



# *Annual Report*

# 2022



East Liberty  
Presbyterian Church

[www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church)

# AGENDA OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

## OF THE CONGREGATIONAL & CORPORATION OF ELPC

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*Sunday, February 26, 2023*

*In-person (Social Hall) and Zoom meeting*

### OPENING PRAYER

### RECOGNITION OF A QUORUM

*A quorum is 10% of the active membership, plus the clerk of session and moderator. Only active members of ELPC have voice and vote at meetings of the congregation. In voting, persons must be present at the time of any vote.*

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2022 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL & CORPORATION MEETING

### RECOGNITION OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Carla Coles, Joshua DiLuzio, Willa Dixon, Margot Feldstein, Alex Karaczun, Jay Poliziani, Conrad Seamen, The Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany, Hugh Vander Veer, Anthony White, Eric Young

### RECOGNITION OF OFFICERS WHO RETIRED OR RESIGNED

*Retiring Elders:* Charlotte Brake-Hoffman, David Carl, Lynne Chadwick, Brittney Krieger,  
Heather Lawrence, Laura Ristau

*Retiring Deacons:* George Clark, Annabel Degenholtz, Elaine Phillips, Jim Russ, Susan Spangler, Sharla Yates

### REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

*In our Presbyterian polity, the Nominating Committee is responsible for bringing a slate of candidates for church office to the congregation for election. Nominations from the floor are allowed with the understanding that the person being nominated has agreed to serve and is aware of the responsibilities of the office.*

*Members of the Nominating Committee for Class of 2023:*

Damon Bethea, Michele Bossers, Andrea DeVries, Josh Mattila, Jill Millard (Session representative),  
Elaine Phillips (Deacon representative)

*Presentation of nominees for the office of Deacon (Class of 2026):*

Todd Hoffman (first term), Hannah Moon (first term), Janet Pollard (first term), Linda Sanders (second term), Nathaniel Stephens (first term), Tom Sturgill (first term)

*Presentation of nominee for office of Youth Deacon (Class of 2024—serves one year):*

Annie Cowan

*Presentation of nominees for the office of Elder (Class of 2026):*

Bill Buchanan (second term), Kristin Cummings (first term), Sonia Degenholtz (second term), Charma Dudley (first term), Tim Engelhardt (first term), Jan Irvin (second term), Tom Morton (second term), Carol Mullen (first term), Mario Seneca (first term), Nancy Wright (first term)

*Presentation of nominees for Congregational Trustee of Centennial Fund (Class of 2026):*

Doris Dick, Gene Harris

*Presentation of congregational nominees for the Nominating Committee (Class of 2024):*

Bill Johnson, Jessica Giannotta

**Motion to receive and approve the slate of nominees.**

**SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**2022 MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS AND COMPOSITION**

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

**REPORT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

*Approval of the 2023 Terms of Call for The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy:*

Pastor – Effective Salary.....	\$128,542.00
(Salary.....	\$88,542.00)
(Housing.....	\$40,000.00)
Pastor-Medical Reimbursement.....	\$ 2,571.00
Pastor-Professional Expense.....	\$ 2,000.00
Pastor-Study Leave .....	\$ 2,000.00
Pastor-Pension/Insurance (Board of Pensions).....	\$50,131.00
Pastor-SECA (Self Employment Tax).....	\$ 9,833.00
Study Leave (two weeks) and Vacation Time (four weeks)	
Mileage reimbursement @ \$0.58.5/mile	

*Approval of the 2023 Terms of Call for The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf:*

Pastor – Effective Salary.....	\$128,542.00
(Salary.....	\$88,542.00)
(Housing.....	\$40,000.00)
Pastor-Medical Reimbursement.....	\$ 2,571.00
Pastor-Professional Expense.....	\$ 2,000.00
Pastor-Study Leave .....	\$ 2,000.00
Pastor-Pension/Insurance (Board of Pensions).....	\$50,131.00
Pastor-SECA (Self Employment Tax).....	\$ 9,833.00
Study Leave (two weeks) and Vacation Time (four weeks)	
Mileage reimbursement @ \$0.58.5/mile	

**Motion to approve the Terms of Call for The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf and The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy.**

**Motion to receive the 2022 Reports.**

## **RECESS TO MEET AS THE CORPORATION, EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*2023 ELPC Corporation Officers:*

Lenore Williams, President; Bryan Lawrence, Treasurer; Carla Depperman, Secretary

### **Centennial Fund**

*Bob Starzynski, Chair*

The Centennial Fund was established in 1919 on the one hundredth anniversary of the Church to provide a financial endowment for the church and for the generations to follow. It is overseen by the Centennial Trustees — two elected by Session, two by the congregation, and two by the Trustees themselves.

It is important to note that the Centennial Fund is comprised of a number of sub-accounts. Some are restricted in use and others have been designated for specific purposes. The Centennial Fund currently provides about two-thirds of our church's annual operating budget.

The vast majority of the Fund's investments are in publicly traded securities with a target allocation of 70% in stocks (large cap, small cap and international equities) and 30% in bonds/fixed income investments and are managed by Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. The value of the Fund under management of Gallagher as of 12/31/2022 was \$22.3 million.

In addition to the professionally managed portion of the Fund, the Centennial Trustees can allocate up to \$1 million for investment in local and/or worldwide opportunities pursuant to its Community Investment Criteria. Currently, the Fund has an active loan of \$250,000 with East Liberty Development, Inc. to support their housing rehabilitation efforts in the East End of Pittsburgh.

Adding this loan to the Gallagher-managed portfolio, the Fund stood at \$22.5 million on 12/31/2022, a decrease from the prior year end value of \$28.9 million. This decrease was primarily due to public markets being substantially down over the past year, and excess draws from the Fund to support Church operations.

The managed portion of the Fund had an overall return of -16.75% for 2022, following a return of 15.73% for 2021. The loss of 16.75% exceeds benchmark average losses last year of 15.87%. The cumulative annual returns for the managed portion of the Fund for the last three and five years have been 3.46% and 5.01%, respectively. While these numbers are down from prior year numbers, the Centennial Fund's managed portfolio has equaled or slightly exceeded the benchmark average performance of similarly managed endowments over those three and five-year periods, which were 3.4% and 5.02%, respectively.

The Chair wishes to thank the Centennial Trustees for their dedicated service this past year.

*Centennial Trustees:*

Roberta London, Steve Massey, Allison Seidel, Kathy Callahan, The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy (staff) and The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf (staff)

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## MESSAGE FROM

# THE REV. PATRICE L. FOWLER-SEARCY

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*Acting Co-Pastor and Pastor for Mission Ministries*

As we entered into 2022, we certainly did not and could not have anticipated the changes, transitions, twists, and turns we would experience as the body of Christ. Still in the process of defining our new normal or how to be church in the midst of Covid, we realized, along with other worshipping and faith communities, that church would not revert back to what it had been before Covid. Although a large number of ELPC members returned to in-person worship, almost one-third of ELPC's members worship remotely on Zoom, Facebook, or YouTube. Hybrid meetings are now the standard, even as we reinstitute gatherings of greater than twenty-five people.

With Pastor Randy's resignation in 2022, Pastor Heather and I were affirmed as acting co-pastors to serve until an interim pastor was identified. Yet we experienced another unexpected result. After the faithful and prayerful work and discernment by the Interim Pastor's Search Committee, an interim pastor was not to be.

In the midst of uncertainty, disappointment, grief, and yes, even sadness brought on by all the changes in 2022, God continued to be faithful. ELPC continued to be a beacon of light, through the thoughtful, faithful, and strategic work and educational opportunities offered by our Mission Board, four Mission Committees, and the LGBTQIA Ministry, for people who are lost, left behind, disenfranchised, oppressed, and marginalized. ELPC continued to offer and actively engaged in vital ministries that served our church family and immediate community through the work of our various Christian Education, Youth and Young Adult ministries, and Hope Academy of Music and the Arts. And ELPC continued to worship and praise God through our Taizé, Journey, and 11 am worship services, various prayer groups, as well as other spiritual practices, retreat opportunities and gatherings offered by Spiritual Life and Pastor BJ. And we continued to provide spiritual nurture and creative ways to worship our faithful God. I would be remiss if I failed to acknowledge the committed work of all of ELPC's Committees, Session, Centennial Fund Trustees, members, and dedicated staff. Thank you for "being," not just "doing" church, in the midst of all the changes.

I am especially thankful that God opened the door and provided the opportunity for me to serve this amazing community of faithful people of God in new ways. The honor of serving as co-pastor, along with Pastor Heather, has given me the opportunity to exercise and utilize some of the God-given gifts that I had not used in many years and doing so has energized, given me new insight and sparked a new creativity within me. All in all, 2022 has been a year of change, transitions, twists, and turns, as well as, a year of opportunities to be the body of Christ in new, faithful, and inventive ways. And 2022 has been a year that has proven that despite everything we have gone through, God is faithful and is still with us, leading and providing, blessings and challenging, transforming, and transitioning us into who God is calling us to be in this season.

I'm sure that 2023 will be filled with unanticipated changes and unexpected challenges, and that's okay – Jesus changed and challenged the people of his day to realize that church as usual was and is not the order of the day - for God is doing a new thing. So, we may be tempted to cling to that which is known, comfortable, and familiar. However, I look forward to all that God is going to do with and through us in 2023. May we stay prayerful, faithful, and committed to being the body of Christ despite anything life may bring. And lastly, I want to offer my sincere and heartfelt thanks to all of you and to God, for the opportunity to walk with you as one of your pastors in this season.



# THE REV. HEATHER SCHOENEWOLF

*Acting Co-Pastor and Pastor for Educational Ministries*

Throughout 2022 I frequently found myself singing John Lennon’s lyrics: *“Life is what happens to you when you’re busy making other plans.”* 2022 was a season in life and in ministry in which the truth of this statement resonated on every front. From family illnesses and my father’s death, to Covid’s continued impact on plans both personal and societal, to Pastor Randy’s announcement of his resignation in March and his departure in May...2022 looked different than anything I could have planned. Transition and change – much of it unanticipated – was a hallmark of 2022, impacting every aspect of our congregational life.

In addition to Pastor Randy’s departure, we experienced several transitions throughout our entire staff. As treasured members of our team moved on to new chapters in their careers, HR worked tirelessly to create a staffing structure to suit the next chapter of ELPC’s ministry and conducted searches for more than seven positions, most of which were completed by the end of 2022. Current staff assumed additional duties to ensure the smooth operation of our church.

We continued to adapt to the changing landscape of the Covid-19 pandemic, offering hybrid classes, studies, and worship. With joy we began to reengage in-person ministry again, enjoying once more things that we had once taken for granted: a shared meal at club 116, in-person Vacation Church School, fellowship after church, a hug, a smile. We processed into the Chancel again. We started singing together. We met as a staff in the same room.

