

THE NORTH HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2006

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 28, 2007

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North Haven Congregational Church, UCC
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**THE NORTH HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING**

January 28, 2007

10:30 a.m.

AGENDA

The Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Approval of Minutes of January 22, 2006 Annual Meeting

Approval of Nominating Committee Report

Approval of Non-Financial Reports

Report of the New Haven East Consociation Church and Ministry Committee

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Approval of Financial Reports

Approval of Budget for 2007

Appointment of a Financial Agent for 2007

Any Other Business That May Come Before This Meeting

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Bennett, Church Clerk

Please note: In case of postponement due to inclement weather, the meeting will be held
February 4, 2007

The Report of the Moderator

2006 was a very busy year. There were many Outreach, fundraising, fellowship, and educational activities realized, as well as committee meetings carried out and operational needs cared for at the North Haven Congregational Church; all of which support or complement our worship.

New events in 2006 included our Cottage Meetings which were structured to collect feedback from our congregation's members in order to determine the priority for goals for the coming years for our church. The goals were identified to be Christ-centered sermons, non-traditional worship and music, Christian Ed staffing, additional funds for Outreach, more members, additional fellowship opportunities, Adult Ed after Sunday worship, strengthening the senior choir, and Pastor-led or Pastor-endorsed Bible study. Also this year our steeple was replaced with a radio-frequency transparent steeple which now houses an antenna. Funds from the rental of our steeple provide additional funds for Outreach, special projects, Trustees and Replacement Reserves for future needs of our church. Also in 2006, our church hosted a seminar, led by Stephen Simonson, in the fall for other congregations to learn from us about our established Safe Church Policy. Several churches, which are in various stages of establishing their own Safe Church Policy, sent representatives. Another notable 2006 happening was the donation of pew cushions for our entire sanctuary from a member of our church. The pew cushions are on order!

Our congregation's tradition of Outreach has continued, including our twice-monthly service to the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen. D.E.S.K. honored our volunteers this year at their 10th annual "Soup Night" in April with a special award and plaque for our service. The North Haven Food Bank continues to be housed in our church building. Our knitters continue to provide knitted caps and mittens to the Yale-New Haven Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Health kits were again sent to Church World Service. Our youth went on their annual mission trip week to Watertown, New York to assist multiple agencies in the area with repairs to homes. This year a new adult mission trip week was scheduled and a contingent went to Florida to work on homes damaged by hurricanes. New this year was a very large shipment of books and personal supplies shipped to a unit of soldiers in Iraq in care of Bob Nerkowski's son who was deployed to Iraq this year. Outreach is planning a new Outreach ministry matching our members' skills and talents with those in need. Also new this year; a portion of the funds from the rental of our steeple space for an antenna provided additional funds for Outreach to donate to a range of organizations assisting others locally and nationally.

In order to balance our budget, fundraising has been an income line item in our budget for the past few years, as member pledges have not been enough to support our expenses. By far, our two most significant contributors to our fundraising income budget in 2006 were the Goods and Services Auction organized by our Deacons and our Springbox Sale organized by Betsy Gumbart, Betsey Reid and their committee. The Pierpont Concert series, bookstore gift wrapping and other events helped us to surpass the budget for fundraising this year. These fundraising events provide wonderful fellowship opportunities as well, but it is my hope that in the future our pledging can increase so that our dependency on fundraising can decrease.

Opportunities for education abound at our church. Our church school activities and youth programs, as well as adult education are exciting and current. There have been book discussions, Bible studies and adult education offerings. These activities provide fellowship as well. Our change in Sunday worship to 9:30 a.m. provides Adult Ed from 10:45 to 11:45. Finding the perfect timing has always been a challenge as personal schedules are varied and full, but this Sunday morning time has resulted in increased attendance.

All three staff positions turned over this year. This presented a challenge operationally and encumbered our pastors. Our Sexton, Kirk Johnson, resigned in June. Stuart Lane took over as Sexton in June and his energy, creativity, skill and attentiveness have shone. Carol Munson retired at the end of the year and our new Office Manager, Nancie Estep, is efficiently handling the church office duties and supporting our pastors. Kevin Mack resigned in August and our Search Committee has been working hard to find our new Minister of Music while Gary Snowbeck is our interim Minister of Music.

The Report of the Moderator (Continued)

Our Building and Grounds Committee has worked very hard behind the scenes to repair and maintain our church facilities. I recommend you read their report. In addition to funds needed for repairs, there are ongoing maintenance needs like the elevator maintenance contract and tuning of our organ and pianos that need financial support.

Our website coordinated by Philip DiPeri continues to provide information to our members and to the world-wide web. Our website is a leader in the Connecticut UCC and we are all very proud.

As I end my second year as Moderator, I would like to share some personal thoughts. My work as Moderator has provided me with an opportunity to learn so much about our church, its operations, committee responsibilities and the larger United Church of Christ. I have gotten to know our pastors better, friendships have grown and I have met new people. I am impressed with the many, many volunteers who help make our church warm, friendly and effective. There are countless volunteers who handle small details and large projects that all equally benefit our congregation in so many ways. I suspect I have benefited more personally from my two years as Moderator than our church has benefited from my service. Our pastors have many responsibilities beyond those on Sunday mornings. There is much to do between Sundays to care for our congregants, committees, staff and building; not to mention planning worship and preparing a sermon for each Sunday morning.

Thank you for reading this report. My hope is that you will make the time to read all the reports contained in this annual report booklet, that you will be involved in a committee and volunteer time, that you will make time for prayer for yourself and for those on our prayer list, and that you consider increasing your pledge to this place I affectionately call "My Church".

God Bless You
Patience Benassi

The Report of the Senior Minister

This year has been busy and productive at the North Haven Congregational Church!

In February the Pastoral Relations Committee coordinated the offering of eleven Cottage Meetings as an opportunity to invite reflection and feedback on current church programs and explore dreams for the future. The discussions in these Cottage Meetings used the goals developed in the Vision 2005 long-range plan as a starting point, and addressed worship, Christian Education, shepherding of members, mission and outreach, an Open & Affirming decision process, and hopes for the future.

The Cottage Meetings lifted up the music programs and fellowship opportunities as two strengths in the church. The music programs drew the highest praise in the discussions, including the choirs, the concerts, and the Minister of Music, Kevin Mack. The sense of fellowship and caring is appreciated deeply by the congregation. In addition, there were suggestions for improvements in worship, housekeeping, and building financial support.

The recommendations distilled from the Cottage Meetings were presented to the congregation for priority vote in a "Dot Party" on Rally Day, September 10. Church members chose their six top priorities from a list of several goals under the headings Worship, Finance and Stewardship, Shepherding and Discipleship, Music, Mission-Outreach, Communication, and Christian Education.

The Dot Party yielded the following list of priorities (in order of importance):

1. Christ-centered sermons that will engage members' personal relationship with Christ and provide a take-home message relating the Gospel to everyday life.
2. Non-traditional (praise) worship once per month and increased use of contemporary music.
3. Address staffing configuration with attention to duties of a Christian Education Director.
4. Increased financial support for the church, and particularly for mission and outreach work.
5. Increasing the membership enrollment of the church.
6. Development of small circles or fellowship groups to nurture members in study, fellowship and action.
7. Strengthen Adult Education programs after Sunday worship.
8. Enlarge and strengthen the Senior Choir.
9. Develop a pastor-led or pastor-endorsed bible study during the week.

These priorities will provide a framework for our shared ministries in the coming years. The implementation has already begun: in the fall the Sunday morning worship service was moved to 9:30 a.m. in order to allow an hour for Adult Education programs before noon.

A second major project of this year was the installation of a cellular telephone antenna in the church steeple. This project was carried out under a contract with Sprint/Nextel and authorized in a Special Congregational Meeting on May 1, 2005. An ad hoc committee reviewed the plans and the contract. Construction began in April of 2006. Initial construction involved installation of an equipment building behind the church building. Construction relating to the removal of the original wooden steeple and replacement with a radio-frequency transparent fiberglass steeple began in October. The original steeple was removed on October 17, and the new steeple was put in place on October 19. Installation of the electronics and the cables followed, and the antenna became operational in mid-December. Under the terms of the contract, the church will receive a base rental payment of \$1800 per month (adjusted annually). Joint discussions between the Boards of Finance and Trustees determined that the antenna income not be added to the operating budget. Rather, 10% of the steeple income will be invested in the trust funds of the church, and another 10% will be allocated to the Board of Christian Outreach for mission support. The remainder will be divided between a replacement reserve for major repairs to church facilities, and special projects.

The first Special Project to be funded through the antenna income enables the hiring of Barbara Marks to provide leadership in the Junior High youth programming, coordination of Adult Education

Report of the Senior Minister (Continued)

programming, and coordination of the shepherding of newcomers and new members. Barbara's work in this capacity will address the priorities from the Cottage Meetings, and free up time for both Lucia and me to devote to pastoral work. The Special Project funding will allow Barbara to work in 2007, so that the congregation can observe the benefits and decide whether to make the position a permanent part of the church budget.

Major changes among the church staff have also had a great impact on church life this year. The church sexton, **Kirk Johnson**, resigned effective June 23 in order to pursue other interests. The hiring of our new sexton, **Stuart Lane**, brought fresh enthusiasm to the housekeeping duties and successfully addressed concerns raised in the Cottage Meetings. **Kevin Mack**, our Minister of Music for the last seven years, resigned to take another position and complete requirements for his doctoral studies. Kevin's unanticipated departure during the summer was a disappointment for the congregation, particularly in light of the enthusiastic and positive support for the music programs expressed so clearly in the Cottage Meetings. **Gary Snowbeck**, a former Minister of Music at NHCC, has returned to provide direction for the Senior Choir and accompaniment for worship while a search process is underway. Susan Beth Collins has also served in the interim to direct the youth choir.

Finally, **Carol Munson**, church secretary for eight years, resigned effective December 31. Carol has been a dedicated presence in the church office, greeting visitors and answering the telephone cheerfully and offering gentle comfort to members. During the past year, Carol worked as much as she was able to, and often took work home. In November, **Nancie Estep** was hired to work in the church office. A celebration with Carol was held early in January 2007. The congregation presented her with a wonderful cash gift, offered their heart-felt thanks, and wished her well in her continuing recovery.

The war in Iraq and renewed fighting in Afghanistan continues to weigh on the hearts and minds of the congregation. Our prayers regularly note the tragic loss of life among military troops and civilians, and we hope for a cessation of hostilities and peace for Iraq.

This coming year will bring great celebration in connection with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the United Church of Christ and the 26th General Synod gathering in Hartford.

This report marks my completion of 12 years of pastoral ministry among you. The North Haven Congregational Church is a vital center of vibrant worship and dedicated mission and ministry. I am blessed to work with skilled and energetic colleagues, and with wise and enthusiastic church members. I am grateful for your ministry to me and to my family.

Shalom, Scott Morrow

The Report of the Associate Minister

Having just celebrated my eighth Christmas among you, I can still feel the spirit of the sanctuary on Christmas Eve - the glow of candlelight, the music, the children's pageant, the goats and the warmth of looking at so many faces with whom I have had the privilege to share in the journey of faith. The Spirit is alive and well in our church family! God is present with us in the everyday interactions of faithful people, in the numerous volunteer endeavors, creativity, outreach, reflection, conversations, and willingness to share in both the joys and sorrows. Thank you for all you do.

