



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 29, 2017
Fellowship Hall



United Evangelical Church, United Church of Christ
3200 Dillon Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21224
410-276-0393 * uecucc@comcast.net
www.unitedevangelical.org

Rev. Catherine J. Oatman
Mr. Robert Gundlach – Director of Music

REPORTS

Pastor's Report

Part of my preparation for writing this report is to read the previous year's report. When I looked at my 2015 report, I about fell off my chair when I read "I pray that the good work (of connecting with our community) that we have begun in 2015 will continue because as we enter 2016 we are in a precarious financial situation." As I look back on 2016 I see that God has answered that prayer.

In April we were approached by the Cohesion Theatre Company as they needed a space for their productions. Then in September Ballet Nouveau came to us also looking for space. About the same time a music based performing arts company called, Afro House, also came looking for space for a few hours a week.

All together these performing arts groups brought over \$4700 into our budget. But just as important as the added income are the connections we are making with our community. We have no idea how many people we are positively impacting in our neighborhood by housing these groups. For example, one Sunday I went into a local restaurant for lunch and I saw someone I knew from the community. As I greeted him, someone with him, who I didn't know, said, "Cohesion theatre is at your church. I have been a supporter of them for several years." It is exciting to see God's answer to prayers unfold.

Additionally we have been approached by the Southeast Community Development Corporation to hold monthly meetings at the church in 2017. The SE CDC is involved in such programs as community art, neighborhood greening, vacant lot restoration, housing counseling, and community school initiatives, to name a few things. The sky is the limit when considering the possibilities a relationship with the SE CDC can bring.

Admittedly there has been some getting used to sharing the building with so many other groups, and all the kinks still aren't worked out yet, but even with all these inconveniences I just keep thinking of what I read in Real Good Church: How our church came back from the dead, and yours can, too: "You should be renting out your building to its fullest potential." We are starting to realize the potential of our physical plant.

What amazed me the most upon reading last year's report is that these groups came to us, we didn't go out looking for them. God hears our prayers! The longer I am in ministry and the more I see God answer prayers, I am no longer surprised when I see the answers, rather I am upset that I doubted that God was listening. It sounds like my

personal faith growth edge for 2017 is to believe that God is going to do more than what I believe is possible.

Another unexpected boost to the budget was our "summer of change" campaign. We raised almost \$600 over the summer months in addition to regular offerings. The idea for this fundraiser came from Lucy Wilkinson. We amended our by-laws in 2015 in order to allow Lucy to serve on council as she had not yet been a member for one year. The fresh perspective she brought to the council obviously has been beneficial to the church. This is exactly why we amended the by-laws, in order to bring new voices to the table and to not turn away people who are excited about serving the church.

Another kind of boost we saw in 2016 was the number of youth services. In the past we would do one per year. But because these services were enjoyed so much by the congregation, many people wanted the youth to do more. So in addition to their youth trip service, there was a very moving Earth Day service, an Advent service where the proprietor of the Dew Drop Inn (Diane Borkman) brought some levity to a sobering message, and already in 2017 we have had an Epiphany service with tardy Wise travelers as we renewed our baptism.

Our puppets have also gotten in on the act (pun intended) of showing up more often this past year. The youth and puppet ministries happen because of dedicated and talented people who deserve our gratitude. Besides Diane Borkman, I would like to thank Cathy Fifield, Pam Georgiadis, Rob Gundlach, Tim Watkins, Karrie and Travis Hogan, Alissa Huber, and our seminary interns both past and present, Angie Jones-Ramirez, and Paula Whitacre. I also want to thank the families of our youth who bring their children to church so that they can participate in the programs.

This brings me to a place where we have not experienced a boost, and that is the participation in our Christian Education programs. We have dedicated volunteers in Carol Borkman, Jo Ann Johnson and Pat Jenkins, who prepare to teach class only to have no children there to teach. The same can be said about our current youth group. Adults have filled roles because only a few youth are involved. And while we are committed to these few participants, going forward we need to consider different paradigms for these ministries. We have begun conversations regarding different paradigms and these conversations need to continue in 2017.

