

ANNUAL REPORT

2000

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 28, 2001

CONVENE: 12:45

CALL TO ORDER
INVOCATION

John Moore, Moderator
?

CONSTITUTION / BYLAW AMENDMENTS *

John Moore, Moderator

REPORTS:

Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting
Financial Secretary's Report
Treasurer's Report
Vital Statistics

David Ross, Clerk ✓
Mary Sinclair ✓
John Burlinson ✓
David Ross, Clerk ✓

Boards:

Trustees

ADOPTION OF BUDGET - 2001 *

ADOPTION OF RELOCATION FUND REVISIONS *

Deacons
Christian Education

Suzanne L. Bradford, Chair ✓
John Moore, Moderator ✓
John Moore, Moderator ✓
Sharon Brown, Chair ✓
Andrea Putz, Chair ✓

Committees:

Centennial Celebration
Music
Retreat
Building & Grounds
Publicity
Pastoral Search
Nominating

Catherine Hubbs, Chair ✓
Mary Tomasek, Chair ✓
Sara Ross, Chair ✓
Vic Appel, Chair ✓
Vic Appel, Chair ✓
Dennis Murphy, Chair ✓
Carol Barrett, Chair ✓

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - 2001 *

NEW BUSINESS
ADJOURN

John Moore, Moderator ✓
John Moore, Moderator

* Denotes Action Item



The Congregational Church of Austin

408 West Twenty-third Street Austin, Texas 78705 (512) 472-2370 Residence: 892- 2837

Rev. Yoshi Kaneda, Pastor Rev. John Towery, Pastor Emeritus

Dear members of the Congregational Church of Austin,

At the Annual Meeting of the Church on January 28, 2001, the Coordinating Council will move the adoption of the enclosed amendments to the constitution and bylaws. Please give these your careful consideration so that you will be prepared to discuss and vote on them.

The first proposal, which is to change the requirements for electing a new Pastor, is critically important, in our opinion. According to the present constitution an affirmative vote of 80% of the members of the church is required. We believe that this will be impossible to achieve, and we are proposing a less stringent requirement.

The other two proposals are to clarify and unify the requirements for amending the constitution and bylaws. These are less important but can be adopted at the same time if we so desire.

On behalf of the Coordinating Council, sincerely yours,

David W. Ross, Clerk of the Church

Congregational Church of Austin

Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws

Proposed by the Coordinating Council, November 16, 2000.

*These
were
adopted*

Amendments to the Constitution

1. *Revise first paragraph of Article XIII - Terms of Office of Church Officials.*

[Words in **bold face** are to be added. Words (in parentheses and underlined) are to be deleted.]

The pastor shall be elected for an indefinite period by unanimous recommendation of the Search Committee, followed by an affirmative vote of at least 80% of the members (of the Church) **present and voting at a meeting at which at least 35% of the members are present.** The Pastor's term of office and other conditions of employment will be stipulated in a written contract prepared by the Board of Trustees.

If adopted, the paragraph would read:

The pastor shall be elected for an indefinite period by unanimous recommendation of the Search Committee, followed by an affirmative vote of at least 80% of the members present and voting at a meeting at which at least 35% of the members are present. The Pastor's term of office and other conditions of employment will be stipulated in a written contract prepared by the Board of Trustees.

Rationale:

The current membership of the church is 127. The present requirement of 80% of the members of the church, namely 102 affirmative votes, is impossible to achieve. Even if all the out-of-town members were to be canvassed, there would be no way for them to make an informed decision. Also, according to *Robert's Rules*, even requiring a percentage of the members present is unwise, because it makes an abstention equivalent to a negative vote. Instead, an abstention should be neutral, and the required percentage should be with respect to the votes cast. This is the definition of a percentage vote used in *Robert's*.

2. *Revise Article XVI - Amendments.*

[Words in **bold face** are to be added. Words (in parentheses and underlined) are to be deleted.]

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the (congregation) **members present and voting** at any meeting at which 35 percent of the membership is present,

provided that copies of the proposed amendment and **notice (note)** of a forthcoming vote shall have been presented to the members at a congregational meeting or in written communication(,) not less than 30 days previously.

If adopted would read:

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any meeting at which 35 percent of the membership is present, provided that copies of the proposed amendment and notice of a forthcoming vote shall have been presented to the members at a congregational meeting or in written communication not less than 30 days previously.

Rationale:

As noted above, in *Robert's* a percentage vote is defined to be with respect to the votes cast, and abstentions are not counted. The phrase "of the congregation" is ambiguous in this regard. We also corrected a typographical error and removed a comma.

Amendments to the Bylaws:

1. Revise Article XV - Amendments

[Words in **bold face** are to be added. Words (in parentheses and underlined) are to be deleted.]

The Bylaws may be amended by a **two-thirds vote of the members present and voting** at any meeting at which **35 percent (25%)** of the members are present, provided that **copies of the proposed amendment and notice of a forthcoming vote shall have been presented to the members at a congregational meeting or in written communication not less than 30 days previously. (at least two weeks' prior notice shall have been given, and that at least two-thirds of the members present vote for the amendment(s).)**

If adopted would read:

The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any meeting at which 35 percent of the members are present, provided that copies of the proposed amendment and notice of a forthcoming vote shall have been presented to the members at a congregational meeting or in written communication not less than 30 days previously.

Rationale:

This makes the amendment rules the same for the Bylaws as for the Constitution. In modern practice, it is customary to combine the Constitution and Bylaws into a single document called the Bylaws. Again, a percentage of the votes cast should be required.

MINUTES, ANNUAL MEETING
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN
JANUARY 23, 2000

The annual meeting of the Congregational Church of Austin was called to order at 12:45 p.m. on Sunday, January 23, 2000, by Moderator John Moore.

Reverend Yoshi Kaneda opened the meeting with prayer.

The moderator gave a special welcome to new members Marty and Lori Gooding, and then presented the agenda, which was accepted with no changes. He said that items not listed in the agenda could be suggested for discussion at a retreat later in the year, after members have had an opportunity to think about the issues and when there would be time to discuss them at length. *(Items brought up for retreat discussion are listed on the last page of the minutes.)*

The minutes of congregational meetings in 1999 as included in the Annual Report were presented for approval. Nodie Murphy expressed her appreciation that all meetings from the year were included. Dennis Murphy moved that the minutes be accepted; Vic Appel seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Mary Sinclair presented the financial secretary's report. She said that pledges for the year 2000 were needed-- only 13 received so far -- and then listed special collections held in the past year: for a hearing aid for Rev. Kaneda, funds to send Rev. John Towery on the Okinawa trip, the refugee fund, and the relocation fund (which now has more than \$55,500 in cash plus another \$100,000 in pledges). She said that we are regularly underfunded by a few thousand dollars, but "we always come out okay." Paul Deisler moved that the financial secretary's report be accepted; Matt Blackstock seconded the motion; approved unanimously.

John Burlinson presented the treasurer's report. Paul Deisler moved it be accepted; Pat Oakes seconded; approved. Reverend Jim Tomasek asked if the financial statement had been audited. John said the trustees have discussed this but it has not yet been arranged.

ACTION: John Moore will check with the chair of the Board of Trustees and arrange an audit by a qualified auditor of nonprofit organizations.

Question from Vic Appel: Are the treasurer and financial secretary under bond? Discussion brought out that they were bonded in the past, but are not now.

ACTION: John Moore will take this up with the Coordinating Council and trustees at their next meeting.

Clerk's report on vital statistics: Rev. Kaneda said that we needed to add two names to the list of baptisms: Jake Burlinson and Jamie Adams. This

does not change the total number of members, which is 126 as of the end of the year. Matt Blackstock moved to accept the report as amended; Paul Deisler seconded the motion; approved.

The minister's report was presented. Vic Appel asked Rev. Kaneda if he had additional comments. He said that it was a blow to him that we moved to postpone relocation plans. We need to think about growth. Michael Adams reassured him that we needed to reschedule relocation; we did not stop the process altogether.

Matt Blackstock moved acceptance of the minister's report, with gratitude; seconded by Vic Appel; approved unanimously.

George Lemley presented the trustees' report. He said the church "ended on a high note." However, we still have a problem with access because the City of Austin has not kept its word, which was to enforce the ordinance to keep 23rd Street open all day on Sunday. The gates are closed before noon on Sunday, making it impossible for the Korean church members to drive through for their afternoon service at the church. Sometimes, cars or trucks are parked in such a way as to block the street. Also, much litter and garbage is created by having the booths open on Sundays, and vendors do not clean it up.

Regarding the McNeely will, which was misplaced after his attorney passed away: The attorney's partner will create free of charge a release form that shows the mortgage on the former McNeely house has been paid in full (the Congregational Church was the beneficiary). This will settle the matter.

