

**ANNUAL REPORT
2007**

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, A United Church of Christ
Annual Meeting, January 27, 2008. 1:00 p.m.

Items in **Bold** will be discussed and may be voted upon. Other items may be discussed if members of the congregation have questions of general interest.

Call to Order	John Goff, Moderator
Invocation	Rev. Tom VandeStadt
Minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting and other Congregational Meetings	Jesse Binford, Clerk
Reports	
Pastor	Rev. Tom VandeStadt
Financial Secretary	Dennis Murphy*
Clerk	Jesse Binford
Treasurer	David Ross
Presentation and Adoption of Budget for 2007	David Ross
Reports of Boards and Committees	
Coordinating Council	John Goff
Board of Christian Education	Doyal Pinkard
Board of Deacons	Betty Bodman
Board of Trustees	Reuel Nash
Board of Christian Outreach	Tommie Pinkard
Nominating Committee	Paul Deisler
Presentation of nominations and election of officers	
Presentation of amendments to constitution and bylaws for approval	John Goff
Presentation of revised Safe Church Policy for approval	
Adjournment	John Goff, Moderator
Benediction - Blessed Be the Tie That Binds -1st Verse	All

**The Congregational Church of Austin, United Church of Christ
Annual Meeting, January 28, 2007 Minutes-Conditional Approval by the Coordinating
Council**

Carol D. Barrett, Moderator.

The meeting was called to order at 12:40 PM. It was agreed to end the meeting at 2:00 PM if possible and to finish any unfinished business at a later meeting.

Rev. Tom VandeStadt.
invocation.

Jesse Binford, Clerk.
The minutes of the 2006 Annual Meeting were approved.

Jesse Binford, Clerk.
The Minutes of the Congregational Meetings in 2006 were approved.

Reports from the following officers were approved:

Rev. Tom VandeStadt, Pastor.

Dennis Murphy, Acting Financial Secretary.

Jesse Binford, Clerk.

David Ross, Treasurer.

The Budget for 2007 was presented and moved for adoption. David expressed confidence in our ability to meet the budget because of our \$30,000 surplus from last year and the number of pledges received to date. In response to questions David described the insurance item as health insurance.

Reports from the following Boards and Committees were approved:

Carol Barrett, Coordinating Council.

Nancy Edison, Board of Christian Education.
Doyal Pinkard offered to supply copies of the report on request.

Betty Bodman, Board of Deacons.

Betty moved that the Church accept those who had requested **in-care status**. Rev. Tom VandeStadt explained that in-care status is a pre-ordination preparation requirement. The candidates introduced themselves: Dan Nieto former UM, Will Heimbach former UM and Linda Berard former RC. The candidates withdrew from the meeting and Betty moved (without disagreement) that they be approved as a group by the Congregational Church of Austin. The motion carried.

Reuel Nash, Board of Trustees.

John Goff, Christian Outreach.

Dennis Murphy/Sara Ross, Stewardship and Enrollment.

Don Brown, Centennial Committee.

Question: How much of the Phase One funding remains? Answer: None. The Centennial Committee was congratulated for its accomplishments by the congregation.

Paul Deisler/Suzanne Bradford Nominating Committee.

Paul offered a correction to the action taken on March 26, 2006 when Joe McMillan's nomination to the Board of Trustees was proposed. That action was made to conform to the actual time remaining in the term. The slate of candidates was approved by the congregation. Question: Had John Burlinson agreed to serve? Answer: Yes. It was recommended that the commitments of time and talents be requested earlier next year.

Special Items:

Carol Barrett, Safe Church Policy.

Most of the discussion centered on the next-to-last section under "Additional Requirements..." on Page 4 of the Coordinating Council report which reads as follows: "It is the policy of this church... for youth assisting a related adult". After several attempts to amend this section it was moved to delete the section entirely and to adopt the remainder of the Policy. The motion passed with 33 in favor and 3 opposed.

Carol Barrett, Sweat-Free Austin Proposed Ordinance Endorsement.

Rev. VandeStadt described the provisions of the Ordinance, which opposes "sweat shops". The following resolution was adopted: The Congregational Church of Austin supports the Ethical Procurement Policy Ordinance to be proposed by the City (37 in favor, none opposed)

Appreciation Expressed to Moderator Carol Barrett.

John presented Carol with a commemorative T-shirt in appreciation of her years as Church Moderator.

Adjournment at 2:17 PM and Benediction.

The congregation joined in singing the first verse of "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds".

Jesse Binford, Clerk, January 28, 2007

Corrections to Sharon's minutes 05-07-2006

Sharon did an excellent and thorough job of reporting the meeting. I would, however, like to clarify the discussion of Motion 3 in the third paragraph from the end:

"Betty asked for clarification of \$6000 for repair and maintenance. David said that \$10,000 to 15,000 is voted in each annual budget and that \$6000 is from LifeWorks' rent."

The paragraph in question could be amended to read:

"Betty asked for clarification of \$6000 for repair and maintenance. David said that \$10,000 to 15,000 is voted in each annual budget for maintenance. The \$6000 in question, from LifeWorks' rent, is placed in the Capital Fund, which is maintained separately."

Note, however, that the \$6,000 is not mentioned earlier in the minutes. I do not recall the exact wording of Betty's question or my reply, but the facts are these:

When the Congregation approves the budget at the annual meeting we allocate about \$8,000 to \$14,000 for maintenance as part of the local operating expenses. This year the amount is \$14,000, which includes proposed security and safety upgrades of the upstairs Sunday School area requested by the Board of Christian Education. The Capital Fund is maintained separately

from the local budget. The Trustees allocate \$6,000 per year of Lifeworks Rental income to the Capital Fund.

Dave

**The Congregational Church of Austin, United Church of Christ
Congregational Meeting, March 4, 2007—draft minutes**

John Goff, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 2:55 PM

Rev. Tom VandeStadt, Minister, led the congregation in prayer.

The Centennial Report, as summarized in Draft 4 (02-22-07), was presented by Don Brown as representative of the Trustees. The bottom line was that the Church needs almost \$30,000 in additional funds to finish Phase 1 of the Centennial Project. Don reported that significant improvements to the building had already been made in Phase 1. He recommended a delay in Phase 2 while Phase 1 (exterior access) and Phase 3 (elevator and lifts) are completed. It will be necessary for Life Works to obtain money through grants to make Phase 3 possible. The unfinished projects in Phase 1 are listed in Draft 4. It may not be possible to provide a canopy for the open stairway.

Dennis Murphy, Financial Secretary, recommended that the unspecified "XX days" in the Report be designated as "3-6 months". In response to questions he estimated that approximately \$5000 of the total Centennial Project pledge had been designated for Phase 2. Trustees would request approval from donors that these pledges be transferred to Phase 1.

Don assured the congregation that the fire escape repairs in Phase 2 would be completed.

In response to the question of why costs have been more than anticipated, the short answer was "add-ons and additional time of construction". John called for accepting Draft 4, recommendation 1-3. Treasurer Dave Ross indicated that there would be enough money if pledges start coming in. Money could be borrowed from general funds to pay current bills. The motion was made and carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 PM.

Jesse Binford, Church Clerk

**The Congregational Church of Austin, United Church of Christ
Congregational Meeting, March 25, 2007—draft minutes**

John Goff, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 12:20 PM

Two items of business were presented by the Moderator dealing with **Quorum Rules** and the **Music Committee**. They required changes in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Church. The Moderator, on recommendation of the Board of Deacons, presented them to the congregation for approval.

The beginning of each Article that was changed is shown below, where three dots (...) indicate that there were no changes made in the remainder of the Article.

