



**Greenbelt Community Church
United Church of Christ**

Annual Report 2023

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ
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Agenda
Annual Meeting
Greenbelt Community Church United Church of Christ
January 21, 2024

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation
3. Approval of the Minutes from the January 2023 Annual Meeting
4. Adoption of Reports from Boards and Committees
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Adoption of Budget for 2024
7. Proposed Revision of the Bylaws regarding Boards
8. Report of the Nominating Committee and Approval of Slate of Nominees
9. Old Business
10. New Business
11. Announcements
12. Adjournment

MY NOTES

Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting January 22, 2023

Opened by Moderator at 11:25 a.m.

Invocation by Rev. Clara Young.

The clerk verified a quorum (20% of the current active membership).

Approval of 2022 Annual Report minutes: Moved to approve, J. Derry; seconded, K. Fominaya. Motion passed.

Adoption of reports of Boards and Committees: Moved to adopt, S. Breon; seconded, L. Piper. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report, presented by Jim Miers

- Went over the Balance Sheet from Report. Pastor compensation was less than budgeted due to change in employment percentage (Curt was 100%, Clara is 75%).
- Lots of trees were removed, windows replaced, sanctuary carpet steam cleaned last spring before reopening.
- Utilities increase due mainly to increase cost of fuel oil. Thanked congregation for their generosity in pledges and giving.
- Went over Missions Spending for last year \$28,888.
- Ken L asked whether we can get a better return on say high-yield savings with flexibility of checking? Jim replied that Trustees are looking at other options for investment and banking.

Moved to approve, K. Fominaya; seconded, A. Hansen, approved

Proposed Budget 2023, presented by Treasurer, Jim Miers

- Budgeted small increase in Pledges and Gifts. Proposed Pastor Compensation is what we think the church will be able to afford during 2023.
- Small increase in pay for organist and office manager.
- Increase maintenance and repairs based on last year, increased utilities because of increase in fuel oil, which represents 2/3 of our utility line.
- Small increase in church leadership and development to repeat leadership retreat this year. Decoupled the Missions budget from the rental receipts, and Missions now relying on fundraisers and reallocation of extra funds from last year.

Question – J. Derry, regarding the increase in the Administrative Assistant salary. The budget shows a decrease in her total amount. Jim explained that it's an increase in rate, but a decrease in hours.

Question – J. Schaffer, why was there a drop in the Pastoral Compensation for 2023? Jim explained that this represents what Trustees think the church will be able to afford to offer a new pastor coming in for 2023.

Question – J. Schaffer, how many hours a week does the Administrative Assistant work? K. Fominaya explained that she is scheduled to work 16 hours but sometimes works additional hours, so Trustees budgeted what they think they will end up paying her across the year.

Moved to approve the budget, D. Alexander; seconded, K. Johnson. Motion passed.

Report of the Nominating Committee

S. Isler apologized for having to step down before his full 3-year term ended but thanked everyone.

Amy Hansen noted that the Nominating Committee was unable to fill all the vacancies because people are busy. She urged members to think about whether they might serve as a Friend of a committee, or to take on organizing one event.

Moved to approve the slate of candidates, K. Littlefield; seconded, K. Johnson. Motion passed.

Old Business – none

New Business – none

Announcements –

Keith Johnson (Chair, Pastoral Search Committee) apologized that the committee's report didn't make it into the Annual Report, but noted that it is posted on the bulletin board in the Social Hall. Also, the congregational surveys have been sent via email, and paper copies will be available next week. There will be laptops downstairs for people who want to do their surveys here.

The congregation sang Happy Birthday to Arnold Jones, who was celebrating his 90th birthday.

Moved to adjourn, J. Derry; seconded, K. Reynolds. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Moderator S. Isler asked that Boards please meet before leaving to decide who their chair will be and when they will meet.

Submitted by C. Bellamy, Clerk

Moderator's Report

I've been sorting through photos that people have sent me of events at our church this past year. It has been a year of music and food and great generosity, of inviting the community in, commemorating friends who have gone, comforting those who have lost loved ones, and honoring those who serve the community.

I am excited to see new members joining us, absent members returning to us, and visitors coming to see what we're about. 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 – Terry Henderson, Charlene Doyle, and Karen Yoho – who manage the Zoom broadcast each week. Thanks also to David Alexander for setting up his screen and projector in the Social Hall so that our "Zoomers" can interact with members during the coffee hour.

I've been talking with some in our congregation who are already planning events for 2024, and I'm hearing a lot of creativity and enthusiasm. So, thank you to everyone who has participated in the life and work of our church this past year, and to those who are preparing for this year.

Much is coming our way this year.

This year the Pastoral Search Committee will begin reviewing applications and interviewing candidates for our Settled Pastor position. Please be in prayer for the committee and for the candidate who God is preparing to join us.

This year we also need to address the question of how to continue the work of our church with a smaller congregation than we had pre-pandemic. The proposed revision of the Bylaws that we'll discuss at the Annual Meeting is a starting point for that conversation.

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.

My predecessor, Stephen Isler, included one of my favorite Scripture passages in his Moderator's Report last year, and I think it's a perfect prayer for this year:

Hebrews 10:24-25 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.

In Christ's love,
Carol Bellamy

Pastor's Report

Our Interim journey together continues. The Search and Call Committee has been actively working on developing our Local Church Profile. It is in the final editing phases and by the time of the Annual Meeting will probably be ready to go into circulation in the Employment Opportunities for the United Church of Christ. Because of the work of all members of GCC this past year, the Profile is strong, showing a church committed to the future. The next phase will be confidential and of uncertain timing as the Committee receives candidates' Profiles and does the necessary work of discernment. No one can say how long this phase will take. Nationally there are more churches seeking pastors than there are pastors to fill the vacancies. I trust the Search and Call Committee to do their work prayerfully and thoughtfully.

