

# Regular Meeting of the Congregation



## ANNUAL REPORT April 30, 2023



FIRST CHURCH  
in OBERLIN + UCC

The First Church in Oberlin, United Church of Christ

106 N. Main Street, Oberlin OH 44074

(440) 775-1711

[Firstchurchoberlin.org](http://Firstchurchoberlin.org)

## AGENDA

Call to Order	Anne Sprague
Opening Prayer	Rev. David T. Hill
Report of the 2023 Nominating Committee	Erik Andrews
Report of Heating System Task Group	Anne Sprague & Gene Matthews
Agenda Items from the Floor	
Closing Prayer	Rev. David T. Hill

### Shalom

*Shalom, my friends, shalom my friends. Shalom, shalom!  
May peace be with you, may peace be with you. Shalom, shalom!*

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**Nominating Committee Report for the First Church in Oberlin, UCC • April 2023**  
 COMMITTEE CANDIDATES Agreeing to join identified in 'NOMINATED FOR POSITION' column and their term

POSITION	CURRENT MEMBER	Term Start	Term exp.	Term Length	Eligible for re-election	Notes	Nominated for Position	Term Exp.
<b>Moderator</b>	Sprague, Anne	2022	2024	2	Y			
<b>Clerk</b>	<del>Richards, Rue</del>	2021	2023	2	Y	(no term limit)	Rebecca Bandy	2025
<b>Treasurer</b>	<del>Richards, Pete</del>	2021	2023	1	Y	(no term limit)	Mike Schmid	2025
<b>Executive Council</b>	<del>Clark, Ruthanna</del>	2020	2023	3	Y	1 <sup>st</sup> term	Ruthann Clark	2026
	<del>Cheek, Ken</del>	2022	2023	3	Y	Replacement	Linda Gates	2026
	Matthews, Gene	2021	2024	3	Y	1 <sup>st</sup> term		
	Conway, Anne	2018	2024	3	N	2 <sup>nd</sup> term		
	Longworth, Carol	2019	2025	3	N	2 <sup>nd</sup> term		
	Slocum, Linda	2022	2025	3	Y	1 <sup>st</sup> term	Ken Cheek	2025
<b>Christian Education</b>	<del>Schaum, JJ</del>	2017	2023	3	N	2 <sup>nd</sup> term	Carl Jacobson	2026
	<del>Wilburn, Drew</del>	2020	2023	3	Y	Decline 2nd term;	Marleen Caldwell	2026
	<del>Baumann, Karyn</del>	2021	2024	3	Y	Chair; Resigned	<b>OPEN (1 year)</b>	2024
	Preston, Kim	2022	2024	3	Y	Replacement		
	<del>Vanderbilt, William</del>	2022	2025	3	Y	Resigned	<b>OPEN (2 years)</b>	2025
	Kepner, Val	2019	2025	3	N	2nd term		
<b>Facilities</b>	<del>Buck, Marty</del>	2021	2023	3	Y	Replacement	Marty Buck	2026
	<del>Thompson, Reb</del>	2017	2023	3	Y	Moving; Decline term	Bill Jindra	2026
	Andrew Garver	2021	2024	3	Y	1 <sup>st</sup> term; co-chair		
	Price Jones, Laurel	2021	2024	3	Y	1 <sup>st</sup> term		
	Andrews, Erik	2022	2025	3	Y	1 <sup>st</sup> term		
	Scheufler, David	2019	2025	3	N	2 <sup>nd</sup> term; co-chair		
<b>Fellowship</b> (Contact Deidre Gargasz for funeral / memorial receptions)	<del>Matthews, Sandy</del>	2020	2023	3	Y	1 <sup>st</sup> term	Sandy Matthews	2026
	<del>Seeth, Denise</del>	2019	2023	3	Y	Replacement; 2 <sup>nd</sup> term	Denise Scotch	2026
	Scheufler, Janice	2018	2024	3	N	2 <sup>nd</sup> term		
	Gueulette, Margaret	2021	2024	3	Y	1 <sup>st</sup> term		
	Colson, Sarah	2019	2025	3	N	2 <sup>nd</sup> term		
	Sanderson, Karla	2022	2025	3	Y	1 <sup>st</sup> term		
<b>Finance</b>	Hamilton, Bill	2022	2025	3	Y	1 <sup>st</sup> term		
	<del>Schmid, Mike</del>	2022	2023	3	Y	Replacement; 2 more	Pete Richards	2026
	Schaum, Anne	2018	2024	3	Y	Chair, replacement in '18		
	Conway, Anne	2018	2024	3		EC – at large		
	<del>Richards, Pete</del>	2021	2023	1	Y	Treasurer	Mike Schmid	n/a
	Matthews, Gene	2021	2024	3		EC – at large		
<b>Ministerial Relations</b> (appointed)	Ralph Thompson							
	Ken Cheek							
	Kristin Peterson							
	Catherine Hoyle							

