

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST,
CONGREGATIONAL**

VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROPOSED AGENDA	3
ROSTER OF OFFICERS AND LEADERSHIP	4
MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING 2021	6
ANNUAL REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP	7
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIACONATE	9
ANNUAL REPORT OF TROOP 66	9
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MODERATOR	9
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COVID-19 TASK FORCE	10
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDIA DIRECTOR	10
ANNUAL REPORT OF WORLD SERVICE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS	11
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES	11
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR	12
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COORDINATOR	13
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY	13
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRAYER TEAM	13
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE	14
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MUSIC TEAM	14
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR	15
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PASTOR	16
RECOGNITION OF LONGTIME MEMBERS	17
2022 BALLOT	18
2021 TREASURER'S REPORT, CASH FLOW AND 2022 BUDGET	19

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

January 30, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER by the Moderator, Rich Holland
HYMN – “God We Thank You for Our People”
2. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM (At least 40 members constitute a quorum.)
3. INVOCATION
4. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2021 ANNUAL MEETING
5. ACCEPTANCE OF THE REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP
6. ACCEPTANCE OF THE TREASURER’S REPORT
7. ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANNUAL REPORTS - Moderator, Pastor, Music Team, Church Administrator, Boards, Committees and Others
8. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. COVID-19 Protocols – Jake Kerby
9. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. 2021 Budget Report
 - B. Election of 2022 Boards and Officers
 - C. Interim Pastor Search
 - D. Other Business
10. SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF FORTY-YEAR MEMBERS
11. “IN MEMORIAM” - To recognize those members who have died during 2021
12. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES
13. HYMN – “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”
14. REMARKS by Rich Holland, Moderator
15. INTRODUCE NEW MODERATOR, Jake Kerby
16. BENEDICTION
17. ADJOURNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

<u>Organist</u>	Diane Van Den Oever, Brandon Sterling, Intern
<u>Pianist</u>	Anthony Burbach
<u>Adult Choir</u>	Gretchen Burbach
<u>Children's Choir</u>	Gretchen Burbach, Ali Guilloz, Intern; Accompanist, Anthony Burbach
<u>Bell Choir</u>	Anthony Burbach

EDUCATION

B.C.	Holly Gerberding, Kari Jensen, Steve Miller
Confirmation	Steve Miller, Kari Jensen, Pat Flanigan
Loaves and Fishes	Christian Education Team
Adult Bible Study	Steve Miller

OTHER POSITIONS OF CHURCH LEADERSHIP

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR – Joanne Ustad

CHURCH SECRETARY – Barb Weyhrich

MEDIA DIRECTOR – Paul Ebsen

CUSTODIANS - Barbara Jacobson, Kathleen Hasenbank

INTERNS

(Fall 2021)	
Ali Guilloz	Arts Intern - Choir
Jaci Kluender	Pastoral Intern - Visitation
Brynn Hass	Educational Intern – Preschool
Holly Gerberding	Educational Intern - Youth
Brandon Sterling	Arts Intern - Organ
Carson Lee	Media Intern

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL,
VERMILLION, SD
JANUARY 24, 2021**

The meeting was held via Zoom and began at 11:21 am. Steve Miller gave a brief overview on how to use Zoom. Moderator Barb Brockevelt called the official meeting to order at 11:27 am. The opening prayer was led by Pastor Steve Miller. There was a quorum of over 60 members present.

Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting

- Kathryn Birkeland moved to approve the Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting; Kurt Hackemer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Accept Membership report

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report; There was discussion on the Treasurer's Report.

Acceptance of the Annual Reports (pages 9-19 of the booklet).

- Anna Christensen moved to accept the Membership Report Treasurer's Report and Annual Report, seconded by Mary Edelen. Motion passed unanimously.

Old business:

Jake Kerby spoke on behalf of the COVID-19 Task Force. He went over their report and their recommendations.

- Jake Kerby made the motion to follow the COVID-19 Task Force Recommendations and Report. There was discussion, then the motion passed.

New business:

Anna Christensen presented the 2021 Budget. There was discussion.

- Anna Christensen moved to approve the 2021 Budget; Motion passed unanimously.

2021 Ballot: Motion by Mary Edelen to accept the nominations, seconded by Don Dahlin. The Cabinet will approve the 4 slots that are still open. Motion passed.

Steve gave recognition to those who have been members for over 40 years.

Prayer of Remembrance for those who have died in 2020

- Pastor Steve lit a candle and led us in prayer

All officers, members of boards and committees, and those who serve in any capacity in the church were installed by Pastor Steve Miller.

Barb Brockevelt thanked the Congregation and then introduced Rich Holland as our next Moderator.

Steve gave the Benediction.

