FEDERATED CHURCH
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

2018 Annual Report and Congregational Meeting

February 10, 2019
Annual Meeting of
The Federated Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, February 10, 2019 at 12:45 pm
76 Bell Street, Sanctuary

Opening Prayer
Call to Order
Approval: Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting (February 11, 2018)
Year in Review & Vision for the Future
Recognition of 2018 Lay Leadership
Approval: Election of Lay Leaders
Financial Annual Report
Approval: 2019 Budget
Capital Campaign Projects Update
The Federated Legacy Report
Mission and Service Commission Report
Comments and Questions from the Congregation
Closing Remarks and Prayer
Adjournment
The theme: “Behold! How They Love One Another!” marks our 2018-2019 program year. Beside it, we pose the question: “How do our words and actions to one another, to our surrounding community, and to the world proclaim the love and tenacity of Jesus Christ?” Behold, indeed! You can look in every direction on any day of the week to witness the kind of words and actions profoundly impacting lives in the name of Love.

How does that awe-inspiring Love show up? This Annual Report details a jillion ways we embody the care and character of Christ.

You’ll read about how we take up conversations on difficult topics and alongside people different from ourselves, challenging deeply-rooted assumptions. And, too, discover how family camp-outs, support groups, excursions, meals help us to take ourselves less seriously, carry each other through tough times, and communicate Christ’s warm welcome and care.

Discover, in these pages, myriad mission commitments and how we stand close beside our mission partners. Also part of embodying God’s Love includes expanding our awareness of injustices and of God’s personal call into opportunities to respond. God’s Love is made known at Federated, hand-in-hand, heart-to-heart and face-to-face.

As Hamilton teaches, “faith” is a verb. We do faith. Inspired and fueled by the Holy Spirit, this community does faith. Behold! How we love one another!

AND… God is not finished with us. Our mission declares, “God loves us too much to leave us this way!” God is still speaking, still calling us past what’s familiar and comfortable. Firsthand, we encounter God by participating in something MUCH bigger and more significant than our own lives.

Still, not everyone in the community around us knows the impact of being surrounded in a community transformed by Love.

In Luke 12:49-50, Jesus challenges us all, saying “Much will be required of everyone who has been given much. Even more will be asked of the person who is supposed to take care of much.” (NIRV)

Christ’s call animates action! Let’s reach deeper, lean into discomfort, listen with curiosity, and extend the boundaries of the Love God pours out through Federated!

Blessings Abound. Behold!

Maren Koepf,
Moderator of Church Council
A message from the

CHURCH MODERATOR

The Federated Church Council opened a new church year welcoming new members Beth Rutkowski as Vice Moderator, Dan Kershner as Mission & Service Councilor, and Peggy Jo Shinagawa as Clerk. Robin Harbage’s role shifted from Moderator to Past Moderator. Together, Church Council members represent diverse voices and interests from across our congregation for governance decisions and servant leadership.

Council’s goals and actions throughout 2018 focused on renewing and furthering practices of strategic planning with launching of major Capital Campaign projects, initiating discernment regarding our three properties (76 Bell, 102 Bell, and the Family Life Center), expanding social justice ministries, and committing to finding ways to draw the community into the life-changing force of God’s grace summoned and offered here.

Two strategic planning retreats focused the church’s collective planning. In March, the Leadership Retreat launched a common theme for staff as well as new and continuing lay leaders. “Behold! How They Love One Another!” became a lens for commissions to highlight ways we proclaim the love and tenacity of Christ. In September, Council and staff joined together to determine a church-wide two-year priority based on input from focus groups, assessment of ministries, and data trends: “We demonstrate our earnest valuing of children, youth, and families by cultivating dynamic worship, faith formation, and programming.” This focus will help prioritize decisions regarding resources, programming, and ministries.

Throughout the year, Council engaged Tim Lybarger, a gifted consultant in organizational development, to help invigorate and develop ministries and projects. Using tools and processes in Design Thinking, Tim facilitated processes evoking inspiration and synergy into such initiatives as the Milestones & Memories timeline, Creation Justice Ministries, Family Ministries collaborations, Council task forces, and the new speaker series: Reclaiming the Public Forum.

The Properties Feasibility Task Force convened congregants Lisa Buescher, Kristi Horner, Paul Koepf, staff liaison Amy Eugene, and Council liaison Robin Harbage. The task force completed research and interviews with congregants then generated a considerable list of cost-effective uses for each of our three properties that would uplift the church’s mission and purpose. In order to further discern fiscal sustainability, Council charged a new Properties Feasibility Task Force (Phase 2) to 1.) evaluate and share expense scenarios for our three properties and to 2.) explore viable and sustainable missions for our properties. The Phase 2 task force includes Council members Peggy Jo Shinagawa, Doug Harlan, Erin Grube, Rob Goble, Robin Harbage and Shawn Rockhold and staff liaisons Susi Kawolics and Amy Eugene.

The Council Task Force for Re-Imagining the Sunday Experience (RISE) involved staff members Hamilton Throckmorton and Susi Kawolics, congregants Sharen Bakke (team lead), Zach LeFeber, Curtis Grube, and Ann Lentz as well as Council liaison Maren Koepf.

By responding to the values and needs expressed in focus groups and continuing to refine options through processes of prototyping, testing, and engaging rapid feedback cycles, we reveal some otherwise uncharted possibilities and potential inside such experiences as a Fifth Sunday or a RISE to Shine worship. We create a sacred space to imagine what Sundays might hold for ourselves and for others.

The staff’s and the congregation’s enormous generosity of time, energy and dollars speaks volumes about Federated’s character and God’s impact! Thank you to all who contributed (and continue to give) to the Capital Campaign.

While the church accomplished the first portion of our Capital Campaign projects, Council monitored costs and decisions. We unanimously voted to extend Laura Taylor’s role as Capital Campaign Administrator. Laura propagates an enthusiasm and anticipation for campaign projects while reminding each one of us the impact of our generous (and timely) giving. With the completion of the monumental projects largely contingent on each other, the staff and congregation can look forward to a number of independent projects that will expand our capabilities and the reach of our ministries. Council assigned a team to set priorities and manage projects going forward.

Many benevolent hearts and minds, guided by the Holy Spirit, move us closer to Federated’s vision “to thrive for this generation and the next!” God has tremendous plans for the Federated faith community! Your part matters!

“Trust the Lord with all your heart, and don’t depend on your own understanding. Remember the Lord in all you do, and he will give you success.” Proverbs 3:5-6

Respectfully submitted,
Maren Koepf
Moderator of Church Council
What an eventful year this has been! Federated Church has been blessed by abundant generosity, marvelous leadership, and a lively spirit. In this era of dying churches and shrinking faith, we have seen plentiful grace and favor. We have seen our theme for this year, “Behold, how they love one another” lived out in wonderful ways.

I am especially grateful for our committed and gifted staff who, year after year, give of themselves to bring the best and fullest of God’s blessings to this congregation. Added to that is the remarkable lay leadership that has once again guided us this year. Under the leadership of our Moderator, Maren Koepf, we have instituted some remarkably rich processes, have opened ourselves anew to the Spirit, and have begun some notable and rewarding initiatives.

While we have had some staff turnover this year, there is one retirement I especially want to mention. After 6 ½ years as our Pastoral Care Administrator, Darlene Nichols left the staff in December. I am so grateful for the remarkable warmth and care she brought to her work.

Many features of the past year have stood out. Among the most obvious blessings has been the notable work done in our Sanctuary with the proceeds of the Rejoice and Renew Capital Campaign. Having lived with that renovated space for a couple of months now, I am so impressed with, and grateful for, its artistic integrity, its acoustic liveliness, and its subtle but vivid colors. The enlarged Chancel area, with its hardwood floor, has been a musical gift as well as a feast for the eyes. The space allows for much more flexibility in worship planning and, under the leadership of Joshua Konow, our Director of Music Ministries, makes it possible for far more collaboration among musicians.

One of the renovated Sanctuary’s great gifts has been our new Rodgers four-manual organ. The range, power, and subtlety of the instrument is remarkable. Along with the playing of Marcia Snavely, it enhances worship in dramatic ways.

Numerous other substantive developments have blessed us, as well. After listening carefully to our members and friends, and developing some templates for possible other ways in which to worship, we instituted several new worship models. When we returned to the Sanctuary after the six-month renovation period, we decided to combine our two traditional services into a single service at 10 am. At the end of December, we then had a fifth-Sunday service focused on mission. And, following up on our summer schedule, we celebrated a one-community communion meal in early January.

The most far-reaching worship change happened in December with the start of a second and wonderfully innovative Sunday morning worship service. Each Sunday at 11:30 am in the Sanctuary, we have a RISE to Shine service. Spirited, relational, and relevant, the RISE service allows us to worship in what is, for us, a new way. Filled with music played by a Federated band led by Joshua, it is a 45-minute service of scripture, sermon, and song. The RISE service has broadened and deepened our worship offerings.

