

Annual Report

August 2019 – July 2020

The first year of COVID-19

MISSION STATEMENT

Daring to Live in Jesus' Transforming Love

New Life

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A united community of people & friends

WE VALUE:

Loving God, creation, all people;

exploring and sharing our faith;

broadening our minds; and

deepening our hearts.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
Pastor's Report.....	5
Church Administrator's Report.....	7
Music Ministries Report.....	9
Communications Collaborator's Report.....	10
Clerk of Session Report.....	11
 Session Committees	
Building & Grounds.....	16
Celebration & Worship.....	18
Church & Society.....	19
North Como Preschool.....	25
Earth Care Team.....	27
Church Finance.....	30
Memorial Gifts.....	32
Congregational Care.....	33
Faith Formation.....	34
Membership & Growth.....	36
Nominating.....	36
Personnel.....	37
Seeds of Hope Community Garden.....	39
Stewardship.....	40
 Fellowship	
Esther Circle.....	41
New Life Quilters.....	42
Stephen Ministry.....	43
 2017-2018 Financial Reports and Budget.....	 Following page 44

PASTOR'S REPORT

Reverend Riz Prakasim

Now, friends, I want to report on the surprising and generous ways in which God is working in the churches in Macedonia province. Fierce troubles came down on the people of those churches, pushing them to the very limit. The trial exposed their true colors: They were incredibly happy, though desperately poor. The pressure triggered something totally unexpected: an outpouring of pure and generous gifts. I was there and saw it for myself. They gave offerings of whatever they could—far more than they could afford!—pleading for the privilege of helping out in the relief of poor Christians.

II Corinthians 8:1-4

This last year has been like none we have experienced before in the history of our nation. The global pandemic has impacted each one of us and shifted us away from in-person worship to streaming worship. There are more needs than ever, but New Life has stepped up in new and creative ways of living out the Good News of Christ and responding to needs. I am humbled to serve this resilient and hopeful faith community that longs to return to in-person worship. Here are some highlights of this last year:

- Almost all staff has pivoted to remote work and come in on an as-needed basis.
- Our faith community laid to rest dearly beloved saints as we celebrated their lives with memorial services that honored their memories and legacies.
- Presided over the sacrament of baptism for members and non-members.
- We welcomed new members this last year with a new member class.
- Provided training, and installed and ordained new elders to the class of 2023.
- This last year we had one senior graduate from youth group and welcomed new incoming youth. Youth group continued our fellowship with sleepovers, volunteering, working the Pumpkin Patch. All activities were ceased in mid-March and there was no mission trip due to the pandemic.
- Preached at KCOG as well as provided pastoral coverage.
- Participated regularly in the Sheridan Project and coordinated it until schools closed.
- Continued participating in a Presbyterian pastors' cohort made up of area pastors of the PCUSA.
- Serving on Presbytery's Anti-Racism working group.
- Attended Presbytery meetings.
- Provided pre-marital counseling, couples counseling and individual counseling.
- Presided over marriages for members & non-members.

PASTOR'S REPORT (Continued)

- Considered benevolence requests and distributed to those in need.
- Confirmation will resume in Fall of 2021.
- Youth group is moving to a hybrid model with North Presbyterian & Trinity Presbyterian.
- Led a Lenten Bible Study and invited North Presbyterian to attend.
- Led two outdoor drive-in worship services.
- Continued with the Ecumenical Center for Clergy Spiritual Renewal program, part of continuing education.
- Welcomed a mobile food distribution center part of Keystone Community Services.
- Joined a Multicultural Advisory Group to Roseville Police Department.
- Applied for and received a grant from the Presbytery for streaming worship .
- Applied for and received a grant from the Presbytery for operating costs due to pandemic hardships.
- Applied for and received a grant from the Synod for operating costs due to pandemic hardships.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Maryfran Moen

Greetings Church! I am privileged to serve as your Church Administrator.

I work with many committees, individuals and staff to promote and enable the ministries of NLPC. At times it takes some creativity to work within the boundaries that the church must follow.

I consistently try to apply God's Word to my work. The verses that have been on my heart recently are I Corinthians 12:12-31. I have copied verses 25 and 27 (The Word) below.

²⁵ *God's purpose was that the body should not be divided but rather that all of its parts should feel the same concern for each other.*

²⁷ *You are Christ's body and each of you is an individual part of it.*

I also try to help the body be good stewards of NLPC's people, building, and funds as Christ has called us to be.

This year has been divided into 2 seasons, Pre-COVID and COVID. Below is a very brief explanation of the highlights.

Pre- COVID:

- ◇ To integrate and support those unable to drive and unable to ride share, we have contracted with a car service. This option is a significant savings over purchasing or renting a vehicle. We have a dedicated transportation fund that is currently supporting this service. Unfortunately, this service has been temporarily suspended. I look forward to when it can restart.
- ◇ Minnesota has instituted several new Human Resources laws that affect NLPC. These new laws needed to be researched as to their application and implementation. This is ongoing and the record keeping will be part of our requirements going forward.
- ◇ Our new liability and workmen's compensation insurance carrier required NLPC to replace the recalled Federal Pacific electrical panels. That project wraps up mid-October.

COVID:

- ◇ This pandemic has presented some challenges and opportunities for New Life Presbyterian Church. The hardest part has been suspending in-person worship. The quick response has been to stream services through Facebook, Twitch, and YouTube. People can also join services and have meetings via Zoom. Kudos to the volunteers who stepped up and to Deb Griffin and Pam Schoon for adapting and helping. There have been some hiccups and a steep learning curve. This type of worship is here to stay! It is a fantastic way to have another outreach and presence to the community.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (continued)

- ◇ The church also responded by donating choir robes to be used as PPE, printing face shields, making masks and expanding the garden to produce food for donation. Thank you to all the volunteers and staff that helped; it happened because individuals (and committees) came and worked together as a body should. Way to go!
- ◇ I was able to research and implement an online contribution method that integrates with the software that we already use. It is called Give+. It is currently on our website. I am also looking at the possibility of text giving.
- ◇ Working with the Reopening Team to wade through information, researching, writing and implementing protocols, so we can reopen safely and bring our whole community together. This has been productive. It is a great team effort with Sara Drake being the plan administrator.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this body!

Maryfran Moen

MUSIC MINISTRIES REPORT

Julie Lueck, Director of Music Ministry

I am trying to increase diversity in music during worship services and to support the pastor's sermons based on liturgical calendar for the entire congregation. Therefore, I tried to have different music groups with different music styles such as gayageum player, bluegrass music band, jazz musicians' team, and violins and cello ensemble. Also, I had invited other hand bell group from White Bear Lakes United Methodist Church, and we went to that church to perform the hand bells during the worship service. In Christmas season, we joined "Messiah" Christmas concert at Como Park Lutheran Church.

During the summertime, I collected congregation's favorite hymns to sing during the prelude time and providing new contemporary songs as preludes and postludes leading by sectional leaders: Maire and Davey. I have been trying the new things and different ways in worship services. I am also striving to develop myself, so I am attending music seminars and workshops.

Since March 2020, my working hours have reduced to 10 hours based on COVID-19, and we do not have rehearsals in person. Therefore, I am focusing on making videos such as recording, editing, downloading, and uploading videos to provide live streaming worship services in music. It is very different and new experience in my life.

- Recording, downloading, editing, and uploading music videos
- Wednesdays – directing and accompanying hand bells rehearsals and Comosso rehearsals
- Sundays- directing and accompanying *Sanctuary choir*
- Playing organ and piano during the worship services and memorial services
- Instructions and education for the hand bell beginners from June to September 2019
- Invited bluegrass band: *King Wilkie's Dream* for the special music worship in August 2019
- Invited jazz band: *Event Jazz of Minnesota* for the special music worship in September 2019
- Invited 2 violin players and 1 cellist for Sanctuary choir accompaniment and postlude
- Introducing new contemporary songs for congregation
- Making variety of music and collaboration music with other church musicians
- Updated music database library
- Update online music library
- Organized hand bell music library and updated database of hand bell music library
- Planned and selected all music for worship services including the summer music program
- Contributed music to each volunteer musician
- Accompanied for the memorial services
- Looking for a trumpet player and other musicians for Easter
- Continuing educations such as taking lessons and going to seminar and concerts

COMMUNICATIONS COLLABORATOR'S REPORT

Pamela Schoon, Communications Collaborator

Our church's communications ministry seeks to reach the congregation and our community with messages that inspire, inform, and invite participation in the life, mission and purposes of the Church.

This year we have:

- Edited the weekly E-notes electronic newsletter, distributed to around 200 addresses each week
- Maintained the Facebook page, which has 223 likes and 238 followers with status updates 1-3 times per week (<https://www.facebook.com/NewLifeChurchRoseville>).
- Maintained a Twitter account and posted the same updates to it (@NewLifeChurchRo), where we have 170 followers.
- Updated and maintained the website <http://www.newlifechurchroseville.org/home> with current information.

If you have requests or suggestions or would like to help with communication, please contact communications@newlifechurchroseville.org. Please participate in spreading the news about our church by liking, following, forwarding, connecting with and sharing our communications online and in the real world.

