

# THE ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Building a loving, living church since 1807



**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF SOUTH DARTMOUTH, MA**  
*(United Church of Christ)*

*In Its  
213<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year*

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**April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 \* ANNUAL MEETING: TBD**

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**Church Officers (2019-2020)**

Church Moderator: David Neilson  
Vice Moderator: Kirk Niehoff  
Clerk: Kathy Pappas  
Treasurer: Anne Tangen  
Assistant Treasurer: Gale Litchfield

**Ministry Leaders**

Caregiving: Carol Flack/Jane Rioux  
Fellowship: Terry Cryan  
Finance: David Wyss  
Human Resources: Tenney Lantz  
Outreach: Gale Litchfield  
Religious Education: Linda Mello  
Worship: Lori Pettengill  
The Guild: Cecelia Roberts

**Church Staff (2019-2020)**

Pastor: Rev. Emily J. Kellar  
Office Administrator: Robin E. Lake  
Director of Religious Education: Elizabeth Neto  
Music Directors: Dr. Sarah H. McQuarrie/Dr. Ronald Sherwin

### Pastor's Report

It has been another good year of ministry at the Congregational Church of South Dartmouth, UCC. On Pentecost, Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup> the congregation called me to be the next settled minister. I had previously served as the designated term minister. I formally agreed to be the settled minister in a service on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Last June, I took a class at Yale Divinity School. The course was on the Prophets of the Hebrew Bible. The Youth Mission Trip returned to Camp Restore in New Orleans for a week of volunteering the end of June. In July I took a week of vacation and our family went out West to Colorado. August found me planning the church year and finishing a Fall sermon series on discipleship. We also had a church staff meeting in August to discuss the calendar for the upcoming program year.

In September, we started off our programming year with a lot of fun activities. We had the return of the monthly potluck dinner on September 4<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> Rally Sunday pulled us all together. The day was complete with a blessing of the backpacks as well as a church wide picnic. On September 15<sup>th</sup>, we commissioned the deacons. The new members joined us for breakfast on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> and on the 29<sup>th</sup> we received 17 new members during our worship service. We also had a lovely lunch on the 29<sup>th</sup> to say thank you to everyone who donated and helped with our Capital Campaign. It was a grand affair!

Confirmation, youth group and youth mission trip events began in October. The confirmation classes have been taught by me in my office on Sunday mornings. Beth Neto has been very helpful to me this year in sending out the confirmation communications. We have a nice confirmation group of four young people this year. We held a lunch for the confirmands and their mentors in October as well. The church read *White Fragility* in the fall and had a few book discussions. The topic was well received. In November, we observed All Saints Day and blessed prayer shawls. We also kicked off our stewardship campaign which was very successful. The youth mission trip group held two fundraisers as well in November. We have a nice group of youth and adults going on our trip this year. We hosted the Thanksgiving service with St. Peter's. It is nice to be able to collaborate with another church in the village.

December found us celebrating Advent with our weekly services. It was a joyous Christmas season at our church. The New Year began, and we continued to have our monthly potlucks which seem to be especially welcomed in the dark of winter. I began to plan Lent during this time. Our Ash Wednesday service was held on February 26<sup>th</sup>. We had planned to study *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by the Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor; however, our plan was interrupted by the pandemic. I took the confirmands on a fun retreat the first weekend of March before pandemic. The Rev. Bob Boynton passed away on March 7, 2020 and we held his memorial service on Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup>. That would be our last in person service at the time of my writing this Annual Report.

March of 2020 found our nation in a very different time. Lent had come and along with it the darkness of a pandemic. The virus, COVID-19 left many folks in their homes as a safety measure. We moved the church to an online platform on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. For four weeks we had video devotionals on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as our Sunday worship services. During Holy week we worshiped by video for our Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter services. Starting the week after Easter, we will have a weekly devotional on Wednesdays and worship on Sundays. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic the Adult Mission Trip has been canceled. I also had to cancel my retreat in the desert at the monastery. I am currently in the process of canceling the Youth Mission Trip. I anticipate that folks going on these two trips will most likely sign up to go next year!

Some things have continued this year as usual. I have served on the Old Colony Committee of Ministry and have been elected to be the Vice Chair of this committee. We oversee the ministers in the Old Colony Association and the ordination process for candidates. I have also continued to see my spiritual director monthly. I have done an online retreat with the Shalem Institute during the pandemic. The retreat is six weeks long and is called "Learning to Live from the Spiritual Heart". It has been helpful to have this centering space during this time for my changing ministry. I have always wanted to go to the Festival of Homiletics and found out this week that it is being offered free of charge online in May. I have signed up for that and was able to pay a small fee so that I can go back and view the sessions after they have been produced. The Festival attracts the best preachers in our country and is an incredible time of continued education in preaching. The church has also continued our weekly support of Mobile Ministries and we have kept George Bailey in our prayers as well as our homeless friends during this time of pandemic. We have also checked in with Mercy Meals and helped the United Way with a food drive at the Dartmouth YMCA.

At the time of writing this report, it is uncertain when we will have the following services: Confirmation, Church School Sunday and Baccalaureate. I am hopeful that we will slowly return to our regular programming in the months ahead. We have had many days of celebrating this year and I know in time we will return to the building and gather in person for worship. This time has taught us this one thing is for certain: that the church has never been the building – the church is the people. At this time the church has left the building and has been deployed out in the world. I pray this finds us gathered in person for an annual meeting where you are reading this report in the comfort of our pews!

