

**COMMUNITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Hartford, Iowa

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

January 17, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Establish Quorum

Adopt Parliamentary Procedure

Reading and Report of Session Approval of Minutes

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Receive Reports

Other Business

Election of 2016 Nominating Committee—Michele Clarkson appointed by Session

Outgoing Elders Recognition & Appreciation—Roger Beaver, Michele Clarkson, David Walker, Jr.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

## Annual Congregational Meeting—January 18, 2015

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the Community United Presbyterian Church of Hartford, Iowa was held on Sunday, January 18, 2015, in the sanctuary following the worship service. The Moderator, Rev. Nathan Lamb, welcomed the congregation, confirmed with the Clerk that a quorum was present, and began the meeting with prayer at 9:57 a.m.

Motion by Shane Laird to adopt Robert's Rules of Order for the proceedings of the meeting; second by Lori Hollingsworth; no discussion; motion carried.

Minutes from the Annual Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, January 19, 2014, were presented to be read along with minutes from 2013 congregational meeting on October 19. Session had approved the minutes from each of these meetings as required by the Presbyterian Book of Order.

Rev. Lamb introduced the report section of the meeting offering the opportunity for those who prepared the reports to make comments and for those with questions to bring them to the floor.

- The Clerk of Session report was prepared by Ann Polito.
- The Christian Education Committee report was written by Stacy Johnson.
  - Stacy noted that the SafeChurch Program has been implemented with great thanks to Jenn Lamb.
  - Rev. Lamb mentioned that the youth fund is a permanent fund named in memory of Bracy H. Hammond.
- The CAMP L.I.F.E./JAM Session report was written by Stacy Johnson.
- The Vacation Bible School report was written by Stacy Johnson.
- The Mission Committee report was written by Shane Laird.
  - Shane noted that Dave's Day was a tremendous highlight bringing church and community together for a common event.
  - Deb Griffin invited the congregation to join the committee in 2015.
- The Outreach Committee information was compiled and submitted by Ann Polito.
  - Lynda Richards invited others to become a part of this group and indicated that a volunteer is needed to send anniversary and birthday cards since Frances Smith is unable to continue with that ministry.
- The Sponsored Groups report was compiled and submitted by Ann Polito.
- The Property & Finance Committee report was prepared by Pat Griffin.
  - Pat expressed appreciation to the committee members for their efforts and special thanks to Lori Hollingsworth and Erika Laird for assisting with the financial duties.
- The Treasurer's report was prepared by Lori Hollingsworth.
- The 2014 Budget was prepared by the Property & Finance Committee and approved by the Session on December 28, 2014.
  - Pat Griffin explained the budget information being presented. He also expressed thanks to Lori Hollingsworth for putting the information together for ease in understanding.
- The Access Project Fundraising Committee report was prepared by Kathy McCaughey and Donna Hall.
- The Worship and Administrative Committee report was written by Ann Polito.
  - Rev. Lamb noted that this year's Christmas events were exceptional with the Christmas Pageant directed by Michele Clarkson and Christmas Eve music organized by Rebecca Campbell and Dave Walker. Also, our Fifth Sunday events have been very meaningful especially "Purple Sunday" honoring those who have battled cancer. He invited people to share their ideas for upcoming Fifth Sunday Worship.
- The Fellowship Fund report was prepared by Ann Polito.
  - Ann noted that great thanks go to Karol Funke for handling the fellowship duties until her health prevented her to continue. Since that time, the fellowship duties have been moved to supply purchasing and funds have been merged into the church's general fund.

- The Nominating Committee Report was prepared by Scott Johnson.
- The Personnel Committee Report was submitted by Pat Griffin.
  - Pat shared that it was very difficult to end the secretary position. He expressed appreciation to Bill McNamar for his many years of service noting that plans are in the works to honor him. Also, great thanks go to Sharon Allen for her years of service as treasurer.
- The Presbyterian Women (PW) report and financial statement was prepared by Caroline McNamar.
  - Donna expressed appreciation for the help received from both men and women for PW events.
- The Pastor's report was written by Rev. Lamb.
  - Rev. Lamb expressed appreciation for the love and support that has been extended to his family during the past year.

Motion by Deb Griffin to receive all reports; second by Donna Hall; no discussion; motion carried.

Pat Griffin addressed the congregation on behalf of the Personnel Committee. He shared that following the congregational meeting approving the Pastor's Terms of Call, action by the Presbytery of Des Moines following the recommendation of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, was taken approving that churches pay all pension dues for the pastor. This actually is to the benefit of the church decreasing the total compensation package by \$263.00. All other terms of call remain the same.

Salary	\$ 25,224.00
Housing	\$ 18,500.00
FSA (Dependent Care)	\$ 3,600.00

**Effective Salary Subtotal           \$ 47,324.00**

Pension Dues (Paid by CUPC)	\$ 17,273.00
Continuing Education	\$ 2,500.00
Auto Reimbursement	\$ 3,000.00

**Total Financial Compensation   \$ 70,097.00**

Motion by Lynda Richards to approve the amended 2015 Pastor's Terms of Call; second by Lori Hollingsworth; no discussion; motion carried.

The 2015 Nominating Committee was formed with Donna Hall appointed by Session to be elder representative to the committee. Michele Clarkson, Shane Laird, and Verle Spence volunteered to serve on the committee. Motion by Pat Griffin that nominations cease and slate of nominees is elected; second by Stacy Johnson; no discussion; motion carried.

Rev. Lamb expressed appreciation to the outgoing elders Pat Griffin, Stacy Johnson, and Shane Laird for their years of service and leadership on Session.

Motion by Deb Griffin to adjourn; second by Shane Laird; no discussion; motion carried.

Rev. Lamb closed meeting with prayer at 10:25 a.m. A potluck lunch followed in the Fellowship Hall.

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Rev. Nathan Lamb, Moderator

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Ann Polito, Clerk of Session

## Congregational Meeting—October 18, 2015

The Community United Presbyterian Church of Hartford, Iowa held a congregational meeting on Sunday, October 18, 2015, for the purpose of electing elders for 2016 and approving the 2016 Pastor's Terms of Call. The meeting was held in the sanctuary following worship. The Moderator, Rev. Nathan Lamb, confirmed with the Clerk of Session, Ann Polito, that a quorum was present. He opened the meeting with prayer at 9:51 a.m. The clerk was designated as recorder for the meeting.