One of the gifts of 2018 has been the work in which Federated has engaged with Tim Lybarger, involving design thinking, and applied to a sizable portion of Federated’s life together. Tim has engaged a significant swath of Federated’s life and has helped us think creatively about worship, our work with children, youth and families, and so much else.

Much else has blessed us, as well. In the spring, Federated hosted a shared dinner and conversation with the Chagrin Valley Islamic Center, a relatively new mosque located in Solon. Fellowship Hall was filled with the sound of conversation and laughter as members of our respective communities got to know each other and share with each other about our two faiths. It was, for many of us, a real highlight.

Following up on that dinner, and with an eye to supporting our Muslim neighbors in the practicing of their faith, I advocated on their behalf in a contentious Solon City Council meeting, and later participated in the groundbreaking for their new mosque. It has been a great blessing to share with local Muslims in an enriching relationship.

Continued on next page
Following up on that, and in a similar vein, I initiated contact with Mt. Zion UCC, a predominantly African American church in University Circle. The Rev. Paul Hobson Sadler and I began to dream about how we might develop and deepen a relationship between our two congregations. Several Federated people have enthusiastically joined in planning some events for 2019 (part of next year’s Annual Report!). Creating possibilities for deepening relationships across racial, cultural and religious lines seems paramount given the prevailing culture of the moment.

One of my joys this year was a session I led on “spiritual autobiography,” in which church members were able to spend time together reflecting on and telling the stories of their lives and telling those stories through the lens of God.

We are taking very seriously the question of how best to utilize our three properties, the Family Life Center, the house at 102 Bell Street, and the Sanctuary, classrooms, and office space of 76 Bell Street. Looking ahead, we will be discerning as a community how we are led at this point in time. In the biblical book of Esther, the people ruminate on what God is doing “for such a time as this” (4:14). Coming to a sense of direction on that front in the year ahead will be paramount.

Some of you know the acronym VUCA. It stands for volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity. These are the times in which we live. Things change with enormous speed. We’re never entirely sure of the ground on which we stand. Problems are always bigger and more convoluted than the often overly-simplified solutions presented. And things that seem to mean one thing may actually mean something entirely different. VUCA makes life confusing and sometimes disconcerting. At the same time, though, it also makes life exciting.

During all the upheavals of life and our ongoing attempts here at Federated to discern God’s presence and guidance as we go forward, I take great comfort in the timeless and precious work given to a pastor. I am filled by the opportunity, week after week, to study and preach about the life-giving scriptures we have inherited. I am charged by the chance to spend time with you, and to hear your hopes and dreams and concerns. I am graced by the time I spend with various people in the hospital and at deathbeds. And I treasure the opportunity to walk with you through the richness and struggle and beauty of daily life.

A great seminary professor of mine, Henri Nouwen, once said, “Within the struggle is the great encounter.” Within all our struggles lies the encounter with the One who has given us all in all, the great God who created us, undergirds us, and promises eternal life in God’s realm. I pray for continued hopefulness and the sense that we are, in the recent words of an American politician, “pursued by grace.”

Yours in Christ,
Hamilton Throckmorton
Senior Pastor
As I reflect on this past year of ministry with you here, I begin with a huge “thank you!” to you, my Federated Church family, as my year started off with the gift of a wonderful four-week sabbatical. During the period of late-February through late-March, I was able to refresh, renew and revive my tired spirit with a trip to Arizona visiting some dear friends, and then had the chance to walk various labyrinths in other states a bit closer to home. This sacred time ended with a short vacation with my husband and daughters. I got back just in time for Holy Week and all the blessings of that season.

This past year has provided unique opportunities in worship because of our move to the Family Life Center for worship due to longer-than-expected Sanctuary renovation time, and also because of the Re-Imagining the Sunday Experience (RISE) group, and the prototypes and dreams that have come from that process. I am so grateful to so many from the church family who helped enormously with the extra work of setting up and tearing down the “Sanctuary” in the Family Life Center Gym each week, and their flexibility and willingness to do whatever it took to create a worshipful space there. Once we returned to our Bell Street space with a rousing service on November 18, we kept the service at 10 am Sunday as our more traditional service. We then were able to implement a new and different worship service, which came from the inspiration of the RISE Task Force, and from Joshua Konow’s experience and leadership as Director of Music Ministries. If you haven’t had a chance to attend one of these 11:30 am RISE to Shine services, I invite you to come into the Sanctuary at 11:30 – even if only to stay for the first set of three songs. See how you like the lively, inspiring, relational music played by our talented RISE to Shine band, and the format of the shorter service.

I continue to enjoy collaborating with Joshua and Hamilton in planning meaningful worship services, and we have had a few sermon series in 2018. During Epiphany, we explored the four pillars of the church, pillars that have framed our understanding of church: Faith Formation, Community, Worship and Service. In the fall, we offered a series on The Phoenix Affirmations – a set of twelve principles based on the greatest commandment: Love God, Love Self and Love Neighbor.

Our Stephen Leaders continued to teach and train, and we commissioned five wonderful Stephen Ministers in May. Our Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM) Team continued its amazing work throughout this past year, offering thought-provoking discussions and movie nights each month. We had guest speakers from HOLA to tell us about immigration issues, from the March for our Lives movement talking about gun safety, from NOVA to teach and encourage us to get voters registered, and from the UCC National Offices, from which we welcomed Malcolm Himshoq, the star of the movie Call Me Malcolm, about a transgender man, which we showed in June. He then came to preach and dialogue with us in August. Our environmental justice group is exploring ways we can become a Creation Justice Church, and our racial justice group joined with members of South Euclid UCC to hold sacred conversations about race with them. We continue to form relationships with people outside our own community for deeper understanding and solidarity. Currently our focus areas are: race, immigration, the environment, LGBTQ issues, gun safety and healthcare.

I look forward to continued ministry with you. Our theme in 2018 was “Behold, how they love one another.” I am confident that the spirit will lead us as we continue to express this love in meaningful ways both inside our community and to the wider world.

In Christ’s Peace,
Rev. Susi Kawolics
Associate Pastor of Worship Planning & Faith Formation
The Congregational Care Commission (CCC) promotes an expanded ministry of fellowship for Federated parishioners. Through its many Ministry Teams, CCC provides not only fellowship opportunities but also compassion, personal visitation, and service to the needs of the Congregation both during challenging times such as illness, recovery and bereavement and during happy times such as weddings and new babies.

Throughout 2018, we continued to organize the food for the fellowship hours after worship services. We invite the congregation to share in the opportunity to provide treats for our congregants to enjoy. Our commission members oversee the setting up of the food tables and cleaning up afterward. Fellowship hours continue to be a time to share time with others and enjoy coffee and treats. We feel that providing treats encourages friendships and helps with church attendance. It is a great way to welcome newcomers.

The Congregational Care Commission continued The Daniel Plan with small groups who meet twice a month. It is a more in-depth study of faith, food, fitness, and friends. The people who have participated in this program have really enjoyed it.

CCC hosted Coffee and Conversation in March and served food and coffee in Fellowship Hall. A talented woman performed a historical portrayal of Jackie Kennedy. We had a nice turnout for this event.

In July, CCC hosted an all-church potluck dinner at the Frohring Meadows. We provided drinks and paper products with attendees bringing a dish to share. We had a nice turnout, and everyone enjoyed the evening and wonderful food! We hope to continue it as an annual event. We are currently planning on June 21, 2019 and are hoping to attract families and many church members.

The Congregational Care Commission helped as always with Rally Day and Search for the Christ Child. We also helped with the Return to Bell Street Celebration and held a celebration for Veteran’s Day.

CCC continued the tradition of the Advent by Candlelight, a woman’s event held the first Monday of Advent at the Family Life Center. The theme this year was “Nativities of the World.” Each table was decorated with a different nativity. About 80 attendees enjoyed the beautiful evening with delicious food, readings and fellowship time, and music by an inspiring soloist with pianist accompaniment.

CCC helped with the January 2019 Wondrous Wednesday, co-sponsored with the Telling our Story Commission. We showed the documentary Won’t You Be My Neighbor. There was delicious dinner and Harriett Rogers spoke about her cousin Fred Rogers. It was a very successful night with about 100 people in attendance.

Under the Congregational Care Commission, the Angel Ministry provides meals, rides, communion, and altar flowers to those in need and write notes to those who need comfort. In the last year, there were:

- Angel Visits – more than 40 visits
- Communion to the Confined – more than 80 visits
- Angel flowers – more than 330 arrangements delivered

The Angel Visitor Ministry had a well-attended educational retreat in July. They added several new Angel Visitors in 2018.
The Mahjong group continues to be a thriving ministry. They play with all levels of skill on Friday afternoons in the Bell Street Lounge.

The Sit & Stitch Ministry is going well. They make prayer shawls and baby blankets, given to the baptized babies at Federated, and hats and scarves that they pass on to St Paul’s Church. This group meets Thursdays at the Family Life Center.

