



**The United Methodist Church of Geneva
2023 Church Conference – November 28, 2023 – 7pm
Agenda**

WELCOME

Pastor Rob Hamilton

CALL TO ORDER

Rev. Jeffry Bross, Prairie Central District Superintendent

OPENING PRAYER

Sharon Anderson

HYMN

“Many Gifts, One Spirit” (UMH #114)

SCRIPTURE

John Kemble

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Matthew 9: 10-12

MESSAGE

Rev. Jeffry Bross, Prairie Central District Superintendent

“I believe the tables of the gospels suggest God’s dream for us and they call us to become whole people who live in a healing and whole community. Our best parables are about inviting those in the highways and hedges to the table, about taking the last seat and putting others before us. . .Perhaps the most remembered scripture about the table is: ‘Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.’ The psalm suggests God is preparing the table and calls us to: ‘come to the table and be God’s table people even in the presence of hurt and division.”
(Bishop Dan Schwerin during his State of the Church address at the 2023 NIC Annual Conference)

HOLY CONFERENCING

- How have you experienced God’s love and grace at a table?
- How do you extend Christ’s table in your life and through your mission and ministry?
- How do we become one body in Christ?

Litany (Unison)

**We are called to be God's table.
We gather as a beloved community
Blessed with a theology of abundance
To equip vital faith communities
That we would make disciples of Jesus Christ
For the transformation of the world.**

First and foremost, we believe God is preparing this table and that collectively, we are at a moment in time that our prayer could be framed as, 'by Your Spirit make us one in Christ that we may be one in ministry.' This is, first, God's table, a table of life in Christ as one body.
(Adapted from Bishop Dan Schwerin's State of the Church address)

HYMN One Bread, One Body" (UMH #620)

BUSINESS:

- 1) Leadership Nominations and Election
- 2) Clergy Compensation
- 3) Lay Servant Reports
 - a) John Kemble
- 4) Additional Business
 - a) UMG Fund Distribution
 - b) 2024 Church Budget
 - c) Membership Report

SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY COMMUNION
UMH pages 15-16

Rev. Jeffry Bross

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

Pastor Rob Hamilton



Items Requiring Church Conference Action

UMCG Nominations and Church Leadership 2024

CHURCH COUNCIL

Chair		Sharon Anderson
Vice Chair		Chuck Howlett
Recording Secretary		Jami Johnson
Lay Delegate to		Sharon Anderson, Marty Janners
Annual Conference (4)		Cheryl Johnson, John Kemble,
Church in Society		Carolyn Sprawka, Nancie Lillie
UMG Fund Committee Chair		JoAnn Cregier
Finance Committee Chair		Jim Alderfer
Men's Club President		Dave Dias
Missions Committee Chair		Wendy McKeehan
Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs		Barb Pribble (Colleen Fasbender)
Staff-Parish Relations Chair		Ken McNeil
Treasurer		Rolland Lang (2026)
Trustees Chair		<i>Trustees Elect Their Own</i>
Women's Ministry Representative		Rotating Representation
Youth Representative		
Creation Care Representative		Sharon Reed
Member at Large		
Pastor		Rob Hamilton

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS (per BoD, no re-up, should be one youth representative)

New members nominated and elected at All Church Conference

Chair - Pastor Rob Hamilton

2024	2025	2026
Sonja Gallagher	Anita Malik	Jean Eakins
Gale Dias	Nola Keslinke	Phyllis Popplewell
Donna Strand		

Board of Trustees (9)

(Per BoD, re-up is OK. Minimum of 1/3 male and 1/3 female)

Chair - Elect Their Own

Pastor Liaison - Rob Hamilton

2024	2025	2026
	Katy Howell	Ron Donovan
	Greg Lantz	Tony Zefron
	Chuck Bolvin	Mike Isely
	Gale Dias	
	John McNally	

Staff-Parish Relations Committee (9) (per BoD. can re-up for a 3 year term)**Chair - Ken McNeil**

2024	2025	2026
Sherry Duffett	Vicki Shaffer	
Andrew Whitfield		
Steve Cornwell		
Ken McNeil		

Finance Committee**Ex officio members****Chair- Jim Alderfer**

Pastor Liaison	Rob Hamilton	
Annual Conference Lay Member		
Church Council Chair		
Staff-Parish Representative		
Trustee Representative		
Treasurer	Rolland Lang	
<u>Members At Large</u>		

2024	2025	2026
Howie Pribble	John Eifler	
Bruce Kelsey	Jenean Larsen (2024)	
Jim Alderfer		
Sharon Knott		

UMGFund Committee (5)**Chair- JoAnn Cregier**

Pastor Liaison - Rob Hamilton

2024	2025	2026
Gary Duffett	Jules Heinemann	Richard Keslinke
JoAnn Cregier	Patty Dahlberg	
Kristie Dienst		

PROGRAM COMMITTEES**Church in Society****Co-Chairs - Carolyn Sprawka & Nancie Lillie**

Pastor Liaison - Rob Hamilton

2024	2025	2026
Carolyn Sprawka	Nancie Lillie	Jennifer Karwoski
	Liane Lenski	Sherry Seidel

<u>Missions Committee</u>		
Chair - Wendy McKeehan		
Pastor Liaison - Rob Hamilton		
2024	2025	2026
Keith Bowgren	Veronique Saxe	Susan Jones
Cheryl Johnson	Jackie Patterson	
	Wendy McKeehan	
<u>Scholarship Committee (5)</u>		
Co-Chairs - Colleen Fasbender & Barb Pribble		
2024	2025	2026
Nancy Tweed	Colleen Fasbender	Marty Janners
Heidi Howlett (2025)	Suzanne Zefron	
	Gwen Powell	
	Barb Pribble	
<u>Creation Care</u>		
Chair - Carolyn Burnahm		
Pastor Liaison -Rob Hamilton		
2024	2025	2026
Sharon Reed (Church Council Rep)	Carolyn Burnham	Rolland Lang
Cheryl Johnson	Val Erickson	Greg Coates
Debbie Karr	Jean Eakins	Robbin Lang
Fran Manos		



Clergy Compensation Report with a Parsonage

Northern Illinois Annual Conference Clergy Compensation Report for Clergy Provided a parsonage. Please complete this form for each clergy person under episcopal appointment. **Please round up to the nearest dollar. NO decimals or letters or symbols.**

[Download the clergy compensation explanation sheet.](#)

*indicates a required field (if this field is not filled in, an error message will appear after hitting submit and required fields will appear in red)

District *
Prairie Central

Church *
Geneva - 3027

Email of person filling out form *

Clergy Person *

Effective Compensation Beginning Date *

Clergy Compensation

This section determines:

1. Total cash to be paid to clergy
2. Taxable and non-taxable elements of total cash.
3. Compensation used by Wespath to determine the benefit amount and cost of annual and monthly contributions to the Clergy Retirement Security Program Plan (CRSP) and Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP).
4. Cash amount for payroll

1. Annual Base Cash Salary includes housing exclusion + deductions to UMPIP, FSA or HSA * *

2. Housing Exclusion: IRC Code 107 (Amount included in base cash salary identified as housing expense and not taxable to clergy. Clergy are responsible for reporting these non-taxable expenditures.) *

3. Accountable Reimbursement (Cash provided by church and accounted for by clergy for ministerial expenses such as travel, books, and continuing education. Accountable reimbursement money is not taxable to clergy) *

4. Other Cash: Dues, Additional Benefits, etc (Cash provided that is taxable to clergy.) *

5. Other Cash (Medical Allowance if medical insurance is not provided by the Conference)

6. Other Cash: SECA (Self-employment, Social Security, and Medicare tax.) Clergy are responsible to pay 15.3% of their compensation including parsonage or housing allowance. Sometimes, churches choose to pay one-half of that amount.) *

7. Other Cash Total *

8. Parsonage = Base Salary (1) + Other Cash (4) + Other Cash (6) x .25 Does not include cash for medical individual insurance (5) *

9. Personal Deductions, if any to UMPIP, FSA, HSA (This can be provided at a later date if the pastor has not made a decision concerning deferrals.) *

0

Taxable/Nontaxable Compensation

10. Clergy Taxable Compensation *

74,000.00

11. Clergy Non-Taxable Compensation *

30,750.00

12. Total Clergy Compensation *

104,750.00

13. Total cash payroll to clergy (Does not include amount allocated to accountable reimbursements) *

79,000.00

Wespath Compensation and Contributions

Total Compensation (12) - Reimbursement (3) - Medical Cash (5)

[Refer to eligibility requirements](#)

14a. Is this person eligible for pension and CPP? (If no, disregard Wespath Compensation and Contributions) *
Yes

14. Wespath Compensation *

98,750.00

CRSP Contribution (13% of Wespath Compensation) *

12,837.50

CRSP Contribution Monthly

1,069.79

CPP Contribution: 3% of Wespath Compensation *

2,962.50

CPP Contribution Monthly *

246.88

Signatures

This form is required to have at least three complete signatures. To secure all signatures, please select Save and Continue Later. You will be given a link to share with the other personnel needing to sign. The last person signing this form can then hit submit. The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) Chair should attempt to have all church signatures prior to or at the time of Charge Conference.

* If needed signatures can be added to a completed printed form.

E Signature of Clergy *

The e-signature-of-clergy-356 field is required.

E Signature of District Superintendent *

The e-signature-of-district-superintendent-359 field is required.

E Signature of Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) Chair *

The e-signature-of-staff-parish-relations-committee-sp-890 field is required.

Please remember to select 'Print' at the top of the form before submitting to retain for your records.

Every time you enter information in a field, it is automatically saved to your session, which can be accessed by clicking the Save and Continue and using the link at the top of the page.

******It is important to highlight, copy and save this link for your records before exiting out. You may paste this link in the address bar of your browser to re-enter your session at any time. ****** If you have another clergy and need to start a new form, save the link and click on the top banner to return to "home".

To secure all signatures, **please copy and save the link** at the top of the screen and share with the DS to sign at the time of your Church Conference. Do not hit submit. The last person signing this form can then hit submit. Instructions for signing this page:

Desktop/Laptop users: Please sign typing in your name.

Tablet/Phone users: Please sign using stylus or finger through an eSignature app.

Actual signatures can be obtained by printing this form.

Error all fields did not validate

Save this link to restore in progress forms:

<https://registration.umcnic.org/api/forms/restore/4f23323bd4798de78ac4ab19446c8c5a>

**CERTIFIED LAY SERVANT
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHARGE CONFERENCE**

Initial Application or Request for Renewal



Report for year ending 2023

SECTION I: DATA ON THE LAY SERVANT

Name (Mrs. Ms. Mr.) John R Kemble
Address 2692 Stone Cir. # 211 City/State/Zip Geneva, IL 60134
Telephone 630 402 0903 E-mail johnkemblesr@gmail.com
Name of District Prairie Central
Name of Church UMC of Geneva
Church Address 211 Hamilton Street City/State/Zip Geneva, IL 60134
Church Telephone 630 232 7120

SECTION II: STATUS OF THE LAY SERVANT

For initial application as a Certified Lay Servant
1. What year did you complete your Basic Course? _____
2. What year did you complete your Advanced Course? _____
3. What was the title of your Advanced Course? _____
 For renewal as a Certified Lay Servant
1. What year did you complete your last Advanced Course? 2012
2. What was the title of your last Advanced Course? Leading Prayer

SECTION III: REQUEST OF THE LAY SERVANT

I request recommendation of my pastor and my church council/charge conference to begin/renew as a Certified Lay Servant for the ensuing year.
Date Nov. 6, 2023 Lay Servant John R Kemble

SECTION IV: RECOMMENDATION OF THE PASTOR

I recommend concurrence with the request of this person to begin/renew as a Certified Lay Servant for the ensuing year.
Date _____ Pastor _____

SECTION V: RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL/CHARGE CONFERENCE

The church council/charge conference of _____ (church/charge)
recommends the above person begin/renew as a Certified Lay Servant for the ensuing year.
Date _____ Church Council Chair or District Superintendent _____

(To be completed by those requesting renewal as a Certified Lay Servant)

SECTION VI: MINISTRIES BY THE LAY SERVANT

During the past year, I have participated in ***caring ministries*** as follows:

- served as a volunteer in a care-giving institution provided one-on-one caring
- at a hospital, nursing home, or to a shut-in in membership/evangelism visitation
- served in caring/outreach projects (food pantry, prison ministry, etc)
- other caring activities (Please list) _____

During the past year, I have participated in ***leading ministries*** as follows:

- served as member of committee, board, commission, council, task force, etc.
- as a volunteer at a community agency
- at my local church
- beyond my local church
- on my District Conference Jurisdiction General Church level
- other leading activities (Please list) _____

During the past year, I have participated in ***communicating ministries*** as follows:

- brought message in 1 worship services
- served as worship leader in 3 services
- delivered _____ devotional messages
- taught _____ classes
- shared my faith story 2
- other speaking activities (Please list) _____

During the past year I have participated in additional opportunities for ministry as follows (*Additional writing space below*):
helped facilitate Men's Bible Class

SECTION VII: PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH BY THE LAY SERVANT

In what activities have you engaged and/or what books have you read or used during the past year to help you develop your devotional life; improve your understanding of the Bible; improve your understanding of The United Methodist Church; and to improve your skills in caring, leading, communicating and speaking?
daily Bible reading and devotional study

SECTION VIII: FEEDBACK BY THE LAY SERVANT

1. Do you feel called to be in service in any area of ministry, either in the church or outside the church, in which you are not currently involved? Yes No (If yes, please list those areas below.)

