



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

IN THE CITY FOR GOOD!

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## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT AND AGENDA

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of Central Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, March 11, 2018 in the sanctuary immediately following worship.

The annual meeting may consider such business as electing officers, hearing reports of the session along with plans for the coming year, hearing reports from the board of deacons and other organizations of the church, and transacting other business as appropriate. It shall review the adequacy of the compensation of the pastor upon report of the prior review by session.

### AGENDA

- 1. Opening Prayer**
- 2. Call to Order**
- 3. Approve Minutes for Congregational Meetings**
  - March 12, 2017
  - November 12, 2017
- 4. Old Business**
- 5. New Business**
- 6. Receive Annual Reports**
- 7. Receive Budget and Treasurer's Report**
- 8. Approve Terms of Call for Pastor**
- 9. Thanks to Outgoing Officers and Staff Recognition**
- 10. Closing Prayer**

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION OF CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**March 12, 2017**

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The Congregation of Central Presbyterian Church of St. Paul, Minnesota, held its annual meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, March 12, 2017, scheduled to begin after worship service in the church sanctuary.

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. David Colby at 11:25 a.m.

## OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Colby opened the meeting with prayer.

## QUORUM

The Clerk of Session, Mary E. Miller, 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 12 in the sanctuary immediately following worship. The annual meeting may consider such business as electing officers, hearing reports of the session along with plans for the coming year, hearing reports from the board of deacons and other organizations of the church, and transacting other business as appropriate. It shall review the adequacy of the compensation of the pastor upon report of the prior review by session. The Session will bring recommendations for amendments to the Bylaws of the Congregation and Corporation."

Statement of Rules – The Clerk stated the 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 amended November 14, 2010 and the Bylaws of the Corporation amended February 25, 2001.

## ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Moderator, Rev. Colby, called the attention of the members of the congregation to the 2016 Annual Report that was available and distributed. He directed members to review the agenda printed at the bottom of page 2. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the agenda.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Rev. Colby called the attention of the congregation to the minutes for two meetings: 1) the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation held on March 6, 2016, 2) the Meeting of the Congregation held on November 13, 2016, to elect officers for the church. The two sets of minutes appear on pages 3-6 of the 2016 Annual Report. After review by the congregation, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for these congregational meetings as printed. The congregation approved the motion.

## OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **Bylaw Changes**

Rev. Colby gave brief background for four changes to the Bylaws of the Congregation and Corporation that were being recommended by Session. The changes are intended to keep the Bylaws in conformity with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which was significantly revised in 2011. Page 7 of the Annual Report shows the changes proposed. He asked the Clerk to give more detail on the first change proposed:

1. Amend Congregational Bylaw #17, by deleting a sentence so that it reads as follows:

“The above rules are based on the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and may be amended only as follows: Rule 2 is subject to amendment with respect to date, hour and place of meeting only. ~~Rule 16 is subject to amendment only as to the number of nominations which shall be presented for each office.~~ Rules 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 14 are not subject to amendment except to conform with the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).”

Mary explained that, in order to make the next Bylaw change that Session is proposing, this change would need to be made. Rev. Colby added that, as a recommendation from Session, the motion does not need a second. The motion passed.

2. Amend Congregational Bylaw #16 by deleting a phrase so that it reads as follows:

“There shall be a representative nominating committee chosen in accordance with the following membership: Two persons elected by the session, (one of whom shall be elected by the session to chair the committee), two persons elected by the congregation as at large members of the committee (neither of whom shall currently be serving as elder or deacon), one person elected by the board of deacons, ~~one member elected from each organization recognized by the session which may exist in the church,~~ and the pastor (as an ex- officio member of the committee). The committee shall announce its nominations of one eligible person only for each office to be filled. Additional nominations of qualified persons may be made from the floor by any eligible member.”

Rev. Colby explained that, with the size of the congregation (233), a five member Nominating Committee was large enough. The motion passed.

3. Amend Congregational Bylaw #6, by replacing the language noted by strikeout with the words that are underlined, so that it reads as follows,

“The clerk of the session shall be secretary of the meetings of the congregation. If unable to attend, the ~~session~~ congregation shall ~~designate~~ elect a secretary in his or her stead.”

The language of this Bylaw amendment simply conforms the Bylaw language to the language in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The motion passed.

The change to Bylaws of the Corporation will be attended to in that part of the meeting.

Rev. Colby called attention to the annual reports of the program staff members, session committees, and all the other committees and organizations of Central beginning on pages 8 of the Annual Report. A motion was made, seconded and passed by the congregation to receive the reports as printed.

### **Meeting of the Corporation**

The Moderator then called upon John Lee, President of the Corporation, to come forward and open the corporation meeting. John opened the meeting. He presented the fourth proposed Bylaw change, a change to the Bylaws of the Corporation that parallels the language change in the third Congregation Bylaw change:

For the 6th Bylaw of the Corporation, the recommendation is for the following change:

“The secretary of the corporation shall be the secretary of meetings of the corporation. If unable to serve, the ~~session~~ congregation shall ~~designate~~ elect a substitute.”

The motion passed. There being no further business to come before the Corporation, John entertained a



motion to close the corporation phase of the meeting. Such motion was made, seconded and carried.

Review of Budget– Rev. Colby noted that Laura Nichols-Endres was the Chair of the Finance and Stewardship Committee in 2016, and she wrote the Committee’s report that can be found on page 17 of the Annual Report. He introduced Laura and asked her to come forward to present the Committee’s report and budget.

Laura highlighted a few financial items from the last year. Central finished the Legacy and Raising the

Roof Campaigns. Many thanks to all who generously helped complete the roof, organ, and restrooms projects. Investment holdings were reset with the goal of no longer using investment principal for operating costs (the “Step down plan”). Laura expressed thanks for a \$500,000 gift, \$400,000 of which Session decided to apply to investments. Some will be used for fire protection and sound system updates.

The financial report was printed on page 19:

	2016 BUDGET	2016 ACTUAL	2017 BUDGET
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Contributions	297,767	302,716	335,217
Investments (Inc. & Capital)	78,000	35,825	59,750
*Misc. Income	<u>64,400</u>	<u>77,470</u>	<u>64,400</u>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>440,167</b>	<b>416,011</b>	<b>459,367</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Personnel`	242,465	232,527	259,071
Building	84,779	83,528	88,829
Worship & Music	28,170	26,151	27,920
Fellowship	42,000	40,290	41,600
Christian Education	7,500	4,174	6,950
Publicity	4,100	3,543	4,000
Finance	1,780	1,171	850
Administration	18,152	16,516	17,952
*Mission	<u>11,100</u>	<u>14,565</u>	<u>11,808</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>440,046</b>	<b>422,465</b>	<b>458,980</b>

\* The asterisks reference the fact that Central is involved in and supports many additional mission activities. A motion was made to receive the Committee’s report and budget for 2017 as printed. The motion was seconded and passed.

