

CREEDE COMMUNITY CHURCH, UCC
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 6, 2022

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Annual Congregational Meeting
February 6, 2022
Agenda

1. Call to Order and Declaration of Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes from the February 14, 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting
3. Reports
 - A. Moderator
 - B. Minister
 - C. Clerk
 - D. Trustees
 - E. Deacons
 - F. Christian Life Education
 - G. Mission & Outreach/Helping Hands
 - H. Ladies Aid Society
4. New Business:
 - A. Present 2022 Budget for Congregational Approval
 - B. Motion for new list of signers at Del Norte Bank
 - C. Motion for new list of signers at Community Banks of Colorado
 - D. Election of Officers and incoming Deacons, Trustees, and Ministry Leaders
 - E. Commissioning & Blessing Officers/Deacons/Trustees/Ministry Leaders
5. Closing Prayer

Minister's Report from Rev. Sarah B. Linn

Bless the LORD, because God has wondrously revealed faithful love to me when I was like a city under siege! When I was panicked, I said, "I'm cut off from your eyes!" But you heard my request for mercy when I cried out to you for help. – Psalm 31:21-22

I never could have imagined how challenging living through a pandemic would be when Covid-19 first made its appearance and took over *literally* every aspect of our lives. I never could have imagined how it would highlight social ruptures and lead to deep tensions within even our closest relationships. It has not only dismantled our daily routines; it has confronted our most basic assumptions. It has raised questions about our plans and our priorities. It has disrupted our sense of who God is, who we are, and what it means to live faithfully in even our most mundane actions.

And as unpleasant or unwanted these intrusions have been, they are not necessarily bad for us. This is our crucible. And the more we open ourselves to the work of the Spirit, the more mileage God will get out of this season, the more God will break us of selfishness and open us to genuine love: a well-practiced love that is mindful that God is everywhere present and willing to give of oneself for the sake of others.

My prayer through 2021 remains my prayer for the coming year: that God would not let this crisis go to waste but would get mileage out of this season. God is a redeemer. The Holy One is able to holy us, to shape us in the ways of Jesus – and I have to trust that God is actually doing that work, in both obvious and hidden ways.

I say all this in the off chance that someone years from now reads this Annual Report for a glimpse of how we weathered this pandemic. At the height of it, I looked for similar documentation on how CCC weathered the Spanish Flu pandemic, but the record of that time has been lost. I don't know how God carried our congregation through that season; I only know that God *was* faithful and *did* sustain our congregation then – and here we are a century later, still sustained by God's grace.

This annual report celebrates many of the ways our congregation has shown forth this work of grace in trying times. It is by God's grace we have continued and expanded our ministries. God's love has led us to creatively rely on the Spirit and connect with one another in new ways. In all of it, we have our Officers, Trustees, Deacons, ministry teams, volunteers, and donors to thank. Whatever your role, **thank you** for always seeking to live in the love and grace of God.

May we continue to grow in grace, expressing God's faithfulness and steadfast love everywhere we go. And may we know and show the joy of our salvation, even in trying times.

Blessings on your head,
Sarah

MODERATOR REPORT

This past year (mostly 2021) has been our second year to deal with the Covid pandemic and the case numbers in Creede have been heavier than ever. More than a year of outdoor services transitioned to indoor services in May, but Delta and Omicron Variants both caused surges in cases. We have operated indoors using safety guidelines.

Even so, many wonderful things have happened in the church community. There is an enthusiastic group of youths that meet once a week, when possible, under the leadership of Lori Heinrich. Socksgiving was a smashing success with way over 1000 pairs of new socks donated to La Puente. A new partnership has been formed with the Zuni Tribe where we furnish their schools' cross country running teams with uniform jerseys, and plan do a mission trip there.

We have a number of community members who have joined the church. Pledges have been abundant, so our finances are stable. We have been able to fulfill our commitments of aid.

Huge THANKS to everyone for your participation in this holy communion, acting together in the Holy Spirit to love and serve our neighbors, and by doing so, to love and serve our Lord.

Rhonda Foale, Moderator

CLERK'S REPORT

Annual Clerk's Report for 2021 Lori Heinrich, Clerk

Average Attendance:

As we continued to deal with the Covid pandemic, attendance tracking in 2021 was difficult. Average "attendance," whether accessed online or attended in person outdoors through May, seemed to hold steady at 25 to 45 people per week.

