

JANUARY 2022

Volume 37 - Issue 1

The Congregational COLUMNS

Minister's Annual Report 2021

2021 has, once again, been one of challenge for our church and for me, personally and professionally. The year began with the turmoil of staff changes and the necessity of doing things differently. The Church Council, church boards, and committees have all risen to the challenges of supporting the ministries of the church and its outreach.

Thanks to the amazing dedication and love for this church, our members have found ways to bring the comfort of worship and ministry to our members and to those who benefit from our outreach. We returned to in-person worship in February for those who were comfortable being at church. Meanwhile, Bill Edens and Kayla Bruss have also kept us online each week for worship.

The Board of Christian Education has been such a bright spot in a year of challenges, and with Tonia's leadership have managed to provide creative programs and activities all year long. Tonia and I enjoyed last year's Covenant Class of ten strong students who were received as members in the spring. This year's class of four young people has been off to a good start with an intense look at the scriptures.

Another key aspect to our ministries this past year has been the continued outreach through our community agencies and our international missions. All of our outreach partners were affected by the pandemic and the continued support from the members of First Church have truly made a difference.

Each year, as I have reported to you, I have taken a moment to recognize the incredibly dedicated staff of First Congregational Church. They are truly a blessing in so many ways. Jim Harris, our Administrator, has been busy with planning for the elevator project and Atrium issues, all in addition to the regular duties this year. Jill, Marianne, Cindy, and Mark continue to keep things moving forward as we adapt to all the changes. Our music staff has seen a number of changes this past year with the addition of a new director, Katelyn Peterson. New section leaders/soloists, Elle Dannecker, soprano and Anthony Andronczyk, tenor, join Jill Bruss, Brett Hanisko, Rhonda Kwicien, and Roxanne Trump-Miles. Special thanks to Rhonda and Jill for their invaluable work with me on funerals and memorial services. Tonia Wallner has continued to provide strong leadership for our children and youth programs, and I have deeply appreciated her infectious enthusiasm.

Once again, this year a key to our success during the pandemic has been the generous financial support of the church by the membership. The support has enabled us to continue church operations and has also allowed us to increase contributions to our outreach agencies and missions.

Your church boards and staff have risen to the challenges of this difficult year and found new ways to share the love of Christ. Through it all, our calling to love God and one another remains the same. I am grateful to have served as your minister for the past nine years, and I pray God will guide First Church as you search for a new Senior Minister.

With Love,
Bill Trump, *Minister*

THE COLUMNS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
IN WAUWATOSA

Worship & Discovery

Women's Ministry

Tuesdays, January 4, 11, 18 & 25
at 7:30^{am}

Women's Ministry meets in the Friendship Lounge, Tuesdays at 7:30am for an hour. The group is studying the attributes of God using the devotional "None Else," which will be provided. All are invited. Contact Pat Reddy with any questions.

Men's Ministry

Second and Fourth Wednesdays,
January 12 & 26 at 7:00^{am}

Meet in Room 107 for the DVD Series, "The History of Christianity: From the Disciples to the Dawn of the Reformation."

Men's Bible Study

First & Third Wednesdays,
January 5 & 19 at 7:00^{am}

Men's Bible Study meets at 7am on Wednesday mornings. Join us in Room 107 for interesting studies and good conversation.

Adult Learning Hour

Sundays, January 9, 16, 23 & 30
at 8:45^{am}

Adult Learning is held at 8:45am in LL2. Please bring your Bible as we study the Gospel of John. You need not attend every week or stay the full hour to be part of the group. All are welcome to join us as you are able.

It's a new pledge year!

Please stop by the Office if you would like a box of numbered envelopes for 2022.

The Office is open Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm and before and after the 10:00 am Worship Service on Sundays.

Operating Statement Summary

Year to Date as of November 2021

	Current Year	Prior Year
Pledge Base Received	88%	91%
Pledge Income	\$435,345	\$449,586
Total Income	\$565,424	\$575,259
Total Expense	\$473,114	\$519,298
Net Income	\$92,311	\$55,961

Detailed financials available at office.

