

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

2015

Annual Report

Congregational Church
Of Austin



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

2015 Annual Report

Congregational Church Of Austin, United Church of Christ

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agenda:		3
Minutes:	Annual Meeting 2015	4-5
	Congregational Meetings	6-7
	Nominating Committee Report	8
Reports		
	Pastor	9
	Financial Secretary	10
	Clerk (Vital Statistics)	11
	Treasurer	12-14
	Proposed Budget, 2016	15-18
Boards and Committees		
	Board of Deacons	19-20
	Board of Trustees	21-22
	Board of Christian Outreach	23
	Moderator	24-25



Annual Meeting Agenda

Congregational Church Of Austin, United Church of Christ

January 31, 2016

1. Invocation
2. Minutes
3. Pastor's Report
4. Deacons' Report
5. Trustees' Report
Financial Status of the Church
6. Financial Secretary Report
7. Treasurer
Report
Adoption of Budget
8. Open Carry Law Response
9. Nominating Committee
Report
Election of Boards, Officers, and Representatives
10. Moderator Report
11. New Business
12. Adjourn

One verse of "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Annual Meeting Minutes

Congregational Church Of Austin, United Church of Christ

January 25, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 12:25 by Bill Beardall, moderating at Barbara Burnham's request.

Tom shared a poem and a prayer.

A quorum existed, counted by Jaime Hadley.

The 2014 annual meeting minutes were approved.

John Goff moved the approval of recommended changes to shrink size of governance by eliminating Christian Ed Board and Outreach Board (Articles IX and X of the Constitution of CCA and of the bylaws). It was seconded and approved.

Reuel Nash moved the elimination of the Music Committee and Stewardship Committee with the explanation that the functions will continue to exist. It was seconded and approved.

John Goff gave the Trustees' report on the condition of our facility. (See agenda material.)

Coordinating Council proposed several personnel policies including sick and family leave.

The motion by Jason Parkhill to accept the Trustees' report was seconded by Gail Christeson and Pat Oakes, and approved.


In Pam Tucker's absence, Gail Christeson gave the Financial Secretary's report.

Dave Ross said he didn't understand one table of report. Misalignment of columns might be the cause. Don Miles moved approval, which was seconded by John Goff. Motion included adjustment of columns to create accurate table. Motion was approved.

Gail Christeson presented the Treasurer's report, which describes performance of investments, balances in various funds, like General Fund, and other financial items. Gail describes changes in the structure of report to simplify and add some categories.

(See attached report)

Motion of acceptance of Treasurer's Report was made by John Burlinson, seconded by Jaime Hadley, and approved.



The proposed 2015 budget was outlined by Gail. Proposal included an approximate two-percent increase in budget, including \$1000 for Labyrinth, and a three-percent raise for all employees. UCC contributes to the World Council of Churches, so CCA's contribution was removed from the budget.

The motion to approve by Don Miles was seconded by Rambie Briggs and approved.

A motion by Dave Ross to commend Pam and Gail on instituting standard accounting procedures in financial reports was endorsed by a round of applause.

Nominating Committee report was presented by Reuel Nash, who expressed thanks to Sharon Brown and Tom Vandestadt for contributions to the nominating process.

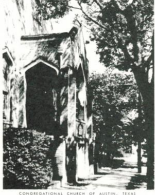
Sharon mentioned absence of nominee for University Area Partners. Tom recommended having a link to UAP, since all important issues in church's neighborhood go through it. John Burlinson volunteered to take the position. Sarah Ross moved approval of the modified Nominating Committee Report and Jaime Hadley seconded it. Motion was approved with spelling corrections proposed by Pat Oakes.

A motion by Greg Futch to approve remaining reports was seconded by Lynne Lemley and approved.

Bill Beardall gave thanks on behalf of congregation to Barbara Burnham for her work as Moderator.

Jaime Hadley reported 41 in attendance, including 37 members.

Pat Oakes moved that we adjourn. The motion was seconded by several members, followed by unanimous approval and by singing "Blessed be the Tie that Binds."



Meeting Minutes

Congregational Church Of Austin, United Church of Christ

Congregational Meeting
September 27, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 12:21 p.m. by Bill Beardall.

The number of members in attendance was 40.

