

**2017**  
**ANNUAL REPORTS**

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST,  
CONGREGATIONAL**

**VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA**

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## **PROPOSED AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING**

January 28, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER by the Moderator, Pat Flanigan  
HYMN – “God We Thank You for Our People” (#376 vs. 1,4)
2. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM (At least 40 members constitute a quorum.)
3. INVOCATION
4. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING
5. ACCEPTANCE OF THE REPORT OF MEMBERSHIP
6. ACCEPTANCE OF THE TREASURER’S REPORT
7. ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANNUAL REPORTS - Moderator, Pastor, Music Team,  
Church Administrator, Boards, Committees and Others
8. OLD BUSINESS
9. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Budget Report – Jake Kerby
  - B. Election of 2018 Boards and Officers
  - C. Other Business
10. SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF FORTY-YEAR MEMBERS
11. “IN MEMORIAM” - To recognize those members who have died during 2017
12. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES
13. HYMN – “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” (#25 vs. 1-2, 6)
14. REMARKS by Pat Flanigan, Moderator
15. NEW MODERATOR, Ross Dickenson takes the Keys to the Kingdom (church building!)
16. BENEDICTION
17. ADJOURNMENT

**OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES  
AND OTHER POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP FOR 2016**

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL OF VERMILLION, SD  
PHONE: 624-3120**

**OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH**

PASTOR: Steve Miller  
 TREASURER: Joanne Ustad  
 ASSISTANT TREASURERS: (Appointed by Cabinet) Deb Thomas, Karon Fuller  
 MUSIC TEAM: Gretchen Burbach, Anthony Burbach, Spencer Smith,  
 Diane Van Den Oever, and Teresa Kramer.

**MEMBERS OF THE CABINET**

PASTOR (Ex Officio): Steve Miller  
 TREASURER (Ex Officio): Joanne Ustad  
 MODERATOR: Pat Flanigan  
 MODERATOR-ELECT: Ross Dickenson  
 DIACONATE: Dave Moen  
 EDUCATION COORDINATOR: Kari Jensen  
 STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR: Jill Christopherson  
 TRUSTEES: Jake Kerby  
 OUTREACH COORDINATOR: Lana Sven  
 MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Ann Settles  
 MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Nancy Zuercher  
 MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Amy Askew

**MEMBERS OF CHURCH BOARDS**

Diaconate

Kaiya Ansorge	2018	Rachel Kerby	2020
Eric Jepsen	2018	Grada Christensen	2020
Sig Hartnett	2018	Dave Moen	2020
Melissa Hartnett	2018	Roger Boldenow	2020
Fern Kaufman	2019		
Jessica Messersmith	2019		
Mike Flaherty	2019		
John Thomas	2019		

Board of Trustees

Larry Schou	2018	Anthony Edelen	2020
Frank Main	2018	Scott Pohlson	2020
Jake Kerby	2019		
Anna Christensen	2019		

EDUCATION COORDINATOR	Kari Jensen	2018
STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR	Jill Christopherson	2018
OUTREACH COORDINATOR	Lana Svien	2018

## COMMITTEES

### (Trust Fund Committee)

Susan Tuve 2017 Craig Thompson 2018 Rhonda Hulkonen 2019  
Dave Carr 2020 Mike Chaney 2021 Jack Powell 2022

And by Virtue of their Church Office: Moderator, Chair of Trustees, Church Treasurer, Pastor

## DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Organist Spencer Smith, Diane Van Den Oever, Teresa Kramer  
Pianist Anthony Burbach  
Adult Choir Gretchen Burbach  
Children's Choir Gretchen Burbach; Accompanist, Anthony Burbach  
Bell Choir Anthony Burbach

## EDUCATION

B.C. Ebrin Stanley, Jilianne Hofer, Kari Jensen, Steve Miller  
Confirmation Betsy Hughes, Mark Daniels, Becky Rider, Diane Leja,  
Leah and Luke Ganschow, Jilianne Hofer, Steve Miller  
Loaves and Fishes Christian Education Team  
Nursery Care Sarah Pearson, Jasmine Kearney  
Adult Bible Study Steve Miller

## OTHER POSITIONS OF CHURCH LEADERSHIP

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR – Joanne Ustad

CHURCH SECRETARY – Barb Weyhrich

CUSTODIANS - Barbara Jacobson, Kathleen Hasenbank, Tiffany Glenn

### INTERNS

Tom Emanuel (In Berkeley) Student In-Care  
Hannah Ringsdorf, Rachel Barrett, Macey Dozark: Visitation  
Ben Bemus: Pastoral Intern – Worship  
Mackenzie VanderWoude, Sydney Esselink: Education Intern – LAF  
Sydney Giese: Health Intern  
Ebrin Stanley, Jilianne Hofer: Education Intern – Youth  
Sarah Pearson, Jasmine Kearney: Education Intern – Pre-school  
Spencer Smith, Teresa Kramer, Arts Intern – Organ  
Taylor Kruisselbrink: Education Intern – Science  
Maddie Petry: Cross-cultural Intern  
Alia Nix, Bailey Quade: Arts Intern – Children's Choir  
Sara Juhnke, Austin Ruback: Administrative Intern, Communications  
Libby Schneider: Pastoral Intern SESDAC  
Kate Chambers: Arts Intern - Visual

