

National City Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

2017 Annual Report



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Senior Pastor

“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.” Isaiah 60:1-2 NRSV

The time when the prophet Isaiah wrote included many days when “thick darkness” had covered the earth and God’s peoples. Yet the opening verse of Isaiah 60 blazes brilliantly: “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.” God comes into the difficult days of God’s people and brings new life. God arises and shines forth in glory!

While National City Christian Church has faced several challenges in 2017, there are exceedingly many reasons to rise and shine, and give God the glory. The Annual Report is our congregational document to shine forth the highlights and celebrations of our work for Jesus Christ on 5 Thomas Circle, as well as to address the challenges of our life together.

Highlights and Celebrations

On New Year’s Eve, National City Christian Church hosted a national **Watch Night Teach-in** with the Reverend Dr. William Barber and the Reverend Dr. James Forbes, as several hundred participants received important information regarding the new Poor People’s Campaign and the announcement of an audit of civil rights 50 years since the assassination of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The evening included an inspirational, ecumenical Watch Night Service at Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church on 1518 M Street.

For the month of January, National City Christian Church offered congregations throughout our denomination resources for worship on the occasion of the **U.S.**

Presidential Inauguration written by the Reverend Dr. Michael McMahan and the Reverend Dr. Peter Morgan. These resources were used in our services of worship on January 15.

The **Senior Pastor Leadership Conference** hosted by Christian Church Foundation was held in Lexington, Kentucky, at Central Christian Church. This is an annual gathering of pastors from the larger churches in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). National City Christian Church will be the host site for the Senior Pastor Leadership Conference in 2018. Speaking of attending big events, National City has been selected as one of the host sites for the **2018 National Festival of Homiletics** in May whereby we will be welcoming over a thousand preachers to Washington, D.C., for a week of lectures, worship, and of course, exceptional preaching!

Cooking for Compassion with **Week of Compassion** hosted the Executive Director **Vy Nguyen** as two dozen persons from the congregation came together for a February evening of exotic dishes and education regarding the ways our relief ministries are present and helping in the locations where those dishes had originated. Also church member, Reverend Miriam Gentle, shared through preaching and teaching on October 15, about her travel to Indonesia with Week of Compassion to see the important ministries being accomplished through our denomination’s relief efforts.

Entering the season of Lent, National City Christian Church opened its Community Room for a unique spiritual experience that we called **Sacred Space Yoga**. Together we quietly meditated on scriptures from the Psalms while participating in traditional yoga positions. Other gatherings of Lenten study groups were held around the region, at church and in members’ homes. The exceptional 2017 Lenten Devotional was shared in print, online, and for the first time as a Kindle e-book!

Senior Pastor (cont.)

Easter Sunday was absolutely glorious and the season of Easter welcomed a new **Unity Worship Service**, bringing all three worshiping congregations together at 10 a.m. During the season of Easter, we also welcomed our community's canines and their companions for a special Dog Blessing service out on the steps of National City. Also in May we celebrated the Ph.D. graduation of our marvelous assistant pastor the Reverend **Dr. Beverly Goines**.

The summer began with a launch of the **Chalice Fellowship**, culminating in the adoption of a new permanent fund policy. Events included several small group gatherings during the weekend with Sunday morning preaching by the Reverend Randy Johnson from the Christian Church Foundation.

In July, the **2017 General Assembly** was held in Indianapolis, Indiana, where the wider church elected a new General Minister and President, the Reverend **Teresa Hord Owens**. The Foundation for National City Christian Church sponsored a popular assembly booth. Hundreds of assembly participants took "selfies" at the booth, which featured life-size cut-outs of the three U.S. Presidents that have been related to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In addition, I assisted in the teaching of the Christian Church Foundation workshop on permanent fund policies in congregations.

Elsewhere in this annual report you will find the Moderator's report outlining the work accomplished as we move toward the development of the **Campbell Building**. With the expert help of Rock Creek Properties, we have been able to successfully navigate the complicated D.C. requirements of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission, the Zoning Board, and Historic Preservation Board. As I spoke before each board or commission, I was delighted to hear board members and commissioners speak so highly of National City Christian Church and our contributions to the community. It impressed me that these organizations valued our

ministries and wanted to preserve – what one commissioner described as – “the jewel on Thomas Circle.” At the end of 2017, the Campbell Building has been cleared and is ready for asbestos abatement and other demo work by Rock Creek Properties. Thanks to the many volunteers and staff who worked several weekends and evenings to help get the building ready. I am also grateful to Dr. Goines for leading us in a worship service as we gave thanks to God for the many memories and significant ministries that we have shared in the Campbell Building through the years.

In the eleventh year of our ministry together at National City Christian Church, my wife and I were honored with a glorious week at the **Chautauqua Institute** where I was the chaplain for the week and presented a Disciple House lecture on the National City Christian Church Foundation. Our week culminated in a joyous wedding as we were able to participate in the celebration of holy matrimony between the Reverend Dr. **Joan Brown Campbell** and the Reverend Dr. **Albert Pennybaker**.

October began with the joyous celebration of the **15th Anniversary of the Gospel Worship Service**. In that afternoon, we enjoyed a wonderful and spiritually uplifting Gospel Choir concert that led us toward a time of worship and praise. Our deep appreciation to Pastor Valeria Foster and the amazing voices of the Gospel Choir.

On September 17, National City Christian Church joined the Christian Church Capital Area with the Reverend Alan Harris and the Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries with the Reverend Lori Tapia, as we ordained into Christian ministry the Reverend Dr. **Chaim Abramowitz (CJ) Rodriguez**. Rev. Rodriguez is the seventh ordination that National City Christian Church has celebrated in the last 2 ½ years. In October, Dr. Rodriguez was called as the Pastor to the Hispanic Congregation and we look forward to this growing community of saints!

Senior Pastor (cont.)

During this year, National City Christian Church was able to say “thank you” to two long-serving staff persons. The Reverend **Noemi Mena** has served as the Hispanic Pastor for nearly 14 years, and we wished her well with our deep appreciation for her excellent ministry among us. Earlier in the summer, we held a retirement celebration for Mr. **Mike Dula** who has served on our building staff for nearly 35 years. Tears were shed and much appreciation was shared as we said good-bye to these two awesome and dedicated Christian leaders.

In addition, National City Christian Church Foundation thanked the Reverend Dr. **Richard “Dick” Hamm** for his eight years of distinguished leadership as Chairperson for the Board of Trustees. Dr. Hamm’s skilled direction has brought the Foundation to a place of strength and vitality, and we are equally grateful for his continued service on the board as a Trustee. The Foundation is pleased to welcome Mr. **John Arterberry** to the Chairperson’s position. Mr. Arterberry and his wife Lisa have been members of National City Christian Church for over three decades, and the Foundation looks forward to his continued leadership in this new role.

The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation was observed on November 1, with historic readings shared and beautiful music enjoyed. National City joined neighboring **Luther Place Memorial Church** outside of the Martin Luther statue to celebrate this momentous occasion with red streamers, songs, and prayers.

The weekend of November 5 was yet another historic moment for National City Christian Church – even as we celebrated our 87th year on Thomas Circle. New General Minister and President **Teresa Hord Owens** preached at our Unity Service a message on the importance of knowing one’s history, as we dedicated the **Oscar Haynes Exhibit** on permanent loan by the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. The new exhibit celebrates 100 years of the African American Convention movement that is now called the

National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). On that same weekend, we participated in the installation of the new Historical Society President, the Reverend Dr. **Richard Lowery**, and heard from the Reverend Dr. **Delores Carpenter** as she spoke at the 2017 Kirkpatrick Lecture.

In December, we welcomed our neighbors to a very successful **“Breakfast with Santa”** in the Community Room and Atrium, enjoyed by over 50 children from the community – creating Christmas decorations, enjoying a hearty breakfast, and hearing the story of our dear Savior’s birth.

At the beginning of 2017, our church anticipated a year-end **budget gap** of \$25,000. Thanks to the very generous gifts of our members and friends, that gap was shrunk to \$7,500. You can see the financial report later in this annual report. In spite of the shortfall, this is an accomplishment worthy of celebrating. At our next annual meeting, I propose that we attempt to raise that \$7,500 over and above our regular giving, so that we may begin 2018 with a balanced financial record. To that end, two generous members of National City Christian Church have offered to match every dollar that is given for this effort!

Looking ahead, Philanthropic Team leader Kathleen Burger and I had important meetings with the **Theodore and Beulah Beasley Foundation** and the **Winifred Johnson Clive Foundation** as we look to the next chapter in our next capital campaign. In 2018, we will enter “the silent phase” of part two of the Capital Campaign. Contact Kathleen Burger or me if you are interested in being among the first leader donors to our next exciting campaign!

Reaching the end of 2017, we had the joy of welcoming Mr. **Tony Johnson** back to our community after 12 years. Mr. Johnson is going to be working with us in the new year as we come together with other downtown congregations to minister to persons in our community who are homeless or living on the streets. Indeed, we are so grateful to our

Senior Pastor (cont.)

amazing team of volunteers who minister in our **Food Pantry** and provide compassionate ministries with those who hurt in our community. We look forward to expanding our impact in 2018.

Likewise, I am so grateful for an amazing and dedicated staff at National City Christian Church: the Reverend Dr. **Michael McMahon**, the Reverend Dr. **Beverly Goines**, the Reverend Dr. **CJ Rodriguez**, Pastor **Valeria Foster**, Mr. **Kenneth Lowenberg**, Ms. **Kathleen Swihart**, Ms. **Colleen Walsh**, Mr. **Morris Jackson**, Mr. **Roy Hatton**, Ms. **Janice Glover**, and Ms. **Betty Crudup**, along with a whole host of volunteers and church leaders who bless our church's life each and every week with their gifts. Thank you!