We have had four new members, two baptisms (one child, one adult), a celebration of life service of remembrance, and one wedding.

The year 2023 has been a time of renewal and focus. The Church Council participated in a second leadership retreat with plans already in place for the 2024 Retreat to equip new members of the Council and Committees and inspire all members to how they can best provide the leadership needed for GCC.

This year we had two special services. An interfaith service honored our relationship with Rabbi Jonathan Cohen followed by planting a tree in memory and honor of his life. We also had a service recognizing the first responders, Fire and Police, followed by a special reception in our Social Hall.

In addition to the Lectionary Bible Study on Tuesday mornings we offered a Fall Book Study and an Advent Book Study (Dinners with Ruth by Nina Totenberg and The Real Mary Why Protestant Christians Can Embrace the Mother of Jesus by Scott McKnight). We also enjoyed a Women's Retreat in the spring at Bishop Claggett's Retreat Center in Buckeystown, MD. Our theme was Micah 6:8.

There have been joys and there have been sorrows within our fellowship and it has been my honor to walk alongside those who need the support.

I have worked with our Sunday School teachers to find new curriculum possibilities when the one they were using was discontinued. We have also engaged our Young Disciples in receiving the offering during worship on the 5th Sundays of the year.

Working with the special committee for Wedding and Funeral Policies and the Trustees, I have provided advice and counsel as these documents are written.

I am encouraged by the renewal of the spirit within our fellowship. People are taking responsibilities to make our special events successful – Agape Meals, Heifer Bee Festival, Music Extravaganza and Spaghetti Dinner, Fourth of July Picnic, Luncheon on the Lawn, Christmas Concert and

Bake Sale, Christmas Festival. These have all been vehicles to engage and welcome the wider community.

As we enter 2024 it is with the realization that my time as Interim is drawing to a close and the possibility and hope of a new chapter in Greenbelt Community Church's history is before us. I have great trust in this congregation to move forward in faith and hope.

Grace and Peace

Rev. Clara Young

2023 Statistical Summary

Baptisms	2
Weddings	1
Reaffirmation of Marriage	0
Interments	0
Funerals	1
Member Deaths	3
New Members Received	4
Members	100

Board of Christian Education Report

The Christian Education Board for 2023 consisted of the two people; Rachel Alexander and myself, Jan Derry. Our Sunday School class consisted of 7 children ages 7 to 11 (8 to 12 by year's end).

We had a total of 202 student attendances across the 53 Sunday of the year, which averages 4 students per Sunday but could vary widely. Interestingly, there was only 1 Sunday (last week of June) when no children at all attended.

We transitioned from using the United Church of Canada's curriculum last spring to using the Presbyterian Church in the USA's (PCUSA) this fall because the former became unavailable, the same problem we had had when our own denomination stopped making curriculum available. We are especially fortunate to have Clara Young pastoring us because her extensive background in Christian Education helped us find both resources, and more.

This past summer, we experimented with 'Sunday School unplugged' between the two curricula by presenting artistic, crafty and adventurous opportunities for the students that were not tied to any lectionary lessons, but allowed relaxed, playful opportunities to hang out in nature with just somebody they could trust and use as a sounding board, if the spirit moved. We painted, cooked, built a shelter and even a small campfire. It was cool.

The Board spent a total of \$478 this year, mostly \$400 for curriculum (online, small church) and the rest for art supplies, of which much remains for future use. Our annual budget is \$1000 so expenditures of more is possible, if and when needed.

One of our highlights this year was a long, deep dive into Beekeeping as our Heifer Project, culminating in our Heifer Fair. Allowing the students to choose the area of concentration and goals for fundraising worked out well and the usual suspects (adults) turned out on the fateful Sunday to make it a financial and social success. Personally, I look forward to being involved in future Heifer Projects and/or Fairs whether I am on the CE Board or not.

2024 will be my last year on the Board of Christian Education and I look forward to supporting this year's Chair and helping to orient and train the Chair for 2025. Looking forward, we need a full and active Board to recruit and support volunteer teachers. The curriculum and the activities it offers are accessible to anyone and the students themselves have active, inquiring minds quite willing to deal with Big Questions – which is what religious education is for.

Our sanctuary is filling up, little by little. We must prepare for more students, a greater age and ability differential and find a way to offer infant (up to preschool) care for future visitors and, hopefully, members. A non-Sunday Youth Group presents intriguing possibilities, and within a couple of years, there should be Confirmation candidates. Dear reader, open up your heart to the possibilities and dig in!

Respectfully and prayerfully submitted.

Jan Derry, 2023 Chair

Board of Communications Report

We had an active and fruitful year. We were a smaller group this year consisting of Amy Hansen, Kathy Reynolds and myself, with Carol Bellamy helping us at times. Many thanks are due to all for their wonderful articles in the *Greenbelt News Review*. We wrote about scheduled special services and events, often accompanied with photos after the event was completed. In addition, Karen Yoho continued her work maintaining the camera-ready ad each week and posting as needed to *Facebook*.

When the year began, Maddy Henderson was posting intermittently to the website. As the year progressed, Maddy bowed out due to a new job. In November, we recruited Carla Crompton to be our new webmaster. We are grateful to both of them, and to Sian, the church's part-time office assistant, who also contributed to our work. We also thank Reverend Young for meeting with us and "gently nudging" us to consider publicity for upcoming events.

Rick Ransom, Chair

Board of Congregational Life Report

In the last 12 months, we have supported the following:

4th of July pre-fireworks picnic. With food provided by many, the lawn turned into a picnic area for safe, outdoor conversation and fellowship. Both members and neighbors attended.

