

**South Church in Andover, UCC**  
**ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT**  
**June 1, 2024 - May 31, 2025**



*May 2025*

**Special Congregational Meeting**  
**June 15, 2025**

*41 Central Street*  
*Andover, Massachusetts 01810*  
*[www.southchurch.com](http://www.southchurch.com)*

***South Church in Andover***  
***United Church of Christ***  
**2025 ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT**  
**June 1, 2024 – May 31, 2025**

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## ***Report of the Moderator***

As my first year as Moderator concludes, I am impressed by the many volunteers who make South Church a vibrant worship community and support system. Our outreach includes The Giving Garden, Farmers Market, Mission Partners, Bread & Roses, Neighbors in Need, Habitat, Weekend of Service, and more. South Church extends its support to marginalized individuals through initiatives such as the Social Justice Coalition and SC Pride, among other efforts. Financially, 20% of the revenue that flows into South Church goes to charitable causes. South Church has added 50 new members during the past 15 months.

We have much to celebrate. Many thanks to the Building Team (Betsy Davis, Mike Krale, Marty Mason and Andy Brien) that have provided endless hours and exceptional expertise in leading the efforts to identify, plan and implement the many renovation projects now underway. Also, many thanks to the Capital Campaign team led by Kate Jagger and Al Joyall who, with the generosity of the Congregation and friends, successfully raised over \$3,000,000 to allow these projects to happen and replenish the Building Fund. Let's not forget Dana, who without her many hours and travel as well as skillful and thoughtful discussions with many current and past members, we would not have reached the \$3,000,000 goal.

With the leadership of our Facilities Team (Brenda Bryan, John Wiggins, Emily Strong, Char Lyons and Tim Ozirsky) and the support of the Trustees, South Church is expanding its historical cemetery with the creation of the Memorial Garden and columbarium.

Our growing music program inspires diverse offerings during services and reaches out to families and adolescents, bringing them into our church community.

These initiatives and projects highlight the vibrancy and dedication of South Church's congregation. As we move forward, it is crucial to nurture this momentum by continually fostering connections within and beyond our community. Our commitment to outreach, inclusivity, and service is not just a reflection of our faith but also a beacon of hope in times of uncertainty.

Looking ahead, there are exciting opportunities to expand our mission. Strengthening our partnerships with local organizations, exploring new avenues for social impact, and encouraging even greater participation from our members will ensure that South Church remains a cornerstone of spiritual and community life. Together, we can continue to boldly embody God's love and compassion for many years to come.

*Dennis Forgue, Moderator*

## ***Report of the Senior Pastor***

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." The prophet Isaiah's words have echoed through this transformational year at South Church. As we undertook our most ambitious capital campaign in over two decades, God has indeed been doing a new thing among us—and we have had the privilege of perceiving it unfold.

"Rooted in Faith, Growing in Hope" wasn't merely a campaign slogan; it became our lived experience. In April, when we reached our \$3 million goal—the largest capital campaign in our church's history—we weren't just celebrating fundraising success. We were witnessing the power of a community prepared to comprehend God's continued call on our lives.

This program year has been defined by both extraordinary achievement and profound transition. Here's what faithfulness looked like at South Church in this past year:

## **The Capital Campaign: A Testament to Community**

Leading our first major capital campaign in over 20 years required me to step into new dimensions of pastoral leadership. I conducted 65 individual meetings—meaningful conversations that went far beyond financial pledges. These were sacred encounters where I listened to dreams, concerns, hopes, and the deep love our members hold for this place.

Working alongside our Capital Campaign Cabinet, led by co-chairs Kate Jagger and Allan Joyall, and our dedicated Building Team, we engaged with Ruotolo & Associates to guide us through this comprehensive process. From the beginning—starting with our feasibility study—there was remarkable support and positivity throughout our congregation.