**2017 Terms of Call**

Rev. Colby then excused himself for the next agenda item of review of the pastoral terms of call. He explained that the chairperson of the Personnel Committee, Doug Knowlton, would present the recommendation of the Personnel Committee and Session.

The clerk, Mary Miller moderated the meeting in Rev. Colby’s absence. She explained that the actions, if taken, would be retroactive to January 1, 2017. She also noted that the adequacy of the compensation of the pastor had been reviewed by the Session. She invited Doug to present the recommendation of the Committee and the Session.

Doug then presented and moved the following terms of call. He explained that for 2017 the recommendation is for a 2 % increase in effective salary, which is the combination of salary and housing. The recommendation is:

Terms of Call	2017	2016
Salary	30,191	29,599
Housing	32,398	31,763
Social Security Offset	4,788	4,694
Supplemental Medical	1,252	1,227
Deferred Income	3,019	2,960

Pension & Medical to continue at 31.5% of combined salary.

Automobile Allowance vouchered up to:	850	850
Professional Expenses	1,200	1,200
Continuing Education	1,200	1,200

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

- One month vacation
- Two weeks Continuing Education Leave
- Three month sabbatical after five years of service with session approval of dates and plan.

Doug concluded by stating that these were the terms of call that session recommends to the congregation.

The Clerk then explained that there will be a time for questions and any discussion. She asked if there was a second to approving the pastoral terms of call. A second was made, and the clerk then invited questions. There were none.

The clerk explained that all active members were eligible to vote. She then called for the vote. The congregation unanimously approved the terms of call by voice vote.

The Rev. Colby was then asked to return, and moderated the rest of the meeting. He was greeted by a warm round of applause.

Rev. Colby expressed his appreciation to the congregation and the staff. He noted that Session also works to ensure that all staff are appreciated and compensated appropriately. They are talented and hard working. He thanked all of Central’s volunteers who give generously of their time and skills.

He said that 2016 was an unique and important year in the life of Central. And he presented a slide show highlighting significant events and the members that we have lost over the past year.

Rev. Colby then asked if there was any additional business to come before the congregation. There was none.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the congregation, Rev. Colby entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made, seconded and approved.

Closing Prayer:

The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Colby at approximately 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary E. Miller, Clerk of Session  
Rev. David Colby, Moderator of Session

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

**November 12, 2017**

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The Congregation of Central Presbyterian Church of St. Paul, Minnesota, held its annual meeting to elect officers on November 12, 2017, scheduled to begin after worship service in the church sanctuary.

## PURPOSE

To hear the report of the Nominating Committee, and to elect church officers for upcoming terms.

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, the Rev. David Colby at 11:32 a.m.

## CALL TO MEETING

The Clerk of Session, Mary Miller, read the following call: "A congregational meeting to elect officers will be held Sunday, November 12, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. All active members of the Central congregation are eligible to vote and be considered for office. A slate of nominees for vacant positions on the Session and Board of Deacons will be presented by the Nominating Committee, as well as nominations for next year's Nominating Committee member-at-large positions. Additional nominations from the floor may be made at the meeting."

## QUORUM

The Clerk certified that a quorum was present.

## OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Colby opened the meeting with prayer.

## REPORT OF THE 2017 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Rev. Colby introduced Bruce Beese, the Chairperson of the 2017 Nominating Committee.

Bruce briefly reviewed Central's Bylaw provisions relevant to the elections. Bruce introduced and thanked the other members of the 2017 Nominating

Committee, including Session member John Lee; Deacon Lillian Sanders; and congregation at-large members Sue Hoffman and Melissa Varanasi. Rev. Colby served in an ex-officio capacity.

Bruce briefly explained the process of soliciting nominations. The committee met several times and discussed the needs of the boards, diversity, and other considerations. The Committee sought God's wisdom through prayer. Brief biographies of the nominees were printed in the worship bulletin. Bruce then presented the nominations:

### **Elder Nominations**

For Elders in the class of 2020: Katie Berg, Alex Bollman, Craig Foss, and Stu Siebell. Rev. Colby explained briefly the three classes (2020, 2019, and 2018) of four active elders each.

Rev. Colby asked the congregation if there were any nominations from the floor. He then asked again. No nominations were made. A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations and cast a single vote for the slate of nominees. The slate was elected by voice vote.

### **Deacon Nominations**

For Deacons in the class of 2020: Carolyn Hess, Susan Seymour, and Laura Williams. This board, too, has three classes of persons elected for three-year terms.

Rev. Colby asked if there were any additional nominations for Deacon. He then asked again. There were no additional nominations. A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations and elect these Deacons with a single vote. The slate was elected by voice vote.

**At-large Members for the 2018 Nominating Committee**

Bruce presented two candidates for member-at-large service on next year’s Nominating Committee: Erika Kelly-Kennedy and Sally Mortenson. Rev. Colby asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor. He asked again, and there were no additional nominations made. Motion was made and seconded to close the nominations and elect the slate of nominees with a single vote. The two were elected by voice vote.

**Expression of Thanks**

Rev. Colby thanked Bruce Beese and the Nominating Committee for their work, and thanked those who are willing to serve in the future. The congregation expressed its appreciation with applause.

Rev. Colby then expressed appreciation to Elders John Lee and Bruce Beese who are completing their second three-year terms, and to Erika Kelly-Kennedy who is completing her term. Thanks were also expressed to Carrie Eyler and Micah and Rebekah Johnson who have served as Deacons. The congregation expressed its appreciation for all with applause.

The Clerk stated that there was no further business for the Congregation. Rev. Colby entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was made, seconded and carried.

