

Park Central Presbyterian Church
Annual Meeting Minutes
Sunday, June 15, 2014

The meeting was called to order immediately after Sunday morning service, and Rev. Andrew McTyre opened with prayer.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2013 Annual Meeting. Seconded and approved.

Annual Reports were discussed, and a motion was made to approve them as submitted. Seconded and approved.

The Human Resources Committee presented candidates for committees.

A motion was made to accept the slate of nominees for committees. Seconded and approved.

A motion was made to elect Session Nominees. Seconded and approved.

A motion was made to elect Deacon Nominees. Seconded and approved.

With no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the Annual Meeting. Seconded and approved.

Andrew led us in a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted.

Baird Hansen,
Clerk of Session

Park Central Presbyterian Church
Special Congregational Meeting
Church sanctuary
November 23, 2014

A special meeting of the congregation was called for a “Town Hall” style discussion. The purpose was to elicit feedback on a proposal from the Membership and Outreach Committee about the possibility of establishing a new staff position for Young Adult Ministry.

The meeting was called to order by Rev. McTyre at 11:30 am.

Session Representative to the Membership and Outreach Committee, Ben Merchant, presented the proposal which read:

The Membership and Outreach Committee is proposing that Park Central Church consider hiring a staff person who would prepare and implement an outreach program focusing on ministry with young adults.

We envision the age group would loosely be defined as college age to late 30’s. We believe that the individual should have a proven track record of effectively working with young adults.

We imagine that the person would spend part time with the young adult program and part time focused on social media. This would be an effective way of communicating with folks in that demographic. The person would be charged with handling the church website, Facebook page, YouTube channel, twitter, a blog and other emerging social media.

We are hopeful that at least occasionally the person could also assist the Membership and Outreach Committee in planning and executing activities for singles, couples, and others in the church, whether or not young.

There was quite a bit of feedback from the congregation including:

- We did this years ago.
- Thank you to the Membership and Outreach Committee for starting this discussion.
- There are disenfranchised people we should also be reaching out to... not just young adults.
- What are the goals and objectives?
- Can we afford such a person? Full-time or Part-time?
- It should be the responsibility of everyone in the congregation to reach out to young adults, not just paid staff.
- This is a group we have been inconsistent with reaching.
- We need to look to the future; our congregation is shrinking.
- We need more data on the downtown group.
- We may need to be more open to changing our program, our music, our service.
- We need to be realistic as to how many of us are retired or close to retirement.
- Rev. Keller in NYC is a good resource.

- Social media is a big job and difficult to do as a committee. It should reside with one person who can do it well and systematically.
- Some churches sub out the social media piece.
- Realistically, how do we increase our membership in general...not just in one focus group.
- Ask people why they left.
- We need to pray and discern.
- Some people might be willing to do this voluntarily. When asked, several members offered to help on a volunteer basis.

Elder Merchant thanked the congregation for the input. Session will take these comments into consideration.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Joe Russo at 11:57am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Yingling
Clerk of Session

**Park Central Presbyterian Church
Annual Report of the Board of Deacons
2014-2015**

The ministry of a Deacon, as set forth in scripture, is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ. At Park Central, each Deacon has a list of congregation members with whom to stay in touch. Deacons also work alongside Rev. McTyre in providing care to the congregation, which throughout the year can take many forms, such as:

- Sending cards of encouragement
- Providing meals during an illness or after a surgery
- Accompanying members to doctors' appointments
- Visiting members in the hospital or while recovering at home or a care center
- Organizing a reception after a funeral (with help from many in the congregation)
- Preparing and clearing the communion elements throughout the church year (under the faithful service and leadership of Sharon Terry)
- Arranging rides to worship services and other events
- Delivering flowers at Christmas and Easter to homebound members (with assistance from many in the congregation)
- Continually praying for the people of Park Central

A new ministry, started in May 2015 in collaboration with the Session and Rev. McTyre, is a monthly communion service at the Nottingham. Held on the second Wednesday of the month and open to all who love the Lord, the first service on May 13 drew 15 Nottingham residents.

Occasionally, needs can have a financial aspect, such as overdue utility bills, which, if unpaid, will result in service shut-off, or a medical expense not covered by insurance. To ensure confidentiality and a rapid response, a Deacons Fund is managed outside of the Park Central Church budget to assist members in financial need. During 2014-2015, only one request for financial assistance occurred.

