

Annual Report For Calendar Year 2024



Second Congregational Church Cohasset, Massachusetts

The 201st Annual Meeting Is hereby called to convene
Sunday, February 2, 2025
immediately following worship.

WARRANT & AGENDA

1. To receive and act upon the reports of the several church officers, committees & affiliated organizations;
2. To receive and act upon the report of the Minister;
3. To receive and act upon the proposed budget for the calendar year, January 1 through December 31, 2025;
4. To receive and act upon the report of the Nominating Committee;
5. To act upon any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Cohasset, Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT for Calendar Year 2024

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Second Congregational Church
Annual Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2024

Meeting called to order at 11:03 a.m. by George Baumgarten, Moderator, who opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes from the previous Annual Meeting, February 5, 2023, were approved unanimously without modification and as printed on pages 1-2 of the Annual Report (AR).

Article 1. *To receive and act upon the reports of the several church officers, committees, and affiliated organizations.* (Appearing on pages 5-10 of the AR.)

1. Clerk's Report
2. Moderator Report
3. Board of Deacons
4. Christian Education Committee
5. Board of Trustees
6. Music Committee
7. Outreach Committee
8. Finance Committee
9. Capital Campaign Report
10. Capital Campaign Expense Report
11. Reserve Accounts & Memorial Funds

Motion to approve; seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Article 2. *To receive and act upon the report of the Minister* (Page 3, AR)

Motion to approve; seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Article 3. *To receive and act upon the proposed budget for the calendar year, January 1 through December 31, 2024* (Page 21, AR)

Paul Carlson, Finance Committee and Jeff Nothnagle, Treasurer joined the moderator. Jeff Nothnagle provided an overview, focusing on clear differences from the prior year's budget. There were no questions.

Motion to approve; seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Moment of Privilege: The moderator sought a moment of privilege to acknowledge those who are completing their terms of service in their respective offices and committees, to wit:

Financial Secretary:	Wilma Vanderlugt ¹	Clerk	Susi Coley
Ass't Financial Secretary	Ruth Nedrow	Outreach	Kate Mullally
Christian Education	Kristin Voldan and Susi Coley		
Music	Gary Anderson		
Flower	Debbie Anderson		

¹ Special recognition of approximately 50 years of service in this role by Wilma Vanderlugt

Article 4: To receive and act upon the report of the Nominating Committee (Page 2 of AR Addendum)

The following motion was put before the meeting: *As an exception to the "Article IX Election of Officers and Committees" of the SCC By-laws for this year's nominees,*

1. *that elective members of any committee with six or more years of continuous service be eligible for election to the same committee.*
2. *that elective members of the Nominating Committee may be nominated for more than one successive term.*

The purpose of this part 1 of this motion allows election of several members of leadership who have agreed to serve another term in addition to having served 6 years or more on that committee. Part 2 of the motion permits the current slate of nominees for Nominating Committee to serve another 1-year term.

Motion to approve; seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Upon approval of the motion, the meeting considered the report of the Nominating Committee. There were several comments and nominations from the floor:

- **Clerk.** Susi Coley has removed herself from consideration and is stepping aside from the Christian Education Committee
- **Music.** Moved and seconded to nominate Linda Index for Music
- **Outreach.** Tana Carlson, pending availability, will step in for Kate Mullally. It was moved that Ruth Nedrow's name be added as re-upping for a second term. Ruth agreed, and the motion was seconded. The subsequent vote to approve all nominees, resulted in having 7 members on the Committee, which shall be addressed at February 2024 Church Committee Meeting.

Motion to approve the ballot of nominees as amended; seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

Article 5: To hold a Question & Answer Session with Church Leadership

Rick Kielmeyer, Chair of Deacons, Paul Carlson, Chair of Finance, and Jeff Nothnagle, Treasurer, joined Moderator George Baumgarten for an open question and answer session for meeting attendees.

Questions and comments included:

- **Motion:** A motion from the floor to express thanks and gratitude for six years of service performed by Pastor Karen. Seconded; approved by unanimous vote.
- **Question:** What is the anticipated revenue from use of the church by the Montessori school? The response was that, while the arrangements were taking shape, they were not completed. For 2024, the projected revenue is approximately \$18K. The expectation is that would likely increase in future years. Also noted that the church remains responsible for utilities and that the Trustees are ensuring the church complies with all regulatory requirements.
- **Question:** Is it an issue that we do not have 5-day/week staff coverage at the church with Montessori and Kids Club both in the building? The response was to acknowledge awareness of that issue and that is one of the matters being taken up by the Trustees.
- **Question:** This might be premature, but any thought about a Search Committee in light of recent events? The response was to affirm that a process will have to be undertaken but given the recency of the changes, church leadership is not yet at that stage.
- **Question:** Will there be some kind of polling to see what we need moving forward? It seems important that the congregation has opportunity to provide input. The response was to affirm the importance of obtaining input from the congregation and offer assurance that it will be done as part of the process.

- **Question:** Are you aware that lifelong members of the church had no knowledge of recent events regarding Pastor Karen's resignation? This underscores the need to update the directory for completeness and accuracy. The response was agreement that this should and will be done.
- **Question:** Given that Cindy is three days/week, is any thought being given to provide her with additional support since more work may be coming her way at least in the short term, especially with Jonathan only doing Sunday services? The response was that church leadership has met with Cindy and she has expressed willingness to step up as needed. If more support/compensation is appropriate, Deacons will work with Finance. It was also noted that Jonathan will be assuming more pastoral duties than the Sunday worship service.

