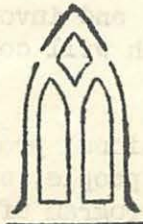


1968

ANNUAL

REPORTS

Congregational Church of Austin



PASTOR'S REPORT

Institutions have important dates in their histories, and we suspect that 1968 will be a pivotal year in the history of The Congregational Church of Austin with a decision to build an educational wing of the church. It has been forty-five or six years since a decision of such importance has been made by the church. The present building was completed in 1923, and addition of some church school space has been the only major improvement on the property itself. Mr. Scheel's report will give you a very good idea of what has happened in the building project. We do face the difficulty of paying for the project and find ourselves about 20% short of needed pledges to pay our way in 1969. Some increased pledges and some new pledges have reduced our original potential deficit.

A building program can have exhilarating effects on a church group, but it also has dangers. It is very tempting to turn to the needs of the institution and its financial security. The many hours of work by the pastor and lay members of this church have lessened the hours needed to continue our programs at their present level and to improve them while developing new programs to meet either new needs or needs of which we become aware. We look forward to the completion of the building project not only with the joy for new and needed facilities, but also because it will allow us to get back to our primary concerns. Unfortunately, we have matters concerning the new building which will require much time and effort by at least some of us this coming year. We need to make a list of necessary furniture and equipment for our new annex and to secure financing for it. We also need to create a committee charged with the securing of personnel, setting of policy, and continuing oversight of a child care program in our new building. We will have the problem of correlation with present boards in the church and should organize in such a way that we have liason with them.

We have begun to work at the problem of knowing one another better by meeting occasionally in areas, and the Board of Deacons will be continuing to work on this project. We will also be developing a membership education program in regards to the meaning of church membership for liberal people.

One occasion for rejoicing is that we have thus far resisted the temptation to cut our mission support in order to take care of ourselves. We increased our mission giving in 1968 and gave over a hundred dollars more than our goal. We have overpledged our mission goal for 1969 and even added a new category called Crisis in the Nation. Unfortunately we have not continued to have our members take part each month in worship with a "moment of concern" which informs us of what our OCWM giving is accomplishing. We have also failed to have our special projects for some years now which are always done when we have achieved our OCWM goal. In the past we helped build a library in India, purchased text books in Micronesia and the Phillipines, and we might have considered other projects in India, Honduras, and other places where we know people.

While we have taken some social action projects this past year, we did not have a real program on the issues in a Presidential election. We could do much more to inform ourselves of key issues in our community and to seek ways of meeting these common problems. We have the task of educating ourselves and witnessing to our community by discussions, letters to public officials, and involvement in political affairs. Perhaps we need to develop small task groups which will concentrate their efforts in particular areas.

New facilities will help us in our educational program, but it will mean a change for us. We will have the challenge of more young people, and we will probably need to secure new teachers. We have never had a good program of teacher training, and we will likely have to develop one. Educators have questioned the effectiveness of Christian Education programs, and we need to devote some time to serious consideration of what a serious educational program would be and endeavor to implement our knowledge into actions.

It has been suggested that we should spend more time in confirmation or membership education of our young people and do this at a high school level. What is our response?

We may find ourselves with the necessity of developing a new program to the university and Huston-Tillotson College. In recent years we have hired a seminarian and let the pastor and the seminarian concern themselves with these matters. What can and should we do toward these institutions, the students, the faculty, and the administration as a church. We have materials available, but we have not made a serious study of them.

The current concern about mission in the church has its roots in the fact that far too many of our local congregations are concerned only with themselves, but a concern only with the problems of the community, the nation, and the world leaves us with the opposite problem. Before we have people live dedicated to a life of service in the world, we have to develop the concern. We should probably examine ways in which we can seek people without trying to indoctrinate them and to discover ways of inner growth and development which can result in real commitment of ourselves as individuals and as a community.