The campaign encompassed critical building projects including:

- Redesign of the chancel and sanctuary
- Installation of a comprehensive fire suppression system
- Sanctuary window repair and storm window replacement
- Kitchen renovation
- Steeple painting and repairs
- Various accessibility compliance improvements
- Sustainability initiatives including heat pump installation

Rev. Dr. Mary Luti's potluck conversation on "Sacred Spaces" in February helped us understand the theological foundations of our building work. The building tours—including our memorable journey into the steeple—allowed the congregation to see firsthand both the beauty and the needs of our historic structure.

This year was dedicated to the intensive work of fundraising, architectural planning with Spencer Preservation Group, contractor coordination with BW Kennedy, and constant communication with our congregation. The transition to worship at Cochran Chapel at Phillips Academy beginning April 27th marked a significant milestone as our renovation work began in earnest.

## **Pastoral Growth and Learning**

My commitment to continuing education took a significant leap forward this year through my connection with Princeton Theological Seminary. I completed 50 hours of professional coaching training, equipping me with both a skill set and a mindset that will enhance my work with staff, lay leaders, and in pastoral care.

## **A Life Worth Working: Expanding Our Voice**

In April, I launched an exciting new venture with church member, Dr. Michelle Weise: "A Life Worth Working" podcast. Together we explore the "soul of work"—helping people discover more hopeful and expansive views of the role of work in their lives.

Our conversations dive deep into questions of calling, purpose, and meaning-making in professional life. The podcast has already reached listeners in 25 countries, suggesting a hunger for the kind of thoughtful reflection on work and purpose that we're offering. Through guests like Scarlett Lewis, whose son Jesse was killed at Sandy Hook Elementary, we explore how people transform profound challenges into purposeful work.

This podcast represents an extension of South Church's mission beyond our walls, offering spiritual wisdom and practical insight to anyone seeking to align their work with their deepest values.

## **Staff Excellence and Transitions**

Our staff continued to demonstrate exceptional dedication throughout this intensive year. They navigated the complexities of the capital campaign, the logistics of moving worship to Phillips Academy, and the ongoing pastoral needs of our congregation with grace and professionalism.

We celebrated Brian Gruhn's contributions as he transitioned from his role with us, and we welcomed Amy Morris as our new administrative assistant. Her fresh energy and organizational skills have been a blessing as we manage the many moving pieces of this transitional time.

## **Looking Forward: Deep Roots, New Growth**

As I enter my 12th year as Senior Pastor, I'm struck by both the deep roots we've established together and the remarkable growth that continues to unfold. The capital campaign has strengthened our bonds as a community and clarified our vision for faithful, bold ministry.

Thank you for the profound privilege of serving as your Senior Pastor. This year required new levels of leadership, patience, and trust—from all of us. Together, we've proven that when a community is rooted in faith and growing in hope, there's no limit to what God can accomplish through us.

As we look toward our renewed sanctuary and the ministry that awaits us there, I'm filled with excitement for all that lies ahead. The best chapters of South Church's story are still being written, and I couldn't be more grateful to be writing them alongside you.

*In faith, hope, and love, Pastor Dana Allen Walsh*

## ***Report of the Associate Pastor***

As I round out my third year here at South Church, I've been reflecting on the ways that God has been moving among us, doing a new thing in our midst. This has been a year of creativity and expansion as we navigate change together, and I am blessed to be part of this journey with you all.

This has been a big year for innovation in worship planning. We have moved our worship to Cochran Chapel this summer, navigating together all of the creative challenges that come with gathering in a new space. We have also developed a number of virtual worship services this year, some tucked away for emergency use, and three for planned Sundays in May and June when we could not gather in person. These big shifts in our worship life have pushed us to reimagine our typical Sunday worship, shaking up our assumptions and calling us into creativity and intentionality. Throughout the year, Liturgical Arts installations, prayer stations, and prayer guides have highlighted and deepened our themes, and this past Fall, we gathered in the chapel for a small contemporary worship night, which is part of a larger goal of mine to create more opportunities for creative worship in smaller, nontraditional settings. As we prepare to re-gather in our space with a new sanctuary—and a new labyrinth outside!—I look forward to seeing how our worshiping life will be further enriched and transformed by the possibilities these new spaces provide!

