



Federated

CHURCH

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN ARMS.

2017 Annual Report



The Federated Church

The actions we take every day based on our core **values** demonstrate our commitment to **priorities** that support our **mission, which maintains focus on a vision that stands the test of time.**

MISSION

What we do today

We engage in

- Relevant conversations,
- Build invigorating relationships, and
- Restore fractured spirits.

VISION

What we aspire to achieve in the future beyond our years

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Arms.

PRIORITIES

How we concentrate our time and resources

- Offer inspiring and dynamic worship.
- Provide Biblically-based, cross-generational learning and fellowship opportunities.
- Enhance our campus while preserving the historic nature of our sanctuary.
- Engage with our community and serve the changing needs of our neighbors.

Who we are and Who We Want to Be

We bring Christ's everlasting hope, peace, and love to life through God's inspiring Word and our Spirit-led actions.

We are caring, authentic, and adventurous people who come from a variety of Christian backgrounds. We share a commitment to love, to serve, and to leave the world better than we found it.

Nourished by God, we are driven to speak the truth in our homes, build connections in fellowship, and carry peace and healing to our community, region, country, and beyond.

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Annual Meeting Agenda

I. Opening Prayer

- Establishing a Quorum (10% of Active Membership or 49 members)
- Adopt the Agenda
- Minutes from Annual Meeting (1/22/2017)

II. Pastor's Report

III. Deacons & Elders

IV. Nominating Committee Report

- Election of New Officers and committee members
- Dismiss 2017 Nominating Committee with thanks
- Elect 2018 Nominating Committee

V. Ordination and Installation of New Officers

VI. Committee Reports

VII. Financial Reports

- 2018 Budget
- Pastor's Compensation

VIII. Open Forum – Time for questions and discussions

IX. Staff Recognition

- *Clerk of Session* Jean Bowman
- *Treasurer* Mark Rodning
- *Administration* Adam Baker, Ada Erlandson and Elizabeth Hatling
- *Christian Ed* Karen Anderson, Sadie Carter
- *Maintenance* Peter Konrad and Matthew House
- *Music* Carol Andstrom, Doris Enderson, Karen Hauck, Molly King, Jordan Schiefert
- *Parish Nurse* Connie Seltz
- *Pastoral* Doug Dent

X. Special Recognition

- Kid's Club
- Confirmation
- Sunday School

XI. Adjourn with Prayer

Minutes from Annual Meeting of the Congregation 2017

Sunday, January 22, 2017 – Fellowship Hall

Moderator: Rev. Doug Dent

Clerk of Session: Jean Bowman

Quorum was declared. Pastor Doug Dent opened the meeting with prayer at 11:30 a.m.

Motion #1: To approve the agenda. Carried

We reviewed the minutes of the Annual Meeting of January 24, 2016 (approved by D&E in February 2016).

Deacons & Elders

The written report is included in the annual report. We observed a moment of silence in honor of those from our congregation who passed away in 2016. We thanked our outgoing D&E Members: Craig Jorgensen, Eunice MacFarlane and Russ Larsen.

Nominating Committee Report

There is one open position on Fellowship and two on Christian Education. Those appointments can be made in the new year.

- Noted updates from the provided nominating committee report: Erik Anthonisen will serve the one year vacancy on D&E.
- **Motion #2:** To nominate Patty Shol for Deacons and Elders and Millie Pearson for Stewardship (they are on the Nominating committee and may not nominate herself).
- **Motion #3:** That nominations be suspended.

- **Motion #4:** To elect slated officers/committee members as presented by the Nominating Committee with the addition of Erik Anthonisen for D&E.
- **Motion #5:** To dismiss 2016 Nominating Committee with thanks.
- **Motion #6:** To elect 2017 Nominating Committee (5 members and 2 alternates)
 1. Jim Worner
 2. Mary Ann Nead
 3. Sheila Rodning
 4. Donna Ohe
 5. John MacFarlane

Alternates

1. Roxane Nereson
2. Jane Nelson

Mission Committee

In 2016 the mission committee focused on the Federated Mission Fund (helping members of our congregation). There was \$1,672 raised at the Mission dinner for that purpose.

Financial Reports – Treasurer Mark Rodning presented the 2016 financial report. He pointed out highlights and commended the congregation for surpassing our goals for offering.

Proposed Budget for 2017	Budget
Total Revenues	\$395,560
Total Expenditures	\$395,560

Pastor Doug and Karen Dent were excused while the Pastor's compensation package was reviewed. Treasurer, Mark Rodning presented the pastor's compensation package.

Salary	\$65,543
Housing Allowance	\$9,600
<u>Cash Salary</u>	<u>\$75,143</u>
Medical	\$17,283
Medical (family)	\$1,127
Pension	\$8,266
Death/Disability	\$751
SSI	\$4,668
Books	\$500
Continuing Education	\$1,000
Mileage	<u>\$750</u>
Total Compensation	\$109,488

Motion #7: To approve pastor compensation package.

Motion #8: To approve the 2016 annual report which includes the 2017 budget.

