



HOPE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**2015 Annual Report of Staff,
Council and Ministries**

*“For surely I know the plans I have for you . . . to
give you a future with hope.”*

- Jeremiah 29:11

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2015 Pastor's Report to the Congregation

"For surely I know the plans I have for you . . . to give you a future with hope."

--Jeremiah 29:11

In reading the annual reports of our staff and ministry teams, I continue to be inspired by both the dedication of our staff and the commitment of our congregational leaders. Being part of the Body of Christ depends not just upon God's presence, love, and guidance, but upon our response to God through our own faithful discipleship. As I said in my sermon on Stewardship Sunday, our response must be "all-in" as God is "all-in" with us. So it is with gratitude that I look back on this past year of ministry together: gratitude to God for God's abiding love and care, and gratitude for our congregation's mutual love and care for each other and the wider world.

As you read the Annual Report in the pages that follow, you will find numerous examples of this year's ministries, so I will not review them here. Instead, as a pastor is wont to do, I will look to our "future with hope." That is, our future with Hope (UCC)!

First and foremost, that future involves transitions in our staff. We have said bittersweet farewells to Pastor Ed Zumwinkel and Office Assistant Michelle Lepak, both treasured by the rest of our staff and congregation alike. We have welcomed Josh Gibson as Part-Time Pastoral Care Minister, and by the time you receive this report, Jill Stoll will have begun working as our new Office Assistant.

In the upcoming year, these transitions, particularly the shift from a co-pastor to solo-pastor leadership (with appreciated assistance from Josh, of course) will continue to unfold. We will discover together what ministries upon which we will focus with an "all-in" commitment. We will discern new talents and gifts of YOU, our congregational members, as new ministry models evolve that need your participation and leadership to thrive. We will explore together how we can engage the community around us, always mindful that Christ's church reaches far beyond our sanctuary walls.

One cannot watch the news, read the papers, or look to the needs of our lives without recognizing that this is a time and place where communities of faith are needed more than ever. Christ's church in our lives and in the world is essential, and I for one look ahead, with all of you, to a future that is indeed filled with hope, AND with Hope UCC!

Peace,
Pastor Sarah

Part Time Pastoral Care Minister Josh Gibson

On September 1, 2015, I joined the Hope UCC staff as a Part-Time Pastoral Care Minister. Since that time, I have been engaged in visitation of members who are unable to attend the regularly scheduled services. I have also been involved in worship, attended the Fall Meeting of the Saint Louis Association, and the Art and Air Festival, representing Hope UCC. Though my time has been brief at Hope, as of this report, I am happy to be back at Hope UCC!

Blessings,
Josh

2015 Annual Report of the Hope UCC Church Council Andy Karcher, Council President

To the Hope UCC Family:

This year has marked a year of tremendous change for Hope UCC. As we look towards 2016, I would like to take some time to look at where we have been, the great things going on at Hope today and where God is calling us next.

“Certain things, they should stay the way they are. You ought to be able to stick them in one of those big glass cases and just leave them alone.” – J.D. Sallinger – The Catcher and the Rye

Like so many, when faced with change I find myself wanting to cling to what I have. Never is this truer than when personal relationships are involved. This year marked the end of our shared journey with Pastor Ed Zumwinkel. From his thought-provoking sermons, passion for mission, compassionate counsel, or even his occasional bongo playing, Ed will be missed. We thank him for his six years of shared ministry and wish him the best of luck as he follows a new path God has called him to follow.

In the same vein, this year marked the end of our journey with Michelle Lepak. Michelle served for the past three years as the office assistant. Michelle conveyed warmth and welcome to those who visited or called, strived to facilitate solutions for any and all church members, and helped to keep the business of the church running like a well-oiled machine. We wish Michelle well as she sets off upon a new career journey God has set her upon.

“I alone cannot change the world; but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.” – Mother Theresa

While some changes have been bittersweet, Hope has made, and continues to make, many notable ripples in the waters in an effort to affect positive change for our congregation and the world around us. Some of these items in no particular order include:

- The inaugural ministry fair hosted by the Evangelism and Communications Ministry was held. This fair highlighted numerous ministries and gave Hope members the opportunity to learn more about what the ministries do.
- The Outreach ministry, along with Church Council, completed a 2 year discernment process to secure formal recognition as a global mission church. This effort will continue to highlight all that Hope does for our community and the world beyond.

- The Building and Property Ministry continues its efforts to ensure that our facilities are kept in top condition.
- Of particular note is their effort to get our kitchen up to date so we can continue to have food and fellowship.
- Our music ministry, under the leadership of Jim Threlkeld and Susie Richmann, continues to add new and exciting dimensions to an already rich worship experience.
- New and exciting opportunities for youth, including a reimagined Sunday School Kick off, continue to be developed. Of particular note is our active confirmation class this year.
- In the wake of increased gun violence in our community, including the tragic death of Hope member Scott Knopfel, Council, along with a small group of church members, continues to discern Hope's role in the ongoing debate and search for a solution.
- Hope hosted Erin Bode in an effort to fund raise for much needed repairs to the kitchen, and looks ahead to another concert, featuring Vince Martin and Dawn Turlington.
- Hope's web presence continues to be maintained and enhanced through the diligent efforts of Lonny Davis's upkeep of the website, and the Evangelism and Communications Ministry's development of a Facebook presence.

I would like to thank the ministry teams, the church staff, and the congregation as a whole for all of your hard work on these efforts, and others too numerous to mention here. Because of your efforts, Hope continues to make our church community and the world beyond, a better place to live, play, and worship God.