Three items were named for the agenda:

1. Funding for support of the Palestinian school child
2. How to use a monetary gift given to the church
3. A congregational vote on the acceptance of Nettie Reynolds to be in-discernment with our congregation

Item #1: Funding for the support of the Palestinian school child

At present funding for the support of the school child is done through the sales of Equal Exchange products although the sales are not sufficient to the need. Roughly \$300 a year is required and the sales have been \$200 over 2 years. Reuel Nash proposes four alternatives:

- Stop the support
- Put the funding into the budget
- Hold special events to raise funds
- Sell more Equal Exchange products.

During the discussion, the Palestinian School where the child attends was described; it is located in Jerusalem and has both Christian and Muslim students who receive a good education although the school is constantly under stress.

The congregation rejected the ideas of stopping funding or putting the item into the budget. Funding will be accomplished by:

- Using special events such as the Talent Show as fund raising
- Increase the sale of Equal Exchange products by increasing the frequency of sales and the publicity for the items.
 - Marilyn Vaché volunteered to help with sales.
 - Whit Bodman will talk about the school twice a year to keep the congregation aware of this mission work
 - Annie Nash will make a flyer about the sale of items for the school
- Reconnect the Sunday school children with the Palestinian child

Item #2: Uses for the monetary gift.

Don Brown related the history of the undesignated gift of \$50,000 which was given about 2 years ago. At the time of the gift there were significant concerns about the integrity of the church structures. Part of this gift was used to address those concerns leaving about \$41,000.

Now proposals for use of the remaining money may be made using the following process:

- Anyone with an idea of how the funds should be used will complete a form prepared by the Trustees. The form asks for a complete description of the project including estimated costs, length of time for completion and naming who will be responsible for making sure the project is overseen and completed.
- The form should be submitted by October 31st either by giving the form to the church office manager or by putting the form into the offering plate.
- An ad hoc committee of 4-5 people will evaluate the proposals and make recommendations to the Trustees.
- The trustees will make the final decision about which project(s) will be carried out.

Forms were distributed to the congregation and will also be available electronically.

Item #3: Acceptance of Nettie Reynolds to be in-discernment

Nettie Reynolds, an Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary student, joined the church last month and hopes to be ordained in the UCC. A part of the ordination process is to be in-discernment (previously referred to as "in-care") with a congregation who will guide and help the prospective ordinand through this process. Nettie is currently working as a chaplain on Sunday mornings, which limits her ability to worship with us Sunday mornings, but a group of our members (Barbara Burnham, Jo Jenson, Debbie Kohrt and Cecile Adam) has already agreed to work with her. Pat Oakes moved to allow Nettie Reynolds to be taken in-discernment. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Vaché.

There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Pat Oakes made a motion to adjourn and the meeting ended at 12:50 p.m. with the singing of "Blessed be the Tie that Binds."



Nominating Committee Report

Congregational Church Of Austin, United Church of Christ

Position	2018	2017	2016
THREE YEAR TERMS			
Moderator			Barbara Burnham
Clerk			Betty Bodman
Board of Trustees	Jim Howicz	Don Brown	
	Kevin Dietz		Lynne Lemley
Board of Deacons	Marilyn Vache	Jason Parkhill	Jen Howicz
	Jo Jensen	Debby Kohrt	Janet Burns
Outreach Coordinators		Reuel Nash	
		John Goff	
Nominating Committee	Jamie Hadley	Cecile Adam	Reuel Nash
ONE YEAR TERMS			
	2016		
Treasurer	Gail Christeson		
Financial Secretary	Pam Tucker		
Crd Cncl Mem at large	Bill Beardall		
Christian Education Coordinator	Rachel Dietz		
Youth Sunday School Coordinator	John Burlinson		
Historian	Pat Oaks (with Mel)		
University Area Partners	John Burlinson		
Delegate South Central Conference	Kristen Parkhill		
ONE YEAR TERMS (with external terms of two or more years length)			
Heart of Texas Association, HoT	Sara Ross		
Delegate Micah 6	Whit Bodman		
(p) Individuals serving a partial term			
<i>Italics indicate new or reappointed positions</i>			

Respectfully submitted,
 CCA Nominating Committee
 Sara Ross



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Pastor Report

Congregational Church Of Austin, United Church of Christ

I suspect that many people in the church don't really know what I do throughout the year. This year, I've decided to make a simple list of what I do for the church and on behalf of the church in the community. These are things that came immediately to mind as I started writing. There may be other things I left off. Anyway, in 2015, my work as pastor included the following:

- Working with Nodie Murphy to plan worship themes and music.
- Preparing the worship bulletins and writing sermons.
- Leading worship and preaching.
- Reading books and journals.
- Preparing and officiating at three funerals and one wedding.
- Meeting with people to discuss personal and spiritual issues.
- Meeting with prospective new members of the church.
- Visiting people in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and nursing homes.
- Writing pieces for the Visitor.
- Preparing the weekly e-news.
- Leading the church meditation group.
- Preparing for and leading the church discipleship group.
- Meeting with the Trustees, Deacons, and Coordinating Council.
- Meeting with the Green Team.
- Meeting with the Homeless Ministry team.
- Working with Lifeworks and other city and county service providers and advocacy groups on the homelessness issue.
- Preparing a report on homeless services in the West Campus neighborhood for ECHO.
- Attending several University-Area Partners meetings to discuss the homelessness issue.
- Participating in the University-Area clergy group.
- Participating in the Austin Interfaith Clergy Caucus.
- Serving on the Austin Interfaith Strategy Team.
- Participating in Austin Interfaith meetings with the Mayor and members of the City Council.
- Offering reflections and giving talks at Faith Energy Action Team events.
- Serving on the Interfaith Environmental Network Board.
- Co-leading Interfaith Environmental Network public events.
- Serving as a Board member of Biointegrity.
- Preparing for and leading a discussion on the Pope's encyclical on climate change.
- Speaking at Texas Against the Death Penalty events and press conferences.
- Serving as a Board member of Labyrinth Student Ministry.
- Attending Labyrinth student ministry worship services and other events.
- Working with Jo Jensen and Cecile Adam to plan the 2016 Lenten series.
- Serving as seminary student Andrew Young's advisor.
- Helping Nettie Reynolds begin the In-Discernment process.
- Other miscellaneous things like shopping at Costco for supplies, going to the Heart of Texas Association fall meeting, working on the Syrian refugee letter project, ordering Equal Exchange coffee, sorting out the donated socks, locking the church doors and gates after worship most Sundays...things like that.

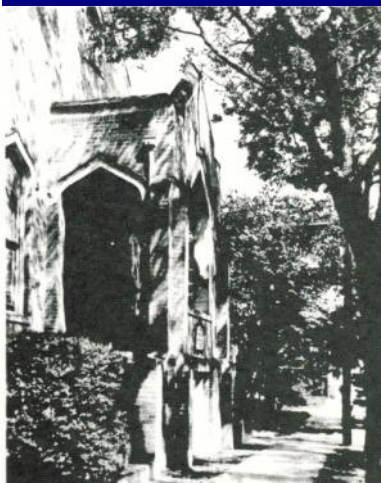


Financial Secretary Report

Congregational Church Of Austin, United Church of Christ

INCOME	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	
BUDGET	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Predicted	
Pledged, Unpledged, Loose Plate	205,091	205,514	205,682	203,145	180,020	<small>based on pledged amount and 2015 unpledged and loose plate</small>
Lifeworks Rent	22,600	22,350	26,650	24,600	25,200	
Misc Rent & Rebates	2,030	4,485	5,603	1,215	1,215	
TOTAL INCOME TO BUDGET	229,721	232,349	237,935	228,960	206,435	
APPROVED BUDGET	<u>232,489</u>	<u>237,145</u>	<u>243,313</u>	<u>248,162</u>	<u>252,279</u>	<small>Proposed (12 month basis)</small>
Difference	-2,768	-4,796	-5,378	-19,202	-45,844	
 NON-BUDGET						
EXPENSE RECOVERY						
Lifeworks Utilities			2,215	1,652		
Reimbursements (background check, etc.)			319	139		
Subtotal			2,534	1,791		
 DESIGNATED LOCAL						
Capital (Lifeworks, other rent)			7,850	7,800		
Memorial, Flower & other funds			15,758	6,125		
Subtotal			23,608	13,925		
 DESIGNATED OUTREACH						
Christmas Fund			347	536		
Equal Exchange			716	1,181		
Neighbors in Need			0	739		
OCWM			450	0		
OGHS			570	302		
Strengthen the Church			175	522		
All other pass through items			6,306	1,700		
Subtotal			8,564	4,980		
 TOTAL INCOME			 272,641	 249,656		

