

382<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting, February 8, 2026

# ANNUAL REPORT

For year 2025



*FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH*

(United Church of Christ)

1009 Main St., Branford, CT. 06405

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## **Ministerial and Administrative Staff**

Rev. Joseph Perdue	Senior Minister
Kerry Stewart	Faith Formation Coordinator
Philip Rinehart	Director of Music & Adult Bell Choir
	Director of Vocal Choirs
Missy Van Vliet	Administrative Assistant
Pat Carroll	Bookkeeper
Chip Marsh	Moderator
	Moderator Elect
Sharon Reynolds	Worship Team Leader
	Hospitality Chair
John Woods	Sexton
Stephanie Linke	Director of the Child Development Center
Carol Hoadley	Historian
James Jones	Director of Communications

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## **Mission Statement of the Staff of First Congregational Church**

May we be guided as we intentionally pray for our church, petitions brought to us, and each other. As a staff, we strive to treat each other as we'd like to be treated, and we vow to provide a safe place for each other to express our diverse opinions and views. As colleagues, we will respect one another and in doing so, hold all staff interactions and conversations in confidence. To maintain a healthy environment, we promise with the help of God, to honor ourselves and others.

## **Welcome Statement**

The First Congregational Church of Branford affirms the full diversity of God's creation and welcomes persons of differing views, of all national and ethnic backgrounds, and of all sexual orientations, without regard to worldly condition. We hope you will share your particular gifts and faith journeys with us and join us in our worship and work.

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**The First Congregational Church of Branford, UCC**  
**382<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, February 8, 2026**  
**Following 10:00 a.m. Worship Service**  
**FCCB Meetinghouse**

**Agenda**

- Establishment of a Quorum
- Call to Order
- Opening Prayer/Behavioral Covenant
- Reading of Church Covenant
- Annual Report of the Child Development Center (CDC)
- Approve the following:
  - Minutes of the 381<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church
  - Minutes of March 30, 2025, Special Meeting on establishment of a Loan Management Account
  - Minutes of October 26, 2025, Special Meeting on allocation of funds for Shepherd House renovations
- Transfer \$47,400 to offset ministerial housing compensation costs
- Approve the proposed FCCB budget for 2026
- Transfer \$100,000 from the Evans Fund to the Unrestricted Funds
- Receive the annual reports of officers, boards, committees, and organizations affiliated with F'CCB
- To elect officers, team members, and delegates of the church for 2026
- Take any other action that may properly come before this meeting
- Benediction
- Adjournment

**In Remembrance of Members & Friends of the  
The First Congregational Church**

\*Lind, Gregory Scott – 2/14/25

\*Fiskio, Charles Robert (Charlie) – 3/23/25

\*Reutenauer, Alice Munson – 4/16/25

Wilbur Wogahn – 7/26/25

Charlotte Mangs – 8/24/25

\*Frank Shaw – 9/21/25

\*Cynthia Lois (Cyndie) Neely – 10/10/25

\*Jean Andros – 11/20/25

**\*Member**

## **Senior Minister's Report**

As we turn together into 2026, I find myself reflecting on one of the lessons I learned in seminary. Dr. Chelsea Yarbrough, my preaching professor, encouraged us to think about the difference between hospitality and welcome. She said that hospitality is like inviting someone over, remembering they're vegan, and telling them there's lettuce in the fridge if they're hungry. By showing hospitality, you've invited them in and technically accommodated their needs. To show welcome, on the other hand, means that you go out of your way to cook a vegan meal just for them because you're excited that they came to your home.

Over the course of 2025, our congregation has made great strides toward being a welcoming church. One of the clearest ways we live this out is our new playground. Families know that their children are not just an afterthought. They're not simply the future of the congregation. They are wanted here, and we are willing to go out of our way to make worship meaningful for them. We have noticed that children are more engaged in worship now. They are paying attention while they play. Parents have noticed that children remember more parts of the service and are starting to understand more about how we worship together. In 2026, I am excited to see how we can find new ways to go beyond hospitality.

Our church is continuing to grow. Several new families joined our community this year, and other regular attenders are interested in joining. Our average weekly attendance is higher than it was this time last year, for the second year in a row, even if we do not count the friends who worship at home via the live stream. Our Youth Group and intergenerational ministry are thriving. In 2024 we confirmed seven teenagers in our first confirmation in more than five years. In 2026 we will confirm three more. Adult Bible study meets regularly. Our small groups, including Pub Theology, knitters, book groups, and more meet regularly while there are discussions of creating new small groups. We baptized 5 babies and children this year.

As exciting as it is for us to grow numerically, the hallmark of thriving church is not numbers; it is compassion. We do not measure growth in financial success or people in pews, but with lives changed and love expressed. Jesus never told us to make converts, he told us to make disciples. That is, to teach those whom the Spirit calls the ways of justice, mercy, and compassion embodied and taught by Jesus on earth.

FCCB is an active member of an emerging ecumenical community. We continue to build strong ties with other churches in town. Clergy from multiple churches and Hospice regularly meet to discuss the week's lectionary readings and plan ecumenical activities. In 2025, the churches joined forces several times to share resources and worship in the community. FCCB hosted an ecumenical Thanksgiving service and participated in worship at other local churches for special holidays. We continued the tradition of a progressive Good Friday worship service and expand leadership and participation. We worshiped at Killam's Point together on Father's Day.

We are continuing to serve the community in many ways. We partner with numerous local organizations like the Community Dining Room, Project Moore, Branford Builds, and the food pantry to share the love of God with our neighbors. You can read more about them in other reports.

Last year I had the privilege of serving as a delegate from the Southern New England Conference to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. One of my responsibilities was to write a report for our local consociational. I am attaching it below.

The 35th General Synod of the United Church of Christ took place from July 11–15 in Kansas City, Missouri. The most significant event at this Synod was the adoption of the *Manual on Local Church*. Similar to the *Manual on Ministry*, it is designed for use in all settings of the Church to help us live fully into our covenantal responsibilities and privileges under the Constitution of the United Church of Christ. It includes a congregational code, information about local church standing and accountability, and serves as the go-to resource for questions about governance and polity. Every minister and lay leader in our Consociation should be familiar with it.

General Synods are best known for the resolutions debated and voted on by delegates. There are two primary types of resolutions. A prudential resolution relates to policy, structure, or procedure and requires a simple majority to pass. A resolution of witness concerns moral, ethical, or religious matters. These serve as a witness to the wider church and the world, require a two-thirds majority to pass, and guide the actions of the national setting and conferences. Occasionally, there are resolutions that do not fit either category; these are known simply as formal resolutions.

This year, there was one formal resolution. Historically, the state of Pennsylvania was divided into four conferences: Penn West, Penn Central, Pennsylvania Southeast, and Penn Northeast. Each of these conferences voted to merge and form the new Keystone Conference. Delegates voted overwhelmingly in favor of this proposal and are excited to welcome the newest conference to the United Church of Christ.

There were three prudential resolutions. The first was without controversy. It established a full-communion relationship between the United Church of Christ and the *Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland*, a German denomination. We are already in full communion with several denominations around the world, including some in Germany. The second prudential resolution also concerned full communion with another denomination: the *Iglesia Evangélica Unida de Puerto Rico (IEUPR)*. This was controversial because the IEUPR was previously a conference within the United Church of Christ. It broke away in 2005 when the 25th General Synod voted to support marriage equality for all couples, regardless of gender.



The resolution faced strong opposition, especially from members of the Puerto Rican diaspora whose lives were impacted by the breach of covenant. Proponents argued that change cannot happen without dialogue and expressed hope that the IEUPR may soften its position over time. They also noted that the United Church of Christ is in full communion with multiple denominations, not all of which affirm our LGBTQIA+ siblings. Many felt it would be inappropriate to hold our Puerto Rican siblings to a higher standard than that of majority-white denominations. Opponents pointed out that there has never been an apology or even an acknowledgment of the harm caused when the IEUPR broke covenant with the UCC. The resolution passed.

The third prudential resolution recognized the Small Town and Rural (STAR) Coalition of the United Church of Christ as a self-created group, according to UCC bylaws. Proponents argued that churches in small towns and rural areas are underrepresented and previously lacked a voice in the UCC. Among other things, STAR will now be able to bring resolutions to future Synods. Opponents countered that churches qualifying as STAR actually make up a majority of congregations in our denomination and questioned the claim that the majority lacks a voice. Some compared this to the unfounded grievances of rural white populations who hold significant political power yet believe themselves disaffected, grievances that contributed to the rise of the MAGA movement. Many delegates were also concerned by reports that advocates of the resolution plan to use their new status to lobby the national setting to make it less progressive. The resolution passed.

The first resolution of witness declared support for human rights in the Philippines. In 2023, Congress passed the *Philippines Human Rights Act*, stating that no federal funds may be used to assist the police or military of the Philippines until the government meets certain human rights standards. This resolution affirms that stance and proclaims our solidarity with our siblings in the Philippines in their struggle against a corrupt government. The resolution passed.

Delegates also passed a resolution affirming faithful stewardship of *Our Whole Lives* (OWL) and advocating for comprehensive sexuality education in faith communities through interfaith collaboration. For more than fifty years, the United Church of Christ has studied human sexuality, surveyed the needs of congregations, and developed resources to provide faith-based, comprehensive sexuality education within local churches. For the past 25 years, this work has been done in partnership with the Unitarian Universalist Association through the *Our Whole Lives* ministry. This resolution lifts up the need to continue the UCC's faithful stewardship of OWL, which provides training and resources to embrace the diversity of God's creation, view bodies and relationships as sacred, and offer accurate, helpful information about sexuality.

Another resolution recognized the continually evolving language of mental health. It urges all settings of the UCC to update language regarding those living with mental health experiences and neurodiversity in ways that reduce stigma and encourage inclusivity. It reminds us to understand the harm caused by language that fails to affirm individual or collective identities, and to choose

inclusive, strength-based, person-centered language out of love.

Delegates overwhelmingly passed a resolution responding to the persecution of religious minorities in India. It gives voice to the plight of Christians and Muslims persecuted by the Hindu nationalist movement and bears witness to the violence inflicted on churches and individuals in attempts to silence them. It further advocates for religious freedom throughout the world, particularly in India.

Under the UCC Constitution, resolutions may be debated if they are submitted after the deadline if significant events occur that demand a response. This year, five late-arriving resolutions of witness were accepted.

The first responded to the government's attacks on immigrants, migrants, and refugees. It identified the work of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as a form of domestic terrorism and denounced the federal government's mass detention and deportation campaign, as well as human rights violations committed against detainees. It also condemned the government's disregard for civil and human rights through funding freezes and infringement on the religious rights of houses of worship to serve all people regardless of citizenship status. It calls on all settings of the UCC to support immigrant-welcoming and sanctuary congregations and to take prophetic action in solidarity with immigrants, migrants, and refugees in light of increasing anti-immigrant policies.

