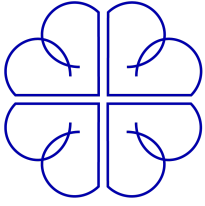


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Mission Statement



The symbol of Faith Community Presbyterian Church of Novi represents the four aspects of the mission of the Christian life: Hearing God's Word, Trusting God's Word, Acting on God's Word and Sharing God's Word. Multiple representations of Christian imagery are included in the design: the flower, the cross, the heart, and the fish.

Hearing God's Word

Although there are many ways in which we hear the Word of God, as a church we primarily experience it in worship and in study. In worship, we come together to praise God and hear the Good News of God's love for all of us. We feel worship should be a balance of our rich traditions and an openness to that which is new, exciting, surprising and free. Worship will be flexible but always done with dignity and thoughtfulness. In education, we will study God's Word attempting to grow in Christian maturity, to become more thoughtful and compassionate Christians.

Trusting God's Word

Hearing God's word in itself is not enough. God's word demands commitment. Therefore as a church we will continually strive for deeper commitment throughout our lives. We realize our faith will make demands on our time, our abilities and our money. In doing so, we will apply our faith in our daily lives ... being reformed we will grow.

Acting on God's Word

As a church family we will care for and about each other as an expression of God's love for us in Christ. We will attempt to develop a closeness within the church that goes beyond differences of opinion or ideology, a closeness that shares both the celebrations and the defeats of our individual lives and our life together. Beyond the Church, a basic Christian hope will focus our lives. We will be a strongly mission-oriented church, our concern will be to deal with the basic needs of people.

Sharing God's Word

Our church will reach outward as a friendly, warm and open blend of peoples. We must share our hopes and beliefs and grow to become a larger family. Avoiding judgments about the faith of others, we will seek to communicate the Good News not only in words, but through our whole life as a church.

Serving God by Serving Others

Officers - Elders

Name	Address	Phone & Email
Moderator The Rev. Michelle James		
Clerk of Session Mike Church		
Class of 2024		
Pat Kortlandt		
Ted Martin		
Roger Wilfong		
Class of 2025		
Betty Nick		
Linda Shoener		
Marianne Simancek		
Class of 2026		
Jim Ernst		
Susan Farooq		
Mark Waranowicz		

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Val Kushman		Clerk: Val Kushman
Joys and Concerns: Marianne Simancek		Nominating Committee Rep:
Class of 2024		
Jamie Danielsen		
Jay Danielsen		
Mike Haynes		
Vacant		
Class of 2025		
Kelly Haynes		
Steve Johnson		
Val Kushman		
Vacant		
Class of 2026		
Linda Ernst		
Carol Underwood		
Vacant		
Vacant		

Corporate Officers

President Mark Turner		
Treasurer Jim Ernst		
Secretary Susan Farooq		

Stated Supply Pastor

State of the Church - 2023 has been a year of change and realization. Faith Community has mostly returned to “normal” from the pandemic, yet we have carried over a few of our Covid practices, some because they’ve enhanced our ministry. We saw our worship attendance rise slightly, even as our membership numbers declined some. Our 20% financial mission-giving commitment has continued and we’ve returned to our in-person mission in Guatemala. Session began to consider the possibility of reducing the size of our boards or moving to a unicameral model given our limited numbers. Our projected budget deficit was cut in half, mainly because so many are very generous in giving and have increased their commitments to the church. We accomplished some larger maintenance and improvement projects because of insurance and the judicious use of our reserve funds. We began to explore our options for the future of our church, even as we continued to search for our next installed pastor to lead us into that change. As we live in this time of change, we are grateful to God for the life, fellowship, and ministry we have provided at Faith Community. We are also grateful for the continued relationship with the New Hope Church and look forward to more opportunities together.

2023 Goals

- Given new insights (a short “runway”), work with the Session/Exploratory Team (ET) to find resources to help discern God’s call to Faith and form a **new path forward**;
- With Session, establish a **new vision/plan and leadership model** to guide the congregation forward given the congregation's demographics.
- Continue to keep the church’s mission, ministry, and staff **efficiency and cohesiveness** strong.
- Prepare the congregation and leadership for **new pastoral leadership**.
- With Session, continue to work with the **New Hope Church** to find ways of living and serving together.
- Follow **symposium participants’** plans/outcomes; report to financial grantors regarding use of funds and the impact of the program.

