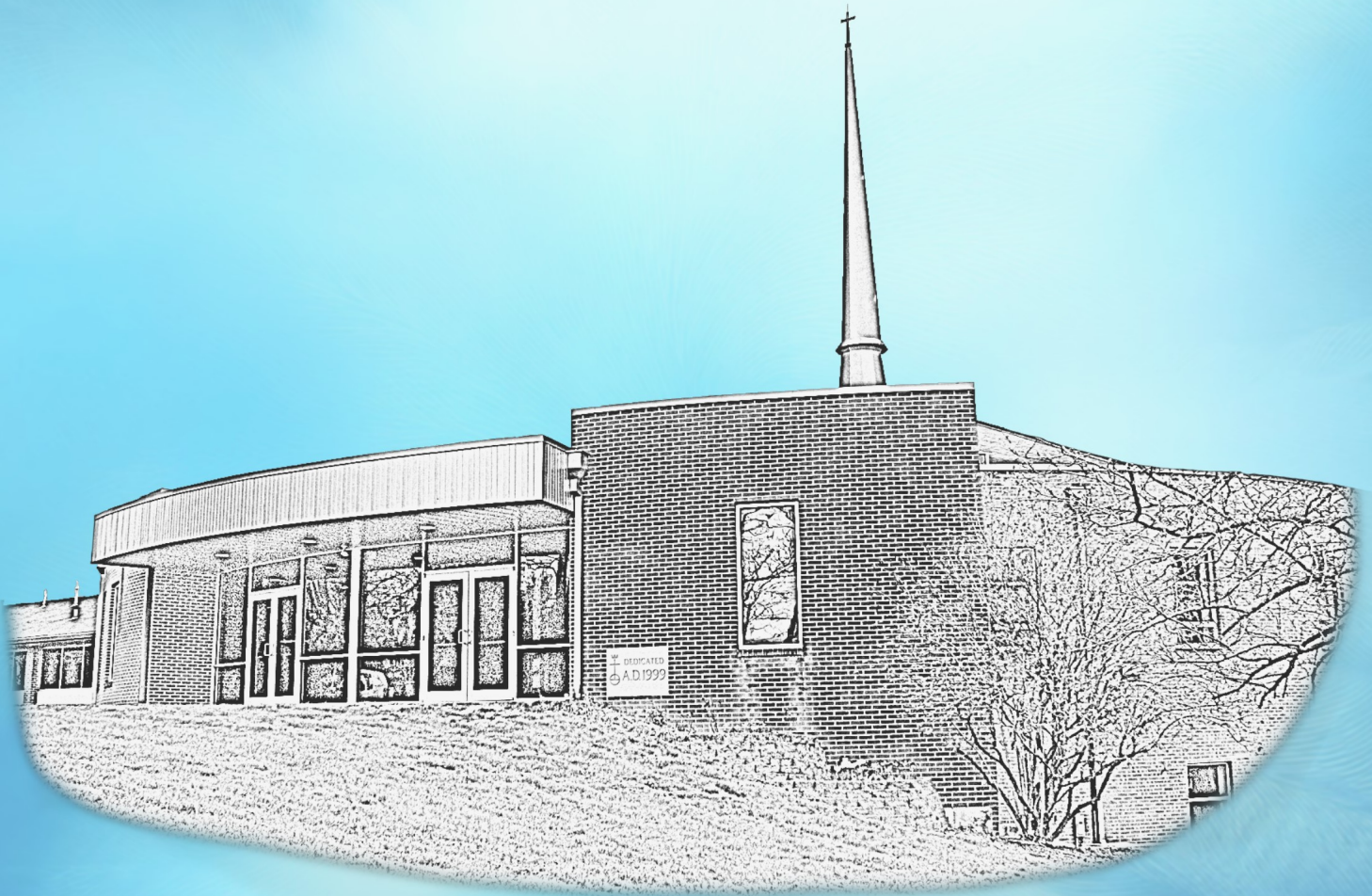


# COLUMBIA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## 2024 Annual Report

Annual Congregational Meeting  
May 18, 2025

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# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

## COLUMBIA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>		<b>PAGE #</b>
Introduction . . . . .		4
Mission Statement, Core Values, Open & Affirming/Inclusion Covenant . . . . .		5
1)	Reports of the Church Council Officers and Ministry Teams	
	a. Officers' Reports	
	i. Moderator . . . . .	8
	ii. Vice Moderator: Vision Team . . . . .	9
	iii. Strategic Plan . . . . .	10
	iv. Secretary: Meeting Minutes	
	Minutes from May 19 Congregational Meeting . . . . .	11
	Minutes from October 27 Congregational Budget Meeting . . . . .	12
	v. Treasurer: Overview of 2024 Financials . . . . .	13
	vi. Recording Treasurer: 2024 Joyful Giving . . . . .	14
	vii. Budgeted Outreach & Advocacy Disbursements . . . . .	15
	viii. Designated Funds . . . . .	16
	b. Ministry Team Reports	
	i. Building and Grounds . . . . .	20
	ii. Clergy Personnel . . . . .	21
	iii. Fellowship and Hospitality . . . . .	22
	iv. Finance and Stewardship . . . . .	23
	v. Inclusion and Affirmation . . . . .	24
	vi. Membership and Care . . . . .	25
	vii. Nurture and Education . . . . .	26
	viii. Outreach and Advocacy . . . . .	29
	Chiapas . . . . .	30
	Our Church's Wider Mission . . . . .	31
	Team Earth . . . . .	32
	viii. Worship and Music . . . . .	33
2)	Little One's Day Out Reports	
	a. LODO Ministry Team . . . . .	36
	b. LODO Preschool Ministry . . . . .	37
3)	Staff Reports	
	a. Pastor . . . . .	42
	b. Administrative Assistant . . . . .	45
	c. Music Coordinator . . . . .	46
4)	Fellowship and Service Group Reports	
	a. Men's Fellowship . . . . .	50
	b. Prayer Shawl . . . . .	51
	c. Quilters . . . . .	52
	d. Women's Fellowship . . . . .	53

5) Statistical Reports	
a. Membership Records and Reports . . . . .	58
b. Worship Attendance . . . . .	59
c. Facility Utilization . . . . .	60
d. Financial	
i. Financial Balance Sheet . . . . .	61
ii. CUCC Income Statement . . . . .	62
iii. LODO Budget Report . . . . .	66
iv. Designated Funds Report . . . . .	68
6) 2025 Business	
a. 2025 Budget . . . . .	72
b. COMO Mission Experience . . . . .	76
c. Nominating Committee . . . . .	77

## **INTRODUCTION**

How a church functions depends on church size. Churches that have 50 or less in worship attendance most Sundays are “**Family Churches.**” They do not have committees, they do not have extensive programming or educational opportunities, they have worship on Sunday and the occasional dinner. These churches are easy to maintain because they are slow and consistent. They have a small budget, because they have no programming to sustain. They have a small Council, and each Council member is in charge of an aspect of church life, with no committee to work with. Everything just happens. Pastoral support is very limited.

A **Program Church** has 150 or more in worship attendance most Sundays, and looks very much like us. They have committees and sub-committees, so everyone can be empowered to serve the church. They have many educational opportunities, many programs (such as LODO), serve many mission partners with volunteer work, take up mission collections, and are busy during the week. They make plans, they try new and different things, they speak prophetically in the world, and they work for justice. Everything happens through teamwork. They have a pastoral staff that facilitates and manages the work of the church.

Our church is in a very challenging position. We are a **Mid-Size Church**, and that is the hardest type of church to sustain. A Mid-Size church (churches with 50-150 in attendance) *have the identity of a Program Church, but they lack the institutional capacity of a Program Church.* A Mid-size Church is too big to be a Family Church; the membership demands more. To try to be a Family Church would result in disappointment and loss, and a disenfranchisement of God’s Kingdom in the world. A Mid-Size Church has no choice but to be a Program Church as best they are able; but that identity strains both members and finances.

**All is not hopeless for a Mid-Size Church such as ours.** Certainly, a Mid-Size Church requires a greater commitment from a smaller group of people; in time, talent and treasure. But that group can carry the load if they work together with intentionality and integrity. The joy of serving can be accomplished by this smaller group, if they focus on joy. **We don’t have to serve, we get to serve;** and the joy of getting to serve in God’s Kingdom is far greater than anything the world may have to offer.

The report you are holding in your hands is a testimony to what a Mid-Size church can do when it harnesses the joy that is gifted to us by God; the joy of serving in God’s Kingdom. Because we have been able to harness that joy, let it fill us up, and then embody that joy in the world, we have been able to transform God’s world in incredible ways this year. From mission work to education to vibrant worship, our year has been an amazing one; and you will find that chronicled in this report.

**A Mid-Size church also has the capacity to grow into a Program-Size Church.** It is very difficult for a Family Church to grow into a Mid-Size Church. Family Churches will always be small. Mid-Size Churches can and do often grow into their identity. As they continue to do the work of a Program Church, they attract more people to their work and they grow. Eventually, Mid-Size Churches can become Program Churches, if they make conscious decisions to grow.



This is our challenge and call as Columbia United Church of Christ; to choose to grow. We will never be a “Mega Church” (nor would we want to be) but we can grow to Program Size. We do this by making the intentional decision to grow.

As you read this Annual Report, think about ways that you can enable the ministries of CUCC to not only continue but thrive. In the end, it is not about numbers; it is about enabling the ministry of Jesus Christ to continue through us, and about glorifying God in all that we do. It is a joy to work together! Let us do so with great intent in the years to come and glorify God in all that we do.

-Rev. Rick Oberle, Pastor  
Columbia United Church of Christ

# **CUCC Foundational Statements**

## **Mission Statement**

Columbia United Church of Christ celebrates God's boundless love by:

- Welcoming all of God's people;
- Nurturing faith and spiritual growth;
- Challenging and inspiring everyone with vibrant worship;
- Building a supportive church family;
- Transforming both the congregation and the community through service and outreach.

## **Core Values**

Columbia United Church of Christ seeks to express God's boundless love as it values being:

- Welcoming and inclusive of all people as all are created in God's image;
- Nurturing and supportive of people as everyone is God's precious child;
- Willing to extend God's grace and forgiveness as God extends grace and forgiveness;
- Intentionally aware of others as God is intentionally aware of each person.

Columbia United Church of Christ in its governance values:

- Adherence to the Constitution and Bylaws of the church;
- Intentional inclusion of diverse perspectives and voices on all decision-making bodies;
- Willingness to recognize conflict and resolve difference in a caring and respectful manner;
- Open and transparent decision-making processes;
- Making decisions by consensus rather than simple majority-rule whenever possible.

## **Open and Affirming/ Inclusion Covenant**

Columbia United Church of Christ celebrates God's boundless and unconditional love by intentionally welcoming and affirming all God's children.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey;  
No matter where you are on your faith journey;  
No matter your sexual orientation, gender expression or identity;  
No matter your race, culture, ethnicity, nationality or politics;  
No matter your age, ability, health, relationship status or family structure;  
No matter your social, economic, educational, legal or life circumstances;  
You are welcome here!

Called by Jesus to be an Open and Affirming, inclusive faith community, Columbia United Church of Christ commits to welcoming everyone into the full life of our congregation. Our paths and voices may differ, but we journey in faith together.

# CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS



## **MODERATOR**

**PURPOSE:** To provide leadership for the Council and Congregation, working to ensure that the Constitution and Bylaws are followed, that the Mission Statement is lived out, and that components of the Strategic Plan are executed; to foster a loving, Christian environment consistent with our stated Core Values.

### **Highlights:**

Though we didn't have any massive capital campaigns or Centennial celebrations, 2024 is marked by many small improvements to the church and our faith family. Early in the year we made the church more accessible for all by purchasing wheelchair ramp for the sanctuary. We said goodbye to our Admin Assistant MJ King and welcomed Alexandra Roper to the position and she has been a wonderful addition to our staff. We also have welcomed the community into our facilities by establishing a musical partnership with Quorus and becoming the official charter of a Scouting America group. We worked to secure our financial future with the establishment of the Endowment Fund and educated ourselves on its many benefits. We also established the LODO Designated Fund for donations specifically for that program. Participation in youth events has remained a challenge but not for lack of trying.

The "Raising Good Humans" meeting series as well as providing a nutritious breakfast to Sunday school participants are just two of the many things our Nurture and Education team have worked hard to enrich the church experience for the little folk. We also increased our ability to transport members to events with the purchase of a 15-passenger bus. In 2024, we continued to incorporate a wide variety of music into our worship services, enriched by choir section leaders, and we upheld many fellowship traditions that carry great meaning in our congregation. We also reached out beyond our circle of fellowship by collaborating with organizations like Loaves and Fishes, Mobility Worldwide, the Food Bank, and the Voluntary Action Center; sharing our time and gifts with those in need. We have continued to improve the building by replacing more air conditioning units and leveling our walkways so that members can get to church safely and are comfortable when here. The improvements are many, but our work is not done and we will continue living out Gods mission in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kurt Heine, Moderator





## **VICE MODERATOR: VISION TEAM**

**PURPOSE:** The Vision Team shall be comprised of the Vice Moderator, who shall chair the team, the Pastor, and one representative chosen by each of the ministry teams, and the youth. It shall meet at least twice each year at the call of its chair

Pastor Rick, a representative from each worship team, and I met three times in the fall of 2024 to develop the revised Vision.

This was a unique and eye-opening exercise. Members of the team compiled a list of accomplishments Columbia United Church of Christ had over the past year to further God's mission in our congregation, community, and throughout the world.

- ◆ Improving the worship experience with section leaders, meaningful music and anthems, experiences that bring us closer together (i.e. Fall Festival, Fastnacht.)
- ◆ Improving youth involvement in the church through a more robust Vacation Bible School, breakfast at Sunday School, better curriculum for Sunday School.
- ◆ Taking Care of Each Other through Meal Trains, healthcare ministries, education, lunch and learns, the Green Team, buying a bus, LODO.
- ◆ Increased use of our building to bless the congregation and community by maintaining the building very well, hosting the Scouts and Quorus (as part of our inclusive mission,) replacing air conditioning units.
- ◆ Giving to organizations who help others; having robust giving throughout the year allowed our congregation to give to Older Adult Ministries, The Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, Columbia Center of Uran Agriculture, and Church World Services.

Each ministry team has been very busy over the past year. We also brainstormed about what our congregation needs in 2025. The mission of God in our church never ends and it takes many hands and the finances to make it happen. The representatives of the ministry teams invite you to help them in their efforts to fulfill our dedication to God's work. Many times, we need someone to do a few things that make something happen. So, please look for signup sheets where you can use your talents and gifts to help and prayerfully consider what you are able to do.

The ideas developed in the meetings fit within the following four areas:

- ◆ Caring for each other.
- ◆ Serving God's World.
- ◆ Establishing our Identity.
- ◆ Developing our Facility.

Thank you,  
Jerry W. Kiesling, Vice Moderator



# **CUCC STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2025 (AND BEYOND)**

## **CARING FOR EACH OTHER**

- ◆ Advocate for policies that provide support for others.
- ◆ Incorporate everyone's talents into the work and life of the church.
- ◆ Formulate support & education classes for parents and children.
- ◆ Improve staff training and professional development.
- ◆ Ensure that our staff are paid just wages.
- ◆ Discern and address the needs of our older members.
- ◆ Strive to meet the needs of our members where they are.

## **ESTABLISHING OUR IDENTITY**

- ◆ Increase public awareness of our mission and location.
- ◆ Increase our advertising/marketing efforts.
- ◆ Consistently canvass the neighborhood north of the church.
- ◆ Attract more members, focusing on youth and diversity.
- ◆ Strive for intentionality incorporating youth and young adults into the life of the church.
- ◆ Strive for intentionality incorporating a diverse community into the life of the church.

## **DEVELOPING OUR FACILITY**

- ◆ Continue to modernize and maintain our building and grounds.
- ◆ Develop a comprehensive maintenance manual with records, goals and strategies for modernization and maintenance.
- ◆ Seek out new ways to utilize our building to enhance our ministry and generate income.
- ◆ Establish financial security for our ongoing ministry programs.
- ◆ Establish our facility as a host site for music groups, choirs, concerts, lecturer series, and other public events.