Closing prayer:

The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Colby at approximately 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Miller, Clerk of Session  
Rev. David Colby, Moderator of Session

**2017 CLERK OF SESSION STATISTICAL REPORT**

**MEMBERSHIP GAINS**

Certificate	10
<u>Reaffirmation of Faith</u>	<u>4</u>
Total Gains	14

**MEMBERSHIP LOSSES**

Deaths	6
<u>Other Losses</u>	<u>2</u>
Total Losses	8

NET GAIN 6

**MEMBERSHIP**

December 31, 2016	234
<u>2017 Gains</u>	<u>6</u>
December 31, 2017	240

**AVERAGE SUNDAY**

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE 124.5

**SUMMARY GAINS/LOSSES BY GENDER**

Female	Net Female Gain	2
	New Female Total	154
Male	Net Male Gain	4
	New Male Total	86

**RACIAL ETHNIC COMPOSITION**

Asian	4
Black	20
Hispanic	2
Native American	1
White	209
Other	4

BAPTISMS (Infant/Children) 2

**MARRIAGES**

Members	1
Non-member	3



## STAFF REPORT

### Pastor: Rev. David D. Colby

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2017 was a unique year in the life of this historic congregation. A year of new beginnings, a year of continued focus on important ministries, and some unique accomplishments.

To a degree unmatched in my twenty years of pastoral experience, a change in presidential administrations dominated our national conversation on a weekly, if not daily basis. So often, as Sunday approached and a sermon loomed, I would think, "What a week!" and try to figure out what political developments needed to be treated from the pulpit. This has not been easy on me; nor has it been easy for our country. I have tried to be faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and have appreciated your encouragement and grace during these polarizing times.

Significant planning and preparation in 2016 had that year conclude with us on a waiting list to co-sponsor (with the Minnesota Council of Churches) a refugee family. As we moved to the top of the list, it coincided with the new administration's attempts at imposing what was often called a Muslim Travel Ban. And suddenly the slogan that had been emerging throughout 2016 and guiding our preparations – "We Choose Welcome" had us engaging an issue that brought protestors to airports and lead to lawsuits against the ban. In the confusion of what it all meant for specific refugees and travelers, we received a call from the Minnesota Council of Churches that they had a family for us, if we could get ready fast. And that launched our adventure with the Ahmady family from Afghanistan. We worked together; watched new friendships develop; and worked as a church to demonstrate the welcome that we had chosen. As Mel Leach said about our efforts, "it takes a congregation."

During 2017, we accomplished two major improvements within our building. One that is noticeable every week and one that is more subtle. Perhaps more accurate is to say that our previous sanctuary sound system drew attention regularly for its faults and limitations. We installed and dedicated a new sanctuary sound system that is calibrated and designed to bring clarity and consistency of speech to our entire sanctuary. In addition, a hearing loop was installed to support those who use T-Coil enabled hearing aids. In the months since these two systems were installed, we have grown quite used to having excellent sound in our sanctuary – to the point that we no longer notice it. The second major upgrade was to our fire protection system. While very important to do, we hope that it will function in the background. Maintaining a safe, useful and welcoming space in our historic building is one of our top priorities.

We had a couple of staffing changes during 2017. April Greibrok had served first as a childcare provider, then preschool teacher, and this year moved into our Children and Youth Coordinator position. With the departure of Sexton Gabe Talley, we ended the year about to welcome a new Sexton and a new Publications and Communications Director.

Doug Knowlton was serving as an elder and the chairperson of our Personnel Committee when he died unexpected in July. The loss of his steady leadership and wisdom was felt immediately and we continue to grieve Doug.

2017 was my thirteenth year at Central. A baker's dozen now in the books. I am grateful for what we have accomplished together, thankful for the people who have helped make our work possible, and eager to see what God has in store for us in 2018.

Submitted by Rev. Dr. David Colby

## STAFF REPORT

### Director of Music: Jennifer Anderson

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The music ministry at Central had a very exciting 2017! Some highlights include:

Community Concert on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, featuring Lumina and a mass choir

A fantastic VocalPoint concert, featuring Peter Mayer, that raised over \$25,000 for One Heartland.

We hosted Pipe Organ Discovery Day, which is sponsored by the Twin Cities American Guild of Organists. I demonstrated both the large Steere and Turner instrument as well as the smaller Reiger organ. Over 25 kids participated, learning about the pipe organ and getting a chance to try them out.

In early April the Central Choir (and friends, along with a professional string quartet) presented Mozart's Requiem. It was a beautiful morning of music.

In June, Central hosted the Tucson Girls Choir, which included the choir singing in worship and then performing a concert after worship, as well as home stays with members of the congregation. It was such a fun weekend of getting to know these immensely talented young women and getting to hear them sing. We also hosted a cook-out at our home which resulted in a spontaneous sing-a-long in the backyard!

In early August, Central was one of the venues on the Organ Historical Society's national convention. Pipedreams Host Michael Barone and I played duets in our sanctuary and demonstrated the instruments to convention-goers.

Lucy Hiestand led a Drum Circle in the summer, inviting all to participate: all ages and all abilities.

The Central Choir, which takes the summer off, started back up in September. We learned that our long-time Alto Section Leader Emily Greenleaf would be moving back home to Maine. While we supported Emily's desire to be with her family, this was hard news for our choir. Emily is not only an immensely talented musician, but she was a deeply loved member of the choir. We were glad to have a special way to say goodbye to Emily: The annual Cabaret! Through the music of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, the Central Choir and our Sunday School kids told the story of the jealous brothers and wise dreamer and a most beautiful coat (which we had, thanks to Marie Smith!). Emily got to use her fabulous French-accent and cracked us all up with her solos. In addition to Emily, all of our section leaders were amazing: Bill Haugen was dear Benjamin (complete with Jamaican accent!), Shanta Hejmadi beautifully told the narrator's story, and David Winkworth starred as Joseph himself! Steve Swanson and Lucy Hiestand were fantastic in the pit, and it was a whole lot of fun.

We began the search for a new alto section leader, and were beyond thrilled when Abbie Betinis applied. Central has known and loved Abbie for years. Just this September, she led us all in Justice Choir, illustrating her musicality and her deep compassion for others. We have welcomed Abbie and her many gifts into our choir family, and are grateful for her.

Pop Up Classical concerts (co-sponsored by Minnesota Public Radio) have continued, although with a bit less frequency.

The Choir, accompanied by Chione Woodwind Quintet, presented Nine Lessons and Carols again this December, and it was another beautiful weaving of story and song.

If you've been to worship lately, you've no doubt noticed another development: The choir has grown by leaps and bounds. This has led to a few other changes: We needed new choir robes. Our old robes were about 40 years old and we just didn't have enough. We tried to find fabric that matched and to make more, but after that many years, "red fabric" wasn't a "red" we could find anymore. We asked for contributions, and in a matter of 3 weeks had enough money to buy 35 new choir robes. As the fall continued, we realized that 35 might not be enough to ensure we have the right size for everyone, so, using some music memorial money, we are purchasing another 10. Thanks to all who contributed!

