

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL MEETING

February 6, 2022



“

“GOD IS STILL SPEAKING”

ALL ARE WELCOME AT CENTER CHURCH ON THE COMMON, AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING UCC CONGREGATION, WHERE THE SPIRIT OF GOD STIRS US TO EMBRACE OUR DIVERSITY, DEEPEN OUR FAITH IN JESUS, SHARE OUR TEARS AND LAUGHTER, AND EXTEND GOD'S ABUNDANT LOVE AND JUSTICE INTO THE WORLD.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

One Church Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075

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The Ministry at Center Church

Ministers
Senior Minister
Christian Education
Children

Youth
Music Program
Organist
Associate in Music
Church Administrator
Custodian

All Church Members
Rev. Lori J. Souder

Martha Guild, Maddie Drake
and Chelsea Korzeniowski
Emily Carle and Kayla Scott-McDowell

Larry D. Schipull
Cynthia J. Morrell
Cynthia H. Jubinville
Robert Farman

AGENDA

Annual Meeting – February 6, 2022

*First Congregational Church, UCC
South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075*

Call to Order - Call for quorum	Moderator
Opening Devotions	Rev. Lori J. Souder
Presentation of the Annual Report	Moderator
Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting	David Morrell, Clerk
Sr. Minister's Report	Rev. Souder
Team Reports Review	Review Chairs
Nominating Team Report	David Morrell
Financial Reports	John Hoffman
Acceptance of Annual Report	Moderator
Budget for 2022	Eliot Chartrand
Acceptance of Budget	Moderator
Voices of Resilience	Anita Sarro
The Cross	Corinne Chartrand
Other Business	Moderator
Closing Summary	Rev. Souder
Closing Devotions	Emily Carle
"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"	Cynthia J. Morrell and all members of the 2022 Annual Meeting

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

***Blest be the ties that bind, our hearts in Christian Love;
The fellowship of kindred minds, is like to that above.***

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

March 7, 2021 (on Zoom)

The 288th Annual Meeting was called to order through an historic virtual Zoom (our first remote) meeting by acting moderator John Hoffman at 11:05 a.m. We counted a quorum of 46 voting members. We determined that we needed a quorum of 25. We surpassed that number! John called on Reverend Lori Souder for an opening prayer. She declared that we ask God for help for us to adjust “beyond the normal” and “beyond the isolation and pain” that the pandemic has brought upon us. She asked God to “bless us in our time together.” Moderator Hoffman then went over the agenda and how the remote meeting is to proceed. He shared some poignant thoughts about the Covid-19 pandemic year and its impact on us and Center Church. With a vaccine on the way, there is “hope in sight!”

The minutes of the February 2, 2020 Annual Meeting were **MSV** unanimously to accept them as printed.

Pastor’s Report:

- Reverend Souder spoke about her report. She commented that in her 37 years as a pastor, her written report is the longest due to this pandemic year! The threat of Covid-19 kept her physically away from most of us. She remarked at how grateful she is/was to have the various Zoom meetings where she virtually connected with the Council and the Trustees and others. She recalled her conversation with 102-year-old member Becky McArthur who asked Lori if “Seminary prepared her for a pandemic?” Lori reported that the Discernment Task Force (Ruth Cowan, Claire Houston, Lorain Giles and Thia Jubinville) have been meeting with MHC senior and member Emily Carle who will be attending Louisville Seminary in the Fall. Council voted to endorse Emily as a Member of Discernment and that she be given \$1,000 per year (\$500 per semester) to financially support her. This money would come from the Council’s unrestricted funds. The Phase Forward Task force met to make sense of the Covid-19 restrictions and to determine how best to use the church building and when we would be re-opening. In the meantime, “YouTube” worship services will continue until further notice. She thanked Gretchen LaBonte, Helen Gage and John Anz for helping with recordings and sharing their technical expertise. This enabled her, along with the musicians, to present Sunday worship services on a weekly basis. Lori stated that she did not take a sabbatical in 2020 and would not be taking one in 2021. She concluded that she is “humbled and blessed to have such a huge team of staff, members and friends who help and guide her. May the Spirit bless and lead us in 2021!”

Team Reports:

- Gretchen LaBonte reported that the Deacons are grateful for all assistance they received while producing the weekly virtual worship services with various scripture readers and musicians who contributed their time and talent.
- Eliot Chartrand shared what the Trustees are considering. They are concerned about the vacant space left by the closed Center Nursery School. A potential children’s daycare program has shown an interest in the available space. The Trustees will look into this possibility. The outside sanctuary window painting project has been completed. There has been a survey done about the re-pointing of the building’s exterior bricks. We received a certificate from the National Register of Historic places declaring that Center Church is now an historic building! A

- plaque indicating this status is to be designed and ordered and placed in a prominent spot on the outside of our building. Due to this honor, it will help us receive funds for future

preservation projects. Exploration into the various fund outlets has been started. Our outdoor signage is in need of repair and/or possible replacement.

- CE reported that the Sunday school program has thrived through this unusual time. 2020 was like no other! All who participated in the Sunday school's success helped it to adapt to the times! There were many virtual visits with both the children's group and the Youth Group. The curriculum "packet pick up" outside the Church Street entrance ran smoothly with the combined help of the Sunday school staff and CE Team. The future children's curriculum will be focusing on racial justice. The Youth Group will look into systematic racism.
- Cindy Morrell spoke for the Musicians stating that the regular "Center Church music routine" changed to accommodate Covid-19 restrictions. There were no choir rehearsals or choir, limited organ and piano practicing, solos, duets, and small musical groups had to be recorded for YouTube presentations. She expressed gratitude for Gretchen LaBonte and John Anz's technical help.
- Activities is putting the Fall Fair and Holiday Bazaar on hold until further notice.
- HR/PCRC is striving to be more supportive of Lori. They hope to come up with more creative ways to allow her more "time off." The team is monitoring employee relations pertaining to any added duties due to the pandemic.
- Membership did not do a Fall 2020 "We miss you" letter to members we haven't seen in church. They are continuing to find ways to "get back to encouraging" possible new members.
- Outreach thanked their team for getting through a very busy and unusual year. They are continuing to focus on racial justice through various programs and the Saturday morning vigils. Due to a variety of natural disasters and the pandemic, they feel that this year's One Great Hour of Sharing fund drive is more needed and important than ever!
- Stewardship announced their final numbers for their campaign. They had 91 pledge units totaling \$165,882. There were four new pledge units which helped with a modest increase over last year's. They thanked everyone who participated.
- David Morrell presented the Nominating slate. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, it was a bit difficult to do any "in person" asking to serve on a team. The team made some changes to terms to be served, etc. Some team members agreed to serve for an additional year in order to maintain a certain amount of continuity. He expressed his appreciation to those who came forward to help.

Financial Report:

- The endowment is at \$1.1 million for the first time! The relief payment from the government (known as the PPP) which paid for staff and other church-related costs helped our budget greatly! Treasurer John Hoffman was thanked for his efforts in obtaining the PPP "loan." It helped Center Church end the year with a \$13,000 surplus! Thia Jubinville made a correction to the audit report. Thia inadvertently typed the year 2020 on the report instead of 2019. It was **MSV** unanimously to accept the change as corrected to 2019.

Budget for 2021:

- Eliot Chartrand presented the 2021 budget declaring that it went through seven drafts to get it to this report! Health coverage costs had to be worked out for the office manager. The Trustees were able to incorporate small increases to the staff salaries. Lorain Giles asked if we were affected by not having any plate offerings. Eliot stated that we weren't affected too much. Various monetary donations totaling \$5,600 came in throughout the year which offset the "no plate" offering! He said future monetary predictions look hopeful once the pandemic is under control. It was then **MSV** unanimously to accept the 2021 Budget as presented.

It was **MSV** unanimously to accept the 2020 Annual Report as corrected.

New Business:

- Kate Hoffman brought before the meeting a request to formally change the name in our Constitution for Christian Education Team for Children and Youth to Faith Formation for Children and Youth. A discussion was held. Kate explained that changing the name has been used and put forth by the UCC. Sunday school parents were surveyed and they agreed, feeling that the change is more inclusive and pertains to what the Sunday school is trying to teach. Al Duffy and Doug Smith asked why there is no reference to Christian Education in the change. An amendment to include Christian Education in the name change was presented and defeated. Kate expressed her gratitude for the worthwhile discussion. She reiterated that "faith is a journey we are on." It was then **MSV with 38 yes, 6 no and 2 abstentions** to accept the change to Faith Formation for Children and Youth.

Cindy Morrell thanked John Hoffman for his responsible leadership as our moderator. She also thanked Thia Jubinville for gathering and producing the 2020 Annual Report.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:54 p.m. with a closing prayer from Reverend Souder. "God of robust spirit, blessed be the tie that binds!"

Respectfully submitted,
David C. Morrell, Clerk

REPORT OF THE SENIOR MINISTER

The year 2021 found ourselves wandering around in the desert, finding oases of hope along the way. Yet we are a resurrected people full of resiliency and resourcefulness. If it wasn't for Zoom, I would have forgotten what your smiles look like. If it wasn't for many volunteers from the church and community who volunteered their time, wells of promise wouldn't have sprung up. From 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 in The Message Translation: *"So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without God's unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times."*

Nothing small potatoes when it comes to our staff. The staff were constantly resilient. The staff revealed great expertise as they continued to record worship, Sunday School (PL), and Youth Group. While Bob did months of spring cleaning. Thia worked ½ from home to "navigate the ship." Thanks to Elizabeth Griffin for stepping in for Thia's time off. The musicians continued their excellent music seeking ways to be safe and reveal God's glory through voice & instruments. Believe Covid hits music the hardest. On Sunday's YouTube we had 60-130 hits on average. And Thia sent out 18 complete bulletins by mail to homebound & those without computers.

Trustees do more than count. Did you know the Trustees have two pairs of eyes? They are constantly examining the building, repairing it, & finding ways to raise money through building use. The Trustees along with Randy Hyvonen registered CC as a Historical Landmark. The bronze sign on Church St makes me smile.

Jesus (Jeez) finally made it back to church. Our dog Mac enjoyed getting to know Jesus better with "Mac and Jeez" midweek videos. Thanks to Gretchen LaBonte for coordinating all the Sunday individual videos into beautiful worship & art. She donated ½ her Saturdays to the project. Helen Gage helped record me. And then once we returned in person in May, John Anz has steadily recorded the hybrid service; he & the Stewardship Team are invested in recording worship & updating our website in addition to creating a strong Stewardship campaign. The Deacons (& ushers) worked alongside me as we prepared for online or in-house worship. Resilient and resourceful! And the 3 past moderators have been by my side with sage advice regarding Covid, Annual Meeting, or communication (Bobbie Ayers, Brian Lapis, Anita Sarro).