## **SERVING GOD'S WORLD**

- ◆ Partner with other agencies that share our goals & interests.
- ◆ Create a fulfilling, engaging, inclusive Sunday morning experience.
- ◆ Develop partnerships with others to share our facility.
- ◆ Strive for intentionality in connecting children, youth and adults to outreach and service opportunities.
- ◆ Look for ways to reach out to other UCC congregations and work together for justice.
- ◆ Strive to identify ways that we can be socially responsible and educated in areas of ecological justice, international mission, and other justice issues at home and abroad.

# **SECRETARY'S REPORT – ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**CUCC General Meeting  
May 19, 2024 | CUCC fellowship Hall**

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Kurt Heine. Pastor Rick opened us with prayer. Rev. Bryan Crousore made a motion to approve the annual meeting minutes from May 21, 2023 and the minutes from November 12, 2023 with a second from Ted Dachroeden. Motion passed.

## **New Business:**

- Election of Council Members for 2024-2025 Program Year
  - Moderator: Kurt Heine
  - Vice-Moderator: Jerry Kiesling
  - Secretary: Alethea Tennill
  - Treasurer: Deborah Long-Birkes
  - Recording Treasurer: Christine Staelens
  - Building and Grounds Ministry Team: Ted Dachroeden
  - Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team: Mary Lorber-Solt
  - Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team: VACANT
  - Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team: Tricia Price
  - LODO Ministry Team : Kristin Veteto
  - Membership and Care Ministry Team: Judi Privitt
  - Nurture and Education Ministry Team: Lena Muench
  - Outreach and Advocacy Ministry Team: Mark Duncan
  - Worship and Music Ministry Team: Jedd Schneider

Llona Weiss made a motion to accept the Council Members for the new Program Year. A second was received from Josh Muench. Motion Passed

- Endowment Fund Proposal: The Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team has proposed that we establish an Endowment Fund and submitted a description of how that fund will be utilized. Motion Passed.
- Overview of 2023 Financials: Sue Ann Schaefer presented the financials from 2023.
- Overview of Designated Funds in 2023: Sue Ann Schaefer presented the Designated Funds Growth in 2023.
- First Quarter 2024 Finances were presented by Sue Ann Schaefer.

## **Elevator Speeches:**

Our Ministry Teams presented reports on what they have done in the last year:

- ♦ Building and Grounds: Ted Dachroeden
- ♦ Fellowship & Hospitality: Mary Lorber
- ♦ Finance & Stewardship: Keith Birkes
- ♦ Inclusion & Affirmation: Tricia Price
- ♦ LODO: Lorry Dreier
- ♦ Membership & Care: Judi Privitt
- ♦ Nurture & Education: Pat Forward
- ♦ Outreach & Advocacy: Mark Duncan
- ♦ Worship & Music: Jedd Schneider
- ♦ Youth Fellowship Report: Lena Muench
- ♦ Pastor's Report: Pastor Rick
- ♦ Moderator's Report/Impact 2023-2024: Kurt Heine
- ♦ Vice Moderator's Report/Vision Team: Jerry Kiesling

Pastor Rick closed us in prayer. Motion to adjourn by Lorry Dreier, second by Lena Muench. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alethea Tennill, Secretary



## **CUCC BUDGET MEETING MINUTES**

CUCC Visioning and Strategic Planning/Budget meeting  
October 27, 2024

Kurt Heine called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Jerry Kiesling gave a report from the Vision meeting. We have developed some major community partnerships recently, with the Quorus and the Scout troop. These organizations have come to us because of our openness and acceptance of all. A year ago, the Vision Team talked about getting people to church as a need, and we were able to buy a bus to fill this need. Jerry asked everyone to think about how they can contribute to our church's vision.

Deborah Long-Birkes gave a report on the budget. The 2025 budget projects a 5% increase in Joyful Giving and a 7% increase in expenses. In 2024, we should have a surplus of almost \$19,000, and our budget for 2025 plans for a surplus of \$12,000, though of course it is not guaranteed.

We have some new income and some new expenses for next year, which Deborah gave some examples of. We should have \$50,000 income from our investments. We have some fixed expenses but also some things that change each year, like how much we have to pay for snow removal. The budget includes raises for all staff, with the raise for Pastor Rick aligned with conference guidelines. The goal for our Endowment Fund is \$2 million, but once it reaches \$500,000, we will be able to use realized gains to pay for church expenses.

Lena Muench asked about offering envelopes and Kindrid fees. Those two things add up to about \$3,000. Is there something we could do to lower those? Also, Pastor Rick's health insurance is \$30,000. Would it be possible to look for other options?

Kurt called the budget to a vote and the budget passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alethea Tennill, Secretary



## **OVERVIEW OF 2024 FINANCIALS - TREASURER**

**PURPOSE:** To assist the church council by maintaining financial records and providing monthly management accounts to assist in financial decision making.

### **2024 Financial Highlights:**

**Joyful Giving:** the Joyful Giving total was \$369,927.90 and our budgeted goal was \$404,153.00, leaving a shortfall of \$34,225.10 under our Joyful Giving goal. We needed to withdraw \$10,000 from our investment account to help cover this Joyful Giving deficit.

**Designated Funds:** Designated Funds invested with United Church Funds reflected the improved market conditions and we ended the year with a net unrealized gain. The 2024 increase in value, realized and unrealized capital gains, of these funds was \$33,980.

**Scholarship Fund:** two college scholarships were awarded through the Scholarship Fund for a total of \$4,000. The scholarship recipients were Ember Piersee and Kaden Lucas.

**Building Fund:** \$47,661 of “new money” was transferred to the Building Fund which represents a monthly transfer of 3% of Joyful Giving. We withdrew \$30,880 from our Building Fund in 2024 to pay for building upgrades.

**Transportation Fund:** we withdrew \$7,500 from the Transportation Fund to purchase our new bus.

In May, 2024, the Church Council approved a recommendation from the Finance and Stewardship Committee to open a LODO Designated Fund with a balance of \$5,090. In June, 2024, the Church Council approved the establishment of an Endowment Fund utilizing \$62,144 from remaining funds in the Alan Mader Estate Fund. The total of all of the UCF accounts is \$462,264. This, and all funds, are open to estate donations, stock donations, ongoing contributions, and one-time donations. Detailed information on these funds is included in a separate Designated Funds report.

The 2025 budget was approved at the November congregation meeting.

As treasurer I am humbled by the dedication and generosity of our members. Because of this commitment to our church, we have been able to carry our many local and international services to others and continue to make building updates and improvements. I want to thank the Finance and Stewardship Committee and the Church Council for their guidance and input. I want to give a special thank you to Alexandra, Pastor Rick, Christine Staelens and Sue Ann Schaefer for their patience and support. I couldn't do this without them.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Long-Birkes, Treasurer



## **RECORDING TREASURER**

**PURPOSE:** Purpose: To receive, record, and deposit all monetary contributions.

**Activities/Highlights:**

Joyful Giving for 2024 was \$369,927.90 which was 10% more than the 2023 Joyful Giving. But it was \$34,225.10 less than what the 2024 budget projected for the Joyful Giving amount of \$404,153.00. At the end of 2023 our budgeted Joyful Giving shortfall was 12.64% but for 2024 the shortfall was only 8.47%.

In addition to Joyful Giving, you also gave almost \$14,000 in support of the various Outreach & Advocacy designated funds. A significant portion of support of Columbia United Church of Christ doesn't show up on our financials, it is the time and talent given generously by so many of you.

Last year, we asked the congregation to consider spreading out their giving over the year and the response was incredible. During 2024, 14% of Joyful Giving came in December compared to 2023 where 22% was given in December.

Thank you so much for all you do for our church and our community!

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Staelens, Recording Treasurer



## **BUDGETED OUTREACH & ADVOCACY DISBURSEMENTS**

The following are missions that are supported in our CUCC Annual Budget in the following amounts. Some of these agencies receive more than this through special offerings, but these amounts are in our regular budget, approved by the congregation.

<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Actual 2024</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>
<b><u>Special Mission Project</u></b>		
2024– VAC Opportunity Campus; 2025– TBD	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b><u>Wider Mission</u></b>		
Back Bay Mission	\$2,300	\$1,300
Eden Seminary	-	\$1,500
Emmaus Homes	\$1,155	\$1,000
Global Ministries INESIN	\$500	\$500
Global Ministries Melel Xojobal	\$500	\$500
Growing Hope Globally	\$1,100	\$1,100
Lydia House	\$1,000	\$1,000
UCC Refuge Assistance - International Emergency Fund	\$1,300	\$2,600
<b>Total Wider Mission</b>	<b>\$7,855</b>	<b>\$9,500</b>
<b><u>Local Mission</u></b>		
VAC	\$1,750	\$4,100
Turning Point Ministries	\$2,000	\$3,100
Food Bank	\$800	\$800
St. Francis and Lois Bryant Houses	\$1,100	-
Russell Chapel CME Church Food Pantry	\$300	\$300
Ronald McDonald House	\$500	\$500
Patch of Chillicothe	\$900	\$900
LOVE Columbia	\$400	\$800
Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary	\$500	\$1,000
Habitat for Humanity	\$950	\$1,000
Grade A Plus	\$500	\$500
Fun City Academy	\$500	\$500
Columbia Older Adult Ministries	\$1,000	\$1,000
The Center Project	-	\$500
Room at the Inn	\$1,100	-
City of Refuge	\$500	\$1,000
The Food Bank Market	\$1,000	\$1,000
<b>Total Local Mission</b>	<b>\$13,800</b>	<b>\$17,000</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED MISSION GIVING</b>	<b>\$26,655</b>	<b>\$31,500</b>

## **DESIGNATED FUNDS**

Columbia United Church of Christ has twelve Designated Funds, structured and defined to do specific work of the church. Definitions of each fund are in our “Designated Funds Policy Manual” available in the church office or from a Council Member. These funds include:

<b>Fund:</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>1/1/2022</b>	<b>1/1/2023</b>	<b>1/1/2024</b>	<b>1/1/2025</b>
*Building & Grounds		\$122,310	\$58,106	\$67,312	\$88,813
Chiapas Mission/Mayan Ministries		\$1,184	\$1,384	(\$239)	\$0.91
*Memorial		\$9,562	\$8,603	\$9,853	\$10,960
*Nurture & Education Ministry		\$9,250	\$8,480	\$10,322	\$12,156
Outreach & Advocacy		\$5,385	\$5,935	\$4,288	\$6,819
*Scholarship		\$161,291	\$121,569	\$130,498	\$138,598
*Transportation		\$10,169	\$6,816	\$7,806	\$5,253
Worship & Music Ministry		\$4,045	\$3,265	\$1,965	\$1,965
*Young Adult/Campus Ministry		\$2,304	\$2,073	\$2,374	\$2,594
*Youth Ministry		\$6,993	\$6,291	\$7,206	\$7,888
*LODO Ministry (established in 2024)					\$5,090
*Endowment Fund (established in 2024)					\$62,144
<i>*Invested with United Church Funds</i>					

In May 2024, the Church Council approved a recommendation from the Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team to open the LODO Designated Fund. In June, 2024, the Church Council established the Endowment Fund, taking action on the vote of the Congregation at our May, 2024 annual meeting to do so. This was established utilizing the remaining funds in the Alan Mader Estate Fund. As of January 1, 2025, our balances with UCF for all accounts totaled **\$462,264**. **In 2024 these accounts increased in value by \$33,980 in dividend, realized, and unrealized capital gains.**

**We also added \$47,661 in “new money” to our Building Fund**, which was 3% of our Joyful Giving in 2024, plus donations. We withdrew \$30,880 from our Building Fund to pay for building upgrades. We withdrew \$4,000 from our Scholarship Fund in 2024 to fund two awarded Scholarships to college students Kaden Lucas, and Ember Piersee. We withdrew \$7,500 from the Transportation Fund to purchase our new bus. We also withdrew \$10,000 from our main investment account to cover our 2024 Joyful Giving shortfall.

The positive growth in the stock market in 2023 and 2024 were beneficial to our funds and helped correct the values lost in 2022. Our goal for 2025 will be growth in our Endowment Fund, so it can start benefitting the ministries of the church. All of these funds are open to estate donations, stock donations, ongoing contributions, or one-time donations; and please remember CUCC in your Estate Planning. If you would like to set up a recurring gift or an estate donation to one of these, contact me, and we will work together to set that up. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Long-Birkes, Treasurer







# MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS



## **BUILDING & GROUNDS MINISTRY TEAM**

**PURPOSE:** To meet accessible requirements; to protect our investment in the assets of the church; to provide a comfortable, clean, and safe place to carry out the programs of the church; to provide access to the church; to provide parking for staff and participants; to provide an aesthetically pleasing environment; to provide comfort, security, safety, and sanitation; to keep assets in good condition and repair.

### **Members:**

Ted Dachroeden, John Graves, Fred Malicoat, Brent Marcks, Charlie Marcks, Doug Privitt, and Mike Rapp.

### **Completed Projects and Repairs:**

- ◆ Windows in upper and lower levels washed.
- ◆ Flower boxes added to the front of the Church.
- ◆ Three A/C units were replaced.
- ◆ City of Columbia removed dead and downed trees from the south side hill to clear powerlines.
- ◆ Honeysuckle was removed from the entrance to the grounds.
- ◆ Added new cameras for building security.
- ◆ Repaired the light in the main stair well.

### **Projects Scheduled for 2025:**

- ◆ Remove more honeysuckle from the grounds.
- ◆ Repair minor leaks on the flat roof.
- ◆ Update some of the parking lot lighting.
- ◆ Update the lighting for the entrance sign.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ted Dachroeden, Building and Grounds Ministry Team Chair



## **CLERGY PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT**

**PURPOSE:** The Clergy Personnel Committee serves in two primary ways: as an advisory group to the Pastor (the committee shares ideas, dreams, hopes, expectations and concerns of the congregation with the pastor) and as support for Pastor's Leadership (the committee interprets roles, functions and needs of the Pastor to the congregation.)

### **Goals:**

- ◆ Professional growth and well-being of the Pastor.
- ◆ The promotion of mutual ministry between the Pastor and the congregation.

The committee meets at least quarterly to support Pastor Rick and discuss developments within the congregation, including celebrations and appreciations, as well as concerns and disappointments. We discuss Pastor Rick's goals and progress toward them.

Our committee consists of three members serving staggered three-year terms, wherein one member is elected by the Congregation each year at the Annual Meeting:

Pat Forward- Term ends May, 2025

Kristy Hayward- Term ends May, 2026

Mike Pierson- Term ends May, 2027

### **Account of 2024:**

The Clergy Personnel Committee continued to meet regularly with Pastor Rick to offer support and feedback for the ongoing ministry of Columbia UCC. The committee also discussed the wider church setting (Western Association, Missouri Mid-South Conference) as it relates to Columbia UCC. We solicited feedback from Council Members, and selected Ministry Team members in May, 2024, to compile the Annual Pastoral Evaluation. The committee presented the surveys to Pastor Rick and continues to discuss the results with him.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Forward, Clergy Personnel Committee Chair



## **FELLOWSHIP & HOSPITALITY MINISTRY TEAM**

**PURPOSE:** The mission of the Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team is to coordinate events and provide food, fellowship and fun for all in a caring, Christian environment, as well as provide members with the opportunity to become better acquainted with one another.

Our goals are accomplished through completing several responsibilities of this ministry team:

- ◆ To organize and maintain Sunday morning hospitality, which includes coffee, cold drinks, prepackaged snacks, and sometimes donuts, cake, and homemade products. Both set-up and clean-up are completed every Sunday.
- ◆ To coordinate, plan, and implement all church fellowship activities (eg, Advent banquet, End of Year picnic, Rally Day, Fastnacht, etc.) and to provide assistance to other ministry teams as needed and/or requested.

While there were many events this year that we helped other ministry teams with, setting up, clean-up, serving food, snacks, etc., there were nine events coordinated and held by the Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team.

