



**FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL**
United Church of Christ - Portland

ANNUAL 2019 REPORT

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
PORTLAND, OR



1126 SW Park Avenue, Portland, OR 97205 (Church)
1137 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97205 (Office)
(503) 228-7219 | www.uccportland.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Annual Congregation Meeting Agenda	4
Congregational Meeting Minutes (December 13th, 2015)	5 - 7
Church Council and Nominating Committee 2017	8
Proposed Church Budget	9 - 13
Senior Minister's Report	14 - 15
Moderator's Report	16 - 17
Assistant Minister's Report	18 - 19
Business Manager's Report	20 - 21
Secretary-Treasurer's & Stewardship Report	22
Community Core Ministry	23 - 30
- Called to Care	24
- Eve's Circle	24 - 25
- First Men	26
- Family Ministries	26 - 28
- Practicing the Presence	28 - 29
- Spiritual Path Group	29
- UCC Ukes	29
- Artist's Way	29 - 30
Hospitality Core Ministry	31 - 37
- Art Reach Gallery	32 - 33
- Common Table	33
- Drag Me to Church	33 - 34
- Healing Through Yoga	34
- Locus Iste	34 - 36
- Oliver Lecture	36
- The Way of the Rose	37
Peacemaking Core Ministry	38 - 44
- Housing Justice	38
- Do Good Multnomah Veterans Sheleter	39
- Potluck in the Park	39
- Racial Justice Action Group	40
- ONA/Pride Parade	40 - 41
- Immigration Working Group	41
- Transition Project	41
- Village Support Network & Goose Hollow Family Shelter	41 - 42
- Wayfarers	42
- Eloheh Farm	42 - 43
- Interfaith Ministry	43 - 44
Congregational Member Statistics	45
Church Staff	46
Pastors	47
Moderators	48

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
PORTLAND, OR**

DECEMBER 11TH, 2016

Video Highlights from 2016

+

Opening prayer

+

Call to order

+

Establish quorum

+

Approve minutes of December 13, 2015 meeting

+

Election of officers

+

Investing in Growth Presentation

+

Vote on adoption of the 2017 budget

+

Recognition of outgoing leadership and welcoming of new leadership

+

Closing prayer

Assistant Moderator Albert Horn called the meeting to order at 11:39 and Reverend Michael Ellick opened with prayer.

Quorum was confirmed with 67 members present. Asst. Moderator Al Horn explained the procedures for the meeting and noted that he would not recognize a motion to close discussion, as all who want to speak will be recognized.

The minutes from the December 14, 2014 Annual Meeting were approved as written.

The minutes from the November 8, 2015 Special Meeting were approved as written.

New Business:

Bylaws

- Bruce Bishop clarified that abstentions do not count as votes.
- Ellen Bradley thanked the Governance Task Force and all those who worked on Bylaws, including those who have asked questions and drawn attention to pertinent issues, for their many hours and efforts.
- Ellen moved to approve the Bylaws as written; the motion was seconded.

Bylaws Discussion

Question: How will the Council decide what constitutes a “major financial program” per Article IV (2) (d)?

Response: This language has not changed from the previous Bylaw wording.

Comment: It may be appropriate to do further work on some Bylaw wording at a future time.

Question: Can the Congregation convene a Congregational Meeting; there is no Bylaw language for this.

Response: Oregon Statutes provide for this, so yes.

Response: The Council has always responded to such a request.

Question: Can the Senior Minister ignore Council’s advice and make independent staffing decisions per Article IX (5)?

Response: Wording shows that the Council gives “advice and council” in such matters; the oversight is not binding but is clear.

Comment: This may be another area a future Bylaw committee should look at, sooner rather than later.

Comment: Another language change needed is in Article II: “amenable” to “responsible.”

Comment: The Council is urged to appoint a Bylaw group to review and continue Bylaw improvements.

The vote on the motion to accept the Bylaws as written was called for.
The new Bylaws were approved by a vote of 58 for and 2 against.

Elections

- Julie Young names and thanked the Nominating Committee members.
- She introduced their nominees for the Church Council: Moderator--Al Horn, Past Moderator--Ross Runkel, Assistant Moderator--Peace Young, Secretary/Treasurer--Bill Sweeney, Member-at-large (1yr. term)--Margaret Baldwin, Member-at-large (2 yr. term)--Karen Hurst, Member-at-large (3 yr. term)--Christian Logerstedt
- She introduced the 2016 Nominating Committee: Frank Baldwin, Jim McPartland, Lesley Sepetoski, Scott Sorensen-Jolink, Anne Sullivan, Julie Young.
- Julie moved to adopt the two slates; the motion was seconded. There was no discussion.
- The slates were approved unanimously by all voting.

2016 Budget

- Bill Sweeney introduced the 2016 Budget with some background. He recognized that the church received major bequests this year and noted that as of Nov. 30, there is an approximate \$42,800 deficit which does not include the unanticipated elevator replacement (costing approx. \$30,000). The Church is likely to end the year approximately \$73,000 in the red.
- Bill also noted future pressures: our expensive building; compensation issues (there have been no raises in recent budgets, including the present one); potential minimum wage laws.
- Because of the deficit concerns, the Budget Task Force went over the Budget line by line in order to make a significant move towards a balanced budget. The 2016 Budget proposal has a \$2,729 deficit. The Budget reflects increased pledges and decreased spending, with a major decrease in the amount going to OCWM.
- Jim Sikkell moved to adopt the 2016 Budget; the motion was seconded.

Budget Discussion

- Bruce Bishop explained the importance of OCWM and expressed dismay at the significant cut to this ministry. He moved to amend the budget by increasing the Peace Making Core Ministry total to \$23,400; allocating the additional funds to balance local, conference, and national missions; requiring a report on that allocation by April 1, 2016; and budgeting the Peace Making Core Ministry, beginning in 2017, at 10% of projected pledge and non-pledge giving. This motion was seconded.

Comments: While a balanced budget is to be desired, money for mission is vital and ought not to be where funding is cut. Our congregation is part of a wider institution which supports it and which it needs to support. The proposed amendment has four parts, which confuses the focus; the language does not state that the increase should go to OCWM, and the 10%

language potentially limits the amount of money to missions. As a congregation, we are pretty ignorant about OCWM. As a congregation, we need to involve more members in the Central Pacific Conference. We show a lack of leadership responsibility if we do not support OCWM. A balanced budget models leadership in fiscal responsibility. Much discussion over the past year in the budget task force focussed on the issue currently being deliberated and the current budget proposal reflects the consensus of that representative church group. Were we to vote to increase mission spending, where would we cut in order to maintain the bottom line? We have not had a balanced budget since 2010.

The vote on the proposed amendment was called for.

It was clarified that a quorum was still present.

The motion was defeated by a vote of 12 for and 36 against.

The vote on the motion to accept the 2016 Budget was called for.

The motion was passed by a vote of 43 for and 7 against.

Al thanked the assembled group for their involvement in the process of our church life. He also thanked Ann Laskey, Ross Runkel, the outgoing Church Council members, all outgoing commission and standing committee members, and all who work hard in many different capacities to make ours a church family we treasure.

The meeting was closed with prayer and adjourned at 1:22.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

CHURCH COUNCIL

The 2016 Nominating Committee [Julie Young, Jim McPartland, Leslie Sepetoski, Scott Sorensen-Jolink, Frank Baldwin, and Anne Sullivan] has prepared the following slate of nominees for the 2017 Church Council, to be affirmed by the congregation:

Moderator:	Peace Young
Assistant Moderator:	Frank Baldwin*
Past Moderator:	Al Horn
Secretary/Treasurer:	Belinda Moos*
Member-at-Large	Karen Hurst (<i>1 Year Term</i>)
Member-at-Large	Christian Logerstedt (<i>2 Year Term</i>)
Member-at-Large	Karin Wriggle (<i>3 Year Term</i>)*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2017

The 2016 Selection Committee [Ann Laskey, Cath Clark, Phil Oliver, and Nanci Tangeman] has prepared the following slate of nominees for the 2017 Nominating Committee:

Karen Horn *

Jim McPartland

Tim Pollard *

Leslie Sepetoski

Scott Sorensen-Jolink

Anne Sullivan

* denotes new member this year.

Income	
4000 · Giving	
4050 · Pledges	\$170,000
4051 · General gifts	\$42,000
4052 · Flowers	\$900
4053 · Memorials and bequests	\$2,000
	<hr/>
Total 4000 · Giving	\$214,900
4100 · Tower receipts	\$2,000
4200 · Designated gifts	
4202 · Pastors Discretionary donations	\$500
4205 · Youth missions donations	\$0
4210 · Choir donations	\$100
4212 · Eve's Circle	\$0
4213 · Eve's Grandma Agnes donations	\$0
4216 ArtReach	\$5,000
4218 Other Designated Donations	\$0
	<hr/>
Total 4200 · Designated gifts	\$5,600
4300 · Building income	
4301 · PCPA lease	\$190,524
4305 · Building rentals	\$65,000
4310 · Annex subleases	\$28,000
4315 · Weddings	\$8,000
4320 · Do Good rental	\$0
	<hr/>
Total 4300 · Building income	\$291,524
4400 · Grants	
4401 · Brown Grant #1	\$10,352
4402 · Brown Grant #2	\$103,829
	<hr/>
Total 4400 · Grants	\$114,181
4500 · In kind donations	\$0
4600 · Church sponsored activities	
4601 · Art Reach commissions	\$1,000
4602 · Oliver annual lecture	\$1,900
	<hr/>
Total 4600 · Church sponsored activities	\$2,900
4700 · Interest income	\$0
	<hr/>
Total Income	\$631,105

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

PROPOSED CHURCH BUDGET 2017 (CONTINUED)