Staff Recognition

Pastor Doug recognized the church staff and thanked them for their ministries:

- *Clerk of Session* Jean Bowman
- *Treasurer* Mark Rodning
- *Administration* Adam Baker, Elizabeth Hatling, Ed Morgan
- *Christian Education* Karen Anderson
- *Custodial* Pete Konrad and Matthew House
- *Music* Carol Andstrom, Doris Enderson, Karen Hauck
Molly King, Jordan Schiefert
- *Parish Nurse* Connie Seltz
- *Pastoral* Doug Dent

Special Recognition

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| • <i>Accompanist</i> | Gloria Ronning |
| • <i>Weekly Mailing</i> | Dorothy Porter |
| • <i>Chancel Candles</i> | Clyde & Beth Schlepp |
| • <i>Blood Pressure Screeners</i> | Barb Becker, Bonnie Gondrez, Jeanette Haas |
| • <i>Knitters</i> | Karen Johnson, Bev Lambert, Eunice MacFarlane,
Millie Pearson, Gloria Ronning, Heather Rundquist,
Char Zielin |

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 12:15 p.m.

The following motions were made, seconded, approved or defeated

Motion #1: To approve the agenda.

Motion #2: To nominate Patty Shol for Deacons and Elders and Millie Pearson for Stewardship (they are on the Nominating committee and may not nominate herself).

Motion #3: That nominations be suspended.

Motion #4: To elect slated officers/committee members as presented by the Nominating Committee with the addition of Erik Anthonisen for D&E.

Motion #5: To dismiss 2016 Nominating Committee with thanks.

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1. Jim Worner
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3. Sheila Rodning
4. Donna Ohe
5. John MacFarlane

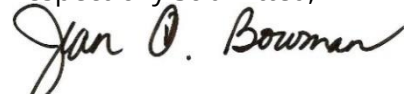
Alternates

1. Roxanne Nereson
2. Jane Nelson

Motion #7: To approve pastor compensation package.

Motion #8: To approve the 2016 annual report which includes the 2017 budget.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jean Bowman

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11*

The universe has a unique way of balancing itself. I saw that balancing act at play often during 2017. Something bad would happen, only to be balanced by something good.

We grieved the loss of eight treasured members of our faith family, but we celebrated the birth and/or baptisms of seven children and welcomed into membership nineteen brothers and sisters in Christ.

We lamented the resignations of Pastor Ed Morgan, Elizabeth Hatling, and Jordan Schiefert, but we delighted in the hiring of Ada Erlandson, Sadie Carter, and Pete Konrad.

We sorrowed over the ongoing violence in our world, but we invited the community to bring their worries in to pray with us at a peace service and a Blue Christmas service.

We cautiously moved to one worship service on Sunday morning, but we rejoice in the irresistible spirit and increased attendance at worship.

We noted decreased income from the loss of members and increased expenses due to expanding programs, but we appreciated the generosity of members who significantly augmented our Endowment Fund.

We mourned the growing need for financial assistance in our community, but we delighted in our increasing work in the community, adding Habitat-for-Humanity and the United Way Backpack Program to our ongoing work with the Food Shelf, Meals-by-Wheels, Christmas Baskets, and the local mission fund.

God worked in all these things. As God observed to the prophet Jeremiah, bad things will happen, but God has a greater plan. God's plan is to prosper God's people, not to do them harm. God's plan offers hope: not simply that things MIGHT get better, but the assurance that things WILL BE better. God's hope is not a wish, but the promise that we have a future mapped out for us by the Creator of the universe. God's cosmic balancing act may not always make sense to us, but we can trust that God is working all things – good and bad – for some purpose that will prosper us and promote the healing of the world.

With God making the plans, we have real hope that this will be a great year for Federated Church.
Pastor Doug Dent

Board of Deacons and Elders

Jean Bowman, Clerk of Session

The Board of Deacons and Elders are the representatives of both the Presbyterian (PCUSA) and United Church of Christ (UCC) membership. The Deacons and Elders constitute the governing body of the church. They are elected by the congregation and are ordained for life. Each member serves as a representative to one of the committees of the church. Deacons and Elders serve a 3-year term. The 2017 serving members of the Board of Deacons and Elders were:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Committee Assignment</u>
Jean Bowman		Clerk of Session
Michelle Loomer	2017	Mission
Erik Anthonisen	2017	Christian Education & Youth
Doris Enderson	2018	
Nathan Hoff	2018	Board of Managers
Heather Rundquist	2018	Nominating
Elizabeth Nelson	2019	Caring Ministry & Outreach
Kathy Hatling	2019	Christian Education & Youth
Cindy Holte	2019	Worship & Music
Evan Westra		Endowment
Patty Shol	2020	Fellowship
Linda MacFarlane	2020	Personnel
Kathy Truax	2020	Stewardship

Notable actions in order of action:

The following motions were made, seconded, approved or defeated (or tabled)

Motion #1 – To approve the baptisms of Kai, Kindree and Kavin Ebert, Arthur David Schlepp, Emily Undseth, Thacker Iverson, and Viktor Gustafson.

Motion #2 – To remove from the roles due to death: Mavis Warn, Alfred Anderson, Frances Johnson, Gene Mjelde, Leslie Arthur Syverson, Perrie Sheldon, Jim Knapp, Beverly Bach.

Motion #3 – Held a joint meeting of the Federated Church and Western Presbyterian churches.