### **Notable Events:**

February	Fastnacht dinner and band - 145 attended
May:	Annual Meeting/Pot Luck luncheon - 69 attended
June:	End of Year picnic - 66 attended
Sept:	Rally Day - 80 attended Scout Charter Sunday
October:	Fall picnic - 43 attended including our scouts and families Halloween - 300 trick or treat bags filled
November:	Veterans Appreciation breakfast with guest speakers - 55 in attendance
December:	Advent Banquet - 93 in attendance

This ministry team will continue to address any needs or concerns of the congregation. Encouraging input and listening with open ears to meet the needs of our congregation, to ensure a meaningful and rewarding experience at Columbia United Church of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Lorber, Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team Chair



## **FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM**

**PURPOSE:** This Ministry Team is responsible for oversight of CUCC's finances. These duties include oversight of the church's investments and advising the congregation and Church Council of their status. We compile and prepare the church's annual budget and promote congregational support of the budget. The team is also responsible for the education and implementation of stewardship principles to serve our greater mission through our combined time, talent, and treasures.

### **2024 Team Members:**

Pastor Rick Oberle, Shelly Adams, Keith Birkes, Barry Kirchhoff, Deborah Long-Birkes, Doug Privitt, Sue Ann Schaefer, Christine Staelens, Paula Wilson, Brent Marcks, Charlie Marcks

### **2024 Year-end Budget:**

Our total income finished \$32,900.55 under budget (with a Joyful Giving shortfall of \$33,350.55); expenses finished \$8,222.99 over budget for a total budget shortfall of \$24,677.56. Stewardship Sunday. On March 17, Matt Wagner of United Church Funds joined us as our Stewardship Sunday guest and speaker. His presentation centered on planned giving and endowments.

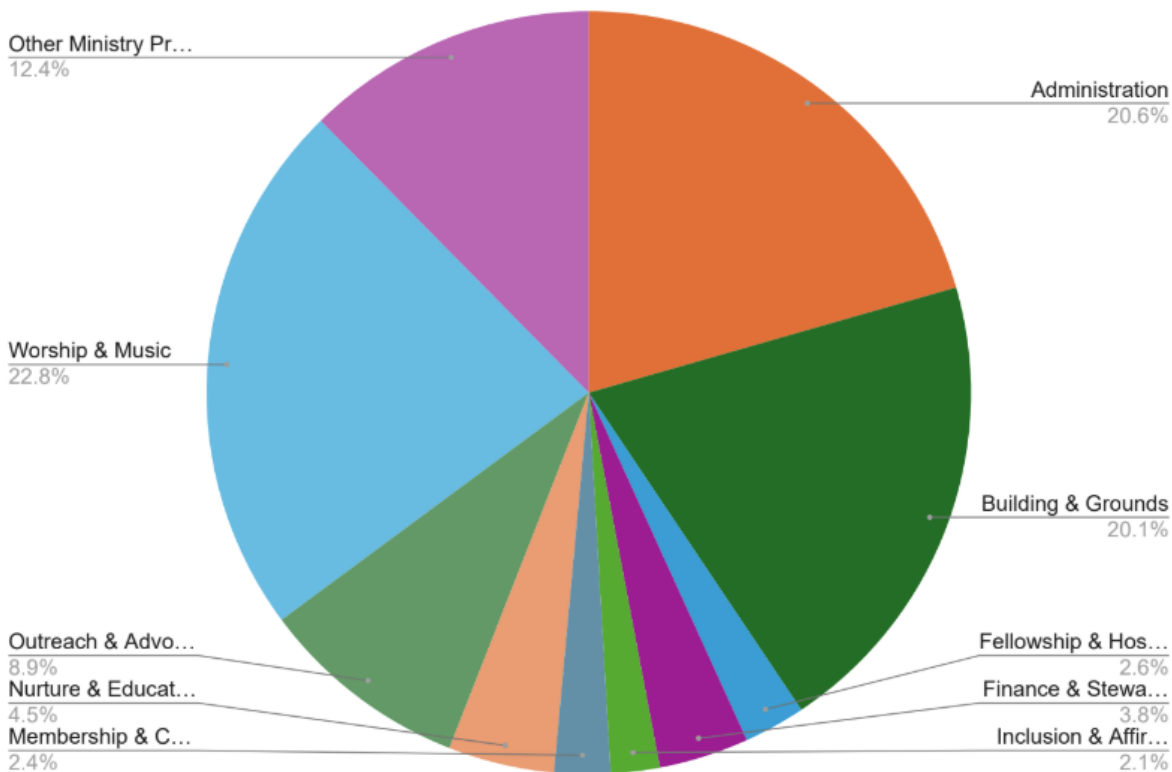
### **CUCC Endowment Fund:**

Our CUCC congregation voted to establish an Endowment Fund at our May 18, 2024, Congregational Meeting. The initial goal is to fund the endowment to \$2 million in five years. Once the endowment fund reaches that level, CUCC can use 4-5% of the fund balance to help support the annual budget.

### **Interpretive Budget:**

Below, you'll find a pie chart illustrating how we used our CUCC funds in 2024, broken down by ministry. In 2023, we had a very successful building campaign to renovate our sanctuary. Sometime during the second half of 2025, we'll be kicking off an endowment campaign. Stay tuned for more details!

2024 CUCC Budget Actual by Ministry



Respectfully submitted,  
Shelly Adams, Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team Chair

## **INCLUSION & AFFIRMATION MINISTRY TEAM**

**PURPOSE:** To exemplify with intention our church's inclusive expression of faith.

### **Members in 2024:**

Tricia Price (chair), Tricia Soncasie (secretary), Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Lydia Whitacre, Kristy Odneal, Shelly Adams, and Pastor Rick Oberle.

We continued to live into our Covenant throughout this year, trying to look at everything through a lens of inclusion, and always ask what we could do to be more inclusive of all God's children. Some of the ideas that our team discusses are small but important, like making sure people with mobility issues can participate in music and leadership roles in our sanctuary, making sure the pictures on our website are representative of the diversity of our membership, and making sure our artwork and even our Nativity scene shows the diversity of God's creation instead of being Euro-centric.

In January, we sponsored a table at the Columbia Values Diversity Celebration, with about ten CUCC members attending, and we celebrated the fifth anniversary of our CUCC Open and Affirming (ONA) Inclusion Covenant in worship.

In March, a few members attended the Gateway ONA Convocation that takes place in St. Louis every spring. It was good to get ideas from other ONA churches. Some of us who were not able to attend in person managed to attend virtually.

In June, the Quorus provided the anthem for our worship service on ONA Sunday and we had rainbow donuts during social time.

In September, we had a booth at Columbia PrideFest. Pastor Rick gave glitter blessings, and our 11 volunteers gave out around 1,500 packets with information about our church. For the first time, we staffed the booth Sunday as well as Saturday, so that allowed us to talk to even more people. In addition, the town of Marshall hosted their first PrideFest, and there was some controversy around the event, so we decided to have a booth there to show solidarity. Pastor Rick and Alexandra staffed the booth, and a few other members went to show support.

In November, we hosted a showing of the movie *Origin*, with 27 people in attendance and we had a good discussion after watching the movie.

We continued with occasional Inclusion Moments in church and bulletin inserts, as well as monthly Communicator articles about important people in history and current events that church members might want to know more about.

We are now planning for 2025, and our ministry team is always open to new ideas if there are other topics you would like to see addressed. We would love to have assistance from anyone else who feels inspired to include everyone fully in our church life and affirm every person's worth, no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tricia Price, Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team Chair





## **MEMBERSHIP & CARE MINISTRY TEAM**

**PURPOSE:** Our purpose is to enable, establish and maintain programs to care for members of the Congregation and meet the needs of their membership. We continue to evolve our programs to welcome, support and integrate our guests and members; keep the membership of the church current; and implement marketing techniques.

### **Members of the team include:**

Sue Beckman, Carol Duermeyer, Helen Schultz, Anne Heine, Jessica Lucas, Audrey Lasley, Bryan Crousore, Jolene Kirchhoff, Susan Dunham, and ongoing support, ideas and involvement from Pastor Rick.

The Membership & Care Team meets every other month. We've welcomed eight new members into the church in 2024. We also worked hard outside of planned meetings to assure new members are welcomed, life circumstances are recognized, and our congregational members are cared for.

Our CUCC CARES (Compassionate Actions Reward Everyone) Ministries continued our task-oriented, hands-on ministries that provide care for our congregation members in time of celebration and need. They include Note Writers/Cards (facilitated by Carol Duermeyer), Handy Helpers (facilitated by Doug Privitt), Visiting Ministry (facilitated by Jolene Kirchhoff), Meal Ministry (facilitated by Lena Muench), Prayer Shawl Ministry (facilitated by Elaine Trout), Health and Wellness Ministry (facilitated by Anne Heine), Transportation Ministry (facilitated by Judi Privitt), and Prayer Team Ministry (facilitated by Tricia Soncasie and Melba Shaffer). These ministries have become very active in sending cards, planning visits, making hand-made items, providing meal trains, providing rides, and praying for our members.

Additionally, Journeying Through Grief booklets are a series of four booklets shared with congregants during times of loss. In 2024, we distributed eight sets of booklets to members to help with their grief journey. These booklets share helpful insights about grief, biblical truths, and stories that provide comfort and reassurance.

### **This year...**

- ◆ We continued to ensure each visitor and member was greeted with purpose and intention. When a visitor is recognized, they are greeted and welcomed with a bag filled with info about our church and how they can get involved. We also encouraged our members to share worship information through social media and sent postcards for Rally Day, Lent and Advent.
- ◆ We started our Young Adult Ministry with a gathering at Doug and Judi Privitt's house. Several getting-to-know-you activities were incorporated into the evening.
- ◆ Scheduled and delivered 65 meals using 'Meal Train' website.
- ◆ Distributed 174 cards and notes.

The Membership and Care Team has several projects in the works for 2025. Discussions and work has begun on:

- ◆ Continue to identify members with various needs and visit them, call them, send cards, and/or prayers and continue to explore possibilities for the transportation to meet members' needs.
- ◆ Continue to follow up with visitors and welcome new members into our church and integrate them into the life of the congregation.
- ◆ Continue to revise/update CUCC membership rolls.

"There can be no greater gift than that of giving one's time and energy to help others without expecting anything in return." –Nelson Mandela

I am so grateful to our Ministry Team members who graciously give their time to help CUCC family and friends.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judi Privitt, Membership and Care Ministry Team Chair



## **NURTURE & EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM**

**PURPOSE:** To provide Sunday morning forums to nurture families through Christian faith and challenge faith through learning opportunities; to prepare our youth to be confirmed into the faith and provide them with extended learning and fellowship opportunities; to support our children and youth to attend camp and other educational and outreach events; to provide quality nursery care on Sunday mornings during worship and to coordinate CUCC's annual Vacation Bible School.

### **Adult Education:**

- ◆ Traditional Bible Study offered and has a regular crew of attendees.
- ◆ Contemporary Adult Education/Bible Study started a new series in September on the book "How to Fight Racism" by Jemar Tisby. There are ten sessions that will be broken into three parts in September 2024, January 2025, and May 2025.
- ◆ "Raising Good Humans" group was started to support parents and guardians. At initial gathering in February had 13 in attendance. We held gatherings monthly for remainder of the year, though attendance dwindled. We started again on September 24. We decided to pause this offering in the meantime due to low participation. We look forward to being able to offer it again, and welcome anyone that is interested in leading it to let the team know.

### **COMO Mission Experience:**

Pastor Rick has spearheaded the COMO Mission Experience for CUCC. Advertising is underway to offer a mission trip experience to groups utilizing our facilities and community resources. Several groups from around the Midwest have expressed interest.

### **Special Events/Projects by Month:**

February

- ◆ SOUPer Bowl of Caring Collected soup and monetary donations leading up to Superbowl Sunday. Items donated to Food Bank Market Pantry; monetary donations to Loaves and Fishes.

March

- ◆ The Easter Bake Sale was a great success. We had approximately 25 youth in attendance for Easter Sunday School rotations.

April

- ◆ Nurture & Ed had a booth at the Columbia Earth Day celebration. We handed out seed packets with church information on them and did a raffle basket drawing to also gather leads for VBS registration.
- ◆ A new tree was planted at church during our "Earth Sunday" Sunday School gathering.

May

- ◆ On Mother's Day, youth passed out carnations to all of the women at church.

June

- ◆ On Father's Day, Popcorn packets were passed out to all of the men at church.

August

- ◆ A youth planning meeting was hosted. Approximately 40 people in attendance (both adults and youth.) We discussed plans for the year, got feedback from families, etc. Youth completed time and talent sheets so that we can help incorporate their skills and interests into our worship at CUCC to make the experience more meaningful for everyone.
- ◆ On Rally Day, we presented Bibles to three 3rd graders: Abe Heine, Esther Kibaro, and Camryn Woolford. We also presented an of age-appropriate faith-based books to all youth present (approximately 26 in attendance that day.)

September

- ◆ Healthy Relationships Training was held in accordance with our Safe Church Policy. This is held annually to reacquaint all volunteers with best practices for working with kids and youth.
- ◆ Rally Day welcomed our new Sunday School year with great attendance in all classes

## **NURTURE & EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM (CONT.)**

November

- ◆ Approximately 25 Blessing Boxes were sent to college and trade school students in our church family. It worked well to purchase through Amazon and have shipped directly to students. We received positive feedback/gratitude from several students.
- ◆ During the Thanksgiving Sunday food collection, Sunday School youth proceeded into the sanctuary with non-perishable food items donated by the congregation; these items were donated to Food Bank Market Pantry.

December

- ◆ Cookies by the Pound was held. Thank you to Lorry Dreier and Gina Pierson for spearheading this. We raised approximately \$600 for the Nurture & Education Designated Fund.
- ◆ The Christmas Program was directed by Lindsey Oberle with music directed by Kristin and Adam Veteto. It is always a wonderful addition to the Christmas season!

### **Sunday School:**

- ◆ We reviewed the list of youth by grade and decided how to divide the grades for Sunday School starting Fall 2024: PreK-2, 3rd-5th grade, and 6th-12th grade.
- ◆ We updated technology in classrooms: purchased HDMI cables, Apple/Android converter cables, Bluetooth speakers, wall mounts for TVs in several rooms for safety, and a new, larger TV for youth lounge.
- ◆ We started offering breakfast each Sunday morning (starting Rally Day 2024) to help families by making it easier to get to Sunday School. This has been well received.
- ◆ We added microwaves and toasters to all classrooms as we have added breakfast each Sunday.
- ◆ We purchased curtains for classrooms to help with energy efficiency.
- ◆ We chose to plan our own curriculum instead of purchasing curriculum as in the past. This way we can tailor it more to our youth and tie it into our rubric. Huge thank you to Gina Pierson for planning this. We have had wonderful feedback about this change.
- ◆ We have added a “greeter/floater” each Sunday to greet everyone for Sunday School (especially any visitors,) help clean up breakfast, and assist in any class as needed.
- ◆ Attendance has dwindled at Sunday School with an average of three to six youth on an average Sunday. We are working to reach out to families and communicate the importance of everyone’s involvement for the success of our program- of course, perfect attendance is certainly not a requirement.

### **Vacation Bible School:**

- ◆ VBS was Coordinated by Gina Pierson and Lena Muench.
- ◆ We had a record 67 registrants, more than 40 volunteers, and approximately 90 meals served each night.
- ◆ We were so excited to try something different by involving as many as possible to help make VBS a success in even more ways! In addition to our VBS budget some of the congregation donated items, provided funds to purchase additional supplies, and let us borrow all sorts of outdoorsy things to make our church look camp-ready for our adventure!
- ◆ We hosted an all-church volunteer reception in August with donuts and juice to thank everyone for making VBS such a success!

### **Youth Group**

- ◆ A group hosted for grades 6-12. Our youth have met monthly for the most part. They have enjoyed both service and social gatherings, and sometimes a mix of both. They also enjoyed putting their culinary skills to use by preparing meals for guests of the Fisher House and the Ronald McDonald House. Attendance has ranged from three to seven youth at most gatherings- a small but mighty group!

### **Young Adult Ministry**

- ◆ Since September, there have been several gatherings for the young adults at CUCC (ages 30 and under.) They have been well-attended so far and plans have been made to continue these in 2025.

## **NURTURE & EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM (CONT.)**

I cannot overstate how appreciative I am of everyone that helps this ministry team either by serving on the team, leading/teaching classes, helping in the nursery- you name it, you have my appreciation! I would also like to extend a quick word of thanks to Pat Forward for her prior leadership of the team and for helping to make everything so seamless for us!

