

**Second Congregational Meeting House Society  
Unitarian Universalist, Nantucket, Massachusetts  
Annual Meeting - January 22, 2017**

**11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**Agenda**

Second  
Congregational  
Meeting House  
Society  

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Unitarian  
Universalist  

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Nantucket  
Massachusetts  
02554

Physical Address:  
11 Orange Street

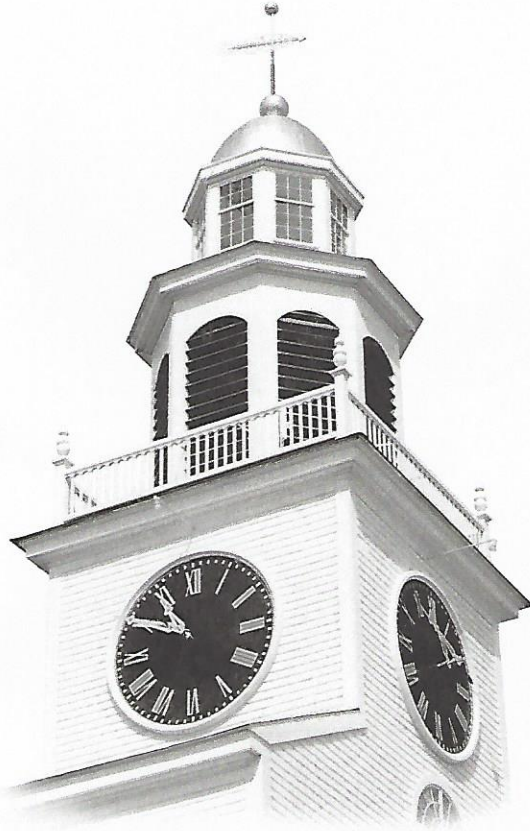
Mailing Address:  
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Rev. Linda Simmons  
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Church Office  
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- I. Call to Order and Establish a Quorum**  
*Jan Ellsworth, Board of Trustees President*
- II. Opening Words**  
*Rev. Linda*
- III. Presentation and Approval of Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting**  
*Steve Estabrooks, Board of Trustees Clerk*
- IV. Discussion and Approval of Operating Budget for 2017**  
*Paul Stewart, Treasurer*
- V. Election of Board of Trustees Members**  
*Susan Richards, Nominating Committee*
- VI. Election of Treasurer**  
*Susan Richards*
- VII. Election of South Church Preservation Fund Board Members**  
*Susan Richards*
- VIII. Election of Nominating Committee**  
*Susan Richards*
- IX. Statement of Conscience**  
*Gary Langley*
- X. Make it Stop**  
*Carl Borchert*
- XI. Adjournment**  
*Jan Ellsworth*

# Annual Report – 2016



Second Congregational Meeting House Society  
Unitarian Universalist  
Nantucket, MA

January 22, 2017

## Board of Trustees - 2016

Name	Term Ends
Jan Ellsworth, President	January 2017
Val Hall, Vice President	January 2019
Stephen Estabrooks, Clerk	January 2017
Paul Stewart, Treasurer	Elected Annually
Lora Stewart	January 2018
Joanna Greenfield	January 2018
Cynthia Csabay	January 2018
Clay Twombly	January 2019
Joy Margolis (resigned in May)	
Christine Sanford (appointed to serve out remaining term of Joy Margolis)	January 2018

Board terms are three years, except for the Treasurer whose term is one year. Board members, including the Treasurer, are elected by the congregation at the Annual Meeting. The Board elects its other officers annually from among its members.

## Staff - 2016

Rev. Linda Simmons, Minister

Rev. Ted Anderson, Minister Emeritus

Diane Lehman, Director of Music

Leyah Jensen, Youth Programs' Coordinator

Lucretia Voigt, Office Manager

Chuck Gieg, Bookkeeper

Ed Sullivan, Custodial Sexton



## **Minister's Report – 2016**

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Minister since August 2013. Ministry here on Nantucket in our UU Meeting House invites me into a life of insight, whole-heartedness, sincerity, compassion, community engagement and integrity. This is an invitation I accept each day with great joy.

This year I led worship services and offered sermons on 36 Sundays. The topics were wide ranging and included themes such as: *Rebirthing Our American Vision*, *Music and the American Ethos*, *Cultivating Empathy*, *Where Climate Change and Philosophy Meet*, *God of Dirt*, *Celebrating 100 Years: A Celebration of Susie Jarrell* and *Healing Together*. We welcomed some guests to our services including story teller and psychologist Lani Peterson on April 17<sup>th</sup> who spoke about *When a Story is Heard*, and speakers from our Muslim community, Michael Wolfe on August 7<sup>th</sup> who spoke about *Being Muslim in a Modern World* and Dr. Abrar Qureshi who spoke on November 6<sup>th</sup> in a talk entitled *Of Nations and Tribes: Getting Beyond Cavemen and Cavewomen*. We also had our Blessing of the Animals outside in front of the sanctuary doors where the rain held off for one more year on October 2nd, and our Walk through the Doorway on January 1st to celebrate the New Year which included writing cards to ourselves about ways we could bring more peace into our lives and the lives of others. I will mail these back in the fall. Sunday morning attendance averaged 51 people.

This year our social justice work through the 7<sup>th</sup> Principle Project has grown exponentially with the formation of Food Rescue which picks up food that would have gone to waste from restaurants, markets and other venues and brings it to the Food Pantry and their network. We also made two trips to Ascentria, a Lutheran social services agency in Worcester: once to deliver household items for a refugee family just entering this country and once to bring school supplies for unaccompanied minor refugee children attending high school. We created Make It Stop to bring some gunsense to the conversation about gun violence and to educate ourselves about what we can do to make a difference. Make It Stop hosted the movie *Newtown* at the Dreamland and is bringing some of our representatives here to speak to us about how we can remain active. There is so much more that Gary Langley wrote about in his report to follow on the 7<sup>th</sup> Principle Project.

Our latest Meeting House initiative has been the coming together of *What Now*, a group formed just after the election to consider how we can continue to act as good stewards of democracy in this our great nation.

Sunday morning music is still rich and varied. Diane Lehman, Director of Music, continues the tradition of musical excellence at the Meeting House. Under Diane's direction, the Meeting House Choir presented quality vocal music on Sunday mornings. Our small choir fills the Meeting House with joyous music each Sunday that resonates with the theme of the service. How blessed we are to have them and Diane as our Music Director. To read more about what has been happening in the area of music, continue on to find Diane Lehman's report.

In addition to my Sunday morning responsibilities, I officiated seven weddings and seven memorial services.



