

D. W. Ross

**ANNUAL REPORT
2004**

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

Brazos Association
South Central Conference
United Church of Christ

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agenda:	1
Minutes:	Annual Meeting 2004	2-6
	Congregational Meetings	7-8
 <u>Reports</u>		
	Pastor	9-10
	Financial Secretary	11-12
	Clerk (Vital Statistics)	11-13
	Treasurer	14-17
	Proposed Budget, 2005	18-20
 <u>Boards and Committees</u>		
	Coordinating Council	21
	Board of Christian Education	22
	Board of Deacons	23-25
	Board of Trustees	26
	Mission Outreach	27-28
	Stewardship and Enlistment	29
	Nominating Committee	30-31
	Centennial Project Committee	32

AGENDA
The Congregational Church of Austin
A United Church of Christ
Annual Meeting

January 30, 2005

1:00 p.m.

Call to Order Carol D. Barrett, Moderator

Invocation Reverend Tom VandeStadt

The Commercials - God Is Still Speaking
A Chance to See What Generated the Controversy

Minutes of the 2004 Annual Meeting Sharon Brown, Clerk

Minutes of the Congregational Meetings in 2004 Sharon Brown, Clerk

Reports

Pastor	Reverend Tom VandeStadt
Financial Secretary	Lynne Lemley
Clerk	Sharon Brown
Treasurer	David Ross

Presentation and Adoption of Budget for 2004*

Reports of Boards and Committees

Coordinating Council	Carol Barrett
Board of Christian Education	Marilyn Vache
Board of Deacons	Liz Nash
Board of Trustees	<i>Pam Tucker</i>
Mission Outreach	John Goff
Stewardship and Enrollment	Dennis Murphy
Nominating Committee	Doyal Pinkard

centennial committee

Action on the Recommendations of the Nominating Committee*

Report of the Open and Affirming Committee - John Burlinson
Adoption of Statement*

Adjournment

Benediction - Blessed Be the Tie That Binds - First Verse #393 (black) All

*Action Items

The Congregational Church of Austin, United Church of Christ
Minutes of the Annual Meeting, January 25, 2004

Moderator Tommie Pinkard called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.
Reverend Tom VandeStadt gave the invocation.
Minutes of the 2003 annual meeting and 2003 congregational meetings were accepted.

Reports

Pastor. No comments.

Financial Secretary. Lynne Lemley, the financial secretary, asked that anyone who would like to be the financial secretary contact the nominating committee.

Clerk. Two typos were corrected. Sharon Brown mentioned the availability of the Coordinating Council's monthly minutes in the fellowship hall.

Treasurer. Treasurer Dave Ross thanked John Burlinson for helping him get started and Dennis Murphy for setting up spreadsheets and giving patient advice. Dave explained that he had succeeded in reaching his first goal of paying all outstanding debts and pledges from previous years, so that we could begin 2004 afresh. Those items are listed as Priority 0, on page 12 of the Annual Report. We ended the year with a positive bank balance.

Presentation and Adoption of Budget for 2004.

David thanked Pam Tucker, John Goff, Marilyn Vache, and Kathy Foster for their work.

He explained that the Trustees voted to have \$500 per month from rent income of \$27,140, as shown on page 16 of the Annual Report, go to the Capital Fund. He noted the 7% increase in pastoral leadership for Tom and raises for the administrative assistant, choir director, and musicians. He mentioned that maintenance was also increased, but the repair of the stained windows may need to be a special request. On behalf of the Trustees, Dave moved approval of the proposed budget. Michael Adams offered an amendment to the motion that would remove OCWM as a budget item and return it to relying on voluntary contributions. Kathy Foster seconded the amendment to the motion. Tommie said that the conference needs to be able to plan its budget by knowing the amounts to be contributed by the churches. Dave suggested a special pledge, which would assure the conference of a definite amount but would not be a budget item. Whit Bodman said that we support the OCWM as a church, not as individuals. It does large, complex, and diverse projects, difficult for individuals to assess. The annual meeting of the national group is the place to judge the questions of democracy. David explained the budgeted amount is equal to the sum of previous individual offerings. Dennis explained that almost all the OCWM budget is for staff salaries, most involved in pastoral care. There are many vacant pulpits, and the job of the South Central Conference is to work on successfully filling them. Dave voiced our support as a whole church. Graylin Grissett asked how we will evaluate future increases.

Tommie replied that the budget committee will assess and decide on future amounts. Tom expressed support for Whit's and Dennis's comments. Tom is currently moderator of the Brazos Association, a member of the Church and Ministry Committee, and on the Board of Directors of the South Central Conference. The conference and the association respond to needs of troubled churches and work to mediate problems. Dick Jackson asked what percentage of the conference budget goes to Back Bay Mission. Tom replied that \$7200 out of the \$350,000 budget goes to Back Bay Mission. Before the vote on the amendment to change budget item 21 from a designated item to a pass-through for contributions, John Goff noted that the amendment could not be implemented in the 2004 budget, since pledges have already been submitted. Michael agreed to change the amendment to apply to the 2005 budget. Dennis called the question to vote on the budget. The budget passed without the amendment.

Reports of Boards and Committees

Coordinating Council. No comments.

Board of Christian Education. No comments.

Board of Deacons. No comments.

Board of Trustees. David Ross explained that the comment in the last paragraph of the report meant that there was a positive bank balance at the end of the year.

Mission Outreach. No comments.

Stewardship and Enlistment. No comments.

Nominating Committee. Richard Jackson presented the report. Vic Appel commented that members should tell the nominating committee immediately if they are unable to continue on a board or committee.

Election of Officers.

On behalf of the nominating committee, Doyal Pinkard moved that their report be accepted. The members voted acceptance. Doyal explained that the nominating committee would discuss new members for the Board of Christian Outreach, after the board was approved by a vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Change in Job Descriptions of Financial Secretary and Administrative Assistant. Pam Tucker moved that the financial secretary's job description be changed as follows:

The financial secretary is responsible for the safe and prudent care of church funds. The duties of the financial secretary include:

- receives and counts all church funds,
- maintains complete records of all income received,
- submits income records to the Board of Trustees as required for audit,
- reports on the status of church income to the congregation at the Annual Meeting,
- serves ex-officio as a member of the Board of Trustees,
- writes and sends appropriate and timely letters of appreciation to each donor to the Memorial Fund, and
- periodically submits, as needed, an updated job description of the position to the Coordinating Council for approval.

The financial secretary is elected by the congregation at the Annual Meeting to a one-year term and may be re-elected.

In addition, the motion included the following financial responsibilities to be added to the administrative assistant's job description.

- Do the church banking:
 - fill out deposit slip
 - prepare and deposit all offerings weekly
 - prepare two copies of register tapes (one for bank, one for secretary's records).
- Report to the treasurer:
 - the amounts of individual deposits made weekly
 - the amounts of each type of designated income and rental monies.
- Prepare statements:
 - prepare and distribute periodic statements of giving for each giving unit/donor
 - prepare and distribute an end-of-year statement for each giving unit/donor for tax purposes
- Prepare and distribute short statements to each giving unit confirming pledge amounts.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws

Empowered by the Coordinating Council, John Goff moved approval of amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws to establish the Board of Christian Outreach. In addition, John proposed amendments to Articles VII, VIII, and IX of the Bylaws to clarify terms of service for representatives on the Board of Trustees, Deacons, and Christian Education. John also presented the revised job description for the Financial Secretary and the duties added to the Administrative Assistant's job description. All were approved.

