

WINTER

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

First Congregational United Church of Christ



300 West 2nd Street Grand Marais, MN
Annual Report for 2021
Sunday, January 30, 2022

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First Congregational United Church of Christ - Grand Marais
Winter Congregational Meeting following the Worship Service on Zoom
Sunday, January 30, 2022
AGENDA

1. Welcome and review of procedure for this meeting – Jenny Delfs
2. Call to Order – Jenny Delfs
3. Opening Prayer - Pastor Limvere
4. Mission Statement and Open and Affirming Statement
First Congregational United Church of Christ is an open, inclusive church that exists to worship God and practice the gospel of Jesus Christ. We welcome all people of goodwill who seek to share the love of God and honor the diversity of creation in a spirit of tolerance and flexibility. As a Just Peace Church, we invite all who seek the reign of God to join us in reaching out in healing ministry, working for justice, witnessing for peace and striving to overcome all forms of oppression. We recognize two sacraments: Baptism and Communion.
5. Approval of Agenda - VOTE
6. Approval of 2021 Winter and Summer congregational meeting minutes - VOTE
7. Finance Report – Kevin LeVoir
8. Approval of 2022 Budget - VOTE
9. VOTE to change Pastor Enno Limvere’s contract from designated term to called pastor
10. Moderator Report - Jenny Delfs
11. Pastor Report – Pastor Limvere
12. Bylaw change re definition of a quorum - VOTE
13. Building committee update
14. Welcome new members
15. Closing Prayer/Adjournment

Proposed bylaw rewording for congregational vote

Current Bylaw III #2 and #4 read:

#2 A congregational meeting may be called by the Board of Directors or by a petition signed by 10% of the membership as recorded in the church office.

#4 Voting and quorums: The vote of many members present at the meeting shall be the action of the church. A quorum shall consist of 10 % of the membership as recorded in the church office.

The problem is that there is no membership recorded formally in the church office. In practice, we have estimated the number of people actively involved in the ministry of the church and calculated from there.

Our constitution defines membership as being open to all people of good will who affirm the mission and purpose of the church and is mutually agreed upon. At congregational meetings, we affirm this and invite all who consider themselves to be a member of the church to participate in voting.

The BOD proposes a rewording of these Bylaws III #2 and #4

*#2 A congregational meeting may be called by the Board of Directors or by a petition signed by **members numbering at least 50% of the average weekly worship attendance.***

*#4 Voting and quorums: The vote of a majority of members present at the meeting shall be the action of the church. A quorum shall be **members in attendance numbering at least 50% of the average weekly worship attendance.***

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Grand Marais

Congregational Meeting Minutes

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS FOR APPROVAL

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Grand Marais
Congregational Meeting
January 17, 2022

We Begin Together

Jenny Delfs called the Zoom video meeting to order at 11:17am. Jenny read the Congregational Purpose & Mission Statement. Sandy Stover took a count of the 34 voting members present on the Zoom Meeting. Jen followed by reading the church's communication agreement

We Attend to Immediate and Urgent Business/Housekeeping

Bob Carter put forward a motion to adopt the meeting agenda which was Seconded by Nancy Starr. Motion Passes

Motion to approve October 2020 congregational meeting minutes by Ann Russ and seconded by Nancy Starr. Motion Passes

2021 Budget Presentation by Kevin LeVoir

The proposed 2021 Budget can be found attached to these minutes.

There was a motion by Kevin LeVoir to approve the budget as proposed. This was seconded by John Bottget.

Vote Followed – 22 Yays, Ayes carry & MOTION PASSES

We attend to Old and New Business

Jenny Delfs gave an Annual Report overviewing the highlights of 2020 and the way that congregation members can contribute in our mutual ministry

Goal for mutual ministry will be reviewed quarterly for qualitative and quantitative accomplishments

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM.

June 27, 2021 Summer Congregational Meeting
First Congregational United Church of Christ
Grand Marais MN

Moderator Jenny Delfs welcomed everyone to perhaps our first outdoor congregational meeting.

She reviewed sections from the bylaws and constitution regarding meetings, membership, and quorum, then reviewed how we would vote. Meeting was called to order at 11:42.

Approximately 27 people in attendance. Kevin LeVoir acted as parliamentarian.