Thank you to *you*, CUCC family- we rely on your love and support and there's no way we could do so many amazing things without you!

With love,  
Lena Muench, Nurture and Education Ministry Team Chair



## **OUTREACH & ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM**

**PURPOSE:** To coordinate and encourage participation in local outreach activities, promote organizations included in the annual Outreach budget, promote support for Our Church's Wider Mission and the special offerings of the United Church of Christ, and to identify non-partisan issues for which advocacy may be appropriate.

CUCC continues to be a force for good in our community, nation and globally through service and resources that help our neighbors wherever they may be. The activities listed below are a sample of the congregation's Outreach and Advocacy efforts.

### **Special Offerings and Contributions:**

CUCC was again a "Five for Five" congregation, supporting all five UCC campaigns- Our Church's Wider Mission, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and the Christmas Offering (Veterans of the Cross.) We supported the Food Bank of Central and NE Missouri (5th Sunday offerings,) as people continue to struggle with the high cost of food. We also collected special offerings for Church World Service Tools and Blankets Sunday; the CROP Walk; Mobility Worldwide, and the Christmas Eve offering went to the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture, supporting locally grown, environmentally friendly food and resources for people.

### **Budgeted Support for Service Agencies:**

Through the congregation's generous support, \$26,000 from the general fund was disbursed to 14 local service agencies and nine state, national, and international organizations to assist their work in feeding the hungry, ministering to refugees, serving disaster victims, housing the homeless, and providing spiritual support for people in their times of need. The special mission project provided a \$5,000 investment in The Opportunity Campus, powered by the Voluntary Action Center of Columbia that will provide services in Boone County with multiple agencies coming together in one place of offer comprehensive services to our homeless neighbors.

### **Gathering Supplies and Gifts:**

CUCC donated generously to several collection drives. For our Partner in Education school, Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary, we contributed school supplies and provided snacks for Parent-Teacher conferences; provided dental kits through the Festival of Sharing, and supported Christmas gifts and food for 45 local people and more via the Voluntary Action Center Christmas Drive and money for additional family needs.

### **Faithful Service:**

CUCC had groups each month at The Food Bank. Many groups and individuals helped Audrey Lasley serve meals to homeless and low-income people every third Monday at Loaves and Fishes. Volunteers picked up bags of trash near the church during Clean-Up Columbia Day in April. The Alpha Hart Lewis partnership in education has been held up as a model for faith and community partners with CUCC receiving a special recognition as outstanding partners. Thanks to Llona Weiss, the faithful team of volunteers, and our church's generous contributions to the staff and families. We also had two issues that we have advocated in 2024. Reproductive freedom and healthcare was enshrined into the state constitution and providers of care are restoring this dignity for women of our state. We continue to engage with Team Earth, educating on Creation Justice and providing our congregation with resources as we discern how we can best embody a commitment to care for God's creation.



Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Duncan, Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team Chair

## **CHIAPAS MISSION REPORT**

The year 2018 was the beginning of the relationship between Columbia United Church of Christ and our Global Mission Partners in Chiapas. After a year of studying about the culture and climate of Chiapas, in October 2018, seven CUCC members travelled to Chiapas for our first ever Mission Immersion Experience. It was quite an exciting time as we learned about the people of Chiapas and the context in which they live. Our hearts were changed forever by our experience.

There are two agencies we work with directly: The Institute for Intercultural Studies and Research (“The Institute” or “ISEII”) and Melel Xojobal. Both agencies are Global Missions Partners, supported by Our Church’s Wider Mission and One Great Hour of Sharing.

I had the opportunity to work with both of these agencies the month I lived in Chiapas during my sabbatical in 2022. I was very impressed with the work they are doing and the changes they are bringing to these oppressed communities.

In 2023, our CUCC delegation returned to Chiapas! Seven of us made the journey from October 3 to October 10, learning from the people of Chiapas and immersing ourselves in the community. During our trip we learned how to make tamales and tortillas, we visited a rainforest and some Mayan ruins, we took a trip on a Mexican river to learn about the flora and fauna and history of the region, we learned about Mayan spirituality and built a Mayan altar, and we worshipped in a local Independent Christian Church where I delivered the sermon that Sunday (with the help of a translator.) We even celebrated the wedding of Keith Birkes and Deborah Long!

We also participated in a protest march organized by Melel Xojobal to raise awareness of the rights of children in San Cristobal. Children, especially girls, are disenfranchised by the culture and in the indigenous communities, education is devalued. This march lifted up the rights of children, especially girls, and helped restore some of the dignity that has been taken away from them. We spent much time working with Melel, and were impressed not only by the work they are doing, but also by how they have had to evolve since 2018.

The purpose of our trip was not to construct a building or dig latrines. When U.S. missionaries indulge in that sort of behavior, they are simply taking skilled labor away from Indigenous Contractors who really need the employment. Our purpose was to immerse ourselves in their context, to learn from them, and to build relationships. Education and relationship building was our goal, and we succeeded in our endeavor. The bonds we built will last a lifetime.

We now have 13 CUCC members who have made the journey to Chiapas, and we hope to bring more! We have another trip planned for June 18-25, 2025. It is relatively inexpensive, and an amazing experience. If you would like to go on this trip, contact Pastor Rick or Mark Duncan for more details!

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Rick Oberle



## **OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION**

**PURPOSE:** What is Our Church's Wider Mission? It is *not* an Outreach program; it **is** about identity. Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) is who we are as Christians, acting out love in God's World. OCWM is who we are as God's Children!

Where does the money go? When we remit our OCWM contributions each month, 80% of the funds stay here in the Missouri Mid-South Conference to undergird and support Camps MoVal and Shannondale, to support the ministries of the Conference, to support churches in need, to provide pastoral assistance for churches in the search process, to provide revitalization resources for churches seeking new growth and vitality.

Twenty percent of the funds we send are remitted to the National Setting of the United Church of Christ where they are used to fund our missionary work overseas (such as the work being done in Chiapas): to provide resources for clergy and churches seeking growth and revitalization, to help churches who are struggling, to advocate for those who are disenfranchised and in need of God's healing love, to enable youth programming throughout the denomination, to change lives and transform the world into an image more reflective of God's passion for shalom.

### **CUCC Remittances to Our Church's Wider Mission 2010-2025**

2025	\$12,000 (budgeted)
2024	\$12,000
2023	\$15,000
2022	\$15,000
2021	\$14,000
2020	\$13,000
2019	\$12,600
2018	\$12,000
2017	\$10,000
2016	\$10,000
2015	\$9,844
2014	\$9,844
2013	\$10,431
2012	\$9,300
2011	\$8,550



Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Rick Oberle

## **TEAM EARTH**

**PURPOSE:** Through education and faithful action, Team Earth strives to bring awareness to our relationship with all of God's creations with a focus on the planet.

Team Earth has held many Lunch and Learn events over the 2024 year. These Lunch and Learns are usually after Sunday services and focus on the education of environmental justice. We are lucky to take occasional field trips, such as going to the recycling plant. Some topics of our Lunch and Learns have been:

In October, we took a trip to the Columbia Recycling plant. The tour was lead by John Allen, a volunteer ambassador for the City of Columbia. He broke down the process of recycling in our city. We learned that the staff sorts the plastics, glass, aluminum, paper, and cardboard into separate bins before the materials are all baled and sent off to different recycling mills. In Columbia, plastic items with numbers 1, 2 and 5 can be easily recycled. However, plastic items with the number 4, such as plastic bags from grocery stores, cannot be recycled at the Columbia Recycling plant; these bags must be returned to a grocery store that recycles their bags. Unfortunately, plastics with the numbers 3, 6, and 7 are unable to be recycled in our area since there are no buyers of the used materials. An example of these "unrecyclable" materials are solo cups or black clamshell plastics. Another common item not able to be recycled are cardboard containers with plastic coatings, such as orange juice cartons. John Allen informed us that many of these plastic items eventually become microplastics, microscopic particles (approximately 5 millimeters small) of plastic that never decompose.

In November, we visited the City of Columbia Sanitary Landfill and Material Recovery Facility (MRF). Adam White, the Columbia Landfill Superintendent, gave us a short presentation followed by a tour of the facilities. Later in the month, our Lunch and Learn invited Jim Windsor, a retired Columbia Water and Light employee, to present on energy efficiency and conservation.

### **2025 Business:**

We are planning out Earth Day, celebrated on April 22. Typically, CUCC picks up trash along the outer road at that time. We will join them. We are discussing planting a tree on the property as well. We are also discussing having more Lunch and Learns in the summer after worship services, possibly having "green mission moments" during worship, having a UCC national speaker come speak to us on creation justice, posting photos of nature on the pre-church slide shows, having more worship services outside during appropriate weather, having a Native American worship service, hosting an educational opportunity about insects and their impact on earth, having a pollinator garden or rain garden on CUCC grounds, having a nutritionist talk to us about the true meaning and value of organic, and installing LED light bulbs in the church.

The current plans for the spring Lunch and Learns are:

January: Gardening & Composting - Shelly

February: The Science of Climate Change - Mahree

March or May: Water and Climate Change - Llona

May: Solar - Mahree



Respectfully submitted,  
Shelly Adams, Team Earth Chair



## **WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM**

**PURPOSE:** To assist and support the Pastor and the Music Coordinator in their implementation of praise, thanksgiving, confession, and faith responses that connect worshippers to God.

2024 marked a time of both faithful continuity and bold transition in the music and worship life of the Columbia United Church of Christ congregation. Casey Wood, again, led and inspired our musical forces as Music Coordinator. Steve Jannetti, again, blessed us with his keyboard and vocal talents as organist and accompanist. CUCC continued its successful relationship with the MU School of Music.

Along with several others, Steve, his wife, Valerie, and Connie Loveless devoted countless hours over the spring and summer months to inventory, reorganize, purge, and catalogue the entire CUCC choral and music library. This massive and selfless task will be invaluable to Casey and all future Music Coordinators and organists/accompanists as a necessary step for securing institutional memory, preserving church resources, and ensuring the continuity of CUCC's tradition of presenting outstanding, uplifting musical worship experiences.

The Chapel Ringers and Celebration Singers continued to uplift the congregation with many inspirational, powerful Sunday performances throughout the year. This included a special Advent Cantata presented as a service of song on December 8.

A new worship feature begun in 2024 was the convening of an ad hoc children's choir to join the Celebration Singers for three set performances during worship. This entailed Casey working with the children for part of Sunday school the preceding two weeks, then having the children rehearse and perform on the dedicated Sunday. The children's choir will continue its joyful performances in 2025.

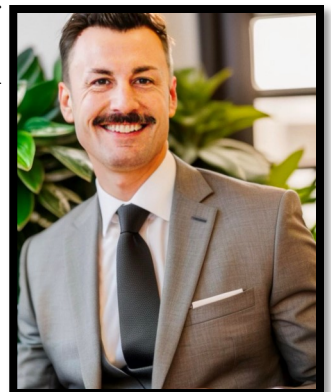
The Banner Team of Jo Ellen Grace, Jolene Hackman, Connie Loveless, Lea Marienfield, and Melba Shaffer met periodically to faithfully maintain and restore old banners. The Banner Team also revealed a new set of banners in the fall, adding beauty and luster to worship.

In summer 2024, the Worship & Music Committee surveyed the congregation about their worship preferences, generally, and what modes or features of worship they would like to experience, specifically. The results were clear: CUCC needs more diversity in its worship offerings. This means everything from various familiar and new music style to drama to dance. Fulfilling the worship and music desires of the congregation is an ongoing concern for this Committee and we continue to solicit the input of the CUCC faithful as to how we can always best meet your needs.

Also at the beginning of summer, Steve Jannetti broadened the spiritual horizons of the congregation by leading Taizé worship. Flowing from its roots in the ecumenical Christian monastic tradition, Taizé is a simple, meditative form of worship calling for deep contemplation on Christ's presence around and within us. Featuring repetitive singing of tunes or chants of limited pitch and harmonic material, often in different languages, Taizé worship may be interspersed with readings, prayers, and silence. Taizé services were held again during the Advent season of 2024 and will continue as another worship experience option for CUCC folk in 2025.

Finally, the New Century Sanctuary is virtually completed. The finishing trim and other touches were put in place under the dedicated guidance of Mike Pierson. As we close this year and move with joyful hope into 2025, we thank Creator God that CUCC's tradition of such consistently rich music and worship continues to flourish unabated.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jedd Schneider, Worship & Music Ministry Team Chair



LITTLE ONE'S DAY OUT  
REPORTS



## **LODO MINISTRY TEAM**

**PURPOSE:** To guide Little One's Day Out (LODO) in supporting families in their children's education and nurturing children in a Christian setting.

### **Current LODO Ministry Team Members:**

Kristin Veteto (Ministry Team Chair) Susan Dunham, Kim Oberle, Carissa Graves, Darla Privitt, Lydia Whitacre, and Christine Mseke.

LODO became a part of CUCC when the preschool doors opened in the fall of 2002. Erika Maltzbarger has served as the Director since 2015, and began working at LODO in 2011 as a teacher. LODO remains a high-quality preschool program and operates with caring, experienced teachers and aides.

The presence of energetic LODO children in our building is refreshing and reminds us of the innocence of children and how impressionable children are. Director Maltzbarger and her staff continue to do an amazing job coordinating learning through fun age-appropriate activities for the children while serving the community through outreach. LODO staff's strong commitment and dedication is evident in the love and education provided to students and families and help make the LODO program successful.

The LODO Ministry Team continues to function as oversight to the preschool and the LODO Ministry Team Chair is a member of the Church Council. The Team provides input and assistance to Director Maltzbarger and approves policies, practices, and handbooks. The team meets as needed, but at least quarterly to review financial statements, enrollment, activities, concerns, and offers input and advice. In June, JoEllen Grace, Jolene Kirchoff, and Lorry Dreier completed their terms. We offer our most sincere gratitude for their time, service, and insight. The positions were filled by Lydia Whitacre, Christine Mseke, and Kristin Veteto.

Enrollment and staffing continued to fluctuate this year. As of December 5, 2024, enrollment was at 72.1% and included 53 total students and 48 families (2 CUCC families.) Staffing has continued to be an issue and shortages have caused the Assistant Director, Ashley, to fill in as teacher on multiple occasions. In November, Director Erika Maltzbarger officially submitted her resignation and is to stay for the duration of the school year or until a new Director is found to fulfill the position. A search committee has been appointed and includes Kristin Veteto, Susan Dunham, Alethea Tennill, and Pastor Rick Oberle. Thank you to everyone who continues to support LODO through your time, donations, and encouragement. Please keep the LODO program in your prayers during this next year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristin Veteto, LODO Ministry Team Chair



## **LODO PRESCHOOL MINISTRY**

**Mission:** Little One’s Day Out (est. July 2002) is designed to support families in the education and nurturing of children in a Christian setting (LODO Policies & Procedures Manual.) This outreach ministry of CUCC continues to serve families of Columbia and the surrounding area. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. during the academic year. LODO Plus hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday during the academic year. LODO Plus is available to children enrolled in the Lambs, Lions, Leopards, or Leap Frogs regular program. We strive to provide a loving environment, nutritious snacks, developmentally appropriate activities, positive family interactions, and fun for all children ages one to five years of age.

