

CREEDE COMMUNITY CHURCH, UCC
Annual Congregational Meeting 2022 In Review
Sunday, February 12, 2023

Contents	1
Agenda	2
Minutes of 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting	See PDF File Attached
Moderator's Report	3
Minister Report	4
Clerk's Report	5
Trustees Report, including House Committee	6
Deacons Report	7
Christian Life Education	8
Mission & Outreach/Helping Hands	9
Ladies Aid Society	10
2022 Ministry Teams and Nominations for Officers, Deacons, and Trustees	11-12
Income Statement & 2023 Budget	See PDF File Attached
Proposed Amendments to Bylaws	See PDF File Attached

Annual Congregational Meeting
February 12, 2023
Agenda

1. Call to Order and Declaration of Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes from the February 6, 2022, 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 Proposed Amendments to Bylaws for Congregational Approval
 - B. Present 2023 Budget for Congregational Approval
 - C. Election of Officers and incoming Deacons, Trustees, and Ministry Leaders
 - D. Commissioning & Blessing Officers/Deacons/Trustees/Ministry Leaders
5. Closing Prayer

Moderator's Report

by Jamie McLeroy

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed”

- Proverbs 16:3

As explained in detail in other reports, we met or exceeded important milestones last year.

We updated and modernized the process for key functions like record keeping and payroll.

We welcomed several new members who are actively involved in the church.

We strengthened our ties to the community through events like the Ladies Aid Rummage Sale, the Zuni mission trip, and CRT tech support dinners.

We significantly increased pledges and other donations putting us on a firm financial footing for 2023.

I look forward to working with the new slate of officers and all our members in 2023.

Minister's Report

from the Rev. Dr. Sarah B. Linn

As I look back over 2022, my heart is filled with gratitude for God's steadfast presence and care. I keep thinking of that old song (#60 in your hymnal!): *"Morning by morning, new mercies I see. All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!"*

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" is based on the biblical passage, "God's compassions never fail; they are new every morning." It might seem surprising that these verses come from Lamentations (3:22-23). But I suspect we most deeply appreciate God's faithfulness when coming through times of trouble. After so much darkness and social rupture through the pandemic, our eyes are finally adjusting to the light of hope and healing.

I want to thank our volunteers, especially our Officers, Deacons, Trustees, and ministry team members. Our leaders were able to start getting each of our ministries back on track in 2022. But rather than simply going back to "the way we used to do things," each team centered their work on God's fresh grace and our present circumstances and sense of call for the future.

Thank you, too, to all who so generously provided financial support to the ministries of the Red Church. In both 2021 and 2022, we planned to meet our expenses by drawing from savings. But each year, we ended in the black. So, as you'll see, our proposed budget for 2023 reflects higher anticipated giving and more generous investment in our ministries.

Also, a big "thank you" to those who participated in my doctoral project (Charlene, Bethany, Debbie, Scotty, Lori, Lindsay, Linda, and Margaret)! With their help and thanks to their commitment, love, and self-giving service, I completed my Doctor of Ministry program *and* we saw the launch of plans to provide several more workforce housing units in Creede. As we continue our efforts in 2023 and beyond, we expect to see more tangible progress on this critical community need.

Another 2022 achievement: Jesse Ophoff is now a "Member in Discernment" of the Rocky Mountain Conference. In other words, he is officially in the ordination process for the UCC. Our local church discernment team (Stan Lentz, Jenny VanRy, and I) will continue to accompany Jesse as he moves steadily through the process in the coming year.

As you read through our 2022 ministry reports, I invite you to hear each item as an expression of God's enduring faithfulness to this congregation and our community. **Thank you** for showing forth God's love and mercy. **Thank you** for living your faith and sharing your life!

