

ANNUAL 2023 REPORT

Reaching Up.
Reaching Out.
Reaching You.



East Liberty
Presbyterian Church

www.ELPC.church



*Sunday, February 25, 2024
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 2023 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL & CORPORATION MEETING (page 40)

RECOGNITION OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

Anthony Brown, Denise Bupp, Willa Dixon, Ruth Henderson, Rev. Hydie Houston, Ida Joiner, Morris Jordan, Larry Sweeney, Jeff Walaski

RECOGNITION OF OFFICERS WHO RETIRED OR RESIGNED:

Retiring Elders: Nicholas Genger-Boeldt, Tiffany Sudar

Retiring Deacons: Peta Harrigan Cole, David Cowan

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 Nominating Committee for Class of 2024:

Damon Bethea, Michelle Bossers, Andrea DeVries, Jessica Giannotta, Bill Johnson, Josh Mattila, Jill Millard (Session Rep), Drew Simpson (Deacon Rep)

Presentation of nominees for the office of Deacon (Class of 2027):

Karen Beasley (2nd term), Amy Bialek (1st term), Gretchen Chapman (1st term), Molly Davidson- Welling (2nd term), Drew Simpson (2nd term), Susan Wadsworth-Booth (2nd term)

Presentation of nominee for office of Youth Deacon (Class of 2025- serves one year):

Eleanor Willson

Presentation of nominees for the office of Elder (Class of 2027):

Trish Buben (1st term), Dee Flaherty (1st term), Robert Forloines (2nd term), Barbara Griffin (1st term), Bryan Lawrence (1st term), Jill Millard (2nd term), Jason Van Ness (1st term)

Presentation of nominees for Congregational Trustee of Centennial Fund (Class of 2027):

No vacancies

Presentation of congregational nominee for the Nominating Committee (Class of 2025):

Sara Torretti

MOTION TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE SLATE OF NOMINEES

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

2023 MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS AND COMPOSITION (page 39)

BUDGET SUMMARY (page 37)

MOTION TO RECEIVE THE 2023 REPORTS

REPORT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Approval of the 2024 Terms of Call for The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy:

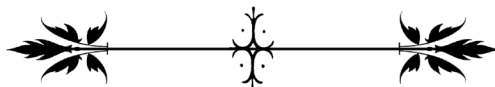
Pastor – Effective Salary	\$128,542.00
(Salary.....)	\$88,542.00)
(Housing.....)	\$40,000.00)
Pastor-Medical Reimbursement.....	\$ 2,571.00
Pastor-Professional Expense.....	\$ 2,000.00
Pastor-Study Leave	\$ 2,000.00
Pastor-Pension/Insurance (Board of Pensions).....	\$50,131.00
Pastor-SECA (Self Employment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

Approval of the 2024 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 Rev. Heather Schoenewolf and Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy.

RECESS TO MEET AS THE CORPORATION



MEETING AS THE CORPORATION, EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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 12/31/2023 was \$24.6 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. The Centennial Fund Trustees are currently considering an extension of that loan.

Adding this loan to the Gallagher-managed portfolio, the Fund stood at \$24.8 million on 12/31/2023, an increase from the prior year end value of \$22.5 million. This increase was due to public markets being up over the past year, but growth of the portfolio was hampered by excess draws from the Fund to support Church operations. Funds under management grew more than 17% over the year before the excess draw by the Church, but the excess draw brought overall portfolio growth to a more modest 10% in that time. Still, that growth compares favorably to the prior year, when the managed portion of the Fund had an overall return of -16.75% for 2022. The cumulative annual returns for the managed portion of the Fund for the last three and five years have been 4.14% and 9.55%, respectively. The Centennial Fund's managed portfolio has roughly equaled the benchmark average performance of similarly managed endowments over the one, three and five-year periods.

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

— Bob Starzynski

Centennial Fund Trustees: Roberta London, Steve Massey, Kathy Callahan, Doris Dick, Gene Harris, Bob Starzynski (Chair), Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy (staff), Rev. Heather Schoenewolf (staff), Jim Tinnemeyer (staff)

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Reflecting on 2023, I remember the first time I walked through the doors of ELPC in November 1995. That was six months before I began serving as the Director of the Family Enrichment Ministry. I was told that ELPC is the *Cathedral of Hope*, a sanctuary for members and the community, where all of God's people are accepted, welcomed, and loved, and social justice is practiced and espoused. ELPC was then and continues to be a beacon of hope.

Hope was evident in 2023 as a weekly average of 300 hundred members and friends returned to worship as the Body of Christ, as worries about contracting COVID abated. Hope was evident every time the children gathered on the chancel steps for the Children's message and during the week as children eagerly ran into the church to attend a Hope Academy class or Club 116.

Hope was evident at The Chapel Market when someone came in to shop on a frigid day and left warmly encased in a coat or located just the right clothing item they needed for their child. Hope was evident as our members served meals at EECM and the Northside Common Ministries shelters. We experienced hope and joy on Stewardship Sunday as the children and members brought forward food donations to feed our food-insecure neighbors.

Hope and anticipation were evident as the Deacons gathered to sort and prepare Christmas gifts for children participating in ELPC's ministry programs, Casa San Jose, and the East Liberty Family Center. Hope was tangible every time we were able to help a community or church member restore or eliminate the threat of a disconnected utility or housing displacement. Hope is evident when we sign letters encouraging our government leaders to pass legislation to decrease access to guns or environmental hazards, to increase access to food, housing, and voting rights and to eliminate cash bail.

Hope and delight were evident every time we received new members and friends, gathered after worship for a time of fellowship, or a connection group broke bread or attended an event together. And hope is apparent every time the Pastor Nominating Committee updates us on their progress.

Personally, I experienced hope in 2023 every time I had the opportunity to sit with someone who came into the church seeking prayer, was in distress and needed a listening ear, or was confused and needed direction. I was honored to encourage, mourn with, and comfort families as they commended their loved ones into God's care.

It has been an absolute joy (and sometimes a challenge) to serve ELPC as acting co-pastor alongside Pastors Heather and BJ, and to serve with some of the most dedicated people I know – Jim Tinnemeyer, Gerald McClendon, Rachele Calfee, our program, administrative, and facilities staff people.

I am thankful for the opportunities in 2023 to serve as Co-Moderator of Session, Associate Pastor for Mission, and staff support to the Board of Deacons, Mission Board, Facing Systemic Racism, Justice, Neighbors, Peace, Membership and Outreach, Human Resources, Property, and Finance Committees.

I am still thankful for the opportunity to serve our community as I continue to sit on the East Liberty Development, Inc., and the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary boards of directors. I have



The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
*Acting Co-Pastor
and Pastor for Mission Ministries*

been privileged to serve for six years on the Pittsburgh Presbytery's Commission on Preparation for Ministry, supporting people as they discern their call to ministry.

Lastly, I am grateful, humbled, and hopeful every time God grants me the responsibility and opportunity to stand before you to preach the Word of God.

The prophet Jeremiah writes, "I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (*Jeremiah 29:11*)

Even though we are still in transition and experiencing all the expected and unanticipated discoveries, bumps, and revelations that come whenever there is change, God is faithful.

As we lean into the year before us, I suspect we will learn even more about who we have been, who we are, and who God is calling us to be as a worshipping and faith community in this season and beyond.

Even though there will be challenges and bumps, there will also be much joy, laughter, sharing and gathering, and lots of worship along the way.

God's plan for ELPC is to give us a future with hope! And we shall continue to be the *Cathedral of Hope* for so many and in so many ways. Blessings, peace, and love, ELPC!

— *The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy*



2023 was the year in which we as a congregation fully stepped into the transition of the Interim Season. Although Pastor Randy left ELPC in May of 2022, it was not until December of 2022 that the interim search did not yield a candidate for Interim Pastor and Session acted to name Pastor Patrice and me as Co-Pastors/Acting Heads of Staff for the duration of the Interim Season, with Pastor BJ asked to shepherd the specific transitional elements. Together – as a pastoral team, as a staff, as a Session and as a congregation – we have been learning the art and challenges of transitional ministry.

As such, 2023 has been an illuminating year in which we have together sought to learn and prayerfully engage the elements of our life together that, in many ways, we all have taken for granted. Some areas of focus have included:

- ◆ *Finances* — An in-depth, multi-leveled analysis of ELPC expenses, revenue streams and accounting practices has taken place. I give thanks to and for Director of Administration & Facilities, Rev. Jim Tinnemeyer, and Bookkeeper, Rachelle Calfee, along with Finance Chair Tiffany Sudar, who shepherded these detailed efforts. Together we have moved toward a more cohesive and transparent reporting of all finances so that nothing fell outside of the view of the Session or staff.
- ◆ *Human Resources* — We have continued to see tremendous staffing shifts throughout 2023. At the end of the year we were operating with eight fewer full-time staff and three fewer part-time staff than when 2023 began. With each of the staffing shifts, job descriptions of current staff have been adjusted to incorporate the responsibilities of those who have left. We have worked to do more with less to best steward our resources and discern the best shape of our staff as we enter this new season of ministry.
- ◆ *Transition* — 2023 has been a year in which ELPC has taken major strides in the transitional process, so that we would be ready to call our next pastor.
 - In 2023 ELPC called a Pastor Nominating Committee, completed the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT scan), and completed and posted ELPC's Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP).
 - The Session has been engaged in the difficult work of strengthening our work together – drafting together of a *Covenant of Presence* to guide the tone of our labor, engaging in trainings on *Roberts Rules of Order*, collaborating to understand and better steward operating budget, getting to know one another so that we can build trust and labor together for God's kingdom.
 - Leadership has offered informational sessions throughout the year entitled *ELPC Matters: The More You Know*. The series has allowed congregation members to learn about and ask questions about topics such as the pastors' terms of call, the 2022 Budget, and the information received from the CAT scan.

This season of shared ministry has been a reminder that working together is, in some ways, more difficult than doing things alone. It requires a high level of communication, and an even higher level of trust. It requires the engagement in a process of shared discernment, where ideas, hopes, reactions and plans are mediated through the insights and prayers shared with one's ministry partners. It requires a humble awareness of one's own particular strengths as well as one's



The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
*Acting Co-Pastor
and Pastor for Educational Ministries*

weaknesses, as those with whom we serve hold a mirror up to us at all times, and we do so for them, reflecting back both our hidden talents and concealed flaws. It's not easy, but it's holy, important work. Together we can best discern and enact the ministry to which Christ has called us. Together we can serve faithfully – smoothing over one another's rough edges, refining one another's ideas, building upon one another's plans. Together we can best incarnate Christ's love – for the love of God in Christ calls us continually into relationship with one another and with God. 2023 has been rich with the sacred reminder that the call to serve and worship Christ is not simply about a personal particular call but extends into an invitation to labor together, taking our place as a member of the Body of Christ.

I give thanks for the Body of Christ that worships and serves at ELPC – for the gifts assembled among us and our call to minister together. My thanks extends to/for my pastoral colleagues, our program staff, and entire support staff – and my gratitude extends to/for our entire church family: for Elders, Deacons, Committee chairs and committee members. I give thanks for choir members and Sunday School teachers and those who faithfully prepare meals for guests at EECM's shelter or for Open Hand Ministry's weekly meal. I give thanks for the beautiful babies who were baptized in 2023 and for the youth who are half-way through their Confirmation Class. I give thanks for those with whom I disagree and for those who cheer me on. I give thanks for the Triune God who has called us together.