Motion by Deb Griffin that all present be given voice in the meeting; second by Albert Allen; no discussion; motion carried.

Rev. and Mrs. Lamb excused themselves during the salary package discussion portion of the meeting and designated Ann Polito to moderate during this portion of the meeting.

Albert Allen, Randy Nesler, and Ann Polito, members of the Personnel Committee, were present to present the proposed Pastoral Terms of Call for Rev. Nathan Lamb for 2016. Ann explained that the salary package is a 2% Cost of Living increase in the cash salary and is slightly above the minimum salary package required by the Presbytery of Des Moines for a pastor directly from seminary with no experience. The other areas of the salary package are the same as 2015.

The terms of call presented are:

Cash Salary	\$26,200.00	
Housing Allowance	\$18,500.00	
Flexible Spending Account	\$ 3,600.00	Dependent Care

**Effective Cash Salary        \$48,300.00**

\*Reimbursement of Mileage in Ministry at current IRS rate up to \$3,000.00.

\*Full pension benefits (36.5%: \$17,629.50) and Major Medical Coverage—

\*4 weeks of paid vacation, including 4 Sundays

\*2 weeks of continuing education with \$2,500.00 budgeted for reimbursable expenses and including 2 Sundays

\*Bereavement paid time off: 5 days for spouse, children, parents, grandparents, grandchildren, and siblings  
3 days for aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews  
1 day for friends

Family relationships include step family and in-laws.

\*Parental paid time off: Paternity--2 weeks including 2 Sundays

Maternity--6 weeks including 6 Sundays

Following the presentation of the package, the floor was opened for comment or question. There was none.

Motion by Lynda Richards to approve the Terms of Call as presented; second by Lori Hollingsworth; no discussion; motion carried.

Following the vote, Rev. Lamb returned to the meeting.

Donna Hall, representing the Nominating Committee, presented a slate of candidates for election including Michele Clarkson, Shane Laird, and Larry Meyers. Shane indicated that he was unable to accept the nomination.

At this time nominations were requested from the floor. After a few moments, Pastor Nathan asked if anyone was feeling a call to serve. Donna Hall volunteered to be added to the slate of candidates.

Motion by Lynda Richards that nominations cease; second by Scott Johnson; no discussion; motion carried.

Rev. Lamb called for the slate of candidates. Clerk Ann Polito shared the nominations of Michele Clarkson, Donna Hall, and Larry Meyers.

Motion by Scott Johnson to approve and elect the slate of candidates; second by Lynda Richards; no discussion; motion carried.

Motion by Deb Griffin to adjourn; second by Lori Hollingsworth; no discussion; motion carried.

Rev. Lamb closed meeting with prayer and invited all to sing the closing song “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” at 10:03 a.m.

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Rev. Nathan Lamb, Moderator

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Ann M. Polito, Clerk of Session

## 2015 Clerk of Session Report

Communicant Membership as of January 1, 2015 94

Inactive Membership as of January 1, 2015 208

Gains	Voting	Affiliate
Profession of Faith	0	0
Certificate	0	0
Others	0	0
Losses		
Certificate	0	0
Deaths	-2	-1
Transfers	-8	8
Remove	0	0

Baptisms- 3

Marriages-2

Voting Membership as of December 31, 2015 84

Affiliate Membership as of December 31, 2015 215

## 2015 Christian Education Committee Report

Michele Clarkson – Chair

Scott Johnson – Co-Chair

Committee Members – Stacy Johnson, Shane Laird, Erika Laird, Jenn Lamb, Nathan Lamb, Deb Griffin

Children's church has been well attended by up to a dozen or more children; they seem to enjoy it very much and ask about it when it isn't scheduled. We would like to thank Stacy Johnson for organizing the lessons and to the many volunteers who have helped throughout the year.

Donated \$50 to Sermon for Kids. This is the organization we receive our Children's Church material from. They are a non-profit organization and the material is free. We thought this was the first time we have sent them a donation and we have used their material for several years. This will be included as a donation in future budgets.

JAM Session is going well. We try to meet every 3 weeks during the fall and spring. Thanks to the Co-Directors, Stacy Johnson, Erika Laird and Nathan Lamb, for the Spring Session; Co-Directors for the Fall Session were Nathan Lamb and Scott Johnson. We are always looking at new ideas and activities to keep this program going. See JAM Session Report for me details.

After church on Easter, there were about 10 to 12 kids who enjoyed a story read by Daphne Hayes and Derek Johnson. After that, they went outside for an Easter egg hunt. Thanks to Annika and Channing Johnson for hiding the eggs!

VBS was themed Rock On held on June 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> with a program held during church on June 28<sup>th</sup>. See Vacation Bible School report for more details.

Blessing of the Children was held on August 30. Bibles were given to 15 youth entering grades 5, 6 and 7. They were:

- Youth entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade: Brandon Beckmann, Zachary DuShane, Callie Eckert, Jonathan Freeman, Eric Laird, Ethan Laird, Jasmine Peacock & Lily Wells
- Youth entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade: Sydnee Curry, Micah DuShane, Kaitlyn Freeman, Emily Laird & Delaynie Worthington
- Youth entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade: Tori Johnston & Julia Sheehey

We are starting to plan a project with Outreach, Inc. The Outreach Program offers a unique way to fight hunger. Their core capability is facilitating food packaging events across the nation where volunteers come to serve in an assembly line fashion packaging simple, nutritious meals. Each nutritious meal only costs \$.25. Each package of six meals only costs \$1.50; \$10.00 will provide a meal to 40 people. We are going to start raising funds so we can host our own event during a Fall JAM Session.

Respectfully,

Scott Johnson & Michele Clarkson

### Bracy H Hammond Account

Beg Bal 1/1/2015	\$2,709.20
Deposits	\$134.00
Expenses	(\$363.49)
Ending Bal 12/31/15	\$2,479.71

## 2015 JAM Session Report

The Spring JAM Session (Jesus and Me) was co-directed by Erika Laird, Stacy Johnson and Nathan Lamb. The dates were January 25, February 15, March 8, March 29 and April 19. Co-Directors for the Fall Session were Nathan Lamb and Scott Johnson; dates were September 13, October 4, October 25, November 15 and December 6.