### **Vital statistics (January 2024 - May 2024)**

#### **73.2% Average Enrollment**

Class	Age	Average # of Children				
		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Lightning Bugs	1-2 yr	4	4	4	4	4
Lambs	2-3 yr	7.5	8	8	8	8
Lions	3-4 yr	5	6	6	7	6
Leopards	3-4 yr	5	6	6	5	4.5
Leap Frogs	4-5 yr	6	6	6	5.5	2.5
LODO + AM/PM	2-5 yr	13.5	7.5	14.5	9.5	9.5

### **Vital statistics (September 2024 - December 2024)**

#### **70.8% Average Enrollment**

Class	Age	Average # of Children				
		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Lightning Bugs	1-2 yr	4	4	4	4	4
Lambs	2-3 yr	7.5	6.5	8	8	7.5
Lions	3-4 yr	4.5	8	7	7.5	4.5
Leopards	3-5 yr	4.5	5	3.5	6	5
Leap Frogs	4-5 yr	4	6	4	7	2
LODO + AM/PM	2-5 yr	8	9	8	12	9.5

### **Enrollment statistics (January 2024 - December 2024)**

Months	Average Total Enrolled Children	Average Total Enrolled Families	Average Daily Enrollment
<b>January - May</b>	54	45	28.4
<b>September - December</b>	53.5	47.5	27.1

**January 2024 – May 2024:** 1 CUCC families served

**September 2024 – December 2024:** 2 CUCC families served

## **LODO PRESCHOOL MINISTRY**

### **Notable Program Activities of 2024:**

January	Return from Christmas Break
February	Valentine's Day Classroom Parties Enrollment for Fall 2024 Math & Science Night
March	KidSight Vision Screenings Staff Attended Conference on the Young Years for Professional Development Easter Classroom Celebrations/Egg Hunt
April	Student Conferences Literacy Night
May	Teacher Appreciation Week Spring Family Picnic Pre-K Graduation
June	Closed Rummage Sale for LODO Designated Fund
July	Closed
August	Closed Teacher Workdays Back to School Night
September	Fall Family Picnic Updated Playground Gate Closing/Locking Mechanism to Improve Playground
Safety	
October	LODO Pumpkin Fun Day Johnson Photography School Pictures Halloween Classroom Celebrations
November	Student Conferences Thanksgiving Feast VAC Holiday Service Project (2 Families/6 Individuals Sponsored)
December	Christmas Program

Respectfully submitted,  
Erika Maltsbarger, LODO Director





# STAFF REPORTS





## **PASTOR'S REPORT**

One of my favorite authors is Rev. Cameron Trimble. Rev. Trimble identifies herself as a “serial entrepreneur.” She is a pastor, an author, a motivational speaker, a faith leader, a church growth consultant, a renowned speaker, business leader, and a licensed airline pilot. Her life has been described as “eclectic.”

One of the most interesting aspects of Rev. Trimble’s life, however, is how all of these eclectic aspects of her presence intersect with each other. None of her identities exist without informing the others. Her pilot’s license (and her own airplane, which she flies solo to engagements) allow her to be more flexible and affordable for faith organizations who want to utilize her church growth strategies. Her speaking ability allows her to inspire audiences and motivate their faith. Her acumen as a business leader allows her to guide faith organizations to strive for more effective business practices. Each aspect informs the rest, rounding out her presence as one of the greatest leaders of the modern progressive church. She states that she is committed to a “triple bottom line;” concern for people, concern for progress, and concern for the planet. All of these “triple bottom line” concerns are informed by her faith.

In a recent devotional, Rev. Trimble wrote about creating a “pact for the future.” In this devotional, she reflects on a recently adopted United Nations declaration, “The Pact for the Future” (adopted September 22, 2024.) In this document, which was approved by a 143-7 vote, the United Nations looked to the future and set some aspirational goals. Among those goals were voiced aspirations to strive for global unity and equity, elimination of poverty and hunger, addressing climate change and the consequences thereof, reduction of nuclear weaponry, and more. It was an inspirational moment of unity, but it was also an aspirational exercise in visioning; world leaders actually making progressive plans to work together.

Rev. Trimble then took the global example of the UN “Pact for the Future” and made it local. She began wondering about what her own personal “Pact for the Future” would look like; and she asked her readers to ponder what ours would look like. What would a personal “Pact for the Future” look like; and how can each of us, acting locally, enable change globally?

Rev. Trimble reflected that *“leadership is not just about feeling good about the future. It is about making intentional choices that shape the world we dream of; choices that are grounded in faith, love, and justice.”* She tells us that, *“if we wish to be good ancestors, we owe it to ourselves and future generations to act in loving ways towards one another and the planet.”*

The phrase, *“if we wish to be good ancestors...”* intrigued me. I have tried (and often failed) in my life to be a good steward, a good role model, a good pastor, a good father, a good husband. I have worked (among other things) for faith development, social justice, organizational sustainability, and youth empowerment. But in all that work, I don’t know that I have ever thought of myself as being “a good ancestor.” There is something powerful about that phrase.

When I think of being an ancestor, good or not, my thoughts turn to those who I consider ancestors. In 2023, as this church celebrated our 100th anniversary, I spent much time researching our history and learning about our ancestors, clergy and lay. As I read about them, I learned about their passion and presence, their commitment to social justice, and the establishment of God’s Kingdom, both on Hitt Street and on I-70 Drive NW. I learned about the unity they shared, even when they disagreed with each other, as the diverse body of Christ in this community. I think about my personal ancestors, the Germanic people in my lineage who came to this country seeking freedom of thought, speech and religion. I hear stories of my grandmother’s grandfather and his work as an immigrant, and the stories of my father’s grandmother who came to this country a war-widow with a small child. These stories are part of our personal narratives. Our ancestors shape who we are today.

The alternative to being an “ancestor” is to be an “inheritor.” This is a title that has often been used to describe our place in time; we have “inherited” our context from those who came before us. How does it change our viewpoints if we think of ourselves not as “inheritors” but as “ancestors?”

If we think of ourselves as “ancestors” instead of “inheritors,” and strive to be “good ancestors” (as Rev. Trimble advocates), our entire paradigm shifts. Our collective sense of entitlement erodes and we realize that our role as children of God is not just to enjoy the fruits of other people’s labors, but to plant seeds ourselves; the fruits of which we will never harvest. Everything we do, in our lives and in our shared ministry together, shapes the lives of those who will worship in this place long after we are gone. They will look back at our time together and call us their ancestors. How can we be “good ancestors?”

Back to Rev. Trimble– as she articulates her “Pact for the Future” she talks about creating a vision “*not just of personal success, but of collective thriving, driven by love.*” She talks about creating “*a set of commitments I want to make to those who will come after us.*” After she shares her list (five commitments she is making) she invites the reader to make their own list of commitments/promises; and she reminds us that the promises we make should not just be for ourselves, but for our grandchildren, great grandchildren, and the community they will live in; our promises should be for a generation of people we will never meet.

Rev. Trimble’s wisdom has a solid Biblical foundation. The wisdom of our traditions was recorded by ordinary people who acted extraordinarily to not only tell narratives of what happened, but to also envision what could be. Many of the Biblical stories that we mistakenly refer to as “history” are not; they are people envisioning how their society could be if everyone worked together to be in relationship and make the world a better place. From the authors who gave us the books we call Isaiah and Jeremiah to the visionary author who gave us the ultimate book of hope that we call “Revelation,” our faith is built on people who understood their role in God’s world as being “good ancestors.”

As we move into 2025, I invite you to think about ways that we, collectively, as Columbia United Church of Christ, can be “good ancestors” not only locally, to those who will sit in CUCC after we are gone, but to the global community as well. What can we do as a church to nurture the ministry that is CUCC so that it can thrive into the future; and how can we plant seeds of hope to shape the world that is to be? How can we, acting locally, affect the world on a global scale?

Whatever we do as a church in this regard, it must be an expression of our faith, an expression of the joy that comes from that faith, and an expression of love. Remember what Rev. Trimble said, “*not just of personal success, but of collective thriving, driven by love.*” How does your faith in God, the joy that comes from that faith, and your love of God, inform and empower your personal “Pact for the Future?” How does our communal (CUCC) faith in God, our communal love of God, empower our communal “Pact for the Future?”

Our goal as Christians should always be “to Glorify God.” We glorify God by loving all of God’s Creation (including each other) actively, joyfully, and intentionally. We glorify God by creating a “Pact for the Future” that prioritizes God’s will in our lives. We glorify God by being “good ancestors.” **In 2025, let’s be “good ancestors” together.**

\*\*\*\*\*

As we look forward and make plans to be “good ancestors” we also look back and celebrate what we have already done in this regard. The past informs the future; and we cannot look forward without reflecting on the past. Over the years, we have accomplished many tasks of ministry together, and 2024 was no exception! At a recent Vision Team meeting, representatives from our Ministry Teams began listing all that we have accomplished in the past year. It was quite a list! Among the tasks we accomplished in 2024 were:

- Hosting the Western Association Fall Business Meeting.
- Incorporating children more effectively into our music program.
- Compiling and distributing the newest Church Directory, with an online module.
- Holding a “Ministry Teams Fair” to celebrate the work we do together.
- Hosting an Enneagram Workshop.
- Purchasing and utilizing a new church bus.

- Holding a successful Fall Festival that drew in LODO Families, Scouts, and church members so members of each of these distinct groups could all could interact socially.
- Coordinated several meal trains for members in need.
- Provided transportation assistance for members in need.
- Replaced three HVAC units (11 done in recent years, six more to go.)
- Provided an Inclusive, Progressive Christian presence for the first ever Pridefest in Marshall, MO.
- Increased the involvement of youth in worship.
- Welcomed Quorus to our facility and established a partnership with them .
- Welcomed Scouting America to our facility and established a partnership with them.
- Increased promotion of our church in the community through social media and advertisements.
- Hosted a booth at Earth Day.
- Held a very successful VBS with 65 children attending.
- Increased attendance at Women’s Fellowship gatherings.
- Established an Endowment Fund.
- Established our “Team Earth” group.
- Coordinated monthly youth gatherings.
- Reestablished the practice of hosting young adult gatherings at member houses.
- Hosted several “Lunch and Learns” around environmental issues.
- Established our “COMO Mission Experience” program and began advertising it.
- Established the LODO Designated Fund, and held a Rummage Sale to contribute towards it .
- Increased our interaction with LODO and our affirmation of its presence as a ministry of our church.
- Hosted a successful Chili Cookoff, Pancake Breakfast, Fastnacht, and other community meals.
- Continued to serve at Loaves and Fishes every month, and at the Food Bank most months.
- Increased our Joyful Giving to unprecedented levels and held steady on our mission giving.
- Visited homebound members monthly, and members going through health issues many times.

2024 was a busy year, thanks to the hard work of our church family. Looking back over the year, I am amazed at what we accomplished. We are making a positive impact in God’s world in so many ways; and that is exactly what we are called to do. On the day of Pentecost, we were challenged to be disciples of Jesus; to continue the work of Jesus in the world; here at CUCC, we are doing that well.

Which brings me to a final thought; I just referred to us all as “disciples.” What is a disciple, and how are we all disciples of Jesus Christ? I bring this up because often we think of ourselves as “volunteers” in the church. This is true, we are volunteering our time and energy; but we are so much more than just “volunteers.” A wise colleague recently pointed out to me that in the church there are no “volunteers;” there are only “disciples.” “Disciples” are much more committed and invested than “volunteers.” We are baptized into our discipleship through our narrative of faith and the presence of the Holy Spirit poured out upon us. Therefore, as disciples, we are not just aiding the mission of a particular organization; we are invested in the life and mission of Jesus Christ, as lived out through the church. We are invested in continuing the work of Jesus as intentionally and as passionately as Jesus did. We are invested in giving our all to our expression of faith; not out of obligation, but, as Cameron Trimble says, “*out of love.*”

What will your “Pact for the Future” be? How will it be informed by your faith? How will it be informed by your identity as a true disciple of Jesus? How will you be a “good ancestor?” As you contemplate these questions in 2025 and ponder how your pact will intersect with the missions of this church, I encourage you to remember what Rev. Trimble’s guidance to work together collectively thriving for greater connections with God, driven by love. Let God’s love drive you in all that you say and all that you do, in 2025 and beyond.

-With Love and Joy,  
Pastor Rick



## **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

**PURPOSE:** To perform daily activities that assist the Pastor, Church Council, church family, LODO, and outside organizations that utilize our space. Office duties include: e-mail, phone, mail, weekly bulletins, slide show presentations for Sunday Services, the monthly Communicator (newsletter,) organization, purchasing and restocking of supplies, maintenance of financial accounts, assisting with events, and general office skills.

This year in the office was all about growth. When I started in January, I was fully aware that I was taking over for someone who was so deeply loved by this church and was wonderful at her job. I was given the opportunity to work with MJ for a few weeks before she had to leave and I tried my best to learn everything I could in that time, but there was still so much more that I wouldn't know the answers to until I got to the question itself. Through the trials of the beginning of the year, I grew to learn what needed to be done on every level throughout the church. But growth only comes through resilience, effort, and love. Any mistake made was a lesson learned. Any action needing taken was met with determination and enthusiasm. Any and every action taken was made with love and good intention. The growth through this year might seem small to some, but looking back there was so much done for the betterment of every single person involved in this church; and there is so much more to look forward to in 2025.

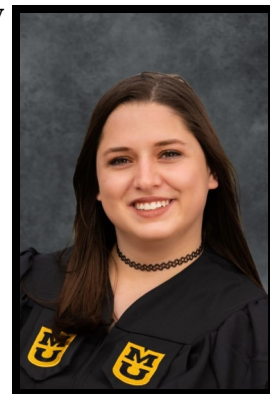
### **Recount of 2024:**

- ◆ Cleaned up finances and reorganized the structure of payroll.
- ◆ Moved to have all bills paid virtually (with an exception of one) to ensure bills are paid on time and as affordably as possible.
- ◆ Record keeping was updated to a virtual format in addition to its hard copy counterpart.
- ◆ Annual Reports were added to our website as well as hard copies being compiled in the office.
- ◆ Facility Usage reports were updated to reflect the language of our current Policy Manual and records will be kept in an excel sheet going forward.
- ◆ Increased safety measures around the building by installing four new cameras, rewiring and designating our motion detectors, installing new fire extinguishers and doorstops, and adding new latches to the playground area.
- ◆ Organized various material closets, desks, and filing cabinets and threw away outdated and unnecessary items.
- ◆ Started to schedule maintenance in advance (piano tuning, window cleaning, pest control, etc.)
- ◆ Focused on building our social media platforms by creating a consistent brand identity and voice, especially on Facebook.
- ◆ Sought to work into Team Earth's values through various means such as: recycling more, reusing unused envelopes from bulletins, printing less, keeping lights off when possible, etc.)

### **Goals for 2025:**

- ◆ Search for a new telephone system since the current does not have range for the entire building and is unable to transfer calls to LODO or hold calls.
- ◆ Update our YouTube page to have all of our videos in one place and organized into playlists.
- ◆ Continue to update different features of the church to keep with current times.
- ◆ Host CoMo Mission Experience.
- ◆ Research and enact more ways to make environmentally friendly choices.
- ◆ Continue outreach and advertising on social media platforms to invite new people to the church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alexandra Roper, Administrative Assistant



## **MUSIC COORDINATOR**

It has been a joyful year of music-making at the Columbia United Church of Christ. I spent the entire calendar year here as Music Coordinator and Choir Director. Additionally, Steve Jannetti has spent the entire year as Church Organist and Choir Accompanist.

Throughout the year, I have directed the Celebration Singers in weekly anthem performances. This choir ranges between 15 to 25 singers and rehearses weekly. In addition to the church members who contribute to this choir, we have employed several students from the University of Missouri who serve as choir section leaders. During the first half of the year our section leaders were Katie Jones, Quin Wilson, and Shannon Martin. I'm pleased to report that both Quin and Shannon graduated in the spring in choral music education and are teaching choral music in St. Louis. Since the beginning of the fall semester, Katie Jones has returned and we have welcomed Killian Boyd and Sarah Young as section leaders and we are thrilled with their contributions.

In addition to weekly anthem performances, the Celebration Singers have performed at special seasonal services as well, including Ash Wednesday, Easter, and Christmas Eve. Perhaps the highlight of these services has been the Advent Cantata held on December 8, 2024. This cantata featured four choral pieces.

I have also directed the Chapel Ringers. This is a three octave bell choir that features nine permanent members and countless substitute players. This group has performed approximately once a month over the last year. This group was also featured in the Advent Cantata and Christmas Eve services.

I'd also like to thank the many church members who provided solo musical numbers in church services. Notably, we had flute performances provided by Linda Neale and Lea Marienfeld, piano solos from Connie Loveless and Steve Jannetti, and vocal solos from Lena Muench and Jedd Schneider. We also had guest performers from the University of Missouri, Paul Anderson, Kyrsten Wehner, and Bomi Kim.

