



ANNUAL
REPORT
2021



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
in the city for good!

VISION & VALUES

We put our faith into action

by nurturing spiritual growth and reflecting
the call of God to serve our neighbor.

We transform our communities

by promoting social justice and engaging
others in ministries that drive change.

We invite everyone to the table

sharing fellowship, worship, meals,
music and works as one body.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of Central Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, March 27, 2022 in the sanctuary immediately following worship.

The annual meeting may consider such business as electing officers, hearing reports of the session along with plans for the coming year, hearing reports from the board of deacons and other organizations of the church, and transacting other business as appropriate, including a vote on proposed changes to the church by-laws.

Agenda

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Call to Order

Approve Minutes for Congregational Meetings:

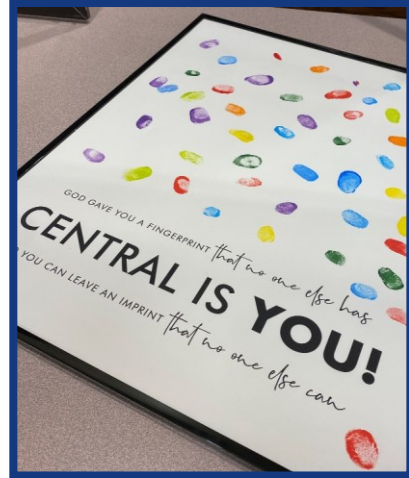
- March 28, 2021
- November 14, 2021

Old Business

New Business

- Receive Annual Reports
- Receive Treasurer's Report
- Proposed Amendment to Bylaws of the Congregation:
 1. *All persons, including employees, are forbidden to bring weapons onto church premises. This includes but is not limited to guns.*
 2. *The use, sale, transfer or possession of illegal drugs, alcohol or controlled substances on church property is prohibited. Session may approve exceptions to this for alcohol at specific events and may delegate this authority to a session committee.*
- Election of Pastor Nominating Committee
- Thanks to Outgoing Officers and Staff Recognition

Closing Prayer



CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITY

MEETING MINUTES

March 28, 2021

The Congregation of Central Presbyterian Church of St. Paul, Minnesota, held its annual meeting of the Congregation and Corporation on Sunday, March 28, 2021. The meeting was held on Zoom, and began at 11:30 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. Carol Reed.

OPENING PRAYER – Rev. Reed opened the meeting with prayer.

QUORUM – The Clerk of Session, Sally Mortenson, certified that a quorum was present.

CALL TO MEETING – The Clerk read the following call: The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of Central Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, March 28 via Zoom at 11:30 a.m. The annual meeting may consider such business as electing officers, hearing reports of the session along with plans for the coming year, hearing reports from the board of deacons and other organizations of the church and transacting other business as appropriate.

STATEMENT OF RULES - The Clerk then stated: This meeting is governed by the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), by Roberts Rules of Order (1990), and by the Bylaws of Central Presbyterian Church dated March 12, 2017 and the Bylaws of the Corporation dated March 10, 2019 as amended September 20, 2020.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - The Moderator, Rev. Reed, called the attention of the members of the congregation to the 2020 Annual Report, and the agenda on page 2. M/S/P to adopt the agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS – Rev. Reed called the attention of the congregation to the minutes for three 2020 congregational meetings: on March 8th, September 20th, and November 15th. These sets of minutes appeared on pages 5-9 of the Annual Report and were previously reviewed and approved by the Session.

M/S/P to approve the minutes for these congregational meetings as printed.

APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORTS - Rev. Reed called the attention of the congregation to the annual reports submitted by program staff members, session committees, and all other committees and organizations of Central. Chairs of the following committees presented highlights of their committee's work in 2020:

- Facilities Management and Risk Assessment - Carl Willis
- Worship, Music and Arts - Dennis Reimer
- Coordinated Mission - Sharon Zapf-Jordan
- Children and Youth - Phyllis Brasher
- New Members and Volunteers - Kiera Faye Voelker.

M/S/P to receive the reports as printed.

Matt Ehling, Treasurer, and Christine Smith, Chair of the Finance and Stewardship Committee, presented the 2020 Annual Financial Reports which begin on page 36 of the Annual Report.

M/S/P to receive the Financial Reports as presented.

ELECTION OF ELDERS AND DEACON - Melvin Leach, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the following nominees of the Nominating Committee for election as Elders and Deacon: Ernest Lloyd for election as an Elder to serve on Session for a three year term; Marcia Robert as an Elder to serve on Session for a two year term, and Stephanie Geisler to serve as a Deacon for a three-year term.

The Moderator asked if there are any nominations from the floor who have indicated they are willing to serve. There were none.

M/S/P to close the nominations and elect the slate of nominees for elders. Deacon at-large members of the Nominating Committee with a single vote.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE CHAIR COMMENTS - Mel Leach as Chair of the Personnel Committee expressed appreciation to the Staff for their service during 2020; to the members for their donations during 2020; and to the departing Elders and Deacons.

Corporation Meeting

Meeting of the Corporation - The Moderator then called upon Carl Willis, President of the Corporation, to come forward and open the corporation meeting.

OLD BUSINESS – No old business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS - AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS- The President presented a proposed Amendment to Bylaw 15 of the Corporation to add the position of Vice President to the officers of the corporation. The amended bylaw would read as follows: “The session shall elect a president, vice president, treasurer and assistant treasurer to serve as officers of the corporation. The clerk of session will serve as secretary of the corporation.”

The amendment passed as presented.

ADJOURNMENT: There was no further business to come before the congregation,

M/S/P to adjourn the meeting.

Closing Prayer:

The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Reed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sally Mortenson, Clerk of Session

MEETING MINUTES

November 14, 2021

The Congregation of Central Presbyterian Church, Saint Paul, Minnesota, held a Special Meeting in the Sanctuary and by Zoom on Sunday, November 14, 2021 following the Worship Service.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Rev. Carol Reed, Moderator, who offered prayer.

Sally Mortenson, Clerk of Session, affirmed that a quorum of the members were present. She read the Call for the Meeting, which stated: A special meeting of the congregation of Central Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, November 14 in the sanctuary and via Zoom at 11:30 a.m. This meeting may consider such business as electing officers and transacting other business as appropriate.

STATEMENT OF RULES - This meeting is governed by the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), by Roberts Rules of Order (1990), and by the Bylaws of Central Presbyterian Church dated March 12, 2017 and the Bylaws of the Corporation dated March 10, 2019 as amended September 20, 2020.

Rev. Reed then called upon Melvyn Leach, chair of the Nominations Committee. He introduced the members of the Committee, which included Deacon Todd Mikish; two at-large members, Lynda Petrie and Erika Kelly-Kennedy; and Session members Marcia Robert and himself.

Mr. Leach then presented the nominees of the committee for the positions which will be open. For ruling elders, they nominated to serve in the Class of 2024 (a three-year term):

- John Lee, Sr.
- Wendy Flinner

- Lynne Severson
- Sally Mortenson (2nd term)
- Marcia Robert (2nd term)

And to serve as an elder in the Class of 2023 (a two-year term):

- Jackie Klaehn

For deacons they nominated to serve in the Class of 2024 (a three-year term):

- Mia Wintheiser
- Peter Knapp
- Maureen Smith

For Nominating Committee members-at-large for 2022:

- Joan Kelly
- Mary Miller

Reverend Reed then called for nominations from the floor of persons who had agreed to serve if elected for elders, deacons or members at large of the Nominating Committee. There were none.

There was a motion and second to close the nominations and elect the slate of nominees for elder, deacon, and at-large Nominating Committee members with a single vote. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was offered, seconded and passed unanimously. Reverend Reed offered a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Mortenson
Clerk of Session

STATISTICAL REPORT

Clerk of Session

0

NEW MEMBERS

No new member classes were held due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MEMBERSHIP LOSSES

Transfer Certificate	3
Deaths	3
Cleared Outdated Records	<u>33</u>
	39

219

CURRENT MEMBERS

December 31, 2020	258
2021 Net Loss	<u>39</u>
December 31, 2021	219

79

AVERAGE SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

This represents in-person attendance only, from June to December in 2021. It does not reflect those who participated in worship online via livestream video.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE MEMBERS

25 & Under	13	6%
26 - 40	60	27%
41 - 55	14	7%
56 - 70	61	28%
Over 70	71	32%

1

BAPTISMS

Infant/Children	1
Youth or Adult	0

MARRIAGES

Members - 0 / Non-member - 0

0



STAFF REPORTS

STAFF REPORT

Transitional Pastor

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

H E B R E W S 1 3 : 8

If there is one constant through the past year, it surely would be change! After serving as pastor at Central Presbyterian Church since 2005, Rev. Dave Colby completed his ministry the beginning of January 2021. The beginning of March, I began in the position of Transitional Pastor, a title meant to reflect that ministry still happens in this time, albeit a time of transition.

Many Hands at Work

A good deal of what happens at a church is done behind the scenes, and if done well, most people have no idea of the hours of meetings, emails, and work represented by the change. This is certainly true at Central this past year.

One example is how weekly worship changed. The service moved to livestreaming, thanks to the work of Kiera Faye and Josh Voelker (our videographer extraordinaries). Then as Covid vaccinations became readily available to all but the youngest children, gradually we returned to in-person worship, thanks to the work of Fluryanne Leach and Phyllis Brashler (covid task-force), Carl Willis (building safety considerations and incorporation of air purifiers), Charrie Willis (communion set-up), Jennifer Anderson working with section leaders, Central choir and Handbell Ensemble to return to worship. Pews were blocked off to allow for social distancing, debates happened about everything from coat hangers to passing the offering plates.

We could go down the list and see the work behind each of the decisions or changes that occurred: children and youth programming, the ongoing building work projects, the financial concerns, the mission projects of the church, the return to fellowship and food service, each one involved work of congregational members and staff.

