



# Federated

## CHURCH

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN ARMS.

## 2021 Annual Report



**2022 Softball Team**



**OTC Foster Care gift bags**

## 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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**I. Opening Prayer**

**II. Guidelines for a Hybrid Meeting**

- Establishing best practices and setting parameters for discussion and voting
- Test Vote: "I have travelled outside the United States." (Yes or No)
- Test Chat: Please send the names of all voting members attending the meeting.

**III. The Call to Order**

- Establishing a Quorum (10% of Active Membership or 35 members)
- Adopting the Agenda\*
- Reviewing minutes from Annual Meeting (1/31/2021)

**IV. Pastor's Report**

**V. Deacons & Elders**

**VI. Nominating Committee Report**

- Electing New Officers and Committee Members\*  
*♫ Musical interlude while votes are tallied*
- Dismissing 2021 Nominating Committee with our thanks\*  
*♫ Musical interlude while votes are tallied*
- Appointing the 2022 Nominating Committee\*  
*♫ Musical interlude while votes are tallied*

\*Items requiring a congregational vote

**VII. Ordination and Installation of New Officers**

- We welcome and pray for those called to serve  
*♫ Musical interlude while votes are tallied*

**VIII. Committee Reports**

**IX. Financial Reports**

- 2022 Budget
- Pastor's Compensation\*  
*♫ Musical interlude while votes are tallied*
- Approval of 2021 Annual Report & 2022 Budget\*  
*♫ Musical interlude while votes are tallied*
- Benevolence & Denominational Giving in 2021

**X. Adjourn with Prayer**

If you need assistance during the meeting, please contact one of our troubleshooters:

**Jeremy Jensen**  
612-760-0512  
*Voting*

**Brianna Schneeberger**  
701-200-1684  
*Tech Support*

**Char Zielin**  
218-205-8762  
*Chat Room*

## **Minutes from Annual Meeting of the Congregation 2021**

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Sunday, January 31, 2021 – Sanctuary and Zoom

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Doug Dent

Clerk of Session: Jean Bowman

- I. **Opening Prayer** (The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.)
  
- II. **Guidelines for a Hybrid Meeting** – The congregation reviewed best practices for discussion and voting (in person and hybrid). We conducted a test vote (live, poll, chat).
  
- III. **The Call to Order** –
  1. Quorum was declared (10% of Active Membership or 35 members). There were 41 members in the sanctuary and 36 on Zoom.
  2. **Motion #1:** To approve the agenda. Motion carried.
  3. We reviewed the minutes from the 2020 Annual Meeting (1/19/20). These were approved by D&E on February 20, 2020.
  4. We reviewed the vote amending the Federated Church bylaws to permit meetings by electronic means: 131 - Yes, 2 - No. (Recorded in D&E minutes, August 2020)
  
- IV. **Pastor's Report**

A written report was included in the annual report. Doug noted that, due to COVID-19, this has been a challenging year to carry on the business of the congregation. He, staff, and volunteers learned new things, adapted and found new ways to be connected. Doug thanked staff for their tenacity and creativity in rising to and accepting new challenges. Special thanks to Bill Nead for managing and delivering the online services. We also recognized and appreciate the musicians who stepped in to offer music, and Vivian's leadership upon the passing of Brian Jensen. Thanks to Jean and Mark for serving as Clerk and Treasurer, respectively.
  
- V. **Deacons & Elders**
  1. A written report was included in the annual report.
  2. We thanked our outgoing D&E Members: Steve Weinbar, Jon Steinbrenner, John Erickson, and Becca Michael. We also recognized Erika Mariotti for her service; she moved away from Fergus Falls.
  3. Correction to page 10 – D&E is Jeremy Jensen, not Jeremy Nelson.
  
- VI. **Nominating Committee Report**

Nominations were presented by the nominating committee.

**Motion #2:** To elect slated officers/committee members as presented by the Nominating Committee with the addition of Jon Fransen to Deacons & Elders. Motion carried.

