David W. Ross

ANNUAL REPORT

1998

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 24, 1999
(Review of 1998)

AGENDA

CONVENE: 12:45 pm

CALL TO ORDER: — Fran Briggs, Moderator
INVOCATION

REPORTS

Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting	Tommie Pinkard
Financial Secretary's Report	Jean Appel
Treasurer's Report	John Burlinson
Clerk (Vital Statistics)	Tommie Pinkard
Staff Report	Yoshi Kaneda
Staff Report	Kay Lewis

Boards and Committees

Trustees	George Lemley
Deacons	Steve Domingue
Christian Education	Carol Barrett
Publicity Committee	Vic Appel
Other Committee Reports	

OTHER REPORTS

Reports of Relocation Committees

Property Sale	George Lemley
Site Selection/Building Program	David Ashton
Vision/Mission	Richard Jackson
Capital Fund	Rambie Briggs
Partnership Relocation ?	Jim Tomasek

BUSINESS

1) Mission Statement	Richard Jackson
2) Election of Officers	David Ross
3) Adoption of 1999 Budget	John Burlinson
4) Other Business	

ADJOURNMENT: 3:00 pm

Congregational Church of Austin
Minutes, Annual Meeting, January 25, 1998

Moderator Fran Briggs called the meeting to order at 12:55 p.m., and the clerk affirmed that a quorum was present. To open the meeting, the membership repeated the prayer from the January 25 church bulletin.

Presentation of Annual Reports

Financial Secretary Jean Appel presented her report; there were no questions. She noted that as of today there are 25 pledges totaling more than $70,000 for 1998. We still have a shortfall from the proposed budget.

Treasurer John Burlinson presented the treasurer's report. He commented that the general fund is in healthy shape and there are no longstanding liabilities. He reported that we spent 99.92% of the 1997 budget. He said that the proposed 1998 budget showed little change except for increases for minister and secretary, with a 2.4% increase over 1997.

Rambie Briggs moved that the congregation offer thanks to those who helped meet the 1997 budget and that we thank officers and committee chairs. Motion seconded by Marylu Mills. Motion carried.

Board of Trustees Chair Ben White presented his report, with no further discussion. He said that Ellen Deisler should be added to the list of contributing board members.

Board of Deacons Chair Richard Jackson presented the report for the Deacons, and added that the retiring deacons would stay in place through Easter to prepare for the Easter Sunrise Service. New members will join the board to serve concurrently with the retiring members. He thanked Vic Appel for his leadership in organizing the Easter service.

Richard moved that the vision statement prepared by the deacons and stated in the report be adopted by the church. Paul Deisler seconded. In discussion, Jim Tomasek commented that we were a covenanting church and he would like to see this stated. After discussion, the motion was amended to change the vision statement to the following:

We are a people
United in Christ
Singing God's praise,
Seeking God's ways,
Serving God's world, and
Sharing life's journey.

The motion to accept the amended version of the vision statement carried.

Doyal Pinkard, chair of the Board of Christian Education, offered his report. There were no questions or comments.

Church Youth Minister Kay Lewis presented her report and commented on the need to have commitment to priorities for the future of the church. She thanked retiring Christian Education board members Doyal Pinkard and Paul Deisler for their work.

Michael Adams offered a resolution that "We thank Kay Lewis from the bottom of our hearts for all her hard work." Seconded by Jim Tomasek and approved with applause.

Kathleen Strong, chair of Buildings and Grounds Committee, thanked all volunteers for their work during the past year.

Vic Appel, chair of the Publicity Committee, warned that the committee will need additional funds this year for new activities and to publicize the church's relocation. He says the committee will seek free publicity.

Chairs of Relocation Committees: George Lemley reported on possible sale of current property, that we are still waiting for the paper work on a $1 million offer, and said we need to be patient. Discussion of moving the stained glass windows. Renaissance Glass will bid on the job, and point was made that we get at least a second bid for the work. Marie Scheel offered thanks to George for all his diligence in showing the property and working with realtors. (Applause)

Paul Deisler reported for Site Selection committee in Dave Ashton's absence. The committee at its last meeting heard from Mr. Mullinix of the

United Christian Church on their recent experiences in seeking a new site. He said we should begin the capital fund campaign soon, and that we should refer to guidebooks published by UCC and by the Disciples for help. He emphasized that *mission, architecture,* and *location* are bound together. His church bought a demographic study (cost: $400-$500) that predicts future growth in Austin, and selected their site based on the report.

Rambie Briggs reported that the Capital Campaign Committee has met several times, and had established a time line based on early estimates for a proposed budget. But the recent offer changed those estimates. We will need a capital fund campaign, and the committee will frame a new time line with new data.

Nominating Committee: Chair Dave Ross offered the slate of officers presented in the annual report, with the addition of Doyal Pinkard as representative to University Area Partners. There were no further nominations. Dave moved that the slate be accepted, and Jim Tomasek seconded the motion. Approved. Dave will distribute job descriptions to new officers who do not have them.

In further discussion, Dave noted that the slate did not include youth members, because the committee feels that process for selecting youth members needs to be rethought. Should we depend on volunteers? Should we require that youth members be confirmed first? How can we make the meetings more convenient and facilitate participation when one youth member is surrounded by adults? It was noted that participation on boards and committees is part of youngsters' training as church members. One suggestion was to have student boards or a youth council, where the members would feel less intimidated, and then have liaison between church boards and the youth. Kay Lewis's Sunday morning meetings (at 9:30) might be appropriate for the youth board. Moderator said that this will be referred to the Coordinating Council for discussion and for a recommendation to the congregation.

Adoption of 1998 Budget: Treasurer John Burlinson presented the 1998 budget, previously discussed. Paul Deisler seconded John's motion that the budget be approved, and motion carried.

Discussion of the Methodist Foundation Grant: Was it designated only for exterior work? Was it spent on other needs? Paul Deisler moved that the Board of Trustees study the terms of the grant, review its use, and report to the congregation. Kathleen Strong seconded the motion; approved.

Yoshi Kaneda requested that the budget for Workshops and Camps be increased by $800 to include expenses for Kay Lewis to attend a workshop in Minnesota to train to teach a class in the fall. Since the budget had already been voted on, no action was taken. Other methods will be sought to find the money needed -- a special subscription, another talent show.

Joe Mills suggested that we may no longer be comfortable with a deficit budget, and in the near future we will have many unknowns, with relocation. Vic Appel seconded Joe's comments, and said the Enlistment and Stewardship Committee should focus on membership growth. To keep members apprised, the treasurer and financial secretary will prepare a monthly financial report for publication in the church newsletter. Jean Appel noted that last fall, when the congregation was made aware of cash flow problems, they responded promptly with additional funds.

Re change in Bylaws: Doyal Pinkard brought up the need to facilitate replacing vacancies on church boards. His suggested change to the bylaws would allow the board to fill a vacancy, subject to approval at the next annual meeting. Following discussion, Doyal moved to refer the proposed change to the Coordinating Council for review with appropriate boards and report to the congregation. Paul Deisler seconded the motion; approved.

Comments from Coordinating Council member Vic Appel said planning for the move has energized members, and Jim Tomasek said we need to be more sensitive to each other.

Rambie Briggs moved adjourn; Paul Deisler seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tommie Pinkard, Clerk.

MINUTES
Congregational Meeting, February 15, 1998

Ben White, acting moderator in the absence of moderator Fran Briggs, called the meeting to order following the Sunday morning worship service.

Action regarding the grant mortgage was postponed after Dave Ross suggested that the Trustees do more research before making a proposal to the congregation.

Deacons chair Stephen Domingue discussed the establishment of an emergency fund to assist church members in need. The fund would be extra-budget, similar to the Memorial Fund, and would consist of contributions made voluntarily by church members. Paul Deisler moved that such a fund be designated, to be administered by a committee consisting of the pastor and the chairs from the Trustees and Deacons. The motion was seconded by Vic Appel. Motion passed.

Pat Oakes moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tommie Pinkard, Clerk

MINUTES
Congregational Meeting, September 18, 1998

Meeting was called to order by Tommie Pinkard, clerk, in the absence of the moderator, following Sunday worship services on September 18.

Tommie recognized Stephen Domingue, chair of the Board of Deacons, who moved that two persons be accepted for membership, John Gage and Jennifer Bratton. His motion was seconded by Kristin Galle. The congregation approved this motion by acclamation.

In the absence of Pat Oakes, Kristin Galle moved adjournment, and the congregation adjourned to the Fellowship Room for a potluck luncheon celebrating Diez y Seis.

Respectfully submitted,

Tommie Pinkard, Clerk.

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

March 22, 1998

The meeting was called to order at 12:10PM by Dennis Murphy, in the absence of the Moderator.

Carol Barrett moved the adoption of a resolution that the surplus grant mortgage funds be redirected to provide funds for Kay Lewis to attend a training seminar on, "The Divine Drama." The motion was secondee by Vic Appel and was passed unaminously.

Steve Domingue, Chair of the Board of Deacons, moved that the following people by affirmed for membership: Ellen Luna, Kristin Galle and John Herst and Ned Murphy by Confirmation. The motion was seconded (seconder unknown) and passed unaminously.

Pat Oakes moved for adjournment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Appel

STATEMENT AND MOTION FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, March 22, 1998

Statement,

As most of you know, the long-standing Grant Mortgage was finally paid off last year. There is currently a surplus of about $350.00 in this account. The Trustees wish to use this amount to subsidize travel for Kay Lewis to attend a training seminar on "*The Divine Drama*," the curriculum that Yoshi and she will teach beginning next fall.

Motion,

Therefore, the Board moves that the Grant Mortgage surplus be transferred to the general fund.

Further Statement.

Members who have not yet paid their pledges on the Grant Mortgage are welcome to do so. You may, if you wish, designate the payment for Kay's travel.

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Congregational Meeting, November 15, 1998

The congregational meeting was called to order immediately following worship services on Sunday, November 15, by Tommie Pinkard, clerk, in the absence of the moderator, Fran Briggs.

The chair recognized Stephen Domingue, who presented for the Board of Deacons the names of three persons who wished to join the church: Debbie Herst, Andrea Putz, and Karl Putz. On behalf of the Deacons, Stephen moved that they be accepted by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Matt Blackstock and approved by the congregation.

Ben White spoke regarding opening the church to the homeless on cold nights. He has been coordinator of homeless activities of the Austin Metropolitan Ministries. Tommie Pinkard told him the Coordinating Council had discussed this and was in favor. Ben then moved that we allow the church to be opened on cold nights under the supervision of the AMM committee. The committee will send needy persons to the church and will provide monitors. Paul Deisler seconded the motion. In discussion, Rev. Kaneda asked if it would be possible to exclude dogs, as we did last year. Ben assured him this could be done. The motion was then approved on a vote of the congregation.

Rambie Briggs, Jim Tomasek, and Tommie Pinkard reported to the congregation that relocation activities had generated feelers from other congregations regarding our merging with them. Our members need to think of the ramifications of such action and be prepared at a later date to discuss whether we should consider this. Two churches mentioned were the Shepherd of the Hills Disciples church just west of Loop 360 and north of Lake Austin, and University Christian Church in the university area.

There being no further business, Pat Oakes moved that we adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tommie Pinkard, Clerk

STEP BY STEP - OH, FRUSTRATING AND EXCITING!

"Tell me the secret of your church, Yoshi. How have you stayed small?" asked Rev. Joe Malayang, our leader at Spring Retreat. As I tried to come up with some answers on the way back to the airport, he was not convinced at all. He said that he really enjoyed meeting our church people, that he again and again affirmed our people's resourcefulness, high degree of intelligence and understanding, and that the retreat itself re-energized him for his ministry. He must have wondered why in the world with such resourceful people in this church any growth in number has not occured. - Well, Joe we are determined to grow at a new location.

