

Maine Council of Churches

Seeking common ground, working for the common good

PUTTING MCC'S VISION INTO ACTION

After a difficult but necessary decade of belt-tightening at MCC—cutting expenses, reducing staff and restructuring, and years of prudent stewardship of our endowment—the Board has decided the time is right for bold action inspired by a vision for the future where we are better able to meet the needs of Maine's congregations and people of faith, and to speak even more forcefully with the voice of faith for justice, compassion, and peace.

So, on June 23 our Membership Assembly voted unanimously to expand the staff position of Executive

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Executive Director Rev. Jane Field, now full-time at MCC.

REPAIRING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE DAWNLAND



The 56-acre Camp At The Eastward in Starks, Maine, has been donated to the Abenaki Tribe's Bomazeen Land Trust by the Presbytery of Northern New England (PCUSA)

Maine's faith communities are all located on the traditional and unceded territories of the tribes of the Wabanaki Confederacy who have stewarded these lands since time immemorial. Many of our denominations and many people of faith played an active role in doing harm to our tribal hosts and neighbors, including through the horrific practice of separating indigenous children from their families and culture to attend church-sponsored boarding schools.

Making a fearless and honest account of this history is an essential first step in the processes of grieving, repentance, and repair. For this reason, several years ago, MCC, along

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Rev. Jane Field
Executive Director

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Where there is no vision, the people perish.
(Proverbs 29:18)


This edition of our newsletter comes to you brimming with stories about vision—a vision for the future, a vision borne of hope, centered in love, and kept aloft on the wings of courage and faith.

But “vision without action is just a daydream,” as the Japanese proverb goes, so these pages are also a testament to the ways people of faith, including us at the Maine Council of Churches, are taking action based on the vision of a world where peace will be built with justice and justice will be guided by love, the vision of a world described in the pages of Hebrew and Christian scripture—a world God calls us to repair, as the Jewish teaching *tikkun olam* reminds us.


You might be surprised to find such talk of visionary hope for the future, given what difficult days we’re all living through. But isn’t that just like God? When things are at their bleakest—when we’re lost in the wilderness, scared out of our wits, walking through the valley of death’s shadow—isn’t that just like God to show up, through prophets, and dreams, and visions, to inspire action, to call us into the future God envisions for us and for all creation?

So I invite you to hit the “pause button” on the stress, anxiety, grief or despair you may be feeling these days, and receive this good news of great joy: where there is vision, the people will not perish. Take heart: from the action of our Board of Directors to take a giant leap of faith (one that humbles me with a great sense of responsibility!); from the many ways people of faith and good will are standing in solidarity with our tribal neighbors; from the outpouring of support from neighbors of the Portland New Church after the suspected arson attack; from authors and advocates standing up to defend the environment; from caring congregants taking the time to honor clergy for their service, perseverance and devotion.

May this pause create time and space for the peace and joy of this sacred season to gently fill your heart,



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CAN IT BE REPAIRED?

Marge Kilkelly offered this opening devotion at the September meeting of our Board of Directors.

Have you ever dropped a favorite dish or vase—maybe it was a gift or a treasured piece that had been handed down in your family? You were the steward of that piece; it was yours to care for until it passed to another, and now it was broken. I expect that the sadness you felt over the broken piece of pottery quickly changed to: Can it be repaired?

What does “repaired” mean? Making it as good as new? We pride ourselves on fixing things so that no one ever knows that it had been broken. We want to hide the brokenness... so it becomes a secret no one else sees... and no one else learns from.

In Japan, repairing broken pottery is an art form- *Kintsugi*. Rather than hiding and secreting the break, Kintsugi involves putting the broken pieces back together with gold. Each crack is filled with gold. The patterns are amazing and beautiful. They may be extensive, they may be small, but as you look upon a piece, your eye is immediately drawn to the cracks, to the repairs. The artisans are not trying to hide the brokenness but actually create strength from it. They embrace the flaws and imperfections as signs that an article has been well used, well-loved, challenged, and through hard work, carefully, lovingly repaired. The items are then ready to be handed down to the next generation, not looking as good as new and holding secret imperfections, but as a piece of art with a story of life’s trials and heartbreaks, strength in difficulty, and beauty in being not perfect.



