



**CENTRAL**

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*in the city for good!*

**ANNUAL**

**REPORT**

2022





## VISION & VALUES

### **We put our faith into action**

by nurturing spiritual growth and reflecting the call of God to serve our neighbor.

### **We transform our communities**

by promoting social justice and engaging others in ministries that drive change.

### **We invite everyone to the table**

sharing fellowship, worship, meals, music, and works as one body.

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# ANNOUNCEMENT

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of Central Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, March 19, 2023 in the sanctuary immediately following worship.

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

## Agenda

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Call to Order

Approve Minutes for Congregational Meetings

- March 27, 2022
- November 20, 2022

Old Business

New Business

- Receive Annual Reports
- Receive Treasurer's Report
- Election of Elders
- Thanks to Outgoing Officers and Staff Recognition

Closing Prayer



**CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITY**

# MEETING MINUTES

March 27, 2022

The Congregation of Central Presbyterian Church of St. Paul, Minnesota, held its annual meeting of the Congregation and Corporation on Sunday, March 27, 2022. The meeting began at 11:30 a.m.

**CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. Carol Reed.

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

**QUORUM** – The Clerk of Session, Sally Mortenson, certified that a quorum was present.

**CALL TO MEETING** – The Clerk read the following call: The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of Central Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, March 27 at 11:30 a.m. The annual meeting may consider such business as electing officers, hearing reports of the session along with plans for the coming year, hearing reports from the board of deacons and other organizations of the church and transacting other business as appropriate.

**STATEMENT OF RULES** - The Clerk then stated: This meeting is governed by the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), by Roberts Rules of Order (1990), and by the Bylaws of Central Presbyterian Church dated March 12, 2017 and the Bylaws of the Corporation dated March 10, 2019 as amended September 20, 2020.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - The Moderator, Rev. Reed, called the attention of the members of the congregation to the 2021 Annual Report, and the agenda on page 2. M/S/P to adopt the agenda as presented.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CONGREGATIONAL**

**MEETINGS** – Rev. Reed called the attention of the congregation to the minutes for 2021 congregational meetings on March 28 and November 14. These sets of minutes appeared in the Annual Report and were previously reviewed and approved by the Session.

M/S/P to approve the minutes for these congregational meetings as printed.

**APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORTS** - Rev. Reed called the attention of the congregation to the annual reports submitted by program staff members, session committees, and all other committees and organizations of Central. Chairs of the following committees presented highlights of their committee's work in 2021:

- Facilities Management and Risk Assessment - Carl Willis
- Worship, Music and Arts - Dennis Reimer
- Coordinated Mission - Sharon Zopfi-Jordan
- Children and Youth - Phyllis Brasher
- New Members and Volunteers - Kiera Faye Voelker.

M/S/P to receive the reports as printed.

Matt Ehling, Treasurer, and Christine Smith, Chair of the Finance and Stewardship Committee, presented the 2021 Annual Financial Reports which are in the Annual Report.

M/S/P to receive the Financial Reports as presented.

**ELECTION OF THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE** - Wendy Flinner, Chair of the

Nominating Committee presented the following names for membership in the Pastor Nominating Committee: Sue Hoffman, Al Zdrazil, Josh Voelker, Gifty Amarteifio, Linda Petrie, John Lee, Todd Mikes, and Jackie Klaehn.

The Committee as presented was elected to serve.

### **Corporation Meeting**

Meeting of the Corporation - The Moderator then called upon Mel Leach, President of the Corporation, to come forward and open the corporation meeting.

OLD BUSINESS – No old business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS: AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS- the President presented a proposed Amendment to Bylaws of the Corporation. The amendment would read as follows: All persons, including employees, are forbidden to bring weapons onto church premises. This includes, but is not limited to guns.

The use, sale, transfer or possession of illegal drugs, alcohol, or controlled substances on church property is prohibited; Session may approve exceptions to this for alcohol at specific events and may delegate the authority to a Session committee.

The amendments passed as presented.

Personnel Committee - Mel Leach, as Chair of the Personnel Committee, expressed his thanks and appreciation for the former officers for their services during the Pandemic.

ADJOURNMENT - There was no further business to come before the congregation.

M/S/P to adjourn the meeting.

CLOSING PRAYER - The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Reed

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sally Mortenson, Clerk of Session



# MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2022

The Congregation of Central Presbyterian Church, Saint Paul, Minnesota, held a Special Meeting in the Sanctuary and by Zoom on Sunday, November 14, 2021 following the Worship Service. The meeting was called to order by Rev. Carol Reed, Moderator, who offered prayer.

Sally Mortenson, Clerk of Session, affirmed that a quorum of the members were present. She read the Call for the Meeting, which stated: A special meeting of the congregation of Central Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, November 14 in the sanctuary and via Zoom at 11:30 a.m. This meeting may consider such business as electing officers and transacting other business as appropriate.

STATEMENT OF RULES - This meeting is governed by the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), by Roberts Rules of Order (1990), and by the Bylaws of Central Presbyterian Church dated March 12, 2017 and the Bylaws of the Corporation dated March 10, 2019 as amended September 20, 2020.

Rev. Reed then called upon Melvyn Leach, chair of the Nominating Committee. He introduced the members of the Committee, which included Deacon Todd Mikish; two at-large members, Lynda Petrie and Erika Kelly-Kennedy; and Session members Marcia Robert and himself.

Mr. Leach then presented the nominees of the committee for the positions which will be open.

For ruling elders, they nominated to serve in the class of 2024 (a three-year term)

- John Lee Sr.
- Wendy Flinner

- Lynne Severson
- Sally Mortenson (2nd term)
- Marcia Robert (2nd term)

And to serve as an elder in the class of 2023 (a two-year term):

- Jackie Klaehn.

For Deacons, they nominated to serve in the class of 2024 (a three-year term)

- Mia Wintheiser
- Peter Knapp
- Maureen Smith

For Nominating Committee members at large for 2022

- Joan Kelly
- Mary Miller

Reverend Reed then called for nominations from the floor of persons who had agreed to serve if elected for elders, deacons, or members at large of the Nominating Committee. There were none.

There was motion and second to close the nominations and elect the slate of nominees for elder, deacon, and at-large Nominating Committee members with a single vote. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was offered, seconded and passed unanimously. Reverend Reed offered a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sally Mortenson, Clerk of Session

# STATISTICAL REPORT

Clerk of Session

## 8

### NEW MEMBERS

Certificate Gains	2
Profession of Faith	<u>6</u>
	8

### MEMBERSHIP LOSSES

Transfer Certificate	3
Deaths	3
Cleared Outdated Records	<u>33</u>
	39

## 219

### CURRENT MEMBERS

December 31, 2021	219
2022 Net Loss	<u>2</u>
December 31, 2022	217

## 93

### AVERAGE SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

In-Person	93
Sunday Online Streaming	

### AGE DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE MEMBERS

17 & Under	2	3%
18 - 25	8	4%
26 - 40	34	16%
41 - 55	33	15%
56 - 70	53	24%
Over 70	80	37%

## 1

### BAPTISMS

Infant/Children	1
Youth or Adult	0

## 1

### MARRIAGES

Members - 0 / Non-member - 1



## STAFF REPORTS

“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

I S A I A H 4 3 : 1 8 - 1 9

As I write this annual report, Central is about to face another transition. I have been serving this church since March 2021. I am completing my time as Central prepares for the arrival of a new pastor, after first receiving a clergy couple from the Presbytery, Rev. Anne Fisher and Rev. Gregg Dana as bridge pastors.

It is hard to capture an entire year of church life in one short report. Things continue to change and yet there have been unexpected blessings in the midst of the changes.

We have been blessed to add new members during this time of transition. Some have been worshipping at Central for some time, but others just recently found their way to the church. It has been wonderful to welcome Jason Anderson & Nicole Johnson, Peter Evarts, Ruthie Fink, Peggy Hanson, Faith Latimer, Melody Reimer, Henry Riehm, George Joyce, and Juniper Beath. Each and every one is a blessing to the church.

After many years of faithful service, Sandy White retired from running Martha's Closet. A team of Central volunteers have worked to advance a new design for Central's Closet, providing primarily seasonal clothing for people in need. The Beacon Leadership Team and the Hunger Task Force also continue their work assisting those in need in St. Paul. The Anti-Racism Task Force spent the year

learning about the Dakota and Anishinaabe people and the difficult history of their treatment in the state of Minnesota. The task-force has prepared a Land Acknowledgment statement to send to Session for approval, not to say this work is now done, but to continue the process of recognizing and working alongside our Indigenous neighbors. During the year the Coordinated Mission team has also organized food, diaper, school supply drives, assembled hygiene kits and snack packs for neighbors in need, worked with Adopt a Family programs at Christmas, and under the leadership of Chef Barb Westman provided weekly Wednesday lunches for anyone needing a warm meal.

Jennifer Anderson jumped into her leadership role in the children and youth programs enthusiastically. Thanks to her hard work and creativity, the rooms in the upper level have an incredibly inviting look and there is always something exciting scheduled.

Worship continued to rebound after the pandemic induced lock-down. Thanks to a dedicated team of videographers led by Kiera Faye and Josh Voelker, the worship services continue to be live-streamed and viewed by people locally as well as from a distance. Music continues to be a focus in worship at Central and Jennifer leads the various musicians to produce the most amazing and worshipful sounds, including the gifts of Rod Kelly Hines.