POSITION	CURRENT MEMBER	Term Start	Term exp.	Term Length	Eligible for re-election	Notes	Nominated for Position	Term Exp.
<b>Nominating</b>	Schmid, Mike	2022	2024	2	Y			
	Gates, Linda	2022	2024	2	Y			
	Longsworth, Bob	2020	2024	2	N	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term		
	Hayes, Ardith	2023	2025	2	Y			
	Andrews, Erik	2021	2025	2	N	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term		
	Jindra, Robin	2021	2025	2	N	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term		
	<del>Burke, Carol</del>	2020	2023	3	Y	1 <sup>st</sup> term	Carol Burke	2026
<b>Outreach and Service</b>	Jacobson, Carl	2017	2023	3	N	2 <sup>nd</sup> term	John Gates	2026
	Parish, Mark	2021	2024	3	Y	Resign;	Becky Thompson	2024
	OPEN POSITION	2021	2024	3	Y		<b>OPEN (1 year)</b>	2024
	Carter, Kris	2020	2025	3	Y	Replacement, 1 more		
	Schaum, Miranda	2020	2025	3	Y	Replacement, 1 more		
	Sprague, Anne					Moderator		
<b>Personnel</b> <i>(appointed not nominated)</i>	Schmid, Mike					Finance		
	Conway, Anne					EC - at large		
	Clark, Ruth Ann					EC – at large		
	Hill, Rev. David T.					Pastor		
	<del>Genway, Rellia</del>	2017	2023	3	N	2 <sup>nd</sup> term	Bob Longsworth	2026
	Taylor, Tom	2019	2023	3	Y	Replacement, 1 more	<b>OPEN</b>	2026
<b>Stewardship</b>	<del>Presten, Dale</del>	2020	2024	3	Y	Replacement, 1 more	<b>OPEN (1 year)</b>	2024
	Thompson, Ralph	2022	2024	3	Y	Replacement, 2 more		
	Gates, John	2020	2025	3	Y	Replacement, 1 more	<b>OPEN (2 years)</b>	2025
	Peterson, Kristin	2019	2025	3	N	2 <sup>nd</sup> term		
	<del>Jan Hendricks</del>	2022	2023	3	Y	Replacement, 2 more	<b>OPEN</b>	2026
	<del>McDaniel, Mary</del>	2017	2023	3	N	Chair, 2 <sup>nd</sup> term	Janet Bolland	2026
<b>Witness and Membership</b>	Nelson, Mary	2022	2024	3	Y	Replacement		
	Garver, Nancy	2021	2024	3	Y	1 <sup>st</sup> term		
	Jones, Ashia	2022	2025	3	Y	1 <sup>st</sup> term	<b>OPEN (2 years)</b>	2025
	Taylor, Shirley	2022	2025	3	Y	1 <sup>st</sup> term		
	<del>Davis, Barbara</del>	2020	2023	3	Y	Decline 2 <sup>nd</sup> term	Dave Kelley	2026
	<del>Johnson, Steve</del>	2021	2023	3	Y	Decline 2 <sup>nd</sup> term	<b>OPEN</b>	2026
<b>Worship</b>	Hayes, Ardith	2019	2024	3	Y	Replacement, 1 more		
	<del>Thompson, Becky</del>	2018	2024	3	N	Resign	<b>OPEN (1 year)</b>	2024
	Orr, Elaine	2022	2025	3	Y	1 <sup>st</sup> term		
	McKibben, Jeanne	2021	2025	3	Y	Replacement, 1 more		
			2023	2023	1	n/a	No term limit	Carol Burke
<b>Conference Rep</b>			2023	1	n/a	No term limit	Carol Burke	2024
<b>Association Rep</b>			2023	1	n/a	No term limit	Carol Burke	2024

## Report of the Moderator

Anne Sprague  
2022 - 2023

As I look back on my first year as Moderator, I am overwhelmed by the things I have learned and what we as a congregation have accomplished. A year ago I wondered what challenges and joys we would encounter. Together we have faced our return from Covid, as we continue to weigh the safest ways to navigate being together for worship and for fellowship. We acknowledged our need for strategic planning for the future, to determine where we should go as we move First Church into the future. We faced our budgetary challenges, and yet continue to share our time, talent, and treasure generously. We find ways to give back to our community, to support those less fortunate than ourselves, to minister to our sisters and brothers. Although our discussions have been difficult, they have also been healthy and productive, a characteristic that is too often absent from our governance and society today. We studied our looming change in heating systems, and yet care for our environment by addressing our facility needs in the most sustainable and yet fiscally responsible ways possible.

As we tackle these daily challenges, we continue to look to the future of our beloved First Church and pose difficult questions to guide us. Who is First Church, who do we want to be, and why are we here? What is our vision for the future, our purpose, and our mission? How can we best continue to minister to our neighbors and each other? What is our role in our community? How can we meet our financial goals? Where will we be in 10 or 20 years? How should we work with each other to do the work of the church, even as we respect the time and energy of our members? And most importantly, how can First Church best feed our souls?

Our future can be what we make it: celebratory, vital, impactful, and meaningful. I look forward to continuing this journey into the future with you, looking for answers to these questions, and treasuring what we learn as we search for those answers.

Anne Sprague

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## 2023 Annual Report from the Clerk

2022 was an exciting and energizing year in many ways. We saw the post COVID reopening of our buildings and facilities to both the congregation and to the public. We discovered that conducting on-line services connected us to many new friends and that we'll need to continue this practice into our future. This in turn led to major new IT upgrades throughout the buildings. The congregation was moved to make a major financial contribution to POWER, and to pledge a substantial donation to OCS for projects to improve the quality of life for many in need in our community. A start was made toward determining how we wish to move forward using our outdoor spaces since the building renovation, with an eye to making First Church welcoming to all of the Oberlin Community.

However certainly the most urgent and time-consuming issue faced this year has been researching and discerning how best to restructure our heating system to be as environmentally responsible, financially doable, and durable as possible.

2022 has also been the year to review some of our past patterns of budget management and acknowledge that we need to make some changes in the way we do business. This comes at the time a Revisioning Process is also underway to look at restructuring committees and innovating new activities, and to determine what First Church needs to do, and how, to be the church we are called to be.

## Resolutions April 2022 – March 2023

**(2022-3) Resolved April 24**, to accept the report of the Nominating Committee as amended confirming appointments to the Standing Committees for May 2022 to May 2023.

Moved by Dennis Flood; Second by Gabe Stefanides. Passed unanimously.

**(2022-4) Resolved April 24**, that First Church endorses the payment of \$45,000 to POWER (Providing Oberlin With Efficiency Responsibly) to support a campaign to raise additional funding to support work undertaken by POWER to weatherize, improve and maintain homes that would otherwise be left in disrepair.

in favor; 1 opposed; 7 abstained. Motion passed.

**(2022-5) Resolved April 26**, to authorize Mike Schmid, Dave Scheufler and Gene Matthews to get several engineers' assessments of the heating requirements of the whole First Church Complex.

Moved by Carol Longsworth; Second by Anne Conway. Passed Unanimously

**(2022-6) Resolved, June 28**, to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee to use the Craig donation, after paying the rest of their 2022 pledge, to pay part of the loan debt from the Meeting House restoration project.

Moved by Anne Conway; Seconded by Gene Matthews; Passed unanimously.

**(2022-7) Resolved on August 30**, to accept Outreach and Service Committee's proposal to pledge \$10,000 this year and a minimum of \$4,000 for each of the next 4 years to Oberlin Community Service's Capital Campaign.

Moved by Ruth Ann Clark; Seconded by Anne Conway; Passed, with two abstentions due to conflict of interest concerns.

**(2022-8) Resolved November 22**, that \$24,000 of the minister's salary for 2023 be designated as a housing allowance.

Moved by Carol Longsworth; Seconded by Gene Matthews. Passed unanimously.