**Deacons & Elders**

Terri Skretvedt, 1-year  
Mary Bressler, 3-year  
Chad Nelson, 3-year  
Kerian Stenstrom, 3-year  
Jon Fransen, 3-year

**Board of Managers (3-year)**

Glenn Bressler  
Mariah Davenport  
Terry Hass

**Caring Ministry & Outreach (3-year)**

Barb Becker  
Vivian Whipple

**Christian Education**

Karen Bush, 2-year  
Jona Brown, 3-year  
Rebecca Buchfink, 3-year  
Molly Stoddard, 3-year

**Endowment**

John Erickson, 3-year  
Donna Hendel, 3-year  
Kathy Truax, 1 year

*\*Indicates position needs to be filled*

**Audit Task Force (3-year)**

Jerry Nuss

**Fellowship (3-year)**

Tami Collins  
Chelsea Cruz  
Hollis Davenport  
Kristi Rufer

**Worship**

Ruth Aulds, 3-year  
Craig Jorgensen, 3-year  
Vivian Whipple, 1-year

**Mission (3-year)**

Jeanette Haas  
Tessa Schierer  
Patty Shol

**Personal (3-year)**

Kristi Hastings

**Stewardship**

Troy Stenstrom, 2-year  
Rebecca Michael, 3-year  
Connie Seltz, 3-year  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2-year\*  
\_\_\_\_\_, 3-year\* filled

**Motion: #3:** To dismiss the 2020 Nominating Committee with thanks. Motion carried.

**Motion #4:** To elect the 2021 Nominating Committee (5 members and 2 alternates). Discussion – bylaws require 2 alternates, but 3 volunteered and we will accept them all! Motion carried.

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Paul Shol      | <u>Alternates</u>  |
| 2. Donna Solin    | 1. Tessa Nord      |
| 3. Peg Kalar      | 2. Sheila Rodning  |
| 4. Lu Echelberger | 3. Michelle Loomer |
| 5. Larry Bethel   |                    |

VII. Ordination & Installation of Officers

Mary Bressler, Jon Fransen and Kerian Stenstrom were ordained as officers. They, along with Terri Skretvedt and Chad Nelson (previously ordained) were installed as new officers to D&E.

VIII. **Committee Reports**

Committee reports are included in the annual report. There were no questions.

IX. **Financial Reports**

Mark provided the financial reports. At year-end 2020 we are in good financial position from 2020. We anticipate the PPP loan will be forgiven in full. He presented the proposed budget for 2021. This was developed by the budget committee; the board of managers and D&E. Committee budgets were kept at 2020 levels with the exception of the worship committee (added \$3,000 for copyright). The director of music ministries is now a part time position (not full-time). Staff who have been at Federated for at least 12 months will receive a 2 percent COLA increase. The pastor will also receive a 2 percent COLA and a 2 percent merit increase.

<b>Proposed Budget for 2021</b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>
Total Revenues	\$401,767
Total Expenditures	\$401,767

Pastor Doug left the room while the pastor’s compensation package was reviewed. Mark Rodning presented the pastor’s compensation package (below). He offered to answer questions. There were none.

Salary	\$67,803
Housing Allowance	<u>\$13,502</u>
<b>Cash Salary</b>	<b>\$81,305</b>
Medical	\$21,952
Medical (family)	<i>(included above)</i>
Pension	\$6,911
Death/Disability	\$813
Temporary Disability	\$407
SSI	\$5,187
Books	\$500
Continuing Ed.	\$1,000
Mileage	\$750
<b>Total Compensation</b>	<b>\$118,825</b>

**Motion #5:** To approve pastor compensation package. Motion carried.

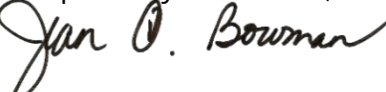
**Motion #6:** To approve the 2020 Annual Report and 2021 budget. Motion carried.

We reviewed a report of benevolence and denominational giving which totaled \$43,592.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 11:40 a.m.

***The following motions were made and approved.***

- Motion #1:** To approve the agenda.
- Motion #2:** To elect slated officers/committee members as presented by the Nominating Committee with the addition of Jon Fransen to Deacons & Elders.
- Motion #3:** To dismiss the 2020 Nominating Committee with thanks.
- Motion #4:** To elect 2021 Nominating Committee (5 members and 3 alternates)
- Motion #5:** To approve the pastor’s compensation package.
- Motion #6:** To approve the 2020 annual report and the 2021 budget.

Respectfully Submitted,  
  
Jean Bowman  
Clerk of Session



*"I am God, and there is no one like me,  
declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done,  
saying, "My purpose shall stand, and I will fulfill my intention."*

Psalm 46:9b-10

In ancient Roman religion and myth, Janus was the god of beginnings, gates, transitions, time, duality, doorways, passages, frames, and endings. Busy guy! Janus is depicted with two faces: one looking forward and one looking back. Janus sees what was and what will be.