I am continually amazed by Central's beautiful old historic building, however, recognize the combined hours spent to keep it running smoothly. Thank you to so many: those answering security calls in the middle of the night, or a service call when the heat goes out, overseeing a new security system or repairs like roof work. There are the ongoing renovation projects that Fluryanne Leach continues to manage beginning with behind-the-scenes hours spent writing grant applications to the Minnesota Historical Society. The FMRA committee with the leadership of Mel Leach led ushers, teachers, staff, and volunteers through a tabletop exercise for emergency preparedness. Lavar Jones and Peter Evarts serve as custodians keeping the building clean and set up for the next event.

Even as the pandemic would not quite let go, people were eager to see one another and there has been renewed interest in fellowship activities. Someone mentioned to me recently that the Fireside Room is always hopping after worship and activities like third Sunday lunches and Women's Networking dinners are equally well attended.

Anna Sanchez continues as office administrator with more responsibilities than we could list. She is a key partner with Matt Ehling and to the work of Finance and Stewardship, as well as those working on the building, because on the rare case where she does not know the answer, she quickly finds it. Christie

Rachelle continues to create attractive and informative communication materials for Central. (Just ask the PNC how the Mission Study she assembled became the gold-standard for the Presbytery!) Thanks to Phyllis Brashler and Laura Hutton who also worked hard on that Mission Study.

The Deacons have been meeting in a hybrid format. Thanks to a grant from the Presbytery, the church has the equipment that allows their moderator, Laura Williams to join the meeting from out of town along with those meeting inside the church. The Deacons continue to find ways to connect with the members, in particular those who need a friend.

There are challenges facing Central, like any church. It is easier to focus on what we do not have or the challenges we are facing. However, that is not the message the Bible tells us. The church is the Body of Christ and we are never alone. God is guiding this church and blessing it in so many ways. I, too, have been blessed by the time I have served at Central and those I have served alongside.

Continued blessings to this congregation as you move forward into a new and exciting time!

Peace,  
Rev. Dr. Carol Reed



# STAFF REPORT

## Music & Youth Ministry

Twelve years ago I began as *Director of Music Ministries* here at Central, and in 2022 I added *and Youth* to that title. It has been a joy to expand my role, and to revisit the work of youth ministry that I had done years ago.

One of the biggest projects of the year was to update and expand the space for our children and teens to grow, learn, and play. Up until recently, the spaces reserved for our Christian Education was a room in the basement (first John Huss and then a smaller room when the choir outgrew their rehearsal space), the beautiful nursery and preschool room upstairs, and then one classroom (fondly known as “The Orange Room.”) The first project was to convert an old office space into a Youth Room, complete with comfy sofas, a big table, and popcorn machine. Then, after we realized Martha’s Closet was going to be transitioning to something different, we updated the big space (the only place that is large enough to play group games and to gather all together) and the back offices to make a smaller classroom and a work room. Many, many people contributed to making those spaces clean, safe, fun, and engaging. Thank you!

The other major project for Children and Youth Ministry was to work on age-specific instruction time. Obviously, some of that had been done in the past, but now we are offering separate Middle School fellowship (with a very robust group of 6th-8th graders!) and a High School Fellowship time along with Confirmation. In addition to that, we have nursery care, preschool class, and elementary Sunday Connection each week. I am so grateful for the leaders (both volunteer and staff) who share their time, offer unconditional love, and commit to making our youth and children’s ministry a vibrant place.

We had an active summer of youth activities, including a St. Paul Saints Game, canoeing on the St. Croix (ask one of the kids about that trip!), a bonfire at my house, and a game night with the best scavenger hunt.

One last new element that I’d like to highlight is “SPARK!” SPARK is an opportunity for elementary-age kids to lead in worship in meaningful ways. About once a month, the 1st – 5th graders stay after church to prepare for worship the following week. Sometimes the kids learn a play (featuring the “Spark Theater Company”) and sometimes they lead liturgy and read scripture. I’m hoping to expand into offering prayers as well. We have SPARK Sundays the same week as communion so that the children can be in worship when we celebrate the sacrament of communion together.

As the Director of Music Ministry, I’m pleased to say that this year has also brought exciting things in that area. In September, we welcomed Rod Kelly Hines, a baritone with Cantus to be our Artist-In-Residence (a grant we received from the Presbytery.) Rod works with the choir once a month, leads hymns in worship on a monthly basis, and is part of two Community Sings that we host. His gorgeous voice is a beautiful addition to our worship, and the choir loves learning from him.

Because my role has expanded in other ways, I’ve moved away from the organ bench. Fortunately, we have had some amazingly talented organists join us for worship, including Dr. Melanie Ohnstad (organist emeritus from Westminster Presbyterian Church), Patrick Henning, and Dr. David Fienen (from Gustavus Adolphus). I am so grateful for colleagues

who share their talents with us! We continue to be blessed by Steve Swanson's amazing talents at the piano, and give thanks for Steve's 11 years on staff with us. Steve will be moving to Seattle this summer, and we will be celebrating his ministry with us in May.

In the spring, we had a lot of fun with our annual Cabaret, featuring music, scenery and costumes of "The Wizard of Oz," "The Wiz," and "Wicked." It was intergenerational and a blast to do!

We also welcome new people to join our ongoing music ensembles. Let me know if we can save a folder for you!

I am grateful for the past year of ministry together, and hopeful about the future.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Anderson





## COMMITTEE REPORTS



The Facilities Management and Risk Assessment (FMRA) committee members included Jeremy Berg, Peter Evarts, Craig Foss, Johanna Gordon, Melinda Kovach, Fluryanne Leach, Rev. Dr. Carol Reed, Anna Sanchez, Vinai Vinlander, and Bill Zopfi.

In 2022, Central continued to advance our work on the exterior restoration and completed additional security upgrades and numerous projects to both the interior and the exterior of the building.

### **Exterior Restoration Project**

This is an ongoing, multi-year project, aiming to preserve and restore the exterior of Central, which has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places since 1983. This year, the limestone above-ground foundation stones on the north, east and south were repointed, and stones repaired or replaced as needed. Extensive repointing and replacement of damaged bricks on the chimney on the north side was completed and the non-historic wall around the emergency exit on the north side was replaced due to extensive deterioration. All work was completed within budget.

Additionally, this fall, the Minnesota Historical Society awarded to Central another Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage grant for 2023 in the amount of \$160,000. Members and friends of Central generously contributed to the Buy-a-Brick campaign, which provided much-needed matching funds for the project. Such contribution was instrumental to the success of the grant application. This next phase of the project will address masonry work on the east elevation (rear of the church facing the Pointe Condominiums), which has been identified as the area currently most in need of restoration.

Following the anticipated completion of the above work, the remaining areas requiring restoration will be the north elevation (the side facing Church of St. Louis, King of France), the south elevation (the side facing Minnesota Public Radio), and the bell tower. Completion of such remaining work will depend on additional grant awards and the results of any future fundraising campaigns.

Thanks to Fluryanne Leach for her continued leadership of the exterior restoration project for Central.

### **Security Upgrades**

In the area of security upgrades, Central completed replacement of existing and installation of new internal and external surveillance cameras. The new camera system provides high-definition recordings of surveillance videos and remote access capabilities.

Additionally, we continue to work on replacing, re-keying, and adding locks around Central to provide for greater access control. Work on two of the three levels of the church is complete and the remaining work is expected to be completed in early 2023.

Thanks to Fluryanne Leach, Anna Sanchez, and former FMRA committee chair Carl Willis for their work on the above security upgrades.

### **Partial Roof Replacement**

We have replaced several sections of rubber membrane on various parts of the roof that have reached the end of their useful life. The work is approximately 85% complete and the remaining work is expected to be completed by next Spring.

During our roofing projects, certain gutter sections

were lost due to theft from the construction site. However, this loss was covered by insurance and Central's expense was limited to the deductible.

## Other Projects

In addition to above, there were other smaller projects around the building, many of which accomplished by volunteers. Jeremy Berg worked to supply hot water to the upstairs bathroom and the janitor closet. As a result, there is now reliable hot water supply in all the bathrooms within Central. LED light fixtures were installed in the upper-level youth rooms. Prior to this project, many incandescent bulbs had also been upgraded to LED. While there are a few fixtures around the building that may still be using the older style bulbs, as those fixtures become outdated, we will consider upgrading them as well. A new freezer for the kitchen was ordered, delivered, and installed by volunteers.

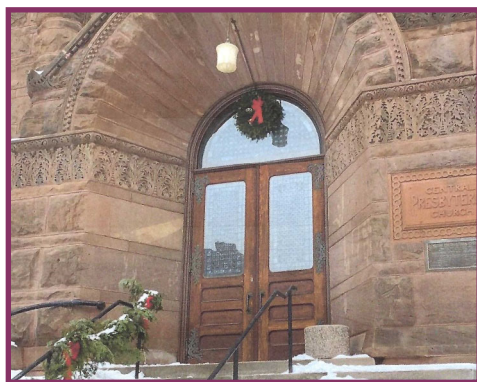
As for work in the exterior of the building, out-of-order exterior lighting was replaced. Jeremy Berg also created and installed a protective cover for the

keypad of the alleyway gate, which resolved the issue of keypad freezing over in the winter. Jim O'Neill assisted in repairing a leak from a PVC downspout near the staff entrance. In the summer, various volunteers took part in the annual church cleaning event.