Expense	
6000 · Community Core Ministry	
6010 · Community general	\$1,000
6021 · Music director	\$16,516
6022 · Organist	\$16,516
6023 · Choir leaders	\$17,900
6024 · Fourth Sunday musicians	\$3,400
6025 · Organ repair	\$700
6026 · Organ tuning	\$700
6027 · Piano tuning	\$550
6028 · Other musicians	\$0
6029 · Music supplies	\$500
6030 · Music honoraria	\$0
6031 · Choir parking	\$1,500
6035 · Eve's Circle expenses	\$0
6036 · Eve's Grandma Agnes expenses	\$0
Total 6000 · Community Core Ministry	\$59,282
6050 · General worship	
6051 · Sub. preacher	\$400
6052 · Flowers expenses	\$900
6053 · Other worship expenses	\$1,000
Total 6050 · General worship	\$2,300
6070 · Christian education	
6071 · Chr. Ed. general account	\$900
6080 · Youth ministry	\$800
6081 · Youth mission trip	\$0
6082 · Fam. retreat scholarships	\$1,000
6083 · Youth teachers/assistants	\$16,400
Total 6070 · Christian education	\$19,100
6200 · Peace-making core ministry	
6201 · Peace-making general account	\$3,000
6202 · Local service projects	\$4,000
6203 · Our Church's Wider Mission	\$7,300
6204 · Pastor's disc. fund expenses	\$2,000
6205 · Open & Affirming expenses	\$500
Total 6200 · Peace-making core ministry	\$16,800
6300 · Hospitality core ministry	
6301 · Hospitality gen. account	\$2,000
6302 · Sunday fellowship expenses	\$2,000
6350 · Church sponsored events	
6351 · Oliver Lecture	\$1,900
6352 · ArtReach Galler	\$7,000
6360 · Other CSE's	\$2,000

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

PROPOSED CHURCH BUDGET 2017 (CONTINUED)

Total 6350 · Church sponsored events	\$10,900
Total 6300 · Hospitality core ministry	\$14,900
6500 · Ministerial staff	
6501 · Sr. Min. Salary	\$40,000
6502 · Sr. Min. Housing	\$40,000
6503 · Sr. Min. SECA	\$6,120
6504 · Sr. Min. Health/dental	\$4,000
6505 · Sr. Min. Life/disability	\$1,200
6506 · Sr. Min. Pension	\$11,200
6507 · Sr. Min. expenses	\$2,000
6508 · Sr. Min. Continuing Ed.	\$100
6509 · Sr. Min. Transport exps.	\$1,000
6510 · Sr. Min. Cell/Internet	\$1,000
6511 · Sr. Min. Auto expenses	\$1,000
6550 · Asst. Min. Salary	\$24,000
6551 · Asst. Min. Housing	\$24,000
6552 · Asst. Min. SECA	\$3,682
6553 · Asst. Min. Health/dental	\$11,274
6554 · Asst. Min. Life/disability	\$720
6555 · Asst. Min. Pension	\$6,720
6556 · Asst. Min. Expenses	\$2,000
6557 · Asst. Min. Continuing Ed.	\$1,500
6558 · Asst. Min. Parking	\$2,040
Total 6500 · Ministerial staff	\$183,556
6600 · Personnel expenses	
6611 · Communications Coordinator	\$35,360
6612 · Accounting Coordinator	\$17,940
6613 · Facilities Manager	\$46,760
6614 · Custodians	\$26,200
6615 · Business Manager	\$52,884
6616 · Business Manager parking	\$2,520
6617 · Staff health / dental insurance	\$21,000
6620 · Payroll tax expense	\$19,000
6621 · Workers Comp Insurance	\$4,750
6600 · Personnel expenses - Other	\$600
Total 6600 · Personnel expenses	\$227,014
6650 · Marketing Expenses	\$3,500
6700 · Building and rental expenses	
6701 · Building rentals	\$10,000
6702 · Wedding expenses	\$4,000
6703 · Sublease expenses	\$1,500
6705 · Do Good Expenses	\$0
Total 6700 · Building and rental expenses	\$15,500
6800 · Building/facility expenses	

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

PROPOSED CHURCH BUDGET 2017 (CONTINUED)

6801 · Water	\$5,000
6802 · Gas	\$8,000
6803 · Electricity	\$9,000
6804 · Sanitation	\$5,000
6805 · Security	\$6,000
6806 · Repairs - ordinary	\$12,000
6807 · Repairs - major	\$45,000
6808 · Exterior wall cleaning	\$0
6809 · Building & kitchen supplies	\$7,500
6810 · Parking	\$3,000
6811 · Elevator monitoring	\$600
Total 6800 · Building/facility expenses	\$101,100
6850 · Annex expenses	
6851 · Annex electricity	\$2,800
6852 · Annex security	\$600
6853 · Annex rent	\$22,236
Total 6850 · Annex expenses	\$25,636
6900 · Office Expenses	
6901 · Office supplies	\$3,000
6902 · Office Equipt. Maint.	\$3,000
6903 · Office Equip. Purch.	\$3,500
6904 · Postage	\$1,900
6905 · Printer lease expenses	\$8,500
6906 · Web/telephone expenses	\$8,400
6900 Office Expenses - Other	\$0
Total 6900 · Office Expenses	\$28,300
6950 · Other general expenses	
6951 · Insurance	\$20,500
6952 · Delegate Expenses	\$750
6953 · Payroll service	\$2,000
6954 · E-giving expenses	\$900
6955 · Accounting Review	\$0
6956 · Bank charges	\$50
6959 · Other prof. services	\$150
Total 6950 · Other general expenses	\$24,350
6960 · Dues and subscriptions	
6961 · Conference per capita dues	\$4,000
6962 · EMO Dues	\$300
6963 · Other dues	\$0
6964 · Licenses & permits	\$800
6965 · Stewardship	\$1,500
Total 6960 · Dues and subscriptions	\$6,600

PROPOSED CHURCH BUDGET 2017 (CONTINUED)

Total Expense	\$727,938
Net Ordinary Income	\$96,833
Other Income	
6970 · Unrealized gain (loss) on funds	\$0
9000 · Budgeted investment transfers	
9005 · Knapp Fund transfer	\$2,316
9010 · Choir fund transfer	\$0
9015 · Oliver Lecture transfer	\$2,058
9020 · Restr. Endow. transfer	\$2,057
9025 · Reserve fund transfer	\$41,185
9030 · Pastor's Disc. transfer	\$500
9035 · Youth Mission transfer	\$0
9040 Building Transfer Fund	\$45,000
9045 · Dodge ext. wall repair transfer	\$0
9050 Reserve Fund Youth Teacher transfr	\$4,000
Total 9000 · Budgeted investment transfers	\$97,116
Total Other Income	\$97,116
Net Other Income	\$97,116
Net Income	\$283

REVEREND MICHAEL ELLICK

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” – Jeremiah 29:11

This has been a year of change. And sometimes change can be exciting: open possibilities, new perspectives, and the fresh air of revitalized spirits. But sometimes change can also be frightening: the foundations feel troubled, familiar touchstones go missing, and the old pillars we lean on stop feeling so stable. Seasons of change always possess an ambiguous quality. When our sense of familiarity and routine is disrupted, we all discover that “falling into the hands of the living God” can be liberating, but it can also be terrifying, and sometimes it can even be both at the same time.

So let’s look at the scary stuff first. At the end of 2015 our congregation voted to adopt a new governance model, and this remains a work of incarnation-in-progress as we transition from “Making sure all the bases get covered,” to “How does this allow us to thrive in a way we could not have before?” On top of this, we lost Rev. Sarah Rosenau as our Assistant Minister. Then we lost Jonathan in the front office, our bookkeeper John Beherens, and our Facilities Manager Ryan Sotomayor. All these exits were friendly and had been anticipated for some time, but they were simultaneously major blows to the smooth functioning of First Congregational Church. On top of this we’ve had large (and sometimes expensive) building repairs, computer and database upgrades, and a much needed overhaul of our budgeting process. All of this was work that needed to get done, but often the spirit and excitement of being a church can get lost in all the details of institutional maintenance.

Even while all this was going on, a renewed spirit of engagement had been growing here that continues to astound me every day. In, and through, the tradition of First Congregational Church leadership, this year we’ve built new relationships and organized outstanding programs with SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice), IMIRJ (Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice), and Eloheh Farms. In partnership with the Multnomah County Housing Bureau and Do Good Multnomah, we started a Veteran’s Shelter in our Chapel. We also hosted a drag-show fundraiser for the Q Center, a successful organizing campaign to increase affordable housing with MACG (Metropolitan Alliance for the Common Good), a 9/11 15th Anniversary memorial with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, and ongoing interfaith solidarity events with the Muslim Educational Trust and the Interfaith Council of Greater Portland. Through all this we’ve established ourselves as community leaders in Portland and beyond, and day by day this work continues to define the church’s relevance in the 21st Century.

The most obvious impact of this renewed spirit of engagement can be experienced on Sunday mornings: we’re growing. We’re growing in leaps and bounds and all the indicators say we’ll continue to grow in the year ahead. New faces means new energy, new perspectives, and new ideas – not just in the congregation, but in the paid staff as well. In addition to all the new people starting to make First their spiritual home, our renewed mission vitality has allowed us to add some extremely talented employees to our roster.

At present I don’t have space to properly gush over Joey Rodriguez (our new

Communications Coordinator), Stephen Eggers (our new Facilities Manager), and Sandra Hetzel (our new Bookkeeper), but meet them for yourself and you'll see what I mean. And now, in addition to recently ordained Rev. Elizabeth Durant (to my mind one of the true rising stars of the UCC), we have assembled the finest church staff I could ever hope to work with. As this team continues to grow into place and we all learn how to manage the ever-increasing number of people being served (and serving) First Congregational United Church of Christ, I have every confidence that we will not only survive, we will thrive, and continue to establish ourselves as leaders in our city, our denomination, and mainline Christianity as a whole.

Now all this good news doesn't make the change it represents any less scary. None of us knows what God has in store, and there is no promise that any of our human customs and institutions will remain intact as the ongoing transformation of Christ's church continues. But I think we can all take comfort from the fact that whether we are liberated or terrified at having fallen into the hands of the living God, we have **indeed** fallen into the hands of the living God. And faith in that God, faith that we are being carried even when the way seems difficult, is the only solid foundation we can ever hope to build on.

In faith,

Rev. Michael Ellick

AL HORN

This has been a year of growth and change for our church, as our membership has expanded and our ministries have evolved. It has also been a very rewarding year of personal growth for me as your Moderator. I have felt privileged to be able to do this work.

