

# University Lutheran Church of Hope

601 13th Ave. SE

Minneapolis, MN 55414-1437

(612) 331-5988

[www.ulch.org](http://www.ulch.org)

*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.*



## **2020 Annual Report to the Congregation**

**Presented at the Annual Meeting**

**February 21, 2021**

Complex World. Thoughtful Church

## **Table of Contents**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <i>Meeting Agenda</i>                              | 3  |
| <i>Minutes from 2020 Annual Meeting *</i>          | 4  |
| <i>Proposed Rules of the Meeting *</i>             | 12 |
| <i>President's Report</i>                          | 13 |
| <i>Lead Pastor Jen Nagel</i>                       | 15 |
| <i>Pastor for Care and Nurture Barbara Johnson</i> | 18 |
| <i>A Letter from the Bishop</i>                    | 19 |
| <i>Worship and Music</i>                           | 20 |
| <i>Lutheran Campus Ministry</i>                    | 22 |
| <i>Youth and Young Adults</i>                      | 23 |
| <i>Relational Ministries</i>                       | 24 |
| <i>Hope in the World</i>                           | 25 |
| <i>Education</i>                                   | 27 |
| <i>Facilities</i>                                  | 28 |
| <i>Capital Campaign Report</i>                     | 29 |
| <i>Gratitude &amp; Generosity</i>                  | 29 |
| <i>Financial Controls Committee Report</i>         | 30 |
| <i>Personnel Committee</i>                         | 31 |
| <i>Trust Board</i>                                 | 31 |
| <i>Treasurer's Report</i>                          | 33 |
| <i>Leadership Development</i>                      | 35 |
| <i>List of Nominations</i>                         | 35 |
| <i>Staff Roster</i>                                | 37 |
| <i>Church Statistical Report</i>                   | 37 |
| <i>Scripture and Litany for Annual Meeting</i>     | 44 |

### *Financial Statements*

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| <i>Annual Ministry Fund – 2020</i>           | 38-40 |
| <i>Building Fund – 2020 (Revealing Hope)</i> | 41    |
| <i>Benevolence in 2020</i>                   | 42    |
| <i>Annual Ministry Fund – 2021 Budget</i>    | 43    |

*\* These items are usually distributed at the annual meeting. This year we have included them in this booklet for reference.*

*Special thanks to Ann Agrimson for collecting, compiling and editing this report, and thanks to Julaine Kobiske and Karen Jorstad for preparing the printed booklets.*



Complex world. Thoughtful church.

*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.*

## **Congregational Meeting**

Agenda for February 21, 2021

Welcome

Opening prayer/litany (see last page of booklet)

Today's process and comments

Adoption of rules for the meeting

Approval of minutes from the 2020 Annual Meeting

Capital campaign update

Revealing Hope (Feb. 2018-Jan. 2021)

Opening Doors (Feb. 2021-Jan. 2024)

Solar update

Treasurer's report for 2020

Ministry in review

Presentation and approval of 2021 budget

Message from Pastor Jen

Recognition of outgoing board members and other congregational leaders

2021 Leadership Development report and election of new officers

Recognition of staff

Passing of the gavel

Announcements

Closing blessing

# Congregational Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2020

**Materials provided at all tables:** Meeting Agenda (revised), 2019 Annual Report, Proposed Rules of the Meeting, Sanctuary Synod Resolution, ULCH 2019 budget performance, Minutes from the 2019 Annual meeting, Updated Bylaws of ULCH, Vision Goals from Fall 2018, 2020 Pledge Card, Authorization form for eGiving, pens & markers.

**Congregational President Carol Flaten opens the meeting at 12:20pm.** Introduction of Carol Flaten, president, and Tim Abrahamson, vice president, of the congregation.  
She announces that Joan Campbell will serve as parliamentarian and Ann Agrimson will take minutes.  
She thanks all three for their service.

## ***Revised Agenda***

The bylaws which will be discussed were omitted from the original agenda.  
A motion is made to amend the agenda to include discussion of the bylaws.  
M/S/P

## ***Introductions around the table***

A few minutes to say hello and make introductions

## ***Opening hymn/litany, prayer, and comments*** - Pastor Barbara Johnson

Hymn and litany found on the inside front cover of Annual Report

## ***Adoption of rules for the meeting***

A motion is made to adopt the Robert's Rules of Order for the meeting  
M/S/P

## ***Approval of minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting***

A motion is made to approve the 2019 Minutes  
M/S/P

## ***Capital campaign update*** – Tim Abrahamson

### Capital Campaign YTD

| Income 2018-2019                                  |                | Projects Completed:<br>1. Stain Glass Windows<br>2. Bread Oven<br>3. Children's Play Area<br>4. Organ Repairs and Updates |
|---|----------------|---|
| Previous Year Contributions (2018)                | 207,270        |   |
| Current Year Contributions (2019)                 | 121,301        |   |
| <b>Total Contributions YTD</b>                    | <b>328,571</b> |   |
| Expected Pledge Income from 1/1/2020 – 1/31/2021  | 84,429         |   |
| <b>Pledges to Revealing Hope Capital Campaign</b> | <b>413,000</b> |   |

The capital campaign covers our building fund and mortgage subsidy. We are starting the third and final year of this successful campaign. The mortgage takes the largest part of the campaign.

In the summer of 2019, we transferred \$10,000 from the Capital Campaign to General fund to help fill the financial gap. A congregational meeting to discuss this with the congregation was held June 23, 2019.

*Treasurer's report for 2019* – Emma Carpenter

## 2019 Actual v. Budget

|                     | Actual           | Budget           | Over / (Under)  |   |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|---|
| General Giving      | 498,012          | 482,020          | 15,992          | Increased giving after congregational meeting in June |
| Rental Income       | 154,540          | 146,186          | 8,352           |   |
| Special Income      | 8,532            | 0                | 8,532           | Transfer from dedicated accounts                      |
| <b>Total Income</b> | <b>\$661,084</b> | <b>\$628,206</b> | <b>\$32,878</b> |   |

The deficit in our finances was covered from three areas: surplus found in dedicated funds, a transfer from the Capital Campaign, and the increase in general giving in response to the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

## 2019 Actual v. Budget

|                       | Actual           | Budget           | Over / (Under)  |   |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|---|
| Salaries & Benefits   | 373,744          | 354,575          | 19,169          | Due to Salaries & Benefits error communicated in June |
| Administration        | 32,031           | 32,394           | (363)           |   |
| Operations            | 126,788          | 135,559          | (8,771)         | \$12k transferred from the Capital Campaign           |
| Education             | 3,049            | 3,272            | (223)           |   |
| Hope in the World     | 5,269            | 5,522            | (253)           |   |
| Worship               | 7,979            | 9,432            | (1,453)         |   |
| Relational            | 2,813            | 1,421            | 1,392           |   |
| Mission Support       | 33,749           | 30,811           | 2,938           | December 2018 payment cleared in January 2019         |
| Youth & Young Adult   | 1,224            | 2,322            | (1,098)         |   |
| Finance               | 52,898           | 52,898           | 0               |   |
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>\$640,351</b> | <b>\$628,206</b> | <b>\$12,145</b> |   |

## 2019 Benevolences

|  |               |  |                |           |                     |      |         |           |              |       |
|--|---------------|--|----------------|-----------|---------------------|------|---------|-----------|--------------|-------|
|  |               |  |                |           |                     |      |         |           |              |       |
| Minneapolis Area Synod Mission Support, ELCA | 31,182        | <table><tr><td>General Giving</td><td>\$498,012</td></tr><tr><td>% of General Giving</td><td>8.1%</td></tr><tr><td>Revenue</td><td>\$661,084</td></tr><tr><td>% of Revenue</td><td>6.09%</td></tr></table> | General Giving | \$498,012 | % of General Giving | 8.1% | Revenue | \$661,084 | % of Revenue | 6.09% |
| General Giving                               | \$498,012     |  |                |           |                     |      |         |           |              |       |
| % of General Giving                          | 8.1%          |  |                |           |                     |      |         |           |              |       |
| Revenue                                      | \$661,084     |  |                |           |                     |      |         |           |              |       |
| % of Revenue                                 | 6.09%         |  |                |           |                     |      |         |           |              |       |
| Sheridan Story                               | 2,468         |  |                |           |                     |      |         |           |              |       |
| Sanctuary                                    | 900           |  |                |           |                     |      |         |           |              |       |
| Lutheran Campus Ministries                   | 3,777         |  |                |           |                     |      |         |           |              |       |
| Nigeria Missions                             | 250           |  |                |           |                     |      |         |           |              |       |
| Loaves and Fishes                            | 1,200         |  |                |           |                     |      |         |           |              |       |
| Nutritious U Food Pantry                     | 100           |  |                |           |                     |      |         |           |              |       |
| ISAIAH                                       | 243           |  |                |           |                     |      |         |           |              |       |
| Beacon, Families Moving Forward              | 100           |  |                |           |                     |      |         |           |              |       |
| New Hope Metro Ministries                    | 50            |  |                |           |                     |      |         |           |              |       |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>40,270</b> |  |                |           |                     |      |         |           |              |       |

Question: Since our total expenses are \$12,000 over, did we need to transfer the \$10,000 from the Capital campaign to the General Fund?

Response: At the time of the transfer, we didn't know that we would be over the amount needed for expenses. At that time, we found the transfer was the fiscally responsible thing to do.

Question: How did we decide where our benevolence dollars went?

Response: The Hope children decided to give their money (Noisy offering) to Sheridan Story. The Vision and Governance Board votes to give support to Lutheran Campus Ministry. Other benevolences are funded through Hope in the World. Sonja Peterson is the Liaison for Hope in the World and people are encouraged to speak to Sonja about groups that receive benevolence in the future.

Question: We used to support 'Bread for the World'. Can we do that again?

Response: Talk with Sonja Peterson about future support.

Question: Does the money that comes in from Noisy Offering that goes to Sheridan story get counted on the Revenue side?

Response: It comes in as a dedicated line and then goes out again. It has no impact on our Revenue.

***ULCH Bylaw change*** (see attachment 'Clarifications to the ULCH bylaws')

The grey paragraph at the bottom is to clarify how members are nominated to the Hope Church Trust Board.

Clarification from Merrill Morse

The Trust Board has its own constitution. The nomination slate is created by the Trust board and then goes to the Vision and Governance board. The congregation then votes on the nominees.

The Trust Board is comprised of seven members plus the President of the Congregation, the Treasurer and the Lead Pastor, making a total of ten people who provide input.

Question: Where will this be placed in the bylaws?

Response: It will be in the footnotes.

There is a motion to except the change in the ULCH Bylaws and correct the name "Generosity and Gratitude" to "Gratitude and Generosity".

M/S/P

***Table talk conversation focused on our Vision Goals*** – Pastor Jen Nagel

We read aloud the Vision Goals on page 4 of the Annual Report.

Each table has a large copy of the Vision Goals with one paragraph circled. Each table group underlines words in that paragraph that caught their attention and discusses why they connected to those words. Pastor Jen collected the sheets after the meeting and will find a way to post them.

## ***Resolutions to the Minneapolis Area Synod***

- *Resolution in Support of “The Conflict Free Initiative” to Stop Financing Genocide in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)* - Sonja Peterson

(see the Annual Report on page 21)

This past year, the Hope Vision & Governance Board voted to follow the recommendations in this resolution. We recommend that the Synod also follow the guidelines in this resolution.

A motion is made to bring the Resolution in Support of the “Conflict Free Initiative” to the Minneapolis Synod meeting. It is seconded.

Discussion: The resolution looks good. We need to be careful that the resolution doesn’t stop at the Synod but moves on.

Response: Agreed. This will be worked out with synod leadership if it passes at the Synod Assembly.

The motion is passed.

- *Resolution regarding sanctuary and immigration justice* – Nick Tangen

(see attachment ‘MAS Sanctuary Synod Resolution’)

In August of 2019, the ELCA declared that we are a sanctuary denomination. We want to ask that the Minneapolis synod declare itself a sanctuary synod. This will help define what ‘sanctuary’ means and what congregations can do, develop resources, and advocate with a larger voice.