"We've never done it this way before." Well, isn't that the truth when we received 5 new members via Zoom. Membership has had to adjust considering how remote we were.

Vigils build community! For over 77 consecutive weeks we gathered on the front lawn to stand for racial injustice. We have changed it to the first Saturday of the month from 10-10:30am. We are grateful for the support of the church and greater community from 67-8 folks a week in attendance in 2021. What next? We had a burning desire to expand our work using art. Then Anita Sarro's friends offered up their exhibit, "Voices of Resilience" which was only open for a limited time two years ago. We are postponing the exhibit until the fall. We are also fortunate to have the vision and heart of the Outreach Team who educates us and is the arm of Center Church reaching out into the community.

In 2021 we discovered how resourceful we can be. Food For Friends (a shared ministry with a few other churches and community members to provide meals for the homebound) adjusted the way they cooked food, packaged and delivered. The Activities Team with a few volunteers crafted and distributed hand-made gifts for the holidays to be distributed to homebound folks and MHC students.

A few church members agreed to call periodically those who were remote. Pastoral Care fell into a twilight realm, but as May emerged, hospitals and Loomis opened.

Let's throw the world into the ocean to see if folks can swim. None of us were prepared to handle the ramifications of Covid even in its second year. The Phase Forward Task Force comprised of Brittany Bryan, Al Duffy, Kate Hoffman, Gretchen LaBonte, Anita Sarro, and me, tackled another year of paying close tabs with the Covid rates and examining when and how to slowly open to worship, our renters, and non-profits. We are in fluctuation. Thank you all for masking up and getting your vaccinations and boosters.

Finally, we resumed Bible Study at Loomis. What a joy it is to be in the midst of a study where many opinions are shared as well as laughter.

It's been ages since we last had a seminarian student. We continued to periodically hold a Zoom meeting with our seminarian, Emily Carle. Five MHC graduates are part of the Discernment Circle: Ruth Cowan, Lorain Giles, Claire Houston, Thia Jubinville, and myself. Emily expands our minds when sharing her seminary classes. We also held a Zoom meeting with the MHC students who were at home and who attended CC in the past.

Time for an overdue sabbatical. A Sabbatical Task Force was established to interview for a potential minister to lead worship and provide pastoral care while I am on my sabbatical.

Outside ministries all by Zoom. I remain facilitating a Clergy Community of Practice group. It is rewarding as well as nourishing. And I sit on the Board of Cathedral In the Night (ministry with the homeless in Noho) with whom you support. Thank you. I spent time working with the SNEUCC (Southern New England UCC), interviewing candidates to be Area Conference Ministers. I participated so I could understand better the workings of our relatively new Conference. Because of COVID, not all the Conference staff have met in person! I assisted our Area Conference Minister in configuring how the clergy and commissioned ministers could meet in three Associations. And for something new, I moderated a forum on policing in South Hadley.

We all grieve over someone or something. As a community we are in deep sorrow over the loss of our Choir Director, Cheryl Cobb. Her talent, incredible positive and humorous nature, and friendship touched us to the core. Plans to find her replacement began in November. We lost several dear members and friends in 2021. Truly I believe my grief will last longer since tending to them was extremely limited. I hear their voices, such as Bob Russell's laugh or Cheryl's spontaneous bursts of one-liners. Then on the flip side I am grateful for the healing of members who were severely ill. Praise be to God.

"Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without God's unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times." Blessings, Lori

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Deacons facilitate worship and worship planning with Senior Pastor, Lori Souder. The diaconate for 2021 included Gretchen LaBonte, Julie Burke, David Barrett along with Ushers, Randy Hyvonen and Bill Giles, and Rev. Souder as our advisor. Gretchen LaBonte served as chair of deacons.

We would like to share a special thank you to David Barrett who became a deacon in July shortly after joining Center Church as a new member. In November, David passed away following several months of illness from COVID-19. While we did not get to have David with us very long, we are grateful for his warmth and for his enthusiasm for Center Church. We will continue to miss having him as part of our team and our community.

During the first part of the year, worship continued via online services on YouTube due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. During these months, Lori and many church members came together to record portions of the weekly services, along with Lori's "Midweek Musings." In-person church services were reinstated on May 16, 2021 as vaccinations were more widely available and it was safer to gather together once again. In addition to in-person services, a livestream of services was shared on Facebook. The deacons wish to thank all those participants for the wonderful and moving services provided. We would also like to thank Gretchen LaBonte for her technical expertise in putting together the YouTube services, and share our sincere gratitude with the Stewardship Team, especially John Anz, who have made the Facebook livestream services possible.

Our team has continued to meet throughout the year via zoom. Our team members contributed to discussions about how to continue to provide meaningful worship to our congregation particularly through another difficult year when community members have navigated the added stressors and personal challenges of the pandemic. We have had on-going discussions about what pieces of worship are most important and meaningful to us. We were excited to be able to share several months of communion together in the fall. We will hope for a safer year ahead for our community and hope for more opportunities to gather together at the table again.

We want to thank Pastor Lori for her leadership at Center Church, and in particular to the deacons. We want to thank our guest preachers – Emily Carle and Lorain Giles. We would also like to thank all the scripture readers, Martha Guild who provided Messages for All, as well as all of our fabulous musicians. We would also like to thank the many members who stepped up to help in transitioning back to in-person worship.

As a team we will strive to provide moments of peace and reflection during a challenging time for our world. We wish for our congregation to reflect on their faith journey and look forward to a meaningful year ahead.

Gretchen LaBonte for the Deacons

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES – 2021

At the outset, I would like to thank the entire staff for all the time and effort spent making this year a success. Everyone has worked so hard keeping a positive and constructive attitude. It has been a pleasure working with everyone and seeing the results of our efforts.

I also wish to acknowledge the contribution that Bob Russell has made to Center Church. Bob unfortunately passed away in July 2021. He was a friend of many, a choir member, a trustee for many years and an investment committee member. His concern for Center Church was demonstrated in his leadership of the Investment Committee. His long-term goal was to create an endowment fund which would be a source of funds to supplement the annual pledge income and help cover operating expenses. He was so pleased to have the endowment fund reach \$1 million dollars, but once achieved he said we should now go for \$2 million. We on the committee appreciated his energy and will miss his counsel.

The Trustees are pleased to report that 2021 was a financially better year than we had expected. The proposed budget had projected a loss of \$9,731. As of year-end we had a loss of \$6,863. While this is not as gratifying as having a profit it is encouraging to know that we performed better than expected.

In the spring of 2020, we became aware that The Center Nursery School was contemplating closing. The school had been a tenant since the 50s and the thought of their leaving was discouraging. We thought about converting the play yard to parking space but that was not plan A. We wanted to continue the community service of having an educational program in that space. Fortunately, before we started the parking lot project, we received a call from Tracie Kennedy who was interested in starting a nursery school and day care center. The discussion resulted in their taking the space.

The year was spent evaluating what expenses we may address and what expenses we must address. In preparing the space for The Tree of Life Learning Center, the second floor of the Education Wing had to be updated and renovated to be compliant with the Town Building Department codes and State Board of Education requirements. The cost to improve the space was approximately \$20,000. We installed vinyl plank flooring in the hallway and 2 classrooms. We installed new door handles on some of the classroom doors and added security locks on the hall access doors. We updated the electrical service to meet the requirements to power 4 AC units purchased for the classrooms. In addition, the tenant painted several classrooms and the hallway at their own expense. By all reports the new tenant is very happy and we are happy to have them.

Additional projects for the church building include the replacement of the Kiosk in the front of the building. The present illuminated sign has been in service since 1966 or 1967, as far as we can determine. We have requested a permit from the Town to change the sign to an illuminated sign that can be managed electronically. The sign will be WiFi compatible and can be updated or changed from the administration office. This project should be completed in 2022.

We are also evaluating the possibility of expanding the fire alarm system to include fire detection devices in the boiler rooms and the kitchen as well as the education floor occupied by Tree of Life. There seems to be no end to the projects to renovate and preserve our church building. This year we hope to get more information on grants and funding available for us to work on some of our projects.

Respectfully Submitted:

Eliot Chartrand, Trustee

REPORT OF THE CLERK

December 31, 2021

<u>NEW MEMBERS UNITED BY:</u>	<u>INACTIVE STATUS</u>
Reaffirmation of Faith April 25, 2021	Nancy Johnson*
	Jeremy Kenneson*
	Paula Lonergan*
David Robert Barrett	Peter McAvoy*
Joshua and Kelly Jacques	Kayla Narey*
Rev. Mary Nelson	Tyler Narey*
Rev. Terry Yasuko Ogawa	Sydney Phoenix*
	Roland (Jay) Roberts*
	Chloe Sabbs Asselin*
	Melissa Thornton*
	Pamela Thornton*
	Lisa Wray*
BIRTHS:	
October 5 Bernard Procter Son of Katherine and Art Procter	* continuing status
BAPTISMS:	
September 12 Lucas Daniel Jacques son of Kelly and Joshua Jacques	
October 10 Reese Marion Holmes daughter of Lisa and Jason Holmes	
	<u>TO BE MOVED TO HISTORICAL RECORDS</u>
	<u>BY REQUEST</u>
MARRIAGE:	
June 11 Christina Remie and Christopher Kibler	June 1 Douglas Smith
	December 15 Diane F. Deshaies
	December 15 Robert D. Deshaies
	December 15 Kimberly Deshaies
	December 15 Julie Deshaies
DEATHS:	
February 26 [Michael Frank Bozek]	
April 27 Jennett Teece	
July 31 Robert H. Russell Jr.	
October 1 [Cheryl Virginia Hussey Cobb] Choir Director	
November 19 David Robert Barrett	
Brackets - non-members	<u>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP DECEMBER 31, 2021</u>
	Active 176
	Inactive 12
	<i>David Morrell, Clerk</i>

REPORT OF CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council meets on the first Tuesday of each month except the month of July. Team reports are brought before the Council. With no moderator, the Council is led by a Lead Pro-tem each month. The designated Lead meets Rev. Souder prior to each meeting to review pertinent topics and to create an agenda. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council met virtually through Zoom. Below are the monthly summaries from each meeting.