CLERK OF SESSION REPORT

AUGUST 1, 2019 – JULY 31, 2020

Barbara Nelson, Clerk

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS:

Total Membership Roll as of July 31, 2019 (Active plus Baptized) **330**

Active Membership Roll as of July 31, 2019 **283**

Added to Active Member Roll:

Via certificate from other churches	4	
Via profession/reaffirmation of faith	4	
Reactivation of active membership	1	
Total added		9

Baptized Member Roll as July 31, 2019 47

Added to Baptized Member Roll 1

Removed from Baptized Member Roll 3

Total as of July 31, 2020 45

Removed from Active Member Roll

Via certificate to other churches 2

Requested removal 5

Moved out of state 2

Deaths 7

Total removed 16

MEMBERSHIP ROLL AS OF JULY 31, 2020 276

BAPTIZED MEMBER ROLL 45

TOTAL 321

CLERK OF SESSION REPORT (Continued)

BAPTISMS:

Sylvia Sage Silliman McIntyre (non-member) May 3, 2020

WEDDINGS:

Rev. David Maghakian (former pastor) and Darren DeChaine (non-member)
September 21, 2019

Michelle Barnes (member) and Robert Viau (non-member)
July 7, 2020

DEATHS:

Dorothy Mae Homme (member) August 8, 2019

Janet Carol Hubbell (member) August 14, 2019

Lois V. Nyman (member) October 30, 2019

Gloria R. Tymesen (member) November 29, 2019

Roger Ernest Carlson (member) December 8, 2019

Doris Bandel (non-member) January 1, 2020

Marjorie Mae Heiman (member) April 12, 2020

James C. (Jim) Sargent (member) April 14, 2020

ELDERS ON SESSION:

Class of 2020 (Outgoing as of July 31, 2020)

Pam Hord (ordained/installed 9/24/17)

Amy Lane (ordained/installed 9/24/17; installed 9/30/18)

Nancy Irsfeld (installed 10/21/18)

Jackson Gienger (ordained/installed 8/25/19)

Class of 2021

Deb Griffin (installed 9/30/18)

Mari Hirabayashi (ordained/installed 9/30/18)

Cindy Ward-Thompson (ordained/installed 9/30/18)

Cynthia Erickson (ordained/installed 9/30/18)

CLERK OF SESSION REPORT (Continued)

Class of 2022

John Bootier (ordained/installed 8/25/19)

Dayan Dickson (ordained/installed 8/25/19)

John Kachel (ordained/installed 8/25/19)

Pete Marchetto (ordained/installed 8/25/19)

NEW LIFE PREBYTERIAN CHURCH

Congregational Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2019

Meeting announcement: “The Session of New Life Presbyterian Church has called a congregational meeting Sunday, November 3rd, 2019, following the worship service to receive the Annual Report that includes the church financials. The pastor’s Terms of Call will be presented for approval. The meeting will be held in the Great Room. All active members have the privilege and responsibility of attending the meeting and of both speaking and voting.”

The call to the meeting (as stated above) was announced at the Sunday morning worship services October 20, 27, and November 3. It was also stated in the E-Notes and Sunday bulletins three weeks prior to the meeting.

The moderator, Pastor Risley Prakasim, called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m. A quorum was present. He opened the meeting with prayer.

Pastor’s report: Pastor Riz referred to pages 5-6 of the Annual Report. He introduced new staff members, Tori Golder-Carson, custodian, and Deb Griffin, administrative assistant. He announced a new member class will be approved for the active roll on November 24th. He is pleased with a full slate of elders on Session. He has an active youth group and is looking for fellowship opportunities between them and the congregation. He has joined a ministerial cohort in Madison, WI and will be attending that in January for five days. He will be starting a doctoral program next year. He and Renisha will be moving to Maplewood at the end of the year.

Clerk’s report: Barb Nelson referred to pages 11-13 of the Annual Report. The active membership roll is 283 and the baptized membership roll is 47 totaling 330 as of July 31, 2019. She pointed out an error in the report listing Dan Stout’s date of death as July 13, 2019. The date is June 13, 2019.

CLERK OF SESSION REPORT (Continued)

Personnel report: Pastor Riz recused himself from this part of the meeting. Clerk of Session, Barb Nelson, moderated and called the chair of Personnel, LuAnn Hudson, forward to present the pastor's Terms of Call. She **moved on behalf of the Personnel Committee with the approval of Session on October 22nd to approve the proposed Terms of Call for Pastor Risley Prakasim for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. 2nd Bruce Nelson.** A member of the congregation asked if this salary was appropriate in comparison to other churches of our size. LuAnn stated his salary is about the same as the average for other Presbyterian churches of our size. There was no other discussion. The clerk called for the vote. **APPROVED.** His package totals \$88,063 (a 3% raise) and can be referenced in the October 22nd session minutes.

Treasurer's report: Jym Hubbell prefaced his report with a big thank-you to our church administrator, Maryfran Moen. He presented the financial portion of the Annual Report with particular reference to the numbers on page 2 and his summary on pages 14-19. He stated we have had an increase in endowment funds of \$75,000 due largely to the estates of Sylvia Silliman, John Taylor, and Betty Flater. Operating Fund expenses exceeded income by \$10,980. This deficit was covered by operating reserves. The deficit was less than originally projected due to staff vacancies and reductions in staff hours for certain positions. Also, a number of programs finished the year under budget. The Knox Legacy Fund covered all the monthly payments on our synod loan. The projected deficit for fiscal 2019-2020 is \$33,898.

Stewardship report: Deb Griffin reported their theme this year is "gracious stewardship." She stated, "God loves a cheerful giver and God loves those who cannot give." There will be several fundraisers this year for special projects. The first is the pie social/auction on November 16th and a coffee bar in December to raise money for the visual portion of the AV system in the Sanctuary. We have already received a grant totaling \$5600 for this purpose and Stewardship wants to add to that. Additional events will be announced the first part of next year. Members of this committee include: Deb Griffin (chair), Alesia Biro, Darroll Skilling, Bruce Nelson, and Pastor Riz (ex-officio).

Vision Team: A vision team was formed as a result of the Session retreat last year. This team has been commissioned to study, develop, and bring specific actions to Session that would move our church forward in the following areas: relational, building usage and partnerships, and worship/music. (Refer to the June 18th session minutes for member names).

Irene Meinen reported on the relational portion. They are doing research on an LED sign outside on Larpenteur Avenue in an effort to advertise what is happening here in the hope of recruiting our neighbors. They are also hoping to organize quarterly church social events to encourage closer relationships. A third focus is greater youth involvement in church activities. Also,

CLERK OF SESSION REPORT (Continued)

a van will be driving folks to church who cannot drive.

Kim Spear reported on the building usage and partnership portion. They are currently gathering data re: present partnerships, our current church collaborations, Roseville City Council, etc. to find out the needs in this area. They are also looking into some possible revenue options for using our building.

Deb Griffin reported on the worship/music portion. She reported they are trying to find out what the congregation wants in worship and what they do not want. Currently, there is an emphasis on “quiet time” in the Sanctuary to “prepare your heart and mind for worship.” They are also working on some new music responses starting in January.

Floor open to questions: One member stated she would like communion held more frequently than once per month. Pastor Riz will bring this to the November Session meeting for discussion and possible action. No other questions/concerns were brought forward.

Motion to adjourn: Bob Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting. 2nd Sonja Ihlenfeldt. **APPROVED.** The meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m. Pastor Riz closed with prayer.

Addendum: The Annual Report will be added to the minutes file.

Clerk of Session

Moderator

Date Approved

SESSION COMMITTEES

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

PURPOSE: Buildings and Grounds committee's goal is to implement responsible management of New Life Presbyterian Church's building, grounds, and legal concerns under the authority of the Session.

MEMBERS: Scott Barraclough (chair), Earl Hoekman, Robert Jensen, Jerry Peterson, Jan Silliman, Craig Sulzdorf, and Michael Wilson with ex officio member Maryfran Moen. Session liaisons were Jackson Geinger and Cynthia Erickson.

MEETINGS: The Buildings and Grounds committee typically meets on the second Thursday of each month at 5:00 PM. With the onset of COVID-19, the committee pivoted to meet online instead of in person. In addition to meetings, many members of the committee contribute countless hours of their time and talents, working at the church to repair and update our facility and to do research to find the best and most economical ways to keep our facility working well.

2019-20 REPORT ON ACTIONS COMPLETED

This year we had some large changes and many smaller ones.

Buildings and Grounds oversaw the replacement of most Federal Pacific electrical panels throughout the church building. This was one of the requirements from our insurance company, Grinnell, as the panels we had were recalled. (We have significant savings on premiums with Grinnell.) Some water pumps were in need of service and were repaired or replaced during the summer of 2020. The RPZ was also replaced.