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL  
VERMILLION, SD JANUARY 29, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 by Keith Thomas and began with prayer led by Steve Miller and singing "God, We Thank you for Our People". There was a quorum of more than 55 members present.

Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting;

- Mary Edelen moved to approve the Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting; Doug Tuve seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Accept Membership report:

- Jill Tyler moved to approve and seconded by Steve Ward

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report:

- Jake Kerby moved to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by Pat Flanigan.

Acceptance of the Annual Reports (pages 9-19 of the booklet).

- Mary Edelen moved to approve and seconded by Ross Dickinson

Craig Thompson explained the Trust Fund report

Old business: None

New business:

- Jake Kerby discussed the 2017 budget, highlighting designated items. Sandy Dickenson shared her concerns.
- Jake Kerby moved to approve 2017 Budget, Pat Flanigan seconded it.

2017 Ballot: Members are elected:

- Doug Tuve moved to approve and seconded by Becky Rider

Recognition of those who have been members for over 40 years

- Berwyn Svoboda, Sharon Teigen

Prayer of Remembrance for those who have died in 2016

- Pastor Steve led us in prayer

All officers, members of boards and committees, and those who serve in any capacity in the church were installed by Pastor Steve Miller. The installation service was following by singing "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Moved by Jill Tyler seconded Deb Thomas to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:58

Respectfully submitted,  
Kari Jensen

## ANNUAL REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

### Baptisms

Grahm Hazen Schulte, son of Mark and Sara Schulte, on February 12, 2017  
Clair Everly Hahn, daughter of Bobbi Jo Tinker and William Patrick Hahn, on May 7, 2017  
Jaxon Ray Sage, son of Cody and Brittany Sage, on May 17, 2017  
Jevon Nathaniel Bowman, on June 17, 2017  
Lenni Marie Bowman, daughter of Jevon and Rheannon Bowman, on June 17, 2017  
Kate Addison Green, daughter of Ken and Michelle Green, on July 9, 2017  
Briggs Douglas Peterson, son of Lindsey and Eric Peterson, on August 20, 2017  
Oliver Lamont Spencer, son of Melissa and Tyler Spencer, on August 26, 2017  
Maxwell Jonathan Brooks, son of Amber and Jon Brooks, on August 27, 2017  
Leighton Marie Yelk, daughter of Tyler and Elyce Yelk, on October 15, 2017

### Shalom Zachar

Julian Francis Armstrong, son of Eliot and Lorraine Armstrong, on May 21, 2017

### New Members

#### January 22, 2017

Jackie Hendry  
Carl Edeburn  
Cleo Edeburn  
Greg Redlin  
Daniel Rosenbaum  
Elizabeth Rosenbaum  
Mary Lee Reuvers

#### May 21, 2017

Gerald Yutrzenka  
Barbara Yutrzenka  
Nancy Craig  
Sam Craig  
Tommy Craig  
Kathy Manning

#### November 5, 2017

Jean McLaury  
Kim McLaury  
Louisa Roberts  
Briana Kautz  
Chris Kaufman  
Darwin Van Den Oever  
Diane Van Den Oever

### Confirmation 2017

Alexandra Courtney Carr  
Jack Emerson Fuller  
Paige Ashlyn Krell  
Anna Youngworth Olson  
Samuel Voss Ward  
Tori Raine Weiland

### Members Transferred

#### Deaths (\*non-member)

Rula Hatch, deceased January 16, 2017  
\*Kathleen Carlson, deceased April 8, 2017  
\*Doris K. Withers, deceased November 18, 2016, interred May 20, 2017  
\*Dustin Alan Seney, deceased May 27, 2017  
Eileen Turner, deceased July 31, 2016, interred July 1, 2017  
Sharon Laprath Olson, deceased August 8, 2017  
\*Donald Ray Potter, deceased August 12, 2017  
\*Renee Lynn Somers, deceased August 30, 2017