January Council met on Tuesday January 5. Brian Lapis of Stewardship was Lead pro-tem. Rev. Souder touched upon how important it is for each of us to reach out to one another during this unsettling time. She spoke about the “farewell” that the Hampshire Association planned for Associate Conference Ministers Rev. Jill Graham and Rev. Kelly Gallagher departing from the SNEUCC. Council **MSV** unanimously to participate in the National Day of Recollection for COVID-19 deaths, on January 19. It was also **MSV** unanimously to set the virtual Annual Meeting for Sunday, March 7. Another unanimous **VOTE** was taken to allow three individual \$480 scholarships to be taken from unrestricted memorial funds for the children and youth of Center Church on a “first come, first served” basis to attend the two-week Silver Lake 2021 Summer Camp. Activities created care packages for Emily Carle and Emma Martin along with any other MHC students associated with Center Church as a “welcome back” gesture. CE is considering a name change for their team which will be brought before the Annual Meeting for discussion and a vote. Trustees went through seven drafts of the 2021 budget to be presented at the Annual Meeting. There are a lot of variables in the budget this time. The Council felt that the Christmas Eve virtual service was well thought out and presented. The “Food Bag” drop off went smoothly, also.

February Council met on Tuesday February 2. Kate Hoffman of CE was Lead pro-tem. Rev. Souder asked us where our value resides and how we can restore that value. In her report, Lori mentioned that she has been attending lots of Zoom meetings. Because we had no money in the budget to pay a dues fee to one of the organizations to which we belong, Lori paid the dues. This engendered discussion about fluidity in the church budget. The Council agreed to discuss this further. The virtual Annual Meeting is to be on March 7 at 11:00 a.m. and will have structure, and votes will be taken. It was **MSV** unanimously to appoint John Hoffman as Annual Meeting moderator and it was agreed that said meeting be recorded. Also, the Clerk will announce the Call during the YouTube worship of February 21, 28 and March 7. Outreach donated \$400 to Craig’s Door, an emergency shelter program in Amherst. HR/PCR reviewed the hours worked by staff and considered whether there should be some minor adjustments. Stewardship reported that \$165,182 had been pledged from 89 units and they also received a “bonus” gift of \$25,000! Trustees continued to monitor the church’s heating system. Deacons planned a future workshop about helping with the worship service. CE will provide a motion for the Annual Meeting about changes to the Team’s name. Nominating reported that the slate is prepared with very few changes.

March Council met on Tuesday March 2. Corinne Chartrand of Activities was Lead pro-tem. Council discussed logistics concerning the Annual Meeting. We have 179 active members, so we needed to determine what constitutes a quorum. The meeting adheres to Robert’s Rules. Outreach reported that the vigils are still ongoing. The team collected household items for Jewish Family Services to be used for new refugee arrivals. They also donated \$200 to JFS for school supplies. \$250 was sent to the LGBTQ Asylum Task Force in Worcester, MA. Activities provided another virtual trivia night. Stewardship reported that the “bonus gift” of \$25,000 was from Tom Hazen and his family. Trustees reviewed a proposal for a daycare program in our former Center Nursery School rooms. Preservation of the exterior of our church building is an ongoing discussion. A plaque has been proposed declaring our new national historic status! Deacons may consider “live streaming” of our worship service. CE

recognized graduating High School seniors and MHC graduating seniors Emily Carle and Phoebe Murtagh. Rev. Souder is participating in the Area Conference Minister Search Committee being conducted through Zoom. Our current outside kiosk is in poor condition and needs updating. Our website needs a “2021 overhaul,” including all teams’ updating. Brian Lapis agreed to chair the group. Council discussed an “all-purpose church fund” for “pop-up” expenses.

April Council met on Tuesday April 6. Bobbie Ayers of Membership was Lead pro-tem. Council was joined by the Trustees and the Phase Forward Task Force to hear from the Task Force about the future re-opening of Center Church. Anita Sarro led the update. It **MSV** unanimously to accept the Phase Forward update and start worshipping in Fellowship Hall on Sunday morning May 16. Outreach continues their focus on racial justice and continue to support the faith communities of the Interfaith Opportunities Network (ION) of Hampshire County. Activities canceled the Annual Fall Fair and the Holiday Bazaar until further notice. Stewardship reported that our website can now accept one-time donations to the operating budget of Center Church. That team has taken the lead about updating/overhauling our current website. They hope to sponsor another Jazz concert in the Fall. Trustees removed (due to winter damage) the Center Church’s 250th Anniversary commemorative Bartlett Pear tree on the Park Street side. Deacons may do more recorded worship services. It’s been suggested that we look into hiring an electronic technician. Faith Formation has formed a small group to consider the Sunday school curriculum. Membership reported that there are eight potential new members hoping to join us. Lori stated that the Loomis Bible study group will begin again in May. The summer worship services are: July, Center Church hosts, and August, Granby hosts. The request for an “all-purpose fund” for pop-up expenses is covered in the existing budget as the “contingency” fund.

May Council met on Tuesday May 4. Karen Hyvonen of Outreach was the Lead pro-tem. The Phase Forward update comprised information about when other uses of our church building will be implemented. The Trustees, Council and other teams may, in the near future, be able to do in-person meetings in the building. Deacons worked on details for future recording and streaming services. YouTube and Mid-Week Musings are discontinued. Faith Formation continues Sunday school participation in person outside (weather permitting) through May and two Sundays in June. The new Bible-based curriculum will be in place by September. Emily Carle will continue to do Zoom meetings with the Youth Group. HR considered future hiring for the Youth Group leaders. Outreach evaluated its current partnerships and may seek potential new partners. Stewardship agreed upon Friday, October 29 for the “Jazz for Justice, Peace and Dignity” concert. Trustees proposed a fire inspection of the Education building for July 5. A health inspection found no lead issues. The daycare (Tree of Life) for the second floor of the Education building is evolving. Lori shared four goals for Center Church as follows: (1) that we be agents of transformation; (2) that we infuse and provide our ministry with love and justice; (3) that we follow the teachings of Jesus; and (4) that we encourage fellowship and outreach.

June Council met on June 1. It was led by Corrine Chartrand. The Phase Forward update was that worship was going well in the sanctuary. The use of the church building is coming back slowly. Team reports were: Deacons looked into some new equipment for better recording of the worship service, etc. Faith Formation purchased air filters for the Promised Land rooms. Outreach donated \$500 to Food for Friends. Trustees provided a smooth transition for the Tree of Life school on the second floor of the Education Bldg. The Loomis Bible study is continuing. Council agreed to support Emily Carle’s need for funds for an evaluation as she prepares to enter Seminary. It was **MSV** unanimously to take the amount of \$617.00 from our unrestricted memorial funds as our contribution for her required evaluation.

August (there was no July meeting) met on Tuesday August 3. Bobbie Ayers of Membership led the meeting. Anita Sarro informed Council about a possible Fall exhibit *Voices of Resilience* consisting of works by contemporary African American women and their white women allies. It was **MSV** unanimously to approve the plan for Anita and Lori to continue to work out the exhibit details and return to Council with a more specific plan. Deacons renewed some training sessions and Ushers are now meeting with them. There needs to be more coordination about how to welcome visitors. Faith Formation reviewed the new Sunday school curriculum. Separate “supply boxes” are now instituted for each Promised Lander. Membership relocated various church info pamphlets to a table in the Narthex and Crossway. Outreach donated \$500 to Neighbors Helping Neighbors. They visited the Full Circle Garden on Rt. 47. Stewardship finalized the Jazz Concert posters with expenses being covered by a sponsor. The driving force behind this concert is John Anz! Trustees welcomed the Tree of Life school. The Building Inspector has given our church a good report. The Trustees are looking to improve the landscaping around the church. A guitarist is giving guitar lessons in Fellowship Hall once a week. In New Business, it was **MSV** unanimously to appoint new member David Barrett to the Deacons’ Team with a term ending in 2023.

September Council met on September 7. Kate Hoffman led the meeting. Anita Sarro reported that the *Voices of Resilience* is postponed due to needed funding and the Delta variant. Now they are looking to the Spring. The October 29 Jazz Concert is still “a go.” Masks are required and tickets are on sale. Team reports: Activities called off the Annual Fall Fair for this year. Deacons discussed how best to observe World Wide Communion on October 3. Faith Formation welcomed their new hires for the Sunday school and Youth Group. There is no Nursery this year. HR shared the new hires’ info. Molly Thomas is a first-year student at MHC from New Hampshire. She is from the UCC tradition with a good “understanding of church life.” She is teaching in the Promised Land. For the Youth Group, Kayla Scott-McDowell ’24 is a MHC student from New York City and has an active background in social justice. Outreach monitored disaster relief programs. Jewish Family Services is expecting 150 refugees from Afghanistan and the team would like to help with needed supplies. Stewardship’s Fall campaign is entitled “Rooted in Love.” They are hoping to have some personal testimonies. Lori planned to meet digitally with the Conference ministers October 6.

October Council met on Tuesday October 5. Anita Sarro of HR led the meeting. Anita gave an update pertaining to the *Voices of Resilience* exhibit. Lori and Anita contacted the treasurer of the SH Cultural Council who was very supportive of the exhibit. The deadline for a 2022 grant is October 15. School groups are to be invited to the exhibit. Activities reported that there will be no Holiday Bazaar this year. Deacons are in the midst of training and assigning duties for the team. Faith Formation has a new hire for the Promised Land. Maddie Drake ’24, a MHC student from Kentucky will help teach the Sunday school classes. Chelsea Korzeniowski is on hand for support. HR worked out vacation time for Thia so that she can do “Grandma duty” for her new granddaughter. Membership is continuing to update the pamphlet “All About Us.” Outreach signed up for Cathedral in the Night on November 21. \$250 was donated to Neighbors in Need. They are continuing to gather items for the 150 Afghani evacuees coming to the area. A “work day” gathering for future help with the Full Circle Garden is planned. Stewardship’s campaign culminates on Sunday, November 14. Trustees looked into repairing/replacing the kiosk in front of the church. They made available all pertinent information. The fire alarm system (and smoke alarm system) is in need of updating. Rev. Souder wants to restart the “stakeholders” interviews. It’s an excellent way to get in touch with town leaders and make them aware of Center Church.

November Council met on Tuesday November 2. Bobbie Ayers of Membership led the meeting. Guest Emily Carle gave an overview about her first semester studies and experiences on campus at the Louisville Seminary. She is enjoying the “challenges” and is RA for her dorm. She declared that she’s not “burned out” yet! Activities is hoping for a possible “Spring Tea” event. Deacons need volunteers

for Christmas Eve ushering. Faith Formation discussed the direction they will take during the Advent season. HR discussed with Thia about her “long range plans.” The choir director position is on hold. Membership is following up on potential new members. Outreach participated in Cathedral in the Night gatherings. They thanked Food for Friends for their help. 22 hygiene kits were assembled for the incoming Afghani families. Outreach donated \$500 to Habitat for Humanity. Participation with Full Circle Garden is on hold until next year. Trustees are investigating the fire alarm system. There is a need for a chimney cap. The Girl Scouts are meeting on Wednesdays in Fellowship Hall. The second floor lavatories are available during worship service. Lori is taking her sabbatical in 2022 (June 6 through September 5). There’s a list of digital needs for Center Church and a consultant is to participate in the choices. Guest Charlotte Buijnarowski is the coordinator for Food for Friends weekend meals on wheels. She spoke about the future need for volunteers for kitchen staff, packing crew, and drivers. As “manager” she is aware that she needs backup for herself and the chefs. FFF has been operating for 12 years! Center Church will still continue to sponsor the Saturday Racial Justice vigil on the first Saturday of the month. The Afghani resettlement needs attorneys to help over 60 evacuees with citizenship issues. The *Voices of Resilience Exhibit* is postponed until March 2022.