Article 6. *To act upon any other business that may legally come before the meeting*

Paul Carlson reviewed a proposal, discussed in Church Committee, to change the name of Second Congregational Church to "The Congregational Church of Cohasset." Potential reasons offered for the change include that it would be less confusing and more accurate (as there is no "First" Congregational Church in Cohasset). Areas to explore further include any legal issues (e.g., extant rights held by First Parish). Several comments from the floor were:

- It may be wise to confer with the Cohasset Historical Commission.
- It would be premature to vote on the matter as it had not been noticed to the Congregation (the moderator clarified that the intent was discussion only at this point and no vote was being sought).
- As a related point, it was noted that the year ahead is the 200th anniversary of SCC, a major milestone, and a year calling for reflection, looking ahead and healing.

Meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Thompson
Clerk of the Day

Minister's Report | SCC 2025 Annual Meeting

My bridge ministry with you began a year ago exactly. When a minister unexpectedly resigns, it's a shock to the system. Each individual congregant feels it emotionally, spiritually, physically, and practically, too; in all parts of our human being. When individuals are experiencing hard and divergent feelings, holding together as a community feels impossible. When I first met with Rick, George, Jeff, and Paul, I learned that the SCC community seemed divided into "two camps," and that my initial task was to work respectfully with this division and disagreement. Paul very helpfully suggested that maintaining a weekly Sunday church service that was warm, welcoming, and "*along the lines of what people expect*" would be the greatest support I could offer.

I proposed to your leaders two strategies, which we put into practice straightaway. From my very first Sunday, we started sitting together in a *Reflection Circle*, following Sunday's service. Some people had things they needed to say, strong feelings to name aloud; others weren't yet sure they felt safe speaking their words, if they even had words to share. Yet whatever we needed to say, these *Circles* invited us to *listen* – without talking back, without any verbal response at all, no affirming or disagreeing – that we might *hear* what everyone wished to share. *We listened* to each other; those who were quiet, at first, found words and shared them. *We listened*, as best we could, to *everyone* who spoke. As the weeks went by, we learned what we already knew: that our church community holds multitudes; that we were more than "two camps"; and that we could, indeed, hold together. You might have thought you were only learning to share and listen in a new way. Yet *Reflection Circle* is a way of *praying* together and, whether we realized it or not, we stretched our spiritual notion of what a Christian church can be or do.

The second strategy I proposed came to be called the *Working Group*, which met weekly on Tuesday evenings. We leveraged the trust and rapport we were creating, in *Reflection Circles*, to engage in a harder yet essential exploration of "*What had happened and Why*," relative to Pastor Karen's resignation and the varied events leading up to it. This work demanded a great deal of patience and goodwill from all who joined in. I was deeply moved by the willingness of *many people* who showed up week to week. Each of you who, following the "*deal of the cards*," found yourselves sitting and talking with people who perhaps experienced, noticed, and said different things about what had happened. *You showed great courage, strength, and humility in engaging this important work!* Our efforts produced some *Consensus Statements* and a full report, shared with the whole congregation. *You found your words*, and the process of finding your words helped settle those divisions and look ahead.

With your weekly participation, I hope that I, – and with the essential support of Cindy, Jin, and Konstantinos – have offered a weekly worship service that is warm and familiar. I hope services have been a balm in hard times, an opportunity to hear God's *Spirit of Love* in all things: in the Bible stories about Jesus, in our beautiful music (Easter and Christmas Cantatas stand out!), sermons, joys & concerns. You've generously welcomed the reading of non-Biblical texts, alongside our scripture readings. This new practice is one way among many we "*invite the stranger*" into our space. It is in this meeting of insider and outsider, known and unknown, divine and human, that we hear and understand what Jesus meant by *the Kingdom of God*.

Personally, you have each and all welcomed *me*, a relative stranger, into your community. You invited me to facilitate new and unknown ways of talking, praying, and being a community. You spoke your truths to me. I am most grateful to those of you who have firmly told me when I was not hearing you with the same openness and generosity with which I asked you to hear each other. In our Congregational tradition, we have what's called a "*priesthood of all believers*," the minister but one among a community of equals. It's been a joy to be a part of your community, a part of your family. Thank you for inviting me to be so!

In formal Congregational terms, we define this invitation as a *call*, and the *call* is predicated upon the vote you've just taken. I'm delighted we have just mutually agreed upon terms for a *Designated Term Ministry*. This ministry will invite and involve new and novel changes to how we do church, following the recent discernment of *Working Group Part 2*. If you're reading this letter and weren't a part of those conversations, please know that there will be **NO CHANGES** to our Sunday morning service! Sunday morning worship will continue as the warm and familiar service you've known and loved – though it will be meeting at the slightly earlier time of 9:30.

Coming Sunday, March 2nd, we will add a new second Sunday morning service, called *Sunday Reflection*. This service builds upon connections I have made and sustained – with *your* direct help and support – via *Mindfulness Plus*. This service provides us with a new access point for community engagement and participation, aimed at "*nones*" and "*non-practicing*" people in particular. This service has *most all of the same goals* of our Traditional Christian Service: to give people a safe, warm, and welcoming opportunity to ask *What does it mean to live and love in a world that seems loveless?* This service will have music; the sharing of joys and concerns; the giving of money, in support of our operational costs; and the hearing of "different" voices in the texts we read and the words we use. We will also hold *one Reflection Circle*, between these two services, that we all might connect and get to know each other.

