

**BOLTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
ANNUAL WITNESS**

20

**A YEAR OF
CELEBRATION**

25

Table Of Contents

Staff and General Info	002	Report of Outreach Committee	012
UCC Statement of Faith and BCC, UCC Vision Statement	003	Report of Building and Grounds	013
Annual Meeting Minutes November 2025	004	Nominating Slate 2026	015
Report of Congregational Statistics	007	Report of Financial Secretaries	016
Report of the Senior Pastor	008	Proposed Budget and Budget comparison	019
Report of the Executive Council	009	Investment Fund Reports 2025	024
Report of the Deacons	010	waiting	015
Report of Faith Formation	011		

ADDENDUMS

Capital Initiative report from 2024

1 Year plans

Over 50,000 lives touched

Thousands of Dollars raised

Welcome to our Annual Witness, a showcase of our achievements, progress, and commitment to community, spirituality and extravagant welcome throughout the 2025 year.

Leading with Vision, Inspiring Extravagant Welcome

The Rev Brandon Yaghjian-Tison
Mary Douglas
Tonya Laymon
Jessica Romeo
Robin Sharkis
Rachel Moser
The Rev. Charles H. Ericson

Senior Pastor & Teacher
Director of Spiritual Music
Minister of Music
Minister of Faith Formation
Admin to the Pastor
Treasurer
Pastor Emeritus

The Church Office

The Church Office is located in the Community Building near the back parking lot.
Office hours are Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Worship Services

Sundays.	9:30 am
Wednesdays	6:15 PM

Communion is observed at minimum the first Sunday of the month as well as special occasions and holidays and weekly at the Wednesday service.

Meetings

Every effort should be made to hold the Annual Meeting of the congregation on or before the second Sunday of November (taken from the Constitution). Special congregational meetings may be held periodically throughout the year. Regular meetings of the church, various board chairs and vice chair meetings, are generally held once a month with periodic full board meetings held as needed. (taken from the constitution). The current schedule of board meetings is below.

Executive Council	3rd Tuesday of the Month
Leadership Lunch and Learn	2nd Sunday of January
Building and Grounds	1st Tuesday of the Month
Outreach	1st Tuesday of the Month
Trustees	2nd Tuesday of the Month
Deacons	Last Sunday of the Month

Statement of Faith

United Church of Christ

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.

Amen.

Bolton Congregational Church, UCC Mission Statement

We are an inclusive Christian Community dedicated to living Jesus' message of love, peace and justice through joyful worship, compassionate service, radical hospitality and responsible stewardship.

Minutes of

The Bolton Congregational Church Annual Meeting

November 10, 2024

Opening

Acting Moderator Jim Bahre opened the meeting at 11:08am.

Clerk Douglas Sauer verified that the attendees constituted a quorum of more than 20% of the church's membership as required by the BCC Constitution and Bylaws.

Consent Agenda

Jessica Romeo moved that both the minutes of the November 12, 2023 Annual Meeting and the Board Reports be approved as presented in the 2024 Witness. Cynthia Young seconded, there was no discussion, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Board and Committee Highlights

Jim Bahre (Council), Randy Bobb (Stewardship), Jessica Romeo (Faith Formation), Lloyd Pedersen (Outreach), and Laureen Mainville (Deacons) each gave short oral highlights of the accomplishments of their boards, all of which were available in greater detail in the 2024 Witness.

Treasurer's Report

Reverend Brandon Yaghjian-Tison presented the 2024 Financial Report and the 2025 Operating Budget in the absence of Treasurer Rachel Moser.

In 2024 we had 41 pledging units, seven fewer than in 2023. The average pledge fell in the \$2000 - \$4000 range. Many people are giving more than their pledged amounts. Our budget, as originally calculated in 2023 using PowerChurch accounting software, showed a \$22,500 deficit which we expected to offset with a withdrawal from Investments. We also withdrew \$150,000 for our Capital Initiative. When the same data was entered into the new CDM+ software, the \$22,500 deficit turned into \$28,000 (which has been carefully checked and deemed to be correct). We also cancelled 80+ percent of fundraising events, losing an estimated \$16,000 in budgeted income, and the projected deficit for 2024 became \$58,000. Rachel now projects we'll finish the current year with a shortfall of \$16,000.

The 2025 budget being presented projects a deficit of more than \$60,000. Most of this comes from the following: a carryover of the shortage from 2024; removal of the assumption of nearly all fundraising income; raises for several staff members; the need to replace a water heater; the cost to install new air conditioning in the Hall; anticipated increased costs of snowplowing and gas for heating; and adding expenses for the new Contemporary Service "Nourish".

Laureen Mainville moved that both items of the Treasurer's Report (2024 Financial Report and the Operating Budget for 2025) be accepted as presented in the 2024 Witness, and Andrea Sauer seconded. When Pastor Brandon opened the floor to discussion there was none, perhaps because he had held three open virtual meetings with anyone interested in discussing the topic. The motion to accept passed unanimously.

Clerk's Report

Douglas Sauer (Clerk) read the Vital Statistics report as presented on page 7 of the 2024 Witness.