2023 Achievements/Highlights

- **With Exploratory Team (ET)**: Formed team; developed resource list for ET; helped to develop the symposium to explore church longevity and possible outcomes; found grant money and speakers for the symposium and coordinated the weekend’s speakers and activities.
- **Worship Series**: Led two successful series in late 2023, developing spiritual growth emphasis
- **New Hope**: Moderated Session while they were without a pastor; baptized Pastor Hyun’s son, ordained/installed their officers, conducted three joint worship services, participated in planning/leading a fourth after their interim arrived; helped to onboard their interim and continued to coordinate communications between both churches.
- Traveled & served with **Guatemala Mission Team** at House of Healing, led daily devotions (until Covid)
- September began my fourth year as **Stated Supply Pastor** at Faith Community.

2024 Goals

- With Session and ET, establish a **vision and plan** to move forward into God’s future call
- Help establish and implement the appropriate **leadership model** for the aforementioned plan
- Help establish and implement an effective **outreach plan**
- Continue working with Christian Ed to develop and nurture **deeper spiritual roots** in the congregation
- Continue my **spiritual growth** to keep my ministry and our worship vital and vibrant
- Help the congregation transition from **temporary to installed pastor**
- Maintain good and faithful ministry relationship with **New Hope Church**

In gratitude to God, Michelle James, Stated Supply Pastor

Corporate Business

There is no corporate business to report for 2023.

Nominating Committee

Members

Jim Ernst, Susan Farooq, Darrell Underwood, Roger Wilfong (Chair)

Goals

Evaluate and recruit congregation members to serve as officers (Elders, Deacons, and Clerk) for Faith Community. The committee makes every attempt to recruit new candidates to these positions so that new perspectives are brought to governing the church; however, when no new candidates are, as a last resort, the committee approaches retiring officers to extend their service for an additional term. Full terms for Elders and Deacons is 3 years; however, officers can serve the equivalent of two terms consecutively, but no more without a gap in service.

This year the committee was searching for 4 Deacons and 3 Elders for the class of 2027, one Elder to fill a partial term for the class of 2026, and a Clerk of Session.

Achievements

The committee managed to fill the open Elder positions and two Deacon positions. However, the two full terms and the one partial term were filled with retiring Elders. Retiring Deacons filled both Deacon positions. Also, two members of the committee resigned from the committee to accept nomination as officers. The Clerk of Session position is still open; however, the Minister and Session are working to divide the responsibilities for this position to allow two candidates to share the position.

Nominated Deacons

Linda Ernst
Carol Underwood

Nominated Elders

Jim Ernst
Susan Farooq
Mark Waranowicz
Mike Evertt (2-year term)

Conclusion

In approaching many congregation members, most members who declined to accept the responsibility of an officer (most had previously served as an officer); however, most offered to help with specific tasks.

Respectfully submitted by Roger Wilfong, Committee Chair

Pastor Nominating Committee

Members

Brenda Benn, Suzanne Everett, Bill Nick, Mark Turner, Marianne Simancek, COM Advisor Ron Hughes

Goals

The role of this committee is to discern the competencies, characteristics, experiences and criterion for the role of the pastor of our church while seeking a suitable candidate for this position.

Achievements

A review of competencies and the job description for the pastor was complete requiring Session approval for a revised edition. Submission of the Minister Information Form was approved and posted to the Presbytery leadership connection site. Nearly 30 candidates responded to the call. Some declined any further connection, some did not meet the criteria set, some never responded to an interview, a few interviews were conducted. The timing of the process necessitated a proposal to extend the contract of the stated supply pastor, Rev. M. James which was approved.

Ministry Highlights

This group met nearly every 3-4 weeks to prayerfully consider applicants, openly discuss and share joys and concerns regarding the process with unwavering concern for acting on behalf of the congregation.

Outreach Highlights

Communication with Session and the congregation took place with articles in the newsletter, the weekly update or in-person reporting. The COM Advisor was very helpful and supportive of this complex process while enlisting support from a Presbytery COM Lead when needed.

Conclusion

At the close of 2023, a second interview was conducted with a candidate and a subsequent invitation to accept the call as a pastor of our church. The candidate and Presbytery are in discussion with a hopeful decision to come early in 2024.

This committee has been very passionate and dedicated to this work, being diligent, supportive and patient with this complex process.