Yes, 2022 was filled with transition, but evidence of God’s sovereignty, mercy, faithfulness and love were also hallmarks of our life together. We were reminded in new ways that we were and are the Body of Christ. The Session and the members of the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee prayerfully discerned how to faithfully minister as a church in the chapter ahead. We have continued to have difficult conversations and do the hard work necessary to face and dismantle systemic racism within the church and the world. We have celebrated baptisms and mourned the deaths of several members and friends of ELPC, but been continually reminded that “In life and in death we belong to God.”

I have been honored to serve alongside Pastor Patrice as Co-Pastor through this evolving season - first as the “interim before the interim” and now in an extended role until permanent pastoral leadership is secured. It is not a role I have sought out or anticipated filling at ELPC, yet I am grateful to serve the church I have loved in new ways, to God’s glory, alongside such a Spirit-filled and talented Co-Pastor and friend. I am also deeply grateful for Pastor BJ’s giftedness and willingness to serve in an expanded role to guide our transitional work together, and for the sense of teamwork and trust among the three of us.

I am reminded continually of the giftedness, compassion and dedication to justice of our church family, and I am reminded continually of the abiding presence of God.

I do not know what 2023 will hold. Surely, more transition, discernment, worship, study, community-building, community-service, and fun. No matter what lies ahead, I cling to these words of scripture and offer them to you as words of hope in the season ahead:

“Be still and know that I am God.” (*Psalms 46:10a*)

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (*Philippians 4:13*)

“You are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a member of it.” (*1 Cor 12:27*)

“God is love.” (*1 John 4:8b*)

And so I give thanks and praise to God and for the ways in which our story reflected the character of God and our call to be God’s people, and remain curious and hopeful about what God will do upon and through us in the year(s) to come.



# SESSION

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*Carla Depperman, Session Clerk*

According to the Presbyterian *Book of Order* (Constitution of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.), “the congregation is the church engaged in the mission of God in its particular context,” (Pittsburgh, PA, in the case of ELPC). The congregation is the basic form of the church whose members are under the leadership of the Session and the higher councils (Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly). ELPC’s Session of 20 elected elders, augmented by 1 youth elder and pastors, are “responsible to guide and govern the life of the congregation. The Session leads the congregation in fulfilling its responsibilities for the service of all people, for the upbuilding of the whole church and for the glory of God.” These are words of our Constitution, a reminder of our organization as a church.

During this third pandemic year, Session continued to operate among the complexity of shifting public health guidelines, local and global. Typical approaches to ministry were adapted by investment in technology for live-streaming and utilizing Facebook Live and YouTube to stay in touch with existing congregants and to reach new audiences. Happily, various programs of the church returned to in-person by mid-year: Sunday School, Chapel Market, Connections, Vacation Bible School, youth mission trips, and others. Worship services continued to be available in-person and virtual.

Session sought to be guided by the priorities of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Matthew 25 Church initiative: to dismantle structural racism, to eradicate systemic poverty, and to build congregational vitality.

In this vain, a contract was issued to replace the Stonewall Jackson window, work to be completed in early 2023. The elders entered into a study of the concept of reparations using a collection of readings and conversation. Subsequently Session approved \$100,000 in funding for an endowed college scholarship for black students in Pittsburgh, open to additional donations from the congregation. The decision of the entity/entities to administer the fund will be determined shortly. The funds will be named the Joe and Jean Kenney Scholarship Fund. This scholarship is ELPC’s first step toward outward-facing reparations for the sin of white supremacy.

In March, the Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, ELPC’s gifted pastor of 16 years, announced his decision to terminate his pastorate with ELPC in order to accept an interim pastor position in suburban Baltimore, MD. Immediate plans were begun and realized to recognize and to thank Pastor Randy for his blessed ministry with us, and to wish him God speed in his new endeavor. Thank you was extended to his family, wife Beth and children Ian and Charlotte, for their many contributions to ELPC life. The pastoral relationship was dissolved on Sunday, May 22, 2022 by vote of the congregation.

Subsequently, after six months of effort, the search for an interim pastor proved to be unsuccessful. With Session’s appreciation for their work, the search committee was dissolved in December. Then Session approved a transition plan in which Pastor Patrice Fowler-Searcy and Pastor Heather Schoenewolf were named co-pastors and Pastor BJ Woodworth named as Covenant Pastor, all who will serve in these roles until a new Senior Pastor is in place. The search committee for a Senior Pastor will be elected in January 2023 and will begin their task immediately. As a part of this process the entire church will help to discern ELPC’s selection of a senior pastor and ELPC’s future.

Session meetings open with devotions, and for several months elders have been reminded of pertinent scripture during times of transition. Please consider these selections:

“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.” (*Ecclesiastes 3:1*)

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” (*Proverbs 3: 5-6*)

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” (*Hebrews 13:8*)

God speaks through the prophet Isaiah saying, “Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” (*Isaiah 43:18-19*)

And so the ELPC Session continues its work in faith, hope, and the knowledge that God will be leading us into the future as we strive to be His/Her people in this world. Thanks be to God.



# BOARD OF DEACONS

*David Cowan and Andrew Simpson, Co-Moderators*

In 2022 the Board of Deacons continued the traditional elements of its ministry as the church emerged from COVID restrictions. Ongoing activities, including: 1) preparing communion, 2) serving as Deacon on Duty at Sunday services, and 3) Card Ministry has continued in their pre-Covid form (though the scope of the card ministry has been narrowed to sending cards in the case of member deaths).

As in the previous year, our fundraiser partnership with 10,000 Villages was held at ELPC over an Advent weekend. The event raised \$241.02 (total sales were \$1606.78) to support the Thanksgiving and Giving Tree ministries. We also resumed the autumn international meal. Deacons and members provided breads and desserts from around the world, in a gathering that provided for great fellowship and the opportunity to experience new foods.

The Giving Tree continued in its modified form. Members utilized an online sign up for gifts and gift cards were purchased directly by the deacons through member donations. Over 80 children were cared for through this ministry. We have continued our relationship with the Northside Common Ministries, providing two meals a year to the shelter.

This year, in an effort to help fill the service gaps created by The Rev. Randy Bush's departure, the Deacons assumed the role of primary contact for many of our home-bound congregants. The Deacons have continued to minister to these members through cards, phone calls, and in-person visits.

The *Blue Christmas* service, a tradition which began in December 2018, continued in person this year and was very well-received, though not highly attended.

Attendance and participation with the Board continues to be a challenge. We primarily met through Zoom this past year; however, we plan on returning to in-person meetings while providing the option to join the meeting via zoom. We are quite fortunate to have a very capable and dedicated core of Deacons who contribute to the health and well-being of ELPC and its members.

## *Members:*

David Cowan and Drew Simpson (Co-Moderators); Elaine Phillips; George Clark; Jeff Fritz; Linda Sanders; Susan Wadsworth-Booth; Tom Sturgill; Dana Carl; Annabel Dengenholtz (youth representative); Peta Harrigan Cole; JoEllen Aleshire; Karen Beasley; Yodit Betru; Molly Davidson-Welling; The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy (staff)



# MISSION BOARD

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*Ryan Booher and Becky Gloninger, Co-Chairs*

The Mission Board (MB) worked in 2022 to continue to support spiritually and financially ministries and other organizations both locally and globally carrying out the mission that aligned with Jesus' call of "Whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." In order to try our best to accomplish this, we would meet once a month, mostly virtually but occasionally in person, to discuss each and every support request to determine if they aligned with ELPC's dedication to being a PC (USA) Mathew 25 Congregation. Unfortunately, as always but especially during these trying financial times, the need is always greater than our ability to give. We just pray that the right and just decisions were made and looking forward to improving in 2023.

The Mission Board also looked to support our subcommittees in continuing their work each with their own unique goals and missions. The Justice Committee, Peace Committee, Neighbors Committee, and Facing Systemic Racism Committee (FSR) each did amazing and important work all year with an amazing group of dedicated committee members. Each of these committees is always accepting new members with a passion for helping others and looking to make a difference. The MB encourages you to read each subcommittee's annual report, and if any of the work they are doing speaks to you, please reach out to the committee's respective

chair or co-chairs to see when their next meeting is held.

This year the calendar blessed October's Mission Month with an additional Sunday! The Mission Board was excited to help plan and support our subcommittees with activities all month long. The Presbyterian Women along with support from the Board of Deacons offered a letter writing campaign to support the Global Food Security Reauthorization Act. In addition, they held an *International Sweets and Treats* during the letter writing campaign that offered an expansive selection of treats from all over the world. The Justice and FSR Committees collaborated with the League of Women Voters and Interfaith Power and Light to host three voter registration events following worship services. Neighbors Committee sponsored a coat drive that exceeded their expectations. Coats were then distributed through Chapel Market and East End Cooperative Ministry. FSR hosted University Pittsburgh professor and Director of Undergraduate, Department of Religious Studies, Dr. Brock Bahler, followed by a small group discussion on the topic of *Reckoning with Race: The History and Persistence of White Supremacy in the Church*.

The Mission Board was excited to announce, working with the Human Resource Committee's co-chairs, to establish a full time Mission Coordinator position. Long time ELPC Facility Department employee Gerald McClendon accepted this

newly formed position. Gerald had been working part time as a Mission Assistant but with an increased number of assistance requests it was becoming increasingly clear that this really needed to be a full time position. This position's duties include, but are not limited to: administration of financial assistance to community residents and church members including contacting landlords, utility companies, and other organizations and assessing need, helping to implement and facilitate mission drives and collection of goods, serving as a liaison to partner organizations and agencies, as well as serving as onsite Manager for the Chapel Market, ELPC's free clothing store. Gerald is doing a wonderful job in this new position and we are looking forward to working with him more in the future.

The Mission Board would also like to thank Katie Haas-Conrad for her years as Mission Co-Chair as she stepped away this year to give birth to her second child. We know Katie's passion for mission still burns strong and know she will continue to help others in many different ways as her time allows.

#### *Members:*

Becky Gloninger and Ryan Booher (Co-Chairs), Bob Forloines, Russ Walker, Carol Chonoska, Michele Bossers, Lenore Williams, Peta Harrigan Cole, Susan Wadsworth-Booth, Emily Rosenthal, Frank Bauerle, The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy (staff)

# NEIGHBORS COMMITTEE

*Becky Gloninger and Bob Forloines, Co-Chairs*

The Neighbors Committee focuses on addressing the ministry needs of our immediate surrounding community. We work to feed, shelter and clothe our neighbors in need. Our in-house clothing ministry is the Chapel Market, which we restarted in June after being closed for a couple of years due to Covid. As well, we have formal partnerships with Open Hand Ministries (OHM), East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM), East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI), and the Neighborhood Academy to name a few.