Membership:

Total Current Members: 132

- Reactivated the Membership of Lindsay Fox
- Welcomed 7 new members:
 - o Kathryn Friend, Associate Member, Aug. 1
 - o Kate Michaels, Member, Dec. 26
 - o Kyle Michaels, Member, Dec. 26
 - o Michele Schrandt, Member, Aug. 1
 - o Tom Schrandt, Member, Aug. 1
 - o Millynn Teal, Member, Sep. 19
 - o Jana Wilson, Member, Aug. 1

Those who passed from us in 2021:

- Hank Nichols, Member (d. Jan. 6; service Jun. 19)
- AJ Hosselkus, friend (d. Oct. 13, graveside service Nov. 20)
- Alice Wolf, Associate Member (d. Nov. 6; service in TX Dec. 11)
- Donna Marie Stoeber, mother of Member Lori Dooley (d. Feb. 15; service Jun. 12)

Baptisms in 2021:

- Aria Michele Addison, child of Brittni and Lavour Addison, Sep. 26
- Sebastian Finn DiAntonio, child of John and Caitlin DiAntonio, Sep. 26

TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees met primarily via Zoom this year, but managed a few in person. As a primary function of the Trustees, financial oversight is a focus attempting to maintain the wellbeing of our Church. We began the year in better financial shape than we anticipated, given the disruptions of the pandemic.

Our treasure was approached by someone wanting to make a donation of stock. There are financial benefits for the donor and no cost to CCC. We set up an account with Fidelity so this could be accomplished. The donation will be made to our account and then sold, without fees being paid by us. It could be helpful for others in the future, we will keep that account active.

We are grateful for Nick VanRy and Lana Mills for repairs and cleaning of our beautiful Church. Nick is new to the staff in 2021.

We have completed work on the budget for 2022 and will be presenting it to the Board and Congregation soon.

Lori Dooley, Trustee

DEACONS REPORT

2021 was another very trying year for all of us, as the continuation of the COVID variant progression marched forward. But, our diaconate did our best to reach out to our membership through calls and cards to ensure that the needs and prayers for our congregation were met. Serving Deacons in 2021 were Bethany Andre, Lauren Sheldrake, Bill Fairchild, Linda Walker, Scott Lamb, and Creede Hargraves. Lauren Sheldrake will have concluded her term as a Deacon; and we thank her for her dedicated service. Creede Hargraves has also concluded his term, but has agreed to serve for another one. Through the COVID Pandemic, we have had to resort to a “creative approach” to bring our congregation together; with alternative meeting venues. We have met outside in a few different locations; and were finally able to get back inside our beloved “Red Church” while using social distancing, mask wearing, and “natural ventilation” beginning last spring. It has been a challenge; but that has served to show us that with God, anything is possible! We look forward to more “cozy” church services this coming year; as we pray for the cessation of COVID. We miss not seeing and being with so many of our membership.

Again, we are so grateful to our worship team members. With Debbie Whitmore directing the voices of our choir; and the piano skills of Jenny Van Ry and Johanna Gray, we are blessed with so much good worship music. We are, also, very blessed for the leadership of our Pastor, Sarah. Her sense of Spirit and guidance (and her sense of humor!) truly help to hold the hard times at bay.

As we continue through the Season of Epiphany and into the Lenten and Easter Seasons, we again look forward to our tradition of the Sunrise Service at Sunnyside Cutoff; and hope that many of you can join us.

The Advent season is always a special time at our Red Church as we celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior. As is our tradition, everyone joined in the “Hanging of the Greens” and the decorating of our tree as part of our service. And, again, we dedicated poinsettias to our loved ones to grace our altar.

Besides being our greeters and aids to our worship service, the Diaconate, pays visits, makes calls, and sends cards for those in need. Additionally, we are there to offer help and support in times of need; and we help to welcome new members through a “get acquainted” meeting; so that we can address questions and concerns they may have about our church.

As always, we pray that our membership will continue to look to us for support and help whenever any of you need it. Please, do not hesitate to reach out to us! We will continue, in Faith, to serve with compassion and generosity. We are grateful to each and every member of our congregation for your gifts, sharing, and fellowship. May the Grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, be with each and every one of you through this coming year!