These changes do not affect the changes in the Constitution Article VI – Quorum, adopted on August 20, 2006.

QUORUM RULES

Constitution Article XIV-Terms of Office of Church Officials

The pastor shall be elected for an indefinite period by unanimous recommendation of the Search Committee, followed by an affirmative vote by secret paper ballot of at least 80% of the members present and voting at a meeting in which a quorum as defined in Article VI is present. The Pastor's term of office...

Constitution Article XVII-Amendments

The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum as defined in Article VI is present, provided that copies...

Bylaws Article XVI-Amendments

The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum as defined in Article VI of the Constitution is present, provided that copies...

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Bylaws Article XII-The Music Committee is replaced by the following Article:

Bylaws Article XII-The Fine Arts Committee

Section 1. The Fine Arts Committee is an ad hoc committee that facilitates ministry involving the arts. The Music Director and/or the Board of Deacons will recruit members for the Fine Arts Committee. Members of the Committee will serve for an indefinite period of time.

Constitution Article IX-Board of Deacons

Substitute "Fine Arts Committee" for "Music Committee".

A vote on all changes was called for and approval was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 12:29 PM.

Jesse Binford, Church Clerk

The Congregational Church of Austin, United Church of Christ Congregational Meeting, June 24, 2007

John Goff, Moderator, announced that those who desired should remain after church service for a congregational meeting at 12:08 PM. In-Care Seminary Student Will Heimbach led the congregation in prayer.

Barbara Burnham, speaking for the Deacons, moved that Jack Harris-Bonham be accepted for In-Care status by the Church. Jack is serving temporarily as minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church. He plans to become ordained in the UCC Church. He left the room for the vote which was unanimously in favor.

Paul Deisler reported for the Nominating Committee that one vacancy each had appeared on the Board's of Trustees and of Christian Education. In each case the remaining term to be served was for about 1½ years, the rest of this year until the 2009 Annual Meeting.

Paul made the following motion.

The Nominating Committee is pleased to nominate the following members of the congregation to the fill the vacancies:

For the Board of Trustees, James Hadley

For the Board of Christian Education. Jennifer Howicz.

In the absence of the nominees the question was asked if they had agreed to serve if elected. The answer was in the affirmative. Both nominees were elected unanimously.

There being no other business John adjourned the meeting at 12:14 PM.

PASTOR'S REPORT

As pastor, I have the privilege of working with all the Boards and Committees of the church. Each has its own set of responsibilities and its own "personality," and I enjoyed working with each one this past year.

I helped the Deacons plan and carry out our church's worship ministry. Of special significance were the "special" services: Easter sunrise, the weekday Lenten and Advent services/luncheons, and the Christmas Candlelight and Christmas Day Service preceding our Open Door Meal. Several other highlights of the year included the baptism of Jaime in the Guadalupe River during our church retreat, the baptism of Jaiden Joseph Farrow, the marriage of Andria and Alan, Ryhs and Michelle, the Memorial Service for Stella Morrison, and the reception of a number of new members. In addition to the worship ministry, I helped the Deacons carry out our church's caring and welcoming ministry, which included visitation to folks in hospitals and rehab facilities, meeting with prospective new members, participating in new member orientations, and supporting our "in-care" members Will, Linda, Dan, and Jack. Special thanks go to Betty for chairing, to Betty (again) and Andria (not a Deacon...yet) for organizing the Friendship suppers, and to Jim for wrestling with the Easter sunrise signs.

I helped the Christian Outreach Board plan and carry out our church's outreach ministry. In particular, I devoted time and energy to freeze night shelter, the Christmas Day Open Door Dinner, Mt. Bonnell clean-up, Micah 6, the Jubilee Campaign, and the Religion and Labor Network of Austin's sweat free initiative, day labor support work, and Target campaign. I also continued working in my capacity as the South Central Conference's Disaster Network Coordinator, and participated in two national training events. Special thanks go to Tommie for chairing, Sharon for hosting, everyone who participated in the day laborer dinner we helped host, the Mt. Bonnell cleaner uppers, and all the freeze night shelter, front porch lunch, and Christmas Dinner ministers.

With the Trustees, I participated in discussion and decision-making regarding the building and finances, though their minds are far more adept at this than mine. The big news for this year was the renovation of the first floor and outside courtyard. Many, many, and many more thanks to everyone on the Centennial Committee and the Trustees for all the work that went into this project, especially Don! Thanks as well to Reuel for chairing, Dave and Dennis for keeping track of our money, Rambie for continuing his communications with Lifeworks, and Rhys for his inspired participation in Trustees meetings before officially being voted in (a role model for the rest of us).

My involvement with the Christian Education Board was less than it was with the other Boards because of meeting schedule conflicts and because much of its work deals with the youth Sunday School program which I cannot participate in because it occurs during worship. However, the members of this Board have my utmost respect and support because in some ways their work is the most difficult in the church. This past year, they planned and carried out an on-going week-to-week program for our youth, recruited and trained people to participate in it, continued developing policies to ensure the safety of our young people, and embarked on an ambitious new curriculum called Godly Play. My involvement in Christian Education focused mainly on leading the adult discussion group before worship, and leading two after worship series in which we read Brueggemann's *Prophetic Imagination* and Habito's *Living Zen and Loving God*.

Special thanks to Paula for chairing, Liz for doing a bunch of everything, all the teachers and helpers and storytellers and doorkeepers, Reuel for his handy work with a saw, and Greg and Marilyn for organizing two new spirituality groups.

Toward the end of the year, I worked with the Nominating Committee, which is charged with recruiting members to serve on our various Boards. I made some suggestions and helped recruit a few people. Thanks in particular to Paul, whose persistence is legend, and to Matt, whose quiet persuasive powers are hard to resist. I also worked with the Stewardship Committee to plan our stewardship campaign. Thanks to Fran and Dennis for their diligent work, to everyone who pledged, and to everyone who gave of their time, talent, and resources.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to Nodie, the Trio (including Amy), the Choir, the Joyful Noise Orchestra, and everyone who shared a spiritual gift during worship. Thanks also to John for his leadership, support, and advice as Moderator. Thanks to Trish and Victor for keeping the place organized and clean. Finally, thanks to each and every one of you. As you may have heard me say more than once: we don't go to church, God calls us to *create* the church, and we do so by investing our time, talent, and resources—our very lives—into the church. Thanks to each and every one of you for investing your lives into the church. May Christ's grace, God's love, and the Holy Spirit's power continue to guide us in this on-going creation we call the Congregational Church of Austin, United Church of Christ.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT
01.01.07 – 12.31.07

2007 IN-FLOWS

<u>General Fund:</u>	
Pledged income for 2007	139,260.00
Prepaid 2008 pledged income	11,400.00
Non-pledged income	14,618.00
Loose plate	3,910.21
Rental income (LifeWorks/Weddings/Movie)	24,514.00
McNeely Fund	310.02
Miscellaneous	
Safeway/Randall's Good Neighbor	151.99
Refunds/Reimbursements	3,763.78
Total – General Fund	197,928.00

<u>Designated Income (Local):</u>	
Centennial Fund	51,932.30
Sanctuary flowers	452.00
Christmas dinner	375.00
Equal Exchange	1,350.00
T-shirts	40.00
Memorials	325.00
Front Porch Ministry	6.29
Nodie's Musical Slush Fund	90.00
Book Sale	482.50
Cello Fund	2,199.00
Total – Designated Income (Local)	57,252.09

<u>Designated Income (Outreach):</u>	
Neighbors in Need	985.00
Christmas Fund	791.00
OCWM	120.00
Palestinian Child	481.31
Strengthen the Church	395.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	1,370.00
CROP Walk	100.00
Total – Designated Income (Outreach)	4,242.31

