



Niantic Community Church

Quarterly Congregational Meeting

October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023



## Notice of Call (Clerk)



Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Constitution of the Niantic Community Church, that the congregation will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 after the worship service.



# Opening Prayer (Rev. Kaleigh Rasmussen)



# Meeting Agenda



1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Notice of Call (Clerk)
3. Opening Prayer (Rev. Kaleigh)
4. **Motion** to approve Quarterly Congregational Meeting (7/16/2023) minutes
5. Governing Board Report
6. Reports to inform the Congregation
  - a. Financial Reports – information only
  - b. Stewardship Campaign Update
  - c. Ministry Team Report – Justice, Education, and Fellowship
  - d. Ministry Team Report – Operations
  - e. Status update on settled pastor search (Settled Pastor Search Committee)
7. Vision & Mission Statements, and Congregational Goals
8. Voices of the Congregation
9. Benediction (Jeff Birch)
10. Adjournment



# **Motion to Approve the Quarterly Congregational Meeting**

**Minutes (held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2023)**



# Governing Board Report



- Flu/RSV/COVID Seasonal Reminders
- Attendance for the last year
- Expected Governing Board Vacancies in 2024
- Interim Senior Pastor, Rev. Erica Wimber Avena



# Seasonal Viral Stew - flu, RSV\*, and COVID



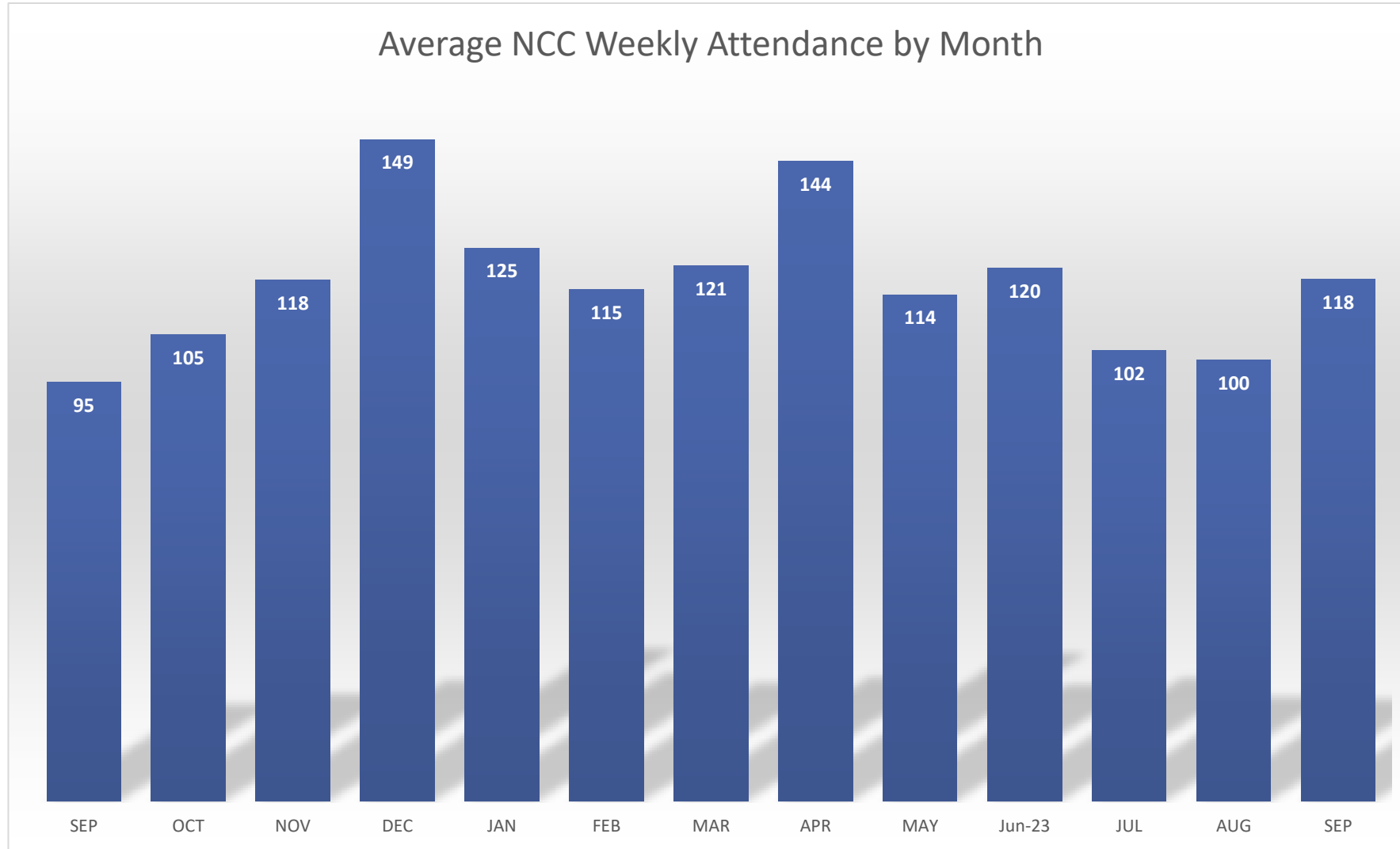
- Current Local Status: Medium level of COVID and low level of RSV
  - These infections may not lead to doctor's visits, but they cause sickness and misery
  - Symptoms: coughing, sneezing, aches, fevers, and chills
  - Hospitalizations in CT remains low
- Protection: Vaccination will attenuate the severity of disease.
  - COVID booster is available for anyone over age 6 months
  - RSV vaccines for older people and pregnant women.
  - Flu shots are available
- Prevention: Good public health practice we've all learned since 2020
  - Good ventilation of interior spaces
  - Hand washing
  - Cover sneezes and coughs
  - Masking
  - Staying home when sick to prevent propagation

