



**Greenbelt Community Church  
United Church of Christ**

# **Annual Report 2024**

**Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ**  
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**Agenda**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**Greenbelt Community Church United Church of Christ**  
**January 19, 2025**

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation
3. Approval of the Minutes from the January 2024 Annual Meeting
4. Adoption of Reports from Boards and Committees
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Adoption of Budget for 2025
7. Report of the Nominating Committee and Approval of Slate of Nominees
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. Announcements
11. Adjournment

**MY NOTES**

## Minutes of Annual Church Meeting

January 21, 2024

Call to Order: 11:45 a.m.

Opening Prayer: Led by Reverend Young.

Declaration of a Quorum: Moderator C. Bellamy announced a quorum based on attendance sign-in sheets.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2023 Meeting: No changes were proposed. A motion to approve was made (K. Johnson) and seconded (M. Granfors-Hunt). The motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of the Reports of Boards and Committees: No changes were proposed. A motion to adopt the reports was made (S. Isler) and seconded (K. Johnson). The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: (J. Miers). He referred to pages in the annual report. Balances in our accounts are up by \$53,000. Missions donations based on fundraising have been "impressive" as fundraising has doubled. Pastoral compensation is under budget as Rev. Young does not require all of the offered benefits. Operating expenses are where they should be, and the cost of fuel oil has moderated. Taxes are up to date.

Questions were answered: Are there ways to get wealthier by growing our money? (Referred to the Trustees for discussion but members are encouraged to suggest particular investments.) A member requested that our money be kept locally. A member suggested we invest in Cornerstone funds as they are used for church expansion. A member suggested we shop around for better rates of return on our investments.

Adoption of the Budget: J. Miers explained the items in the budget and how figures were derived. Pledges and gifts amounts were based on the giving during the previous year. Income amounts are the expected rents from the Montessori school and the Seventh Day Adventist congregation based on what they paid in 2023. The Pastoral Search Committee has money allotted to spend at their discretion. The budget reflects a 5% increase for both Sian and Wei Der. Money budgeted for the Board of Congregational Life has increased and that of the Board of Worship has decreased slightly.

Many questions from the members were answered. Members asked about what banking fees are assessed (from Tithely and the checking account), will moving costs of the chosen pastoral candidate be paid (\$1000 is budgeted but an amount can be negotiated), do we expect the cost of utilities to increase (currently less because of a lower price for fuel oil but it is difficult to predict), how the figure for guest organists was derived (depends on Wei Der's schedule). A motion to adopt the budget was made (M. Granfors-Hunt) and seconded (D. Alexander). The motion passed unanimously.

### New Business:

Proposed Revision of Bylaws: Moderator C. Bellamy explained the background of the proposed changes: Currently the bylaws provide for 42 elected positions - six boards composed of 6 persons each, and other positions. Since 2022 we have been looking at the bylaws to find ways to fill positions in light of the membership numbers decreasing. She called attention to the report of the Nominating Committee in the annual report which shows 11 positions vacant. Another problem is that members can't serve consecutive terms. For these reasons the annual report shows a suggested way of combining boards. She called for a motion to revise the bylaws to allow for combining six boards into three with six members each. The motion was made (J. Fournier) and seconded (R. Alexander). The motion was discussed.

Questions were answered: The boards to be combined are Communications and Congregational Life, and Worship and Christian Education. A modification to the motion was proposed to reduce terms from three years to one year, and approval from the mover was granted to modify the motion. It was suggested that two-year terms were better for continuity. Suggestions were made to set a minimum number of members on the boards, and to keep Board of Missions separate. There was discussion of leaving the Trustees as a separate board (agreed), and the combining of boards a possible opportunity for increasing volunteerism.

M. Granfors-Hunt called the question, which C. Bellamy explained ended discussion of one-year terms. There was no one opposed. There was a vote on the amendment which passed, 20 to 13. A. Hansen proposed a new amendment to leave the Board of Missions as a stand-alone board. The original movers of the first motion made (J. Fournier and R. Alexander) approved the amendment. There was more discussion of the optimal number of members on each board and whether there may be subcommittees.

C. Bellamy explained that there needs to be 39 votes in order to approve combining the boards as above, with six members each, for three-year terms. The motion passed.

There was another motion to suspend the combination of boards for 2024 which passed.

Approval of the Slate of Nominees: It was moved and seconded (A. Hansen, L. Tanner) to approve the slate. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: None was offered.

Announcements: The Leadership Retreat will be held on February 4.

Adjournment: It was moved and seconded (K. Reynolds, C. Doyle) to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

## Moderator's Report

*Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.  
And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage  
one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*

*Hebrews 10:24-25*

It has been another year of fellowship, generosity, ministry, education, great music and as always, fabulous food.

We sadly said goodbye to beloved long-time members Linda Edwards, Larry Hull, and John Schaffer. Thank you to all who participated in their Memorial services.

We continued to minister to the community through our donations of food and funds to Help By Phone, and to invite the community in for our concerts, meals, and special programs like the Interfaith Discussion on Pilgrimage and the GILA Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve service.