**(2023-1) Resolved January 29, 2023** to suspend, for one budget year, resolution (2017-08) stating that *the standard practice for determining the Benevolence allocation in the proposed annual budget be set at 20% of the anticipated pledges, plus the special offerings taken during the year (e.g. - One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, etc.)*.

**(2023-2) Resolved January 29, 2023** to suspend, for one year, resolution (2018-25) stating that *the amount given to Our Church's Wider Ministry [sic] (OCWM) is set, as recommended by Executive Council, at 7% or more of total budget*.

Motion by Anne Conway; Seconded by Nancy MacRae to approve these resolutions as amended. Passed with 3 abstentions and 1 nay.

**(2023-3) Resolved January 29, 2023** that the Benevolence allocation for the 2023 budget year be 10% of anticipated pledges, plus the special offerings taken during the year (e.g.-One Great Hour of Caring, Strengthen the Church etc.

Motion by Rollin Conway; Seconded by Jody Kerchner. Passed with 4 abstentions and 2 nays.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Prue Richards, Clerk

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## Christian Education/Faith Formation Committee Annual Report 2022 - 2023

The CE/FF Committee met on the first Thursdays of most months and consisted of the following members: Jen Bertoni, Faith Formation, Karyn Baumann, Chair, Kim Preston, JJ Schaum, Drew Wilburn, Val Kepner, William Vanderbilt, and Ruth Ann Clark - liaison to the Executive Council.

One of the big wins was securing 2 paid positions to help with childcare and Children's Church when needed. This allowed us to ensure a safe environment with 2 adults for our youth, and allowed coverage for Miranda to get some breaks. We also were able to once again proceed with family camp, which after a hiatus had over 50 participants this year, as well as welcoming back our pancake dinner for Shrove Tuesday.

Friday night hangs continued, and the new youth group room is starting to take shape, due in no small part to our youth, who cleaned, painted, and got the room starting to come to life as a welcoming space, while clearing out a lot of unused furniture. We also had the opportunity to create a welcoming and new space for our church library, with the support of donations from congregants.

We also helped support and put together events such as Messy Church, the Pumpkin Roll fundraiser and Christmas Pageant which had a lot of learning moments, as well as forging community across the generations. Volunteer activities with some of our other committees also were a success, as we look to branch out into more community faith-based activities.

Our committee also gave support to Jen Bertoni's idea of a weekly children's music session, in the hope that it would give a safe space and break to parents and welcome in interested, non First Church neighbors in hopes that they could get a sense of our church and mission.

We are still trying to help navigate our safe child policy for the church, as well as what we, in partnership with the Outreach committee, will be able to provide in terms of monetary support, for summer camp, as this budget line was removed from our budget and given to Outreach, along with Family camp for the following year.

We also are working on trying to provide better guidance with adult education; we have had some success with guest speakers, but still are working through what role we should be providing and what is needed here.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karyn Baumann, past chair

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## Facilities Committee

The Facilities Committee has been very busy with tasks both large and small. The following is a list of projects from the last 12 months:

- Yearly maintenance on the slate roof of the Meeting House. Several small repairs and 2 large.
  - With yearly maintenance the roof has many serviceable years remaining.
- Grade & Seed the Courtyard (completion of the sewer replacement project).
- Washer and Dryer installed in the undercroft restroom.
- Asphalt repairs to the driveway and parking areas (partial sewer work, partial upkeep).
- Storm and Screen window exchanges in the Meeting house windows.
- Parking and traffic signs added to the property.
- Podium step modifications (for easier use).
- New bulkhead doors required removal and better painting by the original manufacturer.

- 2 fire alarms (1 caused by dust on a smoke sensor, 1 caused by burnt food).
- Sidewalk leveling: the rear sidewalk, full length, 3 slabs by the main doors.
- Volunteers coordinated for weeding the flower beds.
- Tree Trimming (limited to deadwood and safety concerns).
- JFO A/C repair.
- Parking lot was re-lined.
- Minor plumbing repairs (faucet and snake a drain).
- Undercroft/Rocket room initial clean-up and removal of unused furniture.

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### **Fellowship Committee Annual Report 2022 - 2023**

Like the rest of the world, the Fellowship Committee has gradually begun emerging from the covid pandemic. In May 2022, Sandy Matthews provided a reception for the Finney Tent Society. We have been experimenting with a new way of doing coffee hour following the church service. We are asking church members to sign up to be coffee hour hosts as families, couples, partners, friends. We are asking for a commitment to host coffee hour two or three times throughout the year. The Committee has been encouraging the return to coffee hour by hosting several coffee hours and welcoming anyone and everyone to help out and learn how easy it is to host, including: Welcome Back coffee hour in September, coffee hours throughout Advent, and Epiphany coffee hour in January 2023. February saw the return of the Everybody's Birthday Potluck Luncheon. This event was well attended with delicious and abundant food provided by all participants.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Colson

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### **Finance Committee Report 2022 - 2023**

2022 was a difficult financial year for the church largely thanks to poor stock market performance.

Here are several financial observations gathered by our Treasurer:

We are a generous church – generous to ourselves and to others. We have an excellent and well-paid staff. We have a large facility, many spaces newly renovated; these are often used by members of the community as well as church members. Our church services are enriched by musical contributions from Choral Scholars and other guest musicians, and by occasional guest preachers. Our programs include youth and family camp offerings which are strongly subsidized by the church. Our formal outreach program, funded at 20% of pledges and supplemented by four special offerings annually donated \$78,000 to worthy organizations in 2022. An additional special grant of \$45,000 was made to POWER, as approved by the congregation at our Annual Spring Meeting.

This generosity is not inexpensive. For many years we have drawn money from our investments to add to our annual sources of income, primarily pledges, in order to balance the budget. Church policy and budget planning practice call for withdrawing about 4½% of the average investment total, an amount that financial experts generally agree is sustainable over the long run. But in recent years, we have made additional withdrawals, often even larger than this amount, to prevent budget deficits at year end. Total withdrawals from our investments have been in the range of 8% to 10% in many recent years.



Our endowment has survived this largess and even grown, primarily because the stock market has had a long run of above-average performance, returning increases in the same range as our withdrawals. In addition, a group of generous bequests in recent years have added to the endowment.

In 2022, the market stopped playing nice. Generous growth was replaced by recession – growth in the range of 10% was replaced by contraction of about 20%. While we balanced the budget, as we must, we ended the year with our assets reduced by nearly \$500,000 over the beginning of the year. The much more austere budget for 2023, and reviews underway of our goals and finances, reflect the need to learn and respond to the lessons of this unhappy financial year.