The two circles, Mary Martha & Tapestry, have combined and meet monthly. They support Soup for the Soul with food and supplement toiletries for St. Paul’s outreach. They have made gifts to be sold at the Christmas sale at St. Paul’s and make Easter baskets for Chagrin Falls Park and St. Paul’s.

Women’s Fellowship meets annually with a baked potato luncheon followed by a service project. The group makes toiletry kits and passes them on to the parish nurse at St. Paul’s to be distributed. They also sew and stuff cancer pillows made by the circles and send cards to Geauga County seniors.

A new volunteer ministry has been created for those who live at Breckenridge Village called Federated North. There are currently 14 people who gather to volunteer at Ohio Living and Home Health and Hospice Chapel at Breckenridge Village, and Meals on Wheels. They are soon to be involved with HOLA.

Additional ongoing ministries and activities of CCC included the following:

- **Prayer and Praise Ministry** - members provided special prayers for individuals.
- **Stephen Ministry** - Stephen Ministers, after training, provided comforting assistance to parishioners through one-on-one visits.
- **Koinonia Ministries** - provides fellowship activities around a specific interest.
- **Same Boat Friends and Same Boat Girlfriends** - these two fellowship groups, one for widowers and another for widows, met for monthly restaurant outings.

*Submitted by Jane Biggar, Congregational Care Commission Co-chair*

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**Highlights from the WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMISSION**

The Worship and Music Commission (W&MC) works in cooperation and consultation with the Pastoral and Music staff, to glorify God and to coordinate and enhance the spiritual life of Federated Church through the conduct of public worship, the ministry of music, and the care of the Sanctuary and furnishings. We also prepare the elements and assist with the serving of Communion, make provisions for ushering, and provide for altar flowers and temporary decorations for regular and special worship services.

We were quite the busy Commission when I wrote my report for the year 2017-18, and my goal was to lessen the load for 2018-2019. I failed miserably as we were even more busy this past year!

I think the most noticeable task with which we helped was the move to the Family Life Center for worship services while our Bell Street renovations were taking place. Chair placement, planning, and usher assignments were dutifully scripted and implemented and I dare say the transition went well thanks to all of the hard work and support of too many people to list here. The early morning chair setup crews were amazing and the help of the congregation to stack the chairs (always in stacks of eight!) was invaluable. Getting hymnals and all the materials and supplies moved to the Family Life Center was a big task, too.

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Thanks to the custodians and many others, we only had to make a couple trips to Bell Street for something forgotten. We were busy with a lot of the Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign renovations, planning and sharing our input as to what we would like to see in the new Sanctuary. We pored through lots of survey information and ideas and tried to make everyone happy with the areas in which we were involved. If you like what you see, we will gladly take credit for it. If there is something that you don’t necessarily like, it was most probably someone else’s decision!

The Worship and Music Commission has taken on the responsibilities related to our Performing Arts Series that Joshua Konow envisioned. Many of you were blessed to hear Andrew Sords and members of the Cavani String Quartet on January 20. Andrew said that our space will become a premier venue on the east side for chamber musical performances. Quite the praise coming from an international performer! (And he said that with no strings attached!) Mark your calendars now for the next concert on April 28, when organist Dan Miller will showcase our new organ in a performance at 4:30 pm.

Wait! Are you still reading this? If you haven’t taken a minute to mark your calendar, you need to do it now! Thank you!

You may not be aware, but occasionally, we get a bonus Sunday; a Fifth Sunday! I’m pretty sure that in 1582, when Pope Gregory XIII developed the Gregorian calendar, he was thinking that it would be cool to give our church a chance to do something different on that Sunday. March 31 is such a Sunday! Since we are in charge of orchestrating that Sunday, we will let you know what it will look like as soon as we figure it out... But it should be way cool!

Speaking of Sunday services, we have a new format for our second service. This service, called RISE to Shine, begins at 11:30 am and goes for about 45 minutes. There is lots of great music and a more relaxed atmosphere when compared to the 10:00 am service. Stick around after the first service and check out the RISE to Shine music, or just come to the whole service and see how you like it!

Ushers continue to be our greatest challenge. We are incredibly grateful for the many people who have stepped up and volunteered to usher for the first time last year. We are greatly appreciative of ALL of our ushers, and would love to add more people who would like to give it a try. I can promise that this is an excellent way to contribute to the church with virtually no stress! Go to the Federated website to volunteer or just ask a commission member to help you.

Finally, I would be negligent if I did not bring your attention to Communion Sunday. Have you noticed that the bread is different? Commission members Sibyl McBride and Nancy Isham take care of all our bread needs and do a delicious job! Feel free to thank them when you see them. (Did you also notice the new communion cloth napkins?)

2019 looks like another busy and exciting year at Federated! I feel extremely blessed for the opportunity to serve as the chair of Worship and Music. Thank you for giving our commission the opportunity to serve.

Submitted by Gary Dole, Worship and Music Commission Chair
The Spiritual Formation Commission (SFC) assists members of the congregation to grow in their Christian development, to enlarge and strengthen their Christian witness and to help them understand and participate in the whole work of the Church. The commission also initiates and supports programs and activities that foster the church’s ministry of spiritual growth and fellowship for adults, children, youth and families.

In a sermon on January 14, 2018, Rev. Throckmorton said this: “All faith formation is, essentially, a recognition that this holy Christ is the one who gets you, the one who knows you, the one who calls you to follow. We may think of faith formation as Bible studies or book studies. We may think of it as adopting disciplines of centering prayer or mission projects or justice advocacy. We may think of it as reflection and conversation about the substance of our faith. And it is indeed all that. At its root, though, faith formation is about that most vital of relationships: how does Jesus know us, and how can we come to know Jesus more fully?”

With this reminder of what is at the root of our individual and collective spiritual growth, we began each meeting with a spiritual practice engaging with different ways to pray and encounter the “holy Christ” mentioned above. We recognize that coming to “know Jesus more fully” is not simply an intellectual pursuit but is fundamentally a pursuit of the soul’s relationship with Jesus.

This year we sought to find a book that would stimulate thinking, conversation and spiritual reflection for our One Book, One Community Book Study. Each member of the Spiritual Formation Commission read What We Talk About When We Talk About God by Rob Bell, which became our recommendation for this study.

Working with the Children and Family Ministries staff, we completed selection for Sunday School curricula, development of a Summer Sunday School program and an exploration of curricula.

The Spiritual Formation Commission supported Family Ministries programming such as Family Camp Out events.

The first Reclaiming the Public Forum: Fostering Family Conversation on Difficult Topics was created working with church leaders and Family Ministries staff. This has been postponed to April 29 due to sub-zero temperatures on the day of the event.

SFC approved upcoming program and retreat offerings such as the Couples Retreat, an upcoming Labyrinth Retreat and the return of our group reading of an entire book from the New Testament.

A new opportunity for group fellowship and faith formation was created and approved with The Couples Group, a gathering of "empty nesters" reading spiritually-focused books. The first book selected was Tattoos on the Heart, by Gregory Boyle.

Collaborating with the Telling Our Story Commission, a few SFC members have sought to discern and formulate a template to provide our church congregation and the community at large with the information needed to know all the many opportunities to enrich individual and collective spiritual growth.

Submitted by Mary Senechal, Spiritual Formation Commission Chair
The Mission and Service Commission (M&SC) fosters and oversees a mission and benevolence program and budget, giving special consideration to the programs of the United Church of Christ. We also assess opportunities for mission, partnership and service at local, national, and international levels and propose action for giving and/or service. The Commission provides opportunities for individuals and Ministry Teams to serve the larger community and educates the Congregation concerning social and political issues morally relevant to Christians.

The M&SC continues to support our new and existing mission partners in many ways.

Primetime Ministry, with a newsletter mailing list of 294, draws people from the entire Chagrin Valley to their programs. Many people attend luncheons, take trips to interesting locales, and participate in activities such as bridge, bowling, and mahjong.

Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM) has sponsored book studies, movie nights, and fundraisers for their causes. This ministry supports racial justice, environmental justice, LBGT justice, health care and gun issues, and immigration reform and fairness.

SJAM has worked actively with HOLA Ohio Hispanic Community Center this year. Its mission is to empower the community it serves through education, outreach, leadership development and more. We are proud to announce HOLA as the recipient of the 2018 Christmas Eve Offering. The funds donated ($32,859) will be used to help fund an adaptable educational area in a newly acquired former Painesville retail building. The area will be used for adult and youth programming, including ESL classes, citizenship tutoring, workforce and entrepreneurial training, and voter education programs. This will finally enable them to have all their programs in one location.

St. Paul’s Community Church’s Parish Nurse Program and Soup for the Soul continue to be important outreach opportunities for our congregation. Medical supplies, personal hygiene products, and food are donated on a regular basis. St. Paul's continues to receive strong support for their other programs (school supplies collections, Thanksgiving Ingathering, Christmas gift drive, etc.) M&SC applied for, and was granted, $4,800 to help fund the Loaves and Fishes program, and $5,000 for the Jobs Preparation Program. Volunteers from Federated continue to provide help for building maintenance and support services at St. Paul's.