I am excited to welcome visitors coming to see what we're about and to welcome back members we haven't seen in a while. I love that we have a core group of members who join us each Sunday via Zoom. These are members who might not otherwise be able to worship with us, so I am grateful for this technology and for the people – Charlene Doyle, Terry Henderson, and Karen Yoho – who manage the Zoom broadcast each week. Thanks also to David Alexander for setting up his screen and projector to allow Zoomers to interact with people during coffee hour and to allow people to participate in events like the annual meeting and Thanksgiving Eve service via Zoom.

This year we look forward to our ongoing work with Interim Pastor, Rev. Clara Young, to continue our spiritual growth and community outreach, and to prepare us to welcome a new settled pastor. Clara and I are also planning a Leadership Retreat for all our Board and Church Council members (January 26), a Women's Retreat in early April, and I hear there's a possibility of a Confirmation Class sometime this spring.

One issue that came up at our last Annual Meeting was how to continue the work of the church with a smaller, (somewhat) older congregation. We voted last January to combine four of the Boards into two boards with 6 members each to reduce the number of elected positions we needed to fill. It looked feasible on paper, but not so much in practice. While the Boards of Communications and Congregational Life have worked closely and well together this year, the members of each board have continued to focus on their board's list of responsibilities. The Boards of Christian Education and Worship met together once or twice this year and have also found it difficult to mesh the responsibilities of the two boards. In some ways, this is a moot point given that our Nominating Committee this year did a wonderful job recruiting people to serve on boards (and the fact that we voted this fall to allow people to serve consecutive terms

on the boards). The only heartbreak is that we continue to have problems finding people willing to serve on the Board of Christian Education or to help with their work.

So, I would like to encourage each of us to continue being active in our church this year. There are so many concerns about what might happen in our country these next few years, and the needs of people in our community are likely to increase. Let's continue to be, as one person described GCC in our church profile, "the church that does good things".

In Christ's love,  
Carol Bellamy

## Pastor's Report

Here we are in January 2025. Our time together in transitional ministry has lasted longer than any of us expected. That said, it is my great privilege to make this Interim journey with you. I have such respect for you as a congregation and for your faithful witness to being the church “on the corner of Hillside and Crescent”.

I want to begin this report by sharing some thoughts about the Interim process in 2024. We in the Church are no longer living in those days when candidates for ministry are lining up to fill scarce pulpits. All denominations are facing the stark reality that there are more available churches than there are people seeking to fulfill their vocational goal of pastor. Seminaries have fewer people enrolled whose goal is local church ministry. More churches have empty pulpits because of retirement choices or just weariness after surviving the dynamics of a pandemic. There are also fewer persons who are choosing to serve the church through Interim or Transitional ministry. All that means is that it will take time. It is not a referendum on Greenbelt Community Church! It is a statement that candidates have choices, and that they may not choose to move to a highly urbanized area away from the places they live and the support structures they have developed.

I also want to say that when I agreed to the request from the CAC Associate Conference Minister, with discussions with others in the judicatory, to return to GCC as Interim, I knew this wasn't going to be a six-month reunion. I had no way of knowing how long, but I consciously made the decision and commitment to pastor a congregation I already knew and loved in this time of transition for as long as it took or until you all asked me to leave. Being with you is not a burden at all. It is one of the joys of my life.

Your Search and Call Committee has reactivated the GCC Profile and will begin receiving the Profiles of interested candidates. I want you to remember and believe that God has been, is, and will be preparing someone for the settled pastorate at GCC. And I want you to remember that when the time comes, I will be rejoicing with you on that decision and the transition into your next chapter.

As far as summarizing our life together in 2024, it has been busy.

We hosted an Interfaith Discussion focused on Spiritual Pilgrimages in three different traditions (thank you Kyla and David). In a few weeks we will host another Interfaith Discussion. This one will be centered on acts of kindness and goodwill in anxious times as viewed through the spectrum of two or three faith communities. I will be presenting some thoughts from the Christian perspective. We also hosted the GILA Thanksgiving Eve service.

It has been a year of multiple Celebration of Life services. Seven in fact. We have said goodbye to longtime friends and to people from the community. We shared our grief, and we affirmed our belief in resurrection power. We have also journeyed with one another as some among us have struggled with falls, injuries, and long-term medical protocols for difficult diseases.

We also were able to end 2024 with a wonderful celebration of love as we witnessed Dawn and Onesty take their marriage vows.

As we gather for our Annual Meeting we expect to have another Women's Retreat in the spring. I look forward to it.

2024 was a time to live in the uncertainty of expectation – would there or would there not be a Candidating Weekend for someone anxious to be your next settled pastor? 2024 was a time to build on the foundations already set to be a welcoming, compassionate church. 2024 was a time to think beyond the doors of our building to the wider community as we provided meals, entertainment, and raised money for missions locally, nationally, and globally. 2024 was a time to “be the Church” while waiting to see what was next.

It was and is my honor to accompany you this past year and into 2025 while we continue to wait in expectation.

Rev. Clara

## 2024 Statistical Summary

Baptisms	0
Weddings	1
Reaffirmation of Marriage	0
Interments	2
Funerals/Celebrations of Life	7
Member Deaths	3
New Members Received	0
Participants	106
Regular Members	87
Active Non-Members	11
Children	8

## **Board of Christian Education Report**

No written report was submitted. A verbal report will be made at the Annual Meeting.

