

Annual Meeting 2022

January 29, 2023

11 am

2022



Annual Meeting
Central Presbyterian Church of Montclair
 Sunday, January 29, 2022
 Rev. Peter Wilkinson

AGENDA

- † Opening Prayer
- † Establishment of Quorum
- † Election of Peter Dancy, Clerk Pro Tem
- † Adoption of Agenda
- † Review of Minutes from Annual Meeting, January 30, 2022 (approved by Session)
- † Thank you to Elders and Deacons
- † Committee/Program Reports
- † Adjournment with Prayer

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Report	Pg. #	Report	Pg. #
Minutes of January 2022 Annual Meeting		Clerk, Membership and Registry	
Finance Committee		Personnel Committee*	
2023 Budget Worksheet		Mission Committee*	
Treasurer's Report		Nominating Committee*	
Presbyterian Women's Mission Fund		Buildings and Grounds	
Organ-Piano Fund		Community Outreach	
Stewardship		Mint Family Daycare at Central	
Worship Committee		Christian Education	
Worship Attendance		Communications & Spiritual Outreach	
Music Report		Interim Search Committee Report	
Deacons		Pastor's Report	
Memorial Garden			

* Report included at Annual Meeting as an addendum.

2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

Meeting on Zoom on January 30, 2022, at 11AM

Opening Prayer

Quorum was present by observation

Agenda approved

Review of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes.

Motion: "To receive minutes as stated in the annual report" seconded and approved
Officers Election as stated in the slate presented by Nomination Committee for Class of 2024
Elders, Deacons, and Audit

Committee Reports:

- 1. Finance:** Pledges are up or on par with the previous year due to pandemic. Rental income is up compared to budget. Expenses were below budget in general because of the low activity caused by the pandemic. Questions on the stewardship number and budget pledges. Online pledges are reported separately.
- 2. Stewardship:** Thanks, our members for their commitment to pledge
- 3. Building & Grounds:** Most of the damage caused by hurricane Ilda has been repaired. The manse is being renovated to receive new interim pastor in March.
- 4. 123 Kids:** Most of the activities were focused on the outdoors to get away from Zoom fatigue.
STEM and Halloween events were an immense success.
- 5. Christian Education:** No Comments No Questions
- 6. Communication & Spiritual Outreach:** Highlights on the banners
- 7. Worship & Arts:** No Comments No Questions
- 8. Clerk of Session:** NCNQ
- 9. Interim Pastor Search Committee:** Great work and wonderful team to work with. New interim pastor is starting on March 1
- 10. Moderator report:** Thank you all for your commitment and dedication to our congregation

Prayers

Meeting adjourned at 1150AM

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Committee and Treasurer's Report

Annual Results 2022

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, Central recorded a net surplus of \$53,224. The surplus was solely due to the unbudgeted \$104,574 in insurance proceeds Central received in January 2022, related to the flood damages incurred in fiscal 2021.

Income

For fiscal 2022, Central's cashflows improved over FY2020 and FY2021, particularly in rent and building use income as the impacts of Covid waned in our daily lives. The improved rental income offset our Pledge and Offering income which was 14% or \$22,927 below budgeted levels. Rental income was up 17.4% or \$37,533 over the forecasted budget for the year. Our lease arrangement with Park Street Academy is based on total enrollment. Based on rental payments received it was clear they operated at or near full enrollment throughout the year. AA/AI-Anon programs returned in April, May and June, and we had a number of new groups renting space in the church house.

During the year we transferred \$72,562 or 6.9% of FYE balances of Central's Reserve Fund and Funds for the Future, roughly in-line with our budgeted projection. Despite the stock markets poor performance in 2022 (further discussion on fund performance below) our investment funds generated dividend and interest income of \$51,594, 29.0% or \$11,594 ahead of plan. We had budgeted the need for an Incremental Funds Transfer \$41,871 to meet budgeted operating expenses for the year, however these funds were not drawn due to the receipt of the aforementioned insurance proceeds.

Expenses

For fiscal 2022, expenses exceeded budget by 7.5% or \$39,250. While over-all expenses were higher than budget, Payroll was 10.2% or \$31,988 lower than plan due to reduced salaries related to Pastor Wilkinson starting in March and the passing of the Building Manager Mark Schoonfield during the summer. In addition, the impact of Covid in the early part of 2022 resulted in delays or postponement of some programming, as a result CPC Committees spent roughly \$20,000 less than what had been budgeted. However, the decline in salaries and Committee expenses were more than offset by significant increases in Building Maintenance and Improvements and Other Operating Expense. Building maintenance exceeded budget by 95.8% or \$80,000 and Other Operating expenses exceeded budget by 53.7% or \$11,224. The largest components of the \$80,000 capex expense overage included the following non-budgeted expenses: 1) \$40,000 of additional work associated with the 2021 basement flood, 2) \$10,000 for updating and painting of the Manse, 3) \$17,000 for major repair and refurbishment of the Organ and 4) roughly \$9,000 associated with the new nursery project.

Account Balances

Checking Account - CPC ended the year with \$27,038 in its checking account, above the \$20,000 minimum required to operate. The Church does not have any debt.

Our endowment funds (Funds for the Future and Reserve Fund) experienced a 15% decline or a \$293,000 in combined asset value for the 12 month ended 12/31/22. Given how much reliance we place on these funds to support the Church's operations and Mission this is a concern. Historically we have budgeted an annual draw of 5-7% of the prior years ending balances. Based on FYE 2021 balances

we drew 6.9% from the funds in 2022. For 2023 we will need to draw a larger percentage, roughly 8% from the funds, given the decline in the value of the Funds in 2022. The Finance Committee and Session will continue to monitor the performance of each of these Funds.

Appreciation

The Finance Committee would like to recognize Ron Naspo and Pat Dancy for their fine work this past year. Ron is responsible for counting the weekly offering, maintaining pledge records and managing bank deposits. Pat manages the database that tracks pledges and prepares the quarterly giving statements.