Respectfully submitted by Marianne Simancek, Committee Chair

Clerk of Session Report

Elders

2023: Len Berman, Mike Everett, Jennifer Strub

2024: Pat Kortlandt, Ted Martin, Roger Wilfong

2025: Betty Nick, Linda Shoener, Marianne Simancek

Moderator: Michelle James; Clerk: Michael Church

2023 in Review

There were 10 Stated Session Meetings, one Called Session Meeting, and one Joint Session Meeting with New Hope Church.

The Pastor Nominating Committee spent the year continuing to work toward a permanent pastor. Michelle James continues as our Stated Supply Pastor.

On June 15th, the Synod of the Covenant voted to give the Administrative Commission for the Presbytery of Detroit original jurisdiction over the Presbytery. This followed the Presbytery's own vote on May 23rd to request that Synod grant the Administrative Commission original jurisdiction "to resolve the disorder between staff and the operations committee." From June 15th there were no further meetings of the Presbytery of Detroit and the Administrative Commission was in charge of the operation of the Presbytery of Detroit.

As part of the Covenant agreement with New Hope Church, we hold a joint session meeting once each year. This year's meeting was held in November. We agreed to minor updates to the covenant agreement and to appoint representatives to work on more a thorough review and update.

On Saturday, December 2 2023 a symposium, "Lengthening the Runway," organized by our church was held at the church. It was well attended and well received. Guest speakers addressed the issues of churches feeling the pain of decline in attendance.

At the December Stated Meeting Session agreed to work with Scout Troop 407 to arrange for the troop to hold meetings at the church.

The Administrative Commission for the Presbytery of Detroit was still in place at the end of December. Leslie Mann will start on January 8 2024 as Transitional Executive Presbyter.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Church, Clerk of Session

Administration and Budget

Members

Michael Carter, Michael Church, Jim Ernst, Susan Farooq, Terry Kazakos, Patricia Kortlandt, Ted Martin

Goals

- Track income and expenses for the church.
- Ensure the financial clerk pays bills and reimbursements.
- Keep committees from overspending budgets.
- Prepare an annual budget for next year.
- Recommend solutions to Session when there are financial emergencies or unexpected expenses.
- Keep Administrative Manual current.

Achievements

The 2023 budget was accepted with a deficit of more than \$46000. The 2023 year ended with more income than anticipated, lower expenses than expected and a budget deficit of less than \$20000.

Outreach Highlights

During the 2023 calendar year, A & B approved several new furnaces and to install air conditioning in several rooms in the classroom wing. Prep work was also done for additional work that could be done in the future.

After years of deferring maintenance, the parking lot lot was sealed and re-striped.

Additional repairs were made to areas that were considered trip hazards.

Conclusion

This committee devotes hundreds of man-hours to the fulfillment of our duties. We research, debate and make new decisions at our monthly meetings and by email votes if necessary. Thanks to the diligence of staff, members, our nesting church, and visitors, the Administration and Budget Committee has been able to continue the church's mission of Serving God by Serving Others.

Financial Highlights attached in appendix A

- Budget document for 2023
- Approved budget for 2024

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Kortlandt, Committee Chair

Budget Report Documents

In Appendix A

Building and Grounds

Members

Chairman Mark Turner, Secretary Carol Underwood, and Session Rep: Ted Martin

The Building and Grounds committee was comprised of Mark Turner, Darrell Underwood, Carol Underwood, Susan Farooq, Ted Martin, John Crawford, Mike Carter, Jim Ernst, Mike Everett, Mike Haynes, Bill Nick, Roger Wilfong, and Chong Kim from New Hope Church

This year, 16 maintenance and upgrade projects were accomplished.

2023 Issues and Status

With the addition of New Hope Church to our premises, we have had to change the usage profile of the church building. Additional strain has been put on the building and upgrades have had to be made. We have added signage, opened up the classroom wing, adjusted the heating/cooling profiles, repaired furnaces, added air conditioning to the education wing, shared the office, and made allowance for more cleaning. The addition of projection screens in the sanctuary has provided reliability challenges but overall has been a nice addition to our in-person services. Functionality for recording and live streaming of our services has also added a new opportunity for those who choose to worship from remote locations. We have continued to merge Faith's needs with those of New Hope and will be making facilities to the office area in the spring. New Hope has assisted in many of the upkeep and maintenance projects. The fire and security systems were inspected and are providing the required protection for the occupants. In addition, the air quality test showed no areas of concern and all requirements are within acceptable limits.