## **Board of Communications Report**

We have been meeting just about each month with the Congregational Life Board. It is a good fit and ensures we are providing communications support for church events for both the church and the community. We have advertised events in the Greenbelt News Review, along with articles in advance of events and, when appropriate, follow-up articles with photos. Promoting events on social media is also an important way we keep the community informed of programs they can attend, as well as the good we do with the money raised from various events. We also keep the website up to date.

In the year ahead, we hope to discover new ways to reach the community and keep information relevant and accessible.

Karen Yoho, chair  
Charlene Doyle  
Carol Griffith  
Amy Hansen  
Stacy Hindalong

## **Board of Congregational Life Report**

2024 for the Board of Congregational Life has been a year of honoring traditions and creating new ones.

During Labor Day weekend members shared information about GCC with Greenbelters and other festival attendees at the Greenbelt Information Day on Saturday. On Labor Day the committee and congregation prepared and hosted the annual Luncheon on the Lawn with traditional fare, iced tea, and desserts for neighbors and fair attendees.

During Lent, Agape meals were shared with members and 6 to 9 visitors each Wednesday. The congregation and committee members donated an abundance of delicious soups which were served with salad and bread. A short meditation was given by members of the Board of Worship and we all cleaned up!

Donation drives of used home goods and clothing were conducted during the last weekends of April and October. Approximately one thousand pounds of donations were brought to the church by the community, members of the SDA congregation, and GCC members. All gave generously of reusable

items, including the remaining items of the St. Hugh's yard sale! Special thanks to Ken Voigt for continuing to ferry the bags and boxes to Value Village in Silver Spring after each drive.

A Fall community concert was held after Kathy Fominaya's delicious spaghetti dinner. Keith Johnson and Wei-Der coordinated instrumental music and vocal performances by church members and The Relics. A Christmas concert was performed in December with a bake sale at intermission managed by Suze Marley. Many community members as well as GCC members attended and donated to a free will offering.

A new ecumenical program was held in June with a panel discussion on "Pilgrimages of Faith" arranged by David Alexander and Kyla Hanington. The attendees were so pleased by the discussion, many asked when the next program would be held! A new tradition was born that night.

Keith Johnson and Kathy Reynolds arranged a "Greenbelt Family Celebration" for local families, with activities for children as well as tours of a fire truck and a police car. Another tradition? Probably!

Finally, some members of the congregation attended the Goddard MADD production of "Mary Poppins" in support of church members in the cast and the leader of the orchestra. Of course, they also enjoyed the excellent performance!

Another fundraiser, "Got Sneakers", encourages "recycling" sport shoes and sneakers donated by the community. Amy Hansen continues this project after her "retirement" from the Board of Congregational Life.

All the funds raised by the listed projects supported by the Board of Congregational Life were given to the Board of Missions for distribution to charities and nonprofit organizations designated by that board quarterly.

"The Church is not a building, the Church is not a steeple, the Church is not a resting place, THE CHURCH IS THE PROPLE!"

Thank you all for your continued support.

David Alexander  
Tyra Packet  
Kathy Reynolds  
Keith Johnson  
Sandy Hamlin

## Board of Missions Report

Members: Jeff Knutson (Chair), Laura Knutson, Barbara Ransom, Susan Breon, Howard Dobson, Ellen Lee

1. The totals included in this report are from the Treasurer's report which lists the charities and organizations chosen by the board. The primary goal of the board was to support our local community as well as other missions across the world. Expediency and efficiency were also factors we considered in our effort to get the congregation's generous gifts out of our coffers and into the wider world. To that end, we tried to choose organizations that we felt would efficiently and responsibly use those funds.

2. Help By Phone received a large percentage of our local support again this year. The board judged them to be an extremely efficient and direct pipeline providing help to the local community.

3. 2024 Special Missions funds were designated as follows:

<b>January-March:</b>	Prince George's Christmas in April
<b>April-June:</b>	CWS Refugee Aid
<b>July-September:</b>	50/50 split between Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake and Anacostia Watershed Society
<b>October-December:</b>	50/50 split between Help by Phone and College Park Meals on Wheels

4. As you can see in the treasurer's report below, the congregation also gave \$11,235.56 to various UCC programs including One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, and the Veterans of the Cross.

5. Huge thanks to the generosity of the congregation, Reverend Clara, and the Board of Congregational Life for helping this small church share its gifts so freely.

**Greenbelt Community Church  
Missions Spending, 2024**

**UCC Programs**

Our Church's Wider Mission	7,500.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	991.28
Strengthen the Church	229.00
Neighbors in Need	1,731.98
Christmas Fund (Veterans of the Cross)	783.30
Total UCC Programs	<u>11,235.56</u>

**Other Recipients**

Anacostia Watershed Society	766.65
Capital Food Bank	600.00
Christmas In April, Prince George's County	973.30
Church World Service	2,597.34
CWS CROP & Souper Bowl	620.00
Doctors Without Borders, USA	1,100.00
Greenbelt Emergency Fund	2,050.00
Greenbelt CARES	500.00
Heifer International	1,899.30
Help by Phone	7,032.79
House of Ruth	800.00
Immigrant & Refugee Outreach Center	1,350.00
Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake	766.65
Maryland CASA	1,350.00
Meals on Wheels	1,655.50
Mercy Corps	600.00
Prince George's County Family Justice Center	1,100.00
Prince George's County Special Olympics	750.00
So Others Might Eat	200.00
UNICEF, USA	500.00
United Campus Ministries	250.00
Total Other Recipients	<u>27,461.53</u>

