



Community PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

of Clarendon Hills

2021 Annual Report



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

In many ways, it is hard to distinguish 2021 from 2020. In a pandemic we measure time differently, not in weeks and months but in seasons when we can be together and seasons of separation. The past calendar year continued the season of unknowing and waiting. A bit like an extended Advent. We continued to look for hope, peace, joy and love while awaiting the miracle of Emmanuel, God with us, to be present.

We have reminded one another over and over that God is always present while encouraging all to be open to seeing God in neighbors. This congregation was generous in 2021, supporting our mission partners with extraordinary gifts provided by the Ellen Marsh Fund. CPC granted \$50,000 from the Marsh Fund for support during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Rev. Beth Freese Dammers

Session made several significant decisions in 2021, including:

- Elected a new treasurer: Becky Bewley Rush.
- Established a united Kids' Academy offering preschool and childcare to the community. Elected the Kids' Academy Board. Hired Kristin Duy as Kids' Academy Program Director.
- Approved the CPC 2021 - 2025 Five Year Plan as submitted by the Way Forward Task Force II.
- Navigated how to live out ministry during the COVID-19 pandemic, receiving recommendations from the Safety, Security and Emergency Task Force.
- Returned to in person worship on May 2 while maintaining online worship. Hybrid worship (in person and online) is here to stay!
- Approved an updated Safe Church Policy ensuring two adults present with all children and youth in all programs.
- Approved a new staffing model to hire a part time Director of Youth & Family Ministry and a part time Director of Children & Family Ministry while retaining a full time Associate Pastor.
- Approved the creation of a second Endowment Fund called Legacy Fund.

As important as these decisions are, it is the day-to-day ministry of relationships and walking with one another through life that are the heart of our ministry together. Sitting with families to tell stories and plan funerals, visiting one another, welcoming new babies to the family of God, supporting one another through challenging relationships, listening as families seek peace and praying together. This is the ministry that is at the heart of being a faith family!

While we proceed through the season of the COVID-19 pandemic, may our marking of time be measured by the love we give and receive in the name of Jesus Christ.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

2021 has been a year of rebuilding and relaying the foundations we have as the CPC faith community. With the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic continuing, our plans for programs made in pencil, and holding on tightly to our relationships with God and with one another, our family of faith continues to persevere with a fierce, stubborn hope. Some highlights of the year for me were:

- Building, coordinating and collaborating on Lent Kits in the early part of the year
- Leading some outdoor services in the memorial garden and hearing the choir for the first time in the summer
- Blessing the ministry of and bidding farewell to Allison and Lisa
- Leading two retreats this year for the High School Leaders in August and for the Disciples in September
- Attending Family Camp with Liam and Maeve
- Welcoming middle school and high school students back to CPC for Sunday nights
- Recruiting, training and working with the absolute best volunteers on the planet for all student ministries from PreK-Grade 12
- Continuing to find creative ways to connect our community alongside the Deacons through food fundraisers, holiday dinner drive thrus and summer outdoor receptions
- Implementing new structures for both Sunday School and youth group along with their curriculum
- Collaborating with the CE-A committee to bring in amazing speakers and also finished off a strong year of providing Sunday morning educational programming from September to May
- Getting to know CPC in person and celebrating some amazing milestones: graduations, Fall Kickoff, 3rd Grade Bible Sunday, Easter and Advent
- Walking alongside the grieving at funerals, rejoicing with families at baptisms, sharing the Lord's Supper together



Rev. Susan Tindall

In 2022 I'm looking forward to:

- Leading 2 more retreats: one for high school at Stronghold and for middle school at Conference Point Center
- Continuing to reach out and get to know families as we continue to struggle through the COVID-19 pandemic together
- Preparing for new staff and making sure things are in place for both children and youth ministry
- Creating more opportunities for mission and service for all ages
- Coordinating Caravans for our high school students this summer
- Maintaining and building momentum over the summer while Pastor Beth takes her sabbatical
- Confirming our Disciples in the Spring!

With gratitude,
Rev. Susan Tindall



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Being a connected church family – one that really cares about each other and our broader community – is one of our greatest strengths.

The COVID-19 pandemic was the catalyst for creating innovative ways to safely pursue our ministries that will be here for the long term (e.g., in-person and online worship and gatherings). We will continue to innovate to connect with each other and welcome visitors in 2022.



2021 Highlights

- \$61K in donations to help fight food insecurity
- Online worship, technical infrastructure and website enhancements
- Pastor Susan's contract extension until July 2023 (Yay!)
- 4 Concerts with total attendance over 100 in-person and live-streaming
- The return of Family Camp!
- A successful stewardship campaign with pledges up +\$8,416 and average pledge +\$177; 2-year pledges up \$52,739
- Much better financial results than expected: surplus of about \$13,000 vs. a planned \$90,713 deficit benefiting from partial year staff vacancies, lower program spending, higher pledges and non-pledge giving

New in 2021

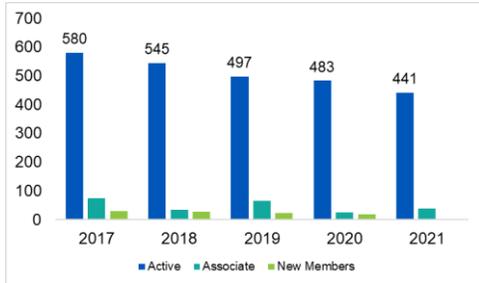
- 5-Year Financial Plan for 2021-26 approved by Session
- New staffing model enabling part-time Directors of Children and Youth Ministries
- Middle School Youth ministry vision up and running
- CPC Kids new curriculum launched
- Yamaha concert grand piano for sanctuary
- Endowment Legacy Fund
- Digital signage system (replacing old, end-of-life system)
- A redesigned PADS to deliver meals to new hotel shelter
- Events: Palm Sunday Car Parade, CPC Carnival
- Highly successful first year for CPC Kids' Academy, our unified Preschool and Child Care Center program



Our CPC Community

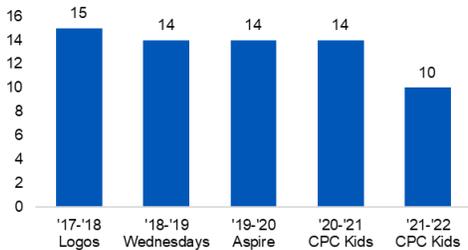
Consistent with overall church trends and fueled by the COVID-19 pandemic, CPC's active membership declined to 441, with 38 moving to associate status and no new members. Welcoming visitors should be a focus for 2022 to offset this trend. Although CPC Kids, Middle School Youth and Disciples/Post-Disciples participation were also impacted, these groups are very engaged. Great creativity enabled many programs to make the best of the situation. CPC Kids' Academy, which provides high quality care and teaching as a service to our community, operated at near full capacity and was a great service to the community.