In Christ's Service,

Rev. Emily Johnson Kellar

## Moderator's Report

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### Moderator's Report

This year I had the opportunity to oversee our church that is growing and continues to build on the love for each other and our community. I am not going to preempt our Ministry's reports that describe the details of all the activities that went on in our church life this year. I will just highlight some of the activities that brought our church even closer together. As you will see I am not a long-winded moderator, so this report will be short and sweet.

At our last annual meeting we voted to call Rev. Emily J. Kellar to be our settled pastor and she accepted that call. Rev. Emily J Kellar continues to provide us with a strong but loving and caring leadership, inspired spiritual worship service, and inspires us to take our church and its message out to the community.

The end of June our church's Youth Mission trip spent a very successful week in New Orleans, where we took 24 youth to help repair two homes and help with a children's' program in the lower 9<sup>th</sup> ward. Our youth not only learned about giving back to others but how it makes them feel inside. A big thanks to the six chaperons that helped with this Mission trip.

September 29<sup>th</sup> was a big day in our church. During our church service we received 17 new members that officially joined our church. It is so exciting to see our church family growing. After church, we celebrated the culmination of our very successful Capital Campaign. The Capital Campaign exceeded the goal of \$200,000, by over 10%. Over 120 of our church family helped celebrate by viewing a spectacular video put together by Brian Mikkelson and a fantastic elegant luncheon put on by the Guild. Thank you so much to Chairman, Ray Lantz and all the members of the Capital Campaign Committee for an exceptional job well done.

In December we kicked off our 2020 Stewardship Campaign, and by the end of January we completed the campaign where we engaged over 100 family units to pledge. Our 2020 pledges put us in a positive situation where we limit the use of our invested funds to an acceptable goal of just 4%, down 2% from the previous year.

While we were moving along nicely, filling our pews every Sunday, engaging church members in many activities both inside our walls and out in the community, and then COVID-19 hit. Now everything has changed and will continue to change for the near-term future. Pastor Emily has had to move to virtual church services along with weekday devotional messages. This has helped us to have some sense of connecting with the church, in a time when we really need it.

I would like to gratefully thank our congregation for allowing me to be part of our church operation. A special thanks to all our Ministries for providing real boots on the ground that make our church function.

Peace to all, and stay safe

Dave Neilson

## Record of Statistics for the Year: April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

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### In Memoriam

James K. White	May 27, 2019
Everett Hoag	August 18, 2019
Yvette Medeiros	December 6, 2019 (Non-Member Service)
William Hobbs	January 4, 2020
Barbara Daniels	February 17, 2020
Gardiner W. White	March 16, 2020

### Baptized into the Christian Faith

Joseph Alfred Sciuto	May 26, 2019
Haley Isabel Jenkins	June 16, 2019
Tiago Adamides	July 14, 2019
Anna Marie Duane	August 18, 2019
Sara Lynne Duane	August 18, 2019
Louisa Bennett Bermudez	September 22, 2019
Quinn Wood Bogle	September 29, 2019
John Patrick Quek	October 20, 2019
Theodore Raymond Forcier	November 24, 2019
Eric James Lindo	December 1, 2019

### Marriages in our Sanctuary

Lydia Armstrong/Andrew Kehl	June 15, 2019
Paige Beaton/Pieter Coulier	May 18, 2019 (Seamen's Bethel)

### New Members (No Confirmation)

#### New Members September 29, 2019

Hannah Bogle  
John Duell  
James Duane  
Carolyn Duane  
Andy Mellgard  
Lisa Mellgard  
Emily Mellgard  
Peter Miller  
Beth Miller  
Joe Sciuto  
Rebekah Sciuto  
Karin Wood  
Peter Bogle  
Linda Lally  
Tim Schaeffer

### Letter of Transfer:

Mark & Wanda Edwards	October 7, 2019
Theodore Thelin	June 28, 2019

\*Current Active Membership total: 317

**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

JUNE 9, 2019 @ 10:00 A.M.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Moderator, Brian Fernandes called the meeting to order.

**DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

Kathy Pappas, Clerk declared a quorum.

**OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Emily J. Kellar

**GREETING**

Brian Fernandes

**PASTOR'S REPORT**

Rev. Kellar briefly summarized her thoughts which are contained in the Annual Report. She urged us to continue our work together, to "light each other up."

**VOTE TO CALL REV. EMILY J. KELLAR AS SETTLED MINISTER**

A motion made (Cyndi Mikkelson) and seconded (Anne Whitney) to call Rev. Kellar as settled minister carried unanimously.

**ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS AND MINISTRY MEMBERS**

A motion to elect the church leadership as presented in the slate of church officers and ministry members made (Cyndi Mikkelson) and seconded (Lara Stone) carried unanimously.

**MODERATOR'S REPORT**

Outgoing moderator, Brian Fernandes presented his thoughts on his two years of leadership and was thanked by the congregation. Incoming moderator, David Neilson was welcomed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

David Neilson presented the Annual Report and requested congregants to consider joining one of the ministries in need of additional members.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Rev. Kellar

The meeting adjourned at 10:20.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Pappas, Clerk

**MINUTES  
YEARLY BUDGET MEETING  
January 26, 2020 @11:15 AM**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Emily Kellar

**DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

Kathy Pappas, Church Clerk, declared a quorum.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Moderator David Neilson called the meeting to order.

The purpose of this meeting was to present and to vote on the 2019 budget.

