

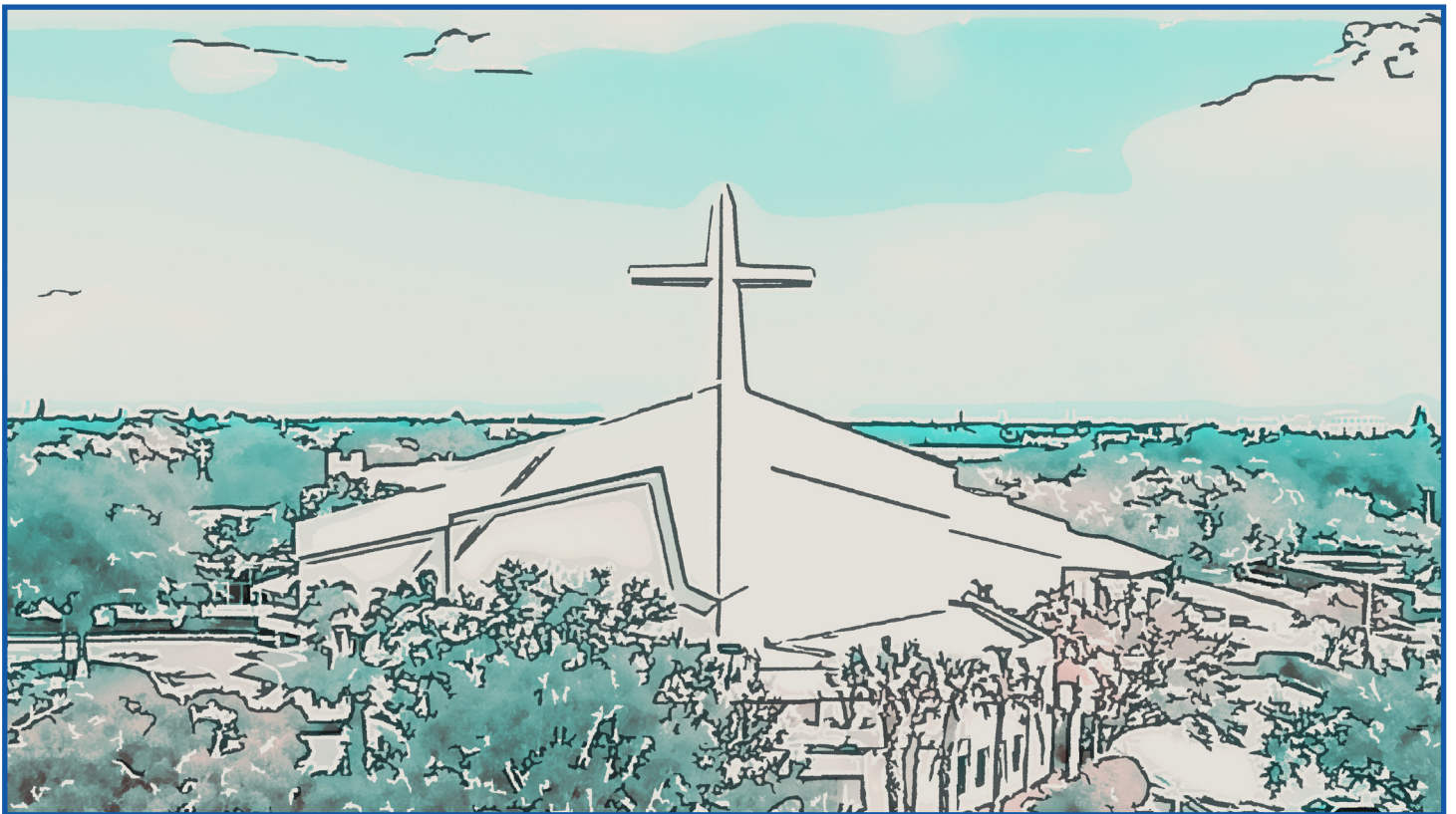


# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

**THE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
OF VERO BEACH

COURAGEOUS • CURIOUS • CREATIVE • COMPASSIONATE

1901 23RD STREET, VERO BEACH FL, 32960



*"Since 1924, a pilgrim people who accept that  
though we may not all think alike,  
we may love alike."*



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# Welcome to the 100th Anniversary of Your Community Church

*Since 1924 we have inspired generations of homesteaders and ranchers, sailors, and sun seekers to follow the way of Jesus. With the help of God, we have created safe space for all God's people to strengthen faith and increase their love for one another.*

*Your Community Church transforms lives through compassionate service to the vulnerable. Through every generation, we express open curiosity about how God's spirit changes us and our world.*

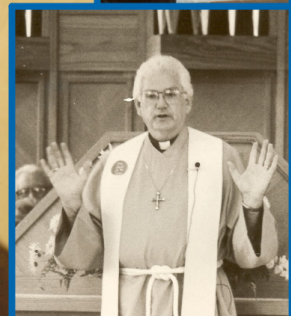
*Creative expressions of faith through worship, music, and the fine arts inspire our members and guests.*

*Through courageous conversations, God equips us to respond faithfully to the most pressing issues of our time. Our extravagant hospitality invites all people to explore faith and spiritual practices that flourish life for us and for all.*

*As our Anniversary Celebration continues, we express gratitude to the visionaries who preceded us, who imagined a Community Church of diverse people committed to the conviction that, "There is more that binds us together than separates us in the worship of God."*

*In essentials, unity, in non-essentials, diversity, in all things. Love.*

*Rev. Dr. Anna V. Copeland*



The Community Church of Vero Beach

# Moderator's Report



A little over one hundred years ago, a small group of Jesus' followers from a variety of denominational backgrounds, gathered together in community to worship God and share God's love through service for all. Initially, they held religious services in their homes until a small group met and began to formulate plans for the establishment of Community Church. This small courageous group of individuals recognized the need for a church of acceptance and united in the belief that there is more that binds us together than separates us in the worship of God. This remains true today as Community Church welcomes and accepts all people and continues to be an inter-denominational and inter-faith church. We remain locally autonomous, governed solely by the congregation, and affiliated with the United Church of Christ since 1975.

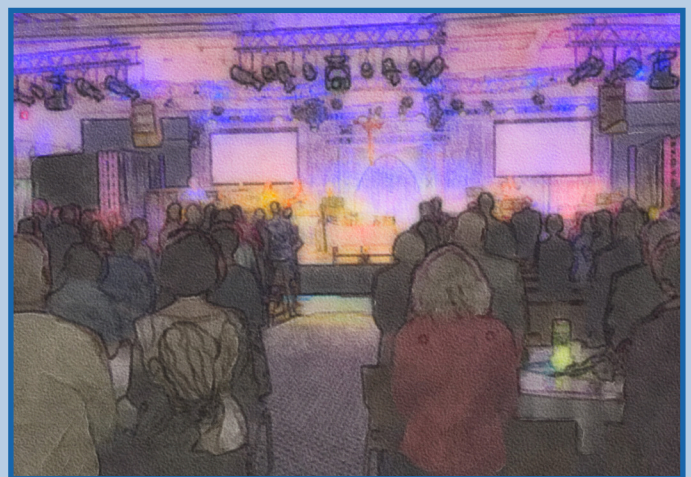
We have spent the last year reflecting on our church history and planning celebrations and ways to honor those who came before us. Church Council, staff, and every Ministry Team has been involved in planning and facilitating a variety of events and opportunities to celebrate and reflect on our rich history. This has included historical tours, a faith revival followed by a shared meal together in Community Hall, a 100th anniversary pictorial display in the Narthex of the Sanctuary, a labyrinth prayer walk, and opportunities to serve and track our service hours under the leadership on the Mission Ministry Team. As we begin our next century of Community Church's presence in the community, the celebrations and gatherings will continue, and we will look forward to where God is leading our church.

In reflecting on our long history, we are reminded of those who have come and gone before us. Two beloved ministers were called to serve new congregations and we called a new Executive Minister and Congregational Care Minister. Interim clergy staff answered our call for assistance. We lost too many Saints of the church, some of which had been long standing members, yet we rejoiced when new members joined our community. We have mourned, celebrated, worshiped, served, studied and broken bread together this past year. We have remained faithful and hopeful people in the midst of uncertainty, challenges, and a world that tries to tell us otherwise.

I am grateful to lead at a time when the church has outstanding staff and lay leadership. Dr. Anna has provided visionary leadership that has helped us navigate challenging times. All staff members have gone "above and beyond" to fulfill not only their responsibilities but to also help one another. Please thank them when you see them.

Although we continue to live in uncertain times surrounded by worldly distractions, we remain united in purpose and vision and hopeful for the next 100 years of Community Church's presence in our community. It's an exciting time to see where God is leading us! May God continue to bless Community Church.

Jeannie Saver, Moderator



# Report of the Senior Minister



*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."*

-- Romans 15:13

The year 2023 began with economic uncertainty, and the threat of Covid still kept many at home. Many of our members and friends worshiped online and avoided public gatherings. After a challenging start to the fiscal year, our congregation demonstrated confidence in our future by closing the year with generosity that reached 99% of needed resources for the work and outreach of the church.

We launched our Anniversary Celebration with Revival Worship on November 12 here on campus at your Community Church and through Virtual Church. While 400 people worshiped here in-house, 480 households totaling well over 500 people worshiped online. Therefore, nearly 1,000 of us worshiped both virtually and on campus.

