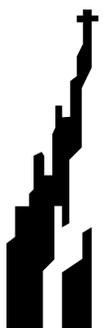


ANNUAL REPORT 2025



**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

Extending radical hospitality to all!

116 South Highland Ave 
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
www.ELPC.church
  
@EastLibertyPresbyterian

AGENDA

Sunday, February 22, 2026

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 2025 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL & CORPORATION MEETING

(as well as the meeting minutes from 2 special congregational meetings in 2024 that are included in this report)

RECOGNITION OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

Michael Zielinski, David Evans, Ruth Kuschmierz, Pat Valoon

RECOGNITION OF OFFICERS WHO RETIRED OR RESIGNED:

Retiring Elders: Mabel Buben (youth), Bill Buchanan, Kristin Cummings, Sonia Degenholtz, and Jan Irvin
Retiring Deacons: Brady Conley (youth), Todd Hoffman, Hannah Moon, Nate Stephens, Linda Sanders, and Tom Sturgill
Retiring Nominating Committee Members: Jessica Giannotta, Bill Johnson, and Sara Torretti
Retiring Centennial Fund Member: Doris Dick

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.

Presentation of nominees for the office of Deacon (Class of 2029):

Ryan Booher, Jim DiGiorgio, Keith Irvin, Polly McQueen, Travis Simpson-Hunt, Janet Pollard (renewing for 2nd term)

Presentation of nominee for office of Youth Deacon (Class of 2027 - serves one year):

Samantha Brake-Hoffman

Presentation of nominees for the office of Elder (Class of 2029):

Don Breitbarth, Andrea DeVries, Deborah Hurrell, Lenore Williams
Renewing for 2nd term (class of 2029): Charma Dudley, Tim Engelhardt, Carol Mullen, Mario Seneca, Nancy Wright

Presentation of nominee for office of Youth Elder (Class of 2027 - serves one year):

Michael Simpson-Hunt

Presentation of congregational nominees for Officer Nominating Committee (Class of 2027):

Jim Eng, Laura Ristau
Congregation appointed renewing for 3rd and final year: Lynne Chadwick, Liz Hopkins

Presentation of nominees for Centennial Fund (Class of 2029):

Susan Apel, Gene Harris (2nd term)

AGENDA *(cont.)*

MOTION TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE SLATE OF NOMINEES

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

2025 MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS AND COMPOSITION

BUDGET SUMMARY

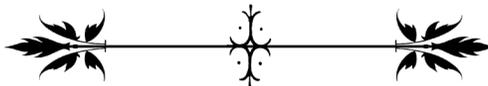
REPORT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2026 Terms of Call for Rev. Dr. Michael A. Diaz:

Pastor – Effective Salary.....	\$125,274.00
(Salary.....	\$75,834.00)
(Housing.....	\$49,440.00)
Pastor-Professional Expense.....	\$ 2,000.00
Pastor-Study Leave	\$ 2,000.00
Pastor-Pension/Insurance (Board of Pensions)	\$43,570.00
(Pension 10%.....	\$12,527.00)
(Pastor Medical 16%.....	\$20,043.00)
(Added Family Medical	\$11,000.00)
Pastor-SECA (Self Employment Tax).....	\$ 9,583.00
Study Leave (two weeks) and Vacation Time (four weeks)	
Mileage reimbursement @ \$0.70/mile	

MOTION TO RECEIVE THE 2025 REPORTS

MOTION TO ADJOURN



CENTENNIAL FUND

MEETING AS THE CORPORATION, EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Centennial Fund – a 107-year-old endowment that supplies about two-thirds of ELPC’s annual operating budget – is overseen by the Centennial Trustees: two elected by Session, two by the congregation and two by trustees themselves. To improve transparency, trustees are seeking to change this election to three by Session and three by the congregation. They hope to present a proposal for a vote at next year’s annual meeting.

Also in the past year, Fund trustees, at the recommendation of the Justice Committee's Environmental Team Divestment sub-committee, approved nine additional fossil-fuel company divestitures, pushing the total to 14. The move aligned with guidance from the Fund’s PC(USA) General Assembly Divestment List as well as from the Presbyterian Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment.

Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. manages the Fund’s active portfolio, primarily through investments in publicly traded securities split 70%-30% between stocks and bonds. The portfolio returned 15.8% last year, outperforming its benchmarks in most categories (bonds/fixed income, and large cap, small cap and developed international equities). It was aided by 2025’s robust performance of large-cap domestic and global stocks, which saw the S&P 500 and the MSCI World Ex US indices return a respective 17.9% and 31.9%.

However, total Fund assets (which as part of Centennial’s initiative to support community investments include a \$250,000 loan with East Liberty Development, Inc.) rose only 8.7%, to \$28.6 million from \$26.3 million at year-end 2024. The comparatively slower growth relative to the active portfolio reflected the drain from draws from the Fund in support of church operations, including excess draws beyond the standard draw, a perennial issue that Session and church leadership are working to address. Without the excess draws, Fund assets would have grown roughly 10%.

The Chair thanks the Centennial Trustees for their dedicated service this past year.

— *Steve Massey*

Centennial Fund Trustees:

Kathy Callahan, Doris Dick, Gene Harris, Bryan Lawrence, Steve Massey (Chair), Allison Seidel

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Congregational Meeting Topics and Ministry/Committee Reports</i>	<i>Page #</i>
2026 Annual Plan Overview.....	7
Adult Education Classes	15
Centennial Fund Trustees.....	4
Children and Family Ministries.....	17
Deacon Board.....	29
Hope Academy of Music and the Arts	8
Human Resources Committee	20
LGBTQIA+ Ministry.....	13
Membership and Outreach Committee.....	22
Minutes from 2025 Congregational Meeting.....	37
Minutes from September 29, 2024 Special Congregational Meeting	39
Minutes from October 6, 2024 Special Congregational Meeting.....	40
Mission Board.....	24
Facing Systemic Racism Committee and Reparations Ministry Team.....	24
Justice Committee.....	27
Neighbors Committee.....	25
Peace Committee.....	26
Music Ministry.....	18
Nominating Committee	2
Pastoral Message	6
Presbyterian Women	31
Property Committee.....	14
Safety and Security Advisory	12
Session	32
Spiritual Life Committee.....	21
Stewardship and Finance Committee	30
Worship, Music and Arts Committee	10
Youth and Young Adult Ministries (YAYA).....	16
 <i>Statistical Reports</i>	
Average Weekly Attendance.....	36
Budget Summary.....	33
Membership Statistics.....	35
Pledges, Income and Expenses.....	34

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.” (1 Corinthians 3:6)

People of God,

In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, he reminds his friends that the work of the church is a partnership between human faithfulness and divine grace. We've experienced such a partnership these last 12 months. Some of us planted. Others of us watered. And God brought spiritual growth to our community in ways we did not expect.

Each week in worship, increasing numbers of people gathered to pray, sing, reflect, and listen for God's voice. Worship continued to form us into people of hope and compassion. Through music, preaching, prayer, and creative expression, we were reminded that faith is not simply something we believe, but something we practice together in community.

I also saw faith come alive in ways that strengthened belonging in our spiritual life and Christian education programming. In addition to engaging Sunday morning offerings, new midweek offerings averaged more than 40 participants for each class. Children, youth, and families built connections with each other by creating intentional space throughout the week. Even our mission acts of care and justice became intergenerational for the wider community to encounter grace and possibility.

Much of this work happened through the dedication of leaders, volunteers, and staff who stewarded the life of this church with wisdom and commitment. Every ELPC congregant contributed through your presence, prayers, and gifts, and I am in awe of how we've grown so much together in the past year. As a congregation, we were willing to try new things. That may not sound dramatic, but in the life of a church, it is a huge act of courage. From experimenting with more embodied worship to piloting new feeding ministries, growth happened with your openness and trust. Thank you for following in the way of Jesus.

On the following pages, you will find reports from many areas of ministry as well as a brief overview of our ministry goals for the coming year. These priorities grew out of the prayerful work of Session and leaders across the congregation and offer a roadmap for how we will continue nurturing faith, strengthening community, and stewarding our resources.

In many ways, this is what it means for us to be a church that is continually both grounded and growing. We are firmly rooted in God's story, bringing good news to all while remaining open to where the Spirit is leading next.

May we continue to plant.
May we continue to water.
And may God continue to give the growth.

In Christ,
Michael

Rev. Dr. Michael A. Diaz
Senior Pastor

2026 ANNUAL PLAN OVERVIEW



Nurture Hope & Deep Faith

We will be a community of hope, grounding people in God's story and offering pathways and practices that sustain resilience, meaning, and courage for daily life.

- **Worship Services:** Expand and diversify worship through interactive liturgies, creative visuals, and online engagement; expand our reach, target attendance growth and visitor retention.
- **Spiritual Formation:** Establish clear pathways for newcomers and members; launch foundational classes and intergenerational events to strengthen connections.

Strengthen Belonging, Community & Witness

We will create spaces of belonging and radical hospitality that weave together generations, cultures, and identities while sustainably living out our public witness for justice and compassion.

- **Children, Youth, Families:** Track attendance, improve family-friendly spaces, expand childcare, and deepen collaboration with Hope Academy.
- **Membership & Outreach:** Enhance the online and in-person visitor experience, foster stronger engagement, develop radical hospitality training, and create a new volunteer welcome team.
- **Mission & Justice:** Center Nell & Poll programming, advance Matthew 25 initiatives (e.g., meals, partnerships), develop land acknowledgment, and create justice-focused engagement spaces.
- **Congregational Care:** Implement systematic care tracking, expand card ministry, and provide bereavement support and volunteer training.

Lead Together & Steward Faithfully

We will equip and empower leaders at every level, clarifying systems and processes, while stewarding our building, finances, and partnerships as tools for God's mission.

- **Leadership & Stewardship:** Develop volunteer role descriptions, train co-leads, launch ACS Realm, and begin strategic planning for long-term vision.
- **Property & Safety:** Prioritize facility improvements, address accessibility, enhance security, and expand safety & diversity training.
- **Communication:** Strengthen internal and external communication with improved messaging, newsletters, and social media strategies.

* *Last year, Session committees and ministry leads developed goals for 2026 that were finalized into an annual church plan. This one page overview is a summary of the four-page document.*



HOPE ACADEMY

Hope Academy is THRIVING! The halls and classrooms of East Liberty Presbyterian Church continue to be filled with the sounds of music, movement, and community as students, families, teaching artists, and staff gather week after week. In 2025, Hope Academy **served more than 200 students ages 3 to 19**, remaining one of the largest and most affordable youth outreach programs in the East Liberty community.

Accessibility remains at the heart of our mission. We work hard to keep costs affordable while offering scholarships to families in need. Scholarships are prioritized for students from low-income families and/or those who identify as Black, African American, or Indigenous, and support tuition, instruments, dance clothing and shoes, and tickets to cultural events. We are proud to ensure that every child has access to high-quality arts education, regardless of financial circumstances. **In 2025, more than 50% of our students received financial assistance through scholarships and free classes.**

Throughout 2025, Hope Academy offered more than 20 classes in music and dance. Dance programming included eight Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre classes—creative movement, pre-ballet, and beginning ballet for our youngest students starting at age three, as well as ballet and jazz across four levels, including pointe—continuing a partnership that spans more than 25 years.