**ANNUAL BUDGET REPORT**

David Wyss presented the 2020 budget via the short form as follows:

- Total anticipated revenue: \$294,500
- Total anticipated expenditures: \$410,043
- Approximately \$1.5 million in invested funds
- Budget includes a 3% pay increase for church employees to begin in February.
- Net operating revenue for 2019 was better than expected with a draw on invested funds of 3.0%.
- Net operating revenue will be slightly less with an anticipated draw on invested funds of 4.2%.

Discussion was had regarding the following:

- Funds for music purchase and the reinstatement of the Music Committee: Currently the budget line for music is part of the Worship Ministry budget. Reinstatement of the Music Committee would require Council approval and a change in the By-Laws.
- Increased use of church facilities to raise revenue: Pastor Emily stated that the church is at its maximum use.
- Mission Trips Expense: Monies in this line like the flower fund expense are pass through items.

*A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2020 budget. The vote in favor was unanimous with no abstentions.*

The meeting adjourned at 11:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Pappas

Church Clerk

## **Caregiving Ministry**

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### **Caregiving Ministry**

#### The Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry graciously donates their yarn, time, and talents in creating gifts of love and prayer for church family, friends, and the greater community.

For the calendar year of 2019, 48 shawls were given to church family, friends, and the two mission trips.

For the 2019 Lenten project of donating basic necessity kits, including hand knitted washcloths, the Prayer Shawl Ministry made 55 washcloths. The ministry put together 30 kits for PAACA, along with 19 pairs of socks, paid for by the Prayer Shawl Ministry. The Religious Education Ministry bought and received donations for 25 kits, which were delivered to the New Bedford Women's Center. In all the kits, the children once again thoughtfully made "You Matter" cards.

For the May 12, 2019 Blessing of the Shawls, 17 shawls were blessed by Pastor Emily during the service.

On May 10, the ministry gave Pastor Emily 10 shawls to deliver on the Adult Mission Trip.

On May 26, the ministry gave Pastor Emily 10 shawls to deliver on the Youth Mission Trip.

For the November 17, 2019 Blessing of the Shawls, 18 shawls were blessed by Pastor Emily during the service as well as 211 hats. The ministry had reached out to the congregation for help with this project. We are so grateful to all for helping us to well exceed our goal. Eighty hats were delivered to both the New Bedford and Dartmouth Schools. The remaining 51 hats were divided between Mobile Ministries and the Smith Mills Nursery School.

#### The Lay Shepherds

The Lay Shepherds faithfully visit church members once a month. It is a very special time for those visited and for the Lay Shepherds to come together in fellowship and caring.

All those members eighty years and older receive a birthday card from the church.

Cards of concern and joy are also sent to church families during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Rioux, Chair  
Carol Flack, Co-Chair

## **Fellowship Ministry**

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### **Fellowship-Membership Ministry** “The Fun Ministry”

The Fellowship-Membership Ministry plans and coordinates programs and events to encourage social participation in the Church Community. It also strives to build and maintain membership and ensure a welcoming environment.

#### **2019 – 2020 ACTIVITIES**

##### **October 20– Nature Walk**

A beautiful walk at Audubon Allen’s Pond, led by Fred Dabney, drew a group of 12 people including several new members. It was a perfect, brisk but sunny day, and Fred showed us some gorgeous vistas overlooking the pond.

##### **November 16 – Your Theatre Performance with Social Hour**

Attendance just kept growing until we ended with 39 people for this Your Theatre performance of an Agatha Christie classic, preceded by a social hour at Terry and Peter Cryan’s home. Even though space was “cozy” for the pre-show get-together, it was clear that an opportunity to socialize before was appreciated and an important aspect of the event.

##### **February 8 – New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center with Social Hour**

A convivial group of 13 people enjoyed a concert of Irish music at the New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center, with drinks and appetizers first at the Harbor Hotel in New Bedford. Once again, having a social hour before the event was critical to encouraging fellowship.

##### **February 29 – Winter Pick-Me-Up at the Neilson’s Home**

This event, an experiment for this year, was a big success with 40 people attending. Dave and Linda Neilson were our hosts, opening their beautiful and spacious home. Everyone was assigned to bring an appetizer or beverage; the result was a table laden with delicious food and ample drink. Joe Ramage, a guitarist/singer and friend of Pete Miller’s, serenaded us with just the perfect touch of music. It was clear that everyone enjoyed themselves and welcomed the respite from the winter doldrums!

##### **March 7 – Family Movie Night**

A lively group of about 20 people, including kids, enjoyed a showing of Disney’s “Coco” right in our own church hall. Hotdogs and popcorn were served; it was a fun time for all.

##### **Spring 2020 – Plans Interrupted**

Plans were in place for a full schedule of fellowship events in spring: the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Congo Quiz Night in March, nature walk at DRNT’s Smith Farm Reserve for April, guided tour of historic Fairhaven in May, and a June Buzzards Bay Brewery outing. The arrival of the coronavirus pandemic forced us to cancel the full schedule, but we will be looking to bring them back in 2021.

### **NAME BADGES**

During the Feb. 29 party at the Neilson's, we were delighted to introduce a new style of name badges to be used during Sunday service and social hour. The intention was to unveil the new badges to the entire congregation in March. The pandemic and suspension of services in the church interrupted that plan, however. Once we are all together again in our beautiful sanctuary, we'll be proud to introduce the new badges.