Delegates also passed an emergency resolution calling on the UCC to strongly oppose the immigration policy rollbacks of the 2025 Trump Administration. It urges the Church to support and protect immigrant communities, particularly those from Pacific Islander and Asian American backgrounds, many of whom face heightened threats of deportation and family separation. It also calls for increased funding for the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries (COREM) to strengthen advocacy, leadership development, and transformative ministry.

Two resolutions passed in response to cuts to federal agencies. Delegates called for the restoration of full funding for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), noting that reductions harm humanitarian and development efforts in regions affected by global crises. Another resolution supported restoring full funding and autonomy for the Voice of America (VOA), which provides news and information in countries where state-controlled media limit access to diverse perspectives. The resolution described restoring VOA funding and independence as not only a policy priority but a moral imperative in defense of democracy.

The final resolution called for an end to the genocide in Palestine. It denounces the actions of the State of Israel, in partnership with the United States government, that amount to genocide against the Palestinian people—including the targeted killing of civilians, children, medical workers, and journalists in Gaza. It calls on all settings of the UCC to act in solidarity with the Palestinian people

in light of this ongoing crisis.

Delegates also debated a proposed change to UCC polity. When our denomination was founded, it was made up of multiple legal corporations, a natural result of four denominations coming together, but this structure has proven impractical. Over the decades, various corporations and institutions have merged for efficiency. The next logical step would have been to centralize more power in the national setting and increase the authority of the General Minister and President. Delegates voted overwhelmingly against this. While the changes made practical sense, the majority felt they were incompatible with our polity. Opponents also noted that we cannot rightfully condemn Congress for ceding power to the executive branch if the General Synod were to cede its authority to the GMP.

I would be remiss not to end this report with a comment on how the Conference handled delegate travel and reimbursement. In the past, delegates were given a budget for food and travel and reimbursed up to that amount after Synod. This year, the Conference chose to book all flights and micro-manage food reimbursements. Instead of providing a daily per diem or total travel budget, delegates were limited to a specific amount per meal, per day.

This policy was highly inappropriate for several reasons. First, it made travel impractical. Most delegates from Connecticut, for example, had to fly out of Hartford regardless of where they live, including those from western Connecticut, who are much closer to New York than Hartford. I requested to fly out of New York and was generously accommodated; however, the flight booked for me was so early that no trains into the city would have arrived in time. I had to choose between paying for a hotel or booking my own flight. The latter was cheaper. I must also note that the flights the Conference booked for me cost \$286 more than the direct flight I would have booked for myself. As a member of the Executive Committee of the NHEC, I am deeply concerned about this overspending.

The meal policy was also inappropriate. Breaking down spending by meal is no way to treat adults, let alone siblings in Christ with whom we are in covenant. In addition to being insulting, it placed a financial burden on delegates. While it is easy to eat under \$60 per day, there were times when it was impossible to stay within the per-meal limit. Though the policy may have saved the conference money, it excludes delegates who cannot afford to pay beyond what the Conference reimburses. This is not just about poor leadership, it is a justice issue. The Consociation paid \$4,000 to the Conference to cover our delegates' expenses. We have the right to insist that Conference staff exercise better stewardship of our resources and treat our delegates with more respect than was shown this year.

Rev. Joseph Perdue  
Senior Minister

## **Moderator's Annual Report 2025**

“The First Congregational Church of Branford provides opportunities for people to live and grow their Christian faith through worship, faith formation and practice. We proclaim God’s love and work for peace and justice for all in our local and global community. We serve God and our neighbors creating an environment where all belong.”

*Mission Statement adopted by Church Board, March 19, 2025*

As we conclude our church year with the 382<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting, we are able to see the many ways in which we strived to accomplish our mission in the past year. While several actions were very visible and helped our physical facility, many others helped create an environment of belonging. We added new members and continue to attract new attendees to our worship services. We instituted the Playground to provide space and activities for children to remain with their families during services. We had our most successful stewardship campaign in years.

Two major projects addressed significant needs for the building: painting the exterior and restoration of the Meetinghouse ceiling. With the total cost of these two projects exceeding \$300,000, a means for paying for them was needed. The Operations Team did a great job of exploring options and their recommendation of establishing a Loan Management Account (LMA) line of credit up to \$500,000 against the church’s endowment was approved at a March 30, 2025, congregational special meeting. A generous anonymous donation also helped defray the cost of the painting project. The ceiling restoration took the majority of the summer to complete, and FCCB took advantage of the closure to hold summer services in Walker Chapel and its air conditioning that helped make it comfortable.

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) were installed in Pilgrim Hall and at Killam’s Point, and two fire extinguishers were installed in Pilgrim Hall to enhance the church’s safety resources. Also at Killam’s Point, physical issues were discovered in the Shepard House that require renovation in order to be livable. The congregation approved the withdrawal of up to \$40,000 from the First Ecclesiastical Society Fund at a special meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup> for use in making the necessary improvements.

FCCB has consistently allowed different groups to meet, gather, and hold events through rental of our facilities, which helps provide revenue. Notably, we have been able to help the congregation at New Antioch Greater Impact Church by providing the Meetinghouse for their weekly worship services. We also have a regular Alcoholics Anonymous group and the Tibetan American Community utilizing church space.

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Christmas Fair was a huge success celebrating our annual church tradition and generating the most income received in many years. Congratulations and thanks to all who volunteered, contributed, and made purchases!

We congratulated and helped Rev. Joe Perdue celebrate earning his Master of Divinity in Sacred Theology from the Yale Divinity School. We also helped build community through group attendance at Connecticut Sun and Bridgeport Islander games. We are supporting Faith Formation Coordinator Kerry Stewart's path toward ministry as she continues her education and discernment process.

The Future Endeavors Committee continued looking ahead at FCCB's physical and financial needs in 2025. As a result, the Friends of First Congregational Branford, Inc. was incorporated to help provide financial support to the church and help support our mission in the community. The first meeting of the board was held in October, and the Friends are getting organized to begin a feasibility study early in 2026 to provide the basis for a fundraising campaign.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Church Board approved the formation of a Church Housing committee to reassess the benefit to the church of acquiring a Manse v. continuing to provide a ministerial housing allowance. The committee will start meeting in January.

One of the ways that community is developed in our church is through members being engaged as active volunteers. We are blessed to have many dedicated and engaged individuals who help lead and provide the people with resources that keep our church viable. This takes on many forms:

- ushering, being liturgist, or serving communion at worship services;
- hosting hospitality after services or for special occasions including funeral receptions;
- helping with youth group activities, Sunday school, or with Killam's Point Day Camp or Camp Totokett;
- being part of a workday in and around the church or down at Killam's Point;
- volunteering for the Christmas Fair or other special events; or
- serving on one of the three governance teams and/or the Church Board.

Thank you to all who have actively participated in the life of the church over the past year. We couldn't have done as much as we have without you sharing your time and talents. As a Congregational Church, we, the members, are the governing body as well as the source of volunteers that keeps FCCB viable to serve our community.

In recognition of reduced membership and competing life activities, the Church restructured its governance six years ago. Granted it was pre-Covid (barely), yet the streamlined organization reduced the number of elected volunteer positions significantly from around 120 to 19. Unfortunately, we continue to have challenges filling the vacancies and occasionally being able to have a quorum at meetings. Please consider stepping up and volunteering or saying "yes" when asked to help.

Charles H. (Chip) Marsh  
Moderator



## **Faith Formation Coordinator - Annual Report 2025**

*People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them, and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. But Jesus called for them and said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." Luke 18: 15-17*

The only constant in life is change. And we've had lots of changes happening with our programming as we work to move and adapt to our communities needs and our actions in response, as well as introducing new and innovate ways to try new ways to engage our faith.

A huge highlight of the 2025 year was the installation of the Pray Ground in the Meetinghouse. A Pray Ground is a space at the front of the Worship space that allows children, families and anyone who needs an alternate setting or seating to enjoy and be part of Worship. We have a soft floor, cushions for sitting on, constructive toys such as blocks, Legos, little people Noah's Ark and Nativity, rubber ducks, books, craft activities and more. This has been such a hit with our families, we recreated it in Walker Chapel during the Meetinghouse renovations. Our goal is to provide a place where we meet everyone exactly where they are, just as God does with us. And the Pray Ground is an ideal way to do this in Worship. This area was installed in the spring and dedicated as the Pray Ground Ministry in the fall. With this addition to our Worship space, we are able to offer families to Worship together and are able to allow parents and caretakers to sit in the pews while volunteers sit with and play with our children.

Another reason this is a huge highlight of the year is that we had youth and children instigate this area of our church. They saw the nice open space and began bringing their activities and books from the back of the church to the front and just started using it as Worship space from their laying down and sitting down on the ground positions. So we proceeded to make it a safer and more welcoming space. I will say I have two highlights during my time sitting in that space. One was a week that we had children everywhere and it was just the most beautiful chaos. The other was on Christmas Eve. We had four families with toddlers and babies there and it was quite possibly the most magical service I have ever experienced. And to know that we provided a way for those

families to experience that magic is exactly what Being the Church means. We have met these children and families exactly where they are and that is want the foundation of a community is.

Sunday School continues to meet. In the Spring, we continued to use the Joyful Path curriculum and added Pray Ground lessons on the weeks we stayed in Worship with material from PRC, Practical Resources for Churches, as they do have a Pray Ground curriculum. In the fall, we have continued to use both, aiming for two Sundays of Sunday School a month and the balance of the weeks being in Worship. We have approximately 18 children of Sunday School age, which is from age 2 through 7<sup>th</sup> grade with older youth able to assist and help lead lessons. Each lesson includes a storytelling element and an activity. These activities can be anything from a game, science experiment, craft, group project and so much more. We also did do a glow-up on our Sunday School rooms to allow for our children to move about and do what they need to regulate themselves and meet their needs. They have toys, craft supplies and books available at their level, as well as multiple seating options.

Youth Group saw a large change in 2025. As many of our youth have moved into High School, their availability for events and activities has changed. We have chosen to focus more on intergenerational programs such as all-church meals, service projects as well as supporting each other at sports and performance events. We also managed to squeeze in a few fun outings such as our Escape Room. 2026 will see further changes in this direction.

