

Monterey UCC Annual Meeting
January 24, 2023

Agenda

Pastor's Report

Hannah's Report

Community outreach

Building

Church records (VOTE on whether to make Monterey Historical Society custodian of records)

Steps forward

Treasurer's Report (Sheela)

Godly Play (Sheela)

Other Business

Pastor's Report 2022

2022 had Covid in retreat and life slowly returning to normal, though it was in many ways a “new normal.” For our little church, this involved both—a return to our normal ways of being church though with some new adaptations. We are, as we've long been, a church with a smaller number of formal members than active participants in our worship life. This has us operating, to my assessment, more like a chapel than a congregational church.

For this, I've long thought it'd be good to formalize this adaptive functioning. But the UCC isn't a denomination that has a formal category or “best practices” around operating as a year-round chapel.

Looking around for other ways to do this, the Parish Council and I had conversations with leadership at Gould Farm to see if they'd like to take the church under its auspices and create a partnership of resources and mission, a chapel and chaplaincy for them, though with having secured on-going access to the sanctuary for traditional mainline Protestant worship on Sunday mornings for us. This idea was met with initial apparent enthusiasm in 2021. But GF ultimately turned us down.

This was disappointing to me, especially as it's usually half the worshipping congregation on any given Sunday that has an affiliation with Gould Farm. Clearly this is an important relationship, if in ways not easily named.

Coinciding with this, the Parish Council and I endeavored to establish a fellowship committee for organizing monthly fellowship opportunities. We aimed to take a year in experimenting with whether fellowship would be a welcome addition to our life as a church. October of this year was the last of the 12-month try at this, and it ended up being more work than it bore fruit.

Just so, feeling as if we're a church with resources but no clear mission besides worship week to week, while also our roster of involved members, especially those who live in town, is smaller than ever, I encouraged the Parish Council to hire Hannah, part-time, 8-hours a week for a position that we've struggled to name. I consider it a Ministry of Discernment, or Ministry of New Vision or New Endeavors, or Entrepreneurial Ministry, all of which sound very puffed up and reduce Hannah and me to giggles. Really, my hope in working with her in this way is to have a partner in discerning what the continued aim

of this church might be—who serves here and whom we serve. Her fluency in congregationalism as a mode is invaluable as we come to terms with the fact that we're not as we're "supposed" to be, and therefore can aim to become more truly what we are—whatever that is.

Having said all this, I've continued in all the regular tasks of ministry, which I've long done and which I tease out here:

Leading Worship

My highest priority any given week is preparing for and leading worship. We had hybrid worship for the first part of the year, which had us "Zooming" from the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. We continued this until mid-winter when we discontinued Zoom, offered worship only in-person (though also masked).

Committee work

Parish Council met monthly until November, when, having hired Hannah, we decided to meet quarterly. Hannah and I meet once a month.

Communication (Web site, bulletin, podcast, email, etc.)

Messaging with the congregation and wider public generally takes about 5-10 hours a month.

Pastoral Care

I bring communion to Liz Thorn monthly. Other than that, I'm not commonly called on for pastoral care, so I reiterate my availability for care however it might be needed. I also encourage people to let me know when a pastoral need arises. Never assume I already know or someone else has already told me.

Faith Formation

The (both-church) lectionary Bible study, which takes place on Zoom, has a regular number of participants of 4-10 people. The (both-church) book club, also on Zoom, has allowed in-depth study of whole books of the Bible, and is also open to theological exploration, cultural criticism from a Christian perspective, or literature, which we decide as we go. This is about 1-2 hours per week, depending on whether the book club is active or between books.

Special Services

I officiated two funeral/memorial services this year—John Fletcher, Terry Wing. We had an Ash Wednesday service and Good Friday service in the sanctuary, and the Christmas eve service of lessons and carols was back in the sanctuary after two years outdoors and later online. Memorial Day and Veterans' Day had me in attendance of services in cooperation with the town.

Wider Church

I continue to serve as the Chair of Church & Ministry for the Berkshire Association of SNEUCC, and as an emeritus board member of Volunteers in Medicine. The weekly podcast of the preaching tends to have 30-40 downloads per episode.