### **MINISTRY MEMBERSHIP**

After 3 years on the Fellowship-Membership Ministry, Julie Rhind stepped down (although we keep her in our correspondence as an emeritus member). Thank you, Julie, for your service! This year we were delighted to welcome a new ministry member, Jeannie Gulbranson.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Cryan

Members: Richard Bachstein, Peter Cryan, Terry Cryan, Jeannie Gulbranson, Margaret Jones, Sue Lindblom, Beth Miller, Pete Miller, Lee Murray, Dave Neilson, Linda Neilson

### Financial Report

2019 was a successful year financially for the church. Last year's deficit of \$61,593 was down substantially from the year before, excluding the capital campaign and the one-time transfer from UCC investment funds. Contributions came almost exactly on budget. Costs were kept under control, and we had a reasonably normal winter, keeping utility and snow-removal costs down. Expenses excluding capital campaign projects were near budget, but capital campaign spending was substantially lower than anticipated, as several projects could not be completed, in part due to difficulty in getting bids.

The Finance Ministry members are: David Wyss (chair), Anne Tangen (Treasurer), Gale Litchfield (assistant treasurer), Steven Starrett, Kate Dabney, and Phillip Lennox.

2020 promises to be a very uncertain year. The church finances are healthy for the short run, but the uncertainties about the impact of the corona virus on the economy and financial markets make projections difficult. In the longer run we need to be committed to the ministry of the church with our time, talents, and money. We have been worried that with the church closed revenues would fall too far short. We would like to thank several members who have prepaid their pledges in response to our fears.

#### Stewardship

The annual stewardship campaign for 2020 has received 98 pledges for \$163,014, up from 86 pledges for \$155,262 at this time last year. We still expect to withdraw more than the preferred 4% until pledges (and the stock market) recover (excluding capital campaign funds). Thanks to the members of the Stewardship committee for their work, and to the congregation for its response.

#### Investment Report

2019 was a good year for investments, after a poor 2018. The stock market was up nearly 30% resulting in gains of \$206,240 on our investment portfolio with Schwab, to \$1.5 million at end 2019. Declines in the past month, however, have largely offset the 2019 gains, and we are back to \$1.3 million (March 31). There were net contributions of \$7,987 in stock to the fund.

#### Capital Campaign

The congregation responded enthusiastically to the capital campaign. 90 pledges were received for a total of \$226,500. Almost all of the funds have already been received. We would like to thank the congregation for contributing their pledged amounts early.

Spending the money is underway, with painting the exterior, work on the heating system, the ceiling in Schoening Hall, new front steps, and work in the kitchen. More work is needed on the heating system and the parking lot, as well as some additional landscaping work.

Respectfully submitted,

David Wyss, Finance Ministry Chair

<b>The Congregational Church of South Dartmouth</b>				
<b>Statement of Activity</b>				
<b>January 1 - December 31, 2019</b>				
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>	<b>% of budget</b>	<b>2020 Budget</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
<b>Total BEQUEST INCOME</b>	\$28,702	\$42,800	67	\$30,000
<b>Capital Campaign</b>	\$10,450	\$20,000	52	\$3,000
<b>CONTRIBUTION RECEIPTS</b>				
<b>Flower Fund income</b>	\$30			
<b>Total Loose Collection</b>	\$22,156	\$12,000	185	\$17,000
<b>Next Year Pledges</b>	\$29,860			
<b>Pledges - Current Year</b>	\$135,828			\$175,000
<b>Previous Year Pledges</b>	\$1,440			\$1,500
<b>Special Mission Donations</b>	\$2,961			\$2,500
<b>UCC Mission Contributions</b>	\$949			\$1,000
<b>Total CONTRIBUTION RECEIPTS</b>	\$193,224	\$186,322	104	\$197,000
<b>Total FACILITIES INCOME</b>	\$8,235	\$6,500	127	\$10,500
<b>Minister's Discretionary Fund</b>	\$5,075	\$1,000	508	\$1,000
<b>MISCELLANEOUS INCOME</b>				
<b>Other Income</b>	\$4,350	\$1,000		\$2,000
<b>Total MISCELLANEOUS INCOME</b>	\$5,029	\$8,000	63	\$4,000
<b>NON-OPERATIONAL INCOME</b>				
<b>Adult Mission Trip Income</b>	\$10,450	\$3,000		\$11,000
<b>Flower Income</b>	\$622		104	\$650
<b>Memorial Income</b>	\$25			\$350
<b>Memorial Plant Income</b>	\$665			\$500
<b>Scholarship Income</b>	\$2,111			\$2,000
<b>Youth Mission Trip Income</b>	\$34,725	\$33,000	105	\$35,000
<b>Total NON-OPERATIONAL INCOME</b>	\$48,598	\$36,000	135	\$49,500
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$299,313</b>	<b>\$298,872</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>\$295,000</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
<b>Total ADMINISTRATION</b>	\$58,672	\$62,702	94	\$60,432
<b>Total FELLOWSHIP</b>	\$0	\$400	0	\$425
<b>Total FINANCE AND PAYROLL</b>	\$427	\$372	115	\$400
<b>MISSION TRIPS</b>				
<b>Adult Mission Trip Expense</b>	\$9,525	\$30,000		\$35,000
<b>Youth Mission Trip Expense</b>	\$30,948	\$3,000		\$11,000
<b>Total MISSION TRIPS</b>	\$40,473	\$33,000	123	\$46,000
<b>OUTREACH / UCC</b>				
<b>Total OUTREACH</b>	\$13,139	\$14,450	91	\$16,380
<b>Total PASTORAL</b>	\$15,910	\$13,990	114	\$18,000
<b>Total Payroll Expenses</b>	\$95,724	\$65,464	146	\$102,596
<b>Total PROPERTY</b>	\$125,669	\$180,603	70	\$128,238
<b>Total RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b>	\$23,509	\$23,525	100	\$24,215
<b>Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expenditure</b>	\$0			
<b>Total WORSHIP</b>	\$8,917	\$8,585	104	\$9,300
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$382,440</b>	<b>\$455,938</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>\$405,986</b>
<b>Net Operating Revenue</b>	<b>-\$83,127</b>	<b>-\$157,066</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>-\$110,986</b>
<b>% of invested funds</b>		<b>-12.1%</b>		<b>-7.4%</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>				
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$31,984	\$100,000	32	\$52,876
<b>Contributions</b>	\$10,450	\$20,000	52	\$3,000
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>-\$21,534</b>	<b>-\$80,000</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>-\$49,876</b>
<b>Revenue net of capital campaign</b>	\$288,863	\$278,872	104	\$292,000
<b>Expenditures net of capital campaign</b>	\$350,456	\$355,938	98	\$353,111
<b>Draw on invested funds net of capital campaign</b>	<b>-\$61,593</b>	<b>-\$77,066</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>-\$61,111</b>
<b>%</b>		<b>-4.7%</b>		<b>-4.1%</b>