Tommie noted that Article 9 of the Bylaws will need to be changed to add a representative of the Board of Christian Outreach to the Coordinating Council.

Initiating a Process to Study Whether We Should Become an Open and Affirming Church

Tommie explained that Open and Affirming (ONA) is a UCC program by which churches publicly welcome gay, lesbian, transgender, and bisexual people into their full life and ministry. There are now more than 200 such churches.

Why is it important for a church to declare itself ONA? Because of widespread discrimination in society and in the church, people who are gay or lesbian often do not trust the "all are welcome" message of churches. They have learned that this phrase often does not include them. Churches that truly offer welcome to people of all sexual orientations need to make this clear and explicit by declaring themselves open and affirming.

Tommie continued: Because of discrimination and denunciation, it is our Christian duty to witness to the belief that all men and women, regardless of their sexual orientation, are our brothers and sisters in Christ; and they deserve our respect and love as well as a place in the life of our church.

There are ONA programs in 10 denominations—Unitarians, American Baptist, Brethren/Mennonite, Christian (Disciples of Christ), Episcopal, Evangelical Lutheran in America, Presbyterian (USA), United Methodist, and United Church of Canada.

How does a church decide to become ONA? Most churches enter a study process which includes prayer, reflection, educational events, and discussion designed to involve all members and friends of the congregation. The Coordinating Council will propose initiating a study process, appointing a task force to organize the process, and, after the study, the writing of an ONA statement. If the congregation approves the statement, it will be sent to the Coalition for Lesbian/Gay Concerns.

On behalf of the Coordinating Council, Joe McMillan moved that the Congregational Church of Austin, under the leadership of the Coordinating Council, will implement in 2004 a comprehensive process of study, reflection, and prayer on becoming an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ; and that, by the time of the Annual Meeting of 2005, the Coordinating Council will present for consideration by the congregation an "Open and Affirming Statement" expressing the willingness of the Congregational Church of Austin to welcome people of all sexual orientations in the full life and ministry of the church.

Graylin Grissett and John Burlinson shared experiences of ONA processes in churches they had attended that resulted in some members leaving and new members joining. Tommie said the study may raise consciousness. Michael Adams asked if this would be a study or just the "party line." Bretta noted that the writing of the ONA statement will be based on studying. Barbara Burnham said that learning is a valuable process. Paul Deisler said we can have a wide opportunity to study. Sara Ross suggested looking on the UCC website to view churches that are ONA. David Foster asked if the study would take the whole year. Tommie said that a year would be the longest amount of time. Joe said that naming the 2005 Annual Meeting was meant to set a limit and give ample time for study and closure. Vic Appel voiced support for Joe's comment. Doyal called the question. The motion was approved.

After a motion by Pat Oakes, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.
Sharon Brown, Clerk, January 25, 2004.

**The Congregational Church of Austin, United Church of Christ
Minutes of the Congregational Meeting, February 29, 2004**

Moderator Carol Barrett called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

On behalf of the nominating committee, Doyal Pinkard moved that the new Board of Christian Outreach be constituted of the five current members of the Christian Outreach Committee (Matt Blackstock, Robin Chapman, John Goff, Dennis Murphy, and Liz Nash) plus one new member, George Lemley. The new board will determine the assignments of one, two, and three-year terms, in order to provide for the annual election of two board members. The motion was approved.

After a motion by Michael Adams, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Sharon Brown, Clerk, February 29, 2004.

**The Congregational Church of Austin, UCC
Minutes of the April 25, 2004, Congregational Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Ellie Nash, representing the moderator, at 12:15 P.M.

Mr. Doyal Pinkard presented a report from the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee recommends the selection of the following to fill two current vacancies among our church officers:

1. Dr. Ben White to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Kathy Foster on the Board of Deacons.
2. Rev. Liz Spencer to replace Rev. Liz Nash as our congregational representative to the South Central Conference annual meeting.

The report was accepted without dissent by the congregation.

Mr. John Burlinson presented a report from the Open and Affirming (ONA) Study Committee, and distributed some ONA study material. John requested input from the congregation regarding any issues, information, questions, and concerns about the ONA process which need to be addressed prior to the time we make a decision one way or another. Following are some things that were brought up in the ensuing discussion.

Scientific and scriptural evidence re homosexuality.

Information on historical attitudes.

Personal impact of homosexuality on members of congregation.

Speakers from outside organizations.

Why do we need to make this statement?

Do we need a study process? It seems that the congregation is ready to vote on this issue now.

If we do have meetings, the process should not drag on too long.

Exactly what does ONA commit us to?

Recommend that committee set a higher standard of approval than a simple majority (51-49).

Following a motion by Ms. Pat Oakes the meeting adjourned.

Recorded by Doyal Pinkard, April 25, 2004.

**The Congregational Church of Austin, UCC
Minutes of the July 11, 2004, Congregational Meeting**

The meeting was opened by Carol Barrett, who introduced Comfort Tyson and her daughter. Our minister Tom VandeStadt moved that members of the congregation affirm and welcome Comfort as a member of our church. Carol asked for a voice vote and it was unanimous.

Sharon Brown, Clerk, July 11, 2004

Renel Nash as trustee

PASTOR'S REFLECTION

There is so much more meaning in reality than the soul can take in. To our sense of mystery and wonder the world is too incredible, too meaningful for us, and its existence the most unlikely, the most unbelievable fact, contrary to all reasonable expectations. Even our ability to wonder fills us with amazement.

This, then, is an insight we gain in acts of wonder: not to measure meaning in terms of our own mind, but to sense a meaning infinitely greater than ourselves.

On the certainty of ultimate meaning we stake our very lives. In every judgment we make, in every act we perform, we assume that the world is meaningful.

--Abraham Joshua Heschel, God's Search For Man

Our church's existence and on-going life is a constant source of mystery and wonder to me. A most unlikely, unbelievable fact, contrary to all reasonable expectation.

The longer I am a member of our church, the more I learn not to measure the meaning of what we do in terms of my own mind, and the more aware I am of our participation in a meaning infinitely greater than ourselves. We can scarcely begin to comprehend the depth and scope of this infinitely greater meaning, yet to the extent we do, it is ultimate meaning. We stake our lives upon it.

As Christians, we look to Jesus Christ.

In many ways, Jesus remains a wonder and a mystery to us. He attracts us and confounds us. Comforts us and bothers us. Embraces us and eludes us. Draws us in and sends us out. In Jesus, we glimpse that infinitely greater meaning. Too incredible. Most unbelievable. Contrary to all reasonable expectations.

Yet in many ways, Jesus makes himself perfectly clear to us. He tells us the infinitely greater meaning is love. Healing love and reconciling love. Comforting love and instigating love. Judging love and forgiving love. Soothing love and tough love. Love that speaks truth to power and love that gives power to truth. Love that accepts death and love that conquers death.