Finally, following a motion by the committee, session authorized a tabletop exercise in accordance with the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The exercise took place in November and was attended by key personnel and Central leadership. The exercise advances Central's preparedness for future emergencies. Thanks to Mel Leach for his continued leadership in completing Central's EOP.

Finally, we thank the many volunteers, both from the FMRA committee and the wider congregation, who helped with all the above projects.

Respectfully submitted,  
Craig Foss and Vinai Vinlander, Co-Chairs



# COMMITTEE REPORT

## Worship, Music & Arts

It was a good year for the Worship, Music, and Arts committee. There have been wonderful people on the committee, including Ruthie Fink, Wendy Flinner, Jennifer Anderson, Rev. Carol Reed, and Denny Reimer who served as chair with Kiera Faye joining as co-chair later in the year.

At the beginning of 2022, Charrie Willis stepped down after setting up for communion for six years (and setting up for All Saints Day and serving the congregation in other ways). Maureen recruited people to set up for communion and we now have a team of four people who do it on a rotating basis: Lynne Severson, Sally Mortenson, Elaine Oman, and Stephanie Geisler. They have served Central well.

With Jennifer Anderson adding youth ministry to her job, she found Patrick Henning to take over as guest organist, which he did for a few months. Steve Swanson took on more preludes and postludes on piano.

We continued to offer livestream for almost all of our services. Kiera Faye and Josh Voelker are now doing it two Sundays a month, and volunteers are doing it other weeks. Joanie Gordon and Melody Reimer are regulars, with Annika Johnson and Matt Ehling serving from time to time as well.

The VocalPoint concerts were a big success. They brought in more than \$40,000 for the Lift Garage, setting a new record in what they thought would be a difficult time.

Ruthie talked about bringing liturgical dance into our worship and worked on that through the year. (On February 26, 2023, we welcomed dance in worship for the first time.)

Kiera Faye took over responsibility for working with the artists who exhibit their work in our Friendship Room. After the exhibit featuring Cadex Herrera for VocalPoint, the first artist to exhibit was watercolor artist Marie Panlener. Her work stayed up quite a while, followed by a photography exhibit from Amy Gabriel. Both exhibits were beautiful.

We talked about problems with gluten-free bread for communion. Wendy found pre-sealed packages and ordered them, and they have worked well.

Rod Kelly Hines, a Cantus singer and a baritone, joined us as our Artist-in-Residence and was with us in worship once a month. He led a community sing on October 9. Melanie Ohnstad and Barbara Brooks joined us as guest organists, sharing the job.

We began the 2022-23 program year with Festival Sunday, which was a big success, with 134 in attendance. The focus was on youth ministry and after worship people had a chance to see the revitalized Sunday school rooms.

Masks were made optional for choir members, and most of them chose not to wear them. Masks are also optional for congregation members.

In the fall, Jennifer talked about her decision to step down from VocalPoint after the concerts in February.

Jennifer talked about the situation in the sanctuary with plaster damage above the choir area. She reminded the Facilities Committee that she will need advance notice of when work will be done so she can plan ahead. Wendy agreed to be a liaison person from our committee to the Facilities Committee.

Kelly Smith agreed to take the lead in decorating for Christmas (Deck the Halls). There was a good group of volunteers and it went well.

Our December worship services were wonderful, including the children's Christmas pageant on December 11 and Lessons and Carols on December 18. We had two Christmas Eve services as always, one at 4:00 p.m. and one at 10:30 p.m. We talked about what to do about services on Christmas and New Year's Day, which were on Sundays this year. We decided to have informal worship in the sanctuary both Sundays. Attendance was low, as expected, but the people who were there enjoyed the services.

Carol's last day with us as transitional pastor would be January 15, 2023. She served us so well, including her planning and leading worship and preaching. It was a joy to work with her. We wish her all the best.

It has been an honor to serve as chair of the committee. I know Kiera will do a great job as she continues as chair.

Respectfully submitted,  
Denny Reimer, Chair



# COMMITTEE REPORT

## Personnel

Personnel committee members included Jackie Klaehn, Jessica Jones, Cris Ross, Sydney Linderman, Rev. Carol Reed (ex officio), and Mel Leach (chair).

As some members of the committee were new, we took time to introduce members to the staff and begin developing working relationships. Attention was given to maintaining communication with and from the staff. Shown below are the things the committee worked on in 2022.

As part of the budget process, the committee proposed a staff pay raise in early 2022 in line with the current inflation levels and this was eventually implemented by Session. In support of the 2023 budget the committee in December proposed a staff pay raise in line with the annual increase in national pay and this was approved by session in December 2022.

The Personnel committee worked with the Children and Youth committee and the Worship, Music, and Arts committee to develop the new staff position of Director of Music and Youth Ministry.

The committee oversaw the performance of staff appraisals and as a result determined a comprehensive review of staff position descriptions was warranted. This began late in the year and will be coordinated with the arrival of our new minister.

Toward the end of the year the committee was involved with activities surrounding Rev. Dr. Reed's departure and the arrival of a new minister.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mel Leach, Chair

# COMMITTEE REPORT

## Children & Youth

Children and Youth Committee Members include Phyllis Brashler, Erika Kelly-Kennedy, and Jennifer Anderson with consultation from other parents as needed.

2022 was a year of rebirth for Central's Children and Youth programs! With new staff in place, Central created a structured and growth-oriented program of faith formation for children and youth. For the first time in many decades, Central has separate age-specific groups for youth. This church is dedicated to being a welcoming and loving spiritual home from the littlest littles to young adults. Central's children and youth programs include:

- Nursery care for children ages 0-5 during worship.
- Sunday Connection for elementary-age children during worship.
- Spark! group for elementary-age children to assist in worship.
- Lifeboats program for middle-school-age youth.
- Compass program for high-school-age youth.
- Confirmation for high-school-age youth.

Many thanks to our elementary and youth group leaders and the Central volunteers who assist each Sunday!

Central's Children and Youth programs don't just stop when school is out for the summer, either. In 2022, children and youth enjoyed attending a St. Paul Saints game, canoeing on the St. Croix River, game night at the Klaehn's, and more, all to make sure newly developing relationships continued to grow.

To accommodate this growing program, staff and

volunteers transformed the second floor with new spaces for small and large group activities, fresh paint, updated furnishings, and more—to give these new groups adequate space to learn and play and to make sure children and youth of all ages feel welcomed and valued at church.

In September, the Children and Youth staff and committee hosted an open house on Festival Sunday to celebrate the new space upstairs, with face painting, balloon animals, parachute, bingo, popcorn and other treats. Thank you to Jennifer Anderson, Director of Music and Youth Programs, to Central's Coordinated Mission Committee and Martha's Closet volunteers, and to all the staff, volunteers, and members who contributed to making this dream a reality for Central's children and families.

And finally, per tradition, Central's children and youth closed out 2022 with a celebration of Christmas with another fantastic pageant written by Jeff Jones. May we always find ways to "be the barn" for others.

We hear it all the time that "it takes a village" to raise a family. Thank you for being part of the village for Central's children and youth and supporting them as they learn and grow in faith. We look forward to 2023 with hearts full of gratitude.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Phyllis Brashler, Chair

The Children and Youth Committee would like to thank the following people for their time and contributions to this ministry.

- Phyllis Brashler, Elder on Children and Youth Ministry Committee and nursery volunteer
- Erika Kelly-Kennedy, Committee member-at-large and nursery volunteer
- Megan Beese, Preschool Staff
- Maria Stokes, Nursery Staff
- Laura Walls, Sunday Connection Coordinator
- Sally Mortenson, Nursery Care
- Cindy Jesson, Nursery Care
- Gifty Amartiefio, Nursery Care
- Laura Nichols-Endres, Nursery Care
- Natalie Klaehn, Nursery Care
- Jessica Jones, Nursery Care
- Jackie Klaehn, Nursery Care
- Jessica Clifton, Nursery Care
- Faith Latimer, Nursery Care
- Anna Sanchez, Nursery/Elementary
- Jeff Jones, Christmas Pageant Creator
- Kiera Faye, Youth Ministry
- Deborah Fonkert, Youth Ministry
- Jess Garner, Nursery and Youth Ministry
- Cris Ross, Confirmation
- Rev. Carol Reed, Confirmation
- Jennifer Anderson, Director



# COMMITTEE REPORT

## Nominating

Nominating Committee members include chair Wendy Flinner, Elder John Lee, Deacon Todd Mikish, Mary Miller, and Joan Kelly.

The nominating committee met several times beginning in February. Our first task was to identify a Pastor Nominating Committee. The following were nominated and approved by a congregational vote:

- John Lee
- Todd Mikish
- Al Zdrazil
- Sue Hoffman
- Jackie Klaehn
- Josh Voelker
- Lynda Petrie
- Gifty Amarteifio

This group met many times, working prayerfully and diligently, to find a Pastor candidate.

The Nominating Committee's next task was to find members willing and able to fill open spots as Elders and Deacons. The following were elected:

- Deacons: Caroline Hess, De'Anne LaRue, and Erika Kelly-Kennedy
- Session: Deborah Fonkert, Virgie Bundy, John Patton, and Keira Faye
- Fluryanne Leach has agreed to finish a term due to a resignation.

