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Co-Pastor: Rev. Mallory Everhart
Co-Pastor: Rev. Clare Twomey

We are
*An Open and Affirming
And Just Peace
Congregation*

We believe
*God's Love is for
All the People*

We respond
Through our Mission Partners

*Congregation at work throughout 2021...
Annual Meeting Jan. 30, 2022*

OUR VISION

"We covenant together to imagine and live into a world where God's Kin-dom vision of human and planetary flourishing comes to pass through the work of love, justice, peace, equality, and extravagant hospitality. We envision nothing less than a world restored to wholeness, wellness, joy, and gratitude for all of God's Creation."

Congregation at work throughout 2021

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Vista Grande Community, United Church of Christ Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: 31 Jan 2021
Location: V.G. Church

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Moderator Kayan called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.

43 Covenantal Partners and 2 friends were present. (Quorum of 24 was met.)

Kayan opened with prayer.

Kayan introduced the Executive Council members: John Tinsley, Dana Zimmerman, Jeannie Harrington, Carol Burbank, Erika Forshee.

Year in Review: 2020

Communications - Erin Spencer volunteered in July to be the Facebook coordinator.

Missions – Nancy gave an overview of our mission activity. The printed report goes into more detail. Read the report.

Vision – Rev. Deborah Tinsley shared the discernment proposal and a brief introduction to upcoming conversations with Mallory to be held Wednesdays and Sundays.

Carolyn – highlighted Fellowship activities.

Carol Burbank (for Jan Morgan) – highlighted facilities activities.

Next Saturday, the chairs in the sanctuary will be moved for a major cleanup project.

Faith Formation – Sara Weatherman shared family activities held at VG in 2020.

Percolate – Nancy Morlock-Hollins shared the books discussed at Percolate.

Just Peace – Kayan shared that participants at rallies got smaller due to COVID but the Team still worked on Racial Justice. He participated in the March on Washington and attended a mental health workshop hoping to make that a credited path of intention.

Kayan highlighted many other pages of the 31-page report.

Moderator Report – Kayan

Do read the reports to understand the activity of VG.

Staff Updates – Clare

Rev. Deborah Tinsley has retired from her role as Associate Pastor for Vision and Support.

David Hudson as Music Director and Valerie Karr as Nursery Attendant have been let go until it is safe to return to the building and regular programming.

Donna continues to work in her home quarantine space. Timotheus Cross is still on staff as security agent.

Budget – Dana

Dana addressed various areas of the budget for 2021. It looks like the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan will be forgiven. That gave us the funds to keep our employees during 2020. She also went through our restricted funds.

Call for votes -

Deborah made a motion to approve the annual report which included the minutes of the 2020 annual meeting. John seconded. Passed unanimously.

David N made a motion to accept the budget for 2021. Carol B seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Executive Council Nominees -

Kayan agreed to serve a 2nd term as Moderator.

Dana agreed to serve a 2nd term as Treasurer.

David Nath agreed to serve as Assistant Moderator.

Jackie M made the motion to accept these nominations, Seconded by Cindy N. Approved unanimously.

New Business –

Due to Covid, Clare's sabbatical timeline has changed from Feb-Apr to Jun-Aug. Her goal would be for VG to move into being a Racial Justice Church. Mallory will cover as pastor during the sabbatical. There will be 6-7 guest preachers; a congregational retreat; and a workshop, led by Rev. Dr. Velda Love.

The focus will be on Racial Justice, Open and Affirming, and Just Peace. Clare will be discussing with the Lilly grant organizers the 3rd leg of her journey with the moratorium on travel. Clare has been doing much work on Racial Justice and has formed a 501c3 with a colleague titled Nurturing Justice.

Mallory was excused from the meeting)

Clare continues - After her sabbatical, she wishes to go part-time at VG, which opens the door for Mallory to be called as Associate Pastor (also part-time). Deborah T made a motion to call Mallory as Associate Pastor. Seconded by Erin Spencer. Discussion. The vote was taken. Approved Unanimously.

Kayan thanked the congregation for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m. Mallory closed us in prayer.

Notes Submitted by Erika Forshee, Clerk
Assembled by Donna Bristow, VG Admin

CO-PASTOR'S REPORT, 2021

Rev. Clare Twomey

I am not one who uses the word resilient easily. It is often used as a way to circumvent the trauma and troubles we experience so as to avoid talking about such experiences and the emotions they elicit. Yet, as I offered in a previous sermon, the term seems most appropriate as we re-visit and remember these past two years and the challenges and opportunities which have been presented to us. We cannot begin to 'report' on this past year without first acknowledging the grief and disorientation we continue to experience because of this so-called new normal of perpetually trying to navigate what it means to live during an ever changing pandemic. Yet still, the word resilience seems to nag at me as a reminder of the potential a beloved community has, to not just work toward something greater than itself, but to continually hold one another in sacred support so that we may continue to 'be' a vibrant and yes, resilient community. That is, "the ability to become strong, healthy, or successful again after something bad [challenging] happens" and continues to push us into the unknown. This said, what is known and what remains is this Beloved community!

Even in the midst, we have had a very eventful year! We remain financially consistent with our missions even if we are not able to meet in person with our mission partners as often as we would like. We have been able to support 2 additional missions: Smiles and Sandwiches and the Chinook Center. We have supported and attended the ordination of THE Rev. Mallory Everhart and subsequently called her first as associate and then co-pastor upon my return from sabbatical. Under the leadership of our 'new' co-pastor Mallory, we have continued the discussion started over a year ago about discerning how we can best use our resources. If these past 19 months have taught us nothing else, they have reminded us of how our community is defined by who we are in relationship to and with the world, as opposed to a specific geographic location. Ongoing discussions with Archway Housing and this community have continued and hopefully will continue, as we begin a new year to determine if a partnership to provide affordable housing for those in need can happen on our property.

During the Lenten season, our adult faith formation focused on racial justice. The percolate group chose books to study and each week material was sent out to all of you so as to challenge you to become more fluent in our understanding of the extent to which we have all been shaped in this racialized world. Admittedly, there have been very few opportunities to join together in our Just Peace endeavor with regard to reformulating this mission team. However, there were numerous opportunities for this congregation to participate in racial justice offerings while I was on sabbatical. We had six visiting preachers while I was gone and, while the number of folks who attended these services and subsequent training with the UCC Minister for Racial Justice Rev. Dr. Velda Love was relatively low, we will have an opportunity to re-visit the material that had been made available throughout this past year. We also have access to those recorded sermons as we prepare to finalize the decision to be a Racial Justice congregation.

As you are all aware, I left to engage for a 3-month sabbatical which paralleled the racial justice work you all were doing during my absence. While I was unable to complete each planned trip because of COVID, there will be some tweaks made to the original plan that will 'fit' the original intent of the last leg of my journey as it. These tweaks are pending. In addition, in the early part of 2022 we will pick up our quest to become a UCC designated Racial Justice Church.