## Marriages

Courtney Roberts and Benjamin Bazemore, June 17, 2017, Wegner Arboretum, Sioux Falls, SD  
Kathryn Marie Tracy and Justin Travis Wheeler, June 24, 2017, UCC, Vermillion  
Molly Charlson and James Stueckrath, July 1, 2017, First Congregational Church, Sioux Falls, SD  
Rachel Lynn Roth and Joseph Collin Welch, August 26, The Meadow Barn, Harrisburg, SD  
Leah Beth Krantz and Tyler Jay Schroeder, September 23, Kai Family Barn, Pender, NE  
Connor Christine Larson and Garrett Erwin Peterson, September 30, 2017, UCC, Vermillion  
Mariana Roman and Charles Thatcher, October 14, 2017, Danforth Chapel, USD, Vermillion, SD  
Mitchell James Olson and Mark Anthony Schmidt, October 21, 2017, The Meadow Barn, Harrisburg, SD  
Kristen Faye Schwasinger and Andrew Dwight Vickers, November 25, 2017, UCC, Vermillion, SD  
Prairie Madeline Hanson and Jacob Thomas Gehm, December 10, 2017, UCC, Vermillion, SD

<b>Active Members January 1, 2017</b>	<b>580</b>
<b>New Members</b>	<b>+26</b>
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>Members transferred</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Active Members January 1, 2017</b>	<b>604</b>

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIACONATE

It was another busy year for the Diaconate in 2017. My thanks to all of the board members for their faithful work during the year in support of our worship activities. They are a very dedicated, dependable, and hard-working group.

In addition to the Sunday morning duties when serving as the Deacon of the Day, the deacons are responsible for preparing and serving communion each month, participating in baptism and confirmation services, welcoming new members into the church family (including a Sunday morning breakfast before the service), assisting with the Holy Week/Easter services, filling in open time slots during the Easter Prayer Vigil, and supporting Pastor Steve in other ways as needed. The deacons hosted Coffee Hi on Confirmation Sunday in September, we assisted with the annual Harvest Dinner potluck in November, and we helped during this year's Lovefeast service in December.

Members of the Diaconate are Kaiya Ansorge and Eric Jepsen, Roger Boldenow, Grada Christensen, Mike Flaherty, Sig and Melissa Hartnett, Fern Kaufman, Rachel Kerby, Jessica Messersmith, John Thomas, and David Moen.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Moen, Chair

## ANNUAL REPORT TROOP 66

Boy Scout Troop 66 was Chartered to Vermillion Congregational Church in December 1929. The charter is one of the oldest in Sioux Council. The renewal for 2018 registered 23 Scouts and 10 Adult Volunteers. All the volunteers are trained in their position as well as BSA Youth Protection. We have two trust funds on deposit with SD Community Foundation which are available to help with Scout Camp & Youth Training Scholarships.

The Troop is under leadership of Scoutmaster Gene Fuller and Committee Chairman Rand Wergin.

Respectfully submitted  
Mike Chaney  
Charter Organization Representative

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MODERATOR**

This past year has gone by pretty smoothly, with only a few bumps along the way. We began and ended in good financial condition. For the first time in 23 years reached our 2018 budget goal before Thanksgiving. We even surpassed that goal.

We've made new friends with our Muslim community—sharing meals with one another and a book study over several weeks. Our LAF program seems to keep growing with anywhere from 150-200 people attending. We have welcomed a Montessori preschool, that has done so well that they have asked to expand to a full day program and increase the number of students. That expansion will take place in January.

We've become a member of the Historical Registry, which will enable us to apply for grants to help with the building maintenance and improvement. Our organ and sound system renovations have been completed, and new air conditioning has been installed.

We did have to say goodbye to several interns, including Spencer Smith (our organist). It has only taken two to replace him. We welcome Teresa Kramer— 1 week/mo, and Diane Van Den Over—3 weeks/mo. We are so very fortunate to have so many talented people in our community.

Our Emergency Fund/Salvation Army ministry got a great boost by matching funds from 5 financial institutions for an additional \$2,500 contributed to our regular bell ringing.

And finally, we had the privilege of presenting a 30-year certificate in celebration of Steve's Ordination into the Ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Flanigan, Moderator

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR WORLD SERVICE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS**

Our church family is a very generous community and at the core of our work together is the vision and mission of service and social concerns. In 2017, we continued our work with local, national and worldwide missions. We would like to share deep gratitude for everyone who has helped out with the incredible variety of activities and projects we have shared throughout the year through the contribution of money, time and talents. It continues to be our goal to provide a wide variety of opportunities so that each member and friend in our congregation can become involved in helping to meet the diverse variety of need that is present both locally and around the world.

We are coming up on the 5th anniversary of our role as host to the Vermillion Emergency Fund as we partner with the Vermillion Ministerial Association, the wider Vermillion community and the Salvation Army. This intensive ministry continues to demand the best of our time and energy! UCC raised \$15,000 for the VMA Emergency Fund/Salvation Army program bell ringing.

