



WELLESLEY VILLAGE CHURCH

Congregational † United Church of Christ



2020 Annual Report



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Our Church Covenant

We are banded together as a Christian Church
To maintain the worship of God,
To proclaim the gospel of Christ,
To develop in all people a consciousness of their relations and duties
To God and to each other, and
To inspire them with love for truth, passion for righteousness,
and enthusiasm for service.
To this end we pledge our loyalty to Christ and covenant with each other
To express His spirit in our individual and corporate life;
To live together as Christians
and to submit ourselves to the government of this Church,
working, giving, praying for its increase, its purity, its peace,
And seeking in every way to make it a power
For the building up of the kingdom of God.

**We celebrate
all who have been
Village Church members
50 years or more!**

1941	Lindsay Ellms	1963	Barbara Levings
1944	Lois Ball	1964	Marjorie Mitchell
1949	Joanne Woods	1965	Elizabeth Bachman
1952	Carolyn Pruyne	1965	Martha Litle
1952	Pauline Ellms	1965	Betty Lee Peterson
1952	Virginia Perry	1966	James Loehlin
1956	Julie Chapman	1967	Anne Kott
1956	Robert Derderian	1967	Stephen Kott
1957	Patricia Buxton	1967	Barbara Peirson
1959	Stephen Burt	1967	John Peirson
1959	Bradlee Perry	1967	Charles Staples
1960	Ann Cunningham	1968	Ken Chaulk
1960	Elizabeth Goodhart	1968	Sally Chaulk
1960	Jacqueline Griffiths	1968	Robert Cleverdon
1960	Bobbie Jean West	1968	Phyllis Gibson
1960	Gustaf West	1969	Mike Barton
1961	Gretchen Morrison	1969	Wendy Barton
1961	Robert Morrison	1969	Bobbie Hayes
1961	Mary Talbot	1969	Casey Hayes
1962	Ruth Breden	1969	Janis Luedke
1962	Wilfred Breden	1969	Allison Sheffield
1962	Cynthia Miller	1969	Dave Sheffield
1962	Jeanne Sluyter	1970	Sally Hammerness

*"I thank my God every time I remember you,
constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers
for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel
from the first day until now."*

~Philippians 1:3-5

We Welcome Our 2020 Members

Shannon Kelly

Christiane Tolley

Tim Kelly

David Tolley

Confirmation Class of 2020

Campbell Bates

Chase McDivitt

Connor Bruce

Dylan McKeever

Thomas Burton

Hunter Nichols

Sarah Jacquelyn Cochi

Abigail Reohr

Lillian DeKing

Georgia Spangler

Vincent Robert Ferrara, Jr.

Cameron Strouse

Xavier Alan Ferrara

Alden Turner

Katherine Hobson Green

Cole Wieland

Professional Staff Reports

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter

Dear Village Church family,

Early in 2020, we presented the Vision, Mission, & Values that emerged from our collective Vision 2020 work. Our Vision Statement was certainly timely:

**“Grounded in Christian love,
we boldly reimagine our faith journey together!”**

I’m grateful for all of the adaptive ways we found to reimagine our church life together during the pandemic as we lived into our mission statement:

**With open hearts and minds,
Wellesley Village Church
welcomes the curious, the seeker, and the sure.
Inspired by the Spirit and guided by the love of
Jesus, our innovative worship,
intimate community,
and inter-generational ministries
impact our lives and deepen our call
to serve in God’s beautiful and broken world.**

Throughout the myriad challenges of 2020, our focus continued to be on Welcome, Innovative Worship, Intentional Community, Intergenerational Ministries, and Service. Thank you to the Re-Opening Task Force, chaired by Craig Stirrat, Athene Sirivallop and Suma Raju, who established protocols to guide us as we placed priority on keeping our community safe and socially-distanced. With guidelines in place, we found innovative ways to worship remotely, intentional ways to gather on zoom, creative ways to minister to children and youth outdoors, and new ways to serve our community.

2020 Highlights include:

*completed Vision 2020 process and introduced new Vision, Mission and Values

*celebrated our “Share the Dream” service with Charles St. A.M.E.; approximately 70 people came forward to answer the call to deepen our relationship, and we initiated the Pathfinder ministry

*gratefully received a \$1M gift from faithful members who wished to “endow” their pledge and express commitment to WVC’s Vision and Mission, with \$900k to be placed in our restricted fund and \$100k set aside for Vision 2020 strategic innovations

*filled vacant staff positions with Marina Berga as Church Accountant and Ed Broms as Associate Director of Music

*pivoted to remote worship in March, maintained a creative and engaging remote worship presence from Lent to Easter, through summer into fall, through Advent and Christmastide

*provided pastoral continuity through the pandemic by extending contracts of Resident Sean Patrick Coady to June of 2021, Resident Bob Feeny to June of 2022, and Interim Associate Pastor Diane Seaborn through December of 2021

*developed outdoor ministries for children, youth and youth choir and hosted outdoor fellowship gatherings on Washington Street steps and in the Cloister garden

*hosted multi-church and multi-faith Black Lives Matter community witness, with clergy from all Wellesley congregations, Police Chief Jack Pilecki, and guest musicians from Charles St. AME congregation.

*celebrated a meaningful Advent and Christmas

Professional Staff Reports

season with a live-streamed Carol Sing, Eve of the Eve Sanctuary Open House, a Youth-led Advent Service, and our first filmed Christmas Pageant and Candlelight Christmas Eve services

*celebrated the Ordination to Christian Ministry of Pastoral Residents Bob Feeny and Sean Patrick Coady and Member In Discernment Debbie Duval

*recognized David Carrier's 35th Anniversary with WVC with a live-streamed concert and dedication of the Rieger Organ in his honor

*launched Village Table under the entrepreneurial leadership of Gary Arthur and a host of volunteers. Village Table shares nourishing meals with those in need of care for any reason and helps address food insecurity in Wellesley and our wider community.

*launched a completely redesigned website focused on visitors with an emphasis on visual engagement, thanks to the gifted guidance and dedication of Susan Jung Grant and a team of volunteers

*furthered our "Brave Change" partnership with the Congregational Church of Weston. CCW is financially self-sustaining; the partnership provides enhanced leadership and learning opportunities for the Pastoral Residency Program; and CCW's parsonage is now home to the Pastoral Residents. A joint vision is emerging for a Center for Engaged Theology and Public Reconciliation-- stay tuned!

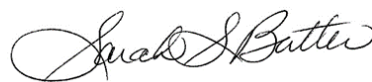
*sustained our church through the pandemic, maintained our staff and building, and provided financial support to all of our Service ministry partners, all made possible by your generosity

Special gratitude goes to Moderator Leif Hille, whose steadfast leadership saw us through a year like none other. In addition to leading Council and the Moderator team, he helped acquire and operate AV equipment in the balcony, sanctuary and chapel to help us master the livestream learning curve for such events as the Black Lives Matter witness, David Carrier's anniversary concert, the Christmas Carol Sing, and the ordination services. Thank you, Leif!

Most important of all is what we've learned from the year past and will carry forward: appreciation for the ways technology can extend worship into our homes and to the homebound; clarity around how important it is to stay connected; experience gathering on the OUTSIDE of our building; and, in a year that revealed great social unrest and racial injustice, conviction about working for justice and joy for all people; the power of gathering our neighbors together around shared convictions in public ways; and how compelling it is to be God's people together, working for good in a beautiful and broken world.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank you for your support for me and my family in the challenges that 2020 brought to our household. Every prayer, note, email, and meal received brought your healing and hopeful love into our home and hearts. You continue to embody Christ's love and the Spirit's presence to us and to one another in real time and in real ways, and I am eternally grateful.

In Christ,



Rev. Dr. Sarah S. Butter, Sr. Pastor

Professional Staff Reports

Interim Associate Pastor, Congregational Care & Engagement

Diane Seaborn

This has been a year of truly 'reimagining our faith journey together' and finding new ways of "being church." I feel particularly grateful for the innovative, collaborative team of pastors, musicians, administrative staff, sextons, and countless layfolk, who work together to create pre-recorded, online worship that sustains the Spirit and keeps us all connected. Now in my final year as Interim Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Engagement, the following ministries with Village Church have been my focus.

Congregational Care

Caring Connection has continued to provide a vehicle for member care through committed lay leadership, focused mainly on the coordination of meal delivery for those facing illness or a season of grief. The Befrienders ministry expanded its reach within the congregation this year, with a greater number of ongoing, long-lasting relationships of support, while simultaneously deepening our Befriender team's skills of holy listening and ministry of presence. Befriender-Befriendee matches have continued in the form of phone calls and occasional, COVID-aware, physically-distanced visits; our Befrienders also continue to gather monthly as a group, virtually, to offer care and fellowship to one another. At the beginning of the pandemic and again, as the summer approached, Befrienders divided up the directory and made phone calls to every household of Village Church, checking in with our faith community and extending God's hospitality by asking, "How are you?" At Easter, Befrienders wrote and mailed cards to many in our community who were feeling especially alone. In the fall, after All Saints Sunday, our Befrienders delivered remembrance bags to those who lost a loved one this year, offering another form of prayer and the love of God. Senior Life: while in-person gatherings were no longer possible, seniors of Village Church were still able to stay in touch with one another through the launch of "Seniors Connect" on Zoom. Meeting regularly online throughout this pandemic, our

seniors have been able to check-in with each other, offer one another fellowship, and feed the deep longing to remain connected in such an isolated time. I also continue to shepherd a ministry for 'walk-in' and cold call needs from the broader community, using allocated funds from the Babson Weber Mustard fund for grocery cards and financial assistance with needs such as utility payments. Meg Sweeting has been a source of enormous support to me in this ministry, through her regular presence at the church, answering phones, and helping me to connect folks in the community with the help they need. She does so with great compassion for others.