Paul Deisler moved that the trustees' report be accepted; Pat Oakes seconded; approved.

Matt Blackstock presented the deacons' report. He added his thanks to Steven Domingue, past chair, for his advice. Mary Sinclair moved the report be accepted; Paul Deisler seconded; approved.

Doyal Pinkard presented the report for the Board of Christian Education. Matt Blackstock moved the report be accepted; Jamie Adams seconded; approved.

George Lemley reported for the Relocation Committee's Property Sales Subcommittee. Action has been suspended until after Rev. Kaneda's retirement and the centennial celebration, in 2001. However, some new people have expressed interest. We will tell them that we will listen to offers, but we will not vacate at this time. Paul Deisler moved the report be accepted; Suzanne Vanderpoel seconded; approved.

For the Site Selection/ Building Program Subcommittee, Paul Deisler reported that action has been suspended. Dave Ross asked if there was any consideration given to investing in land now. Paul said that if we did not occupy the property in three years we would have to pay taxes on it. Michael

Adams noted that it might be possible to purchase property with a rental unit that would pay the taxes. With regard to property maintenance of the church, Paul said that we are doing the minimum now; repairing breaks, but not doing any upgrades. Michael Adams moved that the report be accepted with applause for the hard work of this committee; Matt Blackstock seconded; approved.

Discussion of the Capital Campaign Subcommittee: There is \$55,578.39 in the fund with another \$100,000 pledged. Vic Appel said that he was in favor of an active committee to promote the relocation fund. Jim Tomasek agreed that we need to be actively fund raising while the other subcommittee are on hold. Jean Appel said we could keep the fund in our member's mind by regularly reporting the progress of the fund in the newsletter.

ACTION: Paul Deisler moved that the Coordinating Council reorganize the Capital Campaign Committee as the Relocation Fund Committee and staff it with volunteers to work with the Board of Trustees to implement the resolution of October 17, 1999. Kristin Galle seconded the motion. Dennis Murphy moved to amend the motion to include that the subcommittee will report to the trustees. Approved. Motion approved as amended. Rev. Beverly Lawson volunteered for this subcommittee, and John Moore said he would appoint our new member, Marty Gooding (a financial analyst).

Pat Oakes reported for the Nominating Committee. To the listing in the Annual Report she said we should add Michael Adams to the Enlistment and Stewardship Committee. Paul Deisler moved we accept the slate of nominees; John Burlinson seconded; approved.

Points of order: No youth members were appointed, and there was no opportunity to nominate officers from the floor. The moderator asked if anyone wanted to nominate officers; no one did. As to youth members, discussion brought out that it is no longer imperative to have youth members. Vic Appel asked if the slots reserved for youth should then be filled by adults. It was decided this was a matter the Coordinating Council should attend to.

ACTION: Paul Deisler moved, and Matt Blackstock seconded the motion, that the Coordinating Council consider youth membership on boards and whether this seventh slot on the boards should be filled by adults if no young members were available.

Publicity Committee Report: Vic Appel presented the report, and asked if outgoing deacons would be on hand to assist with the special Easter Services. Outgoing chair of deacons, Matt Blackstock, said they would.

Vic Appel discussed producing a viable web page for the church. Lori Gooding offered to talk with some "computer geniuses" in her office building. Vic moved that we get a web page; Matt Blackstock seconded; motion

approved. Further discussion: Dennis Murphy said we need to have our own domain name, need to clarify the purpose of the web site, and we need to appoint a web site committee. Vic said this was his recommendation in the publicity report.

ACTION: The Coordinating Council will appoint a Web Site Committee. Lori Gooding, David Ross, and Dennis Murphy are interested in serving. It was suggested that some computer-adept young people be considered for the committee.

Paul Deisler moved that the Publicity Committee report be accepted; Jim Tomasek seconded; approved.

Music Committee report presented by Sara Ross, who noted Nodie Murphy's professionalism as choir director. Paul Deisler moved the report be accepted with congratulations to the Music Committee, the choir and musicians for their accomplishments. Michael Adams seconded; motion approved.

Treasurer John Burlinson presented the 2000 budget. He commented that Rev. Beverly Lawson's title was ^{changed} ~~changed~~ to the simpler "Minister of Education and Outreach." Jim Tomasek moved that the budget for 2000 be approved; Doyal Pinkard seconded; approved.

Rev. Kaneda asked that the three new ad hoc committees meet briefly to set a time for their first organizing meetings. John Moore asked that each board meet and select a delegate to the Coordinating Council before its next meeting, on February 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the church.

There being no further business, Pat Oakes moved the meeting be adjourned. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Tommie Pinkard, Clerk.

Items for Brainstorming Sessions at Retreat

1. How to get more money pledged to support the church
2. How can we help elect a city council that will listen to our problems with the Renaissance Market?
3. Should we purchase land now for investment or as a future building site?
4. Should we improve our property. Should we make our current location more inviting to prospective members?
5. Should we have an interim minister when Rev. Kaneda retires?



Congregational Church of Austin

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MAY 21, 2000

Moderator John Moore called the meeting to order following a potluck dinner after church. A count revealed 37 members present, sufficient for a quorum (25% of the total membership of 126). Three motions were approved.

1) Sharon Brown moved and Jim Tomasek seconded that Enid Ross be welcomed into membership. The motion carried unanimously.

Enid graduated from the Presbyterian Seminary on the same day, receiving a Master of Divinity degree.

2) Dennis Murphy, on behalf of the Pastoral Search Committee, moved and Tommie Pinkard seconded that the Reverend Richard Thompson be approved as Interim Pastor for a term beginning in January 2000, extending through May 2000, and continuing, if necessary, until a new Pastor begins service. The motion carried unanimously.



Dennis explained that Rich was at the top of the list supplied by the Conference Minister, Mark Miller, and that he was enthusiastically recommended by the church in Houston where he served as interim. Several members also independently recommended him. He will serve at 2/3 time for a total compensation of \$2,125 per month from January through May, and for \$3,000 per month thereafter.

3) Following a long discussion, Doyal Pinkard moved and Julia Deisler seconded that The Congregational Church of Austin participate in the Religious Communities Parking Facility in partnership with The University Baptist Church (UBC) and other neighboring institutions to build a parking garage in which we will have a 1% share, and that the Trustees be instructed to implement the agreement with the consortium. The motion carried unanimously.

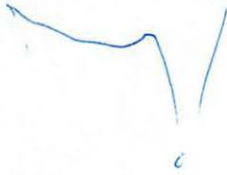
An essential part of the UBC plan is that the facility be leased to the University of Texas for weekday use. John Blazier, the attorney representing the consortium and the UBC, explained that a setback has recently occurred. An official with UT has made an exclusive agreement with a developer that will prevent the lease from being agreed to until May 4, 2001 at the earliest. Nevertheless, Mr. Blazier and the UBC are fully committed to the project and are determined to make it happen. Provisions of the agreement and the financial expectations are contained in a memo and table supplied by

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Mr. Blazier. The agreement will require that the church supply an initial investment of \$25,000 and an additional \$30,000 when the lease with UT is finalized. (It is possible that the \$30,000 will be required at a time earlier than the signing of the lease with UT, if sufficient other leases are signed to make the project viable.) It is expected that the Trustees will make use of the Relocation Fund to supply the \$25,000. Some members requested that the Relocation Fund Committee revitalize the fund to broaden the base of support, i.e., to give members further opportunities to contribute. It was also suggested that we seek legal advice before agreeing to join the project. This was not pursued, but it might be advisable to do so later.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 P.M. following a motion by Pat Oakes.

Respectfully submitted, David W. Ross, Clerk



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Congregational Church of Austin

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 9, 2000

John Moore called the meeting to order at 11:53 AM. Four items were considered.

1) John distributed a memo describing changes in the proposed parking garage agreement with the Baptist Church. Since the last congregational meeting the proposal first changed from sale to lease. Now, in another change, the current memo describes an offer to sell us a share for \$55,000. More information is needed before we can decide what to do.

Frances Alford moved that the matter be referred to the trustees to investigate and bring back a recommendation. The motion was seconded and passed.

2) The position of Parish Educator/Outreach Coordinator was discussed. The position is now vacant following Beverly Lawson's resignation. We have received the money for the second year and must decide what to do. John Moore described the recommendation of the Coordinating Council that the question be referred to the Boards of Deacons and Christian Education and the Church School Superintendent for a report and recommendation. Michael Adams noted a minority view that the position could be filled by someone to assist with the Sunday School. Cecile Irvin stated that the job description should be described carefully.

