

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



2017

BETHEL CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

Pastor Kelly Ryan

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Annual Report 2017

PASTOR KELLY RYAN

Contents

PASTOR'S REPORT	2
MODERATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT	3
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2017	4
Operating Budget	4
Community and denomination.....	6
Designated Funds	7
Funds with no changes in 2017.....	8
FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT OF ASSETS.....	9
Finance Committee Report of Assets.....	10
DEACON REPORT	11
NEXT GENERATION.....	12
YOUTH GROUP REPORT.....	12
PROPERTY COMMITTEE 2017.....	13
GIVING CAMPAIGN	14
FOOD BANK GARDEN	14
PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE.....	15

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Kelly Ryan



This past year has been a year of exciting new programs, partnerships, and outreach!

It is exciting to have Gorge MakerSpace partner with us this year, operating out of our once-vacant Fellowship Hall. Jack Perrin can offer programs in problem-solving and creative building for kids of all ages, and even adults! He has also been able to apply his building and contracting expertise to help us with some projects around the church, such as repainting some of our fencing and installing the new sanctuary fan. We also welcomed Amanda Lawrence and the White Salmon Valley Educational Foundation into the space as well, in the side office. It is wonderful to be able to put our space to good use in our community.

We also, thanks to all of you, were able to widen our outreach significantly. We brought our budget for peace, justice, and outreach up to 10% of our budget—a sort of “tithe” to our Gorge community. This idea came from Bethel members dreaming big and challenging our church to grow our giving, and I am so proud of how this church stepped up to answer that challenge. We hope to keep that up in the coming year as well, and be more and more a strong positive resource in our area.

Bethel members also put ourselves out there more to be a faith witness to justice and equality in our area. We had a fabulous turnout for the first ever Gorge Pride Parade, and Bethel members also showed up in support of Dreamers/DACA, health care for all, and unity among all people. Love Wins!

But even beyond all the ways we’ve grown and widened our reach this year, I am most moved by how loving Bethel continues to be. This is a community of people who love one another, love our neighbors, and love God in ways that continually inspire me. Thanks for all the ways you show up and contribute to this church so that we keep growing in our spiritual journeys and learning in love.

Peace,

Pastor Kelly

MODERATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

~ Pam Tindall

The 2017 Bethel Board of Directors included:

Officers: Pam Tindall, Moderator; Barb Young, Secretary; Judy Davis, Treasurer

Members-at-large: Tom Wilde, Kathy Williams, Natasha Kern, Molly Davis and Anne Medenbach

This year the Board of Directors piloted an innovative leadership model whereby each quarter two Board members acted as co-chairs on a rotating basis throughout the year. Co-chairs drafted Board meeting agendas and led Board meetings, staffed event planning teams and handed off leadership to the next team in the rotation. The Moderator “of record” provided continuity of leadership and was the point of contact for the Board for the congregation and the conference. This resulted in many more people being involved in Bethel leadership and not one of them burning out!!! The Board is enthusiastic about continuing this leadership model in 2018.

The Board is tasked with running the business affairs of the church within the constraints of a 501©(3) nonprofit organization. The Board supervises church programs and cares for and maintains the property of the church. The Board also recommends the annual budget, prepared by the Finance Committee for approval by the congregation. Finally, the Board develops policies and procedures to aid in church governance and function and appoints representatives to the Central Pacific Conference of the UCC and to other congregational, denominational, non-denominational and interfaith groups as needed.

As you will see from the reports which follow, many Bethelites served on committees and mission teams which accomplished our faith community’s various functions, activities and outreach in 2017. The Board is grateful for everyone in our vibrant community who makes Bethel thrive! Many of the “Board accomplishments,” below, were possible only through the leadership and engagement of many!

The Board’s accomplishments in 2017, include the following:

- Tithed to a variety of community outreach organizations
- Hosted a Leadership gathering in January with Rabbi Rob Abramovitz on Narrative Leadership

- Entered into an MOA with Jack Perrin for use of the Fellowship Hall for MakerSpace and with Amanda Lawrence for the White Salmon Valley Education Foundation
- Were snowed out of FAN Interfaith Advocacy Day in Olympia in February
- Hosted a spring fundraising auction in April
- Hired Lynette Grubb as Administrative Assistant and engaged Rosalinda Torres as Childcare Coordinator
- Participated in a variety of community projects, including the Farmer's Market, Pride Parade, and an Immigration March
- Held our annual Bethel Retreat at Camp Adams in October
- Held a fall fundraising event where we chocolate and watched a movie together in November
- Began a series of Immigrant Welcoming Declaration congregational conversations
- Explored options for sale of church property and for using proceeds to benefit the community

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2017

Judy Davis

Operating Budget

In 2017 we set of goal of increasing our giving to the denomination and community from 6% to 10% of our budget. To meet this goal the budget included a \$5000 withdrawal of endowment principle.

