8,928. This amount includes the ending surplus of \$3,897 from the Treasurer's Report on the Operating fund.

The Treasurer's report is part two of the annual report. It is our budget, as recommended by the Finance Board and Council and approved by the congregation. This is an income and expense account statement. The furthest right hand column is "the budget". Cash flow is critical and for this reason we take the annual disbursement from endowment to operating in two parts. In years past we have taken this disbursement in two parts later in the fiscal year. In the recent past we have taken this distribution in September and January. I urge everyone to please fulfill their pledge before the end of the fiscal year.

I urge everyone to use their member number in the description line on the check or if giving cash, use your current year assigned envelopes. I will post the list of member numbers. This facilitates accuracy assuring your donation is credited to your account. I also ask that if your donation is for something other than pledge, please designate that as well in the description line. Note giving to other funds while tax deductible is not part of pledge giving. Giving statements break out current year pledge from other giving. This coming year we will send out quarterly giving statements for current year pledges and an annual tax statement in January which will include ALL giving for the calendar year. Please review your giving statements quarterly.

Bottom line, we ended the year successfully with a surplus of \$3,897.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Kraus

Board of Finance Annual Report July 2015 to June 2016

The Board of Finance regularly met during the year to discuss its assigned mission to oversee the Church's financial matters. Jeff Richardson was the chair of the board. The other members of the board are Dick Geisler, Ken Kermes, Jim Ross, Sharon Davis and Doug Kraus, who holds the position of Church Treasurer. The secretarial duties rotate for each meeting.

The Board of Finance supervises the Investment Committee, and thanks them for a great job of investing the endowment worth 1.2 million dollars. The Finance Board is not happy to report that next year's budget has a deficit of over \$8,000. We had an unexpected dip in pledging that caused a deficit budget to be passed for next year. We will monitor the deficit closely. We anticipate that we may need to appeal to the Congregation to contribute more money during the winter to close the gap so we can get through the fiscal year. We hope to successfully move pass our short term budget shortfall.

The Board discussed our long term financial health of the church due to the aging demographics of our church family. The Finance Board will explore the issues of both long and short term financial health of the church with an eye toward the operating budget and the need for physical maintenance to the church buildings.

The 2016-17 Fiscal Year Budget was delivered to the Church Council where it was reviewed and delivered to the Congregation for its vote. The 2016-17 Budget was approved by the Congregation during the June meeting. The Budget calls for a fundraiser via an auction and another support by the Scrip program. The Finance Board wishes to remind the Congregation to support the auction and the script program to help maintain our overall financial plans and all our other Boards' missions and good works.

Jeff Richardson,
Finance Board Chair

Investment Committee 2015-2016 Annual Report

The Investment Committee met twice during the fiscal year ending 6/30/16. On June 30, 2016 the Endowment portfolio had a market value of \$1,252,319. During the fiscal year, no gifts or bequests were added and \$53,462 was distributed for support of Church operations. Performance of the portfolio was positive by 1.2% over the prior year and 4.2% since 12/31/15. Comparative benchmarks were 4%/3.9% and 3.8%/4.5%, respectively. At fiscal year end the portfolio held a mix of ten index mutual funds and ETF's with an approximate weighting of 77% equities and 23% bonds.

The Committee approved a distribution of 4.75% of the seven year moving average of the portfolio value (\$53,796) in support of the Church's fiscal year 2017 operations.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Baker, Secretary

Members: James Aukerman, Tom Butcher, Richard Geisler, Ron Stevens, Ernie Torres
Ex Officio members: Doug Kraus, Jeff Richardson

Board of Stewardship, 2015-2016

The primary role of the KCC Board of Stewardship is to “plan and conduct stewardship initiatives to generate funds for the support, expenses and benevolences of the church”. In short, we are charged with trying to raise pledges from the membership of the church which allow the Church Council, through the Board of Finance, to put together a budget which supports our employees, maintains or expands the many ministry, mission, and administrative activities of the church.