Our Local Learning Service Trip this year, held in August, in partnership with Incredible Faith, LLC, was an amazing experience. Unfortunately, we had about half the team drop out last minute due to illness and family emergencies, so we had a much smaller group than was expected, planned for and funded. However, we did have an amazing experience, making new connections and having exposure to some new community partners including Connecticut Food Share, The Connecticut Diaper Bank, Covenant to Care, Amistad Catholic Workers House and the Community Soup Kitchen in New Haven. To me, one of the coolest things we did see happen was after spending a shift sorting and packing boxes of food at the Connecticut Food Share, at the end of the week, we saw one of those same boxes arrive at Christian Community Action to stock their Community Pantry shelves.

Confirmation took a break in the first half of 2025 with a new class starting in the fall with three students in 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade. They are meeting once a month, using the Confirm not Conform curriculum and also engaging in FCC community activities. All of them helped with the Christmas Fair, The Christmas Pageant and have been volunteering in Worship, Sunday School and everywhere else in the Church.

Another successful Christmas Pageant was held in December with a full cast of characters of all ages with the program “Do Not Be Afraid” adapted from an Illustrated Ministry script. We had lots of fun on our Sunday of “Chaos and Cuteness” as well as planning it all.

Finally, we did enjoy some all-ages programming, also known as Intergenerational programming. During Lent our soup and salad lunches continued as we worked with the Sanctified Art program after. We also read both versions of Bishop Marion Edgar Budde's book *How to be Brave* with both youth and adult versions available. We have been aiming for, and succeeding with monthly lunches for our community on Sundays as so much community building happens around the table. Some fun and educational outings happened as well, including a trip to NYC to visit the Anne Frank Exhibit at the Center for Jewish History and a trip to see the Connecticut Sun's Women's Professional Basketball Game.

On personal notes, I have continued my Seminary education at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in a Master of Arts in Ministry and am just over halfway completed with that program. I taught a class on Neurodiversity and the Church at Super Saturday for the SNEUCC conference and continue to serve as the Registrar to the New Haven East Consociation as a volunteer from my home church of North Haven Congregational Church. I also assisted with the transition to new Killam's Pont Camp Director as our long-time director stepped down after many years of faithful service.

I consider it a blessing that I continue to serve this community. As I head into my sixth year with you all, I look forward to more fun, educational and meaningful programming, exploration of our faith and what that means in today's world and getting to spend lots of my time with our youngest members and help them learn about God, Jesus, and unbounded and gracious love.

In Peace, Partnership and Blessings  
Respectfully Submitted,

Kerry Stewart  
Faith Formation Coordinator





## **Worship Team Annual Report for 2025**

The Worship Team is assigned to attend to the spiritual interests and needs of the church. We consider all aspects of Services – whether for Sunday or Seasonal Events, Celebrations, Receptions and Hospitality. We coordinate efforts with the Minister, Music Director, Discipleship and Operations Teams, Faith Formation Coordinator, Staff and Church Board to enhance various aspects of church life. We have all worked diligently to fulfill the roles and duties of the Worship Team during this past year.

In 2025 such efforts have included:

Assisting Rev. Joe Perdue with Sunday Worship Services, as well as with Special Services such as Tenebrae, Christmas Eve, and the like, by reaching out to FCCB old and new Members, Friends, and Youths (“Church Family”) to serve as liturgists, ushers, communion servers, readers, and to participate in other roles. We are blessed to have people who are willing to try something new or different and people who have become familiar with these roles and graciously step forward as needed;

Supporting FCCB’s Director of Music, Phil Rinehart, in his oversight of all things Musical at FCCB – ranging from rehearsing and directing the devoted Choir and Bell Ringers, to skillfully and deftly playing piano and organ pieces that are breathtaking in their renditions;

Participating in the preparation and presentation of Baptism Services and the Welcoming of New Members;

Overseeing Hospitality activities and coordinating Coffee Hours, Summer Lemonade on the Lawn, and Receptions following Celebrations of Life for those in our Church Family;

Coordinating with Kerry Stewart, Faith Formation Coordinator, Discipleship Team, and Church Board to include a Pray Ground in the front of the Meeting House so children and parents can

more fully participate in Sunday Services and similar events - so the Congregation can support Sunday Services that allow parents and children to feel included and valued in the Church Family. This effort was undertaken following the spontaneous, self-starting gathering of children and parents in the front pews on the right side of the Sanctuary, with the children delighting in the comfortable space in front of these pews.

Delivering Altar Flowers to people in the Church Family to bring cheer, celebrate a happy event, or to let someone know they are held in everyone's hearts, thoughts, and prayers;  
Supporting the proposal for the shift of summer Services from the Meeting House to Walker Chapel for the health and comfort of being in a location with air conditioning during the season of extreme heat;

Considering and discussing issues related to the FCCB Carillon (which had significantly exceeded its expected operational life-span). Repair of the carillon was explored, but it was determined to be beyond repair due to replacement parts no longer being available and no work-arounds viable;  
Coordinating with other Teams for the holding of a Spring and a Fall All Church Picnic at Killams Point;

Delivering over two dozen Easter Plants in the Spring and then Christmas Poinsettias recently to people in our Church Family who have actively participated in the life of FCCB in the past but are now unable to attend services during the year, as well as those who are otherwise in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers.

Respectfully submitted in Faith,

Sharon Reynolds, Theresa Colombo, Donna Giddings, David Hoadley, Elaine Keith [Ex Officio Members Rev. Joe Perdue, Phil Rinehart]

It should be noted the above activities have been made possible by all Worship Team Members fully participating in activities, pitching in throughout the year. We greatly appreciate Donna Giddings joining the Worship Team when we found ourselves in need of one more member.



## **Discipleship Team Annual Report 2025**

The Discipleship Team has the responsibility to initiate and direct the educational aspects of our ministry, as well as appoint teachers and other persons needed to lead these programs. For the Annual Meeting we find qualified members to serve on the teams and as officers. We strive to meet human needs locally and in the world through mission funds and other beneficial projects. We organize and conduct the Annual Stewardship Campaign in the fall to help fund the church.

Killam's Point Day Camp committee hired a new director for KPDC. We welcomed two directors: Kerry Stewart and Megan Villanueva to lead the camp this year. Over 200 young children enjoyed a week or more at KPDC. They swam, played games, kayaked and tie-dyed shirts. The directors did encounter increased expenses operating of camp. The Discipleship Team and directors will work to find ways to operate the camp with a balanced budget.

The scholarship committee was appointed in February and received applications from our high school seniors seeking to continue their education. Three seniors were granted a scholarship amount. With the remaining funds, the staff was offered an opportunity to apply for educational scholarships, for which two staff members were awarded funds.

The stewardship committee began the Pledge Campaign in early October. By the end of the year more pledges had been pledged in this year than in the past year, which has given us great hope for the future as this may end our downward trend.

The Mission Fund distributed money to several organizations both locally and beyond our community. We identified these groups as worthy and needing extra funds to fulfill their goal. These organizations or agencies include the Columbus House, Sarah, Inc, Feed Branford kids, MLK breakfast, UCC Disaster Fund, Minister's Compassion Fund, IRIS, CDR, Christian Community Fund and Connecticut Diaper Bank.

The Sunday School and youth programs are coordinated by our Faith Formation Leader, Kerry Stewart, who has been working to build a Sunday School schedule that meets the needs of our young people. The youth program has a few members who enjoy meeting at church as well as attending fun activities together outside the church. A new addition was made to the Sunday School program call a Prayground. In the church in a space next to the altar some quiet toys,

books, pillows and rubber flooring was added for the very young kids to move and wiggle. To the delight of the kids and congregation, it has been quite successful. We have a confirmation class that began in October and will culminate in May.

At the Annual Meeting the nominating committee recommended at the annual meeting two new team members Teresa Columbo and Megan Villanueva, and one officer Chip Marsh as moderator.

Deanna O'Connell

Bob Schroeder

Linae Schroeder

Lynn Plant

Megan Villanueva

## Nominating Committee 2026

### Officers of FCCB

Moderator 1- yr term limited to 2 terms

Moderator-elect 1-yr term

Treasurer/Clerk 3-yr term limited to 2 terms

Moderator	Chip Marsh	2 <sup>nd</sup> year term
Moderator-elect		<b>Vacant</b>
Treasurer	Fred Cotton	2 <sup>nd</sup> yr 2 <sup>nd</sup> term
Clerk	Mindy Yester	2 <sup>nd</sup> yr 2 <sup>nd</sup> term

### Governance Teams

(5 members per Team, 2 two-year terms)

#### Worship Team

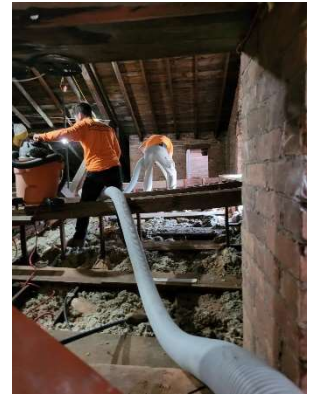
Theresa Columbo		2 <sup>nd</sup> yr 1 <sup>st</sup> term
Donna Giddings	New member	1 <sup>st</sup> yr 1 <sup>st</sup> term
Donna Carpenter	New member	1 <sup>st</sup> yr 1 <sup>st</sup> term
Sharon Reynolds		1 <sup>st</sup> yr 2 <sup>nd</sup> term
Elaine Keith		1 <sup>st</sup> yr 2 <sup>nd</sup> term

#### Operations Team

James Thompson	New member	1 <sup>st</sup> yr 1 <sup>st</sup> term
Mike Giordano		2 <sup>nd</sup> yr 2 <sup>nd</sup> term
Paul Chaplin		1 <sup>st</sup> yr 2 <sup>nd</sup> term
Margo Hardenbergh		1 <sup>st</sup> yr 2 <sup>nd</sup> term
Pam Bronson	New member	1 <sup>st</sup> yr 1 <sup>st</sup> term

#### Discipleship Team

Deanna O'Connell		2 <sup>nd</sup> yr 2 <sup>nd</sup> term
Lynn Plant		2 <sup>nd</sup> yr 2 <sup>nd</sup> term
Linae Schroeder		1 <sup>st</sup> yr, 2 <sup>nd</sup> term
Bob Schroeder		1 <sup>st</sup> yr, 2 <sup>nd</sup> term
Megan Villanueva		2 <sup>nd</sup> yr 1 <sup>st</sup> term



## **Operations Team Annual Report For 2025**

1. **Preparation of Annual Budgets:** In January 2025, the Operations Team finalized the 2025 Church Budget and presented it to the Church Board and the Congregation for approval. Both bodies subsequently approved the Budget.

In November and December 2025, the Operations Team presented to the Church Board a draft 2026 Church Budget for consideration.

