



UNITED CHURCH *of* CHAPEL HILL

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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SENIOR PASTOR

June 12, 2022

How I wish that we had records of the congregation's life during the 1918 flu. My guess is that the church worshiped largely outdoors, in the way of our itinerant O'Kellyite ancestors in the Methodist and Christian traditions. That has certainly been our approach through the second year of the Coronavirus pandemic, joining together outdoors on the portico and the church green and extending our reach into digital spaces.

On August 15, 2021, United Church of Chapel Hill resumed indoor worship after 72 consecutive Sundays joining together online and outdoors. Our steps forward together were modest and tentative - masks required, singing forbidden, and physical distancing enforced. We continued pre-taping worship segments so that the majority of worshippers who could not join in person would have access to the spiritual resources of the church online. In the fall, the Trustees approved a plan to install live-streaming technology in the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for La Mesa, but because of high demand and supply shortages we are still today taping our services in advance. In person attendance built up in a crescendo through the season of Advent, but the Omicron variant compelled us to move our Christmas Eve services outdoors.

The pandemic worsened through early January. We encouraged worshipers to stay home on Sunday morning and to connect with us online. Nevertheless, it was important to me that we continue worshipping onsite on Sunday mornings even if most members could not be present with us. I wanted to be here as a sign of our hope for a future in community with one another and as a sign of the persistence of our ministry on terms that are real, tangible, and true. When we eat the bread and drink the cup, we have physical signs of God's presence with us. There were some Sundays in January 2022 when less than 35 attended worship. Omicron transmission faded by mid-February, and worship attendance gradually built to a high of 262 on Easter Sunday. In contrast with most congregations, our church continues to maintain a norm of masking during worship in order to make our services maximally accessible to those most vulnerable to the pandemic.

In March, the church said goodbye to Rev. Ian McPherson after nearly four years of ministry as Associate Pastor for Faith Formation and Social Justice. Ian's stewardship of the youth and confirmation programs through the pandemic assured that we continued to build the faith and social consciousness of our church's young people. On May 1, we celebrated a strong confirmation class, who presented a rich new Statement of Faith to guide the church in worship for the year ahead.

Although the pandemic remains unpredictable, in the past year the church has learned how to live together amidst uncertainty and we have adopted practices to make our ministry as attentive as possible to everyone in the church. This gives me hope that we will be resilient through any future disruptions to public health.

The work before us today is that of reconnecting with one another and reclaiming that spirit of Extravagant Welcome that so defined the 38 years of ministry with the Edens. My hope is that we will continue to grow in 2022-2023 in community and hospitality.

In faith, hope, and love -

Rev. Dr. Cameron Barr
Senior Pastor

2022 Confirmation Statement of Faith

We believe that God is good, a higher power that guides us, a manifestation of hope in which we can believe, a leap of faith, and a loving entity that helps people feel safe and secure.

We believe that Jesus was a healer, activist, and prophet who spread God's word and teaches us how to love our neighbor. We believe he was a human who challenged orthodoxy and is still with us today.

We believe the Holy Spirit is present and unique to every soul it resides in, the essence of Christianity, a moral compass, and what connects us to God, inspiring, motivating, and moving us when we pray.

We believe the Church is more than a place. It is the people, the common body of Christianity, a sanctuary, a safe place to process beliefs and questions, and a place of belonging with a strong connection to God.

MODERATOR

I can confidently state what no other Moderator in UCCH's over 100-year history could ever say, i.e., this year, UCCH started the Church Year during an international pandemic. The pandemic actually started in March 2020 and schools and churches abruptly closed (and volunteers from our church delivered school lunches, in collaboration with the Chapel Hill/Carrboro School System, almost daily for five months starting on March 15, 2020). After vaccines were invented and began being distributed starting in January 2021, some community health confidence returned and then the pandemic returned with an "Omicron strain" vengeance that we all dealt with for many more months.

Beginning near the start of the pandemic, Pastor Cameron met electronically weekly with other churches in the Chapel Hill area and a respected public health expert from UNC, to jointly understand the risks facing all in the community, and when vaccination rates improved, and hospitalization rates declined, provided guidance to all churches about the safety of returning to indoor church services.

The impact on UCCH was that after more than a year of not meeting in-person indoors and delivering all services electronically via YouTube that were pre-recorded by the staff and musicians, and with some exceptions for selected outdoor services whose attendance was limited (included a funeral and eventually the return of the United Voices of Praise choir), we did initiate in-person services in August 2021, however, with many caveats. These included maintaining social distancing (for us, that meant leaving every other pew empty and keeping 6-feet between each non-familial person in the same row) and always fully masked. Post-service fellowship was outdoors with masks except when sipping the coffee-only offering, and continued efforts at maintaining the social distance guidelines. "Passing the Peace" during the services was delivered by a wave, or later an elbow-to-elbow connection and there were no handshakes or hugs. During the rising risks related to the Omicron variant in December 2021, we also conducted the early "children's" Christmas Eve service outdoors, still with angels and shepherds in costume, and also had the traditional "Baby Jesus birthday cake." This was a very special time since it was the first time children had returned to a church service since March 2020.

Our pastoral and office staff worked phenomenally hard with time-consuming extra work needed to electronically deliver the service every week using a very time-consuming, cumbersome process of recording and then uploading sermons, readings, and music to be subsequently accessed by the congregation via YouTube on Sundays or thereafter. This effort continued after in-person services resumed (essentially double work for the staff), since many congregants did not feel safe to return to in-person services based on their own evaluation of the health risk to themselves or to their young children. When staff were in the church office or building (usually to record and upload their Sunday service), they were frequently alone, and always wearing protective masks if in the presence of another person. Most staff, Board, and Church Council meetings were conducted electronically using the Zoom meeting process. This was a truly difficult time for the congregation and staff. The joy of church is being together to support our individual and congregational spiritual growth and to support our church mission, and for almost two years, we were not able to safely be together to do so (although continued as much as possible electronically). Additionally, although we identified a technology option and committed to acquire it to allow services to be "live streamed" while they were occurring and to reduce the double work of our staff, multiple "supply chain delays" have continued to delay the implementation for almost a full year.