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Tucker
Financial Secretary



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Clerk's Report

Congregational Church Of Austin, United Church of Christ

Total membership, January 1, 2015

97

Received into membership by confirmation, affirmation of faith or letter of transfer:

Loren Stell
Gibson Hartsock
Chuck Jackson
Barbara Johnson
Nettie Reynolds
Natasha Wright

Returned to active membership roster:

Carol Burlinson
John Burlinson

Total additions 2015:

+8

Losses from membership by death:

-1
Marie Scheel

Losses from transfer of membership:

-2
Rhys Ulrich
Michelle Thompson

Total losses 2015:

-3

Total membership December 31, 2015

102

Total members living outside 100 miles of the church: 10

Funerals:

Marie Scheel
Paul Deisler

Baptisms:

Abigail Lytle

Marriages:

Colin Ferguson and Elisabet Mateos
Robert J. King and April L. Olivarez (service performed by Jo Jensen)

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Bodman

Clerk



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Treasurer Report and Budget Proposal

Congregational Church Of Austin, United Church of Christ

The church has a checking account and investments with the United Church Funds (UCF), which invests in socially responsible stocks and bonds. Our financial status is mixed. We have about \$150,000 in designated funds (non-budget items). However, our budget assets (General Fund) have decreased compared to 2014. Expenses (\$244,865) closely matched our budget (\$248,162) for the year, coming in at 99% of our total budget. Unfortunately income to budget (\$228,960) did not keep pace. The UCF fund had losses of ~\$6,500 for the year as of 12/28/2015. Not surprisingly, the general fund is down ~\$18,500 for the year.

Assets (12/31/2015)

Checking Account	\$22,456
<u>UCF Funds</u>	<u>\$161,420</u>
Total	\$183,876

Liabilities (12/31/2015)

Lifeworks Security Deposit	\$2,100
<u>Payroll Liabilities (IRS)</u>	<u>\$1,653</u>
Total	\$3,753

Fund Totals

Account	Dec 31, 2015	Dec 31, 2014	Change
General Fund	\$33,849	\$52,359	-\$18,510
General Endowment	\$47,961	\$46,376	\$1,585
Special Donation	\$41,123	\$44,744	-\$3,621
Capital Fund	\$26,508	\$36,960	-\$10,452
Memorial Fund	\$12,213	\$15,813	-\$3,600
Centennial Fund	\$0	\$13,925	-\$13,925
Isabelle Cole Endowment	\$10,058	\$10,000	\$58
Sabbatical Fund	\$6,835	\$6,050	\$785
Miscellaneous Totals	\$5,329	\$7,386	-\$2,057
Total	\$183,876	\$233,613	-\$49,737

Account notes for the past year:

- The McNeely Fund has been renamed ‘General Endowment,’ and includes endowment donations from other sources.
- The Trustees agreed that the objectives of the Centennial project have been achieved. The remaining funds in the Centennial Fund were transferred to the Capital Fund.

Detailed Account Listing, 12/31/2015

Checking Account	
General Fund	22,161
Equal Exchange	295
UCF Total Equity	
General Endowment	47,961
Isabelle Cole Endowment	10,058
Capital Fund	7,452
UCF Moderate Balanced	
General Fund	11,688
Capital Fund	19,056
Sabbatical Fund	6,835
Special Donation	41,123
Memorial Fund	12,213
Music Fund	2,619
Fine Arts Fund	748
Deacons Emergency Fund	1,350
Deacons Remembrance Fund	317

2015 Major Non-Budget Expenditures (Includes \$13,711 Insurance Check)

Expenditures	Amount	Fund
Building Repairs / Improvements	\$39,656	Capital/Special Donation/Insurance
Energy Efficiency	\$9,220	Capital/Memorial
Memorial Window	\$1,800	Memorial

2015 Pass-through Items. From designated giving and offerings

Organization/Offering	Amount	Comment
Bibles & Hymnals	\$81	Spent funds remaining from 2014
Christmas Fund	\$246	UCC Offering
El Salvador Program	\$1,562	Spent funds remaining from 2014
Equal Justice Center	\$200	Mini-golf sponsorship
Neighbors in Need	\$489	UCC Offering
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$302	UCC Offering
Sleeping Bag Ministry	\$440	Spent funds remaining from 2014
Strengthen the Church	\$522	UCC Offering
Youth Mission Trip	\$1,050	Yard sale and misc, salsa sales, donation

2015 Budget vs. Expenses and 2016 Budget Proposal

Expenses for 2015 were \$3,297 under budget (expenses were 99% of budget).