Total Missions Disbursements	<u><u>38,697.09</u></u>
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## Board of Trustees Report

The Treasurer, working with the Board of Trustees, reviewed our financial status and recommended a budget for 2025. We have also transferred \$150,000 from our checking account into other investments such as Certificates of Deposit and the Calvert Impact Capital Fund, bringing our investments up to approximately \$250,000. Rental agreements have been reviewed and revised for our facilities. Signed agreements have been obtained from all groups using our facilities. Rental fees were reviewed and adjusted. Procedures were finalized for Weddings and Funerals. \$5,000 of our 2024 expected surplus was allocated to Missions.

Trustees continued working on our facilities to catch up on maintenance. A new cleaning service was hired which has improved the interior appearance of our facility. The carpets have been steam cleaned, and the windows washed, both inside and out. Trustees began working on cleaning and repairing areas around the church building. Two outdoor workdays were held on April 28<sup>th</sup> and November 17<sup>th</sup> from 12-3pm. Projects completed included weeding, fertilizing and mulching the gardens, cleaning the window wells and stairwells, removing leaves and continuing to remove the bamboo. The rain garden was also weeded and mulched. The path to the Memorial Wall was cleaned and two slate stones were replaced. The storage shed walls have been replaced and the shed cleaned. The roof on the office and the breezeway were replaced and sealed.

Seven native trees were planted to replace those lost in the wind storms several years ago. The cost was funded using two grants and additional funds from the Memorial Grove Fund. Mike Crompton, Ken Voigt, and Lester Tanner ensure the survival of our new trees with consistent watering throughout the drought.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Trustees

Tina Alston, Yolanda Burnett, Mike Crompton, Kathy Fominaya, Darlene Portney, Ken Voigt,  
Jim Miers, Treasurer; Clara Young, Pastor

## Board of Worship Report

The Board of Worship members were challenged by conflicting personal schedules this year. As such, we put our creative caps on and conducted much of our planning via group text messages. We held in person meetings after church on communion Sundays as necessary.

Our first activity of the year was the Pancake Supper, followed by five Agape meals leading us towards Holy week. This year's Agape services focused on the profound concept represented by God's selfless, sacrificial, and unconditional love. We encouraged discussions on how Agape love becomes alive by the actions we take.

We assisted with preparation of the church for the services held on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter morning service.

The Board of Worship decided that sending get well, thinking of you, and sympathy cards would be a thoughtful addition to our church's other acts of agape. This began in late summer and we have received comments about how nice it is to be remembered by GCC.

Individual communion cups were purchased so that people attending our services from home will have the same opportunity to have blessed wafers and juice. Thus far only one person has requested them. We will offer the delivery of these cups again in January to see if anyone else might enjoy receiving them.

Board of Worship decided to request a raise in our budgeted allowance from \$200 to \$500 as we expect to have additional costs to provide the communion cups, cards, and postage.

Our annual worship service and reception in honor of First Responders was well attended by our congregation and several local first responders and their families.

In September our board updated the Usher Guidelines and held a training day for all current ushers and anyone interested in ushering in the future. We reviewed all the necessary tasks involved on Sundays.

Thanks to all that blessed the congregation with their special talents during the summer months while the choir was on hiatus.

Thanks to everyone who helped decorate the sanctuary and stayed to enjoy pizza afterwards, and to those that set up the candles for the Christmas Eve services. A note of thanks to Kathy Fominaya for the holly and garland and her help in ordering and displaying the poinsettias. Gloves, hats, and scarves were collected for distribution at local schools. Thanks to everyone, our Christmas tree was all but bending from the weight of your generous donations. We are grateful to Jim and Suze Marley for coordinating the donations of Christmas gifts for local families. Your generous donations filled the church office. There were gifts under the table and all over the floor leaving just a path for Pastor Clara and Sian to work! Each gift helped to make Christmas more special for these families.

We would like to thank all the church members that volunteered to be scripture readers and to usher on a regular basis, as well as those that filled in at the last minute when needed.

We are looking forward to working with members of the Board of Christian Education. We hope to be able to enhance the knowledge and experience of worship with our young disciples by sharing the mission of our board through the church year.