We share nationally with two important offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing and Neighbors in Need. Locally, we work with the Weekend Backpack Program, School Supply Backpack Program, Angel Tree of Giving at Christmas, Meals on Wheels, Casseroles of Love, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Vermillion Food Pantry, and, of course, the Welcome Table. We took a special offering for hurricane relief this fall and sent monies to a sister church in Houston to help with "on-the-ground" relief efforts. We also shared a wonderful book study with our Muslim neighbors. We hope to deepen this effort in 2018! Thank you for the spirit we create and share!

Respectfully submitted,  
Lana Svien

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES,**

This year was one of great relief for the Trustees. There were no busted pipe mains, no concerns of not paying the staff, and nobody injured on our property. We had a new A/C system installed throughout the building, new improvements to our sound system and have funded numerous small repairs throughout the church building. There are still many large repairs on our radar including fixing a faulty roof and repairing some water damage. We have had the funds on hand to pay for these repairs, but have had difficulty locating the people to do the work. The Trustees recommended that the church be added to the Historical Building Registry and are awaiting to hear if we have been approved. This status puts restrictions on our building, but ones that we already hold dear to maintain the historical appearance of this great structure. It allows us to apply for several grants though that will help to maintain and repair things like our outer windows.

To deal with issues of students parking in our lot during the year, we have created a flyer to gather their information. This allows us to be neighborly and allow them to use the space when we do not need it, but for them to be contacted to park somewhere else when we do need it for events. The flyer encourages a donation to the Emergency Fund, and several have done this. It was a terrific solution that benefits everyone involved!

Our staff is doing a phenomenal job of keeping the church running smoothly. Our internship program is going strong with one intern being funded entirely off of a multicultural grant, and another being split with the Vermillion Children's choir. These opportunities have been great for these young people, but they also have helped to provide loads of important services to both our church and wider community.

Members of the board of Trustees are: Frank Main, Larry Schou, Anthony Edelen, Scott Pohlson, and Anna Christensen.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jake Kerby  
Chair of Trustees

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR**

The Stewardship committee continues to strengthen our ties and enrich our program goal of re-engaging in our church activities, our stability and the traditions within our church family. Birthdates, wedding, baptismal and confirmation anniversaries continue to be gathered, as well as information to confirm and build our communication database.

In September the Cabinet approved a \$235,000 goal for the 2017 stewardship campaign. As of December 31, we have received 147 pledges totaling \$239,324. With innovative thinking and exponential talent, a video clip from our church family hit the social media network reminding us all of our passion and dedication to our family of faith and the walls and hearts of which welcome all! We keep in mind the trends of financial giving and how younger people share their resources. It's important to continue our great work and reach out in a way that intrigues, inspires and intertwines our family of faith and the future of UCC.

I'm very appreciative of the assistance and time many members of our congregation gave during this campaign (phone calls, personal visits, tweets and re-tweets, emails, video development, etc). Our relationships and ministries remain robust! Thank you to everyone who pledged and contributed for the upcoming year. We are very grateful for your support and commitment.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Christopherson  
Stewardship Coordinator

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

Our education programs were blessed once again with some amazing interns. Sydney Esselink, Jilianne Hofer, and Jasmine Kearney. Taylor Kruisselbrink returned once again as our Science intern. Sydney worked with our LAF program, organizing walkers, planning snacks and setting up fun activities. Jasmine worked with our pre-school group and the K-1 group. She planned many fun and educational activities. Jilianne met with the BC group on Wednesday evenings and had many interesting and fun discussions with the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders.

LAF (Loaves and Fishes) has continued to be a huge success. Approximately 100-130 meals are served every Wednesday evening during the school year. Volunteers pick up 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders from Jolley for playground time, Bible study, and music. At 5:30, they are joined by newborn to first graders for dinner, followed by spirit time and other fun. LAF would not be successful without the help of many volunteers who walk, prepare snacks, cook, clean, share their musical talents and play with our children. Thanks to all of you who make LAF possible.

BC (Before Confirmation) is for students in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades. They now meet on Wednesday evenings and enjoy eating with the LAF families. The BC students enjoy a little time with our younger LAF children, and then they meet for spirit time from 6:15-7:00.

Confirmation I and II meet on Sunday evenings. There is a meal at 5:00, which marks the end of some meetings and the beginnings for others. Confirmation I & II are both possible because of the wonderful mentors who volunteer to guide our young teens as they enter into adulthood in the church.

We hope to continue to maintain our strong children's programming. This requires volunteers to teach, clean, plan and spend time with our youth. Thank you to all who make our programs possible.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kari Jensen

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

The Prayer Shawl ministry is a remarkable source of comfort to folks in need of caring, soft, thoughtful care. A small group of women crochet and/or knit these shawls in a variety of material and colors to be distributed as needed. We also have fleece lap robes. Most shawls are handed out locally or to those related through family or friendship. Some shawls have been mailed to those special folks in need across the country and even overseas.