Some recollections of Church Council in the past year:

The 2016 Church Council actually started working together in September, 2015 as The Transition Team. This team (consisting of Peace Young, Ross Runkel, Bill Sweeney, Christian Logerstedt, Karen Hurst, Margaret Baldwin, and me) spent the fall revising the church bylaws to give body to the vision of church governance created by the Governance Task Force. Through many hours of meetings and email exchanges, our team worked with focus and (mostly!) good humor to accomplish our goal.

There is an intentional lack of detail in the new bylaws to allow more flexibility in modifying our governance system as the church evolves. As a result, this year the Council has spent a good portion of its time fleshing out the new governance system by creating policies. [Church Council Policies and Core Ministry Policies] This work will continue into 2017.

We have also spent time appointing people to serve on various committees, teams, and groups. Some of these [Financial Oversight Committee, Budget Development Committee, Selection Committee, and Pastoral Relations Committee] are mandated by the bylaws. Others [Minister Advisory Team, Personnel Advisory Group, Communications Team, Discernment Advisory Group, Stewardship Team, Policy Team, Safety Team] were created based on the needs of the church. Since these are new groups this year, the Council has not only found people to serve on them, it has had to decide such things as number of members, terms of office, and expectations for the group.

For the past year and a third, the work of creating bylaws, writing policies, and creating/appointing committees has sometimes felt like doing something apart from the real mission of the church, but the Council and I have been sustained by the belief that we are creating a structure that will help the church flourish well into the future. I deeply appreciate all those who contributed to this effort, both the Council members and those who volunteered to serve on various committees and teams.

One of Rev. Michael's goals for the Council is that it serve as a visioning body for the church - a venue where ministers and lay leaders can work together to create a vision for the mission and ministry of First Congregational. To that end, we have tried to devote a part of each Council meeting to visioning. Also, instead of an August business meeting the Council held an evening retreat to discuss how we welcome visitors into our church and other topics. One of my regrets as Moderator is that the business of creating structure has tended to crowd out visioning at our busy meetings. My hope is that, having established a sound structure this year, future Councils will be able to do more of this vitally important visioning work.

Some recollections of church life in 2016:

This past spring we bid farewell to our beloved Assistant Minister, Rev. Sara Rosenau. On March 20 the Council hosted a party to celebrate Rev. Sara's 3 years with us and to wish her well in her new role as Senior Minister at Waverly Heights UCC. At the party there were plenty of shared memories, gifts, balloons, laughter, tears - and lots of pie!

Then came the task of finding a new Assistant Minister. To assist Rev. Michael in making this decision, the Council appointed a Minister Advisory Team consisting of Larry Rossini, Nanci Tangeman, Autumn Lapour, Chris Phanthavong, Jesika Gavilanes, and Rachel Short. This group, along with Rev. Michael, worked diligently to sift through candidate profiles and interview the finalists. As I sat in on meetings, I was moved by the group's deep spirit of commitment as it worked to find the right person for our diverse congregation.

That person is Rev. Elizabeth Durant, who we welcomed as our new Assistant Minister in July. Although Rev. Elizabeth has been with us for only a few months, her warm smile, her sermons, her work with ministry teams, and her insightful comments in meetings have already won her a place in our hearts. I am excited about what the future holds for her ministry here.

One of the highlights of the fall was the Interfaith 9/11 Memorial Service sponsored by First Congregational. It was amazing to see scores of people from over a dozen faith communities gathering in our sanctuary and breaking bread together after the service. As Rev. Michael said, "The most radical thing we can do ... is make friends with one another".

Also in September our longtime Jazz Sunday leader Roger Paulson resigned. We were sad to see the end of Jazz Sunday, but his departure created an opportunity to explore other types of music in church. It will be interesting to see where the spirit leads us musically in the coming year.

Another highlight of the year is the development of our new church website. This effort was led by Christian Logerstedt, who was assisted by Rev. Elizabeth. The new site is so much more informative, colorful, and easy to navigate! If you haven't explored it yet, please check it out.

This Annual Report is different from reports in past years. We no longer have a few big reports from Commissions and standing committees. Instead, there are many smaller reports from the church's Ministry Teams. Please take time to read through this booklet. You'll be amazed at the wide variety of ministries and activities going on at First Congregational.

In closing, I want to express my deep gratitude to the members of the Church Council for all their behind-the-scenes work on behalf of the church. I also want to thank the many volunteers who keep First Congregational running - including greeters, ushers, hospitality and kitchen helpers, ArtReach docents, and many others. Even as our church staff has changed over the past year, I have been repeatedly impressed by the competence and commitment of all our staff members, both old and new. It has been a pleasure to work with all these people. And it has been a tremendous opportunity to get to know so many of you on a deeper level.

Thank you.

REVEREND ELIZABETH DURANT

"You're imperfect, and you're wired for struggle, but you are worthy of love and belonging"
- Brene Brown

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus" – Romans 8:38-39

As I began compiling this report, I held your hopes in my hands: notes that many of you wrote during our Sunday worship on First Advent. I prayed for you and marveled at the diversity of concerns within our community. Some of us hope for health, for a job, for the safety of our children. We hope to help others, for a place to live, to no longer be homeless. We hope to get free of worry, to finish our education, to find a sense of meaning and purpose.

As I enter my fifth month of serving as your Assistant Minister, I hold my own hopes for all that we might do and be together as a spiritual community:

I hope that we continue to nurture our spiritual life. In addition to preaching once a month and helping to lead worship with Rev. Michael, I love the energy of our "Experimental Music" Sundays. I'm excited about a new Worship Team that is forming to brainstorm creative ways to enrich Sunday morning. In Advent, I was glad to lead Eve's Circle in a brief time of reflection and offer a weekly, women-led "Gathering in the Dark" in the chapel in December.

I hope that we re-commit to serve our children and youth. Although I am new to Godly Play, the training I attended in August made me a believer, and I've deeply enjoyed teaching our children using this wonderful curriculum. Speaking of: we need more teachers... can you help? I've restored the kids' activity bags in the sanctuary and added a welcoming song to our worship liturgy. With Rev. Michael, I am helping to plan and lead monthly activity/reflection times for our middle and high school youth (see our Family Ministries report for details). I'm excited about ongoing time with our youth next year!

I hope that we continue to support parents and families. I worked hard with Batya Podos and Rev. Michael to make S'More Family Camp a meaningful and memorable time for our families. The peace pole we created, now in our sanctuary, is a reminder of our call to be peacemakers. Using a webinar from RaceConscious, I hosted a workshop for parents to discuss how we talk to our children about race and racism. To enable parents to chat with their children after church school, I created a new Godly Play welcoming table with "Parent Pages" that we hand out each week. Now I'm dreaming about enough volunteers to offer a Parent's Night Out...are you in?

I hope that we expand opportunities for connection and relationship. I've enjoyed providing pastoral care, visiting homebound members, leading vespers at Terwilliger Plaza, and serving as pastoral support for our Called to Care team. As the clergy representative to our Central Pacific Conference Annual Meeting, I organized a "report back" from our delegates, so that we might stay in touch with our wider church. I revived our prayer shawl ministry and launched the project to compile a new photo directory. I hope the directory will

be a small step to help us connect, and look forward to creating more opportunities to gather in talking circles.

I hope that we continue our commitment to work for justice. This year, I supported the creation of a new Racial Justice Action Group, leading us in a demonstration against mass incarceration at the Oregon State Penitentiary, a rally for Standing Rock, and hosting a film ("13th") in partnership with members of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ). As co-chair of the CPC Justice & Witness Ministry team, Racial Justice Network, and SURJ Interfaith Action Group, I continue to be involved in advocacy, education and action for racial justice. I hope that our church will deepen our involvement in interfaith efforts led by Rev. Michael and take risks around immigration and houselessness next year.

I hope that we creatively reach out and grow! One of my first projects was the launch of our new church web site, a task that let me use skills from my former career as a web developer. Along with social media, our web site is one of the primary ways new people find us. I'm excited to explore creative ways to enable more people to discover and join our community.

Thank you for opening your hearts to welcome me as your Assistant Minister. I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve with you as we seek to live into the kingdom of God. We are held by the Holy One whose persistent Love calls us forward into new life.

In hope,
Rev. Elizabeth Durant

CARA ROTHE

2016 was my first full year as Business Manager. It was an amazing year of change and growth for the church!

After working for two years on helping to develop a new church governance plan, it was a pleasure to watch the church live into it. I worked with many members as their enthusiasm for new groups and ministries took flight. I look forward to facilitating more growth in this area as members find new ways to work their mission through the church.

The building underwent several changes as well, although many of these changes may not be obvious to most visitors. Projects included:

- ✦ A remodel of the “Chair Room” as our new Music Office. We replaced dark and broken windows with bright, new ones to illuminate the beautiful space, and brought in electricity and computer wiring to make it a fully-functioning office
- ✦ The basement lift was entirely replaced
- ✦ Basement storage areas were cleared to create more church storage options
- ✦ A washer and dryer were installed in the kitchen (included lots of electrical and plumbing work!)
- ✦ New speakers were installed in the Sanctuary to better fill sound “gaps” in the pews
- ✦ New lighting was installed in the Fellowship Hall and Chapel to better highlight hanging art for our ArtReach program
- ✦ Water-damaged areas in Sanctuary were also repaired

Events at the church have taken a very exciting and refreshing turn! This year, it was my pleasure to facilitate an Indigo Girls’ concert, Caravan of Glam Drag Show, Portland Lesbian Choir Concert, Wordstock Conference, Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, Portland Peace Choir Concert, and City Club’s Healthcare Reform Summit. Even when the church was “closed”, our mission was shared with thousands in the Portland community.

The Annex sublease project broke even this year, and even brought in some profit as well as continued to provide space for our administrative staff. Our current tenants now include:

- ✦ Portland Piano International
- ✦ Young Musicians and Artists
- ✦ Refugee Disability Benefits Oregon
- ✦ American Friends Service Committee

We will soon part with our treasured archives that have lived in an annex office for many years. Council has decided to donate our materials to the Oregon Historical Society. We, in the office will be sad to see them go, but are excited about sharing the church’s rich history with the community.