The RE committee, which welcomed Alison Levine and Lora Stewart in 2016, has been very busy this year with the hire of Leyah Jensen as our new RE Youth Programs' Coordinator. The development of ACK-spress, a junior youth group for ages 9-12, is a wonderful outcome of this hire and begins on January 13, 2017 with over 9 enrollees to date. Sunday morning RE is also bursting with art and enthusiasm. I could not be more pleased with the progress of RE as we enter the New Year! Susan Richard's report as RE chair will fill in more details.

We welcomed 12 new members in 2016: Cheryl Creighton, Laura A. Donnelly, Jamie Dickenson, Pat Jones, James W. Flaherty, Sea Glassman, Carl K. Borchert, Randi P. Allfather, David Ramsdell, Sarah India Lydon, Brain McDermott and Kathryn St. Juste. How blessed we are to include them in our community!

I devote a large part of my ministry to pastoral care. I made numerous house and hospital calls. Many parishioners also come to the parsonage for tea and conversation. I have learned so much about compassion, presence, love, forgiveness, hope and community from showing up in this way with so many of you. This part of my ministry blesses me deeply.

I taught a World Religion class in 2016 from April-May.

I continue to be very active in the island community as a hospice chaplain and chaplain on the Palliative and Supportive Care Team. I am a member of the Interfaith Council and a board member of The Behavioral Health Task Force and The Alliance for Substance Abuse. I am also the Grievance Officer for Nantucket Housing Authority.

I extend my thanks to members of the Board especially President Jan Ellsworth and Vice President Val Hall and clerk Stephen Estabrooks; and to Finance Committee members and Treasurer Paul Stewart for their extraordinary talents and commitment to the congregation. Committee chairs and members deserve equal thanks as well— Susan Richards, Religious Exploration Chair; Val Hall, Lay Led Service Committee Chair; Bob Lehman, Building and Grounds Chair; Gary Langley, 7<sup>th</sup> Principle Project Chair; Lora Stewart, Caring and Membership Committees' Chair; Barbara Elder, Committee on Ministry Chair; Paul Stewart, South Church Preservation Fund Chair; Susan Richards, Nominating Committee Chair; Val Hall and Christine Sanford, Coffee Hour Aficionados; and Joanne Polster, Manager of Church Archives. And last but not least much gratitude to our staff: Diane Lehman, Director of Music; Lucretia Voigt, Office Manager; Leyah Jensen, RE Youth Programs' Coordinator; and Ed Sullivan, Sexton -- for their continued service and devotion. I also thank my colleague, Ted Anderson, *Minister Emeritus*, for the blessing of his friendship.

*I extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your commitment, steadfastness and whole-heartedness. It is a great honor and privilege to serve as your minister.*

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Simmons, Minister



## **President's Report - Board of Trustees - 2016**

2016 was a year of continued stability for our congregation supported by the hard work of not only the Board of Trustees but the many committees that support our congregation in a wide variety of ways. Because of these hard working groups, the state of our congregation remains very good. Rev. Linda continues to provide us with leadership in all things.

You will see the names of many of our hardworking committee members in the reports that follow but I would like to mention names of my fellow Board members. We have been truly a team in every sense of the word. Each of us brought our unique talents and skill sets to this dedicated Board. Thank you to: Vice-president Val Hall, Clerk Steve Estabrooks, Treasurer Paul Stewart, Lora Stewart, Joanna Greenfield, Clay Twombly, and Cynthia Csabay. Joy Margolis left us midyear and we were fortunate to have Christine Sanford step into her open position. Joy has been greatly missed. Steve and I will be stepping off the Board this year. This has been a busy and challenging year in many ways and I will be forever grateful for the wonderful Board that I have served with.

To prepare for the writing of this report I have read through the minutes of our 2016 board meetings, our 2015 Annual Meeting, and the spring and fall board retreats.

I have listed a range of some of the topics discussed and worked on by the Board of Trustees over the course of 2016:

- One of our Board goals for the year was to spend some time educating ourselves on the basics of Unitarian Universalism. We felt it was important to be informed to provide the best possible leadership during the year. We read selections from A People So Bold, the UU Primer and Vision, Mission, and Covenant: Creating a Future Together.
- The Board spent many hours discussing the AR Renovations and encouraging forward progress in this important gathering space.
- The Board developed and implemented Congregational goals, Principles into Action, for us to work towards over the next 3 years. We found that small congregational meetings held throughout the summer and early fall was a good way to hear what everyone was thinking about this important initiative. We applied our seven principles to each goal.

Briefly the goals are:

1. Continue to foster Social Justice Initiatives.
  2. To make a firm commitment to Lifelong Religious Exploration.
  3. To develop an effective Communication Plan.
  4. To involve more members of the congregation in Leadership.
- We posted for a new Youth Programs' Coordinator position and were lucky enough to hire one in November 2016.
  - The Board participated in a spring and fall retreat.
  - An extremely successful Goods and Services auction was held in August with 100% Board participation.
  - The Board began discussions on Rev. Linda's upcoming Sabbatical in 2018. The Committee on Ministry will start to discuss the needed arrangements early in 2017.



- The Last of Rev. Linda's formal UUA Minister's evaluation was accomplished using a three-pronged approach by the Board, Committee on Ministry, and the Minister.
- The Seventh Principle Project continues to make a strong statement in our community by projects such as the hugely successful food rescue.
- Another pledge campaign has been very successful. Thanks to all who helped with the campaign along with all of you who have pledged!
- Thanks to many able hands, a successful craft fair was held over the Christmas stroll and a beautiful tree was on display at the annual Festival of Trees.

One thing we can all be proud of is how our minister and congregation have stepped up in these difficult times. Our liberal faith requires us to stand up for what is right and let our voices be heard. I feel that this year we have been a place of refuge and love for ourselves and those most in need. We opened our doors to our local Muslim community – something we can all be proud of.

Thank you to the Congregation for allowing me to serve as Board president in 2016. I have learned much from Rev. Linda, as well as from my fellow board and committee members.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Ellsworth  
2016 Board President

### **Clerk, Board of Trustees - 2016**

The Clerk's Committee, comprised of Stephen Estabrooks (Clerk), Paul Stewart, Lora Stewart and Susan Richards will meet prior to the 2016 Annual Meeting to review the membership and determine the exact count of pledging, island resident, congregation members. This number will be presented to the Annual Meeting to be held January 22, 2016.

This number has financial implications. As a member of Ballou Channing District and the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association), we are responsible for paying a certain fee for each of these members.