Moved by Michelle Green, seconded Mecia Graham to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:34 pm

Respectfully submitted, Kari Jensen

ANNUAL REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP

January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Baptisms (13) Dedication (2)

Reese Elizabeth Schulte, daughter of Mark and Sara Schulte, February 14, 2021
Viviana Vernace Lira, daughter of McKenzie Huska and Andy Lira, February 27, 2021
Adria Elena Wilcox, daughter of Virginija and Mark Wilcox, March 14, 2021
Graham Daniel James Kaiser, son of Brian and Stephanie Kaiser, July 3, 2021
Grace Kelley Louise Ebsen, daughter of Paul and Taylor Ebsen, July 3, 2021
Emma Hahn, daughter of Bobbie Jo Tinker and Patrick Hahn, November 21, 2021
Henry Joseph Gullikson, son of Alexandra Lee Fischer and Ethan Jonah Gullikson, November 28, 2021
Gabriel Sol Redlin, son of Kathleen Cameron Redlin and Adrian Samms, November 28, 2021
DEDICATION – Lena Elizabeth Haaland, daughter of Anne R. and Eric Haaland, December 26, 2021
DEDICATION – Oskar Daniel Haaland, son of Anne R. and Eric Haaland, December 26, 2021
Brinley Angel Sage, daughter of Brittany and Cody Sage, December 26, 2021
Cora Rae Sanderson, daughter of Becky and Dave Sanderson, December 26, 2021
Luther Zane Sanderson, son of Becky and Dave Sanderson, December 26, 2021
Matthew Liam Garmendia de Barba Kerby, son of Luiza Garmendia de Barba Kerby and Matthew Anthony Kerby, December 30, 2021
Theodore Corky Moehring, son of Bobbie and Alan Moehring, December 30, 2021

New Members (0)

Confirmation 2021 (7)

Paige Renae Pederson, January 31, 2021
Lucas Kerby, May 16, 2021
William Henry Anderson, May 23, 2021
Broden Edward Askew, May 23, 2021
Erin Dannon Bottesini, May 23, 2021
Stephanie Victoria Carr, May 23, 2021
Nina D. Jordre, May 23, 2021

Members Transferred (0)

Deaths (member) (3) (*non-member) (3)

*Delores “Sally” Sannes, deceased April 28, service May 5, 2021, Hansen Funeral Home
Helen E. Brown, deceased May 31, 2021, burial at Bluff View Cemetery, Vermillion, SD
John Edwin “Jack” Powell, deceased April 20, 2020, Celebration of Life, June 21, 2021, UCC,C
*Sharon Stevenson, Committal Service, July 19, 2021, Union Cemetery, Wakonda, SD
Melissa Sievers, deceased August 19, 2021, Elaine Miller officiated at her Celebration of Life at UCC,C
committal at the Sievers farm
Anthony Edelen, deceased November 13, service at UCC,C, November 21, 2021, Vermillion, SD
*Jerry Groom, deceased November 25, private service at UCC,C, December 31, 2021

Marriages (8)

Laura Elizabeth Hansen and Chad Allan Hahler, May 1, 2021, The Atrium, Sioux Falls, SD
Carly Ann Corbisiero and Alex Richard McLaury, May 28, 2021, The Barn at Aspen Acres, Spearfish, SD
Alexandria Clare Olsen and Nicholas Robert Lauer, June 19, 2021, Newcastle, NE
Melissa Chickering and Lucas Lynngass, June 26, 2021, Barnsville, MN
Reanna Bertram and Drake Zeller, August 7, 2021, United Church of Christ, Vermillion, SD

Stacie McLaury and Matthew Oliver, September 4, 2021, First Congregational Church, Sioux Falls, SD
Lauren Salerno Hughes and Jack Conover Conness, October 7, 2021, San Clemente, CA
Brooke Schwasinger and Michael Powell, November 6, 2021, Henderson, MN

Active Members January 1, 2021	651
New Members	+ 7
Deaths	- 3
Members Transferred	<u>0</u>
Active Members December 31, 2021	655

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIACONATE

2021 presented as a year to test the adaptability of the church family and the diaconate. Throughout 2021, based upon recommendations from the UCC COVID Taskforce, the diaconate developed and implemented plans to return to face-to-face worship and implement means to conduct particular aspects of the in-person worship, such as communion, in a safe manner. The first face-to-face worship in the sanctuary resumed on May 16, 2021.

Toward the end of 2021, the diaconate adapted again to support the transition of the church leadership. Steve Miller, pastor for the UCC Vermillion for 26 years, announced his “road to retirement” in October 2021, with his last day at UCC Vermillion being December 31, 2021. The diaconate organized into two groups for the transition effort. One team serving as the search committee for the interim pastor for the church and a second team supporting services during the time between Steve’s departure from the church and the hire of the interim pastor. It was decided that the church’s lay leadership were up to the task of holding weekly services. Kari Jensen, Bruce Gray and Katey Ulrich all agreed to serve as worship leaders for services. Diane Leja stepped up to solicit members from the congregation to provide the reflection message in Sunday services. John Thomas stepped in to facilitate selection of scripture and support these members as they craft their reflection message. Our deepest gratitude to these individuals and many others for carrying us during the next few months.

The entire diaconate holds immense gratitude to our blessed pastor Steve, our church staff, our lay leadership, and our members. It is because of the love we share as a family of faith that we have been able to move forward during a time of change in the UCC Vermillion. Love to you all and may we continue to stay connected as a church family and healthy!

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Messersmith, Chair

ANNUAL REPORT TROOP 66

Boy Scout Troop 66 was chartered to Vermillion Congregational Church in 1929. It is one of the oldest charters in Sioux Council. In 2019 we added a Girls Troop. The troop meets separately and has its own leadership. They do, however share the Troop Committee.

