

# Annual Report

August 2022 – July 2023

*The fourth year of COVID-19*

## MISSION STATEMENT

*Daring to Live in Jesus' Transforming Love*

*New Life*

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## WE VALUE:

*A united community of people, people & friends*

*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 .....	6
Music Ministries Report.....	7
Communications Collaborator's Report .....	9
Clerk of Session Report .....	10
Church Reformation Task Force Report .....	18
 <b>Session Committees</b>	
Building & Grounds .....	19
Mission & Outreach .....	21
Earth Care Team.....	24
Blood Drives .....	26
Church Finance .....	27
Memorial Gifts .....	29
Congregational Care .....	30
Nominating .....	31
Personnel.....	32
Seeds of Hope Community Garden .....	35
Stewardship.....	36
 <b>Fellowship</b>	
Esther Circle.....	37
New Life Quilters .....	37
 <b>2022-2023 Financial Reports and Budget .....</b>	 Pink pages



## PASTOR'S REPORT

Reverend Riz Prakasim

I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen. When you come looking for me, you'll find me. Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed. I'll turn things around for you. – Jeremiah 29:11-14

Peace be with you church. We are called to look back and learn lessons from the past as we journey forward in faith. There have been occasions of celebration and lament for our family of faith. Our church, like many other churches across the nation, has been experiencing financial challenges while we faithfully live out the good news. We have been discerning the way forward with the elders of the Session and the Church Reformation Task Force who have been commissioned to explore viable options for us to survive and thrive for many years to come. Through a series of quarterly Town Hall meetings, we have been asking one another tough questions about what the future will look like. The members have made it clear that they prefer to stay in the building and remain together as a church family. To that end God has been connecting us with people and organizations who are interested in partnering with us to share space and ministries, to give us a future with hope. We do not yet fully know what the exact future of the church will look like, but we continue to follow the Holy Spirit into a changing world. The church staff continues to support, resource, and serve our faith community with joy and creativity. We have laid to rest many of the saints of our church family that have shaped our community and have generously supported the ministry of the church for many years. Collectively we celebrate their lives, remember their legacy, and look forward to the new life in Christ to come. Remembering that we are resurrection people, and that God has done amazing things in the universal churches history and in our own church history, right here in Roseville. There is no reason for us to doubt that God is making a way in the wilderness. Here are some highlights of the last year:

Welcomed Justin Rieger to the staff as custodian and communications coordinator.

Many of our dearly beloved members were laid to rest in the Lord as we celebrated their lives with celebrations of life that honored their memory and legacy.

- Presided over the sacrament of baptism.
- Joined couples together in holy matrimony.
- We welcomed new members with new member classes.
- Provided training, installed and ordained new elders to the class of 2026.
- Session approved starting a contemporary worship service with North Presbyterian on Sunday night which began in September.
- We recognized one senior graduate from youth group and welcomed new incoming youth.

### **PASTOR'S REPORT (Continued)**

- Went on a youth mission trip to El Guacio, Presbyterian Camp in Puerto Rico.
- Formed a Super Youth Group with North Presbyterian, KCOC and Presbyterian Church of the Way.
- Preached at KCOC, provided pastoral coverage and administered communion.
- Welcomed the Presbyterian Church of Ghana.
- Participated regularly in the Every Meal food security ministry at Como Park Elementary.
- Continued participating in a Presbyterian pastor's cohort made up of area pastors of the PCUSA.
- Serving on Presbyteries Permanent Judicial Counsel.
- Serving on Synods Self Development of People & Racial Ethnic Scholarship Committee.
- Attended Presbytery meetings.
- Provided pre-marital counseling, couples counseling and individual counseling.
- Led celebrations of life for members & non-members.
- Considered benevolence request and distributed to those in need.
- Celebrated with graduating confirmation class with North Presbyterian & KCOC in March.
- Coordinated food distributions on the fourth Wednesdays by the Food Mobile, a ministry of Keystone Community Services.
- Continued as part of the Multicultural Advisory Group to Roseville Police Department.
- Asked to serve on elder's council for International Association for Refugees.

### **CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Hey New Life----

Wow, what a difference a year makes! The office and Church is very busy. It is a wonderful and exciting time.

Roshelle has brought so much to New Life. She continues to amaze me with her knowledge of IT, something I lack in. She has a full plate as Administrative Assistant with the addition of cross training when I was out on medical leave. She performed with flying colors. Thank you!

Logan is everywhere! In addition to his position as Director of Ministry, he decorates the sanctuary and meets with some committees in his spare time. He directs choirs, and even finds time to give singing lessons. You go Logan!

Justin joined us as Communications Collaborator in January. But he wears two hats here at New Life after becoming Custodian in March. I know I keep him going in every direction. New Life keeps him

## **CHURCH ADMINISTRATORS REPORT (Continued)**

very busy, and he performs with much confidence.

The Personnel Committee continues to work hard. There are always decisions and problem solving to be addressed. We keep Jan Cryer on her toes. For a position that is strictly volunteer, Jan is available to us 24/7. She cares deeply for the staff here and we appreciate her very much!

Building and Grounds meetings, every month, have managed to last a long time. With all that is happening with New Life, the whole committee tackles so much. Scott Barraclough keeps it all steady and Earl Hoekman continues to help the church in various important projects. I could not do my job without you Earl!

Riz continues to manage all aspects of his pastoral duties. I do not know how he keeps everything in order. Many, many, hours of care, staff direction, letters and worship preparation fill his week. He always has time to answer our questions whenever we need him. Thank you!

I, also, would like to send out a gracious thank you to Sandy McGiffin, she cleans out closets, remembers our birthdays, buys us pizza for lunch, waters plants, decorates the front entrance, continues to sort the kitchen and annoys me whenever she has a chance. We do love her!

Until next year, thank you to all for your wonderful support and encouragement.

Michelle Marie Kozitza

New Life Administrator

## **MUSIC MINISTRIES REPORT**

In my first year as Director of Music at New Life, I have had the wonderful opportunity to rebuild and support our music ministry. This has been a valuable year of learning and growing together! I have felt very supported in this community, and I am very pleased with the growth that I have observed in my short time here! In the coming year, our Music Ministries will continue to improve and grow. We will continue our work of bringing high-quality sacred music to our worship together on Sundays, exploring music of different origins, styles, and eras.

I am very thankful to every musician that has co-led worship with me in this past year. Every singer in the choir and every ringer in Prime Chimers has worked very hard to provide New Life with quality music at worship on Sundays. You've each done a marvelous job. Thank you!

Special thank you to Emily Urban for being an amazing musician and colleague! Working with you is a joy and your beautiful music is a blessing to us all.

