



NEWTON
COVENANT
CHURCH

NEWTON COVENANT CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

For The Annual Spring Membership Meeting | May 4, 2025

OUR VISION

We are a vibrant community,
being changed by Jesus
empowered by the Holy Spirit
boldly following God into the world

OUR MISSION

actively engage with God and his Word
foster a caring community of disciples of Jesus
bring God's healing to our hurting world
invite our neighbors to follow Jesus with us

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ANNUAL SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025

- Opening Prayer
- Voting Procedures
- Approve the Agenda
- Time of Remembrance
- Approve Prior Meeting Minutes
- Nominations & Elections
- Leadership Team Update
- Financial Update
- Pastor Report
- New Business
- Closing Prayer & Adjourn

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR | MAY 2025

Welcome to our 2025 Annual Report. Many church leaders have contributed updates about their ministries and shared testimonies of what God is doing in our midst. One of NCC's greatest strengths is the high level of involvement and each person's commitment to the ministries they serve with.

I am especially encouraged having recently collaborated with many ministry leaders at our April "Vision Lab." During this meeting, we took time to discuss our vision statement and what it truly means "to be a vibrant community, being changed by Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and boldly following God into the world."

It was a meaningful time to connect as a community and grow in excitement about who we're becoming as a church. It was also great to connect relationally and hear each other's heartfelt desire to deepen their faith. One takeaway from the meeting was everyone's desire to grow in our understanding of the Holy Spirit, so we're excitedly planning a fall series to dive deeper together.

I love our church, and I never stop being thankful for the people God brings to be part of our community. I am deeply moved by our desire to draw closer to Jesus and share his love with others.

As you read these ministry reports, I hope that you see a full picture of the people at work helping fulfill God's calling at NCC. We hope that you might not only be encouraged, but that you would pray for them and perhaps even ask God where He might have you serve.

For our glorious King,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garrett Smith". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "G" and a cursive "Smith".

Garrett Smith

MINISTRY REPORTS

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

Our church is committed to bringing people through a process of discipleship in which Jesus shapes and guides them. We desire to see each member of our church family experience a vibrant relationship with God through engagement with Scripture, personal prayer, and active participation in the ministry of the church within and beyond its doors.

We are seeing people grow as disciples of Jesus in a variety of settings, including Sunday worship, Community groups where we deepen friendships while digging into God's Word, and discipleship pairs or triads where believers can be mentored and supported in their walk with God.

This year, we kicked off the fall with a church-wide Community group series on "The Well Ordered Life," paired with a sermon series on the same theme. Community groups learned about spiritual formation practices and how to craft a rule of life in order to deepen one's relationship with Jesus.

NEXT GEN MINISTRIES

The Next Gen Ministries are a part of the discipleship pathway of NCC, serving children and youth with their families, as well as young adults. The vision is to help these younger members of our church family **grow into a lifelong, transformative relationship with Jesus** by connecting to God's Word, God's Church, and God's purposes in the world.

God's Word:

- Each Sunday, there are three **Cov Kids classes** (nursery-preschool, kindergarten-3rd grade, 4th-5th grade) that meet to help kids learn the big story of the Bible, what it teaches us about who God is and how He feels about us and the world, and to develop rich relationships with peers and caring adults.
- Our **youth group** meets one to two Friday evenings a month for fun, community, and Bible study. This year, we've studied the stories of Jesus and what they teach us about compassion and anxiety. One Sunday morning a month, we've gathered to discuss a big question that people often have about faith using the Alpha Youth series.

God's Church:

- It is important to show kids that Church is for them too! We continued our practice of sharing God's Word with kids' messages in worship. We strive to help every kid and teen find **opportunities to lead and serve** using the gifts and interests that God has uniquely given them. This year, we've seen that continue to grow with more kids and teens holding load-bearing roles at the soundboard, on the worship team, in Cov Kids classrooms, reading Scripture, participating in the welcome team, and more!

- We participated in the broader Body of Christ by attending the Covenant's east coast middle school **winter retreat** at Pilgrim Pines.
- We fostered community amongst families with our annual **pumpkin carving** event.
- Our **young adults** often meet up for lunch after worship on Communion Sundays. Lots of joy-filled friendships have developed amongst this group!

God's Purposes in the World:

- Six families spent an afternoon serving together at the **Foster Box warehouse**, sorting donated clothes.
- Our middle school students spent a fall Saturday volunteering with **Food for Children** in Manchester, NH - serving food to 250 families with food and shelter insecurity.
- Our high school students served with **Miracle Mile** in Boston.