All volunteers in leadership and the troop committee are trained in their position and BSA Youth Protection.

We have two trust funds deposited with SD Community Foundation, that are available to help Scouts with Camp fees and Youth Training Scholarships.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Chaney, Charter Organization Representative

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MODERATOR

2021 has been a year of challenges with COVID and all its repercussions. It has been amazing how well our congregation has responded. All major repairs to the facility are completed. We have made tremendous improvements to our audio/visual operations. The improved A/V system has expanded our viewership to worldwide, proudly presenting the many facets of Vermillion UCC,C. And we continue to refine the facility and operations. Thanks, in part, to COVID pushing us into new opportunities, when our pastor announced his retirement, we were able to address this major change with sound planning, a positive attitude, and good resources. We are proud that we have a stable, growing, and active congregation to present to prospective pastors. None of this is possible without our supporting congregation, strong leadership, and the love of our fellow man, which has been the message for 26 years.

Respectfully submitted,
Rich Holland

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COVID-19 TASK FORCE

Unfortunately, this group has yet to be disbanded. The rise and fall of cases over the year has been fraught with many stories and challenges. Nonetheless, our group continued to try to provide the best guidance based upon available science. We began in person services earlier in the year as vaccinations became widely available and cases dropped. With a mostly vaccinated congregation and rapidly dropping cases, many of the restrictions were incrementally removed throughout the summer of '21 to begin a return to normal process. We had gone to a mostly unmasked regular service prior to another late year surge with children's activities remaining masked (due to the lack of availability of vaccines for those under 12). Unfortunately, with the recent Omicron variant causing a larger number of cases than ever before - mask requirements were recently reimplemented over the Christmas period and remain through this annual meeting. We hope again that this last surge will be signaling the end of this pandemic, and that our Task Force duties will soon end. In the meantime, we are happy to take input from all and provide timely recommendations based upon expertise and data.

Respectfully submitted,
Jake Kerby, Chair of COVID-19 Task Force

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UCC MEDIA DIRECTOR

We continued to conduct church services virtually at the beginning of 2021, with only Pastor Steve Miller and a member of the media team in the sanctuary. We continued to work with the music team to create musical content to help fill out our online only streams and make them feel more normal. The Moment Meditation series continued, and we also created Fridays from the Study. This little series was a video taken by Steve while he was in his "study" preparing for Sunday's service. He gave insight into what he was thinking about and researching on the bible verses for Sunday. LAF also continued to be virtual.

On April 4th, we finally had our first in-person service, but it was not in the church. The Easter Sunrise Service was held by the river at Clay County Park. Steve borrowed a portable mic connected to a speaker at his waist. It was loud enough to project across the crowd of people in their lawn chairs. We were able to stream this service using a cell phone and relying on cellular internet and connection. The stream was nothing fancy, but it worked. While we continued our online services, in the background we were getting ready to stream in-person services from the sanctuary. This meant that we need to figure out where to put the streaming control room, where to place cameras, and how to run wires to make all the connections we needed. We decided that in the back stairwell where the audio board was already would make the most sense to put the streaming computer and switcher. Tyler Messersmith and Paul Ebsen worked on getting an ethernet cable routed from the basement router across the church to the streaming computer. They also figured out how to run the cables through the ceiling and to the 2 camera locations. They were worried about the massive steel beam running across that supports the upstairs, but ultimately, they were able to drill a hole through the beam to run cables through and keep the look very clean.

Once all this was completed, we were ready to stream our first in-person service on May 16, 2021. This was completely different from what we had been doing, but we learned a lot from the first stream and continued to polish the product every week.

The reopening was a soft one, so we still didn't have congregation singing in the sanctuary, but we wanted to be able to have them sing at some point. Steve suggested that we end the service outside where we felt it was safer to sing. We initially did not stream that part and just ended the service indoor with the postlude music, but requests from the online community pushed us to figure out how to stream from inside and outside.

We had purchased a third camera that could be added into the system but had to be run by someone. We used that camera outdoors and ran a microphone outside so we could hear the congregation. The wireless microphones still communicated with the system without issue. We ran cables through the window to connect everything. Once the

indoor portion of the service finished, the audio operator would go outside and then run the camera. There was only one camera there, so they had to act as if they were always on air, because they were!

In the summer we began streaming funeral services. These streams allowed us to provide our congregation with a safe alternative to participate and reach thousands of viewers. It demonstrated the importance of being able to share events at the church with the wider community and world.

With the official announcement of Pastor Steve Miller's retirement, it became more urgent to update the church's website as it will be where potential candidates look when seeking additional information about the church. Paul Ebsen designed the new website and copied over the information and put it into the new format. It now has videos and many more visual elements to it to help make it pop.

Moving toward the end of the year, our services continued to become more elaborate with moving pieces. The team did not back down from a challenge and worked to make sure the online audience could experience everything just as good, if not better, than the in-person audience.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Ebsen

ANNUAL REPORT FOR WORLD SERVICE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

The purpose of the UCCV World Service and Social Concerns is to involve the congregation in the mission of the Church locally, regionally, nationally and world-wide. Locally, the congregation gave \$1,600 for the Backpack Supplies Program so that over 40 children could be ready for school. Donations (both receive \$1,000) to the Welcome Table and Food Pantry continue to be included in the on-going annual budget. Our bell ringing efforts raised \$21,000 for the Salvation Army through bell ringing and matched donations. The Angel Giving Tree provided 30 gifts to children and adults in our community. Neighbors in Need donations (a national UCC effort) equaled \$740. The UCCV congregation is consistently responsive to needs as they arise. Please reach out to me if you see specific needs.

