

# ANNUAL REPORT

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 25, 1998  
(Review of 1997)

AGENDA

CONVENE: 12:45 pm

- ✓CALL TO ORDER:
- ✓INVOCATION

Fran Briggs, Moderator

REPORTS

- ✗ Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting
- ✓ Financial Secretary's Report
- ✓ Treasurer's Report
- ✓ Clerk (Vital Statistics)

Tino Herrera  
Jean Appel  
John Burlinson  
Tommie Pinkard

OTHER REPORTS

Boards and Committees

- ✓ Trustees
- ✓ Deacons
- ✓ Christian Education
- ✓ Building & Grounds Maintenance
- ✓ Publicity Committee

Reports of Relocation Committees

- ✓ Property Sale
- ✓ Site Selection
- ✓ Vision/Mission
- ✓ Capital Funds

Chairs:  
Ben White  
Dick Jackson  
Doyal Pinkard  
Kathleen Strong  
Vic Appel

George Lemley  
(Dave Ashton) Paul D.  
Dick Jackson  
Raubie Briggs

BUSINESS

- ✓ 1) Election of Officers
- ✓ 2) Adoption of 1998 Budget
- ✓ 3) Revision to Bylaws

*(Discussion of Youth)* This was good I think.

*referred to  
coord council*

AFFIRMATION

Coordinating Council Members (one minute each)

ADJOURNMENT: 3:00 pm

**\*\*** Board of Trustees <sup>ii</sup> must reconsider use of Meth. Foundation funds.

Congregational Church of Austin  
Congregation Meeting, March 16, 1997

Moderator Fran Briggs called the meeting to order immediately following Sunday worship service on March 16. She made comments regarding the practice of "voting" on applicants for church membership which had been questioned at a previous meeting. She said we should understand that this vote offers us the opportunity to affirm and welcome new members.

The moderator recognized Stephen Domingue who on behalf of the Board of Deacons moved that the congregation affirm as members Bree Domingue, Robin Rosson, Conrad and Julia Deisler, and Suzanne Bradford and John Moore. David Ashton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned, following a motion by Rev. Kaneda.

Tommie Pinkard, Clerk

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

Congregation Meeting, April 20, 1997

Moderator Fran Briggs brought the meeting to order on Sunday, April 20, 1997, immediately following the worship service. She recognized the chair of the deacons, Dick Jackson.

Dick Jackson moved that the congregation approve the deacons' recommendation that the following be accepted for membership by acclamation: Joseph E. and Marylu Mills, and Rev. Michael Sparkman. The motion was seconded by Pat Oakes. Motion carried unanimously.

There was no further business at this meeting, and Pat Oakes moved that it be adjourned. Motion carried.

Tommie Pinkard, clerk.≥.

Congregational Church of Austin

Called Congregational Meeting May 4, 1997

The meeting was called to order at 12:45 by moderator Fran Briggs. The clerk attested that there was a quorum present.

Vic Appel moved that we use a written ballot for the important vote for which this meeting was called. Michael Adams seconded the motion, and it carried.

Jim Tomasek moved on behalf of the coordinating council that we relocate the church to a new site and that we initiate a capital fund campaign for that purpose. Doyal Pinkard seconded the motion.

Several members spoke in favor of this motion. One member declared she was not in favor, but she would support the action of the congregation.

Following the discussion, the clerk distributed paper ballots. The marked ballots were collected and counted by Richard Jackson and the clerk. The vote was 42 in favor of the motion, 6 against, and one abstaining, for a total of 49 votes. At present, the church has 104 members, so 47% participated in the voting.

There being no further business, Pat Oakes moved the meeting be adjourned. It was adjourned as the congregation sang the Doxology.

Respectfully submitted,

Tommie Pinkard, Clerk.

Congregational Church of Austin  
Called Meeting, June 1, 1997

The meeting was called to order immediately following the morning worship service by Moderator Fran Briggs. She recognized David Ross, member of the Nominating Committee, who reported that the committee wished to nominate Betsy Ferguson to fill a vacancy on the Board of Trustees. He moved that this nomination be approved.

The motion was carried unanimously by a voice vote.

There being no further business, Michael Adams and Pat Oakes simultaneously moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Tommie Pinkard, Clerk.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

Congregation Meeting August 10, 1997

Moderator Fran Briggs brought the meeting to order at noon following Sunday worship services. Purpose of the meeting was to inform the congregation of steps taken to organize our efforts to relocate the church.

There will be four committees:

Vision, led by the board of Deacons, and focus of the October retreat;

Property Sale, led by the board of Trustees, Dennis Murphy, chair;

Capital Campaign, co-chaired by Rambie Briggs and Tommie Pinkard;

Site Selection, chaired by Dave Ashton.

Fran Briggs posted a sheet naming the four committees and asked the church members present to select a committee to work on and add their names to the roster for that committee.

The congregation meeting adjourned, and the various committees met briefly to schedule planning sessions.

Respectfully submitted,

Tommie Pinkard, Clerk

## CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

Congregation Meeting September 21, 1997

In the absence of the moderator, church clerk Tommie Pinkard called the meeting to order following Sunday worship services. She recognized Dick Jackson, chair of the Board of Deacons, who reported that the deacons had four candidates for membership in the church. Dick moved that the following candidates be received as members: Sharon and Don Brown, Loretta Lewis, and David Rossitter. His motion was seconded and approved by acclamation.

The new members were welcomed, and, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tommie Pinkard, Clerk.

Minutes  
Congregational Meeting, November 9, 1997

Moderator Fran Briggs called the meeting to order immediately following Sunday morning worship services. She expressed the thanks of the church to members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee who have been very busy cleaning, painting, and repairing our property during the past several weeks. She presented roses to the members who were present: Matt Blackstock, Mary Sinclair, Ben White, Vic Appel, John Moore, Kathleen Strong (Chair), and also recognized others who were not present: Stella Morrison, George Carruthers, Dale Montayne, and Betsy Ferguson.

For the Nominating Committee, David Ross moved to nominate Marylu Mills to fill a vacancy (1997-1999 term) on the Board of Christian Education. Doyal Pinkard seconded the nomination, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ben White moved that the church be opened to host homeless youth on freezing nights during the coming winter. He had previously received the approval for this from the Coordinating Council and the Board of Trustees. The only expense to the church will be utilities. Also, a toilet may need to be repaired. Ben asked that anyone who wished to help with this project, by being on the premises on the freezing nights or by providing food, should contact him. The motion was seconded by Matt Blackstock, and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the chair entertained a motion by Michael Adams to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Tommie Pinkard, Clerk.

Minutes, Congregational Meeting  
December 28, 1997

The meeting was called to order following the Sunday worship service by Acting Moderator Ben White. Vic Appel verified that a quorum was present.

Vic Appel moved, and Matt Blackstock seconded the motion, that as part of participation in the Austin Metropolitan Ministries program for the homeless on freezing nights, the church basement be opened to homeless male adults or homeless youth (but not together), depending on the need.

Motion was approved, and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tommie Pinkard, Clerk

## A CHURCH ON THE EDGE

"A Church on the Edge" was a caption of a two page feature story by Juan Palomo, religion writer of the Austin American Statesman, published January 13, 1997. Thanks to Vic Appel who invited him to come to visit us, for months with persistence. Finally, Juan was convinced to interview us and participated in our worship service on Sunday, January 5, 1997. He did a great job of presenting who we are, where we are going and why we are doing what we do, to the public. (Only two items of the whole article were not factual.) We have heard nothing but compliments, praises and joys expressed in "discovering and rediscovering" our church, from our families, friends, neighbors and colleagues. As a matter of fact, on January 13, Monday, nobody could go out because of that terrible ice storm and presumably everybody had enough time to read through the newspaper. Lucky us! A stream of visitors came to worship at our church Sunday after Sunday because of that newspaper article.