Challenges and Opportunities for Growth

Our year has not been without some significant challenges. In September, we experienced the death and sad loss of our Facilities and Operations Administrator **William "Bill" Knight**. The void that Mr. Knight has left in our church with his passing is truly significant. Our words cannot adequately express our abiding appreciation to Mr. Knight's work and ministry among us – the Capital Campaign and the renovations of our facilities, to name a few. His death is a reminder for all of us to value and honor the people that we have working among us, and to not take anyone – staff or church leaders – for granted.

The year of 2017 saw our worship services with a much **lower attendance**. Often with a change of legislative and executive personnel in the government, our congregation has benefited from these changes, as new people move into the area. But for reasons that are beyond me, we have seen very few new persons come to visit in 2017, and more disconcerting, a number of church members have left the area for a variety of reasons. This vacuum has left us with an opportunity for growth as we make plans in 2018. Our congregation must take seriously about how we are reaching out to the community around

us and inviting persons to join in worshiping, growing in faith, and caring for our community.

Which leads to another significant concern of mine: **leadership exhaustion** and **spiritual fatigue** on the part of our members and leaders. How do we keep ourselves renewed, hope-filled, and mission-oriented? How can we be the best National City Christian Church that we can be? How do we move into the future, equipping the saints for ministry?

This is where we must hear again the words of Isaiah:

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." Isaiah 60:1

Our opportunity for growth is with the **Epiphany program** led by the **Hope Partnership** of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as we consider how our congregation and our leaders can be agents of transformation and guiding lights for effective ministry and mission. The Epiphany program is designed to help our congregation imagine and then live into our future ministry and become the transforming church and leaders that we are called to be – inside and outside our church walls.

In 2018, National City Christian Church will participate in the **Epiphany program** designed for congregations that are: "stable, even growing, but lack purpose and direction, experiencing decline or stagnant...looking for creative ways to be a better church."

How will Epiphany work? Epiphany uses elements from various Hope Partnership services and tailors those elements to fit our congregation's needs.

Retreat #1 – Congregational leaders are re-oriented from managing a church towards transforming lives and the community.

Building Relationships – After the first retreat, leaders are given assignments to evaluate current programming and explore the surrounding community to learn from neighbors about their greatest needs.

Senior Pastor (cont.)

Retreat #2 – Two months after the first retreat, the congregation’s leaders reconvene to develop our new future story. This innovative process invites participants to dream and articulate our called “story” for their church. Based on that story, leaders are challenged to create an active ministry plan.

Coaching – Hope Partnership provides the congregation with a trained coach for a year, who walks alongside us as we journey through the process. Trained staff from Hope Partnership will guide our congregation on a yearlong journey of leadership, exploration, and transformation.

No doubt our challenges are great, but our God is good. With so much for us to give thanks and celebrate in 2017, the promise of National City Christian Church burns bright as we enter our 175th year as a worshiping community. Indeed, may we arise and shine! In the words of Isaiah, “For your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us!”

Stephen Gentle

Iglesia Cristiana Nacional (Discípulos de Cristo)

The author of the book of Isaiah once proclaimed, *“For I [God] am about to do something new. See, I have already begun!”* (Isaiah 43:19).

Certainly, these words rang true in 2017 for the Iglesia Cristiana Nacional (Discípulos de Cristo), a worshipping community located at National City Christian Church. There are many things to report, and for all of them, we give God thanks. Our congregation continued with a steady community of about 50 members, with an average attendance of 30-35 on Sunday mornings.

Around Easter time we celebrated the baptism of two of our most beloved members, one of whom now serves as an Elder in our congregation.

In the summer, amidst the excitement of General Assembly and the election of Rev. Terri Hard Owens as our GMP, our congregation prepared itself for many changes. In September, Pastor CJ Rodriguez, the Pastoral Associate under the sponsorship of Rev. Noemi Mena was ordained into Christian Ministry by the auspices of the Capital Area Region and the Obra Hispana of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This joyous occasion was that first ordination to take place in Philips Chapel and the last major event to take place in the space that our congregation called home for so many years. The ordination included the ecumenical participation of people throughout the life of the church including Rev. Allen Harris, Regional Minister, Rev. Lori Tapia, National Hispanic Pastor, Dr. Eileen B. Mitchell from Wesley Theological Seminary, Rev. Dr. Audrey Price, Chair of Church and Ministry for the Potomac Association of the United Church of Christ, among many others. Shortly thereafter we said goodbye to our long-time pastor, Rev. Noemi Mena, who decided it was time for her to retire from pastoral ministry. She was sent off with peace and love at several different events including a

congregational luncheon at Cuba Libre, a local DC restaurant.

On October 1st, the now Rev. CJ Rodriguez became the congregation’s settled pastor and together we moved from Philips Chapel to our new home in the Community Room at National City Christian Church. While it has been a difficult transition, praise God for we have made it work! Since that time, we have been arduously at work restructuring our congregation as we seek to move forward in ministry. We spent the last three months of 2017 in congregational study exploring our Disciples identity, history and polity.

We culminated this study period in mid-December with our first Congregational Meeting. It was there where we officially decided it was time to shift from being known as the “Hispanic Fellowship” of National City Christian Church, and adopted the more culturally appropriate name of, “Iglesia Cristiana Nacional (Discípulos de Cristo),” a worshipping Community at National City Christian Church; now we even have a large sign that stands on the outside of the 14th street entrance of National City for all to see. In addition, we elected our very first Executive Committee along with official Elder and Deacon boards, respectively. Over these past months, the congregation has been increasingly more active in the life of the church, we have had visitors almost every Sunday since moving into the new space, and we continue to enjoy food and fellowship with one another after every service. We are excited about the “new things God is doing” in our midst and continue to look forward to partner with Him as we fulfill our call to be a prophetic church in our times. Our congregation’s theme for 2018 is taken from Isaiah 6:8, *“Here we are Lord, send us.”* To God be the glory and the honor, now and forever. Amen and Ashe!

Rev. Dr. CJ Rodriguez
Pastor, Iglesia Cristiana Nacional
(Discípulos de Cristo)

Assistant Pastor

The year 2017 was bittersweet. I suffered devastating lows and celebrated a big accomplishment. My mother, Joyce Freeman Goines, passed away at the end of 2016. Less than three months later, my mother's sister, who was also my godmother and the person after whom I am named, Beverly Janet Freeman-Owen, passed away unexpectedly. I miss them very much. In May, I graduated from The Catholic University of America with a Ph.D. in Religion and Culture from the School of Theology and Religious Studies. I had worked to accomplish this goal for many years, but the joy was tempered by the loss of my mother and aunt.

I continued with my regular duties at the church which included preaching, Sunday worship leadership, pastoral care, and counseling. I assisted during baby dedications, and at funeral and memorial services held throughout the year, and I hosted the annual Service of Remembrance and Healing to support those who are grieving. I attended the adult Sunday School class as often as I could, and enjoyed the times that I was able to teach the class. I also had the opportunity to join the LGBTQ Ecumenical Bible Study for a couple of meetings and one of the Happy Hours at Uproar Lounge that benefit local charities.

In June, I organized a seminar hosted by the District of Columbia Legal Counsel for the Elderly. The topics covered at the event included legal services, hotlines, pro bono, consumer fraud and financial abuse, public benefits and general services, homebound elderly, and programs for D.C. elders. Over the summer, I was also invited by Rev. Mary Lu Johnston, a Disciples minister and the co-founder and executive director of Reach Beyond Mission, to speak on the topic of social justice to two groups of young people doing mission work in the District of Columbia. I spoke to the first group at Calvary Baptist Church and I spoke to the second group at the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. Reach Beyond Mission provides life-changing experiences that equip youth with biblical, theological, and social tools to do justice, while

stressing the celebration of diversity, progressive theology, meaningful service, and inclusive language.

In August, I participated in the Minister's March for Justice which was an ecumenical and interfaith event organized by the National Action Network that brought together clergy from across the country. Participants marched from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial to the Department of Justice to promote voting rights, equitable access to healthcare, criminal justice reform, and economic justice. I was honored to have a pastoral prayer offered during worship service on August 13, 2017 reprinted in the September 2017 National City Newsletter at the request of the congregation. The prayer was given in the wake of a 'Unite the White' white nationalist rally that took place in Charlottesville, Virginia to oppose the removal of confederate statues during which there was violence that resulted in multiple injuries and the death of a counter protester.

In September, along with the church's ministerial staff, I attended the Hope Partnership for Ministerial Transformation Leadership Academy in Indianapolis, Indiana which took place at Speedway Christian Church. The Leadership Academy brings together leaders from across the nation to share leadership experience, wisdom, and trainings. I took part in the Soar educational track which focused on **empowering** pastoral teams to revitalize and transform congregations. We discussed issues related to equipping churches like National City to do effective ministry.

In November, I assisted Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter with her presentation on Rev. Carnella Jamison Barnes given for the Christian Church Historical Society's Kirkpatrick Lecture. The lecture took place during the weekend of the National City Christian Church Foundation Meeting and the dedication of the Oscar Haynes Exhibit in the Beasley Building. In November, I also had the honor of being invited to participate in the Faculty-Alumni Panel of the 101st Alumni Convocation of the Howard University School

Assistant Pastor (cont.)

of Divinity. The panel was entitled, "Theological Education, Black Church and Community: Prophetic Legacy as Critical, Reconciling Community." In this presentation, I suggested that the legacy of Militant Reconciling Love as described in an article by Larry Rivers continues in the ecumenical work of the theologians discussed in my dissertation: Thomas Hoyt, Jr., Frederick Ware and Kortright Davis.