We are still always welcoming new members to our ensembles, and anyone could try out a group on a short-term basis if needed. Looking forward to serving you in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,  
Casey Wood, Music Coordinator





FELLOWSHIP

GROUP

REPORTS





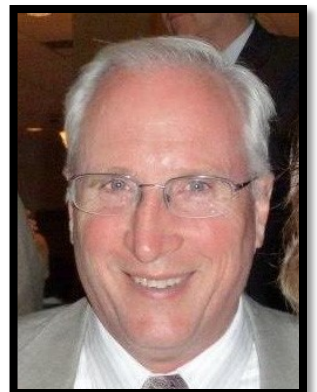
## **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

**PURPOSE:** To provide an organized program for men of the church for fellowship, education, service, and outreach.

### **Activities/Highlights:**

- ◆ Men's Fellowship met throughout 2024, sometimes at the church and sometimes at Hy-Vee West Broadway.
- ◆ Men's Fellowship hosted a Chili Cookoff on January 21, 2024. Proceeds from the gray bowls (\$200) went toward the Fisher House.
- ◆ Men's Fellowship hosted an annual breakfast fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity on February 24, 2024, raising \$3,100.00 for Habitat for Humanity.
- ◆ Men's Fellowship and Women's Fellowship teamed up to serve breakfast following the Easter sunrise service.
- ◆ Men's Fellowship made a monetary donation to Mobility Worldwide.
- ◆ Men's Fellowship set up the nativity scene for the holiday season.
- ◆ Men's Fellowship put together treat bags for the children following the Christmas program.

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Privitt, President of Men's Fellowship



## **PRAYER SHAWL**

**PURPOSE:** To create Prayer Squares, which consist of a foam heart stitched inside of a small fabric square, for anyone to give to friends, family, or anyone experiencing difficult or challenging times. These are a reminder for everyone in any uncertain situations that there are people who love them and care about them. Small cards are included with the church address with these items. We also complete prayer shawls, lap robes, and neck shawls. These are given to people for various reasons as determined by Pastor Rick.

Our mission group has been active since January 2022, and we continue to meet monthly. We currently average three to six knitters/crocheters a month.

Symbolic blessings of these items are performed periodically during a church service. Blankets of flannel and fleece are also made and given out by Pastor Rick on the appropriate occasions, such as baptisms.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine Trout



## **QUILTERS**

**PURPOSE:** This is a fellowship and service group for anyone who wishes to quilt or learn to quilt. We meet in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., including a BYOB (bring your own brown bag) lunch. We welcome anyone who would like to join us working on the quilt, or working on their own handicraft project: knitting, cross-stitch, embroidery, etc.

### **2024 MEMBERS:**

Janet Mehmert, Alice Moon, Corinne Remeika, Mahree Skala, Ginny Van Hove, Juanita Veigard.

### **Activities and Highlights:**

We completed quilting an extra long, double size quilt from light blue, cross-stitched blocks provided by Jolene Hackman. These blocks were the handiwork of her mother and a treasure to keep in the family. Corinne did extensive work joining the individual blocks into a completed top for us to quilt. Thank you Corinne!

Our next project involved vintage hand-embroidered blocks provided by an anonymous donor. Thank you, Juanita, for fashioning a quilt top incorporating these blocks accentuated by a sprightly coral butterfly fabric. We raffled this queen-size joy here at CUCC. Christine Staelens offered the winning bid for this "Orange Delight."

We were deeply saddened to lose one of our original founding members, Jean Strothmann. Jean was an expert quilter and provided skilled answers to our quilting questions over many years. CUCC Quilters donated \$100.00 to the CUCC Memorial Fund in loving memory of Jean.

We are so lucky to have benefactors who donate quilt blocks or quilt tops for us to utilize. A set of cross-stitched blocks with yellow embroidered sunflowers and contrasting brown accents was our next windfall. Janet created an outstanding quilt top from these blocks and among others, an accompanying pine cone pattern fabric. We named this queen size ray of sunshine "Sunny Pines" and donated it to the Festival of Sharing. Watch for it at the Share Fest this fall!

### **Donations and Contributions:**

- ◆ We contributed \$500.00 to the General Fund of CUCC.
- ◆ We donated a queen-size quilt to the Festival of Sharing.
- ◆ We donated \$100.00 to the CUCC Memorial Fund.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ginny Van Hove



## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

**PURPOSE:** Women's Fellowship provides an opportunity for women to become acquainted, express caring and concern, grow in spirituality, and contribute to Christian service.

### **Activities:**

Women's Fellowship meets in The Gathering Area at 9:30 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month. After a tasty brunch, one of our members leads a discussion from the study guide. In May, we finished the series *Sacred Encounters – the Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*. In September, we started a new series *Let Justice Roll Down – God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*. This series highlights Environmental Justice. It is especially significant in conjunction with the church's Team Earth initiative. We conclude the morning with Getting-to-Know-You opportunities, a Business Meeting, and some Food For Thought.

We strive to be an active and contributing entity in CUCC's life and have served those purposes this year by hosting lunches for conference meeting, hosting funeral dinners, donating to the CROP Walk, and donating to VAC's Christmas Drive. We also bought and delivered poinsettias to our Church's homebound members.

Women's Fellowship appreciates you visiting our fundraisers like the November Sweet Breads Sale and the annual Christmas Bazaar (where we sell jams and jelly, honey, Christmas crafts, and cookbooks.) Thanks to Mary Lorber-Solt for her donation of honey items and to Jolene Hackman for her craft expertise. The funds raised are distributed to local charities (see Treasurer's Report.)

### **Highlights:**

In June we took the maiden voyage in our new church bus on a visit to Glasgow, Missouri for a tasty lunch and homemade pie. You'll have to ask the bus riders about the memories made that day.

Officers: Co-Presidents, Jo Ellen Grace and Jolene Kirchoff; Secretary, Ginny Van Hove; Treasurer, Brenda Muench.

We would love for you to join us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jolene Kirchoff, Women's Fellowship Co-Presidents



## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

The following are donations made in 2024 with money raised through fundraisers and monthly giving on behalf of the CUCC Women's Fellowship Group:

<b><u>Donation Made To:</u></b>	<b><u>Amount Given</u></b>
Cedar Creek Riding Center . . . . .	\$300
Church Women United . . . . .	\$100
City of Refuge . . . . .	\$300
COMO Foster & Adoption Project . . . . .	\$100
Coyote Hill (Fundraiser basket assembly) . . . . .	\$100
Coyote Hill Christmas . . . . .	\$200
Crop Walk . . . . .	\$200
LODO Ministry United Church Fund . . . . .	\$200
Memorial Luncheon (Custodian) . . . . .	\$25
Poinsettias for home-bound church members . . . . .	\$84
Primrose Hill Adult & Teen Challenge . . . . .	\$300
Stop Human Trafficking Coalition . . . . .	\$300
True North . . . . .	\$300
Turning Point . . . . .	\$300
VAC Christmas . . . . .	\$300
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$3,109</b>



Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Muench, Women's Fellowship Treasurer



# STATISTICAL REPORTS





## **MEMBERSHIP RECORDS & REPORTS**

**As of January 1, 2024 CUCC membership was 314 people.**

In the year 2024:

8 members were added

4 members died

2 members transferred to other churches

**As of January 1, 2024, CUCC membership was 316 people.**

The following statistics reflect data that was reported to the CUCC office in 2024. To keep our database up to date, please remember to let the church office know of any changes in contact information, weddings, births, or other status changes as they occur. Thank you!

### **Baptisms: 1**

\* Joseph Heine 07/07

### **New Members Received: 8**

\* Roger Meers 03/10  
\* Debbie Meers 03/10  
\* Mike Williams 05/19  
\* Erica McBane 05/19  
\* Bert Wrinkle 11/24  
\* Kasper Ramirez 11/24  
\* Ashley Ramirez 11/24  
\* Tracie Huffman 11/24

### **Confirmations: 0**

### **Weddings Officiated through CUCC: 0**

### **Births in the CUCC family: 1**

\* Calvin William Walker 12/26

### **Funerals officiated through CUCC: 6**

\* Larry Noxon 03/21  
\* David Martin 05/17  
\* Jean Strothmann 05/24  
\* Bea Gordon 05/25  
\* Jim Rogers 10/01  
\* Ann Quade 12/04

### **Membership Loss due to Death: 4**

\* Jean Strothmann 04/17  
\* David Martin 05/05  
\* Bea Gordon 05/20  
\* Ann Quade 12/01

### **Membership Loss by Transfer: 2**

\* David Meyer 10/14  
\* Ann Stone Meyer 10/14

### **Membership Loss by Resignation: 0**

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Rick Oberle



## **FACILITIES USAGE**

**PURPOSE:** To give account of our facilities' usage for the year, *according to the church calendar*. This is, in addition to regular Sunday morning activities: special worship services, outside organization events, member usage, LODO usage, etc.

Grand total of facilities usage in 2021 = 265

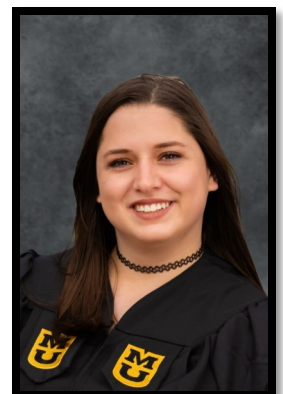
Grand total of facilities usage in 2022 = 353

Grand total of facilities usage in 2023 = 382

**Grand total of facilities usage in 2024 = 367**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Total</b>
Book Study	2	2	4	1	0	0	2	2	0	1	2	1	17
Conference Meetings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
Fellowship	3	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	2	17
Memorials/Funerals	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Ministry Meetings	6	8	7	8	8	6	5	7	11	5	8	4	83
Music	10	9	6	11	10	0	0	2	8	10	6	6	78
Other	2	2	2	1	2	1	0	2	1	4	1	2	20
Quilters	4	4	4	5	4	0	5	4	4	4	3	2	43
Scouting America	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	6	6	8	2	5	33
Special Events	1	2	3	3	2	2	5	1	1	1	9	5	35
Staff Meetings	4	3	4	4	4	0	0	1	4	4	4	3	35
Weddings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alexandra Roper, Administrative Assistant



## **WORSHIP ATTENDANCE 2024**

<b>Average Attendance:</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
January	85	91	56	N/A	145	137
February	91	93	65	48	123	103
March	120	197	91	51	112	101
April	93	115	109	86	N/A	154
May	89	87	75	77	28	126
June	75	77	73	77	39	106
July	83	70	67	60	29	96
August	66	77	69	64	35	122
September	101	89	95	88	60	133
October	90	96	81	96	49	122
November	98	102	104	90	73	126
December	82	108	97	98	N/A	132
<b>Average for the Year</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>74</b>		<b>122</b>

<b>Special Services</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Ash Wednesday	40	54	40	36	58	63
Maundy Thursday	N/A	N/A	6	25	N/A	N/A
Good Friday	45	49	41	27	N/A	N/A
Easter Sunrise	23	22	22	33	N/A	39
Christmas Eve	173	138	161	177	171	257



Respectfully submitted,  
Alexandra Roper, Administrative Assistant

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Columbia United Church of Christ **Balance Sheet** — December 31, 2024

	<u>Dec 31, 24</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
BCNB Checking Account	\$57,507.57
BCNB Payroll Account	\$423.73
Total Current Assets	<u>\$57,931.30</u>
Other Assets	
United Church Funds Main Account	\$128,776.04
United Church Funds Endowment Fund	\$62,144.33
United Church Funds Scholarship	\$138,597.59
United Church Funds Building	\$90,213.52
United Church Funds Transportation	\$5,253.42
United Church Funds Memorial	\$10,960.04
United Church Funds Nurture & Education	\$12,156.16
United Church Funds Young Adult/Campus Ministry	\$2,593.59
United Church Funds Youth Ministry	\$7,888.12
United Church Funds LODO Ministry	\$5,089.75
Total Other Assets	<u>\$463,672.56</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$521,603.86</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
Chase Credit Card	\$1,999.59
Other Current Liabilities	
Prepaid LODO Tuition	\$204.00
Total Liabilities	<u>\$2,203.59</u>
Equity	
Investment Income/Loss	-\$106,499.17
Opening Balance Equity	\$134,198.98
Retained Earnings	\$459,918.90
Net Income	\$31,781.56
Total Equity	<u>\$519,400.27</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>\$521,603.86</u></b>

# **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Columbia United Church of Christ **Income Statement** — December 31, 2024

	<b>Jan - Dec 24</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>\$ Over Budget</b>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
<b>Fellowship Activities</b>	\$1,008.00	\$2,000.00	(-\$992.00)
<b>Joyful Giving</b>	\$369,927.90	\$404,153.00	(-\$34,225.10)
<b>LODO Overhead &amp; Workmen's Comp</b>	\$7,800.00	\$7,800.00	\$0.00
<b>Other Income</b>	\$7,381.12	\$2,000.00	\$5,381.12
<b>Sunday School</b>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$3,000.00</u>	<u>(-\$3,000.00)</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>\$386,117.02</u>	<u>\$418,953.00</u>	<u>(-\$32,835.98)</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	\$386,117.02	\$418,953.00	(-\$32,835.98)
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>			
<b>Computer Equip/Software/Svcs</b>	\$1,593.31	\$2,500.00	(-\$906.69)
<b>Computer Maintenance</b>	\$6,081.06	\$2,500.00	\$3,581.06
<b>Internet/Telephone</b>	\$4,633.73	\$3,500.00	\$1,133.73
<b>Kindrid Fees</b>	\$3,370.49	\$2,000.00	\$1,370.49
<b>Lay Travel-Registration</b>	\$125.00	\$1,000.00	(-\$875.00)
<b>Mileage</b>	\$1,912.57	\$2,000.00	(-\$87.43)
<b>Office Supplies</b>	\$1,621.05	\$2,000.00	(-\$378.95)
<b>Payroll Expenses/Bank Fees</b>	\$1,968.66	\$800.00	\$1,168.66
<b>Postage</b>	\$1,381.70	\$1,800.00	(-\$418.30)
<b>Printer Copies</b>	\$3,011.41	\$2,200.00	\$811.41
<b>Staff Continuing Education</b>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>(-\$500.00)</u>
<b>Total ADMINISTRATION</b>	\$25,698.98	\$20,800.00	\$4,898.98

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Columbia United Church of Christ **Income Statement** — December 31, 2024

	<b>Jan - Dec 24</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>\$ Over Budget</b>
<b>BUILDING &amp; GROUNDS</b>			
<b>Building Insurance</b>	\$18,385.00	\$17,000.00	\$1,385.00
<b>Building Maintenance</b>	\$5,021.69	\$3,000.00	\$2,021.69
<b>Cleaning Service</b>	\$8,850.00	\$7,800.00	\$1,050.00
<b>Elevator Inspection/ Maintenance</b>	\$6,149.00	\$4,900.00	\$1,249.00
<b>Grounds Maintenance</b>	\$13,355.01	\$6,000.00	\$7,355.01
<b>Minor Repairs</b>	\$1,729.25	\$1,500.00	\$229.25
<b>Supplies</b>	\$2,969.69	\$1,200.00	\$1,769.69
<b>Utilities</b>	<u>\$26,005.33</u>	<u>\$26,000.00</u>	<u>\$5.33</u>
<b>Total BUILDING &amp; GROUNDS</b>	\$82,464.97	\$67,400.00	\$15,064.97
<b>MINISTRY TEAMS</b>			
<b>FELLOWSHIP &amp; HOSPITALITY</b>			
<b>Advent Banquet</b>	\$1,680.00	\$1,000.00	\$680.00
<b>Annual Meeting</b>	\$0.00	\$200.00	(-\$200.00)
<b>End of Year Picnic</b>	\$291.09	\$300.00	(-\$8.91)
<b>Fastnacht</b>	\$1,050.38	\$1,000.00	\$50.38
<b>Rally Day</b>	\$66.20	\$400.00	(-\$333.80)
<b>Supplies</b>	\$1,071.79	\$1,000.00	\$71.79
<b>Trunk Or Treat/Fall Party</b>	\$310.70	\$200.00	\$110.70
<b>Veterans Appreciation</b>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>	<u>(-\$100.00)</u>
<b>Total FELLOWSHIP &amp; HOSPITALITY</b>	\$4,470.16	\$4,200.00	\$270.16
<b>FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP</b>			
<b>Offering Envelopes</b>	\$1,669.21	\$1,500.00	\$169.21
<b>Stewardship Expenses</b>	<u>\$384.59</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>(-\$115.41)</u>
<b>Total FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP</b>	\$2,053.80	\$2,000.00	\$53.80
<b>INCLUSION &amp; AFFIRMATION</b>			
<b>Columbia Values Diversity Program</b>	\$270.00	\$270.00	\$0.00
<b>Guest Honorariums</b>	\$0.00	\$250.00	(-\$250.00)
<b>Pridefest Registration</b>	\$600.00	\$500.00	\$100.00
<b>Supplies</b>	<u>\$1,013.27</u>	<u>\$1,700.00</u>	<u>(-\$686.73)</u>
<b>Total INCLUSION &amp; AFFIRMATION</b>	\$1,883.27	\$2,720.00	(-\$836.73)

