

David W. Ross

**ANNUAL REPORT
2002**

The Congregational Church of Austin
408 West 23rd Street
Austin, Texas 78705-5214

Brazos Association
South Central Conference
United Church of Christ

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AGENDA
The Congregational Church of Austin
Annual Meeting, January 19, 2003

CONVENE: 1:00 PM

✓ CALL TO ORDER Tommie Pinkard, Moderator, Presiding

✓ INVOCATION Reverend Tom VandeStadt

✓ MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETING David Ross, Clerk

REPORTS

✓ Pastor's Report Rev. VandeStadt
✓ Financial Secretary's Report Lynne Lemley
✓ Clerk's Report David Ross
✓ Treasurer's Report Dennis Murphy

ADOPTION OF BUDGET FOR 2003* ✓

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

✓ Coordinating Council Tommie Pinkard
✓ Board of Christian Education Lisa Kirch, Chair
✓ Board of Deacons Cecile Adam for Joseph McMillan, Chair
✓ Board of Trustees George Lemley, Chair
✓ Building and Grounds Committee Vic Appel, Chair
✓ Stewardship and Enlistment Committee Richard Jackson, Chair
✓ Other Committees
✓ Nominating Committee Richard Jackson, Chair

ELECTION OF OFFICERS*

NEW BUSINESS

✓ **BYLAWS AMENDMENT***

Report on Visioning Activities Rev. VandeStadt
Other New Business

ADJOURN

BENEDICTION Rev. VandeStadt

*Denotes Action Item

The Congregational Church of Austin, United Church of Christ
MINUTES of the ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 20, 2002

Moderator John Moore called the meeting to order at 12:42 PM.

The Pastor, Tom VandeStadt, offered the invocation.

John Moore reviewed his three years as moderator with humor and optimism, noting that after uncertainties and losses we now have a foundation on which to build.

Old business

John noted that several items have been left undone from previous meetings.

- updating the church name with the Secretary of State. This is again referred to the trustees.
- auditing the church books. This is also referred to the Trustees. Suzanne Bradford will be unable to do the audit.
- Updating officers' job descriptions. Each Church officer or Board chair is responsible for this.
- End of the four-month trial period for worship at 11:00. There is not yet a recommendation from the boards and individuals assigned to this. John requested comments from each board and some discussion ensued. Joe McMillan moved:

To extend the trial period for an additional three months while an ad hoc committee, which is appointed by the Moderator during the Annual Meeting, reviews the assignment, convenes and conducts whatever research and study as may be necessary, and prepares a recommendation for consideration at a special called meeting of the congregation.

Paul Deisler seconded. During the discussion, Robin Chapman noted that attendance by children has been poor during the Sunday School period, but good during church. She stated, with Michael Adams agreeing, that there are two issues to be distinguished: first, when to hold worship and, second, when to have Church School relative to the worship time.

Nodie Murphy said that if worship is at 10:30 the choir needs to meet at 9:00. This is very early for many choir members but could be accommodated if deemed desirable for the Sunday School.

John Moore requested that the motion include that the committee shall consist of the new chairpersons of Deacons and Christian Education after these Boards meet, plus the Choir Director and the Church School Superintendent.

This amendment was approved by a voice vote and the motion was then approved by voice vote.

Pastor's Report: Tom gave a brief synopsis of his written report, noting that he did "see a burning bush" and is excited about being here. He plans to initiate a new vision process, whereby we can develop our mission. How shall we treat our building to best serve the community around us? How shall we develop Christian Education to involve more children? How shall we grow spiritually?

Clerk's Report. Dave Ross noted that much of the apparent decrease in membership occurred because of a careful pruning of the rolls by the Deacons. Karl Putz pointed out that this had not been done for several years. Corliss Gasparri was incorrectly listed among the baptisms. She was not baptized here. However, Savanna Sharpe was received by baptism and affirmation of faith. Florence Castle, it should be noted, is not really a new member. Her name had been unaccountably omitted from the rolls at an earlier time and is now restored. Paul Deisler moved and Tommie Pinkard seconded that the report be accepted. The motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report. Mary Sinclair reported that there has been a strong increase in the number of pledges compared to last year. Her report was accepted following a motion by Paul Deisler and second by Vic Appel. Later in the meeting, John Burlinson strongly lauded Mary's service. This was followed by loud applause.

Treasurer's Report. John Burlinson noted that there was a net decrease in the General Fund of about \$6,000. We spent about 4% more than was budgeted, largely in the areas of utilities and janitorial services. Corliss Gasparri moved and Dennis Murphy seconded that John's report be accepted by acclamation. The motion carried.

Trustees' Report. Tommie Pinkard noted that the Trustees have had a lot of catching up to do after the decision not to move.

Budget. Tommie also presented the 2002 budget for adoption on behalf of the budget committee. One correction is that the amount on line 63 for advertising is increased to \$1,664, the cost of an advertisement in the telephone directory. In response to Dave Ross's question about the amount for the Church Secretary, Tommie replied that this will be revised as necessary after Tom and the Trustees determine the secretarial needs following Louise Whitworth's retirement.

Dave Ross asked how OCWM pledges will be handled now that OCWM is now a line item in the budget. John Burlinson replied that shortfalls will be taken from the general revenues, while amounts over the budgeted item will go to OCWM. Norma Hawes stated her opposition to including this as a line item. Dennis Murphy spoke strongly for the role of the Conference in helping us to recruit a Pastor and in other ways. He noted that part of the reason OCWM pledges have decreased is that some people assume it is included in their general pledge.

Michael Adams moved and Norma Hawes seconded that we delete OCWM as a line item in the budget. It was argued that line items mean less accountability. Craig Headley said we should have faith in the vision of what the conference is doing. Wil Brown gave a personal testimonial to the difficulties facing the conference. Indeed, his position is being eliminated. Norma said that she is in favor of giving to OCWM but is concerned that if it is a budget item it could take from other programs. Corliss said that we are becoming isolationist. We are a part of the UCC and have an obligation to support it. Tom VandeStadt noted that Wil Brown is his Pastor and they meet frequently. Following discussion the motion was defeated by a voice vote. Pat Oakes suggested that we educate the church about the OCWM and the Conference.

The committee's motion to adopt the 2002 budget was then approved by a voice vote.

Deacons' report. Joe McMillan reported that there remains some unfinished business: choice of a slogan for the church signs, an amendment to the bylaws regarding the language describing the use of the Memorial Fund, and the time of worship. The report was accepted by a voice vote.

Board of Christian Education. Lisa Kirch reported that we are now getting control of the Sunday School Program. The report was accepted by a voice vote.

Committees. Corliss Gasparri presented the Report of Enlistment and Stewardship Committee. Vic Appel presented the reports of Buildings and Grounds and Publicity Committees. Vic received a standing ovation for his work.

Nominating Committee. Steve Domingue presented the slate of candidates. Changes to the written slate are the following. Nicole Harter is added to the CE Board for a term from 2002-2004. Since Andrea Putz will be the Coordinating Council Member-at-large, she resigns from the CE Board, leaving a vacancy. There is not a candidate for Treasurer. John Burlinson will continue for the time being. Tommie Pinkard's term as Moderator is 2002-2004, not 2001-2003. Since the Bylaws specify that there be two elected members of the Enlistment and Stewardship Committee, Richard Jackson's graciously volunteered to withdraw from the slate. Corliss Gasparri will be Chair and Hulen Brown Secretary. With these changes, the slate was adopted by voice vote.

New Business

Tommie Pinkard, taking the chair, requested that each Board meet as soon as possible to elect officers and to designate a representative to the Coordinating Council. The Coordinating Council will meet soon. Fran Briggs noted that we need to look at revising our governance, a process begun when she was Moderator. We have too many boards and committees, she says.

Tommie affirmed the membership of the Lifeworks and Freeze Night Oversight Committee, consisting of Ben White, Fran Briggs, Karl Putz, and Tommie Pinkard. The committee will meet with Ronnie Mendoza of Lifeworks on Tuesday, January 22.