These requirements have been very hard for the congregation, and for some, they continue. For personal safety, e.g., for those with compromised health systems, concerns linger about the wisdom and risks of returning to in-person services. Until very recently parents with children 5-years or younger who could not be vaccinated, determined that attending church in person for their family's safety was not an option.

We did have a joyous Easter service on April 17. Attendance at both the Festival service and the LaMesa service were the highest attended services since the start of the pandemic more than two years earlier. Subsequent activities in May, such as Confirmation Sunday, and Graduation/Church Cook-out Sunday, as well as the very successful Rise Against Hunger food packaging event on Saturday, May 14, were also very well attended (and still with masks).

During the pandemic, we implemented a schedule that was developed by a task force comprised of members of the congregation. The schedule was intended to conduct two over-lapping services, Festival and LaMesa, that would allow for time

MODERATOR (cont.)

for congregants attending either service to first participate in a joint fellowship coffee time and then jointly attend an Adult Education program scheduled at 11:00 and allow children and youth to attend education also. The impact of the Omicron variant of the virus impacted those plans. All coffee was served outdoors, and the available Adult Education sessions were not initiated until November 2021. Although these sessions were well attended and very informative, the goal of bringing attendees at both services to a single Adult Forum session after the services will need additional review for the coming church year to meet that goal. I believe one of the highlights of this church year was that UCCH was able to conduct a joint bilingual Christmas Lessons and Carols service, our first joint service, that allowed all UCCH congregants to celebrate together in one blessed church service.

I am personally hopeful that the coming church year will be able to build on the positive aspects of the joy and participation of our Easter and Confirmation Sundays and recent congregation-wide activities as we proceed to a healthier community-wide environment.

In an effort to “find us doing something great” during these challenging times, each Board and Staff conducted a mid-year review of the first six-months of this difficult church year. They identified their many successes achieved during that time period, and also some additional actions they would take in the remaining six-months of this church year. Their annual reports included in this document will identify some of the significant activities they were able to address during this pandemic-challenged year. Each Board and Committee as well as the Church Council are comprised of volunteers from the congregation. Despite the once-in-a-lifetime challenges they faced, they nonetheless accomplished some amazing things despite the extenuating circumstances that the pandemic presented. On behalf of the entire congregation, I thank them for the time, focus, and accomplishment they were able to achieve, without even seeing each other in person for many months.

This church year presented other challenges that impacted staffing. These may not be unique to UCCH; however, actions are being taken to identify what can be done to enhance the work environment for our current and future staff.

As a church community, we close this year, despite and possibly because of the difficulties we faced this and part of the prior church year together, **hopeful**. The entire volunteer community that is UCCH and that shares their personal time to support and deliver on our mission and our adopted Covenants, is ready to emerge stronger. On our final Sunday of church year programs, we welcomed new members United Church of Chapel Hill. As part of the Reception of New Members service, we read from the 2022 Statement of Faith developed by this year’s confirmation class. Their final statement summarizes my personal belief and commitment and is shared below.

We believe the Church is more than a place. It is the people, the common body of Christianity, a sanctuary, a safe place to process beliefs and questions, and a place of belonging, with a strong connection to God.

With this inspiring message from our Youth, knowing they and their parents and the volunteers that supported their growth from their first days at UCCH are sitting in the pews beside us and volunteering on multiple activities across the entire operation of UCCH, what else could we feel for the future of our church, but **hopeful**?

Respectfully submitted,

Mary McMillan
UCCH Moderator

Note: Every member of the congregation is invited to share their gifts to lead and support UCCH by volunteering to be a member of a church Board, Committee, classroom, or any other way to “help out” “the church” that our confirmation youth believe we are. Please contact the church office to share your willingness to help.

TREASURER

We are very pleased to report that 2021 closed out better than expected with a very high level of giving in December.

Budget: We entered 2021 budgeting a deficit of roughly \$13,000 and finished with a surplus of over \$31,000. My sincere thanks to the congregation and staff for making this happen. The surplus, as is our policy in years of surplus, has been added to the church's fund balance (emergency fund).

Our total revenues for 2021 were budgeted at \$1,015,000, but actual revenues for the year were \$971,531. Revenue for 2021 included \$50,000 in forgiven Paycheck Protection Program funds received in 2020. The \$43,649 shortage in revenues was primarily due to the following

- Contributions less than budget by \$31,553
- Building use income under by \$8,920

Fortunately, the shortage in revenues was more than offset by expenses being under budget by approximately \$88,612. Most of the savings on expenses was a result of no in-person worship and minimal building use. Some significant areas of savings included:

- Board of Trustees: savings of \$13,113 due to reductions in office supplies, printing, and postage
- Building and Grounds: savings of \$8,023 in janitorial supplies and utilities
- Personnel: savings of \$40,319 due to changes in music and administrative staffing
- Children and Youth: savings of \$12,134 due to lack of in-person programming

Designated Funds: UCCH has over 60 designated funds used to record and track special events, projects, and other related items that are not part of the annual budget. These are restricted funds in that they have some level of restriction on the use of the funds. We are proud that in 2021 with all the challenges we faced, this community stepped up to support many needed causes and projects. We received and recorded \$80,306 in 2021 for specific use funds. Several of the largest used of those funds included:

- Habitat for Humanity Partnership: \$9,565
- Christmas Giving Tree: \$7,905
- Pastors' Discretionary Fund: \$6,061
- Chapel Hill-Carrboro Peacemaking Scholarship: \$3,676
- ReEntry House Plus: \$16,835

UCCH Endowment Funds: We have three investment funds with United Church Funds (Mission & Outreach Fund, Buildings & Grounds Fund, and Ministry Fund) and two with the North Carolina Community Foundation (Endowment Fund and Buildings & Grounds Fund). Total account value on January 1, 2021, was \$888,219, and increased during the year to end 2021 at a market value of \$969,786.

