

**2018  
ANNUAL REPORTS**

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST,  
CONGREGATIONAL**

**VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA**

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**PROPOSED AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING**

January 27, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER by the Moderator, Ross Dickenson  
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 2018 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 2019 Boards and Officers
  - C. Constitution/By Laws
  - D. Other Business
10. SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF FORTY-YEAR MEMBERS
11. “IN MEMORIAM” - To recognize those members who have died during 2018
12. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES
13. HYMN – “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” (#25 vs. 1-2, 6)
14. REMARKS by Ross Dickenson, Moderator
15. NEW MODERATOR, Anthony Edelen takes the Keys to the Kingdom (church building!)
16. BENEDICTION
17. ADJOURNMENT

**OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES  
AND OTHER POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP FOR 2018**

**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, Diane Van Den Oever, Teresa Kramer  
 and Abby Beach.

**MEMBERS OF THE CABINET**

PASTOR (Ex Officio): Steve Miller  
 TREASURER (Ex Officio): Joanne Ustad  
 MODERATOR: Ross Dickenson  
 MODERATOR-ELECT: Anthony Edelen  
 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

Fern Kaufman	2019	Dave Moen	2020
Jessica Messersmith	2019	Roger Boldenow	2020
Mike Flaherty	2019	Cleo Edeburn	2021
John Thomas	2019	Mecia Graham	2021
Rachel Kerby	2020	Doug Tuve	2021
Grada Christensen	2020		

Board of Trustees

Jake Kerby	2019	Larry Schou	2021
Anna Christensen	2019	Frank Main	2021
Shelly Green	2020		
Scott Pohlson	2020		

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

COMMITTEES

(Trust Fund Committee)

Craig Thompson	2018	Mike Chaney	2021
Rhonda Hulkonen	2019	Jack Powell	2022
Dave Carr	2020	Susan Tuve	2024

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

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

<u>Organist</u>	Diane Van Den Oever, Teresa Kramer
<u>Pianist</u>	Anthony Burbach
<u>Adult Choir</u>	Gretchen Burbach
<u>Children’s Choir</u>	Gretchen Burbach; Accompanist, Anthony Burbach
<u>Bell Choir</u>	Anthony Burbach

EDUCATION

<u>B.C.</u>	Jilianne Hofer, Hannah Dreeszen, Kari Jensen, Steve Miller
<u>Confirmation</u>	Becky Rider, Diane Leja, Leah and Luke Ganschow, Steve Miller
<u>Loaves and Fishes</u>	Christian Education Team
<u>Nursery Care</u>	Jasmine Kearney, Sophie Beers
<u>Adult Bible Study</u>	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
- Rachel Barrett, Macey Dozark: Pastoral Intern -- Visitation
- Ben Bemus: Pastoral Intern – Worship
- Sydney Esselink, Taylor Erlenbusch: Education Intern – LAF
- Sydney Giese: Health Intern
- Jilianne Hofer, Hannah Dreeszen: Education Intern – Youth
- Jasmine Kearney, Sophie Beers: Education Intern – Pre-school
- Teresa Kramer, Arts Intern – Organ
- Taylor Kruisselbrink: Education Intern – Science
- Maddie Petry: Cross-Cultural Intern
- Bailey Quade, Abby Beach: Arts Intern – Children’s Choir
- Austin Ruback, Madisyn Jerman: Administrative Intern -- Communications
- Jill Swanson: Education Intern – History
- Jenna Corrin: Education Intern - Service

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL**  
**VERMILLION, SD    JANUARY 28, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 12:24 pm by Pat Flanigan and began with singing “God, We Thank you for Our People”. Then the opening prayer was led by Pastor Steve Miller. There was a quorum of more than 55 members present.

Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting;

- Mary Edelen moved to approve the Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting; Nancy Zuercher seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Accept Membership report:

- Ross Dickenson moved to approve and seconded by Doug Tuve. We have over 600 members, making us the 2nd largest UCC church in South Dakota.

Acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report:

- There was a question about the National Mortgage Repayment, there was discussion. Jake Kerby moved to approve the Treasurer’s report, seconded by Rich Holland.

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

- Sandy Dickenson moved to approve and seconded by Charlotte Marek.

Old business: None

New business:

- Jake Kerby discussed the budget, highlighting designated items. Jake complimented Joanne Ustad with a job well done in managing the money for the church. Jill Christopherson was also credited with increasing pledges through the stewardship drive. Jake was thankful for Sandy Dickenson as she has been looking for contractors to work on the building.
- Sandy Dickenson moved to approve 2018 Budget, Becca Jordre seconded it.

Sandy Dickenson recognized Mary Edelen for her work on the Historic Registry application.

2018 Ballot: Members are elected.

- Dave Moen moved to approve and seconded by Diane Leja.

Recognition of those who have been members for over 40 years.

Prayer of Remembrance for those who have died in 2017.

Pastor Steve lit a candle and 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”

Ross Dickenson complimented Pat Flanigan for her dedication & generosity to the Salvation Army and other areas in our church.

Moved by Mary Edelen, seconded Pat Flanigan to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kari Jensen

## ANNUAL REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

### Baptisms (15)

Endre Allen Hesla, son of Ashley and Jerad Hesla, on January 27, 2018  
Charles Daniel Kaufman, son of Chris Kaufman and Briana Kautz, January 28, 2018  
Dexter Quinn Sanderson, son of Dave and Becky Sanderson, February 18, 2018  
Logan Royal Welch, son of Nate and Krista Welch, June 3, 2018  
Jayden Matthew Kapperman, son of Heather and David Kapperman, June 17, 2018  
Mila Lou Gauer, daughter of Alexa and Broc Gauer, June 17, 2018  
Lola Rae Lavin, daughter of Stacy and Mark Lavin, July 7, 2018  
Cooper Donald Bird, son of Sara and Brennen, July 15, 2018  
Tad David Christopherson, son of Jama and Jay Christopherson, July 15, 2018  
Finn Henry Schulte, son of Sara and Mark Schulte, September 9, 2018  
Caden Jeffrey Mart, son of Jana and Chris Mart, September 9, 2018  
Winter Shea Warren, daughter of Hailie and Dante Warren, October 28, 2018  
Luka Maria Wilcox, daughter of Virginija and Mark Wilcox, November 25, 2018  
Dakota Renae Baca, daughter of Laura and Zachary Baca, November 25, 2018  
Parker Ann Hansen, daughter of Jennifer and Brook Hansen, December 30, 2018

### New Members (4)

September 16, 2018

Virginija and Mark Wilcox  
Alison Vogel  
Michelle Maloney

### New Members (2)

October 28, 2018

Ahmed Alghasham and Rabab Alkhalas

### Confirmation 2018(9)

July 8, 2018

Anna Morgan Bottesini  
Libby Anne Franken  
Dillon Gary Gestring  
Noah Christopher Gilbertson  
Jackson Graham  
Lilly Marie Johnson  
Hunter Thomas Lavin  
Sadie Jane Pederson  
Ella Wittmuss

### Members Transferred(1)

Thomas Emanuel to First Congregational, UCC in Watertown, SD, October 9, 2018

### Deaths (\*non-member)(6)

\*Dr. Ronald L. Moyer, deceased February 9, 2018  
Mary Ruth Malone, deceased March 9, 2018  
Beth Simmons, deceased May 17, 2018  
\*Russell L. Husby, deceased June 22, 2018  
\*Anthony J. "AJ" Walker, deceased October 13, 2018  
\*Vern Holter, deceased November 19, 2018