2. **Oversight of Endowment:** At each of the monthly meetings of the Operations Team, the Team reviewed the prior month's activity in the Church's investment account at Merrill Lynch. The Church's investments have performed very well in 2025. The Team met with the Church's financial advisor at Merrill Lynch to discuss and take action on (a) the allocation of investments between bonds and equities and (b) the sale of certain of the Church's investments which were contrary to the Church's commitment to peace, the environment, and promotion of public health. The value of the endowment fund as of the date of this Report amounts to slightly over \$4,000,000.

When certain proposed expenses exceed the rules in place for the various Endowed Funds, the Team proposed special distributions, which were later approved by the Church Board and the Congregation at special meetings.

3. **Monthly Review of the Income and Expenses of the Church.** At each monthly meeting of the Operations Team, the Team reviewed the income and expense report presented by the Church Treasurer.

4. **Improvements to the Meeting House:** After interviewing a number of contractors, the Operations Team drafted contracts with a painting contractor to paint the exterior of the Church and with a firm specializing in repairs of religious sanctuaries to repair the ceiling in the Meetinghouse. These proposed contracts were then approved by the Church Board. At the same time, the Operations Team worked with the Church Treasurer to set up a line of credit (with a limit of \$500,000) with Merrill Lynch, secured by our Endowment, in order to provide funds for the

Church Treasurer to pay for these projects. The line of credit was approved by the Church Board, and the Congregation. As of the writing of this Report, the amount of funds withdrawn under this line of credit amounts to about \$320,000. During the late Spring and Summer through the first weeks of the Fall, 2025 these projects were undertaken and completed.

**5. Use of the Church:** The Operations Team considered and recommended approval to the Church Board of contracts with two organizations to use part of our Church buildings for a rental fee – Alcohol Anonymous (which meets daily on weekdays) and New Antioch Church (which conducts services at 1pm on Sundays).

As Chair, I do express my deep appreciation to the members of the 2025 Operations Team – Margot Hardenbergh, Mike Giordano, Paul Chaplin, our Church Treasurer, Fred Cotton, and Rev. Joe, for their commitment to serve on the Operations Team, and to our Moderator, Chip Marsh, who regularly attended and contributed in significant ways to the Team's deliberations.

Respectfully submitted,

Colin M. Gershon  
Chair

December 31, 2025



## **Friends of First Congregational Church Branford**

### **Annual Report - 2025**

The Friends of First Congregational Church Branford was established in October 2025 as a result of the work of the Future Endeavors Committee. It has begun the process of becoming a 501c3 private non-profit corporation whose purpose will be to help address the financial needs of the church and work to raise funds to support our ministry in the community.

During this year, we developed a set of bylaws for the Friends organization, recruited board members and have had our organizational meeting to approve those bylaws and elect officers. Those officers are Kathy Fox, Chair, Holly Coulter, Treasurer, Fred Cotton, Phil Rhinehart, Vice Chair, Robin Comey, Secretary, and Moderator Chip Marsh as ex-officio board member. We are finalizing the submission to the IRS to obtain charitable non-profit status from them.

At the same time, we have begun exploring the process for developing a capital campaign to assist the church in paying for major repairs and supporting our mission. To that end, we have met with organizations which provide consultation to churches around this process and are moving forward to work with one of them. We expect to begin the work of a feasibility study to plan the campaign this Spring.

### **Caring Ministry Report**

*Clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together* (Colossians 3).

*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness....* (Galatians 5:22).

Words from the Apostle Paul which offers wisdom, guidance, and encouragement for all followers of Jesus. Words which especially inspire and instruct those from our church who feel called to caring ministries.

### **The Friendly Visitor's Ministry**

The Friendly Visitor's Ministry reaches out to former members of the congregation who can no longer come to church for worship or engage in church activities. But have attended services or engaged in church activities in the past. Our goal is to become a friend who helps them keep a connection to the church. A Friendly Visitor brings the good news of the church and the church



family to the visitee engaging them in conversation, sharing our common stories and supporting their spiritual needs.

While the church has a population of senior members our outreach program has only a few that we visit on a monthly schedule. We will continue to seek out any of our older friends who want friendly conversation, a relationship with the church and support them in their spiritual needs.

Deanna O'Connell



### **Knit, Purl, Pray Annual Report 2025**

Knit, Purl, Pray (KPP) continues to meet twice each month on the second and fourth Thursday mornings in the Russell Room. We knit or crochet prayer shawls and baby blankets to be given to church members and friends, and other items that can be sold at our Church Fair or for our own use.

Not only do we knit and purl, but we also pray for church friends and family and for any concerns on our hearts. We are very informal and would welcome others to join us – even if you don't knit, purl or crochet! We can teach you if you like, and we have a supply of needles and yarn.

Join us,

Sue Miller

**First Congregational Church of Branford**  
**381<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**January 26, 2025**  
**Minutes**

Having established a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 10:46 a.m. by Moderator Joe Cutrona.

Rev. Joe Perdue gave the opening prayer followed by Moderator Joe Cutrona reading the Behavioral Covenant and then offering a prayer.

Kathy Fox introduced Stephanie Linke, Director of the Child Development Center, who presented their annual report, followed by Judy Alessi, Treasurer, who gave the CDC's budget report and announced that they have paid off the loan they received from the church.

Bud Beccia made the motion, seconded by Parker Fox, to approve the minutes of the 380<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting held January 29, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill Hall made the motion, seconded by Kathy Fox, to approve the minutes of the Special Congregational meeting of January 14, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Colin Gershon made the motion, seconded by Don Patenaude, to approve the minutes of the Special Congregational meeting of September 29, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Colin Gershon made the motion, seconded by Don Patenaude, RESOLVED, that the sum of Forty-two thousand six hundred dollars (\$42,600) be withdrawn from the First Ecclesiastical Society Fund to pay for the 2025 Ministerial Housing Allowance; and FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2025 Church Budget be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Colin Gershon spoke about the repairs and painting needed for the exterior of the church and the sanctuary ceiling repair and painting needs. He will look to consult with experts regarding the condition of the ceiling. He mentioned the Stock Market is up so our endowment is up \$200,000 as of the end of 2024. Both Colin and Fred Cotton thanked Moderator Joe Cutrona for his help and support. Fred said we still have a deficit budget, but it is less than last year's, and we ended 2024 with a smaller deficit than expected. They were able to provide some small increases for our dedicated church staff, after many years without any increases, due in part to the resignation of the choir director earlier in the year.

Kathy Fox, reporting for the Future Endeavors Group, said they found a need to form a separate non-profit, such as "Friends of FCCB," to qualify for opportunities for funding. One opportunity is the UCC's Cornerstone Fund for a low interest loan, then organizing a capital campaign to pay it

back. They discovered a lot of organizational work needs to be done before they can apply for funding, and they are still working on that.

Joe Cutrona highlighted Bob Schroeder for his outstanding presentation for the stewardship campaign and Brian Goodrich for bringing to our attention the need to be more socially aware in our investments.

Susanne Lendler Marsh made the motion, seconded by Barbara Colley, that the annual reports of officers, boards, committees and organizations affiliated with First Congregational Church of Branford be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Deanna O'Connell made a motion, seconded by Jim Boak, to approve the slate of officers and team members presented: Moderator, Chip Marsh; Worship Team, Theresa Columbo; and Discipleship Team Megan Villanueva. The motion passed unanimously.

Margot Hardenburgh thanked Joe Cutrona for his dedication and being a model for backing up his words with his actions.

Jim Boak asked that we all make more of an effort to be welcoming and talk to visitors during coffee hour. Brian Goodrich will work to coordinate this.

Sharon Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Bill Hall, stating: this Congregation wishes to express its deep and sincere appreciation to all who have given of their time and talents, as well as sharing their wisdom and experience, by serving on various committees and in leadership positions. You have made it possible for First Congregational Church of Branford to strive to fulfill its mission to share God's word and love with others. Thank you.  
The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Cutrona thanked Chip Marsh for coming forward to be our moderator, and Chip recognized Nancy Beccia and Joe Cutrona for their dedication and efforts on behalf of the church.

Rev. Joe Perdue gave the benediction.

Bud Beccia made the motion, seconded by Parker Fox, to adjourn the meeting at 11:36 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mindy Yester, Clerk

**First Congregational Church of Branford**  
**Special Meeting of the Congregation**  
**March 30, 2025**  
**Minutes**

Having established a quorum, 42 in attendance, the meeting was called to order at 10:57 a.m. by Moderator Chip Marsh, who immediately read the Behavioral Covenant followed by a short prayer. Rev. Joe Perdue then gave the opening prayer.

Colin Gershon made the following motion, seconded by David Hoadley:

RESOLVED, that the First Congregational Church of Branford may establish a Loan Management Account with Merrill Lynch to fund needed capital improvement projects for the church. The account will be secured by the church's endowed funds and will not exceed \$500,000.

Colin Gershon of the Operations Team gave a brief introduction, then Fred Cotton, Treasurer, spoke about the line of credit, followed by Kathy Fox, Future Endeavors Committee, speaking about options for a capital campaign as the plan to pay any borrowed monies back.

Discussion ensued.

The congregation voted on the motion which passed 41-1.

Bud Beccia made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jim Boak. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mindy Yester, Clerk

**First Congregational Church of Branford**  
**Special Meeting of the Congregation**  
**October 26, 2025**  
**Minutes**

Having established a quorum, 47 in attendance, the meeting was called to order at 11:14 a.m. by Moderator Chip Marsh, who immediately read the Behavioral Covenant followed by a prayer.

Rev. Joe Perdue then gave the opening prayer.

Brad Hotchkiss made the following motion, seconded by Peggy Keck:

RESOLVED, that the First Congregational Church of Branford approves the withdrawal of up to \$40,000 from the First Ecclesiastical Society Fund to make certain renovations to the Shepherd House at Killam's Point Retreat Center.

Brad Hotchkiss presented information on the need for the work to be done at the Shepherd House and Fred Cotton spoke about the taking of monies from the First Ecclesiastical Society Fund.

Discussion ensued.

The congregation voted on the motion which passed unanimously.

Rev. Joe Perdue gave the benediction.

