



First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

in Melrose

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Messenger

Rev. Dominic Taranowski, Pastor

Mariko Matsumura, Director of Music Ministry

Dunia Velez, Administrative Assistant for Youth Programs

OFFICE 781-665-2111 - FAX 781-665-8824

E-MAIL info@fccmelrose.org Website www.fccmelrose.org

Rev. Dominic's Cell phone: 781-526-3428

VOLUME 99

June 2, 2017

Number 38

Fun with By-Laws

Let's face it, there are few things more boring in the life of any organization than its by-laws. In fact, I am fond of recommending them to anyone in our church suffering from insomnia (along with the book of Leviticus).

At the same time, we couldn't operate without our by-laws. They provide us with our church governance structure and formal ways of evolving as a congregation. The key word there is "evolving". Most by-laws are not too flexible which causes them to move from where they should be: at the heart of the church.

We are blessed with flexible by-laws in our church. Some twelve years ago (yup, it's been that long!) we suspended the original by-laws to try something new; an experiment in church governance. Turns out it wasn't just a success, it was noticed by others in our Conference and I have been asked on more than one occasion to share with other churches just what we did.

The short version (your welcome) is that we streamlined how the church operates. We created our current Board of Deacons and Board of Trustees.

As we have worked with this system, however, two things have occurred:

1. We switched things up even more but never got around to including those changes in the actual by-laws (because, again, who wants to join the by-law re-writing committee? Anyone? Hello?).
2. A felt need to change one of the big pieces in our structure has come to light.

Consequently, you will have the chance to vote on some by-law updates (lucky you!) at the Spring Congregational coming up this Sunday after worship. Be sure to pick up a copy of the proposed updates and look them over before the meeting (but not during the sermon!).

The long and short of it is this: We need to include the position of New Member Deacon at Large in the actual by-laws. We have had this position for years but never formally included it.

We would also like to begin a Community Relations Deacon position (which is a bit more palpable than "Public Relations") to elevate our visibility in the wider community.

Additionally, the Board of Deacons and the Board of Trustees have only met separately once or twice (12 years ago). We always meet together. With the Deacons viewed as those overseeing the spiritual life of the church and the Trustees overseeing the administrative life of the church there is, in my view, a false idea that what the Trustees do is not "spiritual" when in fact it is. Everything that is done in the church to further its mission is spiritual work, faithful work, ministry.

Therefore, one of the proposed updates is to eliminate the language of "Trustees" and make these positions "Deacons". We would then have just one Board (which we essentially have now anyway) to be called the Board of Deacons. The Senior Trustee positions would be eliminated and the Senior Deacons would be viewed as heading up the one board.

These changes come to the Spring Congregational Meeting on recommendation of the current Board of Deacons and Board of Trustees so as to better reflect how we operate.

In true democratic fashion, this is all up for discussion at the meeting along with a new Slate of Officers! Hope to see you there!

See you in church,

Sunday, June 11 Pentecost Graduation Sunday

9:00 AM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal

10:00 AM – WORSHIP and Sunday School

11:15 AM – Coffee Hour

**11:15 AM – Spring Congregational Meeting with
election of officers**

DURING NEXT WEEK

Saturday, June 3

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM – All-Church Yard Sale and Bake Sale

Tuesday, June 6

3:00 PM – Circle 4, Lounge

7:00 PM – RIM Meeting, Library

7:15 to 8:15 PM – Morning Star Voices Rehearsal

Wednesday, June 7

7:15 PM – Bells rehearsal

Sunday, June 11 Church School Sunday

10:00 AM – Worship



Bill Albright, Anne Wing, David Gauvreau, Grandmother Terri Cook and Uncle Dan Cook (of Beth Grzegorzewski), Lorine Timmermann (mother of Lori), Bob Hughes, Ray Luebbe (Betsy Garrett's father), Mary Sakata and Becky Faro (Trish Faro's

daughters), Nyal Fuentes, Claire Griffin, Bill Copeland, Merle Copeland, Gem Colvin, Dot Allen, Bob Pierce, Scott Chisholm, Michael Connelly.



Circle 4 will meet at the Church on **Tuesday, June 6th at 3:00 P.M.** for our annual Wine and Cheese Event.



SUNDAY SCHOOL:

There will be classes for all grades and all classes will be preparing for Church School Sunday.



Our church extends heartfelt congratulations to the following who are graduating from college this spring:

- Will Krol-Sinclair, Boston University
- Daniel Foth, University of Connecticut
- Nate Faro, University of New Hampshire--Master's Degree in Musicology (Dec. 2016)

The following groups meet here regularly:

- Boy Scouts** – Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the basement
- Girl Scouts** – Sundays, 3:00 to 5:00 PM
- AI-Anon** – weekdays at 12 noon, Sunday at 1 & 7 PM – Rm. 8
- Blue of a Kind** – Mondays at 7:00 PM in the Music Room
- S.A.R.P.** – Mondays 6:30 PM, Lounge
- Tai Chi for Arthritis** – Wednesdays at 10:00 AM, Room 8
- A.A.** – Mondays at 4:30 PM, & 7:00 PM (men), Tuesdays at 4:30 PM, Wednesdays at 4:30 PM & 7:30 PM, Thursdays at 4:30 PM and 7:00 PM, Fridays at 8:00 PM and Saturdays at 9:00 AM (men) and 3:00 PM – Rm. 8
- Makam Music Group** – Fridays 7:00-9:00 PM – Lounge and Rm. 1



Children who would like to participate in the music program for **Sunday School Service on 6/11/2017** are invited to rehearse in the music room immediately after service. All ages are welcome. Additional

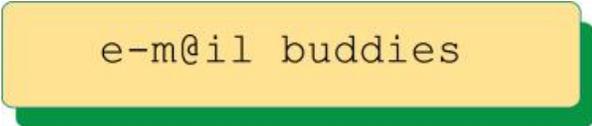
rehearsals are listed below. If you have any questions and suggestions, please speak to Mariko Matsumura, Director of Music Ministry.