We should give ourselves credit for some significant positives, as well. We did balance the budget. We donated \$123,000 to the larger community. With monthly payments and a generous bequest, we reduced our Cornerstone loan for our renovation project from \$350,000 to \$220,000. And with payments of long-term pledges for the Campaign for the Future, we reduced the deficit of that account from \$250,000 to \$130,000.

As with all functions of our faith family, the work of the Finance Committee is reliant upon an army of volunteers and workers. I offer profound thanks to the committee members (including Anne Conway, Bill Hamilton, Gene Matthews, Mike Schmid, and Pete Richards (Treasurer).); to our Moderator, Anne Sprague, who attended our meetings; to our Financial Secretary, Miranda Schaum; and to our Bookkeeper, Tom Taylor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Schaum

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### **An Update on Our Neighbors from Guatemala Provided by the Oberlin Community Supporting Immigrants**

Maria, Manolo, and their two children, Emilia (5) and Alexa (2.5), who are living in our Undercroft, are adjusting wonderfully to life in the U.S. Maria and Manolo are very energetic and are highly motivated individuals. They will have no problems securing work once they obtain their work permits from Immigration and Naturalization. Stephen Volk is working assiduously with a pro-bono immigration lawyer to obtain these work permits.

Maria has a strong interest and talent in cooking and the restaurant business, while Manolo has substantial experience in Guatemala in driving heavy trucks. Both Maria and Manolo are also drawn to gardening. Last year they worked a plot at the Community Gardens at the old legion Field, where they grew tomatoes, beans, squash, potatoes, and cilantro. They are eager to plant a garden again this year.

Viviana and her daughter, Luciana, are also doing well. They are living at 73 North Pleasant St. with Viviana's father and aunt. Viviana also has work experience in the restaurant business and, like Maria, she will have no problem securing a job once she receives her work permit.

Viviana, Maria, and Manolo contributed substantially to the variety and quantity of food recently served at the Guatemalan Dinner, the traditional SEPA fundraising event. Maria, with Manolo's help, cooked 185 chicken tamales, a vegetable beef stew called Hilacha, tortillas for 150 guests, and a hot beverage made with rice and milk. Viviana and her family contributed chicken tacos ("tinga"), black beans, and chow mein, which is an increasingly popular dish in Guatemala.

Both families, including the children, are making significant progress in learning English. Oberlin College students Nathaniel Coben, Phoebe Brown, and OPS SITES teacher, Julia Thomas, along with Kendal residents Anne Lockwood, Ann Francis, and Shirley Taylor have provided English language instruction. Oberlin College student, Jonah Barber, and Lilly McFarland, an Oberlin resident,

have provided childcare while the adults are studying English. If you have an interest in providing English language instruction and/or childcare, please let Linda Gates know of your interest.

All three children are moving ahead educationally. In the fall, the older children will enroll in the Oberlin Public Schools: Emilia (5) will move from Pre-K to Kindergarten, and Luciana (4) will leave Kendal Early Learning Center to enter Pre-K. Alexa (2.5) will begin classes at the Kendal Early Learning Center in May. Emilia will participate in "Safety Town" in June and both Emilia and Luciana will participate in the Oberlin City Summer Recreation Program, which begins in late June and runs through July, a period of six weeks.

Anne Elder, Becky Thompson, and John Gates are providing transportation to and from Kendal for Luciana Monday-Friday.

Oberlin Community Supporting Immigrants (OCSI) in an effort to extend its reach recently provided funds in the amount of \$1,500 dollars to assist a Honduran family living in Oberlin to halt a deportation order. The lawyer was successful in this effort, but due to a miscommunication between the lawyer and the family, the family relocated out of the Oberlin area. Also, OCSI provided \$1,000 dollars to an immigrant family in Lorain who were in arrears with their utility bill because the breadwinner in the family had been injured and could not work.

In summary, OCSI feels very positive about the work we are doing with the two Guatemalan families and the financial help we have been able to provide for two other immigrant families. We value the support of First Church and the Oberlin community. This lived commitment of OCSI, First Church, and the Oberlin community follows the tradition of providing support and hospitality to those in need: the abolitionist stance in the pre-Civil War period, the welcoming over many decades of refugees and immigrants from Russia, Germany, Vietnam, Ethiopia, and Romania, and providing a safe-haven for 25 individuals from Central America who were en route on the "Overground Railroad" to a refugee resettlement program in Canada.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Gates, OCSI Board Member

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### **Outreach and Service Committee 2022 – 2023 Annual Report**

First Church contributed \$123,616.45 to organizations and individuals engaged in progressive social action endeavors.

Of this, First Church contributed \$35,000 to the UCC's Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM). Locally, recipients of benevolences included Oberlin Community Services, Oberlin Heritage Center, Ruby N. Jones Scholarship Fund, and Oberlin Kids. At the county level donations included El Centro, HOLA, Lorain County Free Clinic, Neighborhood Alliance, Good Knights of Lorain County, Genesis House, and Second Harvest. State entities included Ohioans to Stop Executions and Cleveland Jobs with Justice. National benevolences included multiple donations for disaster relief that were provided throughout the year. International donations were made to SEPA Guatemala and Ukrainian Aid through the UCC.

In addition, special offerings were collected and made to One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and the Christmas Fund. For all these special offerings, we worked extremely hard to promote these offerings to the congregation to try and get back to our pre-pandemic amounts that we were collecting and sending for each of the offerings. We got very close this year, with a total from all four of them in 2022 of \$8,241.

The Outreach and Service Committee also worked very hard to create a recommendation about what to do with the remaining PPP money of \$22,500. We recommended that it should be given to POWER. At the last April Annual meeting, the congregation decided to approve that it would be sent to POWER and to double the amount to \$45,000.

In the summer, Outreach and Service was approached about making a pledge to Oberlin Community Services for their capital campaign. This was a difficult decision that only came from multiple meetings, then the committee gave a recommendation to the Executive Council, who then approved our recommendation. Our plan is that we gave \$10,000 towards their campaign, in addition to our regular donations to them in 2022, then \$4,000 for the four years afterwards (2023 – 2026) with the stipulation that whatever money we have “extra” at the end of our fiscal year, we will also donate towards their capital campaign. This is for a total of \$26,000, minimum. In 2022, we were also able to give an extra \$1,129 towards their campaign.

