

176th ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 31, 2016

AGENDA

Call to order

Invocation

Comments from the Moderator

Approval of minutes from the 175th Annual Meeting

Financial Reports

2015 annual reports

Reports and proposals from Strategic Teams

Refigure our Facilities

Partnering with Others

Refocus our Mission

Benediction

Adjourn

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ottawa, Illinois

Pastor's Annual Report for 2015

"What a stunning vocation for the church, to stand free and hope-filled in a world gone fearful – and to think, imagine, dream, vision a future that God will yet enact."

Walter Brueggemann, 21st century

2015 has been a “very different year.” It has felt like a year of transitions, but in reality it has been a year of preparing for transitions – thinking, dreaming, visioning a future that God has yet to enact in us, with us, and through us. It has been about exploring, digging deeply, listening hard and taking risks. It has been about creating a fresh canvas so that God can take the colors of our rainbow and shape them into new and renewed ministries that can create welcoming spaces in our community, respond to people’s needs, and change people’s lives.

We have done a great deal of preparation. After our church leaders examined several options for engaging an outside organization in an evaluative process of our organization, our facility and our ministries, we began to engage in the New Beginnings program, a joint effort between the United Church of Christ, the Disciples of Christ, and the Presbyterian Church USA. We met with them first through an association-wide presentation, and then one of their staff members came to begin the evaluation. He spent time with the pastor, some of our officers and other members of the General Board, as well as at an open gathering of the congregation. He looked at our buildings, our finances, our community, our organizational structure, and our mission and ministry activities.

A leadership team was identified by the General Board, which attended training in DeKalb. The team then put together our small group process and led it. The congregation was then organized into 4 small groups, which met 6 different times, sometimes separately, and sometimes in a larger gathered setting. Utilizing the report generated by the New Beginnings staff and their program outline, these small groups covered a lot of ground in 2 short months, exploring everything from the demographics of Ottawa and the surrounding Illinois Valley to viability of our own congregation. They talked about what makes us strong, what are our struggles, what do we do well and where do we falter, what is happening in the wider church and what are the current trends in growth and ministry of the universal church. They talked about our history and its impact on who we are now, and they talked about who we are called to be going forward.

After the small groups completed their gatherings, the New Beginnings Leadership Team (NBLT) began compiling the information gathered to make initial recommendations to the General Board and the congregation about how to proceed. And in November, we as a congregation took bold steps, temporarily suspending all but the corporately necessary parts of our constitution, disbanding our boards, creating a Transition Leadership Council, and inviting the people of our church to work on one of three strategy teams: Refigure our Facilities, Partnering with Others, and Refocus our Mission.

It is these teams that are now taking the directions reflected in the small-group process and the specifics determined in our evaluation report to develop proposals for the congregation about how we are structured and what ministries God is calling us into, where we will be located, both in the short and longer terms, and with whom we can work, both in sharing space and in serving the community.

This has truly been both a difficult and an exciting year. It is incredible to look at the possibilities of how we can engage in this community and envision the impact we can make as one of only a few Open and Affirming Churches in a 50 mile radius. But it is also painful and hard to let go of things that have

been part of who we are, sometimes for many, many years, and harder still to look in great detail at who we are in the present and what changes may need to take place.

Even as we have been fully immersed in New Beginnings, the life and needs of the community, our worship and faith life together, and the ministry of the wider Church have continued to swirl. We have continued to develop our connections with the Ottawa Township High School Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), to worship outside the box and away from the building in a worship and mission project at the Food Pantry, to participate in the Prairie Association meetings and the Illinois Conference Annual Celebration and other conference events, and to connect with the community through our Second Sunday Lunches and other activities. Our partnerships with the YMCA and YSB, as well as other organizations, find our building being used for activities such as day camps and life skills classes. And our rainbow banner reminds our community that “no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”

I cannot express enough my gratitude for the hard work and dedication of our officers, our General Board, the New Beginnings Leadership Team and the Strategy Team leaders. These people have gone above and beyond to engage our congregation in a process that is calling us to live and serve boldly in a time when so many congregations are sitting complacently waiting for someone else to fix things, or more sadly, for death. And thank you to the members of the four boards who served diligently and then made great preparations for the time when they were suspended so that we could continue to keep things moving along. I am also grateful to Rev. Kathy Lawes, our Associate Conference Minister, who not only continues to be a great support, resource to us and our work as a congregation, but who went the extra mile to help facilitate our ability to engage in the New Beginnings program. And an extra measure of “thank you” goes to our staff. Their flexibility during this time of wandering in the desert and their tireless efforts to keep our day-to-day functions running smoothly is invaluable!

Finally, all praise and glory to God for you, the congregation of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Ottawa, Illinois. What we are doing together – the evaluating and exploring, the searching and grappling, the setting aside and building anew – is hard stuff! These are the actions that Christ asked of those first disciples; to let go of parts of their lives and their understandings of how things worked, to pay attention to God’s voice and God’s actions present right before them in their beloved Messiah, and to seek a new way to be a presence of God in the world. That is our vocation – to stand free and hope-filled in this world that is filled with fear and pain and injustice, to think, imagine, dream, vision a future, and then to let God enact it...through us.