Slate of Church Officers and Board Members

Rev. Brandon Yaghjian-Tison presented the slate of Church Officers and Chairs of the individual Board, and called for a vote on each. Results were as follows:

Moderator, Jim Bahre Passed unanimously, with one abstention

Board of Stewardship, Randy Bobb Passed unanimously, with one abstention

Board of Finance, Cynthia Young Passed unanimously, with one abstention

Clerk, Douglas Sauer Passed unanimously, with one abstention

Board of Faith Formation, Jessica Romeo Passed unanimously, with one abstention

Board of Deacons, Lauren Mainville Passed unanimously, with one abstention

Board of Outreach, Lloyd Peterson Passed unanimously, with one abstention

Congregational Delegate, Arlis Bobb Passed unanimously, with one abstention

Pastor's Report

Rev. Brandon Yaghjian-Tison mentioned that the celebration honoring the 300 th anniversary of both the Town of Bolton and the Bolton Congregational Church, UCC will be held during the coming year. It had been postponed several years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He is expecting to have representatives from the UCC visit during the celebration.

The success of our online presence has been astounding – the average monthly engagement through sharing posts and viewing of our services has been more than 1200. We have touched more than 42,000 lives in 2024.

Approximately 82% of the goals of our one year plan were met, and we have seen an average of 1-5 visitors in the congregation each week.

Susan Schardt moved to approve Pastor Brandon's report, and Brett Martin seconded. There was no discussion and the vote to approve was unanimous, with one abstaining.

Other Business

Pastor Brandon said we will need to repave the rear parking lot in the near future at an estimated cost of \$30,000. In addition to making repairs we will be able to add nearly 100 more feet of parking space. We are looking into financing the work with a 5-10year interest-free loan from the UCC. This is just informational discussion at this point so there is nothing to vote on.

In the time that Pastor Brandon has been at this church, we have lost 14 opportunities to rent Chandler Hall. The reason given is always the same – the church rule that alcohol cannot be consumed on the grounds. Changing that could result in approximately \$8000 per year of income. Brett Martin moved that the rule be changed to allow alcohol at private functions in the church Hall, and Arlis seconded. During the discussion period, we determined the following: the only alcoholic beverages allowed on grounds would be beer and wine; caterers of events would be required to provide a copy of their license to serve alcohol, and to have all drinks served by a responsible bartender; the church would not be liable for injuries to, or damage done by, attendees as a result of them having been served alcohol.; The vote to approve was unanimous.

Adjourn

Hearing no other new business, Jim adjourned the Annual Meeting at 12:01pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Douglas Sauer, Clerk

Membership as of 10/01/2025

161

0 Confirmations

0 Letter of Transfer

0 Confessions of Faith

3 New Members

 Lisa Cameron

 Matt Cameron

 Corey Beth Laflame

0 Loss

0 Deaths

0 Request for Removal

Vital Statistics

6 Funerals

1 Baptisms

0 Weddings

As I reflect on this past year, our 300th year of ministry, I am deeply humbled by the faithfulness, resilience, and grace that continue to define this congregation. Three centuries of worship, service, and fellowship stand as a living testament to what God can do through people who seek to love, learn, and serve together. We are the inheritors of a sacred trust, and the stewards of a hope that still shines brightly for the generations to come.

This milestone year was one filled with both remembrance and renewal. The highlight, of course, was our 300th Anniversary Gala on October 3rd, 2025, where 153 people gathered to celebrate our past, honor our present, and look forward to our future. It was a night filled with joy, gratitude, laughter, and dancing — a visible reminder that Bolton Congregational Church remains a place where relationships and faith flourish side by side. That evening was not just a celebration of longevity, but of vitality, proof that our ministry continues to touch lives within and beyond these walls.

Throughout the year, we continued to live into our mission: to be a welcoming, compassionate community where all can grow in faith and service, we have seen over 50 visitors this year, and have gained another 100 regular viewers online. Our worship has remained the heart of our life together, thoughtful, rooted in Scripture, and alive with the Spirit's presence. Through music, prayer, and the preaching of the Word, we have sought to connect the wisdom of our tradition with the needs and hopes of our time.

Pastoral care, outreach, and fellowship have also continued as expressions of God's love. Whether through quiet visits, shared meals, or moments of prayer, this congregation has demonstrated again and again that church is not merely a place — it is a living, breathing community of grace. For that, I am profoundly thankful.

As we move forward from this historic year, may we carry with us the lessons of our past: a faith that endures, a hope that sustains, and a love that welcomes. The future of Bolton Congregational Church United Church of Christ will not be measured in years alone, but in the depth of our commitment to Christ's call, to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

With deep gratitude for each of you, and for the privilege of serving as your Pastor.

Pastor Brandon

Dear church family, 2025 has been a phenomenal year in the life of Bolton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. As a congregation, we have had continued success with community outreach events such as the Yankee Street Fair, Vacation Bible School, crafting classes, as well as our traditional fundraising dinners including a special twist on our time-honored pork roast dinner served this year as a Ham dinner. We all look forward to the Festival of Trees, the upcoming Advent season and the pageantry and spirit of Christmas. The real highlight of this year so far has been our church's 300th Anniversary. Being a part of this celebration has brought many a deep awareness that our church is not just the pretty white church in the center of town. It is a church that has been entrusted to us by God, through the generations who came before us, to serve as stewards so it may continue to provide a sanctuary for the generations who will follow.

Throughout this year, we have been blessed by the spiritual leadership of Pastor Brandon Yaghjian-Tison. During a time of stressful events his sermons and mediations have presented a biblical perspective of the teachings of Jesus to help us reflect on and contend with today's worldly issues. Sunday services are held in-church and Pastor Brandon's sermons are viewed live and online streaming. Together with our Faith Formation ministry and supporting outreach ministries, plus the addition of weekly Wednesday night services, we have further extended our presence in the community. Through this we are passionately sharing the message of God's love and our Christian faith with the local community and beyond.