Question: Do we need the acronym AMMPARO spelled out?

Response: It stands for ‘Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities’. It will be spelled out in the resolution.

Question: Is the intent to extend or define what it means to be a sanctuary synod?

Response: The language for this resolution came from the New York Metro Synod and fits within with the ELCA definition.

Question: Can the ELCA put pressure on other denominations to declare Sanctuary?

Response: The ELCA can perhaps influence others, especially those with whom we have a natural relationship through the National Council of Churches.

There is a motion to bring the resolution regarding sanctuary and immigration justice to the Minneapolis Synod Assembly. A footnote about the acronym AMMPARO will be added.

M/S/P

We see Hope as having the following focus:

**Guiding Principles for the 2020 ULCH Budget Proposal**



The projected income and expenses of the 2020 Capital Campaign are:

## Capital Campaign 2020

| Projected Expenses for 2020                            |                  |   |                  |
|--|------------------|---|------------------|
| Mortgage Subsidy for 13 Months to 1/31/21              | 89,946           | Current Assets                                | 108,687          |
| Benevolence Distribution: 7% of \$413,000              | 28,910           | Pledged Income to 1/31/21                     | 84,429           |
| <i>Building Improvements and Maintenance:</i>          |                  | Miscellaneous Income: Interest                | 2,000            |
| From Capital to General Fund During 2020:              | 24,000           | <b>Total Projected Income</b>                 | <b>195,116</b>   |
| Minneapolis Code Requirement to Install 8" Sewer Line: | 15,000           | <b>Total Projected Expense (left)</b>         | <b>(157,856)</b> |
| <b>Total Projected Expense to 1/31/21:</b>             | <b>(157,856)</b> | <i>Difference between Income and Expense:</i> | 37,260           |

Our mortgage subsidy comes from the general fund and the building fund.

We propose to move \$24,000 from the Capital Campaign to the General Fund to cover possibly needed building improvements and maintenance.

Question: Since we have an old building, should we be concerned about being up to code in building issues?

Response: The Fire inspector was here in 2019 and we are in complete compliance. If there are other issues to be addressed, anyone is welcome to attend a Facilities meeting to address any concerns.

Question: How do we feel about having a surplus of \$37,000 at the end of the Capital Campaign?

Response: The previous campaign left us a surplus of \$40,000. This is a cushion for unexpected items that arise and we are comfortable with it. If it was only \$5,000, that would make us nervous. If not used, the surplus will go into the next campaign. There is a chance that the \$37,000 will be spent in the next 12 months.



For our next Capital Campaign, we will not use a consultant like we did for this campaign.

The following shows the history of pledges and giving the last five years, and the projected giving for 2020

## Pledge / Giving History

| Year | Pledge  | % Increase / (Decrease) | General Giving | % Increase / (Decrease) |
|------|---------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| 2020 | 402,295 | 8.59                    | 498,741        | 3.54                    |
| 2019 | 370,460 | 6.76                    | 481,700        | 3.65                    |
| 2018 | 346,995 | 14.01                   | 464,718        | 7.30                    |
| 2017 | 304,364 | 6.34                    | 433,100        | 4.80                    |
| 2016 | 286,219 | 3.58                    | 413,250        | -1.61                   |
| 2015 | 276,328 |                         | 420,000        |                         |

The Financial Control Committee (FCC) has looked deeper into our income giving, specifically into the non-pledged amount which includes the online/loose and holiday giving. Because of this research, we can get a more accurate count.

## 2020 Proposed Budget

| 2020                |                  |   |  |                    |           |                |           |                     |         |
|---------------------|------------------|---|--|--------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|---------|
| General Giving      | 494,295          | } | <table><tr><td>General Giving</td><td>\$479,295</td></tr><tr><td>Holiday Giving</td><td>\$7,000</td></tr><tr><td>Online/Loose Giving</td><td>\$8,000</td></tr></table>   | General Giving     | \$479,295 | Holiday Giving | \$7,000   | Online/Loose Giving | \$8,000 |
| General Giving      | \$479,295        |   |  |                    |           |                |           |                     |         |
| Holiday Giving      | \$7,000          |   |  |                    |           |                |           |                     |         |
| Online/Loose Giving | \$8,000          |   |  |                    |           |                |           |                     |         |
| Rental Income       | 150,186          | } | <table><tr><td>Parking Lot Rental</td><td>\$40,000</td></tr><tr><td>PEASE Academy</td><td>\$105,186</td></tr><tr><td>Use of Facilities</td><td>\$5,000</td></tr></table> | Parking Lot Rental | \$40,000  | PEASE Academy  | \$105,186 | Use of Facilities   | \$5,000 |
| Parking Lot Rental  | \$40,000         |   |  |                    |           |                |           |                     |         |
| PEASE Academy       | \$105,186        |   |  |                    |           |                |           |                     |         |
| Use of Facilities   | \$5,000          |   |  |                    |           |                |           |                     |         |
| Special Income      | 0                |   |  |                    |           |                |           |                     |         |
| <b>Total Income</b> | <b>\$644,481</b> |   |  |                    |           |                |           |                     |         |

The FCC has devised a new workbook for us to determine salaries and benefits for the future.

## 2020 Proposed Budget

| 2020                |           |   |                                |          |
|---------------------|-----------|---|--------------------------------|----------|
| Salaries & Benefits | 368,119   | } | 2% Salary Increase             |          |
| Administration      | 39,229    |   | 15% Health Benefits Cost Share |          |
| Operations          | 129,850   | } | Capital Campaign               | \$24,000 |
| Education           | 2,500     |   |                                |          |
| Hope in the World   | 6,500     |   |                                |          |
| Worship             | 8,814     |   |                                |          |
| Relational          | 2,098     |   |                                |          |
| Mission Support     | 32,129    | } | 6.5% of General Giving         |          |
| Youth & Young Adult | 2,322     |   |                                |          |
| Finance             | \$2,897   |   |                                |          |
| Total Expenses      | \$644,481 |   |                                |          |

The 15% health benefits cost share was discussed with the congregation in a meeting October 13, 2019.

Along with the 2% salary increase, staff will get an additional three days off. This year, we are also creating a “Bring your own device” policy in which staff will receive a stipend if they use their own electronic device.

Question: What are the actual sources of the non-pledged giving?

Response: Besides giving from holiday giving and loose offering, there are long time members who prefer not to pledge. Historically this is a reliable number. There are also members who have pledged, but that give above the amount they pledged.

Question: Is the money from donations given from the bread oven, included in benevolence?

Response: Money donated through the bread oven gets funneled into dedicated accounts, not into the general fund. Money that is used for pizza or other items is not included in overall benevolence.

Question: Do trust fund grants that go outside of the church community get included in the benevolence amount?

Response: No

Question: Are three additional personal days new? Do staff see this as a real benefit?

Response: The three additional personal days started last year. The decision to include them gets re-evaluated each year. Staff report that three extra personal days are a benefit.

Question: Are our staff salaries within marketplace guidelines?

Response: Yes, we are within guidelines.

There is a motion to accept the 2020 budget.

Second / Passed

### ***Recognition of outgoing board members and other congregational leaders***

John Lauber (Past President)

Lisa Morse (Worship & Music Liaison, Executive Committee)

Mark Nelson (Financial Controls Committee)

Elizabeth Lincoln (Leadership Development Committee)

Joan Campbell (Trust Board)

Jack Dant (Trust Board)

Abby Lucas (Youth & Young Adult Liaison)

### ***Message from Pastor Jen***

Thank you to Carol Flaten and the leadership that has looked so closely into the finances. There are lots of people who are not on the slate but who do so much around Hope. Grateful to work with a strong staff.

### ***Recognition of staff***

The Hope staff receive a standing ovation for all they do.

## ***2020 Leadership Development report and election*** – Elizabeth Lincoln

The following is a list of nominations:

Tim Abrahamson for President  
Uli Koester for Vice President  
Emma Carpenter for Treasurer  
Matt Fry for Worship & Music  
Brady Wilmer for Youth & Young Adult  
Micki Kruse for Financial Controls  
Becky Halvorson for Personnel  
Ken Lynes for Facilities  
Kathy Knudson for Facilities  
Paul Odenbach for Leadership Development  
Lynette Lamb for Trust Board  
Leena Haugland for Trust Board  
Robyn Swenson for Trust Board

MPLS area synod will be meeting April 24-25, 2020. The following members volunteer to represent ULCH at the Assembly:

|                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sonja Peterson         | Female representative |
| Tim Hopkins            | Male representative   |
| Yesenia Morales Bahena | Third representative  |
| Nick Tangen            | Alternate             |

A motion is made to approve the slate of candidates and the representatives at the Area Synod meeting  
M/S/P

Carol Flaten hands the symbolic gavel to the new president, Tim Abrahamson

### ***Announcements***

The program for the solar array last year has stalled. We are looking at other solutions.

The Trust Board has amended how much money they will give. It had gone down to 3%. This year it will be 3.5%

FMF still needs volunteers for next week. FMF also needs another coordinator if it will continue in the future.

Nick Tangen asks that members who plan to go to their precinct caucus and can carry the immigrant rights agenda, sign up so we know which areas are represented.

Kristen Tangen is available for taking photos after the meeting.

Night Songs reception needs more people to sign up to bring cookies/bars.

***Closing Blessing*** - Pastor Jen Nagel

The meeting adjourns at 2:18pm

Notes taken by Ann Agrimson

# **University Lutheran Church of Hope**

## **Congregational Meeting, February 21, 2021**

### **Proposed Rules of the Meeting**

1. **Robert's Rules of Order** – The 12<sup>th</sup> edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the meeting, except as particular matters are set out in these Rules for the Meeting.
2. **Voting** – Only members of the congregation are entitled to speak and vote at congregational meetings. Voting during a meeting on Zoom is more challenging than usual. We will use the following options for voting: **A.** When the presiding officers calls for a vote, use the “Raise your hand” feature on Zoom. **B.** For those in a household with more than one voting member present on the same device, the additional person (people) should add their vote (yes, no, abstain) in the chat line. **C.** For those unable to use the raise hand or chat features, please call a vote teller at this phone number 651-399-2421 or the number provided.
3. **Quorum** – The ULCH Constitution does not specify a particular number of members or percentage of the congregation necessary for a quorum.
4. **Speaking during discussion** – **A.** Each speaker on any matter is requested to keep their remarks brief and to the point. If necessary to keep the meeting moving along, the presiding officer may request any speaker to wrap up their remarks. **B.** Speakers for and against the question on the floor shall be recognized alternately. Each speaker shall be required to say their name and whether they rise to speak for or against the question before making other remarks. No more than two consecutive speakers to the same view shall be recognized without a speaker of the opposite view.
5. **Time Frame for the meeting** – **A.** In order to assure that all business is able to be concluded within a reasonable time period, the presiding officer has assigned specific time periods to the various agenda items. It is within the discretion of the presiding officer to expand or constrict these time frames as they see fit. **B.** In order to extend debate on a question after the presiding officer has declared debate ended, a voting member must move to extend debate for a specific number of minutes, which motion must be seconded and then adopted by a two-thirds majority of voting members present. This motion is not debatable. **C.** In order to cut off debate on a particular question, a voting member must move to “call the question,” which motion must be seconded and then adopted by a two-thirds majority of voting members present. This motion is not debatable.

# President's Report

It has been an honor and a humbling experience to serve as the president of the congregation. Throughout this year of unprecedented challenges, I have been in wonder of Pastor Jen's, Zach's, and so many others' creative adaptability in providing meaningful virtual worship services that affirm our connection to each other and to the world. And all their work encourages us to boldly proclaim and humbly walk in the promises of the Gospel. I am amazed by our dedicated staff, who keep our ministries focused, and by our strong and faithful lay leadership team, each of whom has generously given their time and talent to meet the many challenges that are part and parcel of running a large organization.