Logan Combs, Director of Music

## MUSIC MINISTRIES REPORT (Continued)

### Sanctuary Choir

The Sanctuary Choir re-formed in September 2022, after not meeting for an extended period of time. We started slowly with unison singing, and throughout the year, progressed to singing four parts! I am incredibly proud of the progress that the Choir has made this year and I look forward to continuing to grow and make meaningful music together for the years to come! The Choir led worship on 14 Sundays throughout the 22-23 season. The Sanctuary Choir meets on Wednesday evenings from 6 – 7pm in the Choir Room and is welcome to all singers!

### Prime Chimers Handbell Choir

The Prime Chimers Handbell choir had a big year this year. We began our year by moving our rehearsal to Wednesday evenings to more easily accommodate individuals who would like to participate in both musical ensembles and learning together the best pacing for our playing. After a few short months, we had developed a rhythm of playing that felt natural and easy. Our focus shifted towards sightreading and music reading comprehension, which made it easier to play higher-level repertoire. The Prime Chimers led worship on 11 Sundays this year! Prime Chimers is open to all interested musicians and rehearses from 7:15 – 8:15pm in the Handbell Room.

### 2022-2023 Music Ministries Musicians

#### Sanctuary Choir:

Sylvia Poppelbaum  
Gayle Stout  
Karin Link  
Fae Wilson  
Lindy Maurey  
Roy Wilson  
Gerry Buhag  
Bruce Nelson  
Charles Baumann  
Ed Galle  
Jym Hubbell  
Karin Link  
Ducky Johnson  
Alice Brotherton  
Don Liebenstein

#### Prime Chimers Bell Choir:

Sara Drake  
Lois Morstad  
Molly Cacek  
Fae Wilson  
Roy Wilson  
Andy Ihlenfeldt  
Cynthia DeVore

#### Guest Musicians / Guest Artists:

Shelby Joy  
Vera Mancha  
Emma Dykstra  
Natalie Drake  
Madeline Smoot  
Lacy Williams  
David McGowan  
Joyce Brown  
Ken Latham  
Pattie Gould  
Cynthia Erickson

## COMMUNICATIONS COLLABORATOR'S REPORT

### Communications Collaborator

Our church's communications ministry seeks to reach the congregation and our community with messages that inform and invite participation in the church.

This year we have:

Maintained an email distribution list of around 200 addresses. These email communications via Vertical Response include:

Compiling, editing, and distributing a bi-weekly E-notes electronic newspaper.

Editing and distributing the weekly Sunday bulletin (E-Bulletin).

Editing and distributing special community announcements. These include reminders for important events, funeral announcements, and notices of closure for things like inclement weather to name a few examples.

Maintained a Facebook page with regular status updates.

Divested energy and resources away from Twitter. Our account is intact in an effort to deter scammers from posing as us, but remains wholly inactive. Considering the context of the site as a whole, it is unwise to encourage our congregants to use it.

Maintained and updated our church's website. We explored an update to our current site, but were unsuccessful due to compatibility issues concerning the new host and our @newlifechurchroseville.org emails. Ultimately the choice was made to abandon the new site and to redouble efforts to make the current site more palatable. We are now focusing on regular, prompt updates for the site to ensure relevant and timely information is available both for existing members and for newcomers.

Currently focusing on decreasing opportunities for scammers to harass our congregants by removing unnecessary/out-of-date contact information or potentially sensitive identifying information from the website/notes/newsletter, and scrubbing outgoing email lists of suspicious or bot accounts.

Comments, requests, and suggestions can all be sent to [communications@newlifechurchroseville.org](mailto:communications@newlifechurchroseville.org) for further clarification. Thank you.

## CLERK OF SESSION ANNUAL REPORT

**AUGUST 1, 2022 – JULY 31, 2023**

Fae Wilson, Clerk of Session

### MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS:

Total Membership Roll as of July 31, 2022 (Active plus Baptized) 248

Active Membership Roll as of July 31, 2023 201

#### Added to Active Member Roll:

Via certificate from other churches 4

Via profession/reaffirmation of faith 4

Reactivation of active membership 0

Total Added 8

Baptized Member Roll as of July 31, 2022 44

Added to Baptized Member Roll 0

Removed from Baptized Member Roll 1

Total as of July 31, 2023 43

#### Removed from Active Member Roll

Via Certificate to other churches 0

Requested Removal 0

Moved Away 0

Lack of Participation 0

Deaths 5

Total Removed 5

**Active Membership Roll as of July 31, 2023 204**

**Baptized Member Roll 43**

**TOTAL 247**

### WEDDINGS:

Burt and Joyce (Mbuah) Griffin (members) June 11, 2023

### DEATHS:

08/01/2022	Pauline Christofk	Member
08/16/2022	Sydney Jensen	Member
11/11/2022	Chanell "Peaches" Wall	Member
01/04/2023	Dorothy Finkelson	Member
07/06/2023	Edward Zoerb	Non-member

### ELDERS OF SESSION:

CLASS OF 2023 (Outgoing as of July 31, 2023)

Joanne Kallstrom (ordained, installed 09/20/2020)

Maria Schultz (ordained, installed 08/07/2022)

Emily Laizans (ordained, installed 08/07/2022)

Fae Wilson (ordained, installed 10/09/2022)

### CLASS OF 2024

Tom Carlson (ordained, installed 08/22/2021, resigned 08/11/2023)

Sara Drake (ordained, installed 08/22/2021)

Melinda Maurey (ordained, installed 08/22/2021)

Kimberley Spear (installed 09/05/2021)

### CLASS OF 2025

Molly Cacek (ordained, installed 10/09/2022)

Ed Galle (installed 08/07/2022)

Pam Hord (installed 10/09/2022)

Marjory Johns (installed 08/07/2022)

## **CLERK OF SESSION REPORT (Continued)**

### **NEW LIFE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

#### **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes**

**Sunday, November 13, 2022**

**Meeting Announcement:** “The Session of New Life Presbyterian Church has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, November 13, 2022, immediately following the worship service in the Sanctuary, to receive the Annual Report that includes church financial information. Action items include: approval of the Terms of Call for Pastor Riz Prakasim for 2023 and election of the Nominating Committee. An additional action item seeks approval for Stephen “Caleb” Njuguna, of the Kenyan Christian Outreach Church (KCOC), to pursue becoming a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) through a relationship with New Life Presbyterian Church, as endorsed by the Commission on Ministry (COM) of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. All active members have the privilege and responsibility of attending the meeting and of both speaking and voting. If you wish to attend virtually, please call in your vote to Roshelle in the church office before November 11th.”

The call to the meeting was announced during Sunday morning worship October 30, November 6 and November 13. It was also stated in the bulletin October 30 and November 13 and distributed via email as a Community Announcement with the Annual Report. Hard copies of the Annual Report were also available at the church.