Doyal Pinkard moved that the Boards of Deacons and Christian Education, together with the Church School Superintendent, prepare a plan for the Educator/Outreach Coordinator position and report to the Annual Meeting in 2001. Following a second, the motion passed.

3) Whether changes are needed in the description and use of the Relocation Fund (formerly the Capital Campaign Fund) was discussed. The Congregation previously voted to allow portions of this fund to be used to support the parking garage agreement. This was done with the concurrence of contributors to the fund, who were canvassed by the Financial Secretary.

Michael Adams moved that the fund (and committee) be renamed The Capital Fund (and Committee) to be used for relocation, or for the present building, facilities, and parking. Amendments were offered to clarify the uses, e.g., for restoration and improvement, not maintenance. Michael withdrew his original motion and moved that the fund (and committee) be renamed The Capital Fund (and Committee). Following a second, the motion was defeated. Nodie Murphy moved that the matter of the Relocation Fund be referred to the Trustees to prepare a proposal with specific language to be brought to the congregation. The motion was seconded and passed.

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4) Steve Domingue, on behalf of the nominating committee, nominated Norma Hawes to fill a vacancy on the Board of Deacons. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25.

David W. Ross, Clerk

Congregational Church of Austin

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOVEMBER 12, 2000

Moderator John Moore called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon. Three items were considered.

1) On behalf of the Board of Deacons, Sharon Brown moved the acceptance of Jeri Winter, Mark McCoy, and J. Graig Headley for church membership. The motion was approved with no dissenting votes.

2) Speaking for the Nominating Committee, Steve Domingue nominated Jamie Adams to fill a vacancy on the Deacons. The motion carried unanimously.

3) Because no minutes were taken at a previously scheduled meeting, and because those members who were at Slumber Falls Camp did not report a vote, John Moore re-introduced a motion to open the church basement to homeless persons on freezing nights. The motion carried unanimously.

Following these actions, the meeting adjourned.

David W. Ross, Clerk

"Farewell Sermon" (in place of "Annual Report")
FAREWELL SUNDAY, January 7, 2001

JACUZZI

The past eleven and a half years with this church have been a wonderful life experience for me as a UCC minister. That didn't happen without your help. I am very, very grateful to all the active members and friends of this church for that great experience of ministry and mission together. If I try to mention the names, I know I must cover almost all members of this great/small church. So let me try to categorize the areas of positions, responsibilities, and duties. The church staff, church officers, board members, committee members, (Oh, how many committees did we have?), clergy colleagues, and all volunteers for teaching, singing, directing, telephoning, visiting, cooking, arranging, ushering, greeting, baby-sitting, acolyting, painting, cleaning, sweeping, vacuuming, washing, caring, watering, tilling, weeding, preaching, reading, laughing, dancing, crying, driving, chatting, sharing, discussing, making decisions of many kinds, and more. . . Without your willingness to serve, and minister to, we would have never made it as a Christian Church in these past years. THANK YOU ALL!

Some of you might be wondering about the sermon title this morning. Why in the world did Yoshi come up with that title, "Jacuzzi"? Well, let me tell you. . . Back in San Diego, California, I ministered to a Japanese-American ethnic Church for over 13 years. I was put on a pedestal as an authoritative figure, Herr Pastor, the most respected position of the church. I felt like a tribal chief who could do whatever he wanted. I felt like dipping myself in a warm bathtub that kept me warm and very comfortable. "Hey, I feel like a King!" -Yes, I needed a more challenging and stimulating job than that. A warm bathtub is a comfortable place, always soothing and relaxing, but you can become afraid of getting out. . . why? You might catch a cold - if you do!

Setsuko and I knew that I was becoming restless and unhappy in that warm bathtub. Then, fortunately, this church made a decision to call me as a new pastor. I believe that was a great decision you made. A happy relationship has started to develop. And I soon found out that the Congregational Church of Austin was not a warm bathtub but a stimulating Jacuzzi! You get all kinds of jet streams from all directions! That sure made me "alive" again. You cannot anticipate only one jet stream in this church. Talk about authoritative leadership. There is none! In the very first year with this church, I completely gave up on an idea to give any commanding order to go a certain direction. If I say, "This is the one way to go," then quickly other officers, board members would say, "No, Yoshi, there is this way and that way and..." - This Jacuzzi has been always stimulating and challenging. And I understand that being a Jacuzzi has been a good tradition of this church. By the way...Just recently I read this piece... Let me quote...

A young rabbi found a serious problem in his new congregation. During the Friday service, half the congregation stood for the prayers and half remained seated, and each side shouted at the other, insisting that theirs was the true tradition. Nothing the rabbi said or did moved toward solving the impasse.

Finally, in desperation, the young rabbi sought out the synagogue's 99 year-old founder. He met the old rabbi in the nursing home and poured out his troubles. "So tell me," he pleaded, "was it the tradition for the congregation to stand during the prayers?" - "No," answered the old rabbi. "Ah," responded

the young man, "then it was the tradition to sit during the prayers?" - "No," answered the old rabbi. "Well," the young rabbi responded, "what we have is

complete chaos! Half the people stand and shout, and the other half sit and scream." - "Ah," said the old man, "that was the tradition." (End of quote.) -*Christian Century*, January 6-13, 1999, p. 15)

One of my friends suggested to try emode.com to find the color of my own aura. I clicked my choice of multiple answers from 17 or 18 questions. Sure enough, the computer gave me this answer. "What Color is Your Aura? Groovy, baby! Your aura is a bright, rich Sapphire and it means you're a loving soul with advice and sympathy for everyone. Find out more about what your aura color means and sign up with emode! Membership is fast and free..." - Waaaa! I must be a loving soul with advice and sympathy for everyone. A bright and rich Sapphire! After some moments of ego trip and self respect, I came down to earth, "Oh, Yoshi, that's not really true. You've answered the questions from your professional perspectives as you've learned during your career experiences."

Just like the Prophet Isaiah, I know my weakness, brokenness and pretence. I am a hypocrite and bastard. "There is no hope for me! I am doomed because every word that passes my lips is sinful, and I live among a people whose every word is sinful. And yet, with my own eyes I have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." "...one of the creatures...touched my lips with burning coal and said, 'This has touched your lips, and now your guilt is gone, and your sins are forgiven'...Then I heard the Lord say, 'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?' I answered, 'I will go! Send me!'" (Isaiah 6:5-8)

"O God, I am not fitted to be your preacher...but, if you send me, here I am...I will go!" "If you send me, I will go." With all humility on my part, I have been a preacher of God's Word totally depending upon God's grace. Nothing else.

I am glad to say that I have been a good preacher, at least, a decent one, in my preaching ministry. Each Friday was a sermon writing day for me, and I took time and effort to come up with the message that included my confessional statement and relevancy to the world in which we lived. I didn't try to be authoritative at all, but authentic. I am glad you have given me the whole day of Friday for sermon preparation. I learned a lot, agonized to come up with a clear message at times and enjoyed creating something to appeal to you and myself. - Did you hear it right? If you are not moved or inspired by your own preaching, you are not a preacher. My seminary professor back in Japan used to say, "If you are not struck by your own sermon, just forget about your sermon. That's powerless, at best."

Here comes the second passage from the Bible. "When I (Paul) came to you, my brothers and sisters, to preach God's secret truth, I did not use big words and great learning. For while I was with you, I made up my mind to forget everything except Jesus Christ and especially his death on the cross. So when I came to you, I was weak and trembled all over with fear, and my teaching and message were not delivered with skillful words of human wisdom, but with convincing proof of the power of God's Spirit. Your faith, then does not rest on human wisdom but on God's power." (I Corinthians 2:1-5)

At times, exposing myself naked, I clearly heard of forgiveness of God through the text. At other times I went too far screaming about racial justice and world peace, and I got some negative feedback from you. I always believed that preaching with integrity and authenticity resulted in

transformation of the preacher himself/herself. If we take preaching seriously, we naturally allow ourselves to be changed by the message the preacher brings. Preaching is a powerful ministry, indeed.

Let's not forget one thing for our church to grow. The center of church life has been, and is, and will be, the worship service. The whole church family needs to worship together once a week to get God's forgiveness, nurture and grace for ongoing life. We have been blessed with our wonderful music ministry among us each Sunday. Choir, Trio, and a singing congregation who sings out their joys and hopes with gusto, even though some members cannot keep the pitch. All important is that all of us just sing out with our whole being. And that's what God wants.

Time with children and Bible reading have been done mostly with volunteers. Disruptive for a smooth worshipful mood, yet we had a greeting time to each other during the worship service. Affirmation of "one God's family" has been important to us all. Standing out in my mind is time for community prayers. A UCC minister from Seattle wrote me saying that the most beautiful time in worship was when people freely said their own prayers personally. Prayers are also very important in our worship service. At times we formed a prayer circle and we were sure God listened to our prayers. You and I believe God listens to our prayers. Let me share with you a note: (I quote.)

