

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Session

The Session is the governing board of the church. It consists of six ruling elders, elected for three years. Much of the business of the church is conducted through committees. Each ruling elder chairs one of the committees. The Pastor, who is a teaching elder and moderator of Session, is an ex-officio member of every committee.

<u>Class of 2022</u>	Gene Kopecky Sue Chipman	Building and Grounds Christian Education
<u>Class of 2023</u>	Ivy Pillers Kim Nickander	Worship and Music Finance and Stewardship
<u>Class of 2024</u>	Amanda Ross Sherrie Wilson	Personnel and Nominating Mission
<u>Officers:</u>	Mary Meyer Mark Pillers Joanne Powell	Clerk (Non-voting) Financial Secretary Treasurer

2022 Nominating Committee

Amanda Ross, Mark Neville, Bruce Felger, Dave Copeland, Mary Alice Richardson

Membership (a sub committee of Christian Education) Chairperson: Amanda Ross

Deacons

The Board of Deacons is responsible for ministering to all those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to all those who may be in distress. Deacons provide meals and transportation, among other requested needs. They maintain the Prayer Chain. Deacons are elected in classes of two and serve a three year term.

<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>
Kari Streff	Margie Petersen	Dave Copeland
Ron Murray	Peggy McCarty	Aaron Simms

Staff

Pastor/ Head of Staff	Rev. Jan Wiersma
Choir Director	Meg Cain
Pianist	Glenna Muir
Bell Choir Director	Judy Kereakos
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch

Ministers to the world

Congregation Members

Annual Meeting of the Congregation January 22, 2023

Rev. Jan Wiersma, Moderator

Agenda

Declaration of a Quorum Mary Meyer, Clerk of Session

Opening Prayer Rev. Jan Wiersma

**God our Creator, when you speak there is light and life,
when you act there is justice and love;
grant that your love may be present in our meeting today,
so that what we say and what we do
may be filled with your Holy Spirit. Amen**

CPC Mission Statement: Our Mission is to be an open-hearted, open-minded Christian community sharing a ministry of faith, hope, and love.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of 2022 Congregational Annual Meeting: January 23, 2022

Moderator Report Rev. Jan Wiersma

Clerk of Session Report Mary Meyer

Standing Committee Reports Session members

Election of Officers

Report on 2021 Finances Kim Nickander, Chair of Finance & Stewardship

Presentation of 2022 Budget Kim Nickander

Presentation of By-Law Amendements

Looking Back with Remembrance and Thanksgiving

Looking Forward with our Hopes, Dreams and Expectations Rev. Jan Wiersma

Motion to Adjourn

Closing Prayer Rev. Jan Wiersma

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Community Presbyterian Church
Annual Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2022

Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation

January 23, 2022 on-site and on-line

Moderator: Pastor Jan Wiersma, Clerk: Mary Meyer

The Moderator called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m. following the worship service, opening with prayer.

A quorum was declared by Mary Meyer, Clerk of Session, with 21 voting members present.

Approval of the Agenda: Mark Neville moved the approval of the agenda and Dave Copeland seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes: Dave Copeland moved the approval of the agenda and Mark Neville seconded the motion. The congregation moved that the minutes of the Annual Meeting on January 31, 2021, be approved. The motion carried.

Clerk of Session Report: Mary Meyer reviewed the report and the Session Statistical Report noting that there are 112 current members. We dismissed seven from the rolls and they are Dave and Amy Anderson, Bruce Bigelow, Lori Hill, Susan Moore, Bill and Colleen Webbles. Pastor Jan and Mary Meyer are working on updating the membership rolls.

The Standing Committees Reports: Each committee chair or representative gave the report and thanked all for serving on the committees.

Building and Grounds is exploring an update to the signs in front and back of the church.

Blue Sky Conversations: Held their first meeting on February 14, 2021 discussing Christian identity, mission, value, and what people are passionate about as a church. They also discussed how God is working through us and what more can be done in the future. The next step was putting proposals into action.

One particular proposal, made by Margaret Nelson, involved providing assistance to the residents of Gage East Apartments, which serves homeless families and unaccompanied youth 16-24 years of age. So far the Blue Sky group has volunteered with five different activities in 2021 and plans to continue through 2022.

Election of Officers: Dave Copeland presented the following slate of officers.

Elder Class of 2023

Worship and Music – Ivy Pillers

Finance Committee – Kim Nickander

Elder Class of 2025

Personnel & Nominating – Amanda Ross

Mission = Sherrie Wilson

Annual Meeting Minutes Continued

Clerk of Session (non-voting) for term 2022

Mary Meyer

Motion to approve Elders was made by Mary Alice Richardson and seconded by Sue Chipman. Slate was approved.