I am also deeply moved by the kindness and compassion of our members, whose many small actions make all the difference. Collectively, you continue to lift spirits by making phone calls and window visits; writing notes of encouragement; preparing and delivering meals; volunteering your talents in worship; caring for our facility; working for racial justice and immigration reform; and holding our neighbors, our society, and our planet in your prayers. Thank you for all the ways you are the Body of Christ in the world.

Highlights of 2020 — WOW! What a year!

- **The Global Pandemic, Physical Distancing and Connection:**  
COVID-19 has turned daily life upside down: claiming an unimaginable number of lives, stretching many to the edges of their ability to cope, and challenging us on multiple levels. As a faith community we yearn for the personal interaction in our life together that most of us, understandably, once took for granted. Thankfully, technology and those who help us navigate it have provided a way to worship and meet together from our homes. I also thank the Compassion Care team and the many phone callers who checked in with our membership to make sure people had the support they needed as the pandemic unfolded.
- **Business Administrator Gayle Bidne Retires and We Hire New Staff:**  
2020 was a time of administrative staff transition at ULCH. An enormous thank you to our beloved business administrator of over ten years, Gayle Bidne, who now enjoys retirement. After careful consideration, the leadership decided to divide Gayle's job into two positions. In March we were happy to welcome Nathan Obrestad as Church Administrator and Kari Olson as Financial Administrator. As I write this, Kari is taking a family leave to welcome a new child. Hopefully, you will be able to meet Kari and Nathan in person soon.
- **2020 Finances:**  
We were blessed this year to be able to fully fund our financial commitments to our staff and ministries in the midst of the global pandemic. I am grateful for the talent and diligence of our tireless treasurer, Emma Carpenter, who provided a clear picture of the congregation's financial health for the Executive Committee and the Vision and Governance Board. She also filed all the documents for the Small Business Stimulus Payroll Protection Plan, which enhanced our balance sheet and gave us the assurance that we could maintain our current staff during economic uncertainty. Treasurer Emma Carpenter, bookkeeper Fariba Sanikhatam, and Gayle Bidne have graciously taken on Kari's responsibilities during her family leave.
- **Financial Review:**  
A huge thank you to our Financial Controls Committee—Betty Schreuder, Micki Kruse, and Bill Sanden—who thoughtfully undertook a deep dive into ULCH's accounting procedures and protocols. This financial review is unseen but valuable work, which helps our congregation and staff understand

that we are adhering to established accounting standards that provide trust and transparency in our financial life. We are beginning to initiate their helpful findings in 2021.

- Rolling Waters Fund:

After the disturbing murder of George Floyd and our growing awareness of our community's racial inequity, we established the *Rolling Waters Fund*, a new dedicated fund that focuses on supporting the work of racial justice. These funds are disbursed by our Racial Justice Team. Last year we distributed over \$11,000 to faith-based and community organizations.

- IDI Survey:

Thank you to the Hope Trust Board for funding the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI), a survey and one-on-one assessment that our staff, the Vision and Governance Board, and the Racial Justice Team are completing. This survey will better equip our leadership to help the congregation to interact with other cultures in a positive, affirming, and nonjudgmental manner. We benefit from the diversity that surrounds us, and we look forward to using the tools that this survey provides.

- Facility Care:

Thank you to our Facilities Committee and the Hope Gardeners who found safe ways to continue maintaining our church building and grounds. We will look forward to enjoying the beautiful courtyard, patio and flower gardens after worshipping together in the church building.

- Solar Array:

Our congregation voted on June 4th to install a 91 kilowatt array of solar panels on our building's flat roof and on a canopy in the parking lot adjacent to the building's north entrance. We anticipated installing the canopy in December and January. Unfortunately, the subcontractor, who was to install the canopy structure, pulled out of all of their projects. Our general contractor, Sundial Solar, is now scrambling to find a new subcontractor to build our canopy. This is a significant setback, but Stewart Herman and I will keep you updated on future developments as we continue to pursue the transition of our building's electrical consumption to solar energy. The funding for this array would not be possible without the gracious gifts from dedicated Hope members and the support of the Hope Church Trust Board who loaned the congregation \$145,000 and provided a grant of nearly \$11,000. Thank you for your vision and your support for a more sustainable future.

- New Members:

We welcomed new members into our community on November 22nd: Danae and Jason Lukis and their children Anja, Junia, Ezra and Cedar; Kalee Dawson; and Kerry Pearson and Patrick Colombe. We are blessed to have them in our faith community, and we look forward to getting to know them more in person!

- Capital Campaign—*Opening Doors*:

We are moving into another three-year cycle of giving to support our building projects, to pay down our mortgage, and to distribute benevolences. The Capital Campaign Committee began planning last summer for our new campaign, called *Opening Doors*, which kicked off this January. We're off to an impressive start with the airing of the *Opening Doors* video that highlights who we are as a faith community, how our congregation is engaging with the community, and how our building supports these ministries. Thank you to the Capital Campaign Committee for their creative work, and thank you to you members for making financial, spiritual, and time commitments to Hope's *Opening Doors*.

Tim Abrahamson—Congregational President

# Lead Pastor Jen Nagel

*“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD,  
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” -Jeremiah 29:11*

A year ago, as we gathered in February for our Annual Meeting in Fellowship Hall, as we talked over plates of warm food, as we leaned in to squeeze a hand or exchange a greeting or a hug, we couldn't have imagined what was to come. What a year it has been. This year's annual meeting day will mark our 50<sup>th</sup> Sunday worship service livestreamed, physically distanced. My mind plays tricks with me. Has it really been nearly year? Or maybe a month? Or perhaps 10 years? This pandemic-created-exile-of-sorts, has a way with our hearts and our minds, indeed, our souls. I begin this report with a few lines from the prophet Jeremiah's letter to the people living in exile. After a long time, he tells them, restoration will come. God's promises are steadfast, God's plans are for welfare not harm, for a future grounded in hope. I offer this report with a trust in God's promises for us here at University Lutheran Church of Hope, and for our world.

Annual reports offer a record of the year past, a glimpse forward, a snapshot in time. In writing this annual report, I've set it against our vision goals, *Fueling Our Life Together*, created in the fall of 2018. In the goals we note that we seek to:

- Cultivate deep roots in our neighborhood and the University community, by actively making our walls porous.
- Embrace all persons throughout their life journey in a community of love, respect and acceptance.
- Fuel authentic worship and deepen spirituality.

Obviously this year wasn't ministry as usual, and yet as I reflect on the year, there still is resonance with these goals. I offer this report using the goals as a structure for my reflections.

**Cultivate deep roots in our neighborhood and the University community, by actively making our walls porous.** It might be easy to assume this did not happen in 2020. Our usually unlocked physical doors were locked. We distanced and worked and worshipped from home a great many weeks. The neighborhood was much quieter than usual, with those students who were around quarantining and others away. Indeed, many of the events like Welcome Back Students and pizza bakes did not take place. We, however, became much more sensitive about the struggles of our unsheltered neighbors when an encampment arose first near the south entrance dumpsters and then on and around the patio. While this wasn't a sustainable location for the long run, it was a safe spot for some weeks. It offered a base from which to grow needed collaborations with some of these unsheltered neighbors, our partners from other faith communities, social services, Dinkytown businesses, the library, and neighborhood organizations. In this space the complexity of race, socio-economics, food insecurity, addictions, and mental health overlapped. We were able to tap some funds from our Riverside Innovation grant and the generosity of many of you to provide needed resources for these and other neighbors in Dinkytown and on the campus. Thank you.

With the murder of George Floyd in late May, our racial justice ministry was central. We leaned in, learned and grew together, sent teams to volunteer and protest, and grappled mightily with what this means as a predominantly white community of faith. This work is just beginning: confession, culture change, systemic change, awareness of our own bias - they all need attention. In that reality, alongside racial justice work, is sanctuary immigration and our vital collaboration with the University Area Sanctuary Coalition, Beacon Interfaith Housing and Families Moving Forward (we hosted in February 2020), Mental Health Connect, ISIAH community organizing, and Every Meal (formerly The Sheridan Story). I am immensely grateful for the work of Nick Tangen, our Minister of Faith in Community. Nick is key to our work with porous walls, inviting, nudging, praying, teaching,

encouraging, leading us across the thresholds. Nick's gifts are many and shared readily with our congregation and partners, but also more widely in the synod and ELCA.

I'm grateful for the work of Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities and our strong partnership with Pastor Kate Reuer Welton. Thanks to Tim Gustafson who continues to serve on the LCM-TC Board. Hope has been able to offer careful use of our courtyard for gatherings, bible studies, and meetings. One of the challenges of this pandemic year has been our relationship with younger adults. With no in-person worship and with Zoom fatigue felt differently by different generations, I notice that younger adults are some of those with which we have had less contact, and many are struggling and could use the community and support. We'll continue to seek ways to connect deeply and meaningfully, and I pray that when we're able to be more physically present some of these relationships can flourish again.

**Embrace all persons throughout their life journey in a community of love, respect and acceptance.** Most years, one of my greatest joys is witnessing cross-generational community form and grow. While our Hope community has taken on a palpable strength in this exile, I know that some generations have struggled more than others to connect. As I mentioned above, this has been true for many younger adults, but also for some of our eldest and those with less technology, and sometimes for families with younger children. Recognizing that many need support and connection, in late summer Ann Agrimson and Muffi Abrahamson organized a team of callers to reach out to the community. That's a lot of phone calls! We gleaned a clearer sense of who needed greater support, and even the act of calling was a ministry welcomed by many. During 2020 we also created a community photo directory thanks to the labors and organization of folks like Kristin Tangen and Susan Carlson. While we could have pushed pause permanently, this proved to be a year when more than ever we needed to put names and faces together. I'm so glad this directory happened!

This year Hope Connections small groups have continued to meet virtually, as have other groups like Bible and Brew, crafters, quilters, Dorcas Circle, and a number of seasonal Bible Studies, discussion groups, and community check-ins. The Sunday School adjusted to life online and Sunday Forums have strengthened their role in the community. Other groups such as Hope Diamonds, Gloria Circle, and Fellowship Meals (April-December) have been unable to meet and the absence is noticeable. Retreats and Outdoor Recreation has leaned into outdoor activities and found safe ways to be together. In October 2020 M'taleni Nashandi, Poonam Morgan, and Seneca Brooks affirmed their baptisms in a moving service that combined their pre-recorded faith statements with sweet and home-based liturgy. I'm grateful for Kit Bielenberg's partnership in leading this confirmation group and also our Youth Group.

**Fuel authentic worship and deepen spirituality.** Worship continues to be at the center of our community life...but this year it has looked and felt completely different. Early on in the pandemic we made a critical decision to use Zoom as our primary platform for worship and then to livestream the Zoom to YouTube. This has allowed us to engage more people in worship leadership and worship participation, and it has helped many "see" one another on a regular basis. This offers a spiritual grounding, an energy, an in-the-moment-ness, for which I am deeply grateful. We've gathered on Sunday mornings and many Wednesday evenings, for memorial services and special services, with the amazing support of a bunch of self-schooled tech facilitators. Thank you, thank you. Our Minister of Worship and Music, Zach Busch, has worked so hard to guide these transitions in our worship and to create a meaningful space even in these strange times. Zach's gifts are immense and I am so glad for his partnership. The Hope Choir and the ULCHers have found new ways to lead our worship musically. I've enjoyed finding structures to engage one another in the Word through interactive preaching and dialogue sermons. This year we've welcomed 9 new members. In all of this, I, too, grieve not being together on a Sunday morning with its energy. The Spirit is very much with us in this time of exile and I look forward to renewed ways to worship when we can gather together in person and as the weather warms.