Donation Drive (April 22-23 and October 22-29, ongoing) During this recycling and money-raising event volunteers accepted donations from congregants and neighbors, filled Ken Voigt's truck, and raised \$842.

Got Sneakers? In another ongoing recycling/money raising project, volunteers package old sneakers, mail them and get money. GCC has earned approximately \$126 this year.

Information Day at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival The board organized a table at Information Day on Saturday of Labor Day weekend to meet with festivalgoers and publicize the activities of the church. Church members had some enjoyable conversations with festivalgoers and handed out many color-changing pencils with the church's information.

Luncheon on the Lawn With dozens of people volunteering their talent and treats, the luncheon was a huge success. We had 124 people go through the lines and we earned approximately \$1,149 (includes donations).

The board has also provided support for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, the Agape meals, and Music on the Porch Day

Social Hour Zoom Connection The board continues to support the Zoom connection in the Social Hall during the social time after service. Appreciative feedback has continued to come from all involved.

--Ken Littlefield, David Alexander, Thyra Packet

Board of Missions Report

Members: Jeff Knutson, Laura Knutson, Ron Dobson, Ellen Lee, Susan Breon

Totals for special missions receipts will be compiled and published in the annual Treasurer's financial report.

1. Special Missions Donations for the year were designated as follows:

1st Quarter January-March - Christmas in April

2nd Quarter April-June - Turkey Earthquake and Ukraine Relief

3rd Quarter July-September - Climate Stewardship - 50/50 between Nature Conservancy and Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake

4th Quarter October-December - 50/50 between Food and Friends, Meals on Wheels College Park

2. Agape receipts were donated to Help By Phone. We continue to support Help By Phone as the number of contributing institutions has decreased significantly since the pandemic.

3. Charities supported by GCC using allocated budget this year. Attached is a detailed breakdown from Jim Miers of all mission spending.

4. The \$1893 carried over from last year was sent to Habitat for Humanity as planned.

5. Additional UCC Special Missions offerings included Neighbors in Need (\$980.28), One Great Hour of Sharing (\$1063.19), and Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross (Christmas Eve Service TBD).

6. Thanks again to Congregational Life for doing such a fantastic job raising funds for the church's missions.

**Greenbelt Community Church
Missions Spending, 2023**

UCC Programs

Christmas Fund (Veterans of the Cross)	1,395.28
Neighbors in Need	1,171.28
One Great Hour of Sharing	1,088.44
Strengthen the Church	403.30
Our Church's Wider Mission	7,500.00
Total UCC Programs	11,558.30

Other Recipients

Capital Food Bank	350.00
Christmas In April, Prince George's County	1,109.60
Church World Service - Earthquake relief	354.15
Church World Service - Ukraine relief	354.15
CWS CROP	1,601.28
CWS Souper Bowl	490.00
Doctors Without Borders, USA	800.00
Food and Friends	986.70
Greenbelt Emergency Fund	800.00
Greenbelt Good Samaritan Fund	400.00
Habitat for Humanity	1,892.46
Heifer International	1,757.88
Help by Phone	4,463.91
House of Ruth	1,100.00
Immigrant & Refugee Outreach Center	1,000.00
Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake	546.60
Maryland Coalition of Families	750.00
Meals on Wheels	1,786.70
Nature Conservancy	546.60
Springhill Lake Elementary School	238.46
UCC / Hawaii Wildfires Relief Fund	470.80
United Campus Ministries	300.00
Total Other Recipients	22,099.29

Total Missions Disbursements	33,657.59
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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 2024. Trustees also reviewed and revised the rental agreements for our facilities. Signed agreements have been obtained from all groups using our facilities. Rental fees were reviewed and adjusted. \$5,000 of our 2022 surplus was allocated to Missions.

Trustees continued working on our facilities to catch up on deferred maintenance. A new cleaning service was hired which has improved the interior appearance of our facility. The carpets have been steam cleaned. Trustees began working on cleaning and reorganizing cluttered areas around the church building. An outdoor workday was held on April 23rd from 1-3pm. Projects completed included weeding, fertilizing and mulching the gardens (65 bags of mulch were spread), cleaning the window wells and stairwells, reinstalling sump pumps, and continuing to remove the bamboo. The rain garden was also weeded and mulched. A new sign was developed to be placed on Crescent Road near the lake entrance. The City had removed the old one and requested that we supply a replacement. It should be installed by Spring. Trustees will call a meeting in the Spring 2024 of all interested parties to discuss the placement of the fire pit.

A desk top computer was purchased to replace the laptop that was being used to Zoom services on Sundays. A zero turn battery powered lawn mower was purchased to replace our aging lawn tractor.

The Church has received two grants to help replace the eight trees that were lost in the windstorms. We are working on identifying native trees and where to place them. A Memorial Tree (Blue Atlas Cedar) was planted in honor and memory of Rabbi Cohen.

The Site Plan for the church has finally been approved by MNCPPC. Trustees want to thank Carol Griffith for all of her efforts on our behalf in getting this done.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Trustees

Yolanda Burnett, Mike Crompton, Kathy Fominaya, Darlene Portney, Ken Voigt,

Jim Miers, Treasurer; Clara Young, Pastor

Board of Worship Report

The board had impromptu meetings on communion Sundays after worship. It has been a good year working with a good group. I would like to thank all the members that volunteered to be additional ushers we would not have gotten through the year without you.

We started out the year with the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and five Agape meals during Lent. During Holy Week, we had Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter sunrise and Easter morning services.

We stopped giving communion up front and went back to serving communion in the pews.