Deacon Class of 2024

Sherrie Wilson

Deacons Class of 2025

Dave Copeland

Aaron Simms

Motion to approve Deacons was made by Mary Alice Richardson and seconded by Mark Neville. Slate was approved.

Nominating Committee at large members for 2022

Dave Copeland

Bruce Felger

Mark Neville

Mary Alice Richardson

Motion to approve nominating at-large members was made by Louis Bouchard and seconded by Sue Chipman. Slate was approved.

Financial Secretary for 2022 – appointed by Session

Mark Pillers

Treasurer for 2022 – elected by Session

Joanne Powell

There were no nominations from the floor and Jane Burgstaler moved to approve the slate. The congregation unanimously approved the above slate.

Presentation of the 2022 Budget: Kim Nickander presented the 2022 budget showing an increase in pledges. The Session approved the Budget. There were no questions.

Sue Chipman moved to approve the 2022 budget and Mary Alice Richardson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Looking back with Remembrance and Thanksgiving:

Gratitude for beautiful music provided by Glenna Muir, Meg Cain, and Judy Kereakos; and for our office administrator, Stephanie Pasch; she is amazing. Everyone is thankful to all the committees for all their hard work.

Looking forward with our Hopes, Dreams, and Expectations: Working on our 2021 Strategic plan goals: Mission and Outreach; “on the road” with Worship and Ministry; Hybrid church innovations; worship practices; connection with other churches; advertising and involvement.

Annual Meeting Minutes Continued

Motion to Adjourn: It was moved by Mark Neville and seconded by Mark Pillers to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer at 11:50 am.

Pastoral Report Rev. Jan Wiersma

In these bleak midwinter days, I long for green growth. I put my trust in the seeds bedded down in frozen soil and the trees' embryonic buds biding their time under a shield of ice. I am reminded of God's faithfulness, that all we need has already been provided. Our spiritual soil has been seeded with everything we need for the future. Seeds are the essence of past fruit, containing the germ of future life that replicates what has gone before, but improves upon it, too, adapting to changing conditions.

With that in mind, I visualize the seeds scattered and sown as a result of this past year's work:

- Adapting and improving our hybrid worship thanks to volunteers who are technologically, artistically, and musically gifted, as well as a grant from the Presbytery. I think of the tangible fruit of one Sunday in March when we prayed in music and poetry while Carole Copeland produced the beautiful work of art that now hangs in our narthex.
- Cultivating curiosity and care for those who share our vision of God at work in the world through practices that differ from our own: inviting Fifth Sunday speakers from Muslim, Quaker, and LDS (Mormon) traditions; and welcoming Labranza de Dios, a Spanish-language Pentecostal congregation, as regular renters.
- Enhancing personal connections with our Rochester partners in ministry: the July 16th Ice Cream Social drew leaders and participants from Gage East Apartments, the Village Agricultural Cooperative, and LifeGate services. Our roots deepen and our networks widen through these relationships.
- Maintaining ties to the PTCA through participation in a presbytery-wide virtual choir and anti-racism work.
- The only loss to death, our dear Margaret Nelson, has enriched us spiritually as her bequest prompted a closer look at how we might provide material assistance to those in need in our community. All the projects submitted for consideration gave us a more profound awareness of the work being done all around us. We are part of that work!
- Solid planning by Session and committees, focusing on streamlining activity to minimize busywork, attend to real needs, and build community. Committees have worked together to brainstorm ideas and bring them to life.

I am grateful for the growth and stimulation my years with you have provided for me personally: for the silent retreats to seek God's purpose for CPC here and now; for the continuing education experiences prompting a hard look at the global church of the future, revisioning what it means to be followers of Jesus Christ in a changing and bewildering world. I am grateful for the stubborn necessity of reaching inward and outward to try to speak with authenticity Sunday after Sunday.

Pastoral Report, continued

I am grateful for your responsiveness to all of these questions.

What I think of Community Presbyterian Church, though, is less important than what others see in us. As I pondered the developments of the last year, different comments from a variety of observers came to mind:

- From the beginning, CPC has had strong and forward-thinking lay leadership;
- Your first pastor, Lyle Rozeboom, knit people into an energetic and caring *community* that looked to the future rather than dwelling on the past;
- What I see in CPC is their strong devotion to mission, to caring for others;
- This congregation is full of hidden gems, people with untapped gifts;
- CPC is a feisty and fearless group of believers, unafraid to question, change, and look outside themselves to grace the Rochester community with their faith and work.

These are the kinds of seeds that have been planted, not just in 2022 but since your founding. Have no fear. All you need is already waiting in the soil. Amen.