Meeting House attendance has been consistently accounted for by Peter Richards and David Hall. This includes the number of children as well as guests. The total attendance per service for the year averaged 51 and with the RE (children attending Religious Education) accounting for 4 per week. The total attendance for the Sanctuary was 1139 for a weekly average of 60, while the total attendance for Hendrix Hall was 1413 for a weekly average of 46. Total attendance increased by 1.7% over last year while the RE remained the same.

The one service held outside the Meeting House, for the Blessing of the Animals, is not included in the totals above, but was estimated to be at 42.

I would like to thank everyone on the Board of Trustees who helped me keep the minutes of the monthly meetings as clear and accurate as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Estabrooks, Clerk

## **Building & Grounds – 2016**

As any of you who own a house know, they are constantly deteriorating. At the ripe old age of 208 our Meeting House is no exception. The church however is merely upper middle aged when compared with the parsonage which I'm told is 233. Over this last year there have been major repairs, minor cosmetics, and general upkeep. The B&G committee consists of Craig Sperry, David Hall, Dennis Simmons, and Bob Lehman. These committee members not only show up for monthly meetings, but see to it that needed maintenance is performed. Either doing it themselves or finding those who can.

Here is a short list of what's been done beyond keeping the lights on, toilets flowing, heat and A.C. running, paper goods in stock. It includes nothing that might have transpired up in the tower.

### **Maintenance in and around the meeting house.**

Thanks to Faro de Luz and the decorating committee; the bathrooms, connecting hall, and kitchen have been painted.

The rear entry hall; walls, ceiling, floor and stairs have been scraped and painted.

New lighting has been installed in the activities room with the ceiling plastered and primed in preparation for this coming year's painting.

The Hendrix Hall entry door had its closer repaired and bottom shaved.

Wrought iron railings leading to the H.H. door were sanded and painted.

A broken window pane in sanctuary alley side window has been replaced.

Organ lights missing for 3 years have been fabricated as well as new side wall sconces, and new chandelier to be delivered in January. This is really an S.C.P.F. accomplishment, but the B&G has been keeping tabs.

### **Maintenance in and around the Parsonage**

The parsonage roof has been replaced.

The parsonage gutters have been replaced and painted.

The parsonage driveway side storm door has been shaved, and a new door knob was installed for the second year in a row.

The parsonage second floor bath has been painted.

A leak in the rear wall of the first floor parsonage bath was mitigated with the roof replacement.

Consequent interior plaster and paint failure was repaired and repainted.



No doubt I have neglected many other things that have been accomplished, and the names of those who accomplished them. My apologies for any omissions.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Lehman

### **Activity Room Renovation Committee – 2016**

This past year the renovation project for the Activity Room formed a new committee that includes Paul Stewart, Bob Lehman, Christine Sanford, and Larry Levine, who is representing the Shirat Ha 'Yam congregation.

The two bathrooms, hallway, and kitchen walls and cabinets were painted by members of the Faro de Luz Congregation gratis. Thank you!

Ryder Electric Company replaced all the lighting fixtures in the large room and the children's area. We met with Pen Austen to assess the possibility and costs involved in repairing the two deteriorating brick columns. She also examined the concrete floor area where spalling has occurred.

We are still researching flooring options and costs with several vendors on island. So, good progress has been made and we look forward to further improvements in 2017!

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Sanford

### **Lay-Led Service Committee – 2016**

The Lay-Led Service Committee has been meeting on a monthly basis to plan one Sunday's service each month. The committee consists of Val Hall (chair), Kat Robinson-Grieder, Susan and Peter Richards, Grace Noyes, and Emily Seawall-Butler. In addition, we are happy to welcome new member Britt Martinez, but have regretfully accepted the resignations of longtime members Linda Sperry and Jack Weinhold.

Here are the lay-led services we conducted in 2016:

Date	Leader	Speaker(s)	Topic
17 Jan	Kat	Rev. Bill Steelman, First Congregational Church	What's Wrong with Organized Religion?
28 Feb	Kat	Tess Pearson	The Work of Family and Children's Services
20 Mar	Val	David Hall, Grace Noyes, Dennis Simmons	Spiritual Journeys

24 Apr	Susan & Peter	Scott Leonard	Marine Mammal Conservation on Nantucket
15 May	Emily	Emily Seawall	Breaking the Habit of Being Yourself
26 Jun	Val	David Gagnon	The Maria Mitchell Association: Fostering Curiosity in Science and Nature
24 Jul	Jack	Dr. Alok Kalia	Taking Our Measure: Perspectives of a Hindu UU
28 Aug	Kat	Members of Congregation	A Celebration of Summer Members
25 Sep	Susan & Peter	Peter Panchy, retired NHS Social Studies teacher	Our Civic Duty of Voting
23 Oct	Kat	Joanna Greenfield	How I Became Green
27 Nov	Val & Kat	Members of Congregation	Gratitude (including the reading of statements from the congregation about what they were most grateful for)
18 Dec	Peter & Susan	Members of Committee	Winter Solstice Celebration

Our next lay-led service will be Jan 29, when Charlene Thurston of Palliative and Supportive Care of Nantucket (PASCON) will speak on “Reflections from the Bedside”. During February, we will be assisting at services conducted by seminarians whom Rev. Linda has invited to speak in her absence. We would love to hear from the congregation with your ideas for future lay-led services. We would also love to have some of you join our committee, even if only for a short time.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Hall

### **Committee on Ministry – 2016**

Serving this year on the Committee on Ministry were Barbara Elder, Peter Richards, Val Hall and Holly McGowan.

The Unitarian Universalist Association has a rigorous process for a new minister to become “official.” It includes having a Committee on Ministry that meets monthly to review specific items in relation to the ministry of the church and also to serve as a feedback committee for the minister. In June 2015, the committee completed an evaluation form for Rev. Linda Simmons and submitted it to the UUA (July 2014- June 2015). June 2016 was the last report that the COM submitted to UUA. The COM agreed to disband following the final report. After review, Rev. Simmons was informed that she will achieve Final Fellowship at the General Assembly Conference in New Orleans this spring. We



celebrate her good and hard work on this journey and it was an honor for the COM to serve for her and our congregation.

Rev. Simmons began her service on late July 2013. Most of the members of the COM served on the Search Committee and then transitioned into the “new” COM. The responsibility of the COM is not to officially plan or recommend. The COM serves in an advisory capacity offering support and suggestions.

In the fall, Rev. Simmons indicated that she would like to have a COM continue. I have agreed to continue serving on the committee and Rev. Simmons is in the process of securing additional members.