Motion #4 – Recommended confirmands for membership: Brayden Aasen (PCUSA), Jackie Borowski (Western Presbyterian/PCUSA), Jozee Lee (PCUSA), Tucker Ugstad (PCUSA), and Ryndel Vogel (PCUSA).

Motion #5 – To remove from membership due to transfer: Randy & Marian Wasvick, Brian & Nancy Malchert, Lila (Mart) Heideman.

Motion #6 – To approve the wedding of Emma Runningen and Joseph Hall.

Motion #7 – To approve the recommendation from the endowment committee to reinvest returns and not request proposals.

Motion #8 – To hire Peter Konrad for custodial services.

Motion #9 – To accept (with regret) Elizabeth Hatling's resignation.

Motion #10 – To continue one blended service at 10 a.m. beginning in the fall.

Motion #11 – To welcome into membership by way of transfer: Steve & Melinda Wienbar, Ildi Sundheim, Dave & Tessa Nord, Dave Weinrich, Gus & Amber & Lilly Makovsky, Jeff & Emily Sivertson.

Motion #12 – To welcome into membership by reaffirmation of faith: Jan Swedberg, Toby Wach, Vicki Quittschreiber, Cheryl Anderton, Sadie Carter, Jake & Leslie Wendland.

Motion #13 – To set the new worship schedule: 9:30 a.m. Worship with Sunday school/fellowship/Bible study at 10:30 a.m.

Motion #14 – To end the search for a Director of Music Ministries and focus instead on finding leadership for the Praise band.

Motion #13 – To hire Ada Erlandson as the Administrative Assistant, and Sadie Carter as Church Activities Coordinator, both effective July 3, 2017.

Motion #14 – To authorize Pastor Douglas Dent to sign the contract for architectural services with Design Intent.

Motion #15 – To authorize a collection to aid relief efforts for Hurricane Harvey. Proceeds to be sent through the PCUSA and UCC relief agencies. And to authorize the collection of “cleanup buckets” to aid the hurricane relief in Texas and Florida through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Motion #16 – To hire Paige Westra as the Nursery Attendant for 3 hours each Sunday (9 AM-12 PM) with a flat fee of \$50.

Motion #17 – To assemble a security team to review church safety and security.

Submitted by Jean Bowman, Clerk of Session

Nominating Committee

Pastor Doug Dent

The Nominating Committee of 2017 presents the following slate of candidates for committee positions. We appreciate everyone who stepped up to serve!

Deacons & Elders

John Erickson
Becca Michael
Jon Steinbrenner
Steve Wienbar

Mission

Carolyn Anderson
Jake Gustafson
Michelle Loomer

Board of Managers

Jason Hastings
Chuck MacFarlane
Don Westra

Personnel

Kristi Hastings

Caring Ministry & Outreach

Maryjane Westra

Stewardship

Russ Larsen
Carri Thompson
Mike Shol

Christian Ed & Youth

Renee Larsen
Colleen Kennedy (2-yr)
_____ (2-yr)
Karen Bush
_____ (3-yr)
_____ (3-yr)

Worship

Ruth Aulds
Craig Jorgensen
Tessa Nord

Fellowship

Dennis Bowman (1yr)
Sheila Rodning (2yr)
Cheryl Anderton
Mary Ann Nead
Gail Welle

Audit Team

James Michael
Jerry Nuss

Thank you to all who have agreed to serve on the various committees and thank you to our 2016 nominating committee: please see minutes for a list.

Submitted by Pastor Doug Dent

Discovering Our Future

There are four “going-forward” teams. These teams have made a one-year commitment to helping shape programs that will help the brand come to life. They will focus on: 1. Offer inspiring and dynamic worship, 2. Provide Biblically-based, multigenerational learning and fellowship, 3. Engage with our neighbors and serve the changing needs of our community, and 4. Enhance our campus while preserving the historic nature of our sanctuary. These groups will work very closely with the existing committees to maximize ideas, energy and activities (worship, caring ministry, fellowship, Christian Education and board of managers).

Team Members: Jean Bowman, Jake Gustafson, Terry Harrington, Nathan Hoff, Karen Bush, Renee Larsen, Ann Porter, Ben Schierer, Connie Seltz, Rev. Doug Dent, Rev. Ed Morgan

Submitted by Jean Bowman

Campus Enhancement Team

The Campus Enhancement Committee continues to meet on a bi-monthly basis discussing the priorities that the congregation brought to the forefront during our “Discovering our Future” process. Our group continues weigh all of our options that will best serve our faith family while remaining fiscally responsible.

We look forward to 2018 and beyond and dream about our growth to ensure that our campus is prepared for what lies ahead.

Campus Enhancement Committee Members: Pastor Doug Dent, Ed Morgan, Linda MacFarlane, Donna Hendel and Skip Zieline

Submitted by Nathan Hoff

Community Engagement Team

The Community Engagement Team seeks to engage with our neighbors and serve the changing needs of our community. In 2017 the group focused on internal and external communications and identified opportunities to share Federated Church's work. A Public Relations (PR) Handbook, developed to guide committee and event chairs in communication, shares best practices and a step-by-step guide to how to communicate events, both to members of Federated Church and to the community. A few members of the committee, plus staff, work on the Facebook page and a new texting service, *Remind* is a great way for members to stay informed about special church activities and notices.