Clerk of Session Report

Mary Meyer

Looking back to 2022:

With much sadness we lost a wonderful member at the age of 101, Margaret Nelson April 14, 1920 - March 26, 2022.

We welcomed Shannon Ciseswki through Affirmation of Faith on Sunday, May 15, 2022.

We welcomed Freya Evelyn Cain through Baptism on Sunday, June 26, 2022.

Pastor Jan and the Clerk of Session have updated the membership records book. Thirty-one members in total were removed with session approval.

February 6, 2022: Claire Anderson, Will Anderson, Josh Hill, and Ryan Hill.

March 22, 2022: Jean Abels, Paul, Lori, Kellen, & Kendrick Bachman, Lori Beckman, Matt & Adam Bouchard, Carrie Brandt, Apryl Falk, Ardis Farris, Stephen & Eleanor Hauser, Daniel Hill, Randy & Bonnie Huston, Dave & Mary Johnson, Liz Koehler, Katie Marker, Wanita Rench, Richard & Julie Smitherman, Bob & Deb Weyer.

On July 26, 2022 Session approved Don and Bernie Nicholson to be removed from membership at their request. They have found another church in Arizona.

ELDERS

Class of 2022

Gene Kopecky

Sue Chipman

Class of 2023

Kim Nickander

Ivy Pillers

Class of 2025

Amanda Ross

Sherrie Wilson

DEACONS

Class of 2022

Kari Streff

Ron Murray

Class of 2023

Margie Petersen

Peggy McCarty

Class of 2024

Dave Copeland

Aaron Simms

Thank you everyone for your hard work and dedication to Community Presbyterian Church.

SESSION STATISTIC REPORT

Report Year 2022

Mary Meyer, Clerk of Session

Active membership as of December 31, 2022: 105

Gains for 2022:

Profession of Faith, Reaffirmation, and Restoration:	17 & under:	0	
	18 & over:		0
	Certificate:		0
	All other gains:		<u>1</u>
	Total gains:		1

Losses of 2022:

Certificate:	0
Death:	1
All other losses:	<u>31*</u>
Total losses:	32

Total active membership December 31, 2022 74

Baptized members and Sunday School:

Total adherents:

Age distribution of active members:	Under 25 years:	18**
	26 to 45 years:	13**
	46-55 years:	9
	56-65 years:	11
	66 years and over:	23

Average attendance at Sunday worship:

Church School enrollment by age groups: members: 31 non-members: 5

Birth – 3: 2	Age 4: 1	Kindergarten: 1	1 st Grade: 1
2 nd Grade: 1	3 rd Grade: 1	4 th Grade: 1	5 th Grade: 1
6 th Grade: 2	7 th Grade: 2	8 th Grade: 1	9 th Grade: 1
10 th Grade: 1	11 th Grade: 1	12 th Grade: 2	Young Adult: 0
Over 25: 14			

Teacher and Church School Officers: 5

Baptisms: 1

Total Baptisms: 1

Active Church Officers: Elders: 6 (1 man & 5 women)

Deacons: 6 (2 man & 4 women)

* This number is from updating the membership records book. It is strictly a clerical correction to reflect a more accurate picture.

**These numbers include the adult children of members who were confirmed here but have moved away. They and/or their parents prefer to keep them on the membership rolls.

Building and Grounds Committee

Gene Kopecky, Chairperson

Committee Members: Ed Burgstaler, Bill Marshall, Mark Pillers, Lyal Powell, Carole Kinion-Copeland, Pastor Jan Wiersma, and Gene Kopecky-Chair.

Though 2022 had its trials and tribulations. The building and Grounds members' spirit is still as strong as ever. The B & G committee accomplished these key projects this past year.

2022 projects were:

- The continuation of our relationship with CPNS.
- The eastern sidewalk was repaired by American Waterworks.
- Our lawn maintenance & snow removal (B&B lawn care) contract was renegotiated & renewed for 2022/23.
- Fall & spring clean-up was completed.
- A video system was enhanced to facilitate our on-line presence.
- The community gardens and the Garden of Life are still productive and strong.
- Various plumbing repairs, fire suppression and alarm system maintenance, & door repair.
- The carpets were cleaned.
- The five furnaces were maintained and repaired by Tonna mechanical.
- Rodent control was accomplished by Bob the Bug Man.
- A dead tree by the community garden was removed.
- The light illuminating the cross on the roof was replaced.
- Replaced door and frame in the northwest classroom.
- Gutters installed above main entrances.
- Supported increased rental use of the building.
- Fencing installed to corral the recycling.
- Replaced lights in our main sign.
- Updated phone system.
- Replaced damaged tiles in the kitchen.