\*RSV - respiratory syncytial virus

Source: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/10/21/1207700280/seasonal-virus-flu-rsv-covid>



# Worship Service Attendance



**Christmas – 165**

**Easter - 199**





# Expected Governing Board Vacancies



- (2) Officers: President and Vice-President
- (1) Ministry Team Leader: Justice, Education and Fellowship
- (3) Associate Ministry Team Leaders: Property Management, Financial Resources, and Legacy
- (4) Committee Representatives: Leadership Development, Nominating, Safe Church, Capital Campaigns.



# Interim Senior Pastor - Rev. Erica Wimber Avena



- Start Date: on or about 12/01/2023. She will preach on 12/03.
- Rev. Avena is currently serving as the Interim Senior Pastor at The Congregation Church in South Glastonbury, Connecticut.
- Rev. Avena has been working as an Interim Ministry Specialist since 2007.
- Her Masters of Divinity and her Masters in Sacred Theology are from Yale University Divinity School.
- She is married to Attorney Robert Avena, who practices law in Stonington.
- They have three children and make their home in East Lyme, Connecticut.



# Reports to Inform the Congregation



- a) Financial Reports – information only (Treasurer)
- b) Stewardship Campaign Update (Pam Stevens/Ralph Bates)
- c) Ministry Team Report – Justice, Education, and Fellowship (Kathy Leindecker)
- d) Ministry Team Report – Operations (Terri McTigue and Representatives)
- e) Status update on settled pastor search (Settled Pastor Search Committee)



# NIANTIC COMMUNITY CHURCH

## Financial Report Summary September 2023



	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>
<b>REVENUES:</b>			
Pledges	\$ 298,960.66	\$ 303,363.00	\$ (4,402.34)
Prior Year Pledges	\$ 10,224.00	\$ -	\$ 10,224.00
All Other	\$ 26,638.72	\$ 46,271.97	\$ (19,633.25)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 335,823.38</b>	<b>\$ 349,634.97</b>	<b>\$ (13,811.59)</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
Local Direct	\$ 138,679.51	\$ 141,825.30	\$ 3,145.79
Outreach	\$ 1,466.83	\$ 1,500.03	\$ 33.20
Administration	\$ 90,573.55	\$ 83,246.58	\$ (7,326.97)
Payroll	\$ 140,223.64	\$ 150,555.06	\$ 10,331.42
Total Expenses:	\$ 370,943.53	\$ 377,126.97	\$ 6,183.44
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ (35,120.15)</b>	<b>\$ (27,492.00)</b>	<b>\$ (7,628.15)</b>