For the 2016 Stewardship campaign, which began in January of this year, the Board decided to maintain the basic structure of the previous year, which featured church members speaking during the Sunday service, with videos of their talks provided to the congregation by all-church email and by posting on Facebook. Our other goal was to complete the campaign earlier, with the goal of lessening the May “crunch” for putting together the church budget.

In our campaign, we evoked the “year of reaching outward” which has been a church wide theme for the past year, and tried to show the membership how our ability, as a church, to have more impact in the world is significantly tied to our ability to increase our stewardship campaign. We had wonderful talks given during Sunday services by Chris Little, Evan Preisser, and Cindy Buxton, providing their perspective on the impact of our church and the congregation on our community and on the world.

Unfortunately, our campaign did come up short of our goal. We received 118 pledges, for a total pledged amount of \$215,500, which was incorporated into the budget that the congregation passed at the recent annual meeting.

What was different this year? We did see a larger number of decreased pledges than in past years, and some families elected not to pledge this year, for a variety of reasons. Some of the principal reasons behind these reductions include moving away from Rhode Island, and health or aging challenges. At the congregational meeting there were requests that Church Council undertake an analysis of pledging at KCC, since two of the past three years had Stewardship campaign totals below our needs, and less than past campaign results.

This summer, one member of the Board of Stewardship will depart, and two new members will join. David Cann leaves after six years as a Stewardship member and four years as the Board chair, and Angelo Mendillo and Karin Aukerman will join the board.

Wishing all members and friends of KCC a wonderful summer,

Sincerely yours,

The 2015-2016 KCC Board of Stewardship: Sharon Davis, Ann Lenox, and David Cann

Board of Membership Annual Report July 2015 – June 2016

The responsibilities of the Board of Membership are to invite and welcome new members into the church; assist the Pastor in attracting and assimilating new members into the church; ensure that all members are nurtured and cared for; communicate with members to support their continued involvement in church activities; appoint a Registrar; and assist the Registrar in managing and maintaining the membership records of the church.

During this year, the Board has worked to carry out these responsibilities in multiple ways:

1. Welcome Table - A Welcome Table is present in Fellowship Hall each Sunday, staffed by two volunteers who are available to talk with new people, answer questions and provide information to visitors, and take down contact information.
2. Visitor follow-up – We try to contact visitors who have submitted Visitor Cards or provided information at the Welcome Table within a week.
3. Prospective Members Meetings – We continue to offer meetings two to three times per year for individuals who want to learn more about KCC and who may be interested in becoming members. When we have people ready to join KCC, Rev. Palmer talks with them to schedule a New Member Sunday.
4. “Friends” for New Members - A Board Member is assigned to new members upon their joining KCC to provide them with a personal contact. A “New Member” information packet is provided, and the “friend” will follow-up with the New Members on a periodic basis through the first year.
5. Young Adults/Families Initiative – Though scheduling has presented difficulties, a get together for young families is upcoming. Thanks to Al Curnow for taking this on.
6. Shepherding Program – A Board Sub-Group, led by Loretta Shaw, meets periodically to identify Members who “have not been seen recently” and to make a phone call to that individual/family, just to touch base and to let them know we are thinking of them.
7. Website – We maintain and update the KCC website to keep information current and add information as deemed necessary.
8. Facebook Page – Rev. Palmer and Michelle Girasole and others have continued to update KCC’s Facebook page as another means to reach out to both members and non-members.

