

## BOARD OF FINANCE

The Board of Finance met on the first Thursday of each month to review and compare reports of income and expenses, and discuss current and potential rental opportunities. We welcomed new members Frank Carney, Bill McQueeney, and Judith Sebastian. A major theme in 2017 was how to responsibly invest the significant funds brought to Edwards Church in our merger with Grace Church. We finished the 2017 fiscal year with a small surplus. We have seen an increase in pledges for 2018, and we will present a balanced budget for the approval of the congregation. The Treasurer's Report included in this document contains detailed financial information.

### ***Ongoing topics for discussion included:***

- **Investment Team:** In 2017 we established an Investment Team subcommittee of the Board of Finance. Members include Frank Carney, Debbie Clark, Judith Sebastian, and Jim Tanner. The team researched various socially responsible options and decided to make an initial investment in the Conservative Balanced Fund at United Church Funds, a firm that works exclusively with UCC congregations. In 2018, the team will work to diversify our investments through UCF or other avenues with an emphasis on social and environmental responsibility.
- **Campus improvements:** By the end of 2017, we have completed improvements on Jonathan House with the painting of the downstairs rooms and the completion of our gas conversion. Since we used temporary propane tanks throughout much of the last 2017, it will still take another several months before we can accurately forecast our fuel costs going forward.
- **Open Spirit contributions:** Open Spirit continues to contribute to the financial health of the church.
- **Regular Rentals:** Community of Saint Luke (Ecumenical Catholic Communion) meets Saturday afternoons in the sanctuary. El Toque Del Maestro (Hand of the Master) meets Sunday afternoons in the sanctuary. Comunidade Cristã Paraíso (Brazilian Pentecostal church) holds weekly worship services on Sundays in Edwards Hall. We have a relatively new rental (a new Brazilian congregation) meeting on Saturday evenings on a trial basis.
- **Sprint/Nextel contracts:** The rental income from the Sprint continues to contribute to the financial health of the church. In past years we have heard rumors that one of our two sites would be decommissioned, but that has not come to pass. We continue to assume that this income source will continue.
- **VA Vet Center Community Access Point:** The Vet Center contributes financially to the church by paying the gas bill for Edwards Hall and by paying for snow removal from the large parking lot by Edwards Hall.

### ***Unified Pledging***

This year, we continued our successful implementation of unified pledging. In this system, 16% of our total pledged income goes to Wider Mission, with a portion of this going to the local and national settings of the United Church of Christ.

### ***Stewardship***

The Stewardship theme for 2017 was "The Giving Team." The theme emphasized all the work we are able to accomplish together, and we explored different forms of teamwork as they apply to our work. Committee members were Clair Ball, Debbie Clark, Bill McQueeney, and Cesar Stewart-Morales. Activities included stewardship testimonies during worship; a sermon series; tee-shirts created by youth and children; and a PowerPoint presentation during a congregational meeting. The committee created a streamlined mailing and sent individual thank-you cards to each pledging unit.

### ***Appreciation***

The Board of Finance wishes to thank our officers: Patti Arnheim, Cindy Booth, and Chuck Greenslit who put in many hours of their own time to review records, compare notes, and care for the financial wellbeing of our church. We are grateful also for the leadership of our pastor, Debbie Clark. She has provided thoughtful guidance to the board as we look to the future. Most importantly, we are grateful for the consistently generous

giving of our congregation. Without these important financial contributions, we would not be able to serve so many people in our congregation, our local community, and the world.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nicola Seaholm