Active Membership



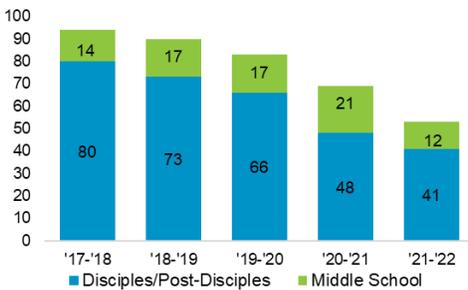
- Active membership is 441, -8.9% vs. 2020.
- With hybrid worship offerings (online and in-person), CPC's participation rate is consistent with other churches—only slightly lower than pre-pandemic levels.
- 38 were transferred to associate status, of which 12 moved; there were 4 deaths and we had no new members join CPC.

CPC Kids (Previously LOGOS/Aspire)



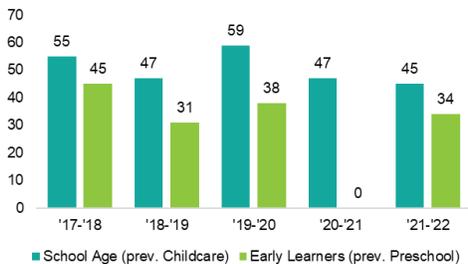
- The joy of children in the church this fall has been felt by all.
- CPC Kids Sunday School's typical in-person participation is 10; last year, offered online only due to the COVID-19 pandemic, participation was half this level; the kid's program has evolved over the years: Logos/ Wednesdays/Aspire 2017-19; CPC Kids 2020+.
- New "DIG-IN" curriculum was initiated this fall with return to in-person Sunday School.

Youth (Disciples/Post-Disciples & Middle School)



- Our highly energetic youth ministry has realigned activities to help visitors feel welcome and connect participants in an inclusive way
- Middle School Youth participation is 12. The move to Sundays has been well-received; participation is growing and the group is active and engaged.
- Cubes participation is 41, with 31 Post-Disciples and 10 Disciples. This is an increase over last year's Disciples class, which was a COVID-19 pandemic low of 3. Tactics defined during our work with Ministry Architects were initiated.

Childcare and Preschool



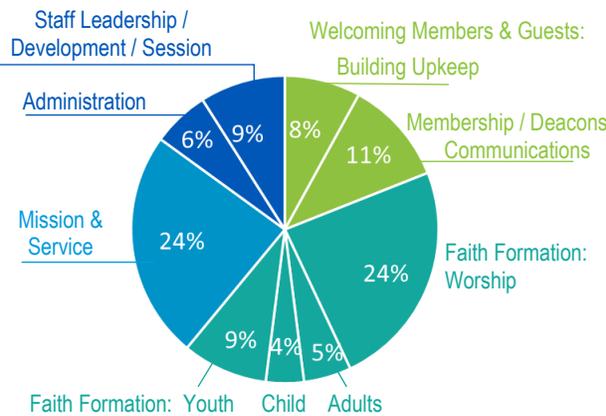
- CPC Kids' Academy, the new unified Child Care and Preschool, launched in early Jan. 2021.
- Early Learners has enrollment of 34 vs. goal of 28.
- School age enrollment is 45 vs. goal of 40. Before PM Kindergarten care was new this year.
- Summer Camp had 41 campers – an amazing number – with 10 field trips for the school-age children.



Finance

2021 delivered strong results with net surplus of about \$13,000; much better than the planned budget deficit of (\$90,713) due largely to staff vacancies, reduced program spending, strong pledge giving and slightly higher plate/non-pledge giving than budgeted. In the 5-Year Financial Plan developed by the Way Forward Task Force II, the 2022 budgeted deficit was forecasted to be (\$40,000) and Session approved recommendations to decrease staffing if the actual budget deficit was higher. The 2022 approved budget is significantly below this threshold at (\$21,820) so no reductions were needed. Spending directly supported our CPC strategies of Faith Formation Worship (24%), Faith Formation Adults (5%), Faith Formation Child and Youth (13%), Mission and Service (24%) and Welcoming Church—Building Upkeep (8%) and Welcoming Church—Membership, Communications and Deacons (11%).

Spending by Strategic Area

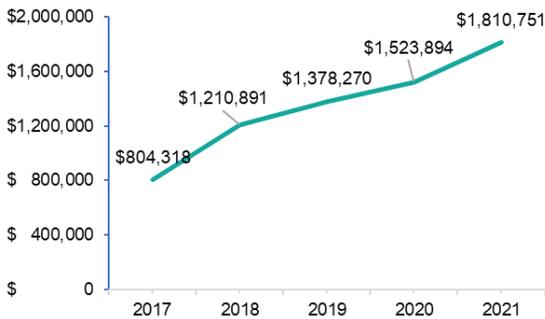


Financial Summary

	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
Revenue	\$618,635	\$646,820	\$646,656
Expenses	\$709,349	\$633,861	\$668,476
Net Income	(\$90,713)	\$12,959	(\$21,820)

- The year finished strong with a surplus of \$12,959 versus a planned budget deficit of (\$90,713).
- The lower deficit benefited primarily from lower expenses due to partial year staff vacancies, lower program costs due to COVID-19 pandemic constraints, and higher plate/non-pledge and pledge giving.
- 2022 faithful pledge giving is higher than last year which helped to achieve goals.
- 2022 projected budget deficit of (\$21,820) is lower than the (\$40,000) threshold for staff and spending cuts in the 5-year plan; therefore, no reductions are needed at this time.
- 2022 actuals will likely benefit from:
 - 1) CPC Kids' Academy increased its 2022 operating cost share from \$27k to \$42k
 - 2) the two open staff positions will likely not be filled until April.

Endowment



- The Endowment Funds grew to \$1,810,751 due to gifts and financial market growth.
- This growth enabled \$45,836 in distributions.
- With such growth in the Endowment Fund, a new Legacy Fund has been created with the flexibility for distributions to be used for capital projects, one-time projects, or operating expenses to help secure the future of CPC.



Giving

Your generosity directly impacts CPC's ministries, and this was never more evident than in 2021. Your pledges enabled a decision to hire part-time Children and Youth Directors while maintaining financial discipline, in accordance with the 5-year plan developed by the Way Forward Task Force II. Pledge giving is very important as it allows the church to make informed planning decisions. As of this report, pledges are up +\$8,416 to \$544,632 with the average pledge amount up +\$177 to \$4,501.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, your gifts remained strong, with two-year pledge increases of \$52,739, enabling CPC to pursue our Children's and Youth Ministries and make technology-related adjustments to stay connected. In addition, you put your faith into action with \$61,000 in support of food and shelter insecurities.