Internally, priority events included: Worship in the park (bubbles in June and blessings of the animals in August), ice cream social, camp in a van, Rally Day, pie social, mission dinner, Christmas Cantata, Blue Christmas and the Community Prayer Service.

External opportunities were the Lake Region Run and Turkey Trot (we provided volunteers for both events). We also joined with the Lake Alice Neighborhood Group, so we are included with our neighbors to discuss and address the lake quality, safety, advocacy and general good-neighbor practices.

Federated Church has a presence with the Habitat for Humanity, Food Shelf, United Way and Salvation Army.

When Ada joined the Federated Church staff, she brought with her a skill and interest in communication. She executes the public relations for Federated Church. The CE Team now meets quarterly to identify upcoming priority events, brainstorm opportunities for community engagement and assist Ada as needed.

Submitted by Jean Bowman and Pastor Doug Dent

Worship Task Force

The Worship Task Force studied our worship and music preferences, and determined that one worship service would be in the best interest of the congregation. With approval from the Deacons & Elders, the task force assisted the Worship Team in making that transition in September 2017. Although we experienced some initial hiccups, the response to the new worship style and schedule is overwhelmingly positive. Since regular worship items are handled by the Worship Team, the task force disbanded in October 2017.

Submitted by Pastor Doug Dent

Multigenerational Fellowship and Learning Team

The Multigenerational Fellowship team has combined efforts with the Fellowship team. The Fellowship Committee continues to provide “biblically-based” and “multigenerational” events to deepen relationships within the faith family. The multigenerational task force disbanded in Spring 2017.

Team members: Renee Larsen, Karen Bush, Carolyn Anderson, Lu Echelberger, Patty Shol, Terry Harrington, Staff: Rev. Karen Anderson

Submitted by Rev. Karen Anderson, DCE

Endowment Committee

The Federated Church Endowment Fund experienced a strong year in 2017. The Endowment Fund benefited from new gifts from generous donors as well as producing very good returns on investment of funds. During the year we received new funds in the amount of \$52,000. As of December 2017 the Fund had a market value of approximately \$485,000.

The Endowment Fund is invested through Edward Jones under the oversight of Marcus Meder and the Endowment Committee.

Endowment Committee members: Donna Hendel, Stephanie Hoff, Russ Larsen, Mark Rodning, Evan Westra, John Erickson, Rev. Dr. Ed Morgan and Rev. Doug Dent, Ex Officio.

Submitted by John Erickson

Board of Managers

Donna Hendel

The Board of Managers provides oversight of all property of the church (maintenance and repairs), the payment of bills, and oversight of Federated's finances.

Board members in 2017: Donna Hendel, Chair, Fred Harthen, Steve Lockhart, Chad Nelson, Roxanne Nereson, Duane Rose, Steve Thompson, Rick Schara and Tanya Westra. Nathen Hoff acted as representative from the Board of Deacons and Elders. Rev. Ed Morgan attended meetings as Director of Church Operations until his resignation March 31, 2017

The Board of Managers was able to stay within budget for 2017 while funding both planned and unanticipated expenses.

Main projects completed in 2017:

New lighting in downstairs hallways and Sanctuary chandelier bulbs changed to LED bulbs.

Outdoor carpeting on back entry stairs was finally replaced.

Sewer line was assessed via video camera and roots removed.

Painting and wall repair completed in several hallways and staircases.

LED TVs and video equipment purchased to broadcast Sanctuary events to Fellowship Hall, Narthex and Nursery

Maintenance shed ordered (Due to arrive early January)

Unanticipated expense:

Commercial refrigerator replaced

Automatic door opener on front door replaced.

Failing leased Xerox printer replaced with leased Kyocera printer. (3-year lease)

A need for plumbing repair in the women's' bathroom (education wing) has surfaced and is being evaluated this month.

The resignation of the Director of Church Operations and loss of that position was keenly felt by Board of Managers. Pete Konrad, staff maintenance and custodian, has assumed a great deal of the work done by the DCO in the area of alerting the board to maintenance issues, repair options and obtaining estimates. Pete deserves our thanks for adeptly assuming these duties.

A large project completed last summer was the purging of surplus and unused equipment stored in the church attic. Bill Nead spent countless hours doing a technology audit and identified equipment to be purged. Three large tables were filled with audio and video equipment no longer of use to the church. Items were offered to the congregation and all equipment was passed on or trashed. Bill Nead has been incredibly valuable as technology consultant to our congregation!

As is characteristic of Federated Church, so many members pitched in to assess problems, make needed repairs and assist with updates in 2017. Thank you! You are amazing and greatly appreciated. I cannot possibly name all of you who have helped this year. We have a wonderful church family. We love our old building and want to preserve its beauty while tastefully updating and completing repairs as needed and as possible within our financial position.

Submitted by Donna Hendel, Chairperson

Caring Ministry and Outreach

Karoline Gustafson

Committee Members: Karoline Gustafson (chair), Mary Olson, Carol Rose, Connie Seltz, Erin Smith, Jessica Steinbrenner, Char Zielen, Kathy Zimmerman, Elizabeth Nelson

The goal/objective of this committee is to engage members and non-members in our congregation.