I have also been dedicating some time this year to strengthening relationships with the wider church and the community. I have met with folks from local organizations including Merrimack Valley Project, Veterans and First Responders Ministry, the Robb Center, Communities Together, and Andover Rotary. I am also a member of the Andover Interfaith Clergy Group, part of a local UCC Clergy Community of Practice, a member at large of the board for the Northeast Association of the Southern New England Conference, and the chair of the board for Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center (where I also serve on the Personnel Committee).

I have also had some wonderful opportunities for creativity and professional development. As a member of NGLI, I have spent the past year studying Family Systems Theory and receiving career counseling through a licensed FST coach. I have also begun publishing on the writing platform Substack, where I write about the intersection of faith, politics, and everyday life (my page is called Tricks of Radiance—you can check it out at [tricksofradiance.substack.com](https://tricksofradiance.substack.com)).

Community and Creativity have been the big themes of my year, and I have relished each opportunity to learn and explore with others. There is no doubt that the Spirit is on the move in our midst, and I look forward to seeing where God takes us next!

*Together on the Way, Genna Hosterman*

## ***Report of the Minister of Visitation***

These past 15 years with you have confirmed the call I felt when accepting this part time position in March 2010.

My official job description is to assist and represent the senior pastor, associate pastor, and South Church in assisting with the coordination of pastoral care and visiting needs. This involves visits to hospitals, nursing homes and members' homes, and working in collaboration with the Deacons' Care and Calling committee.

Some highlights of the past year have included:

- Coordinating the monthly worship and communion service at Edgewood
- Participating in the South Church Choir and singing for Edgewood services
- Praying and visiting with members of the church in the hospital, nursing homes or in their own private residences

It has been my privilege to serve with you in the ministry of South Church this past year. A special word of thanks goes to Dana Allen Walsh and Genna Hosterman for their support, encouragement, and leadership. It has truly been a joy to be a part of the outstanding and caring staff and to have my life touched in such tender ways by the congregation of this beloved church.

*Your sister in Christ, Sherry Tupper*

## ***Report of the Minister of Music***

*We laughed, we sang, we couldn't believe our good fortune. We were the talk of the nations.*

*"God was wonderful to them!" God was wonderful to us; we are one happy people.*

*-Psalm 126:2-3 (MSG)*

It has been a year of celebration for the Music Ministry at South Church! Our programs continue to see growth, nourishing and engaging all who participate, and uplifting worship with instruments tuned for praise. God is good!

We were blessed to welcome Shannon Eldridge to the Music Staff this year. Shannon comes to us with years of experience, especially in musical theatre; she was a gift to the Hive Choir while they took the lead on The Bee Suite cantata this year. She also specializes in working with preschoolers; our youngest musicians loved to sing and dance with her in the Sunday HoneyComb group. Having multiple children's choir directors enables us to provide simultaneous programming which is best for busy families. Her enthusiasm is contagious!

Our two new instrumental ensembles for youth, South Strings TOO and South Church Ringers TOO, met in alternating 3-4 week sessions throughout the year and provided music for worship at the end of each session. The Bee Suite, our youth choir program, saw the most growth in the middle- and high-school choir, Sting; so much so that we will be dividing them into two separate groups in the fall: Swarm for middle schoolers and Sting for high schoolers. We are very excited about this expansion!

We have found new opportunities for outreach into the community this year, with the Noteworthy Choir (directed by Vic Olmstead), South Strings TOO (directed by Julie Diehl with assistance from Sally Lincoln Vogel), the high schoolers in Sting (directed by Michaela Barczak), members of Crossroads, and the Sanctuary Choir all went to Edgewood to offer special music for worship. We also had groups go and sing during the Weekend of Service and for Christmas Caroling at local retirement and nursing homes, under the leadership of the Music team.