2022 Interim Update: We want to give a few updates on 2022 finances through the end of March. Expenses and giving continue to be impacted by the lack of in-person worship and reduced use of our building.

Some items to note:

- Nearly \$848,000, including over \$42,000 in Step Up gifts, was pledged during the 2022 stewardship campaign. Thanks to the Board of Membership Engagement & Stewardship for leading this successful effort, which shows the congregation's continued generosity and motivation to support the church's ministry.
- For 2022, we will record \$65,000 of proceeds from the Paycheck Protection Program to the operating budget. This will use up the remainder of these funds.
- Year-to-date revenues through the end of March were \$32,652 better than budget and expenses were less than budget by over \$21,000. We expect the savings on expenses to decrease over the year as worship and building expenses return to normal levels.
- Through March, Step Up pledges and the PPP have provided \$20,855 and \$16,252 in revenues respectively.

TREASURER (cont.)

- We have raised over \$4,900 for the Afghan Resettlement Project, with the majority collected during the drive-thru Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The Empty Bowls sale on Ash Wednesday raised over \$1,600 for the IFC.

Thank you for your continuing financial support to UCCH. Please contact us with any questions or for further details on any of the funds mentioned above.

Thank you,

Doug Bruce, Treasurer bruce.doug3@gmail.com
Duane Gilbert, Business Manager dgilbert@unitedchurch.org
Kati Ruark, Church Administrator kruark@unitedchurch.org

Revenues & Expenses January to December 2021

| | 2021 Actual | 2021 Budget | % of Budget Used | % of Total Actual Expenses |
|--|----------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Revenues | | | | |
| Contributions ¹ | \$918,447 | \$950,000 | 97% | |
| Other Income ² | \$53,084 | \$65,000 | 82% | |
| Total Revenues | \$971,531 | \$1,015,000 | 96% | |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Church Council | \$32,134 | \$31,448 | 102% | 3.42% |
| Board of Justice, Outreach, & Service | \$42,600 | \$52,500 | 81% | 4.53% |
| Board of Children's Ministries | \$2,449 | \$11,000 | 22% | 0.26% |
| Board of Youth & Young Adults | \$6,977 | \$10,560 | 66% | 0.74% |
| Board of Adult Education | \$1,324 | \$1,650 | 80% | 0.14% |
| Deacons | \$2,536 | \$8,400 | 30% | 0.27% |
| Music | \$26,401 | \$21,250 | 124% | 2.81% |
| Board of Fellowship | \$1,816 | \$2,805 | 65% | 0.19% |
| MES Board | \$7,768 | \$11,548 | 67% | 0.83% |
| Board of Trustees | \$50,587 | \$63,700 | 79% | 5.38% |
| Buildings & Grounds | \$67,052 | \$75,075 | 89% | 7.13% |
| Personnel Salary & Benefits | \$698,334 | \$738,654 | 95% | 74.29% |
| Total Expenses | \$939,978 | \$1,028,590 | 91% | 100.00% |
| Net Total | \$31,554 | (\$13,590.00) | | |

¹ Includes pledged and non-pledged incomes.

² Includes building use payments.

TREASURER (cont.)

Balance Sheet December 2021

Assets

Current Assets

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Checking | 1-1011 - First Citizens | \$572,414.41 |
|----------|-------------------------|--------------|

Other Receivables

| | |
|---|--------------|
| 1-1202 - County Sales Tax - 2.0% (Wake) | \$185.37 |
| 1-1203 - County Sales Tax - 2.0% (Orange) | \$709.91 |
| 1-1204 - County Sales Tax-2.0% (Durham) | \$657.80 |
| 1-1265 - State Sales Tax - 4.75% | \$2,785.01 |
| 1-1298 - Other Receivables | \$782.00 |
| 1-1299 - Credit Card Clearing | (\$5,766.03) |

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Total Other Receivables | (\$645.94) |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Total Current Assets | \$571,768.47 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|

Foundation Fund Investments

| | |
|---|--------------|
| 1-1301 - UCF Mission & Outreach Fund | \$405,303.22 |
| 1-1302 - UCF Buildings & Grounds Fund | \$273,386.95 |
| 1-1303 - UCF Ministry Fund | \$15,110.31 |
| 1-1305 - NCCF Endowment Fund | \$74,240.88 |
| 1-1306 - NCCF Building and Grounds Fund | \$124,696.49 |
| 1-1307 - Peacemaking Scholarship | \$7,141.24 |

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Total Foundation Fund Investments | \$899,879.09 |
|--|---------------------|

Fixed Assets

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 1-1400 - Land | \$262,500.00 |
| 1-1401 - Building | \$7,506,073.55 |
| 1-1402 - Furniture & Fixtures | \$295,256.77 |
| 1-1403 - Equipment | \$7,186.47 |

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total Fixed Assets | \$8,071,016.79 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Total Assets | \$9,542,664.35 |
|---------------------|-----------------------|

TREASURER (cont.)