Respectfully submitted,
Lana Svien

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2021 has been a year of challenges and change.

Budget

The trustees are so grateful for the faithful support of our congregation and friends in 2021. We have maintained a solid budget position and have successfully supported all staff positions and (Covid) modified programs this year. Thank you for your generosity and commitment.

Building Updates

After the extensive renovation to the church building in 2020, this year felt like a time of rest! The trustees authorized two small projects to complete the exterior renovations at this time to the building. In fall 2021, Fiegen Construction completed the decorative railing on the elevator addition and painted an area with peeling paint on the Main Street facade of the building. These projects were undertaken primarily with support from the Trust Fund endowment.

Grounds

The trustees under the leadership of Ross Dickenson spent time in 2021 to attend to the grounds around the church building. The sprinkler system was unearthed and put into working order, resulting in visible improvement and greener grass. The Vermillion Community Garden continues to use the church lot west of the parking lot and there was some minimal work to enhance their water delivery in summer 2021. The Vermillion Food Pantry

acquired a van to assist with food transportation and the church has offered a short-term parking spot on our property.

Parking lot

In early 2021, we entered into an agreement with the University of South Dakota (USD) to provide parking for students and faculty beginning in April 2021 in the church lot. The lot was striped in preparation for this agreement. USD has been an excellent partner in clearing the lot for church events and in the event of inclement weather.

National Register of Historic Places

On July 30, 2021, our church building (recognized as the First Congregational Church in Vermillion) was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Mary Edelen, Evelyn Schlenker, Greg Redlin and Sandy Dickenson worked over the past several years to bring this recognition to fruition. Liz Almlie, Historic Preservation Specialist from the South Dakota State Historical Society provided great assistance to the church to achieve this distinction.

Pastor transition

The trustees would like to thank Rev. Steve Miller for his 26 years of service to our congregation. We were pleased to honor and celebrate his deep commitment to our church and the Vermillion community and wish him much success in the future. The trustees have supported the transition efforts and will continue to do so in 2022 as the search for an interim pastor continues.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Christensen, Chair

ANNUAL REPORT OF STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

“Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow” was our theme for our 2021 stewardship drive. These are words from Thomas Chisholm’s hymn Great is Thy Faithfulness. The text reminds us that no matter the circumstances, God is faithful.

The cabinet approved a careful budget of \$327,155 with a pledge goal of \$289,855. This is a 7% increase over last year. As of December 31, 2021, 124 responses have resulted in \$263,212 pledged. Entering into another year dealing with Covid-19 and its variants along with the resignation of our long-time pastor, Steve, we feel these things have given our church family and friends reason to be uncertain in what is to come. So, we did not quite reach our goal. However, we must continue to have strength and hope for tomorrow and never, ever give up the hope that God has promised.

On behalf of the church and personally, I would like to thank everyone who pledged for 2022. Your generosity is appreciated more than you may know. I would also like to say THANK YOU to all those that participated in making contacts with members and friends this year. Without your hard and dedicated work, we could not have come this close to our goal.

I would also like to extend a special THANK YOU to Steve Miller for all that he has done for our church and our community and wish him and his family well on their next adventure. We will miss you all!!

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Chandler

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Loaves and Fishes (LAF) from January through April continued as it did in 2020 – on-line and live streamed. In September we started a new format for LAF. The program was held on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. The Before Confirmation (BC) group also met at this time. All children, from pre-school through 7th grade would meet in the sanctuary or outside if weather permitted. They gathered for songs and spirit time, for the first 15 minutes. The groups would then split into specific age groups and work on arts and crafts while others would do music or more spirit time. The interns who helped with LAF in the fall include Holly Gerberding, Brynn Hass and Ali Guilloz. All three interns worked with the children each Wednesday on various aspects of spirit, music, discussion and arts and crafts. There were 30-40 children who attended each week. Masks were required, for LAF, unless we were outside, where social distancing was possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Kari Jensen

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl ministry is a remarkable source of comfort to folks in need of caring, soft, thoughtful care. The shawls continue to be appreciated and used by the folks they have been presented to. A small group of women crochet and/or knit these shawls in a variety of material and colors to be distributed as needed. We also have fleece lap robes. We have many on hand, so if you know of someone who needs one, please contact the church office.

Respectfully submitted,
Cyndy Chaney

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRAYER TEAM

As in previous years, our requests have ranged from simple requests to remember someone's family after they've passed on, to healing from serious illness and injury, to shared celebrations of the joy of new marriages and births. Our eighteen team members each pray in their own way, in their own time, as do each of us in this congregation. Requests are collected during services, via emails and calls to the church office, or via emails directly to someone on our team. I attempt to collect them and share them with our team at some point each week. I appreciate the willingness of the team to continue to approach the prayer requests in this way.

