

First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa Annual Report 2022



Annual Meeting of the Congregation + Sunday, January 22, 2023

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2022 PASTOR'S REPORT

In January 2022, I was running on fumes and feeling, if not burned out, a little crisp around the edges. I know I wasn't alone. So many of my conversations involved people acknowledging how tired they were, and with good reasons. Living nearly two years in a global pandemic and the multitude of ways it affected us (and continues to affect us!) as individuals, businesses, communities, and churches had definitely taken its toll. And the truth is, it wasn't just the pandemic but so many other factors as well. I think of it as the Big Shift, and while the ground continues to move under our feet, for me, 2022 was the year of the smoke clearing and beginning to take stock of where we were and what we could do in our new reality.

Some changes were easier than others. As colleagues got back together, we realized that all of our congregations were in similar situations with children's and youth numbers that had declined. So, together with Seeds of Faith Lutheran Church and the Mount Vernon United Methodist Church, we discerned that doing some ministry cooperatively would be a good thing for all of us.

- In late June, we did "God's Good Creation" VBS together at Seeds of Faith, using their building and their wonderful outdoor space. It was a great success!
- In September, we began a cooperative youth group for Grades 6 and up. We've had 25-35 enthusiastic middle schoolers each Wednesday. I am helping to plan with Jonathan and our colleagues from the other churches. I also end up being the "up front" person because I can project, I guess. It must be said that I have always loved being with young people and it has brought me joy to be back in youth ministry again.

Another important focus for the year was upgrading the audio-visual system. Although the new cameras and software were only used once in 2022 at the Christmas Eve service, a lot of thought and effort went into this and I want to offer a particular thanks to Scott Larson for heading up the effort. The new year will bring more change with the addition of screens in the front and discerning together the best ways to use them that align with our congregation's value and culture.

I also want to acknowledge all of the change that has occurred within the congregation these past few years. There will always be deaths, and we have had several members move or have significant changes in their lives that keep them from attending. When I stop and think about it, there are so many people whom I miss, and there is grief with that. Gratefully, many others have found their way to us and our "new" faces confirm that God is still with us, leading the way into a future we cannot yet imagine for ourselves. Thanks be to God for that!

Pastor Lori Wunder

**Minutes of The Annual Meeting of The Congregation
First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa
January 30, 2022**

The meeting was called to order virtually and in person at 11:01 AM by Moderator Lori Wunder with prayer. Clerk Pat Hogan verified there was a quorum. A motion to approve the docket was made, seconded, and carried. A motion to approve the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting was made, seconded, and carried. A motion to amend the Bylaws of the Congregation was made, seconded, and carried.

**THE BYLAWS OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MOUNT VERNON, IOWA**

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*

This passage from Micah 6:8 is at the heart of what we seek to do and be together at First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa. In our worship and service, we are called to seek justice, to demonstrate kindness, to bear witness to goodness, and to do these things humbly, recognizing the limitations of our own understanding. Our vision statement guides our mission and ministry: “Striving to live as Jesus lived confronting injustice with love, compassion, service.”

We are known as “the church with the rainbow steps” and the rainbow is an appropriate symbol of who we are and what we believe. Just as the rainbow in our culture symbolizes the inclusion of all people regardless of race, ethnicity, gender or gender identity, sexual orientation, or physical or mental ability, so does our congregation affirm the dignity and worth of each people and welcome all into our life together. We value the uniqueness of each person, created in the image of God, and know that as the rainbow needs all the colors to be the best expression of itself, so our congregation needs the gifts, talents, and abilities of each member to do what the triune God is calling us to in this time and place.

ARTICLE I. AUTHORITY OF THE CONSTITUTION

1. The First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa, as a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) recognizes that the constitution of the church is in all its provisions obligatory upon its members.
2. The bylaws of the First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa, shall always be subject to the constitution and laws of the state of Iowa, and to the constitution of the Presbyterian Church. (U.S.A.)
3. The session should review the bylaws at least annually and recommend amendments to the congregation when appropriate.

ARTICLE II. CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION MEETINGS

1. Annual Meeting. There will be an annual meeting of the congregation and corporation in the church on a Sunday in January of each year for the transaction of any business properly addressed by session prior to such meetings.
2. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the congregation or of the corporation may be called by the session or the presbytery. Such calls shall state clearly the purpose of the meetings, which shall be limited to matters specified.
3. Public Notice of Meetings. The time, place, and purpose of all congregational and corporation meetings shall be given by public notice from the pulpit on the two successive Sundays preceding the meeting.
4. Serving Officers at Congregation Meetings. The officers serving at a congregational meeting are the moderator and the secretary.
 - A. Just as the pastor is the moderator of the session, so is he or she the moderator of the meetings of the congregation. When a church is without a pastor or in cases where circumstances are such that the pastor cannot or should not preside, the presbytery shall appoint the person to serve as moderator of the session or as moderator of congregational meetings, as it is appropriate.
 - B. Congregational meetings also require a secretary whose job it is to record the minutes of the meeting and to see that they are entered in the session's minutes book. Ordinarily the clerk of the session shall serve as the secretary of the congregational meeting. If the clerk is absent or otherwise prevented from serving, one of the very first items on the agenda must be to elect someone to serve as secretary of the meeting.
 - C. The clerk of the session shall be appointed by the session. The clerk may but is not required to be serving on session when serving as clerk.
5. President and Secretary of the Corporation. The session shall designate from among members on the active roll of the congregation a president. The the clerk of the session shall serve as secretary. The president shall share with the clerk of session the power to sign legal papers for the church.