Item	2015 Budget	2015 Actual	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Pastoral Leadership				
Pastor Salary	62,823	62,823	0	100
Pastoral Housing Allowance	25,000	25,000	0	100
Pastoral Annuity	12,296	12,022	-274	98
Pastoral Family Insurance	1,317	1,327	10	101
Pastoral Continuing Education	500	630	130	126
Pastoral Travel Expenses	1,260	1,130	-130	90
Pastoral Leadership Subtotal	103,196	102,932	-264	100
Cooperative Responsibilities				
Our Church's Wider Mission	14,500	14,500	0	100
Micah 6	3,300	3,300	0	100
Ministry to Homeless	2,200	2,636	436	120
Austin Interfaith	2,100	2,100	0	100
Back Bay Mission	1,100	1,100	0	100
Labyrinth	1,000	1,000	0	100
Brazos Association Dues	485	485	0	100
Interfaith Action of Central TX	600	600	0	100
Interfaith Environmental Net.	600	600	0	100
Regional Seminary Support	500	500	0	100
Huston-Tillotson University	500	500	0	100
Green Team	500	0	-500	0
Equal Justice Center	500	500	0	100
Religious Coalition Homeless	497	502	5	101
UCC LGBT Coalition	200	200	0	100
Slumber Falls Camp	200	200	0	100
Texas Impact	100	100	0	100
National Council of Churches	100	100	0	100
Cooperative Responsibilities Subtotal	29,982	28,923	-59	100

Item	2015 Budget	2015 Actual	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Local Church Programs				
Office Manager Salary	17,460	18,035	575	103
Custodian Salary*	16,488	16,227	-261	98
Musician Salaries	13,471	13,703	232	102
Choral Director Salary	7,922	7,922	0	100
Sunday School Teacher Salary	5,500	5,359	0	100
Nursery Attendant Salary	2,800	2,290	-510	82
Payroll Expenses (FICA etc)	4,833	4,717	-116	98
Sabbatical Fund	1,020	1,020	0	100
Workers Compensation	1,709	1,571	-138	92
Choral Director Continuing Ed	1,000	310	-690	31
Speaker Stipends	1,050	600	-450	57
Pastors Discretionary Fund	800	317	-483	40
Youth Teacher	500	0	-500	0
Adult Education Coordinator	300	300	0	100
Mileage	325	96	-229	30
Parking	3,600	3,600	0	100
Christian Education	1,500	677	-823	45
Deacons Discretionary	1,200	1,293	93	108
UCC Meeting	700	878	178	125
Fun and Fellowship	650	483	-167	74
Music for Worship	500	311	-189	62
Safety Policy Implementation	50	26	-24	52
Utilities	14,010	14,187	177	101
Insurance	9,046	9,046	0	100
Property Maintenance	6,000	7,721	1,721	128
Supplies	2,950	1,804	-1,146	61
Accounting Expenses	600	517	-83	86
Local Church Programs Subtotal	115,984	113,190	-2,974	97
Total Budget	248,162	244,865	-3,297	99

2016 Budget Proposal (SIX MONTHS ONLY)

The Local Budget is administered through the General Fund, which had a balance on December 31, 2015 of \$33,849. Making use of input from all boards, teams and the Coordinating Council, the Trustees offer the 2016 budget proposal. 2% salary increases are offered to all employees.

Item	2015 Budget	2016 Request	% Change	2016 Request
	12 mo basis	12 mo basis		6 mo basis
Pastoral Leadership				
Pastor Salary	62,823	64,610	3	32,305
Pastoral Housing Allowance	25,000	25,000	0	12,500
Pastoral Annuity	12,296	12,545	2	6,273
Pastoral Family Insurance	1,317	1,344	2	672
Pastoral Cont. Ed. & Travel ¹	1,760	1,760	0	880
Pastoral Leadership Subtotal	103,196	105,260	2	52,630
Cooperative Responsibilities				
Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)	14,500	14,500	0	7,250
Micah 6	3,300	3,300	0	1,650
Ministry to Homeless ²	2,200	2,600	18	1,300
Austin Interfaith	2,100	2,100	0	1,050
Back Bay Mission	1,100	1,100	0	550
Labyrinth	1,000	1,000	0	550
Austin Interfaith Environmental	600	600	0	300
Interfaith Action Central TX	600	600	0	300
Religious Coalition Homeless ³	497	525	6	263
Equal Justice Center	500	500	0	250
Huston-Tillotson University	500	500	0	250
Regional Seminary Support	500	500	0	250
Brazos Association Dues ⁴	485	505	4	252
Slumber Falls Camp	200	200	0	100
UCC Open Affirming Coalition	200	200	0	100