We were thrilled to introduce Youth Capoeira: Flip & Kick with a Twist, a new class taught by Akinlana Lowman of the Capoeira Association of Pittsburgh, which quickly became a popular and welcomed addition in Fall 2025.

Our growing music program includes Suzuki strings for violin, viola, and cello, as well as classical guitar and ukulele. Students may enroll in private lessons alongside supportive group classes such as Cello Group and Cello Choir (taught by Beth Goldstein-McKee), Ukulele Explorers, String Explorers, and the new SOUND Explorers, a class designed for neurodivergent learners in partnership with BT Studios.



New this year, through a collaboration with Sara Hackett and ELPC Children, Youth, and Families, we offered Sunday Musikgarten for ages 3–5, taught by Carmen Blanco.

Hope Academy continues to offer free classes through generous partnerships, including Voice Class Level 1 taught by Director Anqwenique Kinsel, Hip Hop Orchestra led by Michael Chapman of Guardians of Sound, and Sing & Dance (two levels) taught by Shana Simmons and Josh Rouse.

We are proud that students continue to study across creative disciplines, and we are delighted to see more younger siblings joining the Hope Academy family. **Serving families remains a foundational goal of our work**, ensuring that every family feels welcomed, supported, and truly at home here.

Our Partners

The success of Hope Academy in 2025 is made possible by our partners, parents, and community members who support students in both small and meaningful ways. Our families are deeply grateful for the gift cards and thoughtful presents provided to scholarship families. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who donated funds and gifts, as well as to the volunteers who lovingly organized, wrapped, and distributed each item.

Strong partnerships remain essential to our mission of bringing the transformative power of the arts to young people, regardless of background or circumstance.

HOPE ACADEMY *(cont.)*

2025 Partners

Chamber Music Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Unisound, Shana Simmons Dance Company, BT Studios, Guardians of Sound, Resonance Works, Capoeira Association of Pittsburgh, and ELPC Children, Youth, and Families.

Our Team

Anqwenique Kinsel, who joined Hope Academy in 2024 as Interim Director, officially transitioned into the role of Director of Hope Academy in 2025. A former Hope Academy teaching artist and parent, Anqwenique brings deep institutional knowledge, lived experience, and a steadfast commitment to equity, artistic excellence, and community-centered programming.

We were also pleased to welcome Minnie Jones as Program Assistant, whose organizational expertise and warm presence have strengthened day-to-day operations and family engagement. Karly Threats served as Financial Administrative Assistant.

Program Staff

- 1 Full-time Program Director
- 1 Part-time Program Assistant
- 1 Financial Administrative Assistant
- 4 Accompanists
- 12 Music Program Teaching Artists
- 6 Dance Teaching Artists
- 5 Parent Volunteers

Performance & Event Highlights

February 19–20 – Hip Hop Orchestra Shareformance + KST MLK Day Celebration

May – Spring Recital Performances at ELPC

May 11 – Field trip to PBT’s Wizard of Oz at the Benedum Center (30+ students)

August 12–16 – Hope Academy Summer Workshops

September 2–9 – Hope Academy Reset: volunteers prepared spaces and materials for the new program year

October 19 – Students participated in the Greater Pittsburgh Suzuki Institute Birthday Bash Fundraiser

October 20 – Meet the Masters Series with cellist Sterlin Elliott

October 21 – Students attended CMP’s Sphinx Virtuosi concert at Carnegie Music Hall (free tickets)

October 24 – KDKA filming with Boaz featuring Cello Group and the Instrument Library partnership with Chamber Music Pittsburgh

October 25 – Student performances at Kelly Strayhorn Theater’s Pumpkin Palooza Celebration

December 13–16 – Shareformances

December 20 – Field trip to PBT’s The Nutcracker at the Benedum Center (30+ students)

For more information about Hope Academy and to register for classes, please visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/hopeacademyarts>



— Anqwenique Kinsel

WORSHIP, MUSIC, ARTS

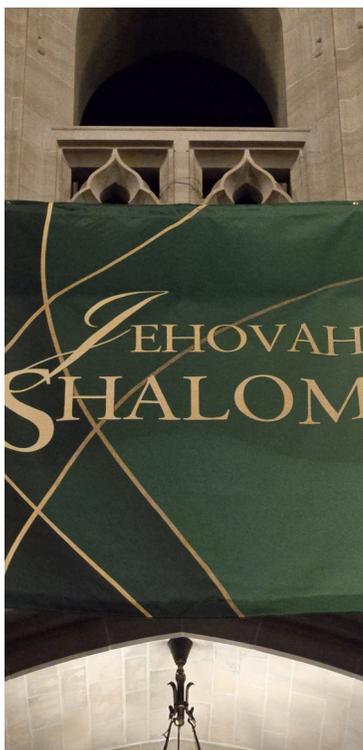
The Worship, Music, and Arts Committee (WMA) supports programming and initiatives that aspire to make ELPC's worship services broadly engaging, accessible, inclusive, and dynamic for all attendees. In addition, we strive to identify and offer opportunities for congregants and community members to gather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

WMA meets over Zoom the second Tuesday of every month from 7:30-9 pm. The group is chaired by Elder Carol Mullen.

During the past year, WMA engaged in a wide range of activities that supported meaningful worship, visual expression, and the broader ministry priorities of the congregation. The committee met regularly to plan, discern, and respond to both ongoing needs and emerging opportunities within the life of the church.

WMA also explored ways to incorporate broader educational and justice-oriented themes into worship and church spaces. The committee considered options for displaying artwork connected to Facing Systemic Racism initiatives, with an emphasis on thoughtful context, placement, and collaboration with other committees, particular FSR and Spiritual Life. That led to an upcoming storywalk program centering the lives of Nell and Poll, members of a family enslaved and sold by two of ELPC's early founders.

Throughout the year, WMA monitored and supported technical and logistical aspects of worship. The AV team provided consistent updates, oversaw equipment upgrades, and ensured reliable support for in-person and streamed services as well as special events. WMA also continued conversations related to the long-term care and planning for the church's stained glass windows, recognizing both their artistic and spiritual significance.



A significant focus of WMA's work was strengthening the visual and liturgical environment of worship. WMA created a *Visual Enhancement Subcommittee* (VES) which led efforts to review seasonal decorations, banners, and floral practices, including planning for transitions in vendors and creating/acquiring/installing new banners for Pentecost and Ordinary Time. Attention was given to ensuring that visual elements were theologically grounded, visually cohesive, and supportive of worship throughout the church year.

WORSHIP, MUSIC, ARTS *(cont.)*

In alignment with congregational strategic planning, WMA developed and refined goals related to communication, collaborative programming, and intentional worship planning. These goals emphasized shared leadership, clearer storytelling about worship offerings, and deeper engagement between worship, the arts, and the congregation's mission priorities.

Music remained a vital component of WMA's work and worship life. A separate and more detailed report on music ministries, performances, and concerts will be submitted by Dr. Ed Moore.

Overall, WMA's work this year reflected a commitment to thoughtful worship, creative expression, collaboration, and faithful stewardship in service of the congregation's spiritual life. We welcome new ideas, input, and feedback. If you would like to join our committee, observe a meeting, or just learn more about us, please feel free to contact or Carol Mullen at carolmullen.pgh@gmail.com.

— Carol Mullen

Church Tours

ELPC Church tours were led this year from March-Nov 2025. **There were a total of eighteen (18) tours and 229 participants.** Our tour guides, Steve Evrard, Penn Hackney, Tom Morton, Tim VanFleet, and Jo Ellen Aleshire, are gracious givers of their commitment, knowledge, and love of ELPC's history, architectural significance, and our church's mission. They extend hospitality in this ministry and outreach with each person on the tours. Most of our tours are given after the Sunday Sanctuary service and make up a combination of church members, local Pittsburghers, and out-of-town visitors.

Due to extremely high numbers attending the Tower Tours earlier in the year, there was a need to restrict the number of participants on each tour. A decision was made to limit the tour to twenty (20) people. It was also determined this year that each participant on a Tower tour would be required to sign a *Tower Tour Participation and Liability Release Form*.

The four types of tours led this year following the Sunday Sanctuary worship service (13 tours) were:

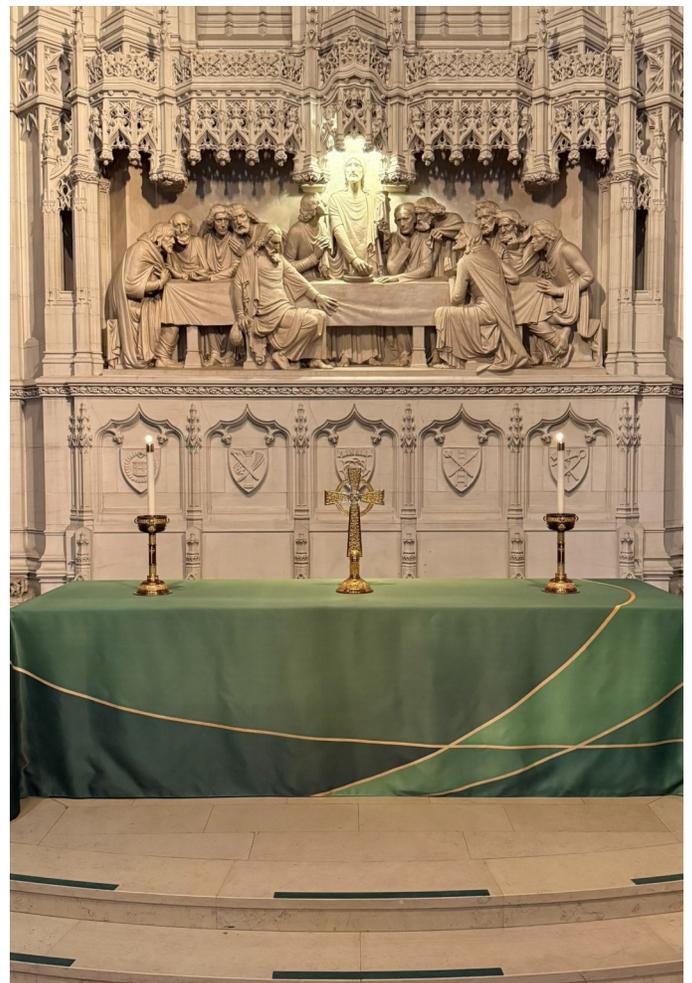
- Sanctuary and Chapel
- Tower
- Stained Glass
- Exterior of Church

Tours are also given to private groups as requested on days other than Sunday (5 tours) were:

- -Sanctuary/Chapel
- Tower

Total participants were 229.

— Jo Ellen Aleshire



SAFETY & SECURITY ADVISORY

The Advisory is a team of congregation members representing: the Session, Staff, Children & Youth, Property Committee, and Human Resources Committee.