Finance Committee

Emma Justice (Stewardship Chair)

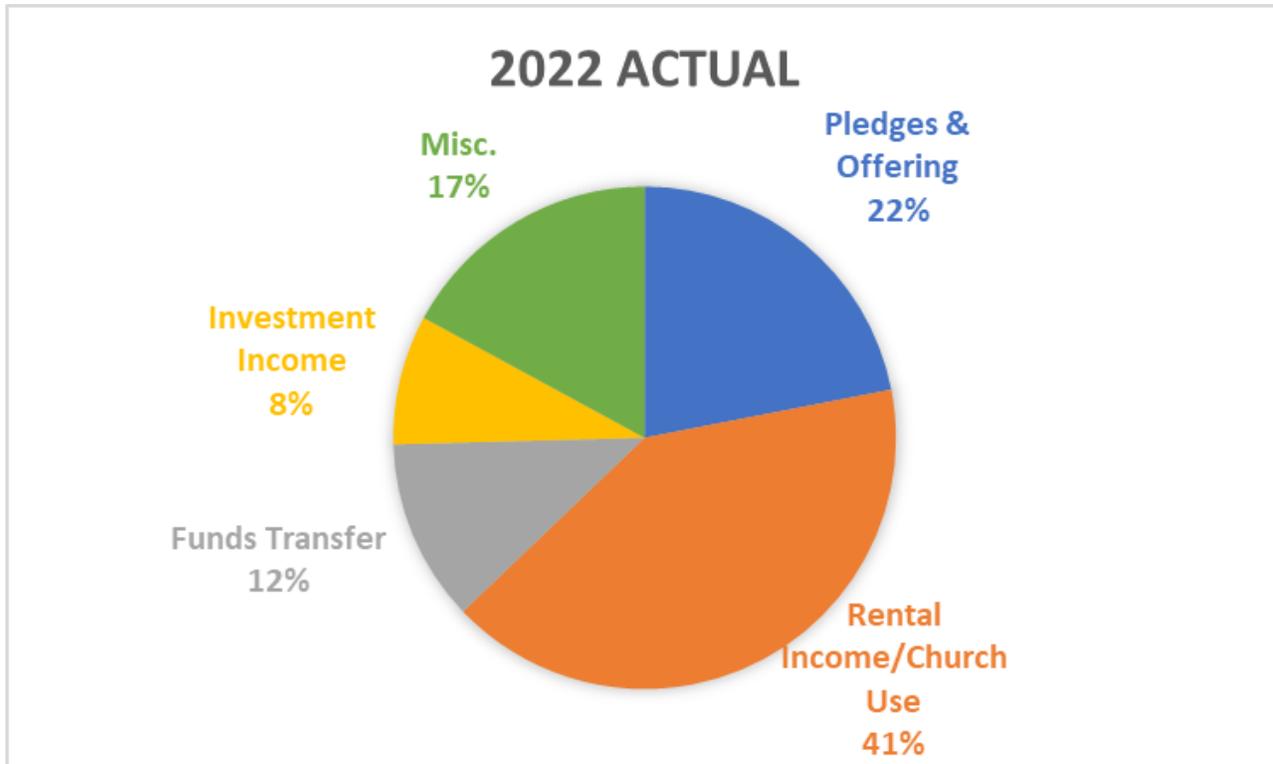
Cecil Mitchell (Treasurer)

Peter Dancy (Finance Chair)

Submitted by: Peter Dancy

Where does Central's income come from?

Sources of Funds

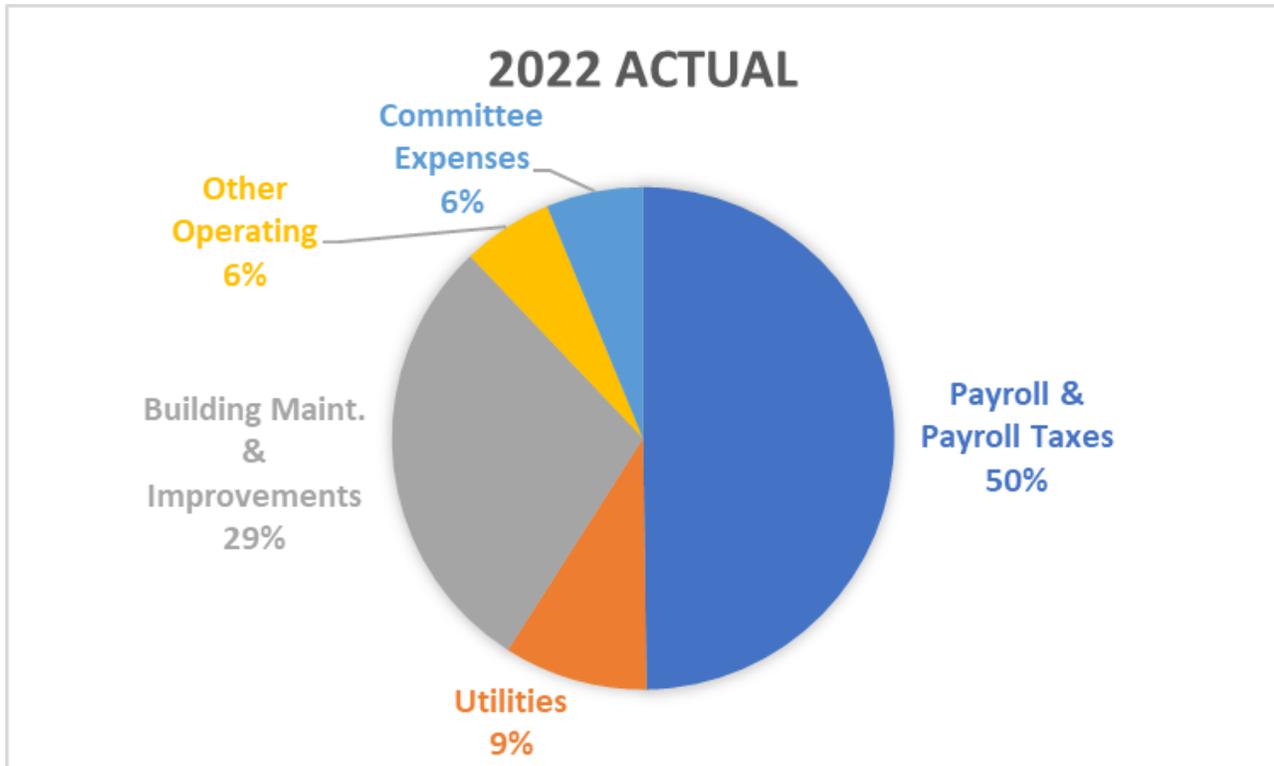


Income	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	\$	%
Pledges & Offering	\$ 158,508	\$ 135,581	\$ (22,927)	-14.5%
Rental Income/Church Use	\$ 215,460	\$ 252,993	\$ 37,533	17.4%
Funds Transfer	\$ 70,014	\$ 72,562	\$ 2,548	3.6%
Investment Income	\$ 40,000	\$ 51,594	\$ 11,594	29.0%
Incremental Funds Transfer	\$ 41,871		\$ (41,871)	-100.0%
Misc.	\$ -	\$ 105,574	\$ 105,574	
Total Income	\$ 525,853	\$ 618,304	\$ 92,451	17.6%