Engagement

Although Village Church could not offer its annual, Community Ministry-led events such as Harvest Fest and the "Share the Dream" luncheon, our Community Ministry deacons remained innovative this year. Community Ministry deacons participated in writing "Cards of Love," notes that were sent to members within the church and broader communities, expressing gratitude for one another during these trying times. Our September "Welcome Sunday" outdoor gathering was hosted by the Community Ministry deacons, who assisted with set-up, distribution of masks and hand sanitizer to attendees, and partnered with Gary Arthur and Village Table, who provided delectable snacks for the gathering. This generated at-will donations and increasing awareness of the new, growing Village Table ministry. Finally, on the fourth Sunday of Advent, our Community Ministry deacons delivered Christmas card notes, each accompanied by a beautiful poinsettia, to 65 church members in Wellesley and surrounding towns. Epiphany small groups: In November, I recruited a small number of faithful and Spirit-led volunteers to lead small groups in spiritual practice during this season of Epiphany. As we walk with the light of Christ over these winter months, over 40 participants will enjoy the intentional community and spiritual enrichment offered through these weekly gatherings on Zoom. Thanks be to God! I look forward to continuing a

Professional Staff Reports

still-unfolding journey alongside the faithful and spiritually curious community that is Village Church!

In Christ,

Diane

Family Life @ Village Church

Michaela McDonald,

Director of Children's Ministry

Rev. Pam Emslie

Associate Pastor, Youth Programs

Dr. Kevin J McDonald,

Director of Youth Music

The beginning 10 weeks of 2020 were business as usual. Children's Church, Youth Music, and Youth Programs all met weekly in their usual rhythms with well over 100 children and youth participating each week. March brought Covid and with it the schools temporarily shut down and so did our programs. Shortly thereafter, we began to meet with our children and youth via small groups over Zoom and continued through the end of the program year in May / June. Youth Sunday was a virtual service in May with youth and youth musicians leading the service. High School Youth Group met outside when possible over the summer.

In the fall, when Covid restrictions eased a bit, we began to reimagine our programs and began to hold them all outside! On Sunday mornings, Children's Church met in 2 sessions on the courtyard side of the church and Middle School Youth Group met on the cloister garden side. Youth Music rehearsed Wednesday evenings outside and even drew community interest when they heard the piano playing. High School Youth

Group met Sunday evenings in small groups around fire pits in the cloister garden.

Confirmation, which new this year, continued from spring into the fall, held Confirmation Sunday in October. The service was in the sanctuary with just Confirmands and parents in attendance. The service was prerecorded and virtually shared with the congregation the following Sunday. Mid-November, we returned to zoom gatherings for all programs. In December, we could not have our regular Youth Music Sunday, telling the Christmas story with the Youth Choir and instrumentalists, so in its place, youth and youth musicians led a virtual Advent worship service reflecting on the four candles of Advent. The Children's Christmas Eve pageant was prerecorded (while wearing masks and socially distancing) in the sanctuary and aired as part of the Family Christmas Eve Service on Christmas Eve. Youth music has been reimagined with rehearsals outside and over Zoom. Several virtual choir videos were created with our youth singers and have been part of our 10 am virtual worship services.

While we are happy that we are still able to gather with our groups, it is important to note the loss that we feel by the changes brought about by Covid. Our groups are strong communities that support each other in joy and fun and also in the hard times. But not being together regularly in person is difficult on us all. We feel the loss of missed retreats, activity nights, rehearsals, gatherings, and the service trip which could not take place. We look forward to when we can gather together again in person as we are called to do as Christians.

We want to thank all those who journey alongside of us to make all this possible - we can't do it alone. We want to thank our Family Life Deacons, our Children's Church volunteers, and Youth Program advisors for your steadfastness and dedication week to week. We thank our colleagues for your

Professional Staff Reports

support and care. And thank you to the Congregation for your incredible commitment to nurture our children and youth in faith.

In Faith,

Michaela, Kevin, Pam

Pastoral Resident,

Sean Patrick Coady

Dear Village Church family,

Greetings and blessings to you on this new year. As I reflect on the unique and challenging year of 2020, I am deeply grateful for you and our congregation. Together, we have reimagined what it means to be church together by leaning into our mission to deepen our faith and our connections with God and one another through “innovative worship,” “intimate communities,” and “intergenerational ministries.” I am proud of the ways we have adapted worship to reach folks in their homes and adopted Zoom for our ministries and small groups to convene together, staying emotionally and spiritually close to one another, even as we are physically distant. Here are a few highlights from 2020:

In January, I collaborated closely with church member Trond Undheim in creating a concept for a new worship service, called Christ and Music Jam, which centers around lay musicians making music together. Although this project has been put on hold, we had several jam sessions and came up with a format and a vibe that we think will appeal to many when we can reconvene.

In February, I had the great joy of travelling to Ecuador with fourteen other Village Churchers for a weeklong stay at the For His Children orphanages in Quito and Latacunga. During this trip, our group grew close to one another, as our hearts

were transformed by the love we witnessed flowing between the children and their Tia caregivers and staff and all who support FHC.

Then came March and a global pandemic, as new CDC guidelines and social distancing protocols prompted us to reimagine worship, the center of our life together as a church. On March 15 we livestreamed for the first time from the Chapel, and on March 22nd we created our first pre-recorded virtual worship service. I have had quite hands-on learning experience playing a central role in organizing, planning, and producing our pre-recorded worship videos.

In April, I gratefully and happily accepted an offer from the Pastoral Residency Committee to extend my Pastoral Residency to a third year, to try to create stability for our congregation in a time when our lives were upended.

Over the summer, I spearheaded our Summer Worship program, which focused on the theme of “Finding Our Place.” It was a delight to work with our lay preachers and liturgists and musicians to create meaningful, meditative, and nature-focused worship services.

For my final “capstone” third year as a Pastoral Resident, Senior Pastor Rev. Sarah Butter and I came up with a plan for me to serve as the Lead Worship Pastor. It has been a great learning experience to lead our weekly worship planning meetings and oversee the design and production of our virtual worship videos. In September, I began serving as the pastoral liaison to the Worship Deacons. And in October, working closely with HR, I created a job description for a Video Editor, received applications, and interviewed our final candidate. It has been wonderful to work with and

Professional Staff Reports

supervise Alyssa Glantz, who has done an excellent job editing our worship videos throughout the fall and winter. And I must extend a special thanks to Gary Gillis, who heroically led our video editing efforts as a volunteer up until this fall, and whose faithfulness and creativity has greatly enhanced our worship videos.

I have continued to assist in the Vision 2020 effort, helping in the effort to create a new website, under the leadership of church member Sue Grant. Check out our new website! It is a beautiful and faithful representation of our church community, designed primarily for visitors to get to know us better.

I continue to assist Rev. Pam Emslie in leading High School Youth Group on Sunday evenings, and I am continually impressed and inspired by our youth, who have sacrificed so much during this time of pandemic.

I also continue to help lead the BeFriender Ministry with Rev. Diane Seaborn, Kim Reohr, and Susan Sullivan. I have been so proud of our BeFrienders and the wide net of care that they have extended to the congregation through phone calls, notes, Remembrance Bags, and listening.

On December 13, I was ordained as a minister to the UCC over a hybrid Zoom/YouTube service. I am grateful to each of my four pastoral colleagues for joining me in the Chapel at Village Church helping to offer liturgy, as well as the incredible Village Church musicians who offered their gifts for music. I am also grateful for my husband, Steven Belnavis, for accompanying me at each step of this discernment journey, and presenting me with my first stole. And I am grateful to my whole Village Church family for your support, encouragement, and love. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Your brother in Christ,
Sean Patrick
Rev. Sean Patrick Coady, Pastoral Resident

Pastoral Resident, Bob Feeny

Looking back on 2020 is a time-altering, mind-bending project—January 2020 feels a world away from where we are now. Despite all the hurdles of this year, however, it has been another year of powerful ministry here at Wellesley Village Church (and the Congregational Church of Weston), and I am immensely grateful to have been part of it.

Our partnership with The Congregational Church of Weston (CCW) has deepened in ways beyond what we had imagined. In addition to housing both Pastoral Residents in the parsonage (which we effectively refer to as The Residence), CCW has shifted to a 9am Zoom worship service in order to better welcome Village Church folks. It has been a joy to share worship with both congregations. While everyone agrees that we long to be back in person, this time of virtual worship has enabled us to be together in creative ways that would have been difficult to imagine under “normal” circumstances.

On a personal note, this has been a year of tremendous professional growth. I was ordained in August, and have continued to navigate what it means to live more fully into my ministerial calling. As our congregational tradition knows well, the work of discerning one’s call cannot happen without a community of faithful people. Cheers to all of you who have remained flexible and connected to the Spirit as we’ve moved through this challenging year!

In Christ, Bob
Rev. Bob Feeny, Pastoral Resident

Professional Staff Reports

Director of Music,

David Carrier

Dear Village Church friends,

Our last day in the choir loft on March 8, 2020 was filled with choir members, and we had a full congregation and a busy coffee hour. How could we know we would not be together in person after that day?

In spite of our limitations, we were able to welcome Ed Broms as our Associate Director of Music and include him in our weekly virtual musical offerings. Ed and Kevin McDonald work tirelessly with youth singers and instrumentalists, working and recording behind the scenes.

Our choir stays involved through prerecorded platforms, and we also gather on zoom to check in with each other.

I was able to play an anniversary recital thanks to the technical savvy of Leif Hille and Sean Patrick Coady. Brad Harding was instrumental in getting this recital off the ground. It was an honor to play and also to receive such wonderful words from Sarah and Brad, and to receive a plaque in my honor which now is attached to one of the organ cases. Thank you everyone who helped make this happen.

Kevin McDonald led a carol sing with Leif and Chris Toppin Riordan managing the technology. Kevin's background on each carol brought them to life in a new way. I know you join me in thanking Kevin for all he does for Village Church.

A few days before Christmas we had an open church with me playing the organ for the duration. I understand it was very meaningful for those who attended.

I have completed my 35th year and continue to be fulfilled to this day.

My thanks and appreciation to all of you.

Sincerely,

David Carrier

Officer Reports

Moderator,

Leif Hille

Moderator's Reflection -

'For I know the plans I have for you' -
declares the LORD

Jeremiah 29:11

...Life is what happens to you,

While you're busy making other plans....