Don Davison moved to approve the agenda. Carol Harris second. Motion passed by voice vote.

Approval of Winter Congregational Meeting minutes was deferred, due to not publishing complete minutes in time.

Invitations were extended to join the various and active committees and teams: Board of Directors, Finance, Buildings and Grounds, Pastoral Relations, Food, Worship, Children and Youth, Memorial, Nominating, Grievance, Outreach, and Care Team (the latter two presently in need of leadership).

Treasurer Kevin LeVoir gave a financial report of the year to date, showing Income of \$55,823.25 and Expenses of \$69,659.87. A complete report can be read in the July 2021 *The Shining Light* Newsletter.

Barb Bottger presented some final words from the disbanded Discovery Team, with thanks and appreciation extended to the entire team by the congregation. Her remarks can be read in the July 2021 *The Shining Light* Newsletter.

Jenny Delfs presented her moderator report, which can be read in the July 2021 *The Shining Light* Newsletter.

Rev. Enno Limvere celebrated seven months with us in his Pastor's Report, which can be read in the July 2021 *The Shining Light* Newsletter.

Bob Carter motioned, John Bottger seconded, to change the Bylaw regarding the Nominating Committee to "The Nominating Committee will consist of 2 Board members and 1-2 members at large." The moderator explained that this change reflects the Board's actual practice for the last three elections and removes the pastor from the Nominating Committee. Motion passed by show of hands.

Elections were held by paper ballot for six open Board of Director seats (three 2-year term seats, and three 1-year seats, terms to be mutually agreed to by the Board at their first meeting). One candidate withdrew from the ballot before the election.

The six candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee were elected to the Board of Directors: Carol Bennett, John Bottger, Jenny Delfs, Kevin LeVoir, Carol Winter, Tom Yuhassey.

Retaining her current seat on the Board, completing the second of a 2-year term, is Lesaann Foris.

Thanks were extended to exiting Board members for all the gifts they shared during their time on the Board of Directors: Kristen DeArruda-Warton, Ann Russ, Chris Silence, and Mitch Travis.

The meeting ended with a song led by Ann Russ, a prayer by Rev Enno Limvere, and adjournment.

Submitted by Ann Russ

Adopted First Congregational Church UCC

2022 Budget

Income

Pledges (Pledged Donations)	\$ 105,000
Offerings (Non Pledged Donations)	\$ 15,000
Loose Plate Offerings	\$ 2,500
Building Use	\$ 3,500
Other Cash Assets (Example Endowment)	\$ 23,756
Interest Income	<u>\$ 2,000</u>
General Fund Income	\$ 151,756

Income Applied to Budget Expenses

Hospitality Donations	\$ 50
Sunday School Offerings	\$ -

Expenses Mission & Per Capita

OCWM	\$ 4,000
Per Capita	<u>\$ 500</u>
Total	\$ 4,500

Pastor

Pastor Salary	\$ 42,840
Health and Dental	\$ 24,900
Life and Disability	\$ 835
Social Security Offset	\$ 4,260
Pension Fund Contribution	\$ 7,797
Mileage (@\$0.575/Mile)	\$ 650
Continuing Education	\$ 500
Professional Fees	<u>\$ 500</u>
Total	\$ 82,282

Staff

Office Manger Wages and Taxes	\$ 4,250
Custodian Wages and Taxes	\$ 3,906
Taxes	<u>\$ 705</u>
Total	\$ 8,861

Business

Advertising, Promotion, Website	\$ 685
Banking Charges and Checks	\$ 80
General Liability Insurance	\$ 4,200
Workers Compensation	\$ 950
Equipment Lease (Ricoh Copier)	\$ 4,000
Postage and Delivery	\$ 1,400
Accounting Expense	\$ 3,000
Telephone and Internet	\$ 1,200
Office Supplies	\$ 1,500
Conferences and Meetings	\$ 500
Teacher and Board Expense	\$ 335
Technology Expenses	<u>\$ 500</u>
Total	\$ 18,350

Worship

Musicians	\$ 7,800
Visiting Pastor	\$ 1,000
Piano & Organ Maintenance	\$ 250
Music, Candles and Other	<u>\$ 150</u>
Total	\$ 9,200

