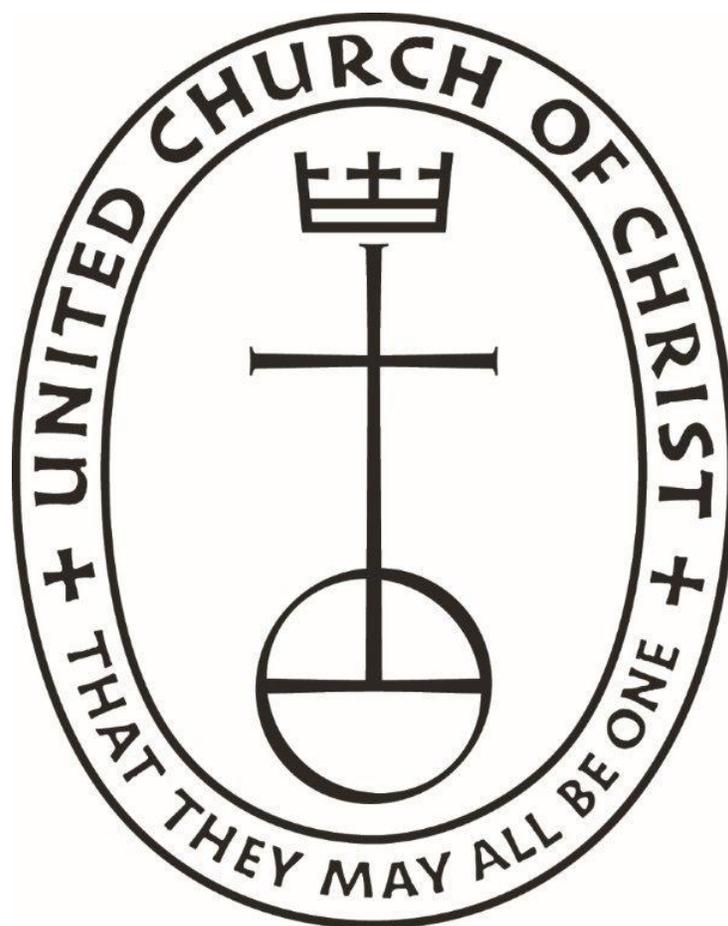


Hope United Church of Christ
2008 Annual Report of Staff,
Council and Ministries



"That they may all be one"
John 17:21

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In this presidential political season, we seem to hear the word “change” an awful lot, no matter what the party affiliation. In our congregation, we have been using that word a lot, too, since it has been a year since former Pastor David Mehl completed his ministry here. For a little something different, let me take these few paragraphs to offer my gratitude for what has *not* changed in this past year here at Hope United Church of Christ!

In recent months, the Lectionary has focused our Sunday scripture passages in the book of Exodus and the Israelites’ journey from slavery in Egypt through the wilderness and into the promised land of Canaan. Through their wanderings, the people of Israel were reminded over and over again that God was “abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. . .(Exodus 34:6b)” As I reflect back on this past year in the life of our congregation, I can see that steadfast love is alive and well. Through our weekly worship, we are reminded of God’s steadfast presence in our lives, as we interpret scripture, pray, sing, and offer our thanks to God for all of God’s blessings in our lives and world.

But I am also thankful for the steadfast love of our congregation. The ability of our members to affirm that a congregation is always more than any of its pastors or staff has been quite clear, as vital ministries have continued and new ministries have developed over this past year. From the hard work of the Building and Property Committee to get ahead of maintenance concerns, to the new First Friends ministry that extends our hospitality to visitors, the signs of steadfast commitment to Hope UCC are abundant.

Finally, I am deeply appreciative of the steadfast love of our staff. Jim, Joyce, Emily, Charlene, and Susie, as well as Allen and Ethan, have remained deeply committed to our mission and ministry, while at the same time shown a wonderful adaptability to new situations. And, of course, we offer deep thanks to Karen Knodt, whose presence among us as our interim pastor has similarly reflected a balance of steadfastness and fresh perspectives.

Thanks be to God for God’s steadfast love and faithfulness. Thanks be to God for guiding the steadfast love and faithfulness of the members of Hope United Church of Christ!

Peace,

Sarah Fredriksen McCann

This annual report you hold in your hands (or are reading on line), our annual meeting, and our weekly worship together all testify that Hope's strength and grounding are truly in God, in the living Christ, and led by the Holy Spirit. The individual committee and staff reports gathered here testify that in the past year, along with the past 64, Hope UCC has faithfully and creatively served God in worship, education, and outreach.

I remind you of God's constancy and your faithfulness, because you're in a very different place than you were a year ago when David and Lynn and their family were leaving. And next year at annual meeting time, you'll again be in a different place, with a new pastor serving with Sarah. And just in case this interim year didn't have enough uncertainty in it, these October days have brought global economic uncertainty to each of us and to our church. So it's a good thing that we're in annual meeting time. It asks us to take a step back and look at the big picture. To see where our feet and hearts are planted. In God's creating power, in Jesus' radically faithful example, and led by that amazing Holy Spirit.

It has been a joy to serve as your interim pastor since mid January, along with Sarah, to help make this interim time intentional. Together with the search committee, as they prepare the profile, we've asked you to take a look at Hope's history, and then name and claim what God is calling you to do and be in the next phase of Hope's ministry.

What you've said about your church in the time line, surveys, and congregational gatherings, is that Hope's strength is in its sense of community, its pastoral leadership, its music, and its accepting, inclusive spirit. Looking to the future, you hear God calling you to even an even greater commitment to outreach and service projects, children's education, youth activities, continuing excellence in worship, becoming an Open and Affirming church, and developing community and relationships among church members.

In addition to providing guidance for the interim process, I've shared the on-going pastoral duties with Sarah; weekly worship, working with committees (budget, building and property, worship, building fund drive, finance and insurance, special events, fine arts, stewardship) and pastoral care. I also meet bi-monthly with other intentional interims who serve in this conference and Illinois South.

Most Sundays of this Pentecost season we've focused on the Genesis and Exodus readings that teach us about our God and our history. Our Sunday lectionary readings have also included some powerful readings from Paul's letters to the early communities of Jesus' followers. He does such a good job of supporting them, challenging them, and celebrating their faithfulness. May his words speak to Hope:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
Philippians 4:4 – 8

Peace and courage,

Karen

Statistical Report for 2008

Deaths

Jewell H. Norath	January 7, 2008
Azalia L. Gray	January 14, 2008
Todd Donald Blake	February 8, 2008**
Edna Bornecque	March 8, 2008
Ruth Wagner	March 19, 2008
Gilbert Treat	April 20, 2008
Virginia Spillenkothen	June 2008
Donald Biggs	July 19, 2008 **
Ethel Riess	August 10, 2008
Brock David Boyer	August 9, 2008 **
Deloris Fritz	September 13, 2008

*Denotes date of service

**Denotes non member

Baptisms

Sarah Bantle	January 27, 2008
Matthew S. Hale, Jr	April 13, 2008
Allison Anabel Kesselring	June 22, 2008
Anjay Prasad	October 12, 2008