Valuable Support and Resources

Central is blessed with members and friends who serve in a myriad of ways as the body of Christ. You will read many of their names in the committee reports that follow. I have been impressed and moved by the hours I have seen people put into their church home. It was challenging to get acquainted in the midst of a shut-down and I was thankful to Mel Leach for his help in making connections and learning about programs. Matt Ehling has been a blessing in managing the complicated work of Treasurer. Sandy White has served for many years with Martha's Closest. Carl Willis and Fluryanne Leach were often found working to keep Central's historic building safely and efficiently functioning.

Central is blessed with an amazing staff. Thanks to the gifts Jennifer Anderson brings and the connections she makes with the wider community, music ministry is a significant part of the life of Central. The church is blessed by the gifts of the section leaders as well as Steve Swanson, whom we look forward to hearing more of in 2022. Jennifer's

gifts in educational programming will also be seen with children and youth this year. We were sad to say goodbye to Katie Morris but welcomed Laura Walls and are thankful to have her working with our youngest children on Sunday mornings. Church Administrator Anna Sanchez wears more hats than we have time to write about, all with a gracious commitment going above and beyond. Director of Communications Christie Rachelle does her creative magic in our publications and has been a willing leader in the pastor search process. The building is cared for by Lavar Jones and Peter Everts. Megan Beese continues her service in the nursery together with a group of volunteers, and Barb Westman and her kitchen volunteers continue to serve up delicious meals.

The Search for a Permanent Pastor

It has been many years since Central has gone through the search process for a called pastor. Both Rev. Colby and Rev. Bair arrived as designated pastors, a much shorter process. The reason churches move through the longer process is that it allows a nation-wide search for a new pastor. The question everyone wants to know is how long the search process will take. There is no sure answer, although churches generally plan on anywhere from one to two years until a new called pastor is installed.

Central has been assigned a liaison from the Presbytery's Pastoral Positions Team (PPT), Diane Smith, who will be working closely with the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). There are many acronyms to learn in this search process! Before a PNC could be formed, Central was required to do initial work, what is called a ministry or mission study.

There were meetings for the congregation during the summer, both in-person and via Zoom, to look back at the church's history and the church's vision for the future. Thank you to Mel Leach and Christie Rachelle for assisting in those meetings. The information from all meetings was compiled and presented to the Presbytery; thanks to Laura Hutton and Christie Rachelle for their work on that.

The PPT asked for supplemental work to dig deeper into where Central is going. This will assist the PNC when they write their Ministry Information Form (MIF), what will be presented to potential candidates. Informational meetings about the PNC have been occurring.

Stepping Into Change

Central has challenges but we are not alone in the challenges we are facing. Churches everywhere have struggled with how to navigate this pandemic time.

Central also has some wonderful things to celebrate. This is a beautiful building located in an exciting part of the city. There is a wonderful group of people who call this their church home. We need to remember always that this church is the body of Christ. As such, we need to keep praying that through all the changes, we hear God's voice, giving thanks for this church community, keeping our focus always on Christ, the head of the church.

Peace and blessings,
Rev. Dr. Carol Reed



STAFF REPORT

Music Ministry

January of 2021 found us in one of the most difficult times this community may have known in recent decades. Covid-19 was preventing any of us gathering (and singing was especially forbidden), it was too cold to plan many outdoor gatherings, and Rev. Colby had left, with no interim yet in place.

And yet, the Spirit of God was still at work, and the music ministry at Central adapted and adjusted in many new ways.

Life Goes on

We continued to offer “Music Mosaics” on Zoom one evening a month, open to all, hosted by the choir section leaders and myself. In January, we had a conversation about Election Day and how we were feeling about the state of the union. In March, pianist Steve Swanson talked about one of his favorite composers, Claude Debussy, and we were treated to performances by Steve. And in April, our resident bird expert (and soprano!) Shanta Hejmadi led us in recognizing bird songs from birds we might find in our own backyard. The Music Mosaics were interesting and unique and really enjoyable.

VocalPoint, Central’s ensemble-in-residence, celebrated it’s 10th Anniversary. Of course, we were unable to sing together, which was quite disappointing, but we took the opportunity to learn and grow together with a unique season that included:

- JANUARY 10: Reunion of past headliners, held on Zoom, including Maria Jette, Peter Mayer, Jearlyn Steele, Sara Thomsen, Jamie Laurie of the Flobots, and Gary Hines of Sounds of Blackness.
- JANUARY 17/24: Leaders of choral music from

around the country joined us for a panel discussion. We were inspired and challenged by them as they shared the work they are doing, how they see the choral field changing and where they still see areas for improvement as we address issues of racism in choral music. Panel Guests: Ms. Alysia Lee, Dr. Arianne Abela, Dr. Eugene Rogers, Dr. Emilie Amrein.

- JANUARY 31: Birthday Party in the MPR Parking lot! We raised over \$16,000 for our past beneficiary organizations.
- FEBRUARY 7: Virtual Choir Debut and Video Watch-party from past concerts!

Return to the Sanctuary

Central welcomed interim pastor Carol Reed in March, and with that, we began to use our newly purchased technology to begin livestreaming (without congregation or music ensembles). With the help of Kiera Faye and Josh Voelker, we were able to include videos during worship of Porch Sessions (which continued from 2020) of Section Leaders and other musical guests, living room recordings, and Bell Ensembles videos made in the sanctuary. While none of this is as good as live music, it was wonderful to see and hear from people even as we were unable to gather.

This spring we did some repair work on some instruments at the church. The sanctuary 9-foot Baldwin had some work done on the action (and was, unfortunately, found to have some cracks in the wood. At some point, we will need to do some more extensive work on this beautiful instrument.) One of the heads of the timpani was replaced. And we were

gifted a baby grand piano for the choir room!

Coming Together Again

The choir was able to gather for the first time to sing together outside on Pentecost. We sang “Lead With Love” by Melanie DeMore, which felt right for many reasons. “Don’t give up hope, you’re not alone, don’t you give up, keep movin’ on. You gotta put one foot in front of the other and lead with love.”

With the Covid numbers in decline, we determined that it was safe for us to gather, masked and vaccinated, up in the balcony a number of weeks in the summer. The “Summer Singers” were so flexible and understanding as we needed to readjust for a variety of factors, including the heat!

Another highlight of the summer was having a Music Picnic at my house, seeing people we hadn’t seen in person for a very long time, without masks (as we were outside). It was wonderful.

An art installation was created during the summer months, led by Marie Smith, bringing whimsy and color into the sanctuary as a tree grew on the chancel before our very eyes. Members of the congregation brought things found in nature, or photographs, to contribute.

Beginning in the fall, all of the adult music ensembles resumed weekly rehearsals, but in larger spaces, more distanced, and masked. The Central Choir gathered in the sanctuary to rehearse; the Handbell Ensemble in both the choir room and in the balcony; and the Chamber Ensemble met in the choir room (which was equipped with two air purifiers).

When the weather was still nice, we held an intergenerational drum circle out on the steps after worship, as well as our annual Justice Choir Sunday (with group singing outside). Neighbors joined us for both of those events.

We were able to hold our VocalPoint Kick-Off Sunday in October as we began our 11th season, supporting the work of The Lift Garage.

We also welcomed gospel singer Ivory Doublette

who joined us for several Sundays in the fall. The choir was fortunate to sing with Ivory on several pieces.

In December, we hosted TubaChristmas again – while the number of participants was down (just 45 tubas and baritones), the crowd was still very appreciative and enjoyed the carols. We also saw Pioneer Press share a nice article of the event. On the 4th Sunday of Advent, we once again held Nine Lessons and Carols, with a choir of over 40 and Michael Barone playing some of the carols on the organ (along with a chamber orchestra and handbells.) It was such a beautiful morning of music and readings.

Christmas Eve was the first time the choir was back up front with robes since March of 2020. It was wonderful.

Exciting Things Ahead

As we close out reflections on 2021, we end on a high note to lead us into 2022. We were awarded a Presbytery grant for \$20,000 which will allow us to hire an artist-in-residence to help us learn more about black sacred music, and to lead us all in congregational singing. I look forward to reporting in my next annual report how this grant shaped our music ministry here at Central.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Anderson
Director of Music & Youth Ministry





COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMITTEE REPORT

Facilities Management

The Facilities Management and Risk Assessment committee members included Jeremy Berg, Craig Foss, Melinda Kovach, Fluryanne Leach, Todd Mikish, Anna Sanchez, Vinai Vinlander, Carl Willis and Bill Zopfi. Despite the challenges of 2021, these committee members made it a very productive year.

Building Reopening

With the recommendation that Central resume in-person worship on June 6, the FMRA Committee helped prepare to reopen. Every-other pew was roped off for social distancing, signage and hand sanitizer stations were placed in key locations, and air purifiers were purchased for use in the offices and choir rehearsal rooms.

Legacy Grant Projects

The remainder of the west (front) exterior building restoration is completed. The work included restoration of the stone façade, including the frieze that is located just under the large stained-glass window, and restoration of stained glass and non-stained glass windows, along with the installation of new storm windows. The bell tower was not part of this phase. The work was partially funded by a \$200,000 grant awarded by the Minnesota Historical Society, with Central picking up the remainder of \$158,600 with money previously set aside as matching funds for this grant.

Additionally, the Minnesota Historical Society awarded another Minnesota Historical & Cultural Heritage grant for 2022 in the amount of \$120,000 for the rehab of our stone foundation on three sides of the building. \$55,000 of Central's money was previously set aside as matching funds for this grant.

The total cost of the remaining phases of the project is estimated to be approximately \$2 million and we plan to apply for additional grants to help offset the costs of each additional phase. However, additional exterior restoration will be dependent on Central being awarded additional grants and conducting a capital campaign to raise matching funds. Thanks to Fluryanne Leach for continuing to lead these projects.

Security Upgrades & Roof Repairs

Extensive security upgrades are being made to Central's building and grounds. The upgrades include the addition of an ornamental iron security gate between our building and the Church of St. Louis, and replacement of the existing gates between our building and the Pointe Condominiums with a single taller gate. This now secures most of the north and east sides of our property that were secluded.