Looking Forward to 2022

Focus all ministry efforts around our Strategic Pillars:

Welcoming

- Increasing CPC awareness and engagement, especially for online and website as these are the "front door" of our church to visitors
- Elevating CPC's hospitality to be more welcoming to visitors
- Increasing our awareness to the reality of our own biases and working toward equity

Lifelong Faith Formation

- Continuously improving hybrid worship including online as a permanent way to worship
- Continuing to bring to life to CPC Kids, Middle School and High School Youth and Adult programs
- Preparing to welcome new Directors of Children and Youth Ministries

Service

- Bringing back Caravans
- Identifying other service opportunities for all ages
- Participating in Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Adult Mission Trip

Good Stewards

- Building on a successful Stewardship foundation
- Continuing to exercise financial discipline in accordance with the 5-year financial plan
- Launching new Legacy Endowment Fund



A Great Staff, Strategic Leadership and a Welcoming Facility

Community Presbyterian Church is a fellowship of believers who seek God's purpose, share life's passages, and strive to live out Christ's teachings. Through God's grace, all are welcomed and may find respect, nurture and refuge as we live out our love for service to each other, the greater community, and the world.

Administrative and Personnel Committee

Chair: Gary Coop

Members: Kathy Adelman, Kelly Bufton, Carol Crimmins, Ken Monson, Janet Plate, Lisa Vaughan, Rev. Beth Freese Dammers (staff liaison)

2021 Goals

- Return to a more “normal” work environment
- Develop/Implement a consistent long-term methodology for document storage, security, and backup, which responds to both on-site and work-from-home access
- As required by Presbytery – Session review of:
 1. Manual of Administration Operations and Personnel Policy Manuals
 2. Boundary Training and Child & Youth Protection Policy
 3. Insurance – Property, Casualty, and Directors & Officers coverage

2021 Highlights

- Extension of Rev. Susan Tindall's contract for an additional year until July 2023
- Hardware and software upgraded to support our in-person/remote worship model
- Participation in the Way Forward Task Force II, which created a 5-year financial projection and the framework for dropping/adding a year annually
- Major updates to Employee Handbook with emphasis on redefining employee benefits, transition to a PTO model (Paid Time Off), and inclusion of Kids' Academy teachers
- Childcare Center and Preschool Task Force that resulted in the transition to the CPC Kids' Academy
- Updates to our Safe Church Policy (formerly Child/Youth Protection Policy) that, among other items, established a consistent “Two Adult Rule” and made CPC a “nut-free” facility
- Addition of Indemnification Language in By-laws (Approved by congregational vote on 6/6)
- Adoption of a new staffing model, recommended by the Staffing Task Force and approved by Session in November (in the wake of staffing resignations)

Looking Forward to 2022

- Hiring of a Director of Children & Family Ministries
- Hiring of a Director of Youth & Family Ministries
- Supporting Rev. Beth Freese Dammers as she takes her well-earned, COVID-delayed sabbatical as well and encouraging the congregation's engagement in that process
- Continuing development of our in-person/remote worship model



Safety Security and Emergency Response (SSER) Subcommittee

Co-Chairs: Rich Cirillo and Pat Garner

Members: Lisa Henderson (Jan-May) and Rev. Beth Freese Dammers (staff liaisons), Janet Plate (A&P liaison), Dan Youngman (H&G liaison), Charlotte Krueger, Mark Rediehs, Berrie Salbego, Tracy Sims, Lindy Steeves, Jim Trchka, Mary Youngman

2021 Goals

- Continue monitoring and supporting during pandemic
- Finish access control implementation
- Emergency response training and exercises
- Facility inspections

2021 Highlights

- Multiple adjustments to pandemic-related church procedures to adjust to the Restore Illinois Plan phases
- Access control and security camera systems completed. Some problematic equipment scheduled for replacement.
- Conducted extended monitoring of the security cameras in response to alerts from the Presbytery and the Department Homeland of Security
- Prepared documents covering blood borne pathogens and hazardous chemicals to support the successful review for the Kids Academy license
- Participated in a training course on CPR and AED utilization

Looking Forward to 2022

- Continue to monitor the pandemic and prepare updated information as needed
- Conduct facility inspections and emergency response training
- Update the SSER Plan



Nominating Committee

Chair: Elizabeth Abraham

Members: Ingrid Ellithorpe, Blake Harmet, Amy Krupa, Fred Veenbaas, Bill Vickery, Rev. Beth Freese Dammers (staff liaison)

2021 Goals

- Prayerfully discern and call to service those with gifts needed to strengthen God's church and meet our strategic pillars
- Encourage those who have not previously served in ordained leadership
- Secure leaders for all open roles on the Board of Deacons and Session

2021 Highlights

- Accomplishing these goals took longer in a year when we were limited in sharing at in-person worship and gatherings. Not all leadership positions are filled, and the congregation elected the recommended slate on November 14, 2021.

Deacons		
Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
Gloria Tatar Jack Videbeck		John Boxell Ann Jaltuch Kris Veenbaas Bill Vickery
Elders		
Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
Kevin Brixie Fred Veenbaas		Kathy Adelman Ingrid Ellithorpe Pat Garner Erin James Dan Konar Judy Johns Schloegel

Looking forward to 2022

- Fill the open positions early in 2022 and explore new ways to encourage leadership service



We are a welcoming church.

We believe feeling welcome is foundational for members and visitors to be open to the journey of lifelong faith formation and growth. We strive to welcome each other whenever we are together. We work to welcome visitors to our church so that we might enrich each other's faith journeys. And we welcome our neighbors near and far so that we may experience the grace of God together.

Gregg Sewell, Director of Music Ministries/Choirs

The good news in our music ministry for 2021 is that the COVID-19 pandemic did not keep us down! CPC found a way forward, resuming in-person worship in late spring. In the fall, our Clarion and Chancel Choirs began rehearsing again, and while participation is somewhat down due to the requirement to sing with masks, choral and instrumental music has returned to our worship services. Great thanks goes to our faithful members who understand the importance of music to our corporate praise of God.



Thanks to an anonymous donation of amazing generosity, our Worship and Music Committee was able to purchase a new Yamaha Concert Grand piano for our Sanctuary. This instrument will serve us well for decades to come and give our music ministry a solid platform on which to build a program of the highest excellence.

Jason Hill, our Church Musician, has used this new instrument to fullest advantage. In addition to being a superlative traditional acoustic piano, our Yamaha is also equipped with digital technology that allows a single musician to play multiple instruments at once. Jason has used this capability to enhance our congregational singing and much more.

As we look forward to the New Year, I see a bright future for our ministry of music. I'm full of hope that our daily lives will adapt to the changing conditions of our world in a way that will allow us to grow in spite of the unexpected challenges we face. We will surmount them together, arm in arm with each other in loving compassion. I couldn't be more excited about the prospects ahead.

Concert Series Committee

Chair: Glenn Gabanski

Members: Scott Anderson, Pat Garner, Nancee Margison, Judy Johns Schloegel, Gregg Sewell (staff liaison)

2021 Highlights

- Presented on St. Valentine's Day the "Heart Strings" concert by lutenist Gail Gillespie. With in-person attendance severely restricted, we had 65 watching via livestream and over 250 views of the concert recording.
- Presented on April 11 the delightful and beautifully played string chamber music featuring John Sharp and Weijing Wang of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Liba Shacht of the Lyric Opera Orchestra; 45 guests attended in person and another 46 joined in via livestream.
- Presented on November 14 the Chicago Gargoyle Brass & Organ Ensemble featuring organ, trumpet, trombone, French horn, and tuba, with 67 guests attending in person and approximately 48 watching via livestream.
- Sponsorship giving in 2021 remained strong.