In preparation for construction to the chancel area, a team of people (Bob Tigelaar, Brian Diehl, Martha Beesley, Marty Mason, Mike Krale, and Vic Olmstead) continued assessing how to proceed with the issues that the Bozeman Organ has, plus researching how to prepare the chancel so that it has the ability to support a potential future pipe organ in the front. With a majority of the musicians (including singers from every choir) in the front of the sanctuary after construction and the organ in the back, the current organ will really only be useful for leading congregational singing. While there are no plans in place now, we wanted to be sure we were planning for the future in the current renovations. Consultant Jonathan Ortloff has been very helpful in working with the team to determine how we might proceed in the future. It is fun to think about the potential that God may have in store for us.

Hymnist Carlton Buck writes, “In song let God be glorified, for God is able to provide the music for the singer’s art, as song God places in the heart. God gave us music, gave us voice; sing alleluia and rejoice! We lift in faith secure and song the sacred word through sacred song.” Let us continue forth with music ever-filling our hearts!

*Grace & Peace, Cathy Meyer*

## ***Report of the Minister of Youth & Families***

Before setting off for the mission trip, I read a passage from Morgan Harper Nichols’ book, *You Are Only Just Beginning* to our chaperones. As I look back on this past year, this passage has framed the past year of community building and faith deepening experiences of our children and youth.

“Elephants are deeply intelligent and relational creatures. They soothe their cry babies and hold funerals for the deceased. They play and fight and reconcile. They are present to themselves and each other. That’s real community – caring for each other. Each herd is led by a single matriarch, to whom the rest of the herd looks for wisdom. They rely on one another for protection and never travel alone – always traveling as a true herd...As I step out in a new adventure, I often find myself asking, *Who’s in my herd?*”

All our children and youth programs center around being a safe place of belonging where kids across all ages can know and feel that they are loved by us and by God. We create opportunities for kids to ask and see who’s in their herd, who cares for them, who supports them, who will celebrate who they are and who they are becoming. We saw that belonging at Kids’ Summer Kick Off, as 37 kids learned about the mysteries of faith, love, prayer. We have over 100 kids at Summer of Service practice and discover how they are rooted in community. During our school year, belonging was fostered through weekly youth group gatherings and Sunday School. Belonging was created at youth groups in moments of sharing snacks, playing games, and exploring Scripture –at one point, one of our newer kids asked if it was okay to be part of the youth group even though they didn’t know what they believed – OF COURSE, YOU BELONG HERE! Over the course of the year, this journey of belonging was built through our senior class meetings, middle school overnights, and our annual high school mission trip. Our 21 kids on the mission trip shared how fun it is to create such a close knit community in a matter of one week – how we can learn about God with and from

each other even when we start off as strangers. Creating a safe place for me is a priority and it was so fun to see the ways that 75 kids felt safe running around the sanctuary during the egg hunt.

In one poignant moment this year one of our teens shouted out to me, “how many parental figures have I gained since being here?” If that doesn’t shout “who’s in my herd,” I’m not sure what does. It is a gift to witness how these kids create and expand their herds here and are willing to really explore God and faith with each other. What a blessing and privilege to be part of a kid’s herd.

Joyfully, *Taylor Graffum*

## ***Report of the Faith Formation Ministry***

The Adult Faith Formation program continues to challenge, support and delight the participants in our various groups. Theology on Tap has explored such topics as Faith and Creativity, Joy, Vulnerability, the Transformational Love of God and other enriching subjects. We have 2 Bible Study groups: Seekers has continued to read, discuss and learn from women in both the Old and New Testament; the Friday evening Bible Study group worked through Exodus, our Star Words, some of the Psalms and a variety of Paul’s letters to the early Christian Communities. Faith Forum continues to offer Climate/Faith issues for discussion on the first Sunday of each month. On the other Sundays, we delve into topics ranging from the current political challenges to books and articles that help deepen our faith. All groups welcome new members with the exception of the Friday Bible Study group which is at capacity.

*Chris Ouimet*

## ***Report of the Spiritual Life Ministry***

The Spiritual Life Ministry’s function is to facilitate the many ways that we worship God and share God’s love in our community.