I have also had the privilege to conduct a very small wedding for a couple who, although not churched nor staying in the area, wanted to be married in our church because of our flags and marque signs! This reminds us that we have a dramatic influence in the community even if we don't see a particular increase in numbers in our proverbial pews! "That said, we welcomed 8 Covenantal Partners to the community, not to mention numerous visitors who have been participating regularly!"

With regard to one of my other hats, I remain very connected with the national office on Racial Justice, working weekly with Velda Love and numerous others to assist in facilitating and assessing those who wish to be SC2ER facilitators. I have recently become part of the Join the Movement Toward Racial Justice, Ambassador Team through the UCC. (See [Join the Movement – When love is the lens through which we see the world, justice is possible. \(jointhemovementucc.org\)](http://jointhemovementucc.org) for more information). My colleague Rev. Dr. Kris Watson and I have officially founded the non-profit Nurturing Justice (nurturingjustice.org) Through this organization we are able to provide workshops and trainings for those who wish to seek racial justice and dismantle white supremacy. To date, we have trained over 500 people nationwide and have offered three presentations by those scholars who have been leaders in his work. Additionally, we have partnered with Truth and Conciliation—a nonprofit founded by Rev. Dr. Stephany Spaulding to present an annual summit also designed to dismantle racism. And finally, while on sabbatical, I had the humbling opportunity to co-author an essay with Kris Watson for Oxford University Press for a book also confronting racism (it will be in print next fall).

But perhaps the most profound thing that happened this past year was the loss of our dear Jim Sailor. We have all had numerous losses these past couple of years which have affected us to the core. This one carried with it not only a profound sadness for all of us, but also deep, intimate and sacred moment to say goodbye to Jim before he left us. This time both in the hospital and during his service brought together some of the most theologically and ideologically diverse people into one another's lives. People who would most likely avoid one another's worship spaces at the least, found themselves sharing something profound in the memory and celebration of Jim. I am sure there is more to say about this, but believe it or not, words fail me. Let's just say we were truly blessed because of him.

Friends, this is the part where I assure you, I remain committed to my own self care through the necessary and desired visits with my spiritual director and therapist, my reading and spiritual practices, my rest and time off. And to be honest, remaining committed to the idea vs the practice doesn't always mean the same thing. But still, I try. More importantly this is the place where I once again tell you what a privilege it is to be with you in whatever it is that life throws our way. It may sound cliché or even redundant, but each time I prepared to be with you, every worship or meeting or event, I am profoundly reminded of how lucky I am to be on this journey with you. Thank you for the gift of you.

CO-PASTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Mallory Everhart

Vista Grande UCC family,

In looking back on the last year we have spent together, I am overwhelmed with gratitude. There have been incredible joys and deep sorrows but, throughout all of it, we have sought the guidance of the Divine and taken faithful steps which have yielded profound results. I do not take for granted the sacred “yes” this community has given again and again and I am excited to see where we are led together! At our last annual meeting, you called me to be your associate and eventually co-pastor, which has been an immense honor. Soon, we'll be partying together and celebrating our shared covenantal relationship as we install me and “make it official”!

This year has been a busy one! Epiphany 2021 marked the ritual and practical launch of a period of deep discernment for our church. From early January to late May, a diverse and dedicated group of people met together to embrace the history of Vista Grande Community Church, name our core values and program needs, and dream of the future God is calling us toward. Out of those conversations and thanks to the groundwork laid by Rev. Deborah Tinsley in her tenure as Minister for Vision and Support, came the proposed partnership with Archway Communities which is currently before us. More on that, in greater detail, later.

Shortly after the culmination of that discernment work, I was ordained and a few weeks after that we sent Clare on her sabbatical! While she was gone, we welcomed an amazing range of talented preachers and teachers who brought us messages which were simultaneously encouraging and challenging. While Clare was gone, we did her proud by “leaning in” to the work she left behind for us. Together, we learned, struggled, convened, and conversed, deepening our commitment to anti-racism and collective liberation.

And we were doing all of this using the God-given gift of technology! As you're all aware, due to the COVID-19 virus, we were not using our building for worship or other gatherings. Though it has been a challenging season, I remain grateful for and proud of the ways we connected with each other though we remained physically distanced. Over the summer, I was privileged to work with some amazing and dedicated folks who worked hard to put our COVID protocols in place, including completely revamping our technology and moving SO MANY CHAIRS. We have gotten the hang of this hybrid worship thing since October and I am so proud of the ways we have invested in accessibility and the safety of everyone in our community.

Through the summer, I heard a deep desire within the congregation to engage with the Bible and to learn how to read it in a liberative and life-giving way. As a result of hearing this need within the community, I began an exploration of the Gospel of Mark in October. Though we aren't setting any land speed records, we are digging deep, learning the skill of close reading, and allowing the story of Jesus to permeate our spiritual and physical lives. It has been an utter joy to study with you and offer tools and resources for building a relationship with sacred text.

Also in October, we pulled off something incredible together. Our beloved covenantal partner, Jim Sailor, took severely ill and spent his last days in the hospital. Clare and I both got to spend a lot of time with him and his family and one of Jim's biggest regrets was that he would not get to return to worship in-person. In her brilliance, Clare had the stroke of genius to bring a little bit of church to Jim. With three hours of notice, over 20 people hopped on a Zoom call. We sent Jim into the arms of God, carried by our love, song, and prayers. It was an incredibly holy experience which still brings tears to my eyes, even as I write this. I remain profoundly grateful that you showed up in the

face of death and proclaimed a love which is stronger than destruction. If that isn't what it means to be a Christian, I don't know what is. Thank you, thank you, thank you. You are an incredible congregation and it is both my pleasure and honor to serve God alongside each of you. I believe this year has shaped us, both together as a community and on an individual level. I look forward with anticipation and joy to what is coming next.

The Proposed Partnership with Archway Communities

It has come to my attention that there are questions about the proposed partnership with Archway Communities, so I want to do my best to lay out how we got to this proposal, what is at stake, and what the process will look like going forward should we choose to pursue this opportunity. If you have questions after reading this report, please feel free to reach out to me via phone or email and I am happy to have a 1:1 conversation with you.

As I mentioned above, Rev. Deborah Tinsley, in her role as Minister for Vision and Support began finding tangible possibilities which would secure the future of Vista Grande UCC, including foundations for grant funding and possible organizations to partner with. Archway Communities was on her short list, due to their UCC affiliation and commitment to providing affordable housing in cities with skyrocketing costs of living. Archway Communities was started in 1995 by Rev. Robb Lapp, a UCC minister in the Metro Denver association of the Rocky Mountain Conference. He has always had a knack for real estate and a heart for people experiencing housing insecurity. He put both into action and now, over 25 years later and well into his 90s, he is still chairing the Archway board and involved in their new projects and partnerships. He's a force of nature! Since their inception, Archway has been committed to caring for people wholistically, especially providing support and assistance to meet other needs which often accompany housing insecurity, including food insecurity and job and skills training. They are an amazing organization on the leading and compassionate edge of the affordable housing sector.