Some of the activities included a hayrack ride, helping with the Food Pantry and watch movies. On November 15, we invited the family of the youth for a Potluck Thanksgiving lunch.

The JAM kids participated in two things during the Celebration of Talents fundraiser that was held on March 28th. They played the colored bells (“In My Heart There Rings a Melody”), and they also marched and performed the finale, which was a patriotic song, “This Is My Country”.

Michele Clarkson was planned and directed a wonderful Christmas Pageant held on December 12<sup>th</sup> with the stars being the youth of CUPC. It was a wonderful program and enjoyed by all attending and participating.

Thank you to all those who helped with this important mission to our youth!! It was and continues to be important that we are that “safe landing place” for youth of Hartford and all over. The way these volunteers reflect Jesus’ love and light is inspiring to me.

In His Service,

Scott Johnson & Michele Clarkson

Spring, 2015 Enrollment: 29 Youth Participants  
1 Guest Participant  
17 Staff Volunteers

Fall, 2015 Enrollment: 32 Youth Participants  
1 Guest Participant  
12 Staff Volunteers

### JAM Session Account

Beginning Balance 1/1/15	\$1,035.02
Income	\$985.00 *
Expenses	(\$624.68)
Ending Balance 12/31/15	\$1,395.34

\*Includes \$265 prize winnings  
from Waukeel Schools via Shane Hammond



## 2015 Vacation Bible School Report

“ROCK ON” VBS was a wonderful event this year! This great experience was shared by 29 kids and 23 helpers enjoying the rock and roll theme, “Jesus is the Solid ROCK ON Which I Stand!” All registered participants received a ROCK ON t-shirt with the design created by Shane Laird.

Friday evening began with our very own “Bike Night” complete with FUSION providing an outdoor concert! Some very special “rockers” joined the fun! Food, games, tattoos and bike riding completed a great beginning to the weekend!

Saturday activities included decorating picture frames, painting stones, learning about rocks, breaking geodes, and building and protecting a fortress from the enemy hurling stones.

We also enjoyed music time and several Bible stories about rocks and stones. The first taught us about the building our “house” (or lives) on the solid rock of Jesus. Another was the story of judgement when a woman was accused of adultery—we re-enacted the story and talked about what each character may have felt when Jesus said, “He who is without sin, cast the first stone.”

The afternoon was complete when we all participated in “Raising an Ebenezer” ...a stone of help...in the churchyard garden. This is a monument of God’s help, God’s faithfulness, and God’s eternal covenant with us...just as it was with Samuel. It is our opportunity for a fresh beginning. The Ebenezer stone will stand visible for all who pass by it to be reminded that God’s mercy is everlasting and His covenant is forever.

On Sunday morning, we shared special music using instruments. Following worship and fellowship, we had a Stone Soup potluck lunch. It was a great way to finish a great weekend!

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers for making ROCK ON VBS a fun and memorable experience! Our volunteers were: Michele Clarkson, Gloria Eckert, Josh & Laura Edenburn, Eileen Hanson, Daphne Hayes, Annika, Channing, Derek, Stacy, & Scott Johnson, Erika & Shane Laird, Jenn & Nathan Lamb, Kathy McCaughey, Larry Meyers, Bonnie Nesler, Tiffany Oxenreider, Heather Peacock, Ann Polito, Dave & Debbie Walker.

Special thanks to Jenn Lamb who provided wonderful leadership creating another memorable VBS experience!

Respectfully,

Scott Johnson & Michele Clarkson

## 2015 Mission Committee Report

Committee Members

Roger Beaver, Chairperson  
Deb Griffin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chairperson

At Large Members

Ann Polito

It's been a big year for the Mission Committee. We exceeded expectations in so many ways, thanks to a wonderful church family pulling together to make things happen.

Noisy Collection - Our goal this year was \$1,500. We were able to raise \$1,423.04. With several generous gifts from anonymous donors, the "gap" was covered leaving \$58.04 of seed funds for 2016!

Christian Community in Action Food Pantry – Your giving to this mission was way beyond expectations. We had set an annual goal of 500 items. In May, a grocery cart was commissioned to hold the grocery items donated each month. We filled the shopping cart to overflowing over and over again, culminating in a total count of **1,409** items (113 of these items were from the guests at the Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Dinner and not needed for the CCA Christmas Project) provided to the CCA Food Pantry in Carlisle, Iowa! Special thanks to Donna Hall for securing a donated grocery cart from Hy-Vee and to Mike Owrey for refurbishing the cart.

Special Giving – Again, you have outdone yourselves in giving to those in need.

- Christian Community in Action Operation Backpack \$185.00 + 43 items
- Christmas Joy Offering \$180.00
- El Salvador Medical Delegation \$133.00
- One Great Hour of Sharing (congregation) \$900.00  
(This provided a sand dam, community garden, and sponsored two African women in the Women's Empowerment Project.)
- One Great Hour of Sharing (youth) \$ 75.00  
(This provided 3 families with a family of chickens.)
- Peace & Global Witness Offering \$332.00
- Pentecost Offering \$205.48  
(\$82.19 stayed at CUPC for youth and was used toward VBS scholarships)
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance-Nepal \$ 80.00
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance-Syrian Refugees \$150.00
- Souper Bowl of Caring \$ 20.00 + 53 grocery items--provided to CCA

### Outreach

- 409 cards were sent from prayer requests. In addition, cards are sent for birthdays and anniversaries.
- 36 meals were prepared for shut-ins and those who could use the help when recovering from surgery or suffering the loss of a loved one.
- 168 caring calls were made.
- 60 visits were made.

The Upper Room devotionals were provided to 4 individuals unable to attend worship.

Carlisle Care Center worship was led by Rev. Lamb or CUPC representatives through March, 2015. At this time, this ministry was discontinued while working in coordination with the Worship & Administration Committee to form a group who will assist in a visitation ministry specifically for CUPC members and friends who are homebound or residing in area senior communities. This is still being organized.

Blood Drive--A blood drive was held at CUPC on May 4--coordinated by Donna Hall. The donations received saved 51 lives. Due to low public response and other nearby blood drives, it was decided that CUPC would no longer sponsor blood drives. Thanks to Donna and others who have assisted with this project.

Chair Ministry—The medical recliner has been used by 3 families during 2015.

College Care Packages—25 care packages were sent to college students for finals week in the spring.