Looking Forward to 2022

- February 6: Robert Chen, Concertmaster of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Chicago concert pianist Matthew Hagle
- March 20: Artemisia Trio featuring three female vocalists in an engaging performance



Board of Deacons

Moderators: Becky Bewley Rush, Riley Glenn

Members: Paul Abraham, Lynn Banks, Cheryl Caveney, Blake Harmet, Amy Hall, Dave Hillman, Kate Kocoras, Julia/Ann Lorenz, Lynn Mehrhoff, Tom O'Brien, Todd Petersen, Eric Rickert, Gianni Salbego, Lindy Steeves, Gloria Tatar, Kris Veenbaas, Dan White, Rev. Beth Freese Dammers (staff liaison)

It was a year of continued adaptability for the Board of Deacons in 2021. Our operational commitments ebbed and flowed, adjusted and readjusted, but one element remained constant: caring for and serving those near and dear to us, the congregants of CPC. We reached out in a number of creative ways in 2021, including:

- Reimagined Mardi Gras celebration, where families could order a delicious carry-out or dine-in meal from a local restaurant
- Special Garden Stone project, partnering with CPC Youth to decorate and deliver stones with positive messages
- Weekly outreach via cards, calls and prayers for congregants continuing to be isolated or vulnerable to the effects of the pandemic
- Surprise Deacon Sweet Treat deliveries to churchgoers
- Meal Trains for those in need
- Drive-Thru Thanksgiving Dinner for our neighbors in need
- Fellowship Receptions held outdoors after church services, offering beverages, treats and a safe space to gather
- Food Fundraisers, partnering with local restaurants, benefiting CPC Fall Kick-off outdoor festival
- Christmas dinners prepared and delivered to neighbors in need



Looking Forward to 2022

Come what may in 2022, Deacons will happily continue serving CPC in fun and creative ways. “Together” can be defined in so many ways, and God continues to guide us in the spirit of bringing us “together.” We will continue to assist in re-gathering protocol in hopes that we consistently connect our church family.

Membership

Chair:	Barbara Smiles
Members:	Annie Cahill, Kirsten Konar, Ardes Poisson, Nikki Salbego, Barb Smiles (Elder), Rev. Susan Tindall (staff liaison)
Statistics:	441 members and 3 affiliate members
2021 Changes:	-4 Deaths; -1 Affiliate Death; -36 Associate; -2 Transfer

The Membership Committee spent the year reaching out to keep the CPC membership connected and supported with the ever-changing demands of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the year progressed, we looked to welcome and draw the attention of the many new residents in the community.

- Published *Meet a Member*. With the assistance of Ann Hamman, we profiled 12 members in the weekly eBlast.
- Provided Membership statistics monthly to Session
- Participated in the Lent kit bag by adding postcards to send to others for encouragement, support, and love
- Identified and contacted members that we have not heard from in the past year
- Sent a Welcome to the Neighborhood flier, created by the Communications Committee, to 212 new residents
- Sent a Welcome flier to the new families of the Kids' Academy in the summer and fall
- Participated in the Let's Talk service to encourage all members to reach out to help increase membership
- Sponsored the Cake Walk at the CPC Carnival
- Handed out Halloween treats at CPC
- Continued to connect with families interested in joining CPC
- Completed the annual role review for 2021
- Sponsored a Clarendon Hills Chamber of Commerce Christmas tree and provided ornaments for the membership and friends to hang on the tree

Looking Forward to 2022

- Continue reaching out to all members and visitors to welcome them into God's home with open arms



Communications

Chair: Wendy Cook

Members: Aimee Hucek (thru July), Linda Cirillo, Katie McGowan, Stephanie Rens-Domiano, Courteney Templeton, Rev. Beth Freese Dammers (staff liaison)

2021 Goals

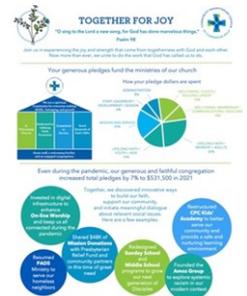
- Increase awareness of CPC and create opportunities to tell the CPC story through website, signage, social media and events
- Support requests from other committees

2021 Highlights

- Developed a strategy that focused extra communication support on the 4 times of year that are most likely to attract new visitors: Youth Sunday, Easter, Rally Day and Christmas
- Created a Youth Logo for this important ministry
- Provided communications support to several committees, e.g.: Concert Series promotions, new CH residents flyer/bookmark, stewardship infographic/materials, Mission & Outreach brochure, new pew cards
- Developed a social media access and content policy
- Maintained regular accountabilities such as Annual Report/meeting and making signage changes due to event promotion and/or COVID-19 pandemic
- Special thanks to retiring member, Aimee Hucek, who gave her amazing graphic design talents to greatly enhance the branding and effectiveness of CPC's communications and building

Looking Forward to 2022

- Continue to leverage opportunities to increase awareness, tell the CPC story and develop a deeper culture of hospitality for welcoming visitors



Stephanie Rens-Domiano, Director of Digital Platforms

2021 Highlights - 2021 was a year that required adaptability, and quick and clear communication as we dealt with the changes that the COVID-19 pandemic required of us for worship, office and building usage.

- Used new worship reservation services, coordinated communication on the website and Constant Contact and created a welcoming environment for those watching worship from home via live-streaming
- Worked with staff and many committees at CPC to utilize the strength of our online membership database Realm. I am currently working to increase attendance taking to better understand member engagement and expand our use of the communication tools in Realm.
- Expanded our presence on the social media platforms Facebook and Instagram to continue our outreach into the community. Emphasized Youth Sunday, Lent/Easter, CPC Carnival, Advent/Christmas and the Concert Series
- Developed a Social Media Policy to better control and safeguard our CPC messaging online.

Looking Forward to 2022

- Looking forward to continuing to increase member and community engagement through the effective use of the website and social media, as well as growing the usage of Realm by both members and church leaders
- Planning to refresh many of the photos and streamline the visitor experience this upcoming year on our website as it continues to be a source of current information for members and visitors alike



House and Grounds

Chair: Dan Youngman

Members: Zoltan Olah, Ed Polus, Derek Rush, Jason Salbego, Christian Schloegel, Jim Trchka, Fred Veenbaas, Bill Vickery and Shannon Nyhart (staff liaison)

2021 Goals:

- Repairs & maintenance to our buildings and property
- Capital improvements
- Response to facility-related emergencies

2021 Highlights

We completed the following projects in 2021:

- Narthex ceiling repairs and painting
- Chancel floor refinishing
- Engineered drawings for a new Fire Detection System & ECS
- Repairs to window wall drainage, west elevation
- Minor repairs, touch up painting, first floor hallway/foyer
- Gutter and downspout cleaning & inspection
- Masonry repairs, selective tuckpointing & sealing, east elevation adjacent to Door 5C

Looking Forward to 2022

We are hoping to accomplish the following this coming year:

- Installation of new Fire Detection System
- Installation of new Emergency Communications System
- Repainting of railings, east elevation
- Fence repairs, SE perimeter of property
- Bollard light repairs, north elevation
- New siding and roof for the shed

Thanks to our committee members and staff liaison, and special thanks to those who contribute their time and talent performing project work at the church and manse.

