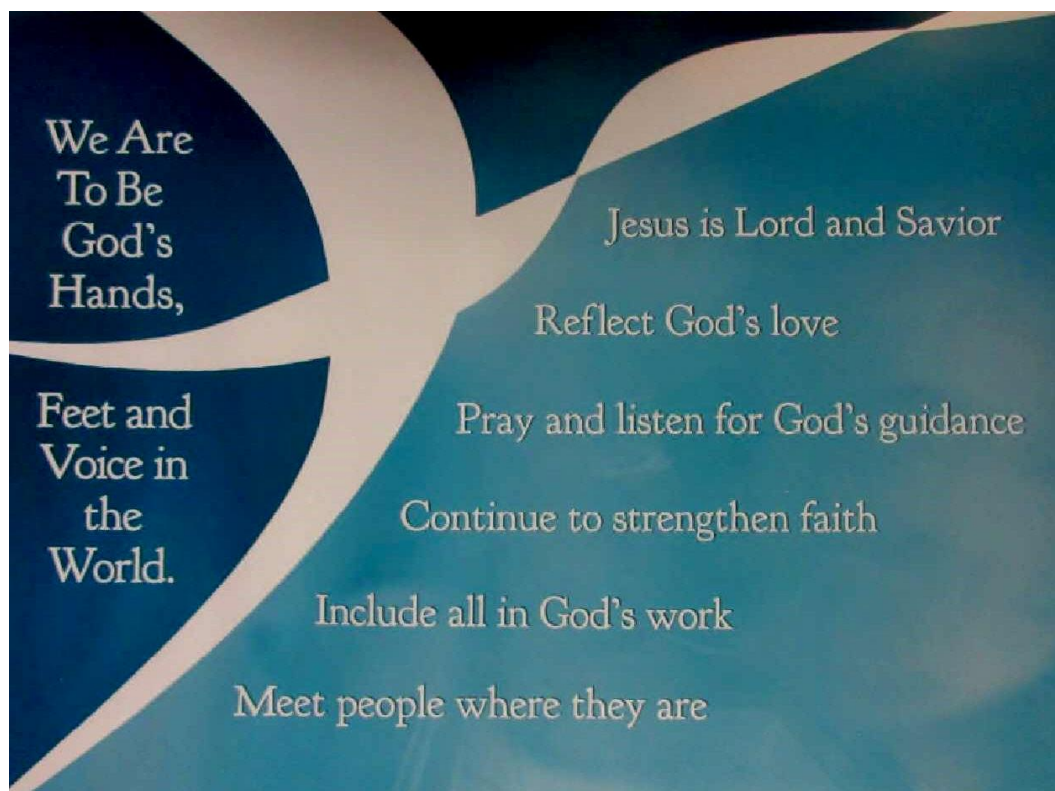


UNITED IN FAITH

ANNUAL MEETING PACKET

FOR 2022



[INDEX](#)



January 9, 2023

Dear Members of United in Faith Lutheran Church,

The United in Faith Annual Meeting will be held **Sunday, February 12, 2023, at 11:00 AM**. This year we will be holding the meeting in person right after our 10:00 am worship service.

Please review the Annual Report packet before the meeting so you are familiar with its contents. The Annual Report packet is expected to be available by Sunday, January 29, 2023, and can be found on our website at <http://www.unitedinfaith.org/> under the tab About Us / Governing Documents and Policies.

If you need a printed version of the Annual Meeting packet, you can call Jeanne at the church office to request a copy. We hope you will be able to pick your copy up from the church office before the Annual Meeting. If you cannot pick it up yourself, but you need a printed copy, please call the church office, so we can determine how to get it to you (some can be hand delivered, others may have to be mailed). You will not receive a printed copy unless you request one from the church office – call Jeanne at 773-283-2326 or email admin@unitedinfaith.org.

Thank you for your hard work this year in making United in Faith successful. Your energy and commitment are essential in our efforts to achieve our goals of being God's Hands, Feet and Voice in the World.

In Christ,

Kimberley A Childress
2022 UIF Congregation President

**2022 ANNUAL REPORT
TABLE OF CONTENTS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023**

[Letter from President](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

[Annual Meeting Agenda](#)

[Minutes from previous annual meeting](#)

[Pastor's Report](#)

[Treasurer's Report](#)

[Congregational Budget](#)

Committee Reports (Committees reporting directly to Council)

Audit Committee – available at annual meeting

[Educational Scholarship Committee](#)

Finance Committee – see Congregational Budget.

[Mission Endowment Committee](#)

[Property Committee](#)

Congregational Reports (groups reporting directly to the congregation)

[Nominating Committee](#)

[Synod Assembly Delegates Report](#)

Ministry Reports (Ministries report directly to congregation)

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Christian Education

Vacation Bible School

Spiritual Growth

[Music & Worship](#)

OUTREACH

Public Relations

Social Media

[Website](#)

Community

[Justice](#)

INREACH

Member Care

[Communion Visitation](#)

[Shepherd's Staff](#)

[Stewardship](#)

Volunteer Coordination

[Greeters](#)

[Fellowship - Coffee](#)

Congregational Care

[Church Health Team](#)

Community Groups

[Brownies & Girl Scouts](#)

[New Life for Old Bags](#)

UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023
AGENDA

- I. Meeting called to order
- II. Council VP: Count all members and establish a quorum
Count provided to Secretary for inclusion in minutes
- III. Devotions: Pastor
- IV. Adoption of Agenda
- V. Approval of the February 28, 2022, Annual Meeting Minutes
- VI. Council President's report to Congregation
- VII. Pastor's report to Congregation
- VIII. Audit committee
- IX. 2022 Treasurer's report
- X. Approval of the 2023 Congregational Budget
- XI. Committee reports are found in the Annual Report
- XII. Ministry reports are found in the Annual Report
- XIII. Nominating Committee
 - A. Congregational Council four positions: four for 2 year terms)
 - B. Voting Members to the 2023 Synod Assembly (1 male, 1 female {if possible}, plus alternates)
 - C. 2023 Nominating Committee (3 – 5)
- XIV. Old Business
- XV. New Business
- XVI. Motion to Adjourn
- XVII. Closing Prayer: Pastor

The 2023 Congregational Council will meet following the conclusion of the Annual Meeting for election of Congregational Council Officers. Results will be included in next month's newsletter.

[INDEX](#)

**UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 10:55 AM

Quorum: A quorum of 29 voting members was established.

Devotions: Pr. Carla read from Philippians the 3rd chapter. She spoke about the transformation of the church that will be coming in the future. She will put out an IDEA box for people to submit ideas for our future. She then reread Philippians the 3rd Chapter. This was followed with a prayer.

Adoption of Agenda: Mary Haas moved to accept the agenda as printed. Rich Guzik seconded. **Passed.**

Adoption of Annual Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2021: Joe Childress moved to accept the minutes as amended. Rich Guzik seconded. **Passed**

Council President's Report: It is in the annual meeting packet. Kim Childress said it was an honor to serve. She mentioned a correction to the last line of her report.

Pastor's Report: It is in the packet. Pr. Carla said one good thing that has happened this past year was the many opportunities for continuing education done virtually.

Audit Committee Report: The audit committee of 2021 will be done at a later date due to the pandemic.

2021 Treasurer's Report: Peter Herberg gave the report.

We had an income of \$163,742 for 2021. Special gifts was \$54,880. Expenses were \$244,900 leaving a deficit of \$81,159. Our general investments gained \$39,705 and our education fund gained \$41,311. Scholarship was \$17,000. Education Endowment was \$24,311. The general Thrivent Harriet Kurz fund was \$31,564 with the ELCA Harriet Kurz fund at \$37,035. We have a positive balance of \$51,932 for the year. We have a total of \$1,490,592.00.