The Dollar\$ for Doug benefit was held at CUPC on March 28 with a wonderful turnout of support for Doug Pendry as he went through cancer treatment. A group also supported Doug at a “Tip Night” at Pizza Ranch in Indianola.

Local Missions—Donated \$25 to Mandy Love for expenses traveling to Mayo Clinic for medical treatment.

Military Care Packages—4 care packages were sent to deployed soldiers in the spring.

Evangelism Sunday—Zac Durham and Brad Burrell shared a presentation about “The Next Watch” an organization to support veterans on September 27.

Senior Citizen’s Thanksgiving Dinner—Michelle Oakley and her sister, Sherry Tegtmeier coordinated the dinner that was held November 1<sup>st</sup>. Following the dinner, Bingo was played with door prizes for the winners.

Christmas Caroling—12 homes in Hartford were visited by 7 carolers on December 20 and the Hartford Trio also visited several care centers and a home during December.

CCA Christmas Project – CUPC supported 3 local families with food and gifts.

Project Christmas Care Package--CUPC provided 3 care packages to soldiers deployed at Christmas this year.

Submitted by Deb Griffin/Ann Polito

## **2015 Outreach Committee Report**

Committee Members: Sharon Allen, Ellie Bullington, Deb Griffin, Donna Hall, Sandy Hammond, Madonna Jack, Betty Johnston, Rev. Nathan Lamb, Dora McCaughey, Ann Polito, and Lynda Richards

The Outreach Committee of CUPC is committed primarily to 4 ministry areas:

- **Card Ministry      2015 Estimate-409**
  - Birthday/Anniversary cards are sent to members and friends
  - Christmas & Easter cards are sent to those homebound, snowbirds, and community members
  - Get Well /Sympathy cards to those mentioned during worship each Sunday
  - Welcome cards to visitors who sign the church guest book
- **Meal Ministry      2015 Estimate-36**
  - Meals are provided to families on occasions where there is a medical situation or other events needing this assistance.
- **Prayer Chain Ministry**
  - An email prayer chain list is used to share joys and concerns that come up during the week or for those who may be unable to be present to share their requests during worship.
  - A telephone prayer chain is used to share joys and concerns with those who may not have email access.
- **Visitation Ministry   2015 Estimate-60 visits & 168 phone calls (by committee)**
  - Pastoral calls are made to members & friends who are home or hospital bound.
  - Committee calls are made to members & friends who are home or hospital bound. In addition, the committee tries to take care of the needs of the elderly especially prior to winter storms, etc.

Thank you to everyone who continues to make these ministries a vital part of CUPC Outreach.

Information compiled and submitted by Ann Polito.

## 2015 Sponsored Groups Report

Community United Presbyterian Church has been active within the local community by sponsoring several groups and providing them with a location to meet.

- **American Red Cross**—An agreement is in place with this organization designating CUPC as a public shelter or for other purposes during disasters. Those designated as contact persons are Rev. Nathan Lamb, Lynda Richards, and Gerald Hammond. The agreement is renewable on an annual basis in January and may be terminated by either party with sixty (60) days written notice by either party prior to the renewal date.
- **Hartford Alumni Association**—The Hartford Alumni Association holds their annual reunion at CUPC the first Saturday in June each year. The group caters a meal and enjoys a time to remember their “school days” in the fellowship hall with pictures and other memorabilia displayed for the event. Donna Hall is currently the elder representative for the group with other CUPC elders and members involved.
- **Senior Citizens**—This group meets on the first and third Fridays of each month at 1:30 p.m. for snacks and games. In 2015, there were around 8-10 people of the local area participating. Organizers at this time are Bill & Caroline McNamar. The group is very appreciative for the opportunity to use the Fellowship Hall and thanks the church for providing a meeting place.
- **Three Rivers 4-H Club**—This local 4-H club uses CUPC as an alternate meeting place when their regular location is unavailable. During 2015, the group used the facility to practice for a skit they shared at the Iowa State Fair. Scott Johnson serves as elder representative for any event this group holds at the church and assists in the coordination of church usage with the pastor & Property & Finance Committee.

Information compiled and submitted by Ann Polito

## **2015 Personnel Committee Report**

Committee members: Albert Allen, Randy Nesler, and Ann Polito

Head of Staff: Rev. Nathan Lamb

The Personnel Committee for the Community United Presbyterian Church acts as a liaison between Session and paid personnel of the church.

The committee met this fall and performed an annual review with the pastor. Part of the discussion centered on Rev. Lamb's participation in PrairieFire through the Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center. This program is scheduled to conclude in August, 2016. Rev. Lamb is considering an additional year of education that would prepare him to be a Spiritual Director. Following this, there would be a significant project required to complete the entire program. The committee has recommended to Session that a "sabbatical policy" be developed and approved. This would provide for the timeframe needed to complete the required project.

The pastor, as head of staff, performed the annual review of the custodians and organist.

The recommendation for the custodian position was to remain at \$70 per week for a total of \$3640. Also recommended was for the custodian to be paid \$12.00/hour for extra cleaning after a church usage event with the damage deposit to be used to pay this.

The recommendation for the organist position was to remain at \$35.00 per service. If all 52 weeks were paid, the annual amount would be \$1,820.

Session approved the recommendations for the custodian and organist when approving the 2016 budget.

The committee reviewed the salary package for Rev. Lamb and recommended an increase of 2%. This package was presented to the congregation in October and approved.

The Personnel Committee has established that they will meet regularly on a semi-annual basis in September/October and March/April.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Polito

## 2015 Property and Finance Committee Report

Committee Members: Pat Griffin                      Chairperson  
   David Walker, Jr.                      2<sup>nd</sup> Chair

Members at Large: Albert Allen, Chuck Casson, Craig Kooyman, and Lynda Richards

The following is a summary of completed projects and highlights for year 2015.