The moderator, Rev. Riz Prakasim, called the meeting to order at 11:15 in the Great Room. This was an in-person meeting. Approximately 48 active members were in attendance. A quorum was present. Pastor Riz opened the meeting with prayer.

#### **Action Items:**

Election of Nominating Committee—Chair, Pam Hord, thanked the 2022 committee members: John Bootier, Sandy McGiffin, Bruce Nelson and Jenni Mancha. She presented the names of the nominees for the 2023 committee: Barb Nelson, Judi Klotz, Adam Schultz and Pam Hord, as chair. When opened, there were no nominations from the floor or further discussion. A vote was called by the Moderator. A majority of members present voted “yes”. There were no votes received prior to the meeting. APPROVED

## CLERK OF SESSION REPORT (Continued)

Commissioned Ruling Elder relationship with Stephen “Caleb” Njuguna of KCOC—Pastor Riz read aloud a letter received from Brenda Alexander and Sue Goodspeed, Co-chairs of the Commission on Ministry with the PTCA endorsing KCOC’s Caleb Njuguna pursuit of becoming a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) through a relationship with New Life Presbyterian Church. Pastor Riz explained the concept of CRE and that it involves a series of Synod determined coursework that may be viewed as a stepping stone to seminary attendance. All across the PC-USA, churches are being served by CREs. Currently, KCOC is deemed a worshipping community working toward becoming a chartered church and this relationship will be a step toward this goal and becoming a CRE will allow Mr. Njuguna to directly provide communion to members of KCOC. Elder Spear moved to approve, 2nd Elder Hord. A vote was called by the Moderator. A majority of members present voted “yes.” APPROVED.

Terms of Call—Pastor Riz recused himself from this portion of the meeting and the clerk moderated. Jan Cryer, chair of the Personnel Committee, made the following motion: “I move on behalf of the Personnel Committee with the recommendation of Session on November 8th, 2022 to approve the Terms of Call for Pastor Risley Prakasim for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.” (A copy was distributed to all members of the congregation and is attached to these minutes.) This reflects a 3.5 increase consistent with Presbytery recommendations. 2nd Barb Nelson. The floor was opened for discussion. Given no discussion or questions, the clerk called for a vote. A majority of members present voted “yes.” APPROVED. Pastor Riz was given a round of applause as a show of appreciation upon his return to the room.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Jym Hubbell summarized his 19-page report printed on the green pages at the end of the Annual Report handed out to all members present and available online.

Current assets decreased by about \$146,000 secondary to: investment losses of about \$47,000; Larpenteur sign acquisition of about \$77,000; Operating Fund loss of about \$3,000 and North Como Preschool loss of about \$10,000.

Payments on our \$250,000 synod loan were covered by the Knox Legacy Fund. Loan balance at year-end was \$217,500.

The Knox Legacy Fund realized a 6% investment loss of about \$34,000.00 secondary to market volatility.

Operating Fund expenses exceeded income by \$3,074.00 which is worse than the previous year but far better than what had been projected. Operating income was better than anticipated largely due to building use fees, most significantly for Hmong funerals.

Our endowment funds decreased by \$38,000 this year secondary to market volatility during this period.

## **CLERK OF SESSION REPORT (Continued)**

We have experienced a large loss of income secondary to multiple deaths in the largest donor demographic (ages 70 and older).

Budgeting for fiscal 2023 is a work in progress as Session strives to find solutions to declining income and increasing expenses.

Session and Finance are working on a five year plan for handling the deficit.

“Are we solvent? Yes! Are there challenges ahead? Yes!”

### **Session Member Reports on State of the Church:**

Elder Kimberly Spear—Liaison to Building and Grounds

Three session members are working with Suntide Commercial Reality for assistance with leasing the space previously occupied by North Como Preschool to another nonprofit organization. A contract is being examined and negotiations are in progress.

The Church Revitalization Task Force, whose members include Music Director Logan Combs and Rev. Greg Ritter in addition to Jym Hubble, David King, Tom Reuters and elders Sara Drake and Kim Spear is examining the need to do church differently...changing the pace...collaborating with other churches such as the current youth group/confirmation collaboration with North Presbyterian and KCOC. The Presbytery has funds available for programming.

Pastor Riz has had an initial meeting with Ace in the City, a nonprofit that specializes in property reimagining for community collaboration.

Elder Tom Carlson—Liaison to Membership and Growth

We have fertile ground to increase membership. Research shows that 50% of Ramsey County has no religious affiliation.

Some people do not visit a church because they feel that legitimate doubt is prohibited from being discussed.

Via Christian Apologetics we want to offer a place where people can learn about the Christian view on difficult topics and discuss them in small groups.

Christian Apologetics were started by Apostles Paul and Peter. They said “You must always be ready to defend your faith.”

Proposing video presentations by John Lennox both online and via Adult Education presentations followed by small group discussions to increase church visibility and potential growth.

Elder Ed Galle—Liaison to Stewardship—as a charter member of North Como and New Life Church, Elder Galle recounted the changes over time from the growth in the early years of 1400 members and three Sunday morning services to the current rolls of under 200 members. He encouraged stewardship as a means to get involved in real opportunities for

## CLERK OF SESSION REPORT (Continued)

change and new growth.

Question from member—have we looked into the demographic of the surround area? Other churches send out postcards. Elder Carlson responded that yes, we will do mailings as well as the use of social media.

**Closing Remarks and Questions:** Pastor Riz remarked that per Interim Executive Presbyter, Libby Shannon, we are in a new place. We must use our imaginations for change, combining resources and merging together. We must think creatively and uniquely. We must continue to try to understand the demographic of our community; 30% are BIPOC and 20% are seniors. Lives transformed are lives changed. Member's questions and comments included:

Much focus on Roseville. What are we doing for St Paul, our neighbors just across the street? Examples of work in St Paul includes Every Meal backpack program, Keystone Food Shelf and Foodmobile visits in the parking lot.

Concern regarding Faith Formation programming, especially for children, and concern of loss of members for better programming elsewhere. Response—on the forefront, looking at potential for staff sharing, hopefully within weeks to months to come. Will not rely on parent volunteers.

More collaboration with KCOC. Response—it is a live conversation currently being done with Youth Group and Confirmation. Nothing is off the table.

Increase Town Hall Congregational Meetings to quarterly. We need more people to get involved.

Deb Griffin moved to adjourn the meeting. Multiple 2nds. **APPROVED**. The meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm. Pastor Riz closed the meeting with prayer.

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Clerk of Session

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Moderator

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Date Approved

## CLERK OF SESSION REPORT (Continued)

Congregational Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2023

**Meeting Announcement:** The Session of New Life Presbyterian Church has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, August 13, 2023, following the worship service for the purpose of electing the following nominees for ruling elder: Sandy McGiffin, Yvonne Lewis, Judi Klotz and Derward (Ducky) Johnson. This will be an in-person meeting in the Great Room. If you wish to attend virtually, please call in your vote to Roshelle in the church office before August 11, 2023. We strongly encourage active members to attend so that we have a quorum. There will be a Town Hall Meeting hosted by the Strategic Planning Task Force immediately following the congregational meeting.