“Change is the Law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future” – John F. Kennedy

As we reflect on the journey's ended, and the great things getting accomplished at Hope, I can't help but get excited as I look towards the future and the journey with God that lies ahead. It is with great pleasure that Council has entered into covenant with Reverend Dr. Sarah McCann to become Hope's full time pastor. Prior to August, Pastor Sarah had served our congregation as a ¾ time co-pastor. When presented with a pastoral change, Council was delighted to find Pastor Sarrah not only willing but eager to increase her commitment to the church. We look forward to the new paths she will lead us down as she continues to share her passion of faith, vast experience, and compassionate counsel.

This year has also marked a new relationship with Josh Gibson as part time Pastoral Care Minister. As most of you know Josh came to us as an Eden Intern and has opted to make Hope his church home while studying in St. Louis. When an opportunity presented itself to more formally involve Josh in the ministry of Hope UCC, Council jumped at the chance. In his new role Josh will minister to the homebound, preach from time to time, and lend his talents to the various ministry teams as needed. We look forward to all of the great things Josh's passion and warmth will bring to our community.

Finally, we welcome Hope's most recent staffing addition Jill Stoll. Jill will be joining Hope as Office Assistant. In her new role, Jill will be attending to the phones, greeting visitors, and dealing with other day to day business matters of the church, including working with our financial reports. If you get a chance please drop Jill a note or give her a call and welcome her to the Hope UCC family.

In all this reflection I would be remiss if I forgot to thank those who have been the most influential on my church year - the Church Council. You will not find a more dedicated, passionate, or able

group of leaders in any congregation. A particular thank you to those who will be going off of Council this year: Randy Hall, Paul Conner and Kristine Wentzien. Your voices and leadership will be missed.

As I close out my report, I would like to thank you the congregation for your gifts of time, talent and treasure. Please keep up the good work and know that with your dedication Hope was, Hope is, and Hope will continue to be a place that embodies what it means to be a community of faith following the Lord.

*God Bless,
Andy Karcher*

Statistical Report for 2014/2015

Deaths

Scott Knopfel	January 15, 2015
Barbara Hobart	February 4, 2015
Roland Speck	June 3, 2015
Larry L. Brockelsby	June 4, 2015
Laverne Dillon	July 24, 2015
Lorraine Lowe	October 22, 2015

New Members

Marcus Armstrong	January 11, 2015	Re-Affirmation
Blaike Cuba	January 11, 2015	Re-Affirmation
Drew Florian	June 14, 2015	Re-Affirmation
Edward Noud	June 14, 2015	Re-Affirmation
Paul Cook	June 14, 2015	Re-Affirmation
Marjorie Cook	June 14, 2015	Re-Affirmation
Audrey Alexander	June 14, 2015	Transfer Letter
Donald Hanson	June 14, 2015	Re-Affirmation
Lorraine Andrysek	June 14, 2015	Re-Affirmation

Weddings

Blessing of Marriage of Valerie Starr and Ian Blyth	May 17, 2015
Blaike Cuba and Marcus Armstrong	July 18, 2015
Tucker Bush and Alexandra Kaufman	October 2, 2015
Meghan Mikusch Alejandro Valdez	October 10, 2015

Baptisms

Elise Renee Cuba	January 11, 2015
Coen Arthur Cuba	January 11, 2015
Maeve Adalynn Armstrong	January 11, 2015
Benjamin Lawrence	March 8, 2015
Laura Zimmer	July 12, 2015
Michael Colin Zimmer	July 12, 2015
Georgia Brook Lynne Zimmer	July 12, 2015

Statistics for the year October 2014 – 2015

This year's activity includes:	9	New Members Added
	-5	Members Deceased
	25+	Inactive Members removed
	7	New Pre-confirmation Age Children Added
Current Congregational Total	386	Includes pre-confirmation age children and non-members attending regularly

Average Attendance

Average worship attendance, 2013	129
Average worship attendance, 2014	131*
Average worship attendance, 2015	125**

**Average includes 4th week of October 2013 through 3rd week of October 2014*

*** Average includes 4th week of October 2014 through 3rd week of October 2015*

Music Ministry Annual Report 2015

Jim Threlkeld

The year has given many opportunities for individuals to utilize their musical talents. We continued the rotation of the choirs leading in worship music each week. The Family Choir of Hope and the Chancel Handbell Choir led worship music on the third Sunday each month. The Chancel Choir led worship music all other Sundays. The Handbell Ensemble offered additional music from time to time in the 8:15 service on various Sundays and in other special services during the year.

A special thanks goes to several people who continue, with extra efforts, to keep our music program, "in tune." Susie Richmann works to keep the children and youth singing as well as helping direct the Chancel Choir, when needed. We say a special thanks to Kay Thurman, Susie Richmann, Judy Owens, Sophie Ryan and Sharon Rose for providing music in our 8:15 service. Much of the time they do double duty and come back to the 10:30 service to sing, play bells or direct. Thanks to Lonny Davis who handles all the "behind the scenes" details with the handbell choirs, which include the selection of music and making bell assignments for the ringers.

Looking forward into 2015/2016, the Chancel Choir will sing during the 10:30 service each week. The Chancel Handbell Choir will play once each month...typically the third Sunday of the month. Christmas Music provided by the choirs of Hope Church will be presented on December 20, during the 10:30 service. The service will be in the form of a Christmas Carol Festival. All choirs will participate along with special instrumentalists. The congregation will have an opportunity to sing favorite carols along with scripture readings.

I want to extend an invitation to come join the music program in some way. We have many musical people sitting in the pews that can help enhance the music program and worship. Please talk to me about how you can become involved in this important ministry. There is a lot of music we can make to honor and worship God.