2. What additional training or support do you need or would suggest to further your ministry:

3. Give any recommendations you have for improving Lay Servant Ministries in your District or Conference:

(Note: District Directors are encouraged to respond to any comments within this section.)

NOTICE: After this form is completed and signed by those listed above, the Recording Secretary of the Church Council or Charge Conference is requested to reproduce THREE copies: (1)Lay Servant, (2)District Director of Lay Servant Ministries, (3)District Superintendent. The Recording Secretary of the Church Council or Charge Conference keeps the ORIGINAL. **(Revised April 2014)**

UMG FUND ANNUAL DISTRIBUTIONS for 2024

Using the guidelines established in the By-Laws for distribution, the recommendations for 2024 allocations (approved by Church Council October 24, 2023) are as follows:

- **Total available \$69,352.23**
(A prudent percentage of the trailing 3-year average (or 12 quarters) of "Income")
- **Missions and Church in Society \$6,935.23**
(10% of total "Income" tithed)
- **Trustee Reserve \$40,000**
(replenish the Trustees Reserve Fund as needed to bring the reserve funds to the 50K)
- **New and unbudgeted ministry \$22,417.03**
(grant requests for new, unbudgeted ministry ideas)

2024 UMCG Budget Proposal

November 16, 2023

Budget Summary:		2024 Requests & Estimates	2023 Budget	2024 Proposal	2024 vs 2023 Budget	Differences explained ('24 Requests vs. '24 Proposal)	Differences explained (2024 Budget vs. 2023 Budget)
	Estimate of Giving as of 11/16/2023	\$654,364.00					
(A)	Total PASTORS and STAFF	\$380,487.23	\$394,133.75	\$380,487.23	\$13,646.53	(No difference)	Reflects staff changes, pastor and staff salary increases.
(B)	CHRISTIAN ED, WORSHIP, & MINISTRIES	\$133,390.00	\$119,097.00	\$133,390.00	\$14,293.00	(No difference)	Reflects inclusion of Music Ministries back into Operating Budget & Hospitality increases
(C)	OFFICE & TRUSTEES	\$143,449.00	\$148,700.00	\$143,449.00	\$5,251.00	(No difference)	Various increases and decreases
	TOTALS	\$657,326.23	\$661,930.75	\$657,326.23	\$4,604.53		
		\$2,962.22					

2024 Budget Income Sources

LINE ITEM	DESCRIPTION	2024 Budget	Finance Proposed 2024 Budget	Council Recommended 2024 Budget
601	Loose Offering (cash/coin)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
602	Loose Offering (Checks)	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
603	Initial Offering	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
604	Sunday School	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
605	Miscellaneous Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
606	Interest	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00
607	Estimates of Giving	\$ 374,075.00	\$ 374,075.00	\$ 374,075.00
608	Estimated Addl. Giving (Historical Giving)	\$ 253,789.00	\$ 253,789.00	\$ 253,789.00
609	Special Fund Raisers	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
610	Christmas/Easter	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
611	General Fund Pledges Next Year	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
612	Designated Donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
652	652 Facility Usage	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00
	Total Income	\$ 654,364.00	\$ 654,364.00	\$ 654,364.00

2024 Budget Expenses

LINE ITEM	DESCRIPTION	Person Responsible	2024 Budget Requests	Entry Made	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	Requested Change from 2023	2024 Finance Proposed	Change Percent	Comments
700	TOTAL STAFF PARISH										
	Senior Pastor Compensation				Ln 702 Formula: Base comp - Life Ins - PIP - Ch Care - Flex						
702	Sr P Cash/Hsg Compensation	Ken McNeil	\$ 79,000.00	X	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 58,839.61	\$ 74,500.00	4,500.00	\$ 79,000.00	\$ 79,000.00	<--2022 "actual" values skewed due to underpaid benefits
703	Sr P Group Life Insurance	"	\$ -	X	\$ -	\$ 450.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	(This was corrected with 'make-up' payments to NIC in 2023)
704	Sr P PIP (403b)	"	\$ -	X	\$ -	\$ 2,700.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	
706	Sr P Flex Plan	"	\$ -	X	\$ -	\$ 3,675.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	
710	Sr P Acct'ble Reimbursement	"	\$ 6,000.00	X	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,682.72	\$ 6,500.00	(500.00)	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	
711	Sr P Grp Health Insurance	"	\$ 20,760.00	X	\$ 19,500.00	\$ 12,184.03	\$ 19,560.00	1,200.00	\$ 20,760.00	\$ 20,760.00	Projected to increase \$100/month
712	Sr P Pension Benefit	"	\$ 12,837.50	X	\$ 11,375.00	\$ 5,308.31	\$ 12,350.00	487.50	\$ 12,837.50	\$ 12,837.50	Formula: (lines 702 + 704 + 706) * 1.25 * .13
713	Sr P Comp Protection	"	\$ 2,962.50	X	\$ 2,625.00	\$ 1,225.00	\$ 2,850.00	112.50	\$ 2,962.50	\$ 2,962.50	Formula: (lines 702 + 704 + 706) * 1.25 * .03
	Total 701 Sr P Total Compensation		\$ 121,560.00	X	\$ 108,500.00	\$ 88,064.67	\$ 115,760.00	5,800.00	\$ 121,560.00	\$ 121,560.00	
	Staff Compensation										
741	Staff Gross Salaries	Ken McNeil	\$ 233,650.00	X	\$ 231,037.00	\$ 25,728.72	\$ 214,500.00	19,150.00	\$ 233,650.00	\$ 233,650.00	
742	Staff Net Salaries (Non-nursery)	"	\$ -		\$ 193,030.84	\$ 179,411.04	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	
781	Nursery Attendants Hourly (Gross Pay)	"	\$ 2,000.00	X	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 534.46	\$ 3,000.00	(1,000.00)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	
743	Staff 403b Withheld	"	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 12,911.49	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	(Info only - not a budget expense)
744	Staff + Nurs. FICA Withheld	"	\$ 14,548.30	X	\$ 14,510.29	\$ 4,585.82	\$ 13,485.00	1,063.30	\$ 14,610.30	\$ 14,610.30	(Info only - not a budget expense)
745	Staff+ Nurs. Medicare Withheld	"	\$ 3,402.43	X	\$ 3,393.54	\$ 15,688.18	\$ 3,153.75	248.68	\$ 3,416.93	\$ 3,416.93	(Info only - not a budget expense)
746	Staff + Nurs. Fed Inc Tax Withheld	"	\$ 20,602.27	X	\$ 20,548.45	\$ 11,153.17	\$ 19,096.50	1,505.77	\$ 20,690.07	\$ 20,690.07	(Info only - not a budget expense)
747	Staff + Nurs. State Inc Tax Withheld	"	\$ 10,629.65	X	\$ 10,601.88	\$ 1,057.63	\$ 9,852.75	776.90	\$ 10,674.95	\$ 10,674.95	(Info only - not a budget expense)
748	Staff Acct'ble Reimbursement (New '24)	"	\$ 1,000.00	X	(New '24)	(New '24)	(New '24)		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	(New '24)
	Total 741+781 (Staff & Nursery Gross Pay)		\$ 236,650.00		\$ 234,037.00	\$ 251,070.51	\$ 217,500.00	19,150.00	\$ 236,650.00	\$ 236,650.00	
	STAFF BENEFITS SUMMARY										
752	Staff/Nurs. FICA Employer Paid	Ken McNeil	\$ 14,610.30	X	\$ 14,510.29	\$ 14,206.48	\$ 13,485.00	1,125.30	\$ 14,610.30	\$ 14,610.30	
753	Staff/Nurs. Medicare Employer Paid	"	\$ 3,416.93	X	\$ 3,393.54	\$ 3,322.55	\$ 3,153.75	263.18	\$ 3,416.93	\$ 3,416.93	
754	Staff Continuing Ed	"	\$ 1,000.00	X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
755	Staff Appreciation	"	\$ 500.00	X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
	Total 751 Staff Total Benefits		\$ 19,527.23		\$ 17,903.83	\$ 17,529.03	\$ 16,638.75	2,888.48	\$ 19,527.23	\$ 19,527.23	
	TOTAL ALL SALARIES & BENEFITS		\$ 377,737.23		\$ 439,310.23	\$ 356,664.21	\$ 391,763.75	(14,026.53)	\$ 377,737.23	\$ 377,737.23	

782	Payroll Processing	Ken McNeil	\$ 1,500.00	X	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,369.94	\$ 1,370.00	130.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	
783	Background Checks	"	\$ 750.00	X	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,097.65	\$ 1,000.00	(250.00)	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	
784	Mileage Reimbursement	"	\$ -	X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	
785	Honoraria	"	\$ -	X	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	
786	Staff Hiring Expenses (New '24)	"	\$ 500.00	X	\$ -	\$ -	(New '24)		\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	(New '24)
	TOTAL Lines 782-785		\$ 2,750.00		\$ 1,550.00	\$ 2,467.59	\$ 2,370.00	380.00	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 2,750.00	
	TOTAL 700 STAFF PARISH COMMITTEE		\$ 380,487.23		\$ 440,860.23	\$ 359,131.80	\$ 394,133.75	(13,646.53)	\$ 380,487.23	\$ 380,487.23	
801	MISSIONS & OUTREACH X % --->	0	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 28,229.24	\$ -	0.00	\$ -		Alternative has been discussed with Missions/CIS
811	DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL										
813	Nursery (Babies thru 3-year-olds)	Dr. Greg Coates	\$ 200.00	X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	0.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	
814	Pre School (Not needed)	Dr. Greg Coates	\$ -	X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	
815	Elementary Faith Builders (frmly Journey of Faith)	Dr. Greg Coates	\$ 700.00	X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 700.00	0.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	
817	VBS	Dr. Greg Coates	\$ 1,150.00	X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,150.00	0.00	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 1,150.00	
818	Adult Ed	Dr. Greg Coates	\$ 960.00	X	\$ 1,680.00	\$ 374.99	\$ 960.00	0.00	\$ 960.00	\$ 960.00	
822	Youth Education	Dr. Greg Coates	\$ -	X	\$ 7,250.00	\$ 7,249.56	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	(Funded via line 842)
823	Jr High Faith Followers (frmly Route 56)	Dr. Greg Coates	\$ 400.00	X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400.00	0.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	
824	First Steps in Faith (frmly Godly Play)	Dr. Greg Coates	\$ 300.00	X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300.00	0.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	
882	Confirmation	Dr. Greg Coates	\$ 450.00	X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 450.00	0.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00	
	TOTAL 811 DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL		\$ 4,160.00		\$ 8,930.00	\$ 7,624.55	\$ 4,160.00	0.00	\$ 4,160.00	\$ 4,160.00	
831	MUSIC MINISTRIES										
832	Organ Maintenance	Scott Stevenson	\$ 680.00	X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 700.00	(20.00)	\$ 680.00	\$ 680.00	
833	Piano Maintenance	"	\$ 675.00	X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 600.00	75.00	\$ 675.00	\$ 675.00	
835	Choir	"	\$ 1,000.00	X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	0.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
836	Music Honorariums	"	\$ 4,920.00	X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	3,420.00	\$ 4,920.00	\$ 4,920.00	
837	Music Copyright License	"	\$ 1,000.00	X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	0.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
840	Special Music Fund	"	\$ 3,000.00	X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	1,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	
	TOTAL MUSIC		\$ 11,275.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,800.00	4,475.00	\$ 11,275.00	\$ 11,275.00	
834	Worship	Pastor Rob	\$ 2,000.00	X	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,721.09	\$ 1,800.00	200.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	
	TOTAL 834 WORSHIP COMMISSION		\$ 2,000.00		\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,721.09	\$ 1,800.00	200.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	
841	YOUTH MINISTRIES										
842	Sr High Youth Ministry	Dr. Greg Coates	\$ 3,600.00	X	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,094.89	\$ 3,600.00	0.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00	This request will fund S.S. & all Jr. & Sr. Hi events.
843	Jr High Youth Ministry	Dr. Greg Coates	\$ -	X	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,130.51	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -	(Funded jointly with Sr Hi Youth Ministry)
	TOTAL 841 YOUTH MINISTRIES		\$ 3,600.00		\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,225.40	\$ 3,600.00	0.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00	
854	Lay/Stephen Ministry	Pastor Rob/Dr. Gre	\$ 500.00	X	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	0.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
855	Web Ministry	Carolyn Burnham	\$ 2,250.00	X	\$ 800.00	\$ 450.79	\$ 1,712.00	538.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 2,250.00	Increase in Resi charges used to broadcast live stream
	TOTAL LAY/WEB MINISTRY		\$ 2,750.00		\$ 1,400.00	\$ 450.79	\$ 2,212.00	538.00	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 2,750.00	
860	Creation Care Team	Debbie Karr	\$ 250.00	X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00	0.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	
881	Church Conference Expenses	Pastor Rob/Carolyn	\$ 500.00	X	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	300.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	Registr. + gas: 4 delegates to ann. Conf.
883	Membership Connection	Dr. Greg/Carolyn B	\$ 800.00	X	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	300.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	
884	Finance	Jim Alderfer	\$ 5,760.00	X	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,940.44	\$ 5,500.00	260.00	\$ 5,760.00	\$ 5,760.00	
885	Stewardship	Pastor Rob	\$ 225.00	X	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	25.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 225.00	
886	Hospitality	K. Bowgren/Finance	\$ 2,800.00	X	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 329.50	\$ 795.00	2,005.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00	Inclusion of weekly donut cost in hospitality budget
889	Marketing & Communication	Carolyn Burnham	\$ 12,070.00	X	\$ 13,075.00	\$ 8,749.03	\$ 12,680.00	(610.00)	\$ 12,070.00	\$ 12,070.00	
890	Apportionments	Jim Alderfer	\$ 87,200.00	X	\$ 112,715.71	\$ 79,918.44	\$ 87,200.00	0.00	\$ 87,200.00	\$ 87,200.00	Official assessment due soon from NIC. Aim to keep this same as 2023.
	TOTAL Lines 860-890		\$ 109,605.00		\$ 133,290.71	\$ 92,937.41	\$ 107,325.00	2,280.00	\$ 109,605.00	\$ 109,605.00	
901	OFFICE EXPENSE										
902	Postage, shipping	Carolyn Burnham	\$ 3,600.00	X	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,104.56	\$ 3,500.00	100.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00	
904	Printing/Lease/ Paper	"	\$ 9,960.00	X	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 9,513.66	\$ 10,000.00	(400.00)	\$ 9,960.00	\$ 9,960.00	
905	Office Supplies	"	\$ 1,800.00	X	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,331.84	\$ 2,000.00	(200.00)	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00	