Five committees for relocation have worked hard this past year. Vision/Mission Committee came up with a proposed Vision Statement and it was voted for at our Annual Meeting with a minor amendment. By now, we all internalized the new Vision by memory. After another year of study, discussion, home work, the Committee is ready to present a proposed "Mission Statement" to the congregation at this Annual Meeting. Property Sale Committee worked closely with David Morrison, Realtor, who tried his best to produce some written offers, but nothing has materialized yet. It has been a frustrating process to get the most for our "choice" property. Site Selection Committee has been asked to expand its function to include Building Program phase. A spirited group have interviewed five architects and finally selected the finalist just recently. OPUS-THREE of Round Rock will assist the committee for site selection and building program. Capital Fund Committee was ready to come up with a definite time-line for the fund raising project after their diligent work, but ROC, Relocation Oversight Committee, had to say "Please wait!" To present to the congregation a fund-raising goal and case statement, we needed to have a new location and a definite amount of necessary funds, although Rev. Ed Melhaff, consultant, was ready and eager to work with us. You see? We have to proceed step by step, no matter how frustrating. We believe, however, in this process of taking much time and effort that we will arrive at a new location with an adequate building within a few years. Just to imagine what would happen is exciting, indeed! Then, with a new determination on our part, we will grow in number and Christ's mission.

We welcomed into our church seven adults and two confirmands as new members. It has been delightful to observe these new members quickly participate in the activities/mission of our church and take up leadership when needed. God has again blessed our church with our co-workers. Have you ever thought about how democratic we are in terms of many in number of boards and committees among us? Coordinating Council, Trustees, Deacons, C.E. Board, Enlistment and Stewardship, Music, Nominating, Fun & Fellowship, Bldg. & Grounds Maintenance, Retreat, Publicity, Budget, Grant Task Force, in addition to the five committees for relocation? No, that's not all. Austin Metro Ministry, Austin Interfaith, Brazos Assn., University Area Partners, South Central Conference, Back Bay Mission, Eden Home, Eden Seminary, Huston-Tillotson College, Okinawa Partnership Committee, etc. need our participation and leadership. I believe this means that every member must have at least two jobs to carry out God's mission for our life together. Whew! To avoid any "burn out" in our body, we constantly need fresh replacement with a new blood among us. See how important church growth in number is?

Teaching is learning. Kay and I have had a wonderful learning experience by teaching "The Divine Drama" this past year. Instead of watching some nasty TV drama I have concentrated my energy to prepare for the lesson plans for Sunday Class. Oh, it has been a delightful learning experience to me. I sincerely thank the class members for engaging me in stimulating discussions

and giving me new information I need at each session. It has been fun on my part, although the size of the class has shrunk to a more manageable number recently. If you want to join the classes, you are welcome as we just started the second phase of study where each unit stands for itself. (You can use the materials of drop-outs. Free of charge!)

Again this past year our resourceful people have provided creative, inspirational and nurturing worship services for us. Ash Wednesday, Tenebrae Service, Good Friday Vigil, Easter Sunrise Service on Mt. Bonnell, Mothers' Day, UCC Higher Education Sunday, Stewardship Sunday, Joint Global Worship at University Baptist Church, Church School Program Sundays, Confirmation and New Member Sunday, Candlelight Service, Christmas Day Service. My heartfelt THANKS to our preachers/speakers, Rev. Tomasek, Towery, Thompson, Brewington, Breihan and Dr. McMillan, Jr., Mrs. Carol Barrett and Mr. George McGonigle. Also, as a new attempt, Enlistment & Stewardship Committee served as "Witnessing Stewards" speaking their heart out on the theme for enlistment. Thanks to Rambie Briggs, Suzanne Bradford and David Ashton. Music Department has done an outstanding job for leading and enriching our worship services. THANKS to Nodie Murphy, Norma Hawes, who gave us many more new songs to sing and dance. Also to our Trio and soloists and some pitch-ins at a particular service we give thanks. Music starts when our words are exhausted. Can you think of any worship service without any music in it? No, we are not the "Quakers."

My almost frozen anxiety has melted away beautifully for God's glory. Six delegates from Okinawa churches visited us and central Texas the week of November 23. Their visit certainly opened up some of our misunderstandings of their situation into a more balanced perspective of American militarism there. The data and experience they shared with us were overwhelming in alerting us to the evil power of American militarism as well as the oppressive policy of Japanese government. Oh, they were delighted! Erika Bise, the youngest, wrote me a note which said, "I was not confident at all at first on how I could communicate with the American people of this complex problem of military bases in Okinawa. Because of your people's willingness to understand our situation, I am so glad, my anxiety was completely gone at your church. We understand each other, because we are Christians, don't we?" All others echoed the same sentiment as Erika. My heartfelt THANK YOU to all who were involved in this project. (Join Rev. Towery and me in visiting them in Okinawa this March!)

I cannot include all, but I am so grateful to each one of you. It has been another good year by God's grace. Although we had to proceed step by step with frustration and excitment in our process of relocation, the day will come when we will be relocated for church growth and Christ's mission. I am grateful to my colleague, Kay Lewis, Louise Whitworth, Daniel Zachary, Choir members, all board members and committee members, Church School teachers and helpers, John Burlinson, Jean Appel and other officers, especially our outgoing Moderator, Fran Briggs who actually cooled my head for the good of our life together a few times in the past three years! Also to each one of you who took time and effort to beautify our facilities on Work Days. Certainly this past year, again, I have been blessed with this "family of God." May God keep blessing us!

Yoshi Kaneda

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S WORK

Areas of concern addressed:

PLANT The second floor classroom where the "One Room Sunday School" (children aged 4-10) is held has been repainted. In addition, a large "white board" and corkboard have been mounted on the walls to aid instruction and the display of work. A horseshoe-shaped table which seats eight has been purchased with funds realized from the Book Sale held last spring.

On the ground floor the "blue room" has been reclaimed for two and three year olds.

More materials have been added to the Resource Center on the third floor which was begun last year. Discussions have been held as to how the Junior and Senior High rooms on the third floor could be made more "user-friendly." Due to the current negotiations taking place with regard to the possible sale of this building and relocation nothing substantial is being undertaken at this time.

TEACHERS Three teachers' meetings were held at the home of the youth minister this year. The meeting in August took the form of a teacher training session. This was a new departure for the church and was judged to be helpful by those who attended.

We have one teacher for the Senior High and Beginners'classes and two teachers team-teaching the Junior High and "One Room Sunday School " classes. Ideally, we should have two teachers for each class, however, the Beginners' class teacher does have a nursery assistant.

In January there will be a changeover of the Senior and Junior High teachers. Due to "The Divine Drama"class being held this year, the pastor is not available on Sundays to take Confirmation class until May, so Doyal Pinkard, who normally teaches the Senior Highs, has volunteered to instruct them until then. Due to the younger age of one of the prospective confirmands, Confirmation will take place next December instead of in May. Yoshi Kaneda, the pastor, will be in charge of the confirmands' instruction from May until December.

CURRICULUM The curriculum for the newly-formed Beginners' class consists of materials acquired by the youth minister at a recent INCM workshop: cassette tapes with catchy songs and Bible-related art and crafts books. Use is also made of the recently purchased "Veggie Tales" videos which are popular with the children.

The teachers of the Primary class once more opted to use the Cokesbury "One-Room Sunday School" material despite the labor-intensive nature of this curriculum. The children respond well to the "hands on" approach and it meets the criteria advocated by modern Christian educators. The art work, crafts and music are enjoyed by the students.

Having used the "Jesus Then and Now" material (a book and two video-based scheme) last year

interspersed with play rehearsals, the Junior High teachers have adopted a different approach this year and are using "Junior High Talksheets" (published by Zondervan.) Each week the students are given a different questionnaire on a specific topic to fill out on a subject relevant to their lives. As well as their personal input, there is a section where they do research into biblical references related to the subject matter. Once that is done there is group discussion with their peers and their teachers. The teachers report that the youth are very enthusiastic about this curriculum and the teachers like it also. I feel that this class has come a long way since 1996 when they were observed sitting rather stiffly around a table taking turns to read Bible verses (which the initial questionnaire showed they disliked doing.) One of the leaders told the youth minister that his style of teaching had definitely changed in the last two years. If the sounds of animated discussion and laughter which emanate weekly from the more relaxed atmosphere of their third floor room are anything to judge by, then this class is succeeding.

The area of concentration of the Senior High class has been Genesis 1-18. Study of this text has led to questions of the relationship between faith and belief, and the nature and purpose of prayer. The video "Faith and Reason," which deals with issues in contemporary science, was shown. This class also employs a variety of materials including "Senior High Talksheets" and different texts to stimulate discussion. At the moment the purchase of the "Serendipity" Bible is being considered. The atmosphere in this class is upbeat and the expression of individual points of view is encouraged.

PUNCTUALITY One of the side-effects of "The Divine Drama" is that some children whose parents are taking the Sunday morning class now arrive early. To cope with this a nursery nurse has been hired to babysit. These children are here in good time for Church School, but some others continue to drift in after the lesson has begun.

ATTENDANCE This fluctuates. Some of our children are involved in camping some weekends and some of the older youth have extra school-related activities. We also have several families where the children spend alternate weekends with their other parent and there is no easy way around this. Irregularity of attendance makes continuity of instruction difficult and also poses problems for producing events such as a Christmas Pageant or a May church service led by the youth. There are now 27 children on the roll.

SECURITY/SAFETY This is still a concern which will remain as long as the church is at its present location. When it is wet, the external stairs leading to the second and third floor classrooms become slick and dangerous. Despite frequent warnings, we still have children playing on the stairs and throwing things from the third floor balcony on occasion. Parents need to take more responsibility for the supervision of their children during Fellowship Hour.

FOLDERS The folders containing lectionary-related worksheets, plain paper and crayons/pencils are still available for the children's use during the church service. Until September the youth minister renewed the materials weekly, but with the assumption of additional church duties, this task has been taken over by the church secretary. Appeals to parents or others in the congregation to carry out this role have so far met with a disappointing lack of response.

INTERGENERATIONAL NIGHTS A successful Christmas decoration making night featuring five different work stations was held in December followed by a "Plague Night" in March. At this latter meeting the children wrote in Egyptian hieroglyphics, watched a video on the Plagues of Egypt, took part in a quiz and ate "frogs" fashioned from pears and dates, and "snowballs" made of vanilla ice cream and coconut. There were also dramatic presentations and music relevant to the theme. These two nights were planned and directed by the youth minister.

A picnic planned for May had to be canceled due to inclement weather. At the end of September a "Heifer Project International" evening was held. This was organized by Marylu Mills and the youth minister. This meeting attracted some people, including some Junior and Senior Highs who do not normally attend intergenerational nights as we discussed how to conduct this outreach project.

A Pumpkin Carving night was held as usual at the end of October. Dr. Ben White was in charge of this. We are making a conscious effort to share the organizational responsibility for intergenerational nights among different board members.

YOUTH WORK The Youth Group continues to meet at 9.30 on Sunday mornings in an informal atmosphere on the third floor and is attended by four or five youth on average. Snacks and drinks are served and once more use is being made of videos on topical subjects to stimulate discussion in this group. This year Youth Specialties videos, "The Real Deal," have dealt with such subjects as: Stressing Out, Violence, Addictive Behavior, Loneliness and Families. Racism, Friendship, and Suicide are among the topics still to be discussed. Emphasis is still being placed on developing relationships with the young people and the youth seem to appreciate having somewhere to come on Sunday mornings.