TOTAL 2007 IN-FLOWS	259,422.40
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About 2007 In-Flows:

This has been a solid year for our church in terms of the financial support our members and friends have given its various ministries and projects. In total, giving during the year did decrease by \$34,272.34 or 11.7% from the preceding year, but 2006 was an extraordinary year in terms of total giving, and one that few if any of us expected 2007 to approach, much less equal. On a percentage basis, the largest decrease occurred in the category of Designated Income (Outreach) – 49.3% – followed by a decline of 19.6% in the category of Designated Income (Local). Income in both categories tends to be influenced by specific appeals, and those line items that were the focus of appeals (like the Cello Fund and the Christmas dinner) benefited, the others tended to coast (like Neighbors in Need) or shrivel (like the New Orleans Re-Building effort, which received \$1,815 of support last year and nothing this year). The highlight of the financial year was undoubtedly the wonderful support shown for the Centennial Fund; virtually all of the pledges made to the original fund drive and then to the “Let’s Finish the Job” effort were paid in full by the end of the year, and a number were actually exceeded. On first glance, General Fund giving doesn’t look so healthy, having decreased by 7.6%, but nearly half of that decline was owing to canceled pledges, and the rest to pledges that were in fact paid right after the end of the year. Taking those factors into account, total giving in the General Fund category in 2007 was comparable to that in 2006. All in all, 2007 was a good year for our finances, following on the heels of an exceptional one – and I thank you all for your faithful, generous support of our church and its ministries.

About 2008 In-Flows:

Talking about the future, particularly the financial future, is always something of a guessing game, and at this point my view of 2008 involves a couple of guesses. But first, what we do know – and that is, we have now received 43 pledges for 2008 totaling \$161,530, which is nearly \$6,000 more than the 40 originally pledged for 2007, and nearly \$13,000 more than the 36 that were still active at the end of the year. That is good news, and very encouraging for such a small church as ours, as is the fact that 12 of the pledges made for 2008 have come from people or families pledging for the first time. The guesses that I mentioned are these. First, I am guessing that there will not be any new Centennial Fundraising activity in 2008. If that is true, we may well see an increase in designated giving (this year’s decline in that area may have been the result, in part, of capital fund drive “fatigue”). Second, I am guessing that LifeWorks will go ahead and renew its lease in August. This is not a sure thing, and if LifeWorks should not renew, we would lose the benefit of its \$2,150 monthly rental fee. Of course, the real impact of that loss would be felt in later years rather than in 2008. Overall, my opinion now is that General Fund and Designated Income giving in 2008 will exceed 2007 totals, and that we will see an increase in total in-flows in the area of 5-7%.

Dennis Murphy
Financial Secretary

CLERK'S REPORT: VITAL STATISTICS/MEMBERSHIP 2007

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP ON DECEMBER 31, 2006 118

LOSSES IN 2007:

MORRISON Stella
SMITH Maggie

TOTAL LOSSES: 2

RECEIVED BY AFFIRMATION OF FAITH OR LETTER OF TRANSFER IN 2007

BEARDALL Bill
FUTCH Greg
HADLEY James
HARRIS Marylin
HARRIS-BONHAM Jack
NIETO Dan
THOMPSON Michelle
ULERICH Rhys

TOTAL GAINS: 8

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP ON DECEMBER 31, 2007: 124

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & FUNERALS IN 2007

FARROW Jaiden Joseph Baptism -- December 9
HADLEY James Baptism -- April 28

MINER Alan & Wedding -- March 23
LIPPERT Andrea

ULERICH Rhys & Wedding -- May 19
THOMPSON Michelle

Jesse Binford, Clerk
January 4, 2008

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT AND BUDGET PROPOSAL

December 31, 2007 -- David W. Ross

SUMMARY

Here is a summary of how our funds have evolved. Details are given in the following three pages. The final two pages detail the proposed budget for 2007. We have both a checking account and investments with the United Church Foundation (UCF), where our share values have increased only modestly. The Statement of Accounts, page 2, reflects the re-arrangement the UCF funds to implement our investment policy. (See Trustees Report.)

Local Budget The Local Budget is administered through the General Fund. We began the year with \$30,491.32. Total contributed income and accrual was \$192,079.29 as of December 31. Expenditures were \$206,462.32, for a deficit of \$14,383.03. Expenses were 98% of the budget (2nd and 3rd of the following pages). The closing balance was **\$16,108.29**. Note that both income and expenditures were well below expected or budgeted values.

As of this writing, Jan. 6, we expect soon to receive additional income that would change this picture substantially.

Capital Fund We began with \$24,705.45. Income consisted of \$6,000.00 (a portion of the Lifeworks rent). We spent \$6,543.53 to complete refurbishment of the porch roof and masonry. Accrual in the UCF was \$1,059.13. The closing balance was **\$25,221.05**.

Centennial Fund We began the year with \$40,778.95. Income consisted of donations of \$54,012.30 (including stock transfers), and accrual in the UCF of \$1,871.40. Expenditures to complete Phase 1 totaled \$80,566.51. The closing balance was **\$16,096.14**.

Memorial Fund We began with \$2,384.69, received donations of \$300.00, and accrual in the UCF of \$97.04. There were no expenditures. The closing balance was **\$2,781.73**.

Organ Fund We began the year with \$5,565.52 accrued \$187.15 in the UCF, spent \$4,095.00 on the new sanctuary piano, and closed with a balance of **\$1,657.67**.

McNeely Funds The legacy from the McNeely estate is kept in a small CD and a UCF fund, which together began the year at \$37,036.94. We received \$659.73 in dividends from the UCF into the Local Budget (John McNeely's "posthumous pledge"). Additional UCF and CD accrual of \$803.94 led to a final balance of **\$38,500.61**.

Miscellaneous Pass-through Items As detailed on the 3rd of the following pages, we began the year with a balance of \$8,574 in designated or pass-through funds. We took in \$7,523 and doled out \$9,666, for a final balance of **\$6,432** some to be paid out soon.

BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR 2008

In November 2007, the Budget Committee (Dave Ross, Reuel Nash, Tommie Pinkard Jennifer Howicz, Betty Bodman, with Rhys Ulerich) assessed by e-mail the proposals of the Coordinating Council and Boards and proposed a budget that totals 228,069, an increase of 1.8% over that of 2007. The detailed proposal and further explanation is given in the 4th and 5th of the following pages.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS		Current	Previous	Change
Assets		31 Dec 07	31 Dec 06	
Bank of America				
Checking Account		\$18,317.13	\$ 34,535.21	(\$16,218.08)
General Fund		\$11,462.32	\$5,998.89	\$5,463.40
Centennial Fund		\$5,257.71	\$11,031.60	(\$5,773.89)
Capital Fund		\$0.00	\$7,565.49	(\$7,565.49)
Memorial fund		\$0.00	\$1,366.91	(\$1,366.91)
Deacons' Emergency Fund		\$0.00	\$1,846.64	(\$1,846.64)
Sanctuary flowers		\$0.00	\$524.63	(\$524.63)
Christmas dinner		\$0.00	\$964.65	(\$964.65)
Palestinian Child fund		\$554.10	\$402.52	\$151.58
Front Porch Lunch		\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$147.40)
OCWM Individual		\$0.00	\$960.00	(\$960.00)
NIN		\$0.00	\$50.00	(\$50.00)
Cello fund		\$140.00	\$301.65 \$140.00	\$140.00
Nodie's Music fund		\$0.00	\$301.65	(\$301.65)
Christmas fund		\$440.00	\$350.00	\$90.00
Deacons' Remembrance Fund		\$0.00	\$188.83	(\$188.83)
Equal Exchange and T-shirts		\$463.00	\$666.00	(\$273.00)
Lifeworks security deposit		\$0.00	\$2,100.00	(\$2,100.00)
CD (McNeely Estate)		\$3,057.54	\$2,961.07	\$96.47
United Church Foundation				
McNeely Account (<i>Equity Fund</i>)		\$35,443.07	\$34,075.87	\$1,367.20
Capital, Memorial & Organ Fund		\$50,450.46	\$77,963.04	(\$27,512.58)
<i>Moderate Balanced Fund</i>				
General Fund		\$0.00	\$24,492.43	(\$24,492.43)
Centennial Fund		\$0.00	\$29,747.35	(\$29,747.35)
Capital Fund		\$20,721.05	\$17,139.96	\$3,581.10
Memorial Fund		\$0.00	\$1,017.78	(\$1,017.78)
Organ Fund		\$1,657.67	\$5,565.52	(\$3,907.85)
Lifeworks Deposit		\$2,163.48	0.00	\$2,163.48
<i>Cash Equivalent Fund</i>				
General Fund		\$4,645.97	0.00	\$4,645.97
Centennial Fund		\$10,838.43	0.00	\$10,838.43
Capital Fund		\$4,500.00	0.00	\$4,500.00
Memorial Fund		\$2,781.73	0.00	\$2,781.73
Deacons' Emergency Fund		\$1,910.10	0.00	\$1,910.10
Sanctuary Flowers		\$596.54	0.00	\$596.54
Christmas dinner		\$410.49	0.00	\$410.49
General fund total		\$16,108.29	\$30,491.32	(\$14,383.03)
Centennial fund total		\$16,096.14	\$40,778.95	(\$8,609.31)
Capital fund total		\$25,221.05	\$24,705.45	(\$15,557.90)
Memorial fund total		\$2,781.73	\$2,334.69	\$397.04
Organ fund total		\$1,657.67	\$5,565.52	(\$3,907.85)
McNeely Fund total		\$38,500.61	\$37,036.94	\$1,463.67
Miscellaneous (pass through) total		\$6,902.71	\$8,429.92	(\$1,669.61)
Total Gross Assets		\$107,268.19	\$149,535.19	(\$42,266.99)

With designated obligations subtracted, Total Net Assets are \$103,6156.29

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN
2007 BUDGET vs. EXPENSES**

	Budget	Spent	Difference	Ratio
Pastoral Leadership - Tom VandeStadt				
10 Salary	\$46,890.94	\$46,890.86	\$0.08	1.00
11 Annuity	10,064.73	10,340.28	(275.55)	1.03
12 Health Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	
13 Family Protection	1,078.37	1,107.88	(29.51)	1.03
14 Continuing Education	489.72	489.72	0.00	0.00
15 Housing Allowance	25,000.00	25,000.08	(0.08)	1.00
16 Travel Expenses	1,222.18	1,222.18	0.00	1.00
Pastoral Leadership - Subtotal	\$84,745.94	85,051.00	(305.06)	1.00
Cooperative Responsibilities				
21 Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)	\$14,100.00	\$14,100.00	\$0.00	1.00
22 Austin Area Interreligious Ministries	600.00	600.00	0.00	1.00
23 Brazos Association Dues	540.00	496.00	44.00	1.00
24 Texas Conference of Churches	30.00	30.00	0.00	1.00
25 National Council of Churches	100.00	100.00	0.00	1.00
26 World Council of Churches	100.00	100.00	0.00	1.00
27 Regional Seminary Support	500.00	500.00	0.00	1.00
29 Back Bay Mission	1,000.00	1,000.00	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	363.00	362.88	0.12	1.00
36 Micah 6	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00	1.00
37 Mission Outreach - freeze night staff	2,200.00	1,331.46	868.54	0.76
38 Religion labor network	500.00	500.00	0.00	1.00
Cooperative Responsibilities: Subtotal	\$24,433.00	\$23,520.34	\$912.66	0.99
Local Church Programs				
41 Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$1,000.00	885.35	114.65	0.89
42 Secretary - Salary	14,479.50	14,479.44	0.06	1.00
43 Secretary - FICA & Medicare	1,107.68	1,107.60	0.08	1.00
44 Music for Worship	450.00	384.50	65.50	0.85
45 Musicians	11,200.00	10,456.50	743.50	0.93
46 Choral Director - Salary	6,441.62	6,441.64	(0.02)	1.00
47 Choral Director - FICA & Medicare	492.78	492.80	(0.02)	1.00
48 Christian Education	1,975.00	704.17	1,270.83	0.36
49 Church Safety Policy Implementation	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00
50 Supplies - office, janitor, kitchen	4,000.00	3,055.00	945.00	0.76
51 Postage	1,300.00	788.70	511.30	0.61
53 Electricity & Water	14,000.00	12,735.21	1,264.79	0.91
54 Gas	2,100.00	2,761.48	(661.48)	1.31
55 Telephone	2,800.00	2,925.86	(125.86)	1.04
57 Property Maintenance	10,000.00	5,787.77	4,212.23	0.58
57B Classroom Improvements	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00
58 Garden Maintenance	300.00	150.00	150.00	0.50
59 Janitor - Salary	13,750.00	12,948.75	801.25	0.94
60 Janitor - FICA & Medicare)	1,051.88	990.29	61.58	0.94
61 UCC Meeting Expenses	600.00	706.20	(106.20)	1.18

	Budget	Spent	Difference	Ratio
63 Membership outreach	\$1,255.00	1,112.96	142.04	0.89
64 Pulpit Supply - Speaker Stipends	900.00	1,000.00	(100.00)	1.11
65 Nursery Attendants	2,600.00	2,432.00	168.00	0.94
66 Insurance	8,900.00	10,336.67	(1,436.67)	1.16
66b Workers Compensation	3,000.00	1,411.04	1,588.96	0.47
67 Fun & Fellowship Committee Expense	375.00	257.55	117.45	0.69
68 Archives	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
69 Deacons' Discretionary Fund	500.00	131.42	368.58	0.26
70 Printing - Newsletter & Bulletin	200.00	173.65	26.35	0.87
71 Parking	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00	1.00
73 Outreach discretionary	400.00	250.00	150.00	0.63
Local Church Programs: Subtotal	\$114,778.46	98,120.73	16,657.73	0.85
76TOTAL	\$223,957.40	\$206,692.07	\$17,265.33	0.92
IRS correction**		(229.75)		
GRAND TOTAL	\$223,957.40	\$206,462.32	\$17,495.08	0.92

**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	12/31/06		12/31/07	
	Initial value	Income	Payout	Final Value
Deacons emergency Fund	\$1,847	\$0	\$0	\$1,847
One Great Hour	0	1,370	1,370	0
Neighbors in Need	50	945	995	0
Christmas Fund	350	671	731	290
Flowers (Easter Lilies, Poinsettias)	525	422	578	369
Christmas dinner/credit reimburse	965	345	1093	217
Strengthen church	0	395	395	0
Equal Exchange	666	1414	1,617	463
Palestinian Child	403	481	330	554
Calvert Foundation	0	0	0	0
Back Bay / T-shirt sale	70	0	70	0
Front Porch Ministry	147	6	154	0
Deacons Remembrance fund	189	453	50	592
Spring retreat	0	801	801	0
Music Fund	302	90	302	90
OCWM spec appeal & individual	960	120	1080	0
CROP Walk	0	100	100	0
Lifeworks security deposit	2,100	0	0	2,100
TOTALS	\$8,574	\$7,523	\$9,666	\$6,432