Next Gen Ministries is really a ministry of the whole church - there are over **20 adults** who consistently and generously gave of their time to make all of the above efforts happen and to share God's love with our children and teens! Thank you!

COMPASSION MERCY JUSTICE MINISTRY

Compassion.Mercy.Justice, one ministry with four components, is NCC's primary initiative to actualize our vision to 'Bring God's healing to our hurting world.'

HEALING HOMES

Healing Homes aims to create a culture of care for families touched by foster care, adoption, and those who have children with special needs, as well as provide wrap-around support through teams of people serving as a Lead, Encourager, Caregiver, or Helper. This approach is informed by Fostering Hope's SupportONE model, and contributes prayer and encouragement, meals, and child care as needed to the identified families in or connected to our church. Three families are receiving this support through NCC, with a base of ~20 volunteers across these teams. Videos and testimonials were shared throughout the year to highlight the special circumstances for the fragile families. A special showing of 'Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot' was made available for NCC & surrounding churches at West Newton Cinema, bringing to life the potential impact of church families caring for children and teens in foster care. We also collaborated to bring a DCF Greater Waltham Appreciation Luncheon to about 90 social workers who advocate for these children, teens, and their families.

CALLED2CARE

Seasonal ministry opportunities are organized and made available for congregants. We had a few opportunities to donate non-perishable items to Newton's Freedge (<https://newtonfoodpantry.org/get-involved/newton-freedge/>) to help address the widespread food insecurity issues facing so many, where anyone can come and take whatever they need 24/7. Once again, numerous NCC'ers volunteered at Miracle Mile program at the Lion of Judah Church in Downtown Boston on Saturday mornings, where people experiencing homelessness were provided food, clothing, shoes, referrals as needed, and an opportunity to hear a message, song, and take part in worship and conversation. Additional opportunities to serve included the annual Christmas support for Place of Promise and the Foster Box.

DO JUSTICE

We continue to discern God's presence in the midst of our country's troubling and inequitable systems around incarceration, the impact of those incarcerated, and how NCC might become involved.

PREPARE4PURPOSE

We continue in a time of discernment here.

CMJ Team Members include: Hope Haslam Straughan, Jay Straughan, Liana Asim, Christina Barstow, Connie Devol (Deacon's Rep), and Barbara Reed (Missions Rep).

OUTREACH MINISTRY

As a team, we plan events for our people to invite their neighbors to in the hopes that they might be changed by Jesus (e.g., Alpha, Brewin on Belief, the Christmas Tea). We lead direct outreach into our community (e.g., Newton Harvest Festival and Basketball parents at Bigelow) and branding and marketing for our church (e.g., website and flyers).

We partner with other teams to facilitate outreach in their ministries.

This year, our emphasis has been on prayer as a means of outreach. We hosted a monthly prayer gathering on Sunday mornings in partnership with our Prayer Team.

We hosted Alpha, where we had 15 guests registered from all walks of life spiritually, and we have heard wonderful feedback.

Our team (Marie Adams, Judye Feldman-Dinger, Matt Supple, Brittany Shaw, Cos Pischettola, and Nici Smith) meets monthly to plan and strategize.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Our Monday evening Bible study and Thursday morning Bible study are meeting weekly. Both studies are welcoming places for newcomers, and an emphasis is placed on discipleship and growing in our faith.

Our Christmas Tea, in its 12th year, was a fantastic event, and we welcomed 100 women, around half of whom are not part of any church. Our speaker was relatable, and our table discussions were rich and gospel centered.

Throughout the year, we enjoy opportunities to gather in a more informal setting, such as Creative Expressions and a Beach Day.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Our vision as a church is to be a vibrant community, while our mission statement emphasizes the importance of fostering a caring community of disciples of Jesus. Community life is experienced through a variety of avenues at NCC — from one-off annual gatherings like Kick Off Sunday to more regular gatherings, such as our church lunches, weekly fellowship before and after church, and, of course, in a very significant way through our community groups, Parenting Well, and Bible studies. We are thrilled to have launched two new community groups this past year.

We have about 80 percent of our church involved in a community group or bible study, which is so important for our health and vitality!