This team was created in January 2025 to address the safety & security needs of our congregation and the many groups who use our building. ELPC staff had written an Emergency Response Plan that was approved by the Session in October 2022. A review of the plan and critical assessment of our building were completed in May of 2024 by Pittsburgh Emergency Management and Homeland Security. The assessment provided us with a list of recommendations for ways to improve our building security and safety protocols.

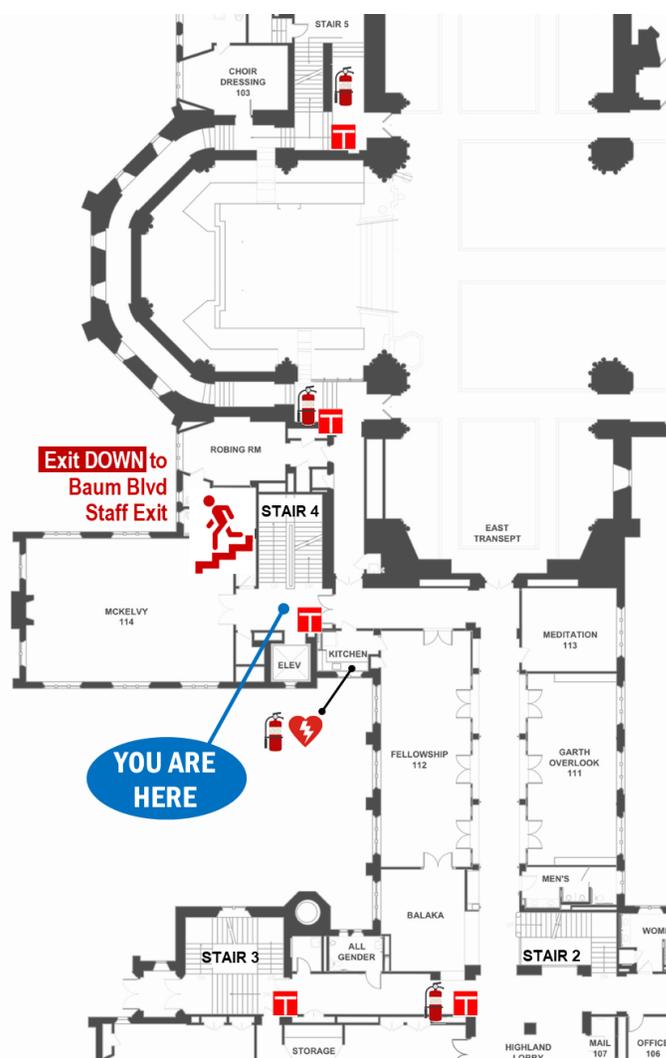
Our first task was to prioritize the recommendations according to our capacity to implement them. We received many resources from FEMA, Homeland Security, Cyber Security from the Government, and Pittsburgh Police and Fire Departments. Pastor Michael and our staff had already written a protocol for responding to ICE. This was shared with the Session and Deacons and posted in the building.

These tasks have been completed in 2025:

- ◆ Update Emergency Exit signs & floor maps.
- ◆ New First Aid Kits including tourniquets and “stop-the-bleed” on each floor.
- ◆ Recharge AED.
- ◆ Practice Evacuation routes with staff, session, deacons, ushers and greeters.
- ◆ Secure a Rally Point for children & parents.
- ◆ Provide training for staff: CPR, AED, “Stop the Bleed”, First Aid, Fire, Mental Health Incidents. All training courses have been recorded for future use.
- ◆ Label phones on each floor with emergency directions.
- ◆ Improved sight-lines outside the building by clearing foliage.
- ◆ Investigate grant funding for emergency equipment.
- ◆ Conduct a fire drill with the congregation.

We are fortunate to have so many dedicated staff and volunteers that have worked diligently to make our church a safer place to be. Please take time to familiarize yourself with the many exits from our building and think about exit routes you could take from each location in the building. With 5 floors, there are multiple ways to get out of the building. You are also encouraged to watch the videos of any of the trainings we have completed.

Safety & Security Advisory Members: Sandy Brake, Don Breitbarth, Lynne Chadwick, Carol Chonoska (chair), Carol Chontos, Michael Diaz (Head of Staff), Wil Forrest, Sara Hackett, Tom Morton, Jim Tinnemeyer (Director of Administration & Facilities), Isaiah Wilson, Nancy Wright



LGBTQIA+ MINISTRY

Since August of 2013, the ELPCs Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and Ally (LGBTQIA+) Ministry has sought to welcome self-identified LGBTQIA+ people of faith and their allies. This Ministry steadily draws not only ELPC friends and members, but also a significant number of participants who are members of other churches or have no church affiliation yet 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 24 participants in 2025 with about 18% of the participants this year being new to the ministry.

Some ministry highlights from 2025:



- Our dedicated Advisory Group grew to 5 thoughtful, creative Ministry members who meet periodically to assess ministry goals and programmatic intentionally.
- We altered the format of our monthly spiritual gatherings to keep our focus on a welcoming environment as we accommodated our growing number of attendees. We aimed to maintain a safe space where we can have ongoing personal sharing and connection related to the intersectionality of being LGBTQIA+ and being a person of faith.
- In 2025 we hosted three retreats. Two at the home of Michele and Henk Bossers and one at a local queer establishment named Harold's Haunt in the summer. The retreat themes focused on Potluck Discussion (March), Surviving and Thriving in Troubled Times (July) and sharing (October).
- In the summer, we worked with ELPC's Justice Committee as we planned ELPC's Pride participation. ELPC marched in the parade and shared a booth at Pittsburgh Pride Revolution with other inclusive congregations hosted by LAMP. We also again co-hosted Pittsburgh Black Pride's Family Fun Day at our church after taking a break from before the pandemic.
- We formed new partnerships as we co-hosted game day at the church with local queer, neuro-divergent, and youthful groups: ANDS and LesbiYinz.
- We shared fellowship time during happy hour with ELPC's Young Adults, over a campfire and s'mores, and at Kennywood hosted by Antwone Wright.
- LGBTQIA+ visibility was fostered by placing the rainbow ribbon bookmark in the pews with an inclusiveness pledge as well as making pronoun information and buttons available in the Narthex.

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.

Respectfully submitted by Wil Forrest (he/him), LGBTQIA+ Ministry Coordinator



PROPERTY

2025 has been another busy year for the Property committee as we continue to maintain our 90 year old building. We have been blessed that work done in 2024 with the boiler system has helped to keep these systems running overall well for the year and should keep us going for a few more years to come.

The year came with the committee having to make the tough decision to close the Garth space down for worship due to the deteriorating stone pavers. As we enter 2026 discussions and a task force are being created for working on that project.

We also faced this year two surprises in relation to the Baum Blvd lot stone wall. An automobile accident on Palm Sunday weekend caused significant damage to the wall and required us to make emergency repairs. Those repairs held up well until an unfortunate second accident in mid-December once again caused significant damage. The committee will also work to determine if other steps could be taken to provide added protection to that side of the building.

And 2025 has been another active year for those helping to maintain the church grounds and the committee would like to thank Don Breitbarth for all of his hard work with organizing work days and volunteers to make sure our rain garden and landscaping are kept up.

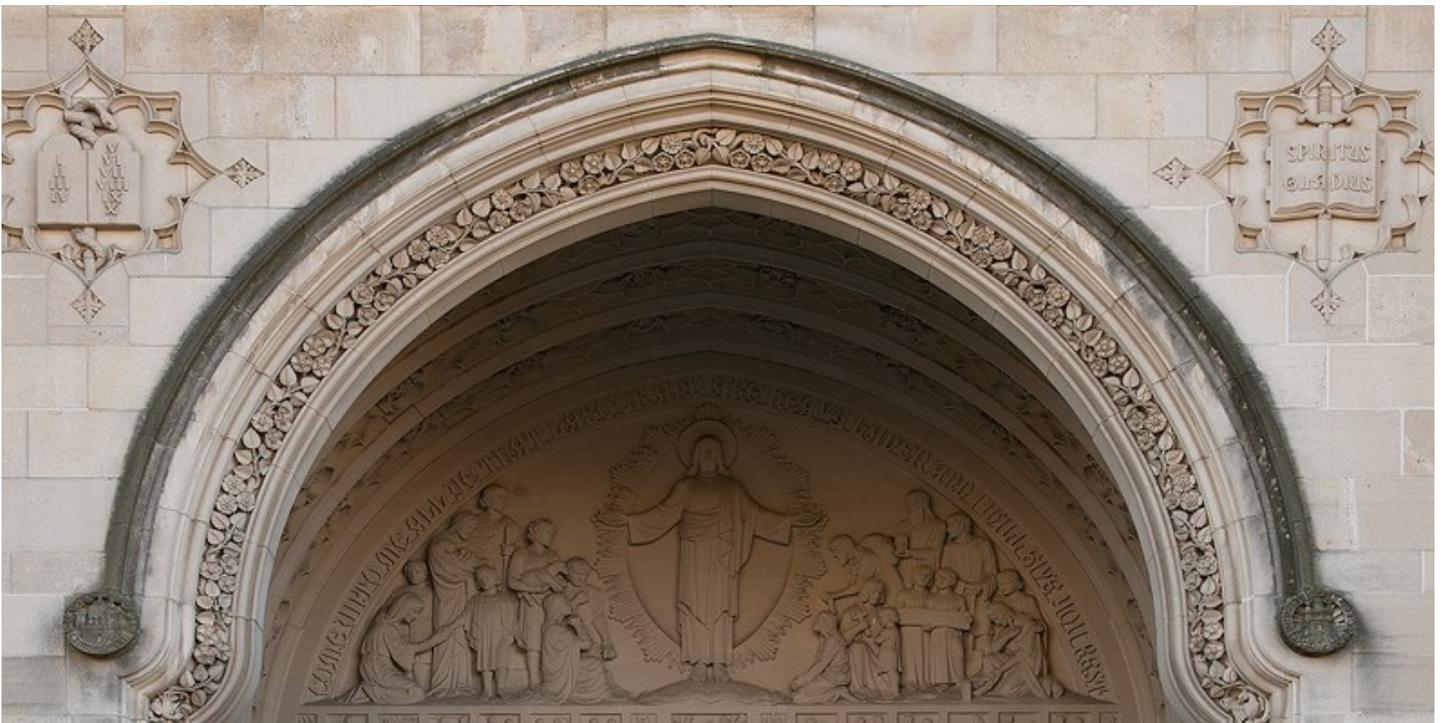
We would also once again send gratitude to Mike Anderson for his efforts with the grass and cleaning up litter from the property.

In November the committee once again met in person to discuss goals for 2026 including meeting quarterly in person to walk the building and grounds and work to continue to keep up with any maintenance needs that may arise.

We would be remiss if we didn't provide thanks and appreciation for Jim Tinnemeyer and Carol Chontos for all of their tireless work to help make sure our building is safe and welcoming for all who enter.