Blake Trchka, Director of Technology

It was a busy year for technology at CPC, with work on many projects to support and enhance worship and church operations.

2021 Highlights

- Continued support of online/hybrid worship through several platform and operational variations, including extensive research of best technical options and a move away from Zoom for weekly use after codec changes that no longer supported live music
- Continued maintenance of church computers and network including replacement of several failed staff and audio-visual technology items
- Facilitated production of technical aspects for several specialty services including first ever pre-recorded services and Palm Sunday parade, summer outdoor worship, funeral services, and more
- Upgraded of the church's portable PA system for enhanced capabilities during meetings & events in Fellowship Hall and outdoors
- Provided audio/visual support and live streaming for several Concert Committee events
- Designed & implemented a new digital signage system to welcome visitors at each church entrance with timely graphics and information
- Coordinated projects with SSER including security system upgrades and a project to replace the failing video doorbell system with a new more robust system, including enhanced capabilities for easy monitoring and door answering



We are dedicated to lifelong faith formation.

We believe that as children of God, lifelong spiritual exploration, discernment and growth are key to living out our faith. We want to experience God through collective worship that includes inspirational preaching, prayer, arts and music. We strive to provide meaningful and engaging Christian education to all age groups through studying the word of God, understanding historical and modern events in the light of Christ's teachings, and experiencing the Holy Spirit through service.

Christian Education – Children

Chair: Kathy Florence

Members: Val Cooper (Member at large), Laura Connolly (Member at large), Ava Marginean (Elder), Liz Monson (Member at large), Tracy Sims (Kids' Academy Board Representative), Lisa Henderson until May 2021 (staff liaison), Rev. Susan Tindall since May 2021 (staff liaison)

2021 Goals

- Evolving our Preschool and Child Care Centers into a unified program, including the implementation of a new governance and management structure
- Fully implementing our new large group/small group Sunday School structure and curriculum
- Return of Family Camp Weekend, August 6-8

2021 Highlights

- Completed unification of the Preschool and Child Care Centers into the Kids' Academy, including approval of the Kids' Academy By-laws and Board
- Supported families through continued virtual worship by delivering Easter bags
- Supported the Kids' Academy tuition assistance fund with management of the spring plant sale and restaurant fundraisers
- Held Family Camp Weekend, August 6-8
- Commissioned and trained Sunday school leaders for return of in-person Sunday School
- Implemented the new Dig-In Sunday School curriculum
- Planned a "Pop Up" Christmas Pageant

Looking forward to 2022

- Assist in search for and welcoming of a new Director of Children and Family Services
- Facilitate the return of families to worship and Sunday School
- Return of Vacation Bible School, summer 2022
- Collaborate with CEA and CEY on the renovation of Room 6-8



Christian Education - Youth

Chair: Kaki Schnieders

Members: Kristin Bronstader, Ann Lorenz, Joanna Petersen, Mark Schloegel, Alyssa Woody, Rev. Susan Tindall (staff liaison)



2021 Goals

Our 2021 Goal was to (re)build an in-person faith formation space for our high school and middle school youth, who craved interaction during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2021 Highlights

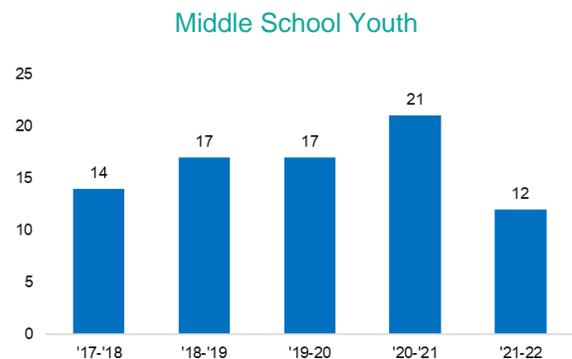
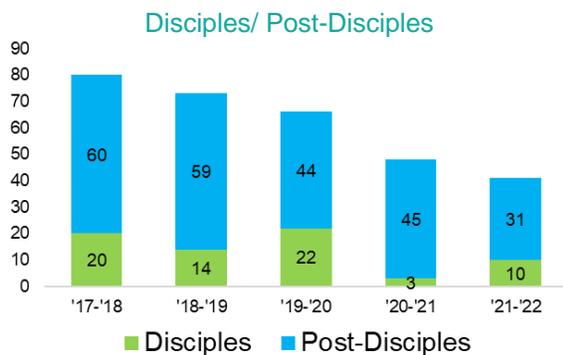
- Middle School Ministry was able to meet in person in our new (2020) Sunday Night format. Participation is growing and the energy is high!
- High school Cubes are thriving! After our work with Ministry Architects we have re-worked our schedule to start the evenings with activities that welcome newcomers.

We are grateful for our adult volunteers, committee & staff partnership!



Looking Forward to 2022

- Planning a return to Caravans for high schoolers this summer and planning new off-site experiences for high school and middle school youth and their friends in the new year



Christian Education - Adult

Chair: Gregg Morton

Members: Kelly Bufton, Cyndi Frost, Ann Hamman, Robin Randall, Rev. Susan Tindall (staff liaison)

2021 Goals

- Provide a variety of adult faith formation opportunities, particularly on Sunday mornings

2021 Highlights

- Regular Sunday morning classes continued, with guest speakers as well as leaders from CPC.
- “Christian Ethics” led by Chris Vaughan
- “God, Suffering, and Evil” led by Rev. Dr. Anna Case-Winters
- “Spiritual Practices” led by Rev. Marilyn Marty-Gentile
- “Hebrew Bible” led by Prof. Malka Simkovich
- “Rabbinical Commentaries on Jonah” led by Rabbi Steven Bob
- Advent series, using *Advent in Plain Sight*, by Jill J. Duffield, led by committee members
- Thursday Morning Devotions continued to meet via Zoom and read a variety of books.