Unrest in Nicaragua forced the cancellation of JustHope partnership trips beginning in April 2018. As a result, the Federated group was unable to take their planned January 2019 trip. However, work continues in the country, and is supported by partnership funds. These JustHope projects include Stitching Hope, microcredit loans, model farm, and support of nursing students.

Chagrin Falls Park has a new director this year, and several Federated members are active in helping with tutoring. Other services include help with clothing, household items, and a food pantry.

Federated Church supported UCC’s Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) at the same level in 2018 as in 2017. Funds sent support local and national ministries.

We continue to manage the Good Samaritan Fund (formerly Blue Envelope Fund) and the Hunger fund.

Submitted by Linda Zelazny, Mission and Service Commission Co-chair
The mission of the Telling Our Story Commission (TOSC) is to share our faith through effective and diverse communication strategies with our Federated family and with the wider community. The purposes of TOSC include communication, outreach and extravagant welcome. We continue to learn about and use resources available at the UCC national headquarters, both expertise and supplies. Telling Our Story works closely with Trisha Holland, Federated’s Marketing and Communication Specialist.

During the year, our strategic use of social media expanded significantly, and Trisha’s economic use of advertisements on Facebook successfully promoted several church activities. One example was the Search for the Christ Child where it is estimated nearly 300 people participated in the Search, many from outside our congregation, and the most ever. Another example came during the dedication of the new Sanctuary floor, where 25 people submitted their dedications via Facebook.

Commission members support social media efforts by serving as administrators on the Federated Facebook page, keeping an eye on comments and messages, and responding if necessary. They often take pictures at events, write posts, and sometimes boost those posts to increase visibility. There will continue to be an increased emphasis on social media in 2019.

Laura Taylor regularly contributed to the SPIRE through her TOS Spotlight articles, which introduced staff, ministries and missions to the congregation. Articles have highlighted former Christmas Eve recipients such as EDWINS and Hiram Farm, and ministries such as Communion to the Confined. Federated’s message is also reaching the local community: in a ten-month period in 2018, Federated’s programs and activities were mentioned or featured 23 times in print, radio or television.

TOSC has a focus on the outside community and guests of Federated. We continue to put together visitor bags, occasionally changing out the materials to keep things fresh and informative. We also reviewed promotional print materials and pages on the website, keeping in mind how we want to be seen by the community.

The Telling Our Story Commission supported or jointly sponsored a variety of activities and outreach which included our flags and banners, some designed and/or purchased by members, and our signature Wondrous Wednesday dinners, spearheaded by Katie Swanson-Harbage, which fed and enlightened 400-500 people at seven events.

The 2018 focus on communications resulted in TOSC recommending to Church Council the merits of planning and developing an annual theme around which to build church programming, messaging and focus. As we enter our 100th year as Federated church, endowed with a newly renovated building, a welcoming Sanctuary, and a diverse, faith-filled congregation, there is, indeed, a compelling and unique story for us all to tell.

Submitted by Todd Smith and Bob Munson, Telling Our Story Commission Co-chairs
Encouraging attendance:

144 members who received postcards inviting them to return home to Federated attended a Sunday service in the fourth quarter of 2018. Our committee pored over the “lost sheep” lists to reach out to those members who have not been active attendees. In March, we designed and mailed cards to 407 individuals. The postcard invited them to return to their church home and listed upcoming events, programs, and dates. 102 of the recipients did attend after receiving the cards. In November, we sent another cards to another 277 individuals, inviting lost sheep to return home for Christmas. 42 of these individuals attended a Sunday service in the fourth quarter of 2018.

Supporting New Members:

15 members who had joined the church in the past year attended social gatherings with the members of the committee. These included a luncheon at Panera where we asked new members if they felt like they had “found their spot” and two Wondrous Wednesdays events where we specifically invited newer members and provided a special table to make them feel welcome.

2018 Picture Directory:

246 families were photographed for the new 2018 Picture Directory. This task included making Sunday announcements, scheduling appointments, working with volunteers to check in families, arranging for Lay Leader pictures to be taken individually and providing those pictures for a bulletin board in the stairwell in order to make the Lay Leaders more accessible to the congregation, and finally distributing the directories after worship services and delivering them to those who are homebound.

Managing the Rolls:

47 members no longer attending were moved to the inactive list after receiving a revised letter informing them of the change. We received positive feedback regarding the updated wording.

Inquirers Class for New Members:

13 new members joined this year after attending classes in either the fall or spring. These adults were welcomed with breakfast and introductions at Sunday services in June and October. New members cited a variety of reasons that drew them to Federated, including: family programming, the worship service, the varied music programming. Over 90% cited our social justice work and Open and Affirming stance as reasons for joining.

Submitted by Rose Brown and the Membership Committee

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Highlights from the Finance Committee

The committee has continued to look for opportunities to improve the church finance operating structure throughout 2018. A new bookkeeper, Janis Stefanchik, was brought on board in late-2018 replacing Interworks Group. Additionally, a new independent accounting firm, Bond, Sippola, DeJoy & Co., was engaged to provide oversight of our monthly and year-end financial statements. We are excited to be working with Janis and Judy Bash of Bond, Sippola, DeJoy & Co. moving forward into 2019.

Continued on next page
Also during 2018, Amy Eugene and her team identified opportunities to reduce expenses in various areas of church operations, including new copy machine contracts, telephone contracts, and healthcare plans for employees. We sincerely thank all involved for their dedication and hard work in this regard!

The 2018 year finished with a surplus of $33,000, which Church Council has approved setting aside to fund 2019 principal loan payments ($29,000). Working closely with Amy Eugene and Church Council, budget information for 2019 was assembled and presented to Church Council for their review. With Church Council’s approval and in recognition of the continued tight budget in 2019, the Finance Committee will continue to complete a review of internal control and financial information in lieu of paying for an external review or audit. We are pleased to present to the congregation a balanced budget for 2019.

The committee consisted of returning members Rob Goble (Treasurer), Brady Hively (early in 2018), Steve Patton, and Rebecca Gruss, Chair. Brady stepped down from the committee to pursue other opportunities and priorities in early 2018. We want to thank Brady for his dedication and service on the committee and wish him well in his future endeavors. We also want to thank Judy Kreger for her tremendous help in transitioning between outside bookkeepers in 2018.

Submitted by Becky Gruss, Finance Committee Chair

Highlights from the Properties Committee

One of the goals of the Capital Campaign is to upgrade the Federated Church facilities to current technologies. With these upgrades, the church should not have to allocate as much time and resources to facility management. In 2018, Properties Committee members managed much of this work.

The entire Bell Street building roof, except for the office tower, was replaced with new 30-year roofing materials. The church steeple was repaired by replacing broken slate tiles and caulking. All the heating and air conditioning equipment was either replaced or refurbished. Fifty-year-old technology equipment was replaced by new current technology heating/air conditioning equipment. All the equipment is now managed through a digital building management system. Properties Committee members were also intimately involved in the design and construction of the Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall enhancements.

Once the priorities are established for 2019, Properties Committee members will be engaged in the completion of these projects.

Most of the remaining projects include individual projects that extend capacities for the staff and programming and help facilitate the missions of our church. Church Council appointed a Capital Projects Committee to prioritize and plan the projects earmarked for the remaining pledged funds. That group will recommend who will facilitate the purchases and oversee each project. The Properties Committee has some of those project responsibilities and we look forward to serving that need.

We want to thank the congregation of this wonderful church for the support you have given us throughout this year. The monumental improvements to our facilities have challenged and invigorated Properties Committee and the staff.

Submitted by Paul Koepf and Keith Mast
One thing I have always loved about Federated is that our leadership continually examines what we are doing, and tweaks roles of staff as needed. There is an awareness that what we did in the past may not be the best position for us now.

For example, just yesterday I was cleaning a desk drawer and I found a few old Federated business cards for my job. Initially I was Minister to Youth. Next, after we started the New Beginnings Singles Group, was Associate for Youth and Specialized Ministries. This became simplified and I was Associate Minister with Youth. A more updated card says I am Associate Minister: Children and Youth. Last year I became Pastor of Children’s, Youth and Family Faith Formation as my duties expanded. Each card represents how our church has continued to hone focus of ministry descriptions. My longest title yet will need to be printed on 3 x 5 index cards!

As you likely know, Children and Youth Ministries have declined within our UCC and the Christian church overall. Some studies show that it is not so much disinterest or ambivalence toward faith, but rather numerous competitions for our children’s schedules. This is a reality in our church as families must make hard decisions, including church participation. For example, a newer trend with our Senior High Youth Group, GROUP, is that families are gathering on Sunday evenings to be together. Three years ago, our average attendance at GROUP was four and five times the average we get currently (six to eight kids). Kiersti Critchfield and Marty Culbertson observe the same trends with Sunday School and JOY, our Junior High Youth Group.