Federated Church stands at a significant threshold, looking backward and forward. As we complete our 150<sup>th</sup> year of worship and work in the Fergus Falls and the surrounding communities, we can look back on a long legacy of faith and fortitude, of caring and Christian presence, of mission and ministry, of generosity and grace. This is a heritage of which we should be proud.

But we are also looking forward, to the next 150 years! What challenges and opportunities lie before us? What needs can we meet today? How can we be a living witness to the grace, love, mercy, and compassion of Jesus Christ to our neighbors? We've accomplished much in our 150 years, but our work is only just beginning.

Our God stands outside of time: both before and after, above and beyond. God is the Alpha and the Omega; the beginning and the end (Rev. 22:13). There is no one like our God! Through the prophet Isaiah, God declares the "end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done." God has a plan for our salvation. God is working out that plan in Jesus Christ, through us, the Church. With God the end is assured, salvation is available to all people, and Jesus has already overcome the world (John 16:33). Hallelujah!

Yet there is still much to be done in the world. The pandemic is still a persistent health concern. Racism still undermines communities. Political infighting and economic uncertainty still breed anxiety. Greed still means that some have more while others don't have enough. Consumerism still wreaks havoc on creation.

Yet, through it all, God says: "My purpose shall stand, and I will fulfill my intention." God stands resolute, patiently working out the divine purpose through and for humanity. God's purpose is both *now* and *not yet*: God is transforming the world through the Church *now* and steadily claiming the vision of a world restored which is *not yet*.

I am proud of what our faith family has achieved, but I am also excited to see where and how we can partner with God and God's purpose going forward.

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) members. 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 2021 members of the Board of Deacons and Elders were:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Committee Assignment</u>
Jean Bowman		Clerk of Session
Amy Donoho	2022	Worship
Kurt Johnson	2022	Christian Education & Youth
Wayne Link	2022	Mission
Terri Skretvedt	2022	Endowment
Janet Knapp	2023	Caring Ministry & Outreach
Jeremy Jensen	2023	Board of Managers
Anne Weinrich	2023	Nominating
Char Zielen	2023	Christian Education & Youth
Mary Bressler	2024	Fellowship
Kerian Stenstrom	2024	Stewardship
Jon Fransen	2024	Personnel
Chad Nelson	2024	Board of Managers

### ***The following motions were made, seconded and approved:***

- Appointed Mark Rodning as Treasurer and Jean Bowman as Clerk of Session.
- Approved the baptisms of Johanna Margaret Meder, Colter Kenneth Olson, Connor Jennings Cooper, Mia Grace Vogel.
- Recommended for membership by profession of faith the confirmands: Harvey Beske, Jonathan Dent, Nevaeh Konrad, Kellen Stenstrom, William Nuss.
- Removed from the roles due to death Karen Johnson, Joean Schmidt, Gladys Carlson, Auldin Scott Hultin, Jim Worner, Ruth Anderson, Noreen Harris, Cleo Langseth, Ken Anderson, Lois Tassler, Mary Milton and James Behrends.
- Accepted memorials in memory of Jim Behrends. Gladys Carlson, Jo Schmidt, Jim Worner, Ruth Anderson, Lois Tassler, Mary Milton.
- Directed operations that included approving the purchase of sound equipment, repair of bell tower and purchase of a laptop for Pastor Doug. Authorized the hiring of an AV Tech position and suspended the search for director of music ministries, appointed committee chairs and D&E liaisons.
- Managed financial items including hiring the audit firm Smith & Sem, requested BOM to research investment options, approved budget, authorized online giving through Tithe.ly, set the 2022 apportionments for PCUSA (\$7,500) and UCC (\$760).

- Approved Heritage Grant gifts as recommended by the endowment committee.
- In administrative work, approved the year-end statistical reports to the PCUSA and UCC, updated the wedding and funeral policies, began discussing plans for celebrating the 150th anniversary of Federated Church (in 2022).
- Significant time and consideration were dedicated to the ever-changing mitigations required due to COVID-19. These included worship (in person, in the park, online), programming (education, fellowship, coffee-hour, etc.), technology (equipment, copyright regulations, privacy), execution (communion, bulletins, hymnals, capacity, masks, etc.). Decision-making and communication will continue to be priorities.

*Submitted by Jean Bowman, Clerk of Session*

## **2022 Nominating committee Report**

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The Nominating Team presents the following slate of candidates for committee positions.

We appreciate everyone who stepped up to serve!