"Dear People of God, Friends of Mary and Dick, and now Mine, too,
I have heard so often of the wonderful parish that you are, how hard you pray for Those in need. Our family has certainly benefited by your prayers last year and I was grateful to you then. I never suspected that I would be next on your list. Your intercessions and good wishes are particularly heart-warming and appreciated since I have never been comfortable trying to pray for myself.

It is with a light heart that I can tell you that God willing, after these operations and the current therapy, my doctors predict a full recovery. The best birthday present a 50-year old can receive.

With my gratitude and that of my family, bless you all. -Margaret Sinclair

Maybe, only pastors know this. Pastors are very privileged persons who are invited in by church members to enter their "sanctuary." Through counseling, visitation, sharing of something of private and confidential nature, pastors can step into the secret part of one's life. Personal and private space is a sanctuary for any human being. I too have been invited into this sanctuary quite often and I am very grateful to you for that...You are trusted simply because you are ordained into ministry. And...I have been privileged to serve this church as a pastor.

Let me quickly point out some beauty of this GREAT/SMALL Church. Ready? Per Capita mission giving has been outstanding. Did you know we ranked 25th in the nation in our per capita giving to mission in 1992? We ranked 25th among some 6,500 churches of the United Church of Christ. And from this year our church is going to give more in OCWM, our Church's Wider Mission. Second, leadership of our people extends to the outreach ministries of many kinds going beyond these four walls. Brazos Association, South Central Conference, National Bodies, Eden Home, Back Bay Mission, Huston-Tillotson College, Austin Interfaith, Austin Area Interreligious Ministries, UAP, Texas Impact, ACCRR, Hands on Housing, CROP Walk, Austin Clergy Committed to Racial Reconciliation, Campus Ministry of Texas, and on and on. Third, our

people are well educated - very intelligent and smart! Have you ever counted the number of Ph.D., M.D., D.D. and D. Min. . . and other doctorates our people are endowed with? The beauty of this is that our people are smart, very smart, but not snobbish at all! Fourth, our people just spontaneously express their caring and loving to each other. Whenever help is needed, we just help out. How about some ugly part of our church? I will not say it. . . except. . . that we are all relaxed. . .that means that we are a lazy bunch, including our preacher. But don't worry about it, because almost all UCC churches and liberal mainliners are lazy.

Now let me give you my parting shot. It is based on the vital teaching Jesus gave us. "If anyone wants to come with me, he must forget himself, carry his cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his own life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it." (Mk. 8:34-35)

Our church has not grown big no matter how hard we all tried. Lack of visibility, accessibility and decent parking space has caused t his outcome. We all know that. It's almost a miracle that we have survived at this place so far. Oh, I know, I know a jet stream is coming at me strong that says, "No, Yoshi, none of those three factors did suffocate us successfully, because we know that whenever a Christian Church is persecuted, the Church became not weak, but stronger and grew. Church history attests to that fact." - Yes, I want to agree with that.

Our church will celebrate her Centennial within three months. She has been an "Old Faithful Church." 100 years old! You know? Setsuko and I will do some traveling and see the beauty of Yellowstone National Park. We understand there is a great tourist attraction called "Old Faithful - Geyser." So much energy and rich resources underground cannot stay still. A great amount of energy and mineral rich water must be emitted skyhigh! - Yes, I want to see our church grow into that geyser from a cozy Jacuzzi mentality.

Do you see that glorious display for God's mission and ministry? Transformation can happen. If you start to hear the ground rumble because of too much energy and desire to serve Christ, the great jet stream gushes out from this church. Then, we can save our life. We might no longer be the Congregational Church of Austin, but the United Church of Christ in Austin.

May God richly bless God's church! Amen.

Yoshi Kaneda

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2000

Income report 2000

In 2000, our actual income for the General Fund was \$123,548.29. This was an increase of almost \$13,000 over our 1999 income, although \$5,000 less than was budgeted for the year.

Our Non-Pledged income was much higher than anticipated, as was the Pledged income; perhaps we can thank the strong economy for that blessing.

The Relocation Fund is in good shape with the addition of this year's contribution of \$43,496.80, and several other special funds were well subscribed. We collected almost \$2,000 for the Emergency Fund and about \$2,500 for Yoshi's retirement gift. The fund to finance our Centennial celebration is off to a good start with donations of \$4,300.

We have also received a donation of 153 shares of AT & T stock with an approximate value of \$2,600, but this amount has not been included in this report.

Estimated income for 2000

The figures in this category are estimates based on this year's giving. We have received 12 pledge cards to date with a pledged income of about \$65,000. Please hand in your completed cards as soon as possible, even if you plan to pledge the same as in previous years

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Sinclair

January 14, 2001

Note: The change in format for the Annual Financial Report is due to a change in the programme I use to track the church income.

Annual Report
01/01/00 Through 12/31/00

01/12/01

Page 1

Category Description	01/01/00- 12/31/00	2001
INFLOWS		
Budget-GenIFund		
FunFellowshipCm	51.00	0
Insurance Claim	4,097.00	0
Loose Plate	3,446.92	3,000
Miscellaneous	743.63	500
MusicforWorship	200.00	200
Non-Pledged	18,817.00	15,000
Pledged	93,638.99	90,000
PropertyMntance	42.75	0
Refunds	64.00	0
Rental Income	1,815.00	0
Retreat	632.00	200
TOTAL Budget-GenIFund	123,548.29	108,900
Christ.Ed.Grant	26,000.00	
Designated Inc		
Centennial Fund	4,300.00	
Christian Education	105.00	
Emergency Fund	1,950.00	
Special Gifts	4,009.70	
TOTAL Designated Inc	10,364.70	
Designated Inc.		
BackBay Mission	500.00	
Christmas Fund	710.00	
FaithFood Pntry	600.00	
Fund for the Homeless	317.00	
JustPeaceAppeal	453.00	
NCD	927.50	
NeighborsInNeed	145.00	
OCWM	11,037.50	
OGHS	3,170.00	
OkinawaPartners	120.00	
Pastor's Insurance Fund	890.00	
TOTAL Designated Inc.	18,870.00	
Hearing Aid	150.00	
Refugee Fund	2,800.00	
Relocation Fund	35,454.89	
TOTAL INFLOWS	217,187.88	
OVERALL TOTAL	217,187.88	

*No
McNeely
principal?*

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN
28 January 2001
TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

This report consists of four parts:

- The brief narrative that follows..
- A Statement of Accounts as of December 31, 2000.
- An Expenditure Report for Calendar Year 2000.
- A Proposed Budget for Calendar Year 2001.

For the first time in several years, actual expenditures exceeded budget estimates. The primary reasons for this were:

- Significant overages in spending for Office Supplies (line item number 43) and Printing (line item number 63.)
- Increased utility costs (line item number 45), particularly electricity costs (due to the extended drought this summer) and telecommunications costs (as a result of adding additional telephones and Internet service.)

Total overages, however, were minimal (2% of entire budget) and were offset by adequate revenue. At no point during the year was the Church in danger of failing to meet its obligations.

Members of the Budget Committee met in November 2000 to prepare the 2001 budget included in this annual report. The proposed 2001 budget differs in several ways from last year's:

- Funds to support our retired Pastor's sabbatical have been budgeted in an amount equal to one quarter's worth of the year 2000's compensation package, less costs for continuing education.
- The Committee made the assumption that our Interim Pastor would serve for a period of six (6) months. We further assumed that our new Pastor's total annual compensation package (including salary, housing, continuing education, health benefits, life insurance and pension plan) would equal \$60,000 and that the new Pastor would start work effective July 1, 2001.
- An amount of \$7,000 is budgeted to pay for moving expenses for the new Pastor.
- The Secretary's salary has been increased by 5%.
- The budgets for Utilities and Office Supplies have been increased to reflect increased expenditures mentioned above.
- The budget for the Search Committee has been increased, under the assumption that the Committee would be paying for 3 candidates to travel to Austin for interviews with costs averaging \$800 per interview.
- A line item for the Centennial Committee has been eliminated, since \$4,300 has already been collected for Centennial celebrations.
- The advertising budget has been reduced by one-third.
- A line item for Our Church's Wider Mission (item number 19) has been added. The amount budgeted is equal to a monthly contribution of \$1,000. This represents an increase of 16% over last year's designated giving level. The practical effect of this line item is that if designated giving falls short of an annual sum of \$12,000, the difference will be paid to the South Central Conference out of the Church's General Fund.