We can scarcely begin to comprehend the depth and scope of the love we glimpse in Jesus, the love that is ultimate meaning, the love that is God. Yet to the extent that we do, we stake our lives upon it.

We gather together to participate in this love.

I can scarcely begin to comprehend the depth and scope of the love I glimpse in our church. Who can possibly measure it? Who can measure the impact of a prayer, a hug, a listening ear, a phone call, a visit, a smile, a tear, a card, or a flower placed on the altar? I can't.

Who can measure the impact of a beautiful anthem sung well, a creative Sunday School project, a stirring musical postlude, an inspired word of wisdom in a Board meeting, or a sincere welcome to a visitor on a Sunday morning? I can't.

Who can measure the impact we have on others when we invite them inside to eat a turkey sandwich and a bag of chips? When we open our doors on a cold night so they can sleep in a warm place? When we drink a cup of fair trade coffee? When we show up at the door of a home made of wooden pallets in Mexico? I can't.

Sometimes I get frustrated at the things that don't get done in this church. Things that repeatedly show up on the agenda of this or that Board. Things forgotten, buried, or

ignored. But then I marvel at all that is done. And at how wondrously immeasurable it is. How it impacts people's lives in ways we cannot measure. How it contributes to a meaning infinitely greater than ourselves, one we cannot fully comprehend, but one in which we can fully participate. I marvel at just how much does happen that is most unlikely, unbelievable, and contrary to all reasonable expectation.

And I give thanks to God that I am here.

As you read the reports offered by our Boards and Committees, I hope that you will give thanks to God that you are here. Participating in this love. Staking your life on it.

Yes, there is much that could be done or should be done.

But for a moment, marvel at all that is being done.

TOM

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT 01/01/04-
12/31/04**

2004 INFLOWS

Budget-General Fund	
Pledged for 2004	\$129,931.88
Prepaid 2005 pledging, by check and transferred stock	18,000.00 7,618.50
Non-pledged	10,006.00
Loose plate	2,630.45
Rental income	
Lifeworks—rent	22,450.00
Lifeworks—deposit	2,100.00
Lifeworks—utilities	1,979.28
Reformed University Fellowship—rent	2,300.00
Speed Reading Institute	300.00
McNeely Fund(United Church Foundation)	354.19
Miscellaneous	
Randall's Good Neighbor	133.24
OCS Buyout of copier	1,055.01
Concert 1/29/04	51.00
US Treasury reimbursement	7.35
GE Capital class action suit	<u>87.39</u>
TOTAL—Budget-General Fund	\$199,004.29
Designated income(Local)	
Deacon's Emergency Fund	\$2,880.00
Bukasa-Karasi family	2,025.00
Stained glass window renovation fund	12,100.00
Special Centennial Fund	1000.00
Memorials	290.00
Slumber Falls retreat/food	320.00
Poinsettias	177.50
Easter Lilies	242.00
Buy back BCE chocolate	<u>16.00</u>
TOTAL—Designated Income(Local)	\$19,050.50
Designated Income(Outreach)	
Hurricane relief	830.00
Neighbors in Need	575.00
Calvert Fund	1,635.00
Strengthen the Church	109.00
Equal Exchange coffee/chocolate	336.00
Christmas Fund(Veterans of the Cross)	395.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	1,392.00
Palestine Sponsor a Child	530.00
Comité de apoyo	<u>100.00</u>

Clerk's Report — Vital Statistics/Membership 2004

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2003 126

Received 2004 by affirmation of faith or letter of transfer:
COMFORT TYSON

TOTAL ADDITIONS 2004 1

Losses 2004:

CRAIG HEADLEY
MARTHA MILES

TOTAL LOSSES 2004 2

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2004 125

Baptisms:

HARRISON VEE TUCKER

Marriages:

Funerals and memorial services:

Sharon Brown, Clerk, December 31, 2004

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

December 31, 2004

David W. Ross

Summary of local budget income and expenses

Income to local budget	\$191,124
2004 local budget expenditures (4 th page)	\$175,932
Prior obligation expenditures	<u>\$1,520</u>
Local budget difference (surplus)	<u>\$13,672</u>

These figures are on a cash flow basis, assuming all pledge receipts and expenditures are counted in the year they are received or paid. Prepaid 2005 pledges received in December 2004 (larger than comparable December 2003 receipts) account for the surplus.

In December I paid all outstanding debts and pledges. Payments of obligations incurred prior to 2004, mostly IRS penalties, amounted to \$1,520 of the local expenses. (These were previously called "priority 0.")

The local budget expenditure of \$175,932 is 98% of the 2004 budget (4th page).

Summary of account status

	12/31/04	12/31/03	difference
CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$45,602	\$24,145	\$21,457
General Fund	\$18,000	\$7,029	\$10,971
Capital Fund	\$7,891	\$13,660	(\$5,769)
Memorial Fund	\$525	\$0	\$525
Pass through items	\$19,187	\$3,457	\$15,730

Changes include transfers among the funds - compensated in Edward Jones accounts. The largest pass-through item, \$12,100, is the Sanctuary Windows Fund.

TOTALS (Checking and Edward Jones accounts):

General Fund total	\$22,939	\$11,360	\$11,579
Capital Fund total	\$47,236	\$40,297	\$6,939
Memorial Fund total	\$8,367	\$8,410	(\$43)
Organ Fund	\$4,689	\$4,598	\$91

TOTAL ASSETS (Checking, Edward Jones, and McNeely funds)

	\$132,693	\$95,729	\$36,964
--	-----------	----------	----------

Changes include appreciation of Edward Jones funds, including stocks.

2nd page: Status of accounts details

3rd-4th pages: Status of budgeted expenditures details

4th page: Pass-through items, Capital and Memorial Funds details

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Assets	Current 31 Dec 04	Previous 31 Dec 03	Change
Bank of America			
Checking Account	\$45,602.95	\$24,145.04	\$21,457.91
General Fund	\$17,999.89	\$7,028.54	\$10,971.35
Capital Fund	\$7,891.30	\$13,659.80	(\$5,768.50)
Centennial Fund	\$1,081.58	\$81.58	\$1,000.00
Memorial Fund	\$525.00	\$0.00	\$525.00
Deacons' Emergency Fund	\$2,961.64	\$2,116.00	\$845.64
Border Ministries	\$100.00	\$597.00	(\$497.00)
Sanctuary flowers	\$223.63	\$215.79	\$7.84
Christmas Fund	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Strengthen the Church	(\$25.00)	\$0.00	(\$25.00)
Micah 6 concert proceeds	\$279.00	\$239.00	\$40.00
Christmas dinner	\$35.91	\$207.33	(\$171.42)
Palestinian Child fund	\$280.00	\$0.00	\$280.00
Windows	\$12,100.00	\$0.00	\$12,100.00
Calvert Investment (outreach)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeworks security deposit	\$2,100.00	\$0.00	\$2,100.00
CD (McNeely Estate)	\$2,815.32	\$2,781.82	\$33.50
Wells Fargo Bank			
CD (McNeely Estate)	\$7,324.91	\$7,324.91	\$0.00
United Church Foundation			
McNeely Account	\$20,136.74	\$20,136.74	\$0.00
Edward Jones			
Memorial Account 322-05104-1-0	\$10,144.86	\$10,105.86	\$39.00
Memorial Fund (Money Market)	\$7,841.83	\$8,410.44	(\$568.61)
General Fund (Money market)	\$2,303.03	\$1,695.42	\$607.61
Capital Account 322-04569-1-1	\$46,669.01	\$31,234.99	\$15,434.02
Organ Fund (Money Market)	\$4,689.08	\$4,597.74	\$91.35
Capital Fund (Money Market)	\$11,311.35	\$13,675.33	(\$2,363.98)
*Capital Fund (Stocks)	\$28,032.90	\$12,961.92	\$15,070.98
General Fund (Money market)	\$2,635.68	\$2,635.68	\$0.00
General fund total	\$22,938.60	\$11,359.64	\$11,578.96
Capital fund total	\$47,235.55	\$40,297.05	\$6,938.50
Memorial fund total	\$8,366.83	\$8,410.44	(\$43.61)
Total Assets	\$132,693.79	\$95,729.36	\$36,964.43