**Facilities and Leadership.** I'm grateful for the wisdom and expertise that Carol Flaten brought to the creation of our COVID-19 procedures. These procedures have safely guided our facility use and our congregation's life both inside the church building and beyond. Our facility still offers a base for P.E.A.S.E. Academy and some other groups and neighbors, but use has been much decreased. Craig Nelson, John Pignatello, and the Facilities Team have faithfully stewarded the facility with labors large and small. 2020 saw the strong final year of the Revealing Hope Capital Campaign (Feb. 2018-Jan. 2021) and the preparations for the new campaign Opening Doors (Feb. 2021-Jan. 2024) with the able leadership of Mark Nelson, Karen Westwood and the campaign team. Thank you for your continued support of these campaigns. The Gratitude and Generosity Team focuses on the annual ministry fund and year-round stewardship, supporting the capital campaign as needed. The Trust Board stewards our endowment and the dispersal of grant funds for ministry near and far. With the help of Sundial Solar and the leadership of Stewart Herman and Tim Abrahamson, in 2020 the congregation voted to install solar arrays on our flat roofs and on a canopy in the parking lot.

No one could have ever predicted that after more than 10 years, Gayle Bidne's retirement would coordinate quite so neatly with the pandemic's spring shut down—so much so that the training of her successors happened primarily virtually. Gayle's work as Business Manager was immense spanning relationships, facility quirks and countless details. Thank you, Gayle! In March we welcomed Nathan Obrestad as our Church Administrator (30 hours per week) and Kari Olson as our Financial Administrator (16 hours per week). Nathan and Kari each brings great skills and dedication to their positions and are slowly learning names and faces (albeit masked). Geremew Beshah is our faithful custodian and in more typical times Gus Gustafson opens and closes the building on Sundays and cares for our youngest ones in the nursery.

Tim Abrahamson served as our Congregational President in 2020. I am so thankful for Tim's leadership, partnership, and dedication through such a challenging year. My thanks, to the officers, and the whole Vision and Governance Board for their steady leadership and faithful service.

In the spring of 2020, Luther Seminary student Hannah Sackett did her CPL (Christian Public Leadership) work with us at Hope. Additionally, ULCH member Yesenia Morales Bahena began in the fall of 2020 her seminary studies (via distance learning) through Wartburg Theological Seminary. It's a gift to support these leaders in their ministry studies and I continue to be energized by these relationships.

My days are filled with conversations, worship, pastoral care, administration, planning, meetings, supervision, teaching, and ministry on your behalf with the wider community. I'm active in Minneapolis Area Synod and on a number of committees, including the Board of Regents for Concordia College in Moorhead. This year I've worked from home and from church. Like many working parents, this means juggling church responsibilities and family commitments, like distance learning, all at once. Thank you for your patience in these incredibly trying times, and for your care and prayers for me and for my family. It is a privilege to partner with you in ministry.

Gratefully,  
Rev. Jen Nagel, Lead Pastor

## **Pastor for Care and Nurture, Barbara Johnson**

*The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in the parched places  
and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. - Isaiah 58:11*

Many of us experienced “parched places” in this past year. When we were all advised to stay home last March, for the first few days, it felt a bit like un-expected “snow-days” when school was out. We sought creative ways to do our jobs, and pass the time. But those days turned into weeks, and then months. But still, with prayer and God’s guidance, we continue to discover new strengths, and hidden springs of life-giving water to help us meet challenges we never imagined.

Care & Nurture ministry groups at Hope include dozens of people who have reached out intentionally to help members and friends to be connected within our faith community. Huge thanks to Ann Agrimson, Muffi Abrahamson, Rosalie Eldevik and Becky Halvorson for their creativity and energetic leadership!

### **Compassion Care**

Compassion Care ministers are confidential and empathetic listeners who offer confidential support for a person experiencing grief, trauma, depression or other kinds of distress. Compassion Care ministers participate in training sessions that include setting boundaries, confidentiality, listening, grief, divorce and depression. Compassion Care ministers meet monthly for a “supervision” meeting to continue to hone their skills. 2020 leadership was Ann Agrimson, Muffi Abrahamson and Pastor Barbara.

### **Friendly Visitors Ministry**

Coordinator Rosalie Eldevik works to recruit and coach several members who make regular visits to bring friendly conversation to those who are homebound, living in care centers or simply in need of a regular connection with their faith community. When in-person visits could not take place this year, many Friendly Visitors would make calls or write notes and cards to their visitees. In warmer weather, some were able to visit outdoors with face masks and safe distancing. Friendly Visitors were also asked to assist in delivery of poinsettias during Advent, and delivery of Thanksgiving and Christmas meals prepared by Becky Halvorson and her crew.

Kathy Knudson and Pat Lindquist wrote and sent out Easter cards during Holy Week and Easter to those who had been bereaved or ill in the previous year. Jack Dant provided the special painting to be printed on the Easter cards. Ann Rolle prepared birthday cards on behalf of the congregation, and sent them to those who are 80 and older, as well as those who are homebound, those in assisted-living or in long term care centers and care-givers.

### **Communion Visitors**

Pastor Barbara coordinates the home communion visits and provides instruction to lay persons who wish to provide this special worship experience to those who are unable to participate at the church. When safety measures required us to distance ourselves at least six feet apart, one-to-one visits by lay-persons were suspended in mid-March for the duration of the COVID-19 restrictions.

### **Healing Prayer**

Healing Prayer ministers typically are lay persons, pastors or church staff who offer individual prayers for healing and renewal each Sunday during communion, at the 10:30 am worship. Once we began to worship via Zoom, people were guided to type their own prayer requests into the chat lines during worship. Individuals who desired private prayer were encouraged to contact one of the pastors or other staff. Healing Prayer ministers included Ann Agrimson, Ann Beane, Joan Campbell, Diane Greve, Brian McCaffrey, Yesenia Morales Bahena, Beata Rydeen, Sara Tufvesson Doure, Pastor Barbara, Pastor Jen and Nick Tangen.

## **Hope Diamonds**

Hope Diamonds Senior Fellowship Group met in January for a meal and enjoyed the singing and Scottish dance of Erianna Reyelts, Leona's granddaughter. In February, the group gathered at the Federal Reserve Bank for a tour. Each participant received a bag of shredded cash to take home. We plan to meet in 2021 when it safe to gather again.

Pastor Barbara Johnson  
Pastor for Care and Nurture

## **A Letter from the Bishop**

God's grace, peace, and hope be with you through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

In a normal year, I would use this report to highlight the many ways the Synod partners with your congregation to bring good news to your communities. 2020 was hardly a normal year.

Like your congregation, the synod needed to adapt quickly due to the threat of COVID-19, to cancel some programs, introduce new events, and modify most everything else. I have been amazed by the innovation and hard work of congregational leaders. I want – and encourage you as well – to speak a word of deep thanks to leaders for all that has been asked of them to hold our communities together and foster their flourishing.

Shortly after lockdown restrictions began in March, synod leaders led training sessions on online worship and pastoral care, as well as conversations on the question of Holy Communion as part of distance worship. In April, our Synod Treasurer and Secretary led two sessions on applying for PPP loans. In May, we were privileged to host Dr. Michael Osterholm for a presentation which drew 400 pastors, bishops, and leaders; as well as 100,000 viewers afterwards. We gave over \$46,000 in Imagination Grants to 25 congregations to strengthen their online worship presence. This fall, we gathered leaders for a well-received conversation on creative ways to celebrate Christmas. The synod staff provided worship services in May, July, and December, giving congregational leaders a much-needed respite.

Yes, 2020 was hardly a normal year. On May 25, 2020, the killing of George Floyd lifted the veil once again on the pandemic of systemic racism that infects our world. Churches near the killing and the uprising turned on a dime to address the immediate needs, supported by partner congregations throughout the synod. Clergy marched in silence led by AME Presiding Elder Stacy Smith. The Minnesota Council of Churches – which includes all six ELCA synods – voted unanimously to support a multi-year process “Dismantling the Structures and Repairing the Damage of Racism in Minnesota.” The synod's new racial justice web page ([mpls-synod.org/outreach/racial-justice](https://mpls-synod.org/outreach/racial-justice)) provides key information for congregations to deepen their work for justice, including the new Center for Leadership and Neighborhood Engagement, led by Rev. Kelly Chatman.

In addition to these efforts, we continue our essential and ongoing work of supporting leaders and fostering congregational vitality. We are blessed with over 700 rostered leaders, 325 serving in calls and 377 retired. We work hard so the church has the loving, faithful, and theologically well-formed ministers it needs. In 2020, we supported 67 persons preparing to become deacons or pastors.

In September, we were honored to receive a Lilly Grant that will support congregational cohorts committed to deepening their faith and neighboring practices. This month, we welcome Rev. Norma Malfatti as Director of Evangelical Mission who will promote our work in starting new congregations and accompanying our strategic ministries.

Our monthly conference meetings and other synod gatherings have revealed a real hunger among leaders to stay connected, learn from each other, and discern best practices for ministry in these times. We are honored and humbled by the calling to serve as convener of such holy conversations. It is the generosity of congregations like yours that make the synod's work possible. Thank you! We seek to be careful stewards of every gift. With the PPP loan, which we pray will be forgiven, we hope to end our FY2020 year budget without dipping deeply into reserves.

I conclude this annual report with a word of deep gratitude for the privilege of serving as your bishop. And, I look forward to January 2022, when we can once again worship and gather *in person* – with hugs and handshakes and singing.

Bishop Ann Svennungsen  
Minneapolis Area Synod

## **Worship & Music**

What can we say about 2020? It was a year like no other for Worship and Music -- or just a year like no other. Zach Busch drafted the report below and I am loath to change his thoughtful summary so I will restrain myself to a brief introduction.

We practiced this year how to be a community in worship of God outside the walls of our sanctuary. We held the values of our vision goal to fuel authentic worship with “varied and participatory worship experiences” and working to “actively engage one another and the world in small group encounters, in the work of social justice, in study of the Bible, and in integration of faith and life.”

We’ve experienced connections through that practice that literally span continents -- and connections that hold us close to the next room in our own homes. And we’ve experienced grief at the inability to continue traditions and practices that many of us find meaningful.

Thank you to you all for going on this unplanned journey together. As we move past this pandemic, we will seek to hold on to our new practices that prove meaningful and restore the physical presence for which many of us yearn.

Thank you especially to Zach, Jen, Nick, Barbara, Lisa and Ben on the worship planning team, all our worship leaders, our greeters, our (soon to be needed again) ushers and communion servers, acolytes and altar guild, offering counters and bulletin collators, our choir, our musicians, and our roster of 8 Tech Facilitators who together make our community worship life possible. None of you get enough thanks for all you do. Thank you!

Matthew Fry, Liaison for Worship & Music

A lot of time at the beginning of the year was spent preparing for and producing Night Songs 2020, which took place Thursday evening, February 13th. James Flaten once again championed the technical design of the event. Guest singers from University Baptist and First Congregational joined the mass choir as well as members of VocalU, an a cappella group from the University who also presented two songs of their own. A disco ball made an appearance. String music from a group of University-affiliated instrumentalists serenaded. Special thematic attention was paid to confessing and confronting climate change, and a partnership with Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light yielded awareness and energy. Hundreds of people packed the pews, balcony, and the floor seating at the front of the sanctuary. It was momentous.

It is shocking to realize that only several weeks later we entered state lockdown for COVID-19. The pandemic vastly changed our worship life for the remaining course of 2020. For the first two weeks, then in the season of Lent, we suspended in-person worship but attempted to livestream as staff and music leaders from the sanctuary. This was a challenge, and as more information came to light we chose to move completely online using Zoom as a platform, and livestreaming to Facebook and eventually YouTube. After a learning curve, we generally found a groove with this mode of worship and have made the best of it as a community. The truth remains that online worship in this format is still not fitting for all, whether that has to do with internet access/savvy or personal preference. Though the majority of the community has remained connected, we still grieve the distance and the loss of touch with the community as a whole.

Hope Choir moved to a virtual format this fall, after spending the remainder of Spring 2020 and the summer doing weekly or monthly check-ins. We rehearse music on Zoom, with my sound as the director being the only sound people hear - everyone else is on mute. We rehearse music this way, and we usually record “live” through this format - each individual using headphones for Zoom and using a separate device to record only their voice. They submit these audio tracks to me and I arrange them into what is usually our Hymn of the Day for Sunday worship. This, too, has had a learning curve and has found its groove. For Christmas Eve, all of our communal singing was led by our virtual choir. It was quite a feat, and I am very proud of and inspired by the choir’s drive, attention, and willingness to learn.