This is not to say that Federated has no children or youth. Our children and youth vibrancy bubble up in different and unpredictable ways. Pat Haynish maintains a wonderfully large Children’s Choir. Combining Sunday School creates excitement across age groups that is satisfying for the classes. JOY and GROUP continue to meet weekly, but Marty and I look for other ways to connect involving missions or gatherings other than our meetings. I take kids to coffee often, and I text some three dozen of our youth numerous times a month. Our Colorado trip and annual work camp still draw enviable numbers of participants. Our kids know us, and we know our kids.

My position was extended last year to oversee Family Ministries. Recently, I completed an overview study of how Federated has approached the concept of Family Ministries over the years. It is a long and winding road, but what is obvious is that families are not particularly looking for a half dozen open gym nights at the Family Life Center. Some new ideas and models are emerging in this new year that seeks to provide relevant and needed interaction, steeped in faith formation, that are attractive to our families.

Because of the broad nature of new approaches, we have created such opportunities as Federated Day Missions and our Spiritual Formation Commission has launched a program of timely family and parenting opportunities in developing a speaker’s series titled Reclaiming the Public Forum. I am looking at some high adventure, larger family events to offer.

I want to tip my hat to those who also love the whole concept of Family Ministries at Federated. One source of helpful collaboration in Family Ministries has been the Spiritual Formation Commission. A number of young families have begun offering family programs of an organic nature in homes, open to all families. These small family experiences fulfill fellowship and deeper growth needs in our church family.

Recently I received word from two UCC youth ministry colleagues. They told me they were dropping out of a youth ministry group I am part of. Both had the same story. No kids coming to their programs. Zero. Their sadness was tangible as their voices tightened with tears. While I mourn for their churches, I praise God for the continuation of families, children and youth at Federated. We are blessed, indeed!

- Mark Simone, Associate Pastor of Family Ministries
2018 has brought many blessings to Children’s Ministry! The department is going strong, continuing to offer “Deep Blue Rotation Stations” curriculum to our K-5th graders during the 10 am service. These curriculum stations include: art, drama, cooking, science, spiritual practices, mission, and games. In September, 6th grade moved up to Junior High Church School to better meet their developmental needs. Birth–PreK is using the “Wonder” curriculum, which includes a short video and craft on a different Bible story each week, which all ties into a monthly theme.

We’ve made efforts over the year to improve the classroom environments for the K-5th graders. These additions include a prayer wall and mailbox, art display areas, and more ice breakers at the beginning of each class time to promote friendships among students. The outcome is a classroom that the children have ownership in, and is a fun, creative, inviting space just for them!

In February, we held our annual communion classes with nine children (5th grade and older). These nine kids attended two evening classes, where they were presented new Bibles. They then received their first communion on Youth Sunday, which was followed by a cake celebration! It was another spirit-filled class led by Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton and Rev. Mark Simone and we are encouraged by the exuberance of our youth.

K-5th graders were able to participate in worship on World Communion Day in October. Children carried in flags during the 10 am worship service. As a class, we constructed a “World Communion table cloth” depicting many diverse people around God’s table and used it as a center piece for the communion table.

The fourth annual Search for the Christ Child was held on Sunday, December 2, and was a smashing success. More than 50 volunteers baked, painted, sewed and transformed our beloved Family Life Center into Bethlehem. It was a beautiful evening and was capped by the highest attendance to date, with many non-Federated visitors. This was a great example of our whole church coming together and serving not only our Federated community but also our greater Chagrin community.

We continue to feel blessed by our Sunday School teachers and volunteers who have helped to shape our 2018 year. We look forward to 2019 as a new opportunity to serve and implement creative ideas to help our children learn about who God really is, and how much they are loved!

- Kiersti Critchfield, Director of Children’s Faith Formation (B–5th grade)
Highlights from
REJOICE & RENEW CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

What a banner year we’ve had! For the Capital Campaign office, the majority of 2018 was devoted to stewardship of the pledges that were committed in 2017 and dissemination of capital project updates to the congregation, both in print and online. Moreover, an additional $30,000+ was pledged to the Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign, which means that as of December 31, 2018 our total stands at $2,939,257 from 316 households.

We’ve been so blessed that three-fourths of the pledge payments have been received so far, and as you will have seen (and heard!), those funds have been thoughtfully used. In other words, $2 million worth of capital projects were completed within seven months during 2018. Here are three highlights from 2018:

In August, 131 members and friends came to the Sanctuary and, on the foundation of the new Chancel area, used markers to write names, draw, or otherwise express their gratitude to those who have been foundational in their faith journey. There were even tributes from our far-away friends who still connect with us via Facebook. These tributes were covered with new flooring, but the names remain as part of the foundation of our church.

What a delightful homecoming! We were so blessed to have the Family Life Center available to us during the summer and fall months when construction prevented use of the Bell Street facility on Sundays. It was wonderful to feel the warm embrace of our congregation on Sunday November 18 when we returned to the Sanctuary. The service provided a wonderful chance to see the new Chancel layout in action.

The updated painting, polishing, and carpet in the Sanctuary motivated an anonymous donor to provide 150 new NRSV Pew Bibles for our Sanctuary.

The Properties Committee will be scheduling the remaining projects as payments continue to arrive in 2019. None of the work in the Capital Campaign office could have been done without the advice and assistance from the Campaign Fulfillment Committee and other lay leaders and staff, including Amy Eugene, Hamilton Throckmorton, Robin Harbage, Ken Horner, Jeri Shaffer, David Telfer, Curtis Grube, Rob Goble, Bill Franz, Lou Butz, Ann Lentz, Maren Koepf, Pete Franz, Paul Koepf, and Trisha Holland. They, and others, were a source of encouragement and inspiration.

- Laura Piper Taylor, Capital Campaign Assistant
Federated’s Touchpoints

Here is a list of ministries that are currently active at Federated Church. Each of these ministries and any new ones that are formed fall under a commission or standing committee. Maybe you are already involved. Maybe you are looking for a way to serve. If you would like more information, please call the church at 440.247.6490 and we will help you get plugged into your desired ministry.

12-Step Programs
Advent by Candlelight
Angel Food
Angel Rides
Angel Visitors
Angel Flowers
Book Studies
Chagrin Falls Park Community Center Programs
Children's Choir
Co-Ed Basketball
Colorado Trip Faith Journey
Communion Ministry to the Confined
Contemplative Prayer
Daughters of Abraham
Family Life Center Gardens
Family Ministries
Federated Bell Choir
Federated Choir
Federated Day Missions
Federated North
Fellowship of Prayer Note Writers
Friends of Nicaragua
GPS (Gifts, Passions, Skills) Ministry GROUP (Sr. High Youth Group)
Guitar Choir
Homeless Stand Down
JOY (Jesus Oriented Youth—Jr. High Youth Group
JustHope/Stitching Hope
Koinonia Groups
Ladies Thursday Morning Prayer Group
Leap of Faith Liturgical Dancers
Mahjong
Memorial Food
Memorial Hosts
Men’s Discussion Group
Men’s Ministry Team
Monday Morning Miracles Group
Monthly Art Gallery
Ohio City Power
One Book One Community Lenten Book Study
Parish Nurse
Primetime Ministry
Prayer & Praise Ministry
Red Cross Blood Drive
Same Boat Friends
(widows dinner group)
Same Boat Girlfriends
(widows dinner group)
Search for the Christ Child
Sit & Stitch Community
SJAM (Social Justice Advocacy Ministry)
St. Paul's Community Church - our sister church
St. Paul's Loaves & Fishes
Soup Kitchen
St. Paul's Thrift Shop
Stephen Ministry
Sunday School
Tributaries - Spiritual Growth Academy
Yoga & Pilates Classes
Trinkets & Treasures Rummage Sale
Ushers and Greeters
Wedding Hosts
Women’s Bible Study
Women’s Fellowship
Wondrous Wednesday

“For faith to be full, it needs to be engaged in some work beyond the narrow confines of our own little worlds. We want you to find a place to engage your gifts, passions, and skills on behalf of God. The world will be a better place because of it. And so will you.

...Let’s be the church God meant for us to be: a church of 2000 ministers, devoted to God, caring for each other and the world.”