Cello fund 0 2199 2149 50

2008 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Pledges for 2008 are increased somewhat over those of 2007. *As this is written, we expect that delayed income from 2007 will raise the balance in the general fund back near the \$30K that we began with in 2007.* With this proposed budget, approved for presentation by the Trustees, we again anticipate a deficit for the year, but one that will still leave us a significant balance in the general fund.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN

2008 PROPOSAL

	Adopted 2007	Proposed 2008	\$ change	% change
Pastoral Leadership - Tom VandeStadt				
10 Salary	\$46,890			
11 Annuity	10,064.			
12 Health Insurance	0.00			
13 Disability Insurance	1,078.			
14 Continuing Education	489			
15 Housing Allowance	25,000.			
16 Travel Expenses	1,222			
* Pastoral Leadership Subtotal	\$84,746	88,136	\$3,390	4.0%
Cooperative Responsibilities				
21 Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)	14,100	14,100	0	0.0%
22 Austin Area Interreligious Ministries	600	600	0	0.0%
23 Brazos Association Dues	540	540	0	0.0%
24 Texas Conference of Churches	30	30	0	0.0%
25 National Council of Churches	100	100	0	0.0%
26 World Council of Churches	100	100	0	0.0%
27 Seminary support	500	500	0	0.0%
29 Back Bay Mission	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
30 Slumber Falls Camp	200	200	0	0.0%
32 Huston-Tillotson University	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	363	363	0	0.0%
36 Micah 6	3,500	2,750	(750)	-21.4%
37 Ministry to Homeless	2,200	2,200	0	83.3%
38 Religion Labor Network	500	500	0	0.0%
39 Equal Justice center (new)		400	400	NA%
Cooperative Responsibilities Subtotal	\$24,433	\$24,083	(\$350)	-1.4%
Local Church Programs				
41 Pastor's Discretionary Fund	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
42 Administrative Assistant - Salary	14,480	15,059	579	4.0%
43 Admin. Assistant - FICA & Med @7.65%	1,108	1,152	44	4.0%
44 Music for Worship	450	450	0	0%
45 Musicians	11,200	11,400	200	1.8%
46 Choral Director - Salary	6,442	6,699	258	4.0%
47 Choral Director - FICA & Medicare @7.65%	493	512	20	4.0%
16	2007	2008	\$ change	% change

48	Christian Education	1,975	2,875	900	45.0%
48B	Church Safety Policies Implementation	2,000	2,000	0	0%
50	Supplies - office, janitor, kitchen	4,000	3,500	(500)	-12.5%
51	Postage	1,300	800	(500)	-38.5%
53	Electricity & Water	14,000	13,500	(500)	-3.6%
54	Gas	2,100	2,700	600	28.6%
55	Telephone	2,800	3,000	200	7.1%
57	Building Maintenance	10,000	10,500	500	5.0%
57B	Classroom Improvements	4,000	4,000	0	0.0%
57C	Garden Maintenance	300	300	0	0.0%
59	Janitor - Salary	13,750	14,100	350	2.5%
60	Janitor - FICA & Medicare	1,052	1,079	27	2.5%
61	UCC Meeting Expenses	600	700	100	16.7%
63	Membership Outreach	1,255	1,164	(91)	-7.3%
64	Pulpit Supply - Speaker Stipends	900	1,000	100	11.1%
65	Nursery Attendants	2,600	2,860	260	10.0%
66	Insurance	8,900	8,000	(900)	-10.1%
66B	Workers Compensation	3,000	2,400	(600)	-20.0%
67	Fun & Fellowship Committee Expense	375	300	(75)	-20.0%
68	Archives	100	100	0	0.0%
69	Deacons' Discretionary Fund	500	500	0	0.0%
70	Admin Assistant mileage (formerly printing)	200	200	0	0.0%
72	Parking	3,500	3,600	100	2.9%
73	Outreach discretionary	400	400	0	0.0%
Local Church Programs: Subtotal		\$114,778	\$115,850	\$1,072	0.9%
76	TOTAL	\$223,957	\$228,069	\$4,111	1.8%

Notes

- * Pastoral leadership set by Coordinating Council - distribution to be determined later
- 21 through 39 mostly unchanged as proposed by Outreach Board
- 35 Religious Coalition in lieu of drainage fee. Rate set by City of Austin
- 36 Micah 6 decrease proposed by Outreach Board – last year included food pantry setup.
- 42 Admin Assistant increase 4% set by Coordinating Council
- 45 Musicians increased to \$55 (violin/cello) and \$94.5/week (piano)
- 46 Choral Director increase 4% set by Coordinating Council
- 48 And 48B CE requests and Safety Policy requested by CE Board
- 50 Office, janitor, & kitchen supplies reduced by Trustees based on 2007 experience.
- 57 57B and 57C Maintenance includes Trustees est., \$10,500, CE Board request, \$4,000 to address safety concerns, and Grounds Maintenance at \$300.
- 59 Janitor salary increased to \$13.50/hour for custodial and maintenance. Estimated hours reduced
- 61 Meeting expenses includes Pastor and Lay representatives to all UCC meetings
- 63 Membership Outreach request reduced by Deacons
- 65 Nursery Attendants – raised to \$55/week - CE Board
- 66 Insurance rates now fairly well set - Trustees
- 66B Workers comp fairly well set - Trustees
- 72 Parking deal with Coop garage continues @\$300/month

Moderator's Report for 2007

In lieu of the traditional pastor's employee evaluation this year, the Coordinating Council decided instead to jointly evaluate the church as a whole, pastor, board members and the congregation: what are we doing well, and what can we be doing better? Although a bit experimental, this approach explicitly recognizes that Tom is a member of our church, as well as its pastor, and should be involved in the conversation. It is also an indication of the level of trust the Council believes exists between Tom and the congregation after many years of outstanding service to, and on behalf of, this church. This report summarizes the Council's deliberations. Comments and suggestions to John Goff are encouraged.

Worship Services: We consider our worship services to be a major strength of the church. It fits our style – on the casual side of traditional. Sermons and readings that challenge us spiritually and intellectually. Music!!! Terrific children's times. More feedback to Tom on his sermons would be helpful. Is there anything we could be doing differently – i.e., less traditional?

Christian Education: Christian Education is going strong both for youth and adults. The new Godly Play curriculum is just beginning, bringing with it some new and enthusiastic teaching talents to the classroom. The children are involved in a number of projects ("Hala" day, Christmast Ornaments, the Pageant, etc.). We have lapsed, a bit, from involving the kids in Christian outreach projects (e.g., Kosovo school supplies, Easter baskets), and need to reinvigorate that aspect. Adult CE includes the Sunday adult class, which has a strong core of attendees, the men's spirituality group, Marilyn Vache's group, and occasional book groups. There are plans next year for a meditation group.

Evangelism: Our most effective tool for attracting new visitors is our web site, based on conversations with recent visitors. Reuel reports that Google search hits for our church come most often with "progressive church" or "liberal church" inputs, or by map-based searches. We are uncertain how our designation as "open and affirming" might be attracting visitors. We continue to advertise in the Yellow Pages, to unknown effect. Many of our latest visitors are younger couples with small kids. Our strong and stable nursery school is a significant cause for retention. We do have a number of UT graduate students, but no undergrads. How do we attract undergrads?

Inreach: Friendship dinners are going very strong, providing a far more in-depth chance for interaction than after church. The greeting card program is working well. Tom does pastoral calls when a specific need arises – illness, hospitalization, etc. Tom also follows up on folks who stop coming to church. There is not an organized effort to visit the homebound – not one of our strengths as a whole. Our driver program hasn't really made the connection yet between drivers and those needing rides.

