

Annual Report

For Calendar Year 2025



Second Congregational Church

Cohasset, Massachusetts

The 202nd Annual Meeting Is hereby called to convene
Sunday, February 1, 2026
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 "Transition Team Proposal" recommended by the Church Committee.
3. To receive and act upon the proposed budget for the calendar year, January 1 through December 31, 2026;
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 2025

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Second Congregational Church

Annual Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 11:26 a.m. by George Baumgarten, Moderato. George asked Jonathan to open the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes from the previous Annual Meeting on February 4, 2024, were approved unanimously without modification as printed on page 2 & 3 of the Annual Report.

Article 1: To receive and act upon the reports of the several church officers, committees and affiliated organizations. (Appearing on Pages 8 to 19 of the annual report)

1. Clerks Report
2. Moderator's Report
3. Warrant & Agenda (final as amended at the Special Meeting on Jan 19, 2025)
4. Board of Deacons
5. Board of Trustees
6. Music Committee
7. Outreach Committee
8. Finance Committee

Motion to approve reports was made, seconded and approved unanimously by vote.

Article 2: To receive and act upon the report of the minister (pages 5-7 in the Annual report)

Motion to approve was made and seconded.

Discussion

- Suggested to add Jonathan's name to the report.
- Motion made to amend report to add Jonathan's name to the report, Seconded and approved.

Motion to accept Ministers report with amendment was made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

Article 3: To receive and act upon the proposed budget for the calendar year, January 1 to December 31, 2025. (pages 20 -25)

Motion made to approve and seconded. An overview was led by Paul Carlson to explain the anomalies in the budget. (pledges moved from 2025 to 2024, facilities rental, salaries, still looking for deficits, church growth coming back)

Motion made to approve budget was made, seconded and proved by unanimous vote.

Special thanks to Paul Carlson for his overview.

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.

Linda Cambell – Finance Committee

Rick Kielmeyer and Jack DeLorenzo – Deacons

Karen Kirkendall – Flower Committee

John Cambell and Steve Parnell – Nominating Committee

Article 4: To receive and act upon the report of the Nominating Committee.

Motion 1. 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. Seconded, unanimously approved.

Motion 2. I move that, as an exception to the “Article VIII Officers” of the SCC By-laws for this year’s nominees, that elections to the Board of Deacons may allow for up to 12 members comprised of any combination of Deacons or Deaconesses. Seconded, unanimously approved.

Motion made to accept Nominating Committee recommendations, seconded and approved.

John Campbell and Steve Parnell were thanked for their hard work.

Discussion

- A nomination from the floor for the Trustee Committee was made. Herb Marsh and Steve Parnell. They agreed to serve and were added to the list.

Nominations were closed. Motion made to approve amended slate, seconded with no discussion, and approved unanimously by vote.

New board members were reminded to attend monthly meetings. George Baumgarten and Tina Cline to remind new members.

Article 5: To act upon any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded with no discussion and approved by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p. m.

Respectfully Submitted

Tina Cline

Clerk's Report: Vital Statistics

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF COHASSET

Vital Statistics 2025

Membership as of December 31, 2024: 152

Confirmations 0

New Members 1

Deceased 1

Transfer out 3

Resignations 2

Membership as of December 31, 2025: 147

New Members – 1

Jin Kim

Deceased Members – 1

Dotty Myers

During 2025, 4 weddings
and 2 funerals took place.
There were no baptisms.

Respectfully submitted

George Baumgarten

Acting Clerk

January 2026

Annual Report of the Moderator

The year 2025 was one of transition and resilience for Second Congregational Church.

The Congregation

The parishioners of SCC have continued to demonstrate resilience, generosity, and optimism through changes in ministerial leadership and lay roles. Members care deeply for one another and remain engaged in the life of the church. Committee participation has remained strong, reflecting surprising energy and commitment. SCC continues to serve as a visible beacon of hope in the wider community through outreach efforts, the Strawberry Festival, the Village Fair, support of the Cohasset Appalachia Service Project, and by welcoming the public to cantatas, special services, and weekly worship.

