



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF GLEN ELLYN

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR
2018-2019

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Members

of First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn, Illinois,
will be held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, June 2, 2019.

The meeting will be called to order following the 9:30 a.m. worship service,
but no earlier than 10:30 a.m.

The agenda for the meeting will include:

The Congregation will discuss and vote on
suggested revisions to the Bylaws.

The Congregation will vote on the slate of
Church Council and Committee members.

The Congregation will discuss and vote on the proposed Church budget.

Jennifer Umlauf, Clerk

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**ROSTER OF 2018-2019
CHURCH COUNCIL & STAFF**

CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator	John Mammaing
Moderator Designate	Kelley Kalinich
Assistant Moderator	Ted Harman
Treasurer	Tim Landry
Clerk	Jennifer Umlauf
Connections Committee Chair	Tom Pulver
Finance Committee Chair	Kelley Kalinich
Property & Grounds Committee Chair	Andy Ginger
Service & Justice Committee Chair	Chuck Lukavsky

STAFF

Senior Minister	The Rev. Seth Ethan Carey
Associate Minister	The Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller
Director of Christian Education	Catherine Curtis
Youth Education Coordinator	Cathy Basso
Youth Education Coordinator	Karrie Sim
Nursery Care Coordinator	Huong Luu
Nursery Care Coordinator	Kathleen Page
Director of Music Ministry	Michele Hecht
Associate for Music Ministry	Jeff Haeger
Organist	Paul Doerrfeld
Handbell Director	Matthew Prins
Pastoral Intern	T.J. Williams-Hauger
Director of Communications.....	Sherry Flugel
Business Administrator	Laura Shellady
Administrative Assistant	Joyce Driver
Sexton	José Beltran

AGENDA

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, June 2, 2019

Sanctuary

Invocation	The Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller
Call To Order/Determination of Quorum	John Mammaing
Approval of Minutes from 2018 Annual Meeting	Jennifer Umlauf
Annual Reports	
Moderator's Report	John Mammaing
Connections Committee Report	Tom Pulver
Finance Committee Report	Kelley Kalinich
Property & Grounds Committee Report	Andy Ginger
Service & Justice Committee Report	Chuck Lukavsky
Staff Directed Ministries (Education Report)	Catherine Curtis
Youth Representative to Council Report	Calla Mahr
Approval of 2019 By-Laws Revisions	Ted Harman
Nomination and Election of Officers and Committee Members	Tom Pulver
Approval of Fiscal 2019-2020 Operating Budget	Kelley Kalinich
Opportunity for Comments from the Members	John Mammaing
Benediction	The Rev. Seth Ethan Carey

OPEN & AFFIRMING STATEMENT

At First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, we rejoice in our community of faith, strengthened by diversity, including: culture, economic status, age, ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, and physical or mental abilities. We affirm that God is glorified when we welcome all people to our spiritual community, as Jesus did. Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

GLOBAL MISSION STATEMENT

A Global Mission Church: prays regularly for partners, missionaries and the world; educates its members about global issues from preschool age to adult; seeks justice for the "least of these" in the international community; receives the gifts of the global church; gives to the work of global mission; sends its members into the world to share the Good News; and grows in sharing the story of God's mission with others.

JUST PEACE COVENANT

Just Peace invites all of us to testify with our actions and lives. As a Just Peace Church, it is our commitment to act in love, faith and spirit as we live and work toward:

- Just Peace in the community—so that all may live free from fear
- Just Peace with the environment—so that life is sustained
- Just Peace in society—so that all may live with dignity
- Just Peace among the nations—so that human lives are protected

Therefore, we resolve to grow in love of God and neighbor as a Just Peace congregation and faithfully live out our vision to be grounded in tradition, centered in worship, called to serve, fortified by justice, sustained by peace, and free to dream.

MINUTES OF THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn Annual Meeting Minutes June 3, 2018

Attendance:

Staff:

The Rev. Seth Ethan Carey, Senior Minister
The Rev. Kendra Joyner-Miller, Associate Minister
The Rev. Melissa McCreery Riley, Associate Minister for Pastoral Care

Officers:

Nancy Ellis, Moderator
John Mamminga, Moderator Designate
Kelley Kalinich, Assistant Moderator
Tom Petrich, Treasurer
Tim Landry, Assistant Treasurer

Committee Chairs:

Jeannine Kannegiesser, Administration and Property Committee Chair
Hope Rodine, Connections Committee Chair
Cathy Christoff, Education Committee Chair
Laura Anderson, Service and Justice Committee Chair

Also present:

Members of the Congregation

After an invocation led by the Rev. Kendra Joyner-Miller, the Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn was called to order on June 3, 2018, at 11:00 am. The meeting was held in the Church sanctuary with Moderator Nancy Ellis chairing the proceedings and Clerk Alan Bayert recording the minutes. A quorum of the Congregation was determined by Nancy Ellis. Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting of June 4, 2017, were moved for approval, seconded by Linda Davenport and unanimously approved as recorded.

The Moderator, Treasurer and the four Committee Chairs each offered their summary report of the past year's highlights with an expression of their gratitude and joy of service to our Church community.

John Mamminga presented and moved for approval executive changes to the Bylaws including three Primary Items: 1) Establish a Finance Committee, 2) Establish Staff-Directed Ministries for Education, Music and Worship, and 3) Remove Education from the Committee Structure and move to Staff-Directed Ministries. Six other Secondary Items were also proposed. After some discussion, all were seconded by Peter Wroblewski and unanimously approved.

John Mamminga also presented the results of the Capital Campaign in raising nearly \$2.7 million, and expressed thanks to the Congregation.

Laura Anderson presented and moved for approval the adoption of a Just Peace Covenant. After some discussion this was seconded by Karen Pulver and unanimously approved.

Tom Petrich presented and moved for approval the Fiscal 2018-2019 Operating Budget. After some discussion this was seconded by Paul Wussow and unanimously approved.

Hope Rodine presented and moved for approval the slate of new officers and committee members which was seconded by Melinda Mahr and unanimously approved.

Nancy Ellis opened the floor for comments.

The Rev. Seth Ethan Carey closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Bayert, Clerk

REPORTS OF THE PASTORAL STAFF AND CHURCH OFFICERS

SENIOR MINISTER, The Reverend Seth Ethan Carey

“The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. -Matthew 7:25



As I look toward my 15th year here as a pastor and preacher, I cannot help but marvel at how much the world has changed since I arrived. Social media, smartphones, and Netflix were all in their infancy, where they existed at all. Google was just a search engine. And some people still thought *Nickelback* was a pretty cool band.

Our Church has changed, too, as we continue to grow in faith and in community, striving to be a church without walls. This past year we’ve established exciting new mission partnerships with Precious Blood Ministries of Reconciliation and World Relief. We’ve deepened our commitment to DuPage United, with folks actively working on issues of mental health, gun violence, and affordable housing. And thanks to last year’s successful *Called Forward Campaign*, we will be breaking ground on an exciting overhaul of Pilgrim Hall this summer, transforming it into a renewed space for fellowship, community, and radical hospitality for our homeless PADS guests. Christ calls us to live out our faith and serve our neighbor, and we are ever striving to be equal to the task.

The future is exciting, though I confess my enthusiasm is tempered by all of the losses that we’ve endured this year. While it may not be obvious to most of you – in part because of the confidential nature of pastoral work – I will tell you that this year, perhaps more than any other in my ministry, has been haunted by illness, death, and grief in our community. It troubles me deeply. But as Pastor Kendra and I continue to walk with folks who are hurting, I am encouraged that we don’t walk alone. I am inspired by this Congregation, who has clung together in so many ways and drawn circles of support around those who are sick or grieving. That’s *also* what Christ calls us to do, and you all do it so faithfully.

The 21st century church is not without its own challenges, either. As society continues to increase its technological and cultural momentum, institutions like the church – places that remain relatively immutable by comparison – risk getting left behind. People are engaging with their faith in new and different ways; and while we remain committed to offering transcendent worship experiences, we also need to consider how we can meet overcommitted families and individuals where they are.

This is our task, as we look to the future; where is this world headed, and what space will the church continue to occupy in people’s lives? I am grateful to belong to a church with such a strong foundation of faith. For while the world may change, and while we must evolve to meet its needs, I know that even when the rain falls, and the floods come, and the winds blow, the house that we’ve built together will stand tall.

"I have called you by name, you are mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you." Isaiah 43 1b -2



I was recently at a pastor friend's home and after watching a Disney movie with his little one, my friend's son Henry let out a sigh almost too big for his four years of life. "I was so scared there wouldn't be a happily ever after," and in an almost immediate transformation that is often unique to children, his brow unfurrowed, the cares of the world lifted, and he asked "can we have ice cream now?" Oh little Henry, if only life was filled with Happily Ever Afters ending in ice cream.

This year has been a heavy one in my own life and in the life of the Church as we longed for Happily Ever Afters.

This year I have held onto Isaiah's words because they don't speak of life being just Happily Ever After. These words from a prophet in the 6th century BC still speak to us now. These words affirm that in life there are going to be waters that will threaten to drown us, streams that may overwhelm us, and fire that could consume us. But we are also told that these trials will not destroy us, or at least not forever. This year, I have noticed that both our joy and our pain can make a home in our hearts.

And while this year has been hard and heart breaking, we have also felt such great joy as a Church. In the twenty baptisms that took place this past year, as we remembered God's promise of love poured out on each and everyone of us, there was joy. Gathering with parents of little ones from our Church on Tuesday mornings as the children play and the parents share in the humor and heartache of this calling of parenthood, there was joy. As we gathered with a group of parents and children to talk about stories of faith and themes from Harry Potter, there was joy (and some Harry Potter costumes too). As members of our Congregation raise awareness around issues of racism, white privilege, and systemic injustice, there was joy in that hard work. As we gathered just a few weeks ago standing among snow covered tulips affirming our Just Peace covenant and commitment to be God's people of peace and commissioning our peace pole, there was joy. As we confirm our young people into membership in the body of Christ, there is joy.

This joy doesn't detract or degrade our pain, but they nestle beside one another taking up residence in our hearts as we go on living as God's people in this broken and beautiful world. And it isn't Happily Ever After, but maybe it is the Good News.

“One sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?” Mark 2:23-24

Most people have a favorite church Sunday. For many it is Easter or Palm Sunday, or maybe Christmas Eve or Confirmation Sunday. For me it is the Sunday of the Annual Meeting. Yes, seriously. And why not? There’s always a full choir reprising their favorite hymn. The weather is almost always nice and parking is never a problem. There are no gifts to buy or relatives to host. No risk of family feuds or missed expectations. And let’s be honest, no one really feels compelled to dress up.

Unlike most people in our Church community who grew up in another faith tradition and have gratefully come to call this Church home, I am of the minority of members who grew up in a Congregational Church. In fact, I can trace my Congregational lineage all the way back to the Mayflower thanks to 3 ancestors, who in 1620 set out on an epic road trip with nothing more than the hope of religious freedom, and quite literally, a boatload of beer.

When I was a kid growing up in a Congregational Church, what I appreciated most was that our church got to make our own rules. Nobody could tell us what to do. If we wanted to call a new pastor, we could. If we wanted to ordain a woman minister, we could. If we wanted to declare ourselves open and affirming, we could. And so, once a year on the first Sunday of June, like our Congregational ancestors for nearly 400 years, this community comes together with the Holy Spirit as our guide, and we make our own rules. We decide how we will be governed, we choose leaders to guide our course, and we discuss and commit to our priorities. Say what you will about Easter or Christmas Eve, but for me it doesn’t get any better than this.

Our history of discerning what is right and challenging the status quo runs deep. In fact, it is core to who we are, and who we are called to be. Whether it was Jesus turning over the tables in the Temple, or Luther hammering a note on the door, or this Congregation voting to proclaim our call to be open and affirming 10 years ago this Sunday, we are not ones to stand idly by and be told what to believe or what to do.

And so, we go forth into the days and years ahead with a new group of Confirmands ready to share God’s love and peace with the world, and a team of youth eager to lend a helping hand to our neighbors in rural Kentucky. We have a new ministry team that is partnering with our friends on the South Side of Chicago, who together will try to bring an end to a seemingly hopeless cycle of poverty and violence. We are helping refugees with essentials and providing a warm meal and a place to sleep for the homeless. And we have countless other ministries and members who, through a myriad of ways, stand with the marginalized, provide comfort to those in need, and participate in God’s ongoing creation of this earth.

I am proud to call myself a Progressive Christian and a Congregationalist. I am grateful to have a voice at our Annual Meeting. I am in awe of the work and love of this Church. And I am most humbled and honored to have had the opportunity to serve as your Moderator.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF MAY 31, 2018	1570
TOTAL MEMBERS ADDED:	+ 31
(15 New, 2 Transfer, 14 Confirmands)	
TOTAL MEMBERS REMOVED:	- 7
(Includes transfers and members removed by own request)	
DEATHS:	- 3

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF MAY 31, 2019	1591
BAPTISMS:	8
(2 Adults & Confirmands, 8 Infants & Children)	
MARRIAGES:	0

AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	261
SPECIAL SERVICES:	
Christmas Eve	965
Ash Wednesday	105
Maundy Thursday	150
Good Friday	105
Easter Sunday	735

AVERAGE CHURCH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE	78
(55 Nursery - 12th Grade, 23 Volunteers & Staff)	

TOTAL AVERAGE ATTENDANCE (Children & Adults)	339
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(All figures are compiled from data beginning June 1, 2018 - May 31, 2019)

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES

CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE - Tom Pulver, Chair

The Connections Committee continued its work to enhance the spiritual life of the members of our Congregation by fostering a culture of engagement. The Committee is responsible for enhancing the community experience at our Church by creating an inclusive environment, communications to encourage involvement, and the coordination of membership integration. This past year has seen significant activity by the Committee with all its members contributing to its work. I have had the pleasure working with Committee members Erin Clark, Anne Gaertner, Melinda Mahr, Stephanie Harman, Susan Selzer, Jim Springer, Bill Sailor and our co-chair, Elaine Metzger. I know the Committee will continue to thrive under the leadership of Elaine in the 2019-2020 Church year.

In order to better focus on the missions of the Committee, we developed three subcommittees which are the Major Events, Community Groups and Outreach. The subcommittees then enlisted, coordinated and worked with other members of the Congregation to accomplish their goals.