Balance Sheet (cont.)

| Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Liabilities | |
| Current Liabilities | |
| 1-2010 - Prepaid Pledges ¹ | \$123,660.13 |
| 1-2020 - Building Use Deposits | \$550.00 |
| 1-2022 - Pension Board Staff Benefits | (\$9,725.12) |
| 1-2023 - Insurance Liabilities | \$2,551.30 |
| Total Current Liabilities | \$117,036.31 |
| Total Liabilities | \$117,036.31 |
| Fund Principal | |
| 1-2998 - Fixed Asset Cost, less Loans | \$8,069,239.79 |
| 1-2999 - Fund Principal - Church | \$128,815.54 |
| Excess Cash Received ² | \$31,553.58 |
| Total Fund Principal and Excess Cash Received | \$8,229,608.91 |
| Restricted Funds | |
| Total Designated Funds ³ | \$296,140.04 |
| Total Foundation Funds ⁴ | \$899,879.09 |
| Total Restricted Funds | \$1,196,019.13 |
| Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds | \$9,542,664.35 |

¹ Prepaid pledges paid in 2021 are for 2022 and transferred monthly to pledged income.

² Excess cash is the operating surplus. This amount plus the Fund Principal becomes the starting balance for emergency funds in 2022.

³ Designated funds are funds received outside of the operating budget for restricted use (special projects, events, etc.)

⁴ Invested with United Church Funds and NC Community Foundation.

Board of Deacons

Board Members: Peter Schay (chair), Lori Carter, Mary Jenne, Phil Renwick, Midge Coward, Maya Vermeer

Primary Responsibilities: The Board of Deacons is responsible for all matters pertaining to the spiritual welfare of the congregation. We oversee committees responsible for: Ushers; Music; Visual Arts; La Mesa y Café; Sound and Video; Taizé Worship; Health, Wellness and Community Care; Member(s) in Discernment; Bereavement; and Laity Sunday.

Highlights

Since the resumption of in-person worship August 15, 2021, the work of the Deacons has been all about *flexibility*:

- Changes in worship schedule
- How communion is served
- How collection is taken
- Empty alternate pews or not, etc.

Otherwise, the primary innovation (for UCCH) is the distribution of flowers for shut-ins, etc. at the end of worship.

La Mesa Committee

La Mesa, our bilingual worship service, enhances the diversity, spirituality, and faith of people in a radically welcoming and inclusive space where the table of the Lord becomes the sacred meeting space. Under the direction of Pastor David Mateo, the service continues to gather online and in-person at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday.

Music Committee

Committee Members: David Taylor (chair), Rachael Clemens, Terry Patrickis, Daniel Thayer, Dylan Verinder, Renee McBride and Erica Tillman, with staff member Jenny Anderson. Rudis Romero and Candace Marles also served on the committee through early 2022. The board supported the work of the music groups as the church returned to in-person rehearsals and worship.

Primary Responsibilities: The music program at United Church seeks to create music that speaks to the soul, uplifts the spirit, and deepens worship. As we complete more than a year of virtual worship, we look back on ways we have tried to meet these goals virtually.

Highlights

- The Junior Choir and Grace Notes rehearsed outdoors all year, with the support of Barbara Wildemuth as accompanist and helper. The Youth Choir began the year with outdoor rehearsals, and moved inside mid-year. The three groups collaborated for a fall concert on the lawn of songs from “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” and participated in several services in the spring. The Youth Choir held a reunion in May, attended by 11 former Youth Choir members. Members past and present bid a sad farewell to Youth Choir Assistant Gillian Fields, whose 5-year tenure will end at the end of May. Two Youth Choir members, Charlotte Carter and Cat Copland, earned their Royal School of Church Music Dark Blue ribbons.
- The Chancel Choir resumed musical leadership of the Festival Service in September. The group gradually returned to strength, with many members returning and a number of new members joining. They and members of the Youth Choir led the joint La Mesa - Festival Service Lessons and Carols, and large choirs supported the memorial services of choir member Victoria Adeleke and tuba player Jack Denniston.
- Under the skilled direction of Nan de Andrade, the Chancel Bells also resumed a full schedule of rehearsals, and supported the music in worship regularly throughout the year. In addition to service leadership they provided outreach through two concerts in the community.
- Milo Fryling completed his tenure as director of La Mesa Band in August. Pianist/vocalist Samuel Gunter stepped in to provide music for the La Mesa services, often collaborating with Pastor David Mateo and others.
- Because of the change of service time and concern over singing inside, United Voices of Praise pivoted from

Board of Deacons (cont.)

singing in worship to providing joyful music monthly for listeners on the lawn prior to morning services. Charles Bradshaw continued as their director.

Covid-19 Adaptations: Recordings made during lockdown continued to support the online worship ministry of the church.

Additional Information: The biggest personnel change this year was the departure of Bob Brewer as organist, in August 2021. Substitute organists Julie Mitchell, Renee McBride, Andy Lang and Stephen Schaeffer skillfully led services through February. Alan Davis was welcomed as the new organist in March 2022.

Visual Arts Committee (VAC)

Committee Members: Cely Chicurel, Diane Whitney, David Taylor, Shirley McConahay, Natalie Boorman (chair), Kati Ruark (staff liaison), Midge Coward (deacon liaison)

Primary Responsibilities: Provide visual art experiences for congregation, coordinate altar decorations, organize advent and other important holiday decorations, curate art shows, consult as needed with groups in the church regarding art projects.