Preschool floors were buffed per maintenance schedule. Additional security cameras were installed in order to improve security within the church. We worked with all building users to streamline communication and usage. The Anuak community joined us as one of our building's users, and sponsorship of them is jointly shared with the ELCA. Several potential long term building users were interviewed, including Doug Snaza of Clearwater Camp and Monarch Montessori, but these did not materialize because of COVID or taking other options. Additional contracts renewed or researched included Comcast, Building usage (Anuak, Bread Ministry), and snow removal. A solar panel contract was under consideration until the financing was changed, which occurred before the contract was signed. Neither Buildings and Grounds nor the Finance committee thought the financing change made sense for the church. One renter of our building was given a nice discount, but then did not fulfill their clean up responsibilities. Review of Building usage environmental policies started but has been paused due to the pandemic. Earl's boiler license was renewed, which is done annually. A Bloodmobile was welcomed on site for an August blood drive.

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS (Cont'd)

A smoke detector and CO2 monitor were installed in the Fireside Room to improve safety for our temporary residents. Outdated, unwanted pews were sold or discarded. Bulletin boards and white boards were placed. Book shelves and door guards were installed at the request of Grinnell, our insurance company. Railings, requested by KCOC, were installed in the chapel between the seating area and the apse. We disposed of some unused sound equipment.

Some of the repairs made by our committee members include three round tables, screens in the Great Room, preschool sink, drain in girls bathroom, wall bubbling, stall door in men's rest room, stained glass light, podium, LED lighting ballast, lock to office cupboards, keyboard trays for desks, doorbell, toilet issues, split in kitchen accordion doors, and many other repairs not listed here.

The pandemic caused by the coronavirus resulted in several changes.

Due to the pandemic, hymnals and pew inserts were removed from the pews in preparation for the church reopening. Four Sani Stations that dispense hand sanitizer were constructed and stationed strategically in the building. Starting in early May, three members of Building and Grounds participated in the Reopening Group (with Personnel, Finance, Session, Staff) to plan and prepare for reopening of the church. We approved a request to expand the Garden to add 450 square feet, at least partly as a consequence of the pandemic. The produce from the garden was donated to Sheridan Story. Forty-four choir robes were donated to a Roseville dental facility for use as PPE.

While there are many people who have contributed who are not noted below, we would like to especially recognize those listed below. Without volunteers, we have to pay handsomely to have this type of work done. This list represents hundreds and hundreds of hours.

- A special shout out to all members of the committee, but most especially Earl, Bob, Jerry and Michael for all the hard work they have done for our church.
- Kudos to Chair Scott Barraclough for providing direction regarding various B&G concerns.
- Information Technology—Larry Lane is very active overseeing IT needs of the church.
- Mowing—Bob Jensen and Michael Wilson
- Landscape maintenance—Bob Jensen and various members with our Adopt a Bed effort.
- Boulevard flowers— Kim Spear with help from Michael Wilson.
- Coordinating Community Garden—Nancy Marchetto and Bill Peterson with help from Michael Wilson. Bushes and donated perennials were planted.

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS (Cont'd)

- Flowers in front pots changed quarterly—Syd Jensen, Jan Silliman, Carole Rust, and Sandy McGiffin who also manages indoor plants
- Interior and exterior maintenance, repairs, and modifications—Scott Barraclough, Earl Hoekman, Bob Jensen, Jerry Peterson, Roger Seaborg, Craig Sulzdorf, Michael Wilson and Dale Meier, a neighborhood friend. These individuals provide an **incredible** amount of help using their time and talents to keep our building functioning and keep the costs down. We are very grateful for all their hard work and **we can always use more help** with these projects!
- Last, but certainly not least, a sincere thanks to Maryfran Moen who has stayed on top of so many issues, researched and contacted so many vendors and organized agendas for our meetings. As always, she has gone above and beyond her job to help the church and our committee function efficiently! She is a most valuable asset!

Volunteers are always needed. Some of the tasks where we would welcome volunteers are occasional lawn mowing, landscape maintenance, snow removal, general maintenance tasks, painting, and another member to hold a boiler license.

Report Submitted by Cynthia Reimers Erickson

CELEBRATION & WORSHIP

The Celebration and Worship Committee has been working on many things this year to make worship more accessible and continue our abilities to meet as a congregation. We have met thanks to technology in the past year and hosted safe and healthy worship services through the internet. Our hope moving forward is that we can continue to use technology and connect with the congregation even more effectively than in the past. Here is a list of things we have set out to do in the last year:

- We have been able to stream out worship services via the internet
- We have had outdoor worship services
- We purchased a projection system that will reduce the waste of paper bulletins and enhance our worship services.

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

CHURCH & SOCIETY

Members: Mari Hirabayashi (co-chair, session liaison), Hope Laizans (co-chair), Carole Rust, Ed Galle, Kathy Tokos

Purpose: Jesus calls us to love one another. The Church and Society Committee challenges our church community to respond joyfully. We interpret, celebrate, and offer opportunities to use God-given gifts to glorify God in loving service. We seek justice and mercy for our neighbors, near and far, and to care for God's good creation

Earth Care Team: Carole Rust, Andy Ihlenfeldt, Mike Hirabayashi, Mari Hirabayashi

CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH MISSION ACTIVITIES

Housing/Homelessness

Holy Hammers: Holy Hammers was impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The schedule was changed to later in the year, and New Life had fewer volunteers than normal, but the monetary support continued. \$1750 was given in budgeted benevolence to meet our Holy Hammers pledge. Holy Hammers worked on a twin home at 588-590 Wells in St. Paul (near the 2019 site), working with Terra Lumley as site supervisor, assisted by Shan as an AmeriCorps worker. Work went through 8 weeks, starting Monday, July 13 through Friday, Sept 14. No more than 8 volunteers were utilized per day.

Project Home: As with much of our church life, there was great disruption in Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul's Project Home program due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were prepping for our hosting month as the COVID-19 pandemic began to break in the United States, and ultimately for the first time in over a decade, New Life was unable to host Project Home in April as a result. Due to concerns for the safety of guests and volunteers in the volunteer-host model at rotating sites that has been working so well in past years, Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul was forced to move to a paid staff model for an undetermined period, with the hope that the volunteer-host model might be returned to once the COVID-19 pandemic has been contained. Particularly for a community such as New Life, many of those comprising our volunteer pool are of the highest-risk age groups/categories.

This was especially disappointing as we had been excited to welcome two new partners into our coalition of volunteers for the 2020 hosting year, Hamline's Delta Tau sorority and St. Timothy's Lutheran Church. Since having to alter their model to protect the safety of guests and volunteers, Project Home has been operating primarily out of the Project Home Day Center at First Baptist Church in downtown St. Paul, and continuing to provide the emergency shelter beds and

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

CHURCH & SOCIETY (continued)

resources to help families exit homelessness. Project Home provides 10,300 beds annually to homeless Ramsey County families with children, and we look forward in hope to the day we can return to giving our space at New Life to providing shelter to our fellow children of God.

Many thanks to Mary Barraclough, John Bootier, Jym Hubbell, and Cynthia Reimers-Erickson who joined the Project Home Leadership Team for planning. Many thanks also to Presbyterian Church of the Way, St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, and Hamline's Delta Tau who partnered with us to provide volunteers. We hope to return to hosting Project Home guests in our facility once circumstances allow us to do so in a manner that is safe for guests, staff, and volunteers.

Hunger

Seeds of Hope Community Garden: Garden plots are offered for persons from both the congregation and the community, and it is one of the most tangible ways in which our church interfaces with the broader community. A large proportion of our gardeners are immigrant or refuge gardeners, some of whom were connected with us through Arrive Ministries. The garden also contains plots for growing fresh produce for local food shelves and plots containing plants that support native pollinators. This growing season, the garden was expanded to additional giving plots to provide fresh produce for the Sheridan Story. As of autumn 2020, the garden has provided 670 pounds of fresh produce for Sheridan Story. See Seeds of Hope garden report for detailed report on Seeds of Hope.

Minnesota FoodShare/ Department of Indian Work Food Shelf: New Life donated \$7,247.72 (\$500 as part of budgeted benevolences, \$357.72 from Change for the World, and \$6,390 for Minnesota FoodShare donations) to Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul's Department of Indian Work food shelf. Minnesota FoodShare is an interfaith collaboration to stock local food shelves, which we have chosen to target to interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul's food shelf due to our long relationship with their many programs. One of the special services provided by Department of Indian Work food shelf is the provision of culturally appropriate food for the American Indian community.

CROP Hunger Walk 2019: New Life helped raise \$411.43 to fight hunger (\$101.43 from Change the World collection plus \$310 in additional donations), and walkers also picked up litter on their walk. The CROP Walk is organized by Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul for Church World Service. A portion of the funds raised by CROP Walk supports Interfaith Action's own Department of Indian Work food shelf, while the remaining portion supports hunger relief efforts globally.

Meals on Wheels: New Life volunteers helped serve Meals on Wheels routes on Wednesdays, and \$90.27 was donated to the program from the Change the World collection.