We will be replacing and adding interior and exterior security cameras early in 2022. Other upgrades include replacing, re-keying, and adding locks, including the addition of panic bar locks where required by city code. This will allow us to lock areas of the building interior when they are not in use. This project will be completed in the first quarter of 2022.

Additionally, several sections of rubber membrane on various parts of the roof have reached the end of their useful life and will be replaced next summer.

Total cost of these upgrades will be approximately \$200,000. Session approved taking a loan against our current investments to pay for the upgrades, while keeping the annual budget impact minimal.

Downspout Installation and Heat Tape Replacement

The addition of a downspout, replacement of a downspout, and replacement of several heat tapes was completed. This should mitigate the ice dam problem that the church has experienced over the past few years.

Sound System

The Sound System's core computer was repaired at no cost, with a minimal amount charged for the rental of a temporary replacement.

Emergency Operations Plan

The facilities portion of the church-wide emergency operations plan was completed and reviewed in readiness for the overall Emergency Operations Plan implementation.

Other Projects

The Pastor's Office was deep cleaned in preparation for our interim pastor, Carol Reed.

Parking signs were damaged by the snow plowing company and replaced at no charge. In the future, snow will be hauled away, preventing further damage to the signs.

The flowering tree in front of the building was trimmed along with other usual gardening tasks.

Concrete was poured where the underground downspout drain repair was made, and exposed rebar was repaired in the concrete by the MPR entrance.

A building use agreement was reviewed and put into place with The American Red Cross. This confirms the verbal agreement that we had in place. In case of a community disaster, the Red Cross is authorized to use our building to house disaster victims.

Patching and painting projects included the upper part of the east stairwell and the main level restrooms.

Several plumbing repairs were made, including a leaky radiator valve in the sanctuary, toilets, and a sink. Braces were installed under two sinks in the

men's downstairs restroom.

Electrical projects included replacement of light bulbs that illuminate the large sanctuary stained-glass windows, replacement of an outdoor security light fixture, bracing an exterior light pole, relocation of a TV in the lounge to better accommodate Zoom meeting participants, repair of the security system, and replacement of a food freezer.

Loose ceiling tiles in the lower-level dining room were reattached.

The mysterious basement odor was finally identified and eliminated by capping an open sewer pipe.

The emergency call list was updated.

We thank the many volunteers, both from the FMRA committee and the wider congregation who helped with the above projects. A special thanks goes out to Jeremy Berg, Mark Flinner, Craig Foss, Fluryanne Leach, Jim O'Neill, Anna Sanchez, Doug Throckmorton, Avis Tilden, Casey Wells, and any others who may have been overlooked.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Willis, Committee Chair



COMMITTEE REPORT

Worship, Music & Arts

The Worship, Music & Arts committee members include Sally Mortenson, Jackie Klaehn, Wendy Flinner, Cindy Jesson, Charrie Willis, Rev. Carol Reed, Jennifer Anderson, and Denny Reimer (chair). It was a year of challenges and changes. We think we came through them well.

Worship in a Time of Transition

We lined up guest preachers for January and February, after Dave Colby left. All of them were well known to our congregation, and they were well received: Lou Bender, Dr. Ernest Lloyd, Casey Wells and Doug Throckmorton, John Severson, Phil Romine, Mel Leach, Jennifer Anderson, and Katie Morris.

Our sanctuary was open on Ash Wednesday, not for a formal service but for a chance for people to come and go, hear beautiful music, participate in the imposition of ashes, and receive a blessing.

Our transitional pastor, Rev. Dr. Carol Reed, preached for the first time on March 7 and offered communion. On March 21 we moved from prerecorded videos to livestreaming.

VocalPoint did not have a concert (the first time in 17 years that Jennifer wasn't preparing for a concert), but they celebrated their 10th birthday with a series of Zoom events with past VocalPoint guests and a party in the church parking lot. About 80 people came, and a total of \$16,300 was raised for the beneficiary organizations from the past nine years.

We are very grateful to Kiera and Josh for doing the livestreaming through all of 2021. We knew we couldn't expect them to do this every Sunday going

forward. We spent a lot of time in the committee talking about how we could replace them. We looked into hiring someone, but that didn't work out. We are thankful that people from the congregation have volunteered to learn how to do it and then do it. We think we will have most Sundays covered this way. Kiera and Josh will continue to do it on the second and third Sundays of the month.

Worship Services

Charrie Willis and Wendy Flinner took the initiative to buy small crosses made from folded palms and send them out to the congregation with a letter for Easter. We had livestream worship and videos for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter.

On Pentecost we had a short worship service on livestream, followed by a celebration in the parking lot. It was a chance for people to see each other in person and pick up ice cream sandwiches to take home. We encouraged people to wear red.

We spent a lot of time in the committee talking about what we needed to do to be ready for worship in person. We had a good supply of masks that Sally bought earlier. We returned to in-person worship in June, with livestream available for people who felt safer staying home. The Summer Singers--choir members who felt comfortable doing this--sang beautifully from the balcony, sitting in separate chairs and wearing masks.

In the early months section leaders sang for us, some on livestream and some on recorded videos. We were grateful for the music. We know it was a lot of work for Jennifer to arrange all of it and for the

recordings to be incorporated into the livestream services. We were happy when the choir could be with us again.

We moved slowly into congregational hymn singing. First it was only the choir that sang. Then we invited the congregation to sing the closing hymn. We said people could leave before the hymn if they didn't feel safe, but nobody left. Now the congregation sings all the hymns. We have shown that we can do this safely. Everyone wears masks, and we sit at a distance from each other. Everyone is happy to be singing again.

We had good attendance for Festival Sunday Sept. 12, with festivities and fellowship after worship in the Cedar Street drive. We also met outside for our Sunday fellowship into the fall.

Jennifer heard from the Presbytery that we were given the grant we applied for, to bring in an African American singer to teach us and lead us in singing gospel music. We are all excited about this. We will hear more about it in 2022. The grant is for \$20,000.

Embracing Art

We were able to exhibit art in the Friendship Room again. Two artists who were signed up before Covid hit - first Bill Bukowski and then Carrie Arnold - exhibited their art and gave good talks at their receptions.

Members of our committee made sure that our All Saints' Day was as meaningful as it always is. Sally brought sunflower seeds again, this year two bowls, to remember people who have died of Covid. Charrie set up the table. Cindy and Jackie helped with the candles.

Jackie led a team of volunteers for our Deck the halls Event, decorating the church for Christmas. We had beautiful services for Advent and Christmas, including the children's Christmas pageant "The Manger Next Year," Lessons and Carols, and the two Christmas Eve services.

I am thankful to everyone who helped make all of this possible. We go into 2022 with hope.

Respectfully submitted,
Denny Reimer, Chair



COMMITTEE REPORT

Personnel

The Personnel committee members included Christine Smith, Al Zdrazil, Cindy Jesson, Ernest Lloyd, Cris Ross and Mel Leach (chair). As some members of the committee were new, we took time to introduce members to the staff and begin developing working relationships. Attention was given to increasing communication with and from the staff.

This past year has been a year of changes for everyone at Central; the departure of Reverend Colby, the beginning of a pastoral transition period, the continuing challenges of COVID-19, the transition from virtual worship and work from home to in-building activities. Personnel, as did all Session committees, learned to adapt in this dynamic environment. Shown below are the things the committee worked on in 2021.

Transitional Pastor Position

The committee finalized a position description for a Transitional Pastor to be used by the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. Committee members then interviewed several candidates and proposed Rev. Dr. Carol Reed to the Session. Session approved Rev. Reed and she began as Transitional Pastor in March. The committee then worked with Rev. Reed to introduce her to the staff and to the congregation via small group Zoom meetings.

Staff Pay Increase

As part of the budget process, the committee proposed a staff pay raise in early 2021 in line with the current inflation levels and this was implemented by Session. In updating the budget, the committee decided to better document the complex payment and benefits scheme for the various staff. This

activity aligned with a subsequent staff request for a comprehensive statement of benefits. A prototype benefit statement was developed which will be expanded in 2022.

Covid Task Force Collaboration

The changing Covid situation and returning to worship and work in the church building required frequent communication with the Pandemic Task Force and the staff. In the Fall, the committee proposed to Session a mandatory vaccination requirement for those staff with frequent public interaction, which Session approved.

Staff Safety

During 2021 we observed increasing security concerns. This was apparent for some specific issues, such as political demonstrations, but also on an ongoing basis by persons loitering around the building. For the specific events the committee advised staff to work from home. For the ongoing issue the committee worked with the Facilities Management and Risk Assessment committee to improve security.

Personnel Handbook

The committee began a personnel handbook review with the goal of making the language more straightforward and appropriate for a small organization and to include committee responsibilities in the document. This review identified some church policies warranted updating and this process will be completed in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Mel Leach, Chair

COMMITTEE REPORT

Children & Youth

The Children and Youth Committee members included Phyllis Brashler (Chair), Katie Morris (staff), Leslie Bergman, Matt Ehling, Erika Kelly Kennedy, Laura Walls (staff), and Sharon Zopfi-Jordan.

Another Year of Adaptability

COVID-19 brought continued challenges for children and families in 2021. Protection against COVID-19 became available for most youth over age 12 in May but was not available for children and youth over age 5 until November. Families with children under 5 continue to wait for approval of a vaccine for their age group. Families were forced to balance different potential risks for potential exposure to COVID-19 in different aspects of their lives, from childcare to school settings to church activities.

In addition, children and youth said goodbye to Katie Morris, Central's former Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator, and welcomed a new friend into the Central family to coordinate children's ministry: Laura Walls.

Gathering Safely Outdoors

Central's families stayed connected through outdoor events when the weather cooperated (and even sometimes when it didn't!). Children participated in St. Paul's Earth Day Clean-Up with other Central members, and often met up at a local park for fun, games, and fellowship. In July, families gathered at Mounds Park to wish Katie Morris well.