- Combination humidifier/dehumidifier was installed on new piano by Rieman Music. Piano was also tuned at that time.
- We signed a 5 year service contract with Otis Elevator Service. They will perform quarterly inspections at a cost of \$600, to be paid annually.
- The State of Iowa inspected our elevator and found no issues.
- We are pleased to announce the Elevator Project loan should be paid off early 2016! THAT is certainly a celebration made possible by all of YOU!
- A new computer was purchased and installed in the office for use by the Treasurer.
- A new computer was also purchased and installed in the sound room.
- At the request of the Treasurer, Lori Hollingsworth, we moved our checking and savings accounts from Great Western bank to Peoples Bank. Joe Schettler, representative from Edward Jones, assisted Lori in the transfer of accounts. One CD which will mature in 2015 remains at GWB.
- Cleanup Day took place in March and was performed by a few members and friends.
- Craig Kooyman supervised and assisted in removal of (2) dead pine trees on east parsonage lot on May 2. There were 16 members and friends performing this task and many thanks to them! The stumps were also grinded by Craig.
- Everett piano currently serving the Fellowship hall was tuned by Steve Fogleman.
- The emergency phone system in elevator now rings to Otis Elevator Co. If answering operator determines there is an actual emergency, Fire Department will be dispatched along with Otis service tech.
- Lynda Richards made many beautification improvements around the church property. Thank You **Lynda** and Thank You **Presbyterian Women** for providing funds to accomplish this job!
- Our medical recliner was picked up from the Kline family in Adel and was utilized by two members of our congregation.
- CUPC sound equipment supplied sound at the Hartford Cemetery Memorial Day Service.
- Occupancy sensors were installed in both restrooms in fellowship hall to alleviate issues with the lights and fans being left on.
- Old piano in fellowship hall; sound board will be removed and piano will be repurposed.
- Per the request of the Fire Department, door plaques were purchased and installed on doors servicing utility and electrical, including elevator mechanical room.
- Elder/Custodian Cinda Durrell requested securing Theresa Link as backup custodian. Theresa has helped during our clean up days.
- Two LED nightlights were installed in the narthex to aid in exiting in the dark.
- Ann Polito purchased the most current version of Microsoft Office for the CUPC business and sound room computers. This was available at a greatly reduced price. Thank you Ann!
- The CD at Great Western matured on 7/29/15. The funds were reinvested with Joe Schettler of Edward Jones to provide scholarships for graduating seniors of CUPC.
- Lawn mowing for the year was performed by Zeke Petry, MTO Lawn Care (Mike Olson), and by members and friends. Many of you donated funds specifically to be used for this purpose. Thank You!
- Dwight Martin provided services for snow plowing, salting, and sanding of parking lot and sidewalks.

- The Wi-Fi service (and the lack thereof) was addressed and a new router was purchased and installed in the sanctuary. Our entire facility now has Wi-Fi service.
- A LED spotlight was purchased to be used for special events in our building.
- A new thermostat with Wi-Fi capabilities was purchased and installed for the sanctuary to aid in a more economical control of the furnace and air conditioning.

It takes many hands, many *volunteer* hands, to keep the wheels turning here at CUPC. Many tasks happen behind the scene and sometimes unnoticed by many of you. It also takes the dedication and generosity of our members and friends that tithe faithfully. No amount given from the heart is ever too small. "Little is much, when God is in it".

The Property and Finance Committee is eternally grateful for the volunteers that have always come forward to serve this church, and more importantly, to serve their Lord! Thank You.

Respectfully Submitted by  
David F. Walker, Jr.



## 2015 Treasurer's Report - General Operating Income/Expenses

<b>Income</b>	
Cookbooks	\$ 10.00
DVBS	\$ 697.00
Fellowship Offering	\$ 842.00
General Mission Noisy Collection	\$ 1,633.00
Investment Income	\$ 8,548.00
Lawn Care	\$ 840.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 1,294.00
Memorial	\$ 1,033.00
Per Capita	\$ 400.00
Pledges	\$ 97,961.00
Presbytery Support	\$ 4,560.00
Special Ministries Events	\$ 182.00
Use of Church	\$ 751.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 118,751.00</b>

<b>Transfers from GWB Ckg &amp; Svgs</b>	<b>\$ 2,963.00</b>
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<b>Checking - Total inflows and outflows</b>	
Beginning Balance	\$ 3,115.00
Income	\$ 126,925.00
Expenses	\$ (123,571.00)
Balance 12/31/2015	\$ 6,469.00

<b>Designated Giving</b>	
Income	\$ 5,211.00
Expenses	\$ 5,149.00

<b>Savings Inflows and Outflows</b>	
Beg Bal	\$ 8,788.70
Deposits	\$ 11,721.17
Withdrawals	\$ (9,538.00)
Ending Balance 12/31/2015	\$ 10,971.87

<b>Investments</b>	
Certificates of Deposit - 1	\$ 2,570.60

<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b>	
DVBS	\$ 1,274.00
Sunday School	\$ 455.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,729.00</b>

<b>MISSION</b>	
General Missions	\$ 1,500.00
Local Mission	\$ 404.00
Outreach	\$ 541.00
Per Capita	\$ 4,560.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,005.00</b>

<b>PROPERTY/FINANCE</b>	
Building/Grounds	\$ 4,341.00
Church Supplies	\$ 1,352.00
Custodian	\$ 3,640.00
Electric	\$ 5,132.00
Insurance	\$ 6,060.00
Janitorial Supplies	\$ 23.00
Office Supplies	\$ 3,889.00
Phone	\$ 1,508.00
Misc Banking	\$ 105.00
Water & Sewer	\$ 871.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 26,921.00</b>

<b>PASTOR</b>	
Auto	\$ 1,810.00
Continuing Ed	\$ 2,500.00
FSA Child Care	\$ 3,600.00
Housing	\$ 18,500.00
Pension	\$ 25,224.00
Salary	\$ 18,179.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 69,813.00</b>

<b>WAC</b>	
Delegate to Presbytery	\$ 10.00
Organist	\$ 1,470.00
Pulpit Supply	\$ 319.00
Session Expenses	\$ 74.00
Special Ministries	\$ 423.00
Website	\$ 245.00
Worship Expenses	\$ 431.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,972.00</b>