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

CHURCH & SOCIETY (continued)

The Sheridan Story: This Twin Cities program provides prepared bags of nutritious food for students at local schools to take home for the weekend. We have partnered with St. Timothy Lutheran Church to fund and distribute weekly food bags to Como Park Elementary School students whose families are food insecure. With the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sheridan Story's normal model of sending students home with food was disrupted, however, as St. Paul Public Schools moved to distance learning. With the need for food being greater than normal due to the myriad hardships caused by the pandemic, New Life partnered with Sheridan Story to expand Seeds of Hope Community Garden to allow us to grow fresh produce for donation. New Life donated \$4,676.67 in total (\$4,550 in budgeted benevolence and \$126.67 from Change the World offering) to fund the Sheridan Story for the 2019-2020 school year. The gardeners of Seeds of Hope community have also donated 670 pounds of fresh produce from giving and personal plots thus far for autumn 2020.

Bread for the World: New Life provided \$500 in budgeted benevolence to Bread for the World to address worldwide hunger issues. Bread for the World focuses particularly on advocacy for childhood and maternal nutrition, both domestically and globally, and hunger relief programs.

First Nations Kitchen: This program run by All Saints Episcopal Church provides a Sunday evening meal of healthy traditional indigenous food to American Indian neighbors and others. New Life donated \$500 in budgeted benevolence to this ministry.

Children & Youth

Pentecost Offering: We donated \$250 to Liberty church for their 21st Century Academy to support at-risk youth and children.

North Como Preschool: The preschool was supported with \$17,030 worth of donated facilities use and a \$500 scholarship fund.

Advent Mitten Tree: A bounty of hats, mittens/gloves, scarves, and winter socks were harvested from our Advent Mitten Tree. These included numerous hand-knitted and kid-focused-in-design items. There were a total of 72 hats, 42 mitten/glove sets, 7 scarves, 14 hat/mitten/glove sets, 4 pairs of warm socks, and a backpack. The donated items were split between Como Park Elementary School and Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul.

Family Fun Items for Project Home: Coloring and activity books, games, and puzzles were also collected beneath the Advent Tree, and donated to Project Home for their families in emergency shelter. A total of 21 activity or coloring books, puzzles, and games were contributed. A donation of \$76.29 from Change for the World was also given to Project Home for purchase of Family Fun items.

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

CHURCH & SOCIETY (continued)

Education Learners School Tools Drive: A check-in with our typical school tools drive partner, Como Park Elementary, indicated they did not have the same school supplies needs as normal due to the distance learning situation. So New Life partnered with St. Paul Schools Early Childhood Special Education Program to collect items for their learners. A list from the program of their specific supply needs was provided. A total of approximately 105 items were collected or purchased, including Playdoh sets, washable markers, watercolor paints, sidewalk chalk, shaving cream, large craft sticks, pencil boxes, and more. A total of \$80 in funds was donated, \$50 of which was used for purchase of supplies per our contact at Early Childhood Special Education program's request, and \$30 of which was donated directly to the program for their use to purchase further supplies as needed.

Other Outreach Missions

Northside Healing Space: Northside Healing space, operated by Liberty Community Church in north Minneapolis, helps provide healing to those escaping from sexual trafficking situations as well as addressing generational trauma. New Life donated \$1,000 in budgeted benevolence support, \$61.88 in Change for the World, and \$350 in additional donations.

Union Gospel Mission: The Union Gospel's emergency shelter and addiction treatment ministries serve economically disadvantaged men, women, and children. New Life supported these ministries with \$350 in budgeted benevolence directed towards Union Gospel's Bethel Hotel and Christ Recovery Center.

North Como Quilters: North Como quilters lovingly created many beautiful quilts. (See North Como Quilters report for more detail on numbers of quilts and organizations receiving.)

Emergency Assistance Benevolence Fund: \$3,500 in funds were provided to a dedicated Benevolence fund for assistance needs that may be found to arise during pastoral care.

People Incorporated: This organization provides a spectrum of services for persons with mental illness in our community. New Life supported their work with \$850 in budgeted benevolence.

Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul: IAGSP provides a variety of programs that address poverty, racism, violence, and homelessness in our community. New Life donated \$3,500 in budgeted benevolences, and supported various programs such as IAGSP's Project Home, Department of Indian Work food shelf, CROP Walk, etc.

Immigrant/Sanctuary Support: We continued as a Sanctuary support congregation in the interfaith ISAIHA network. The ISAIHA sanctuary network supports those threatened by deportation, and advocates for change in the conditions/systems that result in people having need of sanctuary. We provided \$350 in budgeted benevolence, as well as \$230.30 from Change

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

CHURCH & SOCIETY (continued)

the World offering, to Shir Tikvah Synagogue to assist with support of a family in sanctuary. Shir Tikvah Synagogue is one of New Life's partner congregations in the ISAIAH sanctuary network. Our Immigrants and Refugees Welcome Here sign was severely damaged by winds so had to be taken down. We would like to purchase a new sign to replace, but would like to find a better solution for mounting of the sign, ideally by working with Building and Grounds.

Fair Trade Equal Exchange coffee: We buy our Sunday morning coffee through the Presbyterian Coffee Project, an earth friendly initiative that supports small-scale coffee farmers.

Holiday Fair Trade Boutique and Bake Sale: Fair trade items from all over the world were sold at this event in November to support the labor of workers paid a fair wage for their work. Items sold included clothing, handcrafted jewelry, food items, home décor accessories, books, arts and crafts supplies.

COVID-19 Face Shield Ministry: A group of members has been producing face shields via 3D printers to provide to workers for prevention of COVID-19.

Advocacy for Social Justice

Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC): This coalition of Minnesota Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faith organizations/congregations seeks common ground social justice issues on which we can work together to promote responsible public policy in Minnesota. New Life supported JRLC with \$500 in budgeted benevolence, and invited members of our congregation to attend JRLC Day on the Hill to advocate with their state legislators.

Creation Care/Earth Care: New Life is a supporting member of Presbyterians for Earth Care (\$300) and a covenant member of Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (\$500). Both organizations work from a faith perspective to advocate for and educate about caring for God's good creation. See Earth Care report for detailed summary of New Life Earth Care activities.

Exodus Lending: This ecumenical, faith-based, non-profit organization provides those trapped by debt due to payday lending a just pathway to financial stability. Victims of predatory payday lending practices are helped to repay their loans while participating in a savings program and financial counseling. New Life supported this ministry to free those in the bondage of debt with a budgeted benevolence of \$500.

Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAH): New Life donated \$500 in budgeted benevolence to MICAH to assist in their organization's advocacy for more affordable housing stock in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

CHURCH & SOCIETY (continued)

Denominational Partnerships

Our church is part of the **Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area (PTCA)**, which is part of the **Synod of Lakes and Prairies**. The **General Assembly** is the national body of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Each of these has mission projects and programs in which we are involved in several ways:

General Mission of the PC(USA): Part of our operating budget is designated for the general mission of our Presbytery (\$8,965), our Synod (\$2,300), the General Assembly of the PC(USA) (\$2,300), and the PC(USA) Theological Education Fund (\$225). This year, we also dedicated \$1,000 to supporting the work of **Jed Koball and Jenny Valles in Peru**. Jed and Jenny's work involves combating root causes of poverty, including mining contamination, climate change, and unjust economic practices. Jed facilitates the relationship between the Joining Hands network in Peru and PC(USA) congregations, and works with local communities to organize around their issues of concern. Jenny coordinates their Young Adult Volunteers program, organizing volunteer and cultural immersion experiences in Peru for US young adults who spend a year in service, mutual learning, and building of the global Christian community.

Liberty Community Church (formerly Kwanzaa) in north Minneapolis is a sister church in our presbytery which is the first and only African American-led Presbyterian congregation in Minnesota. We support them with funds for their community initiatives such as the Northside Healing space and the 21st Century Academy.

Special Offerings of the PC(USA) are celebrations of the ways God has been made known to us. Each is connected to a season of the church year and mandated by the General Assembly to help the whole Church join together in response to God's grace. Special offerings represent the largest, collective way Presbyterians come together to work for a better world, by engaging congregations in ministries of compassion, justice, hunger, Christian formation, education, peacemaking and global witness.

The following special offerings were given by New Life to **PC(USA) Special Offerings**:

One Great Hour of Sharing: \$6,200 was given for international disaster and hunger relief

Pentecost Offering: \$250 was given to support at-risk children and youth

Peace and Global Witness Offering: \$1,280 was given to support peacemaking and reconciliation efforts around the globe

Christmas Joy Offering: \$2,240 was given for the development and celebration of past, present, and future church leaders

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: \$8,400 was given for assistance to communities affected by and survivors of natural disasters and catastrophic events.

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

CHURCH & SOCIETY (continued)

Summary

The past years events have resulted in many changes to our daily life, and we are seeking new ways to respond. Our congregation has been blessed to have the means to serve in numerous ways as the hands and feet of Christ in the world. The generosity of New Life community members has allowed us to donate hundreds of items such as food, clothing, school supplies, and quilts, and to contribute thousands of dollars to support those doing God's good work in our community. Thanks be to God.