The theme in 2021 for me was avoidance. And denial. Some things have just been too difficult to process completely, and the emotional toll of the past 21 months has left many of us a bit burnt out. Not being fully present means missing out on many of the benefits of community, while trying to avoid the pitfalls. While this hasn't helped the situation, it is merely the reality of it. I generally hope to be uplifting in these reports, but I know that this continues to illustrate precisely how crucial prayer can be when one feels the least motivated and effective. If only for a short time, having the prayer requests to meditate over, and to communicate with our team members about, helps lift that weight. I think I can speak for all of our members to say that the work of praying over this church's requests is both an honor and a blessing.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Heggstad

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Endowment Fund Committee is charged with oversight of the investments for the Endowment Fund. We also determine the annual payout from the two accounts comprising the Endowment Fund.

The endowed funds are invested with the United Church Funds, the organization that invests money for many churches and organizations of the United Church of Christ. We began working with the United Church Funds in 2006. Our endowment has been invested in the Aggressive Balanced Fund which provides a 70-75% allocation to the various equity markets and 25-30% to the fixed income markets. Because this report is produced before calendar year numbers are available and because we provide payout information at the time the budgets and needs of our congregation are formalized, we report annual numbers on an October 1- September 30th year.

The annualized performance numbers, net of fees, are as follows: One year, 21.00%, Three years, 10.28%, Five years, 10.13%, Ten years, 9.59%.

In October the committee learned the Aggressive Balanced Fund was being discontinued as an investment option. We worked with our contact at the UCF and will be invested in funds that continue to provide an allocation that favors a strong equity exposure.

A second charge of the committee is to determine the payout for the two accounts comprising the endowment. We ask the trustees and the music staff to submit requests telling us how the money will be spent. This is done to ensure the money is used for the purpose intended as detailed in each account's Memorandum of Agreement. This year the music staff requested only \$347 of the more than \$1,349 available to them, (a 4.5% payout). The funds were used to pay instrumental musicians hired for the Annual Carol Service. The trustee committee requested funds to make repairs to the exterior of the church building. The committee discussed the need and voted to pay out \$19,000 to the trust committee. That represented a 5% payout rather than a normal payout of 4.5%. A 4.5% payout would have been \$17,144, but because of the strong market performance we felt it was prudent to grant additional funds for the necessary repairs.

On September 30, 2020 the market value of the Endowment was	\$397,572.79	
On September 30, 2021 the market value of the Endowment was	\$481,594.83	
The Building and Property Account	Market value 9-30-2020	\$320,998.83
	Market value 9-30-2021	\$449,439.48
The Francis and June Armstrong Account	Market value 9-30-2020	\$ 26,573.96
	Market value 9-30-2021	\$ 32,155.35

We thank Mike Chaney for his service on the Endowment Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Tuve, Chair

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MUSIC TEAM

January through May of 2021 continued with on-line services. Solvieg Korte volunteered to help lighten the load on Steve and chose the hymns through Lent and Easter. Solveig also created a "Music Monday" UCC Facebook post- focusing on an in-depth look at the coming Sunday's hymns. For services throughout the Lenten season and Easter, we revived archived recordings of the "Greatest UCC Choir Hits" to share in the anthem place. Dr. David Holdhusen also graciously granted use of recordings of the USD Chamber Singers to use whenever needed. On

Palm Sunday, with the help of church videographer, Paul Ebsen, the choir recorded “When Jesus Wept” as a virtual choir project.

Finally, on May 16th, we reopened the sanctuary for masked services with no congregational or choral singing indoors. At the end of May, Gretchen helped with Vacation Bible School, rehearsing with masked youth- sharing the song, “My Home’s UCC” (*to the tune of Home on the Range*), outdoors and via livestream.

Throughout the summer and into fall, Gretchen organized and scheduled soloists/cantors to sing hymns and anthems, in the place of the congregational and choral singing. While the weather was nice, we shared one service a month outside where it was safer to sing as a congregation. In September, we welcomed the keyboard talents of Brandon Sterling and vocal talents of Ali Guilloz to the music team as interns. Each brought a great attitude and a lot of energy to our group. Beside accompanying for cantors and special music, Anthony, Brandon & Diane divided out responsibility in preparing prelude, postlude and hymns for Sundays each month- with one or two services featuring piano and organ for the others. Ali often cantored and worked closely with Gretchen for LAF music and Adult Choir.

In preparation for the church’s 150th anniversary celebration in September, the choir held a few “parking lot rehearsals” and shared choral music outdoors. With less restrictions for the bell choir, the group started rehearsing in October and played in church for a service in November. In December, it was approved for the choir to resume indoor rehearsals to prepare choral music for the 79th Annual Carol Sunday. The Carol Service also featured the bell choir, organ, piano, and brass choir. The Adult choir continued rehearsals on Wednesday evenings, masked, preparing for Steve’s Farewell Celebration, Christmas Eve, and Steve’s last Sunday service. The music team was also happy to help with music needed for the Children’s Christmas Pageant. As the year closed, Anthony worked with the cabinet to help keep music going through the transition of our pastor.

While we are happy to be participating in live worship services rather than recording, we are still thankful for ministry that reaches people at home via livestream- which couldn’t happen without the expertise and commitment of Paul Ebsen. Our goal for 2022 is to continue to facilitate worship through music, carrying on our rich traditions while being flexible and open to the new possibilities that change will bring.