<b>Total Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 108,440.00</b>
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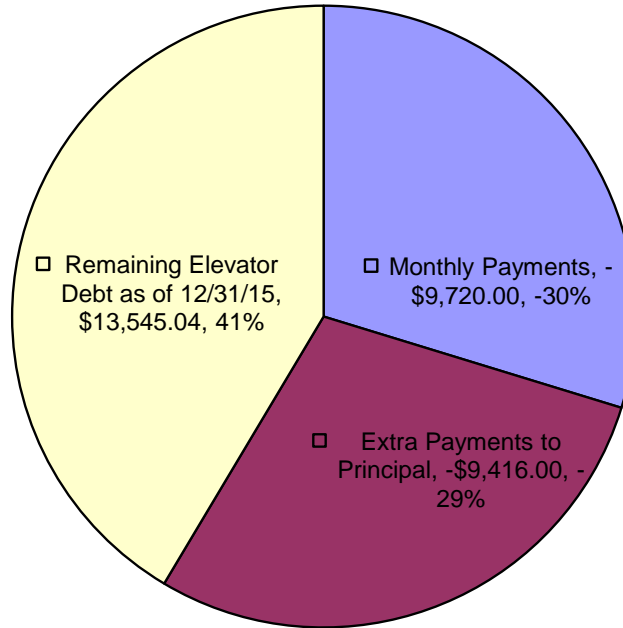
<b>Transfers to Elev &amp; Savings</b>	<b>\$ 9,982.00</b>
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# 2016 Community United Presbyterian Church Budget

## COMMUNITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

	2015 Approved Budget	2015 Actual	2016 Approved Budget	Difference from 2015 Budgeted amount	Notes:
<b>Worship &amp; Administration</b>					
Church Management Program	\$ 264.00		\$ 162.00	-\$ 102.00	\$13.50/month 10% discount if paid in full
Delegate to Presbytery	\$ 150.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 150.00	\$ -	
Office Supplies			\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	new line item-from P & F Budget
Organist	\$ 1,820.00	\$ 1,470.00	\$ -	-\$ 1,820.00	moving to new Budget Category - Personnel
Reflection Room Furnishings			\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	new line item
Session Expenses	\$ 200.00	\$ 74.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -	
Special Ministries	\$ 500.00	\$ 423.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	
Supply Pastor	\$ 500.00	\$ 319.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	
Website	\$ 245.00	\$ 245.00	\$ 245.00	\$ -	
Worship Expenses	\$ 500.00	\$ 431.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	
<b>Total Worship &amp; Administration</b>	<b>\$ 4,179.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,972.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,257.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,078.00</b>	
<b>Christian Education</b>					
Background Checks	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00	\$ -	
Bible School/VBS	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,274.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	
Christmas Pageant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	new line item
Outreach, Inc.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	new line item
Sunday School/Children's Church	\$ 100.00	\$ 455.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	incl \$50 for Sermons4Kids
<b>Total Christian Education</b>	<b>\$ 800.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,729.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,700.00</b>	
<b>Mission</b>					
Emergency Fund	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -	-\$ 500.00	deleted
General Missions	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$500 each to El Salv/Cott Grove Mission Ctr/Presb
Local Missions	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 404.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	Fundraiser contr/After-Prom/College & Military pkgs
Outreach	\$ 700.00	\$ 541.00	\$ 500.00	-\$ 200.00	Mostly card ministry
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	new line item - for Pastor's use at his discretion
Presbytery Support	\$ 4,560.00	\$ 4,560.00	\$ 3,760.00	-\$ 800.00	
Sr. Citizens Thanksgiving Dinner/Enter.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	new line item
<b>Total Mission</b>	<b>\$ 8,460.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,005.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,260.00</b>	<b>-\$ 200.00</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>					
Custodian	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,640.00	\$ 3,640.00	new line item
Organist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,820.00	\$ 1,820.00	new line item
Pastor-Auto	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,810.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	
Pastor-Continuing Education	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	
Pastor-Flexible Spending Account	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ -	
Pastor-Housing	\$ 18,500.00	\$ 18,500.00	\$ 18,500.00	\$ -	
Pastor-Pension	\$ 17,273.00	\$ 18,179.00	\$ 17,629.50	\$ 356.50	
Pastor-Salary	\$ 25,224.00	\$ 25,224.00	\$ 26,200.00	\$ 976.00	
Total Pastoral Salary Package	\$ 70,097.00	\$ 69,813.00	\$ 71,429.50	\$ 1,332.50	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$ 70,097.00</b>	<b>\$ 69,813.00</b>	<b>\$ 76,889.50</b>	<b>\$ 6,792.50</b>	
<b>Property &amp; Finance</b>					
Building & Grounds	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,341.00	\$ 4,500.00	-\$ 500.00	
Church Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00	new line item
Church Utilities	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 7,511.00	\$ -	-\$ 9,000.00	will now be separate line items
Church Utilities-Electric & Gas	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	new line item
Church Utilities-Phone	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	new line item
Church Utilities-Water & Sewer	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	new line item
Church/Office Supplies	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,241.00	\$ -	-\$ 4,000.00	Office Supplies moved to WAC
Custodian	\$ 3,640.00	\$ 3,640.00	\$ -	-\$ 3,640.00	Moved to Personnel budget
Defibrillator	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -	Pads & batteries
Insurance	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 6,060.00	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 2,900.00	
Janitorial Supplies	\$ 300.00	\$ 23.00	\$ 150.00	-\$ 150.00	
<b>Total Property &amp; Finance</b>	<b>\$ 25,640.00</b>	<b>\$ 26,816.00</b>	<b>\$ 20,650.00</b>	<b>-\$ 4,990.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 109,176.00</b>	<b>\$ 108,335.00</b>	<b>\$ 116,556.50</b>	<b>\$ 7,380.50</b>	

**Elevator Debt**  
**Beginning Balance Owed - \$32,681.04**  
**Ending Balance - \$13,545.04**



**Elevator Capital Improvement Checking Account**

Beginning Balance 1/1/2015		\$10,467.48
Donations	\$7,425.00	
Fund Raisers	\$0.00	
Memorials	\$903.00	
Pledges	\$12,806.40	
Total Deposits		\$21,134.40
Monthly Elevator Payment	(\$9,720.00)	
Payments to Principal Balance	(\$9,416.00)	
Other Expenses	(\$1,906.41)	
Total Expenses		(\$21,042.41)
Ending Balance 12/31/15		\$10,559.47

Beginning Balance owed 2016	\$13,545.04
Extra Payment to principal 1/4/16	(\$3,059.00)
Reserve Balance in Checking	(\$7,500.00)
Balance to be paid in 2016	\$2,986.04