North Como Preschool

STAFF MEMBERS: **Sher Noot (Director)**, Heidi Wenzel, Stephanie Therres, Charly Kasal, Sandy Hug

- North Como Preschool has been an on-going mission of North Como Presbyterian Church since 1970. (New Life Presbyterian Church). The purpose of the preschool is to supplement early childhood experiences in an environment planned to further each child's social, emotional, intellectual, and physical development. We promote development of a positive self-concept through interaction with peers and supportive teachers.
- North Como Preschool is a half-day program. We have one preschool classroom with sixteen 3-4 year olds, who may attend two or four days a week (Monday through Thursday). Our pre-k class has twenty 4-5 year olds, who may attend two, three or five days a week (Monday through Friday).
- Each year the Preschool sets a budget that determines how many students are needed in order to cover all expenses. Our enrollment has a big impact on our budget. We had sixty-one students enrolled overall.
- On March 16th as North Como Preschool was to return from Spring Break, the State of Minnesota's Governor Tim Walz declared a State of Emergency due to COVID-19. As North Como Preschool is only a part-time program, we did not stay open for childcare of children of frontline healthcare workers. The teachers met, discussed and determined a plan, and went into online learning mode. We provided learning through Facebook, YouTube and Zoom. We provided at-home learning packets for families until the end of the school year. We provided connections to families and their children through cards and letters, phone calls and FaceTime.
- Preschool income is brought in through tuition, Lunch Bunch, registration fees, donations from families, milk reimbursement, as well as fundraisers held throughout the year. Fundraiser income was earned from State Fair Park and Ride, Chipotle, Slow Road Photography, Punch Pizza and Tin Whiskers Paint Night. Due to COVID-19 and the State of Emergency Restrictions, NCP was not able to host the Family Fiesta Fundraiser, and After School Summer Bash. In addition, monies from milk reimbursement were not received after February.
- Finances for March and April looked grim. If North Como Preschool did not have students in attendance, that could mean no tuition income. It was also proposed that the teachers would continue to be paid, through a loan from the church if necessary.

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

CHURCH & SOCIETY (continued)

North Como Preschool (continued)

- North Como Preschool families fully supported NCP and its teachers. North Como Preschool not only received almost one hundred percent of its projected tuition income, it also finished the year within its budget, without a loan from the church.
- We have a scholarship program for students/families that need assistance with tuition expenses. Families fill out an application to determine the amount of scholarship received. We had five students who utilized the scholarship funds last year. We provided \$104/month, on average, to current families for scholarship assistance throughout the year. The preschool also offered a 10% sibling discount for families with multiple children in the program. Four families received the sibling discount. We had three sets of twins and one set of (non-twin) siblings.
- North Como Preschool teachers believe that it is important to give back to the community in which we live. In December, our teachers, and preschool families, donated 129 pounds of food and personal care items to Keystone Community Food Shelf.
- Our preschool consisted of five staff members. The teachers continue to provide students with an amazing environment facilitated to promote each child's developmental needs. All of our staff were teacher qualified according to MN Rule 3 – Child Care Licensing Rule. The staff was:

Director/3-4 year olds teacher	Sher Noot
3-4 year olds asst. teacher	Heidi Wenzel
4-5 year olds teacher	Stephanie Therres
4-5 year olds asst. teacher	Charly Kasal (Job Share)
4-5 year olds asst. teacher	Sandy Hug (Job Share)

- Sher reports to the Personnel Committee and Session for any preschool updates. Sher also works with Maryfran Moen, Church Administrator, and the Church Finance Committee, which assists with financial oversight.
- The future of North Como Preschool continues to be a strong and vital part of the church and community. We strive to reach out to families in many ways providing support during the pandemic. The 2020-2021 school year looks different than it has in the past. With the new pandemic guidelines, class sizes are smaller and on alternating days.
- Families are committed to NCP through enrollment, enrichment and at home through Little Bags of Learning subscriptions.
- Staff continue to learn and grow on how to do this to the best of our abilities to keep our staff, our families, and our community healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Sher Noot

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

CHURCH & SOCIETY (continued)

Earth Care

MEMBERS: Mike & Mari Hirabayashi, Andy Ihlenfeldt, and **Carole Rust (chair)**.

MEETING: Usually the first Saturday of the month at 9:00 or 9:30.

PURPOSE: We use two Earth Care Pledges originally signed by Session in 2009/2010 and reaffirmed in 2014 as our guidelines. **As a PC/USA Earth Care Congregation, all areas of our church activities are committed to earth care stewardship and ecojustice as part of our expression of our faith.** Our team is represented with a member on the Church & Society Committee (Mission) and works with the Session, various committees, and individuals to support Creation Care stewardship efforts at New Life and in God's world. We are currently using the 2018 General Assembly policy called "The Earth Is The Lord's" in partnership with the Blessed Tomorrow program.

FINANCIAL: We buy the local, organic coffee cream for the church during the year. We ended this year with \$309.16 in our budget.

AUGUST: We started the month by providing an opportunity for members of the congregation to sign letters to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General expressing their concerns about PolyMet/Glencore in Minnesota and the permitting process. A member of our team attended a related court hearing and delivered the letters. We also started the "Eat Local" Challenge with a display table in the atrium where people could sign up to join the church team and pick up free Minnesota Grown magazines and local food calendars.

SEPTEMBER: We had a display table for "Kick-Off Sunday" which featured sign-ups and action items and brought local, organic food to the pot luck picnic following. September 7th was Global Climate Strike Day, the largest day of action for climate in history and New Life Church was represented among the 6,000 people who took part in the event locally at the Minnesota capitol. We continued the "Eat Local Challenge" through the end of the month with approximately forty people taking part—which was great!

OCTOBER: We began by turning in our Earth Care Annual Report and our work in the Community and Pollinator gardens came to an end. The Presbyterian Mission Agency encouraged us to take part in International Food Week of Action October 13-20. The ACTION AREAS were:

1.Climate Justice—The climate crisis calls for action.....personal ,institutional, national, global;

2.Famine—The resurgence of famine & extreme hunger in several parts of the world requires a rapid response; and

3.Food Sovereignty—Actions to expand agroecology, food justice, and food sovereignty cool the planet and meet people's need for sustenance, livelihoods, and agency. We set up large table displays to highlight many of the issues:

- a. Bread for the World letters
- b. petitions to pass the Farm to School Act and the
- c. Kids Eat Local Act,

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

CHURCH & SOCIETY (continued)

Earth Care (continued)

d. information about the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) in countries experiencing famine along with a donation bowl, and

e. the effects of climate destruction in the Amazon. Pastor Riz started things off on October 13 with a special sermon and church members participated in the CROP Walk for Hunger. Walkers were given New Life Church t-shirts and picked up bags of trash and recyclables as they walked.

NOVEMBER: On the 9th—10th, the church held its Fair Trade Sale. This was the last year our team could sell eco-friendly, hand-made cards to help women and tribal people in Bangladesh. We also took \$10 donations in exchange for cuddly stuffed bears as part of a program called Days for Girls which helps to keep girls in school. This year we tried a new item called recycle awareness earrings. These are made by Guatemalan women who make earrings out of pop can pull tabs. All three products are fair trade and eco-friendly. We brought in a total of \$523.50 which will benefit these groups tremendously. On November 21st, we held our annual Earth Care Review with Session so they could let us know how things were going and if there was anything our team could do to help their ministries. We also encouraged Building & Grounds, Worship, Education, and Church & Society to get their 2020 goals in by Jan. 15, 2020 along with a paragraph about what they were able to accomplish for earth stewardship in the calendar year 2019 so that our church could recertify as a Presbyterian Earth Care Congregation on time. We'll send out reminders.

DECEMBER: We helped sell more of the leftover fair trade items this month.

JANUARY: Mari Hirabayashi, Andy Ihlenfeldt, and Carole Rust got the Earth Care Recertification Report in on January 24th along with pictures. Yea! We would like to thank Margie Johns for taking picture for us.

FEBRUARY: This month we planned two Adult Ed Forums. On Feb. 16th, we had a very special session in which we covered environmental justice in Peru and met Jed and Jenny Koball, our new mission partners there via Skype and film. Their troubles with toxic mining include problems with Glencore which is trying to partner with PolyMet in Minnesota as well. This class was very well attended and we hope to connect with them again. The February 23rd class featured J. Drake Hamilton from Fresh Energy. She brought letters with her, addressed to our state legislators, for people to sign which urged clean energy leadership action. Unfortunately, she was not able to finish her talk on climate change solutions and next steps for Minnesota before she had a medical emergency and had to go to the hospital. We spent the rest of our time signing the letters and they were delivered, We were glad to hear that she had recovered and she was glad to get the letters. We posted the Environmental Lenten Calendar this month as well.

MARCH: On March 8th we asked the congregation to sign letters to the chair of the Council on Environmental Quality to protect the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The law was in danger of being gutted and we asked that they stop. This 45-year-old law provided a strong foundation for informed, science-based decision making and it was an essential tool in the fight against environmental racism. It

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

CHURCH & SOCIETY (continued)

Earth Care (continued)

provided public input in decisions that affected the health & safety of their communities. We got 48 letters signed and they were faxed the next day.

The pandemic shut down in-person activities in March and our team did not work on creation care issues because of that along with social/racial justice issues.