Vic Appel inquired about recording the visit of John Thomas, UCC President, when he comes to Slumber Falls.

As noted above, John Burlinson thanked Mary Sinclair for her devoted service as Financial Secretary. John Moore was also given another round of applause for his service as Moderator.

After a motion by Pat Oakes, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

David W. Ross, Clerk, January 21, 2002.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING May 5, 2002

Moderator Tommie Pinkard called the meeting to order at 10:57 A.M.

On behalf of the Board of Deacons, Joe McMillan moved that the congregation affirm six candidates for membership in the church. He asked Tom VandeStadt to introduce them. They are:

John Goff and Gail Christeson, who have two children, Cameron (6) and Megan (2).
Jennifer Sims and Ken Harker,
Brita Jenquin, and
Maggie Smith.

(Maggie was received into membership last year, but we had neglected to vote on her candidacy.) The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned for the worship service, during which the new members were received.

The meeting resumed at 12:20 P.M. Vic Appel moved that we take a first step toward adopting Mt. Bonnell. Before making a commitment to accept this on a continuing basis, we propose to participate in a workday on May 18 from 8:00 A.M through lunch. The tasks will be to clean up the area at the top and the paths leading to it, and to plant a xeriscape. Following a second, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:23 P.M. following a motion by Michael Adams.

David W. Ross, Clerk, 3/9/02

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING June 6, 2002

Moderator Tommie Pinkard called the meeting to order at 12:10 P.M.

Vic Appel reported that we had a wonderful workday on Mt. Bonnell on May 18. This was a trial run to see whether we should adopt the mountain. On behalf of the trustees, Vic moved that we adopt Mt. Bonnell, to perform cleanup and some gardening approximately four times per year. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe McMillan reported that the time-of-worship committee has studied the issues involved. On behalf of the committee Joe moved that we reaffirm the 11:00 hour on Sunday for regular worship, with other options being available for special occasions. The motion passed with one negative vote.

Reporting for the nominating committee, Richard Jackson nominated Dennis Murphy to serve as Treasurer and John Burlinson as Sunday Superintendent for the rest of the current terms of these

offices. This passed unanimously. Richard also nominated Robin Chapman to fill a vacancy on the Board of Christian Education. This also passed unanimously. Richard noted that there is another vacancy on the CE Board to be filled.

Tom VandeStadt informed the congregation that Corliss Gasparri is in the process of being ordained in the UCC. Our church, in consultation with the South Central Conference, is working to expedite the process.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 P.M. following a motion by Michael Adams.

David W. Ross, Clerk, 6/25/02

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING September 22, 2002

Moderator Tommie Pinkard called the meeting to order at 12:30 P.M.

Representing the nominating committee Richard Jackson offered the following names to fill vacancies:

John Goff for the Board of Christian Education
Frances Alford and John Moore for the Enlistment and Stewardship Committee.

Following a second the motion passed with no dissenting votes.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 P.M. following a motion by Pat Oakes.

David W. Ross, Clerk, 9/22/02

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING November 3, 2002

Moderator Tommie Pinkard called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M.

Representing the Board of Deacons Joe McMillan offered the following names membership in the church and welcomed them and their families:

Whit Bodman and Betty Bodman
John Drachenberg and Lois Drachenberg
Reuel Nash and Liz Nash (with their children Ellie, Annie, and Becky)
David Foster and Kathi Foster
Graylon Grissett and Marilyn Vaché (with their daughter Olivia Vaché).

The motion passed unanimously.

Tom VandeStadt explained the provisions of the youth freeze night proposal and noted that we have 18 volunteers so far. He moved that we participate by opening the church basement on selected freeze nights and assist in the supervision.

Following a second by John Moore, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 A.M.

David W. Ross, Clerk, 11/23/02

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday, December 8, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 PM by Tommie Pinkard, Moderator.

1. The first item of business was a report from the Nominating Committee: Richard Jackson, committee chair, presented the report. There are two open unexpired terms on the Board of Trustees, those formerly held by Dennis Murphy and Jim Tomasek. The committee nominated Pam Tucker and John Moore to fill those positions. With no further nominations, the report was approved unanimously.
2. Annual Meeting: The moderator said that the Coordinating Council has set the date of the congregational Annual Meeting for Sunday, January 19, 2003. However, Monday the 20th is a federal and state holiday, Martin Luther King's birthday. The moderator wanted to get the sense of those present as to whether the long holiday weekend would negatively impact the annual meeting by preventing us from having a quorum. The feeling was that most of the members would be able to attend on January 19th, so that date will be retained.
3. Budget Shortfall: George Lemley, chair of the Trustees, reported that we are going to face a budget shortfall of more than \$6,000 by the end of the year. This is due in part to the state of the economy, which has affected many members and made it difficult to meet their pledges. Therefore the Board of Trustees is requesting a special offering to be held on the Sundays of 12/15 and 12/22.

Rambie Briggs moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM.

Doyal Pinkard, substituting for David Ross, Clerk 1/3/03.

PASTOR'S REPORT

In 2002, I worked closely with the Board of Deacons, Board of Trustees, Board of Christian Education, and the Coordinating Council. I'd like to thank Joe McMillan, George Lemley, Lisa Kirch, and Tommie Pinkard for their leadership. Throughout my first full year in Austin, we continued to get to know each other and to define important issues in the life of this church.

Corporate worship continued to be the activity that brought us together most often. Nodie Murphy and I met once a month to plan our worship themes and music. I thoroughly enjoy working with Nodie, and I'm also very thankful for Florence Castle, Robin Rossen, the various violinists who played with the "trio," and all the members of our choir.

Throughout the year, I tried try to create a particular movement or flow in our worship: God calls us out of the world; we respond to God by gathering together in our sanctuary; we center our hearts and minds upon God, and open our lives to God's healing and reconciling spirit; we give thanks to God, praise God, confess to God, or make requests from God; we share our lives with one another, then lift our joys and concerns to God in prayer; we hear scripture and reflect upon it to discern God's presence, activity, instruction, and call in the past and the present; we respond to God by offering our lives and our gifts; God sends us back into the world as ministers of healing and reconciliation. I hope this movement of worship, and the liturgies, music, and reflections associated with it, were meaningful and inspirational to you.

For me, worship highlights during the past year included the Maundy Thursday worship service, where we gathered in the courtyard around a chimenea fire to recall Peter's threefold denial of Jesus in the High Priest's courtyard; the Good Friday service I co-lead with Corliss Gasparri; the Easter Sunrise Service on top of Mt Bonnell, where we sang *Morning Has Broken* as the sun came up over the horizon; and the Children's Christmas pageant.

I attended the pre-worship Adult Education Class when time permitted, and I'm grateful for the leadership provided by Steve Domingue, Doyal Pinkard, David Ross, and Vic Appel. I led a Lenten Series entitled, *Why Was Jesus Killed? Why Did Jesus Die?* In the space of several weeks, we reflected on two key questions: What did Jesus do that provoked powerful men to kill him? How did Jesus' followers interpret the significance of his death, and why? We studied the historical development of various atonement theologies and considered some alternatives to them. A number of us continued to meet on Thursday evenings for Lectio Divinas, a form of Bible study and prayer that seeks to open both scripture and our lives as texts through which God communicates with us.

Ministry to the homeless continued to be an outreach priority for our church. LifeWorks resumed their Drop-In Day Program on Tuesday and Friday afternoons, and an Oversight Board comprised of Fran Briggs, Tommie Pinkard, Ben White and myself met monthly with representatives from LifeWorks to monitor the relationship between LifeWorks and our church. Once again, we responded to the call to serve as a freeze night cold weather shelter. Fourteen members of our church signed up to participate in this ministry, as did twelve members of United Christian Church. The Trustees adopted a policy regarding the homeless youth who sleep on the porch, deciding to enforce a moratorium on porch sleeping whenever there was evidence of drug use, alcohol consumption, violence, or destruction of church property. In addition to enforcing this moratorium, several Trustees and I have engaged in dialogue with the homeless youth in an effort to foster a better relationship between them and the church. We celebrated our second Annual Christmas Worship Service and Meal on Christmas

Day. Members and guests gathered in the sanctuary to celebrate Holy Communion, and then we served a meal to approximately 70 people. Members of our church also served lunch once every six weeks at the University Methodist Lunch Program. Finally, we hosted a job fair for the homeless in December.