Major events that occurred this past year include activities such as Rally Day, the Fall All-Church Picnic, the Progressive Dinner, Advent Festival, new member orientation, and the annual, and very competitive, Euchre party. A significant project led by Anne Gaertner working with Sherry Flugel was the successful completion and roll-out of the Church's Photo Directory which is available in hard-copy, as well as the on-line app. The Major Events subcommittee is busy working on an event that will occur on Sunday, September 8 which will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the original FCCGE Church building at its current location, at the corner of Forest Avenue and Anthony Street. Also, the subcommittee will be working on a re-vamped Rally Day format.

The Church has a very active small group program coordinated by our Community Groups subcommittee. Currently, there are 29 community groups with some new ones added this past year, such as, Oasis LGBTQ and a book club. The subcommittee continues to research what community groups will interest members of the Congregation and is always available to assist anyone or group that wishes to start a new community.

The Outreach subcommittee has been developing a plan and recruiting individuals to contact and have a conversation with every member of our Congregation. The outreach goal is three-fold: 1) to serve as a barometer of how the Church is being perceived; 2) to share upcoming events at the Church; 3) to see if there are any special pastoral care needs. You will soon be hearing more about the work of this subcommittee and expect to be contacted over the next few weeks.

The Connections Committee is also charged with submitting candidates to serve in leadership positions within the Church. We are pleased to submit the nominees for the slate of open positions on committees for the Church.

Finally, a thank you to all the Committee members. It has been a blessing and inspiration to work with each of you and to reinforce the idea of how volunteers can make a real difference in our lives.

MINISTRIES UNDER THE CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE

Community Groups – Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller

Community does not happen instantaneously, but is something nurtured over time with intentionality. Our Church continues to nurture more intimate communities and personal connections as we sow the seeds of a small group ministry. These Community Groups provide an opportunity for people to connect in a meaningful way, to deepen their faith and their relationships with God and with one another. This past year, we have been looking at how we do community groups - how do we invite others to be a part, how do we grow deep while not being exclusive, and importantly, how do we make sure there is room for all? We are continually looking for ways that members can plug into these small, committed Community Groups and hope you reach out, if interested.

We also know that one size does not fit all and that people want and need to experience community in a variety of ways. We continue to celebrate groups like our Film Group that meets to discuss themes and motifs found in movies; our Oasis Group that provides a safe space for members of the LGBTQ community to share their stories with one another; our AMEN Bible study that reads not only scripture, but books from the Dalai Lama, Pope Francis, and Desmond Tutu, as they explore life and faith. We had short term community groups form this year, as we had members spend six weeks having Sacred Conversations on Race and exploring white privilege; and a delightful group of adults and children also gathered this fall to explore religious themes found within the pages of beloved Harry Potter.

There are many ways to plug into the life of our Church community and we hope you find the Goldilocks - “just right” - fit for you!

Kitchen Chix – Susie Temple

The busy year for the Kitchen Chix started in September when we served appetizers to 650 people at Rally Day. Sundays with Food (a random Sunday when we serve food after each service) included Cookies after the Children’s Cantata and Soup/Chili. Our Easter tradition served up bird’s a plethora of cookies and deviled eggs to almost 1000 parishioners. We prepared close to 2000 meals for All Church Dinners, Lunches and Dinners for Visitors, Confirmation Celebration, and other special needs. After Memorial Services, our compassionate care served savories and thousands of cookies to comfort the bereaved.

Our dedicated Chix number around 50 talented and willing workers who cook, serve, clean and donate both time and food items year round. We accept any challenge and eagerly dish up our culinary treats with a bounty of love and sharing. An emergency email will elicit volunteers who give their time and talents enthusiastically to a variety of requests. Anyone who wants an excellent way of becoming involved is welcome. Many of the best onion choppers, can openers, recyclers, gourmet chefs, table setters and eager workers say the kitchen is where it’s at! As we prepare nourishment, we are nurtured; as we serve, we are blessed.

We are fearfully and wonderfully made!

Newcomers’ Ministry - Clara Hughes

For the fiscal year 2018-2019, the Newcomers’ Ministry held 4 welcoming sessions with 24 guests attending. Fourteen newcomers, who attended sessions within the last 12 months, chose to become members of our family of faith. During the newcomer sessions, either a member of the education staff, Clergy, a Moderator, or a member of the Connections Committee attended the sessions to provide additional focus on the life and faith of our Congregation. Child care was available and welcomed by families and their younger children who wanted to play.

Leaders of the Newcomers’ Ministry include Clara Hughes, Hal Temple, Virginia Highstone, and Jill Hewitt. Our Ministry would not be successful if it were not for the efforts of our staff who attend the meetings and watch over children. We especially thank Sherry Flugel for communications and Joyce Driver who manages the administrative aspects of the welcoming sessions, joining, and membership.

FCCGE MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Membership in this Congregation is open to any person who requests it, who confesses faith in Jesus Christ as Lord, who agrees to its purpose and covenant, and who agrees to abide by the responsibilities of a member. These responsibilities are determined by the Connections Committee and, according to our Constitution, are to be distributed to all members annually. As a faithful reminder of the promise we made to serve God together and to support each other in our respective journeys of faith; members of this faith community are expected to:

Attend Worship. We come together to be centered on God in community with others. Regular attendance nourishes and renews our spirit. It reminds us that we are part of something greater than ourselves. We are strengthened to interact within our daily community with an attitude of Christian love and fellowship.

Volunteer. Contribute your time and talents to the church on a ministry team or church sponsored event(s). We are the hands and feet of Christ. Enjoy the fellowship of others as you engage in meaningful activities within this faith community.

Give. *“Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:20-21)* Our church budget is funded entirely by the financial generosity of our members. You are encouraged to contribute a percentage of your resources. By doing so, as your resources change the dollar amount may vary; but your commitment to support the life and work of the church remains constant.

Pray. We believe that God is still speaking and that also means that God is listening. During worship we pray in community centered on God, supported by each other. During the week, we pray privately, for each other and to grow and move forward in our own personal faith journey.

Vote. As a member of First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn you have the right and the responsibility to vote for nominated lay leaders, to approve the annual Church budget, and other important matters of the Church that require congregational approval. Your involvement making decisions in the life of the Church is essential to help our community of faith grow and change centered on God.

Open and Affirming Ministry - Virginia Highstone

Members: Virginia Highstone, Hal Temple, Penny Andersen, Cathy and Bob Tyler, Mary Ellen and Chuck Lukavsky

The purpose of the Open and Affirming Ministry is to keep the tenets of the Open and Affirming Statement fresh and vital in the eyes of the Congregation through education and testimony. We welcome other members to join us in our work to give life to the Open and Affirming Statement.

We continue to maintain a presence with the Newcomers' Ministry in order that those seeking to join the Church are familiar with its commitment as an ONA congregation, and we thank Clara Hughes for her continued support of this commitment. Hal Temple and Virginia Highstone are members of this ministry.

In November 2018, we were able to expand our awareness concerning issues regarding LGBTQ people in Africa, where they can be in danger from their governments and from the general population. Thanks to the auspices of TJ Williams-Hauger, we invited a gay activist from Ghana to speak after a Sunday service. He gave compelling testimony about his personal journey with his family and community as a young gay man. He is now working with other LGBTQ folks in several West African countries on issues of safety. He also spoke of his involvement with an initiative with churches in the Republic of South Africa to begin to normalize the treatment of LGBTQ people there. More than 30 church members attended this presentation, where refreshments were provided by the ONA Ministry.

We have continued our focus on issues faced by local transgender youth. We support GVOE (Glenbard Voices of Equity), the advocacy group made up of students and parents at Glenbard high schools. Three members of our ministry regularly attend GVOE meetings, which are held here at FCCGE. Members of the ONA Ministry attended Glenbard School District board meetings, spoke, and wrote letters in support of a change in policy to make school more comfortable and welcoming for transgender youth – a policy which was adopted.

Prime Timers (Senior Ministry) - Jack Breeser

The Prime Timers was founded in 2002 to develop a Senior Ministry at our Church in an effort to provide interesting activities for our retired Church members and their friends.

The planning team meets on the second Tuesday each month during the school year. Members of the team are: Rocki DeVoy (Chair), Jack Breeser, Nancy Djangi, Eunice Green, Linda Hoornbeek, Louise Kolar, Pudge Krick, Fred Nauert, Betty Peaslee, and Jerry Schurmeier. The planning team welcomes any interested Church member to join this group.

Our main events are Brown Bag luncheons held on the third Wednesday at 12:00 noon in Pilgrim Hall during the school year. This past year, we welcomed speaker, Dan Anderson, from the Glen Ellyn Historical Society; and Gary Johnson on underwater photography. Our December program was presented by CERT, the Community Emergency Response Team. The April program was presented by Lynda Hoornbeek with a review of her latest book.

Our summer program is scheduled for the August 3rd concert at Cantigny with the West Suburban Symphony Orchestra.

Once each month, our Planning team helps prepare and mail The Senior Newsletter to our senior Church members. Contact the Church office if you wish to receive this mailing.

This church year reintroduced the Finance Committee to our leadership structure. After the successful Capital Campaign pledged to care for our treasured facility and with an Annual Budget of over one million dollars, the Moderator Team and Clergy felt that a special oversight of the financial health of our Church was prudent. Our Committee members of: Dennis Kalten, Tim Landry, Dave Mook, Tom Petrich, Sylvia Rodee, Laura Shellady, and Rich Troyer joined me and our leadership team in developing a baseline of tasks to serve as components of our oversight.

Specific monthly work of the Committee included: monitoring and developing the Annual Budget; in collaboration with the Property & Grounds Committee, monitoring the Capital Campaign/Facility Needs Budget; and receiving regular updates from the Annual and Endowment Funds. Additionally, the Committee addressed specialized tasks to include: developing general fiscal policies and procedures; examining and making recommendations on the formatting of the current “giving statement” sent quarterly to members; and reviewing the Church’s liability and loss insurance. The next steps include implementing the identified policies and procedures in preparation for a potential future external audit and managing, as well as updating our records retention and archiving of documents.

The Committee also examined the Treasurer rotation model favoring a three-year rotation, similar to all committee assignments, from the current four to five-year rotation. As such, the new Treasurer rotation will include the roles of: Assistant Treasurer (year 1), Treasurer (year 2) and Treasurer Emeritus (year 3). The recommendations for updates to our By-Laws and in the Committee member nominees presented to the Congregation at our Annual Meeting are reflective of this new three-year rotation.

The giving and support offered by our Congregation is awe-inspiring! Equally sobering are the financial needs to support our facility, missions, programs, services, and employees. We are grateful to the Congregation for recognizing and prioritizing in your annual and special giving, the importance of making and meeting your pledges, including the potential “stretching” of your personal budget to keep our First Congregational Church healthy financially to meet our various needs.

We have been reminded throughout the church year of 2 Corinthians 9:7 “God loves a cheerful giver.” I would also offer the words of the poet and author Maya Angelou who said, “I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.”

Thank you for entrusting us with your contributions. We have strived to be good stewards of the resources provided and to nurture and care for these resources, allowing us to pass along a strong financial future for our cherished Church.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report contains two sections. The first is a report on the financial activities of the current fiscal year to-date (through April 30, 2019) and the second being comments regarding the 2019-20 Annual Budget proposed by the Church Council for the Congregation's approval.

The current fiscal year of First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn begins on July 1st and ends on June 30, 2019. This allows for our fiscal year to match our program year. Since our Annual Meeting is prior to our fiscal year-end, year-end financial statements are not available for the Annual Meeting. The fiscal-year-end financial statements should be available and published on the Church website by August 31, 2019.

Financial Position

The financial position of the Church is defined by our balance sheet. It reflects where we are as of April 30, 2019, identifying all cash on hand (operating fund, Endowment Fund, restricted donations and Church Council designated funds), historical investment in our building, debt, and equity. We use the Cash Basis of accounting, so there are no payables listed such as payroll or other liabilities. We also don't record depreciation on our building and equipment. The following is our most recent balance sheet as of April 30, 2019.

First Congregational Church Financial Position as of April 30, 2019

Assets

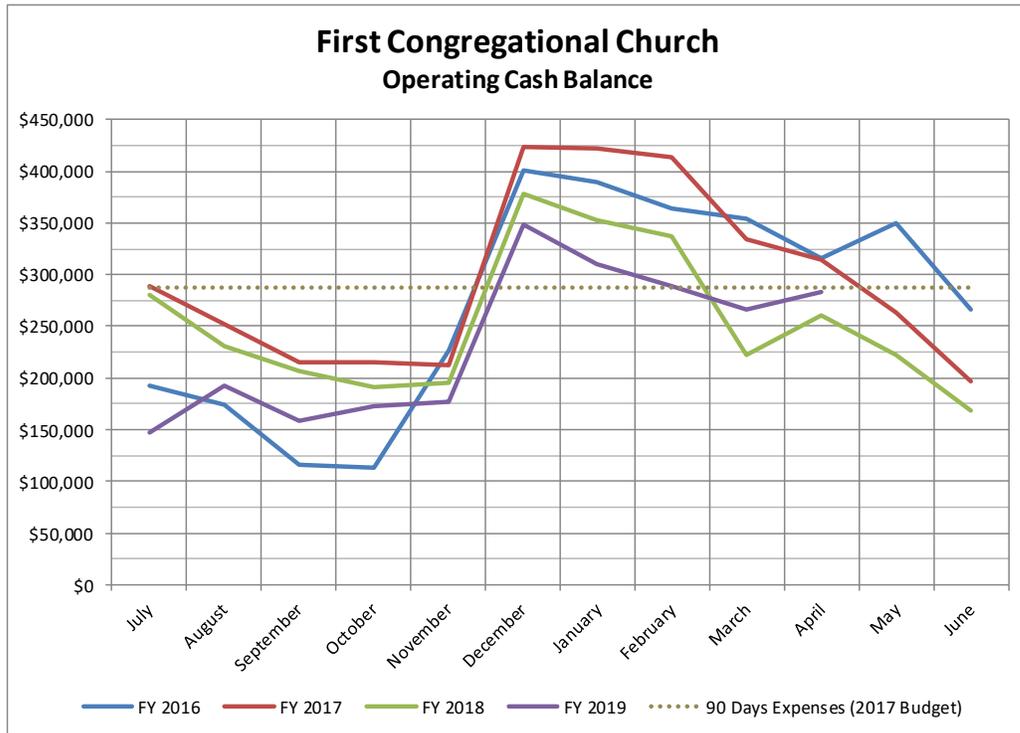
Operating Fund Cash	\$271,556
Restricted Donations & Council Designated	
Building Reserve Fund	\$0
Building Reserve Council Designated	\$56,358
Music	728
PADS	69,139
Youth Work Camp	4,000
Seminary Scholarships	5,311
General Education	1,520
Property and Grounds	1,875
Charitable Crisis	841
Ensuing Year Pledge	53,593
Capital Campaign	1,127,809
Total Restricted and Designated	<u>\$1,321,174</u>
Endowment Fund	
Investments	\$776,158
Receivable from Operating Fund	75,118
Total Endowment Fund	<u>\$851,276</u>
Fixed Assets	\$6,751,192
Total Assets	<u>\$9,195,198</u>