**Reconciliation Schwab Investment Balances**

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**Schwab Investment Account**

Change in Account Value	2017	2018
Starting Value	\$806,672.55	\$1,310,554.38
Deposits & Withdrawals	383,000.00	30,067.00
Fees & Charges	0	0
Transfers	10,004.50	4,601.45
Change in Value of Investments	93,256.40	-94,772.30
Ending Value on 12/31/2017	1,310,554.38	1,250,450.55
Total Change in Account Value: Including Deposits and Withdrawals	503,881.83	-60,103.83

**Property Committee Report**

The Property Committee of the Congregational Church of South Dartmouth is charged with the responsibility of managing and overseeing all major maintenance and repair projects in and around the church and Parsonage properties. The group is a component of the Finance Committee. This group also depends greatly on Robin Lake's observations and sharing of noted issues in and around the building. Robin also coordinates all routine inspections on the property such as Fire Safety and Kitchen related inspections.

Over the past year the group has met periodically to review both short-term and long-term projects. At the end of last year, we finished up with the exterior painting of the church. Since that time, we have begun a review of the current heating system to improve its performance in all parts of the building. All floors in the entire building were cleaned and waxed where appropriate. The window in the bell tower was replaced due to its deterioration. The screen doors at the Parsonage were replaced and significant costs were realized because of church members being able to professionally install them for no cost. A RING Doorbell system was installed to provide additional security for our staff and property. After purchasing an AED last year, we also coordinated Adult CPR training at the church for church members and staff.

This group continues to review the list provided by the Capital Campaign as identified projects and works to prioritize these as much as possible. We have successfully completed many of the projects on that list.

As always, we thank the congregation for its patience during the completion of these projects. We work hard to not have them interfere with our worship experience as much as possible.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cecelia Roberts  
Chair, Property Committee

## Outreach Ministry

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### Outreach Ministry 2020 Annual Report Summary

The purpose of the Outreach Ministry is to lead the church in programs of witness and outreach, in order that the life of God experienced in our midst may be shared with the community locally, nationally, and worldwide. We are also responsible for allocating the congregation's mission funds.

From July 2019 to the beginning of March 2020, the Outreach Ministry was very busy carrying out our mandate to serve others in our community, nation and the world. Our members were serving meals to those in need at Sister Rose's soup kitchen. We were gathering food to deliver to the food pantry at the Dartmouth Council on Aging for families and the elderly. We were volunteering at Mobile Ministries and collecting toiletries for Mercy Meals and More. We were collecting donations for the Salvation Army Turkey Drive. We were wrapping gifts for Holiday Hope. Our hands were reaching out to our community through the Red Cross Blood Drive. We were decorating a Christmas tree with warm mittens, gloves, scarves and hats for some Dartmouth school children in need.

And while our ministry was doing all these activities, we were in deep and thoughtful research and deliberations regarding the allocation of the mission funds that the congregation entrusts Outreach Ministry with each year.

It is an awesome task.

Our process is to invite the congregation to nominate worthy organizations for consideration. Then we research them and determine the best way to use available funds. We ask ourselves the question: "Will our support make a meaningful difference to the organization?" The donations come from about 7- 7.5% of weekly collections and donations. We also contribute throughout the year with special offerings such as UCC Neighbors in Need and our Christmas Eve offering. The UCC provides a variety of support services critical to our church and has programs dedicated to advocacy both here and abroad. Our church also supports the MA Conference of the UCC.

The total amount our church donated combining Outreach Funds and Special Offerings was \$11058 to-date.

At the beginning of 2020, just as Outreach was starting to focus on spring and summer projects, everything came to a grinding halt with the arrival of the pandemic. All future plans and projects were put on hold, where things remain at the writing of this report.

We thank the members of our congregation for their support of the Outreach Ministry both financially and by volunteering. We also recognize other groups and individuals in our church who organize and carry out various drives, donations and participate in many of our community's service organizations. You, too, are carrying out our church's outreach mission to serve others.

### Outreach Funding

Following is a brief description of the organizations our church supported in 2020 and the amount donated to each:

**Interchurch Council of Greater New Bedford** **\$1000.**

ICC's purpose is to foster cooperative Christian service and fellowship among churches and other interested organizations of the Greater New Bedford area. Projects focus on attainment of social, economic and racial justice. Our church is a member of the ICC and supportive of its many programs.