### **Deacons & Elders**

Erik Anthonisen (UCC)  
Hollis Davenport (PCUSA)  
Patricia Lindholm (PCUSA)  
Jerry Nuss (PCUSA)

### **Board of Managers**

Matt Beske  
John MacFarlane  
Jane Nelson

### **Caring Ministry & Outreach**

Mary Link  
Kathy Zimmerman

### **Christian Education**

Amy Donoho  
Lu Echelberger  
Jill Iverson  
Mary Jones Olson, 1-year

### **Fellowship**

Dennis Bowman  
Punki Loomer  
Jennifer Maanum  
Matt Solin  
Gail Welle, 2-year

### **Mission**

Cindy Holte  
Peg Kalar  
Elizabeth Nelson

### **Personnel**

Kurt Johnson

### **Stewardship**

Grant Davenport  
Donna Hendel  
Wayne Link  
Greg Truax, 1-year  
Landon Link, 2-year

### **Worship**

Ben Richter  
Vivian Whipple

### **Audit Task Force**

Troy Lee, 1-year  
James Michael, 3-year

### **Endowment Task Force**

Lori Beske  
Steve Lockhart  
Kathy Truax  
Gerry Worner, 1-year  
Carolyn Anderson, 2-year

Your 2021 Nominating Committee: Larry Bethel, Lu Echelberger, Peg Kalar, Michelle Loomer, Tessa Nord, Sheila Rodning, Paul Shol, Donna Solin, Anne Weinrich

*Submitted by Anne Weinrich, Chairperson & D&E Representative*

## **Endowment Committee**

Terri Skretvedt

The Federated Church Endowment Fund began awarding Heritage grants in 2018. The goal for Heritage grants is to advance the presence and mission of the church in the lives of people locally, nationally, and globally. Requested funds may be designated for new special projects and ministries within our church, support for those in need within our community or support of those globally requiring education, nutrition, or spiritual growth.

As of May 2021, unrestricted funds from the Endowment Fund, totaled approximately \$273,000. The Endowment Fund is invested through Edward Jones under the oversight of Marcus Meder and the Endowment Committee.

Each year, since 2018, a total of \$10,000 is awarded to grant requests recommended by this committee and approved by Deacons & Elders. 2021 Heritage grant recipients are: BIO Girls (\$800); Board of Managers security system upgrade-Federated Church (\$3,200); Habitat for Humanity (\$3,000); and Jail, Inc. (\$3,000).

Endowment Committee goals for 2022 will remain as stated above.

Your 2021 Endowment Committee: John Erickson, Donna Hendel, Mark Rodning, Kathy Truax and Rev. Dr. Douglas Dent *Ex Officio*.

*Submitted by Terri Skretvedt, Chairperson & D&E representative*

## **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.

This year continued to be challenging as the Covid-19 plague rages. Extra custodial duties were needed to maintain a safe church environment. Despite limited use due to Covid-19, our Grand Old Building needed care. Unanticipated expenses caused us to exceed our 2021 budget. Expenses for every category funded by Board of Managers increased.

### **Main projects completed in 2021:**

**Parlor:** As one wall needed to be repaired following the completion of the kitchen pantry project, Board of Managers decided to update the parlor. Ceiling tiles were sagging, and walls needed repair. Volunteers assisted Pete Konrad in completing the project.

**Heating system:** Thermostat for main floor was replaced.

**Leak in entry area:** Caulking and repair around the windows were done.

**Caulk, clean and seal sandstone/capstone trim:** Maintenance on this area had been deferred until it was found to be critical. The West half of the church has been repaired. The East side of the church is scheduled for attention in the summer of 2022. This has been a huge project and has required using funding beyond Board of Manager's budget.

**Repair and caulked bell tower:** It was discovered the Bell Tower was unstable. An internal support was built and brick facing was caulked and repaired. This was a large unanticipated expense.

**Landscape:** The mulch around the church was worn out. Volunteers from The Men's Club and some help from Matthew House completed this project.

**Security System:** Two of the cameras from the security system stopped working. They were no longer made and could not be repaired. The system had not been satisfactory. A new system and tech support have been ordered. The cost of this will be covered with a grant from Federated Endowment distributions.

### **ANTICIPATED NEEDS FOR 2022**

1. Finish the sandstone cleaning and sealing, East side of church.
2. The stucco on the south side of the building needs to be repaired.
3. A recent walk-through found several areas that need attention and could be addressed by a congregation workday.
4. The office copier lease expires 12-21-22. A printer decision needs to be made 150 days prior to the expiration date if we want different options.
5. The nursery needs an update.
6. We still need to replace the old wooden banquet tables.

We are so grateful for this church family. So many contribute when needs arise in so many areas. You know who you are. Thank you!!! We are so grateful for Pete Konrad for ALL he does.