# FINANCIAL REPORT – Restricted Funds



Cash Balance 9/30/23	\$	322,481.96	
Restricted Funds:			
	\$	(750.00)	Johnson Special Music Fund
	\$	(2,504.72)	ARPA- Grant Deferred Maint.
	\$	(343.66)	Audiovisual Equip
	\$	(154.00)	Bell Choir
	\$	(24,188.53)	Beckwith Bequest - CE
	\$	(15,120.97)	Beckwith Bequest - Old Stone Burial
	\$	(6,227.92)	Emergency Fund
	\$	(122.97)	Flowers
	\$	(9,637.13)	Flowthru
	\$	(995.00)	Labyrinth
	\$	(54,389.19)	Memorial Fund
	\$	(4,801.65)	Memorial Garden
	\$	(1,869.46)	Music & Worship Arts
	\$	(9,263.27)	NCC Youth Fellowship
	\$	(7,106.59)	Old Stone Burial Ground
	\$	(776.44)	Operation Love
	\$	(1,000.00)	Manners Memorial Fund- Justice Bench
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(138,501.50)</b>	
Cash Available	\$	183,980.46	

- \*\*\* NOTE: ON MARCH 31, 2023 A \$10,000 I-BOND WAS PURCHASED FROM THE OPERATING ACCOUNT TO SET UP THE RESERVE FOR ROOF REPAIRS. THE I-BOND IS LISTED ON THE BALANCE SHEET AS A CURRENT OTHER ASSET. THE I-BOND HAS AN INTEREST RATE OF 6.89%
- \*\*\*\* NOTE: ON MAY 18, 2023 A \$20,000 US TREASURY BOND WAS PURCHASED FROM THE OPERATING ACCOUNT TO SET UP THE RESERVE FOR ROOF REPAIRS. THE COST OF THE 1 YEAR BOND WAS \$19,060.68 AND WILL EARN \$939.32 IN INTEREST WHICH WILL BE ADDED ON THE MATURITY DATE. (4.7% INTEREST)
- \*\*\*\*\* NOTE ON JUNE 15, 2023 A \$44,000 1 YEAR US TREASURY BOND WAS PURCHASED FROM A COMBINATION OF THE BECKWITH-OSBG AND THE OSBG RESTRICTED FUNDS THE BOND IS LISTED ON THE BALANCE SHEET AS A CURRENT ASSET. THE BOND HAS AN INTEREST RATE OF 4.98%.



# Stewardship Update



<b>What we plan to spend on Ministry in 2024:</b>	<b>\$535,092</b>
Ministerial Expenses	\$348,454
<i>Salaries &amp; Benefits</i>	
Direct Ministries	\$62,936
<i>Committees, Building Utilities</i>	
Ministry Support	\$123,702
<i>Insurance, maintenance, office equipment</i>	
<b>What we plan to give in 2024:</b>	<b>\$10,200</b>
Denominational Support (UCC and UMC)	\$7,700
Direct Community Outreach & Support	\$2,500
<b>What we expect to receive in 2024:</b>	<b>\$520,100</b>
Pledges and Loose Offering	\$483,400**
Special Offerings	\$3,000
Fundraising Activities	\$20,000
NCCCC Reimbursement	\$12,000
Invested Funds	\$1,200
Use of Building	\$500



# Justice, Education, and Fellowship Ministry Team Update



- Ministry Team Leader: Kathy Leindecker
- Associate Leader: Nancy Hunt
- JEF has the following teams/committees:
  - Open, Affirming, Reconciling (OAR) Margaret Holmberg (Acting/Interim chair)
  - Christian Education – (CE) Brook Stutzman
  - Parish Life Ministry – (PLM) Jeannette Woodworth and Joanne Moore (co-chairs)
  - United Action – Ocean Pellet
  - Faith In Action – (FIA) Nancy Hunt (Acting/Interim chair)
  - Prayer Shawl Ministry (PSM) – Nancy Hunt and Jane Barth
  - Faith Formation Coordinator (staff) – Marsha Swan