We, as the MCC, work to heal our broken community, our country, our world. We strive to repair the brokenness created by racism and classism, the suffering of hunger, poverty, homelessness, joblessness and lack of access to health care. We stand up for what is right and just and speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves.

But I believe the focus of our effort to heal and repair should not be to create a perceived perfect world but to use the model of Kintsugi to repair it in a way that acknowledges the faults, flaws

and weaknesses and to show how, because of our faith, we made those weaknesses strengths.

This is not a time or circumstance that any of us would have chosen. But I believe that we are where God wants us to be right now. We did not choose this time. God chose this time for us.

We must leave a lesson about this time for generations to come: It was broken; it was frightening; it was unsettling; it was hard work; but as people of faith, we repaired it and we and you are stronger because of it.

Father/Mother God, you know our strengths and challenges, goals and dreams. You have brought us together as MCC to do our best to repair the brokenness around us- in our communities, churches, families, and even ourselves. Give us the courage to repair with an eye towards strengthening, not hiding, and embracing the challenges we face, knowing that you are with us. Amen.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM OUR PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

There are several carry-over bills in the State Legislature that the Maine Council of Churches and our partner agencies will be weighing in on when the 2nd session begins in January. There are also an additional 300 bills that have been submitted that we will review once the Legislative Council determines which ones meet the standard of “emergency”.

One of the bills carried over from the first session that MCC supports is LD 1626: An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act (Recognize Tribal Sovereignty). In fact this bill has a wide coalition of groups supporting it, including other faith-based groups such as MUUSAN, the Episcopal Diocese, and the Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy.

Passing LD 1626 is about fairness, equity, and justice. Over 40 years ago, the Maine Indian Claims Settlement (MICS) Act of 1980 was passed which resolved land claims but imposed limits on the Wabanaki tribes’ self-government not experienced by any other federally-recognized tribe in the United States.

The tribes have protested the injustice of the MICS Act, seeking meaningful changes through a variety of diplomatic and legal means. A bipartisan task force was formed and has recommended 22 alterations to the Act to restore the tribes’ inherent rights, including rights to regulate hunting, fishing, natural resources, and land use on tribal lands, as allowed by federal law.

LD 1626 would place the tribes in Maine on similar and equal footing to the other federally recognized tribes in the United States. This would impact economic opportunities, expand environmental protections, protect safe drinking water, and provide support to stop the epidemic of violence against native women. LD 1626 would be a

huge step in ensuring that the Wabanaki tribes are treated more like all other federally recognized tribes.

In May, at a public hearing of the Judiciary Committee, our Executive Director testified in favor of this legislation (it is archived on our website under ["Legislative Priorities Testimonies"](#)). The session came to a close before the committee finished its work, so legislators voted to carry the bill over to the second half of the session.

When the legislature convenes in January 2022, there will be public hearings followed by work sessions and then voting by the Maine Senate and House. We strongly encourage everyone to contact their legislators to ask them to support LD 1626. Your voice *does* matter and *can* make a difference!



Tribal Ambassador Maulian Dana addresses an October 11 rally for tribal sovereignty in Augusta. MCC was a co-sponsor of the event. (Also pictured at the podium: Rep. Rachel Talbot Ross, Passamaquoddy Vice-Chief Darrell Newell, and Passamaquoddy Language Keeper Dwayne Tomah)

Photo credit: NewsCenterMaine

Please Consider Remembering MCC in Estate Planning

Planned giving gives you the opportunity to provide for MCC in your financial planning. We cannot forecast the future, but it is good to know that your legacy will be used to continue the work of the Council for years to come. There are also tax benefits for you and your family in planned giving; it is possible to provide for your family while also providing for MCC. Consult with your legal advisor, bank, or financial planner. Call us for more information at (207) 772-1918 if we can assist you as you make your decisions or if you wish to discuss or explore your options with us.