Confirmation Class is an incredible group of 14 outstanding teenagers exploring faith, discipleship and personal growth. Our experiences together include weekly meetings, retreats, visiting other places of worship, time with mentors and lots of questions. We are using the 'Affirming Faith' curriculum. I want to say a special thank you to the 14 adults who have agreed to be mentors and to the parents who are the primary faith teachers for the youth. Our Confirmands make a thoughtful decision when they choose to join the church and are ready for the responsibilities of full membership.

Senior High Youth had a wonderful year with weekly Wednesday evening meetings, special weekend events and the highlight, of course; Mission Trip 2006. Twenty five youth, nine adults and four junior leaders went to Watertown, NY to work with Habitat for Humanity. Our youth and adults are remarkable. Their behavior, willingness to work hard, positive energy and wonderful sense of humor are indeed God's shining light in a challenging setting. John Tibor, Don Geissler, Paul Powers, Sue Compton, Mark Bessette, Holly Sardilli, Martha Butterworth and Karen Beauvais deserve special recognition for working on-site all day, maintaining great attitudes despite lack of sleep, and their willingness to give of themselves for an entire week.

Thank you to all of you who support our youth financially, spiritually and emotionally. The youth of NHCC - Junior Highs and Senior Highs - contribute much in vitality; volunteering to work in the Church School, on B&G work days, raising money for the Mission Trip, serving at DESK, helping at the Harvest Fair and in many other ways. NHCC welcomes and includes the youth, recognizing fellow Christians on the journey of faith. I am privileged to work with such a community of youth and caring adults.

Junior High Youth meet bi-weekly and have special events on weekends. The 7th & 8th graders spend time together sharing stories, exploring scripture, playing and praying. The group sustains thoughtful conversation and has enjoyed the programming leadership provided by Barbara Marks, a responsibility which Barbara will continue in 2007!

Church School succeeds because of our committed teachers and dedicated CE Board. Please see the CE report for more details! We are enjoying a year of incredible creativity through the leadership of gifted teachers and the enthusiasm of our children. For a small stipend, Susan Beth Collins successfully took over the organization and leadership of Vacation Bible School. I participated in the week as the Bible study leader, but was able to enjoy more time during the summer for fall planning with Susan Beth facilitating VBS. Thank you.

Adult Education had a busy and successful year with a variety of offerings. Reflecting feedback from the Cottage Meetings, in September we changed the Sunday morning schedule to 9:30 Worship and 10:45 Adult Education, which allowed for consistent Adult Education during the most convenient time. While I coordinated the Adult Education schedule in the past, I look forward to Barbara Marks taking over that responsibility starting on January 1st!! Barbara is a talented woman who is called to an educational ministry. We are blessed to have her working at NHCC in a very part-time way in 2007 - thanks to the Cell Tower funding!

The Women's Retreat was on a weekend in March at Wisdom House in Litchfield. What an incredible, spirit-filled, wonder of a weekend! We laughed, played, cried, created a banner of painted feet, drummed and prayed together. Wow!

I enjoyed an all too brief one month sabbatical in May and June. During that time, I read several articles and books and spent a week at Yale Divinity School benefiting from an excellent preaching course. I found the reflection, study and time invigorating and centering. Thank you for the opportunity to challenge myself and to grow.

Report of the Associate Minister (Continued)

“For nothing is impossible with God” Luke 1:37: We are a people of possibility! NHCC is a community of possibility! With God, we have done and experienced wonderful things, in the greatest of hope.

Peace & God Bless,
Lucia

The Report of the Church Clerk

Under the capable direction of Moderator Patience Benassi, the Church Council met monthly throughout the year except in August.

All Council Meetings started by 7:35 p.m. and concluded by 9:15 p.m. Each meeting followed an agenda, and the minutes of each previous meeting were mailed or e-mailed to all Committee Chairs prior to the next meeting, after having been reviewed by the Moderator. Also, each Committee Chair was encouraged to forward to Moderator Patience a summary of his/her Committee Meeting immediately after such meeting was held. These summaries were included in each Council Meeting agenda.

Copies of the minutes of each Council Meeting held during the past year are available through the current Church Clerk or can be found in the Minutes Book located in the Church Library.

The last Annual Meeting of the Church was held in the sanctuary on January 22, 2006, with fifty-eight voting members present. The Congregation received and accepted 2005 reports from the Treasurer, all Boards, Committees, and staff; and also approved a 2006 Church Budget.

Respectfully submitted,
James B. Bennett
Clerk of the Church

CHURCH STATISTICS: 2006

Pastoral Services
January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006

(All services performed by Rev. Scott Morrow unless otherwise indicated.)
(++services performed by Rev. Lucia Jackson)

BAPTISMS:

Arianna Marie Guerrero, daughter of Katrina Marie Smith and Pasquale Tomas Guerrero, Born July 16, 2005
Scott Edward Dean, 5/21/06, son of Julie and Glenn Dean, born September 8, 2005
Jordan Alexis Kundrath, 5/28/06, daughter of Meredith and David Kundrath, born February 1, 2006
++Tyler Edward Sullivan, 8/20/06, son of Allison and Patrick Sullivan, born May 11, 2006.
Avery Michael Karasinski, 10/22/06, son of Michael and Christina Karasinski, born June 2, 2006.
Tyler Matthew Karasinski, 10/22/06, son of Michael and Christina Karasinski born April 26, 2002.
Gianni Anthony Volpe, 11/26/06, son of Shawwna Pohlman and Anthony Volpe, born April 3, 2006

WEDDINGS:

Oliver Nichols and Michelle Gioglia - April 26, 2006
Brian Cretella and Emily Melone - June 3, 2006
*Frank Lopez and Monique Turner - August 20, 2006
*performed by Reverend Sam Slie.
++Carlton Jean-Jacques and Sharise Fuller - September 16, 2006
Philip Priore, Jr. and Rebecca Robarge - December 14, 2006

DEATHS:

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>*Member</u>
<u>Name:</u>	<u>Date Of Death:</u>
Doreen Elizabeth Shaw	April 7, 2006
Nancy Fredericks	May 27, 2006
*Katie Andrews	May 28, 2006
*Catherine Herrmann	June 02, 2006
*Kenneth Savage	June 30, 2006
*Miriam Newcomb	July 09, 2006
Karen Lisa Peck	July 20, 2006
*Helen Phillips	July 27, 2006
*Joseph Dunn	August 23, 2006
Jean Romberg Baker	September 3, 2006
Sela Barker	September 3, 2006
*Lester Gott	September 4, 2006
++Richard Martin	October 9, 2006
Sylvia Blakeslee Rider	November 18, 2006

Deaths

Name:

++Donald LeQuire
Gail Louise Romano
Raol J. Molleur

***Member**

Date Of Death:

November 26, 2006
December 15, 2006
December 16, 2006

NEW MEMBERS: Confirmed June 4, 2006

Brian Andrew Compton
Philip Daniel Cooper
Christina Marie Mecca
Kimberly Ann Noel
Daniel Thomas Sardilli
William Windom Woodruff.

NEW MEMBERS: Received June 11, 2006

Stephen and September Baraquin
Chris and Kristin Corcoran

NEW MEMBERS: Received: December 3, 2006

Jeffrey and Laurie Cipollini
Richard and Tama Rappa
Jennifer Talon

DROPPED FROM MEMBERSHIP AT THEIR REQUEST or other:

Lisa Beauvais
Matthew Casey
Thomas Goldfuss
Eric Jokl
Nelson Keeler
Michael Mastriano
Sheila Pallatto
Cris and Susan Sigovitch
Alice Stone
Jill and John Wood

Jane and E. J. Breiby
James Frigo
Glenn and Pamela Hickcox
Matthew Jokl
Erin and Eric Madenski
Rev. Kathryn Greene-McCreight
Michele Salzano
Brian J. Solecki
Amy McLean and Todd Weber
Kara Dickinson

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS: 2006

Active Members, January 1, 2006 449

Removed by Death - 2006	7	
Removed by Letter of Transfer - 2006		
Resignation	26	
Sub-total		33

Members Received - 2006

Letter and Reaffirmation	9	
Confession of Faith		
Confirmation	6	
Sub-total		15

Total membership		431
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*Revision of the Membership List is in progress.

THE NORTH HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
January 22, 2006

The Annual Meeting of the North Haven Congregational Church was held in the church sanctuary on January 22, 2006 and was called to order at 11:17 AM by Moderator Patience Benassi, with 58 voting members in attendance.

After Clerk Jim Bennett first read the Call to Order and Rev. Scott Morrow offered an opening prayer, Moderator Benassi introduced Rev. Stephen Peterson and announced that he had accepted the role of Parliamentarian for today's meeting. She further asked that everyone wishing to be heard please raise their hand, wait to be recognized by the Moderator, then stand and announce their name before speaking.

On a motion made by Betsey Reid, seconded by Ellie Harple, **the minutes from the Annual Meeting held on January 30, 2005 were approved.**

After a motion made by Nancie Estep, seconded by John Oestreicher, **the minutes from the Special Meeting held on May 1, 2005 were approved.**

Barbara Marks, Nominating Committee Chair, remarked that this year's effort was a long but joyful process and reported that the following Committee slots remain unfilled presently: Board of Deacons - one 2-year term; Ushers & Greeters - one 3-year term; and UCC Delegates - three people needed. Nancie Estep stepped forward at this time and volunteered to fill the 3-year Ushers & Greeters position. On a motion made by Beth Anderson, seconded by Phil James, **the Nominating Committee was approved as amended.**

After a motion made by Doris Ferner, seconded by Sally Pallatto, **all Non-Financial Church Reports were approved.** Phyllis Kaercher did want it in the official record that she was not being facetious in her NOAH Report; she really does want to encourage a younger church member to join this Board. When questioned by Steve Simonson as to the kind of commitment required, Phyllis responded that NOAH presently meets once a month.