Item	2015 Budget	2016 Request	% Change	2016 Request
	12 mo basis	12 mo basis		6 mo basis
Green Team ⁵	500	100	-80	50
National Council of Churches	100	100	0	50
Texas Impact	100	100	0	50
Cooperative Responsibilities Subtotal	28,982	29,030	0.2	14,515
Local Church Programs				
Office Manager Salary ⁶	17,460	19,094	9	9,547
Custodian Salary	16,488	16,761	2	8,381
Musician Salaries ⁶	13,471	13,859	3	6,929
Choral Director Salary	7,922	8,080	2	4,040
Sunday School Teacher Salary	5,500	5,610	2	2,805
Nursery Attendant Salary ⁶	2,800	2,519	-10	1,260
Payroll Expenses (FICA, etc.)	4,833	5,005	4	2,502
Sabbatical Fund	1,020	1,020	0	510
Workers Compensation	1,709	1,709	0	855
Choral Director Continuing Ed	1,000	1,000	0	500
Speaker Stipends	1,050	1,050	0	525
Pastors Discretionary Fund	800	800	0	400
Youth Teacher	500	500	0	250
Adult Education Coordinator	300	300	0	150
Parking	3,600	3,600	0	1,800
Christian Education	1,500	1,500	0	750
Deacons Discretionary	1,200	1,200	0	600
UCC Meeting	700	700	0	350
Fun and Fellowship	650	650	0	325
Music for Worship	500	500	0	250
Utilities	14,010	14,010	0	7005

Item	2015 Budget	2016 Request	% Change	2016 Request
	12 mo basis	12 mo basis		6 mo basis
Insurance	9,046	9,046	0	4,523
Property Maintenance	6,000	6,000	0	3,000
Supplies	2,950	2,500	-15	1,250
Admin Expenses ⁷	975	975	0	487
Local Church Programs Subtotal	115,984	117,989	1.7	58,995
Total Budget	248,162	252,279	1.7	126,140

¹Combine Pastoral Continuing Education and Travel into one category

²Increase based on 2015 expenses

³Paid in lieu of the city drainage fee; rate set by city

⁴Dues are \$5/member for 101 members

⁵No expenses in 2014

⁶Proposed 2% increase based on actual 2015 hours and salary

⁷Combine mileage, safety policy implementation, accounting expenses into one category



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Board of Deacons Report

Congregational Church Of Austin, United Church of Christ

The Deacons began 2015 at full steam with all members of the 2014 board continuing, so lost no momentum in moving forward with planning and activities in the New Year.

One of the highlights of the year was scheduling several orientation meetings for visitors and prospective church members. With the guidance of Pastor Tom and the Oakes' providing a historical background, we were able to share the varied beliefs, missions and activities of the church as well as our own personal thoughts and visions. We welcomed several new members to the church family during 2015 and feel the orientation sessions helped acquaint them to our church family and make an informed decision about joining. These sessions will continue to be scheduled throughout 2016.


The Deacons helped Tom once again in the planning and preparation for the annual Easter Sunrise Service at Ladybird Lake as well as preparations for the Easter service in the sanctuary. It was decided after several discussions to discontinue the Sunrise Services going forward, due to minimal interest and participation over the past few years.

Another highlight of the year was the presentation of new, personalized Bibles to our young people reaching certain educational milestones. This year we were happy to present to Juliet and Scarlett Quisenberry as well as John and Francesca Dietz.

The Fellowship Hour after worship has continued to be a very important part of Sunday mornings, and is a wonderful time to visit more casually with others. It is also a great time to get to know our visitors and newest members as they become more involved. The Deacons have continued to organize and host this time of fellowship; with supplies provided by the church and generous contributions of many, we have had quite a feast at times! In addition to the Deacons, there are always a number of people pitching in to help with this special fellowship time, making coffee, preparing the food, and staying to assist with cleanup afterwards, and more. The people that help with contributions and assistance are such a great support to the Deacons, and without their participation our jobs would be much more difficult!