The Worship Deacons were busy fine tuning additional procedures including an update on the Virtual Deacon role. They found great meaning reading the Congregation’s written prayers at the monthly meetings and prayed over them afterward. For over a year, the Deacons held respectful debates and spiritual discussions on Applause during worship. They shared a very thoughtful letter on Applause with the Congregation and held an in-person meeting to listen to everyone’s views. We encourage ongoing dialogues on the topic with the senior Pastors, staff, and the Spiritual Life Ministry.

The Care and Calling Deacons performed wonderful work connecting and serving Congregation members who cannot come to Church for a variety of reasons. Their outreach included cards, letters, holiday plant deliveries, transportation for doctor’s appointments, and meal deliveries. This

year, their service expanded to Home Communion thanks to Pastor Dana who offered training to the group.

Digital Deacons played an important role in welcoming our online worshipers and enabling their prayers to be shared with the in-person congregation. These roles were filled by Worship Deacons and dedicated volunteers.

Ushers and Greeters welcomed returning and new attendees with such joy. Scheduling Acolytes remained a challenge. We hope the new sanctuary will spark renewed interest from our youth.

Our Flower Team brightened the Sanctuary with colorful arrangements each Sunday. Finding consistent volunteers to deliver flowers to members of our Congregation after service was a continued challenge.

Our Music team led by Cathy Meyers produced wonderful performances and sound each week unmatched by any other Church in the area. Please see her report for more details.

Our A/V and Sound team were unsung heroes who worked behind the scenes to produce a consistent, smooth, and high-quality live stream of our Sunday service for online worshipers. They took on a new task of producing Dana's podcasts.

Lastly, we spent countless hours planning our move to Cochran Chapel. The Spiritual Life Leads were asked to coordinate with staff and other Ministries to ensure the transition went as smoothly as possible. The biggest issue was deciding on how to live stream from the new space. The team created an excellent plan using some existing equipment and some new equipment which will provide new capabilities once we return to our own building.

This past year was such joy and success because of everyone's involvement. In-person worship numbers were up, and Music and the Choir took our breath away just to name a few. Thanks to all for volunteering your time!

*Donna Stewert and Ben Li, Co-Chairs*

## ***Report of the Delegates of the Northeast Association***

NE Association, UCC, 11th Annual meeting, May 18, 2025 was held at Tewksbury Congregational Church. Present from South Church were Rev. Genna Hosterman, Rev. Roger Lier, and Janet Clarke, NEA Representative.

A time of fellowship was held prior to the meeting

The business meeting was smoothly managed with online details of budget, and nominating, and annual report/minutes were quickly reviewed and accepted.

Rev. Genna Hosterman, is a member at large on the Board of Directors and Kath Mason is a member of the committee of formation.

The Association voted to remove Central Congregational Church of Lynn from being in covenant with the United Church of Christ via the Northeast Association of the Southern New England Conference. The church has had no contact with the NEA for many years and has repeatedly not answered inquiries, or knocks on their door about their church and its affiliation or operation.

Rev. Katie Omberg led an interactive discussion of the new *Manual on Local Church* which describes the three way covenant of the UCC churches, People-UCC- God, and the description of connections and best practices- a great resource for the functioning churches.

A worship service, led by Rev. Baxter Chism, Tewksbury Congregational Church, followed the meeting.

*Submitted by Janet Clarke, Delegate to the NEA*

## ***Report of the Delegates of the SNEUCC***

The 5th Annual Meeting of the SNEUCC on June 22-23, 2024 took place at UMASS Amherst and was attended via Zoom on Saturday by delegates Janet Clarke, Susan Henke, and Lindsay Pacios. Rev. Jenna Hosterman attended in person both days.

The 5th Annual Meeting of the SNEUCC left me spirit-filled, excited, and relieved.

I was left spirit-filled and excited by the tone and content of the meeting, and Darrell Goodwin's spirited presence. The excitement built with Goodwin's sermon on "Build the Church on the Rock," the keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Erica Stange-Tregear's inspiring message, "God's Math," and the announcement of FindHopeNow.org. Darrell Goodwin's presence and obvious leadership, and mutual love of the conference, the staff, and the BOD were clear.

