2024 Annual Reports and 2025 Proposed Budget For Congregational Meeting January 26, 2025



Woodmont United Church of Christ Milford, Connecticut

Table of Contents

Click on a Section or Page number to link to a report. Click on each report heading to return here.

Section	Page No.
Jan. 26, 2025 Annual Meeting Agenda	3
Minutes from January 28, 2024 Annual Meeting	4
Minutes from June 23, 2024 Special Congregational Meeting	7
Pastor's Report	10
Moderator's Report	13
Clerk's Report	15
Treasurer's Report	16
Worship Coordinators' Report	17
Stewardship Report	17
Sunday School Coordinator's Report	18
Mission Coordinator's Report	19
Personnel and Pastoral Relations Report	20
Fundraising Coordinator's Report	21
Historian's Report	21
Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2023	22
Delegates' Report - New Haven Association	23
Delegates' Report - Southern New England Conference, UCC	24
Membership List	25
Nominating Slate - January 2025	26
2024 Balance Sheet	28
2024 Statement of Cash Flows	31
2024 Budget vs. Actual and 2025 Proposed Budget	32
Woodmont UCC Vision Statement	36
Woodmont UCC Open and Affirming Mission Statement	36

Annual Meeting Agenda

January 26, 2025 12:00 noon

1. Welcome

- 1.1. Opening prayer (Rev. Jill Olds)
- 1.2. Reading of Open and Affirming Statement (Bettina Thiel)
- 1.3. Establishment of quorum (Rosa Richardson)
- 2. Adopt Minutes of the special Congregational Meeting June 23, 2024

3. Approval of Reports

- 3.1. Pastor's Report
- 3.2. Moderator's Report
- 3.3. Clerk's Report
- 3.4. Treasurer's Report
- 3.5. Auditors' Report
- 3.6. Stewardship Report (Sheila Torres)
- 3.7. Reports of coordinators and delegates
- 4. Presentation of 2025 Budget (Dorothy Osanitsch and Maureen Shea)
- 4.1. Budget Highlights
- 4.2. Adoption of Operating Budget

5. Bylaws revisions

- 5.1. Overview (Bettina Thiel)
- 5.2. Reading of Article IX and Article XIII
- 5.3. Adoption of revised Bylaws
- **6. Election** of church leadership (Cyn Stehouwer)
- 6.1. Presentation of Nominating Slate
- 6.2. Vote
- 6.3. Installation

7. Updates:

- 7.1. Woodmont Rainbow Alliance update (Carol, Cyn, Bettina)
- 7.2. 140th Anniversary
- 8. Any other business appropriate to come before us
- 9. Adjournment

2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2024

Welcome- Bettina Thiel, Moderator, thanked all in attendance for the Annual Meeting both in person and online.

Opening Prayer- Rev. Jill Olds offered opening prayer.

Reading of the Behavioral Covenant- Rev. Jill read the Covenant (see attached). It was also displayed on screen for those in attendance to see.

Attendance- Rosa Richardson, Clerk, took a head count of those in attendance. There were 26 members present, as well as 5 members live stream and 2 nonmembers.

Bettina asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting. Motion was made by Barbara Mackintosh. Seconded by Maureen Shea. Motion carried with three abstentions.

Reports: Bettina suggested that Pastor's, Clerk's, and Moderator's reports be bundled for approval. Art Yost Motioned to approved bundling. Seconded by Nina Barrett. Motion carried by unanimous vote in person and via online.

Bettina sked for a motion to approve the Pastor's, Clerk's, and Moderator's Reports. Motion made by Barbara Mackintosh. Seconded by Deb Mason. Motion carried by unanimous vote in person and online.

Treasurer's Report- Maureen Shea

Finance Report/ Total Year to Date as well as Recommended 2024 Budget- (See attached) Maureen shared the Finance Report. It was also displayed for everyone to follow along. Her report showed the Budget amount for 2023, the actual YTD, and the recommended budget for 2024. She went through the report and highlighted the areas where there were changes (increases or decreases).

Income Total w/ Changes \$189,044

- # 4010 Fundraising- Increased from \$500-\$1,000
- #4102 Contributions- remains the same in the 2024 Budget
- #4111Investment Earnings increased to \$12,000. Bruce Barrett felt this amount was too low and asked to change it. This amount was increased to \$24,000.
- #4105 Pledges- to date pledges are down from last year. The new budget reflects a \$5,000 difference.
- #4190 Funeral Income was added to the Financial Report for upcoming Budget year. Bruce suggested that the amount received be added to the YTD Finance Sheet

Expenses Total w/ Changes \$213,624.42 (\$36,000) approximate deficit

- #7156 Utilities- remained the same.
- Most committees remained the same. Deacons went up \$25.
- #7175 Church Development slight increase to \$3,000.
- #7460 Computer Software was increased from \$950 to \$2000
- PPR was decreased by \$1,000
- There were increases in Pastor's and Office Administrator's salaries as well as payroll taxes.
- #7104 OCWM \$3,570 Bettina suggested that Member Fees line item should remain. There was some discussion on that Line item, and it was stated that there was discussion regarding this line item during the January Council meeting because a payment was made from #7011-line item when it should have come from line # 7014 -Dues. It was suggested by Bettina to place it back into the budget. All agreed that this line item be put back into the budget.
- #7154 Landscaping and Church Cleaning increased due to increases in fees for services such as snow removal.

- There was some discussion on the need to get projects such as doors and maybe even parking lot lighting in this next year.
- Slight increase in Fundraising
- Increase in Investment earnings due the interest rates of CD's and maturation dates. There was additional discussion on Advertising, what will occur upon maturity of the current CDs. There was some discussion on what will be done upon maturation of CDs. That will be decided based on several factors such as interest rates, any projects that need to be done, etc. at the time they mature.

Statement of Cash Flow- Total \$899,425.77. This amount reflects the sale of the parsonage, State Grant and a Gift/endowment of \$97,000.

There was discussion on how long the proposed budgets have been approved with a deficit. Dorothy Osanitsch stated that budgets have been passed with deficits for as long as she has been a member. Bruce Barrett then added that although the Annual Budget shows a deficit, everyone is very conscientious about spending and most often, the operating budget winds up either greatly reducing or eliminating the deficit.

After discussion, a motion to accept the Finance Report and 2024 Budget, with changes and additions, was made by Dorothy Osanitsch. Seconded by Art Yost. Motion carried by unanimous vote in person and online.

By-Laws- Bettina stated that it is not easy to fill Boards and Committees with a church this size. Based on the meeting with Anna Hall, it was recommended that the church work out a "nimbler" structure. She explained that her church worked and scaled back their structure and committees. This meeting started the wheels in motion.

Rev. Jill stated that by State Statute, we must have an Executive Board. The Council, after much discussion, recommended amending the structure and having an Executive Board as well as coordinators. This does not mean that the coordinators will do all of the work, rather they will coordinate volunteers, as needed, so that more people can do a smaller piece of the pie. The idea is that we can be more successful if more people take on smaller amounts of the work to be done. The Council voted and approved that this model be used for one year and if it serves us, we can permanently change the by-laws to reflect the changes.

The Executive Board would consist of Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Clerk and Pastor. Barbara Macintosh stated that the minutes reflect that the Deacons Fund will be the duty of the Worship Coordinator. It was also suggested by Jason Valdivieso that an Outreach Coordinator be added so that we can be more connected with our community. Also, it is the Church's responsibility to do a background check for Sunday School volunteers. Background checks are clearly defined in the Safe Church Policy. Carol Topitzer also suggested that Coordinators send updates, she can make sure the information is disseminated in the Woodmont Weekly.

After additional discussion, a motion to suspend Articles 13 and 19 of the current By-Laws was made by Art Yost. Seconded by Dorothy Osanitsch. Motion carried by unanimous vote in person and online.

Bettina asked for a motion in favor of the concept of the By-Laws modifications to include an Executive Board and Coordinators. There will be a total of 6 members of the Executive Board to include the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Clerk and Pastor. Motion was made by Gail Haas. Seconded by Nina Barrett. Motion carried by unanimous vote in person and online.

The matter of what constitutes a quorum was addressed by Bruce Barrett. Bruce made a motion that 4 constitutes a quorum. Seconded by Rob Schwartz. After discussion, a vote was taken. Motion carried by unanimous vote in person and online.

Bruce Barrett then made the following motion: There must be 4 yes votes for a motion to pass by the Executive Board. Discussion ensued. If you require 4 yes votes with 4 members present, then possibly nothing gets done. After much

discussion, the motion was amended and read "The majority of the Board must be in favor for a motion to pass. This Motion, with the amendment, approved unanimously by in person as well as online.

Election of Officers of the Executive Board- Moderator, Bettina Thiel- Vice-Moderator, Cyn Stehouwer- Treasurer, Maureen Shea- Assistant Treasurer, Dorothy Osanitsch- Clerk, Rosa Richardson Motion to Approve Officers of E-Board made by Nina Barrett. Seconded by Deb Mason. Motion carried by unanimous vote in person as well as on-line.

