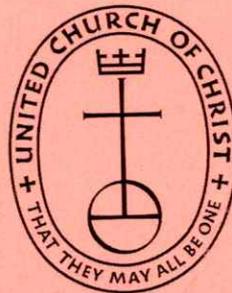


# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

**United Evangelical Church, United Church of Christ  
Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, January 26, 2020  
Fellowship Hall**



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[www.unitedevangelical.org](http://www.unitedevangelical.org)  
An Open and Affirming Congregation

Rev. Catherine J. Oatman, Pastor  
Mr. Robert Gundlach, Director of Music

# REPORTS

## Pastor's Report

Submitted by Rev. Cathy

Isaiah 55 is one of my favorite passages of scripture. Verses 8-9 read: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." I always lean upon these words when things in life make no sense because they remind me that I can trust that God is still at work. 2019 brought many of these moments of leaning on God's words in Isaiah.

We began 2019 by voting to remove money from the endowment fund to renovate the parsonage. With a timetable of 6 months, we went into the project believing that the parsonage would be back on the market before the fall. Then the City suffered a malware attack and construction ground to a halt for months. At this writing the parsonage has been on the rent market less than two weeks, but no tenants yet.

The bottom line is that we lost approximately \$18,000 of anticipated income which significantly affected the church's financial stability. Even though we have equity in investment accounts and property, the church is out of cash reserves. At some of the discussion meetings we had as a church over the summer, we considered the idea of closing the church. However the consensus was that God is still at work in the financial situation of United Evangelical Church. "My ways are not your ways says the Lord."

Part of my 2018 sabbatical had been to secure a part time position to help with the church's finances. At the end of my sabbatical nothing had come through and I was discouraged. However, at the end of my CPE unit I was offered a per diem chaplain position at Bayview Medical Center. I began working at Bayview in May. While this position hasn't allowed me to reduce hours at the church, it has made working part time at the church feasible. Once again Isaiah 55:8-9 spoke to me.

While on sabbatical in 2018 I began a CPE unit that extended into 2019. That CPE unit was specifically for police chaplains. 2019 saw several changes to the chaplaincy program when the new commissioner was hired. Lieutenant Colonel Melvin Russell, who had launched the program, was retired and the leadership of the program changed hands.

While this leadership change did not affect anything on the ground level, I took a hiatus from this volunteer work in November and December due to my nephew Devan's death. At the

writing of this I still haven't been back as I am questioning if I can continue to volunteer 20 hours a month while also working part time at the hospital.

Another change that happened in 2019 was a pause in our Holy Happy Hours. We had been hosting this event at The Knotty Pine since November of 2017. Under new ownership the bar wanted to go in a different direction for their Friday night happy hours, and so we parted ways in June. Currently we are looking for a new location to hold Holy Happy Hour and continue our outreach to the unchurched.

Overall 2019 has felt like fallow time for me as I have not had a lot of energy to put into my ministry. I have worked with a therapist all year regarding issues behind the breakup of my marriage. No one goes into a marriage thinking it will end in divorce, and when it does, there is a lot of soul searching. It has been difficult but much needed psychological, emotional and spiritual work.

Things then went from difficult to overwhelming with Devan's suicide in October. His death has been the most painful experience of my life. So many regrets, so many what-ifs, so many questions unanswered. Things will never be "normal" again. Finding comfort in life now means forging a new niche in the aftermath of his death. And I now understand what people mean when they say they hope their new year will be better than their previous year. I'm hoping for a better 2020 and trusting in Isaiah's words: "my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD."

One thing that we are celebrating as a church which 2019 brought was Paula Whitacre's ecclesiastical council, where she was approved for ordination pending a call. While she waits for a call to come, she and Marge continue to bless us with their music as they also work on their church planting in Harford County. It will be both a sad day, as well as a day of rejoicing, when we send them off to follow God's call.

As we head into 2020 we are looking to re-stabilize the financial future of the church through the sale of the Sunday School building. While we did not anticipate this financial instability to happen in 2019, selling the building has been in the works since November of 2018. There are many unanswered questions about whether or not our church body can continue to support the financial needs of United Evangelical Church. Some of those questions will be answered with time, and other ones will be answered by continuing to work hard at the ministry that Christ has given us; work such as evangelism, stewardship, and community involvement. As we discern these answers over the next year let us not forget that, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD."

In Christ's love,  
Rev. Cathy

## **Church Council President's Report**

Submitted by Cissy Sparks, UEC Council President

As we enter 2020, on behalf of myself and the council, we pray that you and your families have all of God's blessings of good health, much happiness and prosperity.