In addition to the Sunday Fellowship Hour we have hosted many celebrations and receptions this year, all of which we could not do on our own. The generosity of the church family on these occasions makes these gatherings possible.

A priority for the Deacons has been the "shepherding" of church members and friends by way of maintaining contact with those who are unable attend regularly, reaching out to those in need, and generally ensuring all that the church family is thinking of them and here for them. Toward the end of the year we realized the need reduce the number of tasks on our agenda to what



we can truly do well, enabling us to put more focus on our shepherding efforts. We will carry this focus into 2016.

Of course we depend on and so appreciate the support, guidance and wisdom that our Pastor, Rev. Tom Van-deStadt, has provided. Many, many thanks to Tom and all of those who have assisted us in so many ways this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Burns, Chair
Board of Deacons



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Board of Trustees Report

Congregational Church Of Austin, United Church of Christ

The purpose of the Board of Trustees is “. . .to provide for the care, custody and growth of the assets of the Congregational Church of Austin,” and to be responsible for all legal, financial and related matters.” The membership of the Board consists of the Pastor, Treasurer, Financial Secretary and six members elected from the Congregation.

In 2015, the Board of Trustees carried out its responsibilities in the following areas:

Energy efficiency: Established an ad hoc committee to study energy usage and opportunities to increase the energy efficiency of our building; added insulation to the ceilings of the Fellowship Hall and third floor of the Educational Annex; re-programmed thermostats; installed solar film on windows in appropriate windows; subscribed to Austin Energy’s Load Profiler to obtain ongoing information that may enable us to take further steps to increase efficiency. Total expenditures were \$9,200.
Repair and prevention of damage by flooding from rainfall: Arranged for repair and sealing of walls and windows in Appel Room and walls and ceilings in Cave and second floor classroom; tile replacement on roof of third floor; and sealing of exterior brick at several locations; submitted insurance claim for damages and obtained about \$13,700 thousand in settlement. Total repairs or improvements were \$39,356.


Building security: Conducted walk-through security analysis with Austin Police Department officer; increased exterior nighttime lighting; installed “no trespassing” signs; closed exterior electrical outlets; trimmed branches that obscured nighttime visibility of building.

Open carry of guns: Obtained and discussed information on options available to churches. Report will be made at Annual Meeting.

Use of Gift Funds: Initiated a process to identify projects that could be supported in whole or part by the gift from a very generous donor to help the Congregational Church of Austin serve its mission. Invited proposals and appointed an ad hoc committee of members to review and The Board rank them in terms of priority and support for the mission. Board will announce the results early in 2016.

Policy on use of Church building for events: Established a Facility Use Agreement to be used when approval is given to an outside group to use a part or parts of the Church facility.

Investment Policy: Established an investment policy several years ago that has been amended several times in order to pursue its goal of strengthening the long-term financial ability of the church to carry out its mission. This year, the Trustees amended the policy to ensure that endowment funds will be allocated to the United Church Foundation’s Equity Fund and that funds other than en-



dowment funds will be allocated to the UCF Moderate Balanced Fund. Approved another amendment to calculate the annual spending from endowment accounts at 4 percent of the 5 year rolling average account value.

Annual Budget Recommendation: Each year, the Trustees recommend an annual operating budget based on the excellent Financial Secretary Report and the Treasurer Report. Because of projections that income for the 2016 budget will decline, the Board of Trustees is recommending (1)only a budget for the first six months of 2016, and that we continue to examine ways to bring income to budget into line with projected expenditures by June when we would need to adopt a budget for the remaining six months of 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Trustees: Lynne Lemley; Whit Bodman; Pam Tucker; Gail Christeson; Tom Vandestadt; Bill Campbell, Co-Chairperson; Don Brown; Co-Chairperson.



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Christian Outreach Report

Congregational Church Of Austin, United Church of Christ

The Youth Program is oriented towards young people of middle- and high-school age. It consists of three primary aspects:

Worship – youth Sunday School is held every Sunday when school is in session, except for the first Sunday of the month, when communion is served. The youth from CCA partnered with youth from University Baptist Church to conduct a Youth Worship Service to a joint congregation. Young people performed all roles in the order of service, including scripture reading, time with children, delivering the sermons and administering the sacraments. The Church is also home to a Street Youth Ministry program run by Terry Cole, which offers Bible Study every Tuesday for homeless young people.