Liabilities and Equity

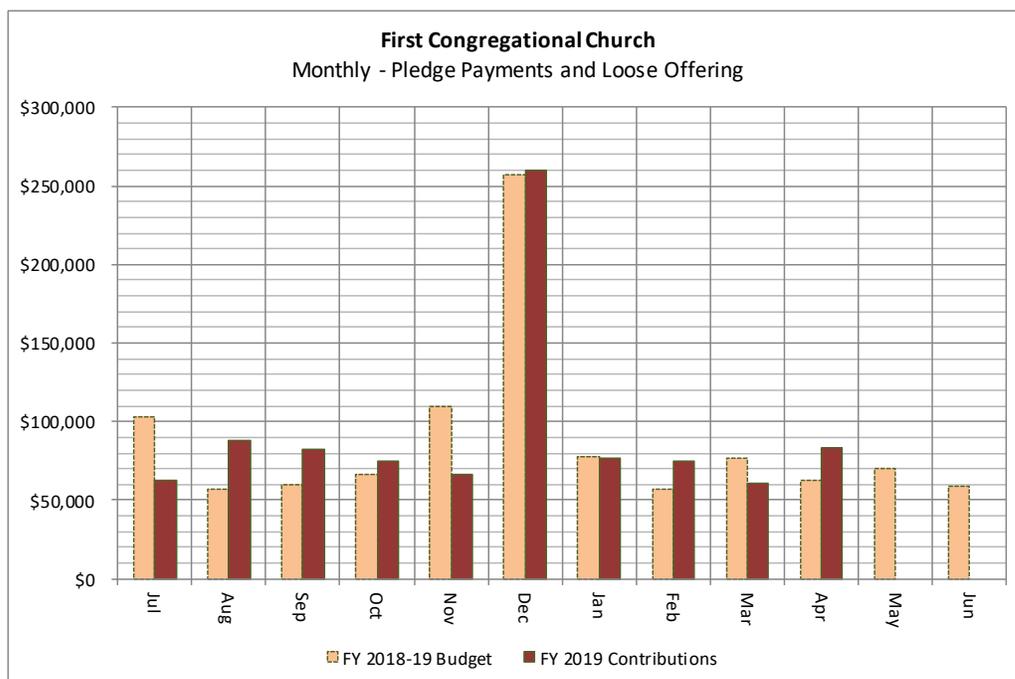
Debt	
Endowment Note Payable	\$75,118
Community Bank Payable	<u>0</u>
Total Debt	\$75,118
Equity	9,120,080
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>\$9,195,198</u>

Cash Position

Many activities of the Church are very seasonal in nature. For example, the programs of the Church are limited during the summer and in contrast, the donations to the Church are very high at the end of the calendar year. However, our biggest expenditure, personnel, does not decrease during the summer. Therefore, our operating cash balance peaks in December and then decreases throughout the year. Our historic monthly cash balances and a line showing the recommended 90 days cash we should be maintaining are shown below.



We estimate and budget our receipts based on the historical seasonality of collections. The chart below reflects our current fiscal year actual receipts vs. budget.



Long-term Debt

Church Mortgage – The loan was retired in May 2018.

Endowment Fund Loan – In July 2012, FCCGE obtained a note with the FCCGE Endowment Fund for \$190,000 amortized over 10 years at a twice annually adjusted lending rate plus 3 points. As of April 30, 2019, the debt owed to the Endowment Fund is \$69,731. The annual payments of principal and interest total \$25,600. Beginning with the current fiscal year, the payments are made from the Capital Fund and are removed from the Annual Budget, as the original loan was accessed for Church Office and Pilgrim Hall Kitchen renovations.

Line of Credit – In February 2008, the Church Council approved a line of credit in the amount of \$200,000, secured by a mortgage on our building and carries an interest rate of prime. This loan has been renewed annually. The line of credit has never been used and as such has no outstanding balance.

OTHER FINANCIAL REPORTS

THE ANNUAL FUND TEAM - The Reverend Seth Ethan Carey

Annual Fund Results for Fiscal Year 2018-2019

This year, our Church's Annual Fund - the *All Your Journey's* campaign - asked folks to consider where they are on their personal journey of giving. We recognize that some folks are just starting out, while others have made giving a regular part of their lives.

Having just completed a successful capital campaign and raising an additional 2.7 million dollars last year, we recognize that folks may not be able to increase their giving dramatically; we had nonetheless hoped for a modest increase of approximately 3% over last year's budget. We aren't there yet. We are still waiting to hear from approximately 59 households who pledged last year and have not pledged this year, many of whom have already announced their intention to give.

As of May 28, 2019, here's where we're at with the numbers:

- Our pledge total for this year's campaign is, thus far, \$894,989; a \$136,586 decrease from last year's pledge total of \$1,031,575.
- There are approximately 59 households who pledged last year and have not pledged this year. We are hoping to still hear from you! Altogether, you pledged \$136k last year.
- We are pleased to announce that we have 104 new and increased pledges.
- Our median and average gifts increased by 20% and 9%, respectively, to \$2600 and \$4068.
- 63 donors pledged more than \$5,000 and 109 pledged between \$1,000 and \$5,000.
- 40% of our donors increased their pledge for the next fiscal year.

We are very encouraged by the enthusiastic support we received from our Congregation, and we are hopeful to make up the difference in the weeks to come.

If you participated in this year's campaign – thank you! All of your gifts and contributions are appreciated, valued and yet another example of how we are a community like no other.

Thank you again for your support.

ENDOWMENT FUND TEAM – Dave Mook

The value of the Endowment Fund as of 12/31/18 was as follows:

	<u>12/31/18</u>	<u>12/31/17</u>	<u>Change</u>
Vanguard Wellesley Fund	\$527,069	\$521,155	\$ 5,914
Vanguard Wellington Fund	177,960	158,970	18,990
Outstanding Church Loan	<u>81,996</u>	<u>101,795</u>	<u>(19,799)</u>
Total	\$ 787,025	\$ 728,314	\$ 5,105

As of March 31, 2018, the total value of the Endowment Fund (made up of the three categories above) is \$839,673.

Vanguard Wellesley – primary investment fund with a conservative mix of 35% equities / 65% fixed income. This is the fund into which any contributions received are placed. In calendar 2018, contributions were \$30,500.

Vanguard Wellington – moderate mix of 65% equities / 35% fixed income. This is the fund that receives monthly church loan payments (\$2,133.32).

Church Loan – Original balance was \$190,000. Loan was made in 2012 for Church office and Pilgrim Hall Kitchen renovations. It is amortized monthly on a 10-year schedule.

In October 2018, a payment of \$22,233.00 was made from the Endowment Fund to the Church Operating Fund. This represented dividends / income for 2017. It includes salary augmentation of \$2,248 for Church staff as stipulated by the donor.

The Endowment Committee will be providing the opportunity to recognize our Church building's 100th anniversary with \$100 (or larger) contributions as part of the anniversary celebration later in 2019.

Endowment Committee members: Darryl Baltimore, Liz Werth and Dave Mook (Chair).

The Property & Grounds Committee humbly accepted the responsibility of stewarding our beautiful building and grounds. This historic place has made a difference in many lives for more than a century and we look forward to the next 100 years.

Our Church community enthusiastically supported the Called Forward Capital Campaign, enabling us to begin to invest in much needed improvements in the facilities where much of our local mission and ministry work takes place each week. We began to undertake larger, deferred maintenance and key capital projects, along with the annual range of repairs that present themselves.

This year, we addressed not only the projects and work, but also the strategic planning, budgeting and building planning that are required for the future. Our longer-term plans are partially completed and the work continues. Additionally, we began to address technology, hardware and software opportunities that will serve us well in the future.

Financial capital is important to these efforts; but human capital, time and effort, are absolutely essential to make them happen. The team organized into sub-teams and invested exceptional levels of personal energy and time. Please thank Joe Lombardo for 4 years of contributions and thank Don Foster, Bill Schumacher and Steve Baker for 3 years of important efforts. Going forward, please offer your thanks and support to Hugh Walborn, Rick Hokenson, Mike Metzger, Sharon Wussow and Chris Henkel as they continue to take on the substantial workload of capital improvements. We look forward to additional new team members who will soon join us.

Please also acknowledge the strong partnership and support from our staff, especially Laura Shellady, Sue Markowski, and Joyce Driver in coordinating efforts and administration. Our Sexton, José Beltran is also pivotal in achieving progress and we thank him for stepping up to help us make improvements at lower cost.

Listed below are projects undertaken the past year. Those noted with a **(C)** were Capital projects. Those with a **(J)** are DIY projects José executed. Those with a **(V)** are those accomplished with hands-on volunteer participation. All others were Annual Fund maintenance projects.

Planning and Budgeting (V)

- Restructured and re-estimated capital improvement plan and budget. Established a process for annual updates
- Piloted an annual property inspection and reporting process to help plan and prioritize short-term actions
- Created a plan for improved directional signage / numbering to improve navigation and facilitate emergency management
- Created and currently quoting a maintenance plan for Sanctuary
- Inventoried and created an updated plan for storage on the lower level

Project Pilgrim

- Collected input from key user groups regarding mission, ministry and functional needs **(V)**
- Hired and directed architect in development of remodeling plans designed to improve functionality for key missions and ministries using key facilities
- Bidding project to multiple contractors, permitting with Village, expecting summer 2019 construction
- Developing alternative plans with PADS to continue PADS services without interruption **(V)**

Life Safety

- Replaced outmoded, no-longer-serviceable life safety panel **(C)**
- Conducted various remediation activities following multiple fire and insurance inspections
- Installed automatic door opener on north parking lot door **(C)**
- Successfully stimulated Village replacement of sidewalk sections to eliminate tripping hazards
- Removed large dead tree on east property line

Lighting

Installed multi-head spotlights in art gallery (J)

Heating and Air Conditioning

Replaced AC compressor for clergy office and conference room area

Repaired condenser leak on Sanctuary AC

Radiator repairs / reconditioning on multiple units

Replaced rest room / shower rooftop ventilator (C)

Replaced boiler room amplifier control for external air intake

Restored and painted radiator covers in southeast lobby and chapel (J)

Pre-emptive replacement of badly worn HVAC unit pulleys to extend belt life and reliability

Windows

Completed 2 ½ month project to restore almost every stained glass and double-hung window (C)

Sponsored Eagle scout project to clean and paint youth room window frames (V)

Roof

Replaced chapel roof (C)

Replaced / repaired downspouts and drain tile connections on chapel / classroom building (C)

Replaced west Sanctuary gutters and downspouts, repaired corbels and fascia (C)

Repaired tiled roof leak above man lift

Repaired and replaced tiles on south dormers (C)

Replaced tiled roof valley and tower flashing above sacristy and organ loft ©

Computers

Replaced 3 staff computers (C)

Enlarged internal hard-drive storage capacity

Installed cloud storage backup capability for staff and clergy computers

Installed new anti-virus software on staff and clergy computers

Completing conversion from Windows 7 to Windows 10

Exterior Doors

Replaced south Sanctuary entrance doors and restored vintage hardware (C) (V)

Repaired PADS volunteer entrance lock (V)

Plumbing

Replaced kitchen ejector pump

Repaired and replaced dishwasher backflow valve

Installing metered, commercial replacement faucets in rest rooms (J)

Painting

Painted southeast entrance lobby (V)

Painted basement rest rooms (V)

Elevator

Re-marked and labelled elevator to improve usability (V)

Chimney Cap

Installed cap and followed wildlife management protocol to remove bats and birds from building interior (C)

MINISTRIES UNDER THE PROPERTY & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Columbarium Ministry - Jack Breaser

The Columbarium Memorial Center of First Congregational Church is located on the West side of the South wall of the Church Narthex. This "Cherished Memories Memorial Center" was installed in 2004 and dedicated on Sunday October 1, 2004. The center provides 50 individual niches and 16 companion units for the inurnment of the remains of members of our Church, a spouse, immediate family, former members and friends of the Church.

First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn is the owner and manager of the memorial center. The ministry team is responsible for sales, accounting of income and expenditures, processing applications, official record keeping and facility maintenance. In just fourteen years our Church families have purchased 13 of the 50 individual niches and 12 of the 16 companion niches.

The columbarium was financed as an investment of our Endowment Committee. Income from the sale of memorial units has been repaid to the Endowment Committee.

By adding cremation memorialization, the Church continues the long tradition of burial in the church. Since the time of early Christianity, the church has been the final resting place for members; first in the catacombs beneath the church and later in church cemeteries. The Memorial Columbarium at our Church continues this tradition.

On Rally Day, we distributed information on the Columbarium to create greater awareness among our membership. Information regarding purchase of a niche can be obtained from the Church office or by contacting Jack Breaser (630-469-9085) or anyone on the ministry team— Susie Temple, Don Foster, Charles Post.

Garden Ministry – Ted Harman

The Garden Ministry cares for the various Church gardens. This includes weeding, laying mulch and adding new plantings. In addition to providing beauty to the Church grounds, we are proud to support Glen Ellyn's efforts to support pollinators.

Nancy Bell joined the Garden Ministry this year and will be integrating new flowers and plants into our gardens. Rob Ebl has continued to help with mulching and other tasks. Rob and Heather Ebl have also stepped up to plant the flowers in the pots in the front of the Church. We thank Karen Ellis for her years of service in maintaining these pots. Lee and Jan Anderson have agreed to maintain the flower boxes on the ramp along the parking lot entrance. We thank Sharon Wussow for her years of service in maintaining these boxes. Gabe Koenig and Leslie Foster have helped with the weeding of the gardens.