In the late winter and early spring of 2022, Outreach and Service took a survey from the congregation to determine who our congregation donates to (monetarily, in-kind, etc.). Thanks to this, we can guide our decisions about who we donate to best reflect the congregation’s values and desires.

We continue to work on updating our Outreach and Service bulletin board down by Fellowship Hall. Unfortunately, since we’re juggling so many things, it isn’t as updated as we’d like, but we’re continuously working on it.

Throughout the year, we promoted various volunteer and donation opportunities to the congregation and wider community.

Outreach and Service once again partnered with Worship Committee during Advent to give the option of a “Red Bow” (where a red bow would be put on the Giving Tree in the Meeting House in honor or memory of someone and the money donated for that was sent directly to Oberlin Community Services) in place of a poinsettia. This was promoted for many weeks, and we ended up sending \$478 to OCS.

This year, First Church once again partnered with Oberlin Community Services to encourage the congregation to generously provide gifts and winter-weather clothing (mittens, hats, scarves, etc.) for a child(ren) in a family(ies) for Christmas through the Holiday Helping Hands program. The church then went on to also provide each family with a \$100 OBP Gift Certificate (which could be used at many businesses in Oberlin).

We also were able to provide several organizations and individuals with reduced or (in many cases) completely waived fees for the renting of the facility. Some of these included the Mobile Senior Program and multiple organizations’ various meetings.

In addition, we promoted and hosted various fund raisers this year including the Back-to-School Drive for Oberlin Community Services, the Oberlin Weekday Community Meals Concert, and the Empty Mugs concert for Oberlin Community Services.

Even though we did the promoting, the members of the congregation are the ones who put time and effort into these worthy causes. For that, we thank you!

At the last congregational meeting, there was an important decision made that the Outreach budget would be cut in half for 2023 only (going from 20% of pledges down to 10%) and that more budget lines would have to be funded by this 10%. Due to this, we’ve been having to make very harsh decisions about who we will donate to this year and how much we plan on donating to them.

We were able to maintain our obligations, and are in the process of putting together a letter to send to the organizations we partner with that we aren’t able to give our “usual” amount(s) to, explaining that this is a temporary situation for this year and asking if there is any non-monetary way we can be benevolent towards their organization.

Due to this, the committee is very willing to hear any suggestions the congregation has on how we can replace our monetary donations for a few organizations (e.g., setting up an “assembly line” for hygiene kits for Oberlin Community Services) for 2023 only.

Respectfully submitted,  
Miranda Schaum

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## Stewardship Committee Report Update: 2022 Campaign for 2023 Pledges

Members of the Stewardship Committee for 2022-2023 are: Rollin Conway, Chairperson, Tom Taylor, Secretary, John Gates, Kristin Peterson, Dale Preston, and Ralph Thompson; Linda Slocum is the liaison from the Executive Council. Financial Secretary, Miranda Schaum, and Treasurer, Pete Richards, have helped provide data for this report, and have been invaluable resources throughout the year. It is possible that we will receive additional pledges for 2023. If you have not yet turned in your pledge for 2023, please do so as soon as possible.

As always, our faithful financial support for the new year's operating budget will enable the success of our most important ministries. Every gift to the operating budget helps preserve the First Church endowment by minimizing the amount withdrawn to close the gap between our income and expenses.

Year	Amount Pledged	# of Pledges	# of New Pledges	# of Increased Pledges	# of Same as Previous Year Pledges	# of Decreased Pledges
<b>2023</b>	<b>\$316,429</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>\$312,701</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>\$272,441</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>\$279,776</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>\$303,671</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>8</b>
2018	\$294,122	100	14	53	25	8
2017	\$303,859	103	6	50	35	12
2016	\$299,165	103	5	37	40	21
2015	\$302,821	105	14	45	33	13

Thank you for responding so generously to the request to increase your pledges for 2023. At our Congregational Meeting in January, we wrestled with the hard realities of our congregation's current unsustainable financial situation. In addition to amending the budget before it was adopted, the Stewardship Committee was asked to urge everyone to consider increasing their pledge. To date, 31 people have responded to the challenge by raising an additional \$20,600. Your very generous response will help the congregation maintain its excellent mission and ministry throughout the year while the Executive Council leads us in a process to reevaluate and redefine our most urgent and critical ministry as we prepare ourselves for our future.

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## Report of the Witness & Membership Committee

As First Church began to gradually open, in person attendance at services began to increase. Members of the Witness & Membership committee regularly welcome members and visitors. Covid restrictions have eased enough that the committee was able to host an Inquirer's event in the Fall. We were able to welcome Aleta Duey and Kathleen Bradley into our church family in November. Both of them have been involved in various church activities so have seemed like members already but I'm sure we'll get to know each of them better at coffee fellowship, in-person meetings and church events.

The W & M committee recognized a need to make Advent daily devotionals available to all members. Nancy Garver delivered them to First Church members at Kendal but all persons attending church were able to pick one up at the Welcome Table. Because the Advent devotionals were so well received, we provided daily devotionals for Lent and Eastertide as well.

Committee members have continued to try to keep in touch with those unable to attend services in-person through notes, emails and phone calls. In addition, members try to keep in touch with those experiencing an illness, operation, death in the family or recognize a joy to celebrate.

Committee member Ken Cheek has kept the Kendal Fellowship in operation this year. It gives First Church members at Kendal a chance to get together for lunch with each other and with Pastor David Hill. It provides a great opportunity for Kendal folks to ask questions and find out what is going on at First Church and the wider denomination.

Just before Lent, it was suggested that we make a book mark listing the services and events taking place at First Church during the season of Lent. These were placed in the pews on consecutive Sundays as a reminder for members and as a way of “evangelizing” by having members share them with friends and neighbors. A smaller one has been created to publicize First Church’s part in The Big Parade and the First Church Open House for the community to see the completed renovations for our building. A tour of the church facility and introduction to the workings of the church organ will be an integral part of this Open House.

Marci Peterson with help from the church manager and David Hill continues to be the head of Called to Care. There is in-person contact with folks but Marci is faithful in emailing folks on the Called to Care and W & M committees for prayer requests.

As I step down as member and chair of the Witness & Membership Committee, I want you all to know that I have truly enjoyed serving. It has been a joy to work with all the committee members: Ken Cheek (Executive Council liaison), Jan Hendricks and Shirley Taylor (who both served as secretary), Mary Nelson and our staff person David Hill. I am grateful for their commitment as well as their many contributions and faithfulness. The term for both Jan Hendricks and me is completed. Thank you, Jan!

