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**TRICON**  
Trinitarian  
Congregational Church  
Stewardship 2020

*Honoring Our Past ~  
Shaping Our Future*

## ***Honoring Our Past – Shaping Our Future***

As we approach 2020, we are reflecting on our past and looking to our future. As you will see from the following pages, while many things have changed over the years in small and often interesting ways, much has remained the same in important and meaningful ways.

Our church struggled financially in its early days but members were committed to “contribute according to the means by which God has blessed us.” Likewise today, we need every parishioner to contribute as they are able.

We need an average pledge increase of 4% in order to sustain our ministry and mission and meet new obligations. While we know that some on fixed incomes will be unable to increase, we must depend on those of us who can do more to do so.

- Additional cost of having two full-time settled pastors
- Providing a modest cost-of-living raise for clergy and staff
- Supplying additional resources for Children’s ministry and Adult Education
- Meeting the increased cost of goods and services to maintain our building and grounds
- Maintaining our commitment to mission and outreach and exploring ways to offer more hands-on adult mission experiences



**GOD is calling us**

to be a **nurturing community** of

***faith***

that HONORS GOD through  
**service & mission**



***Jesus says, "I am the vine; you  
are the branches.  
If you remain in me and I in you,  
you will bear much fruit;  
apart from me  
you can do nothing."  
(John 15:5)***

TriCon Church is like a thriving tree that has been growing season after season, generation after generation, bearing healing fruit for a hungry and hurting world. With care and commitment, each generation stretches ever upward and outward. This "tree of life" called TriCon was created in love by God, who called it "good." Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches, intertwined with one another for resilience and strength. Year after year, we spread ever outward to reflect the Glory of God and yield abundant fruit.

God continues to shape our future, watering and feeding us with nutrients of Grace, Love, and Spirit. Our only response to such loving kindness and care is to extend this rich abundance in service to one another and the world. Our generosity causes our church to flourish and grow.

Now is the time to feel the depth and weight of our roots, deep roots, anchored in the rich soil of a robust history; roots that still feed us with the courage to trust the God who lovingly beckons us higher still. Intertwined together, we hold firm through every storm and thrive in every season. From these roots we grow new branches that stretch us in new directions. It seems that God molds the shape of our future as we live out of the integrity and strength of our interconnectedness. It is our unity in diversity and mutual generosity that impacts the continued vibrancy of TriCon church. The shape of our future depends on each of us giving generously.

We invite your support of the tree of life that is TriCon church. Together we thrive.



Growing together in faith and hope,  
*Rev. Bob Brown*    *Rev. Gail Miller*  
Senior Minister    Minister of Congregational Life

# TRICON WORSHIP



**Worship** has been at the center of our church since its inception. In 1826, First Parish was drifting towards Unitarianism, a belief that Jesus, while the son God, was less than God. Nine members left and formed the Second Congregational Society and the First Calvinistic Religious Society, later to become Trinitarian Congregational Church. Those nine left not in a spirit of rancor, but that they and their progeny might ‘enjoy the faithful dispensation of those pure and holy truths which flowed from the lips of Christ and his inspired servant, Paul.’

**Today**, our language may be less flowery, but as an ‘Ecumenical Community of Faith in the Tradition of the United Church of Christ,’ we continue to rely on Scripture to inspire and ground us. The tenets of our basic Christian faith are reflected in the sacraments of Communion and Baptism and in Memorial services, weddings, and Sunday services.



# TRICON EDUCATION



Less than two months after its founding, our church voted to establish Sabbath Schools with branches in three outlying areas of the town to encourage attendance. Each church member paid 25 cents per year for their support. In 1827, the wife of the pastor, a woman of 'rare piety' established a female prayer society that met every Saturday afternoon.