We have had a few exciting changes in staff this year. We have re-formulated and re-named some crucial positions:

- Joey Rodriguez is our new “Communications Coordinator”. The position closely resembles that of the Office Manager position, however, Joey now also manages IT, data management, social media, as well as facilitates and creates all graphics and design projects for the church
- Sandra Hetzel is our new “Accounts Coordinator”. This position enveloped all prior bookkeeping tasks, as well as some of the tasks of the old office manager position.
- Our old, tried and true position of facilities manager is still intact, but we are excited to have Steve Eggers to take it on. He is making it his own by branching out into some direct service to the homeless in the name of the church mission.

This year, we re-energized our efforts to put together a Safety Plan for the entire church. I worked with this team for most of the year. This was a huge undertaking, but 2017 will start out with a beautiful new Safety Manual.

I also spent this year creating many relationships in the community to widen the breadth of our mission. One such partnership has been with Central City Concern. Most folks may not notice, but we serve Central City Concern coffee in the church, these funds help to support their job training program. It is this program that I have been working closely with. I perform mock interviews for their clients and help them build their interviewing skills. We have plans to partner on other projects next year.

It has been such an honor to be part of the many changes happening at First Congregational United Church of Christ, and I look forward to another year of even more exciting growth.

BILL SWEENEY

The Finance Oversight Committee (which replaced the Finance Commission as part of the new governance structure) consists of the Treasurer, Bill Sweeney, Clark Binkley, Ted Heid, Belinda Moos, and Alicia Rossini, who moved away and has not yet been replaced.

2016 has been yet another challenging year, and our focus has been to ensure that the Church's mission is not compromised as we closely monitor revenues and expenses. Financial highlights of the year to date include: unexpected shortfalls in revenue, increases in building expenses and, happily, generous gifts. Financial results and estimates for the balance of the year are based on the Profit & Loss Statement as of 10/31/2016 as November data is not available as we go to press. However, I can report that we will end up the year in the black versus a budgeted loss of \$3,729.

On the income side, pledges are expected to fall short by an estimated \$24,000. Building rental and wedding income, in total, are estimated to generate \$39,000 less than budgeted due to increased "on mission" use of rentable church space and the trend away from traditional church weddings. On the expense side, major repairs to the church building have cost more than \$66,000 so far this year, almost double the budget of \$35,000.

However, despite these shortfalls and cost increases, we will end the year with a net income gain of over \$18,000 due largely to unanticipated gifts of \$44,449 from the Ralph Cake Trust and \$15,000 from Andrew Jares, a former member. When complete financial data for the year is available in January, we will send detailed financial results for 2016 to the congregation.

Meanwhile, the church continues to be in a very strong financial position, well equipped to meet the challenges of the future. Our investment portfolio at UCFunds as of 10/31 consists of \$1,045,706 in unrestricted funds (our "Reserve Fund") plus \$172,910 in funds where we have access to earnings but not the principal for a grand total of \$1,219,615.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT
LAYNE YOUNG and ROSS RUNKEL

We have received 107 pledges (representing approximately 150 adults) for \$166,310. 27, 25% of them arriving from new pledgers. The average pledge amount is 4% greater than last year. (This data is as of November 21, and we expect follow-up calls to result in additional pledges.)

We are grateful to our church community for the opportunity to provide invitations to pledge that were based on joy and cheerful giving. We appreciate the help that was generously provided by our ministers, staff, and church friends.

JULIE BLANCHARD, Community Core Facilitator

Community is the Core Ministry with opportunities for all ages of people in the congregation to explore and deepen their faith journeys through sharing and connecting with each other. More specifically, the Community Core includes worship, learning and spiritual nurture of our community.

2016 was a transitional year for getting the new structure off of the ground, including forming Teams to implement various Community Core functions:

Family Ministries Team coordinates Sunday childcare, Story time with “Godly Play,” Summer Youth Mission trips, and a Fall Family Camp at Camp Adams.

A **Worship Team** is off to an energetic start after an initial November meeting to assist the Ministers with preparation for Sunday Worship.

The **Usher/Greeter Team** of faithful, welcoming folks greet Sunday worship participants in front of the church and in the sanctuary.

The **Choir** meets weekly, except during summer, for practice and leading music during worship.

Also under the **Community Core** umbrella are a variety of opportunities to gather for spiritual exploration, learning, and getting to know each other including:

Eve’s Circle usually meets monthly: a welcoming group of women offering fun, creative, and thoughtful gatherings, including a Spring Weekend at Camp Adams.

First Men started this year gathering for fellowship and completed projects at Camp Adams.

Batya Podos led **Sunday morning studies** of the books of Genesis and Exodus.

UCC Ukes gathers most weeks, playing ukuleles and enjoying each other’s company.

Way of the Rose (prayer and meditation), **Practicing the Presence** (exploring spiritual practices), and **Spiritual Path** (a talking circle) each meet during most weeks.

An **Artist’s Way** group meets most weeks around the book, “The Artist’s Way”.

CALLED TO CARE

PATTY HAMMOND, Coordinator

Called to Care is a ministry of outreach to our homebound members who are no longer able to attend church or participate actively in the church community. This ministry reaches out to the homebound through home visits, telephone calls, written communication and coordinated visits with other members of the church community on special occasions. The team delivers flowers from the altar during the Easter and Christmas season. The team works to honor the participation of these integral members of the church family and to acknowledge their contributions in the history of our church community.

Called to Care meets quarterly during the year and has worked this past year to welcome new members as there has been a steady increase in the homebound members who can benefit from ongoing contact and support. We actively recruited in the summer with team members sharing their experiences during the service and an information table during Fellowship Hour. We hosted hospitality in November to increase our visibility and ensure that the church community is aware of the activities of the ministry. The team is always looking for new members and Reverend Elizabeth Durant created a much needed brochure that will now be available in the magazine rack in Fellowship Hall. The ministry is looking into other ways to expand in the future in reaching out to our church community in areas such as meal coordination, on an as-needed basis.

The team recently revived the prayer shawl ministry. We have a wonderful collection of prayer shawls, lovingly knitted by church members, that our pastors offer to church members and friends as needed during home and hospital visits. Reverend Durant would like to know of anyone who could benefit from this ministry and also any knitters who would like to contribute their valuable skills to continuing this service.

The Called to Care team currently reaches out to 19 individuals on a regular basis during the year. The team is advised and supported by Reverend Durant. The current team members are Alice Forsythe, Judy Bishop, Tobi Kushner, Ann Laskey, Michael Overman, Joe Becker, Susan Rogers, Patty Hammond (Coordinator) and former Coordinator Kathy Sheibley, who continues to assist with transitioning visitors to new members of the team.

EVE'S CIRCLE

NANCI TANGEMAN, Coordinator

There's always something different on the fourth Sunday of the month. The women in the pews are little more chatty after worship. There are more hellos exchanged and women sitting down together during Fellowship Hour. Why? Because the fourth Saturday morning of the month is Eve's Circle, when the women of First Congregational take the time to get to know each other a little better through a wide variety of programs.

In 2016 those programs included hearing a first-person perspective of the Arizona Borderlands trip; planning for disasters; moving our bodies to Qi Gong; discussing our favorite

books; making healing salves and touring the Portland Art Museum (December). We also helped coordinate a special mid-week program on the feminine voice of God in poetry and scripture with Elizabeth Durant and hosted two Fellowship Hours.



Eves were busy this year with four community service projects. We distributed more than 600 pieces of underwear and socks to Portland Public Schools PTA Clothes Closet and the Goose Hollow and Human Solutions shelters from our 2015 *Undies the Tree* drive and kicked off our 2016 drive in November. We continued with our Camp Grandma Agnes [Alexander] scholarship drive, raising \$1,345 and sending three children to church camp. We also supported two new organizations by collecting feminine hygiene products for homeless women via Camions of Care and donating old jewelry to Braking Cycles, an organization that up-cycles jewelry to benefit at-risk youth.

Our retreat in May, *Color Your World with Faith & Friendship*, emphasized color from the opening altar through Sunday matins. Twenty-five women tie-dyed tee shirts, twisted into adaptive yoga, massaged each other's hands, sang, prayed and meditated with our chakras at Camp Adams. As usual, all of the offerings were provided by members of Eve's Circle. We did not have a spiritual leader this year, so even the matins and prayers were led by laywomen. This year, First Men cooked our Saturday night dinner. We are a group of doers, so the hosted dinner in Morris Lodge was a relaxing treat.



Financially, Eve's Circle continued its reputation for doing a lot with a little. All of our activities were self-funded. There were no church funds earmarked for our group. We used the Fellowship Hall one Saturday most months for two hours.

Since September we've been operating without a designated coordinator for the first time. Eves have stepped up to provide programs throughout the year, but Judy Bishop and Nanci Tangeman are making sure the events are publicized and facilitated. This group is important and relevant, so we're making sure it survives.

The Camp Grandma Agnes Project sent three children/youth to Camp Adams summer camp on full scholarships in 2016 and is continuing to sell aprons, placemats, etc. this fall to send more this coming summer.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

This annual report is not just a tally of money raised, causes served and topics explored, every achievement recounted reminds us of the relationships formed within our group. Knowing the stories of the people in a photograph – or the person in the pew ahead of us – is the reason we connect through Eve’s Circle. This is why our Circle was formed and why it remains important to our church community.

Eve’s Circle Coordinators

Judy Bishop	2010-2013
Marcia Yeater	2012-2013
Heidi Levy	2013-2015
Nanci Tangeman	2015-2016
Judy & Nanci	2016-2017

FIRST MEN

BRUCE BISHOP, Coordinator

In 2016, First Men tackled three projects at Camp Adams. The group finished construction of six new picnic tables for camp use. We removed, hauled, and dumped 4,500 pounds of building material out of Adams Cabin, in hope that it eventually can be restored for housing, or other camp use. And we prepared and served--and even cleaned up after--a fabulous dinner for church women attending the Eve’s Circle retreat in the spring. First Men welcome challenging project ideas for 2017.



FAMILY MINISTRIES

REV. ELIZABETH DURANT and BATYA PODOS, Coordinators

This has been a year of transition and change for our Family Ministries (formerly Christian Education) team! We said farewell to Rev. Sara Rosenau in March and welcomed Rev. Elizabeth Durant as our new Assistant Minister in late July.