In Christ,

Rev. Kimberly Wood

MODERATOR REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

January 31, 2016

*“This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that’s gone.*

*“In faith we’ll gather ‘round the table to taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings—our God is making all things new.”*

Brian Wren, New Century Hymnal #417

2015 has been a year of New Beginnings for First Congregational United Church of Christ in Ottawa, Illinois. We have remembered, studied, prayed, laughed, listened, discerned. As we approach 2016, we have faith “our God is making all things new.”

In the spring of 2015, our congregation collaborated with the UCC New Beginnings (NB) Assessment Service. Our intention was to determine how to grow into “an open table where all are welcome” as professed in our mission statement.

Reviewing 2015 brought into focus the progress we have made thus far. It hardly seems possible our New Beginnings onsite assessment took place only 8 months ago. We have made significant headway.

After the NB onsite assessment, the groundwork was laid for the NB process: leaders attended training sessions, presentations were prepared, and the NB assessment report was distributed to the congregation. After this period of preparation, the real work began. In August & September, congregation members spent many hours in cottage meetings examining our New Beginnings assessment report.

These cottage meetings helped identify 3 areas of focus for further study: Partner with Others, Refigure the Facilities, and Refocus our Mission. Teams were formed and have had ongoing discussions.

In November, we voted to temporarily suspend the Constitution and discontinue monthly Board meetings to focus our energy on the work of the strategic teams. The General Board was dissolved and replaced with a Transition Leadership Council (TLC).

During 2015, many have responded to the call to serve as leaders in a variety of capacities: General Board, TLC, Financial Team, New Beginnings Leadership Team, and Strategic Team Leaders. I am grateful for the exceptional leadership provided by: Ken Brown, Heather Francis, Judy Ilgen, Peg Kramer, Sharon Loudon, Mary Malinsky, Steve Malinsky, Dave McClure, Jen Swanson, and Ron Wood. Our congregation is blessed to have Rev. Kim Wood as our pastor and we thank her for her leadership and guidance.

During the course of the New Beginnings process, we have held regular congregational meetings to report on progress. In late January 2016, each strategic team will present final proposals to the congregation. By Easter of 2016, we plan to begin implementation of these proposals as we enter our Resurrection Phase. God is, indeed, making all things new!

Respectfully,

Donna Martin, Moderator

MINUTES OF THE 175TH ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST,
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Moderator, Jen Swanson.

Pastor Kim opened the meeting with prayer.

A quorum was established by the Moderator.

Jen Swanson, Moderator, thanked all who had served and/or volunteered their time and talents to the church this past year. She then recognized Vicki Smith for her service as church treasurer for the past six years and for the many extra hours of work given by her to establish a new bookkeeping system for the church. Many more hours were also devoted by Vicki to help the membership understand the new system. She was presented with a farewell gift card. Vicki and Carol K. will be moving to Michigan at the end of spring.

A motion was made by Carol Kozlowski, seconded by Dawn Haggard, to approve the minutes of the 174th Annual Meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

The 2015 Annual Reports were presented for review. During discussion of the reports clarification was made by the treasurer concerning payout of mission monies and the total number of giving units within the congregation. Heather Francis moved, seconded by Greg Swanson, to accept the Annual Reports with the exception of the Membership Report which will be amended by the Treasurer with the addition of the total number of giving units. Motion passed by voice vote.

The report of the Nominating Committee was presented by Committee as written on page 23. There are three open positions as indicated. Nominations from the floor were sought. There were no further nominations. The motion of the Nominating Committee was passed unanimously by voice vote.

Wendy Asphahani moved, seconded by Sharon Loudon, to elect the Moderator and the Vice-Moderator as delegates to the Illinois Conference and the Prairie Association meetings. Motion passed by voice vote.

Dave McClure, representing the Trustees, stated that one of the three main functions of the Trustees is to "provide for the approval and payment of all bills and to determine ways and means for raising the funds necessary to meet such expenses." He explained that this past year has been consumed with remodeling and repair bills that have needed to be dealt with quite often. Therefore, the Trustees would like to recommend that this one duty be suspended for the next year and that these duties be completed by Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and the Pastor as ex-official officers. Pastor Kim noted that she as pastor, the treasurer, Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Financial Secretary, and the Chair of the Trustees would meet regularly to discuss the bills and funding issues. Dave M. noted that the General Board has already approved this request. Marge Doogan moved, seconded by Bonnie Hayes, to approve a suspension for one year the duty of the Trustees to approve, pay, and provide funding for the bills of the church and to allow the pastor, Financial Secretary, and the Treasurer to perform these duties during this time period. Discussion clarified that this process would be on a trial basis and would not require constitutional changes at this time. Motion carried by voice vote.

Pastor Kim installed the new officers and Board Members.

Board members were reminded of the meeting next Tuesday at the church at 6:00 pm.

Pastor Kim gave the benediction.

Kevin Francis moved, seconded by Dawn Haggard, for adjournment. Motion passed by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Ilgen, Church Clerk

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
ON AUGUST 23, 2015

The meeting was called to order after worship, and a quorum was established, with 35 eligible members in attendance.

Steve Malinsky moved to send a letter of support to First National Bank (FNB) of Ottawa to sell the farm. Dawn Haggard seconded.

- PowerPoint presentation was given sharing facts and figures about past revenue and fees and potential revenue if the bank was able to sell the farm.
- FCUCC does not own the farm, nor does it have the ability to sell it. FNB holds the farm in trust and would sell as well as invest the profits. FCUCC would get the dividends and/or interest as revenue.