— Matt Stufft and Eric Logan, co-chairs

Property Committee: Eric Logan (co-chair), Matt Stufft (co-chair), Tom Morton, Melia Chandler, Don Breitbarth, Nancy Wright, Isaac Smith, Brendan Bogolin



ADULT EDUCATION

Journey With Scripture Class

As the facilitator, I am always inspired and encouraged by the liturgical passages. Scripture keeps me alive and hopeful. I am nurtured. Attendance is small. Non-church members are most welcome. Attendance is also accessed by Zoom. I am happy to bring in the Sanctuary windows when applicable, which is often. The 1935 sanctuary windows and the building's incredibly Biblical message exude Good News. The building's message is "Come and be Healed!" Our Presbyterian legacy of "Reformed Theology; Reformed, Ever Reforming" is declared by its architecture. The building and our adult classroom setting add to the shout of "Good News" for all.

— Rev. Dr. Henk Bossers

Seekers Class

The Seekers class has met continuously since 1993 (except for summer months). We have attendees and guest speakers both in-person and on Zoom. This past year, we had speakers from J Street (a progressive Jewish organization that works for peace and justice among Israelis and Palestinians), and we watched several moving videos related to Israeli/Palestinian issues.

During the year, we watched several video presentations by Bishop John Spong and theologian Karen Armstrong. We had in-person presentations by the President and CEO of East End Cooperative Ministries, video presentation by the President of Foreman Christian College in Lahore, Pakistan. Rev. BJ gave a presentation/discussion on finding meaning in death. Pastor Michael gave an April presentation/discussion about various beliefs about the Resurrection, and a December presentation/discussion about the Incarnation – "When God Becomes Small." We sponsored a combined class about the environment, and watched a video about how China is stamping out Tibetan culture and religion. As usual, we had programming about Black history and culture during February.

— Gwen Puza

Soul Food Class

The Soul Food class meets in the Good Samaritan Room and on Zoom and **averaged between 20 and 25 weekly participants** during 2025. We also had our annual covered dish social gathering at the Shaler Library in July. Joe Hajdu is the facilitator and many class members help each week with leadership.

Our class generously supports an offering and our offering for January-May went to Casa San Jose for their important work with local immigrants. In September we began receiving an offering for Hello Neighbor, an organization that helps immigrants and refugees, and through December we received \$1582 for them.

We use a contemplative format that includes small group discussions of spiritual texts and our personal experiences.

The books we have discussed most recently are *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo, and *Season's Greetings* by Ruth Boling. This coming spring we will discuss *How We Learn to be Brave* by Bishop Mariann Budde.

— Rev. Joe Hajdu

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT

Teens in 7th-12th grade continue to meet regularly on Sunday Mornings and Thursday evenings for Sunday School and Youth Group where together, with some incredible volunteer youth leaders and Sunday school teachers, they explore the role that faith, justice, and Jesus' teachings play in their lives. In 2025 youth also retreated to Crestfield, did service work, prayed for each other and the world, volunteered at VCS, ate a lot of pizza and played more than a few good games.

Last summer we joined Presbyterian youth from around the country in Louisville, KY for Triennium where worship, friendships, and workshops challenged us to see faith in new ways. **Fall of 2025 a new confirmation class of 7 students began** – we are looking forward to them becoming official members in 2026 after this season of discernment.

Young Adult Ministries (YAM) met in the spring of 2025 to do a book study on Sara Miles' *Take this Bread*. This Fall they began meeting monthly for Young Adult Happy Hours on the third Monday of the month. Happy Hours are hosted by members of the congregation who aren't necessary young adults and have allowed YAMs to build community, share experiences of faith AND get to know the amazing folks who have graciously opened their homes to the group.

We are grateful for the hospitality of our church.

— Sara Hackett



CHILDREN & FAMILY

Creating Community

We've continued our monthly family events which foster a caring community of families at ELPC where kids and adults feel loved and empowered to explore their faith through both service opportunities and fun. We also offer open gym once a month so families can come together to play and chat.

We have also partnered with Hope Academy this year to offer a Sunday morning music class so that community can build between Hope Academy families and the families that worship here.

Opportunities to Serve

We intentionally weaved more opportunities for kids and families to live out faith through serving others into programming like VCS where kids did a service project every day, Justice League, where tweens served each week, family events, Sunday School and more.

Age-Appropriate Worship

Our youngest Sacred Stories Sunday school class includes many of the same elements of worship that are happening in the sanctuary - they hear and respond to the Scripture, sing songs, pray, light the Christ candle, and receive a blessing (benediction) at the end of worship. The nursery has been singing songs and hearing stories about God's love. On Easter, kids had an opportunity to sit in the garden, crawl into the empty tomb, and see Mary recognize Jesus' voice during our Easter morning Sunday school class.

This was our first time hosting Sunday School on Easter, which we did because we wanted kids who were visiting on Easter to hear the story in a way they could experience and understand. We have also put children's Bibles in the Sanctuary pews so that kids can read and see the stories of our faith in age-appropriate ways.

We are grateful for the many wonderful volunteers who make this programming possible. Thank you!

— Sara Hackett



MUSIC MINISTRY

MUSIC ENSEMBLES

Journey Praise Team – The Journey Praise Team rehearses on Thursdays and sings for the Journey Service from September to May. In addition, they led worship in the Sanctuary several times throughout the summer months. Mr. Gerald Savage is the Journey Music Director and has been with us since Fall 2002.

Chancel Choir – The Chancel Choir welcomed several new members this year and the current roster is the largest it has been in many years. They rehearse weekly from September through June and sing year-round for the 11 am service and the 10 am service in the summer. In addition to Sunday services the Chancel Choir plays an important part in our annual Christmas in East Liberty concert. Organist Ryan Croyle joined us several times throughout the year to play with the choir and The Brass Roots as well as substituting for Dr. Ed when he was away.

Handbell Choir – The ELPC Ringers also welcomed several new members this year. This year they continued rehearsing throughout the summer months for that the members dubbed Hot Bell Summer.

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

The Brass Roots – we are fortunate and blessed to have had these wonderful musicians with us the past 12 years. We have brass in worship 4 times throughout the year plus the *Christmas in East Liberty* concert.

Hope Academy Teaching Artists – A string quartet of teaching artists joined Anqwenique Kinsel for the 11 am service to present *I Want to Go Home* by composer Jessie Montgomery.

Earth Sunday – Mike Tomaro and his combo joined us for worship on April 27 at the 11 am service.

Installation Sunday – The Chancel Choir, Brass Roots, and organist Ryan Croyle joined Dr. Ed to provide the music for Pastor Michael's installation service in the afternoon on May 18. For the service Mike Tomaro was commissioned to write a new arrangement of We Are the Church Alive, one of Pastor Michael's favorite hymns. Mike joined on sax with choir and piano for the premiere of this special piece at the service.



Full Inclusion Sunday – The ELPC Chancel Choir combined with members of the newly rebranded Pittsburgh Pride Choir (formerly The Renaissance City Choir) on October 12. Dr. Kym Scott conducted with Dr. Ed on piano and Hope Academy Teaching Artist, Omari I. Abdul-Alim, on violin for our combined anthem *Does the World Say?* by Kyle Pederson.

Reformation Sunday – Bagpiper Palmer Shonk returned for Reformation Sunday on October 26.



MUSIC MINISTRY *(cont.)*

CATHEDRAL CONCERTS

Thanks to all the many volunteers who help greet and usher at the concerts and to Wayne Gaines and Tim Benedict for providing audio and visual support so we can stream the concerts on YouTube and Facebook. Many thanks to the creative Norma Meyer for designing such wonderful printed programs for the concerts and to Ian Faight for helping us get the word out online and around town.

14th Season – second half

Sunday, February 9 – St. Olaf Choir

The world-renowned St. Olaf Choir from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota performed to a full house under the direction of Dr. Anton Armstrong.



Sunday, March 30 – Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh

The Mendelssohn Choir returned for their concert *We All Sing!*, a celebration of music as the universal language that unites us all, under the direction of music director Daniel Singer.



15th Season – first half

Sunday, October 12 – Organ and Winds

Pittsburgh based woodwind ensemble Windfluence was joined by Dr. Ed Moore for a rare performance of the Organ Concerto for Organ and Wind Quintet by Daniel Pinkham.



Sunday, October 26 – Fox Chapel High School Chorus and Orchestra
These talented high school musicians performed to a large enthusiastic audience. Under the director of Benjamin Murray, choral director, and Mairi Cooper, orchestra director, the concert featured *Illuminare* for string orchestra, piano, and choir by Elaine Hagenberg.



Friday, December 12 - Christmas in East Liberty

766 people attended in person with another 99 households online to make this our biggest Christmas in East Liberty yet. The Brass Roots, conductor Daniel Nesta Curtis, the ELPC Chancel Choir and Dr. Ed Moore, organist Ethan LaPlaca, narrator Jim Cunningham from WQED-FM, and saxophonist/arranger Mike Tomaro brought this East Liberty holiday tradition to life! The concert ended with a new arrangement of *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year* by Mike Tomaro

I am blessed to serve at ELPC with an incredibly supportive congregation and fabulous staff! Here is to a year filled with lots of inspiring music in worship and concerts throughout 2026!

— Dr. Edward Alan Moore, Director of Music & Arts

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Committee would like to express our gratitude for our staff and their dedication to the daily maintenance of our facility and the safe operation of our programs. It is our staff who provide a consistent framework upon which we rely for our many ministries and mission.

In addition to our 3 pastors, we have 17 full and part-time employees and 4 temporary custodial positions through Adecco. We also have a host of independently contracted musicians (Chancel, Journey, Taizé). We are grateful to our Director of Administration & Facilities, Jim Tinnemeyer, and Senior Pastor & Head of Staff, Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz for their leadership and guidance in a year of transition.

The HR committee brought forward the concept of a “Temporary Associate Pastor” to meet our needs with two open positions for Associate Pastors. Pastor Michael identified the specific qualifications for a Pastor of Care & Connection. With full Session support, the “Temporary Associate Pastor” position allowed us to expedite the search process and put together a Pulpit Nominating Committee of 5 people: Gretchen Chapman/chair (Deacons), Carol Chonoska (HR, Session, Mission Board), Barbara Griffin (Session & Finance), Linda Lane (HR, FSR, PW, former PNC), and Ryan Booher (Happy Wanderers, Youth). Through dedication and diligence, this committee created a discernment profile; reviewed and rated resumes; and, questioned, interviewed and evaluated candidates. The committee was unanimous in their recommendation of Rev. Sarah Robbins for this position. The HR committee is both humbled by the efforts of the nominating committee and joyful at the selection of Rev. Robbins. Welcome Pastor Sarah!

The Safety and Security Advisory has provided our staff with training on: Basic First Aid, including “Stop the Bleed” and the use of tourniquets; Mental Health interventions and resources; Evacuations; Fire Safety; CPR; and AED use. All training was recorded and

available for later viewing. This training will be an ongoing part of the Safety Plan for ELPC.

HR assisted with revising the job description for Full-time Director of Hope Academy - Anqwenique Kinsel. We are fortunate to have Anqwenique’s talents and inspiration in this role.

New this year: we welcome 3 individuals from Mainstay Life Services (providing compassionate employment services to individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism). They complete work training with a supervisor/job coach one afternoon a week. This has been an exciting learning experience and delightful relationship between our staff and Mainstay.