We welcome anyone who would like to assist in the care and maintenance of our gardens.

Handyperson Ministry – Rick Hokenson

The Handyperson Ministry has had another busy year adding multiple doorstops, closet poles, coat hooks and deadbolts.

We are very grateful for Sharon Wussow's leadership of a team that replaced 600 plus pew cushion buttons in the sanctuary. We appreciate those who helped build book holders on the pews, replace broken parts on carts and shelving. Jack Miller patched and painted walls for the popular Visual Arts ministry. A new hand railing along the stairs to the altar was hand-crafted to match another and installed.

Finally, like every year, a few plumbing issues surfaced and were handled. Many thanks to Jose for all the help and support he gives us.

It was a rewarding and productive year for the Service & Justice Committee as we continued to foster community relationships, delved into new areas of service and social justice, and culminated the year with a celebration of being a Just Peace Church.

As we began the church year, our nation was reeling from images of children being detained and kept separated from their families at the Mexico-US border. On July 22, a panel discussion on immigration issues was held with speakers Catherine Norquist, Director of Immigration Legal Services at World Relief DuPage/Aurora and Hunter Wiggins, partner with a Chicago law firm who, for the past year, has been traveling to the Texas border doing pro bono work representing asylum seekers. More than 20 Congregation members attended to learn more about current immigration laws and the discussion prompted further work with World Relief in April 2019, when the Congregation donated specific household items for a World Relief Welcome Kit. The Committee hopes to facilitate another Welcome kit and extend this gesture of extravagant welcome again in the coming year.

In August, we co-hosted a “get out the vote” party where over 1,500 post cards were hand-written and sent out urging registered voters who had not voted in the last national election to get to the polls and vote in the November 2018 midterm elections.

On November 4, more than 50 adults and youth group members participated in three circle group discussions moderated by members from Precious Blood Ministries of Reconciliation (PBMR). The circle discussions centered around restorative justice which attempts to bring victims and perpetrators together to restore relationships. PBMR, located in the Back of the Yards area in Chicago, also offers programs that help people with loss due to gun violence and incarceration. They offer life and job training skills, as well as host classes in art, woodworking and silk screen printing. Members of FCCGE were again encouraged to participate in the May 28, 2019, PBMR’s Mothers for Peace March, with the theme “Disrupting Violence”.

In conjunction with our Sacred Conversations on Race class this fall, we partnered with St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Glen Ellyn to co-sponsor a showing of the documentary, “The Long Shadow” which shows the long-lasting impact the Civil War has on racism and provides much needed context when considering the major issues impacting black/white relations in the United States today.

During the year, the Committee worked on ways to display our Just Peace Covenant and UCC designation as a Just Peace Church, adopted by the Congregation on June 3, 2018. A printable version was framed to display in the Church and the Committee commissioned a ‘Peace Pole’ to install in one of the Church gardens. Each side of the four-sided peace pole contains one of the tenets of our Peace Covenant:

- Just Peace in the community – so that all may live free from fear
- Just Peace with the environment – so that life is sustained
- Just Peace in society – so that all may live with dignity
- Just Peace among the nations – so that human lives are protected

The culmination of the Committee’s work was the celebration of our Peace Covenant, testimonies given about each of the four tenets and the dedication of the Peace Pole in the front garden during worship.

This year, the Service & Justice Committee had the opportunity to allocate \$10,000 in funding to mission support. The Committee analyzed several options and decided on the following allocation:

\$1,500 to the Angola Hymnal project which will help fund their building program.

\$1,500 to Garden Works, an organization which helps feed people in need.

\$5,000 to Precious Blood Ministries of Reconciliation

\$1,000 to the People's Resource Center of Wheaton

\$1,000 to National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) DuPage

Thank you to the Committee members who served this year: Nancy Bell, Carol Montgomery Fate, Jennifer Sellers, Karen Pulver, and Jackie McCarthy; and to George Douaire, Gina Meyers and Antonia Arcely who served on the Committee for a portion of the year.

MINISTRIES UNDER THE SERVICE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Angola Partnership Ministry - Ernie Wright

In 2005, the Angola Partnership was formed between the Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola and the Illinois Conference—UCC. The goal is working together to build the one body of Christ in two different places. Angola is a country situated on the west Coast of Africa and is a country struggling greatly to recover from 500 years of oppressive colonial rule followed by 27 years of violent civil war (1975 - 2002).

Our FCCGE Angola Ministry provides volunteer leadership on the Illinois Conference Angola Team, as well as a meeting place for bi-monthly team meetings, since team members come from Northern Illinois churches near and far. Over the years we have supported the church in Angola in rebuilding hospitals, churches and schools. We have provided hospital equipment, donated 157 bibles for a bible drive, and helped establish a seminary school. We have hosted several Angolan guests and supported missionaries.

1. A delegation of four individuals from Illinois conference UCC Churches is departing for Angola in June, 2019. One individual will stay in Angola for six months and teach English to seminar students. Another will teach for one month. Two others will travel within Angola for two weeks to connect with numerous congregations and distribute educational supplies.
2. The Ministry team is working with Caterpillar Corporation to provide a donated farm tractor to the Dondi mission station in Angola.

Other ministry activities include the following:

1. Raise awareness of this global partnership with outreach contacts to congregations, associations, and conference-wide annual meetings.
2. Continue to develop church-to-church partnerships that join an Angolan congregation and an Illinois congregation in partnership activities that include:
 - regular prayer for each other both private and corporate
 - ongoing communication with one another to know each other better
 - mutual education as to the evangelism and social witness work of each church

Thank you FCCGE for your continued support of this global ministry. For more information, feel free to contact Beverly Porzelt or Ernie Wright.

DuPage United – Jackie McCarthy

Our membership in DuPage United allows FCCGE to put our faith into action alongside 25 other faith-based and non-profit organizations in DuPage County. This diverse mix of institutions working together enabled us to harness our collective social justice power and take effective and organized actions on key areas of mutual interest. This past year, our core team met monthly as we worked on DuPage United areas of: 1) engaging local officials in mental health crisis issues; 2) improving gun safety to protect lives; and 3) increasing affordable housing and reducing homelessness in DuPage County.

Engaging local officials in mental health crisis issues

- Advocated for Police Officers to be trained in crisis intervention to properly deal with individuals in crisis. By developing ongoing relationships with DuPage County's Sheriff James Mendrick and States Attorney Robert Berlin, **over 700 of DuPage County Officers have been trained in crisis intervention**, up from 60 officers only three years ago.
- Instead of taking individuals in crisis to jail or the emergency room, police need to take individuals to Crisis Stabilization Units (CSUs) where they can receive treatment and mental health services.
 - ◇ **Increased utilization of DuPage County Health Department's own CSU** where it is now allowing drop offs from Wheaton Emergency Medical Services and continues to allow police to drop off non-violent offenders in crisis with mental health issues.
 - ◇ **Use of a new grant of the U.S. Department of Justice** to further develop sustainable solutions to divert individuals with serious mental health issues from the criminal justice system.
 - ◇ **Working to resolve insurance reimbursement rates for mental health treatment** - Prior to 2019, the daily reimbursement rate for CSU services was about \$800; but the current rate was reduced to an unrealistic \$65. As a result, health care facilities no longer provide CSU services.
- **Met with Governor Pritzker** on March 21, when DuPage United and its Metro Industrial Area Foundation (IAF) counterparts in Kane, Lake and Cook County, met with the Governor to gain his support to restore reimbursement rates for CSU services. After hearing about the urgency of the matter from our DuPage United/Metro IAF team during the meeting, the Governor directed an immediate follow-up meeting to take place to resolve the reimbursement rate issue.
- DuPage United/Metro IAF team **met with Deputy Governor Sol Flores, Department of Healthcare and Family Services Director Theresa Eagleson, States Attorney Joe McMahon** and key healthcare providers on April 25 to get the CSU hospital reimbursement rate reinstated to \$800 and in writing by July 1.

Improving gun safety to protect lives

- Held an Assembly March 10 to **recognize States Attorney Berlin and DuPage County Sheriff Mendrick** for their collaborative work with DuPage United and encourage their support as allies with Metro IAF gun safety campaign, "Do Not Stand Idly By". Pastor Seth was one of the guest speakers at this event.
- Asked State's Attorney Berlin and DuPage County Sheriff Mendrick to sign a "Request for Information" **demanding that gun manufacturers track where the guns are sold** and account for ways in which gun safety technology can reduce gun violence.
- Using the power of shareholder votes, DuPage United leaders and allies across the country successfully **passed two shareholder resolutions with gun companies** Strum and Ruger, as well as Smith and Wesson to require the companies to track gun violence associated with their guns.
- **Held an Interfaith Shabbat Service** November 2 at Congregation Etz Chaim in Lombard (founding member of DuPage United) to mourn and honor the lives lost at the Tree Of Life synagogue shooting on October 27 in Pittsburgh, PA. The moving service drew 850 people of faith including 40 clergy and a renewed commitment to work in unity on this issue and others. Our own Rev. Kendra Joyner-Miller participated by delivering words of prayer and hope during the service.

Increasing attainable housing and reducing homelessness

- Developing **partnerships with property managers** to address vacancies and rental units and the urgent need for housing for working families, seniors and immigrants.
- Exploring those communities who have not adopted "**Inclusionary Zoning**" policies. Developing relationships with Community leaders to increase awareness of the benefits of inclusionary zoning.
- To foster relationship building, FCCGE's Clara Hughes, along with members of DuPage United **met with Representative Terra Costa Howard (D) 48th District**, on April 23 to introduce her to the work of DuPage United and our mutual interest in affordable housing.
- Roger and Clara Hughes **attended the Hope Fair Housing Center's annual Fair Housing Conference**, April 24, in Geneva, IL, that is working to expand housing opportunities for all, thereby creating economically sound, vibrant neighborhoods.

Members of the DuPage United core team in 2018-2019 included: Chuck Lukavsky, George Douaire, Clara Hughes, Roger Hughes, Jackie McCarthy, Tricia Kerns, Deb Wenninger, and newest members Ruth Graunke and Debbie White.

Environmental Ministry Team – Catherine Curtis and Jeannine Kannegiesser

The Environmental Ministry Team (EMT) passed its 12th year of existence at the beginning of 2019. We are grateful for the support of Pastors Seth and Kendra, as well as the Service and Justice Committee. Below are some of the activities from the past year:

- Fall - planning for Indoor Farmers Market with Faith in Place www.FaithinPlace.org.
- November - Eva Schuchardt attended Green Team Summit in Chicago.
- December - Hosted Faith in Place indoor Winter Farmer Market to promote sustainable farming methods and economic justice for regional farm families.
- January - Hosted book discussion - Climate Church, Climate World by Rev. Jim Antal.
- February - Hosted Rev. Jim Antal at FCCGE for a presentation on his book Climate Church, Climate World and team members Jeannine Kannegiesser and Catherine Curtis had lunch with Rev. Antal along with Pastors Seth and Kendra to envision our Church's role in making a difference in the social justice issue of climate justice.
- April - "Just Peace" Sunday testimony by Jeannine Kannegiesser on Earth Justice and second book club conversation about Climate Church, Climate World.
- May - \$400.00 donation to Faith in Place, which empowers Illinois people of all faiths to be leaders in caring for the Earth, providing resources to educate, connect, and advocate for healthier communities.
- June - partnering with Grace Lutheran and Faith Lutheran churches for a community Vacation Bible School (VBS) with the theme "Celebrating God's Creation".
- Summer church school for Preschool - 5th grade will also focus on the "Integrity of the Earth" unit from the Joyful Path curriculum found at www.progressivechristianity.org.
- Ongoing recycling at FCCGE and using real dishes for All Church Dinners/Sunday morning coffee hour requiring the ministry team involvement to wash dishes.

Members are also actively involved with organizations outside the Congregation such as Sierra Club, Citizens' Climate Lobby, and Illinois Food Scrap Coalition.

One Voice Outreach Choir Director - Vicki Steevensz

One Voice Outreach Choir continues to enthusiastically fulfill its mission as an outreach ministry of First Congregational Church. Our 43 teens sang for and then visited with the residents of nursing homes and convalescent centers six times this school year. We presented a holiday concert at the Glen Ellyn Public Library the day after Thanksgiving, as well as our traditional Winter Concert at Grace Lutheran Church in December. Our final public performance was at First Congregational Church on May 5th. We also held a welcome picnic, a "lock-and-release", and a retreat. We wish to express our tremendous gratitude to FCCGE for its generosity and support, especially for allowing us space to rehearse and to store our music library and instruments.

Members of the 2018-2019 One Voice Choir Parent Board

Renie Atchison	Jeff and Kim Laird
Chrissy Dougherty	Margo Matthew
Leslie Geballe, Parent Board President	Jean Slevin

Members of the 2018-2019 One Voice Outreach Choir

* One Voice Student Council Officers

Lauren Ackerman	Sophia Hadley	Julia Norvid*
David Benjamin	Molly Howard	Claudia Pyka
Kira Campagna	Devon Kelleher	Emma Raczka*
Ethan Coronelli	Emma King	Josh Reifel
Emily Davidson	Henry King	Jackson Rench
Elizabeth Demeris	Spencer Knotts	Ian Rose
Jennifer Doran	Tessa Kochert	Jack Slevin*
Brennan Dougherty*	Katie Laird*	Alexandra Stolfe*
Jaclyn Dougherty*	Robbie Matthew*	Andrew Stolfe
Kyle Drexler	Kelly Mesenbrink	Parker Storm
Meg Farley*	Ellie Morrison*	Sean Swikle
Jessica Fernandez	Lizzie Mowry	Caroline Turner
Taylor Gottsman	Griffin Murphy	Jack Vu
Roxy Geballe	Charlie Musser	
Jessica Griffin	Mia Navarro	

Ministry of Meals - Jenny Fischer

Ministry of Meals continues to be a thriving ministry, delivering meals to Church members during times of illness or crisis. The volunteer roster includes 103 cooks and 6 “shepherds” who coordinate and schedule meal delivery. During this past year approximately 35 phone contacts were made and 85 meals were delivered to our Church families. We use foodtidings.com to organize the meals online.