Good news: we met our goal of a wider reach without needing to withdraw any principle from the endowment. One reason for this good news is that people were generous. We received over 100% of pledged income and almost one-and-a-half times what we anticipated in plate giving. A second reason was lower expenses in a couple of areas. Gorge Maker Space moved into our Fellowship Hall and took responsibility for utilities, saving Bethel \$2450. Also our office administrator budget came in about \$3000 under budget because of transitions in personnel in that position.

The following table summarizes the **Operating Budget**.

	Actual	Budget	% Budget
Income			
Pledges	92,393	87,581	105%
Plate	5,855	4,000	146%
Endowment Income	24,500	26,600	92%
Special Endowment Withdrawal	0	5,000	0%
Spaeth & Dickens Endowment	2,724	2,724	100%
Fundraising/Just Peace Offering	6,202	8,000	78%
Miscellaneous	1,389	2,000	69%
Total	133,063	135,905	98%
Expenditures			
Pastor	71,120	71,085	100%
Worship & Music	8,625	8,250	105%
Peace & Justice	12,339	13,200	93%
Children & Youth	4,938	5,100	97%
Adult & Multigenerational	2,164	2,300	94%
Property	14,495	16,524	88%
Office Administrator	7,221	10,230	71%
Staff Christmas gifts	955		
Administration	12,151	11,473	106%
Total	134,007	138,162	97%

Community and denomination

Here is a list of the ways we supported our community and our denomination.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH (budgeted \$6000.00)	
Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network	500.00
Columbia Gorge Peace Village	1,000.00
Columbia Gorge Pride Alliance	250.00
Columbia Riverkeeper	65.84
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO)	100.00
Faith Action Network (FAN)	558.00
Gorge Ecumenical Ministries (GEM)	100.00
Gorge Grown	500.00
Immigration Counseling Services	500.00
Klickitat County CASA	135.86
Mid-Columbia Children's Council	500.00
Mt. Adams Ministerial Alliance (MAMA)	67.04
The Next Door	500.00
WGAP	86.65
WGAP Food Bank	125.00
WGAP-Program for Peaceful Living	500.00
WINGS	500.00
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Total Community Outreach	5,988.39
Just Peace Fund (closing out 10% for Just Peace from 2008 Key Campaign)	
WGAP-Underwood Fruit Employee Fund	401.00

SUPPORT FOR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (UCC)

Budgeted

Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM)	6,000.00
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Special Offerings

Christmas Fund	665.00
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Disaster Relief	445.00
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Neighbors in Need	520.00
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One Great Hour of Sharing	583.00
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Strengthen the Church	408.00
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Total Special UCC Offerings	2,621.00
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Total Community and Denominational Support	15,010.39
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Designated Funds

In addition to the budget we have a variety of designated funds.

Building Maintenance Fund. We replenished this fund to have money available for a long list of property projects.

Beginning Balance	2,276
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From Fern Spaeth Fund (Endowment)	2,724
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Total Funds Available	5,000
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Expenses	1,118
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Ending Balance	3,882
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Just Peace Fund. We closed out this fund created with 10% for Just Peace of the 2008 Key Campaign (to buy the piano). We gave the remaining \$401 to the WGAP Fund for Underwood Fruit Employees.

Barb Palmer Memorial Fund. We closed out this fund by transferring the balance of \$256 to the WRYE fund.

WRYE Fund. This is a growing fund to support youth and their chaperones' trip to the Western Regional Youth Event (WRYE) in Hawaii in the summer of 2018. Funds came from several sources:

Youth Fundraising	345
Barb Palmer Memorial Fund	256
Remainder of Youth Group Budget	381
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Total at end of 2017	982

Funds with no changes in 2017.

Reserve Fund	4,000
Fellowship Hall Maintenance	111
Education Fund (teacher training)	296
Food Bank Garden	66
Frank Hunsaker Memorial Fund	125
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FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT OF ASSETS

Bethel began 2017 with total investment of \$532,005 in its Vanguard Brokerage account. This account holds money from Bethel's endowments and any surplus funds from the Bethel checking account.

The attached 2017 Report of Assets is broken into two sections showing 1) Investment Portfolio Activity (earnings, deposits and withdrawals) and 2) Sub Account Balances (how investments are spread between endowments and surplus funds from the Bethel checking account).