6/2 Friday
4:00-4:45 - Dry Bones
4:45-5:15 - Butterfly Flyaway

6/4 Sunday
11:00(immediately after service)-11:10 - Prepare Ye
11:10-20 - Let us Pray
11:20 - Dry Bones

6/9 Friday
4:00-4:45 - Dry Bones
4:45-5:15 - Butterfly Flyaway

6/11 Sunday morning
9:00 - Let us Pray, Prepare Ye
9:15 - Butterfly
9:30 - Dry Bones



Email Buddies

There are occasional times in the life of the church when we need to communicate news quickly outside the use of the Messenger. Typically, we use email to accomplish this. During the summer this is especially the case since we do not have regular worship services and the Messenger is on hiatus. Email, then, becomes all the more important.

We are aware, however, that some parishioners do not use email or don't check their email regularly. For such people, we would like to develop an "Email Buddy" program. It would work like this: When an email is sent out to the congregation, each person who does not have email would get a phone call from a pre-assigned person who does have email to pass along the information.

If you are a person without email access and you would like to sign up to receive a call from someone, please call Sallie Klemm at 781-665-0159 and we will get you an email buddy! If you are someone with email access and would like to be a buddy to someone who doesn't, please let Sallie know at shklemm@verizon.net. Thank you!

WARRANT FOR THE SPRING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH in MELROSE, UCC

To the Members of the First Congregational Church in Melrose, United Church of Christ:

In accordance with the by-laws, the 169th Spring Meeting of the First Congregational Church in Melrose, UCC is called to be held in the church on **Sunday, June 3, 2017 at 11:15 am**. This meeting is called by the Deacons and Trustees to act upon the following Articles:

- Article 1: To receive and act upon the reports of staff members;
- Article 2: To receive and act upon the reports of the Deacons and Trustees;
- Article 3: To receive and act upon the reports of other committees and affiliated boards;
- Article 4: To receive and act upon a proposed change to the by-laws.
- Article 5: To receive and act upon the reports of the Deacons and Trustees acting as a Nominating Committee and to elect Deacons for terms beginning July 1, 2017.
- Article 6: To transact such other business as may legally come before the meeting.

Becky Fuentes and Darby Drafts,
Co-Trustees of Congregational Records / Clerk



Dear members of First Congregational Church,

I would like to invite you to join me in a Music Ministry Committee!

Just like any other committees, we will meet approximately every two months to share our vision and plan activities that help grow our music ministry. I would like this invitation to be extended not only to musicians but also to anyone who appreciates the power of music.

We would start meeting once or twice over the summer to discuss what our long term and short term goals are. We will talk about what we can do to accomplish those goals.

We will plan activities, such as fundraising, outreach for the local communities, i.e. caroling for a nursing facility. We will brainstorm any musical activities that encourage folks outside and inside to appreciate what this church stands for.

I strongly encourage everyone to consider participating. If you like to think out of the box, or you are simply well-organized, or you want to be part of something important but did not know where to start, this is for you. This is a planning committee, **you do not have to be a musician as long as you have an appreciation for music ministry.**

I promise I will not force you to sing just because you are a part of this committee.

The committee will work closely with myself, and we will report and/or seek counsel from other music ensemble leaders as needed.

Please speak to Rev. Dominic or myself to discuss this opportunity further.

I am truly excited for my new position. I cannot wait to plan our future of music ministry.

Mariko Matsumura
Director of Music Ministry



OUR ALL CHURCH SPRING YARD SALE AND BAKE SALE is

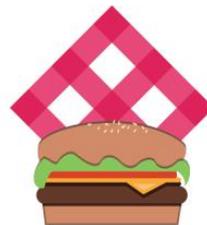
**SATURDAY
June 3rd
9am-1pm**

Spring Bake Sale
We are once again having a Bake Sale at the Yard Sale on June 3rd! We'll be offering

cookies, bars, muffins and scones. Gluten-free options are welcome! Please bag cookies and bars 4/bag and muffins and scones 2/bag. Also please label, and mark if there are nuts or no nuts.

Questions? Contact Sallie Klemm
shklemm@verizon.net or 781-665-0159.

**FELLOWSHIP
EVENT REMINDER**



**End of Year
Cookout**

Be sure to look at your calendar and pencil in the All-Church Cookout for Sunday, June 25th. Sign-ups for the cookout begin next Sunday!

RIM Palooza!

Thank you to everyone who supported FCC's commitment to Refugee Immigration Ministry during the flurry of May fundraising and awareness events. Whether you bought flowers for your yard, donated supplies for our clients, walked with us around Lake Quannapowitt or sponsored a walker, your participation was greatly appreciated. The Take-Home-Meals project was a huge success, and we're grateful to the adults and youth who supported RIM by creating delicious meals that we can pull out of our freezers on a busy day when there's little time to cook!



We hope to give you a final accounting of the funds raised for RIM soon; it's good news. Thank you, thank you, thank you all!

Bill Chetwynd, Nancy Toney, Debbie Anderson

At Sunday's Reflect and Respond session, it was suggested we investigate creating a group for people that would be interested in meeting occasionally for Christian fellowship and/or Bible study. This might be especially valuable in July and August.

To judge the interest, we've created this sign up form:

<http://eepurl.com/cQv3wz>

Since this is exploratory, once we understand how many people are interested, we'll send out an email with suggestions to gather more feedback.

If you have questions, please contact Tom Foth (tom@fothmai.com, (203) 452-0809)