Mary Haas moved to accept the report subject to audit. Rich Guzik seconded. **Passed.**

2022 Proposed Budget: Peter Herberg gave the report:

The proposed income budget is \$109,600. The special gifts is \$40,000 due to United in Faith being the sole beneficiary of an insurance policy from the Marion Hansen Estate.

Investment income assumes a 5% return. The \$74,530 investment income budget is higher than last year.

The expense budget is \$278,512 which is higher than last year's budget by \$7679.00

Salaries and Benefits are budgeted higher due to synod guidelines.

The increase in the 2022 Administration budget is due to a slight increase in insurance costs.

Maintenance Expense line is lower than 2021 due to an offset from Johnson Controls.

The 2022 Outside Musicians budget has stayed the same.

The 2022 budget has a total net decrease in Total Assets of \$54,382.

The total budget for 2022 is \$224,130

Dave Quillin moved to adopt the budget. Joe Childress seconded. **Passed.**

Committee Reports: found in the annual meeting packet

Ministry Reports: found in the annual meeting packet.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: given by Kim Childress:

For Council:

Two year term 2022-2024

Peter Herberg (incumbent)

Jeff Jewel

Elisabeth Wittman (incumbent)

Church Council Ministry Directors Representative – 2 year term 2022-2024

Gretchen Quillin

Nominating Committee:

One year term:

Adrienne Childress

Dian Hoyem (outgoing council member)

Judi Schira

Synod Assembly: Voting Members:

Peter Herberg

Harold Edmonson

Alternate for Synod Assembly:

Jeanine Devine

Mary Haas

Rich Guzik moved the nominated slates become the elected slates. Rich Guzik seconded. **Passed.**

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

Motion to Adjourn: Dave Quillin motioned to adjourn. Joe Childress seconded. Passed.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dian Hoyem, Secretary

[INDEX](#)

Pastor's Annual Meeting Report (written in 2022, for the year 2023)

Submitted by Pastor Carla Thompson Powell

Our deacon intern, Jason Schultz completed his work with UIF in January 2022. On Jason's final Sunday, we displayed all sorts of anti-racism, intersectionality, and disability resource books, along with bookmarks and stickers for people to use in honor of Jason's reminder of our important congregational commitment to justice work.

Throughout the year, I mentored new pastors and recent seminary grads, both in formal and not-so-formal relationships. Since we did not get an MIC student assigned during the 2022-2023 school year (every ELCA seminary has extremely low enrollment these days), these relationships have been very life-giving to me as a pastoral leader.

Early in 2022, the Illinois state mask mandate was repealed. After initially deciding to still require masks, the UIF council had some great follow-up conversations and eventually moved to a policy of "Masks Encouraged." Although we are not out of the "age of COVID," this felt like a move toward a more familiar pattern of post-pandemic life.

Through the first two thirds of the year of 2022, I, the staff, and council were deeply involved in working through a huge (mistaken) water bill received around Christmas 2021. The details are not important anymore, but after hundreds of hours of work, hiring a water court lawyer, and multiple court appearance continuations, we were able to get things straightened out and balances caught up. By August 2022, we were able to get the late fees removed and tax exempt status established for all accounts associated with UIF.

During February and March, I was able to lead a six session Sunday school class for our two 6th graders using Spark Lectionary materials about the assigned readings in church. During those months, I also led a First Communion Class for a child who took communion for the first time on Easter Sunday.

During Lent 2022, the Central Conference of the Metro Chicago Synod gathered donations of men's, women's and children's socks and underwear to "FILL THE DRAWER", which were donated to Phil's Friends and Trinidad Lutheran Church (Chicago). This was originally imagined as a partner service project with the ELCA Youth Gathering (which was cancelled in 2022).

During the season of Lent/Easter 2022, we used "Full To The Brim" materials from A Sanctified Art. We used "Full To The Brim" special music, liturgical words, artwork, poetry prayers, devotional, and a display in the sanctuary.

In May 2022, with the devoted effort of a quickly moving task force, we established a Playground/Kids Corner on the side of the sanctuary. Books, toys, baby swing, a town/road play carpet, and more. At the same time, we added five Spark Kid's Bibles into the sanctuary for use by young worshippers.

From March through May 2022, we gathered almost \$4,000 of donations to be given toward the crisis and war in the Ukraine, donated through ELCA Disaster Response (Eastern European crisis fund). We hosted a few Neighborhood Mom's meetup's at UIF (on a Sunday afternoon after worship). We never did establish a good pattern for regular meetings of this group, but Janeen and I were both able to connect with some area moms of younger kids through these couple group meetings.

JUNE 20 – JULY 19 I was out for medical leave after surgery.

Through most of 2022, I've been participating in Gloo ("He Gets Us" campaign) by listing myself as someone that a hurting person can reach out to (virtually). Basically, people exploring Christian questions ("Explorers") are funneled to geographically-close individuals and congregations. The initial contact is all about listening to the "Explorer", building a relationship, and talking about Jesus. The "He

Gets Us” campaign is launching nationwide and focuses on publicizing the name and story of Jesus. This campaign is research-based, Bible-centered, and professionally created. It’s a way to be available to online seekers.

In April 2022, I attended a training for “Messy Church,” which launched us at United in Faith into a new season of experimentation and learning through Messy Church events. The five key values of Messy Church (*italicized*) line up quite well with UIF’s guiding principles (found in parentheses): *hospitality* (meet people where they are), *creativity*, *celebration* (pray & listen to God’s guidance), *all-age* (include all in God’s work), *Christ-centered* (Jesus is Lord, continue to strengthen faith). In June, a group of 6 UIF members and friends attended the Messy Church event at Northfield Community Church in Northfield. Messy Church is an intergenerational program that includes activities, prayer, song, and a meal. Though some of the verbiage and pictures feel kid-focused, Messy Church is meant for ALL ages. Beginning August 7th, we planned Messy Church events every six weeks through the end of 2022. Each Messy Church event has a theme and focus Bible verse. Messy Church has been very inspiring for me, as we’ve been able to gather teams and volunteers as needed. September was planned mostly by the Justice Ministry; October was planned by a one-time task-force gathered after worship on 10/16. Extending ourselves in creativity and getting to know each participant better has been an important outcome of our Messy Church events at UIF.

- **August 7, 4-6pm, A New Beginning** – Isaiah 43:18-19 “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; can’t you see it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” (beginning of school year, and our first Messy Church)
- **September 18, 4-6pm, God’s Work Our Hands** – Matthew 22:38-39 [Jesus] “said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ (GWOH service projects; loving God & other people)
- **October 30, 4-6pm, Who Am I?** – Psalm 139:14 “I praise you [God], for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.” (focus on self-discovery, self-care, and self-expression)
- **December 11, 4-6pm, God’s Topsy-Turvy Kingdom**, Luke 1:46b-55, Mary’s Magnificat (Advent season focus)

During September 2022, we once again marked the Season of Creation. Justice Ministry hosted with a diorama for Ocean Sunday that reminded us of sea life and how it is impacted by discarded trash and pollutants. For Flora/Fauna Sunday, we displayed a terrarium with plastic representations of the life cycle of a frog. On Storm Sunday, we displayed many umbrellas (even though the previous Sunday, we had a REAL rain storm that flooded the church and the parking lot). For Cosmos Sunday, planets hung from the wall and space books were left out to read. Our Fall Kick-Off Sunday was also in September 2022, marked by an Ice Cream Party after worship on Sunday, September 11th.

On October 15th, 2022, in partnership with St. John’s Lutheran Church (Pastor Kara Wagner Scherer) and Faith in Place, we hosted a car show with hybrid and electric vehicles in the back parking lot. People brought their vehicles, shared about what it’s like owning an Electric (or Hybrid) vehicle, and geeked out about the new tech in EV’s. It was a great electric vehicle networking and sharing event!