The HR Committee made some transitions as well. Linda Lane joined our committee in March. Doris Dick and Tim Tenbrink joined our committee in October. We are blessed to have their expertise and insight as we move forward. We were sad to see Alan McIvor move off the committee after six years of service. Thank you, Alan!

We would encourage you to get to know all our staff, pray for them, be respectful of their time and offer your thanks and appreciation for their service.

— *Bill Buchanan and Carol Chonoska (Interim Co-Chairs)*

Human Resources Committee Members: Bill Buchanan (Interim Co-chair), Carol Chonoska (Interim Co-chair), Doris Dick, Charma Dudley, Linda Lane and Tim Tenbrink

SPIRITUAL LIFE

How is the Spirit moving us to an awareness of the presence of God within and without our individual and congregational lives? The past few years have been times of transition, of uncertainty, and of seeking answers to this very question. 2025 was a year that saw the Spiritual Life committee continue its work to integrate spiritual practices into more areas of ELPC, creating spaces to pray, dance, stretch, sing, and learn. For example, anointing prayer with oil and the opportunity to light candles became a welcome and stirring addition to the third Sunday of the month 11 am worship services.

Taizé continues to be a space of respite from a busy world and a gateway into ELPC. We have seen growth in attendance. Preceding Taizé each Wednesday evening, Cathedral Yoga continues to be another avenue of entry to our church. Beginning in the fall Pastor BJ led a four-week class, (also on Wednesday evenings), that coincided with the fall retreat, “Giving Our Deaths Away.” Three retreats in total were offered in 2025. They were each held at Vila St Maria retreat center. Epiphany, held 1/31/25 – 2/2/25, was the theme of the winter retreat. Joanne Spence guided us as we spent time learning to “Embody the Spirit” held in May. Continuing the theme of body and movement, Yamuna continues to enrich the lives of participants at Journey Dance, held once a month.

From September through May, a time of contemplative prayer is held on Monday mornings by way of zoom, a tool that continues to expand participation in ELPC offerings.

The theme of prayer continues Tuesday mornings with Online Prayer and on the evenings of the same day, Meditation Hour, led by John Benedict, guides participants through silent seated and walking meditation.

2025 saw the return of the Labrinth, an ancient tool for walking and seated meditation Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10 am to 7 pm. Teams of volunteers gave their time to setting up the 35 ft mat and storing it away each week.

Did you know that ELPC has a prayer room? This space is a place for quiet reflection, prayer, and meditation. Located next to the East Transept doors of the sanctuary, the prayer room is an escape from the business of our daily lives. Pastor BJ continued his work offering one-on-one spiritual direction to the congregation.

In the fall, the Spiritual Life committee began work laying out a plan of growth and integration that will develop over the next several years. The committee met for a potluck meal to discuss where we are and to set long- and short-term goals that will welcome congregants to begin and/or continue growing as spiritual beings. The Spiritual Life Committee is excited to be building on a very full and fruitful 2025. There is an energy that is moving through our church, and it is difficult to describe but it's presence is undeniable. Good things will be continuing in 2026.



— *Tim Engelhardt*

MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind (1 Peter 3:8).

M&O seeks to help members and friends connect with each other and realize God's intent for a welcoming, encompassing community through the Spirit in Christ. Highlights from Year 2025 include:

Visitors and Inquirers Ministry

Of the hundreds of visitors at ELPC worship services in 2025, 665 provided contact information that enabled Pastor Michael (& new app) to promptly text message these visitors with a welcome and offer to receive prayer requests. M&O members assisted in email contacting. These practices have proven effective for visitor returns, especially when ELPC members/friends extend a personal welcome during services or in their daily lives.

- **Welcome Teams:** As a trial run, teams were created to greet visitors attending worship services.
- **Visitors Sunday:** M&O reinstated September's Visitors Sunday. We encouraged members and friends to invite others to church. M&O created gift bags (with fresh SWAG!) that were also offered to visitors throughout this past year.
- **Inquirers Classes:** Pastor Michael, with M&O support, led 5 engaging classes through 2025 for 68 inquirers representing diverse life journeys and a wide spectrum of denominational and faith backgrounds. The classes were a mix of inquiry, conversations, and basic information about ELPC, reformed faith, and the PCUSA.

New Members and Friends Ministry

M&O helped facilitate the reception of **68 new Members and Friends** through the year through worship services and social hour receptions with each member/friend receiving a gift bag.



- **New Member Welcome Gatherings:** M&O kicked off these gatherings with a March 2025 dinner party for all new members/friends dating from March 2024. Many thanks to Andrea DeVries for hosting in her home. Gatherings continued with a July brunch and November lunch. Michelle Bossers (Mission Board), Pastor BJ (Spiritual Life/Taizé), and Pastor Sarah (as Newcomer!) engaged new members and friends at these gatherings.
- **Service and Study Opportunities:** In 2025 M&O continued to seek ways to match new member gifts and interests with service opportunities. We reflected on the PCUSA resource "10 Best Practices for Cultivating Belonging."



MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH *(cont.)*

Small Groups and All Church Ministry

- Connections / Connections Groups experienced growth with **75 people signing up** to be part of small groups who gather throughout the year. There's now a total 7 Connections groups, including an affinity group for LGBTQIA+ folk and one for families with young children. Connections hosted 2 all church luncheons – in March and October and gatherings at Fridays at Frick and Reservoir of Jazz. Thanks to Jan Pressman and Gretchen Chapman who organize this ministry.
- Happy Wanderers, led by Martha DeMarzi, like to go places and share a meal together. In 2025 they put on the miles to places like Sommerset County's Flight 93 National Memorial, The Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration in Ellwood City, Canonsburg's Little Lake Theater, or closer places like the Rangos and Squirrel Hill theaters, all culminating in the traditional Christmas dinner at Rocky's. Ryan Booher is the beloved "man with the van."
- LGBTQIA+ Ministry has been expanding in attendance at monthly groups and retreats – see its article in the Report.
- Sunday Social Hours/ Kitchen: M&O has hosted and encouraged other ELPC groups to host social hours on 3rd Sundays of the month after the 11:00 am service. Highlights included February's "Meet the Nominees", May's Environmental Team, complete with bikes and electric cars, and September's Visitor Sunday. We've washed dishes for all. In 2026 we're upping the game with social hours on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.



Advertising and Outreach

ELPC calls out to its neighbors through newspapers, cultural and music events such as Christmas in East Liberty, radio, the ELPC website, Instagram, Facebook, Pridefest display / Pittsburgh Pride March and Parade. In 2025, the committee reviewed its scope of outreach in order to document the contacts and to ensure ELPC reaches a diverse, broad Pittsburgh community.

ELPC's web app, after a trial run, did not receive the anticipated traffic, so it will no longer be offered. Thanks to Dr. Ed Moore and Wil Forrest for their outreach efforts and management.

Staff Facilitation/Accompaniment

- Many thanks to Pastor Michael for his insightfulness and resourcefulness with M&O since January 2025 and to Jennifer King (Administrative Assistant for Pastors) for all her work.
- We've been excited by the arrival of Rev. Sarah Robbins as Associate Pastor for Connection and Care and look forward to working with her in 2026.
- We're grateful to the facilities staff for set ups, coffee, more coffee, etc. with coordination by Gerald McClendon and Rev. Jim Tinnemeyer.

Thanks to each M&O Committee member for their whole, tender-hearted participation in all these things.

— Jan Irvin



M & O Members: Thomas Caruso, Sonia Degenholtz (elder), Martha DeMarzi, Andrea DeVries, Geeg Eash, Dee Flaherty (elder), Nicholas Genger-Boeldt, Jan Lyle Irvin (elder), Pepo Mazingi (elder), Janet Pollard (deacon), Gwen Puza, and Beth Urbatis

MISSION BOARD & COMMITTEES

The Mission Board of East Liberty Presbyterian consists of the chairs of the Facing Systemic Racism Committee, Justice Committee, Neighbors Committee, and Peace Committee; a representative from the Deacons and a representative from Presbyterian Women. Ad hoc congregational members also serve on the board representing various aspects of ELPC mission. Currently there are four ad hoc members.

The “work” of the Mission Board is generally carried out by the committees and organizations represented on the Board with the Mission Board itself serving as the coordinating body for these mission driven entities to assure non duplication and coordination of effort and resources, collaboration with one another and oversight of the Mission Board budget.

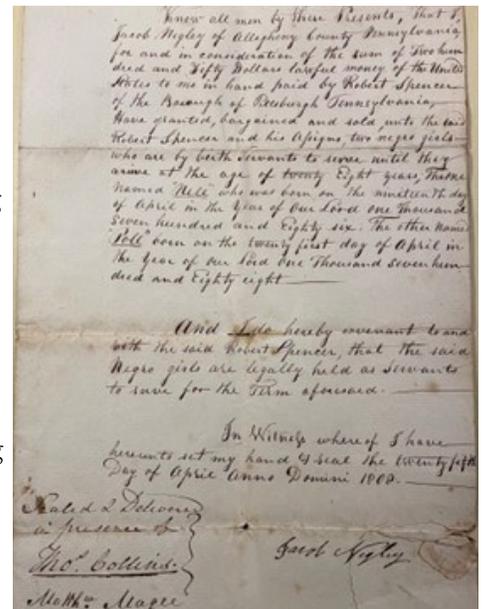
Mission Board Members: Michele Bossers (interim chair and ad hoc member), Carol Chonoska (Justice Committee), Peta Harrigan Cole (Presbyterian Women), Cathleen Malmstrom (Neighbors Committee), Susan Wadsworth Booth (Deacons), Russel Walker (Peace Committee) Lenore Williams (Facing Systemic Racism Committee) and ad hoc members Sandy Brake, Bob Forloines, Emily Rosenthal

FACING SYSTEMIC RACISM COMMITTEE

2025 has been *The Year of Nell and Poll* for the Facing Systemic Racism Committee. With the thorough research of Hollen Barmer and guidance of committed members of the Committee, FSR has taken East Liberty Presbyterian Church on a voyage from myth to reality, from idealism to truth. Through meeting opportunities with our congregation that averaged 100 attendees per session, to tours of the Heinz History Center and speaking engagements at other churches and institutions interested in ELPC's story, FSR held honest and open conversations.

And the listening and sharing will continue in 2026. ELPC friends and members are encouraged to explore more of our church's and founders' history as we continue to work through who we are today and discern God's call for the future. With the help and support of the congregation, the Facing Systemic Racism Committee will expand on what it means to be a part of East Liberty Presbyterian Church's future in any and all forms of reparative actions and wholeness as we together "act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (*Micah 6:8*)

FSR Committee Members: Lenore Williams (chair), Sherry Anderson, Hollen Barmer (co-chair), Michele Bossers, Gretchen Chapman, Carol Chonoska, Jessica Gianotta, Beverly Harris-Schenz, Linda Lane, Jeff Parsons, Alex Peyton, Vivienne Selia



MISSION BOARD *(cont.)*

NEIGHBORS COMMITTEE

The Neighbors Committee focuses on addressing the ministry needs of our immediate surrounding community. We work to assist our neighbors in need with food, housing and clothing. We also facilitate opportunities for our congregation to volunteer and serve our neighbors.