On a motion made by Ruth Dudley, seconded by Rose Monaco, **the Report of the New Haven East Consociation Church and Ministry Committee was approved.**

Warren Harple next made a motion, seconded by Phyllis Kaercher, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Tim Peiffer asked about the Pledges and Gifts line item on pg. 45, and John Tibor replied that the \$187,610.31 figure represents actual 2005 receipts. With no further discussion, **the Treasurer's Report was approved.**

Betsey Reid made the motion, seconded by Philip DiPeri, to approve the Financial Reports. Betsy Gumbart asked how the church made out with regard to fundraising. Treasurer Tibor responded, stating that \$7,668.38 was raised last year. With no further discussion, **the Financial Reports were approved.**

Priscilla Bradford made a motion, seconded by Ellie Harple, to approve the 2006 Budget as developed by the Finance Committee and approved by the Church Council. Discussion: Sally Pallatto said that music's fixed costs are \$2,500 for this year yet only \$2,000 was budgeted, to which John Oestreicher responded, stating that Finance was obligated to present a balanced budget; Kerri Stewart commented that she thought the Pierpont Concerts income was designated for music, and John Tibor replied that, that was the case during the first year as part of the new Expanded Music Program but not any longer, as this money is now part of general fundraising income. Phil James remarked that the Finance Committee observed that Music spent just over \$2,000 in each of the past two years, with Sue Beth Collins responding that music was specifically asked not to tune all instruments, which held expenditures down. John Tibor suggested that at least two non-budgeted balances might be used to meet some of music's needs

this year. Betsy Gumbart asked about what, if any fundraising projects are planned to meet this year's goal. Patience Benassi answered, stating that a three-person Committee was tasked with this responsibility last year and will be again in 2006. How about an Auction, Betsy queried? With discussions concluded, **the 2006 Church Budget was approved as presented with one no vote.**

On a motion made by Priscilla Bradford, seconded by Tim Peiffer, **those present voted to approve the appointment of Bryant Munson as the Church's Financial Agent for 2006.**

Tim Peiffer made a motion, seconded by Tom Woodruff, that the church extend to Associate Pastor Lucia Jackson the opportunity to take a sabbatical. The sabbatical would accrue at the rate of ½ month per year, with none to be taken until four years of service was completed, and that any accrual would be capped at four months at which point some sabbatical time must be taken. Discussion: Maurine Cornelius said Lucia does a fine job with the youth and deserves a sabbatical. Doris Ferner asked if this proposal was for just this year, Patience replied no. Tim Peiffer said he understands the current financial stresses on the church and suggested that other staff positions might have to be carefully looked at. Betsey Reid stated that she believed the motion should be amended to reflect its retroactivity. Ellie Harple then moved the question, seconded by Doris Ferner, and this passed by a vote of 38 to 20. A vote to approve a Sabbatical for the Associate Pastor followed, and **the Associate Pastor Sabbatical Proposal passed by a vote of 56 to 2.**

New Business:

Betsy Gumbart expressed disappointment in the Basic Support reduction reflected in the budget. Priscilla Bradford responded, reporting that the Trustees and Finance have met to discuss the anticipated revenues from Nextel and have developed an initial plan of action as follows: the first \$6,155 received will go to pay off 2005's Basic Support balance; the next \$1,000 will be earmarked for the Senior Pastor's Sabbatical and additional income will be apportioned 10% toward Missions, 10% to the Trustees, 40% toward a Capital Improvements Reserve, and 40% to the Operating Budget. Betsey Reid cautioned everyone that Nextel might not prove to be our financial salvation forever, as our initial contract with the company is for just five years.

Moderator Benassi encouraged those present to please take the time to read through the Annual Report, with particular attention paid to the written Board of Finance Report. She thanked all who stepped forward last year and this year to serve the church, and she said all of us should be thankful to have such wonderful Pastors ministering to us. At this point, Reverends Jackson and Morrow were given a hearty round of applause.

Rev. Scott updated everyone on Carol Munson's condition (she undergoes her final chemotherapy treatment next week and anticipates returning to at least part-time work next month) and thanked the many volunteers who have helped out in the church office during her extended absence.

Rev. Lucia offered a prayer of benediction.

With business concluded, and on a motion made by Tim Peiffer, seconded by Martin Benassi, **the Annual Meeting of the North Haven Congregational Church was adjourned at 12:25 PM.**

Respectfully submitted by,
James B. Bennett, Clerk
Patience Benassi, Moderator

The Report Of The Nominating Committee

Officers

Terms ending January 2008

Moderator:	Jim Bennett
Clerk:	Priscilla Bradford
Treasurer:	Ken Welch
Asst. Treasurer:	John Tibor
Financial Recording Secretary:	Jody Gallagher

Congregational Representatives

Term Ending 2008

Lillian Flodquist

Term Ending 2009

Tim Peiffer

Board of Deacons

Term Ending 2008

Maurine Cornelius
Linda Kirk
Crystal Veilleux
Holly Sardilli

Term Ending 2009

John Tibor
Joan Bennett
Richard Chapmen
Betty Vento

Term Ending 2010

Steve Simonson
Judy Hawthorn

Board of Trustees

Term Ending 2008

Beth Anderson

Term Ending 2009

Phyllis Kaercher

Term Ending 2010

Mabel Peterson

Board of Finance

Term ending 2008

Philip DiPeri
Phil James

Term Ending 2009

Adam Schweickert
Ann Marie Noel

Term Ending 2010

Betsey Reid
Steve Peterson

Auditing Committee

Term Ending 2008

Warren Harple

Term Ending 2009

Betty Martin

Term Ending 2010

Susan Compton

Floral Committee

Term Ending 2008

Christalie Brockett

Term Ending 2009

Mary Ellen Adams

Term Ending 2010

Carla Taymans

Ushers & Greeters Committee

Term Ending 2008

Betsy Gumbart
Christalie Brockett

Term Ending 2009

Jennifer Talon

Term Ending 2010

Wendy Russo

Memorial Gifts Committee

Term Ending 2008

Eleanor Norback

Term Ending 2009

Barbara Massey

Term Ending 2010

Rosemary Little

Music Board

Term Ending 2008
Cathy Welch

Term Ending 2009
Sally Pallatto

Term Ending 2010
Derek Grant

Board of Building and Grounds

Term Ending 2008
Peter Struk
John McPherson
Bernie Hummel

Term Ending 2009
Don Geissler
Tom Woodruff
Nancy Mahoney

Board of Christian Education

Term Ending 2008
Kim Coughlin
Jean Burr
Lori Murphy

Term Ending 2009
Becky Bogaert
Jeanne Mecca
Greg Brenner

Board of Christian Outreach

Term Ending 2009
Ruth Dudley
Ed Dudley
Denise Adinolfi

Term Ending 2010
Bob Nerkowski
David Estep
Chris Corcoran

Nominating Committee

Term Ending 2008
Doris Ferner

Term Ending 2009
Sandra Lynch

Term Ending 2010

Collection Committee

Term Ending 2009
Joyce Bellonio
Carol Mitchell

Term Ending 2009
Betty Martin
Sandra Lynch Bill Hawthorn

Sue Compton

Connecticut U.C.C. Delegates

Tim Peiffer

New Haven East Consociation

Doris Ferner

Alternate

Ed Dudley

**Addendum To The Report of the Nominating Committee
Members and Staff of the North Haven Congregational Church
Serving the Wider Church**

Edwin Dudley	Member, Wider Mission Team of the CT Conference, UCC
Rev. Scott Morrow	Member, Church and Ministry Committee; New Haven East Consociation, CT Conference, UCC. President, Board of Directors, Woods Edge Housing, North Haven (New Samaritan Corporation/Elderly Housing Management*) President, Board of Directors, Oak View Housing, North Haven (New Samaritan Corporation/Elderly Housing Management*) Member, Cemetery Commission, Town of North Haven Member, Police Citizens Relations Council of Greater New Haven Member, Juvenile Review Board, North Haven Member, Board of Directors, Interfaith Cooperative Ministries Member, Board of Directors, City Mission Association
Mabel Peterson	Board of Directors, Davenport Residence, Inc.** Vice-Chairman, Board of Directors, New Samaritan Corporation*
Phyllis Kaercher	Voting Board Member, NHOAH (North Haven Opportunity for Affordable Housing)
Warren Harple	Treasurer, Board of Directors, Davenport Residence, Inc.**

* New Samaritan Corporation/Elderly Housing Management is an organizational member of the Council on Health and Human Ministries, CT Conference, UCC.

** Davenport/Dunbar Residence Facility, Hamden

The Report of the Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons is charged with overseeing the spiritual life of the church. Some of our responsibilities and duties include aiding and assisting with the Sunday Morning Worship services. We are called to help with holiday services, baptisms, marriages and funerals. We are also involved with attending New Members' classes with the Senior Pastor.

The Sunday Morning Worship Service start time was changed from 10:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. throughout the summer months. We voted to continue with 9:30 a.m. in the fall to allow for Bible study programs after services.

The Board of Deacons bought Bibles for the Confirmands. We also hosted a pizza party for the Confirmands and their families. Bibles were presented to them from the Board at their Confirmation on June 4th and a celebration cake was presented to them at coffee hour after that Sunday Worship service.

We had a very successful Goods and Services Auction as our fundraising for the church general fund (\$4000).

For visitors worshiping at our Sunday Morning worship we have Visitors' Packets for them to take as they leave church. These packets contain information about our programs, functions, Bible education classes and children's Church School.

2006 has been a rewarding year for the Deacons Board. The only downside was that we did not have a full board of twelve Deacons. We had only ten members. We pray that in 2007 we will have a full slate, enabling us to continue our spiritual works in the service of our Lord.

Maurine Cornelius and Joan Bennett
Co-Chairs, Board of Deacons

Report of the 'Response Team'

Annual Report from the Response Team representing the "Safe Church Policy"

The 2006 Safe Church Response Team met several times in 2006, following a report to the church leadership of a violation of the Safe Church Policy.

The Team met and listened to those involved and sought counsel from our pastors and our regional UCC minister. The report was thoroughly discussed and it was determined that our congregation was not at risk. No children or youth were involved. Necessary steps were taken to prevent a recurrence.

Copies of the Safe Church Policy are available upon request.

Patience Benassi, Doris Ferner, Stephen Simonson
2006 Safe Church Response Team

Report of Fundraising Activities

The fundraising efforts of the church were highly successful this year; realizing a total of \$11,312.05 for the Annual Budget line item. The dedicated volunteer efforts of our members helped to raise funds well exceeding our goal of \$8,000.

To highlight the fundraising events: The Goods and Services Auction realized over \$3,800; the Springbox Book sale raised \$2,261; the Pierpont Concert Series raised \$1,931 and the Spa Day realized \$1,098. Additional events included the Kids' Concert and CD Sales, Turkey Dinner, Barnes & Noble Gift Wrapping and The Candlelight Coffee House.

Donations were also received from the Men's Fellowship Breakfasts, the Coffee Hours and the Youth Coffeehouse Breakfasts.

The success of these events would not be possible without the involvement and dedication of the many volunteers.

Thank You to All!
Tim Peiffer

Report of the Music Board

The year 2006 was full of events and some changes for the music of the North Haven Congregational Church. The church and surrounding community enjoyed various concerts. We held five Pierpont Concerts – *Russ Becker, Shoregrass, Pratt & Whitney, Alturas Duo* and *Brass*; and a Children's Concert. We also helped sponsor the *Candlelight Coffeehouse*. All of these events raised a total of \$3,047.98 toward the Church's general budget.

We were able to raise monies through the generosity of our congregation to have *Brass* return for Easter Services (\$976.00). In conversations with Junius Johnson in late fall of 2006, we were informed that *Brass* has committed to a full year contract with another church to play weekly Sunday services. They will not be returning in 2007 for Easter Services. Once again, the congregation graciously helped support us in bringing the Arkenberg family to perform during this year's late Christmas Eve Service.

With Kevin conducting and Susan Beth's help, we held a Children's Concert on May 6th. From this concert a CD was produced by early fall (thank you to Rich Gallagher, Susan Beth Collins and Sally Pallatto for helping in its production!).

The Children's and Adult Bell choirs continued through early summer. We had hoped to begin a family bell choir but eventually the plan was put on hold. This occurred because in August we sadly accepted the resignation of Kevin Mack. With Kevin's departure, Gary Snowbeck was hired to fill in as Interim Minister of Music. Gary has continued to direct the Senior Choir and accompany the Children's Choir with Susan Beth Collins conducting – thank you both for your continued support of the music program!