Niantic Community Church



# OPERATIONS MINISTRY TEAM



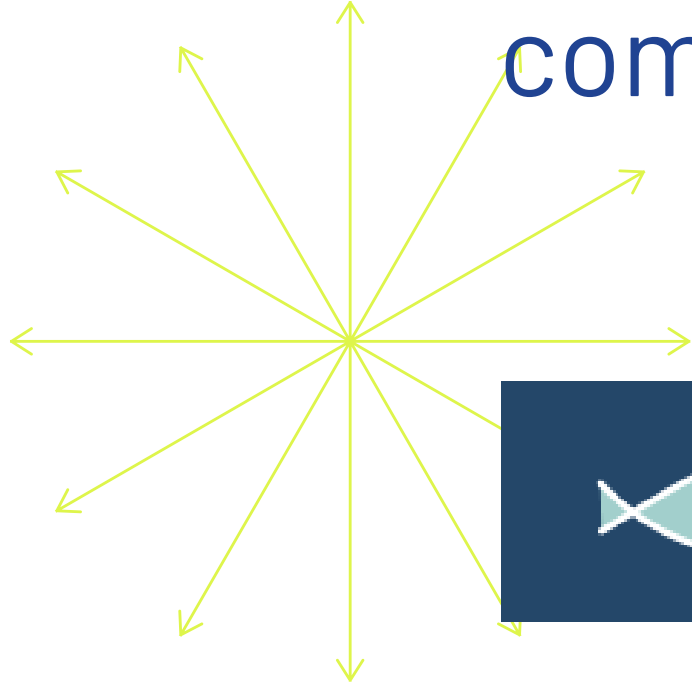


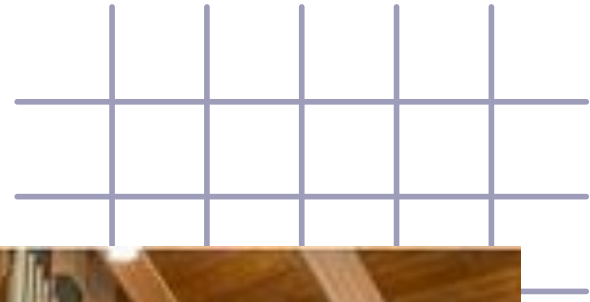
# NCC CHILDREN'S CENTER

LINDA HELVIG



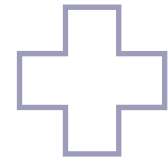
Collaborate with the NCC Children's Center to ensure informed coordination of spaces and resources through clearly defined channels of communication with Church.





# COMMUNICATIONS

JENNIFER DATUM





Coordinate with the Communications & Office Manager to keep the congregation and local community informed of events, activities, ministry tasks, and outreach opportunities.



# OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP

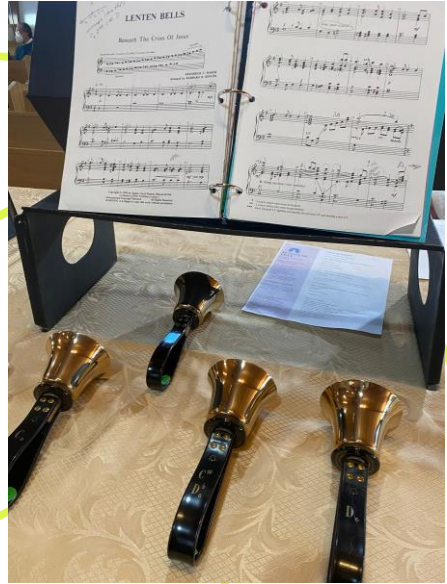
- Take photos
- Create short videos
- Post to Social Media
- Design flyers
- Write press releases & Tidings articles
- Assist with church signage





# MUSIC & WORSHIP ARTS

NAN RIGDON





Collaborate with the Music Minister(s) to support the musical, dramatic, and dance performances of the Church.

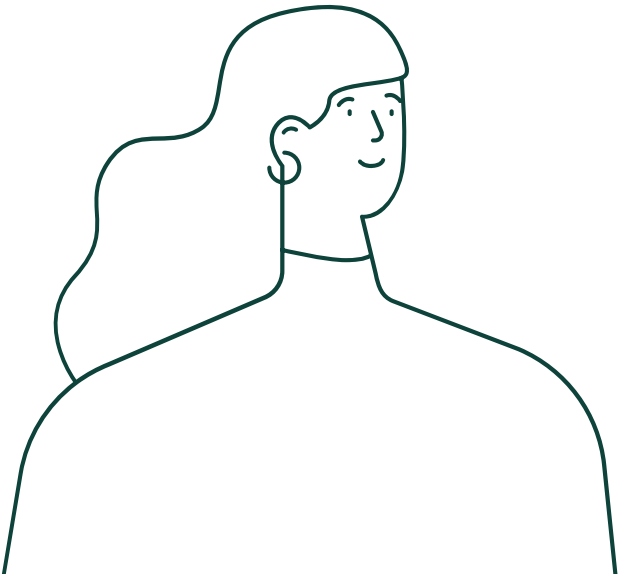
Ensure the upkeep and maintenance of organ, pianos, bells, hymnals, music library and other musical properties of the Church.





# OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP

- Assist in organizing concerts
  - Suggest performing groups
  - Raise funds
- Assist with grant applications





# WORSHIP TEAM

CAROLYN  
LOMBARDO

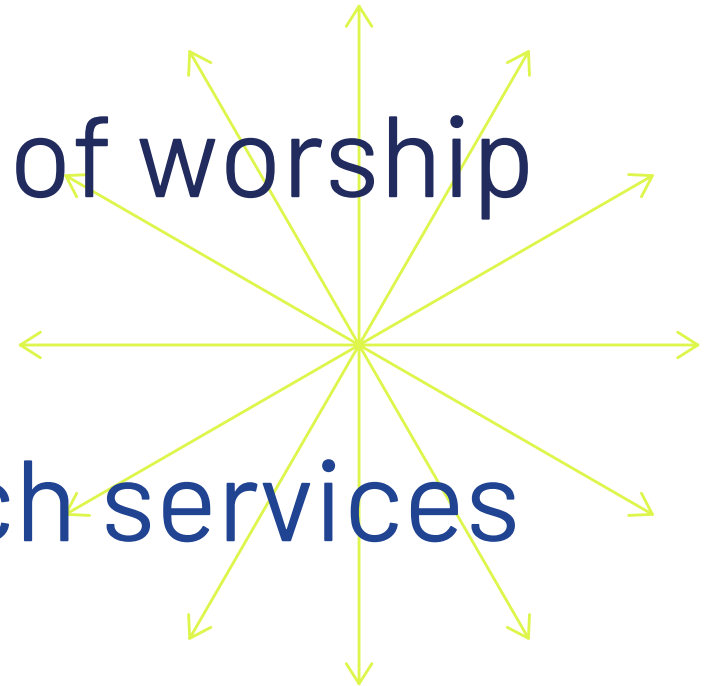


Plan & assist in conducting services of worship, especially in the administration of the Lord's Supper & Baptism

Manage the housekeeping tasks of worship services

Train & provide ushers for Church services

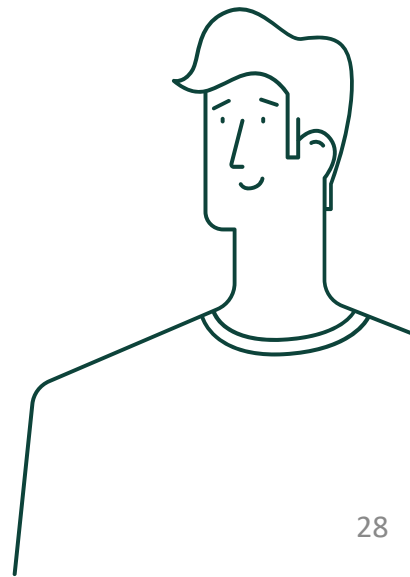
Welcome & orient guest preachers





# OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP

- Ushering and Greeting
- Decorating sanctuary for holidays
- Hanging banners/placing altar paraments
- Placing Prayer Cards in Pews
- Communion Preparation
- Assisting in decorating sanctuary for special events (i.e., Black History Month, Indigenous Sunday, etc.).