During the summer months while the choir was on hiatus, we had lots of special music from the many talented musicians in our church. Other than that, summer is always our quiet time.

We honored the memory of Rabbi Jonathan Cohen during a service in August and planted a memorial tree in his name on our lawn. A service and reception in September to honor local first responders was a success.

We'd like to thank our Zoom managers, Charlene Doyle, Terry Henderson and Karen Yoho, who make sure that those who can't join us in-person can still participate in our worship services.

We also thank our Director of Music, Dr. Wei-Der Huang, and our wonderful choir.

Decorating the sanctuary

Thanks to everyone who helped decorate the sanctuary and set up the candles for Advent and the Christmas Eve service. Thanks to Kathy Fominaya for the garland and for helping order the poinsettias.

Thanks also to everyone who donated gloves, hats and scarves to our Mitten Tree Project. The items are being donated to local schools for kids in need.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Worship

Orville Burnett Chair

Barbara Ransom Co Chair

Carla Crompton

Terry Henderson

SCRIPTURE READERS FOR 2024

January 2024

7 Liisa Granfors-Hunt
14 Jan Derry
21 David Alexander
28 Diane Wogoman

February

4 Mike Crompton
11 Jo-Anne Fournier
18 Terry Henderson
25 Louise Piper

March

3 Ron Dobson
10 Carol Griffith
17 Carol Bellamy
24 Karen Yoho
31 Tina Alston

April

7 Rick Ransom
14 Tina Alston
21 Karen Jones
28 Liisa Granfors-Hunt

May

5 Jim Miers
12 Carol Griffith
19 Carla Crompton
26 Carol Bellamy

June

2 Mike Crompton
9 Jo-Anne Fournier
16 Terry Henderson
23 Tina Alston
30 Diane Wogoman

July

7 Ron Dobson
14 Jan Derry
21 David Alexander
28 Jim Miers

August

4 Carla Crompton
11 Rick Ransom
18 Louise Piper
25 Diane Wogoman

September

1 Jan Derry
8 David Alexander
15 Karen Jones
22 Rick Ransom
29 Louise Piper

October

6 Mike Crompton
13 Karen Yoho
20 Liisa Granfors-Hunt
27 Terry Henderson

November

3 Jo-Anne Fournier
10 Carol Bellamy
17 Ron Dobson
24 Carol Griffith

December

1 Jan Derry
8 Karen Yoho
15 Carla Crompton
22 Jim Miers
29 Karen Jones

January 2025

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

UCC Representative Report

The Potomac Association Spring Meeting was held April 29th at Community Church of Washington, DC. The theme was “All Voices Together.” Rev. Francine Vinson, a Potomac Association representative to the Central Atlantic Conference and president of the African American Women in Ministry group spoke about African American Women in Ministry and the distance they have come and support they continue to need. Rev. Freeman Palmer, Central Atlantic Conference Minister quoted Rev. Desmond Tutu, “My humanity is bound up in yours, but we can only be human together.” Rev. Holly Jackson spoke about our work in the Potomac Association and the covenant we have to work together. Rev. Silver highlighted the Maryland Justice and Witness Action Network for their work in Annapolis. They lobbied for passage of the Energy Savings Act to renew EmPOWER Maryland. The Environment and Climate Network has 12 Air Quality Monitors installed at local churches. Greenbelt Community Church was the first to get the monitor on January 17, 2023.

The 59th Central Atlantic Conference was held October 13th and 14th at the Evangelical Reformed UCC in Frederick, MD. The theme was “Hope and Future, Jeremiah 29:11 for I know the plans I have for you.” Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson discussed how do you know when to accept and when to resist? Hope is the presence of your children for the future. The new Central Atlantic Conference board of directors was elected. The budget was passed. There is no increase in the request of OCWM from congregations.

The Potomac Association Fall Meeting was held November 18th at Pilgrim Church in Silver Spring, MD. The theme was “Stirring Up the Gifts: Justice = Peace/Action. The speakers were from the Justice and Witness committee or their colleagues. The budget was passed and the assessments for each church were announced. I did not attend this meeting as I had Covid.

Submitted by Louise Piper

Nominating Committee Report

This year's nominating committee had a difficult time recruiting new Board members. We are grateful for the church members who volunteered to fill positions. Many others were approached by the members of the nominating committee but were unable to commit to serving on a board. Several whose terms expired in 2023 offered to continue serving on their current board but are currently barred from serving a consecutive term by the church's Bylaws. These bylaws were adopted when the church had a much larger congregation.

This year there were 23 vacancies to fill on various Boards and offices. There remain 11 vacancies (seven if we suspend the prohibition against serving consecutive terms). Nominations for these vacancies will be welcomed from members during the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Loriann Scheff
Terry Henderson
Kathy Reynolds
Sandy Hamlin

Greenbelt Community Church United Church of Christ Nominations for Boards and Officers, 2024

Moderator

Carol Bellamy (2025)

Treasurer

Jim Miers (2026)

Clerk

Carol Griffith (2025)

Church Council

At-Large Members

Jo-Anne Fournier (2024)

Louise Piper (2025)

Bea McCarthy (2026)

Board of Missions

Susan Breon (2024)

Vacancy (2024)

**L. Knutson willing to serve*

Ron Dobson (2025)

Ellen Lee (2025)

Barbara Ransom (2026)

Vacancy (2026)

**L. Knutson willing to serve*

UCC Representatives

Louise Piper

Karen Yoho

Sandy Hamlin

Board of Christian Education

Jan Derry (2024)

Vacancy (2024)

Rachel Alexander (2025)

Vacancy (2025)

Ken Littlefield (2026)

Vacancy (2026)