There is one open position on session at this time.

Thank you very much to the members of this committee! Your willingness to meet often and contact members was a delight!

It was a joy to work with you!

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Flinner, Chair





# COMMITTEE REPORT

## Welcome & Fellowship

The Welcome & Fellowship Committee included Wendy Flinner, John Lee, Elaine Oman, Barb Westman, Maureen Smith, Pastor Carol Reed, and Lynne Severson (chair).

This committee's mission is to grow the fellowship, participation, and membership of Central by helping visitors, friends and members to become more comfortable and connected at Central.

The COVID restrictions were lifted and on Sunday, March 6, we began having coffee fellowship again after worship in the Friendship Room.

In April, Wendy and Lynne met at the church to clean out and restock the cards in the pew racks. During announcements on Sunday mornings, Pastor Carol encouraged visitors to fill out the Connect cards and put them in the offering plate.

After hearing several comments about the need for a new, updated church directory, the committee decided to take on this project. Photos for the directory were taken after worship in the Friendship Room on two Sundays in June. Members also filled out a card with contact information when they had their picture taken. Kiera Faye, Josh Voelker, and John Severson took the photos for the new directory. The directory will be ready and printed very soon.

In July, we had an Ice Cream Social after church and about 60 people attended. We worked with Barb on the menu selections. This social was held on the same Sunday as the youth tie dying event and we had great participation by families.

We offered an Inquirer's Class on two Sundays in September. The class was held after worship with a light lunch prepared by Pastor Carol and Lynne. A

total of ten people attended the classes and eight of them decided to join Central. We assigned a sponsor to each of the new members. Session met before worship to accept the those interested in joining, and they were also invited to join us at the Third Sunday Lunch where we served a special dessert as we welcomed them into church membership.

At the recommendation of the committee, photos of session members and deacons were taken in November. Anna put up the photos with the names of these church leaders on the bulletin board (with the glass cover) in the front hall.

The Wednesday Community Lunch serves about 50-60 people each week. These numbers are 1/2 of what they were before the pandemic. Some downtown offices still have their people working remotely so we don't have those workers coming to lunch. As more people are coming back to worship in person, we are moving to having one head usher and two other ushers each Sunday. The ushers encourage people to wear name tags that are in the baskets by the doors to the sanctuary. We continue to need volunteers to help usher, prepare and serve coffee, and restock the cards in the pew racks.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynne Severson, Chair

# COMMITTEE REPORT

## Coordinated Mission

Coordinated Mission Committee Members include Maggie Gordon, Sally Mortenson, Mary Miller, Leon Oman, Reverend Carol Reed, Marcia Robert, Barbara Swanson, and Chris Smith (chair).

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

While there are many dedicated members who participate regularly to carry out these missions it is important to note there is a role for each member of Central. It could be as simple as writing a Bread for the World letter after a Sunday service, participating in a food drive, or providing prayer support.

### Beacon Leadership Team

Housing Task Force members have included Virgie Bundy, Rev. Roger Grussing, Heidi Jernsted, Leon Oman, Susan Rostkoski, Emily Goldwaite, Rev. Carol Reed, Casey Wells, Chris Smith, Barbara Swanson, Roger Grussing, Maggie Gordon, Christie Rachelle, Lynne Severson, Margaret Cellette, and Justin Lewandowski from Beacon Housing Collaborative.

Beacon is a cooperative of over 100 churches that are united to create homes and advocate for equitable housing. Guided by a vision that all people have a home, the team worked to promote HR40, the Bring It Home Minnesota Bill, which would make rent vouchers available to everyone who qualified. Building on Central's historical commitment to affordable housing, the team is also supporting Gladstone Crossing, a deeply affordable supportive housing initiative in Maplewood. The Leadership

Team also led a worship service, along with the Hunger Committee in November and has regularly educated the congregation about its activities, encouraging participation by members.

### Anti-Racism Task Force

Anti-Racism Task Force members have included Avis Tilden, Laura Hutton, Catherine Lloyd, Al Zdrasil, Dwight Colby, Vinai Vinlander, Ronald Stagg, Rev. Carol Reed, Chris Smith, Leon Oman, Dr. Ernest Lloyd, Casey Wells, Allynne Burg, Barbara Swanson, Nancy Colby, Rev. Doug Throckmorton, Maureen Smith, and Rev. Lou Bender (convener).

The primary focus of the Anti-Racism Task Force in 2022 was working toward a Land Acknowledgement. After many discussions, studies, and field trips, the task force was prepared to finalize a statement to present to the session in early 2023. Related congregational activities included intergenerational art activities and a book reading of *The Birchbark House*. A service focused on Indigenous People with sermon by Rev. Lou Bender took place on October 16th. The group shared field trip opportunities with the congregation and added updates in newsletters.

### Hunger Initiative Task Force

Hunger Initiative Task Force members have included Leon Oman, Allynne Burg, Barbara Swanson, and Sharon Zopfi-Jordan (chair).

The Bread for the World Offering of Letters was a success. The Task Force regularly provided a team of volunteers to serve lunch at Higher Ground, conducted food drives for Interfaith Action's Department of Indian Work and Keystone, and provided financial support for the care package and

snack-pack project initiative by the youth.

## Martha's Closet/Central Closet

The work of Martha's Closet shifted as, the changing needs of the local community coincided with our need for increased Sunday school space and the desires of Sandy White and Pat Kivela to step back after many faithful years of dedicated service. A group of members gathered to reassess the clothing needs presenting to the church, and Martha's Closet became the Central Closet, meant to assist any of our neighbors with seasonal clothing needs, regardless of gender. We expect adjustments as we better understand our community's needs and the best way to meet them.

## Diaper Drive

Once again the congregation stepped up to the plate to provide 2-1/2 large laundry bins overflowing with diapers and wipes for Interfaith Action's Project Home families at the Provincial House.

## Giving Tree

In December, the Giving Tree supported several Ramsey County families as Central members fulfilled wish lists of items and provided gifts for many. Many thanks to Kelly Ishizuka, Madhu Kannapiran, and their daughters for working with the county to make this very meaningful tradition happen once again.

## Alternative Gift Market

Once again, chocolate, coffee, and with various foods and handcrafted items were available for the first three Sundays in December. Heifer Project information and cards were also shared. Members had the opportunity to do a little Christmas shopping while supporting farmers and artisans from around the world.

## Special Offerings

Coordinated Mission sponsored three special offerings in 2022.

- One Great Hour of Sharing / Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: \$5,208
- Joy Offering: \$740
- Peace & Global Witness - \$555 collected; 25% designated for World Central Kitchen

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Smith, Chair



# TASK FORCE REPORT

## Housing Justice

The Beacon Leadership Team / Housing Justice Task Force includes Virgie Bundy, Rev. Roger Grussing, Heidi Jernstedt, Leon Oman, Susan Rostkoski, Emily Goldwaite, Rev. Carol Reed, Casey Wells, Chris Smith, Barbara Swanson, Roger Grussing, Maggie Gordon, Christie Rachelle, Lynne Severson, Margaret Cellette, and Justin Lewandowski (Beacon).

The Housing Justice Task Force welcomes all Central members concerned with, and wanting to address, the affordable housing crisis here in the metropolitan area and throughout the state of Minnesota.

Central Presbyterian Church is an active member of the Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, a group of over 100 member churches throughout the Twin City metro area and its suburbs. The work of the collaborative is to build a critical mass of faith members who learn, build relationships, come together and advocate for needed, state-level equitable housing policies and construction of low-income housing at the county and local levels. We're led by the vision that all people have a home.

Central's Beacon Leadership Team (BLT) is the advocacy arm of the Housing Justice Task Force. Its members are Virgie Bundy, Margaret Cellette, Roger Grussing, Heidi Jernstedt, Leon Oman, Susan Rostkoski, Lynne Severson, Christine Smith, Barbara Swanson and Casey Wells, along with Christie Rachelle, ex-officio, and Justin Lewandowski, Beacon Organizer.

At its monthly meetings, the team reviews activities of the prior month, evaluates its work in relation to

its goals, and discusses/plans how to inform and involve Central members in addressing immediate and longer-term housing issues and campaigns. Another arm of the task force is Project Home of Interfaith Action which provides housing and services to homeless families and assists them in obtaining a permanent home. Central members readily respond to their requests for clothing and gifts at Christmas and are kept informed of volunteering opportunities. BLT's advocacy goals seek to prevent the need for temporary housing.

The primary focus of Beacon is support and passage of policies and laws, such as a rent assistance bill ("Bring it Home, Minnesota") for the lowest income renters in Minnesota. Throughout 2022, we championed this bill and encouraged Central members to join us in monthly "Rent is Due" events, digital postcard writing to legislators, visits to legislators' offices and collaborative-wide rallies such as Leadership Assemblies and the annual Convening in December. In spite of a record surplus, and garnering endorsements from more legislators plus over 40 organizations, our divided state legislature adjourned in May without passing any significant spending legislation, including a bonding bill needed for building deeply affordable homes. For the rest of 2022, the crisis of more tent homes and increased rental evictions was left in place by our state leaders.