*Note that stocks we own are all allocated to the capital Fund.

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN
2004 BUDGET vs. EXPENSES**

	Budget	Spent	Difference	Ratio
Pastoral Leadership - Tom VandeStadt				
10 Salary	35,395.65	35,395.69	(0.04)	1.00
11 Annuity	8,455.39	8,767.40	(312.01)	1.04
12 Health Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	
13 Family Protection	905.93	939.38	(33.45)	1.04
14 Continuing Education	400.00	400.00	0.00	1.00
15 Housing Allowance	25,000.00	24,999.84	0.16	1.00
16 Travel Expenses	998.03	933.62	64.41	0.94
Pastoral Leadership - Subtotal	71,155.00	71,435.94	(280.94)	1.00
Cooperative Responsibilities				
21 Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)	12,900.00	12,900.00	0.00	1.00
22 Austin Area Interreligious Ministries	600.00	600.00	0.00	1.00
23 Brazos Association Dues	504.00	500.00	4.00	0.99
24 Texas Conference of Churches	30.00	30.00	0.00	1.00
25 National Council of Churches	15.00	15.00	0.00	1.00
26 World Council of Churches	15.00	15.00	0.00	1.00
27 Regional Seminary Support	500.00	500.00	0.00	1.00
29 Back Bay Mission	500.00	500.00	0.00	1.00
30 Slumber Falls Camp	200.00	200.00	0.00	1.00
32 Huston-Tillotson College	500.00	500.00	0.00	1.00
33 University Area Partners	100.00	100.00	0.00	1.00
34 Texas Impact	100.00	100.00	0.00	1.00
35 Religious Coalition for the Homeless	247.32	247.32	0.00	1.00
36 Micah 6	2,500.00	2,524.00	(24.00)	1.01
37 Mission Outreach - freeze night staff	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1.00
Cooperative Responsibilities: Subtotal	19,711.32	19,731.32	(20.00)	1.00
Local Church Programs				
41 Pastor's Discretionary Fund	200.00	81.00	119.00	0.41
42 Secretary - Salary	13,125.00	13,125.12	(0.12)	1.00
43 Secretary - FICA & Medicare	1,004.06	1,004.16	(0.10)	1.00
44 Music for Worship	250.00	449.49	(199.49)	1.80
45 Musicians	8,700.00	8,641.28	58.72	0.99
46 Choral Director - Salary	5,460.00	5,460.00	0.00	1.00
47 Choral Director - FICA & Medicare	417.69	417.68	0.01	1.00
48 Christian Education	3,000.00	712.30	2,287.70	0.24
49 Kitchen Supplies	150.00	0.00	150.00	0.00
50 Office Supplies	3,600.00	4,300.24	(700.24)	1.19
51 Postage	800.00	673.98	126.02	0.84
53 Electricity & Water	12,500.00	11,404.68	1,095.32	0.91
54 Gas	2,500.00	1,458.43	1,041.57	0.58
55 Telephone	3,500.00	3,627.58	(127.58)	1.04
57 Property Maintenance	6,000.00	7,793.71	(1,793.71)	1.30
58 Janitorial Supplies	500.00	248.23	251.77	0.50
59 Janitor - Salary	10,400.00	9,915.71	484.29	0.95
60 Janitor - FICA & Medicare)	796.00	758.55	37.45	0.95

	Budget	Spent	Difference	Ratio
61 SCC Annual Meeting Delegates	300.00	100.00	200.00	0.33
63 Advertising	2,500.00	750.54	1,749.46	0.30
64 Pulpit Supply - Speaker Stipends	900.00	450.00	450.00	0.50
65 Nursery Attendants	2,184.00	2,196.00	(12.00)	1.01
66 Insurance	3,192.00	4,491.60	(1,299.60)	1.41
66b Workers Compensation	1,800.00	3,004.00	(1,204.00)	1.67
67 Fun & Fellowship Committee Expense	475.00	0.00	475.00	0.00
68 Archives	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
69 Deacons' Discretionary Fund	500.00	579.08	(79.08)	1.16
70 Printing - Newsletter & Bulletin	2,500.00	1,956.47	543.53	0.78
73 Outreach discretionary	400.00	603.10	(203.10)	1.51
Local Church Programs: Subtotal	87,753.75	84,202.93	3,550.82	0.96
76TOTAL	178,620.07	175,370.19	3,249.88	0.98
Petty cash*		800.00		
IRS correction**		(\$237.53)		
GRAND TOTAL	178,620.07	175,932.65	2,687.42	0.98

*Petty cash expenditures remain to be distributed among postage, office supplies, etc.

**IRS correction occurs because 4th quarter payroll taxes are paid in January of the following year, which is not taken into account in the above tabulation.

Pass-through items

Item	12/31/03		12/31/04	
	Initial value	Income	Payout	Final Value
*Deacons emergency	\$2,116	\$4,905	\$4,059	\$2,962
One Great Hour	0	1,392	1,392	0
Neighbors in Need	0	575	575	0
Christmas Fund	0	395	345	50
Sanctuary flowers	216	430	422	224
Strengthen church	0	109	134	(25)
**Border Ministries	597	436	933	100
Centennial Fund	82	1,000	0	1,082
Palestinian Child	0	530	250	280
Calvert Fund	0	1635	1635	0
Micah 6 Concert	239	40	0	279
Hurricane relief	0	830	830	0
Christmas dinner	207	0	171	36
LifeWorks security deposit	0	2,100	0	2,100
Sanctuary Windows	0	12,100	0	12,100
TOTALS	\$3,457	\$26,477	\$10,746	\$19,188
***Capital Fund	Initial value	Income	Payout	Final Value
	\$40,297	\$9,089	\$2,150	\$47,236
***Memorial Fund	Initial value	Income	Payout	Final Value
	\$8,410	\$522	\$566	\$8,367

*Bukasa-Karasi family included in Deacons emergency fund.