Our church pursued several new outreach ministries in 2002. John Moore and I took an exploratory trip to Honduras in April, and then a larger group that included Lynne Lemley, Jake Burlinson, Ned Murphy, Allisa Parsley, and myself returned to work on a house in July. Our work in Honduras was in partnership with the Walker Center For Global Mission. Thanks to Vic Appel's initiative, we began a new ministry on Mt. Bonnell, site of our Easter Sunrise Service. The clean-up ministry not only served as effective outreach, but as fantastic evangelism and fellowship ministries as well. Our church worked with eight other University-area churches to begin developing the University Area Micah 6 Ministry, intended to coordinate and strengthen the local outreach ministries of the University Area churches.

Financially, we struggled a bit in 2002, as we ended the year with some anxiety over a deficit. On the other hand, our membership responded generously to the various special appeals, like those our Deacons made to meet the emergency needs of members and the Karasia-Bukasa family. Members and non-members also responded very generously to Frances Alford's financial appeal for our Honduras project. While it's clear that the economic downturn had a negative impact on the amount of money some people were able to give, I believe their desire to give remained as strong as ever.

A number of members took part in our church's vision process by participating in guided discussions intended to identify our church's top priorities for the next several years. Christian education and spirituality, mission outreach, and the building were identified as the top three priorities. Follow-up meetings were held on Christian education and mission outreach. A number of helpful suggestions regarding other areas of the church's life, especially fellowship, were also made during these vision discussions. Follow-up meetings in 2003 will enable participants to plan specific strategies to address these priority areas.

Throughout the year, we had our share of joys and sorrows in our life together. We joyfully ordained Enid Ross as a United Church of Christ clergyperson. We sorrowfully said goodbye to our dear friend, Corliss Gasparri. We hired a new administrative assistant who began to organize us in ways we never knew we could be organized. We enjoyed a number of potluck fellowships, sweated through the repair of our air conditioning system, debated the time we would worship, gathered in each others' homes to discuss the books we read, laughed and cried with each other, ministered to and with each other, and experienced what it is to be human within the Body of Christ. What impressed me most of all was the incredible love and care I witnessed, especially among those of you who offered yourselves to the infirm and dying.

I look forward to 2003, and I thank you for calling me to be your pastor.

--Tom

Clerk's Report --- Vital Statistics/Membership 2002

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2001 107

Received 2002 by affirmation of faith or letter of transfer:

BODMAN, Betty	GRISSETT, Graylin
BODMAN, Whit	HARKER, Ken
CHRISTESON, Gail	JENQUIN, Brita
DRACHENBERG, John	NASH, Liz
DRACHENBERG, Lois	NASH, Reuel
FOSTER, David	SIMS, Jennifer
FOSTER, Kathi	VACHÉ, Marilyn
GOFF, John	

TOTAL ADDITIONS 2002 16

Loss 2002 by death:

GASPARRI, Corliss

Losses 2002 by transfer:

FERGUSON, Betsy
FERGUSON, Brad

TOTAL LOSSES 2002 3

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2002 120

Baptisms:

none

Marriages:

Jennifer Sims and Ken Harker

Funerals and memorial services:

Jean Appel
Corliss Gasparri
Marilyn Jordan

David W. Ross, Clerk, December 31, 2002

Coordinating Council

The Coordinating Council addresses issues which are of church-wide importance and which are not expressly delegated to a particular board or committee. The council engages in long-range planning regarding the directions, purposes, and programs of the church and makes appropriate recommendations to the congregation based on those efforts. Another important function is to make sure that each of the church boards (Deacons, Trustees, Education) know what the other two are planning, in order to coordinate efforts, facilitate cooperative projects, and avoid scheduling conflicts.

Representatives from each of the three boards, an at-large representative, plus the minister, the moderator (presiding) and the church clerk, make up the Coordinating Council.

On the following pages you will read reports of what those boards have been doing. You will learn that it has been a busy year, with new projects, new activities, and new problems, some of which we have turned into opportunities for mission outreach.

The council takes very seriously its responsibility to engage in long-range planning regarding the directions, purposes and programs of the church and make recommendations to the congregation. It is regarding those efforts that I wish to report.

The congregation has been involved for months (starting with our spring retreat at Slumber Falls) in a visioning process that resulted in the identification of three major priorities that we need to address: education and spiritual development, mission outreach, and efficient use of our building. Self-selected committees have begun work on the first two priorities, and another begins devising ways to make better use of our building this month.

Last October, the Coordinating Council led the effort to host the Fall Meeting of the Brazos Association at our church, working on the program and planning and serving dinner to the representatives from all the churches in our association. (This is an example of the type of activity that falls to the Coordinating Council because it is not delegated to a particular board or committee.)

At present we do not have a committee organized to report on mission outreach, but our efforts in this regard last year should not be left unsaid. Starting close to home, we are, through our pastor and the Trustees, reaching out to the homeless who sleep on our porch. The Trustees published standards of behavior, for the safety and peace of the homeless and our church members, which are for the most part being observed. We have opened our Appel Hall downstairs as a safe drop-in center for homeless youth two days a week, organized by Life Works. An oversight committee of church members works with Life Works so that we can help their program be successful. We have provided clothing and food to these youngsters, and at Christmas, we served dinner to them and to adult homeless as well (65-70 persons).

Also in our neighborhood, with Robin Chapman's leadership, we participated regularly in preparing lunch for the homeless on Saturdays at the Methodist Church. Our pastor will report on his cooperation with other area churches in

the Micah 6 program. Perhaps in the new year more of us can participate in this effort to coordinate mission outreach in the university area.

Moving farther afield, the Coordinating Council established a mission project fund which made it possible for church members to participate in a building project in Honduras last summer, led by our pastor.

This year should be a busy one for the Coordinating Council. First, the council needs to formulate a statement of objectives for the year based on the priorities identified in the visioning process, and then it must consider the issue of reorganization, so that we are better equipped to address those priorities.

Tommie Pinkard, Moderator

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 2002

Income report 2002

The General Fund income for 2002 was \$155,954.84. As you'll see from the listing on the following page, this amount includes a 2003 pledge prepayment of \$6,000.00, and a stock donation made in the last days of December, which was cashed in the amount of \$10,174.55. The 2002 General Fund income shows an increase of \$38,020.59 over the General Fund income for 2001. The non-pledged income for 2002 decreased by \$8,406.56 from the 2001 total; however, in 2002 a lot more people turned in pledges than in 2001. The amount pledged for 2002 was \$138,656.00, of which amount we collected \$119,255.74, leaving a difference of \$19,400.26.

The congregation responded generously in response to individual calls made by the Deacons, the Pastor, and the Board of Trustees to address needs in the Deacons' Benevolence Fund (formerly Deacons' Discretionary Fund), the Honduras Project Mission, the Bukasa-Karasi family, and the church's budget shortfall.

The church's total inflow for 2002 came to \$198,728.55, an increase of \$39,915.35 over the 2001 total inflow of 158,813.20.