By the close of the year, we celebrated Christmas with five worship services welcoming more than 1,600 members and friends on campus and additionally more than 1700 households worshipping with us through social media platforms. We've grown at least 7% year over year in attendance. That is exciting news as we continue to grow our reach to one fourth of the United States, and through international participation from a half dozen countries.

We faced challenges mid-year when two beloved ministers, Rev. David and Rev. Elizabeth Johnson accepted calls to

serve other congregations. Yet we were capably served by Rev. Craig and Rev. Jan Hoffman, as well as Ministry Associate Elaine Matthes during the transition. We welcomed Rev. Beverly Zell in the fall as our part-time Minister for Congregational Care, equipping our lay Called to Care Ministers, offering individual Spiritual Direction, and hosting a grief group for those who suffer loss. We called Rev. Dr. Jacob Kines as Executive Minister and anticipate his 2024 start.

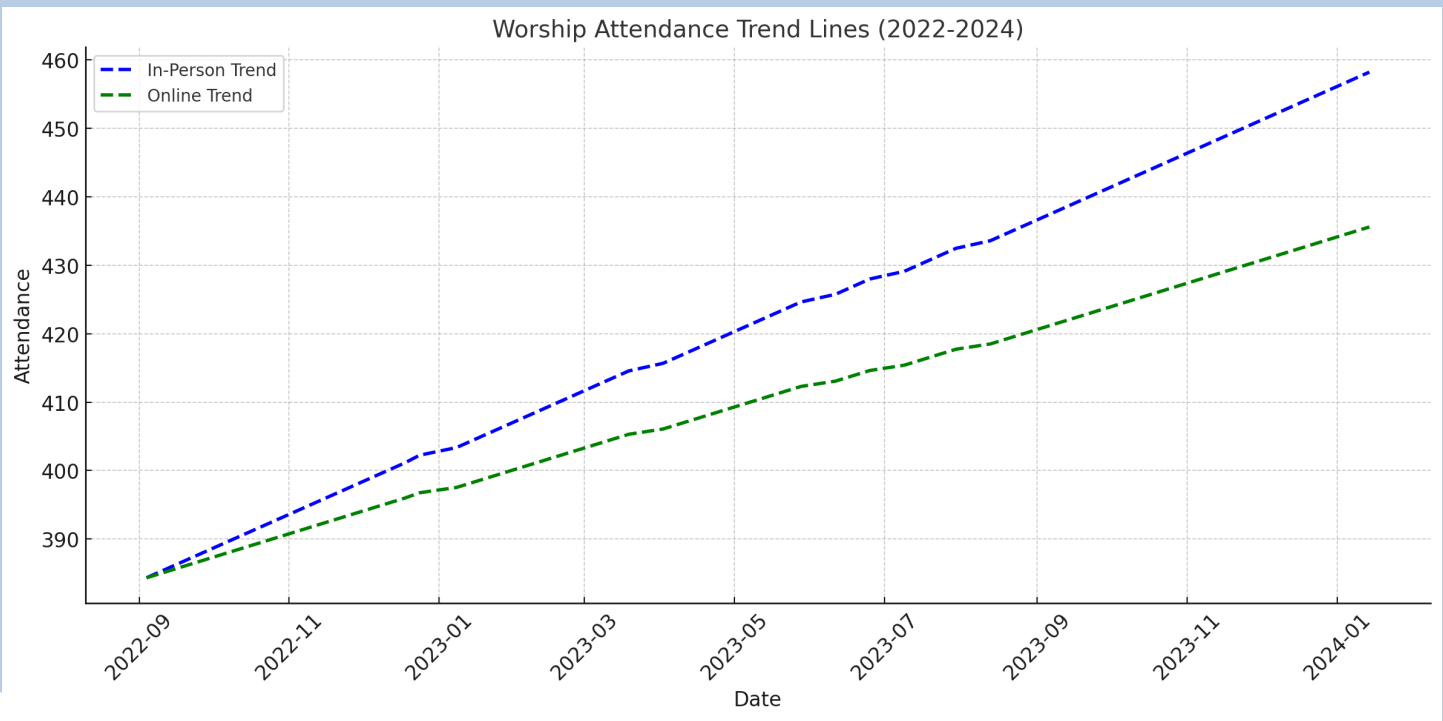
As a church we have risen to the challenges of culture wars, providing a moral and ethical guidepost in a world hungering for hope. International conflicts continued in Ukraine and a late surprise attack in Israel from Hamas grieved the international community, a conflict continuing through year's end. Domestic disputes over the future course of our nation continued to divide families and communities, while we forged ahead with our commitment as a church that though our views may differ from one another, we were bound together through our love of God and an unyielding commitment to bear God's love through Christ to the world. It is our faith, not our politics that binds us together.

As our Epic Journey of faith continues for the second century, we remember Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe", (John 17:21). May God grant that our legacy be measured by our faithful response to God's preferred and promised future for us and for all.

**Together, WE are Community Church,  
a United Church of Christ.**



The Community Church of Vero Beach



This chart illustrates the overall upward trends in both 'In-Person' and 'Online' worship attendance from 2022 to 2024. The blue dashed line represents the gradual increase in in-person attendance, growing by an average of about 1.119 people per week. In contrast, the green dashed line shows the online attendance trend, increasing at a slightly slower rate of approximately 0.776 people per week. These trends highlight a consistent growth in both physical and virtual participation in worship services over the period.

### A Moment of Gratitude from the Senior Minister

With deepest gratitude for the privilege of laboring alongside our capable and devoted elected leaders, officers, Church Council, Moderator Jeannie Saver and countless volunteers. For the extraordinary generosity of our members and friends, we are grateful. For the sacrificial service of my Executive Assistant Charlene Applegate and the expertise and leadership of Business Administrator Stephanie Toomey; for the creative and devoted service of the most faithful ministry team anywhere: Andrew Galuska, Jill Truax, Rev. Beverly Zell, Drew Angotti, and incoming Executive Minister for 2024 Rev. Dr. Jacob Kines; for Stephanie Squires, Preschool Director; and for a devoted interim ministry team – Elaine Matthes, and Rev. Craig Hoffman and Rev. Jan Hoffman, thank you. For those we loved and miss: Rev. David Johnson and Rev. Elizabeth Johnson; for every member of our loyal staff: Suzanne Rice with whom we celebrate 25 years of service to the church; Elaine Matthes, Rachel Carter-Murphy, Lia Peters, Carolyn Steere, Rick Heller, Ron Cook, Bill Mullen, Dan Lamson, Taylor Waddell-Carter, Skye Heller, our tech team in the booth, the C2 band, and for all our musicians, thank you, thank you. With special thanks to Allison Matsik, Chair of the 100th Anniversary Celebration. Together we manifest mutual care for one another, as we practice God's extravagant hospitality towards all.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Anna V. Copeland



# Transitions

The year 2023 marked several staff transitions: celebrations, moments of welcome, and also times of farewell.

In early fall, we bid farewell to two of our beloved ministers. Executive Minister David Johnson accepted a call to a church in Bluffton, South Carolina. Minister for Family and Community Life Elizabeth Johnson accepted a call to a church in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Community Church witnessed their flourishing relationship and marriage in 2019, and supported Elizabeth's completion of seminary and ordination to Christian ministry, also in 2019. We thank God for all the ways they cared for and served members and friends of this church, and led us in worship. May God bless their future ministries, and the next churches they are called to serve.

Anticipating the departure of these key ministry positions, we prayed for God's guidance to the next leaders for our church. During the interim, we were grateful for the service of Elaine Matthes, Rev. Jan Hoffman and Rev. Craig Hoffman, who served in myriad ways to support the on-going ministries of the church. Rev. Beverly Zell completed her training as a spiritual director in 2023, and joined the staff as part-time Minister for Congregational Care, a key ministry position.

By the grace of God, we were led to call Rev. Dr. Jacob Kines as our Executive Minister, who then moved to Vero Beach with his wife Valerie, daughter Evie and son Sam at the close of the year. Daughter Kate continues up north in college. As the new year begins, we look forward to welcoming each of them to our community and to our church.

We celebrate that in November of 2023, staff member Suzanne Rice completed 25 years of service to The Community Church of Vero Beach, in several positions. As 2024 begins, she continues to faithfully serve the staff, members and friends of the church from the Front Office where she graciously welcomes all.

Our commitment to Children and Family ministry continues, and at the close of the year our search for a new staff person continued. We pray for the one to come who will equip a new generation as faithful followers of Christ.