In June, our attention immediately turned to Beacon's other critical goal - developing additional deeply affordable, supportive housing for persons at

**We believe that homelessness and chronic housing insecurity is a moral issue, and our faith values must coincide with its solution.**

or below the 30% of the Area Medium Income (AMI) level. Beacon announced the plan to build its first affordable housing in Ramsey County. Gladstone Crossing in Maplewood will provide supportive housing for young families experiencing homelessness. A Preview Event was attended by Central members and other east metro churches on June 23rd at Cross Lutheran Church. The Coordinated Mission Committee voted to donate \$1,000 from its budget as seed money to Gladstone Crossing. We've continued to follow the Gladstone Crossing Campaign Action Team's work and its prerequisite research visits with Maplewood City Council and the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners.

At Central's Festival Sunday on September 13, BLT members described Beacon's work with a poster presentation, and several of us attended a virtual Leadership Assembly for BLTs on September 29th. We helped plan, and participated in, Central's Hunger and Homelessness Sunday, November 13th, along with the Hunger Justice Task Force. Justin Lewandowski, our Beacon Organizer, preached the sermon, "When Good Samaritans Organize for Justice," and Chris Smith gave the Minute for Mission describing Beacon's purpose and work at Central. Artwork by a person who experienced homelessness was exhibited after the service in the Friendship Room.

The BLT and other Central members attended Beacon's annual Convening on December 1st when the churches of the collaborative came together to celebrate accomplishments of the year and build relationships. We learned of Beacon's new five-year strategic plan: Changing the Landscape of Home, plans for the 2023 legislative session, and the new "Unlock the Metro" campaign. We continue to view homelessness and chronic housing insecurity as a moral issue, and our faith values must help drive its solution.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Swanson



# TASK FORCE REPORT

## Hunger Initiative

Hunger Initiative Task Force members include Benjamin Amarteifo, Maggie Gordon, Leon Oman, Barbara Swanson, Allynne Burg, and Sharon Zopfi-Jordan (convener).

The Hunger Initiative Task Force began in 2018 after Central received an anonymous grant to use for helping those with food insecurities. In addition to financial donations to food related charities and programs, the task force continues to look for additional ways to make a difference for those facing food insecurities.

### Bread for the World

On April 3, 2022, Central's congregation participated in a Farm Bill letter writing campaign sending 126 letters to Minnesota's US Senators and US Representatives. The campaign was in conjunction with work being done by Bread for the World to improve the efficiency for global nutritional programs to fight hunger and malnutrition.

### St. Paul Opportunity Center

Over nine hundred lunch meals were served by Central volunteers in 2022 at the Catholic Charities' St Paul Opportunity Center. On the second Saturday of every other month, 8-10 Central volunteers help to prep and serve meals to the clients of the center. If you are interested in volunteering for one of our upcoming events, please sign up at the Central volunteer page.

### Food Drives

Two food drives were hosted in 2022. In February, Keystone's Department of Indian Works Food Shelf received over 250 pounds of food/product and over \$1,000 in cash donations. In September, Keystone's

Rice Street Food Shelf received over 240 pounds of food/product and \$1,040 in cash donations.

### Grant Distribution

Further financial donations issued in 2022 from the grant included assistance to the World Central Kitchen to help the Ukrainian crisis with meal support, Keystone to support their capital building fund for their new food shelf that is being built in St. Paul, and additional donations to Keystone for continuing food shelf support needs.

Thank you to Central's continued generosity in support of helping those with food insecurities.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Zopfi-Jordan, Convener



# TASK FORCE REPORT

## Anti-Racism

Anti-Racism Task Force members include Lou Bender (Convener), Leon Oman (Logistics), Chris Smith (CMC Chair), Rev. Carol Reed, Allynne Burg, Dwight Colby, Laura Hutton, Catherine Lloyd, Ernest Lloyd, Maureen Smith, Barb Swanson, Avis Tilden, and Casey Wells.

In 2022, the Anti-Racism Task Force (ARTF) continued its work related to Indigenous Minnesotans by inviting the congregation to participate in learning activities with the Task Force. They initiated an intergeneration reading of *The Birchbark House*, by Louise Erdrich, and led discussion on Zoom. They led an intergenerational hands-on experience of Anishinaabe art through an in-person gathering to make shoulder bags with a design by a Native artist. These activities provided a means of introducing Anishinaabe culture and custom to congregants with various degrees of previous knowledge. ARTF also invited congregational participation in field trips to the Mdewakanton Sioux (Dakota) Community in Shakopee to experience their “Mdewakanton: Dwellers of the Spirit Lake” exhibit and to the Dakota Treaty Museum at Travers des Sioux in St. Peter.

A food drive in the spring and a school supplies drive in the fall benefited the Department of Indian Work associated with Interfaith Action of Saint Paul. Closer to home, the Task Force shared updates and reflections on their work with the congregation through newsletter articles, worship led by Rev. Lou Bender in August, and worship led by the Task Force on the Sunday closest to Indigenous Peoples’ Day. They displayed resources for learning about indigenous people, especially those suitable for children or intergenerational groups, at the Festival

Sunday event and during the Indigenous Peoples Sunday lunch. Although there is no way to make an accurate accounting of the number of people who engaged with this work, ARTF estimates that at least half of the worshipping congregation engaged to some degree in these topics.

Within the Task Force, members conducted research and reflection to support their work on a Land Acknowledgement statement for the church. Readings from *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament*, the work of a dozen Indigenous translators led by Terry Wildman (Ojibwe / Yaqui), grounded our work by opening our meetings. The Task Force searched out online resources for exploring Native history and land recognition, sent representation from the committee to visit Wakan Tipi in Saint Paul (Dakota), and the Ojibwe (Anishinaabe) cultural center in Mille Lacs. They visited local sites sacred to Indigenous Minnesotans and heard stories about those sites from Jim Bear Jacobs (Mohican), Racial Justice Director for the Minnesota Council of Churches. Convener Lou Bender participated in a workshop on writing land recognitions led by theologian Kelly Sherman-Conroy (Oglala Lakota), on behalf of the group.

The Task Force created a purpose statement for use by the Task Force to guide and focus the work, talked with representatives of other churches working on land acknowledgement, consulted with Phil Romine about the work of Interfaith Action, with particular interest in the Department of Indian Work, and heard from CPC members who participated in the Twin Cities Area Presbytery Anti-Racism Pilgrimage. ARTF researched the history of CPC, both

from the perspective of land use and through the lens of engagement with people of color. Bill and Florence Zopfi, Betty Thompson, Joan Kelly, Jane Lonergan, Flurryanne Leach, and Rev. Roger Grussing all shared their time, their stories, and various materials for this endeavor. Out of all of their conversation and reflection, the Task Force drafted and edited a Land Acknowledgement statement for the congregation. At the beginning of 2023, this statement has been shared with the Coordinated Mission Committee and Session for approval, with a commitment from ARTF to take action on it once it is approved.

While the Task Force was focused on this major project, it also conducted business on several topics that consumed less time on its agenda:

- Discussed the results of the ongoing Congregational Envisioning process, ensuring that ARTF work continued to reflect the priorities of the congregation.
- Worked with the Beacon Task Force to ensure robust CPC representation at Beacon large group events and lobbying opportunities.
- Learned about the “Building the Beloved Community” Public Safety Project, sampled the work they were doing, and found it worthy of support. However, we declined to participate in the project due to the need for focused attention within the Task Force.
- Presented a Minute for Mission in July for the Joy Offering, which in part supports BIPOC colleges and universities.
- Discussed various models for expanding CPC adult education opportunities.

2022 was a rich, fruitful, and extremely gratifying year for the Anti-Racism Task Force. Thanks to those who provided leadership and those in the congregation who made the journey alongside the Task Force!

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Lou Bender, Convener





# MISSION

## Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons included Class of 2022: Leon Oman, Todd Mikish, and Mark Vance; Class of 2023: Allynne Burg, Laura Williams, and Stephanie Geisler; Class of 2024: Peter Knapp, Maureen Smith, and Mia Wintheiser.

The main focus of the Board of Deacons is care for the congregation, particularly those who are homebound or those in a particular time of need. We extend care through connection, prayer, and, at times, emergency assistance. We met 5 times in 2022, generally meeting every other month. As Deacons, we are honored and privileged to carry this message of care and concern on behalf of the pastoral staff and the full congregation.

### Connection with Members and Outreach

We continue to support our homebound members by calling them regularly and delivering flowers around Easter and Christmas. Extending the outreach we initially conducted to members during 2021 and the pandemic, we continue to keep in touch with those who welcomed additional connection. If you or someone you know would like Deacon support, please connect with us by contacting the church office or emailing [deacons@centralforgood.org](mailto:deacons@centralforgood.org).

### Connection Circles

The Connection Circle continues to meet every first and third Thursday on the Zoom platform at 5:30 p.m. Deacons support these gatherings and different members of the Circle take up hosting meetings. This is a chance to connect with other people who attend church for casual conversation and camaraderie. The group welcomes any church attendee to drop in—no commitment required! For information on how to attend the Connection Circle, look for information in the newsletter or contact the church office.

### Monthly Prayer Request Follow-up

Deacons began this practice during 2021 and recommitted to continue it in the second half of 2022. When people submit prayer requests, Deacons pray for them—both individually and as a group during our meetings. In addition, an ‘on-call’ Deacon will seek to reach out to the person submitting the request if we can discern the contact would not be unwelcome. We welcome any church member with a prayer request to invite or welcome a call or email from a Deacon if they so wish.