**Marriages(7)**

Jennifer Sundem and Chad Andersen, July 13, 2018, UCCC, Vermillion, SD  
Cayla Marie Hilbrands and Thomas Martin Holleman, September 2, 2018, Emanuel Lutheran, Elk Point, SD  
Danielle Jamae Kunkel and Jerod Phillip Ceretti, September 15, 2018, UCCC, Vermillion, SD  
Shandra Marie Stillion and Micah Charles Wonnberg, September 22, 2018, Outside, Vermillion, SD  
Sarah Winona Shackelford and Justus Robert Cassel Meyer, September 29, 2018, Ragged Point, CA  
Jessa Ryann Waters and Matthew David Moseley, October 14, 2018, Dakota Brickhouse Patio, Vermillion, SD  
Elizabeth Caroline Wensmann and Maxwell Thomas Whitehead, December 29, 2018, Aberdeen, SD

<b>Active Members January 1, 2018</b>	<b>609</b>
<b>New Members</b>	<b>+15</b>
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>Members Transferred</b>	<b><u>-1</u></b>
<b>Active Members January 1, 2019</b>	<b>621</b>

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIACONATE**

The Diaconate was involved in a variety of worship activities during 2018. My thanks to all of the board members for their faithful support throughout the year. They are a very dedicated, conscientious, reliable, 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, new member and confirmation services, welcoming new members into the church family (including a Sunday morning breakfast before the service), assisting with Advent services and 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 participated in the Confirmation class interviews on Thursday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, and we then hosted Coffee Hi on Confirmation Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. We had the opportunity to meet and welcome this year’s interns during a dinner on Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. We also hosted the annual Harvest Dinner potluck on Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Diaconate had the special privilege this year of participating in the ordination process for our student-in-care, Tom Emanuel. Following a formal interview with Tom in early January to learn about his seminary progress and plans, the Diaconate sent a letter to the UCC South Dakota Conference, requesting and recommending that the Committee on Ministry examine him for ordination. An Ecclesiastical Council ordination interview was held in our church for Tom on Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup> during a Two Rivers Association Meeting. Based on the interview and subsequent vote, he was affirmed by the wider church to proceed to the UCC Committee on Ministry for authorization for ordination. The Diaconate hosted an after-the-meeting soup supper for the Two Rivers attendees. Tom was approved for ordination by the Committee on Ministry, and his ordination service was held in our church on Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. Over 125 people attended Tom’s ordination service, and the Diaconate ushered and then hosted at least 90 persons who stayed for the meal afterwards. We wish Tom all the best as he currently serves as the pastor of the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Watertown, SD. Members of the Diaconate are Roger Boldenow, Grada Christensen, Cleo Edeburn, Mike Flaherty, Mecia Graham, Fern Kaufman, Rachel Kerby, Jessica Messersmith, John Thomas, Doug Tuve, 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. We renewed the charter again in December 2018.

All volunteers in leadership and the Troop Committee are trained in their position as well as BSA Youth Protection. There was a new training program introduced in 2018.

We have two trust funds on deposit with SD Community Foundation which are available to help with Scout Camp & Youth Training Scholarships.

The Troop advanced two to Eagle Scout in 2018.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Chaney  
Charter Organization Representative

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MODERATOR**

This has been a busy year for me and the Church. We started the year with the church building needing a number of repairs and upgrades. The four key areas were the elevator, new storm windows, repairing the roof, and paving the parking lot. The Cabinet approved a capital fund drive to raise \$120,000. This was designated "A Time to Build Up". With the funds raised and support from the Trust Fund we were able to repair the roof including the gutters, install the windows (aided by a grant received from The Deadwood Foundation), replace the elevator and have a solid plan on paving the parking lot which is expected to start in the spring. I thank the Trustees for all their good work and the Stewardship Committee and the congregation for the fund raising

The church has taken great strides toward going "Green" this year. Education on the environment, elimination of styrofoam, and incorporating recycling initiatives have been made, but more needs to be done.

The confirmation process and the confirmation trip to Chicago were very successful. The statements and validation from the confirmands were truly inspiring.

In the spring Steve requested a review of the Constitution and By-Laws. We formed a committee consisting of Craig Thompson, Kurt Hackemer, David Moen, Sue Tuve and myself. We did a thorough review and made some significant proposals for change. In November the Cabinet approved those proposals. The proposals will be presented to the Congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting.