Estimated income for 2003

As of the writing of this report, Jan. 6, 2003, I have received 24 pledges totaling \$96,016.00. I of course do not include in this number 2003 pledging which was prepaid near the end of 2002. We should be receiving \$4000 back after the resolution of Jay Harris' court case. I expect to receive 6-10 more pledges in the coming days. The target pledge amount for 2003 is \$138,656.00 with a 4% increase, equaling **\$144,120.00**. Assuming that we do receive back the \$4000.00 we spent on Jay, we would still need to come up with around \$44,000.00 to officially meet the 2003 budget total. If the amounts of non-pledged giving and loose plate stay approximately the same, that total should be around \$16,000.00. About half the people who pledged have slightly increased their 2003 pledge commitment, and the other half have either pledged the same amount as in 2002 or decreased their pledge amounts.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne R. Lemley
Jan. 6 2003

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT 01/01/02-12/31/02

INFLOWS

Budget-General Fund		
Pledged	\$119,255.74	
Pre-paid 2003 pledging	6,000.00	
Non-pledged	12,170.00	
Loose plate	4,392.26	
Rental Income	2,900.00	
Stock donated Dec. 2002	10,174.55	
United Church Foundation (McNeely Fund)	593.87	
Miscellaneous		
Randall's Good Neighbor	105.27	
Wedding deposit	125.00	
Refunds	59.15	
Brazos Asso. Supper	<u>179.00</u>	
TOTAL Budget-General Fund	\$155,954.84	
Designated Income (Local)		
2002 Budget Shortfall	\$6,506.00	
Deacons' Benevolence Fund	6,715.00	
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	100.00	
Slumber Falls Retreat	255.00	
Special Gifts		
Furniture project	400.00	
Louise Whitworth	636.71	
Poinsettia Project	142.00	
Christmas Day Meal	245.00	
J. Tomasek's course books	139.00	
Dishwasher	350.00	
Capital/Building Fund	220.00	
Memorials	<u>425.00</u>	
TOTAL Designated Income (Local)	\$16,133.71	
Designated Income (Outreach)		
OCWM	\$5,200.00	- contributes to line item.
OGHS	3,180.00	
Honduras Project Mission Fund	6,250.00	
Honduras Airfare(pd. by participants)	2,500.00	
Bukasa-Karasi Family	6,855.00	
Neighbors in Need	820.00	
Faith Food Pantry	500.00	
New Church Development	668.00	
Back Bay Mission	160.00	-
SCC Annual Meeting	221.00	
Brazos Asso. Meeting CUE offering	216.00	-
Christmas Fund Offering	<u>70.00</u>	
TOTAL Designated Income (Outreach)	\$26,640.00	
TOTAL INFLOWS	\$198,728.55	
OVERALL TOTAL	\$198,728.55	

\$138,656 pledged
\$16,174.55 (late) stock input

will be "Deacons emergency fund"

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CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN						
2001 AND 2002 BUDGETS / 2003 PROPOSED BUDGET						
		2001	2002	2003	\$ Change	% Change
Pastoral Leadership - Tom VandeStadt						
10	Salary		30,135.20			
11	Annuity		6,680.55			
12	Health Insurance		3,129.00			
13	Family Protection		477.18			
14	Continuing Education		1,300.00			
15	Housing Allowance		17,583.00			
16	Travel Expenses		2,900.00			
	Pastoral Leadership - Tom VandeStadt: Subtotal	68,624.23	62,204.93	66,500.00	4,295.07	6.90%
Cooperative Responsibilities						
21	Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)	12,000.00	12,900.00	12,900.00	0.00	0.00%
22	Austin Area Interreligious Ministries	600.00	600.00	600.00	0.00	0.00%
23	Brazos Association Dues	472.00	432.00	480.00	48.00	11.11%
24	Texas Conference of Churches	30.00	30.00	30.00	0.00	0.00%
25	National Council of Churches	15.00	15.00	15.00	0.00	0.00%
26	World Council of Churches	15.00	15.00	15.00	0.00	0.00%
27	Regional Seminary Support	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00%
28	Eden Home	500.00	500.00	100.00	(400.00)	-80.00%
29	Back Bay Mission	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00%
30	Slumber Falls Camp	100.00	100.00	200.00	100.00	100.00%
31	Austin Interfaith	300.00	300.00	300.00	0.00	0.00%
32	Huston-Tillotson College	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00%
33	University Area Partners	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00%
34	Texas Impact	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00%
35	Micah 6 (previously Religious Coalition for the Homeless)	110.00	110.00	400.00	290.00	263.64%
	Cooperative Responsibilities: Subtotal	15,842.00	16,702.00	16,740.00	38.00	0.23%
Local Church Programs						

Insert - Treasurer's Report

Dennis Murphy

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

31-Dec-02

Bank of America.com
746106423
JACOB

on line

to be adjusted

no documentation

#

call locally

see above

Assets		Current	31-Dec-01	\$ Change	% Change
Bank of America					
Checking Account*		<u>\$35,469.13</u>	\$83,030.57	-\$47,561.44	-57.28%
General Fund	<i>← from below</i>	<u>\$5,009.61</u>	\$7,749.70	-\$2,740.09	-35.36%
Capital Fund		\$28,438.94	\$53,518.93	-\$25,079.99	-46.86%
Centennial Fund		\$81.58	\$81.58	\$0.00	0.00%
Designated/Reserved Monies**		<u>\$1,939.00</u>	\$21,680.36	-\$19,741.36	-91.06%
CD (McNeely Estate)		\$2,751.71	\$2,698.21	\$53.50	1.98%
Wells Fargo Bank					
CD (McNeely Estate)		\$7,538.85	\$7,324.91	\$213.94	2.92%
United Church Foundation					
McNeely Account		\$18,812.27	\$21,498.96	-\$2,686.69	-12.50%
Edward Jones					
Memorial Account		\$10,076.32	\$10,943.84	-\$867.52	-7.93%
Memorial Fund (Money Market)		\$9,022.57	\$8,905.70	\$116.87	1.31%
General Fund (Stocks, previously)	<i>↳ interest</i>	\$1,053.75	\$2,038.14	-\$984.39	-48.30%
Capital Account		\$28,585.26	\$23,563.72	\$5,021.54	21.31%
Organ Fund (Money Market)		\$4,584.19	\$4,573.23	\$10.96	0.24%
General Fund (Stocks, previously)	<i>→ checking</i>	<u>\$10,366.03</u>	\$5,851.86	\$4,514.17	77.14%
Capital Fund (Money Market)		\$13,635.04	\$13,138.63	\$496.41	3.78%
Total Assets		\$103,233.54	149,060.21	-\$45,826.67	-30.74%

Other

Bail Money	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	100.00%
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Notes:

* Balances are net of checks outstanding at the end of the years shown.

** Include named funds (e.g. the Deacons' Emergency Fund) as well as money obligated for prior period/year expenses.

↳ some expectation of recovery.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN				
2002 BUDGET VS. ACTUAL				
End of Year				
		Budgeted	Actual	%
Retiring Pastor				
1	Sabbatical	0.00	0.00	0.00%
	Retiring Pastor: Subtotal	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Pastoral Leadership - Other				
4	Interim Pastor (est. 6 months)	0.00	0.00	0.00%
5	New Pastor - Total Compensation	0.00	0.00	0.00%
6	New Pastor - Moving Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00%
	Pastoral Leadership - Other: Subtotal	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Pastoral Leadership - Tom VandeStadt				
10	Salary	30,135.20	33,263.64	110.38%
11	Annuity	6,680.55	5,600.00	83.83%
12	Health Insurance	3,129.00	50.00	1.60%
13	Family Protection	477.18	507.39	106.33%
14	Continuing Education	1,300.00	1,300.00	100.00%
15	Housing Allowance	17,583.00	17,475.37	99.39%
16	Travel Expenses	2,900.00	3,100.00	106.90%
	Pastoral Leadership - Tom VandeStadt: Subtotal	62,204.93	61,296.40	98.54%
Cooperative Responsibilities				
21	Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)	12,900.00	12,900.00	100.00%
22	Austin Area Interreligious Ministries	600.00	600.00	100.00%
23	Brazos Association Dues	432.00	480.00	111.11%
24	Texas Conference of Churches	30.00	30.00	100.00%
25	National Council of Churches	15.00	15.00	100.00%
26	World Council of Churches	15.00	15.00	100.00%
27	Regional Seminary Support	500.00	500.00	100.00%
28	Eden Home	500.00	500.00	100.00%
29	Back Bay Mission	500.00	600.00	120.00%
30	Slumber Falls Camp	100.00	100.00	100.00%
31	Austin Interfaith	300.00	300.00	100.00%
32	Huston-Tillotson College	500.00	500.00	100.00%
33	University Area Partners	100.00	100.00	100.00%
34	Texas Impact	100.00	100.00	100.00%
35	Religious Coalition for the Homeless	110.00	108.99	99.08%
	Cooperative Responsibilities: Subtotal	16,702.00	16,848.99	100.88%
Local Church Programs				
41	Pastor's Discretionary Fund	200.00	201.49	100.75%
42	Secretary - Salary	11,561.45	9,975.53	86.28%