Neighbors Committee activities in 2025 included:

Chapel Market

- Open year round every Thursday from 10 am-Noon, and two Tuesdays per month from 5-7 pm.
- Gerald McClendon coordinates the ministry with about **25 volunteers who participate** throughout the year, 5-6 volunteering each week.
- The Market was open 73 times in 2025. It had over **1,200 client visits for the year, an average of 35 visitors each week.**
- New and gently used clothing is primarily provided by donations from congregation members. In early winter, we used some funds to buy clothing items to fill gaps in high demand items.
- Gerald coordinated “Dress for Success” events, each helping **12-15 women acquire clothing** for job interviews and for work.
- Multiple service organizations utilize Chapel Market to assist their participants, including AJAPO and Hello Neighbor (refugee immigrant services), the CCI program for women released from prison, several emergency housing and abuse shelters for women, and EECM participants.



Chapel Market Dinners

In May, we began free monthly Chapel Market dinners in the church's Good Samaritan dining room, which have grown from **40 to as many as 80 guests each month.**

Teams of **10-20 cooks and 20-30 hosts** have prepared and **served over 600 meals this year.** Most months, the food was generously donated by the volunteers preparing it.



At the December dinner, in addition to the meal, with the help of ELPC teens we distributed gift cards and bags of hygiene and cold weather necessities (hand warmers, knit hats, etc.) to our guests.



East End Cooperative Ministries (EECM)

The Stewardship Sunday (November 17) Food Drive for EECM Food Pantry was very successful, with over **2,100 pounds of food donated.**

Food is also collected weekly in a collection box in the church entrance (ongoing).

ELPC members continued to prepare and serve weekly breakfasts and monthly dinners at EECM.

MISSION BOARD *(cont.)*



Open Hand Ministries (OHM)

- ELPC is a founding church with a 17-year relationship with OHM. Over that time period 19 families have become first time homeowners. The Mission Board budget provides financial support for ongoing operations.
- During 2025, rehabilitation of OHM's Ardary property and construction of its three new Hillcrest homes was completed. One Hillcrest home was sold, and purchases of a second home and the Ardary property are in progress. Several ELPC members attended monthly community meetings. ELPC members attended the OHM garden party fundraiser.
- One ELPC member serves on the OHM Board of Directors as Secretary and one serves on its Fundraising Committee. Individual ELPC volunteers donated funds to assist families and participated in on-site workdays.
- 14 ELPC members participated in the Pittsburgh Marathon, Half-Marathon, and Relay), along with 4 fluid station volunteers, to raise money for OHM.

Garfield Community Farm

In April, the Neighbors Committee sponsored a Tool Drive for Garfield Community Farm. ELPC members donated a truckload of tools and ELPC provided new tables and benches for the farm.

Amen to Action

The Committee coordinated ELPC participation in the *Amen to Action* annual event. **30 ELPC members participated** in this event on Nov 15 at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary along with about 250 participants from other congregations and organizations.

Approximately 75,000 dry meals were prepared and packaged for distribution by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

Assistance to our Neighbors in Crisis

ELPC is an active participant on the City of Pittsburgh's 211 Assistance Helpline.

Gerald McClendon coordinated ELPC's ongoing confidential one-on-one referrals and financial assistance to neighbors in need of help with utility problems, housing problems, and other crises.

Neighbors Committee Members: Cathleen Malmstrom (chair), Doug Booth, Kristin Cummings, Heather Eng, Bob Forloines, Eric McCarty, Gerald McClendon (staff), Jon Nelson, and Emily Rosenthal, Bob Wiskeman

PEACE COMMITTEE

The committee continued financial support for our sister congregation of Balaka CCAP in Malawi, Africa:

- Provided \$1500 to support a church member's travel expenses to Balaka with the Pittsburgh Presbytery International Partnership Ministry Team.
- Contributed \$2,000 to the church at Balaka.

MISSION BOARD *(cont.)*

- Contributed \$500 to UNICEF USA KIND fund to provide a year's scholarship to a female student in secondary school and to provide desks for students.
- The committee also provided financial support for the following organizations:
- Forman Christian College in Pakistan with a \$1,000 contribution and arranged a conversation with Dr. Jonathan Addleton, the rector of Forman, during a Seekers Class to acquaint the congregation with Forman.
- Supported the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in South Sudan with a \$1,000 contribution.
- Supported CeaseFirePA in their efforts to achieve better gun laws in Pennsylvania with a \$1,500 contribution. Three Peace committee members attended the *Day of Action* in Harrisburg.
- Donated \$1000 to Doctors Without Borders.

Peace Committee Members: Russel Walker (chair) Peta Harrigan Cole, Derek Harrigan, John Jordan, Pepo Mazingi, Gwen Puza, Kay Shissler, Ron Stone, Vivienne Selia, Nino Testa

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Vision Statement: To increase congregational awareness, participation and engagement in stewardship of our earth, and in justice issues including immigration, the criminal justice system, gender equity, and the inclusion and safety of the GLBTQIA community.

2025 Goals and Actions in support of those goals:

1. To represent ELPC in the LGBTQIA+ community by participating in local events.
 - Host *Black Pride Gospel Concert and Black Pride Family Day*.
 - March in Pridefest parade, partnering with LGBTQIA+ Affirming Ministries of Pittsburgh to table at a shared booth at Pridefest.
 - Place ad for church in QBurgh magazine.
 - Partner with ELPC's LGBTQIA+ Ministry to hold summer retreat at Harold's Haunt in Millvale.
 - Proud Haven & TransYOUning for their counseling services and transitional housing with monetary donation.
2. To provide support for the integration of refugees and immigrants in the Pittsburgh area.
 - Participate in Palm Sunday Processional with Stone Catchers to support Immigrant Community in Pittsburgh.
 - Provide venue for "All Together Now" fundraising concert to aid local agencies that provide immigrant support. Made monetary donation.
 - Provide venue to Casa San Jose for series of trainings in Rapid Response to ICE raids. Made monetary donation.
3. To improve and expand our support of those impacted by the criminal justice system. To address systemically racist practices that erode the criminal justice system, such as the cash bail system, solitary confinement, and the death penalty.
 - Virtual speaker series for Pennsylvanians Against the Death Penalty (PADP); conduct letter writing/post card campaign in support of HB 888 to Abolish the Death Penalty; monetary support for PADP.
 - Invite ELPC member, Barbara Griffin, to share her experience with the criminal justice system in Pittsburgh, the Jail Oversight Board chaplain's office, Foundation of HOPE, and 1Hood.
4. To develop environmental awareness and education in environmental stewardship of our earth.
 - Network and engage with community organizations addressing environmental impact.



MISSION BOARD *(cont.)*

- Partner with Deacons to purchase a tree seedling to be planted in honor of each baptism. Ten trees planted this year.
 - Earth Day service celebrated.
 - Alternative Transportation event - congregation was encouraged to find transportation to church that uses less fossil fuel than their typical mode of transportation (biking, walking, bus, car pool, hybrid or electric vehicle). Hybrid and Electric Vehicles on display.
 - Three book studies with environmental topics discussed.
 - Recommendations for divestment from top polluting companies that hold or control large reserves of fossil fuel, given to Centennial Trustees.
 - Leadership/presentation on the Environment for PW Bible Study and to Seekers class.
 - Sustainable use of dishes over that of paper products for serving food.
 - Engagement with and monetary support of Interfaith Power & Light(IPL).
 - Held workshop on Impactful Advocacy for adult Sunday School classes.
5. To increase congregational participation and engagement in a variety of justice issues and stewardship of our earth.
- Letter writing campaigns held after church on various issues with contacts for legislators
 - Volunteer in Raingarden monthly
 - Juneteenth March
 - Partner with Shadyside Presbyterian Church to host table at Disability Pride
 - Monetary support for Undue Medical Debt
 - Host Belle Voci sensory-friendly concert
 - Voter registration and candidate forums, League of Women Voters (LWV), Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP)
 - Women and Gender Justice (new initiative), Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Justice Committee Members: Michele Bossers, Sandy Brake, Carol Chonoska (chair), Katie Haas-Conrad, Stephanie Creasy, Nancy Gippert, Cynthia Peterson-Handley, Nancy Heastings (chair of Environmental Task Force*), Alexandra Lynn, Judy Mancini, Carol Mullen, Vivienne Selia, Kay Shissler, Patti Stapleton, Herma Stewart, Grace Taylor, Reed Williams

**Environmental Task Force Members:* Francis Irvin, Issac Smith, Fred Kraybill, Karen Glotfelty, Brady Conley



DEACONS BOARD

In 2025, the Board of Deacons continued to engage in many traditional roles and expanded its efforts to provide outreach and service, especially to homebound members. Important areas of focus for the Deacons in 2025 included:

- Preparing and cleaning up for Communion at Journey and Sanctuary Services, including both Christmas Eve services
- Coordinating the Giving Tree Ministry
- Visiting homebound members and providing other Congregational Care as needed
- Participating in the card ministry
- Hosting the International Meal
- Financially supporting Thanksgiving Gift Baskets for families in need
- Coordinating the annual Blue Christmas service

The Giving Tree was again run from an online platform and was a very successful event. A total of **90 children received gifts** and or gift cards through the ministry.

Our home-bound ministry commitment continues, and individual Deacons minister to 13 members and friends through cards, phone calls, and monthly in-person visits.

The Blue Christmas service, a tradition which began in December 2018, continued in person this year and was very well-received and well-attended.

Our Health and Wellness Ministry has been reactivated and we held one meeting in 2025. Meetings continue in 2026.

The *International Meal* was back in October 2025 and **more than 100 congregants** attended. Thanks to all the ELPC members who brought dishes representing their cultures and to the many volunteers who served the food.

Covenant Pastor for Connection and Care Sarah Robbins is now the pastoral staff liaison to the Board of Deacons. We welcome her leadership and the directions she is setting. Attendance and participation on the Board remain strong. Using a hybrid format, most meetings are well-attended.

We are excited about 2026 when we hope to welcome new members to the board, evaluate our budget needs and areas of service, and better align our actions with congressional and community needs at ELPC.

— *Drew Simpson, Moderator, Gretchen Chapman, Co-Moderator*



STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Financial Update

The Finance Committee oversaw a budget of \$2,529,197 in calendar year 2025. Actual revenue, including amounts drawn from the endowment, was \$2,500,807 and actual expenses were \$2,654,645. Our endowment produced a standard draw of \$1,371,148, which equaled 5.6% of the endowment based on a three-year rolling average. That amount, together with pledges and other gifts from the congregation, other income and the excess draw from the endowment (\$240,000), resulted in total annual revenue of \$2,500,807. The amount by which our actual expenses exceeded our actual revenue (\$153,838) resulted from several large unanticipated expenses and was paid for from cash-on-hand in the church's checking account coupled with writing the checks for a number of December expenses against the 2025 budget on December 30, 2025.