The Investment Portfolio experienced strong gains during the year with an investment gain of \$79,744 (15%) for the year. During the year, \$27,224 was withdrawn from the account, including \$2,724 from the Spaeth sub-account. The ending balance for the portfolio was \$581,801, including \$565,395 in general endowment and \$16,406 in special endowments.

Bethel's investments are spread across a diverse set of market segments including US and Foreign Equities, Real Estate and US and Foreign Bonds. To maintain a diverse portfolio and minimize investment costs, Bethel relies primarily on low cost ETFs rather than investing in managed funds or specific stocks.

To withdraw funds for the Operating Budget while maintaining a balanced portfolio, investments in Real Estate and US Equities were sold during the year.

Finance Committee Report of Assets

	December 31, 2016	Receipts	Expenditure s	December 31, 2017
Investment Portfolio	\$532,005			\$581,801
Investment Portfolio 2017 Activity				
Vanguard				
Investment Earnings	\$512,875	\$79,744		
Investment withdrawals			\$27,224	
Bethel Checking Acct.		\$0	\$0	
Other Investment Activity				
Metropolitan Mortgage		\$0	\$0	
Sub Account Balances				
General Endowment	\$512,875			\$565,395
Investment Earnings		\$79,744		
Budget Withdrawals			\$24,500	
Special Endowments				
Fern Spaeth	\$13,242		\$2,724	\$10,518
Al Dickens	\$5,888		\$0	\$5,888
Total Endowments	\$532,005			\$581,801
Total	\$532,005	\$79,744	\$27,224	\$581,801
Bethel Checking Acct.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note: End of year balance adjusted for \$5,500 check cashed in 2018 for 2017 expenses

DEACON REPORT

Marcy Nordwall

The diaconate: Bill Whidden, Debra Pennington-Davis, Rick Davis, Sue Pennington, Chris Heald, Deana Dahl, Becky Williams and Lisa Mullis (Functioning as one Deacon known as LB) and Marcy Nordwall (Chair)

We had 7 meetings through the year with time off for summer and weather.

The issue was brought up that should there be monthly meetings and it was determined that seemed to be the right amount of time needed to stay abreast of the many interest that the deacons were trying to tend to.

We tracked the various seasons of the Church and what may need in advance for the success of events. We spoke of our Bethel membership list and the updating of them, outreach to the community, training and expectations of what are the duties of the diaconate and kitchen duties that were overseen by the 2 deacons each Sunday. And, the guidelines for the handling of the incoming funds each Sunday. The major holidays were always a focus as to the needs of the church for each celebration. We had the usual old and new business discussions and any actions that were necessary for the continued smooth functioning of our service. We were interested in including the members & friends of Bethel to be invited to find a reading etc. as a way of including all. Briefly, we would check in on the needs of the kindness committee, the food outreach as needed and any needs that would be brought to us from the congregation. We did a half year assessment to be sure that we were tracking all expectations that the church would have of us, including the wellbeing of the Diaconate itself. We received notes from each meeting that are on record for each monthly meeting. Also lastly a check on study groups, movie times, TAIZE service, etc., were on our radar. We were interested in hearing from each deacon as to their thoughts, feelings and creative solutions for any area of the church. All in all a group of devoted individuals with the highest regard for each their part in the smooth functioning Bethel and without question, keeping alive very much our collective interest in being known as a welcoming church of all God's children and that any Sunday or service be dedicated to this end.

NEXT GENERATION

Judy Davis

Our Next Generation multi-age program is designed to meet the spiritual needs of the growing number of children in our Congregation. Once a month we hold an intergeneration service. On the other Sundays we offer a class for children ages 5 to 12. We use Godly Play, a Montessori-based storytelling curriculum, as our main curriculum. This fall we added an art project on the second Sunday of most months.

Becky Williams is leading the art project. Debra Pennington-Davis, Sue Pennington, and Judy Davis are the main storytellers. A variety of people serve as greeters. We could use more people to serve as both storytellers and greeters.

As children grow up we need to adjust what we offer. We need to start thinking about how to better serve the older children (grades 4 and up).

YOUTH GROUP REPORT

Pastor Kelly Ryan

This year, I worked with other pastors and youth leaders in our area to launch the Gorge Youth Collective. The hope with this was that we could bring progressive and mainline youth grades 6-12 together for fun, service, and faith formation. Our gatherings were made up of youth and leaders from Bethel, Hood River Valley Christian Church, Riverside UCC, Spirit of Grace Church, and Zion Lutheran Church in The Dalles.