Holy Week and Easter as well as Advent and Christmas were, in my opinion, the most noticeably “different feeling” times in our worship life. We worship more frequently during these times, and that togetherness is an important marker of the season. I was delighted by the community’s engagement with these two seasons, using the “toolkits” we created to bring the season into their own homes. Candles, tabletop altars, bowls of water, decorations for Easter, “Silent Night” by candlelight - it has all been an illustration of God’s incarnation in Christ through beloved community.

The ULCHers have continued their spirited leadership about once a month for our worship. On Zoom, this often looks like Ben, Tim, or Paul leading live with their voices, and a virtual band recording or two with the whole group.

We continue to wonder what lies ahead. We have been through a lot as a community, as a nation, as a global community. This journey has and will continue to change us. How are we being transformed? Renewed? How will we wear the marks of this journey once we’ve reached the other side? It is in these possibilities where hope lives, and where creativity can thrive. Despite this incredibly challenging year, what lies ahead holds promise when we wear the marks of the journey. Thanks be to God.

Zach Busch, Minister for Worship & Music

# **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. I, personally, have missed being present with you all in formal and informal ways. Alas. I remain encouraged by our relationship, and am deeply grateful for the many ways this partnership will ensure a stable, healthy, and vibrant ministry for a many years to come. 2020 certainly brought significant challenges to our ministry, and in the midst of them I was reminded, again, of the gift of being in relationship with you, people of Hope, and the steadiness your intergenerational presence provides on campus.

Some things to note from our ministry over the past year:

- 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. We are particularly grateful to you, people of Hope, for so generously welcoming us into your outdoor space for retreats, leadership gatherings, small groups, and bonfires. Though those Fall gatherings seem a distant memory now, your space made vibrant ministry possible. THANK YOU!
- Our student leadership development work shone as students continued to bear witness to the warmth and welcome of Christ, with creativity, courage and compassion. They continued to lead small groups, connect with one another and new students through 1:1's, gather together as leaders, host game nights and bonfires, and share their experience of the ministry through our social media presence.
- In the wake of the murder of George Floyd, at least 20 students joined together on a regular basis for conversations on racial justice and white supremacy throughout the summer and into the fall. We established a relationship with Calvary Lutheran Church at 38<sup>th</sup> and Chicago, and are nurturing an emerging relationship with Black Campus Ministry at the U as we explore serving and learning together.
- Pastoral care was a focus for our staff this year.
  - Questions of vocation, identity, meaning, and purpose were at a fever pitch as these young adults watched national and local responses to the pandemic, the murder of George Floyd, and as they participated in voting in this election (which for many of them was their first presidential election).
  - Mental illness increased in both breadth and depth for students in our ministry, and across campus.
- As our outreach shifted online and Zoom fatigue sank in, it was challenging to connect with new students and keep current students engaged at the level they had been, at least in our worship services. Understanding everything keeping people from our Wednesday night gathering, it was simultaneously humbling and awe inspiring to see the continued participation and engagement of students, new and returning, in that same gathering.
- In the midst of a pandemic, we sent 17 seniors, many of whom had 4 years of involvement with LCM, out into the world. Their vocations led them to years of service with Urban Servant Corps and LVC, graduate schools all over the country, work in industry, business, education and non-profits. This sending is one of the hardest and most beautiful things I do. It was particularly challenging this year.
- We celebrate a board of directors which grows stronger every year. A special thanks to Hope member Tim Gustafson for serving in this capacity!

Our ministry continues to face the real challenges of significant student transition and shifting energy in our community, but through the grace of God, the accompaniment of this congregation, and a lot of hard work, we are 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

## **Youth and Young Adults**

### **Youth**

Youth activities have been limited this year. In early February, pre-COVID-19, we enjoyed a great Friday night lock-in at University Lutheran Church of Hope with youth from Hope, First Congregational, and friends. This lock-in offered a chance to get to know one another better and included games, movies, a time of worship, and plenty of that favorite youth group game: Sardines. Kit Bielenberg, Pastor Jen, and Pastor Jane from First Congregational teamed up to chaperone.

Camp Amnicon pivoted their programming for the summer and with careful procedures and cool hammocks, our ULCH/First Congregational group had a great week paddling the Namekagan River at the end of July. Thanks to Paul and Melissa Odenbach for again chaperoning this group, along with two adults from First Congregational.

After a two and a half year program, three young people, M'taleni Nashandi, Seneca Brooks, and Poonam Morgan, affirmed their faith on Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2020. We found creative and meaningful ways to share faith statements with the congregation and do the Confirmation via Zoom and livestream. Thanks to the mentors (Molly James, Shelly Parry, and Phoebe Worthington) and co-teacher Kit Bielenberg for the support of these three girls.

At Hope we are defining youth as 6th-12th grade. Between the needed precautions and a general distaste for additional structured screen time, it has been hard to gather youth during the pandemic. Going forward in 2021, we have a better plan for occasional Zoom times and regular outdoor gatherings for things like campfires, sledding, service projects and other activities.

### **Young Adults**

Young Adults at University Lutheran Church of Hope continue to weave themselves into the fabric of the congregation in a plethora of meaningful ways. Young adults sing in the choir, serve on the Vision & Governance Board, and work closely with nearly every ministry area. As 2020 began, Young Adult leaders began to assemble an updated contact list to better communicate about upcoming events and to connect with one another. The COVID-19 pandemic slowed many of the specifically young adult activities and events as worship and other gatherings moved to Zoom, but there is hope that more opportunities for gathering will present themselves in 2021.

Brady Wilmer, Youth and Young Adults Liaison  
Nicholas Tangen, Minister of Faith in Community  
Pastor Jen Nagel, Lead Pastor

# Relational Ministries

**Outdoor Recreation** - The Outdoor Recreation Team sponsored a number of recreational events in 2020. More than twenty people attended the annual Winter Retreat held at the Heartwood Resort and Conference Center in Trego, WI in February, a great opportunity for fellowship and relaxation. There were also two paddling events, one on the St. Croix River in June, the other on White Bear Lake in July. Finally, there was a biking event on the Cannon Valley Trail in September, and a hike at Fort Snelling State Park in November. The organizing team consists of Bryan Kufus, Deb Bordsen, Rebecca and Alden Tetlie, and Ann and John Beane.

**Hope Connections** – Hope Connections is a small group, bible study ministry. Normally, groups meet in member homes. In the time of COVID-19, that has switched to online meetings (using Zoom). The curriculum team develops bible study materials for the groups to use. A big thank you to the curriculum team, Dan Bielenberg, Stewart Herman, Brian McCaffrey, Alden Tetlie, Sara Tufvesson Doure, and John Beane.

**Bread Oven Ministry** – The Bread Oven Team held one bread bake in January before COVID-19 closed the church kitchen and idled this wonderful ministry. A big thank you is extended to the leaders on the Bread Oven Team, including Sharla Aaseng, Bryan Kufus, Norm Aaseng, John Bablitch, Bob Dickhaus, and Jake Jacobson. A big thank you is also extended to the more than 50 volunteers who participated in these events. The team is eager to start baking once COVID-19 is behind us.

**Women's Retreat** – The Theme for the 2020 Women's Retreat, "God of Many Names", was a weekend rich in laughter, meaningful conversation, closer relationships and more. The annual retreat at Dunrovin Retreat Center near Stillwater, gathered twenty-seven women in a weekend of community building, exploring faith and spirituality, as well as opportunities to share personal life experiences with each other, one on one, or in small groups.

An important part of the Women's Retreat ministry for many years has been the creation of prayer shawls that are made available for anyone attending or visiting Hope. This past year, we do not have a good count of how many have gone out, due to COVID-19, but in past years, as many as sixty plus shawls have been gifted. The pastors, Friendly Visitors and Compassion Care Ministers and all are encouraged to bring a shawl to anyone who might benefit.

**Other Small Groups** – Other dedicated leaders gave their time and gifts to Friendly Visitors, Compassion Care, Communion Visitors, Healing Prayer Ministers, Hope Diamonds Senior Group, Dorcas and Gloria Circles, childcare in the nursery, monthly Fellowship Meals, Crafters, Hope Quilters, and Care Packages. All of these ministries are eager for new people to get involved. I encourage you to join them.

John Beane, Liaison for Relational Ministries



# Hope in the World

*What does the LORD require of you but to do justice,  
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. - Micah 6:8*

**HOPE IN THE WORLD** provides ways that Hope members can actively **share God's love beyond our walls and throughout the world** – locally, statewide, nationally and internationally. The COVID-19 pandemic and the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police and its resulting civil unrest provided Hope with an inordinate number of opportunities to work with other partners to address injustice, racism, poverty, homelessness and hunger, and to provide welcome and hospitality to our neighbors and promote sustainable environmental practices.

## **Affordable Housing/Unsheltered Neighbors**

In March and November 2020, Hope members worked with Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative to lobby local and state officials to address the shortage of affordable housing. During this challenging year, Beacon created homes with regenerative services for men coming out of incarceration, and homes for families experiencing homelessness in their shelter.

For over 20 years, Hope participated in Beacon's Families Moving Forward ("FMF") hospitality program, where Hope hosted temporarily homeless families for one week twice a year. In February 2020, dozens of Hope members volunteered as hosts for FMF at our church. But due to the pandemic and need for services in other communities, Beacon has now discontinued hosting families at churches in Minneapolis.

The pandemic amplified challenges faced by our neighbors without shelter. Over the summer an encampment of a dozen people gathered on the church patio. This challenged ULCH to think creatively about what it means to be a neighbor and to love our neighbor as ourselves. We gathered hygiene items, food, and gift cards to distribute to neighbors in need. When PEASE indicated that students would return to onsite school in the fall, the folks living in the encampment agreed to relocate and partners from the Aliveness Project helped many to transition to new living space.

## **Every Meal (formerly called The Sheridan Story)**

Every Meal provides weekend food supplies at Marcy Open School in our neighborhood for students whose parents have requested this assistance. In 2020, Hope volunteers helped pack sacks of non-perishable food for Marcy students at the Every Meal warehouse. Hope also raised funds for the program in September during *God's Work, Our Hands* Sunday.

## **Global Mission**

In its 2020 Global Mission efforts, Hope continued to support Bread for the World in its letter writing campaign to congressional representatives urging them to end hunger by increasing funding for global nutrition programs. We also continued to pray weekly for our partners in ministry in Jos, Nigeria: Pastor Amson Hamman, Lydia, the Dogon Dutse Guest House, and St. Peter's Lutheran Church, and in July 2020, ULCH contributed \$2500 to the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria.

## **Neighborhood & Campus**

In January of 2020, the Riverside Innovation Hub, in collaboration with Marcy Holmes Neighborhood Association, the Dinkytown Business Alliance, and other neighborhood stakeholders, organized the Dinkytown Winter Wander. This event encouraged folks in the community to visit and patronize the local restaurants, to learn a bit about the neighborhood, and to share some stories about what it's like living in Dinkytown.

Further community engagement plans were put on pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Riverside Innovation Hub and community engagement partners then began work on a podcast highlighting stories of Dinkytown residents.

### **Racial Justice Team**

Early in 2020, the Racial Justice Team provided the Vision & Governance Board with a framework to assess the multicultural competency of ULCH's programs. Then, with severe racial inequities made even clearer by the pandemic and by police misuse-of-force, the Team established and implemented the *Rolling Waters Fund for Racial Justice*, a dedicated fund supported by ULCH members and others to respond quickly to needs of local BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color)-led religious and justice organizations supporting racial equity initiatives. In 2020, the Team disbursed over \$12,000 from the fund to nineteen organizations.