December Council met on Tuesday December 7. Karen Hyvonen of Outreach led the meeting. Activities reported that a Spring tag sale is being discussed. Members of the team created 37 holiday “tea light” gifts for members from Loomis and for homebound members. Outreach is lining up speakers to address the use of personal pronouns. They also asked for winter coats for the local Afghani evacuees. Trustees looked into future expansion of the fire alarm system. Forms are being completed to update our aging kiosk. Damaged roof flashing over the Crossway is to be replaced. Lori met with a “video and sound consultant” concerning the sanctuary. Six persons inquired about joining Center Church! Thia returned to her office schedule of: Tuesday through Thursday. The Council discussed the Sabbatical Pastor Agreement for a replacement pastor during Lori’s upcoming sabbatical. It was **MSV** unanimously to appoint: Brittany Bryan, Julie Burke, Greer Clarke, Brian Lapis and Randy Purinton as the ad hoc Sabbatical Pastor Search Committee. It was **MSV** unanimously to accept the agreement as changed. The Council wants a dialogue about the possible removal of the large hanging cross in the sanctuary.

Respectfully submitted,
David C. Morrell, Clerk

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN

The Promised Land Sunday School delivers a thriving and progressive Christian faith formation curriculum for PreK-5th Grade each Sunday during the school calendar year. The curriculum is prepared and taught by the Director of Children's Education, a staff of two co-teachers plus church volunteers. The Promised Land Sunday School program is supported by the Children and Youth Faith Formation Team. The classrooms are located on the third floor of the education wing of Center Church.

Curriculum: The curriculum in 2021 from January to June continued with theme-based lessons that followed the church calendar. Due to the on-going Coronavirus Pandemic, Sunday school classes continued remotely on the Zoom platform through June. In September, classes began again in person with safety protocols in place (mask wearing, distancing, when possible, each child having their own supply box). The Growing in God's Love curriculum (Presbyterian Publishing) was purchased in the summer and three units were taught from September to December 2021. The lessons were designed and adapted to address children's unique learning needs, including differentiated instruction to reach the children's full range of learning levels and abilities.

Staff: Mount Holyoke College student Simone Jacob resigned as co-teacher in January 2021. Chelsea Korzeniowski, the nursery care provider, was reassigned for the spring and then repositioned as floater support in the Promised Land for the fall. Maddie Drake, a Mount Holyoke College second year, was hired in the fall as a co-teacher to help with the "Littles" (the preschool students). Martha Guild is the lead teacher and the Director of Children's Education. Martha taught morning classes on Sundays remotely from January to June and has been back in person since the fall.

Worship/Outreach: Two Sundays a month, a Children's Conversation (now Message for All) was prepared and recorded and included in the Center Church South Hadley YouTube channel as part of the Sunday service. In-person Messages for All are now starting up again. On Communion Sundays, deacons are bringing a communion platter up to the classrooms for the teachers and students. During remote learning Martha led communion with everyone bringing their own bread and juice to the video conferencing meeting. In December, a modified Christmas pageant was performed in the sanctuary during the service. Promised Land's outreach has been mainly to families of the church, providing activity bags with crafts related to the church calendar including Easter activities in the spring. Children assembled "Blessing Bags" in June for the temporarily homeless.

Submitted by:

Martha Guild

Children's Education Director

Center Church, First Congregational Church, UCC

South Hadley, MA

REPORT OF THE YOUTH LEADERS

2021 in Youth Group was a trying, but fruitful time. We continued with virtual Youth Group for the entire year with good attendance throughout. January - March 2021 we used our Younique curriculum for youth to learn about their personalities, gifts, and discern who God created them to be. After that, we used a Generation Why curriculum called "Encountering Other Faiths" where we learned about other world religions. We ended the school year with celebrating our many graduating seniors with a fun, COVID-safe party. Former Youth Director Emma Martin resigned after transferring from Mount Holyoke. Over the summer with the arrival of the Tree of Life Learning Center, the Youth Rooms moved upstairs to the Promised Land. In September, we welcomed Kayla Scott-McDowell, a sophomore at Mount Holyoke to be a Co-Youth Director with Emily Carle. We started with hybrid Youth Group where Kayla was in person at the church with a laptop on Zoom, and Emily was in KY on Zoom. The church purchased a new laptop for the youth group and increased WiFi capabilities on the 3rd floor which was much appreciated and needed. Youth could be in person or online and all be together. We also welcomed youth from All Saints' Church next door who have been a wonderful addition. Our first series was a Generation Why curriculum called "What's in the Bible" where we explored how the Bible is history, literature, and testimony. We wrapped up the year with a series on the prophets of the Old Testament. For fun, we had a Youth Group Secret Santa to close out the year. We look forward cautiously to 2022 with the rise of Omicron and the sustaining hope for more opportunities to gather together for community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Carle and Kayla Scott-McDowell

REPORT OF THE CENTER CHURCH MUSICIANS FOR 2021

The year 2021 has again been a very different one. Normally the Annual Report carries only the comments from the associate in music, Cindy Morrell. Given what transpired over the course of 2021, and for a second year, we thought it might be a good idea to let our church members know how the three staff musicians (organist Larry Schipull, choir director Cheryl Cobb, and associate in music, Cindy Morrell) “coped.” This 2021 year began the same way we ended 2020. We continued with the YouTube services with basically no formal choir, no sung hymns, and an organ/piano duet which we had already recorded or solos or small groups.

The YouTube service was released with prelude, one hymn and an offertory duet of organ, trumpet/solo vocal plus the usual service items and we were off. We kept working with Pastor Lori on tweaking the musical part of the service to include a prelude but no postlude. Sometimes an unseen vocalist sang the chosen hymns. Larry became quite adept at creating videos of each week’s selected hymns. As we said last year, every hymn video is a four-step process: the music (organ solo, or organ with singer[s]) is recorded; the hymn lyrics are put into a PowerPoint slide show; the music is dropped into and synchronized with the slide show; and the slideshow is converted into a standard movie format for use on YouTube. Cheryl and David Morrell recorded a few duets which could be added when needed and there were still already recorded organ/piano duets available. This year, Cheryl put together smaller groups of choir members to sing an occasional anthem and even sometimes that Sunday’s hymns. Beckie Markarian also chimed in occasionally on her flute. A couple of times, the full choir went to Abbey Chapel steps and sang an acappella anthem.

On May 16, we returned to the church but worshipped in Fellowship Hall with pre-registration, Cheryl Cobb singing the hymns, and Larry at the piano. On May 30, we returned to the sanctuary. Marghorzata (Margaret) Lach joined us on the guitar. The choir returned for the first two Sundays in June. On June 20, we transitioned to our “regular summer services” with Cindy handling the music. Again because of restrictions, we could not gather as usual to practice and then sing in Sunday services. Cindy had to use a solos or duets, but no small group of singers for the summer and those four singers have been duly thanked in her report

Over the summer, Cheryl was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer which was very aggressive. It became apparent very quickly that Cheryl would not be able to return to lead the choir. And when we returned to the “regular” Sunday services in September, there was no congregational singing, only one “anthem,” and just one or two singers. We thank John Anz for again recording any of us who could be there to record a little music to be sent to Cheryl while she was at home. Her daughter, Lee Tae said they were able to play it for her just before she died on October 1. Larry took over the choral duties too. Individual choir members were asked to serve as hymn singers – thanks to Bobbie Ayers, Tim Garrett, John Hoffman, Sharyn Kovalesky, David Morrell, and Randy Purinton for performing that musical leadership! On October 31, the Phase Forward team agreed that the congregation could sing hymns again, of course with masks on! Larry was able to talk the MHC Music Dept.’s administrator, Lynn Barszcz, an accomplished saxophone player, into providing music one Sunday, and on another occasion we all were introduced to the mellow sound of Max Swisher’s euphonium. Both soloists’ participation were real treats for the congregation.

Under Larry's leadership and with little rehearsal, the choir was able to sing two of the Advent Sundays as well as Christmas Eve. That first Sunday when the choir sang without Cheryl's physical presence was a hard one for us all. So the three staff musicians became two for the rest of 2021. We continued to work with Lori deciding on Sunday hymns and any time extra music which was needed, especially for Christmas Eve. The church lost two very committed musicians during 2021. Bob Russell, longtime bass member, died in July (he had many other church hats as well!) and then Cheryl. We continue to be thankful for the years they gave to Center Church's music program and we honor them. As of December 31, we did not have a replacement yet for Cheryl, but we continue to be blessed by the remaining staff musicians.

Cheryl Cobb
Choir Director 1/21-8/21

Cindy Morrell
Associate in Music

Larry Schipull
Organist, Choir Director 9/1-12/21

REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE IN MUSIC

Last year, my report started like this. *The 2020 year has been, for the most part, a very abnormal one beginning in March when the COVID-19 pandemic became an issue for us all. So my report will be a bit more different than usual. I have been playing the organ at Center Church, since 1970, for the summer and also serving as the “resident” substitute covering Sundays during the year when first Barbara “Susie” Conant and now Larry Schipull had to be away. It seems like only yesterday that I began this “work.”*

The year 2021 began as the year 2020 ended. We were still in the YouTube mode for services with everything recorded ahead of time and available for watching any time after Sunday morning. Larry and I continued to provide at least one organ/piano prelude duet through the end of May (six).

We began our regular summer services on June 20 in the sanctuary. This time, we were still under some COVID-19 restrictions, so that there were only one or two singers up in the choir loft with me each Sunday. It was a much smaller number of soloists than usual and I thank the following profusely for agreeing to sing. My sincere thanks to Sharyn Kovalesky, Gretchen LaBonte, Randy Purinton, and last, but never least, diva Cheryl Cobb, who all answered my plea for a “new” normal summer of singing. Randy and Gretchen stepped up and sang at least twice. Sharyn sang one Sunday. Cheryl sang on July 4 and I had hoped to have her sing on the final summer service on Labor Day, but that did not turn out to be possible. It continued to be different with masks in place and somewhat shorter services, including only two hymns and just one “choral” piece during the offertory. It was also different for me as well because, for the first time in any summer, I was not able to ask David to sing whenever I wanted/needed. His freak accident in mid-June left him with four broken ribs and eventually no spleen. That affected his ability to breathe deeply, which is definitely needed for singing well. Fortunately as fall moved along, he was able to begin singing again.