We would like to thank our Bubble Brigade dishwashers for Fellowship Time and special events when we met in person: Scott Barraclough, James Casterlin, Jackson Gienger, Mike Hirabayashi, Nancy Holt, Andy Ihlenfeldt, Bob Jensen, Bruce Nelson, Kenny Phipps, Carole Rust, and Roger Seaborg. Please forgive us if we left anyone out. As usual we serve coffee in reusable cups and try to avoid throwaway plates, etc. Our coffee comes from the Presbyterian Coffee Project which gives part of the proceeds to projects of the Presbyterian Hunger Program. The coffee is Fair Trade and organic. Our teas are a mix of fair trade, local, and other, and our cream is both local and organic.

Carole Rust (chair)

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

CHURCH FINANCE

VOTING MEMBERS: David King (Chair, Elder), Irene Meinen (Elder), Darroll Skilling (Elder), Eric Brandsness (Elder), Cindy Ward-Thompson (Elder currently on Session), Alesia Biro (Elder), Amy Schmidt

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: Jym Hubbell (Treasurer), Maryfran Moen (Church Administrator), Riz Prakasim (Pastor)

Session liaison starting fiscal 2021 will be John Kachel (replacing Cindy Ward-Thompson)

During fiscal year 2019-2020, the work of the Church Finance Committee has continued to focus on managing the finances of the church. We believe that New Life Presbyterian Church and this committee continue to benefit from having an experienced staff member overseeing church administration. Maryfran Moen is a thorough and stabilizing force. There is no doubt that Maryfran's experience and attention to detail helps New Life Presbyterian Church remain a strong fiscally responsible entity. The committee has strived to balance risk and opportunity as we determine the investment strategy of New Life Presbyterian Church. We want to grow the current reserves while staying true to our Christian beliefs and values.

The Coronavirus Global Pandemic has changed every aspect of our church community. We have had to find new ways to connect, communicate and conduct the business of the church. At the time of this report, we are still learning and adjusting how we meet the needs of the church while remaining safe. I am grateful to the members of this committee for their commitment and flexibility during this fiscal year.

Purpose:

To implement responsible management of New Life Presbyterian Church's finances and legal concerns under the authority of the session.

Objectives:

1. Maintain a working knowledge of the provisions of the Book of Order that pertain to finance and property matters. Arrange for annual audit of the church's finances, and maintain procedures in accordance with the recommendations of the church auditors.
2. Deposit all funds coming into the church and maintain records in accordance with the guidance of the session and the church auditors.
3. Facilitate and make recommendations to session regarding the annual operating budgets of all operating units of the church.
4. Facilitate the delegation of financial responsibilities from session to committees, staff and others, including the approval for payment of payroll and expenses in accordance with the annual operating budget and the special funds of the church.
5. Assist session in identifying sources for funding the short and long term financial plans.
6. Work closely with the Stewardship Team to quantify member contribution goals for sustaining our ministries and to coordinate stewardship activities with budget and other financial processes.

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

CHURCH FINANCE (continued)

7. Oversee church investments.
8. Report regularly to the session and to the congregation regarding the status of church finances.
9. Negotiate insurance and other legal contracts for the church.
10. Acknowledge receipt of memorial funds and maintain proper records. Recommend to the session expenditure of memorial funds after consultation with the family where possible.
11. Facilitate the preparation of annual reports and the planning of the meeting of the congregation.

Membership:

The committee is staffed by six (6) elders, preferably one (1) currently serving on session, and members of the congregation chosen by the elders and the committee. Three year terms are suggested. The Church Treasurer is a permanent non-voting member. The

Church Administrator is an ex-officio member (staff liaison) and the Pastor is a resource. Committee membership is reported to the session, with membership changes reported throughout the year as an information item. Membership of this committee at the conclusion of fiscal year 2019-2020 includes:

General Statistics:

The Church Finance Committee generally meets on a monthly basis. This year, we typically held our meetings on the third Monday of the month from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. During the pandemic, we have done much of our work virtually using Zoom and electronically through email.

Future Plans:

Although the Church Finance Committee's work in the coming year will pertain to carrying on the normal business of the church, we will also be working to create solutions and options to help our church deal with the decrease in revenues that is a reality of the demographics of our congregation. We will also continue to focus on our investment strategy and address the various questions that come our way as a result of insurance or other congregational issues.

Submitted by David King, Chair

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

CHURCH FINANCE (continued)

Memorial Gifts & Bequests

Jym Hubbell, Church Finance Committee

New Life received gifts in memory of loved ones. These wonderful people blessed our church during their lifetimes and continue to do so in the way these gifts further our ministries. The life commemorated and the ministries supported through their memorial designations in fiscal 2019-20 are as follows:

Dorothy Homme—Endowment Fund, Music, Education and B&G Memorials

Carl Christensen—Youth Ministries

Jan Hubbell—Sheridan Story

Lois Nyman—Music Ministry, CC Special Projects and Undesignated

Gloria Tymesen—A/V Screen

James C Sargent—Endowment Fund

Roger Carlson—Undesignated

The following bequests were received in fiscal 2020:

From Joyce L McCahey (invested in designated endowment funds according to church policy).

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

CARE COORDINATORS: Virginia Redman, Nancy Irsfeld, Joanne Kallstrom, Grace Barnes, Tina Zoerb, Marti Cook, Marie Skilling, **Ann Bursch (Co-Chair)**, Deb Griffin, Nora Buckley, Kathy Lawhead, Jan Cryer, Judi Klotz, Carol Baumann, and **Sandra McGiffin (Co-Chair)**.

SESSION LIAISON: Pam Hord

PURPOSE: The Congregational Care Committee is to provide compassion and loving service to the faith community of New Life Presbyterian Church in following the Book of Order description of Deacon Ministry.

During the past year, Congregational Care Coordinators have met several times for times of devotions, planning, supporting each other, and praying for guidance as we care for the congregation. We include all members, friends of the church, the children, as well as the non-member spouses.

Our meetings in December and April were times of fellowship and helping each other address Christmas cards and Easter cards. We provided some cards and stamps.

We have welcomed Jan Cryer, Luann Hudson, Kathy Lawhead, and Melinda Maury as new Care Coordinators. Our new liaison from Session for 2020-2021 will be Joanne Kallstrom.

We were sad to see Ardys Randall leave for Northern Minnesota; Marie Skilling 'retired' after many years of service due to health issues; Deb Griffin has also resigned as a care coordinator, but continues to keep our coordinator lists up to date — we are so very grateful for her contribution and for facilitating our Zoom meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although Gail Meyer is not a care coordinator, she has served as the person who orders our Sunday flowers—she also has resigned this position.

Congregational Care continues to have specific tasks/responsibilities filled by the following:

- Ordering Sunday Flowers—Gail Meyer
- Delivery of Sunday Flowers—Judi Klotz
- Stephen Ministry Coordinators—Bruce & Barb Nelson and Keith Buckley
- Memorial Service Receptions—Jan Silliman, Sandra McGiffin, and Nancy Irsfeld
- Memorial Service Recruiter for set-up, servers, and desserts—Ginny Seaborg

Memorial Service Receptions held at our church in the 2019-2020 year have been difficult to track due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have visited several members and assisted Pastor Riz as needed.

Care Coordinators call to recruit Sunday Host Greeters, usually from their respective communities.

The committee has operated under budget because of the generous members who donate cards, postage, and supplies it needs to complete their tasks.

Submitted by Ann Bursch

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY TEAM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Patty Gould, Kristopher Sargent, Pastor Riz Prakasim, Dayan Dickson, Jackson Geinger, and Pete Marchetto (Session liaison)

The Faith Formation Ministry Team met regularly on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30p. This team strives to provide meaningful opportunities for children, youth and families to grow in their faith, in relationship with God, each other, and our world.

Below are some highlights from the 2018/2019 year.

Kick Off Sundae

Kickoff Sundae, our annual program year kick-off was held Sunday, September 8, 2019. This is an annual kick-off to the program year. This event highlights a wide variety of ministry opportunities offered by the church for congregants to nurture, explore, and share their faith. 2019 participants included: Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Adult Education, Women's Circles, Liturgical Arts, Music Ministry, Congregational Care, Quilters, Community Garden, Church & Society, Earth Care Team, The Vision Team and Daring Women. Ice cream was supplied by the Faith Formation Ministry Team. Each table provided toppings. Each represented group, or ministry provided information and/or sign-up sheets for their ministry. The Faith Formation Committee introduced the congregation to the new Labs in the educational wing.

FAITH CIRCLES

(September--February)

Young Disciples gathering - Children ages preK through 5th Grade gathered for 20-30 minutes during our worship service time to explore lectionary and other lessons in active ways including playing games, doing art projects and exploring drama. Average attendance was 6 children.

Children and Youth Faith Circles - Children and youth K—12th, gathered in classes during our education time. The Children's Faith Circle (k-grade 5) used a curriculum created for a one room school house model that employed a wide variety of materials and options in our lab spaces to explore God's word in active ways to tell God's story to others. Average attendance was 3 children. Youth Faith Circle used a project curriculum to explore stewardship, goal setting and grit in meeting goals.

Adult volunteers for this ministry include teachers: Kim Spear-Wilson, John Bootier, Nancy Holt, Sara Drake, and Wendy Griffin. Julie Lueck and Amy Lane provided music.