Our Music program has been more than outstanding. Our outreach to the University Chamber Singers paid big dividends with a truly uplifting performance in March. The very successful ecumenical musical performance "Music on the Missouri" was graciously hosted by the UCC Music Team.

Thomas Karl Emmanuel our student in care graduated from Seminary and was Ordained in our Church on August 26, 2018. He is now the pastor in Watertown and we wish him all the best in his new journey.

*A Christmas Carol*, an adapted play written by Steve Miller from the novel by Charles Dickens was an incredible success. It was a progressive dinner that was held in four churches with the entree served at the UCC. All the proceeds (over \$7,000) went to the VHS Drama Boosters to support their trip to Scotland. Kudos to Steve as "Scrooge", George Schlenker as chief Chef and Joanne and Barb for organizing and running the dinner.

My sincere appreciation to all of you that have made this year a very meaningful and rewarding experience. God bless you all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ross Dickenson, 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 2018, 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 6th 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! \$15,000 was raised 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, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Vermillion Food Pantry, the Ministerial Coat Drive, and, of course, the Welcome Table. Jenna Corrin, Education intern has initiated instruction in green practices with our LAF group. In addition, planet friendly paper products are being used by UCC at Coffee HI. We hope to deepen this effort in 2019! Thank you for the spirit we create and share!

Respectfully submitted,  
Lana Svien

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

This year was a restorative one for the church building. We made several significant improvements to the church building. Using a disbursement from the Trust Fund, we were finally able to find a contractor to seal up the gutters on both sides of the building to prevent further damage. The church building was officially added to the South Dakota Historical Building Registry allowing us to apply for funds to improve the building. Using remaining funds from a previous capital campaign as matching costs we were awarded a grant to add storm windows to every window in the church. This work was completed this past summer, hopefully extending the life of the windows for years to come. The summer capital campaign was a huge relief as it provided the necessary funds to completely renovate our elevator. There was a significant concern that a circuit board was on its last leg, and replacing it was nearly half the cost of renovating the entire structure. The updating looks quite nice, and now there is no concern of getting stuck in it. The summer campaign also included a plan to pave the parking lot. As our parking lot is separated from the church by an alley, the city considered the lot 'off-site parking' and therefore improvements to the lot needed to follow specific requirements. The pastor and chair of trustees took the time to work with the city and via a conditional use permit and a variance were granted permission by the city council to pave the dirt lot as it stands (rather than needing to add in grass, lighting, etc.). As this approval came in the late summer and we were unable to raise all the funds to complete both the elevator and the parking lot, the elevator was selected to be improved first. We hope to obtain the remaining necessary funds (\$30k) this year and complete the paving in the Spring of 2019.

Our staff continues to do a phenomenal job of keeping the church running smoothly. Our internship program is still going strong with students in the typical roles of education, outreach, and music, but while also continuing the tradition of experimenting with new roles such as history.

I would personally like to thank the members of the church for an eventful 6 year stint as a Trustee (5 years as the chair). I have enjoyed meeting so many committed members while serving in this role. I am also happy to pass on the torch to my capable and thoughtful colleagues.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jake Kerby, Chair of Trustees

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

*“From the Past will come the Future”*. Gratitude is at the heart of the stewardship journey, in years past and for the next generation as we pay it forward. We graciously give thanks and praise to everyone who prayerfully and faithfully made this year’s campaign a part of their calling by contributing or pledging into the future of UCC as grateful recipients of God’s many blessings!! In September, the Cabinet approved a \$247,404 goal for the 2018 stewardship campaign. As of December 31, we have received 156 pledges totaling \$239,617. I’m very appreciative of the assistance and time many members of our congregation gave during this campaign (phone calls, personal visits, emails, video development, etc). It has been a pleasure engaging as the Stewardship Coordinator, I lift up the new Coordinator in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Christopherson  
Stewardship Coordinator

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

Our education programs were once again blessed with some amazing interns. Taylor Erlenbusch, our new education intern, worked with our Jolley children and also contacted the many volunteers to help with walking & cooking at LAF. She helped plan educational and spiritual lessons for our LAF groups. Jill Swanson, our History intern, integrated some Historical Education for our children. They learned about some of our famous church ancestors who helped pave the way for the current Congregationalist Churches. Sophie Beers is our new Pre-School intern. She conducted many educational art and craft activities for our children along with running our Sunday morning Nursery. Another education intern, Hannah Dreeszen, added her insight with our BC students. Jenna Corrin, our education/service intern worked on a recycling project with our LAF children.