Palm Sunday was a joyous occasion when Bree Hawes-Domingue and Robin Rosson were confirmed and joined our church presenting their paper on "What I Intend to Do as a Member" which were reproduced in our newsletter, "The Visitor" in the April issue. Youthfulness of this sort keeps many of our "aging" members going and we will keep needing rejuvenation from within, for sure. Did you know we had thirteen new members added to our number this past year? By God's grace, we hope this trend will continue. Juan observed, "It is a thriving, vibrant family-oriented church that is heavily and intimately involved in social action and embraces visitors with a warmth and joyfulness that is at times overwhelming."

Easter Sunrise Service at Mt. Bonnell was overcrowded and very meaningful for all. Thanks to Jim Tomasek, Melanie Wilkinson, Deacons and Publicity Committee members who did a superb job for this to happen. All Church Easter Celebration added more singing, inspiration and nurturing by Holy Communion to tell the world our resurrection affirmation with joy and dancing. Worship service has been and will be the central act of our faith pilgrimage. Thank God, our worship service has never been a boring experience! All Saints Day Service, Thanksgiving Service and Christmas Services have been observed from different perspectives and approaches but for only one purpose: To glorify God. Someone said, "A living church is a singing and giving church." Thanks to our Choir, musicians and singing congregation. We have learned how to sing praises from both the Pilgrim and New Century Hymnals. In our kind of church, both traditionalists and modernists can live together, respecting each other. As far as I know, not many churches are using the two hymnals alternately.

Sunday, May 4, marked an important step for our future life. At the congregational meeting duly called, we voted for the recommendation from the Coordinating Council to relocate our church to a new site and to initiate a capital fund campaign for that purpose. Building Fund Committee, Site Selection Committee, Property Sale Committee and Vision/Mission Committee started to meet. Their efforts have been visible through our newsletter, report on Sundays and displays. Although committee members have been filled with anxieties of going into an "unknown" area, they have also been filled with sound enthusiasm and determination for a brighter future of our life together. Our motto? "We can, if we will."

We saw the largest attendance ever at our Fall Church Retreat at Slumber Falls. Thanks to each participant who exercised his/her vote to determine the Four Action Verbs for Our Shared Vision! Serve, Seek, Worship and Teach. Although no single Vision Statement among six was voted with a majority, we've got the basic Four Action Verbs to move on. We will see what happens at our Spring Retreat with Joe Malayang as our leader. If we can create a "Mission Statement" for our building needs, praise God. If we cannot, we might want to agree with our burning spirit for "God's Mission." Mission is not a bunch of words, but our faith at work in God's world.

Oh, all of us give a Big THANKS to our Building and Grounds Maintenance Committee and all volunteers! Three cheers to them all! The outlook of our long-neglected exterior maintenance was turned upside down for the better. We had never received such comments as "O, your church looks beautiful!" from our guests until this past year. Really our buildings look GOOOOOD now. Sunday School classrooms were newly painted too. They are attractive to be honest. No one can deny the fact that the very value of our property has risen up sharply by these men and women who worked so HARD to achieve the goal. The ugly decaying look was converted into a shining classic outlook to prove your love for your church. Now, our dilemma comes in, "We don't want to move out of here!"

I know I only touched upon the surface of our church's life in 1997. It has been another good year by God's grace. I am grateful to my colleague, Kay Lewis, Louise Whitworth, Daniel Zachary, Flo Castle, Musicians, Nodie Murphy, Norma Hawes and Choir Members, Susan Ashton, Sunday School Teachers, John Burlinson, Jean Appel, Church Officers, Board Members and Committee Members, and my Clergy Colleagues and Lay Preachers for their willingness to serve, teach, preach and minister to. Yes, all of you have made our life rich and rewarding the past year. So, I THANK YOU!

Yoshi Kaneda

## SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S WORK

Areas of Concern addressed:

**PLANT** Some classes have been moved around to make better use of the space available. More use is being made of the third floor where the Youth Minister's office is situated and where the lounge area is now being used for the newly-formed Junior Hi group. A Resource Center which has recently been set up is also situated on the third floor opposite the Youth Minister's office.

The ground floor Sunday School rooms have been painted by volunteers with a view to making the surroundings more appealing. Once more funds become available, the classrooms on the second floor will also be refurbished.

Even though the church members have voted to move, it is important that the rooms be as inviting as possible at present. Ideally, we should be building up the Sunday School before the move so that we can start strongly in a new location. Display areas and corkboard are to be mounted on the walls to display the children's work and a bulletin board has been purchased and mounted in the Fellowship Room so that the congregation can become more familiar with the children and their lives.

**TEACHERS** Two teachers' meetings have been held at the home of the youth minister this year. In this more informal setting there has been a good exchange of ideas and concerns.

We aim to have at least two teachers available for each class (plus a back-up, if possible.) The new "One Room Sunday School" curriculum should help share the teaching load and take some of the pressure off the teachers in the lower classes (ages 2-9.)

Since the classes have begun, the Youth Minister has sat in on each class in rotation with a view to observing, supporting and advising teachers while assessing the efficacy of the current curricular materials.

**CURRICULUM** Dissatisfaction having been expressed with the previous curriculum, "The Inviting Word," other curricula were studied. The loan of "Group" materials which teachers could take home to study, was helpful, as were materials made available by the Presbyterian Resource Center. The Director of the Center met with the Chairman of the Board of Christian Education and the Youth Minister and discussed the various options available. Attendance at the Sunday School Teachers' Conference, visits to bookstores selling religious materials and perusal of various catalogs received through the mail enabled the Youth Minister to become aware of the extent of materials available.

Having reviewed various curricula, the Pre-School/ Kindergarten and Primary/Intermediate teachers have opted to use the Cokesbury "One Room Sunday School" material this year. The original research proposal had raised the possibility of adopting a "one-room" approach, so this gives us an opportunity to try it out. It is hoped that shared responsibility for preparation and

leading will spread the teaching load more equitably and help overcome some of the staffing problems inherent in a small church. My observations are that the children are certainly more actively involved this year and seem to enjoy Sunday School more. The two lead teachers take turn about each month preparing the materials and seem to be satisfied with this system even though preparation takes many more hours than the previous curriculum.

After discussion with the leaders of the Junior class (ages 11-14) it was decided that this group should concentrate on New Testament themes, it being felt that the children had already been exposed to many Old Testament stories in the younger classes. As children proceed directly to Confirmation Class from this group, it seems logical that they should be well acquainted with the New Testament foundations of the faith. The Youth Minister provided various materials for the teachers' consideration: The Gospel of Mark (based on video and discussion booklet); "Jesus Then and Now" (a book and two video-based scheme); The Life and Journeys of Paul (videos and booklet); and "Real People of the Bible" (a Cokesbury book-based theme.) Rather than follow a year-long lectionary-based syllabus, teaching is done through a series of topics. As this group customarily involves a lot of discussion, this should work well. After due consideration, the "Jesus Then and Now" material was selected and seems to be successful thus far.

Shortly after the commencement of Sunday School classes we lost the services of Brian who had ably led the Senior Hi class. Fortunately we were able to obtain an excellent substitute in Doyal Pinkard. This class has opted to study a series of topics. The book of Job was studied and supplementary material which the Youth Minister had obtained on her last visit to Scotland proved to be very useful. At present John Polkinghorne's book, "Quarks, Chaos and Christianity" is being used. Recently Mel Oakes visited the class and gave his perspective from a theological and scientific point of view. In the future it is planned to invite other members of the congregation to visit this class.

**PUNCTUALITY** By the end of the last Sunday School year, punctuality was still a problem, despite being repeatedly raised as an area of concern. The new curriculum for the younger classes with its built-in gathering time and the use of a cassette for the music may help to overcome this problem, but much still depends on the effort of the teacher in charge for that week.