My prayer is that we will faithfully live into our call and identity as the Body of Christ – that we will continue our call to communicate, build trust, discern, listen, confess, celebrate, and make decisions with intention throughout this season of transition; that we will be lean on our long history and be open to new insights; that we will be kind and be courageous, grateful for what has been ELPC and grateful for the God who calls us forward into a new season of ministry...all with the guidance of our Creator, with the grace of our Savior and with the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. May it be so.

— Rev. Heather Schoenewolf



As the congregation's elected representatives responsible for governing East Liberty Presbyterian Church, the Session in the past year moved forward on a broad range of issues:

- ◆ In the wake of the church's decision to forgo an interim pastor following Senior Pastor Randy Bush's departure after 16 years, your elected elders, along with our pastors and staff, focused on assisting the Pastor Nominating Committee, aka PNC (Doug Booth, Bill Buchanan, David Carl, Andrea DeVries, James Eng, Linda Lane [Chair], Rebecca McGregor [Secretary], Polly McQueen and Antwone Wright) in its search for a new senior pastor. This included hiring a consultant to help develop and analyze a congregational survey in which an amazing 301 congregants shared their thinking on where we are as a church, where we might consider heading and what they want from pastoral leadership. The findings, and a subsequent series of "listening sessions" the PNC held with members, helped guide the search committee's work that is now at the critical stage of reviewing applicants.
- ◆ With the end of the Covid emergency, Session's attention shifted to fully reopening the church and to budget difficulties in part spawned and exposed by the pandemic. Thanks to the hard work of church staff (shout-out to Director of Administration & Facilities Jim Tinnemeyer), the Finance Committee and spending sacrifices across committees, Session approved a 2024 budget that narrowed the gap between revenue and expenses.
- ◆ Unfortunately, operating revenue continues to suffer the effects of a falloff in giving that started with Covid and the closures of facilities and in-person services. The drop-off was exacerbated at ELPC by the ongoing transition in leadership; giving often declines during periods of uncertainty. Session is weighing ways to boost stewardship, which at ELPC historically has run well below per-capita norms at other Presbyterian churches.
- ◆ Angst and uncertainty brought on by these transitions to a new senior pastor and post-Covid world also fueled a concerted effort among Session, Deacons and church committees to better understand and appreciate each other and their roles. Led by Pastor BJ with assists from Elders Kristin Cummings, Tim Engelhardt and Nick Genger-Boeldt, the culmination of these efforts was a shared "Covenant of Presence" that calls on persons in positions of responsibility at the church "to foster and commit to the relational attitudes, behaviors and practices" mirrored in spirit and tradition by the "covenants made by God with us, His/Her people." Near year-end, Session also approved alternating 2024 sabbaticals for Pastors Heather and Patrice, giving each a well-earned break after an intense few years.
- ◆ As recommended by the Mission Board/Reparations Ministry Team/Facing Systemic Racism Committee as ELPC's first outward-facing step toward reparations, Session in the fall made an inaugural disbursement of \$100,000 from the newly created Joe and Jean Kennedy Scholarship Fund, named in honor of these erstwhile members long committed to social and economic justice. The two \$50,000 payments, to the Neighborhood Academy and the Pittsburgh Promise Advancing Educators of Color Program, will help supply scholarships to African American students. The contributions were funded by the endowment following its receipt of proceeds from the \$945,000 sale of the manse, which was approved last May by the congregation at the recommendation of Session.

Entering 2024, Session remains committed to 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. It also looks to support in any way Session can the call and ministries of a church dedicated to extending *Christ's radical hospitality to all*.

— Steve Massey, Clerk of Session

During the 2023 calendar year, the Property Committee allowed the church to align our health procedures first set up for the Covid-19 pandemic to align with the CDC guidelines as the pandemic response nationally changed. The year 2023 also brought about discussion and plans for the manse property; it was discussed and unanimously approved by the committee to sell the manse. The plan to sell the house was then approved by Session and a congregational meeting. Closing on the manse occurred at the end of August, and the funds are currently set aside for decision to be made upon the calling of a new senior pastor.

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 bidding the work on the window in 2022. The committee and Session awarded the work to Willet Hauser Architectural Glass. After multiple delays, the window was finally removed and replaced with blue glass in the early part of 2023.



In terms of other projects, the Committee also began to consider the current state of the boiler system and seek a study of what is needed and the costs of such work to replace the current boiler system.

Lastly, the Property Committee wishes to thank the many staff members with whom we have worked closely, including Carol Chontos, and the hiring of Jim Tinnemeyer as Director of Facilities & Administration for the church.

— Matt Stufft

Property Committee Members:
 Matt Stufft (co-chair), Eric Logan (co-chair), Tom Morton (chair until April 2023), Diana Armstrong, Don Breitbarth, Melia Chandler, Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy (staff), Dan Ridley, Isaac Smith, Jim Tinnemeyer (staff), Nancy Wright

LGBTQIA+ MINISTRY



ELPC's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and Ally (LGBTQIA+) 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 of other churches or have no church affiliation 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 15 participants in 2023 with about 22% of the participants this year being new to the ministry.

Some ministry highlights from 2023:

- ◆ The Ministry changed its name in the spring of 2023 as we continue to thoughtfully and prayerfully grow and change to meet the needs and interests of its participants. Now in its ninth year, ELPC's "LGBTQ Ministry" is known as the "LGBTQIA+ Ministry" as to be more inclusive and reflective of our diversity
- ◆ Our Advisory Group is comprised of 3-4 dedicated, creative Ministry members who meet periodically to assess ministry goals and programmatic plans prayerfully and intentionally.
- ◆ In 2023 we hosted two retreats. The overnight retreat was in February at Camp Crestfield where our group focused on (re)Creation. In December we retreated to the home of Michele and Henk Bossers for a day retreat where we focused on how we embody and share strength.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ In 2023 we stepped up our fellowship opportunities with increased meals together both at one another's homes and at local restaurants. We also had a game night and went to happy hours together a few times.
- ◆ LGBTQIA+ visibility was fostered by placing the newly updated 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 special prayer at worship for the annual National Trans Day of Remembrance, etc.
- ◆ We give thanks for a grant that was given to fully support the LGBTQIA+ Ministry in the coming year!



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

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

FFB met four times in 2023 to discuss Christian educational activities, share committee updates and discuss needs among board members. FFB shared programming themes and identified projects that could be shared collaboratively with the entire church.

Here are some of highlights of our meetings:

- ◆ FFB brainstormed themes for Lent and suggested a theme of “Being Human.” The devotional called *Bless this Mess* was chosen for both adults and children.
- ◆ FFB began discussions in January for having an All Church Retreat. A fall retreat was discussed, but the board decided there wasn’t enough time to plan and organize a fall event. At the July meeting, the board suggested moving forward with a retreat on the first weekend in May to coincide with the Pittsburgh Marathon. After a great deal of investigating into venues, the retreat is officially scheduled for May 3 – 5, 2024 at Lutherlyn Retreat Center. There will also be a Saturday only option. Sara Hackett, along with other church members, will continue to plan for this event.
- ◆ Pastor Heather shared a history of FFB’s purpose and led us in an exploration of goals and priorities. It was agreed that our ministry should be focused on the following:
 - Intergenerational
 - Acknowledging different stages in people’s faith journeys
 - Partnering with other committees
 - Showing/sharing how our committees are connected and spreading the word
- ◆ FFB helped with the Church Extravaganza on September 17. 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 in the church.
- ◆ FFB brainstormed groups for the Church School Offering and decided to designate this year’s recipient as The Neighborhood Academy, a local faith-based school.
- ◆ For Advent 2023, FFB decided to offer four different devotionals. Some were available in print, and some were available to download. This decision reflected the desire to extend choice in content and access.

As we enter 2024, FFB continues to share ways for individuals and families to engage as a community and to grow in our faith together.

— *Jill Millard, Chair*

Faith Formation Board Members: Jill Millard (Chair), Damon Bethea, Lora Bethea, Sonia Degenholtz, Carla Depperman, Tim Engelhardt, Shirley Fair, Sara Hackett (staff), Rev. Joe Hajdu, Carol Hoehn, Rev. Heather Schoenewolf (staff), Rev. BJ Woodworth (staff)

Children and Family Ministry Team Members: Sherry Anderson, Amy Bialek, Kristin Cummings, Dee Dee Frye, Katie Haas, Sara Hackett (staff), Carol Hoehn, Heather Lawrence, Elaine Phillips, Janice Pressman, Rev. Heather Schoenewolf (staff)

Youth and Young Adult Committee Members: Damon Bethea, Lora Bethea, Sonia Degenholtz, Sara Hackett (staff), Rebecca McGregor, Rev. Heather Schoenewolf (staff), Mario Seneca

Journey With Scripture

The Journey with Scripture class faced a major transition in 2023. Faithful teacher Jan Irvin stopped giving his wonderful leadership and teaching gift for a 60-minute dive into biblical texts for over 20-plus-years. ELPC was blessed to receive his gift of excellent scholarship. He shared with the class great insights for which the students are ever grateful. Lora Bethea was his steady helper for years and we miss her. Dr. Frances Irvin provided support for Jan. This rare combination of excellence was a true gift of love to us students. In the Fall, Journey with Scripture added a new dimension with the introduction of ELPC's 217 Stained Glass Windows. Scripture is highlighted in most windows. What do we do with the window's passages, today? Do these scriptures still speak to us, today? Does each text still lift our spirit, today? Come and "Journey with Scripture" as we seek to faithfully following Jesus, today!

Parenting Circle

We spent part of this past year discussing *Atlas of the Heart* by Brene Brown. Our attendance was small but consistent and our conversations went well. Our members want to talk deeply and openly about raising children, and we also talk about being liberal Christians in today's world. Our current focus is on how our faith builds and nourishes our family lives and our parent/child relationships. The group is now self-led but is grateful for Trish Buben's previous leadership.

Seekers

The Seekers class has met continuously since 1993 (except for summer months). We met through Covid via Zoom, and now we have attendees and guest speakers both in-person and on Zoom each Sunday. Gwen Puza is the class facilitator and this past year we covered topics including theology, Christian living, Jewish roots of Christianity, faith and science, Black history, environmental issues, and world affairs, such as Ukrainian children kidnapped by the Russians.

Soul Food

The Soul Food class began in February of 2010 under the leadership of the Rev. Cynthia Jackson, who in recent years has been able to return as a participant. The class meets in the Good Samaritan Room and on Zoom, and averaged 30 participants during 2023 – 18 in our classroom and 12 on Zoom. We also had our second annual July covered dish social gathering at the Shaler Library, where three of our class members work. Rev. Joe Hajdu is the facilitator and many class members help each week with leadership – handling the Zoom connection, leading discussions, helping set up our room, and counting the offering (our class generously supports the church school offering). We use a prayerful, contemplative format that includes small group discussions of spiritually nourishing texts and our personal experiences. The books we discussed during 2023 were *Made for Goodness* by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu; *Dancing in the Darkness* by Otis Moss III, and *Barking to the Choir* by Gregory Boyle.