When the “regular” services returned after Labor Day, music was again limited to just soloists and hymn “leader” singers but no congregational singing. So there was no choir and no Cheryl either. She had been diagnosed with aggressive pancreatic cancer in late summer so could not have continued with the choir. Sadly, although Cheryl died on October 1, she was able to spend seven months with her new grandson Forest, daughter Lee Tae and son-in-law Tyler McGinnis. Larry and I continued to offer one piano/organ duet(s) in October, November and every Advent Sunday through the end of the year, for a total of ten additional ones. On October 21, we were all thrilled to be able to have the congregation singing hymns again, with masks on of course!

As always, I thank Larry for being a willing partner in our duets and playing either organ or piano, whichever I feel less comfortable with on a particular piece. And it is such a pleasure to be able to play our lovely sanctuary piano, thanks to Larry, which has such an amazingly rich tone!

I have also continued writing backgrounds on two, three or four hymns that we sang together or sang along with/or just listened to from the previous month for most of the monthly CACs. This year, you have learned about some 28 hymns from our two hymnals (including many which I had talked about previously)! I do try to talk about both older and newer hymns. I actually began these articles back in November 2004 – whew, that seems like a very long time ago! In a non-musical category, I have continued to tell you a little about different members of the congregation in the CAC, although again given the continuing COVID issue, there were only two bios written -- on our new MHC students on the staff working with our children/youth.

I thank you all for the privilege of letting me take part in the very rich musical life of Center Church. Folks comment a lot about how blest we are. So, most especially in the year of COVID-19, music has had the ability to help us get through this very tough time. Please read the 2021 report of the staff musicians of the year which has still proved to be challenging for us all. The music program also has lost two musicians this year. Bob Russell was a dedicated member of the bass section who we lost in July. The choir, the other staff musicians, and the larger congregation lost our dedicated choral director and diva, Cheryl Cobb, in October. So as we enter a new calendar year, we urge you to let music into your life anytime and whenever you can. I know listening to music always helps, consoles and uplifts me. Music continues to bring me a lot of joy every day and I hope it does the same for you.

Cynthia J. Morrell
Associate in Music

REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES TEAM

Our annual report will be brief as this year of continued sheltering and lack of mobility, necessitated putting a hold on our Fall Fair and Holiday Bazaar. We hope these events were missed by church members, as well as the Activities Team, and you look forward to continuing the tradition. Especially as our earnings contribute to our church operating budget.

We created small gift bags for our Mount Holyoke College students associated with the church Sunday school for Valentine's Day: Easter baskets and Christmas Advent candle lights were distributed to our members unable to attend and connect to our church service.

We welcome new ideas and participation in the many related craft projects in our sights and will have news soon of the planned activities in 2022.

Corinne Chartrand

Annual Report for the Faith Formation Team – 2021

The Faith Formation Team provided ongoing support Youth and Promised Land programs in various ways throughout 2021. In addition, the team advocated for a name change from “Christian Education for Children and Youth” to “Faith Formation for Children and Youth.” The name change reflects the ongoing nature of Faith Formation as a journey encompassing lessons, reflection, discussion, and actions based on the teachings of Jesus. The name change was discussed, voted on and passed at the Annual Meeting in March.

During the winter and spring, the Team supported ideas for curriculum and planning for youth and Sunday school. Both groups continued to meet virtually until May and June, when limited in-person gatherings finally became available.

In the spring there was discussion about a new curriculum for the Promised Land. A few different programs were considered, and “Growing in God’s Love Story Bible and Curriculum” was chosen. Story Bibles and several units of the curriculum were ordered over the summer, and the program was successfully implemented in the fall.

Also in the spring, The Faith Formation Team ordered and presented more than 10 Yankee Candle gifts to high school seniors, college and master’s degree graduates. The candles were presented as a symbol of their church family’s ongoing love and support, and the light that shined through them in the life of the church and wider community.

Some staff changes and adjustments occurred during the summer, and in the fall, we finally welcomed children and youth back into the building! Emily Carle, continues to lead the Youth virtually from her seminary program in Louisville, KY. She partners with Mount Holyoke College student Kayla Scott-McDowell, who leads the hybrid classes from the church. They are an exceptional team with many gifts and a range of experiences that serve to enrich the youth in their faith journeys. Martha Guild continues to offer a progressive, enriching experience to school-age children. She is supported by co-teacher Maddie Drake, and assistant Chelsea Korzeniowski.

The Faith Formation Team helped with physical changes to the classroom spaces on the third floor. The Youth Rooms moved upstairs enabling the Tree of Life Learning Center to open on the second-floor in July. All Faith Formation programs currently meet in the beloved Promised Land on the third floor. Many preparations were made to classroom spaces and materials to keep everyone safe from COVID. Kayla, youth families, and other volunteers worked exceptionally hard to arrange furniture and decorate the new youth rooms into warm, welcoming spaces.

A “Popsicle Party” was offered on the side lawn to children, youth and their families after classes resumed in the fall. The Faith Formation Team offered ongoing guidance and support as groups continued to meet in a hybrid format.

Near the end of the year, a new computer was purchased for the youth room, and improved internet access enabled all classes to meet in person and virtually on Sunday mornings.

Faithfully Submitted,

Kate Hoffman

Chairperson, Faith Formation Team

**REPORTS OF THE
HUMAN RESOURCES TEAM
AND
PASTOR-CONGREGATION RELATIONS TEAM**

These two teams have different responsibilities but related functions.

HR supports our Pastor in her responsibilities managing the staff. With the Pastor, we review job descriptions and responsibilities and policies affecting employees. Together, we make recommendations to Trustees on adjustments in hours and compensation adjustment and interview and hire staff as needed. This year two Mount Holyoke students were hired, Maddie Drake as assistant teacher in the Promised Land and Kayla Scott-McDowell as Co-Youth Director. This is the second year that effects of COVID have challenged our staff, making us especially aware of the outstanding work and deep commitment in the face of unexpected challenges each one has brought. And this year brought an especially devastating loss as our beloved Choir Director Cheryl Cobb suffered through illness and death. We are especially grateful to our musician, Larry Schipull for stepping in to assist and support our choir members.

The PCR Team exists to further the covenant relationship. We support our Pastor Lori Souder in her professional and personal development and, with her, identify ways to facilitate that positive relationship. As has been true for the staff, the year 2021 brought new challenges and required new approaches to sustaining our worship and our community. Our Pastor has met each one with grace and humor. We are blessed to have an exceptional spiritual leader. Our Pastor deserves our full support and commitment to her spiritual, professional, and personal growth

Submitted for the team,

Anita Sarro

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP TEAM

The Membership team works closely with the pastor and clerk exercising its responsibility for church membership, including the existing membership and the development and assimilation of new members.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person Sunday morning services were not scheduled until mid-May. Since that time, worship has been hybrid. Thus, the pandemic has limited actual in-person participation, which in turn tends to be linked to member involvement in the church. Therefore, the Membership Team did not send out letters in the fall to members who have been missed during worship and/or have not made a financial contribution to the church.

In an effort to encourage contact with members, the pastor provided names of persons who might enjoy and benefit from intentional phone calls of friendship and concern. This outreach was initiated and continues at this time. It has been found to be both enjoyable and beneficial to both parties.

We have made an effort to reach out with care and concern to members who have not been able to attend church activities or worship. The team recognizes and thanks the Activities Team, who have been providing small tokens of remembrance to these members.

The “All About Us” pamphlets that are placed in each pew rack was updated to reflect any team changes in purpose or outreach.

Pastor Lori forwarded to the team names of possible new members. A special effort was then extended to each in an effort to make a positive connection. This year a Zoom “Getting to Know Us” meeting was held in March. As a result, five new members joined Center Church during a YouTube Sunday morning service.

It is hoped that in 2022 more direct contact can be made with both members and visitors as we strengthen our congregation ties.

Barbara (Bobbie) Ayers, Chair
David Morrell, Clerk
Robert (Bob) Robertson
Nancy Towne

REPORT OF THE OUTREACH TEAM

The Outreach Team is responsible for programs that promote human welfare and justice, seek peace, and build community. It exercises this responsibility through research, education and activities that engage the church with its neighbors in surrounding communities and around the world. It raises money and allocates budgeted funds for mission disbursement. It administers the Peterson Fund awards, which are given for educational purposes.

Our team affirmed its focus on “My Front Yard” issues with particular attention to:

1. Racial Justice
2. Addressing homelessness and hunger in our region
3. Connecting with other faith-based organizations
4. Working with New Americans and other immigration concerns

We continued to respond to the effects of the pandemic, and to the realities of racially based injustice. In addition to socially distanced and masked weekly vigils, we invited the conference minister for racial justice, Donique McIntosh, to preach and share conversation via Zoom. We also participated in conversation and events with the Interfaith Opportunities Network (ION), a group of area lay faith leaders who work to constructively address local issues that can be affected by cooperative action. We published periodic information about legislation related to injustices and how to contact representatives for comment. Center Church joined other churches in ringing bells across the state to celebrate the newly recognized Juneteenth holiday commemorating the emancipation of slaves in the US. We were invited along with all of South Hadley to attend a local police department forum moderated by our pastor, as we work to preserve and enhance responsive law enforcement here.

During the year, we continued to support our regular mission partners with donations as seen in the accompanying spread sheet. In addition, in kind donations brought staple food goods to Neighbors Helping Neighbors, bathroom supply kits lovingly packed by Promised Land children to new Afghani refugees, warm winter outerwear to three different organizations for distribution and Christmas gifts to children of 7 area families. Volunteers from our congregation also joined others to help prepare, pack and deliver meals to home-bound seniors through Food for Friends and to participants in the Cathedral in the Night Street ministry in Northampton. The team again has assumed organizing leadership for 3 meals for Cathedral in the Night in September, October and November of 2022. Our hopes for a Full Circle Garden work day to benefit the food bank were doused by COVID realities, but may reemerge next year.

Beyond our front yard, our World-Wide Support included Heifer International, along with the five major UCC offerings for service and relief: Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM), including disaster relief efforts, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), Neighbors in Need (NIN), Strengthen the Church and the Christmas Fund.

We continue to attend to our adopted guidelines for our giving decisions as a team. While not rigid parameters, we aim toward a version of conference suggested allocations, targeting 10% of the church income for giving. Of that 10%, 50% is for wider church support, 15% for national and international support, and 35% for local causes. Using \$230,000 as a rough estimate of our church income, we don’t quite meet that goal. However, using our total current figure for *all church giving (not solely Outreach budget)* of \$19,953 this breaks down to about 45% wider church, 13% national/international and 42% local, where again this year the need has been great. We also continue to follow procedures for vetting any new organization.