ARTICLE III. CONGREGATIONAL AND CORPORATION MEETINGS

1. Congregational Meeting. At congregational meetings, all active members who are present are eligible to speak and to vote.
2. Corporation Meetings. This meeting will immediately follow the congregational meeting to approve the business of the day. Only active members at least eighteen years old shall be permitted to vote at meetings of the church corporation.
3. Quorum. A quorum at congregational and corporation meetings shall consist of the presiding officer, the secretary, and not less than 10% of the eligible voters.

ARTICLE IV. NOMINATING COMMITTEE OF THE CONGREGATION

There shall be a nominating committee for the purpose of submitting nominations for elders and for members of the Pastor Nominating Committee, as well as nominations for the next year's nominating committee. The session shall appoint one session member as the chair and

voting member of the nominating committee, as well as a second session member to serve as a regular member of the committee. The nominating committee shall nominate three active members of the congregation to serve on the next year's nominating committee. At its annual meeting, the congregation shall elect the three active members to serve after considering the nominations by the committee and any nominations from the floor. Members of the nominating committee shall serve until the next such meeting.

ARTICLE V. ELECTION OF PASTOR

1. General Procedure. The election and calling of a pastor shall be conducted according to procedures stated in the Book of Order (G-2.08).
2. Pastor Nominating Committee. The committee to nominate a minister to the congregation for election as pastor shall consist of seven members elected by the congregation. It shall be the duty of the nominating committee of the congregation, as provided for in Article IV of these bylaws, to submit names of at least seven members for election as the Pastor Nominating Committee.
3. Report of the Pastor Nominating Committee. When the committee is ready to report, it shall notify the session, which shall then call a congregational meeting for the purpose of acting on the report of the committee.
4. Moderator of Congregational Meeting. When a congregation is convened for the election of a pastor, the moderator of the session, appointed by presbytery or some other minister of the presbytery shall preside.
5. Electing of a Pastor. When the congregation is convened for the election of a pastor, the moderator shall call for the report of the Pastor Nominating Committee. The vote shall be by ballot. A majority of the members present shall be required to elect the nominee.

ARTICLE VI. ELDERS

1. Eligibility. Elders shall be elected by the congregation from the nominating committee's nominations and any nominations from the floor of the congregational meeting, giving fair representation to persons of all ages and of all racial and ethnic members of the congregation.
2. Number On The Session. The session shall consist of up to 9 members, but no less than 5 members plus 1 or more youth elders, who shall be representative of the congregation.
3. Terms of Service.
 - A. Two classes. The elders shall be chosen for a term of two years, except the youth elder, whose term shall be one year. The session shall be divided into two classes, one class to be elected each year.
 - B. Ineligibility. An elder, after serving two full terms or one full term and a partial term of more than one year, shall be ineligible for re-election to the same office until one year after the second term expires.
 - C. Vacancies. Vacancies on the session shall be filled at the annual congregational meetings, and may be filled at a special congregational meeting at the discretion of the session. If the vacancies constitute more than one-third of the active elders, the session shall call a congregational meeting to fill the vacancies.

ARTICLE VII. RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF THE SESSION

1. Responsibilities and Powers. The session shall have responsibility for governing the congregation and guiding its witness to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that the congregation is and becomes a community of faith, hope, love, and witness.
2. Duties. In light of this charge, the session's duties include but are not limited to the following:
 - A. Ensure the congregation may regularly gather for worship, education, and spiritual nurture;
 - B. Authorize the celebration of the Lord's Supper and the administration of Baptism;
 - C. Receive and dismiss members and maintain the roll of active members;
 - D. Provide for programs of nurture, education, and fellowship;
 - E. Prepare and adopt a budget, determine the distribution of the congregation's benevolences, and account for the proceeds of offerings and their disbursement;
 - F. Manage the physical property of the congregation for the furtherance of its mission;
 - G. Employ the administrative staff of the congregation; and
 - H. Lead the congregation in participating in the mission of the whole church.
3. Meetings. The session is expected to meet monthly but shall hold meetings no less than quarterly. The pastor may call a special meeting of the session when he or she judges it necessary and shall do so when requested in writing by any two members of the session.
4. Records. The session shall keep a full and accurate record of its proceedings, which shall be submitted at least once a year to the presbytery for its general review.
5. Quorum. A quorum of the session shall be the pastor or other authorized moderator and one-third of the elders in active service, but no fewer than two. The moderator and two elders can make a quorum for the reception and dismissal of members.
6. Legal Rights. The session members over eighteen years of age shall also be officers of the corporation and legal trustees of the church, and shall receive and hold title to all real and other property of the church. They shall manage the corporate affairs of the congregation, including an annual audit of all financial records of the church. They shall have full power to appoint a treasurer and a financial secretary and session committees. The session shall not sell or mortgage any of the real property of the church or lease the real property used for the purpose of worship or lease any of the other property, unless specifically authorized by a regularly called corporation meeting and with the written permission of the presbytery.