"Beautiful Boy" John Lennon

Rereading the 2019 Annual Report I was struck how it seemed that we were heading into a pretty awesome 2020 at Village Church. What a great year to be lucky enough to be the Moderator. We knew the plan for the year: full-steam ahead implementing Vision2020 ideas we'd spent our valuable time developing over the preceding year. Well! This year was many different things to many people but "as-planned", it was not.

So what was 2020 for us at Village Church? To almost all it was mostly surprising. Surprisingly lonely. Surprisingly close-quartered. Surprisingly righteous. Surprisingly unjust. Surprisingly violent. Surprisingly altruistic. Surprisingly divided. Surprisingly musical. Surprisingly faithful. Each of us knows in our hearts how it surprised them in big and little ways. I want to identify to you the ways in which I was surprised and some ways I wasn't.

For Such a Time as This. The pandemic shutdowns started about a month after the start of my Moderator tenure. By early May after a couple months cooped up, the isolation was shifting from weird curiosity to grating grind. It had still seemed we'd be out of it all by late spring, early summer at worst. I'd had a business card from Rev. Dr. Greg Groover of Charles Street AME church burning a

hole in my pocket since the previous Sharing the Dream Service. "Call for a coffee" was penciled on the back. So I called Rev. Groover and we talked on the phone and I offered him a quiche(yes, I bake). Shortly after, I baked a mushroom quiche and Amy and I drove to meet him in a parking-lot equidistant for both of us. After catching up a bit, all of us behind masks, Rev. Groover surprised me recalling the verse from Esther 4:14 that headlined the Village Church 2003 capital appeal: For Such a Time as This. He reminded me that God puts people in places at times not for the reasons they think but for God's reasons. Fate rarely gives us the year we expected.

"L'enfer, c'est les autres" - "Hell is other people" is a line from French Philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre's famous existential play "No Exit". In the play, three sinners' souls share a drawing room for eternity as each-others' torments. The reader is given a thru-the-keyhole window into their existence. Sounds familiar. Over this year, I was surprised in the number and variety of creative ways people have found to reach out, breaching their confinements and boundaries. People joined together across space and even time in service, celebration, music and worship despite the things that held them back. It is this indomitable Spirit-driven human urge to congregate and share suggests that Sartre may have gotten it exactly wrong. If you're in doubt, look at any of Village Church's past-year of musical collaborations or scan the internet for roommates across the globe recreating famous art masterpieces from their confinement (#betweenartandquarantine) or even the recent re-emergence of 19th century collaboratively-sung sea-shanties virally spreading across the internet just this week (#seashanty). The Spirit is alive and it is in People.

"We've never done it that way before" are seven words dreaded by pastors and progressive organizers alike. The statement is the sad testament of the naturally ossifying nature of

Officer Reports

bureaucracies which are created initially to propel groups' missions and eventually end-up stymieing them. Here 2020 surprised me again. You, the people of Village Church, did things differently and did so with gusto. You attended services, joined meetings, created and participated in small-groups supporting each-other and your communities. You created a whole new ministry to safely and together cook meals to feed those in need. The list goes on. Throughout the year I was immensely thankful that tradition and convention bent-the-knee to necessity allowing us to thrive through new and inventive ways of being Church.

I want to close with how this 2020 year was not surprising to me. The faith and strength of the Village Church. You are a reflection of the statement that we are so much more together than the sum of our individual selves. You have inspired my own faith-growth. Your flexibility and get-it-done will has made it a joy to serve throughout my Moderatorship. Thank you for trusting me at the helm of this ship through this stormy year. I look forward to working together with you as we weather the end of this pandemic as well as the subsequent healing and rebuilding of our broader society.

Very Respectfully,

Leif Hille, 2020 Moderator

Vision 2020 Report Councilor at Large for Strategic Planning

Mark Lenci

The core of the Vision 2020 process was the gathering of input from small groups, who met weekly for six weeks in October and November 2019. Led faithfully by a team of 36 guides and

scribes, approximately 270 people participated in the small group sessions to answer these questions:

Who are we? What are our core values?

What is our purpose? What is God calling us to be?

What do we want to create together? What is God calling us to do?

The output was distilled in a two-part process: A Vision Summit was held in November 2019 where 36 guides and scribes met to faithfully share congregational input; and, at a Writing Team Workshop where a small group prayerfully incorporated our answers to the three questions into the following value/vision/mission statements:

Vision: Grounded in Christian love, we boldly reimagine our faith journey together.

Mission With open hearts and minds, Wellesley Village Church welcomes the curious, the seeker, and the sure. Inspired by the Spirit and guided by the love of Jesus, our innovative worship, intimate communities, and intergenerational ministries deepen our faith and compel our service in God's beautiful and broken world.

Values

(BE)LOVED: by God at every age and stage of life;

(BE)LONG: we welcome, affirm, and connect;

(BE)COME: we question, learn, and grow;

(BE)FRIEND: the neighbor, the stranger, the earth;

(BE)HOLD: we worship, witness, and follow Jesus

BE-ing real, vulnerable, and open to the love of God.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we "boldly reimaged our faith journey together" in ways none of us had anticipated. The Black Lives Matter Vigil, Village Table, Book Groups, Outdoor Children's Church and Zoom Youth Groups, and spectacular Virtual Worship services - to name just a few.

Officer Reports

We continue to be inspired by the Spirit and guided by the love of Jesus as we reimagine our faith journey, create innovative worship, intentional communities, and intergenerational ministries, ~~and~~ deepening our faith and compelling our service in God's beautiful and broken world. Yet we do so with the knowledge that the future feels uncertain and that the post-pandemic world may present new opportunities and challenges that we had not considered during the initial Vision 2020 process.

Vision 2021

In the spirit of boldly reimagining our future, the Vision 2020 leadership team feels that in order to do what God is calling us to do, Village Church is being called to re-engage with Vision 2020 in the form of... Vision 2021! Vision 2021 will be a modified version of Vision 2020 where we will build upon the work that was accomplished with Vision 2020.

The Village Church community will be invited to meet (virtually) once again in small groups for three weeks during Eastertide to revisit our Vision, Mission and Values to see what new light has been shed on our work. We will explore how they authentically reflect the voices of our reimagined world as we prepare to emerge from the pandemic.

Mark Lenci

Chair, Vision 2020 Steering Team

2021 Organizational Structure & Nominating Slate

Names in *red* are placed in nomination. All terms expire at the end of January of the year listed.

CHURCH COUNCIL

<u>Moderator</u>	Cynthia Sibold	<u>Councilors</u>	<u>Admin. Board Representatives</u>
<u>Vice Moderator</u>	John Snyder	Sue Grant (Sharing/Welcome)	Properties
<u>Immediate Past Moderator</u>	Leif Hille	Kathy Schleyer (Worship)	Phil Carens
<u>Treasurer</u>	Mitch Coddington	Ed Berger (Service)	HR
<u>Clerk</u>	Jim Mongiardo	Joe Yang (Community)	Julie Barker/Steve Pfaff
<u>Senior Pastor (non-voting)</u>	Sarah Sarchet Butter	Mark Lenci (At Large - V2021)	Finance
		Sonja Sharpe	Drew Spangler
		(At Large - Family Life)	
		Dan Garrison (Stewardship)	

CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS

Community Ministry Deacons

Susan Case
 Katie McKay
 Judy Woodrich
 Adam Kreger
Becky Georgenes, Co-Chair
 Laurie Roberts
Stephanie Peck, Co-Chair
 Andy Anderson
 Natalie Colbert
 Lucy Costa
 Bob Froh
 Ron Smith
 Diane Seaborn—Pastoral Resource
 Joe Yang—Council Resource

Worship Ministry Deacon

Gary Gillis, Co-Chair
 Santa Wiryaman
 Jim Thistlethwaite
 Christie Baskett
 Gary Arthur
Debra Dederich, Co-Chair
 Darlene Howland
 Donna Volpe Strouse
 Pam Emslie/Sean Patrick Coady -
 Pastoral Resources
 Kathy Schleyer—Council Resource

Family Life (Formerly Children and Youth Ministry)

Margie Sipe
 Jeb Keiper
 Stacey Decembrele
 Carolyn Morris
 Sonja Sharpe
 Heather Kelly
 Laura McKeever
Visionary Subgroup:
 Dave Emslie
 Caroline Johnson Hodge
 Tom Hodge
 Mark Speers
 Paula Speers
 Pam Emslie & Michaela McDonald -
 Pastoral Resources
 Sonja Sharpe—Council Resource

Adult Learning Ministry Deacons

Ken Sipe
 Katie Clement
 Pat Hubbell
 Bob Feeny—Pastoral Resource

Service Ministry Deacons

Pam Snyder
 Ron Anderson
Ann Skipper, Co-Chair
 Mark Blessing
 Emily Buchholz
 Eric Seaborn
 Linda Smith
Bobbie Suratt, Co-Chair
 Lisa Weinstock
 Bob Feeny—Pastoral Resource
 Ed Berger— Council Resource

Sharing Ministry Deacons

(New Member Welcome & Engagement)

Christina Oliver
 Jacquie Wheeler
Jennifer Beachell, Chair
 Hilary Prus
 Sue Regnier
 Sarah Butter - Pastoral Resource
 Sue Grant - Council Resource

Board of Finance

Kevin Nielsen
 (Immediate Past Chair)