MAINE COULD HELP REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY BY HALF

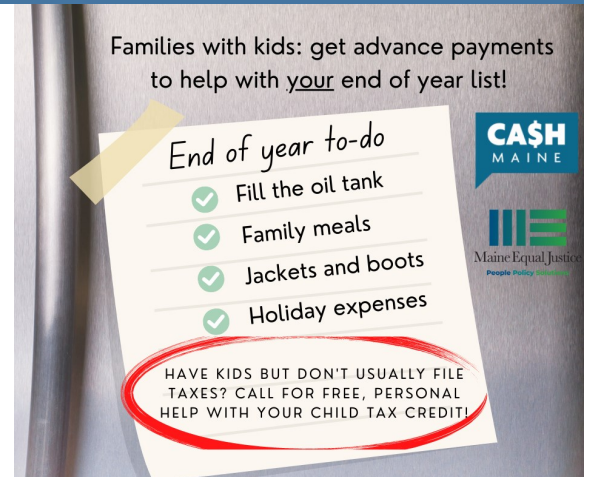
The Child Tax Credit, expected to be extended for another year through the Build Back Better bill, is a powerful tool for lifting families with children out of poverty. It is not a loan and does not reduce eligibility for other benefits like TANF or SNAP. Grandparents raising grandchildren can qualify, so can foster parents.

But folks need to know about this credit, and they need to file a tax return for 2021 in order to get it. There will be free help with tax filing, available through CA\$H, starting on January 3 when 211 will start making appointments with a CA\$H program near a caller's home or work. You can also connect with your local chapter of CA\$H Maine at www.cashmaine.org.

In the meantime, use publicity materials available under the "Resources" tab on our website to let folks in your congregation and community know about how to get the Child Tax Credit—up to \$3,600 per year for each child.

- Post a flyer in your Sunday School classrooms and/or send an email to your Sunday School families.
- If your church building houses a day care center, be sure they share it with their families.
- Do you operate a food or essentials pantry? A clothing or diaper closet? Host Bean Suppers or community meals? Let your guests know about this important resource they may be eligible to receive.
- Do you have grandparents in your congregation who are raising their grandkids? They are eligible to receive this payment if they qualify!

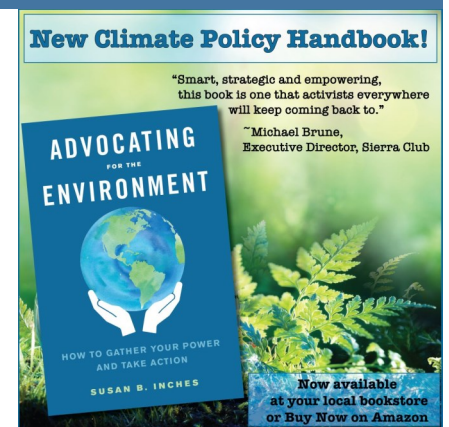
The Maine Council of Churches is part of the "Credit For Kids" statewide collaborative. We would like to thank our trusted partners at Maine Equal Justice, and the national nonprofit organization No Kid Hungry for their leadership in helping us help children in Maine whose families are seeking a way out of poverty.



STORYTELLING AND THE ART OF ADVOCACY A CONVERSATION WITH MAINE AUTHOR SUSAN INCHES

MCC hosted an interactive online conversation with Maine author Susan Inches, *Advocating for the Environment: How to Gather Your Power and Take Action*, North Atlantic Press, 2021. Inches, a member of First Parish Congregational Church in Yarmouth, is an educator and advocate who has worked in environmental policy for over 25 years, including 14 years as a senior official in Maine state government. She currently serves on the steering committee of the Pine Tree Coalition, which is working to establish in the State Constitution Mainers' rights to clean air, clean water and a healthy environment (the "Pine Tree Amendment").