Bill Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:24 a.m., seconded by David Hoadley. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mindy Yester, Clerk

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BRANFORD**  
**CLERK'S REPORT 2025**

**JANUARY**

Church Board Meeting 1/15/2025

- Colin Gershon, seconded by Chip Marsh, moved that the Future Endeavors Group and the Operations Team be directed to meet and discuss the financing of painting the exterior of the church and repair and painting of the sanctuary ceiling and report back at the March Church Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
- Colin Gershon made the motion, seconded by Nancy Beccia, that the Board approve the proposed 2025 budget and recommend it to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
- Colin Gershon made the motion, seconded by Deanna O'Connell, that the Board approve and recommend to the congregation a special resolution to distribute \$42,600 from the First Ecclesiastical Society (FES) Fund to cover the Minister's Housing Allowance in the budget. The motion passed unanimously.
- Peggy Keck made the motion, seconded by Sharon Reynolds, that the Board approve the Killam's Point Management Team's budget for 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

FCCB 381<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting 1/26/2025

- Colin Gershon made the motion, seconded by Don Patenaude, RESOLVED, that the sum of Forty-two thousand six hundred dollars (\$42,600) be withdrawn from the First Ecclesiastical Society Fund to pay for the 2025 Ministerial Housing Allowance; and FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2025 Church Budget be approved. The motion passed unanimously.
- Susanne Lendler Marsh made the motion, seconded by Barbara Colley, that the annual reports of officers, boards, committees and organizations affiliated with First Congregational Church of Branford be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

- Deanna O’Connell made a motion, seconded by Jim Boak, to approve the slate of officers and team members presented: Moderator, Chip Marsh; Worship Team, Theresa Columbo; and Discipleship Team Megan Villanueva. The motion passed unanimously.
- Sharon Reynolds made a motion, seconded by Bill Hall, stating: this Congregation wishes to express its deep and sincere appreciation to all who have given of their time and talents, as well as sharing their wisdom and experience, by serving on various committees and in leadership positions. You have made it possible for First Congregational Church of Branford to strive to fulfill its mission to share God’s word and love with others. Thank you. The motion passed unanimously.

## **FEBRUARY**

Church Board Meeting 2/26/2025

- Fred Cotton made the motion, seconded by Deanna O’Connell, that the Church Board approve the action to establish a line of credit, secured by the Endowment Fund, up to \$500,000 for capital improvements with the approval of the congregation. The motion passed unanimously.

## **MARCH**

Church Board Meeting 3/19/2025

- Mindy Yester made the motion, seconded by Megan Villanueva, to accept the following Church Mission Statement: “The First Congregational Church of Branford provides opportunities for people to live and grow their Christian faith through worship, faith formation and practice. We proclaim God’s love and work for peace and justice for all in our local and global community. We serve God and our neighbors creating an environment where all belong.” The motion passed unanimously.

Special Congregational Meeting 3/30/2025

- Colin Gershon made the following motion, seconded by David Hoadley:  
RESOLVED, that the First Congregational Church of Branford may establish a Loan Management Account with Merrill Lynch to fund needed capital improvement projects for the church. The account will be secured by the church’s endowed funds and will not exceed \$500,000. The motion passed 41-1.

## **APRIL**

Church Board Meeting 4/16/2025

- Colin Gershon made the motion, seconded by Fred Cotton, to adopt the resolution regarding the opening of the Merrill Lynch Loan Management account and the appointment of Colin and Fred as signatories on the account as set forth in Exhibit A. The motion passed unanimously.
- Chip Marsh made the motion, seconded by Mindy Yester, to modify the second sentence in the prayer in the Behavioral Covenant to remove the phrase “that we are all brothers and sisters” and the comma following the word “children” to now read: Dear Lord: Bless us with your spirit as we gather to do your work here at First Congregational Church, Branford. Remind us that we are your children and that our interaction is based on mutual respect. We accept that we will have differing viewpoints, but our love and respect for each other will guide our interactions. In your name we pray. Amen. The motion passed unanimously.

## **MAY**

Church Board Meeting 5/21/2025 – No actions taken.

## **JUNE**

Church Board Meeting 6/18/2025

- Deanna O’Connell made a motion, seconded by Margot Hardenburgh, to accept the following Resolution: The Board of the First Congregational Church of Branford approves the establishment of the Friends of First Congregational Church of Branford, Inc. and its efforts to receive and administer financial and other resources in support of First Congregational Church of Branford. The motion passed with one abstention.
- Sharon Reynolds made the motion, seconded by Lynne Plant, to approve the appointment of Donna Giddings to the Worship Team. The motion passed unanimously.

## **JULY**

Church Board Meeting 7/16/2025 – No actions taken.

## **AUGUST**

Church Board Meeting 8/20/2025 – No actions taken.

## **SEPTEMBER**

Church Board Meeting 9/24/2025



- Colin Gershon made the motion, seconded by Fred Cotton, that the Church Board authorize the treasurer to withdraw up to \$40,000 from the Merrill Lynch Loan Management account for a feasibility study and startup costs to be paid to the Friends of FCCB, Inc. The motion passed unanimously.

## **OCTOBER**

### Church Board Meeting 10/15/2025

- Mindy Yester made the motion, seconded by Deanna O'Connell, that the Board approve the temporary membership for Rev. Scott Morrow and Carol Amico. The motion passed unanimously.
- Chip Marsh made the motion, seconded by Colin Gershon: Resolved, that a special meeting of the Congregation is hereby called to take place in the Meeting House immediately after Church services on Sunday, October 26, 2025, for the purpose of considering and approving the withdrawal of no more than \$40,000 from the First Ecclesiastical Society Fund to make certain renovations to the Shepherd House at Killam's Point Retreat Center. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mindy Yester made the motion, seconded by Megan Villanueva, to reappoint Joe Cutrona to the Branford Green Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

### Special Congregational Meeting 10/26/2025

- Brad Hotchkiss made the following motion, seconded by Peggy Keck:  
RESOLVED, that the First Congregational Church of Branford approves the withdrawal of up to \$40,000 from the First Ecclesiastical Society Fund to make certain renovations to the Shepherd House at Killam's Point Retreat Center. The motion passed unanimously.

## **NOVEMBER**

### Church Board Meeting 11/19/2025

- Megan Villanueva made the motion, seconded by Sharon Reynolds, that the Church Board authorize the moderator to appoint a housing committee to study the feasibility of ministerial housing options. The motion passed unanimously.

## **DECEMBER**

Church Board Meeting 12/17/2025 – No actions taken.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mindy Yester, Clerk



### **2025 Annual Church Fair Report**

Our 2025 Christmas Fair was held on Saturday, 12/6/25, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Co-Chairs were Elaine Keith and her friend Rosalie DeCrosta. Deanna O'Connell provided experienced guidance, along with Rev. Joe Perdue's support.

This being our 100<sup>th</sup> consecutive fair, we wanted it to be special. The fair was set up the same as it was in 2024 with the same departments and included a display of various 1920's artifacts for fair goers to enjoy.

We are very proud to say that we grossed slightly over \$14,000, a 40% increase over last year. We attribute this success to the marketing and advertising that were done, along with the hard work of all our volunteers. We were thrilled to be featured on the front page of The Sound that came out just before the fair.

Sincerest thanks and appreciation go out to everyone who contributed in any way to our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Christmas Fair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Keith & Rosalie DeCrosta

## Annual Report 2025

### Killam's Point Conference Center

Once again, Killam's Point had a very busy year. During the rental period from April 1 through Thanksgiving, Killam's Point Conference Center hosted 44 different groups at 54 separate events. Those events included weddings and other family events, a variety of different church functions, celebrations of life, local university and high school groups, and many community organizations. Among the recurring events, Take A Vet Fishing continued its outreach by booking monthly outings. In addition, Killam's Point Day Camp and Camp Totokett operated five weeks of camp in July and August. Rental income for the year reached \$50,764.80, marking the highest in recent history, compared to \$39,775 reported in 2024 and \$47,025 in 2023.

Several notable improvements were made to the conference center property during the year. The most significant upgrade was the replacement of the fence along the edge of the property near the back of the dog park on Shore Drive. The previous fence had been destroyed years ago by a storm-damaged tree. The new installation aims to prevent unauthorized access, thereby enhancing safety for guests and residents and reducing liability concerns. There is a gate in the fence which allows access to those with the lock code. An additional upgrade included the installation of a water bottle filler/fountain on the exterior of the conference center. This improvement was undertaken at the request of the day camps, primarily to minimize foot traffic inside the building. To further improve the rental experience, new recreational amenities such as a gaga pit, cornhole game, and tether ball were purchased.

A key highlight of the year was the hiring of a new caretaker, David Patterson, a local home improvement contractor, who joined the team this past summer. Unfortunately, David has not yet moved into the Shepherd House due to its current condition. Nevertheless, he has begun applying his skills and experience to upgrade the property and anticipates moving in by spring. We're grateful to have him on board.

Deepest gratitude to Betsy Hyde, Mike Giordano and others on the Operations Team, and to the entire management team who worked so hard to keep Killam's Point operating so well when there was no caretaker.

The year was distinguished by strong rental performance, notable property improvements, and the hiring of a caretaker. Killam's Point Conference Center looks forward to another great year in 2026.

Killam's Point Management Team

Peggy Keck, Chair

Brad Hotchkiss, Paul Chaplin, Jim Boak, Sean MacLeod

Betsy Hyde, non-voting member, Mike Giordano, non-voting member



## KILLAM'S POINT DAY CAMP ANNUAL REPORT - 2025

The summer of 2025 was another successful year for the campers at Killam's Point Day Camp. Each week we had around 70 campers. We had just under 300 campers over the four-week period. The majority of campers were returning campers who registered for multiple weeks. We also had a fair number of children transition from camper to Junior Counselor, and some Junior Counselors transitioned to Counselors. Within the group, we helped several families financially.

Weekly activities included, but were not limited to: swimming, kayaking, hiking, crafts, nature, STEAM activities, and games.

Weekly, we had around 24 paid staff members. This included directors, counselors, medical personnel, and lifeguards.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Villanueva



## **Camp Totokett Annual Report 2025**

Camp Totokett proudly celebrated its 29th year of serving children and families from the Greater New Haven area. The week was once again filled with connection, laughter, and moments of pure joy — a true reflection of the spirit of camp. Campers enjoyed a variety of special activities throughout the week, including a visit from an African percussionist, our much-loved Birthday Day celebration, and the always-anticipated camp-wide talent show that showcased courage, creativity, and fun. Additional special programming included Curious Creatures, mindfulness sessions led by the one and only Lifeguard Peggy, and a much-anticipated slip-n-slide that brought endless smiles and laughter.

During the week of July 21–25, 2025, we welcomed 51 campers for a meaningful week of respite — a space free from stress, trauma, and daily responsibilities, where children could simply be kids. Through our continued partnership with Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS), Camp Totokett welcomed campers whose families have sought safety and a new beginning in the United States. We also continued to serve families connected to local community organizations, including Fair Haven Community Health, A Place for New Healing (APNH), Nathan Smith Clinic, and Cornell Scott Hill Health Center.

This week would not have been possible without the extraordinary commitment of our volunteers. We were supported by 36 dedicated mentors and group leaders who led activities, fostered meaningful relationships, and embodied the compassion, patience, and flexibility that define the Camp Totokett experience. Their presence made it possible for each camper to feel seen, supported, and valued. We also were so thankful for our adult staff team who ensured our physical safety and well-being, cooked beautiful meals for us each day to keep our bodies nourished, and truly did everything they could to bring the magic of camp to life. This work would not be possible without all of our remarkable volunteers and staff!