Julien Grant

Cheryl La Monica

Suma Raju

Deb Harrow

Drew Spangler, Chair

Sarah Sarchet Butter— Pastoral Resource

Cynthia Sibold—Council

Resource

Board of Human Resources

Jane Amara

Sue Williamson

Brad Harding

Craig Stirrat

Katie McKay

Ildi Nielsen

Julie Barker, Co-Chair

Mary Jones

Steve Pfaff, Co-Chair

Sarah Butter—Pastoral Resource

John Snyder—Council Resource

Board of Properties

Dave Secor

Marilyn Beaver

Brad Bittenbender

David Himmelberger

Phil Carens, Chair

Kirk Smith

Scott MacFarlane

Bob Soderholm

Athene Sirivallop

Bev Lenci

Joanne Ritsert

Sarah Butter - Pastoral Resource

Phil Carens/Leif Hille (Past Moderator—Council Resources

Douglas Basekett—Staff Resource

Board of Nominating

Susan Case

Annie Newman

Sybil Smith

Kerry Evans

David Oliver, Chair

Tom Walter

Sarah Butter—
 Pastoral Resource

Leif Hille—Council Resource

OTHER

Church Historian

Brad Harding

Art Exhibit Coordinator

Cyndi Miller

2021 Organizational Structure & Nominating Slate

STANDING COMMITTEES

	(Appointed)	(Nominated/Elected)
<u>Churchyard Committee</u>	<u>Pastoral Residency Committee</u>	<u>Delegates Committee</u>
Brad Harding	<i>Kerstin Allen</i>	<i>Bob Hoffman</i>
Joanne Ritsert	<i>Nick Butler</i>	<i>Sue Hoffman</i>
Kirk Smith, Chair	<i>Matthew McKay</i>	Margaret Taylor
Craig Stirrat	Susan Sullivan	Jake Martin
Pam Stirrat	Margie Sipe	Jade Hargrave
<u>Energy Task Force</u>	Priscilla Claman	John Hargrave
Phil Carens	Deb Berger	Judy Mongiardo
Cynthia Curtis, Chair	Diane Kessler	Jim Mongiardo
Jim Loehlin	Neil Simister, Chair	<u>Stewardship</u>
Jim Mongiardo	<i>Sarah Butter—</i>	Dan Garrison, Chair
David Oliver	<i>Pastoral Resource</i>	<i>Dix Leeson</i>
Dave Sheffield	<u>Safe Church</u>	<i>Rob Forker</i>
Don Smith	Brad Harding, Chair	<i>Dave Tolley</i>
<u>Gifts Committee</u>	Roger Regnier	<i>Lillian Stafford</i>
Phyllis Gibson	Alan Rose	Charlie Peck
Nancy Smith	Barbara Stock	Bob Phifer
<u>Investment Committee</u>	<u>Chapel Renovation Committee</u>	<i>Sarah Butter—</i>
Howard Appleby	<i>(to conclude in 2021)</i>	<i>Pastoral Resource</i>
Chris Bartel	<i>Dave Emslie</i>	<i>John Snyder - Council Resource</i>
Mike Kellogg	<i>Gary Gillis</i>	
Matt Pierce, Chair	<i>Brad Harding</i>	
Kirk Smith	<i>Amy Hille</i>	
Mitch Coddington—	<i>Susan Sullivan</i>	
Board of Finance Liaison	Mike Kellogg, Chair	
<u>Reopening Task Force</u>	<i>Jim Thistlethwaite</i>	
Athene Sirivallop, Co-Chair	<u>Planned Giving Committee</u>	
Craig Stirrat, Co-Chair	James Mongiardo, Chair	
Suma Raju, Co-Chair	<i>Mark Lenci</i>	
Cathy Liddell (CCW)	<u>Information Technology</u>	
Heather Sawitsky	<i>Chris Toppin Riordan</i>	
Brad Harding	<i>- staff resource</i>	
Lori Bruce	<i>Sue Grant, website</i>	
Phil Carens		
Cynthia Sibold		
Leif Hille		
<i>Sarah Butter, Diane Seaborn,</i>		
<i>Douglas Baskett,</i>		
<i>Staff Resources</i>		

Officer Reports

Clerk

Total Membership 1/1/20 1018

Received in Membership:

By Affirmation of Faith (Adults) 4
 By Affirmation of Faith (Youth) 16
 By Reaffirmation of Faith -
 By Letter of Transfer -
 By Re-activation -

Total 20

Removed from Membership:

By Death 13
 By Letter of Transfer -
 Moved to Inactive Status -
 By personal request (moved, etc.) 2

Total 15

Total Formal Members 12/31/20 1023

Participants

Active Formal Members 1023
 Active Non-Members 109
 Non-Resident Members 16

Total Active Adults 1,148

Confirmed 15 y.o. to 25 y.o. 181
 Children to 14 y.o. & unconfirmed 127

Total Young Adults & Children 308

Total Participants 1,456

Baptism:

Children 3
 Adults (age 13 and older) -

Total 10

Average Attendance at Worship Services:

2008	51 Sundays	289
2009	51 Sundays	286
2010	52 Sundays	275
2011	51 Sundays	262
2012	52 Sundays	268
2013	51 Sundays	274
2014	52 Sundays	279
2015	49 Sundays	257
2016	52 Sundays	241
2017	51 Sundays	235
2018	51 Sundays	245
2019	50 Sundays	258
2020	10 Sundays	175*
	42 Sundays	650**

Church School Enrollment

Infants/toddlers 27
 Pre-K & Kindergarten 28
 Grades 1-5 52

Total 97

Youth Program Enrollment

6th&7th Grade Fellowship 30
 8th Grade Fellowship
 Confirmation (Grade 9) 16
 Grades 10-12 (Senior High) 60

Total 125

*1/5—3/8/20 avg. in-church worship attendance

**3/15-12/27/20 avg. online views Facebook and YouTube; insufficient data for new website

Officer Reports

Historian

Bradford Harding

*Heaven is (preserving) a memory to others...
Dario Robleto**

The archives at Village Church are, for the most part, a collection of primary documents. Since 1798, there have been a few attempts to compile and summarize the records into chapter form, or a concise account of some significant episode in the life of the church. The most recent expression is contained in the new Village Church website, a dynamic “online” portrayal of the church. It is a simple and yet comprehensive view of who we are today, including a short but faithful rendering of the church’s origin. The entire project was no small undertaking, completed by a team, working for many weeks, that included; Mark Blessing, Sean Patrick Coady, Paul Green, Leif Hille, Cynthia Sibold, Chris Toppin; and Deborah Brown and Sue Jung Grant, who wrote the summary of our history.

As to primary documents themselves, each year this report mentions one or more gifts; notes and worship bulletins and sermons saved by members who want to move them to a new home – the archives here. This year there was one such gift by the Breden family. In time it will be catalogued and filed.

That gift, along with others over the years, has caused growth in the collection such that it is time to seek larger space, as well as to cull what we certainly have in duplicate. A project this coming year will be that hunt for a larger and secure closet.

In March this year, many were aware that a novel coronavirus, already bearing the name

COVID-19, was infecting people to the point at which everyday life at Village Church was changing. In-person worship was suspended, and a new method, “virtual” and online, was being created. Recalling the popular notion that ‘history repeats itself’, as well as the fact that a century ago the world was suffering the effects of another viral pandemic and the end of a devastating “great” war, I ventured back in the archives of 1920 to see if there was any mention of those calamities and how they affected church life at the time.

What I found was mostly silence. Wellesley of 100 years ago was still a rather rural town. News beyond its borders was brought by the papers from Boston. If there was any local talk about world issues, it touched on the slowing return of soldiers from the war, especially if they had been wounded, and the controversy that Prohibition, now in full force after ratification the year before, may have done more to end old political arguments than to curtail the consumption of alcohol. Members of Village Church had to know something about anti-immigrant sentiments, and a trend against “illegal aliens” which started with a chilling terrorist attack in Wall Street on September 16, the first such in U.S. history. Two references show up in the notes of Rev. Sleeper, pastor at the time. Not mentioned, but recorded in other journals of the day, was the revival of the Ku Klux Klan.

The biggest celebration in 1920 was the opening and full use of what eventually was named Burt Chapel, ending the need for Sunday worship in other rented spaces or churches who had extended invitations. This was a huge development following the complete loss of the church edifice due to fire in 1916. It brought cheers with biblical words, “behold” and “halleluiah”; and it bolstered hope in what seemed to be the far-off future -- the completion of the sanctuary was still more than two years away.

Officer Reports

What I learned from our history a century ago, and what I read more recently, prompts me to stretch the boundaries of an annual report, and to cite some details in Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter's message, "As the New Year Dawns," ** which she sent to all of us a few weeks ago.

Rev. Butter proclaims that "albeit in adjusted and more intimate settings," ordinary life continued in 2020, as did special and sacred events: births and marriages, graduations and ordinations and birthdays. There was a "peaceful election (for President) in tense times." And in a project dubbed 'warp speed', "scientists and determination developed a vaccine." She also speaks of "grief, loss and challenge." And while she called 2020 a year of "hard things", she never said they were new things.

And they were not. Nor were most of them in 1920, except that the election for President included every woman's vote for the very first time. There was worry about the future, huge human loss and sacrifice. Political positions were divided and conflicted, and the science of vaccines, while not new, was still in relative infancy. How Sarah Butter describes 2020 is a remarkable reflection of 1920.

The intent of this sidestep is this: In the first sentence of her letter, Sarah states how she is grateful. That same notion, as a noun, "gratitude", comes alive in the records of Village Church for 1920. While understated, all the same events in life took place; births, deaths, marriages, and moments of joy. There was also much suffering. But members of the congregation, stoic perhaps by their silence, were still resilient and resolute and faithful. And they worshipped with creativity to keep an old story new and refreshed.

Having and sharing words of gratitude for the "good things" is a way to ease the challenge of the "hard things" and the pain of loss and grief. True for Village Church in 2020, it was also true in 1920. And the same can probably be said for every year in between. After all, it is central to what we hear and learn and reflect on each week. It is in our ongoing story and in our history.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradford Harding

*Dario Robleto, b. 1972, is a sculptor and historian who lives in Texas and exhibits widely in the southwest.