PRAYER MINISTRY

Prayer is the foundation of our church life, and the goal of our prayer ministry is to encourage and facilitate personal and corporate prayer at NCC. We have an email Prayer Chain to which more than 120 individuals are subscribed. Anyone is able to join this group by sending a blank email to newtoncovenant@googlegroups.com.

Our Missions Team has been sending regular mission updates and prayer requests, which are allowing us to become more familiar with the missions we support and to remind us to pray for their needs.

Alli Corriveau has been seeking prayer warriors who would be willing to pray for our teens. Praying scripture over the lives of our teens is a powerful way to support and encourage our younger generation.

We have weekly prayer groups meeting regularly by phone/online, and hybrid:

- Sunday Morning 9:45-10:15 AM (hybrid-Zoom and in person at Bigelow Music Room)
- Tuesday Morning 7:00-8:00 AM, by phone: (857) 799-9137
- Tuesday evening, 8:30-9:00 PM, by phone: (857) 799-9137
- An additional group that prays regularly for specific needs.

We have established strong confidential prayer teams for members of our staff to pray for their protection, energy, and strength as they minister faithfully in our midst.

We have held several well-attended Praise and Prayer nights at the home of Joe and Sandy Siciliano and also at our church office, which included Paul Speidel leading us in a wonderful time of musical praise and worship. Paul also organized a Praise and Worship night held at Elevation Chapel in March, which was a blessing to all. We worshiped the Lord together, allowing the Holy Spirit to be present in our praise and in our hearts. There was a Prayer Team available at the close to lift up anyone with prayer concerns.

We collaborated with the Outreach Team on a once-a-month prayer initiative in conjunction with the start of our Alpha program. Each month, we met to pray for our family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, or anyone else in our circle of influence. We prayed for salvation and for opportunities to witness. We identified folks to invite to Alpha and prayed for their hearts to be receptive. Praying in small groups helped us to get to know each other better and to share the burdens we have for our loved ones.

We have been learning more about prayer through our wonderful Living Lent devotional.

In the future, we hope to continue to collaborate with other ministry teams and to hold more Praise and Prayer Nights.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 1 John 5:14

MISSIONS TEAM

The Missions Team (Carmen Aldinger, Doris Kellom, Barbara Reed, Lee Riggs and Mark Simonin) connects with our supported external missionaries and mission agencies and facilitates communication back to our church, for instance by sharing prayer requests from our supported missionaries and mission agencies on the NCC Email Prayer Chain, sharing Missions Updates in Inside NCC, and facilitating missionaries participating in our worship services.

In the current fiscal year, several of our supported mission agencies and missionaries spoke at NCC. In October 2024, we were blessed with a visit from the Executive Director of the Little Children of the Philippines, Carmenia Benosa, and in March 2025, the new Executive Director of Emmanuel Gospel Center, Stacie Mickelson, spoke at one of our worship services. In March, April, and May 2025, our InterVarsity missionaries are preaching at NCC: Kevin Ford, Andrew Givens, and Marie Adams. In the Fall of 2024, we supported Daliya Smith on her short-term mission trip to Rome, where she volunteered with the Centro Agape that reaches out to those living in and passing through Rome, especially immigrants and refugees. For Christmas, we organized Christmas presents for Place of Promise, in collaboration with CMJ, and we sent Christmas cards to our missionaries.

Our currently supported external missions:

Local

- [Boston Center for Pregnancy Choices](#)– a faith-based organization to help individuals make informed decisions about unplanned or unwanted pregnancies and provide support after those decisions are made
- [Emmanuel Gospel Center](#)– an organization strengthening Christian leaders to serve in Greater Boston
- [Fostering Hope](#)– an organization that guides churches and individuals into sustainable ministry to the foster care community
- [InterVarsity Christian Fellowship](#) (Kevin Ford, Marie Adams, Andrew Givens) – an organization focused on bringing the Gospel to college campuses; Marie and Andrew

are co-directors of the Greater Boston Area, Kevin serves at MIT, establishing new relationships with faculty and post-doc students.

