



First Congregational
United Church of Christ

2021 Annual Report

“Hope is the promise that
anything is possible.”

- Randi G Fine



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Annual Meeting Agenda

Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda
January 30, 2022 11:50 AM – 1:00 PM on ZOOM

Call to Order 11:50 am

Opening Prayer - Margaret Baldwin

Establish Quorum- Moderators

Vote to approve meeting minutes for:

- Annual Meeting, January 24, 2021
- Congregational Meeting June 27, 2021

Presentation of background on the 2022 Budget- Ann Muir
Comments on 2022 Budget- Margaret Baldwin
Vote on 2022 Budget

Recognition of volunteers - Margaret Baldwin

Election of 2022 Council and Nominating Committee members (see slate)

Recognition of outgoing leaders and welcoming of new leaders

Words from the Incoming Moderator- Phil Owen

Closing prayer- Eric Elnes

Adjourn

Slate for Church Council and Nominating Committee

Church Council 2022

Slate of nominees for the 2022 Church Council, to be
voted on by the Congregation

Past Moderator: Margaret Baldwin

Moderator: Phil Owen

Vice-Moderator: Paris Hancock

Treasurer: Ann Muir

Members at large:

Jack Allman-Abraham- 2 years

Christina Hellums- 1 year

Margret Oethinger- 1 year

NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2022

Slate of nominees for the 2022 Nominating Committee
to be voted on by the Congregation:

Susan Adcock- 2yrs

Barbara Bennett- 2yrs

Cheryl Clevenger- 2yrs

Ann Laskey- 2 years

Annual Meeting minutes, January 24, 2021

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
Portland, Oregon

Annual Meeting of the Congregation January 24, 2021

The meeting was called to order on Zoom by Moderator Daniel Russo at 11:55am.

Senior Pastor Eric Elnes offered an opening prayer.

Margaret Baldwin and Phil Owen conducted a quorum count conducted and a quorum was established.

WELCOME

Moderator Daniel Russo spoke of the past year.

MINUTES

The Annual Meeting minutes for December 15, 2019 were presented. Dorothy Coombs moved that the minutes be approved and Ann Laskey seconded. Membership voted and the minutes were approved. No discussion. Membership unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

The Congregational Meeting minutes of March 8, 2020 were presented. Al Horn moved that the minutes be approved and Dorothy Coombs seconded. No comments or amendments. Membership voted and the minutes were unanimously approved.

BUDGET

Belinda Moos thanked the Financial Oversight Committee members, the Budget Committee members and the Council for their excellent and gracious work during the past year and presented background on the 2021 budget. (Many of the details of the budget were discussed at a Budget Forum meeting after worship on January 17 where members had the opportunity to ask in-depth questions.)

She presented the 2021 Budget and provided background.

Edward Eggleston moved that the proposed 2021 Budget be adopted. Daniel Hunter seconded the motion.

During the discussion period, the following items were mentioned:

- COVID has required us to be creative in all aspects of our church life, including budget, stewardship and the digital way of doing things.
- This is a time when we're taking on more risk in all areas, including financial.
- This budget calls for an increase in ministerial expenses while the ministerial team went from two to one paid staff. After the concern was raised, several people expressed support for the increase as a matter of equity and vision, as well as for the new senior pastor. In addition, it was noted that we will be having a discussion this year about our educational ministry.
- The practice of adopting a new budget without reference to the actual results of the previous year's budget is a concern. Does this provide the transparency we need? It was pointed out that December has not closed yet, which is normal. Delaying annual meeting until the books are closed would mean delaying the installation of new officers. In the meantime, any member can contact the Treasurer to have access to financial line items.
- The competency and dedication of the small church staff was acknowledged.

Call for the question by Tim Pollard? The vote to call for the question passed with four opposed and one abstention. There was some discussion whether that vote was to approve the budget or to approve the call and close discussion. Bruce Bishop noted that he voted in opposition because he did not want to close the discussion.

The vote was called to approve the 2021 Budget and taken. The Budget was approved with two opposed and one abstention.

VOTE TO ADOPT BYLAWS AMENDMENT

The amendment was presented:

Bylaws Amendment to Article IV, Section 9

Old text (in bold):

The Council shall create one or more **PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEES** for called ministers. Each committee shall facilitate, build and maintain relationships and communication between the minister(s) and the lay leadership and members of the Church. Each committee shall also facilitate a performance review of the minister(s) every three years. Each committee shall consist of five members, each serving a staggered term of five years, one member being appointed each year by the Council with the advice and consent of the minister.

Proposed new text (in bold):

The Council shall create one or more **PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEES** for called ministers. Each committee shall facilitate, build and maintain relationships and communication between the minister(s) and the lay leadership and members of the Church. Each committee shall also facilitate a performance review of the minister(s) every three years. Each committee shall consist of six members serving staggered terms of three years renewable for an additional three years, two members being appointed each year by the

Council with the advice and consent of the minister.

Frank Baldwin moved to vote to accept the amendment. Elaine Molskness seconded. Members voted and the amendment was adopted with two votes opposing and no abstentions. =

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING LEADERS

Nominating Committee: Karen Horn, Rev. Bill Cunitz

Outgoing Officers: Anne Sullivan, Paris Hancock

RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEERS

Core Ministry Facilitators:

Carter Latendresse, Peacemaking;
Nan Wagner, Community

Hospitality Volunteers:

ArtReach Gallery: Sheldon Hurst, curator

Music: Sanctuary (and At-Home) Choir

Peacemaking Volunteers:

Soul Box Project: Nanci Tangeman

Potluck in the Park: Ron & Cheryl Clevenger

Immigrant Welcoming Team: Bruce Bishop, Daniel Hunter, Rachel Stevens, Frank Baldwin, Kris Moore, Paris Hancock, Jane Brolsma, Susan Rogers

Portland Protest Respite Station: Carter Latendresse (coordinator), Paris Hancock, Kevin Egan, Daniel Russo, Kathy Sheibley, Jessie Tarter, Phil Owen, Cara Rothe, Anne Sullivan, Rev. Janet Parker, Pam Fine, Grant & Levi Helbley, Jacqi Vazquez, Lesley Sepetoski, Kyle Roy, Keelin Sullivan

Community Volunteers:

Youth Group: Denise Denniston

Godly Play Teachers: Anne Sullivan, Eileen Deardock, Daniel Hunter, Karen Horn, Margaret Baldwin, Paris Hancock

Worship Team: Gary Vaughn, Julie Blanchard, Margaret Baldwin, Rev. Avena Ward, Rev. Pam Fine, Sarah Vazquez

Called to Care: Ann Laskey (chair), Rev. Bill Cunitz, Susan Adcock, Janine Vaughan, Alice Forsythe, Patty Hammond, and Al Horn

Prayer Chain: Susan Adcock

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Susan Adcock, Judy Bishop, Dorothy Coombs, Patty Bonney, Nan Wagner and others

Eve's Circle: Jessica Denniston, Alice Forsythe, Nanci Tangeman, Judy Bishop, Paris Hancock, Ariel Henry, Cath Clark

Book Club: Anne Muir

For Such a Time As This: Rev. Janet Parker, Rev. Pam Fine

Equity Group: Carter Latendresse, Sarah Vasquez, Grant Helbley, Cara Rothe and others

Love Casts Out Fear: Rev. Avena Ward

Safety Team: Sarah Vazquez, Linnea Roy, Al Horn, Cara Rothe

Ushers & Greeters: Julie Blanchard

Council-Related Committees and Teams:

Budget Committee: Belinda Moos, Margaret Baldwin, Kyle Roy, Edward Eggleston, Cara Rothe

Financial Oversight Committee: Kyle Roy, Belinda Moos, Edward Eggleston, Rev. Bill Cunitz, Ted Heid, Emily Rampton

Ground Lease: Ted Heid and Edward Eggleston

Stewardship Committee: Rev. Bill Cunitz, Bruce Bishop, Karen Horn, Bunny Oliver, Phil Owen and Avena Ward

Pastoral Search Committee: Nan Wagner, Sarah Vazquez, Rev. Gary Vaughan, Lesley Sepetoski, Linnea Roy, Ted Heid, Ron Clevenger, Margaret Baldwin (Alternate and Vice Moderator)

ELECTION OF 2021 OFFICERS

Moderator Daniel Russo presented the slate of officers for 2021:

Past Moderator: Daniel Russo

Moderator: Margaret Baldwin

Vice Moderator: Phil Owen

Treasurer: Edward Eggleston

Member-at-large (3 yrs.): Jack Allman-Abraham

Member-at-large (2 yrs.): Kathy Sheibly

Member-at-large (1 yr): Christina Hellums

Al Horn moved to approve the slate. Seconded by Elaine Molskness. No discussion questions or comments. Members voted and the slate was approved with no opposition and one abstention.

Past Moderator Daniel Russo ceded control of meeting to Moderator Margaret Baldwin.

RECOGNITION OF PAST MODERATOR

On behalf of the congregation, Pastor Elnes thanked Past Moderator Daniel Russo for his gentle, kind and intelligent leadership during a year where he faced a pandemic, a new baby, a change in ministers and political unrest. He also thanked Joanne and Dante for the time Daniel spent on church duties. Daniel opened a thank-you gift that had been delivered to his house.

ELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Moderator Margaret Baldwin presented the slate of nominees for the 2021 Nominating Committee and thanked the Selection Committee for putting the slate together. The slate is:

Debb Chapman (3rd year)

Margret Oethinger (3rd year)

Susan Adcock

Barbara Bennett

Cheryl Clevenger

Eileen Deerdock

Ann Laskey

The Moderator asked the membership to vote by affirmation. Committee members were affirmed.

NEW MODERATOR'S REMARKS

Margaret Baldwin reflected that she imagined this moment as being together in the Fellowship Hall, but instead we are “gathered together in little boxes” [on Zoom]. Until we can be together, we will continue to be a congregation “guided by the spirit of love, that worships together, converses together and takes care of each other in these especially challenging times. Let’s count our blessings: a search committee that was able to engage a

new pastor in spite of the fact that all our meetings were conducted online, a new pastor who has particular experience in the ways of using technology to help us grow and knit us together during the pandemic. We have the financial resources to meet our obligations. We have a music director who's finding ways to bring us the glory of our beloved organ and the beauty of choral music. We have many volunteers who are willing to make deliveries and safe visits to those of us who can't get out and other volunteers who continue our ministry to the outside community, some providing a respite station in our Fellowship Hall last summer during the protests. We are still the church, and with time and new vaccines we will come together again this year in body as well as in spirit. What will our congregation look like when we emerge from the pandemic? As Reverend Eric says in his reflections in the annual report, it's our particular context that matters. Who each of us is and what we bring to the table matters because we are in this sacred conversation together, with the guidance of the Spirit. Please join us and stay in the conversation; we need to hear your voice. Together we can build and nurture our community while also reaching out to bring the love we share into the wider community.

She then offered our closing prayer. " May we continue to listen to the whisperings of the Spirit and may you entangle us and lead us into that better version of ourselves and of the church that we are yearning to become. Amen."

