

2022 Annual Report to the Congregation

January 22, 2023

**Congregational Meeting and Annual Meeting of the
Corporation**

**New Hope Presbyterian Church of South Buncombe,
Inc.
3070 Sweeten Creek Road
Asheville, North Carolina 28803**

**ZOOM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE CORPORATION
New Hope Presbyterian Church of South Buncombe, Inc.
Asheville, North Carolina
January 23, 2022**

Rev. Kim Wells, moderator, convened the Zoom meeting of the congregation and the annual meeting of the Corporation in the church sanctuary following the virtual worship service. She opened the meeting with prayer and acknowledged the clerk as secretary to record the proceedings as required by the Book of Order. The secretary declared there was a quorum (20 or more active members).

Minutes of the 2021 Congregational Meetings

The moderator announced that the minutes of the congregational meeting in 2021 is included in the Annual Report to the Congregation. The minutes were approved by the Session and are provided for information.

State of the Church Report

1. Reports Available Online
 - The 2021 Annual Report to the Congregation is provided through the church's website and in the e-news. Hard copies are available to members who want one. The Report includes the minutes of the 2021 Congregational Meetings and the meeting of the Corporation, annual reports from the Clerk, the Deacons and the committees of the Session: Building and Grounds, Faith Formation, Finance & Administration, Justice and Reconciliation, Outreach, Personnel, and Worship/Worship Arts.
 - The New Leaders Guide is also available on the website and was in the e-news.

2. In-person reports:
 - Finance and Administration
 - Kim Presley, chair of Finance and Administration, reported on the year-end financial statement for 2021.
 - Income: She commended the congregation on faithfully meeting their pledges for the year, resulting in pledge income exceeding the budgeted amount by \$7000. Building use rent and plate cash income were down.
 - Expenses: Expenses were down by \$15,000 as there were fewer expenses because of the non-use of the building during the ongoing pandemic.
 - She expressed appreciation for the Building and Grounds Committee for helping to keep expenses down by their volunteer work. There are congregation members who have kept the grounds and building in good repair and who have installed the new

technology for our in-person and online worship services. Their work has saved thousands of dollars for the church.

- The 2021 budget surplus was \$14,823. A portion of the surplus, \$6,104, will be moved to income to balance the 2022 budget and the remainder will be placed in the church's reserve account. The 2022 budget will begin with a zero balance.
 - The budget for 2022, approved by the Session, is \$203,374. Three increases for budget line items include Outreach, Justice and Reconciliation, and staff raises.
 - She reminded members that continued regular contributions help the Finance Committee with month-to-month planning.
 - The church has no debt and the reserves can be compared to a savings account.
- **Personnel**
 - Terms of Call for the Pastor. The Pastor excused herself for this portion of the meeting and Rev. Ken Meeks, Parish Associate, moderated the meeting. Bonnie Runkle, chair of the Personnel Committee, presented the Terms of Call for the Pastor. The total compensation reflects a 2.8% increase for the Pastor and the Board of Pensions contribution; reimbursable expenses remain the same. The total cost to the church is \$95, 803.
 - The chair pointed to an addition to the Terms of Call previously approved by the Session. Kim will receive up to six Sundays per year when she does not have to preach. This decision is in keeping with practice by churches our size with a solo pastor in order to avoid pastor burnout. The budget reflects \$900 for substitute pastors on those six Sundays.
 - The motion from the Committee does not require a second and there were no questions or discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.
 - When the Pastor returned to the meeting, she expressed her deep appreciation and gratitude for a congregation that wants to be together even during the pandemic. She is blessed by the dedication of members.
 - The Pastor complimented Rob's incredible music leadership and said she and the congregation are blessed by his music which expresses the values of New Hope in its depth and inclusiveness.
 - Raises for the Music Director and the Church Administrator are reflected in the 2022 budget.

2022 Nominating Committee (Margaret Marsh, chair)

- The chair reported that the Nominating Committee is composed of one active elder, one active deacon and one at-large member who is elected by the congregation.

- She introduced Bill Carpenter as the at-large member from the congregation. There were no nominations from the floor and he was approved unanimously.

Moderator's Report

- The moderator again expressed her gratitude for pastoring New Hope and the dedication of the members. She reminded members that everyone has an important role in our community of faith.

Adjournment of the Congregational meeting. There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned by agreement.

