

Faith United Church of Christ
575 Richmond Road
Richmond Heights, Ohio



Year 2013

The Annual Report

Annual Congregational Meeting
December 15, 2013

Faith United Church of Christ
Richmond Heights, Ohio

The Annual Congregational Meeting
December 15, 2013
12:00 p.m.

Agenda

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| 1. Call to Order | The President of the Congregation |
| 2. Prayer | The Pastor |
| 3. Approval of Previous Minutes | The Secretary of the Congregation |
| 4. Discussion of Ministry Reports | Ministry Chairs |
| 5. Treasurer's Report | The Treasurer |
| 6. Presentation and Approval of the 2014 Budget | Finance Ministry |
| 7. Election of Officers and MLC Members | The President |
| 8. Other Business | The President |
| 9. Prayer | The Pastor |
| 10. Adjournment | The President |

Vital Statistics

Membership as of December 16, 2012 135

Changes in membership: Additions

New members:

Autumn Abramczyk

Meghan Brunton

Meghan Dorey

Kaye Gardiner

Ryan Jacquet

David Nedrow

Total additions 6

Changes in membership: Losses

Death:

May Ecklund

Total losses 1

Total Membership as of December 15, 2013 140

Congregational Vitality Initiative Annual Report – 2013

The Congregational Vitality Initiative, (CVI), was very pleased to have the opportunity to help in the planning and hosting of Henry G. Brinton, author of *The Welcoming Congregation: Roots and Fruits of Christian Hospitality*.

Henry Brinton's book provided the focus for a weekend-long workshop on church hospitality which took place the weekend of March 1-3, 2013. This is a how-to-book for congregations looking to examine their effectiveness at hospitality and in welcoming others.

The event was truly a collaborative effort between Faith Church, Gerry's House Resource Center and several Hillcrest area churches. The sponsoring churches were Messiah Lutheran, St. Gregory of Narek, Hillcrest Lutheran Ministry, Forest Hill Presbyterian, and St. Paschal Baylon. The planning began in October of 2012, culminating the weekend of March 1st. Eighty-three registrations were accepted for the workshop, representing seventeen churches, four denominations, and thirteen books were sold.

CVI's contribution toward the weekend covered a wide variety of responsibilities. The one that had the greatest impact and was the most labor intensive was providing all the meals for our guests throughout the weekend. Marilyn Glover and her team of volunteers took on that challenge and did an exceptional job. Compliments on the meal planning were abundant.

During the weekend, the participants evaluated different aspects of church hospitality from adequate parking and signage to websites and worship services. "Best Practices" were shared among the group. One of the "Best Practices" has been brought back into practice here at Faith Church, thanks to Betty St. John. That is the practice of having greeters at our entrance.

Some other examples of "Best Practices" were, *The Three Minute Rule* – Spend the first three minutes after worship ends talking only to people that you *don't* know. Be respectful of keeping the sanctuary peaceful and quiet before the service, for those who may want to pray or meditate. Avoid "club religion", (members only), before and after church and during the social time. Think and act like a host, remembering it is a privilege to welcome guests. Simple ideas, but effective.

Henry Brinton was pleased with the weekend; the feedback from those who attended was positive, and once again Faith Church represented itself in a very professional yet welcoming manner.

Respectfully submitted, Congregational Vitality Initiative Team
Marilyn Glover, Pastor McAfee, Ron Ober, Marilyn Wilson

2013

FINAL REPORT- Building and Grounds Committee

Social hall folding chair renovation project begun in March 2012 in which twenty (20)-chair increments were taken to **Domestic & Foreign Auto Body, Inc.** on St. Clair Ave. to be spray painted and receive a baked-on finish for durability was completed in January of this year. The total cost of this endeavor, including the cost of chair tips was finalized at \$1964.08 for a full complement of 132 chairs (projected expenditure \$2000.00). This undertaking was partially funded by a Fifth Sunday Offering.