This summer marked our third year welcoming camp alumni back to Camp Totokett, and we were honored to have 12 alumni return as mentors and volunteers. Watching former campers step into leadership roles continues to be one of the most powerful reminders of camp's lasting impact. These alumni represent the next generation of Camp Totokett, carrying forward the values of empathy, community, and service that they first experienced as campers.



Many alumni shared that Camp Totokett has remained a constant source of inspiration in their lives, motivating them to pursue academic goals, leadership opportunities, and meaningful involvement in their communities. For them, camp has always been more than a week in the summer — it is a family and a place of belonging. Returning as mentors allowed them to give back to a program that helped shape who they are today.

The continued involvement of our alumni reflects the strength of Camp Totokett's legacy and honors the vision of our founder, Barbara Colley, along with the generosity and support of our volunteers and the First Congregational Church of Branford.

As we look ahead, we are excited to celebrate our 30th year of camp!! **Camp Totokett will return the week of July 20–24, 2026**, and we look forward to welcoming campers, volunteers, and supporters back for another unforgettable summer. More information on how to get involved will be shared in the coming months through the e-Spire and our [camp website](#), but we can promise it will be a summer to remember as we honor three decades of camp magic!!

Respectfully submitted,

Hailey Nelson, Director  
Barbara Colley, Co-Founder

### **2025 Scholarship Program Report**

The committee received two requests from graduating seniors for scholarships and granted both of them:

Valentina Miller (granddaughter of Ron and Sue Miller) \$1500, attending Endicott College and Nadia Clifford, member, \$1500, attending SCSU

These scholarships are in two installments. The second installment is paid after receipt of the first semester grades, showing at least a C average.

Money was available in the Scholarship fund for church staff continuing education. Requests were solicited and grants were made to Rev. Joe Perdue (\$2500) for costs related to his PHD program and to Kerry Stewart (\$1500) for her online Divinity School degree program.

Respectfully submitted,

The Scholarship Committee  
Barbara Colley, Margot Hardenburg, Sue Miller, Nora Vetrano



## **Community Dining Room Annual Report 2025**

During 2025, our group of 13 -15 volunteers prepared and served lunch at the Community Dining Room (CDR). Our day to volunteer is the first Saturday of every odd month, six times in all. About one half of the 65 or so meals we prepare are eaten in the Dining Room and some are taken to go. All are greatly appreciated and enjoyed.

There is a required, short training session given by the CDR on Zoom every month for new volunteers. The menu is prepared for us, and the ingredients are ready and waiting. We arrive around 9:00 – 9:30 and are set to serve at noon. Clean-up is usually finished by 1:30 – 2:00.

We are always looking for additional volunteers. For more information contact Missy at the church office or me.

Sue Miller

## **Registrar's Report**

### CHURCH REGISTRY

Active members as of January 1, 2025	241
New members received	12
Confirmands received	0
Baptized	5
Married	0
Deaths	6
Letters of transfer – sent/received	1
Removed to Inactive Roll	1
Moved to Friends Roll	1
Affiliate Members	0
Friends	28

## **Annual Report of the Church Historian**

The role of the Church Historian is to record for the future important and/or interesting happenings in the life of the church.

This year, after the worship service on June 8<sup>th</sup>, the sanctuary was closed for three months. Parishioners emptied the center pews to prevent dust from settling on the cushions, bibles, and hymnals. The items were put on the pews that are under the balcony. Everything was covered in heavy plastic. Scaffolding was then built over the pews so the ceiling could be painted after a hole was repaired! The whole room was updated as needed.

Worship moved to the chapel which had air-conditioners put in the two windows. The sanctuary was reopened for worship on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

Our year concluded on December 28<sup>th</sup> with a worship/brunch in Pilgrim Hall.

Carol Hoadley  
Church Historian



## **Treasurer's Report 2025**

2025 ended with a deficit of \$93,392.86. This was a savings over our projected deficit of \$110,531.00 and was a result of reducing our overall spending wherever possible. Our projected deficit for 2025 is \$111,531.00. This includes \$22,000 to pay estimated monthly interest on the Merrill Lynch Loan Management Account opened in 2025 to pay for capital improvements.

The Treasurer meets weekly with our bookkeeper, Pat Carroll, to review invoices and sign checks. All necessary administrative, operating and maintenance expenses for the year were paid. \$137,000 was transferred from the Unrestricted Funds to the operating account to cover the deficit and cash flow needs. The balance in the Unrestricted Funds as of 12/31/2026 is \$29,511.

Year-to-date budget reports were prepared and presented to the Operations team for review and comment monthly

Our Endowment Funds had a very positive year, and we saw an increase in the overall balance after all budgeted and special withdrawals.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Cotton, Treasurer

## **Child Development Center Annual Report – 2025**

In 2025, the Child Development Center of the First Congregational Church of Branford continued to receive positive feedback from current and prospective families. We have had several families enroll their newborns with us whose older children had graduated from our program in previous years. In addition, many of our new families have come from referrals by present and past families.

This year we thought we would have a smaller pre k class due to the public school having a full day program for pre k. However, many of our current families chose to stay with us for pre k as they have siblings enrolled, their children were comfortable and happy here, and they would have more flexibility than at the public pre k program. Many of our classrooms continue to have a waiting list for enrollment. We currently have 70 families enrolled in our program (some with multiple children) and 22 staff here daily. We currently have 1 infant room, 2 waddler classrooms (1 year olds), 1 pre toddler class, 1 toddler class, and 3 preschool rooms (3's, 4's and 5's). This year the state ratios increased for our 2 year olds which allows us to now have 10 children in our two year old classroom instead of 8. Our teachers in this age group did a nice job making the increase in children work well.

Our community events have also continued to be a huge success. CDC had an amazing turnout at our annual Trunk-or-Treat event held on Taintor Drive, as well as our preschool class's Holiday Concert. We held a fall art walk in our hallways and will be having our spring art walk and graduation in June. CDC continues to offer CrossFit classes twice a month with instructors from Branford CrossFit.

Our continued mission is:

- To provide a healthy and safe learning environment for children of all abilities.
- To promote personal and professional growth of children, families, and teachers.
- To design our curriculum based upon the physical, intellectual, emotional and social development of each individual child.
- To utilize the community as a learning tool.
- To honor each child as a unique individual and to respect the creativity that they possess.

Thank you all for your support over the past year. We look forward to continuing to work together in the new year and always welcome inquiries about our program.

Respectfully,

Stephanie Linke  
Director, Child Development Center

**Child Development Center**  
**Budget FYE 8/31/25**

<b>Income</b>	Actual FYTD Aug 2025	Budget FYTD Aug 2025	Variance Better Than (Worse Than)
Misc. (interest, donations, etc)	203,630	203,630	0
Registration	0	3,000	(3,000)
Tuition	1,075,201	1,100,240	(25,038)
<b>Grand Total Income</b>	<b>1,278,832</b>	<b>1,306,870</b>	<b>(28,038)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Staffing:</b>			
Life Insurance and AFLAC	(312)	300	612
Payroll Expenses	10,293	10,126	(167)
Payroll Taxes	72,811	75,943	3,132
Replacement	48,871	50,000	1,129
Salaries	810,703	793,814	(16,890)
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>942,366</b>	<b>930,183</b>	<b>(12,183)</b>
<b>Operational:</b>			
Church Contribution	24,000	24,000	0
Church Loan Repayment	10,000	10,000	0
Cleaning	26,220	30,000	3,780
Food	26,243	28,000	1,757
Medical Supplies	23,708	24,000	292
Paper Products	27,303	23,000	(4,303)
Playground	0	1,500	1,500
Repairs/Maintenance/sewer	235	3,000	2,765
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>137,708</b>	<b>143,500</b>	<b>5,792</b>
<b>General:</b>			
Consulting and Legal fees	945	1,000	55
Contingency	0	5,000	5,000
Dues/Subscriptions& advertising	500	600	100
Workers Comp and AD&D	5,056	6,000	944
Office Supplies	13,171	10,000	(3,171)
Permits/Fees	743	635	(108)
Special Events	3,458	5,000	1,542
Visiting Nurse	1,600	2,000	400
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>25,473</b>	<b>30,235</b>	<b>4,762</b>
<b>Classroom Costs:</b>			
Art & Educational supplies	4,170	4,000	(170)
Enrichment & Activities	1,571	2,000	429
Equipment	6,279	9,000	2,721
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>12,020</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>2,980</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,117,567</b>	<b>1,118,918</b>	<b>1,350</b>

**NET INCOME**

\$ 161,264	\$ 187,952	\$ (26,688)
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Balance