**ATTENDANCE** A glance at the Attendance Chart in the Sunday School entrance hall will show how erratic this is. It is most noticeable in the youngest class where the attendance can be three one week and eleven the next. The absence of a couple of families with more than one child makes a big difference in a small church such as ours. Our new curriculum demands a lot of preparation on the part of the teachers and considerable duplication of materials and it can be wasteful and discouraging when few children are present. Of course, we are not the only church with this problem: the pressures of modern living, children staying with their other parent some weekends, alternative activities which take children out of town and illness all deplete our numbers. Our survey showed that parents want a good Christian education for their children, so we are dependent on the parents' *commitment* and sense of *priorities*.

**SECURITY/SAFETY** The safety of our children is still an ongoing concern in this church which does not have a "child-friendly" plant and is situated in a city center location. A note to parents

was drafted pointing out that they are responsible for their children immediately following the church service and during the Fellowship Hour. A map of the church buildings showing "safe" areas was distributed to parents.

**FOLDERS** Children aged 2-10 are provided with folders which are prepared by the Youth Minister for distribution after "Children's Time" each Sunday. These contain a lectionary-related worksheet, blank sheets of paper and crayons or colored pencils. Children are encouraged to take the sheets home with them weekly. It is hoped that a volunteer from the congregation will eventually take over the weekly preparation of these folders.

**INTERGENERATIONAL NIGHTS** These have been very worthwhile. Activities have included Movie Nights, Pumpkin Carving and Advent Wreath Making. It had been suggested that this year we hold these meetings twice monthly, but this has proved to be impracticable. It would be good if we could incorporate some aspect of service into some of these meetings, e.g., a work project or helping at the food bank. It is not possible to find a night which suits everyone. Those families who have children in high school often are involved in football games on Friday nights, so this gives an in-built bias towards families with younger children.

Since September we have held three Intergenerational evenings: Movie Night, Pumpkin Carving and Wreath and Decoration Making. At the latter two meetings the Youth Minister has conducted a short introductory session which has woven in an appropriate religious theme.

**YOUTH WORK** Examination of the questionnaires administered to parents and youth confirmed that both adults and children lead very busy lives. Week night meetings were judged to be impossible--even if youth were somewhat interested in a mid-week meeting, examination of the parents' questionnaires indicated that their schedules did not permit the transportation of their children to weekday meetings.

The majority of 12-14year olds questioned expressed interest in some kind of a youth group and so I proposed to start with them. As weekday meetings were not possible and I observed that several of the youth arrived early on Sunday mornings and had nothing to do, I suggested meeting at 9.20am, prior to normal Sunday School classes.

Especially in a small church, I think it is important to start on a small scale where we are and build slowly, but steadily. These Sunday morning sessions are more informal, being held in the third floor lounge and accompanied by drinks and snacks. I hope that eventually the youth themselves will help plan these sessions. I did solicit their opinions with regard to topics of concern during the summer and found a wide range of interests. Since we have to start somewhere, we used a scheme by Total Network, "On the Air" which dealt with such topics as 'Anger,' 'Blame,' and 'Can I be a Christian without being Weird?' Videos are used as introductions to these topics and then there is time for discussion. I deliberately planned subject matter which would be relevant to the young people's everyday lives and a different atmosphere, approach and content from their Sunday School classes. We have also viewed and discussed a Christian music video and the PBS program "Affluenza." I hope that the youth group will develop its own identity and embark on service projects in the future.

When I began this research last year, it seemed that the way to proceed with youth work would be to link up with another church's youth group for some activities. However, as our sister church is having difficulty in setting up a group, at this juncture it seems advisable to start out on our own. I do not rule out the possibility of occasional joint activities in the future with some other group.

**TIME WITH CHILDREN** I do this five-minute segment during the worship service about once a month. Currently I am trying to build up a "bank" of other people to do this also. It has been encouraging to see several new people take on this task and I think a variety of approaches is very good for the children.

**RETREATS** At the fall retreat last year I was responsible for two 2 1/2 hour sessions. In the morning session I dealt with "Crisis" and in the afternoon with "Caregiving." I also led the discussion following these presentations.

At the spring retreat this year, I gave the key talk, "It Takes a Whole Church to Raise a Child." From this talk a summary booklet was prepared and distributed to all members of the congregation in the monthly newsletter.

This fall I joined in the church retreat which dealt with the church's vision for the future.

**PREACHING** I conducted the church service and preached on December 29, 1996 and shall be doing the same on December 28 this year.

**CONTACT WITH OTHER CHURCHES** In the course of my research I have visited the UCC youth group of the Cameron Road Church, and the Sunday Schools of Covenant and Westlake Hills Presbyterian churches. In addition, I have met with five youth leaders in other churches to discuss their churches' programs.

**TEACHING MATERIALS** I have been exposed to new teaching materials through the "Children's Ministry Seminar" and recommendations from other church youth workers. Through the mail and the Presbyterian Resource Center I am informed of the latest curricula.

This year we have purchased two sets of videos: "Quigley's Village" for the 2-8 year-olds, and Total Network's "On the Air" for the newly formed Junior Hi group.

While in Scotland this summer I purchased some excellent materials published in the UK.

**RESOURCE CENTER** As new teaching methods and different curricula demand more resources, I am in the process of setting up a resource center in a disused room on the third floor of the Congregational Church's education wing. The Presbyterian Resource Center at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary has been very generous and has donated sample materials and outdated curricula. The building up of this center is an ongoing process.

**MEETINGS WITH PASTOR** I meet weekly with Yoshi to discuss all aspects of my work and church concerns in general; these meetings are most helpful.

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** I attend this board's meeting on a monthly basis.

**LITERATURE RESEARCH** I am conscious that I have not achieved as much in this area during my first year as I would have wished as my time and energies have been taken up with attending to practical, everyday matters. I hope to concentrate more on this area once all the Sunday School classes are organized and running smoothly.

**RESEARCH VISIT TO SCOTLAND** Following consultation with Yoshi and with the approval of the Board of Christian Education, I am planning a research trip to Scotland in January. I leave, following my Junior Hi class, on Sunday, January 11, 1998 and return on Friday, January 23, so I shall be absent from church here only one Sunday. While in Scotland, I shall be based in Glasgow, but also plan trips to Edinburgh and Blantyre.

Apart from internal journeys while in Scotland, this trip will not cost the church, or the Foundation, anything extra as I am donating my own AA Advantage miles for the intercontinental travel. I am doing this as, when I was in Scotland on vacation last summer I realized right at the end of my trip that there were good educational materials available but I did not have time to study them. I receive the Church of Scotland's magazine, "Life and Work" regularly and was impressed by some accounts of flourishing churches and successful youth work, so I made contact with different people whom I thought could be helpful to our project who have replied very graciously and agreed to meet me. I anticipate doing well in excess of my normal 20-hour week's work while in Scotland.

As Scottish churches have been in decline for some years and share many of the problems that our more orthodox denominations do here, I thought it would make sense to see what "successful" churches and groups over there are doing. Depending on the usefulness of this visit, it may be prudent to maintain international contact and plan future study visits.

Kay Lewis,  
Youth Minister, Congregational Church of Austin,  
November 28, 1997

**Frances C. Briggs**  
7604 Rustling Cove  
Austin, Texas 78731-1332  
Home Phone (512) 345-9247

January 05, 1998

1997 Coordinating Council Report

During this year the members of the Coordinating Council were as follows: Moderator Fran Briggs, Clerk Tommie Pinkard, Member-at-Large Vic Appel, Jim Tomasek from Deacons, Ellen Deisler from Trustees, Michael Adams from Christian Education, Yoshi Kaneda, Ex-Officio.