A major hit to the special repairs account was taken in early January with the unexpected failure of the sanctuary air handler in the basement. A dry load-side pillow bearing threw the belt-driven fan out of balance resulting in excessive shaft wear requiring replacement of all affected parts. Major disassembly of unit was needed to remove old and install new. Bearings were installed with grease fittings to prevent future occurrences. Close inspection of this unit will now be incorporated in the annual service work performed by **Deluxe Heating & Cooling**. Total cost parts and labor topped out at \$1663.00.

Sanctuary HVAC unit suffered additional service repairs with a rupture in a heat exchanger bottom coil spewing full water stream against the far wall. Repairs included installing a new office area zone valve actuator switch on existing piping and a new digital thermostat on the ante-office wall. The two service calls (shaft and coil leak) dinged the special repairs account for \$2280.00 only two months into the year.

In April, acting upon the request of several bell choir members we installed a dual spotlight fixture over the right-side loft directed to the front table. This unit is wired into the same circuit as an existing spotlight thus requiring no separate wall switch. Equipment & labor totaled \$200.00.

Stanley Steamer franchisee **Lazar Brothers, Inc.** was selected in June to steam clean sanctuary carpet, pew benches, parlor rug, chairs and sofa. Total cost of \$1065 included complete Scotch-Guarding. Steam cleaning was last done in 2009. This expenditure was covered by a 2012 Fifth Sunday Offering.

Over the course of summer months **Reid Carpentry Repair & Restoration** under contract to **Lyndhurst Hardware** completed major adjustment work on three (3) entrance doors, preschool, main front and south handicap. Work included shimmed hinges to close air gaps and insure secure latching, reinforced anchor framing, re-alignment to plumb, closer change-outs to eliminate "slamming", installation of weather-stripping, et al. The complete cost assumed by Special Repairs account broken out among the three doors amounted to \$1981.00.

Also over the course of the summer months the downstairs classrooms #'s 3, 6, 8, and 11 were repainted through volunteer effort. Paint and equipment were covered by a 2013 fifth Sunday offering originally intended also for window curtains and shades.

In August twenty-four (24) double-pane casement exterior ground level window frames encircling the social hall were refurbished and glazed as needed. Several showed significant weathering effects over the four years when last repainted.

In September MLC entered into an agreement with **Technical Assurance** consultants for an assessment of the physical condition of our building focusing on the sanctuary roof; prone to suffer random minor water leaks during some rain storms. Because these drip areas are spread throughout the entire roof surface, it is believed that a reroofing is in order. The concrete tiles and felt underlay are in poor shape as are rusting anchor nails. In addition, some rotten soffit & fascia boards have become home to unwelcome nesters which “decorate” the brick facade. TA’s professional evaluation cost \$2358.00 in total. The result has precipitated the establishment of the current capital improvement project. A continuing debt of thanks is owed to Phil Juarez for his very able leadership spear-heading our restoration committee and guiding us as we pursue this endeavor.

An agreement was renewed with **McNulty Roofing**, Highland Hts. to provide for church gutter cleaning twice a year, spring and fall for a charge of \$200.00 each visit. The proposal includes minor gutter repair as needed.

Champion Fire Equipment Inc. annual service visit to inspect the fourteen (14) church fire extinguishers found all functional. Five-year service life expired this year requiring replacement of six units, with the balance falling in 2014. Last replacement costs came in at \$55.00 each. This spacing allows the total \$770.00 expenditure to be spread over a two year period.

PJM Construction Inc. of Mayfield Hts. snowplowing contract was renewed for 2013-2014 for the same price as last winter, \$1900. Contract is in effect from first snowfall to last. Plowing begins at 2 inches of fresh covering and has already been effected.

October saw the installation of the Induction Loop Hearing Assist System encircling the right side pew section in the sanctuary. This method allows wireless transmission enhancement of the spoken word to recipient’s hearing aid devices. Cost was covered by an anonymous member donation.