Looking back over 2019, the thing that stands out to me is the strong faithful group that makes up our small yet vital congregation. At each and every stumble in our road this past year, everyone came together to state their faith in our church is as strong as our faith in Christ.

Your council has worked diligently over the past year trying to find a plan for our church's future. Moving forward we will continue to ask for the congregation's guidance in the sale of the school building and modifications to the sanctuary when the buildings need to be separated. As promised we will keep everyone informed and updated as things fall into place.

As always with any changes there will be issues, please make a vow with the council to have cool calm heads rule, ears that listen to the concerns without anger and hearts filled with love and promise of our future. With all big decisions comes much apprehension and fear. We can talk about all things and work through them together. Let's think before we speak and when we discuss these issues do so lovingly while remembering we are in this together as a family in Christ.

Unfortunately many churches have declining congregations and have to adjust their circumstances accordingly. With this being said we continue to be blessed with a pastor who works for a  $\frac{3}{4}$  salary and has for many years now. Rev. Cathy continues to be our spiritual anchor and a blessing to us all.

Please over the next year or so remember that with our faith in God and each other there is more than enough resources for our congregation to thrive rather than just survive.

The council looks forward to serving the church and letting every member know their support is appreciated. May we all continue to praise God and share our blessings both in and outside of the church as we move forward serving and welcoming all who seek God's love.

Peace be with you,  
UEC Council

## **Fundraisers Committee Report**

Submitted by the Cissy Sparks for the Fundraisers

First and foremost, our success is a direct reflection of your steadfast support. We sincerely appreciate your continued gifts of time and generosity.

This past year was a great success in terms of outreach. The fundraisers with everyone's help added another worthy organization to our mission project. We received a letter requesting help from Baltimore Healthy Starts. This wonderful organization helps young parents with food, diapers, clothing, education and guidance with their young children and babies. Jennifer and I visited their facility and were bowled over by their programs. We were able to collect and purchase 35 packs of diapers and 47 packs of baby wipes and food. With everyone's help this will be a mission the fundraisers will continue working with over 2020.

Over the Lenten season we hosted the Sunday Soup and Sandwich with all proceeds going to the Heifer International and OCWM. This is a great fellowship opportunity to relax, eat and spend some quality time together.

In June we represented our Open and Affirming church in the Baltimore Pride Parade and Festival. Please consider participating in these events and let others know we are a welcoming church.

We collected school supplies over the entire summer. Filling several boxes with much needed and appreciated supplies for our adopted Highlandtown/Elementary/Middle School. Going forward we will continue this mission and help out the teachers and students at #237.

September through November we collected food items for Clarence's Thanksgiving Baskets. We contacted Highlandtown Elementary/Middle School and the school principal and counselor distributed the 38 baskets to families they identified as in need. Each basket was stuffed with nonperishable food and a \$20.00 grocery Gift Card. We continue to do this mission in memory of Clarence Rowell.

As always we would love to have your ideas for new fundraisers. Please know you can help out with any of our events in whatever capacity you feel comfortable in. The best thing about this committee is the friendships made while working together in our love of each other and Christ.

Thank you,  
UEC Fundraisers

## **Endowment Committee Report**

Submitted by the Endowment Committee

In 2019 the Endowment Committee met and funded requests for proposals totaling \$13,244.00. \$2,649 was awarded to the church's general budget. Additionally \$5,225 was granted to offset Rev. Cathy's 2018 sabbatical costs. Four college scholarships for church members, totaling \$2,000, were funded. A request for a UCC church planting in Harford County was funded for \$1,685. Funds to provide for our Holy Happy Hour gatherings were funded for 8 months for a total of \$1,685.

Additionally, at the Annual Congregational Meeting in January it was voted to remove \$126,600 from the endowment fund to renovate the parsonage with the caveat that the money would be returned to the fund at the sale of the Sunday School building. Again at the November Congregational Meeting it was voted to remove \$20,000 from the endowment fund to replenish the cash reserves of the church. This money will also be repaid to the fund at the sale of the building.

Since the inception of the fund in 2013, \$285,000 has been invested and \$46,766.39 has been withdrawn to fund Endowment requests, while \$146,600 is on loan. The value of the fund at the end of 2019 was \$178,324.56. 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. Funds available from this year's Endowment fund total \$ 13,971.50. Requests for Endowment Fund spending proposals will be accepted thru March 15, 2020. The committee will meet in March of 2020 to review and fund spending 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 & Financial Secretary Barbara Matthew, JoAnn Johnson, Susan Rowell, Diane Price and Mark Betch.