Here are a few highlights of our year:

In February, our annual Shrove Pancake Breakfast raised \$585 to provide scholarships for National Youth Event. We held our annual egg hunt in April. Over the summer we focused

on “Peace” with an original curriculum created by Batya Podos that included bible stories and art projects about peace in our family, peace in our community, and peace in our world. Our younger kids really enjoyed our all-church picnic and pool party in July!

A number of our youth attended Camp Adams, three on a FULL scholarship, thanks to the generosity of the Grandma Agnes Camp Adams Scholarship Fund! Five middle and high school youth participated in the Sierra Service Project on the Spokane Reservation in June, and one high schooler attended National Youth Event as part of a large conference-wide contingent in July. The youth presented their experiences during worship on September 11th, and contributed an article for our Pilgrim newsletter.



In late August, our families gathered at Camp Adams for S'More Family Camp led by Rev. Elizabeth, Batya and Rev. Michael. We enjoyed the swimming hole, a nature scavenger hunt, InterPlay movement, and sing-a-long and s'mores by a real campfire. Thanks to the excellent craft of Doug Mella and Joe Becker, we created our own custom peace pole and dedicated it at Camp Adams on Sunday morning, then blessed and installed it in our sanctuary during Homecoming Sunday on September 11th.

In October, Batya led the children in creating an ancestor altar to remember those people and pets who we love. New this year, we had a Halloween Party with spooky decorations and games and treats for the school-age children. Thanks to the hard work of Karen Horn and other parents, our pre-Thanksgiving Youth Pie Sale in November raised \$430 for our youth summer mission trip. We continued our cherished holiday traditions of cookie baking/decorating with the Adcocks, advent spiral, posada play and tamale-making with the Gavilanes and Rosete families.

Nursery: We welcomed Nell Egan as new staff in our nursery in January and are grateful for the care she provides to our youngest ones on Sundays.

Godly Play: We continue to use the Godly Play curriculum for children ages 4 to 12 and deeply appreciate our hard-working teachers (a special shout-out to Karen Horn, Anne Sullivan, Doug Mella and Daniel Hunter). Batya Podos and Rev. Durant participated in a

Godly Play training at Trinity Episcopal in August and are continuing to recruit for a new slate of teachers for 2017. We have begun distributing Godly Play Parent Pages on a new

welcome table for parents just outside the Story classroom.

Youth Group: Rev. Michael, Rev. Elizabeth and several parents began meeting with Rev. Ron Werner to envision a new youth group and possible youth collective with First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) early in the fall. While the visioning continues, Michael and Elizabeth began coordinating monthly activities for middle and high school youth. We served at Hard Times Supper in September, visited Eloheh Farms in Newberg in October, and worked at SnowCap in East Portland in November.



These gatherings offered our youth a time to build relationships, serve our wider community, and reflect on intersections between our faith and houselessness, the struggle indigenous sovereignty, climate justice, food insecurity and poverty. We are grateful to our youth mentors, including Gabriel Trainer, Judy Bishop, Jim Sikkel, Shaun Short and Terry Voss, for their presence.

Worship: New this year, we introduced a “welcoming song” to gather the children to the chancel during our morning worship for a “Time with the Children.” We sang “This, This, Is Where Children Belong” in the fall and “This Little Light of Mine” during Advent. Big thanks to Karen Hurst and Verna Becker for providing new, home-made cloth activity bags for the children to use during worship. In 2017, we’ll continue to work on involving the children and youth in our common life together.

PRACTICING THE PRESENCE

TIM POLLARD, Coordinator

This Wednesday, church gathering is an attempt to be aware of the ancient, ever-present, and on-going Presence of the Divine in our lives. Since we believe that “God is Still Speaking,” we believe also that God always has been speaking. We spent the year learning and practicing prayer and meditation chosen from a wide spectrum of traditional and new forms practiced by many peoples throughout the world.

We are finishing up the year with a evening prayer on the Wednesday nights in Advent and we expect to continue this practice in the coming year. Suggestions are welcome for this

group, and we are definitely looking to grow the group. Please talk to Tim Pollard or Sheldon Hurst for more information.

SPIRITUAL PATH GROUP

LAYNE YOUNG, Coordinator

New this year, the weekly, drop-in meeting is open to everyone. Conducted continuously since January 26, between 4-10 people gather to share about their daily lives, and their unique spiritual paths and practices. It is a “talking circle” format guided by three basic rules:

1. Equal time allowed for each person to share.
2. No interruptions, feedback, debate, comments, etc during or after each person's turn to share.
3. All sharing is confidential.

Simple as it is, the effect - of a single meeting and especially as cumulated over time - is deeply moving, and enriching.

UCC UKES

MARY LOUISE SEVETSON, Gatherer

In response to a sermon, and because the church was encouraging us to form groups that were of interest to us, several people began meeting together weekly in the library to practice and play our ukuleles. We regularly have 3 different kinds of ukes: a soprano, a concert and a baritone uke.

In addition to the weekly gatherings, we have sponsored a Christmas Carol sing along in December 2015 during Fellowship Hour. And in that same year we had a camp sing along with Eve's Circle during our spring retreat in 2015.

We have encouraged beginners to come along to play with us and offered beginners lessons. Members have been bringing music to work on and we share our uke knowledge of mainland folk & camp songs as well as Hawaiian Island songs.

Come along and play. It's a joy to make music.

ARTIST'S WAY I

NANCI TANGEMAN, Coordinator

It's been over a year since a dozen of us came together to work and play our way through Julia Cameron's book, *The Artist's Way*. Although we finished the book in mid-2015, we continue to meet twice a month to share our creative journeys.

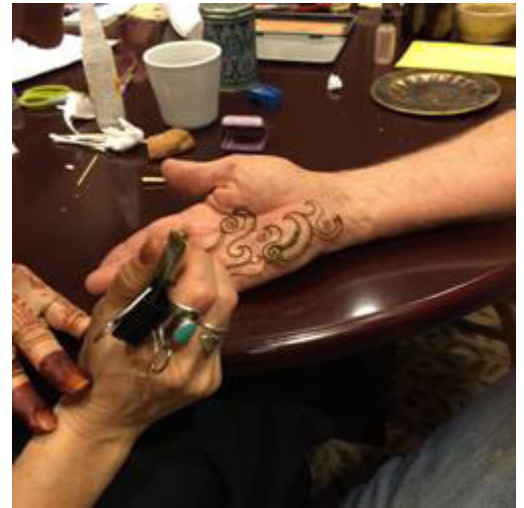
One Thursday per month we set out on artist dates together. During the year we had private tours of both Portland's central public library and the Crumpacker Library at Portland Art Museum. We spent two afternoons with artists, decorating our hands with henna and learning to make Japanese books. We took a walking tour of Portland, toured the Historical Society and went to a film. These outings were educational, inspirational and designed to "fill the creative well."

But it is the other Thursday meeting of each month that most of us crave. That's when we gather around the table in the church kitchen or library for our "check-in." Our discussions go much further than our artistic pursuits. We have formed a sacred circle. Ask our members:

"The check-in time, where we share and support each other, is my personal favorite. It's a way for each of us to come closer in family than Sunday. I believe the check-in has been, for me, an incredible part of the Artist's Way group."

"Check-in time has been extremely meaningful for me. The feeling of closeness is very sustaining, especially since my family is scattered."

In November we embarked on Cameron's newest book, *It's Never too Late to Begin Again*. The book incorporates more artist dates, walks, morning pages and memoir. We're taking it slowly – allowing an entire month for each week's exercises. As we explore and share our own memories in detail, our group grows closer and our bonds stronger. We're not only accompanying each other on our creative journeys, but on our life journeys, as well.



Our Artist's Circle

Bill Young	Judy Bishop
Debbie Knudson	Nanci Tangeman
Gwen Pierce	Ruth Abbott
Joseph Becker	Suzanne Mattox

TIM POLLARD, Hospitality Core Facilitator

Hospitality is the Core Ministry for activities and projects that welcome the world into our community and our facility.

This year we haven taken the first steps to welcome visitors, prospective members, and new members to First Congregational UCC and join them with the life of the church. At the end of the year, a photo directory is underway and volunteers are working to improve our database of members and friends with their contact information and areas of interest. Volunteers made the Sunday morning handouts more appealing by separating our order of service from our announcements of activities and opportunities.

This ministry does upkeep for our downtown sacred space to make it open and inviting as a church and as a special downtown venue and resource. Paid staff are present in the building to facilitate the varied activities that require the building to be "Open for Business." Volunteers are supplementing the paid staff as kitchen workers, greeters, and ushers. There has been a steady increase in the hours of building use over the past year, consider this a call to help us present a public and friendly face.

The core ministry of hospitality is about welcoming visitors. We appreciate all the people who volunteer their handshakes across the pew on Sunday morning. Please help us distribute nametags and host the after-church fellowship on Sundays.

Our ministry includes such established groups as the Oliver Lecture Committee, the ArtReach Gallery, and the Friends of the Kitchen group. The Oliver Lecture was delivered this year by author Colin Woodard. The ArtReach Gallery continues to add beauty and inspiration to the Fellowship Hall, with exhibits changing monthly. The Friends had a couple of potlucks and are keeping tabs on the supplies and services of our kitchen.

We are also excited about the opportunities we don't even know exist! Help this ministry identify opportunities to represent First Congregational UCC to the people of the Portland metro area and beyond as we seek to share the joy of our community.

To participate in any way with any of the above, please contact the church at the email address hospitality@uccportland.org.

ART REACH GALLERY
ELAINE MOLSKNESS, Curator

Members: Donna Clatworthy, Marge Powell, Elaine Molskness, early in the year - Susan and Paul Adcock.

Activities:

During the 2016 year the ArtReach Gallery has had a variety of art shows, different each month. Artists have shown, oil and acrylic paintings, photographs, textiles, prints and other varied media. We had a print show in the chapel for three days in March from Seattle Print

Arts in conjunction with the Southern Graphics Council International conference in the Pacific Northwest.

Most artists have given 25% of their sales to the ArtReach Gallery, which goes into the General Fund of the church.

Volunteers who sit in the gallery during the week are Marge Powell and Donna Clatworthy.