It would take too much space, and we would list almost all of you, but we do want to express our personal appreciation to the members of the church for their time and effort in church and community affairs and their kindness and understanding to the Towery family. Pastor Robinson told the Pilgrims that God had yet more light to break forth out of his word, and we look with some excitement to the completion of a building and the beginning construction of a new way of serving in our church.

John Towery, Pastor

EXECUTIVE BUILDING COMMITTEE

Our church made a very important decision Sunday, July 28, 1968: the members voted to accept the A. W. Bryant bid to build the educational annex and do the site development work at a cost of \$152,667.

Preceding the vote, Mr. Walton, Mr. Scheel, Mr. Towery, Mr. Warren, and Mr. Swallow summarized the history of the project from its inception; told of the work done by the building committees; gave a detailed review of what the building is, architecturally, and what it can mean to us from the service standpoint; and presented arguments for and against undertaking a project of this magnitude.

A question-and-answer session initiated extensive discussion. Before the vote was taken, the membership accepted the recommendation of the building committee that such a decision should be made only by a two-thirds majority, and that by secret ballot.

The final vote showed 37 in favor, eight opposed, and two abstaining. So, after extensive paper work was accomplished, the contractor moved in and started digging.

In commemoration of the event, Mr. Towery conducted a ground-breaking ceremony after the regular worship services Sunday, September 24, 1968. It was a happy occasion, to give thanks, and to celebrate the start of construction. The educational annex is the culmination of about three years of planning, maneuvering, and waiting. Most of the congregation since the early 1950s have felt the need for better educational facilities.

During these months and years the congregation has been remarkably patient and understanding. The building committee has been pretty much on the job, watching and shaping developments and progress. And the pastor, Mr. Towery, has been constantly involved and dedicated: more familiar with the over-all details of the project than perhaps anyone else, he has been in the thick of it. (We shall not soon forget his "To Build

or Not to Build" presentation at the big July meeting!) Actually, in the final phases he absorbed much of the leg-work involved in the paper-work.

Mr. Swallow, of course, and his associate, must feel relieved that at last their paper building is assuming substance.

And the entire membership must be rejoicing that soon we will have something that our program has needed desperately for about twenty years.

Even as we rejoice and give thanks, let us resolve to liquidate our indebtedness on schedule or even before, and in the meantime to make the building the instrument for Christian service for which it was planned.

Steps along the way:

JANUARY: The executive building committee, recovered from the shock of the 1967 bids on the total building project, directed the architects to separate the new work from the old, gave first priority to the educational building, and asked for an estimate.

MARCH: Architects submitted plans reflecting reductions in program and changes in structure, materials, etc. sufficient to bring project within the \$150,000 range.

APRIL: Architects were authorized to draw up a new set of working plans as a basis for bids on the new building.

JUNE: The committee accepted the plans and directed that they be put out for bids. Also, they gave the congregation a report on developments.

JULY 9: Only two bids came in, both considerably above optimistic preliminary estimates.

JULY 19: Mr. Bryant and his estimator met with the committee to justify the bid.

JULY 23: After long discussions from various angles, the executive building committee voted to recommend to the congregation, acceptance of the A. W. Bryant bid.

JULY 28: The congregation voted to accept the building committee recommendation.

SUBSEQUENT WEEKS: Paper work in cooperation with Mr. Charles Dye, attorney; and clarification of financial outlook and procedures.

SEPTEMBER 24: Ground-breaking services.

Members of the Executive Building Committee:

Mr. Appel, representing the Board of Deacons and Deaconesses; Dr. Blackstock, finance committee chairman; Mrs. Nancy Brown, education committee chairman; Dr. Hubbs, worship committee chairman AND representative of the Board of Trustees; Mr. Towery; Mr. Walton and Mr. Warren. Mr. Swallow, of course, attends all meetings.

Alumni members: Mr. Francis Barrow; Mrs. Marie Clark, at that time representing the Board of Trustees; and Mr. Pinkard, representing the Board of Deacons and Deaconesses.