ARTICLE VIII. MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES OF SESSION MEMBERS

The structure of the church's committee system and membership on said committees shall be established by the session. Further, the session shall organize the committee structure to support the church's mission and goals in terms of faith formation, compassion and service, and support. The structure and membership of committees shall be reviewed at least annually by the session and revised as appropriate.

All committees must keep a written record of their proceedings and provide the session with a report as requested and also with an annual report. Committees shall inform the session of any

major plans prior to the implementation. The pastor shall be a member ex-officio of all committees of the session.

ARTICLE IX. RULES OF ORDER

All meetings of the church shall be conducted in accordance with the most recent edition of the Book of Order and Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

Those portions of these bylaws, which are required by, or are in conformity with, the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall not be amended, except to comply with amendment to the Constitution.

Other portions of these bylaws may be amended on approval by two-thirds of the voting members at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, but no such change or amendment shall be made which in any way changes the purpose or objectives of the corporation. **Approved January 30, 2022.**

Finance:

- Marie Riechers reported that we have a general fund carryover balance of \$4,692.24 for the upcoming year which doesn't include online general fund donations. Marie has implemented a new database program, ChurchTrac, which has streamlined our old software program from several different systems to just one.
- Larry Petrick reported that we have not fallen behind in giving but increased. Expenses have been down, and the congregation has been extremely consistent, generous, and maintained their giving. We have not had any fundraising. With 2020 and 2021 in context, there was a waiver of dues with no loss to pastors which accounted for \$5,700 we didn't spend. We applied for a Paycheck Protection Program loan for \$22,300.00 through the U.S. Small Business Administration. This loan was forgiven and became a grant on November 18, 2020.
- We did have a stewardship letter campaign this year.
- The Mount Vernon Bank Loan repayment of \$500.00 per month will be a line item in our General Fund budget for 2022.
- The 2022 budget is essentially the same as 2021 except for the Christian Education position and building loan payment.
- Barb Bjork has retired as treasurer and has supported Marie Riechers as she transitions into this role. We acknowledge Barb's 20 years of service as treasurer and have sent a \$250 donation to Camp Wyoming in honor of Barb. We hope to celebrate with Barb in the near future.

Building and Property:

- Ed Bjork represents property and building needs on session. Becky Ahrens takes care of many projects and upkeep with a crew of volunteers as needed. We contract with Bill Royer for snow removal on our sidewalks and M&K Dust Control for our parking lot.
- It has been a real challenge to find someone who is able and willing to replace shake shingles that were blown off the building in the August 2020 derecho. We are at the mercy of the supply chain for parts, equipment, and labor.
- In September, Schindler Elevator Company informed us that the door operator mechanism in the new building elevator was obsolete and needed to be replaced. Cost was \$9,812.97. Schindler suggested we consider decommissioning the old sanctuary elevator. We don't use it, and it costs us \$600 for the maintenance contract plus electricity and the state inspection fee. Scott Peterson looked into the state code requirements, and we anticipate doing much of the work to decommission this elevator ourselves in 2022.
- In November, the trees lining the parking lot were trimmed and a dead tree was removed. The cost was \$1,000 and was donated by Al and Becky Ahrens. Also in November, we discovered that the outdoor entrance lights were not functioning. Becky contacted Justice Electric, and they changed ballasts. We also contacted Alliant Energy to take care of the burned out parking lot lights.
- Scott Larson reported on the audio-visual system as we move from analogue to digital. Shawn Ketchum Johnson and Scott are working on plans for a comprehensive proposal. The new system should last for ten years with a phased in approach.

Nominating: Moderator Lori Wunder reported the following were nominated to serve as Ruling Elders on Session for 2022-2023.

First Term: Wendy Dorn-Recalde, Scott Larson

Second Term: Jeff Bray, Mike Cranston, Sue Deibner, Emily Fitzpatrick, Larry Petrick, Larry Purvis

After receiving no nominations from the floor, these nominees were elected unanimously. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Emily Fitzpatrick reported Carol Daly and Linda Nost will serve on the 2022 Nominating Committee from the congregation at-large. After receiving no nominations from the floor, these nominees were elected unanimously.

Pastor's Terms of Call: Larry Petrick presented the Pastor's Terms of Call. They were approved as follows:

Salary	29,590
Housing	26,350
SECA	4,080
Medical Flex	2,000

Total Effective Salary	62,020
Pension/Medical	22,950
Continuing Ed	2,000
Professional/Auto	3,500
Total Package	90,470

4 weeks paid annual vacation
2 weeks paid annual continuing education
6 weeks paid maternity leave per occurrence
2 family weekends paid annual

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and carried. Moderator Lori Wunder closed the meeting with prayer at 11:55 AM.