Fellowship

Hospitality Expenses (Net)	<u>\$ 250</u>
Total	\$ 250

Education

Adult Education	\$	250
Youth Ministry	\$	100
Books and Teaching Material	\$	250
Local Out Reach	\$	<u>500</u>
Total	\$	1,100

Buildings & Grounds

Utilities (Electricity+ Sewar and Water)	\$	3,750
Utilities (Heating)	\$	6,000
	\$	-
Roof Loan Interest +Principle Payment	\$	7,503
SBA Loan Repayment	\$	250
Maintenance and Repairs (\$450 Rug Clean + \$1050 Repairs)	\$	1,500
Grounds, Plowing	\$	2,000
Garbage	\$	500
Misc. Expense	\$	<u>680</u>
Total	\$	22,183

Parsonage

Parsonage Utilities	\$	1,800
Parsonage Heating Fuel	\$	1,500
Parsonage Utility Assessment	\$	1,230
Real Estate Tax	\$	-
Maintenance and Repairs	\$	500
Total	\$	<u>5,030</u>

Total Expenses \$ 151,756

Income - Expenses \$ (0)

DESIGNATED TERM PASTOR'S REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

The Rev. Enno Limvere

There is an old saying, “The more things change, the more they stay the same...” In this unprecedented (I know it has been overused to death) time, where our church has once again pivoted on how we are worshipping together, there are many things that have stayed the same.

The first is God's love for us, for all creation, and for the world. God does not withdraw or hide Her love in bad times either to see us fall or to punish us. God is the God of healing, grace, and resurrection. Things are bad, but God is still good all the time.

The second is this church continues to a beacon of hope for those on the inside and the outside. Though we couldn't sit down together on Thanksgiving, we did prepare and give away 140 meals so people could enjoy a good meal because of our generosity. We welcomed our Afghani brothers and sisters into the Twin Cities with donations and gifts. We have many talented and gifted people who donate time in our community groups living out their love for our neighbors. We are still a family, helping each other and watching out for each other in these tough times.

This church has gathered new people into its fold who have stepped up in leadership in many ways. In our worship, we have people (myself included) learning the new 'tech' so that we can have a good worship experience on Zoom and continually working on ways to enhance it and getting ready for when we can once again get back into the sanctuary, but still welcome those who are joining us over the 'cloud.' We are slowly building up our youth and family ministries, our “Fun Days” have been a good thing for people of all ages when we have been able to gather, and we have been hosting Sunday School and a monthly youth group (they call themselves “Pizza and Social Justice”).

Over this past year, I have tried to give us a solid worship experience while at the same time bringing in new elements and trying to follow where the Holy Spirit has led. Some of them worked great and some of them not so much. I struggled with honoring our Just Peace, O&A identity, and the deep struggles in our world with proclaiming the Gospel and sharing light and love in my sermons. I have been learning the culture, the way this church goes, about it's ministry and mission. Some of them a little quicker than others.

I am making investments in this community by joining the Library Board, becoming a chaplain for the Sheriff's office and Fire and Rescue, working with the new Pride group, and creating an environmental group through Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light. I have also been working on creating places where we can learn together through our Study of Isaiah, our Discipleship Group, the Gospel Hour's, and Tai Chi. Also, I try to model the sabbath, rest, with still being able to take my days off and the Harbor Watch on Friday mornings.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your designated pastor, and at the Winter Annual Meeting, a vote will be taken to change my contract to being your settled (permanent) pastor. My wife and I hope it is an affirming vote and we look forward to being a part of this church and community for a long time.

Peace,
Pastor Enno

Board of Directors (BOD) 2022 Annual Report

Submitted by Moderator Jenny Delfs

Current BOD members: Jenny Delfs (Moderator), Carol Bennett (Vice Moderator), Kevin LeVoir (Treasurer), Tom Yuhasey, Lesaann Foris, Carol Winter, John Bottger

Previous members: Chris Silence, Mitch Travis, Ann Russ, Kristen DeArruda-Wharton (left BOD in June 2021)

The Board has continued to meet monthly either in person or on Zoom and sometimes a mix of both throughout this uncertain time of pandemic. We have had to be nimble. The world is not back to “normal” yet. Change seems to be the new normal. Despite these challenges, we see increased involvement in church activities. New people joining our congregation. New committees. New projects. There is a lot to be grateful for and encouraged by.