Welcome, Laura!

Central welcomed Laura Walls to the staff in September. Laura stepped into the Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator role and quickly hit it off with Central's kids. A wonderful storyteller with a

kind and generous heart, Laura will be a wonderful advocate, mentor, and nurturer for Central's children, youth, and families.

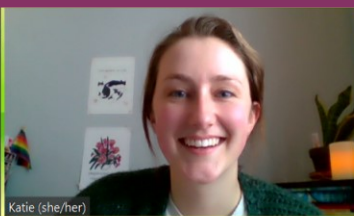
Coming Back to Church

While families remained cautious about returning to in-person activities, many returned to in-person worship during Advent and participated in leading worship activities, lighting the Advent wreath, and, of course, celebrating the birth of Christ with a re-telling of the birth story, Pandemic Edition. Jeff Jones wrote a funny, touching, and true-to-life script that allowed for social distancing, virtual participation, and a reflection on where we can find God and feel God's presence with us even in these challenging times when we can't always be together.

Coming in 2022

We have even more great plans in store for 2022 as Jennifer Anderson joins us to help lead the Youth Program and Laura Walls builds connections with children and families on Sunday mornings. Children will begin to build the cornerstones of faith as they develop in their faith journeys, and youth will have more opportunities to dive deep into the issues that they care about as they continue on their own journeys. Stay tuned!

Respectfully Submitted,
Phyllis Brashler, Chair



Cindy Jesson zn...

COMMITTEE REPORT

Nominating

The Nominating committee members included Deacon Todd Mikish; at-large members Lynda Petrie and Erika Kelly-Kennedy; Elders Sally Mortenson, Marcia Robert and Mel Leach; and Rev. Dr. Carol Reed (ex-officio).

The committee took pains to select nominees that were representative of the congregation as a whole, sought diversity and people who are both committed to Central and its mission as well as those who have a passion for service.

In the Fall of 2020, we had returned the size of the session to 15 from its previous size of 12. At the beginning of 2021, two of those positions remained open and we had an opening occur in the Deacons. In early 2021, the committee nominated the following persons: Ernest Lloyd to serve as an elder in the class of 2023, Marcia Robert to serve as an elder in the class of 2021, and Stephanie Geisler to serve as a deacon in the class of 2023. The nominations listed above were approved at a congregational meeting held on March 28, 2021.

In the Fall of 2021, the committee nominated:

- Elder for the class of 2023 - Jackie Klaehn.
- Elders for the class of 2024 - John Lee, Sr., Wendy Flinner, Lynne Severson, Sally Mortenson (2nd term), and Marcia Robert (2nd term).
- Deacons for the class of 2024 - Mia Wintheiser, Peter Knapp, and Maureen Smith.
- Nominating committee members at large for 2022 - Joan Kelly and Mary Miller.

The nominations listed above were approved at a congregational meeting held on November 14, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Mel Leach, Chair



COMMITTEE REPORT

Welcome & Fellowship

The Welcome & Fellowship Committee includes John Lee, Christie Rachelle, Marcia Robert, Maureen Smith, Vinai Vinlander, and Kiera Faye as Chair.

A New Name, An Expanded Focus

This year, the committee expanded its scope of work from hospitality based efforts to include greater emphasis on creating connections and fellowship among all who share in the Central community. With a new name, the New Members and Volunteers committee is now called Welcome & Fellowship with a mission to grow the fellowship, participation, and membership of Central Presbyterian Church by helping visitors, friends, and members to become more comfortable and connected at Central.

Navigating Fellowship in the Pandemic

As Central continued to navigate the challenges of the pandemic, the Welcome & Fellowship Committee worked closely with the COVID Task Force to determine how to facilitate a responsible return to in-person worship. Ushers were recruited and trained, and safety practices were constantly under review. Even with the changes, Central's ushers have been a constant presence to ensure that our sanctuary is a safe and welcoming space.

The committee was very pleased to bring back Fellowship Hour in person, with refreshments, to help foster community at Central. During the summer months, we took advantage of the good weather to hold Fellowship Hour outdoors, on the sidewalk on the north side of the church. Many new volunteers joined in to prepare and serve coffee, tea, and cookies. Fellowship Hour moved indoors in the fall, and the committee continues to recruit and schedule volunteers to maintain this ministry.

Resuming Community Lunches

Welcome & Fellowship assumed oversight of Central's kitchen, communicating with chef Barb Westman to plan a safe and successful return of the Wednesday and 3rd Sunday meal service ministries in October. Plans were made to offer meals to-go and loaves of bread for sale to help offset operating costs, and reduced downtown traffic.

As of December 2021, Central's lunch attendance is still well below 2019 numbers, largely due to the number of downtown Saint Paul offices whose employees are still working remotely. Still, we have been gratified to see that many kitchen volunteers were eager to return, and downtown residents can again enjoy quality, accessible meals every week.

Volunteers Welcome

Our need for volunteers is ongoing! Anyone who has received a warm welcome at Central is invited to help provide that welcome to others as an usher, Fellowship Hour server, or kitchen volunteer. To see where volunteers are needed, visit our website anytime at www.centralforgood.org/volunteer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kiera Faye, Chair



COMMITTEE REPORT

Coordinated Mission

Coordinated Mission Committee members include Kiera Faye, Maggie Gordon, Ernest Lloyd, Mary Miller, Leon Oman, Reverend Carol Reed, Denny Reimer, Barbara Swanson, Sandy White, and Sharon Zopfi-Jordan (chair).

Central's Coordinated Mission Committee is charged to use the people, building, and communications of Central Presbyterian Church to strategically live out God's mission for who we are in this specific time and place.

In 2021, Anti-Racism, Housing Justice through the Beacon Leadership Team and Hunger continued to be our priority focus areas. Task forces are leading the work and reporting to the Coordinated Mission Committee. Each task force has provided a separate update for the annual report.

Other mission areas of Coordinated Mission include:

Martha's Closet

Martha's Closet is a social services referral-based low-income clothing closet for women.

In March, after being closed for part of 2020 and 2021 due to COVID, we were able to reopen. In May, we sent an open invitation to our friends at Central Towers to visit the clothing closet during May and June, with no referral needed. We were happy to have a good response from the invitation and are hoping to do another invitation in the future. In July, Sandy White, Director of Martha's Closet, was interviewed by a journalist from the St. Paul Pioneer Press for an article on non-profits still surviving after the pandemic. Sandy was highlighted in the article along with three pictures of Martha's Closet with the article. In September, the Closet's rummage sale was

held. Business has steadily increased throughout the year. Even with the increased business and not accepting clothing donations in 2021, there is still an abundance of clothing at Martha's Closet. We reached out to several other clothing closets to make donations, however, due to the pandemic they were not accepting new donations.

Diaper Drive

Disposable diapers are a much-needed item so children can attend daycare. In June, the annual Diaper Drive was held to support Inter Faith Action Project Home families. 5,731 Diapers, 5,366 wipes and \$400 were donated! Thank you to Mel Leach and Sue Hoffman for delivering all the diapers and wipes.

Giving Tree

In December, the Giving Tree supported three Ramsey County families (10 people - 3 adults and 7 children). Central members fulfilled the wish list of items to help provide a wonderful holiday to the families. We also received a donation of over 20 hygiene kits for women from a non-member who attends Wednesday lunch. These were added gifts to the family members. The County workers were thrilled to receive the additional kits to be able to make the day of many others. Thank you to Kelly Ishizuka, Madhu Kannapiran, and their daughters for working with the County, making the gift tags, setting up the on-line gift list and sorting all the gifts for the families.

Alternative Gift Market

Denny Remer and Elaine Oman coordinated a successful gift market again this year after a hiatus in

2020. Lots of chocolate, coffee and handcrafted items were available. The market is a great opportunity to help to support others from around the world to make a living from their work.

Hanson Memorial Fund

The Coordinated Mission Committee makes decisions on how we can best use the Hansen Memorial Fund to help others and support our mission. In 2021, recipients of the Hansen Memorial Fund were MICAH (Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing) for Central's membership, Beacon for their East Metro Housing project that will support housing for low income families, Interfaith Action for Project Home, and Central Towers for their holiday celebration. We also purchased copies of *The Birch Bark House* for members of the congregation to check out to read as part of the Anti-Racism Task Forces book series.

Special Offerings

Coordinated Mission sponsored three special offering in 2021. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering was \$2019 and an additional \$100 donation for Presbyterian Disaster Relief. The Joy offering supports retired Presbyterian ministers and minority colleges including Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Stillman is a private Presbyterian and historically black liberal arts college. The Joy offering total was \$3,900. The Peace and Global Witness offerings totaled \$920. Central's portion of the Peace and Global Witness offering (25% of the total) is going to be used for refugee support.

Thank you to Central members for your generosity and continued support of our missions and for making a difference.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Zopfi-Jordan, Chair



TASK FORCE REPORT

Hunger Initiative

Hunger Task Force members include Benjamin Amarteifio, Maggie Gordon, Leon Oman, Barbara Swanson and Sharon Zopfi-Jordan (convener).

The Hunger Initiative Task Force began in 2018 after Central received an anonymous grant to be used for helping those with food insecurities. In addition to financial donations to food related charities and programs the task force has looked for additional ways make a difference for those with food insecurities.

Food Drives

The task force, in coordination with the Coordinated Mission Committee, hosted two food drives in 2021 to support the Keystone Rice Street Food Shelf. In February, 387 pounds of food / products and \$2,055 in cash donation were received. In October, 203 pounds of personal / cleaning supplies and \$575 cash donations were received. The support of the congregation was amazing! Both times Leon Oman's

car was thoroughly stuffed with all the donations as he helped to deliver all gifts to the Rice Street Food Shelf.