Relieved—that I feel the new conference has finally come together!

### **Three Areas for Follow Through This Year:**

#### **1. FINDHOPENOW.ORG**

Website on Facebook and Instagram, inviting all to Find Hope Now.

Here is Darrell's story:

Driving to work, he saw many fundamentalist Christian billboards asking, "Are you saved?" He vowed to counter that message with a message of Hope, God's Inclusive Love, and Radical Welcome—advertising the UCC message. He bought the website NeedHopeNow.org, worked with staff and consultants, and it is now online, on Facebook and Instagram. In one month, it had 130,000+ hits, leading people to churches in their area and was overwhelmingly successful in this first trial. A big roll-out is planned for July. We are invited to add our own stories to the website. I think this will be the equivalent of the Still Speaking Campaign of the past and will be adopted by the UCC.

Each of us should check it out and refer others to view it. Show it to all. Add our own stories to the website.

## **2. WISE: Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged**

An initiative of the National UCC, a resolution passed at Synod to foster a welcoming environment for people with mental health challenges.

The WISE Resolution passed overwhelmingly and was adopted by the SNEUCC.

Now congregations may choose to become WISE Congregations, much like becoming ONA, through a process of education and discernment.

There is much I don't know about how the process will be set out, but I do know that South Church has a long history of welcoming people with mental health needs and setting up special programs when needed. David Strong has suggested that the conference delegates in the future present this program to Council to be considered.

## **3. The Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Erica Stange-Tregear – “God’s Math”**

I want to offer this half-hour presentation to the congregation to come and see, perhaps several times. It is inspiring and dynamic to hear her speak—her message of people working together, either spontaneously or with great planning, using your gifts when there is need. A standard message, but beautifully presented.

This is the way of faithful people and congregations.

*Janet Clarke, SNEUCC delegate*

## ***Report of the Nominating Team (Human Resources Ministry)***

This year's proposed nominating slate can be viewed on the following page. This includes moderator, treasurer, 12 ministry leads and approximately 78 chartered team members and delegates to local and regional UCC meetings. We have quite a few members trying out new things this year, and for this we are thankful. A few open spots remain, but Nominating remains committed to working with interested individuals to fill those.

We are so grateful to have engaged with so many folks during the nominating season this year. We truly appreciate everyone's thoughtful and prayerful consideration, whether they accepted a nominated position or not. Not to be forgotten are the many folks who faithfully serve South Church as part of self-guided teams and ad-hoc teams who are not listed on the nominated slate. Those teams perform some of the most important work of the church and we appreciate all of you!

South Church provides so many opportunities for those with so many interests and talents. If you are interested in participating in any listed or non-listed roles, we encourage you to reach out to the Nominating team to explore these opportunities.

