

South Church in Andover, UCC
ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT
June 1, 2025 - May 31, 2026



Special Congregational Meeting
May 31, 2026

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South Church in Andover
United Church of Christ
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Report of the Moderator

The past year has encompassed remarkable accomplishments, growth in our membership and church attendance, further development of our internal programming, community outreach, growth of the Giving Garden and the Andover Farmers market and when needed the compassionate and loving support of church members and families.

A year ago we were worshiping in the Cochran Chapel. A shout-out to the AV team and Worship Deacons who weekly transported various equipment and supplies that allowed us to successfully manage our remote summer worship. For the AV team this included the successful continuation of the on-line access of services so important to many members and non-members. There were also numerous volunteers that addressed the many details needed to pull off the remote worship.

In September, we gathered at our beautifully redesigned and renovated sanctuary. The vision of a worship space that could accommodate our choirs, various musical groups, clergy, our communion table and baptismal bowl, and any number of young people for the children's message while retaining the historical architecture was a remarkable and inspired accomplishment. Shout-outs to the Building Team, Capital Campaign Committee, Facilities Ministry, Andy Brien and the AV Team, Pastor Dana and staff, who all worked tirelessly to make this happen.

Our church continues to prosper. Average in-person attendance is up 7% for the past 12 months and more than 33% over the past 4 years. We've added 19 new members since June of 2025 and more than 50 over the past 2.5 years. South Church's online streaming presence has continued to grow. Comparing the last two program years, our YouTube concurrent views (the number of people tuning in live at the same time) rose by 25%, and total views of our worship services climbed by 8%. More people than ever are joining us from wherever they are, and that's something to celebrate!

Our music program continues to be exceptional including participants spanning more than 80 years in age. (Yes, participants as young as infants to seniors more than 80 years of age.) The youth programs continue to flourish and reach out to youth, many who seek community and acceptance for various reasons. Missions continue to thrive with 19% of the funds passing through South Church dedicated to charitable causes, local, regional and worldwide.

Community Outreach continues to develop with our work with the Giving Garden, Andover Farmer's Market, Bread and Roses, Neighbors in Need, Habitat for Humanity, Day of Service, Summer of Service and more. Faith Formation, the Social Justice Coalition, South Church Pride and the Green Team continue to keep us focused on the larger issues that impact our world.

In an effort to look forward, Council has recently appointed a strategic advisory team known as SEED (Strategic Engagement and Emerging Directions). This is an ad-hoc team of the South Church Council called together to offer strategic counsel and recommendations on matters of organizational priority, long range planning, and missional vision. Rooted in prayer and a

shared commitment to discerning God's call for South Church, SEED brings focused energy and collective wisdom to the holy work of planning and discernment. The team carries no independent governance authority. Its recommendations are brought forward to the Church Council for deliberate and prayerful action. Membership is appointed by the Church Council, Moderator and Senior Pastor. SEED convenes as needed and dissolves or reconvenes at the discretion of the Church Council. Initial members are Greg Galat, Mike Kraley, Amie Hellauer, Kate Jagger, Dennis Forgue and Pastor Dana.

South Church is blessed by exceptional clergy leadership and a skilled and dedicated administrative and facilities team. We've updated our Call-letter with Pastor Dana as she enters her 13th year as Senior Pastor. Together as a Church Community and with Dana's pastoral leadership we can continue to boldly embody God's love and compassion for many years to come.

*With Gratitude,
Dennis Forgue, Moderator*

Report of the Senior Pastor

Good People,

The prophet Jeremiah told the exiles to build houses, plant gardens, and seek the flourishing of the city where they found themselves. Put down roots. Invest. Believe that flourishing is possible even here, even now.

South Church, we have been doing exactly that. What a year it has been.

We literally, physically, joyfully came home to our sanctuary, beautifully restored, and we worshipped together with a gratitude that was almost too large to hold. Homecoming Sunday felt like a resurrection. And I do not use that word lightly.