Of note, the church's governance structure was updated starting in January, 2025. The leadership team has worked to adjust to the changes required. This move gave individual committees more defined structure and support while trimming down the number of people needed to successfully manage the spiritual as well as the operational aspects of our church.

The church has adopted a new structure where an Executive Board replaced the Church Council, now comprises our Pastor - Pastor Brandon Yaghjian-Tison, Moderator - James Bahre, Church Secretary - Douglas Sauer, Chair of the Board of Deacons - Laureen Mainville and Chair of the Board of Trustees - Cindy Young, as well as the Congregational Delegates Arlis Bobb and Lloyd Pedersen.

The Board of Deacons encompasses the committees and boards to carry out the responsibilities of the Deacons as well as Faith Formation and Outreach. The Board of Trustees encompasses the responsibilities of Building and Grounds, formerly Stewardship, and Finances including Investments. As you review the reports of the various boards and committees contained in this year's Annual Witness, please know that it takes the commitment of many dedicated volunteers to accomplish the goals of our church. More importantly, it is each of our own prayerful and committed contribution of time, talents and treasure that allows our church to be that shining beacon of Christ's Love for those who are searching for or in need of a spiritual home.

Thank you to the members of the Executive Board, Pastor Brandon and the church staff and greetings to Robin Sharkis, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor, who joined the team recently this year. Also, thank you to our Director of Music, Mary Douglas; Tonya Laymon, Minister of Music; and Jessica Romeo, Minister of Faith Formation. Gratitude to everyone serving on a board or committee, the teachers of our Faith Formation curriculum and the multitude of those who work behind the scene, for their dedication and support of the vision and mission of our church, the Bolton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.

Respectfully Submitted, James Bahre, Moderator of BCC, UCC, 2025

This year marked the first time the Boards of Deacons, Faith Formation, and Outreach were combined into one collaborative ministry team. This new structure has proven to be both effective and enriching. Working together allowed us to support one another and strengthen our collective ministry efforts across worship, education, and community engagement.

Our Advent series will once again feature materials from A Sanctified Art, which was very well received last year. Christmas Eve worship services will be held at 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

The Call to Care ministry has been temporarily paused until 2026 in order to provide more comprehensive training for the four volunteers who have committed to serving in this important pastoral care role.

We are excited to introduce a midweek worship service beginning Wednesday, October 22nd, at 6:15 p.m. On the first and third Wednesdays of each month, we will also offer a simple, free community dinner at 5:00 p.m. prior to worship.

Our Lenten series, offered through Illustrated Ministry, was well attended, averaging 12–16 participants each week. Held on Thursday evenings, the gatherings included a light soup supper and meaningful conversation. This past year was filled with a wide variety of events that brought our community together—Songs of Hope, Taco Dinner, Good Friday Spaghetti Dinner, Corned Beef Dinner, Chicken BBQ, Ham Dinner, Yankee Street Fair, Karaoke Night, Bingo, Festival of Trees, and of course, the 300th Anniversary Gala, which was an extraordinary celebration.

However, to continue offering such vibrant and meaningful events, we need more volunteers to step forward and help lead and organize them. We want to avoid overburdening the small group of dedicated individuals who currently make these events possible. These gatherings are vital—not only for the financial health of our church but also for our mission of building community and sharing God’s love with others.

Members on board for 2025: Andrea Sauer, Jimmy Bahre, Helena Trey, Sharon Witham, Maureen Ogrean, Jane Loda, Steve Wierzbicki, Dan McLennan, Arlis Bobb.
Added this year Faith Formation Jessica Romeo and Outreach Lloyd Pedersen

Respectfully submitted
Laureen Mainville

Our Curriculum for 2025 and going forward for the foreseeable future is Feasting on the Word. This curriculum is a digital curriculum and follows the Revised Common Lectionary. It helps us stay on track and hear the same scriptures that the adults are hearing in church.

Our first major activity of 2025 was our Annual Pancake Breakfast. The children chose Protectors of Animals as their mission this year. With our pancake breakfast, a bake sale, a sandwich sale sponsored by Connie Vincent, pet supply sales and other miscellaneous donations we raised approximately \$1800.00 for this mission.

Over the summer, we offered a one room Church School two Sundays a month. We continued to follow Feasting on the Word through the summer. We did have a few children at each of these classes throughout the summer. Therefore, we will continue to provide summer church school in this fashion.

We again had a very successful Vacation Bible School program in 2025. We had 30 children registered which was the maximum number we could take. We offered the half and full day programs again this year and we actually had more than half of the attendees come to the full day program. For 2026 we will offer the same format.

I have continued connecting with other Christian Educators in the area through Communities of Practice. It has been a great means of support. I continue with the Faith Formation programs through the Southern New England Conference as well as participating in the Love of Children Program through the UCC with online lectures and events by Yale Youth Ministry Institute through Yale Divinity School. Each one of these helps me grow as a Faith Formation leader.

We had some changes this Church School year. We have welcomed Rob Barstow, he will join Arlis Bobb as our 2nd-6th grade teacher. Lloyd Pedersen and Sarah Elliott have continued on as our Pre-K - 1st grade teachers and they will be joined by me and my teaching assistant once a month, Jackson Pospisil. We have also added a 7th/8th grade class taught by me, Jessica Romeo. This class is a precursor to the confirmation class which is offered to 9th grade students. Another big thank you goes to Linda Brown for continuing as the nursery coordinator.

Thank you Pastor Brandon for being a great support and partner as we work to grow our church and the faith formation aspect of the church.