	TOTAL 901 OFFICE EXPENSE				\$ 15,360.00		\$ 18,000.00	\$ 14,950.06	\$ 15,500.00	(140.00)	\$ 15,360.00	\$ 15,360.00	
951	TRUSTEES & TECHNOLOGY												
903	Telephone	Greg Lower		x	\$ 5,154.00	\$ -	\$ 6,934.98	\$ 5,600.00		(446.00)	\$ 5,154.00	\$ 5,154.00	
952	Maintenance - Church	"		x	\$ 12,660.00	\$ 17,400.00	\$ 10,368.86	\$ 14,600.00		(1,940.00)	\$ 12,660.00	\$ 12,660.00	Fire system updates in 2023 budget completed
953	Maintenance - Elevator	"		x	\$ 4,094.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 4,693.54	\$ 3,600.00	494.00		\$ 4,094.00	\$ 4,094.00	Adjustment for rising 2023 costs less one time expense in 2023
954	Maintenance - Center St. Parsonage	"		x	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 10,221.63	\$ 2,000.00	500.00		\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	Adjustment for rising 2023 costs less one time expense in 2023
955	Maintenance - Pepper Valley Parsonage	"		x	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,926.28	\$ 2,100.00	300.00		\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00	Adjustment for rising 2023 costs less one time expense in 2023
956	Utilities - Church	"		x	\$ 30,494.00	\$ 46,000.00	\$ 31,549.60	\$ 39,100.00	(8,606.00)		\$ 30,494.00	\$ 30,494.00	Full year savings with Geo-thermal
957	Utilities Center St. Parsonage	"		x	\$ 5,640.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 5,163.58	\$ 5,600.00	40.00		\$ 5,640.00	\$ 5,640.00	
958	Utilities Pepper Valley Parsonage	"		x	\$ 7,308.00	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 6,036.30	\$ 6,800.00	508.00		\$ 7,308.00	\$ 7,308.00	
959	Insurance	"		x	\$ 31,046.00	\$ 21,060.00	\$ 23,491.49	\$ 25,500.00	5,546.00		\$ 31,046.00	\$ 31,046.00	NIC predicts 12-18% increase over 2023, add inclusion of personal property estimate
960	New Equipment	"		x	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	0.00		\$ -	\$ -	
962	Custodial Service	"		x	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 25,250.00	\$ 25,235.04	\$ 24,000.00	0.00		\$ 24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	
964	Technology	"		x	\$ 2,793.00	\$ 5,800.00	\$ 6,503.46	\$ 4,300.00	(1,507.00)		\$ 2,793.00	\$ 2,793.00	
	TOTAL 951 TRUSTEES & TECHNOLOGY				\$ 128,089.00	\$ 127,610.00	\$ 132,124.76	\$ 133,200.00	(5,111.00)		\$ 128,089.00	\$ 128,089.00	
	GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES				\$ 657,326.23	\$ 734,590.94	\$ 639,395.10	\$ 661,930.75	(4,604.53)		\$ 657,326.23	\$ 657,326.23	

United Methodist Church of Geneva, Geneva, Illinois
Prairie Central; Church 3027
Pastor Rob Hamilton
Membership Statistics Church Conference 2023
November 29, 2022 – November 1, 2023

Births: 0

Baptized: 2

Enzo Miller and Nash Reader

Confirmed: 1

Gianna Dias

Removed from Membership by Death: 6

James Byrne, Pace Harrington, William Turk, Mary Hutson, Jane Livingston, Frank Gondorchin

Profession of Faith: 4

Eric Manley, Louis Faucheux, Ali Slyman, Robert Weick, Jr.

Transferred Membership from Another UMC: 0

Transferred Membership to Another UMC: 4

Todd Puttkammer, Abbie Puttkammer, Vivian Schulte, Donna Darr

Transferred Membership to Another Denomination: 0

Removed from Membership per their Request (withdrawal): 2

Allan Mills, Chris Mills

To be Removed by Church Conference Action, November 28, 2023 (2nd Reading): 14

George Barnard, Cathy Barnard, Kristen Barnard

Larry Bauer, Donna Bauer, Erin Bauer

Richard Crowe, Spencer Crowe

Jason Hartz

John McLaughlin, Sue McLaughlin

Kelly Meloy

Lori Keller Rademeyer

Josh Tibbs

To be Removed by Church Conference Action, November 28, 2023 (1st Reading): 28

Emily Belanger, Grace Belanger

Lois Bardenheier

Jae Donovan

Katie Gibbons

Janice Keiser

Alan Leard, Roxann Leard

Nick LaBudde, Lindsay LaBudde

Drew Miller, Holly Miller, Lindsay Miller

Stanley Patrick, Judy Patrick

Kyle Phelps, Courtney Phelps

Dan Poremba, Karla Poremba

Rylan Rathwell

Harry Smith, Marcia Smith, Charlie Smith, Jack Smith

Jim White, Pat White

James Zaerr, Marilyn Zaerr

As of 11/01/2023:

Total Number of Members: 492

This number reflects active members of UMCG as well as members who no longer attend or have moved from the area and have not requested their membership be transferred or cancelled.

Total Number of Regular Attenders: 178

This number reflects folks who worship at UMCG on a regular basis but have not joined the church.



Ministry Reports

United Methodist Church of Geneva
Rev. Rob Hamilton

Report of the Senior Pastor – November 2023

We are not the church we once were.

When making this annual report, I begin by reading my past reports to look back and see what was lifted as challenges and celebrations. Wouldn't you know with all our files now on SharePoint, I was able to read my report from 2013 as the Associate Pastor.

Ten years ago, we were involved in mission, but anxious about finances. While we might be anxious about it we now have a handle on our finances and we spend more on missions than we have in almost 30 years. We knew the church was shrinking but pushed to add more staff and now we have more lay people engaged in ministry. We wondered if we could welcome all people to UMCG and now we do. We made and still are making structural and organizational changes to live into being the church we are today instead of being the church we once were.

I credit much of this change to our Moving Forward Initiative. Even looking back to September 2022 and all the people who have helped move us forward! My continuing education this year of pursuing a non-degree certificate in Non-Profit Management from UIC has been helpful in this regard as well. When we launched the initiative, we have made changes and are not the church we were a year ago and I am confident that is a good thing. Several weeks ago, I blogged on how we've come unmoored as a church (and how that's a good thing).

Here is an excerpt of what I wrote: "To me an image of all these church revitalization efforts has been our church is like a moored ship. The church keeps trying to go somewhere and sometimes the efforts to move forward get us nowhere. Sometimes the mooring tether lets us go around that which we are tied to; giving us the illusion we are moving, only to eventually end up where we started and exhausted. I've not been naive to think that by some miracle this current effort would automatically net a different result. Nor have I thought so highly of myself that I could offer anything that could break the patterns of the past and release our mooring. The best I could do was advise leaders of what I have learned, name what I saw, dare to try again, and trust that the Spirit might cast off our moorings and let us sail in new waters.

What I am hearing from many who are on the ship are things like: "I love all the new energy." "It nice to see new people." "The church feels different." "I haven't felt this good in church in a long time." I look around and I see many differences and improvements to our church too. Thanks in part to a lot of really hard work by so many lay folks. Also, I'm not hearing stories of how the past was so great that we need to go back to it and instead I'm hearing the excitement for what new thing God seems to be doing in our midst.

I'm starting to think we're coming unmoored. These might really be new waters and not just the same waters our tether once let us pretend were new before.

We're developing new relationships not just with our neighboring United Methodist Churches, but ecumenical relations in Geneva as well. We're living into a new church infrastructure: staff, budget, smaller governance. Our budget deficit is the smallest it's been in a long time, and we've been current on our apportionments all year long. We're willing to try new things to reach new people. Everyone is stepping up their effort to be hospitable and welcoming because nearly every week God sends us guests to worship. We're tackling tough issues and conversations with charity and grace to better our church. It does feel new.

With more time I trust the status of our journey on the waters of baptism will become more apparent. With your continued prayer, presence, gifts, service and witness this ship will keep moving forward. And by God's grace, we soon will look back and find the Spirit has unmoored us and indeed we're on a whole new adventure."

I reemphasize this excerpt not just to give us hope and energy, but to also remind us that we are still in liminal space. We are on a journey not a destination. If we are not the church, we once were that means we need to keep adapting our methods without losing sight of our identity and values. How we do church may change, but God's claim and call upon us as a church doesn't change.

As we look to next year, I will be shepherding our church leaders to continue focusing and refining our identity and values to make sure we are clear and confident about God's claim and call upon us. I will continue to invite us to assume the spiritual posture of leadership in liminal seasons as described by Susan Beaumont: 'Shifting from knowing to unknowing, from advocating to attending, and from striving to surrendering.' I will also push us to embrace emergence, to tend to the newness God is bringing in our church by failing forward, remain a non-anxious presence amid anxious times, as we let the old ways of being church go so, we can be open to the newness God is bringing. This is a messy and iterative season. One that requires risk and innovation. I will continue to be truthful and embrace that we may be planting seed and tending the garden that we may never eat from, but that future generations may feast from bountifully. I think there is good scriptural precedence for that.

As we continue this journey of change and growth, I am strengthened by these words, and I hope that you might be too: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." – Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV

I am grateful for our amazing staff, who have endured this change and still embrace it. I welcome new colleagues in collaboration – Rev. David Aslesen at Baker Memorial UMC, Rev. Melissa Meyers at Batavia UMC and Rev. Tammy Scott at Wesley UMC in Aurora. We'll keep adapting our shared teaching, worship and mission together as well.

I thank you for your tireless efforts and offerings towards what God is doing in our church.

Most of all, 'thanks be to God for his indescribable gift', that is Jesus Christ our Lord!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Ray Hamilton III". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Church Council Annual Report 2023

Last year much of our Council discussion centered around the idea of *liminality*, as we read together Susan Beaumont's book *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season*. We felt that we were at a threshold, still seeking discerning where the Spirit was leading us as a community of faith.

