

Working in God's Garden

"BYLAWS BITS" — NOVEMBER 2014

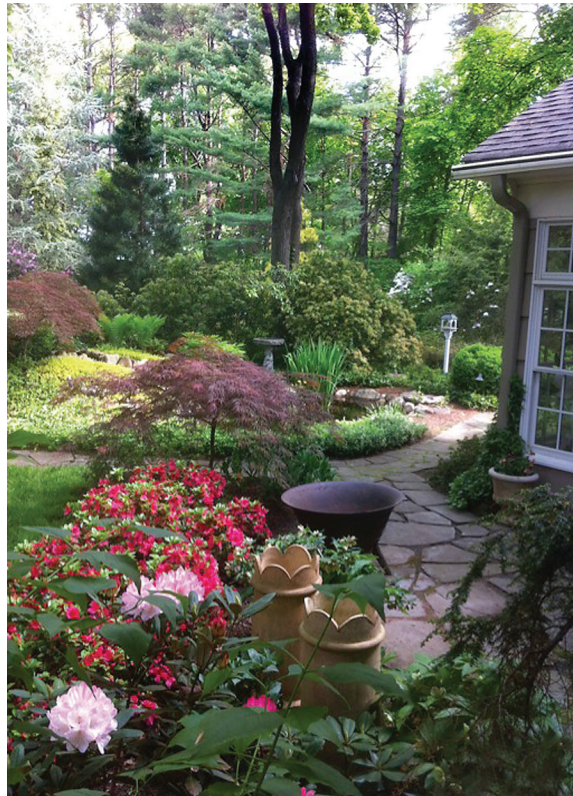
Whether at work, at home, at worship or at play, we each spend time working in God's Garden.

Some of us develop broad plans to describe where we are going, how we will get there, and who is responsible for various tasks. In other words, we build a strategy.

With a strategy in place, others of us work to implement the strategy. We use available tools, measure results, choose the detours, and—with God's help—endeavor to make good things happen. We are the tacticians.

To build a pleasing garden, someone has to have the vision, choose the site, select the plant material, choose the colors, texture and scale, determine the location of each plant, and decide when the time is right to insert each plant within the tapestry of the garden. This is strategizing.

But beyond that, there is the need to dig each hole, deal with root and rock obstacles, amend the soil, in-



sert the plant and provide water to support life and growth. This is the tactical work of making certain that the proper tools are deployed to assure that the strategic vision is achieved.

The Bylaws Committee is working to develop bylaws for First Church of Christ in Wethersfield that will provide a framework to assure that a Board is in place and supported by all of the tools it needs to determine where we are going, what we will be doing, how we will get there, and who will do the work of leading the congregation to achieve its vision.

This group of strategists is supported by the paid and volunteer tactical teams of pastors, deacons, educators, administrators and the leaders and membership of standing committees that choose and implement the tactics, make mid-course corrections, and measure the intermediate results to assure that the mission and vision of the congregation are achieved.

The Committee—**Tina Balmer, Amber Bird, John Davis, Anton Hertle** and **Steve Soderberg**—encourages any First Church member to share his or her views regarding updating the bylaws. This can be done by mail, email, or notes to the Committee delivered to any Committee member, the Board chairperson, the chairperson of the Research and Long-Range Planning Committee (R&LRP), or the senior minister. Notes to the Committee may also be dropped off with the church receptionist, for the R&LRP mailbox. For your convenience, the current First Church Bylaws are posted on the Church website and are also available in the Church Library.