During the webinar, she explained how ordinary citizens can use storytelling as a powerful tool in public policy advocacy and she encouraged participants to speak with authenticity to legislators about how their faith shapes their commitment to advocating for policies that ensure a clean, healthy and equitable future. (A video recording is available on MCC's YouTube channel: [MaineCouncilofChurches](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMaineCouncilofChurches))



REPAIRING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE DAWNLAND

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with The BTS Center, supported a new program of Wabanaki REACH, *Decolonizing Faith*, (https://www.mainewabanakireach.org/decolonizing_faith), and we continue to publicize other educational opportunities and screenings of films like “Dawnland,” “Bounty,” and “First Light” (<https://upstanderproject.org/>).

The importance of centering the voices and leadership of those directly impacted by this history and ongoing harm was a lesson MCC learned during its early days of partnership with Four Directions Development Corporation. FDDC, the only Native community development financial institution in Maine and the first in New England, improves economic conditions for the tribes by offering residential, small business and community development loans, and financial counseling.

Through the “Giving Winds” fundraising campaign, MCC led churches to make loans to Four Directions, and now, fifteen years later, we’re encouraging those same churches to forgive the loans. It was our great honor and pleasure to take part in the 20th anniversary celebration of Four Directions on November 4.

Currently, MCC’s top public policy advocacy priority is passage of LD 1626, known as the “Tribal Sovereignty” bill. On October 11, Indigenous People’s Day, MCC co-sponsored a virtual rally broadcast from Augusta by the Wabanaki Alliance in support of LD 1626. For more details, see the “Legislative Update” article inside this newsletter.

We recognize the courageous decision of the Presbytery of Northern New England to return 56 acres of land in Starks, Maine (site of the former Camp At The Eastward), to the Abenaki Tribe’s Bomazeen Land Trust for the establishment of a Lemon Stream Cultural Center. Described as an act of justice by the Presbytery’s Leadership Commission, this decision came at a painful cost to some near rural Starks who had been affiliated with small churches in the area that are now closed, and who had found spiritual fellowship and a sense of mission through the camp’s ministry—evidence that doing reparative justice is hard work involving sacrifice, grief, and loss, even as it furthers the righteous cause of justice and equity.



Leaders of the original Giving Winds campaign, Rev. Bruce Burnham, Helen Scalia and Jenn McAdoo, attended the 20th anniversary celebration of Four Directions Development Corporation along with MCC E.D. Jane Field

FIRST PARISH AWARDS MCC TECHNOLOGY GRANT



The Outreach Committee of First Parish Church UCC in Brunswick recently awarded MCC a grant to assist us in expanding our technology and social media capabilities. Thanks to their generosity and to the expertise of our Office Administrator Megan Akers, we have been able to create our own YouTube channel, Instagram page, boost advertising and do fundraising on Facebook, and design a resource-sharing webinar for churches on how to use technology effectively in hybrid worship services. We were also able to purchase a 360-degree camera and microphone for use in hybrid Zoom meetings, when some attendees are gathered in person and others join online.

Thank you, First Parish!

MANY FAITH COMMUNITIES OFFER REFUGE FOR TARGETS OF HATE

Asked to speak about how faith communities can support targets of hate crimes or bias incidents, the Maine Council of Churches executive director, Rev. Jane Field, acknowledged the painful truth: that historically many faith communities have failed to be a trustworthy ally for LGBTQ+ persons and have been complicit in systems that preserve and benefit from racial inequities.

In fact, the Maine Council of Churches was silent 12 years ago during the fight for marriage equality in Maine, Field told participants in a webinar on September 22 on hate crimes sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice. These failures, sadly, aren't merely in the past among some faith communities.