Faith provided rental facilities and services to **Cuyahoga County Board of Elections** to function as a polling place for Richmond Hts. Ward 3 during the May election only. **BOE** unexpectedly elected in October to rescind their practice of designating Faith Church as a polling place for the city due to an “uncovered conflict” with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). After seven years (thirteen separate elections) the board has decided that our facility does not conform in the strictest sense to certain aspects of the act and has decided to take their business across the street to St. Gregory of Narek. This represents a minor hit to the general budget of \$300 per election.

The B&G committee acknowledges the contributions of several Faith members during the year, particularly those of Larry and Phyllis Huston for installing decorative sheet metal to the surface of the large cross mounted on the exterior front wall of the sanctuary. The efforts of Jim Christensen investigating, procuring and installing (assisted by Dave Holtz) the induction loop wiring are recognized and appreciated, especially by any who stand to benefit from this additional feature.

Respectfully submitted this Monday, November 11, 2013

Dave Vesey, Maintenance Director

Bldg & Grounds committee: Dave Holtz, Ray Hein

Annual Report for Prayer Group 2013

Phillipians 4:6 " Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God".

Faith United Church of Christ's 'Prayer Group meets on a quarterly basis to pray for one another and for those people who request prayers outside of worship, our community and the world. We meet to educate and study the meaning of prayer in our lives, in the written word of the bible and in the world. We also visit those members who are unable to get to church on Sunday mornings, along with participating in the monthly worship services at Homewood Nursing Facility across the street from Faith on the third Tuesday of the month.

The Prayer Group has a prayer basket for those who request prayers outside of Sunday morning worship. This basket is located outside the sanctuary on the resource shelf. If you would like prayers for yourself, a loved one, or someone in the community please fill out a prayer request and place it in the basket. The prayer group collects these and shares them with the prayer group on a weekly basis. If you would like prayers from the prayer group please fill in the prayer request card, contact the church office or one of the prayer group members to get the prayer chain activated.

We also support the **Prayer Square Ministry**, an interfaith outreach ministry that combines the gift of prayer with the gift of a hand tied quilt. We have dedicated many prayer squares to members of Faith, the community and the world. If you would like a prayer square request for yourself or a loved one you need to be sure to ask the recipient if they would like a prayer square and then fill out the request card located next to the prayer basket outside the sanctuary and give the request to **Sue Jacquet**. It takes about 2 weeks to have the prayer square for dedication.

The Prayer Group members are: Marilyn Glover, Sue Jacquet, Sharon Jakse, Roberta McGrath, Donna Nedrow, Jean Sinzinger and Rev. Gene McAfee.

Those members of the Prayer Square Quilt Ministry are: Liz Duncan, Marilyn Glover, Sue Jacquet, Sharon Jakse, Shelia Marcus, Roberta McGrath, Donna Nedrow, Gail Neville and Jean Sinzinger.

If you are interested in being on either Ministry please speak with one of the members.
Submitted by: Donna Nedrow

The Worship, Arts and Spiritual Formation Ministries Annual Report 2013

As I always begin with when I write this report I put the mandate that was established in 2002 in here to remind me of what this ministry is to accomplish each year. The mandate states: *"The Worship, Arts and Spiritual Formation Ministries mandate shall be to enhance and support the worship experience and biblical and theological education of the congregation of Faith UCC, by creating an environment that promotes spiritual formation for all generations through the celebration of praise, the liturgical arts, music and education."*

Thank you to our members of this ministry who meet on a quarterly basis to plan worship and work hard to fulfill this mandate for all at Faith UCC each year. Our members of Worship Ministry are: **Marilyn Glover, Sue Jacquet, Cynthia Mahoney, Roberta McGrath, Donna Nedrow, Gail Neville, Mary Ober, and Rev. Gene McAfee.** If you are interested in being a member of the Worship Ministry we would love for you to join us next year.