Thank you to all our former Committee on Ministry members. May we all continue to represent our congregational needs well and support our minister.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Elder

### **Music Director – 2016**

Thank you for your continued support of the music program. As Musical Director this year 2016, I was able to work with the choir, play the organ, play music of a wide variety, collaborate with members and Rev. Linda and the soloists to create what I think was an eclectic mix of programming. My experience here has been a positive one, enriched by the contributions of so many talented musicians. Rev. Linda Simmons has been a wonderful leader and supporter, colleague and friend and she continues to mentor me as a church employee. Lucretia is awesome as are the members of the Board! Thanks to the choir for supporting my musical decisions and choices. It has been a wonderful year of music and song thanks to all the talented church musicians we have here.

As the Music Director, I continued my role as a musical support person for Rev. Linda, whose themed programs each Sunday provided the impetus to create a program of congruent musical offerings. The choir continues to be a joy to work with. There always seems to be just enough voices to put together an anthem for at least 3 Sundays a month. We sang for most every service in 2016- repeating the varied repertoire favorites due to time constraints, but thanks to their abilities and talents. There are some that attend every rehearsal and every Sunday, for which I am grateful. I can always count on them to keep me on my toes. I might use this space to thank each of them, Nancy, Linda, Grace, Kathy, Cynthia, Polly, Nancy T., Phaedra, Val, Karin, Bob, Al, Craig, and Haziell. Liam even joined in while he was here this summer, as did Anne R. and Sea Glassman. The choir is the only group at our church that stands as one each Sunday and willingly delivers a proud performance that moves us and reminds us of the importance of music. To our soloists, Bob and Cynthia, Craig and Nancy T., Phaedra, Rob...I thank you for your additional music offerings.

The Thursdays@5 concert series was a success for the 4th year ....thanks to Karin Gockel who sat at the door each Thursday, and was the overseer for everything from windows to cash to seating and



counting heads. Paul Stewart's help was appreciated, as were Peter Richards and Lucretia. Without their constant diligence, we would not have had the increase in ticket sales that resulted in a show of profit from the series. We were host to many gifted performers and our space was beautifully advertised by Jack Weinhold's posters and pictures. Many thanks for all who helped with the series.

The 4th Sunday lay led committee services are always enjoyable. The committee has been very positive, at times taking over completely; I was happy to step back and be a part of the congregation at these times .... I look forward to their next service.

Throughout the summer, we engaged soloists, and instrumentalists which were all a true joy. Throughout the year, Jacob Butler served as a substitute for me and his performances have been well received. Barbara Elder, Jim Sulzer, Rob Dunbar, Steve Estabrooks, and Jordan Delphos, Phaedra Plank, Bill Schutt, Frank Lombardo, Eliot Levine and Aille Sweeney have been just a few of the musicians who have filled in and added tremendous variety to our services in 2016. It was particularly wonderful to be in the sanctuary this summer with the beautiful painting to look at, music all around and friends to enjoy it with. We were fortunate and thrilled to have Marcia Hempel perform a special organ concert just for Susie in honor of her 100th birthday! The service in October celebrating Susie's life was particularly awesome. So many people came to honor her, and we were all in attendance to sing Happy Birthday! Susie's niece Val sang the solo for Mozart's beautiful choral piece, Laudate Dominum with our choir and the Choir from St. Paul's came to serenade her with an Irish blessing after Bob Lehman sang a rewrite of Que Sera Sera that chronicled Susie's many milestones. Altogether, it was a joy to be a part of her 100th year party!

The instruments at the church are being maintained, though we now have a different tuner, Fred Mudge. The organ is still lovingly taken care of by the Andover Organ Co. with Bob to thank for the Goodrich's care and keeping. Carson Cooman was a solid presence throughout the summer, performing at 3 Sunday services, and a Thursday concert - providing wonderful music and inspiration for all of us. Liam Strand was a new addition to the organist roster, and we hope to see/hear him as he continues to grow as a musician. Isaiah Williams also joined us for a few occasions this year. His mom, Mollie, was able to substitute and the two of them enjoyed a few special collaborations. We have a dedicated donor, who provided a generous fund allowing organists to be compensated for their performances. Our new protocol has been adopted regarding maintenance scheduling because, and as I see it, it works better for the Music Director to identify when the instrument needs maintenance. Contacting the Office Administrator in that instance is merely to make sure that she is aware of the tuner's arrival and subsequent billing.

In regards to weddings and memorials, we continue to tweak the system in place, though it is my understanding that I be the first musician contacted in the event of a wedding or memorial service. We saw the vows of couples we love, Clay and Joe among them. We celebrated the lives of some who had passed, among them - our dear Debby Merritt- who is missed by the choir and the entire church community. We sang at a child's blessing for Barbara and Jim's niece, and were part of many of the occasions that required music beyond the Sunday service including the Baccalaureate. This coming year, I have suggested that I deal with all things music in regards to these occasional ceremonies. I hope to be part of a meeting with the Office Administrator and the Rev. in regards to this.



The position of Music Director has required an advanced knowledge of musical repertoire, an ability to lead a choir without exclusion of people who may not have the same level of music knowledge as the person next to them, an advanced knowledge of hymns, a level of skill to play accompaniment and song leading, and a dedication to the church which is evidenced by weekly attendance to rehearsals and services. While working to communicate well with the choir, as director and accompanist, I have missed having a committee to help develop ideas for fundraising. With a collaborative spirit to bring out the best in the participants of the music program, soloists, members of the congregation and guest soloists, I would ask for volunteers to join the music outreach.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve the church and the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Towle Lehman

### **Religious Exploration Committee – 2016**

If 2015 was a year of “settling in”, 2016 was a year of change and growth for our hardy Religious Exploration (RE) children, staff and volunteers.

In May and June of 2016 we bid farewell to our intrepid RE team of Lead teacher, Jen Dunbar and Support teacher, Stefan Silverio. Jen had been with us for 3 years and Stefan for 1 year. The Congregation appreciates the hard work and dedication both Jen and Stefan put into their RE roles. They will be missed by the children and the congregation and we wish them well in their future endeavors!