Neighbors Committee activities includes:

- ◆ Chapel Market (a weekly free clothing ministry accessed through the Whitfield Street Chapel entrance)
  - Over a dozen volunteers have worked in Chapel Market since we reopened in June, 2022
  - Received many donations of new and gently used clothing from our congregation and other donors during 2022
  - Provided free clothing to over 100 neighbors who shopped in Chapel Market in 2022
  - Conducted a Winter Coat Drive (November) and a Winter Clothing Drive (December)
- ◆ EECM
  - Food drives twice during the year to collect/ donate food through EECM's food pantry
  - Provided winter coats to EECM from our Winter Coat Drive
- ◆ OHM
  - Provided financial support for ongoing operations as a founding church (line item in the Mission Board budget)
  - Participated on the OHM Board of Directors as a founding church (Frank Bauerle, Lynne Chadwick, Bob Forloines)
  - Participation on Board Committees (Emily Rosenthal, Tiffany Sudar, Frank Bauerle and Bob Forloines)
  - Participation in weekly OHM community meetings including providing meals and providing additional funds to cover meals
  - Provided volunteers for Saturday and Wednesday housing rehab work days throughout the year as allowed by the Covid pandemic
  - Provided special funding for OHM family assistance at Christmas
  - Participated in the annual Pittsburgh Marathon and Pittsburgh Marathon Relay teams to raise funds for OHM and hosted the annual pre-race *Pasta Dinner*
- ◆ Other Items
  - Provided funding to Veterans Place of Washington Blvd to assist in bus fares to enable veterans to travel to appointments, job interviews, etc.
  - Promoted and participated in "Amen to Action", an event held at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (and 9 other locations across Allegheny County) where 100,000 soup meals were packaged for distribution by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
  - Provided funding for Art in the Garden summer programming
  - Provided scholarship funding for the Neighborhood Academy
  - Provided funding for meals for the Open Gym Program at the Kingsley Center

Financial funding in the Mission Board budget support several organizations focused on neighborhood issues (ELDI, East End Thrift Store, East Liberty Family Health Center, Garfield Community Farm, Neighborhood Academy)

#### *Members:*

Ray Anthony, Frank Bauerle, Ted Cmarada, Bob Forloines and Becky Gloninger (Co-Chairs), Pat Krimmel, Cathleen Malmstrom, Jon Nelson, Emily Rosenthal, Susan Spangler, Tim Van Fleet, The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy (staff)



## MISSION BOARD:

# PEACE COMMITTEE

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*Russell Walker, Chair*

During 2022 the Peace Committee engaged in the following activities:

- Participated in the church-wide sampler
- Cooperated with the Presbytery's Peacemaking Committee
- Participated with Valley View Presbyterian, Eastminster Presbyterian, and Calvary Episcopal churches in a *Memorial to the Lost*. In addition to the march, T-shirt display, and signing of petitions we hosted a presentation by Josh Fleitman of CeaseFire PA
- Continued our financial support for the Balaka, Malawi church community
- Continued our support for the Forman Christian College in Pakistan
- We supported refugees from the Ukrainian War by contributions to Oxfam and Doctors Without Borders
- We supported Valerie Dixon's program for survivors of gun violence

The Peace Committee will continue to advocate on behalf of peace issues as they arise and endorse/participate with other peacemaking groups throughout the year. All are welcome to our meetings.

### *Members:*

Peta Harrigan Cole, Derek Harrigan, John Jordan, Pepo Mazingi, Gwen Puza, Kay Shissler, Ron Stone, Vivienne Selia, Russ Walker, The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy (staff)



# JUSTICE COMMITTEE

*Carol Chonoska, Chair*

Goals for 2022:

1. *To represent ELPC in the LGBTQ community by participating in community events and increasing congregational participation.* We shared booths at Pridefest, People's Pride and Black Pride. We participated in two pride marches. ELPC placed an ad in Qburgh magazine. We began a partnership with Belle Voci Chorus to provide sensory-friendly concerts, which will feature smaller audiences, low level lighting, additional spaces for viewing, shorter concerts, a consistent and supportive environment.
2. *To ensure the sustainability of Casa San Jose and AJAPO refugee support.* CSJ has moved their satellite office out of ELPC since the opening of the Latino Community Center on Baum Blvd. CSJ continues to hold English conversation classes at the church on Tuesday and Thursday nights. We have worked with AJAPO to settle 7 families. We have supplied about \$2000 in donation support this year. We held a furniture drive for Angels in Overalls, our partner in supplying furniture for refugees.
3. *Improve and expand our support of the HOPE Foundation and The Diversion Program at the Allegheny County Jail.* We held a presentation on Foundation of HOPE's new Adult Diversion program. We wrote a letter of support to the Foundation of HOPE for the expansion of the Diversion program and attended their open house for the new HOPE offices on Suismon Street.
4. *To address systemically racist practices that erode the criminal justice system, such as the cash bail system, solitary confinement, and the death penalty.* We presented a film from the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) called "Torture in Our Name" on solitary confinement. We encouraged the congregation to participate in two different programs hosted by Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (PADP).
5. *Develop environmental awareness, education, and congregational engagement in environmental stewardship of our earth.* To network and engage with community organizations addressing environmental impact. The Environmental team provided tips in *Reaching Out* every other month. They sponsored three book studies and two congregational presentations, the "New Green Deal" and "Investment in Our Planet, Turn Hope into Action Together." We sponsored a tree-tending day with Tree Pittsburgh and Garfield Farms selling plants after church. We supported the conference of the Southwest PA Interfaith Power and Light. The Justice Committee also partnered with the Facing Systemic Racism Committee and the League of Women Voters to hold voter registration.

#### *Members:*

Sherry Anderson, Mary Barr, Michele Bossers, Carol Chonoska (Chair), Stephanie Creasy, Linda Harrington, Nancy Heastings, Eric Jester, Alexandra Lynn, Judy Mancini, Vivienne Selia, Kay Shissler, The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy (staff)



# FAITH FORMATION BOARD

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*Damon Bethea, Chair*

The Faith Formation Board (FFB) is a partnership among Adult Education Steering Committee, Children and Family Ministries, Spiritual Life Committee, and Youth and Young Adult (YAYA) Committee. At least two representatives from each committee and a staff representative sit on this board.

FFB met four times in 2022 to plan Christian Educational activities and events and to share committee updates and needs among board members. Additionally, there were discussions about various Christian Education offerings for all ages at ELPC. Here are several 2022 FFB offerings:

- ◆ FFB worked with the Environment Justice Team to offer environmentally focused Lenten activities for all ages. There was a calendar of daily environmental activities that individuals and families could participate in throughout the season. The Youth Church School teachers offered a couple of lessons on these Lenten activities.
- ◆ FFB partnered with the Facing Systemic Racism Committee to host intergenerational sessions throughout the year focusing on the *Letters from the Birmingham Jail* (led by Pastor Randy) and the church universal's role in racism (led by Dr. Brock Bahler). These sessions occurred during the Church School hour (9:45-10:45 am) and several youth participated.
- ◆ Derail Holcomb became the YAM coordinator in the summer of 2022 and started working to connect with and plan activities for youth adults at ELPC.
- ◆ FFB worked with Children and Families Ministries and YAYA to continue rebuilding our Church School hour and Club 116 in a “post-COVID” world. Children and youth have returned, engaged with their teachers, and learned more about their faith journey.
- ◆ FFB partnered with Membership and Outreach Committee to offer a Church Extravaganza in September 2022. This was a mix of the *Church Life Sampler* and block party. Several church members, friends, and community members participated in activities on Whitfield Street, outside of the church, and visited numerous church committee tables to learn more about how to get involved. Ice cream, tacos, and fun were had by all!
- ◆ For Advent 2022, FFB developed a printable calendar with daily activities for individuals and families to participate in with the theme of “God Is with Us” during the season of Advent.

As we enter 2023, FFB continues to offer Christian Educational opportunities for individuals and families to engage as a community and to grow in our faith together.

*Staff Members:*

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, The Rev. BJ Woodworth, Sara Hackett, Derail Holcomb



# YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

*David Carl, Chair*

The Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team (YAYA) is grateful for all the staff and volunteers that made possible the programming we offered in 2022. We are excited to again be offering weekly programming like Youth Church School and Club 116 for 1st-12th graders. Retreats to Crestfield and overnights at ELPC were full of laughter, thoughtful programming, and community! Our High School group traveled to Memphis, TN for service and learning in August. Middle Schoolers served for a week in July in the Butler area while staying at Crestfield and enjoying the camp experience. Students and adults participated in *Trinity Youth Conference*.

The YAYA ministry team continues to be in conversation with organizations we partner with around our shared goals of diversity and inclusion.

Our tween group meets monthly for things like bowling, mini golf, and making dinner for Ronald McDonald House. Teens volunteered with groups like Blessing Board, East End Cooperative Ministries, World Vision, Vintage Senior Center, and Global Links. Youth planned and led youth Sunday in May. We had four students join our church as friends and members after completing an 8 month confirmation process. It has been a full year!

The YAYA committee is grateful to be able to offer our youth these experiences and programs to help them grow and form their faith, understanding of self, value of community, sense of giftedness, hope in God's goodness, and joy in knowing that they are beloved. But we are **EVEN MORE GREATFUL** for the youth who share with us, the congregation of ELPC, their time, gifts, and selves. They serve as Youth Elders, Deacons, liturgists, ushers, acolytes, VCS volunteers, and more. Their honesty, hope, and questions are incredible gifts!



## FAITH FORMATION BOARD:

# CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

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*Sara Hackett, Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministries*

Church School for children started back indoors in March, continued through Pentecost, and resumed on Rally Day this fall. Teachers, parents, and students have shown amazing flexibility and persistence over the last few years, and we are excited that 2022 meant weekly classes in our regular classrooms!

Vacation Church School met for a full week in June and 'traveled' around the world to learn about kids who are working for peace in their communities, we studied peacemakers in the Bible, and learned skills to be peacemakers ourselves — in our families, schools, and neighborhood. We are grateful for the MANY amazing teen and adult volunteers that made VCS possible.

The Children and Family Ministry Team continues to support children and families in worship by offering the nursery space for little ones and their families, the Kids' Corner with books and activities to promote engagement in worship, and Extended Session so kids can hear and respond to the Word in age-appropriate ways. We have had to rethink these offerings in new ways in 2022 but our commitment to including kids in our corporate worship remained consistent.



## FAITH FORMATION BOARD:

# YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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*Derail Holcomb, Coordinator for Young Adult Ministry*

The Young Adult Ministry at ELPC seeks to build community with others in our local community and the larger Pittsburgh area. We believe in being a community that offers love and hope to those who may feel afflicted, forgotten about, abandoned, or looking for a fresh start.

Derail started in June of 2022. Since then, we have created spaces for virtual and in-person events like the virtual Happy Hour and Intergenerational Bingo at the senior facility in East Liberty.

Be a part of what God is doing through the lives of others and the ministry of our awesome church.





# LGBTQ MINISTRY

*Wil Forrest, Coordinator*

ELPC's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Ministry seeks to welcome self-identified LGTBQIA+ people of faith and their allies. This Ministry steadily draws a significant number of participants who are members at other churches or have no church home, but come to ELPC due to the acceptance and safety they feel as part of this Ministry. It is a place of connection and sanctuary for many. Our monthly spiritual gatherings drew an average of 14 participants in 2022 with about 15% of the participants this year being new to the ministry.