The vote was taken, and the motion passed 35-0-0.

Dave McClure motioned to adjourn. Greg Swanson seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Francis, Clerk

MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 1, 2015

Before worship, the General Board met to amend a motion for the upcoming meeting. Motion 1 read “Move to temporarily suspend the Constitution of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ottawa, Illinois, except for those segments essential for the basic business and function of the corporation, as marked. Where necessary duties and actions are not specified, the officers of the church (Minister, Moderator, Vice Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer), in conjunction with church staff, will make appropriate determinations. A quorum for business meetings during the temporary suspension will be the voting members present, and vote criteria will be consistent with Robert's Rules of Order (current revision).”

The proposed amended motion stated by Jen Swanson reads “Move to temporarily suspend the Constitution of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ottawa, Illinois, **effective November 11, 2015**, except for those segments essential for the basic business and function of the corporation, as marked. Where necessary duties and actions are not specified, the officers of the church (Minister, Moderator, Vice Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer), in conjunction with church staff, will make appropriate determinations. A quorum for business meetings during the temporary suspension will be the voting members present, and vote criteria will be consistent with Robert's Rules of Order (current revision).”

Heather Francis seconded. The motion passed.

The meeting was called to order at 11:17 a.m. by Moderator Donna Martin.

An opening prayer was given by Rev. Kim Wood.

A quorum of thirty-two voting members was established by Clerk Heather Francis.

The following amended motion was put before the congregants: “Move to temporarily suspend the Constitution of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ottawa, Illinois, **effective November 11, 2015**, except for those segments essential for the basic business and function of the corporation, as marked. Where necessary duties and actions are not specified, the officers of the church (Minister, Moderator, Vice Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer), in conjunction with church staff, will make appropriate determinations. A quorum for business meetings during the temporary suspension will be the voting members present, and vote criteria will be consistent with Robert's Rules of Order (current revision).”

Since it came from committee, no motion was needed. After discussion, Moderator Donna Martin called for the vote, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Next, the following motion was presented: “Move to temporarily institute the Transition Leadership Council (TLC), which will consist of the following:

1. Moderator
2. Vice Moderator
3. Clerk
4. Treasurer
5. Minister

This TLC will provide guidance and structure for the teams, be responsible for communication, coordinating schedules, reporting to the congregation, charting the progress of the groups, and giving them the resources they need to carry out their tasks. Additionally, where any previously acting board name or designation remains in the unsuspended segments of the Constitution, it will be replaced by “Transition Leadership Council.”

After discussion, Gary Barber moved to amend it to “Move to temporarily institute the Transition Leadership Council (TLC) **effective November 11, 2015**, which will consist of the following:

1. Moderator
2. Vice Moderator
3. Clerk
4. Treasurer
5. Minister

This TLC will provide guidance and structure for the teams, be responsible for communication, coordinating schedules, reporting to the congregation, charting the progress of the groups, and giving them the resources they need to carry out their tasks. Additionally, where any previously acting board name or designation remains in the unsuspended segments of the Constitution, it will be replaced by “Transition Leadership Council.”

Dawn Haggard seconded the amendment. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Since this recommendation came from committee, no further motion was needed. Moderator Donna Martin called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The third motion was put forward: “Move to create three teams to explore and make recommendations in regards to the following strategies:

1. Refocus the church
2. Refigure the facilities
3. Partner with others

And to adopt the charge for each team as stated in the presented document.

Since the motion came from committee, no motion was needed. Donna Martin called for the vote, and again, it passed unanimously by voice vote.

The timeline for action was presented and discussed, and congregants were asked to sign up for teams.

Eli Hayes moved to adjourn. Bonnie Hayes seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Francis, Clerk

TREASURER'S 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

INCOME

2015 Total income, excluding transfers from investments was \$161,611.57, which among others includes the following specifics:

- \$77,720.01 in total pledges for 2015, which is an increase of \$3,684.49 over 2014.
- \$1,965.54 in loose offerings in 2015, which is an increase of \$923.16 over 2014
- \$1,002 for Special Christmas offering (53rd week offering)
- \$1,056.08 for Special Easter offering
- \$2,127.36 in income from church yard sale in August (funds designated for maintenance)
- \$12,751.62 received from the Schoch Trust
- \$15,000.00 received from the Grove-Hayward Farm Trust
- \$1,380 received in gifts to cover costs of LMPC mediation
- \$10,977.18 received in mission of the month and special mission offerings

EXPENSES

2015 Total expenses were \$228,549.51, which among others includes the following specifics:

- \$2,800 for New Beginnings process, covered by funds from Rabenstein Account
- \$2,000 in scholarships awarded with funds from the Hay Investment Account
- \$793.22 for parsonage improvements covered by funds from Capital Campaign
- \$650 for Macalester College special music program for 175th celebration covered by funds from the Memorial Account.
- Approximately \$8,000 in furnace and elevator repairs covered by funds from Capital Campaign
- \$4,670.50 in account clean up
- \$1,130 in back payroll taxes

NOTES

- Overall expenses for Maintenance, Utilities, and Payroll were lower than budgeted expectations.
- A total of \$48,000 was transferred from the Edward Jones investment account to cover budget shortfall. The account balance at the beginning of 2015 was \$104,071.16. At the end of 2015, it was \$57,412.81.
- Pledges were up as were mission giving in 2015 as compared to 2014.
- The 2016 budget will be completed following the conclusion of the work of the strategic teams in March. The TLC voted to extend the 2015 budget into the first quarter of 2016 until the new budget is completed.
- Consultation with a professional bookkeeper and a CPA has occurred in 2015 at minimal cost (\$35 to date!) in order to ensure that our records are accurately being maintained and reported.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Swanson, Treasurer