Onward House / Bridge Family Christmas Gifts - Marge Kovatch

Onward House is an outreach facility in the Belmont Cragin area of Chicago which provides day care, head start programs, after-school tutoring, social clubs, a computer lab, and food bank (among other services) to low income families from the surrounding neighborhood. For over 60 years, our Congregation has provided Christmas gifts for children involved in these programs. This year, we delivered 205 Christmas gift packages to Onward House.

Marge Kovatch coordinated the project with help from a number of people. Many members bought gifts. Karen Ellis, Sandi Wroblewski, Cori and Kathy Elsesser, Leslie Foster, and many others helped with organizing, wrapping, sorting, carrying, loading, and delivery of the gifts to the site.

Additionally, we provided 12 gifts for our transitional housing family (Bridge Communities).

PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) - Linda Davenport

This year, we saw fewer guests. We work with St. Mark's to cover 52 Sunday nights per year. Volunteers provided food, supplies and their time to help others feel remembered and cared for in a world where they are mostly forgotten. The choir carried the guests at Christmas with the Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops making lunches.

Elizabeth Thorsell has expanded her duties and continues to coordinate food and supplies.

Staffing for the summer is always a challenge and I encourage everyone to sign up for at least one shift. Allie Beyer is coordinating supplies and collecting food donations. Three other participating churches also take one Sunday a month to provide meals throughout the summer.

Rebuilding Together – Randy Briasco

In our 22 years of Rebuilding Together, this was the first year we had a little snow in the mix! Ms. Maxine Neal was pleased we had the garden, flower pots, gate and deck work completed before it turned nasty. Indoors, we painted two rooms, had a new fan and doorbell installed. We added two thresholds, a bi-fold door, a new ADA toilet, new LED lights throughout the house, replaced a kitchen cabinet and added a new oven range.

We had a small crew from our Church, but were blessed to have help from First Congregational of Western Springs, Flossmoor Community Church and Republic Services.

A special shout goes to Ted Harman, Dave Hecht, Gabe Koenig, Robb Sackett, Bill Taylor and Randy Briasco. Also, a special thanks to the carpenters, electricians from IBEW Local 701 and plumbers from Local 130. Without their help, we couldn't have completed the work. Hope to see you next year!

Stephen Ministry - Virginia Highstone

The Stephen Ministry is a program which trains laity to walk beside fellow congregants who are experiencing life difficulties: grief, loss, divorce, illness, transitions such as job loss, children leaving home for college or work – or any other problem which calls for the ongoing help of a lay minister. The Stephen Ministry is not meant as a substitute for professional counseling or for the specialized help that clergy can provide. Stephen Ministers work one-on-one with a fellow congregant, meeting for an hour weekly for as long as the problem persists. A Stephen Minister is trained to provide a safe, confidential relationship in which the congregant can share problems with someone who listens objectively, acts with empathy, and provides support and prayer.

Stephen Ministers are trained by clergy and veteran Stephen Leaders from FCCGE. The last training session occurred in the fall of 2017 and another will be held in the fall of 2019. Stephen Ministers make a two-year commitment to the ministry.

Current Stephen Ministers are Amy Kalten, Becky Gadomski, Kristen Malone, Leland Livingston, Lise Lutz, Steve Jungling, and Paul Wussow. Current Stephen Leaders are Virginia Highstone and Maggie Fredricks. Both have received additional training at national Stephen Leader Conferences. This spring, the Reverend Kendra Joyner-Miller has trained as a Stephen Leader and will join the leadership team as the clergy contact.

All conversations and contacts with any of the above people, even an inquiry about the program, is kept strictly confidential. The current Stephen Ministry has been in place for more than 10 years at FCCGE and has served over 50 members of the Church in that time. We honor your privacy and hold all interactions with confidentiality. If you need a Stephen Minister to navigate a difficult road in your life, or know someone who may benefit from one, please contact the Reverend Kendra Joyner-Miller.

STAFF DIRECTED MINISTRIES

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - Catherine Curtis

Summer Church School – June - July

Preschool - 5th graders were combined for summer church school in Temple of Light for the curriculum "A Joyful Path" from www.progressivechristianity.org. This curriculum teaches interdependence, self awareness, respect for nature, forgiveness, prayer, meditation, and integrity and helps children learn how to follow the path of Jesus in today's world. We focused on the units about "community." Summer interns taught for 4 of the 7 Sundays. Nursery care continued year-round through the summer. During the month of August, we did not have church school so that the staff could prepare for the program year. Children from infant - kindergarten were provided child care in the nursery and activity tote bags, story Bibles, and library books are provided in worship for older children.

Sabbatical - many thanks to our Congregation and my co-workers Cathy Basso, Karrie Sim, and Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller who made a three-week sabbatical possible in July 2018 to refresh and renew my spirit, mind, and body.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) - June 18 - 21, 2018

For the first time, we combined with another congregation and invited Grace Lutheran to join us for our VBS week. I created curriculum based on Paul's letter to the Galatians: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" via music, stories, crafts, games, and fellowship. Our mission projects included the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry and the collection of items for UCC Disaster Relief buckets. We had 61 participants, 22 middle school "Volunteers-in-Training," 12 senior high volunteers, 6 college/adult volunteers, and 15 adult/senior high volunteers for targeted projects, along with 5 staff from FCCGE and Grace Lutheran. VBS uses most of the indoor & outdoor FCCGE spaces and is self-funded.

Program Year: Nursery Care for Infants and Toddlers

We continue to be blessed by our Nursery staff, Kathleen Page and Huong Luu, who welcome families and maintain a safe and comfortable atmosphere. We use a paging system and notification stickers for diaper changes and allergies. The average Nursery attendance remained very close to last year.

Program Year: Preschool for 3 and 4 year olds

Missy Carlson along with her high school daughter, Beth, led Sunday mornings with a big warm welcome, playtime, games, and introduced the simple fundamental lessons from the Bible. Average attendance was slightly down from last year.

Program Year: Young Children and Worship – Temple of Light - Kindergarten -2nd Grades Church School

Our 8th year that the Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd graders used the "Young Children in Worship" model. We tell many of the foundational faith stories each year, in addition to echoing some stories related to the sermon series or the 3rd – 5th grade curriculum. We are looking for additional volunteer Storytellers. Our Kindergarten - 2nd grade attendance was very low this year with an average of five children per Sunday combining all three grade levels.

Program Year: Lighting the Way - Rotation Model Church School for 3rd through 5th Grades

For our 3rd – 5th graders, we continue to teach via the model based on the theory of multiple intelligences –a teaching approach that utilizes teaching the same Bible story by rotating through our seven interactive workshops. We began our third year of our three-year Scope and Sequence which included: Moses & the Exodus, Advent, Parables of Jesus, Lenten Journey with the Gospel of John, & Leading Like Jesus (post-resurrection stories). Kids begin in worship, then multi-age Gathering Time delving into Bible stories followed by response time in the workshops.

Program Year: 6th Grade Confirmation Class: Year 1

Teaching team of Dan Hitzemann, Jill and Mike Hewitt led the class through an overview of the entire Bible. This includes learning the different sections, what types of writing each section consists of, how it should be read, and the importance to our faith tradition interspersed with learning about the types of myths, how to study myth from a faith perspective, and learning about other faith traditions. The curriculum continued to be updated for easier use by teachers and more engaging visuals through slideshows, Kahoots, and software.

Program Year: 7th Grade Confirmation Class: Year 2

Teaching team of Russ Graunke and Lowell Lindstrom led the class in re-visiting how to read the Bible as a way of understanding the “truths” of our faith that are beyond literal interpretations, while also visiting the same houses of worship as the 6th graders. The main focus of the 7th grade year is delving into the stories of the “characters” of the Hebrew Scriptures using the Re:form Ancestors curriculum which explores the unlikely people called by God to do amazing things and to encourage youth to see the similarities between themselves and their faith ancestors. Interfaith visits were merged with the Junior High Youth Fellowship more fully this year with Paula Rada, Junior High Youth Coordinator, leading visits. The year was capped off with the creation and presentation of Myth Projects.

Program Year: 8th Grade Confirmation Class: Year 3

We welcomed Paula Rada in her year long seminarian service. One of her roles was to serve as primary teacher for the 8th grade Confirmation class. Fourteen Confirmands, their parents and sponsors began the year learning about the history and theology of confirmation. 8th graders joined the 7th and 6th graders in a fall work retreat at Tower Hill. The curriculum continued with the exploration of the New Testament, reading the Bible seriously, but not literally, understanding that faith and doubt may reside side-by-side, and that the class is at a point in their lives where they need to be examining, articulating, and living out their faith. Pastors Kendra and Seth were guest teachers. Thank you to Chris Henkel who co-taught with Paula. For the second year, we had minimal participation in our planned visits to other Christian places of worship. Our clergy answered questions from the students and sponsors. The 6th, 7th & 8th graders are expected to work 40 service hours over the 3-year course of confirmation. Each 8th grader wrote a Faith Paper and created a Faith Project and met with Pastor Kendra individually to discuss their faith journey. Sponsors are expected to nurture faith discussions and build relationships that will last beyond the 8th grade year with their Confirmand. Students were confirmed on May 19, 2019.

Program Year: Senior High Sunday Discussion Group

Year seven of this ministry was primarily taught by Senior High Youth, Annabel Pottebaum. This ministry provides a welcoming and engaging space that allows the students to feel comfortable with faith discussion in a challenging and transformative way. This year’s discussion continued to use the resources from www.TheBibleProject.com paired with music videos and lyrics to pop songs, as well as videos from theologians at www.theworkofthepeople.com.

Our Whole Lives - February 28 - March 2, 2019

Our Whole Lives offers a profound opportunity: to deepen faith, put values into practice, promote sexual and emotional health in communities and foster meaningful dialogue between peers, partners, families, and friends. It is a comprehensive sexuality education; more than anatomy and health, but also values, respect, emotions and justice - the sacred aspects of sexuality. Our trained leaders in our 7th year of this ministry include: Tracy & Phil Gliori, Tim Landry, Gwen Miller, Kelley Kalinich, Andy Livingston, Damon Holst, Kathy Bayert, Gretchen Navarro, and Ally Vertigan along with staff members Reverend Kendra Joyner Miller, Cathy Basso and Catherine Curtis. The Junior High retreat had ten youth participate in the retreat at Tower Hill Camp. Staff member Paula Rada and volunteer John Pottebaum chaperoned. The Senior High retreat did not meet this year.

Heifer Market - October 28, 2019

The annual Heifer Market Sunday excites and educates our preschool – 8th graders about social justice issues related to hunger and creation care. With help from teachers and Keepers, our kids surpassed our goal of \$1800.00 and raised over \$2000.00 in funds!

Christmas Eve Pageant - December 24, 2018

With last year’s well-received pageant at 9:30 am, we held it again at the earlier time. This time still seemed to work for families. Approximately thirty-three children and youth in grades K-12 participated. Each year as we retell the story of Jesus’ birth via the text from the Gospels of Luke and Matthew. We were grateful Caroline Andres continued to direct the pageant as a volunteer.

4th Grade Bibles - May 5, 2019

We presented fourteen 4th graders with the gift of a Common English Version Bible along with a Bible Overview Pamphlet that includes themes, facts, and key verses and the UCC “Your First Bible: Reading Guide for Kids.” The Wednesday evening prior to the presentations, we celebrate and prepare with the 4th graders and their families, sharing a meal, rehearsing and testing their Bible knowledge in games of “Kahoot!” and “Wheel of Fortune” created and led by Kathy and Cori Elsesser.

Program Year - 345 Youth Fellowship - Cathy Basso, Youth Education Coordinator

This group invites all 3rd, 4th & 5th graders to gather together at Church. This year there was an average attendance of four, 4th grade youth. Gatherings began with youth kicking a soccer ball to one another to feel comfortable. There was a predetermined theme based on the Bible and an organized activity relating to that theme. We made bread, learned about Communion, had two holiday parties, made a science experiment and related it to faith. We also had dinner together with "game night" gatherings. "Spoons and Sardines" were the favorites. We ended every evening circled around a sand filled urn and lighted tapered candles from the Christ candle. Joys, concerns and a group prayer were shared within this sacred space.

Junior High Youth Fellowship - Paula Rada, Junior High Youth Fellowship Coordinator

Our Junior High Youth Fellowship is a ministry of the Church that generally meets weekly and focuses on building relationships between our Junior High youth, serving our community, learning to respect difference and worshiping God. This year we moved the day and time of our meetings to Sunday after services, after surveying our families. So far, the change has been a success! We have also integrated the Fellowship Calendar more fully with the Confirmation Program. Interreligious and ecumenical visits to other places of worship were a core part of our schedule.

The Junior High Youth Fellowship was led by our Junior High Youth Coordinator and Seminarian Paula Rada, as well as several volunteers. Thank you so much to those who stepped forward to help lead!

We served those in need at Feed My Starving Children and had a number of fun events including excursions to Lincoln Marsh, Laser Tag and Rockin' Jump! We also shared some quieter times as we burned the palms from last Palm Sunday for Ash Wednesday and visited the Taizé service in Oak Park. We sat in contemplation and talked about systematic racism and the injustice of gun violence after watching the movie, *The Hate U Give*. We learned more about our neighbors and the beauty of difference as we attended services at both Congregation Etz Chaim and BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, a Hindu place of worship.

It has been an honor to lead this program and guide the youth through this small part of their faith journey.

Senior High Youth Fellowship 2018-2019—Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller

Senior High Youth Fellowship is an embodiment of Christ's love. As with the other youth fellowships Senior High also revolves around three core Christian principles: building of beloved community - in large and small groups; service of neighbor; and worship of God.

Our Adult Small Group leaders created a truly sacred place this year where youth would cook together, share a meal, and share their lives with all of the joys and frustrations. I am so appreciative of the ways that these Adult Small Group Leaders invite youth into their homes monthly and truly minister to our young people.

Our Youth Leaders were amazing - reflecting and building on a program they love as they also took on outreach making sure youth within our Church and friends from school felt welcome. Last summer 57 youth and adults went to Trade, TN to explore the dynamics and systems of rural poverty. We worked with Appalachia Service Project (ASP) to make homes warmer, safer, and dryer. In a few weeks we will partner with ASP again, this year traveling to Lawrence, KY with 45 adults and youth. This year, we are particularly excited to welcome back five young adults, who were part of Work Camp when they were in high school, as adult leaders. It says a lot about our Church that these young people want to give their time and energy to a program they feel gave them so much.