# CHURCH RECORDS FOR THE YEAR 2019

**BAPTISMS**

2/24/2019 Jason David Brown  
 3/24/2019 Haylei Marie Cramer  
 3/24/2019 Brittani Lynn Hylock  
 3/24/2019 Liam Thomas Hylock  
 3/24/2019 Payton Elizabeth Hylock  
 10/27/2019 Evelyn Rose Stokes  
 12/8/2019 Rylee Summer Gillespie  
 12/15/2019 Reese Timothy Hylock

**FUNERALS**

1/28/2019 Robert James Yox  
 4/24/2019 Kathleen Earl  
 11/8/2019 Gary Lynn Story  
 11/9/2019 Mardel Donton Raut  
 12/1/2019 Rosalie Marie Shane

**WEDDINGS**

3/23/2019 Claire Patrice Hovermill and Thomas Aaron Tormollan  
 5/24/2019 Christine Marie Belucher and Mason Alexander Luckhardt

**NEW MEMBERS**

3/10/2019 Jason Keith Brown  
 3/10/2019 Danielle Ann Brown  
 3/10/2019 Thomas William Hylock  
 3/10/2019 Brittani Lynn Hylock

MEMBERSHIP AT START OF 2019	189
NEW MEMBERS	4
MEMBERS LOST	3
REMOVED FROM ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP	75
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>TOTAL ACTIVE CHILDREN</b>	<b>5</b>

# THE UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

## Financial Report 2019-Budget 2020

	Budget 2019	Actual 2019	Budget 2020
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Regular Envelopes	50,000.00	49,674.00	50,000.00
Christian Education Dept. Offering--Regular	0.00	0.00	0.00
Communion Envelopes	2,600.00	2,511.50	2,600.00
Holiday and Special Day Envelopes	5,000.00	4,209.00	5,000.00
Initial Envelopes	125.00	163.00	125.00
Improvement Fund	2,500.00	2,829.50	2,500.00
Memorials	6,000.00	3,125.00	5,000.00
Love Gifts	5,000.00	3,853.00	4,000.00
Unity Candle	50.00	70.00	50.00
Poor Box and Pennies	20.00	0.00	20.00
Cash Donations	2,500.00	1,659.17	2,000.00
Holiday & Altar Flowers	500.00	252.00	500.00
Charities, Benevolence	0.00	1,551.00	1,150.00
Miscellaneous Fund Raisers	7,000.00	4,409.00	6,000.00
Building Fund Raffle	1,500.00	1,310.00	1,000.00
Sale of Misc. Items	0.00	15.00	0.00
Use of Facility	5,900.00	3,616.00	1,000.00
Interest on Accounts	25.00	41.71	25.00
Sprint Rental Income	21,900.00	21,900.00	21,900.00
Parsonage Rental Income	20,000.00	2,142.64	33,300.00
PACT Donation	4,900.00	0.00	0.00
Estate Bequests--Received	0.00	0.00	0.00
Estate Bequests--Transfer to Investment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Distribution from Endowment	13,250.00	159,644.00	13,995.00
Endowment Fund Disbursements	(5,422.00)	(4,578.68)	(11,195.00)
Other, General Fund	0.00	193.00	0.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>143,348.00</b>	<b>258,589.84</b>	<b>138,970.00</b>
<b>COST OF REVENUE</b>			
Miscellaneous Fund Raisers (Exp.)	700.00	353.56	700.00
Building Fund Raffle	600.00	600.00	600.00
Envelope Costs	250.00	241.02	250.00
Other Direct Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Cost of Revenue</b>	<b>1,550.00</b>	<b>1,194.58</b>	<b>1,550.00</b>