On November 9th, 2022, in partnership with Age Options, Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches, and Eden UCC (Pastor Jacki Belile), United in Faith hosted a collaborative event with reflections from Mark Bowman, a long-time Chicagoland and national leader for inclusive church communities. The event included time for elders (and others) on the Northwest Side to reflect on the social changes we’ve

seen over the decades, and to explore together the varieties of resources needed for diverse families and singles on the Northwest side. More great ongoing collaborations on the Northwest Side.

During our fall stewardship season (October-November 2022), we used the “Grace in Action” stewardship resources from SALT Project.

During the season of Advent 2022, we are using materials (again) from *A Sanctified Art*, under the theme theme: “From Generation to Generation.” Several of the FGTG Intergenerational Craft ideas were used during the Advent/Magnificat Messy Church on December 11th. The artwork based on this Advent theme were posted at the back of the sanctuary (on the folding wall) throughout the Christmas and Epiphany seasons.

After years of struggling to get enough participants for the BSA program at UIF, at the end of 2022, Boy Scout Troop 166 was officially disbanded as an organization. Their leadership and teamwork with scouts throughout the years has been greatly appreciated, and with sadness, we help to re-home and distribute many of the supplies that they had gathered throughout the years, so that other scout troops could utilize them. There is a plaque displayed on the wall near the Resource Room that honors all those who achieved their Eagle Scout through the years at UIF.

Throughout the year, I sought opportunities to mentor seminary students (some formal as requested by Metro Chicago Synod, some informal as I became aware). We hosted a seminarian guest preacher in November (Christ the King Sunday) and a seminarian author in December (at Blue Christmas service).

Continuing Education:

- April 2022 - Messy Church training (at an Episcopal pastors gathering in IN)
- Oct 2022 - attended Metropolitan Chicago Synod Rostered Ministers Gathering in Lake Geneva, WI – attended workshops on allyship, diversity, family/congregational systems theory, and Advent readings in Matthew.
- Oct 2022 - completed the requirements (reading and webinars) for a Church Answers (Thom Rainer’s organization) Church Revitalization Certificate
- Nov 2022 - Plous Lecture webinar - hosted by Advocate Aurora Health - Isabel Wilkerson (author of Caste)
- December 2022 - Screening of Movie (“Toxic”) and discussion – hosted by “Courage to Love” through Advocate Aurora Health (topics: trauma-informed care, restorative justice, health disparities)
- December 2022 - Motivational Interviewing webinar – hosted by JCFS



[INDEX](#)

Treasurer's Report 2022

Income

Budgeted Financial Statement for Period 12 - December

Company#: 1 Name: United in Faith Lutheran Church

Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2022

<u>Description</u>	<u>Budget for Period</u>	<u>Actual for Period</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Annual</u>
INCOME UNDER EXPENSE					
INCOME					
General Income					
Sunday Offering	\$9,133.33	\$5,041.00	\$109,600.00	\$68,807.00	\$109,600.00
Simply Giving	\$0.00	\$4,488.81	\$0.00	\$26,596.22	\$0.00
Loose Offering	\$0.00	\$39.00	\$0.00	\$634.03	\$0.00
Total General Income	\$9,133.33	\$9,568.81	\$109,600.00	\$96,037.25	\$109,600.00
Special Income					
Initial Offering	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$162.00	\$0.00
Christmas	\$0.00	\$620.00	\$0.00	\$940.00	\$0.00
Ash Wednesday	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$137.00	\$0.00
Advent / Lent - Mid week, folders,	\$0.00	\$81.00	\$0.00	\$450.00	\$0.00
Easter	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$480.00	\$0.00
Good Friday	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$147.00	\$0.00
Maundy Thursday	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$102.00	\$0.00
Thanksgiving	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$182.00	\$0.00
Other special income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$432.67	\$0.00
Memorials	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,240.00	\$0.00
Gifts for the new HVAC system - \	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$1,545.00	\$0.00
Ministry giving	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$0.00
Special gifts	\$3,333.33	\$0.00	\$40,000.00	\$74,217.97	\$40,000.00
Total Special Income	\$3,333.33	\$761.00	\$40,000.00	\$80,065.64	\$40,000.00
Other Income					
Investment Income					
Market Change Allocation Advant.	\$1,645.92	(\$8,667.00)	\$19,751.00	(\$42,973.68)	\$19,751.00
Market Change - Harriet Kurz Fui	\$1,310.50	(\$6,865.00)	\$15,726.00	(\$35,148.60)	\$15,726.00
Market Change - ELCA Fund A	\$1,540.25	\$14,645.00	\$18,483.00	(\$28,760.96)	\$18,483.00
Market Change-Education Endow	\$1,714.17	(\$9,276.00)	\$20,570.00	(\$47,278.74)	\$20,570.00
Interest & Dividend Income	\$0.00	\$16.34	\$0.00	\$2,326.37	\$0.00
Other Misc. Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$96.00	\$0.00
Total Investment Income	\$6,210.84	(\$10,146.66)	\$74,530.00	(\$151,739.61)	\$74,530.00
Thrivent Choice-Grants	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$105.00	\$0.00
Outside group donations	\$0.00	\$212.00	\$0.00	\$1,480.00	\$0.00
Donation from St. Cyprians	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,400.00	\$0.00
Total Other Income	\$6,210.84	(\$9,934.66)	\$74,530.00	(\$144,754.61)	\$74,530.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$18,677.50	\$395.15	\$224,130.00	\$31,348.28	\$224,130.00

Expenses

Budgeted Financial Statement for Period 12 - December ANNUAL EXPENSE REPORT Company#: 1 Name: United in Faith Lutheran Church Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2022

<u>Description</u>	<u>Budget for Period</u>	<u>Actual for Period</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Budget Annual</u>
MISSION INVESTMENT					
CHURCH EXPENSES					
SALARIES & BENEFITS					
SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$10,487	\$10,610	\$125,845	\$128,410	\$125,845
TOTAL SALARIES & BENEFITS	\$10,487	\$10,610	\$125,845	\$128,410	\$125,845
MINISTRY					
Auto reimbursement	\$125	\$111	\$1,500	\$1,481	\$1,500
Supply Pastor	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,509	\$1,000
Continuing Education	\$0	\$45	\$1,000	\$940	\$1,000
Conferences	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$375	\$500
Books	\$21	\$0	\$250	\$50	\$250
Miscellaneous	\$25	\$0	\$300	\$0	\$300
TOTAL MINISTRY	\$171	\$156	\$4,550	\$4,356	\$4,550
ADMINISTRATION					
Outside Services - payroll	\$83	\$119	\$1,000	\$997	\$1,000
Supplies	\$83	\$162	\$1,000	\$974	\$1,000
Postage	\$67	\$0	\$800	\$289	\$800
Stewardship	\$23	\$0	\$280	\$230	\$280
Books	\$8	\$0	\$100	\$0	\$100
Attorney Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,900	\$0
Software - Hardware	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$57	\$0
Internet Service	\$25	\$0	\$300	\$334	\$300
Software Support & Training	\$200	\$216	\$2,400	\$2,529	\$2,400
Communications	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$60	\$0
Insurance	\$0	\$0	\$10,537	\$11,142	\$10,537
Telephone	\$250	\$224	\$3,000	\$2,577	\$3,000
Lease Expense- Copier	\$275	\$0	\$3,300	\$3,069	\$3,300
Overage expense for copier	\$33	\$18	\$400	\$227	\$400
Equipment not capitalized	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
Miscellaneous	\$42	(\$30)	\$500	\$245	\$500
LBBrokerage fee / Bank Fee	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$8,130	\$10,000
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$1,090	\$709	\$35,617	\$32,761	\$35,617
BUILDING EXPENSE					
Permits & Fees	\$167	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,618	\$2,000
Janitorial services	\$883	\$0	\$10,600	\$10,617	\$10,600
Janitorial Supplies	\$83	\$102	\$1,000	\$1,614	\$1,000