In addition to robes, we've needed more space up in the choir loft. Thanks to Doug Throckmorton (and some assist from Mark Flinner) we have new platforms for the choir to sit/stand on.

It's exciting to have a larger choir – it allows us to do music with more divided parts, and it's also so much fun to get to know new people and sing with them. Music is a community art – and I'm so grateful to Central, my colleagues, and the choir to be a part of the community here.

Submitted by  
Jennifer Anderson





## SESSION COMMITTEE REPORT

### Facilities Management & Risk Assessment

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Our committee is not only responsible for maintenance of our facility but also for identifying and minimizing risks. The following activities resulted from risk assessments:

1. The highlight of the year was the award of a \$50,000 grant from the Minnesota Historical Society for assessment of the condition of the exterior fabric of the church, including but not limited to stone work, brick work and the protective coverings of the stained glass windows. Next steps are to receive bids from historic architects and select a firm that will complete the assessment during 2018.
2. The fire protection system was found to be inadequate and not up to current code. The system was upgraded to include protection for unprotected areas of the building, beginning with assessments and bids from several companies and an inspection from the St. Paul Fire Department. Upgrades included: new smoke detectors, heat sensors, infrared smoke detection system in the sanctuary, numerous audible alarms and manual alarm activation boxes. Fire and security monitoring was transferred to a company that was more responsive to our needs and resulted in an annual cost saving.
3. A donation was received to purchase an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) that was installed outside the Friendship Room. (In January 2018 several Central members were trained in how to use this life saving piece of equipment along with CPR training.)
4. A mold abatement project was completed in the basement hallway. Moisture had penetrated a sheetrock wall that joins the foundation wall. The mold was remediated and the sheetrock was replaced. Care was taken to not have the new sheetrock make contact with the stone foundation wall.

Facility improvement projects included:

1. A picture railing was installed in the Friendship Room that will facilitate hanging of the various art displays throughout the year. The railing system includes adjustable hangers and eliminates the continual patching of nail holes and repainting of the wall.
2. A project to organize and clean out unused items was conducted in several storage areas of the building. We appreciate Katie Berg's work initiating and organizing the project and the work by many volunteers who helped rid the building of needless clutter.
3. The second floor lounge was updated and redecorated, including paint, carpeting, lighting and new furnishings. (See page 20.) Our thanks to Katie Berg for leading this initiative, to Jim O'Neill for carpentry, painting and electrical, to Jeremy Berg who helped install new light fixtures and to many others who helped with carpet, furniture and paint selections. As part of this project one half of the children's bathroom was converted to a storage for the lounge and the toilets in the other half of the children's bathroom and in the nursery were updated.
4. Our committee worked with two other committees to update the sound system in the sanctuary. It was replaced with the latest technology to include directional speakers, recording capability and a hearing loop system that can connect wirelessly to hearing aids.

Submitted by Fluryanne Leach  
with thanks to Carl Willis for his input.

Committee members: Fluryanne Leach, Melinda Kovach, Bill Zopfi, Ned Taylor, Carl Willis and Jeremy Berg. We said goodbye to Will Beale with many thanks for his contributions.

## SESSION COMMITTEE REPORT

### Worship, Music, and Arts

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The WMA committee has had a busy year at Central! Some of the most notable highlights stem from the music department:

- The choir has grown exponentially over the course of the year, prodding the committee to order new choir robes! This was an exciting time, as previous robes were several decades old. Robes were debuted in services in October.
- With the growth in the choir, the continuity and longevity of Central's section leaders should also be pointed out. Although this year the choir did say goodbye to longtime alto leader, Emily Greenleaf, Central is blessed with wonderful section leaders who are proud to be here.
- 2017 VocalPoint concerts, featuring Peter Mayer, and benefitting One Heartland, brought in the most donations of VocalPoint concerts to date.
- Hosting in collaboration with MPR the monthly Pop Up Classical Concerts.
- Central was a tour stop for the Organ Encounter for Kids; a hands on organ discovery day earlier this spring.
- Other music program highlights include Central's Christmas Pageant, Lessons and Carols, Cabaret, debuting pieces from the Justice Choir Songbook, Mozart's Requiem, summer hymn sing, hosting the Tucson Girls Choir, New Day Community Choir, and multiple other special guests.

The art displays have been vibrant and diverse this year, including work by One Heartland and Central's own Carol MacAllister. Central also hosted a display this summer that highlighted the global refugee crisis and Central's personal journey with the Ahmady family.

Rev. Colby did a lovely sermon series on the Exodus theme late this summer into fall that was timely and well-received.

Other WMA accomplishments included working with other committees to purchase and install the new sanctuary sound system and hearing aid loop. This was a large and time consuming project, but has proved a wise investment and upgrade from the previous sound system. The committee also agreed that Central would try to serve communion on each first Sunday of the month. Having communion on a regular basis helps give service attendees the ability to plan and prepare for communion each month.

Submitted by  
Jackie Klaehn



## SESSION COMMITTEE REPORT

### Personnel

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The Personnel Committee oversees the staffing of the church and assists Rev. Colby as Head of Staff. Our work is often confidential in nature and the committee typically includes two to three elders that can be both installed or not currently serving on the Session. The committee was comprised of Lynda Petrie, Doug Knowlton, Alex Bollman and Bruce Beese in 2017. Sadly we lost our good friend and Chair Doug Knowlton in July, so Bruce Beese took over as chair and we added Al Zdrasil to the committee. Rev. Colby is an ex-officio member of the committee.

The committee attended to many important matters in 2017: recommending the pastor's Terms of Call for 2017; we assisted the church in contracting out our payroll functions, relieving a significant burden on office staff; we accomplished a significant rewrite of our personnel policies, driven in part by a need to comply with the City's new Sick and Safe Time ordinance; we oversaw our annual performance evaluation process for all staff; and we bid farewell to our sexton, filling the position with temporary staffing with intent to hire a permanent replacement by the end of the year.

If you have any questions, comments, thoughts or concerns, do not hesitate to contact one of us.

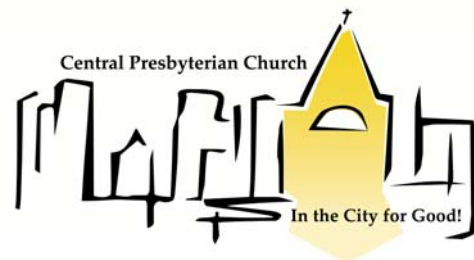
Respectfully Submitted,  
Bruce Beese, Chair

## Memorial Gifts and Bequests

We are grateful for bequests and special gifts received in memory of loved ones in 2017!