One of the original hopes when the youth minister was appointed was that the youth of the church would become involved in some service projects. "Hands on Housing" and "Heifer Project International" on which as a church we have embarked this year, have provided opportunities for our youth to be involved in these outreach projects should they so choose. However, as was discovered in the survey last year, many of our older youth already have very busy schedules with school work, band, sports, Scouts and other extracurricular events. As noted last year, their parents also have very packed schedules. In spite of this it has been encouraging to see the enthusiasm which some of the youth have expressed for these new service projects.

TIME WITH CHILDREN The youth minister continues to do this once each month. It has been encouraging to see some other people volunteer to fulfill this function and people are encouraged to try. Various books to give ideas for Time with Children have been purchased and are available in the church's Resource Center.

RETREATS Part of the youth minister's function has continued to involve attendance at the church's retreats at New Braunfels. This past year the emphasis has been on planning for the new church building and recommendations have been made as to what the accommodation and educational requirements are for the Church School and Youth programs.

PREACHING Like last year, pulpit supply was provided for the pastor on the Sunday after Christmas.

TEACHING MATERIALS An important part of the job has been attendance at relevant local conferences to ensure the church is kept up to date on the latest Christian Education practices and materials. The "Youth Options" conference held in the spring and the "International Network of Children's Ministry" conference this fall were both fruitful sources for ideas and materials. As mentioned above, the "Veggie Tales" videos were purchased for the younger children along with books and cassettes to augment the Resource Center.

More videos were purchased for the Youth Group. These, plus the ones bought last year, will be available in the Resource Center ready for the next batch of youth in a couple of years' time. We need to continue to build up our resources and to remain abreast of new materials and technology.

At the INCM conference, transparency backgrounds which can be used in dramatic presentations were purchased. Now that we have an overhead projector we can expand our horizons.

The youth minister's research trip to Scotland last January also yielded fresh materials including the Iona Community's "Wild Goose" drama publications, one of which was used as the basis for the Church School's presentation last May. Copies of the new intergenerational Sunday School curriculum of the Church of Scotland and sundry specialized texts were also obtained.

RESOURCE CENTER The building up of a resource center is a gradual and ongoing process. Piece by piece, as indicated above, we are adding to our existing materials. We do need, however, to make sure that teachers and other church members (especially those doing 'Time with Children') are aware of, and familiar with, the resources available.

MEETINGS WITH PASTOR These took place weekly until September when the pastor and youth minister both incurred additional responsibilities in organizing and teaching "The Divine Drama" (q.v. below). The meetings were very helpful and are missed. When there is no weekly meeting there is the danger of lack of communication of important facts, details being overlooked and events being double scheduled.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION This has been attended monthly except when the youth minister was in Scotland in January and on a training trip in Minneapolis in May.

LITERATURE RESEARCH More needs to be done in this area and will be a priority from January till July as the workload permits. Magazines, as well as books, are a fruitful source of suggestions for youth ministry.

DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS On Saturday, September 26th, the youth minister made a presentation to the Brazos Association meeting of the UCC on the results of the research done in Scotland. These findings were felt to be relevant as church membership is declining in Scotland and it is useful to look at flourishing churches and see what their strategies are. The video "Bibleworld" which details the outreach efforts of the National Bible Society of

Scotland was shown and elicited great interest with its use of modern technology to convey the Bible message to its largely unchurched audience.

RESEARCH TRIP TO SCOTLAND This occurred from January 11-23, 1998 and a report on the interviews done was sent to the Texas Methodist Foundation upon my return. Three churches in Glasgow were visited: a city center parish and two churches with thriving youth groups. One of these churches was situated in the suburbs and had many advantages such as parental support and excellent accommodation, while the other was in a very deprived area where there was very little sense of community.

Two visits were made to Edinburgh. (While the youth minister was responsible for the fare to and from Britain, the Congregational Church of Austin provided funds for travel within Scotland.) Contact was made with the person in charge of curriculum development in the Church of Scotland and valuable insights obtained. The second visit involved visiting the "Bibleworld" center run by the National Bible Society of Scotland. This too was a very worthwhile exercise.

During the summer vacation three other people were interviewed: the Sunday School Superintendent and the minister in an island parish where Sunday School attendance had more than doubled, and the minister of a suburban Congregational Church in Glasgow. The data from these encounters has been added to the body of the research. Further educational materials were also acquired.

THE "DIVINE DRAMA" It having been determined that there was a need among the adults in the congregation for detailed study of the Bible, the minister proposed that the "Divine Drama" should be the scheme adopted. Accordingly, the minister and then the youth minister attended training sessions (the latter in Minneapolis). The Congregational Church of Austin paid the air fare, accommodation, and fee to enable the youth minister to attend this course.

This undertaking had not been envisioned when the initial job description was drawn up, but the research has shown that in order to educate the children we must begin with the parents; thus the enterprise falls under the aegis of improvement in the field of Christian Education which was one of the reasons why the youth minister was originally hired.

Teaching the course has involved on average nine extra working hours per week for which there has been no extra reimbursement.

Both the minister and youth minister need to be involved in teaching, as a Tuesday evening class is held to accommodate all those who cannot attend the Sunday morning class which is led by the minister. Around twenty two people, including two non-church members attend the Tuesday evening meetings which have a very good atmosphere

A welcome spin-off from the "Divine Drama" has been the young mothers who attend, which has resulted in more children in Sunday Church School. This is another argument for the research findings that a "whole church" model is important for Christian Education. Extra baby-sitters have been hired to watch the children whose parents attend the class.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES As mentioned under Youth Work, there has been a determined effort to seek out service projects. One of the roles of the youth minister these past two years has been to research various possibilities. Once the background work had been done there was a conscious decision on the part of the youth minister to pass on the responsibility for the execution of the "International Heifer Project" and "Hands on Housing" to other members of the Board of Christian Education. This has worked well and the people concerned have brought energy and enthusiasm to their tasks. It is hoped that this model of a more equitable distribution of responsibilities will continue.

"JUGGLERS'GROUP" Another new enterprise not envisioned in the original proposal has been the youth minister's involvement in the launching of the "Jugglers'" group. After discussion with a mother who is a seminary student about the need for a group for mothers and other women, married or single, within the church, the initial planning meeting was held at the home of the youth minister. To date three meetings have been held, two of which have been at the home of one of the mothers. These meetings start with a "no-fuss"potluck supper followed by discussion. "Stress" and strategies for coping with it has been the focus of the last two meetings. Proposed topics include viewing and discussing the video "Affluenza" which challenges people to a rethinking of their lifestyle. Leadership of the discussion rotates.

This group is proving to offer much-needed support for these women whose ages range from 30-60 year olds. It is fulfilling a need which had not been specifically covered in the church's ministry The intergenerational aspect is important as the participants can learn from each other.

Kay Lewis,
Youth Minister, the Congregational Church of Austin,
November 19, 1998

Coordinating Council Report
January 1999

This year the members of the Coordinating Council were Fran Briggs as moderator, James Tomasek representing deacons, Ellen Deisler representing trustees, Marylu Mills representing Christian Education, Tommie Pinkard, Clerk, Paul Deisler at-large, and Yoshi Kaneda ex-officio.

The Council had a conversation with Youth Director Kay Lewis in which she discussed the progress of her work and some of the frustrations she has encountered. A Grant Task Force was appointed to seek funding which would allow her or another person to continue when the current grant runs out. There was considerable disagreement within that group about paths and options available; however, that Task Force is still working and hopes to have a grant request completed in time to submit to the Texas Methodist Foundation this spring and perhaps other foundations as well.

The other ad hoc committees (Site Selection, Sales, Vision, and Capital Campaign) are continuing with their work. See the individual reports from each of those committees.

Much of the Council's energy has been directed toward facilitating the work of these committees. Planning for a move is going very slowly. Barbara Reynolds, the consultant from the Board for Homeland Ministries who met with us last summer, told us that there are several phases to moving a church. The first phase is acquiring property. We are coming to a point where we can begin to do that. Considerable time may elapse after that before we are ready to build on the acquired site. In the meantime, we may continue to worship in our present site or in an interim site. While she suggested that five to ten years is not an unreasonable amount of time to complete the process, we hope it will be possible in three to five years.

When the new council convenes, one issue that will be important to consider is Pastor Kaneda's retirement schedule and how that impacts our moving plans. I am personally concerned that our energy is being consumed in too many board and committee meetings. We have lived for three years with the current Constitution and By-Laws. I hope the new council will undertake an evaluation as to how it has worked and whether there are too many offices and boards for such a small church.

I have agreed at the committee's request to continue as chair of the Relocation Oversight Committee (ROC) for at least one year so that a smooth transition can occur with the incoming moderator. The ROC was formed to relieve the Coordinating Council of having to relate to standing boards and committees as well as the ad hoc groups mentioned above. By doing this, the Coordinating Council was able to return to its once-a-quarter meeting schedule.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as Moderator. As often happens when one undertakes a position of service, I find that I have learned a great deal and grown in faith during these three years.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Briggs

Frances Briggs

Vital Statistics
1998

MEMBERSHIP		TOTAL
RECEIVED:		
Re-Affirmation:		
Ellen Luna	April 5, 1998	1
Transfer:		
Kristin Galle	April 5, 1998	
John R. Gage	September 27, 1998	
Jennifer Bratton	September 27, 1998	
Debbie Herst	November 22, 1998	
Karl Putz,	November 22, 1998	
Andrea Putz,	November 22, 1998	6
Confirmation:		
John Herst,	April 5, 1998	
Ned Murphy,	April 5, 1998	2
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, as of Dec. 31, 1997:		118
Additions, 1998		9
		127
Transfer of Membership::		
Cathy Camden Staerker,	April 5, 1998	
By Death: Mrs. Helen Murray Brown,	January 24, 1998	2 -2
Total Membership, as of Dec. 31, 1998:		125

Baptisms:

Matthew Liam Tomasek, August 30, 1998
Jonathan Matthew Carruthers, June 21, 1998

Funerals:
Mrs. Helen Murray Brown, January 24, 1998

Tommie Pinkard

Tommie Pinkard, Clerk

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1998

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1998 INCOME REPORT (See following page):

General Fund:

For 1998 the actual income for our operating budget (**General Fund**) was $104,803.62. This was $5,147.08 less than we collected in 1997 and was $11,059.38 short of the amount required to meet our 1998 budget of $115,863.31. This differential is not nearly as great as it may seem, since we underspent our 1998 budget to a substantial degree. Thank you all for your generous giving and commitment to the ministry of our church.

This report does not include 38 shares of Scheering-Plough stock which was received on December 31, 1998, and valued at approximately $2,000 at that time. The Board of Trustees elected at their January, 1999 meeting to hold the stock rather than to sell it.

Please note that our **Non-Pledged** income of $18,964.82 exceeded the estimated amount projected by $5,224.82. This excess represents additional donations that came in during the last few months of the year. This is the most difficult part of our income to anticipate each year.

I have included a report titled, **"Quarterly Income for General Fund."** This report breaks down the income for our Operating Budget into quarters. Again this year, the figures show a "dip" in income during the third quarter, and a rise in income during the last quarter.