*Faithfully submitted, David Jagger & Susan Henke*

|  |   |   |   |  |                            |
|--|---|---|---|--|----------------------------|
| Moderator: Dennis Forgue                   | Treasurer: Anne Hemmer  | Clerk: OPEN   |   |  |                            |
| <b>Spiritual Life Ministry</b>             | <b>Ben Li (2026)</b>  | <b>Linda Mesler (2027)</b>  | <b>Finance</b>                              | <b>Scott Corning (2026)</b>  | <b>Liss Sellers (2026)</b> |
| Care and Calling                           | Meredith Moody (2026)   | Robin Murray (2026)   | Finance                                     | Al Joyall (2027)   | Steve Cortner (2027)       |
|  | Eileen Forgue (2026)  | Judy Olmstead (2026)  |   | Tom Nicholson (2027)   |                            |
|  | Peg Little (2026)   | Beth Groff (2026)   | Annual Giving                               | David Strong (2027)  | Mike Rottman (2027)        |
| Worship Deacons                            | Marge Chiafery (2026) - Head<br>Martin McGrath (2026)<br>Rachel Combs (2026)<br>Dave Floreen (2026)<br>Betsy Hopkins (2026)<br>Steve Longo (2026)<br>Linda Mesler (2026)<br>Iric Rex (2027)<br>Valerie MacKenzie (2027) | Janis Hill (2026) - Head<br>Kath Mason (2026)<br>Linda Zimmerman (2026)<br>Janet Clarke (2026)<br>Bob Tigelaar (2026)<br>Ben Li (2026)<br>Amie Hellauer (2026)<br>Gavin Kelly (2026)<br>Jan Holden (2027) | Memorial Gifts                              | Char Lyons (Lead 2026)<br>Jennifer Bouchard (2026)<br>Eric Stubenhaus (2026) |                            |
| Audio-visual team                          | Justin Bacchi (2026) Co-Lead  | Tom Appleton (2026) Co-Lead   | Investment                                  | Scott Corning (2021)   |                            |
|  | Lucas Bacchi (2026)   | Bill Stewart (2026)   |   | Lenore Price (2027)  |                            |
|  | Doug Bacchi (2026)  |   |   | Ron Hill (2029)  |                            |
| New Members                                | Laurie Sorota (2026) Co-Lead  | Janna Roop (2027) Co-Lead   | Sunday Offering Coordinator                 | Martin McGrath (2026)  |                            |
|  | Scar Holbrook (2026)  | Judy Olmstead (2026)  |   |  |                            |
|  | Katie Holden (2027)   |   |   |  |                            |
| Music                                      | Lauren Sprague (2026)   | Zach Hosterman (2027)   |   |  |                            |
| <b>Faith Formation</b>                     | <b>Chris Ouimet (2026)</b>  | <b>Heather Shows (2027)</b>   | <b>Human Resources</b>                      | <b>Dave Jagger (2026)</b>  |                            |
| Youth & Family Faith Formation Team (YFFT) | Heather Saniuk (2026)   | Jim Sheehan (2027)  | Nominating                                  | Stephanie Aude (2028)  | Dave Jagger (2026)         |
|  | Stephanie Michael (2026)  | Eleanor Storch (2027)   |   |  |                            |
|  |   |   | Delegates - Northeast Association           | Willa Rapp (2026)  | Donna Stewart (2026)       |
| <b>Community Service</b>                   | <b>Lori Wyckoff (2026)</b>  | <b>Amy Joyall (2026)</b>  |   | Janet Clarke (2026)  | Valerie MacKenzie (2026)   |
| Missions                                   | Rachel Daniels (2026) Co-Lead   | Cheryl Kralej (2026) Co-Lead  |   |  |                            |
|  | Brenda Cronin (2026)  | Cindy Ozirsky (2026)  | Delegates - Southern New England Conference | Susan Henke (2026)   | Katie Holden (2026)        |
|  | Andrea Stidsen (2026)   | Kristie Nardini (2026)  |   | Janet Clarke (2026)  | Valerie MacKenzie (2026)   |
|  | Laura Jordan (2026)   | Marie Machacek (2026)   |   |  |                            |
|  | Ann Marie Cortner (2026)  | Laura Rex (2026)  | <b>Congregational Life</b>                  | <b>Jan Holden (2026)</b>   | <b>OPEN</b>                |
|  | Alyson Shaw (2026)  |   | Fellowship                                  | Team Lead - OPEN   |                            |
| <b>Facilities</b>                          | <b>Brenda Bryan (2026)</b>  | <b>OPEN</b>   |   | John Sievers (2026)  | Donna Stewart (2027)       |
|  | Page Bouchard (2026)  | Emily Strong (2026)   |   | Monica Reedy (2027)  | Anil Bhandari (2027)       |
|  | Char Lyons (2026) Cemetery  |   |   |  |                            |
| Information Technology                     | Tim Ozirsky (2026) Co-Lead  | Lucas Bacchi (2026) Co-Lead   |   |  |                            |
|  | Bill Stewart (2026)   |   |   |  |                            |

## *Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting* *South Church in Andover, United Church of Christ* Sunday June 12, 2024

The minutes from the previous Annual Meeting were not submitted by the publication deadline but will be added to the record and made available as soon as they are received.