Our spring launch was strong, but we discerned some need for different ways of gathering in the fall and winter. In the coming year, we will be re-tooling the format to be more focused on one-off service projects and fun outings rather than regular programming.

Our Bethel youth also began fundraising for Western Regional Youth Event in June 2018 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Thanks for all of your support so far! In the coming year, we will have several other opportunities to help send our youth to WRYE, and look forward to sharing the WRYE experience with Bethel when our youth return from the event later in the summer.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE 2017

Tom Wilde

The Property Committee accomplished light maintenance in 2017.

Tom Pierson assessed fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, and CO alarms in all three of Bethel's buildings and made necessary upgrades. Chris Heald re-balanced the ceiling fan. A spring clean-up was undertaken in March. Natasha Kern undertook a lot of work in the garden in 2017. The shed interior walls were painted and flooring was installed by Tom Wilde. Jack replaced and painted some parking lot rails. Some posts will need to be replaced in the distant future and a few hundred dollars are earmarked for that in the 2018.

Property expenses for the year were \$14,495, slightly under the budgeted amount of \$16,524. Heating oil, snow plowing, and cleaning services accounted for the majority of the property expenses in the budget.

Several projects that were on the Property Committee task list for 2016 and 2017 were cancelled or put on hold due to uncertain benefit and potential high costs. The goal of installing fans in the bathrooms on the lower floor was removed from the list because the long distance from the lower floor to the church roof would require an extremely powerful, and therefore very noisy or very expensive apparatus that would be put to use only a handful of minutes per week. Also, it was decided that building a staircase between the north side emergency exit and the parking lot was not feasible at this time. The required horizontal distance would mean removal of existing concrete and asphalt that would create a challenge to the abilities of our volunteers. Consideration of hiring a professional contractor was put off until 2018 to give time to consider the frequency with which that entrance would be used. The cost of the expensive church side doors (\$800 each), which need to be custom ordered due to their unique size and hardware, constitute nearly half the 2018 budget request.

Several major structural maintenance activities are anticipated in the next few years: replacement of the church roof, and painting the exterior and interior of the church. The property committee suggests putting money aside for those activities in 2018 and 2019 to make those investments in 2020-2022.

GIVING CAMPAIGN

The spirit of “Love Grows Here” continues at Bethel in what we say and do and share of ourselves. The 2018 Giving Campaign was held in November 2017. On Sundays members shared why they give financially to Bethel’s good work. The children considered what gifts they had that they could share at Bethel. We reviewed the many ways Bethel shared its love and mission in the wider community and within our walls and gardens.

A total of 31 households responded with their Giving Cards for a total of \$91,885. There were 2 new households pledging totaling \$3000, 12 households increased their pledge, while 5 households needed to decrease their pledge totaling \$4,000.

Not only is our financial support important to our church, but also the talents we share and the time we spend to help the church thrive. Therefore, Giving Cards also listed a variety of needs and ways people could share their time and talents at Bethel. Responses will be tallied and forwarded to the Board Chair. Thank you to all who are willing to come to a work party, share a reflection, bring a snack for coffee hour, or do any of the many tasks needed for our church to function.

Thanks to God, the origin of our loving and generous spirits. And thanks to each of you as you respond to that spirit at work at Bethel.

Committee members: Marcie Heald, Lisa Mullis and Kathy Williams

FOOD BANK GARDEN

Judy Davis



We had another successful year growing vegetables for the WGAP Food Bank. Thanks to everyone who helped till, plant, weed, harvest, and deliver vegetables to the Food Bank.

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Sue Pennington, Chair

The pastoral relations committee supports and maintains an open relationship between the ordained minister and members of the congregation. It helps the pastor and members of the church share ideas, hopes, dreams and interpretations of mission. It lets the pastor know what people in the church are thinking. It gives a framework for dealing with conflict creatively.

From “Pastoral Relations Committee Guidelines”

Approved by Bethel Board of Directors, June 5, 2014

Members: Pastor Kelly, Marcie Heald, Betty Lou Hunsaker, Tom Pierson, Sue Pennington, Pam Tindall, Bill Whidden

The Pastoral Relations Committee met in February, May, August, and November of 2017. Meeting agendas guided the informal discussions of various issues related to Pastor Kelly’s work and role at Bethel. Such topics as pastor workload, leadership style, involvement in various church programs, management of personnel, congregational survey results, and community outreach were discussed.

The committee is very supportive of Kelly’s professional growth network, including the Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI) for young UCC clergy, and local clergy organizations. Committee members are very grateful for Pastor Kelly’s excellent and gracious service in 2017.