As part of the discernment period from January to May, I introduced the idea of a partnership with Archway to the gathered group to a range of initial reactions. A small group from Archway took time out of their evenings and weekends to meet with us and explore further. The conversation which took place after hearing their presentation was heartfelt and fruitful. Some of the quotes that came out of that conversation are "This sounds like hope for the future" and "This is one of the most Christ-like things we could do." With the blessing of both the vision group and the Executive Council, I began to slowly introduce the idea to the wider congregation, through sermons, newsletter articles, and e-blasts, culminating in the presentation from Archway to the congregation in worship on December 19th. We will vote on whether to pursue this relationship at our annual meeting on January 30th.

One huge impediment to this dream becoming a reality was our renter in South Hall. The terms of the lease dictated that we would remain in relationship with that renter through 2028 and, throughout that time, they would have first option to buy if we ever pursued selling our property. With this relationship intact, there would have been no way for us to move forward with Archway Communities and the dream would remain just that, a dream.

It is my belief that the Spirit intervened in the form of a burst pipe. Though it took some time to shake out, our at times difficult landlord/renter relationship was mutually terminated in November, as both parties decided that our mission and vision for the world were no longer compatible. Though this creates some temporary financial strain for us as a church, it also gives us freedom to move and act which we have not had for over a decade.

With all of that in mind, the proposal is simple, though the implications and implementations are not. Please understand that this is a proposal, backed by both the executive council and those who engaged in the visioning and discernment process in the first half of 2021. Though there are many possibilities for the future of Vista Grande, this is the one we have elected to develop, invest in, and bring to the full congregation for a vote. It is not final and if the congregation votes to send us back to the drawing board, we absolutely will. As it stands, the proposal is to sell our building and grounds to Archway Communities for the purpose of redeveloping it for an affordable housing community, which will include shared flexible space for church use for worship and other activities within the life of the church, as well as necessary administrative offices and secure storage space. To ensure the most effective use of the space available, the plans will most likely include the demolition of the two church buildings standing at this time.

This is undoubtedly a sacrifice and a significant shift in how we think about church, building use, our identity, and more. Our church buildings are standing today because of the dedicated labor and investment of several generations of covenantal partners, including our intrepid Facilities Team, which have worked hard to keep up with the maintenance needs. South Hall was literally built with hammers swung by members of the congregation and the oversight of Pastor Lanning, who had general contracting experience. I do not take lightly the work which has gone into creating the physical structures of both of our buildings.

The reality of church is, however, that the maintenance needs outstrip our ability to meet them, both financially and physically, and our building is not flexible enough to accommodate the types of ministries we dream of fostering in the future. A partnership with Archway means that they would take on all of the maintenance and upkeep costs, as well as any routine insurance and utilities costs. Being freed from these physical and financial burdens allows our budget to more strongly reflect our values and our time to be spent ministering, serving, and getting to “good trouble.”

The planning process will be lengthy and there will be lots of room for our input as this project takes shape. From the earliest conversations with the Archway team, we have advocated for ways in which the character of our main church building could be incorporated in the new build, including the preservation of our mosaics and the use of our remarkable church doors in the design. Our needs and opinions will be respected, and we will work with Archway to create a new campus which allows us to share space and be in community with those who will live on our land. There will be several significant hoops to jump through, including re-zoning the property, approval from the city planners, receiving feedback from neighborhood constituents, and more, but we will lean on Archway’s expertise as we navigate these things together. This is not a capital campaign we would need to fundraise ourselves. Archway is taking on the brunt of the cost and lending us their expertise to navigate the legal and political channels necessary to bring this project to life. All told, it is expected that it will be upwards of 24 months before we break ground. This is a radical investment in both our future as a church and that of those experiencing housing insecurity in Colorado Springs. The possibilities of what comes next are endless and I look forward to discerning the movement of the Spirit alongside you all.

In deep gratitude,
Rev. Mallory Everhart

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Executive Council 2021

- Moderator: Kayan Cross
- Asst. Moderator: David Nath
- Treasurer: Dana Zimmerman
- Financial Secretary: John Tinsley
- Clerk: Erika Forshee
- Member at large: Carol Burbank
- Member-at-large: Jeanne Harrington

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Executive Council met fourteen times in 2021, held one Congregational Meeting, and hosted four Town Hall Meetings.

In addition to the routine monthly reporting of finances, pastor's report, ministry team reports, etc; here is a brief synopsis of other business for each month:

January – Built a proposal to call Mallory as our associate pastor. Mallory will be lead pastor while Clare is on sabbatical.

February – Mallory's ordination was announced for May 23, 2021. It'll be a hybrid event held at First Congregational UCC in Colorado Springs. Mallory's congregational conversations have intersection with Just Peace. We celebrated Rev. Deborah's ministry as vision team leader. A water pipe burst at South Hall. We are working with a contractor to repair.

March – Planned how to improve wifi in the building. A second hotspot will do the trick. Began discussion on when to return to the building and protocol to return.

April – The main building roof was examined for hail damage as we experienced more leaks than usual. The insurance adjustor recommended replacement. Discussion on congregational care during Clare's sabbatical.

May – Our six guest preachers during Clare's sabbatical were identified and an outdoor send-off party planned.

June – South Hall repairs finally finished 06/14/21 and negotiations on roof repair has begun. The vision team has been exploring possibilities for the future ministry at VG.

Discussion regarding a relationship with Food to Power.

July – The National UCC kicked off a campaign for local churches to participate in Racial Justice. VG is registered. Call agreements have been settled.

August – Our Best Practices Policy needs to be updated. We will handle in Nov. Welcome Back party being discussed. Also, a difference with our South Hall renter needs to be resolved.

September – Welcome back party is on hold due to continued COVID challenges. Discussed Hold Harmless Agreement in relation to opening for worship. Re-opening planned for Oct. 10. Mallory has been called as Co-Pastor.

October – Our tenant will vacate the premises. The buildings will be re-keyed.

November – 1/3 of the best practices were edited.

December – another 1/3 of best practices were edited. With the final section on the docket for January 2022.

Erika Forshee, thank you for keeping our Executive Council accountable.

MODERATOR
Kayan Cross

2021 came in with diminishing cases of Covid, The Executive Council (EC) had recently filled the position of Vice Moderator by a unanimous vote to install David Nath and Mallory Everhart was called to and accepted the position of Co-Pastor. All of us were looking forward to the vaccine and the possibility of returning to our sanctuary soon. The vaccine came, a large portion of us received it and then the Delta variant came as well. With that came more waiting to return to our building, a difficult and disappointing decision to make. The Executive Council, Southeastern Association (SEA) and Rocky Mountain Conference (RMC) gatherings all continued on Zoom.