Some ministry highlights from 2022:

- ◆ Our Advisory Group met periodically to assess ministry goals and programmatic plans prayerfully and intentionally.
- ◆ In 2022 we were blessed with two day-long retreats at the home of Michele and Henk Bossers. In April we focused on “Being Beloved” as The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan led worship for us. In November we turned our focus to “Telling Stories of Faith, Hope, and Love” as group members shared personal accounts from their own lives reflecting this theme.
- ◆ In the summer, we supported ELPC's Justice Committee as they planned ELPC's Pride participation. ELPC marched in parades and shared a booth at People's Pride and at Pittsburgh Pride Revolution with other inclusive PC(USA) congregations.
- ◆ In the fall, we worked with the ELPC Justice Committee and staff to host ELPC's Full Inclusion Sunday including special music and liturgists in worship, a communal lunch, and a community sing with the Renaissance City Choir.
- ◆ We had on-going times of personal sharing and connection during different discussions related to the intersectionality of being LGBTQIA+ and being a person of faith at monthly spiritual gatherings.
- ◆ LGBTQIA+ visibility was fostered by placing the rainbow ribbon bookmark in the pews with an inclusiveness pledge as well as making pronoun information and buttons available in the Narthex. We also wore and sold colorful tie-dyed Ministry t-shirts, presented a video at worship for the annual National Trans Day of Remembrance, etc.
- ◆ We give thanks for a grant was given to fully support the LGBTQ Ministry in the coming year!

I offer my sincerest gratitude to all the many members of our congregation who supported the LGBTQ Ministry this year. I look forward to creatively serving the congregation, our community, and God in this new year and beyond.

# SPIRITUAL LIFE MINISTRIES

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*The Rev. BJ Woodworth*

It has been a full and fruitful year for the Spiritual Life Committee. I thank God for Jeff, Reed, Shirley, and Yamuna who have labored alongside me to make all this happen. They have each written various portions of this report to reflect on some of what we have done over the past year. Here are some of the things we did, reflected upon by the members of our committee.

## *Lenten Retreat*

In March about a dozen ELPC members went away to St. Emma's Monastery in Greensburg, PA to rest, retreat and renew in silence with God, one another, and nature. We continued our own personal journeys with Christ into the desert of the Lenten season. Friday night after prayer we entered silence together until Sunday morning. We prayed, ate our meals in silence, walked in nature, sat with Jesus and the life-size Last Supper sculpture, read, napped, and found our bodies, souls and minds refreshed and renewed. The thing that always amazes me about silent retreat is that despite not talking to one another I always find myself more deeply connected to every other person on the retreat – this experience was no different. There is a way of being with another, beyond words, that is deeply communal and intimate! (BJ Woodworth)

## *Decolonizing Spiritual Practice*

On June 4 from 9am-3pm about 20 of us gathered with Leeann Younger at ELPC for a day to explore how the mindset of colonization has impacted and emaciated our understanding of spirituality and the Divine and how a posture of repentance and humility can open us to seeing the depth and beauty of indigenous spirituality. Leeann led us in silence, conversation, art, movement and ultimately invited us to consider the practices of 1) building a home altar; 2) rest; 3) apprenticing ourselves to a person or community of color; and 4) listening to the earth. It was a sobering and enriching time that we will be building upon this Lent in a 6-week part 2 group called, "A Lenten Journey of embracing the wisdom of our ancestors, bodies, and the earth." (BJ Woodworth)

## *Taizé; Prayerful Song and Quiet Meditation*

Taizé prayer services are a welcome mid-week break, and yet they are so much more. A treat for the senses, a Taizé service really must be experienced to be fully appreciated. Your spirit is warmed by the flame of the candles, your eyes are drawn to the many icons on display, and your ears are blessed by sung prayers led by some very talented musicians. A Taizé service draws on ecumenical styles and worldwide influences, often including prayers of saints (past and present) and South African praise songs. They all work together to nourish your soul and send you on your way refreshed. (Jeff Parsons)

## *Forest Bathing*

On a glorious, warm October day in Frick Park, the trees bursting with color, Sandi Miller led a group of us in *Forest Bathing*. After providing a background on the practice and stressing the benefits of being in nature, Sandi led us through some practices that helped us experience these benefits for ourselves. Each person reaped different benefits, I'm sure. For me, the heart-expanding experience was a result of taking the time, slow time, to be present and still, in full awareness. That's where Sandi's guidance was so important. If I hadn't sat for 10 minutes with a single fallen tree, I would not have wondered what the small maroon fungi on its bark was, or how many creatures had made their homes in its trunk over the years, or when and why it fell, or felt the crumble and smelled the richness of its decay, or marveled at how each era in a tree's life provides for hundreds (thousands?) of other lives. Another practice required that we take a full 10 (15?) minutes to walk from one gathering spot to another gathering spot, each taking our own route. Stopping to watch the slight breeze lift dead leaves off the branches, the rhythm and calm I felt brought surprising joy. (Reed Williams)

## (CONTINUED) SPIRITUAL LIFE MINISTRIES

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### *Revolutionary Love*

Our group read Valarie Kaur's book *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*. Of critical importance, our group was committed to the reading and the work, with Pastor BJ holding safe space for us to discuss difficult topics with respect, sensitivity, humor, and ... yes, love. Kaur's approach reframes for me how social change can also be a personal path, toggling between fierceness and softness, with love as a balance point between them. I use Kaur's tools daily — seeing “others” and even “opponents” as “a part of me I do not yet know” (as profound a shift in perspective as I've used in quite some time) and reframing the goal of listening to those with whom I vehemently disagree as an act of understanding, not empathy. I'm still working on her idea of reimagining, not just resisting, in the pursuit of Justice. There is so much more... and not enough space to write. (Reed Williams)

### *Yoga*

Cathedral Yoga experienced a robust year of participation. Offered in the beautiful sanctuary at ELPC on Wednesdays from 6-7 pm, attendance averaged between 10-20 people throughout the year. Some participants transition to Taizé right after class and have become friends or members of the church as result. In addition, this year Spiritual Life offered 3 Saturday yoga retreats, in January, April and November, to give participants a chance to experience varying practices including meditation, breath awareness, and moments for reflection. One retreat included the spiritual practice of kirtan in the sanctuary, call and response chanting in Sanskrit. (Yamuna Morgenstern)

### *Journey Dance*

Journey Dance continued to offer its loyal following and newcomers a monthly opportunity to dance in community in a judge free zone to release built up anxiety and nurture joy and inner reflection. The healing aspects of corporal movement to music is a natural gift of being human. Journey Dance allows people to dance in the sanctuary or chapel to a curated playlist generally around a specific theme. Themes in 2022 included

Juneteenth, Be the Peace, Lenten Journey, Chant Dance, Blues, Breathing Light, among many others. The class in 2022 was offered from 6:30-7:45 pm, and now in 2023 it will shift back to 7-8:30 pm on the third Friday of every month. (Yamuna Morgenstern)

### *Enneagram Group*

Our Lunchtime Enneagram group has been studying *The Sacred Enneagram: Finding Your Unique Path to Spiritual Growth* this year and is facilitated by Lynn Holden. She helps our inner discovery process by discussing the chapter we read and augments that with very helpful slides which she then sends to us. We also have break out rooms to communicate insights and concerns with one another. (Shirley Fair)



# DIRECTOR OF CHURCH OPERATIONS

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*Wil Forrest*



As the Director of Church Operations (DCO) I sought to help create a welcoming, safe, and efficient environment for all who engage the many services and ministries of ELPC. To this end, I have had the pleasure of serving alongside with and being a servant leader for our dedicated church staff and members of the Property, Finance, and Human Resources Committees.

2022 marked the end of my fourth and final year as the DCO as I transitioned to focus solely on the LGBTQ Ministry moving ahead. Assuming different aspects of the DCO position and starting in 2023, Rochelle Owens came in as the new Director of Facilities and Jim Tinnemeyer came in as the Director of Administration. Also, Sonya Marie Morely joined the youth worker staff. Taneisha Taylor and Maurice Edmonds joined the facilities staff and Donald Parker came in as the Floor Manager supervising the facilities team. Notably, after 43 years and a number of positions at ELPC, Allen Miller retired in August. We are now closer to a full staffing pattern than we have been in a number of years!

Our work remained altered, but still continued as the shifting demands of the pandemic changed our lives and modified the way we use the church building. We welcomed back more partner and outside programs and are inching closer to a full building schedule. Seeking to give the building and the staff a sabbath, we began the practice of closing the church building on Mondays while a number of staff still work remotely those days so that operations do not cease.

As I depart my Operations role, I reflect on this rather challenging 4-year period and I offer my sincerest gratitude to the many members of our staff and congregation who pulled together to keep us moving forward with dedication, integrity, and a sense of humor. I look toward the future with hope for our staff, congregation, and community while we labor diligently together, giving thanks that ultimately God is in control.

# HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

*Lora Bethea and Jen Hykes Willson, Co-Chairs*

The Human Resources Committee is grateful for the dedicated committed staff who shepherd the care of our church. They faithfully kept ELPC operating safely and fully during 2022 throughout all of the adjustments and transitions.

## *Personnel Changes*

HR was tasked by Session to work with Pastors Patrice and Heather to develop a written plan for their new roles as co-pastors. Once the plan was completed, it was submitted to Session for approval.

Allen Miller, our Lead Engineer for 43 years, retired in August 2022. His dedication and commitment to ELPC will always be appreciated and we are grateful for his service to our ELPC family. We wish him blessings and peace in his retirement.

Debbie Banton, Facilities Administrator, resigned in March 2022. She worked tirelessly to build the most efficient facilities' unit and was dedicated to her staff. We are grateful for Debbie's service to our ELPC community and we wish her the best in the future.

The HR Committee realigned the organization of the Facilities and Operations departments. The Director of Church Operations position was dissolved and three new positions were created: Floor Supervisor, whose responsibility it is to manage the custodial and hospitality support staffs; Director of Facilities who supervises the Floor Supervisor and acts as the liaison between the Property Committee and contractors; and Director of Administration, who is responsible for financial administration and

human resource tasks. Since we didn't hire another Stationary Engineer, we decided to give service contracts to the contractors who repair our engineering related equipment. Wil Forrest will transition from the Director of Church Operations role to serve as the part-time LGBTQ Coordinator beginning in 2023, and we thank him for his work in the operations role during this season of change.

## *Budget/ Compensation*

In June the HR Committee began a budget philosophy conversation about how to view budgetary increases and what should be considered in making the most informed decisions. Multiple factors such as our commitment to justice and advocacy for paying equitable wages to all staff were named along with considering budgetary implications.

The HR co-chairs attended the July 2022 Session meeting and presented a motion for an 8% COLA increase for full and part time staff retroactive to January 2022. The motion passed. This was a concrete action that acknowledged support for our staff. As a result, as of January 1, the majority of our staff salaries are now in line with the median wages for Allegheny County.

*Policies/Procedures/Employee Handbook*  
Employee Handbook revisions were updated to clarify salary categories, vacation protocol and weekly work hours.

HR Committee members agreed to attend monthly All-Staff meetings and Program Staff meetings once a month to be more visible to staff and

serve as a resource.