Financial Secretary

Liisa Granfors-Hunt

Memorial Secretary

Liisa Granfors-Hunt

Board of Trustees

Mike Crompton (2024)

Vacancy (2024)

**K. Fominaya willing to serve*

Darlene Portney (2025)

Yolanda Burnett (2025)

Tina Alston (2026)

Vacancy (2026)

**K Voigt willing to serve*

Landscaping

(voluntary)

Lester Tanner

Board of Communications

Stacy Hindalong (2024)

Vacancy (2024)

Amy Hansen (2025)

Carol Griffith (2026)

Charlene Doyle (2026)

Green Team

(voluntary)

Ron Dobson

Charlene Doyle

Carol Griffith

Board of Congregational Life

Dave Alexander (2024)

Vacancy (2024)

Thyra Packett (2025)

Keith Johnson (2025)

Sandy Hamlin (2026)

Kathy Reynolds (2026)

Board of Worship

Loriann Scheff (2024)

VACANCY (2024)

Alex Burnett (2025)

Carla Crompton (2025)

Anne Garrett (2026)

VACANCY (2026)

Submitted by

2023 Nominating Committee

Sandy Hamlin

Terry Henderson

Kathy Reynolds

Loriann Scheff

*Laura and Jeff Knutson, Kathy Fominaya and Ken Voigt are coming off Board of Missions and Board of Trustees this year. Our Bylaws currently prohibit Board members from serving consecutive terms, requiring that they step down for a year before being eligible to serve on that Board again. We would need to revise the Bylaws to allow them to continue to serve this year.

Pastoral Search Committee

The search committee completed the initial draft of the church's Local Church Profile in October. The draft was reviewed by our interim pastor and sent back to the committee with suggested edits, which were implemented. The profile is being updated with the latest events, membership statistics and financial information, and including reference letters from various local organizations speaking about our church's ministry in the community. After all edits are completed, the committee will meet for a final review before the end of January.

The Local Church Profile will then be submitted to the United Church of Christ (UCC) for review by Reverend Marvin Silver, who may request additional revisions. It is our hope that the Profile and the position announcement will be posted by UCC sometime in February. The search committee will then begin reviewing applications and scheduling interviews with likely candidates.

People have asked what the field looks like. Reviewing the positions that are currently posted for our UCC conference (Central Atlantic Conference, postings as of January 8), there are three full-time positions for settled pastors in the Maryland/Northern Virginia area, and several part-time positions. These are all for small congregations like ours, ranging from 30 to 120 members, and none of the openings are at churches in our immediate area (the nearest are in Frederick, MD, Westminster, MD and Staunton, VA). So, we think our church is in a good position to attract applicants. However, it may take a while to find the right candidate for our church, so we ask for everyone's prayers and patience as we move into this next phase of the search process.

When the search committee has selected a candidate to recommend for the settled pastor position, the congregation will receive information about the candidate. The candidate will be invited to preach at one of our regular worship services and meet the congregation. The congregation will ultimately meet to vote on whether to offer the candidate the position.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Johnson, Co-chair

Carol Bellamy, Co-chair

Greenbelt Community Church
Balance Sheet, December 31, 2023

	Balance Dec. 31, 2022	Increase (Decrease)	Balance Dec. 31, 2023
Cash and Invested Accounts			
Cash, Bank of America Checking	124,996	62,131	187,127
Cash, Bank of America Savings	38,134	(38,134)	-
Cash, Greenbelt Federal Credit Union Savings	-	8,139	8,139
Greenbelt Federal Credit Union Certificate of Deposit	-	20,000	20,000
Calvert Impact Capital Fund	11,827	353	12,180
Cornerstone Fund	53,482	1,445	54,927
Total Cash and Invested Accounts	<u>228,439</u>	<u>53,935</u>	<u>282,373</u>

Retained Surplus

Unappropriated Retained Surplus	<u>209,207</u>	<u>53,267</u>	<u>262,473</u>
Appropriated for Missions activity			
Budgeted Missions	2,177	5,390	7,567
Designated Contributions	2,131	(2,131)	-
Missions activity sub-total	<u>4,308</u>	<u>3,259</u>	<u>7,567</u>
Appropriated for other activities			
Memorial Grove	9,245	(2,785)	6,460
Memorial Funds	1,874	25	1,899
Music Fund	353	(45)	307
Youth Fund	959		959
Reception Fund	2,494	150	2,644
Womens Retreat	-	65	65
Total Appropriated Retained Surplus	<u>19,232</u>	<u>668</u>	<u>19,900</u>
Total Retained Surplus	<u>228,439</u>	<u>53,935</u>	<u>282,373</u>

		Unappropriated	Appropriated
Changes in the Retained Surplus			
Beginning balances forward 01/01/2023		<u>209,207</u>	<u>19,232</u>
Net Income		58,656	
Carry-over the unspent Missions budget from year 2023			
Actual Fund Raising receipts	(5,606)		
Actual Board of Missions spending	<u>5,216</u>		
Increase in the Missions spending carryover	<u>(390)</u>	(390)	390
Additional Missions spending authorized by Trustees from 2023 operations		(5,000)	5,000
Distributions of the Designated Missions Reserve from 2022			<u>(2,131)</u>
Net increase in the Missions Reserves			<u>3,259</u>
Other changes in Appropriated Reserves			
Facilities deposit carried over into 2024			150
Excess from the Women's Retreat carried over to 2024			65
Received Memorial Gift			25
Net transactions charged against the Music fund			(45)
Net transactions charged against the Memorial Grove fund			<u>(2,785)</u>
Total Changes in Retained Surplus		<u>53,267</u>	<u>668</u>
Ending Balances 12/31/2023		<u>262,473</u>	<u>19,900</u>