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

Columbia United Church of Christ **Income Statement** — December 31, 2024

	<b>Jan - Dec 24</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>\$ Over Budget</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP &amp; CARE</b>			
<b>Advertising</b>	\$1,026.00	\$1,000.00	\$26.00
<b>Guest and Welcoming     Programs</b>	\$391.72	\$100.00	\$291.72
<b>Health Care Ministry Team</b>	\$0.00	\$500.00	(-\$500.00)
<b>Member Communications</b>	\$545.35	\$200.00	\$345.35
<b>Transportation</b>	<u>\$1,336.44</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>	<u>\$1,236.44</u>
<b>Total MEMBERSHIP &amp; CARE</b>	\$3,299.51	\$1,900.00	\$1,399.51
<b>NURTURE &amp; EDUCATION</b>			
<b>Adult Bible Study</b>	\$76.22	\$350.00	(-\$273.78)
<b>Adult Education</b>	\$1,219.63	\$900.00	\$319.63
<b>Christmas Program</b>	\$175.07	\$100.00	\$75.07
<b>Confirmation Class</b>	\$33.03	\$100.00	(-\$66.97)
<b>Nursery Worker</b>	\$1,423.08	\$2,600.00	(-\$1,176.92)
<b>Sunday School</b>	\$4,442.60	\$3,000.00	\$1,442.60
<b>Vacation Bible School</b>	\$3,584.95	\$2,500.00	\$1,084.95
<b>Young Adult Ministry</b>	\$1,175.41	\$1,600.00	(-\$424.59)
<b>Youth Ministry</b>	<u>\$1,649.55</u>	<u>\$3,400.00</u>	<u>(-\$1,750.45)</u>
<b>Total NURTURE &amp; EDUCATION</b>	\$13,779.54	\$14,550.00	(-\$770.46)
<b>OUTREACH &amp; ADVOCACY</b>			
<b>Community Assistance</b>	\$547.90	\$750.00	(-\$202.10)
<b>Local Missions</b>	\$13,800.00	\$16,000.00	(-\$2,200.00)
<b>Special Mission Project</b>	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Wider Mission</b>	<u>\$7,855.50</u>	<u>\$9,500.00</u>	<u>(-\$1,644.50)</u>
<b>Total OUTREACH &amp; ADVOCACY</b>	\$27,203.40	\$31,250.00	(-\$4,046.60)
<b>WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC</b>			
<b>Christian Copyright License</b>	\$529.00	\$400.00	\$129.00
<b>Guest Ministers</b>	\$800.00	\$1,200.00	(-\$400.00)
<b>Guest Musicians</b>	\$175.00	\$1,200.00	(-\$1,025.00)
<b>Instrument Tuning</b>	\$625.00	\$500.00	\$125.00
<b>Music Program</b>	\$73.55	\$2,000.00	(-\$1,926.45)
<b>Non-Music Programs</b>	\$735.47	\$1,000.00	(-\$264.53)
<b>Section Leaders</b>	\$5,722.50	\$6,000.00	(-\$277.50)
<b>Supplies</b>	<u>\$813.13</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	<u>(-\$186.87)</u>
<b>Total WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC</b>	<u>\$9,473.65</u>	<u>\$13,300.00</u>	<u>(-\$3,826.35)</u>



## FINANCIAL REPORTS

Columbia United Church of Christ **Income Statement** — December 31, 2024

<b>Total MINISTRY TEAMS</b>	\$62,163.33	\$69,920.00	(-\$7,756.67)
<b>OTHER MINISTRY PROJECTS</b>			
<b>3% Joyful Giving Transfer</b>	\$8,338.75	\$12,124.00	(-\$3,785.25)
<b>Heritage Team</b>	\$0.00	\$100.00	(-\$100.00)
<b>OCWM</b>	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Vision Team Expenses</b>	\$2,449.58	\$1,200.00	\$1,249.58
<b>Western Assn. Contribution</b>	<u>\$800.00</u>	<u>\$800.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Total OTHER MINISTRY PROJECTS</b>	\$23,588.33	\$26,224.00	(-\$2,635.67)
<b>PASTORAL LEADERSHIP</b>			
<b>ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP</b>			
<b>Accompanist</b>	\$13,000.05	\$13,000.00	\$0.05
<b>Music Program</b>			
<b>Coordinator</b>	<u>\$16,000.08</u>	<u>\$16,000.00</u>	<u>\$0.08</u>
<b>Total ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP</b>	\$29,000.13	\$29,000.00	\$0.13
<b>PASTOR</b>			
<b>Cont. Education</b>	\$318.23	\$500.00	(-\$181.77)
<b>Health/Dental Insurance</b>	\$31,653.40	\$29,367.00	\$2,286.40
<b>Housing</b>	\$22,980.00	\$22,980.00	\$0.00
<b>Pastor Expense</b>	\$538.95	\$1,000.00	(-\$461.05)
<b>Pension</b>	\$13,005.33	\$12,862.00	\$143.33
<b>Salary</b>	\$62,769.12	\$62,769.00	\$0.12
<b>Social Security</b>	<u>\$6,421.92</u>	<u>\$6,422.00</u>	<u>(-\$0.08)</u>
<b>Total PASTOR</b>	<u>\$137,686.95</u>	<u>\$135,900.00</u>	<u>\$1,786.95</u>
<b>Total PASTORAL LEADERSHIP</b>	\$166,687.08	\$164,900.00	\$1,787.08
<b>STAFF SALARY</b>			
<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	\$32,733.93	\$30,940.00	\$1,793.93
<b>Custodian</b>	\$8,003.10	\$8,034.00	(-\$30.90)
<b>Employment Fees</b>	\$31.10	\$400.00	(-\$368.90)
<b>Pay Taxes-FICA</b>	\$5,528.41	\$5,200.00	\$328.41
<b>Workmen's Compensation Ins</b>	\$2,071.00	\$1,850.00	\$221.00
<b>Year End Bonuses</b>	<u>\$1,800.00</u>	<u>\$1,500.00</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>
<b>Total STAFF SALARY</b>	<u>\$50,167.54</u>	<u>\$47,924.00</u>	<u>\$2,243.54</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>\$410,770.23</u>	<u>\$397,168.00</u>	<u>\$13,602.23</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>(-\$24,653.21)</u>	<u>\$21,785.00</u>	<u>(-\$46,438.21)</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><b>(-\$24,653.21)</b></u>	<u><b>\$21,785.00</b></u>	<u><b>(-\$46,438.21)</b></u>

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

## LODO Budget Report - December 2024

	<u>Jan - Dec 24</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
<b>LODO Income</b>			
Fundraiser	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Late Payment Fee	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$70.00
Late Pickup Fee	\$26.00	\$0.00	\$26.00
LODO Donations	\$270.00	\$0.00	\$270.00
LODO Enrollment Fees	\$2,360.00	\$800.00	\$1,560.00
LODO Supply Fees	\$1,275.00	\$1,000.00	\$275.00
LODO Tuition	\$191,945.93	\$233,739.32	\$-41,793.39
Tuition Deposit	<u>\$5,178.61</u>	<u>\$4,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,178.61</u>
<b>Total LODO Income</b>	<u>\$201,125.54</u>	<u>\$239,539.32</u>	<u>\$-38,413.78</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>\$201,125.54</u>	<u>\$239,539.32</u>	<u>\$-38,413.78</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	\$201,125.54	\$239,539.32	\$-38,413.78
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>Little Ones Day Out Expenses</b>			
Advertising	\$771.13	\$600.00	\$171.13
Fax	\$360.00	\$360.00	\$0.00
Fundraiser Expenditures	\$705.86	\$0.00	\$705.86
LODO Utilities	\$6,564.00	\$5,514.00	\$1,050.00
Maintenance	\$1,736.97	\$750.00	\$986.97
Special Events	\$1,173.99	\$2,150.00	\$-976.01
<b>Staff Expense</b>			
Staff Appreciation	\$785.38	\$1,650.00	\$-864.62
Staff Training	<u>\$1,081.61</u>	<u>\$6,425.00</u>	<u>\$-5,343.39</u>
<b>Total Staff Expense</b>	<u>\$1,866.99</u>	<u>\$8,075.00</u>	<u>\$-6,208.01</u>
<b>Supplies</b>			
Classroom Consumables	\$1,127.64	\$1,920.00	\$-792.36
Classroom Durables	\$987.64	\$2,300.00	\$-1,312.36
Cleaning Supplies	\$297.85	\$750.00	\$-452.15
Gross Motor Indoor/ Outdoor	\$284.04	\$950.00	\$-665.96
Kitchen Supplies	\$80.90	\$250.00	\$-169.10
Office Materials	\$2,681.71	\$2,550.00	\$131.71
Paper Goods	\$422.66	\$1,200.00	\$-777.34
Snacks	\$1,749.76	\$3,675.00	\$-1,925.24
Technology	<u>\$2,457.48</u>	<u>\$1,140.00</u>	<u>\$1,317.48</u>
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<u>\$10,089.68</u>	<u>\$14,735.00</u>	<u>\$-4,645.32</u>

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

### LODO Budget Report - December 2024

	<u>Jan - Dec</u> <u>24</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
<b>Total Little Ones Day Out Expenses</b>	\$23,268.62	\$32,184.00	\$-8,915.38
<b>Little Ones Day Out Payroll</b>			
<b>LODO Assistant Director Salary</b>	\$25,518.84	\$25,520.88	\$-2.04
<b>LODO Bonuses</b>	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
<b>LODO Director's Salary</b>	\$37,016.05	\$37,016.08	\$-0.03
<b>LODO FICA</b>	\$12,051.47	\$13,932.59	\$-1,881.12
<b>LODO Staff Salaries</b>	\$91,576.74	\$120,294.66	\$-28,717.92
<b>LODO Workmen's Compensation</b>	<u>\$1,236.00</u>	<u>\$1,237.11</u>	<u>\$-1.11</u>
<b>Total Little Ones Day Out Payroll</b>	<u>\$168,899.10</u>	<u>\$198,001.32</u>	<u>\$-29,102.22</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>\$192,167.72</u>	<u>\$230,185.32</u>	<u>\$-38,017.60</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>\$8,957.82</u>	<u>\$9,354.00</u>	<u>\$-396.18</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><b>\$8,957.82</b></u>	<u><b>\$9,354.00</b></u>	<u><b>\$-396.18</b></u>

# **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Columbia United Church of Christ **Designated Funds Report** — December 31, 2024

	<b><u>Retained Earnings</u></b>	<b><u>Receipts</u></b>	<b><u>Disbursements</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
<b>Bldg &amp; Grounds Fund - UCF</b>	\$108,449.31	\$33,222.07	\$-46,569.22	\$95,102.16
<b>Chiapas Mission Trip</b>	\$-239.09	\$240.00	\$0.00	\$0.91
<b>CUCC Scholarship Fund - UCF</b>	\$130,497.81	\$24,724.48	\$-16,624.70	\$138,597.59
<b>Designated Funds</b>	\$56,900.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$56,900.04
<b>Endowment Fund - UCF</b>	\$16,423.59	\$49,950.25	\$-9,249.51	\$57,124.33
<b>General Fund</b>	\$74,280.71	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$74,280.71
<b>Giving Tuesday</b>	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
<b>LODO Fund - UCF</b>	\$0.00	\$6,672.17	\$-282.63	\$6,389.54
<b>Memorial Fund - UCF</b>	\$11,247.37	\$3,429.56	\$-977.54	\$13,699.39
<b>Nurture &amp; Education Fund - UCF</b>	\$11,882.34	\$3,254.29	\$-1,464.05	\$13,672.58
<b>Outreach &amp; Advocacy Fund</b>				
<b>Christmas Eve Offering</b>	\$1,187.00	\$850.00	\$-1,187.00	\$850.00
<b>Christmas in July</b>	\$0.00	\$595.00	\$-495.00	\$100.00
<b>Church World Service</b>	\$0.00	\$642.00	\$-642.00	\$0.00
<b>Crop Walk</b>	\$0.00	\$2,565.00	\$-2,565.00	\$0.00
<b>Eden Seminary Fund</b>	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$-25.00	\$0.00
<b>Every Children's Hope</b>	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$-25.00	\$0.00
<b>Festival of Sharing</b>	\$80.00	\$20.00	\$-100.00	\$0.00
<b>Food Bank of Central &amp; NE MO</b>	\$178.00	\$1,447.00	\$-1,206.00	\$419.00
<b>Habitat for Humanity</b>	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$-50.00	\$0.00
<b>Health Kits</b>	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
<b>Heifer Project</b>	\$140.56	\$0.00	\$-140.56	\$0.00
<b>Loaves and Fishes</b>	\$294.64	\$3,515.00	\$-580.77	\$3,228.87
<b>Member Assistance</b>	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
<b>Mobility Worldwide/PET Project</b>	\$0.00	\$995.00	\$-995.00	\$0.00
<b>Neighbors in Need</b>	\$50.00	\$470.00	\$-520.00	\$0.00
<b>OGHS</b>	\$20.00	\$1,562.50	\$-1,582.50	\$0.00
<b>Refugee Resettlement</b>	\$1,764.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,764.50
<b>Souper Bowl of Caring</b>	\$222.89	\$356.69	\$-222.89	\$356.69
<b>Strengthen the Church</b>	\$0.00	\$542.00	\$-542.00	\$0.00
<b>VAC Families</b>	\$150.00	\$250.00	\$-400.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Outreach &amp; Advocacy Fund</b>	\$4,287.59	\$13,810.19	\$-11,278.72	\$6,819.06
<b>Softball Fellowship</b>	\$0.00	\$659.20	\$-659.20	\$0.00
<b>Transportation - UCF</b>	\$7,943.99	\$6,550.79	\$-9,102.72	\$5,392.06
<b>Worship &amp; Music Fund</b>	\$1,965.18	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,965.18
<b>Young Adult/Campus - UCF</b>	\$1,907.32	\$620.71	\$-233.29	\$2,294.74
<b>Youth Ministry Fund - UCF</b>	\$7,028.23	\$1,244.92	\$-710.10	\$7,563.05
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$432,574.39</b>	<b>\$144,628.63</b>	<b>\$-97,151.68</b>	<b>\$480,051.34</b>



# 2025 BUSINESS:

## 2025 BUDGET

(APPROVED October 27, 2024)