New Members

Penny Steffen	February 17, 2008	Reaffirmation of Faith
Carol Sagner	February 17, 2008	Letter of Transfer
Joyce DeNeal	February 17, 2008	Reaffirmation of Faith
Zoe Aughinbaugh	May 11, 2008	Confirmation
Kelsie Kiser	May 11, 2008	Confirmation
Nathan Kraus	May 11, 2008	Confirmation
Patsy Neiswander	May 11, 2008	Confirmation
Brittany Paglusch	May 11, 2008	Confirmation
Andrew Weber	May 11, 2008	Confirmation
Nicky Ballard	August 17, 2008	Reaffirmation of Faith
Jerry Aylesworth	August 17, 2008	Reaffirmation of Faith
Cheryl Aylesworth	August 17, 2008	Reaffirmation of Faith
Sara Hinkle	August 17, 2008	Reaffirmation of Faith
Scott Hinkle	August 17, 2008	Reaffirmation of Faith
Keith Kreitler	August 17, 2008	Reaffirmation of Faith
Lisette Kreitler	August 17, 2008	Reaffirmation of Faith
Doug Loup	September 14, 2008	Reaffirmation of Faith
Barb Davis	September 14, 2008	Reaffirmation of Faith
Karen Newell	September 21, 2008	Reaffirmation of Faith

Weddings

Aaron Rund	Allison Sterner	May 18, 2008
Gregg Haupt	Magen Brady	September 20, 2008

Statistics for the year October 2007 - October 2008

October 2007 Data	418	Members (Confirmation Age Plus)
	+19	New Members Added in 2008
	-8	Members Deceased in 2008
	<u>-46</u>	Changes made in membership status based on proposed by-law revisions
October 2008	383	Members
	<u>+83</u>	Pre-confirmation age children
Total Congregation	466	

Average worship attendance, 2000	172
Average worship attendance, 2001	184
Average worship attendance, 2002	193
Average worship attendance, 2003	194
Average worship attendance, 2004	208
Average worship attendance, 2005	211
Average worship attendance, 2006	216
Average worship attendance, 2007	208
Average worship attendance, 2008	191

Annual Report of the Director of Music

Jim Threlkeld

As the church year draws to a close, we rejoice in the participation of many in the congregation that continue to use their musical talents to provide music for our worship services. We are blessed with a variety of musical talent, including keyboard musicians, vocalists, instrumentalists and handbell ringers. We continue recruiting additional musicians so the music ministry will flourish. We are in need of additional singers for the choir as some of our long time choir members find it necessary to retire.

The Chancel Choir continues to support the ministry of Hope Church with their dedication to lead music at the 10:30 worship service and other special services throughout the year. The choir will end the year with an enrollment of 24 vocalists, down from 30 in 2007. New members are always needed to keep the ranks strong as various members need to be away on different weeks. We encourage other singers to come join us. Please consider stepping forward to join the choir. The ability to read music is not required. You just need to be able to carry a tune with your voice.

Judy Owens has been wonderful in the giving of her musical talents to accompany the Chancel Choir throughout the year. The choir has been blessed to have this very capable musician. We extend a special thanks to Judy.

We must also recognize the keyboard musicians that fill in on the organ when I am away . . . Judy Owens, Sue Casey and Susie Richmann. What a treat to have a “deep” bench to draw from. Sue Casey, Kay Thurman, Susie Richmann, Judy Owens and Sue Murphy continue to provide piano and organ music for the 8:15 service.

The Chancel Handbell Choir continues with enthusiasm, playing once a month in the 10:30 worship service. Some ringers from last year, found it necessary to step aside for a while for various reasons. We have been fortunate to find replacements so we can continue ringing the full 5-octave set of bells. A special thanks goes to Lonny Davis who handles the many “behind the scenes” details which include the selection of music and making the bell assignments for the ringers.

While this falls under the Education Ministries umbrella, I want to say thank you to those that work with music and our children. Susie Richmann is now directing the children’s choirs throughout the year with Judy Owens assisting with the accompaniment on the piano. Susie has also revived the Children’s Handbell Choir. With the addition of extra handbell tables, which can remain in place in the transept, the children can begin their rehearsals immediately following the 10:30 service without spending time setting up equipment. Many thanks to Susie for developing these much needed programs.

We look forward to continue providing music for worship during the coming year.

Jim Threlkeld
Director of Music

Director of Children's Ministries Annual Report 2008

Emily Butchart, Director of Children's Ministries

This has been a very productive year in the lives of our church youth. We have a total of 94 children in our congregation; 25 children ages 0 – 3, 18 children ages 4 – 5, 18 children 6 – 8 , 18 children ages 9 – 11, and 15 children ages 12 and up. We have an average of 30-45 kids attending church/Sunday School every week. I have been working very hard to create opportunities, both fun and service oriented, for youth of all ages. We have had lock-ins at church, collected money and delivered food to Isaiah 58 and taken a babysitting class. We are planning a fall hayride and Christmas caroling during the winter.

I have also kept up with our church policy by continuing to do background checks on all our Sunday school teachers and childcare workers. We are so blessed to have such a faithful and caring group of men and women who dedicate their time every Sunday to teaching our young children. Our childcare workers and I have just completed an Infant/Child CPR class in order to make our church environment as safe as possible for our children. We are all hoping to take an AED training class as well.

This has been a busy year and we continue to grow along with our youth program. I feel blessed to be part of a church that makes the education of its youngest members a priority. I look forward to a new year filled with new challenges, new joys and new faces.

In Christ,
Emily Butchart

Annual Report for the Director of Children's Music

Susie Richmann

I feel extremely blessed to have been hired as Hope Church's Director of Children's Music. I get to spend time with two of my passions—children and music.

The Youth Handbell Choir consists of 9-10 children, ages 3rd grade through high school, who work hard every Sunday after the 10:30 service learning to ring bells and read music. It's not as easy as it looks! The children are dedicated and optimistic and seem to be catching on, and I'm so proud of them. They played their first piece, "I Come to the Garden Alone," during worship this summer, and they are preparing another piece for a service in Advent.

The Youth Choir is comprised of 5 young ladies at this point, though all (ages 3rd grade and up) are welcome! We practice every Sunday before church at 10 AM. Again, dedication is the key, and these young singers have learned to sing in two-part harmony. I think they are very excited to be able to do something a little more advanced and add to the beauty of the service. They are preparing to sing a Thanksgiving piece, and again during the Christmas pageant.

Twice this year, I have gathered *all* children of the congregation (including guests) during Sunday School to teach words and motions to songs that they have performed during the Children's Message. They have been really responsive when we've practiced, and I love seeing all the children on the chancel step singing and moving together. I look forward to working with them more often next year.

Finally, all children (including guests) are welcome when we perform with the colored Krystal Handbells, also known by me as the "baby bells." This is a very simple instrument where kids take a colored bell of their choice and ring it when I hold up their color. It's sweet, somewhat musical, and worth every minute to see children as young as toddlers ringing to their hearts' delights! It's a proud moment for the children and parents alike.

I look forward to continuing this ministry into next year. I have so much fun, the kids are learning about music, and working with the staff is quite rewarding. Thank you again for giving me this wonderful opportunity.

Susie Richmann
Director of Children's Music

Annual Report of the Hope Church Council

Dennis Paglusch, Council President

On behalf of the Church Council I would like to express our thanks to all of you, the members and friends of Hope UCC who make this Church what it is. A place that truly does God's work.

The daily life of the Council has been fairly uneventful the past ten months since I took over as President. We have conducted the daily business of the Church with the best interests of its members in a caring and thoughtful manner. I have to say that working with the members of this Council has been a great joy for me. This past June we had a Council retreat that brought us all closer together. We shared our joys and concerns for Hope in an atmosphere of openness that allowed us to better know one another and to deepen our commitment to serve this congregation. The first comment that came out of the retreat was "When can we do this again?"

This past month we have had to grapple with the downturn in the economy and its effects on the Church budget. I believe that the budget we propose reflects the best interests of this church in a time of great uncertainty.