Volunteer Service

Central members have also been volunteering to serve meals at the St Paul Opportunity Center/ Higher Ground which has been part of Catholic Charities for a few years. However, due to COVID safety concerns, we did not volunteer in January and March 2021. A financial donation was made for the program. In May, volunteers restarted serving the lunch meal on the 2nd Saturday of odd months. It is a very rewarding experience to be able to serve others.

We hope to be able to have more service-related opportunities in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Zopfi-Jordan, Convener



TASK FORCE REPORT

Housing Justice

The Housing Justice Task Force is comprised of Central members concerned with, and wanting to address, the housing crisis here in the metropolitan area and throughout the state of Minnesota.

Project Home

For many years, Central hosted families dealing with homelessness through Project Home of Interfaith Action every evening during November in the church dining room. This year, Project Home finally found its own home in the Provincial House in Highland Park, through a lease with The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. In June, the task force sponsored a diaper drive for Project Home where Central members donated 5,731 diapers, 5,366 wipes and \$400 in monetary donations!

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

As a member of the Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, Central is one of over 100 member churches throughout the Twin City metropolitan area and suburbs. The work of the collaborative is to build a critical mass of faith members who learn, build relationships, come together and advocate for needed, equitable housing policies at the state legislature and construction of low-income housing at the county and local levels.

Central members formed a Beacon Leadership Team (BLT) with our church organizer, Elizabeth Tanen, to plan and develop Central's role with Beacon. Serving on the Beacon Leadership team are Maggie Gordon, Heidi Jernstedt, Leon Oman, Lynne Severson,

Barbara Swanson, and Casey Wells.

In particular, Central Beacon members are pushing for support, followed by passage, of a rent assistance program for all low-income, cost-burdened households, with appropriated funding. Beacon calls this rent assistance bill Bring it Home. 2021 was a budget year at the MN State Legislature Session. Involvement grew as Central members attended workshops and training, "Days of Action" events, Leadership Assemblies, and made group visits to legislators via Zoom. The first day of each month "Rent is Due" events brought all MN Beacon members together for a short rally and plans for the month. With the convenience of Zoom, some of us observed various House Legislative sessions dealing with housing, including the Housing Finance & Policy Division Committee headed by housing champion Representative Alice Hausman.

Throughout the year, we learned through courses including Racism & Housing, and Building Home. We attended a Legislative Coalition, Beacon Academy, Legislative Launch, a Rent Stabilization Forum, and brought new Central members to the Beacon Convening in December.

We believe that homelessness and chronic housing insecurity is a moral issue, and our faith values must coincide with its solution.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Swanson

We believe that homelessness and chronic housing insecurity is a moral issue, and our faith values must coincide with its solution.

TASK FORCE REPORT

Anti-Racism

The Anti-Racism Task Force (ARTF) became active in early 2020 as an arm of the Coordinated Mission Committee. Participants in the Anti-Racism Task Force have included Lou Bender (convener), Allynne Berg, Dwight Colby, Nancy Colby, Laura Hutton, Catherine Lloyd, Ernest Lloyd, Leon Oman, Carol Reed, Avis Tilden, Doug Throckmorton, Casey Wells, Al Zdrzil, and visitors from the Beacon Housing Task Force.

A Fledgling Organization

Two projects, along with learning to handle the growing pains of a fledgling organization, occupied the first year. During 2020, the ARTF led two book studies on Ibram Kendi's *How to Be an Antiracist*, a two-week overview in the spring and a more in-depth "book club" read in the late fall. George Floyd's death occurred between those sessions, sparking a fresh passion for the work, and convincing the group to take a closer look. In the wake of Floyd's death, the ARTF invited members of the congregation to an open listening session to share feelings and commitments as we sought to let our grief affect our actions in powerful ways. We recorded an online worship service to lead the congregation in prayerful consideration of what we as a congregation would do about racism.

By the end of that first year, the ARTF had clarified its purpose by living into its work, and had organized to lead the congregation in addressing racism in church and community.

Growing Knowledge

The ARTF entered 2021 ready to talk more honestly and work more efficiently because of their experiences together. They have spent this year

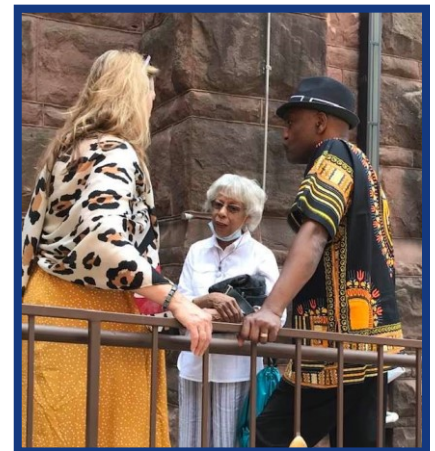
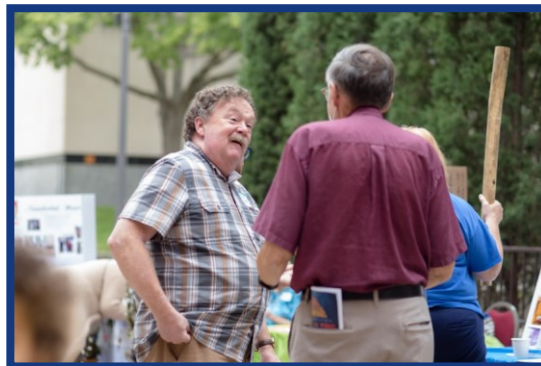
educating the congregation on ways to live out the Christian responsibility to be anti-racist people, including exploring topics of racism, and its intersection with other aspects of life on behalf of the Central congregation, and practicing advocacy for people affected by racism.

Specific actions of the task force this year include:

- Provided Anti-Racism educational materials in each monthly church newsletter.
- Explored samples of church and organizational Land Acknowledgement statements, and connected with representatives of church groups who are in the process of writing such statements to hear about their work.
- Observed Minnesota's memorial vigil for George Floyd as part of our May meeting.
- Led a confessional reading for worship on the Sunday closest to Juneteenth.
- Invited Interfaith Action staff to introduce ARTF to the Division of Indian Work.
- Participated in the September Festival Sunday event at Central for the first time.
- Supported several members of the ARTF in completing the Presbytery Anti-Racist pilgrimage, and connected at least one member of CPC to the second pilgrimage.
- Sponsored a field trip to the Hennepin History Museum to tour "Human Toll: a Public History of 35W," led by Dr. Ernest Lloyd of our Task Force, who conducted the research behind the exhibit.

- Chose Louise Erdrich's young adult novel, *The Birchbark House*, as the congregation's first "all-read" volume.
- Communicated regularly with the Beacon Task Force and supported them with attendance at their December event "Joyful Urgency: A Beacon Convening" to hear stories from people dealing with unstable housing and plans for Beacon's response.

Respectfully submitted,
Lou Bender, Convener



TASK FORCE REPORT

COVID-19

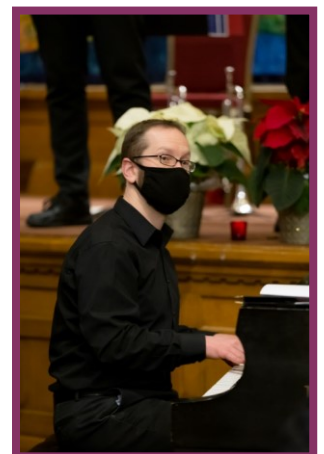
Throughout 2021, Central's Session has relied on the expertise of the COVID-19 Task Force to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic.

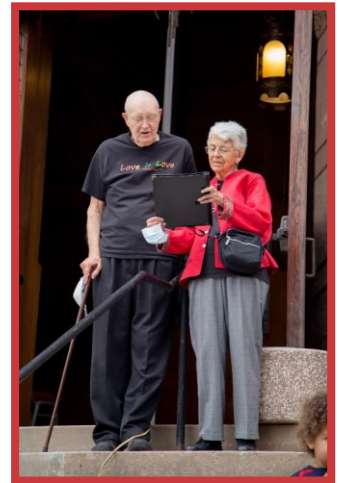
The Task Force monitors the number of cases in the Twin Cities Metro area and across the state and makes recommendations to staff and Session committees if changes are needed to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Both Session and the Task Force have tried to chart a course that balances the level of risk and the importance of protecting our community members. Central put in place several measures that would allow the church to re-open for in-person services as safely as possible, including asking everyone to wear a mask at church and encouraging social distancing.

In 2021, Central celebrated the opportunity to re-open for in-person worship. We also maintained streaming services for those who felt they could not attend in person for health reasons. In addition, Central resumed coffee hour and 3rd Sunday lunch when it was safe to do so. Wearing high-quality masks when attending services or gatherings at Central helps us protect each other while enjoying the benefits of sharing fellowship together in person. Thank you for taking care of your church community!

The Task Force continues to monitor trends related to the prevalence of COVID-19 and advises church staff and Session as needed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Phyllis Brashler & Fluryanne Leach





MISSION ACTIVITIES

MISSION ACTIVITIES

Women of Central

Thank you to the Women of Central board members for their service and energy. They include Florence Zopfi (Secretary/Treasurer), Sandy White (Mission Committee liaison, Martha's Closet), Lynne Severson (Knitters/Prayer Shawl Ministry), Laura Williams, Jane Lonergan, and Jan Engeswick.

The Women of Central have focused on four priorities over the past five years:

- Hands-on activities
- Bible study,
- Devotion, fellowship, mission & giving,
- Intergenerational activities.

In 2021 our primary emphasis was on staying connected with one another and offering support to each other in these challenging times. We continued to provide financial gifts to important Presbyterian Women's projects.

Here are highlights in this unusual year.

Mission

Our primary focus was on in-kind donations via the Mitten Tree and on financial giving through the Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering. Our congregation is so generous, with handmade and purchased gifts for the Mitten Tree and with financial gifts to the Thank Offering. This annual offering provides a mechanism for supporting creative mission initiatives, locally, nationally, and globally. Projects provide solutions related to health, education, economic development, and needs of women and children. The Thank Offering was featured during the 3rd Sunday worship and lunch in November.