Coordinators:

Worship- Grace Schwartz

Missions- Art Yost

Trustee. Building and Grounds- Jason Valdivieso

Finance Coordinator-

Christian Education- Sandy Steady

Fellowship- Nina Barrett

Fundraising- Bev Byer

Auditors- Gail Haas and Rosa Richardson

Stewardship-TBD

Delegates:

New Haven Association UCC- Ann Yost, Esther Leiva **Southern New England Conference** - Barbara Macintosh, Ann Yost, and Carol Topitzer

Prayer of Installation was offered by Rev. Jill.

Recognitions:

Bettina recognized the following members for the continued service to the church and its members:

Sandy Steady - working tirelessly, in the background, to prepare for CE classes although children/families do not attend on a consistent basis.

Barbara Mackintosh- Counter, PPR, Deacons.

Deb Mason - Gracious Giver- Stewards, Missions, Bell Stand cleanup and painting, changing ceiling tiles and burnt-out bulbs in the sanctuary.

Art Yost - Yes Man

Bev Byer - Board of Stewards, Fundraising

She thanked every one of them.

Survey - Bettina asked all to submit Reimagining Church questionnaire.

A motion to adjourn was made by Nina Barrett. Seconded by Art Yost. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Rosa Richardson, Clerk

WUCC Special Congregational Meeting

June 23, 2024, 12:00 p.m. WUCC Sanctuary and via Zoom

The Meeting of the WUCC Congregational was called at 12:03 p.m. by Moderator, Bettina Thiel.

Bettina Thiel and Maureen Shea read the WUCC Covenant at the start of the meeting.

Bettina asked for a determination of quorum. There were 23 members present which represents a quorum. Therefore, the meeting proceeded.

Approval of Minutes of Annual Meeting- Bettina asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2024, Annual Meeting. The motion was made by Barbara McIntosh and seconded by Sheila Torres. Dorothy Osanitsch informed Bettina of a typo which should read "Asked". The motion, with correction, was approved by unanimous vote.

Executive Board Updates- Bettina went on the inform the Congregation of the happenings of the Executive Board to date. She informed them of the hiring of a new bookkeeper, Brigit Stevens. Brigit is a former UCC minister with vast experience with church finances. Dorothy Osanitsch, Treasurer, Maureen Shea, Assistant Treasurer and Carol Topitzer, Administrative Assistant have been working with Brigit to put the process in place. Special thanks were offered to each of them for their work.

Bettina then informed the congregation of a \$50,000 security grant that was awarded to the church. This grant was for the purchase of security doors, panic buttons and surveillance cameras, and wi-fi updates as well as ballistic film for the windows in the lawn view room. As some are aware, the panic buttons have been installed with them currently going directly to Joe Cahill's business. She thanked Joe and Cole Cahill for installing all of the panic buttons. Bettina informed the members that the panic buttons will be pointed out while they tour the building immediately following the meeting.

She went on to explain that the proceeds of the sale of the parsonage had been placed into CDs at two different banks. The Executive Board, at its most recent meeting, decided unanimously to roll-over a CD that was coming up for renewal.

Bettina then informed the Members of the renewal of the contract between WUCC and Co-Op. This contract is for three (3) years and includes a \$150.00 increase in monthly rental fees.

As you have already seen, the parking lines have been completed and a special thanks to Jason and Robert Steady for their work on general repairs.

In the area of handicap accessibility, Bettina explained that the Executive Board is working with Jason and others regarding solutions for the door and the handicap ramp. We are currently in the process of receiving bids on replacing the handicap ramp. And are still looking into adding handicap accessible bathroom(s). These are amazing ideas, but keep in mind they are very costly as well.

Bettina has worked on and developed an Emergency Response Guide. Please note this is not a Plan, only a guide. Therefore, if not followed, there will be no liability to the Church.

Nina Barrett put on a Game Night and it was very well received. All who participated had a good time. Fundraising, under Bev Byer, put a great committee together for the "Fiesta" in May. The Committee raised \$1200.00 toward the purchase of equipment for digital ministry.

Bettina was excited to inform the congregation that we welcomed 7 new members into our church family. She then announced the By-Laws Revision team. This team includes Bev Byer, Ann Yost, Wayne Kenyon, Sheila Torres and Carol Topitzer. By-Laws need to be updated to reflect the changes we have made for us to continue to move forward.

PPR has put a job description together for the hiring of a new Music Director. The Job Description is on the WUCC Website if anyone would like to review it.

As stated earlier, we have been awarded the security grant which took many hours to prepare. Carol Topitzer, Rev. Jill and Dorothy Osanitsch worked many hours to prepare this grant. Now we have to administer this grant and follow all of the regulations and guidelines while doing so. To begin with, there are two mandatory zoom webinars to attend in order to ensure compliance.

Bettina was glad to announce that our church will be celebrating our 140th Anniversary as well as 20th Anniversary of Open and Affirming. We will be celebrating, beginning in May, next year.

Reimagining has wrapped up and those who served on that committee were invited to join the Convergence Team. Bettina expressed that Re-Imagining has proven to us that we must understand and be patient as we continue to strive to move forward.

Convergence is working on who we are and what we are looking to be to determine where we want to go. Members of the Convergence Team went into the community to interview agencies who provide valuable resources to the community. Based on surveys received Our members would like to concentrate on Housing, food insecurity and LGBTQ youth. This has led to some great conversations with Missions. The Team's plan is to provide an update with proposals in the Fall.

Finance- Maureen came forward to address the changes to the current budget line items. She began by explaining that the \$400,000 CD that matured at Milford Bank, with approval of the Executive Board, has been rolled over for an additional 13 weeks at 4% interest. The \$250,000 CD in New Haven Savings will be maturing in the fall.

Maureen explained that a revised budget was necessary since we lost approximately \$50,000 in pledges. She went line item by line item highlighting the changes that were made and accepted by the Executive Board (see attached). Sheila expressed concern regarding the huge gap in the revised budget. Maureen went on to explain that we will be fine for this current year. She did however, express to the members that they must take a hard look at their current pledges and search our hearts and prayerfully look at the willingness to increase pledges in the future. Sheila then asked how many pledging units we have currently. This led to discussion on the current number of members and those who are considered members but do not actually attend.

Sheila then asked where we stand with actuals to date. Rev. Jill took a moment to address the congregation. She expressed that when we consider pledges going forward, we should really look at whether what we pledge is stinging a bit. She stated that both she and Kevin pledge in both churches and does it sting? Yes, it does. Dorothy then stated that in the current balance sheet we have over \$100,000.00 in liquid funds if we look at our current balance in checking as well as PayPal. She then went on to state the funds we have in the Conference Fund (approx. \$106,000.00). We are in good shape for this year and if we all work at it and have faith, we will be ok.

After discussion, Bettina asked for a motion to approve the revised budget. A motion was made by Carol Topitzer. Motion was seconded by Rob Schwartz. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Presentation of Check to Digital Ministry/ "Stream Team"- Bev, along with the Fiesta Committee then presented a check in the amount of \$1200.00 to Rob who represented the "Stream Team".

Emergency Response Plan- Bettina reiterated once again that this is a Plan, not a Policy. She went on the address the members to pay attention and know where the Emergency Exits are located throughout the building. She made the members aware of where the First-Aid supplies are located: Kitchen, SS room, Office. There is a defibrillator located in the Narthex.

It is very important to know the address of the church in the event of an emergency. She went on to state that although

there are panic buttons throughout the building, they should not be used for medical emergencies. The panic buttons go directly to Joe Cahill's security business which may cause delay in getting emergency personnel to the victim. However, she asks that the members know where they are. In the event of an Active aggressor, remember the Run/Hide/Fight rules. And most importantly, if you hide, make sure your phone is turned off.

In the event of an emergency, everyone present should meet at the front of the building. If an alternate exit is used, please make sure to come to the front of the church. All doors should be closed but not locked.

Bettina then went on to explain that we have reinstated the Hall Monitors. She asked each member to consider signing up and went on the state that if each member volunteers, we would only have to do it twice a year. Another matter of concern is whether or not doors should be locked during service. Deb Mason informed the members that you can view the monitor in the Office from the Narthex. There has been discussion on this matter and the request is to lock the red door during Service but leave the Parking Lot door unlocked.

Bob Steady explained that there is a remote in the Narthex (defibrillator box) to unlock the Parking Lot/ handicap ramp door if it were locked. Grace Schwartz stated that the red doors get locked at 10:45 but the Parking Lot Door remains open.

Bettin thanked everyone for their attendance. She then asked if there were any questions. Seeing none, she suggested that the members look around the building to familiarize themselves with the areas as well as panic buttons, first-aid and defibrillator. Dorothy made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Carol. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Rosa Richardson Clerk

Pastor's Report

The Rev. Jill E. Olds, minister

As your ¾ time minister, I am responsible for: leading worship; providing pastoral care; leading our adult faith formation initiatives; oversight of our staff (our Office Administrator, our Director of Music, and our Member in Discernment) alongside our Pastoral Relations Committee; leadership development within our congregation; assisting the church with thinking through budgetary and stewardship considerations; strategic planning for current and new directions in our ministry; outreach efforts beyond our church walls; and helping our church together dream about what might come next for us.

This year saw us remaining steadfast and faithful in many things, trying new initiatives, and responding to challenges as they emerged. I shall highlight a few particular examples below.