Children and Family Ministry Team

The Children and Family Ministry team continues the weekly ministries of Church School for children, Extended Session, oversight of the nursery, as well as yearly events like Vacation Church School and the Christmas Pageant. In 2023 the Committee focused on hosting monthly family events to foster a caring community of families at ELPC where kids and adults feel loved and empowered to explore their faith.

Events have included all-family Church School classes, a swimming party, a music class, and a hot chocolate reception after the Christmas Pageant to name a few. We are incredibly grateful for the MANY volunteers who share the story of God's love and Jesus' radical welcome through the way they plan lessons, listen to kids' stories, pray for kids' concerns, play silly games, clean up after crafts, and show up for kids and families.



Youth and Young Adult Committee

The Youth and Young Adult Committee (YAYA) is excited to be supporting tweens, teens, and young adults who are exploring their faith and want to be a part of a caring community through programming like Club 116, youth Church School, volunteer opportunities, Confirmation Class, retreats, mission trips, community building events, and conferences. New and fun this fall is that we have been doing youth group on Wednesday nights at Club 116 with Sixth Presbyterian Church.



Young adults have planned a few social events and a group of college/seminary students went to the first *Jesus and Justice Conference* at the PC(USA) headquarters in Louisville, KY.



YAYA also continues to shepherd the graduate scholarship process which is offered in conjunction with Presbyterian Women. The volunteers who help lead Club 116 every Wednesday, spend the weekend feeding turkeys and making apple cider with kids at Lamppost Farm while learning about food justice, take vacation days to go on mission trips, plan Sunday School lessons and field tough questions about faith are an incredible example of what it looks like to be the church. THANK YOU!

SPIRITUAL LIFE

The year 2023 was a full and fruitful year in the spiritual life of our church. Throughout each week there were opportunities to worship, pray, meditate, and grow a deeper, more intimate relationship with God. The weekly offerings of Monday Morning Contemplative Prayer on Zoom (avg. 9 people), Mindfulness Meditation on Tuesdays in the chapel (avg. 11 people) led by John Benedict, and our long-time offerings of Cathedral Yoga (avg. 23 people) and Journey Dance (avg. 12 people) led by Yamuna Morgenstern and of course Taizé (avg. 31 people) continued their roles in furthering the spiritual practice of ELPC and communities beyond.

The Spiritual Life Committee helped to shape and facilitate several events and activities throughout the year. We sought out ways to expand our understanding and appreciation of the mysterious and beautiful ways God speaks with and moves through each one of us. We sought out paths that would bring our congregation into community and re-connection with one another.

Marking the changing of seasons, Sandi Miller led Solstice Forest Bathing opportunities in March, June, and September, welcoming attendees to experience the quiet and peacefulness of God's creation.

Two weekend retreats were held at Villa Maria Retreat Center in Pulaski, PA. In May, the Rev. Jeff Eddings facilitated the Attaining Resurrection



Contemplative Retreat for 14 people. A second retreat of 20 people, centering on gratitude, was held the weekend before Thanksgiving. Participants were invited to explore the ways in which gratitude can bring us closer to each other, closer to God, and closer to ourselves. Facilitated by Rev. BJ Woodworth, times of prayer, song, meditation, and conversation were separated by opportunities to explore, rest, contemplate and create.

During the season of Lent, we gathered with Rev. Leanne Shaw Younger who led us through an inspiring and encouraging time of considering how we might “embrace the wisdom of our ancestors, bodies, and the earth.” Through teaching, a meal, conversation, and weekly practices 15-20 people gathered and explored how, while we cannot change the past of what colonialism removed from spiritual practice, we can rediscover what we lost and

build a fuller, richer sense of the Divine in our midst. Additionally, we hosted our annual Ash Wednesday Taizé service, Taizé Stations of the Cross and Holy Saturday to fill out our Lenten journey.

Joining with the Justice Committee, the Spiritual Life Committee sponsored *Sabbath and Dinner* in October. A light meal was served followed by the viewing and conversation of the documentary *Sabbath: An Ancient Practice Meets the Modern World*.

Closing out the year, Spiritual Life, assisted by Membership and Outreach, hosted a holiday cookie potluck fellowship time in December.

— Rev. BJ Woodworth

Spiritual Life Committee Members: Tim Engelhardt (Chair), Reed Williams, Sandi Miller, Jeff Parsons, Shirley Fair, Dawn Morgenstern, Rev. BJ Woodworth (staff)

Through 2023 the Membership & Outreach (M&O) Committee assisted Pastor Patrice in hosting Inquirer's classes which provide an opportunity for visitors to learn about ELPC - our ministry and mission. These classes can also be an occasion to explore what we all seek in this community; the conversations are informative and uplifting. This past year ELPC welcomed 23 new members. We are thankful for the new life and diversity they bring. Welcome these new faces and welcome each other, each week. We've all had "goodbyes" too - through death, moving away, or other transitions. Cultivating a sense of belonging, along with the many members who prefer connecting virtually, remains challenging. ELPC continues to do well by offering both in-person and virtual participation opportunities. We learned an immense amount about ELPC membership through the insightful work of the PNC in implementing the Church Assessment Tool (or CAT scan).

One consistent committee effort last year was the monthly *Social Hours* (after the 11 am service). We assisted ELPC interest groups or committees (e.g., Finance, Spiritual life, Deacons, etc.) to connect with members, friends, and visitors. And it was an opportunity for all of us to connect with each other, whether or not the refreshments were distracting! M&O assisted with the fall Extravaganza held on Whitfield Street – no little rain could dissuade the activities, groups, and ministries presented. Highlights from the *Happy Wanderers* group (10 +/-) includes attending the musical *Nunsense* (Johnstown Theatre), Asian art at the Maridon Museum (Butler), Ernest Warther Museum and Garden (Dover, OH), Jimmy Stewart Museum (Indiana, PA), and the traditional Christmas Dinner at Rocky's. Many thanks to Ryan Booher for van driving and administration support. The *Connections* group sought to expand its base – now a fledgling 5 groups. Events included group outings like "Fridays at Frick." Dinners together are starting back up. If you are interested in joining a *Connections* group, speak with Gretchen Chapman or Elaine Phillips. The *Knitting and Sewing Groups* continue their thoughtful craft ministry. Another active group loosely related to M&O includes the *LGBTQLA+* (see review elsewhere in this report).



Advertising, the *Reaching Out* newsletter, and website communications continue under the purview of Membership & Outreach Committee. We thank those who create the articles, manage information, and create attractive presentations, including Norma Meyer and Ian Faight. Thanks to Megan Leisher, Rachelle Calfee and Jim Tinnemeyer for all their efforts, including keeping the names and numbers straight! Many thanks to M&O committee members who have actively participated through the year. We look forward to 2024! Peace to you from the members of the M&O Committee.

— Jan Irvin

Membership & Outreach Committee Members: Nicholas Genger-Boeldt (Co-Chair), Valire Copeland (through June), Sonia Degenholtz, Martha DeMarzi, Andrea DeVries, Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy (staff), Jan Lyle Irvin (Chair), Pepo Mazingi, Elaine Phillips, Janet Pollard, Gwen Puza, Beth Urbatis

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Committee is thankful for the dedication and commitment that our staff demonstrates on a daily basis. We will continue to seek ways to equitably and compassionately nurture and care for our staff.

Several changes were made to the 2023 budget to reflect our charge to accurately represent budgetary decisions. We consistently monitor our budget so that we can continue to make informed choices.

After some job position reorganization, we chose Jim Tinnemeyer as Director of Administration & Facilities. He is a blessing to ELPC and his expertise and compassion have provided us the leadership that we need in the areas of financial administration, human resources, and facilities.

To strengthen the committee's relationship with staff, it was agreed that committee members would attend monthly all-staff meetings quarterly and program staff meetings as needed.

In collaboration with the Director of Administration and Facilities, a review of the Employee Handbook was conducted. An addition to the No Harassment Policy was added along with title changes and a table of contents rearrangement to put like topics together.

The committee assisted with a continuing transition plan for Pastors Patrice and Heather since an interim pastor was not hired. Session approved the plan and the co-pastors are moving forward in the transition. In November 2023 the HR Committee approved a request from Pastors Patrice and Heather to take sabbaticals in 2024. Session subsequently approved their requests.

In May 2023, the staff took an employee version of the CAT Scan. The Holy Cow consultant conducted a debriefing session and a plan to continue the conversation regarding findings is on-going.

After the CAT Scan results were released the HR Committee gave their input to the PNC regarding suggestions to be considered while

creating the Ministry Discernment Profile for the next senior pastor. The committee also collaborated with the PNC in updating the senior pastor job description.

As a committee, we have been intentional about offering our support and prayers to both Pastors Patrice and Heather. We ask that our congregation also pray for them, as well as our staff. They are all integral to the wellbeing of our church community.

— Lora Bethea and Jen Hykes Willson

Human Resources Committee Members: Lora Bethea (Co-Chair), Jen Hykes Willson (Co-Chair), Bill Buchanan, Carol Chonoska, Charma Dudley, Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy (staff), Alan McIvor, Rev. Heather Schoenewolf (staff), Jim Tinnemeyer (staff)



In 2023 the Board of Deacons continued many of its traditional roles including:

1. preparing communion,
2. serving as Deacon on Duty at Sunday services,
3. Participating in the card ministry

This fall we again sponsored an international meal under the theme “East Meets West”. Deacons and church members provided foods and desserts from around the world. It was a very successful gathering that provided for great fellowship and the opportunity to experience new foods.

The Giving Tree was again run from an online platform and the process for sign up was enhanced with instructional gift tags. Over 120 children were sponsored with each child receiving a gift card and a gift.

We have continued our relationship with the Northside Common Ministries, providing two meals a year to the shelter. Deacons have also been active in serving these meals.

Last year’s initiative to start a home-bound members ministry has continued. Deacons minister to these members through cards, phone calls, and in-person visits. We plan to continue this ministry as it has assisted Pastors Heather and Patrice and brought joy to our homebound members and the Deacons who make the Deacons.

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 has improved with a core of members that are very dedicated to supporting the Board activities and ELPC. This year we met through the hybrid platform and will plan to do so for the near future.

— *David Cowan and Drew Simpson*

Board of Deacons Members: David Cowan (Moderator), Drew Simpson (Co-Moderator), Linda Sanders, Nathaniel Stephens, Todd Hoffman, Molly Davidson-Welling, Tom Sturgill, JoEllen Aleshire, Karen Beasley, Yodit Betru, Janet Pollard, Dana Carl, Hannah Moon, Peta Harrigan Cole, Annie Cowan (youth), Susan Wadsworth-Booth, Jeff Fritz, Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy (staff)



WORSHIP, MUSIC & THE ARTS

The Worship, Music, and the Arts (WMA) Committee supports programming and initiatives that aspire to make ELPC's worship services broadly engaging, accessible, inclusive, and dynamic for all attendees. In addition, we strive to identify and offer opportunities for congregants and community members to gather for events that celebrate music, the visual arts, and other forms of creative expression.

WMA meets the second Tuesday of every month via Zoom from 7:30-9 pm. The group is co-chaired by Elders Carla Depperman and Carol Mullen.