Women's Networking Group

The monthly Women's Networking Group met via Zoom for many months in 2021. We were able to meet in person in the warmer months focusing on outdoor venues, and again in the fall at Celeste. These gatherings continue to give an informal and meaningful way to connect with women across our congregation.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Knitters had an active year. The group met in person as they were able and there is a lot of interest in this group. We provided many handmade items for the Mitten Tree in December. Lynne Severson became the leader of this group during the late summer of 2021 and is leading with vision and energy.

Mitten Tree

Items were collected at the Deck the Halls brunch. Many, many beautiful handmade items were among those donated to the Neighborhood House.

Deck the Halls

A festive and casual brunch was held during the Deck the Halls Saturday in December. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to share food and great conversation.

Martha's Closet

Provides free interview and work clothing for low-income women in St. Paul.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Hoffman, Chair

Women of Central Financial Report

BALANCE ON HAND JANUARY 1, 2021 \$ 3,727.98

RECEIPTS

Thank Offering	\$ 380.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$ 380.00

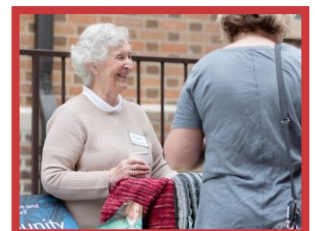
DISBURSEMENTS

PW/PTCA Pledges	\$ 700.00	
PW/PTCA Pledges	\$ 105.00	
Thank Offering 2020	\$ 475.00 *	
Thank Offering 2021	\$ 380.00	
TOTAL MISSION		\$ 1,660.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$1,660.00
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BALANCE ON HAND DECEMBER 31, 2021		\$ 2,447.98
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* Thank offerings totaling \$475.00 received after the (4th Qtr) payment was made will be sent to PW/PTCA with the 1st Qtr. 2021 pledge payment. The \$475 was sent on March 5, 2021.



MISSION

Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons for 2021 include the following: from Class of 2021 Chris Bremicker, Solomon Haile, Laura Hutton. Class of 2022 Leon Oman, Todd Mikish, Mark Vance. Class of 2023 Allynne Berg, Laura Williams, and Stephanie Geisler

Laura Williams and Laura Hutton became co-moderators of the Deacons, with many thanks to Mark Vance who moderated the Deacons for the past 4 years.

During Pastor Transitions

On January 11, 2021, the Deacons shared findings from a late 2020 series of interviews with leaders of Central's committees and small groups. The goal of the interviews was to collect insight into what would strengthen our leadership as we approached a period of pastoral transition and to facilitate communication by synthesizing and sharing the feedback with the whole group. A report of this meeting and the findings was also shared with the Clerk of Session and the new interim pastor. The Deacons also shared their short term strategies for increasing availability and adding support during the transition.

During the transition (about the first 10 weeks of 2021), Deacons helped with caring for the Congregation in additional ways. This included Deacons taking turns to be the "Deacon of the Month" to follow up on prayer requests and other pastoral care needs. Deacons also took turns to be on-call during the weekends to facilitate the response to any urgent pastoral care needs that occurred. Finally, in an effort to keep coordination working, a Deacon liaison stayed in direct contact with staff about needs until Rev. Reed, our interim pastor started.

During the Pandemic

Deacon Leon Oman trained the Deacons on vaccine resources available when the vaccines were first being distributed. After the training, Deacons called people in the church that were 65+ years old to ask them if they would like help in getting a COVID-19 vaccine (car rides, information on where one can get a vaccine). There were approximately 50 people on the call list. Most people welcomed the outreach but had their own support networks to get to a vaccination place or had already received the vaccine. With varied schedules and challenges, the Deacons regret that not all 65+ congregants could be reached.

During these calls, church attendees were asked if they wanted ongoing contact with the Deacons. Several people accepted the offer and their names were added to the list that Deacons regularly contact.

Continuing Care of our Congregation

Connection Circles continued to meet, at first weekly and then every first and third Thursday. The Deacons originally moderated the meetings, then it evolved that different members of the Circle took turns moderating the meetings. This is a chance to connect with other people who attend church for casual conversation and camaraderie. All meetings are held on Zoom. Any church attendees can join. For information on how to attend a Circle contact the church office.

Men's Group

Some of the men in Deacons started a Men's group. Their first meeting was in June. Because of the summer and the pandemic the Men's group did not meet again in 2021.

Connection with Homebound Members

We continue to support our home-bound members by calling them regularly and delivering flowers around Easter and Christmas.

Deacon Fund

Deacons have responded to 7 requests for assistance during 2021 with specific funding for emergency needs for a total amount of \$3,469. The funds helped with: a partial rent payment, groceries, a bus pass, the purchase of a small air conditioner, and a car repair.

Engagement with Other Committees

In an effort to stay connected to related concerns in the congregation, Deacon liaisons have served on the Coordinated Missions Committee, Nominating, and attended a few Session meetings during the pastoral transition.

The Deacons met 9 times in 2021. Almost all meetings were virtual because of the pandemic.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Williams and Laura Hutton, Co-Chairs





FINANCIAL REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Finance & Stewardship

The Finance & Stewardship committee members included Matt Ehling (Treasurer), Phyllis Brashler, Craig Foss, Cindy Jessen, Barb Swanson, Carl Willis, Anna Sanchez, and Christine Smith (chair).

During 2021, Central began the process of re-opening after being closed for the bulk of the previous year due to the pandemic. Central was supported in this work by its generous and committed members, but it also faced some financial headwinds, making for a complex year that ended with expenses exceeding revenue by approximately \$19,000. Thanks to a strong response to a year-end appeal for contributions, Central was able to substantially trim a larger projected loss, but still ended the year in the negative. The Finance Committee and Session are currently examining how to structure Central's finances going forward, to ensure Central's long-term financial health.

Despite these challenges, Central's finances continued to benefit from committed church members and excellent staff stewardship.

Administrative Strength of Staff

Central is blessed with a talented and dedicated staff. They have risen to the challenge of containing costs while making our church a safe and welcoming place as we have re-opened our building for in-person worship and service.

Loss of Some Contributors, Increased Support From Others

While Central has lost a few members, we are grateful that others stepped up their giving over the past year. We have pledges that are new for 2022, and others that have significantly increased their

2022 pledges which has been helpful in developing a 2022 budget. We typically estimate income that comes from regular contributors who don't actually pledge. While this does introduce some uncertainty into the budget process, we value all forms contribution.

PPP loans were available to churches during the pandemic and many churches sought this relief. While this was brought up again in early 2021, our strong finish to 2020 and reserves led us to decide we were in a position to be able to manage without government assistance.

Historic Building Grant Secured

Thanks to the efforts of Fluryanne Leach and the Facilities Management Committee, a \$120,000 historic preservation grant was secured for upcoming repair and upgrade work to Central's historic facade. Central will be supporting an additional \$50,000 worth of work with its own cash, raised from the sale of the remaining digital assets that Central had been gifted in 2017. Going into 2022, Central is also confronting both near-term and future challenges:

Loan for Building Repairs and Upgrades

Central's historic building is a tremendous asset, but it is also costly to repair and maintain. Toward the end of 2021, Central was faced with two simultaneous challenges:

- Fixing small portions of its roof that were not replaced during Central's last major roof repair work, and;
- Adding additional security features to better

protect staff during a time of increased uncertainty in downtown Saint Paul.

To address both of these in a timely fashion, Session used its long-term investment accounts as collateral to secure a loan to cover repair and upgrade expenses. Session is in the midst of long-term financial planning involving a capital campaign to cover the loan principal.

Financial Management for the Long Term

Due to a generous gift it received in 2017, Central has some long-term investments that can help to ensure its financial future.

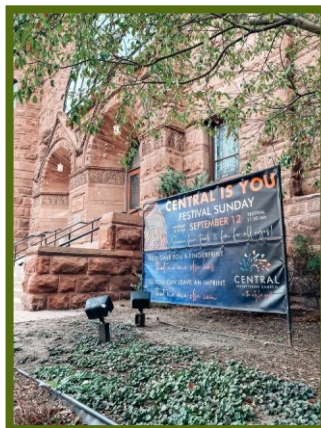
After many years of drawing down its investment accounts, the 2016 Session committed to stop using investment principal to fund day-to-day operations, and instead committed to only using investment income - in conjunction with pledges and other earned income - to support the church's operations. The one exception to this strategy was

that Session allocated \$60,000 worth of Program Account principal per year for six years to support staff raises. In 2021, Central was halfway through that six-year spend.

While investment income and earned income covered Central's expenses handily from 2018-2020, 2021 saw a \$25,000 drop in member contributions against budget, setting the church up for a year-end loss, and a projected deficit going into 2022.

Going forward, the Session is evaluating how to address Central's short-term deficit issue, as well as how to set the church up for long-term, sustainable financial health. Central welcomes not only the financial support but also the wisdom and engagement of its members as it makes plans for its financial future.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Smith, Chair



20TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE 9/11 ATTACKS.

In concert with events taking place at the state capitol, Central's bell rang - marking the moment of each plane crash.

Thank you to Central's own Johnny and Mila for ringing the bell and sharing in this remembrance.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

The following list details overall investment values at the end of 2021, as compared to 2020. The total value of invested funds at the end of 2021 was \$2,237,285, plus PCUSA funds worth an additional \$55,153.