The "Rooted in Faith, Growing in Hope" capital campaign was a resounding success — a testament to the generosity, vision, and deep love of this congregation for its spiritual home. We set out to build something beautiful together. And we did.

This annual report is a chance to pause — amid all the doing and giving and going — and notice what God has been up to in this place. The short version: a great deal.

We are a congregation that is growing — in worship attendance, in financial health, in depth of engagement. Our preaching year began with "Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Tables" — a series that named and claimed who we are as a congregation of radical welcome. Advent invited us into "The Wonder of It All," slowing down to receive the season with open hands. And our Lenten series, "Sacred Blessings for Real Life," focused on meeting people honestly in their exhaustion, disappointment, and broken heartedness. We held memorial services for beloved members, showing in the hard moments of grief and loss, as South Church does.

We have a staff that is healthy and strong. Nora Kay Pelt stepped into the newly defined role of Director of Operations & Communications — a well-deserved elevation that positions us well for the years ahead. We gave thanks this year for Joanne Smith's fifteen years of faithful service as our Finance Administrator. Joanne brought steadiness, integrity, and care to that role, and her legacy is written into the financial health of this congregation. We are equally grateful to welcome Nicole Sirginiao on board. Nicole has brought deep expertise and a collaborative spirit — working in close partnership with our Treasurer, Anne Hemmer, and with Joanne to ensure a smooth and confident transition. She also brings valuable perspective from the other congregations she serves, strengthening our financial practices in ways that will benefit South Church for years to come. This summer, Cathy and Taylor will each take well-earned sabbaticals. This fall, I will take mine — September 15 through December 7 — with Pastor Genna leading with full confidence in my absence. Sabbaticals are a way we care for the health and longevity of our staff. They are a theological commitment to the practice of sabbath rest, and I am deeply grateful for a congregation that knows and supports this truth.

South Church continues to be a community hub in the Merrimack Valley. The Andover Farmers Market and the Giving Garden continue to root us as we seek to build connections while feeding our hungry neighbors. This year we welcomed more people than ever through our doors — through Lumos concerts that filled our space with music and new faces, through the YMCA's expanded presence in our building, and through the many community partners who call South Church home. We are not just a church for our members. We are a church for our community. We developed an ICE policy to protect the dignity of all who enter our doors, and released a public statement regarding our Scout Troop. We are a congregation with both a backbone and a heart, and we continued to lead from both. Our newly formed SEED team — Strategic Engagement, Emerging Directions — has begun exploring new possibilities for expanding our capacity to incubate local mission. These conversations are early, and they are alive with possibility.

This fall will mark twenty years since I was ordained to ministry, and thirteen of those years have been spent with you, right here in Andover. This call has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. This, I head into sabbatical not depleted, but full — full of gratitude for what has been, and full of hope for what is coming.

Thank you, South Church, for building, planting, and seeking the flourishing of this community.

*With deep gratitude and great hope,
Pastor Dana*

Report of the Associate Pastor

As I think about the highlights of this year—our fourth year of ministry together—I'm struck by how much of my work (within and beyond the walls of South Church) has focused on this question: how do we build systems that bring greater joy and strength to our work together?

There is so much that we have built together this year that I am proud of. To name just a few (the list goes on): a streamlined pastoral care system, a visioning process and a restructure of our Worship Deacons, a successful annual giving campaign, improvements to our New Members programming, mentorship and mutual ministry with our Student Minister Rob Heinze, and my favorite women's retreat yet! I am humbled and grateful to serve at a church that shows up to our life together, and brings whatever is needed—spreadsheets or songbooks or casseroles, and especially, open hearts and ready hands.

I have also been about the work of representing South Church in the broader community. I have served for 3 years as a Member at Large on the Board of Directors for the Northeast Association of the Southern New England Conference, and will serve next year as Treasurer. I am also rounding out my third year on the Rolling Ridge Board of Directors, and my first year as Chair.