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 2nd-5th graders from Jolley for playground time, Bible study, and music. At 5:30 pm, 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 6th and 7th grades. They meet on Wednesday evenings and enjoy eating with the LAF families. The BC students help with our younger LAF children, and then they meet for spirit time from 6:15-7:00 pm.

Confirmation I and II meet on Sunday evenings. There is a meal at 5:00 pm, 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. The shawls continue to be appreciated and used by the folks they have been presented to. 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**

I have the distinct pleasure to serve on the Board of Directors of the SD Conference of the UCC filling the unexpired term of a member who moved out of state. The purpose of the Board is to govern the SD Conference within the structure of the Tri-Conference Ministries. During the past year, our Conference Minister, Rev. Gordon Rankin, left in September for a new position in Connecticut. Prior to his departure, the Board did its due diligence to make sure that his job duties within the SD Conference would be covered until the Tri-Conference Ministries was able to hire new Associate Conference Ministers for Iowa, SD and Nebraska. This included covering our SD churches that were in the Search and Call process.

The board last met Sept. 28 and 29, 2018 in Chamberlain in conjunction with The Emerging Ministries Summit. The Board centered discussion around making sure that there is adequate funding for all four of the Associate Conference Ministry positions for at least five years. The Board has a very strong relationship with Placerville and with the Dakota Association. Until the new Associate Conference Minister, Samantha Houser, is on board and trained, Rev. David Felton, our former Conference Minister, is the Board liaison with the Dakota Association. The first joint annual meeting for the SD, IA and NE Conferences will be held on June 14-16, 2019 at Countryside Community Church in Omaha, NE. This Church is located on the new Tri-Faith campus composed of the UCC Church, a Jewish Synagogue and a Muslim Mosque.

### **TRI-CONFERENCE MINISTRIES**

I have the honor to serve as the Vice-Chair for the Tri-Conference Ministries (TCM) which is the staff of the Conferences in SD, IA and NE. The TCM is a relationship among the Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota Conferences that has evolved to where we have a covenant agreement. We have one common, shared staff supporting and resourcing our three Conferences, fourteen Associations and 300 local churches. Our Conferences are not merged. Our Executive Conference Minister is Rev. Brigit Stevens whose office is in Des Moines, IA. She serves with Jo Ordway and Diane Leggett, administrative staff in that office. The new Associate Conference Minister (ACM) for SD is Rev. Samantha (Sam) Houser. She will serve in the Sioux Falls office with our administrative staff member, Karen Peters. Other ACM's include Rev. Jonna Jensen, Rev. Ellis Arnold, Rev. Darrell Goodwin, who will serve the Nebraska Conference and Rev. Nicole Havelka who will be the part-time media staff person. At the December meeting of the board for the TCM, the 2019 budget was approved. It is \$1,137,598.15. The SD Conference will be responsible for 18% of that budget, because we have 18% of the population of the TCM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary B. Edelen, Vice-Chair Tri Conference Ministries

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRAYER TEAM

Our UCC Prayer Team consists of eighteen members who 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, who then sends them to me. I attempt to create a succinct list, some more timely than others, which I then send out to our prayer team members.

Prayer provides us a means of showing **compassion** for others and the world around us. 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. While there is no prescribed method of prayer for our prayer team, we appreciate the willingness of those who commit themselves to lifting up these concerns. We each pray in our own ways, in our own time, over the course of each week; a group of people directing their intentions mindfully on the healing, growth and comfort of another person. It is only one small gesture, but we hope to continue to support the church, and one another's lives, in this mindful way.