2016 was my first full year as a volunteer chaplain for the Baltimore City Police Department. In total I spent 75 hours riding along with officers, praying for shifts, and attending police events in the community. I have shared many stories of my experiences with the church during worship. This work has been very rewarding, as well

as challenging at times. My hope is that this ministry will yield even deeper connections into our community.

Our Kidz Day this summer was an intentional effort to make these deeper connections with our community. We worked jointly with the other police chaplains who have churches in the area and we had a diverse group of participants. The theme was Superheroes, as they are all the rage with young kids these days, with a reminder of the real life superheroes all around us in the police, fire fighters, nurses, doctors and teachers.

We arranged for a fire truck to come for the kids to explore. McGruff the Crime Dog came with some police gear for the kids to try on. Our nurse had a stethoscope and pulse-ox meter for kids to listen to their heart and check their blood oxygen levels. It appeared that everyone had a good time, including the puppets who were also invited to attend. I want to thank the Fellowship committee for organizing and staffing this event. My dream is to scale this event up to the size of Patterson Park as a way to connect all of us who live, work or worship in Southeast Baltimore. This dream is perhaps one of those places where you need to join me in believing that God can do more than what we believe is possible.

2016 saw the trials for the officers involved in the death of Freddie Gray unfold. At the request of the police department, I was at the courthouse along with other chaplains for the verdict of officer Goodson, the driver of the van. When the verdict came that he had been acquitted on all charges, I felt both a deep pain for the community and a sense of relief that one man did not pay for the sins of our society.

From my perspective, all the officers involved were just cogs in the wheels of a racially biased criminal justice system, this claim is substantiated by the Department of Justice report that came out in review of the BCPD. However Freddie Gray got crushed in those wheels, and the pain of so many in the city was deep and palpable outside that courthouse.

It was as if a sense of anticipation hung over the city, people were waiting for someone to take responsibility for his death. But no one did. No one stood up and said, "This belongs on us and we are sorry and we don't want it to happen again and we need your help to make sure that it won't." The city was waiting for justice, and it never came. Freddie Gray's family may have received a \$6 million dollar settlement but that doesn't help the other families who live in fear that their child might be the next victim of an unjust system.

There is much work to do to bring forth justice and reconciliation in our society, and the church is called to be involved in that work. In 2 Corinthians Paul reminds us that we have been given a ministry of reconciliation. We are called to be mediators who bring God's healing to the brokenness of our world. Just as Jesus is the mediator between us and God, we are called into the liminal chasm that exists wherever there is injustice.

As a church we stepped into this liminal space at the end of 2015 by voting to begin the exploration of becoming an open and affirming (ONA) congregation. In 2016 we met in small groups and listened to one another. I cannot emphasize enough how powerful an act it is to listen to one another, especially if we come from different points of view. By listening we create a safe space for others to share their truths without judgement or criticism. Additionally we are opened to another point of view and we are changed by what we take in from each other. And while we still might agree to disagree, we have made a connection with each other and we are no longer the same, and less likely to separate from each other over differing's of opinion.

This willingness to listen even while we don't agree is what makes a church healthy. Oftentimes churches will split when people take up sides and refuse to listen to one another. Or people will leave when they disagree with a decision made by the congregation. This "my way or the highway" attitude is so anti to the message of Jesus who talked about love in the face of hate. The church is at its best when we love one another in spite of our differences. This is the fellowship we are called to model to our world that is torn apart by conflict.

And this summer if you have a chance you should attend the General Synod to watch, and be part of, this kind of fellowship on an international scale. Probably never again in your life time will General Synod be in Baltimore. Try not to miss your opportunity. As the host Conference it is sad that John Deckenback is not here to see General Synod come to Baltimore as he had worked very hard to bring the Synod here. His death this past year means change is coming to the Conference in 2017. I ask that we all be in prayer for discernment about the direction the Conference should go.