Some 2016 highlights:

- Community potlucks hosted by the RE continued throughout the winter
- Welcoming new RE Committee member Lora Stewart
- Curriculum focusing on world holidays and community service continued
- Relaxed and welcoming summer RE program that featured art activities and walking field trips
  - Participation in Holiday Stroll and NHA Tree decorating
  - Children’s artwork accompanying the NHA stuffed animal decorations to be sent to a group of children in El Salvador
  - Welcoming guest RE teacher Sea Glassman who worked with the children in November and December and featured a drama and art program
  - Welcoming our new creative and energetic Youth Program Coordinator, Leyah Jensen who has been enthusiastically greeted by the children
  - Beginning a Junior Youth Pilot program led by new RE staff member, Leyah Jensen

Plans for 2017 include:

- Further development of our Jr. Youth Pilot program

- Renewing our relationship with our sister church in Transylvania
- More creative art projects and activities
- More involvement by the RE children in the regular services
- More opportunities for community service projects for the children individually and in a group

Many thanks to all the volunteers from the Congregation who stepped forward in 2016 to work with the RE children, especially in the period between RE teachers Jen and Leyah. Special thanks to Joanne Pollster for coordinating the NHA Festival of the Trees effort and Joanna Greenfield for being so willing to help out in Sundays RE classes.

We are also very grateful for the special anonymous donation to RE that is making our new pilot Youth program for 2017 possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Richards, Religious Exploration Committee Chair

### **7<sup>th</sup> Principle Project Committee – 2016**

The 7 Principle Project (7th PP), the Social Justice Committee of our UU Meeting House, had a wonderful year of new initiatives, growth and community involvement. The following are our main areas of focus:

**FOOD RESCUE NANTUCKET (FRN)**- In 2016 we rescued and distributed an estimated 5 tons of food. We started 2016 with a small quantity of businesses donating their excess food to our program, a few outlets for delivery of that food and very few folks involved in the process. We now have 10 businesses participating, 7 outlets for delivery, 6 committee members and 9 volunteers ready to help. This puts us in a position to expand our outreach again in 2017. FRN had their first public consumption of our rescued food this past December when we partnered with The Nantucket Culinary Center, Nantucket Eco Group and local chefs for the 'Presents For The Planet' fundraising event. The nearly \$3,500 raised was donated to 'The National Resources Defense Fund' whose work includes climate change issues. Two areas of interest for 2017 are to increase our gleaning efforts with local farms and more community involvement initiatives.

**IMMIGRATION** - In 2016 we had 2 very successful projects with Ascentria in Worcester, MA. For the first project we collected household items from our island community and delivered them to Ascentria for distribution to refugees setting up their new living space and second, we collected school related items and delivered them to Ascentria for distribution through their 'Unaccompanied Minor Refugee' program. We will continue to work with Ascentria on new projects and maintain this wonderful relationship.

At a recent 7th PP meeting we voted unanimously to support Rev. Linda's request that we publicly join St. Mary's Church in their project of informing and working with the island's immigrant



population on legal, practical and ethical responses to the potential immigration sweeps by the U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) police under the new administration's threat of mass deportation. St. Mary's will be hosting a gathering of legal representation, community leaders and the immigrant community to present and discuss rights and actions in this regard. As a result of the 7th PP's vote, the UU Meeting House's Social Justice committee and Rev. Linda will both sign on as official sponsors and supporters of St. Mary's initiative.

We continue our work to be accountable allies to the immigrants on island and good neighbors to both Faro de Luz, the El Salvadorian congregation that shares our building, Shirat Ha Yam, the Jewish Congregation that shares our building, and The Muslim Prayer Group that shares our building, through fellowship, pulpit sharing, breaking bread together, while listening to concerns and involvement in important social justice initiatives as they arise.

CLOTHING DRIVE - Joanna Greenfield has once again successfully organized 3 clothing drives which, in total, gave away nearly 300, thirty pound bags of donated clothes. The clothes were donated by the Hospital Shop at the end of their season, picked up at 'Madaket Mall'; and donated by the island community. The American Legion has graciously provide their facility for distribution, at no cost, to the Food Pantry's clients.

GARDEN - Cheryl Creighton has taken charge of our Community Garden plot with the intention of sharing the preparation, planting, maintenance and harvesting with some folks from our island's minority population.

MAKE IT STOP (MIS) - Last Fall, approximately a dozen island residents formed this new group to address the issue of gun safety as it applies both locally and nationally. Our first public action was gaining the rights to show the film 'Newtown' which was about the massacre of the school children and teachers in Newtown, CT. We assembled a panel, including representative from the police department, the school system, the Cottage Hospital and mental health professionals to bring their varying perspectives to a discussion after the film, which was well attended and well received. Our next initiative will be to bring a series of speakers to the Meeting House in an effort to educate ourselves and interested community members about gun safety and related issues. Dylan Fernandes, our newly elected State Representative and Julian Cyr, our newly elected State Senator, have both agreed to speak with our group this Spring, as did a representative of the Nantucket Police Department. A congregational vote will be taken at this year's Annual Meeting to bring MIS under the auspices of the 7th Principle Project.

We encourage anyone interested in joining any of these projects, to contact Gary Langley ([gary@blinddogphoto.com](mailto:gary@blinddogphoto.com))

In Community,

Gary Langley

## **Nominating Committee – 2016**

The 2016 Nominating Committee of Susan Richards, Christine Sanford and David Hall present the following nominations to our Congregation for their vote.

- I. For the Board of Trustees:
  - To complete a vacated term which ends in January 2018:  
Christine Sanford
  - For three year terms (filling the spots left by departing members Jan Ellsworth and Stephen Estabrooks):  
Michelle Whelan  
Peter Richards
- II. In addition, we nominate as Treasurer for a one year term:  
Paul Stewart
- III. And finally, we nominate to form the Nominating Committee for a one year term:  
Stephen Estabrooks, Jan Ellsworth, and Susan Richards

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Richards  
Nominating Committee Coordinator

## **Membership Committee – 2016**

The mission of the Membership Committee is to build and support community.

We work to:

1. Support and recognize current members.
2. Welcome and encourage new members.
3. Recognize summer members with a special annual social gathering and facilitate summer members' participation in congregational activities.
4. Encourage all members to participate in church activities and governance.

Throughout 2016, social activities were organized to encourage community building. The annual St. Patrick's Day dinner/fundraiser was coordinated by Lora and Paul Stewart who recruited various folks to do the cooking. Because there was inadequate space in a private home, the dinner was in the Activities Room. In addition to a traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner this year's event featured live entertainment including Irish dancers. The RE Committee and others also organized several child-friendly pot luck dinners.

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, The Membership Committee coordinated the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Members' Gathering. The Board of Trustees, once again, provided delicious hearty appetizers and Reverend Linda Simmons and her husband, Gary, were kind enough to offer the parsonage and the church



garden as the venue. The weather cooperated and everyone had a wonderful, relaxed time socializing.

Finding ways to welcome new members has been a priority. This year, we have begun to match up current members with new members. This provides each new member with a special resource person/social contact. This has been well received.