Highlights

- Decorated the altar every Sunday, Special Decorations on Easter, including the Flowering Cross. Diane took the lead on this.
- Assisted with Advent Decorations
- Empty Bowls project, led by Cely. Funds were raised for IFC.
- Painting Sunflowers for Ukraine, led by David and Cely. Funds were raised for Ukrainian families in need.
- Art by Shirley McConahay: Her artwork was hung by David and Natalie in the Fellowship Hall. VAC hosted a reception at which Shirley spoke about her work.
- Assisted with M. Romero's photo exhibit in the Fellowship Hall. We coordinated this with La Mesa.

Additional Information: VAC is available to assist with art projects within the church community. We are happy for comments and appreciate your support!



Board of Fellowship

Board Members: 2022: Lew Graham, Laurie Birdsong, Delia Barrick, Jean Anne Barnes (chair); 2023: Linda Soto, Lee Sorensen, Jeanette Benjey; 2024: Bill Chicurel, Priscilla Boomer, Bill Crittenden, Betsy Crittenden; Louise Turrentine (staff liaison)

Primary Responsibilities: Promote engagement among church members, visitors and potential new members making sure all functions are well publicized and inclusive. Oversee church kitchen, including function and supplies. Host and/or support church-wide food events, including Christmas and Easter and “back to church” fall picnic.

Highlights

- Sent postcard notes to congregation in November
- Coordinated Advent Celebration on Dec. 4 - intergenerational activities coinciding with the Hanging of the Greens
- Distributed star-shaped 2021 Christmas ornaments during Advent
- On March 5, held collection of baby items for the Refugee Community Partnership
- Served breakfast after the Sunrise Service and brunch after the worship services on Easter, April 17
- Assisted with Confirmation Sunday, reception for Rev. Ian McPherson, prep for Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner sale, and Spring hamburger cookout
- Anticipate organizing and serving a potluck lunch after the June 12 Annual Meeting

Covid-19 Adaptations: Coffee Hour was resumed in the spring of 2021 and has taken many forms as we responded to the need to keep our congregation safe during the past year.



Board of Justice, Outreach, & Service (BJOS)

Board Members: Larry Kroutil (chair), Kitty Dalton, Mark Hollins, Henry Lister, Rex Mercer, Ingrid Schmidt, Gates Vrooman, David Mateo (staff liason).

Primary Responsibilities: Board of Justice, Outreach, and Service (BJOS) works to bring social, racial, economic and environmental justice issues before the congregation and partially fund social justice actions in the community through its various committees and groups. The board's work is grounded in the mission of United Church of Chapel Hill, as well as the church's covenants for Creation; Economic Justice; Open & Affirming; and Racial Truth, Justice & Reconciliation.

Highlights

- BJOS has included support this year for the Latinx LGBTQ+ Initiative (LILA) and Reentry House Plus and increased support for the Alamance-Orange Prison Ministry. The church also supported Benevolence Farm's tiny homes construction project through a Spreading Justice Initiative donation. Benevolence Farm in Alamance County provides a transitional employment and living program for formerly incarcerated women.
- For the second year, the Alternative Gift Market (AGM) was virtual. The market had net auction income of more than \$4,700 and raised \$4,471 for Church World Service and \$2,601 for IFC. Funds also were raised through Jammin' for Justice and pecan sales to support Prison Ministries. However, these amounts are considerably less than is raised through an in-person market. Council has approved the market being in-person for 2022, assuming continued favorable health metrics.
- A Core Team has been organized to partner with Church World Service for Afghan refugee resettlement. More than \$4,700 was raised through the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and donations to support refugee resettlement. However, the paperwork and vetting process has been time consuming.
- More than 20 walkers from United Church participated in the annual Chapel Hill-Carrboro CROP Hunger Walk on April 3, 2022. Along with dozens of church donors, the church raised more than \$4,500 for Church World Service and the Interfaith Council. United Church was one of the top five churches that raised funds through the CROP Walk.
- United Church members participated in sessions through Orange County Justice United that identified three priority issues for 2022: affordable housing, access to mental health services, and criminal justice. Several United Church members attended the Orange County District Attorney Candidates Forum on April 26, 2022, that was sponsored by Justice United.
- The Open and Affirming (ONA) ministry is in transition with Pastor Ian no longer on staff. Online participation in the Queer Bible Study with Jubilee Baptist Church is down during COVID. The UCCH Drag Brunch also was not held in 2021. The Adult Forum on the ONA covenant was well attended and generated good discussion. BJOS expects to collaborate with the Board of Adult Education and others at United Church in updating the covenant for the 30th anniversary of its adoption.
- Earth Ministries also is in transition. The Adult Forum on the Creation covenant could serve as a starting point for new interest and activity. Climate change affects availability of land for agriculture, displaces people, and disproportionately affects communities of color.

Covid-19 Adaptations: BJOS has effectively conducted its work via Zoom each month. Aside from preventing COVID infection and transmission, virtual meetings reduce our fossil fuel consumption and do not require members to drive at night during the winter. The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper provided "drive through" service for people to pick up orders. The Orange County Justice United DA Candidates' Assembly was a hybrid in-person and virtual event. However, some activities and ministries (e.g., Alternative Gift Market, ONA) would fare better with a return to in-person events.

Additional Information: Thank you to Henry Lister and Kati Ruark for their coordination and organization on the second virtual Alternative Gift Market. We are saddened by the loss of Peacemaking Scholarship founder Jack Denniston, who passed on March 27, 2022. Jack asked that his memorial be used to continue building up the scholarship fund.

BJOS (cont.)



Board of Justice, Outreach, & Service

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Peacemaking Scholarship

2022 Chapel Hill-Carrboro Peacemaking Scholarships were awarded to four high school seniors: Caroline Chen, William Harrison, and Benjamin McAvoy-Bickford of East Chapel Hill High School; and Kendall Lytle of Middle College High School at Durham Technical College.