Your 2021 Board of Managers committee: Matt Beske, Glenn Bressler, Mariah Davenport, Mark Davenport, Terry Haas, Donna Hendel, Steve Lockhart, Jane Nelson, Skip Zielen, and D&E Representatives: Jeremy Jensen and Chad Nelson. Pete Konrad, Federated custodian, and maintenance person attended the committee meetings. Mark Rodning, Treasurer attended meetings to present financial reports.

*Submitted by Donna Hendel, Chairperson*

## **Caring Ministry and Outreach**

Vivian Whipple

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

Safety protocols were a hurdle; however, we were able to accomplish several things for the congregation.

### **2021 Accomplishments:**

- Supply Baptism Bags
- Supply welcome bags
- Porch drops were completed
- Card Ministry (birthday, encouragement, welcome)

### **Thank You:**

- For sending birthday cards
- For being so willing to help when needed

### **Goals for upcoming year:**

- A goal for 2022 is a new directory. Some prior directory businesses have ceased operations. It may have online and app functionality.

Your 2021 Caring Ministry and Outreach Committee: Barb Becker, Melinda Christiansen, Linda MacFarlane, Kitt Schara, Vivian Whipple, Kathy Zimmerman, and D&E Representative: Amy Donoho

*Submitted by Vivian Whipple, Chairperson*

## **Pastoral Care**

Rebekah Meder

Thank you to Millie Pearson and Joan Ebbighausen for continuing to share your talents of knitting/crocheting prayer shawls, baptismal blankets, and hats/gloves. They are beautiful and greatly appreciated.

Thank you to the six volunteers that continue to show up and help deliver meals/porch bags. 2021 brought more opportunities than the previous year to serve and connect with those in our faith family and community. We continue to reach out, engage and connect. We celebrate and appreciate in person conversations and enjoy the voice and interactions of those around us.

- Both Pastor Doug and I are thankful for the opportunity to be able to visit and see members in care facilities and in their homes. We also continue to make phone calls, send notes, and cards to stay in contact with members.
- With the help of six faithful volunteers 317 porch bags/meals were delivered this year. Porch bags include a simple meal, a sweet treat, devotional, and a note along with a porch conversation.
- 25 Easter bags were delivered to Pioneer, Broen, Mill Street, Village Co-op and a few members homes.
- Six families received all the makings for a Christmas meal.
- 93 Blessing Boxes were filled and delivered to the Fergus Falls Cancer Center. This continues to be a wonderful outreach and mission project for our congregation. A team of nurses and staff have put together a list of helpful items to give those that are receiving treatments. The boxes are packaged, carefully wrapped, and delivered.
- Donations and essential care items for children were collected for Otter Tail County Foster Care. 40 bags were packed along with many large boxes that were delivered to the OTC offices for local children.
- Our Federated Friends group continues to keep in contact with their friends through phone calls, zoom, cards and in person visits.
- The Federated mission fund (\$3,962) was used as outreach for meals and those in need in our faith family.
- The local mission fund (\$2,086) was used to help individuals in our community with food vouchers and utility bills. This is a wonderful mission that we can offer to our community and those that are struggling.

I am thankful for the opportunity to continue to serve Federated Church and make connections with congregation members and those in our community. I'll leave you with a favorite verse that I continue to do and strive for each day. Galatians 6:10, "so then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and specially to those who are of the household of faith".

Many blessings,  
Rebekah Meder



This past year, despite the challenges presented to us, brought many blessings to our Christian Education program. Continuing what began in 2020, we thought outside the box to develop workable programming for our children, youth, and adults that hopefully encouraged faith formation.

**Kidz Club:** As the year began, we finished up our fall/winter theme looking at God's attributes, or qualities. We began a series learning about the ways in which God speaks to His people. This theme carried us through with great stories and crafts until our end-of-April ending date. This fall we picked up with the theme "God's Promises", in which we learned about the promises God offers to all who believe in Him. Each week we heard a Bible story illustrating a promise God provided for one of His followers, and then we made a craft creation to help us remember that promise. Our crafts are being stored in individual "Promise Boxes" that we decorated at the beginning of the session. During the three Wednesdays of Advent, we heard different parts of the Christmas story and made Advent crafts. Along with our Promise Box crafts, we will be bringing them home with us on our last gathering before Christmas. It is a treat to be able to focus on Christmas and Advent in a different way this year! We are so grateful to serve a faithful, loving God!