1. Worship and Faith Formation:

Worship here is joyous and genuine. It is sacred space. Similar to my previous years here at WUCC, I have had the particular honor of planning weekly worship services, and the special services which took place throughout the year: the Ash Wednesday service; a Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service; the town's ecumenical Good Friday service; Easter Sunday (of course!); a special Taizé service in August; the town's ecumenical Thanksgiving service; an ecumenical Longest Night service on December 19th (pulling together four of our town's Milford Clergy Association's churches, and hosted at our church this year); and the 11pm Christmas Eve service. All of these were wonderfully holy experiences, and I am grateful to have led them. The act of gathering together for worship and praising God is what makes us the Church. I also had the honor of presiding over four funerals this year.

My perspective is that worship should be eclectic and inclusive of different voices. This is evidenced in: altering my preaching style from time to time; and, in encouraging various members to do readings, mission moments, Good Trouble moments, and liturgies during different times of the year.

I worked hard in the first quarter of 2024 to try something new: melding our faith formation gathering (wherein we read and focused on Cole Arthur Riley's *This Here Flesh*) with our worship. Every week featured a chapter in Riley's work, and I endeavored to connect it to the chosen Scripture for the Sunday service. This was a challenge, but it brought people together in meaningful ways, bridging the gap between those who participated in the book study and those who attended worship only.

Advent saw us engage with a quieter version of "study": engaging with prayer while being silent and creative together. It has been a lovely time for rest and rejuvenation.

2. Leadership Development within our Congregation/Strategic Planning:

In 2024, our congregation continued (and mostly completed) our engagement with two visioning processes: one out of Yale Divinity School (called Reimagining Church), one with a hired consultant (Gregg Carlson, from Convergence).

As a part of this group, our congregation chose to suspend the portion of our by-laws as they related to our committees for a one-year period of experimentation. This shift was not without its challenges, but was deemed necessary for a number of reasons. I led a training in February for the new coordinators (who oversaw various areas of ministry), which was received well. As expected, however, one training is not sufficient for shifting the entire workings of an organization. Periodic check-ins with coordinators ensued, and I worked particularly closely with our Worship Coordinators as their liaison to the Executive Board, but also became the hub for several other coordinators as they found their footing within the new system. I further interacted with the by-laws team, who proposed the next parameters for our future governance structure. This work remains on-going and, like all cultural shifts, will continue to take time.

Another portion of our strategic planning has been the adoption of a visioning proposal put forth by the working groups, which has (after numerous interviews with community leaders and partners) suggested a focus on LGBTQ+ identity and a specific outreach to youth of that community. I helped facilitate a gathering wherein the CEO of Convergence joined us online for an afternoon of visioning work and planning. Much remains to be seen but I am hopeful that the congregation will continue to coalesce around one selected vision, and will put effort towards its implementation.

3. Oversight of Our Staff/Budgetary and Stewardship Considerations

Unfortunately, sometimes staff relationships simply do not work out. Early in 2024, it was brought to my attention that Bruce Barrett, longtime church member and then-Director of Music, was expressing dissatisfaction with the direction in which the church was headed. This was made apparent in the midst of the visioning group of which he was a key contributor, as well as elsewhere in the church organization. Bruce made the decision to withhold a significant portion of his family's pledge at that time.

Despite multiple follow-up meetings with the Executive Board, with the Pastor Parish Relations Committee, and with me, Bruce's dissatisfaction continued and communication became strained. Clarity emerged when Bruce shared that he no longer wished to be considered a member of the church's staff as its Director of Music. Leadership subsequently decided to hire someone to fill that role, who would work with Bruce and the other Worshiping Musicians, but oversee the general administration of the music program. After this was communicated, Bruce initially said that he would stay until the church hired someone for the role; he then decided against this and chose to withdraw his time, talents, pledge, and presence from the congregation.

This was, of course, a very painful experience for all involved. As our consultant reflected to us, our congregation's "secret sauce" is in its robust relationships. Any key member choosing to leave the church leaves sadness in its wake; it is made more difficult when there is not a healthy leave-taking process. Much of my time in pastoral care conversations and in leadership conversations this year revolved around the grief that came from the deterioration of this relationship between Bruce and Woodmont UCC. It is a painful thing for any church to go through, but the suddenness of the departure impacted many in a particularly deep way.

There were also repercussions for the music program. My role became one of tending to the musical instrument upon which our weekly worship frequently demands, and finding substitutes for every service. PPR and I also began the job search in earnest, and were very pleased to find a new Music Minister, who will begin with us on January 1st, 2025.

Because a significant amount of our annual contributions came from the Barrett family, our congregation also found itself with a new budgetary and stewardship challenge. Despite an overwhelming majority of our families increasing their budget for 2025, it is not likely that we will be able to bridge the gap that you will see in the financial report. Decisions regarding how to remain fiscally responsible as an organization are currently being discussed, and will be presented in other reports in the coming months.

Suffice it to say: this has been a year of grief, of processing, and of recalibration. At the same time, I remain grateful to leadership for their resilient spirit, and for the congregation's continued trust as we endeavor to serve one another together as faithfully as possible. Of late, our congregation has been a living reminder that one person is not the church; with the grace of God, our collective spirit has, and will continue to, see us through.

Conclusion:

I want to take a moment to say thank you. To every member and volunteer who has given of their time, talents, and treasure to ensure that this place continues to be God's hands and feet in this world: I am very, very thankful for each and every one of you. We wouldn't be who we are without you!

I could easily wax poetic and thank every single individual in the church - everyone here deserves praise for all that they do. But I would be remiss without mentioning deep, deep gratitude to five specific people by name.

To the church's Executive Board. Bettina, Cyn, Dorothy, Maureen, and Rosa: Thank you. There was a lot of behind-the-scenes work needed this past year, certainly more than we expected or hoped for. Thank you to all of you for your unbelievable efforts in seeing the landscape of WUCC, and responding to it with hope and tenacity. You have been a steadfast reminder of why I continue to love ministry at WUCC, and ministry in general.

2024 has been a full year. And we expect more to come! The fullness is holy when we remain centered, faithful in our mission as children of God, and steadfast in our love for one another. I look forward to 2025, to seeing what God would wish to do in our midst. And through it all, I remain grateful. Beloved of God, may we continue to be the church together.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Jill Olds

Moderator's Report

To be honest: 2024 was a difficult year. We have changed our governance structure, tried out new ways of being "the church," we saw a number of beloved members step away, including the music director and his family, all while we were engaging in an effort of renewal.

Among all these changes, I have grown ever more grateful for the hard work taken on by all who helped pull the wagon forward: Pastor Jill, Carol Topitzer, the coordinators and those who stepped in when needed; my fellow board members, Cyn Stehouwer, Dorothy Osanitsch, Rosa Richardson, Maureen Shea and Pastor Jill. There are many of you who do behind-the scenes work - I am thinking of Bob and Sandy Steady, Ann Yost and her PPR team, Sheila Warren, the Stream Team, and so many more. Thanks to this their attitude of "I'll jump in where needed" we can now focus on the things to come: a new music ministry, a new outreach focus, and hopefully a structure that serves our size church.

Looking back, these were the things I spent our time on:

Bylaws: a year ago we passed an interim bylaws revision that would allow us to be nimbler in our governance. We removed committees by and large, and instead voted in coordinators. Council was replaced by the Executive Board consisting of the officers and the pastor. The system was successful in some ways – i.e. engaging more people to do smaller, time-limited "jobs" – but also had some significant draw-backs. People said they felt "out of touch," not knowing what's going on. For a variety of reasons some coordinators withdrew before the year was up.

In the summer of 2024, we asked a Bylaws team to get feedback from the different stakeholders and come up with a new governance structure that would work for us. It resulted in a hybrid proposal, that is being presented to the congregation at the upcoming 2025 Annual Meeting for approval. The proposal is to keep the coordinator system, but to increase the number of coordinators, and to resurrect the Council, consisting of the coordinators and officers and the pastor.

A special thank-you goes out to the Bylaws team, consisting of Beverley Byer, chair; Ann Yost, Sheila Warren, Carol Topitzer and Wayne Kenyon.

Reimagining Church/Convergence initiatives:

The two groups working on re-imagining and re-vitalizing the church merged last spring, after Reimagining Church, hosted by Yale Divinity School, finished the academic year. At the time the Convergence group was scouting for needs and potential partners in the community. What seemed to strike a nerve was to build on our history of being Open and Affirming, and to reach out in particular to youth in the LGBTQ community. In November we organized a congregational forum to present that concept, and asked for feedback from the congregation. Some 28 people were in attendance and

feedback was mostly positive. A number of people pledged to work on a team leading this "Rainbow Initiative" into the future. We applied for seed money from the Reimagining Church program.

Meanwhile we continued to look for ways to be the church in the community.

- As sponsors of Milford Pride, we had a table at the first Milford Pride Festival on the Green. In addition to candy and
 flyers, we had a selection of children's books with LGBTQ themes, that we handed out for free. Thanks to Cyn
 Stehouwer and Deb Mason for heading up our table, and all the volunteers.
- We also took part in the Milford Oyster Festival, with a table near the food court. Rumor has it that this long-running festival will not continue in its present form.
- In October we offered a Blessing of the Animals, which was attended by some 20 families with their pets.
- In December we hosted an ecumenical contemplative Longest Night service.

