

DW Ross

1985



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF AUSTIN

408 WEST TWENTY-THIRD STREET



Meeting called to order

Devotions

-Statement by lawyer and questions.

Minutes from church meeting of past year and attempt to construct minutes of last year's Annual Meeting.

Review of Reports (questions, corrections, statements) Any reports from committees or groups not included in this report?

Old Business-

1. Any from last year?

New Business

✓1. Election of Officers

✓2. 1986 Budget

✓3. Air Conditioning

✓4. Intern for Year. Likely David Bartholomew.

✓5. Pictorial Directory?

✓6. OCWM Goal ~~\$~~6000

7. Retreat for Church April 4, 5, 6 at Slumber Falls. What kind of Retreat

→ 8. Investigate Austin Interfaith Sponsoring Committee more closely.

9. Other?

Pats' suggestion: consortium to buy land.

For cases: Fund for

- reward*
- private detective*
- for family.*

COORDINATING COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 1985

The Coordinating Council was established in the Constitution and Bylaws adopted by the Congregational Church at the 1985 annual meeting. According to the Constitution, the council is commissioned (1) to address issues that fall within the purview of more than a single board or committee and (2) to address issues that are of churchwide importance but which have not been expressly delegated to a particular board or committee.

The council is to report to the congregation its recommendations on whatever issues it may have studied.

The council is composed of the minister, the moderator, the clerk, a member at large of the congregation, a representative of the Board of Deacons and a representative of the Board of Trustees. During the past year, the council was composed of the minister, John Towery; the clerk, Marilyn Stephens and, when she was forced by illness to resign, Jean Appel; member-at-large Matt Blackstock, Vic Appel from the Deacons, David Ross from Trustees, and Tommie Pinkard, moderator.

During its first year, the council spent a great deal of time deliberating on the goals of the church and how various organizations within it contribute to those goals. The various committees of the church were assigned to the Deacons, the Trustees, and to the Council for the purpose of aiding and guiding their activities.

In an early meeting, Mrs. Judy Lengel, representing the Brazos Association Evangelism Task Force, reported to the coordinating committee on the availability of guidance from that Task Force, and Mrs. Lengel was invited to lead church members in a workshop. On August 18, she spoke at the morning worship service and then led the workshop.

Several suggestions that came out of the workshop have been implemented, including the appointment of greeters who make sure visitors are made to feel at home during the Sunday morning service, and the use of name tags by members and visitors so they (and we) will know who we all are. Other suggestions are still awaiting action, including the inclusion of more special music in the services. Some of the suggestions Judy made seem simple, like making sure visitors have enough time to find responses in the hymnal before we start singing, but they help put visitors at ease.

(more)

The council has also been concerned about publicity, and requested the publicity chair to place advertising in newspapers and directions in the telephone directory listing. Several members of the church placed notices on local bulletin boards that simply stated there was a Congregational church in Austin and that a neighbor was willing to help newcomers get to its services. We do not have a report on how successful this project was, but perhaps we should reinstitute it.

At the suggestion of the Coordinating Council, the August newsletter carried comments by four church members, Fran Briggs, Vic Appel, David Ross, and Matt Blackstock, on the future of the church and whether the congregation should consider moving from the 23rd Street location. These comments are worthy of another reading and discussion. We appreciate the time and thought these four dedicated to these thorny issues.

Several activities that were first suggested at council meetings were carried out during the past year, including a church picnic and an ice cream social. The credit for organizing these goes to the Board of Deacons, and we appreciate their work in providing pleasurable occasions for church members to get together and to invite visitors. Thanks in particular go to our hosts for these occasions: Matt Blackstock, Rambie and Fran Briggs.

At a meeting on December 11 at the home of Vic and Jean Appel, the Coordinating Council decided that in order to make recommendations on actions that affect the future of the church the following questions needed to be addressed:

1. Who are we?
2. What do we believe?
3. What do we want to do?
4. What would it take to do that?
5. Where and how could we best accomplish that?

The following report was prepared by Doyal Pinkard (an interested observer at the meeting) from the discussion of these questions. Perhaps it will help members come to grips with the decisions we need to make.

These are not easy questions to answer. The history of our "futuring" activities would suggest that many of us are uncomfortable in dealing with them, that we really don't want to think about the problem. But it will not go away. To avoid the problem, to refuse to make a decision, is to make a certain type of decision by default. Whether we move or stay (or both!), the decision will be a stronger one if it is made deliberately and not determined by the drift of events.

(more)

The following are some attempts to answer the five critical questions. They are not presented to be adopted or accepted by the congregation, but as a starting point for discussion.

1. & 2. Who are we, and what do we believe?

We are a group of people who value the Christian tradition and consider themselves a part of it; who believe that in some mysterious and inexplicable way the life, words, and deeds, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ offers the best clue to understanding ourselves, our world, and God; who want to set no dogmatic bounds to the way in which the drama of Jesus Christ is a revelatory event, but desire to establish an open and loving community that is accepting of all who want to search, to study, and to worship together with us.

3. What do we want to do?

We want to survive as a church because we believe we have something worthwhile to contribute.

We want to grow, as a church and as persons.

We want to be a community that is supportive and caring towards one another.

We want to be involved in the issues that are important to our community and our nation, and to have an impact on them.

We want a church that contains a broad cross-section of people, the young and the old, married and single, children, youth, and adults, different races and backgrounds; and one that provides a broad range of programs to serve the needs of its members.

4. What would it take to do these things?

We would have to grow. For a youth program to be effective, as an example, you need a certain critical mass (probably at least 10 to 20 participants) to have a really good program.

Large size is not our objective, but we need to be large enough to do some of the things we would like to do and can't do now. Besides, if we aren't growing, we may be dying.

We need accessibility. We cannot grow if people find it difficult to locate us and to come to us.

We need visibility.

We need to be a city-wide, not a neighborhood, church.

5. Where and how could we best accomplish these things?
- a. Stay where we are, make physical improvements, and expand our programming.
 - b. Dispose of the 23rd Street property and move to a growing area (for example, the southwest) which has access to serve people from all sections of the city and room for parking.
 - c. Merge with another church that is similar to ours and is also struggling to achieve a critical mass.

What is your opinion? Please give some prayerful thought to these questions, and let the members of the Coordinating Council know the result of your deliberations.

Respectfully submitted,
Tommie Pinkard

CLERK'S REPORT 1985

Our church showed a loss of 25 members during 1985, 20 of whom were transferred to inactive status.

January 1, 1985	Total Membership	148
Lost by:		
	Death	1
	Transfer by letter to other churches	7
	Transfer to inactive status by request	9
	Transfer to inactive status by inactivity	11
	Total Lost	-28
Received by:		
	Letter of transfer	2
	Confession of Faith	1
	Total Received	+3
December 31, 1985	Total Membership	123

One associate member left the church and one joined.

Average attendance at worship services was 59.5, compared to 56.6 for the top nine months of 1984 and 59 in 1983.

Jean Appel, Clerk

*72 in '82,
all time high.*

FUTURING DISCUSSION

GETTING READY TO DECIDE --Vic Appel

While most of you are thinking about whether to move or not, I'm still trying to figure out what I need to know before I'm ready to address the question. Let me briefly summarize the things I'd like to be clear about before tackling the big issue:

1. What kind of church do we want to be? Will staying where we are further that end more than moving will?
2. Where are the alternative sites we would choose amongst if we did decide to move? It's hard to give fair consideration to a move if the location(s) are not specified, at least to indicate the neighborhood.
3. What is the full range of alternatives available to us as we look at options other than the status quo? For example, if one is thinking about staying, one can contemplate remaining at the church as it is or investing substantially to refurbish, install air conditioning, purchase or lease parking spaces, and the like. If one is thinking about moving, one might consider a merger with an existing, congenial church, or purchasing a church property that is relocating as less demanding alternatives than building from scratch. And while I don't favor it, there is the alternative of neither staying or moving--closing down. Shouldn't we be considering them all?
4. How does the issue of moving or staying fit with the plans of the pastor? It would be helpful to all if it were clear how John and Eleanor feel? I have the impression that they would like to remain with us until John's retirement. If true, any change would be made with our current pastor. I simply don't know if John feels willing to lead us into a move, if that were the preference of the church. His clarification would be useful.
5. When we do reach the point of voting in a congregational meeting on our course of action, how much of a majority should we consider requisite to implement the decision? Perhaps the percentage should be higher than either a simple majority or two-thirds majority. Whatever the choice, I'd like to see a clear consensus to that course of action. Shouldn't we establish what that proportion should be in advance?
6. Roughly, what would be the magnitude of the financial obligation we would be incurring if we were to decide to move and build a new church? It is hard for me to give as-

COMMENT

--Fran Briggs

Many of you will undoubtedly say you like us the way we are, who we are, and where we are. We are very busy professional people. We do our Christian mission largely through our lives at work and in our families rather than in any collective sense. We come together on Sunday to worship God.

I believe we will be these people and do these things in another location earlier and perhaps better than we do them on 23rd Street. We come to worship in a place that more and more destroys a worshipful atmosphere. We are dwarfed by our surroundings and besieged by detractors. Our energies are consumed by problems of survival so that we have little strength left for ministry. We are more and more put in a position at odds with the trend of a growing and dynamic Austin community.

What might people in such a community be looking for in a church? Can we be that church? In a city where there are a lot of newcomers and where few people have family ties, the church can provide spiritual healing and relief from loneliness and alienation. That seems to me to be a great opportunity for mission and one we could do well. We are an open-minded people embracing a wide variety of individual differences and lifestyles. Why not bring that message of acceptance to a place where more people might be aware of it?

I do not believe we will reach many new people where we are because the area itself is alienating. Twenty-third Street is no longer a friendly place. Our church is being left out of the growth in Austin. Think of the families who have joined or attended for a short while only to drop out because the Sunday school was not satisfying their children's needs, or they did not feel a part of the inner family of the church. These are problems created by our size. I believe we would inevitably attract new members in an area where we were more visible. Change is difficult. Sometimes in order to change, we must shake the foundations of the institution. With a move, we would have the opportunity to build new and stronger foundations.

APPEL (cont)--about the extent of the costs involved. Surely we should be able to build on the experience of others in the conference and elsewhere who have been through such an

LET US CONTINUE OUR MINISTRY ON 23rd STREET
--Dave Ross

A word which always comes to my mind in connection with the Congregational Church of Austin is "unique." I know of no other church with quite the combination of qualities which are important to me. We have a city-wide and multi-generational congregation whose concerns transcend those of neighborhood, race, and economic status. We combine a liberal openness to new ideas and controversial topics with a real desire to understand God's truth in the teachings of Jesus. We will welcome anyone into our congregation without religious test other than a willingness to join us in seeking Christ's way. Our pastor's emphasis on service and the way we treat others has led us at times to be the conscience of the community by accepting those who were rejected elsewhere. More often than not we fail to live up to our ideals and our sometimes too intellectual approach to religious questions is not for everyone. But, I believe there remains a place for our kind of ministry in Austin. Twenty-third Street is the best and possibly the only place to continue this ministry.

Any move to a new location would effectively be a "new church start" rather than a "relocation." We would lose many of our members, and our identity would be lost in such a transition. Any successful new start would necessarily be a neighborhood church. This could be a good thing. As Austin grows, new neighborhood churches are needed. However, they should be considered independently of the future of the Congregational Church of Austin.

Our church will never be large, nor need it be, but a modest level of growth is important to maintaining a viable program. The Advisory Council and the Deacons are working on ways to improve our ministry, both to attract people who share our concerns, and to broaden our concerns to include more of the people in the university neighborhood. I believe these efforts can succeed in revitalizing our sense of purpose and increasing our membership. I further believe we should devote the next five or six years to this effort at our present location. Then, as John's retirement approaches, we should decide whether to continue under a new minister or to disband and, individually or collectively, join in one of the conference's new starts.

ON THE FENCE --Mathis Blackstock

In terms of whether to move the church I find myself ambivalent: concerns over the City's handling of the area and its deterioration tempt one to think life would be less complex in another area.

On the other hand the prospect of a new beginning, with all of the frightening aspects of the unknown, acts as a powerful deterrent: do we have the energy to accomplish such an undertaking?

A third choice, disbandment is unacceptable--it would be throwing away something that is cherished and invaluable to many people.

A question which arises in connection with staying at the same location is "Is there a ministry in the area that can be accomplished? Are the people in the neighborhood potential members of the Congregational Church?" Would the basic nature of the membership change? Personally that would be the smallest concern.

It seems to me that arriving at a consensus on the issue would be better than a straight black-and-white vote, allowing us the cohesiveness that will be so necessary to growth and nurturing.

EDITORIAL COMMENT--The church is trying to develop both a new attitude and some new approaches to church growth. This coming year should provide us with what our future on 23rd St. could be.

The area that the church is located in can become the abode of young professionals, and a strong singles ministry could provide a future for the church. Could the church invest in a seminarian on an intern year to see if a young adult program could be developed? Such work is in line with one UCC priority, and we might secure denominational help both in finances and resourcing.

In response to Vic Appel's question about the Towerys. John could retire at 62 to devote energy to volunteer work or interim supply. That will occur in March of 1988. No decision has been made on that, but it seems likely.

If the church decided to move, it would depend upon where it relocated to and the leadership needs of the congregation. It is not possible to give a yes or no answer without more information.

BOARD OF DEACONS

The elected members of the Board for 1985 were Vic Appel, Rambie Briggs, Cathy Hubbs, Mary Masters, Stella Morrison, and Doyal Pinkard. The Pastor and the church clerk are members ex officio. Doyal Pinkard was selected to chair the board, and Cathy Hubbs to serve as secretary.

During 1985 the church had the following guest preachers:

February 17	The Rev. Roger Paine
March 17	The Rev. Sarah Bentley
March 24	The Rev. Frank Dietz (Executive Director, Texas Conference of Churches)
April 21	Mr. Steve Taylor (student, Austin Presbyterian Seminary)
June 16,23,30	Mr. Bruce Bergthold and Mr. Steve Taylor (recent graduates, Presbyterian Sem)
July 28	The Rev. Rollin Russell (Conference Minister, North Carolina)
September 22	Dr. John T. King (President, Huston- Tillotson College)
December 15	The Rev. Roger Paine

We appreciate the contributions made by all of these speakers.

The church had five special worship services during the year:

Maundy Thursday Service, April 4

Good Friday Service, April 5 (Dr. Robert Paul preaching)

Laity Sunday, October 13 (A special "thank you" to Linda Bulkeley, Marilyn Gaddis, and Glen Williams, who made this program a memorable one)

Christmas Candlelight Service, December 22

Christmas Day Communion, December 25

In addition, the following activities and special events are worthy of note:

*A Lenten study series on contemporary theologians was held on Thursday evenings in February and March.

*CROP Walk, to raise money for Church World Service relief programs, had a good participation from the church, including members of the high school class along with Pat Oakes, John Camden, the Pastor, and Doyal Pinkard. Quite a lot of money was raised.

- *Spring Retreat, Slumber Falls, March 22-24. While not well attended, those who were there enjoyed it.
- *Special Music Program, May 19. Ms. Kim Dotson, a former member, brought her choir from Plano for a special Sunday morning program.
- *Church Picnic, July 28, at Travis Landing, courtesy of Matt Blackstock, with watermelon furnished by Vic Appel and boating by Ches Towery, and the added fillip of a visit with the Schneiders from Tokyo and the Russells from North Carolina.
- *Evangelism workshop, August 18. This workshop, conducted by Judy Lengel and sponsored by the Coordinating Council, helped us focus on the problem of church growth and to begin asking ourselves the right questions.
- *Ice cream social, September 7, at Fran and Rambie Briggs', helped to kick off fall activities.
- *Christmas dinner, December 14. The dinner had an Irish theme, as did the church school program that followed.

Annual Report time is a period for reflecting on what has been accomplished during the past year and on what remains to be done. Among the accomplishments was a start on setting up an effective greeting system. We want to be sure that guests and visitors to our church feel welcome. The Deacons want to express their appreciation to those who served as greeters during the past year.

Because we felt that it was hard for newcomers to remember names (and for some old-timers, for that matter), the Deacons initiated the use of name tags. We expected some resistance to this; however, people have been very cooperative, and we encourage you to continue wearing your name tags. Rizer Everett helped a great deal by designing the boxes for storing the tags, and Hildegard Everett prepared the name tags for members and guests.

We also did some cleaning up of the church rolls. A membership status questionnaire was sent to persons on the rolls as active members who had not been active for some time. Based on the responses to this letter, several members were put on inactive status. This was necessary because the new constitution of the church requires a quorum of 15% of the active members in order to transact business. Therefore, we had to be sure that those classified as "active members" were that in reality.

Three persons have contributed significantly to our worship this past year. The Board extends its deepest appreciation to Mary Masters for chairing the communion committee, Jean Cassel for arranging the paraments before each worship service, and Hildegard Everett for week after week of beautiful sanctuary flowers.

Some things that the Deacons intended to accomplish were not completed. The most significant of these was ministerial assessment. Despite a lot of discussion, listing of priorities, and looking at forms, we did not come up with a procedure for assessing the performance of our pastor. This is something we ought to do for him; it is very difficult to function in any position with a minimum of feedback. I hope that the new Board will complete what we started in this area.

The Board would like this congregation to grow, not only in numbers but spiritually, as a loving and supportive community that worships, studies, and enjoys together. We hope we have taken some steps in this direction and are confident that the new Board will help the church move even closer to this goal.

Doyal Pinkard, Chair.

Religious Education Committee, Mission and Stewardship Committee, and Social Action Committee did not meet as committees during 1985. Members of the Mission and stewardship Committee made presentations of Moments of Concern during morning worship to the congregation. Social Action information from Impact was posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Room. Social concerns were sometimes a part of a worship service, but no planned sermons or programs were presented. No study groups were organized on subjects such as Central America. We did have a presentation from the Conference Minister, the Rev. Dr. James Tomasek, on his trip to Central America. Should we dismiss the committee and organize task forces representing different concerns such as peace, Central America, refugees, economics, etc.?

CHURCH SCHOOL has had one more class than last year as the pastor has had a Pastor's Class of three for this year. We have more youngsters downstairs, and we have two separate classes on the street floor with Mrs. Marilyn (Gary) Pickens and Mrs. Eleanor (John) Towery as teachers. Mel and Pat Oakes each have a class, and Doyal Pinkard and Edgar Polome provide leadership for the adult group. Mrs. Pickens is our superintendent. We might consider having an adult and/or young adult group with varying interests. It would be helpful to know what areas of knowledge would be appealing and meet the needs and interests of those who are not attracted to our present programs.



UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY OF AUSTIN

410 West 23rd Street • Austin, Texas 78705 • (512) 478-5693

January 1986

To: The Congregational Church of Austin
 From: United Campus Ministry
 Re: A Report of 1985

When one looks at the work of an organization like ours over the space of a year, it becomes rather like looking at a painting or photograph which has a fabric of background in front of which stands some highlighted figures of interest. For us the background fabric is the pattern of networks with and through whom we work. And the foreground figures are the particular persons and events of drama and sunshine.

The networks include:

University Student Childcare Association: One hundred student families being aided by the joint work of UCMA, the Dean of Students, the Counseling Center, and UT Students' Association.

Peacemaking: We associate with USA-USSR Citizens' Dialogue, United Campus to Prevent Nuclear War, and the congregations and programs of our four denominations. 1985 Programs included a fantastic week of programs on the church in the Soviet Union by Dr. Bruce Rigdon and the marvelous Fall conference: "Forty Years of the Nuclear Age". We also gathered in Prayers For The Summit prior to the meeting of our leaders.

The Student Council: Representatives from 18 congregations of our denominations who worked at helping students get oriented to the University and to the life of the congregations.

Education and Issues: Our annual teaching methods course for adults leaders of the churches; workshops, lectures, family night presentations, enlistment of support for students and their colleges — all were steady and standard procedures.

Austin Community College and Austin Area Conference of Churches: We now have a jointly appointed committee for this ministry and the churches are learning how they are partners with the community college.

The highlights (among many others) are:

Dwight Bailey: That marvelous new staff person who is Chaplain at Huston-Tillotson and Campus Minister at the University of Texas.

Patricia Moseley and Tyler Burnett: The UT Social Work Graduate Students who are developing a ministry with single parent students at Austin Community College.

James Fisher: Who gives all of himself as the Director (janitor, cheerleader) of University Student Childcare Association.

People's Community Clinic
Annual Activities Report for 1985

Staffing: The Clinic was successful in recruiting for the position of a fulltime staff physician. Beginning in July 1986, Dr. Mark Springs will join the permanent fulltime staff. The presence of a fulltime physician will allow the Clinic to increase services in the daytime hours. Currently, the staff is working on such a plan.

Programs: The Clinic received funding increases from all funding sources. The greatest increase was in the area of general medicine service (48% increase). This increase will allow us to see more general medicine patients. We are developing the pediatrics services and all general medicine services will include a health education component.

Project to acquire a new Clinic site:

In June 1985 City Council granted People's Community Clinic, CEDEN and Austin Rape Crisis Center a two year lease option on a piece of city owned property near the Holiday Inn. The option for use of the land (40 years at \$1.00/year) could be exercised if we were able to raise sufficient money to construct a building on the site. Difficulties arose which resulted in the withdrawal of the Rape Crisis Center from the project. This voided the lease option. Subsequently, CEDEN decided to pursue funds to purchase the building they now occupy.

The Clinic is considering approaching the city once again for an option on this property as a solo enterprise. We first need to determine whether we have the capabilities for this particular project or whether we should begin to search for a building that can be converted to suit our needs. In any case, we will be developing a master plan for a capital fund drive.

Board of Directors: The current President of the Board of Directors is Charles Caldwell. The Board is engaged in a process of policy review and Board development as a first step in acquiring the capability for major fundraising efforts.

Statistics for 1984/85

Family Planning: Number of patient visits = 5180 (Jan through October)

Prenatal Services: Number of patient visits = 1521

General Medicine: Number of patient visits = 4971

Special Services:

AIDS Task Force

The Clinic is a part of the Austin AIDS task force. In this capacity, the Clinic serves as a site for the HTLV3 blood tests. We also provide counseling to healthy persons who have AIDS related concerns. In addition, we provide pre- and post-test counseling.

Colposcopy Clinic

The Clinic offers colposcopy and cryology services to women who have abnormal PAP tests. These services have been expanded from two to four Clinics per month due to the demonstrated need for these services.

1985 TREASURER'S REPORT

<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
<u>PASTORAL LEADERSHIP</u>		
Salary	\$13,000	\$13,000.00
Annuities	5,720	5,434.00
Health and Dental Insurance	3,000	3,148.50
Family Protection Plan	200	185.00
Continuing Education	400	403.00
Housing Allowance	6,400	6,400.00
SUBTOTAL	\$28,720	\$28,570.00
<u>LOCAL CHURCH PROGRAMS</u>		
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$ 200	\$ 200.00
Car Expense	2,040	1,402.87
Music for Worship	2,500	2,278.75
Christian Education Materials	400	403.95
Office Supplies and Postage	1,100	929.96
Utilities (including Clinic)	11,000	8,761.47
Property Maintenance	2,500	8,296.37
Janitorial Supplies and Service	900	510.00
Church Telephone	500	359.35
Conference Delegates	250	155.00
Camps and Workshops	100	-0-
Safe Deposit Box	35	50.00
Advertizing	600	325.46
Pulpit Speakers	240	175.00
Nursery Attendants	216	174.00
SUBTOTAL	\$22,581	\$24,022.18
COOPERATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,510.00
MORTGAGE PAYMENTS	\$15,444	\$16,652.04
1985 TOTAL	\$69,045	\$71,754.72

FUND BALANCES - December 31, 1985

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>		<u>LOAN BALANCES DUE:</u>	
Checking Account	\$ 7,647.97	Mortgage on New Wing	\$ ~ 30,000
Savings Account	4,408.01	Mortgage on 3rd Floor	\$ ~ 2700
Due to Memorial Fund	<u>(1,001.06)</u>		
	\$11,054.92		
MEMORIAL FUND	\$ 3,336.47 (including \$1001.06 owed by General)		
CD'S	\$29,804.18		

-Cindy Anderson, Treasurer

REPORT OF FINANCIAL SECRETARY - 1985

INCOME SOURCES	GENERAL FUND	OCWM	OTHER FUNDS
Loose Plate	1750.06	0.00	68.00
Interest from Savings	660.68	0.00	0.00
Metropolitan Community Church	2190.00	0.00	0.00
People's Community Clinic	12000.00	0.00	0.00
United Campus Ministry	1896.00	0.00	4800.00
Miscellaneous Income	2650.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Deposits	3.30	0.00	156.50
Pledged Giving	38387.62	6608.00	10111.00
Non-Pledged Giving	6904.00	30.50	1858.50
Total by Columns	66441.66	6638.50	16994.00

Total Deposits 90074.16

	GENERAL	OCWM	WITNESS
1985 Pledges	36990.00	7152.00	1833.00
1985 Pledged giving	38387.62	6608.00	1844.50
Difference	1397.62	-513.50	11.50

1985 Budget 69045.00
 1985 Income 71241.66
 Difference 2196.66

includes \$4800 for 3rd floor wing mortgage.

DESIGNATED INCOME:

General Fund	66441.66
United Campus Ministry Loan	4800.00
OCWM	<u>6638.50</u>
Witness Shares	1844.50
Food Pantry	120.00
Memorial Fund	2385.00
Pastor's Fund	710.00
Retreat	156.50
One Great Hour of Sharing	807.00
Copier	4700.00
Eden Home	5.00
Neighbors in Need	753.00
Peace Program	5.00
Back Bay Mission	25.00
UCBMA	557.00
Candle Light Service Offering	26.00
United Church Board for World Ministries	100.00
TOTAL	90074.16

1986 PLEDGES	GENERAL	OCWM	WITNESS	OTHER
	<u>41962.00</u>	7209.00	2404.00	375.00

\$7000 goal met.

Sara Ross - Financial Secretary

Church Budget 1986

	1984	1985	1986
PASTORAL LEADERSHIP			
1* Salary	\$12,500	\$13,000	\$16,770
Annuity	2,590	2,720	3,300
Tax Sheltered Annuity	2,844	3,000	1,000
Health Insurance	2,664	3,000	3,080
Family Protection plan	185	200	236
Continuing Education	400	400	400
Housing Allowance	6,000	6,400	6,800
SUBTOTAL	\$27,183	\$28,720	\$31,586
LOCAL CHURCH PROGRAMS			
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$200	\$200	\$200
Automobile Expense	2,040	2,040	2,040
2* Music for Worship	2,500	2,500	3,200
Christian Education Materials	350	400	400
Office Supplies & Postage	1,100	1,100	600
Utilities (including clinic)	9,000	11,000	11,000
Property Maintenance	2,500	2,500	4,000
Janitorial Supplies & Services	900	900	1,040
Church Telephone	540	500	500
Conference Delegates	250	250	300
Camps & Workshops	60	100	100
Safe Deposit Box	35	35	50
Bond for Financial Officers	15	0	15
Youth or New Members	150	0	100
Advertising	600	600	1,000
Pulpit Supply & Speakers	240	240	240
Nursery Attendants	216	216	520
3* Air Conditioning	0	0	2,400
4* Seminary Student	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0	0
SUBTOTAL	\$20,696	\$22,581	\$27,705
COOPERATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES			
Metro-Ministries	\$400	\$400	\$400
Brazos Association Dues	150	140	140
Austin Conference of Churches	300	300	300
Texas Conference of Churches	15	30	30
National Council of Churches	15	15	15
World Council of Churches	15	15	15
Regional Seminary Support	300	300	300
Eden Home	500	500	500
United Campus Ministry	200	200	200
Yale Divinity School	100	100	100
Back Bay Mission	100	100	300
Slumber Falls Camp	100	100	100
Salvation Army	50	50	50
Caritas	0	50	50
5* Austin Interfaith	0	0	500
SUBTOTAL	\$2,245	\$2,300	\$3,000
MORTGAGE PAYMENTS			
on New Wing	\$10,644	\$10,644	\$10,644
on Top Floor of New Wing	4,800	4,800	2,700
SUBTOTAL	\$15,444	\$15,444	\$13,344

→ \$3,450

2,400 → 7,800 of Camden
omit but
include \$1,000
for building
inspection

Church Budget 1986

TOTAL BUDGET	\$65,568	\$69,045	\$75,635
NON-PLEDGED INCOME			
Loose Plate Offerings	\$1,000	\$1,400	\$1,500
People's Community Clinic	9,600	12,000	12,000
Other Church Groups	2,500	500	500
Interest from C.D.'s	1,000	1,000	850
Non-pledged giving	4,000	4,000	5,000
United Campus Ministry (top floor)	4,800	4,800	4,800
United Campus Ministry (utilities)	800	800	800
TOTAL	\$23,700	\$24,500	\$25,450
NEEDED IN PLEDGES — LOCAL	\$41,868	\$44,545	\$50,185
Total pledged — local	\$37,397	\$36,990	\$0

*\$ 41962 pledged. See
p. 13*

- 1* Increase in salary base: 3.8% cost of living
3.0% increment for experience
5.0% merit increase
Annuity is 14% of base salary plus housing. (denomination recommendation)
Family protection plan is 1% of base salary plus housing.
- 2* Increase in amount paid to Musicians to: Violinist \$25.00/Sunday
Pianist \$20.00/Sunday
Cellist \$15.00/Sunday → [#]20
- 3* Air conditioning the church would cost \$24,000 - \$26,000 with separate units for the worship area and the fellowship room. \$2,400 represents a 10% amortization of the total cost. Actual expenditure for the year will depend on the method of financing.
- 4* The use of a seminary student for an intern year would enable this church to explore possibilities of a singles, young adult, and student ministries. It could give a reason and way of continuing ministry here. It would provide an opportunity for a seminarian to use and check seminary knowledge before a final year. Costs would be approximately \$6,750 for 9 months or 9,000 for 12 months. We could borrow against savings and pay 10% for 10 years, or use some of United Campus Ministry funds.
- 5* Austin Interfaith is an organization that gets churches to lobby on issues that are important to them. On November 18 Police Chief Jim Everett will meet representatives of the churches at Ebenezer Baptist Church on issues of public safety and prostitution. On December 2 Mayor Frank Cooksey will meet with the group at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church with affordable housing the top priority. We will decide if we wish to join this group. The estimated cost is \$500.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES -- 1985

Members serving on the board this year were Cindy Anderson, Susan Ashton, John Camden, Judy Cole, Laverne Johnston, David Ross, Sara Ross, and Leo Wegner. Susan Ashton served as Secretary. John Towery kept the board informed of relevant issues and performed much of the board's work. Cindy Anderson served the Church as Treasurer and Sara Ross served as Financial Secretary.

Expenditures from the General Fund in 1985 were \$71,754 with \$69,045 budgetted. Income to the General Fund for 1985 was \$71,242.

Memorial Fund balance was increased by approximately \$1200 in 1985.

A substantial special financial contribution designated for building maintenance was used to repair and paint the Fellowship Room and the Sanctuary. An iron security gate was installed at the rear of the new wing. Routine maintenance included a new hot water circulating pump, cleaning and waxing floors in the new wing, the Fellowship Room and basement, and the continual task of keeping the grounds clean. Our thanks to members and friends of the Church who share their time, energy, and money to help maintain and beautify our church.

The pastor and family brought a load of roof tiles from Dallas and the roof was repaired after damage by a storm. The building use fee was raised from \$15 to \$20 per session. Tenants in 1985 included the People's Community Clinic, Metropolitan Church, Mars Hill and United Campus Ministry.

David Ashton used his resources to evaluate the possibility of air conditioning the Fellowship Room and the Sanctuary. Estimates were obtained and a proposal will be presented to the Congregation for a decision.

The budget for 1986 was prepared by Fran Briggs, Cindy Anderson and Sara Ross. Our thanks for the good work.

The City Council voted to close West 23rd Street from Guadalupe to the alley just east of the Church. The street is open on Sundays. A lawsuit by the Church against the City of Austin was filed by lawyer Les King. The essence of the suit is that the closing of 23rd street and the existance of the vendor areas along 23rd street have had a detrimental effect on the financial worth of the Church property, the effectiveness of the Church's mission and loss of potential membership.

The Trustees voted to recommend hiring a seminary intern for 1986. Funds to pay for this project would come through a special appeal to the congregation, with Church reserves used for the remainder needed.

John Camden

PASTOR'S REPORT

This year was to be different, and I planned to have a report written up and checked out, but I have been unable to accomplish that. Visitations with people whom I had not seen since 1964 and others since 1959 took writing time away. Since my return the tragic and senseless disappearance of Ruth Case has taken not only time but thought. We know that you will understand.

You will not find any great clarity as yet on the church's future. We have printed up the various viewpoints for you. Read what the Pastor's Report said in 1983: "Let us take a look at a swift outline of our options. It could be that we have other options than these, but these four will give us a basis for investigation during 1984. They are: (1) stay here (2) move to another location (3) have the core stay while several members start another UCC church (4) sell the property or merge with a church that can use additional members.

Emotionally most of us would like to stay in our present location. The difficulties have already been given and they may increase. The presence of the street people seems to me our gravest problem. I have been asked why we do not have a ministry to them. Frankly, we do not have the resources or the knowledge of how we could do that. It is not the most appealing group either, but it could be God's challenge to us. The Clinic does need more space and would have moved years ago if they could have located more space and secure adequate financing. United Campus Ministry definite needs our space and even more monetary support than we are now giving. If we do stay in this location, we need to seek ways of obtaining members in our area. It could mean new programming aimed more at singles than we have done in the past.

A greater emphasis upon student participation seems desirable. I had thought of proposing that we check with United Campus Ministry about donating \$2,000. to obtain use of some of Pat Russell's time, but he will soon be departing to our sorrow for our loss and joy at his greater opportunity.

A second option is to move to another location. The rapid growth of our city for family types is in the outlying areas. Our city is already sighted as a possible location for a new church start. It seems to me that the United Church of Christ needs to have two new starts, one in the Northwest and one in the Southwest. We have valued families living in both areas. It would be much easier to grow and give support to OCWM from those areas. It would, however, change the style and make up of our church. Some of our present members would not drive to those areas, and we would be even less likely to have any racial integration. We already are mostly a middle class group, but a suburban location would mean even less likelihood of lower class participation. Unless the University of Texas or a church group would be interested in our property we might get only \$200,000 with our present zoning and possibly \$300,000 with commercial zoning. It would take \$600,000 to \$700,000 to duplicate our present buildings and land in this area. The amount of money for land needed for a new church start usually costs \$500,000, and a first unit could cost \$200,000. It would be extremely difficult for us to start a second church without outside help. The Board of Homeland Ministries is likely to only finance one start, but if we lobbied them for two, they might go for it based on Austin's national prominence as a growing city. It would guarantee a good beginning with our seed money and capable leadership.

Our third choice would be to have a core stay with some of our members providing the basis for a new church start. The church could use part-time leadership as they have in the past with interim ministers. It is possible that a good retired minister in cooperation with a student minister could lead some dynamic programs until the suburban church can grow strong enough to provide financial aid to the inner-city church. Gerald Mann was trying to get University Baptist Church to go to this kind of arrangement. Even though they rejected it and his leadership, it could be a useful model. COCU developed this vision for our cities a decade ago.

Finally we could sell and join with another church such as Hyde Park Presbyterian which does not fully use their facilities. A variation could be that most of our money could go to a new church start while providing a central location for those members who wished to remain in the central city. University Christian Church made overtures to us in the 60's via the minister of that time, but members did not have enough interest in joining them. Community Christian Church is worshipping in Southwest Austin and might be a possibility for members from that area if they are left out of future developments. Their aura is somewhat like ours along with an emphasis on social outlook."

We do know some new facts. Our church could obtain renewal support if it relocated. A class at the university evaluated the present property at \$780,000. A Muslim group indicated that \$800,000 might be a reasonable price. Should the church win \$500,000 or so from the city for closing the street, option number three of keeping the present property for mission and relocating to provide a better basis for support could have more

appeal for us. Frankly my personal hope has always been to keep this building for the mission work that we can do here and start another church location. It may still be two or three years before we know answers and are able to make a decision.

If you check the Treasurer's Report, you will discover that we spent almost six thousand dollars more on maintenance than we budgeted, but we have paid it all. For some years we have wanted to paint the sanctuary and Fellowship Room after repairing the plaster. Wonder of wonders we were able to hire it and see it completed. Broken tile was replaced on the roof and some leaks were repaired. Unfortunately we have one large leak and two tiny ones. One compressor for an air conditioner in the educational wing had to be replaced. We also replaced a pump on the furnace. New wood and some old wood repaired broken boards in our fence. The reports look better this year because a generous member enabled us to purchase a new Toshiba copier which looks better and has more capabilities. The church school and the clinic combined forces to make the street floor more attractive with curtains and new wall paper, and the walls were painted with expense shared. Floors shared with the clinic were waxed with a sharing of our costs. We spent more this year than in those years that we fixed the stained glass windows.

The Deacon's report indicates our interest in church growth. We actually lost membership, but our attendance went up for the first time in a long time. We did obtain some new members and have some good prospects. We can improve if we all try to share our good feelings about this church fellowship.

Without going into specifics the "caring" aspect of our group is still alive. Our old emphasis on neighborhoods or areas of the cities needs to be brought back to life. Could we have a once a month meeting to know each other better in three or four areas of the city? A shared or progressive meal might do the trick. One church has suggested that eight persons without children meet once a month. We might experiment during Lent this coming year.

We have a great deal of information on social issues posted and some news is put in the church newsletter. We might want to have three or four task forces that will share their knowledge with us in moments of concern.

On a personal level I am still here and grateful for the support and encouragement that you give me. I could be wrong, but it seems that it is best for us to work together to make a wise decision. I am giving serious thought to retirement at 62 which comes in the spring of 1988, but that is not an announcement of my resignation now. It could be that we will not yet be ready to move to our action.

We are still in a frustrating time, but John Robinson's admonition to the Pilgrims before they left for America that God has more light to break forth out of His word still speaks to us here in Austin.

-John C. Towery