Snow Removal	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Exterminator	\$225	\$80	\$900	\$800	\$900
Fire Extinguisher- Purchase/Maint.	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$109	\$1,000
Electricity	\$1,167	\$924	\$14,000	\$13,683	\$14,000
Gas and water	\$1,250	\$2,889	\$15,000	\$21,186	\$15,000
Alarm	\$0	\$0	\$1,200	\$1,259	\$1,200
Miscellaneous	\$125	\$0	\$1,500	\$336	\$1,500
Maintenance	\$1,667	\$2,834	\$20,000	\$12,921	\$20,000
TOTAL BUILDING EXPENSE	\$5,567	\$6,829	\$69,700	\$67,641	\$69,700
Benevolence	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$15,000	\$17,747	\$15,000
TOTAL CHURCH EXPENSES	\$21,065	\$22,054	\$250,712	\$250,914	\$250,712

MINISTRY DIRECTORS

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Worship Supplies - Altar Guild	\$117	\$689	\$1,400	\$1,696	\$1,400
Music Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$325	\$0
Books	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$220	\$0
Outside Musicians	\$1,667	\$2,625	\$20,000	\$16,084	\$20,000
Copyright Licenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150	\$0
Flowers	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$130	\$0
Decorative Arts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$17	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$83	\$150	\$1,000	\$310	\$1,000
TOTAL WORSHIP & MUSIC	\$1,867	\$3,464	\$22,400	\$18,932	\$22,400

CHILDRENS MINISTRY

Church School	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25	\$0
Vacation Bible School	\$0	\$69	\$300	\$128	\$300
Sunday school curriculum	\$25	\$0	\$300	\$167	\$300
Miscellaneous	\$13	\$0	\$150	\$120	\$150
TOTAL CHILDRENS MINISTRY	\$38	\$69	\$750	\$440	\$750

OUTREACH & HOSPITALITY

Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$68	\$0
Signage & banners	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$407	\$0
Marketing Materials	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$308	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$67	\$0	\$800	\$0	\$800
TOTAL OUTREACH & HOSPITALITY	\$67	\$0	\$800	\$782	\$800

WEBSITE

Miscellaneous	\$0	\$0	\$350	\$0	\$350
TOTAL WEBSITE	\$0	\$0	\$350	\$0	\$350

FELLOWSHIP

Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$124	\$0
Fellowship	\$42	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$500

Special Events	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$270	\$0
TOTAL FELLOWSHIP	\$42	\$0	\$500	\$394	\$500
STEWARDSHIP					
Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$33	\$0	\$400	\$0	\$400
TOTAL STEWARDSHIP	\$33	\$0	\$400	\$50	\$400
FAITH DEVELOPMENT					
Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$104	\$0
Lutheran magazine	\$0	\$120	\$0	\$220	\$0
Christ in our Home	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$560	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$108	\$0	\$1,300	\$0	\$1,300
TOTAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT	\$108	\$120	\$1,300	\$883	\$1,300
RENEWAL					
Church Health Team	\$63	\$0	\$750	\$0	\$750
TOTAL RENEWAL	\$63	\$0	\$750	\$0	\$750
JUSTICE & PRAYER					
Prayer supplies	\$4	\$0	\$50	\$0	\$50
Justice Programs	\$8	\$16	\$100	\$76	\$100
TOTAL JUSTICE & PRAYER	\$13	\$16	\$150	\$76	\$150
MEN IN MISSION					
TOTAL MEN IN MISSION	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GAY STRAIGHT TOGETHER					
Miscellaneous	\$25	\$200	\$300	\$200	\$300
TOTAL GAY STRAIGHT TOGETHER	\$25	\$200	\$300	\$200	\$300
SHEPERDS STAFF					
Miscellaneous	\$8	\$0	\$100	\$0	\$100
TOTAL SHEPERDS STAFF	\$8	\$0	\$100	\$0	\$100
TOTAL MINISTRY DIRECTORS	\$2,263	\$3,869	\$27,800	\$21,757	\$27,800
TOTAL MISSION INVESTMENT	\$23,327	\$25,923	\$278,512	\$272,671	\$278,512
EDUCATION ENDOWMENT					
UIF Scholarships	\$0	\$2,500	\$0	\$13,500	\$0
TOTAL EDUCATION ENDOWMENT	\$0	\$2,500	\$0	\$13,500	\$0

Summary

United In Faith Lutheran Church						
Summary-Income and Expenditures						
December, 2022						
				December		
			2022 Annual	2022	YTD	YTD Actual %
			Budget	Actual	Actual	to budget
Unrestricted:						
Income (excluding investment activity)						
	From church operations		\$ 109,600	\$ 10,542	\$ 108,966	99%
	Special Gifts		40,000	-	74,218	186%
	Total		\$ 149,600	\$ 10,542	\$ 183,184	122%
Expenditures:						
	Salaries and benefits		\$ 125,845	\$ 10,610	\$ 128,410	102%
	Ministry		4,550	156	4,356	96%
	Administration		35,617	709	32,761	92%
	Building		69,700	6,829	67,641	97%
	Benevolence		15,000	3,750	17,747	118%
	Ministry Directors					
	Outside musicians		20,000	2,625	16,084	80%
	Other		7,800	1,244	5,673	73%
	Total		\$ 278,512	\$ 25,923	\$ 272,671	98%
	Income over (under) expenditures		\$ (128,912)	\$ (15,381)	\$ (89,487)	
	Investment income and changes in market value		19,751	(8,651)	(40,647)	
	Increase (Decrease) in unrestricted net assets		\$ (109,161)	\$ (24,032)	\$ (130,134)	
Educational Endowment						
	Investment income and changes in market value		\$ 18,483	\$ (9,276)	\$ (47,279)	
	Scholarships paid out		-	2,500	(13,500)	
	Increase (Decrease) in educational net assets		\$ 18,483	\$ (6,776)	\$ (60,779)	
Harriet Kurz Endowment						
	Thrivent Invest income & changes in markt value		\$ 20,570	\$ (6,865)	\$ (35,149)	
	ELCA Minstry Grwth Invst inc & chngs in mrkt val		\$ 15,726	\$ 14,645	\$ (28,761)	
	Increase (Decrease) in total net assets		\$ (54,382)	\$ (23,028)	\$ (254,823)	
Comments						
1	a. 2022 church operations income is lower than spending by \$15,381 in Dec. & lower by \$163,705 YTD w/o Sp Gfts					
	b. Income includes \$74,218 in estate gifts from:					
	Anita Perske - \$ 1,727 in January, 2022					
	Marion Hanson -\$63,695 in February, 2022					
	Reverand Barthel - \$819 in September, 2022					
	Dorothy Goos - \$7,976 in October, 2022					
	c. General Investments returned a loss of (\$8,651) for December & a (\$40,647) loss YTD.					
	d. Educational Endowment Investments returned a loss of (\$9,276) for December & a (\$47,279) loss YTD.					
	e. The Thrivent Harriet Kurz fund returned a loss of (\$6,865) for December & a (\$35,149) loss YTD.					
	f. The Harriet Kurz ELCA Ministry Growth Fund returned a gain of \$14,645 for Nov. & a (\$28,761) loss YTD.					
2	a. Total expense is unfavorable to budget by \$2,596 for December & favorable to budget by \$5,841 YTD.					
	b. Under Building, Gas Costs (\$2,889) for Dec. were over budget by \$1,639 due to increased heating use.					
	c. Miscellaneous includes a \$1,225 deposit to Angelo Fioretto for roof & HVAC work.					
	d. The 4th Qtr Benevolence payment (\$3,750) was done in December.					
	e. Outside Musicians includes payments to Lois for both Nov. & Dec. (\$1,525)					
3	Cash and investments at year end:					
			<u>Dec-2021</u>	<u>Dec-2022</u>	<u>Chg from 2021</u>	
	Cash and Money Market		\$ 49,351	\$ 44,244	(5,108)	
	General investments		48,696	4,214	(44,482)	
	Education Endowment		348,452	284,616	(63,836)	
	Harriet Kurz Endowment		369,786	262,448	(107,338)	
	Mission Endowment		354,323	351,323	(3,000)	
	ELCA Ministry Growth Fund		319,984	291,223	(28,761)	
			<u>\$ 1,490,592</u>	<u>\$ 1,238,069</u>	<u>\$ (252,524)</u>	
	Check total		\$ 1,490,592	\$ 1,238,069	\$ (252,524)	
			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

INDEX

Year 2023 Proposed Budget United in Faith Lutheran Church

Income-

The 2023 budget for Total Income from Operations, \$110,800, is \$1,834 higher than actual 2022.