Summary: Central benefited from a \$104,000 insurance proceeds that resulted in a \$53,244 net operating profit for FY2022. Pledge income fell short of plan, but a portion of the \$22,927 shortfall is expected to be made up as members complete their 2022 pledge commitments in the first few months of 2023. With the impact of Covid abating rental income improved during 2022, as attendance numbers increased at Park Street Academy, AA/AI Anon resumed in-person meetings, and a number of new organizations rented space.

How is Central's income spent?

Uses of Funds



Expenses	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	\$	%
Payroll & Payroll Taxes	\$ 314,330	\$ 282,342	\$ (31,988)	-10.2%
Utilities	\$ 52,273	\$ 52,531	\$ 258	0.5%
Building Maint. & Improvements	\$ 83,600	\$ 163,667	\$ 80,067	95.8%
Other Operating	\$ 20,900	\$ 32,124	\$ 11,224	53.7%
Committee Expenses	\$ 54,750	\$ 34,439	\$ (20,311)	-37.1%
Total Expenses	\$ 525,853	\$ 565,103	\$ 39,250	7.5%

Summary: Expenses exceeded budget by roughly \$39,000 or 7.5% as capital expenditures for the Church and the Manse were well above plan. The largest components of the \$80,000 capex expense overage included the following non-budgeted expenses: 1) \$40,000 associated with 2021 basement flood, 2) \$10,000 for the Manse, 3) \$17,000 for the Organ and 4) roughly \$9,000 for the new nursery project. These increased capex expenses were partially offset by lower Payroll and Committee expenses for the year.

CPC 2022 Actual/Budget Financials and 2023 Budget

Income	2022		2023
	Actual	Budget	Budget
Pledges, Plate Offerings & Memorials	\$ 135,581	\$ 158,508	\$ 148,200
Rental Income/Church Use	\$ 252,993	\$ 215,460	\$ 236,700
Funds Transfer	\$ 72,562	\$ 70,014	\$ 70,000
Investment Income	\$ 51,594	\$ 40,000	\$ 45,000
Incremental Funds Transfer		\$ 41,871	\$ 44,700
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 105,574	\$ -	
Total Income	\$ 618,304	\$ 525,853	\$ 544,600
Expenses			
Payroll & Taxes	\$ 282,342	\$ 314,330	\$ 301,600
Utilities - Church & Manse	\$ 52,531	\$ 52,273	\$ 52,000
Building Maint./Upgrades Church & Manse	\$ 163,667	\$ 83,600	\$ 107,500
Other Operating	\$ 33,128	\$ 20,900	\$ 25,250
Committee Expenses	\$ 33,412	\$ 54,750	\$ 58,250
Total Expenses	\$ 565,080	\$ 525,853	\$ 544,600
Operating Surplus	\$ 53,224	\$ -	\$ -
Net Income	\$ 53,224	\$ -	\$ -

Budget Assumptions:

Pledge/Offering & Memorials Income – While we assumed an aggressive 9.3% increase, the budgeted \$148,000 is roughly in-line with pre-pandemic income experience.

Rental Income/Church Use – We have conservatively budgeted rental income, but feel confident that we will meet this budgeted figure based on 2022 rental experience and the strong interest to rent space as we head into the new year.

Fund Transfer/Investment Income – Held flat on transfers and Income.

Incremental Funds Transfer – As of today the budget would call for an incremental Funds transfer to meet planned expenses.

Payroll Expense – Reflects current staff for a full year.

Utilities – Held flat year over year.

Building Maintenance – Based on projects identified with a small amount set aside for emergencies.

Operating Expense – Based on pre-pandemic operating expenses with modest increase.

Committee Expense – Based on pre-pandemic activity

Central Presbyterian Church Endowment Funds

The decline in the stock market in 2022 significantly impacted Central's two endowment funds by close to \$300,000 combined. These funds are managed by JP Morgan and are designed to limit both the upside performance and downside performance to smooth out major market volatility. This year the funds were both down roughly 15%. This is concerning given how much we rely on these funds to support the operations of the church. The Finance Committee will continue to monitor and discuss reallocation of assets with our JP Morgan advisor.

Funds For the Future

Opening Balance	\$ 952,037.03
Contributions	\$ -
Withdrawals/Disbursements	\$ (64,420.28)
Advisory Fees	\$ (8,268.63)
Income	\$ 23,631.18
Change in Investment Value	\$ (155,822.22)
 Closing Balance	 \$ 747,097.08

Asset Allocation

Equity	55.60%
Alternative Assets	4.94%
Fixed Income	39.46%

Fund Performance

Period	Last Year	3 Year	5 Year	Inception
CPC Return	-15.15%	1.95%	3.33%	4.36%

Reserve Fund

Opening Balance	\$ 838,323.52
Contributions	\$ -
Withdrawals/Disbursements	\$ (56,462.20)
Advisory Fees	\$ (7,263.28)
Income	\$ 20,748.08
Change in Investment Value	\$ (138,275.75)
 Closing Balance	 \$ 657,070.37

Asset Allocation

Equity	55.69%
Alternative Assets	4.89%
Fixed Income	39.42%

Fund Performance

Period	Last Year	3 Year	5 Year	Inception
CPC Return	-15.31%	1.77%	3.24%	4.14%

Presbyterian Women's Mission Fund

2022 Review

The Presbyterian Women's Mission Fund is for Mission purposes only. The investment fund is managed by JPMorgan. Disbursements are made upon request by the Mission Committee to support Mission activities.

For 2022 there were no disbursements from the account for Mission items.