Rev. Deborah Tinsley resigned from her pastoral duties with us. She was very instrumental in developing and actuating a Vision campaign for Vista Grande. For this we are extremely grateful. This lighted torch was taken up by Rev. Mallory prior to her Call acceptance. The EC voted to pay her to facilitate twice weekly discussions and provide monthly reporting back to the EC as to the status of these discussions on moving the church forward in carrying out its desire to do more in meeting the community needs in the area of homelessness. Extending our desire to serve into action.

We experienced a number of property issues in 2021. There was vandalism to our flagpole and the marquee. White Supremacy stickers were applied to both and the flagpole cable was destroyed and Black Lives Flag removed. A burst pipe in South Hall led to major water damage, a lengthy repair time and the facilitation of the end of our lease with Shrine of Remembrance. Costly roof and window repairs were also done.

In April, discussions began to consider returning to the Sanctuary. Lots of care and planning went into these conversations regarding safety for the most vulnerable that could join us to the possible liability of the church as well as how to best fulfill the congregations spiritual need to worship together while remaining safe. This process took until October, at which time our Sanctuary reopened and has remained safe.

Pastor Clare's Racial Justice Sabbatical took us all on a journey last summer. Mallory and guest pastors guided our hearts and minds into the spirit of racial justice as Christians while Clare did her own work in various places. Upon her return we began to delve into the possibility of becoming a designated Racial Justice Church. Although we visited this idea momentarily, Pastor Clare and the EC have decided to put this aside for now.

Our Financial Secretary, who has done a fantastic job of providing very detailed records and information has served us well. He will be stepping down on January 30th due to term limits. He will continue to assist with the transition to the new financial secretary. We are grateful for his service.

In 2020, David Bristow created a Covenantal Partner Portal on our website as a means of communication within the congregation. We also have two Members-at-Large on the EC, Jeanne Harrington and Carol Burbank who are always available for questions comments or concerns that anyone would like addressed. I must say that both of these methods for communicating seem to me to be underutilized in 2021. It may be due to our covenantal

partners feeling comfortable with direct communication to EC and our pastors. It does allude to a sense of folx feeling informed and not needing to address any issues or concerns this year. Not sure if that is the actual case but want to emphasize these methods of communication are available.

There were some notable changes that occurred at the Association and Conference levels. Rev. Anthony Scott installed as New Associate Conference Minister. His duties include but are not limited to leading the conference in the area of Racial Justice. The SEA voted on Constitution and Bylaws changes that brought the language of the documents up to date. RMC voted to change the Committees on Ministry (COM) to Conference Wide Committee (CWCOM) which moves responsibilities of ministerial authorization, accountability, and oversight from the Associations to the Conference. Daryl Schreiber left the RMC and our very own David Bristow stepped up to fill her position as Director of Communication Pro Tem.

Although 2021 presented another year of operating during Covid the Executive Council stepped up to the challenge of governing and representing the VGUCC congregation with full commitment. Throughout the year, the church as a whole maintained a large presence at most, if not at all of the SEA and Conference level workshops and Conferences.

On a personal note, I had some struggles with depression and housing in 2021. Although these issues were relatively short term, they did affect my thoroughness as Moderator. I want you all to know that my commitment, resolve and ability to continue serving this congregation have been restored and I am available and approachable for any discussions you may want to have with me. Thank you all for journeying through another year together in this congregation as we continued on Christ's Journey for us.

MEMBER AT LARGE **Carol Burbank**

As we reflect on 2021, our congregation continued to deal with Covid-19 and its various mutations for the past year. We did start gathering under Covid Protocols for in-person worship in October 2021. By offering in-person and hybrid worship, we had an experience that met many needs of our covenantal partners and visitors. The protocols did not permit us to get back to fellowship and gathering for coffee after service. This separation created challenges for connecting and doing what we have always done best-radical hospitality.

Church life continued to the best of everyone's abilities. As one of the members at large, I would like to thank everyone for their participation and support of this Church and its many missions. I also give an open invitation to all, to contact me with any questions or input they have that will continue to support and build our Church better and stronger as the Church continues to build and support the larger community. You can reach me at 719-598-2256 or via email at dcburbank2@aol.com.

The following is a description of the duties of a member at large representative for your understanding and consideration as you prayerfully consider what you may able to provide as leadership and support for our Church.

Members at Large:

Members at Large are not officers of the Executive Council; there are no term limits for Members at Large. Members at Large function as the liaison from the congregation to the Executive Council, requiring neutrality as a representative position. Members at Large have both voice and vote at Executive Council meetings, Annual meetings, and any duly called Congregational meeting. Responsibilities are:

- 1.) Attending all Executive Council meetings, duly called Congregational meetings such as but not limited to Annual meeting
- 2.) Representing the congregation to the Executive Council
- 3.) Reporting to the Moderator any complaint, conflict or confusion causing dis-ease in the congregation, if the person bringing this issue will give their name so that this issue may be addressed directly; no anonymous complaint, confusion or conflict will be brought forward by the Members at Large to the Moderator
- 4.) Responsible for assisting with the execution of those activities implemented by the Executive Council

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Submitted by Dave Bristow

The team of Dave Bristow, Carol Burbank, and Nancy Morlock-Hollins remained the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) during 2021.

“The Pastoral Relations Committee is a standing committee in a local church that seeks to support and maintain an open and healthy relationship between the pastor and members of the congregation. The committee serves in two primary ways; as an advisory group to the pastor and as support for the pastor's leadership. As an advisory group the committee shares ideas, dreams, hopes, expectations, and concerns of the congregation with the pastor. As support for the pastor, the committee interprets roles, functions, and needs of the pastor to the congregation.”

Ministers are called to embody and encourage the faith of the Church and its members. The relationship between a pastor and congregants should be tended deliberately, so that ministries of both pastor and congregation complement each other and further God's grace in the world.

The Pastoral Relations Committee exists in a congregation to advise, assist, and promote the growth of this vital relationship. This committee serves in two principal ways:

- as an advisory group to the pastor and as support for the pastor's leadership by sharing ideas, dreams, hopes, expectations and concerns of the congregation, and
- as support for the pastor by interpreting roles, functions, and needs of the pastor to the congregation.

The committee works in a context of confidentiality, support, care, and honesty with the pastor, while promoting healthy communication in the congregation.

We met with Pastor Clare before and after she took her sabbatical as well as another during the year.

ADMIN REPORT

Submitted by Donna Bristow

Personnel Changes: Timotheus Cross served as our security agent until the summer when he and his family moved to New Mexico.