Faithfully submitted,
Liz Goodman

Hannah's Report

I stepped into my new role as a part-time employee of the church in September with dual goals: 1) formalizing a means of caretaking for the church building and body in the absence of a larger pool of volunteers, and 2) actively thinking about exploring ways for the church to discern a path forward that is

both realistic and true to how it functions for those who worship here and those within the wider community.

In some ways, the tasks are linked, and those associated with the first goal seem like a step toward getting my arms around the second goal—which is really an ever-evolving question. Here is how I have spent my time in these first few months:

Newsletter

I built a template for a church newsletter using Constant Contact and started sending newsletters monthly, in the first week of each month. I've done October, November, December, and January. This newsletter is intended to be another point of connection for the church community. According to Constant Contact's reporting, nearly everyone opens the newsletter, so thus far it does seem like a good way to communicate. I welcome people to send me announcements or fellowship invitations as they arise.

Community

I have made an effort to be a point person, in some cases, when the church interfaces with the Monterey community, such as with the Food Pantry and the Monterey choir. I wish to encourage people to consider the church as a resource for the community while also respecting it as its own entity. I have created a checklist of guidelines/requests to be given to anyone who wishes to use the church building for a gathering or event. I wrote a piece for the Monterey News about Advent and the upcoming Christmas Eve service and will continue to write for the News whenever we have specific news to share with the wider community. Finally, when the church was approached to contribute to the town's 175 anniversary book, I wrote a short piece and secured permission to print a watercolor painting of the church so that it might be included in this publication.

Building

We continue to have an old building in need of ongoing maintenance. In the absence of a building committee, I have stepped in to help with some basic building-related issues. Currently, there is a leak in the roof over the Godly Play room causing some minor damage to the ceiling tiles. The leak is not a great emergency, and I do have someone who seems willing to come out and look. We are also looking into whether and how to replace the front door, under the guidance of Jim Clary. In addition, Liz and I hope to organize a full church clean-up/clean-out early this year, especially focused on the basement.

Church Records

A large project for me this fall/winter has been discerning how best to care for our church records, which go back to 1810 and are a valuable piece of both town and church history. I spent some time going through the records to determine what was actually there, and then met with representatives of the Bidwell House and Monterey Historical Society. At their request (and because it made good sense), I created a spreadsheet to serve as a catalog of documents. Ultimately, it was decided that the Historical Society would be the most appropriate caretaker of the records.

Should the church vote to approve this relationship, the Historical Society would arrange to have the original church records digitized and made publicly available on line, most likely through Digital Commonwealth. The books and other records would be archivally stored in the climate-controlled Historical Room in the basement of the Monterey Library. Researchers and other interested parties will be able to make arrangements with the Historical Society to look through and study the original records in a safe manner.

Discernment

The larger question of discerning a path forward for the Monterey Church is an ongoing process. At first, I started reaching out—to Lianna Toscanini (of Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires) and to the Berkshire

Dream Center, which is a church-based service organization in Pittsfield. Neither inquiry brought me anywhere useful, and I admitted to myself that I wasn't quite sure what I was asking for or what I was offering. So, I backed up. What do we have to offer, right now, without major renovations or major organizational backing? Already, Eric Martin teaches music lessons at the church. The Monterey choir was happy to have a place to rehearse when the Community Center didn't work out one week. I talked to a friend who knew another music teacher who might need a place to teach. Perhaps this—a soft encouragement to use the building as a place to teach or practice music or other arts—is a place to start, a way to make use of what we already have and to build a new kind of community around this building. Most recently, just before Christmas, the church building hosted a last-minute blues concert. Since the Community Center does not have a large performance space, the church building might provide a way for the Community Center to spill over when they want to host a larger event.

With our shrinking Parish Council and stagnant membership, I anticipate that more challenging questions will arise about how the Monterey Church will continue to operate. A first order of business in the new year will be a close look at the bylaws, something we've been meaning to do for a long time, so that this structure can more closely reflect who we are and how we function as body.

Godly Play report 2022

Godly Play student for the year 2022 included Donal Clary, Tito and Talia Chait, Amos Brown and, on a handful of Sundays, Ari Lewin.

