



Governance Committee Report to the Annual Meeting 2025

Maine Conference United Church of Christ

It has been another busy and challenging year for the Governance Committee. This team of 4 and then 3 individuals literally hit the ground running in November of 2024 after last year's Annual Meeting.

Our primary focus for the year has been devoted to recruiting people to serve on the Board of Directors and standing committees of the Maine Conference for slots that opened up at the beginning of the year (or became open shortly thereafter) as well as those slots that would become open as of Annual Meeting.

We also took a hard look at the size of our standing committees and recommended to the Board of Directors a reduction in the number of people serving on the Trustees and Finance Committees. The Board of Director's approved these changes. It should be noted that committee size is not designated in our current By-laws except for the Trustees and the Board of Directors. A reduction of the Trustees from 5 to 9 members to 4 will require a vote at this 2025 Annual Meeting.

The Governance Committee learned that board and committee transitions from one year to the next were sometimes difficult, particularly for new members. A second recommendation was made to the Board of Directors to extend the terms of office. Terms of office would begin at the close of the each annual meeting and close at the end of the calendar year in an effort to ease transitions and provide an orientation period for new members.

This recommendation was approved by the Board of Directors and will require a second Bylaw's change at this 2025 Annual Meeting.

NOMINATIONS

The work of the Governance Committee can sometimes be daunting, especially when those asked to serve say, "Not right now", "Ask me next year" or "My plate

is too full". We get it...all nonprofits struggle with this dilemma so we are not alone in our efforts to find skilled people to serve. We in the church world are competing with many other organizations for talented leadership. That being said, this work of governance requires perseverance and attention to detail. I truly believe our team has persevered and given our collective tasks the time and attention it so richly deserved.

This is my last year serving on the Governance Committee. It has truly been a blessing and a pleasure to work with Sue Burgess, Pam Burnham, Stephen Carnahan (for part of the year), our Conference Minister, Marisa Laviola and my predecessor Susan Reisert, as we have navigated the challenges of finding skilled people to serve our beloved Maine Conference. The camaraderie we have shared with one another and the conversations we have had with so many of you throughout the year has provided a sense of connection and opened the door to new possibilities for the future of our beloved Maine Conference.

I would like to thank all of the amazing people who answered our calls with a "yes". I hope and pray you will find your work among the dedicated people of the Maine Conference as rewarding as I have found it to be. May the Holy Spirit guide your way.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Woodside Chair, Governance Committee
Member / Lay leader of Bar Harbor Congregational Church UCC &
Sunrise Association UCC