The call to the meeting was announced during Sunday morning worship July 30 and August 6, 2023. It was also stated in the E-notes two weeks prior to the meeting and was published as a Community Announcement on July 31, 2023.

Moderator, Rev. Riz Prakasim, called the meeting to order at 11:16 a.m. He opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was present.

Co-chair of the nominating committee, Pam Hord, came forward and thanked the committee members, co-chair Barb Nelson, Judi Klotz and Adam Schultz. Nominees for the Session Class of 2026 were then introduced. They were: Sandy McGiffin, Yvonne Lewis, Judi Klotz and Derward (Ducky) Johnson. Pastor Riz asked if there were any nominations from the floor. None were offered. Nancy Irsfeld moved to close the nominations and Carole Rust moved to approve the nominees to become elders. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sylvia Poppenbaum. Pastor Riz called for discussion and there was none. **Motion passed.**

The four new elders will be installed during the worship service Sunday, August 20, 2023.

Charles Baumann moved to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Irene Meinen. **Motion passed.** Pastor Riz closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 11:22.

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Clerk of Session

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Moderator

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Date Approved

## CLERK OF SESSION REPORT (Continued)

### 2023 Proposed Terms of Call for Pastor Risley Prakasim

Effective 1/1/22	Proposed (3.5% Increase)	
Salary	\$39,358	\$41,618
Housing Expenses	\$25,200	\$25,200
	\$64,558	\$66,818
Pastor Discretionary Expense	\$2,000	\$2,000
Travel Expense at \$.56 per mile	\$1,000	\$1,000
Continuing Education Reimburse	\$2,000	\$2,000
Total Reimbursement Expenses	\$5,000	\$5,000
Pension /Medical (Full)*	\$23, 886 (37%)	\$26,059 (39%)
TOTAL FINANCIAL	\$93,444	\$97,877

\*Pension/Medical reflects Board of Pension 2023 approved increase of 2% of compensation (to 39%) for Pastors' Participation dues.

JLC 11/11/22

## **Church Reformation Task Force (CRTF)**

Church Reformation Task Force (CRTF)

New Life Presbyterian Church

Annual Report 2023

Earlier this year, The Church Reformation Task Force (CRTF) was formed and tasked by Session to discern a viable path forward for the future of our worship community. Our name, drawn from the common Presbyterian maxim, "Once reformed, always reforming," continually reminds us of our mission to reform our worship community into one that better responds to the need of our congregation as well as our greater community.

It has become clear, with our church's growing financial deficit and decreasing membership, that our current operations cannot continue as they are indefinitely. The CRTF has been tasked with identifying and organizing the necessary changes to our worship community that will take place in the future. The CRTF continues to entertain the possibilities of merging with other local congregations, selling our property, renting and leasing the space in our building, and identifying necessary building improvements.

This last year, the CRTF has worked hard to find solutions to issues of unused and underutilized spaces of our church. The CRTF has been in talks with various pre-school organizations, in an attempt to fill our preschool space. The task force gives building tours to interested tenants, buyers and ministry partners, and is committed to securing a future for our congregation.

The CRTF holds quarterly Town Hall meetings following worship to update the congregation on our findings and also to get crucial feedback from the congregation regarding our focus and direction. The CRTF will continue working closely with Session and the Presbytery throughout this entire process.

Any thoughts, comments, concerns, or questions regarding any of the above can be sent to:

**[CRTF@newlifechurchroseville.org](mailto:CRTF@newlifechurchroseville.org)**

### **Members of the CRTF:**

Ed Galle

Kim Spear

David King

Sara Drake

Greg Ritter

Tom Ruter

Jym Hubbell, Treasurer

Logan Combs, Director of Music

Riz Prakasim, Pastor

## SESSION COMMITTEES

### BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

**PURPOSE:** Building and Grounds (B&G) Committee's goal is to implement responsible management of New Life Presbyterian Church's building, grounds, and legal contracts under the authority and in collaboration with Session.

**MEMBERS:** Scott Barraclough, Chair, Earl Hoekman, Robert Jensen, Jerry Petersen, and Jan Silliman. Michelle Kozitza, Church Administrator, manages the agenda and helps coordinate committee work with vendors. Kimberley Spear is the Session Liaison and records minutes.

**MEETINGS:** The committee typically met the second Thursday of each month at 5:30pm.

**SERVICE:** Members have served for many years, providing expertise in building repair and infrastructure maintenance, technology support for internet and wi-fi, and safety support through management of fire protection and security systems. Members address emergencies 24/7 (e.g. the sewage lift pump outage, resulting in water in the lower level bathrooms and hall). Members also provide invaluable historical knowledge of construction, related systems and upgrades, and forecasting of future building and property needs. Members also volunteer countless hours in property maintenance and improvements, from plumbing, boiler issues, roof repair, window replacement and parking lot resurfacing, to lawn mowing and weeding, faucet replacement and underground water system maintenance, to landscaping upgrades and flower bed tending. Members often also volunteer to fund personally extra efforts related to property beautification, demonstrating their commitment to the people and home of New Life.

### 2022-2023 REPORT

Highlights of the committee's completed work and ongoing efforts are below:

The committee has steadfastly continued work on fire and security systems, separating them, upgrading them, and flexing to adjust to challenges as they arose. Cameras have been installed and easier monitoring of camera footage continues to be a pending issue.

Strategic planning accelerated in 2022-2023. The Church Reformation Task Force (CRTF) started, tasked by Session to discern a viable path forward for the future of our worship community. B&G expanded in efforts to find leasees for the former preschool space, consistent with Session/CRTF charge to explore

## SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

### BUILDINGS & GROUNDS (Cont'd)

multiple experiments. The relationship with SunTide Commercial Realty was pursued and paused with regular monthly updates to B&G and Session. Relationships with several preschools and a homeschooling academy were pursued, a couple ended, a couple ongoing. Estimates for related sprinkling systems, air conditioning, and electrical upgrades were/are managed through B&G. Related conversations about fire codes and building upgrades with the Fire Marshall and department were managed through B&G in collaboration with staff. Also, a market assessments and a formal appraisal were pursued through B&G. In summary, B&G tasks increased significantly this year as the committee responds to the strategic planning efforts of the Session and CRTF.

The committee supported the digital sign technical implementation and optimization, through efforts lead by Earl Hoekman. Earl helped set standards for the technical aspects of the messages on the sign, resolve issues with complains, draft policies and procedures for training and use of the sign, working with Roshelle Mountain, Administrative Assistant, Michelle Kozitza, Church Administrator, and Riz Prakasim, Pastor. Policies and practices for administrative uses are still in draft stage, lead by Kim Spear.