This is a beautiful and generous way of ensuring that your values are carried on through the ministries of this church.

Thank you!



## IN THE CITY FOR GOOD: CENTRAL'S MISSION

### Coordinated Missions

As the Chair of the Coordinated Mission Committee, I am so impressed with the generosity of the Central members and friends of Central by giving of their time, talents and donations. This was continually evident throughout the past year.

2017 was an exciting year for Central. Building on the great work of the Refugee Task Force from 2016, we met with the Minnesota Council of Churches so we could learn more about co-sponsorship of a refugee family. We were excited about the prospect of sponsoring a refugee family, while at the same time apprehensive due to the recent refugees travel bans. We believed if Central was going to be lucky enough to be co-sponsor a refugee family it could be many months or years in the future. Then just a few short weeks later we were thrilled to find out that we would be co-sponsor of the Ahmady family of five from Afghanistan who would be coming to Minnesota on March 9th. This meant we had approximately three weeks to get everything ready.

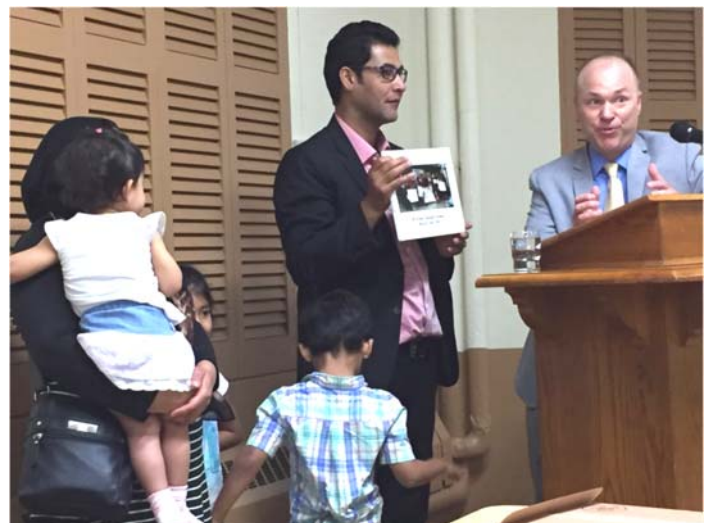


Thanks to Central members we were able set up their apartment with the necessary household items. Members generously donated cash and household items and they donated their time and talents to do the many steps needed to set the family up for success in the United States including: preparing for the family's arrival at the airport and their first night in Minnesota, setting up their apartment, selecting

furniture from Bridging for their apartment, signing up to drive the family to the multitude of meetings, helping them get set up for assistance programs, helping the family learn how and where to shop in their neighborhood, assisting them in understanding finances in America and setting up a bank account, signing the children up for school, teaching English to several members the family, teaching Mr. Ahmady how to drive in Minnesota, assisting Mr. Ahmady with his job search, and there is so much more. We are pleased that Mr. Ahmady is working a full-time position at a great company and is able to support his family.

In July, Central celebrated along with the Ahmady's the official ending of the co-sponsorship. This wasn't a goodbye, as so many of us have formed great friendships with the family. Many still many continue to do weekly visits for English lessons and assist with other items, as needed.

The Coordinated Mission Committee wishes to thank those who has participated in any aspect of the co-sponsorship and a huge thank you to Jessica Jones, who served as the Project Manager for the co-sponsorship.



Central members and friends showed their generosity to the 2017 Vocal Point beneficiary, One Heartland, through attending the fabulous Vocal Point concerts in February and making financial donations to One Heartland and then again through their donations for the One Heartland camping supply drive in May and June.

There were several hands on mission opportunities in 2017 including:

- Earth Day: 25 volunteers were on hand to clean up Mounds Park in April
- Clearwater: a group of volunteers helped to clean up Clearwater in May to prepare for the summer camping season
- Great River Greening: volunteers participated in a tree planting event at Victoria Park in October
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: On October 1st volunteers made 144 Disaster Relief Kits to assist hurricane victims and/or victims impacted by other recent disasters.
- Project Home: Throughout November volunteers served in many capacities including daily evening and night hosts, weekly coordinators (Sue Hoffman, Mary Miller and Kate Pearce) and set up and take down teams. To help prepare for an even more successful Project Home hosting month, Jessica Jones, prepared a host orientation. The orientation was well received and really helped volunteers, prepare for what to expect as hosts and how to make Central even more welcoming to the Project Home participants.

Central members also supported mission by giving generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing, Joy, Global Peace and Witness and Thank offerings, through the Giving Tree and Mitten Tree and through the Alternative Gift Market.

The Mission Committee was able to support Homeless Day on the Hill, Clearwater, Vocal Point, InterFaith Action and a few other organizations from funds from the Hansen Memorial Fund. 2017 was a very blessed and rewarding year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Zopfi-Jordan, Chair

Members: John Lee, Mary Miller, Denny Reimer,  
Avis Tilden, Sandy White, Jennifer Anderson,  
Reverend Colby & Sharon Zopfi-Jordan



*Earth Day Clean Up Crew!*



## SESSION COMMITTEE REPORT

### Children and Youth

The Children and Youth committee met regularly during 2017 to plan for the youngest members of our church community.

In 2017 we said good bye to Phil Romine as he resigned to focus on finishing his school studies. April Greibrok who has been our Preschool/Kindergarten teacher for several years stepped into the role as the Children and Youth Coordinator. We are very grateful for all of our volunteer Sunday School teachers who teach the word of the Bible to our children in the first through third grade class and fourth through eighth grade class. Megan Beese is now teaching in the preschool/kindergarten room and Rebecca Gudknecht continues to care for our smallest community members.

The children and youth are active members of the church community on a regular basis. They help serve during coffee hour once a month and usher on the fifth Sunday of the month. In addition, we have had to find more robes to fit all the children in our growing children's choir. In the greater community, families volunteered for our third year with the St. Paul Earth Day clean up in the Spring and the youth volunteered at Project Home.

A highlight from this year is that Central hosted Vacation Bible School for the first time in several years! We are particularly appreciative of the youth group from St. Stephen Church from Fort Worth, Texas for planning and staffing the Vacation Bible School program. Families again traveled to Koinonia Retreat Center for the family retreat in the fall. The children and youth ended 2017 by putting on the annual Christmas pageant.

Looking ahead to the future, the committee has started to establish a youth group and are discussing what confirmation may look like at Central.