We have worked closely with Designated term pastor Enno Limvere in his first full year of shared ministry with our congregation. Scheduled quarterly reviews of shared goals for this ministry showed ongoing progress in all areas despite difficult times. The BOD has come to depend on Pastor Enno’s optimism, kind heart, creativity, honesty, technical skills, and willingness to worship “always and in all ways” – inside, outside and on zoom. He has increased our connections to other churches and community groups. He has increased our involvement in wider church issues. He’s encouraged us to try new things.

We continue to manage the church’s finances, contracts, and properties.

This Board is dependent on support and input from the congregation. We strive to keep the Board of Director’s activities transparent. Meetings are open to all who might want to add their voice. Minutes are available in the Shining Light newsletter, on the website, and in the church office. Email or call a Board member with your concerns.

In 2021 the congregation voted for:

1. The 2021 budget (Jan)
2. Bylaw change changing the make up of the Nominating Committee (June)
3. Elections of 4 new Board members and 2 renewing board members.

Summary of monthly Board meetings and congregation meeting decisions 2021:
(look to minutes in monthly newsletters for details)

Jan – Congregational meeting approval of 2021 Budget. Approved purchase of new

desktop computer and video and audio equipment to help taping and posting worship services during the pandemic. (Congregational members donated funds for this expense) Board approved \$2000 housing exclusion resolution.

Feb – discovered overpayment issue heating – corrected. Discovery of increase in electrical bills -Copyright concerns re music used in posted worship services discussed. Began work to update Safe Church policy from 2012. Approved use of building by summer program Explorer's Club. Approved Lesaann using left over grocery cards to fund food she has been supplying to homeless people in our community.

March – renewed Bookkeeping contract with Cross River consulting. Approved request for higher quality hands free microphone. Nomination committee formed to find slate of 4 new BOD members before summer meeting. One License purchased to expand hymns we can use in taped services using funds from Nancy Nosker memorial.

April – Discussion with Discovery Team re congregation conversation about beliefs in June. Plan for installation service for Pastor Enno in May.

May – Discussion about if could move worship indoors – not yet. Youth group from Cities request to stay at church in July and do a local service project approved. Approved rented use of sanctuary for music lessons during week. Planning for Summer congregation meeting in June. Bylaw change re make up of nominating committee proposed for vote and June meeting.

June – Online donations set up on website. Pride March scheduled for end of month in collaboration with Arrowhead Indivisible. Summer congregational meeting with elections, by-law change.

July – First meeting with new members – housekeeping, election of officers. Leadership training planned. Another discussion about possible return to indoor worship – not yet. Revised Covid safe building use policies with new Delta variant.

Aug – No Gun's signage for church approved. Possible rental use of building by a counseling service. Proposed bylaws change re how quorum is defined for vote at winter meeting. Discussion about the word "member". Approved the use of building by an additional recovery group weekly.

Sept – Bookkeeper resignation by end of year. Office manager Carol Morgen resigning. Ad and calls to look for new bookkeeper and office manager. Discussion re Covid safe Thanksgiving dinner plans. Leaky pipes in boiler room with asbestos will need to be fixed. Installation service for new BOD.

Oct – Still no applicants for office manager. Discussion re need to purchase sound

board. Change newsletter to mostly online and mail to those who want it now that our numbers have dropped below bulk postage rates. Inclusive church check list review. Discussion re return to indoor church – likely Nov, with restrictions (masks, distancing, no singing, shorter service).

Nov – Discussion re budget deficit. Nancy Backlund hired as new office manager. Carol Morgen assisting in her orientation to position. BOD voted unanimously to ask congregational approval at winter meeting to change Pastor Limvere's designated term contract to a called position. Will have greeters and record who is present in case contract tracing is necessary. Discussed pigeon roosting outside front door.

Dec – Discussion of 2022 budget, 2021 deficit, pledging. Xmas bonus for hired staff. Planning for winter meeting and annual report. Request that vaccines be required at attendance in person indoor worship – majority approved. Policy to go in effect in Jan.