**Sunday School:** During winter and spring of 2021 we shared the theme, along with Kidz Club, of learning more about God's attributes. We covered different qualities from the Wednesday ministry so that children in both programs learning twice as much about God! In the fall we began a new series looking at how we can grow to be more like Jesus. So far, we covered practicing forgiveness, peacemaking, and having a servant's heart. During the month of December, we paused to do Advent and Christmas-related lessons and crafts, a departure from past years when we worked on a Christmas pageant. We hope to do a pageant again next year, but with younger children and a smaller crowd we decided to take a year off and do something completely different with them.

**Confirmation:** In May 2021, six students confirmed their faith and became members of Federated Church. After a challenging year and a half of figuring out how to meet, it was truly a blessing to bring everyone together for this special event! This fall we were so excited to be able to hold our annual confirmation retreat at Clearwater Forest! With the added newly confirmed students (who missed their 9<sup>th</sup> grade opportunity the previous fall due to everything being shut down), the older student helpers, and several great adult chaperones. We had 30 people in God's woods and waters. We had a blast learning and fellowshiping together! It was so good to be able to do this after missing out on the past year, and it was evident that everyone was happy to have something "normal" again! Our theme for the retreat was "Why Follow Jesus," in which we looked at the blessing and benefits of becoming and growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ. We then began our regular weekly classes, combining the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade group, and then holding the 9<sup>th</sup> grade class separately. This new system seems to be working well, as Pastor Doug can teach all three grades while Pastor Karen runs Kidz Club.

**Senior High Youth Group:** During the past year our senior high youth group grew and maintained strong numbers despite the challenges of 2020-2021. We have an eclectic and energetic group of young people who love getting together for fellowship, games, and learning! It is incredible how members invite friends to join, and thus we are gaining more and more incredible individuals to our gatherings! Most Wednesdays, we explore a topic closer by the group as something they want to discuss. We then play a variety of games, although they have some favorites! We are looking forward to getting some more “normalcy” with adding special activities we miss such as lock-ins, helping with Meals by Wheels, etc. We hope to add back more of the things we haven’t been able to do in the coming months.

**Women’s Bible Study:** Our group met by Zoom through spring of 2021, and then decided it was time to meet face-to-face again during the summer months. We studied the Gospel of John, the most eloquent and imaged filled telling of the life and ministry of Jesus. In November we began the book of Hebrews, a deeply enjoyable and rich “anonymous” letter in the Bible that lays out the evidence as to why Jesus is superior to all people, angels, priests, objects, or hopes. What Jesus offers to believers surpasses ALL other benefits or blessings that the world appears to give us. This group spends considerable time in intentional community, fellowship, and prayer as well as study.

As we began 2021, it was difficult to know what lay ahead in Christian Education here at Federated, with all the uncertainty in the world and more specifically in our community. Some things work ok by Zoom, others not so much. All in all, we are thankful that at least currently, we can meet face-to-face for meaningful learning and fellowship, crucial elements to faith formation—whether you are a child or an adult. My prayer is that we will be able to gain more normalcy in the months ahead, to continue to provide quality Christian education. Numbers in the children’s ministries have not bounced back the way we hoped, but some of our other ministries—youth group and women’s bible study, for example, have blossomed! May God continue to work and inspire us through His Spirit to reach more children and adults for His Son, Jesus Christ!

Your 2021 Christian Education Committee: Karen Anderson, Jona Brown, Becca Buchfink, Karen Bush, Lu Echleberger, Jill Iverson, Renee Larsen, Amber Muller, Tanya Sundberg, and D&E Representative: Curt Johnson & Char Zielin  
*Submitted by Karen Anderson, Chairperson*

## **Fellowship Committee**

Dennis Bowman

The Fellowship Committee organizes social events to provide opportunities for the congregation to build community.

### **Highlights of 2021:**

- Covid -19 "Bummer Deal" We were unable to host two popular annual events: Chili cook-off and Birthday Cake Sunday.
- Maah Daah Hey Hiking Trip (April 2021) A handful of Federated members enjoyed a 4-day hiking adventure in the North Dakota badlands with an inter-denominational group formed by the Fargo 1st Lutheran Church.
- Ice Cream Social (May 2021) Members of the committee assumed the role as "servers" as the congregation took seats at the tables in Fellowship Hall.
- Congregation Picnic (June 2021) After an outdoor service in Kirkbride park, the congregation enjoyed Subway sandwiches, Cole Slaw, and chips. (*Catered by Subway*).
- Softball Teams and the Tailgate Party (May - Aug 2021) For the first time in several years, Federated Church sponsored two softball teams, coached by Mark Anderson and Dennis Bowman. Hot dogs, potato salad, watermelon, and chips were in abundance for a July tailgate event before the 6:30 games.
- Rally Day (September 2021) Even though we had to make it 100% outdoors again this year, a large crowd stuck around after the outdoor service to enjoy a picnic lunch featuring home-made pulled pork sandwiches and baked beans. The people at the tables competed in bingo, a beanbag toss court was in session, and the younger children enjoyed treasure hunts in Kirkbride Park.
- Pie Social (October 2021) The pie social was brought back this year, and we were able to pull it off successfully and stay within social distancing agendas at the same time. The money raised through the pie auction (over \$300) went toward purchasing bins to populate our new shelving unit in the upstairs storage room.