Special Contributions:

While the **Capital Fund Campaign** has not begun, we received an additional $4,033.00 earmarked for it in 1998. Our **Designated Income-for-Outreach** (e.g. OCWM, Neighbors in Need, etc.), together with our budgeted corporate giving, represents 14.3% of our total income for 1998.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1999 ESTIMATED INCOME FOR OUR BUDGET:

As of January 10, 1999, we have received 26 pledges totaling $83,426.00. This is the largest amount that we have ever pledged.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jean Appel

Jean Appel

Financial Secretary's Annual Report

1/1/98 Through 12/31/98

Income Summary

Category Description	1/1/98 Actual	- Budget	12/31/98 Diff	Estimate 1999 Income
INFLOWS				
Budget-GenlFund:				
FunFellowshipCm	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00
Loose Plate	2,749.41	2,300.00	449.41	2,500.00
Miscellaneous	410.97	50.00	360.97	250.00
Non-Pledged	18,964.82	13,740.00	5,224.82	13,000.00
Pastor's Fund-(Designated)	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00
Pledged '98-(Prepaid in 1997)	0.00	-4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00
Pledged-('98=29Units;'99=26Units)	79,641.94	79,300.00	341.94	83,426.00
Printing-(Reimbursement)	246.26	0.00	246.26	0.00
PropertyMntance	532.70	0.00	532.70	0.00
Rental Income-(Bldg Use+Utilities)	1,360.35	1,300.00	60.35	1,300.00
Retreat-(Reimbursements)	647.17	800.00	-152.83	700.00
SHORTFALL-(Projected)	0.00	22,873.00	-22,873.00	0.00
TOTAL Budget-GenlFund	104,803.62	115,863.00	-11,059.38	101,176.00
Capital Fund	4,033.00	0.00	4,033.00	
Christ.Ed.Grant-(TX Methodist Foundation)	16,697.00	16,697.00	0.00	
Designated Inc-(Local Use):				
"DIVINE DRAMA'	1,785.00	0.00	1,785.00	
B.C.E. BookSale	519.85	0.00	519.85	
Emergency Fund	75.00	0.00	75.00	
Grant Mortgage-(Pledged)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
McNeely Estate-(Principal)	3,464.82	3,185.00	279.82	
Memorial Fund	215.00	0.00	215.00	
Special Gifts-(Emergency)	825.00	0.00	825.00	
T-Shirts-(Reimbursements)	315.00	0.00	315.00	
TrainingSeminar-C. Lewis	485.00	0.00	485.00	
TrainingSeminr-C.Lewis(TransferFromGM)	315.00	0.00	315.00	
TOTAL Designated Inc-(Local Use)	7,999.67	3,185.00	4,814.67	
Designated Inc.-(Outreach):				
Christmas Fund-(Special Offering)	600.00	0.00	600.00	
CROP Administr-(Special Offering)	173.50	0.00	173.50	
CROP Walk	100.00	0.00	100.00	
FaithFood Pntry-(Pledged)	600.00	600.00	0.00	
Fan Fund-(ElderCare)	40.00	0.00	40.00	
Heifer Project-(Special BCE Project)	305.00	0.00	305.00	
JustPeaceAppeal-(Special Offering)	1,096.00	0.00	1,096.00	
Love Gift-(Towery Okinawa Trip)	1,660.00	0.00	1,660.00	
NCD-(Pledged+NonPledged)	2,150.50	1,798.00	352.50	
NeighborsInNeed	125.00	0.00	125.00	
OCWM-(Pledged+NonPledged)	8,655.50	7,140.00	1,515.50	
OGHS-(Special Offering)	1,608.00	0.00	1,608.00	
OkinawaPartners-(Special Offering)	842.85	0.00	842.85	
SCC FloodRelief	50.00	0.00	50.00	
TOTAL Designated Inc.-(Outreach)	18,006.35	9,538.00	8,468.35	
TOTAL INFLOWS	151,539.64	145,283.00	6,256.64	

Quarterly Income for General Fund*, '98

1/1/98 Through 12/31/98

Income Summary

Category Description	1/1/98-3/31/98	4/1/98-6/30/98	7/1/98-9/30/98	10/1/98-12/31/98	OVERALL TOTAL
INFLOWS					
Budget-GenlFund:					
FunFellowshipCm	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Loose Plate	467.85	689.95	668.08	923.53	2,749.41
Miscellaneous	215.81	55.69	72.63	66.84	410.97
Non-Pledged	3,302.57	3,643.00	2,839.50	9,179.75	18,964.82
Pastor's Fund-(Designated)	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
Pledged-(29 Units+McN. Estate)	19,389.96	22,103.07	16,776.42	21,372.49	79,641.94
Printing-(Reimbursement)	0.00	0.00	246.26	0.00	246.26
PropertyMntance	0.00	0.00	0.00	532.70	532.70
Rental Income-(Bldg Use+Utilities)	325.00	350.00	225.00	460.35	1,360.35
Retreat-(Reimbursements)	148.00	109.00	0.00	390.17	647.17
TOTAL Budget-GenlFund	23,849.19	27,000.71	20,827.89	33,125.83	104,803.62
TOTAL INFLOWS	23,849.19	27,000.71	20,827.89	33,125.83	104,803.62

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

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN
24 January 1999
TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

This report consists of four parts:

- The brief narrative that follows.
- A Statement of Accounts as of December 31, 1998.
- An Expenditure Report for Calendar Year 1998.
- A Proposed Budget for Calendar Year 1999.

Although a few categories of expense exceeded budgeted expectations, total expenditures for 1998 were under 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, Property Maintenance, Utilities, and Kitchen Supplies, were below 100% of budget.

Members of the Budget Committee met in November 1998 to prepare the 1999 budget included in this annual report. This budget was developed with two primary assumptions that may need to be re-visited during the coming year as circumstances dictate.

- The proposed budget assumes that we will not move in 1999. Therefore, no provision is made for expenses relating to a move.
- We made the assumption that all costs associated with the sale of the church and selection of a new site would be paid from Capital Campaign Funds, not from the General Fund for Local Church Programs.

The 1999 budget differs in several ways from last year's:

- Salaries for the Pastor and the Secretary have been increased.
- Funds have been budgeted to continue the position of Youth Minister for the full year. Current Grant funds expire July 31, 1999. The proposed budget contains funds to pay Salary and Housing for this position for the remaining five months of the year at the current rate of the final year of the Grant. Funds have also been budgeted to provide health insurance, life insurance, dental benefits, pension, and continuing education for this position.
- The proposed budget includes nominal increases for Christian Education (line 41) and Postage (line 44).
- Funds budgeted for Property Maintenance (line 50) have been reduced since we are now primarily in a "maintenance" mode, pending the sale of the property. The proposed amount accords with expenditures made in 1998.
- Brazos Association dues (line 21) have increased.

The total proposed budget represents an increase of 10.8% over that of 1998.

Respectfully submitted,

John Burlinson

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

December 31, 1998

ASSETS

Fund	Matures	Interest	Amount
General Fund: Checking Account *			9,755.22
Common Stock: 38 shares Schering-Plough**			2,080.50
Youth Minister Fund		4.70%	9,739.94
Memorial Fund		4.70%	7,617.73
Organ Fund		4.70%	4,311.90
Capital Campaign Fund		4.70%	17,611.69
Sub-Total			**51,116.98**
Nation's Bank #478614 (McNeely Estate)	2/3/99	4.62%	2,336.26
Norwest Bank #261242400-0 (McNeely Estate)	4/05/01	7.60%	5,455.50
United Church Foundation (McNeely Acct.)			22,749.47
Sub-Total			**30,541.23**
Total			**81,658.21**

* This figure includes deposits thru 12/31/98.

** Shares valued at close of market 12/31/98.

Mrs. Dav
Lexington
in, TX 787

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

1998 Budgeted & Expended

		Budgeted	Expended	%
	Pastoral Leadership			
5	Salary	25,582.50	25,582.56	100.00
6	Annuity	5,681.55	5,429.52	95.56
7	Health Insurance	7,050.00	7,453.50	105.72
8	Dental Benefits	540.00	549.00	101.67
9	Family Protection Plan	376.50	387.80	103.00
10	Continuing Education	1,000.00	1,009.89	100.99
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	57,730.55	57,912.11	100.31
	Local Church Programs			
15	Pastor's Discretionary Fund	200.00	0.00	0.00
16	Secretary	9,865.00	9,864.96	100.00
17	Social Security & Medicare	690.55	696.95	100.93
18	Music For Worship	250.00	227.25	90.90
19	Musicians	5,000.00	5,625.00	112.50
20	Director	2,925.00	0.00	0.00
21	Social Security & Medicare	207.86	0.00	0.00
22	Christian Education	2,500.00	3,277.63	131.11
23	Kitchen Supplies	250.00	177.17	70.87
24	Office Supplies	2,700.00	2,900.44	107.42
25	Postage	500.00	460.00	92.00
26	Utilities	6,500.00	6,162.71	94.81
27	Electric & Water		4,431.84	
28	Gas		853.82	
29	Telephone		522.57	
30	Drinking Water		354.48	
31	Property Maintenance	7,000.00	2,472.17	35.32
32	Janitorial Supplies	150.00	94.67	63.11
33	Janitorial Service	4,305.00	3,725.22	86.53
34	Social Security & Medicare	301.35	264.73	87.85
35	Conference Delegates	600.00	822.55	137.09
36	Camps & Workshops	500.00	655.56	131.11
37	Advertising	1,500.00	1,254.82	83.65
38	Pulpit Speakers	900.00	1,101.00	122.33
39	Nursery Attendants	1,200.00	1,287.50	107.29
40	Insurance	1,428.00	1,411.00	98.81
41	Fun & Fellowship	300.00	250.15	83.38
42	Archives	150.00	0.00	0.00
43	Miscellaneous	150.00	156.00	104.00
44	Printing - Newsletter & Bulletin	3,000.00	3,771.57	125.72
45	Retreat	1,500.00	1,558.25	103.88
46	Local Church -- Subtotal	54,572.76	48,217.30	88.35

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

1998 Budgeted & Expended

		Budgeted	Expended	%
	Cooperative Responsibilities			
	Austin Metropolitan Ministries	600.00	600.00	100.00
	Brazos Ass. Dues	300.00	596.00	198.67
	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
	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
	Texas Impact	100.00	100.00	100.00
	Coop. Responsibilities Subtotal	3,560.00	3,856.00	108.31
	TOTAL – BUDGETED	115,863.31	109,985.41	94.93
	Designated Expenditures			
	Christmas Fund		600.00	
	CROP Walk		100.00	
	Faith Food Pantry		600.00	
	Fan Fund (Elder Care)		40.00	
	Just Peace Appeal		1,096.00	
	New Church Development		2,150.50	
	Neighbors In Need		125.00	
	Our Church's Wider Mission		8,655.50	
	One Great Hour of Sharing		1,608.00	
	Religious Coalition for Homeless		90.24	
	Divine Drama		1,380.88	
	Brazos Assn. (Okinawa Parnership)		692.85	
	T-Shirts		227.19	
	Memorial Fund		215.00	
	McNeely Estate		3,642.82	
	Special Gift (Emergency Fund)		825.00	
	Designated Expenditures Subtotal		22,048.98	
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES		132,034.39	

Report covers period from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 1998

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN
Proposed Budget for 1999

		Budgeted 1998	Budgeted 1999	Change
	Pastoral Leadership - Pastor			
5	Salary	25,582.50	27,742.20	2,159.70
6	Annuity	5,681.55	5,983.91	302.36
7	Health Insurance	7,050.00	8,664.00	1,614.00
8	Dental Benefits	540.00	576.00	36.00
9	Family Protection Plan	376.50	400.00	23.50
10	Continuing Education	1,000.00	1,009.89	9.89
11	Housing Allowance	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00
12	Automobile Expense	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
13	Pastor	57,730.55	61,876.00	4,145.45
	Pastoral Leadership - Youth Minister			0.00
14	Salary & Housing	0.00	6,957.10	6,957.10
15	Annuity	0.00	973.99	973.99
16	Health Insurance	0.00	1,805.00	1,805.00
17	Family Protection Plan	0.00	69.57	69.57
18	Dental Benefits	0.00	120.00	120.00
19	Continuing Education	0.00	200.00	200.00
	Youth Minister		10,125.66	10,125.66
	Pastoral Leadership Subtotal	57,730.55	72,001.66	14,271.11