On September 16, the Music Board helped in supporting Susan Beth Collins and Everett Barber as they sang for the *Candlelight Coffeehouse*. Thanks go to many volunteers who helped make goodies to have for sale and for making this event such a success. We want to give special thanks to Nancie and David Estep, Linda and John Rankin, John and Sue Tibor and Mary Pallatto.

The Music Committee decided to continue with the Pierpont Concert Series after Kevin's departure in August. We held *Renaissance Revival* on October 14 and *Brass* on December 16. Both concerts brought varied music into the sanctuary – what beautiful music!

We kept up with the maintenance of the organ as well as the pianos in the Sanctuary and Chapel; thank you Nancie, for making those calls!

We feel that the music program has been a success this past year. We could not have had such a successful year without the continued support from parents, church members, church staff, Kevin, Susan Beth Collins, and most recently Gary Snowbeck. All of them have helped the music program to continue to thrive at the North Haven Congregational Church.

We look forward to another music-filled year!

Respectfully submitted,
Rose Monaco *Council Representative*
Cathy Welch
Sally Pallatto, *Chair*

Gary Snowbeck - Interim Music Director
Kevin Mack - Past Music Director

The Report of the Congregational Representatives

Serving this year, Lillian Flodquist and Timothy Peiffer made themselves available to the congregation. All compliments and concerns were brought to the Council and given to the appropriate boards and committees.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy Peiffer

The Report of the Memorial Gifts Committee

The Church has received donations in memory of the following members and friends:

Jack Viele	Helen A. Phillips
Anthony Bellonio	Lester Gott
Miriam Newcomb	Richard Martin
Joseph R. Dunn, Jr.	Virginia Nutile
Sylvia Rider	

Notes of appreciation were sent to the donor and families involved. All donations received were recorded in the Book of Remembrance which is located in the Church Library. The Children's Library, Hymnal Fund and the Guertin/Ferner Music Fund were designated for some of the donations, while most went directly into the Memorial Gifts Fund.

The total amount of donations received this year was \$3,765.00. At a request of the Finance Committee, a donation was made from the Memorial Gifts Fund for the purchase of a new computer for Scott Morrow, Minister. The balance of the Memorial Gifts Fund is \$14,392.61.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Massey, Co-Chairman
Eleanor Norback, Co-Chairman
Leslie Frost

The Report of the Personnel Committee

The by-laws state that the Personnel Committee shall consist of five members. Voting members shall include the Moderator, and one member from the Music Committee and the Boards of Building and Grounds, Finance, and a Congregational Representative to the Council. The Minister(s) shall be member(s) ex officio. Members shall be appointed for a term of one year. The make-up of the Personnel Committee is intended to best represent those committees that need support for their related positions - Sexton, Office Secretary/Office Manager and Minister of Music.

The Personnel Committee consisted of Patience Benassi (Moderator), Cathy Welch (Music), Peter Struk (Building & Grounds), Ann Marie Noel (Finance) and Stephen Simonson (Congregational Representative substitute).

The Personnel Committee met in August. Plans were made for a Search Committee for a new Minister of Music following Kevin Mack's resignation effective August 31. Plans were approved for the interim Minister of Music, Gary Snowbeck, and it was approved that a stipend be provided for a leader to continue the cherub and youth choirs. In addition, plans were put in place for the probationary period evaluation for our new Sexton, Stuart Lane, who began on June 26, 2006. Stuart replaced Kirk Johnson who resigned on June 30, 2006. In addition, a supplemental position was approved to assist in the office due to the Secretary's limited available hours. As our office secretary Carol Munson retired on December 31, the supplemental position was changed to a replacement position and Nancie Estep was hired as Office Manager. Stephen Simonson assisted with the recruitment of this position. Nancie began in the position on November 1. The committee further clarified that benefit time (sick and vacation pay) are available as long as staff members are maintaining the minimum hours/week as originally scheduled for their positions.

The Committee wishes to make known their appreciation for the many volunteers and workers who assisted in the office this year.

The Committee discussed and made recommendations to the Board of Finance for staff raises for 2007.

Patience Benassi
Moderator

The Report of the Floral Committee

This year the Floral Committee had a bit of a challenge with the illness of its Chairperson early in the year. With the cooperation of Mary Ellen Adams and Nancie Estep, we were able to coordinate the contribution of memorial/celebration flowers for each Sunday's worship service. I thank them both for their efforts. We also handled the seasonal displays as follows:

Palm Sunday: Palm leaves were separated and distributed to the congregation. Palm fans were arranged and placed in front of the communion table.

Easter lilies beautified the church, with two plants being placed on each windowsill and a display placed in front of the communion table. The wooden cross was placed on the front lawn and decorated with cut flowers provided by the committee. It was further enhanced with flowers from the congregation.

A harvest wreath was hung in the church and the Thanksgiving Cornucopia was arranged on the communion table with a wide selection of fresh fruits and vegetables. On Thanksgiving Sunday the congregation brought donations of their own and added them to the table. During the next week the fruits and vegetables were delivered to the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen by Kathy Woodruff and her son Charles.

The Christmas season started with the hanging of the Christmas wreaths in the sanctuary and on the front doors. The electric candles with fresh greens were placed in each window. Poinsettia plants then decorated the church with a display in front of the communion table and two placed in each window.

The Floral Committee acknowledges the many members of the congregation for their continued generosity in purchasing arrangements for each Sunday, as well as the many contributions for the Easter lilies and Poinsettia plants.

A special thank you is extended to William and Donald Adams, David Estep and the Woodruff family for the help they have provided. Also, a thank you goes to Carol Munson, the Office Staff, Kirk Johnson, Stuart Lane, Mary Ellen Adams and Nancie Estep for their help.

Respectfully Submitted
Christalie Brockett, Chair

The Report of NHOAH (North Haven Opportunity for Affordable Housing)

NHOAH spent 2006 addressing lingering construction issues at Summerdale Condominiums. I served for two years (from the inception of the development until September 1, 2006) on the Condo Board.

We are trying to add to our Church/Temple representation new younger members. I am very pleased to announce that Sally Pallatto has offered her Graphic Design talents to us.

It is extremely important and necessary for NHOAH, established in 1993, to go on. There is another affordable housing initiative on the horizon but we need to re - generate ourselves in this next generation.

Submitted by:
Phyllis Kaercher

The Report of the Ushers and Greeters Committee

The committee has had a very successful year with the willing response of the congregation in responding to the call of being an usher or greeter on Sundays. It is a nice way for our new Church members to meet and greet the congregation. The participation of our confirmands as ushers and greeters was also a welcome sight.

We would like to thank all of you for your willing participation.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Hansell
Diane Nerkowski
Nancie Estep

The Report of the Board of Christian Education

The CE Board is happy to report that we've experienced another busy and rewarding year. Attendance remained consistent in our Sunday School and Adult Education Programs. The Youth Mission Trip grew in youth and adult participants. It was another great year for our Vacation Bible School program under the leadership of Susan Beth Collins, with enthusiastic support from dedicated volunteers. A terrific time was had by all who attended our Church School Kickoff BBQ with plenty of food and the opportunity to enjoy fellowship outdoors. We had a special Advent Night this year - with the return of Candy Houses and Greens - and ending in the Sanctuary with scripture, candlelight and music. Our Christmas Eve pageant under the able and creative direction of Sharon Ciarlo and Carol Amico was a wonderful worship service and retelling of the familiar story - including live goats and a shepherding dog. A special note of thanks goes to the Women's Fellowship for funding the UCC summer camp at Silver Lake that enabled several of our youth to attend.

The Senior and Junior High groups met consistently and shared companionship, fun, Bible study and special event outings as well as opportunities to take part in service activities. A special thank you goes to volunteer advisors Paul Powers (Sr. Highs) and Linda McKiernan (Jr. Highs). We are pleased to report that our Confirmation Class is bursting with 14 confirmands, as well as 14 fantastic mentors working with the youth this year to lend continued support to church and community service activities.

In May we celebrated Teacher Appreciation Day with an enthusiastic crowd of youth and adult volunteers who worked especially hard on the church grounds by raking and weeding, then planting flowers in the church gardens to honor the effort and time given by our remarkably talented teachers. Thank you to all of the volunteers who worked on the church gardens.

With a new curriculum and approach to the Sunday School program this fall, the teachers and students are enthusiastic. We are using a modified "rotation" curriculum - immersing in a given text for each month and utilizing many learning modes for teaching. The students are still in self contained classrooms by grade with a consistent teacher. The themes for each month are: September: the Lord's Prayer; October: Moses; November: the Fruits of the Spirit; and in December: the nativity story. The children and teachers are exploring their faith and learning the Bible stories through art, drama, cooking, music, experiments, games and discussion.

In August, over sixty children took part in Vacation Bible School, co-hosted as in previous years by our church and St. John's Episcopal Church. The theme was a Habitat for Humanity curriculum. The turnout of volunteers made quite a positive impression on this fantastic week - we were blessed with over 25 youth volunteers from both churches and a seasoned team of artistic veterans who organized early to make the week a complete success. CE owes a huge thank you to the many volunteers, as well as to Susan Beth Collins, who made this unforgettable week possible. In June, the mission trip led by Lucia Jackson traveled by vans to Watertown, NY. The nine adults along with 25 youth and 4 junior leaders worked on several job sites this year. The group's responsibilities included finishing carpentry work, roofing, insulation, windows, painting, and constructing a deck. Everyone will agree that, in addition to learning new labor skills, this is an opportunity to grow as individual Christians, as a fellowship, and to give back to the community in a really meaningful way.

The Christmas Pageant was the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service. The children's choir sang beautifully and the Story was told through the reminiscences of Mary and Joseph. Thank you to all who helped with the pageant - especially Sharon Ciarlo, who has made the pageant her unique ministry in the church.

With a Sunday morning worship schedule change, we had regular Adult Education following worship on Sunday mornings from 10:45-11:45. Adult Education was well attended and some of the topics included: History of the UCC, a DVD-based series, the Christian Stewardship of Creation, and sermon talkbacks.

The CE Board offers a sincere and genuine word of thanks to the numerous volunteers who continue to offer their time, talent and treasure to our many programs and events conducted throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
The Board of Christian Education

Teacher List For The 2006-2007 Church School Year

NURSERY: As needed

2-3 YEAR OLDS: Kim Ciarlo, Kalie Siciliano & Anna Woodruff

4 YEAR OLDS and KINDERGARTEN: Debbie McKosky, Kathy Grant & Jenny Coulston;
Tori Burr & Chelsea Marks, helpers

1st and 2nd GRADES: Stephanie Kastenhuber & Linda McKiernan

3rd and 4th GRADES: Jennifer Lucibelli & Annette Grant

5th and 6th GRADES: Martha Butterworth, Ray Geissler; Skye Gallagher, helper

7th and 8th GRADES: Rotation volunteers

Mentors for Confirmands

John Tibor	Ken Welch	Carol Amico	Jeanne Mecca
Paul Powers	Kerry Stewart	Susan Tibor	Gregory Brenner
Mitch Grant	Carol Mitchell	Suzanne Light	Holly Sardilli
Nancy Mahoney	Lori Murphy		

Junior High Youth Group Coordinators: Linda McKiernan & Barbara Marks

Advisors: Rotating parents

Senior High Youth Group Advisor: Paul Powers

Mission Trip Volunteers: Paul Powers, John Tibor, Don Geissler, Holly Sardilli,
Sue Compton, Mark Bessette, Karen Beauvais, Martha Butterworth

The Report of the Board of Building and Grounds

We wish to report the following activities of the Board for the 2006 year.