As a Christian minister, I believe, with deepest conviction, that we know “God through Jesus,” and we know Jesus only in encounters with “Others” and “strangers.” As a lifelong Congregationalist, I believe that our denominational tent holds multitudes. We do not hold to any single creed, nor to any one particular way of interpreting the Bible or making sense of what it means to be a Christian. It’s not that there is “*no* right way” – it’s that there’s “no *one* right way” of thinking or looking at things, no one single way of being a church. This coming year, we will radically lean into our best *Christian* selves by opening wide our doors, by welcoming strangers, non-practicing believers, and the “nones” who might not identify with any faith at all. As we’ve learned to do in our *Reflection Circles*, we will prayerfully listen, we will invite people to courageously speak, and we will listen generously. We will trust, as Jesus did, that God’s *Spirit of Love* is already present in the stranger, in those we don’t yet know. We will surely be surprised by what we learn. And may we be surprised, in expectant joy, of how our community might grow.

So in our 201st year, let us lean into new work in service to Jesus’s *Kingdom of God*, as we build upon the good things we’ve done in our first 200!

Report: Vital Statistics

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF COHASSET

Vital Statistics 2024

Membership as of December 31, 2024 – 154

Confirmation 0
Deaths (3)
Transfer (1)
Moved to Inactive (0)

Membership as of December 31, 2024 – 152

New Members – 2

Lynne Blanchard
Pattie Mazules

Deceased Members – 3

During the year, 0 Baptisms,
0 wedding and 4 funerals
took place

Respectfully Submitted
January 2025

Cynthia Courtney
Office Operational Manager

Annual Report of the Moderator

2024 was a year of transition and discernment for the congregation of Second Congregational Church. Just prior to Annual Meeting in 2024, Pastor Karen Bailey-Francois, SCC's pastor since 2018, announced her resignation on February 1. Pastor Karen stepped back from leading Sunday Services immediately. She led her Service of Release on March 24, Palm Sunday, and her last day with SCC was May 5, 2024.

Jonathan Pierce, former hospice chaplain with Norwell Visiting Nurse Association and a frequent guest minister, agreed to serve as SCC's Bridge Pastor and lead Sunday Services starting February 11. His initial three-month February-April contract was extended by three months to July 31, and subsequently extended an additional six months to January 31, 2025. At Special Meeting on January 19, 2025, Jonathan was called to be SCC's Designated Term Minister following unanimous approval of the warrant on the following page.

Shortly after Jonathan started in February, he started a *Reflection Circle* on Sundays following Coffee Hour. This was held most Sundays other than in summer, and has led to a valuable new way for the congregation to listen, learn and care for each other.

On Thursdays during May and June, 18-25 attendees gathered in six *Working Group* sessions under the leadership of Jonathan. This effort produced a "Situational Assessment", Working Group Consensus Statements, and a brief timeline of Pastor Karen's resignation. These materials were released in a letter to the congregation in July. In the fall, 18-25 attendees gathered in 13 *Working Group* sessions from September to December to discuss and discern aspects of SCC's future, the results of which were largely encapsulated in the January 19, 2025 Warrant.

In March, Jonathan established a *Core Leaders* group comprised of several Deacons, Trustees Chair and the Moderator. This group met approximately every two weeks to help address the challenges of SCC's transition, and is expected to continue into 2025.

Church Committee met every month except July and August and was effective at managing the affairs of the church.

South Shore Montessori School ("SSMS") started their lease on May 1, 2024 of the two upstairs classrooms and the yard at the back of the church, and opened as a school with approximately 14 students in September 2024. Linda Bolster's "Kidz Club", a morning drop-off program for about 5-10 toddlers, uses the former nursery classroom on the first floor and operated throughout 2024. The congregation and church staff are excited to have our space used for these purposes, to have the joyful noise of children in the building, and to have rental income that benefits the church's finances.

SCC was pleased to celebrate its 200th Birthday on Sunday November 24, 2025 with appropriate historical message in the worship service followed by a 5pm "Bicentennial Bash" that included a catered dinner, a competitive game of church "Jeopardy", and the opportunity to rent a pew for upcoming services. Lots of fun was had by all.

The moderator offers special thanks to

- Jonathan Pierce for his leadership, creativity and energy during this challenging year.
- Cindy Courtney for her multi-faceted administrative support and bookkeeping prowess.
- Jin Kim and Konstantinos for a joyous and uplifting music program on Sundays.
- The church officers and committee chairs who diligently attend to the church's affairs at each month's Church Committee, and the committee members that meet monthly to further the mission of the church.