The Community Church of Vero Beach



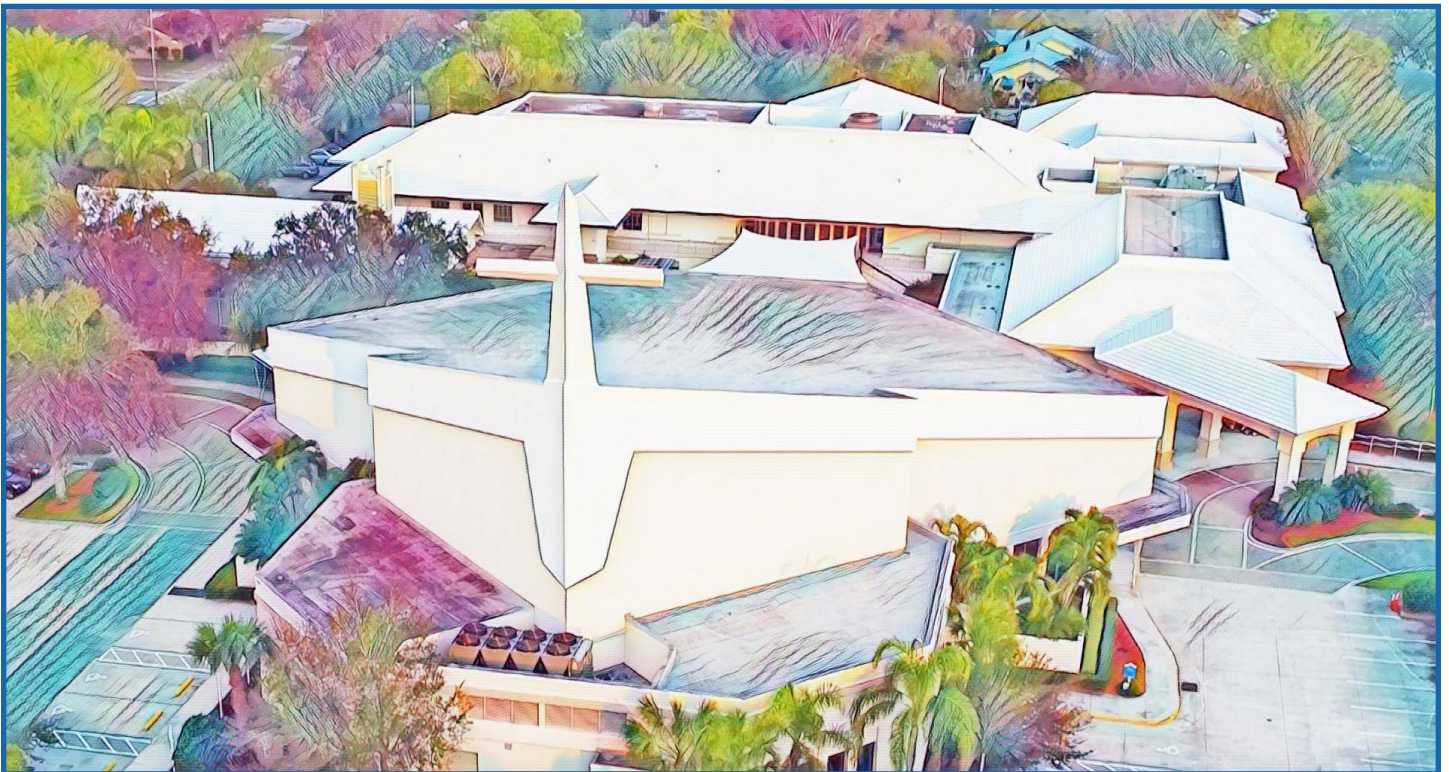
# Congregational Care

Tertullian, a father of the early church, once observed that Romans and other non-believers would point to the rapidly growing community of Jesus' followers and exclaim, "See how they love one another!" The love expressed by these early Christians was a response to the final discourse of Jesus, found in John's gospel: "A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

It could be said that this commandment found in John 13 constitutes the heart and soul of our congregational care ministry. It finds expression in such programs as Called To Care, grief groups, pastoral care, spiritual direction, memorial services and special services such as The Longest Night.

Currently, we are aware of 83 members of our community with some long-standing or temporary pastoral care need, whether it be loss of a loved one, a medical crisis, loneliness or isolation. As a community committed to following in the way of Christ, we respond compassionately through volunteers who feel called to the ministry of caring. Through these individuals and their commitment we, as a congregation, hope to live out Jesus' new commandment.

Currently, we are working to deepen and strengthen these programs by expanding our lay involvement through additional recruiting and training programs. If you feel called to explore this ministry further, contact Rev. Beverly Zell to discern together how you might contribute.



# Missions Ministry

This year the Mission Ministry began to record the places our church members serve and how many days and hours they are in our community making a difference as part of a 100th Anniversary goal. After only a few weeks of recording this information, it is clear that Community Church members are being the hands and feet of Jesus in the community. As of 12.31.2023, we have recorded 790 hours of ministry by 56 folks at a variety of different community locations. Thank you Church!

We also started an Earth Care Ministry in 2023 and have had a clean-up session with Indian River Land Trust, a visit to the Material Recovery Center in Fort Pierce to learn more about the issues of recycling, and began a project to celebrate our 100th Anniversary to collect 100 pounds of plastic wrap. We are already over 100 pounds at this time and we hope this will continue to be a location where folks can recycle plastic wrap, which otherwise has to be thrown in the garbage. We do this work in collaboration with Coastal Connections – one of our new ministry partners in our community.

New projects, new connections and continued long-term connections have been part of this ministry team's focus this past year. That includes serving hundreds and hundreds of meals at the Salvation Army location each Monday and assisting in building and maintaining homes with Habitat for Humanity. But it does not end there – our people mentor students, deliver meals, purchase hundreds of Christmas gifts, help homeless people get into better living situations, and make and sell soup to support the Samaritan Center.

This year we disbursed \$280,910.00 to agencies who are doing important work in our community (a full list is available upon request).

Many thanks to our Mission Ministry Team and to all members and friends of Community Church who give their time, skills and money so generously to the needs of Indian River County and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Turner, Chair  
Mission Ministry



The Community Church of Vero Beach

# Treasure Coast Interfaith Community Report

The Mission of the Treasure Coast Interfaith Community is to seek understanding, build strong relationships, and honor our unity in relationship with our diversity. The objectives of the TCIC include: (1) Learn from each other and study with each other to generate greater understanding among each other; (2) Create ritual moments through collaboration, nurturing spiritual connections while honoring our different traditions and cultures in community; (3) Bring shared values of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, empathy, faithfulness, justice, compassion, and respect into the wider community through service and action; and (4) Build bridges of empathy and trust so that we stand in solidarity with each other in adversity.

We meet monthly for chapel and a shared meal at the hospital. For several years, The Community Church has hosted our Interfaith Thanksgiving service that instills hope for our world. Together we express gratitude to God for the companionship of neighboring communities of faith and practice. We conclude our worship singing "Let There Be Peace on Earth, and Let It Begin with Me."

In 2023, the Interfaith Community led by Rabbi Michael Birnholz, founded Vero BEach KIND in response to increased anti-semitic/hate literature distributed in our community. At the installation worship service for Senior Minister, the Interfaith Community and our congregation participated in a covenant to stand by, for, and with one another, and to treat one another with kindness and respect. Our commitment to the safety and wellbeing of all our neighbors is grounded in our historic understanding that there is more that binds us together than separates us, not only in the worship of God, but for the flourishing of humankind.



# Deacons Ministry

*"And there are varieties of service, but the same Lord..." 1 Corinthians 12:5*

We are sixteen individuals with a variety of talents, interests, and passions, yet we came together as one team to serve our Lord through the Deacon Ministry Team of Community Church. We embodied the spirit and mission of the church through courageous, curious, creative, and compassionate acts of service.

This year we were so blessed with working side by side with people we have known for years and people new to our community. As a ministry team we took careful consideration in how we serve. In Acts 20:28 it states ~ "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood." As we started each meeting we shared joys and concerns, we lifted each other up, celebrated with each other, prayed with each other and cared for each other. We paid careful attention to ourselves. We set our intention at each meeting with a devotion to refocus us on our mission to be overseers of the flock and care for our church which God has blessed us with.

We have served our ministry team and this great congregation in a variety of careful and intentional ways. The Deacons have worked side by side with the Rev. Dr. Anna V. Copeland and the entire ministry team and staff at Community Church to take care of this great congregation through the gift bestowed upon us by answering the call to be a Deacon. Answering the call is an honor and a blessing and does not go without it's challenges, but the rewards far outweigh those challenges.

Anthony Venturini has maintained our calendar so that each week we can serve as liturgist in two services. Each week you participate in the call and response and unison prayer with the harmonious voices of Betsy Smith, Brian King and the rest of the Deacon Ministry Team and we all receive great joy to participate in this part of the services. Ferguson Taylor has organized the Ushers and Deacons to ensure we warmly welcome old friends and new faces to worship and special services each week. Pamella Clarkson is always willing, eager and ready to step in and assist. Bill Miller and Ferguson Taylor take care to ensure the ministry team has water for each service and the candles are lit every week.



The Community Church of Vero Beach

Ellis Copeland has worked tirelessly coordinating each month's team to both prepare the elements for communion and serve as one body the bread and the cup in each of our services. Brian Kroh and Robert Baker can attest to the spiritual gift this is to serve our great congregation. Diana Mrotek and Donna Cusack have stood with new brothers and sisters and their families as they were baptized into their faith journey. Jane Coleman and Jane Clower pulled together and have provided a community where we sit with and comfort families at funerals in their greatest time of need.

Matt Cleary and Jane Coleman worked with the Fellowship Ministry Team and the Music and Fine Arts Ministry Team to pull off seamless activities in support of the 100th Year Celebration. Lori Ferrell works with the Director of Youth Ministry to provide support and correspondence to our youth during confirmation and their first year in college. Jane Clower is meticulous and detailed in ensuring that our minutes are documented for each meeting.

