

Cover

# **2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST,  
CONGREGATIONAL  
VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA**

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## 2Proposed Agenda

# PROPOSED AGENDA

January 25, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mel Ustad, Moderator

2. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM (At least 40 members constitute a quorum.)

3. INVOCATION

4. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2024 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

- 2026 Budget Report
- Election of 2026 Boards and Officers
- Other Business

10. SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF FORTY-YEAR MEMBERS

11. "IN MEMORIAM"

Recognition of members who died during 2025

12. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

13. REMARKS

Mel Ustad, Moderator

14. INTRODUCE NEW MODERATOR, Katey Ulrich

15. BENEDICTION

16. ADJOURNMENT

## 3 - 4 Roster of Officers and Leadership 3



## **ROSTER OF OFFICERS AND LEADERSHIP**

2025 Officers, Boards, Committees, and Other Positions of Leadership

### **OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH**

PASTOR: Rev. Katie Miller

TREASURER: Joanne Ustad

ASSISTANT TREASURERS (Appointed by Cabinet): Deb Thomas

MUSIC TEAM: Anthony Burbach, Gretchen Burbach, Michail Chalkiopoulos, Benjamin Barth, Tommy Gress

MEDIA DIRECTOR: Paul Ebsen

MINISTER OF VISITATION: Elaine Miller

### **MEMBERS OF THE CABINET**

PASTOR (Ex Officio): Rev. Katie Miller

TREASURER (Ex Officio): Joanne Ustad

MODERATOR: Mel Ustad

MODERATOR-ELECT: Katey Ulrich

DIACONATE: Becca Jordre

EDUCATION COORDINATOR: Kari Jensen

STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR: Jake Kerby

ENDOWMENT CHAIR : Jake Kerby

TRUSTEES: Keith Thomas

OUTREACH COORDINATOR: Lana Sven

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Jama Christopherson

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Janet Davison

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Pat Flanigan

### **MEMBERS OF CHURCH BOARDS**

#### **Diaconate**

Bruce Gray	2026	Becca Jordre (Chair)	2025
Connie Nelsen	2026	Diane Leja	2025
Cleo Anderson	2027	Sarah Gregg	2027
Lydia Anderson	2026	Hilda Larbi	2027
Patty Armstrong	2026	Dennis Nelsen	2027
Elias Donstad	2028	Nova Joseph	2028

#### **Board of Trustees**

Ross Dickenson	2025	Tyler Messersmith	2026
Keith Thomas(Chair)	2025	Kacie Hall	2027
Julia Kleinschmit	2026	Becky Rider	2027

EDUCATION COORDINATOR	Kari Jensen	2025
STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR	Jake Kerby	2025
OUTREACH COORDINATOR	Lana Svien	2025

### **COMMITTEES**

#### **Endowment Committee**

Adam Chandler	2028	Jake Kerby	2029
Greg Redlin	2027	Ken Green	2027

And by Virtue of their Church Office: Moderator, Chair of Trustees, Church Treasurer, Pastor

### **DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**

Adult Choir	Gretchen Burbach
Bell Choir	Anthony Burbach
Children's Choir	Gretchen Burbach; Accompanist Anthony Burbach
Organist	Michail Chalkiopoulos, Tommy Gress, Benjamin Barth
Pianist	Anthony Burbach

### **EDUCATION**

Adult Bible Study	Katie Miller
B.C.	Kari Jensen
Confirmation	Kari Jensen, Pat Flanigan
Loaves and Fishes (LAF)	Christian Education Team

OTHER POSITIONS OF CHURCH LEADERSHIP

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Taylor Ebsen (January 1 -December 31)

CHURCH FINANCIAL OFFICER: Sarah Gregg (January 1 -December 31)

MEDIA DIRECTOR: Paul Ebsen ( January 1- December 31)

CUSTODIANS: Kathleen Hasenbank January 1-December 31)

Linda Moe (January 1-December 31)

INTERNS

**(Spring 2025)**

Arts Intern—Choir, Alto Shaelyn Laferty

Arts Intern—Choir, Soprano Maleah Wright

Arts Intern—Choir, Tenor Sam VanGerpen

Educational Intern—LAF Max Huska

Education Intern—Youth Lauren Meyer

Media Intern Jozie Kumm

**(Fall 2025)**

Arts Intern—Choir, Alto Alexis Meyer

Arts Intern—Choir, Soprano Maleah Wright

Arts Intern—Choir, Tenor Sam VanGerpen

Education Intern—LAF Charlee Huska

## 5-6 Minutes of Annual Meeting

## **MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING**

January 26, 2025

### **Call to Order**

- Moderator Susan Hackemer called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm.
- Quorum confirmed with over 44 church members present (in person and via Zoom).

### **Opening Prayer**

- Pastor Katie opened the meeting with prayer.

### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

- Motion to approve the minutes from the 2024 Annual Meeting.
  - Motion: Mary Edelen
  - Second: Jake Kerby
  - Vote: Passed, none opposed

### **4. Membership Report**

- Motion: Becky Rider
- Second: Diane Leja
- Vote: Passed, none opposed

### **5. Treasurer's Report**

- Presented by Michelle Green and Katey Ulrich
- Discussion:
  - Sandy Dickenson requested making the VMA amount whole.
  - Joanne clarified that VMA is a secondary (reserve) fund.
- Motion approved: Passed, none opposed

### **6. Acceptance of Written Reports**

- Motion to accept the group of reports: Sandy Dickenson
- Second: Mary Edelen
- Motion approved: Passed, none opposed

### **7. Old Business**

- None reported.

## **8. New Business**

- **2025 Proposed Budget** – Presented by Keith Thomas
  - Motion: Ross Dickenson
  - Second: Mecia Graham
  - Vote: Passed
- **Personnel/Financial Changes**
  - Jake Kerby: \$4,160
  - 4.5% authorized from Endowment

## **9. Ballot / Election of Officers**

- Motion: Craig Thompson
- Second: Malene Little
- Vote: Passed

## **10. Conference & Wider Church Updates**

- New Conference Minister visited UCC Vermillion Roberto Ochoa
- Sandy Dickenson elected First Conference Delegate

## **11. Other Business**

- Thank-you for service extended to Barb Weyrich, Joanne Ustad, and Malene Little

## **12. In Memoriam**

- (Names noted as presented)

## **13. Installation**

- Installation of officers, boards, chairs, and lay leadership

## **14. Closing Remarks**

- Remarks by Susan Hackemer
- Leadership passed to Moderator Mel Ustad

## **15. Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn: Ross Dickenson
- Second: Mary Edelen
- Vote: Passed, none opposed

## 7 Annual Report on Membership

## **ANNUAL REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP**

**January 1, 2025—December 31, 2025**

### **Baptisms (2)**

Izadore Genevin Quill Abbott-Smith, Zadya Abbott, March 24, 2025

Kamden Madyson Elder, daughter of Kaden & Kasey Elder October 26, 2025

### **New Members**

### **New Members (2)**

### **New Members (2)**

### **Confirmation (0)**

**09/01/202**

**12/01/2025**

Janet Davison

Pat Roach

Korte Solveig

Sue Christensen

### **Members Transferred (in 0; out 4)**

Carolyn and Dave Carr

Dave and Jill Chickering

### **Funerals (member) (1) (\*nonmember) (1)**

### **Fern Kaufman**

\*Travis Jerred Saturday, May 24 at 10:00 AM, United Church of Christ Congregational

Sue French Saturday, June 2 at 10:30 am, United Church of Christ Congregational

Officiant: Rev. Elaine Miller

**Active Members January 1, 2024      685**

**New Members   4**

**Deaths of Members   1**

**Net of Members Transferred   4**

**TOTAL 684**

# 8 DIA, STEWARDSHIP



## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIACONATE**

In 2025 the diaconate welcomed two new deacons. We continued our weekly tasks to support Sunday services along with the distribution of communion. We continue to enjoy the addition of a high school student participating as deacon and we hope to welcome a new student this year. We shifted to gluten-free communion bread to allow greater participation for all who wish to commune with us. We have two positions available for new terms this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Becca Jordre

Chair of Diaconate

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR**

The first year of stewardship coordinator was met with a steep learning curve, but one rich in experience of the incredible generosity of our church. The church has been vibrant this past year supporting a wide variety of programs and people. We began the pledge drive with a goal of increasing the previous year's budget by 4%. This was with the hope to cover increasing expenses due to expanding programs and annual inflation. Through the work of a fantastic call support team we had great success in fundraising for yet another year. We heard from 99 households and ended the stewardship drive at \$255,019, higher than last year, but just a little short of our initial goal. Thank you to our outstanding church family for your continued generosity. I would also like to extend a special thank you to all those that participated by sharing their journey with the church on Sundays to highlight all the great work we do. Without the hard and dedicated work of everyone involved, we would not have been able to accomplish nearly as much as we did.

Respectfully submitted,

Jake Kerby

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF TROOP 66**

No report submitted

9 MOD, AT LARGE, WS and Social

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MODERATOR**

It is a pleasure to present the Annual Report summarizing the significant events, achievements and challenges for the church in 2025. It has been a pleasure to serve as moderator during a relatively stable year. After several years of transitions there were no changes in personnel or major challenges. Unfortunately, we lost several long-term church members but welcomed new members to the church. The LAF program continues to introduce and welcome children and their parents to our church. Thank you for the opportunity to serve with other cabinet members.

Respectfully submitted,

Mel Ustad  
Moderator

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF MEMBERS AT LARGE AND PERSONNEL**

This year the At-Large/Personnel members of the cabinet were recently tasked with filling a number of open positions on various boards and committees within the church. Positions were available on the Diaconate as well as the Trustee and Endowment Committees. There was one at-large/personnel seat open as well that needed to be filled. We are very fortunate to have members of the church willing to volunteer their time and talents and thus we were easily able to fill the positions. These positions will begin following the 2026 Annual Meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jama Christopherson, Pat Flanigan & Janet Davison

## **2025 ANNUAL REPORT FOR WORLD SERVICE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS**

The purpose of the UCCV World Service and Social Concerns Committee is to engage the congregation in the mission of the Church at the local, regional, national, and global levels. The committee seeks to respond faithfully to the needs of the congregation, community, and world. During the year, the congregation supported the local Backpack Program to help children prepare for the school year. Ongoing funding for the Welcome Table and Food Pantry remained part of the annual church budget. Congregants also raised funds for the Salvation Army through bell ringing, with the benefit of matched donations. The Angel Giving Tree partnered with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, providing bedding supplies and support for bed building to ensure that no child sleeps on the floor. Contributions to Neighbors in Need, a wider UCC initiative, totaled \$1,329.00. The UCCV congregation continues to respond generously as needs arise. Members are encouraged to share any emerging needs with the committee.

Respectfully submitted, Lana Svien

## 10-11 Media Director

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDIA TEAM**

### **Introduction**

The Media Team at the United Church of Christ continued to strengthen the way our church communicates, worships, and presents itself in 2025. This year was defined by flexibility, teamwork, and intentional investment in both people and equipment. Whether in the sanctuary, out in the community, or online, the Media Team worked to ensure that every service and event was seen, heard, and represented with excellence.

### **Major Accomplishments**

#### **Portable Sound for Any Space**

One of the most important upgrades this year was the purchase of a Fender portable PA system. This system allows the church to provide clear, high-quality sound reinforcement wherever we gather—indoors, outdoors, or off-site. It has proven invaluable for special services and events where our fixed sanctuary system cannot be used, helping us remain flexible and prepared for any worship setting.

#### **Church Branding and Visual Identity**

In partnership with church leadership, the Media Team helped create a new logo and a comprehensive branding guide for the church. This work unified the look and feel of how the church is presented across all platforms—bulletins, livestreams, social media, and printed materials. Having a consistent visual identity has strengthened our public presence and made our communications clearer, more professional, and more recognizable to both members and the wider community.

### **People and Team Development**

#### **Celebrating Jozie's Internship**

Jozie Kumm continued her outstanding work as our media intern through most of the year, with October marking her final month. We are incredibly proud of her as she stepped into a new professional role at a Sioux City news station. Her growth, creativity, and dedication made a lasting impact on our team, and her time with us was both productive and meaningful.

#### **Building a Volunteer Media Team**

Although we were not able to secure a new intern for the fall semester, this challenge became an opportunity for the Media Team and the congregation to step forward in a new way. By reaching out to church members, we formed a small but dependable volunteer media team and created a sign-up system to ensure every service was covered. Bruce Gray and Tim Ricker became the backbone of this effort, generously giving their time and talents to help run audio, video, and livestream needs week after week. Their reliability and willingness to serve made it possible to maintain seamless coverage of worship services. Thanks to their dedication—and the structure provided by the sign-up system—there was no noticeable drop in the quality or consistency of our media support, allowing worship to continue smoothly for both in-person and online participants.

### **Looking Ahead**

During 2025, we also began discussing the possibility of upgrading the sanctuary speaker system. While no changes were made yet, this remains an important topic for future planning. Improved speakers would further enhance clarity, music, and spoken word in worship, and this is an area worth exploring in 2026.

### **Conclusion**

The Media Team in 2025 demonstrated resilience, creativity, and a strong spirit of collaboration. From investing in portable sound equipment, to building a unified church brand, to successfully transitioning from an intern-based model to a volunteer team, the media ministry remained strong and dependable. We are grateful for everyone who contributed their time, skills, and support, and we look forward to continuing this important work in the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Ebsen, Media Director

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

The Loaves and Fishes (LAF) program has had another successful year starting the fall of 2025. We begin with a meal that is served on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 - 6:00 PM. Our volunteers have been serving on average 45-60 people. Then from 6:00-7:00 PM the children meet together in the sanctuary for songs and fellowship. Gretchen Burbach taught the students many songs with Paul or Katie on the guitar. At 6:15, the children disperse with different age groups for their various activities. Pre-school - 1st grade, 2nd-5th grade and the BC group of 6th and 7th grade students. Pastor Katie once again wrote a wonderful Christmas Pageant for the children. We had one intern, Charlie Huska, who led the Pre-School - 1st grade group. Lydia Anderson was our leader for the BC Group. The Confirmation II group (8th graders) and Confirmation I group (9th graders) are meeting on Sunday afternoons/evenings from 4:30-7:00 with a meal in between sessions. Pastor Katie leads both groups with Kari Jensen assisting with the Confirmation I group and Pat Flanigan assisting with the Confirmation II group.

We had another successful Bible School in May that was well attended. 35-45 children spent a week doing crafts, learning new songs, and sharing fellowship. Thank you to all the volunteers who help cook, clean, and help manage the children every Wednesday. I am constantly reminded of the amazing generosity and good will that our church family has to offer. I am truly blessed to be a part of the UCC family.

Respectfully submitted,

Kari Jensen

Christian Education Coordinator

12-13 trustees, Music

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

After no increase to the pledge request for 2025, the Trustees asked for a 4.5% increase for 2026. The stewardship drive came close, so we adjusted the proposed budget to match the pledges that were received. The largest increase was due to doubling of the cost for Pastor Katie's health insurance. We also reduced our OCWM commitment while increase the outreach for our local community. The proposed balanced budget is in the annual report for review.

One of the line items that was reduced to balance the budget was a proposed increase for miscellaneous repairs. While there are many items that now need work after our big campaign a few years ago but two items that stand out. One is the northwest door needs to be replaced, and we would like to add some security to it, both for making access to the church easier, and to improve safety for staff and members. The second is that the north windows also need to be repaired or replaced.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Thomas, Chair

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UCC MUSIC TEAM**

The 2025 spring music team included Gretchen Burbach, Adult Choir and LAF Music Director; Anthony Burbach, piano and bell choir; Michail Chalkiopoulos, organ; and Benjamin Barth, organ intern. January–May choir interns were Shaelyn Laferty, Maleah Wright, and Sam VanGerpen. August–December choir interns included Maleah Wright, Alexis Meyer, and Sam VanGerpen; organ intern, Tommy Gress.

In May, we wished Michail well as he returned to the East Coast to pursue doctoral studies. Benjamin Barth transitioned into the organist role, and we welcomed Tommy Gress as an organ intern.

Keyboard players shared responsibilities accompanying Wednesday evening choir rehearsals and Sunday worship services. In addition to piano, Anthony also represented the music team at cabinet meetings and coordinated piano and organ tunings twice a year, in spring and fall. Anthony continued directing the bell choir, which rehearsed in six-week blocks prior to its featured services in the spring and during Advent. This year, the handbells were refurbished through the generous gifts from the Noble and Hackemer families.

The UCC choir sang weekly through mid-May, offering special selections during Lent and for Palm/Passion Sunday. We presented John Rutter's *Requiem* with chamber string ensemble and organ during an evening Tenebrae service, accompanied by a special offering collected for the Vermillion Emergency Fund.

Throughout the year, Gretchen worked closely with LAF session music, collecting, creating, preparing, and sharing youth music for LAF Celebration Sundays and Vacation Bible School, *Created to Create*.



Following VBS, the choir took a summer break, and special music was offered each Sunday to complement Pastor Katie's summer sermon series, which paired scripture with music ranging from show tunes to hymns. This season also provided opportunities to welcome young adult singers home from college to share their talents through solos and duets.

The UCC choir values opportunities to connect with the wider community. This year, we collaborated with Trinity Lutheran and the Methodist churches for an ecumenical outdoor service (later moved indoors), joined with the Social Justice Choir for the Pride Service, and shared caroling at the Care Center and Dakota Gardens. We were especially excited to collaborate with the USD Theatre Department by sharing service music with the cast of *Bright Star*. As part of a cherished tradition, the USD Chamber Singers shared music during two UCC services following their semester retreats. Additionally, UCC enjoyed special music from the Vermillion Community Theatre cast of *Shrek* and the Vermillion Children's Choir.

The winter of 2025 offered a unique opportunity for UCC musical groups to come together. December weather events prompted us to reimagine both Bell Choir Sunday and UCC's 83rd Annual Carol Service as a single, combined service. The result was Hal Hopson's *Festival of Lessons and Carols*, featuring soloists, chamber ensemble, bell choir, and organ, with guest narration by Rich Hall. Christmas Eve worship included music from a "pop-up choir," an acoustic string trio, vocal duets, and congregational carols accompanied by piano and organ. New gold choir stoles were purchased through the Carol Service Endowment Fund.

The UCC Music Team looks forward to continuing our work of offering a wide variety of music through our ensembles while welcoming musical guests from the university and community. We are deeply grateful for the singers and instrumentalists who share their gifts throughout the year. With sincere appreciation for the continued support from our congregation, we remain committed to thoughtfully and prayerfully selecting music that enriches worship and fills the hearts of all who listen.

Respectfully submitted,

The UCC Music Team

Gretchen Burbach, Adult and Youth (LAF) Choir Director

Anthony Burbach, Pianist and Bell Choir Director

Benjamin Barth, Organist

## 14 Prayer Team, Endowment

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRAYER TEAM**

The UCC Prayer Team continues to regularly lift up the concerns of the congregation with compassion, each in our own way. These specific requests are generally received in the church office by phone or prayer card, and then funneled to me by email, and forwarded in thread fashion with details and updates to the Prayer Team, so that we can keep a running list even as the public list in the Bulletin ebbs and flows. Some of the requests are confidential, and may never even appear in the Bulletin. Some of the concerns are more comprehensive, and some become well-verbalized weekly by Pastor Katie's beautiful prayers during her services.

Although the "formal" Prayer Team currently consists of 16 members who each regularly hold and lift these concerns and joys, anyone is of course welcome to join us in lifting the concerns of our congregation when the spirit moves. Please do!

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Sykes Prayer Team Conduit

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

The Endowment Fund Committee is charged with oversight of the investments for the Endowment Fund and determining 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 performance of the endowment mirrored the performance of the markets in the same time frame. The current members of the Endowment Committee are Ken Green, Adam Chandler, Don Dahlin, Jake Kerby, and Greg Redlin. The committee was asked to consider a payout of either 4% or 4.5%. We unanimously voted to provide 4.5% to the Trustees based upon the positive returns the previous year and the needs of the church. This amounts to \$24,878- \$23,190 to the building endowment needs, and \$1688 to music needs (based upon amounts in the separate funds).

Respectfully submitted,

Jake Kerby

# 15 Administrator

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR**

2025 was my first full year serving as Church Administrator, and I am grateful for the opportunity to support the ministry and mission of our church. Throughout the year, I worked alongside Pastor Katie, staff, church leaders, and volunteers to support worship, communication, scheduling, events, and the daily operations that keep the church running smoothly.

It has been a joy to collaborate with committees and volunteers whose dedication and generosity continue to shape a welcoming and vibrant church community. I am especially thankful for the partnership with Pastor Katie and Sarah Gregg, and for the encouragement and patience of the congregation as I continued learning church systems and traditions.

Thank you to everyone who shared their time, talents, and support this year. It is truly a privilege to serve such a caring and faithful community.

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor Ebsen Church Administrator

16-17 Rev. Katie

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF REV. KATIE MILLER**

This past year has been one marked by deep gratitude.

In a world that continues to feel heavy — with rising costs of nearly everything, ongoing conflict both globally and close to home, and a constant undercurrent of uncertainty — I am profoundly thankful for the community we continue to nurture together at UCC Vermillion. In many ways, the church has been a place of steadiness amid so much change: a place where people are known, where laughter and sadness can coexist, and where faith is not an abstract idea but a lived practice.

What we have created together is not small. We have cultivated a space that feels like home. We are a community that shows up for one another, that welcomes questions as much as convictions, and that continues to embody what it means to be a positive presence in Vermillion.

One of the most meaningful dimensions of this past year has been our growing engagement with the wider community. Our ecumenical worship services have been a powerful sign of unity beyond denominational lines, especially in a time when division feels so pervasive. Hosting the Ecumenical Pride Service last summer was a particularly holy moment, and not only as a public witness of affirmation and love, but a tangible reminder that church can still be a place of refuge, celebration, and justice.

Our commitment to caring for neighbors in need has also remained strong. Through generous donations to the local food pantry and the Salvation Army and the CCC, UCC Vermillion has continued to respond to the very real economic pressures facing many in our community. These acts of generosity reflect the heart of this congregation: compassionate, responsive, and rooted in the belief that faith is expressed through action.

Our youth and young people continue to be a bright light. The Confirmation Trip to Chicago stands out as a highlight of the year. It was a blend of service, learning, and joy. Watching our confirmands prepare sack lunches, engage in meaningful conversations, and also simply be kids together was a reminder of how formative these shared experiences are. They are not just learning about faith; they are learning how to live it.

Worship this year has been deeply enriched by music. The regular choir, along with incredible guest musicians, has brought depth, beauty, and emotional resonance to our services. Music has carried our prayers when words felt thin, and it has created moments of awe and connection that linger long after the final note.

LAF, our Christian Education ministry, has provided a steady and nurturing foundation for our children and families. The consistency, creativity, and care invested in this program have made it a vital part of our church's life, as have all the dedicated adults that volunteer their time to make it possible. It is a gift to see young people grow in curiosity, compassion, and belonging within this community.

As we look toward the coming year, it is clear that the broader world will continue to present challenges. The social, political, and economic realities we face are not likely to ease quickly. And yet, UCC Vermillion remains a steadfast presence — a place where people can gather in honesty, hope, and courage. The work of this church does not depend on certainty or comfort; it depends on faithfulness, on showing up, and on trusting that love is still worth practicing in public.

This congregation has a strong heart, a resilient spirit, and a deep capacity for care. I am grateful for the way you continue to embody what it means to be church — not as a building or a program, but as a living community committed to one another and to the world God so deeply loves.

Respectfully submitted,

Reverend Katie Miller



## 18-20 Statement of Finances

## STATEMENT OF FINANCES

Ordinary Income/Expense Income	2025 Actual Income & Expenses	2025 Budget	% of Budget	Proposed 2026 Budget
40100 · Annual Pledges	240,811.77	252,725.00	95.29%	264022.91
40110 · Last Year Pledges	1,424.00	2,500.00	56.96%	2500.00
40130 · Plate/Non-Pledge Contributions	28,914.72	18,402.74	157.12%	25000.00
40160 · Bldg. Endowment Contribution	21,077.00	21,077.00	100.0%	21077.00
40165 · Music Endowment Contribution	1,507.00	1,507.00	100.0%	1507.00
40180 · Church Use Income	525.00	1,000.00	52.5%	1000.00
40200 · Interest Income - 1st B&T	51.26	25.00	205.04%	25.00
40230 · Holiday Offering	904.00	2,000.00	45.2%	2000.00
40240 · Gifts	11,212.93	16,000.00	70.08%	18000.00
40250 · Music Repairs/Refurbishment	2,000.00	5,000.00	40.0%	
40530 · From Previous Yr.	0.00	8,200.00	0.0%	10000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>308,427.68</b>	<b>328,436.74</b>	<b>93.91%</b>	<b>345131.91</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>308,427.68</b>	<b>328,436.74</b>	<b>93.91%</b>	
<b>Expense</b>				
50100 · Staff Salaries				
50110 · Pastor	72,318.36	72,318.37	100.0%	74487.92
50112 · Social Security Offset	5,532.36	5,532.36	100.0%	5698.33
50117 · Visitation Minister	2,400.00	2,400.00	100.0%	2472.00
50121 · Church Administrator	28,922.40	28,922.40	100.0%	29790.07
50126 · Church Financial Administrator	7,177.08	7,177.04	100.0%	7392.35
50130 · Organist	7,340.42	8,008.55	91.66%	8248.81
50132 · Media Director	8,008.56	8,008.55	100.0%	8248.81
50135 · Choir Director	8,008.56	8,008.55	100.0%	8248.81
50140 · Bell Choir Director	8,008.56	8,008.55	100.0%	8248.81
50160 · Custodians	13,000.08	13,000.00	100.0%	13390.00
50170 · Interns	9,550.00	11,150.00	85.65%	12000.00
<b>Total 50100 · Staff Salaries</b>	<b>170,266.38</b>	<b>172,534.37</b>	<b>98.69%</b>	<b>178225.91</b>
50200 · Employee Benefits				
50210 · Annuity X 15.5%	9,543.48	10,124.57	94.26%	10428.31
50215 · Health Insurance	11,340.48	7,578.00	149.65%	15336.00
50220 · Dental Insurance	564.00	564.00	100.0%	564.00
50225 · In-Service	777.41	1,545.00	50.32%	1545.00
50290 · FICA Tax Contribution	6,967.77	7,243.30	96.2%	7485.49
<b>Total 50200 · Employee Benefits</b>	<b>29,193.14</b>	<b>27,054.87</b>	<b>107.9%</b>	<b>35358.80</b>
50300 · Professional Reimbursement				
50310 · Travel Expense	1,399.88	1,500.00	93.33%	1500.00
50325 · Continuing Education	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%	1000.00
<b>Total 50300 · Professional Reimbursement</b>	<b>1,399.88</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>56.0%</b>	<b>2500.00</b>
51000 · Program Expenses				

### 51100 · Music

51110 · Choirs (music/child care)	2,519.10	2,000.00	125.96%	2400.00
51115 · Organ/Piano/Bell tuning	3,147.72	3,500.00	89.94%	3500.00
51120 · Special Music (guests)	700.00	2,000.00	35.0%	2000.00
51125 · Music Endowment	1,211.39	1,300.00	93.18%	1300.00
51130 · Music Repairs/Refurbishment	6,201.96	5,000.00	124.04%	

<b>Total 51100 · Music</b>	13,780.17	13,800.00	99.86%	9200.00
<b>51200 · Board Expenses</b>				
<b>51210 · Christian Education</b>	4,215.84	5,000.00	84.32%	5000.00
<b>51225 · Diaconate</b>	1,465.95	2,500.00	58.64%	2500.00
<b>Total 51200 · Board Expenses</b>	5,681.79	7,500.00	75.76%	7500.00
<b>Total 51000 · Program Expenses</b>	19,461.96	21,300.00	91.37%	16700.00
<b>51300 · Church Operation Exp</b>				
<b>50540 · Telephone/Internet Expenses</b>	2,884.86	4,600.00	62.71%	3147.20
<b>50550 · Audit</b>	10.00			
<b>50560 · Service Contracts-Office</b>	7,006.60	6,000.00	116.78%	6200.00
<b>51310 · Office Supplies</b>	2,060.64	2,000.00	103.03%	2000.00
<b>51315 · Computer</b>	801.08	2,500.00	32.04%	1500.00
<b>51317 · Media Equipment</b>	19.16			500.00
<b>51320 · Kitchen Supplies</b>	482.85	1,000.00	48.29%	1000.00
<b>51340 · Church Use -add'l custodial</b>	648.88	300.00	216.29%	
<b>Total 51300 · Church Operation Exp</b>	13,914.07	16,400.00	84.84%	14347.20
<b>51400 · Grounds</b>				
<b>51410 · Lawn, Snow, Mulch , Seed</b>	2,801.01	2,500.00	112.04%	2500.00
<b>51415 · Property Tax</b>	204.91	250.00	81.96%	250.00
<b>Total 51400 · Grounds</b>	3,005.92	2,750.00	109.31%	2750.00
<b>51500 · Building Operations</b>				
<b>51510 · Service Contracts-Building</b>	3,661.03	3,680.00	99.49%	5000.00
<b>51515 · Natural Gas</b>	3,573.33	5,500.00	64.97%	5500.00
<b>51520 · Electric, Water, Sewer, Garbage</b>	9,566.19	8,500.00	112.54%	9000.00
<b>51525 · Custodial Supplies</b>	391.32	500.00	78.26%	500.00
<b>Total 51500 · Building Operations</b>	17,191.87	18,180.00	94.57%	20000.00
<b>51600 · Building Repairs &amp; Maintenance</b>				
<b>51620 · Misc. Repairs</b>	1,474.06	2,000.00	73.7%	9000.00
<b>Total 51600 · Building Repairs &amp; Maintenance</b>	1,474.06	2,000.00	73.7%	9000.00
<b>51700 · Insurance - Building Liability</b>				
<b>51710 · Building Liability Insurance</b>	16,821.00	17,000.00	98.95%	17500.00
<b>51720 · Workman's Compensation</b>	1,830.00	4,000.00	45.75%	4150.00
<b>Total 51700 · Insurance - Building Liability</b>	18,651.00	21,000.00	88.81%	21650.00
<b>52500 · Outreach</b>				

## 52600 · South Dakota

Community Garden	613.73				450.00
52610 · Two Rivers Association	985.50	500.00	197.1%		600.00
52615 · Placerville	250.00	250.00	100.0%		400.00
52620 · Food Pantry	750.00	750.00	100.0%		1250.00
52625 · Discretionary	100.00	1,000.00	10.0%		400.00
52630 · Welcome Table	750.00	750.00	100.0%		1000.00
52635 · VMA Emergency (Salvation Arm	2,458.82	1,000.00	245.88%		1500.00
Total 52600 · South Dakota	5,908.05	4,250.00	139.01%		5600.00
52700 · National & World					
52710 · Our Church's Wider Mission	2,000.00	4,000.00	50.0%		4500.00
Total 52700 · National & World	2,000.00	4,000.00	50.0%		4500.00
52800 · State Conference					
52810 · Conference Delegate	480.96	500.00	96.19%		500.00
Total 52800 · State Conference	480.96	500.00	96.19%		500.00
Total 52500 · Outreach	8,389.01	8,750.00	95.87%		10600.00
60000 · Other Expenses					
60220 · First Bank and Trust Loan	33,962.40	34,000.00	99.89%		34000.00
60400 · Carry Over	0.00	3,967.50	0.0%		
Total 60000 · Other Expenses	33,962.40	37,967.50	89.45%		34000.00
Total Expense	316,909.69	330,436.74	95.91%		345131.91
Net Ordinary Income	-8,482.01	-2,000.00	424.1%		
Other Income/Expense					
Other Income					
Memorial Income/Gifts >\$500	56,650.00				
71000 · Miscellaneous Income					
Confirmation I	1,018.00				
Confirmation II	4,808.86				
71000 · Miscellaneous Income - Other	8,233.21				
Total 71000 · Miscellaneous Income	14,060.07				
71010 · OGH of Sharing Income	1,212.19				
71025 · Neighbors in Need	1,329.00				
Total Other Income	73,251.26				
Other Expense					
81000 · Misc Expense	12,477.14				
81010 · One Great Hour of Sharing	1,212.19				
81025 · Neighbors in Need Expense	1,329.00				
81050 · Confirmation Expense	4,083.86				
Total Other Expense	19,102.19				
Net Other Income	54,149.07				

Treasurer



## 23 Recon of long member

## **RECOGNITION OF LONGTIME MEMBERS**

### **MEMBERS FOR 40-44 YEARS**

David Moen 09-30-84 41 years  
Julie Moen 09-30-84 41 years  
Kathy Carlson 02-27-83 42 years  
Mike Carlson 02-27-83 42 years

Tom Olson 10-19-83 42 years  
Susan Huska 02-28-82 43 years  
Craig Thompson 05-23-82 43 years  
Marsha Thompson 05-23-82 43 years

### **MEMBERS FOR 45-49 YEARS**

Tom French 05-25-80 45 years  
Steve Ward 05-25-80 45 years  
Richard Foltz 04-29-79 46 years  
Frank Main 04-19-79 46 years  
Mary Main 04-02-79 46 years

Dale Husby 05-14-78 46 years  
Stanley Lewison 04-30-78 46 years  
Charles Thatcher 11-20-77 47 years

### **MEMBERS FOR 50+ YEARS**

Norman Kaufman 05-18-75 50 years  
Alice Barnes 11-10-74 51 years  
Nancy Zuercher 11-10-74 51 years  
Robert Fuller 04-15-73 52 years  
Michael Marek 05-16-71 54 years  
Mary Lou Monfore 01-17-71 54 years  
Karen Ferris 02-22-70 55 years  
Cynthia Chaney 04-28-68 57 years  
Mardell Ebsen 11-17-68 57 years

Julia Chaney 04-17-66 59 years  
Mike Armstrong 11-27-66 59 years  
Don Dahlin 12-4-66 59 years  
Jeanne Dahlin 12-4-66 59 years  
Karon Fuller 04-15-62 64 years  
Mary Edelen 04-10-60 65 years  
Sandy Lavin 04-10-60 65 years  
Martin (Mike) Chaney 11-29-53 72 years



# Prayers