Jim Threlkeld

Annual Report of the Director of Children's Music 2015

Susie Richmann

Working with the children and youth of Hope Church is so very rewarding! Their enthusiasm and excitement make every music class fun. Thank you once again for giving me the opportunity to work with your kids.

Also, a huge thank you to Jim Threlkeld, Autum Jennings, and Robbie Van Nest for stepping up and leading the music time for the children and youth as I continue to recover from my illness. I couldn't ask for better, and I'm sure the kids will have a great time!

As a reminder, the youth (grade 3 and up) practice every Sunday in the Chapel at 10:00 am. The children have Music Sunday every 4th Sunday of the month from 9:15-10:00. Please encourage your children to participate!

Susie Richmann

Annual Report of the Coordinator of Youth and Children's Ministries 2015

Katie Mulhall

It has been an exciting and busy year for Youth and Children's Ministries here at Hope United Church of Christ!

To accomplish our core mission of imparting our faith to our youth, we continue our Sunday School Program here at Hope. Last year was our first year with a new curriculum, Shine, and we have had overwhelmingly positive feedback about this, so we are continuing to use this curriculum for the K-6th

grade youth. We are trying out a new curriculum with the 3-5 year old class which is called Spark. We are sure this program will be fun and engaging for our little ones! We also started a new program, Echo, with the 6-8th Graders last year. While we found that curriculum effective and engaging, we are not using that curriculum this year because we have a confirmation class this year which contains our 7th and 8th graders. We have continued to hold Sunday School from 9:15-10:00 each week, and our classes have been going well. This year, Robbie VanNest, Autum Jennings and Jim Threkeld are doing music and dance Sundays with the youth every 4th Sunday of the month. We have had wonderful teachers step up and volunteer to teach our youth throughout the year, and we look forward to another fun filled year of learning! To kick off our year, we combined efforts with the Evangelism Ministry to take part in the Hope Ministry Fair that happened on September 13th. A great time was had by all, and it helped everyone kickoff the year right!

We also had some exciting events happening for our older youth here at Hope. Our older youth participated in events like Harvest Home Sunday, where we delivered food to Isaiah 58 and stopped for ice cream at the local ice cream shop right around the corner. In January, we had a fun Lock-In combining both our high school and middle school students. Our youth also had a lot of fun jumping and playing basketball on our second annual trip we took to SkyZone in March of this year.

Last year, we hired Jake Lepak and Lizzie McCarthy as our two childcare workers, and we are blessed to have them still with us! It has been wonderful to see the close relationships and bonds they have formed with many of the children, and the children look forward to seeing them every week! Additionally, we wish them luck on their senior years! How exciting!

I look forward to a full and fun year with the youth and appreciate all the help from pastors, church staff, committee members and congregation members!

Katie Mulhall

Annual Report of the Building & Property Ministry 2015

Ronald Zimmer, Chair

“The goal of the Building and Property Ministry is to provide a suitable facility for the worship of God, Christian education, fellowship, and mission of the congregation, through the responsibilities of the care, operation, use and maintenance of the church facilities.”

The Building and Property Ministry is charged with the operation and maintenance of the physical plant that houses Hope United, Church of Christ and HopeMark Pre-School. While lighting, heating and cooling can be our daily challenges, related concerns challenge us on a regular basis. This year has brought us the tasks of upgrading our kitchen facilities, providing for the heating needs in Fellowship Hall, refreshing the parlor, and improving the appearance of the parking lot entrance to the Church.

For several years this Ministry and many members of the congregation have expressed concern over speeding traffic on Eichelberger and the many accidents at the corner of Tamm and Eichelberger. This year we participated in a study of the street system in St. Louis Hills. The study had many recommendations but at the top of the list were changes that were aimed at slowing traffic on Eichelberger and making the stop at Tamm a permanent all-way stop. As the year comes to a close we are seeing the implementation of these recommendations. Later changes are to include permanent angle parking on the park side of Tamm.

During the past year the Church Council seized an opportunity to rent space in our large kitchen to a food truck operator for his food preparation activities. Our Ministry was handed the task of preparing the kitchen to meet the requirements for this use. The first step was to obtain an occupancy permit from the City to use the kitchen in this manner followed by a Health Department approval of the facilities. The occupancy permit inspections revealed that our 1955 kitchen did not meet 2015 requirements for fire safety at the range. The required upgrade involved a new range hood covering the entire range area and an automatic fire suppression system with alarms. As this is being written we are waiting for the Health Department to make their inspection.

Fellowship Hall has had a heating problem for the last few years. Initially it was overheating in an uncontrolled manner. It was determined that a leak had developed in the water piping in the floor. The leak made it impossible to regulate the heating of that area with the thermostat controls. Last year we shut down the water feed that heats Fellowship Hall and tried to regulate the heat manually for special events. This did not provide a satisfactory solution, and we are now focusing on a radiant electric heating system for this space.

As you might expect these issues involve substantial cost. Fortunately a Capital Improvements Fund was established many years ago, specifically to address these types of expenses. Once again this fund has allowed us to move forward without a “special” fund raising campaign prior to doing the necessary work. We mention this here because over the last few years contributions to the Capital Improvements Fund have diminished significantly and the current balance is not sufficient to meet another major expense item. The recent Erin Bode concert has helped, but there is a need to build the fund back to a good reserve level. Contributions received in the monthly “Maintenance Fund” envelope or by other contributions similarly marked, provide the funding for these occasional high ticket items needed to keep this property fully functional. This should not be confused with the regular maintenance, cleaning, painting, lawn care and snow removal that is included in the general budget and supported through our weekly giving.