Thank you to the committee members: Sharon Zopf-Jordan, Laura Nichols-Endres, and April Greibrok for all of their dedication and hard work this year.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Erika Kelly-Kennedy, 2017 Chair



## SESSION COMMITTEE REPORT

### New Members and Volunteers

---

The New Members & Volunteers Committee met monthly during 2017. Committee members were Kati Berg, Rich Binger, Reverend David Colby, Erika Kelly-Kennedy, Jackie Klaehn, and Carl Willis.

New members classes, facilitated by Reverend Colby, were held in April and November. The following 14 individuals became members of Central during the year: *Kiera Faye & Josh Voelker, Deb Flies, Wendy & Mark Flinner, Jane & Paul Gulsvig, Farie Hogue, Brenda & John Rudberg, Sally & Stu Siebell, and Chris & Kelly Smith.*

A "Greeter" ministry was implemented to welcome visitors to Central. Greeters, stationed in the Narthex, answered questions and directed visitors to classes, the nursery, and to worship.

The committee is working with a communications / publicity consultant on how we can effectively market and communicate Central to the surrounding community. Sample logo designs, including color and font, were reviewed and feedback given to the consultant. Revisions will be reviewed at a future meeting. Approved designs will be used in our redesigned website, brochures, and other marketing materials.

Websites from other organizations were reviewed and compared with our current website. Ideas for improvement were brainstormed and shared with the consultant. We will receive ideas from the web developer soon. "Tagline" themes were reviewed and a decision was made to keep the current tagline, "*In The City For Good.*"

Work continues on the membership directory update project. Mel Leach has been taking photos and members have been asked to update their personal information. The project should be completed in early 2018.

Committee members recruited volunteers to serve as greeters and ushers for worship services, to work as coffee preparers and coffee servers, and to staff over 140 Project Home volunteer spots.

Submitted by  
Carl Willis, Chair

### IN THE CITY FOR GOOD: CENTRAL'S MISSION

#### Nominating

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The 2017 Nominating Committee consisted of the following church members: Bruce Beese, Elder and Chair; Rev. David Colby, Ex-Officio; John Lee, Elder; Sue Hoffman, Member-at-Large; Lillian Sanders, Deacon; Melissa Varanasi, Member-at-Large.

We met to discuss the needs of the church, the needs of the Session and Deacons, and think about people in the church. As we met, we paid particular attention to issues of diversity. Throughout this process, we sought God's wisdom through prayer. We are grateful for all your prayers, input and support, and for those who agreed to have their names put forward in nomination.

A congregational meeting was held Sunday, November 12, 2017 to elect the slate of nominees. Nominated elders, for the class of 2020 Katie Berg, Alex Bollman, Craig Foss and Stu Siebell were elected. Nominated deacons, for the class of 2020 Carolyn Hess, Susan Seymour and Laura Williams were elected. Nominated members-at-large for the 2018 Nominating Committee Erika Kelly-Kennedy and Sally Mortenson were elected.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bruce Beese, Chair



## IN THE CITY FOR GOOD: CENTRAL'S MISSION

### Board of Deacons

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Our Deacons group exhibited great strength and commitment to Central Presbyterian Church during 2017. We established ourselves as a true out-reach committee. We have brought the warmth and commitment of Central into the lives and families of our members. Please note the important highlights of our year as wonderfully stated by Sharon Knowlton:

- A great sense among the present Deacons of dedication to the mission of the Deacon ministry: visiting and befriending members who are unable to be a regular part of the congregation. I think the discussions about how to expand our role were also important.
- It was a difficult year for the Deacons. First of all, numerous members on our Home Visit List died, and those losses were felt by the Deacons who had come to know these people. Secondly, every single Deacon faced serious crises and loss themselves this year. Craig, Lillian and Sharon lost important people in our lives. Mark, Mary Kay, and Chris faced difficult personal and medical issues. As Dave said, we were all wounded in ways this year, and we think those experiences increased our empathy and our understanding of pain and loss.
- A growing sense of community and friendship among the Deacons.
- Joy at having a full slate of Deacons again with the additions of new members beginning of 2018

Deacons during 2017: Mary Kay Vance, Mark Vance, Chris Bremicker, Craig Muntifering, Sharon Knowlton, and Lillian Sanders.

Meetings of Deacons for the 2017 year included January 22, 2017, April 9, 2017, August 27, 2017, and November 12, 2017

New members: Mark Vance, Mary Kay Vance, Craig Muntifering (reappointed) joined the Deacons in January for the 2017 year.

Discussion about other ways for Deacons to be involved in outreach for Central: Greeter Ministry, support for Refugee family, Meal delivery, prayer shawl ministry

Ways to reach our homebound members: holiday flowers, delivery of *These Days*, cards, visits, calls

Numerous members on the Home Visit List died throughout the year and these losses affected Deacons who had visited with them.

Deacons themselves experienced serious medical issues and personal losses this year.

Cards made by the children/youth of the church during Summer School and Christmas were warmly received by our home bound members.

Discussions were had about strategy or plan when members do not want visits/contacts.

New Members elected by the Congregation for the 2018 year: Carolyn Hess, Laura Williams, Susan and Larry Seymour. It will be the first time in several years that the Deacon slate will be full.

My thanks again to Sharon for her terrific notes and comments.

Thanks to all Deacons who have served and will serve in 2018.

Submitted by  
Mark Vance (Moderator)  
Sharon Knowlton (Secretary)

## IN THE CITY FOR GOOD: CENTRAL'S MISSION

### Women of Central

The Women of Central had a busy year in 2017. We focused on our priorities of hand on activity, Bible study, devotion and fellowship, mission and giving and intergenerational activities. Here are brief highlights from the year.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Since its inception in 2016, we have provided 25 prayer shawls to those in need of comfort and prayers. In 2017, we created an Afghan which we presented to the Ahmady family. We also made hand-made hats for the Family Place, as part of the Deck the Halls Mitten Tree. The 4th Sunday Knitting group meets monthly.

**Women's Networking Group:** In February we launched this monthly informal meeting for relationship building, networking and fun. Women from all generations have attended the networking group and we have all benefited from getting to know one another.

**Spring Luncheon "If these Aprons could Talk":** On April 8, we held the "final" Central Presbyterian performance of this well-loved fashion show featuring aprons from across the years. We also collected donations for Martha's Closet.

**Thank Offering:** This annual offering provides a mechanism for supporting mission work, locally nationally and globally. Projects provide solutions related to health, education, economic development, and needs of women and children.