### Deacon Emergency Fund

Deacons continued to respond to requests for assistance during 2022 with funding for emergency needs. The fund exists to provide emergency assistance to members of the congregation, staff, or frequent attenders who have a short-term need. Types of assistance have included gas cards, assistance with rent payments, food cards, and the purchase and installation of a window air conditioner for a person with a medical condition. Requests are held confidentially and a small group of 3 Deacons works with requests that come in through Anna or the lead Pastor. Any church member in a time of need is welcome to reach out to the Deacons or the church office for consideration for the emergency assistance.

### Engagement with Other Committees

In an effort to stay connected to related concerns in the congregation, Deacon liaisons have served on the Coordinated Missions Committee, Nominating, and some members have been active in the Anti-Racism Task Force. To reach a Deacon, please contact the church office or email [deacons@centralforgood.org](mailto:deacons@centralforgood.org).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laura Williams, Moderator

# MISSION ACTIVITIES

## Women of Central

Our focus was on intergenerational connection and mission activities during 2022. We provided intergenerational connection via our Women's Networking Group and the Deck the Halls Brunch. Mission activities included the Knitting Group, the Mitten Tree, and financial giving.

### Women's Networking Group

The Women's Networking Group met monthly during 2022. We visited many locations in downtown during the warmer months and met at Celeste during the colder months. These gatherings continue to give an informal and meaningful way to connect with women across our congregation.

### Deck the Halls

A festive brunch was held during the Deck the Halls Saturday in December. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to share punch, wonderful food from Chef Barb, and great conversation. The brunch was a wonderful kick-off to the day that was filled with pageant rehearsal and church-wide decorating.

### Central Knitters

The Central Knitting Group with leader Lynne Severson meets the 4th Sunday of the month after worship in the Friendship Room. We bring our projects, share patterns, learn new stitches, answer questions, and enjoy knitting together.

Our original focus was to knit prayer shawls. These shawls are passed out to members and friends of Central who need extra care during illness or crisis. We have also knit many of the pocket prayer shawls which are placed in baskets by the church entrances. These are small, knitted pieces that people can carry with them to remind them of God's presence and the support of the church.

During the last several months of 2022, the group has been knitting items for the mitten tree. These warm, hand knit hats and scarves were given to Project Home. We hung 34 hats and 6 scarves on the mitten tree this past December. A total of nearly 100 Mitten Tree items were donated to Project Home.

### School Drive

The Women of Central provided a cash donation to the School Supplies Drive in fall 2022.

### Thank Offering

Women of Central hosted the 3rd Sunday Lunch in November to focus on the Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering. This offering supports projects that impact health and safety ministries across the nation and our world. Donations were received from our congregation and provided to the national Presbyterian Women organization.

### Presbyterian Women's Organizations

Pledge donations supporting mission activities were provided to the local (Presbyterian Women of the Twin Cities Presbytery), regional (Presbyterian Women of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies) and the national Presbyterian Women.

### Women of Central Leadership

Thank you to the board members for their service and energy, including Sue Hoffman (Chair/moderator), Florence Zopfi (Secretary/Treasurer), Sandy White (Advisor, Missions), Lynne Severson (Knitting Ministry), Laura Williams, and Jane Lonergan.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sue Hoffman, Chair

## Women of Central Financial Report

BALANCE ON HAND JANUARY 1, 2022 \$ 2,447.98

### RECEIPTS

Pledges	\$ 542.00	
Thank Offering 2021/22	\$ 2,127.00	
Write Off Check #5564	\$ 34.27	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>\$ 2,703.27</b>

### DISBURSEMENTS

PW/PTCA Pledges	\$ 500.00	
PW/PTCA Pledges	\$ 75.00	
Thank Offering 2021	\$ 940.00	
Thank Offering 2022 *	\$ 367.00	
<b>TOTAL MISSION</b>		<b>\$ 1,882.00</b>

Coffee Carafes	\$ 64.10	
DIW School Supplies	\$ 300.00	
Plants for Church Front	\$ 115.29	
Gifts for Rev. Reed	\$ 44.99	
Rev. Reed Refreshments	\$ 65.00	
<b>TOTAL OTHER DISBURSEMENTS</b>		<b>\$ 589.38</b>

**TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS** \$ 2,471.38

**BALANCE ON HAND DECEMBER 31, 2022** \$ 2,679.87

\* \$820 Thank Offering received after December 10 (4th Quarter) payment to PW/PTCA will be sent with 1st Quarter 2023 payment.





## FINANCIAL REPORTS

Finance & Stewardship committee members included Dr. Ernest Lloyd (chair), Barbara Swanson, Lucinda Jesson, John Lee, Phyllis Brashler, Matt Ehling, and Anna Sanchez.

During 2022, Central Presbyterian Church resumed full operations after the COVID-19 pandemic had limited church operations during 2020 and a portion of 2021. In terms of its financial picture, Central ended the year with strong member engagement and financial health on the part of the congregation, since over sixty percent of Central's operating revenue comes from member contributions.

### **Administrative Strength of Staff**

Central's staff provided tremendous service to the congregation, by operating efficiently and keeping solid control over budgeted costs.

### **Historic Building Work**

Through the efforts of Fluryanne Leach and the Facilities Management Committee, a restoration grant from the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) for 2023 was secured in part on the strength of matching contributions by members in 2022. It comes on top of a similar MHS grant that funded work completed in 2022.

### **Loan for Building Repairs and Upgrades**

In 2021, Central was faced by two simultaneous challenges: 1) fixing small portions of its roof that were not replaced during Central's last major roof repair work, and 2) adding additional security features. To address both of these in a timely fashion, Session used its long-term investment accounts as collateral to secure a \$200,000 loan to cover the repair and upgrade expenses. These projects were

largely completed during 2022, with the final work to be finished in early 2023.

### **Five-Year Plan**

The Finance Committee approved a five-year financial plan to begin in 2023. The plan calls for:

#### **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

The inception of a capital campaign to repay the \$200,000 loans taken against Central's investments, to raise capital for other building repair work, and to supplement church operations and mission work.

#### **SPEND DOWN OF PROGRAM ACCOUNT**

The planful spending down of Central's Program Account. This account was formed to invest half of the \$2M crypto-currency gift received in 2017. In 2018, the Session approved \$300,000 from the Program Account for staff support, to be spent over six years. Given that the six years of staff support funding will cease at the end of 2024, the Session approved another \$200,000 to be spent from 2025-2029. The Program Account is the only pool of invested money that Central has planned to spend down in its entirety for staffing and building support. (The other investment accounts do not spend their principal, only the income generated, in support of church operations).

#### **INCOME GENERATION PLAN**

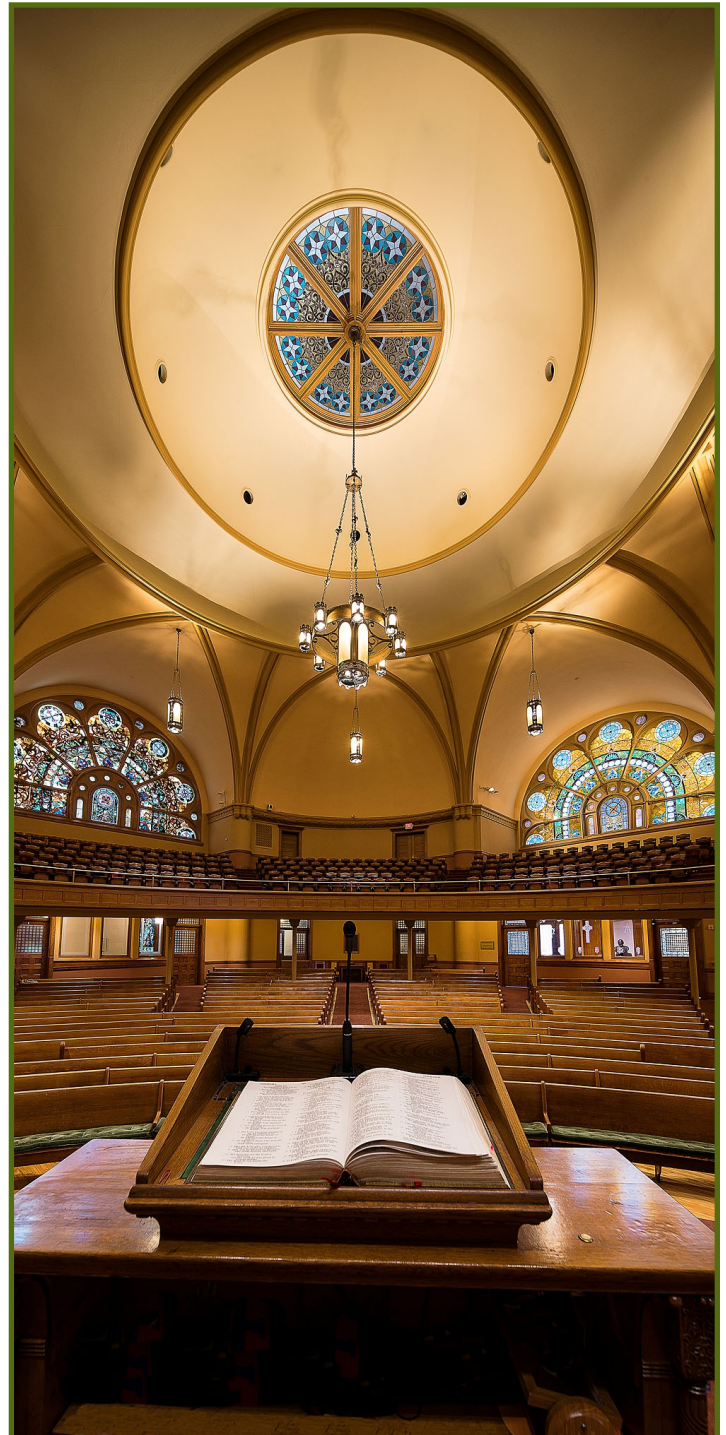
The development of an earned income generation plan, including building rental, to supplement Central's revenue. This project is ongoing and includes examining such possibilities as sharing Central's building with a second congregation or another organization in order to share the significant (and growing) costs of operating Central's facility.