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH-UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
OTTAWA, ILLINOIS
2015 BUDGET**

<u>NON-RESTRICTED INCOME</u>	2015 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
CHURCH USAGE FEES	\$625.00	\$1,000.00	-\$375.00
LOOSE OFFERING	\$1,965.54	\$1,200.00	\$765.54
MEMORIALS	\$175.00	\$0.00	\$175.00
OTHER INCOME	\$2,245.96	\$600.00	\$1,645.96
PHILIP SHOCH TRUST	\$12,751.62	\$11,000.00	\$1,751.62
PLEDGES	\$77,720.01	\$80,300.00	-\$2,579.99
WEDDING FEES	\$270.00	\$2,000.00	-\$1,730.00
YARD SALE INCOME	\$2,284.56	\$200.00	\$2,084.56
INVESTMENT INCOME	\$5,405.02	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
TOTAL NON-RESTRICTED INCOME	\$103,442.71	\$102,300.00	\$7,737.69

<u>RESTRICTED INCOME</u>	2015 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
BUILDING FUND DONATIONS	\$27,408.00	\$0.00	\$27,408.00
FLOWERS	\$301.00	\$0.00	\$301.00
GROVE HAYWARD INCOME	\$15,000.00	\$21,000.00	-\$6,000.00
MEDIATION INCOME	\$1,380.00	\$0.00	\$1,380.00
MISSION (DESIGNATED)			
<i>DISCRETIONARY FUND</i>	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<i>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE</i>	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
MISSION (OF THE MONTH/SPECIAL OFFERING)			
<i>ADV/SAS</i>	\$622.00	\$0.00	\$622.00
<i>ANNE MARIE FOUNDATION</i>	\$502.03	\$0.00	\$502.03
<i>COMMUNITY FOOD BASKET</i>	\$3,879.00	\$0.00	\$3,879.00
<i>COM. FOUND. OF GRUNDY CO. (TORNADO)</i>	\$762.15	\$0.00	\$762.15
<i>NEIGHBORS IN NEED</i>	\$730.00	\$0.00	\$730.00
<i>ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING</i>	\$852.00	\$0.00	\$852.00
<i>OTHS GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCE</i>	\$535.00	\$0.00	\$535.00
<i>SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH</i>	\$1,547.68	\$0.00	\$1,547.68
<i>STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH</i>	\$560.00	\$0.00	\$560.00
<i>WOUNDED WARRIORS</i>	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$550.00
<i>YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU</i>	\$438.00	\$0.00	\$438.00
OTHER	\$220.00	\$0.00	\$220.00
PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS GIFT	\$582.00	\$0.00	\$582.00
TOTAL RESTRICTED INCOME	\$58,168.86	\$21,000.00	\$34,066.86

TOTAL INCOME 2015	\$161,611.57	\$123,300.00	\$41,804.55
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<u>EXPENSES</u>	2015 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
ACCOUNT CLEAN UP	\$4,670.50	\$0.00	\$4,670.50
PARSONAGE IMPROVEMENTS	\$793.22	\$0.00	\$793.22

DEACONS	2015 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
ADVERTISING/EVANGELISM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
FLOWERS, ETC	\$495.00	\$150.00	\$345.00
FOOD & KITCHEN SUPPLIES	\$10.96	\$800.00	-\$789.04
MISCELLANEOUS	-\$42.00	\$100.00	-\$142.00
PULPIT SUPPLIES	\$214.00	\$1,300.00	-\$1,086.00
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	\$226.90	\$400.00	-\$173.10
TOTAL DEACONS	\$904.86	\$2,750.00	-\$1,845.14

EDUCATION	2015 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
AWARDS & GIFTS	\$2,125.00	\$350.00	\$1,775.00
CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS	\$106.00	\$550.00	-\$444.00
CONFIRMATION EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$200.00	-\$200.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$51.49	\$0.00	\$51.49
SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES	\$149.28	\$750.00	-\$600.72
TOTAL EDUCATION	\$2,431.77	\$1,850.00	\$581.77

GENERAL BOARD EXPENSE	2015 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
ADVERTISING	\$0.00	\$500.00	-\$500.00
CONFERENCES	\$0.00	\$250.00	-\$250.00
MEDIATION EXPENSES	\$4,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$500.00
MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER	\$3,642.26	\$1,200.00	\$2,442.26
PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS GIFT	\$712.00	\$0.00	\$712.00
STEWARDSHIP EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
WEB SITE EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$500.00	-\$500.00
175TH EXPENSES	\$1,792.00	\$2,000.00	-\$208.00
TOTAL GENERAL BOARD	\$10,146.26	\$7,950.00	\$2,196.26

	2015 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
INVESTMENT EXPENSE (FEES)	\$57.00	\$0.00	\$57.00

MISSION (DESIGNATED)	2015 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
CUE	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
IL CONFERENCE ONA MINISTRIES	\$555.50	\$300.00	\$255.50
OCWM	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00
PILGRIM PARK	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
UCC COALITION FOR LGBT CONCERNS	\$555.50	\$300.00	\$255.50
TOTAL DESIGNATED MISSION	\$7,711.00	\$7,200.00	\$511.00