We have awarded 34 scholarships over the past 14 years. BJOS, AGM, and individual donors were primary sources of scholarship funds this year. These contributions are greatly appreciated. The Peacemaking Scholarship endowment fund is growing and we're working to involve more religious faith groups locally.

We mourn the passing of Jack Denniston, founder and leader of this Peacemaking Scholarship Program. Many people have made contributions to this program in memory of Jack. His energetic commitment and dedication inspire us to continue growing this meaningful program.

Racial Justice Ministries (RJM)

Members: Natalie Boorman, Christina Chauvenet, Karen Demby, Fred Joiner, Larry Kroutil, Carmen Monico, Phil Renwick, Ingrid Schmidt (chair)

Responsibilities: RJM works in collaboration with other groups within and outside the church to identify and help implement ways UCCH can live more fully into its Racial Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Covenant. The 2015 SCOR Report serves as a key resource in this work.

BLM Vigil - Coordinated by Natalie Boorman, the Black Lives Matter vigil started on August 7, 2020 and has been ongoing almost every Friday since that date, even through the winter. An average of 10-15 participants gathers for an hour

BJOS (cont.)

along Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, holding signs to share messages of anti-racism and social justice with people driving and walking past, and receiving enthusiastic honks in return. The purpose of the vigil is to honor Black people who have been killed by police, and to keep visible the need for racial justice in all our systems. Several Black neighbors and passers-by have stopped to thank the group and say how important our ongoing show of support has been. It has been a blessing for participants too, offering an important chance to meet one another in person while continuing COVID-related safety precautions.

NAACP support – Heri Ongechi was the second recipient of the UCCH Youth Scholarship through the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Branch of the NAACP. The funds will help him attend UNC-Chapel Hill to major in business and economics to pursue his dream of making a positive impact on his community through entrepreneurship and philanthropy.

Covenant – As part of the Adult Forum series on our covenants, the Racial Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Covenant was discussed on March 27, including past history, current activities, and future plans. Committee members actively pursued comments and suggestions from the congregation, to make changes and plan upcoming initiatives.

Saint Romero exhibit – In partnership with the Visual Arts Committee, an exhibit of photographs honoring the work of Saint Oscar Romero was shown in our church in March. This will become an annual event.

Negro Spirituals Royalties Project – This is a joint project initiated by the Racial Justice Ministries Committee with the Music Committee, to raise awareness about the vital role of Negro spirituals in all American music, and to provide limited reparation for the unrecognized and uncompensated contributions of those who created this music. After a celebratory launch during worship on Juneteenth (June 19, 2022), funds from both the church operating budget and additional donations will support aspiring or established Black musicians in our wider community.

Durham Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope – This event is planned for July 15-17, in collaboration with Liberation Station/Home of the Underground Church, Fisher Memorial United Holy Church, and members of United Voices of Praise.

Truthtelling – Through a coalition of community organizations under the label #LetOurChildrenLearn, members of the committee are coordinating our church's support of organizations such as Working to Extend Anti-Racist Education (we are), which are under strong attack for providing anti-racist training for teachers and students that is grounded in Critical Race Theory.



Board of Membership Engagement & Stewardship (MES)

Board Members: Susan Renwick (chair), Jody Forehand, Jeff Smith, Dick Hill, George Collins, Susan Denault

Primary Responsibilities: The Board develops, plans, organizes, and implements strategies to strengthen the congregation's resources. The Board equips the congregation to nurture our members' church identity and to engage their time, talents, and financial resources to fulfill the mission of the UCCH congregation.

Highlights

- Stewardship, led by Jody Forehand
- Donuts & Cider gatherings
- Greeters on Sundays
- Signage completed and up by opening
- Communication/upcoming events board outside on Sunday

Covid-19 Adaptations: We had outside gatherings (Cider and Donuts), which we also took to communities such as Carol Woods. Once the church was going inside, we began greeters outside, led by George Collins. To help keep members in the know, an Events board was created for outside on Sundays by Susan Denault and Sarah Ovaska (new MES board member).

2021 Church Register

January 1, 2021: 927 members

Added: 7; Removed: 19

December 31, 2021: 915 members

Added (7):

Joined: Joe Bronson, Mark Hollins, Sachin Kumar, Jacqueline Nader Kumar, Alan Potter, Kathryn Price, Carlisle Walters

There was not a 2020-2021 confirmation class due to the Covid-19 dispersion.

Removed (19):

Deceased (7): Victoria Adeleke, Diane Berry, Barbara Blank, Mary Ducker, Clay Whybark, Chuck Willingham, Ginger Zurliene

Other (12): Nick Carter, Debbi Carter, Phil Hardy, Stephanie Hardy, Rinnie Orr, Susan Steinberg, Steve Farmer, Alan Dickinson, Marian Dilka, Deborah Stroman, Terry White, Nancy White

2022 Mid-Year Update

Added: 23; Removed: 4

June 12, 2022: 934 members

Added (23):

Joined (5): Ginny Rogers, Marnie Ross, Ann Spitler, Bill Spitler, Sarah Weston

Joined by Confirmation (18): Elizabeth Buckley, Charlotte Carter, Cat Copland, Jackie Crozier, Anna Grove, Charlotte Hallquist, Skyler Hensley, Mason Maciejewski, Cole Nicholson, Mimi Reeves, Alex Tanner, Colin Tanner, Riley Todd-Bell, Emory Williams, Ava Reeves, Ari Verinder, Tessa Wall, Zachary Wilson

Removed (4):

Deceased (4): Jennifer Beemer, Miriam Collins, Jack Denniston, Raleigh Mann

Board of Trustees

Board Members: Anne Stoddard (chair), Doug Bruce (treasurer), Shu Wen Ng, Skip Polson, Carol Edmonds, Lucy Austin, Vicki Gardner, Logan Carter, Rich Wilson. Kati Ruark (Church Administrator) is the staff liaison, supported by Duane Gilbert (Business Manager).