As the new committee Year begins, it is the mission of the Witness and Membership Committee to welcome and support new members and participants and to deepen one’s understanding and sharing of faith. I offer my personal prayers and best wishes as the committee moves to the next church year.

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### **Worship Committee Annual Report:**

April 10, 2023, bst

The Worship Committee and larger Worship Team: David Hill, Pastor; Thomas Bandy, Organist and Director of Music; Jen Bertoni, Director of Faith Formation; Carol Longsworth, Executive Counsel Liaison; Prue Richards, Ad Hoc; Ardith Hayes, Jeanne McKibben, Stephen Johnson, Elaine Orr, Barbara Davis, Co/chair; and Becky Thompson, Co/chair.

We welcomed two new committee members this year – Steve Johnson and Elaine Orr.

Steve completed the final year of a member’s term who stepped down from the committee,

and Elaine joined the committee to begin a full term of office. Both people have brought new energy, ideas, and committed follow-through to our committee. We have been glad you are here! In addition, I believe that our total Worship Team has been edified by the awareness, caring, and guidance of our more experienced members.

We have participated in brief check-ins and prayer at the beginning of each Worship Committee meeting. I trust that both processes have helped us focus on loving and serving God and on caring about each other and our congregation: I have experienced our team as being increasingly team-oriented and effective as we have planned, participated in, and supported each other in participating in worship-related ideas.

We have met for a meeting every month except July, at which time we celebrated by having a potluck dinner at Becky Thompson's house – friends, fun, and yummy!

Our service has included, among other things –

- Establishing a rotation for taking meeting minutes,
- Consistently and actively participating with David and Tom in planning for fall, Advent and Christmas, and Lent and Easter worship,
- Consistently and actively reflecting on worship services,
- Supporting congregants during Advent in purchasing poinsettias and in giving gifts to help meet the needs of our community's members,
- Attending a meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup> with General Minister Nayiri Karjian, General Minister, which focused on The Governance Structure of Congregations,
- Participating in a planning retreat, and following through in inviting, securing, and keeping contact with persons who were to fill the pulpit on 6.26.22 (Ruth Ann Clark,), 9.25.22 (Francesca Barbee and her children), and 10.30.22 (Jeanne McKibben and the Green Team) when David was not preaching.
- Reviewing, modifying, and submitting the Worship Committee Budget Proposal for 2023,
- Collaborating with others in planning for and securing Easter Flowers,
- Serving as Liturgists during worship,
- Assisting in preparation for communion and in clean-up following it,
- Offering a moment of mission,
- Co-creating a Worship Committee and Worship Co/Chair/Chair Reference Document,
- Serving as Advocates/Liaisons for three Service/Ministry Teams – Ushering, Meeting House Preparations, and Liturgy,
- Securing, supporting, and guiding a new Communion Team.

Several members of our Worship Team have shared reflections on our process, what we have accomplished, and aspects of worship that have been highlights for them. Their reflections follow.

**Barbara Davis, co/chair, reflections:**

“The committee has worked effectively this year as a team: Planning the speakers for the times David is here but not preaching. We each took a Sunday with the suggested speaker, called the person, the date was set. This project took much less time to complete but was well done.

The Worship Committee Reference Document is very helpful. Even though it will change a little as committee duties change it is very helpful in stating the responsibilities we have as a committee.

Asking committee members what services they would like to work with David in the planning phase was effective.

Christmas Decorations went much better this year than last. Good communication between Prue and the committee members who said they would follow the project through-from beginning to end.

Having a minute taking schedule was helpful. Everyone had at least two opportunities to take minutes and it became a team shared responsibility.

Dinner at Becky Thompson's home was wonderful and certainly continued to move us forward as a team. We got to know each other on a more personal level."

**Additional Worship Team members' reflections:**

"Attendance in person in Worship again."

"Advent – quiet reflection at beginning of services. David's reading of John Chapter 1. Our church as a place of care – (healing) – Jesus as well as our church family. The music."

"We are coming back after the COVID years of 2020-2021. I feel a stronger spirituality in the Meeting House and hope we can use this re-found enthusiasm in positive ways. Music has always been an important part of the worship experience and has been especially good this year."

"Meaningful Advent experience that was prayerful (not overloaded with special activities) – It had continuity."

"Strength of Committee – Spirit of openness, sharing, support – especially in seasonal worship planning. Getting a handle on the various "housekeeping" responsibilities of the committee. Potluck. Pumpkin pie!"

As the committee goes forward, I note what I consider to be a couple of growing edges: One relates to working on the section in the Worship Committee Reference Document, *Working with the Pastor and Director of Music in Planning for Worship*. The other growing edge we have discussed:

It includes developing a Greeting Team to greet congregants on Sunday Morning. I am sure that our Worship Team will be imagining and participating in many new ventures.

I am grateful for who we are, who we are becoming, and what we have accomplished these past three-plus years and this year in particular. I thank our church and our Worship Team for trusting and helping me serve you as chair and as co/chair. It has been good.

I am grateful.

I am cheering you and am confidently anticipating that you will be experience increasing renewal, excitement, creativity, and faithfulness as you together go forward. I am stepping down as co/chair, with fondness, appreciation, and confident expectations for you and your good work.

Respectfully submitted,  
Becky Thompson, Co/chair

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**PASTOR'S REPORT 2022-2023**

*"Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?" "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat. "I don't much care where—" said Alice. "Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the Cat. "—so long as I get somewhere," Alice added as an explanation. "Oh, you're sure to do that," said the Cat, "if you only walk long enough."*

(Alice and the Cheshire Cat, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Lewis Carroll)

"Where do we go from here?" The pandemic turned our world, our lives, and our understanding of what it means to be the church upside down. As I stated in my Easter message, "We're in some new already/not yet existence where everything we once thought we knew seems up for grabs – particularly when it comes to being the church." In this time some are calling "post, post-COVID,"

reorienting ourselves and regaining our sea legs as the Church sails into uncharted waters raises the additional question “What does it mean to be the Church today?”

This is not a new question but one the Church has had to repeatedly ask itself since the apostles first began to form what we now know as Christianity. Perhaps one of the most significant critiques of the Church over the centuries has been that it hasn’t posed this question often enough. In between significant moments of reformation, the Church has been content to continue doing “business as usual” far beyond a particular mode of being’s expiration date. When this happens, the Church becomes increasingly disconnected from the very people it is called to serve. COVID came to us uninvited and unwelcome, forcing us to rethink all that we thought we knew about being the Church. In the process, tragic as it was, we were and continue to be offered the opportunity to rebirth the Church for a new age.