Respectfully submitted,

George Baumgarten, Moderator



Second Congregational Church Cohasset MA 02025

A Special Meeting is hereby called to convene
Sunday January 19, 2025
immediately following worship

WARRANT & AGENDA (*final as amended at Special Meeting*)

To receive and act upon the proposal to call Jonathan Pierce to serve in a Designated Term Ministry with Second Congregational Church, as follows:

Responsibilities

1. **Sunday Morning Leadership, welcome to all.**
 - a. **Traditional SCC Worship Service, 9:30am.**
 - b. **Coffee and Conversation, Reflection Circle 10:30am.**
 - c. **Sunday Reflection** in the Sanctuary, 11:30am. Seating in the round that reflects the values concomitant with M+'s goal to be "a non-religious, spiritual practice and volunteer community supporting the South Shore."
2. **Second Congregational Church Ministry**
 - a. **Special Services** including Maundy Thursday, Easter, Christmas Eve, Weddings, Baptisms, Memorial Services, Funerals, Celebrations of Life, etc.
 - b. **Pastoral Care.** Be available and seek to provide pastoral care to congregants in need.
 - c. **Visitation.** Proactively visit congregants in need of pastoral care who are unable to travel.
 - d. **Growth.** Support congregants in the strategies and engagement in work to grow the congregation, and in the organization of activities that grow from this work.
 - e. **SCC Governance.** Collaborate with leaders, Moderator, Board of Deacons, Church Committee and other committees as appropriate to guide the spiritual life and activities of SCC.
 - f. **Ordination.** Continue pursuing discernment of ordination with United Church of Christ.
3. **Mindfulness Plus ("M+"), as directed by Mindfulness Plus Advisory Board.**
 - a. **Manage and develop M+ services and programs** including, but not limited to, Practice Groups, Volunteer Teams, Workshops & Retreats and Social Events, including use of the meeting spaces within SCC.
 - b. **M+ shall operate in association with SCC.**
 - i. All M+ activities covered under SCC's insurance policies.
 - ii. All M+ donations, including at-will donations, fee-for-service programming, and monthly giving from M+ pledging members will be processed under SCC's tax-exempt status.
 - iii. All M+ revenue accounted for as a flow through line-item in SCC's budget.
 - iv. All M+ expenses will be paid exclusively out of M+'s revenue, and M+ expense oversight will be provided exclusively by M+'s Advisory Board.
 - c. M+ will provide 50% of its revenue toward SCC's general operating expenses, as proposed by M+ Advisory Board, subject to agreement by SCC Church Committee in consultation with appropriate SCC committees.
 - d. M+ is welcome to all. SCC Congregants will receive the same benefits that accrue to M+ pledging members.

Conditions

4. **Employment Type** Contract, full time.
5. **Contract Term** * 7.5 months: 2/1/2025 through 9/15/2025. The term may be extended at any time by mutual agreement.
6. **Effective Date** 2/1/2025.
7. **Hours per week** 40 hours per week.
8. **Time off** Paid Time Off: Annualized four weeks PTO, inclusive of four Sundays.
Specific dates that are requested for time off are subject to discussion and approval by the Chair of the Board of Deacons and/or the Moderator.
Holidays: six paid holidays including New Years Day, Memorial Day, July Fourth, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, with the understanding that if these holidays fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, the holiday can be taken on a "floating" basis.
9. **Scheduled Office Hours** Tuesday through Friday, by appointment and as posted in weekly SCC e-Blasts and Sunday Bulletins.
10. **Compensation** \$7,500 per month.
11. **Reporting Relationship** The Designated Term Pastor reports to the Chairperson of the Board of Deacons in collaboration with the Moderator.
12. **Termination** This relationship may be terminated by six weeks' notice, either by the Minister, or by the Second Congregational Church, or by mutual agreement. Termination with cause may be immediate.
13. **Amending this agreement** * *Church Committee may amend the terms and conditions of this call agreement with minimum of two weeks' notice to the Congregation.*

* Text in italics with asterisks indicates a change to the warrant that was approved at Special Meeting.

2024 Annual Report of the Deacons

The past year for SCC has been one of significant change, internal reflection and spiritual growth as a congregation.. Likewise a significant year of celebration of our 200th Birthday! SCC, like many small New England Protestant churches, is grappling with an aging membership and remains in a long-cycle decline in participation seen throughout the region and nation. Our Church continues to address these challenges along with the concerns they raise while we continue to endeavor to be a "shining beacon of faith, love and service." Some improvement in weekly attendance at Church Services and some improvement in fiscal results also occurred.

The Deacons support the worship, fellowship and spiritual life of our church community. The word deacon is derived from the ancient Greek "diákonos," which means "servant," and in that spirit of service we welcome suggestions and feedback from members of the congregation.

The Liturgical Year in Review

The Deacons met monthly through the year along with a few supplemental meetings during and after the transition from Pastor Karen's ministry to Jonathan Pierce, first as a Bridge Pastor and soon as a Designated Term Minister. In-person worship occurred throughout the year at the church or the Light-keepers with the latter running from late June to early September. All sanctuary-based worship services during the regular program year continued to be live-streamed and archived on the SCC website.

During the course of this year, the Deacons, Pastor Karen and Jonathan helped SCC faithfully mark key touchstones on the Christian calendar:

- Ash Wednesday, Feb 14 - service in the Chapel
- Palm Sunday, March 24 - Pastor Karen's official "Release from Service" ceremony and luncheon
- Maundy Thursday, April 6 - Communion and Tenebrae Service with readings by SCC Deacons in the Sanctuary
- Good Friday, April 7 - Chapel open from noon – 3:00 p.m. for meditation
- Easter Sunday, April 9 - SonRise Service at Sandy Beach at 7:30 a.m.; worship service at 10:00 a.m. with Easter Cantata
- Four Sundays of Advent including the Christmas Cantata on December 22. Unfortunately, we were unable to have a Christmas Pageant in 2024
- Christmas Eve Sunday - Services at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The following special services for important life-transitions also took place in 2024:

- Funeral service/Celebration of Life for Carol Sandblom
- Funeral service/Celebration of Life for Joe Sandblom
- Funeral service/Celebration of Life for Ralph Coley
- Memorial service for Charlene Jackson
- Graveside service for Patricia Knowles

In addition, 2024 saw the successful continuation of several important traditions at SCC, including Pot Luck celebrations, the June Strawberry Festival and the December Village Fair.