The second annual Christmas Stroll Craft and Gift Sale was chaired this year by Joanna Greenfield and Joanne Polster and was a resounding success; raising a net amount of \$2,332.00. In addition to the much-needed addition to our operating budget, the sale provided a great social/community building activity. There were many volunteers who donated items. There was also a crew of 18 individuals who helped with set up, clean up and selling the day of the sale. The number of people who got involved this year increased substantially over last year and everyone felt a real sense of accomplishment.

Happily, the Membership Committee welcomed Susan Richards this fall and hopes to add a couple of other members in the coming year. If you are interested, please contact committee chair, Lora Stewart.

In 2017:

1. We hope to add at least 2 new members to the committee.
2. We hope to establish a separate FUNdraising Committee to keep track of current fundraisers, make sure they each have a leader and help dream up some new ways to earn money for the Operating Budget.
3. Susan Richards and Lora Stewart will coordinate the annual St. Patrick's Day dinner/fundraiser in the Activities Room on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.
4. A brunch will be held this spring to honor our elders and the wisdom they bring to our Meeting House family.
5. After a number of requests, Seasonal Suppers will return this year. These are small dinner parties in parishioners' homes.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Stewart

## **The Caring Team - 2016**

The mission of the Caring Team is to augment the pastoral care provided by Reverend Linda Simmons and to help facilitate a culture of caring within the Meeting House community.

In coordination with Reverend Simmons, the Caring Team:

1. Facilitates providing meals, transportation and errands for those in need.
2. Helps identify needs and resources among friends and family.
3. Reaches out to parishioners with phone calls, visits and cards when appropriate.

4. Facilitates or provides help with small household chores as needed.
5. Encourages others to participate in fulfilling our mission.

This community continues a well-practiced history of caring for one another. The Caring Team tries to keep track of those in need within the Meeting House Family. Often, there is no need for the Team to facilitate getting needs met. Many times, when someone in the congregation is facing a time of challenge or need, the necessary meals, visits and transportation to appointments, church services and other church activities have already been arranged by members of the community. A priority for the Team is to reach out to community members who are unable to get to the Meeting House. Most home visits are made by Reverend Simmons, but these are augmented by the Team as needed. David Hall has been a wonderful resource for doing odd jobs for elders. The "Blue Moon" volunteer list was developed in 2015 and has been called on a few times this year for meals and transportation. Reverend Simmons provided a time again this fall for parishioners to light candles of remembrance for loved ones who have died.

The Shawl Ministry which is under the umbrella of the Caring Team built up a good number of shawls last year and went on hiatus. A few members have continued to replenish our stock and others have begun to ask for times to knit or crochet together again. This winter, we will be gathering on a more regular basis. The Shawl Ministry is grateful for the yearly monetary allocation which helps to defray the cost of yarn for the shawls.

In 2017 the Caring Team hopes to:

1. Recruit at least one new member of the Team.
2. Provide a workshop/gathering time for members of the congregation to talk about end of life decisions.
3. Continue to support and augment the pastoral care provided by Reverend Simmons.

The Team has not grown this year and still consists of Lora Stewart, Chair and David Hall. We welcome new members and encourage anyone interested to get in touch with Lora Stewart.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Stewart, Chair

### **Docenting – Summer 2016**

It was another fun summer of docenting up in the sanctuary at the Meeting House. This season our team included new member Cheryl Creighton, along with returning veterans Karin Gockel, Trish Jarrell, Grace Noyes, Libby Oldham, Susan and Peter Richards, Christine Sanford, Craig Sperry, Paul Stewart, and Jack Weinhold.

We covered three 2-hour shifts from 10am to 4pm weekdays and two shifts from 10 till 2 on Saturdays. In July we welcomed 433 visitors with another 543 in August, totaling 976. Visitors came from all over the United States and from at least 22 countries worldwide, with England, Germany and



Canada leading the way. The weather was spectacular and probably the main reason why attendance was down nearly 20% from 2015. Apparently island visitors were enjoying more outdoor activities during their time here this past summer.

One of the many pleasures of docenting is talking with first-time visitors. They are immediately captured by the pure elegance of this historic building and blown away by the trompe l'oeil artwork and the beauty of its deception. There's a real honest-to-goodness proud feeling being an ambassador for our church and hopefully we may have a few new volunteers joining our docent team for this coming summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Richards

### **Coffee Hour Committee – 2016**

Happy New Year! Coffee hour has been great! We have had many delicious and nutritious donations that have pleased the crowd. We are grateful for all the help with kitchen cleanup too. Please consider signing up for a Sunday – one of us will always be here to help out.

Thanks!

Christine Sanford, Val Hall, Karin Gockel

### **Archives – 2016**

The archives are now in their maintenance mode; all that is now required is to add new material as it becomes available. I have filed all documents so far received in their appropriate spots.

I continue to update the indexes and hope, perhaps this year, to get them online.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Polster

## Combined Finance Committee and Treasurer's 2016 Annual Report

2016 was another good year for our Society's finances. People pledged and gave generously and, along with other income, we were able to meet the budgeted expenses of operating our Society without spending down the principal of our Reserves.

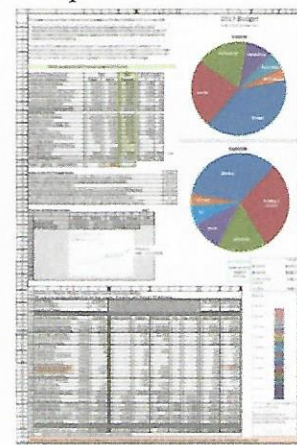
Our Reserves have prospered in low-cost diversified mutual funds at Vanguard. In the past few years the stock market has risen fairly steadily and inflation has been fairly low. Our Reserves and total monies have performed as expected and, after withdrawing the budgeted income, have grown by more than inflation.

As of	Unrestricted Funds					Restricted	Grand Total
	Bank Accounts	Reserves (Vanguard and UUCEF)	Total Unrestricted	Growth vs prior year	Growth over Inflation	Organ Maint.	
12/31/2012	\$ 63,666	\$ 1,246,791	\$ 1,310,457			\$ 41,711	\$ 1,352,168
12/31/2013	\$ 70,783	\$ 1,308,845	\$ 1,379,628	5.28%	3.76%	\$ 45,822	\$ 1,425,450
12/31/2014	\$ 54,464	\$ 1,361,482	\$ 1,415,946	2.63%	1.88%	\$ 47,738	\$ 1,463,684
12/31/2015	\$ 56,495	\$ 1,333,163	\$ 1,389,658	-1.86%	-2.59%	\$ 67,837	\$ 1,457,495
12/31/2016	\$ 68,036	\$ 1,395,649	\$ 1,463,685	5.33%	3.45%	\$ 71,760	\$ 1,535,446

Accompanying this annual report (by the time of the Annual Meeting, and incorporated herein at that time) are the detailed end-of-2016 financial reports of the church. ➔

During 2016 Craig Sperry announced his retirement from the presidency of the Finance Committee, as he will be spending more time off-island, but he will continue on the Committee. Craig's many contributions in this and other areas are much appreciated!