We will continue to support all of our committees and ministries as well as our benevolence and outreach that make this Church the wonderful place it is.

Blessings and grace to all of you.

2008 Church Council: Dennis Paglusch, President; Shawn Ryan, Vice President; Terry Thuet, Treasurer; Lonny Davis, Asst. Treasurer; Laura Leavitt, Secretary; Denise Buck, Asst. Secretary; Jim Richmann; Carole Bruggenjohann; Carolyn Mulhall; Barb Hobart; Judy Owens; Jennifer Conrad.

Worship Committee 2008 Annual Report

Carol Sullivan Weis, Chair

While staying ever-mindful of our worship traditions at Hope UCC, the Worship committee continued to work toward enhancing our worship experience.

This year the Worship Committee continued a “new” tradition and began the Advent season with a special **Advent Service**. This service included lessons on some of our Christmas traditions and why they became symbols of our Christian faith. Immediately after this service, we served lunch and then began the **Hanging of the Greens**. The Hope building was decorated for the season both inside and out. We continue to refine the Advent service and plan to continue this special service with our traditional Hanging of the Greens event.

We offered the congregation the chance to purchase pink **poinsettias**, as well as the traditional red and white plants. We used these poinsettias to decorate the chapel and sanctuary for the Sunday before Christmas, as well as Christmas Eve. In addition, we had a great response when we asked the congregation to help fund the fresh-cut **Red Door Wreaths** that we place on our doors during the Christmas season.

In the spring, we replaced the **communion table** with a custom-designed and custom-built cherry and oak table that matches the wood of the Sanctuary. Plus, the new table is much easier to move to accommodate our changing music and worship needs. We were able to donate the Corian table top to Re-Store, the Habitat for Humanity store, and use the bases in the church parlor.

At Pastor Karen Knodt's suggestion, we used "eco-palms" from Guatemala for **Palm Sunday**. The purchase of these palms benefits farmers, families, and communities in cooperatives where they are grown; they are harvested in an environmentally sustainable method with less waste and destruction of the forest. The congregation enjoyed them, and we plan to purchase these palms again next year.

We moved the **Maundy Thursday/Good Friday vigil** to the warmer, more inviting and intimate chapel at Diane Santelli's suggestion. She also added music and readings to the vigil, and we plan to use her suggestions again next year.

On **Easter**, the congregation found a bare, somber sanctuary as a reminder of Good Friday when they came to 10:30 service. When the service began, the Chancel was decorated with lilies, hyacinths, tulips, and daffodils to celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Lord. The addition of multi-colored flowers was appreciated, and we plan to offer different types of flowers next Easter.

Over the year, we worked with the pastors on different ways to serve communion and offered an intinction communion service. We also made suggestions on how to improve communication regarding prayer cards and to guide the liturgists on how to end the scripture readings. To make use of our improved lighting, we have also made sure the weekly bulletins have been marked with the correct lighting settings for the monitors who control the sound and light panel in the balcony.

Worship Committee 2008

Carol Sullivan Weis, Chairperson

Lydia Lewis, Secretary

Carolyn Mulhall, Council Liaison

Robin Brannam, Sue Casey, Lonny Davis, Bryan Erwin, Sue Laughlin, Steven Paglusch

Annual Report of the Educational Ministries Committee

Sonia Kesselring, Chair

The members of this committee for 2008 were Emily Butchart, staff, Sonia Kesselring, chair, Linda Paglusch, Jeanne Ryan, Debbie Steiger, Kristine Wentzien, Bethel Hale, Sarah Erwin, Nancy Stanfill-McCarty, Vicky Moss, Susan Paglusch, and Lesley Darnell

As we continue to educate our children with Bible lessons and learning activities, we are so blessed to have excellent teachers and helpers who give of their time, talent and love. We continue to divide the church school year into 4 units, so the leadership responsibilities can be shared by many. We support and appreciate our pastors, as they plan for Sunday adult education and Wednesday Nights of Hope. We are thankful to be able to provide childcare for our youngest members on Sundays, as well as during various activities of the week.

Easter Sunday brought the 4th faithful visit of Steven the Easter Bunny. He led the children in an Easter parade to the indoor egg hunt (due to snow!) Thanks be to God, for this opportunity to celebrate new life and Jesus' Resurrection.

We were excited to have yet another excellent and successful Vacation Bible School Program this summer. We are grateful to the leaders and helpers for offering this program to the community. Thanks most especially, once again to Jeanne Ryan and Vicky Moss for coordinating this fantastic week!

We are happy for the addition of Susie Richmann, who has come on board as our Director of Children's Music. Welcome and Thank You, Susie!

Rally Day picnic activities were wonderful, thanks mostly to the coordinating of our extraordinary leaders, Susan Paglusch and Sarah Erwin. All enjoyed the fun and the great weather.

During September, many contributed to the Fall Festival of Sharing. We collected kits of school and dental items, which will go to those in need in Missouri. We also collected health kits, to support Church World Service with their missions abroad.

At this writing, our committee is getting ready to host the annual Halloween party. Then, we look toward the Advent season and helping to coordinate the Christmas Pageant.

Report submitted by Bethel Hale

Annual Report of the Outreach Committee Clinton Rice, Chair

The Outreach Committee is responsible for administering, supporting, developing and expanding the mission work of Hope UCC. The committee is enabled to do this through the congregation's generous gifts of time and financial support.

The following ongoing programs are supported by Outreach:

OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission)—The United Church of Christ's national and global missions are assisted monetarily by our congregation. Denomination-wide offerings include One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, and the Christmas Fund - retired ministers' fund.

St. Louis Association: A variety of regional programs are supported financially including Emmaus Homes, Evangelical Children's Home, Lydia's House, and Neighborhood Houses.

Blanket and Tools: This mission is a part of the Church World Service. The contributions provide emergency and development funds to people nationally and globally.

UCC Habitat for Humanity House: Hope participated in building the 17th UCC Habitat House with contributions and labor.

Isaiah 58: This is a long standing commitment of Hope UCC to provide food and monetary contributions including the Bye-a-Bird campaign and the Thanksgiving Harvest food offering in November.

Shannondale: This is a mission project of the Missouri Mid-South Conference UCC. Outreach especially supports Timber Time which is a tutoring program for children.

Conference Call: Outreach continues to support the Conference Call with funds from the Future of Hope Benevolent Fund which supplement contributions from the congregation.

The following are new and/or revived programs in 2008:

St. Louis Area Foodbank: Outreach has participated in helping to sort and package food items for this program.

Bread for the World Sunday CROP Walk: This is an upcoming project to support Church World Service in aiding poverty relief, disaster assistance and development programs throughout the world.

Ronald McDonald House: We have recently established a group of "Hope McCliques" to volunteer in the family room at Cardinal Glennon Hospital.

Outreach Survey: This is an attempt to assess both the needs of our congregants and their willingness to provide support to each other and to the broader community. Once this has been completed, we will follow through on implementing a delivery system.

As we look to the future, the members of the Outreach Committee realize that our mission is going to become increasingly a means of educating the congregation about the importance of sustaining the programs that Outreach has been supporting with funds from the Future of Hope Benevolent Fund. The original plan at the establishment of the Future of Hope Benevolent Fund was that it be spent down as worthy causes required help.

We of the Outreach Committee give our deeply felt thanks to the congregation for support and encouragement as we go forward.

Outreach Committee members 2008: Dan Fagnani, David Galt, Cheryl Hazel, Karen Kesselring, Clint McCann, MaryAnn Mikusch, Clinton Rice, and Andrea Stoll.