Primary Responsibilities: The Board of Trustees has the overall responsibility for supervision of the finances and property of the church, including:

- Oversight of the annual operating budget and analysis of the actual financial results with respect to the budget
- Counting and depositing weekly offerings and payments to designated accounts
- Reviewing the annual third-party financial review and subsequently adjusting procedures
- Approving funds and contracts for major expenditures
- Planning for maintenance of the building and grounds
- Collection and management of the historical records of the church

Highlights

- Prepared 2022 budget for the church and supported revisions following stewardship outcome
- Replaced the carpet in the sanctuary
- Re-established counting support for in-person worship
- Pursued projects including:
 1. Contractors list to support racial equity covenant
 2. Research on giving platforms (Paypal, Venmo, Zelle, etc.)
 3. Financial policy statement- update
 4. More robust Excel file for church reserve needs
 5. Designated Fund review and recommendations

Covid-19 Adaptation: We have largely met virtually to support Trustees family needs, but tried to be intentional about meeting in-person and process to communicate with one another.

Additional Information: Many members of the Church support the work of the Board of Trustees. Special thanks to Michael Pause, who has continued to serve as an authorized check-signer and facilitated weekly deposits in the past year; Derek Harrison, Assistant Treasurer; Alan Johnson, who maintains the church grounds; and Dianne Bertsch, Cindy Johnson and Linda Sellars, who serve as the church archivists.

Board *of* Adult Education

Board Members: Linda Sellars (chair), Jill McArdle, Cindy Johnson, Eric Sills, Brian Southwell, Ginny Rogers (guest member)

Primary Responsibilities: The Board of Adult Education plans and publicizes faith formation programs for adults that will enable us to explore the breadth and depth of our Christian experience.

Highlights

- "She Said What?" Conversations with Our Pastors about the Women's Lectionary led by Cameron Barr, Ian McPherson and Mary Elizabeth Hanchey in Advent
- UCCH Covenants: A session led by the pastors on the meaning of covenants, followed by sessions on our Economic Justice Covenant; Open and Affirming Covenant; Racial Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Covenant; and Creation Covenant
- Enabled remote participation in Adult Forums on Zoom using Owl Meeting Pro
- Provided lists of library resources related to Forum topics. These lists were created by Barbara Wildemuth and are available in the church library.

Other adult education offerings included:

- Defund the Police? An Abolitionist Curriculum, led by Pastor Ian McPherson of UCCH and Pastor Chalice Overy of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC, with participants from United Church and Pullen Memorial, met weekly on Zoom, September 15-November 17, 2021. The course used a curriculum from the Mennonite Church.
- Faith & Family class, led by Deborah Adler and Toby McCoy. This conversation-centered group is open to any one who would like to explore how faith and spirituality can help us navigate the challenges and successes of family life, whether that be as parents, as adult children, or as siblings. We discuss books, podcasts, and other resources ... but even when we have a planned topic we kick that to the curb to discuss the issues that are most pressing on people's minds (and hearts) that week. This often has to do with the vicissitudes of parenting but rest assured that many other family issues come up on a regular basis. We meet each Sunday during the church school year and occasionally over the summer. We've recently returned to meeting in person after the worship service.
- Spiritual Growth class, led by Cely Chicurel. The Spiritual Growth class has engaged in conversation about a number of books this year. The class has moved to hybrid (in-person and Zoom) meetings on Sunday mornings.

Additional adult education groups, including the Monday Noon Book Group, the Wednesday Morning Bible Study, and the Monday Evening Women's Group, have continued to meet online since the suspension of in-person gathering.

Additional Information: The Board is very grateful to Pastors Ian McPherson and Mary Elizabeth Hanchey and to all who have led or supported classes or groups that provided opportunities for adults to explore and grow in faith.

Board of Children's Ministry

Board Members: Alyson Breisch (chair), Julie DeClerque, Anitra Grove, Jan Thornton-Irvine, Melanie Joiner, Toby McCoy, Kathy Neas, Jeanette O'Connor, Katie Rankin.

Primary Responsibilities

1. Nurture and develop the Christian faith of children.
2. Maintain a church nursery during church services and other activities or meetings.
3. Recruit and support church school teachers.
4. Assign and ensure adequate and clean classroom space, ordering and evaluating curriculum, and providing educational equipment and general supplies.
5. Oversight of the United Church Preschool (UCP).

Highlights

- Provided/participated in multi-generational in-person events held outdoors (Halloween, Advent, CROP walk).
- Hosted RISE against Hunger as an in-door event requiring masks.
- Offered pre-packaged ways for families to celebrate and feel loved such as Valentine's Day packs delivered to homes and Lenten packs designed for home activities available for parents to pick up at the church.
- The board was intentional in conducting email and phone contacts with parents to create/update a database that included children's birthdates, parents names, phone numbers and emails. Rosters by age and school years facilitate age-specific contacts with families. Jan Thornton-Irvine and Julian Irvine developed the database and Kati Ruark facilitated adding the database to the church drive.
- Faith and Family class, led by Toby McCoy, met regularly over the past year, initially as virtual programs and now as in-person gatherings at the church.
- There continues to be varying levels of family comfort for participation at in-person activities due to a variety of factors. This makes it difficult to plan programs. The board continues to follow-up with families with encouragement to re-engage with UCCH.