I would like to thank all those from the congregation that have answered the call for donations to our church school. We appreciate you all. Thank you to all the children and families and all members of this congregation. You make it a joy to do what I do.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Romeo
Minister of Faith Formation

Outreach Committee Report

Bolton Congregational Church's 2025 outreach efforts continued our long tradition of service while laying the groundwork to broaden BCC's outreach horizons in 2026. (If you have suggestions, please share!)

During the winter months, scores of blessing bags were assembled and distributed to area homeless neighbors — made possible entirely through the generous donations of our members and the hard work of our Church School students. Regular donations of nonperishable food items throughout the year helped stock the shelves at both the Bolton Community Pantry and the Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC) Pantry.

Over one hundred bags of gently worn clothing, donated by members, found new life on the racks at the Community Threads Thrift Shop, helping to clothe MACC clients while also supporting MACC's broader efforts to end cycles of poverty.

In April, Bolton Congregational fielded a team of twenty Rebuilding Together volunteers who transformed a local property into a neighborhood showpiece. Throughout the summer, our volunteers continued serving at the MACC Community Kitchen and the Community Threads Thrift Shop.

As we look ahead to Thanksgiving and Christmas, Bolton Congregational will once again join with St. Maurice Church and Bolton's Social Services Coordinator to help provide holiday meals for local families who might otherwise struggle to put food on the table. Looking further toward winter, our outreach efforts will continue in partnership with MACC to support residents at the winter homeless shelter, opening on December 1st.

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who made these efforts possible. May we continue to serve with enthusiasm and gratitude for all that we have — until there is no longer need.

Respectfully Submitted Lloyd Pedersen - Chair of Outreach Committee

Building and Grounds Committee Report

The Building and Grounds Committee had a busy year with the completion of many projects. Fall and spring clean-up days were held. The old church store was completely renovated with new flooring, lighting, and a full paint job with new trim, transforming the space into the library/store. The front stone wall was repointed, and new 4x4 posts were installed in the lawn at the front of the sanctuary for banner displays.

Equipment replacements this year included a new freezer and dehumidifier. General cleaning of closets and property maintenance were also completed, including septic tank pumping and cleaning of the painted-over glass panels above the front sanctuary doors.

I would like to thank all members of the Building and Grounds Committee for their dedication and hard work in keeping our beautiful property in top shape.

Respectfully submitted,

Randall Bobb, Chair of Building and Grounds Committee

Called To Service 2026 Nominating Slate

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms-1 Peter 4:10-11

Council

Executive Officers: Rev. Brandon Yaghjian-Tison - Senior Pastor
Susan MacDonald - Chair of Trustees

James Bahre - Moderator
Doug Sauer- Clerk

Vice Moderator - Open

Arlis Bobb - Congregational Delegate
Lloyd Pedersen - Congregational Delegate

Board Chairs (Denoted**)