Respectfully,

**Board of Worship**

Orville Burnett

Carla Crompton (chair)

Anne Garrett

Loriann Scheff

## SCRIPTURE READERS FOR 2025

### January 2025

5 Liisa Granfors-Hunt  
12 Jan Derry  
19 Diane Wogoman  
26 David Alexander

### February

2 Mike Crompton  
9 Jo-Anne Fournier  
16 Terry Henderson  
23 Louise Piper

### March

2 Ron Dobson  
9 Carol Griffith  
16 Carol Bellamy  
23 Karen Yoho  
30 Carla Crompton

### April

6 Rick Ransom  
13 Tina Alston  
20 Rick Ransom  
27 Liisa Gransfors-Hunt

### May

4 Terry Henderson  
11 Carol Griffith  
18 Carla Crompton  
25 Carol Bellamy

### June

1 Mike Crompton  
8 Jo-Anne Fournier  
15 Tina Alston  
22 Terry Henderson  
29 Karen Jones

### July

6 Ron Dobson  
13 Jan Derry  
20 David Alexander  
27 Jim Miers

### August

3 Tina Alston  
10 Carol Bellamy  
17 Diane Wogoman  
24 Louise Piper  
31 Karen Jones

### September

7 Jan Derry  
14 David Alexander  
21 Rick Ransom  
28 Louise Piper

### October

5 Mike Crompton  
12 Karen Yoho  
19 Liisa Granfors-Hunt  
26 Jim Miers

### November

2 Jo-Anne Fournier  
9 Carol Bellamy  
16 Ron Dobson  
23 Carol Griffith  
30 Karen Jones

### December

7 Jan Derry  
14 Karen Yoho  
21 Carla Crompton  
28 Jim Miers

### January 2026

4 Liisa Granfors-Hunt  
12 Jan Derry  
19 David Alexander  
26 Carla Crompton

## UCC Representative Report

The Potomac Association spring meeting was held via Zoom on April 27, 2024. The theme was Love<sup>4</sup> - God, Service, Church, Neighbor. The Scripture was John 13:34, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." Part of the meeting was in preparation for the first Potomac Association revival. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, the Love<sup>4</sup> Revival was held at People's UCC with Rev. Dr. Karen Thompson, the UCC General Minister as guest preacher. A quilt with squares of each church was a visible sign of unity. Sandy Hamlin prepared our square on very short notice. Thank you Sandy! The task force on church budget assessment in the Potomac Association recommended the assessment be based upon membership and budget only and the OCWM factor be removed over three years. The recommendation passed.

The theme of the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the United Church of Christ was "Miracles, Signs, and Wonders." The Scripture was Acts 2:22 "Fellow Israelites, listen to this, Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know." and Hebrews 2:4 "God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will." The meeting was held at St. John's Grace UCC in Catonsville, MD on Friday and Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Marvin Silver was celebrated as former associate conference minister at the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner on Friday. His work with social justice was highlighted and we wish him well as he now works for the Children's Defense Fund. Rev. Dr. Freeman Palmer, conference minister, gave the state of our conference. His concerns were for an absence of children and youth, declining resources, social justice, and covenantal relationships between local churches, the associations, the conference, and the national church. Rev. Dr. Karen Thompson, the UCC General Minister and President gave the keynote address. She spoke about three poems – "Dreaming" 60 years ago there was an ecumenical movement. Reflect on the past, look to the future with hope. "Broken sidewalks" – a miracle is a surprising and welcome event, the work of divine agency. "Faith Journey" – we have work to do together. The Potomac Association will host the 2025 Central Atlantic Conference.

The fall meeting of the Potomac Association was held at Little River UCC on November 16, 2024. The theme was "Worship and Our Work – Love 4<sup>th</sup> Power." The question was asked "Who is my neighbor?" Rev. Freeman Palmer, our conference minister, stated that first we must give God thanks and praise. Strength comes from God and community. We need to go – but where? Work in the world wherever God leads us. Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice, associate conference minister, focused on conversations. There is an Action Alert from the UCC concerning House bill 9495, "Terror – Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act." The bill passed November 21, 2024, and was forwarded to the Senate December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The third part of the bill terminates the tax-exempt status of terrorist organizations without any due process. The concern is that churches who harbor undocumented immigrants, or are a safe haven for anyone, could be subject to this law and the tax-exempt status would be removed without notice.

Submitted by Louise Piper

## Pastoral Search Committee

The Pastoral Search Committee had spent 2023 writing the Local Church Profile (all 40-some questions). We put the finishing touches on the church profile in January 2024 and posted the position announcement in February.

We had heard from our interim pastor, Rev. Young, and from our UCC Conference Minister, Rev. Marvin Silver, that there has been a shortage of available pastors. One estimate we heard was that for every available pastoral candidate there are five or six churches looking for a pastor. We received about a dozen applications in response to our position announcement, and conducted brief (about 45 minutes) Zoom interviews with all the applicants.

We received nine applications in the first batch and invited three of those candidates to come for a more in-depth interview after Easter. Unfortunately, one of the candidates withdrew because their family didn't want to move here, another candidate had a major family crisis and withdrew from consideration, and the third candidate withdrew after coming for the in-person interview.

We received three applications in the second batch this summer and invited two of those candidates to come for the more in-depth interview and to preach at a local neutral-pulpit church in late August and early September. We were very excited about both candidates after their visits and were happy to call either of them. However, one of them opted to accept a position with another church and the other declined our offer saying they were looking for a more non-traditional church.