	Cooperative Responsibilities			
20	Austin Metropolitan Ministries	600.00	600.00	0.00
21	Brazos Ass. Dues	300.00	596.00	296.00
22	Texas Conference of Churches	30.00	30.00	0.00
23	National Council of Churches	15.00	15.00	0.00
24	World Council of Churches	15.00	15.00	0.00
25	Regional Seminary Support	500.00	500.00	0.00
26	Eden Home	500.00	500.00	0.00
27	Back Bay Mission	500.00	500.00	0.00
28	Slumber Falls Camp	100.00	100.00	0.00
29	Austin Interfaith	300.00	300.00	0.00
30	Huston Tillotson	500.00	500.00	0.00
31	University Area Partners	100.00	100.00	0.00
32	Texas Impact	100.00	100.00	0.00
	Coop. Responsibilities Subtotal	3,560.00	3,856.00	296.00

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN
Proposed Budget for 1999

		Budgeted 1998	Budgeted 1999	Change
33	Local Church Programs			0.00
34	Pastor's Discretionary Fund	200.00	200.00	0.00
35	Secretary	9,865.00	10,365.50	500.50
36	Social Security & Medicare	690.55	736.58	46.03
37	Music For Worship	250.00	250.00	0.00
38	Musicians	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
39	Director	2,925.00	2,925.00	0.00
40	Social Security & Medicare	207.86	207.86	0.00
41	Christian Education	2,500.00	2,800.00	300.00
42	Kitchen Supplies	250.00	250.00	0.00
43	Office Supplies	2,700.00	2,700.00	0.00
44	Postage	500.00	600.00	100.00
45	Utilities	6,500.00	6,500.00	0.00
46	Electric & Water			
47	Gas			
48	Telephone			
49	Drinking Water			
50	Property Maintenance	7,000.00	4,000.00	-3,000.00
51	Janitorial Supplies	150.00	150.00	0.00
52	Janitorial Service	4,305.00	4,305.00	0.00
53	Social Security & Medicare	301.35	301.35	0.00
54	Conference Delegates	600.00	600.00	0.00
55	Camps & Workshops	500.00	500.00	0.00
56	Advertising	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
57	Pulpit Speakers	900.00	900.00	0.00
58	Nursery Attendants	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00
59	Insurance	1,428.00	1,428.00	0.00
60	Fun & Fellowship	300.00	300.00	0.00
61	Archives	150.00	150.00	0.00
62	Miscellaneous	150.00	150.00	0.00
63	Printing - Newsletter & Bulletin	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00
64	Retreat	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
	Local Church -- Subtotal	54,572.76	52,519.29	-2,053.47
	TOTAL BUDGETED	115,863.31	128,376.95	12,513.64

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: ANNUAL REPORT – 1998

Board Members: George Lemley (Chair); David Ross (Vice Chair); Suzanne Bradford (Representative to Enlistment and Stewardship); John Burlinson (Treasurer); Jean Appel (Financial Secretary); Loretta Lewis; Ellen Deisler (Representative to Coordinating Council); Yoshi Kaneda (Pastor); Richard Jackson (Scribe).

The following is a list of information pertaining to actions taken by the Board of Trustees.

The efforts of the Property Sales Committee were overseen by this board, and we believe things are going well. In April a realtor was hired and much work has been done in the effort to find a buyer.

We have seen the BGMC and many members of this congregation continue to work to maintain an attractive and fully functioning building. Thanks to everyone for all the hard work.

It has been necessary to have repairs made to the air-conditioning systems on several occasions this year. The summer heat appears to have tested the limits of our air-conditioning equipment.

The board agreed to send Kay Lewis to a seminar on the Divine Drama, and fund ads for the DD as well. At this time Kay and Yoshi are teaching the Divine Drama to a large number of our congregation, and it is proving to be very informative.

Efforts have been made to prepare for finalizing the sale of the McNeely home. It's proving to be a bit difficult to find all the necessary information.

We authorized the Publicity Committee to prepare and post a web page for the church. Vic Appel has been very instrumental in pulling this together.

Efforts were made to put together a time line to help coordinate the actions of the various committees involved with the sale of the church property, but this has proved to be a very difficult task. Through the urging of this board, the Relocation Oversight Committee was organized to help with this task.

At one point in the late summer APD had to be contacted and a "No Trespassing" sign had to be erected to help ward off the large number of homeless teens who were sleeping on the porches of the church.

We were able to end the year approximately just $4,000 over budget.

This has been a very eventful and busy year.

Respectfully submitted,

George Lemley, Chair George Lemley

Board of Deacons Annual Report--1998

Board members: Steven Domingue (Chair), Martha Miles (Vice-chair), Mathis Blackstock (Secretary), Yoshi Kaneda (Pastor), James Tomasek, Suzanne Vanderpoel, Sharon Brown, Nanette Strickland, Andrew Barrett

We thank all those who helped make the regular Sunday worship a source of spiritual renewal: Rev. Kaneda, the choir, ushers, acolytes, scripture readers, Time with Children leaders, the musical trio, the musical soloists, and all those who pitched in when others couldn't make it. We thank those who participated in our special services: Ash Wednesday, the Maundy Thursday service, the Good Friday Vigil, the Easter services, the service with the Okinawan delegates, and the Christmas services.

The Board of Deacons considered how we might promote church growth. We felt that a good place to start was to make sure that every visitor to our church felt welcomed and informed as to what manner of church this is. We began a routine of follow-up telephone calls to visitors. We created a greeter position, the "Angels", to see to the needs of first-time visitors.

The congregation received several new members this year, so that another signature sheet had to be attached to our covenant. The deacons instituted a deacon's orientation of new members to celebrate our Christian fellowship and to answer any questions they might have.

Kristin Galle and John Gage have in-care status with us toward ordination by the U.C.C.

We cooperated with Rev. Kaneda in his initiative for adult education and in the plans for the Okinawan delegates' visit.

We have been courting Huston-Tillotson College to develop a partnership. Joe McMillan (president of the college), Don Brewington (chaplain), and Nathan Flowers (student council president) have expressed a willingness to develop a closer relationship between our church and the college. Rev. Brewington served as a guest preacher for us one Sunday. The Okinawan delegates were given the opportunity to make a presentation at Huston-Tillotson. We hope that, through such interactions, we will become increasingly united in Christ.

The deacons initiated a "prayer-gram" service so that members can write notes to others to let them know that we are praying for them and their needs. Those who have received such notes have been very appreciative.

At the request of the Coordinating Council, the Board of Deacons has been trying to develop a process to help the congregation judge possibilities of uniting with other congregations.

Steven Domingue

Annual Report from the Board of Christian Education

The Board of Christian Education has worked to sustain, strengthen, improve, and expand our programs. If we have been successful, it is because of the generous talents of the members of the Board and the teaching staff including:

- Michael Adams, Board of Christian Education
- Susan Ashton, Sunday School Superintendent, and Primary Teacher
- John Burlinson, Juniors Teacher
- Lynne Lemley, Secretary of the Board, and Nursery Teacher
- Marylu Mills, Board of Christian Education and Liaison to Coordinating Council
- John Moore, Board of Christian Education
- Mel Oakes, Juniors Teacher
- Doyal Pinkard, Immediate Past Chair, Board of Christian Education, Senior High Teacher
- Ben White, Vice Chair, Board of Christian Education; and
- All parents and church members who have taught as back-up or in the summer Sunday School Lite.

Examples of ***Strengthening***...

- Kay Lewis, Youth Minister has researched how other churches here and abroad are working with children and youth and has investigated curriculum options. She has urged us to deepen our work by adding more teaching and learning to our intergenerational programs.
- Several Intergenerational Nights were offered including: "Plague" Night, Heifer Project Orientation and Planing, and Pumpkin Carving
- End of Year and Christmas Program involved all grade levels. Susan Ashton helped manage the rehearsals and costumes for the younger students. With the results of a survey designed and administered by Kay Lewis, the Board has redirected the focus on the special events to try and make them more of a positive experience for the children and less of a "show" for the congregation.
- Church School Kick-off Breakfast, parent orientation, and Information Brochure - Our traditional back to school breakfast was expanded to included an orientation session for parents at which time we emphasized that

Christian education is a seven day a week activity. An information brochure about the Sunday morning church school program was also distributed.

- T-shirt – A free T-shirt with the UCC logo and mission statement was given to the children and available for purchase by adults. It helped identify who we were as participants in community service projects.
- Egg Hunt – The annual Easter egg and canned food hunt was a success. The chocolate candy was promptly consumed and the staples were donated to Manos de Cristo

Examples of ***Improving . . .***

- Teacher orientation was offered twice and a formal training program was created for the first time this year.
- Mission was made a new emphasis by the Board. The Heiffer Project was instituted (Thanks, MaryLu), we joined Hands on Housing for their October renovation weekend (Thanks, John), and gathered baby food in November which was delivered to Caritas.
- Sunday School Lite was offered this summer. Instructors were recruited from the ranks of church members and a full teaching roster was established. Every Sunday during the summer those children who attended church could count on a program being available. An evaluation of the first year of Sunday School Lite was also conducted to improve next year's offering.
- Physical Plant Work Day(s) – With the strong support of the Building and Grounds Committee, major improvements were made to the classrooms for the first time in over a decade. Walls were sanded and painted, new bulletin boards were put up, and lots of junk was eliminated.
- Book sale in April – The first ever Christian Education book sale was organized this April (Thanks, Doyal). The proceeds were used to purchase a badly needed table for the students to sit at and the church t-shirts.
- Evaluation commitment -- Kay has made a commitment to asking the students (in a formal way) what they would like (and what they don't) and we have relied upon this valuable information in making our decisions.

Examples of ***Expanding . . .***

- Divine Drama – Offered on both Sunday morning and Tuesday evening, this religious education course goes far beyond the typical tepid Bible study.
- Juggler's Group – Initiated at the suggestion of Kristen Galle and coordinated (again by Kay), this group meets for supper and discussion of topics of concern to parents who are "juggling" multiple repsponsibilities.
- Sunday School Nursery – A nursery age class is now available each Sunday (Thanks, Lynne) although attendance is irregular.

Examples of ***Sustaining . . .***

- Frond waving – The children contain to wave enthusiastically (Thanks, Michael) each Palm Sunday.
- Confirmation – Class was taught in 1998 by Yoshi and we were grateful to have two confirmands. The next class is operating on a different schedule and will not be confirmed until December of 1999.
- Child Care – is offered more reliably now during the Divine Drama and regularly during the worship hour.
- Presentation of Bibles – to third graders and remembrances to graduating seniors continues.
- Worship Service Folders – are organized and available every Sunday with religious education activities to occupy children who remain in church during the worship hour.

Among its many fine attributes, the Board of Christian Education is nothing if not flexible. This year our "end of school year" picnic had to be cancelled because of the air pollution. Undaunted, ice cream was contributed to the next scheduled church luncheon for a "fun" element. A good sticky time was had by the children and a goodly number of the adults.

In summary, Sunday morning church school for children has an average primary attendance of 11 children with another half dozen in the junior/senior high program. Counting Sunday morning Christian Education, the Divine Drama, and the Juggler's Group, approximately 80 individuals are served each week by the educational programs of the Congregational Church of Austin.