Submitted by Moderator Jenny Delfs - Jan 2022

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Written by Kevin LeVoir, Treasurer

The Finance Committee met throughout 2021 to review the Financial System used by the Church. The Committee studied the use of the “Donate Button” on the Church Web Site and how the buttons use affected the Financial Secretary’s duties. The Committee spent considerable time on developing an accurate and complete 2022 Budget for the church. A listening session for the congregation will be held in Jan 2022 to discuss the proposed 2022 budget. The Finance Committee members are Kevin R LeVoir, Jeff Kern, Jerry Slomkowski, Chris Silence and Pastor Enno as Ex Officio.

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual - By Quarter

First Congregational United Church of Christ

Profit & Loss Budget Performance

	2021 Jan - Dec 21	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Pledges and Offerings	127,357.42	95,000.00
Loose Plate Offerings	1,690.00	6,000.00
Building Use	2,844.00	3,500.00
Income from Outside Funds	3,464.75	51,583.00
Interest Income	<u>1,886.96</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total Income	137,243.13	158,083.00
Expenses		
UCC ContributionsUCC Support – OCWM	4,000.00	4,000.00
UCC Support - Per Capita	<u>975.00</u>	<u>975.00</u>
Total UCC Contributions	4,975.00	4,975.00
Pastor		
Pastory Salary	42,840.00	42,840.00
Social Security Offset	4,260.00	4,260.00
Ins Health & Dental	26,975.00	24,900.00
Ins Life and Disability	-76.88	835.00
Pension Fund Contribution	9,028.60	7,798.00
Travel (Mileage)	133.28	650.00
Continuing Education	219.00	500.00
Professional Fees	<u>196.04</u>	<u>500.00</u>
Total Pastor Expenses	83,575.52	82,283.00
Staff		
Custodian Wages	3,956.00	3,906.00
Office Manager Wages	5,748.25	8,640.00
Taxes	<u>742.37</u>	<u>705.00</u>
Total Staff Expenses	10,446.62	13,251.00
Business		
Advertising, Promotion, Website	155.00	685.00
Banking Charges and Checks	311.39	80.00
General Liability Insurance	3,842.00	3,850.00

Worker's Compensation Insurance	495.00	950.00
Equipment Lease (Copier)	854.05	3,625.00
Postage and Delivery	977.45	1,400.00
Accounting Expense	2,017.05	2,250.00
Telephone and Internet	1,479.12	1,200.00
Office Supplies	1,163.24	1,500.00
Conferences and Meetings	0.00	500.00
Teacher and Board Expense	0.00	335.00
Technology Expenses	<u>2,955.70</u>	<u>500.00</u>
Total Business Expenses	19,250.00	16,875.00
Worship Expenses		
Musicians	7,500.00	7,800.00
Visiting Pastors	600.00	1,000.00
Piano & Organ Maintenance	165.00	250.00
Music, Candles, Other	<u>61.21</u>	<u>150.00</u>
Total Worship Expenses	8,326.20	9,200.00
Fellowship		
Hospitality Expenses	0.00	250.00
Total Fellowship Expenses	0.00	250.00
Education Expenses		
Adult Education	145.25	250.00
Youth Ministry	0.00	100.00
Books and Teaching Materials	39.95	250.00
Local Outreach	<u>0.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>
Total Education Expenses	185.20	1,100.00
Buildings & Grounds		
Utilites (Electric,Water,Sewer)	3,666.97	1,620.00
Utilites (Heating)	3,975.35	9,936.00
Loan Morgage Interest	5,057.78	5,252.00
Loan SBA Interest	0.00	250.00
Maintenance and Repairs	3,132.99	575.00
Grounds, Plowing	0.00	2,000.00
Garbage	146.15	1,150.00
Misc Expense	<u>299.50</u>	<u>680.00</u>
Total Buildings & Grounds	16,278.74	21,463.00
Total Expenses	143,037.29	149,397.00

	Net	
Net Ordinary Income	-5,794.16	8,686.00
Other Income/Expense		
Other Expense		
Parsonage Expense		
Parsonage Utilities	1,788.31	1,800.00
Parsonage Heating Fuel	789.35	1,500.00
Parsonage Utility Assessment	1,229.02	1,230.00
Real Estate Tax	3,302.98	3,356.00
Repairs and Maintenance	1,160.23	800.00
Total Parsonage Expense	8,269.89	8,686.00
Total Other Expense	8,269.89	8,686.00
Net Other Income	-8,269.89	-8,686.00
Net Income	-14,064.05	0.00

