

Annual Report
Resourcing the Local Church Committee
Maine Conference UCC
August 2024

The Resourcing the Local Church (RLC) Committee has had a very busy year. Meetings were held on ZOOM on Jan. 18, April 18, June 18, and we will be meeting later in August, October, and December of 2024. RLC resources are available on the Conference Website.

We said farewell to long time staff members Anne Hodgeman and Renita Dehais. They were the voices and faces of the conference as they helped staff and members who came to the Conference during their tenure. They always gave us accurate, prompt, and friendly responses. They will be greatly missed and we thank them for all they did for this committee and the Conference. We were later saddened by the passing of Anne. We are very pleased to have a full committee with all Associations represented and no membership changes this year. We welcome new staff members Nancy Bartlett, Kimberly Donovan, and Rev. John Fiscus. We also thank the Board of Directors for approving our request to meet up to 6 times per year. Our previous meeting schedule consisted of quarterly meetings to discuss Resourcing The Local Church Grants and one meeting per year devoted to Member In Discernment Scholarships. This change will allow churches and Members In Discernment to submit grants to be considered at each meeting. We recognize that many Members In Discernment are taking classes that do not fit the traditional September to May college year and that churches may benefit from more timely opportunities to be awarded grants.

Grants Awarded For Members In Discernment Scholarships are:

Lee Edelblut	\$1,550
Rose Stansfield	\$1,000
Sarina Brooks	\$1,500

We continue to work with Maine School of Ministry (MESOM) and Associations to have these funds best meet the needs of the Members In Discernment and the Maine Conference.

Resourcing The Local Church Grants Awarded are:

Monroe Community Church, UCC – Technology	\$ 700
Pilgrim Lodge – Sound System	\$2,500
Norway Second Congregational Church, UCC – Technology	\$2,500

Additional Grants will be awarded at the three remaining meetings

Each meeting begins with a centering activity led by a committee member. Members volunteer to record the Minutes each meeting. All of the members contact churches about grant requests and follow up on the progress of each grant that has been awarded. A huge thank you to the committee members. They have all been actively involved in working on various projects, attending additional meetings, and advancing the work of this committee. Members are Jan Barton (Katahdin Association), Shirley Beccue (Sunrise Association), Cindy Clement (Mid Coast Association), Judene Dyer (Cumberland Association), Rev. Brad Hirst (York Association), Ted Ruark (Living Water Association), and Pam Williams (Oxford Union Association). The members all work with a common goal and seek to help the churches and members of the Maine Conference, UCC. We plan to have representatives and display at the Annual Meeting this year to inform members of the work of this Committee. We will also be presenting a workshop on the grant programs at the annual meeting. The RLC is grateful for the support of Nancy Bartlett and Kimberly Donovan from the Conference Office.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judene B. Dyer, Chair