Nancy Spann, Clerk

Kim Wells, Pastor

Meeting of the Corporation

The President stated that there was no business conducted by the Corporation during 2021. Corporation business usually consists of legal decisions regarding major issues with the church.

Elders are the trustees of the Corporation and the officers are elected by the Session.

The officers of the Corporation for 2022 are

Bonnie Runkle, President
Susan Maveety, Vice-President
Nancy Spann, Secretary
Mike Garrett, Treasurer

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned.

Nancy Spann, Secretary

Clerk's 2022 Annual Report

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the Corporation was held January 23, 2022.

1. The Session had eleven Stated Meetings and one Congregational Meeting. Minutes of all meetings are on file.
2. Eight ruling elders comprised the 2022 Session. Following are the ministries of the Session and the chairs of those ministries:
 - Clerk: Nancy Spann
 - Building and Grounds: Bunk Spann (non-active elder)
 - Congregational Life: Margaret Marsh
 - Faith Formation: Virginia Hebert
 - Finance and Administration: Mike Garrett
 - Justice and Reconciliation: Jean Moxley
 - Outreach: Susan Maveety
 - Personnel: Bonnie Runkle
 - Worship: Andy Morse
3. Nine ruling elders will comprise the 2023 Session. Ministries and chairs for 2023 are:
 - Clerk: Nancy Spann
 - Building and Grounds: Bunk Spann (non-active elder)
 - Congregational Life: Margaret Marsh and Woody Farrell
 - Faith Formation: Virginia Hebert
 - Finance and Administration: Terri Carpenter
 - Justice and Reconciliation: Jean Moxley
 - Outreach: Susan Maveety
 - Personnel: Bonnie Runkle
 - Worship: Andy Morse
4. Mike Garrett rotated off the Session and Terri Carpenter (first term), Woody Farrell (first term), and Nancy Spann (second term) were elected to three-year terms for the Class of 2025.
5. Two Sessional committees with specific topics continued. The Nominating Committee chaired by Bill Carpenter and the Earth Care Committee chaired by Janet Black. The Covid Task Force continued to monitor Covid protocols.
6. Officers of the Corporation were Bonnie Runkle, President; Susan Maveety, Vice-Chair; Nancy Spann, Secretary; and Mike Garrett, Treasurer.
7. The Session welcomed five new members during the year:
 - Marlies and Steve Owens, by Letter of Transfer from the First Presbyterian Church, Sylva, NC

Brad Russell, as an affiliate member
George Bauernfeind, as an affiliate member
Ann Meador, by Letter of Transfer from New Life
Presbyterian Church, Fruitland Park, Florida

8. Dianne Clinton moved her membership to the First UCC in South Hadley, Maine
9. Two members passed away during the year: Glenn Limbird on September 22, 2022 and Wannie Hardin, retired clergy.
10. Ken Meeks, retired clergy and Associate Member, worked with the Diaconate to organize and convene them to meet and provide care for members, if needed. He provided continuing education for them through a book study.
11. Six members comprised the Diaconate in 2022: Joy Lee Eppes, Tom Fife, Susan Lang, Susan Garrett, Ann Moorefield, and Elaine Morse.
12. Tom Fife, Susan Garrett, and Susan Lang rotated off the Diaconate. Bill Carpenter (first term), Janet Farrell, (first term), and Karen Ward (first term) were elected to serve a three-year term for the Class of 2025.

Building and Grounds 2022 Annual Report

Chairperson: Bunk Spann

Committee Members: Bill Carpenter, Bill Eppes, Myron Lepro, Stan Presley, Brad Russell

Number of Meetings: 7

Goals for the Reporting Year:

- Building and Grounds maintenance and clean up as needed
- Special projects as approved by the Session

Accomplishments:

- Implemented long range plan to replace florescent bulbs and fixtures where necessary with LED bulbs. Convert all lighting to LED's
- Established portable work station in the Garden Room to sharpen lawn mower blades and other tools, s necessary
- Contracted for removal and replacement of asphalt parking lot
- Refurbished all office computers with needed upgrades
- Assisted Pam Smith with move from her family home to a mobile home and assisted with connections of all devices to the internet
- Contacted for installation of sidewalk lighting and security/aesthetic lighting on north side of the building
- Overseeded and fertilized selected areas of campus lawn
- Removed terminate infested playground equipment
- Added Brad Russell as new member of the B&G Committee
- Replaced broken post and mailbox following automobile damage
- Spot cleaned carpets as required
- Added operators to the sanctuary AV streaming

Financial Activities

- One budget exception: Under estimated the final cost of the parking lot replacement

Thank yous

- Myron Lepro for his more than 20 years of faithful service and for his leadership
- Bill Eppes and Bill Carpenter for their faithful stewardship of the maintenance and oversight of all our power equipment
- The Session for their support of all capital expenditures necessary for the maintenance upkeep and enhancement of the church property
- Stan Presley for his talent and ability to dismantle and haul away the termite infested playground equipment, as well as the fence surrounding the playground, and for being willing to apply his skill set wherever needed.

- Jay Maveety for continually monitoring the Sweeten Creek Road project and its potential impact of church property
- The mowing teams of Myron Lepro and Bill carpenter and Bonnie Runkle and Bunk Spann
- Tom Fife for his willingness to roll out the trash cans and to assist with the maintenance of the grounds whenever called upon
- Bonnie Runkle for selecting plants and maintaining the flower beds and flower boxes.
- Brad Russell for refurbishing the office computers.
- Bill Carpenter for ongoing leadership for campus-wide Fall and Spring Cleanups.
- Herschel Lewis and Brad Russell for joining the AV streaming team.

Suggested Goal for next year's committee

- Replace carpeting in selected areas
- Continue to replace old florescent lighting with LED lighting and fixtures where necessary
- Level and plant selected areas within the playground for better use by the congregation

- Prepare budget recommendations to Session for reimagining the full use of the playground area

Submitted by Bunk Spann, Committee Chair

Congregational Life Ministry Team 2022 Annual Report

Chair: Margaret Marsh

Committee Members: Bill, Carpenter, Terri Carpenter and May Jo Limbird.

Number of Meetings: Nine

Goals for Reporting Year:

At the end of 2021, we were unsure of what we would be able to do in 2022 because of restrictions due to the pandemic. As reported below, we were able to resume activities as restrictions permitted.

Accomplishments:

- Because we were unable to meet together in February, we sent Valentine cards to each member and frequent visitors.
- In April, Mary Jo Limbird started sending email birthday cards to the congregation.
- Under Bill Carpenter's leadership, we started a walking group that met once a week during the spring, summer and fall.
- We had two picnics at Lake Julian — Sunday, April 24, immediately after church and the annual picnic with vespers on Sunday evening, August 28.
- We enjoyed an evening at two Tourist games.
- On Sunday, June 26, 12 members attended a production of C.S. Lewis's *The Great Divorce* at the Wortham Center.
- On July 7, several members attended at Montreat's Lake Susan an Evensong and Candlelight Service with prayers for peace.
- On Sunday, July 17th we had lunch immediately following worship serving sandwiches, chips and ice cream.
- On Thursday, September 29th, we had an evening of music and fellowship at the Arboretum.
- On Sunday, November 20th immediately following the church service, we had our traditional Thanksgiving dinner with Turkey and all the trimmings.
- We had a Christmas Day pancake breakfast before our 11 o'clock worship service.
- Nan Riley and Jan Fife shared their craft talents with an Advent Workshop on three Saturday's during advent. At each session, Nan gave a short devotion and we made a different Christmas craft and enjoyed the time to be together.

Financial Activity

Because we were so restricted in 2021, we spent more this year on food for various meals and were able to supplement those who attended the C. S. Lewis play. There were no unusual expenses and with donations collected from different activities, we stayed within our budget.

Thank You

- Appreciation was expressed to all who helped with preparation, serving and clean up four various lunches and picnics.
- Appreciation was expressed to Jan Riley and Jan Fife for their Advent Workshop leadership.

Suggested Goals for Next Year's Committee

- Continue to schedule after church service luncheons and the annual Lake Julian picnic.
- Schedule Tourist games and an evening of music at the Arboretum.
- Schedule various craft workshops during the year and again at Advent.
- Plan a trip to Scotland.

Submitted by: Elder Margaret Marsh, Committee Chair

Faith Formation Committee 2022 Annual Report

Chairperson: Virginia Hebert

Committee Members/Attendees: Bill Carpenter (January 2022)
Russ Moxley,
Pastor Kim Wells, Ex Officio Member

Number of Meetings: Approximately Eight (8) In-Person/Zoom Meetings;
Numerous Planning Phone Calls, Emails, Texts

Goals for Reporting Year:

To provide opportunities throughout the year for congregants to grow in their knowledge of the Christian faith as well as to develop deeper relationships with God and each other through study and discussion.

Accomplishments:

- Chairperson Virginia Hebert facilitated a two-week seminar/group discussion on black poets, “Black Pain, Black Joy,” in celebration of Black History month.
- Chairperson Virginia Hebert, Pastor Kim Wells, and /committee member Russ Moxley facilitated a four-week Lenten study using the devotional “Full to the Brim” published by A Sanctified Art. Approximately 15 congregants participated each of the four weeks.
- Along with the Justice & Reconciliation committee, advertised a viewing event for “At the River – A Film of Struggle and Grace in the Segregated South” at Givens Estates in June.
- Chairperson Virginia Hebert and Pastor Kim Wells facilitated a three-week summer study of the book “Life Together in Christ: Experiencing Transformation in Community” in which participants explored the story of the two disciples walking the Emmaus Road, their experiences during that walk with Jesus, and their transformation after in the context of community.
- Pastor Kim Wells designed and distributed an interest survey to New Hope members and regular attendees to determine whether there is sufficient interest in small groups as a vessel for facilitating Faith Formation opportunities in 2023.
- Chairperson Virginia Hebert, committee member Russ Moxley, and Pastor Kim Wells facilitated a four-week seminar/discussion group, “Journey to Wholeness,” with curriculum designed by Russ that explored the meaning of wholeness, wholeness versus being good versus perfection, the process of being healed and restored, and the nature of the journey with the Spirit.
- Pastor Kim Wells instructed high school student Emily Neel using the Sparkhouse curriculum and accompanied her to a week-long youth retreat hosted at Montreat.

Financial Activity:

- Overall budget of \$1000.00.
- One payment of \$106.99 for youth curriculum (Sparkhouse Digital) for Pastor Kim Well's work with high school student Emily Neel.

Thank You:

To our various participants – Janet Black, Laura Brown, Bill Carpenter, Joy Lee Eppes, Mike Garrett, Susie Garrett, Betsy Hardin, Pat Koonts, Susan Lang, Mike Leatherwood, Theresa Leatherwood, Mary Jo Limbird, Margaret Marsh, Susan Maveety, Andy Morse, Elaine Morse, Jean Moxley, Emily Neel, Brent Pack, Bonnie Runkle, Brad Russell, Bunk Spann, Nancy Spann, Karen Ward, Emily Young, and anyone I have failed to mention by name – for their willingness to dig deep within themselves and share their experiences with great authenticity and vulnerability.

Suggested Goals for Next Year's Committee:

1. Initiate pilot small groups
2. Coordinate an event/study with Justice & Reconciliation with a focus on social justice
3. Facilitate a Lenten study (Ash Wednesday, February 22 through April 9, Easter Sunday)
4. Facilitate an evening study during Easter season (April 17 through Pentecost, May 28) that continues themes from Journey to Wholeness
5. Facilitate a summer spirit book/faith tradition study
6. Facilitate one to two fall evening studies
7. Facilitate an Advent study

Submitted by: Elder Virginia Hebert, Faith Formation Committee Chair

Finance and Administration 2022 Annual Report

Chairperson: Mike Garrett

Committee Members: Kim Wells, Jay Maveety, Mike Garrett

Number of Meetings: 7

Goals for Reporting Year:

- Upgrade Flockbase
- Continue to work toward simplifying the treasurer's job.
- Plan a successful stewardship campaign.
- Explore inviting members to make Legacy Gifts/Memorial Gifts.

Accomplishments:

- Successful upgrade for Flockbase Accounting System completed.
- More detailed instructions and checklists were developed to make the treasurer's job easier and reduce chances for errors.
- Major progress in improving the accuracy of the Balance Sheet and Fund Balances.
- Recruited a new treasurer, George Bauernfeind.

Financial Activity:

- As reported to our Presbytery, our church gave a total of \$16,072 to local missions and \$14,850 beyond our local community. This includes budgeted giving and special offerings/funds.
- Completed the year with a small loss (\$75) from church operations.
- Total operating revenue was down \$5,500 and operating expenses were up \$9,700 from the previous year.
- Experienced major capital expenses totaling \$52,000 for the year. The two largest expenses were the parking lot repaving and the final payment for the new roof.
- Balance sheet down \$88,000 (23%) for the year due to capital expenditures and losses in investments

Thank You's

- The congregation for their continued faithfulness through this challenging season.
- Jay Maveety for his ongoing work tracking membership and online giving.
- Erin for paying our numerous bills and bookkeeping efforts.
- Pastor Kim for her leadership and heart for the staff, congregation, and community.
- Kim and Stan Presley, and Carole Burnette for the stewardship luncheon this past Fall.

- Our faithful Sunday counters and unsung heroes: Belvin Freeman, Bonnie Runkle, Nancy Spann, Susan Maveety, and Terri Carpenter.

Suggested Goals for Next Year's Committee:

Continue the progress on improving the accuracy of the Fund Balances

Refine the year-end closing and audit progress.

Submitted by: Elder Mike Garrett, Committee Chair

Justice And Reconciliation 2022 Annual Report

Chairperson/s: Jean Moxley

Committee Members: Margot Coleman, Marlene Johnson, Bette Meyer, Janat Parker, Pastor Kim Wells, Ex Officio Member

Number of Meetings: Ten monthly meetings except January and June.

Goals for Reporting Year:

- **Reparations** - Educate ourselves, then plan ways to educate the congregation (perhaps in conjunction with Faith Formation).
- Continue following what the City of Asheville and other local groups are doing that may open up opportunities for our involvement.
- Continue researching potential recipients for our committee's reparations funding.
- Follow opportunities to continue building on partnerships we have already begun with Burton Street, Racial Justice Coalition, etc., as well as with other potential partners as they arise (Shiloh neighborhood, etc.)
- **Local Latinx Immigrant Community-** Continue building our relationship with Mujer a Mujer
- Explore options for involvement with the immigrant community through BeLoved
- Research the status of El Refugio and its ministry to the families and friends of those detained at Stewart Detention Center.
- **Faith 4 Justice-**Jean and Kim will continue to attend and forward information on to the committee.

Accomplishments/Financial Activities

- After research about RIP Medical Debt which our Presbytery encouraged churches to support, we voted to contribute \$200 from our Discretionary Funds.
- Contributed \$500 from Reparations to YMI to help in renovation of their building, growing capacity and strengthening sustainability through building an endowment.
- Bette Meyer communicated with El Refugio to determine needs to support immigrants in detention. The committee voted to send \$250 to support their work.
- The committee sponsored a Hood Hugger's tour of important sites of Black History in Asheville. We used some of our discretionary funds to help with the cost so that any who wanted to go could do so. 12 people went on the tour and 15 attended the luncheon at the church which followed the tour. Bette Meyer led a discussion and Marlene Johnson arranged for the food.

- Carolyn Crowder presented her film, “At the River” on Tuesday, November 1 in the sanctuary. The documentary shares the story of young Presbyterian ministers who stood up against racism. Marlene Johnson was responsible for contacting Crowder and making arrangement for the showing. Myron Lepro helped Rod Murphy, Crowder’s assistant in setting up the equipment and making sure the room was dark enough. Erin posted an announcement in our eNews letter. Marlene Johnson advertised at Crowfields. Nancy Spann let people at Deerfield know. Tom Fife notified Gerber and Janet Parker posted notices all over Givens. About 45 people attended. Marlene wrote Crowder a thank you for sharing her many years of work with us.
- We designed and Erin produced a card for alternative giving to help fund tiny houses being built by BeLoved Asheville.
- \$1000 from our Reparations fund was given to the Asheville City Schools Foundation for their Black Educator Excellence Program.

Thank You:

- To Carolyn Crowder for bringing her documentary to be shown.

Suggested Goals for Next Year’s Committee:

- The committee will do more research on reparations opportunities for 2023.
- The committee has discussed speakers we might invite in to help us understand better what is happening with the reparations process in Asheville.
- Bette will work with Kim and Virginia from Faith Formation on a Lenten educational series on reparations.

Submitted by: Elder Jean Moxley, Justice and Reconciliation Committee Chair

Outreach Committee 2022 Annual Report

Chairperson: Susan Maveety

Committee Members:

Terri Carpenter, Susan Lang, Mary Jo Limbird, Karen Ward, and Margaret Marsh

Number of Meetings: 11

Goals for Reporting Year:

- Promote 5 cents a meal throughout the year
- Provide additional Outreach activities that will engage greater participation
- Renew covenant relationship with El Divino Salvador
- Conduct donation drives as needed for community

Accomplishments:

- Provided Fair Trade products for sale, coffee, tea, chocolate
- Participated in the SOUPER BOWL of Caring for the 24th year and hosted a soup sale which raised \$1,376 for MANNA Food bank.
- Maintained communication with sister church, El Divino Salvador, through What's App and Facebook messenger. Virtual worship has allowed our Guatemalan community to participate in worship on a limited basis
- We were able to resume group volunteering to MANNA in June, limited to 10 volunteers each month.
- Quarterly Hard to Recycle events are publicized
- Investigated the possibility of becoming a Circle of Welcome through Lutheran Services for refugees in our area

Financial:

Alternative Giving during Advent to benefit Guatemala Children's Scholarships

- Sent additional funds to Guatemala to help with new roof for church
- Sent \$300 from the Outreach discretionary account to RIP Medical Debt relief.
- Sent \$700 from the Outreach discretionary account to Lutheran Service for refugee program.

Thank Yous:

- Carole Burnette and Kim Presley for preparing the soup for Souper Bowl Sunday.
- Linda and Herschel Lewis for coordinating the monthly MANNA Foodbank volunteer effort.
- Mary Jo Limbird for her dedication to the Outreach ministry over her years at New Hope

Suggested Goals for Next Year's Committee:

Promote Daily Change (previously 5 cents a meal) throughout the year

Provide additional appropriate Outreach activities to provide greater participation of members

Renew covenant relationship with El Divino Salvador in January 2023 and provide 2 trips to Guatemala

Conduct donation drives as needed for community

Provide support to Lutheran Services

Submitted by: Elder Susan Maveety, Outreach Committee Chair

Personnel Committee 2022 Annual Report

Chairperson/s: Bonnie Runkle

Committee Members: Angela Lepro, Bunk Spann, Jean Moxley, Kim Wells

Number of Meetings: 7

Goals for Reporting Year

- Evaluate time off and work expectations in light of Covid & “normalizing” of in person
- Accomplishments (review minutes for the year):
- Paid sick time policies created for all three staff members – specific to position
- Sabbatical policy created

Financial Activity:

- Staff increases as approved

Thank You:

- Appreciation to committee members for continued time & attention to the details required to create new policies
- Special recognition to Angela Lepro for reaching out to the presbytery and using her relationships with other congregations to secure sample policies that provided a consistency to our new policies with other churches in WNC

Suggested Goals for Next Year’s Committee:

- Review and update performance review documents
- Review and update job descriptions following Covid

Submitted by: Elder Bonnie Runkle, Personnel Committee Chair

Worship Committee 2022 Annual Report

Chairperson: Andy Morse

Committee Members: Kim Wells, Ruth Young, Janet Price-Farrell, Margot Coleman, Rob Blackwell

Number of Meetings: 7

Goals for 2022:

- Support the Pastor and the Church Staff [Number One Goal] to help recognize their vision for us.
- Worked through Omicron surge early in the year (Jan – Apr) so that we could stay open. Masking requirements and air circulator. Choir gradual in person return to respect potential contagion concerns completed.
- Rethink traditional worship practices in our various manuals and update where we need to but also carry on traditions that are meaningful to the congregation. {Look at the worship storage room and evaluate previous years for ideas}.
- Prepare worshipful backgrounds for both in person worshipers and online.
- Continue to use on line resources for visual and liturgical inspiration. (Bulletin covers, banners, slide show accompaniment etc.)

Accomplishments:

- Supported joint in-person and online worship services for the whole year...every week.
- Built on last year's changes to find better views and sound online for our viewers, but also expanded seating from the worst of the pandemic era to accommodate the many more post-pandemic in person congregants for **which we are very grateful.**
- Celebrating and living the return of our choir, through the work of Rob we presented a well-received advent **Cantata** and have continued efforts to encourage soloists from the choir and challenge ourselves to present more sophisticated and interesting selections for our worshipping congregation.

Financial Activity

We have very much lived within our budget. We combined "worship arts" and "liturgical" into one line item reflecting our view of worship as one kind of experience – whatever we need or want to have on a worship day that is "extra" from the usual configuration we will provide it.

Thank Yous:

- So Many.... the **Building and Grounds Committee** first and foremost. We work together every week on our worship services, both for everyone in the room and for our viewers. They [B &G] do all the camera work, setting the cameras up every week, hearing the Pastor's instructions patiently, making suggestions and working the controls input to the streaming computer every week. What I've learned is that these building and grounds folks have always been part of the worship ministry...
- Every one else...the names you see above plus Laura Brown, Kim Presly and Warren, everyone who is on the liturgist list and the communion server list, Jay Maveety, Susan Maveety, all the ushers, Terri Carpenter, Bonnie Rundle, Brad Russell, Herschel Lewis, Elaine Morse, of course the whole choir, **everyone who helps us round up cups every communion Sunday week you're all on the team!**

Suggested Goals for Next Year's Committee

Work on the lighting in the sanctuary. Needs more balance for different light conditions.