The total proposed budget represents an increase of 9.5% over that of 2000.

Respectfully submitted,



John Burlinson

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

December 31, 2000

ASSETS

Fund	Matures	Interest	Previous Month	Current Balance
General Fund: Checking Account *			11,386.31	13,707.08
Common Stock			5,561.79	7,946.34
Memorial Fund			8,402.68	8,402.68
Organ Fund			4,454.34	4,454.34
Relocation Fund			87,405.78	91,032.39
Refugee Fund			271.43	106.63
Methodist Foundation Grant			3,017.42	3,017.42
Centennial Fund			0.00	4,300.00
Sub-Total			120,499.75	132,966.88
Nation's Bank #478614 (McNeely Estate)	2/3/01	4.40%	2,585.47	2,596.20
Norwest Bank #261242400-0 (McNeely Estate)	4/05/01	7.60%	5,490.05	5,490.05
United Church Foundation (McNeely Acct.)			24,332.03	24,332.03
Sub-Total			32,407.55	32,418.28
Total			152,907.30	165,385.16

* This figure includes deposits thru 1/4/01.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN
Budget and Expenditures for 2000

		Budgeted 2000	Expended 2000	Percent
	Pastoral Leadership - Pastor			
5	Salary	\$30,004.31	\$30,004.56	100.00%
6	Annuity	\$6,650.60	\$6,379.73	95.93%
7	Health Insurance	\$9,816.00	\$9,927.00	101.13%
8	Dental Benefits	\$576.00	\$585.00	101.56%
9	Family Protection Plan	\$450.00	\$455.70	101.27%
10	Continuing Education	\$1,000.00	\$777.80	77.78%
11	Housing Allowance	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	100.00%
12	Automobile Expense	\$2,500.00	\$2,499.84	99.99%
13	Pastor	\$65,996.91	\$65,629.63	99.44%
	*** Pastoral Leadership - Parish Educator/Outreach Coordinator			
14	Salary & Housing	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
15	Annuity	\$0.00	\$0.00	
16	Health Insurance	\$0.00	\$0.00	
17	Family Protection Plan	\$0.00	\$0.00	
18	Dental Benefits	\$0.00	\$0.00	
19	Continuing Education	\$200.00	\$55.00	27.50%
	Parish Educator/Outreach Coordinator	\$3,200.00	\$55 \$0.00	0.00%
	Pastoral Leadership Subtotal	\$69,196.91	\$65,684.63	94.92%

	Cooperative Responsibilities			
20	Austin Metropolitan Ministries	\$600.00	\$600.00	0.00%
21	Brazos Ass. Dues	\$472.00	\$472.00	100.00%
22	Texas Conference of Churches	\$30.00	\$30.00	100.00%
23	National Council of Churches	\$15.00	\$15.00	100.00%
24	World Council of Churches	\$15.00	\$15.00	100.00%
25	Regional Seminary Support	\$500.00	\$500.00	100.00%
26	Eden Home	\$500.00	\$500.00	100.00%
27	Back Bay Mission	\$500.00	\$500.00	100.00%
28	Slumber Falls Camp	\$100.00	\$100.00	100.00%
29	Austin Interfaith	\$300.00	\$300.00	100.00%
30	Huston Tillotson	\$500.00	\$500.00	100.00%
31	University Area Partners	\$100.00	\$100.00	100.00%
32	Texas Impact	\$100.00	\$100.00	100.00%
33	Religious Coalition for the Homeless	\$110.00	\$116.52	105.93%
	Coop. Responsibilities Subtotal	\$3,842.00	\$3,848.52	100.17%

100%

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN
Budget and Expenditures for 2000

Page 2

		Budgeted 2000	Expended 2000	Percent
33	Local Church Programs			
34	Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$200.00	\$100.00	50.00%
35	Secretary	\$11,010.90	\$11,010.79	100.00%
36	Social Security & Medicare	\$782.47	\$782.47	100.00%
37	Music For Worship	\$250.00	\$252.38	100.95%
38	Musicians	\$5,000.00	\$4,975.00	99.50%
39	Director	\$2,925.00	\$2,924.11	99.97%
40	Social Security & Medicare	\$207.86	\$212.83	102.39%
41	Christian Education	\$2,800.00	\$2,461.36	87.91%
42	Kitchen Supplies	\$200.00	\$34.78	17.39%
43	Office Supplies	\$2,700.00	\$3,622.51	134.17%
44	Postage	\$600.00	\$533.00	88.83%
45	Utilities	\$7,000.00	\$9,294.25	132.78%
46	Electric & Water		\$5,837.07	
47	Gas		\$1,168.75	
48	Telephone		\$1,876.83	
49	Drinking Water		\$411.60	
50	Property Maintenance	\$6,000.00	\$3,290.07	54.83%
51	Janitorial Supplies	\$150.00	\$81.85	54.57%
52	Janitorial Service	\$4,305.00	\$4,383.03	101.81%
53	Social Security & Medicare	\$301.35	\$319.03	105.87%
54	Conference Delegates	\$600.00	\$312.00	52.00%
55	Camps & Workshops	\$500.00	\$132.50	26.50%
56	Advertising	\$1,500.00	\$833.17	55.54%
57	Pulpit Speakers	\$900.00	\$1,000.00	111.11%
58	Nursery Attendants	\$1,200.00	\$1,185.00	98.75%
59	Insurance	\$1,428.00	\$1,460.00	102.24%
60	Fun & Fellowship	\$300.00	\$199.80	66.60%
61	Archives	\$150.00	\$0.00	0.00%
62	Miscellaneous	\$150.00	\$50.00	33.33%
63	Printing - Newsletter & Bulletin	\$3,000.00	\$4,266.86	142.23%
64	Retreat	\$1,500.00	\$1,388.00	92.53%
65	Pastor Search Committee	\$2,000.00	\$420.00	21.00%
66	Centennial Committee (Seed Money)	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
	Local Church -- Subtotal	\$58,660.58	\$64,819.04	110.50%
	TOTAL BUDGETED	\$131,699.49	\$134,352.19	102.01%

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN
Budget and Expenditures for 2000

Page 3

paid

Designated Expenditures			
Our Church's Wider Mission		\$10,317.50	
New Church Development		\$627.50	
One Great Hour of Sharing		\$3,170.00	
Christmas Fund		\$710.00	
Just Peace Appeal		\$453.00	
Faith Food Pantry		\$600.00	
Austin Area Interreligious Ministries		\$317.00	
Neighbors In Need		\$145.00	
Hearing Aid		\$3,170.00	
Towery Memorial		\$100.00	
Emergency Fund - Member in Need		\$1,900.00	
Refugee Family		\$6,353.57	
Designated Expenditures Subtotal		\$27,863.57	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2000		\$162,215.76	

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN
Budgeted 2000 and Proposed 2001

		Budgeted 2000	Proposed 2001	Change
	Retiring Pastor - Sabbatical			
5	Salary	\$30,004.31	\$7,501.08	(\$22,503.23)
6	Annuity	\$6,650.60	\$1,662.65	(\$4,987.95)
7	Health Insurance	\$9,816.00	\$2,454.00	(\$7,362.00)
8	Dental Benefits	\$576.00	\$144.00	(\$432.00)
9	Family Protection Plan	\$450.00	\$112.50	(\$337.50)
10	Continuing Education	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	(\$1,000.00)
11	Housing Allowance	\$15,000.00	\$3,750.00	(\$11,250.00)
12	Automobile Expense	\$2,500.00	\$625.00	(\$1,875.00)
13	Retiring Pastor — Subtotal	\$65,996.91	\$16,249.23	(\$49,747.68)
	*** Pastoral Leadership - Other			
14	Parish Educator/Outreach Coordinator	\$3,200.00	\$0.00	(\$3,200.00)
15	Interim Pastor (Est. 6 months)	\$0.00	\$15,375.00	\$15,375.00
16	New Pastor - Total Compensation Package	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
17	New Pastor - Moving Expenses	\$0.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
	Other Pastoral Leadership - Subtotal	\$3,200.00	\$52,375.00	\$49,175.00
	Pastoral Leadership Subtotal	\$69,196.91	\$68,624.23	(\$572.68)

	Cooperative Responsibilities			
19	Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
20	Austin Metropolitan Ministries	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$0.00
21	Brazos Ass. Dues	\$472.00	\$472.00	\$0.00
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
33	Religious Coalition for the Homeless	\$110.00	\$110.00	\$0.00
	Coop. Responsibilities Subtotal	\$3,842.00	\$15,842.00	\$12,000.00

new

**Congregational Church of Austin
Budgeted 2000 and Proposed 2001**

	Budgeted 2000	Proposed 2001	Change
33 Local Church Programs			
34 Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
35 Secretary	\$11,010.90	\$11,561.45	\$550.55
36 Social Security & Medicare	\$782.47	\$821.59	\$39.12
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	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00	\$0.00
42 Kitchen Supplies	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
43 Office Supplies	\$2,700.00	\$3,200.00	\$500.00
44 Postage	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$0.00
45 Utilities	\$7,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$1,000.00
46 Electric & Water			
47 Gas			
48 Telephone			
49 Drinking Water			
50 Property Maintenance	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00
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	\$1,000.00	(\$500.00)
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
65 Pastor Search Committee	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$500.00
66 Centennial Committee (Seed Money)	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	(\$1,000.00)
Local Church -- Subtotal	\$58,660.58	\$59,750.25	\$1,089.67
TOTAL BUDGETED	\$131,699.49	\$144,216.48	\$12,516.99

*9.5%
increase*

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN
2000**

The board of trustees met at least monthly to handle the financial matters pertaining to the church. A few special meetings were called as well.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all members of the Board of Trustees for their dedication and commitment in dealing with some rather difficult issues over the past year. I'm grateful to have had the insightful, compassionate, and wisdom contributed by these board members.