Moderator Lori Wunder called to order the annual Meeting of the Corporation at 11:57 AM. A motion to approve all business conducted at the Annual Meeting was made, seconded, and carried.

A motion to adjourn was made at 11:59 AM, seconded, and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Hogan, Clerk

Lorene Wunder, Moderator

Session Report of 2022

PURPOSE: Maintain a spiritual government of the congregation for the mission of Jesus Christ

PASTOR: Lorene E. Wunder, Installed Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Vernon, IA (October 24, 2010)

RULING ELDERS:

Class of 2023

Jeff Bray
Mike Cranston
Sue Deibner
Emily Fitzpatrick
Larry Petrick (2nd term)
Larry Purvis (2nd term)

Class of 2024

Wendy Dorn-Recalde (2nd term)
Scott Larson (2nd term)

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY as of January 1, 2022 - 134

GAINS: 12

The following people joined by profession of faith on April 17, 2022:

Uwen Boettcher
Jayce Pendergrass
Benjamin Recalde
Josiah Recalde

The following people joined by reaffirmation of faith on June 5, 2022:

Nancy Collins
Gerald & Penny Gerber
Jennifer Lengwin
Sarah Lenhart
Scott & Kayla Thenhaus
Christine Wagner-Hecht

DEATHS: 1

Lloyd A. Mallie May 23, 2022

REMOVED DUE TO INACTIVITY: 18

At its stated meeting on December 12, 2022, the Session removed the following persons from the membership roll due to inactivity for a minimum of two years:

David Bennett, Vonni Robinson, Samantha Bennett, Will Bennett, Cindy Coulter, Joey Crowley, William Dragon, Deidre Nitschke Dragon, Will Dragon, Amanda Dragon,

Donna Hotz, Barbara Lob, Pam Mott, Stanley Watkins, Marilue Watkins, Lynn Woodley, Shelly Woodley, Camron Woodley

CURRENT ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP as of December 31, 2022: 127

BAPTISMS: 4

By profession of faith on April 17, 2022:

Benjamin Recalde

Josiah Recalde

Winry Kay and Harrison Lee, children of Julia (Deibner-Hanson) and Chase Broulik, were baptized on Sunday, December 18, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Cranston, Clerk of Session

SOCIAL CONCERNS

A big part of our focus has been in supporting Southeast Linn Community Center, since this organization serves the economically disadvantaged, children and senior citizens of our communities.

Through SELCC, we delivered Meals on Wheels during the months of April and October. Thanks to everyone who signed up to help: Susan Alexander, Kim Andresen, Elaine Bishop, Barb Bjork, Jim Bonewald, Mike & Lori Cranston, Nannette Gunn, Joe Schmitz & Marsha McWhinney, and Lori Wunder for signing up to deliver a meal or two (or five)!

Southeast Linn was the recipient of our monthly Noisy Offering multiple times throughout the year. We were able to donate \$340.99.

Aware of the increased need at the end of 2022, the ecumenical youth group leaders decided to do the Magical Night Soup Supper as a fundraiser for Southeast Linn. Volunteers donated chicken noodle soup and chili, rolls, cookies and bars as well as time to set up, serve, and clean up. It was a huge success with great attendance and donations of nearly \$1700.

Southeast Linn Community Center has moved all their volunteer needs (bagging food, holiday food baskets and gifts for children and families) to online sign ups, rather than going through individual churches. If you are interested in volunteering at SELCC, consider signing up to receive their emails. Go to selinn.org, click on "Contact" then fill out the form with your email.

Back in 2018 our congregation gave \$3000 to support "Project Tanehope," the dream of Danny Laiser to create a medical dispensary for an underserved area of his home region in Tanzania. (Danny made connections with Mount Vernon as an exchange student here in 2009-2010, graduating from MVHS in 2010.) Danny was able to visit Mount Vernon July 9-15, including serving as liturgist in worship on July 10, a meal at the Wunder/Bonewald's home on July 13 and several other meetings with individuals. Danny reported that the medical dispensary continues to be self-sustaining, and that his focus is now on sports ministry, helping to give hope to young men and boys as they participate on soccer teams and teaching them to have the character of Christ. This ministry is supported through Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

We had two "Service & Sharing" Sundays in 2022, on April 24 and October 30. After a brief-er worship service, participants got into crews to do yard clean-up at the church and for church friends who needed some help. These were great opportunities for service and fellowship.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee was formed in May in response to a request at the 2022 annual meeting of the congregation. The Session asked Scott Larson to be the chair and invited Barb Bjork, Lori Cranston and Nate Willems to serve as members. Pastor Lori Wunder attends meetings in an ex-officio capacity.

The committee created a charter for its work that was approved by session. The committee met with all staff members to address any concerns and requests. A staff appreciation picnic was held in the fall at Barb and Ed Bjork's home.

The committee made budget recommendations for 2023 for all staff and presented these to Session.

A staff evaluation process was developed and will be implemented in 2023 for church staff.