We are always in need of more and new producers of shawls as well as those willing to deliver completed shawls. We also welcome contributions of material or funds to purchase yarn and material.

The group meets a couple times a year as a group. Mostly we all work on shawls as time and need occurs. A huge thank you to all of you. They are truly labors of love to which you donate your time, talent and funds.

The letters of thanks we receive are overwhelmingly appreciative and people who have received shawls over the years will still comment on the continuing comfort they bring. Please consider joining us in this caring ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cyndy Chaney

### **SOUTH DAKOTA CONFERENCE OF THE UCC**

The annual Conference was held at the Brookings UCC June 2-4 with Moderator Rev. Tim Fugman. The program began with a Friday evening worship with the Rev. Cameron Barr from the Iowa Conference giving the opening sermon. The Red Sea Pedestrians, a musical group from the 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church in Rapid City, provided the music and led the singing throughout the Conference.

Kerry Steever, General Manager of Placerville Camp and Tom Hoy, the Conference Treasurer presented reports. Placerville is doing very well financially with Church camps as well as private groups that rent the facility. The Conference is financially stable as it has prepared to join the Tri Conference Ministries on Jan. 1, 2018 with the Iowa and Nebraska Conferences. The Board of Directors for the Conference has worked diligently to ensure that the members will know what role they will have once we have a Conference Minister who will be ministering to the needs of three Conferences rather than just one.

The 2018 148<sup>th</sup> annual South Dakota Conference will be held at the Yankton UCC on May 4-6. The Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the UCC will be the keynote speaker.

#### **Tri Conferences Ministries, Inc.**

A meeting was held in the Fall in Chamberlain, and the Rev. Bridget Stevens was elected to serve as the new Conference Minister for the SD, Iowa and Nebraska Conferences beginning on Jan. 1, 2018. Rev. Gordon Rankin was appointed to be an Interim Associate Conference Minister and the person who will deal with the Dakota Association. Karen Peters, the SD Conference Administrative Assistant, will continue to serve in that capacity, and the Conference's Bookkeeper, Carmen Gill, will be retiring in January 2018.

Mary Edelen is one of three members from the South Dakota Conference who are serving on the Tri Conference Ministries Board of Directors. The Board will consist of three members from the South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska Conferences.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary B. Edelen  
Tri Conference Ministries Secretary

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRAYER TEAM**

Our UCC Prayer Team, now eighteen members strong, continues to pray regularly for those names and concerns on our prayer list. New prayer requests and updates are sent out by e-mail each week and whenever additional ones are received. Prayer requests collected during our Sunday services, as well as collected by other means, are first funneled to Barb in our church office. Prayer cards are printed up and made available in the pews. These are a great help in getting correct names and information. She compiles the requests received each week, and sends them to me. I strive to work them into a coherent list, some more timely than others, which I then send out to our prayer team members.

We receive a wide variety of prayer requests, from concern for life's stresses and major life decisions, to prayers of joy for births and marriages and new jobs, to requests for comfort and healing for deaths and serious illnesses. Prayer gives us a means of showing **compassion** toward others and the world around us as we take them and their needs to God in our own rituals of prayer. While there is no prescribed method of prayer prescribed by our prayer team, we appreciate the willingness of those who commit themselves to lifting up these concerns, in the hopes of lightening burdens. We have traditionally prayed in our own ways, in our own time, over the course of each week. Interest has been expressed in scheduling occasional, voluntary prayer sessions for those who would like to pray as a group, and we will be scheduling such a session in the first quarter of 2018.

In general, most folks rarely ask for others to pray for them, and when they do, it's likely to be for something concerning, painful – perhaps out of their control. With that in mind, it's easy to look back over a year of prayer and feel that our community and world are full of an inordinate amount of pain and suffering. It's important, however, to focus on what it means to hold up others in thought and prayer – a

group of people directing their intentions mindfully on the healing, growth and comfort of another person – an opportunity for us to embody our humanity. This prayer team effort continues to illustrate to me how beneficial it can be to turn one’s thoughts continually outward. It is only one small gesture, but we hope to continue to support the church, and one another’s lives, in the best ways we can.

When faced with the challenges that exist in the world today, it can be easy to feel prayer is useless. But how can we not pray?

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Heggestad

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUST FUND COMMITTEE**

December 31, 2017

Investment Funds held for the Congregation  
UCF Foundation Fund

<u>12/31/16</u>	<u>12/31/17</u>	
<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$329,331.35	\$390,975.37	\$61,644.02

Aggressive Balanced Fund  
2016 Book Value \$268,498.34  
2017 Book Value \$270,287.30

2017 contributions totaled \$3,512.74, all raised on Trust Fund Sunday in May. These monies were sent to United Church Fund, which holds our investments.