**cited with permission.

Financial Reports

**Wellesley Village Church
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2020 and 2019**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Operating Checking Accts	\$291,532	\$153,276
Church Yard	111,087	110,943
Village Churchwomen	31,106	40,268
Prepaid Expenses	86,712	24,812
Investment Accounts		
Operating/Unrestricted	420,767	417,309
General Endowment - Operating/Unrestricted/Restricted	4,865,330	3,466,313
Pastoral Residency Endowment	4,173,279	3,822,399
Vision 2020/Innovation Fund	87,633	0
Lily Fund	161,465	165,734
Chapel Fund	72,973	99,158
Environmental Fund	152,387	151,015
Total Assets	<u>\$10,454,271</u>	<u>\$8,451,227</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$34,104	\$38,767
Advance Pledges	17,056	95,523
Advance Revenue Rec'd	42,157	8,189
Total Liabilities	<u>93,317</u>	<u>142,479</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted		
General/Unrestricted Endowment - prior year balance forward	2,959,474	2,495,390
Current Year Increase (Decrease)	1,592,100	464,084
Total Unrestricted	<u>4,551,574</u>	<u>2,959,474</u>
Temporarily restricted (includes board designated)		
Board Designated Reserves	871,975	850,552
Lily Funds and Investment Income	161,486	161,729
Designated Capital Appeal Funds		
Chapel	73,535	88,494
Environmental	151,182	150,752
Pastoral Residency Endowment	4,173,161	3,806,733
Total Designated Capital Appeal Funds	<u>4,397,878</u>	<u>4,045,979</u>
All other TR net assets	378,041	291,015
Total Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	<u>5,809,380</u>	<u>5,349,274</u>
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	0	0
Total Net Assets	<u>10,360,954</u>	<u>8,308,748</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$10,454,271</u>	<u>\$8,451,227</u>

Financial Reports

Wellesley Village Church

Statement of Operations

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Income			
Net Pledge Income - Current Year	\$1,075,727	\$1,226,500	(\$150,773)
Prior Year Pledge Income	32,787	30,000	2,787
Member Contributions not Pledged	206,652	80,000	126,652
Loose Collection	3,733	25,000	(21,267)
Income from Giving	1,318,899	1,361,500	(42,601)
Investment and Other Income			
Use of Facilities	8,455	70,000	(61,545)
Steeple Income	61,160	61,000	160
Investment Income - Dividends & Interest Ops	150	7,000	(6,850)
Disbursement from Fiduciary (Gen'l Endowment)	123,000	123,000	0
Disbursement from PRP Endowment	130,000	130,000	0
Disbursement from Lily Fund investment	1,645	4,000	(2,355)
Income, Special Offerings	2,627	10,000	(7,373)
Total Income	1,645,936	1,766,500	(120,564)
Expenses			
Human Resources	1,133,791	1,208,100	74,309
Service Ministry	196,412	192,400	(4,012)
Properties	129,662	160,300	30,638
Office/Finance	74,426	91,900	17,474
Learning Ministry	14,603	25,050	10,447
Worship Ministry	20,851	35,300	14,449
Sharing Ministry (mbrshp, website, dues)	1,398	2,250	852
Council	7,523	7,450	(73)
IT Committee	29,026	28,500	(526)
Community Ministry	1,183	5,250	4,067
Special Offerings	2,462	10,000	7,538
Total Expenses	1,611,337	1,766,500	155,163
Net Operating Surplus (Shortfall)	34,599	0	34,599
Transfer to Property Reserve	(34,599)	0	(34,599)
PPP Loan/Grant	192,959	0	192,959
Gifts and Bequests to General Endowment	900,000	0	900,000
Net Endowment Earnings (after fiduciary transfer)	499,141	0	499,141
Net Amount Added to General Reserves	\$1,592,100	\$0	\$1,592,100

Financial Reports

Wellesley Village Church Summary of 2020 Restricted Fund Activity

<u>Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2019</u>		<u>Increases</u>		<u>Decreases</u>		<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2020</u>
Designated Board Reserves							
Board of Finance	\$175,434	-		-			\$175,434
Property	285,454		34,599	A	(26,800)	A	293,253
General	389,663		0		0		389,663
Other Board Reserves	0		0		0		0
Capital Appeal							
Pastoral Residency Fund	3,806,733		496,429	B	(130,000)	B	4,173,162
Chapel Fund	88,494		1,199	C	(16,159)	C	73,534
Environment Fund	150,752		430		0		151,182
Lily/Alban Fund	161,486		0		0		161,486
Other Temporarily Restricted Funds							
Vision 2020/Innovation	0		100,021	D	(19,940)	D	80,081
Music Related	37,651		4,233		(1,100)		40,784
Village Church Yard	106,239		165		0		106,404
Village Churchwomen	40,268		0		(9,162)	E	31,106
Village Church Trust	42,007		4,327		0		46,334
Village Table	0		23,666	F	(7,663)	F	16,003
Minister's Discretionary Fund	1,610		11,200	G	(7,847)	G	4,963
Other Misc. Restricted Funds	63,482		10,936	H	(8,428)	H	65,990
Total Restricted Funds	<u>\$5,349,273</u>		<u>\$687,205</u>		<u>(\$227,099)</u>		<u>\$5,809,379</u>

A. The 2020 operating surplus was added to Property Reserve and the sanctuary window repairs were deducted from the reserve.

B. Represents \$496,429 of investment income and a \$130,000 transfer which helps fund the direct expenses associated with the PRP.

C. Represents \$1,199 of investment income and \$16,159 for the AV system installation in the Chapel.

D. Represents a \$100,000 gift to the church to be used for Vision 2020/Innovation activities, as requested by the donors; the \$100,000 was 10% of a \$1 million gift received in March 2020. The first \$5,000 was used to fund the Village Table initiative and \$14,940 was expended to support the new church website as well as the video editing and production for the Sunday services.

E. Represents the net decrease in the Churchwomen's cash balances.

F. Represents donations to Village Table of \$23,666 and direct expenses for food and supplies of \$7,663.

G. Represents \$11,200 of donations received and \$7,847 of disbursements based on need, as determined by the ministers.

H. Includes a total of thirteen restricted funds, each with less than \$5,000 of income and less than \$5,000 of expenses.

Financial Reports

Wellesley Village Church
Market Value of Fiduciary Funds (Unrestricted)
 December 31, 2020 and 2019

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<u>Investments</u>		
Cash - Core	\$ 171,572	\$ 36,871
Fidelity Conservative Income Bond Fund	469,290	290,704
Vanguard Total Bond ETF	654,637	325,572
Vanguard Total Stock Market ETF	2,297,745	1,592,763
iShares MSCI Total International ETF	1,272,086	890,003
Fidelity Floating Rate High Income Fund	-	330,400
Total Fiduciary Funds	<u>4,865,330</u>	<u>3,466,313</u>
Less: Village Church Trust funds	<u>46,334</u>	<u>42,007</u>
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>\$4,818,996</u>	<u>\$3,424,306</u>
Market Value - Village Church Trust	<u>\$46,334</u>	<u>\$42,007</u>

Distributions for Operations were \$123,000 in 2020 and \$121,150 in 2019.

Wellesley Village Church
Market Value of Fiduciary Funds (Pastoral Residency)
 December 31, 2020 and 2019

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<u>Investments</u>		
Cash - Core	\$ 130,635	\$ 50,874
Fidelity Conservative Income Bond Fund	401,156	320,194
Vanguard Total Bond ETF	555,194	368,903
Vanguard Total Stock Market ETF	1,984,069	1,747,228
iShares MSCI Total International ETF	1,102,225	975,588
Fidelity Floating Rate High Income Fund	-	359,612
Total Pastoral Residency Funds	<u>\$ 4,173,279</u>	<u>\$ 3,822,399</u>

Distributions for the Pastoral Residency were \$144,991 in 2020 and \$103,075 in 2019.

Financial Reports

**Wellesley Village Church
Statement of Operations
2021 Budget and 2020 Actual**

	<u>2021 Budget</u>	<u>2020 Actual</u>
Income		
Net Pledge Income - CY	\$1,125,000	\$1,075,727
Prior Pledge Income	10,000	32,787
Member Contribution not Pledged	175,000	206,652
Loose Collection	10,000	3,733
Income from Giving	<u>1,320,000</u>	<u>1,318,899</u>
% of total income	77.1%	80.2%
Investment and Other Income		
Use of Facilities	23,500	8,455
Steeple Income	61,772	61,160
Investment Income - Dividends & Interest	200	150
Disbursement from Fiduciary (Gen'l Endowment)	164,100	123,000
Disbursement from PRP Endowment	136,700	130,000
Disbursement from Lily Fund investment	1,000	1,645
Holiday & Special Offerings	5,000	2,627
Total Income	<u>1,712,272</u>	<u>1,645,936</u>
Expenses		
Human Resources	1,206,730	1,133,791
Service Ministry	188,600	196,412
Properties	182,000	129,662
Finance/Office	92,180	74,426
Learning Ministry	18,500	14,603
Worship Ministry	17,926	20,851
Sharing Ministry	1,250	1,398
Council	7,500	7,523
IT Committee	30,500	29,026
Community Ministry	3,560	1,183
Special Offerings	5,000	2,462
Total Expenses	<u>1,753,746</u>	<u>1,611,337</u>
Net Operating Surplus (Shortfall)	<u>(41,474)</u>	<u>34,599</u>
Transfers (to) from general reserves	41,474	-
Steeple Repair	(90,000)	-
Transfer (to) from property reserves	90,000	(34,599)
2020 PPP Loan/Grant	-	192,959
Gifts and Bequests to General Endowment	-	900,000
Net Endowment Earnings (after fiduciary transfer)	-	499,141
Net Amount Added to General Reserves	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,592,100</u>

Financial Reports

**Wellesley Village Church
Village Churchwomen
Statement of Operations**

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Income

Directory and Scholarship	\$9,495
Interest	13
Lombard Fund Distribution	192
Luncheon Donations	100
Total Income	<u>9,800</u>

Expenses

Christmas Gifts	250
Luncheons	220
Outreach (*)	13,834
Reception	274
Scholarship Fund	2,165
Church Pledge	5,500
Total Expenses	<u>22,243</u>

Net Operating Income (Expense) (\$12,443)

() 2020 Outreach was funded by the 2019 Rummage Sale*

**Wellesley Village Church
Village Churchwomen
Reserve Fund Activity**

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Contributions	\$2,165
Investment Income	1,116
Expenses	0
Net Increase in Reserve Funds	<u>\$3,281</u>

Financial Reports

**Wellesley Village Church
Village Churchwomen
Outreach**

For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Health/Handicapped Services

Healthcare Without Walls	\$750
Human Relations Service	400
Natick/Walpole Visiting Nurse Association	300
Good Shepard Community Care	300
Partners Home Care/NW branch	300
Subtotal	<u>2,050</u>