AUDIO VISUAL TECHNOLOGY (AVT) COMMITTEE

The Audio Visual Technology (AVT) committee was formed in August 2022 to address the church's AV and technology needs. The Session asked Scott Larson to chair the committee. Scott and Lori Wunder invited several people with knowledge and interest to be members of the committee. Those who accepted the invitation are: Julia Andrews, Shane Austerman, Ed Bjork, and Gerald Gerber. The committee met as needed and via email to discuss projects.

The primary project was the live stream video upgrade. Session requested the AV system used for live streaming be upgraded to take advantage of new technologies and be simpler to operate. The system was purchased and installed in November and went live for the Christmas Eve service. Four new cameras, controller, new PC, and software were installed and configured to allow for multiple views of the service as well as multimedia content to be live streamed. The new system also allows for simultaneous live streaming to both Facebook and YouTube, allowing users to choose what platform to watch on. It also simplifies the live streaming process.

The committee also discussed a security camera system for the church, but this was deferred until 2023.

MEMBER CARE

Purpose: to care for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the members of our church

Members: Diane Clay Chair, Jeff Bray Co-chair and liaison to Session, Carol Dillard, Fran Bray, Mary Palmer, Dixie Mackie, and Laura Werkman

Our committee met in person twice this year and otherwise kept in touch via e-mail and/or phone to address any needs or issues.

Forty dedicated "links" of the Prayer Chain offered up hope, comfort, and encouragement to those of the 78 requests. We are grateful for God's loving mercy and the power of prayer.

Cards were sent when appropriate, i.e. get well, sympathy, thinking of you, etc., by Dixie and myself. Also, holiday greetings went out to our shut-ins at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Wonderful meals were provided on 9 occasions and our "taxi" service was used twice. We hope more of our members will take advantage of our transportation assistance.

COVID continued to create some visiting restrictions from time to time yet our volunteers were able to connect with our shut-ins, take them treats and devotionals. Pastor Lori and Jeff visited them every 3 months and offered the sacrament of communion. We can always use more volunteers for this rewarding mission so please let me know if you are interested. We currently have 2 shut-ins in C.R., 3 in Mt. V., and 1 in Anamosa.

Lastly, the Knitting Ministry continues to create beautiful prayer shawls but has not met since COVID started. In 2022 we gifted 3 shawls to provide comfort and support.

A huge heartfelt thank you to my awesome committee members and the many volunteers who've devoted their time and talents serving our Lord!

Yours in Christ,

Diane

BUILDING AND PROPERTY

The main building project in 2022 was upgrading the AV system in the sanctuary (read in the previous article).

It takes many people to keep the church building in good shape. We contract with Bill Royer for snow removal on our sidewalks and M&K Dust Control for our parking lot. We are grateful for their good work!

Thank you to Mike Andresen for mowing the lawn and Becky Ahrens, Elaine Bishop, Susan Brust, and Laura Werkman who planted and maintained flowers in the limestone planters.

Scott Larson, Ed Bjork and Jonathan Walsh often find things to take care of throughout the building

We still have missing shake shingles that were blown off the building in the August 2020 derecho. It has been a real challenge to find someone who is able and willing to do that relatively small job. We have a verbal agreement with the original subcontractor to do the work in 2023.

We are in the process of decommissioning the old sanctuary elevator. We don't use it and it costs us \$600 for the maintenance contract plus electricity and the state inspection fee.

One new thing was opening our building for Magical Night on Thursday, December 1. The social hall was used by Mount Vernon Parks & Recreation for their cookie decorating. Cornell College's Intercultural Life Office setup displays for winter holidays in the gathering space outside the CE rooms. Finally, Tim Kelley's Animenagerie animatronics were set up on the main floor hallway, including in the window between the two buildings. Hundreds of people came through our building and every group said they would like to do it again in 2023. What a great way to be part of Magical Night!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian education program completed the calendar year with a Sunday School Christmas skit on 12/18 during the church service at Discovery Time. Our year has been eventful and rewarding with successes in some key areas that the Christian Ed Committee helped prioritize back in January. A consistent Sunday School (often with two classes), childcare during the Sunday Service, Wednesday Early-Out (WEO) program, cooperative VBS and a dynamic 3-church youth group are all results of this focused effort. A special thanks goes to the committee members and volunteers that have made these gains possible with their guidance, ideas, time and energy.

We recognize that much remains to be done. This coming year, we seek to improve and strengthen current programs while looking for inter-generational opportunities, reestablishment of adult forum (or equivalent) and ways to further our positive impact in the light of our mission statement. Please continue to pray for wisdom in decision making and helpers to execute those decisions.

As foreseen, spending exceeded the budgets for Christian Education and Youth Ministry (combined budget of \$1666).