## INVESTMENT AND REVENUE REVIEW

This project entails examining trends in Central's ability to generate contributions from members, as well as investment income, into the coming years. Necessary adjustments and spending plans will be made based on the results of the review.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dr. Ernest Lloyd, Chair\*

*\* Prior printings of this report listing Christine Smith as chair were in error and so this report has been updated for accuracy.*



# FINANCIAL REPORTS

## Treasurer's Report

### Investment Values

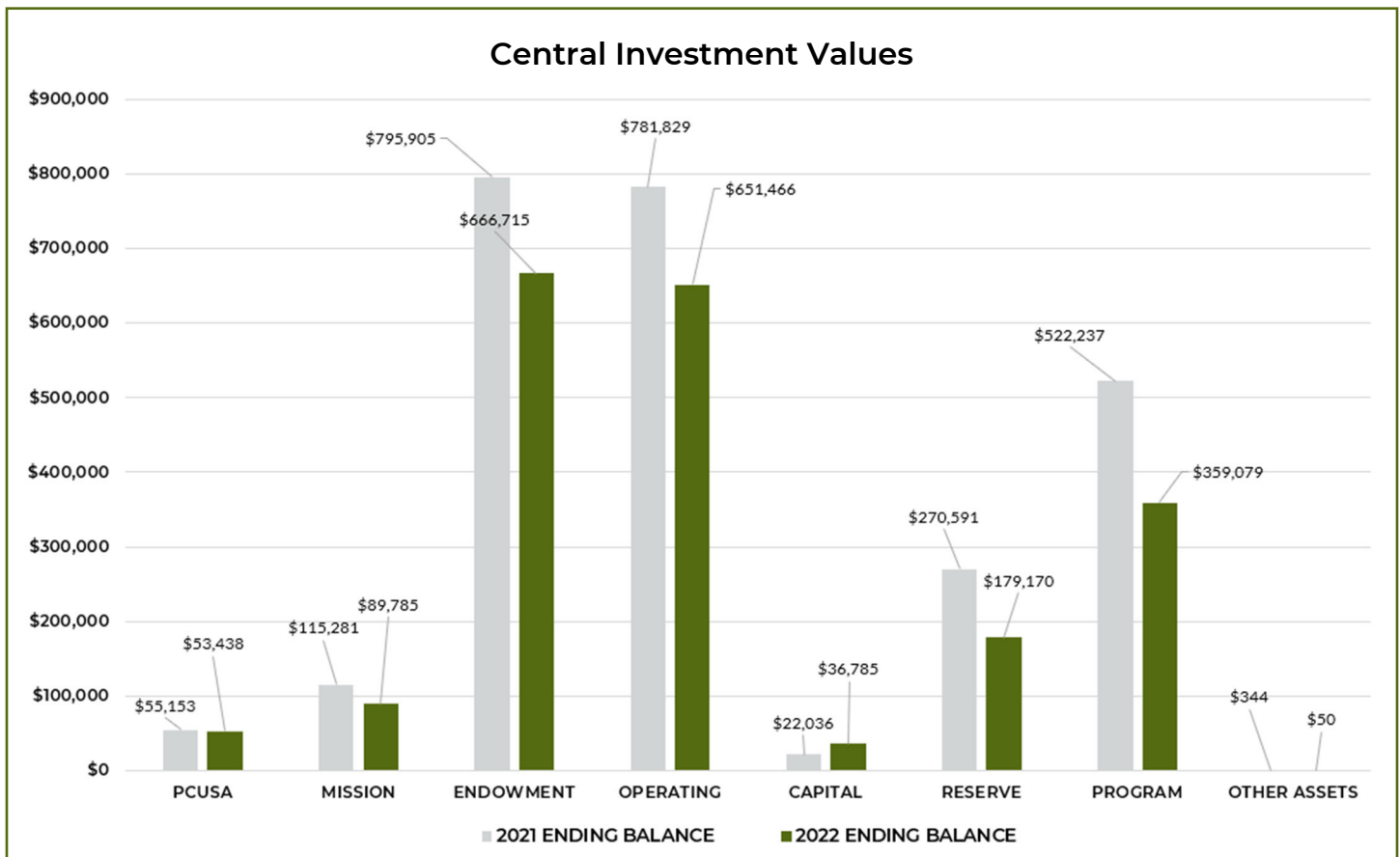
#### END OF 2022 COMPARED TO END OF 2021

The total value of invested funds at the end of 2022 was \$1,857,227, including the PCUSA funds worth \$53,348. The overall fund value was lower due to significant market declines during 2022 stemming from a variety of macro-economic factors. For comparison, the total value of Central's investments at the end of 2021 was \$2,292,438. Save for the Program Account, Central does not draw down principal from its investment accounts, and only draws income to fund operations. As such, these significant declines in value should recover over time

as financial markets recover. (This was seen in the aftermath of the significant draw-downs in financial markets in 2020).

Central also held cash of \$179,170 in its Reserve Account, and controlled additional assets (cryptocurrency) worth approximately \$50. Central's checking accounts ended the year holding about \$6000.

In December of 2021, Central took a \$200,000 loan against its investments in order to fund emergency building repairs and security upgrades. The loan is secured against \$200,000 worth of investment



collateral in the Program Account.

In December of 2022, Central opened a line of credit with Drake Bank in order to better manage church cash flow, particularly payroll, which is paid every two weeks. Session approved a line of credit policy that caps total draws on the line of credit at \$12,000 at any one time – all of which must be repaid at the end of the church financial year.

Central maintains a variety of investment accounts, each with specific purposes. Two of the accounts (Operating and Endowment) generate operating income. The PCUSA fund's income is also used for operating expenses. For more detail, please see the supplemental section entitled "How Central's Finances Work."

End of year investment fund balances:

### **PCUSA (Presbyterian Church USA) Fund**

Unrestricted; income used for Central operations.

2021: \$ 55,153

2022: \$ 53,438

### **Mission**

Restricted funds for various mission related purposes.

2021: \$ 115,281

2022: \$ 89,785

### **Endowment**

Some trust restrictions; produces income for Central operations.

2021: \$ 795,905

2022: \$ 666,715

### **Operating**

Produces income for Central operations.

2021: \$ 781,826

2022: \$ 651,466

### **Capital**

Holding account for income generated by the Operating Account.

2021: \$ 22,036

2022: \$ 36,785

### **Reserve**

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

2021: \$ 270,591

2022: \$ 179,170

### **Program**

Restricted funds for six-year spend on building improvements and staffing. Funds that were previously restricted for an associate pastor hire have been re-purposed by Session for staff support from 2025-2029 per the five-year financial plan.

2021: \$ 522,237

2022: \$ 359,079

### **Other Assets**

Remaining, undesignated assets from 2017 Monero crypto currency gift.

2021: \$ 344

2022: \$ 50

Respectfully Submitted,  
Matt Ehling, Treasurer



# UNDERSTANDING

## How Finances Work

Central is able to operate because of the generous annual contributions it receives from its members, which pay for its day-to-day operations. Central also has long-term investment accounts that generate income to help pay for day-to-day expenses.

These investment accounts can also serve as loan collateral when Central has to raise money to pay for emergency building repairs or similar expenses. (Central is using a portion of its investments in this way right now. Those investments are currently securing a loan the church is using to help make emergency roof repairs and upgraded security features.)

In order to preserve and grow its investment accounts to ensure a long-term financial future for the church, Central does not spend investment principal, only investment earnings (income). The one exception to this is the “Program Account,” funded by cashing out Monero crypto-currency, a large financial gift the church received in 2017. One million dollars from that gift created the Program Account, and that account has been the source of funds for several designated programs since 2018, including building repair and staff support programs. The other million dollars of the gift was divided between the Endowment and Operating Accounts.

### CENTRAL'S ACCOUNTS

For a small organization, Central has fairly complex finances. Central has several bank and investment accounts through which it transacts business and holds its long-term assets. These are all organized and separated by purpose, to better ensure the tracking of funds:

#### Checking Account

This is the account where day-to-day operating expense transactions occur.

#### Reserve Account

This is a savings account that holds designated cash for special projects, as well as investment income generated during the prior calendar year, in preparation for spending on operations.

#### PayPal Connected Checking Account

This is the checking account connected to Central's Pay Pal account. Digital contributions that may still arrive in this account are then transferred to the main checking account to be spent.

#### Operating Account

This is an investment account managed by RBC that holds long-term investment principal. The Operating Account is invested in bond funds, and generates predictable dividend income that is used to fund day-to-day church operations.