One place this opportunity is already unfolding is in the ways we carry out the work of First Church through our governance structure. The Nominating Committee, despite the hard work and dedication of its members, has struggled to fill openings on our various committees. As I write this report it will almost certainly be the case that the congregation will be presented with an incomplete slate of nominees when we gather for a Regular Meeting on April 30. It may seem paradoxical that at the very moment First Church is awakening from its post-COVID doldrums and experiencing renewed energy for its mission and ministry, the Nominating Committee’s work has become so challenging. The inability to fully populate standing committees, however, simply reflects that how we’ve previously “done” Church no longer aligns with how folks are feeling called to “do” Church today.

Several of our committees have already committed to trying out different ways of carrying out the work of the church (e.g., as needed or quarterly meetings, enlisting non-committee members for well-defined projects and tasks). It is my hope that we will all participate in a good deal of experimentation in the year ahead. There are sure to be some failures and disappointments but also wonderful and unexpected discoveries that will enrich the life of First Church and better serve the needs of the wider community. I don’t know about you, but I can’t think of a better group of folks to engage in such an endeavor!

As the Cheshire Cat reminds us, “Every adventure requires a first step.” Determining where to point that first step can make the difference between a meaningful journey and mindless roaming. In the gospel song “Order My Steps” the singer expresses the desire to “to walk worthy my calling to fulfill.” Fundamental to how we engage in being the church is opening ourselves to God’s direction and discerning who God is calling us to be and become. Who are we? What is our vision for being the Church today, 5 years from now, 10 years from now? Can we articulate this vision clearly and succinctly? How does this vision translate into, direct, and drive our mission and ministry? Under the leadership of Anne Conway, a visioning task group has been gathered to enable the entire congregation to engage in discerning God’s particular calling for our church at this time.

Here again, there are lessons from our COVID experiences that can prove helpful. First Church in particular, and the Oberlin community in general, struggle with a lack of focus. We take on too many things with the result that the meaningful, lasting change we seek too often eludes us. For the church, this over-striving reflects a fundamentally flawed theology: a lack of trust in God’s providence. God does not call us individually or collectively to do everything; God calls us to do some things and to do them well. A parishioner once passed along some sage advice that I have posted on the wall by my computer monitor: “Saying ‘No’ to one thing means saying ‘Yes’ to something else more fully.” A well-focused vision statement will help us discern when to say ‘No’ and when to say ‘Yes’; it will allow us to give our “Yes” its fullest expression.

As the Cheshire Cat told Alice, striking out on a journey without a sense of where you would like to end up will certainly land you somewhere; it may not, however, get you where you’d like to be, or, in



the case of the church, where God is calling you to go. Let us discern together God's call at this time for The First Church in Oberlin, United Church of Christ and answer that call with a resounding "Yes!"

Grace and Peace,  
David

### **Community, College, and Wider Church Involvement:**

**Firelands Program District** (Lorain County): UCC Clergy Group

**Living Water Association:** Community of Practice; Committee on Ministry, Chair; Oversight Working Group

**Heartland Conference:** Member, Antiracism Network; Member, Fitness Review Response Team

**Lorain County** – Member, Race Forward Planning Committee of the Lorain County Racial Equity Center

**City of Oberlin** – Climate Adaptation Task Force; Oberlin Community Services: Rental Policy Task Group.

**Oberlin Business Partnership,** Board Member

### **Annual Report 2023 - Faith Formation Director**

What a difference a year makes! The past twelve months have been a period of change and discovery as we lived into the return of a fully in-person program of Faith Formation. We are still learning what parts of our pre-pandemic programming need to return, and what can and should adapt in light of our changing needs and resources.

For example, in May we held an End-of-Year Coffee Hour, instead of a picnic, and thanked all of our Children's Church and Sunday School teachers for their time and effort. We also said goodbye and thank-you to Mary Ann Kershaw, whose children's music ministry brightened the lives of so many members of the church.

Last spring also marked the beginning of William Vanderbilt's work leading Bible Studies after church during the past year. William led a general biblical survey called "The World's Most Read Book," and several other studies on shorter books of the bible. Many thanks to William for being willing to share his knowledge with us!

We sent eight children to Temple Hills this year for camp, and also helped subsidize trips for two of our youth to Colorado with Federated UCC in Chagrin Falls. I was also able to travel last summer with the Oberlin ASP group to Harlan, Kentucky, and see firsthand the impact of that ministry on both the workers and the community we were helping.

Our Summer Camp subsidies came in slightly over budget, which presented an opportunity for me to learn more about how the Finance committee wants the various budget lines to operate. In the longer term, it started a dialogue with the Finance and Outreach and Service Committees which resulted in the camp budget lines migrating to Outreach and Service. This created a few technical hurdles this spring with camp registration, but it looks like this will work well going forward.

We held Summer Storytime in person this summer - for the first time in my tenure! We did books focusing on LGBTQ+ issues this June, and then switched to books about environmental issues for July and August.

Our Reading Room Task force was also created last summer: many thanks to Margaret-Ann Ellis, Linda Slocum, Shirley Taylor, Sue Simonson, and Robert Longworth for their work shepherding this

project through to completion! We edited the collection, donated books that we didn't need to keep, organized what we had left, and chose furniture to create a warm and welcoming space. We also created policies for checking out books, and for managing donations to the space. The new Reading Room is currently being used multiple times during the week, including for our new Faith Studies Reading Group, which started meeting this winter. The next project for that room will be filling the file cabinet with resources on various topics (mental health resources, reproductive health options, LGBTQ+ organizations, green justice resources, etc) for community use.

I spent some time this summer interviewing other Christian Educators and Youth Directors across the Living Water Association in the hopes of creating a Faith Formation event for the Heartland Conference in February on a topic of interest to the people doing the work on the ground. Based on the conversations we had, I suggested a conference based on sharing curriculum resources. The Conference, called "Curriculum Connections," was held this February in the Columbus area, with attendees from across the Heartland Conference. Our plenary sessions included presentations from Debbie Gline-Allen, Thom Bower, and Marian Plant, as well as panel discussions about Faith Formation in Congregations of Color and Accessibility issues in Faith Formation.

In July, we decided that the Youth Fellowship Room needed to move out of the Undercroft space, which is being used by OCSI, and into the former Rocket Room. An initial furniture move happened in August, and the Youth have spent their fellowship time this year gradually working on the space. It has been a lot of work, but the effort is paying off, and we plan to have the revamped Rocket Room ready by May's Festive Showcase.