Contributions in 2021 were as follows:

Contribution Recipients	Outreach Budget and Mission Funds	Collections	Total
Wider Church-goal \$11,500 Actual \$,9000			
Wider Church (Nat'l + Regional) Proportional Giving*			9,000.00
National/International goal \$3,450 Actual \$2,670			
Strengthen the Church	250.00		250.00
One Great Hour of Sharing		895.00	895.00
OGHS Disaster Relief		50.00	50.00
Christmas Fund		630.00	630.00
Neighbors in Need	250.00		250.00
Heifer International		595.00	595.00
Local goal \$8,050 Actual \$8,283			
Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN)*	500.00	300.00	800.00
Girls Inc	500.00		500.00
JFS	200.00	350.00	550.00
Cathedral in the Night*	(in kind food purchase) 212.85 + 500.00	600.00	1,313.00
Food for Friends	500.00		500.00
LGBTQ Asylum Task Force	250.00		250.00
Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity*	500.00	600.00	1,100.00
Western MA Food Bank		570.00	570.00
Healing Racism Institute of Pioneer Valley*		600.00	600.00
SNEUCC Racial Justice Ministries	100.00		100.00
Peterson Fund *			2,000.00
* Center Church \$ beyond Outreach			
		Total church giving	19,953.00

Heartfelt thanks to every member of the team, who have put effort, enthusiasm and heart into our work: Betsy Belden, Emily Carle, Elizabeth Griffin, John Hoffman, Bob Judge and Art Proctor. It is our hope that the work of this team helps and inspires others to carry Jesus' message of love and peace into the world.

Betty Innocent and Karen Hyvonen
 Outreach Team Co-chairs

REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Stewardship Annual Fundraising Campaign:

The theme for the 2021 Center Church stewardship campaign is “Rooted in Love”.

“They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season.” -Psalm 1:3a.

We used the theme and accompanying materials from the United Church of Christ.

We got the word out through traditional mailing, in-worship announcements (in-person & via Facebook live), email, bulletin & newsletter articles, an online pledge portal.

This report is based on pledge data from early January 2022:

Pledged dollars: \$141,337

Pledge Units: 83 (15 fewer pledge units than 2020)

Average Pledge: \$1,702

Pledge increases: 29

Pledge decreases: 14

New pledge units: 4 (\$7,340)

The team expresses gratitude to our Church Administrator, Thia Jubinville, for processing our pledges.

Your financial pledges sustain the ministry of Center Church.

THANK YOU for your generosity!

Speaking of “thank you”, the Stewardship Team designed a “thank you” postcard, which will be mailed to pledge units in early 2022.

There is still time to make a new pledge or increase your existing pledge. Contact Thia in the Center Church office for more information.

Website:

The Stewardship Team has made some subtle adjustments to the Center Church website. More extensive design changes are coming in 2022.

Worship Video:

The Stewardship Team has undertaken the task of live video streaming Sunday worship on the Center Church Facebook page. Special thanks to John Anz for his camerawork!

Submitted for the team:

Brian Lapis

Stewardship Team:

John Anz

Gretchen LaBonte

Brian Lapis

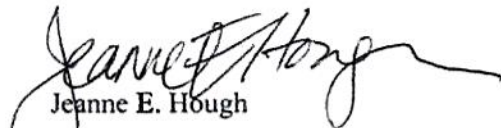
Jane Markarian

Lori Souder (ex-officio)

FINANCIAL REVIEWER'S LETTER

23 January 2022

I have reviewed and audited the calendar 2020 office operational financial records of First Congregational Church and applying generally accepted accounting methods and principals, have found the records to be acceptable and without fault.



Jeanne E. Hough
Church Auditor

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Treasurers Report for 2021 follows the format appropriate for financial statements for not-for-profit organizations. The terms used are reflective of language used to report for said agencies. Center Church operates with a "fund based" accounting system working with three classes of funds:

Unrestricted Funds: Budget Funds

Temporarily Restricted Funds: Special Purpose Funds

Permanently Restricted Funds: Endowments

The activities of each fund are detailed in the following reports:

THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (page 31)

An overall summary of the Assets and Liabilities of the Church. Ending balances of the Bank Accounts and Endowment Accounts are listed.

THE FUND BALANCE REPORT (page 32)

A summary of the ending balances of the individual *funds* of the Church with a comparison to the previous year.

Close 2021:	a balance of	\$	0.00	for Unrestricted Funds (Budget)
	a balance of		279,763.71	for Temporarily Restricted Funds
	a balance of		<u>1,143,185.65</u>	for Permanently Restricted Funds
	for a total of	\$	1,422,949.36	

THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (page 33)

Summarizes the Changes in Net Assets of the three funds of the church.

For 2021, the bottom line was an **increase in net assets of \$24,099** (a net decrease of \$17,785.12 to the Temporarily Restricted Funds; and a net increase of \$41,883.58 in the Permanently Restricted Funds.)

THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES VS. BUDGET - UNRESTRICTED FUNDS (page 34-35)

A comparison of actual income/expense and budgeted allocations for each of the operating account lines.

For 2021 we **budgeted for a deficit of \$9,681.00**. The year **closed with a deficit of \$6,862.94**.

		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$	248,853.60	\$ 252,150.00
Expenses	\$	<u>(255,716.54)</u>	\$ (261,831.00)
NET	\$	(6,862.94)*	\$ 9,681.00

*The deficit was cleared with funds transferred from the Temporarily Restricted: Operating Fund Reserve Fund, before the 2021 books were closed.

Income information of note:

Pledges: Pledge fulfillment was very good. Trustees had budgeted for \$172,000 (\$166,402 was actually pledged) and \$167,164.27.00 was collected.

Plate: Plate was recorded at \$7,784.96. Again this year, we were unable to gather for worship services in the Church building until Mid-May due to the COVID pandemic. In-person worship attendance was also low due to the continuing spread of COVID variants.

Misc. Income: We realized \$10,438.00 in donations through generous gifts from members and friends, credited to the Misc. Inc. line. The Activities Team was unable to hold any fundraising events again this year, due to the COVID pandemic, but the Stewardship Jazz Concert fundraiser contributed \$938.10 to this line.

User Donations: The Tree of Life Learning Center opened in June, thus increasing this line item. Our other tenant, and the AA group, were also able to return to meeting in the building in the fall.

THE SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED FUNDS (page 36-37)

Delineates the Income, expense and transfers of the Temporarily Restricted Funds of the church

Item of note: The Board of Trustees consolidated the Bequest lines into one fund called The Angel Fund. This helps bookkeeping to be clearer and easier to manage. The Outreach Team also consolidated funds by moving the Hoffman Community Outreach Fund into the Mission Fund.

The Outreach Team continued to support the MACUCC collections for Neighbors in Need and Strengthen The Church with budget funds, keeping us a 5 for 5 Church (OCWM, OGHS, NIN, STC and the Christmas Fund) while reducing the number of requests to the congregation. (See spreadsheet in Outreach Report for breakdown of Mission Giving.)

THE SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED FUNDS (page 38)

Delineates the transfers in and out of the Endowment Funds and shows the market value changes.

This year the net increase in the Endowment Fund was \$ 41,883.58 (\$101,549.92 gross CFP). The Trustees designated \$44,650 of earnings for the Operating Budget, and \$1,300 for the Peterson Scholarship fund. Yearly management fees totaled \$13,716.34.

Also included is a report of Non-budget Spending (expenses paid from Bequest/Benefaction funds as determined by the Board of Trustees (p. 39)).

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia H. Jubinville
Church Admin.

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2021

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
ASSETS		
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Checking/Savings		
Peoples Checking Account	41,083.12	24,695.00
Food For Friends Checking Account	2,689.94	3,119.63
Peoples Money Market	<u>1,826.69</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>45,599.75</u>	<u>27,814.63</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>45,599.75</u>	<u>27,814.63</u>
<u>Other Assets</u>		
Wells Fargo	<u>1,353,251.15</u>	<u>1,395,134.73</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>1,353,251.15</u>	<u>1,395,134.73</u>
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>1,398,850.90</u>	<u>1,422,949.36</u>

Fund Balance Report

December 31, 2021

	<u>Decmeber 31, 2020</u>	<u>Decmeber 31, 2021</u>
Temporarily Restricted		
Activities Comm.		
Reception	1,414.80	1,399.61
Activities Comm. - Other	2,523.39	2,086.96
Altar Fund	812.80	784.39
Benefactions	41,655.00	45,655.00
Bequests	170,913.69	166,513.38
Building Preservation Fund	1,141.81	1,141.81
Deacons Fund	1,170.31	1,210.31
Denton Chapel Fund	1,796.29	1,796.29
Event Inc./Exp.	-	250.00
Concerts	2,906.00	2,906.00
Fair	240.75	240.75
Fellowship Hall Store	44.50	44.50
Holiday Bazaar	61.00	61.00
Flower Fund	1,490.08	1,476.63
Memorial Fund	1,759.26	429.26
Mission Fund	380.00	7,093.64
Christmas Eve	475.00	890.00
Christmas Fund	410.00	630.00
Equal Exchange	297.50	284.99
Food for Friends	2,714.94	3,197.59
Center Church	156.47	156.47
Heifer	45.00	150.00
John E. Hoffman Community Outreach	4,876.49	-
OGHS	-	-
Other directed gifts	610.00	125.00
Music Memorial Fund	1,634.79	2,084.79
Next Year		
Building Upkeep	-	(395.50)
Insurance prepay	(2,904.75)	(792.75)
Misc Income	459.62	(80.03)
Payroll	-	3,000.00
Pledges	26,313.05	9,310.50
User	-	2,000.00
Worker's Comp	-	173.00
Operating Reserve Fund	13,788.45	3,925.51
Peterson Fund	280.00	268.01
Promised Land Fund	1,641.02	1,641.02
Sabbatical Reserve	6,800.00	6,800.00
Sr. Minister Study Fund	8,372.63	9,972.63
Unknown	-	200.00
Window Restoration	1,967.41	1,967.41
Women's Club	124.52	38.52
Youth Program	1,177.01	1,127.02
Total TRest	<u>297,548.83</u>	<u>279,763.71</u>
Total Permanently Restricted	<u>1,101,302.07</u>	<u>1,143,185.65</u>
Unrestricted	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL	<u>1,398,850.90</u>	<u>1,422,949.36</u>