Annual Report of the Stewardship Committee

Randy Hall, Chair

As our committee began meeting to plan this year's Stewardship Program, we realized that in this year's planning process we would be dealing with a number of new challenges. Recognizing the Church's budget concerns, our ongoing pastoral search process and the launching of a new building improvement campaign were foremost in our thoughts.

But, as often happens when challenges present themselves, new opportunities present themselves too. New communication channels and working alliances were formed which helped with this year's process and will hopefully remain a basis for future Stewardship efforts as well.

Building on the Fines Arts Committee's theme for their Windows of Hope meditation booklet, the Stewardship Committee selected "Windows of Hope- Looking To The Future" as the theme for our campaign this year. Coordinating the roll out of this beautiful booklet of meditative thoughts with the celebration of Consecration Sunday was just one of the new opportunities mentioned above.

This year also marks the start of the "Stewardship Corner" article in the Builder. We hope to continue the articles throughout the year and to share facts about trends in our weekly giving and its impact on our budget. We feel that only by having the facts can we make informed decisions about our budget and the programs we hope to support with our giving.

In addition to this new effort, the committee once again set about identifying individuals who would share their feelings about "Why Hope Church is important to them." We sought out someone who was a new member to our Church and someone who has been a long time member. On two Sundays in October, Nicky Ballard and Jim Threlkeld shared their deep & heartfelt feelings about Hope Church and once again we were all struck with how their feeling so closely mirrored our own. We truly are the "family of Hope."

Leading up to the Consecration Sunday celebration, on October 26th, cards were mailed out to the congregation for members of the church family to use in making their commitment to Hope Church for the next year. Then, on that Sunday, Pastors Sarah & Karen prepared a special sermon in a debate type format (in keeping with the political season) and challenged all of us to search our heads and our hearts and carefully decide how best to respond to the many blessings we have truly been given. We thank the congregation for their support and response to that request and look forward to an exciting 2009.

Committee Members for 2008: Scott Campbell, Alice Galt, Randy Hall, Karen Knodt, Sue Rainer and Terry Thuet

Annual Report of the Church and Ministry Committee

Jason Kesselring, Chair

The primary mission of the Church and Ministry Committee is to provide support and guidance for the church staff, the Eden Intern, and any student In-Care members. We are here to serve as a liason between the church staff and church members. We meet quarterly, plus are “on-call” to meet should issues arise.

We met with the church staff in the first quarter of the year to conduct staff interviews. These served the purpose to “check in” with the staff members and discuss their current roles at Hope, what they like about their position, and how they see it evolving in the upcoming year(s). As a further extension of this role, Jason Kesselring and Donna Weber attended the Staff Goal review where the various staff members discussed their job description and set out goals for the upcoming year.

We had the pleasure of completing our oversight of both of Diane Santelli’s 2 year of internship at Hope. In that period of time, we have met with her to offer her feedback on her performance while at Hope. We helped to plan and arrange her “farewell” party in May.

We have one member of our committee, Scott Van Nest, on the Search Committee.

In September, we met with Lynn Bohlmann, who recently graduated from Eden Seminary with a Master of Divinity. She has been “in-care” status while at Hope. After review of her ordination paper and an interview with the committee, we recommended her to the Church Council to be approved for ordination in the United Church of Christ, pending a call. We will also serve a role in her ordination ceremony at the time of call, as Hope will host the event.

We also have begun consideration of whether or not to reformat our committee. As currently constituted, the committee has the role of serving as a “go-between” for the lay members and staff. The specifics of what role we have and how to do it need to be better clarified. After researching guidelines suggested by the UCC, the committee will continue to investigate how, if deemed necessary, to clarify its role in the future to better serve the congregation.

The members of the committee for 2008 are: Martha Robertson, Scott Van Nest, Dennis Paglusch, Kay Thurman, Donna Weber, Jason Kesselring, and Judy Owens.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Kesselring

Annual Report of the Building & Property Committee

Co-Chairs: Ethan Hale and Erik Hazel

The Building and Property Committee is charged with maintaining the physical plant that is known as Hope United Church of Christ and with planning and executing capital improvements on the property.

The committee holds a regular monthly meeting on Committee Night, to coordinate the activities of the committee members and to formally recommend actions to the Church Council when necessary. In addition to these meetings, the committee conducts much of its business through the use of electronic correspondence. In the past year more than 1,000 pieces of e-mail were circulated among the committee members. Using this means of communication, necessary actions were often taken in days with input from multiple members, rather than being delayed until a meeting of the committee could be convened.

The Saturday following Committee Night is our regularly scheduled “work day”. For several hours on those mornings several committee members gather to knock out those many smaller “do-it-yourself” projects. All members of the congregation are welcome to join in on this effort and the associated fellowship.

This year saw several big ticket items completed, with several more to be done before the end of the year.

Projects completed include:

- Security improvements with new doors for the boiler room and near the main kitchen, with latch guards for doors in the rear stairwell and near the small kitchen. Panic style push bars were placed on three of the public doors.
- The deteriorated stone cross over the Eichelberger entrance was removed and a new stone cross installed.
- A new flat roof was installed over the education wing and flashing repairs were made. The skylight over the HopeMark office was replaced.
- Many gutter leaks were repaired and critical tuck pointing was done to the supporting stone work.
- Copper downspouts stolen and damaged by vandals were replaced with heavy duty plastic downspouts.
- Smaller projects include, cleaning and sealing the wood block kitchen counters, replacement of the kitchen freezer, inspection and testing of the lift and elevator, and the water system backflow preventers, extension of the parking lot fence and clearing several blockages in the sewer network.
- Replacement of the public sidewalks on the west and south sides of the property should be complete by the time this report is distributed.

Three very large projects have been set out for a special Capital Improvement Program.

- Replace the now crippled air conditioning compressor system with some distribution piping modifications.
- Replace remaining “old building” windows with operable, thermally efficient windows.
- Clean, tuck point and seal masonry work on the entire building.

Other work planned or underway involves upgrades to the air conditioning air handlers, an improved heat management plan, improvements to the condensate collection and disposal piping, playground lighting for security purposes and investigation of water leaks in the choir robbing room. The committee will be taking a detailed look at the building utilization schedule to see that the building services and facilities are complementary to that utilization schedule.

The “It’s Broke” forms continue to help the committee identify items requiring repair. This combined with a monthly walk-through of the building provide us with an ever changing list of fix-it items requiring attention.

In preparation for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation the committee worked with the guidance of the Council to develop a budget that realistically reflected the necessary funding to meet next years program.

The Committee is blessed to have many active members with a wide variety of skills. Several new committee members joined this year as did some new members to the Church. Additional members will be added next year, but there is always room for more.

Your Building and Property Committee:

Nicky Ballard
Joyce Edinger
Robert Faulkner
Ethan Hale
Erik Hazel
Keith Kreitler
David Moss

Joe Rakel
Shawn Ryan – Council Liaison
Terry Thuet – Council Liaison
John Whitacre
Ron Zimmer – Secretary

Annual Report of the Finance and Insurance Committee

Craig Kuhl, Chair

The Finance and Insurance Committee was established in 1995 by the Church Council to advise the Council on the investment of the church's reserve and unrestricted funds and appropriate insurance coverage. The committee meets periodically to review the progress of the investment program and evaluate our insurance.