Weldon Scheel, Chairman

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees of the Congregational Church of Austin has been concerned over the financial future of the church. Following the acceptance of a construction bid from the A. W. Bryant Company, Mr. Charles Dye of Brown, Erwin, Marony, and Barber was employed to examine documents on behalf of the church.

The board is encouraged with the increase in money pledged to both the local and world mission. It is hoped that the members will continue to show their concern through financial support of the church during these critical days of construction, and to follow with active support of needed work projects.

The board approved many expenditures of funds to keep current work on a sound financial basis.

Clark Hubbs, Chairman

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN
Treasurer's Report
for 1968

GENERAL OPERATING FUND

Income January 1, 1968 thru December 31, 1968

Balance on hand January 1, 1968		3,508.93	
Contributions from members and friends, pledged and unpledged	11,883.45		
Loose plate collections	517.92		
Collections received from Sunday School	73.78		
Contributions for pledge envelopes	4.50		
Payments made by R.E. Blackburn for principal and interest on note receivable	780.00	13,259.65	16,768.58

Expenditures January 1, 1968 thru December 31, 1968

	Budget Allowance	Amount Spent
FOR PASTORAL LEADERSHIP		
Pastor's Salary	6,200.00	6,200.00
Pastor's Annuity	784.30	784.30
Pastor's Disability and Health Insurance	147.20	25.83
Pulpit Supply	100.00	25.00
Pastor's Car Allowance	540.00	540.00
Pastor's Parking Space	70.00	36.25
Parsonage Utilities and Telephone	625.00	592.62
Parsonage Payments on indebtedness to Austin Savings and Loan Association	1,002.36	1,002.36
FOR LOCAL CHURCH PROGRAMS		
Music for Worship	650.00	394.37
Christian Education	200.00	265.70
Church Office Supplies and Postage	500.00	560.43
Church Secretary	270.00	78.38
Publicity	100.00	78.44
Church Utilities	750.00	318.83
Janitorial Service and Supplies	500.00	458.40
Church Telephone	150.00	73.92

Building and Grounds Maintenance	500.00	444.76	
Insurance for Church and Parsonage	150.00	205.00	
Expenses for Delegates to Conferences, Associations and Austin Council of Churches	125.00	166.23	
Nursery Attendants	150.00	112.00	
Expense for Schools, training institutes, Camps, etc.	200.00	174.00	
United Church Herald for new members	40.00	40.00	
Safe Deposit Box	17.00	17.00	
Miscellaneous	100.00	78.89	
FOR LARGER RESPONSIBILITIES			
Brazos Association Dues	25.00	27.50	
Austin Council of Churches	15.00	15.00	
Texas Council of Churches	5.00	5.00	
National Council of Churches	10.00	10.00	
World Council of Churches	5.00	5.00	
Capital Funds Drive for Eden Home Debt and Slumber Falls Camp	50.00	50.00	
	<u>13,980.86</u>	<u>12,785.21</u>	<u>12,785.21</u>
Balance on hand, January 1, 1969			3,983.37

BUILDING FUND

Checking Account

Income during 1968

Balance on hand January 1, 1968	963.98	
Contributions from members and friends during 1968, pledged and unpledged	3,858.39	
Cash received from Austin National Bank for interest on certificates of deposit	1,765.11	
Cash received from Franklin Federal Savings & Loan Association for interest on certificates of deposit	750.00	
Savings of Austin for interest on certificates of deposit	148.75	
Cash received from the Mutual Savings Institution for interest on certificates of deposit	731.25	
Cash received from the Mutual Savings Institution for certificate of deposit	5,000.00	
Cash received from Austin National Bank for certificates of deposit	11,565.66	
Cash received from Austin National Bank for loan	5,500.00	30,283.14

Disbursements during 1968

Cash transferred to Building Fund Savings Account in Austin National Bank	1,000.00
Purchases of certificates of deposit payable by Austin National Bank	2,000.00
Payments made to architect R.P. Swallow	6,500.00
Payments made to Franklin Federal Savings and Loan Association	1,250.00
Payments made to E. Limberg, County Clerk	15.50

Payments made to Brown, Erwin, Maroney and Barber, Attorneys	1,088.65		
Payments made to A. W. Bryant Construction Company	18,033.21	<u>29,887.36</u>	
Balance on hand January 1, 1969		395.78	395.78

INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

Austin National Bank certificates of deposit on hand January 1, 1968	33,565.66		
Certificates of deposit purchased from Austin National Bank with funds from checking account	2,000.00		
Certificates of deposit purchased from Austin National Bank with funds from savings account	3,000.00		
Franklin Federal Savings Loan Association certificates of deposit on hand January 1, 1968	15,000.00		
The Mutual Savings Institution cer- tificates of deposit on hand January 1, '68	15,000.00		
First Fed. Sav. C.D. on hand January 1, '68	3,000.00	71,565.66	
Certificates of deposit at Austin National Bank transferred to checking account at Austin National Bank	11,565.66		
Certificates of deposit at the Mutual Savings Institution converted to cash and deposited to checking account at Austin National Bank	5,000.00	<u>16,565.66</u>	
Certificates of deposit on hand January 1, 1969		55,000.00	55,000.00

BUILDING FUND

Savings Account

Balance on hand January 1, 1968	3,338.24		
Cash transferred from Building Fund checking account during 1968	1,000.00		
Interest received from Austin National Bank	44.05	4,382.29	
Cash withdrawn January 10, 1968 and converted into certificate of deposit payable by Austin National Bank	3,000.	<u>3,000.00</u>	
Balance on hand January 1, 1969		<u>1,382.29</u>	1,382.29
Total of Building Fund Checking Account, Savings Account and Investment Account			56,778.07
Less Note Payable to Austin National Bank for loan			<u>5,500.00</u>
Net Worth of Building Fund on January 1, 1969			<u>51,278.07</u>

MEMORIAL FUND

Savings Account

Balance on hand January 1, 1968	773.96		
Contributions during 1968	79.20		
Interest received from Austin National Bank on savings account	34.48		
Interest received from Austin National Bank on certificate of deposit	48.75	936.39	936.39

INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

Certificate of deposit payable by Austin National Bank		1,000.00	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total of Memorial Fund Savings Account & Investment Account			<u>1,936.39</u>

R.E. Blackburn Fund - for taxes and insurance

Balance on hand January 1, 1968	122.29		
Monthly installments received during 1968	<u>180.00</u>	302.29	
Payment to Anderson-Williams Insurance Agency	34.00		
Payment to City of Austin Tax Department	138.10		
Payment to State and County Tax Department	<u>16.76</u>	<u>188.86</u>	
Balance on hand January 1, 1969		<u>113.43</u>	

Veterans of the Cross Fund

Contributions received from members and friends of the church		41.75	
Disbursements to The Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross		<u>41.75</u>	
Balance on hand January 1, 1969		none	

Mission Fund

Contributions during the year for undesignated Christian World Missions	2,092.92		
The support of Eden Home	255.00		
One Great Hour of Sharing	167.50		
Neighbors in Crisis	94.00		
Family Thank Offering	<u>2.39</u>	2,611.81	
Disbursements during 1968 to South Central Conference		<u>2,611.81</u>	
Balance on hand January 1, 1969		none	

Austin Council of Churches Camp Fund

Contributions received from members and friends of the church		20.00	
Disbursements to the Austin Council of Churches		<u>20.00</u>	
Balance on hand January 1, 1969		none	

NOTE PAYABLE
January 1, 1969

Austin Savings and Loan Association	9,640.08
First lien mortgage on Parsonage at 1421 Ridgehaven Street Principal and interest payable in monthly installments of \$83.53	

NOTE PAYABLE
January 1, 1969

Austin National Bank	5,500.00
Note dated December 11, 1968 due January 10, 1969 with interest at 7 percent per annum	

NOTE RECEIVABLE
January 1, 1969

R.E. Blackburn and wife	6,578.62
First lien mortgage on property at 902 Houston Street Principal and interest payable in monthly installments of \$65.00	

PLEDGES

Amount pledged by members and friends for 1969 local expenses	15,757.80
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Amount pledged by members and friends for 1969 wider missions	2,564.80
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William F. Warren, Treasurer

BOARD OF DEACONS AND DEACONESSES

The Board of Deacons and Deaconesses during 1968 was composed of: Mrs. Gertrude Andl, Dr. Victor H. Appel, Chairman, Mrs. Nancy Brown, Rev. Russell Mueller, Dr. Howard Rase, Mrs. Stella Morrison, Secretary, and Mr. Van Courtwright Walton.

During the past year, the Board has initiated steps intended to expand its outreach in several new directions. Early in the year, the Board approved the recommendation that the bylaws be amended (for instance, Article 5) to include two young people (defined as persons up to but not beyond college age) in its membership. This recommendation is intended to encourage the participation of the young members of the congregation in the important decision making of the church. This recommendation will be presented to the congregation at its annual meeting for its consideration.

A second innovation was the revitalization of neighborhood "cell groups" as a means of encouraging relationships among members living in common sectors of the city. In addition, an experimental effort was made to use the neighborhood groupings as an informal means of introducing visitors to the members of the congregation. Invitations were sent to all persons who were visitors over the past six months or who otherwise had indicated an interest in the church recently. It was hoped that this informal means might complement the minister's visitation efforts.

A strong need is seen by the Board at a church-wide level for assisting in carrying out the visitation function both among interested visitors and our own membership.

A third innovation centered around publication of a new church directory. In that the present church directory is three years old, the efforts were initiated to compile, print, and issue an up-to-date new directory of church members and friends. This effort is currently in progress and should be published by early spring. The new directory will have expanded information on each church family and will designate their neighborhood area group. In addition, a large scale city map was acquired on which the residences of church members will be plotted. This should provide a means for further contact among members.

The chairman wishes to thank the members of the Board for their conscientious and willing assistance over the past year, not only in implementing the above ideas but also for the many customary responsibilities of the Board.

Victor H. Appel, Chairman

CLERK'S REPORT

On January 1, 1968 our membership total was 108. In the course of the year we gained 7 new members, but lost 11 by transfer. We therefore began 1969 with only 104.

Our average Sunday attendance was 61. Our best month was March, with a total of 314. As March had 5 Sundays, however, the average was 63. Our third best month was November, total, 283; but as there were only four Sundays in November, the average was 71.

Van Courtright Walton, Clerk

MINISTERING TO STUDENTS

The fall began with a small group of ten enthusiastic students and fifty religious preference cards. These cards indicate those UT students who have some religious affiliation with either a United Church of Christ or a Congregational Church in their hometowns. In order that we might become better acquainted with each other, several informal dinner meetings on Sunday evenings were scheduled at homes of church members. Before each of these meetings, an attempt, by way of phone calls and a newsletter, was made to involve as many students as possible.

It became apparent from student comments that dinner meetings were not meeting students' concerns and needs. Our small group began meeting on Monday evenings at the Church to talk over what they would like to do, program-wise, for the remaining weeks of the fall semester. It was suggested that we would try to co-ordinate our meetings with events - special lectures, music programs, movies, and other student center activities - happening around UT. I began gathering information as to what was happening at the Lutheran, Presbyterian, Catholic, and Methodist Student Centers. When this information was brought back to our group, there appeared to be little interest. By this time, the first round of quizzes were on their minds, they were not too concerned with creating their own program. We continued to try and hold meetings on Monday evening, but student interest radically dropped.

At this point I decided that the most effective ministry with UT students could be carried out by involving myself with the activities of the Methodist Student Center, especially the ICOTHUS Coffee House and the newly organized Listening Ear. The Coffee House has been established for several years. It is sponsored by the Religious Workers Association of the University and is, thus, an ecumenical activity. It provides a

cheap place for students and non-students to gather on Friday and Saturday evening for conversation and entertainment. I have been spending at least one Friday or Saturday evening a week as a server in the Coffee House. I have found this to be an effective means of becoming acquainted with UT students and letting them know that I am available in times of crisis.

The Listening Ear is a newly created organization which is housed in the Methodist Student Center, sponsored by the Austin Mental Health Association and the University Counseling Center. It is a place open for those who need to talk to someone in the wee hours of the morning, seven days a week. I have been spending at least one night, from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. a week at the Listening Ear, as a listener to the problems of University area people.

This is where and what I have been doing in an attempt to minister to students at the university. It is hoped that this spring more activities can be planned which involve United Church of Christ students. I am presently engaged in thinking through a strategy for action.

Fred Morgan

THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Women's Association meets on the second Monday of each month in the homes of various members. At Easter they furnished sandwiches and cookies for a U.S.O. party. Rev. and Mrs. Towery acted as hosts.

Ten dollars was allotted to the Golden Book Fund. These are books for the Headstart Program and Mrs. Everett and Mrs. Towery are on this committee.

Hildegard Everett supervised the completion of rugs for the Fellowship Room and the basement. These rugs were made from samples furnished by a furniture store.

Several of the ladies made cup towels for the kitchen and many of them donated used clothing for the needy. Stella Morrison gave the church her large coffee urn which the ladies may use.

From time to time the ladies visit the former members who are now in nursing homes.

Fifty dollars is given to the church treasurer annually. Ten dollars was contributed to the improvement of the church basement. Four dollars was sent in for Council of Churches dues. Ten dollars was applied on the new rugs. The treasury is replenished by dues the ladies pay and by voluntary contributions. At present they have a bank balance of \$113.63.

Josephine Trenchmann, Secretary
Erna Seeliger, Treasurer

CHURCH SCHOOL

The offering of the Church School almost doubled in 1968 over 1967. Interest and attendance have been fairly good except around the Christmas season. Illness did keep attendance down for awhile. One big change is the fact that the adult discussion group is meeting in the church basement now and seems to do much better meeting close to a supply of coffee.

Our church school staff changed a bit when Mrs. Jay Stanford and Mrs. John B. Morrison were unable to teach this year. We miss them, but we have been glad to welcome Mrs. Victor Appel, Mrs. Anders Saustrup, and Mrs. Dennis McCormick. Mr. and Mrs. James Strickland, Mr. John Towery, and Mrs. Rizer Everett have continued with us. We have been appreciative of Mr. Robert German serving as an able substitute for the high school class, and we have had several different members helping us at various times.

We are looking forward to our new facilities next fall, and we will strive to have a good program to match them.

Eleanor Towery, Superintendent

CHRISTIAN ENLISTMENT

In November 1968 church members were visited in their homes by two-member teams requesting pledges of time, talent, and money for the year 1969. Members of the visitation teams had participated in a series of training sessions in order to acquaint themselves with the methods used in successful church member canvasses. Those participating in the canvass included the following church members: Victor Appel, Mathis Blackstock, Jean Cassel, Rizer Everett, Robert and Light German, Cathy Hubbs, Dorothy Lay, Stella Morrison, Beth Mitchell, Dennis McCormick, Helena Mueller, Esther Patridge, Doyal Pinkard, David Ross, Weldon Scheel, Richard Swallow, and Van Walton. Mr. William Warren assisted by compiling the financial pledges. We appreciate the work done by the canvassers, and we thank the church members for their timely pledges that have assisted members of the official boards in making plans for the 1969 church programs.

Rizer Everett
Director of Enlistment.