**Deck the Halls:** This church wide event was included dress rehearsal for the Christmas pageant, brunch, entertainment and decorating. On our Mitten Tree, we collected 93 hats, gloves, mittens, socks and scarves for The Family Place.

**Martha's Closet:** Provides free interview and work clothing for low-income women in St. Paul.

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

**Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area Gatherings:** A group of women from Central attended these gatherings, which are always focused on a topic of interest

#### Women of Central Leadership

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

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#### FINANCIALS

Balance on January 1, 2017 \$ 2,553.24

#### RECEIPTS

Pledges \$ 1,525.00

Events \$ 709.00

Thank Offering \$ 1,986.60

Least Coin \$ 5.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$ 4,225.60

#### DISBURSEMENTS

##### PRES WOMEN / PTCA

Pledges \$ 800.00

Contingent Fund \$ 120.00

Thank Offering \$ 1,986.60

Least Coin \$ 5.00

PW/PTCA TOTAL \$ 2,911.60

Event Expense \$ 1,198.50

Postage, Paper & Checks \$ 107.54

Gifts \$ 250.00

Tablecloths \$ 123.41

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$ 4,591.05

Balance on December 31, 2017 \$ 2,187.79

## IN THE CITY FOR GOOD: CENTRAL'S MISSION

### **Book Group**

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Book group meets in the Friendship Room at 10:30 on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. We generally spend 2 sessions on the book selected for the month. In addition to the selected book we talk about other books we have read or intend to read or have heard interesting things about. If you like to read and talk about books please join us. Whether you come for one session or many we'd love to have you join us.

## IN THE CITY FOR GOOD: CENTRAL'S MISSION

### **Martha's Closet**

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Martha's Closet is a free clothing closet serving low income women in the five county metro area. The Closet opened in 1999 and serves women entering the workplace or who for a variety of reasons are making a fresh start or who simply are in need of clothing. The Closet is open two days a week and one evening a month. Women are referred by social service agents and may come to the Closet twice a year.

This year over 500 visits were logged.

The majority of women use this service only once. Clothing and personal care products are donated by individual women or groups that hold clothing drives to benefit the Closet. It is staffed entirely by volunteers. Many thanks to the people who donate clothing and cash, sort donations, transport items not needed and greet the women who come to shop. In March and August there are sales that are open to the public. This helps clear the racks at the end of the season and generates a bit of income.

## IN THE CITY FOR GOOD: CENTRAL'S MISSION

### **Dorcas Circle**

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The Dorcas Circle meets the second Thursday of the month at 11:30 in the Friendship Room. Members bring their own lunch and we enjoy a time of fellowship before beginning Bible study. We use the Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible study materials. The topic for the 2017-2018 year is the book of Hebrews. The study approaches Hebrews through the lens of peace, peacemaking and hope. Member monetary donations have supported local and international projects. This year we supported the Christmas Giving Tree, the International Fellowship of the Least Coin and the US Hurricane Disaster relief. We are an informal and friendly group and welcome new members.



*The Newly Updated Second Floor Lounge!*

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

### Finance and Stewardship

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2017 was a year of growth and generosity for Central Presbyterian Church. Below are some highlights from a financial perspective.

I would particularly like to thank the hard work of Treasurer Bill Zopfi, Pastor Dave Colby, Church Administrator Anna Sanchez, and the 2017 Finance and Stewardship Committee -- Alex Bollman, Matt Ehling, Fluryanne Leach, Doug Knowlton, Barbara Swanson and Ned Taylor -- for all of their work in an eventful year.

#### INVESTMENTS

- The following chart outlines overall investment values at the beginning and end of 2017.
- Draws from investments for operations totaled \$57,563 vs. a budget of \$59,750. This is a strong progress toward setting our investment draw at a sustainable level beginning in 2018. [See the note about investment draw at the top of p 24.]
- Several bequests from longtime members were received, totaling \$73,327. These were divided according to our policy into three accounts: Endowment, Operating Investments & Reserve.
- Central also received a significant gift of assets, 2/3 of which was able to be liquidated in December 2017 for a total of \$1.65 million. This gift has been deposited into the Operating Investment Account, with \$750,000 invested according to our strategy and \$900,000 in CDs until we determine the use and timeframe of these funds.