Note: This fund is also functions as a brokerage account for the Church. Since Central does not have a formal brokerage account, the Mission Fund is used as a 'clearing house' for such shares. You will see the net of the inflow and then liquidation out of the account listed below as Net Securities In/Out. In December, stock shares were donated in the value of \$8,399.93, of which \$6,015.45 were liquidated and transferred to CPC's general operating account.

Presbyterian Woman's Mission Fund

Opening Balance	\$ 51,629.54
Contributions	\$ 8,399.93
Withdrawals/Disbursements	\$ (6,015.45)
Advisory Fees	\$ -
Income	\$ 885.88
Change in Investment Value	\$ (6,661.78)
 Closing Balance	 \$ 48,238.12

Asset Allocation

Equity	11.38%
Blended (Mut. Fd)	88.56%
Fixed Income	0.07%

Fund Performance

Period	Last Year	3 Year	5 Year	Inception
CPC Return	-11.36%	4.23%	4.48%	4.44%

Organ-Piano Fund of Central Presbyterian Church

2022 Review

In February 2013, the church received a bequest in the amount of \$25,000 from the estate of Barbara Etherington. The bequest is designated to be used as follows: “to be used to establish a music fund for the care and repair of the Church’s musical instruments, particularly the grand piano that had belonged to Mrs. Etherington’s mother, Maude Dean, that is now at the church.” Session approved and has directed the Treasurer to establish an investment fund, the Central Presbyterian Church Organ-Piano Fund with JP Morgan that was opened in 2014, to provide funds for the repair and maintenance of the church pianos and organs.

Note for 2022 disbursements of \$6,024.95 were used for the Organ repair and refurbishment.

Organ & Piano Fund

Opening Balance	\$ 33,331.37
Contributions	\$ -
Withdrawals/Disbursements	\$ (6,024.95)
Advisory Fees	\$ -
Income	\$ 497.25
Change in Investment Value	\$ (4,918.21)
 Closing Balance	 \$ 22,885.46

Asset Allocation

Equity	0.00%
Blended (Mut. Fd)	100.00%
Fixed Income	0.00%

Fund Performance

Period	Last Year	3 Year	5 Year	Inception
CPC Return	-13.90%	2.93%	4.24%	4.77%

Stewardship

Thankfully, through the grace of God, the benefit of faith and science, as 2022 progressed, we were able to return to in person services, with the pandemic subsiding. Once again, after years of social distancing, we were able to enjoy in person services and our Church family consistently. However, we have kept what learned from the Pandemic thanks to our dedicated technically skilled, Deacons, volunteers and staff we continue to provide online services to stay in touch with our followers and continue serving our community.

Our budgeted pledge amount for 2022 was \$130,320 and the actual amount received, as of 12/31/22, was \$120,351. We know there are members who still plan to fulfill their 2022 pledge commitment and we expect the annual pledges to come in closer to our budgeted amount. For 2023 we have conservatively budgeted \$125,000 in pledge commitments and expect to exceed that as pledges are still outstanding.

Thank you to all of you for your gifts of time, talent and treasure, as the Church belongs to all of us. We look forward to seeing how 2023 unfolds and how to be good stewards.

Once again, I would like to personally thank: Ron Naspo and Pat Dancy for managing our weekly offering and maintaining our stewardship and pledge records. Thanks also to Frederick Moulongo, and David George for their support during the year.

Submitted by: Emma Justice, Stewardship Chair
Committee: Peter Dancy, Cecil Mitchell, Emma Justice

Worship and Arts Committee

As the list of available pulpit supply started to get smaller, the hiring of the Interim Pastor in early March certainly alleviate the work of our committee. Throughout the year we made changes with the approval of the Elders to get our worship back to normal. We dropped the mask mandate and contract tracing, allowed the choir back, reintroduced Hymnals in the pews and most recently standard communion elements served at the altar by Elders.

Our main organ underwent a much-needed cleanup and upgrade. Worshippers have experienced the new sound since October.

Christmas Eve and Easter Services were the most attended with special attention placed on the music program. Our Music Director, the Choir and our talented members raised the bar for these special celebrations.

Dave Arndt and Kathy McMahon continue to support our streaming capabilities. The upcoming year's budget includes an equipment upgrade to continue to provide the best viewing experience to those watching our service remotely.

During this pastoral transition time, the committee will continue working to improve our worship experience and look at diverse options to uplift the visuals, sound, and altar staging, with the intent to act on changes when our newly installed pastor is among us.

Thank you to Scott Osborne, Mark Johansen, Ann and Dave Arndt, and Ed Alstrom for their unabating work within this Committee; and to Cathy McMahan for her help supporting Sunday Service streaming.

Frederick Moulongo, Co-Chair

2022 Worship Attendance

In 2022 we continued to provide an opportunity to participate in worship in person as well as via online platforms. With few exceptions, we simulcast the 2022 Sunday services to Facebook and YouTube. Attendance numbers below reflect “in person” attendance. Virtual attendance ranged from 2-8 per Sunday.

Month	Average	Range
January	26	11-41
February	42	32-55
March	53	47-62
April	60	48-91
May	55	50-59
June	32	25-48
July	27	25-30
August	27	25-30
September	31	25-43
October	38	34-40
November	51	48-53
December	73	39-110

We saw notable attendance peaks for Easter (91) and Christmas Eve (110+).

2022 Weekly Average Including Christmas = 40

2021 Weekly Average including Christmas = 51.75

2020 Weekly Average Jan-March = 53

Music Report 2022

2022 was a year of changes for our Music program. There were real successes, and there were signs of impending difficulties, quite honestly. Since there is such a talented and dedicated core group here, the plusses still far outweigh the minuses, fortunately.

On the plus side:

- Our choir has been active regularly in worship since late July of **2021**, which is a lot more than many other churches can say! We were active before many in having music at all during the height of the pandemic, as we had masked soloists on a regular basis in church for the services that were only visible online. The choir came back a year and a half ago, and has stayed back. This group rehearses each week, and joyfully continues to put out inspirational music for our worship that is very well received.

- Our lovely Sanctuary has been used for rental by various groups in the community, and this has no doubt helped our bottom line during this period. This demand should always be there, since our building is very desirable for many types of musicians.

- Our organ underwent some needed repairs to its air blower system. The Piano/Organ Fund subsidized these repairs, and now the organ is functioning quite well given its age and the volatile temperature conditions it must endure. It still does need more work, most significantly replacing the materials that cover the pipe enclosures, and the Piano/Organ Fund may not completely cover that work, but we can cross that bridge when and if we get to it. The church piano and other instruments are in regular use and are in fine shape.