Over the past year, the WMA has focused time and attention on several small and large projects, including:

- ◆ Recruiting, training, managing, and scheduling ushers, greeters, acolytes, and other participants in worship;
- ◆ Co-sponsoring Full Inclusion Sunday luncheon for Renaissance City Choir;
- ◆ Leading the congregation in decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas;
- ◆ Participating in the ELPC Extravaganza event;
- ◆ Codifying process for hymn selection;
- ◆ Transitioning leadership—gratefully acknowledging the contributions of Lynne Chadwick who left her position as Committee Chair after serving for two years.

For comprehensive information about concerts, performances, and other aspects of ELPC's music ministry, please refer to the report submitted by Dr. Ed Moore—staff representative to WMA and Organist/Music Director at ELPC—which is included separately in this annual report.

Focusing on the Stained Glass Windows

WMA members Sandra Break and Rev. Henk Bossers dedicated considerable time and energy this year to a project involving the more than 200 stained glass windows at ELPC. The report from their *Taskforce* follows:

On May 17, 2023, Session approved the WMA request to form a *Windows Taskforce* to explore making our 217 sanctuary stained glass

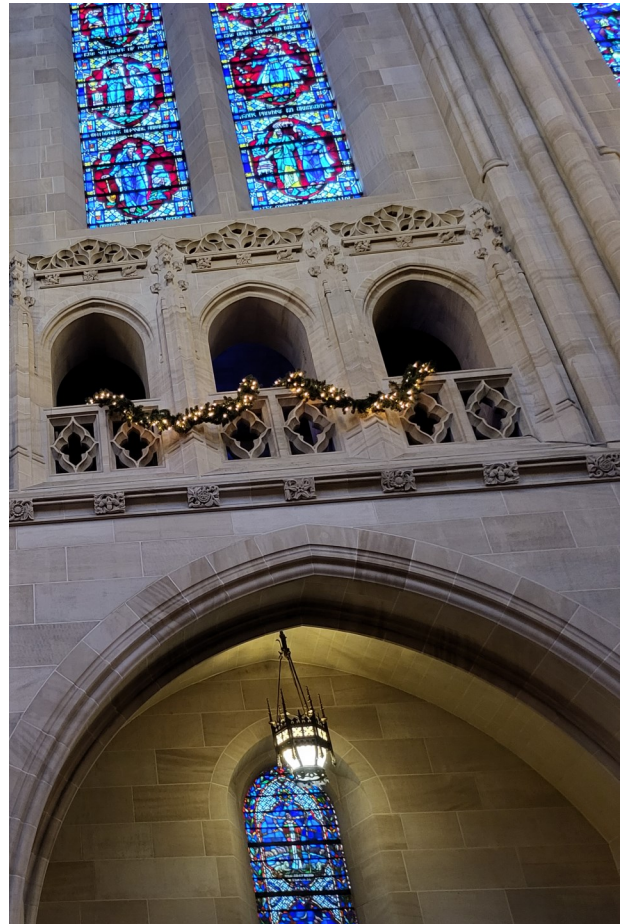
windows, their Biblical inspiration, history, and contemporary meanings accessible on the ELPC website by Christ the King Sunday 2025 (November 23, 2025).

To promote awareness of the *Windows Taskforce* and begin to identify people interested in participating, and flyers were developed and distributed at the Extravaganza on Sep 17.

In September, Rev. Bossers began leading the "Journey with Scripture" Sunday School class to study the Psalms through Advent, and the Christmas Story relating to the stained glass windows. The double focus on the scriptures and windows will continue into 2024 with more Psalms and Mark's Gospel.

Plans for the coming year include:

- ◆ Provide continuing opportunities to increase awareness of our treasured windows.
- ◆ Make window booklets available for those showing interest.
- ◆ Summarize responses to the study and discussions of the windows.



- ◆ Identify resources to use for the website discussion of the individual windows.
- ◆ Recruit additional *Taskforce* members.
- ◆ Explore the costs and time requirements for photography of the windows, secretarial, and webmaster support.

ELPC Audio/Visual Ministry

The members of ELPC’s audio/visual ministry team are essential to ensure that worship services and other church-sponsored events are enjoyable and accessible for attendees, whether they are in the building or logging in remotely. The report from their team follows:

East Liberty Presbyterian Church has been live streaming worship services online since before the COVID pandemic. But as we all know the pandemic spawned many changes in our daily lives including how we worship. Online worship has become the new normal.

The Audio/Visual (A/V) team provides sound and video support for worship services, concerts and sponsored events. We provide the sound you hear and the visuals you see in-person and simultaneous online streams to YouTube, Facebook and Zoom. This starts with camera and microphone placement, which we control with various electronic and digital equipment. One of us mixes the sounds you hear in the Sanctuary, Social Hall and Garth, while the sound mix, video control and slideshow changes for the online streams or recording are operated from our Production Control Room. From this Control Room, all the audio, video, and control signals are being sent and received via a custom-built computer network that is totally separate from the church’s office network.

Over the past year, this A/V system had some bugs and a learning curve but has proven invaluable to our current operation. The system also uses technology which allows for expanded capabilities and a hedge against obsolescence.

Wayne Gaines, Tim Benedict, Lenore Williams and Keith Irvin make up our current team. We are seeking additional assistance from the congregation in our ever-expanding ministry, as we all know, many hands make light work.



Find out how you might help by talking to one of the team members, or by contacting Tim Benedict (TimB@coh.net).

Looking Ahead

In the year to come, WMA looks forward to embracing new opportunities to serve and contribute, including:

- ◆ Collaborating with Dr. Ed Moore to produce a congregational “hymn sing” event.
- ◆ Seeking ways to make worship services more welcoming and engaging for those attending online.
- ◆ Identifying ways to incorporate different art forms into worship services and/or church programming.
- ◆ Partnering in appropriate ways with other ELPC committees.

We welcome new ideas, input, and feedback. If you would like to join our committee, sit in on a meeting, or just learn more about us, please feel free to contact Carla (cdepperman@yahoo.com) or Carol (carolmullen.pgh@gmail.com).

— *Carla Depperman and Carol Mullen*

Worship, Music & Arts Committee Members: Carla Depperman (Co-Chair), Carol Mullen (Co-Chair), Tim Benedict, Hendrik Bossers, Sandy Brake, Lynne Chadwick, Penn Hackney, M. Beth Minnigh, Dr. Edward Alan Moore (staff), Rev. Heather Schoenewolf (staff), Mario Seneca, Colleen Vermillion, Lenore Williams

The year 2023 was full of wonderful music and worship at ELPC!

Worship Highlights

Journey Praise Team

Gerald Savage completed a full year of being back at ELPC as Journey Music Director after joining us in Fall 2022. The Journey Praise Team rehearses on Thursdays and sings for the Journey service from September to May. In addition, they led worship in the Garth several times throughout the summer months and for the Sanctuary Service on Dec 31.

Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir rehearses weekly from September through June and sings year-round for the 11 am service and the 10 am service in the summer. Ethan LaPlaca once again stepped in to play and conduct several times when Dr. Ed was away. A highlight of the choir season is always singing for *Christmas in East Liberty*. Several Chancel Choir members shared in a volunteer opportunity at the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank before Thanksgiving.



Handbell Choir

The ELPC Ringers welcomed new members this past fall and rehearses weekly from September through May and ring during the 11 am service. In 2002 they rang for worship on March 20, April 10, May 22, October 2, November 6, and December 18.

The Brass Roots have been with us for 10 years now, playing in worship 6 times throughout the year plus two concerts. A newly commissioned piece for brass ensemble and organ by Pittsburgh composer Nancy Galbraith will be premiered at the concert on May 24, 2024 to commemorate this anniversary.

Guest Musicians

Violinist Cody Conley joined the Chancel Choir on anthems several times throughout the year. Organists Ethan LaPlaca and Ryan Croyle also accompanied the choir and filled in for Dr. Ed when he was away. The Renaissance City Choir and Dr. Kym Scott combined with the Chancel Choir for *Full Inclusion Sunday* in October along with Hope Academy Teaching Artists Kathleen Andrews, viola, and Beth Goldstein-McKee, cello. Bagpiper and CMU Professor Andrew Carlisle joined us for *Reformation Sunday*.



Murals from Montreat

I attended the annual Worship and Music Conference in June in Montreat, NC. The artist in residence this year was Steve Prince. Part of his work during the conference was a set of 10 large murals displayed throughout the worship space. I was so taken by them that I bid on a pair of them and brought them home with me. Our Worship, Music, and the Arts Committee agreed to display the murals in the sanctuary from September through Advent. More information on the murals, including pictures, is on our website: <https://tiny.cc/elpcmurals>.

Organ

A major electrical component that controls the blower for the sanctuary pipe organ started to fail, which would shut the organ blower down at random times, including before the prelude on Easter. Thanks to Eric Logan and Hanlon Electrician, a new variable frequency drive (VFD) was installed.

Cathedral Concerts

Thanks to Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines for streaming our concerts. All concerts except the April 30 organ concert are available to watch again on our YouTube channel and Facebook page.

12th Season (second half)

- ◆ Sunday, March 5 - *I Go On Singing: Paul Robeson's Life in Word and Song*
Featuring Anthony Brown, Baritone. This moving presentation was to be one of Tony's final performances. Tony died on May 22, 2023 after a brief illness.
- ◆ Saturday, April 1 - *Carnegie Mellon University Wind Ensemble*
George Vosburgh and Stephen Story, Conductors, Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organist. This concert featured rarely heard music for wind ensemble and organ and featured the premiere of a new composition for wind ensemble and organ by Pittsburgh composer Nancy Galbraith.
- ◆ Sunday, April 30 - *Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh*
Organist Alan Morrison from the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia; the concert featured a rare performance of African-American composer Florence Price's *First Sonata for Organ*.
- ◆ Friday, May 19 - *Brass Roots and Organ: Across the Channel – Music for Brass and Organ from England, France, and Spain*
The concert and the season ended in grand style with the final movement of Camille Saint-Saëns' *Organ Symphony* arranged for brass ensemble and organ.



13th Season (first half)

- ◆ Friday, October 27 - *Organist Thomas Ospital* from St. Eustache Church in Paris
Co-presented with the Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh. The concert ended with an improvisation combining the song *La Vie en Rose* with the *La Marseillaise*.
- ◆ Sunday, November 12 - *Cody Conley, violin and Grace Burns, piano*
ELPC's own Cody Conley presented his first solo *Cathedral Concert*. The concert featured works by composers Johann Sebastian Bach, Jean Sibelius, and Niccolò Paganini. Cody is currently auditioning for college to continue his studies!
- ◆ Friday, December 15 - *Christmas in East Liberty*
An East Liberty Holiday Tradition - The Brass Roots – Daniel Nesta Curtis, conductor; ELPC Chancel Choir – Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organist/music director; Ethan LaPlaca, organ. This year's concert was the largest yet, with 688 people in attendance and another 99 households watching online!

Thanks to the many volunteer and professional musicians who come together each week for worship, concerts, and other special events. Here is to much more music in 2024!

The Finance Committee oversaw an ELPC expense budget of \$2,561,769 in calendar year 2023.

Our endowment produced a standard draw of 5.6% (3 year rolling average) of \$1,393,351. Gifts from the congregation, the endowment standard draw, and other income resulted in \$2,561,776 in total revenue received.