### **Goals for 2022:**

- We plan to continue to organize popular events like *Rally Day, Birthday Cake Sunday, Ice Cream Social, Pie Social, etc.*
- We hope to add more fun after-church activities in Fellowship Hall this year.
- In general, we expect to continue to take advantage of getting congregation participation by holding most of our events after the Sunday service.

As chairperson of the committee, I would like to thank all 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.

Your 2021 Fellowship Committee: Cheryl Anderton, Dennis Bowman, Jaime Brause, Tami Collins, Chelsea Cruz, Hollis Davenport, Sammy Ebert, Jenny Maanum, Dave Nord, Sheila Rodning, Kristi Rufer, Matt Solin, Bonnie Stock, Gail Welle, and D&E Representative: Mary Bressler

## **Mission Committee**

Sonja Johnson & Peg Kalar

The Mission Committee began the year with high hopes that the pandemic would soon be under control and 2021 would be a more “normal” year in terms of our committee’s projects and fundraising events, but it was not to be. On the bright side, though, the Mission Committee still was able to assist 14 different recipients, many of them focusing on local needs, with the \$8,000 allocated for our committee.

- During Food Share Month in March, we continued the Mission Committee tradition of matching congregational donations of up to \$1,000 for the Fergus Falls Food Shelf. As always, Federated members were incredibly responsive to the needs of the food shelf. In light of lower church attendance during the pandemic, donation envelopes were sent with the March newsletter, rather than having speakers promoting Food Share Month during Sunday services.
- This spring, we included envelopes in the April newsletter for the One Great Hour of Sharing, which primarily supports disaster relief efforts by the PCUSA and UCC.
- The Mission Committee coordinated Muffins for Mission fundraisers during two June and August worship services in Kirkbride Park; the June event raised \$635 for Boxes of Blessings at the Cancer Care Center, and our second “Muffins” raised \$237 in congregational donations for Jail Inc.
- Throughout the year, committee members recruited and coordinated drivers for five two-week rotations of Meals by Wheels. At our committee’s request, Federated Church will decrease its commitment to four rotations during 2022. Thank you to Sonja, Melinda, Patty and Pam for their work in contacting volunteers, and a special thanks to all the Federated members who so willingly deliver the meals.
- Unfortunately, we once again had to postpone our traditional November mission brunch; we remain optimistic that we can resume this great event in 2022. Our speaker for the 2021 event was scheduled to be a representative of the Mahube Ottwa Community Action Council speaking about homelessness in the Fergus Falls area; in light of the event’s cancellation, we did contribute \$1,000, to the CAC, designated to address the needs of the homeless in our community.
- Our final event was the Christmas Joy Offering; due to lower attendance during the ongoing pandemic, envelopes for the offering were distributed with the December newsletter rather than on Sunday mornings. The Mission Committee will match up to \$500 in congregational donations for the offering, which supports current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs (50 percent) and Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color (50 percent).
- Also supported through the Mission Committee during the year were Salvation Army Pathway for Hope (\$500); Salvation Army Food Program (\$1,000); confirmand donations (\$600 – allocated for Food Shelf, Habitat for Humanity and Humane Society); Blessings Closet/Action Ministries (\$500); Haiti Mama (\$500); Otter Tail County Foster Care (\$500); Bible Bingo Sponsorship at Pioneer (\$250); Matthew House (\$1,000); and Clearwater Forest Presbyterian Camp (\$650).

Your 2021 Mission Committee: Jeanette Haas, Cindy Holte, Sonja Johnson, Peg Kalar, Colleen Kennedy, Pam Phillips, Tessa Schierer, Patty Shol, Melinda Weinbar, and D&E Representative Wayne Link.