CONGREGATIONAL COLUMNS

A monthly newsletter produced by the First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa to keep members and the community up to date on activities at the church.

www.FirstChurchTosa.org

Office Telephone
414-258-7375

On-Call Minister
414-258-7378

Jim Harris
Administrator

Tonia Wallner
Director of Christian Education

Katelyn Peterson
Director of Music

Rhonda Kwiecien
Keyboard Musician

Roxanne Trump-Miles
Dir. of Jr. & Cherub Choirs

Jillian Bruss
Financial Secretary

Marianne King
Office Coordinator

Cindy Walsh - Staff Support

Mark Lund - Custodian

Cathy Denny - Columns Coordinator
sdenny1-cathy@wi.rr.com

First Congregational Church
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Wauwatosa, WI 53213
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Like us on Facebook!

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 30, 2022

Immediately following a shortened
10^{am} Worship

The Annual Meeting will propose the 2022 budget for approval, vote on the slate of Board and Committee nominees and update the congregation to church projects.

Officers, Boards, Committees & Nominations for 2022

Church Officers

- ***Moderator:** Peggy Griffith
- ***Vice Moderator:** Open
- ***Past Moderator:** Steve Russ
- ***Treasurer:** Rick Nowacki
- ***Assist. Treasurer:** Cindy Walsh
- ***FCC Clerk:** Diane Collis
- ***NACCC Delegate:** Richard Berger

Church Council At-Large – Members: 6

1. Hank Collis* 2022-2024
2. Mary Kay Olston, third year
3. Arlette Lindbergh, third year
4. Sharon Raymond, third year
5. John Griffith* 2022-2024
6. Mike Huitink, 2021-23

Board of Congregational Care –Members 6-10

1. Open
2. Connie Little, third year
3. Jackie Hipke, third year
4. Anne Callen, 2021-2023
5. Martha Golz, 2021-2023
6. Fallon Schloemer, 2021-2023

Nominating Committee – Members 5

1. Sarah DeYoung* 2022
2. Steve Hayes* 2022
3. Butch Boyd* 2022
4. Council at Large member
5. Council at Large member

Board of Deacons – Members 8

1. Ann Harris* 2022-2023
2. Patty Reddy* 2022-2024
3. Rich Raymond* 2022-2024
4. Jeff Saeger* (4th year extended)
5. Paige Galfano* (4th year extended)
6. Scott Rondeau 2022-2024
7. Mychale Thomas, 2021-2023
8. Melissa Coppage, 2021-2023

Board of Stewardship/Benevolence –Members 6

1. Open
2. JC Moore, third year
3. Fred Kingsley, 2021-2023
4. Will Schoyer, 2021-2023
5. Randy Sitzberger, 2021-2023
6. Bobby Russ* 2022-2024

Board of Fellowship – Members 7

1. Open
2. Jane Boyd, third year
3. Keith Harmon, third year
4. Carmen Berte, third year
5. Sarah Blake, 2020-2023
6. Barb Dunham, 2021-2023
7. Elizabeth Carger, 2021-2023

Personnel Committee – Members 7

1. Moderator
2. Vice Moderator
3. Merrill York (year 2 of second term)
4. Lisa Mauer (year 2 of second term)
5. Cindy Davis (year 1 of second term)
6. Jennifer Wakefield (year 1 of second term)
7. Nick Sgarlata (year 1 of third term)

Board of Christian Education – Members 6

1. Tori Raddemann, third year
2. Jon Stern, third year
3. Genesee Hornung, 2021-2023
4. Open
5. Tina Schulz* 2022-2024
6. Diane Saeger* 2022-2024

Board of Trustees – Members 9

1. Open
2. Open
3. Open
4. Phil Callen, third year
5. Sharon Petrie, third year
6. Steve Houriet, third year
7. Michelle Russ, 2021-2023
8. Mike Elwing, 2021-2023
9. Bob Ornst, Jr., 2021-2023

*Denotes that the nominee is being voted on



Sunday School

Sunday, January 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 for ages 3 – 5th grade
Children will begin in church with their families during 10^{am} worship and dismissed to Sunday School during the service.

Junior Choir

Sunday, January 9, 16, 23 & 30 for Kindergarten - 8th grade
Meet at 9:15 in LL4. Children sing on Sunday, December 19.

Covenant Class

January 2 & 16 for 9th graders Group meets at 8:30^{am} in 107.

Pilgrim Fellowship (PF)

Sunday, January 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 for grades 6 – 12
Teens will begin in church with their families during 10^{am} worship and dismissed to PF during the service.



Christmas Pageant

The Special Meeting of the Congregation was called to order by Moderator Hank Collis at 10:50^{AM}

Reverend Bill Trump led the Congregation with the opening Invocation. Church Clerk Scott Masloroff verified that quorum had been met to hold the Special Meeting.

- The Special Meeting was officially opened.

Moderator Collis presented the proposed By-Law Amendment:

- The proposed By-Law Amendment is as follows
 - Any meeting (Annual, Program, Council, Board, or Committee) may be held via electronic media when situations exist that would prevent an In-Person meeting.
 - When a vote is required, it will be permitted to be cast, tallied, and stored in a retrievable media. Quorum will be as stated in the by-laws.

- This proposed By-Law Amendment will be created as Article 1 Section C (Meetings), Paragraph 5 (Meeting Procedure), Sub-Paragraph d.
 - Moderator asked for a motion. Mike Huitink made the motion to accept the proposed By-Law Amendment as written. 2nd by Jim Forester
 - Discussion was opened.
 - Discussion was closed.
 - A vote was called.
 - The motion Passed Without Exception
- Moderator Collis closed the Special Meeting of the Congregation at 10:53am.

Minutes of the 178th Annual Meeting

Moderator Collis invited Administrator Jim Harris to give a brief description of how the blended In-Person and Zoom online meeting will take place. Administrator Harris explained how the voting/polling will occur for the online members.

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Collis at 10:56AM and read the Covenant to the Congregation.

Approval of the 177th Annual Meeting Minutes

- Moderator Collis asked for any changes to the minutes. As none were offered, Moderator Collis asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written.
 - A motion was made Butch Boyd and 2nd by Barb Dunham.
 - The vote was called.
 - In-Person Approx. 50 100% Aye 0% Nay
 - Online tally 39 voters 36 Aye 1 Nay
 - 2 Abstentions
 - The motion passes. The minutes are accepted as written.

Treasurers Report

- Presented by Rick Nowacki
 - Schedule I
 - At the end of 2020, the church had \$3,094,732 in total assets and our net assets were \$2,678,805. Approximate increase of \$348,000 which was mainly driven by our investments.
 - Money market accounts increased by approx. \$110,000 over the past year which is primarily driven by the increase of donations for the Capital Campaign Projects. \$351,109 is current value of monies donated to date after some expenses have been paid out to move the project forward.
 - Schedule II
 - Pledge Income for 2020 was \$528,718 which was 99.85% of budget. Our total income for 2020 was \$686,163 which was just under budget by \$1678.00. The only notable under budget income item was Plate Offerings which was due to the lack of church services in 2020 caused by the pandemic.
 - Expenditures came in at \$641,012 which was \$46,829 below

- budget giving our year a Net Income of \$45,151.
- Schedule III
 - Trustees came in slightly over budget due to unanticipated computer issues and other IT infrastructure needs. Many Trustee budget line items came in under budget due to the lower building usage in 2020. All additional Boards were under budget.
 - Council expenses were approximately \$66,000 under budget due in large part to the absence of the Music Director. Communications were also under budget due to lack of marketing needs in 2020. Operating Expenditures were \$46,955 under budget for 2020.
 - Total Expenditures for 2020 were \$46,829 under budget.
- Schedule IV
 - Cumulative Fund Balance at 2020 Year-End was \$2,678,805 which represents an increase of over \$348,000. A large portion of the funds are held in the Congregational Investment Trust which yielded a net return of 14.25% for the year.
 - \$149,485 was received through Bequests and Gifts.
 - Total Disbursements were \$90,976, \$50,113 was distributed for the organ repair.
- Schedule V
 - \$512,852 in Capital Campaign commitments of which \$375,946 has been received. Total amount spent to date on the projects is \$25,141 which leaves a net amount of \$351,109 on hand.
 - In closing Rick thanked Jim and Cindy Walsh for preparing the schedules and the office staff for preparing them for distribution.
 - The floor was opened for questions. None were brought forward.

Stewardship & Benevolence Board Report

- Report given by Mike Huitink
 - The Board's main goal this year was to increase local initiative benevolences which was increased by approximately \$5000.
 - The Stewardship Campaign yielded two less pledges than in 2019 and has pledges totaling \$496,633.
 - 11 families pledged for the first time and 127 families either maintained or increased their pledges.

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- The floor was opened for questions. None were brought forward.

Membership Report

- Report given by Jim Harris
 - Jim discussed the needs to review the church's membership rolls. Jim also laid out to the Congregation what defines a member of the church and what is expected of an active member.
 - In reviewing the rolls, inconsistencies were found such as individuals who had moved but not informed the church, children had aged out, and seniors were no longer able to participate.
- The handout reflects a more accurate picture of the current membership (439 total members/316 active) and it will be reviewed annually.
 - The floor was opened for questions.
- What defines an active from an inactive member?
 - Jim gave the description of someone who has moved but still contributes to the church as an Inactive Member.
- Define Senior-Active vs Senior-Elderly.
 - Senior-Elderly is an individual that is local, perhaps living in an elderly home or confined to their home that contributes to the church but is unable to attend church services or activities.
- Why the disparity between 567 (previous count) members and 439 members this year?
 - In the past, numbers were roughly calculated by adding new members and baptisms then subtracting them from individuals who passed away; very little thought was put into it.

Budget & Finance Report

- Report given by Jim Harris
 - Jim began by thanking the members for their 2020 financial support as 99% of pledged money was received.
 - Expenses in 2020 were under budget due to limited church operation, IT computer consolidation, smaller personnel costs and lower expenditures in Communications.
 - 2021 proposed budget notables
 - The church will carry forward approximately \$45,000 and due to Bequests and investment returns, the church will see an increase of Heritage Fund disbursement to \$49,300 in 2021.
 - The staff, sans Jim Harris and Cindy Walsh, received pay increases.
 - The ministerial budget has not been reduced with the retirement of Barry.
 - A Music Director will not be needed until fall.
 - The floor was opened for questions. None were brought forward.
 - A vote was called (no motion required) to approve the 2021 budget.
 - In-Person Approx. 50 100% Aye 0% Nay
 - Online tally 38 voters 36 Aye 0 Nay
 - 2 Abstentions
 - The budget is approved as presented.

Capital Campaign Presentation

- Report given by Jim Harris
 - Per Schedule V of the Treasurers Report, approximately \$512,000 has been pledged for the elevator and Nave projects. Approximately \$376,000 has been received. The Elevator Committee has continued work on the project. A major change due to inconsistencies in contractor work years ago, caused the change from a hydraulic

elevator to a slightly more expensive electric elevator. Our architect is working with Otis Elevator to complete the final plans to begin the bidding process. Once bids are completed, they will be presented to the Congregation for approval.

- Jim thanked Bill Edens, Rich Raymonds, and Bob Ornst for their work to date.
- The floor was opened for questions. None were brought forward.

Recognition of Retiring Officers, Board & Committee Members

- Report given by Hank Collis
 - Hank recognized each individual.

Presentation of Candidates of Church Offices/Committees and Elections

- Report given by Hank Collis
 - Hank named each candidate and their respective Council, Board, or Committee
 - Hank asked for a motion to accept the slate of candidates.
 - Motion was made by Jim Forester. 2nd by John Griffith
 - Hank asked for any other nominees from the floor.
 - None were offered.
 - Discussion was opened and closed.
 - A vote was called.
 - In-Person Approx. 50 100% Aye 0% Nay
 - Online tally 37 voters 36 Aye 0 Nay 1 Abstention
 - The slate of candidates are approved as presented.

Congregational Home Report

- Report given by Hank Collis
 - Hank read a message from Congregational Home Director Kris Sprtel
 - 2020 was a challenging year for the Congregational Home trying to keep all the residents and employees safe from Covid-19. As of January, all residents have been vaccinated.
 - The Congregational Home has continued its Medicare 5-star rating.
 - Continuing with the building of an addition this year to help with the assisted living care.

NACCC Delegate Report

- Report given by Hank Collis
 - The pandemic caused the cancellation of the 66th Annual Meeting in June. A Zoom meeting was held for the annual meeting.
 - The Cadman Resolution was passed which will have The Congregationalist magazine include "an article in each issue on racism to awaken the consciousness of all member churches."
 - With the clergy shortage, churches are relying on lay ministers across the country.
 - NA Executive Director Michael Chittum is retiring.

Moderator's Comments

- Report given by Hank Collis.
 - Hank read a passage of scripture which correlated to the unity of the church and our mission going forward together.

The FCC Annual Meeting was adjourned by Hank Collis @ 11:42AM
In closing, Jill Bruss sang "Go Now In Peace."

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Masloroff, Church Clerk

The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa
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Wauwatosa, WI 53213-2593

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