The Trust Fund monies are currently invested in the Aggressive Balanced Fund at United Church Funds and have been in that fund since March 21, 2007.

As set forth in last year’s Annual Report for 2017, the payout percentage was 4.0% of a rolling twelve quarter average of the market values which equated to a payout of \$12,013.77 for the work of the congregation in 2017, which was paid by electric transfer on or about January 18, 2017.

Since 2007 when the Trust Fund started distributing funds to the Church using an annual payout methodology, more than \$100,000.00 has been paid to the Church to help it maintain the Church building. The Trust Fund Committee is currently considering changing the methodology for making distributions to the Church and is contemplating having the Trustees inform the Trust Fund Committee in advance, projects for which it needs money.

Hence, the amount of payout for the work of the Church in 2018 is uncertain at present as it will depend on projects and requests from the Trustees for “maintenance, repair and improvement of the church structure and its surrounding grounds.”

Respectfully submitted,  
Craig Thompson, Chair

**Committee Members:**

Sue Tuve	2017	Craig Thompson	2018
Rhonda Hulkonen	2019	David Carr	2020
Mike Chaney	2021	Jack Powell	2022

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MUSIC TEAM

### **Anthony Burbach, Pianist and Bell Choir Director**

2017 brought some changes to our UCC music team. With Spencer graduating we are sad to see him go – but excited to welcome two new faces to our team. With the addition of Diane as our new full-time organist and Theresa as our organ intern, we bring some great new talent and energy to our team.

I continue to enjoy the same responsibilities here at UCC. I continue to play the piano for one service a month. I challenge myself to find interesting music for Prelude, Offertory, Reflection and Postlude that will help put the listener into a place for worship. I share in the responsibilities of accompanying for the adult choir at rehearsal on Wednesday night and for Sunday worship and I continue to accompany the children's choir.

I am also the bell choir director for the adult bell choir. With the adult choir – I strive to bring new and interesting music to them and also try to challenge them with new techniques and new ways to play the bells. I also had the privilege to again work with a group of younger players in LAF. This always brings its own challenges, but the end result always brings a tear to my eye.

I also work with church staff to keep our instruments in tip-top shape. We tune the pianos and organ twice a year. Music at the UCC continues to be an important part of my life. I take the opportunity to provide music to you as an opportunity to keep my piano skills active and in shape. I thank UCC for this amazing opportunity. I enjoy working with our music team, Gretchen, Diane and Theresa.

### **Gretchen Burbach, Director of UCC Adult & Children's Choirs**

September through May, one can find the UCC Adult Choir rehearsing each Wednesday evening, preparing anthems for our weekly Sunday services. Music repertoire is chosen with careful attention to programming a variety of styles ranging from the most classical to the newest of settings. I continually try to enrich and challenge my singers- working toward two extended works a year as well as preparing for the special services celebrated throughout the year.

For Palm Sunday, we prepared selections from "Five Mystical Songs" by R. Vaughn Williams which featured Spencer Smith on organ and a USD vocal soloist. We were blessed to watch Spencer grow as organist and choir accompanist throughout his stay with us. On the day of his final anthem with us, the choir prepared special music and laid hands on Spencer to bless him on his new journey. As our time ended with Spencer at the keys, we welcomed new members to our music team with Diane at the organ, and Teresa and Bailey as arts interns!

We as a church are welcoming to all, and so it also goes with UCC music. We strive to provide a wide variety of musical opportunities for every age, which connect and inspire us as church family. This past year, we prepared music from many spiritual traditions and cultures in all our musical programs- Vacation Bible School, LAF music celebrations, and choir anthems.

In December- for the 73<sup>rd</sup> annual Christmas Carol service, the UCC Adult choir was joined by a small Celtic Consort with piano for a collection of familiar Celtic carol melodies with new text called, "Tapestry of Light" by Joseph Martin.

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, the UCC choir found the opportunity to reach beyond our church walls and join together with our local spiritual neighbors for an Ecumenical Christmas Concert "Christmas on the Missouri" hosted by the United Methodist church.

I am grateful for 20 years serving this church family and am honored to continue bringing music to the UCC with my wonderful music team: Anthony, Diane, Teresa, Bailey and Steve. Thank you for being a church family who believes music to be an element that helps enrich our spirit, connect us to our brothers and sisters throughout the world, and take us to a deeper level of devotion than spoken words alone.