Investments:

The committee met with our investment adviser, Mike McBride, of Wachovia during the first quarter of the year. The Committee was satisfied with the the management of and return on the Church's investment portfolio. Minor adjustments were made in the balance of the investments. However, as the stock market has witnessed significant broad based delines so has our portfolio. For example, the market value of the endowment fund declined approximately 22 percent from January 1 through September 30, 2008. While the decline is significant, we are investing for the long term

Insurance:

Our property, liability and workman's comprehensive insurance continues to be purchased through the UCC Insurance Board. Our coverage includes general liability, as well as fire, storm, and earthquake damage. We will experience a modest increase in premiums for 2009.. The committee maintains communication with the local agent, Doug Dischinger, to help ensure that we are adequately covered.

Committee: Craig Kuhl chair, Lonny Davis, Sue Casey, Helen Tiefenbruck, Terry Thuet, Council Treasurer, Kay Thurmann, Clarence Vogel, John Weis, Charlene Kuhl, staff liaison

Annual Report of the Hospitality Committee Report Carol Zimmer, Chair

The Hospitality Committee hosts the Fellowship Time every Sunday morning between 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. During this time, Hope members, families, and friends come together for a social time in Fellowship Hall, between the two church services. We serve donuts, coffee, tea, and juice. This committee buys these refreshments, decorates the serving table, and each table has a centerpiece. A donation basket is set on the serving table to offset the expenses. Donations and actual costs total out about even by the end of the year. We are also in charge of the bulletin boards in Fellowship Hall. One bulletin board is decorated with a monthly theme and includes congregational members' birthdays and anniversaries. On the other bulletin board we post pictures and names of new members, and/or activities of the church. In addition, we host a new members' reception and any other receptions that the pastors ask us to do.

The committee enjoys serving the church in this capacity and welcomes any suggestions for improvement. Anyone wishing to be a part of this committee should contact any member of the committee. We would love to have you join us.

Carol Zimmer, Chair
Becky Brockelsby
LaVerne Dillon
Donna Heinemann
Bev Knopfel
Norma Koerner
Ellamay Rall
Joyce Shubert
Ron Zimmer

Annual Report of the Special Events Committee

Nancy Oberheuser, Chair

The mission of the Special Events committee is to provide activities and fellowship for the congregation and community. In doing so, we have had the added bonus of raising some money for the church.

2008 was a good year for the Special Events committee. Our events included a Spaghetti dinner, a Trivia Night, a pancake breakfast, and our newest event, the Soup 'n Salad Luncheon recently held. We are looking forward to another pancake breakfast for Hanging of the Greens, and our annual Christmas cookie sale will be in December.

Our 2009 Special Events calendar has not been finalized as yet, but we know we will have a Spaghetti Dinner and Trivia Night once again. We plan for any money raised in 2009 to stay in the church for needed repairs. We are always looking for new ideas that would be fun for the congregation.

The members of the committee plan and oversee every event, but we could not do it without the wonderful support of the congregation. You have encouraged us and supported us from the beginning. We also have very hard working volunteers, some who help with every event and others who volunteer for one or two events. We are thankful for their help.

Members include: Nancy Oberheuser, chair; Susie Richmann, co-chair; Nicky Ballard, Sue Laughlin, Barb Hobart, Carol Zimmer, Barb Faulkner, Jim Richmann, Carol Brueggenjohann, Hugo Brueggenjohann, Martha Stanfill, Charlie Mikusch, MaryAnn Mikusch, Dan Fagnani, Joe Rakel

Annual Report of the Fine Arts Committee

Laura Leavitt

The Fine Arts Committee is passionate about our mission to increase enjoyment and awareness of the arts, both within our congregation and sharing with others in the wider community. We focused on our commitment this year to work with the pastors and the Worship committee to add “Fine Arts” to the worship service based on the liturgical calendar. This was accomplished in many different ways during 2008.

One of the most visually stunning displays was on Pentecost Sunday, May 11, 2008. The committee embellished the Sanctuary with red-, orange-, and yellow-colored tulle to commemorate the descent of the flames and wind of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, as described in the Book of Acts. When the electricity went out unexpectedly in a storm the Saturday night before the service and the lights came on to display the magnificent colors as Holy Communion was being served on the morning of Pentecost, it took on an even more dramatic effect.

Another addition to the worship service was on Palm Sunday, March 16, 2008, when we decorated the main aisle of the Sanctuary with fabric palms, leaves, and branches to celebrate Christ's triumphant entrance into the city of Jerusalem.

On Saturday, February 2, 2008, the committee sponsored the second annual “Mini” Arts Fair in conjunction with the Spaghetti Dinner. Our own artists, Carole Weis and Judy Huff, were featured again this year. Diners enjoyed the artwork displayed before and after enjoying the dinner and fellowship; some made purchases as well.

On Rally Day, September 7, 2008, the Fine Arts committee once again sponsored the spin-art booth enjoyed by all ages. Face painting was introduced this year. Kids of all ages were lined up as Jim Threlkeld, Carole Weis and Laura Leavitt painted smiley faces on smiling faces, along with rainbows, flowers, butterflies and an occasional special request.

The FAC was extremely pleased to be able to send the “Windows of Hope” meditation booklet to print this October. It has been a culmination of over two years of hard work by many. This publication contains sermons on the stained glass windows in the Sanctuary given by Reverend David Mehl and is beautifully illustrated by Judy Huff. A special thanks also goes to Lonny Davis and Carol Sullivan Weis for their editing and layout of the text and illustrations. The FAC worked closely with the Stewardship committee to release this booklet in conjunction with the 2008 Stewardship Campaign.

In November, the FAC will once again participate in the Totenfest service with a special wreath and candles, and the ringing of somber chimes.

Looking ahead to 2009, we will continue to expand our participation with other committees within the congregation to use the sounds, sights and poetry of the fine arts to illustrate our faith. There are many ideas being developed toward this end, and we are very excited about how fine arts can continue to be displayed and performed at Hope United Church of Christ.

Laura Leavitt, Chairperson

Judy Owens, Secretary

Lonny Davis, Council Liaison

Sue Casey, Alice Galt, Judy Huff, Joe Rakel, Howard Sherman, Jim Threlkeld, Carol Sullivan Weis and Carole Weis

General Fund Budget and Actual through September 2008

<i>Account Name</i>	<i>Year to Date Budget</i>	<i>Year to Date Actual</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>Annual Budget</i>
Weekly General Fund Income	216,461.97	185,992.59	(30,469.38)	288,616
Initial Offering	562.50	390.00	(172.50)	750.00
Holiday General Fund Income	2,700.00	2,314.00	(386.00)	7,000.00
Contributions to Building Use	4,750.00	6,653.00	1,903.00	7,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	-	1183.69	1183.69	-
Other Events	-	-	-	-
<i>TOTAL General Fund Income</i>	<i>\$224,474.47</i>	<i>\$196,533.28</i>	<i>(\$ 27,941.19)</i>	<i>\$ 303,365.65</i>
<i>Transfers</i>				
Special Events Transfers				
Future of Hope Fund Transfers				
Added Professional Staff	17,622.00	17,622.00	0	23,496.00
Add'l Support fm FOH Fund and/or				
Earnings fm Endowment Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00	0	20,000.00
Hoagland Education Fund	-	-	-	-
<i>Total Transfers</i>	<i>\$ 27,622.00</i>	<i>\$ 27,622.00</i>	<i>\$ 0</i>	<i>\$ 43,496.00</i>
<i>TOTAL INCOME AND TRANSFERS</i>	<i>\$252,096.47</i>	<i>\$224,155.28</i>	<i>\$ (27,941.19)</i>	<i>\$ 346,861.65</i>
<i>Personnel Expenses</i>				
Pastor Knodt Compensation	52,197.94	48,763.44	(3,434.50)	76,628.76
Pastor McCann Compensation	35,665.77	35,665.85	.08	48,805.80
Director of Children's Ministries				
Compensation	5,032.91	5,031.39	(1.52)	6,886.96
Director of Music Compensation	9,157.24	9,157.24	(0.01)	12,530.98
Director of Children's Music	1,753.89	1,753.89	0.00	2,400.06
Office Administrator Compensation	18,495.74	18,495.74	(0.00)	25,309.96
Financial Administrator Compensation	8,766.98	8,766.98	-	11,996.92
Custodial Compensation	10,462.35	5,938.98	(6,125.37)	14,101.12
Eden Intern Compensation	1,500.00	2,000.00	500	1,500.00
Employee Benefits	22,870.49	18,224.34	(4,646.15)	30,657.02
Employer Portion of Benefits - Incl				
Worker's Comp	4,580.19	4,761.59	181.40	6,107.00
Employee Expenses - Mileage & Cont Ed	6799.97	5,166.16	(1,633.82)	9,200.00
<i>Total Personnel Expenses</i>	<i>\$177,283.48</i>	<i>\$163,725.59</i>	<i>\$ (15,159.89)</i>	<i>\$ 240,924.58</i>