Respectfully submitted by the UCC Music Team,
Anthony Burbach, Pianist and Bell Choir Director
Gretchen Burbach, Adult and Youth (LAF) Choir Director
Diane Van den Oever, Organist

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Oxford English Dictionary named *vax* as it’s word of the year for 2021. I believe ours should be hybrid. Working slowly back to in-person services in May, we also kept our online presence creating hybrid versions for worship and meetings. Due to its great success, I believe we will continue the hybrid format for years to come. Besides reaching members and friends locally that couldn’t join us in person, we also reached a wider community of followers who joined us from wherever they are. Our to-do list at the church was relatively small after our big year in 2020 of taking care of the church. We finished the elevator roof renovation with a railing. We received 94 percent of the 2021 pledges, and we met our budget obligations with a little to spare. My appreciation for everyone who helped us navigate through the year and thanks in advance for everyone’s input, volunteerism, and support as we steer into our new beginnings.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Ustad

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PASTOR

“Great work has God begun in you so let the spirit follow through...”

~ from NCH #353 by Carol Birkland based on *Philippians 1:6*

In my first annual report, written soon after I arrived at the end of 1995, I noted, “Most thrilling to me is the growing spirit of excitement and enthusiasm that I feel everywhere in the church. It is a great time to be your pastor.” What is astounding as I look back from 26 years of experience is that this amazing spirit rarely wavered! Year in and year out, we found ways to grow and learn and serve with excitement and enthusiasm. And I want you to know quite clearly, that EVERY day of these last 26 years was a great time to be your pastor.

2021 was no different, despite the continued challenges of COVID. This past year has been a very slow transition out of Sabbath time and back into careful and safe in-person gatherings. Our education programs began the year online with a wonderful zoom Adult Study on racial justice and white privilege. This led to our church hosting a community wide bystander training program on zoom in the spring that was well attended by church, community, and university friends. Using careful protocols, we were able to start meeting in-person safely with small groups in late January, so confirmation and BC reopened, and I was able to celebrate simple private baptisms, weddings, funerals, and confirmations with small groups. Our online worship streams continued to experiment with new ways of connecting in spirit early in the year and at sunrise on Easter morning we met outside as a community for worship for the first time in 387 days. One month later, on May 16 we held our first in-person worship service inside. Using a model of communion outside in our peace garden, we were able to establish a wonderful pattern for worship throughout the summer. Thanks to our amazing media team, we also kept sharing worship on various platforms. As we entered the fall, we continued to reopen with streamlined Wednesday night LAF gatherings (only one hour with no food) and many hybrid meetings which were possible through new technology in “the nook” (corner of the basement Mayflower room.) As the holiday season approached, we eased into more possibilities and were able to share Star-lighting, Carol Service, Christmas Pageant and Christmas Eve services, each altered slightly to keep us safe. I want to offer special thanks to our faithful COVID19 task force who has continued to help us monitor the problems and possibilities as our community struggles with all the different virus variants that come our way.

In October, after more than twenty-six years in Vermillion, I offered my resignation as your pastor. I will begin a part time ministry at the First Church (UCC) in Jaffrey, New Hampshire. This transition is not only a first step on the road to retirement but allows me to be closer to my extended family. There was never going to be an easy time to do this after all the amazing ministry that we have shared over the years, but I am quite confident that the church is strong and healthy and ready for some wonderful new pastoral leadership.

As I go, the thing I will miss most is the relationships that we have forged over these wonderful years. 31 staff members, 34 interns, 26 years of moderators and cabinets, boards and committees, hundreds of members, friends, and guests. Even with all these numbers it is impossible to measure the amazing impact our coming together has created. Thank you for ALL the love and laughter. And now as I leave this place that is so dear to me, please remember that wherever we are...the light remains.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Miller

RECOGNITION OF LONGTIME MEMBERS

Annual Meeting – January 30, 2022

MEMBERS FOR 40-44 YEARS

Tom French	5-25-80	41 years
Steve Ward	5-25-80	41 years
Richard Foltz	04-29-79	42 years
Frank Main	04-19-79	42 years
Mary Main	04-02-79	42 years
Dale Husby	05-14-78	43 years
Stanley Lewison	04-30-78	43 years
Charles Thatcher	11-20-77	44 years

MEMBERS FOR 45-49 YEARS

Sharon Teigen	01-25-76	45 years
Norman Kaufman	05-18-75	46 years
Alice Barnes	11-10-74	47 years
Nancy Zuercher	11-10-74	47 years
Robert Fuller	04-15-73	48 years

MEMBERS FOR 50 OR MORE YEARS

Michael Marek	05-16-71	50 years
Mary Lou Monfore	01-17-71	50 years
Karen Ferris	02-22-70	51 years
Dorene Becker	02-23-69	52 years
Cynthia Chaney	04-28-68	53 years
Sue French	04-28-68	53 years
Mardell Ebsen	11-17-68	53 years
Julia Chaney	04-17-66	55 years
Marilyn Gors	04-17-66	55 years
Mike Armstrong	11-27-66	55 years
Don Dahlin	12-4-66	55 years
Jeanne Dahlin	12-4-66	55 years
Molly Walters	12-4-66	55 years
Karon Fuller	04-15-62	59 years
Fern Kaufman	02-26-61	60 years
Mary Edelen	04-10-60	61 years
Sandy Lavin	04-10-60	61 years
Martin (Mike) Chaney	11-29-53	68 years

“WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT”

Your loyalty and service are precious gifts to the life of our Church.