Along with many other tasks the Deacons set their mind to in acts of service, the Deacons also manage the congregations Deacon's Fund which provides aid in a time of a church members emergent need. This fund is used in a variety of ways and administered confidentially by the Deacon Ministry Chair in partnership with the ministers of the church.

This year, the Deacon Ministry Team has embodied what is said in 1 Peter 4:10-11 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen"

With profound gratitude for being able to serve this year,

Sarah Gnade, Chair, Deacon Ministry Team



# Music and Fine Arts Ministry

The Music and Fine Arts Ministry enables our congregation to continue the centuries-long tradition of Christ's Church supporting the arts through dynamic worship services, fine art exhibitions, and concerts.

## Enhancing Worship and Faith Formation

Chancel Choir: More than 50 singers help lead our 10:15 worship Sunday mornings, high Holy days, and concerts. We applaud the Director of Music and Fine Arts, Andrew Galuska, and the Associate Director of Music/Organist, Jill Truax, for their excellent leadership.

Jazz Vespers: Normally held in the evening on the third Sundays, Jazz Vespers consistently draws 80 or more worshippers to our church.

C3 Music and Fine Arts Camp: This summer 40+ young people attended our week-long day camp featuring music, visual arts, dance, and missions. Many thanks to Administrative Coordinator for Music and Worship, Rachel Carter Murphy, for her leadership.

Poetry and Organ Advent and Lenten Series: On Thursday mornings of Advent and Lent, poetry readings followed by organ improvisations on the poems lead us deeper into the meaning of these seasons. Many thanks to Sean Sexton for his own poetry and for bringing poets from around the country, and to Andrew Galuska for his improvised musical responses.

Celebration of Creativity: For several years we have organized an art show in our Narthex featuring the work of our own worshippers.

## Supporting the Arts

Viner Series for the Visual Arts: Our Narthex has become a wonderfully attractive space for displaying the work of area artists who are not members of our church.

Peace, Hope and Joy: Every year we give a gift to our community of a Christmas Holiday Concert featuring both sacred and secular music. This year we welcomed 700 people to our Sanctuary.

Partnerships: Believing that we can do more with others than we can alone we have entered into a variety of partnerships, including the Center for Spiritual Care, the Laura Riding Jackson Foundation, the Brevard Symphony, the Atlantic Classical Orchestra, the Space Coast Symphony, and the Tapestry Brass.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Sexton  
Music and Fine Arts Ministry interim chair



The Community Church of Vero Beach

# Emerging Worship

C2 Worship at Community Church, led by Drew Angotti, also the Director of Youth Ministry, is a vibrant option for Sunday worship at 10:15 AM. The praise band, featuring Kelsey Etienne, Carla Holbrook, Kevin Jonas, Todd Jones, James Moore, Tommy Snellgrove, Tony Solomon, Peter Valentine, and Taylor Waddell-Carter, brings a blend of individual talents and styles to each service.

The service would not be possible without the tech team of Jeff Kissinger, Silas Ferrell, Megan Cass, and Dan Lamson, contributing to a well-coordinated worship experience.

C2 has seen a steady increase in attendance, growing from about 80 to well over 100 attendees each week by the end of 2023. (With over 200 at our annual "Rock the Manger" on Christmas Eve!)

To reach a wider audience, C2 Worship's sessions are now recorded and available as a podcast on platforms like Google, Apple, and Amazon. This allows for easy access to their music and sermons, whether at home or on the move. A link is provided weekly on our social media but you can access the recordings by scanning the QR code on this page.

C2 Worship, hosted in Community Hall, offers a distinct and enriching worship experience every Sunday. It is a place where music and faith come together, providing a welcoming space for both regular attendees and new visitors. C2 Worship invites everyone to be part of our community celebrating faith through music and fellowship. Check us out some day if you have not already!



# Fellowship Ministry

A congenial and dedicated group of nine CCOVB members formed the 2023 Fellowship Ministry team with the purpose of promoting and providing fellowship among church members and extending hospitality to visitors.

Throughout the year, the Fellowship Ministry provided a full complement of volunteers who served as Greeters at Chapel, Sanctuary, C2, Holiday, and other Special Worship Services, and warmly welcomed everyone to the church campus. Longtime Greeters included Paige Sturgis, Libby Miller, Guthrie Paca, Norm Mett, Gene Cravens, Debbie & Don Breitweiser, Glade & David Gracey, Susan Kramer, and Nancy & Travis Turner.

Each Sunday, following worship services, CCOVB extended hospitality as Fellowship Ministry members greeted people and provided a welcoming environment in the courtyard during "Coffee Time." They even cheerfully performed clean-up duties afterward! The work of scheduling and keeping track of the large number of Greeters and Courtyard Volunteers was efficiently managed by Dick and Anna Lanam.

To encourage visitors to learn more about the church and to share information about church activities with visitors and members alike, Fellowship Ministry member, Ed Symons, was busy engaging people at the new Welcome/Information Table in the courtyard following Sunday services. Visitors sharing contact information through pew cards or Welcome Table interaction immediately received a welcome note from Fellowship Ministry member, Carolyn Jordan, who opened the door for further communication and offered information on joining the church.

Throughout the year, Fellowship Ministry members Sue Wimpy and Betsy Sams hosted New Member Orientation meetings and collaborated with the clergy member responsible for facilitating church membership. On Sundays when new members joined CCOVB, they provided identification ribbons and special pineapple pins to new members and, after the service, introduced new members to current members in the courtyard. Betsy and Sue also organized Informational and Historical Campus Tours which were very well received.

Fellowship Ministry member, Susan Kramer, continued to serve as the Co-Chair of CCOVB's annual Angels' Attic (Rummage Sale). The proceeds from this sale of donated clothing, jewelry, and household items have grown significantly each year and are dedicated to CCOVB Missions. Each year, Angels' Attic engages nearly 100 volunteers who enjoy the camaraderie of working together to present a well-organized and well-loved fashion show and sale.

This year, the Fellowship Ministry partnered with the Children and Family Ministry to plan and implement the Annual Church Picnic at Riverside Park. The largest number of members ever attending the picnic enjoyed music and conversation, participated in a competitive Corn Hole Tournament, and dined on Sonny's BBQ and side dishes provided by members.

Anna and Dick Lanam, along with Deborah Eschenbacher, led the effort and the entire Fellowship Ministry worked alongside Children and Family Ministry volunteers to create this special event.

The year 2023 ushered in the beginning of 100th Anniversary Celebration of Community Church. This year-long celebration gave the Fellowship Ministry an opportunity to partner with the Deacons Ministry to plan and implement





several events (the Celebration Sunday Box Lunch & 100th Anniversary Kick-off and two January Jazz Brunches). Serving on the organizing committee were Matt Cleary and Jane Coleman from the Deacons Ministry, Anna & Dick Lanam, Sue Wimpy, and Deborah Eschenbacher from the Fellowship Ministry, and Carolyn Steere representing church staff.

The first of the collaborative events, a successful all-church box lunch held in Community Hall following November's Celebration Sunday service, was the kick-off for the 100th Anniversary celebration, and was planned and hosted by both ministries.

Two January Jazz Brunches held in Commotion were also planned and hosted by the Fellowship Ministry and the Deacons Ministry. The brunches allowed members and guests to enjoy brunch and fellowship following two Sunday services in January and featured delightful music provided by Director of Music and Fine Arts, Andrew Galuska, and the Community Jazz Trio.

Throughout the past year, the Fellowship Ministry created and facilitated many opportunities for members to enjoy fellowship with one another and to engage members and visitors in the life of the church. Because the responsibilities entrusted to this ministry increased significantly over the past year, the number of members of this ministry will increase from nine to twelve in 2024.

Members of the 2023 Fellowship Ministry:

Co-Chairs: Deborah Eschenbacher and Anna Lanam

Members: Sue Wimpy, Paige Sturgis, Betsy Sams, Dick Lanam, Carolyn Jordan, Ed Symons, Susan Kramer



# Adult Ministry

The revised CCOVB bylaws describes the focus of Adult Ministries as: "responsible for but not limited to ministering to adults in the congregation by developing educational and faith formation programs to equip members to follow the way of Christ."

**Visiting Scholar – Rev. Dr. Robin Meyers** - On February 4-5, Robin Meyers, retired minister from Plymouth United Church of Christ in Oklahoma City was the guest speaker at our CCOVB Leadership Retreat and Sunday services.

**Sunday Gospel – Wednesday Faith** - A key focus during 2023 was our Wednesday evening offerings featuring a simple supper followed by a one-hour program. A selection of topics have included: Rabbi Michael Birnholz speaking to recent episodes of antisemitism in our community; a presentation on the background of the Ukrainian war, led by our CCOVB choir members Alesya Walters and Susan Grandpierre; reports from those who went on the pilgrimage to San Miguel, Mexico and the youth mission trip to the Bahamas in 2022.

We also had an introduction to our CCOVB new Earth Care Ministry; viewed two "Prophetic Voices" videos on the lives and ministries of Reinhold Niebuhr and Howard Thurman; and had an update on the ministry of Indian River Habitat for Humanity, presented by its President and CEO, Trevor Loomis, along with other programs.

**Bread of Life Ministry** - We were very pleased with the response to the Wednesday evening meal program in 2023 under the leadership of member, Dru King. Dru has organized four team leaders and volunteers. More volunteers are welcome.