In October, on the advice of our Conference Minister, the committee decided to take a break until after the Advent season. We have updated our church profile and again published our position announcement. We ask for your continued prayers and support as we resume the search for our next pastor.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Johnson, co-chair  
Carol Bellamy, co-chair  
Yolanda Burnett  
Jan Derry  
Stacy Hindalong  
Darlene Portney  
Rick Ransom

**Greenbelt Community Church United Church of Christ  
Nominations for Boards and Officers, 2025**

**Moderator**

Carol Bellamy (2025)

**Treasurer**

James Miers (2026)

**Clerk**

Carol Griffith (2025)

**At-Large Members**

Louise Piper (2025)

Bea McCarthy (2026)

Rick Ransom (2027)

**Board of Missions**

Ellen Lee (2025)

Ron Dobson (2025)

Barbara Ransom (2026)

Laura Knutson (2026)

Jeff Knutson (2026)

Susan Breon (2027)

**UCC Representative**

Louise Piper

**Financial Secretary**

Liisa Granfors-Hunt

**Board of Christian Education**

Rachel Alexander (2025)

*Vacancy (2025)*

Ken Littlefield (2026)

*Vacancy (2026)**Vacancy (2027)**Vacancy (2027)***Memorial Secretary**

Mike Crompton

**Board of Trustees**

Darlene Portney (2025)

Yolanda Burnett (2025)

Kathy Fominaya (2026)

Ken Voigt (2026)

Tina Alston (2026)

Mike Crompton (2027)

**Landscaping (voluntary)**

Lester Tanner

Ken Voigt

Mike Crompton

Jim Halley

**Board of Communications**

Amy Hansen (2025)

Karen Yoho (2025)

Carol Griffith (2026)

Charlene Doyle (2026)

*Vacancy (2027)**Vacancy (2027)***Green Team (voluntary)**

Ron Dobson

**Board of Worship**

Alex Burnett (2025)

Loriann Scheff (2026)

Carla Crompton (2026)

Anne Garrett (2026)

Jo-Anne Fournier (2027)

*Vacancy (2027)***Submitted by the  
2024 Nominating  
Committee**

Carla Crompton

Mark Granfors-Hunt

Barbara Ransom

**Board of****Congregational Life**

Thyra Packett (2025)

Keith Johnson (2025)

Sandy Hamlin (2026)

Kathy Reynolds (2026)

Jim Marley (2027)

Jan Derry (2027)

**Greenbelt Community Church**  
**Balance Sheet, December 31, 2024**

	Balance Dec. 31, 2023	Increase (Decrease)	Balance Dec. 31, 2024
<b>Cash and Invested Accounts</b>			
Cash, Bank of America Checking	187,127	(106,236)	80,892
Cash, Greenbelt Federal Credit Union Savings	8,139	2,512	10,650
Certificates of Deposit, Greenbelt Federal Credit Union	20,000	41,060	61,060
Certificates of Deposit, NASA Federal Credit Union	-	101,952	101,952
Invested at Calvert Impact Capital Fund	12,180	10,587	22,767
Invested at Cornerstone Fund	54,927	1,978	56,905
Total Cash and Invested Accounts	<u>282,373</u>	<u>51,853</u>	<u>334,226</u>

**Retained Surplus**

Unappropriated Retained Surplus	262,473	59,468	321,941
<b>Appropriated Retained Surplus</b>			
<b>Missions Activity</b>			
Undesignated Missions Reserve	7,567	(7,567)	-
Designated Contributions (Christmas in April)	-	155	155
Missions Sub-total	<u>7,567</u>	<u>(7,412)</u>	<u>155</u>
<b>Other Funds</b>			
Memorial Grove	6,460	(950)	5,509
Memorial Funds	1,899	147	2,046
Music Fund	307		307
Youth Fund	959		959
Reception Fund	2,644	600	3,244
Womens Retreat	65		65
Total Appropriated Retained Surplus	<u>19,900</u>	<u>(7,615)</u>	<u>12,285</u>
Total Retained Surplus	<u>282,373</u>	<u>51,853</u>	<u>334,226</u>

		Appropriated	Un-Appropriated	Total
<b>Changes in the Retained Surplus</b>				
Balance December 31, 2023		19,900	262,473	282,373
Net Income			59,468	
<b>Missions Activity</b>				
Resources Available from 2024 Activities	31,285			
Missions Disbursements in 2024	<u>(38,697)</u>			
Change in the Missions Reserve	<u>(7,412)</u>	(7,412)		
Net Memorial Grove Transactions		(950)		
Received Memorial Funds		147		
Received for the Reception Fund		600		
Total Changes in the Retained Surplus		<u>(7,615)</u>	<u>59,468</u>	<u>51,853</u>
Balance December 31, 2024		<u>12,285</u>	<u>321,941</u>	<u>334,226</u>