The same can be said about United, change is coming in 2017 (because it comes every year). May we all be in prayer for discernment about the direction God is calling the church.

In Christ's love,
Rev. Cathy

Church Council President's Report

Submitted by Cissy Funk, UEC Council President

The past 12 months have made this an exceptional year. As in the past, we have dealt with the need to make changes that have made each of us to reflect on "what does my church mean to me?" We have spent this past year gauging whether or not our church was ready to become Open and Affirming. This has been a most revealing process. We met as a congregation and then in smaller, more intimate, groups and discussed difficult topics that are not part of the norm. We have had open conversations about sex and gender, same sex marriage, our love for each other, and finally our love for this church.

Such heavy topics were met with openness and without hostility. Frank conversations were necessary to the process of becoming a United Church of Christ Open and Affirming Church. While there were many opinions, the majority of the congregation felt that this process, and eventual vote, was a good thing for our church. We worked as groups and had a theology professor from the Lancaster Seminary come and discuss the bible and its stance on sex. We were also visited by a professor of Health and Human Sexuality. Then finally, several members and guests discussed some of the difficulties in being part of the LGBT community. We are voting at this congregational meeting to be an open and affirming church. Our church will be a community where all members no matter their sexual preference, color, creed, or gender are made to feel welcome, safe, and included.

With all that being said, and while we welcome all from every walk of life, we need to also thank the silent, and often, unrecognized army of workers who are here in the church constantly making sure all the things that make the church work are done. This group gets things done, and does the work lovingly and, most often, quietly. I would like to thank the ones who make sure we have the cups of wine and juice ready on communion Sunday. Thank you to all who manage the altar. Thank you to the clean-up crews after every event. Thank you to the videographers. Thank you to the folks who write the checks and manage the checkbook. Thank you to those who get all the prizes for Bingo. Thank you to all who fix things (and there are several). Please know your work is recognized and very much appreciated.

I leave 2016 grateful and enter into 2017 excited and looking forward to working with everyone on whatever our new path may be. May God bless you and your families with good health and prosperity.

Cissy Funk

Fundraisers Committee Report

Submitted by the Fundraisers

It is our privilege to report that the fundraisers were successful in every venture undertaken in 2016.

We enjoyed a wonderful Oktoberfest. The weather, food, music and the wonderful workers were perfect. What originally started out as a celebration of our 135th anniversary has bloomed into a much loved neighborhood tradition. Each and every year since we began, the festival has been received so well. Our congregation along with friends and neighbors come together to celebrate our humble beginnings and German heritage. We look forward to Oktoberfest "10" in 2017.

With everyone's continued support of our bingos we have been able to help the church and also provide food for the Canton Food Bank. The bingos have been well attended and with this growing popularity we have added one additional bingo to our schedule in 2017.

We are going to continue the Lenten soup and sandwich meals with all proceeds to going to a charity of the council's choosing. There are five Wednesday evening meals provided during the Lenten season. If you wish to help or provide food please see one of the fundraisers to make arrangements or use the sign-up sheet we will provide in the narthex.

We sincerely appreciate everyone's continued support. All of our success is directly related to everyone's contribution of time, support, gifts and generosity. We encourage everyone to participate in any of our events in any capacity you feel comfortable with. We would also appreciate any suggestions or requests for new events.

Thank you
The Fundraisers

Endowment Committee Report

Submitted by the Endowment Committee

In 2016 the endowment committee met twice and funded seven requests for proposals for a total of \$7,126.39. \$2,000 was awarded to our youth for their trip to the National Youth Event. \$1,425.28 was provided for the church's general budget. \$1,000 was given for scholarships to graduating seniors at Poly and Patterson High Schools. The property committee received \$720 to purchase energy efficient lights for the fellowship hall. \$696 was given to the Central Atlantic Conference for expenses related to hosting the

General Synod in 2017. The music committee received \$707 for instruments. And \$578.11 was awarded to the altar committee for new paraments.