Board of Deacons

** Laureen Mainville, Chair
Dan McLennon, Vice Chair
Arlis Bobb
Jane Loda
Andrea Sauer

Steve Wierzbicki
Maureen Ogreaan
Sharon Witham
Helena Trey

Outreach Committee

** Lloyd Pedersen, Chair
Kathy Hampp

Faith Formation Committee

** Jessica Romeo, Chair
Vice Chair, Open

Board of Trustees

** Susan MacDonald, Chair
Cynthia Young, Vice Chair
Debbie Busick, Financial Secretary

Dick Brown, Financial Secretary
Lisa Cameron
Rick Bulach

Building and Grounds Committee

** Randy Bobb, Chair
Tom Bennett, Vice Chair
Dick Brown

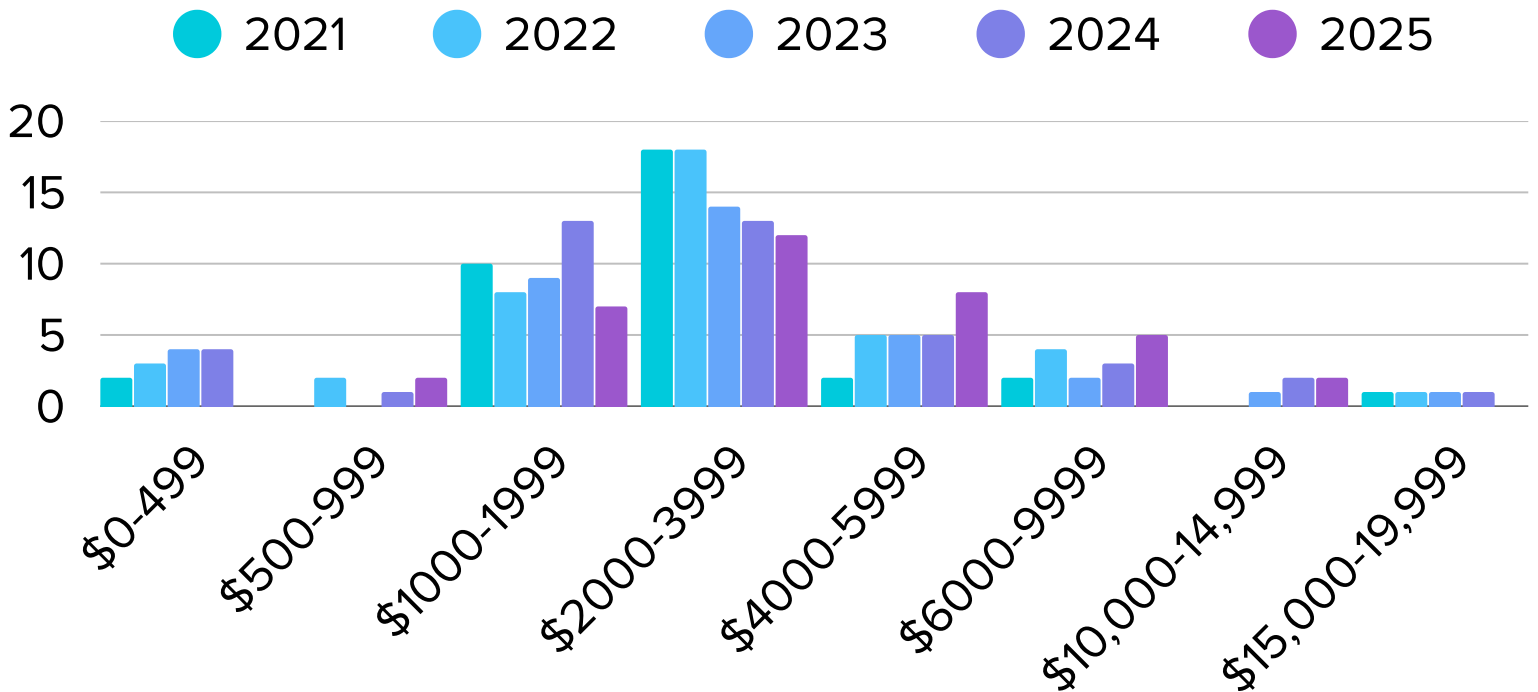
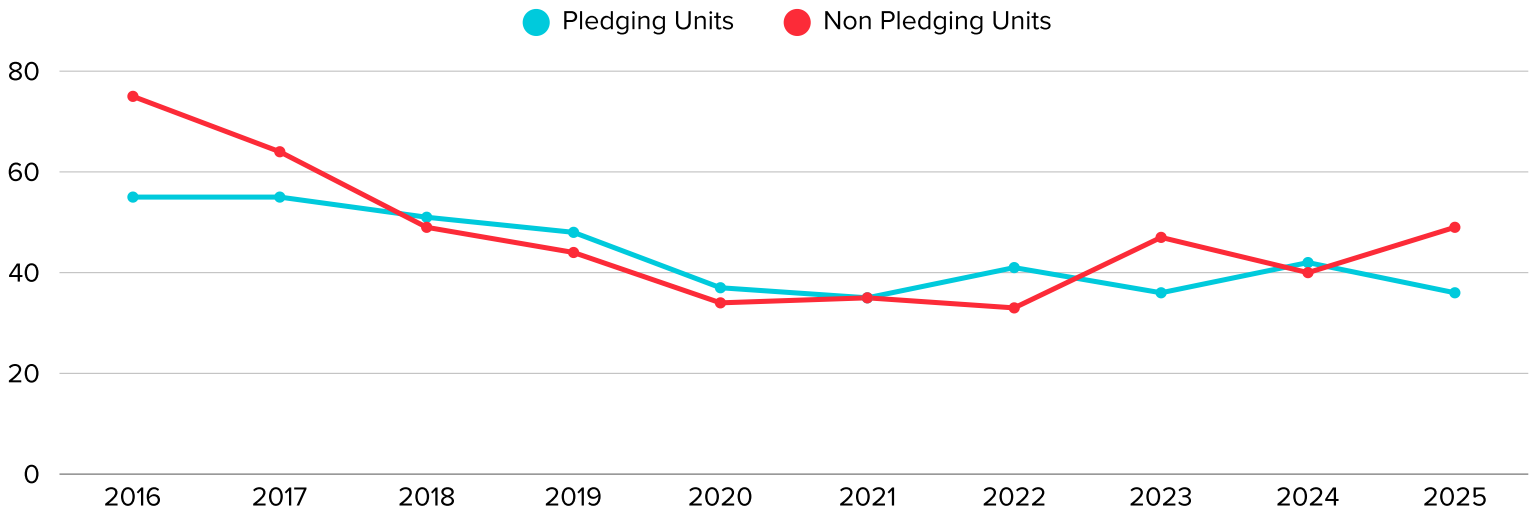
Doug Ogreaan
Tom Mortimer
Dave Lynn

Appointed Delegates

SNEUCC - Jane Loda, Laureen Mainville
MACC- Lloyd Pedersen
BEC- Linda Brown, Jane Loda

The Numbers

Year-Over-Year



Year	Pledging Units	Total Pledged	Total Received as of 10/1/24	Difference	% Received
2025	36	\$125,300	\$99,206.15	-\$26,093.85	79%
2024	41	\$137,580	\$121,226.01	-\$16,353.99	88%
2023	36	\$116,520.80	\$120,748.92	\$4,228.12	104%
2022	41	\$126,931.00	\$131,955.26	-\$5,024.26	104%
2021	35	\$99,537.00	\$103,761.00	\$3,484.00	104%
2020	39	\$106,737.00	\$106,069.00	-\$668.00	99%
2019	48	\$127,457.00	\$127,986.66	\$529.66	100%
2018	51	\$125,135.00	\$135,532.00	\$10,397.00	108%
2017	55	\$124,645.00	\$132,771.42	\$8,126.42	107%

Celebrating Lives touched

Showcasing the Extravagant Welcome

↑ **1,642**

Average monthly
online engagement

6,400

Individuals through
our doors

93%

Percentage of 1 year
plan completed

2-5

Weekly Visitors

45,578

online lives touched

“A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be
refreshed”. - Proverbs 11:25