The past year has brought a large number of prayer requests for very painful and traumatic concerns, and it's hard to compare years in that regard. To focus solely on the prayer requests shared in church or on prayer cards is to focus in on the things that weigh heaviest in our hearts. Although we also receive many requests for prayers of joy and gratitude, the difficult ones are the ones we think of most, but we have a wonderful team of people who are willing to hold that discomfort up with a sense of hope. It seems that 2018 has proven to be another year of poignant losses and difficult challenges. It has also been, however, an amazingly profound year of growth, and resurgent hope for justice; an opportunity for us to embody our humanity. I've appreciated the trust with which community members share their prayer needs with us, and the many lovely people on our team who join together in this good work.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Heggstad

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUST FUND COMMITTEE**

December 31, 2018

Investment Funds held for the Congregation  
UCF Foundation Fund

<b>12/31/17</b>	<b>12/31/18</b>	
<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$390,975.37	\$328,573.10	-\$62,402.27

Aggressive Balanced Fund  
2017 Book Value \$270,287.30  
2018 Book Value \$260,427.43

2018 contributions totaled \$2,070.00, 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.

Typically, there has been an annual payout for the work of the church. The annual payout has been based upon a percentage of 4.0% of a rolling twelve quarter average of the market values, which was \$12,000.00 in 2017. This year's (2018) payout was \$25,000.00 based upon need and the fact that payouts were not made in 2015 and 2016. This payout was made on June 18, 2018.

The payout for the past five (5) years is as follows:

January 2, 2013:	\$ 9,548.38
January 2, 2014:	\$ 9,791.04
January 9, 2014:	\$ 395.95
January 18, 2017:	\$12,013.77
June 18, 2018:	\$25,000.00

Since 2007 when the Trust Fund started distributing funds to the Church using an annual payout methodology, more than \$125,000.00 has been paid to the Church to help it maintain the Church building. The Trust Fund Committee has changed the methodology for making distributions to the Church and will have the Trustees inform the Trust Fund Committee in advance, projects for which it needs money at which time the Trust Fund Committee will make a decision consistent with the Constitution, Bylaws and any Endowment Memorandum of Agreement.

Hence, the amount of payout for the work of the Church in 2019 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

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MUSIC TEAM

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

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 one or two extended works a year, as well as preparing for the special services celebrated throughout the year.

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.

The Burbachs were out of town for Palm Sunday this year so the choir prepared three lovely Lenten selections to be featured the Sunday prior. We pulled out all the stops at Easter with a triumphant anthem featuring, organ, bells and brass.

In December for the 74th annual Christmas Carol service, the UCC Adult choir performed a magnificent *Magnificat* by Michael Ekbladh with brass and percussion. The UCC choir hosted "Christmas on the Missouri", an Ecumenical Christmas Concert and an opportunity to reach beyond our church walls and join together with our local spiritual neighbors. A few choir members enjoyed bringing Christmas cheer, caroling through the halls of the Dakota Care Center and Dakota Gardens Assisted Living.

I was again grateful to be part of a wonderful music team for 2018 including my husband, Anthony, at the piano, Diane Van Den Oever at the organ, and interns: Teresa Kramer and Bailey Quade. It was lovely to be able to lean on Bailey to take the reins if I needed to be gone for a Sunday service, which happened on a couple of occasions. When Bailey left us at the start of the school year, I was happy to welcome Abby Beach to the team as my Adult Choir Intern. Abby has a wonderful energy and jumps at every opportunity to lead.

I am so grateful to continue to serve this church family for more than 20 years and am honored to bring music to the UCC congregation with my wonderful music team. 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.

## **Diane Van Den Oever, Organist**

Just last night, as the music staff planned the calendar for the upcoming months, I was reminded how thankful I am to serve as an organist at UCC.