#### Endowment Account

This is an investment account managed by RBC that holds long-term investment principal. The Endowment Account is invested in bond and equity funds, and generates income that is used to fund day-to-day church operations.

#### Mission Account

This is an investment account managed by RBC that holds long-term investment principal. The Mission Account is invested in bond and equity funds, and generates income that is used by the Coordinated Mission Committee to fund giving, including scholarship money.

## Program Account

This is an investment account managed by RBC that holds funds designated by Session to support staff raises. The Program Account was also used to underwrite \$200,000 in building repairs and staffing costs for Central's associate pastor. (The associate pastor funds have been re-purposed to extend staffing support through 2029). The Program Account is different than Central's other investment accounts, in that Session has approved the spending of investment principal and investment income both.

## Capital Account

This is a "cash sweep" account managed by RBC that collects dividend income produced by the Operating Account until it is pulled over to the Reserve Account at the beginning of each fiscal year. From there, the funds are pulled into the church checking account as needed during each calendar year.

## PCUSA Fund

This is a non-RBC investment account that produces dividend income that Central uses for day-to-day church operations.

## CENTRAL'S FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

### Paying Day-to-Day Expenses

Central pays its annual operating expenses (staff salaries, heat, lighting, etc.) out of three primary sources: 1) member contributions; 2) investment revenue; and 3) other income, such as building rental or donations for meals.

In 2022, Central received \$383,238 in member contributions, \$148,140 in investment revenue, and \$29,952 in other income. \$86,140 of Central's investment revenue was "income" (earnings on invested principal), while \$62,000 was "principal" — most of which was set aside from the Program Account for staff raises.

Central also receives "pass-through" revenue for specific mission projects, where giving is solicited from the pulpit (such as One Great Hour of Sharing; Presbyterian Disaster Relief, etc.). This is not truly revenue for Central, since any money that comes in

which has been earmarked for such projects passes through to the end-donor. Central simply acts as a collection point for that money.

## Where Contributions Go

When contributions come in to Central, they go directly into Central's checking account and are then treated in one of three ways:

If the contribution is a general, "non-designated" contribution such as a monthly pledge, that money sits in the checking account until it is called upon to pay for an upcoming expense, such as payroll. Most of the "non-designated" contributions that come into Central are spent within a week or two of coming in, since Central has high, recurring expenses such as staff payroll and building heating/cooling costs. The checking account ebbs and flows in terms of the amount of money it holds (due to inflows and outflows of contributions and expenses), but generally the account ends the month with a small amount of money.

If a contribution is "designated" to pay for a particular Central project (such as the Hunger Initiative), it is then transferred from the checking account to the Reserve Account (Central's savings account) and is treated as "restricted funds." Restricted funds cannot be spent on general expenses, like payroll; they must be held until spent on the expense designated by the donor.

If a contribution is designated to pay for a pass-through mission (such as One Great Hour of Sharing), it is earmarked and retained in the checking account until all the similarly earmarked contributions are sent to the end-donor.

## Investment Operations

Most of Central's investment accounts work all year to produce cash income to fund day-to-day operations or special mission projects. Per Central's investment policy, the investment principal in the Operating, Endowment, Mission, and PCUSA accounts has not been used to fund day-to-day operations for several years, so it can continue to grow and produce investment income to fund church

operations every year going forward. When the investment accounts have a good year, the income proceeds can be substantial and very helpful to Central's operating budget. As Central's investment accounts grow over the long-term, income production opportunities will also grow. This is only possible, however, if investment principal is not reduced.

## HOW THE INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS WORK

### Operating Account

Each month, the bonds in the Operating Account produce cash dividends, and those dividends are moved over to the Capital Account, where they wait until year-end. In January of the new year, all of the cash in the Capital Account gets moved to the Reserve Account (our savings account), where it is restricted as "cash reserves" for that year's operating budget. As that cash is needed during the year, it is pulled from the Reserve Account into the church checking account to cover day-to-day expenses.

### The Endowment Account

The Endowment Account is invested in both stocks and bonds, and its annual output is more variable than the Operating Account, but when the account has a good year, the income proceeds can be substantial. The Finance and Stewardship Committee monitors the performance of the Endowment Account to see when there are opportune moments to sell shares to generate income. Then, that cash income is stockpiled for future operating years. The Endowment Account was first established in the 1920s and held in a trust. Central must report Endowment Account activity annually to Ramsey County District Court, which supervises the trust. Investment income from the Endowment Account is moved each year to the Reserve Account to cover church operating expenses in the coming year.

### Mission Account

The Mission Account was created in 2016 when Central consolidated some dedicated investment funds (including the Hanson Memorial Fund and the Jury-Larson Scholarship fund) that previous donors

had designated for specific purposes. The combined assets of the Mission Account are tracked in order to pay out income to support the purposes designated by the original donors. The Coordinated Mission Committee is charged with distributing those mission-related funds, and each year it distributes somewhere between \$2500 and \$4500 in funding for charitable causes, and/or scholarship monies. The amount of invested principal in the Mission Account is much smaller than in the Operating and Endowment accounts, and consequently the income generated is more limited.

### PCUSA Fund

Central benefits from some dividend income produced by a small PCUSA investment account. When those dividends arrive, they are immediately transferred to the checking account to fund day-to-day operations.

### Program Account

This is where a portion of the \$2M financial gift given to the church has been housed. In 2018, Central's Session designated the principal in the Program Account to be used for certain distinct purposes: \$200,000 worth of building repairs, plus six years of staffing support money to raise staff wages, and six years of money to support the hiring and maintenance of an associate pastor. The building repair funds have already been spent on necessary repairs to Central's historic church, and four of the six years of staffing support money has been spent (2023 is the fifth year). One year of associate pastor funding was utilized before the associate pastor position went vacant, and the remaining funds have been re-assigned to staff support for 2025-2029.

### Other Assets

Central also has a small amount of digital cryptocurrency called "Monero V" remaining from the initial Monero crypto-currency gift that was largely sold in 2018 to fund the Program Account. It fluctuates in value under \$1,000 throughout a 12 month period.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Matt Ehling, Treasurer



CONNECT

Thank you to all who have served on Session  
and our Board of Deacons this past year!

### 2022 SESSION

Clerk of Session: Sally Mortenson  
Moderator of Session: Rev. Carol Reed

	YEAR ELECTED	TERM
<b>Class of 2022</b>		
Cindy Jesson *	2020	2
Dennis Reimer	2019	2
Chris Smith	2019	1
Vinai Vinlander	2019	1
Kiera Faye Voelker	2019	1
<b>Class of 2023</b>		
Phyllis Brashler	2020	1
Craig Foss	2020	2
Mel Leach *	2020	1
Ernest Lloyd	2021	1
Marcia Robert	2021	1
<b>Class of 2024</b>		
Sally Mortenson	2021	2
Lynne Severson	2021	1
John Lee	2021	1
Jackie Klaehn	2021	1
Wendy Flinger	2021	1

\* Resigned before the end of their term.

### 2022 BOARD OF DEACONS

Moderator: Laura Williams

	YEAR ELECTED	TERM
<b>Class of 2022</b>		
Leon Oman	2019	1
Todd Mikish	2019	1
Mark Vance	2019	2
<b>Class of 2023</b>		
Allyne Burg	2020	1
Laura Williams	2020	2
Stephanie Geisler	2021	1
<b>Class of 2024</b>		
Maureen Smith	2021	1
Peter Knapp	2021	1
Mia Wintheiser	2021	1

# CONNECT

## Staff

### Bridge Pastors

- UNTIL APRIL 1, 2023  
Rev. Anne Fisher & Rev. Gregg Dana  
(651) 224-4728, ext. 102  
pastor@centralforgood.org
- AFTER APRIL 1, 2023  
Rev. Christopher Chatelaine-Samsen  
(651) 224-4728, ext. 102  
chriscs@centralforgood.org

### Administrative Staff

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

### Program Staff

- Jennifer Anderson  
Director of Music and Youth Ministry  
jennifera@centralforgood.org  
(651) 224-4728, ext. 103
- Laura Walls, Sunday Connection Coordinator  
lauraw@centralforgood.org

- Megan Beese, Preschool Teacher
- Maria Stokes, Nursery Care Giver
- Music Staff:  
Shanta Hejmadi, Soprano Section Leader  
Abbie Betinis, Alto Section Leader  
Adam Van der Sluis, Tenor Section Leader  
Eric Bartlett, Bass Section Leader  
Steve Swanson, Pianist  
Barbara Brooks, Pianist/Organist  
Dr. Melanie Ohnstad, Organist  
Rod Kelly Hines, Artist-in-Residence

### Food Initiative

- Barb Westman  
Chef & Food Manager  
Barb.westman@gmail.com  
(651) 224-4728, ext. 114

*Each year, the art of the annual report is inspired by the community and experiences within Central.*

*This year's design is inspired by topography, the study of the forms and features often prefacing the work of new development.*

*Over the past several years, Central has been studying inward and outward its ministry and areas in which we could grow as we searched for a new pastor. With the completion of our ministry study and the work of our Pastor Nominating Committee, we have prepared our church for exciting things to come and clarity on our goals.*

*To reflect on how Central changes from year to year, explore past annual reports at [www.centralforgood.org/annual-report](http://www.centralforgood.org/annual-report).*

Respectfully submitted,  
Christie Rachele, Director of Communications



**CENTRAL**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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