43	Secretary - Social Security & Medicare	821.59	572.35	69.66%
44	Music for Worship	250.00	413.51	165.40%
45	Musicians	6,640.00	6,215.00	93.60%
46	Choral Director - Salary	5,200.00	5,200.00	100.00%
47	Choral Director - Social Security & Medicare	369.53	290.70	78.67%
48	Christian Education	2,800.00	2,482.58	88.66%
49	Kitchen Supplies	200.00	125.00	62.50%
50	Office Supplies	3,800.00	5,982.21	157.43%
51	Postage	800.00	469.00	58.63%
52	Utilities - Total	13,000.00	17,648.33	135.76%
53	Electricity & Water		11,657.35	
54	Gas		2,056.90	
55	Telephone		3,472.91	
56	Drinking Water		461.17	
57	Property Maintenance	6,000.00	5,008.26	83.47%
58	Janitorial Supplies	150.00	473.96	315.97%
59	Janitor - Salary	10,400.00	11,137.00	107.09%
60	Janitor - Social Security & Medicare	728.00	737.79	101.34%
61	SCC Annual Meeting Delegates	600.00	667.32	111.22%
62	Camps & Workshops	1,000.00	0.00	0.00%
63	Advertising	1,664.00	1,949.75	117.17%
64	Pulpit Supply - Speaker Stipends	900.00	600.00	66.67%
65	Nursery Attendants	1,800.00	1,385.00	76.94%
66	Insurance	1,428.00	2,287.00	160.15%
67	Fun & Fellowship Committee Expense	300.00	685.87	228.62%
68	Archives	100.00	0.00	0.00%
69	Deacons' Discretionary Fund	150.00	222.75	148.50%
70	Printing - Newsletter & Bulletin	3,000.00	2,531.65	84.39%
71	Retreat	1,500.00	497.50	33.17%
72	Pastoral Search Committee	0.00	0.00	0.00%
73	Missionary Outreach (Freeze Night Expenses)	200.00	149.09	74.55%
74	Parking	1,200.00	1,300.00	108.33%
	Local Church Programs: Subtotal	76,762.57	79,208.64	103.19%
76	TOTAL	155,669.50	157,354.03	101.08%
	2000 Expense		3,964.03	
	2001 Expense		15,430.51	
	Capital Expenditures		29,521.72	
	Misc Designated Gifts		2,933.44	
	Bail Money		4,000.00	
	Bukasa-Karasi		6,855.00	
	Honduras		8,153.00	
	Deacons' Emergency Fund		6,700.00	
	Total Disbursements in 2002		228,211.73	

16.3

		2001	2002	2003	\$ Change	% Change
41	Pastor's Discretionary Fund	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00%
42	Secretary - Salary	11,561.45	11,561.45	12,500.00	938.55	8.12%
43	Secretary - Social Security & Medicare	821.59	821.59	1,043.75	222.16	27.04%
44	Music for Worship	250.00	250.00	250.00	0.00	0.00%
45	Musicians	5,000.00	6,640.00	8,050.00	1,410.00	21.23%
46	Choral Director - Salary	2,925.00	5,200.00	5,200.00	0.00	0.00%
47	Choral Director - Social Security & Medicare	207.86	369.53	369.53	0.00	0.00%
48	Christian Education	2,800.00	2,800.00	2,500.00	(300.00)	-10.71%
49	Kitchen Supplies	200.00	200.00	150.00	(50.00)	-25.00%
50	Office Supplies	3,200.00	3,800.00	3,600.00	(200.00)	-5.26%
51	Postage	600.00	800.00	800.00	0.00	0.00%
53	Electricity & Water	4,220.00	6,976.00	10,000.00	3,024.00	43.35%
54	Gas	1,964.00	3,192.00	2,500.00	(692.00)	-21.68%
55	Telephone	1,389.00	2,257.00	3,300.00	1,043.00	46.21%
56	Drinking Water	427.00	575.00	125.00	(450.00)	-78.26%
57	Property Maintenance	6,000.00	6,000.00	4,000.00	(2,000.00)	-33.33%
58	Janitorial Supplies	150.00	150.00	500.00	350.00	233.33%
59	Janitor - Salary	4,305.00	10,400.00	10,400.00	0.00	0.00%
60	Janitor - Social Security & Medicare	301.35	728.00	728.00	0.00	0.00%
61	SCC Annual Meeting Delegates	600.00	600.00	600.00	0.00	0.00%
62	Camps & Workshops	500.00	1,000.00	500.00	(500.00)	-50.00%
63	Publicity	1,000.00	1,664.00	1,664.00	0.00	0.00%
64	Pulpit Supply - Speaker Stipends	900.00	900.00	900.00	0.00	0.00%
65	Nursery Attendants	1,200.00	1,800.00	1,560.00	(240.00)	-13.33%
66	Insurance (UCIB Policy)	1,428.00	1,428.00	1,428.00	0.00	0.00%
67	Fun & Fellowship Committee Expense	300.00	300.00	475.00	175.00	58.33%
68	Archives	150.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00%
* 69	Deacons' Discretionary Fund	150.00	150.00	150.00	0.00	0.00%
70	Printing - Newsletter & Bulletin	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,500.00	(500.00)	-16.67%
71	Retreat	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00%
73	Freeze Night Program	0.00	200.00	250.00	50.00	25.00%
74	Parking	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	0.00%
	Local Church Programs: Subtotal	57,250.25	76,762.57	79,043.28	2,280.71	2.97%
76	TOTAL	141,716.48	155,669.50	162,283.28	6,613.78	4.25%

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT – 2002

Board members: George Lemley (chair); Francis Alford (vice-chair); Tom VandeStadt (*ex officio*); John Burlinson (outgoing Treasurer); Dennis Murphy (incoming Interim Treasurer); Vic Appel (Building and Grounds); Lynne Lemley (Financial Secretary); Mark McCoy (Secretary); Jim Tomasek.

John Burlinson and Jim Tomasek each retired from the board before years end. Pam Tucker and John Moore joined the board in December to fill the two empty seats.

I would like to acknowledge all the hard work and commitment that this church received from each and every member of the Board of Trustees. Through the cooperative efforts of this board we were able to:

- 1.) Hire Trish Karli as our new Administrative Assistant.
- 2.) Plan, fund, and see a number of our church members off on a trip to Honduras to assist in building a much needed house.
- 3.) Write lease contracts for three different organizations who over the year have co-existed with us in our building.
- 4.) Continue our efforts in updating our A/C and heating systems.
- 5.) Wire the building for networking the computers and accessing email and the internet.
- 6.) Have a new fence and gate built.
- 7.) Repair rotting window frames and replace windows.
- 8.) Lock down the steel grates that access the basement windows to deter unauthorized entry.
- 9.) Adopt a mountain.
- 10.) Perform an internal audit.
- 11.) Setup a Budget Committee and create a proposed budget for 2003.
- 12.) Pay off some overdue taxes.
- 13.) Aid the Assistant DA by holding a Job Fair for the homeless in the church basement.

You will find many if not all of the details and statistics pertaining to the actions of this board in other reports.

As I write this report, I am not certain where we stand as far as meeting the budget for 2002. I do know that due to the generous donations of members of the congregation who gave when the special offering was requested, we will be very close to it. For the board and for the church I thank you all very much.