The Deacons Fund is also used to cover expenses incurred for the annual church picnic, which is organized by the Deacons with help from many in the congregation. On the basis of the successful 2014 picnic at Long Branch Park in Liverpool, we will return to the Riverview Shelter for the 2015 picnic on June 7 for great food, fun, and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Wagner, Moderator, on behalf of the 2014-2015 Board of Deacons:

Susan Barbour

Wynetta Devore

Joyce Packard, Secretary and Session Liaison

Tom Packard

Marge Schuster, Treasurer

**Park Central Presbyterian Church
Trustees Annual Report**

Sunday, June 14, 2015

The Trustees are entrusted with managing the financial assets of the church, and maintaining and enhancing the physical plant to serve the congregation and its mission.

Calendar year 2014

Financial Report

Budget:

Receipts for 2014, as of year-end December 31, totaled \$480,756.17, a slight increase over the prior year, but \$52,981.83 below the amount budgeted. Disbursements for 2014 were \$510,814.32. Included in this figure was \$94,835.71 in renovation loan payments. Both income and expenses were below the budgeted amounts. As of December 31, trust income received was \$287,333.00.

The 2014 budget, at \$533,738.00, was 4.14% less than that of 2013. For the year expenses, which were \$22,923.68 less than the budgeted amount, exceeded income by \$30,058.15. Surplus funds from prior years covered this deficit. The renovation loan from Key Bank was paid off during the year, reducing expenditures in future years.

Pledges:

As of December 31, 2014, pledges and contributions totaled \$178,637.39, \$10,987.31 below budget and 1.48% (\$2,683.16) less than the prior year. We received \$3,250.00 in capital campaign pledge payments and contributions, bringing the total capital campaign receipts for 2010 through 2014 to \$383,700.00. At the end of the year, the Trustees decided to close the Capital Campaign and no further amounts will be posted to that account.

Anonymous gift:

The Trustees received an anonymous gift of \$75,000 to fund projects that will provide a “more welcoming environment” for church attendees. This gift is to be used to fund projects that are not regular maintenance or part of the operating budget. A survey of church boards and the congregation for suggestions for needed improvements was compiled and became the basis for spending the funds. At year end a balance of \$50,867.50 was available for additional improvements.

Endowment:

The reduction in the market value of Park Central’s endowment funds at year-end 2014, \$5,721,926.64 versus \$5,924,622.68 at year-end 2013, reflected budgeted withdrawals to pay down the Key Bank loan that had been utilized in conjunction with the Parish House renovations. The endowment funds continue to be managed prudently, with funds invested in a balance of diversified stocks and bonds that seek to maximize growth and generate income while shielding the portfolio from excessive market volatility.

Year-end Endowment values (in millions) over the past five years were as follows:

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
\$5.629	\$5.198	\$5.534	\$5.924	\$5.721

During 2014, our endowment funds were proportionately managed by:

Management Firm	Percent
M&T Investment Group	75.94%
KeyBank NA	19.78%
Merrill Lynch	<0.1%
New Covenant Mutual Funds	3.69%
CNY Community Foundation	<0.1%

Physical Plant Report

In 2014 the physical plant received the following attention:

- Added our web address to Townsend Street sign board;
- Added hearing loop to Sanctuary to improve sound quality for hearing aid wearers;
- Replaced dishwasher in the Parlor kitchen;
- Replaced defective back flow valve in basement, and added another to prevent flooding;
- Restored and reinstalled original church sign board;
- Added “Handicap Accessible” sign to the wall on Townsend Street;
- Applied for and received certification as an Earthcare Congregation;
- Applied for an updated energy audit;
- Renovated the Nursery with anonymous gift funds;
- Renovated the bathroom under the Narthex with anonymous gift funds;
- Purchased and installed a Heartsmart AED (automatic external defibrillator) with anonymous gift funds;
- Repaired a donated snow blower to assist the Sexton in maintaining clear sidewalks.

Respectfully submitted, Robert L. Wagner, President

2014 Trustees:

Rob Bridge; Nancy Caple Johnston, Property; Joe Russo, Treasurer/Session Liaison; Virginia Marty, Secretary; Tim Schmidt; Robert Wagner, President

**Park Central Presbyterian Church
Christian Education Committee
2015 Annual Report**

We give thanks to God for the gifts of the last year. Here are some highlights:

Summer 2014

- Amy Russo served as a summer intern. She was an incredible assistant for Vacation Bible, helped carry out a major clean up of all the education storage and supplies and painted an incredible piece of artwork for the nursery.
- At the beginning of July, we held *Workshop of Wonders* Vacation Bible School in partnership with the Salvation Army. Over 60 children participated with the loving and generous help of over 20 volunteers from our congregation.
- The nursery was completely renovated with fresh paint and new carpet.
- Quiet spaces and resources for prayer and biblical study were provided before worship on summer Sundays.