The members of this ministry deeply appreciate the many members of the congregation who have given of their time and labor in the many tasks and planned workdays. We tried a new approach to Workdays this spring and it seems to have been very successful in getting a good turnout and getting a lot of work done in a short time. We will be using this format for future workdays and will be trying some “On Your Own” tasks for volunteer execution. Thanks to all who participated and consider this an invitation to all to participate in the future.

New ideas and new perspectives are always helpful in carrying out the responsibilities of the Building and Property Ministry. That means we are always open to members joining this Ministry. Become a regular member, or identify yourself as a “Friend” to respond to specific tasks facing this Ministry.

Ministry Leadership Members: Erik Hazel, Ethan Hale, Terry Thuet, John Whitacre, Pete Weis, Ron Zimmer – Chairman **Supporting Members:** Randy Hall – Council Liaison, Andy Karcher, Anna Mennerick, Shawn Ryan, Eric Jennings

Annual Report of the Evangelism & Communication Ministry 2015

Erik Hazel, Chair

The Evangelism and Communication Ministry had its roots in the Cottage Meetings of 2014, when it became obvious that one way for Hope UCC to thrive was to create a Ministry that addressed the needs of stimulating the growth of the church. In late 2014, a group of seven members of the church met for its first meeting. This September, it became a standing ministry of Hope United Church of Christ. In the interim, this small group has accomplished quite a lot:

- A new Facebook page was created, with over 130 likes at the time of this writing.
- A new logo was created for Hope UCC.
- The Ministry Fair was created, to bring fellowship and new members to ministries.
- Yard signs were created for 25 “advertisements” in member yards.
- Builder articles are written monthly.
- The Ministry purchased a large “Be the Church” Banner.
- The Ministry is heavily involved in Art in the Park.
- We meet at the church twice a month.
- Most importantly, we are developing ways to educate our members on the true meaning of evangelism: sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ! For us, that includes sharing the Good News of Hope United Church of Christ as a caring community of faith that welcomes all people!

Future plans include new Hope UCC t-shirts and bumper stickers. We will also have a new member, Jennifer Conrad, joining us in January, 2016.

Erik Hazel

Ministry Leadership Members: Gary Bogener, Andy Karcher, Amy Kavanaugh, Kathleen Mees, Tom Mennerick, Sarah McCann and Erik Hazel

Annual Report of the Hospitality Ministry 2015

Carol Zimmer, Chair

The Hospitality Committee hosts the Fellowship Time immediately after the 8:15 a.m. service in the lounge area of the Chapel, and after the 10:30 a.m. service in the Sanctuary Narthex on Sunday mornings. We serve donuts, coffee, tea, and water. Coffee, tea, and cup expenses come out of the kitchen funds. Sometimes tea is donated. The committee buys the donuts and decorates the serving table with a theme for each month. Donuts and napkins are purchased ahead of time, and then we are reimbursed at the end of each month. Our Donut Donation Fund helps to keep this Hospitality Treat possible. This Fellowship Time of donuts and beverages promotes conversation between the congregation and guests after each worship service.

Our committee also decorates the big Fellowship Hall Bulletin Boards. One board is decorated with a monthly theme which includes congregational members' birthdays and anniversaries. On half of the other bulletin board we post pictures and names of new members, activities of the church, and/or a monthly theme. (The other half of this bulletin board is used for Sunday School and youth activities.) We also decorate the Eichelberger Street Entrance Bulletin Board.

We welcome any suggestions for improvement. Anyone wishing to be a part of this committee should contact any member on the committee. We would love to have you join us.

Ministry Leadership Members: Carol Zimmer, Chair - Donna Heinemann, Joyce Schubert, Kay Thurman and Ron Zimmer

Annual Report of the Outreach Ministry 2015

Clint McCann, Chair

The Outreach Ministry is responsible for administering, supporting and developing the mission work of Hope UCC. This is made possible by the generous gifts of time and the financial support of our members. The following agencies, events and programs were (or will be) supported by Hope UCC in 2015.

On World Communion Sunday, 2015 Hope UCC was joyfully recognized as a **Global Mission Church**. We continue our local ministries and “journey beyond our national boundaries to engage in God’s transforming missions.”

The Church exists by and for God’s mission in the world...to claim the church’s core identity as a global mission church in all of its expressions, and calls on the church to live out this commitment in all current and future mission priorities.

A Global Mission Church:

1. prays regularly for partners, missionaries and the world.
2. educates its members about global issues from preschool age to adult.
3. seeks justice for the “least of these” in the international community.
4. receives the gifts of the global church.

5. gives to the work of global mission.
6. sends its members into the world to share the Good News of Jesus.
7. grows in sharing the story of God's mission with others.

Source: www.globalministries.org

OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission): The United Church of Christ's regional, national and global missions were assisted monetarily by our congregation. Denomination-wide offerings supported by Hope UCC included: **Basic OCWM** changes lives by strengthening our ecumenical relationships and global partnerships, by imagining and embodying a better world through prophetic witness and work, and by providing resources and programs to nurture the vitality of our United Church of Christ congregations; **OCWM Special Support appeals: One Great Hour of Sharing** works in more than 80 countries, the offering provides hope to people in more than eighty countries; **Strengthen the Church** (sometimes known as Share the Love) grows the UCC's future by funding new church starts and invigorating existing congregations, nurturing lay and pastoral leadership, building youth and young adult ministries, supporting the God is Still Speaking Ministry and its extravagant welcome for all within the United Church of Christ; **Neighbors in Need** supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States; and **The Christmas Fund** (sometimes called Veterans of the Cross) helps provide supplemental monies for pension and health insurance premiums to low-income retirees. At Christmas, the offering provides gift checks to hundreds of annuitants, but it also provides emergency assistance to clergy and lay employees and their families throughout the year.