2025 Proposed budget

Planning in faith

Budget Comparison
Year-to-Year Difference
 Bolton Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ
 228 Bolton Center Road
 Bolton, CT 06043

Selected Accounts

Income Budget

	2025	Difference	Change	2026
REGULAR INCOME				
GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS	214,624.88	(13,800.00)	(6.43%)	200,824.88
MISC CONTRIBUTIONS	0.00	0.00	NA	0.00
SALES	4,000.00	0.00	0.00%	4,000.00
INVESTMENTS	30,000.00	0.00	0.00%	30,000.00
REGULAR INCOME	248,624.88	(13,800.00)	(5.55%)	234,824.88
DESIGNATED INCOME				
GENERAL	0.00	0.00	NA	0.00
DESIGNATED	0.00	45,000.00	NA	45,000.00
PASSTHROUGH	0.00	0.00	NA	0.00
DESIGNATED INCOME	0.00	45,000.00	NA	45,000.00
FAITH FORMATION				
GENERAL	0.00	0.00	NA	0.00
DESIGNATED	0.00	0.00	NA	0.00
DESIGNATED FUNDRAISER	0.00	0.00	NA	0.00
FAITH FORMATION	0.00	0.00	NA	0.00
FUNDRAISER INCOME				
DINNERS	18,700.00	0.00	0.00%	18,700.00
GENERAL FUNDRAISERS	12,550.00	1,650.00	13.15%	14,200.00
FUNDRAISER INCOME	31,250.00	1,650.00	5.28%	32,900.00
Total Budget For Income	279,874.88	32,850.00	11.74%	312,724.88

**Budget Comparison
Year-to-Year Difference**

Expenses Budget

	2025	Difference	Change	2026
PERSONNEL				
SALARIES	150,641.28	1,355.20	0.90%	151,996.48
FEDERAL / STATE / LOCAL REQ	14,176.04	0.00	0.00%	14,176.04
HEALTH / DENTAL / VISION	8,411.00	0.00	0.00%	8,411.00
STAFF EXPENSES	2,300.00	0.00	0.00%	2,300.00
ALLOWANCES	1,100.00	0.00	0.00%	1,100.00
UCC REQUIRED BENEFITS	63,674.66	(1,500.00)	(2.36%)	62,174.66
PERSONNEL	240,302.98	(144.80)	(0.06%)	240,158.18
GENERAL OPERATING				
GENERAL OPERATING	4,570.00	(270.00)	(5.91%)	4,300.00
SOFTWARE	2,210.00	348.00	15.75%	2,558.00
GENERAL OPERATING	6,780.00	78.00	1.15%	6,858.00
FAITH FORMATION				
GENERAL	1,440.00	(440.00)	(30.56%)	1,000.00
DESIGNATED	85.00	0.00	0.00%	85.00
DESIGNATED FUNDRAISER	0.00	0.00	NA	0.00
FAITH FORMATION	1,525.00	(440.00)	(28.85%)	1,085.00
PROPERTY				
GENERAL OPERATING	900.00	0.00	0.00%	900.00
INSURANCE/ FEES/ CERTIFICATIONS	35,160.00	(9,900.00)	(28.16%)	25,260.00
UTILITIES	19,410.00	(2,400.00)	(12.36%)	17,010.00
ROUTINE MAINTENANCE	9,100.00	0.00	0.00%	9,100.00
NEW EQUIPMENT	0.00	0.00	NA	0.00
INSPECTION	1,270.00	0.00	0.00%	1,270.00
JANITORIAL / KITCHEN SUPPLIES	1,500.00	500.00	33.33%	2,000.00
PROPERTY	67,340.00	(11,800.00)	(17.52%)	55,540.00
OUTREACH				
PASSTHROUGH	0.00	0.00	NA	0.00
OUTREACH	0.00	0.00	NA	0.00
WORSHIP				
GENERAL OPERATING	1,480.00	(1,480.00)	(100.00%)	0.00
MUSICIANS	7,800.00	(7,800.00)	(100.00%)	0.00
WORSHIP	9,280.00	(9,280.00)	(100.00%)	0.00
DESIGNATED EXPENSE				
DESIGNATED	100.00	0.00	0.00%	100.00
DEACONS / FELLOWSHIP / FLOWERS	4,000.00	(1,500.00)	(37.50%)	2,500.00
SALES	0.00	0.00	NA	0.00
GENERAL OPERATING	720.00	0.00	0.00%	720.00
WIDER CHURCH EXPENSE	4,000.00	0.00	0.00%	4,000.00
MEMORIAL	0.00	0.00	NA	0.00
PASSTHROUGH	0.00	0.00	NA	0.00
INVESTMENTS	0.00	0.00	NA	0.00
SALES EXPENSE	0.00	0.00	NA	0.00
DESIGNATED EXPENSE	8,820.00	(1,500.00)	(17.01%)	7,320.00
FUNDRAISER EXPENSE				

**Budget Comparison
Year-to-Year Difference**

Expenses Budget

	2025	Difference	Change	2026
GENERAL OPERATING	0.00	0.00	NA	0.00
DINNERS	4,450.00	0.00	0.00%	4,450.00
GENERAL FUNDRAISERS	6,450.00	0.00	0.00%	6,450.00
FUNDRAISER EXPENSE	10,900.00	0.00	0.00%	10,900.00
Total Budget For Expenses	344,947.98	(23,086.80)	(6.69%)	321,861.18

1. Regular Income

Regular income is down.