Not many organists today have the great good fortune to share keyboard responsibilities with such a talented team. Anthony Burbach continues to generously share his piano talents and our organ intern, Teresa Kramer, is a fine organist who delights us with some of the recital pieces that she learns with Dr. Larry Schou at USD. I also feel tremendously grateful to those who gave their efforts and money toward the renovation of the pipe organ two years ago – it is a fine instrument in excellent condition.

And it is a joy to work with a congregation that remembers and honors its own worship traditions while staying open to new possibilities! To that end, our church now participates in OneLicense, a service which allows us to legally reprint hymns for congregational singing from numerous sources. The goal is that our singing, whether an old hymn or a new one, moves our minds and hearts toward God. Thanks to the many who offer their kind encouragement. And please keep sharing your thoughts about what makes worship most meaningful for you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anthony Burbach, Gretchen Burbach, Diane Van Den Oever

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

My role of church maintenance took the lead this year. We received South Dakota Historical status and received a grant to help in purchasing and installing storm windows to preserve our second story arched windows. We raised \$93,000 in the Summer Build Up Capital campaign. We spent \$150,000 (remaining 2020 funds and Summer capital campaigns) to modernize our elevator, purchase, paint and install storms for arched windows, gutter relining and flashing, replacing the office A/C unit and a new condenser, and replaced east entrance door columns.

Our staff, along with the many volunteers, help me keep the church systems running effectively and efficiently providing services to those in need, assisting at LAF, and helping with Sunday worship and answering the call whenever we need. Thanks!

Additional thank you to all of you who rang and gave to the Vermillion community during the Bell Ringing Season. Our second year Match day was successful with six local banks participating; Bank of the West, CorTrust Bank, First Bank and Trust, First Dakota Bank, Wells Fargo Bank and the Vermillion Federal Credit Union who matched donations of \$20 or more on December 15th. 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.

In the next few months, we will be rolling out our new church software, Realm, which provides modern ways to stay connected as a church family, with an online directory, and access to your giving information as well as ways to connect with others.

I have yet to say I'm bored and that makes coming to work a joy, for which I say thank you one more time!

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanne Ustad

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PASTOR**

*“One generation to the next generation, let us pass that Word along; mothers and fathers teaching their children, let our faith grow bold and strong” ~ a paraphrase of Psalm 78:6-7*

Starting in January of this year, it was been an amazing blessing to watch and hold our dear student, colleague and friend, Tom Emanuel, as he finished his seminary education and negotiated the prayerful path to fully ordained and called ministry. This included several interviews, culminating with his formal Ecclesiastical Council, held at our church in April. The sanctuary was full of inquiry and delight that day as we heard Tom promise a bold commitment to constantly lifting up new possibilities to be the church! Then after receiving a call to be the lead pastor at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Watertown, South Dakota, we were able to host his ordination to Christian Ministry on August 26, 2018. What has been most touching to me during the whole process is to recognize the way our entire congregation honored and celebrated the passing of faith from “one generation to the next generation!”

As I have reflected on this amazing opportunity, it helped ME to remember that in so many ways – big and small – this is what we do everyday at the Vermillion UCC: we pass along the beauty and bounty of our faith – rooted in where we have been and always playfully dancing towards wherever the spirit leads. This past year has been a wonderful, healthy, creative and “rebuilding” year of passing along the faith. Let me remind you of some of these vital moments:

- Our children and youth remind us daily of the vitality of our faith and its promise for the future. Our LAF and confirmation programs are constant glimpses of the way the Word comes alive in the next generation. The VBS week allowed our youngest prophets to find their voices and our confirmation trip to Chicago gave 9 of our freshmen in high school youth the chance to see their place in the wider changing world.
- We have been delighted to mentor and learn from an amazing crop of USD interns! Over 20 different students have had an opportunity to work with us in a delightful variety of ways during the year. From book studies to service projects; musical offerings to intimate visits with our shut-ins, these young adults are quickly claiming their place as leaders of the future.
- We gathered in sacred space together throughout the year in ways both traditional and new to remember who we are and to gather strength to live our faith boldly in new ways. Beyond our regular Wednesday and Sunday gatherings there were many special unique offerings such as our Peruvian dinner with foot-washing prayers during Holy Week. In our sacred space, we remember how to take the next steps.
- Music fills our halls and hearts as our amazingly talented music team leads and equally talented community of singers, ringers and instrumentalists. This language of song is ever-present in our daily living and allows us to drop beneath our surface distractions to discover the meaning of each moment. I can still hear the echoes of organ and brass and bells and choir and congregation as we lifted up “On this day earth shall ring” and boldly leaped into the Advent season. Amen!
- We are supportive of the United Way as our wider community works toward a United Service Center to better serve the needs of all of our Vermillion community. This will include the Emergency Fund, Food Pantry, and Welcome Table, as well as several other ministries and organizations. The new facility is set to open in summer 2019! This is just one way our family of faith turns our spirit out to the world to love and serve our neighbors.
- Our “Time to Build Up” campaign gave us the opportunity to recommit ourselves to our beautiful UCC facilities and grounds. With the funds raised we were able to get started on some very important physical needs that will secure our sacred space for years to come. This work will continue steadily through 2019!

The surprising serendipity of passing the Word along is that the more you share it, the stronger your own faith becomes! May our “passing” continue boldly in 2019. It is an amazing privilege to share this journey with you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Miller

**RECOGNITION OF LONGTIME MEMBERS**

Annual Meeting – January 27, 2019

**MEMBERS FOR 40-44 YEARS**

Dale Husby	05-14-78	40 years
Stanley Lewison	04-30-78	40 years
Charles Thatcher	11-20-77	41 years
Berwyn Svoboda	01-25-76	42 years
Sharon Teigen	01-25-76	42 years
Norman Kaufman	05-18-75	43 years
Alice Barnes	11-10-74	44 years
Nancy Zuercher	11-10-74	44 years

**MEMBERS FOR 45-49 YEARS**

Robert Fuller	04-15-73	45 years
Michael Marek	05-16-71	47 years
Mary Lou Monfore	01-17-71	47 years
Karen Ferris	02-22-70	48 years
Dorene Becker	02-23-69	49 years

**MEMBERS FOR 50 OR MORE YEARS**

Cynthia Chaney	04-28-68	50 years
Sue French	04-28-68	50 years
Mardell Ebsen	11-17-68	50 years
Julia Chaney	04-17-66	52 years
Marilyn Gors	04-17-66	52 years
Mike Armstrong	11-27-66	52 years
Don Dahlin	12-4-66	52 years
Jeanne Dahlin	12-4-66	52 years
Molly Walters	12-4-66	52 years
William Willroth	04-4-65	53 years
Bernice Dillon	11-14-65	53 years
June Armstrong	12-13-64	54 years
Karon Fuller	04-15-62	56 years
Fern Kaufman	02-26-61	57 years
Mary Edelen	04-10-60	58 years
Sandy Lavin	04-10-60	58 years
Helen Brown	07-22-56	62 years
Martin (Mike) Chaney	11-29-53	65 years
Eleanor Munger	01-18-48	70 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  
2019 BALLOT**

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

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

## **God, We Thank You for Our People**

God, we thank you for our people, roots dug deep within the soil,  
Hardy spirits, rich in loving, strong for struggle, bold for toil.  
Faithful rock of generations, you whom parents' parents praised:  
Here in hope as we remember may our song to you be raised.

Thank you, God, for gentle pleasure: lessons learned and secrets told,  
Hopes and memories saved as treasure, passed to young ones by the old,  
Pranks and glories, songs and stories, food by loving hands prepared.  
God, we bless you for your presence in our tears and laughter shared.

By your Spirit of creation keep us bold for risking still,  
Eager in anticipation, ever strong to do your will.  
Bind us close to one another, sharing life and death and birth,  
Welcoming as sister, brother, all your children on the earth.

## **O God, Our Help in Ages Past**

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,  
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Still be our God while troubles last, and our eternal home!