**Greenbelt Community Church  
Income Statement , 2024**

	Annual Budget	Actual	Percent of Budget
<b>Operating Receipts</b>			
Pledges and Gifts	199,245	203,112	101.9%
Charges for Church Use	38,900	40,250	103.5%
Initial Offering	500	205	41.0%
Fund Raisers	5,000	5,029	100.6%
Return on Invested Assets	-	5,597	0.0%
Total Operating Receipts	243,645	254,193	104.3%
<b>Pastoral Compensation and Expense</b>			
Salary		50,880	0.0%
Pension		7,123	0.0%
FICA Reimbursement		3,892	0.0%
Insurance		763	0.0%
Travel & Professional Expense		-	0.0%
Total Pastoral Compensation and Expense	113,000	62,659	55.5%
<b>Other Salaries &amp; Compensation</b>			
Administrative Assistant	15,607	14,846	95.1%
Music Director	17,646	17,646	100.0%
Guest Ministers	1,200	800	66.7%
Guest Organist	550	600	109.1%
FICA Expense	2,544	2,486	97.7%
Total Other Salaries & Compensation	37,547	36,377	96.9%
<b>Church Operating Expenses</b>			
Advertising	1,773	1,596	90.0%
Insurance	14,620	14,341	98.1%
Supplies and Office Expense	5,883	6,559	111.5%
Custodial Services	14,280	9,951	69.7%
Maintenance	13,399	17,357	129.5%
Utilities	20,534	19,616	95.5%
Discounts and Banking Fees	612	596	97.4%
Total Church Operating Expense	71,101	70,016	98.5%

**Greenbelt Community Church**  
**Income Statement , 2024**

**Church Programs**

Board of Christian Education	1,000	89	8.9%
Board of Communications	1,000	408	40.8%
Board of Congregational Life	500	486	97.2%
Board of Missions	200	200	100.0%
Board of Worship	300	355	118.4%
Music Program	300	158	52.7%
Stewardship	400	790	197.6%
Potomac Association	2,297	2,297	100.0%
Church Leadership and Development	1,500	269	17.9%
Pastoral Search Committee	1,000	2,343	234.3%
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	750	750	100.0%
Conference Delegates	250		0.0%
<b>Total Church Programs</b>	<b>9,497</b>	<b>8,145</b>	<b>85.8%</b>

**Budgeted Missions**

Board of Missions Designation	5,000	5,029	100.6%
Our Church's Wider Mission	7,500	7,500	100.0%
<b>Total Budgeted Missions</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>12,529</b>	<b>100.2%</b>

**Total Expenses** 243,645 189,725 77.9%

**Net Income from Budgeted Activities** - 64,468

**Off Budget Items**

Additional Missions Spending Authorized from the 2024 Surplus (5,000)

**Net Income** 59,468

**Greenbelt Community Church**  
**Fund Raising and Other Resources for Missions Activities, 2024**

**Budget Activities**

General Fund Raising Projects and Activities

Christmas Concert	1,031	
Clothing Drives	1,053	
Got Sneakers	163	
Luncheon on the Lawn	1,038	
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	659	
Spaghetti Dinner and Concert	1,085	
Total General Fund Raising Projects	<u>5,029</u>	5,029

Available from Other Budgeted Funds

Our Church's Wider Mission	7,500	
Pastor's Discretionary	750	
Board of Missions Appropriation	200	
Total from Other Budgeted Funds	<u>8,450</u>	8,450

**Non-Budget Activities**

Special Missions Receipts 4,709

Dedicated Fund Raising Projects and Activities

Agape Meals (benefit of Help by Phone)	885	
Heifer (benefit of Heifer International)	1,899	
Total Dedicated Fund Raising Projects	<u>2,784</u>	2,784

UCC Programs

Christmas Fund (for Veterans of the Cross)	783	
Neighbors in Need	1,732	
One Great Hour of Sharing	991	
Strengthen the Church	229	
Total UCC Programs	<u>3,736</u>	3,736

Directed Receipts

Christmas in April	155	
CWS Crop and Souper Bowl	620	
Help by Phone	200	
Hurricane Relief	475	
Total Directed Receipts	<u>1,450</u>	1,450

Other Sources

Authorized by Trustees from the 2024 surplus	5,000	
Seasonal Plants	128	
	<u>5,128</u>	5,128

Total of All Missions Resources, 2024 31,285

**Greenbelt Community Church**  
**Proposed Operating Budget, Year 2025**

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	Budget Year 2024	Budget Year 2025	Percent Change 2024 - 2025
<b>Operating Receipts</b>			
Pledges and Gifts			
Offering	199,245	201,187	1.0%
Loose			
Charges for Use of Church and Facilities	38,900	40,700	4.6%
Initial Offering	500	275	-45.0%
Investment Return	-	8,690	0.0%
Fund Raisers	5,000	5,000	0.0%
Total Operating Receipts	<u>243,645</u>	<u>255,852</u>	<u>5.0%</u>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Pastoral Compensation			
Total Compensation Package Allowed	113,000	120,000	6.2%
Total Pastoral Compensation	<u>113,000</u>	<u>120,000</u>	<u>6.2%</u>
Other Salaries and Compensation			
Administrative Assistant	15,607	15,901	1.9%
Music Director	17,646	18,175	3.0%
Guest Minister	1,200	900	-25.0%
Guest Organist	550	1,470	167.3%
FICA/Medicare Expense	2,544	2,607	2.5%
Total Other Salaries and Compensation	<u>37,547</u>	<u>39,053</u>	<u>4.0%</u>
<b>Church Operating Expense</b>			
Advertising	1,773	1,894	6.8%
Insurance	14,620	15,991	9.4%
Supplies	5,883	7,099	20.7%
Custodial Services	14,280	12,134	-15.0%
Maintenance & Repairs	13,399	16,015	19.5%
Utilities	20,534	18,759	-8.6%
Discounts and Banking Fees	612	567	-7.4%
Total Operating Expense	<u>71,101</u>	<u>72,459</u>	<u>1.9%</u>