Fellowship – Youth from CCA join with youth from UBC on a weekly basis to engage in fun and productive activities after worship services.

Service – This joint youth group performs service projects of many kinds during the after-worship get-togethers. In addition, the youth participated with many other congregations in a Youth Mission Trip to the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Adult education is an ongoing priority for the Church, including:

Adult Sunday school classes are held before worship services every Sunday except during the Summer months.

Throughout the year, seminars are held to promote spiritual development.

This past year, seminars were provided by Dr. Van Herd, Dr. Whitney Bodman and pastor Tom Vandestadt.

The Church hosted a number of forums with a variety of topics of social and community interest.

Sunday School and Nursery Programs

The Sunday School program continued to flourish in 2015 under the leadership and guidance of teacher Amy Rivera. Students enjoyed fellowship and learning, including a special research project about the problem of child labor in the chocolate industry. The Sunday school students presented their findings to the congregation during a Sunday service and offered samples of fair trade chocolate during the fellowship hour. The students also helmed the fair trade coffee and chocolate sales for the day.

The young visitors to the nursery continued to enjoy the loving care of Nursery teacher Tiffany Garland.

Respectfully submitted,
John Burlinson, Rachel Dietz
Christian Outreach



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Moderator Report

Congregational Church Of Austin, United Church of Christ


Our Coordinating Council has had a busy and interesting year. As in 2014, we have applied our energies to larger issues within the church and community, or “visioning” topics.

A major focus in 2015 has been the issue of homeless people—both in the City of Austin and around our church community. As you will recall, we began to have a large presence of older homeless people, who came from downtown Austin around The Arch and camped on our lawn and the areas around other University area churches. The effect for a while was profound, with large quantities of trash, drug use, unsanitary conditions, and conflicts. The University area businesses put pressure on our church, in particular, as they believed that our mission with Lifeworks clientele invited more homeless persons to live on our door step. At one point, we were threatened with code violations based on the generally unsanitary conditions around our church. Many members of the congregation joined in these concerns.

Although our relations with the City of Austin police have been tense at times, we have partnered with them to enforce our no trespassing policy. Members of the Board of Trustees and others of our members have been working more closely with homeless residents to enlist their aid in keeping the church environment clean, and to ensure that we have a close relationship with those whom it is our mission to serve. We have also had strong representation at University Area Partners meetings to inform the business community about our continuing commitment to serve Lifeworks clients, as well as to advocate for people who live on the streets in the city. Our efforts have been a collaboration among the Pastor, Homeless Ministry Team, Trustees, University Area Partners representative, and the Coordinating Council.

A second important focus of the Coordinating Council in 2015 was our welcoming ministry, brought to our attention by the Board of Deacons. The Coordinating Council discussed our current welcoming ministry, and how we might extend our efforts to an even more meaningful “inreach” to people who are new to the church or visiting for the first time. To this end, we have held meetings with the Coordinating Council and the Welcoming Team members, to share with one another what the church means to us, so that we could articulate that to people who are new to our church in a more personal way. We will continue that process in 2016.

Another focus of Coordinating Council meetings has been on the issue of immigration and justice. Based on discussions within the Coordinating Council, Co-Moderator Bill Beardall organized another immigration forum on May 31. This was an opportunity for our congregation and the wider community to be apprised of developments concerning the detention of undocumented persons and to join in advocacy to redress many of the complications of this process.



An additional area of involvement has been assuming the responsibility for a candidate “in discernment” (formerly “in care”). The Coordinating Council appointed a committee of three church members to support Nettie Reynolds, now in discernment with this congregation.

Finally, the Coordinating Council recently discussed ways to improve our Outreach ministries and, more generally, how to support our congregation in contributing to the various activities of the church. This also involves moving away from the Pastor as the initial “go-to” person with regard to Outreach, and strengthening the role of the Outreach Co-Coordinator to help initiate or solve problems with regard to the Outreach teams and ministry. We also decided to reinstitute the Outreach Moment each month, to acquaint the congregation with current activities and potentially open up opportunities for other church members to be involved.

We intend to continue to oversee these ministries in the coming year, and to address other visioning topics as we identify them.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Burnham
Bill Beardall
Co-Moderators