A special thank you is warranted for the excellent and timely minutes provided by Richard Jackson, and to Dennis Murphy for filling in as chair on many occasions.

By far, the most difficult and time-consuming issue faced by the board in 2000 was the personnel matter regarding Reverend Beverly Lawson. On July 6, 2000, the board met to hear from the Review Committee that had been formed to conduct an evaluation of Reverend Lawson's performance in accordance with her contract. At this meeting, the board voted to request Reverend Lawson's resignation, and on July 12, 2000, Reverend Lawson submitted her resignation to the board. Thereafter, Reverend Lawson engaged an attorney who attempted to make claims for wages against the church. The church has engaged attorney Phyllis Pollard, at the expense of our insurance carrier, to represent us in this matter. At this point it appears that Reverend Lawson has given up on her claim against the church.

Related to this issue, the Congregation voted to postpone filling the vacancy created by Reverend Lawson's resignation until such time that the church can review the statement of work and redefine the requirements of the position. In the meantime, the Methodist Foundation has agreed to hold the remaining grant funds in our name until the church determines how to proceed with the position.

Another significant issue faced by the church during 2000 was the opportunity to discuss joining a parking consortium with the University Baptist Church. The congregation voted to spend \$55,000 to join the consortium. However, after the vote was taken, the terms of the partnership were changed significantly due to actions taken by the University. The Board of Trustees attempted to revisit the issue with the consortium's attorney, but has come to understand that the parking garage is no longer going to be built. We further understand that after discussions with owners of the Caddeau, they are not interested selling their property. It is also our understanding, however, that the University Presbyterian Church is in the preliminary stages of developing a parking garage.

In January 2001, the board filed a release of lien to Mary Parker for the property sold to her by John McNeely.

In accordance with a vote of the Congregation to sell the existing church facility and relocate to another facility, the general budgets for the past few years have provided for minimal maintenance of the church building and grounds. Vic Appel, Chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee, has conducted a thorough evaluation, with input from various professionals, of work required to keep our current facility in safe, functional order. His evaluation has determined, among other things, that several items have reached a critical point. The most significant of the items identified in Vic's evaluation, is the need to replace the church's 75 year-old wiring system. As Vic has addressed in his report, the needed repairs will have a significant cost involved. The Board of Trustees recommends calling a special Congregational meeting in one month to review in detail the facility needs and to reaffirm the Congregation's intention to relocate.

In accordance with a vote of the Congregation on September 9, 2000, the board drafted a proposed motion regarding the church's relocation fundraising efforts. A copy of this motion is attached as Appendix A.

Suzanne L. Bradford,
Chair, Board of Trustees

From Annual Reports
2000

APPENDIX A

Proposed Motion Regarding Relocation Fundraising

Name: The Capital Fund

✓ adopted at Annual Meeting,
January 2001

Purpose: To provide a source of funding for our physical church facility, including parking.

Limits: To be used for current or future physical church site, including parking. The use of this fund should be limited to capital improvements on the existing church facility or new construction. Examples of capital improvements include adding ADA accessibility and making improvements to the basement for church activities. Regular, on-going maintenance such as painting, repairs, and foundation work to prevent settling should be budgeted and paid for through the General Fund.

Administration: Establish a Capital Fund Committee to develop and implement a fundraising plan. The plan should include proposed fundraising targets, action plans for meeting those targets, and timelines for implementation. Any plan should also include a mechanism for regular communication of proposed goals, funds raised to-date, etc. Mechanisms should include, but not be limited to, regular notices in the *Visitor*, posters, fliers, and mailings.

The Board of Trustees will provide direction and oversight to the Capital Fund Committee, and in such capacity will request monthly updates of committee activity.

The Capital Fund Committee will be responsible for the raising of funds, but the expenditure of funds will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees.

Action: The Capital Fund Committee (CFC) should begin an immediate campaign to raise funds.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

January 10, 2001

During the past year the members of the Building and Grounds Committee have been: Matt Blackstock, George Carruthers, Paul Deisler, Craig Headley, John Moore, Mark McCoy, Andrea and Karl Putz, David and Sarah Ross, Ben White and Vic Appel, Chair.

This Centennial Year for the church has had special implications for the Building and Grounds Committee. In preparation for our planned celebrations and the return of our past members and clergy, we have worked vigorously to refurbish our physical plant. Spurred by the "bust the budget" bids which we received from professional painters bidding on the work; we contrived a means of doing the work ourselves.

Former member and painting contractor Niels Sastrup was approached and asked to serve as a consultant to help us renew the sanctuary. He consented. As it turned out, he did far more than provide advice. He contributed at no cost his skills and equipment in doing the most difficult and dangerous work himself. With his assistance, we have repaired the stucco (Look ma, no more cracks!), repainted the walls, restained the windows and revarnished scratched pews in our sanctuary. For the first time in 20 years the tapestry in the chancel was cleaned and rehung.

Surprised and inspired by our ability to do more far more than we thought possible, we followed that accomplishment with a parallel undertaking to similarly refurbish the Fellowship Room. The task was complicated by the considerable amount of water damage which we found on the north and west walls of the Room, and the corresponding need to replace substantial deteriorated stucco. In addition, the floor was in need of refinishing. To our great surprise and pleasure, the professional floor refinisher we selected decided to contribute his work gratis to us. Praise the Lord! We could not consider the job done until we sent the Fellowship Room carpet to be cleaned. The remnants of countless coffee hours had taken its toll. Finally, the chimney bricks got a much needed cleaning.

Our work brought to light that there appears to be some settling of the building in the Fellowship Room area. That led us to explore and find water erosion of the patio area and water infiltration into the basement along the west side of the sanctuary. This led us to examine the wells which serve to drain that area. We found two of the drains in those wells plugged up. John Moore's best efforts to open those drains using sulfuric acid were unsuccessful. We had to get professional, Roto-Rooter help to unplug them. We have also found substantial cracks in the floor of those wells, which need to be closed. As of this writing, we are trying to determine if Mel Oakes' talents can handle the task, or if professional assistance will be required. to pressure fill those cracks

Concerned that the current, deteriorated status of the basement prevents its use by the church and is therefore wasted space, the Building and Grounds Committee is now involved in its restoration. It removed the very considerable amount of deteriorated stucco along the west side of the basement. It has now replastered those walls, and is repainting the large room and adjacent kitchen. With its completion, the church will again have access to much needed space. Additional volunteer painters to assist us on Work Days would be much appreciated.

The congregation needs to be advised that, in the opinion of the Building and Grounds Committee, two additional and substantial renovations to the church are needed. First, the repeated problems of water infiltration are due to a grossly inadequate and not well functioning guttering system. Given the steep slope and large volume of our roof area, the current gutters are not able to handle the flow of water when it rains. The overflow runs down the sides of the building and seeps into outside walls, and even into the building itself. The Committee is currently obtaining bids for the Board of Trustees to consider in replacing our current gutters. Second, the electrical wiring in the original portions of the church (the portions other than the Education wing), are in serious need of replacement. We frequently overload existing circuits and breakers are thrown. We have several areas where the wiring is not safe. In the opinion of Dave Ashton, a professional engineer who contracts to do electrical wiring, conditions are downright dangerous, and pose a fire threat. Bids from electrical contractors have been gathered for presentation to the Trustees.

A less critical but substantial, third task awaits us. The metal fence surrounding the children's play area is eroding before our eyes. The lower part of the fence is rusting out and needs to be repaired soon. It could become a threat to the children playing there.