The 2023 budget for Special Gifts is \$40,000 due to United in Faith's anticipated final distribution from the Harriet Kurz Estate.

Investment income assumes a 6.2% return. The \$74,530 investment income budget is the same as the 2022 budget due to lower investment balances at the beginning of 2023.

Expense-

The actual Expenses for 2022 were below budget in all areas except for Salaries & Benefits. The 2023 budget for Expenses is \$285,760, which is \$7,248 higher than the 2022 budget (\$278,512).

Salaries and Benefits are budgeted higher in the 2023 budget due to synod guidelines. The 2023 budget assumes a 3/4 time Pastor for the the entire year to reflect normal operations 2023 reflects modest increases for our employees.

The increase in the 2023 Administration budget is due to a 15.2% increase in Insurance costs.

Though the 2022 actual Maintenance Expense line under Building is far lower than the 2022 budget, the 2023 Maintenance budget was left at \$20,000 in case other repair expenses come up in 2023.

The 2023 Outside Musician budget has stayed the same at \$20,000.

Change in Net Assets-

As a result of the above, the 2023 proposed budget results in a total net decrease in Total Assets (bottom line) of (\$60,430). This compares to the 2022 budget decrease of (\$54,382) and the 2022 actual net decrease of (\$254,823).

[INDEX](#)

INDEX

United In Faith Lutheran Church
2023 Budget
Revenue

				1/17/2023
		2022	2022	2023
		<u>Budget</u>	<u>12 Mo. Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income Stream				
General Income		95,500	96,037	95,500
Holidays		2,000	2,438	2,000
Memorials		2,000	1,240	2,000
Building Income		6,500	6,880	7,700
Gifts for HVAC		3,000	1,545	3,000
Other		600	826	600
Total Income from operations		\$ 109,600	\$ 108,966	\$ 110,800
Special Gifts		40,000	74,218	40,000
Investment Income and Mkt Change:				
General and Mission Endowment Funds			(40,647)	
Harriet Kurz Endowment			(63,910)	
Educational Endowment			(47,279)	
Total Investment Income		74,530	(151,836)	74,530
Grand Total		\$ 224,130	\$ 31,348	\$ 225,330

[INDEX](#)

United In Faith Lutheran Church
2023 Budget
Expenditures

1/17/2023

	2022	2022	2023
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>12 Mo Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
SALARIES & BENEFITS	125,845	128,410	128,646
MINISTRY			
Other Expenses			
Auto Allowance	1,500	1,481	1,500
Supply Pastor	1,000	1,509	1,000
Continuing Education	1,000	940	1,000
Conferences	500	375	500
Books	250	50	250
Miscellaneous	300	-	300
Total	4,550	4,356	4,550
Total Ministry	4,550	4,356	4,550
ADMINISTRATION			
Other Expenses			
Office / copier Supplies	1,000	974	1,000
Outside Services-Payroll	1,000	997	1,000
Postage	800	289	500
Stewardship Envelopes	280	230	280
Books	100	-	100
Attorney Fees	-	1,900	-
Software - Hardware	-	57	-
Internet service	300	334	350
Software Support & Training	2,400	2,529	2,600
Communications	-	60	-
Insurance	10,537	11,142	12,834

Telephone and communication	3,000	2,577	2,700
Lease Expense - Copier	3,300	3,069	3,300
Overage expense for copier	400	227	400
Equipment not capitalized	2,000	-	2,000
Miscellaneous	500	245	500
Thrivent brokerage fee	10,000	8,130	9,000
Total	35,617	32,761	36,564
Total Administration	35,617	32,761	36,564

BUILDING EXPENSE

Other Expenses

Permits & Fees	2,000	2,618	2,000
Janitorial Services	10,600	10,617	10,900
Janitorial Supplies	1,000	1,614	1,000
Snow Removal	2,500	2,500	2,500
Exterminator	900	800	900
Fire Extinguisher maintenance	1,000	109	500
Electricity	14,000	13,683	14,000
Gas and Water	15,000	21,186	19,000
Alarm service	1,200	1,259	1,200
Miscellaneous	1,500	336	1,500
Maintenance	20,000	12,921	20,000
Landscaping	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Total	69,700	67,641	73,500
Total Building	69,700	67,641	73,500

OUTSIDE MUSICIAN EXPENSE

Outside Musicians	20,000	16,084	20,000
Total	20,000	16,084	20,000

<u>BENEVOLENCE</u>	15,000	17,747	15,000
	<hr/>		
SUB-TOTAL	270,712	266,999	278,260
	<hr/>		
<u>MINISTRY AREA EXPENSES</u>	7,800	5,673	7,500
	-	-	-
	<hr/>		
	7,800	5,673	7,500
	<hr/>		
TOTAL EXPENSE	278,512	272,671	285,760
	<hr/>		
INCOME	224,130	31,348	225,330
	<hr/>		
MISSION INVESTMENT	(54,382)	(241,323)	(60,430)
	<hr/>		

[INDEX](#)

1/17/2023	Ministry Director's Budget					
MINISTRY	Subcategory			2022 Budget	2022 12 months	2023 Budget
Worship & Music						
	Worship Supplies — Altar Guild			1,400	1,696	1,400
	Miscellaneous			1,000	310	1,000
	Books				220	
	Musical Instrument Maintenance					
	Copyright License				150	
	Music supplies				325	
	Decorative arts				17	
	Flowers				130	
	Total			2,400	2,848	2,400
Christian Education / Children's Ministry						
	Sunday School			300	167	250
	VBS			300	128	250
	Church school			-	25	
	Miscellaneous			150	120	150
	Total			750	440	650
Outreach & Hospitality				800		800
	Signage & Banners				407	
	Marketing materials				308	
	Supplies				68	
				800	782	800
Fellowship				500		500
	Supplies				124	
	Special events				270	
	Total			500	394	500
Stewardship				400	50	250
Faith Development				1,300		1,300
	Lutheran Magazine				220	
	Christ in our home				560	
	Supplies				104	
	Lay Leadership					
	Book Sale					
				1,300	883	1,300
Church Health Team				750	-	700
Justice				100	76	100
Prayer				50	-	50
Gay & Straight Together				300	200	300
Shepherd's Staff				100	-	100
Website				350		350
	Register URL (for 4 years)					
	Storage on Server					
	Church Calendar					
TOTAL				7,800	5,673	7,500

[INDEX](#)

UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

This committee has the responsibility of administering United in Faith's Educational Scholarship program. The distribution of all scholarship awards is respectfully kept confidential.

Scholarships are offered to student congregation members who have a financial need and will attend either a Christian pre-school, grade school or high school, or any post-secondary school or have special education needs or gifts at any level of their education. Each applicant and their parent(s)/guardian(s)/care giver(s) must participate in the life of United in Faith.

This year the committee reviewed the application information along with the level of family participation in church life and determined scholarships based on funds available and the number of applicants.