**Border Ministries (formerly Honduras fund) includes Comite de Apoyo etc.

***Part of the increase in Capital and Memorial is in increase in stock values.

2005 BUDGET PROPOSAL

On January 11, 2005, after consideration of the report by the Budget Committee (Dave Ross, Gail Christeson, Matt Blackstock, Jennifer Howicz, and Liz Nash), the Trustees approved the budget on the following pages for presentation to the Congregation. It is based on recommendations from the Boards and Coordinating Council and on the following estimates of projected income.

Estimated income to the General Fund:

Pledges 2005	\$145,181
Non-pledged	10,000
Loose plate	2,600
Miscellaneous	1,000
United Church Foundation	500
Rents	28,500
<u>GROSS TOTAL</u>	<u>\$187,781</u>
<u>Maximum transfer to Cap Fund</u>	<u>\$6,000</u>
<u>NET TOTAL</u>	<u>\$181,781</u>

Non-pledged, loose plate and miscellaneous are estimated from previous years. The United Church Foundation income consists of dividends paid from John McNeely's legacy.

Rental income includes LifeWorks utility payments and is estimated from 2004 income plus \$1,450 increase in LifeWorks rent. The trustees have voted to continue transferring \$500 per month of rental income into the Capital Fund, a total of \$6,000, with the proviso that up to this amount may be transferred back if needed to cover general expenses.

Proposed Expenditure Budget

On the following pages a total budget of \$184,759 is proposed, which splits the difference between the gross and net total figures given above. This represents an increase of 3.4% over 2004 and has necessitated scaling back some items from the proposal distributed in October 2004

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN
2005 BUDGET PROPOSAL**

	Approved 2004	Proposed 2005	\$ change	% change
Pastoral Leadership - Tom VandeStadt				
10 Salary	\$35,396	\$37,519	\$2,123	6.0%
11 Annuity	8,455	8,963	508	6.0%
12 Health Insurance	0	0	0	
13 Family Protection	906	960	54	6.0%
14 Continuing Education	400	424	24	6.0%
15 Housing Allowance	25,000	26,500	1,500	6.0%
16 Travel Expenses	998	1,058	60	6.0%
* Pastoral Leadership Subtotal	\$71,155	\$75,424	\$4,269	6.0%
Salary plus housing	60,396	64,019	3,623	6.0%
Cooperative Responsibilities				
21 Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)	12,900	12,900	0	0.0%
22 Austin Area Interreligious Ministries	600	600	0	0.0%
23 Brazos Association Dues	504	504	0	0.0%
24 Texas Conference of Churches	30	30	0	0.0%
25 National Council of Churches	15	15	0	0.0%
26 World Council of Churches	15	15	0	0.0%
27 Seminary support <i>* CUE 202</i>	500	<u>100</u>	(400)	-80.0%
29 Back Bay Mission <i>recommended</i>	500	500	0	0.0%
30 Slumber Falls Camp	200	200	0	0.0%
32 Huston-Tillotson College scholarship fund	500	500	0	0.0%
33 University Area Partners	100	100	0	0.0%
34 Texas Impact	100	100	0	0.0%
35 Religious Coalition for the Homeless	247	250	3	1.1%
36 Micah 6	2,500	2,500	0	0.0%
37 Mission Outreach - freeze night staff support	1,000	1,200	200	20.0%
38 Religion Labor Network		500	500	New
Cooperative Responsibilities Subtotal	\$19,711	\$20,014	\$303	1.5%
Local Church Programs				
41 Pastor's Discretionary Fund	200	200	0	0.0%
42 Administrative Assistant - Salary	13,125	13,388	263	2.0%
43 Admin. Assistant - FICA & Med @7.65%	1,004	1,024	20	2.0%
44 Music for Worship	250	400	150	60.0%
45 Musicians	8,700	9,000	300	3.4%
46 Choral Director - Salary	5,460	5,733	273	5.0%
47 Choral Director - FICA & Medicare @7.65%	418	439	21	5.1%
48 Christian Education	3,000	2,000	(1,000)	-33.3%
50 Office Supplies	3,600	3,600	0	0.0%
51 Postage	800	800	0	0.0%
53 Electricity & Water	12,500	12,500	0	0.0%
54 Gas	2,500	2,500	0	0.0%
55 Telephone	3,500	3,500	0	0.0%

19

** Fran Briggs amendment - consider restoring 27 late in year. Passed*

	Approved 2004	Proposed 2005	\$ change	% change
57 Property Maintenance	6,000	8,000	2,000	33.3%
58 Janitorial Supplies	500	500	0	0.0%
59 Janitor - Salary	10,400	11,680	1,280	12.3%
60 Janitor - FICA & Medicare	796	894	98	12.3%
61 SCC Annual Meeting Delegates	300	300	0	0.0%
63 Membership Outreach	2,500	1,800	(700)	-28.0%
64 Pulpit Supply - Speaker Stipends	900	900	0	0.0%
65 Nursery Attendants	2,184	2,196	12	0.5%
66 Insurance	3,192	3,192	0	0.0%
66B Workers Compensation	1,800	1,800	0	0.0%
67 Fun & Fellowship Committee Expense	475	375	(100)	-21.1%
68 Archives	100	100	0	0.0%
69 Deacons' Discretionary Fund	500	500	0	0.0%
70 Printing - Newsletter & Bulletin	2,500	1,600	(900)	-36.0%
73 Outreach discretionary	400	400	0	0.0%
Local Church Programs: Subtotal	\$87,754	\$89,321	\$1,567	1.8%
76 TOTAL	\$178,620	\$184,759	\$6,139	3.4%

Notes

- * Pastoral leadership package 6% increase - middle of range proposed by Coordinating Council
- 27 Reduced as per Outreach Board - to be divided among three seminaries
- 32 Name change as per Outreach Board
- 37 Freeze night staff support expected to increase - Outreach Board request
- 38 Religion Labor network - new category requested by Outreach Board
- 42-43 Administrative Assistant salary increase 2% as per CC, 9/8/04
- 44 Music for Worship raised to \$400 - Choral director request
- 45 Musicians rates unchanged, but allowing for paid vacation with substitutes - Choral Director request
- 46-47 Choral Director salary increase 5% as per CC 9/8/04
- 48 Christian Ed Total apart from Nursery Attendants (65) reduced as per CE Board request
- 57 Property Maintenance costs continue to rise as building ages - Trustees request \$2,000 increase
- 59-60 Janitor salary \$10/hour approved by CC 8/28/03. Allow for raise to \$10.50 pending review. 20 hours/week plus 72 hours per year for outside group RUF
- 63 Membership Outreach request reduced \$700 by Deacons, (includes web site cost)
- 65 Nursery attendants assumed to remain at \$42/week. Allow extra \$6 for Easter and Christmas.
- 67 Fun and Fellowship - keep in budget at reduced level, although none spent this year - Fun & Fellowship Committee request
- 70 Printing - Newsletter & Bulletin actual expense down last year. May do more in-house printing this year.

Coordinating Council Report

Members: Carol Barrett (Moderator), John Goff (Outreach), Liz Nash (Deacons), Pam Tucker (Trustees), Marylyn Vache (Christian Education), Sharon Brown (Church Clerk), Tom Van de Stadt.