Since the inception of the fund in 2013, \$285,000 has been invested and \$14,859.39 has been withdrawn. The value of the fund at the end of 2016 was \$291,707.08. Currently up to 5% of the entire fund based on a five year rolling average is now available for use in the ministry of the church. A request for proposals has gone out to all committees and organizations of the church to apply for these funds. The committee will meet in March of 2017 to review and fund proposals.

If you would like to make a gift to the endowment fund it is open for contributions. Remember to designate any gifts that you want to go to the endowment fund and please consider the church in your will. If you have any questions, please direct them to members of the endowment committee: President Clarence Rowell, Financial Secretary Barbara Matthew, Recording Secretary Diane Borkman, Harvey Jacob and Diane Price.

CHURCH RECORDS FOR THE YEAR 2016

BAPTISMS

3/20/2016 Jessica Lauren Bomia
 3/20/2016 Cameron Timothy Chambers
 9/18/2016 Charlotte Reese Morse
 9/18/2016 Kristy April Jenkins
 10/30/2016 Luke William Taylor
 11/13/2016 Chase Patrick Buddenbohn

FUNERALS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1/6/2016 George Clemon Green | 6/11/2016 Timothy Charles January |
| 1/18/2016 William Francis Hoffman | 7/30/2016 Beatrice Betty Berk |
| 2/1/2016 Howard Frederick Carter | 9/17/2016 William Single III |
| 2/11/2016 Isabel Lillian Parker | 9/23/2016 Mildred May Schmitt |
| 3/10/2016 Douglas Wayne Kaminski | 10/7/2016 Carrie Mattie Ball |
| 3/23/2016 Marlene Mae Tropea | 11/16/2016 Margaret Ruth Bell |
| 5/14/2016 Cecille Rita Vaughn | 11/29/2016 Irvin Charles Smith |
| 6/6/2016 Carolyn Marie Cichowicz | 12/8/2016 Martha Elenora Gensler |
| 6/6/2016 Gloria Vera Frampton | 12/17/2016 Ruth Lorraine Heim |
| 6/11/2016 Patricia Lee Hansen | 12/22/2016 Helen Anna Bogucki |

WEDDINGS 5/19/2016 Morgan Rae Sumuel and Kourtney Lynn Ash

NEW MEMBERS

5/22/2016 David Wayne Authenreath
 5/22/2016 Kimberly Gail Authenreath
 5/22/2016 Heather Marie Rosenberger

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| MEMBERSHIP AT START OF 2016 | 184 |
| NEW MEMBERS | 3 |
| MEMBERS LOST | 11 |
| REMOVED FROM ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP | 0 |
| TOTAL MEMBERS | 187 |
| TOTAL ACTIVE CHILDREN | 14 |

THE UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Financial Report 2016-Budget 2017