Covid-19 Adaptations: Board members made multiple opportunities to listen to families with children and hear their concerns related to their pandemic journey. The outcome was an intentional approach to creatively offer outdoor programs with everyone wearing masks in support of concerns for children who could not be vaccinated. Rev. Ian McPherson and Anitra Grove developed and offered weekly Children's Ministry emails with videos that have been a great asset for connecting with families who are not attending church during the pandemic.

Additional Information: The board has worked extremely well as a team during the challenges of the pandemic and also during the times of staff changes (Rev. Ian McPherson and Anitra Grove). Heartfelt gratitude is extended to these dedicated board members who creatively sought ways to inform families of God's love. Special acknowledgement extended to Anitra Grove, who has been a steadfast support during staff transitions and her recent hiring to the Interim Director of Family Ministry for Youth & Children. She has continued to demonstrate commitment, patience, and dedication to our children, youth, and parents.

Board of Children's Ministry



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Board of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Board Members: 2022: Kramer Reeves (resigned: Megan Hughes and Phil Hardy); 2023: Rae Buckley (chair), Karen Hensley, Christine Harding; 2024: Emily Nicholson, Matt Wilson, Alan Potter

Primary Responsibilities: The Board of Youth and Young Adults (BYYAM) is responsible for the fellowship, education, and spiritual growth of our middle school, high school, college-aged youth, and young adults of the church. Our mission statement: The Youth Ministry of UCCH celebrates youth, connects them to God, one another, and the community, and empowers them as leaders who act for equity and justice.

Highlights: BYYAM spent most of the previous year reacting to the pandemic. By July of 2021, there was a sense of optimism that things would return to being in-person and the board made preliminary plans to hold youth gatherings and take advantage of the winter retreat at Blowing Rock. Board members completed on-demand training for Stop it Now to prevent child abuse in anticipation of holding more events. Confirmation began in October for 8th and 9th grade families using the "Confirm Not Conform" curriculum, with 15 youth enrolled. On November 14th the Church Council approved indoor programming for youth ministries and the board held a pizza and games event for youth. But by mid-December it was clear that Omicron was surging and the preliminary plans we had for winter retreat and youth gatherings would need to be cancelled. In the following months the board lost several members including the chair, Megan Hughes, and Pastor Ian McPherson. In response, Alan Potter agreed to lead confirmation class, Rae Buckley assumed leadership of the board, and Anitra Grove became the Interim Director of Family Ministry for Youth & Children. In closing out the year there were three very heartwarming gatherings: a trip to the Celebrity Dairy goat farm, a celebration of Pastor Ian and Megan Hughes, and the confirmation service on May 1.

Additional Information: Gratitude to Alan Potter and Kathryn Price for their service to the Confirmation Class of 2021-22 and to former BYYAM Chair Millie Brobson and Amy Reeves for their leadership on the refurbishing of the youth rooms.

Care & Welcome

Pastor Mary Elizabeth Hanchey continued in her role as Associate Pastor for Care and Welcome.

Community Care

This year Mary Elizabeth continued supporting lay leaders and community members in their work providing community care. She helped the church create structure for supporting individuals and families through Meal Trains, cards and phone calls, and attention to the specific needs of individuals.

The weekly Pastoral Care email provides an updated prayer list, reminders about upcoming events, and a Community Care Spotlight which focuses on specific needs.

Welcome

This year Mary Elizabeth continued to provide connections for new members and newcomers. She worked to help individuals connect with affinity groups as they begin to relate to the congregation, she facilitated two opportunities for newcomers to learn about United Church in UCCH 101 sessions, and she worked with Louise and Kati to create and place visitor welcome cards in the sanctuary.

Mary Elizabeth is the liaison for the Membership Engagement and Stewardship Board. In that role she supports those who are thinking about how to nurture a culture of financial stewardship and stewardship of time and energy. She also supports those who are thinking about how to provide a hearty and thoughtful welcome on Sunday mornings. She is grateful for the good energy that team has provided in updating signage, running the stewardship campaign, creating a Welcome Board, and beginning to create a greeter team. She hopes to support all of this work in the new year.

Mary Elizabeth also spends much of her time providing direct pastoral care.

She continues to work on the final details of the STORY oral history project (funded by innovation grant through Mary Elizabeth's participation in the Foundations of Christian Leadership program through Duke Divinity School last year).

She looks forward to the many ways that our connections can continue to grow as we begin returning to more in-person gatherings.

Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC)

Committee Members: Midge Coward. Gary Boorman and Phil Washburn will continue to serve on the Pastoral Relations Committee in the coming year. Christina Chauvenet and Andy Short complete their service on July 1 this year. Two new members, who represent diverse groups of UCCH congregants, will join the PRC, pending their approval by the Church Council.

Primary Responsibilities

The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) is a standing committee of the congregation that promotes a healthy relationship between the Senior Pastor and the congregants. As stated in the PRC Charter, it both represents the congregation and supports the Sr. Pastor:

The committee serves in two primary ways:

- (i) as an advisory group to the pastor: sharing ideas, dreams, expectations, and concerns of the congregation with the pastor;
- (ii) as a support group for the pastor's leadership: interpreting roles, functions, boundaries, opportunities, and needs of the pastor to the congregation.

The PRC has served as a mediating role when congregants, or small groups of congregants, have had concerns with the Senior Pastor. In order to serve in the advisory role ('i' above), the PRC is giving greater focus to ideas, dreams, expectations, and concerns that may be held by many members. These will be gleaned from feedback to the PRC or to individual PRC members. The PRC will discuss which issues to raise with the Senior Pastor before meeting with him/her to do so.

The following is also from the PRC Charter:

"Core Principles: Confidentiality, support, care, and honesty with the pastor, healthy two-way communication (PRC and the congregation to Pastor, and the Pastor to congregation)."

-Andy Short

Chair, 2021-22

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