As we're nearing the end of 2023, we've all sensed a new energy and are asking ourselves if we've made our way out of liminality. Our Moving Forward team has been working with Ministry Architects to make our goals more concrete and measurable (see Moving Forward Report). We see new people joining us for Sunday worship, in person and online, and an increase in giving pledges for 2024. We're excited about the number of children in attendance on Sunday mornings and Dr. Greg's engaging children's sermons. Pastor Rob's sermon series have enlightened and challenged us. Each week during coffee hour after worship, fellowship hall is bustling with conversation, laughter, and children looking for treats. Our Spirited Women group of 25-30 continues to gather for in-depth reading and conversation and has recently led the way in become a Reconciling Ministry. We continue to make connections with Baker and Batavia UMCs and other area congregations. Within the last month, we've launched the Volunteer Accelerator to help folks match their interests and gifts with opportunities to serve. So, there is much to be thankful for and to celebrate!

Yet, while we've made progress on some of our goals, there are still others that elude us. Specifically, we have to ask ourselves if we still feel committed to fulfilling goals 3, 4, and 5 in our Directional Document. Do we have the energy and capacity to accomplish all these goals or do we need to recalibrate? Maybe we're not completely out of liminality after all.

And, just maybe, we are meant to keep doing the work of discerning the Spirit's leading through prayer and open dialogue. This year in Council meetings we have made prayer our focus. We've practiced listening to God and each other through *Lectio Divina*. We have sat in the pews to pray for ourselves and all of those attending services in person and online. We've prayed for those we haven't seen in months. In October we walked through the Rummage Sale set up to offer prayers for all who work and shop. We will continue to seek the Spirit's guidance and wisdom by regularly humbling our hearts in prayer.

Lastly, this has been a year of respectful listening and honest dialogue. In Council we have engaged in difficult conversations, putting into practice the Rule of Christ. Out of this practice, we have come up with a flag policy (see below) that we all agreed to. More importantly, we agreed unanimously that Staying UMC is who we are and we came up with a statement expressing our intent (see below).

To summarize, the growth we see at UMCG is encouraging, and yet, there's still potential for so much more. Please join your Council members by praying with us and for us as we seek to lead by God's grace.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Anderson

Church Council Annual Report 2023

UMCG Flag Policy – adopted by Church Council 5/23/23

Statement of intention:

The display of flags in any space conveys a variety of messages: patriotism, social values, affiliation or allegiance to nations or ideals, honor and/or loyalty to country or causes. Interpretations of the symbols of flags vary widely and are easily misinterpreted. Therefore, the display of any flag in any space at UMCG must also include clear communication of the intent of the display of a flag(s) by action or statement. Both the display of a flag and communicating the intent of the display must be 'fresh' and 'current' so as not to become a background feature of the space and thereby diluting the display.

Public display of flags in worship space or in the sanctuary requires special consideration. The symbol of greatest importance and highest respect in Christian worship is the cross. Symbols of light, chalice and paten, font and water also are of great importance.

Many churches display both a Christian Flag and US Flag in their worship space. Common as this practice is, there seems to be no way to display both flags together that does not dishonor one flag or the other. According to US Flag Code "When displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium, the flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he faces the audience." For more information on this tension of displaying the US flag with other Christians flags in worship space, please read this article.

At UMCG we do not want to intentionally or unintentionally dishonor a flag or present a symbol of any allegiance greater than our allegiance to Christ. Therefore, with very limited exceptions as described below, flags will not be on public display in our sanctuary or worship space. A display of flags may be appropriate in and around our facilities and property that are not used for worship given our stated intentions.

Supported displays:

- Funeral or memorial service for veterans -in any space- during such services. When a national flag is displayed in the sanctuary or worship space for this purpose, it shall be as a funeral pall, part of a folding or presentation ceremony, or folded and thus displayed in accordance with that nation's flag code. Display of flags on staffs, hung or mounted, are generally not permissible in the sanctuary.
- Scouts or Civil Organizations during a meeting of the group, but not in the sanctuary.
- In conjunction with a celebration or recognition of ministry with other nations or groups.
- Personal display of flags (pins, stickers, etc.) are welcome in any space when conducted with respect to the flag and other people.
- Displays of the US Flag on church property ought to conform to current US Flag Code.
- UMCG has a US, Christian and United Methodist flag on a staff for potential display.

Unsupported displays:

- Public display of flags in sanctuary other than those described above.
- Decorative displays.
- Permanent displays.
- Displays not in alignment with the given code of the displayed flag.
- Displays that do not communicate intent or actions associated with display.
- Displays that promote hate, evil, injustice or oppression.

Church Council Annual Report 2023

For instances of use or displays not clearly described above:

- Pastors and Director of Operations may determine if displays not mentioned in this Policy are appropriate or objectionable as the first line of determination.
- If Pastors and Director of Operations do not feel they are able to determine if a display is in alignment with this policy, the Executive Committee of the Church Council is the next line of determination, who then may need greater clarification from the whole Church Council as the last line of determination.
- If those desiring a display feel this policy has not been interpreted appropriately then appeal can be made in the order of determination as described above.

Church Council Annual Report 2023

UMCG is staying United Methodist - adopted by Church Council May 23, 2023

Across the nation and around the globe, The United Methodist Church –one of the largest Christian Protestant denominations with 12 million members worldwide- is starting to look more un-tied than united. Hundreds of local churches are voting to leave the denomination over key cultural and doctrinal issues – primarily over LGBTQ rights and inclusion. Some of these disaffiliation congregations and clergy are aligning with a newly formed denomination that adheres to conservative values and traditional beliefs, the Global Methodist Church.

This isn't the first time Methodists have struggled with their union. Back in the early 19th century division was had over the key cultural and doctrinal issues around slavery and labor. Local churches left the denomination to form new denominations that aligned with these key issues – many of which reunited a few generations after their disaffiliation.

Over the years, the United Methodist Church of Geneva, (UMCG), has had its own dividing issues over building location, direction of the church and even LGBTQ inclusion. While not every member of UMCG agrees on every issue, we have recently committed to the shared values of:

- ● **Inclusion:** We boldly love and accept people for who they are.
- ● **Welcoming:** We invite our community into our home with open arms.
- ● **Generosity:** We share our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.
- ● **Compassion:** We listen and act to bring healing and wholeness.
- ● **Open-minded:** We value respectful dialogue.
- ● **Serving Others:** We transform our community through faithful acts of mercy and justice.

Nonetheless, during this split in the United Methodist Church, UMCG is committed to staying United Methodist and embracing the hard work of living in community. As our founder John Wesley said, "Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences." We trust that we will come out a stronger, more inclusive and just denomination and local church.

By continuing to be United Methodist, UMCG joins thousands of United Methodists in our commitment to a Wesleyan theology of grace based in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the continuing movement of the Holy Spirit.

As we recommit ourselves to United Methodism:

- We embrace the fundamentals of the Wesleyan tradition and dedicate ourselves to the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- We embrace a Church that interprets scripture with a theology of grace.
- We embrace a Church that aspires to be a more just and inclusive force in the world.

Church Council Annual Report 2023

- We embrace the connected power of 12 million souls united, working towards good in the world.
- We embrace a Church that has uplifted our own lives and the lives of our friends, family, and those we cherish.
- We embrace a Church built on loving relationships rather than uniformity in thought and action.
- We embrace a Church where everyone does not have to agree and where everyone is welcome.

In the divisive times in which we live -both within the church and within our communities- we think the Church of Jesus Christ as it is lived out as United Methodist can bring healing and wholeness to our homes, our communities, and our world. We invite everyone to illuminate our community with God's grace as we lovingly accept, listen to, and serve all in the Spirit of Jesus – that's our mission as United Methodists of Geneva.



Moving Forward Report

MISSION STATEMENT

We illuminate our community with God's grace as we lovingly accept, listen to, and serve all in the Spirit of Jesus.

VALUES

- **Inclusion:** We boldly love and accept people for who they are.
- **Welcoming:** We invite our community into our home with open arms.
- **Generosity:** We share our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.
- **Compassion:** We listen and act to bring healing and wholeness.
- **Open-minded:** We value respectful dialogue.
- **Serving Others:** We transform our community through faithful acts of mercy and justice.

GOALS

- Quarterly review benchmark and report to congregation.
- Monthly reporting on goals
 - Two goals per month
 - Name the goal and benchmark - report on last quarter
- If they are a “side” thing - then maybe they shouldn’t be goals.

1. We have increased the number of unique people engaged in a ministry of UMCG by 50%.

Benchmarks by July 1, 2023

- Job Descriptions have been written for all volunteer positions.
- Volunteer Accelerator has been launched.

As of October 2023:

- Job Descriptions have been written for all volunteer positions.
- Vol. Acc. about to be launched

Benchmark by January 31, 2024

- Determine a champion for this goal.
- Attendance is tracked for all events.
- Control number is set.
- Data is collected and compared quarterly.

NOTES:

- Need to do a better job of attendance of those who are engaged in other events.

2. We have matched and/or exceeded giving for the expenses of the budget for the financial year 2024.

Benchmarks by July 1, 2023

- A generosity (stewardship) committee is established to create the commitment (pledge) drive for Fall 2023.
- Best practices for generosity (stewardship) have been explored and adapted for UMC Geneva's Fall 2023 commitment drive.
- Staff and Committees have reviewed and submitted draft budgets for 2024.

As of October 2023:

- Staff and Committees have reviewed and submitted draft budgets for 2024. October meeting of Council will be approved.

Benchmark by January 31, 2024

- Determine a champion for this goal.
- Best practices for generosity (stewardship) have been explored and adapted for UMC Geneva's Fall 2024 commitment (pledge) drive.
- Recruit a Generosity (Stewardship) Chair for 2024.
- A generosity (stewardship) committee is established to create the commitment (pledge) drive for Fall 2024.

NOTES:

3. We have created three invitational spiritual enrichment programs for children, youth, and families.
 - a. Change goal?

- i. *We have four annual invitational events for children, youth, and families.*

Benchmarks by July 1, 2023

- Calendar is reviewed to ensure that one program a quarter is intentionally marketed to those outside of UMC Geneva.

As of October 2023:

- Calendar reviewed.

Benchmark by January 31, 2024

- Determine a champion for this goal.
- Define spiritual enrichment programs.
 - Determine if this is still a part of the goal for UMC Geneva.
- Review episodic events to determine if they should become annual events.

NOTES:

- New staff hired
- VBS combined
- Episodic Events
 - Easter Egg event
 - Trick or Treating - downtown
 - Grinch watch party - First Saturday of Advent
- Ex. Lego Club - for all ages
- Does it have to be programs? Could it be invitational events?
- Is this goal a stepping stone to spiritual enrichment?

4. We have launched at least 2 small groups for adults who live with/support those dealing with mental health issues (not providing direct care to those with mental health issues).

Benchmarks by July 1, 2023

- A list of potential small group leaders has been vetted by clergy.
- Small group leaders have been asked and marketing for focus groups has begun.

As of October 2023:

- No progress has been made on this goal.

Benchmark by January 31, 2024

- Determine a champion for this goal.
- Plan for launching a group by Spring Break.
 - Ex. Parenting a stressed child.

NOTES:

- Not a lot of traction for this group.
- Potentially too big of a goal.
- ***There wasn't a Champion of this goal.***
- There is a support group for caregivers already in place.
- Where is there a need?

5. We have established three new relationships with organizations that use UMCG resources for programs that reach children, youth, and families dealing with mental health or other life issues.

a. Change goal?

i. We have established three new relationships with organizations that use UMCG resources for programs that reach children, youth, and families

b. [Gameplan](#)

Benchmarks by July 1, 2023

- A list of potential organizations has been created and vetted.
- Leadership from the organizations have been invited to meet with UMC Geneva clergy and staff for potential relationships.

As of October 2023:

- We have created relationships with new entities that reach out children, youth, and families.
 - Skills building
 - Affinity based
- There were relationships - determined awareness was needed.

Benchmark by January 31, 2024

- Review goal.
- Determine a champion for this goal.
- A list of potential organizations has been explored and vetted.

NOTES:

- Connect with Fostering groups - OCFS - maybe there is some cooperation available.

6. We have added 3 Stephen Ministers at UMCG.

Benchmarks by July 1, 2023

- A list of potential Stephen's ministers has been brainstormed including those who may be interested in future participation.

- Opportunities for training at or with other churches has been explored to gain momentum for programming.

As of October 2023:

- Added two new, one reactivated and one leader!