In December, I had a great time volunteering at National City's Breakfast with Santa which welcomed many children from the neighborhood. I greatly enjoyed participating in some of the 6 a.m. Monday morning prayer conference calls that took place throughout the year. Prayer is so important and the prayer warriors of National City faithfully took the needs of the congregation as a whole, the needs of individual members, and the needs of the world to the throne of grace to ask for God's help, favor, direction, and deliverance. The prayers of the righteous availeth much!

I wrote and submitted an essay on the Black Church and Ecumenism for a forthcoming book called the *T&T Clark Companion to African American Theology* that will be published by Bloomsbury. The book is designed to be a concise guide and informative introduction to the history, methodology, doctrinal and thematic issues, and ethical imperatives of African American theology. The text will provide a better understanding of the diversity of Christianity and Christian theology to demonstrate the expanse of African American theology across the theological curriculum and its practical applications in a number of social situations.

I am happy to report that I received Provisional Advocate Status from the National Advocate Credentialing Program for my work at the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network which supports victims of sexual violence in the military through telephone and online chats.

This year also included additional goodbyes for me. Rev. Noemi Mena retired from her position as pastor of National City's Hispanic ministry. When I came to National City in 2003 as a Lilly Endowment Fellow, Rev. Mena was the director of the program. After fourteen years of working together, I pray God's continued blessings for Rev. Mena's ministry. I also had to say goodbye to my friend and colleague, William (Bill) Knight. Bill often encouraged me and came into my office to pray for me. He was a wonderful church manager and a genuinely kind person. His presence is truly missed.

In 2018, I look forward to implementing some of the techniques that I learned during the Hope Partnership Leadership Academy and focusing on our theme of Epiphany as we ponder the question of "why" our church exists. I also look forward to the church retreats that Hope Partnership will be leading for us in 2018 to "help our congregation imagine and then live into our future, becoming the transforming church and leaders that we are called to be."

As always, I thank the members of National City for allowing me to serve this congregation. My thanks extend to Rev. Dr. Stephen Gentle, the ministerial team, and all of the staff for your kindness and support. As I approach fifteen years of ministerial service at this great church, I am indeed grateful to God for His sustaining power. Onward and upward with the expectation that God will move on our behalf in marvelous and miraculous ways in 2018!

Rev. Dr. Beverly Janet Goines
Assistant Pastor

Moderator's Report

Officers

I have an incredible team of leaders working with me and for each I am grateful. Alan Williams, our vice moderator, provides solid guidance and steps up to the most challenging tasks. Gentry Alexander, our treasurer, guides our financial decisions with wisdom, skill, and compassion. Rick Bahr keeps the minutes without any complaints. Our mission leaders, our committee chairs, our elders and deacons all provide gifts of time and talent. I offer a special thanks to our choir who make music that stirs my soul. Without you all, National City could not thrive.

Campbell Building

Perhaps the most dramatic action that we've taken at National City in 2017 was to work with the National City Christian Church Foundation as it undertakes the sale of the Campbell Building. This building was only partially used, had major maintenance issues, and would have cost millions to bring into usable condition – and then we would have had to find tenants as the activities of National City itself no longer fill the building. After considerable deliberation and much prayer, the Foundation decided to sell the building. The congregation is well represented on the Foundation Board and the concerns of the congregation were front and center in the deliberations.

The first buyer did not follow through as anticipated and in an act of mercy, the second bidder called Dr. Gentle right at that time to inquire whether there might still be an opportunity. The Foundation entered into a purchase agreement – amended five times – with Rock Creek Properties, a local development firm with considerable experience redeveloping historic buildings in Washington, D.C. Rock Creek proposes to build offices for businesses such as architects who might enjoy the space. They proposed to add an additional half floor set back on the top of the building so that the building would preserve its historic character. The addition of new square feet could benefit National City financially.

Upon approval by the Foundation Board, Rock Creek set out to secure the historic and zoning approvals from the District of Columbia to allow the work to move forward. Indeed one of the last gifts that Bill Knight provided to National City was to shepherd these applications with the developer and secure both the use agreement and the historic approval to move forward.

Throughout the process the congregation continues to have input. We created a Moving Ministries Task Force ably chaired by Alan Williams, our Vice Moderator, and greatly assisted by our member and architect Ann Neeriemer. The Moving Ministries Task Force worked with the nursery and the Hispanic congregation who were the first to move to temporary space. The children are now visible in the lobby of our second floor offices and the Hispanic congregation has made a home in the community room. We all enjoy the lively spirit and music, we see each other more, and it helps us to be one congregation with three services. We are continuing to work on how we will provide space for congregational meals and other services. The Foundation acknowledges that the remaining building will need renovation to accommodate the needs of the congregation in its new configuration and has agreed that the proceeds of sale will provide this investment. The Foundation has determined that the money from the sale will go into the permanent fund of the Foundation so that they will continue to support the work of the congregation into the future. We are exploring options for a low interest loan from the denomination to cover the renovations that could be paid for with the earnings on the money so that the principal would stay intact. The Foundation is committed to insuring that the money is there for the future and committed to making the renovations needed to insure that the congregation can continue to thrive and grow.

In late December 2017 Rock Creek came to us and asked to start on remediation of hazardous materials and demolition of the

Moderator's Report (cont.)

interior of the building to create a shell ready for construction. Your Campbell negotiating team agreed with Rock Creek to permit their early entry into the Campbell Building for interior demolition and remediation of hazardous materials. According to Rock Creek, the early entry work will facilitate design and construction planning and should help to expedite the approval process. In exchange for the right to begin demolition and remediation, Rock Creek agreed to release to the Foundation \$250,000 of the earnest money if Rock Creek decides to begin that work during the Approval Period. As our most able negotiating team leader John Arterberry wrote in his update, *"Your Campbell Building negotiating team is pleased to bring promising year-end news on the building's pending sale contract. Rock Creek has provided notice that it is preparing to begin interior demolition work. Under our agreement with Rock Creek, that notice triggers a requirement that Rock Creek release \$250,000 of its non-refundable \$500,000 earnest money deposit. Your negotiating team views this development as a significant step in Rock Creek's commitment to this project and intention to close on the purchase of the property."* The fund transfer occurred on December 26, 2017, into the Foundation's permanent endowment fund.

National City Christian Church is entirely out of the Campbell Building. The Chaplain's Window has been removed and is safely crated in our possession. Rock Creek Properties paid for its removal at the cost of \$1,800. They have given us the check and we will pay the stained glass company.

The construction fence is up and the Campbell building is secured. Rock Creek reported to the Foundation on January 17, 2018, that the abatement would be complete in approximately 12 weeks. We continue to see significant progress as we navigate the stages of the sales contract. We recognize, however, that completion of the Approval Period hinges on Rock Creek's success in obtaining various regulatory and zoning approvals, a time-

consuming process that could extend another 21 months. We remain optimistic that this process is moving toward the successful closing of the sale.

Rock Creek is meeting with the negotiating team monthly to keep the Foundation informed of progress. Please let me know if you have questions that you would like us to pose at those meetings. Rock Creek demonstrates a clear commitment to working with us and to creating a high quality neighbor.

Diaconate

We are in a pilot phase of creating a combined deacon/deaconess board to be called the Diaconate. The historic work of each group – serving, caring for the sick and homebound, providing congregational leadership, and care of communion ware all need to be done and in this day and age can ably be done by both men and women. Before we change the bylaws, we are experimenting with the combined group as we try to understand how best to enable all to contribute to the health and vitality of the congregation.

Staff Recognition

A report on 2017 could not be complete without a word of thanks to Bill Knight for all that he did for us. The deep knowledge of event management, the care for our facility, and his extraordinary willingness to do whatever was needed is irreplaceable. We all thank him and embrace Nick in the grateful and loving arms of our congregation. Moe Jackson, our building supervisor, continues to step up above and beyond with the support of Roy Hatton, our maintenance assistant, and our facilities housekeeper Janice Glover.

We congratulate again Rev. Dr. Beverly Goines on earning her PhD – we all loved seeing you preside in your academic regalia and we thank you for so many years of service. Yes ma'am I realize you've done more than 10 years and we have to come up with a special honor. National City Christian Church family – let me know if you want to help here.

Moderator's Report (cont.)

We congratulate Rev. CJ Rodriguez on his ordination and acceptance of the call to lead our Hispanic congregation and we thank Rev. Noemi Mena on her retirement after so many dedicated years.

We celebrate Rev. Michael McMahon's good health as he confronted cancer this year. We are so grateful for his ministry of music. The Gospel Choir under the loving direction of Valeria Foster celebrated 15 years in 2017 with a grand concert. We are happy to see Kenneth Lowenberg, new hip and all, back commanding our beloved organ.

Behind the scenes our office manager Colleen Walsh keeps everything moving and Kathleen Swihart makes sure that we have the contact information for every member and potential member as she provides a warm welcome to all.

Pulling the entire team together is our tireless leader Rev. Dr. Stephen Gentle. His listening ear, his compelling words, and his spiritual

guidance through good times and bad are vital to National City. This year we provided a thank you gift for 11 years of dedicated service by sending Dr. Gentle and Rev. Miriam Gentle to Chautauqua for a week in August to serve as the Chaplain of the Disciple house. This modest gift cannot make up for all that we ask of the Gentles and all that they give – acknowledging that our entire staff gave up a portion of their salaries during rough years.

On behalf of the entire congregation, we are grateful to you all.