The Racial Justice Team also continued conversations on racial equity at ULCH by hosting discussion of the book *White Fragility: Why it's so Hard for White People to Talk about Racism* and by holding monthly adult forums on racial justice issues. The Team and other Hope members also volunteered in communities hardest hit by the civil unrest and supported the efforts of Isaiah MN, a multi-racial coalition of faith communities fighting for racial and economic justice. In addition, the Team obtained funding for the ULCH leadership to take the Intercultural Development Inventory in 2021 to assess and provide intercultural skill development.

### **Sanctuary & Immigration**

ULCH continued to work with the University Area Sanctuary Coalition to serve immigrant neighbors and to work for a more just immigration system in the U.S. We also began planning a larger engagement strategy before the COVID-19 pandemic slowed much of our work. In 2021, we will focus on engaging with the Minneapolis Area Synod's AMMPARO Team (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) - leading the charge to live into the Synod's newly adopted Sanctuary Synod Resolution, and fighting for immigrant rights at the Minnesota Legislature.

In November, a friend of the congregation was arrested by ICE and as of this writing remains in detention. The congregation rallied to raise funds to support his family, including 5 children, and fund his legal assistance. We also organized a meal train and purchased Christmas presents for the children. This experience has reminded us that the process for folks in detention seeking freedom is long, arduous, and often arbitrary. We continue to pray for his release and to support his family as we are able.

### **The Green Team**

The Hope Green Team continued to participate in the Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light (MNIPL) Climate Justice Congregational Certificate Program. The Team's focus this year was to work with the Facilities Committee to bring solar power to Hope. As a result, in June 2020, ULCH decided to install a solar array over the roof of its education wing.

Sonja Peterson, Hope in the World Liaison

# **Education**

## **Children's Ministry**

2020 was a year like no other and the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on Education and Children's Ministry at University Lutheran Church of Hope. When the congregation stopped holding worship in person, and opted for Zoom and livestreaming options, the Children's Ministry Team followed suit. We began by hosting a Sunday School check in time on Sunday afternoons following worship. Eventually, we returned to gathering (still on Zoom) prior to worship, a welcome dose of familiarity.

Each Sunday kids PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade gather on Zoom from their living rooms and breakfast tables for a time of check-in, Bible Study, and prayer. We've learned how to play some fun online games as well as some classics like Pictionary, Mad Libs, and scavenger hunts. We have tried to find creative ways to encourage families to engage in faith practices at home, including a creative Jesse Tree activity during the season of Advent.

Twice amid the pandemic, the families with kids gathered outside for a physically distanced party. In the summer we met at Hidden Falls Regional Park for a hike, some disc golf, and kick ball. In October, we gathered in the church courtyard for a pumpkin carving event. We were gifted some massive pumpkins by Church Administrator Nathan Obrestad and carved some truly spooky Jack-o-lanterns.

What was incredibly clear to the Children's Ministry Team is how challenging the pandemic and school closures have been and continue to be for families with kids. Young ones are spending significant hours on Zoom and other online formats and are often unable to gather with friends. Parents are having to serve as part-time or full-time teachers in the home. Throughout 2020 we wanted to ensure that there was an opportunity for kids to gather with other church members of the same age, to enjoy one another's company, and to have a low engagement bar so as not to add one more piece of complicated homework to an already busy schedule.

Our Sunday School teachers have worked incredibly hard and been amazingly flexible amid all the change and transition. We will try anything once and are sure not to be overly attached to any one way of engaging with the kiddos of the congregation. It is an absolute joy to work with such dedicated teachers, disciples, and leaders and it is so clear every week how much our teachers treasure the young people of this congregation.

Thank you, Arthur French, Ann Beane, Shelly Parry, Rosalie Eldevik, Paige Whitney, and Muffi Abrahamson!

## **Sunday Forums**

Sunday Forums began the year in person with a variety of members and guests presenting. In March the programming ended due to the pandemic but restarted in September on the Zoom format. A particular effort was made to have Hope members present to allow us to know one another a little better. About once a month a program was offered that focused on racial justice. The Zoom programming has been recorded and is available from Nick or Nathan. Committee members over the year were Diane Greve, Linda Herman, Karen Jorstad, Brian McCaffrey, and John Setterlund.

## **Bible Studies**

In 2020, we hosted two new Bible Studies on Zoom. In September and October, we studied Paul's Letter to the Galatians, reading in conversation with Luther's lectures on the same book. This was a great opportunity to dig deep into Lutheran theology and to ground ourselves in the immensity of

God's grace. This group met on Wednesday mornings on Zoom and often incorporated music and contemporary readings in each week's study.

During Advent, we studied the Book of Ruth, focusing especially on Ruth as an immigrant. Our theme in Advent was *Finding Home* and so we explored questions about immigration, ethnicity, and exploitation through this excellent Old Testament short story. We also watched some short films about the experience of immigrants in the US, read some theological material about immigration from the ELCA, and examined current events.

The studies continue in 2021 with the Book of Hebrews during Epiphany and Stories of Healing and Renewal during Lent.

Nicholas Tangen, Minister of Faith in Community  
Shelly Parry, Education Liaison

## **Facilities**

This pandemic year weighed heavily on our committee. Our beloved friend Ken Lynes became ill in late 2019 and sadly passed away in August. His knowledge, sharp mind, keen sense of humor, and all around goodness were so appreciated by everyone. He was a sensible voice and a generous soul who took his responsibilities to this congregation to heart. The more you got to know Ken, the more you liked him. We miss him every day and fondly remember him.

The main business of Facilities this year was developing a detailed project list for Hope's upcoming Capital Campaign. The group spent many hours researching and discussing potential projects throughout the facility. We eventually whittled down a list of about twenty projects to four main categories which we sent to the Vision and Governance Board to consider. The Board responded with these priorities: sanctuary and virtual worship enhancements, entry doors to our sanctuary, storm drain compliance, Fellowship Hall kitchen upgrades, and hallway lighting improvements.

Even though our committee met virtually since March, we managed to accomplish a good deal of facility upkeep during the shutdown. Some highlights include: exterior trenching work for storm drain compliance required by the City (and subsequent restoration of the lawn and gardens), new floor tile in the PEASE science classroom, boiler maintenance, parking lot repairs, new carpet and paint in Nathan's office, a new metal safety railing along 6th Street, and cleaning/power washing the patio area. We also hosted our annual facility Facilities Work Day in February. We repaired and replaced many, many smaller items knowing that building upkeep must go on even during a pandemic. We look forward to meeting in person sometime in 2021.

John Pignatello  
Facilities Co-chair

Members include: Kathy Knudson, Bob Paschke, Ken Sarkela;  
with ongoing contributions of Co-chair Craig Nelson, Nathan Obrestad, Gayle Bidne, Mike Kneer, Tim Speidel and Tim Abrahamson.

# **“Opening Doors” Capital Campaign Report**

Our next 3-year capital campaign, Opening Doors, began planning stages in the summer of 2020. With a goal of raising \$400,000, a devoted team gathered together to plan a capital campaign that would launch—in the midst of the ongoing pandemic—in January to seek pledges for the next 3-year period of February 1, 2021 – January 31, 2024.

The group selected the theme and decided on a combination of an engaging video, a series of written communications, and a webpage at [ulch.org/OpeningDoors](http://ulch.org/OpeningDoors) (the webpage contains the video and written communications). 2021 will bring the results of the campaign's efforts, which will be reported in the 2021 annual report. The committee extends a heartfelt thanks to all who could offer support!

Our team

Co-Chairs: Karen Westwood & Mark Nelson

Committee Member and liaison to the Vision and Governance Board: John Beane

Committee Members: John Bablitch, Deb Bordsen, Jack Dant, Garvin Davenport

Liaison to the Gratitude & Generosity team: Ann Beane

## **Gratitude and Generosity Committee**

As for all of Hope’s ministries, the Gratitude and Generosity Team (G and G) faced many challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and the inability to conduct “business as usual.” However, despite being unable to meet in person and curtailing some of our previous year’s activities that could not be done safely, we feel that our stewardship goals this past year have been met.

- We began meeting virtually in May and established a closer link with the Capital Campaign by assigning a team member as a liaison to that group. We also began to plan for the fall annual campaign by exploring possible themes and setting a tentative schedule of stewardship activities.
- In May and June we had two team members give Gratitude and Generosity Moments during the service to highlight how gratitude in faith inspires generosity.
- During our July meeting we made the decision to postpone our annual G and G summer congregational picnic due to COVID-19 restrictions and the inability to do this while adhering to social distancing guidelines.
- Our August meeting was used to finalize specific dates for the annual campaign events and conceptualize our theme: Hope Endures.
- In September we finalized the stewardship letter and with the help of an artist from the congregation, Jack Dant, we settled on the design of the pledge cards. Team members participated in a dialog sermon and a G and G moment relating to stewardship.
- A team member gave a stewardship sermon and the congregational letters were sent out in October.
- A final G and G moment was given in November and pledging was mostly completed.
- As of this date the number of households pledging in 2020 is 110 which is down from 118 in 2019; however, the total amount pledged represents a 1.5% increase from last year. In light of financial hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic we view this as a successful campaign.

During our final meeting of 2020, we set goals for 2021 to adopt a mission statement, along with a template of Gratitude and Generosity activities for the year in an effort to establish a smooth transition between outgoing and incoming team members. We are also committed to working more closely with the capital campaign and Hope Church Trust as well as continuing to make stewardship a priority throughout the year.

Our team is grateful for the support of this community which enables us to do God's work at ULCH and we continue to ask for God's help and guidance.

Respectfully submitted by the Gratitude and Generosity Team: Ann Beane, Ann Wagner, Eric Ringham, Linda Herman, Stewart Herman and Beth Ubbelohde

## **Financial Controls Committee Report**

The Financial Controls Committee works with the Executive Committee to review the financial statements on an as-requested basis, usually quarterly, to do budget-to-actual comparison. This review is done in hopes of finding any anomalies early and determining any actions that can be taken to rectify the situation.

This year we were asked to do an internal audit of our financial practices due to the transition from Gayle Bidne to Kari Olson and Nathan Obrestad, and the effects of online worship due to COVID-19. Our goal was to review the financial records and ask questions about practices used by the new staff to accurately and securely handle the financial information of the congregation. Micki Kruse has professional experience in audits so was able to lead our team during this process.

The Executive Committee identified the time frame of January-June 2020 to be audited and some of the specific areas they would like us to review. We met regularly to develop the list of information we needed to gather, assigned those tasks among the members of the committee, shared our findings and updated our tasks as needed as we worked through the tasks. While doing the internal audit we communicated in person, via email, and phone to staff, the Executive Committee, and members of the congregation.

We completed our work and met with the Executive Committee to review our findings and possible changes to procedures. Our overall impression was that Nathan and Kari have made the transition well, and we that are in good hands in their care.

We have also met with the Executive Committee to review the recommended budget and give our input on both income and expense line items.

Betty Schreuder, Chair of Financial Controls Committee  
Other members are Micki Kruse and Bill Sanden

## **Personnel Committee**

In a year that has seen so many changes in how we carry out our daily lives, let alone how we have needed to reimagine our work environments, our beloved staff have gone above and beyond. There are really no words that adequately convey our admiration and gratitude for the gifts they share, the creativity and ingenuity they have brought to on-line Zoom worship and gatherings, the ability to meet the daily needs of the community, and to be with us in times of joy and sadness.

As the pandemic was initially impacting us, we completed interviews for two new hires: Nathan Obrestad as Church Administrator and Kari Olson as Financial Administrator. Nathan and Kari were hired and started their positions in March just days before the “stay at home” order from the Governor was mandated. Their orientation continued remotely. Thank you to Nathan and Kari for forging ahead in these new positions. We are grateful for their work and flexibility and we look forward to in-person connections with them.

As we moved into the fall it became clear that our final celebration for Gayle Bidne (former Business Manager) would need to take place via Zoom. On November 15th, we gathered to celebrate and honor Gayle’s gifts to us and her retirement. Thank you to all who were able to participate in that event.

Throughout this year of COVID-19 the Personnel Committee has also been keenly aware of the importance of supporting our staff in ways that lift up physical and mental health as priorities for well-being. Synod resources and resources through Portico (health insurer) were available.