The Spire – October 2011, Rev. Hamilton Coe Throckmorton
Recognition of Federated Church’s 2018 Lay Leadership

Church Council

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Lay Leader</th>
<th>Representative to</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moderator</td>
<td>Maren Koepf</td>
<td>Administrative Councilor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Moderator</td>
<td>Beth Rutkowski</td>
<td>Congregational Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Past Moderator</td>
<td>Robin Harbage</td>
<td>Mission &amp; Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clerk</td>
<td>Peggie Jo Shinagawa</td>
<td>Spiritual Formation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Rob Goble</td>
<td>Telling Our Story</td>
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<tr>
<td>Councilor 1</td>
<td>Doug Harlan</td>
<td>Worship &amp; Music</td>
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<td>Councilor 2</td>
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<td>Councilor 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Councilor 6</td>
<td>Shawn Rockhold</td>
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Commissions

Congregational Care Commission
Jane Biggar (co-chair), Carole Halberg, Carol Kelly, Ann-Marie Heston, Judy Riemenschneider, Diane Tuuri, Karen Zoltowicz (co-chair), (2) openings

Mission & Service Commission
Judy Lineweaver, Don Hoke, Lynne Kessell, Gay Quintin, Leslie Fincun, Linda Zelazny (co-chair), Bill Shaul*, David Telfer (co-chair), (1) opening

Spiritual Formation Commission
Stacy Cianciolo, Dorothy Quintin, Pete Bednar*, Mary Senechal (chair), Kristin LeFeber, Cathy Digel, Thea Mozingo, Sunny Doxey, (1) opening

Telling Our Story Commission
Bob Munson (co-chair), Katie Swanson-Harbage, Diana Weber-Gardner, Harriett Rogers, Todd Smith (co-chair), Laura Taylor, (3) openings

Worship & Music Commission
Nancy Isham, Sally Ramsey, Gary Dole (chair), Abby Patton*, Nancie Skonezny, Curtis Grube, Sibyl McBride, Dave Strauch, Laura Reed*

Elected Committees

Finance Committee
Steve Patton, Becky Gruss (chair), (1) opening

Human Resources Committee
Chris Bednar, Jim Young, Bill Franz

Legacy Committee
Peter Franz, Paul Neidhardt, Roger Pettibone (chair), Alex Taylor, Ralph Hegsted

Membership Committee
Kate Walsh, Rose Brown, Ann Lentz

Nominating & Leadership Committee
Dave Butz, Martine Scheuermann, Bob Aoley*, Phil Fogarty

Properties Committee
Paul Koepf, Keith Mast, Bill Lentz

Appointed Committee
Stewardship Committee
Laura Taylor, Mike Quintin, Martine Scheuermann

Appointed Delegates

Western Reserve Association Delegates
Susan Lampson, Jim Ogle, Kate Walsh

Ohio Conference Delegates
Susan Lampson, Kate Walsh

*—New appointment/position since Annual Meeting held February 2018

There are a number of people who have ‘retired’ from elected service during the past year or are doing so after the Annual Meeting. Federated Church wishes to thank them for their service. They are:

Dave Butz (N&L), Robin Harbage (CC), Toni Harris (W&M&C), Ann -Marie Heston (CCC), Erinn Grube (CC), Paul Koepf (Prop), Judy Maloni (CCC), Jim Meyers (M&SC), Cassie Moran (SFC), Bob Munson (TOSC), Paul Neidhardt (Leg), Barbara Patton (SFC), Roger Pettibone (Leg), Dorothy Quintin (SFC), Sally Ramsey (W&M&C) Harriett Rogers (TOSC), Linnea Rostek (M&SC), Katie Swanson-Harbage (TOSC), Kate Walsh (Mem), Diana Weber-Gardner (TOSC) Jim Young (HR) Alexandra Ziots (CCC)
# Lay Leaders - Slate for 2019

## Church Council

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Moderator</td>
<td>Brendan Buescher</td>
<td>2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moderator</td>
<td>Beth Rutkowskï*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Past Moderator</td>
<td>Maren Koepf*</td>
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<td>Clerk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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## Church Council Councilors

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<tr>
<td>Mission &amp; Service</td>
<td>Dan Kershner</td>
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<td>Telling Our Story</td>
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<td>Elaine Witmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worship &amp; Music Music</td>
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## COMMISSIONS

### Congregational Care Commission

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<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Jane Biggar</td>
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<td>Commissioner</td>
<td>Carol Kelly</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner</td>
<td>Carole Halberg</td>
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<td>Diane Tuuri</td>
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<td>Commissioner</td>
<td>Judy Riemschneider</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Ruth Kershner*</td>
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<td>Karen Zoltowicz*</td>
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<td>Commissioner</td>
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### Spiritual Formation Commission

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<tr>
<td>Commissioner</td>
<td>Cassie Moran</td>
<td>2020</td>
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<td>Kristin LeFeber</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commissioner</td>
<td>Cathy Digel</td>
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<td>Commissioner</td>
<td>Sunny Doxey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commissioner</td>
<td>Thea Mozingo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Mary Senechal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commissioner</td>
<td>Stacy Cianciolo*</td>
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<td>Eric Goodman</td>
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### Telling Our Story Commission

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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Jim Scheuermann</td>
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## Mission & Service Commission

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<tr>
<td>Commissioner</td>
<td>Leslie Fincun</td>
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<td>Commissioner</td>
<td>Don Hoke</td>
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<td>Commissioner</td>
<td>Lynne Kessell*</td>
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<td>Karen Anderson*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commissioner</td>
<td>Bill Shaul</td>
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## Elected Committees

### Legacy Committee

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<td>Member</td>
<td>Peter Franz</td>
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<td>Member</td>
<td>Alex Taylor</td>
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<td>Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Brady Hively*</td>
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### Nominating & Leadership Committee

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<td>Member</td>
<td>Phil Fogarty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Martine Scheuermann</td>
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### Properties Committee

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<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>John Giles*</td>
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### Finance Committee

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<td>Member</td>
<td>Steve Patton</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Rob Goble</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Becky Gruss*</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Human Resources Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Chris Bednar</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Bill Franz</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Appointed Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TO BE APPOINTED</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Ohio Conference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delegate</td>
<td>Kate Walsh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegate</td>
<td>Susan Lampson</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Living Water Association

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Candidate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delegate</td>
<td>Kate Walsh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegate</td>
<td>Susan Lampson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegate</td>
<td>Jim Ogle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**TERM** — Year indicates last year of service for this term.

* — New elected appointment/position/term.
We are grateful for those who have made a 2019 financial commitment
“God loves it when the

Bob Abley
Marnie Albers
Don Anderson
Jane Badal
Jack & Nancy Baker
Mary Lou Baker
Ken & Sharen Bakke
Bob & Cindy Barclay
Bruce & Becky Bartter
Audrey Bashian
Carol Basler
Bob & Mimi Bathgate
William & Gayle Bauer
Eric & Tricia Baumgartner
Pete & Chris Bednar
Janet Berlincourt
George & Jen Beros
John & Marilee Biel
Bill & Jane Biggar
Barry & Kathie Biggin
Rich & Martha Bistritz
Charles & Jan Blank
Brad & Becky Borden
Mary Ann Boysen
Dave Bradford
Bill & Lauren Brandon
Lisa Braun
Jim & Barb Breitenbach
Sue Brooks
Don Brown
Peter & Rose Brown
Will & Kristin Brown
Steve & Sharon Broz
Rick & Judith Bryan
Ray & Kathy Bryson
Brendan & Lisa Buescher
Ann Bullen
Peter Bullen & Shari Knowlton
Anne Burr
Scott & Nancy Burroughs
Bob & Norma Burrows
Joan Butler
Dave & Lou Butz
Connie Caldwell
Keith & Megan Campbell
Mark & Suzanne Carle
Mike & Ruth Carlton
Dave & Nancy Carpenter
Mike & Jill Carroll
Becky Carter
Bill & Judie Caster
Doug & Barb Church
Perry & Jenny Clark
George & Ruth Clemens
John & Elizabeth Click
Joie Cody
Marilyn Collier
Joe Coney, Jr.
Rita Coney
Marge Cook
Mark Corrado
Keith & Irene Cowan
Linda Creviston & Heidi Busch
Adle Cunningham
Jim & Carolyn Cunningham, Jr.
John & Kelly Curtiss
Ruth Daniels
Susan Daniels
Nicole Dauria & Tracie Longpre
Greg & Laura Davis
Mark & Kathleen Davis
Tom & Jane Davis
Olney & Gail Dekker
Jon & Cindy Denney
Dave & Judy Devore
Dan & Jan DeWeese
Tina DiFrances
Leigh & Cathy Digel
Ginny Dix
Mary Dixon
Gary & Dawn Dole
Mike & Cheryl Dolohan
Terry & Shirley Donley
Bob & Sunny Doxey
Rob & Liz Durham
Ruth Eberlein-Kershner
Roger & Brenda Ehle
Joan Elliott
Charles & Kelly Emmerich
Barb Erdelack
Jay & K-Leigh Ericson
Herk & Kris Exline
Bob & Alma Faroo
Nelson & Nancy Fenner
Leslie Fincun
John & Cathy Fitzgerald
Phil & Sally Fogarty
Bill & Carol Foley
Casey Forbes & Signe Wroldt-Forbes
Lou & Marjorie Fow
Dick & Pat Fox
Bill & Kathy Franz
Pete & Molly Franz
Dave & Chris Frazier
John & Lee Ann Frederick
Jack Freer
Alan & Lori Frey
Peg Fullmer
Randall Fusco
John Gadd
Tim & Diana Gardner
Bill & Ann Gaskin
Chuck & Barbara Gates
Richard & Kaaren Gates
John & Sue Giles
Steve & Cindy Giroud
Rob Goble
Peter & Karen Godenschwager
Richard & Pam Goetsch
Eric & Jill Goodman
Scott & Julie Gordon
Joyce Gorretta
Emilie Gottsegan
Mary Griffith
Anne Griffiths
Darlene Griffiths
Dan Groth
Carol Grubb
Curtis & Erinn Grube
Tom & Claudia Gruen
Bill & Becky Gruss
Dave & Marcy Gurd
Leon & Joy Haddix
Carole Halberg
John & Dawn Hall
Jackie Hallack
Marlene Hallack
Scott & Jody Halley
Robin Harbage & Katie Swanson-Harbage
Doug Harlan
Bob & Toni Harris
Ken & Sally Harrold
Tom & Judy Harvey
Mike & Mary Hasman
Chuck & Sandy Hauser
Allison Hawkes
Pat Haynish
Adel Heinrich
Ted & Betsy Hellmuth, Sr.
Bob & Dawn Herdman
Tom & Dolly Herschel
Steve & Laura Hervert
Brady & Ali Hively
Jack & Mary Hobbs
Alan & Lee Hoffman
Mark & Julie Hoffman
Don Hoke
Ken & Kristi Horner
Janey Horth
Jerry & Patty Hridel
Joe & Barbara Hudson
Nancy Isham
Bernadette Jekutis
Tim & Joan Jenkins
Bill & Regina Johannsson
Bob Jones & Anita Gage
Rick Jones
Rich & Susi Kawolics
Rich & Carol Kelly
Bill & Silvia Kenneweg
Jane Kenneweg
Dan Kershner
Lynne Kessell
Dennis & Kathy Kieta
Chuck & Pat King, IV
Jack Kinley
to God’s work being done within and through Federated Church. giver delights in the giving”  