Thank you

To each of you at National City – too many to name – thank you for your commitment to our church. The warm welcome, the prayers, the music, the willingness to cover when I am traveling, your contributions of time and talent all mean a great deal to me and to our community of faith. I am honored to serve as your moderator.

- Jane Campbell

Vice Moderator's Report

2017 was an eventful year for our facilities at NCCC, which has required much flexibility from our ministries. The impending sale of the Campbell Building required relocating the Nursery and children's Sunday school, the adult Sunday school, kitchen gear, and the Hispanic Fellowship into temporary space in the Beasley Building. The Moving Ministries Committee and I coordinated the relocation of those ministries and many items in need of new homes with Dr. Gentle and the rest of the staff, along with many helping hands. Thank you to everyone who pitched in!

When the sale process is concluded, and construction completed, we will continue to evaluate our the needs of our ministries and how our space can best accommodate them. There will also be a process to determine what spaces can be reconfigured to better suit our needs when we have a better sense of our budget. Look forward for opportunities to participate in the process!

If you have any concerns or ideas, please let me know so they can be considered.

- Alan Williams

Membership

Membership is a fluid thing at National City. It is my privilege and challenge to try to stay on top of it! In addition to helping the ministers, I report information from the connect cards, work with the Deaconesses, the nursery staff, updating the church directory, and most important is to keep in contact with our sick, shut-ins and visitors

This year I have continued in the coordination of the atrium desk volunteers. Many thanks to Steven Baines, Tom Beacham, Theresa Beaton, Warren Brooks, Bill Eldred, Sara Ketchum, Gary Lewis, Annice Majette, Sylvia Snyder, Byron Cotton, Will White, Betty Crudup and Fredrickia Lloyd for this vital service

I thank you for this opportunity to serve you and God.

Kathleen Swihart
Associate in Membership

New Members

Valeria Foster
Tonyette Russell
John & Marsha Von Alden

Deaths

Ann Cappiello
Sue F. Frost
William K. Knight
Charles B. Leslie
Jane Lollis

National City Christian Church Congregation Partnership

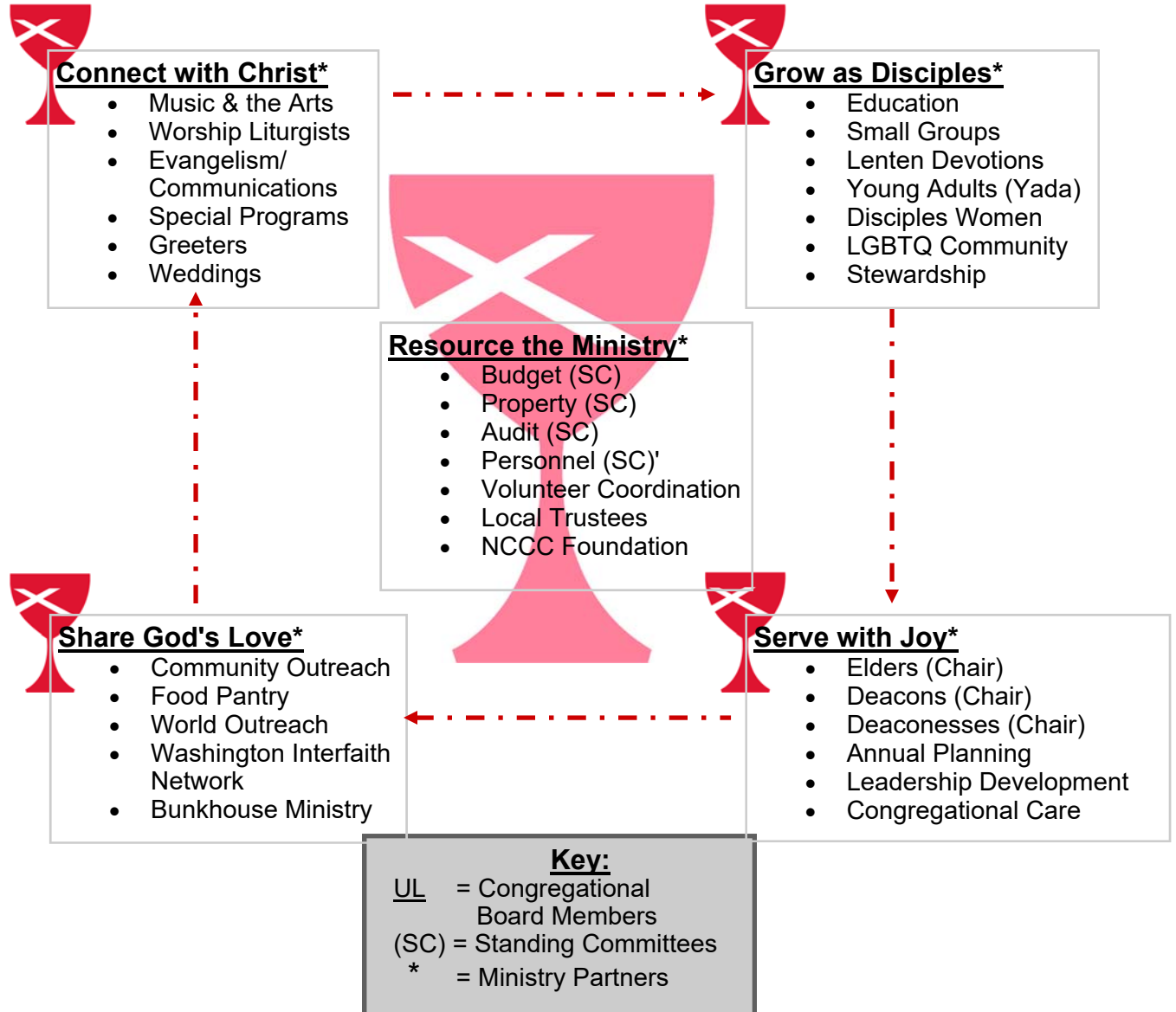
Senior Ministry*

Hispanic Ministry
 Associate Minister
 Assistant Ministers
 Minister of Music & Music Staff
 Support Staff
 Maintenance Staff

Moderator*

Vice Moderator
 Secretary
 Treasurer
 Nominations Chairperson
 At Large Members
 Church Clerk
 Parliamentarian
 Financial Secretary
 Assistant Treasurers

Ministry Partnership



Connect with Christ

The worship at National City achieves a high level of quality due to the preaching, prayers and liturgy of Dr. Gentle, Dr. Goines, and Rev. Rodriguez, as well as the music ministries of Rev. Michael McMahon and Valeria Foster.

The National City Website was upgraded, making it a more useful and inviting portal for current and future members of the congregation.

Steven D. Cook
Ministry Leader

Greeters and Hospitality

WELCOME TO NATIONAL CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH!

A smile and this simple statement can mean so much to visitors and members alike. Every member of National City Christian Church should consider themselves a part of this group and express their joy to all who enter our midst with a smile, hug, or handshake.

Thanks to all who have volunteered to serve as official Greeters for the 11 o'clock service and for special events. While our core group has diminished this year, due to other responsibilities in the service and members moving away from the area, it has been truly a pleasure to work with you as we serve our community.

The following individuals are the current members of the Greeters and Hospitality Committee.

Aixa Diaz
Anthony Mague
Charlie Daniel
Shirley Kruse
Diana Morse
Byron Cotton

Tom Beacham
Drusilla McCain
Tim Schaefer
Fredrickia Lloyd
Victor Vasquez
Jennifer Selde

We look forward to continuing to serve National City Christian Church during the coming year and invite others to join our group.

Sadye C. Sanders
Chair

Music

The congregation of National City Christian Church has historically placed a high value on music ministry as an integral dimension of its worship and of its mission to make the good news of Christ heard in the capital city of the United States. Music is a core element in the spiritual and cultural enrichment of the church's members and of its outreach to the wider community. In 2017 our music program has continued to fulfill these important roles and to grow in ways that are in keeping with the life of this congregation and the communities of which we are a part.

My primary role as Minister of Music is to coordinate the overall music ministry of the church; to plan music for the 11 a.m. worship service on Sundays and for other special days during the year; to direct the Sanctuary Choir and play the organ as needed; and to coordinate music for weddings, funerals, and other special celebrations.

An important part of my ministry at National City Christian Church includes coordination of the Friday Music at Midday series, recruiting performers for more than thirty concerts each year, disseminating publicity, preparing the programs, scheduling rehearsal times, and hosting the concerts. I also have responsibility for the church's extremely valuable musical assets, including the organs, pianos, other instruments, and music library.

Worship

Worship is the heartbeat of congregational life, and music is one of its primary modes of expression. The words and actions of worship, including music, reveal the presence and action of God in our midst, open our minds and hearts to be transformed by God, and give us a language for responding to God's love and blessings. All of us come to worship as people affected by the events of our lives, by our own joys and sorrows, our accomplishments and our failings, as well as the events that unfold in the world around us. This year we have come to worship as people deeply touched by expressions of racism, xenophobia, and homophobia from the highest levels of national leadership and multiple

incidents of violence and abuse. Planning for worship and its music always takes these factors into account.

In the midst of life and history, we gather for worship where we meet the God who speaks, acts, and loves. The music of worship draws us into a deeper experience of God and provides us with a way to express our joy, our thanksgiving, our need, and even our lament.

A critical element of music ministry at National City Christian Church is the planning of music that makes room for an experience of God and that fosters the active participation of the assembly in praise and prayer. Each Sunday the various ministers and leaders choose and prepare music for congregation, choir, and instruments with these important pastoral values in mind.