# Search Committee for Settled Pastor

**Who are we?**

**Who are our neighbors?**

**Who is God calling Niantic Community Church to be?**

**Oct 22, 2023 Congregational Meeting Updates**

## **Team Members**

**UCC:** Nancy Hunt, Holly Buhler, Peter Crizer (Co-chair)

**NCC:** Bette Mahon, Rich Basham, Leyna Rasmussen (Clerk)

**UMC:** Verna Swann, Ellen Ashburn, Mary Mirecki (Co-chair)



# UCC Search & Call Journey



## Overview of the Search & Call Process



Phase 1: Ending Ministry Well ▾

Phase 2: Preparing for the Search ▾

Phase 3: Discerning Through the Search ▾

Phase 4: Completing the Search ▾

Phase 5: Beginning Ministry Well ▾



# UCC Search & Call Process: Phase II

## “Preparing for the Search”

### July 16, 2023 Congregational Meeting Updates

<b>FORM COMMITTEE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ May 28: NCC Settled Pastor Search Committee Commissioned</li> <li>→ June 11: NCC Congregation voted to follow UCC process for calling a pastor</li> <li>→ June 15: Committee team member roles discerned</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">Complete <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<b>GATHER INFORMATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ July 7: Hartford Institute (HI) Survey Distributed to Congregation</li> <li>→ July 7 - 21: Congregation completes HI Survey</li> </ul>
<b>WRITE PROFILE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Next: Search Committee writes profile             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Search committee started, but will need survey results to complete</li> </ul> </li> <li>→ Future:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit Church Profile to UCC conference office</li> <li>UCC conference office posts profile online</li> <li>Wait and pray for candidates to submit their pastoral profile to NCC</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



# UCC Search & Call Process: Phase II

## “Preparing for the Search”



### October 22, 2023 Congregational Meeting Updates

<p><b>GATHER INFORMATION</b></p>	<p>→ Aug 2: Survey results received</p> <p>→ Aug 2 through present: Survey results being reviewed by search committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consensus in some areas</li> <li>• Plenty of diverse opinions</li> </ul> <p>→ Aug 17: Met with Rev. Isaac Lawson, SNEUCC Area Conference Minister South Central Region</p> <p>→ Aug – Sept: Committee individuals gathered specific answers (red, yellow/gold, blue teams)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Complete <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>WRITE PROFILE</b></p>	<p>→ Search Committee compiling profile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCC team divided profile sections into 6 focus areas</li> <li>• First profile writing session: Aug 30</li> <li>• Sept through Oct: individuals and committee compiled and fashioned responses for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Just the facts prompts</li> <li>❖ What does it <i>mean</i> prompts (e.g., After reviewing finances &amp; assets, what does this information reflect about your congregation’s mission and ministry?)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>→ As of 10/22/23, remaining sections: “Summary Ministry Description” and “Reference Letters”</p>





# UCC Search & Call Process: Phase III “Discerning Through the Search”



**RECEIVE PROFILES**

**INTERVIEW CANDIDATES**

**DISCERN TOWARD & WITH FINAL CANDIDATE**



# Vision and Mission Statements



- Our Vision and Mission Statements will be informed by the Search Committee's Answers to the following Questions

**Who are we?**

**Who are our neighbors?**

**Who is God calling Niantic Community Church to be?**

- In 2024 We will task an ad-hoc committee to draft these statements



# Congregational Goals



At the start of 2022, the Governing Board set the following goals:

- Learn God's words, build faith, foster fellowship
- Be a ministry for justice, service, and love
- Develop programs and ministries to foster fellowship
- Increase participation of our Church members in ministries
- Build trust and run a transparent Church Governing Board

**What should our goals be for 2024?**



# Mark your Calendar

2023 Annual Meeting

2024, January 28<sup>th</sup>



Niantic Community Church

# **Voices of the Congregation**



Niantic Community Church

**Adjournment**

**Benediction – Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes**