

University Lutheran Church of Hope

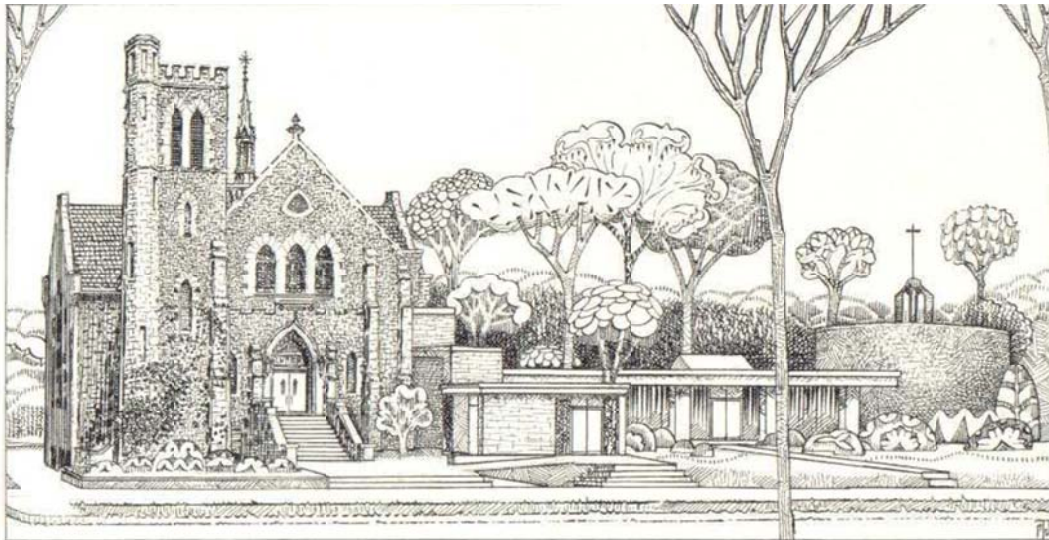
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*University Lutheran Church of Hope
is a welcoming, Christian community of faith
centered in God's grace and
called to demonstrate God's love for the world.*



2017 Annual Report to the Congregation

Presented at the Annual Meeting

February 11, 2018

Complex World. Thoughtful Church

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Congregational Meeting

Agenda for February 11, 2018

Opening hymn, prayer, and comments

Adoption of rules for the meeting

Approval of previous minutes

Treasurer's report for 2017

Review of benevolence distributed during 2017

Racial Justice Statement

"We profess that all people are beloved of God and are called to be a blessing to one another. We reject as contrary to God's will the racism that erodes our shared humanity - including unjust laws, unfair practices, hostile acts, implicit bias, white supremacy, and fear of people of other ethnicities, cultures, or religions. We actively seek to stand together with people of all ethnicities, cultures and religions to promote the joy of fellowship and the dignity of equal opportunity."

Presentation and approval of 2018 budget

Message from Pastor Jen

Recognition of outgoing board members

2018 Leadership Development report and election

Announcements

Closing Blessing

President's Report

To borrow and then adapt a line from one of Hollywood's disgraced directors: Being president of Hope's congregation is a lot of meetings and hard work, and it's all over much too quickly. Of course it isn't really over, because Hope's system of governance keeps the immediate past president in harness for another year. Still, it's been an honor to serve as your president, and I conclude this chapter with a deep sense of gratitude and a new appreciation for our congregation and staff.

Let me briefly run down a partial list of our accomplishments over the past year and proceed to a few challenges that lie ahead.

If we had achieved nothing else, I would take pride in the way our congregation has embraced its role as a sanctuary church. My thanks to everyone who has stepped up to lend a hand in this effort.

We have begun a new capital campaign with a sense of fresh purpose and optimism. And our congregation has responded well to the most recent appeal for annual pledges to support our regular ministry.

Our worship life has new energy, continuing the trajectory it has been on since the arrival of Pastor Jen Nagel and our minister of music and worship, Zach Busch. We are fortunate to be members of Hope at this inspired time in the life of our congregation. The arrival of Pastor Barbara Johnson as our minister of care and nurture, and the expanded role of Nick Tangen as our minister of just about everything else, have further strengthened our roster. Gayle Bidne continues to run the place with skill and tact, and we who visit the church at odd times know that she is often the first to arrive and the last to leave.

Our library's collection has been expanded and reorganized. We have a new server to replace the old one, which was on its very last legs. We're two-thirds of the way through a professional review of our budget and financial practices. We're getting ready to launch a mini-farmer's market and start building our community oven. Thanks in part to Zach's choral scholar initiative — and also thanks to his energy, musicianship and leadership skills — we have young people joining the choir. We have a website and a Facebook page that are actually interesting. Families Moving Forward brings our members into direct relationship with people struggling against homelessness, and The Sheridan Story gives us the means to feed students from Marcy Open School who might not have enough food at home.

This is by no means a complete list.

Now for a few challenges, also not a complete list.

Imagine the joy of being able to worship in a truly diverse congregation. What sort of outreach effort might help us get there, if only once in a while?

Our technology is out of date. If my own level of knowledge is any indication, we don't even know where we fall short. We are in need of a technology audit. Do any of our members have the necessary skills?

Even with the availability of Simply Giving, our cash flow isn't as predictable as we need it to be. Our treasurer, Ruth Hedman, performed heroically this year, but she sometimes had to try to explain numbers that defied explanation. How can we make our giving more regular?

Whatever we decide to do about these and other challenges, I know that Hope will be a vital, vibrant church for years to come. Ann and I feel the presence of a loving God and a loving family here, and we pray that you feel the same.

Eric Ringham, Congregational President

Lead Pastor Jen Nagel

"Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations."

-A Psalmist to God, Psalm 90:1

"You will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth."

-The Risen Jesus to the Apostles, Acts 1:8b

At annual report time, it is my practice to choose a scripture passage that in some way reflects the year just past. This year, I've picked two. These together represent the life-affirming tension of dwelling with God, on the one hand, and of being witnesses to what we've received and experienced, on the other. Last year at this time we were discerning if we'd become a Sanctuary congregation. Sanctuary congregations would, if needed, welcome and offer safety and shelter to an individual or a family with a precarious immigration status and under threat of deportation. In January 2017, with significant conversation and congregational input, the Vision and Governance Board voted that we would become a Sanctuary congregation through ISAI AH, and a founding partner in the University Area Sanctuary Coalition. The intense but relatively swift process of decision-making, the strength of our leadership, and the desire to step forward in faith moved me. During early discernment one of our leaders commented that this could be a transformative time for our congregation. Indeed, it is that transformation and more that we have experienced this year. In Sanctuary, this sense of God being our dwelling place is embodied. In turn, we are witnesses to what God is doing in and through us.

I joined you all in ministry here at University Lutheran Church of Hope 2 ½ years ago (August 2015). Those first years we focused much on Igniting our Life Together. We'd make our walls porous, connecting better with the university, neighborhood, and Lutheran Campus Ministry. We'd ignite worship and deepen spirituality. We'd work to revitalize our ministry with children and youth. In each of these areas we've made significant progress. We've reconfigured our staffing and created and strengthened ministry teams. All of this is going well, very well, and I suspect that in the coming year, perhaps in conjunction with the capital appeal (see below), the Vision and Governance Board and I will re-examine our vision goals. These three areas structure my report.

Making our walls porous. First, a story: Last spring, in a devastating situation, a university student went missing near the Mississippi River. At the request of a university staff member and the missing student's friends and classmates, in coordination with the University

Community Response Team, in partnership with Pastor Kate Reuer-Welton and Lutheran Campus Ministry, we pulled together a quick and large vigil: students gathered at a fire in the courtyard, others rested in candle and music filled worship spaces, a university counselor held a session for a hundred or so making space to talk about hope and grief.

Thankfully, these situations don't arise every day, and yet I share this story as an example of ways we're learning to nimbly and faithfully respond, strengthening relationships and embodying our place in this proximity. Nicholas Tangen offers tremendous, spiritually-grounded leadership in all of this work. He partners with the Neighborhood and Campus Team, the Racial Justice Task Force and the Sanctuary Team. Working together with the University Area Sanctuary Coalition has deepened the relationships between a number of our area congregations. We continue to grow our relationship with Lutheran Campus Ministry; Pastor Kate joins us regularly to preach or preside, LCM ambassadors offer hospitality to students, and LCM students now take on worship leadership and preaching one Sunday each spring.

Igniting Worship and Deepening Spirituality. Time and again, people reflect to me their sense of the Spirit and vitality in our community worship. Hope has such a strong tradition of worship built in music and a progressive Lutheran liturgy. I'm excited by the way we're building on these areas and stretching into new or re-newed territory: the choir is strong and lively and growing; we're widening our language and images for God; we're more creatively and theologically undergirding our justice work with spiritual practice; and we're experimenting with rituals and activities that are embodied and active. Big thanks to the Hope Choir, instrumentalists and soloists, the ULCHers, and the Drop In choirs. I am deeply grateful for the creativity, commitment, tenacity, leadership and energy Zach Busch brings to our times of worship and in partnership with the Worship Planning Team and the seasonal planning workshops.

Worship is often the entry for students and other visitors into this community. We see many visitors each Sunday and this year have welcomed 30 new members. Helping new and longer time members of all ages find meaningful relationships and engagement in the community is an area we continue to grow. I'm grateful for John Beane's leadership of our Hope Connections Small Groups, and the labors of Diane Greve and the Sunday Forum Team. Around this time last year Pastor Esther Dant retired. In May 2017, we called Pastor Barbara Johnson into a slightly expanded 15 hour per week role of Pastor for Care and Nurture. Pastor Barbara brings a wealth of experience and a deep love for this ministry with our homebound members, the whole congregation, and the Compassion Care Team, the Friendly Visitors, and Hope Diamonds Senior Group—I am so glad to share this ministry with Pastor Barbara. Thanks to Joan Campbell, Garvin Davenport, and Brian McCaffrey who served as the search committee that became the core of a call committee.

Revitalizing our Ministry with Children and Youth. This has been a year (actually two years) of transition in our ministry with children and youth. Monty Lysne and Ashlei Buhrow served in the interim times, both concluding in May 2017. After three years as our Youth Minister, Jim Vitale headed for parent-hood and internship in July 2017. A discerning search committee set about filling a faith formation position that included youth ministry. It was a Spirit-led process that prompted us to increase Nicholas Tangen to full time and pair the roles of community engagement and faith formation to create a new position called Minister of Faith in Community. Nick works closely with the Children's Ministry Team, our youth and their parents and this spring we will continue to re-imagine how we will do this ministry going forward. We're seeking organic and authentic inter-generational experiences and a model that

is sustainable. The inter-generational lessons and carols service this past Advent was a beautiful example of how we can do meaningful ministry across the age spectrum.

It is capital campaign time here at Hope. As we seek to retire our current mortgage, we continue the pattern of campaigns every three years, finishing one at the end of January 2018 and beginning another 36 month campaign at the start of February 2018. Again, Kristin Wiersma from Kairos and Associates is our consultant. Kristin has led us through an interview and survey period and now helps us in the actual appeal. At a November Leadership Summit, Kristin reported the survey results placed us in a healthy and strong position of “possibilities”. In a newsletter article that followed, I offered my notes from the day:

“Energy is high. Worship is at our core. We value worship highly and need to practice inviting people into this community of faith and sharing why this matters to us. We’ve got a lot going on, and sometimes that depletes our cohesiveness. We need organizational structure and systems of communication that curate information, drawing us around a clear sense of purpose. We seek safe spaces to express differences—things we don’t agree about—and to welcome folks with whom we may have less in common. We also need more access points to ministry—more ways to get involved in what is happening.”

The staff and Vision and Governance Board will work with these results this winter. Our new appeal is called Revealing Hope and the commitment period runs January 7, 2018-February 11, 2018. The appeal includes funds for mortgage payments, facilities improvements (stained glass window repair, organ, bread oven, children’s play area), and 7% benevolence. Thank you for your dedication to this congregation, your annual gifts, and also your creative and sacrificial giving to Revealing Hope and previous campaigns.

Facilities and Leadership. Our Business Manager Gayle Bidne is at the heart of our operation with a great love for this congregation. Gayle works extremely hard as she tends to the details and the relationships both within and beyond the congregation. She also attends to the facility and partners closely with our dedicated Facilities Team. Thanks to our custodians Geremew Beshah and Ben Hartmann who care not only for the facility but also hospitality and security. After many years as our child care staff, Gus (Clair) Gustafson moved away this summer and Julia Gerloff stepped into this role with a similar care for our children in the nursery. Between the congregation, PEASE Academy (an amazing sober high school that blesses our facility daily), and many, many other community groups, we are a lively, well-used and vital place. I give thanks to Congregational President Eric Ringham and the whole Vision and Governance Board for their leadership this year. Eric is such a faithful and clear leader and it’s been a pleasure to partner. My days are filled with conversations, worship, pastoral care, administration, planning, meetings, supervision, teaching, and ministry on your behalf in the wider community. I serve as Dean of Central Conference, on the Board of Regents for Concordia College, and on the synod’s Unite Table (racial justice team).

Thank you for your care for me, and also for my family. I am deeply grateful for this ministry we share here at University Lutheran Church of Hope. Regularly colleagues and others ask me about my “new” call and time and again I tell them that it seems to be a very good fit and that I’m finding a sense of gospel vitality and energy. I look forward to where God will lead us next and the ways we’ll be called to be witnesses of this great Love.

Gratefully,
Rev. Jen Nagel, Lead Pastor

Pastor for Care and Nurture

Barbara Johnson

Happy are those who delight in the law of the LORD!
*“They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.” Ps 1:3*

As one who has been planted and dug up and re-planted a number of times in my adult life, I especially appreciate the words of the Psalm 1. For me, to delight in the “law of the Lord” is to cherish the groundedness of God’s law that is rooted in the unchanging love and grace of God for all people, especially in these days of uncertainty and unrelenting change. In May 2017 I arrived in Minnesota - back in home territory - and I began serving in this new call at Hope. I felt a bit like a tree being re-planted by streams of living water. I am grateful to be feeling refreshed and more grounded as I settle in to this new way of living, working and serving among you.

As many of you know, the job description for my part-time call as Pastor for Care and Nurture includes a broad scope of potential tasks and roles. A significant challenge for me is in trying to stay within close proximity to the allocated 15 hours. The following items are included in that description:

Pastoral Visitation My primary focus during this first year is to become well-acquainted with those who are homebound or residents of care facilities. I am privileged to bring the sacrament of Holy Communion from the altar to the tables in their homes as we engage in conversation, care and prayer together.

Compassion Care Ministers continue to meet monthly for mutual support and learning how to best be of service as caring confidential listeners to those in need of one to one support for a period of time. Care receivers can be assured that they are cared for by their church while their personal identities and situations are held in complete confidence by the one Compassion Care minister who meets with them. There are trained Compassion Care Ministers available. The leadership team includes Muffi Abrahamson, Ann Agrimson, Joan Campbell and Pastor Barbara.

Friendly Visitors Ministry is served by Coordinator Rosalie Eldevik and several people in the congregation who volunteer to make regular home visits. They meet quarterly to determine which persons may need a visitor and to organize such projects as Easter Flowers, Poinsettias & Caroling.

Communion Visitors have been instructed in the ways of serving the holy sacrament at homes or hospital as needed during the interim. Pastor Barbara will coordinate with Communion visitors when needed.

Healing Prayer Ministers are recruited to offer individual healing prayers on 3rd Sundays each month during the 10:30 am Sunday worship. Pastor Barbara offers instruction and encouragement to all who would like to consider taking a turn at praying for others on a Sunday morning.