| | Budget 2016 | Actual 2016 | Budget 2017 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| REVENUE | | | |
| Regular Envelopes | 50000.00 | 48560.46 | 50000.00 |
| Christian Education Dept. Offering-Regular | 700.00 | 782.00 | 750.00 |
| Communion Envelopes | 2300.00 | 2425.00 | 2300.00 |
| Holiday and Special Day Envelopes | 6500.00 | 6260.00 | 6900.00 |
| Initial Envelopes | 115.00 | 114.00 | 120.00 |
| Improvement Fund | 2500.00 | 1950.00 | 2000.00 |
| Memorials | 8000.00 | 11649.00 | 8000.00 |
| Love Gifts | 3000.00 | 4350.00 | 3500.00 |
| Unity Candle | 150.00 | 45.00 | 50.00 |
| Poor Box and Pennies | 25.00 | 3.00 | 20.00 |
| Cash Donations | 2200.00 | 2941.78 | 2500.00 |
| Holiday & Altar Flowers | 1000.00 | 417.00 | 650.00 |
| Charities, Benevolence | 3000.00 | 2384.31 | 1850.00 |
| Oktoberfest and Related Events | 9000.00 | 9725.00 | 9000.00 |
| Miscellaneous Fund Raisers | 5000.00 | 6537.49 | 5000.00 |
| Building Fund Raffle | 2000.00 | 1668.00 | 1500.00 |
| Sale of Misc. Items | 50.00 | 16.00 | 0.00 |
| Use of Facility | 600.00 | 5120.00 | 10775.00 |
| Interest on Accounts | 120.00 | 43.51 | 50.00 |
| Sprint Rental Income | 19044.00 | 21662.00 | 21900.00 |
| Parsonage Rental Income | 21000.00 | 21000.00 | 20000.00 |
| PACT Donation | 4000.00 | 2700.00 | 2500.00 |
| Estate Bequests-Received | 2000.00 | 41000.00 | 2000.00 |
| Estate Bequests-Transfer to Investment | 0.00 | (21000.00) | 0.00 |
| Distribution from Endowment | 7000.00 | 7126.39 | 8500.00 |
| Endowment Fund Disbursements | (7000.00) | (4170.22) | (6800.00) |
| Other, General Fund | 25.00 | 156.29 | 75.00 |
| Total Revenue | 142329.00 | 173466.01 | 153140.00 |
| COST OF REVENUE | | | |
| Oktoberfest & Related Events (Exp.) | 5500.00 | 5893.13 | 5500.00 |
| Miscellaneous Fund Raisers (Exp.) | 400.00 | 436.08 | 400.00 |
| Building Fund Raffle | 600.00 | 500.00 | 600.00 |
| Envelope Costs | 350.00 | 323.28 | 300.00 |
| Other Direct Costs | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Cost of Revenue | 6850.00 | 7152.49 | 6800.00 |

THE UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Financial Report 2016-Budget 2017

| | Budget 2016 | Actual 2016 | Budget 2017 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| PASTORAL EXPENSE | | | |
| Pastor's Salary | 16200.00 | 16200.00 | 18000.00 |
| Housing Allowance | 20000.00 | 19999.92 | 20000.00 |
| Auto Expense Stipend | 1750.00 | 1749.96 | 1750.00 |
| Insurance, Health and Life--Total | 11074.00 | 12326.02 | 12090.00 |
| Insurance payments | 21930.00 | 23182.64 | 23841.00 |
| Insurance reimbursement | (10856.00) | (10856.62) | (11751.00) |
| Pastor's Pension | 7320.00 | 7323.28 | 7320.00 |
| Professional and Education Exp. | 800.00 | 153.00 | 800.00 |
| Supply (Guest) Pastor | 750.00 | 600.00 | 750.00 |
| Total Pastoral Expense | 57894.00 | 58352.18 | 60710.00 |
| OFFICE EXPENSE | | | |
| Secretaries' Salaries | 14491.00 | 14769.51 | 14491.00 |
| Social Security and Medicare | 1108.00 | 1129.43 | 1108.00 |
| Office Supplies & Bank Charges | 1000.00 | 1698.20 | 1500.00 |
| Copy and Computer | 3000.00 | 1761.27 | 1800.00 |
| Bookkeeping | 1200.00 | 1200.00 | 1200.00 |
| Postage | 1200.00 | 1443.07 | 1200.00 |
| Church Telephone & Internet | 2500.00 | 2410.65 | 2500.00 |
| Total Office Expenses | 24499.00 | 24412.13 | 23799.00 |
| MAINTENANCE EXPENSE | | | |
| Janitor Salary | 10920.00 | 10850.00 | 11700.00 |
| Social Security and Medical Care | 835.00 | 830.28 | 895.00 |
| Church Insurance | 16794.00 | 17080.25 | 17000.00 |
| Gas, Church | 9000.00 | 6128.70 | 7000.00 |
| Electric, Church | 6000.00 | 6759.97 | 6500.00 |
| Water and Sewer, Church | 3000.00 | 788.74 | 2500.00 |
| Repairs, Supplies, Maintenance | 4000.00 | 3599.91 | 4000.00 |
| Cleaning Supplies, Service | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Maintenance Expense | 50549.00 | 46037.85 | 49595.00 |
| SANCTUARY AND MISCELLANEOUS | | | |
| Music Director Salary | 13656.00 | 13656.00 | 14338.00 |
| Social Security and Medicare | 1045.00 | 1044.72 | 1097.00 |
| Ass't. Organist/Pianist/Musicians | 300.00 | 250.00 | 300.00 |
| Music and Choir Expense | 700.00 | 1079.87 | 1000.00 |
| Organ/Piano Service | 2000.00 | 2137.70 | 2000.00 |
| Altar and Sanctuary Supplies | 750.00 | 527.77 | 500.00 |
| Flowers and Decorations | 2000.00 | 1261.20 | 1500.00 |
| Receptions and Refreshments | 800.00 | 1230.47 | 1200.00 |
| Education and Study Materials | 700.00 | 867.00 | 700.00 |
| Advertising | 700.00 | 914.64 | 700.00 |
| Recreation | 1300.00 | 883.35 | 1000.00 |
| Misc. Expenses | 600.00 | 133.24 | 500.00 |
| Total Sanctuary and Misc. | 24551.00 | 23985.96 | 24835.00 |