In the 2020-2021 school year a scholarship was presented four scholarships to four individual students and the total amount of the scholarships was \$18,500. The checks are made out to the school the student will attend.

The Educational Scholarship Committee is actively recruiting new members. If you are interested, please see George Schultz or Bonnie Maginnis.

Bonnie Maginnis
George Schultz

[INDEX](#)

MISSION ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE
United in Faith Lutheran Church
2022 Annual Report

The purpose of the Mission Endowment Fund Committee is to provide annual distributions from the Mission Endowment Fund beyond the operating budget of this congregation to ministry expressions as stated below:

Minimum of 20% for outreach into the local community or synod as the committee determines.

- a.** Minimum of 20% for ELCA Church-wide ministries as the committee determines.
- b.** Minimum of 20% for extraordinary programs or other ministry initiatives within the congregation.
- c.** Remaining 40% distributed through any of the above categories, or
 - 1. Education
 - 2. Youth
 - 3. Worship and Music
 - 4. Capital project
 - 5. Missions – locals, regional and world projects
 - 6. Senior citizens

The Mission Endowment Committee, which consists of Bonnie Maginnis, George Schultz, and Ray and Jackie Good, did not distribute any funds in 2022.

We welcome anyone who wishes to be a part of this committee, or any suggestions for distribution of this money following the above guidelines.

Bonnie

[INDEX](#)

THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

United In Faith Lutheran Church

2022 Annual Report

. As much as it seems that the Covid pandemic was such a long time ago, our first few months of Property Committee meetings in 2022 were via Zoom. Remember last December and January there was an increase in the virus so we kept it safe by going back to a few Zoom meetings for our discussions of property issues. Once we returned to UIF in March for our meeting, we still wore masks as a precaution and respect of each other's health.

It seems that so much of our meeting discussions were centered on the Food Pantry issues that affected United in Faith. The parking issue on Food Pantry days has always been a problem but now the recipients and workers are blocking our garage door and also using the parking spaces in the back of Idea Furniture. The owner of Idea Furniture kindly asked us to inform the people from the Food Pantry that they should not park in their slots, taking away from the employees and customers. Both Idea Furniture and UIF have installed "No Parking" signs in front of our garage doors and by Idea's rear parking spaces. We are not sure how effective the signs will be but fingers crossed they will find parking elsewhere. The Food Pantry continues to take in non-food items as donations and then stores these items in several rooms of the west building. We have asked for two of our rooms back so UIF can offer them to other groups, but the pantry has ignored our requests. We are also in the process of seeking an increase in the rent from the Food Pantry since the west building expenses have gone up from the heat and electricity costs. Their exhaust fan seems to run constantly and uses a tremendous amount of energy. We have asked them to replace the thermostat on the fan so that the fan only goes on when the temperature increases in that storage room from all of their refrigerators. We continue to have issues in the west building with The Pantry but we feel they are a great asset to the community in need. We need to work with them and monitor their activities in our building moving forward.

Our biggest issue in 2022 was and still is the leaking roofs on the west building and east building (front office area). We called several places and received many quotes for various types of repairs and also roof replacements. Various quotes ranged from \$28,000.00 to \$122,000.00. This is a big job so we called Brotherhood Mutual to see if we had a possible claim for weather related damage to the roofs. Capital Roofing came out to talk with us in May 2022 and they were eager to help us file a claim, wait for the claim adjusters to assess the damages, and hopefully get the roof repaired or replaced by fall. As you know, this did not happen. We finally received word from Brotherhood Mutual that they would cover only about \$3500 of our costs, and Capital Roofing would receive about 30% of this if they don't do the work, otherwise this amount will go towards the repairs if we contract with them. This was a very disappointing Christmas present for us. Plus, Brotherhood Mutual is increasing our insurance premiums for 2023, almost 16% higher than last year. We need to have extensive work done to alleviate the water damage from our leaking roofs, but not sure how we should fund this in the spring with other structural issues on the west building, including mold and deteriorating bricks. We also recently found out that the framework that supports one of our HVAC units is slipping and needs to be reinforced. The winter weather may be a hindrance in getting this done ASAP.

In case you hadn't noticed, we have turned off the electronic sign since too many of the boards are out so therefore the sign was too difficult to read. We are hoping to have this electronic sign removed when we get the roof done on the east building. One of the leaks is coming from the anchor where the sign support is attached. We are also paying a City tax on a yearly basis for having this sign so if we remove it, we will save a few hundred dollars a year when it's removed. A new electronic sign would be more efficient but costly to purchase but we have more pressing issues with the roof and building

before we can replace the sign, or replace the carpet in the east building, or get a new asphalt parking lot. We actually do need quite a few things done around UIF, but must be prudent with our finances. Our number one concern is our roofs for 2023. There are so many possibilities for UIF to move into the New Year with keeping up with technology, like solar panels and EV charging stations, which we have talked about at our meetings, but once again, we must be aware of our finances with our dwindling number of members. We will need to make some realistic decisions for UIF in 2023.

We also learn from our mistakes, as well as learning from being a property owner. We learned that we had a hidden water meter in the vault on the east side of the east building. We learned that a Boy Scout trailer is as valuable to steal as a catalytic converter from a car. Who knew?? We learned that being a good neighbor is more than useful when they have outside cameras. We learned that replacing locks, keys, and codes can be an aggravation for many but also a security benefit for our buildings. We learned that installing safety bars in a restroom is appreciated more than we will ever know. We learned that feeding the hungry and hosting a Food Pantry is more of a blessing than the aggravation of hosting its facility. We learned that buildings get old and need costly repairs, but still want to protect God's house for all of us. We have faced so many challenges as a committee, but yet we look for guidance as we make these decisions for United in Faith. Pray for us, in making the right decisions. Pray for United in Faith as we move into a new year with new issues. Pray for our committee members, especially Joe Childress as he faces many challenges in 2023 with health issues.

*“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as
good stewards of God's varied grace”
1 Peter 4:10*

We are the Fellowship of the Property Committee,
George Schultz, Joseph Childress, Harold Hoyem, Harold Edmonson,
Mary Haas, and Julie Lozich

“

[INDEX](#)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
United in Faith Lutheran Church
2022 Annual Report

The 2022 Nominating Committee consisted of these members:

Judi Schira
Dian Hoyem

These are the nominees for:

Church Council – 2 year term 2023-2025 – 4 positions:

Julie Lozich (incumbent)
Pam Marino
Joyce Csapo

2023 Nominating Committee – 1 year term – 3 to 5 positions:

Harold Edmonson
Janeen Devine
Kim Childress
Mary Haas

2023 Synod Assembly Voting Members – 1 female & 1 male:

Peter Herberg
Mary Haas

2023 Synod Assembly Alternates - 1 female & 1 male:

Harold Edmonson
Janeen Devine

Thank you to all who have agreed to be nominated. Your participation in our church life is important and appreciated.

[INDEX](#)

SYNOD ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2022 Annual Report

The 2022 Synod Assembly was held this year on June 4, 2022, at the Marriott in Naperville, IL. Your voting members from United in Faith were Pastor Carla Thompson Powell, Harold Edmonson, and Pete Herberg. We met with the other Synod Congregations with the sounds of live African music greeting us as we gathered in the Grand Ballroom. After the Opening Litany, Acknowledgements, & Greetings from Bishop Yehiel Curry & others, Clyde Walter & Ivan Perez were elected as lay nominees from the Synod to be on the ballot for election to Church Council at the August ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Next came several resolutions & memorials from the Assembly floor for adoption, where the most important was one concerning care for BIPOC leaders during times of alleged misconduct & discipline. All resolutions & memorials were passed by the assembly including one that called for the restructuring of the ELCA organization (including a “reconstituting convention”). We also had reports from the officers of the Synod and a vote on the 2023 Synod balanced budget with \$3,123,075 in Income and expenses which passed. The Sunergos Award was presented to Sandie Schlauch & Viola Collins for recognition of their work within the Synod. A video presenting “Years of Service” of various Rostered Leaders was also shown.