Overall, in 2025:

- Our members included: Keith Irvin, Mario Seneca, Stephen Simpson-Hunt, Bryan Lawrence, Chris Martin, Tiffany Sudar and Barbara Griffin, who headed up Stewardship. Thanks to everyone on our committee for their hard work this past year.
- Congregational giving increased: We received \$595,612 in pledges (up from \$519,665 in 2024), plate offerings of \$25,198 (up from \$24,440 in 2024) and recurring gifts of \$196,025 (up from \$173,529 in 2024), which represented a total congregational giving of \$816,835 (up from \$717,734 in 2024).
- The excess draw: An excess draw of \$240,00 was used for operating expenses (down from \$345,000 used in 2024)

The 2026 Budget — Session approved the 2026 budget at its January 2026 meeting. It reflects an increase in the annual budget of over \$165,000 – from \$2,529,197 in 2025 to \$2,694,594 in 2026. In addition, the budgeted amount of the excess draw increased from \$240,000 to \$297,001.

Stewardship Update

The campaign for 2026 pledges began in November 2025 as we asked ELPC members and friends to consider how they would give to God's church and ministry in the coming year with a goal for receiving 226 pledges totaling \$700,000.

As of February 12, 2026, we had **208 pledges** that **total \$718,478**.

The stewardship campaign will continue its work throughout the year with information and inspiration on the importance of supporting ELPC's mission and ministries.

— Bryan Lawrence



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women may be best known for its support of mission and work for justice and peace. Our purpose culminates with a commitment "...to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom." Our purpose took on special meaning in 2025, following the inauguration of the 47th President and reorganization of mission agency of the PC (USA).

An Inclusive, Caring Community of Women

In April 2025, Rev Sally Jo Snyder led our retreat at Camp Crestfield "For Such a Time as This," based on the book of Esther. Linda Sanders led singing and "making a joyful noise." We enjoyed fellowship, including s'mores around the fireplace.



PW bible studies meet on the first Monday evening and the first Tuesday morning each month, September through May, and include a time of sharing and group prayer. Fourteen to eighteen people attend each study, approximately 30 each month. All are welcome. You don't have to be Presbyterian or live in the Pittsburgh area to participate.

Our 2025-2026 PW bible study, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*, encourages us to reaffirm our baptism vows as a call to greater devotion and faithfulness. With the assurance that God is good and God reigns forever, inner joy and resilience can emerge. We need not be subject to the caprice of circumstance.

Mission, Justice and Peace

We look to establish long term relationships with the organizations we support. We are especially interested in agencies that benefit women and children. Our PW supports the missions of Presbyterian Women at all levels-- churchwide, in the Synod of and in Pittsburgh Presbytery.

We are working to connect PW and the ELPC congregation with resources for "best practices" in Mission and Justice.

- The World Mission Initiative at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
- We continue to support Bread for the World, an interdenominational organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger.

We directly support several agencies that address human needs. These include East End Cooperative Ministries, the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, East Liberty Family Health Care Center, the Neighborhood Academy, the Western PA Diaper Bank, the Women's Guild at Balaka CCAP (Malawi) and Hello Neighbor.

Contact us at PW.ELPC@gmail.com for more information.

Coordinating Team

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

SESSION

In 2025, the Session of ELPC led the way in completing the transformation of the pastoral staff that began more than a year ago.

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz completed his first full year as senior pastor of the church, and was officially installed by Pittsburgh Presbytery on May 18.

The Temporary Associate Pastor Selection Committee, after reviewing several candidates, recommended the hiring of Rev. Sarah Robbins as Covenant Pastor for Connection and Care for a 3-year term, and Session unanimously approved. Rev. Robbins began her work here in October.

The Session also expressed its deep gratitude to Rev. B.J. Woodworth, Covenant Pastor for Spiritual Life and Taizé Ministries, for increasing his hours and duties during the transition. By year's end, Session had agreed to continue his contract under modified terms.

In a trend that is highly unusual among PCUSA congregations in recent decades, ELPC has continued to add new members.

The Church added 56 new members in 2025, for a total membership of 817. In addition, there were 774 first-time visitors to the church, and Session continued to develop new ways to remain in contact with those visitors.

One result of this surge in members has been further progress in reducing the excess draw on the church's

endowment, so that the church's leaders can continue to preserve this investment in the church's future.

Under the leadership of Elders Bryan Lawrence and Barbara Griffin, and Rev. Jim Tinnemyer, Director of Administration and Facilities, the Finance and Stewardship Committee was able to fashion a budget for 2026 that included more than \$700,000 in annual pledges, which exceeded the goal the committee had set.

Maintaining such a magnificent building has continued to present challenges, including the need to repair the paving stones in the Garth courtyard, which required moving summer worship services into the building for the first time in years. As an unexpected benefit, that actually increased summer worship attendance.

The turmoil over the current federal administration's focus on immigration enforcement also had an impact on our building and our justice ministries. Session helped to develop new guidelines for entry into the building in the event of any enforcement efforts, and ELPC was one of the local churches that hosted trainings of immigration enforcement observers by our partner ministry, Casa San Jose. Those sessions brought hundreds of new people into the sanctuary.

The Session's Facing Systemic Racism Committee continued its work to educate people about our history of slave ownership by

founding members. An educational session by Elder Hollen Barmer on that topic drew more than 100 people.

The building's historic architecture also produced one of the lighter moments of the year, when the producers of a movie about Milton Hershey provided a significant donation and repainted a room in return for using part of the building for its filming.

ELPC elders continued to be faithful and significant contributors to the work of the Presbytery. Session voted to oppose an overture by Hampton Presbyterian Church to eliminate a reference to the categories of marginalized groups, including LGBTQIA people, mentioned in our constitution, the Book of Order. The entire Presbytery agreed with ELPC's stance and defeated the overture at its December meeting.

Finally, the Session took its first steps towards a new strategic plan for the church by asking each committee to formulate annual goals and objectives. Session also approved three ministry priorities for the church: To Nurture Hope and Deep Faith; Strengthen Belonging, Community and Witness; and Lead Together and Steward Faithfully.

Those goals, and all the faithful work that will go into them, are a good note on which to end this report.

— Mark Roth

BUDGET SUMMARY

Accounts	Total Actual 2024	Annual Budget 2024	Total Actual 2025	Annual Budget 2025	Annual Budget 2026
CONGREGATION REVENUE					
Pledges	519,665	655,000	595,612	675,000	705,300
Pledges Prior Year	100	5,000	0	2,500	0
Plate Offerings	24,440	15,000	25,198	18,000	30,000
Recurring Gifts, Non-Pledged	173,529	125,000	196,025	170,000	190,000
OTHER REVENUE					
Grants, Bequests, Memorials	24,349	28,500	12,990	9,000	8,500
Other Income	26,489	39,350	15,377	16,600	17,000
Trust Income	43,890	39,300	44,457	43,890	44,500
ENDOWMENT REVENUE					
Standard Endowment Draw 5.6%	1,395,472	1,395,472	1,371,148	1,371,148	1,402,293
Excess Draw / Cash Flow	345,000	359,152	240,000	223,582	297,001
TOTAL REVENUE	2,552,934	2,661,774	2,500,807	2,529,720	2,694,594
EXPENSES					
Administration	153,411	174,380	216,189	167,500	174,500
Adult Education	385	850	235	850	850
Children & Family Ministries	9,804	8,765	9,690	11,765	11,765
Deacons	2,432	5,000	2,573	4,500	4,300
Faith Formation Board	435	2,750	1,071	2,750	550
Facilities	447,021	414,450	529,208	414,450	474,450
Fellowship	10,668	2,400	2,980	2,700	4,200
Membership & Outreach	51,718	58,950	57,477	55,150	39,100
Mission	56,037	75,320	54,124	79,920	71,050
Mission Ministry	9,089	9,800	2,841	9,800	13,800
Opportunities	4,367	9,000	2,583	7,500	5,000
Personnel	1,707,656	1,733,585	1,658,275	1,629,278	1,746,041
Session	71,039	72,374	65,084	73,284	76,488
Spiritual Life	8,410	5,750	4,020	5,750	7,750
Stewardship	1,035	1,200	1,086	1,000	1,000
Taizé	2,739	4,000	1,308	4,000	2,500
Worship, Music & Arts	29,474	30,400	34,515	36,700	38,950
Youth & Young Adult Ministry	15,000	27,300	11,386	22,300	22,300
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,580,720	2,636,574	2,654,645	2,529,197	2,694,594

Other 2025 Financial Notes:

- (1) Regarding 2025 pledges, \$15,574 was received from members toward their 2025 on January 6, 2026. As such, they cannot be counted on the 2025 financial statements, but will be in 2026 as "Pledges Prior Year"
- (2) A member donor restricted gift was made December 23, 2025 for \$100,000 to restore/renovate the Garth. This amount is currently sequestered in a separate non-operating checking account
- (3) A \$10,000 multi-year grant was received from the Pittsburgh Foundation restricted to addressing hunger and homelessness needs in East Liberty. This amount also is in a separate non-operating checking account since it will be spent over several years.
- (4) The change in budget for the "Faith Formation Board" is because some monies were reallocated back to other ministry areas.
- (5) The operating checking account balance for December 31, 2025 was \$20,389.50.
- (6) The value of the Centennial Fund Endowment as of December 31, 2025 was \$28,382,539.

PLEDGES/OFFERINGS/EXPENSES

**Pledges and Offerings (Actual)
2022-2025**



**Annual Expenditures (Actual)
2022-2025**



ENDOWMENT INFORMATION

Endowment End of Year Value.....\$28,382,539

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Active Membership (as of 12.31.24)776

Gains for 2025:

Profession of Faith, Reaffirmation, Restoration 38
 Friends (*not included in total gains total*) 12
 Certificate of Transfer 18
Total Gains **56**

Losses for 2025:

Certificate of Transfer 3
 Deaths 4
 Removed by Session (*joined another church, termination requested, no contact info*) 6
 Moved to Friend 2
Total Losses **15**

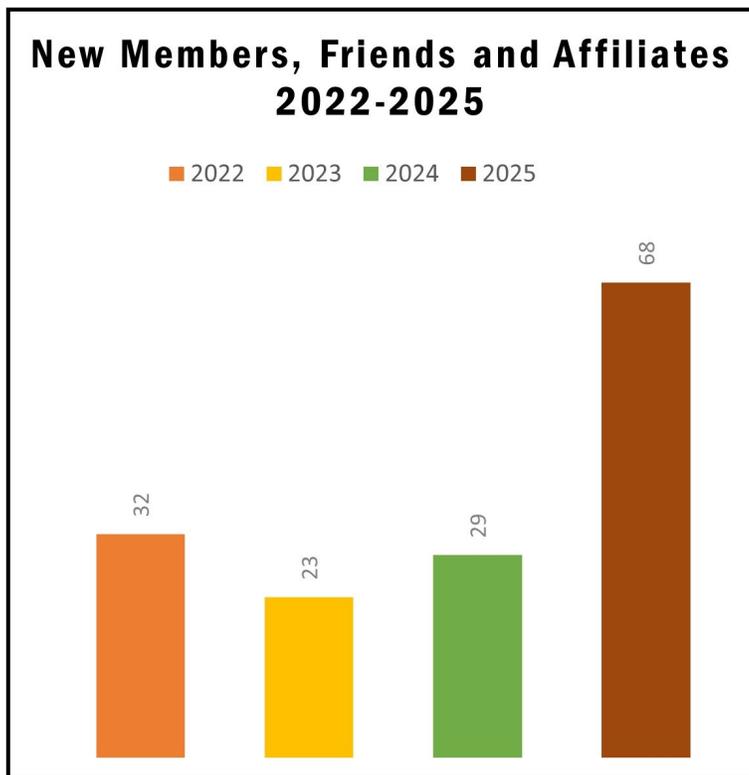
TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP **817**