It has been my, and our, goal as the small committee to provide a space for emerging and underrepresented artists from the local area to show their art for nominal cost. Over the last 10 years we have gotten many compliments on the appearance of the space and the looks of the art after it has been hung.

Many thanks go to several other people behind the scene of our gallery:

Doug Emmons, our retired custodian, was a huge supporter and helper in my beginning years. I learned the art of hanging art from him. He spent many hours helping artists hang their work.

Donna Clatworthy has been a stalwart helper for the last 8 years. She has helped with hanging and the receptions without fail. She has been the gallery sitter on Fridays for all these years.

Kim Swennes offered to play her Celtic harp for Thursday receptions, gratis. It made the evening very pleasant.

Jean Ovens and **Margaret Shafer** were the ladies who taught me how to be a lovely hostess for the Thursday receptions.

Marge Powell was a sitter in the gallery on many Wednesdays.

Bud Shafer was a sitter in the gallery on many Wenesdays, also

Debbie Knudson was a sitter in the gallery on many Tuesdays.

Susan and Paul Adcock would make lattes and other coffee drinks during the Thursday receptions for several years.

All the custodians who have set up for us on hanging days and Thursday receptions must be given a loud thank you for their help and work.

2017 will see changes in the focus and art in the gallery. Our small committee of Donna, Marge

and Elaine have resigned. Sheldon Hurst and a small committee have taken over for the new year.

COMMON TABLE

ANN LASKEY, Coordinator

The Common Table was developed this year in response to recent growth in members and friends attending our church functions. This is a new series of potluck dinners hosted at the church in the spirit of fellowship and deepening the bonds of community we already share. We have gathered eleven times from February to November in 2016. Invitations are designed to gather from 10 to 20 people who might not often have the chance to come into conversation together. Each potluck has included a mix of longtime, mid-time and new members/friends of the church. Our goal is to ask each person to attend at least one time until all have received an invitation. This series of gatherings has resulted in deeper understanding of one another's stories and has sparked new and renewed friendships as we grow in community.

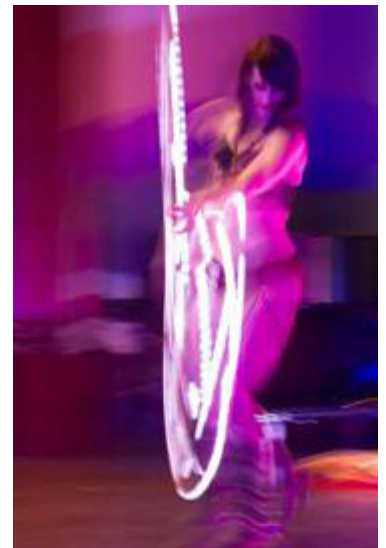
DRAG ME TO CHURCH

CHRIS PHANTHAVONG and CHRISTIAN LOGERSTEDT



This past year, new energy from the Wayfarer public ministry program brought a number of new missions to the forefront of our faith community. Following three consecutive weeks of hateful anti-LGBTQ protestors shouting hate speech at individuals leaving church services in October and November 2016, many of the Wayfarers saw a desire amongst themselves, and members of the congregation, to reach out to folks whose experience of church had been anything but liberating.

Wayfarer Chris Phanthavong had a simple vision: "It's time to make church hot." It was our belief that we needed to do more than just say we were Open and Affirming (ONA). It was time to show ourselves to be sex positive, body positive, and open to new



possibilities of experiencing the divine through the honoring and celebration of all people, including Portland's drag community. In reaching out, The Caravan of Glam, a local drag cabaret group, immediately responded to our call.

Justin Buckles and Ecstasy Inferno assembled over 20 acts to perform some traditional drag and others experimental performances on the night of April 2nd, 2016. Over 250 members of the community, along with folks invited by the Community of Welcoming Congregations, raised over \$3,300 to support the work of Portland's Q-Center.

We are grateful to all of our sponsors and to those who cast the vision to do the very difficult work of pulling off this event!

HEALING THROUGH YOGA

STEPHANIE MULLEN, Instructor

Twice a month Stephanie Mullen, a regular attendee, provides donation-based yoga classes in the church that are open to the congregation and the wider community. The class description is as follows: "All of us are recovering from something. Whether that is an addiction, a physical ailment, trauma, or life in general, we all have wounds. Let's join together with the aim of healing through the practice of yoga. All are welcome. Come as you are. No experience is required. You don't need money or the "right" clothes. This gentle practice will include physical movement, breathing and mindfulness. Regardless of ability, everyone can be successful in this class. If you have a desire to practice and you show up, you're well on your way to healing through Yoga. This will be a donation-based class, open to the community, and is offered to all on behalf of First Congregational UCC". Students that are able to donate know that their donations have gone to a variety of local organizations. These have included First Congregational United Church of Christ's Peace-making Ministry, the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, Black Lives Matter Portland, and Sacred Stone Camp.

LOCUS ISTE

Grant Edwards, Organist

In late 2015, Rev. Ellick and Musician-in-Residence Grant Edwards collaborated in creating a new type of service to be held seasonally at First Congregational. These services have come to be called "Locus Iste", named after the famous piece by Anton Bruckner sung at our bell tower's re-dedication ceremony. "Locus Iste," translated from the Latin, means literally "This Place," taken from a longer phrase meaning "This place is sacred". These services were to be held on Monday evenings, thus extending the weekend one more evening, in a sense, and providing an opportunity for community members to gather, hear beautiful music and poetry, perhaps sing a hymn or two, and simply to meditate in the presence of beautiful artistry for an hour. Paraphrasing James Joyce, our motto is "A meditative service where we remind ourselves that All Poetry is Prayer and All Music is Meditation."

We have presented five Locus Iste services thus far, with more to come:

October 19, 2015: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Grant Edwards presented a diverse program of organ music celebrating praise of God. Poetry lover Sheldon Hurst contributed greatly to this inaugural offering of the music and poetry series.

December 14, 2015: *The Nativity According to J. S. Bach*

This service supplanted our previous longer Christmas Eve program from years past. Michael Kelly, Greg McMahon and Josh Randall joined Grant in a program telling the story of the nativity through the music of Bach and narrated through a variety of Christmas poetry.

March 28, 2016: *Music for the Easter Season*

The major work presented was Grant Edwards' Sonata on the St. Mark Passion (composed in honor of Pastor Emerita Patricia Ross), with Michael Sanchez on trumpet as special guest. Michael Kelly also accompanied Sheryl Wood and Liz Winship in Bach's "My Spirit Be Joyful" and Claire Jeffcock, student at PSU, made her solo vocal debut. Many talented poetry readers also joined us.

May 23, 2016: *The Breath of Life*

This was a special "choral edition" of Locus Iste, featuring vocal works about the spirit energy that keeps us all going through hard times. In preparation for this event, a 35-voice volunteer choir made up of members, past members, and guests, rehearsed for 15 weeks. Benjamin Britten's thrilling (and difficult) cantata Rejoice in the Lamb was the major offering, (appropriately) along with Bruckner's "Locus Iste" and other delights. Joseph O'Donnell accompanied as guest organist, and Grant conducted the Locus Iste Choir. This also served as the Graduate Recital for his Master of Music in Choral Conducting degree from Portland State University. He graduated in June with no less than a 4.0 average for the intensive two-year program.

October 31, 2016: *A Halloween Spook-tacular*

Grant presented a thrillingly haunting (and a bit irreverent) program of organ music appropriate for Halloween night, with frighteningly poignant readings performed by Sahni Denton, Ross Runkel, and Layne Young. Guests were encouraged to arrive in costume, and most did! Attendance was truly spectacular as well, and the night a tremendous success. This also being the 499th anniversary of Luther's publication of the 95 Theses, we also sang "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God".

Locus Iste continues in the coming year. Plans include a February concert of "Billy and the Three B's" (Bach, Brahms, Beethoven, and Billy Collins, former Poet Laureate of the US) and a choral extravaganza in May, with another Locus Iste Choir singing fascinating and mind-expanding selections from cultures—not necessarily Christian ones—from around the earth's

equator, demonstrating how much ALL human beings have in common through art and music.

OLIVER LECTURE

SUZANNE MATTOX AND DONNA BRUNSTAD, Co-Chairs

In 1977 Dr. Egbert Oliver originally established the Oliver Lectures in memory of his wife, Helen. A few years later it was renamed to include both Egbert himself and his second wife, Marguerite. He specifically wanted subjects to “include examination of a broad range of current public issues as well as the church’s life as an organization and its relationship with other religious and secular institutions and movements.” He left a small endowment to support this undertaking, which is to this day invested with United Church Funds.

Three years ago, our committee wrote the following, to clearly define its duties in the present time: “We believe that we have a duty to search for solutions that will help break down those barriers that stand in the way of building equitable communities for all peoples. We collaborate with other community organizations and institutions to continue our church’s historical legacy, offering outstanding community, national and world leaders a forum to express their ideas.”

The very successful 2016 Oliver Lecture was delivered by best-selling author Colin Woodard and was co-sponsored by the Oregon World Affairs Council with the book signing hosted by Broadway Books of Portland. His lecture was a discussion of two of his latest books, *American Character: A History of the Epic Struggle Between Individual Liberty and the Common Good* and his earlier work, *American Nations, A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of America*. A lively question and answer period followed, moderated by Tim DuRoche of the Oregon World Affairs Council.

Mr. Woodard is currently State and National Affairs Writer for *The Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram* where he was a Pulitzer Prize finalist and named one of the “Best State Capitol Reporters in America by the *Washington Post*, among other prizes and accolades. He is a contributing editor at *Politico*, writes for *The Washington Monthly*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and reviews books for *The Washington Post*. He is a native of Maine, where he currently resides with his wife and two children. He has reported from more than fifty foreign countries and seven continents and lived for more than four years in Eastern Europe.

A Wine and Cheese Reception followed in Fellowship Hall where attendees had the opportunity to meet the author and exchange ideas on a variety of subjects relevant to his lecture.

Both Suzanne Mattox and Donna Brunstad will be stepping down from the Oliver Lecture Committee this year. They stand ready to help in any way those who will take up the mantle for continuing its good work.