- [The Navigators](#) (*Frank Tully*) - a ministry that shares the gospel of Jesus and helps people grow in their relationship with Him through discipleship, creating spiritual generations of believers
- [Place of Promise](#) - a Christian non-profit organization that provides Christ-centered programming for men, women, and children to rebuild their broken lives: physically, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually

Global

- [Free Burma Rangers](#) (*David and Karen Eubank*) - a multi-ethnic humanitarian service movement working to bring help, hope, and love to people in the conflict areas of Burma, Iraq, Kurdistan, Syria, and Sudan
- [Global Outreach International](#) (*O and B C*) – working in the Middle East to exalt Christ and engage people in mission by proclaiming the Gospel, doing good, and equipping the Church
- [Global Teams](#) (*Max and Deby*) – providing education and healthcare services in Southeast Asia alongside [ElShaddei](#), which is a Christian faith-based non-profit organization serving refugees and asylum seekers
- [Jesus Film Project](#) (*David and Sandel Livingstone*) – an evangelical organization sharing the story of Jesus with unreached people throughout the world
- [Little Children of the Philippines](#) – a non-denominational, community-based Christian organization, helping children to become contributing members of society in the context of Christian values

DEACONS

The Deacons ministry continues to support the congregation at NCC in various ways. The Benevolent Fund supports members of the congregation as well as people in our local community who have sudden needs; the card ministry sends greetings to homebound congregants, congregants who are hospitalized or ill, and those who have reached significant milestones; the meal ministry supports new moms and others in need with meals; outreach includes visitations to members of the congregation to show they are seen and cared for. Additionally, we are working together with the Compassion Mercy Justice ministry team to see where synergies exist and how the two ministries might work together. The deacons also prepare communion monthly and provide coffee hour and congregational lunches throughout the year to foster community.

WELCOME TEAM

Our welcome team is the face of NCC on a Sunday morning and is there with a warm smile and a greeting to welcome all. Our team consists of Jay, Hope, Frank, Cos, Tom, Barbara, Suad, Chery, Sandy, and Judy.

We are always looking for new people to help. Please contact Suad if you are interested in serving.

PROPERTY

As we continue to search for a property for NCC, we are following the guiding principles of looking for the “right building” that meets our needs, in the “right location” – centrally located to our members, and at the “right price”, setting up NCC for the future with a sustainable property budget. We have visited a few properties over the last year. In addition to seeing some church buildings we also branched out to look at some commercial buildings which afforded some positive attributes, such as a blank canvas to create the spaces we want, and possibly lower maintenance costs. We also saw a property that would be a sublet lease from another church organization. Overall, we saw 4 properties, and are considering others as they become available.

One thing we need to add to our studies is a budget plan outlining a framework of the necessary building criteria and cost breakdown. Example criteria might be:

Total square footage, parking available, building location, purchase price, types and sizes of needed spaces, and cost to build them out, & future maintenance costs.

This framework would enable us to speed up an offer or purchase process if a good opportunity is presented to us.

Please pray for NCC and the property team that the right opportunity would be presented, and that we could make a smooth transition to a new permanent location.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Newton Covenant Church is blessed to have a competent and caring pastoral staff team. During this past year we have enjoyed tremendous stability among our staff, both in their individual roles and shared teamwork. Amid ministry challenges which come with the job, their commitment to NCC and our Vision & Mission has not wavered. We should consider this as a further demonstration of the Lord’s blessing upon us.

The Personnel Committee is responsible for the care of the pastors, ministry staff, and their families. The Committee also serves as a liaison between the congregation and the staff, maintains the Church’s personnel policies, and performs annual staff reviews. Frank Tully serves as Chair alongside Garrett Smith’s role as Head of Staff. This year we welcomed three new members to replace a long-serving team. They are Clare Medendorp, Hope Straughan and

Jonathan Watson. We appreciate Maloy Mangada's willingness to serve one extra year (by Leadership Team appointment) to assist in the transition and handle logistics of Staff Review Surveys.

CONNECTING TEAM

The Connecting Team consists of Carmen Aldinger, Huzie Liu, Molly McLaughlin-Drubin, Fran Questad, Nici Smith, Jennifer Wu, and James Yeh.

Our mission is to help people connect, grow, and deepen their relationship with God and with the church. Each Sunday, our team looks for newcomers and aims to connect them. We also count and record attendance on Sunday mornings. We meet bimonthly to review our list of members and regular attenders and determine if we want to reach out to anybody whom we haven't seen in a while.