The most important part of the Council's job this year has been trying to facilitate and coordinate the work of the committees that were formed following our decision to move the church. We and you attended a great many meetings. I believe most of us feel that we have been involved in one of those board games where before moving forward, we must take one step backward. Perhaps by the time you read this report, we will have been empowered to move forward several steps. The work so far has laid a good foundation for us to continue on this course in hope and faith.

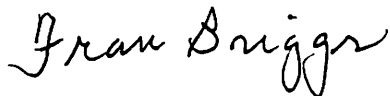
Project PHASE moved from the church this year, easing our relationships with our immediate neighbors. The parking issue for those who come to the church has worsened creating a greater sense of urgency to move. We still struggle with the issue of homelessness. Thank you for again agreeing to open the church on freezing nights. Ben White has been instrumental in facilitating this program.

The Coordinating Council especially wants to recognize the work that has been done by members of the Building and Grounds Committee during the year. The looks of the church are greatly improved as well as the building's working condition. The sale of the church will be easier because of their hard work.

One of our jobs is to conduct a pastoral evaluation. The 1996 evaluation session was postponed until January 1997, so Yoshi was evaluated twice this year. On the second occasion we functioned more as a pastoral relations committee would, hearing from him about his hopes, dreams, and disappointments and communicating to him our feelings about his work. This is a valuable process.

Personally, it is hard for me to realize that I am completing the second year of my term as moderator. I believe we are poised on the threshold with one foot lifted, ready to start down the path to a new place. Asking God's guidance and your continued support, I look forward to the journey.

Frances C. Briggs  
Moderator



Vital Statistics  
1997

MEMBERSHIP		TOTAL
RECEIVED:		
Re-Affirmation:		
Suzanne L. Bradford		
John Moore		
Conrad Deisler		
Julia Deisler		
David Rossitter		
Michael Sparkman	6	
Transfer:		
Sharon Brown		
Don W. Brown		
Loretta A. Lewis		
Joseph E. Mills		
Marylu Mills	5	
Confirmation:		
Robin Rosson		
Bree Hawes-Domingue	2	13
Total Membership, as of Dec. 31, 1996		107
Additions, 1997		<u>13</u>
		120

LOSSES: By Request, Transfer, Moved, Removed:

Transfer:		
Joseph Nordstrom	1	
Judith Clements	1	<u>-2</u>
Total Membership, as of Dec. 31, 1997		<u>118</u>

Baptisms:  
Suzanne L. Bradford  
Katelyn Alexis Jane Lemley

Marriages: Suzanne L. Bradford and John Moore

Funerals: Emily Briggs

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Tommie Pinkard, Clerk

# FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT--1997

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 1997 INCOME AND BUDGET REPORT (See following page):

### General Fund:

For 1997, the actual income for our operating budget (**General Fund**) was \$109,950.70. This came within \$3,193.30 of the amount required to meet our 1997 budget of \$113,153.00 (This is detailed at the top of the following page). Thank you all for your generosity and commitment.

It is noteworthy that our **Non-Pledged** income of \$25,099.50 exceeded the budgeted amount by \$9,859.50. This \$9800 largely represents additional donations that came in during the last few months of the year.

We also received \$4,500.00 in December of 1997 that is actually **Pledged for 1998**. Had these pledges not been pre-paid, our year end shortfall would have been \$7,693 rather than \$3, 193.30.

I have included a report that breaks down our income for our Operating Budget into quarters (See table titled: **Quarterly Income for General Fund**). Most noticeable on this report is the dip in income during the third quarter and the rise in income during the last quarter.

### Special Contributions:

While the campaign has not begun as yet, we already have received \$14,096.19 for our **Capital Fund**. We also received \$5,173.50 toward retiring our **Grant Mortgage**. Our **Designated Income-for-Outreach** ( e.g. OCWM, Neighbors in Need, etc.) together with our budgeted corporate giving represents 12.5% of our total income.

### Transfers from Savings

We transferred \$12,395.07 from two CD's which matured. These transfers helped to alleviate the cash flow problem which began during the third quarter (the summer months) when our expenditures exceeded our income.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1998 PROJECTED INCOME FOR OUR BUDGET:

As of January 11, 1998, we have received <sup>25</sup> pledges totaling \$66,080 (see the last column of the following page). If we add in the other sources of projected income, and subtract the \$4,500 pledges which were prepaid in 1997, we have a projected shortfall of \$25,833.00 for the 1998 Proposed Budget of \$115,863.31. <sup>→ \$75K +</sup>

## '97 Income & Budget; '98 Projected Inc.

1/1/97 Through 12/31/97

Income Summary	'97	Budget	12/31/97	Projected
Category Description	Actual	Budget	Diff	'98- Budget
<b>INFLOWS</b>				
<b>Budget-GenlFund:</b>				
'98 Pledged-(Prepaid in 1997)				-4,500.00
Insurance Claim-(Break-in Damage)	1,842.00	0.00	1,842.00	0.00
Loose Plate	2,279.77	2,800.00	-520.23	2,300.00
Miscellaneous	45.68	50.00	-4.32	50.00
Non-Pledged	25,099.50	15,240.00	9,859.50	24,000.00
Pastor's Fund-(Designated)	20.00	0.00	20.00	0.00
Pledged '97-(=25 Units+McN. Estate)	70,951.82	69,609.00	1,342.82	0.00
Pledged '98-(=22 Units+McN. Estate)	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00	66,080.00
Postage-(Designated)	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00
Property Mtance-(S.Schl+BldgRenovation)	819.63	0.00	819.63	0.00
Refunds	38.20	0.00	38.20	0.00
Rental Income-(Bldg Use+Utilities)	3,590.00	2,650.00	940.00	1,300.00
Retreat-(Reimbursements)	770.10	800.00	-29.90	800.00
SHORTFALL-(Projected)	0.00	22,004.00	-22,004.00	25,833.00
<b>TOTAL Budget-GenlFund</b>	<b>109,959.70</b>	<b>113,153.00</b>	<b>-3,193.30</b>	<b>115,863.00</b>
CapitalFdCampgn-(Capital Fd. Campaign)	14,096.19	0.00	14,096.19	0.00
Christ.Ed.Grant-(TX Methodist Foundation)	15,180.00	15,180.00	0.00	16,697.00
<b>Designated Inc-(Local Use):</b>				
Grant Mortgage-(Pledged)	5,173.50	3,143.00	2,030.50	
*McNeely Estate-(Principal)	2,886.67	2,886.00	0.67	
Memorial Fund	40.00	0.00	40.00	
<b>TOTAL Designated Inc-(Local Use)</b>	<b>8,100.17</b>	<b>6,029.00</b>	<b>2,071.17</b>	
<b>Designated Inc.-(Outreach):</b>				
Aids Services-(Pledged)	600.00	600.00	0.00	
Christmas Fund-(Special Offering)	516.00	0.00	516.00	
CROP Administr-(Special Offering)	112.00	0.00	112.00	
FaithFood Pntry-(Pledged)	600.00	600.00	0.00	
JustPeaceAppeal-(Special Offering)	898.00	0.00	898.00	
NCD-(Pledged+NonPledged)	1,942.00	1,498.00	444.00	
NeighborsInNeed-(Special Offering)	829.00	0.00	829.00	
OCWM '98-(Pledged)	360.00	0.00	360.00	
OCWM-(Pledged+NonPledged)	8,496.00	6,500.00	1,996.00	
OGHS-(Special Offering)	1,970.00	0.00	1,970.00	
SCC Deficit-(Special Offering)	428.00	0.00	428.00	
Tornado Victims-(Special Offering)	125.00	0.00	125.00	
<b>TOTAL Designated Inc.-(Outreach)</b>	<b>16,876.00</b>	<b>9,198.00</b>	<b>7,678.00</b>	
<b>Transfers from-Savings to Gen. Fund.:</b>				
CD-(Matured)	4,484.87	0.00	4,484.87	
MethCD-(TX Methodist Foundation)	7,910.20	0.00	7,910.20	
<b>TOTAL Transfers from-Savings to Gen. Fund.</b>	<b>12,395.07</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>12,395.07</b>	
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>176,607.13</b>	<b>143,560.00</b>	<b>33,047.13</b>	

## Quarterly Income for General Fund\*, '97

1/1/97 Through 12/31/97

**Income Summary**

Category Description	1/1/97- 3/31/97	4/1/97- 6/30/97	7/1/97- 9/30/97	10/1/97- 12/31/97	OVERALL TOTAL
<b>INFLOWS</b>					
<b>Budget-GenFund:</b>					
Insurance Claim-(Break-in Damage)	1,842.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,842.00
Loose Plate	612.56	551.55	465.16	650.50	2,279.77
Miscellaneous	35.68	0.00	0.00	10.00	45.68
Non-Pledged	4,455.00	3,635.00	3,326.00	13,683.50	25,099.50
Pastor's Fund-(Designated)	0.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	20.00
Pledged '97-(=25 Units+McN. Estate)	19,038.81	17,754.61	14,661.74	19,496.66	70,951.82
Pledged '98-(=22 Units+McN. Estate)	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
Postage-(Designated)	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00
Property Mtance-(S.Schl+Bldg Renovation)	0.00	0.00	592.00	227.63	819.63
Refunds	23.20	15.00	0.00	0.00	38.20
Rental Income-(Bldg Use+Utilities)	1,120.00	820.00	600.00	1,050.00	3,590.00
Retreat-(Reimbursements)	0.00	266.60	0.00	503.50	770.10
<b>TOTAL Budget-GenFund</b>	<b>27,130.25</b>	<b>23,052.76</b>	<b>19,654.90</b>	<b>40,121.79</b>	<b>109,959.70</b>
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>27,130.25</b>	<b>23,052.76</b>	<b>19,654.90</b>	<b>40,121.79</b>	<b>109,959.70</b>

\*The categories included in the General Fund represent funds available for the church's operating budget. It does not include funds for 1) our Capital Fund Campaign 2) our Christian Education Grant 3) income designated for non-budget use, or 4) transfers from savings.

# CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

25 January 1998

## TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

This report consists of four parts:

- The brief narrative that follows.
- A Statement of Accounts as of December 31, 1997.
- An Expenditure Report for Calendar Year 1997.
- A Proposed Budget for Calendar Year 1998.

Although a few categories of expense exceeded budgeted expectations, total expenditures for 1997 were extremely close to budget projections, primarily for the following reasons:

- The post of Music Director was filled admirably by two unpaid members of our congregation.
- Some categories of expense, such as Archives, Postage, Conference Delegates, and Nursery Attendants, were well below 100% of budget.

Members of the Budget Committee met in early November 1997 to prepare the 1998 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 and the Secretary have been increased.
- The categories for Christian Education Materials (line 22) and Church School Supplies (line 23) have been combined and the total has been reduced slightly.
- A 44% reduction in Postage (line 26) is proposed based on 1997 activity.
- Increases are proposed for Advertising (line 38 -- 8%), Printing (line 45 -- 14%), and Utilities (line 27 -- 8%).
- We propose discontinuing contributions to United Campus Ministry and Community of University Ministers (Cooperative Responsibilities).

The total proposed budget represents an increase of 2.4% over that of 1997.

Finally, the Church's sole long-standing liability, the Grant/Mortgage from the UCBHM has been paid in full. //

Respectfully submitted,

  
John Burlinson

# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

December 31, 1997

### ASSETS

Fund	Matures	Interest	Amount
General Fund: Checking Account *			12,608.43
Youth Minister Fund		4.85%	8,980.17
Memorial Fund		4.85%	7,265.02
Organ Fund		4.85%	4,311.90
Capital Campaign Fund		4.85%	14,096.19
<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>47,261.71</b>
Nation's Bank #478614 (McNeely Estate)	2/3/98	4.62%	2,234.50
Norwest Bank #261242400-0 (McNeely Estate)	4/05/01	7.60%	5,455.50
United Church Foundation (McNeely Acct.)			19,504.25
<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>27,194.25</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>74,455.96</b>

\* This figure includes deposits thru 12/31/97.

*all Ed. Jones?*

*Was Franklin Federal*

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN  
1997 Budget & Expenditures

		Budgeted	Expenditures	%	Notes
	Pastoral Leadership				
5	Salary	23,782.50	23,782.56	100.00	
6	Annuity	5,779.55	5,429.52	93.94	
7	Health Insurance	7,050.00	7,050.00	100.00	
8	Dental Benefits	522.00	526.50	100.86	
9	Family Protection Plan	376.50	387.80	103.00	
10	Continuing Education	1,000.00	941.02	94.10	
11	Housing Allowance	15,000.00	15,000.00	100.00	
12	Automobile Expense	2,500.00	2,499.84	99.99	
13	Pastoral Leadership Subtotal	56,010.55	55,617.24	99.30	
	Local Church Programs				
15	Pastor's Discretionary Fund	50.00	208.60	417.20	3
16	Secretary	9,504.00	9,552.03	100.51	1
17	Social Security & Medicare	665.28	665.28	100.00	2
18	Music For Worship	250.00	161.19	64.48	
19	Musicians	5,000.00	4,955.00	99.10	
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	1,117.46	93.12	
23	Church School Supplies	1,450.00	1,963.62	135.42	
24	Kitchen Supplies	250.00	287.95	115.18	
25	Office Supplies	2,706.00	3,566.70	131.81	
26	Postage	900.00	443.29	49.25	
27	Utilities	6,000.00	8,453.56	140.89	
28	Electric & Water		5,986.42		
29	Gas		1,678.96		
30	Telephone		466.08		
31	Drinking Water		322.10		
32	Property Maintenance	7,000.00	7,818.42	111.69	
33	Janitorial Supplies	150.00	56.87	37.91	
34	Janitorial Service	4,305.00	3,730.56	86.66	1
35	Social Security & Medicare	301.35	261.14	86.66	2
36	Conference Delegates	600.00	61.72	10.29	
37	Camps & Workshops	500.00	311.00	62.20	
38	Advertising	1,200.00	1,733.88	144.49	4
39	Pulpit Speakers	900.00	950.00	105.56	
40	Nursery Attendants	1,200.00	500.00	41.67	
41	Insurance	1,428.00	1,402.00	98.18	
42	Fun & Fellowship	300.00	289.26	96.42	
43	Archives	150.00	0.00	0.00	
44	Miscellaneous	150.00	240.60	160.40	
45	Printing - Newsletter & Bulletin	2,640.00	3,829.11	145.04	
46	Retreat	1,500.00	1,358.15	90.54	
48	Local Church Programs Subtotal	53,432.49	53,917.39	100.91	



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN  
1997 Budget & Expenditures

Page 2

	Budgeted	Expenditures	%	Notes
<b>Cooperative Responsibilities</b>				
Austin Metropolitan Ministries	600.00	600.00	100.00	
Brazos Ass. Dues	300.00	214.00	71.33	
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		0.00	
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	
<b>Coop. Responsibilities Subtotal</b>	<b>3,710.00</b>	<b>3,524.00</b>	<b>94.99</b>	
<b>TOTAL -- BUDGETED</b>	<b>113,153.04</b>	<b>113,058.63</b>	<b>99.92</b>	
<b>Designated Expenditures</b>				
AIDS Services		600.00		
Faith Food Pantry		600.00		
New Church Development		1,942.00		
Our Church's Wider Mission		8,496.00		
Just Peace		898.00		
One Great Hour of Sharing		1,970.00		
Grant Mortgage		5,173.50		
McNeely Estate		2,886.67		
Tornado Victims		125.00		
Memorial Fund		40.00		
Neighbors in Need		829.00		
Christmas Fund		516.00		
SCC Deficit		428.00		
Texas Crop Administration		112.00		
<b>Designated Expenditures Subtotal</b>		<b>24,616.17</b>		
<b>TOTAL -- EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>137,674.80</b>		

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 includes funds for the needy.
4. Includes funds for advertising in the Austin American Statesman as well as in the Southwestern Bell Yellow Pages.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN  
Proposed Budget for 1998

		Budgeted 1997	Proposed 1998	Change
	<b>Pastoral Leadership</b>			
5	Salary	23,782.50	25,582.50	1,800.00
6	Annuity	5,779.55	5,681.55	-98.00
7	Health Insurance	7,050.00	7,050.00	0.00
8	Dental Benefits	522.00	540.00	18.00
9	Family Protection Plan	376.50	376.50	0.00
10	Continuing Education	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
11	Housing Allowance	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00
12	Automobile Expense	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
13	<b>Pastoral Leadership Subtotal</b>	<b>56,010.55</b>	<b>57,730.55</b>	<b>1,720.00</b>
	<b>Local Church Programs</b>			
15	Pastor's Discretionary Fund	50.00	200.00	150.00
16	Secretary	9,504.00	9,865.00	361.00
17	Social Security & Medicare	665.28	690.55	25.27
18	Music For Worship	250.00	250.00	0.00
19	Musicians	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
20	Director	2,925.00	2,925.00	0.00
21	Social Security & Medicare	207.86	207.86	0.00
22	Christian Education Materials	1,200.00		
23	Church School Supplies	1,450.00	2,500.00	-150.00
24	Kitchen Supplies	250.00	250.00	0.00
25	Office Supplies	2,706.00	2,700.00	-6.00
26	Postage	900.00	500.00	-400.00
27	Utilities	6,000.00	6,500.00	500.00
28	Electric & Water			
29	Gas			
30	Telephone			
31	Drinking Water			
32	Property Maintenance	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.00
33	Janitorial Supplies	150.00	150.00	0.00
34	Janitorial Service	4,305.00	4,305.00	0.00
35	Social Security & Medicare	301.35	301.35	0.00
36	Conference Delegates	600.00	600.00	0.00
37	Camps & Workshops	500.00	500.00	0.00
38	Advertising	1,200.00	1,500.00	300.00
39	Pulpit Speakers	900.00	900.00	0.00
40	Nursery Attendants	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00
41	Insurance	1,428.00	1,428.00	0.00
42	Fun & Fellowship	300.00	300.00	0.00
43	Archives	150.00	150.00	0.00
44	Miscellaneous	150.00	150.00	0.00
45	Printing - Newsletter & Bulletin	2,640.00	3,000.00	360.00
46	Retreat	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
48	<b>Local Church -- Subtotal</b>	<b>53,432.49</b>	<b>54,572.76</b>	<b>1,140.27</b>

← See next page.

←

*Yaelin wants money for new course. \$800*

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN  
Proposed Budget for 1998

Page 2

	Budgeted 1997	Proposed 1998	Change
<b>Cooperative Responsibilities</b>			
Austin Metropolitan Ministries	600.00	600.00	0.00
Brazos Ass. Dues	300.00	300.00	0.00
Texas Conference of Churches	30.00	30.00	0.00
National Council of Churches	15.00	15.00	0.00
World Council of Churches	15.00	15.00	0.00
Regional Seminary Support	500.00	500.00	0.00
Eden Home	500.00	500.00	0.00
United Campus Ministry	100.00	0.00	-100.00
Back Bay Mission	500.00	500.00	0.00
Slumber Falls Camp	100.00	100.00	0.00
Austin Interfaith	300.00	300.00	0.00
Huston Tillotson	500.00	500.00	0.00
University Area Partners	100.00	100.00	0.00
Community of Univ. Ministers	50.00	0.00	-50.00
Texas Impact	100.00	100.00	0.00
<b>Coop. Responsibilities Subtotal</b>	<b>3,710.00</b>	<b>3,560.00</b>	<b>-150.00</b>
<b>TOTAL -- BUDGETED</b>	<b>113,153.04</b>	<b>115,863.31</b>	<b>2,710.27</b>

Report of the Board of Trustees, Congregational Church

of Austin, 1997

The Board of Trustees met monthly to review matters of the church with financial implications. Thanks to all fellow Trustees for your faithfulness, especially to Dave Ross for recording the minutes, to George Lemley for filling in during my absences, and to Jean Appel, Financial Secretary and John Burlinson, Treasurer, whose reports appear separately, and to Yoshi who did much of the legwork in dealing with our outside neighbor groups. *Ellen Deigler to Coord. Council.*

Since deciding to sell our present facility, we have advocated a budget sufficient to keep our surroundings safe and attractive enough to carry out our present program, but without longterm investment potential. We appreciate the cooperation of all those who have worked within these constraints and the resulting beautification that has gone on in spite of a tight budget.

We have served as the nucleus for the Sale of the Church Committee, and we have begun meeting with realtors to discuss the proposals they have submitted for selling our property. We will continue our search till we find the right one, since this may require a close-working relationship for some time. Thanks to Dennis Murphy and George Lemley for their help in getting this effort moving.

Under terms determined by a vote of the congregation, we terminated our contract with Project Phase with the vacating of the basement June 30. We have made our basement open to homeless youth or adult males, depending on the needs of Austin Metropolitan Ministry's Committee on Homelessness, during freezing nights this winter. A group of Unitarians will chaperone these events. Thanks to all who have helped repair and tidy up the basement. The City of Austin has agreed to divert drainage and wastewater fees from various congregations for work with the homeless, and our congregation is a participant. By midyear, over \$7,000 had been raised through this means and spent in behalf of homeless persons and families.

Yoshi has been our point man in dealing with our neighbors in projects of mutual concern, from Drag Beautification to concerns about vandalism in the neighborhood. Negotiations have made available parking on Sunday morning in the UT Highrise Parking Garage at 25th St and San Antonio in cooperation with University United Methodist Church, but so far few of our members have parked there.

*Ken H. White*  
17 *Chair*

**Report of the Board of Deacons for 1997**

Richard Jackson (Chairman), Cathy Hubbs (Scribe), Yoshi Kaneda (Pastor), Andrew Barrett, Craig Barrett, Steve Domingue, Martha Miles, Nannette Strickland, Jim Tomasek, Suzanne VanderPoel.

The Deacons wish to express their thanks to the acolytes and the greeters who have served the Church over the past year. The acolytes included Jamie Adams, Jonathan and Sarah Ashton, Jake Burlinson, Krystal Towery, and Ned Murphy. The greeters were Brian Prioleau, John Moore, Suzanne Bradford, Tino and Alessandra Herrera, Paul and Ellen Deisler, John and Jake Burlinson, Mary Sinclair and Richard Jackson, and Vic and Jean Appel.

With the splendid assistance of Vic Appel, the Deacons once again organized the Easter Sunrise Service which attracted well over 100 persons and at least one TV station. This success lead to the decision that the retiring Deacons should remain active as Deacons through the following year's Easter so that they might pass on to the next Board the means by which a successful Service is accomplished.

The Board interviewed and approved as confirmands Robin Rosson and Bree Hawes-Domingue. They were subsequently confirmed by the Pastor.

The Deacons undertook a number of initiatives this past year. The order of worship was changed slightly to encourage a quieter prelude, and the Parish Notes now follow the Time with Children. The role of Caregiver was established to provide care to those who requested it and which care could be provided by members of the Congregation. The Board sponsored the purchase of the Pilgrim Press booklets. The Board also encouraged parents to monitor more closely the behavior of their children during the fellowship hour so that the children did not take more food than they needed and there was sufficient for all. The Board of Deacons also decided to initiate a Christmas Day service which was attended by about 25 members of the Congregation and lead by Jim Tomasek.

The most important initiative of the Board of Deacons was the sponsoring of the Mission-Vision Committee for the Church relocation program. Several meetings were held between August and October to prepare a Vision statement. The Mission statement is to be prepared at the Spring retreat at Slumber Falls in late March.

The Vision Statement agreed to by the Deacons on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 1998 and proposed for adoption by the Congregation is:-

~~united with Christ & one another~~

*We are a people united in Christ*

*seeking* We are a Christian people  
 Singing God's praises  
 Learning God's ways  
 Serving God's world and  
 Sharing Life's journey.

*adopted 1/25/98*

*18*

*Dick Jackson*

## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT — 1997

**Board Members:** Doyal Pinkard, Chair; Carol Barrett, Vice-chair; Paul Deisler, Secretary; Michael Adams; Marylu Mills. *Ex officio:* Susan Ashton, Church School Superintendent; Kay Lewis, Minister of Christian Education. Youth members: Jonathon Ashton; Ned Murphy.

This has been a year of continued growth in our Christian Education program. We are not yet where we would like to be, but thanks to the help of many different persons we are making progress. Following are some of the year's activities to which we would like to call your attention.

- Church school students participated in **Church School Sunday** at the end of the Spring semester, and presented a **Christmas pageant** on Sunday, December 14.
- **Teachers meetings** were held in February and June, to review the previous semester's experience and to plan for the coming one.
- A **new curriculum**, *The One-Room Sunday School*, was initiated for the Kindergarten, Primary, and Intermediate students, with generally satisfactory results.
- A **code of behavior** for children was developed, and posted in each classroom. Also, **safety policies** were developed.
- A **Sunday School bulletin board** was installed in the Fellowship Room. This will be used to post announcements about Sunday School activities and to highlight different children and their achievements. Our hope is that this will help the congregation to know our children better.
- The **college age class was discontinued** because of lack of attendance. College age students will be encouraged to attend the regular adult class.
- The **Church Spring Retreat** was devoted to Christian Education issues, with Kay Lewis reporting on her findings and Susan Ashton leading discussion.
- Children processed with palm fronds on **Palm Sunday** and distributed palm crosses which had been made by the Adult Class. An Easter egg hunt was held on **Easter morning**.
- During the **summer** months, volunteers led activities for the younger children during the church service. This was coordinated by Paul Deisler, and our thanks go to him and to all those volunteers who participated.

- **Inter-generational Evenings:** These were held in February (Valentine's Day), September (video party), October (pumpkin carving), and November (craft evening — Christmas wreathes and ornaments). These varied from only moderately to very successful, results which seems to be positively correlated to the amount and effectiveness of communication with parents.

Special kudos and appreciation from the Board of Christian Education to;

- **Betsy Ferguson**, for planning and directing (and doing much of the work involved in) the refurbishment of the Sunday School classrooms!
- **Mary Sinclair and Rizer Everett**, for modifying the video monitor stand to make it easier to use for instructional purposes.

If I tried to thank everyone who deserved it, this list could go on and on, and I would probably miss some one. But I would like to single out a few more for special thanks:

- Our Sunday School teachers: Susan Ashton, Carol Barrett, Mel Oakes, John Burlinson, Steve Domingue, and David Ross. Also Kay Lewis, for leading the pre-Sunday school junior high discussion group.
- Our Sunday School students — they are the ones who make it all worth while.
- Michael Adams, for handling the often frustrating job of coordinating child care services during Sunday School and church.

Finally, to the congregation as a whole, we need and value **your assistance**. As our congregation moves into an important and exciting period of its life, we need to remember that our basic activities will have to go on. In fact, it is imperative to enhance such activities as Christian education if we are going to have a foundation upon which to build in a new location. So I hope you will continue to support the Board's requests for volunteer assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Doyal Pinkard, Chair

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

1997 was a productive and hard-working year for the B&G Committee. The committee members put in many hours of work, as did other volunteers from the congregation who came to the two Building Improvement Days and the first "Grungy Sunday" after worship service. In between formal work days, committee members and volunteers came to the church to sand, prime, paint, repair, replace, install, plant, water, and clean.

In 1996 the Committee chose which of the many maintenance tasks would be given priority by developing criteria, with (a) safety items and (b) preservation of building integrity being considered the highest priorities. The committee followed these criteria in 1997 as they continued to work through and add to the long list of maintenance items from the previous year. This year the committee also gave priority to items which affect the first impressions that visitors make of the church: attractive building exterior, Sunday School rooms, and restrooms.

The Committee budget for 1997 was the same as for the previous year, \$7000. Expenditures exceeded the budget, but this shortfall was offset by a generous donation from John Alford for the repair of the stained glass windows. Funds from the Texas Methodist Foundation grant of 1994 (\$6950 for "exterior renovation of the education building") can be used for B&G projects with the approval of the Board of Trustees.

Major projects for the year included:

- the long-needed repair and repainting of the wood around the stained glass windows,
- major repairs to the air conditioning system,
- painting of exterior surfaces such as the wood around the exterior stairs, cement floors, and drainpipes,
- repair of the cementwork at the sanctuary entrance,
- painting of the Sunday School rooms,
- spray-cleaning of the building exterior,
- construction of a garden trellis, and
- upgrading of the Towery wing restrooms.

The Committee continually deletes completed items from its master maintenance list and adds new items as needed to work on in 1998.

*Kathleen Strong, Chair*

## PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

### ANNUAL REPORT -- 1997

During the past year, three major publicity projects were carried out: Publicity for the Easter Sunrise Service, an ad in the yellow and white business pages of the telephone directory, and an *Austin American-Statesman* feature article illustrated with color photographs.

The Easter publicity included ads in both the *American-Statesman* and the *Daily Texan*, radio and television announcements, large signs in the Mount Bonnell area, and posted leaflets in the UT campus area. Response was outstanding; some 125 people attended the sunrise service, including many new to our church. Comparing this to the previous year's experience of running generic ads several weekends in a row, the committee believes that a single ad placing emphasis on a particular timely event is more effective than a short series of generic ads.

A large proportion of the committee's budget -- \$700 -- was spent on purchasing ads in the telephone directory yellow pages and business white pages. The 1998 Publicity Committee will need to review the cost effectiveness of our current publicizing priorities and consider whether there are other more economical means of helping Austin citizens learn about our church.

By far and away our most effective publicity of 1997 came as a result of a newspaper feature, "A Church at the Edge," written by an *Austin American-Statesmen* columnist. This cost us nothing, except time to build a case with the writer for its newsworthiness. Clearly, we need to continue to be imaginative about finding free ways to highlight the activities of this church.

The low visibility of the church significantly impedes its opportunities for growth, and remedying this should be this committee's primary challenge in the new year. A church located in a residential neighborhood draws on local residents for members, and its very existence advertises its presence. But a central church like ours that draws members from throughout a metropolitan area must find ways to advertise its existence beyond its immediate neighborhood. We believe this can be done through a combination of advertising, public service announcements, and special

events that will bring interested Central Texans to our church.

*Recommendation for consideration:* Increase funding for the Publicity Committee to a total of \$2,000. Additional funds will be needed if the committee is to publicize the pastor's proposed series of adult education classes in the spring. This proposal was not known or taken into account when the 1988 budget was formulated. In addition, the committee wishes to alert the congregation that, should a move to another location be required in 1998, significant additional funding will be needed.

Members of the 1997 Publicity Committee were Martha Hartmann, Valentino Herrera, Tommie Pinkard, Chester Rosson, and Vic Appel, Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Vic Appel, Chair

Also comm. Tues @ 7:00 meeting

Michael:

Paul: storage?

will get a but in several weeks.

1. Gats. count. a) answer b) replace. <sup>Mr. plan</sup>
2. Fred, Hal, answer b) replace. <sup>Mr. plan</sup>

Gats 1. glass

Mr. Formanance

Vie necessary windows

**Property Sales Committee Report**  
**The Congregational Church of Austin**  
**January 7, 1998**

Organizing the sale of our church property has progressed rather well during the year of 1997. We started early in February by investigating the idea of getting an appraisal, and after several months of discussion with a number of appraisal firms it was decided that the official appraisal should be gotten after we have made our selection for a broker/realtor to represent us in the sale of our church building. The reasoning behind this decision was that if we asked 10 different appraisers for a quote we would get 10 different answers, and the cost of the appraisal was more than we were willing to pay at that time.

Also, appraising such a property is quite a unique challenge due to:

- the lack of comparable real estate sales situations in this area
- the defining characteristics of the building itself
- the existing situations that we as the congregation of this church have decided are reason enough to vacate this property
- the city's plans for a possible light rail in the area
- the UT Coops plans for constructing a parking garage across the street from the church

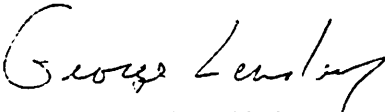
It seems that the appraisal is a tool that the realtor/broker uses to attain an estimated value for the property being considered for sale, and the appraisal should be done in cooperation with the realtor/broker we select.

Although we may not have received an official appraised value for our property, we did get a pretty good idea of the real value of the property.

During the last four months of 1997 we have contacted at least nine commercial brokerage firms which have sent reps to meet with me and others from our congregation to walk through our building. All of these firms have submitted written proposals. To date we have received one offer in writing and two verbal offers which we should receive in writing by mid January. These offers range in value from \$290,000.00 to \$1,059,000.00. We hope to make a formal presentation before the congregation by the end of January so that we may vote on the offers at hand.

If the offers are found to be unacceptable we will begin interviewing the broker/realtor reps from whom we have received proposals. We plan to be finished with these interviews by the end of February 1998. Soon after, the interviewees will be evaluated and a broker/realtor will be selected.

Many thanks to those who have helped and supported me in this difficult task. With patience and perseverance, we will accomplish our goal.

  
George Lemley, Chair  
Property Sales Committee

## SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Site Selection Committee has met several times since forming at the end of the summer. We have had expert guests speak to us to educate us in pitfalls to avoid in the real estate world and give us advice on how to proceed. We have done some random casting about to find sites that might be available and several sites have been discussed, including sites with existing structures. However, at this point the "perfect" site has not been found. We have been proceeding at a somewhat limited pace in order to see what our resources from the sale of the property will be before we get serious on any site. We will be meeting with representatives from the United Christian Church at our next meeting to discuss their process for finding a site. It is becoming apparent that a real estate agent will probably be necessary to help us locate a suitable site.

Sincerely,  
Dave Ashton  
Chairman

Met w. Mullinex,  
U. Christian Church  
on their experience

Mission,  
Architecture,  
Location

Demographic study

Establish a time limit

Wanted: need cap funds  
right away!

← Sample addressed  
this

See p. 26

- 1. research
- NAE
- youth

Dogal

- 2. review
- entitlement

- 3. filling resources - commitments

- 4. job description

submit letter

lots of good ideas

Maya: Talk to kids outside meetings

Key: kids on boards should be

commitments (enforced)

Pat: have a youth meeting or youth council.

(inspired by Joe Miller)

Farm: youth council needs to address

e.g. no firearms

## Nominating Committee Report, January 26, 1998

### One year Terms

Office	Incumbents	Nominees
Financial Secretary	Jean Appel	Jean Appel
Treasurer	John Burlinson	John Burlinson
Coordinating Council, member at large	Victor Appel	Paul Deisler
Church School Superintendent	Susan Ashton	Susan Ashton
Historian	Lisa Kirch	Kathleen Strong
Publicity	Victor Appel	Victor Appel
Austin Metropolitan Ministry	Fran Briggs	Fran Briggs Michael Sparkman
Austin Interfaith	Flo Chiles Kathleen Strong Mary Charles Williams	Flo Chiles Kathleen Strong Mary Charles Williams
Brazos Association Rep.	Tommie Pinkard	Tommie Pinkard
University Area Partners	Paula Fracasso	<i>Doyal Pinkard</i>

### Three Year Terms

Office	Incumbents	Nominees
Moderator	1996-98 Fran Briggs	—
[1] Delegate to South Central Conf.	1996-98 Rambie Briggs	—
[2] Clerk	1997-99 Tommie Pinkard	—
[3] Enlistment & Stewardship Committee 1 year term as Director 1 year term as Assistant	1997-99 David Ashton, Dir. 1997 1997-98 Rambie Briggs, Asst. 1997	Rambie Briggs, Dir. 1998 David Ashton, Asst. 1998
[4] Music Committee 1 year term as Chair member member	1997-99 Sara Ross (Chair 1997) 1997-98 Mary Sinclair 1997 Mary Tomasek	Sara Ross, Chair 1998 1998-00 Mary Tomasek
Board of Trustees  Incumbent Youth members: Robin Rosson --	1995-97 Betsy Ferguson Ben White 1996-98 Ellen Deisler -- 1997-99 George Lemley David Ross	1998-00 Suzanne Bradford Richard Jackson 1996-98 vacancy Loretta Lewis  Youth members (1 year):
Board of Deacons  Incumbent Youth members: Nanette Strickland Craig Barrett/Andrew Barrett	1995-97 Cathy Hubbs Richard Jackson 1996-98 Steven Domingue Martha Miles 1997-99 James Tomasek Suzanne Venderpoel	1998-00 Mathis Blackstock Sharon Brown  Youth members (1 year): Nanette Strickland
Board of Christian Education  Incumbent Youth members: Ned Murphy Jonathan Ashton	1995-97 Doyal Pinkard Paul Deisler 1996-98 Michael Adams -- 1997-99 Carol Barrett Mary Lu Mills	1998-00 Lynn Lemley John Moore 1996-98 vacancy Ben White  Youth members (1 year):
Nominating Committee	1995-97 Sara Ross 1996-98 David Ross 1997-99 Pat Oakes	1998-00 Kathleen Strong

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

- [1] Delegate to S. Central Conf. now a 1 year term, according to Art. IV., Sec. 8 (reps. to external orgs.).
- [2] Clerk changed from 1-year to 3-year term, Art. IV, Sec. 6.
- [3] 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.
- [4] 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.

TO: The Coordinating Council, Congregational Church of Austin  
FROM: Doyal Pinkard, Chair, Board of Christian Education  
SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to Bylaws  
DATE: November 8, 1997

*Doyal*

I am suggesting the following amendments to the church's Bylaws, for consideration at the upcoming Annual Meeting of the congregation. These proposed changes have grown out of my experience as Chair of the BCE for the past two years.

ARTICLE IV, SECTION 3:

Insert the following after "church official" in the first sentence:

... , other than a member of the Boards of Deacons, Trustees, and Christian Education,

Add to the end of the section:

In the case of vacancies on the Boards of Deacons, Trustees, and Christian Education, the appropriate Board shall appoint a person to fill the unexpired term, subject to confirmation by the congregation at the next Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE IV, SECTION 6:

Add to the last sentence:

... , except in the case of individuals appointed and confirmed to fill an unexpired vacancy. Such individuals may be nominated for a succeeding term.

ARTICLE IX, SECTION 1:

Rewrite as follows:

Section 1. The Board of Christian Education shall consist of six elected adult members; two elected youth members, if available; and *ex-officio*, the Pastor or the Minister of Christian Education and the Sunday School Superintendent.

Note: The other Boards might be interested in making similar changes in their Bylaw sections.

*Referred to  
concl council*

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