We are thankful for our leaders: Rev. Yoshi Kaneda's vision brought us The Divine Drama, a nationally acclaimed religious education course taught on Sunday morning and again on Tuesday evening. The Tuesday group is led by Kay Lewis, our Youth Minister. Kay combines a passion for Christian Education and strong organizational skills. We are the betting for her prodding. Louise Whitworth was unfailingly cheerful and efficient in handling many administrative duties.

There is much still to be done. We need more ways for new adults to work with children and youth . The surveys we have done suggest that the children love the folks they know, but that they don't know many of us very well. If you are not already involved in the Christian Education program, please consider joining us for a time this year.

Yours in Christ,

Carol D. Barrett, Chair
Board of Christian Education and Primary Sunday School Teacher
January, 1999

Music Committee Report

On behalf of the church members, the music committee would like to thank Nodie Murphy, Norma Hawes and Florence Cassel for their priceless skill and devotion to the coordination and presentation of a wonderful variety of music during the past church year. Their work has made the church services a much richer experience for all of us. Thanks go to Nodie Murphy and Norma Hawes who ably conducted the choir, to Florence Cassel and the various trio members, to the choir, and to Norma Hawes, Louise Froehlich and Barbra Burnham who took turns accompaning choir rehearsals.

During the past year we have been blessed with the services of many talented musicians, especially Felicia Day, violinist, Erin Walsdorf, cellist, Melanie Wilkinson and Becky Ellis, guest soloists.

Musical highlights during the year included (but were not limited to) the following:

7Feb98	Anthem: "Child of the Lamb"
15Feb98	Anthem: "There shall be Showers of Blessings"
22 Feb 98	Anthem: "I Will Clap My Hands" by Joseph M. Martin. The choir was assisted by Ned Murphy, Bree Hawes-Domingue and Robin Rossin on percussion
8Mar98	Anthem "God So Loved the World" by Stainer
12Apr98	Easter Sunrise: Melanie Wilkinson sang "Because He Lives." Special choir introit: "Easter". Melanie Wilkinson sang " I Know That My Redeemer Liveth" Offertory: "Sheep May Safely Graze" Nodie on flute, Florence, piano.
10May98	Mother's Day. Choir performed Anthem "Love" with children singing counterpoint "Jesus Loves Me".
17May98	Special music. Melanie sang "His eye is on the sparrow" and for Pat and Mel's Oakes 35th anniversary, she sang Michael Fracasso's "Life is like a ball game"
24May98	Choir with young percussionists
31May98	"I'm Gonna Sing till the Spirit Moves in My Heart" by Moses Hogan with Melanie Wilkinson soprano accompanied by choir and piano.
20Sep98	Anthem "Bless the Lord, O My Soul" Ippolitof-Ivanoff
2Sep98	Anthem "They'll know we are Christians by our Love"
18Oct98	Becky Ellis, soprano, in Anthem with Choir "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling" by Gilbert M. Martin.
25Oct98	Anthem "Shine on Us" M.W. and D.D. Smith.
8Nov98	"Giver of Every Perfect Gift" by Jaroslav J. Vajda, K.Lee Scott. Anthem for Choir and Congregation. Choir sang verses 1-3, congregation joined in on verse 4.
15Nov98	Anthem: "My Tribute: How Can I Say Thanks" with Melanie Wilkinson.
22Nov98	Anthem: Litany with congregation: "For the Fruit of All Creation"
29Nov98	Joint worship service with University Baptist Church. Choirs performed "Fear Not, Good Shepherds" and "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" The Trio, Florence Cassel and Kathleen and Erin Walsdorf played "Andante con Moto Tranquillo" by Mendelssohn.
13Dec98	Anthem: "Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes" Larkin
20Dec98	Morning Joyful Noise Band and Christmas service by Children. Evening: "A Do-It-Yourself Christmas Pagent Featuring YOU" scripted by Nodie Murphy, introduced by Denis Murphy, with Florence Castle, piano Nodie Murphy, flute and Melanie Wilkinson, soprano. Readers were Denis Murphy, Kay Lewis, Joseph McMillian, Lynne Lemley, Kristin Galle, John Burlinson, Jamie Adams, Sarah Moore and Carol Barrett.
27Dec98	Anthem: "As Shepherds Filled with Joy". Farewell party for Felicia Day who is going to Hollywood to seek her fortune.

Sara Ross, Chairman

Building and Grounds Committee

Because of the possibility of moving at any time, the committee limited its work to doing necessary maintenance, sprucing up Sunday School rooms, and making emergency repairs.

There were two successful work days during which the workers cleaned out the second floor Archives Room, transferring building materials stored there to the basement; cleaned out and organized the small storage rooms in the old basement; and posted a list of the contents of each storage room.

In the large second floor Sunday School room, work day volunteers led by Betsy Ferguson primed and painted the walls, put in new baseboards, put adhesive cork board on the walls, and washed the windows and blinds. Several minor repairs were made on the third floor.

In the main room of the old basement, a basement window facing onto the alley was repaired. A professional electrician repaired the patio lights.

The only major expenditure for repairs in 1998 was for repairs to the air conditioning system. Because of the age of the equipment, repairs are beginning to be needed.

Thanks to the committee members and thanks to the helpful volunteers.

Building and Grounds Co-Chairs

Betsy Ferguson
Mary Sinclair
Kathleen Strong
Lillie Webb

26.1

REPORT

ENLISTMENT AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

January, 1999

Members: Rambie Briggs
David Ashton

This year, the Enlistment and Stewardship Committee initiated an introduction to the concept of the program of "Consecrating Steward." This approach to stewardship was taken from the work of Earl Miller of the Ohio Conference in cooperation with the Stewardship Council of the United Church of Christ.

The primary focus of the program is to help church members "understand the call to be stewards of and in all of life, responding to the absolute goodness and gifts of God."

The concept was introduced to have each member of the congregation make a personal choice of their contribution to the financial needs of the church before the church budget was crafted and presented. We attempted to make it even more personal by having several members of the congregation share their understanding of stewardship (David Ashton, Suzanne Bradford, & Rambie Briggs), and then ask a speaker from outside the congregation (George McGonigle) to give the sermon on Stewardship Sunday.

We feel this is a good program, and we suggest study and implementation of more of the "Consecrating Stewards" program this next year.

Respectfully,

Rambie Briggs

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE FOR 1998

During 1998, the members of the committee were: Vic Appel, Kristen Galle, John Kirch, Ex-Officio Consultant and Webmaster, Loretta Lewis, Joe Mills, Dennis Murphy, Tommie Pinkard, and Chester Rosson.

The Committee's efforts during 1997 focused on four activities: 1) Publicity for the Easter Sunrise Service on Mt. Bonnell 2) Publicity for the "Divine Drama" Bible classes 3) Publicity for the church in the Southwestern Bell and Yellow Pages' Telephone Directories 4) Getting our church's Web Pages on-line.

The Easter Sunrise Service in 1998 was the most successful ever. The combination of the early erecting of signs in the Mt. Bonnell area and the Austin American Statesman ad, an outstanding guest speaker, and a great soloist all combined to attract an estimated 250 persons. Most of these were not church members.

Despite a large ad in the American Statesman, the efforts of the Pastor and the Publicity Committee in promoting the classes within the church turned out to be most effective. We had over 50 persons sign up for the classes, with only a comparatively few "outsiders" joining us.

The telephone directories advertisement was our most costly venture, with almost half of our total budget--$650--devoted to it. This year we maintained the directory ads largely as they have been. We are spurred by the modest effectiveness of those ads to undertake a major rethinking of our telephone advertisement for 1999.

We have high hopes that our church's Home Page and subsequent web pages on the Internet—once fully developed-- will be a significant improvement over our telephone ads. We will be able to provide far more information about our church at far less cost. We owe a great debt of gratitude to John Kirch, Lisa's husband, for helping us launch our web pages. He helped in two very important ways. He graciously allowed us to place those web pages within his domain on the Internet. What that means is that we do not need to sign up with a commercial local server, and incur the typical monthly cost ($15-25). Further, he helped to get us started by designing the format for our Home Page and subsequent web pages. Unfortunately, he has not been able to continue as Webmaster, (though he still permits us to use his Internet domain at no cost), and that has stalled our progress. However, Dennis Murphy has agreed to fill that very important slot for us in 1999.

Once operative, we expect to have the following sections on our web pages:

I. Our Home Page
II. Our church's Mission and Vision Statements
III. A history of our local church.
IV. A history of the United Church of Christ

V "A Virtual Visit": Pictures of the outside and inside of our church, enabling interested persons to take a "walk through" our church.

VI The Monthly Church Newsletter (with some editing to exclude personal or financial Information that should be limited to members).

VII Newly breaking news about Upcoming Events

VIII Information and pictures about our church staff

We have already taken steps to correct an error in a local Internet directory of Austin churches. Up until recently, we were listed under the Church of Christ denomination!

As the above episode indicates, our biggest objective—both for now and the immediate future--is to help make Austin aware that the Congregational Church of Austin exists, and what we stand for.

Finally, we are proud to announce that we exercised uncanny frugality in 1998, and declined to utilize $245.18 of the $1,500.00 budgeted for the Committee. This is one indication of the wonderfully talented Committee we have, and I feel privileged to work with them.

Vic Appel, Chair

Property Sales Committee Report
The Congregational Church of Austin
January 9, 1999

George Lemley (Chair); David Ross (Scribe); Vic Appel; Jean Appel; Tommie Pinkard; Ben White; Ellen Deisler; Fran Briggs (Representative to Coordinating Council); Yoshi Kaneda (Pastor).

During the year of 1998 this committee has strived to learn and understand the processes involved in selling commercial real-estate. We have worked to find and hire the best realtor for the job of helping us sell the church property. After interviewing several very formidable prospects, a choice was made and a realtor was hired.

On April 23, 1998, a contract was signed hiring David Morrison of Austin Premium Property as our realtor. Since that date there have been and continue to be many interactions between interested prospective buyers and our realtor Mr. Morrison. On a regular basis information about these interactions is forwarded from our realtor to the chair of this committee and then on to the Board of Trustees for consideration.

We have put up a "for sale" sign on the corner of the property. And over the first few months of 1999, there will be some people here gathering small amounts of materials from the building on which various tests will be performed, since an environmental study of the property has been approved.

The Sales Committee will continue to work to obtain the best possible price for this property.

Respectfully submitted,

George Lemley

George Lemley, Chair

SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE
Congregational Church of Austin

The participating members of the Site Selection Committee during 1998 were: Dave Ashton – Chairman, Suzanne Bradford – Secretary, Michael Adams, Vic and Jean Appel, Mat Blackstock, Sharon Brown, Paul Deisler, Yoshi Kaneda, Pat Oakes, Sara Ross, and Mary Sinclair. The Site Selection Committee spent the year pursuing different paths as we struggled to deal with the issues of finding a new site for our facilities.

We continued our efforts to increase our knowledge of the process we have entered into by inviting Mike Mullenix from United Christian Church to share their experiences in their search for a new site. His visit was very informative.

We received input from the congregation at our Pentecost day group sessions and at the fall Slumber Falls retreat.

We determined that it is going to be necessary to engage a realtor to search for potential sites. We reviewed the evaluations of the realtors interviewed by the Sales Committee and interviewed 2 additional realtors on our own. However, we felt that we had no funds with which to pursue a site until our existing property had a contract for sale. Therefore, it would not be appropriate to engage a realtor until such time that we have assurance of funds with which to proceed. (Note: The realtor representing as buyers will not receive a fee directly from us. This realtor's fee will be paid by the seller at the closing of the sale contract.)

It was then that we learned of the loan fund available through the UCBHM that would allow us to procure a 15 year, interest free loan for the purchase of a site (land value only). Barbara ~~Beck~~ Reynolds of UCBHM came and met with the congregation to explain the terms and conditions of this loan fund. Although there are only 2 time periods per year to obtain one of these loans, there was a high level of confidence that an adequate sum of money could be obtained in a timely enough manner to allow us to proceed with a site search.

In the meantime, it was determined that it was in our best interest to hire an architectural firm to develop a building program before we proceed with a site search. A building program is a document that lists the amount of individual spaces and overall space needed for the project and the uses of all the individual portions of that space. Once this document is complete, the required size of the facility will be determined and the size of the site required to support that facility can also be determined. Additionally, the architect will assist in evaluating potential sites. This evaluation by a building design professional representing only our interests will be invaluable.

We have proceeded very carefully in selecting an architect because of the lasting impact of this person's contribution to our future facility. The final result of the architect's work will be a part of our congregation for many, many years. We interviewed 5 teams of architects. Each of them was given the same list of items to address in advance of their interview. After completing these interviews, we evaluated each team based on a numerical system that rated each in several areas of importance. "Church experience" and "Experience in the City of Austin" were weighted with twice the importance of the other

evaluation criteria items we developed: "Ability to listen and hear", "Budget conscienceness", "Design process", "Style of representative work", "Knowledge of issues applicable to our concerns", and "Overall impression". After lengthy deliberations, we narrowed the list to 2 teams and asked each of these two to return. Each was given a list of questions developed by the committee members in advance. After these 2nd interviews, the committee made a unanimous decision to hire Opus 3 Architects.

Keith Hickman is the principal of the Opus 3 firm, which is located in Round Rock. Keith has extensive church experience. An example of his recent work is St. Richards Episcopal Church in Round Rock. He has a very structured design process with well thought out questionnaires and forms that have been developed during his many projects with churches. One of his statements during the interview is that the process will be much easier if the entire congregation is involved in the process and if all interested parties are kept up to date with all relevant information. Therefore, this committee will be requesting input from all members of the congregation and we will strive to keep all members informed and up to date.

As we enter into 1999, we will be activating the preliminary stages of the architectural design. This will allow us to develop the criteria we need to make meaningful evaluations of potential sites. We anticipate that we will soon be engaging a realtor to search for sites. Once a site is selected and under contract, the design of our actual facility will begin to take shape.

It should be an exciting year. We invite and welcome anyone interested in serving on our committee to join us. Once the architects begin their work, there will be plenty for all to do.

A PAPER FOR SELF-UNDERSTANDING ON THE "UNIQUE" QUALITIES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN UNITED CHURCH OF CHIRST

OR

What from our past do we need in our future?

J. Tomaski

OUTLINE

I. I NTRODUCTION; What prompts the Question?

A. Folk both in and from other congregations ask should we not seek a partner congregation in our relocation rather than go it alone?

B. What is the Intention of this Paper? It is to assist the congregation in a discussion leading to a self understanding regarding our position of partnership with other congregations without taking a "generic" vote. (Voting would only be on specific proposals).

II, DEALING WITH THE QUESTION

The Coordinating Council referred the matter to the Deacons indicating the subject of Christian Unity is by its very nature one of the marks of The Congregational Church and requires a membership study and action that is

compatible with all other marks in our self-understandfing and how they are expressed in our relocation process.

The Deacons asked a small group to prepare a paper to assist it and the congregation in coming to a mutually understood position. This is an outline of the groups " thinking" in process

and we would appreciate your ideas and suggestions .

III. A Hint of Who We Are-An Historical Note!

In 1901 this congregation was birthed in revolt. an action of freewill against biblical literalism, when the members followed the Pastor from the First Methodist Church .The

concept of a three tiered universe of HELL under the earth, the EARTH and the HEAVENS above and that unrepentant sinners burn there for all eternity was the issue. Freedom, the use of God given minds, a pilgrim people, who still hear the words of John Robinson "God has still more light to reveal from the Bible"; and we have always been open to new ideas, with autonomy , covenant and the will to act as some of the ideas and concepts that are part of the make-up of who WE are even to this day.

IV. SOME TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS (for wider discussion and response)

A. There is no single "unique" mark or thumb print that brands us as distinct from, all others, but there is a n inter-active MONTAGE OF ALL THE MARKS IN COMBINATION AND RE-COMBINATION THAT GIVES US OUR UNIQUE QUALITY AS THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.!

B. The Mix is heady, and the combinations varied, diverse and constantly changing. Our roots are in the Reformation, Swiss, German and English-- Zwingli, Calvin, Luther and Robinson, We are called liberal and we are liberal but we recognize, and accept the right of others point of view even when conservative. (1) We can live with ambiguity,. contradiction and parodox. As Reformed we are open to the future . We are inclusive of all and learning to use inclusive language. We are committed to becoming a multicultural and a multiracial church. We struggle for peace and justice for all . We ordained the first woman minister in the mid-l800s and do not regard sexual orientation as an impediment to ordained ministry. WOMEN hold "top" leadership positions at every setting of the church, (local, regional. and national) . All this is mixed and shaped by our VISION: that we are a people united in Christ—singing God's praises, seeking God's ways, serving God's world and sharing life's journey. It is the constant churning, mixing, shaking and shaping that is our unique quality. We are always BECOMING Christian in this finite bound time. We only arrive, so to speak, in God's future. We live in the promise that God indeed is with us. Such assurance is all we need. So the interactive montage goes on making us alive to all the future brings.

C. There is no doubt CHRISTIAN UNITY is a primary mark of the UCC and of The Congregational Church of Austin. From the beginning of this congregation it has been a church expressing unity as it is roots are not only congregational but "Christian", Community, Evangelical, and

Reformed and has belonged to local, regional, national and world councils of churches. We have even had non-baptized members and active participants who claimed to be atheists./ and we had many agnostics as well. The question before us is: is partnership with another congregation the best way for us to express our Christian Unity now?

D. There are other compelling reasons for partnership:

1. The stewardship of the financial resources—less cost with multiple use of facilities (fellowship area, church school rooms parking, kitchen and a versatile chancel in the worship center. (scheduling the common areas could be a problem—one's own place is important to members for identity and ownership)
2. It has been suggested that we be a "Homeless Church" with rented gathering space and no other physical plant. Money and works of the members would be for the mission needs of others.

E. If partnership is the way we choose to go, it is suggested that we seek a partner that is in the same process we are: that is relocation to a new site and new facilities in other words a new church! It is felt that if the "playing field is not even" it would be impossible to maintain a unique contribution or to develop the kind of mutual partnership necessary for building—a NEW CHURCH. Finding a church/group with this same goal would be our best option. How ever, If we are unable to secure a site suitable to our needs and /or financially within our means then we MIGHT BE FORCED TO OTHER PARTNERSHIP OPTIONS. In all these matters

we need to have open minds and hearts so we NOT only listen to the Spirit but that we hear ourselves as well.

V. It is the hope of those responsible for developing this discussion paper that in a very short time we can agree on the answer to the question of our partnering with others in our efforts to have a new church. Your comments and imput is greatly desired and may the Spirit of new life guide us in coming to an understanding!

(1) Foot Note: Dictionary Definitions.

A. LIBERAL: (1) Favorable to progress or reform as in politics or religious affairs (2) noting or pertaining to a political party advocating measures of progressive reform (3) of or pertaining to advocating on a liberal basis (4) favorable to or in accord with concepts of maximum individual freedom possible ,esp. as guaranteed by law and secured by government protection of civil liberties (5) favoring or pertaining to freedom of action esp. with respect to matters of personal belief or expression: a liberal policy toward dissident artists and writers (6) of or pertaining to representational forms of government rather than autocracies and monarchies (7) free from prejudice or bigotry, tolerant: open attitude toward different cultures and people who are different (8) open minded or tolerant, esp. free of or not bound to tradition or conventional ideas, values (9) characterized by generosity and willingness to give in large amounts : a liberal donor (10) given to freely or with abundance

generous , a liberal donation (II) not strict or rigorous, free , not literal , a liberal interpretation of a rule (2) pertaining to a liberal arts (I3) of or pertaining to a liberal persuasion and principles., esp in religion and politics..

CONSERVATIVE: (1) disposed to preserve existing conditions, institutions, etc. or to restore traditional ones, and limit change (2) cautiously moderate or purposefully low: a conservative estimate (3) traditional in style or manor avoiding novelty or showiness ; conservative suit. (4) of or pertaining to a characteristic of conservative Jews or conservative Judaism (5) of or pertaining to a conservative party -like in Great BRITAI(6) having the power or tendency to conserve (7) n. a person who is conservative in principles, actions, behaviors, habits, etc. (9) a supporter of conservative ideas , policies and party such as the Conservative Party in Great Britain.

Definitions are from : RANDOM HOUSE Webster's (unabridged) Dictionary -Second Edition -Random House New York 1998.

"Unique Qualities" Discussion Group

Matt Blackstock, Deacon
Suzanne Bradford, Trustee
John Moore, Moderator elect
John Towery, Pastor Emeritus
Jim Eomasek, Convenor, Scribe

30.8

Memo

To: The Congregation
From: Vision & Mission Committee
Subject: Proposed Mission Statement
Date: January 23, 1999

Last year at this time, the Congregation adopted the following Vision statement:
We are a people united in Christ,
Singing God's praises, Seeking God's ways,
Serving God's world, and Sharing life's journey.

The Vision & Mission Committee proposes that the Congregation adopt a modified version of Matt Blackstock's Mission statement. It is as follows:

To serve our God by:
(a) Cherishing and nurturing those in need and in so doing following Christ's example;
(b) Being always open to God's lessons for us, leading to continual spiritual growth;
(c) Promoting peace and justice in every way possible.

The specific goals of the Congregation are contained in Steve Domingue's Commitment Statement, which will be made available for your consideration. This Statement summarizes the goals specified by those who returned their questionnaires and in the proposals made at the Fall retreat at Slumber Falls.

From Steve Domingue.

Commitment Statement

Because our mission is to love God with all our heart and soul and mind:

We should make God the highest priority in our lives.

Because our mission is to be a diverse community bonded by faith in Jesus Christ:

We should relocate in an area of diversity and reach out to the neighborhood.
We should invite the public to join our activities.
We should promote the growth of our congregation with special attention to children.
We should make the church more accessible.
We should have variety in our worship services.
We should promote a spiritual awakening.

Because our mission is to seek Christian unity beyond our congregation:

We should open our facilities to groups that serve others.
We should attempt to establish partnerships with other churches and Christian organizations.

Because our mission is to be actively involved in God's world:

We should be involved in outreach programs.
We should organize volunteer activities to benefit the outside community utilizing members of all ages.
We should be more involved with Huston-Tillotson.
We should engage in service projects: helping the homeless, instructing the illiterate, being mentors, tutoring, assisting with tax forms, caring for seniors, caring for young children, helping the poor (perhaps by "adopting" needy families), being involved in programs like Habitat for Humanity or recording books, job-hunting support, facilitating communication between groups that need reconciliation.
We should work for a good environment: environmental awareness activities and recycling.

Because our mission is to be open to all who long for a closer communion with God:

We should reach out to newcomers to Austin.
We should have a program of evangelism.
We should reach out to those who reach out to us.
We should engage in dialog with those of other faiths.

Because our mission is to be a close, loving community:

We should attempt to keep our congregation small enough to maintain intimacy, probably 200 to 250 members.
We should construct a physical church in a location where we can more freely do things together.
We should care for the elderly in the congregation.

30.10

We should have a singles group.
We should provide support for families.
We should have activities throughout the week.
We should promote intergenerational interaction.

Because our mission is to work for peace and hope (both inner and global):

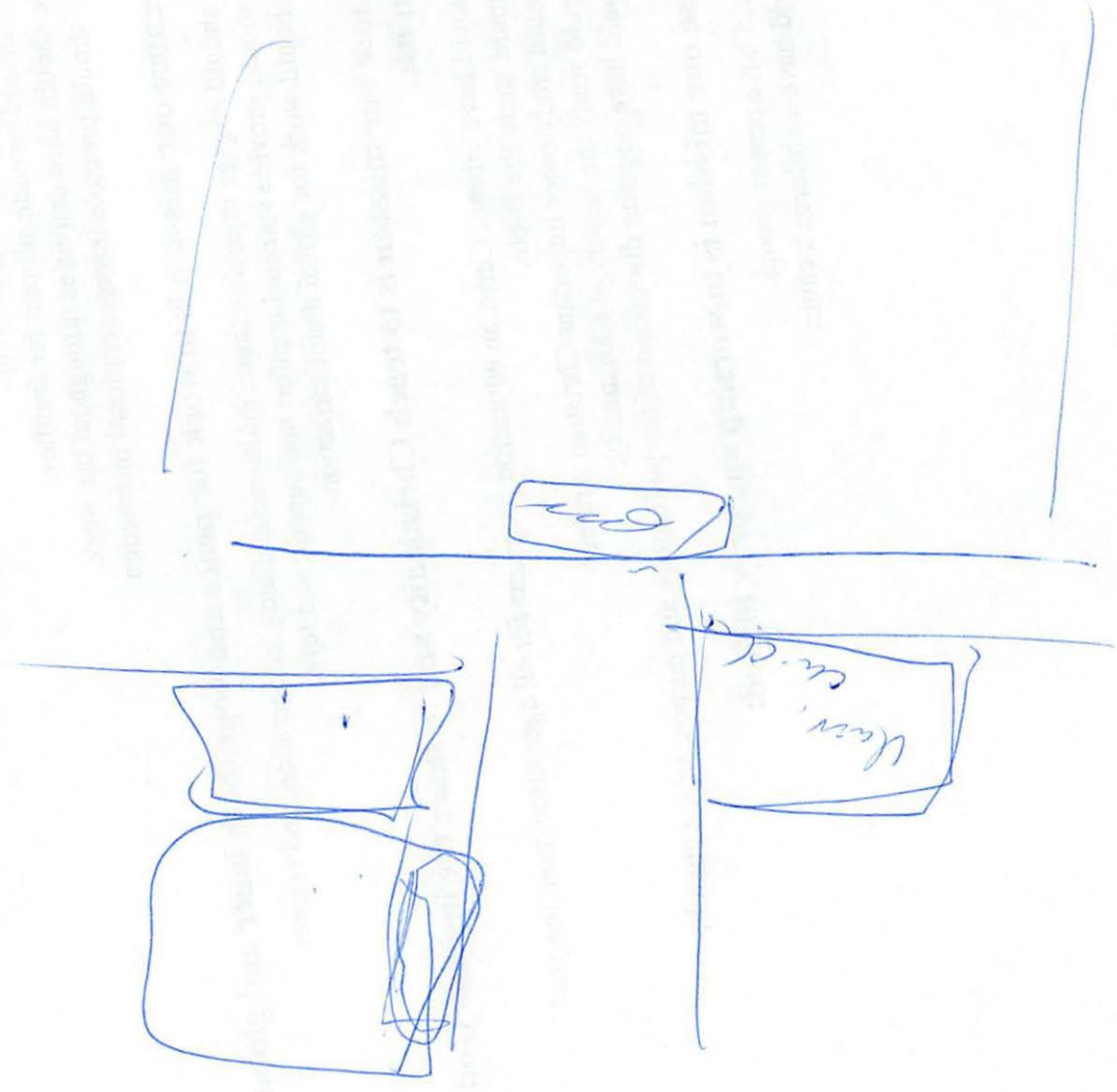
We should engage in multi-ethnic, multi-racial dialog, cooperation, and respect.
We should provide spiritual comfort and support and love.
We should work for global demilitarization.

Because our mission is to teach Christianity and to share the insights God has given us:

We should have vibrant Christian education programs for all ages throughout the year.
We should study the Bible.
We should study other important Christian writings.
We should study the history of Christianity.
We should have ongoing discussion of the philosophy and purpose of the church.

Because our mission is to worship and pray to God:

We should have prayer groups.
We should have a children's choir.



REPORT

COMMITTEE FOR THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

January, 1999

Chairpersons: Tommie Pinkard
Rambie Briggs

Members: James Tomasek
David Ross
Marilyn Jordan
Lillie Webb

Ex-officio: Fran Briggs
Yoshi Kaneda

The Committee for the Capital Fund has now created a framework for our church to have a successful campaign to raise funds for the relocation of the congregation.

With the help of Joe Mills and material from the United Church for Homeland Ministries, the committee has crafted a plan for initiating and completing the campaign. The Rev. Ed Mehlhaff has agreed to be our consultant and advisor. The outline of needed committees, prospective names of members to serve as chairpersons, and members of of each committee has been studied. It is felt that the campaign itself will take about ten weeks to complete. The timing for the initiation of the campaign is dependent on creating a budget which will outline the financial implications of relocating the congregation.

The Capital Campaign Fund has been created and some contributions have already been made. This will allow members of the congregation to make special contributions to the fund as they see fit.

As the time line for the initation of the Capital Fund Campaign becomes more certain, we will announce organizational meetings. We anticipate that most of the congregation will desire to be part of the process of making this campaign a success as we make the relocation of our congregation a major component of fulfilling our mission.

Respectfully,

Rambie Briggs and Tommie Pinkard

Nominating Committee Report, January 26, 1999 **** NOT QUITE COMPLETE ***

One year Terms

Office	Incumbents	Nominees
Financial Secretary	Jean Appel	Mary Sinclair
Treasurer	John Burlinson	John Burlinson
Coordinating Council, member at large	Paul Deisler	Dennis Murphy
Church School Superintendent	Susan Ashton	Susan Ashton
Historian	--	Fran Briggs
Publicity	Victor Appel	Victor Appel
Austin Metropolitan Ministry	Fran Briggs Michael Sparkman	Fran Briggs
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	Doyal Pinkard	Joe McMillan

Three Year Terms

Office	Incumbents	Nominees
Moderator	1996-98 Fran Briggs	1999-01 John Moore
[1] Delegate to South Central Conf.	1996-98 Rambie Briggs	1999-01 Kristin Galle
[2] Clerk	1997-99 Tommie Pinkard	—
[3] Enlistment & Stewardship Committee 1 year term as Director 1 year term as Assistant	1997-98 Rambie Briggs, Dir. 1998 1997-99 David Ashton, Asst 1998	1999-01 Michael Adams, Dir. 1999 1999 David Ashton, Asst.
[4] Music Committee 1 year term as Chair	1997-98 Mary Sinclair 1997-99 Sara Ross (Chair 1998) 1998-00 Mary Tomasek	1999-01 Norma Hawes 1999 Sara Ross, Chair
Board of Trustees Incumbent Youth members: -- --	1996-98 Ellen Deisler Loretta Lewis (filled vac.) 1997-99 George Lemley David Ross 1998-00 Suzanne Bradford Richard Jackson	1999-01 Loretta Lewis Kristin Galle Youth members (1 year):
Board of Deacons Incumbent Youth members: Nanette Strickland --	1996-98 Steven Domingue Martha Miles 1997-99 James Tomasek Suzanne Venderpoel 1998-00 Mathis Blackstock Sharon Brown	1999-01 John Gage Debbie Hurst Youth members (1 year):
Board of Christian Education Incumbent Youth members: -- --	1996-98 Michael Adams Ben White (filled vac.) 1997-99 Carol Barrett Mary Lu Mills 1998-00 Lynn Lemley John Moore	1999-01 Ben White 1999-00 Carol burlinson (fill vacancy) Youth members (1 year):
Nominating Committee	1996-98 David Ross 1997-99 Pat Oakes 1998-00 Kathleen Strong	1999-01 Steve Domingue

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.

DWR correct

2. Nominate

DWR working copy at meeting

Nominating Committee Report, January 24, 1999

One year Terms

Office	Incumbents	Nominees
Financial Secretary	Jean Appel	Mary Sinclair
Treasurer	John Burlinson	John Burlinson
Coordinating Council, member at large	Paul Deisler	Dennis Murphy
Church School Superintendent	Susan Ashton	Susan Ashton
Historian	--	Fran Briggs
Publicity	Victor Appel	Victor Appel
Austin Metropolitan Ministry	Fran Briggs Michael Sparkman	Fran Briggs
Austin Interfaith	Flo Chiles Kathleen Strong Mary Charles Williams	Flo Chiles Cathey Hulls Kathleen Strong Mary Charles Williams
Brazos Association Rep.	Tommie Pinkard	Tommie Pinkard
University Area Partners	Doyal Pinkard	Joe McMillan

Three Year Terms

Office	Incumbents	Nominees
Moderator	1996-98 Fran Briggs	1999-01 John Moore
[1] Delegate to South Central Conf.	1996-98 Rambie Briggs	1999-01 Kristin Galle
[2] Clerk	1997-99 Tommie Pinkard	—
[3] Enlistment & Stewardship Committee 1 year term as Director 1 year term as Assistant	1997-98 Rambie Briggs, Dir. 1998 1997-99 David Ashton, Asst 1998	1999-01 Michael Adams, Dir. 1999 1999 David Ashton, Asst.
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Board of Trustees Incumbent Youth members: -- --	1996-98 Ellen Deisler Loretta Lewis (filled vac.) 1997-99 George Lemley David Ross 1998-00 Suzanne Bradford Richard Jackson	1999-01 Loretta Lewis Kristin Galle Youth members (1 year):
Board of Deacons Incumbent Youth members: Nanette Strickland --	1996-98 Steven Domingue Martha Miles 1997-99 James Tomasek Suzanne Vanderpoel 1998-00 Mathis Blackstock Sharon Brown	1999-01 John Gage Debbie Hurst Youth members (1 year):
Board of Christian Education Incumbent Youth members: -- --	1996-98 Michael Adams Ben White (filled vac.) 1997-99 Carol Barrett Mary Lu Mills 1998-00 Lynn Lemley John Moore	1999-01 Ben White Carol Burlinson 1999-00 Doyal Pinkard (fill vacancy) Youth members (1 year):
Nominating Committee	1996-98 David Ross 1997-99 Pat Oakes 1998-00 Kathleen Strong	1999-01 Steven Domingue

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

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✓ 3. commend Jean Appel ✓ Done DWR

John Moore: Boards & Committees goals

final adopted slate

Nominating Committee Report, January 24, 1999

One year Terms

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Financial Secretary	Jean Appel	Mary Sinclair
Treasurer	John Burlinson	John Burlinson
Coordinating Council, member at large	Paul Deisler	Dennis Murphy
Church School Superintendent	Susan Ashton	Susan Ashton
Historian	--	Fran Briggs
Publicity	Victor Appel	Victor Appel
Austin Metropolitan Ministry	Fran Briggs Michael Sparkman	Fran Briggs
Austin Interfaith	Flo Chiles Kathleen Strong Mary Charles Williams	Flo Chiles Kathleen Strong Mary Charles Williams Catherine Hubbs
Brazos Association Rep.	Tommie Pinkard	Tommie Pinkard
University Area Partners	Doyal Pinkard	Joe McMillan

Three Year Terms

Office	Incumbents	Nominees
Moderator	1996-98 Fran Briggs	1999-01 John Moore
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