## 2015 Worship & Administration Committee Report

Committee members: Moderator Nathan Lamb, Rebecca Campbell, Carla Collins, Deb Griffin, Donna Hall, Sandy Hammond, Larry Meyers & Ann Polito

- The 2015 Volunteer List (fellowship servers, greeters, special music, & ushers) was prepared, distributed to volunteers, and posted. Thank you to everyone who has assisted in these areas.
- Anniversary & Birthday List was updated with addresses and provided for use in sending cards.
- Bulletin board volunteers were secured for 2015. Thank you to Gloria Eckert, Jordyn & Sophia Eckert, Connie Goldsberry, Shirley Gooch, Daphne Hayes, Lori Hollingsworth, Scott & Stacy Johnson, Erika Laird, Kathy McCaughey, Barb Mentzer, Heather Peacock, and Cinda Polito for sharing your creativity with all of us!
- Communion dates for 2015 were presented and approved.
- CUPC Wi-Fi password was changed to “cupcguest” and made available to anyone needing access while at the church.
- Dial My Calls, the automatic message service, information was updated regularly.
- Easter lilies (20) were ordered from Goode Greenhouse. They were placed in memory or in honor of loved ones and were displayed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday.
- Mother's Day and Father's Day were celebrated by giving a small gift to all women and men attending worship on the designated days.
- CUPC has the painting “Thy Will Be Done” by Maxine Pendry “on loan” from the Presbytery of Des Moines. The painting was originally located at Clifton Heights. Shirley Gooch graciously cleaned the painting and two other Pendry paintings by Session's request. The painting is now displayed in the education wing entrance.
- Church usage policies and fees were reviewed, revised and presented for Session approval.
- A group of elders participated in Eucharistic Elder Training on November 22, 2015, and have been approved by Session to offer In-Home Communion in the absence of the pastor.
- Advent Season Theme was “Friends”. Those lighting the Advent wreath were: Worship & Administration Committee, JAM Youth, Donna Hall/Sandy Hammond/Jan McCaughey/Kathy McCaughey, Deb Griffin/Lori Hollingsworth/Lisa Ross and Gloria Eckert/Ann Polito
- Poinsettias (26) were ordered from Goode's Greenhouse. They were placed in memory or in honor of loved ones and were displayed in the sanctuary on the Sunday before Christmas and Christmas Eve.
- Pulpit supply for the year was provided by Rev. Kip Harris, Rev. Dawn Linder, Rev. David Madsen, Ann Polito, David Walker, Jr., and the Worship & Administration Committee.
- Initiatives Continuing for 2016: Celebration in 2016—Church Building 100 years old, Education Wing Repurposing Plan, Storage Space Reorganization, Visitation Team for “In Crowd”, Wedding & Funeral Policies

### Special Services/Events during 2015:

- Bill McNamar was recognized on Sunday, February 8, 2015 for his years of service as CUPC's secretary.
- Ash Wednesday was observed on Wednesday, February 18, 2015, in the church sanctuary.
- Celebration of Talents was held on Saturday, March 28, 2015. The program was organized by Michele Clarkson and was a wonderful time sharing the gifts God has provided.
- Palm Sunday was observed on Sunday, March 29, 2015. Palm branches were distributed to all attending.
- Prayer Vigil Service was held on Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2015, with a baked potato supper prior to the service.

- Prayer Vigil on April 2 and April 3, 2015 was coordinated with good support by members and friends of Community United Presbyterian Church. People were able to choose to pray at the church or at home being conscious of safety and security issues.
- Community Good Friday Services were held on Friday, April 3, 2015, at Scotch Ridge United Presbyterian Church.
- Easter Sunrise Service was held on Sunday, April 5, 2015, at Carlisle Christian Church with a breakfast following.
- The South Central Regional Partnership held their annual dinner at CUPC on Thursday, April 23, 2015. Scotch Ridge United Presbyterian Church assisted with hosting the event. William Schooler, Sr. and William Schooler, Jr. provided the program talking about the local history and the Presbyterian heritage in the Carlisle and Hartford areas of Warren County.
- Graduation Sunday was held on May 10, 2015, with Shelbie Curry, Christian Duncan, Channing Johnson, Dominique Sterrett, and their families being present for breakfast. Each graduate received a Daily Prayer Bible and a wristband during worship. Gifts also provided to Colton Buchanan, Kaleigh Greenfield, Rachel Hammond, & Craig Pote who were a part of CUPC's Christian Ed programs in the past.
- CUPC assisted in hosting the August 15 meeting of the Presbytery of Des Moines held at the Easter Lake property (formerly Clifton Heights Presbyterian Church).
- A military blessing was shared during worship on Sunday, September 13, 2015, commissioning Christian Duncan who was preparing to leave for boot camp with the United States Marine Corps. Christian was presented "Bible Promises for Life" and had a laying on of hands as he was commissioned to serve.
- World Communion Sunday was celebrated on Sunday, October 4, 2015.
- All Saints' Day was observed on Sunday, November 1, 2015, with a special video being shared as a prelude to worship along with a table of candles lit in memory of those who have passed away. A list of those who had passed away during the past year was given to those attending worship.
- The Hartford Trio (Donna Hall, Sandy Hammond, and Kathy McCaughey) were honored in the "Faithful Through the Years" Recognition at the November 10 meeting of the Presbytery of Des Moines at Heartland Presbyterian Church in Clive, Iowa.
- Community Thanksgiving Service was held on Sunday, November 22, 2015, at Community United Presbyterian Church. The community area supported this event well with the change from Wednesday evening to Sunday evening. A time of fellowship followed the service.
- Themes for Advent worship were: Hanging of the Greens (Nov 29), Christmas is for Kids (Dec 6), Carol Sing Sunday (Dec 13), Christmas Blessings w/Scripture Echo (Dec 20)
- Christmas Caroling was held on December 20, 2015. A small group of adults and youth traveled around Hartford to sing to members and friends of CUPC.
- Christmas Pageant was held on Saturday, December 12, 2015. The second annual pageant was a tremendous success with many youth, members and friends of CUPC participating. Thank you to Michele Clarkson, Bill Schooler, Jr., and Jennafer Kovacevich for their efforts for organizing such a memorable program.
- Christmas Eve Service was held on Thursday, December 24, 2015, with Rebecca Campbell organizing music for the service.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Services: These services continue to be a special time of worship.
  - "Palm Sunday" on March 29, 2015, was the first "Fifth Sunday" this year. We celebrated the day with palms to all attending and Communion.
  - "Honoring Those Who Have Served" on May 31, 2015, was celebrated by honoring our military heroes past and present. There were 8 veterans present and 4 military care packages were dedicated before being sent out to currently deployed servicemen. The video "Letters from War" was shared and special hymns were selected for this event.