Greenbelt Community Church
Fund Raising and Other Resources for Missions Activities, 2023

General Fund Raising Activities and Other Budgeted Funds

General Fund Raising Projects and Activities

Fall Concert and Spaghetti Dinner	1,627	
Got Sneakers	248	
Luncheon on the Lawn	849	
Savers	842	
Shrove Tuesday	773	
Spring Concert	280	
Winter Concert and Christmas Fair	986	
Total General Fund Raising Projects	<u>5,606</u>	5,606

Available from Budgeted Funds

Our Church's Wider Mission	7,500	
Pastor's Discretionary	404	
Board of Missions Appropriation	200	
Total Budgeted Funds	<u>8,104</u>	8,104

Non-Budgeted Activities

Special Missions Receipts		3,885
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Dedicated Fund Raising Projects and Activities

Agape Meals (benefitting Help by Phone)	798	
CWS Crop	1,316	
Hawaii Fire Relief	455	
Heifer	1,758	
Turkey Earthquake Relief	775	
Total Dedicated Fund Raising Projects	<u>5,102</u>	5,102

Non-budgeted UCC Programs

Christmas Fund (for Veterans of the Cross)	1,395	
Neighbors in Need	1,171	
One Great Hour of Sharing	1,088	
Strengthen the Church	403	
Total Non-budgeted UCC Programs	<u>4,058</u>	4,058

Other Sources

Authorized by Trustees (Year 2022)	5,000	
Authorized by Trustees (Year 2023)	5,000	
Seasonal Plants	162	
Total Other Sources	<u>10,162</u>	10,162

Total Available from Budget and Fund Raising Activities		<u>36,916</u>
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**Greenbelt Community Church
Income Statement , 2023**

	Annual Budget	Actual	Percent of Budget
Operating Receipts			
Pledges and Gifts	206,614	203,932	98.7%
Charges for Church Use	34,100	36,915	108.3%
Initial Offering	500	135	27.0%
Fund Raisers	2,500	5,606	224.2%
Return on Invested Assets	-	1,913	0.0%
Total Operating Receipts	243,714	248,501	102.0%
Pastoral Compensation and Expense			
Salary		50,160	0.0%
Pension		6,462	0.0%
FICA Reimbursement		3,837	0.0%
Insurance		382	0.0%
Travel & Professional Expense		-	0.0%
Total Pastoral Compensation and Expense	110,000	60,841	55.3%
Other Salaries & Compensation			
Administrative Assistant	15,629	14,595	93.4%
Music Director	16,805	16,805	100.0%
Guest Ministers	1,450	500	34.5%
Guest Organist	825	675	81.8%
FICA Expense	2,481	2,402	96.8%
Total Other Salaries & Compensation	37,190	34,977	94.1%
Church Operating Expenses			
Advertising	1,633	1,812	110.9%
Insurance	13,730	13,588	99.0%
Supplies and Office Expense	5,774	6,731	116.6%
Custodial Services	14,560	12,453	85.5%
Maintenance	14,427	12,043	83.5%
Utilities	26,316	18,899	71.8%
Discounts and Banking Fees	671	607	90.5%
Total Church Operating Expense	77,111	66,134	85.8%

**Greenbelt Community Church
Income Statement , 2023**

Church Programs

Board of Christian Education	1,000	478	47.8%
Board of Communications	1,000	1,095	109.5%
Board of Congregational Life	200	355	177.6%
Board of Missions	200	200	100.0%
Board of Worship	500	218	43.5%
Music Progam	300	300	100.0%
Stewardship	425	139	32.8%
Potomac Association	2,288	2,301	100.6%
Church Leadership and Development	1,500	426	28.4%
Pastoral Search Committee	1,000	-	0.0%
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	750	750	100.0%
Conference Delegates	250	-	0.0%
Total Church Programs	9,413	6,263	66.5%

Budgeted Missions

Board of Missions Designation	2,500	5,216	208.6%
Our Church's Wider Mission	7,500	7,500	100.0%
Total Budgeted Missions	10,000	12,716	127.2%

Total Expenses 243,714 180,931 74.2%

Net Income from Budgeted Activities - 67,570

Off Budget Items

Permit Work Paid to Soltesz	(3,914)
Additional Missions Spending Authorized from the 2022 Surplus	(5,000)

Net Income 58,656

Greenbelt Community Church
Proposed Operating Budget, Year 2024

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	Budget Year 2023	Budget Year 2024	Percent Change 2023 - 2024
Operating Receipts			
Pledges and Gifts			
Offering	206,614	199,245	-3.6%
Loose	-		
Charges for Use of Church and Facilities:	34,100	38,900	14.1%
Initial Offering	500	500	0.0%
Investment Return	-	-	0.0%
Fund Raisers	2,500	5,000	100.0%
Total Operating Receipts	<u>243,714</u>	<u>243,645</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Operating Expenses			
Pastoral Compensation			
Total Compensation Package Allowed	110,000	113,000	2.7%
Total Pastoral Compensation	<u>110,000</u>	<u>113,000</u>	<u>2.7%</u>
Other Salaries and Compensation			
Administrative Assistant	15,629	15,607	-0.1%
Music Director	16,805	17,646	5.0%
Guest Ministers	1,450	1,200	-17.2%
Guest Organist	825	550	-33.3%
FICA/Medicare Expense	2,481	2,544	2.5%
Total Other Salaries and Compensation	<u>37,190</u>	<u>37,547</u>	<u>1.0%</u>
Church Operating Expense			
Advertising	1,633	1,773	8.6%
Insurance	13,730	14,620	6.5%
Supplies	5,774	5,883	1.9%
Custodial Services	14,560	14,280	-1.9%
Maintenance & Repairs	14,427	13,399	-7.1%
Utilities	26,316	20,534	-22.0%
Discounts and Banking Fees	671	612	-8.8%
Total Operating Expense	<u>77,111</u>	<u>71,101</u>	<u>-7.8%</u>