For 2014, Hope UCC was again designated as "5 for 5 Congregation." This designation specifies congregations that contribute to OCWM-both Basic Support and Special Support including all four of the special mission offerings listed above.

The Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ (or simply, the "Conference"). [It serves 163 congregations in Missouri, Arkansas and Memphis, TN.]

The Conference is the regional segment of our denomination; our Conference supports three different UCC associations, including the St. Louis Association. Our support of the Missouri Mid-South Conference, which is listed below, also helps provide for our Conference staff, who diligently work on our behalf.

Shannondale - This is a mission project of the UCC Missouri Mid-South Conference; the Shannondale Community Center serves the spiritual, educational and economic needs of Shannon and the surrounding counties.

The St. Louis Association of the United Church of Christ, or sometimes called the "Association" serves 50 congregations.

Hope's contributions to the Association help fund three main prongs. The first is Program costs including: Committee on Ministry; Preparation for Ministry; Interfaith Partnership; persons-in-discernment book grants; and the Church Vitality Initiative. The second is Administrative costs including the spring and fall meetings which Hope's pastor and delegates attend; travel for Memphis/Little Rock delegates; contingencies; and administrative expenses. The third, (and largest) is the Outreach prong of the St. Louis Association budget, which in 2014 supported numerous local programs including Neighborhood Houses, Isaiah 58, Joint Neighborhood Ministry, St. John's Community Services Ministry, Lydia's House, Union Communion Ministries, Ecumenical Campus

Ministry, and Doorways. The Outreach Committee of the Association reviews applications for support, conducts site visits, and makes recommendations to the Association Council; the outreach budget for the coming calendar year is approved during the business meeting of the fall meeting of the St. Louis Association.

Blanket Sunday

Hope supports Church World Service which provides blankets to people around the world during a crisis situation. CWS also provides materials and resources to poverty stricken communities. Hope's 2015 Blanket Sunday raised \$1,055.00.

Christmas Stockings

25 stockings were filled and donated to Neighborhood Houses. Neighborhood Houses is a local UCC-related non-profit organization that, as it states on its website, "has supported low-income children and families of the inner core of St. Louis City since 1913. Though our community has changed over the years, our mission remains the same—Neighborhood Houses inspires children and families to reach their magnificent potential through transformative, educational and empowering experiences anchored in faith, hope and love.

Epiphany Breakfast Ministry

Epiphany United Church of Christ in the Benton Park Neighborhood of South City serves a free breakfast to low income families every Wednesday morning. The first Wednesday of every month Hope UCC supplies the volunteers and covers the cost of food.

Families in Need Fund

This mission supports local emergency based needs, such as food or gasoline to people who come to Hope UCC in need of help. Gift cards are given to them as needed. Numerous families have been helped through this mission.

Habitat House

Hope will assist the St. Louis UCC Habitat group as they rehab an existing home on December 5th, 2015. Hope UCC provides not only monetary contributions, but also much needed expert labor. Hope pledged to give \$1,000.00 to Habitat in 2015.

Heifer International

Through the Alternative Gift Fair during Advent, Hope supported the work of Heifer International and raised \$1,488.00. Heifer's mission is to end world hunger and poverty.

Isaiah 58

This is a long standing commitment and mission at Hope UCC - to provide food and monetary donations to this local agency which serves many people in need. In addition to our regular offerings throughout the year, our special campaigns again included the Buy-a-Bird campaign and the Thanksgiving Harvest food offerings, both in November.

Lydia's House

Throughout the Alternative Gift Fair in Advent, Hope supports the work of Lydia's House. Lydia's House provides transitional housing, locally for abused women and their children while working in faith to end domestic violence. Hope's congregation has long supported the good work done through Lydia's House, and this will certainly continue in the future.

Along with the sales of Lydia's House pins, \$590; in 2014 Hope's congregation pledged to provide gift cards to be used by Lydia's House families for Christmas gifts and meals. There were many gift cards given and shared by members and friends of Hope totaling \$750.00.

Ronald McDonald Family Room

A group of volunteers known as the "Hope McCliques" staff two three-hour shifts each week in the family room at Cardinal Glennon Hospital.

St. Louis Metro CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Hunger Walk

Operation Food Search and Church World Service sponsor this local effort to keep up the fight against hunger and poverty. Members of our congregation both provide funds and walk! "We Walk Because They Walk."

Summer Food Drive, 2015

The Outreach Committee sponsored Hope UCC's Summer Food Drive which ran from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Through the tremendous generosity of the congregation, a total of 968 pounds of food and personal care items were collected for The St. Louis Area Foodbank which then distributes the food to 26 nearby county food pantries in Missouri and Illinois.

Outreach will happily work with members of the congregation in support of efforts that are proposed for continued or new support.

Ministry Leadership Members: Andrea Aughinbaugh, Gus Buck, Clint McCann (chair), Carolyn Mulhall, Sue Rainer (council liaison), Shawn Ryan

Supporting Friends: Lonny Davis, Joyce and Ken DeNeal, Dan Fagnani, Katie Mulhall, Randee Lodes and Zoe Aughinbaugh.

Annual Report of the Pastoral and Staff Relations Ministry 2015

P.J. Wentzien, Chair

This committee's primary mission is to provide support and guidance for the pastor, church staff, any Eden intern (Contextual Education student), and any student person-in-discernment member. We serve as liaison between those persons and the church membership. We meet monthly, and are on-call to address issues that may arise.

This calendar year included no receptions. We have met formally and informally with Pastor Sarah and Pastor Ed and we held our regular annual conversations with most of the staff. These conversations focus on job descriptions, duties and job satisfaction.

Ministry Leadership Members: Lynne McCall, Judy Owens, Kay Thurman, Jennifer Taylor and PJ Wentzien.