General Fund Budget and Actual through September 2008 continued

<i>Account Name</i>	<i>Year to Date Budget</i>	<i>Year to Date Actual</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>Annual Budget</i>
<i>Committee Expenses</i>				
Educational Ministries Expenses	7,612.38	7,253.18	(359.20)	10,150.00
Worship Committee Expenses	3,033.72	2,407.17	(626.55)	4,245.00
Church & Ministries Expenses	112.50	185.00	73.22	150.00
Stewardship Committee Expenses	1,880.00	1462.70	(417.30)	3,250.00
Hospitality Committee Expenses	74.97	53.15	(21.82)	100.00
Greeter's Committee Expense	375.03	366.50	(8.50)	500.00
Bridges Committee Expense	375.03	245.00	(505.00)	1,000.00
Church Council Expenses	37.53	-	(37.53)-	50.00
Conference & Association Delegate Expenses	375.03	205.00	(170.03)	500.00
Search Committee Expenses	3,750.03	301.73	(3,448.30)	5,000
<i>Total Committee & Delegate Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 17,626.22</i>	<i>\$ 12,480.24</i>	<i>\$ (5,328.96)</i>	<i>\$ 24,445.00</i>
<i>Office & Building Operations</i>				
Office Operations	7,499.97	8,094.64	594.67	10,000.00
Building Operations	19,125.00	18,347.56	(777.44)	25,500.00
Repairs & Maintenance	7,499.97	9,041.64	1,541.67	10,000.00
Utilities	24,749.91	21,362.22	(3,387.69)	33,000.00
Property, Liability, Umbrella Insurance	\$ 10,874.97	10,442.75	(432.22)	14,500.00
<i>Total Office & Building Operations and Insurance</i>	<i>\$ 69,749.82</i>	<i>\$ 67,288.81</i>	<i>\$ (2,461.01)</i>	<i>\$ 93,000.00</i>
<i>Other Expenses</i>				
Flowers				
Dinners				
Weddings				
Funerals				-
Other Events	450.00	406.16	(43.84)	600.00
<i>Total Other Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 450.00</i>	<i>\$ 406.16</i>	<i>\$ (43.84)</i>	<i>\$ 600.00</i>
<i>TOTAL EXPENSES</i>	<i>\$265,109</i>	<i>\$243,900.80</i>	<i>\$ (21,208.20)</i>	<i>\$ 358,369.58</i>
<i>Over/(Under)</i>		<i>\$ (19,745.52)</i>		

2008 YTD Report of Outreach Income and Expense through September

BUDGET	Congregation	FOHBF	YTD	Note
	Contribution	Contribution	donation	
OCWM	\$13,055	\$2,327.50	\$11,000.	3 rd quarter donation not reflected
St. Louis Association	\$2,811	\$3,918.00	\$6,000	3 rd quarter donation not reflected
UCC Special Ministries				
Neighborhood Houses	\$625		\$625	
Emmaus Homes	\$1,032		\$1,032	Budget is exceeded
Evangelical Children's Home	\$1,040		\$1,040	Budget is exceeded
Eden Seminary	\$739		\$739	
UCC Habitat House	\$1500	\$1,000.00	\$2,500	
Total Special Ministries	\$20,802	\$7,245.5	\$22,936	
Other Ministries/Missions				
Doorways	\$520		\$520	
Lydia's House	\$356		\$356	
Isaiah 58 Ministries	\$3,126		\$3,126	
Blanket & Tools Sunday	\$659		\$659	
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$669		\$669	
Additional Spec. Min	\$752		\$752	
Total Other Ministries	\$6,082	\$0.00	\$6082	
Youth Confirmation Project				
Conference Call Expense	\$1,967	\$3,776.53	\$5743.53	
2008 YTD totals	\$28,851	\$12,022.03	\$35,761.53	

MINUTES OF 2007 ANNUAL MEETING
Hope United Church of Christ
November 11, 2007

Call to order - The meeting was convened at 10:20 a.m. with a prayer by Pastor McCann, and an opening hymn. Kathy Hall announced that Ron Zimmer had agreed to serve as parliamentarian and that a quorum existed (at least 50 members were present).

Minutes - The minutes of the 2006 annual meeting were approved as written.

Pastors' report - A written report was part of the packet distributed to the attendees. Pastor McCann encouraged everyone to consider the ways they will be committed to Hope UCC in the upcoming year, how to recommit to change, and how to grow.

Old business

Randy Hall thanked those who participated in this year's stewardship program. He reported that thus far 50 forms have been received (\$128,000 general fund/OCWM), and encourage everyone who has yet to return in their form to do so as the forms are a good planning tool. By the end of the program last year 77 forms were received (\$209,326 general fund/OCWM). Randy identified the members of the Stewardship Committee for the upcoming year and invited everyone to give the committee members feedback and ideas.

New business

1. Dennis Paglusich reviewed the Nominating Committee's report as to proposed and present members for the various committees and the Council. The following changes were made to the report: Donna Weber was removed from Educational Ministries, Kathy Heine was added to the Finance & Insurance Committee, and Peggy Helsher was removed and Eric Hazel was added to the Building and Property Committee. The revised recommended new members for each of these groups were unanimously approved.

2. Sue Casey presented the proposed Congregational & Outreach Budgets for 2008, and reviewed them line by line. In response to questions about the Outreach Budget, Sue Casey or Charlene Kuhl explained that the conference call budget had been much higher in the past; the cost is determined by the length of the call and the number of those included (8 average). The Outreach Committee is exploring ways to decrease the cost by perhaps initiating the calls here instead of having AT & T initiate the calls. The importance of the conference call ministry was stressed by several attendees, and it was pointed out that there is a donation envelope in the box for this ministry and that individuals or families can volunteer to sponsor the ministry for a month. It was also explained that the miscellaneous category in the outreach budget is for such unplanned occurrences such as a severe hurricane or tsunami. The outreach budget was unanimously approved.