Looking Forward to 2022

- Continue regular Sunday morning classes, including:
 - series on Old Testament using videos by Rev. Dr. Brent Strawn
 - class led by a local indigenous leader
 - series on worship hymnody led by Jason Hill and Gregg Sewell
 - Lenten series using *Entering the Passion of Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine
- Look into providing opportunities outside of Sunday morning for adult faith formation

Amos Group

Chair: Gregg Morton

Members: Amy Hall, Ruth Karasek, Ava Marginean, Chuck Plate, Janet Plate, Kate Roca, Judy Schloegel, Kris Veenbaas, Rev. Beth Freese Dammers (staff liaison)

2021 Goals

- Educate ourselves and others in our church and community about the issues of systemic racism, social injustice, and inequity
- Provide and encourage initiatives that improve the livelihoods of those harmed by systemic racism, social injustice, and inequity

2021 Highlights

- Continued classes for adult education, including a Sunday afternoon series led by Dr. Reggie Williams from McCormick Theological Seminary
- Attended, as a group, a six-session class on White Privilege, which we are now presenting to others in the CPC community.
- Created a lending library of books that deal with systemic racism, social justice, and inequity
- Maintained our database of relevant resources – books, articles, webinars, videos, TED talks, podcasts – that resides on our church webpage and is updated frequently with new material

Looking Forward to 2022

- Continue education of ourselves and others in our community about the issues caused by systemic racism, social injustice, and inequity
- Partner with one or more agencies to support those who have been harmed by systemic racism, social injustice, and inequity



Circle of Voices

Chair: Ann Hamman

Attendees: Any interested women are welcome to join at any time for any length of time (typically 10-12 women per session)

2021 Highlights

- We strive to read books by a variety of authors, fiction and non-fiction, on topics of current interest plus occasional classics and religious books. We meet the third Wednesday of the month, September to May. In previous years, we met for discussion followed by lunch. This year our discussions were on Zoom.
- The books for the 2021-22 year are:

Month	Book	Author
Sept	<i>Eleanor: A Life</i>	David Michaelis
Oct	<i>The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race</i>	Walter Isaacson
Nov	<i>Beneath a Scarlet Sky: A Novel</i>	Mark Sullivan
Dec	<i>A Life on Our Planet: My Witness Statement and a Vision for the Future</i>	Sir David Attenborough
Jan	<i>Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent</i>	Isabel Wilkerson
Feb	<i>Doomsday Book: A Novel</i>	Connie Willis
March	<i>Hellhound on His Trail: The Electrifying Account of the Largest Manhunt in American History</i>	Hampton Sides
Apr	<i>Jane Eyre</i>	Charlotte Bronte
May	<i>The Four Winds</i>	Kristin Hannah
Jun	<i>Big Lies in a Small Town: A Novel</i>	Diane Chamberlain

The group began in December 1992 with nine women in attendance. The first book read was Circle of Quiet by Madeleine L'Engle, hence the origination of the group name.



Presbyterian Women

Co-moderators: Donna Gabanski and Patricia Debs

Members: All women of the congregation are Presbyterian Women, regardless of their level of engagement, and all are welcome to join our activities at any time.

2021 Highlights

In 2021 PW continued to provide Bible study and fellowship for the women of CPC. Monthly circle meetings were held via Zoom January through May. In September, several circles began meeting in person at the church.

- February: Robin Randall introduced participants to the basics of watercolor painting.
- March: Jeffrey Anderson spoke on Joseph Medill: Cantigny's Abolitionist.
- April: Kit Hartmann of Countryside Shop presented a container gardening seminar.
- May: Donna Gabanski presented Japanese Influences in the work of Frank Lloyd Wright.
- September: Rev. Beth Freese Dammers presented an overview of our study guide, *What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus*
- October: Stephanie Frantz presented "Mindful Meditation."
- November: Mary Brown's nature photography of Clarendon Critters.
- December: Traditional Christmas Tea was held to celebrate the season and to have a chance to meet again in person.
- Money for gifts was donated from the treasury to the People's Resource Center.
- PW will distribute approximately \$4,542.00 to designated agencies at the end of the year.

2021 Presbyterian Women Mission Giving

PW of Presbytery of Chicago	\$1,000.00
Association House	\$ 400.00
Family Shelter Services	\$ 400.00
Kemmerer Village	\$ 400.00
Love	\$ 400.00
Pillars	\$ 400.00
People's Resource Center	\$ 400.00
Thank Offering	\$ 400.00
Birthday Offering	\$ 300.00
Hinsdale Community Services	\$ 200.00
PADS	\$ 200.00
Least Coin	\$ 42.00
Total	\$4,542.00



We are committed to service.

We believe Christ commands us to go into the world to serve God’s people. We strive to serve those in need in our local community and in the larger world by providing programs of refuge and comfort for young and old, individuals and families who struggle with issues of faith, emotional turmoil, economic want and social stigmatization. We also share our financial gifts with organizations that are serving those in need.

Mission and Outreach

Chair: Dave Butts

Members: Linda Cirillo, Donna Gabanski, Doug James, Joanne King, Bob Parsons, Gregg Morton (Amos Group), Rev. Susan Tindall (staff liaison)

2021 Goals

- Continue our support for mission partners struggling during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Focus our giving to mission partners that combat food insecurity

2021 Highlights

- In addition to our 2021 budget, the Committee continued applying funds from the Ellen Marsh Fund to enhance support for areas of COVID-19 pandemic related relief
- Combined with our budget, we were able to distribute over \$61,000 of food, shelter and related aid to assist those suffering the most in this pandemic as well as natural disasters.

2021 Mission Giving

• Association House	• LOVE Christian Clearing House	• Chicago Presbytery Shared Mission
• The Boulevard	• The Night Ministry	• The Kids’ Academy – at CPC
• Dion’s Chicago Dream	• Northern Illinois Food Bank	• Hinsdale Community Service
• Family Shelter Services	• Peoples Resource Center Food Bank	• CPC PADS
• Thresholds	• PC/USA Disaster Relief	• DuPage PADS
	• The Inclusive Collection	



Additional Benevolent Giving

Thanks to your generous donations we supported a variety of missions in addition to those that received Mission and Outreach gifts.

• Presbyterian Women Mission Giving	\$4,542
• One Great Hour of Sharing	\$3,728
• Peace and Global Witness Offering	\$620
• Christmas Joy Offering	\$2,000
• Two Cents a Meal	\$2,635
Total Monetary Gifts: \$13,525	
• Food donated to Hinsdale Community Service Food Pantry and Peoples Resource Center (Meal a Month bags)	Many donations
• Food for Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners	40 each
• Meals served to Wheaton PADS day site	150 per month

Stephen Ministry

Leaders: Dave Butts, Barbara Coop, Carol Crimmins, Gregg Morton

Members: Gary Coop, Ann Jaltuch, Ruth Karasek, Wayne Leopold, Betty Ann Morton, Kit Olah, Janet Plate

Stephen Ministers continue to provide confidential, one-to-one care for those who are experiencing a life changing situation. Stephen Ministers initially experience over fifty hours of training. As a part of our bi-monthly meetings, continuing education provides additional training to meet the different needs of our care receivers. Our highlights of 2021 include:

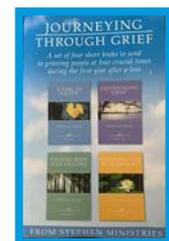
- We did not miss a meeting during the year, continuing to meet twice a month on Zoom for continuing education and supervision.
- We met with Care Receivers using such platforms as Zoom, Facetime and Skype.
- We enjoyed a potluck dinner together in August that included our spouses and the pastors.

We continue to provide the four-part *Experiencing Grief* series. We personally provided them for over 20 recipients and know that people picked them up from the credenza in the Narthex.