In the midst of this, I have been fortunate to continue in my third year of NGLI (a cohort-based leadership program through the UCC), with programming this year focused on faith-based community organizing. I was also honored to be selected for an Emerging Leaders Fellowship through Auburn Theological Seminary. The program began with a gathering this past Fall on the grounds of Washington National Cathedral, and continued through the year with Zoom sessions that focused on helping us to explore together how we can best live out our faith values in our political and communal lives.

In every arena, my conversations this year seem to lead me back to the hard and holy work of community. And I remain grateful, as always, that I get to do this work with this particular community of compassionate and creative people. Here's to another year being the church together!

*Yours in faith,
Genna*

Report of the Minister of Visitation

These past 16 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 with 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. A special word of thanks goes to our pastors Dana and Genna for their support, encouragement, and leadership. It has truly been a joy to be a part of this 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

*My heart is steadfast, O God; My heart is steadfast. I will sing and make melody.
-Psalm 57:7 (NRSVUE)*

It has been another joyful and growth-filled year for the Music Ministry at South Church. Across every age group and ensemble, we continue to see new faces, deeper engagement, and a shared excitement for making music together in worship and in the community. We are grateful for the many ways music continues to connect people, nurture faith, and strengthen relationships throughout the church. God continues to bless this ministry abundantly.

This year, we welcomed two new faces to our music staff. Sara Durkin, who is working on a PhD in Music Education at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, was hired to direct the high school Sting Choir, but her vast experience and expertise made her an incredible asset to the whole choral program. Adrien Jippov, who graduated from the Berklee College of Music in Composition in May 2026, led our Wednesday Nectar choir for the year. Both Sara and Adrien's energy and warmth helped foster both musical growth and community among participants, and we are grateful for the many gifts they have brought to South Church.

We were also excited to launch a new concert series this year, creating opportunities for both South Church musicians and guest artists to share music in our space. The series has already brought new visitors into the church, strengthened community partnerships, and highlighted the importance of the arts as part of our ministry and outreach. The concerts included the annual Halloween Organ & Light Show, the Andover Bell Festival, a new Candlelight Christmas Concert, the Jazz Disciples, a Celtic Concert featuring incredible South Church musicians, pianist Ashley Liu, and a collaboration with Phillips Academy featuring music by local composer Kevin Siegfried. We look forward to continuing and expanding this offering in the years ahead.

We also welcomed two new Musicians in Residence. The first, Polaris Flute Ensemble, provides not only the performance opportunities for its members, but musical experiences for members of the North Shore communities, including churches, senior living facilities, local

events, special occasions such as weddings/funerals among others. They will host and coordinate master classes for youths from middle and high school surrounding communities and give them opportunities to learn from, and occasionally play, with professional musicians. Secondly, mezzo-soprano Kathryn Findlen will be doing a variety of things, including leading workshops on vocal technique, audition preparation, wellness and singing, singing in retirement, as well as providing coaching sessions with members of our choirs. We are excited to see where these partnerships will take us!

As our ministry continues to grow, we remain deeply thankful for the dedicated staff (Michaela O'Brien, Shannon Eldridge, Sara Durkin, and Adrien Jippov) and Music Team (Lauren Dooley Sprague and Zachery Hosterman), as well as the many musicians, volunteers, and parents, who make all of this possible. Whether singing in a choir, ringing handbells, playing an instrument, leading or helping with rehearsals, or supporting programs behind the scenes, each person contributes to our vibrant and welcoming musical community. We give thanks for another year of music, ministry, and growth at South Church, and we look forward with excitement and hope to all that lies ahead!