# THE UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

## Financial Report 2019-Budget 2020

	Budget 2019	Actual 2019	Budget 2020
<b>PASTORAL EXPENSE</b>			
Pastor's Salary	18,000.00	18,000.00	18000.00
Housing Allowance	20,000.00	19,999.82	20000.00
Auto Expense Stipend	1,750.00	1,749.96	1750.00
Insurance, Health and Life--Total	13,087.00	16,933.36	0.00
Insurance payments	25,914.00	18,207.85	13462.00
Insurance reimbursement	(12,827.00)	(1,274.49)	0.00
Pastor's Pension	7,320.00	6,311.20	7320.00
Professional and Education Exp.	800.00	24.00	800.00
Supply (Guest) Pastor	750.00	600.00	750.00
<b>Total Pastoral Expense</b>	<b>61,707.00</b>	<b>63,618.34</b>	<b>62,082.00</b>
<b>OFFICE EXPENSE</b>			
Secretaries' Salaries	14,491.00	14,490.84	14491.00
Social Security and Medicare	1,108.00	1,108.62	1108.00
Office Supplies & Bank Charges	1,800.00	1,687.54	1600.00
Copy and Computer	2,000.00	2,540.92	2500.00
Bookkeeping	1,200.00	1,200.00	1200.00
Postage	1,500.00	962.70	1200.00
Church Telephone & Internet	3,250.00	3,767.68	2000.00
<b>Total Office Expenses</b>	<b>25,349.00</b>	<b>25,758.30</b>	<b>24,099.00</b>
<b>MAINTENANCE EXPENSE</b>			
Janitor Salary	11,700.00	1,575.00	0.00
Social Security and Medical Care	895.00	120.47	0.00
Church Insurance	16,500.00	19,035.25	16,500.00
Gas, Church	9,000.00	4,366.77	6,000.00
Electric, Church	6,500.00	4,762.76	5,500.00
Water and Sewer, Church	2,500.00	2,194.85	2,500.00
Repairs, Supplies, Maintenance	3,000.00	5,990.46	5,000.00
Cleaning Supplies, Service	0.00	8,700.00	10,400.00
<b>Total Maintenance Expense</b>	<b>50,095.00</b>	<b>46,745.56</b>	<b>45,900.00</b>
<b>SANCTUARY AND MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
Music Director Salary	14,338.00	14,337.85	14338.00
Social Security and Medicare	1,097.00	1,096.80	1097.00
Ass't. Organist/Pianist/Musicians	250.00	300.00	300.00
Music and Choir Expense	1,000.00	726.00	1250.00
Organ/Piano Service	2,000.00	1,755.95	2000.00
Altar and Sanctuary Supplies	450.00	780.67	600.00
Flowers and Decorations	1,500.00	1,174.30	1200.00
Receptions and Refreshments	400.00	1,326.00	400.00
Education and Study Materials	900.00	637.50	700.00
Advertising	300.00	468.71	500.00
Recreation	0.00	0.00	0.00
ONA	200.00	200.00	200.00
Misc. Expenses	300.00	1,326.30	700.00
<b>Total Sanctuary and Misc.</b>	<b>22,735.00</b>	<b>24,130.08</b>	<b>22,735.00</b>

**THE UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**

**Financial Report 2019-Budget 2020**

	Budget 2019	Actual 2019	Budget 2020
<b>CHRISTIAN ED. DEPT. EXPENSE</b>			
Curriculum and Lesson Supplies	500.00	0.00	500.00
Mission Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Youth Group Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Christian Ed. Dept. Expense</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>
<b>BENEVOLENCE</b>			
Heifer International	600.00	350.00	400.00
Central Atlantic Conf.,(OCWM)	1,800.00	1,800.00	1800.00
Chesapeake Association	1,850.00	1,850.00	920.00
Hoffman Home	500.00	500.00	500.00
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	250.00	300.00
Earl's Place	800.00	800.00	800.00
Other Benevolence	900.00	450.00	1000.00
<b>Total Benevolence</b>	<b>8,150.00</b>	<b>7,200.00</b>	<b>6,920.00</b>
<b>IMPROVEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT</b>			
Repairs and Improvements	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Purchase of Equipment	500.00	0.00	500.00
<b>Total Improvements and Equipment</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>
<b>PARSONAGE RENTAL EXPENSE</b>			
Property Management Fees	2,100.00	0.00	0.00
Improvements & Equipment	0.00	126,600.00	0.00
Repairs & Maintenance	2,000.00	180.00	500.00
Utilities	0.00	1,028.95	1,000.00
Property Taxes	3,300.00	6,665.88	3,185.00
<b>Total Parsonage Rental Expense</b>	<b>7,400.00</b>	<b>134,474.83</b>	<b>4,685.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>178,436.00</b>	<b>301,927.11</b>	<b>169,421.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>141,798.00</b>	<b>257,395.26</b>	<b>137,420.00</b>
<b>AMOUNT UNDER (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(36,638.00)</b>	<b>(44,531.85)</b>	<b>(32,001.00)</b>
<b>Total all Church Funds as of 12/31/2019:</b>			
Bay Bank ( checking account)	13,705.44		
Bay Bank (savings account)	2,000.00		
Petty Cash--Office	200.00		
Petty Cash--Fundraisers	400.00		
The Cornerstone Fund CD	5,362.53		
United Church Funds Endowment Account	178,324.56		
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>199,992.53</b>		