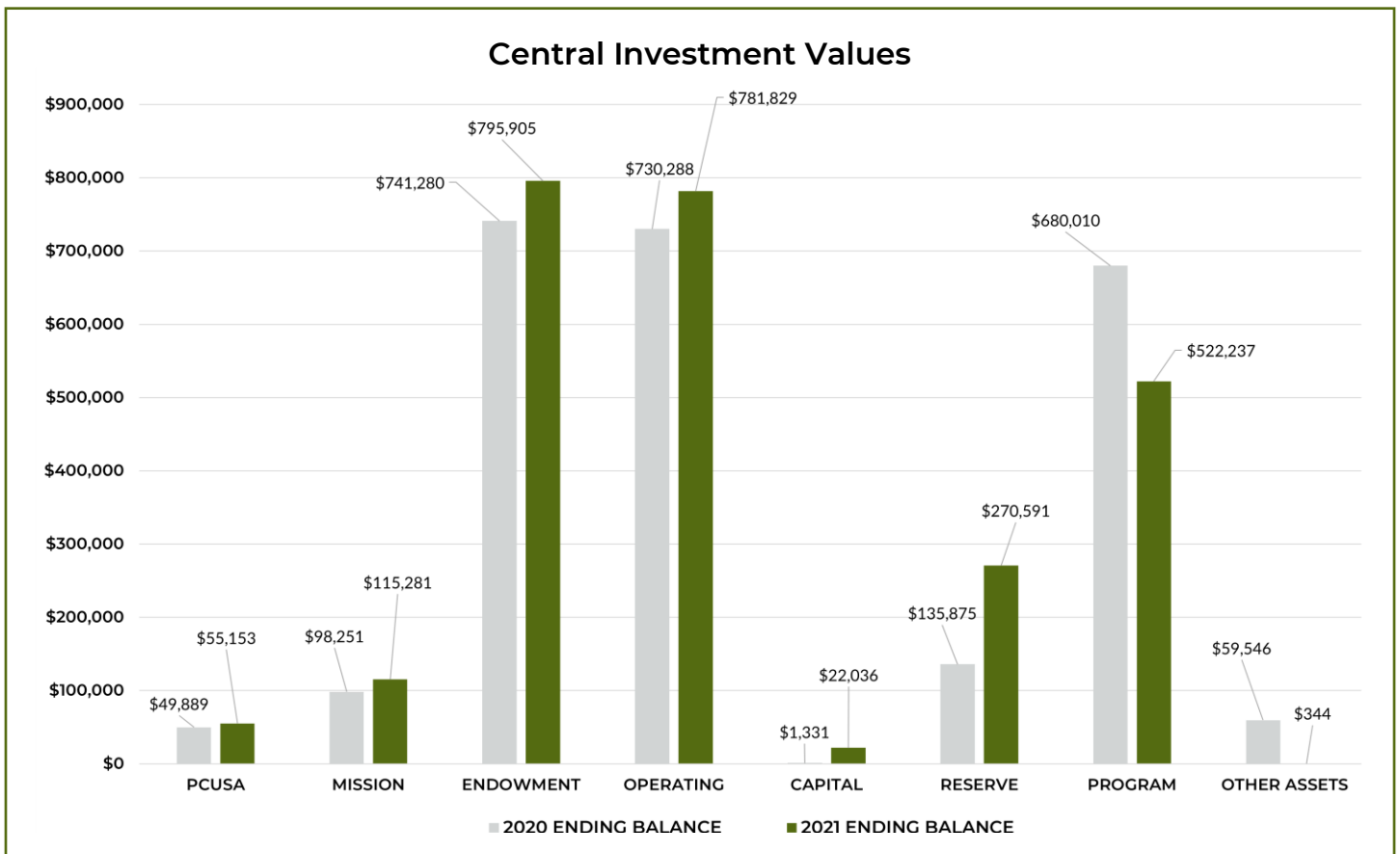
Central also held cash of \$270,591 in its Reserve Account, and controlled additional assets worth approximately \$344. Central's checking account ended the year in the negative, due to a weaker than expected finish to the financial year.

In December of 2021, Central took a \$200,000 loan against its investments in order to fund emergency

building repairs and security upgrades. Session is examining options for a future capital campaign to recover the loan principal, as well as to raise funds for future capital needs.

Central maintains a variety of investment accounts, each with specific purposes - including two accounts (Operating and Endowment) that are used to generate operating income. Additionally, income from the PCUSA fund is used for operating expenses.

For more detail, please see the supplemental section entitled "How Central's Finances Work."



PCUSA (Presbyterian Church USA) Fund

Unrestricted; income used for Central operations.

2020: \$ 49,889

2021: \$ 55,153

Mission

Restricted funds for various mission related purposes

2020: \$ 98,251

2021: \$ 115,281

Endowment

Some trust restrictions; produces income for Central operations.

2020: \$ 741,280

2021: \$ 795,905

Operating

Produces income for Central operations.

2020: \$ 730,288

2021: \$ 781,826

Capital

Holding account for income generated by the Operating Account.

2020: \$ 1,331

2021: \$ 22,036

Reserve

Funds held in money market account for restricted purposes/short-term spending.

2020: \$ 135,875

2021: \$ 270,591

Program

Restricted funds for six-year spend on building improvements; staffing. Funds that were previously restricted for an associate pastor hire are being re-examined by Session for future use.

2020: \$ 680,010

2021: \$ 522,237

Other Assets

Remaining, undesignated assets from 2017 gift.

2020: \$ 59,546

2021: \$ 344

Respectfully Submitted,
Matt Ehiling, Treasurer

UNDERSTANDING

How Finances Work

Central is able to operate because of the generous annual contributions it receives from its members, which pay for its day-to-day operations. Central also has long-term investment accounts that help to pay for day-to-day expenses by generating income.

These investment accounts can also serve as loan collateral when Central has to raise money to pay for emergency building repairs or similar expenses. (Central is using a portion of its investments in this way right now. Those investments are currently securing a loan the church is using to help make emergency roof repairs, and to add security features for staff.)

In order to preserve and grow its investment accounts to ensure a long-term financial future for the church, Central does not spend investment principal - just investment earnings (investment "income."). The one exception to this is the "Program Account", which is part of a large financial gift that the church received in 2017. Session designated some investment principal from the Program Account to be spent on designated one-time expenses, such as staff raises and certain building repairs. Session will soon be looking at what other, future purposes the Program Account should be used for.

Below is a summary of how Central's finances work.

Central's Accounts

For a small organization, Central has fairly complex finances. Central has several bank and investment accounts through which it transacts business and holds its long-term assets. These are all organized and separated by purpose, to better ensure the tracking of funds:

Church Checking Account

This is the account where day-to-day operating expense transactions occur.

Church "Reserve Account"

This is a savings account that holds designated cash for special projects, as well as investment income generated during the prior calendar year, in preparation for spending on operations.

"Pay Pal" Connected Checking Account

This is the checking account connected to Central's Pay Pal account. Digital contributions arrive in this account, and are then transferred to the main checking account to be spent.

RBC Operating Account

This is an investment account managed by RBC that holds long-term investment principal. The Operating Account is invested in bond funds, and generates predictable dividend income that is used to fund day-to-day church operations.

RBC Endowment Account

This is an investment account managed by RBC that holds long-term investment principal. The Endowment Account is invested in bond and equity funds, and generates income that is used to fund day-to-day church operations.

RBC Mission Account

This is an investment account managed by RBC that holds long-term investment principal. The Mission Account is invested in bond and equity funds, and generates income that is used to fund giving by the Coordinated Mission Committee, as well as scholarship money.

Program Account

This is an investment account managed by RBC that holds some funds that were designated by Session (to support staff raises), as well as some funds that are currently awaiting designation. The Program Account was also used to underwrite \$200,000 in building repairs, and staffing costs for Central's associate pastor. The Program Account is different than Central's other investment accounts, in that Session has approved the spending of investment principal and investment income both. (Accordingly, the Program Account is not likely to be a long-term investment account, unless Session changes its purpose).

RBC Capital Account

This is a "cash sweep" account managed by RBC that collects dividend income produced by the Operating Account until it is pulled over to the Reserve Account at the beginning of each fiscal year. From there, the funds are pulled into the church checking account as needed during each calendar year.

PCUSA Fund

This is a non-RBC investment account that produces dividend income that Central uses for day-to-day church operations.

Central's Financial Operations

Paying Day-to-Day Expenses

Central pays its annual operating expenses (staff salaries, heat, lighting, etc.) out of three primary sources:

1. Member contributions
2. Investment revenue
3. Other income, such as building rental or donations for meals.

Last year, Central received \$333,181 in member contributions; \$121,334 in investment revenue, and \$12,881 in other income. \$55,500 of Central's investment revenue was "income" (it was earnings on invested principal) while \$65,834 was "principal" that

was set aside in 2018 to support staff raises. (More on this below).

Central also receives "pass-through" revenue for specific mission projects, where giving is solicited from the pulpit (such as One Great Hour of Sharing; Presbyterian Disaster Relief, etc.). This is not truly revenue for Central, since any money that comes in which has been earmarked for such projects passes through to the end-donor. Central simply acts as a collection point for that money.

Where Contributions Go

When contributions come in to Central, they go directly into Central's checking account, and then are treated in one of three ways:

1. If the contribution is a general, "non-designated" contribution such as a monthly pledge, then that money sits in the checking account until it is called upon to pay for an upcoming expense, such as payroll. Most of the "non-designated" contributions that come in to Central are spent within a week or two of coming in, since Central has high, recurring expenses - such as staff payroll and building utilities costs.
2. The checking account ebbs and flows in terms of the amount of money it has inside of it (due to inflows and outflows of contributions and expenses), but generally the account ends the month with a small amount of money. (\$3700 was the 2021 month-end average). That average amount is fairly low, since money that comes in almost immediately goes out again.
3. If a contribution is "designated" to pay for a particular Central project (such as the Hunger Initiative), then it gets transferred from the checking account to the Reserve Account (Central's savings account) and is treated as "restricted funds." Restricted funds cannot be spent on general expenses - like payroll - but must be held until they are spent on the expense they were designated for by the donor. For example, Central had a long-time member who earmarked a monthly donation to fund the

purchase of choir robes. Those donations were stockpiled in the Reserve Account until it was time to purchase choir robes, and then those funds were spent. The Reserve Account has around \$170,800 in such "restricted funds" inside of it, on average (this was the 2021 average).