*Grace & Peace,
Cathy Meyer*

Report of the Minister of Youth & Families

This year our mission trip theme was Hold Fast based on Romans 12:9, which says “Let your love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good.” As I look back on this past year, I am filled with joy as I reflect on how our community has held fast to what is good. Goodness has been at the heart of our youth programs. In the summer, there was countless good work done by our summer interns as they led creatively and collaboratively. Summer of Service had 3 completely filled weeks of over 100 kids embodying goodness through their laughter, dedication to serving the community, and the joy of building relationships with new friends. During the school year, we changed our Sunday School model to provide a large group Bible learning time followed by giving kids the options to continue to learn through a game or art. It was amazing to see new kids come to Sunday School because of their excitement that they could do art every week. What an example of goodness to see kids have autonomy and agency in their learning and faith development. Our once a month Intergenerational Worship has created space for another avenue for goodness as we witness how we as a whole church – littles to adults – can worship the same glorious God side by side. Singing together, learning together, praying together, discovering together. We have held fast to what is good in weekly youth groups: the sharing of stories, lots of laughter, engaging in meaningful conversations around faith, and of course consuming a lot of snacks. Over the course of the year, this focus on goodness was built through our senior class meetings, middle school overnights, and our annual high school mission trip. Our 25 high school students and 8 chaperones on mission trip intentionally talked about how goodness does not mean ignoring or denying the difficult things in life but rather is an invitation to move towards the hard things together and having the courage to do the next right thing.

Every time a kid walks through our doors, I see the goodness of God. Every time I get a text from a student asking a question or sharing fun news like they got their driving permit, I see the goodness of God. Every time a volunteer shares a smile or deep meaningful moment with one of our youth, I see the goodness of God. Every time our kids simply ask if they can come hang out at church after school, I see the goodness of God. Every time we sit together in the sad moments of life together, I see the goodness of God.

I am deeply grateful for every one of our kids, nursery volunteers and staff, Sunday school and youth group volunteers, fellowship team who leaves food left overs for youth group, summer of service volunteers, and our incredible summer interns and all who show our kids God's goodness.

*Peace,
Taylor*

Report of the Faith Formation Ministry

The Adult Faith Formation program has been an oasis amid the devastating behavior of our country's administration. In the Faith Forum group, we have explored many current issues, from White Evangelicalism and the fight for democracy to Forgiveness, Poetry, the Earth Charter, our Star words, our monthly Climate Change issues and so much more. We often gather with heavy hearts after a week of discouraging news, but leave enlivened with the hope found in good conversation and loving, faith-based community. All are welcome to attend the Sunday 8:30 AM group in the Church Library.

Theology on Tap, led by Kristie Nardini, combines food and faith as we meet at a local restaurant (or at the McGraths). Over pizza, we discuss topics such as Sacred Blessings, what we are carrying in our lives, what does it mean to belong and the power of community. All are welcome on the last Tuesday at 7:00, usually at Otto's.

The Sunday 5:00-6:15 Bible Study in the South Church Library has focused on the Parables found in the New Testament (there are 40!). Judy Olmstead has a wonderful devotion to the Scriptures and leads us with knowledge and grace.

The monthly Friday night Bible Study, led by Duncan Pyle, meets at members' houses. We choose our Scriptures and then delve into them. Whether it's a letter from St. Paul, Matthew's Gospel or our Star word Scripture reference, we share our faith, our doubts, our hearts.

My thanks to all the leaders and participants who keep faith formation alive at South Church.

Chris Ouimet

Report of the Youth and Family Faith Formation Ministry

The Youth and Family Faith Formation Team continued to support and uplift the work of the Minister of Youth and Families this year, aiding in creating programs that build a safe place of belonging for the children and families of South Church. Last summer looked a bit different with the construction going on at South Church, but Christ Church stepped in and provided a home for the Summer of Service program to continue to operate with over 100 middle and high school volunteers.