THE WAY OF THE ROSE

REV. MICHAEL ELLICK

Every Monday night from 6 PM - 8 PM, anywhere from 8-16 people gather for contemplative practice, reflection, and community building at the Oberlin Street Peace House in North Portland. Rooted in the practices and philosophies of Mahayana Buddhism, in the first hour we practice chanting, silent prayer, and meditation as alternative spiritual supports to our pursuit of “the Way.” Then we break for tea, coffee, and snacks, and in the second hour we open up a mutual sharing circle similar to that practiced at the Tuesday spiritual support group. For those who make “The Way of the Rose” part of their weekly practice, this group is very much like a “sangha” family, and occasional retreats are made available for ongoing participants.

RITA DELAMATRE, Peacemaking Core Facilitator

The Peacemaking Ministry has engaged with the community in new and continuing ways throughout 2016. Ongoing established projects such as Transitions and Potluck in the Park continued strong, while newer projects and efforts brought us together to demand and seek social justice in diverse ways. Peacemaking seeks to connect the community of those who gather with the church to greater movements through both education and action, working to bring into reality the world of compassion and justice Christ calls us to create.

HOUSING JUSTICE**BRENNAN MEINKE**

Through our work with the Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good, First Congregational has been involved in several campaigns to increase access to and availability of affordable housing in the Portland Metro Area:

We helped secured approximately **\$67 million** in increased TIF (Tax-Increment Financing) money over the next five years—which means adding approximately **700 additional units of affordable housing** within the city's existing Urban Renewal Areas. This is a small step, but a significant one, toward meeting the deficit of over 20,000 units of affordable housing that currently exists in our city.

The scope of the problem means that it cannot be solved by Portland alone. Understanding this, MACG and First Congregational, worked with an array of other organizations and faith institutions to give the Oregon Legislature the push needed to **repeal a ban on Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning**. Our new Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning law allows cities to require a percentage of new housing units be set aside as “affordable” for families living at 80% of Median Family Income (so-called “workforce housing”). This is a critical tool toward providing additional affordable housing distributed throughout the metro areas. Except for Oregon, no state except Texas prohibited the practice.

The same package of legislation that repealed the ban on inclusionary zoning also allows cities to levy a 1% commercial construction excise tax. We worked to support the passage by Portland City Council of a local CET, which will generate approximately \$8 million a year toward affordable housing projects.

And, finally, MACG staged an assembly which drew hundreds of citizen housing advocates from faith institutions across the city (including many from First Congregational!) to educate people about the depth of the housing crisis, urge the passage of a \$258 million General Obligation Bond sponsored by the Welcome Home coalition, and generate enthusiasm and leadership for the work still to be done!

We look forward to working with more of you in the months and years to come—and we're deeply heartened by the progress made in the past year.

DO GOOD MULTNOMAH VETERANS SHELTER

ANDREW SCHWARTZ

Chris Aiosa, founder of Do Good Multnomah, first came to us with the idea of making our church a home for homeless veterans and their service animals during the coldest, wettest months. Rev Ellick welcomed the opportunity and moved quickly to bring the project to fruition.

Jesus taught us to love our neighbors and welcome in the sick, the poor, the hungry, the lonely. It's a wonderful sentiment that preaches well but as we all know, ideas and praxis are very different things. Understandable fears about safety, security, and cleanliness arose which caused the church to enter into challenging yet necessary conversations. It helped everyone involved to grow spiritually and allowed the church to grow in community. Anything worth doing is never easy, they say, and this was no exception.

The first night saw two veterans, the following night five. In time, the shelter housed thirteen gentlemen seven nights a week from November 2015 through June 2016. Mr. Aiosa and Do Good Multnomah staff anchored the work and looked to church members to help run the shelter and provide hospitality and a sense of community to the veterans. The shelter became more than just a place for the veterans to sleep; it became their home. One gentleman remarked to me that for the first time in months he felt safe enough to sleep without one eye open.

Do Good Multnomah continues with their mission but not at First Congregational. Their grant stipulated that for funding was to continue they had to expand and provide space for more veterans. Too often veterans – and homeless individuals in general – are lost to society and the systems meant to protect them. We all feel some kind of way about the homeless population in Portland and at times our ability to see them as children of God is clouded. By saying yes to Mr. Aiosa and his organization, our church allowed empowered Do Good to do good for some of Portland's most vulnerable citizens and in the process, helped First Congregational grow into our mission of being a beacon of hope and grace in the community.

POTLUCK IN THE PARK

RON CLEVENGER

The church provides beverages (procured, prepared, delivered and served) for about 500 to 900 hungry and thirsty, many homeless, persons in O'Bryant Square park every Sunday afternoon. A huge thanks to our committed volunteers: week 1: Tracy Scardina & Vanessa Verrill; week 2: Peace Young & Gabriel Trainer; week 3: Alice & Scott Forsythe; week 4: Ron and Cheryl Clevenger. The occasional 5th Sundays' are covered by one of the above teams. Although Tracy and Vanessa are not members of our congregation, they realized the important mission of the Potluck program and volunteered for the week-one potluck. A huge thank you to each team member as this task could not be done without the help and commitment of our very special volunteers.

RACIAL JUSTICE ACTION GROUP

STEPHANIE MULLEN

The Racial Justice Action Group was formed this year. Regular attendee Stephanie Mullen leads it, Assistant Minister Rev. Elizabeth Durant is a member, and Senior Minister Rev. Michael Ellick and other church members support it. Stephanie and Rev. Durant are both members of Showing Up for Racial Justice as well as involved with the Racial Justice Network of UCCs. The goal of this group is to invite the congregation to at least one racial justice related action or event each month.

Some invites have included a solidarity march with the prison workers' strike; Keaton Otis' monthly vigil, Keaton was a young black man killed in Portland by the police; a community event called "Support Black Restaurant Days" where some of us participated by having lunch at a Black-owned after church; a rally in support of Indigenous water protectors and against the Dakota Access Pipeline; and most recently a community screening in partnership with another



member of Showing Up for Racial Justice of Ava DuVernay's 13th. The Screening brought about fifty people, both members of the congregation and of the wider community. It included a potluck and was followed by small group discussions.

Stephanie is looking for ways to grow the action group, and involve more of the congregation. Two mass meetings are being planned currently. One with Showing Up for Racial Justice and another with Showing Up for Racial

Justice, Marilyn Buck Abolitionist Collective, and For White Accountability in Racial Dialogue. These meetings will be held in the church and open to the congregation and community. They will be racial justice trainings of sorts. There seems to be momentum.

ONA/PRIDE PARADE

CHRISTIAN LOGERSTEDT

This year, over 60 people from our congregation alone came to walk alongside LGBTQ friends and allies in the 2016 Pride! Parade. Over 100 friends from UCC churches across the metro area rallied together to honor and celebrate LGBTQ communities, especially in wake of the Pulse Nightclub tragedy a few



weeks prior to the annual Pride parade. Marchers from across the conference carried signs proclaiming “Pray for Orlando and Ban Assault Weapons,” “Pray for Orlando and Keep Dancing,” and “God Loves Gays” all designed by our ONA taskforce chair Christian Logerstedt.

We look forward to exploring new ways that we as a congregation can be accomplices to LGBTQ identified individuals in our city and state!

The Open and Affirming Taskforce is looking for a new chair. Contact Rev. Michael or Rev. Elizabeth if you are interested in bring some life and new ideas to this group!

IMMIGRATION WORKING GROUP

REV. MICHAEL ELLICK

Following last year’s “borderland” trip to the Arizona border, the Immigration Working Group spent the first part of the year learning more about the plight of undocumented immigrants working in the United States, and exploring ways that our faith community might be able to support and advocate for this especially vulnerable community. Meeting with groups like Voz (day laborer organizing) and Enlace (strategists who specialize in divestment from detention centers) underscored our ongoing work with IMIRJ (Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice). But following the victory of President-Elect Donald Trump, who made racist discrimination and criminalization of immigrants the bedrock of his campaign, there is a renewed interest in the possibility of offering physical “sanctuary” to an undocumented person or family. Starting in November of 2016, a new immigration working group consisting of Rita Delamatre, Grant Helbley, Christian Logerstedt, Brennan Meinke, and Rachel Short committed themselves to educating the congregation on this important strategy, and their work continues.

TRANSITION PROJECT

RON CLEVINGER

This project involves meal planning and serving about one hundred plus men the third Saturday evening of each month in the Bud Clark Center in downtown Portland (next to the Union Station). Four teams (one a month) with the help of about four or five volunteers to plan meals, procure supplies, then prepare and serve the food. A special thanks to our super team leaders Jim McPartland, Tim Pollard, Rita Delamatre, Paul and Susan Adcock and to the scores of volunteers throughout the year who assists them.

VILLAGE SUPPORT NETWORK & GOOSE HOLLOW FAMILY SHELTER

JIM SIKKEL

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and other non-profit agencies formed “The New

City Initiative” to coordinate various programs aimed at ending cycles of homelessness in our communities. Teams of our members have been trained and volunteered with two particular efforts toward ending homelessness, with our focus on one family at a time.

Through the **Village Support Network**, a team supported one family in transition toward self-sufficiency this year as they settled into city-provided affordable housing, new schools, and pursuit of employment. We had already met this particular family when they had stayed at Goose Hollow during their recent period of homelessness. As an example of the gulf between those in need and those of us with far too many possessions, I was surprised to learn that our family’s parent had not yet gone to a job interview because she literally had nothing appropriate to wear and her only shoes were flip-flops. That’s a simple problem to solve, but others (like severe credit card debt) are far more complex.

We continue to provide and serve a hearty meal the second Saturday each month and help with child-raising concerns (such as laundry) at **Goose Hollow Family Shelter**; one of the few shelters where homeless families with children can dine and spend the night together with their parents. We are learning that “it takes a village of support” to end homelessness for families in our communities.

