

2022
ANNUAL REPORT

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST,
CONGREGATIONAL**

VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA

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PROPOSED AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

January 29, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER by the Moderator, Jake Kerby
2. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM (At least 40 members constitute a quorum.)
3. INVOCATION
4. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2022 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
9. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. 2023 Budget Report
 - B. Election of 2023 Boards and Officers
 - C.. Other Business
10. SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF FORTY-YEAR MEMBERS
11. “IN MEMORIAM” - To recognize those members who have died during 2022
12. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES
13. REMARKS by Jake Kerby, Moderator
14. INTRODUCE NEW MODERATOR, Jessica Messersmith
15. BENEDICTION
16. ADJOURNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

<u>Organist</u>	Diane Van Den Oever, Henrique Fortunato, 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, Lauren Meyer, Kari Jensen
Confirmation	Kari Jensen, Pat Flanigan
Loaves and Fishes	Christian Education Team
Adult Bible Study	Jean Morrow

OTHER POSITIONS OF CHURCH LEADERSHIP

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR – Joanne Ustad

CHURCH SECRETARY – Barb Weyhrich

MEDIA DIRECTOR – Paul Ebsen

CUSTODIANS - Barbara Jacobson, Kathleen Hasenbank

INTERNS

(Spring 2022)

Ali Guilloz	Arts Intern – Choir
Jaci Kluender	Pastoral Intern – Visitation
Brynn Hass	Educational Intern – Preschool
Holly Gerberding	Education Intern - Youth
Brandon Sterling	Arts Intern- Organ
Carson Lee	Media Intern
Adam Lange	Arts Intern- Choir
Kevin Phillips	Arts Intern- Choir
Elizabeth Peirce	Arts Intern- Choir

(Fall 2022)

Ali Guilloz	Arts Intern - Choir
Carson Lee	Media Intern
Lauren Meyer	Education Intern - Youth
Ellis (Elli) Kruse	Pastoral Intern - Visitation
Elle Hoops	Educational Intern - LAF
Libby Brust	Educational Intern - Preschool
Henrique Fortunato	Arts Intern- Organ & Piano
Adam Lange	Arts Intern- Choir
Kevin Phillips	Arts Intern- Choir
Elizabeth Peirce	Arts Intern- Choir

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL
VERMILLION, SD
January 30, 2022

Moderator Rich Holland called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. Joanne Ustad announced that there was a quorum of 50 members in the sanctuary and 11 members on Zoom.

Rich Holland asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes for the 2021 annual meeting. Mary Edelen made the motion to accept the minutes. Dennis Nelsen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Rich Holland asked if there was a motion to accept the Report of Membership. Jessica Messersmith made a motion to accept the Membership Report. The motion was seconded by Becky Rider. The motion passed.

Rich Holland asked if there was a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Rhonda Hulkonen made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Becky Rider seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Rich Holland asked if there was a motion to accept the reports of the Moderator, Pastor, Music Team, Church Administrator, Boards, Committees, and others. Pat Flanigan made a motion to accept all reports. Rachel Kerby seconded the motion. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jake Kerby thanked everyone for listening to the advice of the COVID 19 Task Force and for being cooperative in wearing masks again as we wait for the Omicron variant to lessen in our area. It seems to have peaked, and the infection rates are coming down. He also thanked the rest of the Task Force members, Kurt Hackemer, Matt Krell, Tracelyn Gesteland, and Lana Svien for their work and dedication.

NEW BUSINESS: Anna Christensen gave an overview of the 2021 budget and talked about the 2022 budget. Our budget for 2021 was based on the fact that we were still in Sabbath time as far as our programs went. Even though we opened in May for worship our programs were not functioning as they had pre-COVID. Anna also discussed the budget for 2022 and then opened the discussion for questions. With no pastor at the current time, the budget for that particular line and the benefits line are based on a 9-month salary/benefits package. Our income was not as abundant as it has been in the past. Steve had a discretionary fund that we could possibly use if needed. Mary Edelen asked what the fund was used for in the past, and it would be if someone walked into the office and asked to speak directly to Steve about a certain need. If Steve felt it was something urgent, he could make the decision to use some of that fund. Connie Nelsen asked who oversees the fund at this time. It would be Joanne Ustad or the Cabinet that would make decisions at this time. Dave Moen asked if we were receiving any monetary reimbursement for the use of our parking lot. We have entered into a three-year agreement with the University of South Dakota for use of the parking lot. They will pay \$1,200 per year. Anthony Burbach asked a question about the Endowment fund interest. The interest is not something that is paid out annually. The Trustees send a request for funds to the Endowment Committee, usually in the fall of the year, if there is a need. Darwin Van Den Oever made a motion to accept the Trustees report. Karon Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers. There is currently one open position on the Diaconate board. Mary Edelen made a motion to accept the election of officers. Anna Christensen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jake Kerby gave an update on the search for an interim pastor. We have no applicants at this time. Jake has talked to the conference office about possibly skipping the interim position and start advertising for a settled pastor. The conference advised us to really think about this choice, as we have had a pastor for 26 years. Perhaps a self-study would help us decide what direction we want to take. There is a shortage of interim pastors currently. Becca Jordre and some of the Diaconate board have written questions to ask a candidate. Jean Morrow has been

contacted and is willing to help us in this transition time. The committee will talk to Jean more to see what she has in mind.

Kari Jensen lit the candle in remembrance of those people that we lost in 2021. A moment of silence was observed.

Rich Holland make his closing remarks. He thanked the congregation for their support during his tenure as moderator. He then introduced Jake Kerby as the new moderator.

Mary Edelen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rachel Kerby seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara A. Weyhrich, Clerk

ANNUAL REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP

January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

Baptisms (0)

New Members

Confirmation 2022 (11)

Sarah Malay Burbach
Aidan James Clercx
Rollie George French
Carter James Kelly
Benjamin Paul Kerby
Jackson Patrick Krell
Carter Alan Magstadt
Holly Grace Nesmith
Kade Daniel Reuvers
Cole Ransom Rosener
Jordan Douglas Wuestewald

New Members

February 6, 2022 (7)

Paul, Taylor, Olliver and Grace Ebsen
Julia Kleinschmit and Jerry Bartels
George and Margaret Shurr
John Lushbough

Members Transferred(0)

Deaths (member) (2) (*non-member) (0)

Ed Flanigan, deceased May 17, 2022, service at UCC,C, by Jean Morrow, Vermillion, SD on May 28, 2022
Thelma Raines, deceased July 17, 2022, service at UCC,C by Elaine Miller, Vermillion, SD on July 30, 2022

Marriages (0)

Active Members January 1, 2022	655
New Members	+18
Deaths	- 2
Members Transferred	<u>0</u>
Active Members December 31, 2022	671

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIACONATE

Diaconate activities during the early part of 2022 focused on securing lay leaders to lead services and preach in the absence of a full-time pastor as well as forming a sub-committee to organize the interim pastor search. The subcommittee search ended in a successful transition from lay leaders to our new interim pastor, Jean Morrow. Diaconate assisted with several small events at the church throughout the year including new member orientation, funerals, weddings, Homecoming Sunday, and a fall “Harvest Coffee Hi”. We currently have one open position for an incoming Deacon.

Respectfully submitted,
Becca Jordre, 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. The troops 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

To say this has been quite the year is a bit of an understatement. Little did I know when I signed up to be Moderator Elect, that I would end up running a cabinet with no pastor. In this year, we all pulled together and kept this place moving right along. While I felt the full responsibility of being moderator this year, I also quickly realized at a level never before, how absolutely wonderful our church family is. I think that many referred to our place of worship as “Steve’s Church”, and many more wondered to me out loud what would happen to the church upon his departure (both in our congregation and outside of it). Well, after a year of leading this transition, I can say that this is the UCC Vermillion- not Steve’s Church. So many people are doing so many wonderful things without complaint. The generous and compassionate nature of our congregation is powerful. Very deeply, I got to experience that this church was in a fantastic place with fantastic people. Without question, our people stepped up and stayed strong time and time again. Things moved along for months without an interim pastor, and programs and preaching continued without interruption. We were blessed to have Interim Pastor Jean Morrow to guide us through the rest of this year and help us in our journey towards a settled pastor. While this might seem like the toughest of times that our church has been through in a long while, I can say from the front lines, we are a very strong church. I believe that despite our different beliefs (or lack thereof) on specific doctrines, our shared conviction of generosity and love is paramount. I think this past year was a time for us members to realize how lucky we are to have each other. It is always a tendency to give credit to the leader, and Steve was a great leader for us, yet he was always first to admit how great this congregation was. In his absence, it is clear how amazing it is to be part of a church with this clarity of purpose- to love. I have always considered it a great honor to serve in this role at this time in our church’s history. The experience has taught me much, least of all what a great group of loving people you all are. I am confident our church will continue its great work for many decades to come. Thank you for all you do, and a wonderful experience this crazy year. I look forward to next year’s new beginnings.

Respectfully submitted,
Jake Kerby

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UCC MEDIA DIRECTOR

In 2022, we continued to grow and refine our digital media presence. At the beginning of the year, we were without a pastor, so congregation members took turns leading worship and we worked with them all to help make them feel comfortable and able to lead worship as they wanted. When our Interim Pastor Jean Morrow began, our services started to have a more consistent rhythm to them.

We started the year continuing to stream the Wednesday evening LAF gatherings. After a couple of months, most of the children were showing up in person. The viewership online had dropped to nearly zero so we decided to suspend the broadcasting of LAF.

The music team really stepped up and we consistently had special music throughout the year. This pushed our focus to being able to capture the music the best we could. There were a couple of times that we would have multiple singers, or music in multiple locations, and we were running out of microphone stands to capture all of the audio. We ordered five more microphone stands and three more 25-foot XLR audio cables. These all came in handy as our musical productions became bigger and bigger.

Our intern from USD, Carson Lee, continued to help out the entire year. Carson directed and created the graphics for the Sunday morning services, while Paul Ebsen or Bruce Gray would run the audio board.

We continued to hold bible study online and in person, so the online zoom set up in the basement got some good use. We also streamed all our cabinet meetings so that those who could not physically be with us, could still sit in and participate. The feedback on that system seems to be good and it is working well. People like the ability to join from home or afar as needed.

Our social media posts on Facebook reach anywhere from 150-700 people. We typically get around 100 viewers that watch more than 1 minute of the service. 61% of our viewers watch live, while 39% replay it at a later date. We continue to offer the phone calling service, with 7 current subscribers.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Ebsen

ANNUAL REPORT FOR WORLD SERVICE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

What is the goal of this component of the Cabinet? In short, to be responsive to the needs of the congregation, community and beyond. The UCCV budgets \$1,000 each to the Vermillion Food Pantry and the Welcome Table, and \$2,500 to VMA Salvation Army Emergency Fund in order to support this goal.

You are a responsive congregation!!!

- You keep the Food Pantry shopping cart full each month!
- You gave \$1,200 this fall for the Backpack Program so that over 30 children can be ready for school.
- You provided gifts as part of the Angel Tree.
- Many of you regularly volunteer at the Welcome Table and Food Pantry.
- Many of you rang the Salvation Army bells for the Emergency Fund!

Please bring forward congregational and community needs to the church office.

Respectfully submitted,
Lana R. Svien

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Budget

Budgets during periods of uncertainty can be challenging, but the Trustees have been pleased that the 2022 budget served us well. Even though income didn't meet expectations, spending was also less than anticipated. We appreciate the commitment made by all to the financial well-being of our church.

Building Update

Due to the investment in our building in 2020, little money needed to be spent on the building in 2022. Only minor repairs were made, the most significant an update to the outdoor lights.

Loan

Through gifts, we were able to pay down \$20,000 on the principal of our 15-year loan. That loan now stands at \$303,000 with an interest rate of 4.25 percent.

Grounds

The Trustees held clean-up days during which volunteers helped beautify the church grounds by pulling weeds, trimming landscape, and taking care of flower beds. During Vermillion High School's Volunteer Day, members of the Trustees directed teams of students as they worked on the grounds and on some indoor cleaning projects. The Trustees would like to thank Michelle Green for her many years of service to the Board and we welcome Julia Kleinschmit as our new member for the upcoming term.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhonda Hulkonen, Chair

ANNUAL REPORT OF STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

"Many Gifts, One Spirit" from 1 Corinthians 12:4 was our theme for our 2022 stewardship drive. This has been a year of transitioning. We have been transitioning back to in-person worship after the stress of Covid. We are absorbing increasing costs based on inflation. And we are transitioning into a search for a settled pastor with added search and resettlement expenses. The increase in expenses is coupled with a decrease in income. With Pastor Steve's departure, we have also experienced a decrease in online giving, which we believe was a natural outcome of this transition.

The cabinet approved a careful budget of \$299,549 with a pledge goal of \$254,049. This is a 9% increase over last year. On behalf of the church and personally, I would like to thank everyone who pledged for 2023. With each of us stretching to increase our financial gifts, we will be able to continue all of the wonderful programs we all enjoy and appreciate so much!

I would also like to extend a special THANK YOU to all those that participated in making contacts with our members and friends this year. Without your hard and dedicated work, we would not have been able to accomplish our goal.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Chandler

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COORDINATOR

The Youth Education for the United Church of Christ in Vermillion is broken down into three sections. The youngest section, LAF (Loaves and Fishes) is for preschool through 5th grade students. They meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 – 7:00 PM in the church sanctuary. They did meet outside until the weather turned colder. The next section for youth is the BC (Before Confirmation) group. This consists of 6th & 7th grade students. They also meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 PM. A typical Wednesday evening starts with everyone meeting in the sanctuary from 6-6:15 PM. At this time, we welcome the children, sing a few songs and discuss the scripture. The scripture is usually what will be read at the following Sunday Service. Then from 6:15-6:55 the BC group goes to the lighthouse (upstairs room) to meet with their mentor, college intern, Lauren Meyer, and have discussions about the scripture and other activities. Meanwhile, the preschool, Kindergarten and 1st grade students either meet with Kari for spirit time or Gretchen for music time. The 2nd -5th graders follow this same schedule and just switch with the younger children. We have two other interns, Libby Brust who has worked with our pre-school children and Elle Hoops who is our LAF intern. Ali Guilloz, who is our choir intern, has also been helping at LAF. Everyone meets back in the sanctuary at 6:55 for closing. Usually, a reminder of the lesson from the scripture and closing song.

The 3rd section for our youth is our Confirmation I (8th grade) and Confirmation II (9th grade) groups. They meet for one hour on Sunday evenings to discuss the scripture and other topics. This year we were low in numbers for 8th graders, so combined the 2 classes and both groups will be confirmed this coming spring.

We have roughly 35-50 youth that participate in these activities. This has been an important part of our church and growing church family.

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

Our Prayer Team prays regularly for those names and concerns on the prayer list. New prayer requests and updates are sent out by email each week and whenever additional ones are received. Prayer requests collected during our Sunday services, as well as collected by other means, are first funneled to Barb in the church office. Prayer cards, which are available in the pews, are a great help in getting correct names and information. She compiles the requests received each week and sends them to me. I strive to work them into a coherent list, some more timely than others, which are then emailed to our prayer team.

We receive many types of prayer requests, from concern for life's stresses and major life decisions, to prayers of joy for births and marriages and new jobs, to requests for comfort and healing for deaths and serious illnesses. While there is no prescribed method of prayer prescribed by our prayer team, we appreciate the willingness of those who commit themselves to lifting up these concerns, in the hopes of lightening burdens. We have traditionally prayed in our own ways, in our own time, over the course of each week.

Many requests come directly from those needing the prayers, and when they do, it's likely to be for something concerning or painful – perhaps out of their control. With that in mind, it's easy to look back over a year of prayer

and feel that our community and world are full of an inordinate amount of pain and suffering. If we focus, however, on what it means to hold up others in thought and prayer – a group of people directing their intentions mindfully on the healing and comfort of another person – it’s an opportunity for us to embody our humanity. It is only one small gesture, but we hope to continue to support the church, and one another’s lives, the best ways we can.

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 assets are invested in the UCF Balanced Fund which provides a 60% exposure to diversified equity markets and a 40% exposure to high quality fixed income vehicles and cash. The transition to the UCF Balanced Fund from the Aggressive Balanced Fund which was closed took place in December 2021. 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.

It has been a difficult year for the financial markets. The UCF Balanced Fund had a -21.89 % return from January-September 2022. It was also a challenging year for our congregation. The trustees came to us requesting money to pay down the loan that had been taken out for needed repairs to the church property. The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that governs how the payout from the Building and Property Account is to be spent clearly states the payout is not to be used for ongoing maintenance. After discussion the committee agreed a partial pay down of our loan to make capital repairs was in line with the MOA.

The next question was how much the payout should be in light of the poor investment year. It is of note that any payout is based on a rolling 12 quarter average of the market value of the endowment. Endowment management is covered in the MOA, and it states that in adverse market conditions the committee may elect to use endowment principal to fulfill the account’s purpose as deemed prudent by the committee. Among the criteria for such determination “will be the preservation of principal, protection from the long-term effects of inflation, current and future funding necessary to fulfill the designated purpose of the fund, continuity in funding the designated purpose, expected total return on investments over the long term, and other relevant economic conditions.” After discussion we agreed a 4% payout totaling \$15,793 was prudent. Market volatility may continue for the next 12 months or so, but long term a balanced approach to the markets will serve us well.

We also approved a payout from the music account in support of the 2022 Advent service.

On September 30, 2022 the market value of the Endowment was		\$381,202.42
On September 30, 2021 the market value of the Endowment was		\$481,594.83
The Building and Property Account	Market value 9-30-2022	\$354,709.83
	Market value 9-30-2021	\$449,439.48
The Francis and June Armstrong Account	Market value 9-30-2022	\$ 26,493.00
	Market value 9-30-2021	\$ 32,155.35

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Tuve, Chair

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MUSIC TEAM

The 2022 music team was made up of Anthony Burbach at the piano, Diane Van Den Oever at the organ, and Gretchen Burbach, directing the Adult and LAF choirs. Returning to the team was choir/LAF intern, Ali Guilloz. Ali also helped recruit our USD Chamber Singer choir interns, KJ Phillips (bass), Elisabeth Peirce (soprano), and Adam Lange (tenor) to sing regularly with our choir. We welcomed Henrique Fortunato as organ intern, a USD graduate piano student from Brazil.

Diane, Henrique, and Anthony share responsibilities accompanying for Wednesday evening choir rehearsals and take turns preparing service music: Prelude, Offertory and Postlude. Diane plays for two Sundays, and Henrique and Anthony play one Sunday each.

As well as representing the music team at cabinet meetings and scheduling the regular piano and organ tunings twice a year- spring and fall, Anthony also directs the bell choir. The bell choir was featured in the spring and during an Advent service.

The 2022 choir year resumed in masked, face-to-face rehearsals. Choir members volunteered to “cantor” each Sunday to help lead the hymns. The choir internship program was reinstated in February and the mask mandate was lifted in March. Palm Sunday’s service began with a fanfare introduction from 6th grade singers and adult choir. The second half of the service moved into a dramatic telling of Jesus’ crucifixion called, “Women Looking from a Distance”, concluding with a beautiful setting of “Were You There?”. Easter was celebrated with choir, bells, & brass.

Gretchen hosted music sessions at Vacation Bible School as enrichment and extension of the Bible stories and activities designed around culture of community found during the time of Jesus. Music sessions explored a Biblical instrument such as the shofar, learning from a special guest presenter, Dr. Debbie, from the National Music Museum. Children made their own shofar out of a kazoo and built their own stringed instrument from a piece of wood, tin can, and string. Sunday, “campers” played shofar patterns and shared our theme song, “They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love”.

Gretchen organized summer special service music, filling Sundays with musical offerings from local musicians/bands, middle school beginning band students, vocal and instrumental solos, as well as special songs from the Nuns and Van Trapp family from VCT’s production of “The Sound of Music”. The fall semester was kicked off with service music from Dr. David Holdhusen and the USD Chamber Singers, following their UCC retreat.

The choir prepared anthems throughout the fall and winter with special selections for Homecoming Sunday, World Communion Sunday, Remembrance Sunday, Heritage Sunday, and Advent 1.

December was full of special musical Sundays starting with the Bell Choir Sunday followed by the 80th annual Christmas Carol Sunday service- sharing congregational carols and the beautiful, 2019 choral setting of the “Magnificat” by Taylor Scott Davis with a full 21-piece orchestra. The 3rd Sunday was the youth-led children’s Christmas Pageant consisting of youth soloists, story tellers, costumes, and congregational carols. For Christmas Eve, the music team programmed music for horn & tuba, violin solo, congregational singing, vocal solo, vocal trio, two choir anthems, piano and organ.

It has been wonderful to gather for worship this year. We have been especially blessed to work with Pastor Jean Morrow, who has enriched that experience greatly through her liturgical choices and musical suggestions. We are grateful for our strong musical connection with USD as we continue to work with talented music interns. As always, we are grateful for all singers and instrumentalists who share their talents with us throughout the year.

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

With a new journey in front of us, we made it through the year with support from many in the congregation in leading worship services up to March, and then with Pastor Jean by our side and Elaine joining us in August to reach out through our visitation program. It wasn't without challenges, picking up duties that Steve probably took for granted, and remembering when things needed to be done, and communicating between all that were helping. But we did it amazing well! Thanks to everyone who pitched in this year, I'm always proud of our congregation but especially in this challenging year and am excited to begin the next chapter in the life of the church.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Ustad

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTERIM PASTOR **“Many Gifts, One Spirit” - 1 Corinthians 12**

Predictably, as well as unpredictably, the Spirit guides and draws us to opportunities and adventures we weren't even thinking about...and what a wonderful adventure I have had serving as your part-time pastor for the past 10 months! Honestly, I didn't see this opportunity coming, but I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

After visiting with Diaconate Chair Becca Jordre, Moderator, Jake Kerby and Administrator Joanne Ustad, I came on as your half-time, interim pastor on March 1st. From my first service, Ash Wednesday, to the most recent one, I have felt welcomed and encouraged to simply be me, listening to the Spirit and engaging in ministry in my own way and with my own style. You have been very receptive. For this I would complement Pastor Steve Miller for preparing you well for his departure and thank all of you for being open to someone new. You have been gracious and encouraging. From my heart, thank you.

From week one, you have amazed me. You are a church who knows how to be the church. In fact, you are the best example of a gathered community being the church to each other and to the greater community that I've experienced or witnessed. When something needs to get done, someone steps in to take care of it. There is very little hesitation to assist. It has been noted that our worship attendance is slowly increasing follow Covid, but when it comes to any special worship or program that needs more hands-on deck, you all rally. I don't have the words to adequately express just how impressive and wonderful you are as a gathered community of God's people!

As a general practice, I have commuted from Sioux Falls to Vermillion on Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. My focus has been on worship, preaching and teaching. Periodically I attend LAF, BC and confirmation. Kari Jensen and the Interns do an excellent job with the kids, making my evenings few in Vermillion.

Sunday Bible Study: It had been the practice of the 9:00 am Bible Study group to read and discuss the scriptural passage that would be the foundation for preaching during worship. In October, we tried something new, which I called Bible Study Detectives. We began to read the Christian Scriptures (New Testament) in the order the documents were written. Paul's letters are the earliest documents we have, so we tried to glean what we could about Paul and the earliest gatherings, what we now call the church, before the gospels were written. Our task was to try to identify the issues in the church to which Paul's letter had been sent, to consider the character of Paul anew and to listen for wisdom to help us in the living of our lives. By the beginning of Advent, we had read 1 Thessalonians and Galatians. We took a break during Advent and discussed the birth narratives found in Matthew and Luke. Beginning in January 2023, we will re-engage our Bible Study Detective roles with 1 Corinthians.

Interfaith Opportunities: In October and November, I publicized three interfaith opportunities in Sioux Falls: Hindu Diwali Celebration, Shabbat at Mt. Zion Synagogue, and a Buddhist Dharma service. In each instance, I organized a meal ahead of the event/service with interfaith speaker Jen Dreiske who engaged us about what we might expect. Four members joined me for Diwali and four members joined me for Shabbat. I am hoping to offer the Buddhist Dharma service again in the Spring. The Buddhist Bhanti's drive in from Minneapolis except for the winter months.

Worship: In March, I offered an interactive Ash Wednesday service. For Palm Sunday, we were engaged with a reader's theatre that took us to Holy Week through the eyes of women who were there. We held a traditional Maundy Thursday service followed by a congregational prayer vigil that was held continuously until the Easter Sunrise Service at the river. The sunrise service at the river was a first for me and I found it quite beautiful and moving. The Easter service was exciting and joyful with brass musicians present. In late April, we confirmed 11 new members. July was interrupted with my knee replacement surgery, but the church carried on with strong leadership for the three Sundays I was out of the pulpit. For Homecoming Sunday, we had another exciting reader's theatre, meeting several of our faith ancestors. For World Communion Sunday (Oct. 2), the choir, LAF and BC kids joined together to offer The Litany of the Nations, an interactive worship experience in which we named and acknowledged with candles many countries from around the world while the congregation chanted "Peace be yours." The last Sunday in October was Remembrance Sunday with a ritual candle-lighting to remember those in our lives who have passed. Advent worship services began with the lighting of the Moravian Star. Throughout Advent, worship was enhanced with amazing music – solos, choir anthems, the bell choir, Mary's Magnificat with an expanded choir and orchestra and the Christmas Pageant. Christmas Eve worship was robust with solos, choir anthems, a violinist, and brass instruments. Christmas Day was a quiet, wear-your-pajamas service. All in all, it was a remarkable year of worshipping together.

Pastoral Care: One of the true blessings of the interim period was the hiring of Rev. Elaine Miller to serve as the part-time Pastoral Care minister. Pastor Elaine comes to Vermillion at least once a week and fills her schedule with visits to members in the care facilities and in homes. Her primary attention is given to those who are unable to come to church for worship with any regularity. In weeks which accommodate a little extra, she reaches out for visits with others in the congregation. Additionally, she is the first call for pastoral care in case of emergencies. To my knowledge, she did not receive any late-night calls in 2022. She also trains and works with the Pastoral Care Intern, assigning members to her for regular visitation. Pastor Elaine's gifts have greatly enhanced the overall ministry of the church during this interim time.

Outreach: Because my time has been so limited, I have not participated in the local ministerial association. I participate in the PRIDE Sunday community worship, offering a litany with chanting. In July, I joined the Lakota community for Tree Day of their Sundance celebration and, along with a dozen members, we provided breakfast to the gathered community at the Sundance the next day. It was a joy to be with our Lakota sisters and brothers. In closing, I would share something I learned as I was leaving seminary and looking for my first call. A retired pastor told me to seek a church that knew how to love their previous pastor. That was sage advice and served me well. As you anticipate your next settled pastor, rest in the knowledge that you are exemplary examples of a church that does this well. When the time comes, I will miss you and I will be overjoyed as you and a new pastor answer God's call to love and service.

God's Peace to you, now and always.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Jean

RECOGNITION OF LONGTIME MEMBERS

Annual Meeting – January 29, 2023

MEMBERS FOR 40-44 YEARS

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

MEMBERS FOR 45-49 YEARS

Charles Thatcher	11-20-77	45 years
Sharon Teigen	01-25-76	46 years
Norman Kaufman	05-18-75	47 years
Alice Barnes	11-10-74	48 years
Nancy Zuercher	11-10-74	48 years
Robert Fuller	04-15-73	49 years

MEMBERS FOR 50 OR MORE YEARS

Michael Marek	05-16-71	51 years
Mary Lou Monfore	01-17-71	51 years
Karen Ferris	02-22-70	52 years
Dorene Becker	02-23-69	53 years
Cynthia Chaney	04-28-68	54 years
Sue French	04-28-68	54 years
Mardell Ebsen	11-17-68	54 years
Julia Chaney	04-17-66	56 years
Marilyn Gors	04-17-66	56 years
Mike Armstrong	11-27-66	56 years
Don Dahlin	12-4-66	56 years
Jeanne Dahlin	12-4-66	56 years
Molly Walters	12-4-66	56 years
Karon Fuller	04-15-62	61 years
Fern Kaufman	02-26-61	61 years
Mary Edelen	04-10-60	62 years
Sandy Lavin	04-10-60	62 years
Martin (Mike) Chaney	11-29-53	69 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
2023 BALLOT**

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>	<u>Expires</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Expires</u>
Moderator	1 year	Jake Kerby	2023	Jessica Messersmith	2024
Moderator Elect	1 year	Jessica Messersmith	2023	Susan Hackemer	2024
Treasurer	1 year	Joanne Ustad	2023	Joanne Ustad	2024
Assistant Treasurer	1 year	Deb Thomas	2023	Deb Thomas	2024
DIACONATE	3 years	Dennis Nelson	2024	James Walker	2025
		Cleo Edeburn	2024	Becca Jordre	2025
		Mecia Graham	2024	Connie Nelsen	2026
		Doug Tuve	2024	Bruce Gray	2026
		Anne Bottesini	2025	Pat Armstrong	2026
		Diane Leja	2025		2026
TRUSTEES	3 years	Rhonda Hulkonen	2024	Ross Dickenson	2025
			2024	Julia Kleinschmit	2026
		Keith Thomas	2025	Tyler Messersmith	2026
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR (1 year)				Kari Jensen	2024
STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR (1 year)				Kathy Chandler	2024
WORLD SERVICE/SOCIAL CONCERNS COORDINATOR (1 year)				Lana Svien	2024
MEMBERS AT LARGE (3 years)					
		Jackie Hendry	2024	Jama Christopherson	2026
		Katey Ulrich	2025		
ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE (6 years)					
		Susan Tuve	2024	Greg Redlin	2027
		Kathryn Birkeland	2025	Darwin VanDenOever	2028
		Dave Carr	2026		

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

**United Church of Christ, Congregational Vermillion, South Dakota
2022 Treasurer's Report and Proposed 2023 Budget**

	<u>2022 Income and Expenses</u>	<u>2022 Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>	<u>Proposed 2023 Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
40100 · Annual Pledges	232,299.23	274,284.00	84.69%	255,361.00
40110 · Last Year Pledges	1,114.41	4,500.00	24.77%	4,500.00
40120 · Non Pledge Contributions	0.00	0.00	0.0%	
40130 · Plate/Non-Pledge Contributions	8,943.29	22,000.00	40.65%	19,000.00
40140 · Prepaid Pledges and Gifts	9,045.00			
40160 · Bldg. Endowment Contribution				15,000.00
40165 · Music Endowment Contribution				1,300.00
40180 · Church Use Income	500.00	1,700.00	29.41%	1,700.00
40190 · USD Parking Lot Income	1,200.00	1,200.00	100.0%	1,200.00
40200 · Interest Income - 1st B&T	32.03	100.00	32.03%	100.00
40230 · Holiday Offering	644.00	2,000.00	32.2%	2,000.00
40240 · Gifts	4,391.00	2,000.00	219.55%	2,000.00
40530 · From Previous Yr.	0.00	10,254.73	0.0%	
Total Income	<u>258,168.96</u>	<u>318,038.73</u>	<u>81.18%</u>	<u>302,161.00</u>
Expense				
50100 · Staff Salaries				
50110 · Pastor	19,000.00	58,806.64	32.31%	46,414.08
50115 · Assistant Pastor	3,935.00			4,722.00
50120 · Parish Steward/Church Admin	30,999.97	31,000.00	100.0%	31,620.00
50125 · Secretary	12,000.00	12,000.00	100.0%	12,240.00
50130 · Organist	6,203.50	7,400.81	83.82%	7,548.83
50132 · Media Director	7,434.03	7,400.81	100.45%	7,548.83
50135 · Choir Director	7,400.77	7,400.81	100.0%	7,548.83
50140 · Bell Choir Director	7,400.77	7,400.81	100.0%	7,548.83
50160 · Custodians	14,156.16	14,216.06	99.58%	14,500.00
50170 · Interns	12,600.00	12,000.00	105.0%	12,000.00
Total 50100 · Staff Salaries	121,130.20	157,625.94	76.85%	151,691.40
50200 · Employee Benefits				
50210 · Annuity X 15.5%	24,964.48	9,580.03	260.59%	15,425.67
50215 · Health Insurance	0.00	7,725.00	0.0%	5,000.00
50225 · In-Service	36.00	1,545.00	2.33%	1,545.00
50290 · FICA Tax Contribution	7,414.89	6,993.45	106.03%	6,993.45
Total 50200 · Employee Benefits	32,415.37	25,843.48	125.43%	28,964.12
50300 · Professional Reimbursement				
50310 · Travel Expense	0.00	1,500.00	0.0%	1,500.00
503200 · Pastor Relocation Expense	335.00	4,000.00	8.38%	4,000.00
Total 50300 · Professional Reimbursement	335.00	5,500.00	6.09%	5,500.00

	2022 Income and Expenses	2022 Budget	% of Budget	Proposed 2023 Budget
51000 · Program Expenses				
51100 · Music				
51110 · Choirs (music/child care)	3,322.08	2,500.00	132.88%	2,500.00
51115 · Organ/Piano/Bell tuning	2,631.65	2,400.00	109.65%	3,000.00
51120 · Special Music (guests)	2,025.00	1,200.00	168.75%	2,500.00
Total 51100 · Music	7,978.73 *	6,100.00	130.8%	8,000.00
51200 · Board Expenses				
51210 · Christian Education	3,042.79	7,000.00	43.47%	4,000.00
51215 · Nursery Assistants	0.00	500.00	0.0%	
51225 · Diaconate	2,237.80	2,000.00	111.89%	2,000.00
Total 51200 · Board Expenses	5,280.59	9,500.00	55.59%	6,000.00
Total 51000 · Program Expenses	13,259.32	15,600.00	85.0%	14,000.00
51300 · Church Operation Exp				
50540 · Telephone/Internet Expenses	3,477.29	4,200.00	82.79%	3,700.00
50550 · Audit	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%	1,000.00
50560 · Service Contracts-Office	7,729.91	4,800.00	161.04%	4,800.00
51310 · Office Supplies	1,518.05	1,500.00	101.2%	1,500.00
51315 · Computer	1,863.29	3,000.00	62.11%	3,000.00
51317 · Media Equipment	0.00	500.00	0.0%	500.00
51320 · Kitchen Supplies	1,140.63	1,000.00	114.06%	1,000.00
51330 · Advertising	48.00			
51340 · Church Use -add'l custodial	450.00	300.00	150.0%	300.00
Total 51300 · Church Operation Exp	16,227.17	16,300.00	99.55%	15,800.00
51400 · Grounds				
51410 · Lawn, Snow, Mulch , Seed	905.56	3,000.00	30.19%	3,000.00
51415 · Property Tax	186.65	288.40	64.72%	288.40
Total 51400 · Grounds	1,092.21	3,288.40	33.21%	3,288.40
51500 · Building Operations				
51510 · Service Contracts-Building	1,620.53	2,700.00	60.02%	2,700.00
51515 · Natural Gas	4,523.76	6,000.00	75.4%	6,000.00
51520 · Electric, Water, Sewer, Garbage	7,515.36	7,500.00	100.21%	7,500.00
51525 · Custodial Supplies	315.99	750.00	42.13%	750.00
Total 51500 · Building Operations	13,975.64	16,950.00	82.45%	16,950.00
51600 · Building Repairs & Maintenance				
51620 · Misc. Repairs	2,151.37	12,000.00	17.93%	2,543.08
Total 51600 · Building Repairs & Maintenance	2,151.37	12,000.00	17.93%	2,543.08
51700 · Insurance - Building Liability				
51710 · Building Liability Insurance	19,993.75	9,270.00	215.68%	14,767.00
51720 · Workman's Compensation	2,433.00	1,648.00	147.63%	1,407.00

	2022 Income and Expenses	2022 Budget	% of Budget	Proposed 2023 Budget
Total 51700 · Insurance - Building Liability	22,426.75	10,918.00	205.41%	16,174.00
52500 · Outreach				
52600 · South Dakota				
52610 · Two Rivers Association	976.50	1,000.00	97.65%	1,000.00
52615 · Placerville	0.00	250.00	0.0%	250.00
52620 · Food Pantry	1,000.00	1,000.00	100.0%	1,000.00
52625 · Discretionary	380.24	1,500.00	25.35%	500.00
52630 · Welcome Table/Backpack	1,000.00	1,000.00	100.0%	1,000.00
52635 · VMA Emergency (Salv. Army)	1,758.98	2,500.00	70.36%	2,500.00
Total 52600 · South Dakota	5,115.72	7,250.00	70.56%	6,250.00
52700 · National & World				
52710 · Our Church's Wider Mission	6,500.00	6,500.00	100.0%	6,500.00
Total 52700 · National & World	6,500.00	6,500.00	100.0%	6,500.00
52800 · State Conference				
52810 · Conference Delegate	530.06			500.00
52800 · State Conference - Other	0.00	500.00	0.0%	
Total 52800 · State Conference	530.06	500.00	106.01%	500.00
Total 52500 · Outreach	12,145.78	14,250.00	85.23%	13,250.00
60000 · Other Expenses				
60220 · First Bank and Trust Loan	31,429.22	34,000.00	92.44%	34,000.00
60400 · Carry Over	0.00	5,762.91	0.0%	
Total 60000 · Other Expenses	31,429.22	39,762.91	79.04%	34,000.00
Total Expense	266,588.03	318,038.73	83.82%	302,161.00
Net Ordinary Income	-8,419.07	0.00	100.0%	-

*\$2,171 was committed from the Music Endowment

2022 Cash Flow

Checking Account

Beg. Bal	57,219.85
Income	
Pledges	232,299.23
Other Income	25,869.73
Total Income	\$ 258,168.96
Expenses	
Staff and benefits	153,880.57
Programs	13,259.32
Church Operations	16,227.17
Building	71,075.19
Outreach	12,145.78
Other Expenses	8,745.46
Total Expenses	\$ 275,333.49
Ending Balance	\$ 40,055.32

Memorials Account 12/31/2022 Balance \$ 11,077.02

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!