CHRISTIAN LIFE EDUCATION

We started having Sunday school in June, 2021 and have had between 3 and 5 kids attending since then. We appreciate the efforts of our teachers: Kate Michaels, Linda Walker, Rita Odom, Carol Pierce and Debbie Whitmore.

The Red Church Youth group started meeting with Lori Heinrich in September and have had between 3-10 students each week. We start with a small meal and time to check in, followed by Bible study and prayer time.

MISSION & OUTREACH/HELPING HANDS

Before outlining several Mission/Outreach and Helping Hands accomplishments for 2021, we want to offer a huge THANK YOU to Judy Blanch for her many years of faithful leadership! In the fall, Judy handed over Chair responsibilities to Bethany Andre, who will do her best to carry forward CCC's vision to show God's love in Creede, the San Luis Valley, and beyond.

Bethany is joined by several others on Mission/Outreach and Helping Hands, including Jamie McLeroy, Margaret Phillips, Doug Hammett-Lair, and Jana Wilson. They are joined by several others who volunteer for specific projects and by the whole congregation and even the greater community, which provide financial support.

2021 PROJECTS & SUPPORT EFFORTS:

Zuni Cross-Country Jersey Sponsorship

We offered an opportunity for congregants to sponsor cross-country jerseys for Zuni students. A total of \$2836.73 was raised from 10 households. Since the jerseys only cost \$1983.73, we will devote the remaining amount to the planned 2022 Zuni service trip, as was announced to the congregation. Special thanks to Jim and Jenny VanRy for sharing this need and opening the door for our congregation to engage in on-going ministry among the Zuni!

Socksgiving!

During the 2021 Socksgiving drive, we collected and delivered 1101 brand new pairs of socks to support La Puente's efforts to serve those experiencing homelessness in the San Luis Valley. We received donations from congregants, individual community members, and from the Elks, which contributed 130 pairs.

Romero Fundraiser

We hosted a fundraiser for Zach Romero's school trip to Iceland during Chocolate Fest, raising \$5000 for his educational travel. Special thanks to Jana Wilson for supporting the event!

2021 Charitable Donations

Thanks to God's faithfulness and your generosity we were able to send \$4,000 in annual contributions to our ministry partners and support UCC mission giving: Creede Early Learning Center (\$600), and La Puente, Tu Casa, SLV Hospice, and Habitat for Humanity (\$750, each). We also contributed \$200 to each of two special UCC offerings ("Neighbors in Need" and "Strengthening Our Communities").

Mission & Outreach/Helping Hands (Continued)

2021 Helping Hands Assistance: \$4400

2021 was a challenging year for many, but we were able to provide financial assistance to community members to cover a wide range of needs, including: rent, electric/propane, firewood, house/car repairs, food assistance (K-Belle gift cards), and medication/medical travel. If you know of anyone with a practical need, don't hesitate to reach out to our Helping Hands contacts (Bethany Andre or Jamie

PLANS FOR 2022:

In the coming year, we will keep providing much needed assistance to our neighbors, continue to financially sustain our mission partners, and share God's love cross-culturally as we further develop relationships with the Zuni people.

Zuni Service Trip

We have begun discussions to plan a trip to the Zuni reservation in New Mexico during the first half of 2022. In coming weeks, we will contact the Zuni volunteer coordinator to determine what needs we can assist with, potential travel dates, and program rules/regulations. Thanks to past mission fundraising dinners, we already have over \$8,000 (*plus* the roughly \$900 surplus from the cross-country team jersey project) to support ministry in Zuni tribal lands. These funds will likely be available for a number of service trips among the Zuni and elsewhere in coming months and years.

Please pray for our Mission/Outreach and Helping Hands work through 2022 – God has a lot for us to do this year!

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany J. Andre, chair

Mission/Outreach and Helping Hands

LADIES AID SOCIETY

Lori G. Dooley, President

We at Ladies Aid are very grateful that in spite of a continued Pandemic, we never had to send someone away when they were in need. Unlike 2020, we had the annual Bazaar and Rummage sale and raised \$27,000+/-, a record! Very generous donations from community members as well as LAS members was incredible, allowing us to assist our community members that were in need. In an effort to follow CDC guidelines, we only held in person meetings 3 times. We started Zoom meetings and they are growing in attendance.