WAYFARERS

REV. MICHAEL ELICK

For the second year in a row, “the Wayfarers,” has been a group of lay leaders inside the church who have committed themselves to a minimum of 10 hours a week of service to First Congregational Church. Under direct supervision from the Senior and Assistant Ministers, this group meets weekly to reflect, pray, coordinate, and co-mentor. Following the success of last year’s program, several other churches approached us about starting similar “leadership development” cohorts inside their own faith communities, and in the beginning of 2016 we played a consulting role as our “Wayfarer” model took hold in Lutheran, Methodist, and Episcopal settings. But as the year progressed these conversations sprouted into new shapes, and overtime this has grown into the “Awakening Leadership Circle.” Currently there are seven other faith communities developing lay leaders in a way similar to what we started here at First, and every other week these groups meet up to share inspiration, information, and best practices for servant leaders living out the Gospel in 2016. The incoming 2016-2017 Wayfarers are Joe Becker, Ruth Ann Barret, and Tim Pollard.

ELOHEH FARM

SHAUN SHORT

Eloheh Farm (ay-luh-hay) exists as a farm, community and school and is a charitable 501c3 non-profit Teaching Farm whose goal is to cooperate with all creation and create a model farm for an abundant future. As a community Eloheh Farm seeks to be a model of regenerative

agricultural and animal husbandry systems that support human needs while improving the earth and all creation inhabiting the web of life. The Goal is to live in harmony with the land. “Eloheh” is a Cherokee Indian word representing “harmony, balance, well-being and abundance.”

Over the course of 2016 First Congregational UCC and Eloheh Farm have come together to promote interfaith awareness and to foster a climate of co-operation and companionship across traditions and cultures. Our partnership first began under the guidance of Rev. Sheldon Hurst, Rev. Michael Ellick, Rev. Dr. Randy Woodley, and Shaun Short. In its inception, our union was born from a desire to delve into the importance of wisdom traditions, especially those of an indigenous nature. In March of this year First Congregational UCC and Eloheh Farm co-hosted a StoryLab, entitled “Earth Spirituality”, in which we explored the relevance of shared wisdom stories.

Since then our bond has grown. Randy and Edith Woodley have hosted members of First Congregational UCC at Eloheh Farm on multiple occasions. We have enjoyed many long and fruitful Workdays together learning about indigenous care for the land and engaging in permaculture practices. Many FC UCC congregants have had the opportunity to sweat with members of the Eloheh community, to experience the rich spiritual activities of Cedar Fire, Tobacco, and Seed Blessing ceremonies and to dig deeper into what it means to nurture and let grow interfaith and cross-culture relationships.

Recently Eloheh Farm hosted some of our younger members for a Youth Workday Project. Aside from pressing apples in a 19th Century cider press and assisting with the relocation of essential farm materials, all those who attended were educated on the history of indigenous earth keeping practices and the importance of diversity within all creation. We hope to replicate other such educational outings in the future.

Looking ahead FC UCC and Eloheh Farm hope to further cooperate in the strategic planning of environmental work as it effects both our communities and the wider world. If we as settled peoples ever seek to truly honor and respect the land we now live upon it is, of course, in our best interest and in the interest of all peoples and things, that we pay very close attention to the deep wisdom and ancient practices of native peoples. We have a great ally in the Eloheh Farm community and we sincerely look forward to a long lasting and productive friendship.

INTERFAITH MINISTRY REV. DR. HECTOR E. LOPEZ

This renewed “interfaith ministry” was developed by the Rev. Michael Ellick and Rev. Dr. Hector E. Lopez, with the financial sponsorship of First Congregational Church United Church of Christ, and in the hopes of growing deeper relationships among the various faith communities of greater Portland. The mission of this ministry was to create a nexus of dialogue, fellowship and common mission, along with with the hope of demonstrating what the “Beloved Community” might look like in the 21st Century.

This work was initiated by inviting partners from Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Muslim Educational Trust (and other strategically selected faith leaders) to develop a series of

important faith and community events. With leadership provided by Rev. Ellick and Dr. Lopez, the planning group planned a series of three interfaith community events. The first gathering commemorated the lives and deaths of those lost in the event of 9/11. This Commemoration, Celebration and Ritual of Dedication, was held at First Congregational Church, and it included a spiritually rich worship service led by various interfaith leaders, followed by a dinner and community conversation. Over 150 persons were present, and all indicated how meaningful and inspiring the service and conversations were.

The second gathering was planned as an intentional setting for fellowship, relationship, and visioning. Returning to One Another, Building the Beloved Community in an Era of Division, Suspicion and Isolation was held at the Muslim Educational Trust in Tigard. It began with four powerful women reflecting Jewish, Muslim, and Christian faith communities. They modeled out responses to questions that were also to be answered by the participants at each table. Due to the renewed relevance of this work following the Presidential election, over 700 participants gathered to share life stories, challenges and hopes. The conversations were exciting, infectious, and sensitive. Many people voiced their belief that these gatherings are very important and much needed in our communities given the reality of our sociopolitical context today.

The third event is still being planned, but focuses on “communities of faith returning to the public square.” The gathering will be hosted by Temple Beth Israel and is scheduled for January 22, 2017. The program will include gathering worship, dinner, ongoing building of relationships, and a quasi plebiscite to determine corporate directions for engagement with the challenging issues facing our faith communities. The relationships that have been established by the first two events indicate the need and validity of seeking mutual dialogue, fellowship, communication and mutual support and strategy.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 7, 2015 - 273

RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP - 10

By baptism	0
By transfer	10
By confession or reaffirmation of faith	0
By confirmation	0

We are proud to welcome into the congregation this year: Eileen Deerdock, Lorence Long, Sarah Vazquez, Beiling Hua, Betty Sue Sherrod, Celeste Rose, Daniel Russo, Kitt Reidy, Jim Otte, and William Cunitz

REMOVED FROM MEMBERSHIP - 10

By death	5
By transfer	0
By request	2
By removal	3

MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 11, 2016 - 273

In Memoriam

Members and friends who died January 1, 2016—December 31, 2016

Alice Haessler
 Joanne Hummel
 Donald Weston
 Nora Moolenkamp
 Gladys Smalberger

CHURCH STAFF

Ministerial

Rev. Michael Ellick
Senior Minister

Rev. Elizabeth Durant
Assistant Minister

Worship

Dr. Michael Kelly
Music Director

Genna McAllister
Section Leader

Grant Edwards
Musician in Residence

Andrew Riffel
Section Leader

Josh Randall
Section Leader

Sheryl Wood
Section Leader

Christian Education

Batya Podos
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Nell Egan
Nursery Staff

Office

Cara Rothe
Business Manager

Joey Rodriguez
Communications Coordinator

Sandra Hetzel
Bookkeeper

Events & Facilities

Ryan Sotomayor
Facilities Manager (until October 2016)

Steve Eggers
Facilities Manager (Starting October 2016)

Rory Gatto
Facilities Staff

Roy Spencer
Facilities Staff

Michael Bautista
Facilities Staff

Wyatt Salcido
Facilities Staff

Carrie Zaner
Facilities Staff

William Stitt
Facilities Staff

Jesse Van Sickle
Facilities Staff

Anthony Cotham
Facilities Staff

Andrew Schwartz
Facilities Staff

PASTORS

Rev. Horace Lyman, DD	1851-1854
Rev. P.B. Chamberlain	1855-1862
Rev. G.H. Atkinson, DD	1863-1872
Rev. J.D. Eaton	1873-1876
Rev. J.A. Cruzan	1877-1881
Rev. Frederick R. Marvin, MD, DD	1882-1885
Rev. T. Eaton Clapp, DD	1886-1894
Rev. George R. Wallace, DD	1894-1896
Rev. A.W. Ackerman, DD	1896-1902
Rev. Elwin L. House, DD	1902-1906
Rev. Luther R. Dyott, DD	1907-1917
Dr. W.T. McElveen, PhD	1919-1923
Rev. Clement G. Clarke	1923-1928
Rev. Raymond B. Walker, DD	1929-1959
Rev. Royald Caldwell, DD	1960-1970
Rev. Lincoln Y. Reed, DD	1971-1986
Rev. John Rogers, DD	1987-1994
Rev. Patricia S. Ross, DMin	1994-2008
Rev. Anton DeWet, DMin	2010-2013
Rev. Michael Ellick	2014-

MODERATORS	Harold Cake	1960	Marguerite Oliver	1992
	George Geist	1961	Charles Hinkle	1993
	Reginald Titus	1962	Cathy Tinker	1994
	Robert Dressler	1963	Bruce White	1995-1997
	Dwight Schwab	1964	Becky Koch	1997-1998
	George Culbertson	1965	Julie Blanchard	1998-2000
	Egbert Oliver	1966	Ted Liljeholm	2000-2001
	George Woodworth	1967	Bob Groves	2001-2002
	Keith Sime	1968	Carol Lynch	2002-2003
	George Smith	1969	Tim Pollard	2003-2005
	Calvin Van Pelt	1970	Elaine Molskness	2005-2006
	Winthrop Wells	1971	Carl Toland	2006-2008
	George Casterline	1972	Debbie Knudson	2008-2009
	Robert Jack	1973	Alan Koch	2009-2010
	Laura Lusk	1974	Ellen Bradley	2010-2012
	Leonard Garmire	1975	Richard Moody	2012
	Howard Campbell	1976	Julie Young	2013
	Polly Casterline	1977	Ann Laskey	2014
	David Johnson	1978	Ross Runkel	2015
	Elmer Moke	1979	Al Horn	2016
	Shelly Reece	1980		
	Dawn Dressler	1981		
	Ron Zahler	1982		
	Margaret Shafer	1983		
	Ron Stites	1984		
	Julie Blanchard	1985		
	Megan Walth	1986		
	Ervin Hummel	1987		
	Marcia Yeater	1988		
	Scott Tetrick	1989		
	D'Anne Gilmore	1990		
	Charles Knapp	1991		

CONTACT INFORMATION

Senior Minister:	Rev. Michael Ellick	ellick@uccportland.org (503) 946-1043
Assistant Minister:	Rev. Elizabeth Durant	edurant@uccportland.org (503) 964-1042
Business Manager:	Cara Rothe	cara@uccportland.org (503) 946-1046
Communications Coordinator:	Joey Rodriguez	jrodriguez@uccportland.org (503) 946-1041
Facilities Manager:	Steve Eggers	seggers@uccportland.org (503) 946-1050

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - PORTLAND, OR

1126 SW Park Avenue Portland, OR 97205

(503) 228-7219

uccportland.org | facebook.com/uccportland | twitter.com/uccportland