Ministers

Late 2024 and early 2025 were marked by active listening and discernment through weekly working groups as SCC considered calling Jonathan Pierce from Bridge Minister to a Designated Term ministry. Particular attention was given to how Jonathan's *Mindfulness Plus* spiritual practice might be supported and how it could complement and energize SCC's traditional worship.

At a Special Meeting on January 19, 2025, Jonathan was called to serve as SCC's Designated Term Minister for a seven-and-a-half-month term, receiving unanimous approval from the more than 50 parishioners present. Over the following months, challenges emerged in the relationship between Jonathan and the congregation, and in late June he made the decision to accept a ministry position at another church. His resignation became effective in mid-August. During his tenure, Jonathan helped establish a small but well-attended weekly Bible study that continues today. He also introduced "reflection circles" and the "working group," new formats for congregational conversation that supported open communication and greater awareness of shared concerns.

Following Jonathan's departure, the Board of Deacons provided leadership in arranging pulpit supply from August through December, welcoming a handful of different ministers. SCC has been fortunate to engage more deeply with two of these ministers, who will begin four-month interim roles in January 2026. SCC is pleased to welcome Rev. Ellen Tatreau as Interim Bridge Minister, supported by Rev. Bill Ketchum as Interim Outreach Minister. We are grateful for their willingness to serve and warmly welcome them.

Transition Team

In August, Church Committee initiated the formation of a Transition Team, marking SCC's first formal step toward a ministerial search since the resignation of Rev. Dr. Karen Bailey Francois in January 2024. An all-church survey conducted in the fall generated potential nominees for the team. Church Committee selected and approved the membership in December. A commissioning ceremony will take place at the Annual Meeting on February 1, 2026, after which the team will begin research and preparation of SCC's Church Profile.

Church Committee

Church Committee met monthly throughout the year, except in July and August in keeping with tradition. Attendance was consistently strong, both in person and via Zoom, reflecting the dedication of SCC's officers and committee members. The longstanding meeting time was moved from 7:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., a change that was well received by all.

Frequent topics of discussion included:

- Ministerial leadership challenges
- Issues with the YouTube audio feed
- Relationships with South Shore Montessori School and Kids Club, including room usage
- Respectful dialogue on serving diverse perspectives on Christianity within the congregation and attracting new members
- Safety concerns at the front entrance steps, bell tower repairs, and security camera upgrades

Church Staff

The year saw a higher number of staff changes than usual. In addition to changes in ministerial leadership, organist Konstantinos Papadakis resigned over the summer, and the search for his successor continues. Cindy Courtney retired in November from her role as Church Operations Manager after many years of dedicated service, and graciously offered to continue as Bookkeeper. JoAnne Lehr joined SCC at that time as Church Administrator.

Pre-School Programs

South Shore Montessori School (SSMS) and Kids Club continued to call SCC home throughout 2024 and 2025, with these relationships extending into 2026. SSMS currently serves approximately twenty children ages three to six and will expand in February 2026 to include a toddler program serving four children, with plans to grow to eight. The school follows the public-school calendar and offers summer programming. Kids Club is a weekday drop-in childcare program serving five to ten children year-round. The congregation and staff value having these programs in the building and welcome the joyful presence of children in our shared space.

Acknowledgments

The Moderator extends sincere thanks to:

- Church officers, committee chairs and members, choir members, ASP leaders, and festival volunteers whose leadership advances the mission of SCC
- Cindy Courtney for her exceptional operational leadership and continued service as Bookkeeper
- Jin Kim for his dedication, leadership, and for fostering a joyful and uplifting music program
- JoAnne Lehr for joining SCC as Church Administrator during the busy Christmas season
- Herb Marsh for his dedication to SCC and keeping the church building neat, clean and open to all

Respectfully submitted,

George Baumgarten



Moderator

2025 Annual Report of the Deacons

Reconstruction

Our first settled Pastor after the retirement of Reverend Gary Ritts, was Pastor Karen Bailey-Francois. During her six years, Pastor Karen took us through the heartbreaking isolation of the Covid pandemic. Under her guidance, our Sanctuary space and our beautiful classrooms were restored and renewed, creating the opportunity for a Montessori School and a Drop-In Childcare Center to occupy classroom and outdoor spaces during the week. Our commitment to children and families blossomed into support for the full-time care of the needs of families.