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

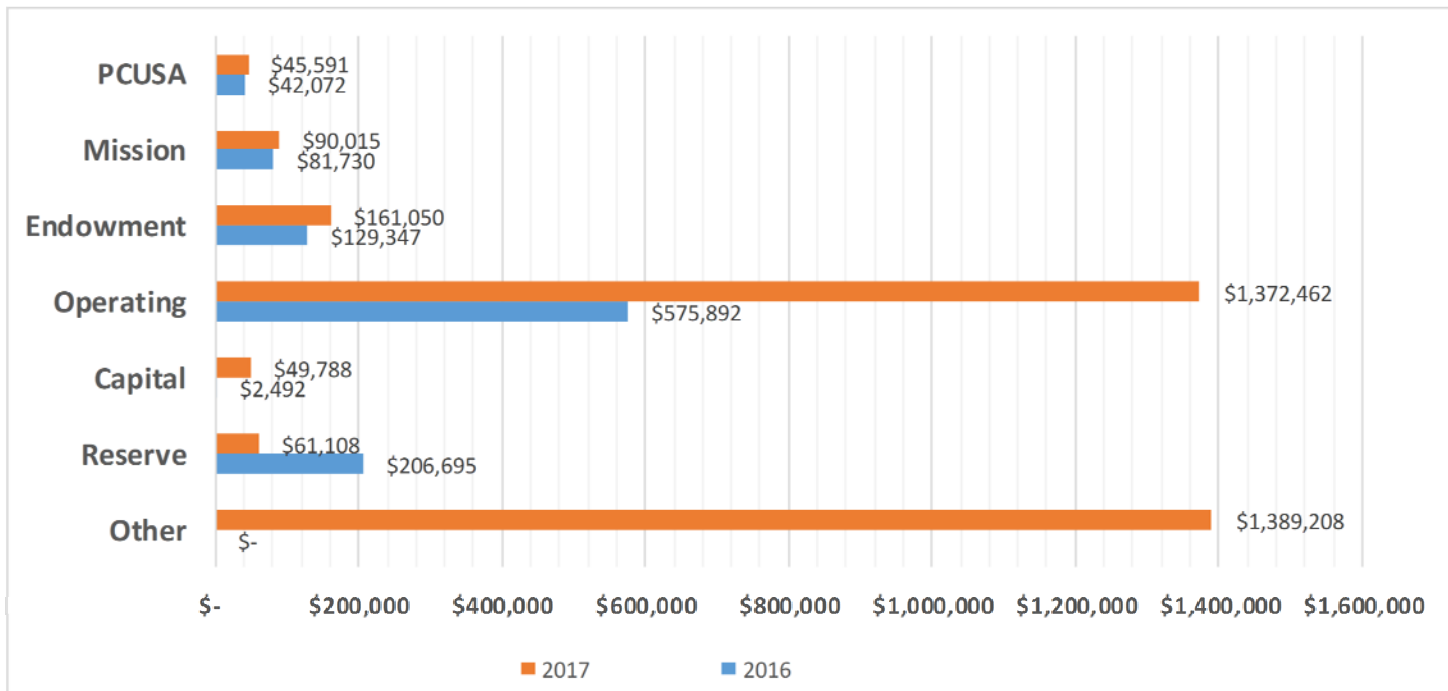
#### OPERATIONS

- Operating contributions to Central totaled \$330,193, an increase from 2016's total of \$291,883.
- \$13,084 was raised and passed along to special offerings such as the Peacemaking and Christmas Joy offerings and One Great Hour of Sharing. Building use and Wednesday lunch revenue remained strong.
- Several special projects were funded and completed in 2017. This included:
  - Support for the Ahmady family's initial months in Minnesota
  - New choir robes and stoles
  - New sound system
  - New fire protection system
  - Updating of the upstairs Lounge
- Operating expenses for 2017 totaled \$456,778 compared to a budget of \$458,980. Staff and committees were diligent in budget management in all areas. Additionally, the operating statement shows expense of \$73,327 to transfer bequests received into our investment and reserve accounts.

Submitted by  
Laura Nichols-Endres

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

## General Fund and Investments



The above chart outlines overall investment values during 2017, as compared to 2016. The total value of invested funds at the end of the year was \$2,608,114. Central also held cash of \$61,107.59 in its Reserve Account, and controlled additional assets worth approximately \$500,000.

**PCUSA Fund:** Unrestricted; income used for Central operations  
 2016: \$42,072  
 2017: \$45,591

**Mission Account :** Restricted funds for various mission-related purposes  
 2016: \$81,730  
 2017: \$90,015

**Endowment Account:** Trust restrictions; produces income for operations  
 2016: \$129,347  
 2017: \$161,050

**Operating Account:** Produces income for Central operations  
 2016: \$ 575,892  
 2017: \$1,372,462

**Capital Account:** Holding account for income generated by Endowment, Operating Account  
 2016: \$ 2,492  
 2017: \$49,788

**Reserve Account:** Funds held in money market for restricted purposes/short-term spending  
 2016: \$206,695  
 2017: \$ 61,107

**Other Assets:** Cash gift of \$889,208 received at year end, invested in 4-month CDs while Session determines use; other assets valued at approximately \$500,000.  
 2016: \$ 0  
 2017: \$1,389,208



Draws from investments for operations totaled \$57,563 vs. a budget of \$59,750. \$4000 was also drawn against the unallocated funds in the Reserve Account toward operating expenses. An additional investment draw of \$2500 was made against restricted investment funds held in the Mission Account, in the aid of funding charitable work of the Coordinated Mission Committee, as well as scholarships, for a total investment draw of \$64,063.

Given the infusion of new funds into Central's investments, the finance committee has raised the target for the 2018 investment draw. It is intended that Central will only draw income from investments moving forward, as opposed to drawing principal.

	2017 BUDGET	2017 ACTUAL	BUDGET
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Contributions	\$ 324,976	\$ 330,193	\$ 333,842
Pass-through offerings	\$ 10,241	\$ 13,084	\$ 13,084
Investments	\$ 59,750	\$ 64,063	\$ 64,657
Misc. Income	\$ 64,300	\$ 83,904	\$ 64,300
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$ 459,367</b>	<b>\$ 491,244</b>	<b>\$ 475,976</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Personnel	\$ 259,071	\$ 251,961	\$ 267,068
Building	\$ 88,829	\$ 87,611	\$ 91,944
Worship & Music	\$ 27,920	\$ 24,318	\$ 31,245
Fellowship	\$ 41,600	\$ 41,715	\$ 41,400
Christian Education	\$ 6,950	\$ 6,433	\$ 6,950
Publicity	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,694	\$ 4,000
Finance and Bequests	\$ 850	\$ 7,511	\$ 4,000
Administration	\$ 17,952	\$ 17,086	\$ 17,971
Mission	\$ 11,808	\$ 16,449	\$ 11,889
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 458,980</b>	<b>\$ 456,778</b>	<b>\$ 476,467</b>

## 2017 SESSION

Clerk of Session: Mary Miller  
Moderator of Session: David Colby

	YEAR ELECTED	TERM
<b>Class of 2017</b>		
Bruce Beese	2014	2
Erika Kelly-Kennedy	2014	1
Douglas Knowlton	2014	1
John Lee, Sr.	2014	2
<b>Class of 2018</b>		
Jackie Klaehn	2015	1
Laura Nichols-Endres	2015	2
Carl Willis	2015	1
Sharon Zopfi-Jordan	2015	1
<b>Class of 2019</b>		
Moses Kimani	2016	1
Fluryanne Leach	2014	2
Dennis Reimer	2016	1
Ned Taylor	2016	2

## 2017 DEACONS

Moderator: Mark Vance  
Secretary: Sharon Knowlton

	YEAR ELECTED	TERM
<b>Class of 2017</b>		
LaVonne Ellingson	2014	2
Micah Johnson	2014	1
Rebekah Johnson	2014	1
<b>Class of 2018</b>		
Chris Bremicker	2015	1
Sharon Knowlton	2015	1
Lillian Sanders	2015	1
<b>Class of 2019</b>		
Mark Vance	2016	1
Mary Kay Vance	2016	1
Craig Muntifering	2016	2

## CURRENT STAFF

Rev. Dr. David D. Colby	Pastor
Maureen Smith	Pastoral Associate
Jennifer Anderson	Director of Music
Anna Sandberg Sanchez	Church Administrator
William Zopfi	Treasurer
Christie Rachelle	Publications and Communications Director
April Joy Greibrok	Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator
Rebecca Gudknecht	Nursery Care Provider
Megan Beese	Preschool Teacher
Steve Kesner	Sexton/Custodian
Barb Westman	Food Service Manager
Sue LeClaire	Sous Chef
Sandy White	Director of Martha's Closet
Mary Lange	Evening Receptionist

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(go to bottom of page for link to sign up)



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