Meeting was adjourned by Moderator Margaret Baldwin at 1:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nanci Tangeman and Edward Eggleston

Congregational Meeting Minutes, June 27, 2021

Congregational Meeting 6/27/2021, 11:55am

Opening Prayer: Margaret Baldwin

Head Count: 71 people; quorum reached (needed 22)

Proposal:

Margaret Baldwin: 3-month trial period for new worship model:

- 2nd Sunday: In-person worship in Sanctuary, followed by potluck in Fellowship Hall
- Other Sundays: Art & Soul Café in Fellowship Hall & online, followed by meditation service in Sanctuary

Played proposal video featuring Jack Allman

Motion (Phil Owen, seconded by Nanci Tangeman): I move Portland First Congregational Church, UCC adopt the proposed schedule for worship (September through November) as

outlined, and authorize up to \$65,000 to implement the changes.

Questions:

Q: Tim Pollard: What about the eucharist?

A: Rev. Eric: 2nd Sunday in person, open to having it on Zoom other Sundays

Nanci Tangeman: Showing support for proposal

Q: Margret Oethinger: Will Zoom services be completely pre-recorded?

A: Rev. Eric: Art & Soul Café will be live; there will be recorded

music during Zoom services in August, before the trial period; there will be live music in person at the coffeehouse(Fellowship Hall) after the Art & Soul services

Q: Phil Oliver: What about Sabbath and Justice?

A: Margaret Baldwin: It's more about small groups and outreach activities, beyond the services

Rev. Eric: Outreach will mostly be focused on days other than the Sabbath

Q: Phil Oliver: Will there be the same small groups through the fall? A: Rev. Eric: We can have the same small groups, but we'll also be forming new ones for future sermon series

Frank Baldwin: Opportunities to get to know people in the broader community as well

Q: Margret Oethinger: Will masks be required?

A: Cara Rothe: We will get recommendations from the health and safety group that's been offering guidance through the process so far

Q: Susan Adcock: What about children and Sunday School? A: Margaret Baldwin: No specific plans yet, but we're getting together with families to determine that

Rev. Eric: Talked with families two months ago; proposed creating a video especially for families on non-2nd Sundays, to help facilitate family discussions

Sheldon Hurst: "Creativity requires breaking continuity." Hopes that we don't lose sight of our creativity in these times.

Peter Hlavacka: Said "thank you" for the proposal - really looking forward to it

Q: Karen Hurst: Will there be free food at the Art & Soul Café? It's an important part of community outreach

A: Rev. Eric: There will be food and a suggested donation, but no requirement

Q: Phil Oliver: Is the money separate from the proposal?

A: Margaret Baldwin: No

Margaret Baldwin: Showed breakdown of the 65k budget

- 37k will be for startup costs, while other costs will be ongoing should the trial period lead to adopting this as our regular model

Grant Edwards: Explaining the need for the tech that's in the startup costs, even if we went back to a standard church model; music at the mystical meditation services will be different from liturgical music

Bruce Bishop: Recommend looking at savings from the past year, to see if there's money there to cover at least some of the 65k

Q: Judy Bishop: What's the 5k for café seating? And liturgical supplies?

A: Eric Elnes: Seating for 40 people, potentially from used restaurant furniture: 4-top and/or high-top table and chairs; liturgical expenses include singing bowls and candles for meditation services

Cara Rothe: Reminder that this is just a trial, and we may change things going forward

Q: Dorothy Coombs: Where will we store café furniture?

A: Cara Rothe: We're working through the logistics

Kyle Roy & Phil Owen: Reminder about the ongoing value of many of the supplies we're buying

Q: Ann Muir: Call for the question (wants to vote now)

Q: Alice Forsythe: Will the people who can never attend in person ever be able to experience the live music (including the organ)?

A: Grant Edwards: After each meditation service, there will be organ music every Sunday

Q: Alice Forsythe: Ask for clarification about Zoom services

A: Margaret Baldwin: Zoom services will take place in the Fellowship Hall (Art & Soul Café), and will be both broadcast live and recorded for later viewing

Margaret Baldwin: Noted that enough people raised their hands to end the question period and start the vote

Vote:

Phil Owen: Explained how voting works on Zoom

- There will be three questions; the first two are practice polls

- The first practice poll will be for single voters, the second will be for multiple people voting on the same device

Andre needed to recalibrate polls to have one list of options per question instead of two after first practice poll

Practice Polls:

Does pineapple belong on pizza? Do you prefer tea over coffee?

Final vote: 57 in favor, 4 opposed, 0 abstaining

Meeting Adjourned: 1:05 pm

List of Volunteers for Recognition, 2021

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING LEADERS

Nominating Committee: Margaret Oethinger, Deb Chapman

Outgoing Council members: Daniel Russo, Ed Eggleston, Kathy Sheibley

RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEERS

Core Ministry Facilitators:

Community, Nan Wagner

Hospitality Volunteers:

ArtReach Gallery: Sheldon Hurst, curator

Peacemaking Volunteers:

Immigrant Welcoming Team: Bruce Bishop, Daniel Hunter, Rachel Stevens, Frank Baldwin, Paris Hancock, Susan Rogers, Ann Muir

Soul Box Project: Nanci Tangeman and many folders of boxes

Potluck in the Park: Ron & Cheryl Clevenger, Ted Heid, Paris Hancock Egan, Kevin Egan, Alice and Scott Forsythe, Kathy Sheibley, Dean Sigler

Homeless Outreach: Barbara Bennett, and many donors

Bienvenidos Quilts: Rachel Stevens, Ann Laskey, Ann Muir, Susan Adcock, Susan Rogers, Judy Bishop, Ruth Abbott, Karen Hurst, Elaine Molskness, Paris Hancock, Bunny Oliver

Transition Projects: Jim McPartland, Tim Pollard, Ann Muir, Paul and Susan Adcock

Community Volunteers:

Worship Team: Julie Blanchard, Frank Baldwin, Bill Cunitz, Jack Allman, Margaret Baldwin, Bunny Oliver and others periodically

Called to Care: Ann Laskey (chair), Rev. Bill Cunitz, Al Horn, Susan Adcock, Janine Vaughan, Alice Forsythe, Patty Hammond, Ruth Abbott, Gary Vaughan, Phil Oliver

Prayer Chain: Susan Adcock

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Susan Adcock, Judy Bishop, Dorothy Coombs, Patty Bonney, Nan Wagner and others

Eve's Circle: Alice Forsythe, Nanci Tangeman, Judy Bishop, Paris Hancock, Ariel Henry,

Book Club: Ann Muir

Safety Team: Sarah Vazquez, Linnea Roy, Al Horn, Cara Rothe

Ushers & Greeters: Julie Blanchard

Council-Related Committees and Teams:

Budget Committee: Ann Muir, Phil Owen, Edward Eggleston, Cara Rothe

Financial Oversight Committee: Belinda Moos, Edward Eggleston, Ted Heid, Cara Rothe

Stewardship Committee: Al Horn, Ann Muir, Phil Owen, Susan Rogers, Dorothy Slater, Rev. Eric Elnes, with special contributions from Layne Young and Ross Runkle

Senior Minister's Report 2022

Eric Elnes, Senior Minister

What a year it has been! Who would have predicted that our “Post-Pandemic Church” project would be put off indefinitely in 2021 because the pandemic is still preventing us from gathering regularly even in 2022? This was always a possibility, of course, but not one that many of us wanted to consider.

In light of our experience, I have shifted my thinking from creating a “Post-Pandemic Church” to creating a “Resilient Church” that can survive and thrive even if the pandemic continues to hamper our efforts to gather physically in the next few years.

Forgive me for submitting a slightly longer Senior Minister's Report than might be absolutely necessary. I am deeply aware that our Annual Reports become part of FCUCC's historical record and that what I am proposing to you below may be read by future generations who may be researching our history, wondering either what led to revival and turnaround at this time, or what sped up the church's decline. If this proposal has anything to do with either, I want them to have some context that may be obvious to you, but not so to them.



I have told you before that I started at FCUCC in December, 2020, with a strong intuition that: (1) my ministry in Portland would be the most satisfying one of my career, even as I have enjoyed each of my ministries tremendously; (2) a key part of what would make this ministry so satisfying would be an idea that came not from me, but from YOU.

This original intuition is part of what motivated me to hold one-on-one conversations with anyone in the congregation who would give me the time in the first few months of my ministry. Thank you, sincerely, to the 150+ of you who made the time! As a result, I quickly fell in love with the congregation, as it is filled with interesting and inspiring people.

I distilled these conversations into three possible action plans that might best draw together the congregation's already-existing interests and energies. These ideas were vetted by six different focus groups to ensure that they were a true fit for our congregation. For the record, you rejected each of them. But you offered valuable feedback, too. Your feedback led to the

formulation of a fourth proposal – one that drew from the best of the other three even as it addressed the perceived shortcomings of the other three.

The congregation voted on this official, “Post-Pandemic Church” proposal last June by a whopping 97% margin! However, the ongoing pandemic prevented us from experiencing much of it and prevented the general public from participating. We pulled the project when it was clear that it was not an appropriate project to implement during an ongoing pandemic. Many people also provided the helpful feedback that, while the model might work well as an additional weekly offering, it would not work as a replacement of our more familiar style of weekly worship.

We now move into 2022 with a 0 for 4 success rate in terms of building a model that is capable of growing the church in spirit and numbers while retaining its long-time members.

Under normal, non-pandemic conditions, I would not think twice about our lack of success. Most plans that are truly revolutionary take a lot more than four attempts to fully develop and implement. You usually have to fail a number of times in order to succeed even once. However, the longer the pandemic continues, and the older the congregation gets, we will experience increasingly high obstacles to our long-term viability as a church.

Part of the reason you invited me to serve FCUCC is because I have helped each of my prior congregations move from a state of crisis and decline to a state of well-being and growth. I mention this because I am hoping you will read the following observations and recommendation carefully

and not too easily dismiss them.



Observations:

(1) The congregation has grown significantly livelier this past year and is, quite frankly, a lot more fun to serve than when I first arrived. However, circumstances beyond our direct control have made it harder for the church to turn around and grow now than it was a year ago. Such factors include the ongoing pandemic, continued political, cultural, and racial division, and continued steep decline in the numbers of people looking for churches.

(2) The upshot is that FCUCC is in a classic state of decline that most congregations never emerge from.

(3) I still very much believe that we can beat this decline, but the clock is ticking. The further down the curve we go, the more dramatic the action must be to pull us out and away. My best estimate is that, without some dramatic, positive change, we have just 5 years before we will have to formulate a strategy for liquidating our assets and ceasing to be a church in downtown Portland.

(4) While these observations may be a bit chilling, bear in mind that Christianity’s core modus operandi is death-and-resurrection. So, even if we don’t recover, there is still hope. A glorious death can lead to an even more glorious resurrection. But if you ask me, dying should be our very last resort. Even Jesus did not run to the Cross. He was dragged there!