The electronic sign is fully operational and advertises the mission projects and service info for both New Hope and Faith. A power outlet will soon to added. The landline to the kitchen phone has been restored to better facilitate our fire security system.

2023 Projects Completed

Air conditioning for the New Hope wing, Repaired shingles, sump pump upgrades, Critter control and roof patching, banner revisions, playground mulch, parking lot seal coating and trip repair, kitchen cabinet repair, instant hot water for the kitchen sink, landscaping, memorial garden sprinkler freeze protection, air quality survey, and ongoing lighting, plumbing, heating and landscaping issues.

Meetings

Meetings are held quarterly and are normally breakfast meetings held at Novi Coney Island. Meetings are open to all, and all are encouraged to come and help organize the church projects. This year included participation from New Hope. If you have any issues with the B&G committee, please forward them to the church office or directly to Mark Turner.

Thanks

Many thanks to all those volunteers who are dedicated to making our church a clean, safe and secure place for worship, A special thanks to Mike Everett for the defibrillator and first responder training.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Turner and Ted Martin

Community Life

Members

Mike & Suzanne Everett, John & Barb Crawford, Jim & Linda Ernst, Susan Farooq, Ann Kowalczyk, Ginny Mowbray, Tom Sumiec, Val Kushman

Goals

We provide fellowship activities for members of the church and community as well as create materials to welcome new members.

Achievements

- Supervised the weekly Coffee Hour following the church service, organized Fourth Sunday Brunches, hosted a quarterly Men's Breakfast, provided breakfast for Easter Sunday as well as Rally Back Sunday in September, planned a June picnic with New Hope Church, hosted a 'goodbye' luncheon for long-time members who moved away, organized a night out to a Detroit Tigers' game and went to the Tipping Point Theater.
- We also continue to promote our Book Club and the Pillowcase Partiers. Additionally,
- We created and printed a new pictorial directory for church members and friends.

Ministry Highlights

- Planned activities to provide fellowship and friendship and encourage member participation, keeping in mind limitations of some of our older congregation.
- Created a folder for New Members with highlights about FCPC. Made packets with candy and a cute poem to give to church visitors.
- Worked to include New Hope in many of our church activities.

Outreach Highlights

- Pillowcase Partiers donated handmade pillowcases to the House of Healing in Guatemala and other places of need.
- We invited residents of Sr. Living residences to attend our Christmas Cantata.
- Committee provided games & snacks and handed out FCPC business cards in front of the church at the Memorial Day Parade along 10 Mile.

Conclusion

Our fellowship activities continued to help members feel a part of our church family and know they are an important part of our church. We were less successful in attracting new people, but we have several folks who are Sunday regulars and have joined us for church activities.

Financial Highlights

- Our budget for the year was \$1,200.
- We spent a total of \$703.04.
- Committee members made in-kind donations of approximately \$350.00.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Everett, Committee Chair

Mission

Members

Tom Anan, Susan Farooq (Chairperson), Bill & Betty Nick (Session Representative), Sue Randall, Mark Turner

Goals

Serve our less fortunate communities- local, national, and internationally with the hands and feet, heart and mind, love and compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ. Create opportunities for our congregation to experience the joy of being involved in the outreach missions of the church.

International Achievements

- Living Waters: a mission team of 10 installed a water purification system at a school in Guatemala in April. A site was located for a February, 2024 installation and planning began.
- House of Healing, Guatemala: a team of 13, many medical professionals, served for a week in April. Plans began for a mission team of five to serve in April, 2024.
- Sponsored seven students to attend school in Guatemala.
- Antioch Partners: sent financial support to a missionary family in Central Asia.

Local Achievements

- Foster Care: 65 backpacks and school supplies were donated to help with the 385 backpacks requested by agencies. Donation sent to Michigan Foster Scholarship Fund.
- Crossroads Soup Kitchen: participated four times, serving over 500 meals each time to the homeless and hungry.
- Everyone Eats- delivered 100 toiletry care packages each of five visits to Bethel AME food pantry for over 120 families served there.
- Village Oaks Elementary: provided weekend meals to 6 students every five weeks of the school year.
- Fort Street Open Door: sent donations to support the Detroit homeless ministry.
- Supported Novi Food Pantry with gift cards for families served there.
- Assembled 50 care packages for roadside friends seeking help.