2017 Accomplishments:

- MANY new members welcomed into our church family
- Bike to Church Sunday – bike lights were given to those who biked to church
- Prayers for Peace service
- Welcome Bags for visitors
- Dementia Friends seminar
- Asked D&E to look for a nursery attendant

Thank You To:

- Big thank you to Connie Seltz for writing birthday cards to members and keeping the Welcome Bags stocked.
- D & E and the personnel committee for finding staff for the nursery.
- The committee members for inviting visitors and friends to become members!

Unfinished Business & Goals

- We are continually contacting visitors to see if they have any questions about our church family and if they are interested in becoming members.
- Engage more members in 2018.
- Explore quarterly Prayer Services for our community.

Submitted by Karoline Gustafson

Parish Nurse Coordinator

Parish Nurse Coordinator Connie Seltz, RN, BA

Let me begin by saying "Thank You" to: 1. Bonnie Gondrez, Parish Nurse Volunteer, for her dependable help with blood pressure screenings. She has a demanding full-time supervisory job, yet is committed to getting the job done. 2. Pastor Doug for keeping me focused about what needs to be done, and 3. All of the faith family for welcoming me into your lives. The work of integrating faith and health gives my life purpose and satisfaction.

After completing 11 years as the Parish Nurse Coordinator, I'm reminded that we have had big changes in membership since I began and it might be helpful to review what a Parish Nurse does. Parish Nurses (Faith Community Nurses) are actively licensed Registered Nurses that comply with the boundaries and functions of the "Faith Community Nurse: Scope and Standards of Practice." We are recognized by the American Nurses Association as a subspecialty with boundaries and limitations of practice. Therefore, we do not participate in dependent functions of nursing, such as invasive procedures, administration of medications, or any hands-on-care. Licensed healthcare facilities and home health agencies provide these functions, and we make referrals to them. Parish Nurses can be disciplined for practicing outside their scope of practice.

The necessary components of Parish Nursing:

1. **Health Promotion:** Referrals to Health Care Facilities as needed. This year I spent some time dealing with the complexities of connecting with the mental health system and how to use the personal and financial resources available.
2. **Illness Prevention, Wholeness, and Wellness:** Newsletter articles, the Parish Nursing bulletin board, and encouragement to participate in self-care groups are some of the ways I hope to accomplish this. I visit with members at their invitation, or if I am alerted to a need, then I offer a visit. With each visit, a discussion of needs and a time of prayer are offered. Prayer time is often when I learn about real, heart-felt needs.
3. **Health Educator:** During 2017, I have met with 10 people to discuss writing Advance Care Directives. I have the most recent forms used by Lake Region Healthcare and Otter Tail County along with the "Honoring Choices Minnesota Advance Care Planning Guide." These 2016 forms provide excellent information about choices and seem to give confidence to those completing them. I meet with parishioners one-to-one or in groups. I am a trained facilitator for this task.
4. **Referral Agent:** Works with community agencies and resources to assist with the well-being of the congregation. In addition to Hospice services, LB Lakeland Hospice offers a bereavement service and follow-up visits for a limited time. The Alzheimer's Association now has a new local director who is helpful to provide literature and meet with persons concerned with memory issues. As a resource person, I meet with other community Parish Nurses to learn of additional services, education opportunities, and literature available.
5. **Health Advocate:** Assists with assessments and decisions and sometimes speaks in behalf of the patient, but only at the invitation of the patient.
6. **Personal Health Counselor:** Discusses health problems with parishioners to give clarity and support. I make many home, nursing home, hospital, and assisted Living visits each month. I spend the bulk of my time making these visits.
7. **Developer of Small Groups:** One "Friends of Dementia" group training was held. Twenty persons attended. Goal for 2018 is to expand the education and offerings for those with memory issues and their caregivers.

It is a special privilege to work with the Stephen Ministers of Federated who are available to provide support during difficult and crisis times. It is also a tremendous gift to work with a congregation that cares so graciously for one another. Thank you. God bless you all!

Submitted by Connie Seltz, RN, BA

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are trained individuals from the congregation who provide one to one Christ centered care to hurting people

They are equipped with the skills to listen, encourage and offer support in a totally confidential relationship.

Our program currently has three leaders, Pastor Doug Dent, Char Zielin and Rebecca Jorgensen. There are ten active Stephen Ministers. We meet the first Tuesday of each month. Each Stephen Minister gives a report on their visits with their care receivers.

We also have continuing education or guest speakers. This last May, we had Dave Churchill from Lakeland Mental Health who spoke on marriage and family. We also attended a lecture at Hope

Lutheran on the subject of Post-Traumatic Stress. It was our year to host the Fall Gathering of Stephen Ministers in our area. We had a great turn out and meal.

Anyone interested in learning more about Stephen Ministry either to take the training or having a Stephen Minister please contact one of the leaders.

Submitted by Rebecca Jorgensen

The 2017 year proved to be a rich year for Christian Education here at Federated Church. Each month brought new opportunities for education and fellowship among our kids, youth, and adults—with new members and participants along the way.