And.... Preaching, Presiding, Officiating at some funerals or weddings and serving as Pastor-on-call occasionally are also part of the Care & Nurture ministry description as the need arises. Intersecting with Relational Ministries:

Let's Get Acquainted! A new addition to the monthly *Visitor* newsletter is one way to help homebound members remain connected and known to the congregation, especially when they are often unable to attend worship at ULCH. Homebound members also expressed a desire to learn more about younger and newer members, so future L.G.A. articles will include a broad range of ages.

Hope Diamonds Senior Group was added to the Care and Nurture Ministry description in recent months as it intersects with many of those who are included in the ministries above. Hope Diamonds group continues to gather quarterly to eat together and enjoy a variety of programs. Coordinators and Kitchen Crew for Hope Diamonds include Julaine Kobiske, Brian McCaffrey, Carmen Macoskey, Arloene Stevens, Rosalie Eldevik, Marge & Leroy Halvorsen, Ken Lynes, Wayne Westwood, Karen Jorstad, Shuzo Murakami and Marty Lewis-Hunstiger.

A Letter from the Bishop

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am so grateful for you—and for all our communities of faith that share the good news of Christ in word and deed. We often hear of the church's decline. As I visit our synod's congregations, ministries, and partners, I see remarkable signs of vitality and experience renewed hope in the Spirit's work. I praise God for these life-giving highlights from 2017:

- Eleven ordinations (a record number for the recent past)
- At least 230 pastors, deacons, and CYF and other staff members meeting in peer groups for prayer, support, learning, and, often a creative, transformative retreat—all supported with synod funds
- Six hundred 5th - 8th graders attending weekly church gatherings in Prior Lake
- A host of gifted millennials serving as leaders in our synod; new start congregations in the millennial-rich areas of Northeast Minneapolis and the North Loop
- Vibrant, multicultural congregations and an area ministry strategy in north Minneapolis
- Fourteen congregations gathering “at the river” to paddle canoes and pray for waters and lakes
- Racial justice liaisons from 48 churches meeting bimonthly to strengthen efforts against racism

- Traveling with 16 young, gifted pastors on a “once-in-a-lifetime” 500th Anniversary of the Reformation trip to our companion synod in Leipzig
- New energy in our companion synod relationship with Nigeria (I was blessed to travel there twice in 2017, the first time for the installation of Archbishop Musa Filibus, who is also the newly elected president of the Lutheran World Federation and will speak at our Synod Assembly this May.)
- Congregations supporting a host of unique global partnerships from South Sudan to India to El Salvador to Haiti to Liberia
- Creating the Resurrection Fund for faithful stewardship of resources given to the synod by congregations after the sale of church property (We are inspired to imagine the good fruit this Resurrection Fund will bear.)
- Accompanying 36 congregations in call processes; presiding at 37 installations (In particular, I love my visits to congregations right before they begin interviewing for a new pastor.)
- A balanced synod budget, clean audit, and strong mission support to ELCA church wide
- Well-attended and engaging Tool Kit events for more than 100 elected church council members; the chance to meet the faithful and tireless lay leaders who serve our congregations and communities
- The remarkable leadership and ministry of our synod staff, synod council, deans, and other synod leaders

Even more than these highlighted activities, we praise God for the daily and weekly work all around our synod: transforming lives through the gift of a new beginning in Jesus Christ, forming authentic communities where confidence and doubt, joy, and sorrow are welcomed and shared; being truly present in the neighborhoods around us; striving for justice and healing in our world.

The coming months are significant for the Minneapolis Area Synod. Conference Assemblies are Sunday, February 25, and the Synod Assembly is May 4-5. Both include steps in the bishop election process. As I complete my sixth year as your bishop, I want to say how grateful I am for the privilege of serving in this calling. I have indicated my openness to election to a second term. More importantly, I join with you in asking the Holy Spirit to guide us in the coming process. Please hold our synod in your prayers.

I give thanks for our vital partnership and look forward to deepening our shared mission. Please let us know how we can serve one another better –working together so all experience gracious invitation into life-giving Christian community and live in just and healthy neighborhoods.

In Christ,
Bishop Ann Svennungsen

Lutheran Campus Ministry

Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities continues to celebrate our partnership with University Lutheran Church of Hope and is glad for our collective ministry to students, faculty and staff at the U. We are encouraged by recent growth in our relationship, and deeply grateful for the many ways this partnership will ensure a stable, healthy and vibrant ministry for a many years to come.

This past year has brought with it opportunities and challenges, of course. LCM-TC continues to embrace the paradox of radical hospitality and welcome to those outside our doors, while caring and nurturing the committed young Christians that comprise the core of our faith community.

Some ministry highlights from the past year:

- Watching worship attendance grow as students really seek to ground themselves in something greater than themselves, especially in a world which seems increasingly isolated and volatile.
- Watching a generation of students turn over with last year's graduating class – which was large in number and personality; and noticing the gifts and passions of this emerging generation shape our ministry (LCM generations are 3-4 years!).
- A board of directors which grows stronger every year. A special thanks to Hope members John Bablitch and John Setterlund for serving in this capacity!
- It remains our pleasure to work so closely with staff at Hope, and value especially the wisdom, shared knowledge and relationships that Pastor Jen and Nick continue to share with LCM students and the University at large.
- Hosting a breakfast gathering of ELCA faculty and staff at the University of Minnesota!
- Last of all, we would like to extend our thanks for the generous, and increasing use of space, that Hope offers to LCM-TC, whether for small groups, committee meetings, or study space!

Our ministry faced the real challenges of significant student transition, as well as a shifting energy in our community, but through the grace of God, the accompaniment of this congregation, and a lot of hard work, we're continuing to thrive – albeit in new and ever-changing ways.

We look forward to continuing this important work together. Thank you for everything,

Pastor Kate Reuer Welton

on behalf of Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities' Board of Directors

Education

2017 began with our Children's Ministries in interim, led by congregational coach Monty Lysne and Interim Faith Formation Minister Ashlei Buhrow. Monty and Ashlei inspired us to experiment with many things as we searched for a sustainable intergenerational approach to ministry with children and families. We learned from them especially to look at what we already do together as a congregation as fertile ground for engaging children and adults together. We said Godspeed to Monty and Ashlei in June.

With the appointment of Nick Tangen as Minister of Faith in Community in August, alongside his position as Community Engagement Coordinator, the education ministries at Hope began to see the end of a long transition that began with Diane Shallue's retirement in 2015. Nick is gradually taking up Youth and Faith Formation leadership responsibilities, culminating in a full time position beginning May 1, 2018. Already Nick has shown remarkable imagination, relationality, versatility, and commitment as he manages these leadership roles.

We have had four classrooms of students on Sunday morning learning the stories and values of our faith, and lively leadership of "First Fifteen" gathering time from Sara Tufvesson and companions and monthly music from Rosalie Eldevik. The Children's Ministry Team is now moving into a period of discernment about how best to shift our approach from doing ministry to children towards a model of children doing ministry with adults, which will include intentional conversations with families about their hopes and expectations. We anticipate eventually engaging all of the ministries of Hope in the question of how to include children as workers with us in the Kingdom of God, in faithful response to the congregation's baptismal vows. Examples of ways we have been successful already are the Lutheran World Relief School Kits project for God's Work, Our Hands; food collection for The Sheridan Story; the inspiring and intergenerational Advent Service of Lessons and Carols, involving children in leadership during worship.

The Sunday Forum Committee under the leadership of Diane Greve has continued fine work of providing a menu of short-term lively educational opportunities for all ages. These include speakers from the wider church and community as well as popular presentations on spiritual journeys and practices from our members. Other adult educational opportunities have included Bible and book studies led by volunteer members on Sunday morning and in coordination with our seasonal Wednesday evening worship services. Much of the teaching and inspiration for these events comes from volunteer members of the Forum Committee.