Stephen Ministers initially experience over fifty hours of training. As a part of our bi-monthly meetings, Continuing Education provides additional training to meet the different needs of our care receivers.

Looking forward to 2022

In 2022 we hope to hold a day long retreat to focus on care of ourselves and additional ways to work with our care receivers.



PADS

Leaders: Paul Abraham, Kris Veenbas and Matt Vold

2021 Highlights

The current program was paused in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, all guests were housed in about three hotels in Naperville and Downers Grove, based on federal and other funding PADS was able to obtain. Consequently, our program morphed into one that delivers food for PADS guests once a month on Saturdays. For winter and spring of 2021, about 100+ meals were cooked every month on the CPC premises, packed and then dispatched to two area hotels: The Red Roof Inn and Extended Stay in Downers Grove for distribution. In the summer months, we distributed donated pre-cooked and packaged meals to guests at RRI and ES and this program continued until October when the regular PADS program year began.

In late summer, after many months of discussions and planning, PADS announced that consequent to the generosity of two volunteers and some federal funding, they will purchase the Red Roof Inn in Downers Grove to house PADS guests for the long-term and move/consolidate all guests into this interim housing solution. This transaction and transformation is currently underway, given that many approvals at the county and district level have to be obtained and funding gaps covered prior to launching the program. Meanwhile, PADS has secured the location for their guests until the transaction is completed, which is projected to be early next year. More information can be found at the Dupage PADS [website](#) for interim housing.



Looking Forward to 2022

We are not completely clear whether this new solution will be able to cover all of the homeless population PADS serves and whether the interim nightly housing solution in our churches will be required any more. For the near term, the answer is we will not be housing PADS guests this winter at CPC (i.e. for 2021-22).

We will continue to support PADS by collecting donations of needed items (personal hygiene & clothes) and providing nutritious, home-cooked meals to the homeless individuals and families of DuPage County. The number of meals required is expected to rise to 150+ meals for each day. We also expect the summer food distribution program to continue as before. There is a concept of a pop-up kitchen being tried out to distribute hot meals and beverages to guests during a fixed period every day. We will also continue to be flexible and evolve in the ways we provide assistance to ensure the safety of PADS clients and our volunteers. In discussions are ideas such as: Movie Nights, Storytelling Hour, Craft and other activities for children and residents. An impromptu Halloween event by Union Church was very successful and much appreciated. The program is evolving.



CPC Kids' Academy

Chair: Lisa Vaughan

Members: Kristin Duy (Program Director), Rev. Beth Freese Dammers (staff liaison), Erin James (Treasurer), Tracy Sims (CEC Representative), Kate Jungers (Parent Representative), Joseph Hillinger (Parent Representative) and Kelly Turrentine (D181 Representative)

2021 Goals

- Offer a Summer Camp for children 3 – 12 yrs old, including onsite and offsite field trip experiences for a minimum of 80% camp capacity – 36 kids
- Grow our Early Learners, Little Learners, Preschool and Prekindergarten enrollment for the 2021-22 school year to a minimum of 80% classroom capacity – 28 kids
- Grow school-age enrollment to a minimum of 80% classroom capacity – 40 kids
- Research and implement a new Early Learners curriculum for September 2021
- Continue to prepare for our site visit with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, NAEYC. A visit will take place tentatively in mid 2022.

2021 Highlights

- Successfully implemented a Summer Camp Program for 41 kids, exceeding our goal of 36 kids. The school-aged children enjoyed 10 off-site field trips and all children enjoyed an abundance of onsite activities for 10 weeks, early June thru mid-August 2021.
- Early Learners enrollment has grown to a total of 34 kids, exceeding the goal of 28.
- The school-aged enrollment has grown to 45 kids, kindergarten thru 5th grade, exceeding the goal of 40 kids. We offered more flexibility for Walker and Prospect parents by providing care before PM kindergarten. This option did not exist prior to the 2021-2022 school year.
- Administration and Early Learners staff chose Teaching Strategies, Creative Curriculum. It aligns with the stringent NAEYC standards and has proven to be a fantastic backbone and resource for the Little Learners, preschool and Prekindergarten teachers.
- Kids' Academy is on track for a site visit in mid 2022 by a NAEYC Assessor. Administration and staff continue to hone their skills and prepare the physical space to meet the 400 standards set forth by this accrediting body.

Looking Forward to 2022

As we look forward to 2022, our goals remain rooted in the children and families we serve.

- Working toward and achieving NAEYC accreditation will cement our standing as a high-quality learning center for the children of Clarendon Hills and neighboring towns.
- Expanding our Summer Camp so that even more children can participate in this program
- Retaining our highly qualified teaching staff by supporting them with Professional Development Days, competitive salaries/benefits and the tools and materials needed to run their classrooms.



Mission Stitchers

Members: Deb Garner, Jane Hennig, Claire Hodge, Karla Kretchmer

As in 2020, Mission Stitchers has not met in person. We have worked from home and have missed the fellowship of working together.

2021 Goals

- Continuing our ministry to give comfort, hope, and healing

2021 Highlights

The following items were donated to Sharing Connections:

- 5 baby quilts, 4 knitted baby blankets, 4 quilts, and 50 Christmas stockings

Our group was saddened by the death of Karen Oliver, a long time and dedicated member. Over the years of her involvement Karen contributed to many of our projects with her skills at crocheting and sewing.



We are good stewards of the gifts God has given us.

We believe we are called to be good stewards of God's world. We maintain a vital facility that supports our mission and outreach programs. We do long term financial planning and manage a balanced budget of income and expenses. We encourage our members to share their gifts to support our programs.

Finance Committee

Chair: Mark Karasek
Members: Gary Coop, Glenn Gabanski, Chris Vaughan, Phil Lorenz, Chuck Plate, Nancy Pritzel, Barbie Polus, Becky Bewley Rush (Treasurer), Erin James (CPC KA Financial Secretary), Rev. Beth Freese Dammers (staff liaison)

See infographic at beginning of report for more Finance information.

We finished the 2021 year with strong results: Net surplus of \$12,959 compared to a planned budget deficit of (\$90,713). This amazing turnaround resulted primarily from lower expenses due to staff vacancies, lower spending on other programs due to the continuing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, strong pledge giving and slightly higher plate and non-pledge giving than budgeted. Due to lower interest rates, Treasury Bill interest income of about \$350 from the investment program for excess operating cash was lower than plan, which had already been reduced significantly from prior year actuals. We are forecasting that interest income will continue to be low in 2022 due to renewal of investments at lower interest rates.

The 2022 pledge drive was very successful, with our faithful members committing to giving levels higher than the 2021 plan level. However, with the expected return to full staffing levels and reduced income from other sources, the 2022 budget has been approved at a net income deficit of about (\$22,000). This is less than the deficit project in the 2022 – 2026 Five Year Financial Plan.