But there are “many, many faith communities here in Maine – not just churches, but synagogues, temples, Quaker meetings and other houses of worship – who are a resource and refuge, trustworthy allies who are committed to being places of welcome and affirmation where every person's dignity is recognized and defended.”

Hate crimes are of grave concern particularly now because they increased dramatically last year in Maine, from 19 in 2019 to 84 in 2020. Most were motivated by hatred of race or sexual orientation.

This September, an arson fire damaged the Portland New Church, apparently started where a Black Lives Matter sign was posted outside. The fire did not affect use of the building because it was limited to the front and entryway. Law enforcement authorities have a suspect, according to the church's pastor, Lorraine Kardash, but no one has been arrested. She said she has been told not to say whether the arson is being considered a hate crime. “Good did come out of it though,” she said, “because so many neighbors and church members showed their support by turning out for the Peace Picnic in October.”



Photo credit: Shawn Patrick Ouellette, Portland Press Herald

To provide support in the long-term to vulnerable communities, the Maine Council of Churches and several of its denominations' advocacy groups defend the dignity and rights of LGBTQ+ Mainers and Mainers of color by offering programs and advocating for public policies in Augusta.

Examples of the Council's recent faith-based advocacy include:

- Support of a ban against conversion therapy perpetrated upon LGBTQ+ youth;
- Opposition to bills that would have permitted discrimination against transgender Mainers;
- Promotion of full funding for the new Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine tribal populations;
- Support for the requirement of racial impact statements on bills introduced in the Legislature;
- and Continued support of tribal sovereignty.

Hebrew and Christian scriptures are clear in their condemnation of hate. Religious leaders and people of faith are uniquely positioned to reject hateful rhetoric by providing an alternative message of love, inclusion and mutual respect. As an organization committed to combating discrimination and bigotry, MCC joins in solidarity with those who face hatred and discrimination, and we call on Maine's people of faith to mobilize against hate and collaborate with one another to protect our friends and neighbors.

PUTTING MCC'S VISION INTO ACTION

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Director from half-time to full-time, effective August 1, for a designated term of three years, and to appoint Rev. Jane Field, who has served as part-time E.D. since 2015, to the position. The Assembly also charged the Board with undertaking a 3-year campaign to seek funds that could extend this expansion beyond 2024.

Like any good leap of faith, this one involves some risk—namely, drawing down the current endowment to fund the expansion. However, MCC Treasurer Ed Rea makes the point that if we risk nothing, we risk everything. “The reason for having resources isn’t for their own sake. As good stewards we are called to use them as a tool for carrying out our mission. Over the past ten years, our assets have been invested wisely (and socially responsibly) and are sufficient to make the expansion financially feasible for the next three years.”

Responding to the decision, Board President Rev. Alyssa Lodewick recalled the words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “‘Faith is taking the first step when you don’t see the whole staircase.’ We are thrilled to take this courageous step into the future,” she said. “Churches in Maine and elsewhere are experiencing a threshold moment, living in a landscape that’s in transition and being called to transform. Our MCC full-time executive director is in position to help lead us through this journey of discernment.”

In reflecting on her new responsibilities, Executive Director Field said, “With its newly expanded capacity, we seek to be an even more effective voice calling people of faith and goodwill to become what the prophet Isaiah calls ‘repairers of the breach.’ We’ll foster opportunities for congregations to collaborate as they face the challenges of a changing world and we’ll nurture faith-based activists as we step into those places where faith and work for the common good intersect: dismantling systemic racism and race-based privilege; supporting policies that reduce poverty and increase equitable access to health care, food, and housing; supporting the sovereignty and well-being of the tribes of the Wabanaki Confederacy; protecting the rights and dignity of LGBTQ+ and other marginalized Mainers; and defending and repairing the environment.”

As we look forward to the coming three years, the MCC Board of Directors invites you to share in our excitement about what the future holds and what we can accomplish together.