January:

We started the 2017 year with a new Kids Club session that focused on the parables of Jesus, with lessons, music, craft, and active gym time. We consistently had around 24 children participating each week as well as 5 adult volunteers. Senior high youth group met on Wednesday nights, along with a special fellowship game/movie night at our home. Confirmation continued to meet during the month. During Sunday school we had seven teachers covering classes that reached ages 0-12, with music each week as well as a relevant lesson. A special event for the whole church included the “Break-out Game”, held in late January, which brought all ages together for a unique fellowship and learning event.

February:

In February all programming continued as in the previous month, with the celebration of Confirmation Sunday on February __, with five new youth joining the Federated Church by profession of faith. In mid-February an intergenerational group of 13 journeyed to Guatemala for a week of mission and fellowship.

March:

After the completion of confirmation for the 2016-2017 year, the youth in grades 7th – 9th began the first of three months of youth group in the after-school time slot previously occupied with confirmation. We had a strong group of about 12 youth, sometimes including friends from other churches. This group watched faith-related videos, played VERY active games, and genuinely enjoyed each other. Kids Club continued with a new theme that focused on the “armor of God” from the book of Ephesians. Our numbers continued to stay in the 20s, with strong adult volunteer leaders and active kids. Two special activities of note for the senior high youth were held on the same night: on March 22nd two of our graduating youth (Paige Westra and Abby MacFarlane) shared their faith stories during our annual faith family series and the youth, both middle school and high school, prepared a special Guatemalan-themed dinner for the congregation. A senior-high lock-in rounded out the month.

April:

In April our Christian Education programming continued with Kids Club, Sunday school, and youth groups. Special events that took place included the now-annual middle school and senior high youth groups participating in an Easter-themed Blessing scavenger hunt, always a popular activity which shares a blessing with a stranger during the holiday-season and gets the word out about Federated Church to others in the community. Our Senior Brunch in late April gave our church family the opportunity to celebrate our 8 graduating seniors.

May:

May brought the end of Sunday school, Kids Club, and youth groups for the 2016-2017 year. In mid-May we thanked our adult volunteers and Sunday school teachers during worship.

June/July/August:

The summer months were peppered with various scheduled youth events: lake days, bike ride to Dalton, concerts in the park, hanging out at the Dents, and a community garden work day in August. Vacation Bible School, held in early July, drew in 30 kids, including members and non-members, along with several older youth helpers throughout the week as well as great adult volunteer help. We had great leadership from Clearwater Forest staff during the week, and even spent one day out at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center. One new (and hopefully annual) addition to the week focused on collecting a daily offering which helped get the children from the House of Hope in Zacapa, Guatemala, to the zoo in Guatemala City.

September:

The fall kicked off new Kids Club sessions, the first theme focused on the Jesse Tree. This full fall session led to our Christmas pageant theme for the congregation and gave the children a new way to understand the “how”, “who” and “why” of Jesus’ birth. Youth group began with a pool party and weekly topical-based discussions. Sunday school proved a bit of a challenge with two-less teachers than the previous year; with combined classes one group had 18 kids the first day! Both elementary-age classes spent the fall learning about Moses and the Israelites journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. ALL children and youth activities brought in new kids, new families, and new energy. In all 14 new kids were added across classes, Kids Club, confirmation, and youth group.

October:

The great highlight for Christian Education in October (and quite frankly, the year!) was the Confirmation Retreat, held at Clearwater Forest in Eagle Lodge. Our 7th, 8th, and 9th graders, along with 6 adult leaders, spent the weekend learning God’s word, enjoying the beautiful weather, playing games, and cooking together. Other programming in all areas continued with consistent numbers and energy.

November:

Our children and youth programming continued with good participation from kids as well as adults, with a special highlight in early November—the Operation Christmas Child packing party. The kids love to think about the pray for the children around the world who will receive their specially-packed gifts. It is a special time of fellowship and intergenerational fun. The senior high youth group had two extra events, with a movie night in early November, and a lock-in in mid-November, with 10 participants. They especially liked going to Perkins in the middle of the night!

December:

December always brings annual traditions of learning and fellowship to all the groups served by Christian Education. During Kids Club and Sunday school we spent three weeks preparing for and practicing the Christmas pageant, which was held on December 17th. The kids did a WONDERFUL job telling the story to the Federated family. The confirmation classes continued with their learning, and the senior high youth group did their Christmas Blessing Scavenger Hunt at area stores.

It was a great year filled with significant highlights for our church family. May 2018 be as prosperous and joy-filled as this previous year! May God bless the Federated Church family as they continue to learn His word and fellowship with one another!

Submitted by Rev. Karen Anderson, DCE

Fellowship Committee

Dennis Bowman

Mission Statement: As stated in the “job description” provided by Federated Church, the Fellowship Committee organizes social events to provide opportunities for the congregation to build community.