We met on average once per month, and did not meet during the summer. Stories we explored together include the Parable of the Good Samaritan, the Exodus, The Ten Commandments, The Mystery of Easter, Advent stories, and King David.

Toward the end of the year, it became clear that our set-up is not sustainable, and we will not be meeting in 2023. Most of the children are not active in the church, and Godly Play does not fit into their lives in any natural way. Plus, there are other more comprehensive children's programs at other churches in mid- and south county. It might be the way of the future that congregations collaborate on specialty ministries more than we've done in the past.

Submitted:
Sheela Clary

January 17, 2023

12:33 PM
01/20/23
Accrual Basis

Monterey UCC
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
As of December 31, 2022

| | Dec 31, 22 | Dec 31, 21 | \$ Change | % Change |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| ASSETS | | | | |
| Current Assets | | | | |
| Checking/Savings | | | | |
| Checking - Berkshire Bank | 13,422.40 | 12,146.75 | 1,275.65 | 10.5% |
| Total Checking/Savings | 13,422.40 | 12,146.75 | 1,275.65 | 10.5% |
| Total Current Assets | 13,422.40 | 12,146.75 | 1,275.65 | 10.5% |
| Fixed Assets | | | | |
| New Boiler | 15,500.00 | 0.00 | 15,500.00 | 100.0% |
| Total Fixed Assets | 15,500.00 | 0.00 | 15,500.00 | 100.0% |
| Other Assets | | | | |
| United Church Funds | | | | |
| Book Value | 575,902.31 | 617,114.61 | -41,212.30 | -6.7% |
| FMV adj | 152,048.65 | 397,770.43 | -245,721.78 | -61.8% |
| Total United Church Funds | 727,950.96 | 1,014,885.04 | -286,934.08 | -28.3% |
| Total Other Assets | 727,950.96 | 1,014,885.04 | -286,934.08 | -28.3% |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 756,873.36 | 1,027,031.79 | -270,158.43 | -26.3% |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | | | | |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | | |
| Accounts Payable | | | | |
| Accounts Payable | 3,555.55 | 67.19 | 3,488.36 | 5,191.8% |
| Total Accounts Payable | 3,555.55 | 67.19 | 3,488.36 | 5,191.8% |
| Other Current Liabilities | | | | |
| Payroll Liabilities | 8,862.16 | 0.00 | 8,862.16 | 100.0% |
| Restricted Funds | | | | |
| Food Pantry | -84.93 | 339.25 | -424.18 | -125.0% |
| Total Restricted Funds | -84.93 | 339.25 | -424.18 | -125.0% |
| Total Other Current Liabilities | 8,777.23 | 339.25 | 8,437.98 | 2,487.3% |
| Total Current Liabilities | 12,332.78 | 406.44 | 11,926.34 | 2,934.3% |
| Total Liabilities | 12,332.78 | 406.44 | 11,926.34 | 2,934.3% |
| Equity | | | | |
| Retained Earnings | 1,026,625.35 | 989,228.66 | 37,396.69 | 3.8% |
| Net Income | -282,084.77 | 37,396.69 | -319,481.46 | -854.3% |
| Total Equity | 744,540.58 | 1,026,625.35 | -282,084.77 | -27.5% |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | 756,873.36 | 1,027,031.79 | -270,158.43 | -26.3% |

12:34 PM

01/20/23

Accrual Basis

Monterey UCC
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
January through December 2022