Overall, in 2023:

- ◆ We welcomed (4) new members: Keith Irvin, Mario Seneca, Stephen Simpson-Hunt, and Bryan Lawrence and thanked (2) Debbie Hurrell and Marva Harris for their work with the Finance and Stewardship Committees.
- ◆ Jim Tinnemeyer, Director of Administration & Facilities, along with Rachelle Calfee, Bookkeeper, conducted a financial review of 2022 finances and discovered some ‘off budget’ items that were contributing to the ‘cost’ of church but were not reported in the operations budget. This helped us understand where our budget holes are and how we can address them as a committee and Session.
- ◆ Congregational giving decreased: \$704,597 in pledges and plate offerings representing a 12.9% decrease from last year (2022).
- ◆ Of the \$569,065 excess draw approved by Session, only \$395,213 was used to cover costs in the 2023 budget. However, there was an additional \$93,275 spent for the Covenant Pastor for Spiritual Life’s salary and benefits, which for years had been off budget. This has been corrected in the 2024 budget which includes these amounts in the Ministers and Support line item.
- ◆ Off budget items including Covenant Pastor for Spiritual Life salary and capital improvements are now accounted for in the operations budget for more accurate reporting.
- ◆ Personnel costs are now included in the budget line associated with their position. An overall personnel cost is highlighted in the report.
- ◆ Ministries and Support line item: includes pastoral salary plus one administrative assistant.

2024 Updates

Budget — Session approved the 2024 budget at the December 19 meeting. It reflects a 12.3% decrease in expenses over last year’s approved budget and an excess draw of \$333,952. Pastors, Session, and committee members worked very hard to decrease budget expenses to help decrease our reliance on an excess endowment draw.

Stewardship — We kicked things off for the 2024 campaign in October with the theme of Jerimiah 29:11 - “For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

As of January 23, 2024 we have received 161 pledges for a total of \$504,708 - our goal is to reach 175 pledges. We are anticipating a total of \$800,000 in pledges and plate offerings for the year. The stewardship campaign will continue throughout the year with frequent updates during service and in publications. When we reach our goal of 175 pledges, Session will sponsor a cookie table during an upcoming fellowship hour.

Stewardship and Finance Committee Members: Hollen Barmer, Bill Buchanan, Bob Forloines, Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy (staff), Keith Irvin, Chris Martin, Rev. Heather Schoenewolf (staff), Mario Seneca, Stephen Simpson-Hunt, Tiffany Sudar (Chair), Jim Tinnemeyer (staff)

In 2023, the Mission Board (MB) remained steadfast in its commitment to supporting ministries and organizations that resonated with Jesus' call of "Whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Despite facing financial challenges and operating with a reduced budget, the Board continued its efforts to provide both spiritual and financial support to various initiatives, both locally and globally.

Throughout 2023, the Mission Board also focused on bolstering the efforts of its committees, each with its unique goals and missions. The Justice Committee, Peace Committee, Neighbors Committee, and Facing Systemic Racism Committee (FSR) demonstrated exceptional dedication, accomplishing vital work throughout the year with their committed members. These committees, comprised of individuals passionate about making a difference, worked tirelessly to address various issues. As the Mission Board acknowledges the significance of their contributions, it encourages individuals with a shared passion for helping others to consider joining. These committees are open to new members, and the MB invites you to explore the detailed annual reports for each subcommittee. If any of their endeavors resonate with you, don't hesitate to reach out to the respective co-chair to inquire about upcoming meetings and opportunities to get involved.

This year's October Mission Month was a full slate of mission activities. It started with the Board of Deacons hosting their annual international meal commemorating World Communion Sunday. The Justice Committee along the League of Women Voters set up a voter registration to sign voters up, update voting information, and give mail-in ballot applications. The Neighbors Committee organized ELPC's support and participation in Amen to Action that, along with other area church and faith communities, packed food boxes for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. There was also a mission partners' table discussion that brought representatives from Open Hand Ministries, East Liberty Development Inc, and East End Cooperative Ministry to discuss the work that they do and how ELPC can continue to support that work. FSR brought in Rev. Jermaine Ross-Allum to share updates on the work of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Center for Repair of Historical Harms.



The Mission Board extends its heartfelt congratulations to Pastor Patrice, who was honored at the Gala event and dinner *The Bridge to Brighter Futures*, hosted by the Center for Urban Biblical Ministry. The evening was a delightful celebration that acknowledged and honored her dedicated and hard work, reflecting the positive impact she continues to make within our community. We feel truly blessed and privileged to collaborate with Pastor Patrice on mission projects at ELPC.

The Mission Board would also like to express its heartfelt gratitude to Becky Gloninger for her dedicated service as Mission Co-Chair and her valuable contributions to both the Mission Board and Mission committees over the years. Becky's commitment, institutional knowledge, and passion for mission work have been invaluable to our community. As she transitions from these roles, we acknowledge and will miss her significant impact. We are eternally grateful for Becky's enduring passion that extends far beyond, leaving a lasting mark on our collective mission endeavors.

— Ryan Booher

Mission Board Members: Ryan Booher (Mission Board Chair), Bob Forloines (Neighbors Committee Chair), Russ Walker (Peace Committee Chair), Carol Chonoska (Justice Committee Chair), Michele Bossers and Lenore Williams (Facing Systemic Racism Co-Chairs), Peta Harrigan Cole (Presbyterian Women representative), Susan Wadsworth-Booth (Board of Deacons representative), Emily Rosenthal (At Large Member), Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy (staff)

Review of Goals from 2023

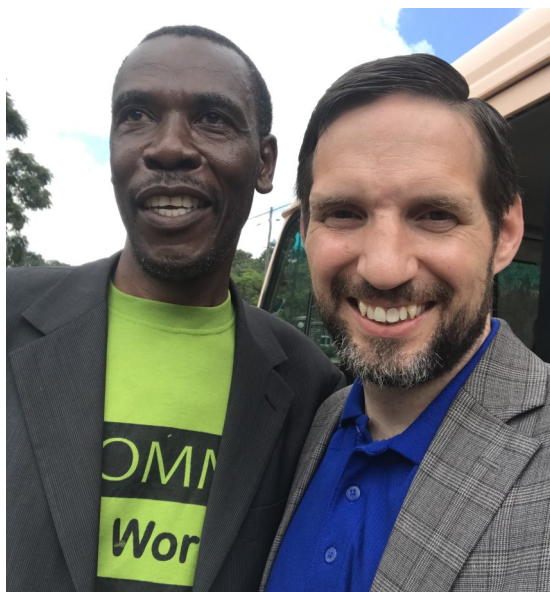
- ◆ **To represent ELPC in the LGBTQ community by participating in local events.**
We participated in Pride Revolution and People's Pride this year, along with LGBTQIA+ Affirming Ministries of Pittsburgh (LAMP). We placed an ad for ELPC in the annual Pride Magazine. We made a donation to Proud Haven and invited Lyndsey (Lynz) Sickler, Executive Director, to speak to our committee about their collaboration with TransYOUning to provide temporary housing to our queer community ages 18-30, especially to trans people of color. In August we showed the film, "My Name is Pauli Murray" about the life of civil rights, women's rights, episcopal priest and queer trailblazer who was way ahead of her time.
- ◆ **To provide support for the programming of Casa San Jose and AJAPO.**
We have continued to work with THRIVE to establish a new source of furniture for refugees through *The Blessing Board*. We hope to continue the relationship with THRIVE and improve our support of refugee/immigrant families. ELPC continues to provide facility space for the English classes CSJ has established.
- ◆ **Improve and expand our support of the Foundation of HOPE's Diversion Program and the Allegheny County Jail.**
We made a contribution to Foundation of HOPE's adult diversion program at the beginning of 2023. In March we heard from Rev. Charrisa Howe, chaplain at the Allegheny County Jail (ACJ) about the conditions in the jail and the support the chaplain's office provides. We collected hygiene items for ACJ as well as contributing to their holiday gift bag program.
- ◆ **To address systemically racist practices that erode the criminal justice system, such as the cash bail system, solitary confinement, and the death penalty.**
In June we invited Allegheny County councilwoman, Bethany Hallam, to talk to us about the Jail Oversight Board and the conditions at ACJ. She gave personal accounts of ongoing issues and racial disparities both within the jail and throughout the criminal justice system for the county.
- ◆ **Develop environmental awareness and education in environmental stewardship of our earth. To network and engage with community organizations addressing environmental impact.**
Five book studies have been held throughout the year, including discussions of environmental issues. Presentations to the congregation have been offered on energy efficient appliances and tax credits through the Inflation Reduction Act. Earth Day focused on youth with our own youth delivering the message directly to the congregation about their perspectives on how we need to address climate change. We followed that up with a tour of the church rain garden and an invitation to participate in caring for it.
- ◆ **To increase congregational participation and engagement in a variety of justice issues and stewardship of our earth.**
We introduced name tags with pronouns to the committees and programs of ELPC and to the congregation at Rally Day and the Church Life Extravaganza. We provided a Creation Justice Ministries Daily Reflections Lent Resource for the congregation during Lent. Jason Van Ness gave an overview of the history of Pride and a look into the future of full inclusion in the church. We invited congregants to participate in the Juneteenth Celebration by joining us in marching in the parade and joining festivities at Point State Park. In August we held a Legislative Action event with other mission committees inviting congregants to write letters or sign petitions in response to 8 different justice issues.



We partnered with Tree Pittsburgh to weed and mulch the trees in the ELPC neighborhood. In October we invited congregants to participate in a voter registration on Penn Ave. with the *League of Women Voters*. Each month we provided an environmental educational tip in Reaching Out to give congregants a meaningful way to make a difference. We put together two dish carts of dishes with everything needed to serve a meal for 40-80 people with real dishes instead of using disposables. These can be signed out by any church group.

— Carol Chonoska

Justice Committee Members: Sherry Anderson, Mary Barr, Michele Bossers, Carol Chonoska (Chair), Stephanie Creasy, Stefani Danes, Lucyna de Barbaro, Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy (staff), Katelyn Haas-Conrad, Linda Harrington, Nancy Heastings, Frances Irvin, Eric Jester, Alexandra Lynn, Judy Mancini, Carol Mullen, Vivienne Selia, Kay Shissler, Isaac Smith, Susan Spangler, Jason Van Ness, Evelyn Welling



During 2023 the Peace Committee engaged in the following activities:

- ◆ Participated in the church-wide sampler.
- ◆ Co-operated with the Presbytery's Peacemaking Committee
- ◆ Continued our financial support for the Balaka, Malawi church community, including the trip there.
- ◆ Continued our support for the Forman Christian College in Pakistan.
- ◆ Showed the movie *42* — the story of Jackie Robinson and Branch Ricky breaking the color barrier in baseball — in the summer film series.
- ◆ Supported the international lunch in honor of the "Partnership."
- ◆ Hosted the Sudan Symposium on November 19.
- ◆ Caused a portion of the *Peace Offering* to go to the Pittsburgh Darfur Emergency Coalition.

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.

The International Partnership is a ministry of the Pittsburgh Presbytery and is shepherded at ELPC by the Peace Committee.