Greenbelt Community Church
Proposed Operating Budget, Year 2023

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	Budget Year 2023	Budget Year 2024	Percent Change 2023 - 2024
Church Programs			
Board of Christian Education	1,000	1,000	0.0%
Board of Communications	1,000	1,000	0.0%
Board of Congregational Life	200	500	150.0%
Board of Missions	200	200	0.0%
Board of Worship	500	300	-40.0%
Music Program	300	300	0.0%
Stewardship	425	400	-5.9%
Conference Delegates	250	250	0.0%
Church Leadership & Development	1,500	1,500	0.0%
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	750	750	0.0%
Pastoral Search Committee	1,000	1,000	0.0%
Potomac Association	2,288	2,297	0.4%
Total Church Programs	<u>9,413</u>	<u>9,497</u>	<u>0.9%</u>
Budgeted Missions			
Budgeted Missions	2,500	5,000	100.0%
Our Church's Wider Mission	7,500	7,500	0.0%
Total Budgeted Missions	<u>10,000</u>	<u>12,500</u>	<u>25.0%</u>
Total Expenses	<u>243,714</u>	<u>243,645</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Income (Loss) from Operations	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	

2024 COUNTERS ROSTER

February

4-Feb Kathleen Fominaya and Ken Voigt
 11-Feb Jan Derry & Jim Miers
 18-Feb Yolanda & Alex Burnett
 25-Feb Yolanda & Alex Burnett

August

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

March

3-Mar Kathleen Fominaya and Ken Voigt
 10-Mar Kathleen Fominaya and Ken Voigt
 17-Mar Carla & Mike Crompton
 24-Mar Carla & Mike Crompton
 31-Mar Terri Henderson and Dave Alexander

September

1-Sep Yolanda & Alex Burnett
 8-Sep Yolanda & Alex Burnett
 15-Sep Carla & Mike Crompton
 22-Sep Carla & Mike Crompton
 29-Sep Terri Henderson and Dave Alexander

April

7-Apr Terri Henderson and Dave Alexander
 14-Apr Kathleen Fominaya and Ken Voigt
 21-Apr Jan Derry & Jim Miers
 28-Apr Jan Derry & Jim Miers

October

6-Oct Terri Henderson and Dave Alexander
 13-Oct Jan Derry & Jim Miers
 20-Oct Jan Derry & Jim Miers
 27-Oct Ellen & Gil Lee

May

5-May Ellen & Gil Lee
 12-May Ellen & Gil Lee
 19-May Yolanda & Alex Burnett
 26-May Yolanda & Alex Burnett

November

3-Nov Ellen & Gil Lee
 10-Nov Yolanda & Alex Burnett
 17-Nov Yolanda & Alex Burnett
 24-Nov Kathleen Fominaya and Ken Voigt

June

2-Jun Kathleen Fominaya and Ken Voigt
 9-Jun Kathleen Fominaya and Ken Voigt
 16-Jun Carla & Mike Crompton
 23-Jun Carla & Mike Crompton
 30-Jun Terri Henderson and Dave Alexander

December

1-Dec Kathleen Fominaya and Ken Voigt
 8-Dec Carla & Mike Crompton
 15-Dec Carla & Mike Crompton
 22-Dec Jan Derry & Jim Miers
 29-Dec Jan Derry & Jim Miers

July

7-Jul Terri Henderson and Dave Alexander
 14-Jul Jan Derry & Jim Miers
 21-Jul Jan Derry & Jim Miers
 28-Jul Ellen & Gil Lee

January, 2025

5-Jan Terri Henderson and Dave Alexander
 12-Jan Terri Henderson and Dave Alexander
 19-Jan Ellen & Gil Lee
 26-Jan Ellen & Gil Lee

Substitute - Keith Johnson

Proposed revision of the Bylaws

Article IX. Official Boards

Rationale: Our Bylaws call for **42 elected positions**, including 36 Board members (6 Boards x 6 members each). We currently have about **80 active members and non-members** who are able to participate in the work of our church. For the past several years, we've had trouble filling all the positions.

Background: The Church Council discussed this situation during 2022-2023. Some of the suggestions from these discussions included:

- Reduce the required number of members on each Board from 6 to "at least 3", allowing for more than 3, but setting that as the minimum;
- Allow candidates to indicate their willingness to serve for 1, 2, or 3 years;
- Allow people to serve a consecutive term, up to a total of 6 years;
- Allow people to serve on two Boards at the same time;
- Allow active non-members to serve on Boards;
- Combine the current Boards into 3 Boards with 6 elected members each, thus reducing the number of Board positions from 36 to 18.

Proposal: The 2023 Church Council voted to propose **combining the 6 Boards into 3 Boards** and to present the proposed revision at the Annual Meeting in January. This entails revising the sections describing the responsibilities for each Board.

If approved, the changes will take effect in **January 2025**, and those elected to Boards at this year's Annual Meeting would serve for this year. They would then be eligible to continue serving on the combined Board next year or could step down since we would need fewer Board members.

Please see the next page for the actual proposed revised sections.

Procedure: A motion will be made to approve the revision, and someone will second that motion. The Moderator will then open the floor for discussion. You may make arguments for or against the proposed revision or ask questions. Please keep your comments to the point and be respectful of each other's opinions.