The library is also an important part of our faith formation ministries at Hope. Here is a report from our active church librarian, John Setterlund:

A church library offers information and entertainment for members' instruction and growth. Everyone is invited to make use of these resources, with a minimum hassle in borrowing. During 2017 the library received significant donations from church members. Two major gifts were results of the Reformation 500th Anniversary exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Art—the exhibit catalog, *Treasures of the Reformation*, donated by Sally French; and *Biblia*, a facsimile of Martin Luther's 1543 translation of the Old and New Testaments, donated by Lynette Lamb. Following our "Martin Luther Book Store" last fall, Augsburg Fortress donated 20 Reformation-related books to the

church, many of which are intended for young readers. Later, the Racial Justice Task Force purchased volumes on racial justice, for children and adults, currently on display. In addition to all these, several members donated large collections of their personal libraries. Many of these books now stand on the Library shelves, while some are shared on the “Free Book” cart. To all our donors, we say a big *Thank You!* To all our friends we say a big *Come on in!*

One last but not least Faith Formation practice starting up is Centering Prayer. A small group meets at 1 PM every Friday to support each other in this ancient spiritual practice. For more information, contact Nick Tangen or join in on any Friday afternoon.

We give thanks to God for the many volunteers, too numerous to mention, who make possible the lively and inspiring faith formation ministries at University Lutheran Church of Hope.

Nick Tangen, Minister of Faith in Community
Kirsten Mebust, Liaison for Education

Facilities

ULCH is both an amazing and complex facility with so many dimensions, great spaces and features. There is our historic 1908 building and sanctuary, with its breathtaking stained glass, lofted ceiling and pipe organ. There is the 1950s education wing, with all its features. You could call it a dream facility; lacking in little or nothing. It is my guess we are all VERY attached to it. The diversity means there is a vast array of unique and peculiar details. The Facilities Committee's members are a dynamic group and work hard in taking great care of our facility.

The following is a list of improvements and changes that have been made this past year:

- First is the transformation of the courtyard. There is still more to be done, but what an amazing change so far. Job well done to those involved!!
- Three diseased ash trees in our parking lot were removed by church members, saving the church many thousands of dollars. The amazing part is I imagine those who participated might call it fun; I would.
- Door entrances project. Facilities decided for clarity and pragmatic reasons that our main church doors should be better labeled. It resulted in a systematic, clear marking of four primary entrances. Church users now see entrances as North, East, and West. A big thanks to Sharla Aaseng and Muffi Abrahamson for their help in this work.
- A new convection oven was bought for the kitchen. Many thanks go to John Lauber for executing this!
- A much needed washer/dryer unit was purchased and installed in the main kitchen. Thanks to John Pignatello for researching, purchasing and installing!
- A set of automated door openers was installed on the North entrance doors. The funds for this came from the family of Bertha Hanson and we are so grateful for their generosity.

- A new doorbell was added at the North entrance as well.
- A new elevated catwalk was created behind the altar for safer travel to hang banners, drapes and other seasonal adornments. This was where a certain Christmas angel stood during the Christmas program.
- Pews were removed and dispersed as part of the reconfiguration of the south transept as requested by our music and ministry team. Thanks to Fred Kreider for coordinating this project.
- A beautiful new wood storage rack, designed by Muffi Abrahamson and built by Jack Dant, was installed in the courtyard.
- Four offices and three exterior doors were newly painted.
- A new sign for pedestrian crossing and asphalt fill to prevent trip hazards were added at the West entrance.
- New glass was added to the exterior message board near the chapel, replacing a badly hazed surface.
- The outdoor piano was demolished and discarded.
- New electrical outlets were added to the courtyard for concerts and general utility.
- Mud-jacking of sidewalks near the North Entrance.
- A new faucet fixture was installed for the scrub sink in the main kitchen.
- Upgraded lighting in the Education wing restrooms.
- Louver blind maintenance and repair in PEASE classrooms and new blinds for some office areas.
- Maintenance and upgrade to elevators per the City inspector.
- Heat tape was installed inside an internal downspout in the rear entry by the dumpsters.
- New entry rug for the Narthex.
- Continued upkeep and repair of wooden chairs and hymnal racks.
- Ongoing garden and grounds upkeep, a huge and continuous need.
- Initiated a new policy to discourage late night tow truck staging in our parking lots.
- A new security plan to discourage nighttime visitors to the flat roofs.

Craig Nelson, Co-Chair Facilities Committee

Gratitude and Generosity Committee

One of our goals in 2017 was to keep our commitment to focus on stewardship not only in the fall, but yearlong. We may have fallen a little short of that this past year, but we did resume sharing Gratitude and Generosity Moments during the service in July. These are stories shared by individuals to highlight how gratitude and/or generosity have helped shape their faith and how God has been active in their lives. As this was well received and meaningful last year we enlisted the help of those who had not yet shared stories to gain new perspectives.

We made regular contributions to the Visitor to highlight G and G stories and to communicate to the congregation events related to Stewardship. We began to plan the details leading up to the fall stewardship drive and identified ways in which the annual and capital campaigns differ, but are interrelated.

Two team members along with Pastor Jen had the opportunity to attend an in-depth stewardship workshop at Luther Seminary in August. We learned from four excellent speakers concepts of God's abundance in our lives and how to encourage an attitude of sharing not only financial resources, but talents as well.

That month we also met with our representative from Kairos, Kristin Wiersma and learned helpful tips to help congregants grow in their faith, how to invite them to participate in the church community and motivate them to increase giving.

Once again, this year we set a goal to invite a guest preacher on Stewardship Sunday and were fortunate to have Adam Copeland, who is the Director of Stewardship Leadership at Luther Seminary, give the stewardship sermon.

September found our team working on the theme and content for this year's Gratitude and Generosity letter and design of the pledge cards. We planned an Adult Forum for October highlighting the main themes from the Stewardship workshop and introduced the concept of "The Myth of Scarcity" and discussed the "Liturgy of Generosity" as found in the Old Testament.

Our final activity to highlight stewardship was our dialog sermon in November. We focused on the scripture reading with the message of being wise and prepared for Christ's coming as well as identifying what makes us anxious in the world today. We tied this together with thoughts of Luther in this year of the anniversary of the Reformation and theme of "All Things New", identifying some new things taking place within our congregation and how our generosity supports that.

As the year ends we are pleased to discover the total amount of pledges are up over the past 2 years however, pledging units are down. This will present a challenge for next year to work on increasing both the amount pledged and number of pledges.

Respectfully submitted by the Gratitude and Generosity Team: Ann Beane, Kathy Kufus, John Hensrud, Ann Wagner and Beth Ubbelohde

Hope in the World

Hope in the World is a ministry area of our church that concerns itself with what happens beyond our walls: in our immediate neighborhood, in the greater Twin Cities area, in our nation, and the world beyond. Hope in the World partners with communities and organizations, faith-based and others, to address and improve issues of poverty, hunger, injustice, racism, damage to our environment and the like, while providing welcome and hospitality to our neighbors and the campus community, all in keeping with what we believe we, as people of faith, are called to do.

Racial Justice

During 2017 Racial Justice team members, chaired by Karen Westwood, have been meeting monthly to work on ways University Lutheran Church of Hope can be involved in addressing issues of chronic racial injustice and promoting paths of better understanding, fairness, and healing. Specifically, some of the activities the team has been engaged in include:

- Hosted bimonthly meetings of the Synod's racial justice liaisons where congregations from all over the Minneapolis Area Synod exchange ideas about doing racial justice work.
- Joined the Sacred Solidarity Network, a pilot cohort program of MARCH (Multifaith, Anti-Racism, Change & Healing), a support organization helping primarily white congregations address deeply ingrained attitudes of racism and white supremacy. Two plenary meetings have been held to date.
- Sponsored a congregational movie night where we viewed the troubling, but excellent, documentary *13th* produced by Ava DuVernay.
- Purchased, through a grant from the Trust Board, highly regarded books for adults and children on racism, mass incarceration, what it feels like to be a minority in the U.S., etc. These books will be available in Hope's library in 2018.
- Continued to develop and finalize a racial justice mission statement that will be presented to the congregation for approval at our annual meeting. Valuable comments and suggestions were received from members who attended the forum on this topic last fall.