The Deacons continued their customary role, in consultation with our Ministers, of overseeing routine aspects of worship such as Communion, procedures related to the weekly offering, and ushering. Post-worship coffee hour continued on a regular basis.

“Deacon Duties” cover, among other things, welcoming visitors, attending committee meetings, assisting with pastoral care, being responsible in conjunction with the minister for worship services and administration of the sacraments and modeling respectful and collaborative communications within the church.

To make all this happen involved the commitment of all members of the Deacons. Moreover, the Deacons wish to acknowledge the help and support of several others, including:

- Our Bridge Pastor - Jonathan Pierce
 - o Walking into a rather emotional situation and totally uncharted territory, Jonathan immediately found ways for our Members to voice their worries, their anger and their hopes. He worked tirelessly and with great care and concern. Meeting with members individually, in groups and with committees. He used his significant skill set to help people cope with a sense of loss, resolve differences, and bring people who were polarized back together. His commitment, long hours, creativity, and loving care for our Congregation are much appreciated.
 - o The nearly immediate implementation of a reflection circle after fellowship provided people a chance to share their joy and their worries. We also got some great lessons in listening to each other.
 - o Implementation of the Working Group discussions each week provided a way to deal with what had happened, reconcile our perspectives on what transpired and how it happened and largely to move on.

- o The ongoing use of reflection and WG has allowed us to reach consensus on new Worship initiatives and to look forward to continuing collaboration on the significant challenges that remain.
- Jin, Konstantinos, intrepid choir, and the Music Committee for their extraordinary contributions to the music in our services.
- Cindy Courtney for her efficient, multi-faceted and skillful work as administrator of the SCC office.
- Pattie Mazules, Jack DeLorenzo and Herb Marsh for their dedication to the church and all the behind-the-scenes work that each did during the course of the year for the congregation.
- All the SCC members and friends who assist in our services through volunteering to assist with worship, support fellowship hour, help with church events during the year and for the good works done within our church family and out in the world.

Special Deacon Activities and Looking Ahead

As we begin the New Year, your Board of Deacons would like to extend our heartfelt wishes for joy, peace, and fulfillment to each of you. May this year bring us closer together as a community and strengthen our collective commitment to our shared values.

Your dedicated team of Deacons has been diligently addressing concerns expressed by our valued members. We recognize the importance of fostering growth, ensuring financial viability, enhancing leadership, and refining our worship experience. As we navigate these challenges, our primary focus is on creating a thriving and spiritually enriching environment for everyone.

For the year 2025, we look forward to continuing these efforts in a collaborative and responsive manner. We hope and support the continuation for Working Group and Reflection Group sessions to gain consensus on the necessary actions.

Especially exciting is the implementation of a 2nd service on Sunday mornings specially designed as a "Reflection Service". It is hoped that offering both a "Traditional Service" and a new format will help us reach out to people throughout the wider community who are not reached by our more traditional approach to worship but may be in spiritual need.

The story here is that our church is finding its way back. NOT to recreate the past, but to harness the energy of this congregation and our commitment to community. Together, we have a strong foundation upon which to build, and as we move forward, please remember, we are a community bound by faith and shared values.

In closing, as we enter the new year, we pledge to do our best to be of good service to the congregation during the year upcoming.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Afshar; George Baumgarten; Jack DeLorenzo; Rick Kielemeyer(Chair); Bob MacNeill; Pattie Mazules; Herb Marsh; Doug Thompson; Ruth Nedrow

SCC Annual Report of the Trustees for 2024

The Trustees oversaw several projects to maintain and improve the church and parsonage buildings in 2024 as well as started planning projects for 2025.

Parsonage at 22 Red Gate Lane

Parsonage was vacated in Summer and much work was done to prep for rental.

Two very large trees that were overhanging the house were removed.

All 22 windows in the house were replaced with good vinyl Thermopane windows.

The windows were supplied at cost and installation was done as a donation.

The entire exterior of the house and garage was painted the same color as before.

Interior painting included the entire full bathroom, the kitchen ceiling, the master bedroom ceiling and the living room walls.

The deck will be stained in the spring.

The deck handrail was repaired including installing a new support post as a donation.

A new bulkhead was built and installed onsite as a donation from a local builder.

Interior mechanical fixtures have been working well and should be good for some time.

Church at 43 Highland Ave.

-Church classrooms at rear of church also known as the 1950 addition were prepared for the Montessori School rental through a deleading process. This work was substantial and included much investment. As part of this process 22 new Pella windows replaced the 1950 era windows. The rooms that we have certified as delead include 2 large classrooms and one bathroom on the second floor along with both access stairwells. On the first floor the Nursery and adjacent bathroom along with the rooms across the hallway known as the Green Chair room and ASP office.

-All electrical outlets were replaced in these rooms to child-safe units

-This work allowed SCC to rent out space that has not been used much and gives welcomed income.

-Kidz club was moved downstairs to the Nursery and continues to provide some income.

-A routine Fire inspection identified several emergency lights not functioning properly. To rectify this, the Trustees hired an electrician to replace most of these lights and were able update a couple to function properly. Part of this work included patching and painting around the new fixtures.