Musical elements include hymns and other congregational song that amplify the Scriptures, accompany the actions of worship, and give voice to the community's prayer; musical settings of the psalms that allow these sacred texts to speak to us in new ways and to become our own response to God; choral and vocal music that draws on the musical riches of the past and creative energy of the present; and music for organ, piano, and other instruments that creates an environment for worship, expresses the wide range of human experience and emotion, and sends us out to serve and witness. Our repertoire places a high value on music of the African American tradition that is such an important dimension of this congregation's life and history, and also music from cultures all over the world that unite us with Christians of every race and nation.

Sanctuary Choir

The Sanctuary Choir had a very active year, singing every Sunday for the 11 a.m. worship service except for a four-week hiatus during July. In addition to the regular Sunday services, the choir sang for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Christmas Eve. Attendance of choir members generally ranged from 18 to 23 each week.

Music (cont.)

Services with a special musical emphasis (and which often required additional preparation) included Maundy Thursday; Good Friday; Easter Sunday (with brass); a special Reformation Sunday service on October 29; a special All Saints service sung jointly with the Gospel Choir; Lessons and Carols (December 17), and Christmas Eve. We are blessed with four outstanding section leaders who provide fine vocal leadership for the choir. During 2017 bass section leader Rick Bell left his position and was replaced by Chris Wilde.

Organist Kenneth Lowenberg performs an outstanding musical service to our church and to those who participate each week in worship. He leads hymns and other congregational song with great sensitivity to the singers, the text, and the music, drawing on the almost limitless resources of this church's pipe organ. He also does a superb job of accompanying the choir and soloists. He also takes great care in choosing and preparing organ music that sets the tone for worship and sends the community out to witness and serve.

Additional instrumental resources are also an integral part of the Sanctuary Choir's service, including Miriam Gentle (harp) Ray Valido (piano), David Robeck (percussion), and Amy Conant (clarinet). We make occasional use of handbell. One Sunday we were even treated to a harmonica solo by Chris Wilde.

Friday Music at Midday

Weekly midday concerts have long been an integral part of our church's ministry and outreach to the city and the surrounding communities. These recitals offer an experience of transcendence and beauty to those who attend, and in my view represent a way of preaching without words and of worship without the normal ritual and verbal elements.

During 2017 we held thirty-three Friday midday concerts with a total attendance of approximately 1,500 persons. This year included performances by organists from the District of Columbia and 15 states (Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North

Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin), and also from Germany and the United Kingdom. Most of the concerts were organ recitals, but we also hosted a solo piano recital; the performance of a piano concerto arranged for piano and organ; and an organ duet performance.

Special Concerts and Musical Events

Although special concerts and music festivals by outside groups do not fall under my responsibility, it is worth noting that our church is host to many such events, such as the Heritage Music Festivals and concert performances by such groups as the National Children's Choir, the Children's Chorus of Washington, and the Congressional Chorus.

Organs and Pianos

The organs of National City Christian Church are not only among the finest in the city, but are among the most significant organs in the world. Artists from various parts of the United States and abroad contact us for an opportunity to perform on these marvelous instruments.

The organs and our very fine pianos require significant maintenance. The organs are tuned monthly to keep them in playable condition. Fortunately, during 2017 the organs required only minor repair work beyond the normal monthly maintenance, but they are now of an age where some major maintenance work is looming. The church's Steinway pianos are tuned and serviced on a regular basis as well.

Other Ministerial Activities

In addition to my regular duties as Minister of Music, I've had the opportunity this year to preach on occasion and to share in worship leadership in non-musical ways. I've also been involved in other aspects of the church's life, including communications, fundraising, and web development.

My continuing education this year included workshops at the Disciples General Assembly in Indianapolis and participation in the annual meeting of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, held this past summer in Waterloo, Ontario.

Music (cont.)

On a Personal Note

It is a great joy and privilege for me to serve in ministry at National City Christian Church and to work with our Senior Pastor, Dr. Stephen Gentle, the supportive and committed leaders and members of this congregation, and the amazing staff and clergy who serve the church community so faithfully and well.

It is also an honor to serve with such an amazing and dedicated team of music ministers, including Pastor Valeria A. Foster, Director of the Gospel Choir; Mr. Kenneth Lowenberg, Organist; the members of our Gospel and Sanctuary Choirs; and all those who participate in and support our music ministry in various ways.

- Rev. Dr. J. Michael McMahon
Minister of Music

Gospel Choir

In addition to serving through song each Sunday at our 8:30 a.m. service, the Gospel Choir, at Rev. Noemi Mena's invitation, provided music for the Sunday afternoon worship service at Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg, Maryland on Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday (January 15). On Sunday, September 17 afternoon the choir participated in Dr. C.J. Rodriguez's ordination service, held in Phillips Chapel.

Sunday, October 8 was a joyful day as we celebrated the 15 year anniversary of National City's gospel service (September 8, 2002) and the Gospel Choir which made its debut on Sunday, October 6, 2002. Members of the choir and the congregation were invited to submit their favorite gospel choir selections and former members of the choir were invited to join us in preparation for our afternoon concert. We had the pleasure of re-connecting and reminiscing through song and shared meals. Our faithful nucleus of dedicated singers were joined in concert by ten returning choir members, including Jocelyn Breeland who now resides in California and Rev. Alyssa May who returned to her hometown in Vermont a couple of years ago. Alia Waheed was our guest soloist

for the closing selection "Safety" and our guest musicians (Victoria Costello, piano; Brian Lenair, saxophonist; Dwayne Holton, percussionist) were absolutely superb! An inspirational and uplifting time was had by all in attendance.

Our last high point of the year took place on Sunday, November 5 when the Gospel Choir **provided the prelude music**, then combined with our Sanctuary Choir to minister through song for the special 10 a.m. service celebrating the Disciples African American history and the installation of Disciples of Christ Historical Society's new president, Rev. Dr. Rick Lowery. We were all blessed to hear our General Minister and President Rev. Terri Hord Owens' sermon as well.

We are grateful for the affirmation of the Senior Pastor, Minister of Music, staff, congregation and visitors as we continue to "serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with singing." We would gladly welcome additional singers.

Valeria Foster
Gospel Choir Director

Arts

November 5, National City Christian Church (NCCC) celebrated a day of installation and dedication. Opening ceremonies for the dedication of the Oscar Haynes Exhibit followed the 10 a.m. special worship service. The exhibit features a rotating display of artifacts and memorabilia of the African American movement within the Christian Church. Among the speakers at the dedication was Joan Bell Haynes, who shared stories of her husband. Oscar was the first layman to become president of the National Convocation and served on the board of directors of the Historical Society, National City Christian Church Foundation, Disciples Home Missions, Christian Church Foundation, and countless other regional and general ministries. In addition, he was the past editor of The Old Timers' Grapevine newsletter. Oscar Haynes passed away in July 2014, but his legacy and memory will live on through the lives he touched and the institutions that he cared for. The Disciples of Christ Historical Society is pleased to establish this exhibit on permanent loan to National City Christian Church.

This year NCCC collaborated with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton for the **2017 Annual DC Congressional Art Competition**. NCCC members and friends generously donated art supplies to be given to the participants for this worthy endeavor. This was an opportunity to encourage those who have talent to further develop their talents. It was also an opportunity to demonstrate our appreciation as a community of faith for the talent in our community.

Loretta Tate
Coordinator

Christian Education

In 2017 the Education Department continued to support ongoing educational opportunities on Sunday morning, Lenten small group studies, a weekend at our region's conference center at Bethany Beach, the regional Camp and Conference program, and Breakfast with Santa.

Christian Pathways continues to meet weekly and is the backbone of the Education Department. This year the following topics were discussed:

- Beverly Goines and Sara Ann Ketchum led discussions on "NCCC 2017 Lenten Devotions."
- Beverly Goines led a discussion on "Your Favorite Psalms."
- CJ Rodriguez spoke on "How did God speak to His prophets" and "Seeing Jesus in Revelations."
- Miriam Gentle shared her adventures in traveling with the Week of Compassion to Indonesia, focused on global ecumenical mission.
- Loretta Tate spoke on "Discerning the Voice of God" and the "Gospel of Luke."

The nursery has flourished with toddler and preschool activity. The preschool/toddler class has continued meeting under the faithful leadership of Barbara Kelley and Aixa Diaz. Both the nursery and Sunday School class moved from their "digs" in the Campbell Building to a makeshift area situated among the church offices; they are looking forward to having a real home again with age-appropriate décor and furnishings. The Education Department has continued to stock the Welcome Center table for children in the Narthex, with activities/materials children may use at the table or take and use at their seats in the Sanctuary.

This year's December 2 Breakfast with Santa moved from the spacious Scott Hall into the much smaller Community Room and Atrium areas of the Beasley Building, and saw an increase of children! Fifty-three children from the community, National City, and friends and family of members attended, along with their parents and extended families! Over 20 members of the congregation decorated, set up, and extended hospitality to all who participated. In addition to having their pictures taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus by Bailey Childers and Cameron Tate, the children participated in readings of the Nativity story by Gina Ramirez, and crafts lead by Sara Ketchum. A new favorite — slime — was introduced by Lynn and Staci Parrish. There was also free play on the slides, tunnel and trampoline, and a yummy breakfast once again provided by Beaton's Fine Catering.

The Education Department began the year with \$4347.60. \$609 was collected in the Sunday School offering, which is individuals' above-and-beyond giving to the church. We ended the year with \$4976.37. Our expenditures included one partial "Campership" of \$45. In addition, the Education Department holds three CDs which undergird this ministry. Stay tuned! In 2018, we hope to add more outreach programs for the members of the community.

