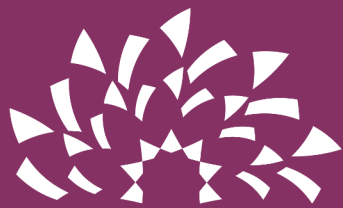


ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2020



CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*in the city for good!*

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# ANNOUNCEMENT

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of Central Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, March 28, 2021 via Zoom conferencing technology at 11:30 a.m.

The annual meeting may consider such business as electing officers, hearing reports of the session along with plans for the coming year, hearing reports from the board of deacons and other organizations of the church, and transacting other business as appropriate.

## Agenda

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Call to Order

Approve Minutes for Congregational Meetings:

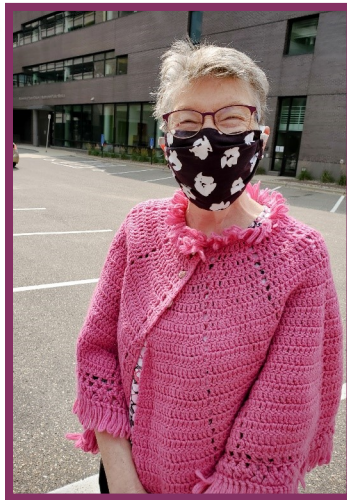
- March 8, 2020
- September 20, 2020
- November 15, 2020

Old Business

New Business

- Receive Annual Reports
- Receive Treasurer's Report
- Proposed Amendment to Bylaws of the Congregation
- Election of Elders and Deacons
- Thanks to Outgoing Officers and Staff Recognition

Closing Prayer



# CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITY

# MEETING MINUTES

March 8, 2020

The Congregation of Central Presbyterian Church of St. Paul, Minnesota, held its annual meeting on Sunday, March 8, 2020, scheduled to begin after the worship service in the church sanctuary.

**CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by the moderator, Rev. David Colby at 11:30 am.

**OPENING PRAYER** – Rev. Colby opened the meeting with prayer.

**ELECTION OF TEMPORARY SECRETARY** – Sally Mortenson, Clerk of Session, was unable to be present for the congregational meeting. The bylaws required an election of a temporary Secretary. Sharon Zopfi-Jordan volunteered and was elected as temporary Secretary.

**QUORUM** – Temporary Secretary Sharon Zopfi-Jordan certified that a quorum was present.

**CALL TO MEETING** - The Temporary Secretary read the following call: “The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of Central Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, March 8 in the sanctuary immediately following worship. The annual meeting may consider such business as electing officers, hearing reports of the session along with plans for the coming year, hearing reports from the board of deacons and other organizations of the church, and transacting other business as appropriate. It shall review the adequacy of the compensation of the pastor upon report of the prior review by session.

**STATEMENT OF RULES** - This meeting is governed by the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), by Roberts Rules of Order (1990), and by the

Bylaws of Central Presbyterian Church dated March 12, 2017 and the Bylaws of the Corporation dated March 10, 2019.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – The Moderator, Rev Colby, called the attention of the members of the congregation to the 2019 Annual Report that was distributed. He directed members to review the agenda on page 3. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS** – Rev. Colby called attention to the congregational meeting minutes in the annual report. Meeting minutes from on pages 5 – 11 included: 1) the final report of the designated Associate Nominating Committee and to Elect Ashley Bair as the Designated Associate Pastor on January 27; 2) the Annual Meeting minutes of Congregation and Corporation on March 10; 3) the meeting of the Congregation to elect the officers of the church held on November 10; 4) the meeting to act on the request of the Designated Pastor Ashley Bair to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Central Presbyterian Church and Reverend Bair held on November 24, 2019. These sets of minutes have been reviewed and approved by the Session. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of these congregational meetings.

**APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORTS** – Rev. Colby called the attention to the annual reports beginning on pages 13 submitted by program staff members, session committees, and all the other committees and organizations of Central. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of these congregational meetings to receive the reports

as printed.

MEETING OF THE CORPORATION – The Moderator called upon Carl Wills, President of the Corporation, to come forward and open the corporation meeting. Carl opened the meeting at 11:40 a.m. and asked if there were any new items of business for the corporation. There were none. A motion was made to close the corporation phase of the meeting at 11:41 am. The motion was seconded and passed.

REVIEW OF BUDGET - Rev. Colby called Matt Ehling, Central's Treasurer.

Matt thanked finance chair Rich Binger, members of the finance committee, administrator Anna Sanchez, Treasurer Emeritus Bill Zopfi, and all of the volunteer counters and ushers who help to oversee Central's finances day-to-day, for their able help in managing church finances.

Matt directed the congregation's attention to a break-out of Central's assets in both cash, as well as various investments. The investments are broken into two basic categories: 1) Long-term accounts that contain investments that produce income used for programmatic expenses including for the general operation of the church, as well as for mission-related expenses that are disbursed by the Coordinated Mission Committee. Central's investment policy requires that only income or gains from those accounts may be used for operating expenses, so that principal can be preserved and maintained for the long-term. Our policy seeks to ensure that the operation of Central church will continue beyond just the next few years, and will extend into the next several decades.

2) Program account that is managed and safeguarded for shorter-term spending. The Program Account began with a million dollar appropriation from a gift received by the church, and the Session established a six-year spend-down for that money in order to underwrite additional staffing costs, such as the associated pastor, that were intended to help drive church growth. The account was also intended to

underwrite certain building maintenance expenses. Due to the departure of our associate pastor, the timeline for spending this money has been extended since cash earmarked toward that position is not being spent while the position is vacant. This fund is managed differently than Central's long-term accounts, since it is imperative that the principal is preserved intact for short-term use. For instance, we made certain adjustments to the funds within that account over the last couple weeks to ensure principal safety.

The valuation of all of our accounts were significantly higher at the end of 2019 than they were at the end of 2018. Since there was a significant market drop at the end of 2018, but the market recovered over 2019.

Stock market update: Account valuations have been fluctuating wildly over the past couple weeks, and gains made over 2019 have been erased and then have recovered, several times. Due to the fact that we take income from the Operating, Endowment, and Mission accounts a year or more in advance before we need to spend them, these gyrations are not as concerning for those accounts. And due to the composition of the Operating account, that account produces yield-based income no matter what the share price of the underlying funds happens to be. Over the last couple weeks, we made one change to the Operating Account to swap out a fund that could be negatively impacted if the economy sinks into a recession, but otherwise we have largely maintained the composition of the long-term accounts, and are continuing to monitor them.

In terms of the Program Account, we took action to safeguard Program principle during the first week of market volatility. That account was already conservatively balanced, with 30% in equities, and 70% in bonds and cash. We subsequently changed that allocation to only 15% equities, in order to protect against further market turbulence.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to receive the Treasurer's report.

2020 TERMS OF CALL – Rev. Colby excused himself for the next agenda item to review the pastoral terms of call. Stu Siebell, the chairperson of the Personnel Committee, came forward to review the recommendations. The Personnel Committee recommended and the Session approved a 1.5% raise for all continuing staff members for 2020. These raises have all been already implemented for all staff members except for Rev. Colby, as only the congregation can approve the “pastoral terms of call.”

Below are the Session recommended 2020 Terms of Call for Reverend Colby:

Terms of Call	2020	2019
Salary	\$32,706	\$32,652
Housing	\$36,000	\$35,039

These two amounts combined have a 1.5% increase for Rev. Colby’s effective salary. Rev Colby requested that housing receive the higher increase.

The following items are calculations at a 1.5 % increase:

	2020	2019
Social Security Offset	\$ 5,256	\$ 5,179
Supplemental Medical	\$ 1,374	\$ 1,353
Deferred Income	\$3,271*	\$ 3265

Pension & Medical which are based on a required percentage basis.

As has been consistent since Rev. Colby first came to Central in 2005, his terms of call have included:

One month vacation

Two weeks Continuing Education Leave

Three month sabbatical after five years of service with session approval of dates and plan. According to these terms, Rev. Colby is eligible for a sabbatical after Feb. 2020 and we are planning for this to start in late June and end in early September.

For 2020, with the awareness of this being a sabbatical year, the Personnel Committee is recommending that two of reimbursable accounts be pro-rated to take that 3 month sabbatical into effect:

Automobile Allowance vouchered up to \$638 (75% of \$850)

Professional Expenses vouchered up to \$900 (75% of \$1,200)

Since the purpose of a sabbatical is to offer time to reflect, think, learn and grow, it was recommended that Continuing Education reimbursable account stay at \$1,200

These are the terms of call recommended to the congregation by the Session. The temporary Secretary explained that the pastoral terms of call come from a committee, and the Session, therefore, do not need a second. There was a time for questions and any discussion. The active members of the congregation voted and unanimously approved the terms of call by voice vote.

Rev. Colby was asked to return and moderated the rest of the meeting. He thanked the congregation for their trust and support and stated that it is a deep privilege to serve as Central’s pastor. Rev. Colby also noted appreciation for the talented staff at Central.

Rev. Colby asked the temporary Secretary if there was any additional business for the congregation. There was no additional business. The temporary Secretary thanked Reverend Colby, on behalf of the congregation, for his 15 years of service to Central.

ADJOURNMENT – Being that there was no additional business for the congregation Rev. Colby entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was made, seconded, and approved.

CLOSING PRAYER: The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Colby at approximately 11:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Zopfi-Jordan  
Temporary Secretary

Rev. David Colby  
Moderator of Session

# MEETING MINUTES

September 20, 2020

The Congregation of Central Presbyterian Church, Saint Paul, Minnesota, held a special meeting by means of Zoom on Sunday, September 20, 2020. The scheduled time of the meeting was 11:30 a.m. Members of the Congregation and Moderator attended by means of Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Rev. David Colby; Rev. Colby opened the meeting with prayer.

The Clerk announced that there was a quorum present for the meeting. She then read the call for the meeting, which stated:

The Session has called for a Congregational Meeting to act on recommendations to amend the congregational bylaws to be held on Sunday, September 20 at 11:30 a.m. All active members of the Central congregation are eligible to vote. This meeting will be conducted using Zoom technology.

STATEMENT OF RULES - This meeting is governed by the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), by the latest version of Roberts Rules of Order, and by the current bylaws of Central Presbyterian Church.

The Moderator then read the recommendation of the Session:

Our first motion, is a recommendation from the Session to delete the words "in the church edifice" from Congregational Bylaw #2 that discusses the annual meeting of the congregation held in the first quarter of a calendar year.

The bylaw, as amended, would state:

There shall be an annual general meeting of the congregation at a time and date in the first quarter of the

calendar year following a Sunday morning worship service.

There was no discussion of or amendments to the motion. The motion passed as presented.

The moderator read the second motion, as proposed by the Session. The second motion was to amend Bylaw #12, which states "There shall be twelve ruling elders divided into three equal classes . . ." by deleting the word "twelve" and substituting the word "fifteen."

There was no discussion of or amendments to the motion. The motion passed as presented.

There being no further business to be presented to the congregation; the Clerk moved that the meeting be adjourned. That motion was seconded and passed. Rev. Colby offered closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Mortenson  
Clerk of Session



# MEETING MINUTES

November 15, 2020

The Congregation of Central Presbyterian Church, Saint Paul, Minnesota, held a special meeting by means of Zoom on Sunday, November 15, 2020. The scheduled time of the meeting was 11:30 a.m. The Congregation and Moderator attended by means of Zoom.

The Clerk confirmed that a quorum was present and read the following call for the meeting, which had been previously announced to the congregation as required:

A congregational meeting will be held Sunday, November 15 at 11:30 am. All active members of the Central congregation are eligible to vote and be considered for office. This meeting will be conducted using Zoom technology. During this meeting, the congregation will act on the request of the Rev. Dr. David Colby to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Central. The congregation will also elect officers. A slate of nominees for vacant positions on the Session and Board of Deacons will be presented by the Nominating Committee, as well as nominations for next year's Nominating Committee member-at-large positions. Additional nominations from the floor may be made at the meeting.

**STATEMENT OF RULES** - This meeting is governed by the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), by the latest version of Roberts Rules of Order, and by the current bylaws of Central Presbyterian Church.

**Nominating Committee:** The nominating committee chair, Stewart Seibell, presented the Nominated Slate of nominees for positions as Elders:

To serve in the class of 2023 for three-year terms:

Phyllis Brasher, Craig Foss (to serve a second term), Mel Leach, and Craig Muntiferung; To serve in the class of 2022, for a two year term: Cindy Jesson; and to serve in the class of 2021, Matt Ehling, to fill the final unexpired year of Rich Binger's term. The Committee also presented the following Nominated Slate for positions as Deacons: To serve in the class of 2023, for a three year term: Allynne Burg, and Laura Williams (to serve a second term); and to complete the unexpired term of Linda Berglund for the class of 2022 (a 2 year-term) Leon Oman. The Committee presented the following nominees for at-large members of the 2021 Nominating Committee: Erika Kelly-Kennedy and Lynda Petrie. The Moderator opened the floor for any additional nominations. There were none.

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

**Request of Rev. Colby** - Rev. Gale Robb continued the meeting as temporary moderator. Rev. Robb presented the motion to act upon the request of Rev. Colby to dissolve the pastoral relationship between Central Presbyterian Church and him. His final Sunday of worship leadership will be January 3, 2021. The Motion passed with voting by Zoom.

Having completed the business as announced by the Notice of the Special Meeting, a motion was made, seconded passed to adjourn the meeting. Sally Mortenson offered closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Mortenson  
Clerk of Session

### 16

#### NEW MEMBERS

Profession of Faith (<18)	4
Profession of Faith (18+)	3
Certificate Gains	<u>9</u>
Total Gains	16

#### MEMBERSHIP LOSSES

Deaths	9
--------	---

### 258

#### CURRENT MEMBERS

December 31, 2018	251
2019 Net Gain	<u>7</u>
December 31, 2019	258

### 145

#### AVERAGE SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

#### AGE DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE MEMBERS

25 & Under	16	6%
26 - 45	68	27%
46 - 55	22	9%
56 - 65	57	22%
Over 65	91	36%

#### RACIAL ETHNIC COMPOSITION

Asian / Pacific Islander	7
Black	26
Hispanic	2
Native American	0
White	219
Multiracial	4

### 2

#### BAPTISMS

Infant/Children	0
Teen Youth	2
Adult	0

### 3

#### MARRIAGES

Members - 2 / Non-member - 1



## STAFF REPORTS

# STAFF REPORT

Pastor

2020 will be long remembered for the global pandemic that required all of us to adapt quickly.

Thank you to Phyllis Brashler, Fluryanne Leach, and Chandy John who volunteered to become our Covid-19 Task Force. I am so grateful they were willing to share their time and professional expertise in infectious disease and community health to help Central sort through information and provide recommendations that were aimed at keeping the Central community safe.

I think that we discovered that our goals were sturdy enough to guide us in these unfamiliar days. The connective tissues of the congregation strong enough to keep us together even as we did not gather in-person. The staff, leaders, and members of the community adapted in so many ways to continue the mission and ministry of the church. Thank you, all of you.

Thank you Christie Rachelle and Kiera Faye who offered immediate knowledge and countless hours of time to move worship online to a pre-recorded format. Initially, like so many others and for so many things, we thought this temporary change would last a few weeks at most, but their early patterns proved efficient and helpful for the remainder of 2020. And we have come to realize that there are some real benefits to making worship accessible for people at convenient times and from the convenience of their homes.

Events and conversations and meetings moved to digital platforms, and I enjoyed watching church members across the generations become more comfortable using Zoom conference systems and

other technology to continue the mission and ministry of the church in new ways.

Thank you to the Deacons, who immediately started collecting resources and brainstorming about how they could help. They took on new initiatives and expanded their scope of responsibilities to provide connection circles and engage in regular check-ins with members of the congregation.

Thank you to the Session, who had to make difficult decisions about priorities and programs. They monitored the budget carefully and guided the congregation through turbulent times.

Thank you to Anna Sanchez, our Church Administrator and the Facilities Management and Risk Assessment Committee who helped us shift to new email and phone systems that made working remotely more seamless and efficient.

In Central's long history, the pandemic required some firsts for this congregation, including our first ever online congregational meeting conducted over Zoom. The first online Easter service, then confirmation, and finally Christmas Eve. There is a loss in what we could not safely do, but also, I believe, a faithfulness in the worship and praise that we offered to God.

I was honored to officiate at a few small weddings, conducted safely within church recommendations for distancing and capacity. We all need moments of joy and commitment, and it was so much fun to be part of those happy occasions.

Funerals provided a different challenge. To stand at the side of a grave with loved ones, giving thanks to God for precious lives. To stand apart and to speak

loud words of assurance and comfort that would ordinarily be whispered. And to know that we were representing so many more who would have been in attendance to mourn and offer support to those who were grieving.

With my final day as Central's pastor approaching on January 3, 2021, I am so grateful for the time that I have shared with you at Central. Serving as your pastor has been a great privilege. When I started at Central in February, 2005, it was with an urgency, a "best last chance" for an historic congregation to live or die with courage and grace. We have come so far together, with a lot of hard work, a fair bit of luck, and an abundance of God's grace. I am filled with gratitude and fond memories. I depart entrusting the congregation to God's continuing guidance and care.

May God be with you 'til we meet again,

Rev. Dave Colby  
Pastor



# STAFF REPORT

## Music Ministry

The music ministry at Central Presbyterian Church started the year with much anticipation: After completely outgrowing our space, we moved into an additional room of the basement (thanks to the youth who traded spaces with us!) and a small group of us spent a lot of time preparing our new spaces to be the most effective and as charming as basement rooms can be. Little did we know at the time that we would only hold a few rehearsals in those new spaces before Covid-19 took over.

The first 2 months of the year included music from the youth Sticks and Steel ensemble, the Handbells, the Central Choir, our VocalPoint concerts featuring the Flobots from Denver, and our first ever All-Church Cabaret (talent show)! This was a wonderful evening of light-hearted fun from a variety of people.

The choir was working hard at what was to be a premiere of local composer Linda Kachelmeier's piece "To Know the Path" but just 2 weeks from that premiere, a stay-at-home order cancelled all events and the services went virtual.

Nothing about virtual music is as rewarding as in-person music. Music is a living art, and relies on breathing together and emotionally connecting with one another that just isn't possible in recordings. (And, music ministry is about much more than the music – it is about building community that is also very difficult to do remotely.) However, we also know that music (even recorded) can bring comfort and peace to others, and so the music staff at Central continued to offer their best in the less-than-ideal format of recorded music.

And, we tried to be creative in our offerings and find new ways to connect.

### End-of-Year Music "Picnic"

A wonderful tradition continued, even if in a very different way. Our end-of-year music picnic was held on Zoom --- and included a great number of our music folks. We checked in, shared what we were all up to, and did the annual Mad Lib (written specifically for the music ministry at CPC).

### Juneteenth

This year, we were encouraged by our own Abbie Betinis and her work with Justice Choir to sing "Lift Every Voice and Sing" from our homes – and with others if safely distanced. What a great turn-out from Central folks! (And around the world: 50 states plus DC, and 6 countries were represented!)

### Porch Sessions

I was able to figure out a way to safely make music on my porch with a number of people during the warmer months. I was on the piano inside my house, while the singer/instrumentalist was on the porch, and we cracked the window open between the rooms. It was truly a joy to make live music with people (which we then recorded for worship.) I held about 20 porch sessions.

### In-person Rehearsals

We were able to do some in-person rehearsals, either outside (Bells on the church step and Sticks & Steel in the church parking lot) or inside, very distanced (Handbell ensembles – we split into smaller groups to keep the numbers low and had our tables about 15 feet apart.) The Chamber Ensemble also performed outside at the Central on Parade event in September.

## All Saints Day Music

Wendy Flinner, Steve Swanson and I played during a two-hour time of reflection and prayer during All Saints Sunday. It was a beautiful time of remembrance.

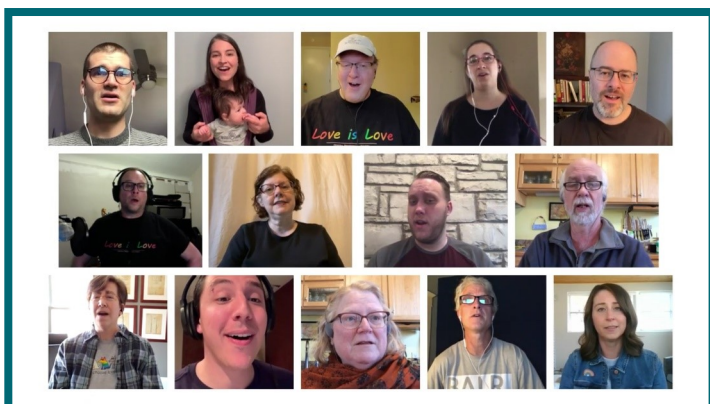
## Live Stream Carols

Thanks to the expertise of Kiera Faye and Josh Voelker, we had our first Live Stream music event in December, with Adam Van der Sluis singing Christmas carols, and me playing various Christmas music on the piano and organ.

## Music Mosaics

Monthly Zoom sessions (open to the entire community) that feature fun topics and that allow us to check-in with each other while learning something new!

- September: Fun Trivia from all the music staff
- October: David Winkworth on tower bells and change ringing
- November: Abbie Betinis, musical maps
- December: Videos from past "Songs of the Season" Schubert Club concerts co-hosted by Central and featuring the Central Choir, and recoding of spoken prayers that were woven into Silent Night for Christmas Eve.



## Virtual Choir

The choir, again thanks to Kiera Faye, embarked on several Virtual Choir projects, including: *Love is Love is Love is Love* for Justice Choir Sunday, *An Irish*

*Blessing* for Dave Colby's last Sunday, and *Silent Night* for Christmas Eve.

I miss working with the ensembles at church so much. I miss our talented Central Choir, Bells, Chamber Ensemble, and Sticks and Steel. I miss seeing people each week (often twice or three-times each week!) and asking how things are going. I miss rehearsals, I miss worship. I miss playing the organ and leading hymns; I miss playing with our Ars Nova Brass Ensemble and hearing the congregation sing with full gusto on *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* at Easter, or *Joy to the World* on Christmas Eve. Making music in my living room in front of my cellphone is not the same in any sense. And yet, I am beyond grateful to the people working so hard behind the scenes to make our on-line worship possible, and to the Personnel Committee and Session for the employment. And, perhaps more than anything, I'm grateful for the grace that the entire Central Church community has shown as we have made our way through a very difficult year together.

I want to take a moment to sincerely thank our music staff during these strange and challenging times: Shanta Hejmadi, Abbie Betinis, Adam Van der Sluis, David Winkworth, Eric Bartlett, and Steve Swanson have been wonderful since we have been putting worship online. They have jumped in with both feet to learn new software, meet new deadlines, offer new ways of sharing music, and consistently send me emails or say on the phone: How else can we help? I was reflecting just the other day how truly grateful I am that these musicians are the ones that we have on staff at this moment in time - I appreciate them all the time, but their flexibility and commitment right now to this community is something unique to these individuals and truly a gift to Central.

I pray that we stay safe in these days so that when we gather again, our pews will be full and our voices strong as we sing together once again.

Jennifer Anderson  
Director of Music Ministry

# STAFF REPORT

## Children & Youth

When I think back over the year of 2020, I'm struck by the uncertainty and longing for connection, and I am amazed and encouraged by the new ways the Central community has found to stay connected to and care for one another. The year was full of so many big emotions, and I'm grateful to all of you who continue to remind one another how we can share God's love with all those we meet.

In the Children and Youth world of Central, the year began with our regular Sunday morning Sunday school, and our monthly family events at the giant slide at CHS field and spending a busy morning at the Children's Museum. Several families joined in the fun for the All-Church Variety show, which was a wonderful night for all!

In March, when we had to pivot the way we thought about church community, gathering, and caring for one another, we started by checking in once a week on the as-of-then-unknown Zoom. We gathered with the elementary aged children, youth, and parents in separate groups each week to check in, read stories, play some games, have show-and-tell, and just see one another!

In the midst of our weekly gatherings, church staff and incredible volunteers moved to online worship – learning new skills and finding new ways to worship together. The children and youth helped to lead our worship service for Pentecost Sunday – a week in which we and the Twin Cities were also overwhelmed by grief at the murder of George Floyd. The protests and calls to action mourning his death reminded us once again that we are stuck in systems deeply embedded with racism and white supremacy, and we must constantly be working to dismantle and

change them. This is our call as people of faith.

Considering the year at that point, the Children and Youth Committee decided to purchase our first ever virtual VBS (vacation Bible school) through Illustrated Ministry called "Compassion Camp." During the week of videos and virtual gatherings, we learned about how to have compassion for one another with their tagline: Be Loved. Be Kind. Be You. Megan Beese and I created videos for each part of the curriculum, and each day throughout our week of VBS, families hopped on the church YouTube page to follow along!

In early June, I also had the chance to deliver sunshine goody bags to many of our children and youth families, and to visit for a few minutes outside in the beautiful weather. These bags included fun summery treats and activities as a reminder that they are loved! Over the summer and into early fall we gathered together at various parks around the Twin Cities for physically-distanced picnics and games.

Heading into the new school year, with continued uncertainty about where the year would lead, the Children and Youth Committee along with staff put together *Central On Parade*. On our first Sunday of the program year, we invited folks to drive through the MPR parking lot to receive some blessings, back-to-school goodies for the children and youth, prayer shawls, hear a bit of lovely music from the Chamber Ensemble, and grab a sweet treat. This *Caring Together* Sunday we also celebrated new kindergarten and third-graders by presenting them with their own Bibles and story Bibles.

The confirmation class began their gatherings again, sometimes on Zoom, sometimes at a park, always



looking ahead toward their celebration Sunday in November. The group of five confirmands worked hard not only to consider what it means to be a person of faith, but also to create their scripture reflections in video form! They met with the Session and four confirmands decided to be confirmed – it was wonderful to celebrate them for our Confirmation Celebration Sunday.

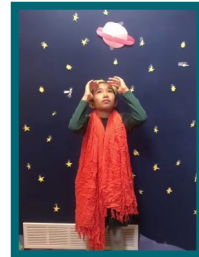
We continued our outdoor picnics while we were able, with a Fall Family Day hike and picnic one weekend in October. Moving into Advent I got to deliver goody bags again, this time Advent-themed! As the Children and Youth Committee considered how to continue the beloved Christmas pageant tradition, we looked again to Illustrated Ministry for their first ever virtual Christmas pageant! Children, youth, and families geared up for the pageant as they do each year, but this time they prepared not only lines but homemade costumes, props, and filming equipment too! The pageant was an incredible addition to the Advent season – thanks to all the children, youth, families, and editing masters!

To finish out the year, the youth and I tried out a Zoom bake-a-long and game night together, baking up some sweet goodies in our various spaces while we chatted and played games.

As we continue in this new year, I am excited to continue connecting, trying new ideas and technologies, and being part of this community with you all! Thank you for sharing your lives and faith with me, and for all of you who help to keep this community connected!

Peace,

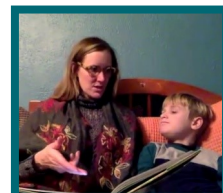
Katie Morris  
Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator

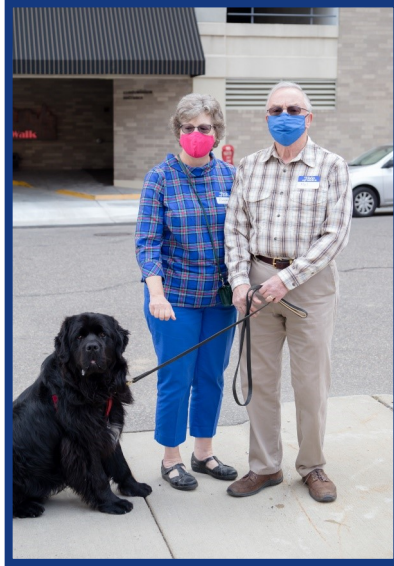


### LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FUN?

Watch again the 2020 pageant by Central's children and youth. You can't help but smile!

[www.centralforgood.org/stream-1220](http://www.centralforgood.org/stream-1220)





## COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Facilities Management and Risk Assessment committee members include Jeremy Berg, Craig Foss, Melinda Kovach, Fluryanne Leach, Todd Mikish, Anna Sanchez, Vinai Vinlander, Carl Willis and Bill Zopfi. Despite the challenges of 2020, these committee members made it a very productive year.

### Legacy Grant Projects

We were notified in late 2019 that the Minnesota Historical Society awarded Central a \$200,000 grant for Phase 1 of the building exterior restoration that is expected to cost approximately \$400,000. There is \$200,000 of Central's money set aside as matching funds for this initial grant. The total cost of the entire five phases of the project is estimated to exceed \$2 million. We plan to apply for additional grants to help offset the costs of each future phase.



Most of the Phase 1 work was completed in late 2020 and was focused on the west side (front) of the building. The work included restoration of the stone facade, restoration of the four stained glass windows in the front doors, and restoration of four non stained-glass windows. The large stained-glass window over the front doors is part of Phase 1 and will be restored in early 2021 along with some cosmetic work on the steps and handrails. The bell tower is not part of Phase 1.

Plans for additional exterior restoration will be dependent on Central being awarded additional grants and conducting a capital campaign to raise matching funds. Thanks to Fluryanne for continuing to lead this project.

### Drain Tile Project

The interior drain tile and vapor barrier project that began in 2019 was completed in the first half of this year. This project corrected a moisture migration issue in the foundation walls and basement floor. Thanks to Fluryanne for her leadership of the project and to Craig Foss, Lavar Jones, and Jim O'Neill for the many hours of labor required to physically move things prior to work commencing and cleaning up following work completion.

### Downspout Drain Repair

An underground exterior downspout drain had collapsed over the years and was contributing to the foundation moisture issue. This area was excavated, the damaged pipe section replaced and the area was backfilled.

### LED Lighting Upgrade Project

Most of the fluorescent lighting was upgraded to

LED lighting. The project involved retrofitting existing fluorescent fixtures in order to accommodate LED bulbs with a focus on the oldest fixtures and fixtures that receive the highest usage. The project also included upgrading exterior lighting which will improve building security. After a rebate from Xcel Energy, the balance will be financed interest free for 5 years and the monthly payments will be covered by the FMRA budget. The cost of this project is expected to be offset by decreased energy usage in just over 6.2 years. Incandescent bulbs were upgraded to LED several years ago.

### **Phone System Replacement**

The outdated and failing phone system was replaced with a scalable Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone system. The project also included a wiring upgrade, that brings the entire building up to the prevailing ethernet cabling standard. The upgrade also included wiring the sanctuary for the new live streaming equipment. Thanks to Vinai for leading this project with support from Anna. We also thank Central staff for their input on the phone system and Josh Voelker and Kiera Faye for technical input on sanctuary wiring.

### **Restroom Water Heater Replacement**

In light of Covid 19, the committee decided to add on -demand water heaters under the sinks in the two main floor hallway restrooms and the office restroom. The water heater that served these restrooms was located in the sub-basement and hot water was not reaching the restrooms in a timely manner due to the distance between the restrooms and the water heater.

### **Other Projects**

Several painting projects were completed which included the Friendship Room, hallways and classrooms.

The air conditioning system for the main office suite was repaired for the second year in a row. This equipment is past its expected useful life and should be replaced.

The security system was repaired.

Hand sanitizer, soap, and paper towel dispensers were purchased and installed in various locations of the building.

Floor tile and sub-flooring were replaced in the office restroom.

Carpeting was replaced in a classroom.

Two ceiling fans were replaced in the upstairs lounge.

Several interior and exterior doors and locks were adjusted or repaired.

Repairs were made to the wood paneling below the chancel area.

Maintenance was performed on lower-level drains for three dehumidifiers, which included flushing the entire system and re-routing one of the drains.

Damaged parking lot signs were replaced.

The landscaping was watered and weeded, with groundcover added in bare areas.

A commercial vacuum cleaner was purchased.

The emergency call list was updated.

### **Use of Building as Polling Place**

Again, our building was used as a polling place. Ramsey County Elections took all necessary precautions for voting in-person. Central posted the required Covid-19 Preparedness Plan, set up hand-sanitizer stations, windows were opened for fresh air circulation and "do not use" signs were posted on water fountains and next to the AC controls.

We wish to thank the many volunteers, both from the FMRA committee and the wider congregation who helped with the above projects. With their help we were able to stay within our budget for the year. A special thanks goes out to Jeremy Berg, Mark Flinner, Jim O'Neill, Anna Sanchez, Avis Tilden, Casey Wells, and any others I might have overlooked.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Willis  
Committee Chair

# COMMITTEE REPORT

## Worship, Music & Arts

The Worship, Music & Arts committee members include Dennis Reimer (chair), Rev. Colby, Jennifer Anderson, Jackie Klaehn, Laura Hutton, Gayle Smith, Wendy Flinner, Charrie Willis, and Sally Mortenson.

The year 2020 was challenging for the Worship Music and Arts committee, as it was for everyone.

Before we were hit by Covid-19, we had two successful events that we want to celebrate. The VocalPoint concerts *High Gear* with the Flobots were a great success and brought in \$22,600 for the Express Bike Shop. The Variety Show on February 23 gave members of the congregation a chance to show their talent and was also a big success. We agreed that we would like to have a similar show again.

The premiere of composer Linda Kachelmeier's new cantata *To Know the Path* was scheduled to be performed at Central March 29 and had to be postponed.

We had lined up the first artist for an exhibit - Bill Bukowski from Mankato - but that had to be cancelled. We will be in touch with him when we are meeting in church again to see if he wants to install the exhibit then.

For the first nine Sundays in 2020, we had consistent attendance. Except for the Feb. 9 snowy day attendance of 82, the lowest attendance was 143 and the highest 169.

With a March 13 recommendation from the Covid-19 task force not to hold in-person worship, we did not offer worship March 15 but instead recommended other churches' online worship. On March 22, we moved online for worship.

We decided to pre-record videos instead of livestreaming. We wanted to model social distancing instead of livestreaming. Staff members and sometimes others recorded their videos before

Sunday so that Christie Rachelle and Kiera Faye could have them up on the website by Sunday. This took a lot of work for everyone, even more than they were doing before Covid. Jennifer Anderson praised the section leaders and Steve Swanson for their flexibility and creativity in presenting the online worship. She especially expressed gratitude for the virtual choir singing of *Love Is Love Is Love*, and to Kiera for putting it together. It took a lot of energy and effort, and the result is something we can be proud of.

At first we thought we would be back in the sanctuary soon and planned what we would have to do to be ready. As time went on we knew that it would be a long wait. We assumed that when the time came we would make a gradual transition back to in-person worship and would shift away from pre-recorded videos to livestreaming. The session submitted a grant request to the Presbytery for technology expenses, and the Presbytery approved the request. Kiera Faye, Josh Voelker, and Christie Rachelle were authorized to purchase the equipment, in consultation with Anna Sanchez.

Jennifer found ways to bring some of our musicians together to record videos at the church. Sticks and Steel came together in the parking lot for a recording, and the bell choir was recorded on the steps of the church and later inside the church. The chamber ensemble played for the *Central on Parade* event Sept. 13. Jennifer also invited singers and other musicians to her porch to record beautiful music, and she played on her piano at home and on the church organ.

We found different ways to offer communion. Most often Dave Colby recorded it with bread and a cup from his home, but he also did it in the sanctuary, and one time some members of our committee met in Jackie Klaehn's back yard for communion.

Our worship theme for fall was long periods of time that were challenging - 40 days and nights on Noah's Ark, 40 years wandering in the wilderness, Jesus tempted in the wilderness for 40 days.

For All Saints Day, we gave people their first opportunity to come into the sanctuary since March 8, The sanctuary was open from 10 to noon for people to come in to light candles, listen to music, and view the memorial displays. Only ten people could be in the sanctuary at one time, wearing masks. Recorded videos that people could watch on the same Sunday included the names of people who were being remembered and ringing a bell, as well as a virtual communion service. Lit candles and memorial displays in the sanctuary were shown in the video. A steady stream of congregants came into the sanctuary, and it went well.

Before Christmas, Jackie Klaehn suggested that we send Christmas ornaments to everyone in the church, and Wendy Flinner, Sally Mortenson, and Christie Rachelle put the plan into action. People said they were happy to get the ornaments.

On December 13, in the afternoon, we did a test of our livestream equipment, with Jennifer on the piano and organ, Adam van der Sluis as song leader, and readings by Kiera.

Our worship service Dec. 20 was the virtual Christmas pageant, which was wonderful. The children and youth did great, and the families went all out in creating costumes and backdrops and props. Katie Morris was the director.

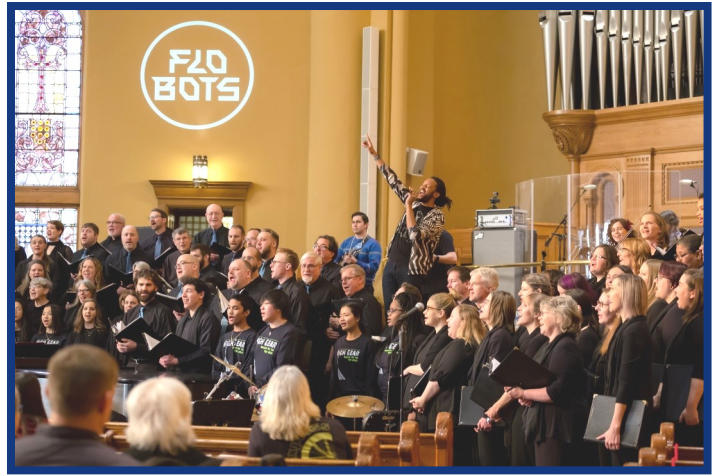
We had a beautiful Christmas Eve service, including recordings of *Silent Night* and *Joy to the World*, with prayers from choir members were embedded in the song. On Christmas Day we had a recording of Roger Barr's *Lemonade Christmas*, acted out by volunteers including St. Paul mayor Melvin Carter.

After Dave Colby announced his resignation, we lined up guest preachers for January and February, all of them either from the church or with a connection to the church. We are proud of the wonderful slate of preachers we will be able to present.

We look forward to being back together in worship in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Denny Reimer  
Committee Chair



# COMMITTEE REPORT

## Personnel

The Personnel committee members include Stewart Siebel (chair), Lynda Petrie, Christine Smith, and Al Zdrazil.

Calendar 2020 has been a tumultuous year for everyone, including Central Presbyterian Church. The unexpected departure of Reverend Bair, COVID-19, virtual worship, virtual management of everything related to Central's life has been a challenge. Personnel, as did all Session committees, adapted as well possible in a shifting and dynamic environment. Shown below are the things that the Personnel Committee worked on in 2020.

The Personnel Committee continued in 2020 the exploration of ways to address the resignation of Ashley Bair and its impact on the congregation, the pastoral workload of Reverend Colby, Central staff and the going forward outlook for pastoral and staff duties.

Personnel undertook the process of exploring outside expertise to assist Reverend Colby and Central staff to build a strong, collaborative, and effective going-forward team in the wake of Reverend Bair's exit.

Personnel recommended and Session approved the hiring of SIMA Partners to work with Central staff to build a strong team. This project was expected to begin in March but was delayed until August because of COVID.

Personnel undertook the planning and execution of the 15-year anniversary celebration of Reverend Colby's service to Central

Personnel, in cooperation with the Finance &

Stewardship Committee, recommended to Session that Central staff continue to be paid during the pandemic to (1) preserve the church's relationship with staff and (2) to retain staff so that Central would be poised to re-commence operations once the pandemic had subsided.

Personnel conducted staff performance reviews.

Personnel recommended to Session in November and Session approved anniversary gifts for Anna Sanchez and Jennifer Anderson in recognition for their 10 years of service to Central.

Personnel worked with Reverend Colby to plan the dissolution of his pastoral relationship with Central.

Personnel worked on developing a job description for an Interim Pastor to be used by the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM). This is, as of December 2020, an ongoing and iterative process done in collaboration with Session.

Personnel collaborated with the Worship, Arts & Music Committee to plan for transitional preachers for the transition period between Reverend Colby's departure and the appointment of an Interim Pastor.

Respectfully submitted,

Stewart Siebell  
Committee Chair

# COMMITTEE REPORT

## Coordinated Mission

Coordinated Mission committee members include Kiera Faye, Maggie Gordon, Mary Miller, Leon Oman, Denny Reimer, Barbara Swanson, Mark Vance, Sandy White, Reverend Colby, and Sharon Zopfi-Jordan (chair).

The Coordinated Mission Committee is charged to use the people, building, and communications of Central Presbyterian Church to strategically live out God's mission for who we are in this specific time and place. The Coordinated Mission chart showing the areas of our involvement is included with this report.

In February 2020, the Coordinated Mission Committee decided that our priority focuses would be Anti-Racism, Housing Justice and Hunger. Our goal is to establish task forces to help Central look at how we can address these areas to be *In the City of Good*.

Below is an update on the three focus areas.

### Anti-Racism

In February, Dwight Colby led two education sessions on the book *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. The book discusses concepts of racism and Dr. Kendi's proposals for anti-racist individual actions and systemic changes. We were pleased with the participation for the education session. Several copies of the book were purchased using the Hanson Memorial Fund for members to check out to read the book. If interested in reading Dr. Kendi's book please contact Anna to check one out for a few weeks.

In May, our hearts were saddened by the senseless murder of George Floyd. The Anti-Racism Taskforce

(ARTF) participated in the worship services on June 7th & 14th providing prayer and thoughtful consideration for us all. Dr. Ernest Lloyd wrote a prayer that was on the church website. The ARTF held three Zoom meetings for people who wanted to share their frustration and wanted to look at what action they could take. There were many participants that joined the ARTF after these conversations.

On August 23rd, the ARTF lead the Sunday service with a conversation on race.

Diverse skin tone crayons were included in Advent packages to Central families. The Hanson Memorial Fund supported the purchase of the art supplies.

In December, the ARTF started a series of six discussions on the *How to be an Anti-racist* book reviewing each chapter of the book with participants. There was good turnout for these discussions.

ARTF members include: Allynne Burg, Avis Tilden, Barbara Swanson, Casey Wells, Catherine Dittberner, Doug Throckmorton, Dwight Colby, Ernest Lloyd, Laura Hutton, Leon Oman, Lou Bender, Nancy Colby, Ronald Stagg, Vinai Vinlander and Al Zdrasil

The ARFT recommends the Central community read the book *A Good Time for the Truth - Race in Minnesota*. The Presbytery also recommends this book.

### Housing Justice

Housing Justice includes the issue of homelessness and affordable housing. Until this year Central has served as a host site in November for Project Home for many years. Due to COVID, Project Home



families moved to Hotel 340, the former St. Paul Athletica Hotel. At the hotel each family had a private room to assist in social distancing. It is anticipated that Central will host families again in future years.

Project Home families were the beneficiaries of the August Diaper drive. Thanks to the generosity of Central members two carloads of diapers were delivered to Interfaith Action for Project Home families. Disposable diapers are needed in order for children to attend day care while parents are at work.

In March, Central's sanctuary was used to host Homeless Day on the Hill. Hanson Memorial funds supported the costs for our hosting.

In January, the Coordinated Mission Committee was introduced to Elizabeth Tanner, Beacon's new St. Paul Liaison. Beacon would like congregations focused on "everyone deserves affordable housing and everyone deserves a home". We learned about starting a Central Beacon Leadership team and more about Beacon's efforts for affordable housing by educating communities, securing land, building affordable housing and legislative actions.

Barbara Swanson and Maggie Gordon co-lead Central's Beacon Leadership Team.

In May, Central hosted a drive-up donation drive for hygiene supplies and masks to support Beacon's St. Paul Housing sites, the Keystone Crisis Housing Fund and the Deacons' Emergency fund. Central members were very generous in their donations in support of these three programs.

At least 13 members of Central attended the virtual *Dwelling in Hope Rally* on November 15th.

Central's involvement with the Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAH) membership continued in 2020 through a donation made possible from the Hanson Memorial Fund.

## **Hunger**

COVID has had an effect on community food shelves and food related programs. These have seen an

increase in those in need using their services due to more families being out of work or under employed. Thanks to the Hunger grant the taskforce was able to help make a difference to eleven organization with donations totaling \$13,300. Here are some of the organizations that received donations in 2020: Hunger Solutions, Second Harvest, iHelp, Hallie Q Brown Food Shelf, Neighborhood House, Interfaith Action Native American Food Shelf and the Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative - Food program.

Central Towers was also one of the eleven organizations that received a donation for their food pantry to help with food related needs of their residents. Unfortunately, COVID caused the discontinuation of the in-person weekly food shelf program by iHelp at Central Towers. Thankfully, the Salvation Army has stepped in and is now doing weekly deliveries for Towers residents with bags of groceries. An additional need was masks for residents; Linda Clay made and donated 50 masks to Central Towers' residents.

The August 16th service was comprised of two conversations: one with Central's Chef Barb Westman and another on Hunger with Mary McKeown from Keystone Community Services. Keystone aims to give families access to food and emergency services and to provide healthy choices and supplemental food sources to keep families on the right track with empowering them to build self-sufficiency and healthy eating habits. Keystone has a crisis food program, several food shelves in Ramsey County and a Food-mobile. Keystone was a 2020 beneficiary of donations from the Hunger grant.

Central volunteers served the lunch meal service at Catholic Charities Higher Ground/St Paul Opportunity Center on five occasions. Due to the initial uncertainty of COVID a cash donation from the Hunger grant was given in May 2020 instead of providing meal service volunteers. The Coordinated Mission Committee decided to delay volunteering in 2021 for a few months. We hope to begin meal service volunteering again by mid-year.

Hunger Task Force members: Benjamin Amarteifio,

Maggie Gordon, Leon Oman, Barbara Swanson, and Sharon Zopfi-Jordan.

In addition to the three focus areas, the Coordinated Missions Committee remains committed to our other identified areas of mission as well. Here are some updates on other mission areas.

### **Martha's Closet**

Due to the generosity of donors there was an abundance of clothing and winter coats. The Department of Indian Works of Interfaith Action was the beneficiary of over 100 pounds of clothes from Martha's Closet. Our thanks to Barbara Swanson for making multiple trips to deliver the clothing donations.

### **Giving Tree**

This year the Giving Tree was held in a different fashion. On December 13th, a drive-by donation drop off was held in support of two Ramsey County families of 18 people (3 adults and 15 kids). Members donated gift cards or gifts noted on the on-line giving registry developed by Kelly Ishizuka and Madhu Kannapiran. Thank you, Central members for fulfilling the families' wish lists. The drop-off event also supported the Women of Central's Mitten Tree winter gear drive in support of Neighborhood House. Winter Gear was also donated to the Department of Indian Works Interfaith Action program.

### **Hanson Memorial Fund**

In addition to mission efforts already mentioned, donations from the fund helped to support: Keystone for crisis family housing, Central Towers, Beacon, and a Memorial Scholarship Fund at Community of Peace Academy, in honor of Rev. Jay Rusthoven, former pastor at Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church.

### **Special Offerings**

One Great Hour of Sharing and the Peace and Global Witness offerings were held. Central's portion of the Peace and Global Witness offering was donated to Interfaith Action Project Home families.

Unfortunately, due to COVID other previously planned mission events were not able to be held. We

were thankful for the work we were able to do in 2020, for all the volunteers that made the events possible, and for the generosity of Central members.

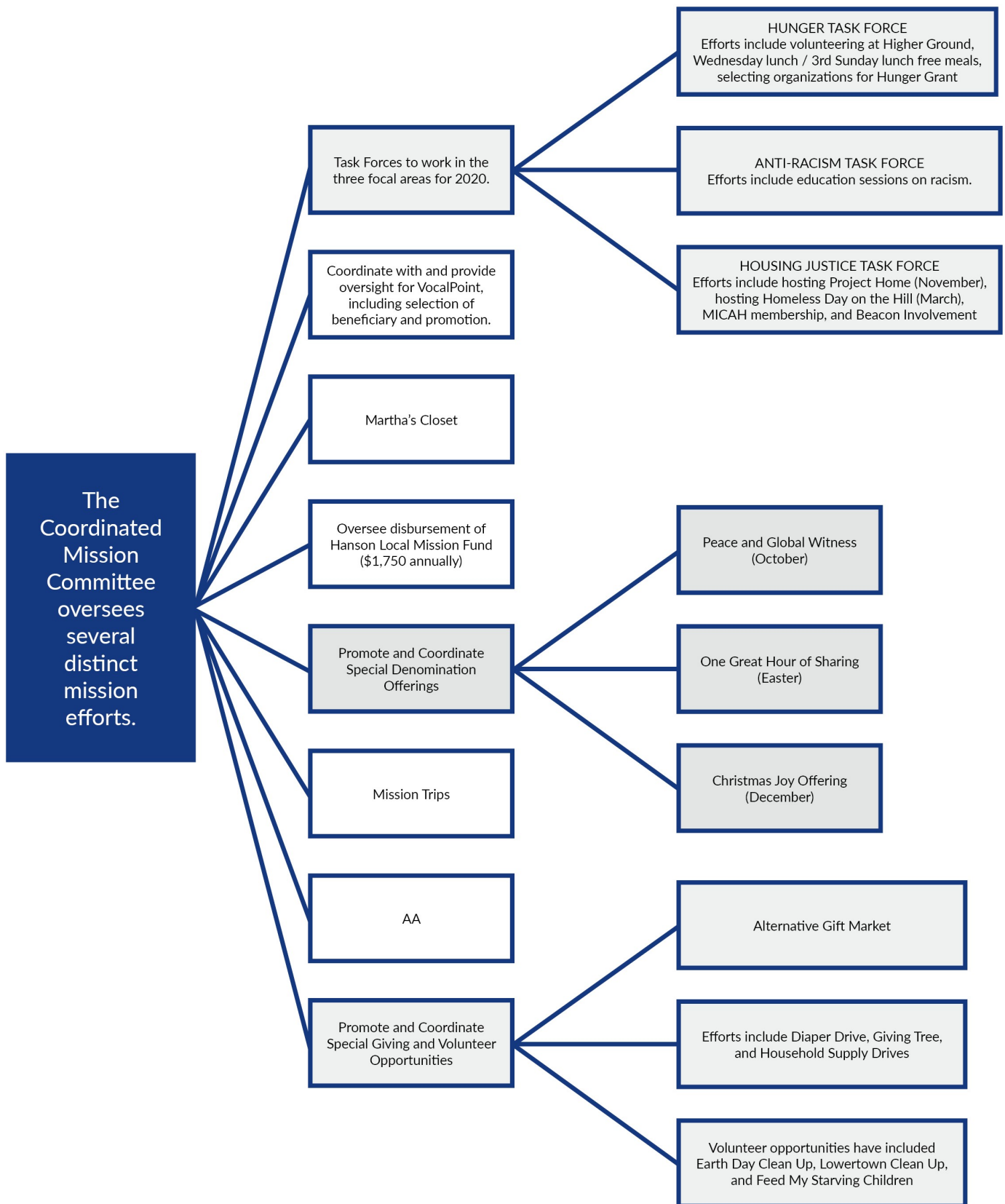
Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Zopfi-Jordan  
Committee Chair



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

gather together as a committee, we will focus our time on setting priorities and recommending policies, articulating what the church cares about related to social justice and mobilizing people to put their faith into action.



# COMMITTEE REPORT

## Children & Youth

The Children and Youth Committee members include Kati Berg (chair), Katie Morris, Leslie Bergman, Alex Bollman, Sharon Jordan-Zopfi, and Deb Fonkert.

### A Year of Dramatic Changes

- In addition to wearing facemasks, missing school, canceled church events and all things pandemic related, other big changes will greet the kids when they return to church:
- There will be a new area for the children & youth to play in, The John Huss room became the choir's space in early 2020 and the Choir Robe Room became the new Youth space.
- There will be a new person leading the Congregation with Rev. Dave Colby no longer at Central.
- And the annual Family Retreat will not be at Koinonia as it closed down permanently.

### Many Highlights

- Katie Morris remains a constant through all the upheaval bringing kids together with Zoom calls, outdoor hiking events, and bringing goody bags to kids' homes for special events.
- The confirmation class successfully completed the year.
- The Christmas pageant video was AWESOME. So well done, and so fun for the kids to share with their families and friends.
- A new Child Protection Policy was implemented early 2020 with background checks required for volunteers as well as other safety measures.

### Other Items of Note

- Mt. Olivet was visited as a potential family retreat site for the future. The Committee discussed many pros and cons of the site, but ultimately decided against gathering for an overnight event due to the pandemic.
- An "Indoor Plant-Powered Picnic Potluck" was planned for March to kick off plant-based cooking classes but canceled due to COVID. I'd love to help make this happen once we can gather again.

Respectfully submitted,

Kati Berg  
Chair



# COMMITTEE REPORT

## Nominating

The Nominating committee members include Stewart Siebell (Elder and Committee Chair), Alex Bollman (Elder), Mark Vance (Deacon), Mel Leach (Member-at-Large), Mary Miller (Member-at-Large), and Reverend David Colby (Ex-Officio).

### Expanding Session

The committee met multiple times over the course of two months and developed a nominating and church service plan and recommended to Session that Session be expanded from twelve (12) members to fifteen (15) members. The theory underpinning this recommendation is that many hands makes for lighter work. Session approved the recommendation and the question was put to the congregation in a congregational meeting on September 20, 2020. The motion was passed by the congregation.

### Identifying Candidates

The Nominating Committee then turned its focus to filling seats available on Session and on the Board of Deacons. The committee took pains to select nominees that were representative of the congregation as a whole, sought diversity and people who are both committed to Central and its mission as well as those who have a passion for service.

The slate of nominees put forth by the Nominating Committee were:

- Elder for the class of 2021, Matt Ehling
- Elder for the class of 2022. Cindy Jesson
- Elders for the class of 2023, Phyllis Brashler, Craig Foss (for a second term), Mel Leach and Craig Muntifering
- Deacon for the class of 2022, Leon Oman

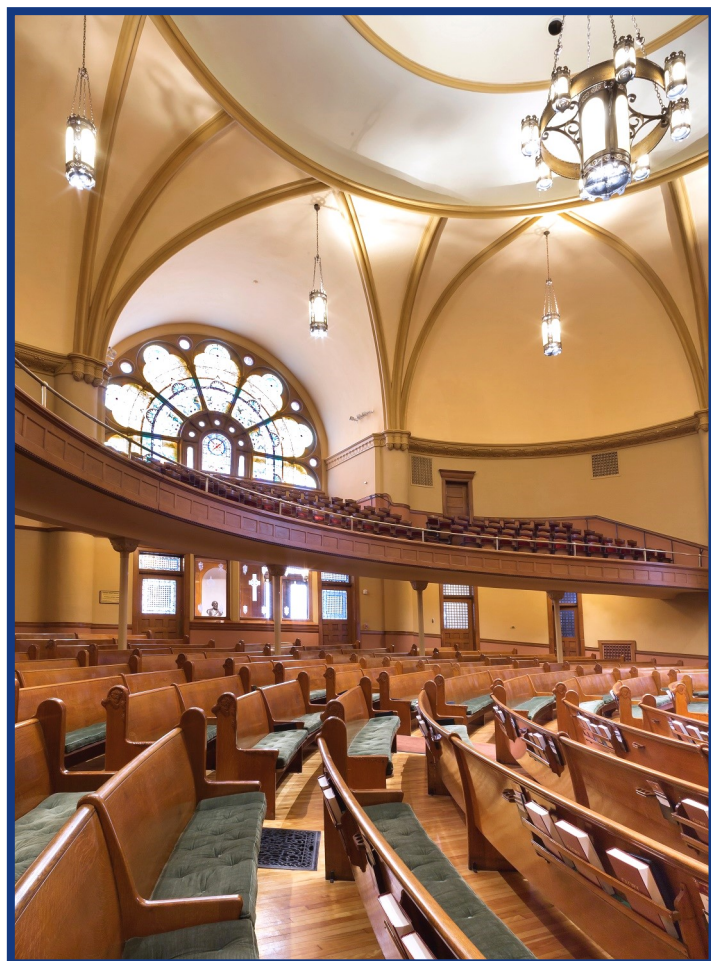
- Deacon for the class of 2023, Allynne Burg and Laura Williams (to serve a second term).

Members-at-Large for the 2021 Nominating Committee: Erika Kelly-Kennedy and Lynda Petrie.

The nominations listed above were approved at a congregational meeting held on November 15, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Stewart Siebell  
Chair



# COMMITTEE REPORT

## New Members

The New Members and Volunteers Committee includes Rich Binger, Kati Berg, Nancy Colby, Christie Rachelle, Maureen Smith, Rev. Colby, and Kiera Faye (chair).

The mission of the New Members & Volunteers Committee is to grow the fellowship, participation, and membership of Central Presbyterian Church by helping visitors, friends, and members to become more comfortable and connected at Central. The time this committee spent in discerning that mission early in the year helped to illuminate our path as the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted normal gathering and presented new challenges to our community.

Despite those challenges, the committee brought energy and imagination into the transition to online meetings and worship. In July, we welcomed seven new members who had previously attended new member classes in person. In August, we conducted the first virtual new members class via Zoom and welcomed three more members. The committee was also privileged to welcome four new members from the confirmation class of 2019-2020.

We give thanks and welcome to those who became members of Central Presbyterian Church community in 2020:

- Allynne Burg
- Becky Gienger
- Barbara Hein
- Tom Hein
- Heidi Jernstedt
- Catherine Dittberner Lloyd
- Ernest Lloyd
- Maggie Gordon

- Ronald Stagg
- Lynne Severson
- Rev. John Severson
- Ayri Lee
- Zach Bollman
- Annabelle Endres
- Andrei Kelly-Kennedy

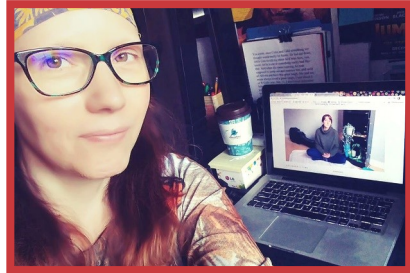
Welcoming new members was an important way to show that Central is very much alive and growing during this time. Even when we are not in the building, we are still *In the City for Good!* 2020's new members were examined by Session via Zoom, and introduced to the congregation during online video worship. We look forward to the day when we can safely gather in the sanctuary again, and formalize their welcome with handshakes and hugs.

As we became more familiar with online worship and realized that this mode will be a necessary safety measure for a while longer, the committee moved to help fill the desire for casual fellowship following worship. Coffee Time on Zoom was introduced in September following a congregational meeting, and has continued on a bi-weekly basis. This has been a fun space for members of the Central family to catch up every other Sunday.

In a time of uncertainty and adaptation, this committee worked to maintain a mission of welcome. We look forward to continuing that mission throughout this time of virtual gathering and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

Kiera Faye  
Chair



## MISSION ACTIVITIES

# MISSION ACTIVITIES

## Women of Central

The Women of Central organization has focused on four priorities over the past few years: hands-on activities, Bible study, devotion and fellowship, mission & giving, and intergenerational activities. In this year where so many things were unusual, we emphasized mission by providing financial and in-kind gifts to organizations helping those in need.

Here are highlights in this unusual year.

### **Mission**

In addition to our annual support of the Presbyterian Women's mission activities at the local, regional and national levels, this year we provided donations to Central's Deacons Emergency Fund and to the Presbyterian Women's Day of Giving. These gifts are possible through the generosity of the women in our community who provide pledges to support the Women of Central and our activities.

### **Women's Networking Group**

The monthly Women's Networking Group met in person from January to March of 2020. We began Zoom gatherings in the spring and continued through the rest of the year. Even though we are meeting via screens and devices, these gatherings continue to give an informal and meaningful way to connect with women across our congregation.

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The Knitters had an active year. They provided Pocket Prayer squares for people that visited the "Central on Parade" event in September. Also, we shared Pocket Prayer squares with Central's Confirmation Class as they were confirmed in November. We gathered for conversation and

planning in the fall. Also, we provided a large number of handmade items for the Mitten Tree in December. Maggie Gordon continues to lead this group with vision and energy.

### **Thank Offering**

This annual offering provides a mechanism for supporting creative mission initiatives, locally, nationally and globally. Projects provide solutions related to health, education, economic development, and needs of women and children. The Thank Offering was featured during the 3rd Sunday worship in November.

### **Mitten Tree**

This year we provided items to Neighborhood House. There were kid's boots and jackets, snow pants, hats, mittens and gloves, as well as many items for adults. In total, over 175 items were donated. These items were delivered on December 14th.

### **Martha's Closet**

Martha's Closet is a free clothing closet serving women in need of business clothing. We serve low income women throughout the five county area. However, this year we have essentially been closed because of Covid-19. (Some of our excess clothing was delivered to the Interfaith Action's emergency services.) Like most of everyone, we look forward to a more open 2021.

### **Dorcas Circle**

The Dorcas Circle has been a part of the Women of Central for many years, meeting monthly for lunch, fellowship and Bible Study.



**Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery  
of the Twin Cities Area (PW-PTCA)  
Gathering**

A great team of volunteers came together in early 2020 to plan for Central to host the Spring 2020 gathering. The gathering was postponed, and we hope to have the opportunity to host in 2021, or 2022.

**Women of Central Leadership**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Hoffman

**Women of Central Financial Report**

BALANCE ON HAND JANUARY 1, 2020		\$ 3,051.64
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Pledges	\$ 1,865.00	
Thank Offering	\$ 915.00	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<u>\$ 2,780.00</u>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
<b>MISSION</b>		
PW/PTCA Pledges	\$ 700.00	
PW/PTCA Pledges	\$ 105.00	
Thank Offering	\$ 440.00 *	
Nat'l PW Giving Day	\$ 100.00	
Deacons Emergency Fund	\$ 5.00	
<b>PW/PTCA TOTAL</b>		<u>\$ 1,845.00</u>
Postage	\$ 99.00	
Table Cloths	\$ 109.66	
2019 Christmas Program	\$ 50.00	
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>		<u>\$2,103.66</u>
<b>BALANCE ON HAND DECEMBER 31, 2019</b>		<u><u>\$ 3,727.98</u></u>

\* Thank Offering totaling \$475.00 received after the December 10 (4th quarter) payment was made. It will be sent to PW/PTCA with the 1st quarter 2021 pledge payment.

# MISSION

## Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons include from Class of 2020 - Leon Oman, Susan Seymour, and Laura Williams, from Class of 2021 - Chris Bremicker, Solomon Haile, and Laura Hutton, and from Class of 2022 - Linda Berglund, Todd Mikish, and Mark Vance.

### We are Deacons Because We Care

2020 has been a challenging year for everyone. As Covid 19 continues to work through communities, we have been challenged to get together.

Due to the Zoom app, we have been able to meet virtually every 4-6 weeks.

### Focal Areas

Here are the areas where we focus at every meeting:

We have an individual check-in of each other. We want to know how each Deacon and their family is doing. We share the good events and the difficult times. We continue to look out for each other.

Each meeting we discuss how all of our designated members are doing, checking to see if any member needs additional support. Some of our members have needed additional moral support or financial support. We have been there for all members facing personal health issues or financial issues, and comforting members who have lost a relative.

Laura Williams continues to lead Thursday night's all-church Connection Circles event. All are invited to log on to this group session. A good social time is had by all attendees.

Rev David Colby suggested we create a Deacon program to reach out to all of the committee chairs and group leaders involved in the committees at Central. We had our interviews with all leaders and met in January to discuss our findings.

Our goal it to make sure all leaders and their respected groups are doing OK with the current life challenges. Laura Williams is leading this effort on behalf of the Deacons.

### Outdoor Meetings

We were able to have 2 successful 'outdoor' meetings where we could see each other and talk as a group in a safe environment. The attendance was marginal as traveling together to meet on church grounds was not the most comfortable. I see us meeting out doors again come late this spring of 2021.

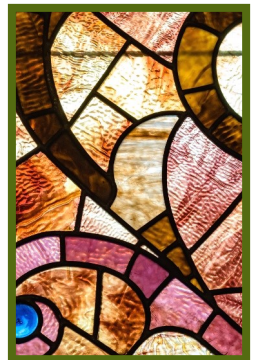
### Prayer Chain

There has been concern about connecting when a church family has reached out to Central with distressing news. The Deacons have decided that Anna can contact a Deacon when a call comes in. That Deacon will then reach out to the family on behalf of Central and will determine if more Deacons or other services should get involved. This responsibility is managed by a different Deacon each month.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Vance  
Moderator





# FINANCIAL REPORTS

Submitted by Richard Binger

2020 was a solid year for financial performance at Central Presbyterian Church. I would particularly like to thank the hard work of Treasurer Matt Ehling, Pastor Dave Colby, Church Administrator Anna Sanchez, and the other members of the 2020 Finance and Stewardship Committee – Larry Cumpston, Craig Foss, John Rudberg, Chris Smith, Carl Willis, and Barbara Swanson for all their work in a unique and demanding year.

Matt Ehling continued for his third year in the Treasurer role, which provided a strong sense of continuity and stability as Rich Binger carried out his second year as committee chair.

As I think about the activities for 2020, while there has been challenge and uncertainty, the principles and objectives for the Finance Committee helped to provide clarity and direction for what we need to provide. With that said, there are some major themes that represent the year.

### Flexibility

One of the key aspects for the committee in 2020 was to be flexible. With so many new and unique demands emerging with the response to the pandemic, it was critical that the committee was:

- Open to hearing about and supporting new needs like supporting staff compensation throughout the year and funding of recorded services while moving to live streaming.
- Being responsive to the external factor of a dynamic investment market.
- Developing a variety of scenarios to project

future income/expense positions as giving was very unpredictable due to the shift from in-person services to 100% remote worship experience. These scenarios helped to shape decisions across the other Central committees.

- Budget owners did a strong job of managing expenses relative to giving, rather than aligning strictly to budget.

### Administrative Strength

The partnership and information sharing led by Anna Sanchez and Matt Ehling in support of the work the committee needs to execute continues to be exceptionally strong. The timeliness of information being shared, along with the concise and clear reporting, makes the job of the committee clear and direct.

- Treasurer identified and took swift action to ensure financial commitments made were not adversely affected when significant market downturns occurred at the beginning of the year when the pandemic began impacting the United States.
- Treasurer outlined a conservative and sustainable cash draw approach to avoid impacting principle in funding accounts.
- As a committee, reaffirmed a consistent and conservative approach to the investments we make, including the use of socially responsible funds as a part of the strategy.
- As a committee, maintained strong and open lines of communication with Committee chairs as decisions were needed to support personnel,

building maintenance and repair efforts, and adjustments to how we execute worship, music, and overall fellowship across the Central community.

## Stewardship

Stewardship in 2020 has been amazing. The committee was more and more concerned about stewardship as the duration of the pandemic continued. Stewardship, while in many ways is personal, or possibly can be viewed at a family level, it is reinforced and supported by community.

The ability to see the use of time, talent, and finances in action reinforces the purpose to give. The longer we went without being together, there was an increased pressure on continued giving. Not being able to see and feel the positive impact of the giving of those talents, that time, those financial gifts, put pressure on what we could project for future giving.

The electronic connections have been great in trying to fill the void. Make no mistake about it, they cannot replace the handshakes, the hearty hellos, the connection of being eye-to-eye, and for a bit of a newer tradition witnessed from many of our newer members, a healthy good morning hug! That is community. That is what is special about Central. That is the piece we cannot replicate with remote or electronic connections.

That is why there is focus and concern and intentionality about talking about Stewardship, keeping it in everyone's thoughts, creating opportunities to connect and support that feeling of community. Coffee hour, connection circles, the limited volunteer opportunities that still exist, the commitment to quality recorded services, working toward live streamed services are all ways to keep this community connected to the purpose and delivered outcomes from Central.

## Partnerships

Internally working with other committees to ensure we are prioritizing what is most important to continue to provide and deliver the key elements of what our members and community need from

Central.

- Personnel on staffing support throughout the year
- Facilities Management and Risk to ensure support for the building is provided, including support for significant maintenance that began in 2020
- Worship Music and Arts for the adjustment to record and publish, and working toward live

Externally, working with our investment partners at RBC.

- Communication and choices made during some market fluctuation.
- Reaffirming both our long-term goals (adding pastoral capacity) while being able to meet short term needs.
- Matt Ehling and Anna Sanchez have done a fantastic job in working with the team at RBC to ensure we are effectively meeting the needs of Central.

## Investments

The chart on the next page outlines overall investment values at the beginning and end of 2020.

In 2020, we continued our investment draw at a sustainable level, using only earnings from our invested portfolio, preserving our principle balance.

A strong bank balance at the beginning of 2020, coupled with less than planned for giving until year end, meant that we spent our full investment draw that was budgeted, resulting in not being able to roll investment cash forward funds into the 2021 budget. This is a change from the last couple of years where \$8K - \$10K was able to be moved forward. However, strong contributions at the end of 2020 ensured that Central ended the year in the black - a remarkable feat, given the economic uncertainty in 2020.

Central continued to steward the significant gift of assets we received in 2017. These funds continue to be the foundation of both an operational endowment

as well as a program account to support increased staffing in support of growing the mission programs of Central and key building improvement projects.

For these gifts and many others, we are deeply grateful.

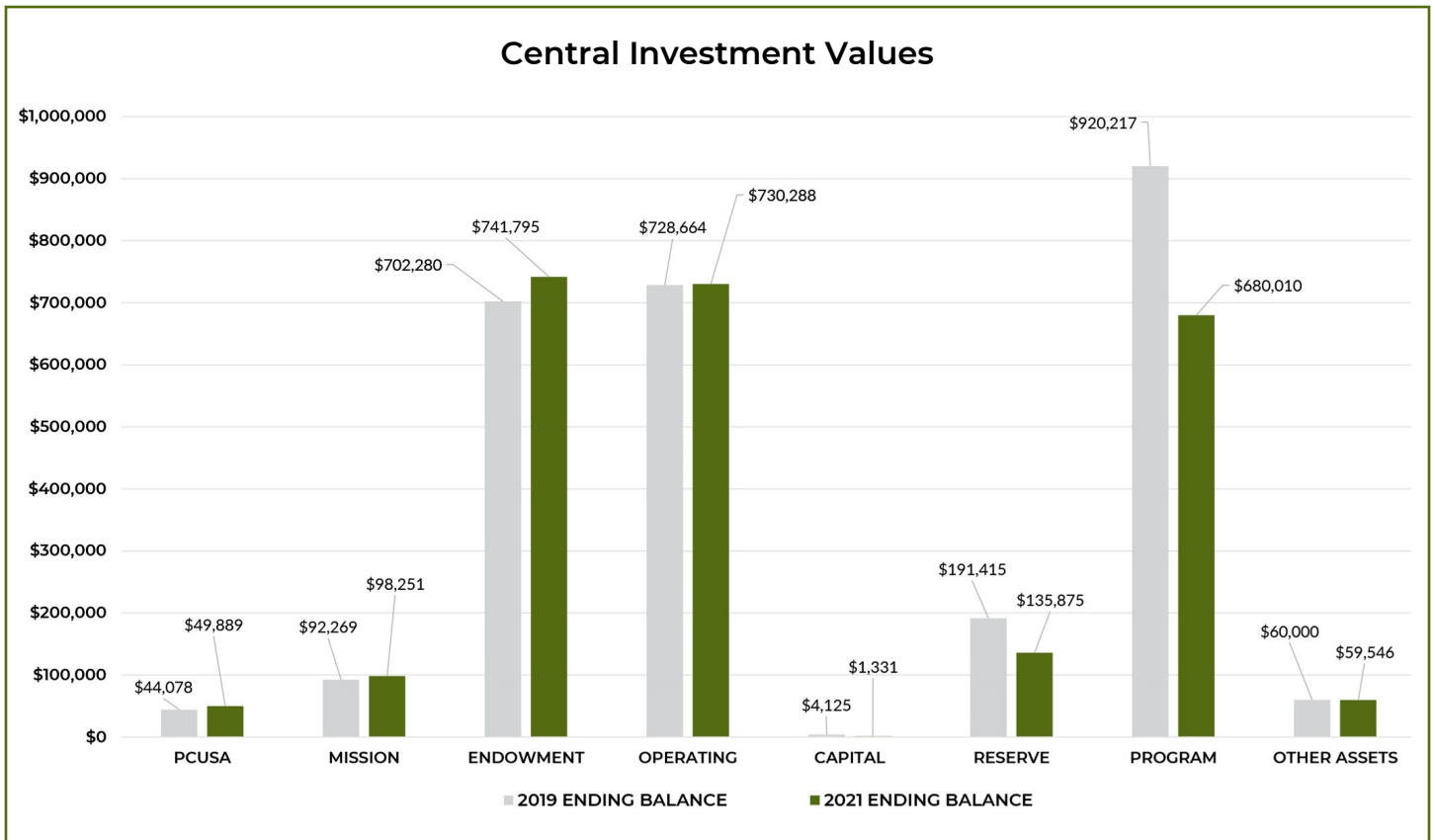
## Operations

Operating contributions to Central totaled \$395,977, with total income of \$579,208.

Operating expenses for 2020 totaled \$555,062, compared to a budget of \$590,041. Diligent spending by staff and expense oversight by session

resulted in good cost management during an uncertain year.

Staff and committees were diligent in budget management in all areas.



Submitted by Matt Ehling

### Investments

The following list details overall investment values at the end of 2020, as compared to 2019. The total value of invested funds at the end of 2020 was \$2,301,564. Central also held cash of \$135,875 in its Reserve Account, and controlled additional assets worth approximately \$73,415.

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

Session also dedicated \$1,000,000 from the donor gift received in 2017 toward church growth and building maintenance, through a six-year spend on building improvements and an associate pastor hire.

### PCUSA Fund

Unrestricted; income used for Central operations.

2019: \$44,078  
2020: \$49,889

### Mission Account

Restricted funds for various mission related purposes.

2019: \$92,269  
2020: \$98,251

### Endowment Account

Some trust restrictions; produces income for Central operations. More weighted toward equities.

2019: \$702,280  
2020: \$741,795

### Operating Account

Produces income for Central operations. More weighted toward fixed income.

2019: \$728,664  
2020: \$730,288

### Capital Account

Holding account for income generated by Endowment, Operating Account. In December 2020, operating income held in Capital was transferred to the Reserve account for use in 2021.

2019: \$4,125  
2020: \$1,331

### Reserve Account

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

2019: \$191,415  
2020: \$135,875

### Program Account

Restricted funds for six-year spend on associate pastor position, building improvements.

2019: \$920,217  
2020: \$680,010

### Other Asset

Undesignated assets from 2017 gift.

2019: \$60,000  
2020: \$59,546



# CONNECT



# CONNECT

## Elder Leadership

### 2020 SESSION

Clerk of Session: Sally Mortenson  
Moderator of Session: Rev. David Colby

	YEAR ELECTED	TERM
<b>Class of 2020</b>		
Kati Berg	2017	1
Alex Bollman	2017	1
Craig Foss	2017	1
Stu Siebell	2017	1
<b>Class of 2021</b>		
Rich Binger	2018	1
Sally Mortenson	2018	1
Carl Willis	2018	2
Sharon Zopfi-Jordan	2018	2
<b>Class of 2022</b>		
Dennis Reimer	2019	2
Chris Smith	2019	1
Vinai Vinlander	2019	1
Kiera Faye Voelker	2019	1

### 2020 DEACONS

Moderator: Mark Vance  
Secretary: Susan Seymour

	YEAR ELECTED	TERM
<b>Class of 2020</b>		
Carolyn Hess	2017	1
Susan Seymour	2017	1
Laura Williams	2017	1
<b>Class of 2021</b>		
Chris Bremicker	2018	2
Solomon Haile	2019	1
Laura Hutton	2019	1
<b>Class of 2022</b>		
Linda Berglund	2019	1
Todd Mikish	2019	1
Mark Vance	2019	2

# CONNECT

## Staff

### Pastoral Care

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

### Administration

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

### Music

- Jennifer Anderson  
Director of Music Ministry  
jennifera@centralforgood.org  
(651) 224-4728, ext 103
- Music Staff  
Shanta Hejmadi  
Abbie Betinis  
Adam Van der Sluis  
Steve Swanson  
David Winkworth

### Youth Programs

- Katie Morris, Child & Youth Ministry Coordinator  
katiem@centralforgood.org  
(651) 224-4728, ext 109
- Natalie Pence, Nursery Care Provider
- Megan Beese, Preschool Teacher

### Food Initiative

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

# MISSION

## Get Involved

### Serve

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

- Facilities Management & Risk Assessment
- Children & Youth
- Worship, Music & Arts
- New Members and Volunteers
- Coordinated Mission
- Nominating Committee
- Finance & Stewardship
- Personnel

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

### Volunteer

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

Current opportunities to volunteer include:

- Worship Leader (Reading scripture passages, leading prayer, sharing announcements).
- Office Receptionist (Help in the office during staff absences or special events).
- Mailing prep (Help prepare our newsletter or other mass mailings by folding, stuffing, etc.)

When we return to in-person worship, regular volunteer opportunities include:

- Coffee Preparer (Prepare and set out coffee and refreshments before church for Bible study and worship).
- Ushers (Hospitality to welcome worship guests and assist with receiving offering)
- Fellowship Servers (Serve coffee and cookies after worship).
- Pew Patrol (Help keep cards stocked and the sanctuary pews organized).

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

### Support

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

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

To learn more about giving opportunities, go to [www.centralforgood.org/give](http://www.centralforgood.org/give).



**CENTRAL**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

500 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

[www.centralforgood.org](http://www.centralforgood.org)