Highlights of 2017:

- **Winter Camping Faith Retreat** – led by Paul Shol. The overnight retreat at Maplewood Park had large interdenominational participation (15-20 people).
- **“Souper Bowl” Sunday** – Several church members stuck around after the 2nd service on Super Bowl Sunday to enjoy a lunch featuring home-made soups (including a fish chowder made from fish caught in the recent Federated Ice-Fishing Event).
- **Softball Breakfast and Silent Auction** – Raised almost \$1,000 to finance the 2017 church softball team.
- **Rally Day** – A huge crowd (almost 200) stuck around after church to enjoy “Gobble-up” turkey sandwiches and fresh corn-on-the-cob, locally grown at the Swiontek farm by Jewett Lake. Live music was provided by Tommy Bowman, and games included a bean-bag toss tournament and bingo in the church parlor.
- **Pie Social** – About 40 pies were provided by the talented pie-bakers in our congregation. Several of the pies were given away as door prizes.

Goals for 2018:

- Bring back the **Chili Cook-off**! (It will replace “Souper Bowl” Sunday)
- We plan to continue to organize popular events like **Rally Day, Birthday Cake Sunday, Ice Cream Social, Pie Social**, etc.
- Other events for which we will try to attract better participation include **February Game Nights, Amazing Race**, and **Outdoor Faith Retreat**.
- In general, we expect more congregation participation for events held after the church service since there are no longer two church services to split up the congregation. Such events include **Chili Cook-off, Birthday Cake Sunday, Softball Breakfast**, and the **Ice Cream Social**.

As chairperson of the committee, I would like to thank all of the committee members for their roles in coordinating events and doing their share to carry out each event to make sure it was a success. I couldn’t have asked for a better group to work with this year.

2017 Members:

Dennis Bowman	(Chairperson)
Ingrid Morgan	Matt Solin
Mary Ann Nead	Tami Collins
LovEli Hultin	Bonnie Stock
Anne Kalar	Sammy Ebert
Lynn Oxley	

D&E Rep: Patty Shol **Staff Rep:** Sadie Carter

Submitted Dennis Bowman, 2017 Fellowship Committee Chairperson

Mission Committee

Peg Kalar

Our committee's purpose is to focus on local, national and world mission needs and provide the congregation with opportunities to respond to those needs, and to encourage congregational response to our "Feed My Sheep" mission.

The Mission Committee initiative for 2017 was Habitat for Humanity, chosen after Federated Church agreed to be a covenant partner with the local chapter this year. Habitat was the beneficiary of \$466 in donations from the two summer worship services at Roosevelt Park, and an additional \$1,570 was contributed during the free will offering at the Mission Dinner in November (this figure includes a \$500 match from the Mission Committee). Federated members also have contributed many hours of volunteer labor for Habitat's construction project on Lydia Lane throughout the fall, and about 30 congregation members volunteered at the home on the afternoon following the Mission Dinner.

Our budget for 2017 was \$10,000. We continued our support this year for the United Way Backpack Feeding Program, which provides food for low-income students on weekends and during breaks, and added a new beneficiary, the Lutheran Brethren Homes grief counseling program. In response to devastation caused by hurricanes, the committee provided \$500 for Hurricane Harvey victims and \$1,260 for 20 hurricane clean-up buckets.

Again this year we encouraged confirmands to "pay it forward" by allowing each final-year confirmation student to choose a non-profit to receive \$100 in Mission Committee funds. Three chose the local Humane Society, and four designated the House of Hope in Guatemala to receive their donations.

Committee members who served enthusiastically during 2017 were Carol Bischof, Terry Haas, Gerri Hilden, Sonja Johnson, Peg Kalar (chair), Michelle Loomer (D&E representative), Kitt Schara, Marjan Schuetze, Paul Shol, Donna Solin and Mike Walls.

Submitted by Peg Kalar

Personnel Committee

Linda MacFarlane

The Personnel Committee is tasked with supervising the work and compensation for the church's human resources: the staff. During the summer of 2017, three people were recommended to and approved by D&E to fill positions. Sadie Carter was hired as the Church Activities Coordinator (CAC). CAC is new position that was created to assist in the planning and implementing of Christian Education and Fellowship events. Ada Erlandson was hired as the Administrative Assistant as Elizabeth Hatling moved on to explore new possibilities. Paige Westra joined us as the Nursery Attendant. We're excited to have a consistent caregiver in the Nursery to supervise play in a safe and welcoming environment. Assisted by Pastor Dent, Personnel worked on reviews for church employees. A comprehensive review was also completed for Pastor Dent. A comprehensive review for the Rev. Karen Anderson, Director of Christian Education, is currently in the works and is expected to be complete by the end of the year. The search for a Director of Music Ministries will continue in 2018.

Personnel Committee members: Renee Larsen, Linda MacFarlane (D&E rep, chairperson), Rebecca Michael and Beth Schlepp

Submitted by Linda MacFarlane

Stewardship Committee

John MacFarlane

The Stewardship Committee chose as theme for this year's effort "Generations of Generosity" based on Psalm 145. It recognized that each generation benefits from those previous and has responsibility to those following. We attempted to communicate the experiences, expectations and hopes of folks representing different generations, to remind people of their appreciation for belonging to a faith community like Federated. Part of that message was that it takes the talents and financial support of all of us to honor those who established and sustained Federated and to do our part in creating an enduring future for generations that follow.

Over the past few years the number of pledges offered has decreased even though the total amount pledged has increased. Special effort was made to encourage folks who had not pledged before to do so. The campaign is not complete but we can report that both the amount pledged and the number of pledges received have increased.