Ministry Highlights

- Joined in the Presbytery Cereal for Summer Collection; donated 200 boxes.
- Participated in Presbytery Toilet Paper Drive; donated 320 rolls.
- Promoted and collected for the Presbytery Special Offerings of One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, and Peacemaking.
- Donated relief for Ukraine, Hawaii, Idalia, and Israel through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Outreach Highlights

- Hosted two full Red Cross blood drives; collected a total of 70 pints of blood.
- CROP Hunger Walk; Ten walkers and a dog completed the four mile walk in Hines Park and raised \$4,320 for world hunger.

Conclusion

Mission had a very busy and successful 2023, blessed with many opportunities to serve our communities and neighbors near and far. We are a vital congregation church that works diligently to make a positive impact in the lives of those less privileged. We give thanks and praise to God for the compassion, generosity, and volunteers of the congregation that make the mission outreach programs of the church possible.

Financial Highlights

- A&B assigned a \$37,400 budget to Mission based on 20% of an adjusted church annual income.
- See the attached Mission Budget Worksheet for the distribution of the \$37,400.
- In February, Mission applied for and was awarded \$2,500 from the Presbytery Ranney-Balch Grant, which added to our ability to serve the grant-targeted groups of the poor, elderly, underprivileged, and people of color within the Detroit Presbytery.

Respectfully submitted by: Susan Farooq, Committee Chair

[Mission Budget Report](#)

See Appendix B

Novi Food Pantry

Members

Sue Randall, Jim Ernst, Ann Kowalczyk and Darrel Underwood

Goals

To support our commitment to be a Matthew 25 church, we help address food insecurity in surrounding areas, focusing on Novi, Wixom and New Hudson residents.

Achievements

- Novi Public School District food drive donation in January
- Stamp Out Hunger Postal Carrier Food Drive in May
- Scouting for Food Drive in November
- Container Store of Novi Food Drive in November
- St. James Thanksgiving Baskets in November
- Giving Tree Christmas Gifts in December
- Vibe Credit Union Outerware Clothing Drive in December
- Cedarspring Estates (Local HOA) Food Drive in December
- Girl Scout Soda Birthday Cakes in a Bag in December
- Ongoing Costco Bakery donation
- Strong volunteer base, including newly added volunteers

Ministry Highlights

Supported via the electronic sign, we started an evening distribution in the 4th quarter of 2023. We are open the 2nd Wednesday of every month from 6-7 p.m. We started in October, serving 8 families. We have had three families each subsequent distribution, mostly new guests each evening.

Through our relationship built with the Boy Scouts over the years, we facilitated discussion to move the troop to FCPC in 2024.

Outreach Highlights

Coordinating with Holy Family and St. James churches locally. We were able to share our donated resources this year with the following organizations:

- Presbytery Summer Cereal Program
- St. James Food Pantry
- Northville Civic Concern
- Fort Street Presbyterian Church
- Bethel AME
- Disabled Veterans
- Village Oaks Weekend Program

Conclusion

The scope of our delivery of services are non-perishable food items, but we also feed the soul, sharing our love of Christ with our guests.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Randall, Novi Food Pantry

Personnel

Members

Len Berman, Michael Everett, Kelly Haynes, Patricia Kortlandt, Carol Underwood

Goals

- Continue Annual reviews.
- Complete new contract with Michelle James, Supply Pastor for 23-24.
- Revise job descriptions as needed and reformat all to have similar formats.
- Change to Paid Time Off Policy from Vacation/Sick Days.
- Don't overspend Personnel Budget.

Achievements

- Personnel members completed all staff reviews and shared with staff and other committee members. Hard copies filed in personnel folders.
- Received Presbytery approval for new contract with Michelle James.
- Brainstormed and created a new relationship with the Church Musician for 2024.

Conclusion

The committee met seven times during 2023, also keeping in touch through email. They have created a system to do annual reviews that is working so they will continue building on that success. They will continue to work on the revised job descriptions and a PTO policy in 2024. Personnel will continue to work with the Head of Staff to create open lines of communication and to head off potential problems.

Respectfully submitted by Len Berman, Michael Everett and Patricia Kortlandt, Session Reps

Stewardship

Members

Susan Farooq (Chairperson), Betty & Bill Nick, Catharine McCloskey-Turner, Roger Wilfong (Session Representative)

Goals

- To organize and lead a stewardship campaign that encourages and motivates the congregation to give the best of their time, talents and resources to glorify and support God's work through the church.
- To inspire the congregation to find the abundant joys and rewards in generosity, faithful discipleship, and strength in shared stewardship experiences.