Going forward, the Committee plans to meet in the middle of the month following the end of each quarter (so, April, July, October, and January) to review quarterly results, plus once or twice in October and November to develop the next year's budget.



Watch the May, August, and November issues of the Weathervane for quarterly updates on our budget and Funds, plus this Annual Report for the wrap-up.

Thanks to all who served on the committee this year, who participated and contributed their time and talent, from attending meetings to compiling and reviewing budgets and reports.

Respectfully submitted, Your Finance Committee:

Craig Sperry, Jack Weinhold, Peter Richards, Nick Miller, and Paul Stewart (Treasurer);  
with Reverend Linda Simmons and Jan Ellsworth (President) ex officio;  
and David Ramsdell and Val Hall advising.



## 2017 Pledge Campaign Report

As of the end of 2016 we have received 56 unrestricted pledges toward 2017 for a total of \$88,003 and we know of several others 'in the pipeline'.

In addition, other generous pledges have been received toward specific purposes (such 'directed' pledges are most welcome after an unrestricted pledge 'to keep the lights on').

As discussed at several 'town hall meetings' this Fall, a related committee is being organized for 2017. The Pledge Appreciation Committee will better communicate our appreciation to everyone who contributes to keep the Society strong, both pledgers and those who give other gifts of their time and treasure.

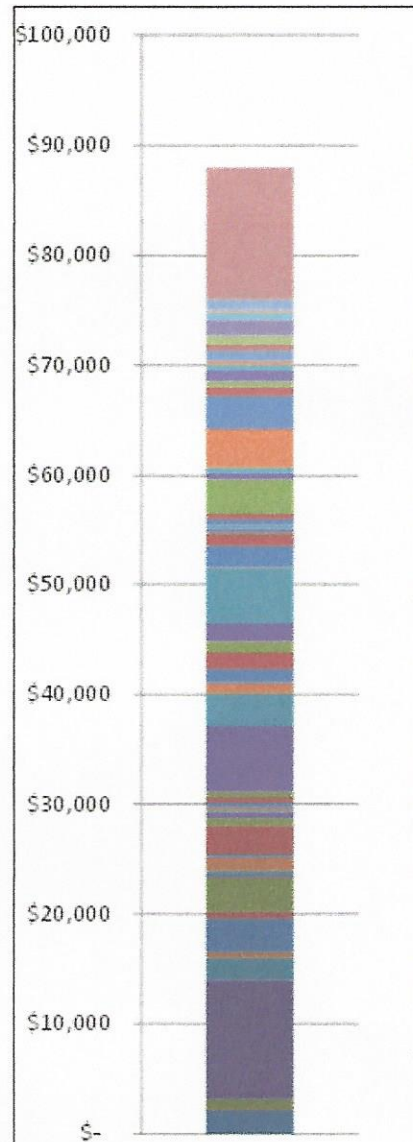
Thanks to your support, we are anticipating a strong 2017.

Respectfully submitted, Your Pledge Campaign Committee:

Craig Sperry, Jan Ellsworth, Paul Stewart, Jack Weinhold,  
Peter Richards, and Rev. Linda Simmons

P.S. Here are the final figures from the 2016 campaign.

2016 Pledges	1/1/2016	Net Change	12/31/2016
Amount Pledged	\$ 72,878	\$ 7,845	\$ 80,723
Number of Pledges	58	12	70



Our 2017 goal is 81 pledges for a total of \$87,032.

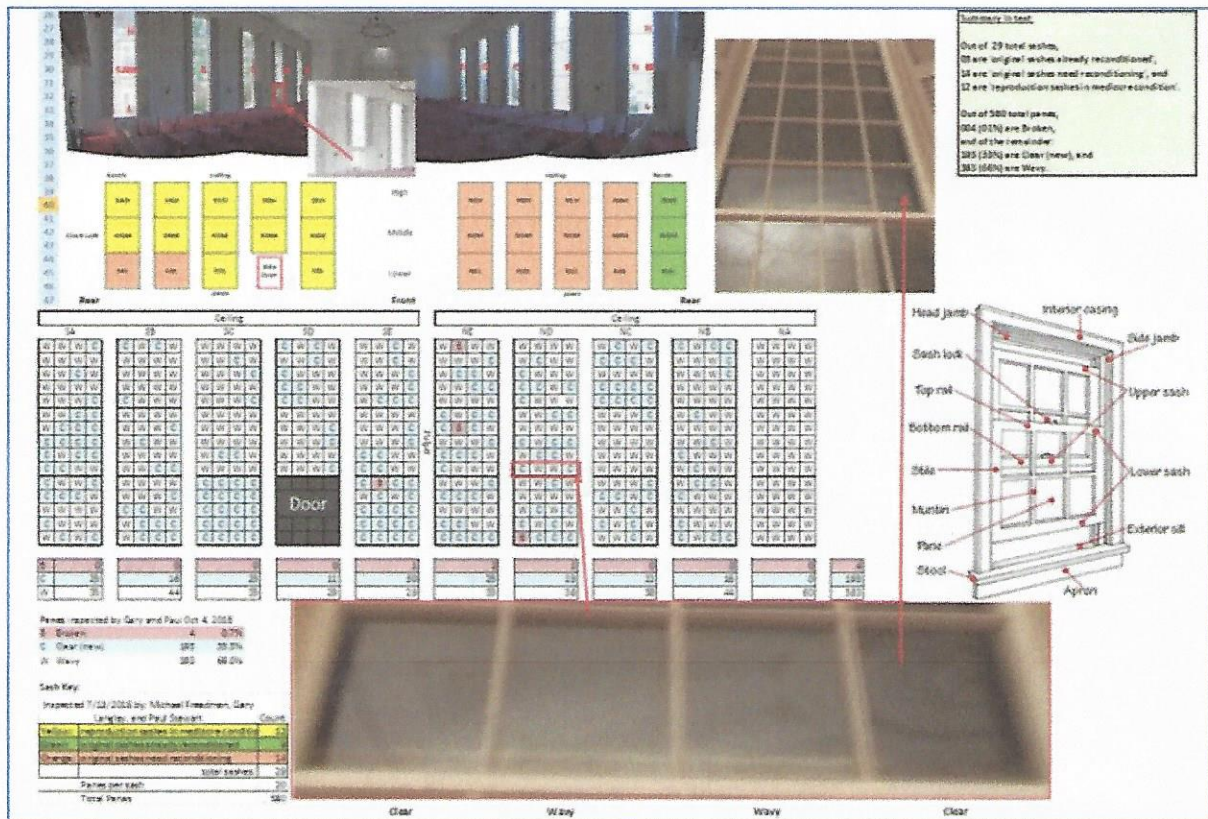
As of 12/31/2016 we've received 56 pledges (69%) for a total of \$88,003 (101%).