As to the revised proposed congregational budget—which was placed on each table—Sue explained that Joyce DeNeal chooses not to take benefits and her pay is all in salary, that employee benefits are less because we are no longer paying employee benefits for Wilma Seering, and that Pastor McCann's salary was raised pursuant to the Conference guidelines as she is now in another category due to her experience. Kathy Hall explained the budgeting process this year and the goal to keep the budget flat; she noted that an increase in utilities is

something that can't be controlled and that the Conference recommended we budget \$5,000 for the pastor search process. Several commented that individuals should honor their commitments and perhaps increase giving by 10%, because the new budget assumes the budgeted income from this year and this amount has not been met (currently \$30,000 behind). In response to questions, Charlene Kuhl reported that as of November 11 there is \$173,458 in the Future of Hope fund, but that hopefully there will be some increase on investments. Terry Thuet pointed out that members should be considering the cost associated with building repairs, given that the building is aging; he specifically mentioned the need for tuckpointing and the potential need for expensive repairs to the air conditioning system. The proposed congregational budget was unanimously approved.

It was also moved to approve up to \$3,000 from the Future of Hope fund for a laptop computer, docking station, and necessary software for the new children's music director. The motion passed unanimously. Sue Casey noted that Terry Thuet would be taking over as treasurer for the upcoming year. Thanks were expressed to Sue for her excellent and detailed work as treasurer.

3. Pastor McCann and Kathy Hall gave an update on the search process. The goal is to have the interim in place by the first of 2008. Interim ministry and the process that is being used to choose an interim minister was explained, and questions were encouraged. John Dorhauer will be at Hope UCC on November 25 to preach to and to conduct a question/answer session on the search. Nancy Oberheuser invited Pastor McCann to let members know where she needs assistance (e.g., hospital visitations), and Pastor McCann indicated she would consider creating a "wish list."

4. Carol Sullivan Weis reviewed the planned replacement of the communion table and the reasons for the replacement: safety issues because it is so heavy and awkward to move and needs to be moved often. Worship Committee has been exploring several options for quite some time, and has decided to have one specially designed by a master cabinet maker (Bob Sutton). It will be designed to fit into the sanctuary, will be oak/cherry, and will weigh only 90 pounds. The funding is in place, and copies of the design are available. Hopefully the new communion table will be in place by Advent. Carol invited suggestions as to how to dispose of the old table.

5. Pastor McCann recognized the contribution Women's Fellowship has made to the congregation as the group will be ending their ministry at the end of 2007. She asked the current and former members and leaders to stand, and offered a prayer. There will be a commemorative brick purchased in honor of the group.

6. Terry Thuet thanked Don Swardson for keeping the Hope UCC web site up to date and informative. He mentioned that Council had recently received a compliment about our web site. Terry also thanked Kathy Hall for her work as Council president.

Closing

The meeting closed with a prayer and a hymn.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Laughlin, Secretary

General Fund Budget Plan for 2009

<i>Income and Transfers</i>				
<i>Account Name</i>	<i>2009</i>		<i>% change</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
	<i>2008 Final Budget</i>	<i>Proposed Budget</i>		
Weekly General Fund Income	\$ 288,615	\$ 288,616	0.0%	
Initial Offering	\$ 750	\$ 750	0.0%	
Holiday General Fund Income	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	0.0%	
Contributions to Building Use	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,225	3.0%	
Schnucks escrip income	0	700.00		<i>Other scrip income accounted for differently</i>
2/3 realized earnings on Endowment Fund	\$ 25,908	25,000	-3.5%	These #s are guesses
<i>TOTAL General Fund Income</i>	<i>\$ 329,273</i>	<i>\$329,291</i>	<i>0%</i>	
<i>Transfers</i>				
Future of Hope Fund				
General Fund Support	\$ 23,496	\$ 28,291	20.4%	
<i>TOTAL INCOME</i>	<i>\$ 352,769</i>	<i>\$ 357,715</i>	<i>1.4%</i>	
<i>Expenses</i>				
Interim Pastor Compensation	\$ 71,129	\$ 78,961	11.0%	<i>Conference guidelines</i>
Pastor McCann Compensation	\$ 48,806	\$ 49,775	2%	<i>3/4 position @ Conference Guidelines Minimum</i>
Director of Children's Ministries Compensation	\$ 6,887	\$ 7,197	5%	
Director of Music Compensation	\$ 12,531	\$ 15,680	25%	
Children's Music Director Compensation	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,509	5%	
Office Administrator Compensation	\$ 25,310	\$ 26,448	4%	<i>30 hrs weekly</i>
Financial Administrator Compensation	\$ 11,997	\$ 12,000		<i>14 hrs weekly @ \$16/h</i>
Custodial Compensation	\$ 8,200	\$ 9,916	20%	
Eden Intern Compensation	\$ 1,500	0		
Employee Benefits	\$ 30,657	\$ 31,352	2%	
Employer Portion of Benefits	\$ 6,107	\$ 7,232	18%	<i>includes Worker's Comp Premium</i>
Pastoral Expenses - Mileage and Continuing Ed	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000		
Interim Pastor travel expenses	\$ 5,200	\$ 5,200		Per interim contract
<i>Total Personnel Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 234,724</i>	<i>\$ 250,270</i>	<i>6.6%</i>	

General Fund Budget Plan for 2009 continued

<i>Account Name</i>	<i>2008 Final Budget</i>	<i>2009 Proposed Budget</i>	<i>% change</i>	<i>Explanations</i>
<i>Committee Expenses</i>				
Educational Ministries Expenses	\$ 10,150	\$ 8,225	-19%	
Worship Committee Expenses	\$ 4,245	\$ 3,770	-11%	
Church & Ministries Expenses	\$ 150	\$ 150	0%	
Stewardship Committee Expenses	\$ 3,250	\$ 3,250	0%	
Hospitality Committee Expenses	\$ 100	\$ 100	0%	
First Friends' Expenses (Mugs, etc.)	\$ 500	\$ 500	0%	
Church Council Expenses	\$ 50	\$ 50	0%	
Search Committee Expenses	\$ 5000	\$ 4,700		Amount recommended by conference balance forwarded
Bridges Committee Expenses	\$ 500	\$ 500	0%	
Conference & Association Delegate Expenses	\$ 500	\$ 500	0%	
<i>Total Committee & Delegate Expenses</i>	\$ 24,445	\$ 21,745	-11%	
Office Operations	\$ 10,000	\$ 9,500	-5%	
Building Operations	\$ 25,500	\$ 24,400	-4%	
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	0%	
Utilities	\$ 33,000	\$ 27,300	-17%	
Property, Liability, Umbrella Insurance	\$ 14,500	\$ 14,500	0%	
<i>Total Office & Building Operations and Insurance</i>	\$ 93,000	\$ 85,700	-8%	
<i>Revolving</i>				
Other Events	\$ 600		0.0%	
<i>Total Revolving</i>	\$ 600		0.0%	
<i>TOTAL EXPENSES</i>	\$ 352,769	\$ 357,715	1.4%	

Notes to Council on the proposed 2009 budget.

1. The budget committee met three times to discuss and generate a reasonable budget for 2009 considering deeply the mission of Hope UCC, the uncertainties of the current economy and the need for all to understand the complexities of how we come to have the resources to do all that we do. Our goal was to achieve a budget that was no more than flat in comparison with the 2008 budget while not significantly hurting program or sacrificing compensation for the staff. I believe the budget in front of you does that.
2. The salaries for our pastors are at conference guidelines for a congregation of our size and for their years since ordination. Sarah's is at $\frac{3}{4}$ of the guidelines.
3. On the income side there is little to note. We have held the White Envelope amount level with the past two years as we have yet to meet that goal. Consideration was given to reducing that goal, but the committee felt that we could neither significantly cut back further on the budget nor commit ourselves to drawing down reserves any further than we already

are. With the dramatic fall of the stock market the value of our investments, Endowment Fund and the Future of Hope Funds, have fallen markedly. They are in well balanced, blue chip investments, but our selling at the low end of the market reduces their ability to rebound when the market does. We have included in the budget an amount that is 2/3 of the realized earnings on our investments. That is an amount below what it has been in the past and is very speculative. What that amount will be for the 2008 budget will not be known until Feb. 2009, thus what that amount will be for the 2009 budget will not be known until Feb. 2010. As in all years it is a guess, the only difference this year is that we are showing it in a different place.