Hunger/Homeless/Housing

A Place to Turn	500
H.O.M.E.	2,500
Women's Lunch Place	500
Wellesley Food Pantry	850
Chaplains on the Way	300
Transition House	400
Family Promise Transitional Housing Initiative	1,000
Family Promise Metrowest	700
Family Promise Metrowest Expenses	700
Subtotal	<u>7,450</u>

Seniors

Springwell, Inc.	500
Friends of Wellesley Senior Neighbors (Council on Aging)	500
Subtotal	<u>1,000</u>

Youth

Hoops and Homework	1,500
Wellesley ABC House	300
Wellesley Metco Scholarship Fund	300
Wellesley Friendly Aid Camp	500
Hamilton Garrett Music Academy	500
City Mission Society	234
Subtotal	<u>3,334</u>

TOTAL \$13,834

Financial Reports

Indemnification and Banking Authority Resolution

The Treasurer, Vice Treasurer of Wellesley Congregational Church (“Church”), and the Chair of the Investment Subcommittee of the Board of Finance are individually duly authorized for and on behalf of the Church to:

1. Designate from time to time one or more banks, trust companies or other banking institutions (any thereof being hereinafter referred to as a “bank”), to act as depository or depositories for the funds of the Church for and during such period as he/she may from time to time deem necessary or desirable in the interests of the Church and to open or close out from time to time accounts in any such depository so selected or reselected;
2. That they are further authorized and directed, in the name and on behalf of the Church, to take any and all action that they may deem necessary or advisable in order to establish bank accounts from time to time for the efficient conduct of the Church’s business including instructions for the purchase, sale, or transfer of assets of the Church including bonds, mutual funds, and shares of common and preferred stock; and
3. That, if any depository requires a prescribed form of preamble, preambles, resolution or resolutions relating to such accounts or to any application, statement, instrument or other document connected therewith, each such preamble or resolution shall be deemed to be adopted by the Church, and the Clerk of the Church is authorized to certify the adoption of any such preamble or resolution as though it were presented to the Church at the time of adoption of this resolution, and to insert all such preambles and resolutions in the minute book of the Church Council immediately following this resolution.

This resolution shall take effect the date of the 2020 Annual Meeting (February 14, 2021), and shall remain in effect until the next Annual Meeting.

Deacon Ministry Reports

Community Ministry

Unable to meet in person and organize activities historically carried out by the Community Ministry deacons, we looked to new ways to promote community and connect our congregation. We wrote notes to the Congregational Church of Weston members at the time of transition when the Edens left their pastorate. We also sent cards to thank veterans for their service in conjunction with the Red Cross. Members served as greeters for the fall outdoor gathering at the church. This Christmas, along with several families, our ministry delivered poinsettias to many church members to brighten the season.

Community Ministry Deacons hope to resume our traditional in-person activities as of fall 2021. These include delivering flowers after each Sunday's service and organizing celebratory meals for three major events: Welcome Back Sunday, the Thanksgiving Harvestfest Potluck, and the Sharing the Dream Service. In addition, we hope to reinstate the Fellowship Dinners, which are very popular with many in the congregation.

Members this year included Adam Kreger, Becky Georgenes, Laurie Roberts, Stephanie Peck, Judy Woodrich, Andy Anderson, Natalie Colbert, Lucy Costa, Bob Froh, Ron Smith, Katie McKay, Annie Newman, and Jenny Wardwell. Our staff liaison is Diane Seaborn and our Council liaison is Joe Yang.

In peace with hope for 2021,

Susan Case and Barbara Werner, Co-chairs

Adult Ed Learning Ministry

Our Adult Education offerings were able to expand into new virtual formats. Our Lenten small groups

began in person, before switching to Zoom, and that opened the door for a variety of additional offerings. Searching for ways to stay engaged while apart, we gathered book groups together for discussions around faith, scripture, and Creation. Our summer series "Antiracism 101: Starting the Work Change Requires" brought together over 50 people, mostly from WVC and CCW, but including others as well, for an 11 week series of small group discussions around the vital topic of racial injustice.

Looking at what we did together this year is really quite incredible:

Inspired by Rachel Held Evans (with CCW)

Laudato Si by Pope Francis (With CCW and Spirit of Life)

White Fragility by Robin Diangelo (with CCW)

I'm Still Here by Austin Channing-Brown (with CCW)

How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi (with CCW)

Native by Caitlin B. Curtice (with CCW)

Finally, our ongoing Bible Study group came together in October, and without the worry of getting everyone into the same place at the same time we have been able to expand! We are undertaking an audacious study of the Apostle Paul's life and his writings that has already proven to be challenging and rewarding.

Bob Feeny, Pastoral Resident

Service Ministry

This has been a challenging year, altered in many ways by the Covid-19 pandemic. All meetings after March were held by Zoom. Several programs were

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cancelled as “live events” and converted to other formats:

-The Feeding Frenzy, an annual event held in early fall was cancelled, but continued to be supported with a donation of \$4,800.

-The annual Alternative Christmas Fair evolved as an on-line event and supported the following organizations: Chaplains on the Way, Friends of Fumbelo, El Porvenir, A Place to Turn, Hoops and Homework, Family Promise MetroWest, For His Children, Heifer International, and Pathway to Possible.

A gift of \$1,000 was made to Hoops & Homework to support their summer program. In addition, the Hoops & Homework back-to-school backpack program provided backpacks to all who requested them. The City Mission winter coat drive took place in mid-November and 87 coats were collected. This was significantly less than the 252 collected last year. The Abernethy Award of \$2,500 was presented to A Place to Turn, the Natick food pantry. Currently our group is considering the best way to support Bristol Lodge and the newly created Village Table.

Service Deacons distributed \$80,000 in grants as had been the original plan. There were 21 applications, and 20 awards were made to the following organizations: A Place to Turn, Chaplains on the Way, City Mission, Common Cathedral, Community Chaplaincy Council, Community Servings, Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries, Cornerstones, Family Promise MetroWest, For His Children, Friends of Fumbelo, Hope and Comfort, METCO Wellesley, Northeastern University PT, OUT MetroWest, RIA House, Santa Fe Watershed, Wellesley ABC, Wellesley STARS, and Women’s Lunch Place.

Service Deacons: Margie Steere, Ron Anderson, Mark Blessing, Lisa Weinstock, Eric Seaborn, John Goss, Bobbie Suratt, Karen Dale, Linda Smith and Emily Buchholtz, Ann Skipper, Council Liaison & Rev. Bob Feeny, Pastoral Resident.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margie Steere & Ron Anderson, Co-Chairs

Family Promise Metrowest @ Village Church

“It is because of (Village) church’s vision and extraordinary ongoing financial support that we came into being and continue to grow and flourish.” (FPM Executive, 2019)

Overview & Growth

Family Promise Metrowest (FPM), based in Natick, was originally conceived in 2003 and modeled after the original chapter in New Jersey. A five-year process of development including leadership from members of Village Church became a reality when the first families were sheltered in October, 2008. Today, FPM is one of over 200 programs across the country affiliated with Family Promise National, and our local network has expanded from 21 to nearly 50 congregations and over 2,000 trained volunteers. Our chapter of Family Promise, has also grown over time from offering solely a **Shelter Program** to a comprehensive program addressing additional needs. In 2013, FPM initiated the **Transitional Living Program** to ensure families’ smooth transition back into the community upon moving out of shelter, and in 2015, the **Steps to Success** program was started to provide employment support. In 2017, FPM added the **Local Initiative for Family Empowerment (LIFE)** program, a very successful homelessness prevention initiative that has helped dozens of families in the eviction process to remain in their homes.

The Year 2020

The pandemic year 2020 was full of twists and turns and required that we adapt our involvement creatively. In 2020, our activities included:

Hosting 4 Shelter Program families in the lower level of our church for only one week, instead of our usual 4 weeks per

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year, since the congregational hosting program was shut down due to pandemic-related issues and families were placed in a hotel;

Running a “Valentine’s for Families” drive for small items to fill Family Goodie Bags;

Supporting Family Promise’s two large, annual fundraiser events, the spring *Walkathon* and the fall *Keep the Promise* event - both of which had to be produced virtually;

Providing generous donations through our Outreach Committee and Women’s Group;

Running our own *House Laps Challenge* Fundraiser to provide a different opportunity for volunteer involvement and to raise funds to help cover FPM’s increased costs of having families stay at a hotel;

Responding to Family Promise’s Key Constituent Questionnaire for their Strategic Planning initiative, designed to chart the organization’s future course.

Our single host week consisted of our usual wonderful collaboration with St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church of Wellesley and about 50 volunteers. Our volunteers include individuals, families, groups, kids, teens, and seniors from our respective congregations, as well as members of the broader community. As it turned out, we were the last congregation to host before the congregational hosting program was shut down mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fortunately, FPM has been able to operate its Shelter Program as well as its other programs continuously throughout the pandemic. In particular, FPM negotiated favorable rates for the Shelter program families to stay at a suites hotel in a nearby town, and we expect them to be the hotel at least into the fall and probably until the end of 2021 due to continuing pandemic concerns. Many volunteers have let us know how much they miss

hosting and have been seeking other ways to stay involved and volunteer in a hands-on way in the interim.

Recognition

An important milestone event also took place during 2020: long-time Village Church member Judy Mongiardo received the *FPM Legacy Award*. Judy was one of the original founding members of the Natick chapter of Family Promise. Judy was also the Network Coordinator for Family Promise, a role she developed and held from the time of its founding until last year when she retired. Judy’s passion and commitment to the families and the organization since its founding has been unsurpassed and she will be incomparably missed in that role. Yet, we look forward to welcoming her back as a volunteer extraordinaire.

In closing, we want to thank our dedicated volunteers and supporters as well as our church staff, who help us to ensure activities run smoothly. Together we have a great team, and we are ready for the new challenges 2021 will no doubt bring.

Christina Oliver and Diana Carroll

Co-Coordiators

Village Table -

Established Summer 2020

Birtherd amid the Covid19 pandemic, Village Table is the humble interpretation of God’s love one for another through simple sacrifice and service. With food lines growing longer, unemployment skyrocketing, social injustices front and center, deaths from the pandemic soaring, the cries of hunger became louder than the chatter of successful sourdough starters and reduced graduation events.