The fall saw the YFFFT team unveil a revamp of the Sunday School program centered on activity stations rather than age grouping and offering an opportunity for older youth to help mentor and guide the younger Sunday School attendees. The Bridges program continued this year, building community between 8th and 9th grade students before they begin the formal Confirmation process next fall. And YFFFT continued traditions like the third grade Bible breakfast and children's Easter egg hunt on Palm Sunday, connecting older and younger students as they grow in their faith.

*Respectfully submitted,
Heather Shows*

Report of the Spiritual Life Ministry

The Spiritual Life Ministry's function is to facilitate the various ways we worship God and share God's love within our community.

The Worship Deacons kicked off the year by moving worship service to Cochran Chapel while South Church underwent renovations as part of the capital campaign. Everyone stepped up to the challenge as we welcomed our Congregation and some new friends to a temporary place of worship. We would like to extend a special shout-out to Phillips Academy for their generosity in allowing us to use their chapel. As September rolled around, we witnessed such joy in welcoming everyone back into the newly renovated sanctuary of South Church on Homecoming weekend. The Deacons used the rest of 2025 finetuning Communion/Worship in the new space and updating Baptismal procedures. Intergenerational Worship led by Taylor was added to the monthly rotational schedule. This service brought about renewed energy, smiles, laughter, and engagement from our youths and their families. The Advent season concluded with 3 Christmas Eve services that saw attendance jumping 13% to an astounding 743. The Deacons spent the last few months working on Individual Discernments to better define their principles, values, and discipleship.

The Care and Calling Deacons continued their wonderful work servicing Congregation members who cannot come to Church for a variety of reasons. Their outreach included card writing, flower & holiday plant deliveries, meal trains, and transportation for doctor's appointments. Home Communion was added over a year ago, and they want to ensure everyone knows about this service. There is a continued need for additional volunteers to help

with doctor's appointment transportation. Please reach out if you can spare a few hours of your time. We heard from several Congregants who were at the receiving end of these services, and they expressed tremendous grace, love, and gratitude for the work of this group.

Digital Deacons played an important role in welcoming our online worshipers and enabling their prayers to be read and shared during service. These roles were filled by Worship Deacons and dedicated volunteers.

Ushers and Greeters welcomed returning and new attendees each week with joy and open arms. Every family, new or old to South Church, is encouraged to experience the gifts of volunteering and serving in these roles. We hope to have a discussion to revive Acolytes in the coming year.

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

The Music team, led by Cathy Meyer, produced breathtaking performances each week. This cannot be done without the talent and dedication of the choirs and musicians of South Church. Please see Cathy's report for more details.

The A/V 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 spent countless hours last spring and summer to ensure the successful live streaming of worship from Cochran Chapel. These involved transporting equipment to and from South Church and Cochran, and connecting and reconnecting hundreds of feet of wires each week. They are in constant need of additional volunteers.

Ben Li and Linda Mesler, Co-Chairs

Report of the Delegates of the Northeast Association

The NE Association, UCC, 12th Annual meeting, May 17, 2026 was held at Central Congregational Church in Newburyport. Present from South Church were Janet Clarke, Donna Stewart and Valerie MacKenzie.

A time of fellowship was held prior to the meeting, including some of the historical highlights of the Central Congregational Church. The church was formed by the merger of 3 congregational churches in 1909, with the oldest church group dating back to 1768. The history was followed by a brief worship service, led by Rev. Dr. Christopher Ney, Central Congregational Church of Newburyport.

Rev. Katie Omberg, Area Conference Minister, presented two videos which showed programs which have been created and shared by multiple smaller churches to pool resources. Several Connecticut churches were able to do a combined mission trip to Maine, providing an opportunity for small groups from each church. In Somerville, several churches are combining to run a 10-bed shelter for the homeless in the community.

The business meeting was smoothly managed with online details of budget, and nominating and annual report/minutes were quickly reviewed and accepted. Two churches held their final worship services during the year; they are 2nd Congregational Church in Beverly and Christ Church United in Lowell. Our neighbors at West Parish Church are celebrating their 200th anniversary while the Groveland Congregational Church is at their 300th!