Reflection Circles

Jonathan Pierce served us through Pastor Karen's sabbatical and then became our bridge minister, bringing to the heart of our church his passion for Mindfulness + and his experience with creating volunteer opportunities. We rediscovered our sense of community and began to build a foundation for the future of the SCC through reflection circles and working groups that Jonathan initiated shortly after his arrival. Within our Sanctuary, we also made room for an expanded relationship with the great spiritual bond that makes all people one in Mindfulness and prayer practices.

Celebrating Two Hundred Years

Our Christian-centered practices at Worship, our commitment to supporting each individual's spiritual journey wherever it takes them, our community-centered Outreach and our new tradition of Reflection Circles remain as legacies of our Pastors' contributions and give us a strong foundation upon which to build the next two hundred years of the life of our church and community.

Bridging Us to the Future

Pastor William Ketchum bridged our summer transition period after Jonathan's departure, reintroducing us, with wonderful storytelling, to the meaning of Christian love as practiced in our daily lives. He brought his strength of faith and learning to our new tradition of weekly Bible Study open to all (now held 6:30 pm on Wednesdays). He remains active with us as our Interim Bridge Minister of Outreach to the Community. Reverend Ellen Tatreau began serving the congregation as a preacher in the fall of 2025 and becomes our new Interim Bridge Minister at the dawn of the new year. Reverend Tatreau has thirty years of experience as a minister in both UCC and American Baptist churches. We welcome her skills in helping

congregations explore and develop new paths for worship and growth. She challenges us from the pulpit to rediscover our connection to Christian traditions and to apply the wisdom of those traditions to our everyday lives. She offers us her experience and skill to keep us, as a congregation, steadily moving forward in our work to create a productive and life-giving future for our church. Her voice raises us up. Her wisdom is deeply grounded. Under her guidance, the Sanctuary is a place of spiritual awakening and growth.

Many Voices

We have found so much energy and wisdom in the many voices we have heard from the pulpit that we are dedicating one Sunday each month to continue hearing and learning from the full spectrum of wise voices that speak in ministry. Our settled and interim ministers have taught us that Christian love manifests itself across a wonderfully broad spectrum of human experience. They have helped us in reestablishing our beloved traditions in all their beauty of ritual and community, and in exploring new ways to be in community with one another. We look backward at a year of learning important lessons and we look forward to new voices and insights that will make our community strong. The addition of the daily laughter of children into our spaces and the Reflection circles that bind us ever closer to friends and colleagues are just the beginning of our reaching out in further service and love to children and families and those in need. As we prepare from the pulpit and from the choir loft, for Lent, Passion Week, Easter and our Easter Cantata, we are grateful for our congregation and all those who help us, with heart, mind and soul, in the glorious celebration of our loving relationship to God.

SCC Annual Report of the Trustees for 2025

The Trustees oversaw several projects to maintain and improve the church and parsonage buildings in 2025 as well as starting planning projects for 2026.

Parsonage at 22 Red Gate Lane

- The deck and handrails were stained completing the painting project which included most of the interior rooms and hallways.
- The interior was professionally cleaned just prior to rental
- Rental of the Parsonage started on July 1st, 2025, and signed on for two years
- The Sewer Grinder was repaired after reported issues with drainage and sewer alarm sounding
- The gas boiler that provides heat and hot water failed and was replaced with a new boiler
- The other 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 have been occupied by the

Montessori School and are doing well and providing significant income for the church.

-Kids Club has occupied the Nursery Room proving church income and doing very well.

-The Trustees will be preparing for the move of the Kids Club to the Library Room to accommodate

the new SSM Toddler Room to be starting in the Nursery in February.

This will include moving out the large conference table and the comfortable chairs to a new location.