Outreach: Outreach continues to be a primary strength of this church. We are involved in numerous projects and programs covering a wide range of ministries. Freeze Night shelter and the Front Porch Lunch for homeless youth, Christmas Dinner, Micah 6 food pantry and the Mount Bonnel cleanup ministries have been going strong for many years now, and continue to attract numerous volunteers from our congregation. The Front Porch Lunch is operating very

smoothly, thanks primarily to Trish's organizational efforts. Our involvement in the Religion and Labor Network and the Equal Justice Center assists immigrant laborers and educates us about these issues. We continue to promote fair trade with our coffee sales and efforts to pass the "Sweat Free" ordinance. Communication with the congregation about outreach is a bit of a weak spot – we need to inform the congregation better about how outreach funds are spent, and better advertise opportunities for outreach involvement, both with our programs and outside.

Stewardship: Overall we believe we do a good job of appealing to the congregation for funds in a manner consistent with our church's mission, and spending those funds wisely. The congregation in turn is responsive to those appeals, consistently pledging their gifts to the church and responding generously to special appeal, both for the church and for other causes. The Centennial project was a major success for us, both beautifying the church and significantly improving functionality and accessibility. One area of significant improvement would be to make our building and operation more environmentally friendly – less energy, less paper, less waste, etc.

Safe Church: 2007 was our first year operating under our "Safe Church" policy. Disclosure forms were collected from nearly everyone, and checked by the Response Team (John Goff, Robin Chapman, and Reuel Nash). The hastily-approved policy, necessary to satisfy requirements of our liability insurance, was a bit flawed and in need of updating. A revised policy is presented for consideration by the congregation, which will require full background checks on all those working with youth. There is also much uncertainty about how stringent the insurance company might eventually become. Additional revisions to the policy are anticipated to accommodate any revisions to those requirements.

Employee Relations: We believe we have now probably the best array of paid employees we have ever had: Trish (secretary), Melissa (nursery attendant), Victor (janitor and handyman), our trio of musicians, and, of course, Nodie our choir director. As a whole we recognize that we do a very poor job of employee recognition, and must resolve to improve that in the coming year. Notable exceptions: Christian Ed gave "thank you" gifts to Melissa, Nodie and Erin. Tom annually gives Christmas gifts to Trish and Victor.

Annual report of the Board of Deacons, 2007

The Board of Deacons has three broad areas of responsibility including worship, pastoral care and membership. The congregation has also accepted a number of people into an in-care relationship and the Board of Deacons is the primary point of contact for them as they move through the steps toward ordination in the U.C.C. We approach the tasks associated with each of these responsibilities with the intention to reflect the congregation's statement of faith.

Worship

We assist and support the Pastor in our weekly worship services and in special services during the year.

Early in 2007 the congregation was asked whether we should continue the tradition of the Sunrise Easter Service on Mt. Bonnell and the clear response was that we should. A number of people felt this service to be an important outreach to the community.

The Lenten and Advent services and luncheons are other traditions that the Deacons oversee. These simple communion services with an informal lunch following are for anyone who wishes to attend, but particular attention is paid to including our members who cannot regularly attend Sunday services. Those attending appreciate the chance to gather for worship and fellowship in a quieter, less hectic atmosphere than is sometimes possible on Sunday mornings.

Steve Domingue continued to take responsibility for recruiting and scheduling ushers; we rotate the job of communion steward (preparing communion trays, cleaning up after communion).

Oversight of music in our worship services is assigned to the Board of Deacons, but Nodie Murphy and Tom continue to do the weekly work of planning and coordination. The talents and dedication of Nodie and our illustrious trio continue to make music an important part of our services. The Music Committee officially became the Fine Arts Committee, created as an ad hoc committee. We celebrated the acquisition of a new piano in the spring.

The Board of Deacons felt the need to respond to one of Tom's sermons which encouraged the congregation to engage in different types of spiritual inquiry than is possible in a traditional worship service. The Board of Deacons met one afternoon to consider our own spiritual lives and what avenues for spiritual growth were open to us and to the congregation. Over the past year, independent of the Deacons' activities, two groups have been meeting with a focus on the members' spiritual lives.

Pastoral care

In the spring a book sale (a clean out your bookshelves and come buy other people's books sale) earned \$400. The proceeds went into the Deacon's Remembrance Fund which is a non-budgeted fund. The Board of Deacons uses the Remembrance Fund to make contributions in memory of church members' loved ones who have died.

The Board of Deacons had some concern that we weren't doing an adequate job of keeping up with members who might be having difficulties or who

stop coming to Sunday Services for some reason. In an attempt to help us be more aware of those who may have particular needs, the Board of Deacons split the congregation alphabetically with each Deacon paying particular attention to those on "their" list. The list for 2007 was as follows:

Letters A, C and F:	Jim Howicz
B:	Dennis Murphy
G-L:	Barbara Burnham
M-O:	Marilyn Vache
P-S:	Betty Bodman
R-Z:	Steve Domingue

We also are keeping in mind those members who currently have difficulty getting to church because of transportation difficulties. We are still working on matching people who would like a ride to Sunday service with those members who live close to them and could provide a ride. We plan to create a map showing where people needing rides live so that matching riders and drivers can be accomplished more easily.

The issue of parking reached a solution when we contracted for spaces in the Coop garage.

Membership

Fellowship Hour continues to be the time to catch up with each other as well as to celebrate particular events in the lives of the congregants.

Friendship suppers were held in the spring and fall and good times have been had by all. Andria Miner has taken on the lion's share of responsibility for making these happen and her efforts are greatly appreciated.

We had 3 new member information sessions this year and the following people joined the church: Jamie Hadley, Greg Futch, Rhys and Michelle Ulerich, Bill Beardall, Marilyn Harris, Jack Harris-Bonham and Dan Nieto.

Additionally, Tom performed two marriage ceremonies, one for Andria Minor and Alan Lippert and the other for Rhys Ulerich and Michelle Thompson. There were two baptisms as well. Jaimie Hadley had a full immersion baptism in the chilly waters of the Guadalupe River at Slumber Falls. Joe McMillan's grand-nephew was baptized in the sanctuary.

The Board of Deacons has been responsible for advertising to help make our presence known in the city. In part because so many visitors indicate they found our church on-line, we decided to stop our print advertising in the Austin American Statesman at the end of 2007. We will be advertised only in the Yellow Pages, both in print and on-line.

In Care Candidates

The congregation currently has in-care Will Heimbach, Dan Nieto and Jack Harris-Bonham. Will finished his internship at another church this past December and we hope to see more of him in our Sunday services. Jack Harris-Bonham has been working out of state and has just returned to the area. Linda Berard withdrew from in-care status for personal reasons. She continues to maintain a relationship with our church and the hope of the Board of Deacons is

that we may maintain a caring relationship with Linda even though she is no longer "in-care".

Finally, the deacons would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the following;

The Care Team composed of Dan Jeffery, Marilyn Harris, Cecile Adam and George Hetrick who care for two brothers in the Austin area. This Care Team is working independently of the Deacons, but we would like to applaud their efforts and offer to them our support or help should they desire it.

The musicians who add so much to the worship service;

All the choir members for their week-in, week-out commitment

Aaron Carter-Cohen

Andy Streitelmeier *ie*

Robin Rosson

Amy Harris

Melanie Wilkins

Nodie Murphy, our musically fearless leader

For managing the church website

Sara Ross

For Fun and Fellowship

Pat Oakes

Tommie Pinkard

For organizing the retreat and workshop

Marilyn Vache

Our ushers and welcomers which includes all of you who take the time to speak to visitors

Trustees Annual Report for 2007

The main responsibilities of the Trustees are two areas: the physical Church property and the Church's finances.