MISSION (MONTH/SPECIAL OFFERINGS)	2015 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
DISASTER RELIEF	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
DISCRETIONARY FUND	\$1,269.30	\$1,000.00	\$269.30
ADV/SAS	\$622.00	\$0.00	\$622.00
ANNE MARIE FOUNDATION	\$502.03	\$0.00	\$502.03
COMMUNITY FOOD BASKET	\$3,818.26	\$0.00	\$3,818.26
COM. FOUND. OF GRUNDY CO	\$762.15	\$0.00	\$762.15
NIEGHBORS IN NEED	\$730.00	\$0.00	\$730.00

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING	\$852.00	\$0.00	\$852.00
OTHS GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCE	\$535.00	\$0.00	\$535.00
SECOND SUNDAY	\$677.69	\$500.00	\$177.69
STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH	\$580.00	\$0.00	\$580.00
WOUNDED WARRIORS	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$468.00
YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU	\$468.00	\$0.00	\$468.00
TOTAL MISSION (MONTH/SPECIAL)	\$9,768.43	\$1,500.00	\$8,268.43
MUSIC	2015 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
CHOIR SUPPLIES	\$26.42	\$350.00	-\$323.58
INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE	\$1,220.00	\$1,250.00	-\$30.00
SPECIAL PROGRAMS	\$0.00	\$300.00	-\$300.00
OTHER (LICENSE)	\$0.00	\$275.00	-\$275.00
TOTAL MUSIC	\$1,246.42	\$2,175.00	-\$928.58

OFFICE EXPENSES	2015 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
BANK CHARGES	\$139.50	\$0.00	\$139.50
EQUIPMENT RENTAL	\$1,272.00	\$1,300.00	-\$28.00
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$115.01	\$500.00	-\$384.99
OFFICE SUPPLIES & SOFTWARE	\$847.80	\$1,000.00	-\$152.20
POSTAGE	\$682.20	\$1,000.00	-\$317.80
SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$1,038.36	\$400.00	\$638.36
OTHER (BUILDING & KITCHEN SUPPLIES)	\$403.72	\$1,200.00	-\$796.28
RECONCILIATION DISCREPANCIES	-50.00	0.00	-\$50.00
TOTAL OFFICE EXPENSE	\$4,448.59	\$5,400.00	-\$901.41

OTHER/MISC	2015 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
INTEREST EXPENSE	\$42.70	\$0.00	\$42.70
OTHER/MISC	\$1,130.90	\$0.00	\$1,130.90
TOTAL OTHER/MISC	\$1,173.60	\$0.00	\$1,173.60

PASTORAL EXPENSES	2015 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
CONFERENCE FEES	\$522.90	\$1,500.00	-\$977.10
CONTINUING EDUCATION	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
EQUITY ALLOWANCE	-\$866.28	\$2,250.00	-\$3,116.28
HEALTH INSURANCE	\$312.50	\$3,750.00	-\$3,437.50
HOUSING ALLOWANCE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
LIFE/DISABILITY INSURANCE	\$1,127.45	\$902.00	\$225.45
PENSION	\$8,418.20	\$8,817.00	-\$398.80
PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES	\$2,864.13	\$4,500.00	-\$1,635.87
SALARY	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$0.00
SOCIAL SECURITY OFFSET	\$3,705.23	\$5,750.00	-\$2,044.77
TELEPHONE REIMBURSEMENT	\$220.00	\$0.00	\$220.00
TRAVEL ALLOWANCE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
PASTORAL EXPENSES OTHER	\$3,434.50	\$0.00	\$3,434.50
TOTAL PASTORAL EXPENSES	\$64,738.63	\$72,469.00	-\$7,730.37

PAYROLL & LABOR EXPENSES	2015 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
ASST BLG CUST/CLEAN SERVICE	\$8,186.40	\$8,160.00	\$26.40
BUILDING CUSTODIAN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CHOIR DIRECTOR	\$2,240.66	\$2,100.00	\$140.66
FICA	\$1,743.47	\$3,000.00	-\$1,256.53
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	\$204.00	\$1,224.00	-\$1,020.00
MEDICARE	\$407.75	\$600.00	-\$192.25
NURSERY CHILD CARE	\$151.50	\$850.00	-\$698.50
ORGANIST	\$5,655.07	\$6,150.00	-\$494.93
SECRETARY	\$12,038.19	\$11,000.00	\$1,038.19
TREASURER	\$204.00	\$1,224.00	-\$1,020.00
WORKERS COMPENSATION	\$480.00	\$1,500.00	-\$1,020.00
TOTAL PAYROLL/LABOR	\$31,311.04	\$35,808.00	-\$4,496.96

TRUSTEES	2015 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	\$13,333.06	\$9,000.00	\$4,333.06
INSURANCE	\$8,120.25	\$9,600.00	-\$1,479.75
LAWN MAINTENANCE	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	-\$1,500.00
OFFICE MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	-\$1,000.00
OTHER	-\$100.00	\$0.00	-\$100.00
PARSONAGE MAINTENANCE	\$1,438.38	\$2,500.00	-\$1,061.62
REFUSE REMOVAL	\$469.74	\$2,100.00	-\$1,630.26
SUPPLIES	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
TOTAL TRUSTEES	\$67,768.74	\$72,456.00	-\$4,687.26