-Routine Fire inspection identified some small issues that the Trustees will address including age old

non-working emergency lights at the front vestibule.

-SSM fence is working well for SSM but needs more attention from them

-The neighbor behind the church was given permission to plant and maintain trees on church property

as a sound and visual barrier from the playground.

-The exterior and interior painting project that was completed three years ago looks very good and we

expect this to last many years to come. Some touch may be done this summer.

- Two new self-pruning ornamental pear trees that were planted three years ago by Wayne Sawchuk

at the front of the church on the street look great and are becoming well established.

-The Town Hall chimney at our courtyard was repaired using church property with permission.

- Bell Tower repair is awaiting funding. A new contract has been signed with Valley Restoration for the repair which may be more extensive as time passes.

-A grant submitted to the state historical fund was unsuccessful and will pursue other avenues.

-Much work has been accomplished but it is a big and now a 200-year-old building that needs constant attention.

- 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: Steve Parnell, Bob Cunningham, Rick Kirkindall and Philip Lehr (chair)

Annual Report of the Music Committee

January 9, 2025

Music Committee

The past year has started a new journey for our Music Committee, marked by extraordinary musical contributions and a heart felt goodbye to our Organist as he travels onto other adventures. Jin Kim, our director of music has a deep commitment to enhancing the worship experience within our church community. Our talented Director has 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. Our festival choir is now full of regulars who come and join us for each performance and we so appreciate their assistance.
3. Search for a new pianist / organist – We are continuing to search for a new pianist /organist despite the difficulties. Our search will expand to music schools outside the state and on some social media music forums. We are hopeful that this will yield more new leads. 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

Annual Report of the Outreach Committee - 2025

The Outreach Committee worked diligently to spend our funds wisely. We want to use our resources to provide for the needs of our community, our state and beyond as responsibly as possible. We are grateful to the congregation for your continued support and generous donations to our various causes.

This year we focused on local needs. We continued to support the Carolina Hill family shelter in Marshfield, Interfaith Social Services in Quincy, Wellspring multi-service centers in Hull and Weymouth (please consider donating to and shopping at their wonderful second-hand shops), DOVE in Quincy, the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute in Boston, and newly added Home for Little Wanderers home and school in Plymouth, with generous donations throughout the year. We also made our annual donation to Our Church's Wider Mission for disaster relief and sponsored an inspiring Martin Luther King breakfast for about 100 people. Thanks to the chefs and many helpers who made that possible!

Our church supports Father Bill's Shelter in Quincy by purchasing, preparing, and serving meals for 150 hungry people once a month all year. We thank Connie Afshar, Doug Yeager, and Ron and Mary Goodwin for their continued monthly leadership of these meals, and their many assistants for their dedication. Let them know if you would like to help with this rewarding endeavor!

We continue to encourage members of the congregation to participate in charitable fundraising opportunities by offering a \$20 per person match. These programs include, but are not limited to ASP, Special Olympics, the Walk for Peace, and Over the Edge activities.

This year we supported a number of other local projects. We supplied 40 filled back to school backpacks for Interfaith Social Services, we donated 20 Thanksgiving pies and 20 tins of Christmas cookies to the Cohasset Food Pantry, you generously donated Angel Tree Christmas gifts for the children at Carolina Hill and gift cards for needy seniors for distribution by Elder Services in Cohasset. We made additional monetary donations to Wellspring, Interfaith Social Services and the food pantry during the fall food insecurity, and also donated to the newly established Cohasset Community Assistance Fund to support Cohasset families in need, collected an amazing amount of much appreciated food for the food pantry (and they still need grocery bags), and sponsored a church cook out in the fall.

Thanking you again for your generosity and support,

The Outreach Committee, Marsha Silvia, Debbie Anderson, Gary Anderson, Taffy Nothnagle, Steve Parnell, and Tana Carlson

Second Congregational Church
Finance Committee 2025 Annual Report

Each year the Finance Committee dutifully prepares a budget of expected income and expenses for the year ahead. And then, reality takes over. This year we once again experienced transition in our ministerial leadership and some unanticipated financial situations. About \$3,000 less than the projected 2025 budgeted deficit was withdrawn from our investment account. The rental income from the parsonage and the full year 's income from the Montessori School has helped in meeting our total budget. Jonathan Pierce's unexpected departure led to savings in ministerial salaries, as guest ministers were used for over four months. The consequence is that our income exceeded expenses for the year.