Future 2023 initiatives:

- Negotiate a new lawn and snow removal contract.
- Continued maintenance of building.
- Build secure storage for CPC's supplies.
- Re-evaluate our trash receptacle situation to try and eliminate random dumping.
- New main entrance signage.

Though the work is never done, an enormous thank you to an ever-busy Building & Grounds committee for a job well done. I look forward to what we will accomplish in 2023.

Landscape and Garden Maintenance
(A subcommittee of Building & Grounds)
Carole Kinion Copeland

The following refers to the cost and care of the gardens and landscape maintenance of CPC. It includes the care of the Garden of Life, the landscape shrubs and trees, and the weed control of church gardens, paths and foundation plantings including the preschool playground area. It does not include lawn mowing.

Budget:

\$2,200.00 was budgeted and \$350.96 was spent for the 2022 landscape maintenance and additional line item for fall clean up was added (\$250.00 allotted, \$250.00 spent). Purchases included plant material, mulch, herbicide, and fertilizer. There were multiple trips to the brush dump. I did hire some help with several tasks and anticipate needing more assistance in the coming year.

Volunteer hours:

This past season there were 85 hours volunteered with approximately 11 volunteers contributing. In contrast, last year there were 135.5 hours volunteered with 26 volunteers contributing.

New Tree:

A new “Zestar!” apple tree was planted in honor of Pastor Jan.

Donations to the garden fund were made in honor of Margaret Nelson. A bench was purchased and placed by the main entrance of the church. There is a remaining balance tentatively earmarked to use on plant material near the proposed new north entrance sign.

Future needs:

Continued care and maintenance is necessary to maintaining the desired look of the gardens and landscape. A top dressing of mulch needs to be applied in the Garden of Life. Building and Grounds is proposing to replace the north entrance sign. This may include some landscape work.

I wish to thank all who donate time and money for the church gardens. A special thank you to the volunteers. Without your help and assistance, the gardens at CPC would not look as nice as they do.



Christian Education Committee
Sue Chipman, Chairperson

Members: Sue Chipman, Ron Murray, Amanda Ross, Jan Wiersma

This past year we were able to gather for a few different events, but caution was still necessary because of ongoing Covid, flu and RSV. Our new technology was installed and we did have an indoor movie, but attendance was limited. A 2nd movie was scheduled, but cancelled due to few people signing up. A group attended the music/pizza outing at Berne this last summer and all enjoyed both fun and fellowship.

We hope to provide confirmation classes for Tristan Bohl this spring and to confirm him before his family moves this summer. With added help from members of PWW the KIDZ Klub room was cleaned and sorted and unused materials were donated, recycled, thrown out, or kept for the use of LaBranza de Dios who rent the church for their worship.

Christian Education, going forward, will need to focus on adults until we have a new crop of members with children. We are hopeful we will attract more congregational involvement.

Book Discussion Group
(A subcommittee of Christian Education)
Gwen Riggin and Carol Jones

A small group of dedicated readers met throughout the program year to discuss books. As the titles indicate, choices engage compelling issues in some depth.

January: *The Soul of America*, by Jon Meacham
February: *We're Better than This*, by Elijah Cummings
March: *Hitler's Forgotten Children*, by Ingrid von Oelhafen and Tim Tate
May: *Grandma Gatewood's Walk*, by Ben Montgomery
Women in White Coats, by Olivia Campbell
September: *The Book of Two Ways*, by Jodi Picoult
October: *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson
December: *A Christmas Blizzard*, by Garrison Keillor
A Week in Winter, by Maeve Binchy.

Thanks to leaders Gwen Riggin (2021-22) and Carol Jones (2022-23).

Mission Committee

Sherrie Wilson, Chairperson

Members: Jennifer Hall, Ronda Marshall, Mark Neville, Ivy Pillers, Mary Alice Richardson and Sherrie Wilson.

The year 2022 began with the Mission Committee approving a new job description for itself. The committee's purpose is to "demonstrate the love of God by caring for those in need locally and globally."

Session approved Presbyterian special offerings:

One Great Hour of Sharing – Palm Sunday or Easter

Pentecost Offering

Peace and Global Witness Offering

Thank Offering (PW)

Christmas Joy Offering

Also, CPC contributed \$2,150 toward the Ukraine special offering through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help those under attack. The committee approved an additional \$500 for Ukraine. Later, the committee donated \$500 for disaster relief in Puerto Rico.

CPC participated in the Peace and Global Witness Offering, and 25 percent can be used for local ministries. Southeastern Minnesota Interfaith Immigration Legal Defense received a donation.

The Pentecost Offering was \$325 with 40 percent (\$130) donated to Project Legacy in Rochester.

When Ivy Pillers and Ronda Marshall taught English to Polish and Ukrainian refugee children in Poland last summer, the Mission Committee contributed \$1,000 toward tablets for the children.