Completed

7. We have partnered with existing agencies to establish relationships to help to support and fund the needs of at least two refugee families.
 - a. [Gameplan](#)

Benchmarks by July 1, 2023

- A list of potential agencies has been created and vetted.

As of October 2023:

- Mission Church in Society working on this plan.
- Two maintenance teams have worked on homes.
- Two families are getting ready - not ready for support yet.

Benchmark by January 31, 2024

- Recruit attendees for Neighbor Project Event.
- Build awareness within the congregation for new volunteer opportunities.

NOTES:

- Support is through the Neighbor Project.

8. We have developed and executed a landscaping plan for the church that implements xeriscaping practices and native plantings to reduce water usage and support pollinators, installed a smart irrigation system, and created hardscapes to increase community interaction in our green space.

Benchmarks by July 1, 2023

- Research has begun on xeriscaping practices and native plantings.
- Three proposals for a smart irrigation system have been reviewed.

As of October 2023:

- Bids on irrigation systems.
- Soil work has been done.

Benchmark by January 31, 2024

- Review and update benchmarks for next growing season.
- Based on delays, set a reasonable timeline for completion of work.

NOTES:

- Delay in geo-thermal has caused a delay.

By the end of 2024 we will have tried three innovative (crazy) ideas.

Benchmarks by January 31, 2024

- The prototype is ready.
- Launch dates are determined.

Missions and Church in Society Report 2023

The Committees on Missions and Church in Society continue as vital links between our congregants and the needs of the larger world we aim to address. We have been enriched by four new members, one of whom has agreed to be Mission Chair as well as Recording Secretary for our meetings. We have attempted to be good stewards of funds entrusted to us- in particular bequest monies from 2022. We have worked on organizing and standardizing our financial reporting, which had been impacted by office staff turn-over. In addition to supporting our regular ministries, we have responded to immediate needs, such as urging support for the United Methodist Church in Maui following wildfire destruction there, as well as agreeing to provide funds for reparations for the Boy Scout "Repair the Harm" campaign. We have recently committed to regularly highlighting our Methodist Social Principles in the Messenger so that congregants have a better understanding of Methodist beliefs. Due to extra monies received from bequests in 2022, the committees agreed not to receive a tithe from the 2023 general budget. Church Council will reassess the tithe in 2024.

After much due diligence, our committees decided to support the Chicago inner-city Dorcas Outreach Ministry with the above-mentioned bequest monies. This ministry is a community restoration/revitalization project based in Greenstone Church in the Pullman district of Chicago. Joining with other churches, UMCG will be part of the effort to retrain community residents for trade jobs, establish a food pantry, resale shop, etc. Beginning in January we began funding a part-time salary for Pastor Luther Mason, Project Manager. His salary is being paid to the NIC from UMCG on a quarterly basis of \$6,000 per quarter. Funding for year two will be determined in late 2023 or early 2024.

Under the committees' leadership our congregation continues to support the Salvation Army Food Pantry, Tri City Family Services, The Neighbor Project, Habitat for Humanity, JFON, Rebuilding Haiti Now, Kids Alive, CASA, Suicide Prevention, Mutual Ground, DuPage Senior Council, Fox Valley Food for Health, Lazarus House, Hesed House, ASP, Good Night Sleep Tight, World Relief refugee efforts, and Salvation Army missions such as Angel Tree and bell-ringing. We still regularly serve at the Northern Illinois Food Bank and Hesed House. Our committees have been given a goal, specifically established by Ministry Architects to "partner with existing agencies to establish relationships to help to support and fund the needs of at least two refugee families." Our committees have worked with The Neighbor Project and World Relief to accomplish this goal. Two church couples mentored a Neighbor Project family over 2 years, with the Adhikari family ultimately purchasing a home this August 2023. Our committees organized a hygiene kit assembly for World Relief in January, with supplies distributed to new refugees arriving in Chicago and the suburbs. In addition, refugee foodstuffs were collected during the women's cluster luncheon. Our youth were involved in preparing sacks for the Salvation Army Food Pantry, as well as helping to assemble the hygiene kits.

Summaries of giving for both committees are included.

January – August \$49,100 Total Giving

Green Stone / Dorcas Ministry \$24,000 - Bishops Appeal \$2,000 - Neighbor Project \$5,000

Tri-City Family Services \$1,100 - Repair the Harm/Boy Scouts \$5,000 - Re-Build Haiti Now \$5,000

World Relief \$5,000 - Maui Fire \$2,000



United Methodist Church
OF GENEVA

Making and nurturing disciples
of Jesus Christ who serve the
community and the world.

Annual Church Conference Report 2023
from the Director of NextGen Ministries
Dr. Gregory R. Coates

Children's and Youth Ministries - A Summary

Children's ministry at UMCG serves up to 25-30 children and youth. On a weekly basis, we average 2-3 children in the nursery, 4-7 kids in the preschool room, 3-5 elementary age children, and from 3-8 junior high and high school students in our combined youth group. These all meet during the Sunday School hour which runs concurrently with Sunday morning worship at 9am. Our age based classrooms are divided as follows: 0-2, 3-Kindergarten, 1st-5th grades, and 6-12th grades. Since our Sunday School kickoff this fall, we have averaged 16 children and youth per week.

Since entering this position in the middle of the summer, I have sought to touch base with each family with young children or teens that are associated with our church, either through email, phone call, or a visit to the home. The core of all ministry work is relationship building. Though this has proved rather challenging given how busy families are these days, I've already noticed several of the relationships deepening and building mutual trust. In September many of our teens and adults in the church gathered to help with "It's Our Fox River Day," a clean-up event along the Fox River. At least three international students were in attendance. Then in October we hosted a bonfire at Pepper Valley with six in attendance. We are also planning an outing to Batavia for their annual corn maze, followed by a Grinch-themed party in early December as we invite families to our Advent programming.

Our Youth Ministries have been teaming up with Baker Memorial Church and Batavia United Methodist Church more often, and this summer was our first year to have a joint VBS program. VBS was hosted at UMCG this year, but will be held at one of our sister churches next summer. Many adult volunteers came together to help decorate and offer our children a very fun and successful Vacation Bible School program this year. UMCG also continues to send a team each year on the Appalachian Service Project, a life-transforming event for many who go.

In an effort to unify the church as a whole and to keep us all in sync thematically, each children's sermon fits with the theme of the morning service as chosen by Pastor Rob in the series he preaches. I write the Sunday School curriculum each week in keeping with the focus of our pastor's message, and provide discussion questions printed in the bulletin that foster further discussion following worship among our church's families. Immediately following the children's

sermon all ages preschool through high school join together in the youth room for 10-15 minutes of singing, skits, videos, or other shared activities before we divide out into our age-based classrooms. This is to help our children to get to know each other better to foster intergenerational interaction, one of the strengths of our church.

The Challenge Before Us

Beyond all of this programming, our main priority is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Pastor Rob and I are both keenly aware of the precipitous drop in attendance at most churches across our country as this nation gradually secularizes and as the church takes a more peripheral role in many lives. We are seeking pro-actively to study, read, think, pray, and act in order to reverse this rather alarming trend. I have used my own social media presence to ask publicly why many in the Gen Z and Millennial generations are leaving the church. In my recent interactions I have uncovered the following themes emerge:

- The church's scandals that have made headlines in the last two decades have deeply damaged the trustworthiness of church leadership. Many in younger generations immediately associate ecclesial leadership with the abuse of power. In this sense, they not only see the church as irrelevant, but as a positive force for evil in the world today.
- Others have left the church because they perceive it to be opposed to reason and scientific investigation. These agnostics and atheists believe the truth claims made by the Christian faith are dubious, and that they do not accord with modern evolutionary biology, geology, physics, or astronomy. They have not found the church to be a place where their skeptical questions are welcomed and so they have abandoned the church in search of community elsewhere.
- The fragmentation of our communities through the advancement of technology, the spread of the internet, the ubiquity of smartphones, and increasingly compelling entertainment has caused a shortening of our attention spans, a reduction in our free time, has resulted in not only a general lack of interest in the liturgies and traditions of the church, but also any desire for community in any form.
- The church is, in the minds of many younger adults and teens, complicit in great evils and harms in our world by associating itself with the religious right and the Republican Party, especially Donald Trump. Many think that to be a Christian means to support hateful policies toward immigrants, opposition to the LGBTQIA+ community, etc. This guilt by association leaves many young people wanting to have nothing to do with the church.

Each of these factors are contributing to the decline of mainline and even evangelical strands of Christianity in this nation. While we seek to reverse these trends and to counter these negative stereotypes of the church, a truly epic battle for the souls of young people is afoot and it will require all that this church has to offer for us to reverse such alarming trends.

Even so, I write with hope. Our God is greater, and we have been assured that the gates of hell will not prevail against the church. We are indeed under assault by the enemy, but we must turn to prayer, return to the basic principles taught by Christ, and never cease to proclaim the

life-changing message of the gospel which is needed among the young today ever bit as much as it has ever been needed. Pray for me as I seek to rise to this challenge alongside the leadership of this congregation.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Coates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Gregory R. Coates

2023 UMCG Appalachia Service Project Report

Mike and Julie Popplewell



ASP 2023 began with bi-monthly workshops and fundraisers where we discussed the meaning behind the Appalachia Service Project and shared in fellowship and fun together. Workshop meetings were held in person at the church and we looked at educational scenarios helping our volunteers to prepare for the challenges inherent in travelling to the region and working on people's own homes. The ASP website (www.asphome.org) features educational and promotional information that helps new and returning people understand the gravitas of spending a week of their summer with a home repair ministry. (Several of the ASP videos feature UMCG adults and teens! <https://www.youtube.com/@AppServProject>)

Fundraisers like Chocolate dipped strawberries for Valentines Day and a Chili cook-off not only helped bring donations but also allowed families to interact while supporting a good cause.

In the week leading up to our departure, Mike Popplewell led a construction skills workshop at the church where teens constructed a wooden bench which was donated to our church grounds.

On the Friday night before the vans leave on Saturday morning, we held our traditional Potluck dinner with all families of volunteers invited. On Saturday July 8th, 38 youth and adults headed to Jackson, KY to help make homes there warmer, safer, and drier. While there, we celebrated our 40th year of service to the Appalachia Service Project and we were recognized by Walter Crouch, president and CEO of ASP.

2022-2023 Scholarship Committee
Annual Conference Summary

Committee Members: Colleen Fasbender, Co-Chair; Heidi Howlett, Gwen Powell, Barbara Pribble, Co-Chair; Nancy Tweed, Suzanne Zefron

1. The application process for scholarships continues to be reviewed and revised.
 - 1.1. The deadline date for the application plus transcripts was changed to a later date, May 5, 2023, to allow students to determine their financial status..
 - 1.2. The Committee gathered during the summer to address the effectiveness of the application. The format was changed to include question prompts that applicants respond to in order to get a better understanding of their perspective in relation to church, school, and global.
2. Scholarships Available: The following is a list of the available scholarships for this year.
 - 2.1. **THE WILLIAM K. AND RUTH A. BULLOCK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS** are donated from the estate of Mary Bullock in memory of her parents, William K. and Ruth A Bullock, who both emphasized the importance of education. Mary loved being a kindergarten teacher in the Villa Park School District for 40 years. She loved life, dancing, singing, and playing the piano.
 - 2.2. **THE LUCINDA DITTMER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** is donated by Gary Dittmer to honor his wife. Lucinda was a member of Hugs and served on the Staff Parish Relations Committee. She was a faithful member of UMCG for 15 years. Lucinda was a teacher for academically gifted students in district 304. She joined the Illinois Math and Science Academy to develop its math curriculum and earned her PhD in problem-based learning while at IMSA.
3. Scholarship Sunday:
 - 3.1. With technology, it was discovered that Scholarship Sunday did not need to fall in May as it dealt with too many other conflicts; prom, Mother's Day, college students still at school, to name a few. It was changed to June 4, 2023.
 - 3.2. Barb Pribble and Gwen Powell were the presenters.
 - 3.3. The award plus a packet containing 4 stained glass window notecards were given to each awardee. Three note cards were addressed with the donors information and a gentle date reminder for contacting donor in regards to their educational journey: one thank you, one after the first semester, and the last one at the end of the school year. This was to encourage communication from the scholarship recipients with the donor throughout the school year. The fourth notecard was addressed to the Scholarship Committee where the contents would be shared with the church.
4. This year the Scholarship Committee learned much about the financial process as Debbie Sampiller in the past handled that part after the awardees were chosen. We now are aware that we need to notify the finance chair with the names and amount of scholarship monies awarded and ask that money be withdrawn from funds and placed into the church checking account. Alan Rutherford will also be notified with the names so as to know which school the checks are made out to. **It would also be nice if the name of the student was put into the memo area in case the check is misplaced or lost.**
 - 4.1. **The UMF Scholarship Fund is overseen by the Finance Committee of UMCG.**
 - 4.2. Finance Chair is contacted by the Scholarship Chair to request that funds be transferred from the Scholarship UMF fund to reimburse the General Fund for scholarship checks that were distributed
5. Future meetings will focus on the revision of the questions to be used in the application and updating the online application.
6. Listed below are the Scholarship Awardees. Included in the list is the amount granted, the named Scholarship, college they will be or are attending and their course of study.