Annual Report of the Special Events Ministry 2015

Susie Richmann, Chair

The special events committee is a hard working group of men and women of the church who love bringing people together. From our annual spaghetti dinner to trivia night to pancake breakfast to soup and salad dinners, we love to see all of you enjoying each other's company.

When we decide on an event, we will invite all to join us as we think of new and better ways to serve the congregation. Any and all people and ideas are welcome.

We look forward to upcoming events, and we hope to see many of you join us in planning, working, or attending in whatever manner you can.

Annual Report of the Worship and Liturgical Arts Ministry 2015

Gary Bogener, Chair

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2014

The 2015 Worship and Liturgical Arts Ministry wrapped up the final two months of 2014 with several activities, including...

- The annual Totenfest observance was held on November 2nd, with a slide show showing photos submitted by the congregation of past and current saints in their lives as well as special music provide by former Miss Gateway St. Louis Mary Bauer and her fiancée.
- The annual Harvest Home service was observed on November 23rd in which fresh produce was collected and taken by Youth & Children to Isaiah 58.
- Advent wreaths that were paid for by contributions from the congregation were hung.
- The Hanging of the Greens was coordinated with Breakfast for Santa, and the Christmas trees purchased from the “Christmas in July” congregational collection were showcased for the first time in the sanctuary and chapel.
- Congregation members were again given the opportunity to purchase poinsettias that adorned the sanctuary for the Christmas program and Christmas Eve service.

JANUARY / FEBRUARY

- In January the new 2015 ministry team formed, consisting of Jim Threlkeld, Martha Whitacre, Joyce DeNeal, Tom Mennerick, Valerie Starr and Gary Bogener. Gary retained his role as chairman and Tom volunteered to serve as secretary. The new communion deacons were trained by the Worship ministry to coordinate this important part of Hope life. The first class of deacons included: Les and Mary Neal, P.J. Wentzien, Nicky Ballard, Shawn Ryan and Sue Casey.
- The first worship event of the year was the Baptismal Renewal on January 11th which featured a water theme and each congregation member receiving a shell to serve as a reminder of their baptism.

MARCH / APRIL

- The Easter season activities included the ordering of eco palms from Guatemala for Palm Sunday; assisting the pastors in incorporating a meal into the Maundy Thursday service and offering the congregation the opportunity to order Easter lilies to decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday. Thanks to coordination by Carol Sullivan-Weis, the Flowering Cross returned to the lawn on Easter Sunday.
- The ONA renewal service featured the vocal talents of Dominc Windsor.

MAY / JUNE

Pentecost Sunday was observed on May 24th and the sanctuary was decorated with hanging red, orange and yellow paper lanterns thanks to Ethan Hale.

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

The Worship Ministry staffed a table at the September 13th Ministry Fair, and worked with Outreach to plan World Communion Sunday on October 4th.

In addition, the Worship and Liturgical Arts Ministry is responsible for coordination of monthly communion, liturgists, ushers, the conference call, sight and sound board operators and acolytes. Most of those activities are coordinated by people outside the core ministry team and through sign-up sheets...thanks to all who assist in the coordination of any of these responsibilities and for also playing a part of Hope worship services.

Special thanks to the 'friends' of the Worship and Liturgical Arts Ministry who assist throughout the year, including: Sue Casey, Alice Galt, Judy Owen, Robbie Van Nest and Carol Sullivan-Weis.

Annual Report of the Youth and Children's Ministries Ministry 2015

Katie Zimmer, Co-Chair and Sarah Erwin, Co-Chair

It has been a joy, continuing to work with Katie Mulhall, as our Coordinator of Children's Ministries. We are grateful for her energy and leadership! Bravo and Thank You, Katie!!

As we continue to educate our children with Bible lessons and learning activities, we feel very blessed and thankful to have excellent teachers and helpers who give of their time, talents 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 pastor, as she plans for adult education and Confirmation classes. We are thankful to be able to provide childcare for our youngest members on Sundays, as well as during various activities of the week.

We continue to appreciate the wonderful work of Susie Richmann, our Director of Children's Music. We are thankful for her talents as she leads our children in singing praises to God! This Fall, to give Susie some rest and recovery time, Jim Threlkeld, Autum Jennings and the Van Nest family have been kind enough to fill in, with music and dance!

Easter Sunday 2015 brought the 2nd visit of Sophie, the Easter Bunny. She greeted children in the Chapel, then led everyone to the park for our Easter egg hunt. Thanks be to God for the glorious weather, and 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 to Sara Karcher for coordinating this fantastic week!

We were happy to support our young people who attended Camp MoVal in Union, MO during the summer.

During this entire year, we coordinated the collection of various needed items for children who participate in programs at Neighborhood Houses. Thanks so much to Sarah Erwin for her hard work on this project!

At this writing, our committee is getting ready to support the planning of a Hope Trunk or Treat Halloween event. Then, we look toward the Advent season and helping to coordinate the Christmas Pageant.

Bethel Hale

Ministry Leadership Team: Katie Mulhall, Staff, Bethel Hale, Council Liaison, Jennifer Conrad, Kathy Hall, Sarah Erwin, Katie Zimmer, Sara Karcher

**HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES – 2014
NOVEMBER 16, 2014**

QUORUM: Quorum was established with 83 members present and voting.

DECISIONS MADE:

1. The nominating committee slate of church leaders was accepted as presented.
2. Pledges of \$5,846.50 to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and \$4,633.50 to the St. Louis Association for fiscal year 2015 were approved.
3. The budget, with total income, expenses, and net deficit, was presented as follows:

Total Income and Transfers	\$ 331,760.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 349,260.98</u>
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ 17,500.98

The Budget was approved as presented.