- We hired Sandy Taylor as our Soprano Section Leader for our Choir in February of 2022. This was absolutely necessary to do, as we dealt with various absences and a defection from our most important section, and was readily approved by Session. Sandy is a longtime associate of mine, and we are very fortunate to have someone of her caliber and spirit on board with us. She has been a blessing for our group, afforded me great flexibility, and has been joyous and brilliant in her job.

What we have dealt with:

- The departure of Pastor Noble, plus illness within our ranks, have left us with no Tenor Section at all, so we are forced to select music that doesn't have Tenor parts. This is more of a minor inconvenience than a true hindrance, since there is a lot of good music available that doesn't require Tenors, but it is a change nonetheless for all of us. I am embracing the challenge, actually, but I would prefer it weren't that way; I'd much rather have a regular 4-part choir.

My attempt to hire a Tenor Section Leader (who functionally would have been the entire section) was approved, but it failed because there is simply no one out there. Some churches are having problems filling their Section Leader spots due to the supply of competent singers not being there any more, which makes us all the luckier for finding Sandy Taylor.

- Our choir forces are dwindling. The Johansens, after many years of devoted service to CPC, have left the area, removing one each of the choir's strongest sopranos and basses in one fell swoop. In a choir of 12 people, we have lost 3 of them permanently now, plus one due to an extended illness, and others due to travel and other reasons, sometimes for extended periods. My motto has always been to 'play the hand you're dealt', so the music goes on in whatever form it must, and I am tasked with putting whatever forces exist in the best position to sound as good as they can.

- There are always people who say, 'we have to build the church (choir) up, and get more people', and hold agonizing meetings on how to do that. Often, I have been told, 'well, so-and-so in the congregation has a great voice; you should get so-and-so in the choir', which is lovely except that so-and-so would have to attend weekly rehearsals and come early on Sundays, and if so-and-so were willing to do that, 99% of the time they would already be in the choir. That does *not* work, almost never.

We are really reliant on God's grace in sending people randomly through our doors, having them hear us and see what a good time we have, and joining us that way. That is really the best and only way to increase our ranks, and I am confident that God will send us reinforcements in due time. Until then, our choir is still really good, and really effective at enhancing worship. Right?

All told, I am still thrilled to be at CPC among such level-headed, smart and reasonable people as all of you, virtually without exception, and I take it as an honor to serve here. Plus, I have great people to lead, I have tremendous latitude and resources and flexibility, and it's still great fun for me. Maybe we can't do some of the things we used to do as freely (i.e. cantatas, jazz masses, etc.), but things change and we must change and adapt with them. We still have a really good program with really good music, and I hope you all are as grateful for that as I am.

Ed Alstrom, Director of Music

Deacons

I think 2022 was a good year for our deacons, and the congregation too. Overall, we had more to celebrate than to mourn, even if some of the mourning was pretty tough. After two years of pandemic life, it was great to be able to serve our congregation in person, to visit, to gather together, to eat, to share our faith, and to be family again.

Whether it was coffee hour with lively conversation and fists full of Oreos, the summer picnic with tables full of families sharing stories, splashing and laughter around the George pool, Thanksgiving with tons of yummy side dishes, or a visit to catch up and reminisce, we were happy to be there.

It was pleasure to be surrounded by deacons who had so much to contribute. In this group there was exceptional judgement, creativity, compassion, and great execution. This was a tremendous blessing for 2022.

Barry Kenstler, Moderator of the Deacons

Committee: Jim Dodd, Stephanie Fitzgerald, Lisa Krizner-George, Rolda Mitchell, Lillian Moulongo, Michael Norton, Kim O'Hare

Memorial Garden

Our memorial garden is a special place where the ashes of Central members and their families are laid to rest. This is a holy place where we can go to pray and remember. This past year, during this pandemic time, no ashes were placed in our garden. May we continue to remember the saints who rest from their labors and give thanks that through our Lord Jesus Christ there is sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life.

Clerk of Session

While reflecting on what the past year has brought to our Central community, I continue to ponder how slowly but surely, we transitioned from a self-managed church to integrating a new leadership within our family. Before Rev. Peter Wilkinson joined us on March 1st, all Elders, Deacons, and Staff pitched in to keep the church business running.

Welcoming an Interim Pastor was not as simple as it might sound as he had to navigate new workplace challenges, life circumstances and interactions with various church groups. With his experience, we all learned from these challenges, and they would be valuable lessons learned to make our organization better.

Session continued to discern what role or mission our church is called to play in our community with the resources (human and financial) we are gifted with. In early 2022, we learned about the will of two of our members, Rolda Mitchell and Stephanie Fitzgerald, to open an early childhood development project within our nursery space. As the Lord makes the stars aligned, our mission to provide support to all, but especially to family with young children as resulted from our New Beginnings process, was aligned with these two experienced professionals in the field of early childhood education to answer the call. In the coming months, Central will be playing its part, we hope for many years, in serving those who are in need just like many decades ago our past members, through the Presbyterian Women's Fund, played a role in their community.

Submitted by: Clerk of Session, Frederick Moulongo

Membership

Births (1) Otto Henry Ordemann - November 1, 2022

Deaths (1) Larry Stauffer - January 5, 2022

Active Members as of December 31, 2021	118
Gains	
Transfers In	
Re-affirmation	
Profession of Faith	
Move to Active	
Losses	
Transfers Out	
Deaths	1
Move to Inactive	
Active members as of December 31, 2022	117

Personnel Committee Report

See addendum.

Mission Committee Report

See addendum.

Nominating Committee

See addendum.

Buildings and Grounds

2022 proved to be an extremely challenging year for the B & G committee. We not only had to deal with the many issues that older buildings have but also had to take a much more active role in the maintenance of the buildings after the sudden death of our Building Manager, Mark Schoonfield in June.

There were many items that we addressed this last year. Here is a list of the main ones:

Park Street Academy damage from the flood in September of 2021 was finished being repaired by the Spring. Insurance compensation was received covering the cost of all repairs.

The Pastor's study was repainted, floors refinished and office redecorated for the arrival of the new interim pastor.