| | Jan - Dec 22 | Jan - Dec 21 | \$ Change | % Change |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | | | |
| Income | | | | |
| Contributions | | | | |
| Contributions/Donations | 1,250.00 | 735.00 | 515.00 | 70.1% |
| Stewardship Contributions | 21,797.12 | 26,162.89 | -4,365.77 | -16.7% |
| Total Contributions | 23,047.12 | 26,897.89 | -3,850.77 | -14.3% |
| Investment Income | | | | |
| Interest | 2.66 | 2.31 | 0.35 | 15.2% |
| Total Investment Income | 2.66 | 2.31 | 0.35 | 15.2% |
| Special Events | | | | |
| Coffee Club | 206.00 | 361.00 | -155.00 | -42.9% |
| Dignity | 2,437.00 | 0.00 | 2,437.00 | 100.0% |
| Total Special Events | 2,643.00 | 361.00 | 2,282.00 | 632.1% |
| Special Mission Offerings | 0.00 | 280.39 | -280.39 | -100.0% |
| Total Income | 25,692.78 | 27,541.59 | -1,848.81 | -6.7% |
| Expense | | | | |
| Ask Acct | 0.00 | -629.65 | 629.65 | 100.0% |
| Church Administration | | | | |
| Bank Fees | 82.13 | 0.00 | 82.13 | 100.0% |
| Insurance | 5,393.50 | 5,498.00 | -104.50 | -1.9% |
| Office Supplies | 22.15 | 92.83 | -70.68 | -76.1% |
| Postal Box Rental | 90.00 | 0.00 | 90.00 | 100.0% |
| Safe Deposit Box | 75.00 | 70.00 | 5.00 | 7.1% |
| Telephone | 827.05 | 784.29 | 42.76 | 5.5% |
| Total Church Administration | 6,489.83 | 6,445.12 | 44.71 | 0.7% |
| Church Mission | | | | |
| Berkshire Assoc. of UCC | 22.00 | 22.00 | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Dignity Event | 1,500.00 | 0.00 | 1,500.00 | 100.0% |
| Mass Conference of UCC | 402.00 | 0.00 | 402.00 | 100.0% |
| Special Mission Offerings | 0.00 | 1,500.00 | -1,500.00 | -100.0% |
| Church Mission - Other | 0.00 | 500.00 | -500.00 | -100.0% |
| Total Church Mission | 1,924.00 | 2,022.00 | -98.00 | -4.9% |
| Church Program | | | | |
| Advertising | 83.88 | 0.00 | 83.88 | 100.0% |
| Church Program - Other | 0.00 | 159.81 | -159.81 | -100.0% |
| Total Church Program | 83.88 | 159.81 | -75.93 | -47.5% |
| Church Staff | | | | |
| Admin Salary | 5,224.64 | 0.00 | 5,224.64 | 100.0% |
| Musicians | 4,100.00 | 1,400.00 | 2,700.00 | 192.9% |
| Pastor | | | | |
| Guest Pastors | 300.00 | 0.00 | 300.00 | 100.0% |
| Health Insurance/Stipend | 4,848.97 | 4,722.24 | 126.73 | 2.7% |
| Housing Allowance | 21,312.75 | 20,755.92 | 556.83 | 2.7% |
| Pension | 8,603.52 | 8,603.52 | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Salary | 25,574.62 | 24,906.24 | 668.38 | 2.7% |
| Social Security Stipend | 3,957.90 | 3,854.40 | 103.50 | 2.7% |
| Total Pastor | 64,597.76 | 62,842.32 | 1,755.44 | 2.8% |
| Total Church Staff | 73,922.40 | 64,242.32 | 9,680.08 | 15.1% |
| Payroll Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Professional Fees | | | | |
| Payroll Processing | 360.00 | 0.00 | 360.00 | 100.0% |
| Professional Fees - Other | 990.00 | 525.00 | 465.00 | 88.6% |
| Total Professional Fees | 1,350.00 | 525.00 | 825.00 | 157.1% |
| Property | | | | |
| Church | | | | |
| Cleaning | 2,240.00 | 525.00 | 1,715.00 | 326.7% |
| Electricity | 596.50 | 504.54 | 91.96 | 18.2% |
| Fuel Oil | 5,639.34 | 6,161.45 | -522.11 | -8.5% |
| Repairs / Maintenance | 1,416.80 | 650.00 | 766.80 | 118.0% |
| Septic system | 1,741.50 | 991.68 | 749.82 | 75.6% |
| Water | 440.00 | 418.00 | 22.00 | 5.3% |
| Total Church | 12,074.14 | 9,250.67 | 2,823.47 | 30.5% |
| Parsonage | | | | |
| Repairs and Maintenance | 0.00 | 602.88 | -602.88 | -100.0% |
| Water | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Total Parsonage | 0.00 | 602.88 | -602.88 | -100.0% |
| Total Property | 12,074.14 | 9,853.55 | 2,220.59 | 22.5% |
| Uncategorized Expenses | 0.00 | 85.00 | -85.00 | -100.0% |