Board Members: Bill Bartels and Andrea Richardson – Co-Chairs, Al Curnow, Jim Findlay, Josh Remington, Loretta Shaw (Registrar)

KCC Membership Report July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

Members as of July 1, 2015 **476**

Additions:

Confirmands	4
New Members	9

Total Additions: **13**

Losses:

Death	5
Transfer	0
Inactive by Request	8

Total Losses: **13**

Members as of June 30, 2016 **476**

Baptisms	3
Marriages	1

Date

Baptisms

Charles Andrew Zedella	November 15, 2015
Finn Rocco Harris	April 24, 2016
Sydney Lane Henault	June 19, 2016

Marriages

Alan Kinsley and Ann Chaput	October 17, 2015
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New Members

Caroline Zedella	November 15, 2015
Mark Zedella	November 15, 2015
Kelly Anderson	June 19, 2016
Tim Anderson	June 19, 2016
David Bergeron	June 19, 2016
Frances Bergeron	June 19, 2016
Jenn DeLuise	June 19, 2016
Andrew Henault	June 19, 2016
Emily Henault	June 19, 2016

Confirmands:

Andrew Estus	May 15, 2016
Kyle Hart	May 15, 2016
Luca Simeone	May 15, 2016
Devin Steere	May 15, 2016

Deaths

Joyce P. Bridgman		July 14, 2015
Clifford W. Falby		October 8, 2015
Leslie D. Ryan		October 13, 2015
Nancy Chambers	non-member	November 9, 2015
Anna Mary Albert		February 1, 2016
Rev. R. Jack Whitehead		February 27, 2016
Oliver Cottrell	non-member	June 4, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta H. Shaw

Registrar

Scrip Program Annual Report July 2015 - June 2016

The Scrip Program is an ongoing fund raising initiative that was begun in the fall of 2009. Church members may purchase Retailers' Gift cards for groceries and other items. The Church receives a rebate from retailers with our purchasing of the cards. This rebate averages about 4.5% with some retailers being as high as 16%. The National Program has over 700 retailers. A complete list is at the Scrip Table.

The SCRIP Table is staffed in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday before and after the service. At the table we carry cards for 14 retailers, including Stop & Shop, Belmont, Shaw's, Dave's Market, CVS, Rite Aid and Marshall's as well as several others. You may get these cards to go shopping that very day. Other retailers' cards may be ordered on a Sunday for pick up the following Sunday. Cards such as Amazon, LL Bean, Land's End, Brooks Brothers, and Macy's as well as Home Depot and Lowe's plus over 700 hundred other retailers may be ordered in this manner. You may pay for your cards with a check or the correct amount of cash.

On average about 25 people participate each week. WE WISH MORE OF YOU WOULD PARTICPATE. We are busier during the Holiday Season. For this fiscal year, the SCRIP PROGRAM distributed \$3000.00 dollars. These funds were distributed as follows: 25 % to Missions for a Special Local Project, 25% to Trustees, and 50% to the overall Operations Budget. Since our inception in 2009 we have done over \$1 Million in Sales volume. Grocery sales account for nearly 80% of the sales.

In August 2016 Co- Coordinator Tom Butcher left the Scrip team upon his move to North Carolina. His dedication to the Kingston Congregational Church is sadly missed. A Coffee Hour hosted by The SCRIP Team and The Board of Membership was held in his honor in appreciation for his services.

Three new members have joined the Scrip team. In September 2015 Jim Ross joined the team. He not only does the ordering of SCRIP cards but manages the financial aspects of the program. Wayne Lee and Cliff Snow have joined the Sunday Sales Table.

SO. . . THINK SCRIP FOR YOUR GROCERIES AND OTHER DAILY PURCHASES AS WELL AS GIFT ITEMS. THE RETAILERS ARE WILLING TO PROVIDE THE REBATES: WHY NOT USE THE FUNDS FOR KCC PURPOSES. THIS IS AN EASY WAY TO GROW OUR BUDGET AT NO ADDITIONAL COST TO THE PURCHASER. HOW GOOD IS THAT!!!!!!!!!!!!

Your SCRIP Committee: Nancy Corvese, Beth Curtis, Barbara and Gordon Johnson, Wayne Lee, Dottie Leduc, Elizabeth McNab, Jim Ross, Dick Shaw, and Cliff Snow

Submitted by: Dottie Leduc

Board of Missions and Social Justice Annual Report 2015-2016

When we sat down to write this report we realized that the congregation and the Board of Missions have been **very** active this year supporting both local and international missions. You have generously donated your time and resources and we are grateful.