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL
OF VERMILLION, SD
2022 BALLOT**

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>	<u>Expires</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Expires</u>
Moderator	1 year	Rich Holland	2022	Jake Kerby	2023
Moderator Elect	1 year	Jake Kerby	2022	Anna Christensen	2023
Treasurer	1 year	Joanne Ustad	2022	Joanne Ustad	2023
Assistant Treasurer	1 year	Deb Thomas	2022	Deb Thomas	2023
DIACONATE	3 years	Nancy Craig	2023	Anne Bottesini	2025
		Carrie Prentis	2023	Diane Leja	2025
		Bruce Gray	2023	Nate Welch	2025
		OPEN	2023	Becca Jordre	2025
		Dennis Nelson	2024		
		Cleo Edeburn	2024		
		Mecia Graham	2024		
		Doug Tuve	2024		
TRUSTEES	3 years	Shelley Green	2023	Keith Thomas	2025
		Tyler Messersmith	2023	Ross Dickenson	2025
		Rhonda Hulkonen	2024		
		Susan Hackemer	2024		
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR (1 year)				Kari Jensen	2023
STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR (1 year)				Kathy Chandler	2023
WORLD SERVICE/SOCIAL CONCERNS COORDINATOR (1 year)				Lana Svien	2023
MEMBERS AT LARGE (3 years)					
		Jama Christopherson	2023	Jessica Messersmith	2025
		Jackie Hendry	2024		
ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE (6 years)					
		Darwin VanDenOever	2023	Greg Redlin	2027
		Susan Tuve	2024		
		Kathryn Birkeland	2025		
		Dave Carr	2026		

Terms of office expire at the January annual meeting in the year listed.

**United Church of Christ, Congregational Vermillion, South Dakota
2021 Treasurer's Report and Proposed 2022 Budget**

	2021 Income and Expenses	2021 Budget	% of Budget	Proposed 2022 Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
40100 - Annual Pledges	253,144.73	270,654.00	94%	270,252.00
40110 - Last Year Pledges	1,449.38	5,000.00	29%	4,500.00
40130 - Plate/Non-Pledge Contributions	10,787.25	10,000.00	108%	22,000.00
40140 - Prepaid Pledges and Gifts	35,369.72			0.00
40180 - Church Use Income	50.00	500.00	10%	1,700.00
40190 - USD Parking Lot Income				1,200.00
40200 - Interest Income - 1st B&T	22.59	100.00	23%	100.00
40230 - Holiday Offering	120.00	2,000.00	6%	2,000.00
40240 - Gifts	2,766.40	4,000.00	69%	2,000.00
40530 - From Previous Yr.	0.00	28,553.85	0%	10,254.73
Total Income	303,710.07	320,807.85	95%	314,006.73
Expense				
50100 - Staff Salaries				
50110 - Pastor	80,008.56	80,008.59	100%	58,806.64 *
50120 - Parish Steward/Church Admin	26,947.56	26,947.60	100%	31,000.00
50125 - Secretary	10,692.36	10,692.34	100%	12,000.00
50130 - Organist	4,800.00	7,185.25	67%	7,400.81
50132 - Media Director	7,748.77	7,800.00	99%	7,400.81
50135 - Choir Director	7,185.24	7,185.25	100%	7,400.81
50140 - Bell Choir Director	7,185.24	7,185.25	100%	7,400.81
50160 - Custodians	12,548.40	12,548.29	100%	14,216.06
50170 - Interns	5,600.00	4,000.00	140%	12,000.00
Total 50100 - Staff Salaries	162,716.13	163,552.57	99%	157,625.94
50200 - Employee Benefits				
50210 - Annuity X 15.5%	12,401.28	12,401.33	100%	9,580.03 *
50215 - Health Insurance	10,000.00	10,000.00	100%	7,725.00 *
50225 - In-Service	509.95	1,000.00	51%	1,545.00
50250 - Pastor Relocation Expenses				4,000.00
50290 - FICA Tax Contribution	5,959.94	6,789.76	88%	6,993.45
Total 50200 - Employee Benefits	28,871.17	30,191.09	96%	29,843.48
50300 - Professional Reimbursement				
50310 - Travel Expense	2,139.91	1,200.00	178%	1,500.00
Total 50300 - Professional Reimbursement	2,139.91	1,200.00	178%	1,500.00