2023 UMCG Scholarship Awardees

Recipient	Amount	Scholarship	College	Major
Ana Powell	\$5000.00	William K. & Ruth A. Bullock Memorial	Northwestern Pritzker School of Law	JD
Andrew J Hansen	\$5000.00	William K. & Ruth A. Bullock Memorial	University of Illinois U-C	Economics with Business Minor
Brooke E Baurer	\$5000.00	William K. & Ruth A. Bullock Memorial	University of Iowa	Nursing
Evan Horvath	\$2500.00	William K. & Ruth A. Bullock Memorial	Boston University	Biomedical Engineering
William J Darrow	\$2500.00	William K. & Ruth A. Bullock Memorial	Central Michigan University	Secondary Education/History
Trace Powell	\$2500.00	William K. & Ruth A. Bullock Memorial	University of Illinois U-C	Communications
Zoe C. McKeehan	\$2500.00	William K. & Ruth A. Bullock Memorial	University of Oregon	History & Religious Studies, Spanish Minor
Julianna J Cornwell	\$2000.00	William K. & Ruth A. Bullock Memorial	Grand Valley State University	Biochemistry
Shae G Burnham	\$2000.00	William K. & Ruth A. Bullock Memorial	Michigan State University	Urban Planning and Japanese
Claire L Anderson	\$1000.00	William K. & Ruth A. Bullock Memorial	Colorado State University	Communications
Adam W Drexler	\$1000.00	William K. & Ruth A. Bullock Memorial	Saint Louis University	Psychology, Business undecided
Joshua R Karwoski	\$1000.00	William K. & Ruth A. Bullock Memorial	Northern Illinois University	Marketing

Andrew Dahlberg	\$1000.00	William K. & Ruth A. Bullock Memorial	Columbia College Chicago	Music Production
Louis Petrie	\$1000.00	William K. & Ruth A. Bullock Memorial	Northern Illinois University	Business Management, Entrepreneurship, Social Responsibility
Rebecca R Kelly	\$1000.00	William K. & Ruth A. Bullock Memorial	Tufts University	Master of Arts in Law & Diplomacy
Helen A Johnson	\$2000.00	Lucinda Dittmer Memorial	Concordia College	Master of Education World Language
TOTAL	\$37,000.00			

7. A procedural form was created for the process of selecting applicants. It is included below.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE JOB DESCRIPTION AND YEARLY PROCEDURE

- I. Committee meets in November or December to prepare new application.
 - A. Review application and make any necessary changes.
 - B. Determine when the application will go live on the church's website.
 - C. Review possible dates for Scholarship Sunday.
 1. Be mindful of time between application deadline, meeting to determine awardees, mailings to awardees, Fund Distribution Form deadline, and Scholarship Sunday.
 2. Determine who will contact pastors to confirm date and communicate the date with committee members.
 - D. Determine due date for application and any supplemental documents (such as academic transcripts).
 - E. Determine who will contact potential donors to confirm funding of scholarship for this cycle.
 1. Once confirmed, this person will communicate with the church's director of operations to update the scholarship information on the church's website.
 2. This person will write a thank you card to the donors on behalf of the committee.
 - F. Determine who will write the communication about this year's scholarship application and request that it be printed in the newsletter and bulletin.
 - G. Determine who will work with the director of operations to ensure that the new application is revised correctly.
 - H. Determine who will ask the youth director to inform potential applicants about the scholarship.

- II. Committee meets in March to finalize duties before application deadline.
 - A. Determine who will collect transcripts and email GPAs to committee members.
 - B. Determine who will collect rubric scores and average them.
 - C. Determine who will prepare the addressed notecards to give to awardees at Scholarship Sunday.
 - D. Ensure each member has a copy of this year's rubric and understands it.
 - E. Review application assessment procedure.
 - F. Is Scholarship Sunday date confirmed with pastor?
 - G. Schedule meeting date (about a week or two after application deadline) to review rubrics and award scholarships.

- III. Once application deadline has passed, review applications and complete rubrics.
 - A. Committee member who collected transcripts emails GPAs to committee members.

- B. Each committee member reviews applications independently.
- C. Complete rubrics for each application in one sitting.
- D. Committee members will recuse themselves from completing rubrics for any family member.
- E. Committee members email rubric scores to member who is averaging them.
- F. Committee members will shred all personally sensitive documents.

IV. Committee meets a week or two after application deadline.

- A. Prior to the meeting, committee chairperson asks the Trustee chair for total amount available for scholarship awards.
- B. Committee member who collected rubric scores shares the averages.
- C. Committee members discuss rubrics, applications, and available scholarships to determine awardees. (See Scholarship Fund and Distribution Requirements)
- D. Determine who will update spreadsheet with this year's recipients.
- E. Determine who will speak at Scholarship Sunday. Speakers schedule a meeting to prepare for Scholarship Sunday.
- F. Determine who will collect RSVPs from awardees for Scholarship Sunday.
- G. Determine who will update letters to all applicants and mail the appropriate letters.

Mailings include:

1. Letters for all applicants informing them of the committee's decision (specific scholarship and amount awarded or no award).
 2. The Information for Scholarship form for those who are receiving a scholarship.
- H. Determine who will notify applicants via email to check their snail mail.
 - I. Scholarship Chair will contact Trustee chair to transfer funds from the UMF General UMC – UMCG Scholarship Fund/11721 to the church checking account.
 - J. Determine who will contact the financial secretary with names of scholarship recipients and amount of award to give consent to write checks.
 1. This person communicates with the finance secretary to ensure that each awardee has submitted the Information for Scholarship form.
 2. This person collects the envelopes to be handed out at Scholarship Sunday. The envelopes include:
 - a. Checks made payable to the school.
 - b. The Information for Scholarship form for the recipients who did not yet submit it.
 - K. Determine who will write and submit the announcement to the communications coordinator for Scholarship Sunday's church bulletin.

V. Scholarship Sunday speakers meet a week prior to Scholarship Sunday.

- A. Write the script for Scholarship Sunday.
- B. Determine which committee members will speak and hand out envelopes and notecards.
- C. Contact the pastor to request a prayer and blessing for our awardees at end of presentation.
- D. Confirm that the designated committee member will have envelopes with letters, checks, and the Information for Scholarship form (if needed) in time for Scholarship Sunday.

E. Send an email to committee members with plan for Scholarship Sunday.

VI. Scholarship Sunday sometime in June (per pastor's decision).

A. Each awardee receives an envelope with the check made payable to the school and the Information for Scholarship form, if needed.

B. Each awardee receives four addressed note cards to write to their donor and the committee throughout the year.

C. Take a picture at the end of service with all awardees.

D. Determine which committee member will communicate with recipients who were not present to ensure that they receive their check and note cards.

E. Chairperson will write the annual summary for the Charge Conference and submit when necessary.

VII. Shortly after Scholarship Sunday, committee meets to assess the year's procedure.

A. Any changes needed to Scholarship Sunday?

B. Review changes needed for next year's scholarship application. Ideas for new essay prompts.

C. Any changes needed to rubric?

D. Any changes needed to the letters to applicants?

E. Discuss any feedback received.

8. March 9, 2022 a Scholarship Fund and Distribution guide was created. It has been revised July 13, 2023. This is what we will follow when awarding scholarships.

A. Scholarship money is held in two funds:

1. General Scholarship Fund which includes money from committee fundraising and yearly donors. This money is not invested so does not grow.

2. Bullock Endowment Fund which was established when Mary Bullock bequeathed the money to the Scholarship Committee in 2017. This money is invested and earns interests and dividends.

3. *Esther Bullock (the surviving Bullock family member) and the scholarship committee established three named scholarships to be awarded yearly: one \$5000.00 and two \$2500.00, all named The William K. and Ruth A. Bullock Memorial Scholarship.

B. Distribution Requirements:

1. The Scholarship Committee must honor the donors' wishes when awarding named scholarships.

2. Money from the General Scholarship Fund that was collected from fundraising efforts or donated from the congregation may be distributed at the discretion of the committee. Scholarships can be awarded for educational endeavors as well as staff development or spiritual growth opportunities for congregation members.

3. Every year the three named Bullock scholarships must be awarded.

4. The Scholarship Committee may award more scholarships from the Bullock fund at their discretion.

a. Additional educational scholarships may be awarded using money from the principal or interest.

b. Scholarships for staff development or spiritual growth opportunities may be withdrawn only from the interest earned.

Addendum 7/13/2023

Distribution Requirements:

1. Scholarship Committee will award 10% of the fund each year.
 - a. The named Scholarships must be awarded.
 - b. Some funds must remain from the interest portion for awarding staff or spiritual development scholarships throughout the year.
2. Once the fund is depleted so that 10% of the fund is less than \$10,000, no additional awards will be given, but the named scholarships must be awarded.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Fasbender; Co-Chair
September 4, 2023

Church Conference Report 2023 UMC Geneva Creation Care

Focus

“A relationship with God’s creation and a ministry for caring for and healing the earth are integral to what it means to be a United Methodist. We believe that all of creation is God’s, and that we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Our natural world is to be valued and conserved because God has called humanity to be its caretakers.” (UMC web site)

Members: Debbie Karr, Val Erickson, Sharon Reed, Carolyn Burnham, Robbin Lang, Rolland Lang, Jean Eakins and Fran Manos. Creation Care meets on zoom the 4th Monday of the month (when scheduled) at 7:00 pm. Average attendance is 7 members. Sharon Reed represents Creation Care at monthly Council Meetings.

Education For Congregation and Community

Bulletin Board

The board was given a new look and format for 2023. Half has been dedicated to earth friendly homemade cleaning products (Fran Manos) and the other half on information available through the UMC, Geneva UMC and the community. The picture and story of an Earth Hero is told along with a children’s creation care themed book. Pictures are posted of stories and pictures of events that the Creation Care has done throughout the year.

Messenger Articles

Creation Care members provide monthly articles for the Messenger to educate and inform the congregation and community on local and regional environmental issues and events.

Creation Care Web Site

This year, Carolyn Burnham designed and launched the Creation Care page located on the UMCG web site. Education and updates on the Geothermal installation are highlighted along with other Creation Care news.

Earth Sunday Expo

Following the Earth Sunday service, members presented information on S.C.A.R.C.E., # of single use coffee cups saved from landfills since the start of zero waste coffee hour, everything you wanted to know about eggs, DIY cleaning products, reducing single use plastics and native gardening. Giveaways included: earth crayons, marigolds, spider plants, native seeds, samples of cleaning products, Swedish cloths, reusable straws and reusable bags. A total of \$139.00 collected from free will offering to help fund community projects.

Sunday School also did an Earth Sunday flower pot and marigold planting during class.

Programs and Local Events Attended by Creation Care Members

Northern Illinois Conference Net Zero Task Force

UMCG –Attended by Carolyn Burnham. Meetings are quarterly. We participated in and edited Net Zero Video presented at Annual Conference and shared by churches.

Link to video: <https://tinyurl.com/NICNetZeroVid23>

Creation Care Members attended the, “Kane County Plan For Climate Change” in early 2023.

Creation Care members are attending, Beyond the Basics of Waste Reduction and Recycling program Batavia Public Library on 11/8/2023.

Carolyn Burnham attended the online book study group “Loving People and Planet In the Name of God” promoted by the Net Zero Team of the Northern Illinois Conference.

Community

Earth Day Community Projects 2023

Hesed House Wish List included sprinkler hoses, tomato cages, hose splitter and plants.

Habitat House Garden Project included a raised garden bed and dirt, plants, tomato cages, hose, sprayer, garden tools and stepping stone. Members installed garden before the house-blessing day.

Swedish Days Family Tent

Members (with a great teen volunteer duo!) helped plant 100 sunflower seeds in a little over an hour. The sunflower seed planting was part of the Du Page Sunflower Project.

Fox River Clean Up

Members participated with church members in the annual Fox River Clean Up Day on 9/16/2023.

Action

Church Landscaping Project

Members of the Creation Care team are part of the committee working on the future landscaping plans for UMCG while following their 2022 submitted statement to the Moving Forward Committee:

Develop and execute a landscaping plan for the church that implements xeriscaping practices and native plantings to reduce water usage and support pollinators, install a smart irrigation system, and create hardscapes to increase the community interaction in our green space.