Local missions supported are LifeGate Services, Gage East Apartments and the Village Agricultural Cooperative, among others. CPC donated \$500 to the Village. LifeGate Services received \$1,500 for its Open Your Heart Summer Challenge.

In July, the Mission and Christian Education committees sponsored an ice cream social, so mission partners could become better acquainted. At Christmas time, the committee raised money to buy such items as toothpaste and shampoo to distribute to young adults at Gage East Apartments. Karen Atkinson sewed gift bags for the project.

At the end of 2022, the Mission Committee allocated \$620 each to:

The Reading Center

Channel One Regional Food Bank and Food Shelf

Gage East library and bookshelves

Additionally, \$695 has been donated by individuals toward the purchase of library books; some books have also been donated.

Liberty Community Church in Minneapolis

The Village Agricultural Cooperative

A promotional graphic for an ice cream social. The top half features a photograph of two ice cream cups (one pink, one green) and several waffle cones, surrounded by a pile of colorful sprinkles and chocolate chips. The background is white. The bottom half of the graphic is composed of several overlapping, semi-transparent circles in shades of yellow, orange, green, and pink. Text is overlaid on these circles and the top right corner.

Get to
know local
community
builders.

Wasn't this a
fun event in
2022?!

Ice Cream Social

July 16, 2-4 pm

*Community Presbyterian Church
3705 Fairway Place NW, Rochester
www.cpcrochester.org*

**An exciting event with CPC and their
Ministry Partners: Gage East Apartments,
The Village Ag Coop, and Lifegate Services**

Public welcome and invited!

Nominating Committee

Amanda Ross, Chairperson

Members of Committee: Sue Chipman (elder and at large) Margie Petersen (deacon representative), Dave Copeland, Bruce Felger, Mark Neville, and Mary Alice Richardson

The committee met several times beginning in October and formulated a list of candidates for positions to be filled. After much thought and prayer, we present the following slate, which has also been shared with Session:

Elder Class of 2023-2024 Worship and Music – Ivy Pillers

Elder Class of 2023-2024 Finance Committee – Kim Nickander

Elder Class of 2023-2024 Buildings and Grounds - Lyal Powell

Elder Class of 2023-2026 Christian Education - Sue Chipman

Clerk of Session (non-voting) for term 2023 - Mary Meyer

Deacons Class of 2023-2026

Ron Murray and Louis Bouchard

Nominating Committee at large members for 2023

Mark Neville, Bruce Felger, Dave Copeland, and Mary Alice Richardson

Financial Secretary for 2023 – appointed by Session Mark Pillers

Treasurer for 2023 - elected by Session Joanne Powell

Nominating Committee Deacon Rep - Margie Petersen

Personnel Committee
Amanda Ross, Chairperson

Members: Jane Burgstaler, Ronda Marshall, Mary Alice Richardson, Sherrie Wilson and Dave Copeland.

The main work of the Personnel Committee in 2022 started with tasks related to working with the Presbytery, Session, and Pastor Jan Wiersma to enter into a third contractual agreement for her to serve CPC as a part time Stated Supply Pastor. CPC and Jan formalized our relationship in late May, and Jan began working with us under her third one-year contract on June 1st. The Personnel Committee has received many positive comments from the congregation, and we believe Pastor Jan has been a blessing to us as she performs her pastoral duties. With the joy of Pastor Jan leading us for one more year, she also has given us her notice that this will be her last contract. She will be done as Stated Supply Pastor at the end of May 2023. We are blessed to have her with us to guide us to a New Year and towards the New Leadership of CPC.

With this news our committee worked to get guidance from the Presbytery on what is our next step, to which the Presbytery instructed us to wait - do not do anything until 5 months before her end of term. Here we are: our group has asked Session to appoint a Pastor Nominating Committee. This group is in the process of being formed and will begin discussions soon. As we look towards the future, I ask that you be patient, live in the moment, and reflect on what is CPC. Enjoy what we have at CPC: the beautiful services, the people, the mission work. We have been guided by Pastor Jan these last 2 years and 7 months, she has helped us through some rough times to say the least. We now have 5 more months to enjoy her leadership and also help her guide us to what is next for CPC.

The Personnel Committee believes our staff members are an invaluable asset to our congregation. We are truly blessed to have Pastor Jan as Stated Pastor, Meg Cain as choir director, Glenna Muir as accompanist, Judy Kereakos as handbell director, Stephanie Pasch as administrative assistant, and Nancy Sanford as custodian. These individuals all help to make CPC the wonderful place it is and keep it running so smoothly. This year we will not have wages increased at this time but plan to have that reviewed if the budget can support it.