51000 - Program Expenses				
51100 - Music				
51110 - Choirs (music/child care)	1,142.24	1,000.00	114%	2,500.00
51115 - Organ/Piano/Bell tuning	2,166.16	2,000.00	108%	2,400.00
51120 - Special Music (guests)	<u>300.00</u>	<u>600.00</u>	<u>50%</u>	<u>1,200.00</u>
Total 51100 - Music	3,608.40	3,600.00	100%	6,100.00
51200 - Board Expenses				
51210 - Christian Education	1,041.17	4,500.00	23%	7,000.00
51215 - Nursery Assistants	0.00	500.00	0%	500.00
51225 - Diaconate	<u>2,104.68</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>105%</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total 51200 - Board Expenses	3,145.85	7,000.00	45%	9,500.00
Total 51000 - Program Expenses	6,754.25	10,600.00	64%	15,600.00
51300 - Church Operation Exp				
50540 - Telephone/Internet Expenses	4,150.39	4,200.00	99%	4,200.00
50550 - Audit	0.00	300.00	0%	1,000.00
50560 - Service Contracts-Office	4,764.45	4,500.00	106%	4,800.00
51310 - Office Supplies	1,476.73	1,500.00	98%	1,500.00
51315 - Computer	2,854.07	3,000.00	95%	3,000.00
51315 - Media replacement equipment				500.00
51320 - Kitchen Supplies	235.96	750.00	31%	1,000.00
51340 - Church Use -add'l custodial	<u>150.00</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u>300.00</u>
Total 51300 - Church Operation Exp	13,631.60	14,250.00	96%	16,300.00
51400 - Grounds				
51410 - Lawn, Snow, Mulch , Seed	1,465.54	2,500.00	59%	3,000.00
51415 - Property Tax	<u>180.55</u>	<u>288.40</u>	<u>63%</u>	<u>288.40</u>
Total 51400 - Grounds	1,646.09	2,788.40	59%	3,288.40
51500 - Building Operations				
51510 - Service Contracts-Building	2,556.14	2,400.00	107%	2,700.00
51515 - Natural Gas	4,621.10	3,200.00	144%	6,000.00
51520 - Electric, Water, Sewer, Garbage	6,851.34	7,500.00	91%	7,500.00
51525 - Custodial Supplies	<u>501.38</u>	<u>750.00</u>	<u>67%</u>	<u>750.00</u>
Total 51500 - Building Operations	14,529.96	13,850.00	105%	16,950.00
51600 - Building Repairs & Maintenance				
51620 - Misc. Repairs	<u>4,471.40</u>	<u>12,000.00</u>	<u>37%</u>	<u>12,000.00</u>
Total 51600 - Building Repairs & Maintenance	4,471.40	12,000.00	37%	12,000.00
51700 - Insurance - Building Liability				
51710 - Building Liability Insurance	9,249.00	9,270.00	100%	9,270.00
51720 - Workman's Compensation	<u>1,256.00</u>	<u>1,648.00</u>	<u>76%</u>	<u>1,648.00</u>
Total 51700 - Insurance - Building Liability	10,505.00	10,918.00	96%	10,918.00
52500 - Outreach				
52600 - South Dakota				
52610 - Two Rivers Association	979.50	850.00	115%	1,000.00

52615 · Placerville	0.00	250.00	0%	250.00
52620 · Food Pantry	1,000.00	1,000.00	100%	1,000.00
52625 · Discretionary	250.00	1,500.00	17%	1,500.00
52630 · Welcome Table/Backpack	1,000.00	1,000.00	100%	1,000.00
52635 · VMA Emergency (Salvation Army)	1,519.03	2,500.00	61%	2,500.00
Total 52600 · South Dakota	4,748.53	7,100.00	67%	7,250.00
52700 · National & World				
52710 · Our Church's Wider Mission	6,500.00	6,500.00	100%	6,500.00
Total 52700 · National & World	6,500.00	6,500.00	100%	6,500.00
52800 · State Conference	0.00	500.00	0%	500.00
Total 52500 · Outreach	11,248.53	14,100.00	80%	14,250.00
60000 · Other Expenses				
60220 · First Bank and Trust Loan	33,962.40	34,000.00	100%	34,000.00
60400 · Carry Over	0.00	13,357.79	0%	1,730.91
Total 60000 · Other Expenses	33,962.40	47,357.79	72%	
Total Expense	290,476.44	320,807.85	91%	35,730.91
Net Ordinary Income	13,233.63	0.00	100%	314,006.73

**Represents 9 months of full salary and benefits*

2021 Cash Flow of Accounts

<u>Checking</u>		<u>Memorials</u>	
Beg. Bal	\$ 62,929.18	Beg. Bal	\$ 11,065.95
Deposits & Credits	\$ 329,652.61	Deposits & Credits	\$ 5.53
Payments	\$ 335,361.94	Payments	
Ending Balance	\$ 57,219.85	Ending Balance	\$ 11,071.48
<u>Youth</u>			
Beg. Bal	2,998.41		
Deposits & Credits			
Payments	2,998.41		
Ending Balance*	-		

*Closed account. Balance transferred to Checking Account

God, We Thank You for Our People

God, we thank you for our people, roots dug deep within the soil,
Hardy spirits, rich in loving, strong for struggle, bold for toil.
Faithful rock of generations, you whom parents' parents praised:
Here in hope as we remember may our song to you be raised.

Thank you, God, for gentle pleasure: lessons learned and secrets told,
Hopes and memories saved as treasure, passed to young ones by the old,
Pranks and glories, songs and stories, food by loving hands prepared.
God, we bless you for your presence in our tears and laughter shared.

By your Spirit of creation keep us bold for risking still,
Eager in anticipation, ever strong to do your will.
Bind us close to one another, sharing life and death and birth,
Welcoming as sister, brother, all your children on the earth.

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while troubles last, and our eternal home!