4. In order to make income and expenses match there will also be a draw on the Future of Hope Fund for \$28,291.. The policies of the Future of Hope Fund allow for distribution of up to 20% of the value of the fund on August 1. That amount this year would allow us to use up to \$29,995.
5. The committee also felt strongly that as a congregation we need to seriously consider our stewardship and as staff and volunteers we need to practice active frugality.
6. It should be noted that Youth expenses will be funded through the Sally Emory Fund this year. In their efforts to reduce their General Fund budget the Educational Ministries Committee will use the Sally Emory Fund for Camp MoVAI scholarships and for some other youth activities.

Charlene Kuhl for the Budget Committee

Sue Casey, Lonny Davis, Randy Hall, Clinton Rice, Jason Kesselring, Dennis Paglusich, Terry Thuet and Karen Knodt.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE BUDGET PLAN 2009

2008 PROPOSED BUDGET	Estimated Congregation Contribution	Est. FOHBF Contribution	2009 Total	Note	Quarterly Contribution
OCWM (Conference)	\$18,000	\$4,000	\$22,000		\$5,500
St. Louis Association	\$5,400	\$6,600	\$12,000		\$3,000
Total	\$23,400	\$10,600	\$34,000		
UCC Special Ministries					
Neighborhood Houses	\$1,000		\$1,000		
Emmaus Homes	\$1,000		\$1,000		
Evangelical Children's Home	\$1,500		\$1,500		
Eden Seminary	\$1,000		\$1,000		
UCC Habitat House		\$1,000	\$1,000	1	
Total Special Ministries	\$4,500	\$1,000	\$5,500		
Other Ministries/Missions					
Doorways	\$150		\$150		
Isaiah 58 Ministries	\$2,250		\$2,250		
Blanket & Tools					
Sunday	\$500		\$500		
Total Other Ministries	\$2,900		\$2,900		
Conference Call Expense	\$1,800	\$3,700	\$5,500		
Other Outreach Missions		\$2,700	\$2,700		
2009 Total BUDGET	\$32,600	\$18,000.00	\$50,600		
2008 TOTAL BUDGET	\$35,400	\$22,400	\$57,800		
Net change from 2008 (+/-)	(\$2,800)	(\$4,400)	(\$7,200)		

Notes:

1. Outreach will pledge \$1,000.00 to the UCC Habitat Group. It will add the congregational contributions and money received from fund raising projects to a total not to exceed \$2,500.00.

2008 Report of the Nominating Committee

Names of the nominating committee: Lonny Davis, Sarah Fredriksen McCann and Shawn Ryan.

Council: Coordinates policy and program of the church.

Denise Buck	2009
<i>Sue Casey</i>	2009
Barb Hobart	2009
Dennis Paglusch	2009
Jennifer Conrad	2010
Lonny Davis	2010
Judy Owens	2010
Jim Richmann	2010
<i>Laura Leavitt</i>	2011
<i>Carolyn Mulhall</i>	2011
<i>Shawn Ryan</i>	2011
<i>John Weis</i>	2011

Building and Property Committee:

Responsible for the care, operation, use and maintenance of the church facilities.

Ethan Hale	2009
Erik Hazel	2009
Shawn Ryan	2009
Ron Zimmer	2009
Nicky Ballard	2010
Joyce Edinger	2010
David Moss	2010
<i>Keith Kreitler</i>	2011
<i>Joe Rakel</i>	2011
<i>Kate Shea</i>	2011
<i>Terry Thuet</i>	2011
<i>John Whitacre</i>	2011

Church and Ministry Committee:

Responsible for staff relationships, in care members and Eden intern.

Judy Owens	2010
Martha Robertson	2010
Scott Van Nest	2010
<i>Carole Brueggenjohann</i>	2011
<i>Kay Thurman</i>	2011

Educational Ministries Committee:

Responsible for the educational programs and opportunities at Hope UCC.

Lesley Darnell	2009
Kristine Wentzien	2009
Bethel Hale	2010
Vicky Moss	2010
Jeanne Ryan	2010
Nancy Stanfill-McCarty	2010
<i>Sara Hale</i>	2011
<i>Melanie Jenkins</i>	2011
<i>Brittany Paglusch</i>	2011
<i>Susan Paglusch</i>	2011
<i>Robbie Van Nest</i>	2011

Finance and Insurance Committee:

Responsible for the financial investments and insurance policies of the congregation.

Sue Casey	2009
Craig Kuhl	2009
Kathy Heine	2010
John Weis	2010
<i>Terry Thuet</i>	2011
<i>Kay Thurman</i>	2011
<i>Clarence Vogel</i>	2011

Fine Arts Committee: Responsible for the creation and coordination of activities that promote various arts within the congregation and wider community.

Sue Casey
Lonny Davis
Alice Galt
Judy Huff
Laura Leavitt
Judy Owens
Joe Rakel
Howard Sherman
Jim Threlkeld
Carol Sullivan Weis
Carole Weis

Hospitality Committee: Creates ways of welcome in the congregation including fellowship time on Sundays.

LaVerne Dillon
 June Franks
 Donna Heinemann
 Melanie Jenkins
 Bev Knopfel
 Norma Koerner
 Ellamay Rall
 Joyce Schubert
 Carol Zimmer
 Ron Zimmer

Outreach Committee: Responsible for the development and promotion of outreach/mission of the congregation.

David Galt 2009
 Clint McCann 2009
 Dan Fagnani 2010
 Mary Ann Mikusch 2010
 Andrea Stoll 2010
Lynn Bohlmann 2011
Ken DeNeal 2011
Clinton Rice 2011
Kevin Zimmer 2011

Special Events Committee: Responsible for planning congregational and community events that promote fellowship.

Nicky Ballard
 Carole Brueggenjohann
 Hugo Brueggenjohann
 Scott Campbell
 Barb Faulkner
 Barb Hobart
 Sue Laughlin
 Charlie Mikusch
 Mary Ann Mikusch
 Nancy Oberheuser
 Joe Rakel
 Jim Richmann
 Susie Richmann
 Martha Stanfill
 Carol Zimmer

Stewardship Committee: Responsible for the education and interpretation of stewardship issues.

Randy Hall 2009
 Terry Thuet 2009
 Alice Galt 2010
 Sue Rainer 2010

Worship Committee: Responsible for the Sunday morning and seasonal worship experiences at Hope UCC.

Robin Brannam 2009
 Lonny Davis 2009
 Sue Casey 2010
 Bryan Erwin 2010
 Sue Laughlin 2010
 Carol Sullivan Weis 2010
Kathy Hall 2011
Lydia Lewis 2011
Cheri Puto 2011

Delegates to the St. Louis Association, Missouri Mid-South UCC:

Dan Fagnani 2011
Carolyn Mulhall 2011

Delegates to the Missouri Mid-South Conference, UCC:

Dennis Paglusch 2010
 Linda Paglusch 2010

Ecumenical Representatives:

Kay Thurman 2011
Martha Whitacre 2011

Italics represent new or renewing individuals