**The Hunger Commission** **\$500.**

The Hunger Commission is the only local program that coordinated food distribution to emergency food pantries and kitchens. They organize food drives, collect donations and make deliveries to soup kitchens and food pantries throughout the South Coast focusing on New Bedford. They work with Sharing the Harvest and other local vendors to increase the distribution of fresh produce.

**Mercy Meals and More** **\$250.**

Mercy Meals and More provides a free healthy breakfast served at tables to clients in need. Clients can also get free donated clothing and books. Local student nurses come weekly to offer a variety of screening tests and to work in the foot clinic. We support both the breakfast program and the foot clinic.

**Nativity Preparatory School** **\$1000.**

Nativity Prep is an independent, tuition free middle school for boys from low-income families in the New Bedford area. The school provides a challenging and supportive learning environment and high-quality education. Parent volunteers are expected so that all parties have a vested interest in the school and their child's success. 100% of the funding comes from private sources.

**Our Sisters School** **\$1000.**

The school is a private, tuition free middle school for girls from low-income families, similar to the Nativity Prep model. The mission is to educate and inspire girls to reach their full potential through small classes, personalized guidance and expanded school days.

**Sharing the Harvest Community Farm Project** **\$500.**

Sharing the Harvest is a program of the Dartmouth YMCA. Their objective is to alleviate hunger by growing and providing fresh produce for local consumption. They also seek to promote volunteerism and awareness of hunger in our area and teach volunteers about farming and nutrition. The Hunger Commission distributes their produce to area food pantries, soup kitchens and other food programs. Our donation was designated for their Seed Program.

## **Outreach Ministry (Continued)**

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### **Boys and Girls Club of Greater New Bedford**

**\$500.**

Club Programs and services provide a stimulating and wholesome atmosphere for a diverse group of youth from 7-18 years of age. The Club places a strong focus on youth residing in public housing and disadvantaged neighborhoods. Services include homework help, with tutors from UMass Dartmouth, a basketball league, Health Habits food program, summer programs and more.

### **PAACA Insight Youth Services Program**

**\$500.**

Insight is the youth services program of Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction (PAACA). This program provides support services for young people affected by substance abuse and HIV and works with them to strengthen their coping skills, resources, and educational achievement in order to help them overcome challenges in their lives.

### **Project MEMA**

**\$1000.**

Making Education in Moshi Accessible (MEMA) seeks to enrich the lives of children by promoting education and healthy living in Moshi, Tanzania. Simple improvements (chalkboards, benches, and sanitary latrines and running water) have had a meaningful impact on the educational experience and outcomes. MEMA also sponsors several students through secondary school by paying their tuition and expenses.

### **UCC International Emergencies Fund**

**\$500.**

The UCC through UCC/Disciples' Global Ministries and membership in worldwide church humanitarian organizations is deeply involved in refugee emergency relief and creating durable solutions for refugees. Donations to the IEF enable the UCC to support specific refugee crises.

### **Youth Opportunities Unlimited, Inc.**

**\$500.**

This is a New Bedford program, which funds field trips and after school activities for children ages 9-16. They have extended summer programs which include reading challenges, gardening and cooking classes.

### **Children's Advocacy Center**

**\$500.**

Provides funding for children and families identified through the Bristol Court system, including legal services and counseling.

### **Mobile Ministries**

**\$500.**

Their mission is to bring lunches and gently used clothing to the homeless in our area, meeting them where they are on the streets of New Bedford. Our church supports this outreach effort both financially and through volunteering to make and serve meals and distribute clothing at the truck.

**Empower Her**

**\$250.**

Their mission is to empower, support and connect girls and young women who have experienced the loss of their mothers. They offer events, mentorship and virtual programming for girls and young women up to age 24. The organization was founded in 2013 in Boston and now has chapters nationally. Our funding was designated for a local chapter.

**Special Offerings**

During the past year, our church sponsored several offerings to support specific causes and programs. They are as follows:

**UCC Neighbors in Need**

**\$330.**

This is a special UCC offering to support ministries of justice and compassion for disenfranchised people in the US. One third goes to Christian missions among the Native Americans. The balance goes to social advocacy and justice programs for the neediest populations in our country.

**The Salvation Army**

**\$1300.**

This is the proceeds from our Thanksgiving “Turkey Sale” for food assistance in our community, providing meals and groceries in response to a significant ongoing need.

**Christmas Offering**

**\$928.**

Our Christmas Eve offering was donated to Mobile Ministries to support their effort to feed and provide clothing to those in need in our community.

**Non-Monetary Giving**

*Gifts of time, food and toiletries*

**Blood Drive**

In conjunction with our local American Red Cross chapter, Outreach promoted, organized and administered a successful blood drive at the church on July 28th. Donors came from the congregation and the community. It was well attended.

**Sister Rose’s House Soup Kitchen**

Serves a hot lunch to clients at the facility at 73 Division Street in the South End of NB. We recruit volunteers to help serve lunch once a month.

**Holiday Hope**

Our congregation provided gifts to 35 individuals through the Child and Family Services program, Holiday Hope.

### **Dartmouth Council on Aging**

The congregation contributes non-perishable food items to the Food Pantry at the Council on Aging on a regular basis.

### **Mobile Ministries, Mercy Meals and More, COA**

We collected toiletries throughout the year and share them with the above organizations.

### **Mitten Tree**

With a special effort by the Sunday School, the Children's Circle and the Congregation we decorated a Christmas Tree with mittens, gloves and scarves. We delivered the items to Potter School to be distributed to children in need served by the school.