The Manse interior was repainted, repairs were done and plumbing issues sorted before our new interim pastor moved in.

A portion of the ceiling in the Education Building basement collapsed causing wiring to be dislodged. It was repaired and the wiring was restored.

Various roof leaks were sorted.

All groups that were using our facilities before the pandemic were invited back.

Family Promise rented another room for extra office space.

Emergency lighting was replaced and /or repaired

Fire drills have been scheduled for tenants and staff on a regular basis.

Nursery upgrades and outside fence for our new weekday daycare center project were completed.

Mark Schoonfield, our Building Manager passed away on June 22nd. We deeply regretted his passing.

The committee chair along with our church staff met regularly as needed to make sure everything that needed to be done was happening. This required a lot of extra time and effort for Morgan Moulongo, Peter Wilkinson and Arshon Moses. We are especially thankful to Morgan Moulongo, our Office Manager who took on much more responsibility and spent quite a bit of extra time making sure everything got done.

While the personnel committee was searching for a new Building Manager we were very thankful for Neal Day, a long time church member, who volunteered to step into the Building Manager role until a replacement was found. He continued in this role through December. I'm

sure he learned more about these buildings than he ever wished! His help was especially appreciated in getting the Nursery project finished. Thank you Neal!

On December 1st our new Building Manager started. His name is Joe Reed. He was a General Contractor for many years and lives in Verona, NJ. We are lucky to have found a person with his experience and competence. Welcome Joe!

I would like to say it has been an honor working with the members of this committee and also with our outstanding church staff.

Many thanks to all of you!

Mark Johansen, B & G chairperson

Community Outreach/123 Kids

In contrast to 2020 and 2021, the easing of pandemic conditions in 2022 enabled the 123 Kids committee to produce programming with fewer restrictions over the last year.

The mission of the committee has been to produce regular events for young children and their families, to help fill a gap in the community offerings that had previously been identified.

Generally, events were held on the second Saturday of each month with the branding “Second Saturday”. These events were aimed at the wider community beyond the church congregation: that target group encompasses families with young children in and around Montclair.

The community reached through our programming comprises several hundred families and continued to grow last year. In addition to the community events that were held, the community was also included in drives to promote key Church services such as the candlelight Christmas Eve worship, among others.

As in 2021 and 2020, without a dedicated event coordinator working on staff, we decided to focus on a smaller number of “live” events.

Overview of activities in 2022:

Our events last year included the following:

Our community Egg Hunt was held in April and, again, proved to be popular with our different target audiences. The event was quickly sold out, and, although there were a few no-shows during the final time slot, the turnout was strong. In fact, we even had a number of walk-ins who saw what was happening and asked if their children could participate.

A number of parents that participated were from Park Street, and other local pre-schools. They noted that they appreciated this kind of community event to mark the Easter break and were glad that Central is engaged in organizing such activities for children and families.

Our STEM themed afternoon was held in September and was produced with the help of the Montclair Learning Center (MLC), which has done other events for Central in the past.

The event included:

3 STEM stations, including the following workstreams:

- make your own slime and take it home
- learn about electric circuits, make a paper circuit and take it home
- launch a water rocket and make a paper rocket and take it home
- make a catapult

Each station had expert instructors from MLC to teach the kids and help them in the process. The kids could decide to focus on one station or go to more than one. There was also a free play part of the event that involved kids building imagination playground blocks; legos; and magformers. The event was sold out and very well received by attending families.

The Halloween event took place in October and was a success.

There were again a number of families from Park Street and other local pre-schools, which added to the community feel of the day as many of the people that knew each other lingered and mingled. Special thanks to Morgan and Neal who put in a huge amount of work to make the event possible. And thanks as well to all the other volunteers who helped.

Overall, the Central Halloween event again cemented its position as one of the church's most memorable and well-attended community-oriented events.

However, the one less positive observation was that we had a larger number of no shows than in prior years. That could be because of several other competing events being held that day in Montclair or because our events remain completely free. The committee had begun to give some thought to how to avoid this next year: one idea is to charge a nominal amount such as \$5 in order to increase the commitment to actually turn up on the day.

The Committee's mission:

The purpose of the committee remains to arrange and oversee activities that will help the church engage with the wider community in Montclair and beyond. For the last several years, the focus of the committee's work has been the "early childhood" segment of children – broadly defined as kids under 5-years-old.

This focus was decided following a previous process of analysis and discernment that identified a gap in provision for the target age group.

The rationale for our work is twofold:

1. Providing programming that will enrich the lives of young children in our community by offering cost-free entertainment and recreation – and thereby supporting their families
2. To ensure the church has a voice in the community that it serves and to broaden awareness of the work of Central

Brian Cattell, 123 Kids Committee Chair

Mint Family Daycare at Central

We are pleased to share that Mint Family Daycare (Mint) will be expanding by moving into the nursery space at Central Presbyterian Church (CPC) in 2023. After more than twenty years of Rolda Mitchell operating the program out of her home, thanks to the partnership with CPC, Mint will expand into a center-based program to serve approximately 16 to 20 families with children ages 0-3 years.

This expansion is part of the vision for Central Presbyterian Church to continue to serve 0-3 children and their families in our community. This is what we came together to do as part of the New Beginnings process at Central Presbyterian Church especially through the 123 Kids initiative, including Second Saturdays, reading in daycare centers, the Halloween and Easter celebrations, and more. Bringing Mint Family Daycare to Central is a wonderful way to deepen this work by providing a safe, high quality and healthy childcare center in our community serving children ages zero to three.

Mint Family Day Care will continue to provide 0-3 daycare and education services welcoming all families from all faith and cultural backgrounds.

There are a number of ways in which Mint Family Daycare @ Central will support the efforts of CPC including the following:

123 Kids. We envision continuing 123 Kids activities in coordination with Mint Family Daycare including the reading program, Halloween event, Easter Egg Hunt and other Second Saturday initiatives.

Youth Group. We envision involving the Youth Group in the development of the outdoor play space as well as volunteers for community service hours in the classroom throughout the school year.

Mission Activities.

Mint Family Daycare will encourage their families to support food drives and other mission activities of CPC.

Mint will provide families with the opportunity to consider church membership given the ongoing sharing of information via Mint and CPC communication. CPC church members who send their children to Mint Family Daycare will be given a financial discount.