Meetings were arranged with local landscaping teams who submitted their ideas. The plans were available in the office for church members to see. The committee for the gardens agreed that Jay Womack had the best vision and met with Jay Womack in June. He is helping the committee work forward with the landscaping plan for the church. The Trustees and the Creation Care team will be moving forward together on the project in 2024.

Rummage Sale

Creation Care continues to support the rummage sale by placing collection boxes out for unsellable donations during the setup days and distributing those items (with help of church members) and unsold items at the end of the sale to other locations. The donations are then taken to Kane County Recycling Center, SCARCE, local animal rescue organizations and Salvation Army. Shoes are collected and given to New Hope Methodist Church in West Chicago to be distributed to the “Shoes for Water” project. Nancy and Lorne Tweed take the remaining books, CDs and DVDs to Geneva public library.

VBS

The sea themed decorations from VBS that would not be used again by UMCG were redistributed to teachers and others who will be reusing them in classrooms and other settings. Carolyn Burnham posted on local free Facebook sites.

Donation Station Recycling

Creation Care continues to help recycle items at UMC Geneva and from church members. Drivers take turns providing a bi-monthly Styrofoam collection and drop offs at Dart in North Aurora. Members of the church have joined the team in transporting items this year. Corks, crayons and plastic bread tags are collected and delivered to SCARCE. Christmas lights are collected and recycled in December and January. Sign ups and rotation schedule is organized by Sharon Reed.

Coffee Hour and Pastor’s Table

Creation Care supports the Zero Waste Coffee Hour after church by hosting the table four times a year. Members also hosted the Pastor’s Table in March. Sign ups are organized by Val Erickson.

Remaining 2023 Projects

(Made possible by Carolyn Burnham and Trustees.)

New drinking water fountains with a water bottle filling station are being installed on both the first and second floors.

Blue recycling bins have been added to rooms throughout the church. Signage will be added to the bins by the Creation Care team after the Beyond Basics Recycling program in November.

2024 Goals Related to Church Creation Care Policy

(Compiled by Carolyn Burnham) are available to view.

Creation Care

Debbie Karr

2023

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

2023 has been an active year for Women's Ministries. We held a retreat in January at La Salle Manor. Pastor Mary Gay led the program. Around 30 women attended to enjoy a restful time of fellowship.

UMCG hosted a Cluster Luncheon for area Methodist churches in March. The event was held on a Saturday to accommodate work schedules. It was run in conjunction with Spirited Kids Adventures. The children were involved in fun activities while the parents attended the luncheon and speakers. Speakers from World Relief offered an inspiring message. Women were asked to bring donations to help immigrant families. The speakers were able to fill their trunks with food donations for the families.

Our Spring Rummage and Bake Sale resulted in proceeds of nearly \$17,000. \$12,000 was donated to organizations (Mutual Ground, TriCity Family Services, Fox Valley Food For Health, Northern Illinois Food Bank) to name a few. Some monies were held back for upcoming requests of support.

In May and June, the women lent their support to the Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast and Swedish Days. The women held a plant sale at the breakfast raising nearly \$,1000 for church landscaping needs.

An Annual Fall Potluck Picnic was held in September at Jean Eakins' home.

The Fall Rummage Sale in October brought in proceeds of \$13,500 that will be distributed to numerous charities

Plans for the Advent Service and Tea on December 4 are underway with Pastor Becky Nicol sharing the message "A Walk Through Bethlehem".

One challenge is filling the position of President for the Women's Ministries. We have offered many programs and activities but could definitely benefit with one or two individuals to fill or share the position of President. This would help guide and focus our program.

We are blessed with the many wonderful members and welcome more.

Submitted by
Marilyn Heinemann, Secretary of Women's Ministries

**Men's Club 2023-24
Charitable Contributions**

The UMCG Men's Club had its best fundraising year ever in 2023, generating over \$24,000 from the Sub Sale, Pancake Breakfast and Swedish Days Food Booth.

The Men's Club has now agreed on the disbursement of these funds.

UMCG Church Ministries - \$6,000

Pastor's Discretionary Fund
UM Youth Fund

Tri-City Area Ministries - \$7,150

Fox Valley Hospice
Northern Illinois Food Bank
Salvation Army
Tri-City Family Services
Lazarus House
Hesed House

Suicide Prevention
Fox Valley Food for Health
Living Well Cancer Resource Center
Aurora Neighbor Project
Wayside Cross Ministries

State-Wide Ministries - \$2,750

Rosecrance House
Greenstone UMC

Nation-Wide Ministries - \$4,000

Appalachia Service Project

International Ministries - \$3,600

Cambodia Mission
Kid's Alive Haiti
Kid's Alive Dominican Republic

Feed My Starving Children
UMCOR Ukraine
UMCOR Libya

God's Will - \$600

Thanks again to all the volunteers who helped us this year with our fundraising events!

UMCG Men's Club



2022 Church Conference Report
Operations & Communications
Carolyn Burnham, Director of Operations

Worship Service/Livestream/Audio-Visual Technology upgrades

- After a year of planning the new A/V system was installed in the sanctuary by Amplio Systems. This includes remote operated cameras, 65" monitors, audio board and rack, video switching systems, digital microphones, a new laser projector and projector screen in the Sanctuary.
- We also installed four digital displays throughout the building to show wayfinding and announcements.
- Tom Wetmore was instrumental in designing and building the new A/V booth as well as much of the wiring that was necessary to make all of this happen.
- This has allowed us more flexibility in sharing videos, announcements, lyrics and more during the worship service as well as more control over sound quality.
- The livestream can now be broadcast to YouTube, our website and Facebook simultaneously.

Staffing:

- Alex Johnson resigned in February 2023, and we hired Bob Pierce to fill his role of Coordinator of Audio and Media Arts.
- Drew Dahlberg started in a limited hourly role as we transitioned to the new system and to fill in for Bob Pierce when needed.
- We still need more volunteers to staff our A/V Booth during our livestream.

Church technology/files sharing:

- In 2023 we started setting up SharePoint access for committees and were largely successful.
- The goal is to centralize documents and files related to the operation of the church and its committees in one location that will also aid in better transitions as teams turn over.

1874 Building

- Put together a survey that was distributed to the congregation to develop a list of wants and needs for future renovation of the old church building.
- We are still looking for someone that is interested in leading the team for this project.

Facility Use Policy

- Started the process of revising our facility use policy for outside groups.
- We would like the policy to be more welcoming, but at the same time charge a reasonable fee when appropriate for use of the space and include our Zero Waste policy.

Branding/Signage

- New notecards have been printed with the updated branding.



- We printed 250 reusable bags to give away at events and to visitors.
- We have purchased 300 imprinted bamboo pens to use in the sanctuary and give out at events and to new visitors.
- We are working on signage to make wayfinding easier and hopefully we will have this done in early 2024.
- I have created a wayfinding map that will be installed at each entrance of the church.
- Created yard signs and tabletop signs for the Pancake Breakfast.
- Created new wayfinding signage for the Rummage Sale.
- We have purchased a badge printer and will use it to start making name tags and additional tags for volunteers to wear at our events.

Advertising/Press Releases –

- Advertisements placed in Kane County Chronicle and Daily Herald for Palm Sunday and Easter and Christmas services.
- We have an ad in the Geneva Chamber of Commerce Community Profile and directory is be mailed to residents of Geneva in 2023.
- Purchased Facebook Ads to promote Swedish Days Food booth, Pancake Breakfast and the Rummage Sales.
- Kimberley Larsen has been writing our press releases and many have been printed in the local papers. She also wrote a nice piece about the Tri-City churches that was published in the NIC Reporter.

Church Library –

- In the Spring Joan Hansen led the culling of the church library and many items were purchased by the congregation and other items were donated. The office volunteers were also very involved in the process.
- After the library was downsized, Tom Tamlyn created a digital database of the books we have left.
- We will install the software on the Volunteer computer so they can check in and out books in the future.
- Hoping to make some structural changes to the library in 2024 that will allow us to mount the TV to the back wall.
- We need to look at the Children's Library next.

Church Cleanout

- We continued the work of cleaning out spaces, many of which were upended with the replacement of the floors, painting, sewer work and the geothermal project.
- The Art Room, Youth Room, Room 127 under the old church and *Route 56* (126) are all available for use.
- Storage rooms have been or are currently being cleaned and organized to help us make space for the items that are truly needed.



PAUMCS Certification (Professional Administrators of the United Methodist Connection Structure)

- In April Carolyn Attended the PAUMCS conference in Minneapolis and during summer completed the certification course for church administrators.

Net-Zero Task Force

- Carolyn Burnham is a part of the NIC Net Zero task force. This is an effort to help bring information and resources to churches in the conference to become more sustainable.
- Rob Hamilton was a contributor to the video that we prepared for the NIC Annual Conference and was distributed to play in churches across the conference. He discussed the geothermal installation and efforts by our Creation Care Team.

**Report to UMCG Church Conference
from
Finance Committee
November 28, 2023**

Finance Committee Members: Jim Alderfer, John Eifler, Bruce Kelsey, Jenean Larsen, Howie Pribble
Finance Members ex officio: Sharon Anderson-Schmal, Rob Hamilton, Rolland Lang, Greg Lower

In 2023 the Finance Committee has worked to manage expenses, communicate with the congregation, completed the Narrative Budget to help inform the congregation what their contributions to the general budget support, and complete the budgeting process for 2024. In addition, the team has taken on several special projects to streamline our financial processes and increase the transparency and information available to staff and volunteers responsible for operating expenses and managing 300 Fund accounts.

Wesleyan Impact Partners Line of Credit:

Finance, Trustees, and Staff have managed the Line of Credit from the Wesleyan Impact Partners to finance the HVAC replacement and the replacement of the audio/visual infrastructure throughout the church. The current status of the Line of Credit:

HVAC Balance: \$408,388 (1 payment remains after final completion)
A/V Balance: \$133,056 (1 payment remains after final completion)
Total: \$540,444 (Total interest paid from inception to 10/2/23 is \$20,956.36)

Financial Report thru 3rd Quarter of 2023:

United Methodist Church of Geneva				
Budget vs. Actuals: Operating Budget for 2023 New - FY23 P&L				
January - September, 2023				
	Total			
	Actual	Budget	Over/Under Budget	% of Budget
Giving				
Total Giving	\$451,246.28	\$449,008.50	\$2,237.78	100.5%
Expenditures				
Total Expenditures	\$562,147.04	\$506,688.14	\$55,458.90	110.9%
Net Operating Giving				
Net Operating Giving	(\$110,900.76)	(\$57,679.64)	(\$53,221.12)	192.3%
Other Expenditures				
9702 Transfer	\$4,420.00		\$4,420.00	
Total Other Expenditures	\$4,420.00	\$0.00	\$4,420.00	
Net Other Giving	(\$4,420.00)	\$0.00	(\$4,420.00)	
Net Giving	(\$115,320.76)	(\$57,679.64)	(\$57,641.12)	199.9%
Saturday, Oct 21, 2023 12:15:26 PM GMT-7 - Cash Basis				

At the end of the third quarter, we are .5% ahead of our Giving Budget for 2023 and we are 7.2% ahead of 2022 giving. Expenses are \$55K over budget, but that includes approximately \$49K of unbudgeted 2022 expenses so for 2023 expenses we are over budget by \$6.5K.

2023 Finance Projects

Autopay Team: A team has been working on moving recurring monthly payments to autopay to reduce the number of monthly bills that require printing, signing, and mailing checks to vendors. The team reviewed our monthly recurring bills and selected which could be moved to autopay. A process was created and the goal for year end 2023 is to have 20 vendors on autopay.

Team Members: John Eifler, Rolland Lang, Greg Lower, Howie Pribble

Reporting Team: Jenean Larsen and Jim Alderfer have been working on development monthly detail reports for the 300 Fund accounts to be used by the individuals or committees responsible for managing the funds. These reports are to provide transparency and detail to assist them with managing the funds.

QuickBooks Conversion: Carolyn Burnham has been using a vendor named TechSoup that partners with major providers of software and hardware technologies to offer these technologies to non-profit organizations at a steep discount. In the second quarter, we procured a new license for our accounting software QuickBooks which gave us a discount from \$85/month for 5 users to \$160/year for 25 users for a higher-level license giving us more capabilities. This saves the church \$860 a year for this license.