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We seemed to be moving towards times of disorder, times like when the prophet Jeremiah was said to have shared the words of Lamentations 4:9, "Happier were those pierced by the sword than those pierced by hunger, whose lives drain away, deprived of the produce of the field."

Volunteers came forth out of the congregation and community to answer the call of service through food. Some brought money, some wisdom, some skill, some food, and some desire. All brought personal passion and commitment of the heart to cook, package, and distribute restaurant style meals to some with need.

Hurdling the initial ambition of 600 meals each month, Village Table, through the generosity of church and community, is positioned to produce over 10,000 meals in its first year. Friends serviced through A Place to Turn, Wellesley Food Pantry, multiple community fridges, Food for Free, Bristol Lodge, Family Promise, and hundreds delivered to families by church members one by one as the need appears, have benefitted from this work. Hot Thanksgiving meals served on the streets at Methadone Mile in Boston placed our food program into the ranks of those that are making a difference.

We look forward to continuing indefinitely and sharing this capability to other houses of worship in our community. Please pray for us as we move forward.

Blessings to all,

Gary Samuel Arthur

"Servant"

New Member Sharing Ministry

The 2020 Sharing Ministry began the year looking forward to implementing many of plans for *Welcome and Engagement* initiated in 2019.

Unfortunately, our ministry did not have a chance to meet as a group before the church closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the months passed, we found ourselves struggling with how to take action to fulfill our ministry's purpose: it was difficult to demonstrate radical hospitality and welcome while the doors remained locked. As the world changed, the Sharing Ministry was inspired by Vision 2020 and decided to "boldly reimagine" what our ministry work might look like in 2020 and beyond.

In spite of our building being closed, the doors to Village Church remained wide open throughout 2020. Two families joined the Church in September, families new to our community attended the reimagined outdoor Children's Church, and participated in our monthly outdoor gatherings, book and prayer groups and on-line worship. Members of the Sharing Ministry reached out to each of the families to extend the hand of radical hospitality as is typical at Village Church. Members of the Sharing Ministry spent Sunday mornings at the Church School drop-off location, wearing masks and engaging in a socially distanced manner with new families. The Ministry attempted several times to host an in-person "Newcomers Coffee Hour" but the evolving mandates about social gatherings prohibited us from proceeding. Each month in late 2020, the sharing ministry filmed welcome clips that were integrated into the on-line worship services, encouraging new members to reach out to our Ministry via a dedicated email address, WELCOME@wellesleyvillagechurch.org, if they had questions about our community.

As the year progressed, the Sharing Ministry realized that the pandemic was affecting our well-established and trusted welcome processes for connecting with new members. We were forced to move from primarily face-to-face welcoming to a blend of in-person and digital engagement. To do the work God calls us to do, we began to boldly reimagine how we fully embrace individuals and families interested in learning more about Village Church.

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Looking forward to 2021, the focus of the Sharing Ministry remains to build relationships and connection while recognizing that strengthening our digital "welcome" presence is an increasingly important component of our ministry work.

Faithfully,

The 2020 Sharing Ministry

Jennifer Beachell, Ed Berger (Council Liaison), Deborah Brown, Diane Campbell, Hilary Prus, Cynthia Sibold and Sue Regnier

Worship Ministry

Worship Deacons prepared and served communion for First and Second Worship until the Church closed in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Together with the Family Ministry, Worship Deacons also assisted with baptisms before the closure. In February, Worship Deacons worked closely with Church staff to set up a new fellowship refreshment plan to minimize waste and save money.

When the Church began offering remote worship on Sunday mornings, the Worship Deacons needed to reinvent themselves. During monthly Zoom meetings, Worship Deacons served as a sounding board for the pastoral staff by reflecting on our experiences of worship and offering planning advice. This was particularly critical during this past year as the staff was navigating the transition to remote worship. Beginning in the Fall, Worship Deacons participated in the remote worship services as directed by the lead pastor each week.

During monthly meetings, our pastoral representatives Pam Emslie (January-August) and Sean Patrick Coady (September-current) led the committee in discussions and training in different aspects of worship, including: bestowing blessings, serving communion and reading scripture. We are so grateful to Worship Deacon Gary Gillis for his countless hours editing the worship videos each week. Without his knowing, the committee put

together a thank-you gift for Gary from the entire congregation. We give continued thanks to the Bread Ministry for baking the communion loaves and to Gladys Murillo for assisting in refreshment preparation and keeping the kitchen so organized.

Thanks also to Meg Sweeting and Chris Toppin Riordan for your help with a myriad of tasks throughout the year. Our deep gratitude to Pam Emslie, Sean Patrick Coady and the entire Worship Deacon team, especially those who rotate off this year: Susan Case, Caroline Boynton, Anne Gilligan, Carol Yermal, Neil Simister, Lois Lee and Gary Gillis.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Howland and Donna Strouse,

Co-Chairs

Board of Finance

The Board of Finance is responsible for assembling the church budget and is also charged with monitoring the receipt and disbursement of all church funds.

The pandemic impacted the church's financials in many ways in 2020. In particular, we were unable to generate income from renting our space to the Wellesley Chinese Language School and for other events which typically helps cover a significant portion of our operating costs. Not holding live services also impacted donations made in-person. We also continue to face ongoing headwinds due to aging church infrastructure, rising healthcare and benefit costs and other cost inflation. The demographics of our church membership also continues to evolve, and we continue to benefit from new families joining the congregation and serving as church stewards.

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Despite a tumultuous year filled with uncertainty, the financial health of the church remains strong. The resilience of our congregation and flexibility of our staff and lay leaders combined to overcome these challenges. As a result, we were able to finish the year with a surplus due to generous giving, particularly at year end, and costs that came in well below budget due to expense control and lower operating costs. In addition, we qualified for the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) which will help the church navigate the pandemic in both 2020 and 2021. The program allowed us to remain fully staffed, fill open positions and offset lost income. Many thanks to our financial team of our church accountant and treasurer, with guidance from knowledgeable congregants!

The Board of Finance is pleased to present the operating results for 2020. Despite income that was below budget, it exceeded costs for the twelve months ended December 31, 2020. Reflecting known capital projects and expected future costs to replace aging equipment and infrastructure, the \$34.6K surplus from operations has been transferred to shore up the Property Reserve, one of the Board Designated Reserves.

Total Assets of the church were \$10.5 million as of December 31, 2020, an increase of \$2.0 million from 2019. Half of the increase is due to the year-to-year financial performance of the endowments, with the other half from an extremely generous gift to the Unrestricted Endowment and a new Innovation Fund to support the implementation of Vision 2020.

The 2021 budget was prepared with input from the Board of Finance, the Treasurer, church staff, the senior pastor, and members of the various committees and ministries. The 2021 budget was presented at a congregational hearing on January 17th and approved by the Church Council on February 2nd. With adjustments based on 2020's

final financial results and having received input from many interested parties, we are pleased to present the 2021 Budget to the congregation at this Annual Meeting.

2020 Financial Summary

The church's operating results (excluding the income from the PPP loan grant) for 2020 resulted in a surplus of \$34.6K, thanks to another year of remarkable generosity from the congregation, despite the pandemic.

Total Income in 2020 decreased by \$50K versus 2019 and was about \$120K below budget. Total contributions from church members increased from the prior year – while Pledge Income (received as of December 31, 2020) of \$1,076K was down \$49K compared to the prior year, and \$151K below the amount budgeted. Non-pledged gifts more than doubled to \$207K, much of which was received in December. Use of Facilities Income (earned from outside groups who rent our church space) declined by \$65K (89%) from 2019, to \$8.5K.

Total Expenses decreased by \$55K versus 2019 and were \$155K below budget. While Human Resource expenses increased \$35K (3.2%) year over year, they were \$74K below budget, partially due to the timing of staff departures and hiring. Properties expenses declined by \$52K compared to 2019 and were \$31K below budget, due to less building usage and favorable weather conditions that lowered operating costs. Other expenses were generally down due to less activity by the various ministries.

The church applied to have the PPP loan of \$193K converted to a grant, which was approved by the SBA in December. The benefit to net income from the PPP will bolster our general reserves and should help cover our projected loss from operations in 2021.

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Total Net Assets of the church, net of current liabilities, as of December 31, 2020, totaled \$10.4 million as summarized below. This represents an increase in net assets of almost \$2.0 million in 2020.

General Unrestricted Endowment \$4,552K
Pastoral Residency Endowment \$4,173K
Capital Appeal Funds (Chapel & Environment)
\$225K
Restricted Reserves for specified purposes
\$1,411K
Total Net Assets \$10.4 million

Kevin Nielsen, Chair

Board of Human Resources

2020 was a challenging year for the Village Church staff. Thanks to their incredible hard work, patience, dedication, persistence, and willingness to innovate, they found and executed new ways to keep our church community functioning together, in worship and so many other ways.

There were three changes in the Village Church staff in 2020. In February, the Church hired Accountant Marina Berga, replacing Shawn Doung, who left for a new opportunity. In April Assistant Music Director Ed Broms joined us, after a multi-month search. In November the Church contracted with a video editor to produce our Sunday worship services—a function Gary Gillis, Sean Patrick, and Bob Feeny had wonderfully performed since our virtual services began in March.

There was creativity in how we responded to the pandemic. With the aid of the Paycheck Protection Program (“PPP”) loan (now grant), we were able to keep our staff intact. In response to the difficulties brought on by the pandemic, with the approval of Council, the employment term of our Interim Associate Pastor, Diane Seaborn, was

extended to the end of 2021, and the terms of our Pastoral Residents were each extended by one year.

HR Board members Brad Harding and Craig Stirrat brought their talents to the Church’s Reopening Task Force.

2020 saw both our Pastoral Residents take up residence in the Congregational Church of Weston parsonage.

Able led by HR Board member Brad Harding, the congregation in November celebrated David Carrier’s 35 wonderful years with Village Church. The HR Board looks forward to coordinating celebrations of other special employment anniversaries in 2021.

In 2021 the HR Board looks forward to working with and supporting the work of Pastoral Residency Committee in their search for a new Pastoral Resident, and to working with and supporting the work of the Associate Pastor search committee.