UTILITIES	2015 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
CABLE TV & INTERNET	\$5,044.28	\$3,600.00	\$1,444.28
ELECTRICITY	\$6,108.75	\$6,000.00	\$108.75
GAS	\$8,024.78	\$12,000.00	-\$3,975.22
TELEPHONE	-\$48.09	\$3,200.00	-\$3,248.09
WATER/SEWER	\$2,249.73	\$1,200.00	\$1,049.73
TOTAL UTILITIES	\$21,379.45	\$26,000.00	-\$4,620.55

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$228,549.51**

SUMMARY 2015

TOTAL INCOME **\$161,611.57**

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$228,549.51**

SHORTFALL **-\$66,937.94**

TRANSFER FROM EJ INVESTMENT ACCT **\$50,000.00**

TRANSFER FROM HAY SCHOLARSHIP FUND **\$2,000.00**

TRANSFER FROM CAPITAL CAMPAIGN **\$8,250.00**

TRANSFER FROM RABENSTEIN ACCT **\$2,800.00**

TRANSFER FROM MEMORIAL ACCT **\$650.00**

\$63,700.00

2015 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REPORT

The Capital Campaign for funding repairs to the parsonage was initiated in May of 2013 with a projected conclusion of May of 2016.

LOAN AND EXPENSES:

- The original loan from OSB was for a total of \$70,000.
- A total of approximately \$68,618 was used from the loan to pay the contractors and vendors for the renovations on the Parsonage between 5/30/13 to 11/4/13.
- A grand total of \$96,235 was spent on the parsonage project, with the amount over/above the amount of the loan coming directly out of the checking account where capital campaign donations are deposited.
- A few other expenses have been paid with these funds including elevator repairs in the sanctuary in March and in April of 2015 (\$3,466) and an initial repair in January 2015 to the furnace (\$4,461).
- The final payment on the loan was made in January 2016 in the amount of \$20,838.47.

COMMITMENTS AND INCOME:

- 34 giving units have made commitments to the capital campaign.
- Other donations have come in for the capital campaign including honorarium donations for birthdays and celebrations of life as well as loose donations.
- A total of \$112,178 has been received to date.
- Approximately \$1,500 in commitments remain outstanding, payable by May of 2016.
- With the conclusion of the first Capital Campaign, we are launching a second to fund furnace repairs.

I wish to offer my thanks on behalf of the officers of the church for all that the members of the church have done to make the initial capital campaign a success. Your generosity as well as your time volunteered painting and working in the parsonage in combination with Steve Malinsky's leadership have led us to a successful close of this project. We have much to celebrate with its conclusion, much for which to give thanks to God in our abundance and blessings, and we can feel inspired and invigorated to move forward with a new project for the benefit of our congregation

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Swanson, Treasurer

REPORT OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Membership, January 2015	164
Added	4
Removed	51
Adjustment	16

Membership, December 2015 101

(Upon examination and comparison of the Annual Report membership total with the membership roll total, there was a discrepancy of 16. The Annual Report's total was higher than that of the roll, which is noted in the above adjustment line.)

Baptisms

May 10		Audrey Ann Riewaldt
July 5		Aria Toso
		Dante Toso
		Dawson Toso

Weddings

Aug. 8 th	Katrina Bromann and Artillery Riewaldt II
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Received in Membership

Affirmation	June	Lem Rees
		Susan Rees
	July	Jacob Alley
Transfer	August	Rev. Charles Maney

Removed from Membership

Death	James Renwick
	Charles Mochetti (2010 had not been removed)
Transfer	Michael Garrison
	Victoria Garrison
	Carol Kozlowski (associate member)
	Vicki Smith (associate member)

Request	Janet Arida	Jeff Bybee	Brian Rosborough
	Thomas Classon	Kay Classon	Janet Rosborough
	Randy Gregor	Robert Haggard	Robert Simek
	Gary Hahn	Craig Hahn	Karen Terry
	Kirk Hawthorne	Kent Hawthorne	Holly Young
	Andrea McGarvey	Joe Pierri	

Deacons (mailed roll letter)	Charles Barlow	Susan Barlow	Ann Parr
	Emily Bentgen	Blake Cook	Sam Parr
	Pete Cook	Kathy Cook	Marjorie Renwick
	Barbara Claus	Andrew Decker	Eric Ruger
	John Damyen	Diederich Denis	Brandi Ruger
	Tami Gregor	Linda Geiger	Rayla Smith
	Thomas Haeberle Jr.	Roger Hustis	Belinda Thornton
	Sherri Inskeep	Jay Inskeep	Jane Walter
	Russ James	Verna James	
	Audrey Matson	Sharon Mikuta	

175th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The 175th Anniversary Committee consisted of Peg Kramer, Mary Malinsky, Gary Barber, and Rev. Kim Wood.

The Celebration continued into 2015.

On January 13, 2015 we sponsored a community concert by the Millikin Collegiate Chorale. Led by award-winning composer Dr. Guy Forbes, the Collegiate Chorale is an upper class select mixed ensemble who performed traditional choral music as well as Christmas and holiday selections. The Ottawa High School Choir opened with 3 songs prior to the Millikin Collegiate Chorale. A reception followed in the Fellowship room.