Lawn services continued with significant progress shown in grass condition and weed control. TruGreen continued as vendor. Grass overseeding with watering was started near the church main entrance this year. Drainage area was weeded with plans for a rain garden foreseen in spring 2024.

This year technology services were moved into B&G responsibilities and related dedicated funds. The digital sign oversight was moved to communication coordinator oversight.

Expenses from the committee are covered by an operating fund and dedicated funds. Operating expenses, such as utilities, continue to increase, are largely out of control of the committee, and stress the church's operating targets. Dedicated funds are used for larger expenses.

**NEW BLOOD:** Volunteers are welcome to join the committee. Contact any member, B&G liaison, or staff for more details.

In Christ,

Kim Spear for the entire B&G committee

## SESSION COMMITTEES

### MISSION & OUTREACH

**PURPOSE:** Jesus calls us to love one another. The Mission and Outreach Committee challenges our church community to respond to the needs of our community and world while caring for our planet with joyful support. 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 work to care for God's creation.

**Meetings:** The days last year varied. They were held at 7:00 p.m. at church. We would like to meet by phone or Zoom for the coming year.

**Members (through 9/2023):** Molly Cacek (chair/elder), Carole Rust (Earth Care Chair/mission member), Liz Johnson (mission member), Ruth DeYoe, and Ed Galle (blood drive representative).

**Members (starting 10/2023):** [No committee chair], Pam Hord (new session liaison/elder), Carole Rust (Earth Care Chair/mission member), Liz Johnson (part-time member), and Ed Galle (blood drive representative). **NOTE:** We are looking for a new chair or co-chairs as well as new members, either full or part-time!)

**Activities:** In September, 2022 we set up display tables at kickoff Sunday for Mission, the Peace and Global Witness Offering, Earth Care, and the CROP walk for Hunger. We want to thank the 5 walkers who signed up (Jym Hubbell, Andy Ihlenfeldt, Tony Smith, Aiyana Chin and Carole Rust). Throughout the year our committee and church supported the 4 special offerings of the Presbyterian Church, including One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace & Global Witness, and Christmas Joy. Many other mission related things were done and supported by volunteers and/or financial aid. Some of the many things done this past year were the Giving/Mitten Tree project, financially supporting our missionaries, the Blue Barrel, Holy Hammers, Every Meal, the Keystone Foodshelf Truck, Blood Drives, Earth Day Sunday, the Community Garden, Quilting, the Pumpkin Patch, the Fair-Trade Market, and supporting Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul. Please look at the other pages of this report to see where your money went and how much special mission work your church has done.

We want to give special thanks to all of you for your generous support and participation in our outreach activities! We have many ways to support our community and world that are available to this congregation. To this end, we are looking for new members to join Mission and Outreach. If you want to show love to your community, world and God's good Creation, please consider joining our team either on a full-time or part-time basis. (Call Carole Rust @ 651-726-4824 with questions.)

Submitted by Molly Cacek

We continued and hope to continue our support to our General Assembly, Synod and Presbytery at an annual rate of \$13,565 per calendar year. And we hope to continue supporting missionaries at the same level as in past years.

Mission Outreach disbursements from the Operating Fund, as well as planned disbursements for fiscal 2024, are reported on page 4 of the financial section of this annual report. Page 5 of the Operating Fund report provides details of Outreach Ministries. Our planned \$6,800 disbursements to charities were paid

## SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

### MISSION & OUTREACH (continued)

from the Homme dedicated account this year. That's why the amount was \$0 in the Operating Fund's Budgeted Charities expense account this year. The \$6,800 to charities was distributed as follows:

#### Outreach Ministries Budget

	Actual 2021-22	Budget 2022- 23	Actual 2022-23	Budget 2023-24
PC (USA) General Mission				
General Assembly	\$1,530	\$2,300	\$770	\$1,530
Synod	\$1,530	\$2,300	\$770	\$1,530
Presbytery	\$5,980	\$8,965	\$2,985	\$5,980
Missionaries	\$1,000	\$500	\$0	\$1,000
PC Theological	\$225	\$225	\$0	\$225
<b>SUBTOTAL - PC (USA) General Mission</b>	<b>\$10,265</b>	<b>\$14,290</b>	<b>\$4,525</b>	<b>\$10,265</b>
Other				
Special Offering Disbursements	\$18,709	\$25,000	\$31,346	\$25,000
Budgeted Benevolences	\$6,800	\$6,800	\$0	\$6,800
Emergency Assistance	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$1,500	\$3,500
Liberty Church	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Support of Preschool	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>SUBTOTAL - Other</b>	<b>\$29,009</b>	<b>\$36,300</b>	<b>\$32,846</b>	<b>\$35,300</b>

## SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

### MISSION & OUTREACH (continued)

#### Special Offerings Donations

Item	Amount
0040-Presbyterian Disaster Relief	\$9,050
0041-Peace and Global Witness	\$1,515
0042-Christmas Joy Offering	\$1,926
0043-Pentecost Offering	\$815
0046-MN Food Share/Food Shelf	\$1,145
0047-One Great Hour of Sharing	\$6,070
0050-Habitat for Humanity	\$300
0065-Every Meal (Sheridan) Fund	\$300
0066-Greatest Need	\$150
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$31,346</b>

#### Budgeted Benevolence Budget Amount (total for year)

Item	Amount
Interfaith Action Greater St Paul	\$1,500
Department of Indian Works	\$400
Holy Hammers (Habitat for Humanity)	\$1,000
Union Gospel Mission	\$350
People Inc.	\$500
Exodus Lending	\$250
MICAH	\$400
Joint Religious Legislative Coalition	\$800
Bread for the World	\$500
Presbyterians for Earth Care	\$300
Interfaith Power and Light	\$300
First Nations Kitchen	\$500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,800</b>

## SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

### MISSION & OUTREACH—Earth Care Team

Mission and Outreach – Earth Care Team

2022-2023

Members: Carole Rust (Chair), Andy Ihlenfeldt

Meetings: We did not meet on a regular basis this past year.

Purpose: We use two Earth Care Pledges originally signed by Session in 2009-10 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 eco justice as a part of our expression of our faith, Our Team is represented with a member on the Mission Committee 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 "Blessed Tomorrow."