Statement of Activities

December 31, 2021

<u>Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets</u>		
Results of Church Operations	(6,862.94)	
Transfer from TempRest: Operating Reserve fund	<u>6,862.94</u>	
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets		-
<u>Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</u>		
Contributions	56,720.27	
Transfers from Permanently Restricted Net Assets		
Peterson Memorial Scholarship Fund	1,300.00	
Transfers from Unrestricted Net Assets		
Payroll exp: Sr. Pastor: Study fund	1,600.00	
Insurance	2,904.75	
Expenditures	(45,736.43)	
Transfers to Unrestricted Net Assets	(6,862.94)	
Next Year: Pledges to Pledges: Current Year	(26,313.05)	
Next Year: Misc. Income to: Misc. Income	(459.62)	
Event Inc: Concerts	<u>(938.10)</u>	
Decrease in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets		(17,785.12)
<u>Changes in Permanently Restricted Net Assets</u>		
Contributions	-	
Transfers from Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	-	
Expenditures (fees)	(13,716.34)	
Transfer to Unrestricted: Investment Income	(42,490.00)	
Transfer to Unrestricted: Investment Income: Music	(2,160.00)	
Transfer to TempRest: Peterson Fund	(1,300.00)	
Net increase in Market Value of Trust Funds	<u>101,549.92</u>	
Increase in Permanently Restricted Assets		<u>41,883.58</u>
<u>Increase in Net Assets</u>		<u>24,098.46</u>
Net Assets January 1, 2021	1,398,850.90	
Net Assets December 31, 2021	1,422,949.36	

Statement of Activities vs. Budget

	Jan - Dec 21	Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Investment Income			
Music	2,160.00	2,160.00	100.0%
Investment Income - Other	42,490.00	42,490.00	100.0%
Total Investment Income	44,650.00	44,650.00	100.0%
Memorial Gifts	1,050.00	1,000.00	105.0%
Misc. Income	10,438.07	17,000.00	61.4%
Plate	7,784.96	10,000.00	77.85%
Pledges			
Current year	167,164.27	172,000.00	97.19%
Past year	2,001.30	2,000.00	100.07%
Total Pledges	169,165.57	174,000.00	97.22%
User Donations	15,765.00	5,500.00	286.64%
Total Income	248,853.60	252,150.00	98.69%
Expense			
Building Upkeep			
Church	16,434.03	15,000.00	109.56%
Cleaning Services	999.65	1,000.00	99.97%
Grounds Upkeep	3,839.59	1,500.00	255.97%
Total Building Upkeep	21,273.27	17,500.00	121.56%
Christian Education			
Adult Program	0.00	100.00	0.0%
Children's Program	1,113.23	1,000.00	111.32%
Youth Program	349.61	350.00	99.89%
Total Christian Education	1,462.84	1,450.00	100.89%
Contingency	680.00	400.00	170.0%
Delegates	0.00	220.00	0.0%
Diaconate			
Pulpit Supply	600.00	1,000.00	60.0%
Diaconate - Other	305.02	800.00	38.13%
Total Diaconate	905.02	1,800.00	50.28%
Insurance	7,371.50	5,427.00	135.83%
Membership Team	0.00	400.00	0.0%
MinExp (Milage reimb.)			
Annual Meeting Expenses	125.00	250.00	50.0%
MinExp (Milage reimb.) - Other	630.76	1,500.00	42.05%
Total MinExp (Milage reimb.)	755.76	1,750.00	43.19%
Music Team	333.30	400.00	83.33%
Office			
Copier	2,580.00		
Postage	807.20		
Supplies	348.36		
Office - Other	2,578.50	6,000.00	42.98%
Total Office	6,314.06	6,000.00	105.23%
Outreach Team	2,100.00	2,100.00	100.0%

	Payroll Expenses			
	Associate in Music	1,200.50	1,371.00	87.56%
	Caregivers	742.61	1,731.00	42.9%
	Choir Director	5,912.72	7,772.00	76.08%
	Christian Education			
	Children Director	5,191.20	5,191.00	100.0%
	Teacher	107.25	810.00	13.24%
	Youth Leader	3,588.24	3,585.00	100.09%
	Total Christian Education	8,886.69	9,586.00	92.71%
	Custodial	6,885.00	7,020.00	98.08%
	Office Manager			
	403b	1,035.84	1,036.00	99.99%
	Health Insurance	2,498.39	2,500.00	99.94%
	Office Manager - Other	34,526.32	34,525.00	100.0%
	Total Office Manager	38,060.55	38,061.00	100.0%
	Organist	8,213.20	8,213.00	100.0%
	Payroll Taxes	5,142.92	5,450.00	94.37%
	Sr.Pastor			
	Annuity	10,649.40	10,650.00	99.99%
	Compensation	56,066.40	56,070.00	99.99%
	Housing	19,999.92	20,000.00	100.0%
	MedIns	14,591.08	14,590.00	100.01%
	SP Social Security	5,820.00	5,820.00	100.0%
	Study Fund	1,600.00	1,600.00	100.0%
	Total Sr.Pastor	108,726.80	108,730.00	100.0%
	Worker's Compensation	1,500.00	1,700.00	88.24%
	Payroll Expenses - Other	0.00		
	Total Payroll Expenses	185,270.99	189,634.00	97.7%
	Proportional Giving - SNEUCC	9,000.00	9,000.00	100.0%
	Scholarship 2021	0.00	500.00	0.0%
	Stewardship	264.93	350.00	75.69%
	Telephone			
	Cell	780.00		
	Church	2,797.66		
	Telephone - Other	399.99	3,400.00	11.76%
	Total Telephone	3,977.65	3,400.00	116.99%
	Upkeep Instruments	197.00	1,500.00	13.13%
	Utilities-Church			
	Electric	4,801.45		
	Gas	10,630.57		
	Sewer fee	280.00		
	Water	98.20		
	Utilities-Church - Other	0.00	20,000.00	0.0%
	Total Utilities-Church	15,810.22	20,000.00	79.05%
	Total Expense	255,716.54	261,831.00	97.67%
	Net Ordinary Income	-6,862.94	-9,681.00	70.89%
	Other Income/Expense			
	Other Income			
	Fund Balance Transfer	6,862.94		
	Total Other Income	6,862.94		
	Net Other Income	6,862.94		
	Net Income	0.00	-9,681.00	0.0%

Schedule of Changes in Temporarily Restricted Funds

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Balance 12/31/2020</u>	<u>Contributions</u>	<u>Transfers In</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>	<u>Balance 12/31/2021</u>
<u>Activities Team</u>	2,523.39			(436.43)		2,086.96
Receptions	1,414.80	300.00		(315.19)		1,399.61
<u>Altar Fund Priestly/Conforti</u>	812.80			(28.41)		784.39
<u>Benefactions</u>						
Annonomus	-	10,000.00				10,000.00
Granger to TRest: Bequest:Angels	10,000.00				(10,000.00)	-
T. Hazen	8,520.00					8,520.00
Laderach	23,135.00	4,000.00				27,135.00
<u>Bequests:</u>						
Abbey	2,000.00				(2,000.00)	-
Angels	-	871.92		(21,916.56)		
from TRest: Benefactions: Granger			10,000.00			
from TRest: Bequest: Abbey			2,000.00			
from TRest: Bequest: Bergen			1,845.00			
from TRest: Bequest: Bresee			1,446.54			
from TRest: Bequest: Carpenter			400.00			
from TRest: Bequest: Carter			1,328.57			
from TRest: Bequest: Johnson			140,489.43			
from TRest: Bequest: Sheehy			1,469.43			137,934.33
Bergen	1,845.00				(1,845.00)	-
Bresee	1,446.54				(1,446.54)	-
Carpenter	400.00				(400.00)	-
Carter	1,328.57				(1,328.57)	-
Fowler	14,935.08				(14,935.08)	-
Graham	7,000.00				(7,000.00)	-
Johnson	140,489.07	0.36			(140,489.43)	-
Sheehy	1,469.43				(1,469.43)	-
Legacy						
Fowler	-	3,540.00		(1,200.00)		
from TRest: Bequest: Fowler			14,935.08			17,275.08
Graham	-	9,014.75		(4,710.78)		
from TRest: Bequest:Graham			7,000.00			11,303.97
<u>Building Preservation Fund</u>	1,141.81					1,141.81
<u>Deacons Fund</u>	1,170.31	40.00				1,210.31
<u>Denton Chapel Fund</u>	1,796.29					1,796.29
<u>Event Inc/Exp:</u>						
Concerts	-	1,178.06		(928.06)		250.00
to Unrestricted Misc. Income	2,906.00	6,527.00		(5,588.90)	(938.10)	2,906.00
Columbus Day Fair	240.75					240.75
Holiday Bazaar	61.00					61.00
Fellowship Hall Store	44.50					44.50
<u>Flower</u>	1,490.08	495.00		(508.45)		1,476.63

Schedule of Changes in Temporarily Restricted Funds

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Contributions</u>	<u>Transfers In</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>	<u>Balance</u>
<u>Memorial</u>	1,759.26	750.00		(2,080.00)		429.26
<u>Mission Outreach</u>	380.00	3,500.00		(1,162.85)		
from TRest: John E. Hoffman Community Outreach to TRest: Mission:Food for Friends			4,876.49		(500.00)	7,093.64
Christmas Eve	475.00	890.00		(475.00)		890.00
Christmas Fund	410.00	630.00		(410.00)		630.00
Equal Exchange Products Sales	297.50	292.75		(305.26)		284.99
Food for Friends from TRest: Mission Outreach	2,714.94	1,410.00	500.00	(1,427.35)		3,197.59
Center Church	156.47					156.47
Heifer	45.00	150.00		(45.00)		150.00
John E. Hoffman Community Outreach to TRest: Mission Outreach	4,876.49				(4,876.49)	-
OGHS	-	885.00		(885.00)		-
Other Directed Gifts	610.00	525.00		(1,010.00)		125.00
<u>Music Memorial</u>	1,634.79	600.00		(150.00)		2,084.79
<u>Next Year</u>						
Building Upkeep: Church	-	(395.50)				(395.50)
Insurance pre-pay from Unrestricted: Insurance	(2,904.75)	(792.75)	2,904.75			(792.75)
Misc. Income to Unrestricted: Misc. Income	459.62	(80.03)			(459.62)	(80.03)
Payroll from TRest: Operating Reserve Fund	-		3,000.00			3,000.00
Pledges to Unrestricted: Pledges:Current Year	26,313.05	9,310.50			(26,313.05)	9,310.50
User	-	2,000.00				2,000.00
Worker's Comp	-	173.00				173.00
<u>Operating Reserve Fund</u>	13,788.45					
to Unrestricted (to clear deficit) to Trest: Next Year: Payroll					(6,862.94) (3,000.00)	3,925.51
<u>Peterson Memorial</u>	280.00	688.01		(2,000.00)		
from PermRest:Peterson Trust			1,300.00			268.01
<u>Promised Land Fund</u>	1,641.02					1,641.02
<u>Sabbatical Reserve</u>	6,800.00					6,800.00
<u>Study Fund</u>	8,372.63					
from: Unrestricted:Payroll Exp: Sr. Pastor: Study fund			1,600.00			9,972.63
Unknown	-	200.00				200.00
<u>Window Restoration</u>	1,967.41					1,967.41
<u>Women's Club</u>	124.52	17.20		(103.20)		38.52
<u>Youth Program</u>	1,177.01	-	-	(49.99)	-	1,127.02
TOTAL	297,548.83	56,720.27	195,095.29	(45,736.43)	(223,864.25)	279,763.71