Pastors, Program Staff, HR Committee members and FSR leadership participated in a second diversity, equity, and inclusion training in January 2022.

Our former HR consultant led a behavioral training workshop for those involved in interviewing for new positions, to help search committees to ask more in-depth questions and to ensure equitable and legal hiring processes. This process will be used going forward.

An updated organizational chart was created to reflect the restructured/realigned staff positions and new hires.

A new Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is now available for all full and part time staff. There are many services available including mental health, budgeting, and day care resources. We're thankful to offer this resource to all of our staff.

A new streamlined time and attendance system was implemented. Staff were all trained in how to use the system.

As of December 2022, we are 99% complete with our job description updates/revisions and market analysis of each job position. Going forward job descriptions will be reviewed and signed by both the employee and their direct supervisor. In 2023, we will create a fair, user-friendly evaluation tool.

## *Members:*

Lora Bethea and Jen Hykes Willson (Co-Chairs), Bill Buchanan, Carol Chonoska, Alan McIvor, Nicole Molinaro-Karaczun

# FACING SYSTEMIC RACISM COMMITTEE

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*Michele Bossers and Lenore Williams, Co-Chairs*

In 2022, Facing Systemic Racism Committee members elected to continue providing hybrid presentations examining racism in our lives and communities. However, the committee made an intentional shift by incorporating the goal of exploring racism within the Christian faith. That led to a three-part series on Dr. Martin Luther King's *Letter From a Birmingham Jail*. This winter into spring series, led by ELPC's former Senior Pastor, Dr. Randy Bush, consisted of lecture and discussion. Each event provided an opportunity to consider the similarities between the American Christian Church in King's time with current Christian systems.

Concurrently, the FSR Committee incorporated the Reparations Ministry Team to carry forward the work of the ad hoc Session task force that, in 2021, recommended the removal of the sanctuary's Stonewall Jackson window, which will be removed early in 2023. To concretize this inward-facing repudiation of white supremacy with an outward-facing effort to help dismantle its effects, ELPC Session is establishing an endowed college scholarship fund for Black high school students in Pittsburgh.

In early summer, the Justice and FSR Committees joined the greater Pittsburgh community for the annual *Juneteenth Celebration* and parade. Members of the Justice Committee have coordinated an ELPC response to this community wide event for several years. FSR welcomed the opportunity to serve as co-sponsor with our siblings in Christ. While few congregational members elected to participate in 2022, the event afforded the opportunity to be a faith based public witness to the celebration of the end of slavery in the United States.



The fall provided an opportunity for community engagement when the FSR and Justice Committees collaborated with the League of Women Voters and the Black Political Empowerment Project to offer two voter registration drives, one following worship on Penn and Highland Avenues. Coordinating with The League and BPEP was critical to the success of these events as well as provided a learning opportunity for ELPC committee volunteers. Coordinating our mission and goals with like-minded community groups serves as a reminder that while ELPC may be a beacon in the community, our light is brighter when we enter into relationship with community groups and city wide efforts.



Later in the fall, FSR provided the first in an occasional series led by Dr Brock Bahler of the University of Pittsburgh. The series focus is for the congregation to examine the history of racism not only in government and corporate structures but also within ourselves, the larger church, the denomination and ELPC.

## *Members:*

Michele Bossers and Lenore Williams (Co-Chairs), Sherry Anderson, Michelle Bard, Hollen Barmer, Mary Barr, Gretchen Chapman, Carol Chonoska, Ted Cmarada, Jessica Giannotta, Kathy Glass, Becky Gloniger, Jim Gordon, Beverly Harris-Schenz, Jen Hykes-Willson, The Rev. Cynthia Jackson, Linda Lane, Jeffrey Parsons, Susan Spangler, The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy (staff)

# WORSHIP, MUSIC AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE

*Lynne Chadwick, Chair*

As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, the Worship, Music, and the Arts Committee looked to the gradual return to a more “normal” worship with more in-person gathering.

Highlights of the year included:

- ◆ The creation of a Control Room for A/V equipment to enhance livestream capabilities
- ◆ Guest preachers in 2022 included The Rev. Gavin Walton from Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church, The Rev. Dr. Sheldon Sorge, General Minister to Pittsburgh Presbytery, and The Rev. Shanea Leonard, Associate for Gender & Racial Justice for the Presbyterian Church (USA)
- ◆ Average attendance at all worship services in 2022 was 247 with an average of 62% attending in person
- ◆ The committee discussed two projects which will take shape in 2023:
  - Royalties for use of spirituals in worship
  - The documentation of the 217 stained glass windows at ELPC



# MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

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*Jan Irvin, Chair*

The Membership and Outreach (M&O) Committee assisted Patrice and Randy (through April) to orient and welcome 32 new members and friends in 2022. We enjoyed meeting them and are thankful for the new life they bring to ELPC. Please reach out and connect with them and new visitors who come to ELPC every week. We again thank God and ELPC staff for having kept us all going while transitioning into a time when it's easier to worship and gather together.

Membership and Outreach assisted with the fall Church Life Extravaganza held on Whitfield Street (for its second year). It's great to ban cars and use the street for people along with games, a food truck, and ice cream (of course!). Most importantly it provides an opportunity to connect with each other and with interested visitors to display the varied activities, groups, and ministries of ELPC. In 2022, at least for the 1st half of the year, we were still restricted with indoor gatherings and so after service social hours were few.

M&O is also the base committee for *Happy Wanderers*. Their trips included going to a play in Johnstown, the Tamburitzans', Heinz Chapel featuring Ed Moore playing the organ, the Carnegie Science Center, and the traditional Christmas Dinner at Rocky's. The Connections group gatherings included visiting the Asian Lantern at the Pittsburgh Zoo, Jazz at Highland Park, a Fridays at Frick concert, and the Emmet Till film. If you are interested in forming a Connections group please let us know! Other active groups related to M&O include: LGBTQ, Toymakers, and the Knitting and Sewing Groups.

Advertising, the Reaching Out Newsletter, and website communications are also under the purview of the Membership and Outreach Committee. We thank the many who contribute the RO articles and the effort to create this attractive media outreach. We thank Megan Leisher and Venetia Singletary for all their work, visitor and inquirer contacts, for keeping all the names and numbers decently and in order!

Last year at this time we looked forward to having opportunities to promote a welcoming spirit and welcoming gatherings that could foster friendships in Christ. In many ways we feel we're just getting our sea legs. Yet again, we look forward to 2023 and the Spirit that moves us to fulfill our calling. Many thanks to our M&O Committee members who have participated through the year. Peace to you from M&O!

## *Members:*

Nicholas Genger-Boeldt (Elder representative), Dr. Valire Carr Copeland (Elder representative), Molly Davidson-Welling (Deacon representative), Martha DeMarzi, Andrea DeVries, Jan Lyle Irvin (Elder representative), Elaine Phillips, Janet Pollard, Gwen Puza, Kimberly Schriver, Beth Urbaitis; The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy (staff), and The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush (staff through April)





# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

*Mary Alice Lightle, Chair*

Presbyterian Women in East Liberty Presbyterian Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, are engaged in local, national and international concerns. We are ever-mindful of PW's purpose of strengthening the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnessing to the promise of God's kingdom.

PW monthly bible studies offer an opportunity to nurture our faith and build an inclusive, caring community of women. In May, we concluded our study, *What My Grandmothers Taught Me*, based on the women identified in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus.

In September, we began our nine month study *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*. Ultimately, Sabbath reminds us to honor God who honors us by giving us a day each week to reset our pace, our priorities, and our lives.

Our 2023-2024 bible study is entitled *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*. Luke's message to the early Christian community (and to us) is radical, inclusive, and hope-filled.

We meet on the first Monday evening and first Tuesday morning of the month, September through May. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have been meeting on Zoom. Our Monday evening study continues to meet exclusively on Zoom. In September 2022, we began offering our Tuesday morning study in a hybrid format.

In the last two years, participation in the Monday evening bible study has grown to an average of 12 to 15 women, from 6 or 8 prior to the pandemic. Participation in our Tuesday morning bible study has remained at 14 to 16 women. We continue to welcome women who live outside the area and women who belong to other churches.

For more than 200 years, Presbyterian Women have served the mission of the church worldwide.

- ◆ Our discretionary mission giving addresses hunger, health care, and support of women and children in zip code 15206, Pittsburgh Presbytery, the nation and the world.

- ◆ The PW *Thank Offering* helps fund real solutions in the areas of health, education, economic development and the needs of women and children in the US and around the world. A special thank you to members and friends of the congregation who contributed \$2,300 in 2022 to the PW *Thank Offering*, in addition to our regular giving.

We are continuing to review our mission priorities in light of our Matthew 25 commitments to serve the hungry, the oppressed, those in prison and the poor.

- ◆ We are working to form partnerships with our missions. We look forward to learning about the operations of our partners and establishing personal relationships with their leadership. We intend to support our partners with larger, unrestricted gifts. We hope that other groups in the church will volunteer with our partners. In 2022, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the WPA Diaper Bank, who we have supported for many years.
- ◆ In 2022, we facilitated opportunities for advocacy and learning more about mission.
  - Working with Bread for the World, we sponsored an *Offering of Letters* in support of the "Global Food Security Reauthorization Act of 2022" on World Communion Sunday. Thirty-four members and friends sent letters to their Senators and Congressperson. This bipartisan legislation reauthorizes a successful approach to food security and agricultural development to fight hunger and malnutrition in some of the world's poorest countries.
  - We co-sponsored the two-day World Initiative Conference *Missional Leadership in a Time of Disruption*, in September.

#### *Members:*

Mary Alice Lightle (Moderator), Elaine Phillips (Treasurer), Peta Harrigan Cole (Corresponding Secretary) and at large members Sherry Anderson, The Rev. Diana Harbison, Pat Krimmel and Sung Yoo

# ORGANIST AND MUSIC DIRECTOR

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*Dr. Edward Alan Moore*

The year 2022 brought a return to more regular in-person events after being mostly online the previous two years. The 11 am worship service and all concerts continue to be offered on YouTube and Facebook, where they are archived and are available to watch on demand.

*Journey Praise Team* – We said thank you and goodbye to Journey Music Director Michael Warren in the summer of 2022. Michael and his wife Kayla moved to the Columbus, Ohio area for Kayla to begin medical school at Ohio State. Michael is now Principal at Arrowhead Elementary School in Lewis Center, OH and worship leader at Short North Church in Columbus. We then welcomed Gerald Savage back to ELPC as our new Journey Music Director. Gerald previously served as the musician for our Morning Glory Service and retired last year from Pittsburgh CAPA, where he was chair of the vocal department. Joining Gerald to lead the Journey music are Adrianna Cleveland, Delana Flowers, David Jennings-Smith, Robin Thompson, Jon Nelson, and Jack Phillips.

*Chancel Choir* – The Chancel Choir sings year-round for the 11 am service and the 10 am service in the summer. They rehearse weekly from September through June. In addition to Sunday morning, the choir participates occasionally in Cathedral Concerts, including Christmas in East Liberty. Ethan LaPlaca joined us as organist to accompany the choir several times throughout the year and when Dr. Ed was away.