A short Leave of Absence was approved for Pastor Barbara Johnson in late 2020. Near the end of the year we made preparations for Family Leave for Kari Olson. Kari's leave began the last days of December 2020 and continued into January 2021.

Thank you to the members of the Personnel Committee: Tim Abrahamson, Becky Halvorson, Linnea Pignatello, David Ranheim, Uli Koester, and Pastor Jen Nagel, for their dedication and hard work throughout this entire year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Flaten, Personnel Committee Chair

## **Trust Board**

It was a banner year for the Hope Church Trust in that it was able to provide a large loan and grant to the church to help pay for the new solar array. One hundred and forty-five thousand dollars (\$145,000) was loaned to the church solar project at an interest of 3.5%, a below-market rate which will save Hope a substantial amount of money over the fifteen years of the loan, as opposed to the cost if a loan had been acquired from an outside lending agency. The Trust also provided a \$10,900 dollar grant for the solar project, for a total of \$155,900 dollars to support the solar project.

This was a new venture for the Trust fund, requiring consideration of numerous factors, ranging from the long-term impacts of such a loan to both the Trust and the church in regard to such things as

grant-giving, the impact on the investments for which the Trust Board is responsible, a legal structure for the loan, etc. It was a bold, educational experience for Trust Board members.

The Trust Board was also finally able to resolve a long-standing problem related to signatory issues on two of its investment accounts. That included opening an investment management account with Bremer Bank. Going forward, the Trust Board will now have much greater flexibility in its investment options.

As usual, the Trust Board approved funding for various grant applications in early 2020. The Board was surprised that the number of applications was lower than usual and with lower funding requests, despite more “advertising” than normal. However, as it turned out, the eventual effect was to free up more money for the solar loan. Unfortunately, the coronavirus side-tracked some of the approved grants, meaning that they remained unspent at the end of 2020. Unspent funds normally return to the Trust at that point. But applicants can re-apply for grants in the following year.

Grants awarded for 2020 were as follows:

- |                           |   |  |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| 1. The Hope ULCHers       | - | \$1,500 for music recording                    |
| 2. Fellowship Hall plates | - | \$1,500 (unspent at year-end)                  |
| 3. Racial Justice         | - | \$2,350 for leadership training                |
| 4. Orff xylophones        | - | \$1,100 for children’s music                   |
| 5. Portland House         | - | \$2,000 for upgrades to this LSS halfway house |
| 6. Choral Scholar         | - | \$3,400 partial support for choir and worship  |
| 7. Winter Retreat support | - | \$ 500 (unspent at year-end)                   |

|       |   |          |
|-------|---|----------|
| Total | - | \$12,350 |
|-------|---|----------|

|                                |   |          |
|--------------------------------|---|----------|
| Solar grant, as recorded above | - | \$10,900 |
|--------------------------------|---|----------|

Other Trust Board actions in 2020 included:

- Early in 2020 the Trust Board completed updates to the Trust Resolution Document for the Trust and church files, in conjunction with ULCH Bylaws updates.
- Pursuant to documentary guidelines, the Trust Board re-set the next three-year distribution rate for grants at 3.5% (raised from 3.0% for the previous three-year period).
- The Board welcomed Lynette Lamb and Leena Haugland as new Board members, and elected Scott Hvizdos as Treasurer.
- During the year, coordination with Hope’s Gratitude and Generosity team was initiated.
- An extensive review of Trust grant history and distribution patterns was undertaken, providing guidance as to distribution goals and limitations.
- Further progress was made towards developing a brochure and web presence.
- The organization of Trust Board balance sheets was reviewed and modified, with more modifications to come.
- The Trust Board created an investments sub-committee.
- Like most other church groups, the Trust Board became proficient at meeting via Zoom, given the solar loan process and numerous other needs in 2020.



### **Finances:**

The Hope Church Trust Endowment Fund remained invested in three primary investment vehicles:

|                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| 1) Pax World Funds           |              |
| Year-end Value:              | \$254,730.49 |
| 2) Domini Impact Equity Fund |              |
| Year-end Value:              | \$197,348.55 |
| 3) ELCA Foundation           |              |
| Year-end Value:              | \$237,990.62 |
| Total:                       | \$690,069.66 |

Bremer Bank Checking Account balance: \$18,826.66

[ Gifts, Bequests, and Memorial donations to the Hope Church Trust in 2020 - Estimated \$4,242 ]

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, the Hope Church Trust

Board Members: Meri Hauge, Norm Aaseng, Scott Hvizdos, Robyn Swenson, Lynette Lamb,  
Leena Haugland

## **Treasurer's Report - Notes to the Financial Statements**

### **General Operations**

General giving for 2020 totaled \$503,839. This is \$11,839 more than the budgeted amount of \$492,000, contributing to a 1.2% increase compared to prior year. Rental income was \$124,010 for the year, \$26,176 less than budgeted primarily due to a decrease in expected parking lot income. Income for the year (excluding PPP funds) totaled \$627,849.

Expenses totaled \$626,897 in 2020. This is \$15,087 less than the budgeted amount of \$641,983. This year expenses were less than total income contributing to an overall net operating income of \$952 (excluding PPP funds). Including PPP funds, we had a net operating income of \$74,841. Refer to "Payroll Protection Program (PPP)" below for additional information.

As of 12/31 we have \$500K in current assets, primarily composed of our bank accounts (including \$174K dedicated to the Solar Project). Our land and building contribute to total assets of \$3.18M. As of 12/31 we have \$86K in dedicated accounts in addition to the Solar Funds. Our mortgage liability is \$728K, contributing to \$3.18M in liabilities and equity.

The Vision and Governance Board strives to be transparent about our financial position and progress to meet the budget. As a board, we closely manage our expenses while making strategic decisions on how to use our resources for opportunities in the future. This year, we worked closely with the Financial Controls Committee completing quarterly financial reviews as well as a detailed financial review of our current financial processes in place. Many thanks to Betty Schreuder, Micky Kruse and Bill Sanden for all their hard work.

### **Payroll Protection Program (PPP)**

In late March 2020, the President signed into law the CARES Act. The legislation was aimed at providing relief for individuals and small businesses negatively impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. In April, University Lutheran Church of Hope applied and officially secured a Small Business Association (SBA) loan under the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) to cover qualified expenses. In November, we were officially approved for forgiveness as the: 1. monies were used to cover payroll expenses, mortgage interest and utilities and 2. employee levels were maintained. I am grateful for the stability and consistency the loan provided during the uncertain times.

### **PEASE Academy**

PEASE Academy continues to be our long-term tenant and we are thankful our facility can be used productively during the week. In 2018, PEASE signed a new 3-year lease guaranteeing their presence until September 2021. We are faithfully working to ensure PEASE is with us for years to come. We are grateful for PEASE as they are a crucial part of the financial picture at University Lutheran Church of Hope.

### **Building Fund – Revealing Hope**

During 2020, we successfully carried out the third and final year of Revealing Hope, a 3-year Capital Campaign aimed at dedicating funds to pay the life of the mortgage (expires in 2027) and fund special projects around the church. This year the building fund subsidized the mortgage by \$83K contributing to a total principal pay down of \$99.6K. Additionally, the Capital Campaign is in the process of paying out benevolences to organizations selected by the congregation.

In 2020, building fund contributions totaled, \$118K and as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, has a total balance of \$123,720. Thank you to everyone who has contributed.

Thank you for your faithful and regular support for the ministries at University Lutheran Church of Hope.

Respectively,  
Emma Carpenter, Congregational Treasurer

# Leadership Development

The Leadership Development Committee met a number of times throughout the fall via Zoom to develop the slate of candidates to be voted on at the February 2021 annual meeting. The result, we believe, is an exceptionally strong list of nominations.

As in previous years, not everyone we approached was interested or able to accept a nomination, but all thoughtfully considered the invitation to accept a leadership role in the congregation.

We also updated the committee's records about who was contacted and about their willingness to serve in future years.

Leadership Development Committee members: Doug Hartmann, Lynette Lamb, and Paul Odenbach.

Submitted by Doug Hartmann, Chair

## 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               | Uli Koester         | 2022           | N/A         |
| Past President | 1 year               | Tim Abrahamson      | 2022           | N/A         |
| Vice President | 1 year               | <b>Ann Agrimson</b> | <b>2022</b>    | <b>N/A</b>  |
| Treasurer      | 2 years, 1x re-elect | Emma Carpenter      | 2022           | Term 2      |

### 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 | Matt Fry              | 2022           | Term 1        |
| Education              |                      | <b>Shelly Parry</b>   | <b>2023</b>    | <b>Term 2</b> |
| Youth and Young Adults |                      | Brady Wilmer          | 2022           | Term 1        |
| Relational Ministries  |                      | <b>Dan Bielenberg</b> | <b>2023</b>    | <b>Term 1</b> |
| Hope in the World      |                      | <b>Sonja Peterson</b> | <b>2023</b>    | <b>Term 2</b> |

### 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 | Betty Schreuder      | 2022           | Term 1        |
| Member #2    |                      | Micki Kruse          | 2023           | Term 1        |
| Member #3    |                      | <b>Kerry Pearson</b> | <b>2024</b>    | <b>Term 1</b> |

### 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 | Linnea Pignatello    | 2022           | Term 1        |
| Member #2    |                      | <b>David Ranheim</b> | <b>2024</b>    | <b>Term 2</b> |
| Member #3    |                      | Becky Halvorson      | 2023           | Term 2        |

### 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 | <b>Paul Demeules</b> | <b>2024</b>    | <b>Term 1</b> |
| Member #2    |                      | Bob Paschke          | 2022           | Term 2        |
| Member #3    |                      | <b>Tim Spiedel</b>   | <b>2024</b>    | <b>Term 1</b> |
| Member #4    |                      | Kathy Knudson        | 2023           | Term 2        |
| Member #5    |                      | <b>Ken Sarkela</b>   | <b>2024</b>    | <b>Term 2</b> |

### Gratitude & Generosity

| <i>Title</i> | <i>Term Length</i>   | <i>Name</i>         | <i>Ending*</i> | <i>Term</i>   |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Member #1    | 3 years, 1x re-elect | <b>Lynette Lamb</b> | <b>2024</b>    | <b>Term 1</b> |
| Member #2    |                      | Linda Stewart       | 2022           | Term 1        |
| Member #3    |                      | Beth Ubbelohde      | 2022           | Term 2        |
| Member #4    |                      | Ann Beane           | 2022           | Term 2        |

### 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 | <b>Lynette Lamb</b>  | <b>2023</b>    | <b>Term 2</b> |
| Member #2    |                      | <b>Doug Hartmann</b> | <b>2023</b>    | <b>Term 2</b> |
| Member #3    |                      | Paul Odenbach        | 2022           | Term 1        |

### 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 | <b>Scott Hvizdos</b> | <b>2025</b>    | <b>Term 2</b> |
| Member #2    |                                  | Meri Hauge           | 2022           | Term 1        |
| Member #3    |                                  | Norm Aaseng          | 2023           | Term 1        |
| Member #4    |                                  | Lynette Lamb         | 2024           | Term 1        |
| Member #5    |                                  | Leena Haugland       | 2024           | Term 1        |
| Member #6    |                                  | Robyn Swenson        | 2024           | Term 1        |
| Member #7    |                                  | <b>James Flaten</b>  | <b>2025</b>    | <b>Term 1</b> |

### Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly

April 23-24, 2021

| <i>Title</i>            | <i>Term Length</i> | <i>Name</i> | <i>Ending*</i> | <i>Term</i> |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Female Voting Member    | 1 year             | <b>TBD</b>  | <b>2022</b>    | <b>N/A</b>  |
| Male Voting Member      |                    | <b>TBD</b>  | <b>2022</b>    | <b>N/A</b>  |
| Alternate Voting Member |                    | <b>TBD</b>  | <b>2022</b>    | <b>N/A</b>  |
| Youth Voting Member     | 1 year             | <b>TBD</b>  | <b>2022</b>    | <b>N/A</b>  |

