

D. W. Ross

ANNUAL REPORT

1996

*annual
meeting
1997*



*The Congregational Church of Austin
408 West Twenty-third Street
Austin, TX 78705-5214*

**Brazos Association
South Central Conference
United Church of Christ**

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ANNUAL MEETING
The Congregational Church of Austin
January 26, 1997
(Review of 1996)

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Fran Briggs, Moderator

INVOCATION

REPORTS

Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting (annual meeting missing)
Financial Secretary's Report Jean Appel
Treasurer's Report John Burlinson

OTHER REPORTS

BUSINESS

Unfinished:

- 1) Status of Project PHASE
- 2) Future Location of our Church

New:

- 1) Election of Officers
- 2) Adoption of 1997 Budget
- 3) Other New Business, if any

AFFIRMATION

Coordinating Council Members (one minute each)

*8. Tomask
- activities still going on.
~ 50-70 (75-100 last year)
- work for services + goods instituted
- search for new location "troubling" dead end so far. }
3 best sites - freezing weather
some conflicts w. Phase*

*From reports:
- Will have house meetings.
✓ Vic: Go look at sites!
- Capital funds drive?*

Congregational Meeting Notes

Date: March 29, 1996
Moderator: Fran Briggs
Members present: 29

The meeting was held to discuss changes to the Church By-Laws. It was agreed to read the By-Laws first, then discuss changes.

The question was raised as to whether or not out-of-state members should be included, and the group agreed that all active members should be.

Vic Appel stressed that an official count was needed for a quorum. The Church Directory was determined to be inaccurate, and Vic asked that the Clerk be responsible for an accurate count of active members. He reported that the yellow (current) directory only contains 125 members. Yoshi Kaneda told the group that there were currently 150 members; since 30 were present, the necessary $\frac{1}{5}$ (20%) needed for a quorum were in attendance. Fran Briggs, Moderator for the meeting, determined the count be a show of hands.

In order to avoid confusion in determining ⁱⁿ active members, Tommie Pinkard suggested changing their status to "Friends of The Church".

By-Laws (motions moved and seconded):

- United Church of Christ was added to the title to be in agreement with the Constitution.
- It was motioned to change *they* to *he or she* throughout the bylaws (as in Article I, Section 1) for parallelism.
- In Article II, Section 2, it was suggested that the Annual Business Meeting be held in January. Yoshi Kaneda said that it was moved to February to allow for the installation of new members, provide adequate time to prepare the Annual Report after the first of the year. It was suggested that the Annual Report could be prepared during the lull after Christmas. The Congregation massed the motion to move the Annual Business Meeting to January.
- Dave Ross proposed changing *Music Program Coordinator* in Article IV, Section 8 of the By-Laws to *Music Committee Chair*, which was seconded and moved. Music Committee Chair was suggested as alternative to Choir Director.
- Marie Schjel proposed changing *Chairperson* to *Chair* in Article XI, Section 1.

- Nodie Murphy proposed re-write of Article XI. Vic Appel explained the changes as a means to link Church bodies to one of the Boards, with the Music Committee a sub-unit of the Board of Deacons.
- Tommie Pinkard suggested striking the parentheses in **donor(s)** in Article XIV, Section 7.
- Doyle Pinkard motioned to add **and the nominating committee** after **Coordinating Council** in Article XIII, Section 3.
- Parentheses in **person(s)** and **gift(s)** were stricken from Article XIV, Section 1. In Section 7, the comma was removed after received, and **families shall be** was placed before **informed of the identity of the donors**.
- In Article ~~XV~~ (Amendments), the percentage of members required to pass an amendment was changed from **35%** to **25%**, and the **one week's prior notice** was changed to **two weeks**.

The following document is a revised version of the Constitution and By-Laws as agreed by the attendees of the meeting.

Not here

BUMPY RIDES, SMOOTH RIDES

1

The year 1996 has been a challenging, eventful and rocky one for our life together. Here are some happenings:

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS REVISED

Coordinating Council members of 1994 and 1995 had worked hard to come up with the revisions with care, consulting with the congregation quite often. The final proposal was put on the floor at the Annual Meeting as an agenda item February 4, but because of time constraint it was tabled until March 31 when it was finally approved with some revisions after a lengthy discussion. Now we have a finished product of our church's official document with all the job descriptions also on hand.

YOUTH MINISTER STARTED TO WORK

Thank God for our persistence! We did not give up on a possible proposal for a grant from the Gillum Fund administered by *The Texas Methodist Foundation*. The Grant Request Committee was quickly reorganized and a new proposal to get a professional Youth Minister was made. With Vic Appel's enormous help, we could submit the final proposal to the Foundation in time. On April 3, 1996, we were informed that the Grants Committee of the Foundation had approved the \$45,677 request for a Youth Minister at the Congregational Church of Austin. Praise God!

The Search Committee started to work to plan, set the objectives and standards, publicize the position, recruit and interview and, finally, to select the candidate. Their recommendation was unanimously approved by the congregation at a special Congregational Meeting on July 21.

Welcome, Kay Lewis! We are delighted to work with you!

LEASE FOR PROJECT PHASE

An uncomfortable tension between Project PHASE and the neighbor merchants did not go away in 1996. Among the members of our church there had been exchanged quite a controversy as to the length of lease. Emotional disputes took place on behalf of Project PHASE and in sympathy with the merchants and UAP, University Area Partners. Friday Forums were held for our members to be more informed of the claims of the two parties, on May 10 and 24. The Fellowship Room was packed by our members, guests, and visitors.

The final voting took place Sunday, June 23, when the majority voted for another year's lease renewal without any extension. Project PHASE was so notified and the staff members are, at present, working with its Advisory Council as to its future operation. (Looking back to the decision of June 23, I can say, our church members are more compassionate than their Pastor! Praise God!)

WORSHIP SERVICES DIFFERENT FROM THE REGULAR ONES

The Worship service occupies the center of our life together. Working with the Board of Deacons and the Music Committee, we have had some different kinds of worship services during the past year. We welcomed MS. Gail Rice as our guest from the Center for Battered Women on Mother's Day, and we designated two Sundays in July as Bible Study Sundays when we studied together on the Texts: 2 Samuel 13:1-39 and Mark 6:14-29. Adding to the usual Tenebrae Service, Easter Sunrise Service at Mt. Bonnell and Christmas Candlelight Service, we welcomed guest preachers: Jim Tomasek, John Towery, Bob Breihan, Rich Tompson, Sarah Bentley, John Alsup and Kay Lewis. We have been richly blessed by getting out of our routine. Nodie Murphy and Vic Appel also made their powerful inputs on the New Century Hymnal and Proposal for our Youth Minister. Also, did you notice "*Gabriel's Dilemma*" just before Christmas?

SENIOR POWER AND YOUNGER POWER

The Building and Grounds Maintenance Committee's work has been outstanding! Not only organizing the two Workdays in spring and fall, the Committee has been spotting the problem areas, repairing and maintaining and meeting the needs of our aging facilities thoroughly with faithfulness and efficiencies. Oh, how many times they showed up at the church ready to work! Paul Deisler, Matt Blackstock, George Lemley and his brother, Vic Appel, Dale Montayne, George Carruthers, Marilyn Gaddis, Kathleen Strong, Ben White, and more. (Sorry, if I missed your name.) Rizer Everett and Mel Oaks have done some woodwork for us, too.

Almost all the able-bodied persons pitched in on Workdays and other occasions for our church's life together. I believe that our senior power and younger power have saved thousands of dollars for our church this past year!

CONFERENCE MINISTER, EMERITUS

Our own Jim Tomasek was unanimously elected Conference Minister, Emeritus of the South Central Conference, UCC. This special honor was bestowed on him during the Annual Meeting session in June, in LaFayette, Louisiana. Later, at the Saturday banquet, all delegates celebrated his election with a standing ovation. Congratulations to Jim and Mary!

Aren't we lucky to have John Towery, Pastor Emeritus of our church, and Jim? Ours must be a very rare church that has two Pastors Emeritus!

PERSONAL STRESS AFTER STRESS

A very stressful period started from October 11, 1996, as I began to protest and counter the power basis of City Government that has sided with the Renaissance Market by closing West 23rd Street indefinitely. Strongly sensing that injustice has been done by the city against our church, I strived to meet four City Council members and two City officials to tell our side of the story and probe the documents. Fran Briggs, Matt Blackstock and Vic Appel assisted me in the process. Fran and I even listened to the tape of the crucial Council

Meeting of December 5, 1985, in the basement of City Hall. (If you want to listen to the tape, let me know.)

As I wrote in November's Newsletter, I have agonized myself to fight against the devil of injustice. My blood pressure climbed high. Ronney Reynolds and Eric Mitchells are sympathetic, but Daryl Slusher and Jackie Goodman are not. James Aldridge, City Clerk, acknowledged my point of contention and said, "Closing of the street seems like a temporary action but Renaissance Market seems like a permanent measure." -Oh, they play hard ball! Mayor Bruce Todd wrote me a consiliatory letter.

It is about time we should make some decisions on this matter. Are we going to sue the City? Do we know what we really want? One half of the street fronting our facilities, or some monetary compensations? If we do not make any decision, the City, Capital Metro, UT and UAP will make a decision for us, because actual construction on "Beautification of the Drag" will start this May. Let's all be aware of this urgency.

FUTURE LOCATION

*Meeting,
Tues. Jan 28*

At our Spring Retreat we began dealing with the issue of future relocation, face to face, with the theme: "Soundings of Our Hearts." Jim Tomasek helped us to go through this process with efficiency and grace. He conducted another workshop for those who missed the Retreat. Eleven families hosted small group Dinner Meetings in June and the Coordinating Council had a Report Meeting of those Dinner Meetings and finally appointed twelve disciples to serve on the "Future Location" Task Force.

The Task Force has worked hard and diligently dividing themselves into three sub committees: a) identifying location options, b) discovering what the present property is worth, and c) identifying potential sources of financing. The whole congregation heard their excellent reports on November 24.

The Task Force asked Rev. Horace Sills to work with us as consultant. He agreed and came to Austin on the second weekend of November. Oh, we cannot hope to have an expert like him for free of charge! On the way to the airport on his return trip, I happened to say, "You know, Horace, we are a cozy and family-like congregation. We want to suppress our knowledge of very limited parking space, poor visibility and accessibility deep into our psyche. . ." He quickly countered me saying, "Oh, that's a fallacy! Your church cannot grow at that location!" I had to say, "You are right." Horace advised us again and again, "Go slow, step by step. Then, you can make it."

Within four years our church will celebrate its Centennial Anniversary. As a member happened to say to me, "Isn't it wonderful to celebrate our Centennial Anniversary at our new location?" I smiled. Maybe, God is calling us to relocate and grow. I believe in the rich potential of our members. Yes, we can, if we will.

THANKS

I am very very grateful to the church staff, church officers, board members, committee

members, clergy colleagues, and all volunteers for teaching, singing, directing, telephoning, visiting, cooking, decorating, arranging, ushering, greeting, baby-sitting, acolyting, painting, cleaning, vacuuming, washing, watering, tilling, weeding and more. Without your willingness to serve, and minister to, we would have never made it this past year. So, I thank you!

May the God of Joy keep blessing this church!

Yoshikuni Kaneda

THE TEACHING CHURCH: A PROPOSAL FOR STRENGTHENING THE YOUTH
MINISTRY OF A SMALL URBAN CHURCH

INITIAL REPORT

In the beginning there were members of a small urban congregation who were concerned about the education of the youth in their church. After much thought and discussion they drafted a proposal and submitted it to the Texas Methodist Foundation in the hope of being awarded a grant to research youth work. This having been granted and the work begun, the objectives for the Youth Minister for the first year were defined as follows:

1. To conduct a survey of youth and parent reactions to the current educational programming to determine perceived strengths and limitations.

ACTION: Two questionnaires (one for children and one for adults) were drawn up and submitted to the Board of Christian Education for approval. After some minor revisions, mail questionnaires were sent out to the parents of Sunday School age children (ages 2-18.) By early December 66% of these had been returned and follow-up is currently being done to encourage the remaining parents to participate (phone interviews or personal interviews are a possibility.) The children have been interviewed individually by the Youth Minister during normal Sunday School hours. To date, 63% of the children have been interviewed. It is hoped to complete all the interviews by the end of February.

The children's survey covers attitudes toward different aspects of Church and Sunday School. Recognizing that one of the concerns of the church is to expand the youth program, children were also asked about other activities in which they are involved, and the days on which these activities take place. In addition, children were asked whether they would be interested in a recreational meeting for games, music and fellowship. Obviously, before we embark on grandiose schemes for our youth, we need to determine whether there is time available in the children's already crowded schedules, or a demand for extra activities.

In the adult questionnaires we asked about their children's reactions to Sunday School and whether parents felt we had been meeting their needs. As we are not a neighborhood church, but situated in the city center, the willingness and availability of parents to transport their offspring to any additional meetings we might schedule is of crucial importance. Accordingly, we enquired how easy or difficult it would be for them to bring their children to midweek or weekend events.

2. To sit in on formal classes in the educational program and attend church services to gain an understanding of the current program and become acquainted with its membership, particularly the youth and children.

ACTION: In August and September I visited each of the classes in turn. In addition, I am deputy teacher for the Senior High class which I have taken twice. Following my visits I wrote an initial report on my findings on September 18th, and a follow-up report on December 3rd. Since then,

interviewing one or two children each Sunday has made it impossible for me to visit classes, but I hope to resume once the interviews are at an end. I also hope to have a meeting of Sunday School teachers in February when we can hear their reactions to the current curriculum.

I attend the church service each Sunday morning and take part each month reading the Scripture or doing 'Time with Children.' I also offer help and advice to others who do the children's talk. Each Sunday I play the piano for the assembly time at Sunday School. In the fall, I screened materials for the Christmas Pageant and helped plan it.

Since my arrival, maps of Biblical lands, relevant pictures and a Time Line have been displayed in the Sunday School. Each week the Time Line shows when the day's story took place and markers on the map show where the action took place. Individual folders have been provided for children aged 6-13 for use during the latter part of church. In addition to the lesson-related sheets, extra Bible-based puzzle sheets, paper and crayons are provided.

Becoming acquainted with the church members has been one of my main tasks in the first few months. In October I was the speaker at the church retreat at Slumber Falls. For this I prepared a variety of material for two 2-hour sessions: one on "Crisis" and the other on "Caregiving." The discussion which arose from the presentations and the informal chats afterwards gave me an opportunity to get to know church members better.

On December 29, I stood in for Yoshi at the morning church service, serving as liturgist and preacher.

Another opportunity to mix with church members of different ages has been the Intergenerational Night. To date I have helped to organize three of these at weekends: Movie Night, Pumpkin Carving and Advent Wreath making. Numbers at these meetings have ranged from 13 to 22. At one of the meetings five of the seven children present came from single parent homes and I am sure they benefited from having contact with caring, helpful adults. As I said in a recent report, I am convinced of the value of these informal get-togethers and am very impressed by the contribution made by some older adults who regularly attend and help out. How better can we expose children to a sense of being loved, valued and cared for and engender a sense of community?

In order to acquaint myself with a broader sense of the UCC, I accompanied Yoshi and Jim Tomasek to a Brazos Association meeting held near Bryan. This gave me a chance to meet clergy and lay people from other UCC and Congregational churches. Michael Vaughan, who is in charge of youth work, will be a very useful contact in the future. I was scheduled to take part in the "Just Do It" youth weekend at Slumber Falls recently, but this was canceled owing to insufficient numbers. It may now take place in January.

I also attended an ice cream social at Cameron Road UCC with Yoshi and some other members of our congregation. This meeting was intended to help members of the two congregations get to know each other better, and it accomplished its objective. I was particularly glad to make the acquaintance of Carol Kolsti, the youth minister. Like our church, this church has very few

youth.

On Sunday, Dec. 8th, I attended a supper and youth group planning meeting at the home of one of the Cameron Road UCC members. This church is in the process of trying to start a youth group. I hope that in the future it may be possible to undertake joint ventures, where appropriate.

3. Carry out a search of literature to find appealing models for small church educational programming.

ACTION: This is an ongoing task which will be carried on for the three years of the research. Dr. C. Ellis Nelson, Professor Emeritus of Christian Education at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, has made valuable suggestions and provided me with useful material.

In September I attended a day 'Children's Ministry Seminar.' This was useful for its exposure to the variety of materials available and for the exchange of ideas with other youth workers.

I have also examined the various catalogs which arrive through the mail, and spent a good deal of time in Christian bookstores browsing among the shelves to acquaint myself with the materials currently available.

We have recently received a series of videos for review which may act as a supplement to our present program. I am casting the net wide and looking at all possibilities. As I meet with other ministers and youth workers I question them about the materials they use and ask which ones they have found to be especially helpful.

A recent issue of the Church of Scotland magazine, "Life and Work," contained interesting material on work with youth. I hope to include examples from Scotland, where appropriate.

4. Arrange and hold periodic meetings with the Pastor.

ACTION: Yoshi and I meet together at least once a week, usually on a Monday. I make a list of my concerns and we discuss these and other parish matters. This is an important part of my work.

5. Visit with Pastors or Youth Ministers of comparable, small churches to obtain suggested materials, projects, outreach or mission experiences suitable for use or modification by the CCA.

ACTION: This is an area in which I intend to spend much more time in the new year. (December is not a good time to ask harried clergy for interviews!) In addition to interviewing youth pastors, I hope to visit some Sunday Schools and youth groups, and this may necessitate my absence from the Congregational Church on a couple of Sundays per month.

Though I realize the importance of talking to youth ministers in small churches, I do not intend

*to confine my research to small churches. We must remember that flourishing city churches may also have few youth even though their total roll is large. Indeed, when I interviewed the youth worker at a large neighboring church, I found that when she took over the post, the youth group had dwindled away to practically nothing. It is not only the size of the congregation which is important, **location** plays a large part. Another minister told me of her experience of a thriving youth group in a small church. The important factor here was not the size of the congregation, but the fact that, in a small town, the church was the social center point of the local youth. Most of the youth could walk to church and there were not many other distractions. Compare this with our city situation where youth have many options and are dependent on their parents to ferry them downtown to church meetings. Add to this the fact that there are now many more two-career families where the parents are already hard-pressed for time, and you will see that we cannot rely on our former paradigms for youth work.*

As I stated above, the Children's Ministry Seminar afforded me the opportunity to talk to teachers whom I would not normally have met, who were involved in youth work in small churches.

6. Participate in the monthly meetings of the church's Board of Christian Education.

ACTION: Since my appointment I have attended each of the BCE's monthly meetings.

7. Submit to the BCE an evaluation of the current educational offerings and experiences available to the church's youth. In the evaluation report, cite strengths and limitations.

ACTION: Before I can fulfill this requirement I need to have all the information from the questionnaires to hand. The input from the February meeting of Sunday school teachers will also be taken into account. I anticipate that I will be ready to deliver this evaluation in the late spring.

8. Propose to the BCE new educational programming, which might be instituted next year. After discussion, suggested programming innovations approved by the BCE would be planned for installation in the next school year, September, 1997.

ACTION: As stated above, this can only be done after all the pertinent information has been amassed. I would caution, however, against the belief that new programming, per se, will necessarily be the solution to all our problems. As a wise professor reminded me: In youth work in a small church the relationship between the leaders and the youth is every bit as important, if not more so, than the programming. We need to bear this in mind.

Kay Lewis
January 14, 1997

Coordinating Council Report
1996

Members of the Coordinating Council were as follows: Fran Briggs, Moderator; Valentino Herrera, Clerk; Dennis Murphy from Trustees; Vic Appel from Deacons; Michael Adams from Christian Education; Carol Barrett, At-Large; Yoshi Kaneda, Ex-Officio.

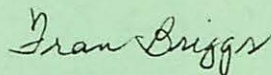
The past year has been a busy one. The first important item of business was finishing the revision of the bylaws, begun in 1995. That was accomplished at a congregational meeting in March. Following that, the Council designed a program to study the question of whether or not to renew the lease for Project PHASE. Several public hearings allowed the staff of Project PHASE and other interested parties to hear and discuss all the relevant information. After those meetings were held, the congregation voted to renew the lease for one year with no option to renew.

The Council felt that our practice at dialogue on the Project PHASE issue was good practice for beginning the discussions around the future of the church. The spring retreat at Slumber Falls Camp was used to explore our feelings about moving/staying. Jim Tomasek provided excellent leadership for that event and for a subsequent follow-up at the church for those who had been unable to attend. Then the Council planned a series of home dinner meetings so that members could talk in small groups about their concerns. After those meetings, the Council appointed a Future Location Task Force which held meetings from July until November 24 when the final report was presented.

The members of the Task Force were Jim Tomasek and Tommie Pinkard (co-chairs), Rambie Briggs, Vic Appel, Michael Adams, David Ashton, Mathis Blackstock, Paul Deisler, Paula Fracasso, Dick Jackson, Kathleen Strong, Judy Clements (who subsequently resigned).

At its November meeting the Council agreed to recommend to the congregation opening the church basement during freezing weather to house a small number of homeless teens. This proposal was accepted in a congregational meeting. Evaluation of the minister is still pending and will be accomplished at the Council's January meeting.

As I look back on this year, I am reminded again what a special congregation you are, and I praise God for you and thank you for letting me serve. As I look forward, I tremble in anticipation of the challenges which lie ahead. Your continued assistance and goodwill along with God's grace will help us face a new year of change and challenge.



Fran Briggs, Moderator

Vital Statistics
1996

MEMBERSHIP	TOTAL
RECEIVED:	
Re-Affirmation:	
Miriam Elise Hall Kirch (Lisa)	
George Lemley	
Transfer:	
Martha Miles	
Lynne R. Lemley	
Nannette Strickland	
Confirmation:	
Andrew Barrett	
	6
Total Membership, as of Dec. 31, 1995	149
Additions, 1996	<u>+6</u>
	155
 <u>LOSSES:</u>	
By Request, Transfer, Moved, Removed:	47
By Death:	<u>1</u> -48
Total Membership, as of Dec. 31, 1996	107

Baptisms:

January 21, 1996	Paul Eric Deisler
April 28, 1996	Sarah C. Kirch

Marriages:

March 8, 1996	David Staba and Rebecca Modlin
October 25, 1996	Frances Holliday and John R. Alford

Funerals:

January 13, 1996	Rita Castle Parker
October 19, 1996	Lewis Frank James, Ph.D.

Financial Secretary's Annual Report

1/1/96 Through 12/31/96

Income Summary

Category Description	'96 Actual	'96 Budget	12/31/96 Diff	Projected '97 Budget
INFLOWS				
Budget (Local):				
Loose Plate	2,903.85	2,300.00	603.85	2,800.00
Miscellaneous	10.00	150.00	-140.00	50.00
MusicforWorship-(Reimbursements)	20.00	0.00	20.00	
Non-Pledged	17,145.00	9,350.00	7,795.00	18,000.00
Pastor's Fund	10.00	0.00	10.00	
Pledged '97	2,600.00	0.00	2,600.00	
Pledged-('96=31Units; '97= 19 +McN)	72,587.30	73,003.00	-415.70	64,419.00 <i>+500</i>
Rental Income-(Bldg Use+Utilities)	4,280.00	3,500.00	780.00	2,650.00
Retreat Fund-(Reimbursements)	829.42	0.00	829.42	800.00
SHORTFALL-(Projected)	0.00	20,891.00	-20,891.00	24,434.00 <i>-500</i>
TOTAL Budget (Local)	100,385.57	109,194.00	-8,808.43	113,153.00
Christ.Ed.Grant-(Tx.Methodist Fndtn)	13,800.00	0.00	13,800.00	15,180.00
Designated Inc:				
Aids Services-(Pledged)	600.00	600.00	0.00	
BackBay Mission	25.00	0.00	25.00	
Burnt Churches-(Special Offering)	747.00	0.00	747.00	
Choir Robes-(Special Offering)	852.00	0.00	852.00	
Christmas Fund-(Special Offering)	283.00	0.00	283.00	
FaithFood Pntry-(Pledged)	600.00	600.00	0.00	
Grant Mortgage-(Pledged)	1,365.00	2,296.00	-931.00	
Just Peace Fund	10.00	0.00	10.00	
McNeely Estate-(Principal)	2,616.27	2,616.00	0.27	
Memorial Fund	1,800.00	0.00	1,800.00	
NCD-(Pledged)	2,184.75	1,892.00	292.75	
NeighborsInNeed-(Special Offering)	728.66	0.00	728.66	
OCWM-(Pledged)	10,036.20	8,284.00	1,752.20	
OGHS-(Special Offering)	1,651.00	0.00	1,651.00	
TOTAL Designated Inc	23,498.88	16,288.00	7,210.88	
Refunds:				
So. CentralConf	2,940.00	0.00	2,940.00	
TOTAL Refunds	2,940.00	0.00	2,940.00	
Transfers:				
Memorial Fund	719.38	0.00	719.38	
TOTAL Transfers	719.38	0.00	719.38	
TOTAL INFLOWS	141,343.83	125,482.00	15,861.83	

check payments

For 1996, our actual income of \$100,385.57 came within \$8,808.43 of the amount required to meet the budget that we approved one year ago. The congregation is to be commended for its faithful support throughout the entire year which made this outcome possible. Thank you all for your commitment.

Jean Appel

Jean Appel,
Financial Secretary

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

26 January 1997

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

This report consists of four parts:

- The brief narrative that follows;
- A Statement of Accounts as of Dec. 31, 1996;
- An Expenditure Report for Calendar Year 1996;
- A Proposed Budget for Calendar Year 1997.

Even though a few categories of expense exceeded budgeted expectations, total expenditures for 1996 fell below budget projections, primarily for the following reasons:

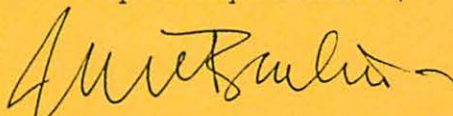
- The post of Music Director was not filled at any time during 1996.
- Large categories of expense, such as Property Management and Church School Supplies were below 100% of budget.
- There were no expenditures for certain smaller expense items (e.g., Archives and Stephen Ministries.)

Members of the Budget Committee met in early November 1996 to prepare the 1997 budget included in this annual report. This proposed budget was later distributed to all members by the Director of Enlistment. This budget differs in several ways from last year's:

- Salaries for the Pastor, the Secretary and the Janitor have been increased.
- Modest increases are proposed for Kitchen Supplies (line 24) and Conference Delegates (line 36).
- The Pastor's Discretionary Fund has been decreased.
- A budget item for Stephen Ministries that appeared in 1996 has been eliminated.
- The 1996 budget item for Office Supplies has been split into two separate categories for 1997: Office Supplies (line 25) and Printing - Newsletter & Bulletin (line 45). This represents an overall increase of 34% for these combined activities.

The total proposed budget represents an increase of 3.9% over that of 1996.

Respectfully submitted,



John Burlinson

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

December 31, 1996

ASSETS

Fund	Matures	Interest	Amount
General Fund: Checking Account * (Amount reported last month: 10,004.79)			6,868.77
Memorial Fund: E.D. Jones & Co. #322-05104-1-0			6,605.24
Youth Minister: E.D. Jones & Co.			3,450.00
Organ Fund: E.D. Jones & Co. Money Market Fund		4.48%	4,147.25
Sub-Total			21,071.26
Nation's Bank #499510	4/3/97	4.38%	4,275.74
Nation's Bank #478614 (McNeely Estate)	2/3/97	4.18%	2,112.03
Franklin Federal #41-242400-0 (McNeely Estate)	4/05/01	7.60%	4,869.70
Nation's Bank #439636 (Methodist Fund)	2/11/97	4.09%	7,491.60
* United Church Foundation (McNeely Acct.) <i>mutual funds</i>			16,843.52
Sub-Total			35,592.59
Total			56,663.85

LIABILITIES

Type	Amount
UCBHM Grant/mortgage **	4,483.00

* This figure includes deposits thru 12/31/96.

** This item requires payment only if the Church building is sold or changes function.

David W. Ross
Lexington Rd
1, TX 78757

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN
1996 Budget and Expenditures

		Budget	Expenditures	%	Notes
	Pastoral Leadership				
5	Salary	22,650.00	22,650.00	100.00%	
6	Annuity	5,271.00	5,333.96	101.19%	
7	Health Insurance	6,428.00	6,426.00	99.97%	
8	Dental Benefits	594.00	594.00	100.00%	
9	Family Protection Plan	376.50	376.48	99.99%	
10	Continuing Education	1,000.00	776.98	77.70%	
11	Housing Allowance	15,000.00	15,000.00	100.00%	
12	Automobile Expense	2,500.00	2,500.08	100.00%	
13	Pastoral Leadership Subtotal	53,819.50	53,657.50	99.70%	
	Local Church Programs				
15	Pastor's Discretionary Fund	400.00	0.00	0.00%	3
16	Secretary	8,640.00	8,640.00	100.00%	1
17	Social Security & Medicare	614.00	614.00	100.00%	2
18	Music For Worship	250.00	205.78	82.31%	
19	Musicians	5,000.00	5,005.00	100.10%	
20	Director	2,925.00	0.00	0.00%	1
21	Social Security & Medicare	207.86	0.00	0.00%	2
22	Christian Education Materials	1,200.00	1,307.14	108.93%	
23	Church School Supplies	1,450.00	1,008.12	69.53%	
24	Kitchen Supplies	200.00	262.69	131.35%	
25	Office Supplies	4,000.00	5,374.16	134.35%	
26	Postage	900.00	432.00	48.00%	
27	Utilities	6,000.00	6,861.76	114.36%	
28	Electric & Water		5,092.62		
29	Gas		989.97		
30	Telephone		571.44		
31	Drinking Water		207.73		
32	Property Maint.	7,000.00	6,453.59	92.19%	
33	Janitorial Supplies	150.00	0.00	0.00%	
34	Janitorial Service	4,000.00	3,145.38	78.63%	1
35	Social Security & Medicare	284.25	223.53	78.64%	2
36	Conference Delegates	500.00	748.72	149.74%	
37	Camps & Workshops	500.00	190.00	38.00%	
38	Advertising	1,200.00	922.63	76.89%	4
39	Pulpit Speakers	900.00	800.00	88.89%	
40	Nursery Attendants	1,200.00	710.88	59.24%	
41	Insurance	1,428.00	1,428.00	100.00%	
42	Fun & Fellowship	300.00	263.26	87.75%	
43	Archives	150.00	0.00	0.00%	
44	Miscellaneous	150.00	250.00	166.67%	
45	Stephen Ministries	300.00	0.00	0.00%	
46	Retreat	1,500.00	1,227.93	81.86%	
48	Local Church Programs Subtotal	51,349.11	46,074.57	89.73%	

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CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

1996 Budget and Expenditures

Page 2

	Budget	Expenditures	%	Notes
Cooperative Responsibilities				
Austin Metropolitan Ministries	600.00	600.00	100.00%	
Brazos Ass. Dues	300.00	298.00	99.33%	
Texas Conference of Churches	30.00	30.00	100.00%	
National Council of Churches	15.00	15.00	100.00%	
World Council of Churches	15.00	15.00	100.00%	
Regional Seminary Support	500.00	500.00	100.00%	
Eden Home	500.00	500.00	100.00%	
United Campus Ministry	100.00	100.00	100.00%	
Back Bay Mission	500.00	500.00	100.00%	
Slumber Falls Camp	100.00	100.00	100.00%	
Austin Interfaith	300.00	300.00	100.00%	
Huston Tillotson	500.00	500.00	100.00%	
University Area Partners	100.00	100.00	100.00%	
Community of Univ. Ministers	50.00	50.00	100.00%	
Texas Impact	100.00	100.00	100.00%	
Coop. Responsibilities Subtotal	3,710.00	3,708.00	99.95%	
TOTAL -- BUDGETED	108,878.61	103,440.07	95.01%	
Designated Expenditures				
Aids Services		450.00		
Burnt Churches		747.00		
Christmas Fund '95		10.00		
Choir Robes		852.00		
Faith Food Pantry		450.00		
Mortgage Reduction		1,062.50		
Just Peace Fund		10.00		
McNeely Estate Principal		2,388.29		
Memorial Fund		1,480.00		
Neighbors In Need		728.66		
New Church Development		1,927.75		
Our Christian Wider Mission		8,630.40		
One Great Hour of Sharing		1,651.00		
Designated Expenditures Subtotal		20,387.60		
TOTAL -- ALL EXPENDITURES		123,827.67		

Report covers period from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 1996.

1. Includes wages and employee's portion of social security and medicare payments made to the Internal Revenue Service.
2. Employer's portion of social security and medicare payments made to the Internal Revenue Service.
3. This item also includes funds for the needy.
4. Includes funds for advertising in the Austin American Statesman as well as in the Southwestern Bell Telephone Yellow Pages.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN
1996 Budget, 1997 Proposed

		1996 Budget	1997 Proposed
	Pastoral Leadership		
5	Salary	22,650.00	23,782.50
6	Annuity	5,271.00	5,779.55
7	Health Insurance	6,428.00	7,050.00
8	Dental Benefits	594.00	522.00
9	Family Protection Plan	376.50	376.50
10	Continuing Education	1,000.00	1,000.00
11	Housing Allowance	15,000.00	15,000.00
12	Automobile Expense	2,500.00	2,500.00
13	Pastoral Leadership Subtotal	53,819.50	56,010.55
	Local Church Programs		
15	Pastor's Discretionary Fund	400.00	50.00
16	Secretary	8,640.00	9,504.00
17	Social Security & Medicare	614.00	665.28
18	Music For Worship	250.00	250.00
19	Musicians	5,000.00	5,000.00
20	Director	2,925.00	2,925.00
21	Social Security & Medicare	207.86	207.86
22	Christian Education Materials	1,200.00	1,200.00
23	Church School Supplies	1,450.00	1,450.00
24	Kitchen Supplies	200.00	250.00
25	Office Supplies	4,000.00	2,706.00
26	Postage	900.00	900.00
27	Utilities	6,000.00	6,000.00
28	Electric & Water		
29	Gas		
30	Telephone		
31	Drinking Water		
32	Property Maint.	7,000.00	7,000.00
33	Janitorial Supplies	150.00	150.00
34	Janitorial Service	4,000.00	4,305.00
35	Social Security & Medicare	284.25	301.35
36	Conference Delegates	500.00	600.00
37	Camps & Workshops	500.00	500.00
38	Advertising	1,200.00	1,200.00
39	Pulpit Speakers	900.00	900.00
40	Nursery Attendants	1,200.00	1,200.00
41	Insurance	1,428.00	1,428.00
42	Fun & Fellowship	300.00	300.00
43	Archives	150.00	150.00
44	Miscellaneous	150.00	150.00
45	Printing - Newsletter & Bulletin	0	2,640.00
46	Retreat	1,500.00	1,500.00
48	Local Church Programs Subtotal	51,349.11	53,432.49

↑ cost?
M. Adams

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↓ See
Below.

new
email?

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN
1996 Budget, 1997 Proposed

Page 2

	1996 Budget	1997 Proposed
Cooperative Responsibilities		
Austin Metropolitan Ministries	600.00	600.00
Brazos Ass. Dues	300.00	300.00
Texas Conference of Churches	30.00	30.00
National Council of Churches	15.00	15.00
World Council of Churches	15.00	15.00
Regional Seminary Support	500.00	500.00
Eden Home	500.00	500.00
United Campus Ministry	100.00	100.00
Back Bay Mission	500.00	500.00
Slumber Falls Camp	100.00	100.00
Austin Interfaith	300.00	300.00
Huston Tillotson	500.00	500.00
University Area Partners	100.00	100.00
Community of Univ. Ministers	50.00	50.00
Texas Impact	100.00	100.00
Coop. Responsibilities Subtotal	3,710.00	3,710.00
TOTAL -- BUDGETED	108,878.61	113,153.04

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN
ANNUAL REPORT 1996

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

According to the Job Description for Church Officials, the members of the Board of Trustees are "responsible for the care and custody of all the property of the Congregational Church of Austin". This also includes "conducting the financial affairs of the church". The members of the Board this past year were Dave Ashton - Chairman, Ellen Deisler - Vice Chairman, Ellen Ryan - Secretary, Dennis Murphy - Representative to Coordinating Council, Ben White, Maggie Towery, and ex-officio members John Burlinson - Treasurer, Jean Appel - Financial Secretary, and Yoshi Kaneda - Pastor.

Some of the accomplishments and actions of the Board are as follows:

- The Congregation approved a spending budget for the year that exceeded the projected income by \$20,000. This required a close monthly review of our financial situation and precipitated occasional pleas for funds. However, through the grace of God and the generosity of our membership we finished the year spending only \$4,000 more than we collected. We finished last year with a \$4,000 surplus to balance us to even over the 2 year period.
- Financial accounts were transferred to different firms to receive better interest rates and better service.
- Leases for use of portions of our facility were executed with Choongyun Presbyterian Church (a Korean church that meets for worship on Sunday afternoons who also graciously provided us with a new public address amplifier), UCMA (United Campus Ministries of Austin), and Project Phase. Due to the nature of the mission of Project Phase, the extension of this lease was presented for consideration by the entire congregation. After a period of discussion and seeking insight, the congregation decided to extend the lease for one additional year, but terminate the lease at that point.
- At the recommendation of the Grant Request Committee, A new Youth Minister, Kay Lewis, was hired to accomplish the Christian Education proposals of the committee's grant request. She was provided with office space on the 3rd floor.
- Funds were expended as requested by the Building and Grounds Committee to perform essential repairs and maintenance on the church's facilities. Only repairs and maintenance that were considered essential (such as repair of safety controls on the boiler water system) were performed in keeping with the ongoing discussions of our future location. Refer to Building and Grounds Committee's report for further discussion of these items.

- Major repairs of the stained glass windows were continued with removal and repair of additional windows in the sanctuary.
- At the direction of the Congregation, the Austin Metropolitan Ministries' policies of operating a youth shelter during cold weather nights were investigated and found to be acceptable. Permission was given to AMM to use the "old" basement area to operate such a shelter.
- New hymnals were purchased at the direction of the Board of Deacons using funds from the Memorial Fund. A substantial amount of this money has been reimbursed through the dedication of hymnals by individual members.
- A new copier was procured through a leasing arrangement to serve our copying needs. This is an important method of distributing information and the old copier had become undependable due to its advanced age.
- A new vacuum cleaner was procured.
- Intercom devices that do not require additional wiring were procured to communicate from the Church office to Kay's office on the 3rd floor.
- Insurance funds were procured to repair damage resulting from a break-in to the basement area.
- The coverage of the Church's "umbrella" type liability insurance was investigated to determine the extent of coverage for items such as worker's compensation insurance.
- A new program with Randalls' supermarkets in which Randalls will contribute a percentage of designated purchases to the church.
- Hiring a security firm was investigated but found to be too expensive.

Other work is in progress and will be carried through by the new Board to be elected at this year's annual meeting. As Dennis Murphy and I complete our three year terms on the Board, I would like to thank the other board members for their diligent work and support, especially John Burlinson and Jean Appel for the great amount of time and energy they expend as Treasurer and Financial Secretary.

Dave Ashton
Chairman

*Vic requests
Trustees consider
alternate investments.
See p. 13 &*

BOARD OF DEACONS

ANNUAL REPORT-- 1996

The Board of Deacons is the component of the church most directly concerned with assisting the minister attend to the spiritual needs of church members and the community. They help the minister with all facets of the Sunday worship services as well as special services. They are responsible for preparing and serving Communion, and they oversee the Music Committee, greeters and acolytes, Fun and Fellowship Committee, and Publicity Committee. The deacons have oversight responsibility for expenditures from the Memorial Fund. They consider applicants for church membership and recommend their acceptance at called congregational meetings. They arrange for pulpit replacement in the absence of the minister, and they make a special effort to greet visitors and prospective members. They maintain up-to-date membership rolls, reviewing the status of inactive members and recommending action to the congregation when needed. A member serves on the Budget and Finance Committee and another serves on the Coordinating Council.

Members of the Board of Deacons during 19~~96~~⁹6 included Vic Appel, Steve Domingue, Catherine Hubbs (Secretary), Richard Jackson (vice-chair), Martha Miles (replacing Martha Wilding, who moved out of state last summer), and Tommie Pinkard (chair). The board also had two youth members: Craig Barrett and Nannette Strickland.

Special services during the year included Tenebrae and a Sunrise Service on Mount Bonnell at Easter; a special memorial service in November to honor members who died during the past year, and the annual Candlelight Service before Christmas, on December 22.

The past year cannot compete with 1995 in the "new" category, but 1966 did see the introduction, dedication, and use of the new *New Century Hymnal* during worship services. This year the choir appeared in beautiful new blue choir robes. Martha Wilding, before moving north, prepared the new name tags we wear every Sunday.

Also in the new category was the addition of Kay Lewis as youth minister. The deacons have been pleased to have this friendly, capable person in our midst and to work with her for the betterment of *all*.

Members and church friends were given the opportunity to purchase copies of the *New Century Hymnal* (at \$20 each) to honor or memorialize friends and family members. This program has been very successful, with the purchase of 80 hymnals. The money was put in the Memorial Fund, since the hymnals were originally purchased with memorial funds, and each hymnal bears a bookplate specifying the honoree.

In addition to sponsoring the hymnal memorials, the Board of Deacons recommended two special offerings during the past year, for the Burned Churches Fund, and the Just Peace Offering (in January 1997).

Board of Deacons Annual Report -2-

Guest preachers during 1996 included the Reverends Rich Thompson, David Felton (Conference Minister), and Bob Breihan, Dr. John Alsup, and our youth minister, Kay Lewis.

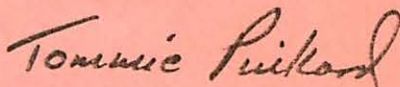
Deacons spent considerable time during the past year bringing the church membership rolls up to date, contacting long-lost members by telephone and letter to check their whereabouts and status. The deacons voted to delay publication of the new membership telephone directory until February 1997, when it could include 1997 officers and committee members.

The Fun and Fellowship committee under the direction of Suzanne Vanderpoel has been very busy this year. The potluck dinners and special receptions Suzanne and her committee organized have added immeasurably to the sense of community among our members. The deacons are grateful to Suzanne for planning these special times and seeing to it that there is plenty of delicious food as well as fun and fellowship. The deacons are grateful also to the chair of the publicity committee, Brian Prioleau, for the production and placement of special ads in the *Austin American-Statesman* and *Daily Texan*.

Special recognition should be given to Vic Appel (who is retiring from the board) for coordinating the greeters and acolytes, representing the board on the Coordinating Council and the Budget Committee, preparing a special banner to welcome returning university students, inducing newspaper reporters to attend a Sunday service, and carving a fourth parking space out of our limited parking area. We are grateful for his many ideas and efforts to improve our worship services and attract new members, and most particularly for his unflagging enthusiasm. Special thanks also go to Catherine Hubbs, our faithful scribe, for her accurate minute-taking and prompt distribution of the minutes to the members. Steve Domingue and Richard Jackson have also been quick to volunteer ideas and suggestions as well as their time. On April 21, Richard read a moving tribute to Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

We were also pleased with the contributions of our two youth members, Craig Barrett and Nannette Strickland, who were often able to contribute different viewpoints and fresh ideas to our discussions. We all miss Martha Wilder, who served as vice chair until she moved away, and we are grateful to Martha Miles, whose willingness to come on board at mid-year brought us another contributing Martha.

Respectfully submitted,



Tommie Pinkard, Chair

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ANNUAL REPORT, 1996

This has been an exciting year to be part of the the Board of Christian Education. In August Mrs. Kay Lewis came on board as Youth Minister and consultant/planner for Sunday School services. Kay's knowledge and helpful spirit gave us all a new enthusiasm for our task. We are grateful to the Gillum Fund, administered by the Texas Methodist Foundation, for making this position possible.

In addition to the ongoing church school activities, the year was marked by the following special events:

- o Church School Sunday (May 19): Craig Barrett, speaker.
- o Confirmation of Andrew Barrett (May 26).
- o Special intergenerational events:
 - Movie party (September 20)
 - Pumpkin carving (October 26)
 - Advent wreath making (November 23)
- o Reading of an Advent playlet, "Gabriel's Dilemma," by members of the Board of Christian Education (December 8).
- o Sunday School Students Christmas Pageant, "Christmas Around the World" (December 15).

Kay Lewis has prepared and administered questionnaires for students and parents. She has interviewed church school students individually, and mailed questionnaires to parents. When she has analyzed the responses, Kay should have a data base to assist in redesigning and improving our programs for children and youth.

The Board would like to express its appreciation to the Sunday School staff (listed on the next page), that wonderful group of dedicated volunteers without whom none of the above activities could have taken place, and also to those of you in the congregation who, while not on the staff, have volunteered to help with various children's activities during. And the entire congregation owes a special thanks to Susan Ashton for another year of outstanding service as Superintendent.

As chair of the Board, I want to express my own personal thanks to my fellow board members: Paul Deisler, who carried out the curriculum evaluation and whose work as secretary made me a better organized chairman than I am prone to be; Michael Adams, who reviewed classroom furnishings and resources; Julie Lindsey, for taking responsibility for writing to students who have been absent from Sunday School; and to the *ex officio* members, Susan Ashton and Kay Lewis. This was a board that did not want to spend all its time in talk, review, and oversight, but wanted to participate in our children's programs.

In my mind, the Christian nurturance of our children and youth is, after the worship of God, the most important function of the church. We have been blessed this year, and with the assistance of you all the coming year can bring even greater blessings.

Doyal Pinkard

Doyal Pinkard, Chair, BCE

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN
472-2370
SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF FOR 1996-1997

SUPERINTENDENT: Mrs. Susan Ashton 451-4606
5802 Bullard Dr. 78757
YOUTH MINISTER: Mrs. Kay Lewis 345-7544
8863 Mountain Ridge Circle 78759
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Mrs. Pat Oakes 442-0521
2507 Briargrove 78704-2703

NURSERY BABYSITTER (Paid Job): _____

SUPERVISOR DURING WORSHIP (Paid Job): _____

	TEACHER	ASSISTANT TEACHER
<u>PRE-SCHOOL - KINDERGARTEN</u> (2 - 6 yrs. old)	Mrs. Susan Ashton	_____
<u>PRIMARY - INTERMEDIATE</u> (7 - 10 yrs. old)	Mrs. Carol Barrett 328-4307 4 Muir Lane 78746	Dr. Lynne Lemley 835-8283 8705 Brookfield Dr. 78753
<u>JUNIORS</u> (11 yrs. old and up)	Dr. Mel Oakes 442-0521 2507 Briargrove 78704	Mr. John Burlinson 795-9222 4502 Andalusia 78759
<u>YOUTH DISCUSSION GROUP</u> (High School Students)	Mr. Brian Prioleau 447-6605 1500 Eastside Dr. #102 78704	_____
<u>COLLEGE CLASS</u>	Mr. Doyal Pinkard 327-0607 813 Castle Ridge Rd. 78746	
<u>ADULT CLASS</u>	Mr. Steven Domingue 707-1287 908 Bodark 78745	Dr. David Ross 451-1114 6705 Lexington Rd. 78757
<u>CONFIRMATION CLASS</u> (8th Grader)	Rev. Yoshi Kaneda 472-2370	Mrs. Kay Lewis 345-7544
<u>SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS</u> (for all classes)	_____	

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD, 1996-1997 (Members will serve as substitute teachers)

Mr. Doyal Pinkard 327-0607 Mr. Michael Adams 892-7757 Dr. Paul Deisler 478-9403
Mrs. Ida Little 282-0367 Mrs. Julie Lindsay 835-5011 Mrs. Lynn Loomis 257-0500

REPORT OF THE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE OF THE
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN (UCC) FOR 1996

The starting point for the Committee's work in 1996 was a long list of needed work prepared in 1995 with a total, estimated cost exceeding \$85,000 -- far beyond the financial resources available (the 1996 budget for buildings and grounds maintenance was \$7,000). Facing this large work load, the Committee agreed to meet monthly (on the fourth Sunday), except where there was no reason for meeting or in case of unavoidable conflict; also, evening working sessions would be held as needed.

Objectives Set For 1996 were: (a) to hold two all-congregation work days (Spring and Fall); (b) to hold a walk-through inspection to amplify the 1995 list of needed work; (c) to set criteria for prioritizing the combined work list; (d) to prioritize the combined work list; and (e) to accomplish as much work, in order of priority, as possible, within budgetary and other constraints.

Constraints were: (a) **budgetary**, keeping in mind that the ability to spend the buildings and grounds maintenance budget would be limited by the income to, and spending needs of, the Church as a whole; (b) **availability of volunteer workers**; and (c) **possible relocation of the Church** (items that might be desirable in the long term but not absolutely needed in the short term, pending a move decision, would be given lower priority).

Criteria for selecting work priorities meeting the above objectives and constraints were established so as to give highest priority to proposed work if it (a) was necessary for safety, security or liability reasons and/or (b) was needed to preserve the buildings and grounds, to keep the buildings immediately habitable, and to keep necessary equipment in operating condition; but priority would also be given if (c) it would, without great expenditure, maintain the appearance, attractiveness and/or accessibility of the buildings and grounds and/or (d) would add to the convenience of use of the buildings and grounds. Items not meeting these criteria adequately would be listed but deferred for the time being. These criteria were used together, as applicable to each item of work, to place the items of work into one of three classes of priority.

Items meeting criteria (a) and (b) would be given highest priority followed by (c) -- except that grounds maintenance, especially gardening, is a "must" -- and, then, by (d). Items meeting criterion (d), alone, would be addressed only on an "if-possible-within-resources" basis and if addressing them would not interfere with higher priority work. Improvements (as opposed to maintenance) would be made only if no significant change in the buildings or grounds were involved, if desired by relevant individuals or committees, and if the conditions of criterion (d) were met. Major changes to buildings or grounds, even if of low

cost, would need to be approved by relevant committees, the Board of Trustees, and/or the Pastor, depending on the changes proposed.

Objectives accomplished include objectives (a) - (d) listed above and progress was made on objective (e). Also, an additional gardening-only work day was held in mid-Summer and many volunteers worked throughout the year on both buildings and grounds maintenance projects. The Committee met nine times in 1996 as agreed, and held two evening working sessions for planning purposes.

The Committee has also identified a list of items that need to be accomplished routinely; a few of these may be accomplished by the custodian on a weekly basis but others will have to be pursued by the Committee (for example, replacing the air-conditioning filters once a year or more often, depending on usage). At year's end, a number of projects were in progress. Here, however, are some examples of specific items of work completed in 1996 to give an idea of the scope of the work this Church continues to need (please see a full, internal, Committee report dated January 23, 1996, which is on file, if further detail is desired).

(A) Some examples of completed items meeting criterion (a): new timer lights on the Fellowship Hall porch; non-skid strips on the Towering Wing stairs; white strips marking the edges of the stairs from the Fellowship Hall to the basement; hand railings for the steep steps at the front of the Sanctuary; repair of the boiler, especially, of the low-water cutoff (also meets criterion (b)); fixing the broken sidewalk in front of the Church; repair of the outside step into the Sunday School assembly room; installation of a functioning lock on the door to the compartment containing the sump pump; and placing a carbon monoxide detector in the basement beneath the Sanctuary.

(B) Some examples of completed items meeting criterion (b): repair of the air-conditioning system; reconditioning and varnishing most of the outer doors of the buildings (also meets criterion (c)); repair of the fold-out table in the kitchen next to the Fellowship Hall; repair of the pair of stained glass windows on the southwest side of the Sanctuary and securing in place all other stained glass windows to prevent further damage; and deep-cleaning and polishing the asphalt tile floors in the Towering Wing (also meets criterion (c)).

(C) Some examples of completed items meeting criterion (c): several items of repair were completed on the third floor of the Towering Wing to make it attractive and convenient for use (some of these would also meet criterion (b)); addition of a trellis at the front of the garden; painting of the handrail to the main entrance to the Sanctuary; general cleanup of the buildings and

grounds and the elimination of trash or other unwanted items (done during the work days); and creating a fourth parking space which permits the reservation of two handicapped spaces on Sundays (a relatively major change and improvement to the premises). A continuous gardening effort was maintained, year round.

(D) Some examples of completed items meeting criterion (d): installation of ribbons in the Sanctuary where name tags may be conveniently kept; installation of a lock high up on the inside of the Nursery door (for privacy for nursing mothers); installation of an electrical outlet near the coffee table in the Fellowship Hall (also helps meet criterion (a) since canisters of hot coffee need no longer be carried where they might spill, especially on the children).

These items and others were accomplished at a total cost somewhat below budget. Achieving this was aided by the fact that much volunteer time, and some of the materials used on various projects, were donated.

Items handled by Project Phase include such repairs as they were able to effect following the two completed break-ins and the one attempted break-in in the area they use in 1996. Damage connected with the last break-in exceeded the ability of Project Phase to repair simply; at this point in time it has been determined by the Trustees that insurance may pay to repair this damage. Project Phase also replaced the door to the alley.

Major needs are still pending as revealed, again, in the walk-around inspection and during the work days. These are items involving major effort and cost; many of them will need hired, professional attention. Such items include: repair of the fire escape system for the Towery Wing (what it will take to address this last item was under investigation at year's end; a criterion (a) item); renovation of the wiring system of the Church (it was found, especially during the second work day, to be old, with the insulation in poor shape; a criterion (a) item); addressing the condition of the roofs of the buildings, especially for the Towery Wing (which may need some redesign to prevent the entrance of water into the building, particularly on the north side) but also elsewhere where there is evidence of water intrusion (a criterion (b) item); and painting, inside and out (criteria (b) and (c) items). Many of these items will have to be deferred or will only be addressable in part, especially in the light of the possibility of moving.

Items which should be attended to in 1997, despite the pending move decision, are: repair of the fire escape system for the Towery Wing; repair and preservation of window and door frames (some are in such bad shape that they provide points of entry for water into the structures of the buildings); repair and/or

replacement of electrical light switches (especially those controlling lights needed for safety reasons such as at the head of the stairs from the Fellowship Hall to the basement); and installation of a timer-controller on the A/C system for the Tower Wing, an item with a very short, direct, cost payout (less than a year). In addition, there are smaller items not addressed this year -- and new ones will crop up.

Some conclusions reached from this year's experience are:

(a) the listing, and continual updating of listings, of work needed, and its prioritization according to defined criteria, while time-consuming, has proven useful in deciding what the Committee has needed to do and to getting work done; (b) having regular Committee meetings throughout the year, with recorded minutes, is immensely valuable in setting priorities and splitting up tasks among Committee members (and the somewhat lengthier working sessions proved valuable, too); (c) having a walk-around inspection was a very helpful way in which to develop a basic list of needed work, along with other observations by individuals (two walk-around inspections might be better, in future, than one); and (d) the way in which the second work day was organized proved effective in getting a large number of complicated tasks done. For the second work day, the list of prioritized work was categorized by type of work and specific members of the Committee and of the congregation were asked to take responsibility for each category of work, for recruiting teams to do the work, for planning the work, and for securing the materials and tools needed for the work. Finally, the members of the Committee, individually, need to continue to be committed, as they were in 1996, to working hard: on the Committee and on the maintenance of the buildings and grounds.

Paul F. Deisler, Jr.

Paul F. Deisler, Jr.
Co-Chair -- Buildings

Kathleen Strong

Kathleen Strong,
Co-Chair -- Grounds

Annual Report of the Music Committee—1996
The Congregational Church of Austin

How can we properly thank the musicians, both paid and unpaid, who have contributed their talent and devotion to our church program?

Florence Castle, our pianist, continues to be the mainstay of our congregational worship experience. By accompanying the choir, by selecting, rehearsing and performing the service music and the special music with the trio, she provides the skeleton which supports the body of the worship service. Her talent and experience are a beautiful gift to our congregation each Sunday.

Felicia Day has been a faithful member of the trio for over a year and a half now. She lifts our spirits each time she plays for us. She was selected to solo in a Mendelssohn violin concerto with the University of Texas Orchestra, quite a distinction for someone so young, but not surprising to us. (We are all proud parents!)

Michella Maiorano was our cellist for some time, but she left us in December in order to pursue her studies at another university. Jana Hunn has played with the trio periodically and is currently our cellist. Both of these women have been wonderful additions to the trio and have created a lovely blend with Florence and Felicia.

A church choral program is only as strong as the choir members who faithfully show up week after week to rehearse, robe up, and sing during the worship service. We are fortunate to have loyal and talented singers in our choir who find joy in singing God's praise. My thanks to all of them.

It has been a busy year for the music program at our church. We led off with an incredibly successful talent show (32 acts!) to raise money for new choir robes. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation—who gave of talent and money—we raised more than enough to purchase the new blue robes with stoles. We wore them for the first time on Thanksgiving Sunday—and were very thankful.

After much discussion we purchased the New Century Hymnal as an additional aid to our church worship. We dedicated the new hymnals in October and already more than three-fourths of them have been paid for in honor or in memory of loved ones by members or friends of our congregation. Once again the generosity of those who support our music program has been overwhelming. For several months we have tried to use one hymn from the new hymnal in each worship service. For the next few months we will try using the new hymnal one week, and the Pilgrim Hymnal the next. We are hoping that this will result in less confusion and in more coherent services. We will use the Psalter from the new hymnal again during Lent, but this time we'll try reading the scripture, then singing the response.

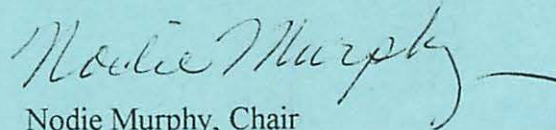
Melanie Wilkinson, a much loved, adopted daughter of our church, sang her Master's recital at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, and 27 of us attended her performance and reception. She was very touched by the response, as we have been touched by her music.

The Rosses purchased some new music for the Joyful Noise Band. We had some new performers, a new director, some new instruments and a lot of fun playing in the band. I even brought my new saxophone and achieved the dubious honor of being the only musician ever thrown out of the Joyful Noise Band. But this was a great sign, because it meant that the band is definitely improving!

Christmas was a wonderful time for music: we had guest soloists, instrumentalists, special services—we even had an anthem with combined adult and children's choirs. Kay Lewis has been teaching music to the children and they have sung several times for us.

We are, in fact, all a part of the church music program—for we all sing the hymns, help with the introits and dismissals, chant the responses, and react to the music being played or sung for us. As a member of this congregation, I am grateful to be part of a singing church, a church that loves music and appreciates the qualities necessary to create beautiful music. As co-choir director, I wish to thank Norma Hawes in particular, for her contribution of time and talent to our music program. She helps select the music, accompanies the choir during rehearsals, helps direct the choir, and supports and counsels me.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nodie Murphy". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nodie Murphy, Chair
The Music Committee

One year Terms

Office	Incumbents	Nominees
Financial Secretary	Jean Appel	Jean Appel
Treasurer	John Burlinson	John Burlinson
Coordinating Council, member at large	Carol Barrett	Victor Appel
Church School Superintendent	Susan Ashton	Susan Ashton
Historian	Lisa Kirch	<i>Lisa Kirch</i>
Publicity	Brian Prioleau	Victor Appel
Austin Metropolitan Ministry	Fran Briggs Ben White	Fran Briggs <i>Frances Holliday Altord</i>
Austin Interfaith	Flo Chiles Kathleen Strong Mary Charles Williams	Flo Chiles Kathleen Strong Mary Charles Williams
Brazos Association Rep.	Sara Ross	Tommie Pinkard
[1] University Area Partners	—	Paula Fracasso

Three Year Terms

Office	Incumbents	Nominees
Moderator	1996-98 Fran Briggs	—
[2] Delegate to South Central Conf.	1996-98 Rambie Briggs	—
[3] Clerk	Valentino Herrera	1997-99 Tommie Pinkard
[4] Enlistment & Stewardship Committee 1 year term as Director 1 year term as Assistant	Doyal Pinkard Rambie Briggs	1997-99 David Ashton (Director 1997) 1997-98 Rambie Briggs (Assistant 1997)
[5] Music Committee 1 year term as Chair member member	Nodie Murphy — —	1997-99 Sara Ross (Chair 1997) 1997-98 Mary Sinclair 1997 Mary Tomasek
Board of Trustees	1994-96 David Ashton Dennis Murphy 1995-97 Maggie Towery Ben White 1996-98 Ellen Deisler Ellen Ryan	1997-99 George Lemley David Ross Youth members (1 year): Robin Rosson
Board of Deacons	1994-96 Vic Appel Tommie Pinkard 1995-97 Cathy Hubbs Richard Jackson 1996-98 Steven Domingue Martha Miles Youth members (1 year): Nanette Strickland Craig Barrett	1997-99 James Tomasek Suzanne Vanderpoel Youth members (1 year): Craig and Andrew Barrett Nanette Strickland
Board of Christian Education	1994-96 Doyal Pinkard Julie Lindsay 1995-97 — Paul Deisler 1996-98 Michael Adams Lynn Loomis Youth members (1 year): Robin Rosson Heather Herst	1997-99 Carol Barrett Brian Prioleau 1995-97 Doyal Pinkard Youth members (1 year): Ned Murphy Jonathon Ashton
Nominating Committee	1994-96 Susan Ashton 1995-97 Sara Ross 1996-98 David Ross	1997-99 Pat Oakes

Notes on changes required by new Bylaws (approved March 31, 1996)

- [1] University Area Partners added. Delegates to external organizations not listed in Bylaws, but terms of office are one year by Art. IV., Sec. 8.
- [2] Delegate to S. Central Conf. now a 1 year term, according to Art. IV., Sec. 8 (reps. to external orgs.).
- [3] Clerk changed from 1-year to 3-year term, Art. IV, Sec. 6.
- [4] Enlistment Director and Missions & Stewardship combined into Enlistment & Stewardship Committee, Art. XII, Sec. 2 and 3. Terms of members of standing committees are 3 years, staggered, Art. IV, Sec. 6. Officers (chosen from members) elected to 1 year terms by Art. XII, Sec. 3.
- (5) Music Committee re-established with 3 elected members, including chair, Art. XI, Sec. 1 & 2. Terms of members are 3 years, staggered, Art. IV, Sec. 6. Chair (chosen from members) elected to 1 year term by Art. XI, Sec. 2.