Activities: The Earth Care Team continued to provide local, organic half and half to go with the organic, fair-trade coffee that our church ordered from the Presbyterian Coffee Project. (Note: for every pound sold, 15 cents are donated to the Presbyterian Hunger Program for ecojustice, hunger-related projects.) Fellowship hour was very active due in large part to the efforts of Bob Jensen, Mike Wilson, Bruce & Barb Nelson, Andy Ihlenfeldt, and all the others who washed dishes, made coffee, brought treats, etc. Forgive us if we missed mentioning your name but know how grateful everyone has been for your service! In September we set up a special display table, at "Kick off" Sunday and served local, organic whipped cream to top people's sundaes. In October, we turned in our annual report. We also helped unload sustainably raised pumpkins that were sold to support Native American workers and our church mission trip. Both the pumpkin sale and the church garden did well (see their reports.) In November we attended the Session Earth Care Review and in December we put out an Advent Calendar.

In January we started working on our 10+ year Presbyterian Earth Care Congregation recertification report to the PC(USA) and finished in February. The certificate is hanging in the Atrium. We also heard Noelle Bakken, Roseville's Sustainability Director speak on February 5 at Adult Education about "Greening our Community" and we hope to join a local sustainability contest. On Sunday, March 19, we had a special service for World Water Day with guest speaker, Oji Roderick, the parish associate from North Presbyterian Church. Lovely goblets on the communion table held water from St. Paul, North St. Paul, Stillwater, Roseville, and the Mississippi River which was blessed during the service. Throughout Lent we posted the Earth Care Lenten Calendar which included both devotions and suggested earth care actions.

In April we used Eco Palms at church from Palm Sunday through Earth Day Sunday. On April 4th we took part in a rally at the state capitol and Governor's office to support the Prove It First law and other environmental legislation. On April 23 we celebrated Earth Day Sunday with special guest speaker J. Drake Hamilton from Fresh Energy. She spoke about how the MN legislature was moving forward for energy and climate action which would protect God's creation. The service was followed by fun activities and fellowship. Mark Rust was able to bring snow globes that showed how climate change is affecting creatures/habitat in Minnesota as well as a giant wooden "sustainable community" choice board. We had both information sheets and action items on environmental legislation like Prove It First and the Taxpayer Protection Act plus earth care pledge forms as well. We also asked people for donations to the

## **SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)**

### **MISSION & OUTREACH —Earth Care Team (continued)**

Presbyterian Giving Catalogue in order to get a set of 90 tree saplings to help restore God's earth. Our generous congregation raised \$120.15 which was enough for 360 trees! Thank you so much!

We also had a table for the church garden and they got a new helper to sign up. We gave away wildflower seeds, informed people about "No Mow May" for pollinators and gave out informational fliers. We also decorated the church with local sustainably raised pussy willows, branches and flowers along with our Eco Palms. A special "Thank you" to Tina Zoerb who helped in the kitchen and April Rust who made yummy little "honey bee" treats for fellowship to go with the other organic, local, and fair trade items we served.

Youth Mission Trip to Puerto Rico was June 24- July 1 and Pastor Riz said it was great especially since the group understood better what being good earth stewards meant after seeing that beautiful, tropical environment and learning that high heat levels and there effects had hardly ever been like this. Our group was inspired to do better for Earth Care and reminds us we can all do our part to be better stewards both abroad and at home.

We want to thank everyone who helped with Earth Care- related work at church this last year and would like to invite anyone interested to join Andy and I on the Earth Care team. You can call 651-726-4824 for questions.

Respectively submitted by Carole Rust

## **SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)**

### **MISSION & OUTREACH— Blood Drives**

Annual report 2022-2023

Blood drives at NLPC

Reported by Cynthia Erickson

In 2022, NLPC continued holding quarterly blood drives in partnership with the Red Cross. This was our second year of holding quarterly drives. As in recent years, blood supply levels were severely decreased during most of the year.

Ed Galle and Cynthia Erickson again teamed up to schedule and organize the drives. In 2022, drives were held in August and November, and in 2023, drives were held in March and May. (The March blood drive had originally been scheduled in February, but was postponed because of inability to recruit sufficient donors.) A combined total of 113 units of blood were collected during all four events, and since each unit benefits three people, a total of 339 patients were supported by these donations. Our November 2022 drive was the best we've had since 2002; we collected 32 units then.

The blood drives could not be held without our willing volunteers, most of whom also donated blood. They staffed the check in desk and the canteen over these four drives, helped potential donors check in, and kept an eye on the donors to make sure they were healthy enough to leave. The volunteers were - Alice Brotherton, Mandy Flores, Sandy McGiffin, Barb Nelson, Bruce Nelson, Virginia Redman, Gayle Stout, and Tina Zoerb, as well as Ed Galle and Cynthia Erickson. Thank you specifically to all of you volunteers for giving your time towards this endeavor.

We plan to continue holding quarterly blood drives for the foreseeable future.

## SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

### CHURCH FINANCE

**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 2022-2023 includes:

**Voting members:** David King – Chair, Elder, Irene Meinen – Elder, Darroll Skilling– Elder, Eric Brandsness - Elder, John Kachel- Elder, Margie Johns – Elder currently serving on Session, Amy Schmidt

**Non-voting members:** Jym Hubbell – Treasurer, Michelle Kozitza – Church Administrator, Riz Prakasim – Pastor

**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 fiscal year 2022-2023, the work of the Church Finance Committee has continued to focus on managing the finances of the church post pandemic and a continued return to normalcy. We believe that New Life Presbyterian Church and this committee continue to benefit from having an experienced staff member overseeing church administration. Michelle Kozitza is a thorough and stabilizing force. There is no doubt that Michelle's experience and attention to detail helps New Life Presbyterian Church remain fiscally responsible. The committee has strived to balance risk and opportunity as we determine the investment strategy of New Life Presbyterian Church in a tight and struggling economy. Our goal is to grow the current reserves while staying true to our Christian beliefs and values.

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

## SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

### CHURCH FINANCE

#### 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.
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.

**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. With this in mind, the Finance Committee will be working closely with the Church Reformation Task Force to evaluate options regarding the future of our building and land. The committee is also working with Session to determine what the role of NLPC will be with the State Fair in coming years. Will we just rent the lot to the State Fair or will we try to fully staff it in the coming year. We have also lost a couple of committee members this year, so we will be looking to recruit a new member or two over the course of the year.

## **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 2022-23 are as follows:

Larry Poppelbaum-----Benevolence Fund

Chanel Johnson-----Undesignated

Dorothy Finkelson-----Undesignated

Ed Zoerb-----Undesignated

Rollie Baldwin-----Undesignated

## SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE

**CARE COORDINATORS:** Virginia Redman, Joanne Kallstrom (Session liaison), Grace Barnes, Tina Zoerb, Kathy Lawhead, Jan Cryer, Sandy McGiffin (Chair), Alice Brotherton and Irene Meinen.

We welcome new members starting in November: Barb Nelson, John Bootier and Yvonne Lewis.