Team members: John Beane, Bruce Eldevik, Diane Greve, Doug Hartmann, Kirsten Mebust, Sonja Peterson, Nick Tangen, Karen Westwood

Neighborhood and Campus

The Neighborhood & Campus team continued to explore creative ways to “make our walls porous”, and to engage with the Dinkytown and UMN communities. This included building and maintaining relationships with Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association, Dinkytown Business Association, and student-led organizations on campus, i.e. Nutritious U Food Pantry. Much of the team's efforts were focused on issues of food insecurity, safety, and community building.

In April the team coordinated the Resist Reuse Recycle event, to highlight Earth Day and creation care, and to provide some food and fun during Spring Jam. Also, in September the team, under the leadership of John Bablitch, coordinated the 5th Annual Welcome Back Students event. This event was well attended, and provided free food and music for students,

and the opportunity to win a brand-new bicycle. The team is confident that this event will continue to grow with each year!

Looking forward to 2018, the Neighborhood & Campus team is excited to be exploring the possibility of hosting a Dinkytown Mini-Market beginning in June. This Mini-Market will provide the students and home-owners with fresh and affordable produce in Dinkytown, where access to fresh food is limited.

Team Members: Tim Gustafson, Doug Hartmann, Beth Kautz, Lynette Lamb, Kirsten Mebust, Jen Nagel, Nicholas Tangen

Global Mission

During July we were privileged once again to welcome Pastor Amson Hamman to Hope, this time accompanied by his wife, Dorthea, here as a delegate to the ELCA Triennial Women's Convention. Pastor Amson preached at worship on July 19 followed by a congregational covered dish lunch with an informal question/answer time. In 2017 Amson stepped down from his role serving St. Peter's, our partner congregation in the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, to take on additional administrative duties with the LCCN. We continue to pray for Pastor Amson, St. Peter's congregation, and the Dogon Dutse guest house that Amson manages for the LCCN.

We welcomed back Dr. Ibrahim Bitrus during the month of September. Ibrahim preached, assisted in worship, and participated in many congregational activities and group meetings. This is the final year of the Synod's Nigeria Theologian in Residence program. Ibrahim and his family expect to return to Nigeria this summer where he will join the faculty of Bronnum Seminary.

Sanctuary

In January of 2017 our church made the decision to become a Sanctuary congregation, opening our building to immigrants and refugees at risk of deportation, and committing to prayerful political action to transform systems and policies that target our immigrant neighbors. Congregants participated in Courtroom Observation and letter writing for detained individuals through the organization Conversations with Friends.

The University Area Sanctuary Coalition convened in January of 2017, and is comprised of 8 churches located near the University of Minnesota who have committed to supporting one another in the work of Sanctuary. Each month, the coalition hosts a prayer vigil to pray for the end of evil policies, for the safety and dignity of immigrants, and for just immigration reform.

In partnership with ISIAAH, Hope hosted "Claiming Our Voices" House Meetings, to discuss the impact that policies and systems have had on our own lives, and to imagine a collective narrative grounded in our own values. We focused especially on our own migration stories, and the policies that impact immigrants and refugees in our city, state, and country. Out of these conversations, ISIAAH developed a Faith Agenda for the upcoming Gubernatorial race, and invited congregants to become Faith Delegates at district caucuses in February of 2018.

The Sheridan Story

The Sheridan Story is an effort to supplement weekend food supplies for students at Marcy Open school in our neighborhood. The fourth Friday of each month Hope volunteers show up to distribute sacks of non-perishable food to the backpacks of students who have requested this

assistance. A number of Hope volunteers also helped out at two packing sessions at The Sheridan Story warehouse to put together the food sacks for later distribution. With the help of a Thrivent grant, in the fall Hope Sunday School kids went grocery shopping and donated the purchased food to The Sheridan Story. Money from the book sale held at the Welcome Back event and half the proceeds from the kids “noisy offering” Sundays also went to help support this non-profit organization.

Ongoing ministries within Hope in the World are:

- **Families Moving Forward** – A program of Beacon Interfaith Housing. Hope hosts temporarily homeless families for a week twice a year. Coordinated by Julie Paschke, Christine Nielsen, and Gretchen Peik with many Hope volunteers and the partnership of Prospect Park United Methodist Church.
- **Bread for the World’s Offering of Letters** – There was another strong turnout of Hope members in the lounge following worship in May to write to our congressional representatives on behalf of expanding our nation’s capacity to reduce poverty and hunger here at home and internationally. Coordinated by Donna Neste
- **Groveland Food Shelf** – the grocery cart near the chapel is the receiving location for food donated by Hope members and regularly delivered to Groveland by Dean Bronson.

Loaves and Fishes

December marked the conclusion of thirty-five years of Hope’s participation in Loaves & Fishes. Recently Grace University Lutheran, our partner in this ministry, discontinued its involvement due to a dwindling (and aging) supply of volunteers. Hope has been facing the same issues and, with Grace’s exit, decided to “hang up our aprons” as well.

Peace, justice, relief, and community organizations supported financially by our church through Hope in the World were:

- Bread for the World
- Families Moving Forward
- ISALAH
- Loaves and Fishes
- The Sheridan Story

In addition, Hope in the World applied for and received grants from the Hope Church Trust to (1) supplement our budgeted support for The Sheridan Story and (2) help launch Tree of Life, a start-up worshipping community within the Minneapolis Area Synod.

Bruce Eldevik, Liaison for Hope in the World
Nick Tangen, Minister of Faith in Community
Karen Westwood, Chair of Racial Justice Task Force

Relational Ministries

The purpose of Relational Ministries is to foster caring relationships that strengthen our community. There are many, many wonderful activities that fall under this umbrella. I will highlight only a few. All are worthy of your time and participation.

Bread Oven Ministry – This new ministry has created great excitement to build community at Hope and reach out to our surrounding neighborhood. In 2017, we:

- (1) Partnered with other congregations, particularly White Bear Lake United Methodist Church and Our Saviors Lutheran who have built masonry ovens and launched successful bread ministries,
- (2) Baked bread during 5 Saturday morning “Baking With a Purpose” events,
- (3) Attended a six-hour seminar along with 10 other congregations on oven design and construction, organizational considerations, and managing bread oven events,
- (4) Attended a four-day class at North House Folk School in Grand Marais on “Ovencrafting: Building and Baking In The Wood-Fired Brick Oven” so that we can build this oven at lower cost,
- (5) Reached out to the city to understand the applicable regulations,
- (6) Raised \$6500 in pledges to the bread oven ministry, and finally
- (7) Gained approval of the Vision and Governance team to include the bread oven in the latest Capital Campaign, Revealing Hope.

We believe that this bread oven ministry will create a tool for service and fellowship that will connect with other ministries (like Neighborhood and Campus’ mini-market concept) and build new bridges to the community – porous walls in action. This team has a lot more to do as we prepare for ground-breaking on the oven in May. Co-planners are Bryan Kufus, John Bablitch, Bob Dickhaus, John Pignatello, and John Beane

Outdoor Recreation – This is a loosely organized group of people who like spending time together enjoying the outdoors. Bryan Kufus has taken the lead in organizing 3-4 paddling events during the warmer months. One event will also include overnight camping. There is no better way to fun and fellowship than stories told around a campfire. If you are interested in organizing a bike ride or a cross-country skiing outing, contact Bryan or John Beane for counsel and encouragement.

Hope Connections – This ministry for small group Bible study is going strong after more than 10 years. A curriculum team meets in the spring and summer to develop a suggested lesson booklet. This year’s theme is “Paul’s Letters to Christian Communities”. Each Bible study is free to use the lesson booklet or follow their own path. Four groups meet year after year and have developed strong personal relationships. I am happy to announce that we formed a new group this fall that meets monthly at the church. All are welcome. John Beane is the coordinator.