(5) Given that many of you have worked extremely hard – and faithfully – for this

church for a great many years, giving tirelessly of your heart, mind, body, and spirit, I am afraid you will take my observations as an expression of disappointment or even condemnation. Please know that this could not be further from the truth. The main problem is NOT that this church is devoid of faithful, compassionate, caring – and even inspiring – members. Some of the most brilliant lights I’ve met in my 26-year ministry are members of FCUCC. No, the problem is not you. The problem is that there aren’t enough of you.

And all of us are aging. Who was it who once said, “The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak”? This statement could sum up most everyone’s experience of aging. We don’t automatically become less willing to follow the Spirit when we age, but we do tend have less energy to do that which we used to do when following the Spirit.

(6) If we are to survive as a vital congregation of Jesus Christ well into the future, we must act with peculiar boldness, and more swiftly than many of us will feel comfortable doing, or even have the ability to do even if we want to.

(7) According to the information given at our 1/16 Budget Meeting, FCUCC enjoys the benefit of approximately \$1.5M in reserves and other financial assets. This is in addition to the \$677k of rental, lease, and other income we receive each year that fills in the gap between congregational giving and the actual cost of running a church like ours. Most congregations of our size do not have even a fraction of financial resources – and financial security – that we take for granted.

Most of our financial reserves have been

carefully cultivated and set aside for a “rainy day” in the far-off future. Friends, currently it is not just raining. We are experiencing a deluge.

Money alone will never be enough to pull us out of what must be acknowledged is our present death-spiral. However, money coupled with vision and commitment most certainly can. Wouldn’t it be sad if our church failed to survive not for lack of spirit, but because we held onto substantial resources beyond the point when they could have helped us?

On the basis of these observations:

I hereby call upon the congregation at its Annual Meeting to establish March 13th as the date of our next congregational meeting. At this meeting, we will discuss and decide whether or not to commit up to \$1M of our \$1.5M of reserves and other financial assets over the next 5 years to funding missions and ministries yet-to-be proposed by congregation members. Specifically, the missions and ministries we will be looking to fund are those that (1) serve the God of Jesus through serving others – especially those who are hurting spiritually or physically; and (2) grow the community of Jesus known as First Congregational United Church of Christ in spirit and fellowship.

This would give us up to \$200k per year, for five years, to fund member-driven (and approved) missions and ministries that hold the greatest promise of ensuring that FCUCC will serve as beacon of light and hope in Portland for the next 170 years.

Do you feel a strong sense of Call to lend

your time, talent, and treasure to a particular mission or ministry? Create a proposal! And create a budget of anywhere from \$1k to 200k.

At least this is what you should do if we decide, on March 13th, to commit the funds and start seeking proposals.

Why March 13th rather than, say, November 13th, which would give us a lot more time to study and deliberate? I'm proposing March 13th – just 6 weeks after our Annual Meeting – because this should not be a tough decision. We are not approving grant proposals on the 13th. All we are deciding is whether or not we are willing to make a substantial, multi-year commitment to ensure the long-term viability of our church.

The hard part will be what follows: creating proposals and the guidelines and rules

for submitting them; creating guidelines and rules for implementing proposals; creating opportunities for congregational study and prayer concerning the proposals that are submitted; creating systems for evaluating their strengths and weaknesses; and evaluating the performance of approved projects. We will also need to establish what the “prudent reserve” level is on our financial assets so that we do not draw down money that leaves us unnecessarily vulnerable to unforeseen circumstances.

So let's not get bogged down in details at the moment. Just consider the following question: If you had up to \$200k to fund a proposal, and people to help you implement it, what would you propose?

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Sines". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Moderator's Report

Margaret Baldwin, Moderator

Who each of us is and what we bring to the table matters because we are in this sacred conversation together, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Please join us and stay in the conversation; we need to hear your voice. Together we can build and nurture our community while also reaching out to bring the love we share into the wider community.

With these words at the Annual Meeting in January 2021, I opened my term as Moderator. None of us knew that a year later we would still be worshipping on Zoom because of Omicron, the Covid variant now sweeping through the world. We are sad and frustrated by this set of circumstances, but it doesn't diminish who we are as the church, only the way we do things for now.

I have been the Moderator of Covid Time, but let's hope I am the last moderator with that moniker. For a whole year all our meetings and gatherings have been conducted on Zoom, with some exceptions. The Council had several extra meetings to decide whether or not it was safe to open the building to the public, to worship in-person, to serve food at gatherings. Our Second Sunday worship was supposed to include an extravagant pot-luck for friends and new folks joining us for the first time. How we



have missed the fellowship of a shared meal! I hope and pray that a year from now we are sitting together in Fellowship Hall for our Annual Meeting.

We started the year joining small groups formed around a spiritual theme and it proved to be a wonderful way for us to connect and stay in touch with each other. It was also a way to make new friends and get to know old ones at a deeper level. Small groups continued throughout the year, though the group leaders and members changed with the worship theme. We can look forward to reconnecting with each other through small groups in 2022

In April we held a church retreat online and in the sanctuary for a few hours to look at plans for a Post Pandemic Church. The proposal offered several different ways to worship including a meditation service, an Art & Soul Café setting, and more traditional worship in the sanctuary once a

month. We were not able to fully implement the plan or explore all its possibilities. As it turned out, we were (and are) still living in the midst of a pandemic, still wearing masks, still worried about singing together, still needing social distance. We pushed the pause button on implementation of that proposal, but in 2022 we will continue to find ways to refine and expand our ministry online, and hopefully, in-person. We'll lean into improving our audio and visual technology so that it works the way we want it to. I am confident that Eric can bring his considerable energy, wit and insight to developing and growing our community in ways we have not yet imagined.

A wonderful thing about this past year is that our community continued to do the outreach that has always been an essential part of our mission. Bienvenidos Quilts has started a quilt ministry to families at the border. Several volunteers have continued to prepare and share food with houseless individuals through the Transition Project. Some have met for a book or movie discussion and others have taken walks together around Portland on a Sunday afternoon. Some have helped to fold the thousands of boxes that our church contributed to the SoulBox Project. Sheldon has continued to offer stunning art from all over the world for us to view; and he has cultivated relationships with artists whose work might not be so easily shared. The FOOTPRINTS exhibition connected us to the theme of immigration in very intimate ways. You can find more detail about all of these projects in the individual reports.

I want to express my gratitude to the church staff, Eric and Cara, for their leadership, wisdom and counsel; to Grant

Edwards, Music Director, for maintaining an inspiring music program despite all odds; to Jake Giddens and Trevor Warren for their improvements to the church website, This Week and other communication tools; to Andre Cordes for continuing faithfully as our bookkeeper; and to the people who keep our church clean, open and welcoming: Ryan Sotomayor, Vonnie Murphy, Maureen Gullett and the custodial staff. It has been a year of so many pivots, as we moved one direction, then another, and all of you were essential to keeping the congregation informed.

I am very grateful to my fellow moderators: Phil Owen and Daniel Russo for faithfully meeting on zoom and helping to figure out the way forward. I would also like to thank the other members of the Church Council: Ed Eggleston, Kathy Sheibley, Christina Hellums, Jack Allman and Nan Wagner for your attention to all the issues, new ideas and policy that we discussed at our Council meetings. Thanks also for your diligence in writing the for each meeting. Nan was not an elected member of the Council, but asked to attend regularly as the Community Core Ministry Facilitator.



Treasurer's Report

Edward Eggleston, Treasurer

This was a year of possibilities, a possible end of the pandemic, a possible Post Pandemic Church with a possible Art & Soul Café. The Church Council authorized unbudgeted funds for starting this program and the congregation authorized the balance of anticipated costs at a meeting in June: rounded total 65k authorized and 50 k spent, of which 27k are the fixed assets of streaming: tv cameras and equipment and a coffee cart.

The balance of 23k was assigned to Community Core Ministry, general worship and added music and musicians, leaving an unspent but authorized balance of 15k. (see P & L posted on website for members). We did not receive donations for these new and possible projects.

The 2021 financial year did produce positive increases in the funds invested with United Church Funds (UCF). Overall returns of more than 10 % were achieved in all of the funds (see balance sheet posted on the website for members viewing). The incoming Treasurer and the Financial Oversight Committee (FOC) now have data from the last two years which give the gain and loss for September 2020 through September 2021; in those 12 months percentage gains were from 14-17%. Past performance does not guarantee future gain!

The core membership giving came through again with pledged and other

gifts surpassing the amounts budgeted! Thank you!! The income from outside rentals was down.... Covid cancelations in the overall downtown Portland economic climate. The staff led by Cara Rothe has controlled costs amidst this pandemic and those management decisions have kept most expenses underbudget. The final (see posted P & L) number in the financial report shows a negative 14,095 because the 2021 books were closed prior to making a transfer from the UCF funds account. This draw to balance to a -0- budget will come from the unrestricted checking.

It is a pleasure to serve the loyal followers of FCUCC. The best is yet to come. Choose Possibilities while keeping the Faith!!

Edward Eggleston
Treasurer of record 2021

Stewardship

Sowing Seeds of Sustainability

Phil Owen, Stewardship

This year, the Stewardship Committee adopted the motto, “Sowing Seeds of Sustainability.” We recognized that FCUCC needs to project itself into the future; to sustain itself for many more years and for many more people. We wanted to look beyond just 2022.

The committee was comprised of Al Horn, Ann Muir, Phil Owen, Susan Rogers, Dorothy Slater, and Rev. Eric Elnes. Trevor Warren provided support by generating the lists of folks to contact as well as a welcoming and helpful atmosphere as we worked in the conference room.

Special mention needs to be made of Layne Young and Ross Runkle who put together the initial packets we sent to members. These packets included paper which was

embedded with seeds. We hoped that members would make intentions around how they wanted to see growth in their lives in 2022, then plant the seeds and watch them grow over the next months.

We are happy to report we received 53 renewing pledges and seven new pledges for a total of \$143,444. pledged for 2022. We thank everyone who faithfully chose to Sustain FCUCC in 2022.

Submitted for the Committee,
--Phil Owen



Director of Operation's Report

Cara Rothe, Director of Operations



2021 was a very busy year behind the scenes!

The task of staffing the church moved to the front burner in the spring when our facilities manager, Steve Eggers, who had been with us for 5 years, resigned to pursue his passion for music. Andre Cordes, our bookkeeper/communications coordinator left Portland mid-year in pursuit of a new life in North Carolina. We were sad to see them go! However, we saw these exits as an

opportunity to re-evaluate how we designate staff roles and how we could invite even more people onto our church staff team.

We split the facilities position into two positions: events manager and facilities manager. A wonderful musician/singer, Vonnie Murphy filled the event manager position and has been integral in helping us to navigate the choppy waters of re-opening the church to the public after being empty for so long. She has stayed busy helping to

keep projects going such as the new coffee cart in the Fellowship Hall and managing the smaller groups that have begun using the building again. She has had some very fresh ideas about how we can better serve the musicians in Portland. The facilities position was filled by Ryan Sotomayor who worked in that position before Steve. He was eager

“ So, our job is to stay prepared for whatever the future holds. We are ready! ”

to return and help us to get the building current in maintenance and to ready it for a returning church and public. He is a wonderful manager and has a knack for organization. Vonnie and Ryan work closely together, and they are an awesome team!