*Handbell Choir* – The ELPC Ringers rehearse weekly from September through May and ring approximately once a month during the 11 am service. In 2022 they rang for worship on March 20, April 10, May 22, October 2, November 6, and December 18.

*The Brass Roots* – Now in their 9th year as our brass group in residence, The Brass Roots plays for worship 6 times each year plus two concerts. In 2022 they joined us in worship on February 27, April 17, May 15, September 11, November 20, and December 24.

*Guest Musicians* – We welcomed the Rev. Nikki Porter and musicians from Eastminster Presbyterian Church to worship on February 13 for our combined worship service. Mike Tomaro and his combo filled the Sanctuary with jazz on September 25. The Renaissance City Choir and artistic director Dr. Kym Scott joined the Chancel Choir on October 16 for Full Inclusion Sunday. Bagpiper Palmer Shonk once again joined us for Reformation Sunday on October 30. ELPC's own Cody Conley was the featured violinist on several occasions throughout the year, both as soloist and playing with the Chancel Choir.

*Cathedral Concerts* – Live music returned to ELPC in 2022! Chatham Baroque presented Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* on April 3. Organist Jan Kraybill performed on May 15 in collaboration with the Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh. The Brass Roots and conductor James Nova closed out the season on May 29 with *Back in Brass*. The 2022-2023 season opened with Dr. Tony Leach returning to ELPC to lead a choral festival featuring music of living African-American composers. Dr. Ed Moore played an organ concert on December 10 featuring the music of César Franck to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the composer's birth. And, of course, the highlight of the year was...

*Christmas in East Liberty* – December 16. This was our 8th Christmas Concert with The Brass Roots! Since 2014 it has been an absolute joy to collaborate with them on what now is a cherished East Liberty holiday tradition. (There was no in-person concert during the pandemic in 2020, but we were able to share clips from previous concerts that year.) The Brass Roots and Dr. Ed Moore were joined by the Chancel Choir, organist Ethan LaPlaca, narrator Jim Cunningham, conductor Daniel Curtis, and an audience of over 530 people!

I am so thankful for the many volunteer and professional musicians who come together each week for worship, concerts, and other special events. Here is to a joyous, music-filled 2023!

# PROPERTY COMMITTEE

*Thomas Morton, Chair*

During the 2022 calendar year, the Property Committee helped guide the church's response to the ever-changing Covid pandemic and maintain the building and properties. In the paragraphs that follow, some of the Committee's efforts during 2022 will be discussed.

First and foremost, the Property Committee continued to revise the guidelines for our in-person worship and the general, building-use guidelines. Keeping everyone safe was of paramount concern. Part of our focus on safety was evaluating the church's problematic elevator (it would often stop working with people in the cab.). The Property Committee recommended to Session that the elevator be substantially overhauled, and Session voted to do this. In August, Schindler completed work on the elevator, and the building is better for it.

Once Pastor Randy Bush and his family departed from the Manse, the Property Committee had to maintain the Manse. For about five months, the Manse was rented, and since that time the church staff and Property Committee members have maintained it.

Led by Don Breitbarth, the church's Landscaping Team had a productive year. Volunteers worked throughout the spring, summer, and fall to maintain the church property, especially in the rain garden and the adjacent areas. Complementing this, professional companies were brought in for the trimming of trees, shrubs, etc., and to provide advice.

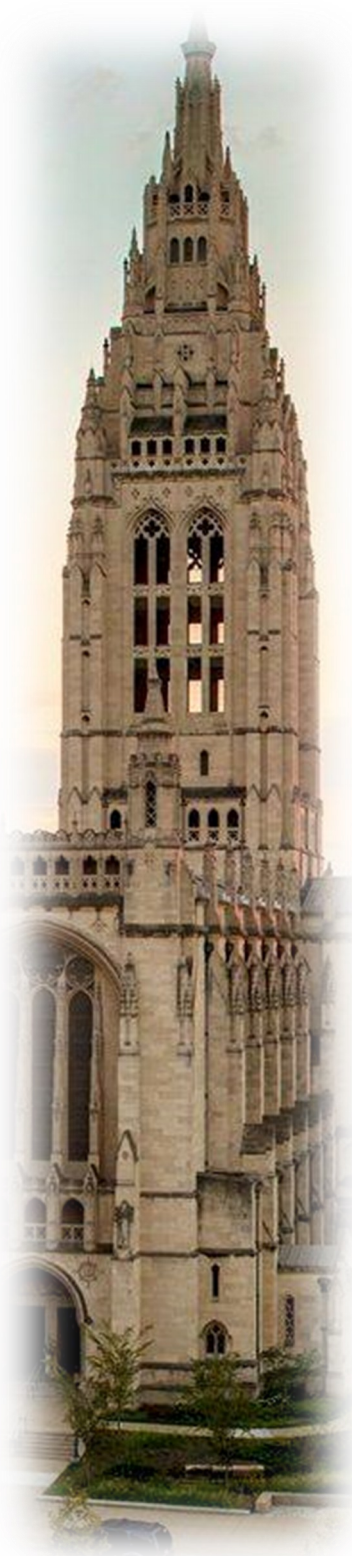
In addition, in 2021, Session voted to remove the Stonewall Jackson panel from the History of Presbyterianism stained-glass window in the east transept, and the Property Committee was tasked with finding bids for work on the window. Multiple bids were secured, and in 2022 Session voted to have Willet Hauser Architectural Glass do the work. After multiple delays, the window is to be removed during the spring of 2023.

In terms of other projects, the Committee also looked intensively at energy consumption; expanding the columbarium; and the renting of the church's spaces. We also replaced carpeting in the Chapel and other locations and completed the AV room. Further, the members of the Property Committee are cognizant of large upcoming projects such as work on the boilers.

Lastly, the Property Committee wishes to thank the many staff members with whom we have worked closely, including Allen Miller (who retired in August), Wil Forrest, Carol Chontos, and Donald Parker. Wil was asked to take on many staff responsibilities and did an admirable job, and Carol and Donald shined with their new responsibilities. The Property Committee's work would be impossible without the church's dedicated staff members.

#### *Members:*

Pam Walaski (through April 2022), Diana Armstrong, Melia Chandler, Don Breitbarth, Dan Ridley, Eric Logan, Matt Stufft (April 2022 onwards), Stephen Simpson-Hunt (April 2022 onwards), Isaac Smith (September 2022 onwards), Thomas Morton (chair)



# STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

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*Tiffany Sudar, Chair*

The Finance Committee oversaw an ELPC expense budget of \$2,602,499 in calendar year 2022.

Our endowment produced a standard draw of 5.6% (3 year rolling average) or \$1,376,376. Gifts from the congregation, the endowment standard draw, and other income resulted in \$2,465,391 in total revenue received.

Overall, in 2022:

- ◆ Congregational giving has decreased again this year with \$809,432 in pledges and plate offerings; a 23% decrease from 2021.
- ◆ We did not have to take an excess draw from the endowment for operating expenses this year!
- ◆ Netflix returned to ELPC in 2022 to film *The Pale Blue Eye*; and a UPMC commercial was also filmed at ELPC, which led to an additional \$40,000 in space use income.
- ◆ Actual expenses were lower than expected by \$154,766. The cost saving was primarily seen in the Personnel (HR) budget because of various open positions and almost all of our committees spending less than anticipated.
- ◆ Our actual revenue was \$136,612 less than expenses but we were able to cover costs with cash on hand and did not have to take an excess draw to cover the operations budget.
- ◆ An excess draw of \$200,000 was taken from the endowment to cover off-budget liabilities: new boiler, replacement carpet, elevator replacement, and stained glass window replacement.
- ◆ The 'other income' category returned to the historical average since we did not qualify for Paycheck Protection Program funds this year. We did qualify in 2020 for approximately \$350K which has since been forgiven and we will not need to pay back.



*Photo by Dustin McGrew*

# HOPE ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND THE ARTS

*Linda Addlespurger, Director*

In 1999, ELPC founded Hope Academy as both a mission and a ministry, with the vision of being a beacon of hope for families who may not have the means to provide their children with access to quality dance, theater, and music training. Since then, Hope Academy has remained steadfast in its commitment to creating a diverse and inclusive artistic community that fosters the personal and artistic growth of students and teaching artists alike.

As a result of our sequential and progressive program, children and youth develop skills in working together towards a common artistic goal, while building a sense of community and acceptance among peers from all walks of life. Our program not only provides deep arts instruction, but also instills in our students a concern for social justice and peacemaking, and a capacity to use their voices to speak out against oppression.

## *2022 Program*

Hope Academy, the largest outreach program of the church, served more than 200 unique students, ranging from ages 3 to 18. This represents half of our pre-pandemic enrollment, as we intentionally chose to create safer and less crowded spaces for our young people to dance, act, sing and play music. Despite serving fewer students, the percentage of scholarship students increased from 50% pre-pandemic to over 80% in the fall of 2022. Scholarships for students from low-income families and/or those who are of Black, African American, or Indigenous

descent, cover tuition costs as well as instruments, dance clothing and shoes, extra coaching for auditions, summer lessons and Suzuki Summer Camp.

Staffing for 2022 consisted of: 1 full-time program director, 1 part-time program assistant, 4 dance and theater teaching artists, 3 accompanists, 12 music program teaching artists, and 5 young adult mentors.

## *Dance and Theater*

Dance and Theater offerings for 2022 included 8 weekly Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre dance classes, 5 levels of tap, 4 levels of Jazz and 2 levels of acting. Many of our students study across the various artistic disciplines and we structure our program to make it possible for them to take dance, theater and private instrument lessons, if that is their preference.

## *Music*

Music offerings for 2022 included a Suzuki strings program for violin, viola, cello and guitar (private lessons and group classes); as well as private voice lessons for theater students.



New for 2022: Hip Hop Orchestra (HHO), in partnership with Guardians of Sound, for young people (12-18 years old) and Hip

Hop Vocal Ensemble for 9 to 12 year olds.

## *Partnerships*

We are grateful for the support of these outstanding organizations and look forward to continuing our partnerships as we work towards our shared goal of making arts education accessible to all: Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre (PBT), Balafon West African Dance Ensemble, Chamber Music Pittsburgh, Guardians of Sound / Hip Hop Orchestra, and Greater Pittsburgh Suzuki Institute.

## *Performance and Event Highlights*

- *Pittsburgh Public Theater's 28th Annual Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest*—More than 400 area students from 60+ schools competed in the Shakespeare Contest. Hope Academy student, Adjoa Opoku-Dakwa, was awarded first place for her Calpurnia monologue from *Julius Caesar*. Five other students received honorable mentions representing the top 10% of all competitors.
- *"Inspired By" Theater Cabaret at East Liberty Presbyterian Church*—Hope Academy's acting and songwriting classes presented a cabaret of monologues, stories, songs, and poems written by the students and inspired by art.
- *Chamber Music Pittsburgh Gala at The Red Space*—A celebration of Chamber Music Pittsburgh's 40th anniversary and a fundraiser to benefit Hope Academy. Hip Hop Orchestra, along with other Hope Academy students, performed during the event featuring The Dover Quartet.