Our organization was blessed by a number of new members this year. In an effort to entice more members, the group decided to have a trial change in meeting days. We will now meet on the first Friday at 10:00 am and provide child care. We are excited to implement this when we can meet in person. Our hope is that teachers and younger moms can participate now.

This year we were able to carry out most of our other ministries, albeit, sometimes in modified form. The Valentine day luncheon was changed by delivering meals. We partnered with the Elks to provide Christmas Cards for Vets and the Christmas cookie exchange. Our wonderful sewing sisters provided their beautiful items for veterans, Christmas Corner, Migrant Worker bags and a variety of other projects. Le Puente was very grateful for the migrant worker bags we donated, the need was great this year.

We continue to be very grateful for the Blessings God has bestowed upon us, allowing us to Ch

2020 Year End Checking Account Balance:	\$ 8,274
Donations, income	\$28,245
Assistance, expenses	\$20,382
2021 Year End Balance	\$16,137
Investment Account	\$27,612

2022 Officers, Trustees, Deacons & Ministry Teams

Nominations for Congregational Vote in Red

Officers: Moderator: Jamie McLeroy
1-year terms Vice Moderator: David & Amanda Basler (with one vote, when applicable)
Clerk: Millynn Teal
Treasurer: Tom Schrandt

Deacons: Bethany Andre (2023)
6 members Billy Fairchild (2023)
3-year terms Scott Lamb (2024)
Linda Walker (2024)
Creede Hargraves (2025)
Carol Pierce (2025)
*Seasonal Deacons may be appointed by the Board
to meet needs during the summer months.*

Worship Committee: Johanna Gray
reports to Deacons; Lori Heinrich
open to more participants Jenny VanRy
Debbie Whitmore

Trustees: John Paysse (2023)
6 members George Ameel (2023)
3-year terms Lori Dooley (2024)
Margaret Phillips, chair (2024)
Michele Schrandt (2025)
Jana Wilson (2025)

House Committee: Jana Wilson, chair
reports to Trustees; Doug Hammett-Lair
open to more participants Margaret Phillips
Linda Walker

Pastor Relations: David & Amanda Basler, Officer (serving jointly)
reports to Officers George Ameel, Trustee
Billy Fairchild, Deacon
Lauren Sheldrake, Member-at-Large
Charlene Ameel, Member-at-Large

Ministry Teams (Continued)

**Mission & Outreach/
Helping Hands**

reports to the Board
at least 5 members
serving 2-year terms
open to more participants

Bethany Andre, chair

Jamie McLeroy
Margaret Phillips
Doug Hammett-Lair
Jana Wilson

Ladies Aid Society:

officers serve 2-year terms
reports to the Board
as part of Mission/Outreach

Lori Dooley, president
Jenny VanRy, vice president
Caitlyn DiAntonio, secretary
Linda Walker, treasurer

Sewing Sisters:

reports to Ladies Aid

Sherrie Hosselkus
and friends

Christian Life Education:

reports to Deacons;
at least 4 members
serving 2-year terms
open to more participants

Lori Heinrich, chair (youth group leader)
Kate Michaels (Sunday School coordinator)
Carol Pierce
Linda Walker
Debbie Whitmore
Rita Odom

Safe Church Team:

works with CLE;
reports to Moderator

Margaret Phillips, Trustee Representative
Jody Stroh, Member at Large
Debbie Whitmore, Christian Ed Representative

**Creede Community Church
Preliminary Banking Resolution February, 2022**

To be included in the minutes of the annual meeting

A motion was made, seconded and approved to set the following individuals as signers to the Creede Community Church Checking account at the Del Norte Bank as of February 6, 2022. The congregation resolved that these individuals will be the only signers going forward. Other previous signers are to be removed from the signature card.

Tom Schrandt
Therese Hargraves
Charlene Ameel
Thomas Basler
James Nicholas Van Ry, Sr.
William Fairchild
Lavour Addison
Brittni Shambaugh Addison

A motion was made, seconded and approved to set the following individuals as signers to the Creede Community Church Certificate of Deposit account at the Community Banks of Colorado as of February 6, 2022. The congregation resolved that these individuals will be the only signers going forward. Other previous signers are to be removed from the signature card.

Tom Schrandt
Charlene Ameel
James Nicholas VanRy, Sr.