Women's Retreat - It is a joy to reflect on the Women’s Retreat that has been taking place annually for at least 30 some years! We've now gathered at Dunrovin Retreat Center, sometime in January or February, for about 20 years and it has remained a wonderful place for 25-30 women, 18-90 years young, to gather and build community together. We added a Friday night to the weekend 3 years ago, and were pleasantly surprised at how many chose to come for two nights. All the more story telling, faith building, crafting, prayer shawl making, the sharing of laughter and tears, and for some, quiet respite from the demands of life. The

2018 theme of "Telling Stories" continues a long tradition of nurturing Christian faith and connectedness. If you have not experienced this weekend, we extend an invitation to join us in the coming years! Beata Rydeen and Ann Beane are the co-planners.

Children's Play Area - The coins have been adding up from "Noisy Offering Sundays" providing monies for both the Courtyard Play Area and the The Sheridan Project (a backpack food program for our partner site - Marcy Open School). There is some progress in the air for an official design and then hopefully a spring/early summer date for construction will be set. Stay tuned! It will have a simple design meant to allow "pop-up" activities and lots of opportunities for imagination, community building and a wholistic family feel to the courtyard. The project is included in the next capital campaign, but donations are also welcome. Ann Beane and Ann Agrimson are the co-planners.

There are more dedicated leaders giving their time and their gifts to Friendly Visitors, Compassion Care, Hope Diamonds Senior Group, Dorcas and Gloria Circles, child care in the nursery, monthly Fellowship Meals, Crafters, Hope Quilters, and care packages. This is how we create a place for each of us to be comfortable in our own skins. This is how we get support for the burdens we carry. This is how we get the inspiration to serve. And, it is fun. All of these ministries are eager for new people to get involved. That means you!

John Beane, Liaison for Relational Ministries

Worship & Music

It has been a fabulous year of Worship and Music at Hope. We as a community and as a greater church hold worship as a central pillar for our life of faith together. We embrace and celebrate music as gift and vehicle for us to experience the divine, minister to each other, and enact love in the world. The ministry of music and worship at Hope is alive with energy manifesting ever new.

Early in 2017, we began our Lenten journey, guided by the theme "Confessing What Blocks Our Way to God" that emerged from the work of the Worship Planning Team and a planning workshop attended by members of the Hope community. The work of the Worship Planning Team and these workshops intended to engage all of us in our liturgical planning are imperative to our worship life. You are invited to participate in this aspect of our ministry in 2018.

With spring came a fittingly joyous celebration of Easter in our community. Standing out in memory is the Vigil of Easter celebrated Saturday evening before Easter Sunday, where we were full to standing room in the chapel with many seated on the floor to hear stories from the rich history of human relationship with God and God's saving wonders. It was a very rainy evening, and we lit the Paschal Candle anew in the courtyard after some struggle under a generous and joyful tide of rain, reminding us again and always of God's love and grace in water and the humor and whimsy of the Holy Spirit.

Over the summer, we gathered in the courtyard for three Courtyard Concerts - Hannah Armstrong Stanke sang a lovely selection of art songs, the Compass Rose Brass Ensemble

serenaded us, and the Meadowlark String Quartet played ardently in the fading light of a late summer evening. We will have two Courtyard Concerts in 2018, one to close the program year in May, and another to open the new program year in September.

This fall, using money generously granted from the Hope Trust, we hired a fantastic undergraduate soprano from the University as our Choral Scholar. Elise Busse has been a gracious and fitting presence in Hope Choir, at times leading, but mostly simply singing as one of us and learning as one of us. This Choral Scholar position was a completely new initiative this year, and its many merits have revealed themselves over and over: Elise, as a young musician with clear aptitude for church leadership, has the fruitful space of Hope as a classroom with lots of opportunity for practical application (and we live out our identity as “thoughtful church”); the choir builds a relationship with another University student and embraces her strong musicianship into the ranks of its existing strong musicianship; we as a community gain another important connection with University student life. We have all benefited. The intention is to continue this position into school year 2018-2019. We see this second year with a Choral Scholar as a continued trial, this time being written into the Worship and Music ministry budget and gleaning the experience of supporting it from our general operating budget.

Advent was a vigorous time for our worship and musical life. Our theme, “The Intersection of Everything,” grew again out of the work of the Worship Planning Team and a Worship Planning Workshop. Phil Thompson’s striking, beautiful, and thoughtful *Madonna and Christ Child in the City* took center place in our sanctuary as we pondered the symbolism of intersection and connection in this painting and used it as a lens to examine our inner lives and the world around. On December 14, we gathered for a relaunch of the Night Songs concert format, originally dreamed up years ago by Scott Rohr and James Flaten. Night Songs 2017 was extremely well attended and received, with many laying on blankets and pillows on the floor to take in the atmosphere. Singers from First Congregational Church, University Baptist Church, and Christ’s Community in Maple Grove joined Hope Choir, musicians, and soloists in offering the evening’s music, and readers from Grace, University Baptist Church, and Lutheran Campus Ministry led us in poetry and reflection. Laura Potratz of UBC co-directed, and James Flaten once again designed the impressive projections that make Night Songs come to life. It was a memorable evening of community, wonder, and thought. Shortly after, we held a service of Lessons and Carols for the Third Sunday of Advent that encompassed the traditional Sunday School Christmas Program. Sunday School classes adopted a reading from the traditional nine readings for the service of Lessons and Carols, and gave the reading their own treatment. These were delightful and profoundly meaningful. The whole company collaborated on several of the lessons. It was a new way to do this, and ended up being a tremendous celebration of our young people in leadership and in our worship life. They did a fabulous job, and their hard work and the hard work and skilled leadership of their teachers and directors was evident.

Our sanctuary at Hope continues to be a sought-after destination for performances and musical happenings. We hosted several University graduate students’ recitals this year, hosted retreats of University choirs, events for Thursday Musical, as well as concerts by Concordia College’s choral group Tactus and our “resident” Meadowlark String Quartet who rehearse in our space on a weekly basis. Students often come in and play the pianos in our worship spaces and common spaces. Music lives here.

As we embark into the new year, we continue to celebrate God's energy in our worship and musical life. There are many good things ahead of us as we hold love at our center and let Love lead us from our shared heart. Thank you for your part in our community's vocation of worship and service.

Zach Busch, Minister of Worship and Music
Lisa Morse, Liaison for Worship and Music

Youth and Young Adults

Youth Group

2017 was a year of worship, study, adventure, and transition for the Youth Group at ULCH. The group continued the tradition of sponsoring, cooking, and serving breakfast to the congregation on Easter morning. In April the youth gathered at the Morse's cottage near Crosslake to play games, watch movies, and worship together.

In August a group of 10 high school youth, along with Pastor Jen, headed north to Camp Amnicon to canoe down the Brule River. The trip included four days of paddling through exciting whitewater rapids and ended on the sandy shores of Lake Superior.

In July ULCH bid Godspeed to Jim and Isabel Vitale (and baby Ezra John) as they set out for Germany where Jim will complete an eleven-month internship at the American Church in Berlin. Jim served as the Minister of Youth & Communications at ULCH for three years, and his incredible work with the youth of this congregation is greatly appreciated. He, Isabel, and Ezra will all be missed, but we are excited to see all that God has in store for their future.

In August, Nick Tangen transitioned into the role of Minister of Faith in Community, which combines faith formation and community engagement, and seeks to integrate education, faith formation, and compassionate action at ULCH, which includes working with the youth. In the summer of 2018 a group of high school youth will attend the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering "This Changes Everything". A significant fundraising effort began in 2017 to cover the costs of this trip and to bring the team together through service and team work.

Sunday mornings the Youth Group meets in the Youth Room to study scripture, play games, and to pray for one another. They also explore contemplative spirituality, current events, and the Christian's response to issues of justice.

Young Adults

The young adults group had a fairly quiet spring and summer, though have been regularly gathering for lunch in Dinkytown on the first Sunday of each month since early this fall. This group continues to be open to new ideas for fellowship and/or service, and always welcomes new faces.