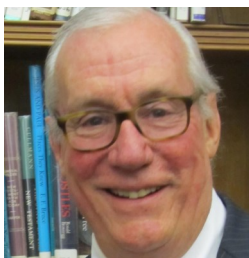
# PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC)

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## **DOUG BOOTH**

My wife, Susan, and I began regularly attending ELPC's Taizé services in 2009. A few years later we moved our memberships to ELPC from South Side Presbyterian Church, where we had both served as deacons and elders for many years. We continue to attend Taizé services and usually manage to rise early enough to take part in Sunday morning's Journey worship. I have enjoyed helping to serve in worship and at a few of the congregation's special events and hope to continue that involvement in the future.



## **BILL BUCHANAN**

Bill joined ELPC in 2016. He has served on Food 4 Thought, Human Resources Committee, and on Session. Bill also served on the Pastor Nominating Committee and chaired an Interim Pastor Nominating committee in the First Presbyterian Church in Wichita, KS.



## **DAVID CARL**

I first came to ELPC in September 2014. Many know how I have been led here (if you're curious, ask me and we can laugh and talk about that). I first served as an Usher and Greeter. I still do in the pews. I currently serve as an Elder and chair of the Youth And Young Adult (YAYA) Committee. I have served on the Stewardship Committee and Faith Formation Board. I look forward to them and an upcoming (FFB) meeting. I am grateful God led me here and am grateful for you. One message though: come and find a service you may be led to as well. There is much to be thankful for and still needs done. So, let us roll up our sleeves together, ELPC. Please volunteer...and know, *God Is Good—ALL THE TIME, GOD IS GOOD!*



## **ANDREA DEVRIES**

Andrea DeVries has been a member of ELPC since 1999. Over the years she has served on the Finance Committee, as Co-chair of Membership and Outreach, as a member of Session, and most recently on the Nominating Committee. She lives in Highland Park with her husband and youngest daughter, with an additional two kids currently in college. In her professional life, she leads a team of researchers and data scientists focused on public health research. Andrea is excited to be part of this next chapter in our congregation.



## **JAMES ENG**

James Eng has been a member of ELPC since 1988. He has served as an Elder for two terms, he has been a former member of the Chancel Choir, and served on the Mission Board and the Neighbors Committee. Currently he is a Sunday School teacher for the middle school and high school students. In addition, Jim and his wife, Heather, have served meals for Club 116 and he currently serves breakfast one Sunday a month to the residents of EECM on behalf of the Church. Jim is a licensed physical therapist and full-time faculty at Slippery Rock University. He and Heather love worshipping at ELPC and have made many friends in the church community. Jim is prayerfully daunted and honored to serve on the PNC.

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## (CONTINUED) PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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### **DR. LINDA S. LANE**

Dr. Linda S. Lane began attending East Liberty Presbyterian Church the Sunday after Easter in 2019. She and her husband joined the church in the fall of 2019. As a member, she has devoted time to Presbyterian Women, and the Facing Systemic Racism Committee. She served on the Health and Wellness Committee. She is a regular participant in the Soul Food Church School Class. Dr. Lane and her husband live in Highland Park.



### **REBECCA MCGREGOR**

Rebecca McGregor has been a member of ELPC for about a year and has attended the church since the fall of 2020 when she moved to Pittsburgh. She is a member of the Soul Food church school class and the Young Adult Ministry. Rebecca also chaired the YAM Coordinator Search Committee in 2022. Rebecca is getting a PhD at Pitt in Developmental Psychology and she researches parent-child interactions in early childhood. She is the daughter of a Presbyterian pastor and a Director of Christian Education and was ordained as a Ruling Elder at her past church in Charlottesville, VA.



### **POLLY MCQUEEN**

I joined ELPC several years ago after attending with my husband, Erich Stein, for a few years as friends of the church. Since joining, I have participated in worship as a greeter and a Beadle. Erich and I also sang in the expanded choir for the ELPC performance of the Fauré *Requiem*. Since April 2020, I have been part of the Zoom Tuesday morning prayer group. Other than these activities, I have simply been a regular attendee at the 11 am worship service.



### **ANTWONE WRIGHT**

Antwone Wright is a 'Burgh native who grew up around East Liberty as a kid, and he has been attending ELPC for seven years. From the beginning he made his impact on the church through volunteer work and used to joke before becoming a member that he was a “friends with benefits”. He made it official by becoming a member a year into attending. The church has been part of big events in Antwone’s life, including being baptized under his new name post-transition and getting married. He and his wife had the honor of having the first event held at the church after the beginning of the pandemic when they were married in 2020. He has been a steady face at LGBTQ events including representing the church at the pride parade and spreading God’s love to others at the booth. Some other groups impacted by Antwone’s presence are the YAMS and Club 116. Antwone served a term as a deacon, which he would reference as being helpful in learning about the inner workings of the church and behind-the-scene activities that keep everything moving. He has assisted with events and spoken during services. Antwone resides with his wife and children. They are foster parents to teenagers. Antwone enjoys cosplay with his family, board games, and browsing thrift and antique stores. He is looking forward to helping choose a new pastor for the church he loves and the people he considers like family .

# BUDGET SUMMARY

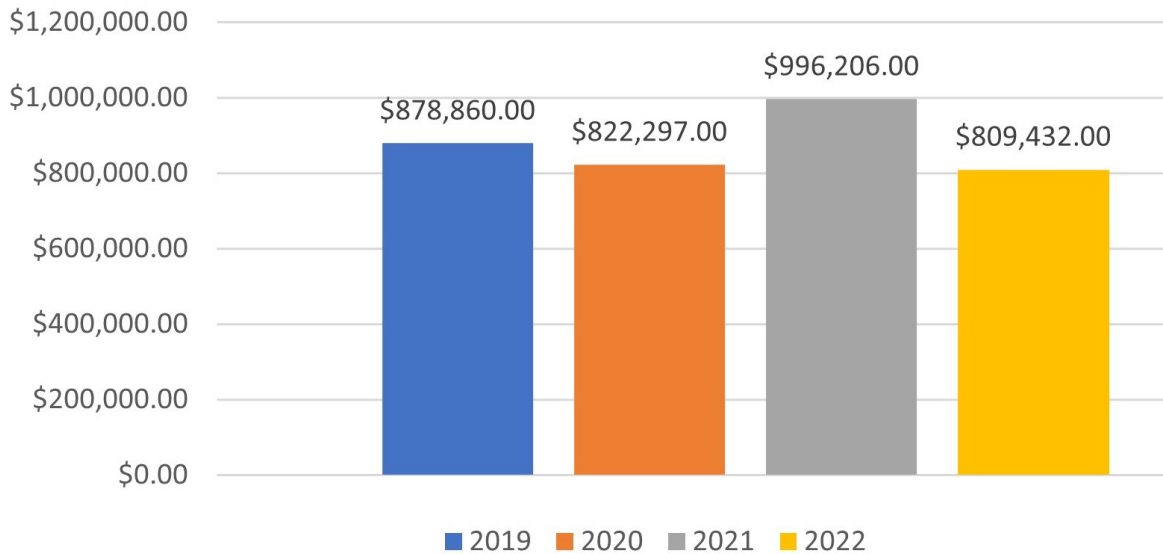
Accounts	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Actual
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Pledges and Offerings	878,860	822,296	996,206	888,000	809,432
Grants, Bequests, Memorials	2,820	45,709	30,349	5,000	117,196
Other Income	30,795	398,097	57,948	45,000	123,087
Standard Endowment Draw 5.6%	1,388,371	1,383,087	1,334,224	1,376,000	1,376,376
Trust Income	41,261	32,069	39,747	40,000	39,300
Excess Draw / Cash Flow	322,024	0	15,878	396,440	0
<b>Total REVENUE</b>	<b>2,664,131</b>	<b>2,681,259</b>	<b>2,474,352</b>	<b>2,757,265</b>	<b>2,465,391</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Administration	161,698	179,016	193,559	199,250	169,956
Adult Education	954	665	633	2,500	848
Children & Family Ministries	9,805	4,095	5,527	9,415	9,104
Deacons	4,151	6,769	2,262	5,855	4,725
Education & Spirit Form Board	2,588	4,537	2,509	2,804	2,828
Facilities	421,934	352,401	405,242	395,650	410,702
Fellowship	8,615	3,704	5,055	8,100	7,055
Membership & Outreach	55,054	47,599	40,830	53,000	49,385
Mission	84,610	81,363	93,885	104,107	97,111
Mission Ministry	10,278	6,706	1,469	10,500	9,464
Opportunities	14,323	7,283	8,710	11,500	10,582
Personnel	1,741,135	1,657,735	1,571,602	1,806,852	1,672,220
Session	65,673	62,479	81,754	64,332	63,951
Spiritual Life	6,340	3,889	4,454	5,800	5,887
Stewardship	3,698	2,098	1,473	4,000	1,322
Taizé	3,627	2,836	4,275	4,600	2,385
Worship, Music & Arts	38,438	29,810	30,174	39,200	33,899
Youth & Young Adult Ministry	31,210	14,761	20,939	29,800	22,860
<b>Total EXPENSES</b>	<b>2,664,131</b>	<b>2,467,746</b>	<b>2,474,352</b>	<b>2,757,265</b>	<b>2,602,003</b>



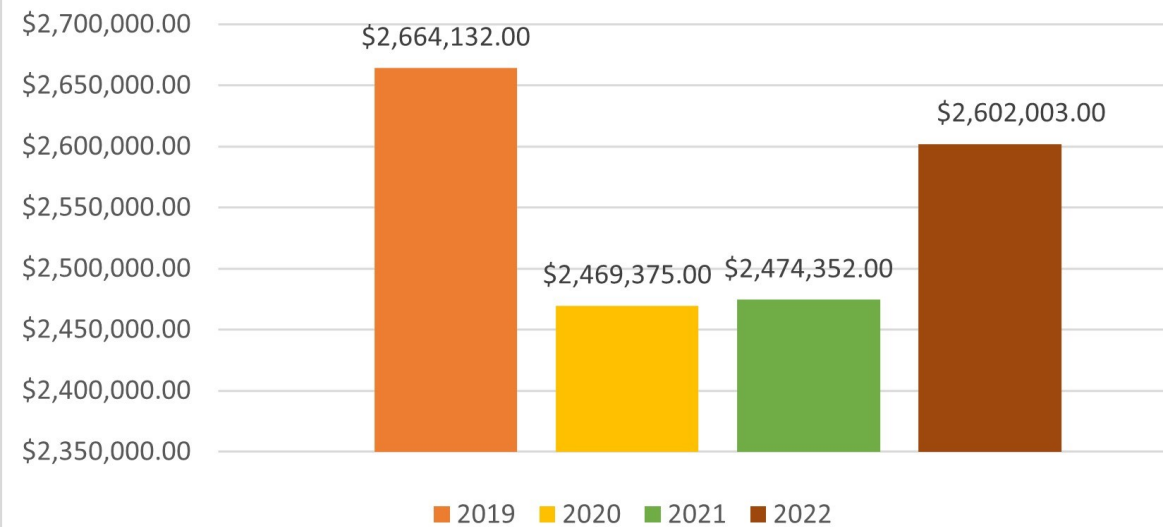
# PLEDGES, OFFERINGS AND EXPENDITURES AND CAPITAL PROJECTS/ENDOWMENT VALUE

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### Pledges and Offerings (Actual) 2019-2022