We would like to set up a fund at Central Presbyterian Church that would enable tax deductible financial donations to be received that would be in support of the mission of the program, especially offsetting the cost of tuition for families who cannot otherwise afford to pay full price.

We are grateful to all members of the Session, Neal Day, Morgan Moulongo, Peter Wilkinson and so many others in small and large ways for all their support of this effort over the past year.

This effort has been lead by Rolda Mitchell, who is a 22-year member of Central Presbyterian Church. She serves as a Deacon and as a member of the pastor search committee, Sunday school teacher, choir member and is always ready to serve the Lord and her church. She has been owner director of Mint Family Daycare since 1997 and caring for children for 36 years. Mint Family Daycare,

in operation for 22 years, serves infants through preschoolers in a nurturing and supportive, neighborhood setting. She is a proud mother of five grown children.

Stephanie Fitzgerald is supporting the effort, and she is a thirty year pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade educator who has founded and/or led four different early childhood centers, trained and supported urban public school principals, and served as the founding president and CEO of an education foundation dedicated to statewide public education excellence. She has lived in Montclair for more than twelve years, has been a decade-long member of Central, and knows personally and professionally that the Mint Family Daycare @ Central is a desperately needed resource for the children and families in the Montclair area.

For additional information or to volunteer to support Mint @ Central, please reach out to Rolda Mitchell or Stephanie Fitzgerald.

Christian Education Committee

The Christian Education Committee was excited to fully resume in-person events in 2022 and sought ways to bring our church community together to connect and learn from each other and God's word. We were grateful to welcome Rev. Pete Wilkinson and appreciated his guidance and support as we planned various activities. The following is an overview of our 2022 Christian Education programs.

Nursery: We welcomed Evan Wilkinson as the new Nursery leader in the spring of 2022. Evan is an experienced child care professional with several years of experience working at a local daycare/preschool program. Evan fit seamlessly into the Nursery leader role and we're grateful for the care and nurturing environment that he provides for our young ones during Sunday services and evening book groups.

Sunday School: We reviewed several Sunday School curriculums and decided to continue to use the PCUSA curriculum *Feasting on the Word*. Sunday school meets each week, after the Time with Young Disciples segment of worship service, except for Communion Sundays when we encourage children to remain in church.

The 2022-2023 year kicked off with Rally Day on September 25 where we presented Bibles to third graders (and older children who had not yet received a Bible) and spent time as a congregation learning about the role that the Bible can play in our lives.

We are grateful for our wonderful Sunday School teachers who take turns leading our young disciples in the Sunday School lesson. Thank you so much to Christina Cattell, Stephanie Fitzgerald, Betty Hall, Rolda Mitchell, Frederick Moulongo, Morgan Moulongo, Erin Norton, Kim O'Hare, and Caroline Schestag for your time and efforts. And thank you to Pat Dancy for organizing and coordinating the lessons, activities, and supplies. We were pleased to recognize the hard work and dedication of our Sunday School teachers during the worship service on June 5.

We also continued working on improving the Sunday School classroom and completed minor renovations, added new decorations and supplies, and unveiled the new room on February 27. The renovations resulted in a bright, welcoming space where children can learn and relax.

Youth Group: Youth Group typically meets the first and third Sundays of the month. Based on scheduling feedback, we changed the meeting time to Sundays after the worship service rather than Sunday evenings to increase the number of youth who could attend. We enjoyed our time in community with one another, sharing meals, playing games, and having lively discussions.

The group considered attending the Presbyterian Youth Triennium over the summer, but the event was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID concerns. Scheduling conflicts also prevented the youth from participating in a mission trip over the summer.

We are looking forward to resuming regular Youth Group meetings in 2023.

- VBS: We explored the possibility of offering Vacation Bible School this summer, but ultimately decided not to offer the programming this year due to scheduling conflicts and staffing difficulties. We hope to be able to resume with VBS in 2023.
- Young Family Gatherings: We continued to offer Young Family Gatherings in 2022 and used the “You Are Treasured” VBS curriculum that we had previously purchased. Kathy Johansen led activities for Young Family Gatherings on February 27 and May 22, helping children learn of God’s treasure. Families shared lunch, enjoyed treasure hunt and craft activities together, and then had time for children to participate in supervised games while the parents participated in their own discussions and enjoyed time connecting with one another.
- Adult Ed: Christian Ed collaborated with the Communications and Spiritual Outreach Committee to offer three book discussion groups in 2022. In March, participants discussed “The Flawed Family of God,” followed by “The Book of Joy” in May and “The Sacred Pulse” in October. The groups offered both in-person and virtual options for joining the discussions. Each group met weekly for five weeks. Participants enjoyed dinner prior to the book discussions and childcare was offered throughout each of the series.
- Confirmation: We did not have a confirmation class in 2022 given the ages of our church youth. We look forward to offering this membership opportunity to our youth in the coming year.
- Pageant: We were happy to hold our Christmas pageant again this year and enjoyed watching the children select their roles and participate in creating the manger scene. Each of the roles (Mary and Joseph, animals, shepherds, angels, the Magi, and the star) came forward as the congregation enjoyed an engaging telling of the Christmas story, interspersed with verses from favorite Christmas hymns.

We are looking forward to continuing our mission and activities in 2023 and would love to hear your ideas for other programs, discussion topics, and activities. We look forward to seeing you as much as possible in 2023. Please join in.

Faithfully submitted.

Christian Education committee members:

Pat Dancy, Kathy Johansen, Carolyn Buck, Cecil Mitchell, and Amy White

Communications and Spiritual Outreach

In 2022, the Communication and Spiritual Outreach Committee continued to support Central's return to in-person activities and build on the church's outward digital and printed communications. These activities and projects, as outlined below, helped us to continue sharing with the community who we are in our faith and as a welcoming congregation.

Church Grounds:

Our "Little Library" by the bench in the memorial garden was installed in January and holds prayer cards with comforting bible verses (thanks to Diallo Hall for installing). "Comfort & Joy" was the theme of our Christmas season in 2022, a message we incorporated through new Christmas banners, corner sign, side-building night projection, and corresponding newspaper ad, all designed by Dana Foti-Sharp.