Though Andre Cordes moved to North Carolina, we asked him to continue as our bookkeeper. We miss him being on-site but still get to enjoy working along side him remotely. He has been very supportive from afar in keeping finances running smoothly here. To fill the void of Andre leaving, we created two new positions: office coordinator and graphic designer. Trevor Warren was a perfect fit for the office position. He is warm, welcoming, and very organized. He has a passion for helping us find new ways to reach people. His talent in production technology have come in handy and we hope to utilize him in the future as we advance our sanctuary production quality. For the graphic design position, we were lucky to find Jake Giddens. He was working as a

freelance designer and was excited about our missions. He immediately created a beautiful and fun church website and now creates all graphics for the church. He has an eagerness to help, which quickly landed him in the role of Zoom master on Sundays as well as our technical lead. He has been invaluable in helping us to transition with so many changes due to Covid. I could not be prouder of our current staff team. They are a very passionate and motivated group and are a joy to work with. They will serve this church well.

The building is all ready for the public to return. We began receiving requests for event space in September and have booked some events for 2022; however, since the future is unknown, many clients are still wary of booking. So, our job is to stay prepared for whatever the future holds. And we are ready!

Our Annex complex has a returning tenant! We were overjoyed to have Portland Piano International return after several years. Our staff enjoy working alongside them as they value community works spaces as much as we do. In November, PPOP (Portland People’s Outreach Project), who had been with us for 5 years, received a grant that allowed them to move to a larger space so they could expand their work. There is no doubt that PPOP saves lives, and we are blessed to have been part of that work for so long.

We are all waiting with excitement to see what 2022 brings!

Cara Rothe
Director of Operations

Community Core Ministry



Called to Care

Ann Laskey

Called to Care has traditionally served church members who are no longer able to attend church and may be isolated. In 2020 our model changed to support those isolated by the pandemic, and in 2021 the Called to Care Group continued to reach out to the many members of our church who are isolated during the Covid-19 pandemic. We especially attended to the homebound on a regular basis. We were meeting every other week beginning in March of 2020, however we became very adept at connecting and supporting others through cards, notes, phone calls, and some distance or outdoor visits. So, since April 2021 we have met by Zoom on a monthly basis. Avena Ward is our chaplain. Ann Laskey is coordinator.

Members include:

Rev. Bill Cunitz, Al Horn, Susan Adcock, Janine Vaughan, Alice Forsythe, and Patty Hammond. We are grateful to others who support our Outreach including Ruth Abbott, Reverend Gary Vaughn, and Reverend Phil Oliver.

Eve's Circle

Paris Hancock

Considering that Eve's Circle was virtual for most of the year, we were delighted that many of our monthly events were well-attended, in fact a few of them set attendance records! A few highlights included guest speakers: Aly Sato and Nell Egan spoke about sex trafficking in March. Liz Starke and a colleague introduced us to Rose Haven, a safe haven for women, children, gender diverse individuals, presented to us in October. We enjoyed a workshop called "When God Was a Woman" led by Avena Ward and Janine Vaughan in January and an exploration of our stained glass in February led by Sheldon Hurst. We spent a June date together in creative play and a September event playing in a bell choir session led by Grant. As always, we loved sharing about books during an "Eve's Reads" session. As a finale this year, our members and the larger congregation contributed approx. 250+ undies and \$350 to Rose Haven in our "Undies the Tree Drive."

I want to personally thank all those souls who helped Eve's thrive during this distanced year, from staff to members to guest speakers.

Book Club

Ann Muir

The FCC book group meets on Zoom the second Tuesday of each month from 4:30-5:30. You are always invited to join the discussions whether you have read the book or not. Participants choose the books, and each discussion is lead by the person who recommended that particular book. Discussions are always interesting.

Here are just some books we have read this past year:

The Dutch House by Ann Patchett

The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben

Murder at the Mission by Blaine Harden

Deep River by Karl Marlantes

Shuggie Bain by Douglas Stuart

Here are the selections for the next few months:

January. *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

February. *Between Two Kingdoms* by Suleika Jaouad

March *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig

April. *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris

May. *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Oscan

We are looking for new participants to join our excellent discussions.

Community Core Ministry

Nan Wagner

Community thrives at FCUCC Portland. When we realized we are not living in a POST pandemic world but are still mid-pandemic it was clear we needed to pivot yet again, exercise our creativity, and settle into our Zoom Boxes as a surprisingly satisfying way of staying connected and engaged. Resilience is our watchword!

Ann Laskey (annlaskey@ymail.com) coordinates Called to Care. Please see her report elsewhere.

Rachel Stevens (ranlunds@yahoo.com) coordinates the Immigrant Welcoming Film Group. We've watched a wide variety of films on our own, then gathered monthly on Zoom to discuss them, the goal being to broaden our understanding of the issues facing immigrants. A few of the films we have viewed are The Visitor, The Namesake, The Farewell, Under the Same Moon, An American Rhapsody, Human Flow, I'm Leaving Now, The Girl. Film Group meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 4:30 for about an hour. Join us once or every month as we strive to understand, learn, and reflect on the topic of immigration AND enjoy each others' company.

Julie Blanchard (julieb2@easystreet.net) coordinates the Ushers and Greeters. Though "in person" worship services were

COVID limited, the following faithful ushers responded and welcomed worshipers to the sanctuary services during the year: Margret Oethinger, Ron Clevenger, Cheryl Clevenger, Emily Rampton, Kathy Sheibley, and Debb Chapman. We maintain communications and will be ready to assist during 2022.

Susan Adcock (psadcock@aol.com) coordinates the Prayer Chain.

In 2021, over 115 emails were sent to those who have signed up to receive the Prayer Chain (about 60 individuals). We prayed for individuals and families within our church as well as people and situations outside our church family. Over the year we often received updates and thankful replies from many of those who we prayed for, and those messages were also shared with Prayer Chain members by email.

Susan also coordinates the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

At least nine prayer shawls were given to people who were ill or grieving during 2021. Some were distributed by Rev Eric and others were distributed by members of the Called to Care committee. The Prayer Shawl group has not met during the pandemic but there are still shawls available to give to those who need or want them.

Ann Muir (muir.ann@gmail.com) coordinates the Book Group. The FCC Book Group meets on Zoom the second Tuesday of each month from 4:30-5:30. You are always invited to join the discussions whether you have read the book or not. Participants choose the books, and each discussion is led by the person who recommended that particular book. Discussions are always interesting. Do join us!

Paris Hancock (eves@uccportland.org) coordinates Eve's Circle. Please see her report elsewhere.

Anne Sullivan (family@uccportland.org) and Karen Horn have coordinated Youth and Family Ministries. The Covid-19 pandemic has severely affected Godly Play, the teaching program we have used on Sunday morning in the past, and other family ministries but again the teachers found ways to be creative. They gathered to discuss options, held a zoom meeting with parents and ultimately determined that each teacher would "adopt" a family. Through mail, drop offs and distanced visits they provided support and prepared special Lenten activity packets for the families to work on together.

Nan Wagner (nannwagner@gmail.com) helped coordinate Small Groups. Remember Sunday School? 2021's answer to that is Small Groups. Dr. Elnes launched Small Groups with an exploration of Matthew Fox's book, Julian of Norwich: Wisdom in a Time of Pandemic - and Beyond, moved on to Earthy Wisdom and then dug into Jesus's Eight Blessings for Uncertain Times. Small groups formed around each 8-week series. We had the Darkwood Brew resources (<https://www>.

[darkwoodbrew.org](https://www)) to use which are recordings of the internet television program produced and hosted by our Dr. Elnes. Many people stepped forward to lead these discussion groups with those interested in deepening their understanding of the Sunday message. These groups varied in size from 4 to 9 but were designed to stay small and build our sense of community. It worked! Folks who participated commented that the weekly Zoom get-togethers became an anchor and a support to their week and fostered new and deeper friendships.

Sarah Vazquez (sarahbellur@gmail.com) chairs the Safety Committee. As Covid-19 continues to surge and wain in waves the Safety Committee began work on a churchwide policy regarding in-person vs on-line only worship services, which has been continually updated in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Wagner, Community Core Ministry facilitator

Music Program

Grant Edwards, Music Director - Organist

In all honesty, if I were to choose one expression to describe 2021 in music it would be this: Covid fatigue. We experienced a parade of suddenly canceled plans, not unlike Lucy repeatedly yanking away the musical football. But having said that, there was so much more to the past year, including a sense of welcome progress. We learned a great deal about what really is important in making music together, and what had been merely transient or experimental, just to get by. And we did experience at least one towering pinnacle of effort and artistry, with other peaks along the way.

On a personal level, I have greatly enjoyed Rev. Eric's approach to preaching, not the least of which has been the addition of visual and tactile elements. Early on, we broke the old mold of Epiphany music — which in the past seemed to be the same year after year— with Eric's series on Julian of Norwich. Like a breath of fresh air, the themes during those nine weeks invited creativity in musical choices such as I'd never gotten previously to explore, in quite a variety of genres. With only a single singer each week, we regularly presented truly stunning musical offerings: The Enticing Lane. Pure Imagination. Beautiful



Things. Simple Song. En Prière. Joe Pettit's own All Shall Be Well. Furthermore, the two-part messages during each service (a format which I had desired for decades) has brought renewed flow between spoken word and music. Each sermon series has brought new insights, and the discussion opportunities during Worship Team and the small group meetings have been invaluable in realizing thematic connections that otherwise might not have been apparent, as well as facilitating congregational input and feedback.

The advent of Covid vaccines changed everything: I, for one jumped out of bed March 24 as if it were Christmas morning, eager to get my first shot (no, I will never forget the date). Soon, after all staff singers had been fully vaccinated, we were able to resume ensemble singing again: Bobby McFerrin's Psalm 23 and then Ola Gjiello's sublime Ubi Caritas during an early Pentecost. I was inspired to compose a 4-voice rendition of True Colors for Pride Sunday. It was thrilling to once again plan music for an actual choir —however small. These experiences also challenged the value of last year's "virtual choir" videos (i.e. "social-distance-sings"). In retrospect, no one really enjoyed the process of making them. Although I still believe the results were compelling, and did wonders for

outreach (plus, what else could we do?) it became abundantly clear that computer-aided recording was a stopgap measure—a fad—and a huge time sink at that. Absolutely nothing can substitute for live musicians playing and singing together. But not all was folly: new skills were obtained. And lessons learned.

The return of in-person worship on Second Sundays this past July was exciting indeed—when the choir re-convened to dedicate the sanctuary anew with Bruckner’s motet *Locus Iste* it really felt like we were home again. And that brings us to the year’s most exciting event for our choir: Worship featuring large excerpts from Mendelssohn’s monumental oratorio *ELIJAH* accompanied by strings, brass quartet, organ, and timpani. I had spent the summer boiling down and arranging the masterwork for a reasonable number of musicians and modern instruments (a joyful process, I might add) and the choir rehearsed diligently at home and together, with palpable excitement at every gathering. The message of the service, connecting our Covid experience with the calamity of drought in Biblical times, was seamlessly integrated with the music, and easily the single most meaningful worship service I have ever been a part of...

...That is, alongside the Mystic Meditation services we developed in the fall. Sadly, the ongoing pandemic put a damper on the “post pandemic” church plans many of us were so excited about. This does not diminish my enthusiasm for our experiment – indeed, I hope we can return to some forms of worship very much, or even exactly like, what we did. Chanting the 99 Blessed Names of God every Sunday by candlelight (or perhaps another day of the week) is

something I just can’t let go, once having experienced it.

Although choir is once again on hiatus due to the ultra-contagious “omicron” variant, I feel like 2021 delivered us to a far different place than the year-that-shall-not-be-named. With merely 7 singers Christmas Eve in an otherwise empty building, we nevertheless did repeat the sounding joy in a very moving candlelight service. Music on all Saints Sunday (November 14) ranged from the devastating Aho (evoking Native American imagery) to the dazzling Hark I Hear the Harps Eternal, which I have never heard sung better. Although we lost some staff singers during the year due to reasons beyond our control, we are fortunate to have a brilliant and well-balanced quartet as we progress into the new year: In addition to our longtime friends Sheryl Wood and Liz Winship, Greg McMahan has returned as Bass section leader (though also offering epic tenor solos), and we warmly welcome fourth-year PSU student Avesta Mirashrafi as Tenor section leader. I am so grateful for the boundless skill and patient flexibility of all our singers during this time of uncertainty. I look forward to working with them and the entire choir in the coming year as we dare look towards a new season of hope and renewal.



Art & Soul Fest

The Planning's Done!

Nanci Tangeman

It was scheduled for September 12, from 1 – 4pm. Then the Delta variant came to town. Art & Soul Fest, was to be “an arts festival honoring the losses we’ve sustained, the wisdom we’ve gained and the community we’re creating as we put the pandemic behind us.” In August we postponed the festival until 2022.

The event would have gathered and connected the community: housed and unhoused people in the neighborhood, business owners, as well as members of the First Congregational UCC community who worship and serve in the Park Blocks, but live elsewhere.

Sub-committee leaders, put in hundreds of hours to plan the postponed event: Barbara Bennett, Tom Corbett, Lindsay Fulmer, Paris Hancock, Christina Hellums, Sheldon Hurst and Nanci Tangeman. From the Portland Downtown Neighborhood Association, thanks to Shirley Rackner and Elka Grisham. And to Cara Rothe and Andre Cordes and Jake Giddens, thank you for going above and beyond in your jobs. For you volunteers serving on committees, and Rev. Eric and Margaret Baldwin, our unofficial committee members, thank you. We will pick up where we left off when the time comes.



ArtReach Gallery

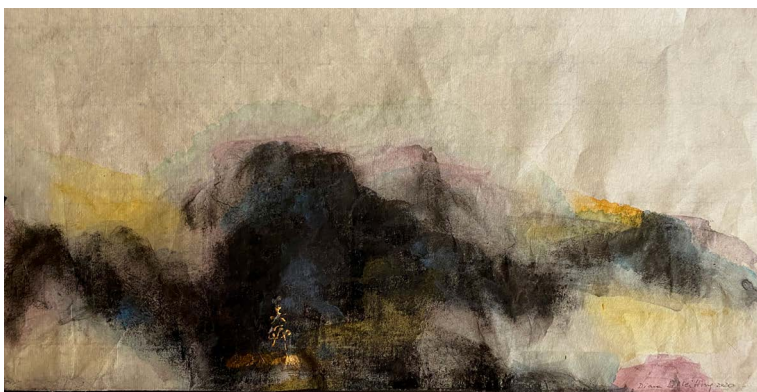
2021 Report

Dr. Sheldon Hurst

COVID has curtailed much activity at the gallery. Visitors from street traffic has picked up only after the vaccines have been available. And it has kept us from having Receptions and Curator's Events until December. Adjustment have been made, and recognition of the artist has continued. Ten exhibitions were installed, several smaller works were placed in various locations in the gallery. Over forty local-national-international artists, have been recognized in these exhibitions. Each major exhibition has included a booklet that sets out the purpose of the show and the information about the artist.

Our website, www.artreachgallery.org continues to make each exhibition available to the public and to the church. The art and the booklets introducing artists and the exhibition are placed on the gallery website.

7 x 7 : Seven Art Galleries in Seven Area Churches continue to work together. The FOOTPRINTS exhibition had gallery exhibitions each based on the theme of immigration, but individually interpreted in very different exhibitions by each gallery. New plans are prepared for the coming year.



Jan 1 - Feb 15 Continued in Chapel Gallery
Breathing Tao : Diana Lo Mei Hing

Diane LoMeiHing lives in Portland with her artist husband Bill Hornaday. She lived in Milan, Italy until several years ago when they became our neighbors. Dr. Hurst and she used the exhibition to explore the relationship of her art to the Tao Te Ching by Lao Tzu. The exhibition was held in

2020, but due to COVID we carried it over in the Chapel Gallery for one month.

Jan 1 - April 28

INTERTWINING: Chinese Poets and Poems:

Paintings by Zhang Yan Li

Yan Li and Dr. Hurst worked together to choose twenty two Chinese poets whom she could draw and paint in a tribute to each of them. We created a book that includes Chinese poems and English translations, thanks to permission granted us by publishers in the USA. We thus are able to share the wonder and beauty of these great classical Chinese poets. We made a cooperative arrangement with Lan Su Chinese Garden in Portland for them to receive a gift of Yan Li's Lao Tzu for their Scholar's Study. Our gallery and church connection with China is an impressive testament to our mutual affirmation, even in days of COVID and some political tension.

Our gratitude to Yan Li!

Feb 17 - April 28

Chapel Gallery

Stations of the Cross: Icons by Gregory Palestri

The icons created by Gregory Palestri are reductions with geometric references to the traditional narrative of the Roman Catholic story of Jesus' path to the cross on that Friday we now call Good. This series of sixteen was in the Chapel Gallery. The Stations were used for a Good Friday video produced by Dr. Eric Elnes. This became the basis for a book that includes an interview with the artist, an essay discussing changes in the tradition of Stations of the Cross, and a spiritual exercise that helps the reader focus on various emphases related to each station. The artist gave the icons to Dr. Hurst who has made it available to area churches for use in their season of Lent along with the book that we published.



May 4 - June 25

Main Gallery

SMALL: An International Group

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Pallavi Pandit | Conception Series |
| Biswarup Nath | Scenes from India |
| Anirab Mishra | Clouds of India |
| Pratiksha Jain | Freedom Drawings |
| B James Haugen | Paper Sculpture |
| Derya Avci | Drawings |
| Cheryl Clevenger | Little People |
| Brent Schauer | Birds of America |



Small: An International Group Show: Brent Haugen invited friends to come to the gallery to see his art AND to see the art of these other artists from Portland, India and Turkey. Dr.

Hurst also wrote a pamphlet showing how various works of art can be related to different part of worship: a call to worship, children’s story. Contemporary Word, introduction to prayer, benediction. In some really fascinating ways, art can be a resource to our spiritual disciplines as we move through our days seeking to express our love, expect justice, and speak truth to power.

BLACK LIVES MATTER: Main Gallery
Creatively Attacking Racism

Randall Vemer - Two Paintings

Don Jacobson - Four Photographs

These two artists presented works of art that remind us of the racial diversity, tension and healing possibility in our society.



July 1 - August **BEING: Here to There: Drawings by Prajna Yun** Main Gallery

Prajna Yun lives in South Korea. She sent us 30 drawings along with deeply spiritual poems she wrote. This was her first large scale show. We published a book of her drawings and poems. She sent the book to a gallery in Seoul, Korea and immediately got a show there and will be in galleries in NYC and LA and SF this coming year. In some way we helped to launch her career.

July 1 - August **I came like water, Like wind I go: Photographs by Sarolta**

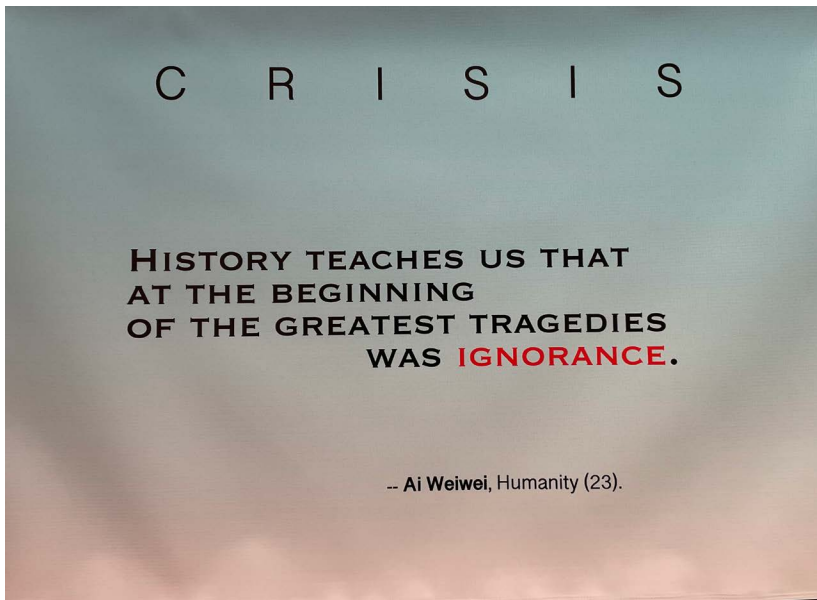


Gyoker

Sarolta Gyoker from Toronto, Canada is a friend of Prajna Yun. It was so wonderful to have her photos opposite Prajna Yun's in the Main Gallery. She creates amazing photographs of unique visions of natural scenes. Sarolta, originally from Hungary, is a graphic designer in Canada today. A short reflection on "Art As Beatitude" was done in concert with concurrent worship themes.

TWO PLUS TWO: Jan Balet and Chas Martin Chapel Gallery **Andrew Kennedy and Johann Vilhjalmsson**

Etudes of Solitude by Johann Vilhjalmsson is a comment on life with COVID: The Virus, The Reckoning, The Healing, and The Re-creation — all four present us with the processes of these days in which we live in pandemic. He gives us four seasons, and we give attention to each one. The other artists showed their art in the Chapel Gallery with Johann.



Sept 12 - Oct 28

FOOTPRINTS: Chapel Gallery

In Ai Weiwei's Words

I Am My Story: Main Gallery

Sankar Raman/Jim Lommasson

We are reminded of The Stain of those who struggle. But the beauty of those who survive and thrive encourages us through The Immigrant Story by Sankar and Jim and seen with friends who are masked in the gallery.



Viewing THE STAIN

by Indrani Archaya from Kolkota, India

The message of Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei, now in London, calls us all to see the response to the immigration crisis as one that reminds us of the tragedies we face in so many parts of the world. What do we do in response to the crisis? How do we do it? It is our lack of knowing that both gets us into the mess and keeps us from knowing how to respond.

**2021 Nov 7 - Dec 26 Chapel
Gallery
TRIAD: Rupa Nath, Pooja Ghosh,
and Falguni Rawat**



TITLE : THREE
SIZE : 30" * 22"
MEDIUM : MIXED MEDIA ON PAPER
YEAR : 2021

Three recent graduates of a Kolkata graduate school in art share selections from their recent work. One of the works, seen above, was created by all three. ArtReach served to be a place where young artists have a chance to display art that is groundwork for what lies ahead.

**Main Gallery
Through the Looking Glass:
Paintings by Carola Penn**



The late Carola Penn, a local artist, was represented by some of the last work she created. It is on the theme of identity formation based in the psychology of Erik Erikson and related to second childhood noted in Shakespeare's drama "As You Like It." Humor and insight make the images come alive for viewers. So we reflected on our own lives with joy.

ArtReach Library and Publications

The Arts Library continues to acquire poetry and art books through donations. The gallery is available for guests to read and research during gallery hours.

Four new publications related to exhibitions in our ArtReach Gallery were published this year:

1. Intertwining: Chinese Poets and Poems. Zhang Yan Li was listed in 2021 annual report
2. Etudes on Solitude: Johann Vilhjalmsson
3. Stations of the Cross: Gregory Palestri
4. Being: Here to There: Prajna Yun



Statistics:

10 Exhibitions: included 40+ Artists exhibited art IN 2021

8 countries represented in our exhibitions: Mexico, India, Turkey, South Korea, China, Iceland, Canada, USA.

50 new books given to the Arts Library

1 Curator's Event (COVID prevented more)

0 Gallery receptions (COVID stopped this)

4 books were published by our gallery:

1. Intertwining: Chinese Poets and Poems: Paintings by Zhan Yan Li

2. Etudes on Solitude: A COVID Quartet by Johann Vilhjalmsson

3. Stations of the Cross: Paintings by Gregory Palestri

4. Being: Here to There: Drawings and Poems by Prajna Yun

1 ArtReach Gallery Website continues to give information about our exhibitions

1 ArtReach Gallery Facebook Page highlights our gallery.

MANY meetings take place in the gallery because it doubles as Fellowship Hall with the church meetings and gatherings

TEN Notes following our Exhibitions this year:

1. BEING Here to There: A note from Prajna Yun indicates that our exhibition and book enabled her to get a major show in Seoul. She is included in a group show in NYC, which, depending on the response, will open the possibility of a larger show. This is also true in LA and in San Francisco. So we opened opportunities for her.

2. TRIAD: The Three young women in Kolkata, India are beginning their careers in good fashion. Pooja got a job with a design company. Falguni focuses on her own art and music. Rupa teaches children.

3. I Am My Story will have performance in our auditorium upstairs on April 1, 2022. Hold the date and join us. It will be music and storytelling of a very high order.

4. Ai Weiwei, whose words were exhibited in our FOOTPRINTS exhibition, just published a memoir: ***1000 Years of Joys and Sorrows***. NY: Crown, 2021.

5. **Jan Balet**'s lithographs were shown at Terwilliger Plaza in Portland. Six of them were given to TP.
6. **Gregory Palestri's *Stations of the Cross*** will be shown in March at St. James Lutheran church across the Park Blocks from us.
7. **Zhang Yan Li** commented to me that people in her school and town act differently to her now that she has shown her art in the USA. Intertwining included famous poems in China. Her painting of Lao Tzu has been given to Lan Su Chinese Garden in Portland.
8. **Diana LoMeiHing** will publish her interviews with Dr. Hurst with a translation of selection from the Tao Te Ching by Red Pine. This will be available in Italy and in the USA.
9. **Etudes on Solitude** is appreciated in Iceland as their artist Johann Vilhjalmsson and their poet Hlin Agnasdottir address the issues related to COVID in our midst. Johann gave one of one of the quartet asemic writing to our church — **1. COVID, 2. RECKONING, 3. HEALING, 4. RE-CREATION**
10. We are beginning to develop acknowledgment of our gallery from Pacific Northwest College of Art students and faculty.

NOTE: Admission to gallery for Events 2022: COVID Restrictions Apply.

Committee:

Andrea Heid
Robert Olsen
Tom Corbett
Dean Sigler
Barbara Bennett
Lindsay Fulmer
Sheldon Hurst, Curator

Peace- making



Homeless Outreach

Barbara Bennett

Portland Downtown Neighborhood Assn. In an effort to get to know and be known by our business and residential neighbors, I asked to represent our church at meetings of the Downtown Neighborhood Association. One of the notable happenings, is the changes coming to the South Park Blocks. While my general efforts in 2021 amount to ‘planting the seed’, we as a church have new friends, new contacts, some of which I expect will continue to join with us in completing- in some fashion, our Art & Soul Event to benefit and recognize the houseless members of our community.

Our Grant from mwmw.org, Art and the Houseless

Very much on my mind is how we will complete the event that we were forced to cancel in 2021. Like so many other events, it may take on another form; we will see. Please offer any ideas you may have and keep this vital project in your prayers. Thank you.

Delivery Middle-woman of Clothes, etc. Donations for the Houseless Aiding, uplifting the lives of the Houseless is, indeed, my mission.

I am so privileged to bring personal awareness and deliver donations from our church to non-profit shelters, largely to Transition Projects. I also volunteer at TPI (665 NW Hoyt.), and it’s particularly a pleasure to pass on items from our church members. Clothing was also donated to Rose Haven Day Shelter for Women and Children.

Thank you.

We are All in This Together.

Barbara Bennett

Transition Projects

Jim McPartland

Transition Projects (TPI) is a non-profit organization. They believe that housing is a human right; everyone should have access to shelter, food and safety. Since 1969 TPI has been a place where men with nowhere to go can find support. In 2020 alone 1100 formerly homeless people found safe affordable housing with this Agency's support. For our part First Congregational volunteers has set aside the 3rd Saturday of the month to shop for, plan, prepare and serve a hot meal to approximately 100 deserving guys who are drug free, clean and sober and looking for a hand up not a hand out. With Covid we have not been allowed to use the kitchen at Bud Clark Commons so our volunteers for two years have prepared food at home or at our church kitchen. Some volunteers just shopped and dropped off food for the guys to prepare themselves. Barbara Bennett provided

clothing and sewing kits donated by church members to people at the Transition Project. The budget for this has been a walloping \$250,00 per month, volunteers pay for their own COSTCO MEMBERSHIPS. We need new blood in our volunteer team as well as new team leaders. I am not sure when TPI will be up and running again, or if I will ever feel Covid safe in their building. Meanwhile Tim Pollard, Paul & Susan Adcock and myself and Ann Muir have other ideas for OUTREACH that include brown bag lunches and possibly a stocked refrigerator in the alleyway or portico. Right here in our own SW Park Blocks.

Regards and a blessed New Year to all;

Jim McPartland

Potluck in the Park

Ron Clevenger

During 2021 (and many previous years) our church has provided beverages (procure, prepare, deliver and serve) to about 300 to 700 hungry and thirsty to many, many homeless persons in downtown Portland every Sunday afternoon. And again, on Christmas morning to about 1500 to 2000 persons in the Portland Museum across the street from our church. COVID, unfortunately, caused us to stop our part of this outreach project in the spring and summer months this year. We commenced our part again this fall.

We have four teams. Each team is responsible for one week a month. A huge thank-you to each team leader and assistants as this task could not be done without the help of our very special volunteers.

Our committed team leaders and their assistant volunteers:

Week 1: *Vanessa Verrill, Piper Lisseveld, Rohit Popit, and Alan Bellman

Week 2: Ted Heid, Paris Hancock and Kevin Egan

Week 3: Alice and Scott Forsythe, Kathy Sheibley and Dean Sigler

Week 4: Ron and Cheryl Clevenger

*There are a few names of our volunteers whose names may not sound familiar; they do not attend our church. Many years ago, they were so enthusiastic about our church mission that they volunteered and are now responsible for one of our teams. We truly appreciate their help.

Soul Box Finale After Four Years

Nanci Tangeman

The Soul Box Project is a national community art project collecting handmade origami Boxes. Each Box represents one person killed or injured by gunfire in the U.S. The Project displays thousands of Soul Boxes in public spaces to illustrate the number of victims of gun violence, defense, accidents and suicides. www.soulboxproject.org

In October 2021, 200,000 Soul Boxes were exhibited as *This Loss We Carry* on the National Mall in Washington D.C. with 800 linear feet of 36,000 Soul Boxes on panels under a canopy, and bags of 164,000 Soul Boxes lining the walkways spanning the Mall.



Andrea and Ted Heid participate in the National Mall procession, along with family members.

The effect was staggering. Thousands of visitors viewed the exhibit on the Mall with disbelief, tears and gratitude for the message. Over 100 million saw it in the news or on media channels.



Andrea Heid at Washington, D.C. exhibit, *This Loss We Carry*

In that display were more than 20,000 Soul Boxes folded and contributed by members and friends of First Congregational UCC over four years. Although several church members planned to attend the event in Washington, D.C., Covid's Delta variant kept most of us away. Andrea and Ted Heid did participate in the procession and volunteer in Washington, D.C. and sent photos and videos throughout the weekend. The images and messages were shared on church social media and in online worship.

The National Mall event marked a turning point in The



Soul Box Project as the organization pivots away from collecting Soul Boxes and displaying those already in-hand. It also marked the end of our congregation's involvement.

The Project was just a few weeks old when our congregation began its close partnership in 2017. Soul Box-making grew to be an important part of our church's social outreach, as well as many members' private meditation and self-care. Several people mentioned they felt an emptiness

Paris Hancock at Multnomah Arts event when Soul Boxes were no longer collected.

More about 2021:

- Many members of our congregation volunteered with The Soul Box Project during the year, when social-distance guidelines allowed.
- Several members braved 100+ temperatures to volunteer at or attend The Loss We Carry, a Soul Box exhibit and procession at the Multnomah Arts Center in July.
- Rev. Eric captured our Soul Box participation in a video presented to the congregation during Children's Time in the summer. Link to video: <https://youtu.be/n7uLlMam1Rc>



Rev. Eric interviews Nan Wagner at Soul Box exhibit at Multnomah Village

- We folded Soul Boxes after online service in a breakout room to commemorate Wear Orange Weekend in June.
- When our church building was open to the public, our Fellowship Hall continued to serve as a public drop-off point for Soul Box-makers around the city.
- Nanci Tangeman and Nan Wagner continued to deliver Soul Boxes folded by

the congregation (and those dropped off from the public) to The Soul Box Project headquarters at Multnomah Village each month.

- We continued to provide paper and folding instructions in the Fellowship Hall for people who were able to access the building.

- In August, ucc.org featured our participation with the project on their website. Link to story:

<https://www.ucc.org/portland-church-will-help-bring-soul-boxes-and-gunfire-awareness-to-washington-dc/>



Karen Hurst and her granddaughter participate in the procession at Multnomah Village

Immigrant Welcoming

Bruce Bishop

There have been several noteworthy projects during 2021 in our work as an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation. As background, the congregation unanimously adopted our IWC declaration at the 2019 annual meeting. It commits us to connecting with other IWCs and community groups, educating ourselves and our community, advocating for immigrant justice, and accompanying and supporting immigrants, asylum-seekers, and refugees in Oregon. We've made progress on all four pillars.

Our highlight last year was the creation and faithful operation of Bienvenidos Quilts, a project envisioned and lead by Rachel Stevens. Since March 2021, BQ has produced over 200 quilts for infants and children living at the border. Meeting weekly, a small group of women from Portland First made many of the quilts, and the remainder were contributed by other quilters in Oregon and other states. Bienvenidos Quilts has been a superb model.

[Rachel Stevens conceived Bienvenidos Quilts because of another IWC project, the Immigration Film Group. When she watched "The Icebox", a movie about a teenager held in an immigration detention facility, she realized that quilts would be welcome, not only for keeping warm, but for detainees' peace of mind too. The film group has watched and discussed a film with an immigration story each month since April.]

Our activities in 2021:

Late last year, we contributed \$200 of budgeted church funds to Ainsworth UCC, which has been providing financial and other assistance to a family seeking asylum and living in NE Portland. Bienvenidos Quilts donated several quilts to the family. We have also been active participants in monthly Zoom meetings with the dozen Immigrant Welcoming Congregations in the Central Pacific Conference advocated for Universal Representation for persons facing deportation; and participated in regular meetings of the Oregon Ready Coalition, a statewide consortium of immigrant justice organizations throughout the state.

We have also benefited from immigrant justice workshops provided by the UCC nationally and regionally.

several of us have volunteered at the Immigrant Mutual Aid Coalition, a volunteer food program, supported by the Oregon Food Bank, which features culturally-preferred fresh foods and staples for Hispanic families and serves over 300 families monthly, many of whom were affected by the 2020 wildfires in Clackamas County.

We welcome others to join our group or one of its projects.

Bienvenidos Quilts

Rachel Stevens

Bienvenidos Quilts was just an idea in March of 2021. Then we began to see images of children (0-17) in detention centers at our southern border—sleeping in crowded rows on cement floors, covered only by aluminum blankets. We decided to make warm and loving quilts to recognize each child as an individual. Even though government entities are not allowed to accept donations, we are determined to provide quilts for immigrant children.

The members of our First Crew are also members of Eves: Ann Laskey, Ann Muir, Susan Adcock, Susan Rogers, Judy Bishop, Ruth Abbott, Karen Hurst, Elaine Molskness, Paris Hancock, Bunny Oliver and Rachel Stevens. These women do a variety of things for Bienvenidos Quilts, all of which are important for the process: Machine and hand sewing; photographing and documenting quilts; mounting quilt shows; laundering, packing, and sending the quilts; corresponding with multiple crews. At our first organizational tea was in May, we decided to start small. Susan Rogers and Judy Bishop have volunteered with two groups in southern Arizona: Casa Alitas in Tucson and Good Samaritans in Green Valley. These shelters became the first recipients of our quilts.

By the end of May we were able to hold our Quilting Mondays in the Fellowship Hall. First Congregational has also provided a room for us where we can store equipment, fabric, and other supplies, which we call our Fabric Shop.



Our quiltmaking progressed at an incredible pace and soon we were able to display and distribute them.

- When we had completed 40 quilts in early July, we mounted our first Quilt Show in the Sanctuary, where they were blessed by Ann Muir and the rest of the congregation. These quilts were sent to Good Samaritan shelters.
- The second Quilt Show, which included a batch of 78 quilts, was held in September; Susan Rogers delivered these quilts to Casa Alitas.
- The third quilt show of 90 quilts was held in November; 59 of these quilts were sent to Susan Mattox for distribution to the Sonoran Migrant Project, which includes Casa de Misericordia. Bruce and Judy Bishop delivered 30 more to this project in January.
- We were also able to give a child's quilt

and a bed sized quilt to the asylum family at Ainsworth UCC.

The video that Rev. Eric Elnes made of Rachel Stevens described both the vision



for the project and its success. This video effectively brought more quilters from outside of First Congregational:

- Pat Sandberg of Cedar Hills UCC donated 20 quilts made by their quilting group;
- Connie Boyle from Arizona (a friend of Rev. Elnes) donated 51 tops that First Crew backed and finished;
- Ruth Abbott's cousin Peter Levin has given us many quilts for kids and larger quilts for fundraising purposes;
- Central Coast Fiber Arts in California sent us quilts after finding us on Facebook;
- Pam Shook of Washington donated incredible quilts that she made from her mother's fabrics;
- Ellen Broms and Pam Bigelow from Sacramento donated sweet baby quilts;
- Julie Kern Smith and Mary Leineweber

donated notecards for fundraising;

- Patrick Fitzgerald provided fabulous photos of the Sanctuary Quilt Shows for the notecards and other fundraising purposes;

For 2022 we hope to find ways to donate quilts directly to a detention center or a specifically child-oriented sanctuary where children from the detention center are housed. To make enough quilts for all these purposes, we will need many more quilters. Thus, we hope to mount an informational and recruiting campaign.

We thank First Congregational for including Bienvenidos Quilts under their wings in every way!



Pastoral Relations Committee

Ted Heid

The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) is composed of congregation members who regularly meet with the called pastor(s) to facilitate, build and maintain relationship and communication between the pastor(s) and lay leadership and members of the Church. The PRC shall also facilitate a performance review of the pastor(s) every three years. The PRC consists of six members serving staggered terms of three years renewable for an additional three years, two members being appointed each year by the Council with the advice and consent of the pastor.

The PRC members are: Nan Wagner, Lesley Sepetoski, Denise Denniston, Paris Hancock, and Ted Heid. The PRC meets monthly with a few exceptions. Each member and the pastor has the opportunity to raise issues for discussion and all are encouraged to participate. The range of issues is broad and the discussions are confidential. Church members are encouraged to contact any of the PRC members with pastoral relations issues for the PRC to discuss.

Finding a Way to be Together

Nanci Tangeman

Deep in the heart of Covid, when social-distancing guidelines were at their tightest, our congregation found a way to be together. Closely following the guidelines set forth by the State of Oregon we began group walks in March. About 15 people attended our first walk, as we explored the bridges over the Willamette River. We wore masks. We walked only with people from our household. And we loved seeing each other! So we kept walking:

April: Scorching Hot Laurelhurst Park & Lone Fir Cemetery

May: Seven Downtown Churches

June: Rainy Oaks Bottom

July: Tryon Creek Park

August: Vancouver Land Bridge

September: Thunder, Lightning & Ladd's Addition

October: 7x7 Gallery Walk

November: Willamette Redux

December: Snow Day!

Thank you to Pat Fitzgerald, who showed up at almost every walk to take photos of the walkers and to walkers who planned and led walks.

“...we loved seeing each other!”

Continue for photos.



March walk with social distancing.



Oaks Bottom walk.



Tryon Creek walk.



May walk.



Laurelhurst walk.



Proposed 2022 Budget

	Budget for Council 12/21/21	Budget 2021
Income		
4000 · Giving		
4050 · Pledges	\$148,000	\$131,000
4051 · General gifts	\$50,000	\$23,000
4052 · Flowers	\$900	\$900
4053 · Memorials and bequests	\$5,000	\$5,000
Total 4000 · Giving	\$203,900	\$159,900
4200 · Designated gifts		
4202 · Pastors Discretionary donations	\$0	\$0
4205 · Youth missions donations	\$614	\$614
4206 · Christian Ed.: youth	\$500	\$500
4210 · Choir donations	\$200	\$200
4212 · Eve's Circle	\$800	\$800
4216 · ArtReach	\$5,000	\$5,000
4218 · Other Designated Donations	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total 4200 · Designated gifts	\$8,114	\$8,114
4300 · Building income		
4301 · PCPA lease	\$357,500	\$357,500
4305 · Building rentals	\$40,000	\$30,000
4310 · Annex subleases	\$20,000	\$7,000
4315 · Weddings	\$3,000	\$3,000
Total 4300 · Building income	\$420,500	\$397,500
4400 · Grants		
4401 · Brown Grant #1	\$9,947	\$9,930
4402 · Brown Grant #2	\$102,436	\$101,742
Total 4400 · Grants	\$112,383	\$111,672
4500 · In kind donations	\$0	\$0
4600 · Church sponsored activities		
4601 · Art Reach commissions	\$5,700	\$1,000
4602 · Oliver annual lecture	\$0	\$0
Total 4600 · Church sponsored activities	\$5,700	\$1,000
4700 · Interest income	\$0	\$0
Total Income	\$750,597	\$678,186

	12/21/21	2021	2021
Expense			
6000 · Community Core Ministry			
6010 · Community general	\$600	\$600	\$56
6015 · Director of Faith Formation	\$0	\$0	\$0
6016 · Music Education	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$0
6019 · Choir Assistant	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0
6021 · Music Director/Organist	\$35,100	\$25,400	\$26,432
6023 · Choir leaders	\$20,800	\$18,437	\$17,978
6024 · Special Music	\$5,000	\$2,400	\$125
6026 · Organ Maintenance	\$350	\$350	\$750
6027 · Piano tuning	\$0	\$0	\$0
6028 · Other Musicians	\$0	\$800	\$6,403
6029 · Music supplies	\$500	\$500	\$677
6032 · Choir Parking	\$300	\$300	\$28
6034 · Church Leader Parking	\$0	\$300	\$0
6037 · Special Music Events	\$0	\$0	\$0
6810 · Member Parking	\$250	\$500	\$384
6035 · Eve's Circle expenses	\$800	\$800	\$400
6036 · Eve's Grandma Agnes expenses	\$597	\$597	\$0
Total 6000 · Community Core Ministry	\$68,397	\$55,084	\$53,233
6050 · General worship			
6051 · Sub. preacher	\$800	\$800	\$200
6052 · Flowers expenses	\$900	\$900	\$785
6053 · Other worship expenses	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$15,056
60?? · Adaptive Church	\$15,000		
Total 6050 · General worship	\$18,200	\$3,200	\$16,041
6060 · Special Series			\$0
6070 · Christian education			
6071 · Chr. Ed. general account	\$14,800	\$3,200	\$143
6073 · Adult Education	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
6080 · Youth ministry	\$0	\$2,000	\$0
6081 · Youth mission trip	\$0	\$0	\$0
6082 · Fam. retreat scholarships	\$200	\$200	\$0
6083 · Teen Ministry Coordinator	\$0	\$4,840	\$0
6084 · Childrens Ministry Coordinator	\$0	\$4,840	\$0
6085 · Child Care Provider	\$2,000	\$3,800	\$68
Total 6070 · Christian education	\$19,000	\$20,880	\$211
6200 · Peace-making core ministry			
6201 · Peace-making general account	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$5,306
6202 · Local service projects	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$783
6203 · Our Church's Wider Mission	\$9,229	\$9,229	\$9,229
6204 · Pastor's disc. fund expenses	\$1,024	\$1,024	\$1,022

	Budget for Council 12/21/21	Budget 2021
6205 · Open & Affirming expenses	\$500	\$500
6207 · Immigration Task Force	\$400	\$400
Total 6200 · Peace-making core ministry	\$16,253	\$16,253
6300 · Hospitality core ministry		
6301 · Hospitality gen. account	\$1,000	\$1,800
6302 · Sunday fellowship expenses	\$200	\$700
6350 · Church sponsored events		
6351 · Oliver Lecture	\$2,501	\$3,200
6352 · ArtReach Gallery	\$8,800	\$8,800
6360 · Other CSE's	\$1,000	\$2,500
Total 6350 · Church sponsored events	\$12,301	\$14,500
Total 6300 · Hospitality core ministry	\$13,501	\$17,000
6500 · Ministerial staff		
6501 · Sr. Min. Salary	\$93,500	\$93,500
6502 · Sr. Min. Housing	\$55,000	\$55,000
6503 · Sr. Min. SECA	\$11,360	\$11,360
6504 · Sr. Min. Health/dental/Vision	\$19,279	\$19,279
6505 · Sr. Min. Life/disability	\$2,231	\$2,231
6506 · Sr. Min. Pension	\$20,790	\$20,790
6507 · Sr. Min. Expenses	\$6,272	\$6,272
6508 · Sr. Min. Continuing Ed.	\$1,568	\$1,568
6509 · Sr. Min. Transport/Parking	\$3,124	\$3,124
6510 · Sr. Min. Cell/Internet	\$0	\$0
6511 · Sr. Min. Auto expenses	\$1,000	\$1,000
6515 · Sr. Min Wider Church Meetings	\$500	\$500
6560 · Pastoral Min Associate	\$0	\$0
6570 · Ministerial transition costs	\$0	\$5,500
Total 6500 · Ministerial staff	\$214,624	\$220,124
6600 · Personnel expenses		
66XX · Sunday Tech lead	\$15,000	
66XX · Graphic Designer	\$23,920	
66XX · Events Manager	\$23,920	
66XX · Office Coordinator	\$22,880	
66XX · Bookkeeper	\$12,062	
6609 · Accountin/Comm. Cord.	\$0	\$39,912
6610 · Reception Assistant	\$8,000	\$10,000
6613 · Facilities Manager	\$23,920	\$28,464
6614 · Custodians	\$22,000	\$20,380
6615 · Dir of Operations	\$75,000	\$61,200
6616 · Dir of Ops Parking	\$3,240	\$3,300

	Budget for Council 12/21/21	Budget 2021
66XX · Dir of Ops Pension	\$5,000	
6617 · Staff health insurance	\$13,000	\$24,930
6620 · Payroll tax expense	\$23,000	\$19,000
6621 · Workers Comp Insurance	\$4,800	\$4,800
6600 · Personnel expenses - Other	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total 6600 · Personnel expenses	\$276,742	\$212,986
6650 · Business Operations Expense	\$3,500	\$3,500
6655 · Fundraising Expense	\$0	\$0
6700 · Building and rental expenses		
6701 · Building rentals	\$10,000	\$5,000
6702 · Wedding expenses	\$500	\$500
6703 · Annex expenses	\$1,500	\$1,000
Total 6700 · Building and rental expenses	\$12,000	\$6,500
6800 · Building/facility expenses		
6801 · Water	\$5,000	\$5,000
6802 · Gas	\$8,300	\$8,300
6803 · Electricity	\$9,700	\$9,700
6804 · Sanitation	\$6,000	\$6,000
6805 · Security & Safety	\$4,700	\$4,500
6806 · Repairs - ordinary	\$13,000	\$13,000
6807 · Repairs - major	\$30,000	\$50,000
6809 · Building & kitchen supplies	\$7,000	\$5,000
6811 · Elevator monitoring	\$2,400	\$2,000
Total 6800 · Building/facility expenses	\$86,100	\$103,500
6850 · Annex expenses		
6851 · Annex electricity	\$4,200	\$4,000
6852 · Annex security	\$600	\$600
6853 · Annex rent	\$42,184	\$42,184
Total 6850 · Annex expenses	\$46,984	\$46,784
6900 · Office Expenses		
6901 · Office supplies	\$2,500	\$5,000
6902 · Office Equipt. Maint.	\$2,500	\$2,500
6903 · Office Equip. Purch.	\$4,500	\$4,500
6904 · Postage	\$300	\$300
6905 · Printer lease expenses	\$8,000	\$8,000
6906 · Web/telephone expenses	\$15,000	\$11,500
Total 6900 · Office Expenses	\$32,800	\$31,800

	Budget for Council 12/21/21	Budget 2021
6950 · Other general expenses		
6951 · Insurance	\$60,953	\$21,865
6952 · Conference Delegate Expenses	\$1,250	\$1,250
6953 · Payroll service	\$2,500	\$2,500
6954 · E-giving expenses	\$1,300	\$1,300
6955 · Audit Review	\$12,000	\$0
6956 · Bank charges	\$50	\$50
6957 · Transition Expenses	\$0	\$0
6959 · Other prof. services	\$3,000	\$3,000
Total 6950 · Other general expenses	\$81,053	\$29,965
6960 · Dues and subscriptions		
6961 · Conference per capita dues	\$3,250	\$3,250
6962 · EMO Dues	\$300	\$300
6963 · Other dues	\$0	\$0
6964 · Licenses & permits	\$2,000	\$1,500
6965 · Stewardship	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total 6960 · Dues and subscriptions	\$6,550	\$6,050
Total Expense	\$895,704	\$773,626
Net Ordinary Income	-\$145,107	-\$95,440
9000 · Budgeted investment transfers		
9005 · Knapp Fund transfer	\$2,753	\$2,585
9015 · Oliver Lecture transfer	\$2,501	\$2,283
9020 · Restr. Endow. transfer	\$2,303	\$2,161
9025 · Reserve fund transfer	\$45,944	\$37,331
9030 · Pastor's Disc. transfer	\$565	\$529
9035 · Youth Mission transfer	\$0	\$0
9040 · Building Transfer Fund	\$30,000	\$20,000
9050 · Reserve Fund Youth Teacher transfer	\$9,132	\$9,132
9055 · Reserve Fund Audit transfer	\$12,000	\$0
9060 · Reserve Other - new items	\$24,909	\$21,419
9065 · Reserve Other - Adaptive Church	\$15,000	
Total 9000 · Budgeted investment transfers	\$145,107	\$95,441
Total Other Income	\$145,107	\$95,441
Net Other Income	\$145,107	\$95,441
Net Income	\$0	\$0

Membership Statistics

Membership AS OF JANUARY 2022 - 212

New Members - 0

Members removed by request - 5

Members and Friends who Passed in 2021:

Cynthia Lybarger

Dan Vaughan

Senior Pastor's

Rev. Horace Lyman, DD	1851-1854
Rev. P.B. Chamberlain	1855-1862
Rev. G.H. Atkinson, DD	1863-1872
Rev. J.D. Eaton	1873-1876
Rev. J.A. Cruzan	1877-1881
Rev. Frederick R. Marvin, MD, DD	1882-1885
Rev. T. Eaton Clapp, DD	1886-1894
Rev. George R. Wallace, DD	1894-1896
Rev. A.W. Ackerman, DD	1896-1902
Rev. Elwin L. House, DD	1902-1906
Rev. Luther R. Dyott, DD	1907-1917
Dr. W.T. McElveen, PhD	1919-1923
Rev. Clement G. Clarke	1923-1928
Rev. Raymond B. Walker, DD	1929-1959
Rev. Royald Caldwell, DD	1960-1970
Rev. Lincoln Y. Reed, DD	1971-1986
Rev. John Rogers, DD	1987-1994
Rev. Patricia S. Ross, DMin	1996-2008
Rev. Anton DeWet, DMin	2010-2013
Rev. Michael Ellick	2014-2018
Rev. Eric Elnes, PhD	2020 -

Moderators

Harold Cake	1960	Scott Tetrick	1989
George Geist	1961	D'Anne Gilmore	1990
Reginald Titus	1962	Charles Knapp	1991
Robert Dressler	1963	Marguerite Oliver	1992
Dwight Schwab	1964	Charles Hinkle	1993
George Culbertson	1965	Cathy Tinker	1994
Egbert Oliver	1966	Bruce White	1995-1997
George Woodworth	1967	Becky Koch	1997-1998
Keith Sime	1968	Julie Blanchard	1998-2000
George Smith	1969	Ted Liljeholm	2000-2001
Calvin Van Pelt	1970	Bob Groves	2001-2002
Winthrop Wells	1971	Carol Lynch	2002-2003
George Casterline	1972	Tim Pollard	2003-2005
Robert Jack	1973	Elaine Molskness	2005-2006
Laura Lusk	1974	Carl Toland	2006-2008
Leonard Garmire	1975	Debbie Knudson	2008-2009
Howard Campbell	1976	Alan Koch	2009-2010
Polly Casterline	1977	Ellen Bradley	2010-2012
David Johnson	1978	Richard Moody	2012
Elmer Moke	1979	Julie Young	2013
Shelly Reece	1980	Ann Laskey	2014
Dawn Dressler	1981	Ross Runkel	2015
Ron Zahler	1982	Al Horn	2016
Margaret Shafer	1983	Peace Young	2017
Ron Stites	1984	Sarah Vazquez	2018
Julie Blanchard	1985	Anne Sullivan	2019
Megan Walth	1986	Daniel Russo	2020
Ervin Hummel	1987	Margaret Baldwin	2021
Marcia Yeater	1988		



First Congregational

United Church of Christ

Contact List

Senior Minister:	Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D.	erice@uccportland.org (503) 946-1043
Pastor Emerita:	Rev. Dr. Patricia Ross	
Moderator:	Margaret Baldwin	moderator@uccportland.org
Music Director/Organist:	Grant Edwards	uccmusic@comcast.net
Section Leaders:	Joseph Pettit Elizabeth Winship	Adrian Rosales Sheryl Wood
Core Ministry Facilitators:		
Community	Nan Wagner	community@uccportland.org
Hospitality		hospitality@uccportland.org
Peacemaking		peacemaking@uccportland.org
ArtReach Gallery Curator:	Dr. Sheldon Hurst	drsheldonhurst@gmail.com
Director of Operations:	Cara Rothe	cara@uccportland.org (503) 946-1045
Accounting	Andre Cordes	accounts@uccportland.org
Communications Coordinator	Trevor Warren	communications@uccportland.org
Communications Assistant:	Maureen Gullett	(503) 946-1040
Facilities Manager	Ryan Sotomayor	facilities@uccportland.org
Events Manager	Vonnie Murphy	events@uccportland.org
Designer:	Jake Giddens	graphics@uccportland.org
Event and Facility Staff:		
John Amundson	James Sims	
Chris Carey	Ted Bryan	
Mpagi Kirumira	Rory Gatto	
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