Our budget this year was spent on the following: **Hunger:** \$2,000 to South Providence Neighborhood Ministries (SPNM), monthly collection of non-perishable foods for Jonnycake and SPMN amounting to hundreds of pounds over the year; **Housing:** \$2,000 to Habitat for Humanity, as well as donations amounting to \$160 for bus passes for Welcome House guests to get to work ; **Environment:** \$150, Joined Rhode Island Interfaith Power and Light and are using their information and expertise to become a “greener” church and save money.

You gave generously to the following offerings: Church World Service **Blanket Sunday:** \$1,014; The **Christmas offering:** \$3,350 split between the Jonnycake Center, The Domestic Abuse Resource Center and Ministers Fund National UCC, **One Great Hour of Sharing:** \$2,418. During the Christmas season you also donated gifts and Scrip gift cards for children through the Jonnycake Center and SPNM.

As part of our year of looking outward, we had The Reverend Matuvhunye preach once in the fall and once in the spring and, at Weldon’s request, supported him with \$250 from Missions each time, supported and participated in outreach to the URI Muslim community, supported a church wide effort to become an Open and Affirming church, and had a Haiti fundraising dinner, spearheaded by Cindy McDonald and Erin Trodson which raised \$2,184 for an orphanage in Haiti. You also contributed 6 suitcases full of art supplies for Erin and Lily Trodson’s trip to work in a Haitian orphanage this spring.

Last fall, Cindy Buxton and Sue Davis met Freddie Bettinger at the dedication of the Habitat house in honor of her late husband Franz Hayes, for which a bequest from this church was donated. In February, we hosted a very impressive play about substance abuse written and directed by two young people who grew up in KCC. Many of you attended and some important conversations began. Our yearly Emig Lecture, also in February, featured Yvette Kenner from SPNM who spoke about the wonderful work we’re supporting through SPNM, to whom we gave a stipend of \$200. Our church joined with other South County churches, to begin the Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty and some of you signed post cards to send to legislators about important state legislation to that end.

We are excited about continuing our relationship with the Muslim Community, Haiti, SPNM, Jonnycake and RI IPL and look forward to increasing involvement with Habitat for Humanity and RI Interfaith Coalition to reduce poverty and the next exciting opportunity that is made known to us.

Respectfully submitted,
BOM/SJ: Cindy Buxton, Erin Trodson, co-chairs; Jim Findlay, Karen Johnson, Judi Parman, Ron Stevens

Board of Christian Education Annual Report July 2015 – June 2016

The CE Board had another successful year with our Church School Program and our Adult Education. The members of the Board included Jennifer Coleman, Carol Thornber, Michael McMahon and Paul Jacobs.

Church School:

From the Church School Director, Alice Babcock:

Our church school was directed with the help of many committed teachers and volunteers. Our attendance varied from week to week with an average of 15 children taking part each Sunday. We supplemented our regular curriculum with music and art projects. With the help of Lori Ann Hiener we had a children led service in June. The CE Board also hosted a pancake breakfast for the congregation following worship in April.

Chimes Choir:

Our Church School Director, Alice Babcock, has been leading both our youth and adults in a chimes choir that has been very successful and a very nice addition to our church school activities. We are hoping to continue with the use of music as a component in our church school curriculum.

Adult Education:

The Board of Christian Education has been actively promoting adult education as a component to our regular worship. With the help of Ernie Torres, we are planning on hosting an active program for our congregation in the fall.

Safe Church Policy:

The CE Board continues to update and amend the KCC policy to ensure that all members of the congregation are safe. With the help of our Pastor, Weldon Palmer, the CE Board, and others our goal is to stay up to date on any changes that need to be enacted.