With COVID and the uncertainty of when to return to in person worship, we didn't re-hire our nursery attendant nor music director. Once we started hybrid worship, Amanda Udis-Kessler graciously offered her musical talents. We are blessed!

Contracts and W-4s for our pastors and administrative assistant are kept current. Meeting minutes, policies, and other pertinent documents are kept on file.

In working toward best practices in finances and safety measures, we performed background checks on our financial folks and nursery care providers through Praesidium, Inc, contracted through our UCC Insurance Board and viewed online "safe church" training modules through Armatus.

Lease Agreement: The Shrine of Remembrance (SOR) discontinued its lease during this year. Our property insurance is maintained through the United Church of Christ Insurance Board.

LOVE GROUNDED IN FAITH AND HOPE

WORSHIP

Worship during 2021 remained online by Zoom. During the summer months, a group of folks worked on re-entering the building for "in person" worship. After COVID protocol was explored and guidelines implemented, on Oct. 10, VG offered a hybrid service; online by Zoom and in person. As best as possible, our worship online and in a hybrid setting, traveled through the liturgical seasons. Occasionally, we were treated to live music which was awe inspiring. We thank our musical folks for sharing their talents and Amanda for her writing and sharing of her original music.

FAITH FORMATION

Vision for Faith Formation

VGCC will provide stimulating, participatory educational experiences for all ages – children, youth and adults. Shared discoveries may include bible studies, study of church history, literature and other media that nurture our spiritual growth. While our educational experiences may be held at different venues we will seek to connect our learning to our daily lives.

Adult Education: a.k.a. Percolate (Sunday Morning @ 8:30)

Submitted by Nancy Morlock-Hollins

Percolate has read two books this year. We started with Caste by Isabel Wilkerson. Caste is a 2020 nonfiction book in which prize-winning journalist Isabel Wilkerson argues that the United States operates under a caste system based on race.

“Wilkerson compares the United States to India and Nazi Germany, examining the similarities and differences between each nation’s caste system. Through her “Eight Pillars of Caste,” Wilkerson explains what a caste system entails and how caste perpetuates itself through dehumanization and division. Drawing on history, research, and personal anecdotes, Wilkerson explores the dire consequences of caste and proposes “radical empathy” as the solution.”

Our next book is and continues to be Reading the Bible from the Margins by Miguel A. De La Torre. "Reading the Bible from the Margins" explores how the Bible can be used to liberate those who suffer race, class, and gender oppression within the United States. Specifically, the perspectives of African Americans, Latina/os, Asian Americans, gays, and the poor are examined.

Both of these books are very challenging and have lead to many discussions as we grow on our own faith journey. As usual all are welcome, whether or not you’ve read the book. We meet around 8:30 on zoom before the worship service. (During COVID, you’ll have to “percolate” your own coffee.)

Faith Formation for Kids

Submitted by Sara Weatherman

Faith Formation with children is challenging during Covid 19! Having the children gather around the table for art and conversation has not been possible. Now, though, the table is back!

We did have a fabulous Easter Egg Hunt! Great weather. Plenty of eggs. A big crowd. And a wonderful story read by Clare. The children were happy. The adults were glad to see each other, too.

While the church has not provided settings for faith formation, it has actually continued, deliberately or not. Children learn by watching their parents. Families did most of the faith formation for hundreds of years before the Sunday School for children was created. Our listening to our children, helping them deal with Zoom classes, answering their questions as best we can, being with them at home in moments of silence or sadness, these things model faith. God has been at work among us, whether we can see it or not. We are eager to gather again! The children will be taller, more articulate, full of questions. They may well be teaching us.

ACCEPTANCE WHICH INCLUDES RESPECT AND WELCOMING

COVENANTAL PARTNERS/MEMBERS

Vista Grande UCC began the year with 71 recorded covenantal partners/members and affiliates. Nine new persons were received as covenantal partners. At the end of 2021, six persons were moved to inactive status, one withdrawal, one move, and one covenantal partner death. Vista Grande ended the year with 71 covenantal partners. Average Hybrid worship attendance for 2021 was 41. Let's see if we can boost that number up this year.

In Memoriam

Jim Sailor

October 3, 1961 – October 13, 2021

Jim became a Covenantal Partner with Vista Grande on September 15, 2019. He had recently moved to Colorado Springs from Denver and wanted to become as involved as he was able. He served as greeter and was ready to become a sound tech. He would stay for refreshments and fellowship. Once Covid hit, Jim was a regular on Zoom worship. He missed coming to church and especially missed his friends. He would say, "Vista Grande is my family."

At the memorial service, Jim's brother, Roy, shared many stories. He said, "One thing he learned from his brother is, 'One should never judge a person with disabilities as a victim. Remember Jim as a Good Samaritan.'"

His favorite blessing was the Irish Blessing,

"May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand. This traditional Irish blessing is an ancient Celtic prayer."

Pastors Clare and Mallory officiated at a hybrid memorial service on Oct 30, 2021.

Open and Affirming (ONA)

Opening and Affirming (ONA) Statement

(Approved by Vista Grande Community Church Steering Committee – September 15, 2009)

(Adopted by the congregation – Oct. 25, 2009)

We, the congregation of Vista Grande Community Church United Church of Christ in Colorado Springs, CO declare ourselves to be Open and Affirming. We strive to be a congregation that includes all persons, embracing differences of sexual orientation, gender and its expression, marital status, family make-up, age, mental and physical health and ability, racial and cultural identity or background, and educational and socioeconomic status. We welcome all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation's life in Christ. "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

VGUCC Just Peace Statement
(Accepted August 5, 2018)

We, the Covenantal Partners of Vista Grande Community Church United Church of Christ, declare ourselves a Just Peace Church. As a congregation and as individuals, we prayerfully strive to live out Jesus' non-violent words and actions in treating all people and the environment with dignity and respect. With humility, we seek to establish relationships with others through what maybe uncomfortable conversations. While calling attention to imbalances of power and privilege, we will promote peacemaking and work to resist and dismantle religious, political, economic and social systems of oppression. We acknowledge that peace and justice work is a dynamic process, and we will need to grow continually in our empathy in order to have a positive impact in our homes, neighborhoods, communities, nation and world.

**CARING RELATIONSHIPS – FAMILY, CHILDREN,
COMMUNITY, FRIENDSHIP**

MISSION MINISTRY

Submitted by Nancy Morlock-Hollins and the Mission Coordinators

Vision for Mission

Mission/Outreach is an integral part of VGCC ministries. We will pursue opportunities that are denominational and ecumenical, local and global, participatory and financial. Our mission and outreach will make a difference - empowering recipients, and inspiring givers to act in the spirit of Christ; exemplifying The Three Great Loves: Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, and Love of Creation.