Achievements

After a busy campaign year, 62 pledge forms were mailed out in October and 38 pledges (61% return) were received by January, 2024. Total amount pledged for 2024 is \$222,040; it exceeds last year's 38 pledges of \$218,164 from 77 mailings (40% return).

Ministry Highlights

The 2023 Stewardship Theme- "Love God~Love Neighbor", was based on Jesus' two greatest commandments from Matthew 22: 34-40, which parallels our mission statement of "Serving God by Serving Others".

Outreach Highlights

We planted perennial flower seeds in cups, then transplanted them to beautify the church gardens as stewardship of God's property. We borrowed portable canvas and finger labyrinths from the Presbytery to experience stewardship of the inner spirit through the meditative walks. Five Minutes for Stewardship presentations were given by members of the congregation, sharing their wisdom, faith, and encouragement ahead of the November 12, 2023 Dedication Sunday. A worship series "It's Wonderful Life" was also presented by the church in October/ November in support of the stewardship drive. The series finished with the viewing of the Jimmy Stewart movie and sharing a meal to emphasize the importance of community and caring for one another by generously giving our talents and gifts.

Conclusion

The 2023 Stewardship drive was successful in that we exceeded the 2022 drive by \$3,876. We are very thankful for the faithfulness, generosity and dedication of the congregation in giving of time, talents, and many resources out of our shared deep gratitude and love for God.

Financial Highlights

- 38 pledges total \$220,040 received for 2024.

Respectfully submitted by: Susan Farooq, Committee Chair

Worship & Education

Members

John Bogdan, Janelle Moore, Bill Nick, Linda Shoener, Marianne Simancek, Jennifer Strub, Roger Wilfong, Rev. Michelle James

Goals

Responsible for assisting the Pastor and staff in the design of effective worship services, including music, communion, special services and ecumenical services. Provide structure, implementation and evaluation of the educational programs of the church for all ages.

Achievements

Enhanced collaboration with church committees to execute special services and enrich spiritual opportunities for church families. Discussion and critical review of committee structure to seek improved and effective results continues.

Ministry Highlights

The Bible Study group meets weekly and includes a wide variety of texts and lessons with an average of 10 attendees. The Christ Walk Lenten activity with Bible references was provided as an independent Lent Study. Collaboration with Community for a fellowship and Movie, "It's a Wonderful Life" followed by discussion was well received. Offered support of Pastor in the implementation of different formats and designs of select worship services. Encouraged the work of the Vital Congregations Initiative team. Prepared packets of bible study lessons and activities for families to use over the summer. Enjoyed worship through music presented by two cantatas.

Outreach Highlights

Support the monthly worship service at Waltonwood at Twelve Oaks facilitated by the Deacon which includes communion. Planned and enjoyed worship services with New Hope Church members. Weekly Bible Study draws attendees from other churches and locales.

Conclusion

A multidisciplinary approach is well-received in the design and implementation of worship and education enrichment activities of the church family.

Financial Highlights

- Piano tuning
- Gift of Advent Wreath refillable candles

Respectfully submitted by Marianne Simancek, Committee Co-Chair

Music

Members

John Bogdan, Tim VanRiper, FCPC Choir, FCPC Bells, FCPC Cantata Orchestra, Guest Musicians

Goals

To beautify worship services through music. To provide special music by our choirs and guest musicians and provide opportunities for our congregants to offer their skills and talents. To put on concerts and fundraisers to enrich the community life of the church and attract more people to our congregation. To “Serve God by Serving Others” through music.

Achievements

While each Sunday hopefully had some special music provided by me and Tim, in 2023, thirty Sundays had special music provided by our vocal choir (33 rehearsals, 13 anthems and 2 Cantatas), bell choir (29 rehearsals and 15 anthems), and congregant soloists (4 anthems). Our Easter and Christmas Cantatas were both successful, with 13 guest musicians joining us at Easter and 12 guest musicians joining us at Christmas. In June, “Country Nights” brought a toe-tapping night to our fellowship hall with music from staff, Liam Haynes, and the wonderful music of Dicky Lee. In November we had a Holiday Concert featuring the beautiful voices of Emma Trivax and Tim VanRiper. Finally, we combined musical forces with New Hope’s worship team on three Sundays: Palm Sunday, Music Celebration/Unity/Friendship Sunday, and World Communion Sunday. Each provided opportunities for us to share each other’s musical stylings as well as collaborations between myself, Tim, and Josh.