The youth of this Church are continually blessed by the ways our church embodies God's ministry in our faith community and in our world. Senior High Youth Fellowship is led by Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller but would not be possible without the volunteers who served and ministered to our youth - all of you were part of that ,so "Thank you"! We were blessed this year with an incredible group of volunteers from our small group leaders Naomi Hirsh, Steve Jungling, Damon Holst, Jen Frazer, DJ LaChapelle, Anne Weber, Kathy Bayert- to our fun guys Joe Mahr and John Pottebaum. In this group, God's Spirit was present as our faith formed and grew!

EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Intern Support Ministry Team - Bob Stout

The *Intern Support Ministry Team* (ISMT) is one element of our Congregation's broader Education Ministry. The ISMT has a double focus, relating to the seminary interns during the academic year, as well as offering a supportive relationship to our own four members of our annual Summer Youth Intern program. The ISMT is open to any member of the Congregation on a volunteer basis, and currently includes twenty active participants.

We recently bid farewell to T. J. Williams-Hauger, our 2018-2019 pastoral intern. T. J. is a graduate of New York Theological Seminary affiliated with the American Baptist Convention. His recent history of congregational membership includes Riverside Church of New York City (American Baptist Convention and the UCC) and Trinity UCC, Chicago. He was directed to the FCCGE internship program on the recommendation of Chicago Theological Seminary, having expressed defined internship goals including further experience in pastoral care, local congregational administration, as well as observing local congregational program development.

We are pleased to announce our summer seminary intern, Robin Lovett-Owen, a student at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. Robin comes to us through a recommendation from our former Lutheran intern, Caroline Lawrence, and brings a wealth of experience leading campus ministries and mission trips. She will attend the annual Work Camp as a leader, relate to our 2019 class of FCCGE Summer Youth Interns, and fill in for Pastor Kendra while she takes her hard-earned sabbatical.

The ISMT also relates to the Summer Youth Interns, four members of our Congregation that are selected from a pool of written applications. The summer 2018 interns included Anna Ebl, Bennett Fate, Calla Mahr, and Maggie Sim.

Last summer, we also had the pleasure of welcoming seminary intern Yale Divinity School student Mahogany Thomas. Her internship spanned a period of six weeks.

SUMMER YOUTH INTERN PROGRAM OUTLINE

Book Discussion

- Participate in the reading and discussion of Nadia Boltz Weber's [Pastorix](#)

Congregational Context

Learn about Leading within a parish setting by

- Attending staff meetings
- Helping lead worship
- Preaching (sharing a personal faith journey testimonial)
- Planning a lesson + Leading a Church School Class
- Meeting with one member a week to hear their story
- Learning about relationship building and outreach

Ministry in other contexts

- Elmhurst Memorial Hospital
- Elmhurst College
- Chicago Theological Seminary + Univ of Chicago Divinity School
- Root and Branch Church, Chicago
- Chicago inner-city Night Ministry

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

Tower Hill Weekend

On the weekend you would be expected to help facilitate community through games - socializing outreach to members + planning Sunday Morning Worship

Summer Campfire Vespers

Help in the advertising - logistics/program planning + execution/leading of the evening.

All of us on the ISMT feel honored to serve in this capacity. It is inspiring to work with both the seminarians and our own youth as they explore a deeper involvement in Christian service. While the summer interns are not all necessarily headed for ordained ministry, they are all given a wonderful opportunity to better understand the broader life of the community of faith that is FCCGE. They are preparing themselves to be more fully engaged lay people and leaders in their respective futures.

Currently facilitated by Bob Stout under the staff supervision of Associate Minister, The Rev. Kendra Joyner Miller; plus members, Nancy and Jim Ellis, Bill Fairbank, Debbie and John Helledy, Virginia and Ward Highstone, Ed and Louise Kolar, Marge Kovatch, Ginny Miller, Karen Pulver, Bill and Sharon Sailor, Jerry and Susan Schurmeier, Bob and Anne Stout, Hal Temple, and Ernie Wright.

Library/Resources

Karrie Sim, Youth Education Coordinator and Catherine Curtis, Director of Christian Education

It's been an exciting year in the Church library! We continued our goal from last year to get more books out on the shelves where our members could access them. Books related to the liturgical season, sermon series, or church school unit are periodically updated in a basket that is kept in the back of the sanctuary for children to read during worship.

We received two boxes of brand-new books as a donation from a savvy Church member with books that included titles relevant to social justice issues for all ages.

Topical displays have been created on themes including Lent, Peace, Grief, and Climate Justice. As we have working with Pastor Kendra, we have updated our Grief book selection to include books for both those who grieve, as well as the people who care for them, as well as a series of new Lenten devotionals. We have purchased copies of our guest speaker, UCC minister and climate activist Rev. Jim Antal's book, Climate Church, Climate World for the two book discussions and his visit that occurred this year.

The entirety of the children's and youth (junior) sections of the library were weeded, as well as the teaching pictures used for church school. Volunteer Marilyn Peretti worked over the winter to process weeded books for donation by removing any identifying information from them. We have close to twenty boxes of books to donate. Faith-based books will be shared with an organization that gives them to those that are in need and the secular books will be donated to Goodwill or SCARCE. We will continue implement best practice library strategies by weeding the adult non-fiction and fictions of the library. All of these changes are refreshing our library to continue its legacy of a vibrant space for education and engagement of faith and social issues. We hope to have a re-dedication and open house in the library some time in the future to celebrate as our progress continues.

We worked with our clergy and two separate donors who provided brand-new UCC pew bibles for the racks in the Sanctuary and to purchase children's story Bibles to give to families as a gift when their child is baptized.

Finally, after several years of weeding old items, integrating new items into circulation, and clearing items, the Resource Room was completely cleaned out on Palm Sunday during an All Church Work Day in order to make room for its new purpose as a laundry room for PADS guests, which will be part of the renovation of Pilgrim Hall. Remaining resources will find homes in other education locations such as classrooms and staff offices.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God." Colossians 3:16



Summer was filled with **soloists** and **special groups** offering music in worship. Thanks to over 30 Church members for sharing their musical gifts to enrich our worship experience! During July, we continued the **Campfire Vespers** on the south lawn of the Church with singing and guitar-playing around the fire. On **Rally Day** in September, the **Combined Choir** kicked off the year with *Heal the World* by Michael Jackson. Many soloists provided special music to accompany the *Storyteller* fall sermon series.

In October, as part of our monthly All-Church Dinner program, we offered a brand-new type of worship called **Jazz Vespers**. Clergy worked together with Jeff Haeger to create a meditative service of scripture, poetry, sacred jazz music and improvisation. The featured musicians included Jeff Haeger (piano), member Stephen Ilhardt (double bass), and guest musicians Glen Schneider (drums), Joel Moore (saxophone) and Morgan Pirtle (vocals). Due to its popularity, we hope to offer this type of program again next year.

Our two adult choirs provided music throughout the year and came together for **Christmas, Holy Week, Easter** and **Cantata Sunday**. In March, the choir traveled to San Francisco to participate in a festival choir of 160 voices to perform **John Rutter's Requiem** in historic Grace Cathedral. Upon our return, the choir performed the requiem in worship with orchestra for Cantata Sunday on March 17. We also continued our tradition of a '**choir exchange**' with the choir from **First Church of Lombard (UCC)**. Their director, **Janette Rodriguez**, and I collaborated on three songs that the choirs performed together during worship on one Sunday at each church in October. We always enjoy experiencing worship in a different setting, and sharing fellowship with one another through our common love of music. In November, around Thanksgiving, we hosted our first-ever "**Choir Homecoming Sunday**", where alumni singers were welcome to sing two songs with the choir, with only one rehearsal that morning - over 17 additional singers from the Congregation including college kids home for the holiday answered the call! This may become an annual event. Next year, we also plan to host another "**100 Voices**" **Choir Reunion Sunday**, as 2020 will mark the 5th year since the inaugural event in 2015.

The **Handbell Choir**, directed by Matthew Prins, presented musical offerings in worship several times throughout the year, often playing Matthew's own original compositions and arrangements. For the first time, we hosted a '**handbell choir exchange**' with the Jubilation Ringers from **St. Marcelline Catholic Church in Schaumburg**, where Matthew is also the handbell director. The **Recorder Ensemble** continues to play two to three times a year in worship at FCCGE and also at their sister church, **First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton**, as two of the players are members there. A few of these musicians also play in the **Taizé Ensemble** that accompanies the beautiful Taizé songs during Communion. Our roster of **Song Leaders**, now at 16 members, helps to lead our Congregational singing.

The Joyful Noise Children's Choir (grades 2-5) presented a cantata during Advent called *Out Standing in Their Field*, which told the Christmas story from the point of view of the angels and shepherds. In the spring, Joyful Noise performed in worship three more times, sharing a folk song from Brazil, and the music of Bach and Beethoven. The choir also expanded to include singers in 6th grade. The **Angel Choir**, children ages 4-7, sang on Christmas Eve and again in May, while Jeff Haeger directed the **Junior High Singers** in November and February. Our talented **high school musicians** shared their gifts in worship throughout the year as soloists, choir members and song leaders, and as part of the orchestra on Christmas and Easter. We thank our volunteer leaders Sherry Flugel and Lora Ilhardt for leading the Angel Choir, Dave Mook for serving as Joyful Noise accompanist, Andy Livingston for heading up the **Ad Hocs** (house band), and Alan Bayert for creating a new **Guitar Group**.

We hosted a few guest musicians this year. In December, we brought back the liturgical group **The Many** from Oak Park to lead an intimate, creative and meditative worship service called "**The Longest Night.**" The spring offered its own musical delights with concerts by a cappella group, **Fundamentally Sound**, from University of Wisconsin-Madison, the **Village Vocal Chords**, Glen Ellyn's own women's barbershop chorus, and **The Girls Next Door** a cappella group from University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. The **Staff Recital** took a year off and plans to return in **May 2020**.

The Music Makers Ministry team of Norm Adams, Martha DeForest, Lora Illhardt, Karen Koenig, Jackie McCarthy and Colleen Spaeth, helped to plan and coordinate all the big music events of the year, including the **Choir Games** retreat in September. Part of the Music Ministry's outreach is **Choir Care**, where special outings and messages are coordinated to help provide support and prayers to our choir family. The **Men's Chorus** sang on Mother's Day and the **Women's Chorus** will once again perform in worship on Father's Day.

I currently serve as **President-Elect** for the **United Church of Christ Musicians Association**, meeting on monthly conference calls to provide support and enrichment for UCC musicians and churches across the US and Canada. I will begin my two-year term as **President** at the end of the **UCCMA conference in Madison, Wisconsin in June**. As a representative of UCCMA, I will also attend **UCC General Synod** and present a **workshop** on planning vespers services. In addition to my involvement with the UCCMA, I finished up my term as Music in Worship chair for the **Illinois chapter of the American Choral Directors Association**, and organized a **Church Honor Choir Festival** at the **First Congregational Church of Crystal Lake (UCC)** back in October - five of our choir members participated.

May our music ministry continue to glorify the Lord, lift our hearts in His praise, and bring our Congregation closer to God through the beauty and majesty that is music.

MUSIC & WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Worship Ministry - Maggie Fredricks

The Worship Ministry team, led by our music director Michele Hecht, continues to assist in the preparation and coordination of regular worship and special worship services throughout the year. The parament colors get changed according to the liturgical calendar and are now stored in garment bags for protection; Communion is prepared and served on the first Sunday of the month and during Lent; ushers and greeters are scheduled for every service; and the tech team prepares the audio-visual support in the Sanctuary and records the services. Deb Giampoli of the Visual Arts Ministry created wonderful new displays, banners and altar décor in the Sanctuary. New white linen paraments for Lent and Easter were handmade by Dolly Rada. In April, six Church members were trained by Reverend Kendra Joyner Miller and Leland Livingston to be Communion servers.

The special services that need candles, ribbons, ashes, oils, palms or rearrangement of the chancel area of the Sanctuary to create the proper worship environment include Vespers, Advent, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Confirmation and Pentecost. Michele Hecht has maintained detailed checklists for all services and the Worship Ministry Team works to execute the plans. In addition, the Worship Ministry team assisted in the coordination of funeral services in the Sanctuary.

Team: Michele Hecht (leader), Maggie Fredricks (lay leader), Mark Healy, Andy Livingston, Deb Giampoli, Leland Livingston, Randy Briasco and Karen Koenig.

Flowers- Jennifer Darnall

The Flower Ministry provides flowers to decorate the altar for Sunday services. The ministry conducts a sign-up at Rally Day (and until all spaces are filled) for families/individuals to select dates to sponsor flowers. A reminder is sent the month prior to the date – individuals are able to specify types and colors of flowers, and to indicate what is to be printed in the bulletin. This information is then e-mailed to Joyce Driver and the florist (The Green Branch in Glen Ellyn). Special orders are done at Christmas and Easter.

Name Tags - Marge Kovatch

FCCGE provides permanent, engraved, name tags for their members. This makes it easier for people to put names and faces together and helps us get to know one another. Name tags are made for all new members and confirmands. There were also a number of replacement name tags made for those who had either lost or broken theirs. If you need a new name tag, please contact the Church office.

Tech Team – Andy Livingston

The Tech Team Ministry records weekly worship services and special events for the Church in audio and video format. The 2018-19 team consisted of Mark Healy, Suzanne Healy, Lisa Crank, Paul Flugel, Gabe Koenig, Andy Livingston, Tim Loversky, Tom Melms, Dan Olson, Greg Paulus, Matt Stout, Robb Sackett, Will Sackett, Ingrid Ziegler and Jenny Ziegler. Our technical director is Dave Hecht.

For several years Mark Healy has been our coordinator, providing the team schedules and set-up protocols for the entire Church calendar year, and support as needed when shift conflicts arose. Since his illness in January, the team has worked to fill his shoes—we look forward to his return.

Each week, two teams of two work the sound-board and camera deck, recording and mixing both services. The team delivers the audio to the Sanctuary, and to the main lobby, where the video can also be seen in real time. Set-up begins more than an hour before the first service, as soloists, song leaders and groups are sound-checked. After a service, one can request copies of the entirety, or parts of the service via the request form. Sharon Wussow does this work for the Music Ministry and the Tech Team, making copies on CD, DVD or mp3 formats. Weekly sermons, podcasts and YouTube videos are also posted on our website by Sherry Flugel.