The CE Board would like to thank our Church School Director, Alice Babcock and our Pastor, Weldon Palmer for their leadership and hard work. We are striving to expand our church school and adult education in the years to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael McMahon

Church School Annual Report July 2015 – June 2016

It has been another very busy and successful year for the church school program. During the summer of 2015, a special time was held for the children of the congregation. Each session was led by volunteers from the congregation with an average attendance of 6 -8.

Teachers for this year:

Nursery	Nancy Gardner
Pre K / K	Andrea Richardson – Jenn Coleman – Amy Coleman
Grade 1 /2	Katie Hopewood and Kileen Urian
Grade 3/4/5	Michelle Davis and Sarah Simeone
Grade 6/7/8	Amy Hubertus and Mike Coffey

Volunteers from the congregation were recruited to serve as classroom assistants. This provided additional supervision for the children while providing the opportunity for teachers to attend worship service. It also provided an opportunity for adults in our congregation to be part of our exciting Church School Program

For the 2015-2016 school year, the Christian Education Board chose to use a UCC curriculum titled “Shine”. This curriculum provided students with their own individual workbook as well as a resource guide with many different activity options for teachers. It explored both the Old and New Testament.

To increase the opportunities to participate in a music program, a chimes choir was established. Rehearsals were held each week following worship service. There were 5 adults and 4 children who participated. It was a great multi-generational experience for all.

The annual Christmas Play was directed by Lori Ann Hiener and was presented by the Church School children on December 13, 2015 as part of the worship service. This allowed many children to participate.

The school year concluded with the children conducting the worship service on June 19, 2016. Each class participated in a variety of ways including a participation in a play about why they like to go to church and church school. A brunch followed the worship service to honor the teachers and volunteers who lead the activities each week.

As Church School Director, I attended meetings of the Rhode Island Chapter of New England Association of United Christian Educators including the annual retreat held in May.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice C. Babcock
Church School Director

Board of Fellowship Annual Report 2015/2016

The Fellowship Board is an enterprising group responsible for creating social events that bring together our church community to get to know one another a little better – *esprit de corps!*

This year, the Fellowship Board hosted 7 events; almost all were held at the church immediately following worship:

- 2 Soup Sundays
- Advent Wreath Workshop
- February Chili Sunday
- Progressive Supper
- Kick off to Summer Barbeque

Attendance held steadily in our third year – with approximately 120 attendees. New members and visitors are always welcome.

Our board is very interested in hearing and making program adjustments, based on suggestions and feedback from the Congregation. In this regard, we cut Progressive Supper by one course and added free child care to make the event more accessible to young families and adults who prefer to be home earlier.

I want to extend my thanks to board members who work hard to make each event appear effortless: Tracy Heffron, JoAnn Pillar, Maureen White, Sarah Simeone and Diana Geisler. I would also like to thank Andy Cournoyer, Shirley Schock, Reverend Weldon Palmer and my husband, Mike McMahon for their unwavering support.

We are looking forward to creating an equally welcoming environment of fellowship and camaraderie in the coming year.

Respectfully,
Mary K. Daly
Board of Fellowship Chair

Annual Report- Flower Committee July 2015-June 2016

The Flower Committee continued its weekly responsibilities of organizing the donors of the floral arrangements and distributing the flowers in the sanctuary to those named in prayers. Each donor is required to pay \$50 for the arrangement. The payment is usually made by leaving a check in the collection plate or by mailing it to the office. The cost of the weekly arrangement is \$50 and our relationship with Kenyon's Floral continues to be positive. For the summer of 2015 the Flower Committee placed a green plant on the altar and did not provide weekly services. For the summer of 2016 the Flower Committee will once again provide a green plant for the altar. The committee is also implementing the Carry In/Carry Out Summer Flower program. This will allow individuals to either bring in their own flower display or call Kenyon's themselves to request an arrangement. If they chose to call Kenyon's they will be billed directly \$50 for the arrangement.