Outside work: The sanctuary entrance and masonry stairs were totally restored with paint and stucco by Bill Dobbins. Gutters were cleaned and repaired and fallen flashing reinstalled. All outside lamp sensors were replaced and two bad fixtures were replaced, using new compact fluorescent bulbs. One lower level exit for Carroll Hall had dry well work done and the one at the kitchen exit can use the same in the future. Landscaping by Jake was contracted to do the cutting of the church and parsonage lawns and they are greatly improved. Children do not have any more mole hills to step on. A new banner was installed, as well as a temporary sign stand for promoting events. Several cubic yards of long overdue shrub trimmings were cut and crammed, with great effort in the summer heat, into available dumpsters. The snow lottery was successful for another year, thanks to all the volunteers. The outside sign lighting needs repairs due to water in the wiring. Sidewalk and lawn damage caused by the Nextel contractor will be repaired by them in the spring.

Office: The front entrance intercom was repaired/upgraded with a new Mylar speaker. Two four foot fluorescent fixtures gave us problems and Angelo Marotto Electric was contracted to repair these, as well as fixing wiring in the nursery ceiling and finishing wiring the new garage door opener in Carroll Hall. Funds for these repairs/improvements came from the Eleanor Cooper fund. The balance in the Fund was used to pay for the Thyssen Krupp Elevator service contract since the Accessibility Fund has run out. A new air conditioner had to be purchased and installed in the heat of the summer, of course. A new set of blinds is needed.

Carroll Hall: A donated air conditioner and bracing brackets were installed to replace a vintage unit. The thermostat cover that has stumped all the renters who like to adjust it was made by Bernie Hummel. A plug cover was installed on the freezer outlet so the turkeys don't thaw again. Replacement of the replacement windows was needed in two instances because the counterbalances failed. One sash needed

replacement because of broken glass. One emergency light was replaced due to failure. Two doors were rehung and trimmed due to sagging. Lots of wax was purchased for the floors by the Sexton and the glossy, easy to clean floors make a good impression. New floors are needed for both bathrooms upstairs over Carroll Hall due to water damage from leaking pipes.

Everyone contributed to making this a successful year, especially Stephen Simonson and the Personnel Committee for working through staffing and pay issues.

Tom Woodruff, Bill Dobbins, Don Geissler, John McPherson,
Bernie Hummel and Peter Struk

The Report of The New Haven East Consociation Church and Ministry Committee

During the last year Steve Simonson and Scott Morrow have represented the North Haven Congregational Church on the New Haven East Consociation Church and Ministry Committee. The Church and Ministry Committee meets monthly for two hours, and additionally as required. This Committee deals with matters related to ministerial authorization and standing. It is charged with assessing individuals interested in becoming candidates for in-care status, and shepherding them through the process of becoming commissioned, licensed, or ordained ministers in the UCC. The Committee is also responsible for supporting and monitoring ordained ministers with standing in the NHE Consociation.

In May, Steve Simonson concluded six years of service on the Church and Ministry Committee, having served as chairperson for the last three years. His leadership was skillful and empowering. Beginning with the May meeting, I succeeded him on the Committee. Members of the Committee include John Bischof, Consociation Registrar; Rev. David Colton, Guilford; Rev. Peter Degree, Northford; Rev. Gina Finocchiaro, Madison (Chairperson); William Gassman, Branford; Judith Haggarty, North Guilford; Rev. Karen Johnson, East Haven; Rev. Elven Riggles, Jr., Durham; Henrietta Schraner, North Madison; Rev. Kent Siladi, Regional Minister; and Marcia Turner, North Branford (Secretary).

Since May of this year, the Committee has held two successful Ecclesiastical Councils, for Mary Morreale and John Heeckt. Vance Taylor celebrated his ordination to ministry on June 4 at the First Congregational Church of Branford. Mary Morreale was commissioned as the Minister of Music and Spirituality at the First Congregational Church of Guilford on September 24. John Heeckt celebrated his ordination to ministry on October 29 at the First Congregational Church of Branford.

The Committee has met with other students-in-care and their advisors to review their progress and offer support, including Theresa Borchetta, Sarah Garcia, Margaret Hofmeister, and David Johnson. The Service for Installation of Susan Murtha as Associate Pastor at the First Congregational Church of Guilford, and an Ecclesiastical Council for Theresa Borchetta are already scheduled for this year.

In addition to these activities, I attended a training session for new Church & Ministry Committee members at the Connecticut Conference UCC office in Hartford on September 23.

Scott G. Morrow
Church and Ministry Committee
New Haven East Consociation

The Report of The Minister of Music Search Committee

The by-laws state that: "when a new staff person is to be hired for other church programs, the Moderator, in consultation with the Minister(s) shall appoint a search committee consisting of no fewer than five and no more than seven to interview the candidates. The committee shall recommend its candidate to the Council for final approval. The Minister(s) and the Moderator shall be ex-officio members of the search committee." The search committee members are Susan Beth Collins, Rich Gallagher, Rose Monaco, Stephen Peterson, Carla Taymans, and Ken Welch.

The committee has met four times since Kevin Mack's resignation. The job description for the Minister of Music Position has been updated and will be available for review by the Personnel Committee, then submitted to the Church Council for approval.

In addition, job postings for the open position have been placed with several organizations and newsletters. Five applications had been received as of the end of December, 2006. Preliminary interviews have been conducted with two applicants. One applicant who was scheduled for a preliminary interview accepted another position and withdrew from our search. One applicant who was also scheduled for a preliminary interview withdrew from our search due to other obligations. The fifth candidate is being contacted. Second interviews are also being scheduled.

The search will remain open until an appointment is made. If additional applications are submitted with a resume and cover letter, they will be contacted.

The committee is also exploring how other churches organize their music programs.
Patience Benassi, Chair

The Report of the Board of Christian Outreach

Our Board took shape last January, with the able assistance of Kerry Stewart, chair of the Board during the latter part of last year. Three members from the Board, Ruth Dudley, David Estep, and Bob Nerkowski were joined by newly elected members Ed Dudley and Nancie Estep; and in November, Chris Corcoran. Ruth and Ed were elected co-chairs.

As in recent years, the Board members' time and effort was directed primarily at promoting and maintaining several outreach programs that the Board and the church have found worthwhile and important. They are:

DESK (Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen): A major item in our Board's budget, and an investment for which we get a fine return, thanks primarily to Bob Nerkowski's skillful shopping and cooking. He has continued this year to buy and prepare food sufficient to feed 80-120 people once every other week at the Soup Kitchen. With the help of many servers, bread and dessert contributors, (more than 50), these meals were transported to New Haven and served. These efforts were recognized by a plaque awarded to our church by the board of DESK, and Bob and the servers were also honored at a dinner put on by our Board and friends last February.

ICM (Interfaith Cooperative Ministries): This is an association of representatives, clergy and lay, from New Haven area religious organizations. It has served to identify, support, and create ministries that deal with problems of the area. DESK is an example of a ministry which they started, and then spun off to self-sufficiency. ICM is now restructuring its organization, and we await developments there. Our church is a dues-paying member of ICM.

Special Offerings: These include OGHS (One Great Hour of Sharing); Blanket Sunday;

NIN (Neighbors in Need); the Christmas Offering, and Veterans of the Cross: As is shown in the Treasurer's report, there was generous response from the church members to these appeals.

Missionary Visit by Betty Frank: In October Betty, a UCC missionary in Turkey, was our guest at a pot-luck supper, at which time she described the several ministries carried out there.

Alternative Christmas Gifts: Again this year over \$1,000.00 was raised, with over twenty participants buying cards for gifts to Heifer Project, Habitat for Humanity or DESK.

Steeple Fund grant to Outreach: This year \$1,680.00 was made available to our Board, to enable us to respond to more of the concerns than our budget would have permitted. The four organizations chosen for support, each receiving \$420.00 were: Domestic Violence Services of New Haven; Covenant to Care for Children, Inc.; The International Rescue Committee; and the Istanbul Interparish Migrant Program, a program described for us by Betty Frank during her visit. These four, two right here in our area and two overseas deal with the same basic concern: Family stability and the welfare of children. Brief description of these programs has appeared in the WINDOW, and more details about them will follow during the year ahead.

Reviving Sharing and Caring: Our board invited members of the church to explore this matter, and, again, response was generous and a program, independent of our Board, is now established and will function as the New Year starts.

It would be misleading to conclude this report without noting all the outreach work not done by or under the auspices of the Outreach Board, but by church members in various settings: To name just two of these activities: The Community Food Bank, providing needy townspeople with food throughout the year, and collecting, sorting, and delivering food at holiday time; and the Adopt-a-Social Worker program, responding to the needs of “our” social worker’s clients throughout the year, and engaging church members who’ve been very generous in providing Christmas gifts for her clients’ children.

As we reflect on the status of outreach in our church, and look ahead a bit, we find much to be grateful for, as well as some real challenges. We celebrate the many activities noted above, both those formally part of our Board’s responsibility and those carried out by so many others.

We also appreciate the generous support of our special offerings, as already noted. However, we have to acknowledge that the church in recent years has had to cut basic support, which is what’s needed to provide the day-to-day missionary presence and the continuity of their work.

In the year ahead the Board will continue to share word about nearby and distant mission in several ways: In the WINDOW and Sunday worship programs; and by keeping you alerted to volunteer service activities near and far, short term and long term; and by taking part in the expanded adult education program.

We look ahead to continuing our contact with Ken and Betty Frank and their mission in Turkey. They’re at a crossroads of the world; they live in Asia, commute 20 minutes across the Bosphorus, to work in Europe. And their work with Christian-Muslim dialogue could not be timelier, for them and us.

In short, we believe, to quote one of our church leaders, “that the church should be both a shelter from the world and a bridge to it”. Our church has done a good job as a shelter and has established a firm bridgehead in the New Haven area. Now it may be time to look beyond, both the words of the Bible and our need to make the world safer, press us in that direction.

Respectfully Submitted
Ruth & Ed Dudley
Co-Chairs

The Report of the Pastoral Relations Committee

The by-laws state: “Pastoral Relations Committee shall consist of five members. These shall include the Moderator, a Deacon, a member of the Board of Christian Education if applicable (making a six-member Committee), a Congregational Representative to the Council, and two additional members appointed by the Ministers. Members of the Committee will be appointed for a term of one year.

The Committee shall elect a chairperson. The Committee shall meet with the ministers to discuss pastoral leadership and concerns which the Ministers or the congregation may have. Such discussions shall take place in a confidential manner.

The Committee shall review the terms of the Ministers’ call (covenant contract) and job description annually and make recommendations regarding the terms of the Ministers’ call and compensation package to the Board of Finance.

The Committee shall report directly to the Congregation.”

The committee members include: Rev. Scott Morrow, Rev. Lucia Jackson, Patience Benassi, Tim Peiffer, Paul Powers, Sue Light (replaced by Linda Kirk during the year) and Chairperson, Stephen Simonson.

