

## **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC REPORT**

In the period following the May Trustee's Report, The Touch of Brass Bell Choir and Chancel Choir have not met over the summer months.

This period of time has been an opportunity to clean and organize our spaces and music from this past year and to prepare for the upcoming year when we start back up with our regular schedule in September.

We have been blessed with a wide variety of special music experiences over the summer months, with many members of the ensembles, section leaders, and others sharing their gifts of music with the church.

Touch of Brass and the Chancel choir will resume our regular Wednesday evening rehearsals on August 17th to begin preparations for our first Sunday providing music again on September 10th.

Respectfully submitted,

*~ Luke Overton, Director of Music*

## **OFFICE MANAGER REPORT**

The office is operating well throughout this summer. I have continued to work on digitalizing files and organizing the office files closet.

With Rally Day and additional events coming soon, I thought it would be a good time to remind everyone that we do have a calendar of events on our website - <http://www.firstcongucc.org/news-events.html>. This is kept up to date with all activities including non church events happening in the building (Job Foundation, Social Action Group, NAMI, etc). This should keep from overbooking a certain room so if you know of an activity happening in the church (Search & Call Meeting, Committee/Board Meeting, etc.) please let me know so I can put it on the calendar or at least check to make sure that date and room isn't already spoken for. Thank you in advance!

Respectfully Submitted,

*~ Michelle Wolfe, Office Manager*

## **SOCIAL CAUSES & JUSTICE REPORT**

Our church and it's congregation continue to be involved in working at feeding, sheltering, and getting to know and share God's love with our neighbors. Weekly information is shared in Tidings.

Gina Greene organized a parking lot sale to encourage interaction with those geographically close. Members of our Church Row Coalition also helped.

School supplies have been collected for Love, INC's July Make-a-Difference Monthly. Thanks to Kay Thuesen for delivering to their office.

Meals on Wheels-3 routes delivered twice a month by at least 6 people, including 4 of our youngest generation.

Church Row Neighborhood-monthly meeting with up to 3 FCC participants, a very successful National Night Out with flyers hand-delivered by members. We joined with businesses and other churches to send thank you gifts to the teachers at Irving in May. The next clothing drive will be in October.

NE Iowa Food bank-2hour monthly volunteer nights with up to 11 helpers. Thanks to Diane Highnam for coordinating.

Habitat for Humanity-8 women representing FCC's first participation helped side a house during June's women's build. Much appreciation to Gina Greene for initiating this program.

There are also neighborhood development teams and weekly prayer walks available via Habitat. The annual Sites & Bites Bus tours will be available in September..

Potluck with a purpose in June was fantastic with Laura Hoy's comprehensive explanation of her personal Christian Community Development involvement. Will aim for next one in October perhaps with Growing Minds as the emphasis.

Little Pantries-Donations and deliveries are continuing to help the hungry.

NEIowa UCC Association deacon lunch meeting was attended by Jim Altenbaumer, Anne Hoekstra and Laurie Allbaugh. It was good to get to know Dixie Laube and hear of happenings in other churches. The state meeting is in October, and it would be wonderful to have several from FCUCC attend.

The Strengthen Our Church national offering was publicized and we collected \$40.

Our building will be hosting classes for The Job Foundation again once school starts. NAMI and the Girl Scouts are also appreciative of the space open to their groups.

We are always looking for new ideas and volunteers.

~ *Laurie Allbaugh, Chair*

## **SPIRITUAL LIFE & CARE REPORT**

Thank you to the committee for working together, being flexible and accomplishing what needs to be done to keep Sundays running smoothly. Sunday responsibilities are currently assigned through the end of October. A special thank you to the church for their willingness to step forward in so many ways and assist when asked. Church members have volunteered as cookie bakers and will continue to be contacted to provide cookies and to help with Sunday mornings as needed. We are still in need of new members.

Things are in place for Sunday morning duties and communion. Special thanks to Nancy Mahood for continuing to chair funeral meals with the support of our members.

In an effort to support the church family we met to talk about how to connect active church members with our church family that is not able to attend services. Information regarding letting the church know if members need assistance has been published in the Tidings. This is a reminder for members to please reach out if they need something in the absence of a minister. We will continue meeting and working on this challenge as a team. We continue to look for opportunities to bring members together and to support our members unable to attend church. Planning meeting was held August 2 and a Parking Lot Sale was held August 12.

Thank you all.

~ *Gina Greene, Chair*

## **SPIRITUAL GROWTH & PROGRAMS REPORT**

Rally Sunday is September 10, 2023 and we will be hosting and featuring a Walleye luncheon, both fried and grilled, a meat alternative will also be available along with several side dishes. This is our annual Sunday school kickoff event!

Once again this coming school year our church will be participating with Bunker Middle School and Partners in Education's student of the month activities.

As we currently are without a Youth Director our church has joined the Wednesday evenings collaborative youth group participating with Waterloo First United Methodist, Kimball Ave. United Methodist and First Baptist Churches, under the direction of Rumen Hulmequist. All Middle and High School student are encouraged and invited to attend! This year's schedule has been set with many fun activities. The first Youth Group Kickoff is August 16th from 5 to 7:30pm at Waterloo First United Methodist. Parents are requested and encouraged to attend this first meeting to go over rules and expectations. The four churches will rotate the Wednesday youth events, with our church hosting in November and March.

Respectfully Submitted,

~ *Tim Ahrens, Chair*

## CREATIVE MINISTRIES REPORT

John Roberts service this summer was enlightening, joyful, and wonderfully different for us.

We are exploring the possibility of sharing used, but quality, instruments with those who are in need and interested in pursuing a musical instrument. We are first exploring existing programs and need in the community.

Future Ideas:

Carol Montag leading a worship service

Brazilian Twins retuning for a mission-based concert

Mark Pellemounter from Cedar Falls

Richard Bruxwoort Colligan from Twin Cities returning for worship

Celeste Bemby returning for another worship service and/or concert

Respectfully submitted,

~ *Paul Greene, Chair*

## PHYSICAL RESOURCES REPORT

- 1.Sanctuary:** Final “walk through” inspection is planned for Friday, Aug 11 for Cardinal Construction's water damage repair of the sanctuary, the north foyer and the basement stairwell.
- 2.Chapel:** Double-pane thermal windows have been installed in the chapel by Steve Nowack Construction. Stained glass windows were removed for this task and will be reinstalled on these thermal windows in the fall.
- 3.Stained Glass Window Repair:** Don Vanderhoff has three glass windows from the sanctuary out for repair. They should be reinstalled this fall.
- 4.Playground Fence:** The southwest corner of the playground fence was damaged last fall by a car. This repair has been completed.
- 5.Basement stairwell:** Kyle has finished painting the stairwell leading from the Crossroads area to the cafeteria, including the landing/elevator and coatroom area.
- 6.Repainting Cafeteria/lounge:** Plans are developing for repainting the cafeteria/lounge area. The idea of using volunteer help from the congregation is among them. It may be best to limit the volunteer work to the wainscot since much of the rest of the work will involve using ladders. A quote from Corey's Painting has been submitted for removing the decorative wall-paper trim that surrounds the cafeteria and painting walls above the wainscot to the ceiling. A second quote is being prepared by another painting contractor.
- 7.Overflow:** An “overflow” valve has been ordered for the utility sink in the custodian's closet on the second floor of the Education Wing.
- 8.Hostas:** Transplanting of hostas donated by Diane Highnam to the shrub area on the east side of the sanctuary is planned for when cooler weather can facilitate this work.

Respectfully Submitted,

~ *Cliff Highnam, Chair*

# ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

## Unrestricted Fund

The Fund's assets were within the target ranges of 60% Equity and 40% Fixed Income and Cash. The actual values are 61.5% Equities, 37.0% Fixed Income and 1.5% Cash.

The Unrestricted Fund had a beginning balance of \$1,618,537.78, had income of \$12,493.59 (\$9,180.49 plus \$3,313.10 accrued), growth of \$64,165.48 for a total gain of \$76,659.07. In addition, special bequest allocations of \$87,595.85 (Bainter \$31,961.67, Jacobs \$4,494.18, YEP \$25,570.00 and Stevens \$25,570.00) were also in the Unrestricted Fund.

We had withdrawals of \$32,447.23 (\$24,206.00 in Memorial Pledges, \$5,240 for Section Lead Salaries and \$3,001.23 in Fees and Expenses) for a new balance of \$1,750,345.47.

This is an increase of 4.5% before expenses; 2.6% overall. This compares to our benchmark of 4.22%. We are still \$609,884.26 short of the total bequests of \$2,354,963.97.

## Restricted Fund (Goodrich)

The Goodrich Fund is within the target ranges of 25% Equities and 75% Fixed Income and Cash. The actual distribution is 27.1% Equities, 71.5% Fixed Income and 1.4% Cash.

The Restricted Fund had a beginning balance of \$134,337.80 with income of \$1,192.44 (\$938.14 and accrual of \$254.30) with growth of \$690.92 for a total gain of \$1,883.36.

We had Fees and Expenses of \$1,000.00 for a new balance of \$134,984.85.

This was an increase of 1.4% before expenses and 0.5% overall. This compared to our benchmark of -0.84%. We were \$34,984.85 above the total bequest of \$100,000.00.

For the Endowment Committee,

~ *Jim Stevenson, Chair*