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

## COMO MISSION EXPERIENCE



# **APPROVED 2025 BUDGET**

## **CUCC Income/Expense 2021-2025**

	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual 2024</b>	<b>Budget 2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>INCOME</b>						
Fellowship Activities	\$2,000	\$1,008.00	\$2,000	\$650	\$654	\$0
Joyful Giving	\$424,361	\$369,927.90	\$404,153	\$336,262	\$327,745	\$351,924
LODO Overhead	\$7,800	\$7,800	\$7,800	\$5,935	\$5649	\$5,522
Other	\$5,000	\$7,381.12	\$2,000	\$4,375	\$459	\$30,271
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$439,161</b>	<b>\$386,117.02</b>	<b>\$415,953</b>	<b>\$347,221</b>	<b>\$334,507</b>	<b>\$387,828</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
<b>Administration</b>						
Advertising	\$2,000	\$1,026.00	\$1,000	\$989	\$1,186	\$1,379
Computer Equipment/ Software	\$2,000	\$1,593.31	\$2,500	\$2,948	\$1020	\$347
Computer Maintenance	\$5,000	\$6,081.06	\$2,500	\$3,084	\$2160	\$4,266
Copier	\$3,000	\$3,011.41	\$2,200	\$3,224	\$2298	\$2,644
Employment Fees	\$500	\$31.10	\$400	\$3,037	\$2048	\$744
Kindrid Fees	\$3,000	\$3,370.49	\$2,000	\$2,765	\$2006	\$3,784
Lay/Staff Travel/ Registration	\$1,000	\$125.00	\$1,000	\$897	\$500	\$11
Mileage	\$2,000	\$1,912.57	\$2,000	\$2,377	\$1467	\$974
Office Supplies	\$2,000	\$1,621.05	\$2,000	\$1,665	\$2043	\$3,000
Payroll Expenses/Bank Fees	\$1,000	\$1,968.66	\$800	\$1,639	\$1408	\$1,141
Postage	\$1,500	\$1,381.70	\$1,800	\$2,088	\$1086	\$1,252
Staff Continuing Education	\$500	\$0.00	\$500	\$249	0	\$137
Telephone/Internet	\$4,000	\$4,633.73	\$3,500	\$4,257	\$4092	\$4,146
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$27,500</b>	<b>\$26,756.08</b>	<b>\$21,200</b>	<b>\$28,231</b>	<b>\$20,129</b>	<b>\$22,445</b>
<b>Ministry Teams</b>						
<b>Building &amp; Grounds</b>						
Building & Grounds Supplies	\$1,360	\$2,969.69	\$1,200	\$1,463	\$1,369	\$1,431
Building Insurance	\$17,850	\$18,385.00	\$17,000	\$17,364	\$15,555	\$13,591
Building Maintenance	\$3,600	\$5,021.69	\$3,000	\$4,575	\$4,136	\$3,620
Cleaning Service	\$8,000	\$8,850.00	\$7,800	\$7,898	\$6,264	\$8,250
Elevator Maintenance	\$5,145	\$6,149.00	\$4,900	\$5,013	\$4,775	\$5,038
Grounds Maintenance	\$7,300	\$13,355.01	\$6,000	\$8,921	\$6,833	\$7,630
Minor Repairs	\$1,500	\$1,729.25	\$1,500	\$1,496	\$886	\$1,681
Utilities	\$27,300	\$26,005.33	\$26,000	\$26,942	\$25,998	\$24,656
<b>Total Building &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>\$72,055</b>	<b>\$82,464.97</b>	<b>\$67,400</b>	<b>\$73,671</b>	<b>\$65,816</b>	<b>\$67,918</b>



## **APPROVED 2025 BUDGET**

<b>Fellowship &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual 2024</b>	<b>Budget 2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Advent Banquet (catered)	\$1,550	\$1,680.00	\$1,000	-	-	-
Annual Meeting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200	-	-	-
End of Year Picnic	\$300	\$291.09	\$300	-	-	-
Fastnacht	\$1,000	\$1,050.38	\$1,000	-	-	-
Game Night/Movie Night	\$150	-	-	-	-	-
Hospitality Supplies	\$600	\$1,071.79	\$1,000	\$247	-	-
Rally Day	\$350	\$66.20	\$400	-	-	-
Trunk or Treat/Fall Party	\$600	\$310.70	\$200	-	-	-
Veterans Appreciation	\$50	\$0.00	\$100	-	-	-
<b>Total Fellowship &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>\$4,7500</b>	<b>\$4,470.16</b>	<b>\$4,200</b>	<b>\$4,469</b>	<b>\$1,462</b>	<b>\$4,400</b>
<b>Finance &amp; Stewardship</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual 2024</b>	<b>Budget 2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Offering Envelopes	\$1,500	\$1,669.21	\$1,500	\$1,637	\$0	\$204
Stewardship Expenses	\$500	\$384.59	\$500	\$309	\$582	\$0
<b>Total Finance &amp; Stewardship</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$2,053.80</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$1,946</b>	<b>\$582</b>	<b>\$204</b>
<b>Inclusion &amp; Affirmation</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual 2024</b>	<b>Budget 2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
COMO Values Diversity	\$270	\$270.00	\$270	\$270	\$270	\$0
Honorariums	\$250	\$0.00	\$250	\$250	\$168	\$440
Inclusion & Affirmation Supplies	\$1,980	\$1,013.27	\$1,700	\$755	\$2,225	\$834
Pridefest	\$500	\$600.00	\$500	\$500	\$730	\$500
<b>Total Inclusion &amp; Affirmation</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$1,883.27</b>	<b>\$2,720</b>	<b>\$1,795</b>	<b>\$3,393</b>	<b>\$1,775</b>
<b>Membership &amp; Care</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual 2024</b>	<b>Budget 2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Guest Outreach	\$500	\$391.72	\$100			
Health Care Ministry Team	\$500	\$0.00	\$500			
Member Communications	\$500	\$545.35	\$200	\$1,130	\$58	\$816
<b>Total Membership &amp; Care</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>	<b>\$937.07</b>	<b>\$800</b>	<b>\$2,119</b>	<b>\$1,244</b>	<b>\$2,240</b>

## APPROVED 2025 BUDGET

<b>Nurture &amp; Education</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual 2024</b>	<b>Budget 2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Adult Education Programs	\$1,000	\$1,219.63	\$900	\$562	\$618	\$522
Bible Study/Sunday Programs	\$350	\$76.22	\$350	\$0	0	\$1,000
Christmas Program	\$100	\$175.07	\$100	\$55	\$100	\$150
CoMo Mission Experience	\$500	-	-	-	-	-
Confirmation	\$750	\$33.03	\$100	\$614	\$499	\$915
Nursery Worker	\$4,300	\$1,423.08	\$2,600	\$1,920	\$595	\$210
Sunday School: Supplies	\$3,100	4,442.60	\$3,000	\$3,617	\$3,617	\$2,870
Sunday School: Special Events	\$900	-	-	-	-	-
Vacation Bible School	\$2,750	\$3,584.95	\$2,500	\$1,508	\$2,911	\$2,399
Young Adult/College Ministry	\$1,600	\$1,175.41	\$1,600	\$2,111	\$1687	\$1,106
Youth Ministry	\$3,000	\$1,649.55	\$3,400	\$2,304	\$282	\$1,357
<b>Total Nurture &amp; Education</b>	<b>\$18,350</b>	<b>\$13,779.54</b>	<b>\$14,550</b>	<b>\$12,691</b>	<b>\$10,308</b>	<b>\$10,580</b>
<b>Outreach &amp; Advocacy</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual 2024</b>	<b>Budget 2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Community Assistance	\$750	\$547.90	\$750	\$592	\$785	\$1,012
Local Missions	\$16,500	\$13,800.00	\$16,000	\$16,282	\$12,150	\$13,015
Special Mission Project	\$5,000	\$5,000.00	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$2500	\$5,000
Team Earth	\$500	-	-	-	-	-
Wider Missions	\$9,500	\$7,855.50	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$10,709	\$9,100
<b>Total Outreach &amp; Advocacy</b>	<b>\$32,250</b>	<b>\$27,203.40</b>	<b>\$31,250</b>	<b>\$31,373</b>	<b>\$26,144</b>	<b>\$28,127</b>
<b>Worship &amp; Music</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual 2024</b>	<b>Budget 2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Copyright License	\$400	\$529.00	\$400	\$411	\$384	\$771
Guest Ministers	\$1,200	\$800.00	\$1,200	\$1,000	\$200	\$1,027
Guest Musicians	\$1,200	\$175.00	\$1,200	\$1,810	\$1,125	\$750
Instrument tuning	\$800	\$625.00	\$500	\$350	\$390	\$330
Music Program	\$1,500	\$73.55	\$2,000	\$227	\$1,947	\$1,760
Non-Music Programs	\$1,000	\$735.47	\$1,000	\$1,161	\$1,216	\$932
Section Leaders	\$6,000	\$5,722.50	\$6,000	\$5,300	\$3,980	\$0
Sheet Music	\$1,000	\$0.00	\$1,000	\$726	\$876	\$0
Worship & Music Supplies	\$1,000	\$813.13	\$1,000	\$795	\$1046	\$2,581
<b>Total Worship &amp; Music</b>	<b>\$14,100</b>	<b>\$9,473.65</b>	<b>\$14,300</b>	<b>\$11,780</b>	<b>\$11,163</b>	<b>\$8,198</b>
<b>Total Ministry Teams</b>	<b>\$147,855</b>	<b>\$142,265.86</b>	<b>\$138,320</b>	<b>\$139,844</b>	<b>\$120,112</b>	<b>\$123,442</b>

## **APPROVED 2025 BUDGET**

<b>Other Ministry Projects</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual 2024</b>	<b>Budget 2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
3% Joyful Giving Transfer	\$12,731	\$8,338.75	\$12,124	\$10,153	\$16,192	\$16,806
Heritage Team	\$100	\$0.00	\$100	\$9,598	\$422	\$0
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$14,000
Transportation	\$3,000	\$1,336.44	\$100	-	-	-
Western Assoc. Contribution	\$800	\$800.00	\$800	\$1,000	\$500	\$1,000
Visioning & Strategic Planning	\$2,000	\$2,449.58	\$1,200	\$1,304	\$1,226	\$1,371
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,631</b>	<b>\$24,924.77</b>	<b>\$26,224</b>	<b>\$37,055</b>	<b>\$33,339</b>	<b>\$33,177</b>
<b>Leadership</b>						
<b>Administrative Staff</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>Actual 2024</b>	<b>Budget 2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Administrative Assistant	\$32,485	\$32,733.93	\$30,940	\$29,089	\$24,142	\$24,952
Custodian	\$8,275	\$8,003.10	\$8,034	\$7,981	\$4,778	\$1,393
Church Pension Annuity	-	-	-	\$0	(\$75)	(\$600)
Financial Secretary	-	-	-	\$4,129	\$7,400	\$7,175
FICA/Taxes	\$5,200	\$5,528.41	\$5,200	\$4,375	\$5,447	\$4,342
Worker's Compensation Ins.	\$1,850	\$2,071.00	\$1,850	\$1,780	\$1,685	\$1,587
Year End Bonuses	\$1,500	\$1,800.00	\$1,500	\$1,685	\$1,350	\$1,500
<b>Total Administrative Staff</b>	<b>\$49,310</b>	<b>\$50,136.44</b>	<b>\$47,524</b>	<b>\$49,039</b>	<b>\$44,727</b>	<b>\$40,349</b>
<b>Music Staff Salaries</b>						
Accompanist	\$13,390	\$13,000.05	\$13,000	\$8,060	\$8,520	\$8,275
Music Coordinator	\$16,480	\$16,000.08	\$16,000	\$16,261	\$14,667	\$12,875
<b>Total Music Staff Salaries</b>	<b>\$29,870</b>	<b>\$29,000.13</b>	<b>\$29,000</b>	<b>\$24,321</b>	<b>\$23,187</b>	<b>\$21,150</b>
<b>Pastoral Leadership</b>						
Continuing Education	\$500	\$318.23	\$500	\$289	\$155	\$224
Health/Dental/Vision	\$30,000	\$31,653.40	\$29,367	\$28,308	\$26,246	\$26,769
Housing	\$24,129	\$22,980.00	\$22,980	\$21,886	\$22,196	\$20,744
Pastoral Expenses	\$1,000	\$538.95	\$1,000	\$952	\$564	\$1,314
Pension	\$13,000	\$13,005.33	\$12,862	\$11,478	\$10,470	\$11,278
Sabbatical Pastor	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$7388	\$0
Salary	\$65,907	\$62,769.12	\$62,769	\$59,803	\$56,206	\$54,044
Social Security	\$6,807	\$6,421.92	\$6,422	\$6,116	\$5998	\$5,721
<b>Total Pastoral Leadership</b>	<b>\$141,343</b>	<b>\$137,686.95</b>	<b>\$135,900</b>	<b>\$128,831</b>	<b>\$129,222</b>	<b>\$120,094</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$426,509</b>	<b>\$410,770.23</b>	<b>\$398,168</b>	<b>\$407,322</b>	<b>\$370,715</b>	<b>\$360,657</b>
<b>Net Income/Expense</b>	<b>\$12,652</b>	<b>(-\$24,653.21)</b>	<b>\$17,785</b>	<b>-\$60,100</b>	<b>\$-36,208</b>	<b>\$27,062</b>

## **COMO MISSION EXPERIENCE**

CUCC is embarking upon a new and exciting Mission Immersion Program- the COMO Mission Experience! This summer, CUCC will be the host site for mission groups from all across the country to stay at our facility and embark upon mission work all across Columbia. This is a great opportunity to do God's work in the world!

The idea for this experience originated with the mission trips our youth have taken to St. Louis. We have stayed at Epiphany UCC in Souldard on our trips, and they have organized mission work for us while there. Why not initiate a similar program here in Columbia? The Nurture and Education and Outreach and Advocacy Ministry Teams began working on a proposal this past year, and the Church Council approved the proposal as it was presented. Thus, the COMO Mission Experience was born.

There is a need in Columbia in the summer for volunteer work such as this. When college students leave town, much of our local volunteer base disappears with them. Our mission partners are scrambling to find more volunteers at this time, and our church has the ability to address the need. The COMO Mission Experience is part of that endeavor.

We have a dozen or so Mission Partners lined up to host our visiting groups including: Love Columbia; The Love Seat; the Food Bank Market; the Food Bank of Central and Northeastern Missouri; Mobility Worldwide; Habitat for Humanity; the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture; Coyote Hill; Room at the Inn; Ronald McDonald House; City of Refuge; and others. Tours of Mizzou, Columbia College, and Stephens College will be offered as well. We will be asking CUCC members to help with the hosting duties while they are here, although most of the logistics will be handled by myself (Pastor Rick) and Alexandra Roper, our Administrative Assistant. We have been marketing it across our Conference, and in other Conferences as well; and we hope to have 3-4 groups this inaugural summer!

Look for youth from all over to be staying with us this coming summer; and keep them in your prayers as the COMO Mission Experience takes off. All that we do is done to God's glory; and this is a blessed way to glorify God, by utilizing our facility to enhance God's mission work in the world.



Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Rick Oberle

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

The 2024 nominating committee consisted of Brent Marcks, Lea Marienfeld, Danielle Dreier, and Jerry Kiesling (Vice Moderator). Their task was to assure that all Council positions were filled by either renewing Council members (if eligible) or new members. In 2024, the following Council members left the Council due to term limits: Mike Pierson, Pat Forward, Keith Birkes, Lorry Dreier, Sue Ann Schaefer.

The new Council slate whose terms began June 1, 2024 were:

Deborah Birkes	(Treasurer)
Jedd Schneider	(Worship & Music Ministry Team Chair)
Lena Muench	(Nurture & Education Ministry Team Chair)
Shelly Adams	(Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team Chair)
Kristin Veteto	(LODO Ministry Team Chair)
*Alethea Tennill	(Secretary)
*Ted Dachroeden	(Building and Grounds Ministry Team Chair)

\*re-elected for another two year term.

The following lists are current Council members and their terms. The 2025 Nominating Committee will be charged with determining a slate of candidates for election at our May, 2025 Congregational Meeting.

### **Terms end May 31, 2025**

Moderator:	Kurt Heine
Vice Moderator:	Jerry Kiesling ( <i>eligible to run for Moderator</i> )
*Recording Treasurer:	Christine Staelens
*Fellowship & Hospitality:	Mary Lorber-Solt
Inclusion & Affirmation:	Tricia Price
*Membership & Care:	Judi Privitt
Outreach & Advocacy:	Mark Duncan

**\*Eligible to run again**

### **Terms end May 31, 2026**

Secretary:	Alethea Tennill
*Treasurer:	Deborah Long Birkes
Building & Grounds:	Ted Dachroeden
*Finance & Stewardship:	Shelly Adams
*Little One's Day Out:	Kristin Veteto
*Nurture & Education:	Lena Muench
*Worship & Music:	Jedd Schneider

**\*Eligible to run again**

### **CUCC By-Laws Article IV, Section 6: The Nominating Committee**

The Church Council at least ninety days prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting shall appoint the Vice Moderator to chair a Nominating Committee. The Committee shall be composed of five members, (at least two men, and two women; and at least one member under 30 years of age) to present a slate of candidates for election at the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall:

- a. take into account the diversity of the congregation in developing a slate of nominees;
- b. nominate one person for each vacant position



Respectfully submitted,  
Kurt Henie, Moderator

**Columbia**  
**United Church of Christ**

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