This report begins with the liturgical calendar. The church year begins with Advent 2012. We presented the Advent banners the beginning of each Sunday of Advent again as we will do this Advent season. This past year we had the multi generational Christmas Eve Family Service lead by our Faith Formation Director, Karen Wagner with many of our youth and their families at 4:00 pm and then celebrated our Christmas Eve Service of Rail Communion and Candle lighting at 11:00 pm.

(After much discussion with FFM at a joint meeting in April 2013 we have decided to have Christmas Eve services for this year 2013 with Family Service at at 5:00pm, a Pot Luck meal at 6:00pm and Christmas Eve with Rail Communion and Candlelight at 8:00pm to help make it a little easier for people to attend this year).

Other ways to fulfill our mandate are the special services we had during the liturgical year; with Ash Wednesday Service which began the season in Lent and Holy week services which began with Palm Sunday. We continued to pass out Eco friendly Palms for Palm Sunday each year. Eco-palms are sustainably harvested and fairly trade. We also celebrated services this past year with Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service with communion around the altar, Holy Saturday Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday Morning Service. (We did not participate in a Community Good Friday service this year but recommended for those to help with Loaves and Fishes and participate to serve this

special meal). Other services we celebrated during the year were Pentecost, World Communion Sunday, All Saints Sunday and finally ending the church year with the Reign of Christ.

Many of you may notice the change in the Altar Paraments which symbolize the change of seasons in the liturgical year.

We had a very special celebration this year with celebrating 10 years together with Rev. Gene on World Communion Sunday. It was a great service with Margaret Mills as our guest to bring us the message and concluded with a wonderful potluck lunch after the service. Thank you to everyone who helped plan the service, the lunch, the wonderful gifts to Gene and the great celebration of ten years together.

We continue to promote spiritual formation and education by working alongside FFM throughout the church year. We thank all the volunteers who work so hard to help make worship fulfilling each Sunday. A thank you goes out to all of those members who help to cover services when Rev. Gene is on vacation. We are a very fortunate to have a number of ordained and lay leaders in our church who do a great job leading worship. Thank you to the music program led by Mary Ober and Joan Workman. And a special thank you to Rev. Gene for your leadership and dedication to Faith UCC.

God's Blessing and Shalom,
Donna Nedrow (Chair of Worship)

President's Report

This year marks my second and final year as the President of Faith United Church of Christ. The major thing that I come away with is the incredible work put into Faith by some key individuals of our congregation. Most of this work is done behind the scenes, and it has been a real eye-opener. Thanks to everyone who keeps the church running and on a good footing.

This past year was full of accomplishments. The Henry Brinton series - "The Welcoming Congregation" - was well received by both our congregation and throughout the community. We had a tent at the Gay Pride Festival again. For those of you who have never attended Gay Pride, I encourage you to head on down to East Ninth Street next year. It's a fun time.

After many painstaking hours, and thanks mainly to the efforts of Jim Christensen, we finally have an updated Constitution. We have also finally addressed the problem of our roof with a capital campaign which has been well supported by the Congregation. We still have a ways to go for full funding.

The future is not without challenges. As we all know, the building is getting old. Besides the roof, we can anticipate additional unforeseen expenses in the future. One example of this was the bearing replacement and other work performed on the HVAC system this past January. These expenses are difficult to budget for, and can be a strain on our church. Please refer to the B & G report prepared by Dave Vesey who has done an excellent job this past year.

The loss of income from Emmaus will be felt sorely next year. Our projected deficit is much higher than we would like to see. After several years of modest deficits, we may be entering into a period that is not sustainable in the long run. Fortunately, we have time to address this issue, but conversations need to begin now.

Finally, I want to thank Pastor Gene, Bob Goss, Karen Wagner, and, of course, Mary Ober along with Joan Workman for their dedication and hard work to keep Faith vibrant and alive. These individuals along with numerous volunteers and ministry chairs deserve our thanks.

Ron Ober