Our local missions for 2021 were Chinook Center "People's Pantry", Family Promise, Inside-Out Youth Services, Los Pobres, and One Nation Walking Together. All these missions are relational; in other words several of our covenantal partners have hands-on involvement with each mission. Based, proportionally on previous giving, we also allot a certain amount of our mission budget to each of these missions, and we commit to pay each one quarterly. We also support the UCC's 5 for 5. Out of our mission budget, again based on previous giving, we financially support Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, Our Churches Wider Mission, Strengthen the Church and The Christmas Fund. We have met all our quarterly goals for 2021.

Throughout the year, we collected items for Spreading Smiles and Sandwiches, which are delivered to houseless folks once a month at Dorchester Park.

All our meetings are open. We generally meet after church on Zoom on the last Sunday of the month. Please join us. If you would like to submit an item for the agenda, please see Jeannie or Nancy.

Chinook Center, The People's Grocery

Submitted by Jerima King

Free grocery distribution every Sunday supported by donations and community collaboration. VGUCC has donated money and three covenantal partners; Jerima King, Terri Urban, and Linda Coonley volunteer in the delivery of food to those in need throughout COS.

"We do about 65-70 food bags a week. We also have some houseless friends that stop in during different days and times and we prepare about 10 or so special bags a week for them. We also purchased supplies for distribution to the houseless community in a few different distribution events, including a resource fair in Pueblo this Sunday where we will provide cooked meals. Tomorrow we will distribute 200 grocery bags for the Christmas in K Land event, a collaboration with Solid Rock's pantry who are doing 200 as well." From Sam Christianson of the Chinook Center www.chinookcenter.org

Family Promise

Submitted by Donna Bristow

Family Promise is a support network of churches providing homeless families with children, a safe, homelike shelter where the family can stay together and share meals. Parents work with a case manager to acquire employment and affordable housing, regain independence and self-sufficiency. Vista Grande is a support network. We provide a meal on the weeks that Central United Methodist hosts the families. Family Promise continues to expand offering more models of stable affordable housing which empowers families to thrive.

Vista Grande participated in the annual fundraiser, the 24th Annual Hope, Hearts, and Home Luncheon held at virtually at the end of February. Eight folks from Vista Grande attended to share in the excitement of the upcoming possibilities.

The pandemic necessitated the importance of revamping and expanding some of the programs. The New Promise Family Shelter operating in a vacant motel on Nevada Ave. offers space for 16-20 families. The Day House on Tejon has also closed so the IHN families have joined the families at the Family Shelter. Each family has their own refrigerator and microwave. There is a larger community kitchen available on the premises to do stove cooking.

The Fall Fundraising Walk was a great come back. We had some reprieve from COVID so the downtown outdoor walk went on as planned. Family Promise reached their fundraising goal and more!

Vista Grande's Mission Fest included Family Promise. Our folks donated over \$700 in restaurant gift cards for the families to enjoy a meal out.

Vista Grande has several covenantal partners and friends that serve Family Promise. Donna Bristow serves on the Congregational Care Committee, Chad Siebert serves on the Board of Directors, and Crystal Karr is now the NEW Executive Director. Learn more by visiting <https://www.ihn-cos.org>. Thank you to everyone who supported Family Promise by opening your hearts to the mission of ending Family Homelessness. We hope 2022 will allow us to get back to have a relational ministry with Family Promise.

Inside-Out Youth Services
Coordinators: Nancy & Bob Hollins

Inside-Out Youth Services has been virtual for most of the year. Services for young people ages 13-24 are online. They meet digitally in a Discord server from 5-7:30:

- Monday – Community Resilience
- Tuesday – Adulting
- Wednesday – Transformation
- Thursday- Smart Hearts
- Friday- Rec Night

In coordination with The Place, Inside-Out has opened its doors this winter to provide a temporary drop-in Warming Shelter for homeless youth aged 15-24. It's open from 10-4 Monday – Friday. Food, hygiene products and counseling are available as well as housing information. www.insideoutys.org

Los Pobres
Coordinator: Faye Gallegos

Our clients at Los Pobres live below the poverty level. ANY unexpected cost becomes huge problems. Beans and rice are our standard source of food which we provide. Donations of flour and oil always bring added help. The past 24 months have been a huge challenge for our weekly Clinic. Hospitalizations and deaths have impacted so many families.

Unexpected challenges occurred when just before Christmas we received nine young Trafficked migrant workers (4 female and 5 male). They had been abandoned on the highway by their Cartel Driver. Feeding/Housing and getting them to their destination was chaotic but satisfying, Christmas Day we received word that all nine had arrived safely to their designated places!

With help from VGUCC and so many others committed to social justice we can help in small ways. Thank you for the children's' socks and small toys donated to assist with the Christmas gifts for the hundreds of clients Sister cares for on a weekly basis. Please hold in prayers Sister Nancy and ALL volunteers and Los Pobres families, that we continue to assist in small ways.

One Nation Walking Together
Submitted by Judy Druelinger

Vista Grande Community Church continues to support the mission of One Nation Walking Together by providing support to both local Native Americans and those that live on reservations. This year we supported their school supply drive and their Christmas mission of providing Elder Boxes for those on reservations.

Native Americans continue to be among the poorest people in this country. Like many non-profits the pandemic has had an impact on ONWT. Your continued support of this mission is greatly appreciated. www.onenationwt.org

The UCC 5 for 5 Missions

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) – supports international programs of health, education and agricultural development, relief, and refugee assistance.

Strengthen the Church - This offering grows the UCC's future by funding *The Stillspeaking Ministry*, new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership formation.

Neighbor in Need (NIN) - This offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

The Christmas Fund - Proceeds are used to provide gifts to clergy and lay employees in all stages of their lives and ministries to and through the UCC.

Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) - This was paid through our General Budget.

Unlike mission-directed giving, OCWM Basic Support allows the Conference to retain a staff that provides necessary guidance and resources to support the health and vitality of our churches. 78% remains in the RMC and 22% supports the National Office.

Funding missions:

Many folks pledged to our missions in 2021 and others gave to special appeals. Our group mission results:

Financial Giving Directly to Mission Programs - \$24,170

In Kind Giving to Mission Programs - \$10,191

Mileage traveled (815.4 miles) to support Missions calculated – \$218

Volunteer Hours (75 hours) spent to support Mission Activity (@ \$24/hr) – \$1,800

Total for Mission Giving: \$ 36,379

IN KIND NON-MISSION GIVING

We are very grateful to folks who gave “in kind” items and volunteer hours to the many ministries at Vista Grande; program, property, worship, faith formation, and office. These were estimated at \$623 in items and 442 hours which translates to \$10,596. We could accomplish a lot more because of these gifts.

Total for In Kind Giving: \$11,219

The pie chart for Missions 2021 is Addendum 1, page 25

* The mission totals are higher than the treasurer's report because these numbers include cash donations that were submitted directly to the mission recipient.