— Russ Walker

Peace Committee Members: Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy (staff), Peta Harrigan Cole, Derek Harrigan, John Jordan, Pepo Mazingi, Gwen Puza, Kay Shissler, Ron Stone, Vivienne Selia, Russ Walker (Chair), Evalynn Welling



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 2022 after being closed for a couple of years due to Covid.

Neighbors Committee activities includes:

- ◆ Chapel Market (a free clothing ministry accessed through the Whitfield Street Chapel entrance. Open every Thursday 10 am-Noon and two Tuesdays per month 5-7 pm).
- ◆ About 40 volunteers have volunteered in Chapel Market in 2023.
- ◆ Received many donations of new and gently used clothing from our congregation and other donors.
- ◆ Provided free clothing to over 100 neighbors who shopped in Chapel Market in 2023.
- ◆ Conducted a “Dress for Success” event in August that assisted over a dozen shoppers.
- ◆ Multiple service organizations utilized Chapel Market to assist participants with clothing needs including AJAPO (refugee immigrant services), several emergency housing and abuse shelters for women, and EECM programs.

East End Cooperative Ministries (EECM)

- ◆ Food drive in November collected/donated food to EECM’s food pantry for distribution to our neighbors in need.
- ◆ Donated funds in December to EECM to purchase additional food for their pantry.

Open Hand Ministries (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 (Lynne Chadwick, Bob Forloines)
- ◆ Participated on Board Committees (Emily Rosenthal, Tiffany Sudar, Frank Bauerle and Bob Forloines)
- ◆ Participated in biweekly OHM community meetings including providing meals and providing additional funds to cover meals.

Over 25 congregational members provided food donations during the year for OHM community dinners.

- ◆ Provided volunteers for First Saturday and Wednesday housing rehab work days on the recently acquired Ardary Street property starting in September.
- ◆ 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.

Other Items

- ◆ Promoted and participated in Amen to Action, an event held at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (and 9 other locations across Allegheny County) in October where 100,000 soup meals were packaged for distribution by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Over 35 congregation members participated in this event.
- ◆ Developed a resource guide that can be provided to those in need of services and assistance.
- ◆ In October as part of Mission month, after the 11 am worship service, hosted a panel discussion and luncheon with speakers from ELDI, EECM and OHM to educate congregation members on the work of these 3 service organizations partners.
- ◆ Provided funding for Art in the Garden summer programming.
- ◆ Financial funding in the Mission Board budget supports several organizations focused on neighborhood issues (ELDI, Open Hand Ministries, East End Thrift Store, East Liberty Family Health Center, Garfield Community Farm, Neighborhood Academy).

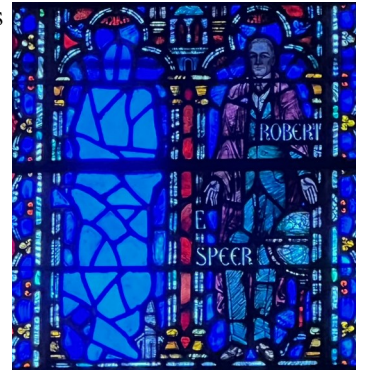
— Bob Forloines

Neighbors Committee Members: Ray Anthony, Frank Bauerle, Ted Cmarada, Kristin Cummings, Bob Forloines (Chair), Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy (staff), Pat Krimmel, Cathleen Malmstrom, Jon Nelson, Collyn O’Donnell, Emily Rosenthal, Susan Spangler, Todd Hoffman (Deacon Liaison), Gerald McClendon (staff)

In 2023, members of the Facing Systemic Racism (FSR) Committee continued work focused on dismantling biases and structural racism. We took action on ELPC’s commitment to reparations, we engaged the congregation in opportunities to learn together, we provided resources and programs that address injustices in the Christian church, and we engaged with those outside ELPC who are active in regional efforts.



ELPC’s strong commitment to reparations solidified over the past three years as we have begun to examine our church’s role in upholding the racist systems—particularly the oppression of Black and Indigenous people—that we seek to dismantle. A stark reminder of ELPC’s complicity, an image of Confederate General Stonewall Jackson enshrined in our sanctuary’s Presbyterian history stained glass window, was removed in



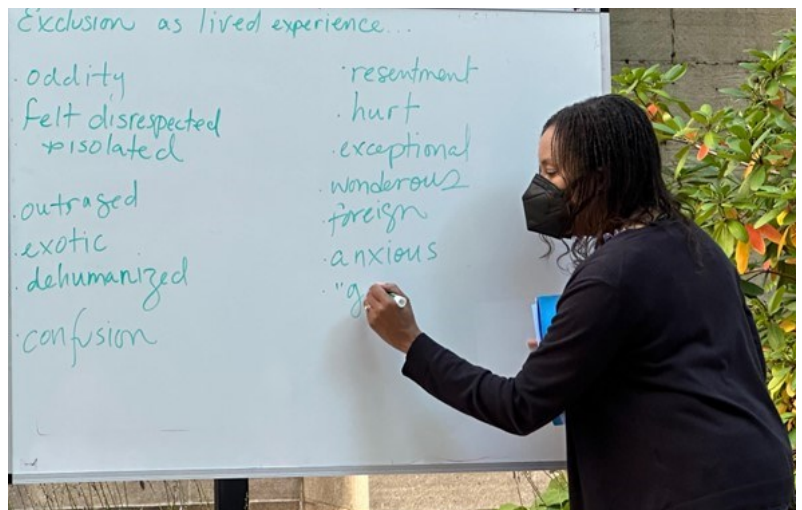
March 2023. Session tasked the Reparations Ministry Team of FSR to study and recommend an outward-facing action that would accompany the inward-facing removal of the window.

In December 2023, on the recommendation of the Reparations Ministry Team, Session voted to disburse \$100,000 to establish the Jean and Joe Kennedy Scholarship Fund for Black students pursuing a college education. The fund, named in memory of ELPC members who were educators and leaders in our church, directs \$50,000 of endowed funds to the Neighborhood Academy and \$50,000 to the Pittsburgh Promise Advancing Educators of Color Program.

In March 2023, FSR hosted a table talk presented by Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church to learn about the reparations Bethel’s congregation is seeking in response to the destruction of its church building to make way for the Civic Arena in 1957. Rev. Dr. Dale Snyder and table talk team members from Bethel and other churches presented Bethel’s story as well as the framework of reparations as the restoration of truth, wealth, and power.

In June 2023, 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. This event affords the opportunity to be a faith-based public witness to the celebration of the end of slavery in the United States.

In September 2023, FSR Committee members came together for a daytime retreat at the church. A three-part event organized by Dr. Beverly Harris-Schenz, Dr. Kathy Glass, and Jeff Parsons, the retreat was a chance for FSR members to learn and reflect—and the first chance in many years for FSR members to gather in person for fellowship.





In October 2023, FSR collaborated with the League of Women Voters and the Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP) to conduct a voter registration drive outside the church. During that drive, volunteers from FSR, The League, and B-PEP provided information on upcoming elections and registered nine people to vote. 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.

In October 2023, FSR hosted Rev. Jermaine Ross-Allam, director of the PC(USA)’s Center for the Repair of Historic Harms. In sermons for both worship services and in a discussion during the church school hour, Rev. Ross-Allam taught and called us toward righteous innovation and transformative repair.

In October 2023, FSR’s chairperson Lenore Williams was announced as a member of the Pittsburgh Presbytery’s Repair and Reconciliation Alliance. Over the next two years, the Alliance will thoroughly review the historical experiences of our congregations with African American congregants and staff, and offer recommendations on actions of repair and reconciliation.



— Hollen Barmer

FSR and the Reparations Ministry Team Members: Michele Bossers (Co-Chair), Lenore Williams (Co-Chair), Sherry Anderson, Michelle Bard, Hollen Barmer, Mary Barr, Gretchen Chapman, Carol Chonoska, Ted Cmarada, Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy (staff), Jessica Giannotta, Jim Gordon, Kathy Glass, Beverly Harris-Schenz, Jen Hykes-Willson, Cynthia Jackson, Jonah Koetke, Linda Lane, Jeffrey Parsons, Cynthia Peterson, Rebecca Serey, Susan Spangler

PASTOR NOMINATING (PNC)

It has been nearly a full year since the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) was elected by the ELPC congregation to follow the prescribed process of discernment and recommend an individual to be called as the next Senior Pastor of our church. The nine members of the PNC include Doug Booth, Bill Buchanan, David Carl, Andrea Devries, James Eng, Linda Lane (Chair), Rebecca McGregor (Secretary), Polly McQueen (Editor) and Antwone Wright. Rev. BJ Woodworth serves as our staff representative and Rev. Karen Rohrer as our transitional liaison.

On February 27, 2023, our Committee participated in an orientation session led by Rev. Brian Wallace, the Pittsburgh Presbytery representative. Rev. Dr. Vincent Kolb of Sixth Presbyterian Church was to be our transitional liaison, but he was unable to continue due to health reasons. Rev. Karen Rohrer of The Pittsburgh Theological Seminary then stepped into this role. Our meetings have been on a twice-monthly basis throughout the year.

In the spring our work began on our mission study. Michelle Snyder, a consultant with Holy Cow Consulting, assisted us. Our self-study was informed by the administration of the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT), an on-line or paper survey for our congregation. We prepared by working with Session on which CAT questions we thought would best help us understand who we are as a church. Our other effort included communication with the congregation about the CAT and the importance of completing it so we could learn as much from our membership as possible. Completion was no small task, as those who completed the CAT well know; it took serious time and thought. Some completed the CAT on paper, some came to our laptop sessions, and some completed it online at home. The congregation came through for us, and we exceeded the minimum number (80%) of attendees at our worship services. Three hundred one members and friends completed the CAT. In June Michelle led a workshop to review the results of the CAT with Session, Program Staff, and the PNC.

The PNC decided to also conduct “Listening Sessions,” meetings of small groups from the congregation, staff, pastors, and youth to better discern the feelings and desires that were

expressed in the CAT regarding the spirituality, skills, and talents needed in a new church leader. One of the outcomes of the Listening Sessions which we had not anticipated was that these sessions provided a space for members to hear from each other, helping us all to understand the diversity of opinions in our church.

We dealt with a change in the process mid-stream when the *Ministry Information Form* (MIF) which we started with was transformed to the *Ministry Discernment Profile* (MDP) by the PC (USA). We had training on the MDP in October. The Church Leadership Connection (CLC) also wrote new computer software which had to be completed and accepted by Session before the position was made available online. Session voted on the MDP in November, and it is now available on the church website.

The Church Leadership Connection matches us with Call Seekers (Presbyterian pastors) based on our MDP and the Call Seeker’s Personal Discernment Profile (PDP). We also accept self-referrals. Part of the work of the members of the PNC is reviewing the matches and deciding whom to invite to apply. February 1, 2024 was a very special day for us as we held our first preliminary interviews that evening.

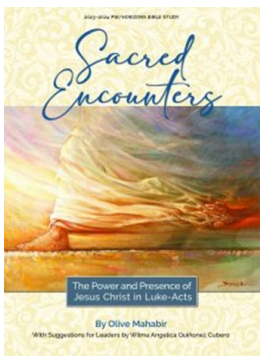
Communication has been a priority for the PNC. We have spoken at the Journey and Sanctuary services, written regular updates for the *Reaching Out* newsletter, and have sent letters to the congregation to encourage CAT participation. We will continue to keep everyone informed.