THE UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Financial Report 2016-Budget 2017

| | Budget 2016 | Actual 2016 | Budget 2017 |
|---|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| CHRISTIAN ED. DEPT. EXPENSE | | | |
| Curriculum and Lesson Supplies | 500.00 | 251.00 | 500.00 |
| Mission Projects | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Miscellaneous Expenses | 600.00 | 0.00 | 600.00 |
| Youth Group Projects | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Christian Ed. Dept. Expense | 1100.00 | 251.00 | 1100.00 |
| BENEVOLENCE | | | |
| Heifer International | 0.00 | 690.00 | 700.00 |
| Central Atlantic Conf.,(OCWM) | 1800.00 | 1800.00 | 1800.00 |
| Chesapeake Association | 1850.00 | 1850.00 | 1850.00 |
| Hoffman Home | 400.00 | 740.00 | 400.00 |
| Homewood Home | 400.00 | 400.00 | 400.00 |
| Eden Seminary | 400.00 | 400.00 | 400.00 |
| Lancaster Seminary | 400.00 | 400.00 | 400.00 |
| One Great Hour of Sharing | 500.00 | 795.00 | 700.00 |
| Earl's Place | 800.00 | 560.00 | 800.00 |
| Other Benevolence | 1300.00 | 495.00 | 1000.00 |
| Total Benevolence | 7850.00 | 8130.00 | 8450.00 |
| IMPROVEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT | | | |
| Repairs and Improvements | 6000.00 | 0.00 | 3000.00 |
| Purchase of Equipment | 2500.00 | 400.00 | 2000.00 |
| Total Improvements and Equipment | 8500.00 | 400.00 | 5000.00 |
| PARSONAGE RENTAL EXPENSE | | | |
| Property Management Fees | 2100.00 | 2100.00 | 2100.00 |
| Improvements & Equipment | 1000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Repairs & Maintenance | 1000.00 | 2654.41 | 2000.00 |
| Property Taxes | 3300.00 | 3271.87 | 3300.00 |
| Total Parsonage Rental Expense | 7400.00 | 8026.28 | 7400.00 |
| TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES | 182343.00 | 169595.40 | 180889.00 |
| TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE | 135479.00 | 166313.52 | 146340.00 |
| AMOUNT UNDER (DEFICIT) | (46864.00) | (3281.88) | (34549.00) |
| Total all Church Funds as of 12/31/2016: | | | |
| Bay Bank (checking account) | 17896.81 | | |
| Bay Bank (savings account) | 20000.00 | | |
| Petty Cash--Office | 200.00 | | |
| Petty Cash--Fundraisers | 400.00 | | |
| The Cornerstone Fund CD | 85643.08 | | |
| United Church Funds Endowment Account | 291707.08 | | |
| TOTAL: | 415846.97 | | |