Teresa Swihart
Chair

Young Adult Disciples in Action (YADA)

In January, Young Adult Disciples in Action (YADA) held a potluck brunch to celebrate the new year and enjoy fellowship at the home of Randa Kayyali. YADA went ice skating at the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden. Following ice skating, they shared dinner at the Dubliner. On Super Bowl Sunday Matt Cahill held a party at his place. In the springtime, YADA hosted a potluck meal for the whole church in the Community Room. During the season of Lent, many YADA members participated in Sacred Space Yoga held for the neighborhood in the Community Room.

Supporting Week of Compassion, a number of young adults hosted an innovative program called "Cooking for Compassion" -- an interactive teaching, learning, and sharing meal. Special guest Executive Director of Week of Compassion Vy Nguyen was present. Each team prepared a special dish from a part of the world that Week of Compassion touches. In the summertime, YADA members Jenni Scheaffer and Steve Selde were married on July 15 in Akron, Ohio. They were married by Jenni's grandfather John DeMund in a church that is part of Hale Farm and Village, a living history museum in Ohio. A fun and festive dinner during the season of Thanksgiving was hosted by Kathleen Swihart in November. The annual Christmas party was held once again at Alan and Shana Williams' home, where great food was enjoyed along with the traditional (and silly) "white elephant."

YADA participated throughout the life of National City Christian Church: in church leadership, studies, church meals, clean-up workdays, and Breakfast with Santa. In 2018, YADA will be entering into a new study called "The Wired Word" and will meet in homes on Friday or Saturday evenings, sharing food, fellowship, and Bible study and discussion.

Disciples Women

Christian Women's Fellowship is for all women in the church and any men who wish to join us. Although shrinking in number the CWF meets the first Tuesday of almost every month for fellowship and Bible Study at 11 o'clock in the Music Suite. In the spring we studied scriptures having to do with "The Table and Beyond: Lavish Hospitality in the Bible." This fall our theme switched to 'FREEDOM: Promise and Struggle in the Bible.' We are most appreciative of our discussion leaders: Stephen Gentle, Beverly Goines, Peter Morgan, Michael McMahon, Miriam Gentle and Steven Baines. We also had a program on the Council of Churches of Greater Washington led by Rev. Terrell

Circle 1 continues to meet once a month for fellowship.

During the last year the CWF has continued to donate to Regional CWF, National CWF, Week of Compassion for hurricane relief, and the food pantry. We have also added to Retirement fund for Brenda Cardwell and United Campus Ministry at Maryland University and Council of Churches of Washington DC

We invite all to join us for fellowship and study on Tuesday mornings at 11 in the Music Suite.

Kathleen Swihart
President

LGBTQ Community

During the past year I have been involved in helping to promote and coordinate the activities of our church's LGBTQ Community.

Some of the significant activities this year have included:

- a booth at the Capital Pride Festival in June staffed by members of NCCC;
- the regular updating of both a web page on the NCCC site and a Facebook page;
- a monthly LGBTQ Bible study at the church;
- a monthly happy hour to benefit an organization that provides service to the LGBTQ community, particularly to those who are underserved or at risk;
- opportunities for LGBTQ persons seeking spiritual guidance and support to meet with me personally.

Michael McMahon
Coordinator

Lenten Devotional

“Faithful Living” was the theme for the 2017 Lenten Devotional. It contains meditations written for each day of Lent by members of the National City community, sharing their faith journey.

In the foreword, Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Gentle, Senior Pastor, wrote:

“In these challenging times, we need a living faith that cuts through the absurd narratives and “fake news” that characterize so much of our daily life. The season of Lent is the right season to ask questions about faithful living in these times.

“As residents of the Washington, D.C., area, the members of National City Christian Church are no strangers to the struggles of faithful living in times of political and cultural unrest.

Our congregation’s membership is characterized by a diversity of opinions on matters of politics, culture, society, theology, and faith. Yet each of us worships together in the name of Christ. Our prayer is that these 47 Lenten devotionals will bolster your beliefs and fortify your faith in these turbulent times.

“The weekly scriptures selected for this Lenten Devotional are from the gospel readings of the Revised Common Lectionary, Year A (<http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu>). Each devotion struggles with what it means to live a life of faith, and how Jesus’ teachings are as pertinent to our times today

as they were nearly 2,000 years ago. For the devotions on Sunday, each writer has selected a special hymn with a Lenten emphasis.

“In these challenging times, we need the support and encouragement of one another. For it is only together in the Spirit of Christian community – with the upholding of our God in Christ Jesus – that we can live faithfully.”

The weekly themes for the meditations are:

- Faithful Living Through Times of Trials
- Faithful Living in Moments of Questioning
- Faithful Living in Seasons of Dryness
- Faithful Living Beyond What We Can See
- Faithful Living in the Face of Death
- Faithful Living When Others Are Unfaithful

The meditations may be read daily online during Lent, and are on National City’s website, under Resources. The Lenten Devotional is also available in print.

It is used at National City for individual and group studies and is shared with a wider audience, to our friends in the Washington, D.C., area and around the world.

We are blessed during Lent with these meditations, by those who write them, by our studies, by those who share them, and by the time we take during Lent to get closer to God and to explore our own spiritual depth.

Diana Morse
Editor

Serve With Joy

This ministry is appropriately named and in deed serves with commitment, intent strategically and yes with JOY! The spirit of this ministry reinforces the traditions of the church, fortifies the spirit of our members, engages our community and honors our Lord in word and actions. The work is evidenced in a myriad of ways from the inspirational prayers at the communion table, to weeding the landscape of the church. Our efforts oftentimes overlap with other ministries to address the needs of the community. It is all God's work and therefore the work is for us all.

Spring Leadership Training February 25, 2017

Coordinated by Eva Moore, leadership training was provided by Dr. Patrick Malone, NCCC member and professor at American University in the Department of Public Administration and Policy, where he teaches courses in public sector leadership, executive problem solving, organizational analysis, action learning, leadership ethics, and public administration and policy. Dr. Malone led participants from National City at the American University campus on leadership and church life, and varied styles of leadership that are seen in organizational life.

Salt and Light Leadership

Training was held at National City Christian Church by the **Christian Church Capital Area** region. This region-wide leadership development event was well attended by members of National City Christian Church as well as members from Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) throughout the region. More than a dozen workshops offered strategies to strengthen church life and leadership.

Volunteer Day April 30, 2017

Members of the church were encouraged to use their gifts, talents, energy and time in a service capacity either volunteering in the church or volunteering with an organization outside of the church in their own community.

At the end of 2017

Deacons and Deaconesses decided to unite their two boards in 2018. The plan is to work collaboratively on communion preparation, serving, and clean-up, as well as to minister to the National City Christian Church family in diverse ways, including baptisms and funerals. The co-leaders for this new group called the Diaconate are Jennifer Selde and Alan Williams. **Serve with Joy** is extremely grateful to Nicholas Bullock for serving as chairperson for the Deacons in 2017, especially during this very difficult year of personal loss of his partner Bill Knight.

Kathy Mosley
Ministry Leader

Board of Deaconesses

The Board of Deaconesses successfully carried out its ministry in accordance with its by-laws in 2017. The Board of Deaconesses is led by the members of the Executive Committee, which is composed of Jennifer Selde (Chairperson), Randa Kayyali (Vice Chairperson), Barbara Kelley (Secretary), and Shirley Kruse (Treasurer). There are seven other standing committees through which the activities of the Deaconesses are organized: Baptism, Communion, Flower, Funeral, Nominating, Telephone, and We Care Committees. Kathleen Swihart currently serves as the Staff Liaison to the Board of Deaconesses. (Note: Randa Kayyali resigned before the end of her term.)

Baptism Committee

Jessica Max fulfilled her duties as Co-Chair. We had two baptisms this year, both in the Hispanic congregation.

Telephone Committee

The Chair's duty is to provide immediate information to the Board members who do not have email in an emergency situation. Sterling Washington served as Chair of the Telephone Committee.

Communion Committee

The Board of Deaconesses is responsible for cleaning up communion following the services. The Chair is responsible for finding one deaconess to serve on the clean-up committee each month.

Beverly Williams, the Chair of the Communion Committee, fulfilled her duties to ensure that communion was cleaned up after each Sunday service.

Flower Committee

The Flower Committee Co-Chairs and Kathleen Swihart decide who the recipients of the pulpit floral arrangements will be each week. Possible recipients include: hospital patients, persons at home who are ill or recovering from surgery, a Concern Person, or someone celebrating a birthday or other special occasion.

Kathy Walker and Anna Zhou, the Flower Committee Co-Chairs, and Kathy Swihart

fulfilled their duties to ensure that flowers were received by those who would benefit from receiving them for all Sundays. Members of the Board of Deaconesses served by delivering the arrangements each week to recipients or arranging for another member of the congregation to deliver the flowers.

This year a decision was made to display artificial flowers on weeks when real flower arrangements were not sponsored by someone in the congregation. As a result, many weeks there were no flower arrangements to donate.

Funeral Committee

Upon the death of a Church member or member of the Church family, the Funeral Committee is responsible for providing ushers and greeters for the funeral/memorial service, assisting with the Guest Register, and assisting as hostess during visitation hours. The Deaconesses recognize the passing of members of the congregation as well as their family members.

Sadye Sanders, the Funeral Committee Chair, fulfilled her duties to ensure that families were contacted to offer support from the Board of Deaconesses as they remembered their loved ones.

We Care Committee

All Deaconesses are members of this committee. The most important function of the Deaconesses is ministering to and caring for our church family members. This role includes praying for our Concern Persons, periodic phone calls, visits in-person, cards to those who are ill, grieving or lonely, as well as those celebrating birthdays and other special occasions. Delivering flowers from Sunday's worship service to Concern Persons is another important way that Deaconesses show God's love.