Ministry and Outreach Highlights

- January 26th, Choir and Bells rehearsals return after Winter Vacation
- April 2nd, Faith Community and New Hope combined services for Palm Sunday for a joint service loaded with special music.
- April 9th, Easter Cantata with Orchestra
- June 11th, Faith Community and New Hope combined service for Music Celebration, Unity, and Friendship Sunday
- June 24th, Living Waters of the World “Country Nights” fundraiser
- September 14th, Choir and Bells rehearsals return after Summer Vacation
- October 1st, Faith Community and New Hope combined service for World Communion Sunday
- November 26th, Holiday Concert featuring Emma Trivax and Tim VanRiper
- December 17th, Christmas Cantata with Orchestra

Conclusion

Another very active year for our music department: successful cantatas, concerts, joint services, as well as 28 songs prepared and presented by our Bells and Choir.

Respectfully submitted by John Bogdan, Music Director

Communications and Marketing

Members

Rev. Michelle James, Mike Everett, Ann Kowalczyk, Jennifer Strub, Roger Wilfong, Anna Onofrio

The team met 9 times in 2023 via Zoom, in-person, or a combination of both (hybrid).

Social Media and Online Presence

The following are some of the metrics that can be used to see how many people we are having contact with on social media, The first figure represents the number at the start of the year - the second is the number at year-end. We are making slow but gradual progress in our outreach ministry. The month/year the account was established is in square brackets.

- Facebook Page: (224/240) likes; (249/270) followers [March 2019]
- Facebook Group: (56/60) members [March 2022] (for church members only)
- YouTube: (57/65) subscribers [Feb 2021]
- Instagram: (37/ 56) followers [Aug 2022]
- TikTok: (0/64) followers [Jan 2023]
- NextDoor: (0/8) faves [June 2022]

Small paid advertising campaigns were initiated on NextDoor and Facebook for several events.

An easy way to promote the church is by sharing Facebook, Instagram, and NextDoor posts. Also, reviews are always welcome on Google, Yelp and NextDoor.

Other Projects

- The new website was launched in the spring with a user-friendly design and updated information.
- The pictorial directory was completed, printed, and distributed in April/May.
- A texting alert program was established, intended for reminders to the congregation about a few upcoming events. It would also be used for emergencies, such as a service being canceled at the last minute due to weather. Out of 90 possible Faith contacts, 37 have opted into the texting alert system.
- Prayer Line - we advertised on the sign and social media for prayer requests from the community at large. This utilizes the text number we use for the alert program. The number has never been used in the 3 months we advertised so the campaign was stopped.
- The electronic sign continues to be a proven channel of communication. Food Pantry clients and donors, and other church contacts have developed because they first read something on our sign.
- Cantata yard signs were purchased for display in front of members' residences. The signs advertise Christmas on one side and Easter on the other. We purchased 20 corrugated plastic signs at a cost of about \$17 each. We hope to use them for at least the next several years.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Kowalczyk, Chair of Communications & Marketing.

Exploratory Team

Members

Len Berman, Mike Everett, Susan Farooq, Patricia Kortlandt, Linda Shoener

Goals

To explore future options for Faith Community Church, as membership and financial income decline and the congregation continues to age. To discern God's best call for the church as we strive to live our mission of "Serving God by Serving Others."

Achievements

In March of 2023, the Exploratory Team began reading a series of books addressing issues facing the church and finding our way forward. The books included: "Autopsy of a Deceased Church"-Rainer, "Canoeing the Mountains"-Bolsinger, "Finishing with Grace" -Hillard/Switzer, "Legacy Church"-Gray, "Toward a Better Country"-Irwin. Another book caught our attention - "Church Mergers"-Larabee. Conversation ensued about inviting the author, Rev. Dr. Richard Larabee to speak to us about church mergers. This resulted in the planning of a symposium at Faith Community, inviting three speakers in the areas of their expertise - Richard Larabee (Church Mergers), Tony Oltmann (Vital Congregation Initiative), and Steve Keizer (Presbyterian Foundation).