The committee met twelve times this year: The focus of the meetings was to review the pastors’ calls, consider some recommendations for adjustments in the administration of the Christian Education program, Lucia’s sabbatical proposal, a discussion of cost of living increases, monitoring the effectiveness of office support in Carol Munson’s absence, and discussion of the visioning project and “Cottage Meetings”, culminating in the “Dot Party”; which established a vision for the future.

The first meeting for 2007 will be scheduled for late January or early February. Focus areas will include: Lead/clarify the process of developing a vision; ensure ongoing monitoring of identified action plan; follow-up on ministers' evaluations; continue moving on the Pastoral Relations committee's usual work of supporting the ministers, and figure out how to have ongoing benefit of this small group ministry illustrated by the positive experience of the Cottage Meetings.

Stephen Simonson, Chair
Pastoral Relations Committee

The Report of the Women's Fellowship

Every woman of the church is considered a member of "the Fellowship". A lot of time and many talents are shared by the women to promote the Fellowship and to help support the church and its mission.

In June we organized our annual all-church Tag Sale. It has become a major project and church members and friends are generous with sale items. In fact it has gotten so large that the Fellowship keeps its sale items in Carroll Hall rather than carry everything outdoors. The vendors and community set up outdoors. This arrangement has been very successful for the past 2 years. Thank you to the men who help unpack, sort, lift and arrange the donations and to the men who prepare and serve luncheon to workers and shoppers.

November brought "A New England Fair". This always brings out the talents of our congregation and once again Carroll Hall was filled with lots of beautiful sale items. Once again, many men helped as did the Youth Groups.

The profits from these events were used to:

- Help with the women's retreat
- Purchase new blinds for Carroll Hall
- Pay for a newspaper advertisement when we were looking for a custodian
- Replace a window in Carroll Hall
- Purchase some custodial supplies when the Building & Grounds budget began to run low
- Pay for a Christmas bonus for the custodian
- Contribute to Carol Munson's retirement gift
- Maintain the supplies and paper goods for receptions and "all Church" functions
- Purchase a new stove for the kitchen and maintain supplies of soap, cleanser, etc. for the kitchen
- Pay for the postage for the boxes sent to Iraq

Every youth who went to Silver Lake received a stipend and the Mission Trip received expense money.

The "Adopt a Social Worker" program was not as busy as last year but we were called on to furnish Christmas gifts. The response was great as always.

Other wider mission support in the amount of \$2,000 was contributed through the State Conference of the UCC.

The Fellowship Circle meets once a month on the second Wednesday at 11:15 in the morning. All women are invited to attend whenever they can. This is a time for study, work and fellowship.

Thanks to all the men, women and youth who helped to make 2006 a successful year for projects planned and organized by the Fellowship. There will be lots to do in 2007. Please be prepared to help if you are called.

In the service of our Lord,
Eleanor Harple

The Report of the Web Site Working Group

WSWG MISSION

The Web Site Working Group seeks to facilitate open communication among the various constituencies within our church family and the larger community.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The Church Council authorized establishing a World Wide Web presence on the Internet with a domain name northhavenucc.org and hosted externally by a third party hosting ISP near the end of 2004. Our web site officially went 'live' on December 17, 2004. The primary objective for this initiative is to enhance communication between and among members and friends, to provide an accessible repository of shared resources, and to increase visibility to the larger community.

RECOGNITION OF NHCC'S EFFORTS

Based on our work in developing web-based privacy and publishing policies, the WSWG has been invited to assist in planning a Connecticut Conference-sponsored Forum focused on helping other Connecticut UCC congregations develop policies associated with web-based publishing.

News Feed: If you haven't already seen it, the NHCC is the only church in the Connecticut Conference that publishes a news feed. Currently, the CT UCC posts our news feed on their site which is automatically updated by us.

WEB SITE ACTIVITY

The number of web visitors in 2006 was 22,984, up 441 percent over the number of 5,216 visitors we had in 2005.

MONTH	VISITORS	DISTINCT ORIGINS
2005 (<i>year</i>)	5,216	2,066
January	997	344
February	1,682	549
March	1,242	437
April	1,098	394
May	1,919	458
June	2,247	457
July	1,656	435
August	1,801	377
September	2,146	494
October	2,576	584
November	2,143	516
December	3,477	760
TOTALS	22,984	

Since its inception on December 17, 2004, we've had 28,244 visitations [not necessarily distinct] that originated from 4,545 distinct Internet addresses.

MAJOR SITE CHANGES

From its modest beginnings, our site now consists of more than 175 displayable documents supported by some 500-plus additional files and several databases.

During 2006, the site has grown both in sophistication and in complexity, thanks to the generous feedback of members who have visited the site.

Areas developed during this year include:

- Web Emergency Broadcasting System: During last winter when we had snow cancellations, we responded by developing a method to post special emergency messages on our site that can be easily administered by our ministers.
- Lectionary Readings: Thanks to Ken Welch for suggesting this area and Carol Munson who volunteered to manage the data entry for it, we can more easily prepare for worship and review what we've learned.
- Weekly Sermons: Those who can't attend services can now read and study the lessons summarized by our ministers.
- Council Minutes: The Church Council has approved the concept of publishing its Minutes on our web site. While the Council Minutes are not yet available, the Minutes of the Board of Finance have

been online since 2004. We hope and trust that other Boards and Committees will also use this service to enhance communication.

- Gallery of Events: A place where we can post short photo essays of events that serve to characterize our community.
- The Window: We experimented with making *The Window* downloadable from the web site but were not successful. We hope to resurrect this project when we can solve certain page size and formatting issues so that people near and far can have real-time access to our newsletter.
- Monthly Pastor's Letter: With the help of Carol Munson, we loaded all the Letters starting with January 2005 and continue to add new items monthly as they become available
- Library: We developed our Online Library to be a repository of documents of interest to our members and friends. Currently, our By-Laws, Safe Church Policy, and the 2005 Annual Report are some of the items available. If there are other documents that you believe should be available from the site, please let us know.
- Leadership: In a continuing effort to provide open communication, the WSWG developed the technology to allow anyone to email* any Board or Committee member directly from our web site without disclosing the member's email address [*available only if the member has given permission to receive emails].
- 'Add Your Event': We've provided a link to a convenient, easy-to-use form on the Calendar page to allow people to add an event to the online calendar. For security reasons the form gets mailed to us for subsequent entry into the live database.
- Volunteer Opportunities: You can now find a list of opportunities to volunteer your time and special talents.

FUTURE EFFORTS

Projects we have on the drawing board include:

- Streaming Audio. We are exploring the possibility of providing a way for people to hear our ministers' sermons directly from the web site.
- Posting Meeting Agendas. In an effort to widen member interest in the work done by our boards and committees, we encourage our leadership to make their Agendas and Minutes available online.

ROADBLOCKS TO GROWTH

Our web site is becoming a useful tool to many in our church community. For this usefulness to continue and grow, the WSWG needs your non-technical help.

- Upload new information. Some of the areas in need of frequent information uploads include the Calendar of Events, Sermons, Pastor's Monthly Letter, and Volunteer Opportunities. The WSWG has already developed user-friendly data entry forms to make this activity very easy for almost anyone.
- Write short pieces about what's going on. Shared memories are an essential building block for building community. We are involved in a rich array of events and activities that we could share. Wouldn't it be nice if we were able to read first person articles from our youth about what they learned during their Mission Trip? Pictures would help the rest of our community understand how hard they worked.

A FINAL COMMENT

Our web site can be a useful vehicle for disseminating and collecting information as well as providing a convenient way for visitors to directly contact our ministers, church office or lay leadership on an individual basis. The WSWG encourages each of us to consider how the web site might help solve communication or data collection projects. If you're not sure we can help you, please contact us to get a fresh pair of eyes to look at your project and suggest possible alternatives.

Philip T. DiPeri
Web Site Working Group

The Report of the Board of Finance

I want to start by giving special thanks to several members who made significant increases in their 2006 giving that helped us end the year with a positive balance that will help both last year and 2007. Your generosity is a blessing to our church.

Working with a very tight budget for the Boards and Committees of the church, the Board of Finance early in the year turned its attention to building an innovative program for growth in the church, building on the Cottage Meetings. The six members committed themselves to reading and attending conferences to expand their understanding of the stewardship process. Out of several such meetings, the Board focused on working with an approach called Appreciative Inquiry, which asks participants to visualize their "best experiences" at the church and how they differed from other groups in their lives. The process is seen as multi-year as it involves developing positive enthusiasm for our faith experience at the North Haven Congregational Church. The meetings were held on several days in early October; however, the Board learned that church members could not be convinced that the topic would not be "pledges", so attendance was disappointing.

The severe budget for 2006 included a considerable amount to be raised by events sponsored by various church Boards and individuals, and Church members came through gloriously. The Finance Board wishes to thank the many people who made it possible to more than meet that 2006 goal, including the Spa Day, the Music Committee's Pierpont Concert series, the Men's Fellowship breakfasts, the Springbox Committee's used book sale in April, the Deacons' Goods and Services Auction in October, the Pie Sales in conjunction with activities on the Town Green, the December turkey dinner, and tithing from several Youth events. We appreciate the hard work and ingenuity of members who contributed their skills and time to saving our budget this year. As difficult as it is to pull off a special event, the spiritual benefits were also recognized in some of our "best experiences."

As documented in the newspapers, the church steeple was replaced at the end of summer by the Nextel Corporation and the cell phone tower was activated at the end of the year. Since they expected to start construction in April, payments started at that time. As approved at the last Annual Meeting, the first ten percent (\$1680) went to Outreach for mission projects and the next ten percent to increase the Endowment. With the approval of Council, the rest went to pay off debts from the 2005 budget of pledges to the UCC Connecticut Conference and Killam's Point, and the elevator and telephone service contracts that were expenses transferred from the Endowment but not included in the 2006 budget plan. The final amount was put aside to fund the Sabbatical Year reserve. The 2007 funds will continue as approved to go: 10% to Outreach, 10% to Endowment and the remainder to fund the Property Replacement Reserve (\$12,280) and Special Projects (\$5,000).

This past summer the Board inaugurated the Special Projects program by providing a statement of purpose and application form for the first round. At the November deadline, there was only one application and that was by way of the Christian Education Board and staff for a part-time (10 hours) assistant "shepherd" to work with youth and adults in expanding educational opportunities as were supported by the Cottage Meetings last year. It was funded for \$5000 for the 2007 calendar year. It is an opportunity to test the efficacy of increased staff on member participation and membership growth. The CE Board will supervise the program and quarterly written reports will be made to Finance and Council.

The Stewardship campaign this year, in addition to the Appreciative Inquiry meetings, included a display of committee 2007 budget requests at an October Coffee Hour, two letters with a new style Narrative Budget and tithing materials. In addition the Finance Board brought to Council the need for closer ties with the Boy Scout troops, beginning work on a more professional consolidated financial report, and redefinition of the language around contributions received for use of the church building. The latter was brought to our attention by the Connecticut Conference and is still awaiting expert review.

I wish to give special thanks to the members of the Board of Finance (Karen Beauvais, who is leaving this year, Philip DiPeri, Ann Marie Noel, Adam Schweickert, and Phil James) for their strong commitment of

Report of the Board of Finance (Continued)

time and talent throughout the year. Special thanks go also to our hard working Treasurer, John Tibor, who attended all our meetings as well as Council, and was always prepared with precise and up to date information that was essential to managing the Church budget. Our appreciation also goes to Jody Gallagher, who kept us up to date on the status of pledges and gifts. I also must extend thanks to the Collectors, who each Sunday (and three services on Christmas Eve) count and bank the essential pledge payments and gifts, tracking all the special offerings and fund raisers with the cash-counting assistance of Finance Board members. The financial responsibility falls heavily on volunteers who keep the day-to-day functions happening in a professional manner, even when they are volunteering time and requisite skills.