After lunch, the assembly broke out into various workshops. Harold & I attended the “Congregations & Change” workshop where the main takeaway was that congregations in the same area should “Collaborate” with each other on various projects. The congregations in the Lakeview area were given as an example.

The highlight of the Assembly came with the “Blanket Exercise” with Vance Blackfox, ELCA’s Director for Indigenous Ministry & Tribal Relations . Blankets were strewn on the Ballroom floor, and we were asked to take our shoes off and stand on the blankets as Vance went around the blanket area and read excerpts from the Indigenous history that showed the cruelty of the Europeans, U.S. settlers, and federal, state governments towards them. After each excerpt was read, Vance would ask several people to go back to their seats to represent the indigenous who were harmed by that excerpt. Afterwards people were asked to give their impressions about the exercise, where several participants were in tears in telling their thoughts.

The final assembly event for us was the worship service with live African music and a sermon from a newly ordained pastor with an Asian Indian background. Afterwards, as we left, I looked down at the carpet patterns and saw what looked like an African face mask in the patterns.

Respectfully submitted by Pete Herberg on behalf of Pastor Carla Thompson Powell and Harold Edmonson.

[INDEX](#)

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY

United In Faith Lutheran Church

2022 Annual Report

Throughout 2022 we have had in-person worship and continued to live stream our services on Facebook and YouTube. After the Illinois mask mandate ended, it was decided that we continue to provide disposable masks and encourage people to use them in worship. Early in 2022 our blended worship service format resumed with sung liturgies and three congregational hymns at each service. The choir also resumed singing periodically on Sundays and on special occasions including Good Friday, Easter, and Christmas Eve.

During the seasons of Lent/Easter and Advent/Christmas we used materials from A Sanctified Art. These materials included seasonal themes with many visuals, poems, prayers, and hymns with new words set to old tunes. For Lent/Easter the theme was “Filled to the Brim” and for Advent/Christmas the theme was “From Generation to Generation.” “Filled to the Brim” included materials with a fresh take on observing the season of Lent and “From Generation to Generation” included reminders of the timelessness of the stories we retell during Advent and Christmas.

Other worship highlights were the Blessing of the Pets in October and our Advent and Christmas services. Our Blessing of the Pets service was held outdoors. The Midweek Lenten Services were at 11:00 AM in person and streamed in the evening on YouTube and Facebook, as were the midweek Advent Services and the Blue Christmas service. On Christmas Eve we held our traditional candlelight service with the choir and handbells. The Christmas Day service and Lessons and Carols Service both included special music and favorite traditional carols.

Most of our planning meetings returned to being in person. We’ve had many productive meetings over Zoom, but it’s not the same as gathering in person and bouncing ideas off of each other with guidance and materials from the pastor. Thanks to all the people serving as worship assistants this past year. Also, many thanks go out to our worship and music planners: Lois Cornils, Denise Boyer, Janeen Devine, Katie Jewell, and Elisabeth Wittman, who with our pastor’s guidance, all volunteer their time.

Yours in Christ,

Jane Schira

[INDEX](#)

UNITEDINFAITH.ORG
United in Faith Lutheran Church
2022 Website Annual Report

With outreach to the community as its main purpose, the website introduces the viewer to both religious and secular activities at United in Faith. The website is in a continuous state of change. Past events and activities are removed, and upcoming activities and events are added as they are solidified, and the webmaster is notified.

This year, the original home page has been merged with the new home page, which highlights all of the activities each week.

Worship, ministries, and the current major United in Faith activities are highlighted on the Home page. Please note that the website is as current as the information that you supply. Please keep those updates coming and thank you for keeping our window to the community open, up-to-date and informative. The website has been redeveloped to make it more mobile friendly.

Richard E. Guzik
Webmaster

[INDEX](#)

UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUSTICE MINISTRY

2022 Annual Report

The Justice Ministry seeks to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ, by working toward the vision of true peace and justice that God promised. Justice is the manifestation of our faith. We heed the Lord's call through the words of Micah 6:8 to engage in justice work:

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

As a congregation that welcomes the diversity of all people, justice issues come to our doorstep. Our work brings us over the doorstep and into our community.

We encourage fair trade, raise awareness of world and local hunger and poverty, advocate for justice issues through offerings of letters and lobbying, and are alert to current events that require immediate action of advocacy.

Justice projects during the year:

- Monthly Newsletter articles on Caring for God's World
- Explored topic of Land Acknowledgment
- Saturday afternoon Book Club discussions
- Set up a zoom meeting with Aaron (former MIC student) and Anna Silco, pastors of a Native American congregation in Alaska
- Participation in Messy Church
- Participation in Season of Creation
- Anti-racism discussions
- Sponsored EV car show
- God's Work, Our Hands-cards for Phil's Friends
- Response to ELCA Climate Social Statement Draft
- Maintain the Black Lives Matter signs
- Became a Faith in Place Green Team

Planned for 2023

- Continue Caring for God's World Newsletter articles
- Continue Saturday afternoon Book Club discussions
- Continue spotlight on racism along with other justice issues
- Maintain the Black Lives Matter signs
- Explore opportunities for partnering with St. John's Episcopalian, Eden UCC, and Friendship Presbyterian

Members of the ministry are: Pam Marino (convener), Denise Boyer, Lois Cornils, Bonnie Maginnis, Pr Carla Thompson Powell, and Elisabeth Wittman. Everyone is invited to participate in our meetings and events.

Go forth and do Justice!

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Boyer

[INDEX](#)

UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH COMMUNION VISITATION MINISTRY 2022 Annual Report

Communion Visitation - bringing the church to members and friends who are unable to attend Sunday morning worship services on a permanent or temporary basis, enabling all to remain connected to the ministry of United in Faith.

Communion Visitation ministry activities demonstrate all of our guiding principles: proclaiming Jesus is Lord and Savior, reflecting God's love, praying and listening for God's guidance, continuing to strengthen faith, including all in God's work and meeting people where there are. Our main activity is visitation during which communion is given, printed devotionals are provided and information regarding United in Faith is shared. In some cases, telephone calls are routinely made instead. Weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters may also be mailed or delivered. Those visited are included on the Prayer Weaving. In these ways we are being 'God's hands, feet and voice' as we care for each other.

Members of this ministry are Pamela Marino, Terrie Miller, Barbara Patrick, Barbara Piggott and Elfriede Reiss. In addition to regular monthly visits, visits are made as needed to others in situations such as hospitalization. Pastor Carla also makes these special visits.

The number of visits made this year was limited due to continuing concerns for covid, the loss of those being visited and the return to church by some.

Anyone with a passion for helping those unable to attend worship services stay connected to United in Faith is invited to join us in our 'caring, communing, listening, loving and providing' ministry. You can become involved in a number of ways (as restrictions allow or are lifted):

- *become a visitor* - a wonderful opportunity to share your faith, listen to life stories, pray with others, sit and visit awhile, bring the bread of life and cup of blessing;
- *notify* the church office when you or someone else is no longer able to attend worship on a permanent or a temporary basis so a visit can be scheduled if it is desired;
- *pray* for those visited (all are listed on the Prayer Weaving) as well as for those who are doing the visiting; and,
- *telephone, send a card or visit* someone who is unable to come to church.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Marino, Ministry Director

[INDEX](#)

UNITED IN FAITH SHEPHERD'S STAFF MINISTRY 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The Shepherd's Staff Ministry was formed to maintain communication with all church members and to assist the Office Administrator with any assigned tasks. Shepherd's Staff will contact any visitors, members who have regularly missed worship and fellowship, and maintain communications with members who are unable to attend services. Shepherd's Staff also maintains background checks for all volunteers for Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, Youth and Confirmation. They also send birthday cards and anniversary cards to all members, holiday cards to homebound members, and make sure any members that are hospitalized or ill receive a card. They also maintain the bulletin boards in both the east and west buildings. They are also available to fill in for the Office Administrator for vacation and sick days.