In December, the Personnel Committee once again asked for donations from the congregation to support Christmas gifts for our staff. The response was overwhelmingly generous, and the staff gifts were distributed just before Christmas. We have received sincere thanks from the staff.

CPC Choir Meg Cain, Director

CPC Choir was in full swing this past year singing regularly in worship successfully tackling beautiful, varied, meaningful, and increasingly complex repertoire. Throughout the year we rehearsed carefully while wearing masks and this fall as the COVID numbers decreased, the decision was made to allow all masks to be optional. What a difference to finally see the smiles on faces as we came together to sing! I am extremely grateful for the dedication and consistency of all those who sing in the choir.

Our choir was able to create a Virtual Choir again presented during the worship service after Christmas. Each singer recorded themselves singing to a video with cues and piano accompaniment of *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*. These separate videos were then balanced together beautifully and creatively to combine everyone into one magically united choir video!

This year we are thrilled to welcome Nellie to the choir! Her lyrical voice and pure tone have enhanced our ensemble both socially and vocally.

The 2022 Choir members include:

Sopranos: Sue Chipman, Nellie B & Rev. Jan Wiersma

Altos: Carole Copeland & Ivy Pillers

Baritones: Bruce Felger & Mark Neville

The choir is fortunate to work with outstanding piano accompanists adding dimension to the choral and worship experience. The talented pianists this past year included: Glenna Muir and Judy Kereakos. Our church is truly blessed with talented pianists sharing their gifts during worship each week.

Two new pieces were added to the choral library:

-*Lord, I Know I Been Changed*: by Larry Shackley. This lively arrangement of a traditional spiritual is a must for our choral library. The accompaniment creates a mood of quiet exhilaration with a soulful combination of chords and rhythmic patterns, and call-and-response vocal parts suggest a choir of angels.

-*Veni, Veni Emmanuel*: by Michael John Trotta. A rhythmic ostinato on “*Veni, Veni*” infused the traditional Advent carol with such unrelenting energy, the effect on the listener was mesmerizing! Detailed performance notes give fascinating historical perspective to the work, which was sung in Latin throughout. The unique take on the ancient carol was an exhilarating a cappella highlight of our Advent season.

Thank you to the worship and music committee members, congregation and all who support our music program.

Looking forward to what 2023 has to offer.

Jubellation Handbell Choir

**Judy Kereakos,
Handbell Director**

The Jubellation Bell Choir contributed to the Sunday service on March 20, 2022 during Lent when we rang “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”. On Sunday, April 17, Easter Sunday, we rang a descant for the hymn, “Christ is Alive”. Most recently during Advent on Sunday, December 18, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” was rung as special music. We continue to have 8 or 9 devoted and talented musicians in our choir.



Deacons

Peggy McCarty, Chair

Class of 2022- Ron Murray and Kari Streff

Class of 2023- Peggy McCarty and Margie Petersen

Class of 2024- Dave Copeland and Aaron Simms

The deacon’s duties include preparing and serving communion each first Sunday of the month as well as visiting members as needed/requested by the pastor or member.

The board generally meets every even month or as needed, either in person or by email. At the August meeting, Peggy McCarty was elected chair for 2022.

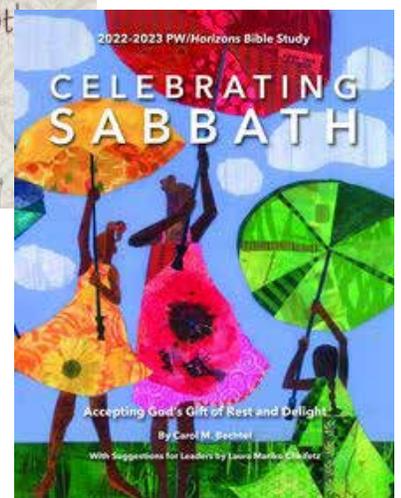
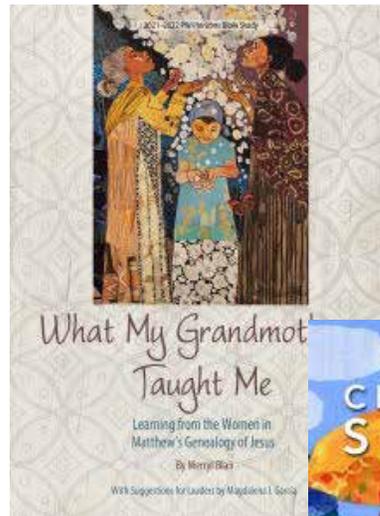
Presbyterian Women

**Mary Alice Richardson and
Margaret Petersen, Co-leaders**

During 2022, Pastor Jan led the PWW in Bible Study. The first part of the year was What My Grandmothers Taught Me. The second part of the year, we began Celebrating Sabbath. Both studies are most enlightening and help each of us to develop and enhance our faith.