In early 2021, Finance and the Way Forward Task Force (WTF II) recommended and Session approved that the net income, \$71,086, from 2020 be used to offset the planned deficit for 2021. In April, Finance proposed and Session approved a CPC Five Year Financial Plan based on the work of the WTF II. An annual update of this Plan has been added to the scope of the Finance Committee in an effort to better plan the long-term financial health of CPC. That plan set total income increase targets and spending levels for 2022 – 2026 required to maintain current programs and staffing as well as prioritized staffing and spending cuts to be implemented if income target is not achieved.

The 2022 Budget deficit was forecasted to be (\$40,000), with staffing and spending reductions recommended if the projected deficit exceeded this level. **As noted above, the 2022 budgeted deficit does not exceed that threshold, so these reductions were not triggered.**

Other items:

- PPP Loan was forgiven at 100%.
- CPC KA Financial Secretary was added to the Finance Committee.



Stewardship

Chair: Chris Vaughan

Members: Stan Cook, Amy Glynn, Ken Monson, Barb Coop,
Ava Marginean, Rev. Beth Freese Dammers (staff liaison)

*See infographic at beginning of report
for more Stewardship information.*

With gratitude, we are happy to report that 2022 pledges total \$544,632, up 10.7%, +\$52,739, since 2020. This is the second year in a row of increased giving! A total of 121 families have made their commitments for the new year so far and we are thankful that 7 new families have made pledges for 2022, in addition to the 10 new families from last year. To date, our average pledge is \$4,501, up 17%, \$658, from two years ago.

As we celebrate our generous pledge offerings, we also note that non-pledged (plate) giving is down since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. We will work to find creative ways to encourage and welcome gifts from our non-pledging families so they may also continue to support our work.

We thank all those who have made their pledges! Any members who haven't yet made their 2022 pledge are invited to contact Chris Vaughan chrisvaughan630@gmail.com.



Endowment Fund Committee

Chair: Phil Lorenz

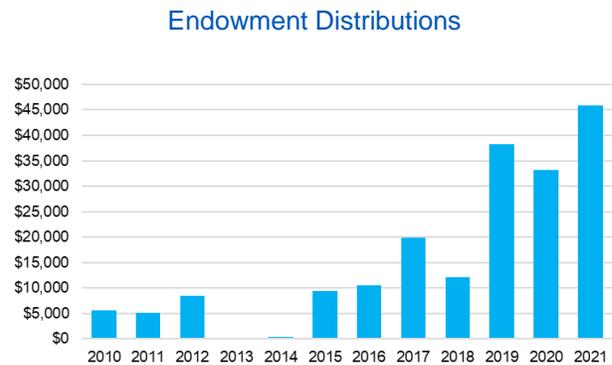
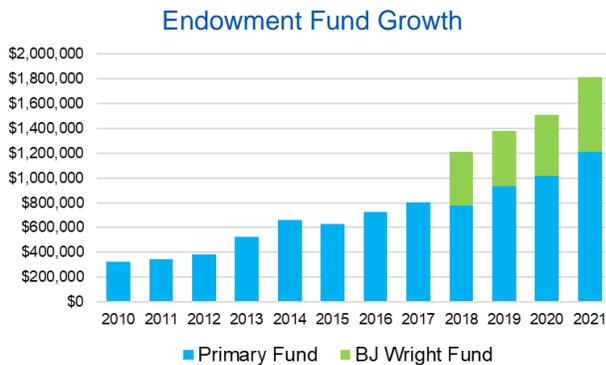
Members: Jeff Ellithorpe, John Kocoras, Todd Videbeck, Courtney Templeton, Michele Vickery, Rev. Beth Freese Dammers (staff liaison)

The Endowment Fund Committee is excited to launch the Legacy Fund, which will receive all future endowment gifts and give Session more flexibility in how future endowment gifts are used. In 2022 the committee hopes to have another big distribution year and fine tune some investment choices.

2021 Highlights

- Through generous gifts and strong investment returns, CPC's endowment funds have grown to over \$1.8 million compared to approximately \$300,000 in 2010, allowing annual funding capacity in 2022 of nearly \$60,000.
- \$45,836 in distributions were approved to fund projects such as four air purifiers for the youth rooms, a consulting project to assess our outdated fire and safety system, and the down payment for the replacement of that system.
- With such growth in the Endowment Fund, a new Legacy Fund has been created with the flexibility for distributions to be used for capital projects, one-time projects, or operating expenses to help secure the future of CPC.
- Over \$2,500 of distributions was sourced from the BJ Wright Designated Fund to pay for our summer interns, Ava Marginean and Gianni Salbego.

We thank John Kocoras and Todd Videbeck for their five years of service on our committee.



The Presbytery of Chicago serves and supports nearly 40,000 members and more than 100 congregations and worshipping fellowships throughout Chicago and the surrounding area. They are a Christian community and a regional governing body of the Presbyterian Church (USA).



The Assembly consists of the clergy members of the Presbytery of Chicago and an approximately equal number of elders who are commissioners and other elder members. The purpose of the Presbytery Assembly is to oversee the mission and governance of the Presbytery of Chicago. The Presbytery Assembly gathers in stated meetings four times a year and whenever called into special session.



CPC commissioners for 2021: Barbara Coop, Ann Schenck, Fred Veenbaas, Kris Veenbaas

To be a commissioner you need only be an ordained elder. If you would be interested, contact Rev. Beth Freese Dammers.

In 2021:

- There were four yearly meetings of the Presbytery of Chicago, and all were held on Zoom.
- Sue Krummel, Executive Presbyter of POC, retired in December of 2021.
- A special POC meeting was called in October for the purpose of electing a new Executive Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Craig M. Howard, who began his term December 1, 2021.



How has the COVID-19 pandemic changed worship habits going into 2022?

- Online (website and service) is not only here to stay but it is now “the front door” of the church to visitors
 - For the interested visitor, online will be their first point of contact; only after a positive online experience will they visit in-person
- In-person gatherings will continue to be important, too
 - Churches are “inherently communal” and visitors and members have a need to see each other in person

As church membership across the country continues to decline, what can churches do to “buck the trend” and slow or stop the decline?

- To be welcoming, church websites/services/programs should be designed and communicated from the perspective of a potential visitor
- To be relevant to a broader audience, churches will need to include online options, flexible timing, music, worship and programs while encouraging open and respectful consideration of different viewpoints
- Ministries should complement people’s lives by offering multiple ways to engage with the church
- Churches who have a focus on inviting visitors will have the most success

According to the Pew Research Center, what are the most popular social media platforms and how do they differ by age?

- The top 3 most used social media are Facebook, YouTube and Instagram
 - Facebook is the most highly used across all age groups: at least 70% of ages 18-64 use Facebook and 50% of those 65+ do so
 - YouTube is the largest online video-sharing platform with 81% of Americans using it
 - Instagram is a way of reaching younger social media users

Sources: Carey Nieuwhof “10 predictions about the future church and shifting attendance patterns” 2021; Christian Post “9 realities your church will face in 2022” 10/14/21; Pew Research Center “Social Media Use in 2021” Survey of US Adults



Financial statements to follow