Most Deaconesses have been assigned a Concern Person and are responsible for staying in touch with him or her. A general rule of thumb is a call, visit or card about once a month.

Board of Deaconesses (cont.)

The Deaconesses fulfilled their role in showing God's love and compassion to the members of the Church in times of joy and sorrow.

Changes to the Board in 2017

Recognizing that the responsibilities of the Board of the Deaconesses, including caring for the congregation should not be gender-specific, the Board made the decision to invite men and women to join the board in 2017.

Likewise, after long discussions among the Board of the Deaconesses, as well as with the Board of Deacons and the Congregational Board, the decision has been made to combine the Boards of the Deaconesses and Deacons into one Diaconate. Now that women and men serve together on both boards, we believe it would be appropriate to have one Diaconate Board. Merging the two

boards also recognizes the Biblically similar role of Deacons and Deaconesses, rather than having a concrete division of roles and responsibilities.

For 2018 this will be a temporary one year merger while we determine the most appropriate ways to formally merge the boards, including re-writing the bylaws for each board. Officially this means that we will continue to have two separate boards, but we will meet together and serve in our various roles together.

We appreciate the support of National City leadership and the congregation on this important change and we look forward to the ways this change will help us best meet the needs of the entire National City Community.

Jennifer Selde
Chair

Board of Deacons

On behalf of the National City Christian Church Deacon's Board, I would like to thank each and everyone of you for your participation and support of the Board for many years. As Deacons, we are called to serve the Church in assistance with many duties in our Worship Services, also assisting with Church functions and providing leadership in any capacity for National City.

Now, we are looking forward to a new chapter in the life of the Diaconate of National City Christian Church. It will be a great opportunity to expand, not only the roles of members of both the former Deacon and Deaconess Boards but also to fulfill our Model of Ministry Role to "Serve With Joy." I hope that everyone at National City will assist our new Diaconate Board in this future effort and thank you all for your continuing support and prayers for our Church Leadership.

Nicholas Bullock
Chair

Board of Elders

Thank you to the Elders for serving well and faithfully in 2017. The quality of worship continued to excel both at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. Due to the excellent leadership of the clergy supplemented by the service of the Elders helped to highlight the importance of communion and the centrality of the Elders to the Disciples understanding of communion. The Elders also focused on visiting shut-ins to bring them communion.

Steven D. Cook
Chair

Volunteers

Concierge Desk

Willie Alexander
Steven Baines
Tom Beacham
Theresa Beaton
Warren Brooks
Byron Cotton
Betty Crudup
Bill Eldred
Gary Lewis
Fredrickia Lloyd
Annice Majette
Kathleen Swihart
Sylvia Snyder
John Scott Williams
William White

Martha's Table

Rick Bahr
Bill Eldred
Paul Guequierre
Stephen Jordan
Gary Lewis
Mary Paradise
Steve Smith

Teachers

Miriam Gentle
Beverly Goines
Barbara Kelley
Sara Ann Ketchum
Aixa Diaz
CJ Rodriguez
Loretta Tate

Food Pantry

Willie Alexander
Steven Baines
Barbara Boward
Ellen Crowder
Laurese Dancy
Willie Drew
Bill Eldred
Lorraine Magnussen
Annice Majette
Deloris Ruddock

Property Volunteer Cleanup

Gentry Alexander
Tyler Bond
Barbara Bowman
Nicholas Bullock
Miriam Gentle
Polly He
Barbara Kelley
Tom Kelley
Bill Knight
Chuck Lund
Diana Morse
Kathy Mosley
Liz Ragland
Elizabeth Riley
Susy Sanchez
Sharon Stanley-Rea
Kathleen Swihart
Cameron Tate
Loretta Tate
William White
Alan Williams
Jude Williams
Shana Williams

Breakfast with Santa

Tom Beacham
Steven Baines
Theresa Beaton
Bailey Childers
Miriam Gentle
Stephen Gentle
Beverly Goines
Barbara Kelley
Tom Kelley
Sara Ann Ketcham
Anastasia Parrish
Lynn Parrish
Gina Ramirez
Deloris L. Ruddock
Sadye Sanders
Kathleen Swihart
Teresa Swihart
Cameron Tate
Loretta Tate
Alan Williams
Shana Williams
Carla Wilson
Melissa Wilson

Greeters and Hospitality

Tom Beacham
Byron Cotton
Charlie Daniel
Shirley Kruse
Fredrickia Lloyd
Anthony Mague
Aixa Diaz
Drusilla McCain
Diana Morse
Sadye Sanders
Timothy Schaefer
Jennifer Selde
Victor Vasquez

Note: We thank everyone who served in any capacity and/or impacted the delivery of service at NCCC during the 2017 year.

The Food Pantry

This year National City was blessed with help from outside communities as well as our dedicated congregation.

We were able to use a 2016 donation from HEART SING, a foundation associated with the Robb family to supplement our work this year. We were greatly assisted by Grant Williams from our neighbor Andover House on two projects this fall as well as donations from the House of Ruth and Shiloh Baptist Church. We have been approved for a \$500 grant from the Wellness Program once we can determine the greatest need that they can impact. We were blessed by the Central Christian Church from Waco, Texas, who were staying in our Bunkhouse area.

The Food Pantry has been guided weekly by Deloris Ruddock and Laurese Dancy. We provide food bags for both street people and people who have housing but are living on the edge. We provided food for 7,719 men, women, and children this year.

We had a refreshing experience when Central Christian Church took the reins in the summer. They gave us the week off and packed bags and met our clients while they handed out the food bags. They enjoyed the experience and injected the building with energy and enthusiasm.

Our Andover House neighbors organized a canned food drive in November that greatly supplemented our Thanksgiving food bags. Thanks go to Grant Williams and our own Steven Baines for taking the lead.

This year the Food Pantry continued our Christmas gift bags along with the food bags. The Waco church helped assemble half of the toiletry bags and signed Christmas cards. With able assistance from the congregation including a few children we completed enough toiletry bags for 237 people. Each person got a signed Christmas card, a hooded sweatshirt, thermal shirt or jacket, if available. We also included socks, gloves, knit hats, and toiletry bags containing soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, comb, shampoo, and nail clippers. Some of the larger items such as jackets came from the House of Ruth, Shiloh Baptist Church and our neighbors at Andover House.

We also occasionally provide hats, socks and gloves for those in need during the winter. A special note of thanks to Morris "Moe" Jackson for assisting with this specific portion of the project the rest of the year.

Special thanks to the parents and grandparents who come to the Wednesday morning play group. They donated \$350 for the Food Pantry over the course of the year.

Our Food Pantry family has been blessed by the help from Deloris Ruddock, Laurese Dancy, Ellen Crowder, Lorraine Magnussen, Barbara Boward, Willie Drew, and Annice Majette.

Barbara Boward
Ministry Leader

Resource the Ministry

The Resource the Ministry is the administrative arm of the church. The Ministry includes the Finance Department, Personnel Committee, Nominating Committee, Local Trustees, Property Committee, and Historian. We work together to assist the professional staff in their various endeavors. Each year, we work very hard in the background to improve the working conditions of the staff, to assist the membership when they have personal challenges, to augment the assistance provided by the deaconesses, to work with the senior pastor and assistant pastors (when needed), to assist the engineering and janitorial staff in their work inside and outside the property, to review the financial mechanisms (when needed) and to safeguard the confidentiality of the church, when necessary.

This year we lost our dear friend and co-worker William “Bill” Knight. Bill helped to focus us in our work of the church. When we had clean-up days whether inside or outside he was present. When necessary, he met with the various committees and departments within the Resource the Ministry to give his professional opinion and/or expertise. He treasured his dual role as church member and church administrator and we treasured him.

Our work is continuous and our commitment to National City Christian Church stands firm in the work of the Lord.

Loretta Tate
Ministry Leader

Personnel Committee

The individuals that serve on the Personnel Committee are very committed to the Church and its mission. The work of the Personnel Committee is always confidential. In the year 2017, the committee was entrusted with very impactful and important decisions. But there is the occasion when we must honor those who deserve honor.

Michael Dula, Maintenance Assistant, faithfully served this community of faith for more than 27 years. Mike, as he was affectionately called, retired from our staff June 30, 2017. Since March 1989, Mike has cleaned, shoveled snow, fixed water leaks, set up tables and chairs (and take down) for meetings and meals, moved office furniture, changed light bulbs, picked up trash, shampooed carpet, painted walls and ceilings, provided phone and concierge duties at our front desk, and has spent many, many nights at the church during inclement weather to make sure our church was open.

Bill Knight’s light shined brightly in many ways at National City Christian Church. His legacy will continue to be enjoyed whenever we meet and worship in these hallowed halls of National City. As our facilities and operations administrator, Bill sought many ways for our church to “shine brightly,” whether it was through the refurbishing efforts of repainting, recarpeting, and refreshing our rooms, or opening our doors to our neighbors with warm hospitality. On Sunday, September 17, Bill Knight passed away, surrounded by the love of his partner Nick, and his brother Walter and sister-in-law Patricia. As our faith teaches us, Bill’s light continues to shine in a brighter and fairer land, as now Bill resides with his Creator.

The Personnel Committee’s work is a cautious task, but the committee is always ready to fulfill the task that it was appointed to do.

