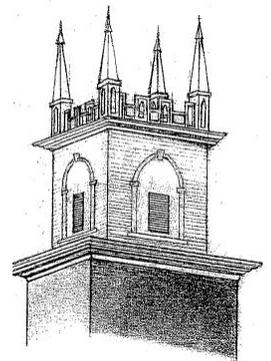


+ **N.E.W.S. CONNECTION**
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Message from the Pastor



New church members Carol Bailey Leigh, Lucinda Scanlan, and Michael Scanlan renew their baptismal promises with Pastor Dwyer on Sunday, 19 September 2021.

What a beautiful late summer day we had to welcome formally our three new members to the Pittsford Congregational Church! We also enjoyed fellowship outdoors following the service, the first time since the start of the pandemic that we shared coffee, juice, and cookies together. Let us continue to make our church grow. As we continue our journey in moving forward, one of the next foundational steps is to examine, evaluate, assess, and review our existing by-laws, last revised in 2001. You may ask why this step is necessary. At the end of 2018, our Church Council Clerk, David Swift, in a letter to our members and friends, shared this observation:

Another task we need to complete is a review of the structure of our church. At the present time, we have a structure that is functioning, but not without some problems. One of the problems we have is that more positions than we have people willing to fill them. Put another way as our congregation has decreased in size our structure has not been streamlined to function with fewer members.

Please take some time to study our existing by-laws. An electronic version may be found on the church website, or you may request a paper copy from me or by calling the church office. Our present revision committee consists of Rebecca Davenport, Erma Rowe, Tony Whitehair, David Swift, Nicha McQuin, and I. Others are welcome to join.

We will soon call the first of a series of meetings and will keep you apprised of our progress. Over the last two or three years, I am aware of how much soul-searching the church has done, and I am confident we may

complete our recommendations in time for them to be voted on at our annual meeting, now only four months away.

In my spiritual reading, I encountered this meditation from Martin Luther which speaks to our growth and renewal:

**This life is not a state of being righteous,
but rather, of growth in righteousness;
not a state of being healthy, but a period of healing;
not a state of being, but becoming;
not a state of rest, but of exercise and activity.
We are not yet what we shall be, but we grow towards it;
the process is not yet finished, but it still going on;
this life is not the end, it is the way to a better.**

**Yours in faith,
Michael F. Dwyer, Pastor**