# University Lutheran Church of Hope Staff

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Lead Pastor                    | Jen Nagel  |
| Pastor for Care and Nurture    | Barbara Johnson                                  |
| Minister of Worship and Music  | Zach Busch                                       |
| Minister of Faith in Community | Nicholas Tangen                                  |
| Business Manager               | Gayle Bidne (through spring 2020)                |
| Church Administrator           | Nathan Obrestad (since March 2020)               |
| Financial Administrator        | Kari Olson (since March 2020)                    |
| Bookkeeping Assistant          | Fariba Sanikhatam (winter/spring 2020, periodic) |
| Sunday Opener/Closer           | Gus Gustafson                                    |
| Custodian                      | Geremew Beshah                                   |
| Child Care Attendant           | Gus Gustafson                                    |
| Choral Scholar                 | Haruka Yukioka (through May 2020)                |

## Statistical Report

|   |   |      |
|---|---|------|
| <u>Membership beginning of 2020</u>       |   | 745* |
| <u>Members received in 2020</u>           |   |      |
| Baptized – Children                       | 0 |      |
| Baptized – Adults                         | 0 |      |
| By Affirmation of Faith                   | 0 |      |
| By Transfer                               | 7 |      |
| From Other Sources                        | 2 |      |
| Total gains                               |   | + 9  |
| Number of Baptized who were Confirmed     | 3 |      |
| <u>Members removed in 2020</u>            |   |      |
| Death                                     | 7 |      |
| Transfer                                  | 4 |      |
| Other                                     | 0 |      |
| Total Removed                             |   | - 11 |
| <u>Membership as of December 31, 2020</u> |   | 743  |

\* Membership as of December 31, 2019 was 758. Based on the directory research, we updated our records and changed our membership numbers in the beginning of 2020 to 745.

# Financial Statements

## University Lutheran Church of Hope

### Annual Ministry Fund – 2020

#### 2020 INCOME STATEMENT

| Income   | Actual         | Budget         | Variance        |
|--|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| General Giving                                 | 503,839        | 492,000        | 11,839          |
| Rental Income                                  | 124,010        | 150,186        | (26,176)        |
| Special Income<br>(Payroll Protection Program) | 73,889         | -              | 73,889          |
| <b>Total Income</b>                            | <b>701,738</b> | <b>642,186</b> | <b>59,552</b>   |
| <b>Expenses</b>                                |                |                |                 |
| Salaries & Benefits                            | 353,055        | 366,358        | (13,304)        |
| Administration                                 | 33,306         | 39,229         | (5,923)         |
| Operations                                     | 132,986        | 129,263        | 3,723           |
| Education Ministries                           | 1,476          | 2,500          | (1,024)         |
| Hope in the World                              | 11,311         | 6,522          | 4,789           |
| Worship Ministries                             | 5,949          | 8,814          | (2,865)         |
| Relational Ministries                          | 3,336          | 2,098          | 1,238           |
| Mission Support                                | 32,129         | 31,980         | 149             |
| Youth & Young Adult                            | 450            | 2,322          | (1,872)         |
| Finance  | 52,897         | 52,897         | -               |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                          | <b>626,897</b> | <b>641,983</b> | <b>(15,087)</b> |
| <b>Net Operating Income</b>                    | <b>74,841</b>  |                |                 |

#### 2020 BALANCE SHEET

|                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>              | <b>12/31/2020</b> |
| Current Assets             |                   |
| Total Bank Accounts        | 499,537           |
| Total Accounts Receivable  | 899               |
| Total Other Current Assets | 50                |
| Total Fixed Assets         | 2,683,652         |
| <b>Total Assets</b>        | <b>3,184,137</b>  |
| <b>Liabilities</b>         |                   |
| Current Liabilities        |                   |
|                            | (462)             |
| Long Term Liabilities      | 727,533           |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>   | <b>727,072</b>    |

# University Lutheran Church of Hope

## Annual Ministry Fund - 2020

### 2020 BALANCE SHEET

#### Equity

#### Dedicated Accounts

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Food Shelves                           | -      |
| Sunday School Offerings                | -      |
| Interest Income                        | 69     |
| Families Moving Forward Dedicated Fund | 3,483  |
| Loaves & Fishes                        | -      |
| UA Sanctuary                           | 8,511  |
| Women's Retreat                        | 3,890  |
| Women's Retreat Scholarships           | 930    |
| Community Bread Oven                   | 1,396  |
| Youth Fund                             | 2,984  |
| Hope Diamonds Luncheons                | 2,025  |
| Disaster Relief                        | -      |
| Instrument Maintenance Fund            | 82     |
| Lutheran Campus Ministries             | -      |
| Recording Ministry                     | 116    |
| Endowment Holding Account              | -      |
| Energy Needs Special Account           | -      |
| Nigeria Missions                       | 1,382  |
| Outreach Donations                     | 445    |
| ISAIAH Dedicated Fund                  | -      |
| Erik Johnson Memorial Fund             | 800    |
| Music Fund                             | 2,204  |
| ULCHers                                | 320    |
| Moonlight Madness                      | -      |
| Adopted/Multi-Cultural Families        | 1,677  |
| Funeral Fund                           | 170    |
| Lenten Luncheons                       | 248    |
| Library / Reading Fund                 | 749    |
| Garden Fund                            | -      |
| Friendly Visitor Program               | 3,337  |
| Courtyard-Major Improvements Fd        | 1,837  |
| Gloria Circle                          | 1,323  |
| Quilters                               | 793    |
| Trust Equalization Account             | 10,729 |
| Kitchen Fund                           | 338    |
| Stained Glass Maintenance              | -      |
| Sabbatical Fund                        | 1,350  |
| Dedicated Courtyard Concerts           | 1,105  |

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Student Outreach                        | 4,364                |
| Fine Arts Fund                          | 345                  |
| Sanctuary Project                       | 772                  |
| MIF Youth Gathering                     | 354                  |
| Farmers Market                          | 3,429                |
| Camp Amnicon Pass-Thru                  | -                    |
| Children's Playground Area              | 877                  |
| Fireplace Insert                        | 58                   |
| Grant-Community Org. Video Project Imag | 2,540                |
| Plate Replacement Fund                  | 2,170                |
| Grant-Gather                            | 10,812               |
| Holy Ground                             | -                    |
| Internship                              | 49                   |
| Mental Health Programs                  | 600                  |
| Grant-Riverside Innovation              | 17,019               |
| Directory Project                       | 321                  |
| Building Fund Holding Account           | (12,660)             |
| Rolling Waters (Racial Justice Fund)    | 1,113                |
| Color of Hope (BIPOC group at ULCH)     | 1,500                |
| Solar Fund                              | 173,895              |
| Total Dedicated Accounts                | 259,854              |
| Total Other Equity                      | 2,197,212            |
| <b>Total Equity</b>                     | <b>2,457,066</b>     |
| <br><b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b> | <br><b>3,184,137</b> |



# **Building Fund - 2020**

## **Revealing Hope Capital Campaign**

### **2020 INCOME STATEMENT**

#### **Income**

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Contributions Income | 117,704        |
| <b>Total Income</b>  | <b>117,704</b> |

#### **Expenses**

|                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Building Improvements | 18,173         |
| Mortgage Subsidy      | 83,027         |
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>101,200</b> |

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Interest Income   | 1,392         |
| <b>Net Income</b> | <b>17,896</b> |

### **2020 BALANCE SHEET**

#### **Assets**

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Current Assets       |                |
| Total Bank Accounts  | 126,583        |
| A/R PEASE Remodel    | 2,863          |
| Total Current Assets | 123,719        |
| <b>Total Assets</b>  | <b>123,719</b> |

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| <b>Total Equity</b> | <b>123,719</b> |
|---------------------|----------------|

|                                     |                |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b> | <b>123,719</b> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|

## 2020 Benevolences

| Total 2020 Benevolence        |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| General Benevolence           | 22,528        |
| Mission Support               | 32,129        |
| Capital Campaign              | 7,500         |
| Rolling Waters                | 20,400        |
| <b>Total 2020 Benevolence</b> | <b>82,557</b> |

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>Mission Support</b>   | <b>32,129</b> |
| <i>(given to the work of the ELCA wider church through Minneapolis Area Synod)</i> |               |

| Capital Campaign Benevolence                                      |              |
|---|--------------|
| The One Fund  | 2,500        |
| Lutheran Campus Ministry  | 2,500        |
| Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria-<br>COVID Response (via MAS) | 2,500        |
| <b>Capital Campaign Benevolence</b>                               | <b>7,500</b> |

| General Benevolence  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Various Sanctuary Related Causes                                   | 6,940         |
| ISAIAH   | 651           |
| Avenues for Youth  | 25            |
| Every Meal (The Sheridan Story)                                    | 5,563         |
| Families Moving Forward  | 5,500         |
| Disaster Relief  | 355           |
| Bread for the World  | 195           |
| Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative                            | 200           |
| Lutheran Campus Ministry – Twin Cities<br>(Annual Budgeted Giving) | 2,500         |
| Holy Trinity Lutheran – expansive<br>language liturgy              | 500           |
| Holy Trinity Lutheran – racial justice<br>support                  | 100           |
| <b>General Benevolence</b>   | <b>22,528</b> |

| Rolling Waters Dedicated Fund   |               |
|---|---------------|
| <i>(with a focus on racial justice and organizations led by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color)</i> |               |
| Voices for Racial Justice   | 1,000         |
| MIGIZI  | 500           |
| Defend Glendale and Public Housing Coalition  | 500           |
| MN Healing Justice Network  | 1,000         |
| Sanctuary Covenant Church   | 500           |
| American Indian Community Development<br>Corporation  | 500           |
| Minneapolis Area Synod – Racial Justice Organizer   | 1,000         |
| All Nations Indian Church   | 500           |
| Street Voices of Change (via Central Lutheran)  | 1,000         |
| Better Futures Minnesota  | 1,000         |
| Juxtaposition Arts  | 1,000         |
| Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center  | 1,000         |
| African Development Center  | 1,000         |
| Masjid al-Nur   | 1,000         |
| Redeemer Center for Life  | 1,000         |
| Wyman AME Church  | 1,000         |
| Tapestry Lutheran Church  | 1,000         |
| Makoce Ikikcupi   | 800           |
| NEON (Northside Economic Opportunity Network)   | 500           |
| Proverbs Christian Fellowship   | 1,200         |
| Fellowship Mission Baptist Church   | 1,200         |
| Minneapolis Central Church of Christ  | 1,200         |
| Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center  | 1,000         |
| <b>Rolling Waters Dedicated Fund</b>  | <b>20,400</b> |

## Annual Ministry Fund 2021 Budget

## Annual Ministry Fund 2021 Budget

## Income

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| General Giving      | 502,487        |
| Rental Income       | 121,986        |
| <b>Total Income</b> | <b>624,473</b> |

## Expense

|                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Salaries & Benefits   | 338,797        |
| Administration        | 35,180         |
| Operations            | 143,553        |
| Education             | 2,200          |
| Hope in the World     | 6,200          |
| Worship Ministries    | 9,786          |
| Relational Ministries | 2,098          |
| Youth & Young Adult   | 1,100          |
| Mission Support       | 32,662         |
| Finance (Mortgage)    | 52,897         |
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>624,473</b> |

Net Income (Difference) -

# **Annual Meeting Scripture and Litany**

## **A reading from Ephesians 4:11-16**

The gifts Christ gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

## **A Litany**

O God of all power and love ...  
**... we give thanks for your unfailing presence.**

O God of all power and love, we give thanks ...  
**... for the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.**

O God of all power and love ...  
**... we ask you to send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.**

O God of all power and love, we ask you ...  
**... to revive us to live as Christ's body in the world.**

O God of all power and love, we ask to be ...  
**... a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.**

O God of all power and love, we ask you to be with us ...  
**... wherever and however we gather.**  
**Unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,**  
**that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,**  
**through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**