Events such as the Joyful Noise Cantata, Choir Cantatas and concerts make for special production needs, as do funerals at our Church—the intensity for delivering high audio and visual in these situations brings the best out in all of us.

The Tech Team hopes to improve the ministry in 2019-20 with updates to the system being considered through the Capital Campaign. The modernization will provide better sound and video at worship services, and allow many who cannot regularly attend services an even greater ability to experience worship at home or while traveling.

Ushers – Tom Pulver

The primary purpose of the members of the usher ministry is to greet worshipers as they enter the Sanctuary, provide them with bulletins and other information while helping everyone feel comfortable as they find the place where they will worship.

The Usher Ministry is made up of many dedicated members. There are too many to list here but they are recognized in the bulletin every Sunday. In addition, there is a group of members that have made themselves available as substitutes and there are always worshipers that say “yes” to fill in at the last minute for any special usher needs.

The duties of the ushers are to:

- do the final preparation of the Sanctuary for each service; such as: candles, flowers, baptismal font set up, tidy the pews, restock visitor cards and envelopes in the pews and reserve pews for service participants;
- meet and greet Church members and visitors for every service on Sundays and other special events such as Holy Week, Christmas and remembrance services;
- hand out bulletins;
- assist anyone who wishes or needs help to find a place to sit in the Sanctuary;
- ring the Church bell to call us to worship;
- adjust the lights during the service;
- collect the offering and try to be as invisible as possible to allow the Congregation to appreciate the music;
- count the worshipers in the service;
- react to any unexpected events or emergencies;
- clean up the Sanctuary after services;
- place the offering in the safe;
- this past year, the ushers also assumed the role of greeters at the door and staffing the Visitor Welcome table.

The joy of sharing a smile and greeting worshipers as they arrive at a service is the reward of ushering. We do whatever we can to help worshipers, members, and visitors feel comfortable.

There is always a need for more ushers and greeters so we invite others, including our youth, to join – the work is easy, fun and appreciated.

Visual Arts – Deb Giampoli

The mission of the Visual Arts Ministry is to “Enhance the worship experience through visual art”. The ministry is an expansion and reinvention of the previous Paraments and Church Decorating team, and is, under the new governance structure, aligned with the Music and Worship Ministry.

This year, we installed exhibits and banners in the Sanctuary for the sermon series on stories, and for Advent, Christmas and Holy Week, we decorated the sanctuary with the Christmas Tree and wreaths for Advent and Christmas, potted palms for Palm Sunday, as well as altar decorations and a lighted cross with lilies for Holy Week.

In addition, we had rotating art exhibits and several small receptions in the main gallery throughout the year, with themes consistent with the Liturgical Seasons. Among the exhibits in the main gallery were the following:

- Children’s Creation Stories – During the sermon series on Stories, we were blessed to feature works in the main gallery depicting the creation story. Artists included 5 year old Corinne (“Coco”) Okpebholo, daughter of Shawn Okpebholo, professor of music at Wheaton College, 11 year old Cora Botts, daughter of Jeremy Botts, design professor at Wheaton College, and 13 year old Grange and 12 year old Grayson Kalinich, sons of Kelley Kalinich (grandsons of Paul Kalinich).
- PBMR – Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation – a nonprofit restorative justice hub, located in the “Back of the Yards” neighborhood in Chicago. Sharing in Christ’s mission of reconciliation, they work as agents of reconciliation and healing with those in the community and the Church who have been impacted by violence and conflict. They believe that arts enable those impacted by trauma to tell their story. This exhibit featured powerful works by members of the PBMR community.
- Molly Zakrajsek (“Molly Z”) – Molly Z is a Chicago-based public artist, who uses biomorphic forms, patterns, and shapes occurring in nature to create colorful works that speak of transformation and vitality in life.
- Stations of the Cross – During Lent, Jeremy Bott’s abstract images depicting the Stations of the Cross, were exhibited as part of a deeply exhibit – a collaboration with Greg Schreck, whose Stations of the Cross fine art photography was exhibited in the Sanctuary.

In addition, this was our second year in the Artists in Residence Gallery, where members and friends of FCCGE who have been given the gift of visual art are provided the opportunity to share that gift with others. Exhibits this program year included work by Quilt Artist Jan Rajeck, Mixed Media Artist Susan Thurber Jones, Artist Haruo Kurokawa (oil and other media), and Photographers Jeff Edwards and Ashley Giampoli. Thanks to all the artists for being so generous with your work.

Finally, it’s been a blessing to have worked with members of this year’s team - Lisa Crank, Bill Fairbanks, Steve Rochelle, Greg Schreck, William Schumacher, and Ernie Wright - extended team members Roy Giampoli, Teo Schreck, Magdalena Schreck, and Karen Schreck - and cheerleaders (and alumni) George Allen, Marilyn Peretti, and Jeff Edwards.

Special thanks also to the Handyman Ministry, who helped us repair walls and paint after exhibits; to Sherry Flugel who patiently wrote and rewrote so many updates and announcements and signs and banners about our activities, and our Sexton, Jose Beltran, who was always there to help, with anything, any time. We couldn’t have done it without all of you!

Wedding Coordinators - Vicki Lafontaine

The purpose of the wedding committee is to help wedding couples make their wedding ceremony as meaningful as possible in accordance with church policy. Coordinators meet with the wedding couple about two months before their wedding day to help plan their Church wedding. Coordinators assist wedding parties, family and clergy at the rehearsal and at the ceremony. Two coordinators work with each wedding couple. We currently have fourteen dedicated coordinators. This year we have had no weddings in the Church, however we are planning two in the coming year.

Worship Leaders – Susie Temple

Over twenty-five narrators share their reading talents with the Congregation on Sunday mornings. One leader speaks at both services. On Christmas Eve, ten of those readers serve the later two services. From dramatic to stoic to sometimes humorous, these readers continue the ancient tradition of storytelling, bringing the Holy Scriptures to life.

PROPOSED 2019 BY-LAWS REVISIONS

ARTICLE II – THE OFFICERS

Section 2

At the annual meeting the members will elect a Treasurer, ~~(elected for a two year term every other year), Assistant Treasurer (elected for a two year term every other year)~~ a Clerk and an Assistant Moderator for the term beginning the next fiscal year. As appropriate, at the annual meeting the members may elect an Assistant Treasurer and a Youth Representative to Council for the term beginning the next fiscal year. Upon election of a New Assistant Moderator, the immediately preceding Assistant Moderator will become the Moderator-Designate and the immediately preceding Moderator-Designate will become Moderator. No person serving as Moderator may be elected as an officer the following year.

Section 6

The Treasurer is the custodian of all funds of this Church.

The Treasurer will be elected ~~or elevated at every other a~~Annual ~~m~~Meeting for a term of ~~one two~~ years. An individual may not serve as Treasurer for more than two consecutive terms.

An Assistant Treasurer may be elected at each annual meeting for a term of one year. An individual may not serve as Assistant Treasurer for more than two consecutive terms.

The Treasurer will submit a written financial report at each regularly scheduled meeting of the Church Council.

The Treasurer shall submit an annual written report which details receipts and expenditures of this Church in accordance with usual and customary accounting principles.

The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer will prepare the annual budget, create and review financial policies, participate in the Annual Fund drive and other fund raising campaigns and participate in staff compensation and employee benefits decisions.

The Treasurer and/or Assistant Treasurer will attend all meetings of the Church Council.

Upon election of a new Assistant Treasurer, ~~any currently serving the immediately preceding~~ Assistant Treasurer will ~~be elevated to~~ become the Treasurer. ~~The immediate past Treasurer shall be deemed the Treasurer Emeritus during the next fiscal year.~~

The Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer shall be ex officio members of the Finance Committee. If willing to serve, the Treasurer Emeritus shall also be an ex officio member of the Finance Committee.

ARTICLE III – THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Section 1

The Church Council, acting on behalf of the members, shall govern and supervise the work of this Church.

The Church Council shall be composed of the Church officers (Moderator, Moderator-Designate, Assistant Moderator, Senior Minister, all full-time Associate Ministers, Treasurer and Clerk), the Assistant Treasurer (as appropriate), a Youth Representative (as appropriate) and chairs from the Standing Committees.

Section 2

n) Fill vacancies that arise among the officers, committee chairs and vice chairs, ~~and~~ committee members and Endowment Team members between ~~a~~Annual ~~m~~Meetings upon receipt of nominations from the Connections Committee;

ARTICLE V-STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 3

With the help of staff, the Connections Committee shall recruit, train and make nominations for the consideration of the Church Council to fill vacancies that arise among the officers, committee chairs and vice chairs, ~~and~~ committee members and Endowment Team members between ~~a~~Annual ~~m~~Meetings; and is responsible for submitting a slate of nominated candidates for elected positions at the ~~a~~Annual ~~m~~Meeting.

NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following are the four committees and church officer positions that form the core of our church government. Each committee lists current members with year their terms expire. The names listed in **bold** designate nominees to serve terms as indicated beginning July 1, 2019.

Moderator - Kelley Kalinich	'20
Moderator Designate - Ted Harman	'20
Assistant Moderator - Jackie McCarthy	'20
Treasurer - Rich Troyer	'20
Assistant Treasurer - Teresa Holly	'20
Treasurer Emeritis - Tom Petrich	'20
Clerk – Jennifer Umlauf	'20
Youth Representative to Council - Luella Johnston	'20

Connections Committee

Elaine Metzger (Chair)	'20
Sylvia Rodee (Vice-Chair)	'21
Stephanie Harman	'20
Susan Selzer	'20
Jim Springer	'20
Jessica Fleming	'22
DJ LaChappelle	'22
BJ Meier	'22
Michelle Todd	'22

Property & Grounds Committee

Andy Ginger (Chair)	'20
Rick Hokenson	'20
Chris Henkel	'21
Mike Metzger	'21
Hugh Walborn	'21
Sharon Wussow	'21
Randy Briasco	'22
Ryan Dent	'22
Eric Gaertner	'22
Jim Stuhlmacher	'22

Finance Committee

Ted Harman (chair)	'20
Tom Petrich	'20
Dave Mook	'21
Rich Troyer	'21
Theresa Holly	'22
Matt Szafranski	'22

Service & Justice Committee

Nancy Bell (Chair)	'20
Chuck Lukavsky	'20
Karen Pulver	'20
Joe Mahr	'20
Julie Kling	'22
Mark Lutz	'22
Ann VanSeters	'22
Penny Anderson	'22

Endowment Fund Team

Dave Mook (Chair)	'20
Darryl Baltimore	'20
Liz Werth	'20

FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 BUDGET—COMMENTS

This past fiscal year provided the Church with an Annual Budget focused on mission, programs, services and staff support, as the capital needs of our 100 year old facility were addressed in a separately funded budget. With gratitude to the charity of our Congregation through a successful Capital Campaign and the strong fiscal stewardship by our committees, the Church Council is proposing the balanced budget outlined below for approval to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting.

Key Highlights:

- Mission Support
 - ◇ This continues to be a priority. During the upcoming year, the Service and Justice Committee will discern the best way to utilize the allocated funds.
- Staff Support
 - ◇ As a responsible employer, the budget provides for an average 3% salary increase to clergy and staff.
 - ◇ Though we have been unable to fill the position this past year, we have again budgeted for a part time facility manager and anticipate bringing this person on as soon as possible. Our expectation is that the facility manager will spend half of his/her time supporting maintenance related projects and half of his/her time engaged in overseeing and supporting the multitude of upcoming capital campaign projects. Therefore, we believe it is both responsible and appropriate to allocate 50% of the facility manager's salary to the operating budget (Annual Fund) and 50% to be paid by Capital Campaign proceeds.
- Debt Service
 - ◇ Endowment Loan -- We have a remaining balance of approximately \$70,000 on a loan provided by the Endowment Fund to cover previous Capital related projects. This was the first year that the approximate \$25,000 payment was made with Capital Campaign proceeds.
 - ◇ Mortgage – There are no current payments, as there is no mortgage.
- Reserve Fund
 - ◇ In light of our successful Capital Campaign, which we anticipate will cover the next 10 years of needed building projects, these payments were discontinued from the operating budget during the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Our primary goal is to be good stewards of your generous contributions. This means investing in staff, programs and facilities to provide a community without walls that is welcoming to all.

PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL 2019–2020 WITH PRIOR YEAR COMPARISONS

	<u>Fiscal Year-End</u> <u>June 2017-18</u>	<u>YTD April</u> <u>2018-19</u>	<u>Budget</u>	
			<u>FY 2018-19</u>	<u>FY 2019-20</u>
Income				
Pledge & Loose offering	\$1,130,803	\$893,445	\$1,057,000	\$1,035,000
Endowment distributions	23,056	22,233	25,000	25,000
Building usage fees	7,036	7,977	3,000	4,000
Misc. income	1,011	1,556	33,320	34,500
Total Unrestricted Revenue	1,161,906	925,211	1,118,320	1,098,500
Connections/Ed/Worship	59,340	63,427	48,825	45,000
Service & Justice	3,502	2,910	2,800	2,800
Total Program Revenue	62,842	66,337	51,625	47,800
Columbarium				
Total Revenue	\$1,224,748	\$991,548	\$1,169,945	\$1,146,300
Expenses				
Property & Grounds				
Gas	18,524	18,318	17,500	17,800
Electric	31,387	24,855	30,000	31,400
Repair & Maintenance	30,660	22,004	33,000	33,000
Maintenance Contracts	15,500	16,281	19,725	17,725
Copier & Equipment Maintenance	19,620	16,001	16,000	19,000
Insurance	23,140	18,528	22,480	0
Accounting & Financials	12,554	10,868	4,376	0
All Other	53,794	48,393	54,427	52,831
Total Admin & Property	205,179	175,248	197,508	171,756
Connections	11,745	6,624	12,025	14,640
Council				
Mortgage payments	59,265	0	0	0
Endowment loan payments	25,600	21,333	26,500	26,500
Transfer to Reserve fund	50,000		0	
All Other	283	237	0	0
Total Council	135,148	21,570	26,500	26,500
Finance				
Banking fees	NA	NA	NA	13,000
Insurance (property-liability)	NA	NA	NA	22,480
All Other	NA	NA	NA	4,600
Total Finance	NA	NA	NA	40,080

	<u>Fiscal Year-End</u> <u>June 2017-18</u>	<u>YTD April</u> <u>2018-19</u>	<u>Budget</u>	
			<u>FY 2018-19</u>	<u>FY 2019-20</u>
Education				
Senior high work camp	36,619	13,087	27,000	25,000
All Other	35,718	29,249	52,185	48,685
Total Education	<u>72,337</u>	<u>42,336</u>	<u>79,185</u>	<u>73,685</u>
Personnel	712,431	579,416	748,767	723,046
Service & Justice				
Our Church's Worldwide Mission	32,250	24,188	32,250	32,250
Glen Ellyn Walk-In Ministry	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
Path (Bridge Communities)	11,580	9,900	10,500	10,500
Other Mission Support	1,000	2,684	11,000	1,000
All Others	16,477	14,672	13,000	13,000
Total Service	<u>71,307</u>	<u>59,760</u>	<u>77,750</u>	<u>67,750</u>
Worship				
Music Ministry	24,034	41,990	15,850	16,000
All Other	7,417	6,129	10,600	9,400
Total Worship	<u>31,451</u>	<u>48,119</u>	<u>26,450</u>	<u>25,400</u>
Total Service & Justice/Worship	<u>102,758</u>	<u>107,879</u>	<u>104,200</u>	<u>93,150</u>
Total Expenses	\$1,239,598	\$933,073	\$1,168,185	\$1,142,857
Excess (Deficit) of Revenues Over Expenses	<u>(\$14,850)</u>	<u>\$58,475</u>	<u>\$1,760</u>	<u>\$3,443</u>

REPORTS OF FCCGE'S COMMUNITY PARTNERS

BOY SCOUT TROOP #41 – Jennifer Solak, Treasurer

Boy Scout Troop 41 operates with a single bank account at US Bank. The current balance as of April 30, 2019 was approximately \$26,700.

The bank account is comprised of **four** distinct “buckets” (which I keep track of in a separate ledger):

1. Troop Money
2. Scout Account Funds
3. Markham Fund
4. Trailer Fund

Troop Money

There are two primary sources of revenue for the Troop each year - a Pancake Breakfast in the Spring and Popcorn/Wreath Sales in the Fall. Last year, the Pancake Breakfast brought in approximately \$1,600 in net profit to the troop (after selling credits applied to the scouts' individual accounts) and the Popcorn/Wreath Sales brought in approximately \$3,100 in net profit to the troop.

Offsetting this revenue each year are the following major expenses which the Troop pays for or subsidizes:

- Annual registration and insurance ~\$2,000
- Owasippe Summer Camp - ~\$1,000-\$1,500 (subsidy)
- 12 campouts (varying subsidy for each campout)
- Food for 12 campouts (~\$200-\$300 per campout)
- Eagle Scout Court of Honors (subsidy, depends on the number of scouts reaching Eagle rank in that year)
- Annual Court of Honor Dinner (~\$500)
- Trailer Storage of ~\$90/month
- Scout Store purchases (merit badges, neckerchiefs, patches, etc.) ~ \$1,000/year
- Every year the Troop also gives 10% of the net profits from the pancake breakfast to the First Congregational Church for use of their facility (last year's check was for \$161.83)

Scout Account Funds

Boys earn money in their scout accounts from popcorn/wreath sales as well as pancake breakfast ticket sales. Scout accounts may be used to pay for campouts, annual registration fees, troop gear, etc. The current balance of this portion of the overall account is approximately \$2,400 (comprised of varying earned amounts available to each of the approximately 50 scouts for these activities).

Markham Fund

This fund was established many years ago in honor of a former scoutmaster. It is used to assist boys who need financial help in paying for campouts and/or to help support boys going High Adventure campouts (\$50/scout). The Fund has a current balance of approximately \$2,000. Proceeds, averaging around \$250 per year, from the bake sale at the pancake breakfast are added to this fund.

Trailer Fund

In 2015, Troop 41 purchased its first new trailer in approximately 20 years using the funds set aside in the Trailer Fund. The cost of the trailer was approximately \$4,500. The current balance in the Trailer Fund is approximately \$1,200. Money comes into the Trailer Fund in one of two ways, either as a donation (usually from a former troop member) or upon a boy's exit from the troop. When a scout leaves the troop (either by quitting boy scouts or graduating to Eagle rank), any leftover funds in his Scout Account are transferred to the trailer fund.

BRIDGE COMMUNITIES – Karen Pulver

Norm Adams, John and Joyce MacRitchie, and Leslie Dodge are mentoring the Reimer family for the second year.

Robert Reimer is currently working, but also continuing to seek more favorable employment. The most exciting news is that Alba completed her Associate’s degree from College of DuPage and has a new job with Hertz, participating in management training. Robert Jr. graduates from 8th grade this spring.

The family thanks members of the congregation who donated bikes and a car, making life a lot easier for them.

GLEN ELLYN FOOD PANTRY - Jennifer Darnall

The Glen Ellyn Food Pantry Ministry fills one spot on the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry Board. Meetings are held on the third Monday six times a year at Grace Lutheran Church. The Board is made up of representatives from 18 area churches.

Each of the churches with a board representative are assigned a month to collect food for the Pantry. The month of September is the FCCGE’s month to conduct a food collection. Recent years have seen a decline in food donations and an increase in clients. We will work hard to collect more food in September.

Appointments are taken for clients to come in a shop for food. There is also a walk-in area that clients can visit to pick up food. Over the past few years, local stores have been donating food that would otherwise be thrown away (Food Recovery). Volunteers are always needed to pick up this food from the stores. Cash donations are always welcome to purchase other needed items. The Pantry website has a list of much-needed items (www.glenellynfoodpantry.org).

GLEN ELLYN WALK-IN MINISTRY - Lyn Whiston

FCCGE is a leader among the fifteen Glen Ellyn churches that support the Glen Ellyn Walk-In Ministry [WIM]. FCCGE provides funds and volunteers. Currently Jack Breeser, Melissa and Ray Cliff, Bob Knobbe, Lora Ilhardt, Gretchen Rehm, Ann Van Setters, and Lyn Whiston serve as WIM volunteers.

WIM provides assistance to PADS participants, Glen Ellyn residents, and members of Glen Ellyn churches. It provides services such as gas and food vouchers as well as help with utility bills, car and bike repairs, and medical prescriptions. In 2018, WIM served 1,229 clients. WIM works closely with other organizations such as the People’s Resource Center, PADS, St. Vincent de Paul, and the DuPage County Community Services.

APPENDIX

UPDATED CAPITAL BUILDING PLAN AND BUDGET

Our beautiful Church facility is large and some sections are 100 years old. It requires continuous maintenance and upkeep. Our staff and Property & Grounds Committee members manage daily repairs with an annual budget of approximately \$40,000. This operating budget does not provide for renovations, end-of-life replacements or significant redecorating.

For some years, maintenance was deferred due to insufficient funds.

In December, 2014, the Council engaged Reserve Advisors to perform an assessment of the facility and prepare a capital improvement plan. This study, generously underwritten via a donation by Dean and Jenny Fischer, created a long-term plan for infrastructure investment over 30 years. You can view the original Full Reserve Study via the front page of our website (under Community, click on "Documents"). The Reserve Study reviewed 48 major components of the physical facility. It estimated cost and provided proposed scheduling for projects. It focused initially on the first 10 years, offering more detailed recommendations for that period.

The study changed our views in specific ways. It used standardized costing methods. It underscored our funding requirements and shortfalls. It reinforced the idea that equipment and facilities have lifespans and that preventive maintenance makes a difference. It reinforced the idea that we need stronger continuity and planning across our volunteer, term-based governance structure.

Some funding of the capital requirements was secured through an initial, generous donation and allocations from the operating budget and a few important projects were undertaken prior to 2017.

In 2017, the congregation generously responded to the Called Forward Capital Campaign, pledging contributions over a 3-year period to fund the capital projections contained in the Reserve Study. Additionally, the campaign added plans to remodel Pilgrim Hall, one of the most utilized facilities for important missions of the church.

During 2018, with funding for capital campaign secured, the Property Committee reviewed the state of the physical plant and the details of the original capital plan. Multiple factors were addressed.

- Restated the plan to fiscal years (the original plan was based on calendar years)
- Accelerated plans to address key pain points and urgent deferred maintenance items
- Carried forward original Reserve study items but validated and adjusted cost projections
- Added significant areas that were not addressed or included in the original plan
 - ◊ Technology items like telephone systems, computers, audio visual equipment
 - ◊ Interior painting and furniture
 - ◊ Accessibility and emergency management issues
- Value-engineered certain items to help fund missing items and areas
- Based on professional advice, shifted timing of key equipment replacements
- Developed project plans for key rooms vs. planning 100% by commodity or component

We believe the plan needs to be adjusted regularly, restating it on an annual basis and publishing it for the annual meeting. Despite efforts to forecast the condition and lifespan of equipment and facilities, we are continually surprised with challenges that must be addressed. We need to maintain a planning and action process that is capable of adjusting to address these circumstances.

The revised plan is outlined below.

Building Capital Fund - Revised Ten Year Projection

	Estimate/ Actual	Comments
Prior to 2018-19 Fiscal Year		
Air handling and condensing units, split systems	12,446	Completed
Exterior door - west side	6,000	Completed
Asphalt pavement, total replacement	52,377	Completed
Light fixture refurbishment - sanctuary		Completed
Light fixtures, bell tower	10,832	Completed
Roofs, asphalt shingles, dormers at clay tile roofs	8,227	Completed
Total	89,882	
2018-19 Fiscal Year		
Window refurbishment: stained glass and double-hung	70,000	Completed
Roof, asphalt shingles and downspouts, chapel	34,000	Completed
Fire panel replacement	18,000	Completed
South exterior doors	12,000	Completed
Automatic electric door opener	8,300	Completed
Rooftop ventilator for rest rooms / showers	3,850	Completed
West Sanctuary gutters, downspouts, roof valley, woodwork	23,400	Completed
Chimney cap	7,000	Completed
Furniture: public areas	7,000	Planning / bidding
Replace / relocate 5 rooftop HVAC units	105,000	Approved - work in progress
Convert Temple Of Light to 4 season room	10,000	Shift to next fiscal year
Computer / security equipment - 3 broken computers replaced	2,325	Completed
Exterior walls, wood trim, paint finishes	32,496	Shift to next fiscal year
	333,371	
Sanctuary Maintenance: Either 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 Depending On Pilgrim Hall		
Sanctuary & Vestibule: repair and paint	107,000	Bidding
Sanctuary: choir chairs, fans, radiators, vents, rail, smokes, restoration	61,528	Bidding
Sanctuary: level floors and carpet	32,539	Bidding
Sanctuary: audio visual	TBD	Initial bid under review
Sanctuary: pew restoration in place	50,000	Bidding
	251,067	
Pilgrim Hall Remodeling: 2019-2020		600,000
Plans complete, permits applied for, bids submitted		Will bridge fiscal years

	Estimate/ Actual	<u>Comments</u>
2019-2020 Fiscal Year		
Air handling units, heating and cooling units	25,000	
Digital HVAC control systems	2,000	
Walls, masonry, inspections and repairs	52,315	
Floor coverings, carpet, common areas, phased	64,900	
Acoustical ceiling tiles - 2,525 sq. ft. - DIY installed	5,050	
Acoustical ceiling tiles - 3,367 sq. ft. - professionally installed	16,835	
Light fixtures, can and pendant, atrium and chapel	6,424	
Light fixtures, sanctuary, narthex and stairs, dome	3,115	
Interior painting	10,000	
Asphalt pavement, crack repair, patch and seal coat	3,302	
Computer / security equipment	5,000	
	193,941	
2020-2021 Fiscal Year		
Windows maintenance	10,000	
Phone system	10,000	
Floor coverings, carpet, common areas, phased	64,900	
Acoustical ceiling tiles - 2,525 sq. ft. - DIY installed	5,050	
Acoustical ceiling tiles - 3,367 sq. ft. - professionally installed	16,835	
Elevator cab finishes	7,997	Shift downstream?
HVAC systems	100,000	
Computer / security equipment	3,000	
Total	217,782	
Five year total	1,686,043	
2021-2022 Fiscal Year		
Doors, entrances	6,000	
Furniture: public areas	5,000	
Kitchen equipment	13,184	
Roofs, thermoplastic, CPE, 2001	103,254	
Skylights	46,933	
Roofs, clay tiles, underlayment and partial tile replacement	298,869	Need to validate
Computer / security equipment	3,000	
Total	476,240	
2022-2023 Fiscal Year		
Boilers, building heat	124,595	
Windows, wood frames, phased	13,824	
Kitchen equipment	13,184	
Small & tower roofs	30,000	
Window maintenance	10,000	
Computer / security equipment	3,000	
Total	194,603	

	Estimate/ Actual	Comments
2023-2024 Fiscal Year		
Gutters and downspouts, copper	16,000	
Asphalt Pavement, crack repair, patch and seal coat	3,302	
Acoustical ceiling tiles - 2,525 sq. ft. - DIY installed	5,050	
Acoustical ceiling tiles - 3,367 sq. ft. - professionally installed	16,835	
Roofs, thermoplastic, TPO, 2007	118,200	
Computer / security equipment	3,000	
Furniture: Public Areas	5,000	
Total	167,387	
2024-2025 Fiscal Year		
Exterior walls, wood trim, paint finishes	38,129	
Window maintenance	10,000	
Acoustical ceiling tiles - 2,525 sq. ft. - DIY installed	5,050	
Light Fixtures, sanctuary, refurbishment	12,710	
Air Handling Unit, make-up air	13,981	Unlikely to last this long
Asphalt Pavement, crack repair, patch and seal coat	3,673	
Computer / security equipment	3,000	
Total	86,543	
2025 -2026 Fiscal Year		
Walls, masonry, inspections and repairs	64,742	
Floor Coverings, tile, common areas	9,398	
Rest Rooms, multiple stalls, renovations	66,569	
Rest Rooms, single stall	4,000	
Life Safety System, Emergency Devices)	30,000	Recost devices
Total	174,709	
Ten year total	2,785,525	

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