Statement of Permanently Restricted Funds

December 31, 2021

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Balance 12/31/2020</u>	<u>Contributions</u>	<u>Transfers In</u>	<u>Market Value Changes</u>	<u>Expenditures (fees)</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>	<u>Balance 12/31/2021</u>
Wells Fargo fbo So. Hadley FCC* to Unrestricted Investment Income	999,922.55			92,207.32	(12,454.43)	(42,490.00)	1,037,185.44
Dolly Denton Memorial Fund* to TRest: Denton Chapel Fund	18,882.74			1,726.34	(233.18)	-	20,375.90
Music Endowment Fund to UnRest:Investment Income: Music	51,250.17			4,772.85	(644.67)	(2,160.00)	53,218.35
Peterson Endowment Fund* to TRest:Peterson Fund	31,246.61			2,843.41	(384.06)	(1,300.00)	32,405.96
	-			-	-		
TOTAL	<u>1,101,302.07</u>			<u>101,549.92</u>	<u>(13,716.34)</u>	<u>(45,950.00)</u>	<u>1,143,185.65</u>
* Beginning Balance numbers adjusted to reflect bookkeeping error. Total Balance was unaffected							

Investment Team Sub-Committee

In 2021 the investment team members were Bob Russell, Sandy Belden, Eliot Chartrand, Art Coffin, Bill Giles, and John Hoffman. We met 3 times with Melody Foti and her team at Wells Fargo Advisors. The Wells Fargo portfolio consists of co-mingled funds for the Endowment (Permanently Restrict Funds) and Temporarily Restricted Funds. At present there are four Endowed funds: Undesignated, Music, Denton, and Peterson. The Wells Fargo account opened 2021 at \$1.353 million and closed the year at \$1.395 million. The Board of Trustees, according to Church Policy, determines spending amounts from these funds. Typically, 4 to 4.5% of the Endowment can be made available. In 2021, we pulled \$2,160 from the Music Memorial Endowment Fund to support the Music program line items and \$42,490 from the Undesignated Endowment to support general line items for a total of \$44,650 support to the operating budget. Similarly, \$1,300 was withdrawn from the Peterson Fund to support scholarships. Funds from the Denton account are withdrawn as necessary to support the Chapel projects. Similar distributions will be made in 2022.

In 2022, the Investment Tam will be focused on updating the endowment policy to include an investment policy statement that delineates goals, risk, and an appropriate benchmark from which to monitor performance.

We thank Sandy Belden for his thoughtful stewardship on the investment team. Also, while we mourn the loss of Bob Russell, we lift up praise for his long-term support of the financial management of the church's resources.

John Hoffman, Treasurer
Chair of Investment Team

**Non-Budget Spending/Fund Transfers
From Temporarily Restricted Funds
As authorized by the 2021 Board of Trustees**

From Bequest:Angels		
Tree of Life Learning Center Renovations		20,870.06
Worship video preparation		575.00
National Register Plaque		471.50
From Bequest: Fowler		
Loomis Bus to/from Worship		1,200.00
From Bequest: Graham		
Heating repairs		<u>4,710.78</u>
Total		<u><u>27,827.34</u></u>

2022 Proposed Budget

Draft 2

	<u>2021 Budget</u>	<u>2021 Actual</u>	<u>2022 Proposed</u>
			Draft 2
Income			
Investment Income	44,650.00	44,650.00	49,300.00
Misc. Income	17,000.00	10,438.07	10,000.00
Plate	10,000.00	7,784.96	5,000.00
Pledges (current year)	172,000.00	167,164.27	145,500.00
(past year)	2,000.00	2,001.30	2,000.00
Memorial Gifts	1,000.00	1,050.00	1,000.00
User donation	<u>5,500.00</u>	<u>15,765.00</u>	<u>30,000.00</u>
TOTAL Income	<u>252,150.00</u>	<u>248,853.60</u>	<u>242,800.00</u>
Operating Expense			
Office	6,000.00	6,314.06	(6,000.00)
Telephone	3,400.00	3,977.65	(3,400.00)
Contingency	400.00	680.00	(400.00)
Insurance	5,427.00	7,371.50	(6,600.00)
MinExp	1,500.00	630.76	(1,000.00)
Minister - Annual Meeting	250.00	125.00	(250.00)
Operating - Physical Plant			
Bldg upkeep	15,000.00	16,434.03	(15,000.00)
Cleaning Service	1,000.00	999.65	(1,000.00)
Grounds upkeep	1,500.00	3,839.59	(2,000.00)
Upkeep Instruments	1,500.00	197.00	(1,500.00)
Utilities-Church	20,000.00	15,810.22	(18,000.00)
Delegates	220.00	-	(220.00)
Proportional Giving (2021)	9,000.00	9,000.00	(9,000.00)
Program Expense			
Christian Education Team			
Children's Program	1,000.00	1,113.23	(1,000.00)
Youth Program	350.00	349.61	(350.00)
Adult Program	100.00	-	(100.00)
Diaconate	800.00	305.02	(800.00)
Pulpit Supply	1,000.00	600.00	(1,000.00)
Membership Team	400.00	-	(400.00)
Outreach Team	2,100.00	2,100.00	(2,100.00)
Music Team	400.00	333.30	(400.00)
Stewardship	<u>350.00</u>	<u>264.93</u>	<u>(350.00)</u>
TOTAL Programs and Operations	<u>72,197.00</u>	<u>70,445.55</u>	<u>(70,870.00)</u>

Payroll Expense			
Sr. Minister	108,730.00	108,726.80	(109,380.00)
Office Manager	34,525.00	34,526.32	(34,525.00)
403b	1,036.00	1,035.84	(1,036.00)
Health Insurance	2,500.00	2,498.39	(2,500.00)
CE Director & teacher/Youth Leader			
CE Director	5,191.00	5,191.20	(5,191.00)
Teacher	810.00	107.25	(810.00)
Youth Leader(s)	3,585.00	3,588.24	(3,585.00)
Caregivers	1,731.00	742.61	(1,731.00)
Custodian	7,020.00	6,885.00	(7,020.00)
Organist	8,213.00	8,213.20	(8,213.00)
Choir Director	7,772.00	5,912.72	(7,772.00)
Associate In Music	1,371.00	1,200.50	(1,371.00)
Payroll Taxes	5,450.00	5,142.92	(5,450.00)
Workers Comp	1,700.00	1,500.00	(1,700.00)
TOTAL Payroll	<u>189,634.00</u>	<u>185,270.99</u>	<u>(190,284.00)</u>
TOTAL Expenses	<u>261,831.00</u>	<u>255,716.54</u>	<u>(261,154.00)</u>
Projected deficit/Actual deficit	<u>(9,731.00)</u>	<u>(6,862.94)</u>	<u>(18,354.00)</u>
Clear deficit from TRest: Operating Reserve fund		6,862.94	
Ending Balance		<u>-</u>	

Prepared by the 2021 Board of Trustees

Nominating Team Report

February 2022

Church Officers, Committee Members and Delegates
(only those in **bold font** are to be voted on in February 2022)

Each term will be completed at the end of January following the year shown.

Moderator

Clerk David C. Morrell, 135 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley 01075 532-1864 2024

dmorrell@metholyoke.edu

Treasurer John Hoffman, 21 Red Bridge Lane, South Hadley 01075 650-0445 2024
hoffmanje3@gmail.com

Church Council Members At-Large

Open

Delegates

Randall Hyvonen 1 Spruce Run South Hadley 01075 538-4674 2023 2nd term

Board of Deacons

Gretchen LaBonte 46 Woodlawn Street South Hadley 01075 440-477-1044 2022 2nd term

Julie Burke 244 Greystone Ave. W.Spfd 01089 363-9433 2023

Karen Anderson 13 Wright Place South Hadley 01075 536-0005 2024

Board of Trustees

William Giles 168 Stony Brook Village South Hadley 01075 538-4958 2022

Randolph Purinton 39 Chapel Road Amherst MA 687-4343 2024

Cynthia Morrell (non-voting) 135 Woodbridge Street South Hadley 01075 532-1864 2024

Elliot Chartrand 114 Woodbridge St. South Hadley 01075 533-2658 2022

Karen Anderson 13 Wright Place South Hadley 01075 536-0005 2022

Arthur Coffin 419 S. Gulf Road Belchertown 01007 508-254-1542 2023

Arthur Procter 101 Pine Street South Hadley 01075 201-213-1429 2023

Mary Nelson 4 Leahey Ave. South Hadley 01075 802-735-5703 2024

Activities Team

Valerie Bonzek 353 Fuller Street Unit 20 Ludlow 01056 589-9339 2024

Corinne Chartrand 114 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley 01075 533-2658 2024

Patricia Landry 3 Warwick Road Chicopee 01020 356-2252 2024

Nancy Perman 1092 James Street Chicopee 01020 265-5070 2022 2nd term

Karen Anderson 13 Wright Place, South Hadley 01075 536-0005 2023

David Morrell 135 Woodbridge Street South Hadley 01075 532-1864 2023

Faith Formation Team For Children and Youth

Kathryn Hoffman 21 Red Bridge Lane South Hadley 01075 650-0445 2024

Janis Sokop 28 Carol Lane Holyoke 01040 535-2345 2022 2nd term

Julie Burke 244 Greystone Ave. W.Spfd 01089 363-9433 2022

Annabell Burke 2022

Blake Bryan 7 Pheasant Lane SH 01075 519-7420 2022

Brittany Bryan 7 Pheasant Lane SH 01075 204-6135 2022

Human Resources Team

(Trustee Designee) (not chosen by Nominating Team)

Katherine Tipton 13 Brittany Road South Hadley 01075 533-4903 2022

Brittany Bryan 7 Pheasant Lane SH 01075 204-6135 2022

Anita Sarro 39 Chapel Road Amherst 01002 374-6761 2022

Membership Team

(Clerk) (not chosen by Nominating Team)

Nancy Towne 6 Young Circle South Hadley 01075 536-8128 2024

Barbara Ayers 12 Roundelay Road South Hadley 01075 533-3833 2022 2nd term

Carol White 27 Hadley Street South Hadley 01075 533-2705 2022

Nominating Team

David Morrell 135 Woodbridge Street South Hadley 01075 532-1864 2022