The total spent, \$2326.67, breaks down as follows:

Sunday School supplies:	\$385.27
VBS:	\$1010.63
WEO:	\$188.00
Youth Ministry:	\$742.77

2022 Calendar of Christian Education Events and Highlights

January

Baby changing stations installed in restrooms (thanks, Ed Bjork)

Sunday School began again Jan 9th

Office hours for Christian Ed. Dir. established as 9 – 12 on Tuesdays

Jan 20th - Hired Nursery Attendant Renee Robinson (Cornell senior) who took us through end of April '22

Sunday School met three times

February

2/1 – CE committee meeting

Sunday School teachers and assistants: Daniel Riechers, Shane Austerman, Sue Diebner, Kristi Karwal-Clark, Emily Walsh, Julia Andrews, Beth Simon, Jonathan Walsh

2/20 – food and toiletry donations to elementary school
2/23 – Wednesday Early Out program (WEO) Yoga and Singing Bowls
Sunday School met three times

March

3/10 – CE committee meeting
- As of end of Feb we have had a total of 16 different kids participate in Sunday School
3/11 and 3/23, 3/29 – Met with leaders and agreed to join with Seeds of Faith Lutheran in Lisbon and United Methodist of MV to do VBS together.
Sunday School met twice

April

4/6 – CE committee met as part of Committee Night
4/13 – WEO – Raptor Center of Eastern Iowa
4/17 – Easter Egg Hunt
4/24 – Mr. Rogers Good Neighbor Service Sunday
Met weekly to plan 3-church VBS
Sunday School met twice

May

Sunday School met three times
- Met weekly for VBS planning
Hired Nursery Attendant Marissa Cranston (UNI junior) to take us to mid-August '22

June

6/26 – Sunday service held at Seeds of Faith in Lisbon as part of Cooperative VBS kick-off
6/26 – 6/30 – Cooperative VBS - God's Good Creation - met daily from 1 to 4 pm.
Thanks to all who helped make VBS happen: Sue Deibner, Kristi Karwal-Clark, Jennifer Lengwin, Sara Lenhart, Beth Simon, Emily Walsh, Jonathan Walsh, Lori Wunder

July

Decided on following Narrative Lectionary for Sunday School beginning in Fall

August

Decision to join with UMC and Seeds of Faith on a Youth program to begin in September
Weekly planning meetings for Youth begins
8/24 – CE committee meeting

September

Sunday School begins with two class model that runs every Sunday. Sam Baur Schoer agrees to be an additional teacher

9/14 – 3-church Youth Group begins with kick-off at Bass Farms
Youth Group (“Rooted”) continues to meet weekly throughout the Fall and
Winter (see below for details)
9/21 – Nursery Attendant hired – Chickadee (Cornell junior) to take us through May ‘23

October

10/5 – WEO at Abbe Hills Farm
Sunday School met every Sunday

November

Sunday School met every Sunday
Youth met every Wed. (except Thanksgiving)
Plans for Magical Night events with church involvement

December

12/7 – WEO watercolor painting
12/18 – Christmas Skit in during Sunday morning service

“Rooted” 3-Church Youth Group - Meeting Dates and Events and (Location):

9/14 – Kick Off Party (Bass Farms)
9/21 – Cooperative Games and Highs/Lows (UMC)
9/28 – Make Tie Blankets (UMC)
10/5 – Scavenger Hunt (FirstPres)
10/12 -Night Walk (Palisades-Kepler State Park)
10/19 –Make Kits for Willis Dady Shelter (UMC)
10/26 –Halloween Party (FirstPres)
11/2 – Escape Room (UMC)
11/9 – Watercolor Painting (UMC)
11/16 –Random Acts of Kindness (Seeds of Faith)
11/30 –Prep for Magical Night Soup Supper (UMC)
12/7 – Fun and Games (FirstPres)
12/14 –Christmas Party (Seeds of Faith)

Christian Education Committee members:

Shane Austerman, Sue Deibner, Kristi Karwal-Clark, Jonathan Walsh (Director of
Christian Education), Julia Andrews (Director of Music), Lori Wunder (Pastor)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

PURPOSE:

To oversee the finances of the church and to propose our General Fund Operating Budget for the upcoming year.

COMMITTEE:

Al & Becky Ahrens, Marie Riechers (Treasurer), Shane Austerman, Barb Bjork and Larry Petrick

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Finance Committee met as needed during the year.
- Al and Becky Ahrens retired after many years of dedicated service as our Financial Secretaries. Their duties were assumed by the remaining members of the committee.
- We have a carryover balance of \$ 2,643.67 for the upcoming year (2023).
- We did have to take \$ 16,000.00 from savings to support the General Fund.
- Once again, we were unable to have any fundraisers during 2022.
- We had a stewardship letter campaign again this year; campaign results are in the Financial Secretaries report.
- The Mt. Vernon Bank loan repayment of \$ 500.00 per month is a line item in our General Fund budget for 2023.

SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHTS:

- Scholarships were awarded in the amount of \$ 300.00 each to the following: Madison Cranston, Marissa Cranston, Kayden Pendergrass and Trevor Weber.
- One campership (\$ 625.00) was awarded for the year to Teddy Bonewald

2022 Annual - Financial Secretary's Report

Submitted by Larry Petrick

Patterns of Giving in 2022

Paid by those pledging	\$117,575.37
Paid by those non pledging	\$30,957.00
Free Will Offering	\$1,190.15
2021 Pledges paid in 2022	\$6,315.35
Per Capita	\$550.30

General Fund

Pledged for 2022 (#)	Pledged for 2023 (#)
\$ 96,510.00 (38)	\$ 92,806.00 (36)

Number and Distribution of Pledges

Amount per Week	2022	2023
up to 14.99	10	11
15.00 to 29.99	6	6
30.00 to 44.99	5	6
45.00 to 54.99	4	2
55.00 to 64.99	1	1
65.00 to 79.99	4	2
80.00 to 99.99	2	3
100.00 and up	6	5
	38	36

Memorial Funds Receipts

Lloyd Mallie	\$10,160.00
<i>\$10,000 put toward the mortgage, per family's request</i>	
Audrey Mally	\$250.00

Building Loan Balance at 12/31/22 \$8,718.26

Mission Disbursements (does not include in-kind donations)

Presbyterian General Mission	\$3,850.00
<i>Camp Wyoming</i>	<i>\$111.43</i>
Friends of Lisbon Public Library	\$125.00
Kids in Need*	\$2,440.00
<i>SE Linn Community Center</i>	<i>\$340.99</i>
<i>Presbyterian Disaster Assistance</i>	<i>\$621.78</i>
Total Donated	\$7,489.20

Italics = Noisy Offering

*Carolyn Palmer Memorial Gift

2022 ACCOUNT SUMMARY

GENERAL OPERATING FUND	2,643.57
BUILDING FUND (restricted to pay off loan)	1,131.16
BUILDING LOAN (balance remaining)	8,718.26
DERECHO INSURANCE CHECK	7,946.01
FRONT DOOR MAINTENANCE	400.85
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT (to be used for major building projects)	1,372.54
PERPETUAL BUILDING TRUST (principal -\$15,500- investment given to maintain the property of the church in perpetuity. Earnings may be used for this purpose.)	22,679.35
MARY BYERLY ESTATE (unrestricted)	45,594.66
MARY BYERLY MISSION PROJECTS	17,259.00
MEMORIAL FUNDS (checking)	
DEACON FUND	2,875.00
<i>JOANNE DINKEN</i>	1,815.00
JAY GUNN	1,165.00
TERRY LESSMEIER	3,000.00
JEANETTE MADSON (for DCE position)	30,165.00
<i>LLOYD MALLIE</i>	160.00
AUDREY MALLEY	250.00
<i>PEARL MARTIN</i>	385.00
SHERLEE PETERSON	1,034.00
OTHERS	2,435.00
MEMORIAL FUNDS (in mutual funds)	15,096.94
KEEDICK SCHOLARSHIP	54,405.95
<p>(established with \$25k from Keedick Memorial - added \$10k from Dolezal Memorials and \$4k from Armstrong Memorials. Interest is to be used for camperships and up to 4 years undergrad scholarships)</p>	

2022 ACCOUNT SUMMARY continued

YOUTH MISSION TRIP	779.16
PRAYER SHAWL (yarn for shawls)	507.09
2023 PLEDGES RECEIVED IN 2022	9,120.00
BLIND SPOT GRANT	364.32
CONTINUING ED CARRYOVER	1,800.18
<i>MAURICE FOUNDATION</i>	<i>10,814.45</i>
PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE	2,500.00
MUSIC (FARM) FUND	54,605.48

EXPENSES

AV SYSTEM UPDATE	-21,001.63
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Funds used:

<i>Maurice Foundation</i>	<i>\$10,814.45</i>
<i>Perpetual Building Trust</i>	<i>\$7,827.18</i>
<i>Memorial Funds (Joanne Dinken, Lloyd Mallie, Pearl Martin)</i>	<i>\$2360.00</i>

GENERAL FUND DEFICIT	-16,000.00
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Funds from the Miscellaneous Accounts are used to cover any deficit during the year. At the end of the year, \$16,000 was transferred from the Unrestricted Mary Byerly Fund to cover the shortfall.

2-YEAR GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS/BUDGET COMPARISONS