Fall 2014

- We began the new program year in September and continued using the *Feasting on the Word* curriculum for the children's classes and the adult Sunday morning group. It has proven to be an excellent resource for all ages.
- Committees and boards began using monthly devotionals based on community phrases that were developed out of the 2013 church retreat.
- Individuals purchased *Daily Feast* to use for devotional time at home.
- The committee coordinated putting together and sending care packages to our college students.
- The committee assisted with planning a fall retreat for about 40 participants. Bill Redfield and Bob Allen facilitated a rich day on *Deepening Spiritual Life through Practices*.
- Following the retreat, we began a centering prayer group for those who were inspired by Bill Redfield's introduction to the practice at our retreat.
- We held a four-week study on Walter Brueggemann's book, *Sabbath as Resistance*.
- Katrina Hebb joined us for a Sunday afternoon Earth Care event on *Food and Faith*.

Advent 2014

- The committee provided a take home Advent devotional guide and also bought Advent calendars for the children.
- Sarah McTyre led an adult reflection series on Wednesday evenings.
- The children and teenagers presented a mission skit based on *The Price is Right* in worship in December and collected gifts for Heifer International totaling \$5,600.

Epiphany 2015

- The committee helped plan and prepare the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service for all ages.
- We held a discussion on the movie *Selma* and began some community reflection around the issues raised in the film.

Lent and Easter 2015

- The Lenten reflections focused on the sacred gift of time. *Stop, Pray, Work, Play and Love* provided opportunities for daily reflection, and there were weekly group reflections each Wednesday during Lent.
- The committee is working with Anita Wagner to plan a fall 2015 retreat on Saturday, October 10 at Alverna Heights.

We are grateful to all who gave their time and energy to teach and to help in the children's classes this year! We are also grateful for the caring work of Yusy Cruz and Lyn Van Buskirk, our faithful and kind professional nursery staff.

We are looking forward to this summer's Vacation Bible School (June 29 – July 3) and welcome new volunteers for this amazing and meaningful week of service with children in our community.

Members: Caroline Sheffield, Debbie Williams, Gail Hamner, Joan Deppa, Marge Schuster, and Sarah McTyre, Parish Associate

**Park Central Presbyterian Church
Mission Committee Annual Report
June 2015**

Each year your Mission Committee works to provide opportunities for our membership to engage in Christ's mission to the world, whether that mission is local or global. In addition to the numerous mission projects we engage in (outlined here), we encourage and support other congregations mission endeavors by providing \$20,000. from our "Presbytery" budget line which can be used to support their mission projects. Churches who meet the funding guidelines may receive up to \$5,000. annually at the discretion of the committee. Applications & guidelines for Presbytery funds can be found at : <http://parkcentralchurch.org>

2014 Year end summary 91% = \$45,274 was allocated, for the following programs.

Here are some of the highlights of your mission committee's activities this year. More in depth information can be found in past issues of the Park Post.

VBS Again this year the mission committee provided financial support for a week Vacation Bible School in June for the children, most of whom came from the Salvation Army summer program. The theme was Workshop of Wonders. With Sarah's lead, Joan Deppa's creative script and lots of volunteers an engaging time was had by all who attended.

CROP Walk Park again participated in the annual downtown CROP walk which raised \$765. for Church World Service 25% of which we designated go to the Columbus Circle Food Pantry.

Thanksgiving meal @ justice center Members once again prepared and served a Thanksgiving meal to the women in the Justice Center. The meal was well received, as were the placements created by Park children which the women were permitted to keep.

Heifer Project - Park received recognition from Heifer International this year for it's support in contributing \$5,000. for the past 4 years. In December once again the teenagers and children (with the Education Committee and Sarah McTyre's guidance) led us in the annual Heifer International collection. The congregation contributed \$5,600 for our 5th ark of animals.

HEMP (Haiti Education Mission Partnership) - This year again the mission committee provided financial support to HEMP to provide safe drinking water, nutrition, a 3 day mobile medical clinic that treated 287 children in May 2015, a mobile medical taxi, and teacher education in Paulette. We also funded a student scholarship in Dubre in addition to providing funds for a literacy center for adults. Members of HEMP (including Georgette and Tim Schmidt, Wynetta Devore and Karen Dross from Park) also traveled to Haiti this year to develop a partnership with PCUSA in our mission there.