### Annual Expenditures (Actual) 2019-2022



## CAPITAL PROJECTS AND ENDOWMENT INFORMATION

2022 Capital Projects: Budget — \$143,450.00; Actual — \$116,206.23

Endowment End of Year Value — \$22,256,782

# 2022 MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS AND COMPOSITION

Active Membership (as of 12.31.21) .....776

*Gains for 2022:*

Profession of Faith, Reaffirmation, Restoration ..... 13  
 Friends ..... 9  
 Certificate of Transfer ..... 10  
**Total Gains ..... 32**

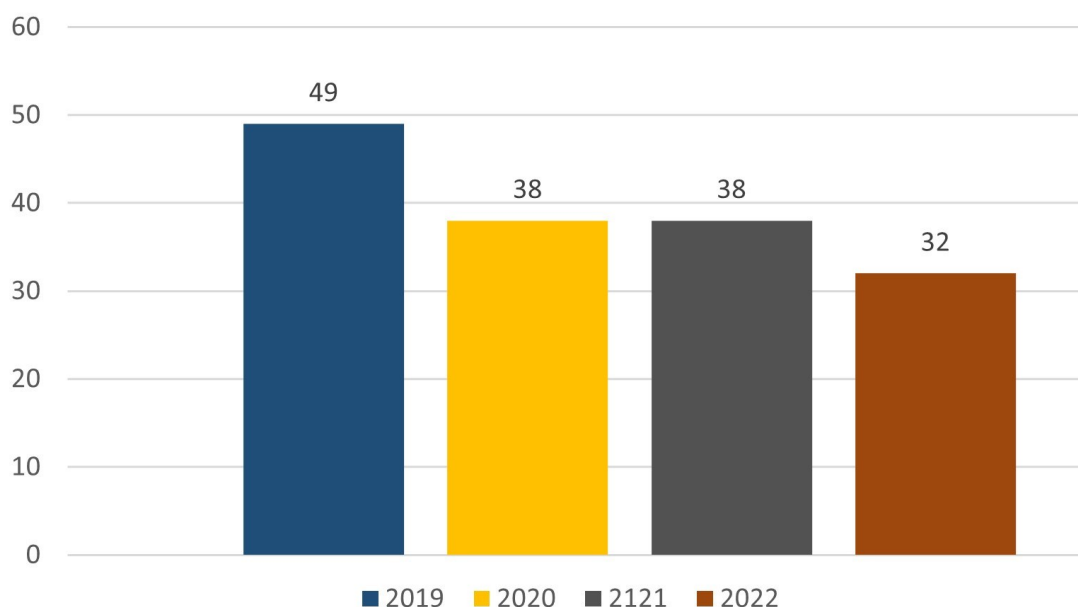
*Losses for 2022:*

Certificate of Transfer ..... 3  
 Deaths ..... 11  
 Removed by Session (*joined another church, termination requested, no contact info*) ..... 21  
 Moved to Friend ..... 13  
**Total Losses ..... 48**

**TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP ..... 760**

## NEW MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND AFFILIATES

**New Members, Friends and Affiliates  
2019-2022**



# 2022 MEETING MINUTES

## OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL AND CORPORATION MEETING

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*Sunday, February 27, 2022 • In-person (Social Hall) and Zoom meeting*

East Liberty Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh

**Gathering:** At 12:45 pm, Pastor Randy opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Recognition of a Quorum:** Session Clerk M. Bard recognized the presence of a quorum.

**Minutes:** Diana Armstrong moved to approve the minutes from 2020's Congregational and Corporation Meeting; Barbara DeWitt seconded the motion, which passed.

**Recognition of Persons Who Have Retired, Resigned, or Passed Away:** Pastor Randy named and gave thanks for those in ELPC's family of faith who have died this year. He also acknowledged and thanked retiring church officers.

**Report of the Nominating Committee:** On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Tim Englehardt introduced nominees for the office of Deacon, the office of Elder, Congregational Trustees of the Centennial Fund, and the Nominating Committee. Sherry Anderson moved to approve the slate of candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee; Bob Forloines seconded the motion, which passed.

**Summary of Committee Reports:** Pastor Randy commended committee reports, as included in the Annual Report, to members' thoughtful reading. He thanked ELPC's staff for remaining committed to finding fresh ways to do the work of Christ through the church.

**2021 Membership Statistics and Composition:** Pastor Randy called members' attention to the membership statistics listed in the Annual Report, noting the difficulty and complexity of recording membership statistics during the pandemic. New members and friends have continued to join the church this year.

**2022 Budget:** Pastor Randy offered an overview of the 2022 budget, noting that congregational giving remained strong last year without government assistance. This year's budget will reflect increases in human resources and program costs as the church's programming becomes more robust. Tiffany Sudar noted that this year's excess draw from the Centennial Fund is consistent with pre-Covid years.

**Update from the Stonewall Jackson Window Task Force:** M. Bard reported that Session has voted to remove and replace the Stonewall Jackson window; undertake a substantive, meaningful external reparations initiative in association with that internal work; and create a ministry team under the auspices of the Facing Systemic Racism Committee to study the topic of reparations. Congregation members are invited to contact Michelle Bard if interested in joining that study group.

**Report of the Human Resources Committee:** Mark DeWitt reported on the work of the Human Resources (HR) Committee, which cares for approximately 50 church employees. He thanked members of the HR Committee, Debbie Banton, and Wil Forrest for their collaboration. HR consultant Columbus Brooks evaluated HR policies and procedures and made recommendations to increase consistency and equity in church policies and procedures. In response to Mr. Brooks's recommendation, ELPC has retained HR consultant Tina Lynch to help continue this process. Tom Morton moved to approve the terms of call for The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, and The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy; Matt Stufft seconded, and the motion passed.

**Motion to Receive the 2021 Reports:** Matt Stufft moved to accept the 2021 reports; Carol Chonoska seconded, and the motion passed.

*With the leadership of Corporation President Lenore Williams, Sherry Anderson moved to recess the congregational meeting to meet as The Corporation, East Liberty Presbyterian Church; Tom Morton seconded, and the motion passed.*

**Centennial Fund:** Centennial Fund Chair Mark DeWitt announced that the return on the endowment this year was over 15% and noted that Gallagher, the church’s investment manager, offers excellent guidance at a fair price. The Centennial Fund managers are actively seeking to decrease the investment portfolio’s carbon footprint and to increase faithful community investment. In response to a member’s question, Mark remarked that the Centennial Fund is both historic and dynamic.

**Motion to Adjourn the Corporation and Congregational Meetings:** Matt Stufft moved to adjourn the corporation and congregational meetings; Sherry Anderson seconded, and the motion passed.

**Closing Prayer:** At 2 pm, Pastor Randy closed the meeting with prayer.

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The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush, Moderator

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Michelle Augustine Bard, Clerk of Session

## **Special Congregational Meeting**

East Liberty Presbyterian Church (sanctuary)

Sunday, January 29, 2023

**Moderator:** The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

**Staff Present:** The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, The Rev. BJ Woodworth

**Visitors Present:** None

**Gathering:** At 12:14 p.m. Pastor Heather opened the meeting with prayer. ELPC Clerk Carla Depperman reported that a quorum was present.

**Purpose/s of the meeting:** To receive and vote on the slate of nominees for the Senior Pastor Search Committee

### **Actions:**

Pastor Heather thanked all who came to participate in this meeting. She reviewed the fact that the Interim Pastor Search Committee was unsuccessful in identifying a candidate for interim pastor. Thus the Session chose to move forward with our co-pastors Patrice and Heather and Covenant Pastor BJ as transition team while choosing a Senior Pastor Search Committee to seek ELPC's next senior pastor.

Pastor Heather introduced Damon Bethea (member) and Jill Millard (co-chair) of the ELPC Nominating Committee. Damon described the process of identification of the nominees for Senior Pastor Search Committee and the process that they will then follow in the search. *Jill Millard introduced the names of the 9 candidates: Doug Booth, Bill Buchanan, David Carl, Andrea DeVries, James Eng, Linda Lane, Rebecca McGregor, Polly McQueen, and Antwone Wright, and made a motion that they be elected.*

Pastor Heather inquired whether there were nominations from the floor, and there were none. No second of the motion was needed since the motion came from a committee. *The motion was approved unanimously.*

Pastor Heather expressed appreciation for the diligent work of the Nominating Committee and in support of the newly elected Search Committee. The congregation responded with resounding applause.

Pastor BJ closed the meeting with prayer during which many members laid hands on those just elected.

Member Fran Wilson moved that the meeting be adjourned. (seconded by Mary Alice Lightle, passed unanimously.) The meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

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Rev. Heather Schonewolf, Co-pastor Rev, Patrice Fowler-Searcy, Co-pastor

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Carla D. Depperman, ELPC Clerk of Session

## **Special Congregational Meeting**

East Liberty Presbyterian Church

Sunday, May 22, 2022 in the ELPC Sanctuary

**Staff Present:** The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy and The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

**Visitors Present:** Pittsburgh Presbytery Clerk Carla Campbell and The Rev. Ralph Lowe

**Gathering:** At 12:10 p.m., Presbytery Clerk Carla Campbell opened the meeting with prayer. ELPC Clerk Carla Depperman reported that a quorum was present.

**Purposes of the meeting:** To dissolve the pastoral call of The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush. Secondly, to appoint temporary interim pastor/s until which time an interim pastor takes charge.

**Actions:** A motion to dissolve the pastoral call of The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush effective 5/31/2022 was made by Carla Campbell. Carol Chonoska seconded the motion which was subsequently passed.

A motion was made by Lora Bethea on behalf of the Human Resources Committee to appoint Pastors Patrice Fowler-Searcy and Heather Shoенewolf as temporary interim co-pastors for period of 5/16/2022 – 5/31/2022 with an increase in salary to each in the amount of \$1,848 with additional payment for each of \$684 to Board of Pensions. No second was needed, and motion was passed.

A motion was made by Lora Bethea in behalf of the Human Resources Committee to appoint Pastors Patrice Fowler-Searcy and Heather Shoенewolf to serve as temporary interim pastors for period of 6/01/2022 until which time an interim pastor takes charge. This includes an increase in salary per pay to each in the amount of \$1,848 with additional payment for each of \$684 to Board of Pensions. No second was needed, and motion was passed.

The two pastors returned and were greeted with resounding applause.

Pastor Schoenewolf closed the meeting with prayer at 12:25 p.m.

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Carla Campbell, Pittsburgh Presbytery Clerk

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Carla D. Depperman, ELPC Clerk of Session