Keep on keepin' on. Keep up the liturgical seasonal experiences people expect, meaning plan and work together supporting the Pastor.

Recruit even more people to help with tasks like communion prep and setup on workdays for seasonal events.

Refurbish the piano. There is extra money to help with this, but it is a priority because the current state of the instrument causes it to go out of tune frequently and the piano parts of the worship service (with an in-tune instrument) are essential to our experience.

Try to get more plants in the "cross" end of the sanctuary. We have one veteran coming back to beautiful life right now, and it would be great to have a few more to give that end of the sanctuary an appeal to look at like it used to have. Would be great for the cameras too.

Challenge the choir to incorporate more complex pieces this year.

Submitted by: Elder Andy Morse, Committee Chair

Deacons 2022 Annual Report

Convenor: Ken Meeks, Jr.

Committee Members: Joy Lee Eppes, Tom Fife, Susan Garrett, Susan Lang, Elaine Morse, and Ann Moorefield

Number of Meetings: Deacons met monthly on the fourth Monday of the month, except for April (due to illness of the Convenor) June and July and December.

Goals for reporting Year:

- Continue to be supportive of members grieving the loss of loved ones or dealing with family crises.
- Continue with geographic groups as we proceed into the new year to see how it goes.
- Work on best way to address the size of the Givens Group.
- Implement plan for extended communion with Pastor Kim.

Accomplishments:

- At the beginning of the year each Deacon sought to introduce themselves to their group by whatever means was most appropriate and comfortable.
- Expressed appreciation to Anita Rice for her two years of service as a Deacon.
- Due to COVID-19 and other practical considerations related to small group formation, fostering a sense of small group within each group was limited, except for the Givens Group, which was able to have monthly gatherings once COVID-19 restrictions were lifted. Co-Leader Karen Ward was a big help to Ann in regard to the Givens Group.
- At all Deacon meetings, we reviewed concerns of our members and team and prayed for them.
- With the assistance of Erin May, supplies of assorted greeting cards were made available to Deacons for sending to members of their respective groups in relation to birthdays, anniversaries, illnesses, or grief.
- Read and discussed as a group the book by Steve Doughty, "To Walk with Integrity: Spiritual Leadership in Times of Crisis" as a continuing education exercise.
- Implemented limited efforts to assist members with rides to worship services.
- Assisted church member and family member with transportation to hospital and assisted living facility.
- With the transition away from COVID-19 restrictions, met with Kim Wells in March for an open discussion of "What has gone well over the past two years?" "What didn't go so well?" and "Now What?"

- Due to Tom Fife's absence over the summer, Elaine Morse served as the Deacon representative on the Nominating Committee.
- Accepted a gracious gift from a Gerber Park resident and made use of it to assist with providing flowers to members as appropriate.
- Met with Kim Wells to plan for extended communion in relation to World-wide Communion and, in teams of two, provided extended communion to eight persons.
- Developed transportation and meals support to Mary Jo Limbird during Glenn's illness and death.
- Convened a "welcome" dinner in November in the Fellowship Hall for newly elected Deacons: Bill Carpenter and Karen Ward (Janet Ferrell was unable to attend due to Austin's hospitalization with pneumonia). Expressions of appreciation to Deacons Tom Fife, Susan Garrett, and Susan Lang were also extended at this meeting.
- Restructuring Neighborhood Groups to Deacon Groups in a shift away from attempting intentional small group formation.

Thank Yous:

- Thank you to Tom Fife, Susan Garrett, and Susan Lang for their faithful service as Deacons.
- Thank you to Ken Meeks for his role as Convenor of the Deacons.
- Thank you to Kim Wells for her assistance in training and implementing extended communion.
- Thank you to Erin May for her support of the Deacons with greeting cards and other support.

Suggested Goals for Next Year:

- Transition away from Neighborhood Groups to Deacon Groups with clarification of Deacon role.
- Continue to be supportive to members by providing caring support and presence.
- Continue to provide extended communion per Kim Well's guidance.

Submitted by Ken Meeks, Convenor