Westside Academy CAP Support - School supplies were purchased and delivered in time for the first day of school . In addition snacks were provided to Danny Vargas's program. The committee sponsored a **Christmas Giving Tree** which engaged the congregation in providing Christmas gifts for four families and a total of 21 people.

LAMP- (Latin American Mission Partnership) We provided support for LAMP's Feb. 2015 trip to Campeche to work on the Seminary and put on a roof on a pastor's home. Money was allocated to make other improvements to the Seminary including building a stairway, 2nd floor wall and finishing the exterior brick work. Muffy Hansen, Harry and Karen Dross joined nine others from CNY on this trip reconnecting us with our partners in mission in Campeche.

Samaritan Center Feeding In addition to allocating 2014 funds to this program Park continued it's commitment to the Samaritan Center by providing a meal in the new location on North State St. in April. Eighteen congregants prepared and served a hot meal for 216 people. We will serve again in October and will plan on 2 serving times in 2016 .

MLK Day of Service Over 40 people participated in the MLK day of service. They prepared 48 backpacks with school supplies for high school students returning to school after suspension or incarceration, assembled 50 personal care kits for high school students, made 75 larger care kits for women who are living in homeless shelters and created beautiful notecards to go with backpacks & women's kits. Others worked on making our church more welcoming.

Household Closet The committee continues to organize and purchase items for the household closet off the parlor. Items from this closet have assisted women released from the justice center to set up their apartments. We encourage PCPC members who have household items (small or large) to donate to contact a committee member.

PCPC Community Readers (MLK Readers) The mission committee recognizes the congregation volunteers who read weekly at Martin Luther King Jr. elementary school. Organized and led by Margaret Charters the volunteers provide 1:1 reading support to SCSD students. Park volunteers include Shirley Day-Berenthal, Karen Dross, Baird Hansen, Deenie Turner and Siegrid Tuttle.

Meal on Wheels In May the mission committee invited Michael Watrous, Volunteer Coordinator for Meals on Wheels, to provide a Minute for Mission to inform us on how our congregation can be involved in this program by preparing or delivering meals to the elderly.

Mission Brochure The committee updated the mission committees brochure with Divya Hoffmann's able assistance, making it available this year for the congregation and visitors.

It has been a blessing to serve on this committee working with a team of people who have a passion for God's work in the world, and who are supported by a congregation that shares that sense of commitment to mission both locally and globally, giving us a vision of heaven on earth.

Your Mission Committee: Elberta Bradshaw (Secretary), Harry J. Dross (Chair), Karen Dross, Divya Hoffmann, John Laidlaw, Jay Wilcox and Ed Zielinski (session representative/treasurer).

**Park Central Presbyterian Church
Membership and Outreach Committee
2015 Annual Report**

The committee is grateful for the continuing and dedicated help provided by Bev Halderman, Jane Garrett, and Nancy Moeur. Although these ladies do not attend meetings, they play an important role in fulfilling the duties of the Membership and Outreach Committee.

Bev continues to handle the monthly luncheons. She sets the tables, decorates them and cleans up afterwards. We wish to thank her and the other volunteers who pitch in to help Bev.

Jane has stepped into the role of chief “coffee lady”. She prepares goodies, makes the coffee, sets the table, and cleans up afterwards. She is assisted by Jeanna and several other baking volunteers. We are hopeful that members will offer a periodic respite to Jane by volunteering to do the coffee hour. Jane also has been helping Bev with the monthly luncheons doing set-up and clean-up.

Nancy continues to write welcoming letters to all our visitors.

We continue the process of updating our membership lists and the directory.

We continue to pursue opportunities to foster community within the congregation.

- In September, Andrew and Sarah entertained young adults who had been visiting Park Central.
- In November there was a Halloween Caroling Event that entertained residents at the Nottingham.
- In the fall there was a Book Club at Sandi’s house.
- In April there was a reception with coffee and goodies after the Organ Crawl.
- In May we started a monthly communion service (with the assistance of the deacons) which is held at the Nottingham.

We ask the patience of the congregation as we try to find new opportunities for members and friends to meet together for fun and fellowship.

And throughout the year we discussed, considered and proposed a new position of “Young Adult Outreach” which has subsequently become the focus of a short-term committee led by Joe Russo.