Special thanks to committee members: Jona Brown, who created the videos, Pam Phillips and Millie Pearson, secretaries, Grant Davenport, Vaughn Ebbighausen, Terry Herrington. Bill Kalar, David Whipple and Rev Ed Morgan who acted as our advisor,

John MacFarlane, Chair

Submitted by John MacFarlane, co-chairperson

Worship Committee

Ruth Aulds

The Worship Committee is charged with the task of assisting the Pastor and Staff in planning for meaningful worship services using the talents of the congregation and the resources of the Church. The work of the Committee was aided by the guidance of Pastor Doug and the members of the office staff, Elizabeth Hatling and Ada Erlandson, supplying the information required to enable the Committee to fulfill its objectives through their invaluable knowledge and abilities. The worship experience of the Congregation was also enhanced through the work of Bill Nead who continues to work to upgrade and improve the sound and video system. Finally, the work of the Committee would not be successful without the continued support of the congregation through providing their time and talents in the conduct of the weekly and seasonal worship services.

Worship Committee members for 2017 were: Ruth Aulds (Chairperson), Cindy Holte (D&E), Doris Enderson, Kathryn Gilbert, Jeannette Haas, Cheryl Harrington, Terri Skretvedt, and Cindy Spidahl. Staff: Pastor Doug Dent, Carol Andstrom and Karen Hauck.

Senior Choir

Anthems were provided by the Senior Choir during the 11:00 service the spring of 2017. The choir also sang for services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday. Our soloists provided special music for the Lenten and summer services.

With the time and service changes in the fall we continued to sing at the 9:30 service.

We sang for the funeral of Dr. Sievertson whose family sponsored the Christmas Cantata "The Heart of Christmas" given on Saturday Dec. 4 at 4:00. It was wonderful to be accompanied by a small orchestra and bells. Soloists performed at the Cantata, the Prayer service, Blue Christmas and both Christmas Eve services.

We rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 and I'm so grateful for our accompanist, Gloria Ronning, and all the faithful voices that so willingly dedicate their time and talents for Federated Church.

Submitted by Karen Hauck, Senior Choir director

Bell Choir

We meet every Wednesday night at 6:00pm for an hour of practice and an extra half hour to get set up to start for 15 minutes and 15 minutes to shut down and put everything back in cases and shelves. During our hour to practice, we are very busy playing bells and greeting friendly ringers, before the week is over. We try to be ready to play for the church service once a month, usually near the end of the month if everyone is available to practice in the sanctuary before the service. Hopefully, the tables are set up already and bells we bring in.

We use appropriate music for the day and time of the year. This year, we have been short a couple people as we try to get subs to come and practice too before Sunday. We have been very happy to get two capable sisters to join us, and this fall they even got their mother into helping. It worked out well. Thank you, Mom.

We will start regular Wednesday lessons on January 3-2018. We are looking forward to the rest of the school year till May. If you would like to try your talent, give me a call at 770-4692. It is a wonderful way to get to know each other.

Submitted by Doris Enderson, Bell Choir director

Special Recognition: Christian Education

Kids Club: Karen Anderson, Sadie Carter, Doug Dent, Madalyn Dent, Lu Echelberger, Terry Harington, Colleen Kennedy, Renee Larsen and Char Zielin

Confirmation: Karen Anderson, Erika Mariotti, Doug Dent, Connie Seltz and Jim Worner

Sunday School: Karen Anderson, Jona Brown, Karen Bush, Sadie Carter, Doug Dent, Madalyn Dent, Carri Thompson, Steve Thompson and Ryndel Vogel

With Grateful Appreciation...

Thank you to our church members that have faithfully served and completed the terms of service for our many committees.

Doris Enderson	Erik Anthonisen	Bill Kalar	Karen Bush
Nathan Hoff	Dennis Bowman	Kurt Johnson	Elizabeth Hatling
Michelle Loomer	Tami Collins	John MacFarlane	Mark Rodning
Heather Rundquist	Ingrid Morgan	Dave Whipple	Michelle Loomer
Tanya Westra	Tessa Schierer	Renee Larsen	Mike Shol
Donna Hendel	Gerri Hilden	Ruth Aulds	Mary Ann Nead
Roxane Nereson	Kitt Schara	Jeanette Haas	Sheila Rodning
Karoline Gustafson	Peg Kalar	Lee Syverson	
Karen Bush	Carol Bischof	Jim Worner	

Your commitment to the ministries of The Federated Church is appreciated. Your work is important and influential in our church and in our community.

Thank you to all of our volunteers throughout the year. Every job is appreciated! We have had help with labeling envelopes, assembling the newsletter, re-arranging Sunday school rooms, carpentry & woodworking, painting, fixing walls, wiring, photography, snow shoveling, installing software, decorating, sewing, making banners, hanging banners, knitting, gardening, moving, cooking, baking, serving, cleaning, chaperoning, mentoring, appointment driving, & home visits. We are thankful for our Sunday school teachers, kids club volunteers, Camp in a Van volunteers, and ushers. Thank you to the service groups and their work throughout the year. The list goes on and on!

Thank you for your gifts of time, talent and treasure. The Federated Church has benefited from your works here. Choosing to share your gifts influences others. You set the example and show us just how meaningful it is to give, to share and to grow through God's love.