Kent Woods
Chair

2017 Budget

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 - REVISED on 2/6/2018

	YTD Dec 2017 Actual	YTD Dec 2017 Budget	\$ Favorable / \$ (Unfavorable) to Budget	2017 Annual Budget
Operating Income				
Pledges and loose offering	514,509	494,500	20,009	494,500
Food Pantry	12,705	7,000	5,705	7,000
Flower Income	3,490	5,000	(1,510)	5,000
Music Gifts	1,085	2,000	(915)	2,000
Total Operating Income	531,790	508,500	23,290	508,500
Operating Expense				
Accounting Fees	17,349	10,000	(7,349)	10,000
Coffee Hour and Meals	5,656	3,000	(2,656)	3,000
Dues, Subscriptions, Conference	3,535	750	(2,785)	750
Fees and Charges	2,262	2,000	(262)	2,000
Flower Expense	3,462	5,000	1,539	5,000
Food Pantry Expense	5,663	8,000	2,337	8,000
IT / Telephone expense	3,821	4,000	179	4,000
Materials and Supplies	622	500	(122)	500
Meeting Expense	800	-	(800)	-
Miscellaneous Expense	470	1,500	1,030	1,500
Music Supplies	350	-	(350)	-
Musician Fees	25,601	22,000	(3,601)	22,000
Postage expense	646	1,000	354	1,000
Printing expense	10,856	7,500	(3,356)	7,500
Salaries, Benefits and PR Taxes	455,606	467,000	11,394	467,000
Temporary Help	300	-	(300)	-
Worship supplies	2,313	1,250	(1,063)	1,250
Total Operating Expense	539,312	533,500	(5,812)	533,500
Net Operating Income/(Loss)	(7,522)	(25,000)	17,478	(25,000)
Non-Operating Income				
Church World Service Contributions	-	1,500	1,500	1,500
DMF General Contributions	13,895	10,000	3,895	10,000
Young Adult Income	-	3,000	(3,000)	3,000
Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on investments	99,033	3,500	95,533	3,500
Interest Income	107	-	107	-
Total Non-Operating Income	113,035	18,000	95,035	18,000
Non-Operating Expense				
Church World Service Expense	-	1,500	1,500	1,500
DMF General Expense	13,895	10,000	(3,895)	10,000
Trustees Christian Church Exp.	6,293	-	(6,293)	-
Depreciation Expense	573	-	(573)	-
Total Non-Operating Expense	20,761	11,500	(9,261)	11,500
Net Non-Operating Incom/(Loss)	92,274	6,500	85,774	6,500
Net Income/(Loss)	84,752	(18,500)	103,252	(18,500)

Capital Campaign

2017 Achievements

Capital Campaign completed

- Goal of raising \$800,000+ achieved.
- Last 2 projects completed: new website, Sanctuary lighting repaired

Permanent Fund Policy approved & implemented

- Bequests which do not specify congregation or foundation are split between the two groups, with a portion going to endowments, other portion going to immediate use.
- Approved by Congregational Board & NCCC-Foundation Board

Chalice Fellowship (for those leaving bequests to NCCC)

- Revised brochure to reflect new permanent fund option
- Small group gatherings to encourage Chalice Fellowship

2017 Annual Fund

- \$120,000 goal achieved.
- Number of donors to NCCC Foundation increased

Kathleen Burger
Team Leader, Philanthropic Giving
NCCC Foundation

Local Trustees

The Board of Local Trustees administers the Local Trustees Fund. This fund provides a significant source of financial support within the NCCC community of faith for charitable and mission-related needs. The Local Trustees Fund was established through gifts from members of the NCCC congregation. The Local Trustees Funds are invested jointly with the endowment funds of the National City Christian Church Foundation to obtain cost-effective investment management services and thereby maximizes the income and the protection of the principal corpus.

In 2017 the Board of Local Trustees became responsible for the administering of the National City Christian Church Chalice Fellowship. This is a financial vehicle that allows bequests to be invested and the interest used to provide a source of income to

the local congregation. In addition to providing this source of income it will help mitigate some of the confusion that some people have between bequeathing to the congregation and to the NCCC Foundation.

NCCC congregation members serve as Local Trustees. Local Trustees serving during calendar year 2017 were Ann Neeriemer, Gentry Alexander (Treasurer), Tom Kelley (Chair), Lorraine Magnussen, Shana Pereira, Loretta Tate and Carla Wilson.

During 2017, the Local Trustees disbursed approximately \$ 6,300 in response to requests for charitable assistance to individuals who are associated with the congregation.

Tom Kelley
Chair

Nominating Committee

The 2017 Nominating Committee continued to work closely with the congregation leaders to complete the slate with open positions. The committee worked to support our Sunday service needs by identifying congregation members who may be able to serve as deacons.

The 2017 Nominating Committee members have accepted the opportunity to continue service for the 2018 year. The committee members are: Ellen Crowder, Paul Heffron, Tom Beacham, and Loretta Franklin.

In development of the 2018 slate, the committee worked with the Senior Minister to retain consistency in leadership of the congregational board. The committee was also notified that deacons and deaconesses have met to accept the opportunity to become a Diaconate for 2018.

The proposed 2018 slate was presented at the congregational meeting on November 19, 2017. The slate was presented with updates on the newly developed diaconate which will be led by co-chairs. Requests were also made to the congregation for open slots with the diaconate and elders.

An updated slate will be presented to the congregation in January, 2018, for approval.

Loretta W. Franklin
Chair

2017 Officerary

CONGREGATIONAL BOARD

Moderator: Jane Campbell

Secretary: Richard Bahr

At Large: Liz Ragland

Elder Chair: Steven Cook

Deaconess Chair: Jennifer Selde

Resource the Ministry: Loretta Tate

Vice Moderator: Alan Williams

Treasurer: Gentry Alexander

At Large: Kathleen Swihart

Deacon Chair: Nicholas Bullock

Nomination Chair: Loretta Franklin

STANDING COMMITTEES & POSITIONS

Audit: Barbara Kelley

Personnel: Kent Woods

Church Clerk: Charlie Daniel

Assistant Treasurers: Richard Bahr & Chrys Lemon

Budget: Sara Imhulse

Property: Tom Beacham

Financial Secretary: Diana Morse

MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP

Connect with Christ: Steven Cook

Serve with Joy: Kathy Mosley

Resource the Ministry: Loretta Tate

Grow as Disciples: Terri Malone

Share God's Love: Barbara Boward

BOARD OF ELDERS

Class of 2017

Willie Alexander

Natalie Carson

Steven Cook

Kathryn Farley

Paul Guequierre

Tawanna Lloyd

Terri Malone

Teresa Swihart

Class of 2018

Jane Campbell

James Ferguson

Miriam Gentle

Benjamin Moore

Travaughn Lovick

Ann Neeriemer

Mary Paradise

Cecil Talbott

Class of 2019

Charles Hickman

Loretta Franklin

Gary Lewis

Loretta Tate

*Elders Emeriti: Douglas Cook, Emma King, Courtney Jones, Charles Leslie, John Scott Williams, and Deloris Ruddock

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2017

Brittany Bolston

Conrad Bolston

Bill Eldred

Bernie Galla

Fredirickia Lloyd

Class of 2018

Nicholas J. Bullock

Aixa Diaz

Stephen Jordan

Anthony Mague

Rick Oettinger

Timothy Schaefer

Class of 2019

Rick Bahr

Tom Beacham

*Elder Emeritus: Wes Strotman

BOARD OF LOCAL TRUSTEES

Class of 2017

Tom Kelley

Lorraine Magnussen

Class of 2018

Ann Neeriemer

Loretta Tate

Shana Williams

Class of 2019

Gentry Alexander

Carla Wilson

*Trustee Emeritus: Steven Schacht

BOARD OF DEACONESSES

Class of 2017

Ana-Elisa Gentle
Randa Kayyali
Jessica Max
Drusilla McCain
Sadye Sanders

Class of 2018

Barbara Kelley
Shana Williams
Beverly Schacht
Jennifer Selde
Anna Zhao

Class of 2019

Tristan Nowicki
Sterling Washington

*Deaconesses Emeritae: Marjorie Bennett, Ann Cappiello, Chieko Cook, Dorothy Davis, Betty Jones, Kay Kluckhohn, Jane Strotman, Sarah Tedder

Staff

Stephen W. Gentle, Senior Pastor
Valeria Foster, Gospel Choir Director
Beverly J. Goines, Assistant Pastor
Morris Jackson, Building Superintendent
William "Bill" Knight, Facilities Administrator
Noemi Mena, Pastor, Hispanic Ministry
CJ Rodriguez, Ministerial Intern
Colleen Walsh, Office Manager

Michael Dula, Maintenance Assistant
Janice Glover, Housekeeping
Roy Hatton, Maintenance Assistant
Sana Kifafi, Children's Ministry
J. Michael McMahan, Minister of Music
Peter Morgan, Historian In Residence
Kathleen Swihart, Associate in Membership

Mission Statement

National City Christian Church is a community of believers in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, called into being by our early leaders as a unique witness in our nation's capital. We are bound together in a covenant of love with God and one another.

Our mission is to witness to our faith and to serve people in our neighborhood, region, nation and the world.

We will provide regular opportunities for worship, spiritual growth and fellowship. We will minister to the special needs of individuals through programs to nurture people in discipleship.

We will seek to help everyone journey toward a fuller commitment to Christ by being an inclusive church family which fully embraces in its life and ministries people of every race, gender, age, culture, economic

circumstance, sexual/gender orientation, family configuration, physical or mental condition, and all other distinctions which are the rich tapestry of God's creation.

We will feed, heal, serve, love, educate and bring hope to the people of the community and the world. We will support the work of our partner churches and the church ecumenical.

With the National City Christian Church Foundation, we will be stewards of the physical facilities and fulfill our role and responsibilities as the National Church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Adopted November 1990 – Amended July 2001