One of the joys I experience as Moderator is the monthly meeting of the Coordinating Council. We share information about what's happening among the Boards and Committees. These status reports are, to me, the narrative threads with which we live out our lives in Christian community. The topics covered capture our imagination as we slip past our designated ending time deep in conversation mulling over ways we can better support one another's efforts. There are several themes that have emerged from our talks together:

- Life in our church is exciting and renewing. The Open and Affirming study process has allowed us to listen and learn and work toward a vote.
- The ministry of Rev. Tom is engaging and nurturing. We're reading and studying together. Sometimes informally in book groups. Sometimes in classes on Sunday. The church is reaching out through the Religion and Labor Network and to workers on the border through the Comite de Apoyo.
- The capital "C" church has a mission and message of importance to all. We are striving to be God's hand in restoring justice. The national campaign – God is Still Speaking – invigorated the debate about freedom of speech both locally and nationally. Our Church is reminding everyone that justice and compassion are Christian values.
- The members of our church are family. Our prayers and support for one another extend throughout the week and across the nation.
- God is present in our lives, and in our community, as we care for one another and for those in need.
- Worship is rejuvenating and relevant. The bulletins bring us more fully into the worship experience. The music makes a special path as we listen, lift our voices, clap and sway (gasp!) to the notes.

2005 will be another year of joy and discovery. I look with eagerness toward a new year of loving, caring, and compassion. The Coordinating Council would be happy to welcome you at any of our meetings. See you on Sunday over an Equal Exchange cup of coffee.

Carol D. Barrett

BCE activities this year included:

Supporting Tom in his vision for a new confirmation class, one that speaks to middle school students lives and questions.

Clean-up and refurbishing of the youth room

Youth involvement in preparing Easter activities and the pageant and in teaching Sunday school

Using a new youth group curriculum to explore Christian responses to violence

Supporting Tom in his adult education efforts on the theme of New Testament scholarship and on the ideas and writings of Kazantzakis,

Sponsoring a spring retreat at Slumber Falls,

Sending financial support, letters, and photos to Hala, our sponsored child in Jerusalem,

Family activity nights in February and October

Providing professional child care for young children

Engaging the elementary age children in a lively curriculum, the Christmas pageant, and presentations to the congregation during worship service

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS

The Board of Deacons has responsibilities in the areas of worship, membership and membership outreach, hospitality, and pastoral care. Our most important task is let God speak through the church in a way that is transparent in a day-to-day way to our members and those whom we welcome as visitors. The music ministry of the church, while under our purview, is mainly handled by Nodie Murphy, with our board giving input if asked. The fun and fellowship ministry of the church is also under our purview. This year, we recruited Tommie Pinkard and Pat Oakes to be in charge of this part of the church's ministry that we enjoy every week. Our appreciation goes to Nodie, all of our church musicians, and Tommie and Pat for the work they have done that adds so much to our church's life. Here is a summary of our work through the year in our areas of ministry.

Worship

Our most visible work is in the Sunday-to-Sunday tasks of recruiting ushers; preparing bread, wine, and juice for Communion; and then serving Communion to our congregation. We also think through parts of the worship service with Tom. This year, we made a change to a familiar part of the service by making the Doxology more inclusive. After considering several options, we decided on a variant of the traditional "Old Hundredth" for non-Communion Sundays. On Communion Sundays, we chose to use a verse of "We give thee but thine own." The church made the changes and we are now singing the new versions.

We also continued the tradition of holding our Easter Sunrise Service on Mt. Bonnell this past spring. For the first time, we had a wet morning! The microphones were set, the doughnuts, juice, and coffee were ready, and we were just starting when the rain began. Since so many from the community had gathered there, we did have a brief service without a P.A. system because the rented sound system had to be quickly taken out of the rain. Tom then invited Liz Spencer, who had prepared a sermon for the sunrise service, to preach at our 11 a.m. service after she was "rained out" at the early worship. Our joyous 11 a.m. worship culminated with bringing the cross to bloom as the congregation attached flowers to it. Afterward, we shared our grand Easter feast during Fellowship hour. Melanie Wilkinson also sang during worship: magnificent and radiant. We hope it doesn't rain again, but everyone dealt with the rain in good spirits. Too bad about the soggy doughnuts, though!

Membership and Membership Outreach

Although we did not grow in membership this year, we have many regular visitors worshipping with us. In addition, we are being blessed right now with a number of new visitors. We are grateful for the national United Church of Christ "God is Still Speaking" campaign, and we believe we are enjoying the fruits of the recent effective advertisement that is part of that effort. This year, we began bringing to fruition the initiative of sending postcards about our church to new residents in the Austin area. This project, begun last year under Brita Jenquin, was carried on by Jim Howicz and Tom Vandestadt. The design of the cards, which conveys the liberal, open theology of the church, was finished and enough cards were bought for four mailings. One mailing went out, and we anticipate sending out two more in Lent and one later on. We also have requested more funding for newspaper advertisements, with a plan of having a shared advertisement in the Statesman with other area UCC churches. At this point, we do not know who will participate with us, but we do anticipate increasing our advertising presence, both in the

Statesman and in less expensive community papers. An additional important task for the Deacons is our effort in trying to re-vamp our welcoming ministry. After recruiting a group of welcomers about a year and a half ago, we have discovered that our church really works in informal way in areas like this. Accordingly, we are trying to broaden the group who intentionally welcomes people. We still have a need to have a group of people committed to coming to church early to greet visitors, as newcomers tend to get to church several minutes before the regular membership. We are also trying to become more effective at getting people to sign our visitor book so we can follow up with information and welcoming materials. Our other major initiative with our membership has been to start work, under the leadership of Graylin Grissett to put together a “do it yourself” pictorial church directory. Graylin has been collecting information sheets from members of the congregation for use in the directory, while Reuel Nash has been taking pictures of individuals after worship services. The end result will be a binder with sheets of pictures of our congregation members and the information about themselves they have chosen to share. The directory will be in a binder that each member of our church family will have. It will be an ongoing project, since we can add new people to it or replace old pictures as needed.

Hospitality

The leadership of our Fun and Fellowship ministry, Pat Oakes and Tommie Pinkard, have done most of the work in coordinating our time after worship to let it be warm and welcoming, with good food, each Sunday. They also have organized a number of potlucks, being particularly helpful with making sure there is food for the Open and Affirming forums that have been held this year. Our other major current hospitality effort is to take advantage of The Cadeau’s generous recent grant of exclusive use of their parking lot for our church on Sunday mornings from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To that end, we are currently pursuing buying portable signs to post in the entrances to the lot on Sunday mornings. One additional initiative we are pursuing to make our church a warmer, more welcoming place is our effort to fix up our fellowship hall (still in the planning stages). We believe this is already a warm room, but we know it would be more welcoming as we clear the cluttered spots, perhaps update the lighting, and do some re-arranging of the furniture. This project started this past year, but the leg, arm, and back work will be done in the coming year.