*Submitted by Sonja Johnson & Peg Kalar, Chairpersons*

## **Stewardship Committee**

Becca Michael

*Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for God who promised is faithful.*  
Hebrews 10:23

In 2022 we'll celebrate our past and commit ourselves to God's future! Next year is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Congregational and Presbyterian church ministries in Fergus Falls.

To meet our projected ministry needs, we asked congregants—you! —to consider a 15% increase in their financial gift. We also added an online giving option called Tithe.ly. As of this writing, we're only 75% away from our goal of \$394,876.

Thank you for your support of Federated Church's mission. We're looking forward to celebrating our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary with you next year!

Special thank you to Pastor Doug Dent and Kerian Stenstrom (D&E) for their leadership and guidance.

Your 2021 Stewardship Committee: Grant Davenport, Thea Fransen, Bill Kalar, Becca Michael, Connie Seltz, Troy Stenstrom, Greg Truax, and D&E Representative: Kerian Stenstrom  
*Submitted by Becca Michael, Chairperson*

## **Personnel Committee**

Jon Fransen

The goals and directives of the Personnel committee are to oversee those employed by Federated Church, hire new employees, and manage challenges or issues involving our Federated staff. We allowed time off for those who needed it and filled two new Audio-Video Technician positions to assist without online ministry. In 2022, the personnel committee is committed to meeting the needs of our teammates and to supporting the ministry needs of Federated Church.

Thank you to our staff Karen Anderson (Director of Christian Education), Adam Baker (Bookkeeper), Doug Dent (Pastor), Hunter Evans (Audio-Video Technician), Heath Sershen (Audio-Video Technician), Pete Konrad (Maintenance and Custodian), Rebekah Meder (Pastoral Care), and Brianna Schneeberger (Administrative Assistant).

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Personnel Committee,  
Jon Fransen

## **Worship Committee**

Ruth Aulds

The Worship/Music Team is charged with assisting the pastor and staff in planning worship services utilizing the talents of the congregation and the resources of the church. The work of the Team was guided by Pastor Dent and assisted by Brianna Schneeberger, Bill and Mary Ann Nead, and Vivian Whipple, each lending their technical expertise and experience. During the year, we offered services in person in the sanctuary, at Kirkbride Park, as well as on-line. We offered opportunities for fellowship after the worship services in the park as Covid restrictions eased.

The work of the Team would not be successful without the contributions of:

- Bill Nead for his technical expertise in continuing to support our audio and on-line presence.
- Vivian Whipple who leads the Praise Team with lively piano music and works to provide a complete, comprehensive worship experience.
- Gloria Ronning who often supports the musical experience on the piano and organ.
- Mary Ann Nead who operates the Power Point System and supports Bill in his work.
- Natalie Vogel who also operated the Power Point System through much of the year.
- Susan Clambey who contributed to our worship experience by playing the organ and offering her original compositions.
- Tessa Nord, who reorganized our handbell choir this fall.
- The Praise Team members who offer their continued support to worship services: Karen Anderson, Ruth Aulds, Hollis Davenport, Cindy Holte, Craig Jorgensen, Sondra Lee, Michelle Loomer, Tessa Nord, and Paul Shol.

Your 2021 Worship Committee: Ruth Aulds, Kathy Gilbert, Craig Jorgensen, Bill Nead, Tessa Nord, Bev Richter, Vivian Whipple, and D&E Representative: Amy Donoho

*Submitted by Ruth Aulds, Chairperson*

## With Grateful Appreciation...

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

Amy Donoho	Kurt Johnson	Wayne Link	Kitt Schara	Matt Beske
Kathy Zimmerman	Dave Nord	Dennis Bowman	Matt Solin	Jane Nelson
Donna Hendel	Amber Mueller	Lu Echleberger	Jill Iverson	Cindy Holte
Melinda Wienbar	Peg Kalar	Terri Skretvedt	Greg Truax	Bill Kalar
Grant Davenport	Beth Schlepp	Bev Richter	Vivian Whipple	Larry Bethel
Kathy Truax	Doug Dent	Donna Solin	Paul Shol	Tessa Nord
Michelle Loomer	Sheila Rodning			

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

Thank you to all our volunteers throughout the year. Every job is appreciated! We have had help with carpentry & woodworking, painting, shoveling snow, decorating, knitting, cooking, baking, serving, cleaning, chaperoning, delivering meals & home visits. Thank you to all who have helped in the church office for vacations and time off. We are thankful for our Sunday school teachers, Kidz club volunteers, and VBS volunteers. The list goes on and on!

Thank you for your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Federated Church has benefited from your work 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.

*Thank You!*