Your Membership and Outreach Committee: Kay and Bill Billingham, Roy Terry, Ben Merchant (session representative), Sandi Yingling, and Kathie Zielinski

**Park Central Presbyterian Church
Worship Committee
Annual Report 2014-2015**

The year covered by this report began with the summer choir singing for July Communion under Julie Pretzat, Director of Music. The choir sang for August Communion under Robert Allen, Interim Director of Music. Dr. Pretzat had requested and received a one-year leave of absence to address work and family responsibilities.

After Labor Day, the worship schedule returned to its normal time, and the choir and handbell groups resumed rehearsals on regular schedules. All Saints Sunday was observed in remembering our members, families and friends who have joined the choir triumphant.

The Worship Committee was given the orientation/training video on use of the new defibrillator. A training session for ushers is planned so that should the need ever arise to use the device, more members will be able to assist in using the machine.

With concurrence of the Mission Committee, we have reinstated the food collection baskets on Communion Sundays to assist the downtown food pantry in filling the needs in our area. Hunger is a persistent crisis for more and more people and while this is a somewhat small response, every bit helps. The Park Central congregation has been exceedingly generous in just the first few months, and the pantry we serve has been extremely grateful.

The committee discussed acquiring a few additional silk flower arrangements for use in the sanctuary. These could be memorial gifts, individual gifts. Further action will be taken on this by fall.

After discussion and comments about the summer worship time, a survey was distributed this spring asking members and friends in worship to note which time they preferred, and the reasons if they chose to elaborate. Response was moderate but the preferences and reasons were clear and Session has approved leaving the worship hour at 10:30 this summer to see if it is better for members and visitors.

The committee saw to the placing of poinsettias in the sanctuary and provision of holiday flowers for our shut-ins, for Christmas. At Easter the sanctuary was decked in lilies and spring flowers and azaleas were ordered for the Deacons to deliver to the shut-ins.

It has been a busy year for special music at Park Central. The choir, along with a chamber orchestra, performed the Bach *Magnificat in D* during worship in December, and again with small orchestra and organ in May, sang the Faure *Requiem*. The English Handbells performed in December with the Liverpool Community Chorus at Liverpool High School twice in December.

Several outside groups have indicated interest in presenting concerts in the sanctuary, and we are especially promoting use of the new piano. On May 3, the Oswego Festival Chorus presented a program following the Fellowship Luncheon. A recital on May 8 showcased our section-leader-in-training, Jaclyn Clark and her Syracuse University voice teacher and former Kirk Choir Soprano section leader, Julianna Sabol. They were accompanied by Kevin Moore. On next year's calendar already is the Onondaga Civic Symphony in February, again with Kevin Moore as soloist for the Beethoven Emperor Concerto. In March, Syracuse Vocal Ensemble will present their spring program at Park Central. Other plans are in early stages; Music Director Allen has suggested hosting a handbell workshop and festival. These events are bringing the community into our facility, as well as providing venues for the arts.

Through it all ("it" being Sunday worship services and assorted other special events) Park Central organist Will Headlee continues to provide weekly accompaniment for choir and congregation, as well as his exceptionally fine and appropriate service music. Year in and year out, we are just simply blessed with Will's fine musical leadership.

Finally, Andrew McTyre's preaching provides regular insights and food for thought as he addresses current and ancient issues that enrich or challenge our faith. Park Central also has a competent and willing roster of supply preachers whose worship leadership is called upon several times a year, and we are grateful for their service.

We look ahead to new challenges and achievements, having a foundation of tradition and innovation to guide us, and the Hand of God to sustain us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Stinson, Chair

**Park Central Presbyterian Church
Human Resources Committee
2015 Annual Report**

Worship Committee class of 2017
Ted Moss (2)
Sharon Terry (2)
Education & Nurture Committee class of 2017
Marge Shuster (2)
Gail Hamner (2)
Mission & Interpretation Committee class of 2017
Divya Hoffmann (2)
Karen Dross (2)
Harry Dross (2)
Membership & Outreach Committee class of 2017
Roy Terry (2)
Elberta Bradshaw
Stewardship Committee class of 2017
Kevin Moore
Jeff Vernon (2)
Human Resources Committee class of 2017
Steve Mitchell (2)
Craig Williams
Bill Porter (2)
Session class of 2018
Sue Stinson (2)
Craig Kerr
Caroline Sheffield
Board of Deacons class of 2018
Wynetta Devore (2)
Anita Wagner (2)
<i>a (2) by the name indicates a second term</i>