Blessings on your head,
Sarah

CLERK'S REPORT

by Leslie Dustin, Clerk

Total Current Members: 142

- Welcomed 13 new members:
 - Jake Harbour, Member, April 3
 - Jenni Harbour, Member, April 3
 - Michael Meals, Member, April 3
 - Michele Meals, Member, April 3
 - Stanley Mettling, Member, April 3
 - Adam Moyer, Member, August 28
 - Francine, Moyer, Member, August 28
 - Kristeen Lopez, Member, August 28
 - Lexy Destyni Mead, Member, August 28
 - Joshua Skadberg, Member, October 30
 - Waverly Pearson, Member, December 18

- Marriages in 2022:
 - Pam and Joel Rufenacht, February 15
 - Justin and Alyssa Henson, August 27
 - Tim and Jackie Spradling, August 29

- Baptisms in 2022:
 - Henry Reid Meals, June 5
 - Ella Jane Michaels, June 5
 - Ruby Mae Michaels, June 5
 - Elsie Catherine Ophoff, November 6

- Confirmations in 2022:
 - Charlie Heinrich, December 18, 2022
 - Lexy Destyni Mead, December 18, 2022
 - Waverly Green Pearson, December 18, 2022

- Those who passed from us in 2022:
 - Phil Leggitt, Friend, February 15
 - Walt Mosher, Member, May 22
 - Warren Hemphill, Member, September 1
 - Floyd Tempfel, Member, November 9
 - Jack Welsh, Friend, December 13

TRUSTEES REPORT

by Margaret Norwood-Phillips

The primary function of the Trustees continues to be financial oversight. This provides focus on maintaining the fiscal well-being of our Church. With this stability, the Church can concentrate on not only serving the faith and education-based initiatives of the congregation but also the community, service, and mission opportunities that present themselves.

We began the year in a better financial position than anticipated given the continuing disruptions of the pandemic. As the final 2022 Actuals will show, we finished even stronger.

In preparing this year's budget, we observed a pattern over the past four budget cycles of underestimating income. We believe this approach may be overly cautious in terms of holding too much in reserve and not expanding ministry initiatives. We have amended this year's budget to better reflect the anticipated revenue and higher interest rates on our CD's. We will continue our generally conservative approach by allocating only about 30% of the expected increase into Mission/Outreach, which had not seen an increase in 6 years.

We also initiated another way for members to give to the church through stock donations. There are financial benefits for the donor and no cost to CCC.

An additional focus for the Trustees this coming year will be to come up with a formal long-range plan and funding mechanisms for much needed maintenance and improvements to the parsonage.

In 2022, we also reassessed the requirement for a year-round maintenance and repair person. The Trustees have decided to employ an in-house person on a seasonal basis. Billy Fairchild has stepped into that role through April 2023. We will reevaluate this approach as needed. We are grateful to both Billy and to Lana Mills for her ongoing work to clean our beautiful Church.

The Trustees function was made easier by the ongoing efforts of our bookkeeper Debbie Whitmore, who has kept track of finances and offered important insights along the way. Our Treasurer Tom Schrandt faithfully made deposits, tracked down check signers, and ran the gauntlet to access online accounts.

I am grateful to all of our Trustees: Lori Dooley, Jana Wilson, Michele Schrandt, John Paysse, and George Ameel for their ongoing service to the Church and to me personally during a year of transition.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Phillips

DEACONS REPORT

by Bethany Andre, Deacon

Many thanks to the Deacons serving in 2022, including Carol Pierce, Creede Hargraves, Billy Fairchild, Linda Walker, Scotty Lamb and Bethany Andre. We are likewise so grateful to our worship team members, including Debbie Whitmore directing our growing choir, and Jenny VanRy and Johanna Gray who provide such graceful accompaniment. We are blessed with such enriching music each time we meet.

2022 was another challenging year for us all, as we approached the endemic stage of COVID-19. We were relieved to be able to safely and consistently meet indoors as a congregation and began to heal from the tumultuousness of the last 2 years. It has been a joy to gather again and share the peace in person, while we live out our faith with one another. We have been thrilled to bring back 1st Sunday Pot-luck Lunches after service and look forward to continuing these through 2023.