Special Congregational Meeting:

In June, we had a special congregational meeting. We approved a budget reflecting the loss of some pledges that the budget had been based on. That work continues.

We also presented an Emergency Response Plan and re-instated Hall Monitors.

Other checkmarks:

- Beverley Byer and her team of volunteers pulled together two fund raising events the May Fiesta and November tea party. They raised about \$1,600 and provided welcome fellowship at the same time.
- Jason Valdivieso arranged for the parking lot lines to be redrawn.
- Dorothy Osanitsch, Rosa Richardson, with the support of Bob Steady, saw through the installation of a new accessible walkway.
- Dorothy, with help from Rev. Jill, Joe Cahill, Carol Topitzer and Bettina Thiel, applied for and was granted a \$50,000 security grant from the state.

With everyone's willingness to do their part, may we grow into the New Year and be open to where the Spirit leads us!

Respectfully submitted,

Bettina Thiel

Clerk's Report

Allow me to say thank you for entrusting me the past two years as your Clerk. I was part of the transition from Council to

Executive Board and I have to be honest; I thought that our meetings would become productive but in a shorter period

of time. Unfortunately, with all that has happened, that just was not the case.

There have been many changes within our church since my time as Clerk. We went from a Council of approx. 12

members to a six-member Executive Board including Rev. Jill. During this past year we have seen our share of ups and

downs, but we have managed, by the Grace of God, and not without much sacrifice, to get through it. We have seen the

loss of our Music Ministry Team. We have now hired a new Music Minister and will begin to see our other musicians

come together once again.

We have gained new members, have seen members graduate and move on to higher education, we have seen the loss

of some of our cherished members, members and family members in need physically, emotionally and spiritually.

We have made progress in our streaming and look forward to making additional improvements. We have a new ramp.

Our finance team pulled off an amazing Security Grant. We received some funding through Reimagining Church with

Yale Divinity. Between Re-Imagining Church and Convergence, we have determined our mission for upcoming years.

I am looking forward to more positive things here at WUCC and look forward to sharing in them with my fellow brothers

and sisters in Christ. Below is the Attendance count for Sundays and Special Services.

For 45 regular Sunday services, we had an average attendance of 22.

Special Services

Ash Wednesday: 16

Palm Sunday: 42

Maundy Thursday: 27

Easter: 63

Taizé: 5

Longest Night service (collaborative ecumenical service with other Milford churches): 39

Christmas Eve: 26

Respectfully submitted,

Rosa Richardson- Clerk

- 15 -

Treasurers' Report

2024 has been a challenging year for the Woodmont United Church of Christ in many ways. Financially, it has been particularly challenging. The year began with a planned change of Treasurers, which fell through. Maureen Shea graciously agreed to stay on as Treasurer until other arrangements could be made, with Dorothy Osanitsch as Assistant Treasurer. The duties of the bookkeeper continued to be split between Maureen and Dorothy until a bookkeeper was hired. In March, we hired Brigit Stevens, an accountant and UCC minister, to be our off-site bookkeeper. In July, Maureen and Dorothy switched roles as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

In June, we reported that we lost some long-time pledgers and our budget was cut substantially. We then revised the budget at a Congregational meeting to reflect the loss of about \$50,000 in pledges.

Fortunately, we had a healthy checking account balance and had invested the funds from the sale of the parsonage in 2023, along with the \$97,000 bequest from Bob Menne in high interest-bearing CD's, which earned about \$30,000 in interest in 2024. This interest has been re-invested and will mature in June 2025. In addition, we still have the \$50,000 which was gifted to us for the Pastor's Salary Support back in 2021 and 2022. Also, in April of this year, we were awarded a grant of \$50,000 by the State of Connecticut for security upgrades, such as panic buttons, solid core doors, extra security cameras and safety film for classroom windows.

Even though in 2024, we had a loss of over \$80,000, the balance in our checking account at December 31st is still over \$40,000.

Although we have a projected loss in 2025 of over \$95,000, we have enough resources to get through the year, without making a large dent in our investments. We are thankful to all who pledged this year, more members than in previous years, but pledges are not going to be enough. Therefore, the Finance Team is getting bids to cut costs and investigating ways to increase income by making better use of our building and grounds. This is a big job and we are confident it can be done, but it will require help from all of us.

God will be with us as we face another challenging - and exciting - year.

Gratefully yours,

Dorothy Osanitsch, Treasurer and Maureen Shea, Assistant Treasurer

Worship Coordinators' Report

It was an honor to serve the Woodmont church in this year's experimental role as a Worship Coordinator. With enough tasks for two people, Kim Gerlander joined me as Co-Coordinator in September. Worship and sanctuary plans were discussed with Rev. Jill and updates given to the Executive Board by her, as our liaison. With the vision of engaging more people in worship, we welcomed seventeen readers, fourteen greeters and other volunteers who helped services run seamlessly. Also coordinated were: communion, sanctuary changes and a luncheon for New Member's Sunday.

Worship supplies, communion cup trays, flameless candelabra candles, clip on lights for candlelit services and decorative items for the sanctuary were purchased through our worship budget and the Memorial Fund (Book of Remembrance).

Submitted with gratitude, Grace Schwartz
Worship Co-Coordinator

Stewardship Report

The year 2024 brought a significant revenue loss due to the withdrawal of pledges that accounted for about half of church revenue. As such, the 2025 pledge appeal began with the challenge of trying to get full pledging participation from the congregation. While the focus was on pledging commitment, not the amount of funds pledged, we were unable to achieve full participation.

There are, however, some positive results to report as of Jan. 3, 2025:

- Total amount pledged for 2025 is \$66,715. By comparison, in 2024 when the previously mentioned withdrawn pledges are removed, the total amount pledged was \$64,824. This represents an increase of almost 1.3 percent.
- Total 2025 amount pledged to our Church's Wider Mission is: \$1,680
- There were 5 new pledgers in 2025. The 2025 total number of pledgers is 27.
- 14 of the pledges received were increases from 2024
- 4 pledges were decreases from 2024

In the coming year we will implement the following changes to the stewardship process:

- Send out quarterly updates to keep contributors informed about their pledges
- Complete a written stewardship process to guide future stewardship coordinators
- Communicate quarterly about topics related to stewardship and giving.

Sheila Torres Stewardship Coordinator

Sunday School Coordinator's Report

The Sunday school year went well.

Small classes can be challenging, but with a good curriculum, a creative spirit, and the ability to adapt when needed, we had an enriching Sunday school year.

I thank Rev Jill for her feedback, guidance and support for programs offered.

Sunday school was the focus of the year. With a few students of varying ages, a one-room classroom curriculum was used. Character by God's Design/Group worked well. The curriculum is fun and hands on, offering a variety of activities, games, DVD's enrichment and projects. Class began with God sightings, prayer time, Bible focus message, activities, games, snacks and time for the kids to connect and enjoy time together. Weekly emails updated families on class activities and upcoming class and church events. This kept parents/families in the loop. Health and safety measures are still in place, including air purifier, sanitizer, and safe space practices.

<u>Families share Communion:</u> On the first Sunday of the month (Communion Sunday) our Sunday school class is shorter. Children are brought from class into worship for Communion. This is an opportunity for families to enjoy a special time of worship and Communion with their children.

At the start of 2024, classes met 3 times a month. Starting in Fall 2024, classes met each week with few exceptions. It helped promote improved attendance and the number of classes held. This worked well for the rest of the year, and attendance was good. I praise the families for their efforts to bring their children each week!

Our class continues to create joyful cards for our churches Absent Faith Friends/shut ins. Valentines, Easter, Halloween, and Christmas cards and others are mailed throughout the year from our class. We have continued this class ministry for many years. For Mother's Day, moms enjoyed cards and potted flowers created by their children.

It is our class tradition to create Easter Baskets for children. This year the class made two baskets in support of the CT Alliance of Foster Care and Adoptive Families. I love their generous spirit.

We serve others: The class hosted 2 coffee hours for fellowship time – ice cream and cake were favorites.

More news and offerings:

- Summer clip board club was offered—clipboards with activity and coloring sheets to use in the pews
- Busy bags in the pews activity bags to borrow during worship
- We have a substitute teacher in place, and I thank Karen for volunteering.
- Childcare for young visiting children I appreciate the volunteer spirit of several members who have offered to be on-call.
- Friends Of CE Gail, Wayne, Cyn, Shakeela and I met a few times during the year to check in as a group. One meeting culminated in a plan to host a Halloween Pumpkin Carving Party with a pizza lunch along with snacks and desserts. Our group provided snacks of all kinds, along with Dorothy, Hanna, and others. The turnout was good, and it was a fun time. The fellowship was nice to see. As always, we thank Bob for his help in many areas. At this writing, we are working on a Valentine card making event. An activity, food and a time for fellowship is always enjoyable on a winter day!

Weekly email updates available when you sign up to receive the <u>Woodmont Weekly</u>. This publication keeps you updated on many church happenings.

Blessings, Sandy Steady Sunday school Coordinator

Mission Coordinator's Report

This is the first time this report says "coordinator" rather than "team," reflecting a new direction WUCC has taken after going through a process of reimagining and Convergence experiences. Along with our usual giving to mission requests and hands-on activities, we have tried to figure out a way to conserve the valuable time, energy and resources of our church family. Within the context of being an Open and Affirming congregation, where "ALL" are welcome, we have committed to continue the goal of being a 5-for-5 congregation, continue some local projects and move towards developing an outreach to LGBTQIA+ children of God. Details of this journey will be detailed elsewhere.