-A new aluminum bulkhead with stairs was installed along with new stone foundation to safely access the only entrance to old basement.

-The Brick walkway was repaired, supported on the edges, and extended out to the new Montessori play area at the rear of the church.

-The exterior and interior painting project that was completed two years ago looks very good and we expect this to last many years to come.

- Two new self-pruning ornamental pear trees that were planted two years ago at the front of the church on the street are becoming established.

-The Town Hall roof was replaced with no damage to the church property.

- Bell Tower repair is awaiting scheduling, hopefully this Spring.

- Herb has been doing a great job since taking the full-time job of Sexton and we are most appreciative of his caring. He has done a fabulous job maintaining the floors, bathrooms and outside grounds. Thank you, Herb!

- The completion of these large projects would not have been possible without the funds from the Capital Campaign. Thanks to that effort we have made our buildings healthy well into the future.

Thanks to all the hardworking Trustees and the extra hours to make our church home look and function better.

Respectfully submitted; Paul Harrison, Bob Cunningham, Mike Doherty and Philip Lehr (chair)

Annual Report of the Music Committee

January 19, 2025
Music Committee

The past year has been a remarkable journey for our Music Committee, marked by extraordinary musical contributions and a deep commitment to enhancing the worship experience within our church community. Our talented Director of Music, Jin Kim and Konstantinos Papadakis Organist/Pianist have been instrumental in providing fabulous music throughout the year, enriching our services and special events.

1. Under the guidance of Jin Kim, Director of Music, we have witnessed an inspiring array of musical performances that have elevated our worship services. Their dedication and creativity have fostered an environment where music flourishes.
2. Easter Celebrations: This year, our Easter service was highlighted by a special performance that included guest musicians, creating a vibrant and uplifting atmosphere for our congregation. Christmas Festivities: Our Christmas Cantata service featured a festival choir, which brought together voices from our community to celebrate the season in a joyful and harmonious way. The collaboration with guest musicians added depth and variety to the musical offerings.

3. Engagement and Community Involvement

The Music Committee actively engaged with members of the congregation, encouraging participation in choir practices and musical events. This has not only strengthened our musical program but also fostered a sense of community and belonging and added a few new members to the choir.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our employees and volunteers for their unwavering dedication and support. Your commitment to our church and its mission is invaluable, and we are grateful for the time and effort you contribute to our music program. Together, we create an atmosphere that inspires faith and fosters growth in our community.

Looking Ahead

As we conclude this year, we look forward to continuing our efforts to enhance the musical experience within our church. We aim to introduce new musical programs, expand our choir, and invite more guest musicians to share their talents with us.

Thank you for your ongoing support,
Respectfully,

Linda Indek and Pam Delorenzo,
Music Committee Co-chairs
Second Congregational Church

Annual Report - Outreach Committee 2024

The Outreach Committee worked hard this year to provide for the needs in our community, the state, and beyond. We are grateful to the congregation for their continued support through donations to various causes.

The church continues to support 5 local organizations with donations of \$250.00 throughout the year. The organizations include: Carolina Hill Family Shelter, Interfaith Social Services, Wellspring Multi-Service Center, DOVE, and The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. We made our yearly contribution to Our Church's Wider Mission of \$2500.00.

The Outreach Committee supports Father Bill's Shelter in Quincy by providing meals once a month organized by members of the congregation. We thank Doug Yeager, Connie Afshar, and Ron and Mary Goodwin for their leadership. Members of the congregation are encouraged to participate if able.

Outreach also encourages members of the church to participate in fundraising opportunities for their favorite cause by offering \$20.00/person match. These programs include ASP, Special Olympics and Over the Edge activities.

In 2024 the committee participated in several projects to benefit our local community. During Lent the committee collected items for Easter Baskets to Carolina Hill Shelter. In July about 25 Backpacks were filled completely for Interfaith Social Services Backpack Drive. In November and December the church donated 20 pies and 28 tins of cookies to the Cohasset Food Pantry. In December the congregation generously supported the Angel Tree by collecting 22 special gifts for the children at Carolina Hill Shelter in Marshfield. In addition many gift cards to local grocery stores were given to Elder Services in Cohasset.

In the wider community, the church donated to ASP Flood Relief and Beloved Ashville to help with the flood relief efforts caused by hurricanes in those areas.

Outreach Sunday was in April 21. We had Ms. Clementina Chery from the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute as our guest speaker. She is such an inspirational speaker. The Louis D. Brown Institute serves as a center of healing, teaching, and learning for families and communities impacted by murder, trauma, grief and loss.

The Outreach Committee

Debbie Anderson, Gary Anderson, Ruth Nedrow, Marsha Silvia, Steve Parnell, & Taffy Nothnagle.

Second Congregational Church of Cohasset

Finance Committee 2024 Annual Report

The change in pastoral leadership in 2024 resulted in a large overage of expenses as we were paying for two ministers for four months. On the other hand the rental income from South Shore Montessori and Kidz Club, two children's care groups using our facilities, has been a major plus on the income side and will grow into the 2025 year. Our two major events, the Strawberry Festival and the Village Fair, yielded exceptional revenue. Total Offering Income was flat for the year, but 9% greater than our budget. After adjusting for withdrawals from our endowment, Total Budgeted Income gained 20% from 2023, mostly due to rental income.

On the expense side, most of the departments came in under budget. As mentioned above, the payments to our ministers were up substantially.

As adjusted for withdrawals from our endowment, we had a loss of \$65,000 which was slightly above our budgeted adjusted deficit.