COMMUNICATION AND ADVERTISING

Submitted by Donna Bristow

Our outdoor sign and Facebook have been our most frequent ways to advertise. Thanks to Erin Spencer for keeping Facebook updated.

Our in-building advertising has taken a back slide as we are not in the building.

Our bi-monthly and now quarterly newsletter, *Vista Views*, was available through our website and paper copy. Communication to the congregation was also made through our weekly e-blasts on Mondays and Thursdays. Pastors Clare and Mallory continued a weekly Pastor's Blurb which is also on our website; <http://vgcc.org/pastors-prose/>

Please let us know if you have any ideas to expose us in the community!! Our website is www.vgcc.org and Vista Grande is also on Facebook! Our e-mail address is admin@vgcc.org

FELLOWSHIP

Submitted by Carolyn Gunning

There were very few opportunities during this past year to "fellowship together" but we did try to make the most of those we were able to have.

Our annual Fellowship Dinner became "Champagne (alias sparkling cider!) and Chocolates" in the parking lot of the church on Saturday, February 20th. It was originally scheduled for the week before but had to change to the 20th because of a snow day. (That may have been our last snow day until the one we had on New Year's Eve!) Amy and I "served" with heart antennae headbands bobbing! We had a lot of fun but are hoping for a sit-down-in-a-restaurant dinner for 2022!

Then on June 5th, we had another parking lot party, this time in honor of Pastor Clare as she prepared to depart for her 3-month sabbatical. It was a bittersweet event as we wanted to wish her well but also were going to miss her during that time. As always though, we really enjoyed the goodies and the fellowship that took place!

Looking forward to a full calendar of events in the coming year when it becomes possible!

THE WIDER CHURCH

Submitted by Donna Bristow

Vista Grande continued to be well represented at Wider Church activities during 2021. Most activities were via Zoom.

The Southeastern Association held a spring meeting on May 16 by Zoom. Our voting delegates were Cindy Nath and Nancy Morlock-Hollins. Nine folks from VG attended.

The Rocky Mountain Conference Annual Celebration with the theme, "Church, Anew" was held via Zoom over a 6-day period with a varied schedule; June 7-12. Our voting delegates were Dana Zimmerman and Nancy Morlock-Hollins. Over the course of the Annual Celebration, we were represented by at least five covenantal partners.

On Sunday October 18, seven folks from Vista Grande attended the Southeastern Association Annual Meeting which was held via Zoom. Our voting delegates were Kayan Cross, Nancy Morlock-Hollins. and Dana Zimmerman.

Rev. Mallory Everhart was ordained on May 23 at First Congregational UCC in Colorado Springs. This was a hybrid event and attended by many.

2021 Participants on Association and Conference Teams:

Nancy Morlock-Hollins serves on the SEA Committee on Ministry. Donna Bristow serves as the registrar for the Southeastern Association to keep the clergy files in order and to keep the national DataHub up-to-date. This fall, the RMC has switched to a two-year experimental Conference Wide Committee on Ministry. It will consist of an accountability team, Formation and Authorization Subcommittee (FAS), and Supportive Oversight Subcommittee (SOS). This hopefully will standardize authorizing processes with some flexibility and provide accurate record keeping and communication.

Donna agreed to be the registrar for the FAS Team and Mallory is a discernment partner for FAS.

David Bristow continued to serve as the Southeastern Association Rep to the Rocky Mountain Conference Board of Directors. In the fall, the Director of Communications for the RMC resigned and Dave was asked to evaluate the position along with the job description to discern what was needed when hiring the new position. He is busy setting up for a new database getting ready for the new hire.

Folks at Vista Grande fulfill our covenant with the wider church.

FACILITIES MINISTRY

Submitted by Jan Morgan

2018 was the Year of the "Slop-a-thon" parking lot project
2019 was the Year of the "Bob Howard Memorial Garden"
2020 was the Year of "COVID-19 clean up and Windows
2021 was the Year of South Hall Restoration and more clean up!

Most of our efforts were focused on the interior of the building with the cleaning and sealing of the concrete floors as our big project. We glued and tightened hand railings, moved chairs out and then back after floors were cleaned dried and sealed. The upholstered sanctuary chairs were all cleaned.

Outdoors our focus was on weed control along with trash and weed removal, dead bushes and dead cottonwood trees mitigated. AC filters replaced and general yardwork performed. Total volunteer hours worked by this team and others who joined in were 146 ½ !!
Great hard-working team!

Members; Jan Morgan, Carol and Richard Burbank, John Tinsley, Phil Puterbaugh, Dave Bristow and Jerima King. Carolyn Gunning mower. Jerry and Jackie Moore cleaning assigners.

The South Hall Saga of 2021

Submitted by Dave Bristow

It all started early in the very cold morning of Tuesday February 16th, possibly the coldest day of 2021 when Jack Frost slithered into South Hall along the power steel conduit and ruthlessly froze the water in one of the water pipes in the wall. The water as it froze burst the pipe. Later as the temperatures rose the ice in the pipe melted then the water tumbled from the burst pipe cascading to the floor where it steadily rose to several inches and rushed out of the building under the back doors. The tenant dropped by to check things and discovered the water flooded floor. He quickly shut the water off and called me.

I called several restoration companies in Colorado Springs only to discover that there were many buildings suffering from burst pipes, some companies said they would not be able to handle another job for some time. Fortunately, Restoration One would come out the next day and setup fans, heaters, and dehumidifiers to remove as much moisture as possible. I also contacted our insurance agent who in turn started the claim process. On Friday February 19th an insurance adjuster visited and inspected in detail the ground floor, drawing sketches, and taking pictures. Restoration One folks each day checked the moisture levels, moved equipment around until everything was dry. This process took until March 2nd.

On Friday February 26th Restoration One had checked moisture levels in the walls and determined that parts of the walls had been damaged. They then initiated demolition work removing sheet rock in the kitchenette, floor to ceiling where the visible damage was and two feet from the floor along the inside walls. When all the damaged sheet rock had been removed Restoration One spray painted all the exposed lumber and internal sheet rock with Kilz sealer. Demolition was completed on Monday, March 8th with the final removal of the kitchen cabinets.

In March, our tenant ceased paying rent as permitted in our lease agreement. Due to project conflicts and short staff Restoration One didn't complete their plan and an estimate for restoration efforts until late March. On March 31st the insurance adjuster approved the estimate, and we received a check on April 9th from the insurer. During the month of April, Restoration One installed insulation and sheet rock, taped and textured the walls, installed new kitchen cabinets, primed the walls, and reinstalled trim, sink, and microwave. By the April 25th the painter had finally found a source of metallic paint, which was very expensive. Unfortunately, the paint was not tintable and only came in set colors. By good luck the red and blue mixed to an almost perfect match to the purple used in the back room. However, our luck didn't continue as the green and blue mixture was not close enough to turquoise of the front room. The painter had to order additional paint, which took another two weeks to arrive. The painter painted the front room walls that had been damaged and then a Restoration One crew came in to clean and stretched the carpet and put the furniture and other items in place, finalizing everything by June 15th.