During this time, your Deacons worked devotedly to be present in the face of the needs of our congregation. In addition to greeting the congregation and assisting during worship services, your Deacons make visits and calls and send cards and notes and offer prayers to those struggling and in need.

We met with 13 new members in 2022, sharing stories and discussing faith in scheduled "Coffee with the Deacons" meetings, where we can also address any questions or concerns. Deacons assisted with Tech Dinners for the Creede Theatre this summer and are excited to announce that we now have new bibles in our pews that are the same translation (Common English Translation) as those used for all other age groups in the church.

We are so grateful for our faithful congregation and so honored to serve Creede Community Church. Please remember that we are here for you, we pray for you and we love you. Never hesitate to let us know how we can help, and please don't forget to keep your Deacons in your prayers in 2023!

CHRISTIAN LIFE EDUCATION

by Kate Michaels

With thanks to our 2022 Sunday School volunteers Debbie Whitmore, Linda Walker, Carol Pierce, Rita Odom, and Kate Michaels, our children's ministries continued to grow and develop. We are using the "Growing Faith" curriculum and have 5 to 10 kids in Sunday School any given week. Over the last year, four of our kids were baptized!

We are beyond grateful for the many years of faithful service by Carol Pierce and Rita Odom! Just as they completed their time volunteering with Sunday School, we welcomed new helpers Michael & Michelle Meals, Brooke Ophoff, and Kristeen Lopez at the end of 2022. We are working toward having two volunteers with the kids each week; if you're interested, please contact Kate Michaels.

Lori Heinrich reports that our youth program, which was started in 2020, went through a lot of changes and challenges through the pandemic. Truthfully, it has yet to gain/re-gain structure and momentum. Nevertheless, we celebrated the Confirmation of three teenagers during Advent 2022 and would like to gather energy around youth ministries in the coming year. Let Lori know if you're interested in helping out!

In the fall of 2022, Pastor Sarah invited congregants to read Arthur McGill's classic, *Suffering: A Test of Theological Method*. This resulted in a number of lively and thoughtful discussions, believe it or not! Watch for more opportunities in Adult Christian formation in 2023.

MISSION/OUTREACH AND HELPING HANDS

by Bethany Andre, Chair

Special thanks to team members: Jamie McLeroy, Margaret Phillips, Doug Hammett-Lair, Rita Odom, Carol Pierce, and Jana Bean Wilson for their excellent work and devotion this year. 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.

2022 PROJECTS & SUPPORT EFFORTS:

Zuni Service Trip: The service trip to the Zuni Christian Mission School September 24-30 was quite successful! In addition to learning about local culture and customs, participants took a historical tour, met with children and families, assisted in the school, and helped with other small projects.

Socksgiving! 2022: During the 2022 Socksgiving drive, we collected and delivered **1,287** 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 and other community members. Special thanks to Jana Bean Wilson and Douglas Hammet-Lair for their assistance.

2022 Charitable Donations: Thanks to God's faithfulness and the unfailing generosity of our community we were able to send \$3,600 in annual contributions to our ministry partners: Creede Early Learning Center (\$600), La Puente (\$600), Tu Casa (\$1000), St. Augustine Episcopal Church (\$400), Habitat for Humanity (\$400), as well as \$600 to the Zuni Missionary School in New Mexico. We also contributed to the UCC's "Our Church's Wider Mission" fund and two special UCC offerings ("Neighbors in Need" and "Strengthening The Church").

2022 Helping Hands Assistance: \$4400: 2022 was a challenging year for many, but we were able to provide financial assistance to all community members who made requests. Over the year, we gave \$4,400 to cover a wide range of needs. Helping Hands ended 2022 with a balance of \$5931.39. If you know of anyone with a practical need, don't hesitate to reach out to our Helping Hands contacts, Bethany Andre and Linda Walker.