300 Account Review: During the second half of 2023 the Finance Team has done a review of all 300 accounts looking at the source of the funds and how they are being used. Several were deemed to be funded by sources that would normally be included in operating income (such as donations or fees for use of space in the church) and with the concurrence of Trustees and Church Council these funds were transferred to operating funds. In addition, several 300 accounts were funded for the purpose of paying expenses for the services of Ministry Architects during 2022 for work done for Youth Ministries and for the Moving Forward Initiative but these expenses were charged to operating accounts in 2022. With the concurrence of Church Council funds have been transferred from these 300 accounts to reimburse the operating expenses charged in 2022.

KleerCard Procurement Card Conversion: We are in the process of replacing the Chase church procurement card with a new provider, KleerCard, for managing church procurement expenses. KleerCard provides enhanced capabilities to help streamline the use, capture of receipts, reconciling, and automated integration with our account software to significantly reduce the time spent managing our procurement expenses.

Team Members: Carolyn Burnham, Rolland Lang

I want to thank all of the members of the Finance Team, and ex officio members, for their leadership and tireless efforts during a very active and productive year for our team and our church.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GENEVA 2023 STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Staff Parish Relations Committee had a very busy and productive 2023!

Late in 2022, the decision was made to eliminate the role of Associate Pastor for UMCG. The Associate Pastor would stay on through mid-year of 2023 and during this time the roles/responsibilities for the Associate Pastor would need to be re-assigned to other staff: most of the responsibilities were absorbed by the Senior Pastor, but more Stephen Ministers were also put in place to handle some items. A nice celebration/thank you for Pastor Lisa Telomen was organized and held in June prior to her moving to a Methodist church in CA.

As it relates to the parsonage for the Associate Pastor, discussions were also held as to what would be the best/optimal use for the parsonage. Ultimately, it was decided that the parsonage would be a good benefit to add to the new position of Next Gen Ministries (see below for detail on this position).

The existing Audio and Media Arts Coordinator resigned effective in February. A search committee was formed to find a replacement and a new person was hired to fill the position February 1st. The timing worked out very well in that it enabled training to take place for the new hire.

It was decided that SPRC members will recognize birthdays and job anniversary dates for staff throughout the year.

In late January, the existing Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries let us know that she was going to be leaving this position in September. As a result of the substantial staff changes (i.e. elimination of Assoc. Pastor and CYFM change), the Sr Pastor felt it was an opportunity for the church to ask the larger question of how to staff for where God is leading us next to reach those God wants us to reach. An ad hoc group was formed (members from SPRC, Moving Forward, & various staff) to work with Ministry Architects on how to direct our resources to our goals and adjust or create positions accordingly. As a result of discussions from these meetings, the Sr Pastor suggested creating a Director of Next Gen Ministries position that could take what was the CYFM position and enhance it by adding an outreach and growth objective, meeting one of the church's major long-term objectives. A new job description was written, and a search team was established. We were blessed to be able to fill the Director of Next Gen Ministries by late June with Dr. Greg Coates: the transition has been going very well.

A lay employee pension program was established. The program is an employee contribution plan and is administered by Wespath (same organization that clergy uses).

At the request of the Finance Committee, SPRC will begin reviewing budget vs actual figures on a periodic basis. A transition will happen over the last few months of 2023 and will fully take place beginning in 2024.

We are blessed to have an excellent group of staff, volunteers and SPRC members.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken McNeil, SPRC Chair

United Methodist Church of Geneva Charge Conference

Report of the Trustees- November 2023

2023 Board of Trustees Committee Members

Greg Lower (Chair and Treasurer), Cindy Caliendo (Secretary), Katy Howell (Assistant Chair), Kathy McNeal, John McNally, Tom Wetmore, Kurt Beier, Chuck Bolvin, Greg Lantz, Tony Zefron, and Gale Dias

Our Mission

The Trustees' responsibilities are to manage the property, equipment, and the investments God has entrusted to our ministry.

2023 Board of Trustees Goals

- Maintain the physical structures (church and parsonages) in good working order
- Address the concerns of the congregation and committees while being fiscally responsible
- Completing the HVAC replacement project at or below their budgeted costs and within their planned scope.
- Make our building systems eco-friendly to reduce our carbon footprint while reducing energy costs

2023 Accomplishments

- Parsonages: Pepper Valley Parsonage was significantly spruced up with flooring, painting, landscaping, and washer/dryer replacement among other things in conjunction with the changeover in occupants. Inspection and potential addition of insulation is planned before winter. A lease agreement was executed with the new occupant, Dr Greg Coates. Both parsonages had their driveways replaced. An insurance claim has been filed as a result of the inspection of the roofs of the parsonages showing potential hail damage. The initial damage assessment is being challenged with additional documentation.
- Church Building: An agreement was created to address sharing of Church space with outside groups and was out into place with the American Music Institute (AMI) in conjunction with their request to use a portion of the Church for music lessons. The agreement addresses scope, enumeration to defray costs, proof of insurance, and safe sanctuary policy.
- AV Upgrade: The upgrade of the audio/visual functionality, which primarily impacted the Church sanctuary, was completed. The project improved with worship experience both in the Church and for those accessing worship through livestreaming, better

communication of announcements and wayfinding within the Church, and the ability to livestream in areas of the Church outside of the sanctuary. New projection technology, remote access cameras, better audio technology and lighting controls, a control booth, and television monitors in various rooms within the Church were among the changes within the scope of the project. Congregational feedback has been very positive. [OBJ]

- HVAC Replacement: A Geothermal heating and air conditioning system was installed after numerous delays. Benefits include elimination of natural gas cost for heating, a lower carbon footprint, a more reliable system, and better air quality.
- Sewer Replacement: The sewer line between the Church and the city sewer main was replaced/lined as a result of the continuing backups in the old line.
- Landscaping: As a result of the impact of projects requiring excavation, plants have been removed, the irrigation system is non-functional, the bollards lights have been removed, and topsoil has been lost. In conjunction with Creation Care and landscape architects, 3 plans were completed and 1 chosen. A contractor will be selected to help manage the project.
- 1874 Project: Continuing with the church beautification and repurposing efforts, the “1874” project to address the Fellowship Hall and space in the floor below and perhaps the basement space has been developed. It’s in the conceptual phase with a congregational survey having been conducted and the results analyzed and shared with the Trustees. Finding a Project Manager, which will be a critical role, is an important next step.

Trustees Membership

One member resigned resulting in 11 members as of 10/31/2023.

Respectfully submitted by,

Greg Lower, Chair

UMCG Trustees

November 2023

**Report to Church Conference from the
United Methodist of Geneva Fund (UMG Fund)
November 28, 2023**

This is the first full year (2023) the Committee operated under the revised By-Laws approved by the Special Church Conference on August 14, 2022.

Committee Activities

Several action items were identified by the Committee to add clarity (create committee description) and to offer new opportunities for church members and friends to plan and provide for living bequests and gifts to the United Methodist Church of Geneva (updated existing brochure - *United Methodist Church of Geneva, The Endowment Fund*). The revised brochure provides the background on the UMG Fund and its purpose. The communication plan will be rolled out over several weeks and will share stories on individual projects that were funded or partially funded by the UMG Fund. It will also share the benefits of supporting this fund and its benefits to the congregation and the surrounding community in making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Financial Information

- On September 10, 2023 a Special All Church Conference of attending members approved the recommendation from the Church Council to allocate up to \$100,000 from the UMG Fund for the operating Reserve fund to be used on an as-needed basis with an expiration date of our regular Annual Church Conference (date TBD in the 4th quarter in 2024).

- **Distributions/Allocations**
Using the guidelines established by the new By-Laws for distribution of available funds for 2023 were as follows:
 - Total available \$58,000
 - Missions and Church in Society \$5,800.
 - New and unbudgeted ministry \$27,200 (Ministry Architects \$22,750; other \$4,450)
 - Trustee Reserve \$25,000

Using the guidelines established in the By-Laws for distribution, the recommendations for 2024 allocations (approved by Church Council October 24, 2023 are as follows:

- Total available \$69,352.23 (A prudent percentage of the trailing 3-year average (or 12 quarters) of “Income”)
- Missions and Church in Society \$6,935.23 (10% of total “Income” tithed)
- Trustee Reserve \$40,000 (replenish the Trustees Reserve Fund and Operating Reserve Fund, as needed to bring the reserve funds to the 50K)

- New and unbudgeted ministry \$22,417.03 (grant requests for new, unbudgeted ministry ideas)

We are grateful for the continued blessings bestowed upon our faith community.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnn Cregier, Chair, United Methodist of Geneva Fund Committee

Committee members: Patty Dahlberg, Delores Drees, Gary Duffett, Jules Heinemann, Bill Johnson, Jim Alderfer (Finance Chair), Greg Lower (Trustee Chair), and Pastor Rob Hamilton

Annual Church Conference Report 2023

Welcome Host Coordinator

Linda McConnell

UMCG Welcome Desk

Each Sunday, the Welcome Desk is hosted by one of the following couples from 8:30-9:00am, before UMCG's 9am church service.

Sherry & Gary Duffett
Alison & Chuck Bolvin
Nancie & Steve Lillie
Liz Cape & Dan Horvath
Marilyn & Jules Heinemann
Marilyn & Roger Mahr
Linda & Jim McConnell

The purpose of the Welcome Desk is to provide radical hospitality to all, but especially to our first-time visitors.

Welcome Hosts provide the following to first time visitors:

- **An opportunity to fill out a Visitor Card
- **A red First Time Visitor folder which contains the following:
 - Welcome letter from Pastor Rob
 - UMCG Tri-fold brochure
 - Upper Room
 - Booklet about our stained-glass windows
 - Current Bulletin
 - Any current flyer about the life of UMCG

Welcome Hosts are encouraged to:

- **Offer radical hospitality
- **Always wear their name badges
- **Introduce themselves to new folk and/or members/regular attenders that they may not know
- **Call people by their name
- **Introduce visitors to others
- **Have a current member or regular attender take visitors to the sanctuary, sit with them, and invite them into Fellowship Hall after the service
- **Watch to make sure visitors know how to get back out to their car
- **Help families with children navigate our Sunday School sign-in, etc.

Annual Church Conference Report 2023
Bagging First Time Visitors
Linda McConnell

Bagging First Time Visitors

Either from a First Time Visitor card or from visitors signing in on the red attendance pad, Lorie Montanye notifies me of a first time visitor and relays their information.

A blue, reusable shopping bag is delivered. It might contain one or more of the following Welcome gifts:

- United Methodist Church of Geneva pen
- Prayer square
- CD of our church choir
- Red Folder if did not receive on Sunday
- Note card attached with welcoming message

I try to “bag” as soon as possible following their visit.

If I have a phone number, I call to see if at home. If home, I deliver the welcome bag to them. The visit is short and sweet outside the door.....never go in.

If not at home, the bag is left on their front door handle. If possible, I leave a VM message of welcome and that there is a welcome bag on their door.

Annual Church Conference Report 2023
Visitation
Memorial-Funeral Service Greeter Coordinators
Linda McConnell & Betty Keeler

Visitation-Memorial-Funeral Greeters

When a visitation, memorial or funeral service is scheduled at UMCG, greeters are recruited to be stationed downstairs and upstairs to greet, welcome, and direct to the sanctuary (a minimum of 6 greeters).

A greeter is stationed to hand out programs and to assist with the guest book. This is coordinated with the funeral home, if there is one.

Reserved signs for family are placed in the front pews
Kleenexes are placed in the pews, especially the family pews. Christ candles are lit.

There is a group of volunteers that are called on to serve, depending on their availability.

Return Kleenex, extinguish candles, straighten sanctuary, be sure family is in possession of any cards and their guest book.

**Report of Rev. Becky Nicol, retired clergy
for 2023 UMC Church Conference**

Presided over Church Conference for Algonquin: Christ UMC November 17, 2022
Presided over Church Conference for McHenry: First UMC November 27, 2022

Led *Soul Reset* Study Group (NIC Discipleship Task Force Book Club) Jan. 14 - Feb. 21, 2023

Attended Order of Elders meeting, Sycamore UMC February 28, 2023

Voiced part of Net Zero Task Force video for Annual Conference May 2023

Officiated wedding in St. Charles, IL June 3, 2023

Attended Bishop's Large Church Gathering, Kingswood UMC October 4, 2023

At UMC-Geneva:

Preaching

May 28, 2023 *Let's Fire Up, Not Burn Down* (co-leader/preacher w/ Pastor Lisa)
June 18, 2023 *Our Favorite Sins*
September 3, 2023 *The Theology of Summer's Blockbuster*
December 4, 2023 *Take a Walk through Bethlehem* - Advent Tea service 11 am/7pm

Liturgist for Sunday worship Palm Sunday & Nov. 26

Wrote blog post: *Faith Practice Ideas for Summertime* June 30, 2023

Led Discussion group for *Barbie* movie theology (3 weeks) October 2023

Created worship order for Community Thanksgiving Service November 2023