The Flower Committee decorated the sanctuary and church for Christmas with our traditional garlands and wreaths for the first Sunday of Advent and the poinsettia display at the altar for Christmas services. A total of 25 plants were ordered at \$15 each (cost of \$11 from Boy Scouts) and those that were not taken by purchasers were distributed to others and to shut-ins. This year the committee did the display with both red and white poinsettias.

The Flower Committee decorated the sanctuary for Easter with a display of lilies. A total of 30 plants for Easter 2016 were ordered at \$15 each (cost of \$11 from Boy Scouts) and those that were not taken by purchasers were distributed to others.

In the fall of 2015 the liner to the brass flower holder disappeared and needed to be replaced. During that time we used a substitute flower container provided by Kenyon Floral. A replacement liner was obtained in May 2016 after a tedious search.

Total costs for the Flower Committee for July 2015-June 2016 were \$2,610.35 and total revenue was \$2,705.00 resulting in a profit of \$94.65 for KCC. The Flower Committee will discuss tracking payments again to try to prevent future losses. Going forward the committee continues to consider new ideas and ways to increase efficiency and promote the floral activities of our church.

The Flower Committee is currently looking for two or three additional members as some members have left the committee or have expressed a desire to step down.

Respectively submitted,

2015-2016 Kingston Congregational Flower Committee:

Patti Steere, Co-chair	Jessie Kenyon, Co-chair
Erica Estus	
Beth Curtis	
Angela Haggerty	
Lora Hahn- Schubert	
Lynne Broderick	
Jamie Nelson	

Congregational Society in the Pettaquamscutt Purchase
Report of the Cemeteries Committee
May 11, 2016

Background - The Cemeteries Committee supervises three cemeteries: Old Fernwood and Tower Hill belong to the Society, and the Peckham Family Cemetery belonging to that family. The Tower Hill Cemetery, on the site of the first church building in the history of the Kingston Congregational Church, had its first burial in 1719 and in its last one, Bernon E. Helme, in 1944. Although inactive since then, it is still open for burials. The Peckham Family Cemetery is restricted to use by members of that family, but is cared for by our committee in accordance with an agreement made with the late Dorothy Peckham who contributed \$5,000 to our endowment for that purpose. Old Fernwood is divided into two parts: the original section was given by Elisha Reynolds Potter in 1826 for use by members of this Society and of the church, and by people living within one mile of the church or of the cemetery. The extension of Old Fernwood, landscaped in the 1960's and put into use in the 1990's, was given by Herbert J. Wells in 1927 for use by members of this Society and of the church and their families.

2015 - 2016 Report - Chris Faella, caretaker for New Fernwood Cemetery, is employed to cover the routine maintenance at Old Fernwood and the Peckham Cemeteries. Many thanks to Ann Ross, a member of our committee, who retires this year after tending to the entrance for many years. Tracy Heffron will take her place. Scott Wallace continues to provide maintenance at the Tower Hill Cemetery.

The committee still has not had an official report yet from Applied Bio Systems who were hired in 2012 by DOT to check the health of the amphibians living in the wetlands next to the road and cemetery. During the summer of 2015 the DOT cut down some large, dead trees bordering the cemetery. At a meeting of URI and the Town of SK in November 2015, even though both considered "fixing" Route 138 a priority, it appears that construction will not take place until 2021-22.

During the past year (May 2015-April 2016) the following death/interment took place: Sonia Aronian d. 11/17/15.

Our desire continues to have the cemeteries in every respect places of honor to the dead and of comfort to their relatives and friends. Lots remain available in both cemeteries with contributions to the endowment fund. Rates were raised on September 1, 2007 to \$600 for non-members and \$450 for members. Reservations may be made for future use, and a number of families have elected to have monuments placed on their lots even many years in advance of actual use, thus easing the burden on the family at a time of great sorrow. All reserved lots continue to be held in ownership by the Congregational Society in the Pettaquamscutt Purchase.

Respectfully submitted,

Cemetery Committee - Ann Ross, Jim Ross, Elizabeth McNab, Richard Shaw,
Tracy Heffron, and Jane Skogley