HONORING CLERGY

In October, as a part of Clergy Appreciation Month, parishioners, colleagues and church councils expressed their appreciation to the following Faith Leaders by making a donation in their honor to the Maine Council of Churches. In a year when our clergy have gone above and beyond to keep our congregations going through online and outdoor worship, adapting to “hybrid” services that offer members in-person and virtual options for gathering, and using creativity and imagination that allowed us all to BE the church even when we couldn’t GO TO church, we are delighted to honor:

Rev. Dr. Bill Barter

Rev. Andy Flatt-Kuntze

Rev. Abby D’Ambruoso

Rev. Dr. Ted Gaiser

Rev. Sara Ewing Merrill

Rev. Christephor Gilbert

Rev. Nathan Ferrell

Rev. Silver Moore Leamon

Rev. Jane Field

Rev. Katherine Pinkham

**October is
CLERGY
Appreciation
Month**

**"...honor those leaders who work so
hard for you..."**

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (The Message)

TWO THUMBS UP FOR THESE VIDEOS!

Many of our recent online programs have been recorded and are available on our YouTube channel, [MaineCouncilofChurches](#). If you missed any of these, grab a bowl of popcorn and do some binge watching!



White Supremacy in 2021: Putting Violent Extremists on Trial. On May 25, we joined the Jewish Community Alliance in co-hosting an important webinar featuring Integrity First for America, an organization suing the white supremacists responsible for the violence in Charlottesville in 2017.

MCC Hosts A Meeting for Faith Leaders with Maine CDC's Dr. Nirav Shah. This June 3 webinar included conversation and Q&A with Dr. Shah, and a presentation from DHHS staff about how churches can help members overcome vaccine hesitancy.

Maine Faith Leaders Discuss the Equality Act. MCC E.D. Jane Field was among the panelists featured in this June 22 program about federal legislation that would ban discrimination against people based on sexual orientation and gender identity and substantially expand the areas to which those discrimination protections apply.

Storytelling and the Art of Advocacy. On November 9, MCC hosted an online conversation with Maine author Susan Inches ([Advocating for the Environment](#), North Atlantic Books, 2021).

There are also videos of the September 30 – October 1 BTS Center Convocation (MCC was a partner organization for this event), **“We Are God’s Soil: Spiritual Leadership in a Climate-Changed World”** available at [The BTS Center's Website Video Library](#).

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Coming soon to a computer near you: a new online series from MCC, “What Works?” – informal resource-sharing opportunities for clergy and lay leaders to swap ideas, share best practices and cross-pollinate to their hearts’ content. Episode #1: Using Tech Effectively in Hybrid Worship Services. Episode #2: Doing Anti-Racism Work and Education in the Local Church. Stay tuned!

SPEAKING UP FOR VOTING RIGHTS

Board member Marge Kilkelly (right) represented MCC at a press conference held at Allen Avenue UU Church in Portland on August 10, speaking in support of the For The People Act which would protect voting rights. Coverage of her remarks appeared in The Washington Post and in Religion News Service. (Also pictured: Rev. Donna Dolham, UU (speaking), Portland City Councilor Pious Ali (center), and Scott Turcotte of Common Cause.)



THANK YOU TO OUR FALL 2020-FALL 2021 DONORS*

Denominations and Associate Members

Episcopal Diocese of Maine
Maine Conference UCC
New England Conference, UMC
New England Synod, ELCA
New England Yearly Meeting of Friends
Synod of the Northeast, PCUSA
Unitarian Universalist Association
Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting of Friends

Churches and Organizations

Brunswick Friends Meeting
Cathedral Church of St. Luke
Congregational Church in Cumberland UCC
Congregational Church of Edgecomb UCC
Faith Lutheran Church
Farmington Friends Meeting
First Congregational UCC, Wiscasset
First Parish Church UCC, Brunswick
First Universalist Church of South Paris
Hammond Street UCC
Midcoast Monthly Meeting of Friends
Narramissic Valley Friends Meeting
Portland Friends Meeting
Raymond Village Community Church UCC
Second Christian Congregational Church
Somesville Union Meeting House
South Congregational Church UCC
Southern Maine Friends Meeting
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary
United Parish Congregational Church of Harrison/No. Bridgton
Vassalboro Friends Meeting
Winthrop Center Friends Church
Woodfords Congregational Church