Leena Rapacz, Liaison for Youth and Young Adults
Abby Lucas, Young Adults
Nicholas Tangen, Minister of Faith in Community

Personnel Committee

This last year (2017) saw several transitions on our staff. Pastor Esther Dant retired at the beginning of the year, our interim 'Faith Formation' team of Ashlei Buhrow and Monty Lysne completed their brief stay with us last spring, and we prayed Godspeed for Youth Minister Jim Vitale and his wife Isabel as he ended his ministry with us in preparation for moving to Germany. We look to a new year with staff in place.

A search committee (which eventually became a call committee) was formed to fill Esther Dant's position as Pastor for Care & Nurture. We welcomed Pastor Barbara Johnson to that position later in the spring. Growing up in the neighborhood (attending Marshall-U and First Congregational) she felt it was somewhat of a homecoming for her (and her husband Swan). In addition to her gifts and passion for engaging with people of all ages, she has been a wonderful addition to our staff.

As Monty and Ashlei completed their tenure at Hope another search team was tasked with finding a more long term solution to our Faith Formation position. Nick Tangen stepped forward and expressed interest in this position. The search committee (and board) agreed unanimously to offer Nick these added responsibilities. As our Minister of Faith in Community Nick's new responsibilities will be to 'coordinate the integration of the congregation's spiritual formation and engagement with the community. This emphasizes a focus on public faith in our faith formation ministry including Children and Youth, and Adult Faith Formation, and faithful engagement with our community through organizing, advocacy, and long-term relationship building'. We look forward to Nick's ministry at Hope.

It has been a joy to work with such a dedicated, resourceful, engaged and loving staff. Please reach out to all of them and thank them for the wonderful faith-filled ministry we have at Hope and keep them in your prayers.

Yours in Christ,
John Rydeen, Past President and Chair of Personnel Committee

Leadership

Leadership Development

Once again, many Hope members have considered their calling and accepted nominations for leadership. You will note in the roster some who have served for many years, others who are stepping into new roles. Our committee thanks them all, and recommends them to you highly for election.

A few TBD spots remain, but we are likely to fill them before the Annual Meeting. As is tradition at Hope, we will accept nominations for Synod Assembly Voting Members from the floor.

This year Leadership Development has also been active in recruiting leaders for unelected committees, such as the Young Adult Team, Sunday School Team, and Children’s Ministry Teams. Some of us lead from the front, some from the back, and many from the middle! May God continue to guide us all.

Uli Koester, Chair of Leadership Development

Leadership

Names in **bold** are nominees. * Ending is the annual meeting held in February of that year.

Officers

<i>Title</i>	<i>Term Length</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Ending*</i>	<i>Term</i>
President	1 year	John Lauber	2019	N/A
Past President	1 year	Eric Ringham	2019	N/A
Vice President	1 year	Carol Flaten	2019	N/A
Treasurer	2 years, 1x re-elect	TBD	2020	Term 1

Vision and Governance Board Members -at-Large

<i>Title</i>	<i>Term Length</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Ending*</i>	<i>Term</i>
Worship and Music	2 years, 1x re-elect	Lisa Morse	2020	Term 2
Education		Melissa Odenbach	2020	Term 1
Youth and Young Adults		Abby Lucas	2020	Term 1
Relational Ministries		John Beane	2019	Term 1
Hope in the World		Bruce Eldevik	2019	Term 2

Financial Controls Committee

<i>Title</i>	<i>Term Length</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Ending*</i>	<i>Term</i>
Member #1	3 years, 1x re-elect	John Beane	2020	Term 2
Member #2		Mark Nelson	2020	Term 2
Member #3		Kelly Brooks	2019	Term 2

Personnel Committee

<i>Title</i>	<i>Term Length</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Ending*</i>	<i>Term</i>
Member #1	3 years, 1x re-elect	Shelly Parry	2019	Term 2
Member #2		David Ranheim	2021	Term 1
Member #3		Becky Halvorson	2020	Term 1

Facilities Committee

<i>Title</i>	<i>Term Length</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Ending*</i>	<i>Term</i>
Member #1	3 years, 1x re-elect	Mike Kneer	2019	Term 1
Member #2		John Pignatello	2018	Term 2
Member #3		Bob Paschke	2019	Term 1
Member #4		Ken Lynes	2020	Term 1
Member #5		Kathy Knudson	2020	Term 1
Member #6		Craig Nelson	2020	Term 2
Member #7		Ken Sarkela	2021	Term 1

Stewardship Committee

<i>Title</i>	<i>Term Length</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Ending*</i>	<i>Term</i>
Member #1	3 years, 1x re-elect	Ann Wagner	2019	Term 1
Member #2		Kathy Kufus	2019	Term 1
Member #3		Beth Ubbelohde	2019	Term 1
Member #4		Ann Beane	2019	Term 1
Member #5		Molly Broin	2019	Term 1
Member #6		John Hensrud	2020	Term 1

Leadership Development Committee

<i>Title</i>	<i>Term Length</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Ending*</i>	<i>Term</i>
Member #1	2 years, 1x re-elect	Jack Dant	2019	Term 2
Member #2		Uli Koester	2019	Term 2
Member #3		Elizabeth Lincoln	2020	Term 2

Trust Board

<i>Title</i>	<i>Term Length</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Ending*</i>	<i>Term</i>
Member #1	4 years, 2 consecutive terms max	Merrill Morse	2021	Term 2
Member #2		Greg Davenport	2021	Term 2
Member #3		Joan Campbell	2020	Term 2
Member #4		Kathryn Carpenter	2019	Term 2
Member #5		Meri Hauge	2022	Term 1
Member #6		Jack Dant	2020	Term 1
Member #7		Carol Flaten	2020	Term 1

Minneapolis Area

Synod Assembly (May 4-5, 2018)

<i>Title</i>	<i>Term Length</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Ending*</i>	<i>Term</i>
Lay Voting Member #1	1 year	TBD	2019	N/A
Lay Voting Member #2		TBD	2019	N/A
Alternate		TBD	2019	N/A

Treasurer's Report

General Operations

We ended 2017 with a negative cash flow of \$10.7K. While this was expected based on the 2017 budget, it was expected to be more. Because of our members giving and staff/volunteers monitoring their spending we were able to finish in a better position than expected.

Revenue was under budget by \$1.9K. Thank you members for your giving. Expenses were under budget by \$9.2K. There were many repairs made to our home in 2017. Thanks to our Facilities ministry team's hard work and their willingness to take on these repairs and not call in outside vendors, Operations was over budget by only \$1K.

Besides General Giving, members continue to give to ULCH for specific purposes. This year there was an increase in our Dedicated Accounts of \$17K. The increases to Families Moving Forward, Music Fund, Courtyard Improvements and the Children Playground Area along with new funds for the Fireplace Insert made up the majority of the \$17K increase in Dedicated Funds. These funds will be used throughout 2018.

Building Fund

In 2017, our Building Fund subsidized the mortgage by \$83K. The 2018 budget reflects this continued support. PEASE Academy continues to reimburse us ~\$400/month for remodeling that was done in previous years. They continue to do good work for teenagers that have gone through rehab and we continue to welcome them as our renters and neighbors.

We are blessed to have a home in our building that welcomes us, PEASE, the Marcy Holmes neighborhood, and so many others.

Financial Review by Leininger CPA, LTD

In 2017 we continued with our financial review by Dave Leininger of Leininger CPA. The review was conducted over the course of several months and included conversations with Gayle Bidne in her role as Business Manager of ULCH, Merrill Morse in his role as chair of the Hope Trust, Pastor Jen in her role as Lead Minister and myself in my role as Treasurer of ULCH. Mr. Leininger also reviewed our financial records. We are proud that his results indicate "...Church Staff and lay leadership are committed to maintaining a sound culture of financial accountability."

Closing Comment

Were it not for all of us we would not have the building, the programs and the ministry that we do. So from the financial aspect of our church, thank you for your gifts that help us continue doing what we do.