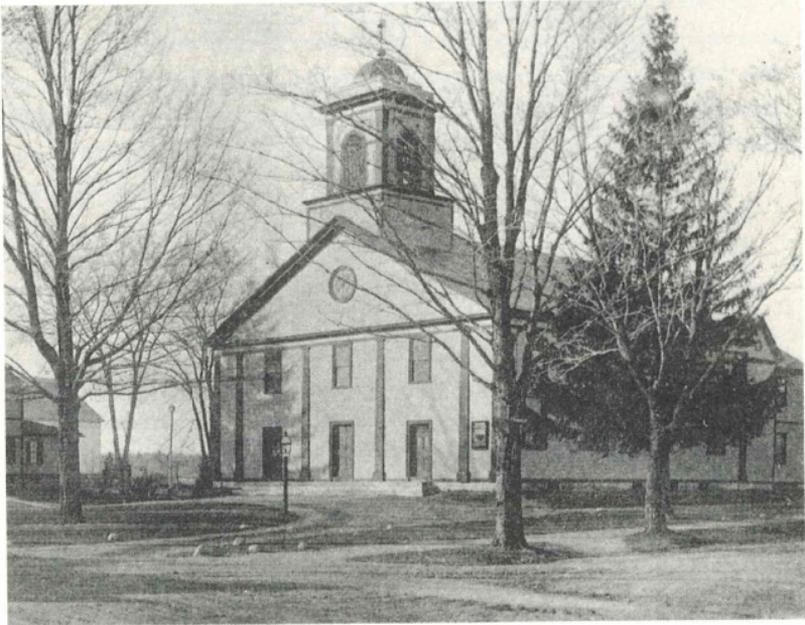
Today, our vibrant Children's ministry includes Exploring Faith Groups, Creative Church, Mission and Worshiping Together Sundays. Students in 5th/6th grades (Voyagers) and 7th/8th grades (Seekers) meet for fellowship and service projects. Our Senior High Program includes a lively Sunday night youth group, the Wednesday Discussion Group and the annual Mission Trip.

Adult Education offerings include a new weekly Bible study group and the very popular Advent/Lenten study groups, the men's Anchor Group, and Women of Spirit (and no doubt, of piety too!).



# TRICON PROPERTY

In 1826, the first meeting house was built for less than \$6,000, including the cost of the bell, on land donated by Ebenezer Hubbard. Major changes to the building in 1874 and again in 1898, resulted in a much grander Victorian structure with stained glass windows, and a lofty steeple on the northeast corner, and small steeple on the northwest. Fire, believed to be arson, completely destroyed the church in 1924. The congregation quickly went about rebuilding, resulting in our current Gothic style structure, designed by architect Harry Little. Little, famous for his work on many Concord buildings as well as the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., was quoted as saying that from all of his work, he was most proud of our steeple and that he put much more into his work than he billed for as he was 'so struck with the faith and determination of the congregation to rebuild and rebuild well.'



*Original church, 1826*

In recent times, we did an extensive renovation in 2000, expanding the parish hall, adding office space, ramps and an elevator, making the building accessible. In 2016, our failing pipe organ was replaced by an organ custom-designed for our sanctuary by the Noack Organ Company and a second elevator to the balcony brought us into full compliance with accessibility. Now, as in 1826, our property is our home where we worship together, gather in fellowship, educate ourselves and our children, and proudly host many community events.



# TRICON OUTREACH

## *Live out our Faith through.... Hands on Service and Mission*

The early church had numerous mission efforts from the Ladies Missionary Society, the Juvenile Missionary Society established to 'create the habit of benevolence' in the youth, the Union Bible Society and the Soldiers' Aid Society. Beneficiaries of these groups were the local poor, overseas missions and escaped slaves, and Civil War soldiers.

Today we donate well over \$200,000 to various agencies and organizations that fight homelessness and hunger, provide resources for early childhood education and domestic violence prevention, help veterans and the developmentally disabled, respond to natural disasters and assist orphans and disadvantaged children in Cambodia, Uganda, and Myanmar and AIDS victims in South Africa.