We reduced the Nourish income line to reflect that we will not be hosting Nourish in 2026.

We did not update or increase any of the giving lines, as we have not fully met them in 2025 and do not yet know if we will. Currently, we are behind in pledge income by roughly \$27,000 (+/-). Therefore, these other items have been carried over as a straight copy from the 2025 budget.

2. Fundraiser Income

- Coffee House Income increased to reflect the 2025 actual income.
- General Fundraiser increased to reflect 2025 numbers.
- All other items remain the same, as we are generally on target for 2025. While some income lines are reduced, there will be a stronger focus on ensuring that these events take place in 2026.

3. Expenses

- Nourish Band Expense was removed to reflect that Nourish will not be hosted in 2026. If we decide to bring it back, we have applied for a grant, and the expense will be covered by that grant.
- Custodial Salary was reduced to be more in line with comparable local churches. Currently, we pay \$25–\$27/hour for 8 hours per week for cleaning. The church had budgeted this amount for a sexton, not a cleaner. After speaking with 11 other churches in the area, we found that all utilize a full sexton at a rate of \$18–\$20/hour. The 2026 budget reflects releasing the current cleaner and hiring a sexton at that rate.
- PBYT's father, a former sexton earning \$18–\$20/hour, is willing to take on BCC's custodial duties at that same rate.
- We have also looked into property management services, which would similarly cost approximately \$18–\$20/hour.
- Pastoral Salary remains exactly the same. PBYT has elected not to take his guaranteed COLA raise for 2026.
- Synod Expense was removed, as the Synod occurs every three years and will not take place again until the 2028 budget year.
- Office Manager Salary was renamed and increased to \$29,000 by combining the former Bookkeeper and Office Manager positions, applying the COLA raises for both, and rounding up. We do not expect to pay the full amount in 2026; the estimated total for the year is \$28,745.60 (the exact combined amount with COLA).
- Minister of Faith Formation will receive a COLA increase only.
- Music Ministry remains the same with no increase for 2026.

Total savings in Personnel: \$8,744.80

- Postage increased based on 2025 actual costs.
- Water Cooler Rental reduced by \$120, as we are purchasing a second cooler under Building Funds for \$119.00 (donated by PBYT).
- Office Copier decreased to \$0.00 to reflect payment coverage by TGM, which is donating the remaining balance (adjustment made after budget printing).
- Kitchen Supplies increased by \$500 due to rising costs.
- CDM+ Software increased by \$480 to add a new module in 2026.
- Faith Formation decreased by \$440 to reflect 2025 spending.
- General Building decreased to \$5,000, as no major projects are planned for 2026. Included within this line are the new water cooler and potential updates to office lighting.
- Deacons' Expense increased to reflect 2025 spending.
- Altar Flowers decreased to reflect 2025 spending and the decision to discontinue weekly flowers.

Fundraiser Reductions

- Nourish Expense removed to reflect not hosting or using grant funds.
- Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter Offering lines removed due to having sufficient envelopes already on hand.

Budget Totals and Context

Totals

1. Expenses reduced from \$344,947.98 to \$321,861.18, a total reduction of \$23,086.80.
2. Total Income reduced from \$279,874.88 to \$267,724.88, a total reduction of \$12,150.00.
3. Deficit reduced from -\$65,073.10 to -\$9,136.30, reflecting a total deficit reduction of \$55,936.80.

Background and Explanation

In October and November of 2022, during an all-congregational meeting, it was discussed and approved that, for the first five years of the new pastor's salary, any additional funds needed to bring the pastor from part-time to full-time—or from interim to full-time—would come from non-Connolly investment accounts.

According to UCC guidelines, this transition involved moving from a part-time salary of approximately \$63,000–\$65,000 to a full-time salary in the range of \$108,000–\$115,000. The church currently pays \$108,855.28, equating to roughly \$45,000–\$47,000 in additional annual cost.

The approved motion specified that from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2027, this \$45,000–\$47,000 should be allocated annually from non-Connolly investments to cover the increased pastoral compensation. This allocation was not reflected in prior budgets, which contributed to the deficits seen over the last few years.

For 2026, we have added this line item to the budget in accordance with the original congregational vote.

Deficit

The facts

-\$65,073.10

2025 Deficit

-\$50,000+/-

Projected actual
2025 deficit*

-\$9,136.30

Projected 2025 Deficit

-\$40,863.70

Difference between
2025 projected deficit
and 2026 proposed
deficit.

*Projected deficit does not include that we are currently behind by \$27,000 in pledging to actuals. If this is made up, and we continue to do well in our remaining fundraisers, our deficit will be lower than expected.

Fund	Year Ending 2024	As of 10/01/2025
Vanguard Life Strategy	\$4,503.97	\$0.00*
Vanguard Wellesley Fund	\$142,345.29	\$0.00
Vanguard Growth Index Fund	\$204,630.36	\$0.00
Vanguard Dividend Growth Fund	\$6,808.57	\$0.00
Vanguard Wellington Fund	\$136,738.28	\$0.00
Vanguard Federal Money Market	\$1,540.31	\$0.00
Vanguard Total Stock Market Index	\$106,850.11	\$0.00
Vanguard Total International Stock Index	\$40,449.84	\$0.00
Vanguard Mid Cap Index	\$42,457.14	\$0.00
Vanguard Small Cap Index	\$28,526.39	\$0.00
Vanguard Short Term Inflation Protection	\$9,141.73	\$0.00
Vanguard Dividend Groth Fund	\$34,004.77	\$0.00
Totals	\$756,456.45	\$0.00