**PURPOSE:** The Congregational Care Coordinators have met via Zoom several times for supporting each other and praying for guidance. We send out birthday cards, Christmas cards, Easter cards, Get Well cards, etc. We check upon our fellow church members. If needed, we supply Christmas cards and stamps. The committee has operated under budget because of the generous donation of cards. We have shut-ins, who we try to call to let them know someone cares.

We asked the Care Coordinators to let us know if they find changes to their list. Jan Cryer and I have been trying to update the lists before they went to our new Coordinator members. This is an ongoing project. This information is then passed on to Roshelle Mountain (Church Administrative Assistant) to update the directory. We started the Over 90's Birthday group—so if a person is over 90 the Care Coordinators should be sending them a birthday card, even if they are not on their list. I hope we keep this up.

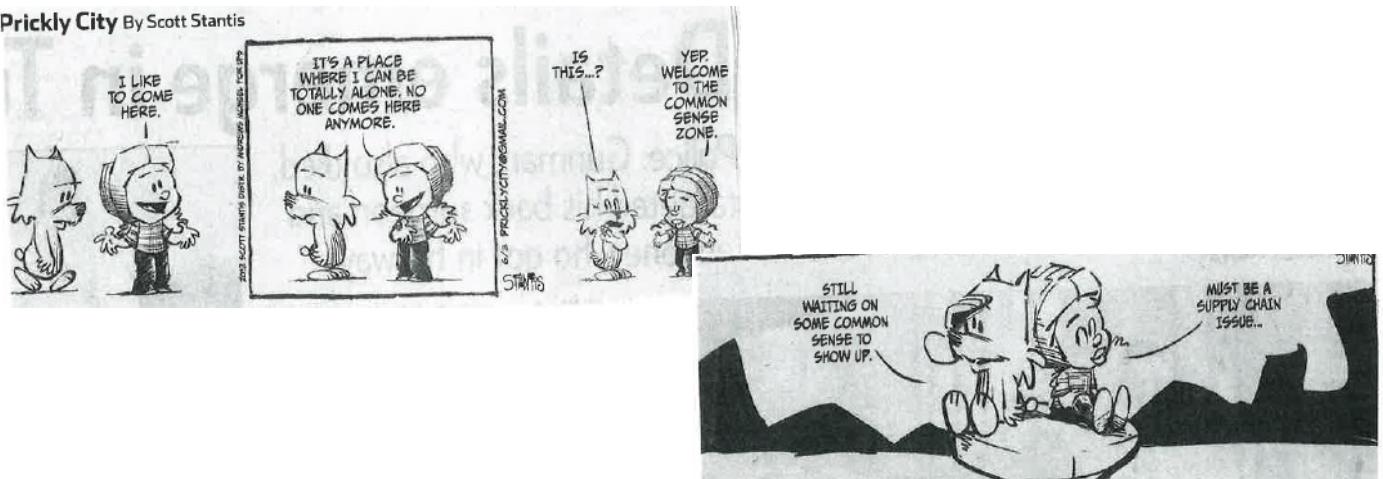
I retired on June 30 after being involved with this group for 30 years, no one stepped up so I am trying this again.

Roshelle has also helped to keep our list updated and typed up our notes. We are very grateful for her help!

Coordinators will start meeting the 2nd Saturday in November. We need to communicate more with each other.

“The miracle of friendship usually begins with a simple smile.”

Prickly City By Scott Stantis



## SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

### NOMINATING

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Pam Hord (Chair), Barb Nelson, Adam Schultz and Judi Klotz

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

**ACTIVITIES:** The Nominating Committee met in the Spring of 2023 to review the NLPC Nominating Committee purpose and processes, to review elder candidate criteria, and to brainstorm candidate names and backgrounds.

The 2023 Nominating Committee sent out 13 letters and did follow-up phone calls and emails to the candidates. Two out of the thirteen agreed to be elders. Two former ruling elders volunteered to serve again. The committee nominated Sandy McGiffin, Yvonne Lewis, Judi Klotz and Derward (Ducky) Johnson to be ruling elders for the class of 2026.

Sandy McGiffin and Yvonne Lewis were ordained during worship September 17, 2023. Judi Klotz and Derward (Ducky) Johnson were installed during worship September 17, 2023.

## **SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)**

### **PERSONNEL**

#### **Personnel Annual Report: Aug, 2022 – July, 2023**

Membership: Jan Cryer (Chair), Melinda Maurey (Session Liaison), Bruce Nelson, Tom Ruter, Chuck Baumann, Pastor Riz (ex officio).

Purpose: The primary focus of the Personnel Committee is to promote a strong and nurturing faith community through a healthy work environment along with open and productive communication among pastor, staff and members of the congregation. The Committee strives for insightful problem solving and planning, is committed to open and direct communication with each other and staff and conducts thoughtful, thorough, confidential evaluations of policies, staff performance and concerns of congregation members.

#### **Financial Information**

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

The Personnel Committee remains hopeful that New Life will grow its financial foundation in order to maintain an appropriate staffing level based on the needs of the congregation. Stable staffing is important, both for maintaining the focus of our present ministry, programming and outreach and for the future growth of each of these areas.

#### **Review of Stated Committee Objectives**

The following constitutes 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 and evaluate staff performance.

Conduct annual performance and compensation reviews, including evaluation of goals and objectives.

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.

## SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

### PERSONNEL (Continued)

Examine Personnel policies, research and propose additions/changes as needed and submit to Session for approval.

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: 2022-2023**

Decided to move forward with two separate positions of Director of Music and Organist/Pianist Accompanist.

August 1, 2022 hired Logan Combs as Director of Music to rebuild our adult choir and hand bell choir programs.

October 15, 2022 offered the Musical Accompanist position to pianist Emily Urban who had recently been our temporary pianist.

In late fall, Communication Collaborator Pam Schoon resigned. After consultation with both Michelle Kozitza and Roshelle Mountain, Personnel decided to replace the position instead of having the Collaborator's duties absorbed by Michelle and Roshelle who did not want to increase their weekly hours.

January 12, 2023 Justin Regier started as Communication Collaborator.

In February, 2023, Earl Hoekman started as a second Audio & Video Technician. Until this point, William Schoon had been the only weekly tech. Earl was interested in doing the job one week out of the month.

On February 27, 2023, after a lengthy series of poor custodial performance, repeated encouragement and coaching, Geoffrey Sargent was terminated as our custodian.

Justin Regier, our Communication Collaborator, expressed interest in filling the open position as Custodian. After discussion within the Personnel Committee about one person holding two paid positions on staff and an interview process, Justin was hired as our Custodian and started in late March, 2023.

After the State of Minnesota made June 19th an official holiday (Juneteenth), Personnel added that day to the list of paid holidays for staff.