The color bars are the actual individual pledges received.





**Last Second Update:**  
All the new lighting fixtures arrived safely at the Meeting House January 16, 2017.





## SCPF 2016 Annual Report

The South Church Preservation Fund has had another successful year.

- 1) The **Meeting House Roof Project** was completed. In 2014 the SCPF applied for a Community Preservation Fund grant, which was approved by the Nantucket Town Meeting in 2015. Work commenced late in 2015 on removing the worn asphalt shingles and replacing them with wind- and fire-resistant cedar roofing. The project was completed in the Spring of 2016. Our great thanks to Craig Sperry, for playing the main role in managing this project, and David Barham, for authoring the grant request.

Videos of: old roof: [youtu.be/nhF0issmkHc](https://youtu.be/nhF0issmkHc)

new roof: [youtu.be/4zxQDqLI3Kk](https://youtu.be/4zxQDqLI3Kk) ➔



- 2) The **Historic Lighting Project** is nearing completion. David Barham, after years of research and gathering historic information, authored a grant request to the Community Preservation Fund which was approved by the Nantucket Town Meeting in April, 2016. Fabrication of the lighting fixtures by Quality Lighting of California has been proceeding this Summer and Fall. The various fixtures are now complete and we expect to receive them in mid-January for installation this Winter.



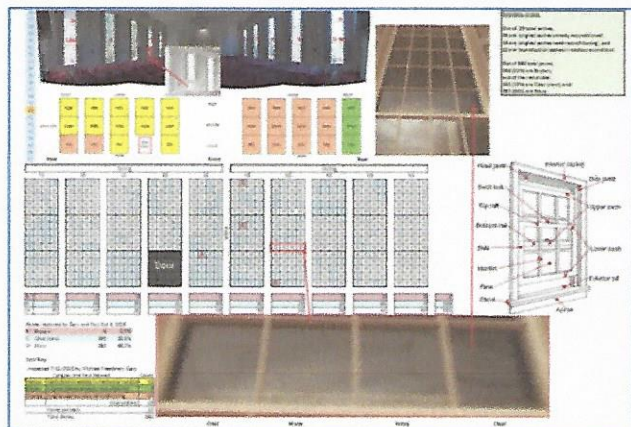
- 3) The **Windows Restoration Project** is in the active planning stages. A recent survey of the existing windows showed that:

Out of 29 total sashes,

3 are 'original sashes already reconditioned',  
14 are 'original sashes need reconditioning', and  
12 are 'reproduction sashes in mediocre condition'.

Out of 580 total panes of glass,

4 ( 1%) are Broken (cracked),  
and of the remainder:  
193 (33%) are Clear (new), and  
383 (66%) are Wavy (historic antique).



The 3 'original sashes already reconditioned' were done several years ago and have performed perfectly. The plan is to complete the job by reconditioning the other original sashes (made of long-lasting old growth stock), replacing the reproduction sashes to match the original sash, and replacing any new glass with antique wavy glass.

- 4) The **Exterior Repainting Project** will be taken up once the Windows project is under way.

Respectfully submitted, *Paul P. Stewart*, 2016 SCPF President



**Second Congregational Meeting House Society  
Unitarian Universalist, Nantucket, Massachusetts  
Annual Meeting – Sunday - January 31, 2016**

1. **Call to Order:** The Annual Meeting was called to order by Board of Trustees President, Susan Richards, immediately following the Sunday service at 11:40. A quorum was established by Stephen Estabrooks, Board of Trustees Clerk. According to the bylaws, a minimum of twenty-five members are needed and thirty-two were counted.
2. **Opening Words:** Reverend Linda Simmons welcomed the congregation.
3. **The Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting:** Presented by Stephen Estabrooks, Clerk and were accepted unanimously.
4. **2016 Operating Budget:** Outgoing President of the Finance Committee, Craig Sperry, noted that newly-appointed Nick Miller will be a welcome member to that Board. The meeting was then turned over to Paul Stewart who discussed the highlights of the 2016 Operating Budget.
  - a. The South Church Preservation Fund (SCPF) has approved a grant for \$95,000 for upgrading the lighting in the Meeting House Sanctuary and Hendrix Hall in keeping with the historical original fixtures (Refer to the booklet "Lighting the Historic Unitarian Meeting House").
  - b. SCPF also funded "The Tale of the Bell", recounting the history of the bell obtained in Portugal and first rung 200 years ago, is now available for sale as well as paying for the docents during the warmer months when the church is open to visitors.
  - c. Paul stated that the budget has been in balance for the last three years and is "steady as she goes". No funds have been taken from the endowment funds for that same time period. Paul made a motion to accept the 2016 budget which was passed by the congregation unanimously by voice vote.
5. **Election of Board of Trustees Members:** Two new members, Valerie Hall and Clay Twombly were voted in unanimously to replace the two outgoing members, Jim Sulzer and Susan Richards.
6. **Treasurer:** Paul Stewart was elected unanimously as Treasurer.
7. **SCPF:** Three new members were elected unanimously to the SCPF, Joe Olsen, Anne Troutman and Michael Freedman.
8. **Nominating Committee:** Three new members were elected unanimously to the Nominating Committee, Christine Sanford, David Hall and Susan Richards. They will replace Peter Richards, Nancy Mack and Hazeel Jackson.

The Annual Meeting was adjourned at 12:20.

**Board of Trustees Meeting:** Convened immediately following the Annual Meeting to elect Board officers.

Jan Ellsworth: President

Valerie Hall: Vice-President

Stephen Estabrooks: Clerk

A brief discussion followed with Rev. Linda regarding the selection of a speaker to address the Board at the Spring Retreat April 9, 2016.

The Board members were also asked to forward their three preferred topics from a list of eight generated by the Board at a previous retreat.

Adjourned at 12:40.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen Estabrooks, Clerk



**We, the member congregations of the Unitarian  
Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:**

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregation.
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation and in society at large.
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.