We are so grateful for the support of the Human Resources Co-Chairs, Lora Bethea and Jen Hykes Willson, for their work on updating the pastor’s job description. We are also grateful for the help Rev. Rohrer and Pastor BJ have provided up to this point. Pastor BJ has stepped off our committee now as we are beginning to interview candidates; he has been a solid supporter of our work since we began. We are especially grateful to the ELPC staff who have provided the set-up and break-down of our hybrid meetings twice a month and to the congregation whose prayers, messages of support, and spoken appreciation of the work of the PNC have buoyed our spirits this past year. Please continue your prayers as we take this next critical step in our process.

— Linda Lane

Presbyterian Women in East Liberty Presbyterian Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, engage in local, national and international mission and justice 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 *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*.



In September 2023, we began our nine-month study *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.

Bible Study meets on the first Monday evening and first Tuesday morning of the month, September through May. We meet on Zoom and in person. Our Monday evening study meets exclusively on Zoom. In September 2022, we began offering our Tuesday morning study in a hybrid format—on Zoom and at the church.

Participation in the Monday evening bible study has doubled to 12-15 women since 2019 before the pandemic. Participation in our Tuesday morning bible study has remained at 14 to 16 women. We 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 to real problems of health, education, economic development and the needs of women and children in the U.S. and around the world. We are grateful to members and friends of the

congregation who contributed more than \$2,500 in 2023 to the *PW Thank Offering*.

We continue 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. In 2023, we met with leaders and toured East End Cooperative Ministries and the East Liberty Family Health Care Center. These missions have served the East End for 40-50 years. Under new leadership they have recommitted to the community.

We are also working to connect PW and the ELPC congregation with resources for “best practices” in mission and justice. We maintain a long-standing relationship with Bread for the World, a Christian advocacy organization pursuing an end to hunger through policies and programs. We have a long-term relationship with the World Mission Initiative, dedicated to developing mission vision, nurturing missionary vocations, and cultivating missional congregations.

Presbyterian Women in ELPC participates in PW in the Presbytery, Synod and Churchwide. Mary Alice Lightle and Peta Harrigan Cole represented PW in ELPC at the triennial gathering of PW Synod Gathering in State College, PA. Mary Alice Lightle led Bread for the World's “Racial Wealth Gap Simulation” at the PW Synod Gathering and the Fall Gathering of PW in Shenango Presbytery. The simulation is an interactive tool that helps people understand the connections among racial equity, hunger, poverty, and wealth.

— Mary Alice Lightle

PW Coordinating Team Members: Mary Alice Lightle (Moderator), Elaine Phillips (Treasurer), Peta Harrigan Cole (Corresponding Secretary), and at-large members Sherry Anderson, Rev. Diana Harbison, Sung Yoo

East Liberty Presbyterian Church founded Hope Academy in 1999 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 both 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.

Program

In 2023, Hope Academy, which is the largest outreach program of the church, served more than 250 unique students, ranging from ages 3 to 18.

To make our offerings accessible to all, the cost for tuition-paying students was set at an affordable average of \$5 per class hour and \$40 per private lesson hour. Scholarships were reserved for students from low-income families and/or those who identify as Black, African American, or Indigenous, and covered tuition costs as well as instruments, dance clothing and shoes, extra coaching for auditions, summer lessons and Suzuki Summer Camp, plus tickets to cultural events. We are proud to support our community's young people and ensure that every child has access to quality arts education, regardless of their financial circumstances. Over 80% of our students receive some type of financial assistance.

Dance and theater offerings for 2023 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 offerings for 2023 included a Suzuki strings program for violin and cello, classical guitar and voice (private lessons and group classes); a new String Explorers class for beginning string students; plus free Hip Hop Orchestra ensemble and Sing and Dance classes, in partnership with Guardians of Sound.

Program Staff (includes staff from 2022-2023 and 2023-2024)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Full-time program director | 3 Accompanists |
| 1 Part-time interim program assistant | 10 Music Program Teaching Artists |
| 6 Dance and Theater Teaching Artists | 8 Young Adult Mentors |



Partnerships

Our ability to address the community problem of the lack of opportunity for youth to participate in the arts due to limited resources in the family and cutbacks in arts programming in schools is heavily reliant on the partnerships we have developed with some of the city's finest artists and cultural organizations.

These partnerships allow us to provide our students with access to high-quality programming and a diverse range of artistic experiences. The collaborations we have forged with these organizations have been essential to our success in fulfilling our mission of bringing the transformative power of the arts to young people regardless of their background or circumstance.

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), Shana Simmons Dance Company, Chamber Music Pittsburgh, Guardians of Sound / Hip Hop Orchestra, and Greater Pittsburgh Suzuki Institute

Performance and Event Highlights

- ◆ Feb 4 — Masterclass with Adam McKinney, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's Artistic Director
- ◆ Feb 13 — Shakespeare Contest - Pittsburgh Public Theater
- ◆ Feb 18 and 21 — Parent/Guardian Observation Days
- ◆ May 6 and 7 — End of the Year Dance Recitals at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre Studios
- ◆ May 13 — Suzuki Spring Fling in Highland Park
- ◆ May 14 — Music Recitals (*Kathleen Andrews, Beth Goldstein-McKee, Monica Stephenson*)
- ◆ May 31 — Hip Hop Orchestra Alphabet City Poet Performance
- ◆ June 3 — Music Recitals (*Liza Barley, Gil Teixeira*)
- ◆ Oct 22 — Suzuki Marathon Concert at the Children's Museum, Museum Lab
- ◆ Nov 15 — Performance with Sons of Mysterio at the Greer Cabaret Theater
- ◆ Dec 9 — Dance program *Nutcracker* "share-formance"

Field Trips

- ◆ Feb 15 — *A Midsummer Night's Dream in Harlem* at the Pittsburgh Public Theater
- ◆ Dec 16 — Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's *The Nutcracker* at the Benedum Center

Summer Camp

July 31 to Aug 5 — Greater Pittsburgh Suzuki Institute Summer Camp

— Linda Addlespurger



HAPPY WANDERERS/TOURS

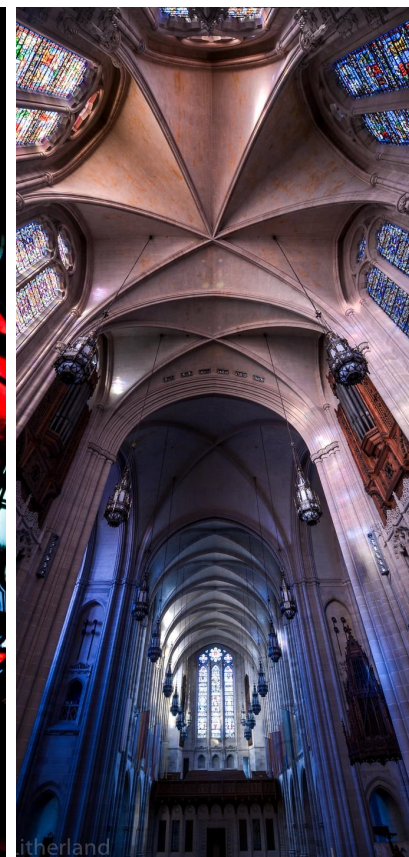
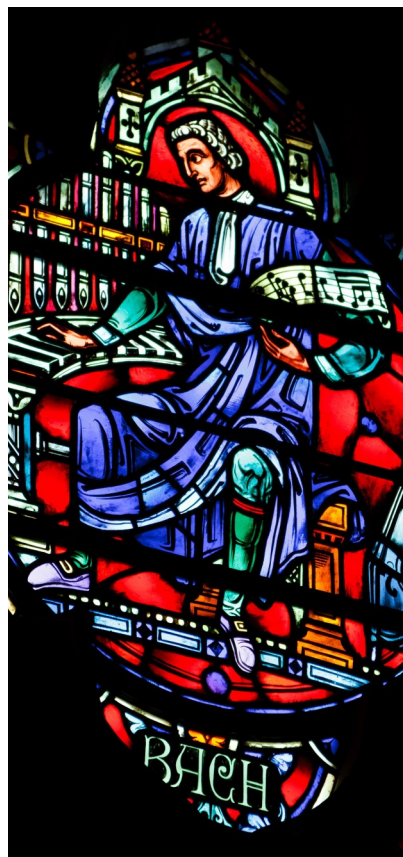


Happy Wanderers had a good year in 2023. About 10 seniors participated in each trip. There will be a planning meeting in March.

— Martha DeMarzi

During 2023, approximately 270 people participated in the many church tours held after Sunday worship each month. There were tours of the tower, sanctuary and chapel, stained glass, hidden places and underground (showcasing the sub-basement and boiler heating system).

Tim VanFleet was the lead tour guide, who worked diligently to coordinate the tour schedule and make the tours a welcoming ministry of ELPC. All the tour guides (Jo Ellen Aleshire, Steve Evrard, Penn Hackney, Tom Morton and Tim VanFleet) ensured the tours were interesting and informative.



BUDGET SUMMARY

Accounts	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
REVENUE					
Pledges and Offerings	896,200	809,432	896,200	704,597	800,000
Grants, Bequests, Memorials	30,000	9,010	51,000	3,985	28,500
Other Income	21,200	123,087	56,200	20,126	39,350
Standard Endowment Draw 5.6%	1,375,625	1,376,376	1,393,351	1,393,351	1,395,472
Trust Income	39,747	39,300	39,747	44,504	39,300
Excess Draw / Cash Flow	396,440	0	569,065	395,213	333,952
Total REVENUE	2,759,212	2,357,205	3,005,563	2,561,776	2,636,574
EXPENSES					
Administration	592,692	510,421	559,690	496,525	488,024
Adult Education	2,500	848	1,100	542	850
Children & Family Ministries	67,763	64,255	82,485	81,663	82,801
Deacons	5,855	4,725	5,855	4,891	5,000
Education & Spirit Form Board	2,804	2,828	2,748	3,286	2,750
Facilities	933,887	894,961	982,995	864,076	720,129
Fellowship	8,100	7,055	7,950	50	2,400
Membership & Outreach	56,000	49,385	75,011	45,043	75,656
Ministers & Support	463,697	454,678	678,531	497,790	677,161
Mission	104,107	97,111	91,320	55,078	75,320
Mission Ministry	10,500	9,333	10,500	9,467	9,800
Opportunities	11,500	10,218	11,500	10,248	9,000
Session	64,034	63,951	65,090	70,306	72,374
Spiritual Life	5,800	5,887	5,750	3,869	5,750
Stewardship	4,000	1,322	1,650	1,412	1,200
Taizé	20,773	20,956	20,847	21,411	19,000
Worship, Music & Arts	356,816	353,485	358,389	359,995	349,001
Youth & Young Adult Ministry	48,626	50,276	61,328	36,117	40,358
Total EXPENSES	2,759,454	2,601,695	3,022,739	2,561,769	2,636,574

Total PERSONNEL COSTS	1,806,339	1,700,435	2,036,681	1,620,003	1,643,060
in above EXPENSE CATEGORIES					

NOTES:

ORANGE = While no excess draw was taken directly for the budget, there was an additional amount taken from the Endowment of \$200,000 and off-budget income of \$452,933 to cover large off-budget expenses (\$573,641) as well as some budget expenses.