In 2007, the Church completed a major building renovation under the direction of the Centennial Committee. This work improved access to our facilities, provided a better nursery and kitchen, and repaired a long-standing issue with water collecting on a portion of the roof. The Trustees are continuing to work with our tenant Lifeworks to find appropriate improvements for the space they use.

The Trustees arranged with the UT Coop to use up to 35 parking spaces in their parking building on Sundays. This arrangement turned out to be timely, as our arrangement with The Cadeau to use their lot was ended when The Cadeau closed in January.

The Trustees implemented a new investment policy that should provide lower risk for short-term investments and higher returns for long-term investments. The Trustees will evaluate the new policy during the coming year.

The Church was the venue for an "outside" wedding and a film-shoot during the year. For both situations, we asked that the participants pay the Church's expenses to have the custodian unlock, lock, "babysit", and clean up. This relieves the Pastor from this time-consuming duty. The total charges include a building fee of \$300, with a minimum four hour custodial fee of \$120, and then \$30.00 for each additional hour.

The Trustees are considering the purchase of several signs for the Church building. Thanks to Linda Berard for designing the signs and helping with this process.

Jaime is working to document the operation of the air conditioning system and the keys for all the doors in the Church building.

Some highlights from the building maintenance events during the year that should be noted by future boards:

Filters in the air conditioning units need to be replaced on a regular basis. If they aren't replaced, the lack of air flow causes water to condense on the outside of the units. Some of these units are located in the ceilings, so water drips on the ceiling tiles and stains them. We have ordered a supply of air filters that should last about six months. The Church Secretary and Custodian should work together to make sure these are replaced on schedule and ordered as often as necessary to maintain a working inventory.

The pump in the basement kitchen failed to pump condensation from the air conditioning unit out of the sump. This was replaced.

The main air mover for the sanctuary air conditioning unit had a problem in the blower. The blower was reconditioned and the resulting air flow has been noted during both hot and cold weather. The repairman noted that this same maintenance had been done five or six years earlier.

Board of Christian Education

Annual Report 2007

The Year of Our Lord 2007 was not one in which it was possible to be “bored of Christian Education.” It turned out to be an interesting and challenging year. This brief report will highlight some of the major issues which the Board considered during the year, and some of the significant Christian Education activities.

Major Issues

- 1. Safety Policies:** The Board has the responsibility for developing policies and procedures that ensure the health and safety of the children and youth participating in Christian Education activities. These policies, now in the final stages of development, must be consistent with the church’s Safety Policy and relevant state and federal legal requirements. After the Board approves the policies, the volunteer and staff must be instructed in the requirements.
- 2. Church School Superintendent:** It appeared to the Board that too many of the program tasks were falling on the shoulders of the volunteer church school superintendent. Many of the tasks could be distributed among the members of the Board. We have requested the Nominating Committee not to fill the position of the superintendent until feasible alternatives are developed.
- 3. Godly Play Curriculum:** After review of several curricula, the Board settled upon the Godly Play program for the primary age children, which is now being implemented. Some teaching staff has been trained, and others will undergo training in the near future. Volunteers have been wonderful in the preparation of teaching material, and the teachers have been enthusiastic about the curriculum.

Activities

- **Adult Education:** Our pastor, Tom VandeStadt, leads a Sunday School class for adults at 10:00 A.M. on Sundays, in which the scripture for the day’s sermon is discussed. He also led two study groups, one in the Spring on the prophetic imagination, and one in the Fall on Zen meditation and Christianity.
- **Youth Group:** Our young people have joined in after church activities with the youth group of University Christian Church. In June two students from our congregation, Becky Nash and Olivia Vaché participated in a Washington, D.C , mission trip. This summer we hope to have some youth participating in the UCC National Youth Event in Knoxville in July.
- **Church Spring Retreat:** A successful retreat on spirituality was held at Slumber Falls Camp on April 27th-29th.
- **Fall Festival:** Rather than a Spring Fiesta, we had a Fall welcome-back-to-school festival on August 19th to kick off the start of Sunday school. The children helped in running the games, and the Christian Outreach Board provided a barbecue. Proceeds from the festival will be used for the school in Jerusalem of the Palestinian child that the children’s class sponsors.

- **Family Intergenerational Event:** On November 30th a party was held with the children making Christmas tree ornaments and decorating the tree in the Fellowship Room. The ornaments were later sold to raise funds for Hala Mahmoud's school in Jerusalem. (Whit Bodman knows the school and its principal, and returned from his work in the Middle East with photos of Hala.)
- **Easter:** At Eastertime, the children participated in the Palm Sunday processional, and we had the traditional Easter Egg Hunt on Easter.
- **Child Care:** Our children's nursery and child care situation has become, under the supervision of Melissa McFerrin, a place where anyone could with confidence leave a child.

The many, many persons who have volunteered in so many ways to help the Christian Education program have not been named, because this report has to be kept fairly short. But we will recognize them all on our CE Sunday in May.

The Christian Education program is a responsibility of the entire congregation, and we of the Board are merely your representatives. We take this very seriously, and would like to hear from you about how we are doing our jobs. And if I may indulge in a little special pleading, I believe that what we do is at the core of the mission of our church. In *Christ and Culture*, Richard Niebuhr suggests that the Christian church is always just one generation away from extinction: "Let education and training lapse for one generation, and the whole grand structure of past achievements falls into ruin." How this "education and training" is done, though, is critical. It is important to see, in Walter Brueggemann's terms, that this "binding of the generations" which is the essence of teaching does not constrict the younger generation but uses the open-endedness of stories to expand the minds of the next generation.

We're trying.

The Board of Christian Education.

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH BOARD

In our church's mission statement, the mission of the Christian Outreach Board comes in the fourth paragraph, "Serving God's World."

We are called to promote the integrity, justice, mercy, and peace God Intends for all creation, reaching out in ministries and partnerships of Prophetic criticism and care.

Reaching out in ministries and partnerships of prophetic criticism and care: We enlisted our congregation to reach out to the homeless and the working poor through Micah 6, our cooperative effort with other University area churches to help the disadvantaged, and by providing lunches and freeze nights shelter to needy youth.

We also volunteered with and provided funds to many other organizations, like Back Bay Mission in Mississippi, the seminaries, Slumber Falls Camp, the Texas and National and World Council of Churches, plus our own Brazos Association and South Central Conference. The Christian Outreach Budget is made up primarily of contributions to support these organization (see the proposed budget for 2008 for a complete listing).

Our contributions are not limited to money. We sponsored a men's clothing drive in cooperation with the Fig Leaf, the University Methodist Church clothes pantry, we sold Equal Exchange coffee, cocoa, tea, and chocolate for funds dedicated to Back Bay Mission, and we dedicated sweat equity to the cleaning up of the park atop Mount Bonnell.

Promoting integrity, justice, mercy and peace: We assisted Bill Beardall in his suit to collect back pay for cleaning workers at Target Stores, we sponsored a dinner for workers at a conference of the Workers Defense Project, members joined Care Communities to assist a person who needed personal care, we promoted a Sweat Free Ordinance before the Austin City Council, and one member joined the board of the Religious Coalition To Assist the Homeless, a City of Austin organization that gives funds to charity groups that provide shelter to the homeless (those funds come from the city's "drainage fees" that all churches can designate to this project).

The board has given continuing support to Creative Spirit, a new UCC church that Carla Cheatham is establishing in South Austin, and with the Christian Education Board, Christian Outreach put on the back to school fiesta, "Hala Day," at the church. The food and games kept everyone busy and happy, and the day netted \$334 for our sponsorship of Hala in her Christian school in Palestine.