Additionally, a new attempt is being made by the board to confront the situation with the homeless in our area. We have decided to adopt a system of calling for moratoriums regarding sleeping on our porch when folks who are on the premises at night have broken certain rules. For now the rules are that no alcohol, drugs or violence of any kind will be tolerated. So far we have had pretty good luck with adherence. In conjunction with this system the board has agreed to initiate an informal group called the "Homeless Response Ministry". The initiative of this

new informal group is to develop a relationship with the homeless in our area so that we might learn how to assist them more effectively in bettering their situation.

I would like to offer a few special "Thank yous" as follows.

Thank you, Dennis Murphy, for your invaluable work in writing contracts for leases and contracts for employment, and for taking on the task of becoming the Short Notice Interim Treasurer and all which that implies. You are Great. Also a BIG Thank You to Nodie Murphy not only for her wonderful work as our Music Director but also for her gracious gift to the church.

Thank you, Tom, for being just the type of spiritual leader we had hoped to find. You're the Man.

Thank you, Vic, for your endless devotion to the church; you are an inspiration to us all.

Thank you, Francis, just for being you.

Thank you, Mark, for keeping the board supplied with the written information that we needed to carry on our business.

Finally, I would like to finish with a prayer. Here it is.

Lord, help us find the path and help us stay on it.

Amen

Respectfully submitted,

George Lemley
Chair

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD DEACONS FOR 2002

With Rev. Tom VandeStadt installed as Pastor, the Board of Deacons was able, in 2002, to turn its attention to matters needing change in or by the Board in addition to carrying out its normal duties. Some of the proposed changes were inspired by the Visioning Process now in progress within the congregation. The following sections describe change and progress in 2002.

- **Members of the Board and Their Positions:** Once the 2002 Board was organized, members of the Board of Deacons (and their positions) were: Joseph McMillan (Chair, Coordinator of Sanctuary Flowers and Coordinator of Easter Sunrise Service), Cecile Ervin Adam (Coordinator of Ushering), Jamie Adams (Coordinating Council Representative), Paul Deisler (Secretary and Liaison to the Fun and Fellowship Committee), Corliss Gasparri (Vice Chair and Liaison to the Music Committee), Pat Oakes (Coordinator of Candle Lighters) and Jeri Winter (Liaison to the Publicity Committee), the Rev. Tom VandeStadt serving as member *ex officio*. The former position of Coordinator of Missions and Outreach was eliminated because other developments in the church took over the elements of the position. Later in the year, the position of Liaison to the Publicity Committee was also eliminated because the need for liaison, while real, was rare and not needed on a routine basis. It was suggested to the Coordinating Council that the Publicity Committee be replaced by an Evangelism Ministry whose role would include publicity.

With the mid-year resignation of Jamie Adams as a Deacon when he found that further full participation would not be compatible with the demands of his school career, Joseph McMillan was elected to the further role of Coordinating Council Representative. With the deeply mourned death of Corliss Gasparri in late summer, Paul Deisler was elected Vice Chair and Pat Oakes was elected Liaison to the Music Committee. The decision was reached to continue with only five Deacons to the end of the year and not to request immediate replacement. Later in the year Pat Oakes was elected to represent the Board of Deacons on the new Pastoral Relations Committee established by the Coordinating Council.

- **New Members of the Congregation:** The Deacons are pleased to have had the opportunity to participate in the orientation and acceptance into membership of the following (children in parentheses): John Goff and Gail Christenson (Cameron and Megan), Brita Jenquin, Rev. Whit and Betty Bodman, Rev. John and Lois Drachenberg, David and Kathi Foster, Reuel and Rev. Liz Nash (Ellie, Annie and Becky), and Marylin Vaché and Graylin Grisset (Olivia Vaché). The practice of having a small reception as part of the orientation sessions was introduced.

- **Status of Candidates for Ordination:** (1) Enid Ross, was ordained, with the support of the Deacons, on October 27, 2002. (2) Cecile Ervin Adam will soon be ready for ordination and could be approved for ordination by the Brazos Association as early as February 2003. (3) The Board of Deacons participated in an all-Board and Coordination Council effort to call Corliss Gasparri to a special ministry at the church with ordination to follow soon; sadly, death intervened.

- **Deacons' Discretionary Fund:** The Fund, established last year, has proven to be of very real assistance to several in 2002 who needed emergency funds and who had no other sources of help. Calls for contributions to the fund were made four times during the year, three for particular individuals and one as a general call in anticipation of the need for further assistance. Normally, particular calls are made without naming the individuals concerned. In one case, that of the Karasi-Bukasa family now residing in New Hampshire, the family was named because of their very special circumstances and relation to the congregation. The family members are Congolese refugees that this church assisted in their relocation to the United States. Their economic position, already precarious, became disastrous when the mother, Judith, was diagnosed with advanced breast cancer and needed expensive treatments. In all calls the congregation was generous in its response; in the case of the Karasi-Bukasa family, the congregation exceeded its own record. All told, five cases of assistance were dealt with during the year. In one instance there was a real possibility of repayment of the funds to the Fund. In this instance the Fund will function as a revolving fund, allowing for further assistance to be given, when necessary, without a call for contributions.

Toward the end of the year the question arose as to whether funds should not be regularly budgeted for the Fund to avoid repeated calls for contributions. Opinion was divided between those favoring budgeting and those who thought voluntary giving for clear emergencies might be more in the Christian spirit of free giving to those in need. With the approval of the Coordinating Council, the Deacons' Discretionary Fund was renamed the Deacons' Emergency Fund and a new Deacons' Discretionary Fund was established. The first-named Fund remains one funded by voluntary contributions for those in urgent need of assistance; the second-named fund is to have a small budget to pay for such things as a gift from the congregation for our candidate for ordination or other items needed during the course of a year. In most instances events of this kind have been largely funded out of the Deacon's own pockets even though the events are in the interests of the entire congregation.

- **Easter Sunrise Service:** Around 300 worshippers attended the Service on top of Mt. Bonnell this year. Though this was less than in 2001 it was a good attendance considering the ominous weather reports at the time. Thanks are due to the Sanctuary Fellowship for providing ushers for the service.

The Board learned, through Nodie Murphy who serves on the Board of Huston-Tillotson College, that the College would like to participate in the Easter Sunrise Service in 2003. The Board welcomed the idea and will pursue further discussions.

- **Rethinking Ushering:** Cecile Ervin Adam raised the issue of having a more welcoming way to carry out this small but essential service to members and visitors. The Board considered a number of alternatives and concluded that one suggested by Rev. Tom VandeStadt would be best. This suggestion was to establish a Hospitality Ministry consisting of people interested in being particularly welcoming to those coming to services at the church, a Ministry that would concentrate on welcoming and not be burdened with the minute details ushers now undertake to satisfy. One of these details is taking up the collection for which it was suggested the Trustees might accept responsibility. Discussed with the Coordinating Council, these ideas will be further pursued in 2003.

- **Article XIV of the by-laws:** The Article, which deals with the Memorial Fund, was found to need clarification when it was appealed to in 2001 by the Board of Deacons when the Board had before it a question on the proper use of the funds. A draft was approved by the Board in June of 2002 and subsequently presented to the Coordinating Council. The Council, in turn, decided that the draft should be presented to the congregation for their vote at the Annual Meeting in January of 2003. The disposition of this matter awaits that meeting.

- **Other Activities Supported and/or Assisted by the Board of Deacons:** Other activities include special services such as the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, a service of remembrance of September 11, 2001 and the memorial service, on October 13, 2002, for Corliss Gasparri. The date was that of her birthday and of the day when she had hoped to be ordained. The Board of Deacons gave their strong support to the Micah 6 Project; to the suggestion by Robin VandeStadt to establish a group that would assist University Methodist Church to feed the hungry; to the idea of establishing the former Administrative Assistant/s office as a place for Bible study and as a memorial to Corliss Gasparri, whose suggestion it was; and to many other ministry activities proposed throughout the year.