Finally, the Building and Grounds Committee wishes to express its profound thanks to the church members who have turned out to help on the many Work Days we have scheduled this past year. Your efforts have demonstrated your commitment to this beloved church.

Jim Appel

19.05

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL MEETING 2001

SUBJECT: THE VACANT PARISH EDUCATOR / OUTREACH
COORDINATOR POSITION

SUBMITTED BY: BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, BOARD OF DEACONS,
AND SUPERINTENDENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

At the Congregational meeting of September 9, 2000, the Coordinating Council recommended that the question of what to do about the vacant PE/OC position be referred to the above persons, who are directed to make a report to the Annual Meeting. Following discussions, we submit the following report for your consideration.

The congregation must take several actions in the next few months that will vitally influence the future of the church:

1. Decide to relocate, or to stay, repair, and renovate (which will be affected by the resolution of the parking garage issue);
2. Search for and call a new minister.

We believe that it is unwise to make an important staffing decision with long-term implications before we call our new minister. Then it should be done with her or his input and following a careful analysis of the most important needs of the church. Therefore, the Boards of Deacons and Christian Education, with the Church School Superintendent, recommend that the congregation. . .

***Table any action regarding the Parish Educator / Outreach
Coordinator position until after the calling of a new minister and
after a careful analysis of the most important needs of the church.***

14.05

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD DEACONS FOR Y2K

The Board of Deacons started the year with the following members: Sharon Brown (Chair), Paul Deisler (Vice-Chair and Liaison to the Fun and Fellowship Committee), Matt Blackstock (Secretary), Brenda Tingle (Vice-Secretary -- a new position created as back-up for Matt Blackstock who anticipated traveling from time to time), Karl Putz (Representative to the Coordinating Council), and Debbie Hurst. Later in the year Brenda Tingle became Secretary but when she left the Board the position reverted to Matt Blackstock. Debbie Hurst also left the Board and she and Brenda Tingle were replaced with Norma Hawes and Jamie Adams. In the last months of the year the board was at its full complement of six deacons with Rev. Yoshi Kaneda as member *ex officio* throughout the year.

In addition to carrying out its regular duties the Board of Deacons has:

- Organized the Easter Sunrise Service on top of Mt. Bonnell with the much needed and appreciated help of other committees, the immediate past deacons, and many volunteers. This service is a major, yearly effort. Rev. Bill Royster of the South Central conference gave the sermon; Jim Tomasek organized the production of a resurrection play; and some 300-310 people attended. This was a record attendance. A limited, random poll of first-time, non-member attendees indicated that the most significant means for visitors to find out about the service was the sign posted opposite the park entrance; word-of-mouth was the second most significant means. Widely distributed flyers were apparently relatively ineffective. The poll was developed by Vic Appel and administered by the ushers.
- Considered Enid Ross' application for "in-care" status, recommended her favorably to the Brazos Association. She is now in "in-care" status preparing for ordination. Since Enid Ross is already a seminary graduate, her status is more advanced than is the usual case.
- Approved the proposal made by the Pastoral Search Committee that Rev. Rich Thompson become Interim Pastor on January 1, 2001 since Rev. Yoshi Kaneda's is to retire on January 9, 2001.
- Approved the proposals that Enid Ross, Craig Headley, Mark McCoy, and Jeri Winter become members of the church.
- Changed the Order of Worship to make for more continuity and less interruption of worship by having the announcements made before the start of the service, by or with prior approval of the Pastor,. Having the Doxology printed routinely in the bulletin was also approved.
- Assisted in the joint service at University Christian Church, the joint Maundy Thursday service at the University Presbyterian Church; and the joint service at Trinity Methodist with our Okinawa Partners. The Board was also pleased to learn of the developing friendship between our Church, these three churches, University Baptist, and Highland Park Baptist.
- Provided an emergency fund, funded by a number of members of the Congregation, for a member in distress.
- Approved the following special items: (a) having a more contemporary service which was proposed and organized by Craig Headley and Mark McCoy (a very successful venture); (b) opening the Church's basement for use as shelter for the homeless in cold weather; and (c) Ben White's proposal to for a special offering on the Sunday before Thanksgiving for the poor and the homeless (which was also successful).

- Continued to pursue relations with Huston-Tillotson College. In the spring this was difficult not because of any opposition on the part of the College but because they were preoccupied with a major planning and renewal effort. The Board has been assured that the College has every desire to have a relationship with this Church.

In addition to the above items, two bear particular mention:

- (1) **The Coordinating Council requested this Board, the Board of Christian Education and the Sunday School Superintendent** to consider redefining the need for an additional staff person to fill the vacancy left by the departure of Rev. Beverly Lawson and to report its findings at the Annual Meeting in January. The Board concluded its consideration of the Coordinating Council's request at its December meeting.

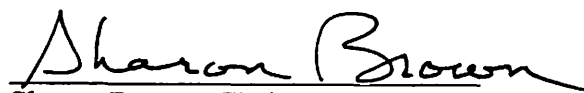
This Board concluded that, for its part, (a) it does not favor attempting to define such needs until after the new, permanent Pastor is installed and can offer advice; (b) it does not at present see any needs within the areas within its purview requiring an additional staff member for their fulfillment.

The remaining two parties responding to this request may have needs of their own beyond the purview of this of this Board which they will likely report on at the Annual Meeting.

- (2) Finally, the Board received a report by Mary Sinclair, Chair of the Refugee Family Committee. The project to adopt a refugee family was initiated by this Board last year and has been carried out by Mary Sinclair and her special committee along with several volunteers. She reported that the Bukasa/Karassi family, initially six in number, have settled in very quickly, adapting themselves to an environment very different from the Republic of the Congo. (They are now seven, with their new daughter whose name is Mary Sinclair Karassi). Mary Sinclair also reported that the financing of the project through donations was in satisfactory condition. The Board was very pleased by the report and offers its thanks to Mary and all who have made this venture a success, including the family, itself.

On a personal note, my sincere thanks go to all the deacons for their interest, attention, and devotion to our tasks. Special gratitude goes to Matt for being a diligent secretary and communion organizer, to Paul for his willingness to bring words together for multiple purposes, and to Karl for representing us at the Coordinating Council. And I am so delighted that Jamie and Norma agreed to share their talents and energy with us. As always, it's been a blessing to work with the fine folks of our congregation.

Respectfully submitted,


Sharon Brown, Chair,
Board of Deacons

**Board of Christian Education
2000 Annual Report**

Members: Michael Adams, Julia Deisler, Lisa Hali, Lynne Lemley, Anđrea Putz, Ber. White
Superintendent: Doyal Pinkard

The Board of Christian Education worked very hard this past year to foster spiritual education in our church members through Sunday school classes, intergenerational activities, and community volunteer projects.

In the spring, we arranged weekly joint Sunday school with the University Baptist Church, which worked especially well for the primary class. Also, Intergenerational Vacation Bible school was taught jointly with and hosted by the University Presbyterian Church. The BCE also hosted a Sunday school welcome back breakfast in September for all the Sunday school students and their parents. Doyal also created a Sundaes school Sunday (ice cream sundaes were served after church) honoring church school teachers on their day of installation. In the fall, the BCE updated the worn out Sunday children's folders. December 17th, the BCE and church school teachers, with the help of Craig Headley, organized the Christmas pageant.

The BCE also hosted many Tuesday night activities including intergenerational bible studies led by Beverly Lawson, a picnic at Reed Park, a visit to Dick Nichols Pool, joining the celebration at Town Lake for the 4th of July, and several movie nights with supper included. There was also an intergenerational workday jointly arranged by the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Unfortunately, none of these activities were well attended, perhaps due to such busy schedules of our church members. The annual Pumpkin Carving in October was well attended, however.

Several community volunteer projects were organized this year. A trip to a soup kitchen was scheduled but unattended. Three youths and six adults raised money in

March for Crop Walk. We also had volunteers at the Trail of Lights at Zilker Park in December. The annual Hands On Housing project was delayed until spring of 2001 due to bad weather.

On a bookkeeping note, the BCE meetings were moved to the third Sunday of every month instead of the first Sunday in order to facilitate adding events to the newsletter before the deadline.

Submitted by Andrea Putz.

REPORT OF THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

January, 2001

The following served on the Centennial Celebration Committee in the year 2000: Jamie Adams, Michael Adams, Vic Appel, Lisa Hall (Vice Chair), Catherine Hubbs (Chair), Marilyn Jordan, Yoshi Kaneda (Pastor), Pat Oakes, and Dave Ross (Scribe).

The Committee was organized in January, 2000 to prepare for and organize the celebration of the hundredth birthday of the Congregational Church of Austin on April 1, 2001. They met monthly from January through October and are now having more frequent meetings as the target date nears.