Ruth Hedman
Treasurer

Trust Board

I. Actions:

Jan./Feb. – The Trust Board prepared and presented to the congregation a proposal to amend the Trust Bylaws in order to “preserve Trust principal and the Trust’s capacity for ongoing grants, and to ensure the growth and integrity of the Endowment Fund.” At its annual meeting the congregation approved amending the set distribution rate of 5.5% of the five-year average value of the Endowment Fund to a flexible rate to be reset every three years by the Trust Board with congregational review.

March-May – The Trust Board reviewed grant applications and approved the following:

Hope Kitchen Oven	-	\$5,000
UMN Food Pantry	-	\$ 600
The Sheridan Story	-	\$ 650
Tree of Life congregation	-	\$ 600
Racial Justice Task Force	-	\$1,500
Visual Revitalization	-	\$3,000
Paraments/Rugs	-	\$1,500
Women’s Retreat	-	\$ 730
Choir Scholar	-	<u>\$2,600</u>
Total	-	\$16,180

As per Trust grant guidelines, funds unspent by year-end were returned to the Trust:
\$1,914.69

August-Nov. – Closure of the Trust’s Wells Fargo account was completed. Working with CPA Dave Leininger and ULCH Treasurer Ruth Hedman, further attention was given to the Trust balance sheets to a) determine appropriate allocation of past interest due to the Johnson Mission Fund, and, b) to resolve remaining accounting discrepancies related to the interest records and the subsequent reallocation of corrected amounts to the general assets of the Endowment Fund. With all outstanding issues related to Trust accounting reviewed and resolved and with new procedures in place, the books were deemed to be in order with all 2017 corrections and adjustments to be formally approved at the Board’s first meeting in 2018.

II. Finances:

The Trust's Endowment Fund assets remained invested in three primary vehicles:

a) Pax World Balanced Fund

Year-end Value: \$189,070.51 - 2017 Growth: 15.42%

b) Domini Social Equity Fund

Year-end Value: \$126,207.08 - 2017 Growth: 15.67%

c) ELCA Foundation

Year-end Value: \$340,453.32 - 2017 Growth: 13.16 %

Total \$655,730.91 - 2017 Growth: 11.99%
(after disbursements)

Bremer Bank Checking Account balance \$49,425.51
(for 2018 grant distributions and cash flow)

Total Assets \$705,156.42

Total Liabilities and Equity \$705,156.42

Gifts, Bequests, and Memorials donated to the Hope Church Trust in 2017 - \$8,731

The Trust Board wishes to thank all donors, past and present, who have created and sustained the Hope Church Trust as such a beneficial resource for the mission work of ULCH.

Merrill Morse, Chair, Hope Church Trust

Board Members: Joan Campbell, Kathryn Carpenter, Greg Davenport, Luther Ranheim, Carol Flaten, Jack Dant

University Lutheran Church of Hope Staff

Lead Pastor	Jen Nagel
Visitation Pastor	Esther Dant (through January 2017)
Pastor for Care and Nurture	Barbara Johnson (beginning May 2017)
Minister of Worship and Music	Zach Busch
Minister of Faith in Community	Nicholas Tangen
Business Manager	Gayle Bidne
Bookkeeping Assistant	Fariba Sanikhatam (beginning Oct. 2017)
Sunday Opener/Closer	Ben Hartmann
Weekday Custodian	Geremew Beshah
Minister of Youth and Communication	Jim Vitale (through July 2017)
Interim Faith Formation Minister	Ashlei Buhrow (through May 2017)
Congregational Faith Formation Coach	Monty Lysne (through May 2017)
Child Care Attendant	Julia Gerloff (beginning August 2017)
Child Care Attendant	Gus (Clair) Gustafson (through July 2017)
Choral Scholar	Elise Busse (beginning September 2017)
Boiler Reviewer	Ken Lynes

Statistical Report

<u>Membership beginning of 2017</u>		714
<u>Members received in 2017</u>		
Baptized - Children	5	
Baptized - Adults	0	
Affirmation of Faith/Transfer	25	
Other Sources	3	
Total gains		33
Number of Baptized who were Confirmed	4	
<u>Members removed in 2017</u>		
Death	5	
Transfer	5	
Other	2	
Total Removed		12
<u>Membership as of December 31, 2017</u>		735

Financial Statements

University Lutheran Church of Hope Annual Ministry Fund

Income Statement - 2017

	Actual 2017	Budget 2017	2017 Variance
General Giving	443,944	448,700	-4,756
Rental Income	142,135	139,315	2,820
TOTAL INCOME	586,079	588,015	-1,936
Salaries & Benefits	322,593	330,986	-8,393
Administration - Other	34,583	34,783	-200
Operations - Other	131,249	130,196	1,053
Education Ministries - Other	2,289	3,000	-711
Hope in the World	7,712	7,450	262
Worship Ministries	10,223	10,735	-512
Relational Ministries	734	1,500	-766
Benevolence	31,409	28,268	3,141
Ldrshp Dvlpmnt & Communications	540	2,100	-1,560
Youth & Young Adults Ministry	2,561	4,100	-1,539
Finance	52,897	52,897	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	596,791	606,015	-9,225
Net Income	-10,711	-18,000	7,289

Balance Sheet

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings	251,429
Accounts Receivable	3,272

Fixed Assets	2,680,434
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TOTAL ASSETS	2,935,135
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LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Current Liabilities

State Sales Tax	400
Due to Bldg Fd PEASE Remodeling	3,272
Long-Term Liabilities (Mortgage)	1,013,440

Total Liabilities	1,017,112
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Dedicated Accounts	
Sunday School Offerings	227
Interest Income	1,461
FMF Dedicated Fund	11,628
Loaves & Fishes	2,908
Special Gifts	362
UA Sanctuary	1,883
Women's Retreat	2,807
Community Oven	2,075
Youth Fund	4,819
Hope Diamonds Luncheons	522
Instrument Maintenance Fund	2,119
Lutheran Campus Ministries	0
Tape Ministry	116
Nigeria Missions	2,017
Outreach Donations	0
Erik Johnson Memorial Fund	800
Music Fund	4,093
Moonlight Madness	0
Adopted/Multi-Cultural Families	3,602
Funeral Fund	226
Lenten Luncheons	700
Library / Reading Fund	1,000
Friendly Visitor Program	3,646
Courtyard-Major Improvements Fd	2,011
Unity Candle Stand	200
Gloria Circle	1,241
Quilters	670
Trust Equalization Account	3,000
Kitchen Fund	0
Stained Glass Maintenance	2,030
Sabbatical Fund	1,350
Dedicated Courtyard Concerts	622
Student Outreach	7,215
Heritage Fund	2,137
Fine Arts Fund	875
Sanctuary Project	1,026
MIF Youth Gathering	348
Food Insecurity Causes	2,065
Children's Playground Area	2,074
ADA Opener Maintenance	545
Fireplace Insert	1,705
Total Dedicated Accounts	76,122
Total Equity	1,918,023
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	2,935,135

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HOPE

BUILDING FUND

Income Statement - 2017

	<u>Actual 2017</u>
Income	
Capitalized Interest	382
Contributions Income	79,037
Total Income	79,418.56
Expenses	
Building Improvements	-4,060
Mortgage Subsidy	83,027
Consulting	7,000
Total Expenses	85,966
Net Income	-6,548



Balance Sheet

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	52,931
Accounts Receivable	3,272
Total Current Assets	56,203
TOTAL ASSETS	56,203
TOTAL EQUITY	56,203
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	56,203

Annual Ministry Fund

University Lutheran Church of Hope 2018 Budget

General Giving	503,707
Rental Income	<u>140,675</u>
Total Income	<u><u>644,382</u></u>
Salaries & Benefits	335,827
Administration	31,460
Operations	150,575
Education	3,600
Hope In The World	8,300
Worship	12,905
Relationship	3,050
Mission Support (ELCA)	35,259
Leadership & Development	1,000
Youth & Young Adult	4,700
Finance	<u>57,706</u>
Total Expenses	<u><u>644,382</u></u>
Net Cash Flow	<u><u>(0)</u></u>