Net
First Congregational United Church of Christ
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2021

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking - GMSB	34,896.64
Savings - GMSB	6,197.28
Total Checking/Savings	41,093.92
Other Current Assets	
Investment Assests	
E. Jones Stock	1,108.88
UCF Investments Balanced Funds	87,152.50
Total Investment Assests	88,261.38
Total Other Current Assets	88,261.38
Total Current Assets	129,355.30
Fixed Assets	
Church	567,500.00
Building Renovations	
Bldg Rnvtn - Roof/Rocks/Doors	119,297.98
Total Building Renovations	119,297.98
Parking Lot	41,900.00
South Cemetery Property	52,400.00
North Cemetery Property	25,600.00
Parsonage	236,812.74
Furniture and Equipment	347.74
Total Fixed Assets	1,043,858.46
Other Assets	
PrePaid Donations	-10,550.00
Total Other Assets	-10,550.00
TOTAL ASSETS	1,162,663.76
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
SBA Loan	10,000.00
Payroll Liabilities	
FICA Tax Withheld	476.90
Medicare Tax Withheld	111.52
Total Payroll Liabilities	588.42
Total Other Current Liabilities	10,588.42
Total Current Liabilities	10,588.42
Long Term Liabilities	
LOC - GMSB - Renovation	98,446.75
Parsonage 2008 Util Assessment	8,717.02
Total Long Term Liabilities	107,163.77
Total Liabilities	117,752.19
Equity	
Unrestricted Net Assets	-33,524.10
Opening Balance Equity	9,027.28
Unrestricted Equity Balance	1,050,798.06
Church Impr Accum Prior Yr Int	-5,499.86
Restricted Equity Accounts	
REA - Thanksgiving	1,422.09
REA - Chiapas	3,875.97
REA - Church Repairs	1,399.57

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2021

	Dec 31, 21
REA - Memorial	2,123.00
REA - Piano & Sanctuary	3,205.77
REA - Pass Through Accts	
REA Neighbors in Need	-10.00
REA One Great Hour of Sharing	100.00
REA Strengthen the Church	-125.00
Total REA - Pass Through Accts	-35.00
REA - Pastor Search Expenses	2,192.88
Workers on Wheels	
WOW Balance Carried Forward	889.22
WOW - Current Deposits	7,166.35
WOW - Current Disbursements	-5,400.00
Total Workers on Wheels	2,655.57
Unresolved Restricted Equity	21,334.39
Total Restricted Equity Accounts	38,174.24
Net Income	-14,064.05
Total Equity	1,044,911.57
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,162,663.76

Stewardship Report Annual 2022 Winter Meeting

By Tom Yuhasey

The Stewardship Committee reports a successful 2021 pledge drive. Those who responded were generous and we recorded 11 new pledging units. We thank the individuals who spoke on our behalf at the services during the drive this past November.

Our late 2021 appeal to the congregation to assist in closing the budget gap generated some substantial donations which were greatly appreciated.

Our hope remains that some past supporters of our church we have yet to hear from, will also find it in their hearts to share their abundance with us.

Pastoral Relations Committee Annual Report

Written by Sandy Stover, Chair

The Pastoral Relations Committee has the charge to provide a confidential environment for both Pastor and Congregational representatives to meet and reflect on the role of the Pastor. We meet monthly via Zoom.

We are currently reading "Working the Angles", by Eugene Peterson, as a group.

Committee members include Bob Carter, Carol Bennett, Ann Russ, Sandy Stover and Pastor Enno.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Written by Barb Bottger

Committee Members: Barb and John Bottger, Jeff Kern, Ranna LeVoir, Gwen Mattice, Jerry Slomkowski

The committee meets on zoom the first Thursday of each month. Meetings last from 1-1 1/2 hr. This is a very active committee with the wide-ranging task of taking care of the building and grounds for both the church and the parsonage. We always have a good time!