In November, we led the Thankoffering Service. We were honored to have Amanda Nigon-Crowley who is the Director of Village Agricultural Cooperative. CPC’s community gardens are part of this exciting endeavor to help alleviate food insecurity and grow culturally relevant food, among many other means of meeting community needs.

In December, we held a Christmas Tea with many in attendance. It was an afternoon full of Christmas joy and good food and good times, finishing off with a impressive white elephant gift exchange.



Margaret Nelson Bequest - Ad hoc Committee

Pastor Jan Wiersma, Chairperson

Community Presbyterian received a substantial sum from the trust of member Margaret Nelson, who died on March 26, 2022.

A check in the amount of \$450,000 was received in June. After payment of taxes owed on the estate, the church may receive a much less significant amount in 2023.

The entire sum was initially placed in a savings account set up for the purpose at Think Bank while Session deliberated on the best use of the funds. As a first step, the decision was made to give away a tithe, or 10%, to a cause in need in our community.

A small group of people, the “Mission Prayer Group,” met bi-weekly through the fall to pray for guidance. Session also appointed an ad hoc committee, labeled the “3M committee” (Margaret’s Mission Money) to consider disbursement of the \$45,000 tithe. Serving on that committee were Sue Chipman, Bonnie Kinion, Mark Neville, Ivy Pillers, Mary Alice Richardson, Aaron Simms, and Sherrie Wilson.

This group invited four local organizations whose work aligns with Margaret’s interests to submit project proposals. Just before Christmas, \$40,000 was awarded to The Women’s Shelter and Support Center for purchase of a safe and reliable van to transport clients. Gage East Apartments also received \$5,000. Margaret initiated our involvement with that organization during COVID.

In late fall, Session appointed another ad hoc group, the “Investment and Use Committee,” comprised of six members: Mark Pillers, convener; Stacy Kopecky, Mark Neville, Margaret Petersen, Mary Alice Richardson, and Cal Ward. The committee began meeting in late fall.

Discussion is ongoing. The thinking so far is that the greater portion of the remaining \$405,000 (plus a small amount of interest) should be invested but that some of the principal should be available for immediate use as needed. Committee members are tasked with research. Information will be forthcoming as decisions are made. Suggestions and comments are welcome.

All involved expressed great gratitude for Margaret’s generosity and her foresight in refraining from designating any specific purpose for the funds. Discussion has proceeded with enthusiasm, thoughtfulness, and foresight, and consensus has been reached swiftly in every case.

As a congregation, we give thanks for this wonderful gift and for God’s guidance in furthering our mission. Each member of the three groups has shown deep faithfulness and a commitment to using the gift in a way that best proclaims God’s love to the world around us.



**Women's Shelter
AND SUPPORT CENTER**

SAVING LIVES · RESTORING HOPE · CHANGING FUTURES

Dear Pastors Jan & Congregation

*Thank you so much for your
very generous monetary gift!*

*Your kindness makes the
difference in the lives of so
many! Happy New Year to you all!*

Love,

*The Women's Shelter
and Support Center*



Thank You!

Community Presbyterian Church

Our heart felt thank you for the generous gift of the funds for Women's Shelter to purchase a new van!

Your amazing gift will allow our staff to have
a very reliable van

for years to assist clients and their families.

Please accept this gift as token our
appreciation & thanks.

From the Staff and Residents of
Women's Shelter
Rochester MN

Finance & Stewardship

Kim Nickander, Chairperson

Committee members: Mark Pillers, Financial Secretary; Joanne Powell, Financial Treasurer

Year in review:

- We were blessed with a generous gift of \$450,000 from Margaret Nelson to be used in guidance of the Ad Hoc Committees formed to prayerfully tithe and research use of the funds.
- Rental income was up with the help of our new renters.
- We had a solid year financially and plan to transfer ~\$6,700 to the Capital Activity Fund.
- We thank everyone who supports our finances through your prayerful offerings!