## Upcoming Programs

**Ohl Lectureship, February 29, 2024** - As a part of the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of The Community Church of Vero Beach, the Adult Ministry is pleased to announce the inaugural lecture of the Ohl Lectureship, funded in memory of Dr. Ronald Ohl. The first speaker will be David Sampson, an ordained minister in the Church of Christ who served congregations for more than 20 years. He also has had a career in business and served as a Deputy Secretary of Commerce in the George W. Bush administration.

**Dr. Miroslav Volf – Visiting Theologian, April 9, 2023** - Dr. Miroslav Volf, Professor of Theology from Yale Divinity School and Director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture, will be with us on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. Among his recent books are *Life worth Living* and *For the Life of the World: Theology That Makes a Difference*.

We are also pleased and grateful for the initiatives by many others whose efforts also advance our goal of "developing educational and faith formation programs to equip members to follow the way of Christ."

On behalf our Adult Ministry members,

Bob Inhoff



The Community Church of Vero Beach

# Youth Ministry

Over the past year, the youth ministry programs of CCOVB have played a vital role in fostering the spiritual growth and development of our young members. This report provides an overview of the key activities and achievements over the past year, focusing on Mission, faith formation, fellowship and building community.

In 2023, the youth ministry at CCOVB remained committed to its mission of instilling a sense of Christian purpose and service among the youth. Our main mission-focused activities were our two service trips back to the Black Point Settlement on Guana Cay. 23 participants participated in repairing a playground, a church and a community basketball court, while also providing a vacation bible camp for the local children. These trips served as transformative experiences, deepening their understanding of compassion, service and Agape.

Our youth also actively participated in various local outreach programs, including raising money for our local homeless shelter (The Source) with our "souper bowl" collections, participating in church food drives, writing letters to our brothers and sisters in the armed forces and helping with our annual rummage sale. These opportunities provided our youth with diverse perspectives and insights, enriching their spiritual understanding of what it means to love and support others.

Creating a strong sense of fellowship within the youth group is another cornerstone of our ministry. 2023 witnessed vibrant fellowship through weekly youth group meetings that provided a safe and welcoming space for our young members to connect, share, and support each other in their faith journeys and live out a Christ centered lifestyle. We explored our faith together, went on fun fellowship excursions, and also attended a weekend retreat with youth from all over the Florida Conference of the UCC.

In conclusion, the youth ministry thrived over the year 2023, embodying the values of mission, fellowship, faith formation, and community engagement. As we reflect on the past year, we express gratitude for the support towards the growth and impact witnessed among our youth, and we look forward to continued blessings and opportunities in the coming year.

AGAPE

Respectfully Submitted,

Drew Angotti  
Director of Youth Ministry and C2 Worship Leader



# Children and Family Ministry

In the year 2023 our ministry encountered many fun events that served as an outreach within our own church family, preschool and with the community of Vero Beach. In early April we held our annual Easter Festival with 100 guest in attendance and 30 volunteers. It was a beautiful day with crafts, petting zoo, balloon twisters, face painters, crafts, games, cake walk, and Easter egg hunts for various ages and music. It was a fun time for all!

A few days after Easter our team set off to River Ranch for a weekend of retreat, relaxation, reflection and fun. It was all centered on biblical principles and formation directed by the Reverends Elizabeth and Dave Johnson and Dr. Anna V. Copeland. The children were led by Rev. Elizabeth and Lia Peters in exercises on prayer. There were 27 people in attendance over the 3 days. It was a lovely get away for our families.

In June we had the installation and commissioning of the Butterfly Exhibit in collaboration with Rabbi Michael Birnholz of Beth Shalom. Our exhibit is located in the Education Building on the North Hallway of the 2nd floor. The Butterflies were made by our children during C3 Summer Camp in 2022, in memory of the many children who lost their lives during the Holocaust.

We hosted several Meal Prep classes led by Sarah Gnade and our ministry members. This provided an afternoon of cooking instruction, food and fun for many new and old families of our community.

In October we hosted along with the Fellowship Ministry a fun and delicious church wide picnic that was catered by Sonny's BBQ and many homemade dishes by our congregation. There was lots of games, music and laughter. We were sad to see the Johnsons move to South Carolina and in their absence Lia Peters and Drew Angotti covered Elizabeth's responsibilities. Drew held the Children's Chapel in the preschool, and Lia led the ministry meetings and the Sunday School Activities and outreach.

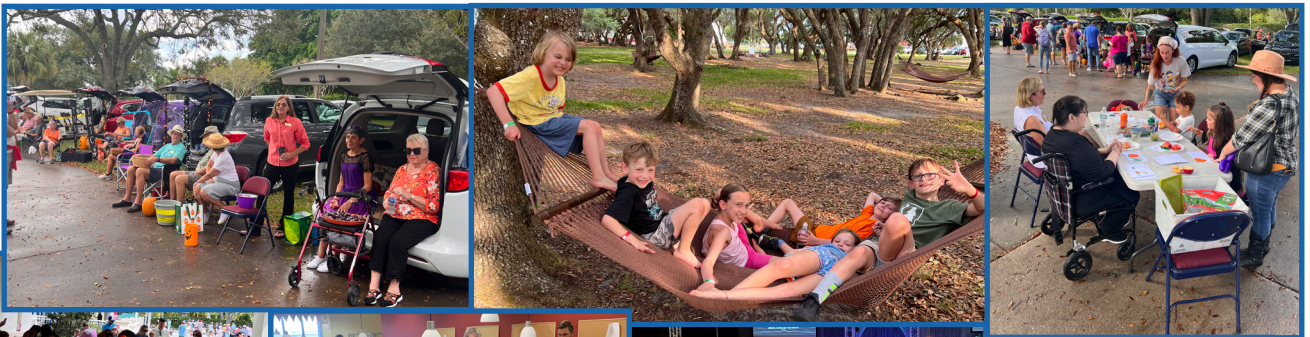
By late October we held our annual Boo Bash. We had one of the largest turn outs ever with 168 guest and 40 volunteers. It was a lot of hard work but well worth the reward of a job well done by all.

In December, we had Jingle Jam on a rainy cold Saturday but thanks to the dedicated staff and ministry members we were able to hold the festival inside of Community Hall. It was said to be one of the best ever! We made Ginger Bread Houses, decorated ginger Bread people, and had crafts, games and face painting, and of course Santa showed up and made it a merry time for all. Clean up was a breeze with extra help from several men in the congregation.

Thanks to all who volunteered in all of our events throughout the year. All in all, we were very successful in serving our community. Much gratitude is given to our wonderful leadership and to the faithful ministry members of 2023.

Blessings Be,

Lia Peters



The Community Church of Vero Beach

# Community Preschool



The last months of our 2022 – 2023 school year (January through May 2023) included several highly successful events. To highlight just a few of many, we held another extremely successful Open House for fall enrollment in February. We also held our always well-received Spring Music Program to a full house of parents, grandparents, and other friends and family in May. Our amazing and supportive families also planned and provided a wonderful Staff Appreciation week in May, with each day bringing a special surprise in recognition of everyone's ongoing efforts to provide the highest possible quality early childhood education experience for all of their children on a daily basis throughout the school year.

During summer of 2023, we successfully conducted seven well-received one-week summer camps. Most camps were full with a wait list. Themes included Pirate Adventures, Super Heroes, Home Improvement, Dinosaur Dig, On a Vacation, Going on a Bear Hunt and Fairy Tales.

The current school year (2023-2024) got off to an excellent start despite a community-wide shortage of qualified teachers. Despite our best efforts, we were unable to fill all vacant teaching positions for the beginning of the school year, which resulted in purposely lowering our enrollment numbers to assure meeting the quality and accreditation standards for teacher to child ratios. Fortunately, we were able to fill the staff positions by the beginning of 2024 and are actively continuing to increase enrollment at this time. August through December also included many classroom and school wide events that brought families, children and staff together to celebrate each other and important holiday traditions.

We continue to be beyond grateful to church administration, staff, lay leaders and members for their ongoing support of this important mission. We continue to strive to create a lasting impact on our community through providing the best possible education, care and support to children and families during these important early years.

With Appreciation and Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Squires, Preschool Director



2023 Annual Report

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# The Community Church of Vero Beach

## Annual Meeting – February 1, 2023

The Meeting was **called to order** at 6:00pm by Moderator Steve Higgins, who, after consulting with Clerk Kay Yurigan, declared the necessary quorum was present.

Rev. David Johnson, Executive Minister, gave the **Invocation**.

Andrew Galuska, Director of Music and Fine Arts, led the congregation in the opening hymn, **Be Thou My Vision**.

On a motion by George Matsik, seconded by Bill Rose, the congregation approved the **Minutes** of the February 2, 2022 Annual Meeting.

Moderator Higgins introduced Senior Minister Reverend Dr. Anna V. Copeland for **Words from our Senior Minister**.

Dr. Anna Copeland opened with a passage from the United Church of Christ Book of Worship. She then shared it is hard for her to be humble about The Community Church of Vero Beach. She believes we are one of the most vibrant, faithful, emotionally and spiritually mature congregations in this nation. We are God's beloved people and God is calling us to do remarkable things here on the Treasure Coast.