The year 2002 was, again, a very busy and fruitful year. The Chair thanks all who participated on the Board of Deacons for their devotion to the work of the Board and looks forward to an even more fruitful 2003.

Respectfully submitted by Joseph T. McMillan, Chair, Board of Deacons

(Current Members of the Board Deacons: Joseph McMillan (Chair), Cecile Ervin Adam, Paul Deisler (Vice-Chair and Secretary), Pat Oakes, Jeri Winter and the Rev. Tom VandeStadt (*ex officio*)).

Board of Christian Education Report, 2002

The Board is pleased with the work of last year, and we are delighted to see growing numbers of children in our church. No parent, and no child, we hope, needs to feel left out by our programs.

For the first time in several years, we feel comfortable with what we can offer. A generous donor restocked the Sunday-school supply cabinet at the beginning of the school year. Robin Chapman and Doyal Pinkard helped reorganize it. Its new equipment includes a first-aid kit, but there are also large numbers of craft materials for the children to work with. The classroom layout has changed, making it a friendlier and more cheerful environment. We finally have regular and reliable childcare for children too young to attend Sunday school. Our decision to hold class during the service was a good one. The program now reaches out to a greater number of children, and we have seen attendance rates in classes rising steadily ever since we implemented that change. Most of you will have noticed how large the cast of our Christmas pageant was this year. That cast, although it included a very few guest stars, was drawn more directly from the body of our Sunday-school and confirmation classes.

Parents have done a good job at volunteering to teach, although we are still looking for more teachers. Teaching involves taking over one-month stints, and, while this means that teachers regularly miss a month's worth of services at a time, it provides the children with continuity. We are using a new, lectionary-based curriculum, and having children of varying ages in one room gives the older ones the opportunity to help out. We have a confirmation class for our soon-to-be-grown-ups, and we are willing once again to offer Sunday-school classes to our teenagers when they (or their parents) decide they want such a thing. Our youth's participation in the Honduras and other projects showed that teenagers can be active Christians and that it is something they want to do. We would like to see a teen program that involves more of our children and that also has social activities, binding them together in service and in friendship. The traditional Hallowe'en pumpkin-carving (in partnership for the first time with Sanctuary Fellowship) was a well attended example of such a social activity.

We have been making outreach a part of Sunday school for the younger children, as well. Children on an irregular basis devote one class hour to putting together trail-mix bags for the homeless; this is a fun activity, one of direct benefit to others, and our children are well aware of that. We would like to see a further program put in place, one in which older members of the church mentor children, involving them in Christian outreach. As our minister reminded us, this would teach our children both that church is family, as well as that people other than their parents stand as guides along the Christian path.

We ask our brothers and sisters not to forget that we are all teachers and all participate in Christian education.

Lisa Kirch, Chairwoman

Stewardship & Enlistment Committee

The committee this year consisted of Tom VandeStadt, Frances Alford, John Moore and Richard Jackson. Our stewardship theme was one of *Mindful Generosity* for the raising of funds and the giving of one's time to the Church's activities. The pledge drive began in late October and finished on November 24th. Among those who spoke from the pulpit were Pam Tucker, Frances Alford, Joe McMillan, John Burlinson and Richard Jackson.

New members enlisted this year included Whit and Betty Bodman; David and Kathi Foster; Graylin Grissett, Marilyn and Olivia Vaché; Reuel and Liz Nash together with Ellie, Annie and Becky; and John and Lois Drachenburg. This was truly a splendid year for new members. Dennis Murphy has kindly agreed to chair this year's committee.

Tom VandeStadt
Frances Alford
John Moore
Richard Jackson (Acting Chair)

January 4, 2003

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

During the past year the members of the Building & Grounds Committee (B&G Com) were: Matt Blackstock, George Carruthers, Nicole Harter, Craig Headley, Richard Jackson, Andrea & Karl Putz, Sara & Dave Ross, Chester Rosson, Mary Sinclair, Maggie Smith, Ben White, Jeri Winter and Mark McCoy & Vic Appel, Co-Chairs.

This past year was an extremely active one for the B & G Committee. In significant ways, it was also qualitatively different. In addition to its many maintenance responsibilities The Committee embarked on or accelerated two major areas of responsibility: 1) Capital Improvement efforts and 2) leadership in planning and implementing the church's new outreach commitment: adopting Covert Park at Mt. Bonnell.

Gaining momentum from last year's restoration of the Appel room and adjacent kitchen area, the Committee began in earnest to carry out long delayed and much needed aesthetic and practical capital improvement efforts. The most prominent and costly was the replacement of the oval, steel-fencing surrounding the children's play area. The previous fencing was not only unsightly and needing painting, but it was badly rusted. In the process the nearby gates, showing the results of 30 years of children swinging on them, were restored. An additional gate was installed at the sidewalk entrance to our front patio. The unsightly air conditioning unit in the play area was repainted and fenced in with a design and color compatible with the surrounding fencing.

Less obvious, but equally needed improvements, were new plumbing (i.e. new commodes) , and repair of ancient, external, drain pipes. This was for the bathrooms in the basement. In addition, we needed to accommodate new connections to enable Life Works' to install a washer and dryer for their clientele. We also purchased and installed a new electric dishwasher for use in the basement kitchen

The past year also saw the replacement of vinyl tile flooring in the "cave" area of the basement adjacent the Appel room. The new tile combined with the bright blue painted doors and improved lighting in the cave banished any sense of the gloomy, basement ambience of previous years.

The long deferred task of replacing the rotting window frames and screening of the basement windows both along the alley and the rear of the church was a much needed restoration. A fresh coating of white paint to the restored windows and sills made a major improvement to this neglected part of our original building. A parallel effort to restore the window framing holding our priceless, stain glass windows has been contracted to Renaissance Glass Company and will be carried out in 2003.

When the church voted to participate in the city's Park & Recreation Department's "Adopt-A-Park" program, by "adopting" Covert Park at Mt. Bonnell, The B & G Committee agreed to assume leadership for the planning and implementation of quarterly clean-up and planting efforts. This church effort has been successful beyond our most optimistic hopes. At least 25 members of the church (most being non-members of the Committee) have enthusiastically volunteered on each occasion for this important community service effort. Given the beauty of the setting, the high volume of visitors, and the city's inadequate resources to adequately service the Park, our clean-up and planting efforts have made a highly visible difference. This church can be justly proud of its civic contribution.

Vic Appel & Mark McCoy, Co-Chairs

Nominations Committee

It was necessary during 2002 to propose two new members to the Board of Christian Education. John Goff and Robin Chapman were confirmed by congregational vote during the summer. They join Julia Deisler and Lisa Kirch who will continue on BCE during 2003.

It was also necessary to propose two new members of the Board of Trustees in November due to the resignation of Jim Tomasek for reasons of poor health and the adoption of the role of Treasurer by Dennis Murphy. Pam Tucker and John Moore were confirmed by congregational vote. They join Mark McCoy, Vic Appel and Frances Alford.

For the year 2003, the Nominations Committee proposes the following new officers of the Church:

Board of Trustees	David Foster & Pam Tucker
Board of Deacons	Kathi Foster & Liz Nash
Clerk	Sharon Brown
Publicity	Chester Rosson
Board of Christian Education	Marilyn Vaché
Treasurer	David Ross
Stewardship & Enlistment	Dennis Murphy + two to volunteer in September
Historian	Vacant

Richard E. Jackson, Chairman
Cathy Hubbs
Doyal Pinkard

January 5, 2003

Bylaws, Article XIV.
(Original, dated 1996)

Section 1. There shall be a Memorial Fund. Its purpose will be to serve as a vehicle through which church members and friends may give financial and other gifts to commemorate the lives of loved ones. Funds or other tangible gifts accepted will be used in the furtherance of the mission and ministry of the church. Such gifts will be used to provide permanent remembrances of the persons being memorialized. Ordinarily, it would not be fitting to use Memorial Funds to meet operating expenses, to purchase consumable items, or to purchase any other gifts of a temporary nature.