Rev. Genna Hosterman was elected as treasurer of the Board of Directors and Kath Mason is a member of the committee of formation. There are currently 5 Members in Discernment.

Submitted by Donna Stewart, Delegate to the NEA

Report of the Delegates of the SNEUCC

The 6th Annual Meeting of the Southern New England Conference of the UCC (SNEUCC) was held on Saturday, June 7, 2025, from 9am to 1pm on Zoom only this year. Three delegates from South Church attended, Katie Holden, Janet Clarke, and Susan Henke.

Highlights from the meeting were addresses by Executive Conference Minister Rev. Darrell Goodwin and keynote speaker Jamar Doyle. Rev. Goodwin spoke on the theme of the meeting “Into the Deep: Living and Leading at the Intersections.” He reminded us to read our vision and mission statements in church and particularly in faith formation for our youth. He encouraged us to “put out into the deep and let down our nets” and leave our comfort zones, go into the deep, to the intersections of despair and hope, justice and joy, community needs and our Gospel’s purpose.

Keynote speaker Jamar Doyle, President and CEO of the UCC’s Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM) spoke on “Reclaiming Church Through Service and Sacred Purpose.” He described service as central to revival of the church and to spiritual transformation and described leadership at the intersection of faith and action, tradition and innovation, grief and hope. Doyle spoke of reclaiming the soul of the church shaped by advocacy, equity, and intergenerational collaboration and use of the Japanese concept of Ikigai as a tool to find our sacred purposes.

Revised bylaws were debated and adopted. The slate of nominees was accepted. The budget report was presented. With the Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center, budget shortfall of \$450,000 last calendar year and \$340,000 this calendar year, the conference is considering options, including partnerships.

We heard from the Conference Mental Health Pastoral Fellow, Bekah Maren Anderson, who began work in November this past year supporting the conference WISE task team. She encouraged us to reach out to our senators in support of Medicaid and, in particular, for mental health as Medicaid covers only about 1 in 3 adults with mental illness.

We are looking forward to the SNEUCC meeting this year in Worcester on September 25-27 with the Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock, U.S. Senator from Georgia, as the keynote speaker and preacher.

Susan Henke, 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 73 chartered team members and delegates to local and regional UCC meetings. A few open spots remain, but Nominating remains committed to working with interested individuals to fill those.

This year's slate shows (in parentheses) the duration of the individual's service. The number indicates the years of service in that position (including the upcoming church program year). We have undertaken this change to provide more clarity.

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!

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 & Stephanie Aude

May 2026 Nominating Report					
Moderator:Den.Forgue (3)	Treasurer: Anne Hemmer (2)	Clerk: Jennifer Bouchard (2)			
Spiritual Life Ministry	Ben Li (4)	Linda Mesler (2)	Finance	AJ Joyall (1)	Steve Cortner (1)
Care and Calling	Meredith Moody (6) Eileen Forgue (5)	Robin Murray (5) Judy Olmstead (4)	Finance Annual Giving	Tom Nicholson (2) Mike Rottman (3)	Nicki Wiggins (1) Martin McGrath (2)
Worship Deacons	Peg Little (6) Rachel Combs (4) Dave Floren (4) Betsy Hopkins (4) Linda Mesler (4) Iric Rex (2) Valerie MacKenzie (2)	Linda Zimmerman (4) Ben Li (3) Amie Hellauer (3) Gavin Kelly (3) Jan Holden (2)	Memorial Gifts	Eric Stubenhaus (2) Char Lyons (5) Lead Jennifer Bouchard (5) Eric Stubenhaus (4)	
Audio-visual team	Justin Bacchi (3) Co-Lead Lucas Bacchi (3) Doug Bacchi (3)	Tom Appleton (3) Co-Lead Bill Stewart (3)	Investment	Scott Corning (2) Lenore Price (6) James Bossieux (1)	
New Members	Laurie Sorota (2) Co-Lead Greg Galat (2) Susan Henke (2)	Janna Roop (2) Co-Lead Sam Day (2)	Sunday Offering Coordinator	Martin McGrath (5)	
Music	Laura Rex (1)	Zach Hosterman (2)			
Faith Formation	Chris Oulmet (4)	Heather Shows (2)	Human Resources	Dave Jagger (3)	Suzie Henderson (1)
Youth & Family Faith Formation Team (YFFFT)	Heather Saniuk (5) Natalie Guevara (4)	Jim Sheehan (2) Eleanor Storch (2)	Nominating	Stephanie Aude (2)	Dave Jagger (4)
			Delegates - Northeast Association	Willi Rapp (5) Janet Clarke (12)	Donna Stewart (2) Valerie MacKenzie (2)
Community Service	Lori Wyckoff (3)	Amy Joyall (5)			
Missions	Rachel Daniels (6) Co-Lead Brenda Cronin (4) Andrea Stidsen (4) Laura Jordan (4)	Cheryl Kralley (5) Co-Lead Cindy Ozirsky (5) Ann Marie Cortner (5)	Delegates - Southern New England Conference	Susan Henke (6) Janet Clarke (12)	Valerie MacKenzie (2)
			Congregational Life	Jan Holden (4)	Kristie Nardini (1)
Facilities	Greg Galet (2)		Fellowship	Judy Olmstead (1) John Sievers (3) Monica Reedy (2) Mark Aude (2)	Heather Sievers (3) Donna Stewart (2) Anil Bhandari (2) Jay Hudak (1)
Information Technology	Page Bouchard (4) Char Lyons (4) Cemetery Tim Ozirsky (3) Co-Lead Bill Stewart (3)	Emily Strong (4) Lucas Bacchi (3) Co-Lead			

***Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting
South Church in Andover, United Church of Christ
Sunday June 15, 2025***

The annual Congregational Meeting of South Church in Andover was held in Cochran Chapel at Phillips Academy 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.

- Due to AV restrictions there were no slides for this meeting
- A recording of the meeting can be found at [2025 Congregational Meeting Recording](#)
- The 2025 Annual Program Report distributed at the meeting can be found at [2025 Annual Program Report](#)

Opening

Dennis Forgue opened the meeting introducing David Jagger and Susan Henke from the Nominating Committee.

Nominating Slate for 2025-2026 Boards and Committees

David and Susan thanked everyone they reached out to serve on the 2025-2026 Boards and Committees. He noted that there were two updates to the positions listed on page 12 or the Annual Program Report. Those additions are:

- Jenn Bouchard – Clerk
- Mark Aude – Fellowships

Susan moved the nominations as printed in the Annual Report with the additions listed above. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Dennis thanked David and Susan for their work putting together this year's nominating slate.

Annual Giving Update

Dennis Forgue gave an update on Annual Giving stating that we are \$68,000 below our targeted funding number. We are reaching out to new members and members who did not pledge during the Giving Campaign. Please feel free to reach out to him if you have any questions.

UCC Conference Reports

Susan Henke and Katy Holden updated the Congregation on two UCC conferences held this year. They include:

Northeast Association, UCC 11th Annual Meeting

The meeting was held at Tewksbury Congregational Church on May 18, 2025. Rev. Genna Hosterman, Rev Roger Lier and Janet Clarke attended representing South Church. Rev Hosterman was voted as a member at large to the Board of Directors and Kath Mason is a member on the Committee of Formation. A full report can be found on pages nine and ten of the Annual Program Report.

SNEUCC Conference 5th Annual Conference

The 5th annual Southern New England United Church of Christ Conference was held at the University of Massachusetts on June 22-23, 2024 at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Delegates for South Church included Janet Clark, Susan Henke, Lindsay Pacios and Rev. Genna Hosterman. A detailed report can be found on pages ten and eleven of the Annual Program Report.

SNEUCC Conference 6th Annual Conference

The 6th annual Southern New England United Church of Christ Conference was held at the University of Massachusetts on June 7th, 2025 at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Delegates for South Church included Janet Clark, Susan Henke, Katy Holden. Highlights include speeches by Rev. Daryl Goodwin and Jamar Doyle; revised bylaws were debated and adopted; a new slate of candidates was adopted and the 2025-2026 budget was approved.

There being no further business Dennis closed the meeting

Minutes of 315th Annual Meeting
South Church in Andover United Church of Christ
February 8, 2026

Call to Order

The 315th Annual Meeting was called to order by Moderator Dennis Forgue. A quorum of 56 members (47 in-person, 9 online) was verified.

Opening Prayer

Reverend Dana Allen Walsh opened the meeting with a prayer, emphasizing that budgets reflect our values, hopes, and trust in God's provision.

Celebration of Milestone Members

Dennis Forgue acknowledged and celebrated members who have been part of the church for 50, 40, 30, 20, and 10 years.

2025 Year in Review

Moderator Dennis Forgue provided a summary of the church's accomplishments and developments in 2025:

- Capital Campaign: Raised \$3 million in pledges and spent \$2.4 million on renovations. Special thanks to campaign leaders Kate Jagger and Al Joyall, and building team members Betsy Davis, Marty Mason, and Mike Kraley.
- Memorial Garden and Columbarium: Installed in 2025, with gratitude to Brenda Bryan, Char Lyons, Lori Wyckoff, and Emily Strong for their efforts.
- Giving Garden: Produced 17,000 pounds of food.
- Andover Farmers Market: Raised \$22,370 in matching SNAP funds.
- Membership Growth: Welcomed 37 new members, bringing active membership to 587. Average weekly attendance on YouTube streaming increased to 153.
- Charitable Contributions: Over \$200,000 donated.
- Trust Fund Performance: Church Trust Fund achieved a 15% return; Cemetery Trust Fund had a slightly lower return due to columbarium expenses.
- Financial Summary: 2025 ended with a \$49,114 deficit, exceeding the budgeted \$28,005 deficit due to a \$36,240 shortfall in pledge receipts.

2026 Budget Presentation

Dennis Forgue presented the proposed 2026 budget:

- Annual Giving: Goal of 225 pledges (\$835,000); current estimate is 213 pledges totaling \$832,000, a 15% increase over 2025. Thanks were extended to the Annual Giving Team.
- Budget Overview: Anticipated funding of \$972,057 and spending of \$971,995, with charitable giving accounting for 19% of the total budget.

Questions:

1. Parsonage Roof Repair: Jen Hoenig asked if the budget included funds for this repair.
Response: Repairs will be funded from the building reserve in 2026.
2. Building Reserve Funding: Dave Floreen inquired why it wasn't part of the overall budget.
Response: Dennis explained the reserve would be funded from \$300,000 in outstanding capital campaign pledges. Dana Allen Walsh also noted a \$200,000 gift from the Lambert estate, bringing the reserve balance to \$297,000.

Vote: Approval of the 2026 Budget

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2026 budget as printed in the 2025 Annual Financial Report (pages 4–5). The motion was unanimously approved by in-person and online attendees.

Special thanks were given to Anne Hemmer, Scott Corning, Liz Sellers, Al Joyall, Steve Cortner, and Tom Nicholson for their work on the budget, as well as the Audio-Visual Team (Justin, Lucas, and Doug Bacchi; Tom Appleton; and Bill Stewart) for their support in enabling online participation.

Closing Prayer

Reverend Walsh closed the meeting with a prayer, expressing gratitude for the church's past, present, and future contributions. She also thanked Dennis Forgue for his service as Moderator.

Minutes submitted by Wayne Shaw.