We engage in discussions ranging from short term issues like, "Where to store the ladder?", to long term issues like, "What is the vision and mission for these buildings and how do they inform our committee work?"

We have many short and long term projects that we are always prioritizing. Here are some things that as a committee and a church community we accomplished this year. Thanks to everyone!

1. Oil furnace refurbished by Jesse Derscheid.
2. Repaired pump motor on building heat system.
3. Investigated unsuccessfully large electric charges.
4. Replaced carpet in entryway.
5. Eliminated pigeon.
6. Painted upstairs nursery/play room and south-east side of main floor hallway.
7. Sorted, organized toys in nursery/play room.
8. Arranged to have asbestos removed from furnace room.
9. Repaired leak in furnace room copper ceiling water pipe.
10. Repaired upstairs toilet, correcting excessive water usage.
11. Put up advent tree display.
12. Organized fall cleanup/workday.
13. Mowed grass.
14. Shoveled some snow.
15. Rebuilt the sandbox.
16. Repaired downstairs exterior door closer, two times.
17. Cancelled garbage pick up, saving \$1,000 this year. We now drop off our trash at North Shore Waste.
18. Replaced lights in the sanctuary.
19. Cleaned out the outside storage and garbage bin area.

Current, ongoing projects:

1. Fix large electric charges
2. Have air conditioner systems checked.
3. Fix electric drain problems.
4. Lubricate heating controllers.
5. Get bids to replace downstairs exterior door.
6. Investigate grant money for elevator.
7. Parish house: Miscellaneous repairs, paint lower level, repair carpet & ceiling in lower level
8. Securing a working snowblower.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Writte by Jody Yuhasey

*When someone you love becomes a memory
that memory becomes a treasure*

We treasure the memories of the special people no longer with us and thank the individuals who gave memorial donations. As always, the memorial committee will work with the families and our board of directors for the best use of memorial donations. The current memorial balance is \$2,123.00

Peace and Justice Activities

By: Pastor Enno

Refugee, Immigration and Afghan Evacuee Activities

October: Letter-Writing Campaign to Congress: Support funding for Afghan evacuees

November-December: Collection of household goods, warm clothing and cash donations for Afghans. Car-load of items delivered to Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans warehouse, Bloomington MN. Cash donations to MN Council of Churches, resettlement support.

Invited congregation to connect with other organizations working for immigration justice and support, affordable housing, equitable childcare, other causes for the common good .

Interfaith Committee for Migrant Justice (icjmtwinports.blogspot.com) Duluth/Superior
ISAIAH (isaiahmn.org) Twin Cities based, statewide interfaith advocacy organization
Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) (jrlc.org) Interfaith advocacy organization focusing on a common good legislative agenda at the state legislature

UCC Justice and Peace Network (ucctakeaction@ucc.org) Subscribe to receive alerts on pending national legislation or governmental action which may be in accord with or contrary to a progressive faithful stance. Easy way to send your views to members of Congress or federal agencies.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

By: Pastor Enno

Members: Ann Russ, Bob Carter, Helen Carter, Jenny Delfs, Linda Noble

The Worship Committee was created in June at the Summer Annual Meeting to help Pastor Limvere in the planning and leading worship. We gather together at least once a month to look over the worship planner that Pastor Enno prepares that outlines the worship services for the month. This group helps, as well, to line up the leaders and readers for each Sunday, as well as the musicians. We have struggled with how to safely have worship in this pandemic. We decided to have hybrid services including in-person and also over Zoom, without singing, starting in November. Pastor Enno throws out ideas to this group and they come back to finesse them so they will work in our church. If you want to help in our worship services, reading, leading, or behind the scenes, contact Pastor Enno.

CREATING COMMUNITY AND FRIENDSHIP THROUGH FOOD

By Ann Russ

Our committee continued to respond as the pandemic allowed: after church treats while it was safe to meet in person, a lectionary appropriate fish and loaves meal, providing Enno with 100 cookies and sacks of flour and sugar to accompany his sermon.

Ann Russ, Nancy Starr, Ranna LeVoir, Helen Carter, Bev Denyes, Carol Bennett

THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY MEAL REPORT

Written by Jenny Delfs

Thanksgiving 2021 Covid Safe Summary

Early Oct, Thanksgiving planning group started meeting via Zoom meetings coordinated by Carol Bennett. Goal set to have 100-123 meals available for take out on Thanksgiving.