Just to list some ways we have been faithful in outreach and service to those in our communities, we have fulfilled our pledge made to Our Church's Wider Mission to the Southern New England Conference, UCC, and have taken and supported very generously The One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need and The Christmas Fund offerings. In doing so, we have joined with many other UCC congregations to be faithful to accomplish what would be impossible as a single congregation in reaching many beyond our own locale.

We have helped to clothe those in need of winter clothing, collecting coats, hats, gloves, heavy sweaters, and scarves to donate to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission for distribution. We have helped provide shelter through our connection with the ministries of Beth-El Center in Milford by contributing to their budget needs. We have fed the hungry with our contributions to the West Haven Emergency Assistance Taskforce (WHEAT) and we have provided locally through our involvement with the Purple Pantry Box Mission. Many have donated to our pantry, located in Conference Room B, from which volunteers, along with their own food donations, fill the box every Monday of the year. Making sure every Monday has nutritious food has been a team effort with Kathy Harrold, Barbara Mackintosh, Cyn Stehouwer, Deb Mason, Barbara Viets, Ann Yost, Art Yost, and others behind the scenes. We have partnered with other local agencies to provide backpacks, school supplies, and requests from our adoptive and foster care social worker as needs have come up.

During the year, individuals have approached me with ideas for mission support and whenever possible we have tried to include these requests through our Woodmont Weekly, Chapel Bell editions and Sunday bulletins.

Many times, it may seem like we are not giving enough of ourselves to perform mission work. I know many of you are contributing your time to many causes that reflect your commitment to serving within and outside the church community. Your motivation for these acts of self-giving come from your faith lived out with worship, powerful and insightful preaching, inspiring décor in the Sanctuary, and fellowship following worship. I am looking forward to the New Year with the church family at WUCC, and seeking new ways to vitally respond in mission and outreach.

Art Yost Mission Coordinator Personnel and Pastoral Relations Report

The members of PPR changed in September when Ed Wilson finished his two-year term. We are grateful for his insights,

ideas and contributions during some difficult times. He offered to help the committee in any way that he could, and he

did create a job contract for the new minister of music. Thank you, Ed, for your ongoing support. Soon a new person will

be asked to join the PPR committee, joining Barbara Mackintosh, Deb Mason, Shakeela Nobles, and Ann Yost.

PPR spent much of this year working hard on personnel matters. With the departure of our bookkeeper, we set about

to fill that important position. We are grateful that Maureen Shea and Dorothy Osanitsch were able to fill in until we

hired Rev. Bridgit Stevens as our part time bookkeeper in March. She works remotely and therefore, a few procedural

changes had to be made to accommodate this approach, which seems to be working well.

A significant amount of our time as a committee was involved with staff/parish relationships and concerns. There were

numerous meetings and conversations as we worked to resolve some of these differences. However, at the end of May

our long-time music director, Bruce Barrett, abruptly resigned and PPR had to begin working on finding a new musician.

A job description was written and posted on various sites and weekly Sunday coverage had to be arranged (thank you,

Rev. Jill for making all the coverage arrangements). Resumes were reviewed, interview questions were written and

finally we found the right person! Starting January 1, 2025, Emily Kropo will begin as our part time minister of music.

She works full time as a music therapist. She was introduced to the congregation in December when she substituted

one Sunday. We are looking forward to hearing her play the piano/guitar as well as sing. She is also a songwriter. Emily

has jammed with Carol and Wayne, and we hope they will play and sing together occasionally.

Toward the end of 2024 we began Rev. Jill and Carol's performance evaluations based on the feedback from members of

the congregation. Thank you to all who returned the stakeholder feedback forms.

PPR strives to maintain open communication and provide a supportive environment for the pastor and the congregation

to work together faithfully and joyfully. All our work is done in confidence, knowing that God is with us as we go

forward. We are available any time for conversation or consultation.

Peace and blessings,

Your PPR committee: Barbara Mackintosh, Deb Mason, Shakeela Nobles, Ann Yost (Chair)

- 20 -

Fundraising Coordinator's Report

We held two successful fundraisers in 2024. Fiesta's spring fundraiser raised \$1200.00 to support our Digital Ministry. The fall fundraiser, a Downton Abbey-themed afternoon tea party, raised \$484.00 for our operating budget.

It was my pleasure to be part of this year's experimental governance structure and to serve as the Fundraiser Coordinator. As I had over the reins, I trust that I have included sufficient helpful information in my guidelines (which are in the church's electronic files) should that person choose to continue with and expand both events so they become synonymous with Woodmont United Church of Christ in our community.

Heartfelt thanks to the members of both fundraising teams. I could not have done it without you!

Respectfully Submitted,

Beverley Byer

Historians' Report

In 2025, the Woodmont United Church of Christ will be celebrating the 140th Anniversary of it's founding, as well as 20 years since we became an Open and Affirming Congregation. We are planning to celebrate these milestones in May and are asking you all to share stories, photos, documents, etc. that will help to tell the story of who WUCC was and is now and our hopes and dreams for the future.

We welcome everyone who would like to be on our team to contact Wayne or Dorothy. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Gratefully yours,

Wayne Kenyon & Dorothy Osanitsch

Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2023

Auditors: Gail Haas and Rosa Richardson

Audit Date: 11/15/24

Audit details:

We did a review of invoices, monthly bank statements, various invoices, Book of Remembrance and the counter's books.

All seemed to be in order with the following exceptions:

Book of Remembrance: There appeared to be 2 uncleared checks. One from June in the amount of \$100, and one from

July in the amount of \$250.

Counter's Books: The Counter's Books were in good order with the exception of 3 missing bank receipts. These receipts

are generally attached to the appropriate page after the Milford Bank bag comes back from the bank. There were no

receipts for the following dates: January 15, 2023; April 2, 2023; and September 18, 2023.

Recommendations:

The 2022 Audit suggested that the 2023 auditors have a brief meeting with the 2022 auditors so that they would be

informed of what was required and where they could find what needs to be audited. We did have a meeting, but

unfortunately, we felt overwhelmed and unprepared to do this work. The records all seemed to be in good order, but

it's not clear whether we would have discovered anything amiss due to our lack of experience. Perhaps an annual audit

by a professional would be a better way to proceed.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Haas and Rosa Richardson

- 22 -

Delegates' Report - New Haven Association (NHA)

Your delegate and/or alternate delegate attended one Ecclesiastical Council to vote if the Member in Discernment (MID) was suitable for UCC ordained ministry on your behalf. It is impressive to witness God's presence in their development, life experience, and as the vision of their ordained ministry begins to take form through the evaluation of their ordination paper and Ecclesiastical Council Meeting.

The 2024 NHA Spring Meeting was offered in person as well as on Zoom and usually focusses on educating its attendees. The theme was the WISE initiative that was to be voted upon by the Southern New England Conference delegates in June of 2024. WISE equals being welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and engaged for everyone. This effort addresses accepting all of God's children regardless of where they are on the mental health spectrum. It is about partnering up with mental health professionals and providing educational resources for the community.

Review below some excerpts from Southern New England Conference covenant regarding this program:

"In the spirit of God's radically inclusive love, we establish this covenant to highlight our desire and commitment to spread God's love to all people including those impacted by mental health challenges.

Many people experiencing mental health challenges feel stigmatized and avoid seeking help with a healthy support system. People who do seek help with mental health challenges and issues often turn to trusted leaders in communities of faith."

It was noted that statistics are truly staggering when it comes to the development of mental illness among young adults (ages 18-25). All the NHA delegates were given information needed to become a certified WISE church. As our church was already involved in discerning God's vision for us, info was held for perhaps a future pursuit.

The 2024 NHA fall meeting is like our annual meeting. This meeting is formal, and there are a few items for approval (budget, actions of the Committee on Ministry, etc.). This meeting was attended by our pastor Rev. Jill, as well. Also, the meeting featured all six MID's offering an update of their journey.

Ann and I enjoyed representing you, and as a NHA church, WUCC will continue to support the NHA as God continues to call MID's into UCC ordained ministry.

In God's service,

Ann Yost and Esther Leiva

Delegates' Report - Southern New England Conference, UCC

The main event of the year, with regard to the Southern New England Conference, was its Annual Meeting. Nearly 500 people - 400 in person and another 100 online - attended the Conference's 5th Annual Meeting, held June 22, 2024, at UMass, Amherst. Our conference encompasses the UCC churches of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Reverend Jill attended the conference in person and Ann Yost, Barbara Mackintosh and Carol Topitzer attended online, together, in our Gardenview Room.

Executive Conference Minister, the Rev. Darrell Goodwin, preached at morning worship and later gave an update on the Find Hope Now Initiative, designed to increase awareness of SNEUCC churches and to connect people with places of hope. The website, FindHopeNow.org (click link), features stories of hope from local SNEUCC churches. Perhaps as our Woodmont Rainbow Alliance initiative progresses, we can communicate our story there!