RACE OF ACTIVE MEMBERS

Asian/Pacific Islander/ South Asian	9
Black/African American/ African	137
Middle Eastern/North African	4
Hispanic/Latino/a	11
Native American/ Alaska Native/Indigenous	3
White	647
Multiracial	6

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE MEMBERS

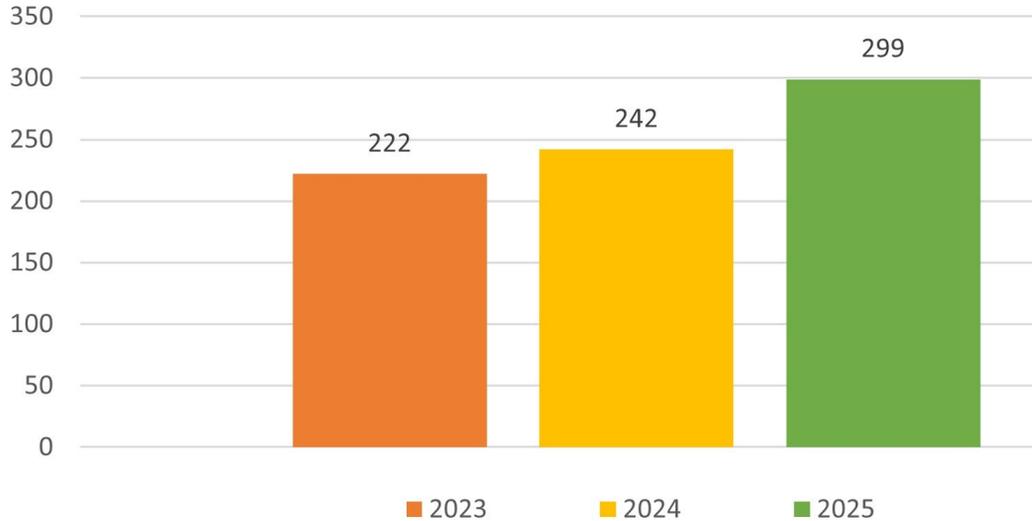
17 and under	9
18 to 25	36
26 to 40	172
41 to 55	186
56 to 70	210
Over 70	204



Members in 15206 124
 Members who identify as female 487
 Members who identify as male 309
 Non-Binary 21

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

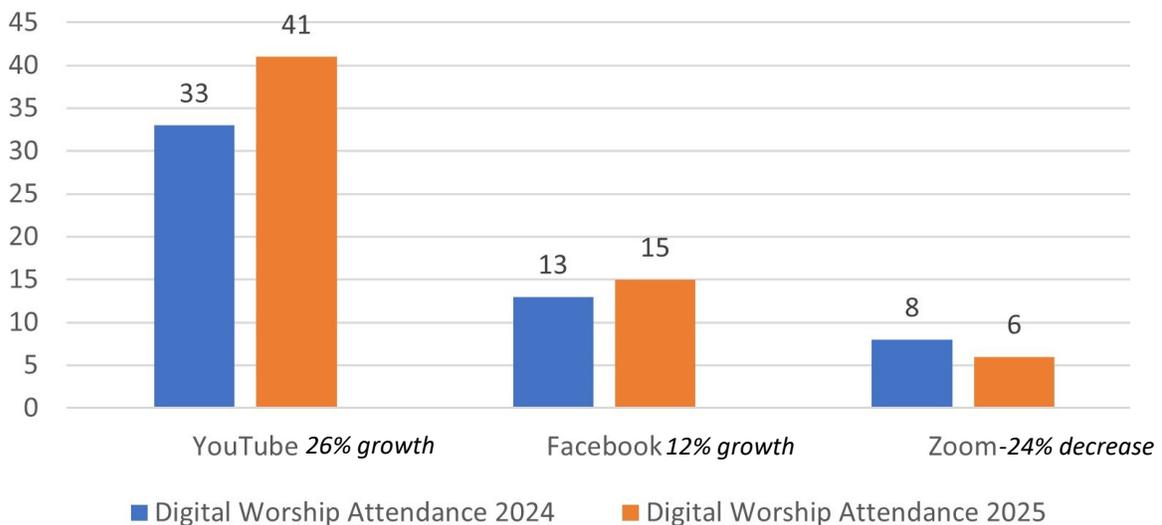
AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE 2023-2025



Our three weekly in-person worship services from January to December 2025 (i.e., two on Sunday, Taizé on Wednesday) currently average **299** people on a weekly basis.

When comparing 2025 to 2024, we experienced a **23%** increase.

DIGITAL WORSHIP ATTENDANCE January-December



2025 MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, February 23, 2025
ELPC Social Hall

Gathering & Quorum: At 12:33 pm, Senior Pastor and Moderator Michael Diaz called the meeting to order and opened with a prayer. Clerk of Session Steve Massey confirmed a quorum (at least 10% of active membership) was present. Only active members who were present (including online) could vote.

Approval of 2024 Annual Congregational & Corporation Meeting minutes: A motion from Mary Alice Lightle to approve the prior year's meeting minutes was seconded and passed.

Recognition of members and others who passed in 2024: Pastor Mike recognized those who died in the past year, including Pastor Emeritus Rev. Dr. Robert A. Chesnut, Mitchell Barutha, Gail Bowman, Valerie Dixon and Sonya-Marie Morley

Recognition of officers who completed their terms or resigned: Elders Ray Anthony and Carla Depperman, and Deacons Jo Ellen Aleshire, Yodit Betru, Amy Bialek, Dana Carl and Ellie Wilson (youth)

Officer nominees from the Nominating Committee Class of 2025*: As moved by the committee's Deacons Representative Gretchen Chapman and seconded, and with no nominees from the floor, the congregation approved the following officer candidates:

- **Deacons Class of 2028:** Adelia Frye (1st term), Jennifer Liu Kopanic (1st term), Eric McCarty (1st term), Alexander Payton (1st term), Jeff Fritz (2nd term)
- **Youth Deacon Class of 2026 (serves one year):** Brady Conley
- **Elders Class of 2028:** Doug Booth (1st term), Pepo Mazingi (1st term), Hollen Barmer (2nd term), Sandy Brake (2nd term), Carol Chonoska (2nd term), Stephen Simpson-Hunt (2nd term), Matt Stufft (2nd term)
- **Youth Elder Class of 2026 (serves one year):** Mabel Buben
- **Congregational nominees for Officer Nominating Committee Class of 2028:** Lynne Chadwick, Liz Hopkins
- **Congregational nominee to the Centennial Fund Class of 2028:** Steve Massey (2nd term)

** Officer Nominating Committee Class of 2025:*

Michelle Bossers, Gretchen Chapman (Deacon Rep), Jessica Giannotta, Barbara Griffin (Session Rep), Bill Johnson, Josh Matilla, Stephen Simpson-Hunt (Session Rep), Sara Torretti

Committee Reports: Pastor Mike referenced the various committee reports in the 2024 Annual Report that detailed the broad reach of work done by the church, its volunteers and programs. He in particular highlighted ELPC's largest outreach program, Hope Academy, and its new interim director, Anqwenique Kinsel. Her team is seeking to build on the success of Linda Addlespurger, who retired after 23 years of dedicated service.

2025 MEETING MINUTES *(cont.)*

Reports on Membership & Budget: The 2024 Statistical Report reflected a net increase of 13 members, pushing active rolls to 776. The 2025 budget approved by Session anticipated an increase in pledges, a decline in overall expenses and a reduction in the excess draw from the endowment (Centennial Fund).

Human Resources Committee Report: HR Acting Co-Chair Carol Chonoska said no action was necessary on Pastor Mike's 2025 Terms of Call as it is the compensation package the congregation approved when it voted to extend a call to the Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz as ELPC's new senior pastor and chief of staff.

Adjourn: A motion to receive the various reports was seconded and approved, followed shortly afterward by approval of a motion to adjourn. At 1:35 pm, Pastor Mike closed the meeting with a prayer.

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz

Steve Massey, *Clerk of Session*

SPECIAL 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, September 29, 2024
Special Congregational Meeting

Gathering: Recognizing a quorum in the Sanctuary following the 11 am service, moderator and guest preacher, The Rev. Brian Wallace, associate minister and acting Head of Staff for the Pittsburgh Presbytery, called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

The purpose was, at Pastor Heather Schoenewolf's request, to dissolve her call as ELPC's acting co-pastor and associate pastor for educational ministries as she assumes the helm pastor of Community Presbyterian Church in Ben Avon.

The motion – “The Session recommends that the congregation concur with the request of Rev. Heather Schoenewolf that her call as Associate Pastor be dissolved, effective September 30th, 2024” – passed unanimously.

Rev. Wallace closed with a prayer as the congregation sent Pastor Heather off with its blessing.

Rev. Brian Wallace

Steve Massey, *Clerk of Session*

SPECIAL 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, October 6, 2024
Special Congregational Meeting

Opening prayer: Moderator and Co-Pastor Patrice Fowler-Searcy called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm and opened with a prayer.

Recognition of a quorum: Clerk of Session Steve Massey confirmed there were more than enough active members in the Sanctuary and on online via Zoom to represent a quorum.

Purpose: Moderator Patrice reminded that the stated purpose of the meeting was to vote on a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) motion to approve Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz as Senior Pastor and Head of Staff at ELPC, as well as his Terms of Call.

Report of the PNC: PNC Chair Linda Lane walked the congregation through the 20-month, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)-mandated selection process. Of about 50 mandatory applicants, the committee pared the list of potential candidates to 12, then 6 and finally 3. Diaz emerged as the unanimous first choice among the final 3, and each PNC member shared attributes exhibited/displayed by Diaz that helped drive their decision.

Candidate excused & call for a vote: After entertaining questions from the congregation, Moderator Patrice excused Diaz from the meeting, referenced the Terms of Call and asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, she sought a motion calling for a vote by ballot on the PNC's recommendation. Member Matt Stufft so moved, followed by a second from many.

Vote: After a count of the vote observed by Pittsburgh Presbytery Stated Clerk Carla Campbell, Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz was overwhelming approved (170 yeses, 6 noes) as ELPC's next Senior Pastor and Head of Staff. Diaz returned to the Sanctuary to a standing ovation.

PNC dismissal and meeting adjournment: Stufft moved, and member Heather Lawrence seconded, Moderator Patrice's call for a motion to dismiss the PNC with utmost appreciation. After another round of applause for the PNC and its work, a motion to adjourn the meeting was moved and seconded, and Pastor Patrice closed with a prayer, ending the meeting at 1:27 pm.

Rev. Dr. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, *Moderator*

Steve Massey, *Clerk of Session*