**Notes for the Year:**

The loan from the Church was paid back in full

## FCCB 2026 Proposed Budget

	Actual 2025	Budget 2025	Variance	Budget 2026
<b>Receipts</b>				
<u><b>Income</b></u>				
Current Pledges	\$ 166,059.00	\$ 170,000.00	\$ (3,941.00)	\$ 170,000.00
General Donations	\$ 34,048.19	\$ 35,000.00	\$ (951.81)	\$ 30,000.00
Plate Offering	\$ 2,927.14	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 427.14	\$ 3,000.00
Prior Year Pledges	\$ 481.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ (1,019.00)	\$ 500.00
Child Development Center	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ -	\$ 25,200.00
Christmas Fair, Net	\$ 12,484.69	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 2,484.69	\$ 10,000.00
Killams Point Day Camp	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (5,000.00)	\$ -
In Honor of Donations	\$ 3,458.00	\$ -	\$ 3,458.00	\$ -
Miscellaneous Income/Refunds	\$ 203.77	\$ -	\$ 203.77	\$ -
Facility Rental	\$ 11,555.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 1,555.00	\$ 15,000.00
Fundraising	\$ 93.75	\$ 500.00	\$ (406.25)	\$ -
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 255,310.54</b>	<b>\$ 258,500.00</b>	<b>\$ (3,189.46)</b>	<b>\$ 253,700.00</b>
<u><b>Transfers from Funds</b></u>				
Doxie Funds	\$ 9,743.00	\$ 9,743.00	\$ -	\$ 10,675.00
Evans Fund Donation	\$ 51,321.00	\$ 51,321.00	\$ -	\$ 51,606.00
FES Fund Contribution (L&B only)	\$ 35,967.03	\$ 35,867.00	\$ 100.03	\$ 35,134.00
Income Funds-Quarterly	\$ 5,972.32	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 972.32	\$ 5,500.00
FES Fund Contribution Housing Allowance	\$ 42,600.00	\$ 42,600.00	\$ -	\$ 47,400.00
Marjorie & Ford Dickie Fund	\$ 10,950.00	\$ 10,950.00	\$ -	\$ 11,940.00
Marjorie Dickie Fund	\$ 9,742.00	\$ 9,742.00	\$ -	\$ 10,092.00
Unrestricted Funds	\$ 4,302.96	\$ 4,302.00	\$ 0.96	\$ 1,950.00
<b>Total Transfers from Funds</b>	<b>\$ 170,598.31</b>	<b>\$ 169,525.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,073.31</b>	<b>\$ 174,297.00</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 425,908.85</b>	<b>\$ 428,025.00</b>	<b>\$ (2,116.15)</b>	<b>\$ 427,997.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
<u><b>Discipleship Team</b></u>				
<u><b>BENEVOLENCE</b></u>				
Consociation Dues	\$ 428.75	\$ 450.00	\$ (21.25)	\$ 755.00
Conference Proportional Giving	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ -	\$ 4,500.00
<b>Total BENEVOLENCE</b>	<b>\$ 4,928.75</b>	<b>\$ 4,950.00</b>	<b>\$ (21.25)</b>	<b>\$ 5,255.00</b>
<u><b>INTERDENOMINATIONAL</b></u>				
Mission Board	\$4,900.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (100.00)	\$ 5,000.00
Special Disbursement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total INTERDENOMINATIONAL</b>	<b>\$4,900.00</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>	<b>\$ (100.00)</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
<u><b>EDUCATION</b></u>				
Christian Education Sunday School	\$ 901.42	\$ 2,350.00	\$ (1,448.58)	\$ -
Adult Education Expenses	\$ 701.28	\$ 2,200.00	\$ (1,498.72)	\$ 1,000.00
Christian Education - Youth	\$ 1,116.67	\$ 2,750.00	\$ (1,633.33)	\$ 2,500.00
Confirmation	\$ 134.73	\$ 750.00	\$ (615.27)	\$ 750.00
Misc. Credit Card Charges	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

## FCCB 2026 Proposed Budget

	Actual 2025	Budget 2025	Variance	Budget 2026
Intergenerational	\$ 246.39	\$ 1,500.00	\$ (1,253.61)	\$ 2,000.00
MLK Breakfast Sponsor	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00
<b>Total EDUCATION</b>	<b>\$ 3,100.49</b>	<b>\$ 9,550.00</b>	<b>\$ (6,449.51)</b>	<b>\$ 6,750.00</b>
 <b><u>MISSION PROJECT</u></b>	 \$ 2,161.53	 \$ 1,500.00	 \$ 661.53	 \$ -
<b><u>Total Discipleship Team</u></b>	<b>\$ 15,090.77</b>	<b>\$ 21,000.00</b>	<b>\$ (5,909.23)</b>	<b>\$ 17,005.00</b>
 <b><u>Worship Team</u></b>				
<b><u>WORSHIP SUPPLIES</u></b>				
Worship	\$ 892.54	\$ 2,500.00	\$ (1,607.46)	\$ 2,500.00
Flowers	\$ 1,601.10	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 201.10	\$ 1,600.00
Hospitality	\$ 1,338.46	\$ 700.00	\$ 638.46	\$ 1,500.00
Pulpit Supply	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,500.00
Zoom/Facebook/Youtube	\$ 3,546.74	\$ 2,160.00	\$ 1,386.74	\$ 175.00
<b>Total WORSHIP SUPPLIES</b>	<b>\$ 8,878.84</b>	<b>\$ 7,660.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,218.84</b>	<b>\$ 7,275.00</b>
 <b><u>MUSIC EXPENSES</u></b>				
Special Musicians	\$ 3,560.00	\$ 5,800.00	\$ (2,240.00)	\$ 5,000.00
Sheet Music & Supplies	\$ 1,311.03	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 291.03	\$ 1,250.00
Piano & Organ Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ (500.00)	\$ -
Copyright	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Music Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4,871.03</b>	<b>\$ 7,320.00</b>	<b>\$ (2,448.97)</b>	<b>\$ 6,250.00</b>
 <b><u>Total Worship Team</u></b>	<b>\$ 13,749.87</b>	<b>\$ 14,980.00</b>	<b>\$ (1,230.13)</b>	<b>\$ 13,525.00</b>
 <b><u>Operations Team</u></b>				
<b><u>STAFF EXPENSES</u></b>				
Payroll Expenses	\$ 4,017.69	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 517.69	\$ 4,000.00
Ministerial Salaries	\$ 67,170.04	\$ 67,170.00	\$ 0.04	\$ 67,870.00
Other Staff Salaries	\$ 150,289.56	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 289.56	\$ 153,272.00
Consultants	\$ 4,950.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,950.00	\$ 3,650.00
Pensions	\$ 17,452.08	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 452.08	\$ 17,500.00
Insurance	\$ 32,309.81	\$ 34,853.00	\$ (2,543.19)	\$ 24,140.00
Workers Comp. Insurance	\$ 3,277.01	\$ 2,953.00	\$ 324.01	\$ 2,953.00
Ministerial Telephone Expense	\$ 946.06	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (53.94)	\$ 1,000.00
Misc. Ministerial Expenses	\$ 2,824.24	\$ 3,500.00	\$ (675.76)	\$ 3,500.00
Auto Allowance	\$ 2,792.09	\$ 3,500.00	\$ (707.91)	\$ 3,500.00
Payroll taxes employer	\$ 11,520.44	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 20.44	\$ 11,720.00
Housing Allowance	\$ 42,599.96	\$ 42,600.00	\$ (0.04)	\$ 47,400.00
Misc. Staff Expenses	\$ 1,669.63	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 169.63	\$ 1,500.00
Minister Conference Expense	\$ 1,272.57	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 272.57	\$ 1,000.00
Faith Formation Conference Expense	\$ 500.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 400.00
<b>Total STAFF EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 343,591.18</b>	<b>\$ 343,476.00</b>	<b>\$ 115.18</b>	<b>\$ 343,405.00</b>
 <b><u>ADMINISTRATION</u></b>				
Tithely Processing Fees	\$ 326.65	\$ 500.00	\$ (173.35)	\$ 500.00
Office	\$ 2,188.46	\$ 2,600.00	\$ (411.54)	\$ 2,600.00
Computer Related Expenses	\$ 5,193.96	\$ 6,500.00	\$ (1,306.04)	\$ 6,500.00

## FCCB 2026 Proposed Budget

	Actual 2025	Budget 2025	Variance	Budget 2026
Copier Related Expenses	\$ 7,520.59	\$ 7,100.00	\$ 420.59	\$ 7,100.00
Professional Fees (accounting)	\$ 7.12	\$ 3,000.00	\$ (2,992.88)	\$ 3,000.00
Postage	\$ 850.53	\$ 1,600.00	\$ (749.47)	\$ 1,000.00
Telephone	\$ 5,763.08	\$ 4,250.00	\$ 1,513.08	\$ 4,500.00
Website Expenses	\$ 1,428.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 28.00	\$ 1,400.00
Leased Equipment	\$ 548.05	\$ 400.00	\$ 148.05	\$ 500.00
<b>Total ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 23,826.44</b>	<b>\$ 27,350.00</b>	<b>\$ (3,523.56)</b>	<b>\$ 27,100.00</b>
<b><u>BUILDING OPERATIONS</u></b>				
Supplies & Services	\$ 2,539.32	\$ 3,500.00	\$ (960.68)	\$ 3,500.00
Snow Plowing	\$ 8,348.98	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 2,848.98	\$ 6,000.00
SCGC	\$ 9,132.58	\$ 8,700.00	\$ 432.58	\$ 9,000.00
Electric	\$ 15,410.16	\$ 17,000.00	\$ (1,589.84)	\$ 17,000.00
Water	\$ 2,977.30	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 477.30	\$ 2,500.00
Building Repairs	\$ 816.87	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (4,183.13)	\$ 5,000.00
Plumbing Repairs	\$ 15,168.72	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,168.72	\$ 5,000.00
Electric Repairs	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (1,000.00)	\$ 1,000.00
Recurrent Building Maintenance	\$ 60.50	\$ 5,500.00	\$ (5,439.50)	\$ 3,000.00
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 705.81	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (294.19)	\$ 1,000.00
Painting	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (1,000.00)	\$ 1,000.00
Service Contracts	\$ 4,120.71	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 120.71	\$ 4,000.00
Killam's Point	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ (1,500.00)	\$ -
Liability Insurance	\$ 61,762.50	\$ 61,151.00	\$ 611.50	\$ 63,597.00
Center Cemetery	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
AED Equipment	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (5,000.00)	\$ -
Gutter Cleaning	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ (1,500.00)	\$ -
Recurrent Roof Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (1,000.00)	\$ -
<b>Total BUILDING OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 123,043.45</b>	<b>\$ 131,851.00</b>	<b>\$ (8,807.55)</b>	<b>\$ 123,597.00</b>
 Total Operations Team	 \$ 490,461.07	 \$ 502,677.00	 \$ (12,215.93)	 \$ 494,102.00
 Interest On Merrill Lynch Loan	 \$ -	 \$ -	 \$ -	 \$ 22,000.00
<b><u>Total Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 519,301.71</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 538,657.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$ (19,355.29)</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 546,632.00</u></b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>				
Income	\$ 255,310.54	\$ 258,500.00	\$ (3,189.46)	\$ 253,700.00
Transfers from Funds	\$ 170,598.31	\$ 169,525.00	\$ 1,073.31	\$ 174,297.00
Total Receipts	\$ 425,908.85	\$ 428,025.00	\$ (2,116.15)	\$ 427,997.00
Total Expenses	\$ 519,301.71	\$ 538,657.00	\$ (19,355.29)	\$ 546,632.00
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$ (93,392.86)</b>	<b>\$ (110,632.00)</b>	<b>\$ 17,239.14</b>	<b>\$ (118,635.00)</b>
Transfers from Unrestricted Fund	\$ 137,000.00			
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 43,607.14</b>			

