



Governance Committee Report to the Annual Meeting 2026

Maine Conference United Church of Christ

Our committee began meeting shortly after Annual Meeting in 2025. With one returning member and two new members, we have relied heavily on the deep wells of experience of former members to guide us as we have learned the work. Thanks to Kathy Woodside and Susan Reisert for the help, and to CM Marisa Laviola for your on-going guidance.

Fortunately, we have inherited well organized work from previous iterations of the committee that allowed us to jump right into recruiting people for the Board of Directors, Officers, and Trustees slots in particular. And, when we've approached people to ask them to serve, we have more often than not received a "yes." We also got some earnest "ask me next year" responses, for which we are also grateful. We need to build up a list of potential candidates, and this response helps us build a bench, so to speak.

We also spent considerable time clarifying some proposed changes to the by-laws and policies and procedures based on feedback from last year's discussion at Annual Meeting. Thanks to Sally Colgrove for looking over the drafts for us.

We again recommend to the Board of Directors a reduction in the number of people serving on the Trustees and Finance Committees. The Board of Directors 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 "at least 5," will require a vote at this 2026 Annual Meeting.

In order to allow for a productive time of transition for the Board of Directors, for out-going and in-coming board members, we are proposing that out-going board members continue to attend board meetings, with voice but no vote, during the time from the end of the annual meeting through December 31st of that year.

This recommendation is included in the proposed bylaw changes that will be presented for a vote at the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Maine Conference.

We realized that it would be useful to have a repository of reports, lists, and meeting minutes that we can pass along to governance committee members as the committee changes. We've been working on this as well, trying out a couple different technologies. We've got a system that works for the team as it stands, and as new members rotate on, we'll see how easy it is to on-board them.

At the time of this writing, we are still in conversation with a few potential candidates for trustees and Board of Director positions. We also anticipate looking for a treasurer or

someone to share the role of treasurer, as we have learned that our current treasurer, Jarrod Oltman, will need to step back from solely covering this role by the end of 2026.

As always, should you be interested in serving the Maine Conference or know someone, especially a lay person, who would do well on a conference-wide committee, please contact one of the governance committee members. This is good work that can be challenging, but it is always better when we have more qualified, faithful people to share it.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Chrissy Cataldo, Governance Committee
Pastor, Winthrop Congregational Church UCC, Living Water Association