The annual meeting was filled with inspiring speakers, music, prayers for peace, and speakouts from delegates and clergy. There was the business meeting, where we voted on the Nominating Slate, to accept the <u>Behavioral Covenant & Rules of Procedure</u> (click link), and a "WISE" resolution was passed. The resolution called for the SNEUCC, it's staff, congregations and members to be **W**elcoming, Inclusive, **S**upportive and **E**ngaged for mental health in our conference and greater community. You can read the WISE resolution <u>HERE</u>.

Dr. Erica Dollhopf, the Director of the Center for Analytics, Research & Development, and Data for the UCC, gave an interesting presentation exploring findings from recent research on church vitality in the UCC and beyond. One of her presentation graphics showed that churches with 51-100 members (that's us) are typically seeing an average of 24% of members attending in-person worship. This tracks closely to what we are experiencing at Woodmont UCC. We have 72 "active" members, and we are seeing an average of 29 people in worship on Sundays. Pretty close to the statistics, considering some of our 72 "active" members have not been active in years.

Some highlights of what Dr. Dollhopf presented with regard to congregational vitality:

- Congregations do not necessarily need to be growing or in perfect financial health to be vital.
- The fit between the pastor and a congregation is critical for vitality.
- Innovation in worship is important for vitality. It must be authentic to the church.
- ₱ Focusing on young adults isn't inherently a pathway to vitality.
- ⊕ What is important is how members connect with each other, with community, and with God.
- - good at incorporating new people into the congregation.
 - spiritually vital and alive.
 - · actively involved in our local community
 - willing to meet new challenges

Well, we should find this vitality stuff to be very familiar. We see some of this happening here at Woodmont UCC, and we are proud to be a part of this vital church. No, we're not a big, fancy church with high ceilings, stained glass and a towering steeple, but open our doors, and inside are people who are faithful to doing God's work, tending to each other and to our neighbors to the best of our abilities.

Submitted by your SNEUCC Conference Delegates, Ann Yost, Barbara Mackintosh and Carol Topitzer

Membership List

Woodmont United Church of Christ

revised 12/16/2024

Active Members

1	Barrett, Bruce	25	Lynch, Pam	49	Rodgerson, Alyson
2	Barrett, John	26	Lynch, Ron	50	Schwartz, Grace
3	Barrett, Nina	27	Lynch, Ron Jr. (RJ)	51	Schwartz, Melissa O.
4	Barrett, Robbie	28	Lyons, Frank	52	Schwartz, Robert
5	Barrieau, Susan	29	Lyons, Lynn	53	Shea, Dennis
6	Brigham, Lori	30	Mackintosh, Barbara	54	Shea, Maureen
7	Byer, Beverley	31	Martin, Flora	55	Sherwood, Karen
8	Cahill, Cole	32	Mason, Deb	56	Stamp, Warren
9	Cahill, Hailey	33	McGhee, Michele	57	Steady, Robert
10	Cahill, Joe	34	McMahon, Joy	58	Steady, Sandra
11	Cahill, Wendy	35	Moore, Audrey	59	Stehouwer, Cyn
12	Coulombe, Nena	36	Moore, Don	60	Thiel, Bettina
13	Doherty, Judith	37	Morgan, Jeff	61	Topitzer, Carol
14	Eke, Therese	38	Nobles, Shakeela	62	Torres, Johanna
15	Fyfe, Jesse	39	Olds, Rev. Jill	63	Torres, Sheila
16	Garrison, Bela	40	Olsen, Mary Lou	64	Valdivieso, Jason
17	Gerlander, Kim	41	Ortiz, Eric	65	Wakeley, Karen
18	Haas, Gail	42	Osanitsch, Dorothy	66	Wakeley, Vivian
19	Harrold, Kathy	43	Paules-Harrold, Anthony	67	Walker, Patricia
20	Kenyon, Wayne	44	Paules-Harrold, Patrick	68	Wilson, Edward
21	Lach, Nancy	45	Peterson, Jennett	69	Yost, Ann
22	Leiva, Esther	46	Rice Rogers, Jackie	70	Yost, Art
23	Lohr, Susan	47	Richardson, Rosa	71	Zentkovich, Alicia
24	Lynch, Mackenzie	48	Riling, Wendy	72	Zentkovich, Eric
			Inactive Members		
1	Biroscak, Thomas	3	Clinton, Dan	5	Warner, Laureen
2	Clark, Barbara	4	Mooney, Bill		

January 2025 Nominating Slate

Number after a name indicates the term that person will be serving (e.g., 1st or 2nd).

After serving for term maximums, a year must elapse before a member is eligible for further election to the same position, board, or committee.

Officers

Moderator (2 yr. term, 2 term max):Bettina Thiel-2Term ends Jan. 2026Vice Moderator (2 yr. term, 2 term max):Cyn Stehouwer-2Term ends Jan. 2026Clerk (2 yr. term, 2 term max):Barbara Mackintosh-1Term ends Jan. 2027Treasurer (2 yr. term, 3 term max):Dorothy Osanitsch-1Term ends Jan. 2026Asst Treasurer (2 yr. term, 3 term max):Maureen Shea-1Term ends Jan. 2026

Coordinators

(5-year max)

Worship (2): Kim Gerlander Max ends 2029

Ann Yost Max ends 2030

Building & Grounds (2): Deb Mason Max ends 2029

Sue Barrieau Max ends 2030

Fellowship: Wayne Kenyon Max ends 2030

Mission/Outreach: Art Yost Max ends 2029

Faith Formation: Sandy Steady Max ends 2029

Fundraising: Rosa Richardson Max ends 2030

Digital Ministry: Rob Schwartz Max ends 2029

Stewardship: Sheila Torres Max ends 2029

Personnel and Pastoral Relations Committee

(2 yr. term, 2 term max)

The members of PPR are not *elected* at the Annual Meeting, but are *selected* by the Moderator and the Vice Moderator and approved by the church Executive Board. The current members of PPR are:

Ann Yost-2 Term ends Feb. 2025 Shakeela Nobles-1 Term ends Feb. 2025 Barbara Mackintosh-1 Term ends Aug. 2025 Deb Mason-1 Term ends Aug. 2025

Other Volunteer Positions

Auditors (2 yr. term, 1 term max): Rosa Richardson Term ends Jan. 2026

Wayne Kenyon Term ends Jan. 2027

Nominating Committee (5 yr. max): Art Yost Max ends 2029

Wayne Kenyon Max ends 2029

Other Volunteer Positions (continued)

New Haven Association Delegates*:Ann YostMax ends Jan. 2027(5 yr. max)Carol TopitzerMax ends Jan. 2030

Southern NE Conference Delegates*: Ann Yost Max ends Jan. 2028

(5 yr. max) Barbara Mackintosh Max ends Jan. 2029

Art Yost Max ends Jan. 2030

Church Historians (*no term limit*): Dorothy Osanitsch, Wayne Kenyon

Versatile Volunteers (no term limit): All church members

*NOTES regarding delegates:

For the New Haven Association: We may elect <u>one</u> delegate for every 75 members or part thereof.

For the Southern New England Conference: We may elect three delegates for 0-300 members.

Balance Sheet

(page 1 of 3)

revised after Annual Meeting on 12/31/2025

WOODMONT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2024

1200000
39,360.07
0.00
0.00
39,360.07
9,433.42
501.8
464.92
290.12
0.00
0.00
1,256.88
200.00
0.00
0.00
0.00
64,730.4
6,994.4
9,133.68
24,723.15
3,933.40
109,515.11
500.00
0.0
-745.00
-745.00
25,020.62
0.00
1,443.0
0.00
0.00
1,443.01
249.000.00
418.785.15
\$853,769.23
*
0.00
0.00
\$0.00
G 0.00
0.00

Balance Sheet

(page 2 of 3)

revised after Annual Meeting on 12/31/2025

WOODMONT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2024

	TOTAL
1300 Payroll Service Customer Asset	0.00
1320 Notes/loans receivables	0.00
1400 Due from Co-op	1,715.00
1402 Due from Corcoran/Sherman	0.00
1404 Due from Serry	0.00
1405 Due from Perry Choi	0.00
1450 Prepaid expenses	
1451 Prepaid Workmen's Comp	0.00
1452 Prepaid Pension	1,712.49
1453 Prepaid Medical Ins.	0.00
1454 Prepaid Dental Ins.	0.00
1455 Prepaid Life Ins.	0.00
1456 Prepaid Cleaning	0.00
Total 1450 Prepaid expenses	1,712.49
1460 Deposits	250.00
1500 Stop & Shop Gift Cards	99.50
Total Other Current Assets	\$3,776.99
Total Current Assets	\$857,546.22
Fixed Assets	
1600 Lap Top April 2015	823.99
1625 Stove for Parsonage July 2014	718.50
1628 Roof 2019	46,275.00
1635 Furniture and Equipment	3,464.43
1640 HVAC System Lawn View July 2011	12,138.89
1641 HVAC Santuary December 2015	36,200.00
1642 HVAC - Gardenview 2016	21,300.00
1643 HVAC in classrooms/offices 2017	27,500.00
1700 Accumulated Depreciation	
1701 AD Parsonage Stove	-718.50
1702 AD Laptop/Furn & Equip	-2,902.65
1710 AD- HVAC Lawn View	-12,138.89
1711 AD- HVAC Garden View	-17,217.50
1712 AD HVAC Sanctuary	-32,757.86
1713 AD- HVAC Classrooms/Offices	-20,854.47
1725 AD Roof	-1,028.33
Total 1700 Accumulated Depreciation	-87,618.20
Total Fixed Assets	\$60,802.61
Other Assets	
1850 Split-interest agreements	-0.21
1950 Fund held in trust by others	
Total Other Assets	\$-0.21
OTAL ASSETS	\$918,348.62