Evening Youth Group (Grades 6-12). This group met the first and third Sundays of the month. On fifth Sundays youth are encouraged to participate in community outreach through our partnership with All Saints Episcopal/First Nations Kitchen in Minneapolis.

Youth are intentional about sharing our lives together and have a weekly check in, sharing joys, concerns and struggles of being Christian teenagers. The intersection of faith and real life are discussed by exploring movies, current events and topics of interest through the lens of faith as growing disciples on a journey. Activities of all sorts pepper their time together and facilitate bonding. Bowling, going out to a local coffee shop, BBQ's, Feed My Starving Children and sleep-overs. There was participation of 10-18 youth.

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY TEAM (continued)

PUMPKIN PATCH 2019

1200+ pumpkins were delivered Saturday, September 28th. Approx. 40+ children, youth, and adults unloaded the truck in about two hours. Walking tacos and lemonade were provided in thanks and appreciation for this back-breaking task.

The Pumpkin Patch officially opened Sunday, September 29th. Volunteers manned the patch during the following hours: 2p-Sunset (M-Th); 11a-Sunset (Fri); 10a-Sunset (Sat); 12p-Sunset (Sun). A lock box is provided for "On Your Honor" payments when a volunteer is not present.

For 2019 the Pumpkin Patch operated daily from September 29 through October 31. Total sales were \$11,151.93 with a total profit of \$3,680.13 for the youth mission trip fund. Youth had planned to return to the Pine Ridge Reservation in the summer of 2020.

This was the 16th consecutive year that there has been a Pumpkin Patch at this location. The primary purpose of this fundraiser is to support our Youth on their faith journeys through Summer Mission Trips.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Annual Christmas Pageant took place, **Sunday, December 8th** during the regular worship time. Children performed a series of holiday hymns and musical pieces to retell the nativity story.

Director: Amy Lane

Accompanist: Julie Lueck

Costumes: Maria Schultz, Jenni Mancha

Parent Volunteers: Molly Cacek, Jenni Mancha, Adam and Maria Schultz

March - September Contemplation and Changes

As the world faced a pandemic that resulted in the shuttering of our building, but hardly the closing of our church, we as a committee and Faith Community had to make adjustments and create new ways to celebrate, gather, learn and fellowship. This time of contemplation and changes will continue into the next year and will likely bring with it some changes that will be permanent.

During this time, Faith Formation...

- worked with Session to suspend the Faith Formation Coordinator staff position in order to work at creating a 100% volunteer-based children and youth education program.
- listened to Parents, children and youth who provided input on desired changes in the Sunday morning schedule. The desires and model of Sunday morning created with the parents will be revisited when the church reopens and may have additional changes made.

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY TEAM (continued)

- parents and children were offered support and entertainment through a weekly blog from March to May.
- offered online game nights on Fridays from March to June.
- encouraged children to participate in the Virtual Easter service.
- offered an online summer adventure vacation church school, but parents did not choose to access it.

MEMBERSHIP & GROWTH

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Nancy Irsfeld (chair & session liaison),

- We developed a new tri-fold brochure for visitors. Since COVID-19—will the “new church” need one?
- Advertising in Keys Take-Out Menu didn’t bring any new members. We didn’t renew. Lots of money, could see no benefit.
- We did hand out many of our bookmarks.
- We did find out from Larry Lane that our website is capable of many underused features.
- In partnership with Community Care, we were to be assigned a new member to mentor — unfortunately the pandemic squashed that!
- How we attract new members in the future is difficult to predict.

NOMINATING

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Nancy Irsfeld (Chair), Thomas Chandy, Chuck Baumann, Tina Zoerb, and Earl Hoekman.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the NLPC Nominating Committee is to seek members of the congregation of New Life Presbyterian Church to serve in elected positions of ruling eldership to carry on God’s work.

Both the outgoing and incoming Nominating Committees met in 2019 and 2020 to review the Nominating Committee purpose and processes, to review elder candidate criteria, and to brainstorm candidate names.

The 2019/2020 Nominating Committee contacted numerous candidates and nominated Joanne Kallstrom, Anice Lucas, and Larry Lane for NLPC elder membership to the NLPC congregation in 2020.

The 2020/2021 Nominating Committee is comprised of John Bootier (chair), Sandy McGiffin, Bruce Nelson, and Scott Barraclough. This group brainstormed numerous names of congregation members for nomination to elder membership in 2020 and passed the recommendations on to the 2019/2020 Nominating Committee. The 2020/2021 NLPC Nominating Committee, membership as listed above, was elected at the August 9, 2020 congregational meeting.

Elders Joanne Kallstrom, Anice Lucas, and Larry Lane were elected as new ruling elders to the NLPC Session at the August 9, 2020 congregational meeting.

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

PERSONNEL

MEMBERSHIP: LuAnn Hudson (chair, July 2016), Amy Lane (August 2015), Greg Ritter (September 2014).

We meet monthly as needed with an average attendance of three. We are grateful for each member's participation and the dedication of their time and talents.

PURPOSE: The primary purpose of the Personnel Committee is to promote a strong and nurturing faith community through a healthy work environment, and open and productive communication between pastor, staff and members of the congregation. We strive for insightful problem solving and planning, are committed to open and direct communication with each other and staff, and conduct thoughtful, thorough, confidential evaluation of policies, staff performance and concerns of congregation members.

Financial Information

Funds to support New Life's staff comprise the largest portion of our annual budget. Please refer to the Financial Report provided by the Treasurer, Jym Hubbell, in this annual report for specific details.

As always, the Personnel Committee remains concerned and hopeful that New Life will have a firm financial foundation in order to maintain our present staff configuration and whatever changes might be deemed appropriate. Stable staffing is imperative, both for maintaining the focus of present ministry, programming and outreach, and for the future growth and outreach of our faith community.

Review of Stated Committee Objectives

The following constitute the Personnel Committee's major areas of concentration.

- Serve as an advocate for staff members.
- Counsel staff regarding their work, goals and objectives, terms of employment and compensation.
- Assist the Pastor with supervisory responsibilities and ministries, respond to members of the congregation who have concerns, evaluate staff performance and counsel staff members.
- Conduct annual performance and compensation reviews, including evaluation of goals and objectives.
- Assist in filling vacant or new staff positions, writing position descriptions, conducting interviews and reference checks and writing employment agreements.
- Make budget recommendations to Session regarding staffing, salaries or pay scales for members of the church staff.
- Review budget items monthly and quarterly summaries of staff vacations, sick leave and continuing education.
- Evaluate position descriptions as needed.
- Examine Personnel Policies, research and propose additions/changes as needed and submit to Session for approval.

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

PERSONNEL (continued)

- Perform ongoing liaison work with staff and other committees as needed, requested or expressed by staff, elders or members of the congregation.
- Contact Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area for guidance as needed.

Significant Staff-Related Events – 2019-2020

- Having to deal with the current pandemic has required staff to take on additional duties, rethink current ways of conducting church business (i.e., Zoom meetings), plan for future reopening, handle outside group use of the church, and support the Preschool program's new requirements for child safety.
- The Faith Formation position remains unfilled.

Staff Information

- Pastor Riz Prakasim, Pastor, provides the necessary leadership to make the church a robust and active participant in both church and community affairs.
- Julie Lueck, Coordinator of Music Ministry, complements the church service with a variety of vocal and instrumental music and continues to develop new ways to involve more participants in the church's music program.
- Maryfran Moen, Church Administrator, is active in all aspects of the church's administrative and financial matters, assists committees with a variety of tasks and serves as liaison with staff, committees and congregation members.
- Sher Noot, Director of Preschool, enthusiastically leads this important ministry of the church.
- Pam Schoon, Communications Collaborator, keeps our congregation apprised of all church news in her weekly E-notes and entries to our website and Facebook pages.
- Deb Griffin, Administrative Assistant, assists members and visitors, supports committee chairs and makes sure that notices and reports are correct and on time.
- Tori Golder-Carson, Custodian, ensures that we have a clean and safe environment in which to worship and participate in church activities.

The pandemic has changed the way we worship and interact with members of our congregation and those outside of the church. This year more than ever, the Personnel Committee greatly appreciates staff members' commitment to the Vision and Mission of our faith community and the effort they have put into dealing with this new normal. We are grateful to our staff for their support of the church, our congregation and their fellow staff members. We look forward to a productive and fulfilling year and hope that we will get back to "normal" in the near future.

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

SEEDS OF HOPE COMMUNITY GARDEN

MEMBERS:

This year has been a tumultuous one for the world. We are living or not with the Coronavirus. The community garden had a pretty bountiful year. During it's prime, the garden looked amazing with a patchwork of different cultures of gardening techniques and vegetable varieties.

What's New? The garden has new leadership. Bill Pederson and myself, Nancy Marchetto, have taken on the roles of Garden coordinators.

Early in the season Peter Marchetto started a new giving garden plot, in anticipation of the widespread need for fresh produce due to interruptions in the supply chain caused by the Coronavirus.