Within our committee we suffered the loss of our two major leaders Chairman, Paul Carlson and Treasurer, Jeff Nothnagle as well as valued member John Campbell. Not only did that cut our committee in half, but depleted the valuable institutional knowledge provided by those three members. Michael Doherty graciously stepped up to fill one of the openings and we carried on with the goal of finishing 2025 and preparing for 2026 with finances in order and an understanding of our assets.

Thanks to the efforts of Paul Carlson and Jeff Nothnagle along with Phil Lehr and George Baumgarten, we now have a successful Montessori school and a Kids Club sharing our facilities and contributing to our income. Additionally, with no current need for our parsonage, we have rental income for that church building. The maintenance and improvements to our facilities from the past have paid off in providing a home for us as well as others.

On a separate page you will see our proposed budget for 2026. The pledges for the coming year are considerably less than in the last 2 years. Part of this is that several members have resigned from membership, chose not to pledge or reduced their pledges. The 2026 budget (at the time of this report) is based on having Bridge pastors for the first 4 months and a longer term pastor for 8 months. Most other budgeted items will remain in alignment with the past year. With slight surplus from 2025 and a carryover balance from past years we should have a budget that is close to balanced.

As far as the future is concerned we still have a problem to contend with, it is the repair of the bell tower which is estimated to cost over \$100,000. However, the process of getting funding for a grant or at least a partial funding is once again being

addressed. In the long run, we need to increase our membership and/or our income to continue our mission.

Behind the scenes, but vital to our finances are our Financial Secretary, Ruth Nedrow and Assistant Financial Secretary, Carolyn Laudien. Their dedication to attending each and every Sunday and staying until the offering is counted, recounted, balanced and deposited is a major contribution not to be taken for granted. Thank you both.

Finally we appreciate the time and attention Cindy Courtney our bookkeeper and JoAnne Lehr our new office administrator devote to keeping our books, preparing notices and reports and answering our many questions. We couldn't operate without your key role.

Respectfully submitted the Finance Committee

Jack Creighton, "Diek" Diekmann, Michael Doherty, DeeDee Perry

Second Congregational Church

2026 Presentation Budget

	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Budget 2026
Previous Year Carry Over			52,775
Income			
Pledge	100,000	84,420	58,472
Contributions	10,000	12,695	10,000
Loose Offering	5,000	6,609	5,000
Prepaid Pledges	4,000	6,840	0
Total Offering Income	119,000	110,564	73,472
Cohasset ASP	2,000	2,000	2,000
Kids Club	8,600	9,010	10,000
Misc. Facility Income	3,000	4,575	3,000
Parsonage	40,000	36,150	50,400
Montessori School	41,000	45,430	55,000
Mindfulness Plus share	10,000	7,535	0
Total Facility Use	104,600	104,700	120400
Dividends & Interest	12,000	11,122	13,000
Other fund raising	4,000	0	0
Strawberry Festival	8,000	6,904	7,000
Village Fair	8,000	11,747	10,000
Total Other Income	32,000	29,773	30,000
Draw from Investments	22,000	18,877	0
Flow Thru Income		19,017	
Total Income	277,600	282,931	276,647
Expenses			
Total Christian Ed	500	0	500
Total Church Growth	4300	0	0
Total Deacons	7,150	14,376	9000
Total Finance	1,500	746	900
Total Salary	197,151	148,636	182,369
Total Flower Comm.	200	0	200
Total Music Comm.	900	612	900
Total Outreach	11,100	9,056	9,500
Total Trustees	50,496	72,846	62,550
Total Church Comm	3,450	222	3,000
Total Flow Thru		19,080	
Total Budget Expenses	276747	265,574	268,919
Net	853	17,357	7,728