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Balance Sheet

(page 3 of 3)

revised after Annual Meeting on 12/31/2025

WOODMONT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2024

	TOTAL
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
2010 Accounts payable	9,746.34
Total Accounts Payable	\$9,746.34
Other Current Liabilities	
2100 Payroll Liabilities	-9.18
2200 Tenant Security Deposit Payable	0.00
2250 Mission Pass Through	0.00
2310 Deferred Revenue	0.00
2311 Due to Youth Group	0.00
2575 Deferred Sabbatical Income	0.00
PPP Loan	0.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ -9.18
Total Current Liabilities	\$9,737.16
Long-Term Liabilities	
2910 Custodial funds	0.00
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$0.00
Total Liabilities	\$9,737.16
Equity	
3000 Unrestricted net assets	16,467.07
3009 Transfers to/from unrestricted	0.00
Total 3000 Unrestricted net assets	16,467.07
3001 Opening Bal Equity	1,462.82
3010 Unrestrict (retained earnings)	968,173.64
Net Revenue	-77,492.07
Total Equity	\$908,611.46
OTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$918,348.62

Statement of Cash Flows

January – December 2024

Revised after Annual Meeting on 12/31/2025

	TOTAL
OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Net Revenue	-77,492.07
Adjustments to reconcile Net Revenue to Net Cash provided by operations:	
1400 Due from Co-op	-1,715.00
2010 Accounts payable	8,949.29
Total Adjustments to reconcile Net Revenue to Net Cash provided by operations:	7,234.29
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ -70,257.78
INVESTING ACTIVITIES	
1701 Accumulated Depreciation:AD Parsonage Stove	35.64
1710 Accumulated Depreciation:AD- HVAC Lawn View	-4,855.68
1711 Accumulated Depreciation:AD- HVAC Garden View	2,130.00
1712 Accumulated Depreciation:AD HVAC Sanctuary	3,620.04
1713 Accumulated Depreciation: AD- HVAC Classrooms/Offices	2,750.04
Net cash provided by investing activities	\$3,680.04
FINANCING ACTIVITIES	
3000 Unrestricted net assets	16,116.92
3001 Opening Bal Equity	100.00
3010 Unrestrict (retained earnings)	4,855.68
Net cash provided by financing activities	\$21,072.60
NET CASH INCREASE FOR PERIOD	\$ -45,505.14
Cash at beginning of period	899,274.37
CASH AT END OF PERIOD	\$853,769.23

Budget vs. Actuals: FY 2024 and Proposed 2025 Budget

January – December 2024

Revised after Annual Meeting on 12/31/2025 page 1 of 3

		Dec 202			То	2025			
	1	Actual			Actual	Budget	Budget		
Revenue									
4010 Fundraising				0.00	1,400.00	1,000.00		3,000.00	
4013 Fundraising-Other					580.00	0.00			
4014 Fundraising expenses (contra)					-213.14	0.00			
Total 4010 Fundraising	\$	0.00	\$	0.00	\$ 1,766.86	\$ 1,000.00	\$	3,000.00	
4100 General Income					0.00	0.00		0.00	
4102 Contributions				150.00	12,358.00	1,800.00		3,000.00	
4104 Plate		177.01		75.00	977.38	570.00		1,500.00	
4110 Investment Income					0.00	0.00		0.00	
4111 Investment Earnings				2,000.00	6,963.64	24,000.00		0.00	
4113 Realized Gain/Loss		1.06			12.49	0.00		0.00	
Total 4110 Investment Income	\$	1.06	\$	2,000.00	\$ 6,976.13	\$ 24,000.00	\$	0.00	
Total 4100 General Income	\$	178.07	\$	2,225.00	\$ 20,311.51	\$ 26,370.00	\$	4,500.00	
4105 Pledges		7,990.00		4,481.25	79,302.00	79,024.00		66,715.00	
4150 Other Income					500.00	0.00			
4190 Funeral Income				50.00	0.00	600.00		600.00	
4200 Shared Income					0.00	0.00		0.00	
4201 Co-Op		1,865.00		1,865.00	17,750.00	17,750.00		18,650.00	
4203 AA		340.00		200.00	1,745.00	2,400.00		2,400.00	
4205 Shared Inc Other				0.00	0.00	0.00		504.00	
Total 4200 Shared Income	\$	2,205.00	\$	2,065.00	\$ 19,495.00	\$ 20,150.00	\$	21,554.00	
4250 Unbudgeted Income					38.00	0.00		0.00	
4300 Mission Pass Through Income					0.00	0.00		0.00	
4301 Beth-El Center Income		159.00			701.00	0.00		0.00	
4302 Beth-El Center (Contra)		-701.00			-701.00	0.00		0.00	
4311 OGHS Income					890.00	0.00		0.00	
4312 OGHS (Contra)					-865.00	0.00		0.00	
4313 Neighbors in Need Income					521.00	0.00		0.00	
4314 Neighbors in Need (Contra)		-90.00			-496.00	0.00		0.00	
4315 Strenghthen the Church Income					968.00	0.00		0.00	
4316 Strengthen the Church (Contra)					-968.00	0.00		0.00	
4317 Christmas Fund Income		155.00			155.00	0.00		0.00	
4318 Christmas Fund (Contra)		-155.00			-155.00	0.00		0.00	
4327 Mission Income-Other					1,184.00	0.00		0.00	
4328 Mission Income-Other (contra)					-1,184.00	0.00		0.00	
4332 Covenant to Care (Contra)		-186.08			-472.16	0.00		0.00	
4348 Food 2 Kids					0.00	0.00		0.00	
4354 Gift from Members					20.00	0.00		0.00	
4356 Bridgeport Rescue					496.00	0.00		0.00	
4357 Bridgeport Rescue (Contra)					-471.00	0.00		0.00	
4358 Milford Pride					521.00	0.00		0.00	
4359 Milford Pride (Contra)					-521.00	0.00		0.00	
4366 IWagePeace					619.00	0.00		0.00	
4367 IWagePeace (Contra)					-619.00	0.00		0.00	
4368 Purple Pantry					1,659.00	0.00	\$	0.00	
Total 4300 Mission Pass Through Income	-\$	818.08	\$	0.00	\$ 1,281.84	\$ 0.00	\$	96,369.00	
Total Revenue	\$	9,554.99	\$	8,821.25	\$122,695.21	\$127,144.00	\$	96,369.00	
Gross Profit	\$	9,554.99	\$	8,821.25	\$122,695.21	\$127,144.00			

Budget vs. Actuals: FY 2024 and Proposed 2025 Budget page 2 of 3

		Dec 2024			YTD Total					2025		
	1.0	Actual	_	ludget	1	Actual	_	Budget		Budget		
Expenditures										0.00		
7000 Mission Expense						0.00		0.00		0.00		
7010 Budgeted Missions						57.74		0.00		0.00		
7011 Member Share				0.00		0.00		0.00		154.00		
7013 New Haven Assoc. Dues				0.00		127.75		154.00		2,000.00		
7014 OCWM		2,082.50		297.50		3,570.00		3,570.00		100.00		
7015 Mission Team				0.00		0.00		100.00		1,000.00		
Total 7010 Budgeted Missions	\$	2,082.50	\$	297.50	\$	3,755.49	\$	3,824.00	\$	3,254.00		
Total 7000 Mission Expense	\$	2,082.50	\$	297.50	\$	3,755.49	\$	3,824.00	\$	3,254.00		
7100 Advertising						0.00		0.00		0.00		
7101 Classified Ads						100.00		0.00				
7102 Other Advertising				0.00		0.00		200.00		0.00		
Total 7100 Advertising	\$	0.00	\$	0.00	\$	100.00	\$	200.00	\$	0.00		
7150 Building						0.00		0.00		0.00		
7151 Insurance		-159.75		3,545.50		17,146.50		14,182.00		13,206.00		
7153A Repair & Maint Small Routine		231.00		165.00		4,585.55		3,000.00		3,000.00		
7153B Heat and AirConditioning Repair						375.00		0.00				
7153C Repair & Maint Major (\$800)				333.50		5,970.00		8,000.00		6,000.00		
7153D Church Cleaning		640.00		666.67		7,680.00		8,000.00		5,000.00		
7154 Landscaping				500.00		6,325.00		6,000.00		3,500.00		
7154B Tree Removal		175.00		0.00		1,775.00		2,000.00		0.00		
Total 7154 Landscaping	\$	175.00	\$	500.00	\$	8,100.00	\$	8,000.00	\$	3,500.00		
7155 Snow Removal	-		Ť	0.00	_	2,025.00	_	2,500.00	_	2,500.00		
7156 Utilities						0.00		0.00		0.00		
7156A Southern CT Gas		628.19		900.00		5,520.66		5,200.00		6,000.00		
7156B Electric		460.57		420.00		6,350.04		5,040.00		6,000.00		
7156C Ring Central				0.00		865.34		880.00		880.00		
7156D Water		69.74		67.00		860.63		804.00		804.00		
7453 Internet Access		99.99		90.00		1,629.77		1,080.00		1,080.00		
Total 7156 Utilities	\$	1,258.49	\$	1,477.00	\$	15,226.44	\$	13,004.00	\$	14,764.00		
Total 7150 Building	\$	2,144.74	_	6,687.67		61,108.49		56,686.00	\$	47,970.00		
7175 Church Development	Ψ	2,177.77	Ψ	25.00	Ψ	0.00	Ψ	300.00	Ψ	300.00		
7200 Christian Education				20.00		142.79		0.00		0.00		
7201 3rd Grade Bibles				0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		
7201 Std Grade Bibles 7201a Child Care				0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		
				0.00		46.72		100.00		100.00		
7204 Supplies-Sunday School 7205 Curriculum				0.00		95.56		350.00		100.00		
				0.00		0.00		100.00		50.00		
7207 Teacher's Gifts				125.00				500.00				
7208 Ministry Resource				123.00		0.00				300.00		
7211 Special Events				0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		
7211B Special Events Expense			_	0.00	•	200.00	_	250.00	•	250.00		
Total 7211 Special Events	\$	0.00	<u> </u>	0.00	\$	200.00		250.00	\$	250.00		
Total 7200 Christian Education	\$	0.00	\$	125.00	\$		\$	1,300.00	\$	800.00		
7225 Conference Delegates				0.00		240.00		300.00		300.00		
7226 Conferences and Training				0.00		0.00		100.00		0.00		
7250 Diaconate						0.00		0.00		0.00		
7253 New Members				0.00		145.93		150.00		100.00		
7254 Misc. Diaconate				0.00		47.70		50.00		50.00		
7255 Supply Pastor				200.00		1,500.00		2,400.00		2,400.00		
7256 Worship Supplies		29.49		50.00		1,379.94		600.00		500.00		
Total 7250 Diaconate	\$	29.49	\$	250.00	\$	3,073.57	\$	3,200.00	\$	3,050.00		