Keep it simple.

Simplified meal: Turkey, potatoes, stuffing, gravy, corn, cranberry, pumpkin pie.

Each person took a role – **many hands make light work:**

Nancy Backlund coordinating making poster and flyers – with Carol Morgan doing design

Lesaann Foris distributed posters and flyers – with Chris Silence

Bruce Tyler calculated needed amounts – with Carol Bennett

Bob Carter ordered and picked up food from Johnsons, coordinated mashed potatoes from the Hub and delivered turkeys

Helen Carter took orders and arranged pick up schedule

John Bottger coordinated volunteers

Jenny Delfs checked on take out and kitchen supplies (ordered 2020 for last year's cancelled event)

Jenny Delfs and Mike Carlson to manage the kitchen activities Wed and Thursday

Wednesday was prep day. Volunteers from community and congregation involved in veggie prep, table set up, baking 16 pumpkin pies.

Thursday started early getting turkeys in ovens at the church and others roasting them at home. Pies were cut and boxed up. Cranberry sauce put in cups. Stuffing, corn and gravy prepped. Mashed potatoes brought from Hub kitchen crew. More volunteers arrived to assemble the takeout meals that were picked up in scheduled shifts from the front door upstairs. We had very few delivery requests.

Between the takeout meals and meals for volunteers, about 140 meals were served. There were very few leftovers. Clean up was efficient.

This was not our usual community fellowship served family style around decorated tables -- but it was as much hospitality as the Covid pandemic would safely allow in this time.

Building Use Report 2021

By Jenny Delfs

Covid Safe protocols: 2021 was a year of changing recommendation in terms of safety protocols for building use during the Covid 19 pandemic. There was early hope in 2021 with vaccinations and dropping case numbers, that small groups of vaccinated folks could safely use the building unmasked. We continued to worship outside as soon as and as long as temperatures allowed. By August, emergence of the delta variant required a return to 100% masking in the building. We returned to worshipping in the sanctuary briefly in November and through the Advent season. Vaccines required and attendance recorded in case contact tracing was necessary. By 2022 another variant, omicron, and a rapid uptick in community transmission had us back worshipping together on Zoom.

Community Groups using the church building 2021:

Food Shelf

Music lessons – Ben Nichols

Explorer's Club

Zen Meditation

Recovery Groups

Visiting Youth Group from Cities

Faith Formation Committee

By Pastor Enno

Kristin Wharton and Mitch Travis joined Pastor Enno to help create opportunities for our children, youth, and young families to explore and grow in their faith. Last spring Pastor Enno started doing Sunday School for children in K-6 grades.

The church started a Fun Day Sunday last February, especially since we were not meeting in person. We have tried to meet monthly, but it hasn't always worked out. We have had some fun and good excursions and have attracted people of all ages to paint, sit on a beach, and hike with us. We try to do those on the 3rd Sundays of the month.

Kristin Wharton jumped into being the leader of our youth group, and the youth decided 'youth group' was a little too old-fashioned. They call themselves "Pizza and Social Justice". We have been meeting on the 2nd Wednesdays of the month after school activities. There is usually about 4 youth showing up and they have been exploring world religions such as Judaism, Zen Buddhism, and Bahai as well as our stories such as our nativity narratives.

All these gatherings have been worked around or Zoomed because of our pandemic. We look forward to the times when we can gather together, but until then, we will do what we can to have meaningful experiences and learning while keeping our young people safe.

WOW (Workers on Wheels) report for 2021

By Jeff Kern

WOW for 2021 was sedate. We checked out about 20 bikes, and all were returned. A couple workers donated their \$30 refund to the program. Several required multiple fixes; mostly flat tires, but some more complex. Jay gave us another work stand. Steve did much of the repairs and prepping. Jeff did most of the interface with foreign workers. I think it was John who did test rides.

Anyway, it was a sparse year, but not discouraging. We also had some interest in helping from Stephanie Anderson at Shoreline Inn. Plus we had several nice bike donations.

Committee: Steve Deschene, Jeff Kern, John Mattice and Jay DeCoux