Communications:

We continue to share through newsletters and social media that we are a diverse and inclusive congregation, warm and welcoming, and are doing God's work in Montclair. On social media in 2022, there was a focus on continuing to show who we are as a congregation by sharing our faith and activities with a welcoming nature. Led by Morgan Moulongo, this included photos of events and activities on the church campus; Pastor Pete sharing 2-minute digital reflections; choir member features; inspirational and grounding bible verses; and thoughtful acknowledgements of holidays and local events. Email communications from the office include a 1x/week announcement email and a 1x/week worship email. Montclair Local continues to advertise Central in their church listings with an image of our logo and website address. We also purchased and shared with the congregation additional t-shirts and reusable grocery bags with the church's logo.

Events of the Year:

We facilitated 3 Book Clubs in collaboration with the Christian Education Committee, reading "Book of Joy" and "The Flawed Family of God" led by Pastor Pete and "Sacred Pulse" led by Pam Osborne. With many members, non-members, and families attending, these special Wednesday nights offered dinner, childcare, and a time for fellowship and personal learning and reflection.

Central also had a meet-up group for the Out Montclair pride festival and were happy to see friends, colleagues, and neighbors at the festival and show up for our LGBTQIA+ community.

As we head into 2023, we continue to think more about the spiritual outreach of the church and take thoughtful steps to prepare for a new pastor. We will continue asking everyone to join in spreading the good news throughout our community and inviting neighbors and friends to join us in our ministry, praying for God's ongoing guidance.

Submitted by: Erin Norton (Chair)

Committee 2022: Erin Norton, Morgan Moulongo, Diallo Hall, Pete Wilkinson

Interim Search Committee Report

Back in the fall of 2021 when our former pastor David Noble retired, a committee was formed to find a new interim pastor for our church until a new, permanent pastor could be hired.

The people who worked on this committee were Scott Osborne, Emma Justice, Rolda Mitchell, Sengal Selassie and Doris Glaspy, our liaison from the Northeast Presbytery.

We started meeting in September filling out many official forms from the Presbytery to start the process of looking for clergy interested in the position at our church. After going through many resumes we decided on three candidates who we interviewed in person and finally settled unanimously on Peter Wilkinson who had been a pastor in Rutherford for many years and was ready to make a change. We were very happy to invite him to be our new Interim Pastor. He started in his new position on February 1st.

I would like to say that the group of people on this committee were truly amazing! They all had something very unique to bring to the process and it turned out to be one of the most rewarding things personally that I have ever done at this church.

Thank you all!

Mark Johansen
IPSC Chair

Pastor's Report

My favorite Psalm is 139. I love the way that Rev. Eugene Peterson has translated the conclusion of this Psalm:

Investigate my life, O God,
find out everything about me;
Cross-examine and test me,
get a clear picture of what I'm about;
See for yourself whether I've done anything wrong—
then guide me on the road to eternal life.

(Psalm 139: 23-24, The Message)

In March of 2022, I began my ministry as the Interim Pastor at Central. I had anticipated that 2022, was going to be spent with all of us reflecting upon how we have been called by God to share our lives and our faith in Jesus Christ with our community. Little did any of us know what we were going to experience through this transition time.

Prior to my arrival, the church (building) was literally battered by a significant storm in the late summer of 2021. During the time prior to my arrival, the Building and Grounds Committee with the support of the Building Manager, Mark Schoonfield, developed and implemented a plan to repair the basement area of our building. The work continued into 2022. The church made it possible for our renters and our members to live through this period while trying to limit disruptions. As I observed the ending of this process, I became very impressed with the leadership of the church and your desire to work together.

Since my arrival, the church has had a challenging year.

In June, the Session took actions on a proposal Rolda Mitchell and Stephanie Fitzgerald submitted (in March 2022) to open an early Childcare program at Central using the current nursery and the community room.

This Summer, the church also faced the unexpected loss of our Building Manager, Mark Schoonfield. In his time here, Mark had sought to bring building expertise and energy to aid the church in better stewardship of our physical facilities. Just as we were finally closing out the chapter of the repairs from the flooding, Mark passed.

The church has had to determine how to move back into a world where people are still being impacted by Covid, but desires to participate with others "in person". When I arrived in March, people were essentially masking and our worship services and fellowship time were defined by the protocols set in place during the height of the pandemic. We have slowly and carefully made the changes in activities that allow us to worship God and provides opportunities for people to connect with one another.

It was powerful to see the impact of our 123 Kids programs. The intentional desire to reach out to people in our community was positively lived out.

We continually seek to understand how we might reach the portions of our communities that do not actively engage with Churches. It has been exciting to see how we invite others and engage others through activities such as book studies.

This church is blessed with amazing leadership. Our Worship services have been enriched by the gifts of Ed Alstrom and the Choir. The work of David Arndt to look for creative solutions to the challenges of “live streaming” our services is greatly appreciated.

Our Educational Ministry has been bolstered by the dedicated work of our Christian Education Committee. Kathy Johansen, Pat Dancy, Carolyn Buck and Amy White have shared a deep sense of caring and love with our young disciples.

Our elders, Brian Cattell, Peter Dancy, Mark Johansen, Emma Justice, Frederick Moulongo, Cecil Mitchell, Erin Norton, Lynn Selassie, and Susan Worth have worked tirelessly throughout this time of transition. The church is blessed to have such a dedicated leadership team.

Our Deacons: Cynthia Bennett, Jim Dodd, Stephanie Fitzgerald, Lisa George, Barry Kenstler, Rolda Mitchell, Lili Moulongo, Michael Norton, and Kim O’Hare have supported members and friends of the church in so many ways.

This church is blessed with a wonderful staff. Morgan Moulongo, Ed Alstrom, Arshon Moses, and our newest member, Joe Reed (Facilities Manager), all work tirelessly to support the mission of this Church.

As we move into 2023, the closing of the 139th Psalm seems to be fitting:

Investigate my life, O God,
find out everything about me;
Cross-examine and test me,
get a clear picture of what I’m about;
See for yourself whether I’ve done anything wrong—
then guide me on the road to eternal life.

(Psalm 139: 23-24, The Message)

I’m excited to see what God has planned for us in 2023.

Peace,
Pete



Mark Schoonfield
November 17, 1968 - June 22, 2022

We take a moment to remember Mark Schoonfield who passed away in June. Mark was employed by the church as its Building Manager. He shared his life with energy, intelligence, imagination and love and his sudden passing impacted the ministries of our church.