### **Good News**

In closing, Outreach Ministry would like to share some **Good News**.

All the checks for the mission funding have been sent to the organizations that our church supports. The last check sent in February was to the YMCA Farm in Dartmouth for their Seed Program. So, your generosity toward Outreach efforts is alive and well and growing in the greenhouses on Gulf Road. Those sprouts represent hope and capture the essence of our Outreach commitment to continue helping our neighbors...always.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gale Litchfield, Chair, Mission and Outreach

Ministry Members

Betty Morgan (through 2020), Carol Flack, Bill Flack, Derrick Jones, Gale Beaton, Alice Root

## **Religious Education Ministry**

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### **Religious Education Ministry**

#### **Sunday School:**

September kicked off our Rally Day celebration! The children filled the church and our hearts as we began a new year of learning! **“A Heart for Jesus”** is our theme. This online, bible based, curriculum leads us on a journey of Jesus’ birth, to resurrection, to ascension. Children discover that Jesus is a real person—a real friend—who makes a difference in their lives today. Weekly lessons include scripture readings, experiments, crafts, games, music, and real-life applications which deepen their understanding of Jesus.

“Spending time with Jesus” is new this year! Children take turns bringing home a backpack that contains a stuffed Jesus doll and a journal. Children are encouraged to spend time with Jesus and write about it in the journal. Each week the child who had Jesus gets to share their adventures together.

All Sunday School teachers and crib room specialist received mandatory training in September to comply with our safe church policy. All first aid kits were updated, and a fire safety drill is in the works.

Our Sunday School families volunteered at the Hunger Heroes program from the United Way in November. They helped to prepare 500 Thanksgiving packages to families in need.

Our amazing Sunday School children made the beautiful Advent wreath again this year. Bundling greens to arrange in the wreath has become a loved tradition. Linda Lally oversees the arranging and preparations. Our Christmas Pageant “A Heart for Jesus,” took our Sunday School theme to a new level. Dr. Sarah McQuarrie chose “In the Bleak Midwinter,” as the song that was woven throughout the heartfelt pageant. The last verse of the song “What can I give you, poor as I am ... Give my heart.” The beloved story of Jesus’ birth breathed new life with a few new props, costumes and beautiful music!

#### **Adopt-A-Grandparent:**

RE is very excited about our new Adopt-A-Grandparent program! We paired 18 willing children and “grandparents” together and met monthly to build relationships! In October we painted pumpkins together. In November we prepared yummy apple crisp. Pairs enjoyed ornament making in December. We also made many cards for the beloved Rev. Bob Boynton. Gratitude was our theme in January as we created gratitude jars and journals. In February we had an amazing Valentines party, with pizza, fruit, dessert, card making, crafts, and games. From all of these activities, new relationships flourished, and parents got a welcomed night off!

#### **Youth Group:**

Our Youth Group, led by teen Jenn Isaacs, Pastor Emily, and Samantha Cunha, got off to a great start with an ice cream social. GaGa Ball was a big hit in October. Teens helped to clean up the CCSD thrift sale in November. We had two teams of teens represent us at the DEF Spelling Bee, and Sam Cunha too! Cookie decorating and delivery was a big hit in December! Many of our wisest church members enjoyed visits from these amazing teens! A family dinner was enjoyed at Fay’s in January. Teens were hoping for a spontaneous sledding date with Pastor Emily this winter, but the snow never came! March brought an opportunity to serve at Mobile Ministries. Seeing these teens in action is so beautiful!

### **Confirmation:**

Our four fabulous confirmands Will Fairfax, Grace Ribeiro, Nathaniel Mello and Myles Neto are such a blessing to Pastor Emily as she walks them through the steps of confirmation. They have enjoyed meetings monthly with Pastor Emily, a luncheon with their sponsors, an amazing experience at the synagogue, and an overnight Confirmation Retreat in Craigsville, MA. A special thank you to David Neilson for chaperoning! Our Confirmation is tentatively scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **RE Activities:**

Our fabulous RE Team enjoys getting together once a month to plan activities that build relationships within our church family, our community, and the world. Andrea heads or “Blessing Bag” incentive by organizing supplies and keeping bags filled. Our RE team sent out five care packages (gift cards and words of encouragement) in October to our Freshman college kids to let them know their church family loves and supports them.

Our Sunday School continues to support Clara. Clara is nine-year-old girl from Tanzania. She is attending boarding school to give her a future and stability. We sent her clothing for Christmas and she was very appreciative! We continue to reach out to families who haven’t attended church in a while with cards, phone calls and prayers.

Every RE meeting ends with an experiment from our Sunday School curriculum.

Children’s Sunday is tentatively planned for May 19<sup>th</sup>. Children will celebrate their “Heart for Jesus!”

Baccalaureate Sunday normally takes place the first Sunday in June. Prayers for our 12 seniors who will be graduating with or without the usual activities.

### **RE Members:**

Linda Mello (chair), Beth Neto (RE director), Karen & Steve Banno, Katie Christianson, Kristy Charest, Lara Stone & Andrea Vigus

Respectfully Submitted by:

Beth Neto/ RE Director

## **Worship Ministry**

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### **Worship Ministry**

I write this report under very uncertain times in our world and consequently in our church as well. A global pandemic has shut down our face to face church services since mid-March of this year. Since our worship ministry is in charge of all church services, we have all been without our “job” for the past few weeks. It is strange and surreal. The good news is that Pastor Emily has been working very diligently along with our music directors, Dr. Sarah H. McQuarrie and Dr. Ronald Sherwin to provide our church community with virtual services during Lent. Pastor Emily will continue to provide our beloved community with Sunday services online and a short service on Wednesdays.