As the program year started, we welcomed Ariana Daney and Sydney Paunan to our childcare staff, with Miranda Schaum continuing in that ministry. Childcare has been both consistently available, and consistently needed, this program year, with Rooms 1 & 2 both being used weekly. Children's Church re-started in Room 3. Although a Confirmation class was planned, we learned parents and students were not yet ready for that experience, so instead we had Faith Formation experiences as part of the Sunday Night Youth Group experiences.

Our Adult Ed program year kicked off in the fall with a study of Brian McLaren's [Do I Stay Christian?](#) on Wednesday nights. On Sundays William Vanderbilt continued his Bible studies with presentations on Philemon, Obadiah, Jude and Haggai, interspersed with presentations by Margie Flood of OCS and an introduction to Wilda Gafney's Women's Lectionary, which we started using for worship this Advent.

Our Christmas Pageant also reflected our use of the Women's Lectionary, as it focused on the story of Susannah and the Elders, and how that related to Mary and Joseph's predicament and leap of faith in the Nativity narrative. Because of the unusual story, I ended up writing the pageant rather than finding one already-made.

In lieu of an Advent Workshop, we had a "Messy Church" experience in the Fellowship Hall, complete with a meal - and handmade pretzels! This experience, like the Messy Church in July, was well-received, and we learn new things each time we do these intergenerational worship experiences. I hope to find new ways to expand this way of doing church and invite families from the community to join us for these experiences!

In January, we were - finally - able to return to Family Camp after our COVID hiatus. We were in a different building than in previous years, which took some adjustments, but the weekend seemed to go well, and people seemed to really appreciate the ability to be together in that sacred space.

In February, we launched a Parent and Child Music and Movement Class on Thursday mornings. Attendance has been small, but growing! I'm hoping to continue to advertise and attract new visitors over the summer. Our Adult Ed offerings in the spring included a talk from Rev. Dr. Brooks Berndt,

the National UCC's Minister for Environmental Justice, a presentation from Liyana Asmar of Genesis House, a presentation on church safety, and a Lenten series on Spiritual Practices.

Also in February, we were able to bring back the much-beloved Pancake Dinner. This was the last of our youth group's activities to return post-COVID. We learned quite a bit from holding our first one, and will use those lessons to make next year's event more profitable! We also had a rollerskating event the day before the dinner and used the time after skating to set up the room for the dinner, which helped immensely with logistics.

All in all, it was a productive year where we were able to return to some sense of normalcy post-COVID, while continuing to innovate in our use of the spaces and resources the church provides. Many thanks to all who have volunteered in the ministry this program year - whether as teachers, chaperones, book evaluators, or pretzel makers - I appreciate all that the members of this church do for our Faith Formation programs!

Respectfully submitted,  
Jen Bertoni

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### **Report of the Heating System Committee to the Congregation**

#### **Why do we have to change our heating system?**

In February of 2020 Oberlin College informed us that they were planning to abandon their coal and natural gas generated, distributed steam system in favor of a geothermal distributed hot water system. Since our facilities have been supplied with college steam since the early 1980's the College offered us the opportunity to connect to the hot water system.

#### **What was the process to make this decision?**

A team was formed that included Pastor Hill, Mike Schmid (Moderator), David Scheufler (Chair of Facilities), Peter Richards (Treasurer), and Gene Matthews. In 2022 Anne Sprague joined the team as the Moderator. This team has met several times with the representatives of Evergreen Energy, the Energy Consultants, and the College. We discussed multiple options for First Church but settled on three possibilities as most appropriate for our circumstances.

The three options were:

1. All distributed hot water supply.
2. A "hybrid" system which would utilize the College's hot water to heat the Gallery, the James Brand House, and the 1967 Addition. A separate gas fired steam boiler would supply steam to the Meeting House.
3. A stand-alone gas fired boiler system to provide heat to the whole facility

After examining the church's existing infrastructure, Evergreen calculated what the church's "heat load" would be. Their examination generated an estimate of the size and cost of converting our heating system to the hot water supply. A report was given to us which provided their calculations and cost estimates.

In addition to the Capital costs of installation, Evergreen Energy estimated our annual heating costs much higher than we have historically experienced.

Based upon our knowledge of the facilities and the recent energy conservation improvements during the renovations we felt that their estimates were incorrect. It was decided that we would hire our own mechanical engineering firm to do an in-depth assessment of the facility heating requirements. We hired Wright Engineering, from Akron, to complete this assessment.

We also asked the engineering firm to provide alternative options to the proposed hot water system and their estimated costs.

### **What other options were considered?**

**Electric Boilers** – after consulting with the engineers this option was rejected because electric boilers require more maintenance and aren't as reliable as gas boilers.

**Low Temperature Heat Pumps** – This option was considered for the Meeting House. We again turned to Wright Engineering to determine:

- A. Was our electric service large enough to support the system?
- B. Was a Heat Pump System affordable.

The results of the study were that:

- A. Our electrical service could support the system, but we would have no capacity for future loads.
- B. Because of the required size of the system, it would cost \$700,000 which is prohibitively expensive.

### **What do the various options cost?**

**Evergreen Energy's** initial estimate for the All Distributed Hot Water System was \$1,350,000.

This option was rejected due to the high cost.

The Hybrid model went through several iterations before the final cost was determined.

The most recent estimate for the Hybrid System is \$300,000.

**Wright Engineering** estimated the costs for two options using boilers:

**Option 1: Stand-alone Boilers:** Two boilers to provide steam for the whole facility (replacing the College's steam service.

Cost: \$275,000

**Option 2: Hybrid System Boilers.** Install slightly smaller boilers to feed only the Meeting House.

Cost: \$217,000

It is important to remember that there is a \$300,000 additional cost for the distributed hot water from the College.

### **The final estimated costs are:**

**Hybrid Model** using distributed hot water and a steam boiler for the MH; **\$517,000**

**Stand alone steam boilers** to connect to existing church heating infrastructure: **\$275,000**

**Wright Engineering** also estimates our annual heating costs, for the stand alone boiler option, at approximately \$12,000 per year.

Based upon these final cost estimates the committee recommends to the Executive Council the stand-alone boiler option. Given that these estimates are almost 2 years old we recommend adding an inflationary increase and engineering design costs which brings the preliminary *estimated budget* amount to \$325,000.