We organized a membership class in April 2024 in person and in May 2024 on Zoom. We welcomed five new members in August 2024. We are currently considering organizing another membership class in May or June 2025.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is one of the committees defined by the NCC Bylaws. The actual report on the work of the committee is the presentation of the Nomination slate at the Annual Membership meeting. The committee does most of its work in preparation for the Annual Meeting, and as a result, much of our work happens between January and March. We rely completely on nominees hearing God's call and their willingness to respond. The committee is continually in awe of how God calls and nominees respond year after year, and this year is no different. We are blessed to have very willing and able congregants at NCC. The current committee includes Rose Mayers, Darrell Hartwick, Christina Riggs-Romaine, Daniel Adams, Fran Questad (Leadership Team representative), Pastor Garrett Smith (ex-officio), and Harold Jones (chair).

STEWARDSHIP

As a church, we depend upon God to provide the resources required for us to fulfill the Vision & Mission which He gives us. God is faithful and continues to provide in various ways, most notably through the sacrificial and generous giving by the Members of Newton Covenant Church. During the current fiscal year, our regular giving on a monthly basis has decreased slightly compared to the last few years. As we have a modest 2% increase for this year's expenses, we would need to see additional financial gifts during May and June to finish FY 2024-25 within budget. Please join us in both prayer and consideration of increased personal giving to God's work at and through our church.

2025 NOMINATION SLATE

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jay Straughan (2028)

Harold Jones (2028)

DEACONS

Jeanne Downs (2028)

Ann MacKay (2026)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Daniel Adams (2027)

Darrell Hartwick (2027)

Rose Mayers (2027)

Christina Riggs Romaine (2027)

FINANCE COMMITTEE (counters)

Sue Denison (2026)

Connie DeVol (2026)

Don MacKay (2026)

Donna MacQuarrie (2026)

Barbara Reed (2026)

NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER BIOS

HAROLD JONES

After regularly attending church all during my childhood in Freetown, Sierra Leone, I came to own my personal faith in Jesus at the age of 17. I first came to this church as a student at Boston University in 1982. My wife, Geneinde, and I were married 4 years later, and we have raised our three children in this church community. During that time, I've had the great privilege of serving on several committees and teams, including Missions, Leadership, Christian Education, the choir, and the Praise Band. This church is definitely our home, and this faith community continues to be our family. I am looking forward to serving with the Leadership Team as we together boldly go where the Lord is leading the congregation.

JAY STRAUGHAN

As a Baptist church summer camper in middle school, I gave my life to Christ and the process of salvation continues to this day. My wife Hope and I met at Samford University in Birmingham, AL. In our almost 35 years of marriage, we've lived worked and worshipped in AL, KY, FL, CA and MA. We, (along with our sons Matt and Billy, sometimes) have been worshipping in this community for the last 25 years. I truly love worshipping with and laboring with all of you. I'm excited to serve on the Leadership Team, the Compassion.Mercy.Justice. ministry and as Moderator. May Jesus Christ be praised.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Newton Covenant Church					
Statement of Assets Spring 2025					
	3/31/25		3/31/24		3/31/23
Assets					
Bank Accounts	\$ 51,495		\$ 175,924		\$ 230,554
Investment Account*	\$ 561,749		\$ 487,798		\$ 455,751
Building Fund/Reserve**	\$ 650,841		\$ 599,214		\$ 538,804
Fixed Assets			\$ -		\$ -
Total Assets	\$ 1,264,085		\$ 1,262,936		\$ 1,225,109
<p>* Investment Account includes office space security deposit of \$1798.</p> <p>**Building Fund/Reserve is the combination of funds designated specifically toward the purchase of a church building and general funds reserved monthly per a budget line item.</p>					

Newton Covenant Church			
Profit and Loss Report Spring 2025			
	July 2024 to March 2025		July 2023 to March 2024
Regular Revenue			
General Offering	\$ 409,365		\$ 425,306
Interest/Dividends	\$ 27,416		\$ 24,223
Total Income	\$ 436,781		\$ 449,529
Expenses			
Personnel	\$ 327,781		\$ 317,993
Ministry Gift Offset	\$ (33,750)		\$ (33,750)
Rent	\$ 40,220		\$ 43,204
Missions & Ministries	\$ 62,977		\$ 55,526
Other	\$ 38,431		\$ 36,064
Total Expenses	\$ 435,659		\$ 419,037
Net Operating Income	\$ 1,122		\$ 30,492

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Report on Membership – as of May 1, 2025

Last year's Annual Report listed 141 members as of April 14, 2024.

The following changes have occurred in the meantime:

Added to membership:

- Allison Khurana
- Leslie Hilliard
- Stephanie Okonkwo
- Ellie Simonin
- Mark Simonin

Removed from membership:

- Barbara Smith

Thus, the current number of members is 145 as of May 1, 2025.