Bonnie Maginnis
Mickey Bligh
Dian Hoyem

[INDEX](#)

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY United in Faith Lutheran Church 2022 Annual Report

The congregation of UIF is a generous one! Thank you for *all* the gifts you bring to the ministries and vision of United in Faith.

Thanks, also, to those of you who turned in a written faith promise. As of the end of December, we received 9 forms, which is a significant decrease from last year's 15 promises. There's still time to turn in your faith promise forms. We encourage every family unit to complete a faith promise form as a way for you to be deliberate about giving your time, talents, and treasure. Additional faith promises forms are available at church if you need one. We can also send you the form via mail or email.

This year, the Stewardship team selected a resource to support our faith promises program, so our form looked a little different. This resource also provided social media images as a way to engage our online communities. Please remember that you can donate online using your banking account or credit card. When you give online, your money goes immediately to UIF, so you won't have to wait for the church to deposit your checks. Visit <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/uif>. On your first visit, you will have to create an online giving account, but this makes it very easy to complete subsequent online gifts. If you have any feedback or ideas for us, please share them with the members of the Stewardship Ministry: Denise Boyer, Richard Guzik, and Gretchen Quillin.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Quillin, Chair

[INDEX](#)

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY
United In Faith Lutheran Church
2022 Annual Report

The Fellowship Ministry oversees our Sunday morning coffee hour. Volunteers are asked to sign up to bring desserts each Sunday during the year so members can enjoy some fellowship and coffee before service.. Volunteers will set up, serve and clean up afterwards. Steve will usually brew coffee and set up cups and condiments, and also start the dishwasher afterwards. If he is not available on a Sunday morning, volunteers should come a few minutes early to brew coffee and set up. They also stay a few minutes later to dispose of left over coffee, clean up the kitchen area, and load and start the dishwasher. The Hospitality Ministry also sets up before and cleans up after any pot luck luncheons or dinners we have during the year.

Thank you to all the wonderful people who volunteer and bake for us.

Bonnie

[INDEX](#)

VOLUNTEER COORDINATION – GREETERS
United In Faith Lutheran Church
2022 Annual Report

Greeters are the friendly people who come half an hour early to greet you as you enter the church for worship at 10:00 am Sunday services. They also hand everyone a bulletin and ask people to sign the attendance sheet. Greeters are able to make a new friend each and every time they say “Hello” or “Welcome to United in Faith”. During 2022 we did not have many Greeters, however, now you are able to sign up to be a Greeter at any time, no special training required!

Thanks to all who help greet during the year.

[INDEX](#)

UNITED IN FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHURCH HEALTH TEAM

2022 Annual Report

The Church Health Team's (CHT) purpose is assessing UiF's health, spiritually, in adherence to our church's mission, fulfilling the Will of God in the community. This involves using surveys, discussing ways of improving our church, collaborating with our advisor, Dave Daubert and having visioning discussions.

In 2022, UiF witnessed a return to normalcy following the pandemic years of 2020-2021. The vast majority of our members have returned to in person church. We have found ways to reconnect and have fun together. Messy Church has proven to be a fun time for members of our congregation to participate in games and crafts with a purpose. People seem to be enjoying it. I recommend that if you have not made it to a Messy Church that you come give it a try.

"Ice Cream Party!" was an exciting way for us to relive childhood memories and bond over ice cream sundaes and floats.

As we move into 2023, we must continue to find ways to enhance the spirit and vitality of our congregation through fun, vigorous and intentional inreach and outreach. If you have a couple great ideas for fun events that would improve the spirit and vitality of our church, please share them with us or council or the pastor so we may all benefit.

On behalf of the Church Health Team,

Jeff Jewell

[INDEX](#)

GIRL SCOUTS REPORT

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2022 Annual Report

Girl Scouts at United in Faith.

We currently have a total of 31 girls registered as Girl Scouts at United in Faith, divided between 5 troops. We have girls from Kindergarten through 11th grade at this time. There are eight registered Adults working with the girls. As with many other organizations, we lost members during Covid; but we are holding our own. All the troops now meet on Tuesday evenings. The Daisies and Brownies are in the West Building, and the Juniors, Cadettes, and Senior/Ambassador troops meet in the Fellowship Hall.

The girls have been working on badges, and crafts. We put together hygiene kits that we brought to the Night Ministry and some to Third Place Chicago to benefit homeless neighbors. We will be assembling more in January. We went camping last spring and this fall to Camp Juniper Knoll in Wisconsin.

Our Girl Scout Service Unit has begun to do events together again as well, we had an event at Schiller Woods last spring. The troops participated in Cookie Sales last year and the Fall Product Program and the Cookie Sales just recently started for this year.

In November, we said farewell to Annette Cameron. While she had stepped back from our troops, we still called her with updates and for advice. We were privileged to be able to give her a Final Scout's Own ceremony before her funeral. Annette was presented with her 75 Years of Service to Girl Scouting and the Green Angel pin at the Scout's Own. We had hoped to give it to her at our Christmas party. We are ready to welcome any new members to our troops, if you know of any girls in the neighborhood who might be interested, please send them our way!

Respectfully submitted,
Janeen Devine

[INDEX](#)

NEW LIFE FOR OLD BAGS

United in Faith Lutheran Church

2022 Annual Report

New Life for Old Bags (NLOB) is a completely volunteer run group working together to make sleeping mats for the homeless. The creation of each mat takes 80 volunteer hours and repurposes 700 used plastic bags. The handmade mats provide the homeless with some cushion, water resistance, and love. Completed mats are shared with non-profit organizations who directly work with homeless populations for distribution in the City of Chicago and local suburbs.

NLOB was founded in Chicago in February of 2010 and has its headquarters at United in Faith (UIF). It has grown, and now we have Chicagoland Chapters at Bethesda Home, Midwest Buddhist Temple, Friendship Village in Schaumburg, LaGrange Park, Plano, and Plainfield. There are also "chapters" all over the United States such as Wooster, Ohio and Las Vegas, Nevada, and beyond.

NLOB is very grateful to UIF for providing office space for what we like to call our "international headquarters" and space for monthly NLOB workday parties (which, also, serve as the training grounds for new "chapters").

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2022 brought on many challenges. NLOB was primarily impacted by having to shut down in person monthly workdays at all campuses beginning in March of 2020. Our main location at UIF was able to have a handful of "drive by" workdays where volunteers could drop off completed plarn and mats and pick-up materials from our volunteers using the UIF parking lot.

Despite the many hurdles, our volunteers still made an impact. By the end of 2022, NLOB volunteers will have donated 426,000 hours (19,200 of those given in 2020), creating about 5,325 mats (240 of those made in 2020), sharing love with local homeless by giving them a mat to sleep on, while repurposing over 3.7 million plastic bags to date (keeping them out of landfills and water sources).

UIF has provided us with a home office, storage space, resources, and support that has allowed us to continue to grow, collaborate, serve the homeless, benefit the environment, develop relationships, and build community. While we were not able to make any donations to UIF in 2022, we hope once things normalize and we can resume regular work days that we can donate to UIF in 2023.

Thank you.



Christina Batorski Peacock
NLOB Board President

[INDEX](#)

**WE USED
TO BE A
PRINTING
COMPANY**



**...THEN WE
CONVERTED!**

**United in Faith Lutheran Church
6525 W. Irving Park Rd.
Chicago, IL 60634**

[INDEX](#)