Vic Appel composed a letter of invitation sent to current and former friends and members. Pat Oakes made arrangements for a caterer and for the use of the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary for an evening banquet to be held on Saturday, March 31, 2000. Rev. Rollin Russell has agreed to be speaker for that event. Rev. Bertram Miller with his wife, Mary Margaret have let the committee know that they will be delighted to attend and will certainly be able to share early memories of their ministry at the Congregational Church of Austin. . Rev. John Towery has agreed to preach at the April 1st church service. The committee has also heard from Eunice Paul. She and her husband, the late Rev. Dr. Robert Paul, a past professor at the Austin Presbyterian Seminary, were church members, and Eunice and her son-in-law and daughter, Rev. Dean and Lydia Tapley, are planning to come all the way from England to attend.. (Dean Tapley and John Towery exchanged pulpits one summer when the Towerys visited England).

Pat Oakes inaugurated a series of children's sermons by unfolding around the sanctuary a computer banner of one hundred sheets, symbolizing the one hundred years of our history. Lisa Hall's children's sermon emphasized the tie between our founders and us by telling about her daughter Sarah's great-great-grandmother's brother, who was Rev. Briggs, the first minister of our church. She showed them the christening bowl used in the Briggs family and passed to Lisa's family when Rev. Briggs' son died childless. It was used at Sarah's christening. Catherine Hubbs explained that we used not to have a church school wing; that church members helped dig out part of the basement for a Sunday School classroom and that if they had gone to church school then, they would have had their class in the basement.

Michael and Jamie Adams have interviewed Rizer and Hildegard Everett and videotaped an interview with Rev. John and Eleanor Towery. Catherine interviewed Dr. Matt Blackstock. Her interviews of Weldon and Marie Scheel and Florence Castle were combined with Weldon's presentation of his 1976 tribute to Earl Cornwell for his many musical contributions to our church when Pat Oakes presided as liturgist at a Music and Memories Service held on August 13th, while Dave Ross and Mel Oakes contributed digital copies of Florence Castle's old photographs of her husband and family, and Mel videotaped the entire event.

Dave Ross has made beautiful copies and displays of group photos marking various occasions in the life of our church. Michael Adams has procured a lockable wooden cabinet for use as a secure display vehicle. More interviews are underway, and now, in the new year, as the centennial celebration approaches, we are appealing to the congregation to add their memories so that they can be a part of our written history. Do you have a special memory? Do you remember the floods we used to have every time it rained? Do you remember the faithful bucket brigade? Who was here when you first came to our church? Please tell us about it. We'll be delighted to make it part of our history.

A follow-up letter is now going out, asking how many will be able to attend and whether they have need of transportation upon their arrival. We will need members who can help with transportation, those who can provide housing for our honorees, those who can help decorate tables for the banquet, help with Sunday coffee-hour arrangements, or give historic tours of the church. Pick your job and know that you will be appreciated. We will all be creating history for the next century!

Catherine Helke

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

January 10, 2001

The members of the Publicity Committee have been: , Valentino Herrera, Tommie Pinkard, Sarah Ross, Chester Rosson, and Vic Appel, Chair.

During this past year, in an effort to keep members and friends better informed, the Publicity Committee expanded the scope of its coverage of upcoming events through The Visitor.

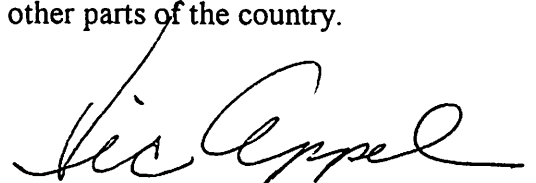
Its biggest effort was to publicize the Easter Sunrise Service to the Austin community. There were some major changes in our strategy compared to past years. The Committee questioned the cost/benefit of our annual display ad in the Austin American Statesman. It typically eats up half of our \$1,500 budget. Instead, we relied heavily on two large, wooden, 3' x 4' signs, and four smaller directional signs.. As most of you are aware, one of our larger signs is posted directly across the street from the stairs leading up and down from Mt. Bonnell Park. Visitors to the park cannot help but see the sign as they leave. The other large sign is located at 35th and Balcones Drive. It is seen by the considerable traffic which passes by that intersection, much of which live nearby. In an effort to have maximum impact, we erected the signs a full month prior to the event.

Thanks to the assistance of Rich Thompson, host of the Austin Interfaith, weekly television show, we got some additional free publicity just two weeks before Easter. Vic Appel was one of two guests on the show given the opportunity to describe their Easter Sunrise Service (the other was Central Presbyterian's Easter Sunrise Service held in Zilker Park).

The success of our new strategy was confirmed by the size of the audience we attracted: It was more than 350 people, the largest crowd to date. Further, a sampling of responses from participants verified that the signs had been the principal means by which they learned of the event.

The Publicity Committee continues to be concerned about the fact that our church remains one of the best kept secrets in Austin. Sadly, few persons have heard of the Congregational Church of Austin. A simple survey taken at 24th and San Antonio Streets revealed that only one of 10 passersby could identify where the church was located, even when prompted that it was supposed to be somewhere nearby. Many also confuse the United Church of Christ with the much larger, Church of Christ denomination. We ask that each member of the congregation find ways to inform acquaintances of our church. Even better, we hope each will invite friends to a service. One where we have a potluck dinner following the service would provide an especially good opportunity for visitors to get acquainted with our membership.

The Committee would welcome suggestions from the congregation as to means for contacting former U.C.C members moving to Austin from other parts of the country.



Nominating Committee Report

"The number of positions on committees exceeded the number of volunteers even with folks doubling up and serving on multiple Boards or Committees. Also, several stalwarts cited volunteer burn-out and asked to be excused for a year or two. The Nominating Committee asks the congregation to consider whether we have too many Committees?"

1
Meet monthly on
Tuesdays. which one?
aim for 3rd Tues.

Nominating Committee Report, January 23, 2000

One Year Terms

Office	Incumbents	Nominees
Financial Secretary	Mary Sinclair	Mary Sinclair
Treasurer	John Burlinson	John Burlinson
Coordinating Council, member at large	George Lemley	Enid Ross
Church School Superintendent	Doyal Pinkard	Doyal Pinkard
Historian	Jamie Adams	Jamie Adams
Publicity	Victor Appel	Victor Appel
Austin Metropolitan Ministry	Cecile Ervin	<i>Suzanne Van Der Poel</i>
Austin Interfaith	Flo Chiles Kathleen Strong Mary Charles Williams Catherine Hubbs	Flo Chiles Kathleen Strong Catherine Hubbs
Brazos Association Rep	Tommie Pinkard	Tommie Pinkard
University Area Partners	Joe McMillan	
Delegate to South Central Conference	Kristin Galle	Kristin Galle

Three Year Terms

Office	Incumbents	Nominees
Moderator	1999-01 John Moore	
Clerk	2000-02 Dave Ross	
Enlistment & Stewardship Committee	1999-01 Michael Adams 2000-02 Jean Appel 2001-03 (Vacant)	
Music Committee	1998-00 Mary Tomasek 1999-01 Norma Hawes 2000-02 Sally Tomasek	2000-03 Matt Blackstock
Board of Trustees <i>Tommie P, chair 2nd Tues 6:30</i>	1998-00 Suzanne Bradford 1998-2000 Richard Jackson 1999-01 Loretta Lewis 1999-01 Kristin Galle 2000-02 Dennis Murphy 2000-02 Tommie Pinkard	2001-2003 Jim Tomasek 2001-2003 Mark McCoy <i>+ Vic Appel for Loretta or Kristin</i>
Board of Deacons <i>chair Joe McC. 1st Thurs.</i>	1998-00 Suzanne Bradford <i>Matt Blackstock</i> 1998-00 Sharon Brown 1999-01 Carl Putz 1999-01 Jamie Adams 2000-02 Norma Hawes 2000-02 Paul Deisler	2001-03 Joe McMillan 2001-03 (pending at time report submitted) <i>Cecile Ervin</i>
Board of Christian Education <i>chair, Lisa K. meeting times posts.</i>	1998-00 Lynn Lemley 1998-00 Lisa Kirch 1999-01 Ben White 1999-01 Carol Burlinson <i>Julia Deisler</i> 2000-02 Andrea Putz 2000-02 Michael Adams <i>→ CC</i>	2001-2003 Craig Headley 2001-2003 Julia Deisler <i>Lisa Kirch -01</i>
Nominating Committee	1998-2000 Kathleen Strong 1999-01 Steven Domingue 2000-02 Carol Barrett	2001-2003 Richard Jackson