### **Spencer Smith, Organist**

It is my pleasure and honor to be writing the congregation of Vermillion United Church of Christ, Congregational for one last time as the organist. Reflecting on the past year makes me realize how quickly time flies, especially when you are surrounded by such a loving congregation and community as VUCC. I was so lucky to be a part of a wonderful music team and ministry. I would like to thank Gretchen and Anthony, along with Steve for their amazing work, as well as their unending support.

Highlights of 2017 started in Lent, and preparations for not only weekly services, but also for the annual large work near Easter. This year we performed selections from the classic choral work "The Five Mystical Songs" by Ralph Vaughn Williams with baritone soloist Eldon Warner, accompanied by the choir and organ. It was a joy to work with Gretchen, Eldon, and the choir on this thought provoking work that personified Love and the warm welcome it offers if only we let it into our hearts and homes.

Shortly after Easter, I was honored, moved and deeply touched by the choir's last Sunday before summer recess where they thanked me for my service over four years of my study at USD. I don't know if I can ever tell how much that day meant to me, and how much the members of the choir and wider congregation mean to me. Once the choir finished out the year, I enjoyed the summertime tradition of "Stump the Organist". It was also my pleasure to start introducing organist Diane Van Den Oever to the congregation, and also helping start the transition of organists to the church. I ended my service to Vermillion UCC on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 followed by a move to Sioux Falls. I am currently the assistant to the activities director at Grand Living at Lake Lorraine, a retirement community, and couldn't love my work more. I am also a member of the mixed quartet at First Congregational Church, where I sing weekly within the choir, as well as a small ensemble of just four voices. I wish you all continued blessings into the new year of 2018, and I hope you know I miss you all very much!

Respectfully submitted,  
Anthony Burbach, Gretchen Burbach, Spencer Smith

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR**

It's hard to believe that I am headed into my fourth year working at the church. My main responsibilities are taking care of the church accounting, maintenance of the building and supplies, managing the volunteering opportunities and working with the Salvation Army office. We welcome and host many community programs including Head Start, Boy Scouts, the Vermillion Children's Choir and USD Chamber Singers retreats as well as other events.

We have a great staff and I enjoy working with the treasurers, trustees, custodians, interns, LAF helpers and others, to keep the church systems running effectively and efficiently. Our largest project this year was the air conditioner replacements, and new air conditioning units added to basement as part of the 2020 campaign project. We also had the basement and narthex floors stripped and waxed this summer. We continue to work with contractors for interior (painting) and exterior (leaks, bell tower painting, arched window storms). We are applying for historical registration and are pursuing grant opportunities. We recently learned that our elevator has obsolete technology that we need to modernize.

A huge shout out to our members who rang and gave, to the Vermillion community, and especially Bank of the West, CorTrust Bank, First Bank and Trust, First Dakota Bank and Vermillion Federal Credit Union who matched donations of \$20 or more on December 16th. We raised more than \$15,000 this year in the bell ringing campaign. The Vermillion Ministerial Association/Salvation Army office assists those in need. The volunteers do a great job working with the individuals to provide them the help they need and provide additional resources for them as well and we always welcome new volunteers to share in this mission.

Thank you for the privilege of being a part of this caring family.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanne Ustad

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PASTOR

*"...some are pastors, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ..."*  
~ Ephesians 4:12

During our worship service on November 19, 2017, our Moderator, Pat Flanigan interrupted the Time for Children with a special gift. She presented me with a beautiful wall hanging commemorating the 30th anniversary of my ordination to the Christian ministry. It included a picture of me in my first year as a pastor and a recent photo. Wow – time flies!! It got me thinking about how my job as pastor has changed over those 30 years. I don't think it has! As I have matured, I have just understood my call to ministry more deeply. The bible verse from Ephesians (posted above) talks about equipping and building up – I have come to understand that this means: creating opportunities for all of us to experience the fullness of our faith, and to inspire and encourage us to live fully into each of these moments. Here are some of the highlights of our 2017 ministry together:

### **Opportunities for gratitude, prayer and reflection**

- In January and August, the USD Chamber singers uplift our spirits
- LAF celebrations remind us how lucky we are
- Throughout the year, weddings, baptisms, funerals, confirmation, new member receptions - all helped us mark our sacred movement of time in our lives
- Hosted VMA Lenten Community Prayer Service with soup lunch in April
- Several sacred Holy Week and Easter services
- Moravian Lovefeast with Rawlins Trio; Soup and Starlighting
- 73rd Annual Carol Service with Celtic Consort

### **Opportunities for fellowship**

- Coffee HI, always Coffee HI
- Intern breakfasts on the first Thursday of the month
- Several friendship dinners with Wase Wakpa Lakota Community and Muslim Neighbors
- Intern Recognition, Welcome Back Celebrations, Harvest Dinner
- Visits to USD Center for Diversity and Community events