Pastoral Care

Our last major initiative of the year was to host a mid-week Advent worship and lunch aimed at providing a ministry to our members and friends who have a difficult time making it on Sunday morning, often due to limited mobility. This was an event we had discussed and thought about for several months. We rejoiced in having about 22 people – both long-term and newer members – gather for this service on Friday, December 17. Rev. Liz Spencer arranged for Southern Care Hospice to set up for and provide lunch. The worship was warm and inclusive as we shared Communion, and the lunch was a fun and festive occasion. We look forward to holding another worship service and luncheon like this in Lent. Our other major pastoral care efforts through the year included helping members of our community with urgent needs several times through the Deacons’ Emergency Fund and supplying flowers or memorial gifts when our members go through the difficult time of losing a close loved one. We continue to look for ways to minister to the pastoral care needs of our community, and appreciate ideas from the congregation about ways to do this.

Finally, we are grateful for the ministry of Tom Vandestadt. Our work on the Deacons gives us a close-up view of his ministry. Tom, we know how much you do and we appreciate you!

It is our prayer and hope that you hear our church speaking through our work in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Nash, chair

Ben White

Rev. Liz Spencer

Pat Oakes

Graylin Grissett

Jim Howicz

Annual Report of the Trustees for 2004

The members of the Board of Trustees are responsible for the care and custody of all of the property of the Congregational Church of Austin, including the building maintenance and repair, financial obligations, care of monetary assets, formulating the annual budget, hiring, and conducting all business affairs of the church.

From a financial perspective, we have good news: 1) we were under budget by about 2% (about \$2687); and, 2) the capital fund has increased by almost \$7000 in the past year. Despite having some unexpected expenditures (repairs), we were underspent in other areas so that we did not exceed our approved budget. Of our rental income, we have been putting \$500/month back into the capital fund, which accounts for the bulk of the increase of that fund.

Highlights:

1. After a long and arduous process of trial and error, we believe our wastewater drainage problems are fixed. The sump outlet in the stairwell basement has been sealed which prevents sewage from flooding the stairwell. The wastewater line from the Appel Room bathrooms has been replaced and the city has cleaned out their portion of the wastewater lines. Finally, the downstairs kitchen sink has been replaced and a backflow preventer and sump pump installed on that wastewater line to keep any bathroom waste from ever backing up into the kitchen. For the most part, these things were accomplished by a Building and Grounds committee of one!
2. We have exterminated termites (and roaches, but that is ongoing) that were found in the building.
3. A Centennial Building Committee was established for the primary purpose of providing better building access. This committee is taking a comprehensive approach in looking at any building renovations to determine what can/should be done with our real estate.
4. After many bids and much discussion, a contractor was chosen to repair the framework of our stained glass windows. You all generously came forward to fund this project which should begin this month.
5. We continue offering our building for lease during times we are not using it. In addition to Lifeworks and Reformed University Fellowship, we had a speed reading group rent the fellowship hall for a couple nights per month during the fall.
6. We have upgraded our office equipment (copier and computer), and have approved an expenditure for a new dishwasher (with installation) in the nursery.

Looking forward, trustees will be working on re-establishing the Building and Grounds committee including a mechanism by which problems/needed repairs get reported and fixed, and trustees will be discussing investment strategies to care for our assets.

Board of Christian Outreach
Annual Report for 2004

The Board of Christian Outreach's first year of existence has been directed primarily at educating ourselves about and promoting economic justice. Much of Jesus' teachings speak very directly to such issues: in the relationship between employer and employee, slave owner and slave, debtor and borrower, land owner and leaser, the rich and the poor. From Jesus we get a sense of the tremendous responsibility and burden that comes with being in a position of privilege. But too often in any society those who have less (land, money, privilege, etc.) are taken advantage of by those who have more. To me, Jesus' teachings on economic justice boil down to one simple thing: fairness. Fairness means a worker is paid a proper wage for their labor; that a poor mother trying to start a business can borrow money at the same rate of interest as a Fortune 500 company; that a child born into poverty has an opportunity to be educated, to find a good job, and so to escape poverty. The Golden Rule is the ultimate expression of fairness, and fairness is the cornerstone of Justice.

The Board of Christian Outreach has been involved with a number of separate projects. Below is a brief description of each.

Fair Lending/Fair Trade. Earlier this year, the Conference gave each church in its governance \$100 with instructions to "invest" it in some way for a year, and in the end return the sum which would then be donated to the BARCA ministry (more on that next). We chose to ask our members to match the \$100 in sufficient numbers to purchase a 1-year, \$1000-minimum investment into the Calvert Fund, an organization dedicated to lending money to small entrepreneurs world wide at fair interest rates. We exceeded that goal by more than \$600. At the conclusion of our investment period, the entire proceeds will be turned over to the Conference for transferal to BARCA. Tom also directed the Conference's own fundraising for this effort by purchasing "fair trade" coffee and chocolate (purchased at fair market value directly from farming cooperatives, rather than from middlemen who pay farmers far less), and selling it to our members after church for a dollar more than cost. These sales have been very successful, and we expect to continue the program with proceeds benefiting our boarder ministries

Boarder Ministries. The Conference's designation of the BARCA ministry as a recipient of their investment program spurred us to look into this program further. BARCA, along with the Comite de Apoyo, its counterpart on the Mexican side, seeks to improve living and working conditions for colonia residents on both sides of the boarder. Just a 5 hour drive from Austin, we recognized this as a tremendous opportunity for involvement of our membership. After an initial visit by Tom, we organized a trip for interested members, and 10 made the drive. We toured a colonia in Reynosa, guided by Ed Krueger, and spoke at length with many of the residents. It was a profoundly moving and motivating experience, and we will in the coming year seek ways to expand our relationship with these organizations.

Religion and Labor Network. The Religion and Labor Network is a new organization to Austin. It promotes collaboration between religious organizations and labor. In Austin it has begun by getting involved in promoting rights of migrant workers, advocating for workers when employers renege on pay, and mediating between the Home Depot, the city, the St. John's neighborhood, contractors and workers regarding day labor pickup. We expect our relationship

with the Network to grow over the coming year, and through it to educate our members on these important issues affecting our own neighborhood and provide opportunities for volunteer work.

Front Porch and Freeze Night Ministries to Homeless Youth. Following our decision to permanently close our front porch area to overnight camping, we felt a strong need to seek a way to interact more personally with the homeless youth that inhabit our neighborhood and who frequent our building through their relationship with Lifeworks. So began the Front Porch Ministry, for now simply a once-a-month serving of lunch to Lifeworks clients. The church has responded generously with donations of food and volunteers to make and serve the simple meals. Attendance at the meals as varies between ~10-30. We will continue this program during the coming year and attempt to better get the word out among the prospective guests. In addition, we continue our traditional winter program of hosting the freeze night shelter for homeless youth (providing a meal and overnight shelter on nights when the temperature dips below freezing), splitting the effort with St. Austin's Catholic Church. This program continues to receive a strong volunteer response from our members.

Micah 6. Our church is a member of the recently-organized Micah 6 association of University area churches. Still getting its feet wet, the primary outreach activity of Micah 6 has been to run a food pantry out of the Baptist church. Several of our members have volunteered with the food pantry.

Mt. Bonnel Cleanup. For several years now our church as held regular (3-4 times a year) clean-up efforts at the Mt. Bonnel park, where we hold our Easter sunrise service. This program continues to be very popular among our members, and will continue in the coming year.