There is much left to do for the Finance Board as the final budget is still to be attached to this report at this writing. At this writing it will be a very conservative budget again as we share with our membership the financial constraints of rising energy costs. With the grace of God, your generous support and a lot of number crunching, we will be able to present to you the following plan for income and expenses in 2007.

Betsey M. Reid, Chair
Board of Finance

NARRATIVE OPERATING BUDGET 2007

A. PREPARING AND CONDUCTING WORSHIP **\$ 67,590**

Worship is the focal point of our Church. The planning and holding of our Sunday services, weddings, funerals and other special celebrations, involve the Pastor's, Associate Pastor's and Minister of Music's time and effort. Our excellent music program adds vitality to our worship. Salaries/benefits plus weekly bulletins, communion elements, sanctuary decor, worship aids, office support, substitute/guest ministers and organists are essential. This category amounts to almost a third of our annual expenses. Requested: \$71,500.

Non-budget includes special offerings for music/flowers for holiday services; as well as donations of flowers for the Communion Table, volunteers to greet and seat everyone and to read, while Deacons set up for services and communion. Both adult and child volunteer choir members practice and sing out their faith for us. Some endowment funds are used for the music program. Value: **PRICELESS**

B. CARRYING OUT OUR MISSION TO COMMUNITY AND WORLD **\$ 36,910**

We believe assisting our community is part of God's mission for us. Food is purchased for hot meals at the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen twice a month and funds go to local programs. National and world missions of the UCC address poverty and disasters everywhere. Requested: \$40,000

Special offerings also support world-wide missions such as the Heifer Project, Blanket Sunday, and Neighbors in Need. Time and talent of Church members support the Town food pantry, prepare the DESK dinners, serve it, and donate bread and desserts. Youth and adults work through mission trips building homes, sustained by food donated by those at home. Church members give essential supplies for our Social Worker, our troops in Iraq, and donate to the Fairs. Value: **PRICELESS**

C. EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULTS **\$ 39,850**

The best education helps us experience and grow through life. The children and youth are our future and the future of our faith. We owe it to them to prepare them for strong and faithful futures by providing curriculum and supplies plus trained staff leadership and ministry. Requested: \$42,150

A vital volunteer effort of time and talent by Church School teachers, giving their Sundays or other time, planning and sharing, balances the relatively small annual budget contribution. Lifelong friendships and faith are the outgrowth of these faith-building experiences. Value: **PRICELESS**

D. CARING FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY **\$ 49,700**

The staff ministry of visitation and church mailings is another essential aspect of our Church life together. Our very dedicated pastors inspire and coordinate these services, participate in weddings and funerals, and attend to the relationships that keep this big family vital and reflective of God's caring love. Postage and copying, phone service, computers and car allowances support this effort. Requested: \$51,250

Also, volunteers work on the Website, deliver communion, plan weddings, and do Sunday coffee hours and beautiful receptions for special occasions. Value: **PRICELESS**

E. MAINTAINING OUR CHURCH AND PARSONAGE **\$ 60,500**

This Church has been our witness in the community for 287 years and our proud heritage as committed Christians since the early days of our country. Now as before, we take care of its physical plant, lawns and parking lot to continue that experience and also share the building with others to meet the mission needs of the broader community by keeping the lights on, the elevator sound, and the insurance up to date. Our parsonage is also preserved to help us care for our Pastor and his family. Requested: \$62,500

Caring for a building takes planning, practical skills and hard work of volunteers to work, decorate, shovel snow, plant flowers, attend to the library, sort the Food Closet and care for our church. The funds from the steeple lease will go in part to make a reserve for replacement of systems and major repairs. Special contributions of the endowment also help. Value: **PRICELESS**

TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET: \$252,832 - an increase of 4.5% for 2007.

Proposed Budget For 2007

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
INCOME		
Church School	\$ 500	\$ 300
Envelope Income	75	75
Fund Raisers	8,000	8,000
Loose Offerings	2,500	3,000
Past Due Pledges	8,000	5,500
Pledges & Gifts	195,000	199,000
Building Contribution	<u>8,000</u>	<u>6,500</u>
Total Annual Income	\$ 222,075	\$ 222,375
 EXPENSES		
Basic Support	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,657
Buildings & Grounds	5,000	6,525
Christian Education	3,000	3,000
Consociation	600	600
Deacons	1,000	1,000
Insurance	16,000	14,500
Music	2,000	2,000
Office Expense	13,000	16,000
Outreach	2,000	2,000
Payroll	121,673	124,000
Sabbatical	500	500
Staff Benefits	56,222	59,000
Stewardship	50	50
Utilities	<u>16,500</u>	<u>19,000</u>
Total Annual Expenses	\$ 242,045	\$ 252,832
Net Annual Income	\$ (19,970)	\$ (30,457)
Balance Forward	970	10,457
Trustee Transfers	19,000	20,000
New Balance	\$ 0	\$ 0

Proposed Staff Compensation Budget 2007

Salaries

Salary	2006	2007
Pastor	\$ 41,121	\$ 41,943
Associate Pastor	18,508	18,878
Minister of Music	27,897	28,455
Administrative Secretary	22,009	22,449
Sexton	<u>12,138</u>	<u>12,381</u>
	<u>\$ 121,673</u>	<u>\$ 124,106</u>

Proposed Staff Benefits Budget 2007

<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Senior Minister</u>	<u>Associate Minister</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Car Allowance	\$ 2,500.00	*	
Cell Phone	600.00	*	
Dental Insurance	945.00	\$ 945.00	
Disability Insurance	819.00	*	
Group Life Insurance	50.00	*	
Group Medical Insurance	14,886.00	14,886.00	
Pension	7,888.02	*	
Medicare Church	608.17	273.73	\$ 917.63
Social Security Church	2,600.47	1,170.44	3,923.67
Professional Expenses	900.00	50.00	
Parsonage Electricity	1,300.00	*	
Parsonage Gas	2,200.00	*	
Parsonage Sewer	160.00	*	
Parsonage Telephone	600.00	*	
Parsonage Water	300.00	*	
Total	\$ 36,356.66	\$ 17,079.17	\$ 4,841.30
			\$ 58,277.13

* This Benefit not applicable.

Report of the Treasurer

**Year to Date Budget Report
01/01/06 through 12/31/06**

**Church – All Accounts
12/31/06**

Category Description	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income/Expense			
Income			
Balance Forward	970.00	970.00	0.00
Building Contribution	7,395.00	8,000.00	-605.00
Church School	333.47	500.00	-166.53
Contingency – Trustee	19,000.00	19,000.00	0.00
Envelope Income	74.00	75.00	-1.00
Fund Raisers	11,312.05	8,000.00	3,312.05
Interest	16.71	0.00	16.71
Loose Offerings	3,934.82	2,500.00	1,434.82
Past Due Pledges	7,075.00	8,000.00	-925.00
Pledges and Gifts	<u>197,324.33</u>	<u>195,000.00</u>	<u>2,324.33</u>
Total Income	247,435.38	242,045.00	5,390.38
Expenses			
Basic Support	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00
Buildings and Grounds Expense	5,709.84	5,000.00	-709.84
Christian Education	2,945.61	3,000.00	54.39
Consociation	561.25	600.00	38.75
Deacons	167.85	1,000.00	832.15
Insurance	16,298.98	16,000.00	-298.98
Music	1,590.00	2,000.00	410.00
Office Expense	15,866.99	13,000.00	-2,866.99
Outreach	1,889.26	2,000.00	110.74
Payroll	114,146.93	121,673.00	7,526.07
Sabbatical	500.00	500.00	0.00
Staff Benefits	55,880.94	56,222.00	341.06
Stewardship	44.75	50.00	5.25
Utilities	<u>16,875.67</u>	<u>16,500.00</u>	<u>-375.67</u>
Total Expenses	<u>236,978.07</u>	<u>242,045.00</u>	<u>5,066.93</u>
Total Income/Expense	<u>10,457.31</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>10,457.31</u>

Report of the Treasurer (Continued)

**Account Balances
As of 12/31/06**

Account	12/31/06 Balance
Assets	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Church Account	\$ 43,017.60
Memorial Gifts Account	14,392.61
Food Closet Account	<u>14,980.55</u>
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	<u>\$ 72,390.76</u>
Total Assets	\$ 72,390.76
Liabilities	
	<u>0.00</u>
Total Net Worth	<u>\$ 72,390.76</u>

**Reconciliation of Church Accounts
Balance Forward 12/31/06**

Balance Forward	\$ 10,457.31
2007 Pledges	9,989.00
Antenna Cell Tower	1,800.00
Mission Trip	3,443.85
Sabbatical	7,979.00
Organ Fund	1,712.39
Special Collections Poinsettia	712.50
Vacation Bible School	1,001.59
Roof Repair	1,000.00
Outreach (for DESK)	1,059.10
Outreach Alternative Gifts	1,020.00
Music	554.00
Worship Team	500.00
Rankin Wedding Gift	600.00
Music Christmas	188.00
Library	158.01
Guertin / Ferner Music Fund	100.00
Church Directories	30.00
Hymnal Purchase	25.00
Floral (Thanksgiving Cornucopia)	(48.15)
Secretary Gift	715.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	21.00
Total Church Account	<u>\$ 43,017.60</u>

Report of the Treasurer (Continued)

**Memorial Gifts Account
2006**

Balance Forward, 1/1/06	\$ 11,752.02
	Income
Gifts	3,355.00
Interest	<u>24.41</u>
Total Income	3,379.41
Expenses	
<i>Computer for Sr. Pastor's Office</i>	<u>738.82</u>
Total Expenses	738.82
Balance 12/31/06	<u>\$ 14,392.61</u>

**Food Closet Account
2006**

Balance Forward, 1/1/06	\$11,316.86
	Income
Gifts	7,613.87
Correction of 2005 Disbursements	30.00
Interest	<u>24.07</u>
Total Income	7,667.94
Expenses	
Florida Conference UCC Disaster Recovery	500.00
Eleanor Harple (Cash & Carry Supplies)	750.00
Connecticut Natural Foods	740.00
Stop and Shop Gift Cards	900.00
Tastebuds Deli	<u>1,114.25</u>
Total Expenses	4,004.25
Balance 12/31/06	<u>\$ 14,980.55</u>

Report of the Treasurer (Continued)

Utilities
1/01/06 through 12/31/06

Description	Amount
Church Electric	\$ 5,598.23
Church Gas	8,931.02
Church Sewer	138.43
Church Telephone	1,946.87
Church Water	<u>261.12</u>
Total Utilities	<u>\$16,875.67</u>

Building Contribution
1/01/06 through 12/31/06

Building Contribution	Amount
AA – Monday Morning	\$ 300.00
AA – Thursday Evening	600.00
Alanon	1,315.00
Danish Sisterhood	200.00
Danish Brotherhood	125.00
Masons	400.00
Miscellaneous	2,480.00
Mothers of Twins	225.00
Nat'l Assn of Retired Federal Employees	200.00
Nutmeg Treasure Hunters	375.00
Weddings	<u>1,175.00</u>
Total Building Contribution	<u>\$ 7,395.00</u>