On March 20, 2015, we hosted a free concert featuring The Macalester African Music Ensemble from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. The concert was open and advertised in the community and through the music networks. One of our church members was a part of the Ensemble. We provided the evening meal for church members and the choir and followed with a reception to all who attended the concert. The Ensemble again played at our worship service, on March 22, 2015. A free will offering was made to assist with the traveling costs.

On April 12, 2015, Mr. W. Aylesworth performed an organ concert that was open to the community and the music networks. Mr. Aylesworth had performed in our church many years ago and was familiar with that wonderful instrument. A reception was held in the Fellowship for all that attended the afternoon concert.

Sincerely,

Peg Kramer, Chair

AUDIT COMMITTEE 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The Audit Committee is made up of one member of the Board of Trustees and two members at large. The committee is charged with performing an internal audit of the church's financial records, then reporting to the Board of Trustees.

The 2015 audit committee was made up of David Hayes, Mary Malinsky and Jenn Martin-Olsen. We met once a month with the treasurer, Jen Swanson, to reconcile the financial statements of the accounts of the church with QuickBooks, and to verify the accuracy of paid invoices. Any discrepancies were brought to Jen's attention so that they could be addressed promptly. The committee findings were reported to the General Board each month.

Mary Malinsky,

Board of Deacons

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Trustees were Dave McClure (chairperson until his resignation in September 2015), Greg Swanson, Martha Carlen, Dave Edman, Mary Malinsky (who replaced Dave as chair in September), Jerry Dalton and Ron Wood (secretary).

During this year of many meetings of many kinds, the Trustees were also busy planning for and working on our properties.

The lift/elevator remains a drain on our finances, and yet still continues to deteriorate. An inspection done in November still is not finalized. We fear that our sanctuary will not be totally accessible in the near future if we must stop using the lift. It seems that repair is either not possible or beyond the scope of our bank account.

The old furnace is also still a financial drain. The Trustees realized that the shaft of the furnace blower needed to be replaced. We looked for local help, but could not get bids on this work. We turned to the American Foundry from Wisconsin who rebuilt the brick in the heating chamber. We were dismayed to learn that we needed to also have the burner replaced, and then the shaft could be worked on. This proposal was brought to the TLC in November, and the work was approved to be done. The burner was replaced in January, 2016.

The work on the exterior window frames was attempted when weather and schedules could permit. Those frames were really bad, and more of a challenge than we realized!

And the commercial two door refrigerator stopped working.

Now for the good news.....

We purchased a new commercial one door refrigerator in time for the YMCA day care program. The cost was covered with money from donors and the Puritan Chapter. Thank you!

Ron Wood and his family completed an improvement project on the backyard of the parsonage/Thornton House. They created a very livable space of patio, garden and grass.

Trustees created a duct into the Fellowship Hall for the air-conditioning from the chapel. It helps!

We had monthly workdays with great helpers. We did work on the sanctuary pews, cleaned out and rearranged the vault and the shed, cleaned gutters, removed the old refrigerator, did lots of yard work and helped with the church veggie garden, removed a branch that was lying on the brick house roof, created a wreath closet and moved all the wreaths there, cleaned out a room on the SW sanctuary level for the Christmas decorations, fixed wiring and switches and fixed leaking plumbing. Before winter, a special team covered leaky windows with plastic in the choir room, back hall and nursery to save some energy.

We purchased a riding lawnmower, and the team of Jerry Dalton and Dave McClure cut the grass during the growing season. This saved us a considerable amount. Dave and Steve Malinsky took care of the snow removal in the winter.

A long list of tasks was developed after walk-throughs of our three properties. We have much to do in future workdays.

Mary Malinsky,

Board of Trustees, Chairperson pro tem

BOARD OF DEACONS 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2015 Board of Deacons included Anne Badger, Ken Brown, David Hayes, Eli Hayes, Andrée-Marie Koban, Meredith Martin-Olsen, and Devin Wilson, with Judy Ilgen as chair.

The duties of the Deacons routinely include communion preparation, Reader/Greeter/Fellowship Hour, paraments changes, and flowers and decorations for Easter and Christmas for the year. Gluten free bread is now the bread provided for communion. Pew and intinction communion continued to be offered in an alternating rotation. Usher training was also conducted for the board in June.

Set up and flowers were provided for the Living Cross along with lilies and palms for Easter, poinsettias were ordered at Christmas. This year Christmas decorations were completed by volunteer Kendall Cramer with the help of the committee and other volunteers.

The Deacons organize and assist with several meals and celebrations throughout the year. These included the Lenten Soup Suppers, Choir Recognition Sunday, and Thanksgiving Pie Sunday. This year it was decided to have Thanksgiving Pie Sunday instead of a turkey dinner due to time constraints and other concerns. 50 year members were also recognized as was World Communion Day Sunday.

Letters concerning membership status were sent to inactive members listed on the church rolls. The church secretary, Wendy, has now compiled an updated membership list.

The Deacons would like to thank all who have volunteered throughout the year for their time and talents. I would like to personally thank the Board members for their cooperation, work, and time throughout this busy year.

Yours in Christ,

Judy Ilgen, Chairperson

BOARD OF MISSIONS 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2015 Board of Mission members were, Kevin Francis, Bonnie Hayes, Jenn Martin-Olsen, Nelson Nussbaum, Sarah Reckmeyer, and Sharon Loudon, chair.