Move to amend the motion: You can propose changing some of the wording of the motion; for example, you're in favor of combining the Boards but feel there should be 10 members per Board rather than 6 members. This motion to amend would be voted on before voting on the main motion.

After adequate time for discussion, the Moderator will call for a vote on the motion. Vote Yea (to approve the revision), Nay (to oppose it), or Abstain (not voting). **Our Bylaws require that two-thirds (2/3) of members present at the Annual Meeting vote to approve any revisions to the Bylaws.** Members are defined as those who have officially joined the church and been received by the congregation.

From current Bylaws, Article IX. Official Boards

General Section. All Boards

- (a) Terms: Elected members of all boards serve for a term of 3 years. One-third of the members are elected annually. After having served one full term, or a partial term plus one full term in succession, an elected member is not eligible for the same board until after a lapse of 1 year.
- (b) Vacancies: In the case of an interim vacancy, the Nominating Committee submits names to the board in need and that board has the authority to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.
- (c) Meetings: All boards meet at specified times and places throughout the year. Special meetings may be called at any time by the Chair of a board, the Pastor, or at the request of three members of the board involved.
- (d) Quorum: Fifty percent of the membership of any board is a quorum.
- (e) Composition: Each board will have a minimum of six members who are Regular Members. No one will serve on more than one board at a time.
- (f) Voting: Action may be taken by a majority vote of those present and voting at any regular or duly called special meeting at which there is a quorum.
- (g) Rights: Each board has the right to elect its own officers, to organize itself into committees, and to assign duties among its members in order to carry out its responsibilities.
- (h) Budget: Each board regularly monitors its expenditures and prepares and submits to the Trustees its budget request for the coming year.

Article IX. continues with sections 1-6, describing the responsibilities of each of the six Boards.

Motion: To revise Article IX of the Bylaws by combining the current six Boards and their responsibilities into three Boards with six members each, the revised sections of the By-Laws to read as follows:

Section 1: Board of Christian Education and Worship

The Board of Christian Education and Worship directs the church's educational program and plans and coordinates the church's worship services with the Pastor. The duties of the board include the following. The duties of the board include the following:

- (a) Plan regular educational opportunities for adults, youth and children and provide materials, books, and supplies.
- (b) Enlist and support teachers and leaders for educational groups.
- (c) Plan and present special educational events in conjunction with other boards.
- (d) Support the pastor in confirmation education.
- (e) Plan and coordinate the regular Sunday worship of the Church, such as the form of worship, the serving of communion, and support of visiting ministers.

- (f) Plan and/or coordinate the special worship services of the Church, such as Christmas Eve, Lent, Christmas pageant, and Maundy Thursday.
- (g) Regularly involve members of the Church in leading worship, such as lay readers, or dramatic presentations or mime.
- (h) Provide support services for worship, such as ushers, communion servers, change of paraments, greeters, and nursery care.

Section 2: Board of Communications, Congregational Life, and Missions

The Board of Communications, Congregational Life, and Missions disseminates information about church activities to the membership and the public, creates opportunities for members to become acquainted with one another, strengthens the sense of belonging within the Church, integrates new members into the Church family, and oversees the church's benevolences. The duties of the Board include the following:

- (a) Upon receiving news and information from church boards, determine where to post the information and what needs to be sent to local media in the form of a news release or paid advertising.
- (b) Ensure that the church's website is attractive, easy to navigate, helpful to visitors, and meets the church's needs.
- (c) Assist the Pastor, administrative assistant, and Clerk with regular updates to the church's website and social media accounts.
- (d) Develop and maintain a GCC presence on social media.
- (e) Ensure that the church's website and social media posts are accurate and consistent with each other and any notices or advertisements disseminated.
- (f) Plan and oversee fellowship and fund-raising activities of the Church.
- (g) Encourage and oversee fellowship groups within the Church.
- (h) Plan and oversee programs to welcome potential new members and help them become integrated into the life of the church.
- (i) Responsible for kitchen supplies.
- (j) Promote congregational giving to special offerings not included in the budget.
- (k) Inform the congregation of special needs and particular opportunities for service and assist members in becoming involved.
- (l) Coordinate congregational participation in special mission-related events.
- (m) Study requests for assistance, identify priorities, inform the congregation, and direct designations to the Treasurer for implementation.

Section 3. Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees manages the church's finances and maintenance. The duties of the board include the following:

- (a) Prepare and present the budget to the congregation for its approval.
- (b) Seek the financial support needed for the work and upkeep of the Church.
- (c) Provide information to the congregation regarding the Church's financial condition.
- (d) Expend Church funds consistent with the Church budget and directions from the congregation.

- (e) Ensure that an audit of the Church's financial records and procedures is performed by a qualified, independent auditor (nonmember) every 3 years and provide information to the congregation about the results of the audit.
- (f) Set policy for the use of Church's facilities.
- (g) Oversee the maintenance of the buildings, equipment, and grounds, including Memorial Grove.
- (h) Provide for collection (enlist counting stewards)
- (i) Identify and implement major improvements needed to Church facilities and required financing.
- (j) Conducts annual reviews of non-ordained employees.
- (k) Ensure that the Memorial Secretary accurately records and acknowledges all memorial gifts made to the Church.
- (l) Oversee the duties of the Financial Secretary who shall be responsible for tracking the tithes and offerings of church members and preparing quarterly statements for them.
- (m) Hire and fire staff in the positions described in Article XII, section 3 of this document.
- (n) Oversee the duties of staff hired in the positions described in Article XII, section 3 of this document.

A Year in Photos: 2023



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.

Our ideal is a church of the open mind, the warm heart, the aspiring soul, and the social vision, which ever seeks to express in all ways the mind and spirit of Jesus.

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.