Investment Changes

The facts

Investments moved

Investments have been moved from Vanguard to United Church Funds. Because of this, all of the vanguard accounts have been liquidated and carry a \$0.00 balance

2 new accounts

1. We created a restricted account with an amount of \$158,847.15
2. We created a non restricted account with an amount of \$603,418.64

\$761,965.79

Total in investment Accounts

\$40,000

Amount taken during transaction to cover any deficit that may arise,



BOLTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Long Range strategic planning - 1 year

Church Pastor

- Creating UCC identity campaign and formulating committee to implement campaign.
- Continue the use of a master calendar for all events and schedules for ease of scheduling and participation.
- Increased awareness of BCC through increased amounts of community events both paid and free.
- Participation in various boards of both the SNEUCC and the National UCC Setting.
- Research social justice campaigns of the UCC and work with various boards to enact necessary changes.
- implement 1 worship experience per month for non traditional worshipping during an evening of the week to entice working younger families.
- Work with the church treasurer to balance the budget through spending cuts, identifying contractual cuts as needed, and creating campaigns to fund future projects of the church.
- Work with Church Council to create and implement full year evaluation of all activities of church including missions, outreach, and worship services to implement changes as necessary.
- Find ways to become involved in the wider Bolton community.
- Promote building use by creating and implementing various policy changes that allow for more use of building and grounds to increase revenue and exposure.
- Continued revamp of online presence including furthering live stream capabilities, training of other individuals to assist in production of various live stream items, and fostering a hybrid method of worship and participation.

Worship (Deacons)

- Assisting in various new worship services as outlined by the Pastor.
- Formulate and implement a full schedule for cleaning and stocking of all worship items.
- Engage the congregation to assist in worship with personal invitations.
- Create and implement a Called to Care ministry to assist in caring for the spiritual needs of the congregation in concert with the pastor.
- Engage with members of the congregation for assistance in hosting fellowship times for both worship services, as well as special services such as funerals and baptisms.
- Create and implement a new member course to be used for all new members to the congregation.
- Evaluate all publications for worship and redesign as needed to align with wider UCC involvement.

Deacons Cont'd *Faith formation Committee

- Re institute confirmation classes, utilizing research and enticing new processes.
- Allow the Children to display their works to the congregation. With bulletin boards (digital or actual)
- Continue to encourage community involvement with Faith Formation programs through frequent advertisement and invitation.
- Get the children involved in more hands on worship activities (music, readings, greeters)
- I would like to come up with a plan to be a safe place for special needs children to come to church/Sunday School. We need to determine what that plan will be
- Continue to strive for missions outside of church for the older youth to participate in.
- Special training for all VBS volunteers

Building and Grounds Committee

- Create a cleaning schedule and maintenance schedule of all building and grounds areas, including classrooms, hall, offices, and worship spaces.
- Promote early and often future spring and fall clean up programs to engage members and participants in continued upkeep of church grounds.
- Review and make recommendations for all contractual agreements currently in place for the church, including but not limited to cleaning, lawn care, snow removal, and energy of the church.
- Research various disability measures for immediate needs of the church and community.
- Handicap lifts, wider doors, handicap ramps, parking spaces, hearing impaired systems, visual impaired systems etc.
- Raise funds necessary to repave and expand back parking lot

Investing in our future 2024 Capital Initiative

“Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty - Proverbs 21:5

Investing in our future

Its how we show our love for tomorrow

\$136,675.80

Total Spent

\$139,000

Total Budgeted

\$2,324.20

Amount underbudget

\$1,500

Raised to Pay back

Items Covered under Capital Initiative:

- New Windows in Chandler Hall, Offices, classrooms, and store
- New Windows in the Church Basement
- New Carpet in the Sanctuary
- Oil heat and equipment removed, Natural Gas lines, and equipment installed
- New Computers for the office, treasurer
- Computer screens for office, pastor, and Minister of Faith Formation
- New pans, cutting boards, coffee servers, flatware, serving utensils, measuring cups, chaffing dishes, pot holders, strainers, bakeware, knives and more for the kitchen
- New Cocktail tables for the hall
- New easy to use, stain resistant linens for the hall
- White floor length linens for formal events in the hall
- Grand piano moved to the sanctuary
- New Communion Table
- New Communion ware
- New Paraments for the tables
- New Chalice and Patens
- New Bible stand and Cross for the Table
- New Candle holders
- New Advent wreath
- New energy efficient, double coffee brewer for the hall
- Digital displays throughout the church and hall
- Wireless Microphone system for Chandler Hall
- Rolling TV for use by the church and Faith Formation.
- Computer scanners for the office
- Upgraded phone system for the church
- Upgraded internet for the church
- Upgraded sound system in the sanctuary
- and more

The Capital initiative would have come in more under budget as we cut a few items such as the large sign in front of the church at \$5500.00, and several other things, but when we were pulling the old windows, there was quite a bit of rot, and so this brought the cost of the window replacement up slightly, and there were some unforeseen issues with some of the other projects, so to counter this, we took the large sign off the program, as well as a handful of other small things that we wanted to achieve with the savings of the money. Also, in the middle of the project, our coffee maker in chandler hall let go, and we were forced to quickly replace it as we were in a busy time of the year. This purchase was not projected, and again, to ensure we stayed within budget, we cut those few items.

Since the project, we have received numerous compliments from guests, and the general community on our ability to care for our church, and it has allowed us to welcome in more guests this year that originally anticipated.