We continue to serve Second Sunday Lunches to the community once a month. As of December, 2015, we have served 53 community lunches. This year we served approximately 856 lunches, averaging 71 meals each month. We are so thankful to the congregation for all your help and support for Second Sunday Lunch. Your effort and cooperation - helping in the kitchen, serving meals, sharing with our guests, adopting lunches, donating food and money, and especially for all the delicious desserts - encourages and supports us in this effort. It is so appreciated.

Our annual Lasagna Dinner was held May 9, 2015. The entire congregation was involved in countless ways to make this event a reality. After costs, and coupled with Mission of the Month monies, the Lasagna Dinner raised \$3,818.26. These funds were donated to the Ottawa Food Pantry.

Mission of the Month gifts for 2015 are listed below. We thank the congregation for their generous gifts and for supporting these missions.

Mission of the Month Gifts 2015

January	Youth Service Bureau	\$438
February	ADV/SAS	\$597
March	One Great Hour of Sharing*	\$852.50
April	Gay-Straight Alliance	\$535
May	Ottawa Food Pantry	\$673
	+ (Lasagna Dinner)	\$3,145.26
June	Strengthen the Church*	\$580
July	Wounded Warriors	\$550
August	Coal City Tornado Relief	\$640
September	Anne Marie Foundation	\$508.03
October	Neighbors in Need*	\$730
November	Second Sunday Lunch	\$482.40
December	The Christmas Fund*	\$464

Miscellaneous giving in 2015:

Second Sunday Lunch Donation

\$600

TOTAL: \$10,795.19

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Loudon, Chair

BOARD OF EDUCATION 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Serving on the Education board during 2015 were: Wendy Asphahani, Gary Barber, Katrina Bromann, Linda Dalton, and Steve Malinsky.

The search for an optimal time and format for youth and adult education was a major challenge this year. Sunday evenings, a couple of times a month may be the best alternative for education programs for youth and adults.

The adult education program Wednesdays at The Well was appreciated by a small but vocal group following choir practice for part of the year. We are grateful to Winn Alley for his efforts to lead this group, and to Pastor Kim for taking over following Winn's change in work schedule.

Youth are included in any of the activities offered. Between Easter and the end of the school year in May there were some classes for youth offered on Sunday mornings. The UCC's Faith Practices website is an excellent source of material for teachers.

The board sponsored the annual recognition of youth participants and graduates along with the traditional pancake breakfast in May.

In June parents, children, and interested adults participated in a cookout and conversation about our education program. A list of ideas was generated.

The Hay Scholarships were presented to five church members furthering their education in college.

Linda Dalton sponsored a gardening project throughout the summer growing season. Youth and adults met weekly to water and weed and eventually harvest the produce. It was an excellent experience for active children to participate in preparation, planting, tending, and harvesting vegetables.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Malinsky, Chair

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - PURITAN CHAPTER 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Puritan Chapter is a women's fellowship and service group that is open to all women of the church. It currently meets the first Thursday of the month at noon from September through May with the exception of January. Each meeting is hosted by two members who provide/arrange a simple luncheon and program.

Several programs during 2015 included

- ❖ The beginning luncheon/organizational meeting
- ❖ Lunch and a tour of Lily Pads in Peru
- ❖ Collecting stamps for charity
- ❖ Baking and delivering cookies to our church shut-in members for Christmas
- ❖ A Christmas cookie exchange for Puritan Chapter members
- ❖ A presentation by Steve Malinsky on the Regional Work Study Program for high school graduation
- ❖ Game Day
- ❖ An ending luncheon

Plain and chocolate covered pecans were sold to help fund donations made by Puritan Chapter. Donations included gifts to the Red Stocking, Easter Seals, the new church refrigerator, and Christmas gifts to Brenda, Dale, Dave, and Wendy.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Ilgen, Secretary

PURITAN CHAPTER FINANCIAL REPORT
2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Balance on Hand January 1, 2015 \$2487.50

Receipts

Offering	\$95.00
Pecans 2014	\$275.00
Pecans 2015	\$1338.40
Outstanding Check	<u>\$70.00</u>

Total receipts \$1778.40

Total balance \$4265.90

Disbursements

LaSalle County Easter Seals	\$100.00
Red Stocking Fund	\$100.00
Church Refrigerator	\$900.00
Schermer pecans	\$1,622.88
Pizza for December meeting	\$45.90
Christmas gifts; Brenda, Wendy, Dale and Dave	<u>\$100.00</u>
Total disbursements	\$2,868.78

Balance on hand December 31, 2015 \$1397.12

Submitted by Gloria Gregor, Treasurer

2015 BENEVOLENCE SUMMARY

ADV/SAS	\$622.00
Anne Marie Foundation	\$502.03
Community Food Basket	\$3,818.26
Community Foundation of Grundy County--Coal City Tornado	\$762.15
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$1,269.30
Neighbors In Need	\$730.00
One Great hour Of Sharing	\$852.00
OTHS Gay Straight Alliance	\$535.00
Second Sunday Lunch	\$677.69
Strengthen The Church	\$580.00
Wounded Warriors	\$550.00
Youth Service Bureau	\$468.00
CUE	\$300.00
Illinois Conference: ONA Ministries	\$555.50
Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)	\$6,000.00
Outdoor Ministries of the Illinois Conference: Pilgrim Park	\$300.00
UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns	\$555.50
TOTAL	\$19,077.43