Budget vs. Actuals: FY 2024 and Proposed 2025 Budget page 3 of 3

		page 5 of 5				YTD Total				2025
	-	Dec 2 Actual	-	Budget	-	Actual		Budget		Budget
7250 Hospitality	- 2	ACTUOI		5.00		0.00		200.00	1	200.00
7350 Hospitality				3.00					l	200.00
7350B Coffee Hour Expense			_		-	137.00	_	0.00	_	
Total 7350 Hospitality	\$	0.00	\$	5.00	\$	137.00	\$		\$	200.00
7400 Music						0.00		0.00	1	0.00
7401 Instrument Maintenance				125.00		270.00		775.00		375.00
7403 One License (was CCLI)				0.00		290.00		300.00		300.00
7404 Guest Musicians		200.00		150.00		5,050.00		2,000.00		1,200.00
7405 Supply Organist				100.00		1,350.00		1,200.00	L	0.00
Total 7400 Music	\$	200.00	\$	375.00	\$	6,960.00	\$	4,275.00	\$	1,875.00
7450 Office Expenses						0.00		0.00	l	0.00
7452 Copier Contract		94.15		114.00		2,129.70		1,368.00	l	1,529.80
7455 Postage				13.00		139.00		204.00	ı	150.00
7456 Supplies-Office				40.00		761.32		500.00	1	500.00
7457 Bookkeeping		200.00		350.00		1,600.00		4,200.00	ı	4,200.00
7460 Computer & Software		155.72		166.67		2,064.32		2,000.00	1	2,000.00
Total 7450 Office Expenses	\$	449.87	\$	683.67	\$		\$	8,272.00	\$	8,379.80
7550 Stewardship			_	33.33	1	35.50	_	200.00	_	100.00
7555 Personnel & Pastoral Relations				0.00		0.00		200.00		50.00
				0.00					l	
8000 Pastor Salary Package		445.00		00.0		0.00		0.00		0.00
8004 Parsonage Housing Allowance		115.38		83.34	-	1,038.42		1,000.00		1,000.00
8005 Pension-Pastor		495.30		656.75		7,217.28		7,881.00	l	7,881.00
8006 Salary-Pastor		6,495.69		4,691.40		58,093.59		56,296.80	ļ	56,296.80
8008 FSA-Childcare/Medical		-392.82				-1,455.97		0.00		0.00
8009 Medical/Dental Insurance		2,316.80		1,583.00		12,546.63		15,696.12		18,150.00
8011 Life/Disability Insurance		65.71		83.00		788.52		996.00	l	996.00
8013 Social Security Offset		5,424.38		328.75		5,424.38		3,945.00	l	
Total 8000 Pastor Salary Package	\$	14,520.44	\$	7,426.24	\$	83,652.85	\$	85,814.92	\$	84,323.80
8050 Pastor Expenses						0.00		0.00	1	0.00
8051 Cell Phone				25.00		0.00		300.00		300.00
8053 Professional Expenses				58.34		700.00		700.00	l	700.00
8054 Travel Expenses				83.34		463.84		1,000.00	l	1,000.00
8055 Continuing Education				0.00		500.00		500.00	1	500.00
<u> </u>				0.00		0.00		200.00	1	200.00
8056 Wider Church Meetings				0.00		0.00		200.00	l	
										9,369.00
8058 Housing Equity Allowance		2,666.48		166.66	-	2,666.48	_	2,000.00	—	2,000.00
Total 8050 Pastor Expenses	\$	2,666.48	\$	333.34	\$	•	\$		\$	
8100 Personnel Expenses						0.00		0.00	ļ	0.00
8110 Salaries						0.00		0.00	l	0.00
8112A Executive Assistant		1,908.72		1,253.30		16,712.20		15,039.50		15,039.50
8115 Music Director Salary				1,000.00		0.00		3,000.00	<u> </u>	12,000.00
Total 8110 Salaries	\$	1,908.72	\$	2,253.30	\$	16,712.20	\$	18,039.50	\$	27,039.50
8120 Payroll Taxes-Employer		146.02		105.00		1,278.49		1,260.00	ı	1,560.00
8122 Workman's Comp Ins				0.00		1,600.00		800.00	1	805.00
Total 8100 Personnel Expenses	\$	2,054.74	\$	2,358.30	\$	19,590.69	\$	20,099.50	\$	29,404.50
9500 Misc.						0.00		0.00		0.00
7650 Unbudgeted Expenses other						0.00		0.00	1	0.00
7655 PayPal Fees				17.00		178.72		200.00		200.00
Total 7650 Unbudgeted Expenses other	\$	0.00	\$	17.00	\$	178.72	\$		\$	200.00
					+ -					
Total 9500 Misc.	\$	0.00	_	17.00	\$	178.72	_		\$	200.00
Total Expenditures	\$	24,148.26	-	18,617.05	 	90,342.04	_	189,871.42	_	194,276.10
Net Operating Revenue	-\$	14,593.27	-\$	9,795.80	-\$	67,646.83	-\$	62,727.42	-\$	97,907.10
Other Revenue									ļ	
4165 Interest Inc-Book of Remembranc		0.01			<u> </u>	0.12		0.00	—	0.00
Total Other Revenue	\$	0.01	\$	0.00	\$	0.12	\$	0.00	\$	0.00
Other Expenditures										
9240 Sabbatical Expense		1,200.00		300.00		1,200.00		1,200.00		1,200.00
9255 Book of Remembrance Expense						109.64		0.00	l	
9970 Depreciation Expense		708.34				8,535.72		0.00		
Total Other Expenditures	\$	1,908.34	_	300.00	\$	9,845.36			\$	1,200.00
Net Other Revenue	-\$		_		<u> </u>		_		<u> </u>	
		1,908.33	-\$	300.00	-\$	9,845.24	-\$	1,200.00	-\$	1,200.00

Woodmont UCC Vision Statement

Woodmont United Church of Christ embodies God's unconditional love by ministering to the needs of people and the environment, striving to promote spiritual growth through scripture-driven, exuberant worship and advocating for peace and justice. We celebrate diversity and welcome all into a fellowship of acceptance, forgiveness, spiritual exploration, and discovery.

Woodmont UCC Open and Affirming Mission Statement

(ONA covenant was adopted at Annual Meeting, January 30, 2005)

We, the members of Woodmont United Church of Christ, led by the Holy Spirit and by our study of scripture, declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming Church. Looking to Jesus as our model of inclusive and unconditional love, we seek to embrace all people, welcoming them into full membership and participation as members of the Body of Christ.

We recognize, celebrate and give thanks for the diversity in which we have been created, affirming that each person is a beloved child of God who is made in God's own image. We believe that through our diversity, we can all grow and practice a unity of faith that transcends our differences.

We honor, cherish and welcome all of God's children, regardless of race; age; sexual orientation; gender identity; nationality; ethnicity; socio-economic status; physical or mental disability. We affirm and celebrate all loving and committed relationships.

Acknowledging the long histories of discrimination perpetrated and/or condoned by the institutional church toward various groups of people, we commit ourselves to work diligently to end all such oppression and discrimination.

This month, we celebrate 20 years as an Open and Affirming Congregation!