Our Endowment gained 7% after adjusting for withdrawals.

For 2025, the church will benefit from full year income from the South Shore Montessori School and Kidz Club. We will also have some extra income from the Mindfulness program. As a result we are forecasting a much smaller deficit for the year. These three new programs will help stabilize the Church's finances going forward while supporting our outreach in the community.

The Finance Committee wishes to express our gratitude to **Ruth Nedrow**, our financial secretary, and her assistants **Linda Campbell** and **Dee Dee Perry**, who process and track our pledge and other income. **Jeff Nothnagle**, Treasurer, **Ruth Nedrow** and **John Campbell**, oversee our transactions and the budget. **Cindy Courtney**, the church's Operations Manager, does terrific work for the church and managing our financial reports and transactions. All provided important support to the work of the Finance Committee.

Respectfully submitted, the Finance Committee:

Paul Carlson, Chairman, Jeff Nothnagle, John Campbell, Jack Crieghton and Ruth Nedrow

Second Congregational Church - Cohasset MA
Consolidated Fund Activity Report for December 2024

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Page 1 of 1

Account Name	Receipts	Disbursements	End Balance
<i>Memorial Fund</i>			
Armstrong, Dick Balance	0.00	0.00	370.00
Bobo, Stephen & Vivien Balance	0.00	0.00	378.50
Ingram, Oz Balance	0.00	0.00	1,100.00
Joseph Nedrow Memorial Fund	0.00	0.00	942.01
Memorial Int & Misc Balance	0.00	0.00	869.80
Pratt Choir Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	1,238.13
Pratt, Ruth Balance	0.00	0.00	219.07
Silvia, Grace/ Nursery Balance	0.00	0.00	41.96
Wilkin, Brian Balance	0.00	0.00	2,002.24
<i>SCC Reserves</i>			
RES Angels of Music Fund Balance	4,500.00	300.00	8,934.66
RES Capital Campaign Balance	0.00	0.00	3,460.05
RES Church Painting Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	325.00
RES Interest Balance	0.00	0.00	(1.86)
RES Minister Sabatacal Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	2,501.54
RES Minister's Discretionary Balance	0.00	0.00	2,138.88
RES Organ Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	12,000.00
RES Outreach Balance	0.00	0.00	183.68
RES Parsonage Painting Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	1,280.00
RES Security Deposit Balance	0.00	0.00	492.89
Total	<u>\$4,500.00</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>	<u>\$38,476.55</u>

Second Congregational Church

2025 Presentation Budget

	Budget 2024	Actual 2024	Budget 2025
Income			
Pledge	115,000	116,215	100,000
Contributions	10,000	10,688	10,000
Loose Offering	5,000	6,485	5,000
Prepaid Pledges	4,000	12,200	4,000
Total Offering Income	136,000	144,635	119,000
CASP	1,600	1,600	2000
Dividend & Interest	12,000	13,527	12,000
Facility Rental Income	29,820	35,759	52,600
Fundraising & Spec Events	4,000	2417	4,000
Mindfulness Plus Contribution	0	0	10,000
Parsonage Rental	0	0	40,000
Strawberry Festival	7,000	9,908	8,000
Village Fair	7,000	12,785	8,000
Total Other Operating Income	117,549	75,998	136,600
Total Income	253,549	220,633	255,600
Expense			
Total Christian Ed	500	501	500
Total Church Growth	0	0	4,300
Total Deacons	7,550	71,804	7,150
Total Finance Committee	1,700	1,017	1,500
Total Salary & Related Expense	165,452	147,925	197,151
Total Flower Committee	200	200	200
Total Music Committee	1,000	1,086	900
Total Outreach	13,200	6,919	11,100
Total Trustees	58,128	51,890	50,496
Total Church Committee	3,750	875	3,450
Total Budgeted Expenses	251,480	282,221	276,747
Total Income Shortfall	-58129	-61,588	-22,000
Draw from Investments		100,000	

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Motion for Annual Meeting

I move that, as an exception to the "Article IX Election of Officers and Committees" of the SCC By-laws for this year's nominees, that elective members of any committee with six or more years of continuous service be eligible for election to the same committee.

From the By-laws of Second Congregational Church (amended February 2023)

"ARTICLE IX ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

The Current Nominating Committee shall appoint the Nominating Committee for the following year. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five Church Members.

All officers and committees shall be elected in such manner that the Church may determine and shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified.

At each Annual Meeting the following shall be elected:

For One Year: A Moderator; a Clerk who shall be sworn; a Treasurer; an Assistant Treasurer; a Financial Secretary; an Assistant Financial Secretary, and two delegates and alternates to the Pilgrim Association and State Conference. A Nominating Committee consisting of five persons, to which only one existing member may be re-nominated for one successive term.

For Two Years: Two Deacons; two Deaconesses; two Trustees; two Finance Committee Members; two Christian Education Members; two Music Committee Members; two Outreach Committee Members; two Church Growth Committee Members, two Flower Committee Members and an Historian.

No elective member of any committee shall be eligible for election to the same committee after serving continuously for six years, until at least one year shall have elapsed."

Officers and committee members are elected in accordance with the SCC By-laws.