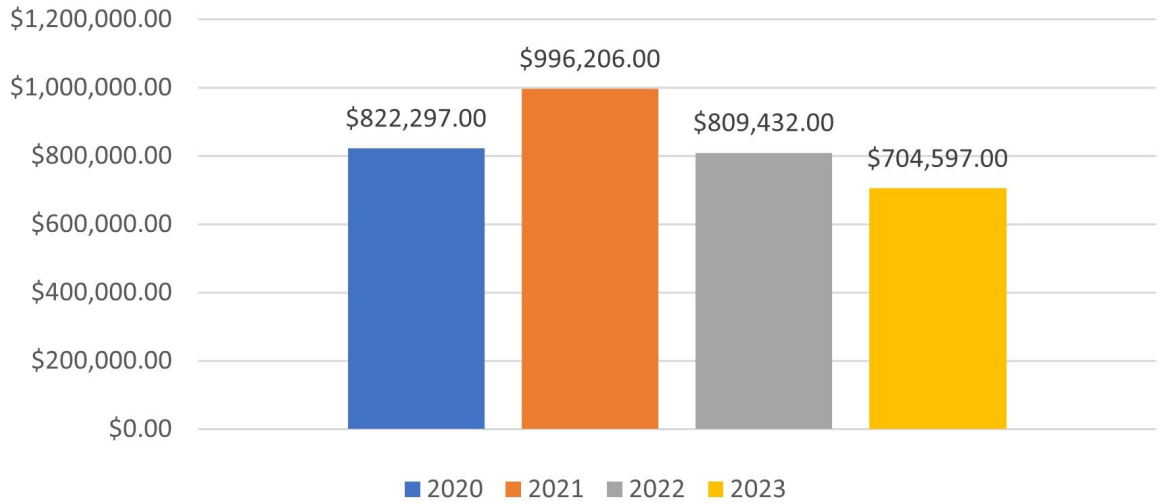
In 2023, there were no other off-budget expenses, except some Hope Academy expenses and the Covenant Pastor's salary/benefits. Everything else runs through the budget.

GREEN = This excess draw for the budget does not include an additional \$93,275 taken for the Covenant Pastor's salary and benefits since those amounts were off-budget and never included in the budget (now included in 2024 Budget see below).

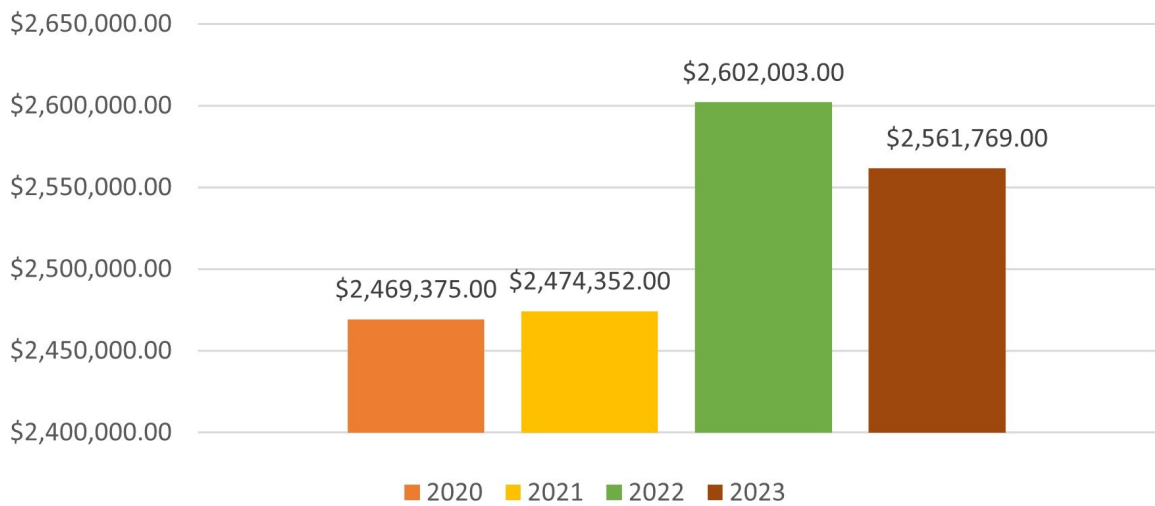
RED = Ministers & Support now includes Covenant Pastor's salary and benefits for 2024.

TURQUOISE = In 2024, there are no off-budget income or expenses. Everything runs through the 2024 Budget, except some income/expenses for Hope Academy.

**Pledges and Offerings (Actual)
2020-2023**



**Annual Expenditures (Actual)
2020-2023**



ENDOWMENT INFORMATION

Endowment End of Year Value \$24.6 million

Active Membership (as of 12.31.22) 752

Gains for 2023:

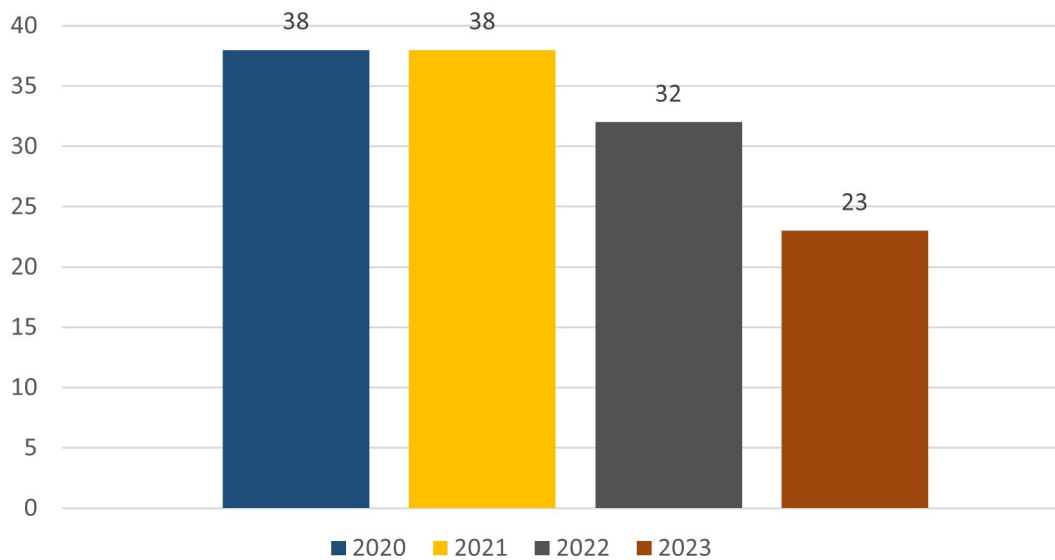
Profession of Faith, Reaffirmation, Restoration 11
 Friends 0
 Certificate of Transfer 12
Total Gains 23

Losses for 2023:

Certificate of Transfer 9
 Deaths 3
 Removed by Session (*joined another church, termination requested, no contact info*) 0
 Moved to Friend 0
Total Losses 12

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP 763

**New Members, Friends and Affiliates
2020-2023**



Members in 15206 115
 Members who identify as female 459
 Members who identify as male 288
 Not listed 16

RACE OF ACTIVE MEMBERS

White	518
African American	118
Asian	7
Biracial	2
Latinx	8
Indian	2
Interracial	1
Native American	2
Not Noted	105

**AGE DISTRIBUTION
OF ACTIVE MEMBERS**

17 and under	11
18 to 25	30
26 to 40	142
41 to 55	144
56 to 70	195
Over 70	171
Unknown	70

*Sunday, February 26, 2023
In-person (Social Hall) and Zoom meeting*

Gathering: At 12:35 pm Pastor Heather Schoenewolf opened the meeting with a prayer.

Recognition of a Quorum: Clerk C. Depperman recognized the presence of a quorum.

Minutes: Member Lenore Williams moved to approve three sets of minutes including the Annual Meeting of February 27, 2022, the Congregational Meeting of Sunday, May 22, 2022 and the Congregational Meeting of Sunday, January 29, 2023. Member Eddie Willson seconded the motion, which passed.

Recognition of members and others who passed in 2022: Pastor Heather remembered the many members and friends and others who died in 2022.

Recognition of retiring officers: Pastor Heather thanked retiring church officers for their service, including Elder Tom Morton who was listed in error as continuing for second term.

Report of the Officer Nominating Committee: On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Co-Chairs Andrea DeVries and Jill Millard introduced nominees for the office of Deacon, office of Elder, Congregational Trustees of Centennial Fund and the Officer Nominating Committee. There were no additional nominees from the floor. The motion of the Committee was passed.

Summary of Committee Reports per published Annual Report 2022: Pastor Heather thanked all who worked diligently in 2022 to maintain the programs of ELPC during the pandemic and months of transition following Pastor Randy Bush's departure. She expressed joy that many programs returned to in-person format during 2022.

At this point Pastor Patrice became moderator for the second part of the meeting, expressing her joy in having been elected, at an earlier date, to serve as co-pastor with Pastor Heather during this interim period.

Pastor Patrice announced that at the end of 12/31/2022 the membership of ELPC was 760.

Member Diana Armstrong moved to accept the Committee reports, seconded by Lora Bethea, passed.

Budget Summary for 2023: Finance Chair Tiffany reported that pledges are down in 2022 and 2023. She reported that the included year-end budget (see Annual Report) for 2022 was reviewed by Session and budget for 2023 was approved.

Chairperson Tiffany reported that full audits are done every three years (including 2021) and budget reviews are done for intervening years, all completed by the same auditing firm. At this time the budget review of 2019 is almost complete, and review for 2020 and full audit for 2021 will be underway.

A motion was made by member Frances Irvin, seconded by Elder Valire Copeland, and passed that all future year-end budget reports to the ELPC congregation include in a single table:

- ◆ all revenues from all sources;
- ◆ all expenses, including Capital Projects;
- ◆ annual totals for endowment contributions, standard draw, excess draws;
- ◆ cash on hand at the start and end of the year;

- ◆ and; that a revised 2022 year-end report and 2023 budget report in this format be provided to all ELPC members within 3 months.

(Pastors Heather and Patrice left the room for review of terms of call.)

Pastor BJ moderated.

Human Resource Committee: The Co-Chairs Lora Bethea and Jen Hykes Willson presented the terms of call for Pastors Heather and Patrice as co-pastors, a motion presented and approved previously by Session. (See Agenda/Annual Report for details.) The report was received with two negative votes.

The pastors returned to the hall amidst a round of applause.

Meeting of the Corporation was tabled until a later date due to the late hour.

A motion to adjourn: Bill Buchanan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Nick Genger-Boldt, and passed.

Closing Prayer: Offered by Pastor BJ Woodworth.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy, *Acting Co-Pastor*

Carla Depperman, *Clerk of Session*

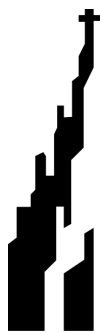
Rev. Heather Schoenewolf, *Acting Co-Pastor*

East Liberty Presbyterian Church

LIVING OUT OUR FAITH







East Liberty Presbyterian Church

Extending radical hospitality to all!

116 South Highland Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15206 

www.ELPC.church



@EastLibertyPresbyterian