The months prior to the pandemic, our church services were lively, spiritual and full of fellowship. I took over as the chairperson of our Worship Ministry in September of 2019. We would like to thank Jonathan Gray for his leadership while he served as head of the Deacons. He helped to create a group of friends who are willing to pitch in to help each other make our church services run smoothly.

Our deacons include Sally Lemelin, Jon Gray, Linda Keith, Margo Moore, Elizabeth Nichols, Sue Sullivan, Michael Gouveia and our newest youth deacon, Nate Stone. We would like to thank Ridley Rhind and Pam Payton for their hard work and dedication while serving as deacons.

Our church community is a loving group of worshipers who truly care for one another. We hope to return to our beloved church to worship together in the near future.

Peace to all.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Pettengill, Chair

### The Guild Ministry

In May of 2018, the Women's Guild was voted in and accepted as a full ministry of the Congregational Church of South Dartmouth. Our bylaws were revised to reflect mission and purpose of our church. Our Ministry team is open and welcoming to both men and women.

Since that time the Guild has maintained the majority of its activities from recent years. We held our Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 Rummage Sales which were both very successful financially as well as serving the greater community through the customers who came to shop as well as our donations to so many local organizations. Our Financial Report is also included which identifies the various local organizations that we were able to support. The Guild hosted a "Santa's Attic" sale which included all things Christmas as well as our beloved Rose Murphy's meat pie sale. We were also able to do other projects in and around the church which are also outlined in our report. We have been blessed with many volunteers from our church community and others from outside of our own membership. Our events could not be as successful without this help.

At this point in time, we have room on our Ministry for one more individual, man or woman, to join us. Our meetings are held monthly. We look forward to the year ahead in our efforts to support our pastor, church and community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cecelia Roberts  
Chair, Guild Ministry

## The Guild Ministry (Continued)

	<b>Contributions</b>	
04/02/2018	CCSD Capital Campaign	2500
05/07/2018	CCSD Capital Campaign	2500
05/09/2018	Humaine Society So. Coast- Lynne Davidson Memorial Donation	50
05/23/2018	CCSD Scholarship Fund	500
05/23/2018	CCSD- Minister's Discretionary Fund	1000
10/28/2018	Gifts to Give- Underwear Fund	500
12/19/2018	CCSD- Poinsettias	45
01/03/2019	Mobile Ministries- to Fund Truck	800
01/03/2019	Interchurch Council- 24 hr. Homeless Count	500
01/03/2019	Rose Grant- Council on Aging Alzheimers Support Group	300
01/03/2019	Magnificat Liturgical Artwork- New Ordinary Time Paraments for CCSD Sanctuary	360
02/05/2019	New Desk & File Cabinet for Rev. Kellar's Office	414.35
02/05/2019	New Office Curtains for Rev. Kellar	130.35
02/05/2019	Paint for Rev. Kellar's Office	200.38
03/07/2019	Contribution towards New Children's Circle Preschool Classroom Chairs	400
		<b>\$ 10,200.08</b>
	<b>Expenditures</b>	
04/01/2018	Supplies for Rev. EM Installation	29.71
04/18/2018	Rummage Signs, Date changes & Additional signs	91
04/30/2018	Tags & Attachers	28.67
05/07/2018	Marybeth Starrett- replacement bag for her tent which was lost when we borrowed	61.45
05/09/2018	Garlington- Memorial Flowers?	28.49
05/23/2018	Installation Food	45.23
06/06/2018	New Gazebo-Pop Up tent for Pre School- after damaged beyond repair during rummage sale	129.99
08/06/2018	Boynton Collation	309.03
09/12/2018	Rummage Signs- Date Changes	42
10/12/2018	Seconds Count- 2 New Rounder Racks	50
10/23/2018	Savers Truck	69.23
10/31/2018	Rummage Price Tags	10.62
10 & 11 2018	Meat Pie Ingredients & Holiday Fair Food	542.77
11/07/2018	Town of Dartmouth- Kitchen License	300
11/20/2018	Holiday Fair Signs	90
01/09/2019	Tablecloth Factory- New Ivory Tablecloths for LSH: 52" Square (10), 8' Banquet (4), 6' Banquet(4)	130.27
01/09/2019	Touch up paint for LSH	24.62
03/07/2019	Two Large rounder Racks for Rummage	85
		<b>\$ 2,068.08</b>
	<b>Funds Raised</b>	<b>\$ 14,533.33</b>
2018	Spring Rummage	
	Friday	3410.81
	Saturday	2359.5
	Misc. Late	202.34
		<b>5972.65</b>
2018	Consignment Check	<b>\$ 359.75</b>
2018	Fall Rummage	
	Friday	2779.99
	Saturday	2581.25
	Misc. Late	258.4
	Savers	373.18
		<b>\$ 5,992.82</b>
2018	Holiday Fair	
	Santa's Attic	751.61
	Raffle	335
	Luncheon- Gross receipts	489.5
	Meat Pies- Gross receipts	632
		<b>\$ 2,208.11</b>
2018	Other Deposits-Not income	
	Savers- Truck Rental Reimbursement- Fall Rummage	<b>\$ 75.00</b>
04/01/2019	Checkbook Balance	<b>\$ 9,078.18</b>