2015 Report of the Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee: Randy Hall & Susan Meyer

(Names in ***Bold Italics*** represent proposed new additions to the Ministry)

Church Council:

Jennifer Taylor	2016
Erik Hazel	2016
David Kreighbaum	2016
Susan Meyer	2016
Alice Galt	2017
Sue Rainer	2017
Robbie Van Nest	2017
Bethel Hale	2017
<i>Tiffany Young</i>	<i>2018</i>
<i>Dan Emerson</i>	<i>2018</i>
<i>Andy Karcher</i>	<i>2018</i>
<i>TBD</i>	<i>2018</i>

Ministries

Building & Property:

Erik Hazel	Shawn Ryan- Friend
Ron Zimmer	<i>Rachelle Gilham - Friend</i>
Pete Weis	<i>Ed Noud - Friend</i>
John Whitacre	<i>Drew Florian - Friend</i>
Ethan Hale	<i>Kay Maassen - Friend</i>
Terry Thuet	
Randy Hall	
<i>Ian Blyth</i>	
<i>Eric Jennings</i>	

Evangelism and Communications:

<i>Gary Bogener</i>	<i>Tom Mennerick</i>
<i>Kathleen Mees</i>	<i>Andy Karcher</i>
<i>Jennifer Conrad</i>	<i>Amy Kavanaugh</i>
<i>Erik Hazel- Council Liaison</i>	

Finance & Insurance:

TBD

Hospitality:

Carol Zimmer	Kay Thurman- Friend
Joyce Schubert	Robin Brannam- Friend
Donna Heinemann	Robbie Van Nest- Council Liaison
Ron Zimmer	

Outreach:

Clint McCann
Gus Buck
Shawn Ryan
Sue Rainer – Council Liaison
Carolyn Mulhall
Andrea Aughinbaugh
Katie Mulhall – Friend
Ken DeNeal- Friend
Dan Fagnani- Friend
Ranee Lodes- Friend

Pastoral and Staff Relations:

Kay Thurman
P.J. Wentzien
Lynne McCall
Jennifer Taylor- Council Liaison

Special Events:

Nicky Mangus	Susie Richmann
<i>Dan Mangus</i>	Katie Richmann
Carol Brueggjenjohann	Jim Richmann
Dan Fagnani	Carol Zimmer
Mary Ann Mikusch	
Charlie Mikusch	

Stewardship:

David Kreighbaum	<i>Judy Owens</i>
<i>Ed Noud</i>	<i>Kristine Wentzien- Friend</i>
<i>Drew Florian</i>	

Youth & Children's Ministry:

Katie Mulhall	Sarah Karcher
Katie Zimmer	Kristine Wentzien
Bethel Hale-Council Liaison	Phil Barbier- Friend
Sarah Erwin	
Jennifer Conrad	
Kathy Hall	

Worship:

David Kreighbaum	Alice Galt- Friend
Jim Threlkeld	Sue Casey- Friend
Tom Mennerick	Judy Owens- Friend
Martha Whitacre	Carol Sullivan Weis- Friend
Joyce DeNeal	Robbie Van Nest- Friend
Valerie Blyth	Lynn Bodicky – Friend

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

Carolyn Mulhall
Ron Zimmer

Delegates to the Missouri Mid-South Conference UCC:

TBA
TBA

Ecumenical Representatives:

Kay Thurman
Martha Whitacre

Operating Fund Budget Plan for 2016 and Actuals through September 30, 2015

Account Name	2016 Proposed	2015 Budget	% Change	2015 YTD Budget	2015 YTD Actual	2015 Budget vs. Actual
INCOME AND TRANSFERS						
Weekly Operating Fund Offering	\$268,000.00	\$299,600.00	-11%	\$224,973.00	\$204,021.06	(\$20,951.94)
Holiday Offering	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	0.00%	\$747.00	\$1,100.00	\$353.00
Contribution to Building Use	\$7,200.00	\$8,400.00	-14%	\$6,850.00	\$4,259.00	(\$2,591.00)
Scrip Income	\$600.00	\$300.00	100%	\$225.00	\$535.90	310.90
TOTAL Operating Fund INCOME	\$280,300.00	\$312,800.00	-10%	\$232,795.00	\$209,915.96	(\$22,879.04)
TRANSFERS						
Endowment Fund Earnings Operating Fund Support (1) & (2)	\$12,900.00	\$12,900.00	0%	\$9,675.00	\$36,900.00	\$27,225.00
TOTAL INCOME AND TRANSFERS	\$293,200.00	\$325,700.00	-10%	\$242,470.00	\$246,815.96	\$4,345.96
PERSONNEL EXPENSES						
Pastor Zumwinkel's Compensation (3)	\$0.00	\$69,863.95	-100%	\$52,398.00	\$46,649.21	(\$5,748.79)
Pastor McCann's Compensation (4)	\$76,304.00	\$51,478.53	48%	\$38,610.00	\$42,763.28	\$4,153.28
Pastoral Care Minister	\$7,200.00	N/A	N/A	0.0	\$553.84	\$ 553.84
Coordinator of Youth and Children's Ministry Compensation (5)	\$7,426.00	\$7,210.00	3%	\$5,409.00	\$5,444.40	\$35.40
Director of Music Compensation (5)	\$26,388.00	\$25,619.00	3%	\$19,707.00	\$19,707.00	\$0.00
Director of Children's Music Compensation (5)	\$2,716.00	\$2,637.00	3%	\$2,029.00	\$2,028.40	(\$0.60)
Office Administrators Compensation (5)	\$25,322.00	\$24,905.00	3%	\$18,949.00	\$16,825.87	(\$2,123.13)
Building Care (Ethan Hale) Compensation	\$1,854.00	\$1,800.00	3%	\$1,350.00	\$1,292.15	(\$57.85)
Eden Intern Stipend (6)	\$2,000.00	N/A	N/A	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.00
Employee Benefits	\$12,067.00	\$33,024.50	-64%	\$31,749.00	\$25,431.44	(\$6,317.56)
Employer's Portion of Benefits (6) & (7)	\$7,520.00	\$7,024.00	7%	\$5,265.00	\$6,876.79	\$1,611.79
Pastor Zumwinkel's Pastoral Expenses Reimbursement (3)	\$0.0	\$1,800.00	-100%	\$1,125.00	\$793.59	(\$ 331.41)
Pastor McCann's Pastoral Expenses Reimbursement (8)	\$7,112.00	\$10,809.00	-34%	\$1,125.00	\$3,391.29	\$2,266.29
Pastoral Care Minister Mileage Reimbursement	\$340.00	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pastoral Sabbatical / Supply 2017	\$2,000.00	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSES	\$178,249.00	\$236,170.98	-24%	\$177,716.00	\$171,757.26	(\$5,958.74)

