



Simsbury United Methodist Church
2016 - 2017 Charge Conference Report
Monday, December 5, 2016, 7:30 pm

Member Care

By Jan Bennett
Chairperson

Member Care Report

At our recent October 18th Church Council meeting, we discussed the issue of new member assimilation and how new member engagement is an **All In** proposition. It is the recurring, unrelenting mission of the entire church. A special task force was subsequently formed to dialog about focused and deliberate methods to engage new members and, in turn, help to build up Simsbury United Methodist Church and the Kingdom of God. Ideas are still in the formulation stage as to where we at SUMC see our talents and gifts directed toward this important mission.

One aspect of this mission has been practiced over the past 18 months. With a slight twist of name, the Member Care **Connection**'s mission was to foster a warm, interpersonal relationship with our newest members. Via personal contact at church or in current members' homes, plus monthly use of email and phone contacts, our new members were further made to feel welcomed into our church family and were apprised of various service, fellowship, mission, and study opportunities here. It sprang from a perceived need to connect and stay connected in a personal, non-threatening type of outreach (or "inreach" as we discussed) amidst the stresses and pressures of our busy lives- to say "**Here's what is going on; please be assured that you are cordially invited to join us anytime, anywhere**".

It is the goal of this connection to find individuals from various groups of our church to serve as congregational contacts, helping our newest members feel connected to all that our church can offer them during their time with us. Follow-up reports will be provided to pastors, other staff members, and fellow congregants. We anticipate more of what has proven to be true in the past – that our new members will offer thoughts, ideas, and mostly thanks for belonging to such a loving, active, friendly, and Christ-centered organization.

Jan Bennett