## Killam's Point 2026 Proposed Budget

	<u>2025 Actual</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Rental Income	\$ 50,764.80	\$ 53,000.00	\$ 53,000.00
Donations	\$ 10,750.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
<b>Total INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 61,514.80</b>	<b>\$ 53,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 55,500.00</b>
Transfer from FES Fund	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
<b>Total RECEIPTS</b>	<b><u>\$ 86,514.80</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 53,000.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 70,500.00</u></b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Operations</b>			
Administrative	\$ 176.86	\$ 50.00	\$ 200.00
Advertising	\$ 876.75	\$ 800.00	\$ 900.00
Stripe/Squarespace fees	\$ 1,039.78	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,100.00
Cleaning/Maintenance	\$ 2,891.84	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Furniture/Equipment	\$ 195.58	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 500.00
Liability Insurance	\$ 14,946.25	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
Licenses/Permits	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Repairs	\$ 4,514.41	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Equipment Rental	\$ 7,355.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Fire Systems	\$ 1,699.93	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Rubbish Removal	\$ 1,752.16	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00
Snow Plowing	\$ 940.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,000.00
Road Repair	\$ 2,525.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
Misc.	\$ 1,538.04	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,000.00
Shepherd House Renovation	\$ 802.90	\$ -	\$ 45,000.00
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b><u>\$ 41,304.50</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 37,800.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 80,350.00</u></b>
<b>UTILITIES</b>			
Electric	\$ 1,476.44	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
Heating Oil	\$ 3,385.28	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
Propane	\$ 259.54	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 300.00
Phones, internet	\$ 2,696.75	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,600.00
Water	\$ 758.42	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,000.00
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b><u>\$ 8,576.43</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 12,500.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 8,900.00</u></b>
Transfer from FES Fund	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
<b>Total EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>\$ 74,880.93</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 50,300.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 89,250.00</u></b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 61,514.80</b>	<b>\$ 53,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 55,500.00</b>
<b>Transfers from FES Fund</b>	<b>\$ 25,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 15,000.00</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 86,514.80</b>	<b>\$ 53,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 70,500.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 74,880.93</b>	<b>\$ 50,300.00</b>	<b>\$ 89,250.00</b>
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b><u>\$ 11,633.87</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 2,700.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$ (18,750.00)</u></b>



# First Congregational Church of Branford

## Financial Statement of Income & Expenses

January - December 2025

	TOTAL
<b>Revenue</b>	
4102 Child Development Center Rent	24,000.00
4103 Christmas Fair	<b>12,389.53</b>
4104 Facility Usage	11,555.00
4106 General Donations	33,104.80
4107 Grocery Account Contributions	93.75
4111 Memorial/ In Honor Of Donations	2,083.00
4112 Miscellaneous Income/Refunds	203.77
4113 Plate Offerings	2,927.14
4114 PLEDGES	166,059.00
4115 Prior Year Pledges	481.00
4116 Music Fund IMO Greg Lind	1,375.00
4126 Transfers from Funds	<b>313,098.31</b>
4145 KILLAMS PT CONFERENCE CENTER	<b>88,014.80</b>
Unapplied Cash Payment Income	50.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$655,435.10</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$655,435.10</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
6100 DISCIPLESHIP TEAM	
6101 BENEVOLENCE	<b>4,928.75</b>
6104 INTERDENOMINATIONAL	<b>4,900.00</b>
6107 EDUCATION	<b>11,831.63</b>
<b>Total 6100 DISCIPLESHIP TEAM</b>	<b>21,660.38</b>
6220 WORSHIP TEAM	
6221 WORSHIP	1,288.30
6222 Pulpit Supply	1,500.00
6223 Flowers	<b>1,601.10</b>
6224 Hospitality	<b>1,351.20</b>
6225 Zoom/Facebook/YouTube	3,546.74
6230 MUSIC EXPENSES	<b>4,871.03</b>
<b>Total 6220 WORSHIP TEAM</b>	<b>14,158.37</b>
6299 OPERATIONS TEAM	
6300 STAFF EXPENSES	<b>349,168.91</b>
6400 ADMINISTRATION	<b>23,984.48</b>
6500 BUILDING OPERATIONS	<b>123,123.41</b>
<b>Total 6299 OPERATIONS TEAM</b>	<b>496,276.80</b>
6540 Capital Improvements	315,971.98
6560 Fund Transfers	313,098.31
6580 Merrill Lynch LOC Interest Expense	4,910.85
6601 KILLAMS POINT CONFERENCE CTR	<b>74,880.93</b>

	TOTAL
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expense	-865.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,240,092.62</b>
<b>NET OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ -584,657.52</b>
Other Revenue	
7100 Camp Totoket	24,100.00
7122 Miscellaneous	29.30
7125 Poinsettias	108.80
7130 Killams Point Day Camp Income	68,557.19
7187 2021 Youth Mission Trip	-21.16
7188 Mission Trip Fundraisers	1,098.48
7204 Change in Market Value-ML	417,655.76
7205 Compassion Fund Donations	2,081.33
7206 Dividends/Interest-ML	108,847.33
7207 Grocery Card Sales	1,875.00
7209 Other Credit to Endowment	198.21
7210 Credit Card Rewards Points	558.80
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$625,089.04</b>
Other Expenditures	
7300 CAMP TOTOKET EXPENSES	29,190.05
7320 KILLAMS POINT DAY CAMP EXPENSES	98,760.79
7401 Advisory/Investment Fees-ML	25,241.75
7402 Bell Choir Disbursements	39.95
7404 Compassion Fund Disbursements	2,641.27
7405 Grocery Card Disbursements	93.75
7406 Miscellaneous Expense	100.00
7407 Scholarship Payments	3,783.92
<b>Total Other Expenditures</b>	<b>\$159,851.48</b>
<b>NET OTHER REVENUE</b>	<b>\$465,237.56</b>
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ -119,419.96</b>

# First Congregational Church of Branford

## Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2025

	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1103 KEY BANK CHECKING	29,336.00
1104 KILLAMS PT CONF CTR - KEY BANK	52,953.01
1105 KEY BANK-CREDIT CARD ACCT	1,000.81
1130 Merrill Lynch	
1132 FES Equity (812-04062)	561,700.28
1133 FES Cash (812-04063)	12,127.18
1133a FES Bond (812-02518)	286,420.98
1134 SEG (02519, 04065 & 04066)	1,758,823.86
1135 Unrestricted Equity (812-04068)	29,178.98
1136 Unrestricted Bond (812-04069)	331.88
1140 Evans Equity (812-02511)	949,966.29
1141 Evans Cash (812-02512)	42,906.92
1142 Evans Bond (812-02517)	383,116.27
<b>Total 1130 Merrill Lynch</b>	<b>4,024,572.64</b>
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$4,107,862.46</b>
Accounts Receivable	\$200.00
Other Current Assets	
12000 Undeposited Funds	2,613.71
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>\$2,613.71</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$4,110,676.17</b>
Fixed Assets	\$6,444.42
Other Assets	\$12,000.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$4,129,120.59</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	\$3,050.94
Other Current Liabilities	\$28,538.93
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$31,589.87</b>
Long-Term Liabilities	
22300 Merrill Lynch Line of Credit	332,910.85
<b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$332,910.85</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$364,500.72</b>
Equity	\$3,764,619.87
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$4,129,120.59</b>

# First Congregational Church of Branford

## Account Summary

\*\*\*All figures taken from attached Merrill Lynch CRC Report\*\*\*

Account	Balance a/o 12-31-2025
SEG	\$1,758,824
FES	\$860,248
Evans	\$1,375,989
Unrestricted- SGC	\$29,511
<b>Total =</b>	<b>\$4,024,572</b>

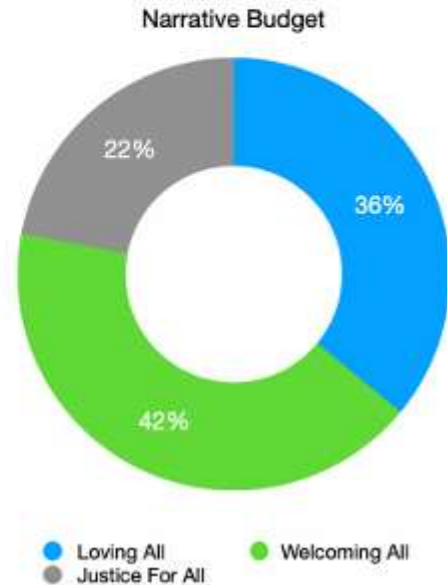
Cash Flow YTD a/o 12-31-2025	
Opening Balance (1/1/2025)	\$3,845,491
Contributions	\$0
Withdrawals	(\$323,131)
Interest / Dividends	\$108,540
Appreciation / Depreciation	\$393,671
Current Balance	\$4,024,572

	Asset Allocation	Performance % thru (12-31)	Bench Performance %
Cash	5.19% - \$208,727	\$121,223 @3.59% interest	
Stocks	67.72% - \$2,725,300	US +17.64% International +35.25%	Russell 1000 +15.91% MSCI EAFE +42.25%
Bonds	27.10% - \$1,090,545	+6.32%	Barclay AGG +7.30%
Est. Income next 12 months	\$90,935	Portfolio Yield 2.26%	

Recurring Distributions	
FES	\$6,508.57/month to Key Bank
SEG	\$810.97/month to Key Bank
Unrestricted- SGC	\$382.24/month to Key Bank

## First Congregational Church of Branford 2026 Narrative Budget

Narrative Budget	
Loving All	\$196,788
Welcoming All	\$229,585
Justice For All	\$120,259
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$546,632</b>



**Welcoming All** includes the ways we intentionally use our resources to explicitly and intentionally offer hospitality to our neighbors. We engage our community and make sure the people we come across know we love them, are excited to know them, and want them to be a part of our family. Examples include:

- Sharing the Love of Jesus with the people of Branford and the greater New Haven area
- Fellowship groups
- Making our space accessible to people with various ability levels
- Bringing our worship to people who cannot attend in person through our technology
- Welcoming people into our church and offering hospitality to neighbors
- Offering explicit welcome and inclusion to all people
- Using our building for community events and ecumenical/wider church activities
- Publicly stating we are a safe place for members of the LGBTQIA+ community
- Accommodating and including neurodiverse friends and neighbors, and friends with mental illness.

**Loving All** is the ways we relate to and express the love of God in Christ for our neighbors. Examples include:

- Faith Formation
- Adult Bible studies
- Sunday School
- Confirmation
- Pastoral care
- Ministries to sick and homebound friends
- Rideshares

**Justice For All\*** is how we are actively creating a better world based on the values of Jesus. It is how we organize to create change.

- Mission Projects
- Public advocacy
- Anti-Racism
- Justice for members of the LGBTQIA+ community
- Interfaith and ecumenical partnerships
- United Church of Christ offerings
- Food Justice (CDR, food pantry, etc)
- Justice for Veterans
- Housing Justice and homeless ministries
- Refugee resettlement
- AUF and Asia Rural Institute
- Camp Totoket and Killam's Point Day Camps
- 

\***Justice For All** is the smallest spending category for our church, but not our smallest priority. It cannot be summed up by how much is spent because much of our justice work is volunteer driven and fueled by donations. It is impossible to quantify, but if we added up every volunteer hour and every supply donated the amount would likely exceed both other categories combined.