The total cost of the restoration by Restoration One was \$19,524.30. The insurance company reimbursed us \$22,896.22. The insurance company as this was our first claim in a long time waived our \$1,000 deductible. The difference between the cost and the reimbursement was the depreciated value of a wall unit I decided not to repair or replace. Our insurance company further reimbursed us for the loss of four months rental. On June 16th the tenant was informed that the restoration had been completed.

In conclusion, the saga started on February 16th and ended on November 8th when the tenant vacated. That took more than 160 hours by VGUCC folks working on this project.

2021 FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

Submitted by John Tinsley

The pledged amounts for Operating and Mission in 2021 were both very well supported by the congregation. The non-pledged Operating and Plate were both under in 2021 by \$3,881 and \$519 respectively compared to 2020 which is due to the pandemic causing us to cancel “in person worship”. The non-pledged Mission for 2021 is under 2020 by \$475. The 2022 pledging is under for Operating and ahead for Mission at this time.

Year	# Pledges	Pledged		Pledged Collected		Non Pledged Collected		
		Operating	Mission	Operating	Mission	Operating	Mission	Plate
2021	30 ¹	79,070	22,375	81,372	23,045	7,445	50	212
2022	26 ²	71,390	22,865	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note: 1. Final tally at end of year
2. Tally at beginning of year

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by Dana Zimmerman

Another interesting and challenging year! Not only is Covid still with us, but our building needed a new roof and we had a pipe burst in South Hall that caused quite a bit of damage. Both of these events were covered by insurance but it makes looking at the budget income and expenses quite confusing as the income is miscellaneous from the insurance company and the expenses are under property.

Our Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) loan of \$17,000 that we received in 2020 was completely forgiven, so that was very helpful. As always, very generous members of the congregation have stepped up and made donations to help ease us through these difficult times and purchase additional equipment needed to initiate a hybrid format as we moved back into the building.

The Executive Council wants to sincerely thank everyone who was so faithful with your pledges as we ended the year with both General Fund and Missions pledges exceeding amount pledged! Pledges for the General Fund for 2022 are lagging a little behind but we are hopeful that a few late pledges will catch us up. The 2022 mission pledges have already exceeded 2021!

Our mission giving shows VGUCC's commitment to serving others. VGUCC continues to be a “5 for 5” church, which means we support the 5 areas of mission within the UCC denomination, as indicated in the mission detail chart. Every attempt is made to spend Mission Funds expeditiously, however, a large amount of pledges came in during December so those will be disbursed after the January Mission Ministry Team meeting. We added two new missions this past year; Spreading Smiles and Sandwiches distributes food and clothing items (and most recently sleeping bags) at Dorchester Park once a month, and The Chinook Center which works for social, economic, and environmental justice and houses The People's Grocery for those experiencing food instability. Our local missions also receive nonmonetary gifts as well as our financial and volunteer support.

As always, mission pledges and any other monies given to a restricted fund will only be used for those purposes. Restricted funds roll over to the following year.

Our main financial concern for 2022 is the loss of our tenant in the South Hall. The loss of \$34,800 in income is a significant handicap. With this in mind, our 2022 budget is rather bare bones but still comes in \$35,000 in the red. We are not panicking as we have a healthy bank account and a nest egg invested in United Church Funds which continues to grow. How we address this deficit will be discussed after some decisions are made at the Annual Meeting. Your Executive Council is ever vigilant for opportunities to save on expenses, provide additional income, and chart a financially sound course for VGUCC.

Part 1 - General Fund

INCOME	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Proposed
Pledges	79,070.00	81,486.30	74,630.00
Plate Offerings	500.00	212.00	500.00
Non-Pledged Checks	6,000.00	7,444.97	6,000.00
South Hall Rental	34,800.00	5,800.00	
King Soopers Bonus	1,200.00	1,112.19	1,200.00
Fund Raisers	350.00	-	
Misc.	7,500.00	110,920.06	
TOTAL	129,420.00	206,975.52	82,330.00
EXPENSES	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Proposed
Faith Formation	350.00	18.48	100.00
Finance	925.00	749.91	700.00
Membership	1,250.00	1,162.00	1,250.00
Office & General	2,788.00	2,309.39	2,500.00
Programs	700.00	100.00	300.00
Property	29,714.00	115,127.01	30,671.00
Worship	700.00	291.25	450.00
Payroll	95,067.53	89,051.58	81,418.04
TOTAL	131,494.53	208,809.62	117,389.04
INCOME - EXPENSES	(2,074.53)	(1,834.10)	(35,059.04)

Part 3 - Bank Account and United Church Funds

ACCOUNT	Balance 12/31/20	Balance 12/31/21
Checking	52,063.31	47,346.22
United Church Funds	45,719.75	50,168.65

Part 2 - Restricted Funds

ACCOUNT	Balance 12/31/20	Income	Expenses	Balance 12/31/21
Missions	1,995.61	24,204.99	20,635.61	5,564.99
Pastor Discretionary	1,975.94	1,027.00	1,515.93	1,487.01
Covid 19 Help	2,370.00	150.00	864.43	1,655.57
Youth	918.74	-	-	918.74
Choir	892.94	-	-	892.94
Women's Retreat	138.71	635.00	575.50	198.21
Covenantal Partner Care	446.54	-	-	446.54
Zoom Equipment	775.00	-	135.87	639.13
Flags	-	75.00	-	75.00
Tech Donation	-	500.00	500.00	-
NCS-U Grant	1,335.64	-	1,335.64	-
In the Mud Grant	433.76	-	100.00	333.76
In the Mud Grant (Covid)	953.02	-	953.02	-
Memorial Gifts	8,222.39	-	2,664.36	5,558.03
TOTAL	20,458.29	26,591.99	29,280.36	17,769.92

MISSIONS DETAIL

Paid In 2021

Family Promise	2,535.00
Inside Out Youth Services	1,900.00
Los Pobres	2,245.61
One Nation Walking Together	1,910.00
Smiles & Sandwiches	-
Chinook Center	1,525.00
5/5 Our Church's Wider Mission	4,000.00
5/5 One Great Hour of Sharing	1,500.00
5/5 Strengthen the Church	1,000.00
5/5 Neighbors in Need	1,000.00
5/5 The Christmas Fund	1,720.00
Mission Speakers	-
Benefit Programs	400.00
Misc.	900.00
TOTAL	20,635.61

2022 MISSION PLEDGES

22,985.00

Financial Giving to Missions

Total \$24,170

2021