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Andree Appel
Sally and Ron Bancroft
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Joan Beal
Lynne and R Christian Beasley
Carole Beal
Robert and Anne Bencks
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*Gifts received 11/1/2020– 11/1/2021

Every effort has been made to ensure the completeness and accuracy of this list. Please send any corrections to finance@mainecouncilofchurches.org or mail to MCC, 202 Woodford St., Portland, ME 04103.

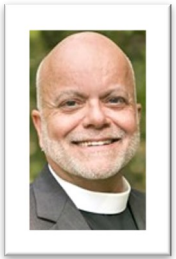
COMINGS AND GOINGS ON OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WISHES A FOND FAREWELL TO:



Mike Seavey

Mike was a welcome addition to our Board, bringing a gentle wisdom along with a passion for advocacy. While we are sorry to see him go, we are grateful he is able to remain as an active member of our Public Policy Committee. We wish him well in his new work representing the voice of faith in organizations promoting the well being of laborers and workers' rights.



Rev. Dr. Bill Barter

Bill likes to joke that he has done every job we have at MCC—Board member, President, Secretary, and Executive Director! And he did them all with an easy grace, keen insight, and deep faith. His service to this organization went above and beyond, keeping us going and keeping us laughing. Bill was the denominational representative for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in addition to all the many other hats he wore for us. In his “retirement,” Bill works as a forensic psychologist, an associate to the ELCA Bishop, and as an interim pastor and supply preacher (!).



Rev. Allen Ewing Merrill

Allen, despite his young age, was the “elder statesman” of our Board, having served the longest of any of our current directors. He held the institutional memory for us, having weathered the storms of many changes to MCC over his 12 years of service as the denominational representative for the United Methodist Church. His deep commitment to social justice and his extraordinary network of colleagues doing important work here in Maine and nationally were extraordinary resources we treasured. We are delighted that we still have the frequent opportunity to work with him in his role as Executive Director of The BTS Center.

AND THE BOARD WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS:



Rev Christephor Gilbert

Christephor was appointed by Bishop Hazelwood to be the ELCA representative to our Board and within months of joining us was elected to serve as an officer of MCC—our Secretary and a member of the Executive Committee. His quick wit has already endeared him to us, and his appreciation for liturgy and the arts enriches our work. Christephor serves as the pastor of Saint Ansgar Lutheran Church in Portland.



Rev. Dr. Jackie Brannen

Jackie joined us on October 27 as the newly appointed denominational representative for the United Methodist Church. She is the District Superintendent for the New England Conference's Katahdin District, encompassing northern and Downeast Maine. She has served in this Conference since 2005, first as pastor to several different churches, and now as D.S. We are delighted to welcome her aboard!



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The Maine Council of Churches makes a difference—in the life of our congregations, in the lives of people of faith and good will, and in the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors who need trusted allies and advocates to stand with them for justice, compassion and peace.

To do this work, we rely on your partnership, your prayers... and your pledges (annual or monthly gifts). Generous donations from individuals and local congregations make up more than half of our operating budget (the remainder comes from member denominations' annual support and from grants we receive for programs like Community Conversations and civil discourse symposia).

Inside, you will find a small white envelope with some BIG potential: When you use it to send us a tax-deductible donation, we will take your gift, combine it with the others we receive, and put it to work building a world where peace is built with justice and justice is guided by love.

If you have already responded to our recent fundraising appeal letter, thank you so much! If you are still making decisions about your end-of-year giving, we know there are many worthy causes asking for your support and we thank you for giving MCC careful consideration.