Section 2. The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for accepting and safely keeping monies or gifts donated to the Fund.

Section 3. It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Deacons to make a recommendation to the congregation regarding the suitability of any gifts offered. A majority vote of the Board will determine the recommendation to be made.

Section 4. After the Board of Deacons gives its recommendation, it will be the responsibility of the congregation to decide by vote whether to accept or decline a Memorial Gift offered.

Section 5. In consultation with the families of Memorial Fund recipients, the Board of Deacons will recommend possible ways in which undesignated monies might be spent. These recommendations will be presented to the membership for their decision and vote.

Section 6. It shall be the responsibility of the Financial Secretary to send an appropriate and timely letter of appreciation to the donor(s).

Section 7. Families of gift recipients shall be kept fully apprised when Memorial Fund designated or undesignated gifts are received and families shall be informed of the identity of the donors unless donors request anonymity.

Bylaws, Article XIV – Memorial fund
(Original, dated 1996, with comments)

(Original words which caused comments are italicized; the comments, themselves, highlighted, are included at the points where the original words are found).

Section 1. There shall be a Memorial Fund. Its purpose will be to serve as a vehicle through which church members and friends may give financial and other gifts to commemorate the lives of loved ones. Funds or other tangible gifts accepted will be used in the furtherance of the mission and ministry of the church. *Such gifts will be used to provide permanent remembrances of the persons being memorialized.* **(Concerns were raised about gifts having to be “permanent” and about the meaning of “permanent”).** Ordinarily, it would not be fitting to use Memorial Funds to meet operating expenses, to purchase consumable items, or to purchase any other gifts of a temporary nature.

Section 2. The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for accepting and safely keeping monies or gifts donated to the Fund.

Section 3. *It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Deacons to make a recommendation to the congregation regarding the suitability of any gifts offered.* **(Many gifts are small; must the Board of Deacons obtain a vote of the congregation for each small gift? If so, what is the role of the Board of Deacons other than that of a post office?).** A majority vote of the Board will determine the recommendation to be made.

Section 4. After the Board of Deacons gives its recommendation, it will be the responsibility of the congregation to decide by vote whether to accept or decline a Memorial Gift offered.

Section 5. In consultation with the families of Memorial Fund recipients, the Board of Deacons will recommend possible ways in which *undesigned monies might be spent* **(This is a highly impractical requirement; the Financial Secretary would have to institute FIFO accounting, for example, for receiving and spending gifts since undesigned gifts are often too small to spend individually and are spent as aggregations -- often not in amounts corresponding to whole gift units).** *These recommendations will be presented to the membership for their decision and vote.* **(Again, too many small decisions would need to be brought to the congregation; the Board of Deacons should have some role in alleviating such a situation).**

Section 6. It shall be the responsibility of the Financial Secretary to send an appropriate and timely letter of appreciation to the donor(s).

Section 7. Families of *gift recipients* **(The term “gift recipients” is not clear. The Fund is the recipient of gifts from donors; those memorialized are not “recipients”)** shall be kept fully apprised when Memorial Fund designated or undesigned gifts are received and families shall be informed of the identity of the donors unless donors request anonymity.

Bylaws, Article XIV – Memorial Fund
(Draft modified 6/04/ 2002)

Section 1. The Memorial Fund (“the Fund”), established by Article XV of the Constitution, is to serve as a vehicle through which family members and/or others (“donors”) may give gifts of cash, financial instruments, other tangible assets, or combinations of these, to commemorate the lives of loved ones. Donors may designate their gifts to be used for specific uses by the church or they may leave the uses of their gifts undesignated.

Section 2. Proposed gifts, or proposed uses of the assets of the Fund may not necessarily be appropriate or acceptable. Appropriate, acceptable gifts and uses are those of such a nature that they advance the mission and ministry of the church. It would not usually be fitting to accept gifts designated for, or to use assets of the Fund for the meeting of, such ordinary uses as operating expenses, for example.

Section 3. Undesignated cash gifts are to be accepted without further consideration. Except as noted in Section 4, it shall be the responsibility of the Board of Deacons to determine the appropriateness and acceptability of all other types of gifts offered by donors using the criteria of Section 2. Similarly, they shall also determine the appropriateness and acceptability of proposals for the use of any assets of the Fund.

Section 4. The Board of Deacons will determine the acceptability of a gift or of a use of assets of the Fund by majority vote, using the criteria of Section 2. If the Board of Deacons finds a gift or a use to be of such an unusual nature or size, or when it cannot clearly determine acceptability under Section 2, it will develop a recommendation for presentation to the congregation for final decision. In such cases the majority vote of the congregation shall constitute a final determination of the acceptability of a proposed gift or of a proposed use of assets of the Fund.

Section 5. It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Deacons to ensure the timely expenditure or use of accepted, appropriate, designated gifts.

Section 6 The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for receiving appropriate, accepted gifts donated to the Fund for their safekeeping. The Board of Trustees shall also be responsible for the disbursement or employment of assets of the Fund for acceptable purposes.

Section 7. It shall be the responsibility of the Financial Secretary to keep a record of individual gifts and their donors and to send a timely, written acknowledgement and appreciation to each donor. To the extent possible, the Financial Secretary shall inform appropriate family members or others of the gift for the person(s) being commemorated and of the identity of the donor(s) unless the donor(s) has/have requested anonymity.

Nominating Committee Report, January 2003

One Year Terms

Office	Incumbents	Nominees
Treasurer	Dennis Murphy	David Ross
Financial Secretary	Lynne Lemley	Lynne Lemley
Coordinating Council, Member at Large	Andrea Putz	Richard Jackson
Superintendent of Christian Education	John Burlinson	John Burlinson
Historian	Sharon Brown	Cathy Hubbs / Sharon Brown
Publicity	Jeri Winter	Chester Rosson
Austin Area Interreligious Ministries	Suzanne Vanderpoel	Suzanne Vanderpoel Whit Bodman
University Area Partners	Karl Putz	Vic Appel
Brazos Association Lay Representative	Tommie Pinkard	Tommie Pinkard
Delegate to South Central Conference, UCC	Doyal Pinkard	John Burlinson
Chair, Building and Grounds	Vic Appel & Mark McCoy	Mark McCoy
Chair, Fun and Fellowship	Suzanne Vanderpoel / Julia Deisler / Lisa Kirch	Suzanne Vanderpoel

Three Year Terms

Office	Incumbents	Nominees
Moderator	2001-04 Tommie Pinkard	(not applicable)
Clerk	2000-02 David Ross	2003-05 Sharon Brown
Board of Trustees	2000-02 George Lemley 2000-02 Pam Tucker 2001-03 John Moore 2001-03 Mark McCoy 2002-04 Vic Appel 2002-04 Frances Alford	2003-05 David Foster 2003-05 Pam Tucker Carol S. Hill Richard J.
Board of Deacons	2000-02 Paul Deisler 2000-02 Jeri Winter 2001-03 Joe McMillan 2001-03 Cecile Ervin Adam 2002-04 Corliss Gaspart 2002-04 Pat Oakes	2003-05 Kathi Foster 2003-05 Liz Nash 2003-04 Brita Jenquin
Board of Christian Education	2000-02 Michael Adams 2000-02 Nicole Harter 2001-03 Julia Deisler 2001-03 Lisa Kirch 2002-04 Robin Chapman 2002-04 John Goff	2003-05 Marilyn Vaché 2003-05 _____
Enlistment and Stewardship Committee	2000-02 Richard Jackson 2001-03 Corliss Gaspart	2003-05 Dennis Murphy 2003 Sara Ross
Music Committee	2000-02 Sally Tomasek 2001-03 Matt Blackstock 2002-04 Lisa Kirch	2003-05 Nodie Murphy
Nominating Committee	2000-02 Doyal Pinkard 2001-03 Richard Jackson 2002-04 Cathy Hubbs	2003-05 Doyal Pinkard