

Maine Conference Annual Meeting Minutes – We Hear the Call

October 18, 2025

8:20AM - A Vision Moment by BOD Carol Kerr

8:27AM – Welcome by BOD Chair Stef Michaud

Land Acknowledgement by Liz Charles McGough – PL Director

A quorum was acknowledged followed by the Call to Order

Call to Meeting read by Sue Burgess BOD Clerk

Constituting Prayer by Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola

The following appointments were made:

Parliamentarian – Sally Colegrove

Head Teller – Anne Roundy

Credentials Committee – Kimberly Donovan-Poisson

Technology Committee – Spencer Law, Mark Fecteau

Explanation of Electronic Voting – Spencer law

MOTION – to adopt the rules and procedures for Annual Meeting 94 Oscar Wallace / Ruth Tibodeau
Motion PASSED

MOTION – To accept the Consent Agenda Anne Roundy/ Bill Walsh Motion PASSED

MOTION – That visitors may have voice but no vote Kathy Woodside / Beth Hoffman
Motion PASSED

MOTION – to accept the Agenda Kathy Woodside / Stacy George Motion PASSED

A video message was received from Rev. Dr Karen Georgia Thompson, President and General Minister of the United Church of Christ

Greetings from the United Church of Canada by Rev. Faith March-McCuish, General Minister and President

Greetings from Nicole Diroff, Associate Director of the BTS Center, Rev. Jane Field, Director of the Maine Council of Churches and Paul Ramsey from the UCC Pension Board

Rev. Bruce Burnham – representing the Maine Conference Honduras Partnership. He explained the long-standing relationship with the E & R church in Honduras since shortly after Hurricane Mitch in 1998. This Annual meeting marks the formal end of their long relationship, but that they will remain “friends forever”.

We then heard words of welcome from Rev. Malcolm Himschoot, Dean of the Maine School of Ministry and Liz Charles McGough, Director of Pilgrim Lodge

After a short break, Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola, our Conference Minister gave the State of the Conference report.

After Rev. Dr. Laviola's report we broke out into groups for Bible Study. This was followed by Lunch, Speakouts and Vision/Witness moments before resuming the meeting.

The PROPOSED By-Law changes were presented by Kathy Woodside and Jerrod Oltmann

MOTION to change the number of Trustees from "5-9" to "4" people – Kathy Woodside / 2nd - none needed

Short Discussion

Vote: Y – ALL minus 1 N – 0 A – 1 Motion PASSED

MOTION to accept By-Law change to change auditor's report to an independent accounting report – Jerrod Oltmann / 2nd -none needed

Discussion followed

Vote: Y – ALL minus 4 N – 3 A – 1 Motion PASSED

MOTION to approve change term ends to December 31st instead of Annual Meeting to allow for transition time – Kathy Woodside / 2nd – none needed

Discussion – Concerns raised about who would vote during this time

MOTION to the By-Law change "To amend the motion to include notification that all members new and old shall have voting privileges between Annual Meeting and December 31st." Rev Lisa Durfee (Blue Hill / Jane Chandler ()

Significant Discussion regarding the above amendment, most to the negative

Rev. Lisa Durfee withdrew the amendment to the MOTION

Kathy Woodside withdrew the MOTION to change term ends as originally proposed by the Governance Committee

By-Law changes 1 and 2 the were voted in the positive will come back to Annual Meeting in 2026 for a 2nd vote before becoming part of our By-Laws

Parliamentarian Sally Colegrove explained why the last By-law change was withdrawn is because it would change the number of votes on the BOD from 9 to 12 for 3 months

Clergy Compensation Guidelines – presented by Rev. Marcia Charles and Rev. Beth Hoffman.

The numbers have been adjusted for a 2.8% COLA for 2026 (over 2025)

MOTION to accept 2026 Clergy Compensation Guidelines as presented – Beth Hoffman/ 2nd -none needed

Discussion – none

Vote: Y – ALL minus 2 N – 0 A - 2 Motion PASSED

Jerrold explained the budget process

Discussion – very brief involving the possibility of solar power for the farmhouse (already in place)

Slate of Officers and Committees – Kathy Woodside, Chair of Governance Committee

Thanked the Governance Committee for all their hard work

Discussion – offered an update from Oxford-Union Association

THANKS - Thanks were offered to the members of the Annual Meeting Planning Team; the Pre-retreat group, especially Rev Dr Marvin Ellison; the Music Committee Rev. Holly Morrison & Rev. Lisa Durfee; the Conference Staff; and Stef

Credentials Report – Kimberly Donovan-Poisson

Total – 172

Fri – 114

Voting churches – 76

Lay Delegates – 62

Association leaders – 7

Online – 15

Association Committee Chairs – 3

Clergy (non-voting) – 6

Board of Directors – 11

Visitors – 6

Clergy 79

Conference Staff – 7

4:36PM MOTION to adjourn – Anne Roundy / Stacy George

Vote: Y-ALL N-0 A-0 Motion PASSED

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Sue Burgess

Rev. Sue Burgess

Maine Conference Clerk