### **Opportunities for service and sharing**

- In January we were the host and starting point for Vermillion's Women's march
- Support Wase Wakpa Sundance in August
- Tanager volunteer day in the house at UCC in September
- Special collection for hurricane relief – sent to sister church in Houston
- BC group helps out at "Just Feed One"
- Welcome Table, Meals on Wheels, Food Pantry – part of our regular routine

### **Opportunities for growth and education**

- LAF, Confirmation, Bibles Study, Book Study, Health Conversations
- Tent of Welcome VBS with Jewish and Muslim neighbors
- Several book studies (two with our Muslim neighbors)
- Ten of our eleven interns finished their time with us in May, ten more start in September
- Confirmation trip with 10 travelers to Des Moines
- Special gathering for our student "in-care" Tom Emanuel
- International Christmas Pageant with LAF gang

### **Opportunities for art and beauty**

- Music Team provides these gifts – week in and week out
- Art with Kate; painting and sculpture with LAF kids
- VCT winter show rehearses at UCC
- Chamber Singers home concert in March
- Our wonderful Adult Bell choir

It is an amazing privilege to share this faith journey with you. Twenty-two of my thirty years of ordained ministry have been here in Vermillion. I have learned much for you and hope that I have created possibilities and provided the encouragement and inspiration for you to learn much as well. I am, as always, excited to see what the new year brings. May God be ever blessing, ever blessed!

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Miller

## RECOGNITION OF LONGTIME MEMBERS

Annual Meeting – January 28, 2018

### MEMBERS FOR 40-44 YEARS

Charles Thatcher	11-20-77	40 years
Berwyn Svoboda	01-25-76	41 years
Sharon Teigen	01-25-76	41 years
Norman Kaufman	05-18-75	42 years
Alice Barnes	11-10-74	43 years
Nancy Zuercher	11-10-74	43 years
Robert Fuller	04-15-73	44 years

### MEMBERS FOR 45-49 YEARS

Michael Marek	05-16-71	46 years
Mary Lou Monfore	01-17-71	46 years
Karen Ferris	02-22-70	47 years
Dorene Becker	02-23-69	48 years
Cynthia Chaney	04-28-68	49 years
Sue French	04-28-68	49 years
Mardell Ebsen	11-17-68	49 years

### MEMBERS FOR 50 OR MORE YEARS

Julia Chaney	04-17-66	51 years
Marilyn Gors	04-17-66	51 years
Mike Armstrong	11-27-66	51 years
Don Dahlin	12-4-66	51 years
Jeanne Dahlin	12-4-66	51 years
Molly Walters	12-4-66	51 years
William Willroth	04-4-65	52 years
Bernice Dillon	11-14-65	52 years
June Armstrong	12-13-64	53 years
Karon Fuller	04-15-62	55 years
Fern Kaufman	02-26-61	56 years
Mary Edelen	04-10-60	57 years
Sandy Lavin	04-10-60	57 years
Helen Brown	07-22-56	61 years
Martin (Mike) Chaney	11-29-53	64 years
Eleanor Munger	01-18-48	69 years

“WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT”

Your loyalty and service are precious gifts to the life of our Church.

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL  
OF VERMILLION, SD  
2018 BALLOT**

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>	<u>Expires</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Expires</u>
Moderator	1 year	Pat Flanigan	2018	Ross Dickenson	2019
Moderator Elect	1 year	Ross Dickenson	2018	Anthony Edelen	2019
Treasurer	1 year	Joanne Ustad	2018	Joanne Ustad	2019
Assistant Treasurer	1 year	Deb Thomas	2018	Deb Thomas	2019
DIACONATE	3 years	Fern Kaufman	2019	Cleo Edeburn	2021
		Jessica Messersmith	2019	Mecia Graham	2021
		Mike Flaherty	2019	Doug Tuve	2021
		John Thomas	2019	TBA	2021
		Rachel Kerby	2020		
		Grada Christensen	2020		
		Dave Moen	2020		
		Roger Boldenow	2020		
TRUSTEES	3 years	Jake Kerby	2019	Larry Schou	2021
		Anna Christensen	2019	Frank Main	2021
		Shelly Green	2020		
		Scott Pohlson	2020		
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR (1 year)				Kari Jensen	2019
STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR (1 year)				Jill Christopherson	2019
WORLD SERVICE/SOCIAL CONCERNS COORDINATOR (1 year)				Lana Svien	2019
MEMBERS AT LARGE	3 years	Nancy Zuercher	2019	TBA	2021
		Amy Askew	2020		
TRUST FUND COMMITTEE	6 years	Craig Thompson	2019	Susan Tuve	2024
		Rhonda Hulkonen	2020		
		Dave Carr	2021		
		Mike Chaney	2022		
		Jack Powell	2023		

Terms of office expire at the January annual meeting in the year listed.