Then we partnered with The Sheridan Story to distribute what was grown in this new plot and plots 1 and 2 in the community garden. The Sheridan Story and MN Green donated the plants and seed for the new garden. The Sheridan Story also sent an intern to help with weeding and harvesting. As of this harvest (September 29, 2020), we have donated 670 pounds of vegetables to The Sheridan Story from plots 1 and 2 and the new garden.

This August we received a Grant from Ramsey County in the amount of \$2,152 to make improvements on the new giving garden. We have made 10 raised beds and will fence the new garden this fall. Permit to put up the fence was approved. Building & Grounds also approved these improvements.

This will be the first season gardeners will be reserving their plots in the fall and some will be over-wintering a garlic crop. We will be testing the soil this fall and amending it in the spring.

Noted Problems—Invasives have been seen in community gardens in the Twin Cities. We believe we had two plots with swede midge and are requesting gardeners do not grow cruciferous plants in the upcoming season as swede midge is a serious pest. Jumping worms have also been reported but we haven't seen any. We are asking gardeners not to bring in any town compost and to be careful of where they source their plants. To help minimize the risk, we will bring in compost from a reputable landscape company.

Purpose—The community garden hosted by New Life Church consists of 1/3 church community, 1/3 surrounding community, 1/3 immigrant populations. The garden serves as a recognizable presence in the community. Some of our members garden for enjoyment. Some garden to grow foods from their native countries, and some grow food to help fill a need for friends and family members. We also provide food from the new giving garden's 450 sq. ft. plot and plots 1 and 2. Our garden outreach effects the larger community although we have around 28 members; many bring their children and relatives to the garden.

Plot Assignments—There are 32 plots. Four plots are 3' x 10" raised beds used as pollinator gardens, 28 plots are 12' x 16'. The rent is \$32 per plot, waived for those in need.

Communication—Due to the coronavirus, all communication has been primarily email.

Weekly Maintenance—Mowing and landscaping has been done by Michael Wilson. Jym Hubbell manages food shelf plots 1 and 2.

Financial Information—Jym Hubbell

Future Recommendations—We would like to continue to make garden improvements. One would be to make the garden more accessible.

SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

STEWARDSHIP

MEMBERS: Deb Griffin (Chair, Session Liaison), Alesia Thompson-Biro, Bruce Nelson, Darroll Skilling, Pastor Riz Prakasim (ex-officio member)

PURPOSE: The Stewardship Committee is responsible to continually and creatively invite the members of our church to contribute financially as responsible and GRATEFUL stewards of God's gifts.

We began the fiscal year with a Big Bang, otherwise known as a Pie Party, which was held on November 16, 2019, at 3:37p. Many pies were donated and then successfully auctioned off by our auctioneer extraordinaire, Riz Prakasim! Pies were tasted and thoroughly enjoyed, recipes were shared, and we raised over \$1,000 for the AV fund for the sanctuary. All the other fundraising ideas we had were nixed when COVID hit and the church building closed down.

In early 2020, we were able to raise \$6,364 towards our per Capita goal of \$10,147, which reflects almost 63%. Not as good as our 100% last year, but considering the global pandemic, it's not too bad.

Our focus for the annual Stewardship push was to be a bit more gentle and understanding that many folks are barely able to feed and/or house themselves. We have asked others to step up with their gifts to the church (time and talents) if they are able. Pastor Riz voices this request every Sunday from the pulpit. The giving opportunity letter and "pledge" card were sent out with giving statements in May of 2020. To date, we have received giving commitments for \$92,357 toward the church budget.

In place of a letter, a "Giving to Mission" brochure was sent out with giving statements in early September. The scripture attached to that brochure was II Corinthians 8:1—7, which relates the story of the people in Corinth who had undergone terrible trials and losses, and found themselves wanting to give even more than before. "The...giving simply flowed out of the purposes of God working in their lives." This is the spirit we are seeing in our faith community as this pandemic has surrounded us for over six months.

It is a pleasure and privilege for us to serve this faith community. Thank you for your support!

FELLOWSHIP

ESTHER CIRCLE

MEMBERS: Cynthia Erickson, Patty Gould, Amanda Herbst, Marjory Johns, Liz Johnson, Joanne Kallstrom, Hope Laizans, Carole Rust, and Chanell "Peaches" Wall.

MEETING & PURPOSE: Esther Circle met this past year at 6:30p on the third Tuesday of the month at church in the Memorial Lounge. We gathered for Bible study, fellowship, food, and support beginning in the month of September. Our study came from the Presbyterian Women's Horizons magazine and it was called "Love Carved in Stone, A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments." We held a potluck in December and gathered \$110 to give to Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul. Our March and April meetings were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we held Zoom meetings in May and June, which gave us a chance to catch up with each other, discuss the pandemic plus racial/social problems and our lesson material. It was a challenging but rewarding year and we would like to invite anyone who would like to join our group through Zoom meetings for the 2020-2021 year.

Submitted by Carole Rust

651.488.1273 / 651.726.4824 (no texting)

FELLOWSHIP (continued)

NEW LIFE QUILTERS

GROUP MEMBERS: Kathy Buhaug, Tim Clift, Barbara Conklin, Marti Cook, Nancy Irsfeld, Mary Kaul, Kay Konkell, Bev Liebenstein, Jackie Lind, **Sandy McGiffin (Chair)**, Gail Meyer, Ginny Seaborg, Marie Skilling, Gayle Stout, Jeanette Wilson, Faith Wisland, and Tina Zoerb.

The purpose of New Life Quilters is to make warm, beautiful quilts for those in need in our surrounding communities. The quilt group meets from 9:00 – 11:30a year-round at the church on Wednesday mornings. We are always looking for new members and welcome anyone interested. Quilting or sewing experience is not necessary: we're more than happy to teach you!

Our quilters are aging and experiencing eyesight and other physical problems. Some have passed away or moved to be closer to family members. The fingers of those who remain are not as nimble as they once were. We've contacted other churches and made announcements in our own hoping to find people interested in joining our group. We did add one new member: Kathy Lawhead. We'd be thrilled to find more!

The highlight of our year was in November 2019, when the quilts were dedicated during a Sunday morning worship service. The quilts were displayed on the pews and railings in the sanctuary for dedications on that day. Representatives of the organizations receiving the quilts were invited to attend and participate in the litany of dedication at the service. Members of the New Life Quilters served as ushers and greeters, Bev Liebenstein was lay leader, and her daughter gave the sermon. Representatives from the following organizations were present: Gillette Children's Specialty Hospital, Hope House, Naomi Center of the Union Gospel Mission, Tubman Family Alliance, and Zoom House.

A total of 118 quilts were given out in the Twin City communities and The Lamb School of Bangladesh. It's hard to place a price on these quilts. The joy and warmth given to each individual is impossible to put a price on.

We gratefully received financial donations and gifts of fabric and other quilting supplies throughout the year. We use these funds to purchase quilting supplies. If we're unable to use any of these donations, they're passed along to others who can.

A band of quilters and church friends were asked to help make masks for St. Paul Public Housing. They compensated for them. This helped us to restore our coffers and not ask the church for financial help. Some other organizations we donated masks to were Maghakian and Project Home. Thus we made approximately 400 masks...and counting.

Project Home was cancelled due to COVID-19. The one quilt we had ready seems to have disappeared from the quilters room.

When the COVID-19 hit the church, we took the materials and our members worked from home. Quilts to be knotted were left on porches or vestibules and doorbells rung. Those to be picked up were left outside and swapped out. Thus we kept apart and busy for those who couldn't get around. The quilters were like Energizer Bunnies — they kept on working. Our members stayed safe by socially distancing.

A quilt was given to Riz for all that happened in his personal life with his restaurant burning to the ground, and holding our church family together.

FELLOWSHIP (continued)

NEW LIFE QUILTERS (continued)

Jackson was given a quilt—He volunteered to join the Army. Quilts were given for the baptisms of Jan and John Silliman's granddaughter, Sylvia. Also, a quilt was given to Amanda Herbst's and Steven Smith's new son.

If we missed someone, we apologize. With COVID-19 and not being in the church, we weren't always aware of events. We will continue to create quilts with love for those in need of warmth.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Barb Nelson

Current active Stephen Ministers are: Ann Bursch, Pam Hord, Barb Ritter, Tina Zoerb, and Warren Wolfe. Leaders are: Pastor Riz Prakasim, Keith Buckley, Barb Nelson and Bruce Nelson. Ed Galle is our leader emeritus. These faithful servants of Christ have cared for five of our congregational members this past year.

Stephen Ministry has been in existence 19 years in our faith community. Its mission is to offer confidential Christian care to those experiencing life crises. It allows our pastoral care to extend beyond what our pastor can do. Stephen Ministers are trained to listen, comfort and support.

Due to the COVID pandemic, our ministry has been limited. There are no in-person visits, only phone calls. Our supervision meetings focused on grief, the book, Final Gifts, and the book, The Upside of Stress.

This ministry is struggling due to low numbers and the pandemic. We are unable to train new ministers this year. We encourage all members of the congregation to care/pray for one another during this difficult year. Our hope is that we can inject new life into this ministry when we can meet in-person safely again. We ask for your prayers to continue this relevant ministry!