Our hope for the coming year is to continue these activities, and to add a few: we would like to bring to the congregation's attention worthy organizations in Austin that could use more volunteers, and we would also like to make sure our church members know more about the organizations that their gifts are helping.

The board this year, including Sara Ross and Sharon Brown, Ben White, Dan Jeffery, and Will Heimbach, was creative in its suggestions and plans, cooperative in working on projects, and dedicated to the mission of the board. Special thanks must go to Tom VandeStadt, ever helpful with his wisdom and suggestions, to Sara Ross, our dedicated secretary, and to Sharon Brown, who opened her home to host our meetings each month.

Tommie Pinkard, Chair
Christian Outreach Board

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Verbal report will be made

Stewardship and Enlistment

CENTENNIAL PROJECT COMMITTEE

In 2004, the Board of Trustees appointed a committee to recommend a project to recognize and celebrate the 2006 centennial of construction of the congregation's first church building, which was at the corner of Colorado Street and West Ninth.

The Centennial Project Committee, composed of Rambie Briggs, Vic Appel, Dennis Murphy, Tommie Pinkard, Pam Tucker, Lincoln Binford, Tom Vandestadt and Don Brown, began meeting in September, 2004. Recognizing that the Vision Project had shown that the congregation placed great importance on making the church facility accessible to all, the Committee agreed that a Centennial Project's goals should be (1) to make the current buildings fully accessible and inviting to all and (2) to protect them against deterioration from rainwater damage.

After months of conversations with church members, the Coordinating Council, Trustees, and Evan Taniguchi, a highly-respected and talented Austin architect, the Trustees approved a contract with Mr. Taniguchi to prepare a preliminary design and cost estimates for the Centennial Project.

On May 7, 2006, the congregation approved motions by the Trustees to embark on a Centennial Project to consist of the following three stages:

- (1) Creation of an accessible restroom, a better kitchen, a nursery, more efficient storage; installation of a safe wheelchair ramp; prevention and repair of rainwater damage to the building; easier access to the front entrance through a more attractive garden area;
- (2) Making the exterior of the church much more attractive to all comers;
- (3) Installation of an elevator for vertical accessibility from the choir room level to the third floor, along with lifts to enable wheelchair movement from the choir room to the Appel room.

The congregation approved the commitment of at least \$30,000 from the capital fund to the cost of Stage 1, and of at least \$5000 to each of Stages 2 and 3. The Trustees and the Board of Deacons allocated additional funds from several sources. The congregation responded generously with pledges and contributions, enabling work on Stage 1 of the project to begin in August, 2006.

By January, 2007, after completion of the new kitchen, restroom, nursery, storage area, renovated children's play area and measures to protect against rainwater damage, it was clear that more funding would be needed for the walkways, ramps, drainage improvements, and beautification of the garden area and entrances to the church building. In March 2007, the congregation agreed to invite additional contributions to finish Stage 1. Pledges and donations again poured forth.

Consequently, thanks to the fine work and generosity of the congregation, architects, contractor, subcontractors, minister, church staff and friends, Stage 1 was completed in December 2007. The total cost was approximately \$140,000.

The next steps in the Centennial Project will be to hold a celebration of the completion of Stage 1 and to decide when to embark on Stages 2 and 3.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE TO THE JANUARY 2008 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN (UCC), AUSTIN, TEXAS.

At the Annual Meeting in January 2007, a complete slate of nominations was presented to the congregation by the Nominating Committee for approval. The slate was approved unanimously.

During 2007, a resignation from the Board of Trustees and another from the Board of Christian Education created vacancies that were filled during the year. In the fall, two individuals announced that they would be unable to continue to serve in 2008. This left vacancies, beginning in 2008 on the Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee. A new slate, prepared for presentation at the 2008 Annual Meeting, contains nominees for these two positions.

The new slate of nominations proposed for approval by the congregation at the January 2008 Annual Meeting is contained in the appended table. The table shows incumbents whose terms continue, as well as nominees to fill vacancies (see footnotes to the Table). Terms of service are also shown.

All positions that are to become open immediately after the end of 2007 are shown as filled either by continuing incumbents or by willing nominees with one exception. A nominee was not sought for the position of Superintendent of Christian Education, as shown in the table, since the job description is under review by the Board of Christian Education. That Board and the Moderator requested that the position be left unfilled pending the results of the study.

Two classes of one-year term positions, (2) and (3) in the Table are shown. This is a change in format from last year and reflects the fact that while some external boards may have terms of two or more years, our Bylaws only provide for the election of our members to either three- or one-year terms. Under our Bylaws, incumbents of all one-year term positions can be re-elected without a waiting period. Electing members to one-year terms and later re-electing them makes it possible to have representatives on external boards without having to change our Bylaws whenever the external organizations change their terms of service.

The Nominating Committee submits this report to the congregation and thanks those who assisted the Committee in securing nominees. The Committee also thanks the nominees, themselves, for being willing to serve as shown..

Respectfully submitted in January 2008 by the Nominating Committee:

Paul Deisler, Chair.
Mathis Blackstock, Secretary and
John Burlinson, Member

NOMINEES AND CONTINUING INCUMBENTS, JAN. 2008			
Board, Committee or Position	Members, Terms Ending at the Annual Meeting Following The End of:		
	2010	2009	2008
(1) THREE YEAR TERMS			
Moderator		John Goff	
Clerk			Jesse Binford
Board of Trustees	Jim Howicz	Steve Domingue (p)	Reuel Nash
	Rhys Ulerich	Don Brown	James Hadley (p)
Board of Deacons	Greg Futch	Marilyn Vaché	Betty Bodman
	Bill Beardall	Barbara Burnham	Dennis Murphy
Board of Christian Outreach	Tina Tapia	Ben White	Will Heimbach (p)
	Don Miles	Dan Jeffrey	Sharon Brown
Board of Christian Education	Liz Nash	Doyal Pinkard	Jen Howicz (p)
	Bill Phillips	Paula Fracasso	Nancy Edison
Nominating Committee	Vic Appel	Sara Ross (p)	Mathis Blackstock
(2) ONE YEAR TERMS			
Treasurer	_____	_____	David Ross
Financial Sec'y	_____	_____	Pam Tucker
Coord. Council, Member at Large	_____	_____	Robin Chapman
	_____	_____	
Superintendent Christian Education	_____	_____	Left open pending study completion.

Board, Committee or Position	Members, Terms Ending at the Annual Meeting Following The End of:		
	2010	2009	2008
(2) ONE YEAR TERMS -- CONTINUED			
Enlistment and Stewardship Committee	_____	_____	Fran Briggs,
	_____	_____	Frances Alford,
	Plus one member of the Board of Trustees appointed by that Board.		
Historian	_____	_____	Whit Bodman
Austin Area Interreligious Ministries	_____	_____	Whit Bodman
	_____	_____	Suzanne Vanderpoel
University Area Partners	_____	_____	Lynn Lemley
Delegate to South Central Conf.	_____	_____	Will Helmbadh
(3) ONE YEAR TERMS (WITH EXTERNAL TERMS OF TWO OR MORE YEARS* LENGTH)			
Delegate, Brazos Assn. Ex. Com*	_____	_____	Tom VandeStadt⁽¹⁾
Delegate to Micah 6 Board*	_____	_____	Suzanne Vanderpoel⁽²⁾
<p>Arial Font: Incumbents whose terms continue through 2008 or beyond.</p> <p>Arial Black Font: Nominees who have agreed to serve</p> <p>(p): Individuals serving or to serve a partial term</p> <p>(1) External term, 2 years. Rev. VandeStadt to serve first external year.</p> <p>(2) External term, increased to 3 years. Suzanne Vanderpoel to serve first external year</p>			