General Fund Budget Plan for 2016 and Actuals through September 30, 2015

Account Name	2016 Proposed	2015 Budget	% Change	2015 YTD Budget	2015 YTD Actual	2015 Budget vs. Actual
MINISTRY, PROGRAM AND DELEGATE EXPENSES						
Church Council	\$400.00	\$450.00	-11%	\$450.00	\$0.0	(\$450.00)
Hospitality Ministry	\$150.00	\$150.00	0%	\$150.00	\$0.0	(\$150.00)
Pastoral and Staff Relations Ministry	\$100.00	\$90.00	11%	\$72.00	\$73.71	\$1.71
Stewardship Ministry	\$550.00	\$400.00	37%	\$225.00	\$155.22	(\$69.78)
Worship and Liturgical Arts Ministry	\$6,100.00	\$4,875.00	25%	\$3,210.00	\$2,843.12	(\$366.88)
Youth and Children's Ministry	\$9,325.00	\$12,225.00	-24%	\$10,263.00	\$7,387.55	(\$2,875.45)
Adult Education Program	\$300.00	\$720.00	-58%	\$207.00	\$70.45	(\$136.55)
Conference and Association Delegates	\$400.00	\$180.00	122%	\$180.00	\$0.0	(\$180.00)
Evangelism & Communications Ministry	\$1,000.00	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL MINISTRY, PROGRAM AND DELEGATE EXPENSES	\$18,325.00	\$19,090.00	-4%	\$15,757.00	\$10,530.05	(\$4,226.95)
OFFICE AND BUILDING OPERATIONS EXPENSES						
Office Operations	\$12,822.00	\$12,040.00	6%	\$5,277.00	\$7,574.28	\$2,297.28
Building Operations	\$24,400.00	\$24,600.00	-1%	\$18,303.00	\$16,780.76	(\$1,522.24)
Repairs and Maintenance	\$10,200.00	\$10,000.00	2%	\$7,497.00	\$2,943.06	(\$4,553.94)
Utilities	\$24,500.00	\$25,500.00	-4%	\$19,478.00	\$19,183.99	(\$294.01)
Insurance	\$23,000.00	\$24,062.50	-4%	\$18,045.00	\$11,012.00	(\$7,033.00)
TOTAL OFFICE AND BUILDING OPERATIONS EXPENSES	\$94,922.00	\$96,202.50	-1%	\$68,600.00	\$57,494.09	(\$11,105.91)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$291,496.00	\$351,463.48	-17%	\$280,239.73	\$277,019.59	(\$3,220.14)
Income vs. Expenses	\$1,704.00	(\$25,763.48)				

NOTES

1. The Endowment Fund Earnings amount transferred to the General Fund is determined by the formula approved by the congregation on October 9, 2011.
2. Actual Endowment Earnings for years 2012, 2013 & 2014 taken in 2015.
3. Pastor Ed employment ended as of August 16, 2015 and no longer receiving benefits
4. Pastor Sarah Full time as of August 16, 2015. In addition, she has had no increase since 2012 & elected to decrease total by 5% for 2015. 2016 salary in accordance with UCC Compensation Guidelines.
5. No salary increases since 2012
6. Budgeting for possible intern in fall 2016
7. Pastoral Care Minister pay for Last Qtr. of 2015
8. General reimbursement includes health insurance reimbursement payments to Pastor Sarah

Outreach Ministry Actuals Through September 30, 2015

Account Name	2015 YTD Actual
OCWM (OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION)	5359.19
ST. LOUIS ASSOCIATION	3511.50
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST LOCAL MINISTRIES	
Eden Seminary	500.00
Emmaus Homes	0.00
Every Child's Hope	3.00
Neighborhood Houses	130.80
Shannondale	0.00
UCC Habitat for Humanity	155.00
TOTAL LOCAL MINISTRIES	788.80
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NATIONAL MINISTRIES	
One Great Hour of Sharing	486.54
Strengthen the Church	228.00
Neighbors in Need	35.00
Christmas Fund (Veterans of the Cross)	0.00
TOTAL NATIONAL MINISTRIES	749.54
OTHER MINISTRIES	
Church World Service Blanket Sunday	1055.00
Doorways	52.00
Epiphany Breakfast Ministry	1360.00
Gateway ONA	545.00
Heifer International	1.00
Isaiah 58 Ministries	1753.36
Lydia's House	0.0
Special Ministries	0.0
TOTAL OTHER MINISTRIES	4766.36
TOTAL OUTREACH	15175.39