Office / Committee ¹	Name ^{2 3}	Email or Phone	Served continuously since Annual Meeting in ⁴	Term ⁵	Expires at Annual Meeting in ⁶
Moderator	* George Baumgarten	geobaum@comcast.net	2017	1	2026
Clerk	* Tina Cline	cmcfree45@yahoo.com	2025	1	2026
Treasurer	* Jeff Nothnagle	nothnagle@comcast.net	2021	1	2026
Asst. Treasurer	* John Campbell	jwcamp3343@gmail.com	2023	1	2026
Financial Secretary	* Ruth Nedrow	ruthnedrow@yahoo.com	2024	1	2026
Asst. Financial Secretary	* Marcia Diekmann	mpdiekmann@gmail.com	2025	1	2026
Historian	* Ann Pompeo	annchatpomp2002@yahoo.com	2017	1	2026
UCC DELEGATES (1 year term)	* Jack Creighton	jrcsnet@icloud.com	2025	1	2026
	1 Open Spot				
DEACONS (2-year term; 6 officers)	* Jack Creighton	jrcsnet@icloud.com	2025	1	2027
	* Jack DeLorenzo	johndelorenzo@comcast.net	2021	3	2027
	* Bob MacNeill	ocmi@verizon.net	2023	2	2027
	* Herb Marsh [^]	(774) 606-6853	2018	5	2027
	Doug Thompson	dougthomp2@gmail.com	2018	4	2026

¹ All individually elected offices, Deacons, Deaconesses, Trustees and the chair of Christian Education are Church Officers and must be Church Members. For all other positions, any person may be nominated.

² An asterisk (*) before a name indicates those nominated and standing for election at this year's Annual Meeting.

³ A carrot (^) after a name requires an exception to the Bylaws allowing those who have exceeded their term limits to be nominated and stand for election at this year's Annual Meeting.

⁴ "Served continuously since Annual Meeting in" indicates the calendar year of the Annual Meeting when first elected to this position. Those serving since "2023", for example, started their service when elected at Annual Meeting in February 2023.

⁵ "Term" indicates the current term in this position.

⁶ "Expires at Annual Meeting in" indicates the calendar year of the Annual Meeting when the current term expires. Those with terms expiring "2027", for example, will serve until Annual Meeting in February 2027.

DEACONESSES (2-year term; 6 officers)	* Connie Afshar	connieafshar@gmail.com	2021	3	2027
	* Elizabeth Laas	elizabethtll@gmail.com	2025	1	2027
	* Pattie Mazules	patty_j@verizon.net	2023	2	2027
	* Maria Rosario	mjarrias2173@gmail.com	2025	1	2027
	* Ann Pompeo	annchatpomp2002@yahoo.com	2025	1	2027
	*Kimberly Majury Albanese	<u>kimberleymarjuryalbenese@gmail.com</u>	2025	1	2027
FINANCE COMMITTEE (2-year term; 6 persons + Pastor & Treasurer)	* John Campbell	jwcamp3343@gmail.com	2023	2	2027
	Paul Carlson	carlsn@aol.com	2016	5	2026
	Jack Creighton	jrcsnet@icloud.net	2020	3	2026
	* Werner Diekmann	wadiekmann@gmail.com	2025	1	2027
	Jeff Nothnagle	nothnagle@comcast.net	2018	4	2026
	* DeeDee Perry	dwpemail@gmail.com	2025	1	2027
TRUSTEES (2-year term; 6 officers)	Bob Cunningham	rwc567@aol.com	2018	4	2026
	* Phil Lehr^	phillehr@lbinsure.com	2015	6	2027
	4 OPEN SPOTS				
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE (2-year term; 6 persons)	Catie Campbell	catiecampbell35@gmail.com	2024	1	2026
	* Rick Kielmeyer	ricklaurie@comcast.net	2025	1	2027
	4 OPEN SPOTS				
MUSIC COMMITTEE (2-year term; 6 persons)	Lynne Blanchard	lynneb@netzero.net	2020	3	2026
	* Judith Bucher	jbvdl@comcast.net	2021	3	2027
	Pam DeLorenzo	pdelo2002@yahoo.com	2018	4	2026
	Brian Hill	<u>brianh@bahillcorp.com</u>	2024	1	2026
	Linda Indek	walkertours@comcast.net	2024	1	2026
	Dotty Myers	dottytom@comcast.net	2020	3	2026
	Susan Willette	fsjwill@verizon.com	2018	4	2026
	* Natalie Young	nyoung7@verizon.net	2021	3	2026

FLOWER COMMITTEE (2-year term; 4 persons)	2 OPEN SPOTS				
OUTREACH COMMITTEE (2-year term; 6 persons)	* Debbie Anderson	deband52@yahoo.com	2021	2	2025
	* Gary Anderson	gka922@yahoo.com	2021	2	2025
	Tana Carlson	tcarlson1@aol.com	2023	2	2026
	Taffy Nothnagle	nothnagle@comcast.net	2024	1	2026
	* Steve Parnell	parnellsteve@comcast.net	2021	2	2025
	Marsha Silvia	marsha.silvia143@gmail.com	2022	2	2026
CHURCH GROWTH COMMITTEE (2 year term; 6 persons)	* Rick Kielemeyer	ricklaurie@comcast.net	2025	1	2027
	* Brian Hill	brianh@bahillcorp.com	2025	1	2027
	4 OPEN SPOTS				
NOMINATING COMMITTEE (1 year term; 5 persons)	* George Baumgarten	geobaum@comcast.net	2025	1	2026
	* Rick Kielemeyer	ricklaurie@comcast.net	2025	1	2026
	3 OPEN SPOTS				