Paul & Maren Koepf  
Dana Korosi  
Tony Kotnik & Maureen Corrigan  
Judy Kramer  
Don & Charlene Krejci  
Jennie Krutilla  
Ed & Mary Kudasick  
Carol Laird  
Betsy Lancaster  
Bob & Gloria Lapsansky  
Jamey & Kelly Lawrence  
Doug & Karen Leary  
Ric & Jackie Leavenworth  
John & Pat Leech  
Bob & Mary Leibold  
Tim & Elise Leitzel  
Bill & Ann Lentz  
MaryAnn Leonard  
Rick Lewis & Judy Taucher-Lewis  
Ralph & Diana Lindeman  
Bill Lineweaver  
Beth Listerman  
Cal & Kim Lockert  
Jim & Marilyn Lucas  
Bob & Joyce Luczyno  
Bill & Sue Lundstrom  
Byron & Elsie Lutman  
Dave & Elaine Maine  
Judy Majcen  
Judy Maloni  
Liz Manchester  
Jon & Polly Manke  
Mark & Sue Mansour  
Bill & Carole Mason  
Dave & Betsy Mast  
Keith & Jan Mast  
Dick Masters  
Dick & Sibyl McBride  
Mort & Caroline McClennen  
Jim & Melody McClurg  
Rick & Pat McEntee  
Joyce McFarland  
John & Laura McMullen  
Debbie Medlar  
Scott & Mindy Meneely  
Carol Messerly  
Tom & Sandra Meyer  
Tom & Jenica Mignogna  
Mike & Lynn Miller  
Patty Mills  
Larry & Joyce Moore  
Marty Moore  
Tom & Merilyn Morrow  
Chuck & Thea Mozingo  
Bob & Tami Munson  
Sharon Munson  
Anne Murphy  
Steve & Hope Murphy  
Lynne & Kathy Muzik  
Jack & Lorna Nafziger  
Paul & Kathy Neidhardt  
Darlene Nichols  
John & Linda Nichols  
Nancy Nichols  
Rita Nichols  
Jim & Janet O'Hara  
George & Kim Oliver  
Mackenzie Oliver  
Madison Oliver  
Jim & Sue Ollinger  
Marge Overman  
Rita Owen  
Janet Peters  
Roger Pettibone  
Michael & Wendy Pierce  
Marilyn Pierson  
Ward Pierson, III  
Chuck & Cheryl Pitcock  
Jim Pivarski, Jr.  
Don & Carol Poe  
Greg Polya & Marcia Snavely  
Gerry & Marie Powers  
Dave & Betty Pugh  
Michael & Gabrielle Quintin  
Thaddeus & Dorothy Quintin  
Sally Ramsey  
Anne Randall  
Laura Reed  
Harry Rees & Karen Anderson  
Don & Judy Rice  
Carolyn Richardson  
Skip & Mary Lou Riegel  
Judy Riemenschnieder  
Joyce Ritchie  
Joy Robertson  
Linda Robertson  
Shawn & Brooke Rockhold  
Ted & Martha Rodenborn  
Carol Rogers  
Harriett Rogers  
Linnea Rostek  
Bob & Beth Rutkowski  
Tim & Heather Ryan  
Bill & B.J. Schatz  
Paul & Valerie Schefft  
Jim Scheuermann  
Martine Scheuermann & Marty Culbertson  
Matt & Kelly Schron  
Sandy See  
Laura Senel  
Jeri Shaffer  
Bill & Carolyn Shaul  
Ed Shields  
Alan & Peggie Jo Shinagawa  
Mark & Kathy Simone  
Nancie Skonezny  
Barb Smith  
Jim & Sally Smith  
Terry Smith  
Todd & Melinda Smith  
Joe & Jill Snyder, II  
Dan & Sandi Sommers  
Don & Connie Sperry  
Jim & Linda Squire  
Lucille Squire  
Barry & Melinda Stees  
Myia Sterling  
Dave & Holly Strauch  
Jim & Dona Sutherlin  
Anne Swegan  
Alex & Alice Taylor  
Derek & Stacey Taylor  
Laura Taylor  
David Telfer & Ilona Chambre-Telfer  
George & Kris Tesar  
Jane Thoburn  
Hamilton Throckmorton & Mary Senechal  
Brian & Julie Tutkovics  
Diane Tuuri  
Jim VanClee  
David & Anne VanWagoner  
Bob & Liz Vargo  
Laura Vargo  
Ann Vasey  
Joe & Sue Ellen Vayda  
Dean & Sue Vecchio  
Marc & Lisa Vitantonio, Sr.  
Arturo & Mary Ann Viveros  
Heather Wagley  
Don & Carole Wakeman  
Kristen Walenga  
Bobbie Walker  
Mike & Kate Walsh  
Barb Warren  
Dave & Cathy Watterson  
Doug Wellin  
Kay Wellman  
Ed & Judy Weston  
Jim & Claudette Whitelaw  
John & Shauna Widman  
Elaine Witmer  
Al & Rebecca Woehrle, Jr.  
Curt Woodworth  
Christy Wynne  
Doug & Pam Yaecker  
Jim & Kathie Young  
Jack & Barb Youshak  
Bill & Linda Zelazny  
James & Alexandra Ziets  
Kathy Zmich  
Karen Zoltowicz  
Shirley Zook
Minutes from the 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting of the Federated Church—Sunday, February 11, 2018

Prior to the call to order, The Colorado Kids served a spaghetti lunch in Fellowship Hall.

Opening Prayer—Rev. Susi Kawolics, Associate Pastor, led the attendees in prayer.

Call to Order—Robin Harbage, Moderator of Church Council, called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm. A quorum of at least 100 members was present.

Approval of Minutes
2016 Annual Meeting—February 12, 2017
Special Meeting of the Congregation—May 7, 2017
Motion to accept the minutes by Ken Horner
Seconded by Chuck King
Discussion: None
Vote: Unanimous voice vote
Result: The motion passed; the minutes were approved as published (p.24-26) in the 2017 Annual Report.

Announcements
• Year-end statements were mailed.
• Current copies of Connections, the church directory, are available in the narthex.
• Joshua Konow, Director of Music Ministries, is conducting a concert in Solon this day at 3 pm in which many Federated choir members are participating.

2017 Year in Review
Robin reviewed some statistics:
• In the fourteen years since Federated’s peak membership, similar to all mainline churches, Federated has seen a decrease in membership by 40%, and in attendance by over 50%.
• Over the past 5 years:
  - while attendance has dropped by 30%, pledges have only decreased by 16% and the average household pledge has increased year over year.
  - non-pledge and loose collection have increased relative to pledge giving.
  - total giving increased in 2017 over 2016, and 2017 ended with a surplus of 8.9% or $102,861.

Robin shared how Federated continues to be a vibrant, active community of faith.
• The whole week is active at Federated, not just Sunday mornings.
• Affirming Christ is at our center by displaying the UCC flag in front of the church along with symbols of our ONA welcome such as banners and flags representing marginalized groups, for example, the rainbow flag for the LGTBQ community in June and the Pan-African flag for Black History Month.
• Amplifying our understanding of social justice through children’s service ministries, formation of the Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SJAM), sermons, music, Mission & Service Commission events, Telling Our Story Commission events and St. Paul’s Church ministry.
• Overwhelming success of the Rejoice and Renew Capital Campaign with pledges of $2,907,690, which exceeded our minimum goal of $2.2 million.