Category	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	Proposed 2023 Budget
INCOME				
PLEDGES	113,918.85	117,575.00	116,670	121,000
YOUR OFFERING	29,323.31	30,957.00	22,950	30,250
LOOSE OFFERING	1,376.20	1,190.00	2,150	1,600
PER CAPITA	1,347.18	550.00	2,000	1,000
PRIOR YEARS' PLEDGES	0	6,315.00	0	0
PRIOR YEAR CARRYOVER	13,007.38	0	4,692	0
IN HOUSE LOAN	0	16,000.00	0	0
DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS	8,924.35	111.00	1,000	150
BUILDING USAGE	500.00	100.00	0	0
TRANSFER FROM MEMORIAL (Director of Christian Ed)	-	10,520.00	15,000	15,000
FUNDRAISERS	<u>0.</u>	<u>0.</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>
TOTAL INCOME	168,397.27	183,318.00	171,962	176,500
EXPENSES				
PASTOR SALARY	29,622.62	29,050.00	29,590	30,354
PASTOR HOUSING	26,350.30	26,890.00	26,350	27,404
MEDICAL FLEX	3,806.57	2,230.00	2,000	2,500
SECA	4,047.00	4,080.00	4,080	4,243
DEFERRED INCOME	<u>-750.00</u>			
TOTAL EFFECTIVE SALARY	63,076.49	62,250.00	62,020	64,501
MEDICAL-PENSION	22,342.56	22,789.00	22,950	25,155
PROF & AUTO EXPENSE	3,477.03	2,673.00	3,500	3,600
CONTINUING EDUCATION	<u>381.76</u>	<u>829.00</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
TOTAL PASTOR	89,277.84	88,541.00	90,470	95,256
SALARIES				
OFFICE MANAGER/TREASURER	11,822.13	12,550.00	12,550	13,052
CUSTODIAN	1,419.96	2,153.00	3,120	3,996
CHOIR DIRECTOR/KEYBOARD	11,799.96	11,800.00	11,800	11,800
CHRISTIAN ED DIRECTOR	1,740.00	8,780.00	15,000	15,000

Category	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	Proposed 2023 Budget
EXPENSES continued				
PAYROLL TAXES TOTAL	3,242.58	2,390.00	3,245	3,488
WORKMAN'S COMP	254.00	491.00	450	500
BACKGROUND CHECKS (personnel)	45.80	0	0	0
PAYROLL ACCOUNTING SERVICES	0	650.00	600	650
NURSERY	0	1,045.00	1,000	1,750
POSTAGE	347.45	120.00	400	200
COMPUTER	1,105.53	398.00	0	0
COPIER	4,029.03	4,269.00	4,000	4,200
OFFICE SUPPLIES	984.32	412.00	870	1,170
TELEPHONE	1,983.43	1,868.00	2,225	1,900
SESSION/PERSONNEL	0	0	200	100
PER CAPITA	4,943.90	5,476.00	5476.00	5,454
ADVERTISING	0	45.00	600	300
CHRISTIAN ED & YOUTH	1,415.88	3,444.00	2,000	3,500
FELLOWSHIP	35.11	0	300	50
MEMBER CARE	62.08	24.00	150	50
OUTREACH	0	0	300	0
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE/SUPPLIES (transfer from misc to GF for tree removal)	6,646.63 -1,000.00	8,064.00	6,000	8,000
BUILDING LOAN PAYMENTS	1,000.00	6,000.00	6,000	6,000
INSURANCE	6,427.75	7,763.00	6,800	7,650
UTILITIES	11,041.34	14,020.00	12,000	13,500
MOWING/SNOW REMOVAL	1,316.71	1,066.00	2,400	1,500
GENERAL MISSION	3,850.00	-30.00	3,850	3,850
LOCAL-GLOBAL MISSION	0	125.00	935	500
PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND	200.00	0	200	100
STEWARDSHIP	0	0	150	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0	8.00	74	10
MUSIC/SOLOISTS/HANDBELLS	228.15	733.00	750	750
PULPIT SUPPLY	0	600.00	1,000	0
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	891.58	915.00	1,000	1,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	165,737.63	186,088.00	195,915	205,275
OVERALL TOTAL	2,659.64	2,643.67	-17,212	

Nominating Committee

Members: Wendy Dorn-Recalde and Emily Fitzpatrick from Session; Carol Daly and Linda Nost, elected by the congregation; Lori Wunder, ex-officio

The number of Ruling Elders needed to serve on Session was reduced last year from 12 to a range of 5-9.

Those completing terms in January 2023 are

Larry Petrick (2nd term)

Larry Purvis (2nd term)

Jeff Bray

Mike Cranston

Sue Deibner

Emily Fitzpatrick

Three Ruling Elders who are completing their first term are willing to serve a second term. *The Nominating Committee presents these persons for re-election:*

Jeff Bray

Mike Cranston

Sue Deibner

If re-elected, they would join Ruling Elders Wendy Dorn-Recalde and Scott Larson whose second terms end in January 2024, giving us five continuing members of Session.

The Nominating Committee presents the following for election:

Jackee Austerman

Pete Rian

Rita Swales

If the way be clear, this would give us eight elders on Session In addition, Patricia Hogan was elected Clerk of Session by the Session at their January 9, 2022 meeting. She will have voice but no vote.

Nominees for Nominating Committee for 2023:

1. Emily Fitzpatrick

2. tba

3. tba

We are so grateful to Larry Petrick, Larry Purvis and Emily Fitzpatrick for their service on Session!

**2023 Terms of Call
For Pastor Lorene E. Wunder
and First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, IA**

Salary	30,354
Housing	27,404
SECA	4,243
Medical Flex	<u>2,500</u>

Total Effective Salary 64,501

Pension/Medical	25,155
Continuing Education	2,000
Professional Expenses	1,500
Auto Allowance	<u>2,100</u>

Total Package 95,256

- 4 weeks paid annual vacation
- 2 weeks paid annual continuing education
- 6 weeks paid maternity leave per occurrence
- 2 family weekends paid annual