PLANS FOR 2023: We are excited to continue helping our neighbors, increasing financial support for our mission partners, creating new relationships as we expand mission opportunities and share God's love cross-culturally as we further develop relationships.

Zuni Service Trip: We are planning another trip to the Zuni reservation in New Mexico during the first half of 2023, ideally in the spring rather than waiting until Summer when it's difficult to recruit participants.

Please pray for Mission/Outreach and Helping Hands – God has a lot for us to do in 2023!

LADIES AID SOCIETY

by Jenny VanRy, President

Blessings upon blessings upon blessings! Since 1899 the Ladies Aid Society has been able to celebrate the spirit of giving experienced throughout the Creede community and in turn has been able to be a blessing to the community.

This past year was no different than the 123 years before. Celebrating Valentine's Day with distribution of lunches and roses, distributing Christmas cookie bags to individuals and businesses in the community to share the season's joy, participating in the Chocolate Festival, setting up the Christmas Corner full of lovely crafts, the busy hands of Sewing Sisters making migrant bags, foster kids bags, and items for the veterans at Home Lake were some of our activities.

The work the women of LAS, along with their faithful spouses and other male members of the community lovingly referred to as the Men's Auxiliary, peaked during the second week of July when the frenzy of the annual Bazaar and Rummage Sale raised almost \$30,000! We are also grateful to friends both in the community and beyond who regularly make donations to our organization to help us continue the work we have been called to do.

Although all of these activities bring us great joy, the greatest joy is the ability to share the wealth with those in need in the community. The LAS was able to give \$19,000 in grants to various community organizations in need. In addition, we continue to help individuals in the community who need help with rent, medical and dental bills, wood, propane, electric bills, medical supplies, travel expenses and the list goes on.

We want to thank Lori Dooley for her leadership for the past three years. She stepped in during a difficult time and then led us via Zoom meetings until we could finally meet face to face. Also, thanks to Linda Walker for her work as treasurer and Caitlin Wise DiAntonio for her work as secretary.

2023 Officers, Trustees, Deacons & Ministry Teams DRAFT Nominations for Congregational Vote in Red

Officers:
1-year terms

Moderator:	Jamie McLeroy
Vice Moderator:	Lori Dooley
Clerk:	Francine Moyer
Treasurer:	Tom Schrandt

Deacons:
6 members
3-year terms

Scott Lamb (2024)
Linda Walker (2024)
Carol Pierce (2025)
Millynn Teal (2025)
Bethany Andre (2026)
Billy Fairchild (2026)

Seasonal Deacons may be appointed by the Board.

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

Trustees:
6 members
3-year terms

Lori Dooley, co-chair (2024)
Margaret Phillips, co-chair (2024)
Michele Schrandt (2025)
Jana Wilson (2025)
Jake & Jenni Harbour (2026) – one vote/serving jointly
Michael Meals (2026)

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

Pastor Relations:
reports to Officers

Lori Dooley, Officer
Billy Fairchild, Deacon
Jake & Jenni Harbour, Trustee

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 (2024)
Jamie McLeroy, Helping Hands (2024)
Jana Wilson (2024)
Doug Hammett-Lair (2025)
Linda Walker (2025)
Margaret Phillips, Helping Hands

Ladies Aid Society:

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

Jenny VanRy, president (2025)
Caitlin DiAntonio, secretary (2024)
Linda Walker, treasurer (2024)

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

Kate Michaels, chair (Sunday School coordinator) (2024)
Linda Walker (2024)
Debbie Whitmore (2024)
Kristeen Lopez (2025)
Michelle Meals (2025)
Lori Heinrich (youth ministries leader)
Michael Meals
Brooke Ophoff

Safe Church Team:

works with CLE;
reports to Moderator

Michele Schrandt, Trustee Representative
Debbie Whitmore, Member-at-Large
Kate Michaels, Christian Ed Representative