## *Minutes of 314th Annual Meeting* *South Church in Andover United Church of Christ* February 4, 2025

The 314th Annual Meeting of South Church in Andover was held in Church Sanctuary and online via Zoom. After Wayne Shaw, Clerk recognized a quorum of 50 voting members in the Sanctuary and on Zoom, Dennis Forgue, Moderator called the meeting to order.

#### *Opening Prayer*

Reverend Dana Allen Walsh opened the meeting with a prayer.

#### *Celebration of our Decade Anniversary*

Members Dennis Forgue recognized our five 50 year members and then went on to recognize our 40, 30, 20 and 10 year members.

#### *Capital Campaign Update*

Kate Jagger and Al Joyall, Co-Chairs of the Capital Campaign Committee updated the Congregation. To date the Campaign has raised \$2,853,272. They went on to thank the Congregation, Campaign Team, Building Team, Church Staff and Reverend Walsh for their significant contributions to the Campaign. They also introduced a special opportunity to the congregation where an anonymous donor has offered to match all future donations up to \$75,000.

#### *Building Team Update*

Marty Mason from the Building Team presented the current status of the construction projects funded by the Capital Campaign. Work continues putting together detailed design documents and engaging contractors to bid on the planned projects. The Chancel design has been changed, moving the wheel chair ramp to the opposite side of the Sanctuary.

#### *Alternate Worship Plans During Construction*

Reverend Walsh updated the Church on worship plans during construction. Beginning on Sunday, April 27th, 2025, we will be holding our worship services at the Cochran Chapel at Phillips Academy (2 Chapel Avenue, Andover). The chapel is located just a half-mile from South Church. Phillips Academy leadership is “enthusiastic” about their support of South Church during this time of construction and has offered the usage of the chapel free-of-charge. Approved by Council February 24, 2025 Our regular 10:00 AM worship time will continue in this temporary location. Please note that on May 11th, June 1st, and June 8th, we will hold virtual-only services due to previously scheduled events at Phillips Academy.

#### *Important Details for Your Sunday Experience:*

- Nursery Care and Sunday School: Continue through May 18th (except May 11th), utilizing classrooms below the Cochran Chapel sanctuary.
- Fellowship Hour: Refreshments will be served either on the chapel front steps or in the narthex (provided we have enough volunteers! Click here to sign up!).
- Accessibility: The chapel is fully accessible via the side entrance on Chapel Road, with an elevator inside.
- Parking: Available in the adjacent lot (except for spots marked for Andover Inn) and along Bartlett and School Streets.
- Music Ministry: Continues with both the piano and organ available at the Cochran Chapel.
- Sacred Rituals: Our baptismal font and communion table will both be available to us.

- Livestream: We're hopeful we'll be able to livestream worship each week from the Cochran Chapel.

We are grateful to Phillips Academy for their generous hospitality, which builds upon our centuries-old connection. The Academy's founder, Samuel Phillips Jr., was the grandson of Samuel Phillips, who served as our congregation's first pastor beginning in 1711. While this temporary relocation represents a change in our usual routine, we look forward to gathering in this historic space as our beloved sanctuary undergoes important renovations.

There will be more information in the coming weeks. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Pastor Walsh, Pastor Genna, Dennis Forgue (Moderator), or our Deacons.

#### *2024 Year in Review*

Nora Pelt put together a year in review presentation which was shown at the meeting.

#### *2025 Church Budget*

Dennis Forgue began the budget presentation by highlighting the over \$200,000 in charitable contributions the Church made in 2024. He went on to present the budget highlights, David Strong then presented an update on Annual Giving. A summary of the 2025 budget was presented and a motion was put forward at the meeting.

#### *Vote*

**Motion to approve the 2025 budget as printed on pages four and five of the 2024 Annual Financial Reports dated February 2, 2025.**

The moderator declared that the 2025 Budget was approved by a unanimous vote in the Sanctuary and online.

#### *Closing Prayer*

Having no further business Reverend Walsh closed the Annual Meeting in prayer.

*Wayne Shaw, Clerk*