To summarize her **Report of the Senior Minister** contained in the Annual Report, Dr. Copeland said this has been a remarkable year. We stepped out in faith as we recovered, renewed, retooled and rebranded for the future. As 2022 began, we asked God to help us discern the purpose of our Community Church for such a time as this. We explored our "Why". Why are we here? We claimed that I Am Community Church, You are Community Church and We are Community Church. As Your Community Church, we have committed to being Courageous, Curious, Creative and Compassionate Christians. This is our unique purpose. We are grateful to God for entrusting us with these things. As we look to the future, we still affirm that although we may not all think alike, we all love alike and we trust God is still speaking in the world.

We figured out together how to serve God's people in our ever changing world. We retooled for ministry by expanding our reach through social media, livestream, podcasts and bringing in our first virtual members.

Dr. Copeland continued, saying we also felt lonely this last year until we discovered that we were as vibrant as ever. It was an exciting moment when we realized that more than 1/2 of our worshippers were worshipping at home on livestream. Our congregation had not gone away. We are now worshipping in different ways and more of us are worshipping when we are away because we have gotten in the habit. In the last month, more people are coming back to in-person worship. Dr. Copeland encouraged us to re-introduce ourselves to people who are returning.

This year, said Dr. Copeland, we renewed our faith through **Sunday Gospel - Wednesday Faith**. We had inspirational speakers, family camps and faith pilgrimages. We deepened our relationships and our covenants with ecumenical and interfaith partners.

To conclude, Dr. Copeland thanked Moderator Higgins for walking with her through a season of renewal and recovery. Dr. Copeland showed her appreciation for the Ministry Team and church staff asking us to do the same. As this year draws to a close, our 100th year Anniversary begins. When we trust God and believe we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us, there is nothing we cannot do!

Moderator Higgins introduced Treasurer Pat Sawyer to give the **Treasurer's Report and Presentation of the 2023 Budget**. The Statement of Financial Position (Unaudited) and the Budget for 2023 are contained within the Annual Report.



The Community Church of Vero Beach

Treasurer Sawyer thanked the congregation for our generous financial support, participation in programs and for trusting her in her first year as Treasurer.

Treasurer Sawyer reminded us that when the 2022 Budget was approved last year, the stock market was very strong and our Balance Sheet reflected that. Inflation was on the rise but no one, including the markets, were worried about it. Interest rates were very low and debt was almost free. Our cash position was very strong and we still had PPP funds unspent. There were a lot of knowns including what it would cost to bring back services and programs. What was unknown was what was going to happen in the economy. Also, how many people would come back and to which services and in which programs would they participate? Would new members find us and choose to join?

What would contributions look like? Our church renewed a commitment to be transparent with the congregation regarding the Stewardship results as well as attendance & participation throughout the year.

We had surprises, positive and negative, in 2022. Negatives were the sudden and dramatic stock market crash. Interest rates went up. Inflation roared. Positive developments were people did return to all three services and people participated in programs. Our Youth program came back strong. We did take in new members.

The average pledge was lower but more people pledged than in recent years. Most all pledges were paid. Un-pledged contributions did occur, especially at the end of the year. The Stewardship Campaign was below what was budgeted but still encouraging.

As the end of the year approached, it was clear we would have a deficit. Expenses were held below budget. Dr. Copeland and Moderator Higgins made an appeal from the pulpit to give more if able. We used the last of the PPP Funds. We did use the spending policy of the church which allows us to take small amounts from our Endowment to augment our revenues for the year. Our debt went to zero and we were able to bolster our cash accounts to start 2023 in a strong position. We learned a lot in 2022 and all of this has informed the budget for 2023. The budget is balanced and realistic. The contributions budgeted for 2023 are close to the actual for 2022. We are prepared to use the spending policy again if needed so we can continue to provide programs and services to the community that the church wants to provide.

Treasurer Sawyer continued, saying that despite the deficit in 2022, the church is in excellent financial shape. Our cash position is strong. We have zero debt and our line of credit is more than adequate for our needs. We have a culture of gratitude and respect in this church for the financial gifts that are entrusted to the church. Our church commissions an audit of itself every year. It is a valuable service and should provide comfort that our finances are carefully tracked and scrutinized by outside eyes. Anyone can come to the office and read the audits.

Moderator Higgins called for discussion and questions. A short time of discussion followed with Treasurer Pat Sawyer explaining the Endowment. The Balance Sheet shows a substantial decline in the valuation of our investments. The decline is inline with what the market indexes have done this year. Our Endowment fund is professionally managed for the long-term and did ride down with the market. The Endowment spending policy allows the Finance Committee and Trustees to elect to spend up to 3.75% of the Endowment should we need the funds in a year where it can be justified. A small amount was very carefully and thoughtfully liquidated this year and it served us well.

Linda Knoll made a motion to accept the **2023 Budget** as presented, seconded by Tom Schwieger. The motion passed. Moderator Higgins recognized Pat Sawyer, Chair of Trustees John Crosby, all the Trustees and Stephanie Toomey for their work on the budget.

Moderator Steve Higgins presented his **Moderator Reflections**. Moderator Higgins said as he wraps up his time as Moderator, he thanks us for this opportunity to serve our church. It has been an honor and a privilege. Together we successfully navigated our Senior Minister search, transitioned to the Rev. Dr. Anna V. Copeland as our new Senior Minister, and tackled the intricacies Covid forced on us. He thanked by name, many of the people who supported him and propped him up when he needed it, including past moderators and the entire church staff. He is grateful to all the people who guided and stood by him the past three years.

As we go forward, Moderator Higgins said he could not be more excited about the reenlistment of Jeannie Saver as Moderator. Jeannie served as Moderator from 2011-2013. She is an extraordinary leader who brings a historic perspective while having great vision for the future. He thanked Jeannie for rising to the occasion to lead our church forward.



Ensuring that our church continues to thrive is the responsibility of us all, Moderator Higgins told us, encouraging each to seek out how to engage in our ministries. Our greater community needs a thriving church with our theology more than ever. He thanked Community Church for our unwavering participation and commitment to our ministries and for generously supporting our church. Moderator Higgins thanked Anna Copeland for her incredible maturity, humbleness, faithfulness and spiritual leadership. Finally, Moderator Higgins thanked his wife, Char. In closing, Moderator Higgins said he loved us all and May God Bless. The room stood in applause.

### No Old Business.

In **New Business**, Moderator Higgins recognized **Outgoing Ministry Members**. All were called by name and asked to stand for recognition by the congregation.

Dr. Anna Copeland recognized Steve Higgins as our outgoing Moderator, saying God blessed us richly by calling Steve to serve through one of the most challenging seasons in our nation's history. God prepared and equipped Steve for ministry from the time he grew up in Pittsburgh. Steve has served God through our Community Church on the Music Ministry, as a Deacon and Trustee, member of the Senior Minister Search Committee, Executive Committee, Church Council and Post Scholarship Committee. These past three years, Steve has led us as a non-anxious leader through anxious times.

Dr. Copeland continued, saying God sent a man of spiritual and emotional maturity, a man of faith and prayer who loves and enjoys life and gives himself freely as a follower of Christ. He has the spiritual gift of encouragement, always eager to express gratitude.

The room stood again in applause to show appreciation as Dr. Copeland presented a gift to Steve.

Moderator Higgins called Phil Long and Matt Cleary, Co-Chairs of the Nominating Committee, to present the **Nominating Slate**. Matt Cleary stated the complete Nominating report and Slate are contained within the Annual Report. He presented the slate of candidates, announcing the names of Ministry Members, Council at Large, and Moderator who are being nominated. Mr. Higgins called for nominations from the floor. There were none.

On a motion by John Crosby, seconded by Bruce Albro, the slate of Ministry Members, Council at Large and Moderator Jeannie Saver were unanimously approved by the congregation.

For **Installation**, the elected were called forward. Rev. Dr. Anna Copeland, Reverend David Johnson and Reverend Elizabeth Johnson formally installed the elected into their leadership positions by word, prayer, covenant and response.

Newly elected Moderator Jeannie Saver came forward for the **Moderator Moment**. She began by saying how glad she is to be with so many of us again and knows some are still not ready to come back in-person. She said she is grateful and humbled that we have trusted her once again to represent the congregation. She wants us to know she takes the job, representing the congregation, seriously. She has been praying for the congregation, the lay leaders, the staff, the clergy and is grateful we affirmed we are praying for her! We have much to look forward to including our celebration of our 100 years of presence in this community. Moderator Saver asked us to continue to stay involved and all are appreciated! In closing, she thanked former Moderators, knowing she has big shoes to fill although she will be wearing her own.

Andrew Galuska led the closing hymn, ***You Are the Salt of the Earth O People***.

The **Benediction** was offered by Dr. Anna V. Copeland. The meeting **adjourned** at 7:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay Yurigan, Clerk



The Community Church of Vero Beach



# In Memoriam

Kathryn Mitchell - 01/02  
Susan G. Feinour - 01/06  
Steven Ilsley Davis - 01/15  
Penny Odiorne - 01/17  
Susan Gail Chadeayne - 01/19  
Barbara W. Howell - 01/23  
Anthony A Buford, Jr. - 02/01  
Russell Elgin Miller - 02/09  
H. Blaine Clower, Jr. - 02/10  
Marjorie M. Shaw - 02/12  
Robert Kendall Reed - 03/01  
Richard V. Hope - 03/03  
Lee R. Munsick - 03/03  
C. Philip Bartlett - 03/05  
Donna Breglia - 03/10  
Ruth Perdue - 03/13  
Jo Unsell Houpt - 03/14  
Armand J. Poulin - 03/22  
Anne M. Anderson - 03/26  
Teryl Viner - 03/26  
Theodore H. Elliott - 04/07  
Carole Anne Plante - 04/14  
Alfred Wishart - 04/20  
Edwin G Torrance - 04/24  
Audrey Wyma - 04/29  
Ronald Stribley - 05/08  
Raymond Cawley - 05/10  
Charles A. Winans, Jr. - 05/24

Martha B. Kane - 05/25  
Robert Heim - 06/06  
Selma Luther - 06/09  
Sally N. Toffey - 06/15  
Gordon S. Mann - 06/26  
Charles Lockhart, III - 07/21  
Melissa Gazda - 08/03  
William E. Northfield - 08/13  
William A. Rose, Jr. - 08/27  
Sandra A. Poe - 08/31  
Lloyd C. Sullivan - 09/01  
Thomas M. Rotell - 09/11  
Lewis W. Murphy, Sr. - 09/22  
Jim Gallagher - 09/23  
David E Sams, Jr. - 10/08  
Walter R. Nelson - 10/15  
Norval B. Stephens - 10/17  
Kathryn Baker - 11/01  
Susan Kimberly Turben - 11/06  
Eugene G. Willem - 11/10  
David Gracey - 11/11  
Doug Ronald Cameron - 11/16  
Gerelda Rhodes - 12/10  
Howard R. Merriman, Jr. - 12/19  
Robert William Conn, Jr. - 12/20  
Thomas W. Cook - 12/23

*Deceased Members: 54*

*New Members: 44*

*Transfers: 4*

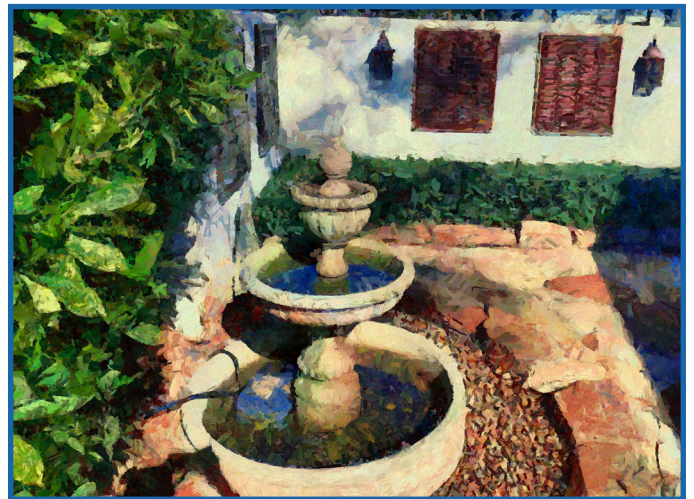
*Baptism: 6*

*Weddings: 2*

*Membership as of December 31, 2023: 1217*

*Total of Active Participants over 19 years of age: 1864\**

*\*Participants are those who participate in worship, programs and financial contributions.*



# Trustees Ministry

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the financial well-being of the Church, its personnel, preschool and all properties. Churches throughout America are continuing to face the challenges of declining in person congregations and serving and connecting with their online members and audience and the financial implications these changes bring. Our Church has not been immune to these challenges over the past years. Anna, the Staff, and the Trustees along with the other Ministry Boards work diligently to address these issues.

The Trustees continue to focus on the **tactical** and **strategic** issues facing our Church. On the tactical front we worked to develop a balanced budget and position the Church to grow and prosper by growing both our in person and online members.

**Tactically**, this year like last was a very challenging year for our Church. The Trustees and the Church staff monitored the revenue and the expenses of the Church and made appropriate adjustments on a monthly bases. Anna, Stephanie Toomey, Deb Eschenbacher and the Stewardship Committee did a great job this year and we ended the year achieving 99% of our stewardship goal. Also, Thank you members for your Inspired Generosity. As a result of this effort I am happy to report that we ended the year with balanced operating results.

**Strategically** we continue to develop our Comprehensive Plan for Inspiring Generosity which will include not only a detailed plan for our annual stewardship campaign for 2024 which will kick off in early 2024 but also include the transition to our 2025 campaign in the Fall of 2024 and a program to reach out to our virtual church community. This will also be combined with Planned Giving effort in 2024.

During the year, we were able to make significant improvements in our air quality in all the buildings on campus, Kitchen improvements and major repairs to our elevator. We also initiated plans to make expansions to the Memorial Garden.

Preschool: We had approximately 125 students in our program which is one of the finest preschools in Indian River County. The Preschool passed its DCF licensing inspection and also received its accreditation from NAEYC.

I would like to Thank not only the dedicated group of Trustee members but also all of the ministry board members that have worked diligently all year to guide the Church to a very successful year.

WE ARE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Respectfully submitted,

William Coleman,  
Board of Trustee Chair



The Community Church of Vero Beach

# Treasurer's Report

First, thank you for your trust and your ongoing support of our Community Church.

2023 was our second full year “back” from Covid restrictions. At the beginning of the year we were hopeful that participation in all of our services and programs would continue to grow during 2023 and that the congregation would continue to financially support the church. The financial results from 2023 reflect our congregations’s solid commitment to and enthusiasm for what Community Church has been, is, and can be going forward. The results also reflect the impressive efforts of the church leadership in a year of organizational change, in the face of a tight budget and external financial pressures.

On the revenue side in 2023, our stewardship goal was met during the course of the year thanks to the generosity of the congregation and friends of the church. Our total operating income, which also includes income from all of our ministries and programs, usage of our campus, and investment earnings, exceeded our budget goal. On the expense side, through creative problem solving, focused dedication, and hard work on the part of the staff and the ministries, total expenses for the year were slightly less than budget.

It feels great as your Treasurer to report an operating surplus for 2023.

The economy in 2023 was vastly different than in 2022, and the impact on the church has been significant. The church experiences the economy in all the ways that your families and businesses do.

Inflation — Everything is more expensive than it used to be, from utilities to insurance.

Inflation is still with us, but thankfully the rate of increase appears to be coming down.

Cost of borrowing — The cost of borrowing is much higher than it was for many years. In the past the church has used its secured line of credit to manage its seasonal cash needs, but in 2023 it was prohibitively expensive to do so. Hopefully as interest rates decline, this will be a reasonable option again if needed.

Investment returns — The strong markets in 2023 benefited the church’s endowment portfolios, and also offered strong risk-free returns on the church’s liquid operating accounts. Our long term investments, although conservatively managed, do reflect the movement of the markets. Positive earnings in 2023 were a welcome reversal of losses experienced in 2022.

2024 is a new year following positive 2023 financial results. The proposed balanced budget remains a conservative one, very similar to 2023, partly due to these economic uncertainties beyond the church’s control. It assumes that the congregation and friends of the church will continue their financial support, and that we will again withdraw a modest amount from our endowment to support the church’s operations. This 2024 budget has been reviewed by the Finance Committee, the Board of Trustees, and the Church Council, and is recommended for approval by the congregation at this meeting.

While churches across the country are struggling, I can say even more confidently this year that our church is on strong financial footing. The church continues to support multiple ministers, retain its experienced staff, maintain and improve its beautiful campus, and support the congregation and the community as it has for 100 years. Although over 50 members of the church passed away in 2023, everyone is welcome here and new members including young families have joined us and are actively participating. Our congregation is generous with its talents and responsive to the needs of the church and our community. We are a vital resource for music and the arts. Our balance sheet is strong. We have no debt, we have adequate liquidity, and our endowment investment portfolio could easily secure ample credit should it be needed.

Another aspect of financial health is a culture of gratitude and respect for those who financially support the church with gifts both large and small. This respect includes a commitment to transparency, and to oversight. Although it is not required, the church engages a reputable accounting firm to audit its books and procedures every year. In 2023, audits were completed for 2022, with a clean audit opinion. Copies are available in the church office during business hours. The 2023 audit will commence later in the spring and will be completed during the year.

As we move into 2024, our 100th year as Community Church, we are excitedly anticipating the next 100 years, and all of the opportunities that they will offer us.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia L. Sawyer, Treasurer

2023 Annual Report

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# Community Church Staff

## Professional Staff

**Rev. Dr. Anna V. Copeland**

Senior Minister  
[annavcopeland@ccovb.org](mailto:annavcopeland@ccovb.org)

**Drew Angotti**

Director of Youth Ministries and C2 Worship  
[drew.angotti@ccovb.org](mailto:drew.angotti@ccovb.org)

**Andrew R. Galuska**

Director of Music and Fine Arts  
[andrew.galuska@ccovb.org](mailto:andrew.galuska@ccovb.org)

**Stephanie Squires**

Director of Community Preschool  
[stephanie.squires@ccovb.org](mailto:stephanie.squires@ccovb.org)

**Stephanie Toomey**

Business Administrator  
[stephanie.toomey@ccovb.org](mailto:stephanie.toomey@ccovb.org)

**Jill A. Truax**

Associate Director of Music  
[jill.truax@ccovb.org](mailto:jill.truax@ccovb.org)

**Rev. Beverly Zell**

Minister for Congregational Care  
[beverly.zell@ccovb.org](mailto:beverly.zell@ccovb.org)

## Support Staff

**Charlene Applegate**

Executive Assistant for Rev. Dr. Anna V. Copeland  
Admin. Asst. for Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

**Ron Cook**

Facilities

**Rick Heller**

Facilities Manager

**Dan Lamson**

Communications Coordinator

**Elaine Matthes**

Ministry Associate

**Bill Mullen**

Director of Technical Arts

**Rachel C. Murphy**

Admin. Coordinator for Music and Worship

**Lia Peters**

Director of Sunday School

**Suzanne Rice**

Admin Asst. for Pastoral Care and Mission

**Carolyn Steere**

Accounting Supervisor/ Wedding Coordinator

**Taylor Waddell Carter**

Program and Communication Assistant for Youth  
Ministry



The Community Church of Vero Beach

# Nominating Committee Report

The 2023-2024 Nominating Committee, which consisted of the chairs of each Ministry Team of Community Church and church staff, met three times starting in November, 2023 and ending in early January, 2024. The committee's primary goal was to prayerfully consider and reach out to potential candidates to serve three-year terms on one of our eight Ministry Teams to replace outgoing team members and to fill vacancies that have occurred since last year's Annual Meeting. In addition, the committee has identified a new church Clerk and a new at-large member of the Church Council who will also serve three years each.

Drawing from a well of devoted and talented members of our church, we can report that the committee has substantially met that goal, with at least 28 new people who have agreed to be nominated to serve in lay leadership positions.

Besides the people being nominated for these positions, we celebrate that our church is supremely blessed by the work of scores of other lay volunteers who are so essential to the successful delivery of Community Church's ministry in our church, our community, and beyond.

The people involved in the nominating process were:

**Representatives of the eight Church Ministry Teams:** Robert Inhoff, Adult Education; Josh Metcalfe, Children and Family Ministry; Sarah Gnade, Deacons; Deborah Eschenbacher and Anna Lanam, Fellowship Ministry; Scott Turner, Missions; Bill Coleman, Trustees Ministry; and John Langfitt, Youth Ministry. Other lay leaders: Jeannie Saver, church Moderator; Kay Yurigan, church Clerk.

Church Staff: Rev. Dr. Anna V. Copeland, Senior Minister; Drew Angotti, Director of Youth Ministry; Andrew Galuska, Director of Music and Fine Arts; Lia Peters, Director of Sunday School; Carolyn Steere, Accounting Manager.

For the committee,

Hal Lambert and Gene Waddell  
Co-chairpersons  
2023-2034 Nominating Committee



# Church Ministry Members

Term Expires 1/31/2025

Term Expires 1/31/2026

Term Ends 1/31/2027

## Adult

Robin Blanton  
Dennis Wilt\*  
Dru King\*

Robert Inhoff  
Cindy Schneider  
Everett Schleter

Mike Harvey  
Don Stoner

## Children and Family

Travis Blanton  
Josh Metcalfe  
Kathy Searl\*

Tracey Dribben  
Alice Manning  
Blaine Stenvik

Adriana Stenvik

## Deacons

Robert Baker  
Jane Coleman  
Donna Cusack  
Bill Miller  
Diana Mrotek  
Katie Fini\*

Pamella Clarkson  
Matt Cleary  
Brian King  
Anthony Venturini  
Betsy Smith  
Sarah Gnade\*\*

Beth Cleary  
Susan Langley  
Judy Lafage  
Hal Lambert  
Arthur Fox  
Michelle Mantel

## Fellowship

Anna Lanam\*  
Dick Lanam\*  
Betsy Sams\*  
Chris DeBraal\*

Sue Kramer  
Carolyn Jordan  
Ed Symons  
Adrian Pineda\*

Peter Robison  
Norm Mett  
Deb Breitweiser  
Deb Pineda

## Missions

Phil Chadeayne\*  
Pat Draper  
Jimmy Kouns

Jean Cravens  
Donna Wilt  
Janet Hill

Heather Stapleton  
Judy Davis  
David Katz

\* Vacancy Filled

\*\* Existing member filling vacancy going forward



The Community Church of Vero Beach

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# Church Ministry Members cont'd

Term Expires 1/31/2025

Term Expires 1/31/2026

Term Ends 1/31/2027

## Music and Fine Arts

Sean Sexton\*  
April Hargett  
Sharon Sexton

Jim Aldridge  
Judy Mett  
Diana Walker

Terry Fletcher  
Joan Ohl  
Don Symington

## Trustees

Dave Mrotek  
Tom Richards  
Linda Shipley

Carolyn Antenen  
Bruce Albro  
Paula Brockelman  
Don Breitweiser\*  
George Matsik \*\*

Kay Yurigan  
Dale Jacobs  
John Crosby

## Youth

Taylor Carter  
Sarah Erickson  
John Langfitt \*\*

Lori Sylvia  
Vacancy

Jimmy Vogt  
Sue Horn  
Lori Ferrell

## Council At Large

Sharon Richards

Chad Morrison

Bill Coleman

## Treasurer

Patricia Sawyer

## Moderator

Jeannie Saver

## Clerk

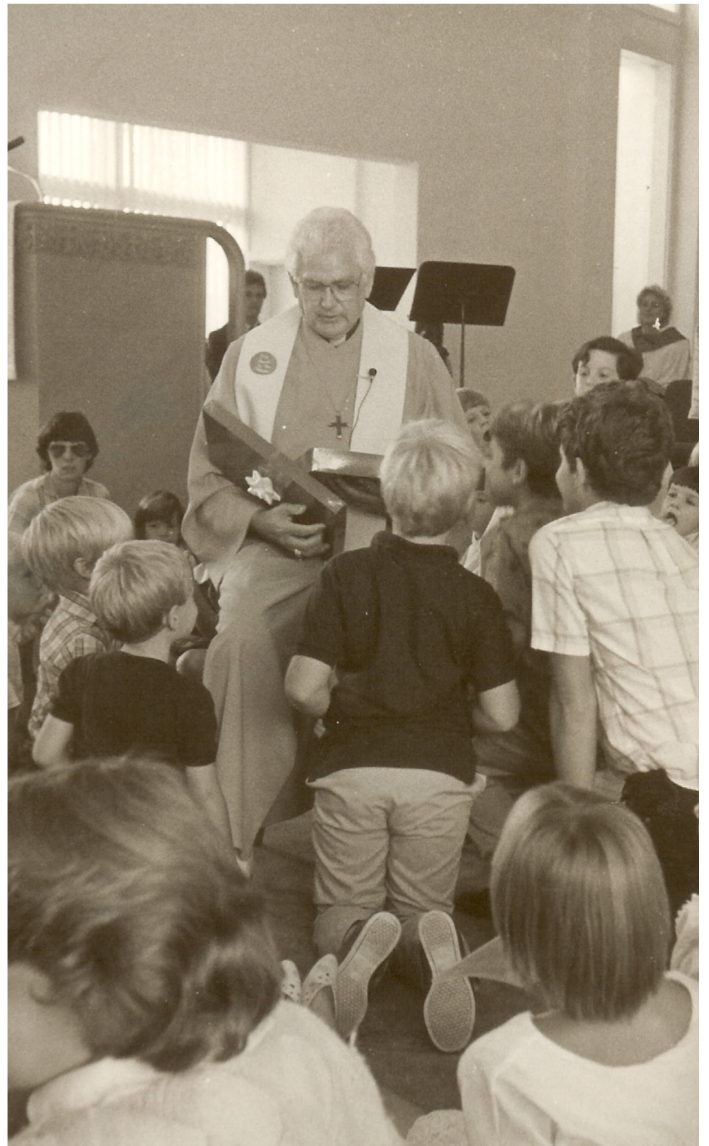
Richard Gray

\* Vacancy Filled

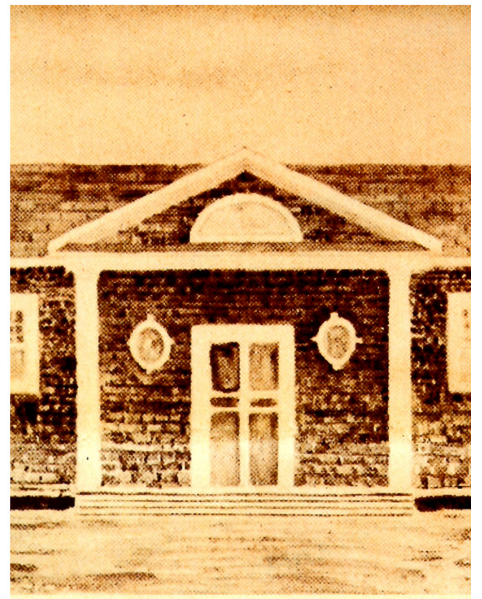
\*\* Existing member filling vacancy going forward



# Pictures of Our Church History







*May the strength of God sustain us; may the power of God preserve us; may the hands of God protect us; may the way of God direct us; and may the love of God go with us. This we pray through Christ our Rock and Redeemer, and by God's Spirit that remains with us always, even to the end of time. Amen*



Community Church of Vero Beach  
1901 23rd St.  
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*We welcome into full membership and participation in all aspects of our church life, persons of every race, language, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, physical or mental ability, economic or marital status and faith background, and we officiate and celebrate all loving and committed relationships.*