Insurance & Workers' Compensation
1/01/06 through 12/31/06

Liability	\$ 14,172.88
Workers' Compensation	<u>2,126.10</u>
Total	<u>\$ 16,298.98</u>

**Staff Benefits
2006**

Staff Benefits	Amount
Car	\$ 2,500.00
Cell Phone	600.00
Dental	1,840.00
Disability	818.80
Group Life	50.00
MC – Church	777.87
Medical	27,852.00
Parsonage Electric	1,572.08
Parsonage Gas	2,002.57
Parsonage Sewer	171.00
Parsonage Telephone	516.76
Parsonage Water	367.24
Pension	8,247.64
Professional Expenses	1,010.72
SS – Church	<u>7,554.26</u>
Total Staff Benefits	<u>\$ 55,880.94</u>

Special Collections 2006

Neighbors-in-Need	\$ 1,174.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	1,803.00
Veterans of the Cross	961.00
Lilies Income	
<i>To One Great Hour of Sharing</i>	982.50
Poinsettia Income	
For Community Social Needs	712.50
Blanket Sunday	580.00
Alternative Gifts to:	
Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen	160.00
Habitat for Humanity of Greater NH	280.00
Heifer Project	<u>580.00</u>
Total Special Collections	<u>\$ 7,233.00</u>

The Report of the Board of Trustees

This year has been positive for Church Endowment Funds invested with Wachovia Securities. Lelas and Madigan of Wachovia Securities provided us with a return of 10.1% after their fees of \$4,080.23 and commission of \$150, but before our budget support expense. Our year end investment with Wachovia is \$624,210.84. The return after budget support was 7.7%.

It might be noted that in 1997 the Endowment was \$638,629 and budget support was only \$8,000. After increasing budget support, market fluctuations and \$100,000 support for an elevator; our total Endowment is \$636,874 for the year ending 2006. This is \$1,755 less than 1997, although our budget support for 2007 is anticipated to be \$20,000.

Cottage meetings noted a concern that the Trustees were not taking enough risk; the implication being that with more risk we would earn a greater return. The Trustees met on August 29, 2006 and discussed this concern with our investment advisor John Lelas, with Pastor Scott Morrow in attendance. Notice of this meeting was given to the Congregation. After listening to our advisor on various scenarios and our own personal feelings concerning our responsibilities as Trustees, we kept our current investment style. As of this writing the endowment funds with Wachovia are currently 58% in equities, 41% in corporate bonds and GNMA type securities, and 1% in cash investments.

A concern was later expressed regarding not spending principal and only spending interest and dividends. We basically use this strategy for Restricted Funds. If this strategy were to be used for the Endowment we would have to change our investment strategy to an even more conservative investment style. Currently the projected income from the endowment is \$17,000, but for the year 2007 we are supporting the budget with \$20,000 and paying our advisor over \$4,000. To make the "only spending dividends and interest" strategy work, we would have to increase our income by more than \$7,000. This would require more investment in bond type securities and dividend-paying stocks. Investments in bond type securities, while lending stability to a portfolio, do not provide the higher rate of total return that stocks do in the long run. We would have missed more of the market's gain in 2006. Thus our total Endowment might be less than it is now. In regard to not spending the principal; the total amount of bequests, according to our records, is well below the current amount of the endowment. We are in no danger of spending the principal.

The current investment style which is more concerned with total return allowed us to capture much of the gain in the stock market without exposing us to undue risk if the market had not been good. The current Trustees' policy of using 3% of the prior year's balance to support the budget and with expenses of nearly 1% to our advisor, will allow the principal to grow over time regardless of nearly any changes in the stock or bond market. It will also allow for sustainable increased support to our Church budget, which is a major concern of the Trustees.

Due to the efforts of Priscilla Bradford, repairs were made at the parsonage in the amount of \$2,650.41 from the Cooper Fund, which was under the original estimate. Priscilla obtained help from the Youth Group with the preparation for painting. A donation of \$200 was made to the Youth Group for their support. Bill Hawthorn generously donated his time painting, as well as the paint and materials. An additional \$1,321 from the Cooper Fund was given to the Treasurer to be used by Building & Grounds. This year the Cooper Fund will increase its principal by one percent to allow for inflation, as per Trustees' Policy.

The remaining balance of \$1141.80 that was left over from the fund raising for the elevator, was turned over to the Treasurer to help pay for the elevator maintenance contract. It is expected that elevator maintenance contracts will be part of future Church budgets.

At the April 26th meeting it was decided to move the Barbara Muirhead Funds from the Harbor Capital Appreciation Fund to a Bank CD at Webster earning 5% interest. The Harbor Fund since the year 2000 has had a negative cumulative return for us. With this action all Restricted Funds are in interest bearing

Report of the Treasurer (Continued)

accounts. Interest rates increased this year which allowed us to open a Money Market Account. Trustees' funds of \$10,000 were renewed in the Cornerstone Fund at 5% for 30 months. The Cornerstone Fund is a UCC- sponsored Fund which lends money to UCC Churches for building projects. The Cornerstone Fund provides us with a way to diversify, to help UCC Churches, and receive a competitive return on our investment. Also, Phyllis Kaercher was elected backup Financial Agent, as per Church by-laws.

The Music Fund has received gifts of \$575. It has also been agreed to give \$325 to the Music Committee in 2007 for Easter Music. A gift of \$200 was given to the Carroll-Dudley Christian Education Fund. We thank everyone who supports these funds.

The Board of Trustees believes that all adult members of our congregation should have a Will and somewhere in that Will the North Haven Congregational Church should be mentioned. It is also felt that this is the place to express the importance of our Church in your life.

Finally, I would like to thank fellow Trustees Beth Anderson and Phyllis Kaercher for their help and support this year.

Bryant Munson
Chair, Trustees

The Report of the Board of Trustees
January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006

Summary Statement of Income and Expenses

<u>INCOME</u>		
Description	Charged to Acct	Amount
<u>Restricted Funds</u>		
Carroll Dudley Christian Ed Fund	200.00	
Guertin Ferner Music Fund	575.00	
Webster Interest Apportioned among Funds	125.60	
Total Restricted Income		900.60
<u>Unrestricted</u>		
Security Litigation	116.42	
Antenna	1620.00	
Cornerstone Interest	882.43	
Webster Interest	20.23	
Total Unrestricted Income		2639.08
 <u>EXPENSE</u>		
Fund	Description	Amount
<u>Restricted Funds</u>		
Brigham Fund		123.00
Accessibility Fund	Elevator	1141.80*
Cooper Maintenance Fund	Parsonage	2650.41
Cooper Maintenance Fund	Buildings & Grounds	1321.00
Total Restricted Expense		3914.21
<u>Unrestricted</u>		
	Webster Safe Deposit	40.00
	Church operating budget	19000.00
	Youth Mission	200.00
	Checks & Deposit Slips	5.84
	Labor Law Posters	72.90
Total Unrestricted Funds Expense		19318.74

*This account was closed in 2006.

Trustee Fund Status 12/31/06

Restricted Fund Status 12/31/06

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund Balance</u>	<u>Endowment Principal</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Available Per Trust</u>
Guertin/Ferner Music Fund	\$ 8,510.28	\$ 6,835.36	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,674.92
Carroll/Dudley Education Fund	3,591.30	3,070.00	\$ 0.00	521.30
Brigham Fund - Decorations	4,894.86	3,219.79	123.00	1,675.07
Muirhead Music & Flowers	4,719.16	5,000.00	0.00	0.00
Eleanor Cooper Maintenance	\$79,035.68	\$61,840.28	\$ 3,971.41	\$17,195.40

Asset Summary

<u>Restricted</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Carroll/Dudley Education	\$ 3,591.30	\$ 3,249.92	CD/MMKT
Guertin/Ferner Fund	8,510.28	7,659.44	CD/MMKT
Brigham Fund - Decorations	4,894.86	4,835.87	CD/MMKT
Eleanor Cooper Maintenance	79,035.48	80,192.13	CD/MMKT
Muirhead Music & Decorations	4,719.16	4,736.27	CD
Accessibility Fund	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,141.80</u>	<u>Closed</u>
<u>Total Restricted</u>	\$100,751.28	\$101,814.42	

UNRESTRICTED FUND STATUS

Unrestricted

Cash Reserve Account		737.00
Securities, Bonds, Govt., Check	<u>\$624,210.88 *</u>	<u>\$580,537.00</u>
Total Portfolio	\$624,210.88	\$581,274.00

Other

Trustees' Checking Acct.	\$ 2,539.15	\$ 4,968.80
Cornerstone Fund	10,000.00	10,526.66
Total Unrestricted	\$636,750.03	\$596,769.46

TOTAL ALL TRUSTEE FUNDS 12/31/06

Total All Assets	\$737,501.31	\$ 698,583.89
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Change from Prior Year \$	\$ 38,917.42	\$ 5,312.76
Change from Prior Year %	5.57%	0.76%

*This figure includes one member's pledge for 2007 received on December 29, 2006 in the amount of \$2,999.78

Board of Trustees' Investment Policy

It is the purpose of the Board of Trustees of the North Haven Congregational Church to provide an opportunity for members and friends to make charitable gifts to our church. The Trustees shall encourage adults of all ages to have a will and encourage all members and friends to include North Haven Congregational Church in such will.

The second purpose of the Board of Trustees is to support the mission of the North Haven Congregational Church. With that purpose in mind, the Trustees have an endowment fund.

Objectives of the endowment fund are:

1. Investment of principal to maintain at least a growth of principal commensurate with inflation.
2. Investment to provide income to support the operating budget of the Church based on up to 3% of principal of the prior year. Trustees feel this is a simple way to say what amount could be available for next years budget and will rarely reduce the endowment principal over time.
3. Investments shall be in broadly traded vehicles only with exposure to most investment classes (i.e. Large Cap Value, Small Cap Growth, etc.)
4. No investments will be made in derivatives, shorts or margin accounts.
5. Securities given to the endowment shall be given to the investment advisor as soon as possible, unless a special meeting of the Trustees is held within 35 days of receipt of the securities and the Trustees direct otherwise.
6. Fixed income securities shall be A or better, preferreds shall be BBB or better and convertibles A or better according to S&P, Moody or Fitch.
7. The books of the Trustees shall be audited by the Auditing Committee of the North Haven Congregational Church annually.
8. Consideration will be given to socially responsible investments.

Gifts to the Trustees of the North Haven Congregational Church:

- A. Since detailed restrictions on gifts to the church may be difficult to administer, donors are encouraged to add their gift to the Endowment Fund which permits use of the income for programs of the church.
- B. Accounts for more restricted purposes may be established by the Trustees.
- C. Accounts below \$20,000 may involve the spending of principal, unless otherwise stated by a will dated prior to 7/1/2006.
- D. Accounts above \$20,000 will maintain a 1% annual growth in principal and make the balance above the principal available for the general purpose of the gift. These accounts will usually be fixed income investments.

The Trustees understand their fiduciary responsibility to adhere to the above guidelines and shall not be personally liable if the above guidelines have been adhered to.

Approved by Church Council 5/17/2005