Child Sponsorship. In collaboration with the Board of Christian Education, we have sponsored a child through UCC Global Ministries. The child is a young Palestinian girl, Hala, living in East Jerusalem and attending a school which serves both Christian and Muslim children. Many wonderful letters and pictures have been exchanged between Hala and our Sunday School class. Our contribution helps to fund scholarships for underprivileged children there. Outreach and Christian Ed have paid for the sponsorship through a variety of creative fundraisers.

Stewardship Committee

This year our stewardship committee followed the visioning process that our pastor introduced in 2003. Our new theme – “Our Church Is Still Speaking!” – endeavored to focus everyone’s attention on envisioning what, exactly, our church could and should be saying in the year ahead through the ministries and activities of its various boards and committees. The resulting vision – outlined in a series of statements mailed to all members of the church in early October, together with a proposed budget for 2005 – then became the basis for our fall enlistment campaign.

That campaign produced, bottom line (as they say):

- Thirty pledges, and
- \$140,522.85 of pledged income.

These numbers are down a bit from last year, when we received 35 pledges totaling \$142,103.60. However, in view of the fact that six of the persons or families who pledged last year either have moved away from the Austin area in the last 12 months or are no longer worshipping with us, the total amount pledged for 2005 (only \$1580 less than last year) seems very encouraging.

But numbers don’t tell the whole story. The enlistment effort and the vision on which it was based also produced:

- Statements during worship in September and October from the Deacons (all of them!) and representatives of the Board of Christian Outreach (Dennis Murphy), the Board of Christian Education (Jennifer Howicz), and the Trustees (John Moore), all of whom spoke meaningfully about their groups’ ministries and what they hoped those ministries would say to our community in the coming year.
- And perhaps most important of all, new energy and enthusiasm for our church’s mission and future – a future in which it will still be speaking of God’s love for all people and God’s desire for peace and justice in this world.

The stewardship committee is very grateful to the entire congregation for its support and for getting involved in our church’s visioning approach to good stewardship. Thank you!

Dennis Murphy, Sara Ross & Lynne Lemley

Nominating Committee Report Report

One Year Terms

Office	Incumbent	Nominee
Treasurer	David Ross	David Ross
Financial Secretary	Lynne Lemley	Lynne Lemley
Coordinating Council, Member at Large	David Foster	Don Brown
Superintendent of Christian Education	John Burlinson	John Burlinson
Historian	Cathy Hubbs	Cathy Hubbs (temp.)
Publicity	Tommie Pinkard	To Board of Deacons (1)
Austin Area Interreligious Ministries	Whit Bodman Suzanne Vanderpoel	Whit Bodman, Suzanne Vanderpoel, Becca Zwerling
University Area Partners	Vic Appel	Vic Appel
Delegate to South Central Conference/UCC	Liz Spencer	To be elected later

Two Year Terms

Church Representative to Brazos Association	2004-2005 John Drachenberg	2005 Tom VandeStadt (2)
Delegate to Micah 6 Board	(New Position)	Tommie Pinkard

Three Year Terms

Moderator	2004-06 Carol Barrett	<i>Ongoing</i>
Clerk	2003-05 Sharon Brown	<i>Ongoing</i>
Board of Trustees	2002-04 Vic Appel 2002-04 Frances Alford 2003-05 Reuel Nash (3) 2003-05 Pam Tucker 2004-06 John Moore 2004-06 Gail Christeson	2005-07 George Lemley 2005-07 Doyal Pinkard → <i>Reuel Nash</i>
Board of Deacons	2002-04 Jim Howicz (4) 2002-04 Pat Oakes 2003-05 Ben White (5) 2003-05 Liz Nash 2004-06 Graylin Grissett 2004-06 Liz Spencer	2005-07 Jim Howicz 2005-07 Steve Domingue

Board of Christian Outreach (6)	2004-04 George Lemley 2004-04 Matt Blackstock 2004-05 Liz Nash 2004-05 Dennis Murphy 2004-06 John Goff 2004-06 Robin Chapman	2005-07 Sara Ross 2005-07 Tommie Pinkard
Board of Christian Education	2002-04 Robin Chapman 2002-04 John Goff 2003-05 Marilyn Vaché 2003-05 Jeri Winter 2004-06 Cecile Adam 2004-06 Jen Howitz	2005-07 Ellie Nash 2005-07 Pat Oakes 2005 Comfort Tyson (7)
Enlistment and Stewardship Committee	2003-05 Dennis Murphy 2004-06 Sara Ross	2005-07 (To be appointed by the Trustees)
Music Committee	2003-05 Nodie Murphy 2004-06 Julia Deisler	2005-07 Carol Burlinson
Nominating Committee	2002-04 Cathy Hubbs 2003-05 Doyal Pinkard 2004-06 Suzanne Bradford	2005-07 Paul Deisler

- (1) Since publicity is an activity that falls within the purview of the Board of Deacons, the Nominating Committee is recommending that the Deacons appoint one of its members to coordinate publicity for the church.
- (2) Our church has a clergy representative to the Brazos Association for the years 2004-2005. Since Rev. John Drachenberg is now interim association minister, Rev. Tom VandeStadt will serve as our representative upon the completion of his term as association moderator in 2005.
- (3) Reuel Nash is filling the unexpired term of Richard Jackson on the Trustees.
- (4) Jim Howitz is filling the unexpired term of Brita Jenquin on the Deacons.
- (5) Ben White is filling the unexpired term of Kathy Foster on the Deacons.
Persons filling out part of a term are eligible to run in their own right for a full term.
- (6) The Board of Christian Outreach was established last year, and the board members decided how long each member would serve so that two members would be replaced each year.
- (7) Comfort Tyson will finish the unexpired term of Jeri Winter.

Submitted by the Nominating Committee, January 5, 2005

Cathy Hubbs, Doyal Pinkard, Suzanne Bradford

CENTENNIAL PROJECT COMMITTEE

Last summer, the Board of Trustees, with the support of the Coordinating Council, appointed a committee to recommend a project for the centennial of the congregation's first physical facility (built at the corner of Colorado Street and West Ninth in 1906). The Committee's charge is to a) identify a project or projects that need to be accomplished and (b) work with the Stewardship Committee, the Trustees, and the Coordinating Council to design and conduct a fundraising campaign to enable them to be carried out. (c) The proposal for the project and fundraising campaign should be developed and approved during the fall 2004 and spring 2005 so that it can be conducted and completed in time for work to begin in 2006, the centennial year.

The Centennial Project Committee, composed of Rambie Briggs, Vic Appel, Dennis Murphy, Tommie Pinkard, Pam Tucker and Don Brown, began meeting in September. Recognizing that the Vision Project had shown that the congregation placed great importance on making the church facility accessible to all who are physically disabled or handicapped, the Committee agreed that the foremost candidate for a Centennial Project should be to make the current buildings accessible.

The Committee has drafted a preliminary statement of the project's scope and purpose and has begun to explore possibilities for the project's design and for its funding. In February or March, a set of ideas will be brought to the Board of Trustees and the Coordinating Council. If blessed by them, they will be presented to the congregation for discussion and counsel and to determine whether to move ahead. In the meantime, Committee members will welcome comments and advice.

Talent
about
not
Hos.

March 6
Carter Smith
All accounts & processed
209 W. 27th
78705