New this past year, and not strictly under the direction of the Personnel Committee, has been the addition of non-church member funerals or memorial services. Most of these have been for Hmong families and one was for a member of the Department of Indian Work (DIW) staff. Michelle Kozitza, with help from Roshelle Mountain and Justin Regier, has done a fantastic job of coordinating these events.

#### **Staff Information**

Risley (Riz) Prakasim, Pastor, provides the spiritual leadership to make the church a warm and welcoming place in which to worship. He helps guide participation in both church and community outreach activities and works closely with the youth in our church along with other related churches. Riz also collaborates with other pastors who have congregations here at NLPC and at other locations.

## SESSION COMMITTEES (continued)

### PERSONNEL (Continued)

Michelle Kozitza, Church Business Administrator, is active in all aspects of the church's administrative and financial matters, assists with a variety of tasks and serves as a liaison with staff, committees and congregation.

Roshelle Mountain replaced retiring Deb Griffin as our new Administrative Assistant, a position which supports committee chairs, makes sure that notices and reports are correct and on time and assists members and visitors. Roshelle also creates a monthly NLPC newsletter and sends the E-Notes and monthly newsletters via US mail upon request.

Logan Combs, Director of Music, is our first music staff person in eighteen months. He brings a wealth of enthusiasm and skills to NLPC. Logan has re-built our adult choir, introduced a variety of new music in combination with favorite familiar tunes, brought in outside singers to give our choir a more robust sound and continued our hand bell choir that Cynthia Erickson had revived.

Emily Urban started as our temporary Musical Accompanist in May, 2022. After discussion with the Director of Music and within Personnel, it was decided to hire Emily as our permanent Accompanist in October, 2023. Despite not playing the organ, Emily is a very accomplished pianist and the congregation had grown to greatly appreciate her skill.

After Pamela Schoon resigned as Communication Collaborator, Justin Regier accepted the position in January. He has been working in conjunction with Roshelle Mountain to keep our congregation apprised, in a timely manner, of church news. He creates an every-other-week E-Notes and electronically disburses the E-Notes and monthly newsletters along with updating entries to our Website and Facebook pages.

Justin Regier took on our Custodian position when it became available in March. He is tasked with keeping our building a clean and safe environment in which to worship and participate in church activities.

The Audio/Visual Tech position has been skillfully provided by William Schoon since February, 2021 and more recently, on one Sunday per month by Earl Hoekman.

Dustin (Bean) McDonough has been filling in as necessary as our Custodian.

The Personnel Committee continues to be appreciative of each of our staff. We hope and pray that, as a congregation, we can build on our strengths to increase participation in all aspects of our life together and encourage membership growth.

Submitted by: Jan Cryer, November 13, 2023

## SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

### SEEDS OF HOPE COMMUNITY GARDEN (Continued)

#### Planting Seeds of Hope Community Garden

We had another bountiful season at the community garden this year. Thanks to the great work from Roy Wilson, Jym Hubbell, Michael Wilson, and Bob Bystrom, we donated 1716.3 lbs of food to Every Meal - almost 500 more lbs than last season. This nourishing food is such a gift to those in need. We also welcomed four new gardeners this season. Despite another drought filled summer, the garden was productive and a balm to those yearning for outside space. We look forward to next year, with the hope of more rain, and some new gardeners.

Bill Pederson,



Garden Coordinator



## SESSION COMMITTEES (Continued)

### STEWARDSHIP

**MEMBERS:** Bruce Nelson (Chair), Darroll Skilling, Ed Galle (Session Liaison), 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.

**ACTIVITY:** Our church's attendance has rebounded slightly from the effects of the pandemic, but we are not experiencing the regrowth we hoped for. We're 'small but mighty', but still small. Our Session has appointed a task force to look at options for alternative building uses or mergers with other churches.

Early in 2023, our members contributed more than \$4000 toward our "per capita" goal of \$7650 (this is the amount we pay for Presbytery operations). That \$4000 is now available to help pay New Life's operating costs and we appreciate all the folks that were able to contribute.

In early July, the Committee began the Stewardship Campaign with a letter to each member of the congregation (140 giving units). The letter was personalized and hand-addressed. We emphasized the need to support our church strongly during this time of transition, and announced a Matching Gift opportunity that will match any gift which exceeds what the member gave last year.

Results of the Campaign so far: Commitments received for 2023-24 = \$134,580. In addition, there are several donors who use Vanco for electronic giving but do not pledge. Their giving amounts to an extra \$65,390 annually. Our contributory base continues to decrease due to deaths, which puts an extra burden on our remaining faithful givers. As always, we thank you for all your help.

## FELLOWSHIP

### ESTHER CIRCLE

**MEMBERS:** Cynthia Devore, Cynthia Erickson, Nancy Irsfeld, Marjory Johns, Liz Johnson, Joanne Kallstrom, Carole Rust, and Tina Zoerb.

**MEETINGS/PURPOSE:** Esther Circle met via Zoom this past year at 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month and then switched to 6:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month starting in October. We gathered for Bible study, fellowship, and support and ended with our celebration picnic on the first day of summer in June.

**Study:** The 2022-23 study was called “Celebrating Sabbath” in which we studied different aspects of Sabbath observance. It reminded us that Sabbath is first about honoring God and that its “celebration is something that God has built into the structure of creation. Receiving that gift is part of what deepens our connection with God, others, and the rest of creation.” Our group had an enjoyable year and was so happy to be able to meet via Zoom. We invite anyone interested in joining us for the new 2023-2024 season to contact the church office or any member of the Esther Study Circle.

Respectively submitted by Carole Rust - 651-488-1273 home /651-726-4824 cell (no texts please)

### NEW LIFE QUILTERS

**GROUP MEMBERS:** Kathy Bugaug, Nancy Irsfeld, Kay Konkell, Sandy McGiffin (chair), Ginny Seaborg, Judy Hartman, Kathy Lawhead, Faith Wisland (TOPS member), Nancy Gysbers and Rita Marguart.

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

Due to COVID-19, Presbyterian Homes, Johanna Shores, and Children’s hospital and many organizations didn’t want to participate or respond to our inquiries. The pulpit area was decorated in quilts and dedicated. Those who did receive quilts were: Lamb School of Bangladesh, and Hope House of St. Croix Valley. Quilts were picked up the following week and 20 quilts found new homes. The joy and warmth given to each individual is impossible to put a price on. “The recipient is wrapped in love and warmth and shown someone cares and they are not alone.

We gratefully received financial donations and gifts of fabric and other quilting supplies throughout the year. We used these funds to purchase quilting supplies. What we can’t use is passed along to other organizations who can.

Quilts were given to members of our church. 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.

## FELLOWSHIP (continued)

## NEW LIFE QUILTERS (continued)

*"Every time you do a good deed you shine the light a little farther into the dark. And the thing is when you're done that light is going to keep on shining, pushing the shadows back."*

Stay safe.

Sandy McGiffin