General Operating Fund Stewardship Drive Summary

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Pledging Units	26	24	23	23	25	27	24
Total Dollars Pledged	89,368.00	\$92,180.00	\$91,940.00	\$101,570.00	\$107,300.00	\$114,470.00	\$92,800.00
Average Pledge	\$3,427.23	\$3,840.83	\$3,997.39	\$4,416.09	\$4,292.00	\$4,240.00	\$3867.00
Mission Pledge					\$5240.00	\$5690.00	\$4200.00

Special Offerings for 2022

One Great Hour of Sharing	\$655.00
Peacemaking	\$427.00
Pentecost	\$325.00
Thank Offering	\$475.00
Christmas Joy	\$855.00

	2022			2021		
	Monthly		Weekly	Monthly		Weekly
	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Wks</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Wks</u>	<u>Average</u>
January	\$5,080.00	5	\$1,016.00	\$2,750.00	5	\$550.00
February	\$17,565.00	4	\$4,391.25	\$7,138.50	4	\$1,784.63
March	\$38,830.00	4	\$9,707.50	\$31,697.65	4	\$7,924.41
April	\$3,263.00	4	\$815.75	\$15,890.00	4	\$3,972.50
May	\$3,290.00	5	\$658.00	\$8,450.00	5	\$1,690.00
June	\$8,926.00	4	\$2,231.50	\$9,100.00	4	\$2,275.00
July	\$5,357.00	5	\$1,071.40	\$3,050.00	4	\$762.50
August	\$3,387.00	4	\$846.75	\$4,815.00	5	\$963.00
September	\$8,390.00	4	\$2,097.50	\$11,940.00	4	\$2,985.00
October	\$4,090.00	5	\$818.00	\$6,038.00	5	\$1,207.60
November	\$8,008.00	4	\$2,002.00	\$14,965.00	4	\$3,741.25
December	\$13,195.87	4	\$3,298.97	\$15,223.80	4	\$3,805.95
Total	\$119,381.87	52	\$2,295.81	\$131,057.95	52	\$2,520.35
	This Year to Date Weekly Average is:			\$2,295.81		
	Last Year's Weekly Average was:			\$2,520.35		
		<u>YR 2022</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>	These receipts are pledged + non-pledged.
		Weekly	\$2,285.96	\$2,295.81	\$9.85	
		Monthly	\$9,905.83	\$9,948.49	\$42.66	
		Year	\$118,870.00	\$119,381.87	\$511.87	

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS for Congregational Review

SESSION MEETINGS - Proposed Amendment

ARTICLE IV, Section 11. Meetings. The session shall hold a minimum of **six (6)** monthly stated meetings. The meetings of the Session shall be held in the church edifice or any other place deemed advisable by the Session. Special meetings may be called by the moderator, by the Presbytery or by any two (2) or more elders through the moderator, who shall convene the Session when so requested.

ELDERS - Proposed Amendment

ARTICLE IV, Section 1. Number, Election and Term of Office. The Session shall consist of the pastor, co-pastor(s) and six (6) ruling elders in active service. The Session shall consist of three (3) classes of elders and each class shall be comprised of two (2) members. **Ruling elders shall be elected each year at a special meeting of the congregation called for that purpose in November, prior to the first Sunday of Advent, and shall serve a term of no more than two (2) years, and service in consecutive terms, either full or partial, shall be limited to six (6) years.** A ruling elder who has served a total of six (6) consecutive years shall be ineligible for election for a new term until a period of two (2) years shall have elapsed. An elder may be elected to less than a two-year term to fill a vacancy created in mid-term. The term of office of a ruling elder shall begin with the elder's installation and shall end upon the installation of a successor or upon the acceptance of resignation by the Session. The ruling elders making up the Session shall be, and constitute, the directors of the corporation as that term is defined and used by the Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation Act.

DEACONS - Proposed Amendment

ARTICLE V, Section 1. Number, Election and Terms of Office. The Board of Deacons shall be comprised of six (6) persons and shall consist of three (3) classes of equal numbers. Deacons shall be **elected annually at a special meeting of the congregation called for that purpose in November prior to the first Sunday of Advent, and shall serve a term of no more than two (2) years and service in consecutive terms, with full or partial, shall be limited to six (6) years.** A deacon, having served a total of six (6) consecutive years, shall be ineligible to be elected for a new term until a period of two (2) years shall have elapsed. A deacon may be elected to less than a two-year term to fill a vacancy created in mid-term. The term of office of a deacon shall begin with the deacon's installation and shall end upon the installation of a successor or upon the acceptance of resignation by the Session.

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

Thank you!

For your leadership as a Deacon!

Kari Streff and Ron Murray

For your leadership as a Ruling Elder!

Gene Kopecky, Building and Grounds

Sue Chipman, Christian Education

For your leadership as Clerk of Session!

Mary Meyer

In Remembrance:

Margaret Nelson

April 14, 1920 - March 26, 2022

Believing she is still one with us,
glorifying and fully enjoying God forever.

"If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's."

Romans 14:8



Community Presbyterian Church
3705 Fairway Place NW, Rochester, MN 55901
507-280-9291 www.cprochester.org



Our mission is to be an open-hearted,
open-minded Christian community sharing a ministry of
faith, hope, and love.

