

Annual Report

It has been a very busy year, a year of changes, fixing some problems, learning some lessons, planning for even greater changes and realizing some successes from the hard work we have done.

Your generosity in this year's pledge has added an additional \$7,000 to this year's income and \$24,000 to next year's pledge. We now have a year-round pledge committee that reports directly to the board. They did a terrific job with this canvass; providing excellent training, beautiful printed materials, and inspiration to our canvassers. Noreen Powers has agreed to serve as our new Pledge Secretary. Thank you. Thank you to all volunteers, trainers and canvassers, that made our canvass a success. Thank you, especially to Jeff Goldstein and David Barker for the terrific job you are doing.

At this moment, it appears that many of the efforts we made towards inviting like-minded people into our lives and our new home simply needed more time to work. One of the effects of all of the hard work we did last summer and fall is that we rallied together to solve our problems, which created greater harmony and appreciation for what we share. We reminded ourselves of what we valued. We were no longer thinking about growing, but instead were concentrating on those less tangible things, the things we value and honor, the things that make our house a home. Since the beginning of January, we have welcomed 20 new members into our fellowship. What a joy to have 20 more people with which to share our lives.

Hank Crooks contacted me recently to say he wanted to add more meaning into his life. He felt that giving of his time and talents to CVUUF might help be a way to add some meaning. I'm very pleased to announce that Hank will be reinvigorating our leadership training program. His work over the next several months will provide the framework for a new leadership development committee to begin their work. He is uniquely qualified to do this, bringing skills and experience from his personal and professional life. Thank you Hank.

Our Nominating Committee had quite a job this year. It is challenging enough to find board trustees, let alone add a new Treasurer, but to also put together a slate for the Conflict Resolution Committee and find members for our Ministerial Search Committee, which by the way, cannot continue to serve in leadership positions because of the amount work this committee will be doing, is daunting. Would the

members of our Nominating Committee please come to the front. Brian Balke, Ross Blassman, Susan Dixon, Todd Hess, Carol Jones, Pamela Lopez, and Bea Ornstein.

As many of you know, Julie Crooks is taking a leave of absence. We will be hiring a choir director to take her place for the next year. In the Fellowship Hall are notes and a box, please fill out love notes, telling her thank you, how much we appreciate her service, or whatever. This is the only time you will have to write these notes, as we will be giving them to her in a celebration between services next Sunday.

Thank you board and council for the incredible work we have done this year. The board and the council held a retreat in January to develop more effective ways to work with one another. Part of our “to do” list was updating our Strategic Plan. To that end, Trustees and Directors worked together to evaluate what we have accomplished over the past several years, which priorities have changed and what are our new goals. The Board and Council have updated the Strategic Plan and will be gathering input from members about the plans during Coffee Hour and CommUUnicators meetings, probably after summer break.

Did you know we are in the middle of a fund-raiser. The Chalice Wall Project

As part of the budget process the board contacted the OCR representatives to work out a deferred payment schedule for our rent. They have agreed to roll back our rent for the sanctuary to first levels for the coming year. They are still considering FY 2012, and will be reevaluating this as we move forward.

As you know our budget continues to be a challenge. Leadership will stay on top of this all year. We will be reevaluating our positions regularly, refining our processes and making changes as needed. We will keep you up to date throughout the year on our budget and everything else. Please keep an eye out for our communications.

As you know, our new Interim Minister, the Reverend Helen Carroll will start working with us August 1. She brings a depth and breadth of experience unique to interim ministry. Her job as an interim is to help us become the best congregation we can be, to prepare us to welcome a dynamic and skilled settled minister, to assist us in better

serving our community, to evaluate what we do well and where we need to make changes. I believe we will spend our year making more adjustments, all the while, celebrating who we are and what we do best.

By this time next year, hopefully, we will be introducing you to our new minister. Please provide your care and support to the members of our new Ministerial Search Committee. They will keep us up to date as to their progress and where things stand. They will not share any details with any of us, both during the process and when it is finished.

It's a year of change, a year of plans, a year of growth, a year of evaluation, a year of celebration, a year of joy, a year of fellowship. I hope you are all as thrilled as I am to be embarking on this exciting new year. Let's all embrace the change.