If a contribution is designated to pay for a pass-through mission (such as One Great Hour of Sharing), then that contribution is earmarked and retained in the checking account until all the similarly earmarked contributions are sent to the end-donor.

Investment Operations

Most of Central's investment accounts work all year to produce cash income to fund day-to-day operations or special mission projects. Per Central's investment policy, the investment principal in the Operating, Endowment, Mission, and PCUSA accounts has not been used to fund day-to-day operations for several years, so that those accounts can continue to grow, and to produce investment income to fund church operations every year going forward. When the investment accounts have a good year, the income proceeds can be substantial, and very helpful to Central's operating budget. For instance, Central has been able to take \$87,500 in income (not principal) from its investment accounts for use in 2022, which is \$32,00 more than it was able to take in 2021. As Central's investment accounts grow over the long-term, income production opportunities will also grow. This is only possible, however, if investment principal is not reduced.

Central's investment policy specifies that the Endowment Account and Mission Account must be solely invested in "socially responsible" funds; and it requires that the Operating Account not hold any funds that focus primarily on investments in tobacco, armaments, or other specified sectors. The Program Account has also recently been converted to all "socially responsible" investment holdings.

Here is how the investment accounts work:

The Operating Account

Each month, the bonds in the Operating Account produce cash dividends, and those dividends are moved over to the Capital Account, where they wait until year-end. Then, in January of the new year, all of the cash in the Capital Account gets moved to the Reserve Account (Central's savings account), where it is restricted as "cash reserves" for that year's operating budget. As that cash is needed during the year, it is pulled from the Reserve Account into the church checking account to cover day-to-day expenses.

The Endowment Account

The Endowment Account is invested in both stocks and bonds, and its annual output is more variable than the Operating Account, but when the account has a good year, the income proceeds can be substantial. The Finance Committee monitors the performance of the Endowment Account to see when there are opportune moments to sell some shares to generate income. Then, that cash income is stockpiled for future operating years. The Endowment Account was first established in the 1920s, and it is held in a trust. Central has to report Endowment Account activity to Ramsey County District Court - which supervises the trust - every year. Each year, investment income from the Endowment Account is moved to the Reserve Account for use to cover church operating expenses in the coming year.

The Mission Account

The Mission Account was created in 2016 when Central consolidated some dedicated investment funds (including the Hanson Memorial Fund and the Jury-Larson Scholarship fund) that previous donors had designated for specific purposes. The combined assets of the Mission Account are tracked in order to pay out income to support the purposes designated by the original donors. The Coordinated Mission Committee is charged with distributing those mission-related funds, and each year it distributes somewhere between \$2500 and \$4500 in funding for charitable causes, and/or scholarship monies. The

amount of invested principal in the Mission Account is much smaller than in the Operating and Endowment accounts, and consequently the income generated is more limited.

PCUSA Fund

Central benefits from some dividend income produced by a small PCUSA investment account. When those dividends arrive, they are immediately transferred to the checking account to fund day-to-day operations. Last year, the PCA Fund generated roughly \$1000 in dividend income.

Program Account

Central does have one investment account that functions differently than those mentioned above - that is the Program Account. The Program Account is where a portion of a major financial gift given to the church has been housed. In 2018, Central's Session designated the principal in the Program Account to be used for certain designated purposes: \$200,000 worth of building repairs, plus six years of staffing support money to raise staff wages, and six years of money to support the hiring and maintenance of an associate pastor. The building repair funds have already been spent on necessary repairs to Central's historic church, and three of the six years of staffing support money has been spent (2022 is the fourth year). One year of associate pastor funding was utilized before the associate pastor position went vacant, and the rest of the principal has been invested pending further designation.

Central also has a small amount of digital crypto-currency called "Monero V" that remains from the initial Monero crypto-currency gift that was largely sold in 2018 to re-capitalize Central's investments, and to fund the Program Account.

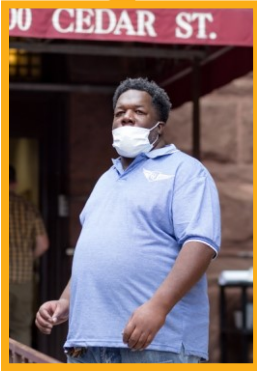
Past History

Central's current financial operation policies date to 2016, when the Session voted to stop drawing down principal from its investment accounts, and to try to operate off of earned income. For years, as Central's membership shrank, the church was forced to spend-down the principal in its large investment accounts

(the Endowment Account and the "Lot Fund" - the precursor to the Operating Account). By 2016, those accounts were getting close to being depleted, and Session authorized a three-year period by which to end reliance on investment principal.

Miraculously, in that same period, an anonymous donor gifted a substantial amount of digital "Monero" crypto-currency to the church. By 2018, the church's Monero holding had grown in value from \$7000 to \$1.65 million, and Central cashed in the majority of its Monero tokens, and used the proceeds to recapitalize its investment accounts, and establish the six-year spend from the Program Account.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matt Ehling, Treasurer



CONNECT

CONNECT

Elder Leadership

2021 SESSION

Clerk of Session: Sally Mortenson

Moderator of Session: Rev. Carol Reed

	YEAR ELECTED	TERM
Class of 2021		
Matt Ehling	2018	1
Sally Mortenson	2018	1
Carl Willis	2018	2
Sharon Zopfi-Jordan	2018	2
Class of 2022		
Cindy Jesson	2020	2
Dennis Reimer	2019	2
Chris Smith	2019	1
Vinai Vinlander	2019	1
Kiera Faye Voelker	2019	1
Class of 2023		
Phyllis Brashler	2020	1
Craig Foss	2020	2
Mel Leach	2020	1
Ernest Lloyd	2021	1
Marcia Robert	2021	1

2021 DEACONS

Moderator: Laura Williams & Laura Hutton

	YEAR ELECTED	TERM
Class of 2021		
Chris Bremicker	2018	2
Solomon Haile	2019	1
Laura Hutton	2019	1
Class of 2022		
Leon Oman	2019	1
Todd Mikish	2019	1
Mark Vance	2019	2
Class of 2023		
Allynne Burg	2020	1
Laura Williams	2020	2
Stephanie Geisler	2021	1

CONNECT

Staff

Pastor

- Rev. Dr. Carol Reed
Transitional Pastor
(651) 224-4728, ext 102
carolr@centralforgood.org

Administrative Staff

- Anna Sanchez
Church Administrator
office@centralforgood.org
(651) 224-4728, ext 100
- Christie Rachelle
Director of Communications
christier@centralforgood.org
(952) 564-4472
- Matt Ehling, Treasurer
- William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus
- Mary Lange, Evening Receptionist
- Lavar Jones & Peter Evarts, Custodians

Program Staff

- Jennifer Anderson
Director of Music and Youth Ministry
jennifera@centralforgood.org
(651) 224-4728, ext 103
- Laura Walls, Sunday Connection Coordinator
lauraw@centralforgood.org
(651) 224-4728, ext 109
- Megan Beese, Preschool Teacher

- Music Staff:
Shanta Hejmadi, Soprano Section Leader
Abbie Betinis & Laura Krider, Alto Section Leader
Adam Van der Sluis, Tenor Section Leader
David Winkworth, Baritone Section Leader
Steve Swanson, Pianist
Patrick Henning, Organist

Food Initiative

- Barb Westman
Chef & Food Manager
Barb.westman@gmail.com
(651) 224-4728, ext 114
- Sue LeClaire, Sous Chef

MISSION

Get Involved

Serve

If you would like to be more engaged and active with the church, we invite you to consider serving on one of our committees.

- Facilities Management & Risk Assessment
- Children & Youth
- Worship, Music & Arts
- New Members and Volunteers
- Coordinated Mission
- Nominating Committee
- Finance & Stewardship
- Personnel
- Task Forces for Hunger, Anti-Racism or Beacon Collaborative Housing Initiative

To learn where your skills may be best put to use or where openings may exist, please contact Church Administrator Anna Sanchez at (651) 224-4728 ext. 100 or email office@centralforgood.org.

Volunteer

Do you want to connect with others at Central? Show your commitment to putting your faith in action? Central is always seeking volunteers to fill a wide variety of roles and there is a place for you to get involved no matter your availability or skillset.

Current opportunities to volunteer include:

- Worship Leader (Reading scripture passages, leading prayer, sharing announcements).
- Video Crew (Help run our live-stream during worship. Don't worry, there is training!)

- Office Receptionist (Help in the office during staff absences or special events).
- Mailing prep (Help prepare our newsletter or other mass mailings by folding, stuffing, etc.)
- Ushers (Hospitality to welcome worship guests and assist with receiving offering)
- Fellowship Servers (Prepare and/or serve coffee and cookies after worship).
- Pew Patrol (Help keep cards stocked and the sanctuary pews organized).

To see volunteer opportunities (and to sign up), go to www.centralforgood.org/volunteer. Help us maintain a vibrant and welcoming community!

Support

When you make financial contributions to Central, you are supporting our ministries which seek to support and transform the community around us. In this time, there are several ways in which you can contribute, including:

- Online donations via credit card
- Automatic bank drafts
- Church drives (such as the diaper or mitten drives)
- Mail donations to the church
- Benefit concerts for VocalPoint beneficiaries

To learn more about giving opportunities, go to www.centralforgood.org/give.

*Each year, the art of the annual report is inspired
by the community and experiences within Central.*

*In 2019, it was beautiful watercolors illustrating how the people,
mission, and activities of Central flowed seamlessly between each other.*

*In 2020, the cover art was a delicately laid plan of dots, carefully spaced
to represent the social distancing we all faced in 2020's pandemic.*

*This year's cover reflects Central's efforts as we begin to re-connect
those dots and move forward. Carefully, but with purpose.*

*To reflect on how Central changes from year to year, explore annual
reports from past years at www.centralforgood.org/annual-report.*

Respectfully submitted,
Christie Rachele, Director of Communications



CENTRAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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St. Paul, MN 55101

www.centralforgood.org