**Greenbelt Community Church**  
**Proposed Operating Budget, Year 2025**

Page 2 / 2

	Budget Year 2024	Budget Year 2025	Percent Change 2024 - 2025
<b>Church Programs</b>			
Board of Worship / Christian Education	1,300	1,600	23.1%
Board of Congregational Life / Communic	1,500	2,000	33.3%
Board of Missions	200	200	0.0%
Music Program	300	300	0.0%
Stewardship	400	500	25.0%
Conference Delegates	250	250	0.0%
Church Leadership & Development	1,500	1,000	-33.3%
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	750	750	0.0%
Pastoral Search Committee	1,000	3,000	200.0%
Potomac Association	2,297	2,240	-2.5%
<b>Total Church Programs</b>	<u>9,497</u>	<u>11,840</u>	<u>24.7%</u>
<b>Budgeted Missions</b>			
Budgeted Missions	5,000	5,000	0.0%
Our Church's Wider Mission	7,500	7,500	0.0%
<b>Total Budgeted Missions</b>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>243,645</u>	<u>255,852</u>	<u>5.0%</u>
<b>Income (Loss) from Operations</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	

## 2025 COUNTERS ROSTER

### February

2-Feb Kathleen Fominaya and Kenny Voigt  
 9-Feb Kathleen Fominaya and Kenny Voigt  
 16-Feb Steve Isler and Karen Yoho  
 23-Feb Steve Isler and Karen Yoho

### March

2-Mar Yolanda & Alex Burnett  
 9-Mar Yolanda & Alex Burnett  
 16-Mar Ellen & Gil Lee  
 23-Mar Carla & Mike Crompton  
 30-Mar Carla & Mike Crompton

### April

6-Apr Kathleen Fominaya and Kenny Voigt  
 13-Apr Jan Derry & Jim Miers  
 20-Apr Jan Derry & Jim Miers  
 27-Apr Terri Henderson and Dave Alexander

### May

4-May Kathleen Fominaya and Kenny Voigt  
 11-May Ellen & Gil Lee  
 18-May Jan Derry & Jim Miers  
 25-May Jan Derry & Jim Miers

### June

1-Jun Yolanda & Alex Burnett  
 8-Jun Yolanda & Alex Burnett  
 15-Jun Steve Isler and Karen Yoho  
 22-Jun Steve Isler and Karen Yoho  
 29-Jun Carla & Mike Crompton

### July

6-Jul Ellen & Gil Lee  
 13-Jul Carla & Mike Crompton  
 20-Jul Terri Henderson and Dave Alexander  
 27-Jul Terri Henderson and Dave Alexander

### August

3-Aug Jan Derry & Jim Miers  
 10-Aug Jan Derry & Jim Miers  
 17-Aug Kathleen Fominaya and Kenny Voigt  
 24-Aug Kathleen Fominaya and Kenny Voigt  
 31-Aug Steve Isler and Karen Yoho

### September

7-Sep Steve Isler and Karen Yoho  
 14-Sep Ellen & Gil Lee  
 21-Sep Carla & Mike Crompton  
 28-Sep Carla & Mike Crompton

### October

5-Oct Terri Henderson and Dave Alexander  
 12-Oct Terri Henderson and Dave Alexander  
 19-Oct Jan Derry & Jim Miers  
 26-Oct Ellen & Gil Lee

### November

2-Nov Yolanda & Alex Burnett  
 9-Nov Yolanda & Alex Burnett  
 16-Nov Kathleen Fominaya and Kenny Voigt  
 23-Nov Kathleen Fominaya and Kenny Voigt  
 30-Nov Terri Henderson and Dave Alexander

### December

7-Dec Ellen & Gil Lee  
 14-Dec Terri Henderson and Dave Alexander  
 21-Dec Carla & Mike Crompton  
 24-Dec Jan Derry & Jim Miers  
 28-Dec Carla & Mike Crompton

### January, 2026

4-Jan Yolanda & Alex Burnett  
 11-Jan Jan Derry & Jim Miers  
 18-Jan Steve Isler and Karen Yoho  
 25-Jan Terri Henderson and Dave Alexander

Substitute - Keith Johnson

# A year in photos 2024



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner



Easter Sunrise at the Lake



Interfaith Conversation: Pilgrimages



Dedication of prayer shawls



Heifer Fair: Sheep & Wool



Summer Special Music



Family Fun Day Concert (The Relics)



Family Fun Day Firetruck tours



Christmas concert



Christmas Mitten Tree



New Year Prayer Tree

**Statement of Purpose**  
**Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ**  
**Revised March 11, 2012**

We uphold and affirm the principles of the Christian faith as commonly held among us, believing the foundation laid by Jesus Christ is our greatest strength.

It is our aim to bring joy, instruction, high ideals, inspiration and comfort to the people of all ages, to work together for the betterment of all.

Our fellowship will not be dependent upon identity of theological opinion, or of outward circumstances, or of denominational name but will grow from a common loyalty to Jesus; a common passion to serve the world; a common purpose to do justly, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God.

## **I Come With Joy**

By Brian Wren

I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall,  
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here.

Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one.