Vision for 2018
Ideas for greater use of our facilities are being explored beginning with feedback from the congregation’s response to:
• What do you like most about each of our facilities?
• How can we best use our facilities to fulfill our mission?
• What are your goals/visions for each of our facilities?

Robin went on to share his vision for 2018.
• Church-sponsored pre-school at the Family Life Center
• Summer Sunday School experience at the Family Life Center with emphasis on outdoor activities and nature
• Multi-generational gardens at the Family Life Center
• Innovative Sunday mornings that provide a spiritual and enriching experience for our congregants and guests
• “Behold, how they love one another” theme where our words, actions to one another, to our community, to the world proclaim the love and tenacity of Jesus Christ
Approval of Constitutional Amendments
On behalf of Church Council, Robin reported that commissions believe it is unnecessary to have a higher quota of leaders to accomplish its work because more members are actively involved in ministries rather than serving on commissions. Therefore, fewer commissioners will enable commissions to increase their flexibility for fully implementing commission work.

Amendment 4, relative to commissions—Constitution Article VIII, Section 4
Altering the second sentence from “Each commission consists of nine (9) members,” to read “Each commission consists of no fewer than six (6) and no more than nine (9) members.”

Gary Dole moved to modify the Constitution
Seconded by Ken Horner
Discussion: None
Vote: Unanimous voice vote
Result: The motion passed

Nominating and Leadership Committee Report
Peggie Jo Shinagawa, chairperson of the Nominating and Leadership Committee, called attention to the report on page 15. In the report was a list of the various ways serving on Federated’s leadership team was very different and more satisfying than serving in a leadership position elsewhere. She read the names of individuals who were retiring from Federated’s leadership team, as denoted in the lower left corner of page 20 of the 2017 Annual Report, and asked them to stand. A round of applause occurred thanking them for their service. She then read the names of individuals who were elected onto Federated’s leadership team since the last Annual Meeting, as denoted with an asterisk (*) next to their name on page 20 of the 2017 Annual Report, and asked them to stand, after which a round of applause occurred thanking them for their service. She asked Laura Taylor and Mike Quintin to stand followed which was followed by a round of applause thanking them for their service on the Stewardship Committee.

Before introducing the Lay Leader Slate for 2018, Peggie Jo shared that the N&L committee continued to be in conversation with individuals to help them discern what brings joy to their hearts. This year, 11 of 15 individuals renewed their commitment to serve God by continuing to serve on Federated’s leadership team. This consistency of leadership for the third year in a row enables Federated to keep progressing. She then announced a correction on page 21 of the 2017 Annual Report that Karen Zoltowicz would serve as Co-chair of the Congregational Care Commission with Jane Biggar. Peggie Jo presented the Lay Leader Slate for 2018 as denoted with an asterisk (*) next to their name on page 21 of the 2017 Annual Report, asking them to stand.

Election of Lay Leaders
On behalf of the Nominating and Leadership Committee, Peggie Jo Shinagawa moved to approve the individuals listed with an asterisk (*) in the 2017 Annual Report “Lay Leader – Slate for 2018” be elected to the governing body for the term specified.

Seconded by Shawn Rockhold
Discussion: None
Vote: Unanimous voice vote
Result: Motion passed

Peggie Jo thanked those who are serving. She announced that there are still four openings, and if anyone interested in serving they should contact a member of the Nominating and Leadership Committee.

Becky Gruss, chair of the Finance Committee presented the 2017 Annual Financial Report:

2017 Financial Report
• The staff received a bonus in 2017 from the 2016 surplus.
• Both vans were sold this year.

2018 Budget
• Continues to be a balanced budget
• The 2017 surplus of $102,862 was allocated: for one-time expenses, supplementing Mission and Service Commission’s budget, and reducing our debt and thereby reducing our interest expenses.
• Staff received long overdue 1.5% pay increase.
• Even though our pledges are down 10%, the Mission & Service Commission’s budget was only reduced by 5%, and $20,000 from the 2017 surplus brought the total amount for M&S back to its 2017 level.

Question from Martine Scheuermann to clarify which percentages on the pie chart correspond to which expenses:
• 64% for Salaries, 19% Properties Expense, 7% Mission and Service, 6% Office & Administration, 2% Program and Education, 2% Other Expenses

Question from Todd Smith concerning the sale of vans:
The vans were sold for approximately $50,000 with all the proceeds going into a designated fund for future travel expenses for the youth and to Mission and Service’s 2017 budget. The write-off of the van assets to expense is an accounting convention to remove the assets from the balance sheet and is considered a non-cash expense outside of net 2017 surplus.

Question from Jeri Shaffer concerning restricted fund balance for the Rejoice and Renew Capital Campaign:
Individuals were asked to pledge over the next three years. Currently the $1.7 million in the fund represents the money on hand to fund projects. As more pledges come in, more money will be placed into this fund.

Ann Lentz moved to accept the 2018 budget as printed in the 2017 Annual Financial Report.
Seconded by Jeri Shaffer
Discussion: No additional discussion
Vote: Unanimous voice vote
Result: Motion passed

The Federated Legacy Report
Peter Franz, member of the Legacy Committee, shared the committee’s dedication to be fiscally responsible with its allocations of funds to continue to provide perpetual subsidies to Federated’s operating fund. This year the Legacy Fund grew by $93,000 or 17%. Continued growth of the Legacy Fund is paramount to the growth of Federated.

Properties Committee Report
Those present were entertained by a humorous skit by the members of the Properties Committee. Copies of the Properties Annual Report and renovation schedule are available in the Church Office. Paul Koepf reported:
- Using frugal budgeting with an eye on long-term problem solving.
- Setting aside funds for equipment that does not need to be replaced now, but will be replaced in 10 years.
- The entire roof on Bell Street will be replaced with work starting in May; therefore, worship services will be at the Family Life Center starting Memorial Day weekend.
- Renovations to the organ will take place after the Sanctuary repairs are completed.
- The driveway between the church and school will be permanently closed off. The heated stairs will remain.
- Small four-hour projects will be posted for which members of the congregation are needed.

Mission and Service Commission Report

Comments and Questions
One question concerning the availability to park at Bell Street during the Blossom Parade was addressed stating that its availability is uncertain at this time.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment
Hamilton Throckmorton, Senior Pastor, led the congregation in a closing prayer.

Ann Lentz moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 pm.
Seconded by Kathie Biggin
Discussion: None
Vote: Unanimous vote by standing up
Result: Motion passed

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Hallack, Outgoing Clerk
Peggie Jo Shinagawa, Clerk Elect
The Purpose Statement of The Federated Church
The purpose of the Federated Church shall be to worship God; to preach and hear the gospel of Jesus Christ; to joyfully embody the living Spirit of God; to embrace all people; to transform lives; and to empower everyone to love and serve the world through Jesus Christ.

The Core Values of The Federated Church
Living in God’s Grace, we value:

- **Extravagant Welcome**: We warmly welcome and appreciate all people.
- **Wondrous Worship**: We praise and glorify God at the front and center of our lives. We open ourselves to God’s call while seeking to create sacred space wherever we are.
- **Faith Formation**: We believe God is still speaking. We nurture and deepen our relationship with God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit individually and in community.
- **Purposeful Leadership**: We lead, work and serve together as followers of Christ to discern, design, create and inspire opportunities to experience the Divine.
- **Responsible Stewardship**: We serve as faithful and generous stewards of God’s gifts to us: time, money, talents, church resources and the earth to do God’s work in the world.
- **Boundless Beauty**: We encourage and celebrate individual and communal expressions of beauty in our worship and surroundings as examples of the Holy elegance of God.
- **Transformational Ministry**: Following Jesus’ example of love and justice, we seek to transform lives, including our own, through compassionate response, caring relationships, advocacy and active service.

The Vision Statement of The Federated Church
With Christ at our center and surrounded by God’s abundant love and grace, Federated Church thrives as a dynamic faith community for this generation and the next by:

- Engaging in extravagant invitation, welcome and inclusion,
- Fostering faith formation,
- Bringing forth transformational ministries, and
- Sharing our story

The Mission Statement of The Federated Church
God accepts me just as I am and loves me too much to leave me that way. Federated accepts all people as they are and supports them in the spiritual journey. With Christ we offer hope and healing to change our world.

Open and Affirming Statement of The Federated Church
We, the members of the Federated Church of Chagrin Falls, Ohio believe that God is still speaking and we seek prayerfully to discern God’s plan for us today. Acknowledging God’s acceptance of us and Jesus’ commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, we affirm our belief that we are one body in Christ.

We welcome people of all races and ages, mental and physical abilities, marital status, gender or sexual orientation. We invite those from different backgrounds of economic class, ethnicity, and varieties of thought, expression and religious tradition to join us in our worship and to participate in the full life and ministry of our church.

We celebrate the diversity of God’s creation and believe that every person is uniquely made in God’s image. We embrace the joy of being accepted and affirmed by God and by one another.

We strive for justice and inclusiveness following Jesus’ example of love.