2024 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

NEWTON COVENANT CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING
April 28, 2024 at Bigelow

Opening

Moderator Jay Straughan called the meeting to order at 11:32 AM and opened in prayer.

Voting Procedures

Jay Straughan explained the voting procedures: only members present in the room could vote by raising of hands.

Substitute Clerk Bob Schulein confirmed that we had a quorum.

Approval of Agenda

Jay Straughan made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion passed with all in favor.

Time of Remembrance

Jay Straughan led us into a time of remembering those who have gone to glory this past year: Lynne MacQuarrie. Jay closed this time in prayer.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Jay Straughan made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2023 and October 29, 2023 congregational meetings. The motion passed with all in favor.

Nominations and Elections

Harold Jones presented the slates of nominees on behalf of the Nominating Committee.

Harold Jones made a motion that the following nominees be elected to serve as members of the **Leadership Team** (Class of 2027):

- Carmen Aldinger
- Ken Hynes (1st term)

The motion passed with all in favor.

Harold Jones made a motion that the following nominees be elected to serve as members of the **Deacons**:

- Ann MacKay (Class of 2025)
- Mary-Phillips Omotosho (Class of 2027)
- Barbara Reed (Class of 2027)

The motion passed with all in favor.

Harold Jones made a motion that the following nominees be elected to serve as members of the **Personnel Committee** (Class of 2026):

- Hope Haslam Straughan
- Clare Medendorp
- Jonathan Watson

The motion passed with all in favor.

Harold Jones made a motion that the following nominees be elected to serve as **Auditors**:

- Anders Brownworth
- Jeff Carnes

The motion passed with all in favor.

Harold Jones made a motion that the following nominees be elected to serve on the **Financial Team** (Counters):

- Barbara Reed
- Connie DeVol
- Donna MacQuarrie
- Mora MacDonald
- Sue Denison

The motion passed with all in favor.

Caroline Brownworth made a motion that the following nominees be elected as **Corporate Officers**:

- Moderator: Jay Straughan
- Clerk: Carmen Aldinger
- Treasurer: Jeanne Downs
- Financial Secretary: Doris Kellom
- Assistant Treasurer: Harold Jones
- Assistant Financial Secretary: Janet MacDonald

The motion passed with all in favor.

Leadership Team Update

Caroline Brownworth gave a Leadership Team update, expressing thankfulness to God for a season of smooth sailing as a congregation. She informed the congregation of the current Leadership Team members and their roles. She welcomed Ken Hynes as his term starts in July and gave thanks to Bob Schulein as his term ends in June.

Financial Update

Bob Schulein presented a financial snapshot of the church that showed the overall financial outlook of the church is good. Giving and interest/dividends are up slightly year over year. Personnel expenses have increased and other expenses have decreased. The overall net operating income is line with what was budgeted and is in line with previous years.

Pastor Report

Pastor Garrett Smith gave a brief overview of how things are going with the church. He updated the congregation about the search for a building. There have been several promising buildings but none of them meet all of our needs as a congregation.

Call for New Business

Jay Straughan asked if there was any new business, of which there was none.

Adjourn and Closing Prayer

Jay Straughan made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed and Jay closed the meeting in prayer at 11:53 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Schulein, Substitute Clerk

NEWTON COVENANT CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
November 3, 2024, at Bigelow

Opening

Moderator Jay Straughan called the meeting to order at 11:28 AM and opened with prayer.

Jay explained the voting procedures.

Jay asked the Clerk, Carmen Aldinger, if we had a quorum, which the Clerk answered affirmatively.

Jay made the **Motion** to approve the agenda. The motion passed with all in favor.

Ministry Update

Rev. Garrett Smith explained the purpose of the Fall membership meeting.

Rev. Alli Corriveau, Nici Smith, and Rev. Kelly Ladd Bishop gave updates from their areas of responsibility.

Rev. Garrett Smith concluded by addressing two questions.

Financial Update

Bob Schulein presented 2024 financial updates and assets and NCC 2024-2025 Budget Summary and responded to a question. Slides are available upon request.

Leadership Team Updates

Caroline Brownworth gave a brief update and shared a slide with areas of focus for each Leadership Team member.

Call for New Business

Jay Straughan called for new business, and there was none.

Closing and Adjourn

Jay Straughan closed in prayer at 11:58 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen Aldinger, Clerk