- “Blessing of the Children” on August 30, 2015, was celebrated by offering a blessing for each child (approximately 40) present and giving them each a blessing coin on a ribbon. A youth baptism was celebrated and special music was provided by Daphne Hayes.
- “Hanging of the Greens” on November 29, 2015, celebrating symbols and traditions of Advent and Christmas.

### **Special Initiatives during 2015:**

- Facility issues (lights on, doors unlocked, etc.) were identified and communicated through the church newsletter.
- Worship Space under Screen—The modesty panel was shortened to make the space more usable for group activities.

The following individuals support the committee by serving in the following capacities:

- Carla Collins & Sandy Hammond—Breakfast and floral coordinators
- Lucille Erickson—Worship and fellowship volunteers contact
- Deb Griffin—Website coordinator, electronic bulletin preparation, office supply purchasing
- Donna Hall—Special music coordinator
- Larry Meyers, Claren Rawson and David Walker, Jr.—Sound technicians
- Bonnie Nesler—Nursery care coordinator
- Ann Polito—Newsletter coordinator
- David Walker III—Computer administrator

The Nominating Committee supports the Worship and Administration Committee and has provided a detailed report. Michele Clarkson, Shane Laird, and Verle Spence were elected to serve on this committee and Donna Hall was appointed by Session as Elder Representative to the committee. Rev. Lamb is available to assist as needed.

The participation and encouragement of many people make the tasks of this committee much easier. It is our goal to make worship a meaningful experience for everyone. We also seek to make improvements in the administrative functions of the church. Your thoughts and suggestions are always welcomed and appreciated.

Submitted by Ann Polito

### **2015 Nominating Committee Report**

Committee Members: Michele Clarkson, Shane Laird, Verle Spence

Elder Representative: Donna Hall

Session Moderator: Rev. Lamb

The committee worked to assemble a slate of candidates to serve on the 2016 Session. Michele Clarkson, Donna Hall, and Larry Meyers have accepted God’s call to serve.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Hall

## 2015 Presbyterian Women Report

### PW Financial Statement for 2015

Checking and Savings Balance 01.01.15 \$ 6,933.32

#### INCOME

Bazaar \$ 318.00  
Smorgasbord \$ 1,238.91  
Soup Supper \$ 169.00  
Funeral \$ 200.00  
Martin Gardner Sale \$ 309.66  
Misc. Donations \$ 50.95

TOTAL INCOME \$ 2,286.52

#### EXPENSES

Missions and Local Fund Giving \$ (430.00)  
Flowers for in front of the church \$ (79.25)  
Supplies \$ (84.80)  
Access Fund (Elevator) \$ (495.00)

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ (1,089.05)

Checking and Savings Balance 12.31.15 \$ 8,130.79

CD Matures 4/18/16 \$ 5,249.54

**TOTAL PW FUNDS \$ 13,380.33**

#### PW ACTIVITIES

In January, we cooked the soup for soup and slide show.

In April, we had our annual Smorgasbord and Bazaar.

In May, Lynda Richards and Caroline McNamar planted flowers in front of the church.

During the year we served 1 funeral lunch and 1 farm sale.

Dorcas Circle made and donated 4 lap robes to the Carlisle Care Center and 2 comforters to Cross Ministries.

#### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN 2015 OFFICERS

President Chair - Donna Hall

Vice President - Ellie Bullington and Marge Shetterly-Spence

Sec.-Treasurer - Caroline McNamar

Local Service - Madonna Jack

World Service - Gloria Eckert

Dorcas Chairperson – Betty Hem

Nominating Committee

Lynda Richards

Betty Johnston

Lucille Erickson

Officers for 2016 will remain the same.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caroline McNamar, Secretary-Treasurer

## 2015 Pastor's Report

2015 has come and gone. It is time to reflect on all that has happened during the past year. It is always a privilege to touch lives as the pastor of a congregation like Community United Presbyterian Church. I am grateful for all the opportunities I have had to serve this past year. I look forward to the changes that 2016 will bring.

In September of 2014 I began a 2 year course in Spiritual Development and Formation through Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center, the PrairieFire Program. It is hard to believe that the program will be wrapping up later this spring! This past November, as part of my PrairieFire experience, I had the opportunity to spend several days at New Melleray Monastery for a time of silent retreat. As the program wraps up, I will be in the process of discerning whether to continue on in the program for certification as a Spiritual Director.

Our education program at CUPC continues to reshape and change many people, young and old. JAM Session has become a flourishing program and I help to lead bible lesson time, often with videos of Bible stories. Occasionally I am called upon to display my athletic prowess in a game of kickball. It continues to be a great joy for me to lead our weekly book discussion group. The class has a dedicated core that meets each week to discuss books on topics ranging from theology to church history. I attempted to lead a Centering Prayer group this past year, but the numbers have dwindled. As I believe this is an important area of my interest, I will work with those interested to find a better time to meet.

I continue to serve as the moderator for the Easter Lake Administrative Commission. This commission has been tasked with decided what should be done with the property of the former Clifton Heights congregation. This past year we organized a meeting of presbytery that was held at the site which several of our CUPC church members helped to prepare. I also continue participation with the Carlisle-Hartford Ministerial Alliance. In November, CUPC hosted the annual Thanksgiving Service which was well attended by member churches. Also worth mentioning, at the November meeting of Des Moines Presbytery I was elected to serve as a commissioner to the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly that will be held in Portland, Oregon in June of 2016.

This past year has presented many challenges to our congregation. I am proud of how our members rise to the occasion to help our church family in times of need. There have been plenty of examples of this over the past year. I find myself trying to keep up with the needs of pastoral care, but admittedly have struggled to adjust to life as a pastor and a father of two very young girls. I am working to get myself better organized so that I can be a more visible presence among all of you, knowing that this is an important part of my work. I appreciate all the care and compassion the congregation has had for me and my family throughout the year as we all do our best to participate in the ministries of the congregation and be active in the community.

In Christ,  
Pastor Nathan