Ministry Highlights

On Saturday, December 2, 2023, Faith Community hosted a symposium titled "Lengthening the Runway", with the above three speakers, each delivering a 30-minute presentation. A Q&A session with the audience followed. Breakfast and lunch were served which provided more opportunities for sharing and discussion of common concerns for our churches. Evaluation forms were passed out to gather feedback about the event. Responses indicated that the symposium's contents were valuable, relevant, and timely.

Outreach Highlights

Through the Detroit Presbytery forums and personal contacts, area churches were invited to attend the symposium to share these common concerns that face many churches. In all, 85 attended, representing about 15 churches from near and far in Michigan.

Financial Highlights

The Exploratory Team applied for and was awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Presbytery's Congregation Development & Transformation Committee and a \$3,000 grant from the Matthew 25 Committee of the Synod in support of the symposium project. Flights, lodgings, and hospitality expenses totaled approximately \$3,000, leaving \$1,000 for any future follow-up projects.

Conclusion

The "Lengthening the Runway" symposium was a success and can be the beginning of collaboration by churches to help one another revitalize the future of the Church. In 2024, the Exploratory Team is planning to work with Steve Keizer of the Presbyterian Foundation to conduct a Project Regeneration with a discernment process with Faith Community.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Farooq, Committee Member

Deacons

Members

Grace Wilfong, Kelly Haynes, Mike Haynes, Jamie Danielsen, Jay Danielsen, Linda Ernst, Carol Underwood, Darrell Underwood, Bill Nick, Val Kushman.

Goals

To minister to those in need, especially to the families assigned to each individual Deacon. To prepare the church for worship. To serve the community with a monthly worship service at Waltonwood Senior Living.

Achievements

Keep in touch with assigned families to determine needs or concerns and to celebrate joys. Serve on Sunday and other Worship services as needed and record the the number of worshippers and those taking Communion. Note the Joys & Concerns and follow up as appropriate. Contact the minister about Helping Hands about a serious illness or death in member families. Attend monthly Deacon meetings and provide a report of Deacon activities at regular Session meetings.

Ministry Highlights

Provide prayer and support for members in need with phone calls, emails, notes and cards. Prepare the church for worship and ensure a supply of prayer cards and new member information are available. Assist with Greeting and the Offertory as needed. Coordinate a monthly worship service at Waltonwood for residents.

Outreach Highlights

Conduct a monthly worship service at Waltonwood that includes Communion and music.

Conclusion

Despite our smaller church membership, and a reduced number of Deacons, the Board continues to be enthusiastic about their responsibilities at the church. Past Deacons volunteered to serve on summer Sundays when multiple Deacons were on vacation. We also hope to work more closely with New Hope Church in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted by Val Kushman, Deacon Moderator

Office Administrator

Goals

- To manage all office administration and communication to and from the congregation.
- Act as a member of the Comms and Marketing Team/Committee.
- Liaise between Faith Community and The New Hope Church.
- Support the Novi Food Pantry.
- Complete all requested duties including purchasing, graphic design, marketing, tech support, and social media management.

Task Descriptions

Prepared and sent weekly Updates and monthly Newsletters to the subscribers in and out of the congregation. Funneled information between the Pastor, Session, Committees and the Congregation. Designed visually appealing content for the outdoor sign, worship announcements and social media posts on a biweekly+ basis. Assisted with the maintenance of the website.

Major Projects

- Continued work begun in 2022 to finish the current edition of the church directory. Worked in concert with Michael Everett as photographer. The directory was printed at Max Printing in Novi, MI, the funds for which were donated by Jim & Linda Ernst.
- Redesigned the church website, created an engaging theme, increased its ease of use and updated information.
- Rebranded the Registration Packet and signage for the Novi Food Pantry, which included the calendar, business cards, outdoor sign, and social media – which extends from Faith Community at this time with plans for its own Facebook page in 2024.
- Designed and ordered 20, yard-signs to be displayed in members' lawns before the Easter and Christmas Cantatas.

Conclusion

The commitment of the office administrator to enhance communication and engagement was evident throughout the year. The descriptions here underscore the dedication of the office admin to foster a spirited and connected community within the church.

Respectfully submitted by Anna Onofrio, Office Administrator & Communications Specialist

Appendix A

Document 1: 2023 Budget

Document 2: Proposed and Session-Approved 2024 Budget

Appendix B

Mission Budget Report