A unanimous action in 1833 resolved that 'entire abstinence from the use of ardent spirits as a drink be a condition of membership in the church.' In 1836, a vote was taken on slavery, 'no person claiming property in human beings, or in any way concerned in this, shall be eligible to membership in this church.'

Social Justice remains a hallmark of our church with our commitment to equality for all and particular concern for the current topics of immigration and climate justice. By the way, we don't have any record of that 1833 resolution having been revoked -- a topic for a future Annual Meeting?



# TRICON CARING

The Ladies Sewing Society, later named the Ladies Missionary Society 'desiring to aid the cause of benevolence according to ability that God giveth ... we agree to associate together for the purpose of gathering from the avails of our industry and offering for the treasure of the Lord.' Their treasury being mostly sewn and knitted items for the poor.

The early church was the center of the community, and word-of-mouth alerted fellow parishioners of those in need of meals, rides, and visits, or spread the news of special services and events at the church

We still have a sewing group - the KnitWits - although they refer to the 'avails of their industry' less grandly as prayer shawls, City Mission gifts, and hats for newborns.

We continue to provide for fellow parishioners in need although our meals arrive in microwavable containers rather than cloth-covered baskets, the ride might be in a Prius hybrid rather than a horse-drawn buggy, and news of church services and events arrive via newsletter, the website and weekly e-blasts!





**TRICON**  
COMMUNITY

# Honoring Our Past ~ Shaping Our Future

Dear TriCon Community,

Please consider prayerfully what you can contribute to the church in the coming year and return a pledge card either by mail or by placing it in the offering plate by November 17th. You may also email a confidential pledge to [jwalpole@triconchurch.org](mailto:jwalpole@triconchurch.org).

Pledges and gifts from parishioners account for over 76% of the church's income; the remainder is from rental and endowment fund income. We are the church and the church is us!

We are also hosting a number of informal gatherings, jokingly called "pie parties" (where you may, or may not, be served pie but you will receive a warm welcome and some yummy refreshments.) These parties will provide an opportunity to share fellowship and good food, to ask questions about the church and the budget and to offer your input on the church today and the church of the future!

We hope that you will attend one of these fun events. Sign up in the parish hall or on our website or by calling the church office.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

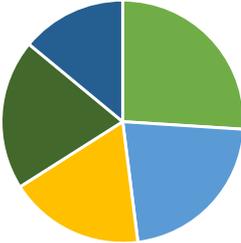
Your Stewardship Team

Jeff Campbell, Chair

Amy Bruning, Liz Crowell, Suzanne Giles, Jon Piper, Becky Schwenk,  
Judy Walpole, Woody Woodman

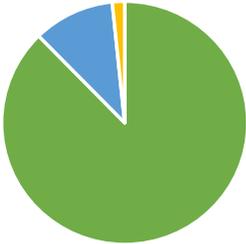
# Total Annual Budget: \$1,125,200

Expenses



■ Worship ■ Education ■ Caring/Community ■ Outreach ■ Property

Income



■ Pledges/gifts ■ Rental income ■ Endowment

## Expenditures

worship	26%
education	22%
outreach	20%
caring/community	18%
property	14%

## Income

pledges/gifts	76.5%
endowment	14%
rental income	9.5%

***A message from the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the church in 1901:***

***“To you, the coming generations, in whom the succession of this church shall be maintained and enlarged, we give, in the full confidence of your coming, our word of greeting and of hope. You shall enter into our labors and carry them forward to yet larger fruition. We welcome you in your respective turns to the possession and protection of the ‘goodly heritage’ which has come to us ... that of the gospel of the glory of the blessed God, which is committed to our trust; and to each to transmit it to the next, as would we, in its full integrity and power.”***

The expense figures represented in this booklet are presented in a narrative format where budget line-items are allocated across the spectrum of major areas of ministry. Therefore, each category includes clergy and staff salaries based on the amount of time spent in that area and supplies and resources are likewise allocated.



TO: