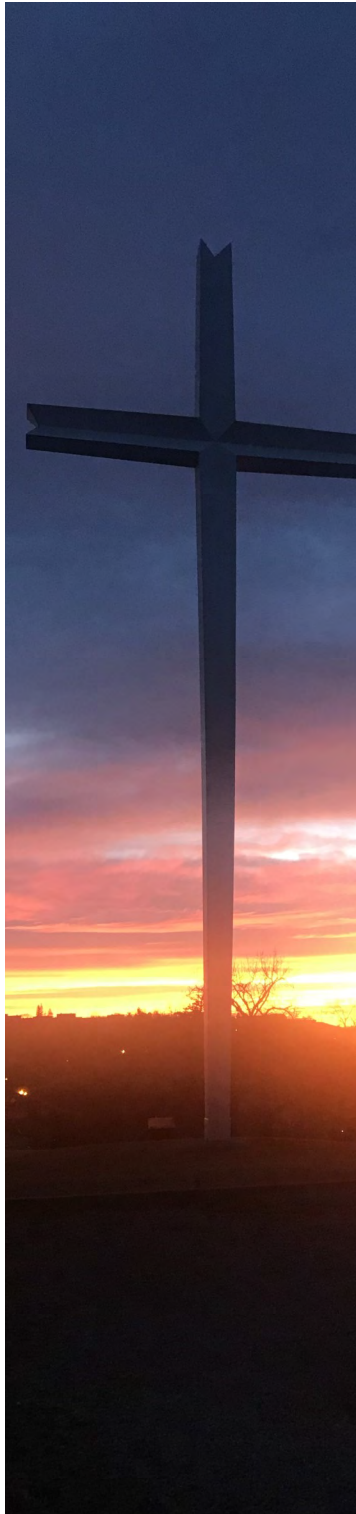


140TH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTRIES OF 2018



Treasurer's Report for General
Fund as of 12-31-18.pdf



1ST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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2018 The Year in Review

The installation of the big fans in the sanctuary and the fellowship hall, a pastoral sabbatical, a decision to proceed with installing fire suppression sprinklers, a new bus service, a new choir director—the list of major changes in the life of the church in 2018 is significant.

It was not a year without challenges, but as usual, the members and friends of 1st Congregational United Church of Christ rose to the occasion and we moved forward with courage and vision. Our capital projects progressed and we look to 2019 as another year of spiritual growth for our congregation.

JANUARY

A new Bible conversation, “Coffee with Pastor Ted” began on Wednesday mornings.

The Spiritual Practices group resumed meeting after a brief Christmas break.

An after Christmas clean-up was held on **January 6** and the Christmas Tree was placed in storage.

The Wednesday morning Bible Study group finished their study of the

Prophets and began a new Kerygma Bible Study on the Book of Isaiah.



We commissioned Chuck and Sybil Rounds for their work with our sister church in los Guido, Costa Rica on **January 7**.

The January Family Night was held on **January 10**.

Church Chat met on **January 16**.

Middle School youth made little books in a special “Art with Ingrid” project on **January 21**.

The 139th Annual Meeting of the congregation was held on **January 28** following worship.

FEBRUARY

The Woodchucks made a delivery to Kyle on **February 2**.

Members of our congregation traveled to Pierre to participate in the celebration of ministry for Rev. Gordon Rankin on **February 3**.

We celebrated and renewed our covenant with **Break Through, Inc.** on **February 4**.



United Church Youth hosted the annual **Souper Bowl of Caring** on

February 4. In conjunction, the Department of Hospitality hosted a Soup luncheon on that day.

Erin Erickson, coordinator of The Well, began leading the Westhills Book and Bible Study group, taking over from Rev. Kathleen Batchelder.

Departments and the Church Board began their meetings with new members during February.

Church Chat met on **February 6**.

The February Family Night was held on **February 7**.

The Woodchucks made a delivery to Eagle Butte on **February 10**.

The Department of Ministries served the meal for Love INC’s Life INC Class on **February 13**.

Our **Ash Wednesday** service was held on **February 14**. A pancake supper was hosted by the youth of the church.

A Lenten Study, featuring conversations with Richard Rohr, began on **February 18**.

We recognized Seminary Sunday on **February 25**.

MARCH

A special meeting of the congregation was held on **March 5** to update the congregation on the Capital Funds Phase II projects and gain input from the congregation about upcoming decisions.

We participated in **One Great Hour of Sharing** on **March 11**.

Youth of the church painted bowls for the Empty Bowls project to benefit Feeding South Dakota on **March 15**.



The Women's Fellowship held their Spring Rummage Sale on **March 16 and 17.**

Ingrid Arlton led a special art project of "Extraordinary Eggs" on **March 21.**

We celebrated the Liturgy of the Palms on **Palm Sunday, March 25.**

We participated in the Community Palm Parade on **Palm Sunday, March 25.**

The Liturgy of the Passion featured a special voice and piano duet with Justin Speck and Rev. Ted Huffman on **March 26.**



James Van Nuys and Jami Lynn were the featured musicians for the annual Sittin' with the Blues concert on **March 27.**

A Christian Wake with a dinner was held on **March 28.**

Our adult choir was featured for our **Maundy Thursday** Communion service on **March 29.**

The children of the church gathered for a special **Good Friday** communion service on **March 30.**

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Journey to the Cross was the theme of the **Good Friday** service on **March 30.**

The Department of Ministries served dinner at the Cornerstone Rescue Mission on **March 30.**

We celebrated the **Great Vigil of Easter** on **March 31.**

APRIL

April began with our participation in the Community Easter Sunrise Service at 6 a.m. on **Easter Sunday, April 1.**

Our **Easter** celebrations continued with a breakfast of hot cross buns and our **Resurrection Celebration** at our church on **April 1.**

Chuck and Sybil Rounds presented a report on their time with our sister church in Costa Rica on **April 8.**

Our church hosted the Young Vocal Artists Competition on **April 14.**

The Department of Hospitality held a Spring Potluck Lunch on **April 15.**

Church Chat met on **April 17.**

Our Bell Choir rang from the front of the sanctuary on **April 22.**

The Exploring Religious Traditions group took a look at the faith of the Baha'i with Sean Binder on **April 29**

MAY

The May Family Night was held on **May 2.**

The Annual Meeting of the South Dakota Conference of the United Church of Christ was held **May 4—6** in Yankton.

The Women's Fellowship Spring Luncheon was held on **May 5.** Since the day was Cinco de Mayo they

celebrated with a festival of fun, food and fellowship.

A special meeting of the congregation was held on **May 6** to continue discussions of the Capital Projects and to inform the congregation of the possible need to install fire suppression sprinklers in our building.

Work Camp was held at Placerville **May 11—13.**

We celebrated Cradle Roll Sunday on **May 13.**

The Department of Hospitality hosted Muffins for Mom and recognized all of the women of the church on **May 13.**

We celebrated **Pentecost** on **May 20.**

We participated in the Strengthen the Church all church offering on **May 20.**

There was a special informational meeting on this summer's **Habitat for Humanity Faith Build** on **May 20.**

The church school picnic was held on **May 20.**

A sanctuary clean-up work day was held on **May 21.**

We celebrated **Trinity Sunday** on **May 27.**

JUNE

Rev. Susan Huffman and Rev. Ted Huffman were on a sabbatical during the months of **June, July** and **August.** A report of their experiences appears on page 12 of this annual report. In their absence worship and pastoral leadership was provided by Licensed Minister Becky Fleming, coordinator of The Well Erin Erickson, choir director Stephen Branch, Rev. Chuck Aurand, and Rev. Patti Aurand.

Church ushers and officers were invited to participate in ALICE training to improve the security of our facility during the summer months.

Women's Camp was held at Placerville **June 4—8.**

Shining Stars Camp was held at Placerville **June 4—8.**

We hosted the Wesley Bell Ringers in concert on **June 9.**

Faith Explorers Camp was held at Placerville **June 10—15.**



Vacation Bible School was held at our church **June 11—14.** Lay minister Becky Fleming was director of this year's event.

The Department of Hospitality sponsored a Nacho Bar in honor of Father's Day on **June 17.**



Seekers Camp was held at Placerville **June 17—22.**

The West Central Regional Youth Event was held at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa **June 19-22.** Ryan Webster represented our church.

Grand Camp was held at Placerville

June 22—24.

JULY

The Department of Hospitality hosted a Patriotic Potluck on **July 8.**

Crossroads Camp was held at Placerville **July 8—14.**

Family Camp was held at Placerville **July 15—21.**

Performing Arts for younger campers was held at Placerville **July 22—27.**



Chuck and Sybil Rounds represented our congregation at the wake and funeral for our mission partner Byron Buffalo **July 23—24.**

Performing Arts for older campers was held at Placerville **July 29—August 4.**

AUGUST

Members of our congregation participated in Love INC's annual Clothe-a-Kid program, shopping on **August 11 and 18.**

The Women's Fellowship summer Rummage Sale was held **August 17 and 18.**

The Department of Ministries served dinner at the Cornerstone Rescue Mission on **August 31.**

SEPTEMBER

Our congregation received a second Genesis Grant to support the work of our Commissioned Minister for Disabilities Advocacy and Education. This grant provides funding through August 31, 2019.

Alan Glover became our congregation's choir director on **September 5**, after Stephen Branch began directing the choir at 1st United Methodist Church.

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study resumed after a summer break.

We began 40 Days of Prayer for Children on **September 9.**

Sunday School kick-off, complete with a bounce house and special activities for all ages was held on **September 9.**



The congregation celebrated the 40th anniversary of the ordination of Rev. Susan Huffman and Rev. Ted Huffman with a renewal of their ordination vows in

worship and a special reception on **September 9.**

Regular Sunday School Classes for children resumed on **September 16.**

We held our annual Placerville Family Day on **September 23.**

The Women's Fellowship hosted a kitchen clean-up day on **September 24.**

OCTOBER

The October Family Night was held on **October 2.**



We inaugurated a new van service for members who do not drive on **October 7.**

We participated in the Neighbors in Need all church offering on **October 7.**

We celebrated the 30th anniversary of the ordination of Rev. Jane Ireland with a presentation in worship and a special coffee hour on **October 7.**

The Department of Hospitality hosted a fall fun football potluck on **October 14.**

A Sanctuary clean up day was held on **October 22.**

The Woodchucks made a delivery to Wanblee on **October 27.**

Revs. Ted and Susan Huffman reported on their sabbatical to the congregation after worship on **October 28.**

NOVEMBER

Members of our congregation attended Sabbath services at Synagogue of the Hills on **November 2** in solidarity following the Tree of Life Synagogue shootings.

We recognized those who had died in the previous year during a special All Saints presentation in worship on **November 4.**

A special meeting to discuss our capital projects and decide on adding a fire suppression sprinkler system was held on **November 4.**

A joint conversation with members of the Synagogue of the Hills, members of our congregation and members of The Well was held on **November 4.**

The group made plans for continuing conversations.

The Department of Education hosted a Family Fun Night on **November 7.**

Youth from our congregation participated in the Placerville Youth Event **November 9—11.**

We celebrated Stewardship Sunday on **November 11.**

The Hopeful Crafters participated in a craft sale at Westhills Village on **November 10 .**

The Department of Hospitality hosted an all church birthday celebration on **November 11.**

We recognized the volunteers who participate in the Congregational Connections program in worship on **November 18.**

We participated in Church World Service Blanket Sunday on **November 18.**



Members of the Church School made a visit to the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build Home site on **November 18.** They presented a check on behalf of the Church School to assist with the home build.

We participated in the Rapid City Downtown Churches Community Thanksgiving Worship held at Faith Temple on **November 20.**

The Department of Ministries served dinner at the Cornerstone Rescue Mission on **November 30.**

DECEMBER

We supported the children and youth of our sister church in Costa Rica by participating in the Angel Tree program during December.

We held a sanctuary decorating work morning and put up our sanctuary Christmas Tree on **December 1.**

The Women's Fellowship Christmas Tea was held on **December 1.**

Bells of the Hills presented their Christmas concert in our sanctuary on **December 2.**

We joined with members of the Synagogue of the Hills for a

community Hanukkah Menorah lighting ceremony at Main Street Square on **December 2.**

The Woodchucks made a firewood delivery to Eagle Butte on **December 8.**

The combined choirs of 1st Congregational, Rapid City Seventh Day Adventist and Joyful Noise presented a Christmas Cantata at the Rapid City 7th Day Adventist Church on **December 15** and at 1st Congregational United Church of Christ on **December 16.**

The children of our church school led us in worship on **December 16.**

We participated in the Veterans of the Cross all church offering on **December 23.**

We went Christmas Caroling at Westhills Courtyard on **December 23.**

Our Living Nativity Christmas Eve worship featured live adult actors on **December 24.**



Ryan Webster and Justin Speck provided special music for the Christmas Eve Communion on **December 24.**

Lay Minister Becky Fleming led worship on **December 30.**

Statistical Report

Membership beginning 2018:	578
Deaths:	9
Transfers Out:	0
New Members	1
Membership end of 2018:	570
Baptisms:	3
Weddings:	1
Funerals:	7
Average Worship Attendance:	124

Moderator
Rob
Burton

Your Church Board is the governing body overseeing and coordinating church operations and activities. The Board meets monthly in regular session, typically not in the summer, but 2018 was an exception given the absence of our pastors on sabbatical. Board members include the Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Past Moderator, Clerk of the Board, Department Chairpersons, Congregational Representatives, and our pastors. Our Board meetings are open to anyone in the congregation who would like to observe.

As we enter 2019 we also complete another cycle of our church year, closing out 2018 and starting the new year at our annual meeting on Sunday, January 27th. As your moderator I have benefited from generous help and guidance from many of our members and staff, starting with Ted and Susan, and Laura and Pam in the office. The patience and kindness shown by these folks on a regular basis makes life easier for all the lay leaders in our church. I'd personally like to thank the mem-

bers of our Board for their contributions throughout the year, especially our Past Moderator Sheila Long, Assistant Moderator Todd Eddy, and Clerk of the Board Dawn Erk for all the extra meetings and special efforts during the year. Also a special thanks to Gerry Boehrs for his guidance and insight with Capital Improvement projects, and our tireless Treasurer Denise Webster.

On behalf of this year's Nominating Committee, I offer sincere thanks and appreciation for all those who've agreed to serve in 2019 on the various departments and committees of our church. They will be carrying on for those whose terms end this year, including: Carol Boyles - Congregational Representative, Robin Franson, Jordan LaPoint and Bonnie Edwards - Department of Worship, Terry Brouillette and Lynn Grauman - Department of Education, Jeff VanCuren and Jeanette Hill - Department of Ministries, Cam Miller and Neil and Melissa Emerson - Department of Hospitality, Tom Berry and Michael Myers - Department of Building, Equipment & Grounds, and Jan Gustin and Andy Knight - Department of Stewardship and Budget.

Finally, a special thanks to those who provide our wonderful music - Michael Bossen and the bell choir, Alan Glover and our adult choir, and our wonderful organist Michael Ross. These talented and dedicated folks fill our Sanctuary with inspiration and joyful music every Sunday, making our wor-

ship experience truly remarkable. As a congregation we are blessed in so many ways!

Pastoral Relations and Personnel Sheila Long

This is a standing committee of the Church Board. Members include the Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Past Moderator (chairperson), clerk of the board and others as appointed by the Moderator. The committee members for 2018 were Rob Burton, Todd Eddy, Sheila Long and Dawn Erk. The committee's primary responsibility is to actively promote communication and feedback among the congregation, the church board and the ministerial staff.

Most of our work this year has been on preparing for the upcoming transi-

tion of our ministerial staff due to upcoming retirements. This included reaching out to the United Church of Christ tri-conference for guidance and a timeline on the process, as well as reaching out to the congregation to get their input, as we want everyone to have a voice on this important issue.

This work will continue in 2019 as we prepare for the retirement of our pastors in 2020. This will include working on an interim pastor search as well as preparing a vision for the how the future of the First Congregational United Church of Christ ministerial staff and leadership will look.

This transition time is not easy, and I ask each and everyone of you to pray for God's wisdom and guidance during this time of change. For only with His help can we move forward in doing His work. As we know with Him all things are possible.



Phase II Capital Improvement Projects

Phase II of our Capital Improvement effort was authorized by our congregation at a special meeting in May of 2015. At that time a total estimated investment of \$631,637 was approved for major repairs and improvements to our church building. Projects included replacement of our roofing materials, boiler replacement, de-stratification fans for the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, a lift for choir loft access, a family-oriented bathroom, and air conditioning for the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. At the end of 2018 we find that that both fund raising and spending are meeting projections and are expected to be completed within budget.

Roof replacement was completed in 2015, the first year of the five-year effort. No work occurred in 2016 as funds were accumulated for future projects, while in 2017 the family bathroom remodeling was completed.

During the summer of 2018 major components of the heating system including most pumps, valves, and controls were replaced, along with asbestos abatement where needed, in order to eliminate many of the system failures that had been occurring each winter. Examinations and visual inspections of the main boiler by contractors during the heating system upgrade process revealed no compel-

ling case for immediate replacement. Given that the main boiler structure remains sound, no new leaks have been detected, and the burners continue to function as intended, the contractor quoting a new boiler system recommended taking no action to replace the old unit until more signs of deterioration are noted. Funds raised for eventual boiler replacement are restricted to that use, and will be set aside until needed.

Also during the summer de-stratification fans were installed in both the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, providing more tolerable conditions for our members during our morning services, as well as better energy utilization during the heating season.

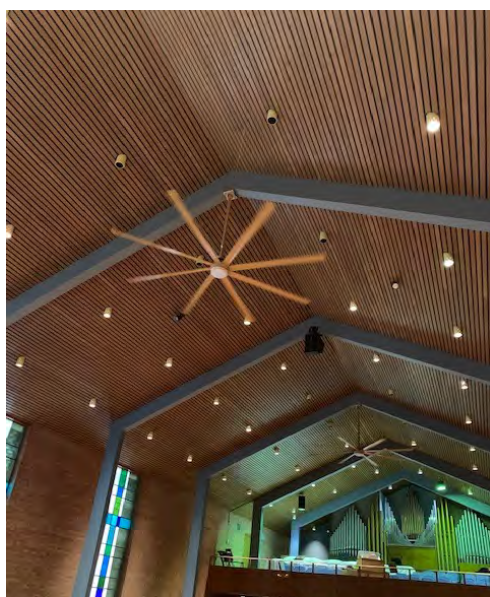
Installation of the choir loft lift was delayed while cost information on a fire suppression system was developed, based on water flow projections developed by the City during the summer. At a special meeting in November members reviewed two options for lift placement - in one of the cloak rooms as originally proposed or in the Sanctuary. Given the structural changes required for the cloak room option, the City will impose a requirement for a fire suppression system to be installed throughout the building, projected to cost about \$100,000 when

completed. A motion to move ahead with planning for raising the needed funds for this system was approved by the members present, with the requirement that the funding plan be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting on January 27th. If approved, the church Board and the City could then enter into an agreement defining how and when a system might be installed. It is currently assumed that fire suppression system fundraising and construction would probably not occur until 2020. However, once an agreement is in place with the City, construction of the lift in the cloak room can commence rather quickly.

We are optimistic both the air conditioning and choir loft lift projects will be completed in 2019, the fifth and final year of the Phase II effort.

Our Phase One improvements - parking lot repair and resurfacing, new sound system for Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, new flooring and paint for Fellowship Hall, sidewalk and drainage repairs and improvements, replacement of uneven main entry-way slate with concrete, replacement of main, west, and east entry doors - did a great deal to correct immediate safety and deterioration issues that challenged our building. Phase II projects continued this effort with a new roof and needed updates to our heating system, while the remaining projects-family access bathroom, choir loft lift, air conditioning system and fans - enhance our building's usability and accessibility for the future. Insuring these sizeable investments in our property, as well as protecting the lives and safety of all those who enter our building, can be achieved by installing a fire suppression system throughout the building.

Phase II Steering Committee -
Gerry Boehrs, Sheila Long,
Todd Eddy, Rob Burton



Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Ted Huffman

Sabbatical years are disruptive. Disruption is not always bad, but it can be a challenge. Based on our previous experiences with sabbatical, we planned our 2018 sabbatical to take place in the summer, when it would cause the least disruption of church schedules and meetings. Nonetheless, the event of the sabbatical was disruptive. It gave us a chance to look at ourselves, at the future of our church community and the ways we structure our life together.

My annual report is not going to focus on the sabbatical itself. There is a report of the sabbatical on page 12. I am, however, going to use the fact of the sabbatical and its disruptions as a way of thinking of and reporting on the year just completed.

THE DISRUPTION OF PREPARATION

We started the year intending for 2018 to be a sabbatical year. If we followed the 5-year intervals of the congregation's sabbatical policy, we would have taken a sabbatical in 2016. Many dynamics in the

congregation, most importantly the capital projects process, made 2016 and 2017 less than optimal for sabbaticals, so we delayed. However, amidst the rush of annual reports, annual meeting and other dynamics, a month of 2018 went by before we were able to meet with and discuss our sabbatical. Then it took time for the sabbatical to be approved by the Church Board. We knew going in that our new Licensed Minister of Christian Nurture would be an important leader during our absence, so working with the Committee on Ministry to complete the process of her licensure following the congregation's vote to call her at the January annual meeting became a priority for February.



While we were preparing to be gone, life in the church goes on. Lent and Holy Week are huge projects for our congregation every year. Pastoral care is continual. But the usual was also disrupted by the need to prepare for what is coming. Over the course of the spring, I planned for summer by

creating the liturgy for all of the summer worship services, preparing a draft of each Sunday's bulletin, working out the schedule of preachers and guest musicians, and arranging people to take call and provide care at the hospital, nursing homes and respond to crises in the congregation. Getting ready to be gone is a big job!

THE DISRUPTION OF ABSENCE

One of the discoveries of every sabbatical is made by church leaders who although they are deeply involved in the congregation, do not know all of the tasks performed by the pastors. I do so many things by rote or memory that I am sometimes not aware of small tasks like unlocking and locking the building, tending to computer network problems, updating the church web site, managing the lighting maintenance, replacing paper towel rolls and a thousand other tasks that I do without thinking of them. When I am gone, and the tasks are undone, it is disruptive. Someone else needs to turn on the sound system. Someone else needs to make the coffee that is served in the parlor before worship. Although we tried to be attentive and assign all of the tasks, inevitably, some fell "between the cracks" and were picked up by willing volunteers.

More importantly, relationships were disrupted. People with whom I had been visiting regularly and staying on top of their situations received care from others, but I got a bit out of touch with the progression of illnesses, the processes of aging, the decisions facing families and other day

to day events in the lives of the people we serve.



THE DISRUPTION OF RETURN

Upon our return from sabbatical there was a lot of catching up that needed to be accomplished. We needed to hear about how things had gone at the church during our absence. We needed to catch up with Departments and the Church Board. We needed to come up to speed with administrative colleagues. We needed to hear of the events in the lives of the congregation. We also needed to report on our sabbatical. There were special events that had been planned for the fall that needed our attention. Life was anything but usual upon our return.

There are advantages to all types of disruption, and one of the advantages of the disruption of return is that we were able to reassess some of our commitments. For example, I cut back on some of my obligations to community organizations and increased my time at the church. I became the facilitator of the Spiritual Practices Group. I started a new worship service at Westhills Village. I reprioritized my time commitments to better match the needs of the church.

An important part of a sabbatical is its disruption. It helps us all climb out of ruts and routines that need to be shaken to allow for God's future to come into our community. It gives new perspective to travelers and to those who remain at home. It allows an honest reassessment of the relationship between pastor and congregation.

One of our mentors, Ross Snyder, wrote of the spiritual connection between pastors and congregations and called the pastor/congregation relationship sacred. Our procedures for search and call in the United Church of Christ acknowledge the power of the Holy Spirit in the process of forming and maintaining the relationship between pastor and congregation. When we are attentive to the commandment about sabbath, we make room in our lives to recognize the Holy Spirit.

Surely God is at work in this congregation and I am grateful to be a part of that work.



Minister of Education Rev. Susan Huffman

I have been writing Annual Reports for forty years, so I should know how to do it! Yet, I am always challenged by the task because it is more than looking at the calendar and summing up the activities of the year. Submitting the work of the last twelve months to God and to you becomes a soul-baring exercise. So, with humility and gratitude I offer these words of reflection on our ministry together during 2018.

Ted and I chose the theme *Sacred Voices* for our 2018 Sabbatical. As I look back over the year, I think that *Listening to Sacred Voices* has also been a theme for the year of 2018.

VOICES OF PAIN AND LOSS

2018 was a difficult year in many ways. I know that illness, loss and other challenges affect people every year. Yet, this has been an especially hard year in our congregation. As I have prayed with families at Hospice House, simply offered a shoulder to cry on, or been plunged into the depth of despair in the midst of a busy coffee shop, I have heard the fear, frustra-

tion, pain and loss of our church members. I have listened to people struggling with ongoing health issues, complex illnesses, serious accidents, great loss, and difficult challenges related to work and family life. It has been a year when “bad things” have happened to “good people” in what seems like overwhelming amounts.

The challenges of this year have also affected our wider ministries. Our mission work fuels our faith and reminds us what it means to be the Church. We began the year dreaming about increasing the partnership with Pastor Byron Buffalo and the *Sunwakan Agli* Ministry (Bring Back the Horses). Those dreams were disrupted by Byron’s unexpected death in the summer. Byron was an important link, educating not only young people involved in his ministry, but also teaching us. The loss of his leadership is acutely felt. We began the year with excitement for a new Habitat for Humanity “Faith Build” house. After several years with less hands-on involvement in Habitat, people were excited to get to work on home construction. Then a major accident at the construction site seriously injured young Leah Nixon, a Habitat employee, and brought the construction at the site to a halt. We began the year buoyed by the success of the work that Ben Anderson was doing in the area of disability education and advocacy. Ben held workshops at the West Central Regional Youth Event and our church received a second Genesis Grant from the denomination to continue this work. Then Ben became seriously ill and spent the fall in and out of the hospital, finally going to the Mayo clinic where he is now in rehab. In each case, the setbacks have disrupted the momentum in our mission work and

required time and energy to process the loss that has occurred.

In all of this pain, I am grateful for the ways that our church

has been able to work together to provide care. Ted and I have both responded to needs for pastoral care with visits, prayers and long conversations. Adding Becky Fleming as the Minister of Christian Nurture has helped us keep in touch with those who might be overlooked. Members of Congregational Connections, the Prayer Chain, retired clergy and members of our caring congregation have all reached out to help with visits, rides, financial support, meals, prayers, telephone calls, care and understanding. In addition, the new bus service has meant a great deal to members of our church—both to those who ride and to those who come to worship and can greet old friends who have ridden the bus. Special thanks to Pat Wheaton for her persistence, to Mark Ortega for his research and to Andy Knight and Gene Lebrun for getting details worked out. Listening to the voices of loss—those who missed being in worship—led to a new outreach ministry and a solution to this need. I am grateful.

VOICES OF BELONGING

I began working on the *Belonging Initiative* during Lent of 2018. This inquiry was designed to tackle the elusive question of what church membership means in the twenty-first century. Through social media, in small group meetings and in individual conversations, I asked what makes people feel like they belong to the church and what makes them feel like they don’t really belong. These conversations led to insights about what we are doing right and what we could do better. I listened to affirmation and to pain. I listened as people praised the acceptance they feel in our church, but I also heard stories of hurt feelings and exclusion, of “not belonging.” The *Belonging Initiative* will continue in 2019 as I tackle our membership list and continue to work on ways to help create a stronger sense of belonging, especially among young families. As I listen, I hope

to learn more about how we can strengthen our community of faith.

VOICES OF OTHER FAITHS

Our series on *Exploring Religious Traditions* continued this year. In the spring, I arranged for Shawn Bender to speak on the Baha’i faith as a part of this series. His talk was very informative! Although I was loosely familiar with Baha’i from our Chicago days, I learned a great deal. Baha’i is not one of the “major world religions” that we studied in college or seminary, so to meet and share with a practitioner of the faith was very enlightening.

During the summer, I had the opportunity to learn more about the religions of Japan, particularly Buddhism and Shintoism. Since returning from our sabbatical, I have studied more about these religions and gained greater understanding of how power and religion become entangled. Looking at this issue by examining the influence of state Shintoism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries has helped me reflect on issues of power and faithfulness in Biblical times and in our own time. Barbara Brown Zikmund, one of our Visiting Scholars in 2006, has been especially helpful in guiding my research. Ted and I enjoyed presenting some of our experiences and insights to the congregation in a sabbatical presentation this fall.

In the final months of the year, the voices of our Jewish friends and neighbors came to the forefront following the shootings at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. When the call went out for Christians across the country to attend Sabbath services at the local synagogues, Ted and I attended the service here in Rapid City. It was heartwarming to walk into the Synagogue of the Hills building and be greeted as “friend and ally” because we have established connections between our congregation and their congregation over decades. Following that service, we held

two small group meetings in our church with members of the Synagogue of the Hills. The voices of the Synagogue members expressed pain, fear and outrage. Yet, they also spoke with faith and hope as the public lighting of the Menorah at Main Street Square illustrated. There will be more ongoing work with the Synagogue of Hills in 2019. I will meet with their student rabbi as soon as a meeting can be arranged. This may be after the winter months since she comes from Cincinnati just one weekend a month to serve the congregation here.

VOICES OF SCRIPTURE

The voices (and there are many) of the Bible narrative always inform and shape our ministry together. This year, however, the voice of the prophet Isaiah speaking from the eighth century B.C.E. has been especially powerful for me. The study of Isaiah has stimulated probing conversations into what it means to live faithfully. Along with members of the class, I have been challenged to consider what it means to genuinely live with God at the center of our lives and our community. The faithful members of the class have delved deeply into studying Isaiah's message and discussed how that message applies to us and to our times. What is surprising to us is how relevant Isaiah's message is today. The admonishments about the things that draw us away from God remain as applicable in our times as they were in the world of ancient Jerusalem and Judah. The voices of scripture are compelling and I am grateful for students who tackle these issues with me.

VOICES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The voices of youth and children are a big part of my work. I am privileged to play and work with the young members of our congregation. Their voices, sometimes quiet and sometimes loud, continually call



me to find new ways to share the good news.

At our family events this year, I have tried to include a mission focus each time. This focus included activities such as making valentines for our shut-ins, packing sack lunches to give to the hungry and putting together care packages for those off in college or in the military. This fall, I began experimenting with adding a second "family event" each month. I have scheduled these events on Sundays after worship, hoping to involve families for whom Wednesdays do not work. At the November event, I listened as Carter and Elyse Seals spoke to television reporters about our Sunday school classes' offering for Habitat for Humanity. They did a great job! It was fun to sit back and listen to their descriptions of our Habitat focus. Their statements about the work of our church were clear and powerful. Moments like these inspire me and underscore the importance of continuing to find ways to communicate our faith to the young.

I missed being at VBS this year, but I enjoyed working ahead to help choose scriptures, the types of prayers that would be used, and the themes for each day. With the aid of videos and the reports from the leaders, I was able to hear this planning come to fruition. Good job, team! This fall, I have returned to teaching a Sunday school class and I am enjoying working with the younger elementary students. One of my favorite times of the year comes when the children read scripture in worship during Advent. Hearing the words

of the prophets and the story of the birth of Christ in the voices of the young brings them alive in a fresh way. Hearing the children's voices of delight as they played in the large boxes that were a part of "Unpacking the Crèche" skit brought smiles to the faces of all of us who were helping to prepare the program. It was fun to be reminded that in this busy electronic age, large boxes still entertain children.

During 2018, the youth programs included fun art projects with Ingrid Arlton, painting Empty Bowls for Feeding South Dakota, and gatherings at restaurants around town. The youth of our church are busily engaged in many activities, but I am grateful for the moments to hear of their adventures and share in their laughter. Listening to college students who were home on Christmas break also reinforced the importance of their connections to our church, even when that is not immediately obvious.

Throughout the year, I have listened to many sacred voices—voices of mentors and teachers, voices of children and youth, voices within our congregation and the voices of other faiths. I am grateful for all who have shared their stories and listened to others. I am grateful for 40 years of work as an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. It is holy work and I am blessed to be called to serve as your pastor and teacher. I pray that God will continue to guide us in our ministry together during the year to come.

Sabbatical Report Ted and Susan Huffman

The theme for our 2018 Sabbatical was “Sacred Voices.” Our lives and ministries have been shaped by many voices: voices of mentors, authors, colleagues, children, and elders. Listening is a sacred act and a discipline worthy of our practice.

In 2001, Ted was granted his first Sabbatical Leave after serving this congregation for six years. At the time, Susan's position was still a 10-month position, so she was not granted a Sabbatical Leave, but was away from work for two months of that summer, due to her 10-month contract. Following a mission trip to Costa Rica with the first traveling team, we spent time that summer writing curriculum for *Seasons of the Spirit* and finding time for worship and spiritual renewal. In 2006, First Congregational Church received a grant from the Lilly Endowment to support a Sabbatical. That included funds for visiting scholars to lead programs for the congregation and travel for us to explore sacred places, seeking deeper understanding of both the conflicts and opportunities in the Black Hills (Paha Sapa).

The third sabbatical of our ministry here was taken in 2011. This sabbatical focused on exploring sacred times.

A pastoral sabbatical is different from an academic sabbatical in many ways. The Lilly guidelines on sabbatical planning state: *A sense of balance may be reflected in the attention paid to both the pastor's personal and professional life during the renewal period. A sense of balance also can come across in the range of activities in the renewal plan. The strongest proposals contain more than one proposed activity and frequently involve a retreat or reflection component.*

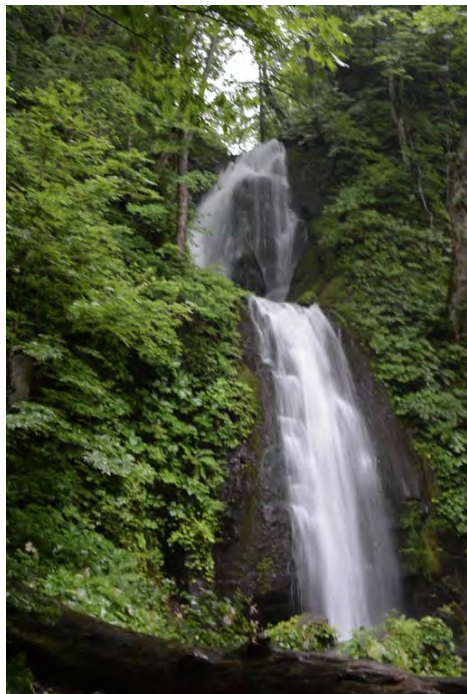
To this end, we spent time resting, reading and recreating. We spent time with our children and with trusted mentors and guides as we look toward the future. We spent time worshiping in other congregations. And we returned to Mimanagish, the church camp where we met.

During our Sabbatical we spent three weeks in Japan. Many of you know



that our daughter and her husband live in Japan. Rachel and Mike live in northern Honshu, the main island of Japan. In contrast to the pictures everyone sees of crowded urban cities like Tokyo, the area where they live is quite rural. We were impressed with the natural beauty of the area. One of our day trips was to the Oirase Gorge in the Towada-Hachimantai National Park. The gorge is a beautiful canyon, filled with many varieties of moss and ferns, amazing cedar and bamboo trees and dozens of gorgeous waterfalls.

During our visit to Japan, we also reconnected with our foreign exchange daughter, Masami. We visited her parents' home and met her family. Twenty years after Masami lived with us, we experienced a meaningful reunion. We shared photos, stories and lots of delicious food! And we were reminded of the importance of programs like the Rapid City-Nikko City Sister City partnership. These connections help us form friendship with people in other parts of our world. We are thankful for people in our church who worked on the Rapid City-Nikko City partnership, including Pat and Willis Sutliff, Georgia and Michael O'Connor, Ed McLaughlin and Doris Marie Strom. We were aware that our presence in Nikko City and the surrounding area was part of



a larger experience of shared exchanges and friendships.

Additionally, we spent time exploring the history and practice of religion in Japan. The two major religions in Japan are Shintoism and Buddhism. Shintoism is the native religion of Japan. Shinto means “the way of the gods.”

These gods or spirits, called kami, possess power over life. They become angry when ignored and are pleased if the people pay attention to them and follow the rituals. Until after WWII, Shinto was the official religion of Japan and received state support. Although Shintoism is no longer the state religion, Shinto practices continue to infuse Japanese life and define what it means to be Japanese. Shinto shrines are everywhere. And we do mean everywhere. One book estimates that there are 81,000 Shinto shrines in Japan!



The red Torii gates at the entrance to a shrine indicate that one is entering sacred space. These gates separate the ordinary space from the sacred space. Many of the shrines are very old and are significant cultural and historic sites. Some have been designated at UNESCO sites. Others are simply little places, tucked between

the tall buildings in Tokyo, Sendai, or other modern cities.

Most Japanese people observe some of the Shinto traditions, such as bringing their newborn infant to a shrine for a special ceremony when the baby is one month old. The third and seventh birthdays for girls and third and fifth birthday for boys are also special times to visit the local shrine. The “Coming of Age” 20th birthday involves special ceremonies at the shrine. Most Japanese observe these ceremonial days. New Year’s Day is a major holiday in Japan and many people visit the Shrines at this time.



Nikko Toshugu Shrine is a large and important shrine, established in 1617 to enshrine Tokugawa Ieyasu the first shogun of Tokugawa Shogunate. We visited this shrine with Masami and some of her family members. Masami instructed us in proper rituals. First, we washed our hands and mouths before we entered the shrine. The Japanese believe that impurity is offensive to kami, so many rituals are related to cleanliness. When we were inside the shrine, we were instructed to give an offering of coins, bow two times, then clap two times and make a wish. Some would say that was a prayer, but Masami described it as “making a wish.” This could be a wish for oneself or a wish for others.

The grounds at Nikko are filled with beautiful buildings, elaborately carved panels and historical information. When we visited, it was crowded. Hundreds of schoolchildren were there on field trips. Masami told us that on New Year’s Day the shrine would be much more crowded, with people standing in line for hours to make their offering, bow, clap and make a wish. We wondered what keeps people coming to this shrine. Is the trip to Nikko a cultural and historical field trip for schoolchildren? Do people go to Nikko at New Year’s because it’s a deeply ingrained tradition? Or is there also some religious belief that keeps so many people coming to the shrines?



Japanese culture is well known for its festivals. Most of you have, no doubt, heard of the Cherry Blossom Festival, for example. Many of the festivals also have their roots in the religious traditions of Shintoism. Rituals and festivals exist to keep kami happy. The cycle of holidays seeks to get the attention of kami and to entertain them. If kami enjoy themselves they will bring luck and prosperity to the people.

Although we were not there at the time of the festivals, we were able to visit places where floats are kept for the festival parades. One was a museum

in Aomori, the home to the Nebutu Festival, the largest festival in northern Honshu. The festival originated to ward off the sleep demons. These demons were believed to be the enemies of farm work because they caused drowsiness during the busy summer farming season. We saw some of the floats used in the festival parade, observed a performance of some of the singing and dancing and learned more about the artists who create the elaborate floats.

Buddhism is the other major religion in Japan. Most Japanese people observe both Shinto and Buddhist rituals. It is not accurate to say that a certain percentage of the Japanese people is Shinto and another percentage is Buddhist. Most Japanese are both. Bringing the newborn baby to the Shrine and observing the ceremonies for the special birthdays are Shinto practices observed by the majority of Japanese, but the Japanese turn to Buddhist traditions at the time of death. The majority of Japanese observe Buddhist funeral practices and rituals.

Buddhism came to Japan in the sixth century AD. Something you may not know is that there are varieties of Buddhism, just as there are varieties of Christianity. We know there are Catholics, Lutherans, Baptists and us in the UCC. Buddhism has various sects, too. The two most popular in Japan are Pure Land Buddhism and Zen Buddhism.

One of our visits to a Buddhist Temple was to a temple called Seiryu-ji. Seiryu-ji is a relatively new Buddhist tem-

ple founded by a Buddhist priest named Ryuko Oda in 1982. This temple was built on his belief that “A temple itself preaches to us in a silent manner.” The information sheet we received describes it as a “grand sacred place that comforts visitors and helps them to seek for truth.” The temple is located in quiet, rural area, away from the cities.



At the Seiryu-ji temple, there is a giant statue—a “big Buddha.” Over 70 feet tall, this is the tallest seated bronze Buddha in Japan. Ryuko Oda, the founder of Seiryu-ji temple, was concerned that Japanese society was moving away from the values that were important.

Some of the teachings were displayed around the walls of this temple. They included such wisdom as:

- When we are suffering, it is neither money nor people that could help you; but it is the strength from the bottom of your heart.

- Express your gratitude and thankfulness with loving eyes, with a warm smile and with kind words.
- A human being cannot attain happiness alone. Happiness springs from the relationship between one person and another.



We also visited Buddhist meditation caves at Matsushima. Although these caves are no longer used regularly, the island is managed by the nearby Buddhist temple. The quiet of the “Big Buddha” temple and the meditation caves provided quite a contrast to the noise of the busy shrines.

Near the end of our visit to Japan, we made a pilgrimage to Hiroshima and revisited the history of that city.

On August 6, 1945, the atomic bomb exploded over Hiroshima. On September 17—just six weeks after the A-bomb explosion, Hiroshima was hit by a massive typhoon. The burnt city was completely submerged. The fires that had burned for weeks were put out, but the shelters and shacks in which the survivors lived were totally destroyed. Winter in the burnt-out city was the severest in many years. On February 22, 1946, about six months after the explosion, the Governor of the Hiroshima Prefecture, Tsunei Kusumose, gathered visionary leaders together to discuss the future of Hiro-

shima. In addition to the governor, the group included a religious historian, a novelist, the deputy mayor of Kure City, the director of the Hiroshima's Central Broadcasting station, the assistant abbot of the Hiroshima Betsuin Temple and an artist. Religious leaders and artists were more represented than politicians. Governor Kusumose spoke of reconstructing Hiroshima, rather than restoring the city. People were enthusiastic about the reconstruction of Hiroshima as a peaceful modern city full of green vegetation. However, at that time, this was a dream because most of the trees and other vegetation had been destroyed when the bomb was dropped.

But the vision persisted. As people began working to reconstruct the city, the president of Hiroshima University sent letters to universities throughout the United States, Europe and Asia, asking for seeds and seedlings. The response to his request was great. More than 6,000 trees were donated for planting in Hiroshima. Some came from other parts of Japan and many came from abroad. Today, Hiroshima has been rebuilt as a beautiful city of trees.

We expected a somber experience, similar perhaps to visiting the Concentration Camp at Dachau in Germany—a plea to “never again” allow this type of destruction. Visiting the Hiroshima Peace Park and Museum, however, was different than what we expected. While it was a sobering experience to revisit the destruction of Hiroshima caused by the atomic bomb, our visit to Hiroshima inspired hope.

Perhaps the words of the Memorial Monument for Hiroshima, City of Peace sums it up best:



LET ALL SOULS HERE REST IN PEACE FOR WE SHALL NOT RE- PEAT THE EVIL.

This monument embodies the hope that Hiroshima, devastated on 6 August 1945 by the world's first atomic bombing, will stand forever as a city of peace. The stone chamber in the center contains the Register of Deceased A-bomb Victims. The inscription on the front panel offers a prayer for the peaceful repose of the victims and a pledge on behalf of all humanity never to repeat the evil of war. It expresses the spirit of Hiroshima—enduring grief, transcending hatred, pursuing harmony and prosperity for all, and yearning for genuine, lasting world peace. (Yoshiteru Kosaki)

Since we returned from Japan, we have tried to study what has enabled the Japanese to reconstruct Hiroshima as a city dedicated to peace.

Tradition and ritual, such as the Shinto emphasis on cleanliness, infuses Japanese culture. Attending traditional

times of ritual and festivals continues to be important. Everywhere we went, in the hotels and restaurants, as well as at the shrines and temples, people took time to write out their wishes and prayers. The dedication to creating a peaceful society, living in harmony with others and moving forward in hope indicate that religious values are a part of Japan today.

During our sabbatical, we listened to many sacred voices. We spent time in nature, opening ourselves to the Voice of Creation. We took time to re-read formative theological works and to explore new books as well. We met with mentors and worshiped in a variety of congregations, exploring the state of the church today and considering the future. Voices of judgment and acceptance; voices of peace, forgiveness and hope; voices of anxiety and persistence all found their way into our sabbatical experience.

Throughout the time away from the congregation, we listened to our own inner voices and sought the Voice of God. God's voice may be a still, small voice, but it is persistent, calling us to serve faithfully as your pastors and teachers. We are grateful for the time to be attentive to the voice of God's calling.



Minister of Christian Nurture Becky Fleming

This past year has been a new challenge for me. Balancing my full time job with the State of South Dakota and my new role with the church has been difficult at times. This summer, I filled the pulpit several Sundays when Ted and Susan were on sabbatical and was blessed with assisting with Vacation Bible School. I had the opportunity to participate in the memorial service and celebration of life for Lavona Jonas this past summer. I continue to visit with members of this church as I am able and have served communion to shut in members at nursing facilities I have spent time sending brief notes to people who are ill and hope to improve that system dramatically in the near future.

I served as Dean of Grandcamp at Placerville. This remains a great opportunity to share the love of Christ with people of all ages. I also continue to fill a variety of needs in this church as they present themselves, from helping with transportation to funerals, to problem solving as situations arise, to filling the pulpit as needed.

There are several areas of

challenge for me. Often, I simply do not know when someone wants or needs a visit. I know that our congregation does a wonderful job of taking care of each other. As I became ill this summer, I had members reaching out with cards, prayers, food, and got to personally see the greatness of this congregation. However, I feel that I am dropping the ball when I do not know of areas of concern until they have resolved. I am a member of our prayer chain, but even then, things do not always get brought to my attention. Please help me with this, even if I can simply add my voice to the prayers of many. I struggle as well with knowing when someone would want me to visit, versus a closer friend of the congregation, so tend to err on the side of not visiting. Please help me with this as well. I also struggle with the technology of the sound system in our church. Between Vacation Bible School, the services for Lavona, and filling the pulpit, I did have some issues that caused increased stress for me. I hope to become more comfortable with these processes throughout this coming year.

I represent our Black Hills Association on the Committee on Ministry as well. This group is looking at the changes recommended in the New Manual on Ministry.

I hope that when you think of me, you think of someone full of God's love, willing to meet you where you are, who is continuing to learn the role God wants me to play in His world. Thank you for your love and support as I continue to grow in Christ.

Disabilities Education and Advocacy Ben Anderson

I have always enjoyed working with the Indian University of North America, Crazy Horse Memorial, Crazy Horse, SD because it has always been enjoyable because the students have real interesting insights about where they want to go in life and they have interesting questions about disabilities.

In April I was invited to Ames United Church of Christ Ames, IA where I spoke and did an open forum and a sermon on How Wide is Your Welcome.

In June, Dee and I were invited to do the Youth Event in Grinnel, IA. I presented at six workshops on the subject of disabilities. I spoke at Springfield UCC in South Dakota in October.

This past year I began a "No Longer Strangers" mail chimp blog where I emailed Tri-Conference churches around IA, NE and SD. I hope to continue it soon and hope it gets as big as possible and that the churches respond to it and let their congregations read my blog information.

This year I found myself the first time in my 40 year career to cancel a lot of

my work and presentations and put them on hold because I found myself getting sick in July and August. So about 95 percent of my scheduled activities had to be cancelled for awhile for medical reasons. One of the most important activity was my trip to the "Widening the Welcome" conference in November which I had to cancel as it was difficult for me to fly at that time.

Most of these activities I hope to re-schedule these coming months. I appreciate all the prayers and support we have received from First Congregational UCC of Rapid City, SD.

I am writing to you from Rochester, Minnesota where I was at Mayo Clinic for the last month with major surgery. This was the first surgery and I will need two more surgeries starting hopefully this August or September.

I had the privilege to work with some "consumers" (18 to 21 year old) in Scottsbluff, Nebraska in October and again the end of November as I finished up one of my grants we had from the Nebraska Developmental Disability Council.

I am hoping to be able to continue working with developmental disability community as I find it rewarding.

Genesis Grant for Disabilities Ministries

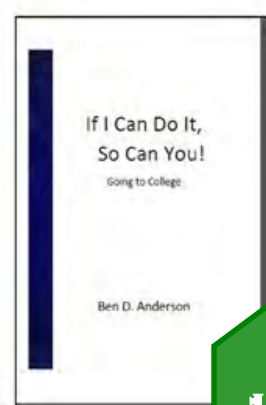
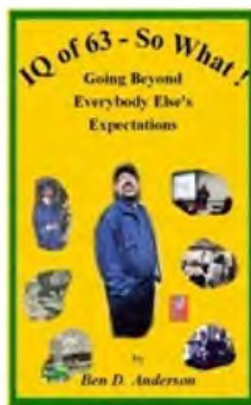
In 2017, First Congregational Church was the recipient of a Genesis grant from the United Church of Christ. This \$12,000 grant was awarded for an "innovative program" in the areas of disability education and anti-bullying. The grant was given to support programs for one year, from September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018. These programs were carried out by our Commissioned Minister for Disabilities Education and Advocacy, Ben D. Anderson. Ben worked to contact churches, camps and community organizations. He spoke to churches in the tri-Conference area of South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa. He met with youth groups and held discussions at family nights. In June, Ben and Dee

traveled to Grinnell, Iowa where Ben led three different workshops at the West Central Regional Youth Event.

The Genesis grant required us to raise \$4,000 in matching funds, during the term of the grant: September 1, 2017-August 31, 2018.

The Genesis Grant program allows for a second grant to be awarded for the continued support of an innovative ministry. 1st Congregational United Church of Christ applied for and received a second year grant. The second grant of \$10,800 extends this ministry for an additional year. A matching amount of \$5,815 will come from Black Hills Association congregations, 1st Congregational United Church of Christ and other sources. The grant period concludes on August 31, 2019.

As disciples of Christ, church members have an important role to play in initiating a change in our communities and advocating for the rights of all. Towards that end, we anticipate discussions in 2019 about ways for 1st Congregational United Church of Christ to continue this vital outreach ministry.



Pastor Emerita Proposal

The Church Board recommends the adoption of the following resolution by the Congregation of 1st Congregational United Church of Christ at its annual meeting on January 27, 2019:

The Department of Worship Bonnie Edwards, chair

A RESOLUTION NAMING REV. KATHLEEN BATCHELDER PASTOR EMERITA OF 1ST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS Rev. Kathleen Batchelder was ordained to the Christian Ministry in 1st Congregational United Church of Christ on October 10, 2010; and

WHEREAS Rev. Kathleen Batchelder served faithfully as Minister of Christian Nurture from her ordination through her retirement at the end of October of 2017; and

WHEREAS Rev. Kathleen Batchelder provided worship leadership, pastoral care and comfort, teaching and spiritual leadership to our congregation; and

WHEREAS Rev. Kathleen Batchelder continues to be an active and involved member of our congregation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that 1st Congregational United Church of Christ award Rev. Kathleen Batchelder the honorary title of Pastor Emerita of our congregation.

The Department of Worship met in February, March, April, May, August, October, and November. Members of the department were Bonnie Edwards (chair), Robin Franson (secretary), Tish Wilkinson, Barb Knight, Marilyn Fransen and Jordan LaPoint. Church staff was represented by Pastor Ted Huffman and Stephen Branch (through August) and Alan Glover (September-December).

We arranged readers and greeters for the year; presented Baptismal Certificates and roses for baptisms during worship service; planned for musicians for worship during the summer months; planned for Christmas season with suggestions for Christmas Eve service update and gathering music.

Worship Department spent the summer searching for a choir director, meeting with Stewardship and Budget, and hiring Alan Glover for the position in August.

The Department of Education Alicia Sutliff-Benusis, chair

The Department of Education for 2018 consisted of Terry Brouillette, Jodi Burke, Lynn Grauman, Jenny Kozel, Sue Maynard, Alicia Sutliff-Benusis, and Minister of Education, Susan Huffman.

The Department focused on the following Items in 2018:

We started 2018 with “Acts of Service” theme for First Wednesday Family nights.

“Exploring Religious Traditions” had a Ba’hai speaker, took a break for the summer, and also took a break for Fall. Members of UCC did meet with The Well and Jewish Members of our community following the synagogue killings.

VBS was a great success. With Susan gone on sabbatical, all volunteers pulled together to put on a great week of learning. Planned earlier in the summer, attendance was still decent.

Ryan Webster went to the UCC Youth Event in June 2018.

Confirmation for Fall 2018 was discussed and is moving forward with

the dedication of Jodi Burke and Susan Huffman.

Anti-Bulling Speaker Series was discussed early in 2018. We hope to start this series in 2019.

Sunday School Kick-Off went well with Bounce House, etc. Habitat for Humanity Curriculum was used for Fall 2018.

Youth Pastor position was discussed seriously. Everyone in the department would like a youth pastor or advisor in some capacity. Ryan Webster and Nick Strampe were approached to see if they would like to be youth leaders for the middle and high schoolers. Background checks need to be performed. Job description is being formed. Progress has been slow, although the department feels a youth advisor/pastor position should be a priority for the church.

Our preliminary research numbers: Jodi research some local and national trends: Ordained youth minister. 30/hrs week, but some weeks are 24/7 with mission trips or camps. Salary = upper \$30,000. National trend is \$30,000-40,000/yr. (about \$18/hr). We could offer a layperson \$13-14/hr at 5 hrs a week. \$273-294/mo. This is a great way to start—and a great way to get a youth pastor on the budget for now.

Christmas Children’s program was fun and chaotic. Willy and Jenny Grigg worked on songs for the kids—thank you!

Moving into 2019 we look forward to a confirmation class, growing youth program, etc.

The Department of Ministries Jeff VanCuren, chair

2018 was once again a very successful year. Our members were Jeannette Hill, Jeff VanCuren, Susan Kelts, Jim Webster, Mark and Reva Ortega (2 for 1) and Pat Sutliff.

This year we prepared, transported and served four hot meals at the Cornerstone Mission. These four events allowed the congregation to come together and share good food and fellowship not only with our own congregation but also with some of Rapid City’s residents in need. At the mission we averaged about 150 clients. We would like to sincerely thank the members of the congregation to all those who baked cookies, shopped for food, prepared the food and served the dinners. Without everyone we could not have impacted the lives of so many people.

During the year we promoted the four special offerings of the UCC: One Great Hour of Sharing where we collected \$1,841; Strengthen the Church where we collected \$1,096; Neighbors in Need where we collected \$1,321; and The Christmas fund where we collected \$1,808. Our

Congregation is so generous in their support.

The sale of "We Care" food certificates continues to not only be a benefit to Church Response but also to the Department of Ministries. This year, we started with a balance of \$5,830.62 (\$4,500 in certificates and 1,330.62 in cash) we sold certificates on every Sunday after Church Service. The certificates were valued at \$77,050.00 which we purchased for \$75,712.25 and then the Department spent \$850 on the Mission meals for a profit of 1,337.70. This left us with a total of \$6318.37 (\$4,500 in certificates and 1,818.37 in cash) at the end of the year. The Department also received permission from the Church Board to donate \$318.37 to the Sunday Bus Transportation fund in the 2019 Budget. Remember the more certificates you buy, the more that we can contribute to this worthwhile outreach program.

In 2017 the congregation donated 758 pounds of food valued at \$1,144 and Christmas items to Church Response. We also contributed toiletries, clothes and other misc. items to the Cornerstone Mission. We are very fortunate to have so many generous congregation members.

Jeannette Hill and Jeff VanCuren have completed our three-year terms and we want to thank the other board members for their hard and dedication to all our endeavors.

Once again, we want to say "Thank You" to the entire congregation!!!!

The Department of Hospitality Pandi Bollock, chair

Our UCC Hospitality Team has been so much fun this past year. Our team members are Melissa Emerson, Kalsy Brinkman, Patti Rea, Monty Bollock and Pandi Bollock. Melissa has served for the past 3 years and will leave us this year. Melissa is very creative and makes some delicious desserts! Joining our team will be Carol Boyles and Kathy Dannenbring! We look forward to an exciting year of offering fun socials and opportunity for fellowship with our church family. A recap of 2018 events; January we hosted the Annual Meeting providing doughnuts, servers and dishwashers, which of course we do at all of our events. February we offered a "Souper" Bowl Sunday Pot Luck, March was special be-

cause we decorated the foyer with Irish decorations, provided the refreshments and then enjoyed Irish music back in the sanctuary. The rummage sale was still on-going as we had a little blizzard that Friday. April we enjoyed a Spring Pot Luck with visiting and wonderful food. In May we did Homemade Muffins for Moms. We gave each table a potted plant for a lucky mom to take home. We gave 12 young moms a gift card to Once Upon a Child. Women's Fellowship provided the funding. For Father's Day in June we had a fantastic Nacho Bar Potluck and in July we had a Patriotic Pie Pot Luck which we provided Hot dogs and Hamburgers. No event for August. In September we helped with the kitchen duties for Ted and Susan's special celebration of their Ordination of 40 years in the ministry. For October we did a Fall Football Soup Potluck wearing our favorite team jerseys. We all made a delicious soups but I think Patti's Fish chowder was the favorite! Our grand finale in November was the special hosting of the Birthday Tables. We had 19 volunteers baking cakes and decorating the tables. What a wonderful church family we have. We have loved serving you this past year!



The Department of Building & Grounds Mike Crutcher, chair

The Department of Building, Equipment and Grounds is responsible for the upkeep, maintenance, stocking/ordering supplies and performing repairs of the church building and grounds. I would like to personally thank members Tom Berry, Mike Myers, Dave Johnson, Brent Long and Scott Schuft for their support in this grand task of keeping our church building/grounds in tip top shape. It takes many hours each week to keep up with these tasks. Thanks also to Dave Ledford and Harold Miller for their wealth of wisdom and knowledge in helping me learn how to manage this position. Thank you also to Jim Webster for trimming the bushes/hedges around the church.

This past year has kept the members busy with the overabundance of rain this past summer with the weekly mowing schedule (but we did save money on the water bill). The constant rain also led to issues with the new roof leaking which were addressed quickly. We fertilized the lawn, maintained the sprinkler system, trimmed up the trees and shrubs. Washed all the church win-

dows inside and out; dealt with a big plumbing issue with the new bathroom; replaced many worn/cracked tiles in the sanctuary; glued down loose carpet areas; replaced faucets in the kitchenette and sacristy; had motors and valves replaced in our heating system which will ease some of the tasks for the members in regards to maintenance in the heating/air system; lubricated hinges of doors and windows; put brighter lights in the craft room; ordered supplies; assisted Cinnamon Hill with their building needs. The circulation fans and lights were installed in the sanctuary and fellowship hall which made a huge difference in the temperature in both rooms during the warmer months.

Even with all the maintenance, there will be some things that we will need to address in 2019. We need to address the tile issue in the sanctuary. We are very limited with replacement tiles and there are numerous tiles that need replacing. We will need to repave the parking lot and have the lines painted this spring. We need to repair one of our lawn mowers if it can be repaired. We need to reseal the areas where the sidewalks connect with the church building. We need to repaint some of the exterior metal doors and frames.

Women's Fellowship Sue Maynard, secretary

Women's Fellowship was busy this year. We cleaned the sanctuary and the kitchen twice. Good Morning and Good Evening Circles worked together to host the annual Christmas Tea and delivered cookies to 31 of our shut ins. Women's Retreat was not held this year as there was not enough interest. Hopeful Crafters participated in the bazaar at Westhills Village and continued selling items for the four following Sundays at church. Bazaar sales earned a total of \$9,320.08. We used a large portion of that income to purchase new chairs for the Fellowship Hall.

Women's Fellowship sponsors a child to help with his schooling and we fund the pantry in the kitchen for cookies, coffee, tea as needed for worship. We also bought new signs to advertise our Rummage Sales. Women's Fellowship held the Spring Luncheon with a theme of Cinco De Mayo.

We donated \$120.00 so that each of our new mothers could have a \$10.00 gift card to Once Upon A Child. We donate \$3,000.00 to Placerville and \$3,000.00 to our church annually. Our March Rummage sale earned \$5,592.57. Our

August rummage sale earned \$7,560.01. In 2018, we donated \$2,000.00 to Chuck and Sybil Rounds for their pilgrimage to our sister church in Los Guido, Costa Rica. Other

donations from Women's Fellowship include Meals on Wheels, Cornerstone Mission, Hope Center, WAVI, Regional Hospice House and Church Response. We would like to invite any and all

women of the church to come and join us at our Board Meetings. We meet the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30am. Come on in and join us. We'd love to have you!

Women's Fellowship and Crafters Treasurer Peggy Eckholm

2018 Beginning Balance		12,193.37
Income:		
Rummage Sales	13,409.58	
Receptions	1,425.00	
Spring Luncheon	350.00	
Craft, Glass and Raffles Sales	<u>2,658.80</u>	
Total Income:	17,843.38	<u>17,843.38</u>
		30,036.75
Expenses:		
Table Cart	536.98	
Cornerstone	500.00	
Costa Rica	2,000.00	
Senior Meals	1,000.00	
Church Pledge	3,000.00	
Placerville	3,000.00	
Pantry	1,000.00	
Church Resonse	1,000.00	
Hospice House	500.00	
Rummage Sale Ads	139.90	
Receptions (Birthday, Funeral lunches)	587.13	
Retreat Suplies to be used in 2019	131.20	
Spring Luncheon	400.00	
Wider Church Ministries	300.00	
New chairs (purchased by the crafters)	7,013.16	
WAVI	500.00	
Hope Center	500.00	
Blanket Sunday	200.00	
Christmas Tea	127.42	
Craft & Glass Supplies	91.19	
Miscellaneous	<u>605.91</u>	
Total Expenses	23,132.89	<u>23,132.89</u>
2018 Ending Balance		6,903.86

Good Morning Circle Jan Gustin, secretary

An average of 18 ladies continue to meet the third Wednesday of the month, sharing a delicious morning treat with a hot cup of coffee/tea and enjoying the friendship and faith of our church family friends! Led by

President Laura Boyd, Treasurer Dorothy Davis and Secretary Jan Gustin, we continue to support the church in various projects and financial support.

This past year we had presentations from Susan Huffman on "God's Dream," authored by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and another one on "The Belonging Initiative." John Lichtenberg, Executive Director of LOVE, Inc. shared an interesting program on the work his organization is doing in the local area. Kathleen Batchelder helped us in our Easter celebration and also another program with "Kitchen Table Wisdom" and Sue Maynard had us laughing with her timely "Stress Management" presentation. Sharing her special musical

talents, Bonnie Edwards entertained us a couple of times with her voice and ukulele and banjolele playing.

Our members assisted with the March and August Rummage Sales, cleaning of the kitchen and sanctuary, helping at funeral dinners, hosting the annual Bridge Marathon and assisting at the Christmas Tea and Westhills Village Bazaar.

Donations were made to the church library, Cornerstone Rescue Mission, our sister church in Costa Rica and to the Front Porch Coalition.

You are welcome to join us in this coming year as we share in the joy of friendship and God's love.

Good Morning Circle Treasurer Dorothy Davis

Beginning Balance:

\$ 1,245.52

Income:

Pledges	\$ 857.00
Quarters	\$ 55.60
Pennies	\$ 14.92
Bridge Marathon	\$ 375.00

Total Income:

\$ 1,302.52

Expenses:

Least Coin	\$ 20.00
Bridge Lunch	\$ 226.00
Front Porch	\$ 500.00
Costa Rica	\$ 250.00
Prizes	\$ 30.00
Cornerstone	\$ 300.00
Global Ministries	\$ 233.00
Church Library	\$ 200.00

Total Expenses:

\$ 1,759.00

Ending Balance:

\$ 789.04

Good Evening Circle Cindy Ledford, secretary

The members of GE Circle enjoy meeting monthly at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday except for December and in the summer. We invite all interested women to join us! We hosted the Christmas Tea assisted by the Good Morning Circle. Many, many

cookies were baked and were enjoyed by all including making up treat bags for the shut-ins. Jared Boxes (shoeboxes that the members filled with toys, personal items, etc.) were delivered to the Pediatric Dept. at Regional Hospital. We sponsored Clothe A Kid for Love INC with a monetary donation and continue to make fleece blankets for them.

We want to thank, from the bottom of our hearts, all the church members and others who supported our Fun-Pasta fundraising along with the dish-cloth sales. Because of your generous support, we were able to continue to financially support Blanket Sunday, Black Hills Children's Home, Corner-

stone Rescue Mission, WAVI, Church Response, Meals on Wheels, Feeding SD, Cornerstone Women & Children's Center, and Angels of Los Guido.

We faithfully continue to host Sunday morning coffee hours; help with the kitchen and sanctuary cleaning; bake and serve for funeral luncheons when needed; and offer many hours during both rummage sales. The members lovingly provided a gift basket for the "Cornerstone Celebrates Banquet" fundraiser silent auction. This was great fun fulfilling our part in yet another way to support the Cornerstone Rescue Mission.

Laura Switzer, Treasurer

Beginning Balance 1/1/2108

\$1,215.89

Income:

Pasta and Dishcloth Sales	\$1,396.70
Pledges	\$88.00
Least Coin	\$6.11

Total Income

\$1,490.81

\$2,706.70

Disbursements:

Dawn Erk--Pasta sales reimbursement	\$1,100.00
Blanket Sunday	\$50.00
B.H. Children's Home Society	\$50.00
Cornerstone Rescue Mission	\$50.00
WAVI	\$50.00
Church Response	\$50.00
Meals on Wheels	\$50.00
Feeding SD	\$50.00
Jared Boxes	\$70.00
Cornerstone Fundraiser Gift Basket	\$41.42
Cornerstone Women's and Children's Home	\$50.00
Love INC Clothe-A-Kid	\$60.00

Total Disbursements

\$1,671.42

\$1,671.42

Balance on hand

12/31/18

\$1,035.28

The Altar Guild
Sharon Darrow,
secretary

Altar Guild Treasurer
Lois Moore

The Altar Guild began in February, 1945 when thirty interested women met at the home of Mrs. C. G. Osterhof. The purpose of the Guild is to provide decorations for the altar each Sunday. A constitution and by-laws guide their work. No funds are provided through the budget process, but come from flower sales, weddings and donations. The Guild sends cards of encouragement and celebration to members of the congregation. The ten members meet the second Thursday of each month, except June, July and December. Business is conducted followed by a short, informative program. This year we purchased 4 spring and summer banners to be displayed in the church sanctuary. We also provided an altar bouquet in memory of Ida Muree St Pierre and her family. Anyone interested in joining this group, please contact Kandee Snoozy, Sharon Darrow, Lois Moore, or any other Altar Guild member.

BALANCE ON HAND JANUARY 1, 2018		\$2,769.41
INCOME:		
C. McMacken donations	\$1,040.00	
Donation-Johnson	\$20.00	
Easter lily sales	\$380.00	
Poinsettia sales	\$320.00	
Total income		\$1,760.00
EXPENDITURES:		
CM Almy--2 candles	\$146.80	
Shipping	\$30.00	
Refillable glass lighter	\$68.50	
J. Tripp; leaves & moss from		
Hobby Lobby	\$39.35	
M. Crutcher-Banners	\$234.00	
S. Darrow for St. Pierre bouquet	\$106.50	
I. Arlton-flowers	\$62.07	
for outside vases		
Jolly Lane: 25 Easter lilies	\$304.76	
21 Poinsettias	\$303.94	
Total expenditures:		\$1,295.92
BALANCE ON HAND DECEMBER 31, 2018		\$3,233.49

The Congregational Pilgrim Charitable Trust, Pat Lebrun, treasurer

The First Congregational Charitable Trust, Inc. is an independent corporation dedicated to the management of invested funds on behalf of the congregation. Its mission is to solicit and manage financial gifts provided for use in charitable and educational projects beyond the

regular operation budget of the church. The funds of the Trust are invested with the United Church Foundation and Edward Jones.

In 2018, the Trust made a gift of \$30,000 to the First Congregational Capital Fund Drive. These funds were the fourth payment of a five-year pledge of \$150,000 for the maintenance of the physical plant of our church.

The Zona White Scholarship has been reformatted as the Zona White Music Fund because there are very few music students applying for music scholarships. The Funds in the Music Fund will be used to provide music for the church that would not be in the church budget plus unusual instrument maintenance. The Music Committee is responsible for

determining when expenditures will be made from the Zona White Music Fund.

In 2018, \$1,600 from the Music fund were used to purchase new trumpet ranks for the organ.

The Power of One Estate Plan encourages members of the congregation to remember the Trust with a gift of 1% of their estates. Donations are welcome now or later as appropriate. To those who have already provided for a gift, we extend our gratitude.

Members of the Trust Board are: Tom Berry, Jack Bossen, Randy Daughenbaugh, Robin Eddy, Lia Green, Ted Huffman (ex-officio), Pat Lebrun, Harold Miller, and Eileen Rossow.

Trust Fund Values

December 31, 2017	\$636,985.16	
December 31, 2018	\$603,501.40	
Contributions:		
Memorials	\$5,000.00	
Total contributions:	<u>\$5,000.00</u>	
Disbursements:		
1st Congregational Capital Fund Drive	(\$30,000.00)	
Purchase of trumpet ranks for organ	(\$1,600.00)	
Total disbursements	<u>(\$31,600.00)</u>	4.96%
Dividend and Interest Income:	\$11,488.28	
Realized Capital Gains from cost:	\$13,861.26	
Total Gains	<u>\$25,350.06</u>	3.97%
Gains in 2018:		
Dividend and Interest Income:	\$11,488.28	
Realized Capital Gains from 12/31/17:	\$18,068.41	
Unrealized Capital Gains:	-\$36,420.44	
Total Return	<u>-\$6,863.75</u>	-1.08%

The Nominating Committee

Moderator:	Rob Burton	rsburton@enetis.net
Assistant Moderator:	Todd Eddy	treddy@q.com
Past Moderator:	Sheila Long	sktorreylong@gmail.com
Clerk:	Dawn Erk	dawnerk@gmail.com

Church Board Congregational Representatives:

2020:	Ryan Webster	ryan.james.webster@gmail.com
2021:	Kevin Sandmeier	smkmsand@vastbb.net
2022:	Bonnie Edwards	bonnieedwards@rap.midco.net

Department of Worship:

2020:	Kandee Snoozy	lksnoozy@aol.com	Marilyn Fransen	mfran40@hotmail.com
2021:	Barb Knight	rapidcityknights@rap.midco.net	Tish Wilkinson	tbug70@icloud.com
2022:	Steve Bareis	stevebareis@hotmail.com	Justin Speck	justin.speck@k12.sd.us

Department of Education:

2020:	Jenny Kozel	jjkozel@hotmail.com	Alicia Sutliff-Benusis	sutliffbenusis@gmail.com
2021:	Sue Maynard	sueandclair@rap.midco.net	Jodi Burke	sjmcburke2014@outlook.com
2022:	Jennifer Seals	jenniferseals1517@gmail.com	_____	

Department of Ministries:

2020:	Susan Kelts	smkelts@rushmore.com	Jim Webster	cubsoldier@gmail.com
2021:	Mark/Reva Ortega	mdorea@rap.midco.net	Pat Sutliff	sutliff@midco.net
2022:	Jeri Behringer	jrbehringer@hotmail.com	Jodie Thuringer	purple_bikerchick@yahoo.com

2023: Department of Hospitality:

2020:	Pandi Bollock	pinkpanda@rushmore.com	Monty Bollock	mbollock61@yahoo.com
2021:	Patti Rea	pattiarneson@yahoo.com	Kalsy Brinkman	split16420@hotmail.com
2022:	Carol Boyles	boylecar@gmail.com	Kathy Dannenbring	katididrc@gmail.com

Department of Building, Equipment & Grounds

2020:	Mike Crutcher	tiggermike58@yahoo.com	Dave Johnson	treeguy.0555@gmail.com
2021:	Scott Schuft	sschuft1@rap.midco.net	Brent Long	fxstbart@gmail.com
2022:	Jim Dannenbring	jadeincrc@gmail.com	Jeff VanCuren	vancurenj@gmail.com

Department of Stewardship and Budget

2020:	Pat Wheaton	patwheaton@gmail.com	Julie Burton	jrpburton@gmail.com
2021:	Dona Leavens	dlleavens@gmail.com	Kenny Putnam	kenny.putnam@rap.midco.net
2022:	Eileen Rossow	peregrinptbb@msn.com	Gerry Boehrs	gkboehrs@gmail.com

Treasurer Denise Webster

First Congregational United Church of Christ - Rapid City SD Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2018

(Disclosures, Statement of Net Assets, and Cash Flow Statements are Omitted)

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
Assets		
1.10000	Checking Account	251,052.87
1.10300	Certificates of Deposit	127,250.00
1.10500	Food Certificates	4,500.00
	Total Cash & Investments	\$382,802.87
1.15100	Eagle Scout Structure	10,066.13
1.15200	Piano	34,000.00
1.15300	Organ Addition	194,934.00
1.15400	Building	556,487.89
1.15500	Building Improvements	347,532.49
1.15600	Land	38,532.55
	Total Land, Building & Equip.	\$1,181,553.06
	Total Assets	\$1,564,355.93
Liabilities		
2.22000	Prepaid Pledges	10,190.00
2.25000	Payroll Taxes Payable	509.58
	Total Liabilities	\$10,699.58
Fund Balance		
3.39000	Unrestricted Fund Balance	5,667.32
3.39002	Building Fund Balance	1,181,553.06
3.39003	Contingency Fund	50,000.00
3.39004	Memorial Fund Balance	11,997.30
3.39006	Legacy Fund	70,772.23
3.39007	Air Conditioning Fund Bal.	15,928.88
3.39008	Sabbatical Fund Balance	5,811.44
3.39015	Special Offerings Restricted Fund	424.00
3.39016	Dept. of Ministries Fund Bal.	6,318.37
3.39017	Grant Fund Balance	5,758.10
3.39111	Capital Improvement II Fund Balance	199,425.65
	Total Fund Balance	\$1,553,656.35
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$1,564,355.93

No assurance is provided on this statement.

First Congregational Church

2018 Annual Report

Summary of Restricted Funds for 2018

Contingency Fund:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2018	50,000.00
No transactions	-
Ending Balance, December 31, 2018	50,000.00

Legacy Fund:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2018	51,404.55
June Clark Endowment	4,751.68
Land Easement Sale	5,616.00
SD Community Foundation	4,000.00
Transfer from Memorial Fund	5,000.00
Ending Balance, December 31, 2018	70,772.23

Air Conditioning Fund:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2018	15,928.88
No Transactions	-
Ending Balance, December 31, 2018	15,928.88

Sabbatical Fund:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2018	8,000.00
Transfer from general fund	2,000.00
Sabbatical Expenses	(4,188.56)
Ending Balance, December 31, 2018	5,811.44

Department of Ministries Funds:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2018	5,830.62
We Care Food Certificate Sales	77,050.00
Disbursements:	
Mission Meals	(850.00)
We Care Food Certificate Purchases	(75,712.25)
Ending Balance, December 31, 2018	6,318.37

Special Offerings Fund:

Beginning Balance (New Vision), January 1, 2018	424.00
Member donations for unbudgeted benevolences	11,843.00
Costa Rica Donations	5,649.00
Unbudgeted Benevolence Disbursements:	
Church Response	(431.00)
Love, Inc.	(1,140.00)
One Great Hour of Sharing	(1,841.00)
Blanket Sunday	(1,354.00)
Strengthen the Church	(1,096.00)
Neighbors In Need	(1,321.00)
Christmas Fund	(1,808.00)
Hurricane Relief	(1,175.00)
Bridger Hay Fund	(50.00)
Feeding The Horses	(1,627.00)
Costa Rica Sister Church	(5,649.00)
Ending Balance (New Vision), December 31, 2018	424.00

Memorial Fund Balance:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2018	12,655.34
Donations (Memorials):	
Buzz Donnenworth	100.00
Unknown	100.00
Al Pitts	1,415.37
Ida Muree St. Pierre	5,870.00
Cy Cox	25.00
Lavona Jonas	250.00
Disbursements:	
Adult Choir Music	(610.91)
4th and 5th Octave of Hand Chimes	(2,807.50)
Reclassify Donation to Legacy Fund	(5,000.00)
Ending Balance, December 31, 2018	11,997.30

Capital Improvements Fund, Phase II:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2018	192,685.35
Donations	74,889.43
Transfer from Memorial Funds	
Disbursements:	
Bathroom Remodel	(10,669.66)
Choir Lift Architect	(250.28)
3 Huge Fans (Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall)	(30,889.19)
Replacement of pumps/valves; Asbestos Abatement	(26,340.00)
Ending Balance, December 31, 2018	199,425.65

Grant Fund Balance:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2018	7,349.20
Grant Income	13,026.00
Donation	
Disbursements:	
Breakthrough, Inc.	(14,617.10)
Ending Balance, December 31, 2018	5,758.10

Habitat for Humanity Fund Balance:

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2018	-
Donations	2,764.15
Disbursements to Habitat for Humanity	<u>(2,764.15)</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 2018	-

CDs

BankWest - Certificates of Deposit

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2018	125,000.00
Interest Accrued	<u>2,250.00</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 2018	<u>127,250.00</u>

The purchase consists of 5 CDs in the amount of \$25,000 each.

Laddered Certificates of Deposit, purchased April 14, 2017:

	2018 Accrued Interest	CD Value <u>12/31/18</u>
\$25,000, matures 4/14/19, 1.5% interest	375.00	25,375.00
\$25,000, matures 4/14/20, 2% interest	500.00	25,500.00
\$25,000, matures 4/14/21, 2.5% interest	625.00	25,625.00
\$25,000, matures 4/14/22, 3% interest	<u>750.00</u>	25,750.00
Renewed May 30, 2018		
\$25,000, matures 5/30/23, 2.15% interest		<u>25,000.00</u>
	2,250.00	127,250.00

Unbudgeted Benevolences

The following disbursements were donated to the church during 2018.

These disbursements are direct pass-through monies from the members' contributions (special offerings).

Disbursements in 2018:

Church Response	431.00
Love, Inc.	1,140.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	1,841.00
Blanket Sunday	1,354.00
Strengthen the Church	1,096.00
Neighbors In Need	1,321.00
Christmas Fund	1,808.00
Hurricane Relief	1,175.00
Bridger Hay Fund	50.00
Feeding The Horses	1,627.00
Costa Rica Sister Church	<u>5,649.00</u>
	17,492.00

First Congregational United Church of Christ - Rapid City SD
Treasurer's Report as of December 2018 for General Fund

(Disclosures, Statement of Net Assets, and Cash Flow Statements are Omitted)

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	Previous YTD	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	% of Budget Month	Budget YTD	% of Budget YTD	Over/Under YTD+(-)	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining	% of Annual Budget
Income												
4.40000	Pledges	23,691.66	233,776.96	19,474.00	231,497.80	122	233,710.00	99	(2,212.20)	233,710.00	221.2	99
4.40500	Non-Pledge Donations	3,244.72	521,333.45	4,587.00	37,568.26	71	55,000.00	68	(17,431.74)	55,000.00	17,431.74	68
4.41000	Loose Offerings	226.75	3002.82	250.00	2,661.91	91	3,000.00	89	(338.09)	3,000.00	338.09	89
	Total Pledges & Gifts	\$27,163.13	\$288,913.23	\$24,311.00	\$271,727.97	112	\$291,710.00	93	(\$19,982.03)	\$291,710.00	\$19,982.03	93
4.42000	Rent Income	1,275.00	12064	962.00	11,704.00	133	11,500.00	102	204.00	11,500.00	(204.00)	102
4.42200	Miscellaneous Income	0.00	49.5		4,901.38							
	Total Other Income	\$1,275.00	\$12,113.50	\$962.00	\$16,605.38	133	\$11,500.00	102	\$204.00	\$11,500.00	(\$204.00)	102
4.43000	Interest/Dividend Income	2,260.41	238.11	212.00	2,632.43	1,066	2,500.00	105	132.43	2,500.00	(132.43)	105
	Total Investment Income	\$2,260.41	\$238.11	\$212.00	\$2,632.43	1,066	\$2,500.00	105	\$132.43	\$2,500.00	(\$132.43)	105
	Total Income	\$30,698.54	\$301,264.84	\$25,485.00	\$290,965.78	120	\$305,710.00	94	(\$19,645.60)	\$305,710.00	\$19,645.60	94
Expenses												
5.60100	Sr Pastor Salary/Hsg	5,454.17	67320	5,724.00	68,666.04	95	68,666.00	100	0.04	68,666.00	(0.04)	100
5.60200	Senior Pastor Annuity	770.00	9240	802.00	7,700.00	96	9,613.00	80	(1,913.00)	9,613.00	1913	80
5.60300	Senior Pastor Dis. Ins.	82.50	990	84.00	825.00	98	1,030.00	80	(205.00)	1,030.00	205	80
5.60400	Sr Pastor Health Ins.	1,113.50	13884.9	1,015.00	8,974.25	110	12,147.00	74	(3,172.75)	12,147.00	3172.75	74
	Total Senior Minister Salary	\$7,420.17	\$91,434.90	\$7,625.00	\$86,165.29	97	\$91,456.00	94	(\$5,290.71)	\$91,456.00	\$5,290.71	94
5.60700	CE Minister Salary/Hsg	2,918.25	37485	3,189.00	38,235.00	92	38,235.00	100	0.00	38,235.00	0	100
5.60800	CE Minister Pension	428.75	5145	447.00	4,287.50	96	5,353.00	80	(1,065.50)	5,353.00	1065.5	80
5.61000	CE Minister Dis. Ins.	45.94	551.28	46.00	459.40	100	574.00	80	(114.60)	574.00	114.6	80
5.61100	CE Minister Health Insurance	403.50	1620.2	134.00	1,207.50	301	1,608.00	75	(400.50)	1,608.00	400.5	75
	Total CE Minister Salary	\$3,796.44	\$44,801.48	\$3,816.00	\$44,189.40	99	\$45,770.00	97	(\$1,580.60)	\$45,770.00	\$1,580.60	97
5.61100	Secretary Salary	1,407.00	17609.83	1,500.00	18,338.54	94	18,000.00	102	338.54	18,000.00	(338.54)	102
5.61400	Bookkeeping Services	561.07	5235.02	462.00	5,499.98	121	5,500.00	100	(0.02)	5,500.00	0.02	100
5.61500	Choir Director Salary	554.16	6630	556.00	6,649.92	100	6,650.00	100	(0.08)	6,650.00	0.08	100
5.61700	Bell Choir Dir. Salary	222.22	1968.93	224.00	1,999.98	99	2,000.00	100	(0.02)	2,000.00	0.02	100
5.61800	Organist Salary	833.33	9945	837.00	9,999.95	100	10,000.00	100	(0.05)	10,000.00	0.05	100
5.61900	Substitute Organist	0.00	600	50.00	500.00	0	600.00	83	(100.00)	600.00	100	83
5.62000	Nursery Supervisor	75.00	840.75	69.00	786.50	109	850.00	93	(63.50)	850.00	63.5	93
	Total Lay Staff Expense	\$3,652.78	\$42,829.53	\$3,698.00	\$43,774.87	99	\$43,600.00	100	\$174.87	\$43,600.00	(\$174.87)	100
5.62100	Christian Nurture Stipend	400.00	10200	200.00	2,400.00	200	2,400.00	100	0.00	2,400.00	0	100
5.62500	Payroll Taxes	230.79	2765.83	230.00	2,932.54	100	2,804.00	105	128.54	2,804.00	(128.54)	105
	Total Salaries Expense	\$15,500.18	\$192,031.74	\$15,569.00	\$179,462.10	100	\$186,030.00	96	(\$6,567.90)	\$186,030.00	\$6,567.90	96
5.62600	New Music: Adult Choir	(250.00)	397.75	38.00	500.00	-658	500.00	100	0.00	500.00	0	100
5.62800	New Music: Bell Choir	0.00	250	19.00	241.85	0	250.00	97	(8.15)	250.00	8.15	97
5.63200	Piano / Organ Maint.	0.00	800	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0
5.63400	Organ Music	0.00	0	12.00	0.00	0	100.00	0	(100.00)	100.00	100	0
5.63600	Soloist & Special Music	0.00	500	44.00	375.00	0	550.00	68	(175.00)	550.00	175	68
5.63800	Communion Supplies	0.00	79.61	13.00	0.00	0	200.00	0	(200.00)	200.00	200	0
	Total Worship Expense	(\$250.00)	\$2,027.36	\$126.00	\$1,116.85	-198	\$1,600.00	70	(\$483.15)	\$1,600.00	\$483.15	70

No assurance is provided on this statement.

First Congregational United Church of Christ - Rapid City SD
Treasurer's Report as of December 2018 for General Fund

(Disclosures, Statement of Net Assets, and Cash Flow Statements are Omitted)

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	Previous YTD	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	% of Budget Month	Budget YTD	% of Budget YTD	Over/Under YTD*(-)	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining	% of Annual Budget
5.64000	CE Training	0.00	85.16	8.00	338.04	0	74.00	457	264.04	74.00	(264.04)	457
5.64100	CE Curriculum Resources Expense	100.98	2675.71	293.00	1,445.68	34	3,450.00	42	(2,004.32)	3,450.00	2004.32	42
5.64200	CE Youth Conferences	0.00	630	63.00	1,746.20	0	745.00	234	1,001.20	745.00	(1,001.20)	234
5.64300	CE Library	44.63	42.6	15.00	(12.04)	298	224.00	-5	(236.04)	224.00	236.04	-5
5.64400	CE Program Expenses	149.14	663.16	99.00	429.18	151	1,221.00	35	(791.82)	1,221.00	791.82	35
5.64800	Graduation	0.00	58.97	8.00	0.00	0	74.00	0	(74.00)	74.00	74	0
5.64900	Retreats and Special Events	185.32	1804.96	78.00	1,351.34	238	958.00	141	393.34	958.00	(393.34)	141
5.65000	Adult Education	39.00	884.49	86.00	501.32	45	1,054.00	48	(552.68)	1,054.00	552.68	48
	Total Christian Ed. Expense	\$519.07	\$6,845.05	\$650.00	\$5,799.72	80	\$7,800.00	74	(\$2,000.28)	\$7,800.00	\$2,000.28	74
5.65500	Black Hills Assoc. Dues	0.00	1164	101.00	1,156.00	0	1,168.00	99	(12.00)	1,168.00	12	99
5.65510	Conference Registrations Exp	0.00	536	38.00	286.00	0	500.00	57	(214.00)	500.00	214	57
5.65900	Minister Prof. Exp.	200.00	879.51	87.00	543.76	230	1,000.00	54	(456.24)	1,000.00	456.24	54
5.66100	St. Pastor Sabbatical	333.30	2000.04	163.00	2,000.00	204	2,000.00	100	0.00	2,000.00	0	100
5.72200	Dept. of Hospitality	52.06	430.57	38.00	355.55	137	500.00	71	(144.45)	500.00	144.45	71
5.81000	Shuttle Service	966.48	0		1,298.94							
	Total Ministry Expense	\$1,551.84	\$5,010.12	\$427.00	\$5,640.25	137	\$5,168.00	84	(\$826.69)	\$5,168.00	\$826.69	84
5.67900	Supplies	349.50	3128.66	288.00	3,597.18	121	3,500.00	103	97.18	3,500.00	(97.18)	103
5.68000	Office Equip. Maint.	545.55	4499.04	394.00	4,883.94	138	4,750.00	103	133.94	4,750.00	(133.94)	103
5.68200	Postage	77.99	741.88	63.00	879.86	124	800.00	110	79.86	800.00	(79.86)	110
	Total Office Expense	\$973.04	\$8,369.58	\$745.00	\$9,360.98	131	\$9,050.00	103	\$310.98	\$9,050.00	(\$310.98)	103
5.68300	BHPL - Electricity	839.13	10294.64	875.00	9,198.33	96	10,500.00	88	(1,301.67)	10,500.00	1301.67	88
5.68400	Water and Garbage	239.06	5076.4	475.00	4,591.61	50	5,700.00	81	(1,108.39)	5,700.00	1108.39	81
5.68500	Communications	385.22	3691.26	313.00	2,805.88	123	3,800.00	74	(994.12)	3,800.00	994.12	74
5.68600	MDU - Heat	1,232.87	10829.28	913.00	9,949.88	135	11,000.00	90	(1,050.12)	11,000.00	1050.12	90
5.68700	Stormwater Drainage Assessment	0.00	575.47	47.00	575.47	0	575.00	100	0.47	575.00	(0.47)	100
	Total Utilities Expense	\$2,696.28	\$30,467.05	\$2,623.00	\$27,121.17	103	\$31,575.00	86	(\$4,453.83)	\$31,575.00	\$4,453.83	86
5.69000	Grounds Maintenance	1,199.13	3571.19	337.00	6,022.50	356	4,000.00	151	2,022.50	4,000.00	(2,022.50)	151
5.69100	Building Maintenance	962.65	11081.41	837.00	6,312.52	115	10,000.00	63	(3,687.48)	10,000.00	3687.48	63
5.69200	Insurance	4,504.00	13797.5	1,163.00	14,399.50	387	14,000.00	103	399.50	14,000.00	(399.50)	103
5.69400	Janitor	665.63	8040.81	663.00	7,987.56	100	8,000.00	100	(12.44)	8,000.00	12.44	100
	Total Grounds/Build Expense	\$7,331.41	\$36,490.91	\$3,000.00	\$34,722.08	244	\$36,000.00	96	(\$1,277.92)	\$36,000.00	\$1,277.92	96
5.71000	OCWWM Basic Support	1,825.00	21900	1,825.00	21,900.00	100	21,900.00	100	0.00	21,900.00	0	100
5.71300	CUE Seminary Support	125.00	1500	125.00	1,500.00	100	1,500.00	100	0.00	1,500.00	0	100
5.71800	Undesig. Contingency	0.00	200	38.00	200.00	0	500.00	40	(300.00)	500.00	300	40
5.72100	Costa Rica Sister Church	600.00	7200	600.00	7,200.00	100	7,200.00	100	0.00	7,200.00	0	100
5.72500	Placerville Camp Operations	125.00	1500	125.00	1,500.00	100	1,500.00	100	0.00	1,500.00	0	100
	Total Benevolences	\$2,675.00	\$32,300.00	\$2,713.00	\$32,300.00	99	\$32,600.00	99	(\$300.00)	\$32,600.00	\$300.00	99
	Total Expenses	\$30,996.82	\$313,541.81	\$25,853.00	\$295,523.15	116	\$309,823.00	95	(\$15,598.79)	\$309,823.00	\$15,598.79	95
	Difference	(\$298.28)	(\$12,276.97)	(\$368.00)	(\$4,557.37)		(\$4,113.00)					

No assurance is provided on this statement.

First Congregational Church					2019 Preliminary	Change
	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	Budget	
Income						
Pledges	236,010	222,188	233,777	231,498	225,000	(6,498)
Nonpledge Donations	52,475	69,375	52,133	37,568	35,000	(2,568)
Loose Offerings	3,350	3,057	3,003	2,662	3,000	338
Rent Income	11,249	11,438	12,064	11,704	11,500	(204)
Wedding/Funeral	1,275	750	-	-	0	-
Interest Income	1,023	584	238	2,632	2,500	(132)
Miscellaneous	39		50	149		(149)
Gain/Loss on Sale of Investments	(367)	(184)	-	-		-
Endowment Gift			-	4,752	12,000	7,248
Unrestricted Funds					5,667	
Contingency Fund	-	-			8,233	8,233
Total Income	305,053	307,208	301,265	290,965	302,900	6,268
Expenses						
Senior Pastor Salary/Housing	65,500	66,000	67,320	68,666	68,666	0
Senior Pastor Annuity	9,185	9,258	9,240	7,700	9,613	1,913 2018=10 months
Senior Pastor Disability	975	992	990	825	1,373	548
Senior Pastor Health Insurance	18,256	13,233	13,885	8,974	10,125	1,151
Total Senior Minister	93,916	89,482	91,435	86,165	89,777	3,612
Minister of Education Salary/housing	35,727	36,750	37,485	38,235	38,235	0
Minister of Educ Annuity	5,038	5,181	5,145	4,288	5,353	1,065 2018=10 months
Minister of Educ Disability	540	555	551	459	765	306
Minister of Educ Health Insurance			1,620	1,207	1,608	401
Total CE Minister	41,305	42,486	44,801	44,189	45,961	1,772
Secretary Salary	16,569	17,435	17,610	18,339	18,500	161
Treasurer/Bookkeeping Services	4,463	5,183	5,235	5,500	5,500	0
Choir Director	6,240	6,650	6,630	6,650	8,400	1,750 Per Agreement
Bell Choir Director	1,872	1,930	1,969	2,000	2,000	0
Organist	9,464	9,900	9,945	10,000	11,000	1,000
Substitute Organist	300	400	600	500	0	(500)
Nursery Supervisor	845	525	841	786	800	14
Total Lay Staff Expense	39,752	42,022	42,830	43,775	46,200	2,425
Minister of Christian Nurture Salary	15,731	12,000	10,200	2,400	2,400	0
Minister of Christian Nurture Pension	1,871	(817)	-	-		
Total Minister of Christian Nurture	17,602	11,183	10,200	2,400	2,400	0
Youth Advisor					0	2,500 NEW
Payroll Taxes	2,612	2,747	2,766	2,933	3,052	
Total Salaries Expense	195,188	187,921	192,032	179,462	187,390	7,928
New Music: Adult Choir	195	490	398	500	500	-
New Music Bell Choir	258	251	250	242	250	8
Organ Music	100	-	-	-	0	-
Baptism Supplies	70	-	-	-	-	-
Organ Maintenance	-	-	800	-	-	-
Communion Supplies	-	162	80	-	0	-
Soloists & Special Music	450	552	500	375	375	-
Total Worship Expenses	1,073	1,455	2,027	1,117	1,200	83
CE Training	68	1,085	85	338		
CE Curriculum Resources	3,129	2,495	2,676	1,446		
CE Youth Conferences	685	313	630	1,746		
CE Program Expenses	1,123	1,063	663	429		
CE Library	206	132	43	(12)		
Graduation	68	13	59	-		
Retreats & Special Events	881	1,777	1,805	1,351		
Adult Education	970	678	884	501		
Total Christian Education	7,131	7,557	6,845	5,799	5,800	1

First Congregational Church						2019	
	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Preliminary Budget	Change	
Black Hills Association	1,162	1,168	1,164	1,156	1,156	-	
Staff Professional Expenses	789	634	880	544	600	56	
Conference Registrations	-	-	536	286	300	14	
Department of Hospitality	174	383	431	355	300	(55)	
Sabbatical	1,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	(2,000)	
Shuttle Service				1,299	6,760	5,461	NEW
Wedding/Funeral Expense	1,157	300	150	-			
Total Ministries Expense	4,281	4,485	5,160	5,640	9,116	3,476	
Supplies	4,365	3,549	3,129	3,597	3,500	(97)	
Office Equipment Maint	6,052	5,735	4,499	4,884	4,750	(134)	
Postage	1,817	854	742	880	800	(80)	
Total Office Expense	12,234	10,139	8,370	9,361	9,050	(311)	
MDU, Heat	9,693	7,790	10,829	9,950	10,000	50	
BHPL, Electricity	8,627	8,907	10,295	9,198	9,200	2	
Water, Garbage	4,769	4,762	5,076	4,592	4,600	8	
Stormwater Drainage Assessment	575	575	575	575	575	-	
Communications	3,251	3,769	3,691	2,806	2,800	(6)	
Total Utilities	26,916	25,803	30,467	27,121	27,175	54	
Grounds Maintenance	3,832	3,409	3,571	6,022	4,000	(2,022)	
Janitor	8,215	8,128	8,041	7,988	8,000	12	
Insurance Deductible Buildup	800	800	-	-	-	-	
Building Maintenance	4,393	7,375	11,081	6,312	6,200	(112)	
Insurance	13,901	12,591	13,798	14,400	14,500	100	
Total Building/Grounds	31,141	32,304	36,491	34,722	32,700	(2,022)	
Contingency	406	850	200	200	-	(200)	
Our Church's Wider Mission	21,141	21,500	21,900	21,900	20,805	(1,095)	5% cut
United Campus Ministries	1,803	902	-	-	-	-	
Seminary Support	1,339	1,339	1,500	1,500	1,425	(75)	5% cut
Costa Rica Sister Church	500	7,200	7,200	7,200	6,840	(360)	5% cut
Placerville Camp	500	600	1,500	1,500	1,425	(75)	5% cut
Total Benevolences	25,690	32,391	32,300	32,300	30,495	(1,805)	
Total Expenses	303,654	302,053	313,692	295,522	302,926	7,404	
Revenue Over (Under) Expenses	1,399	5,155	(12,427)	(4,557)	(26)		

Annual Meeting Agenda

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION

RECEIVE ANNUAL REPORTS

RESOLUTION FOR PASTOR EMERITA

CAPITAL PROJECTS PHASE II

HEALTH AND SAFETY CAMPAIGN

REPORT OF 1ST CONGREGATIONAL TRUST

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

If making a nomination from the floor, candidate must either be present or have submitted consent to be nominated

OTHER BUSINESS

INSTALLATION

CLOSING PRAYER

ADJOURN