We are grateful for the dedicated work of our Board members who made all this happen in trying circumstances!

Julie Barker and John Snyder

Co-Chairs

Board of Nominating

It was an usual, but also unusually enjoyable, Nominating Season this fall. I want to sincerely thank the other Committee members (Nancy Smith, David Oliver, Sybil Smith, and Tom Walter) for their diligence and good humor, as well as Cynthia Sibold for her guidance, and our entire congregation for considering and, very often, saying “yes”.

While we may have not filled quite as many

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positions this year, we certainly had more than the usual number of conversations with members. There were lots of questions about the work of groups and the Vision 2020 (now Vision 2021!) changes that are coming to WVC. We (of course!) met all season via Zoom and added the new responsibility of identifying the incoming Chair/Co-Chairs for each group, so that they can jump into the year with leadership and focus.

Here's to a strong and vital new year for our beloved Wellesley Village Church.

Sincerely,

Deborah Berger, Chair

Board of Properties

In spite of massive disruption caused by the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020, the Board of Properties (BOP) at Village Church completed a successful 2020 term.

2020 was a unique year, punctuated by a normal early 2020 Church year start, followed by the rapid descent of a COVID blanket on nearly all Church activities. The Board transitioned to the Covid world by implementing monthly meetings by Zoom Video conference during the balance of the spring term. This was then followed by BOP coordination with the WVC Re-Opening Task Force during the summer months, assisting in planning the first “virtual” kickoff to the Fall Church season. Throughout all of this, the Board remained active, interested, collaborative, and focused on our Church Properties.

Despite Covid, a key 2020 project for the BOP was the repair of all Sanctuary windows, shutters and window mechanisms. The eight original windows (and their shutters) were in a deteriorated condition, and the BOP had contracted with Painter’s Pride in Framingham for scrape, repair, prime, and paint of the interior and exterior

windows. While Covid was still ramping up, just after Easter, the Painter’s Pride team safely managed the work, while masked and distanced. After 5 weeks’ work, the project was successfully completed.

Another key 2020 project contemplated for 2021 was the repair/refurbishment of the Church Steeple. The Steeple needs woodwork assessment, repair, and paint. The Board had contracted with experienced steeple contractors and is finalizing details for hoped-for fall 2021 refurbishment of our Steeple and its intricate pillars and exterior support and cosmetics.

The Board of Properties continued its coordination with WVC Facilities Administrator Douglas Baskett. Douglas continued a thoughtful, systematic approach to both long-term strategic church facilities issues, but has also been “hands on” in dealing with day to day Church Property and contractual needs. In 2020, Douglas established a leadership position, and the Board of Properties has increasingly functioned in coordination with Douglas’ actions.

Despite Covid, during the Church year, the Board of Properties supported Douglas and helped him manage multiple New/Ongoing projects:

- Sanctuary windows
- Steeple Repair assessment
- New VOIP Phone system, new contract with Ring Central
- Cove Lighting Repairs
- Roof Slate Replacements
- Masonry Repairs (repair 2 sets of concrete stairs down to Washington Street)
- Church Signage Repairs and Installations (Exterior Property)
- Fire Alarm Repairs
- Door Lock Repairs
- Bulb replacements-Chandeliers in Sanctuary and Chapel

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Ongoing light ballast repairs in Village Common/ Sanctuary outlet install for Camera Use

Outsourced Landscape model/ Cemetery grass refurbishing, grass and consideration of extension of sprinkler system to cover bare areas on Central St. side of cemetery

Assessment of how BOP could assist/ coordinate Properties needs with Congregational Church of Weston/CCW

Of ongoing importance, the BOP coordinated with Douglas and with the Church Energy Committee to assist with ongoing issues around HVAC systems. These troublesome issues were periodic during the Church year, and sometimes meant no heat, and other times no air conditioning. After much work, cost and coordination, the HVAC systems were improved, electrical costs have been reduced, and more stable at year end.

For 2021, the Board of Properties is assessing the following Projects:

Steeple: Possible Exterior Repair/ Painting

Graveyard: Additional Irrigation

Facilities Assessment- Contract with outside company to assess all aspects of the building systems and capital leading to improved capital planning/prioritization

Assessment of how to improve the Safety of the Church (security, cameras, improved and controlled access)

Cell Tower 5G Antenna Array: T-Mobile is contemplating replacement/upgrade of existing 3G/4G antenna arrays in the steeple with 5G equipment. Village Church will work with T-Mobile as they have been a good

tenant.

Chinese School – (and other prospective tenants). Ensure Church and facility is supportive as we continue to try to increase Church utilization and income by outside groups.

In conclusion, I want to thank all the members of the 2020 Board of Properties, who were so helpful and supportive during the Church year. Bob Soderholm, Marilyn Beaver, David Himmelberger, Scott MacFarlane, Bev Lenci, Joanne Ritsert, Kirk Smith, Athena Sirivallop, and Brad Bittenbender all contributed their time and expertise in support of our Church Properties. Douglas Baskett was a pleasure to support, and as always, Meg Sweeting was incredibly helpful and supportive.

We look forward to a successful 2021 for Board of Properties.

Faithfully,

Phil Carens

Churchyard Committee and Memorial Path

As always, I offer a special thanks to the members of the Churchyard Committee who so faithfully serve in support of this committee and its ministry. They include Brad Harding, Joanne Ritsert, Craig Stirrat, and Pam Stirrat.

I want to dedicate this year's update to Charlotte Harrington, who is no longer involved with this committee for health reasons and to share the story of how my experiences with Charlotte resulted in the formation of Ministry of Last Things.

Charlotte was an early financial contributor to the efforts of the Churchyard Committee to reopen our cemetery and to what was to become Memorial Path. Her financial support made it possible for

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this endeavor to move forward well before anything was certain. Beyond the financial support, Charlotte served as a dedicated, soulful inspiration for all of us as we gathered a countless number of hours to create Memorial Path, which was opened in 2007.

A Story – Memorial Path, Charlotte Harrington and Ministry of Last Things

In 2009, Charlotte tragically lost her son, Stephen, in a sky-diving accident. She was heart-broken, of course, but handled this tragedy with a special grace that was unique to Charlotte.

Between 2013 and 2015 both of my parents died. Unlike Charlotte's experience, I had some time to help them prepare for death, ranging from creation of legal documents (which we had to scramble to create), discussing funeral decisions and having some special last conversations.

Soon after my parents' passing, Charlotte and I were reflecting on our shared experience of the loss of family members. In the course of this conversation, Charlotte suggested we start a ministry around helping members prepare for death and addressing important last decisions. With considerable support and guidance from Kathy Musser, who was the Pastoral Care Minister at the time, Ministry of Last Things was begun. While quite active in its beginning years, this ministry has been "quiet" in recent years.

In this COVID era, I have reflected on many things, including how precious life is and how uncertain the future can be. Few could have predicted, much less prepare for, this pandemic. I have wondered if Ministry of Last Things could have played a helpful role in this. It may be time to share our stories of the loss of loved ones and to minister to each other in this sacred time.

Since the opening of Memorial Path in 2007, 57 reservations have been made for names to be engraved on one of the Path's 8 headstones and for cremated remains to be buried in this 150-foot space in our cemetery. Throughout the years, we have witnessed a variety of ways members have prepared for death. Each member has a unique

story to tell. I encourage you to share yours with someone. It would be a gift both in the giving and the receiving. It would be a ministry.

With warm regard,

Kirk Smith, Chair

Delegates

Wellesley Village Church appreciates the 2020 Delegates for serving in this important role.

They are Sue and Bob Hoffman, Jim and Judy Mongiardo, Jade and John Hargrave, Margaret Taylor and Jake Martin.

Information Technology Committee

The Information Technology Committee is currently composed of two members of the congregation, the Communication and Worship Support Coordinator and our computer consulting group, PC DOctectives of Marlborough.

The IT Committee is under the umbrella of the Board of Properties and works closely with the Facilities Manager and is charged with the evaluation, selection, acquisition, installation and maintenance of all church electronic equipment and associated products. The committee is responsible for 13 church computer systems, the telephone network, internet access and audio/visual systems. The goal is to maintain and improve the electronic infrastructure to ensure all church information is secure, while providing easy access for staff. This infrastructure is vital, now more than ever, to allow staff members to connect and share God's word virtually with and beyond our congregation. The church infrastructure is superior to that of most churches of its size, but

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continued maintenance and improvement is necessary to keep up with changing technologies and needs.

Early 2020 brought a pandemic and the unexpected closing of our church doors, causing an immediate need to live-stream/broadcast our worship services and connect with our church members virtually. The church leaders and staff came together quickly to form and implement a plan and an impromptu streaming/recording setup so that the congregation could worship and connect from the safety of their individual homes. Church members with specific expertise jumped in to help; the staff and church members embarked on a steep learning curve, embracing this new and brave virtual world and have successfully brought worship services online. Over the course of the year, we bought the necessary equipment to make improvements for better quality and ease of use. The church moderator helped put together a cost effective, portable A/V recording command-center desk, with professional recording gear. This set-up easily allows staff to live-stream or record video and audio to project or upload to our website and social media platforms.

2020 also saw the need for staff to work from home with commensurate changes for the use of laptops for those with desktop workstations. PC DOctectives continues to provide valuable support, maintenance and security of our systems, as well as advice for cost-effective measures wherever possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Toppin Riordan, Communication and
Worship Support Coordinator

Pastoral Residency Program

This year, the Pastoral Residency Committee (PRC) focused on two goals for our Pastoral Residency Program: stability and growth. The need for stability arose from the COVID-19 pandemic. We sought a way to continue the spirit and the mission of the program while providing continuity and support for our Pastors, our Residents, and our congregation. After careful and spirit-filled discernment, the PRC decided not to call a new Resident for 2020-2022, but instead to extend the terms of our current Residents for one year each. This decision was embraced and welcomed by the entire Village Church Community, and we have been blessed to move forward with our current Residents on their spiritual journeys and our own.

Our now third-year Resident, Sean Patrick Coady, continues to bless us with his warmth and energy, and joins Pam Emslie in ministering with kindness and love to our High School Youth Group. Sean Patrick has also brought his considerable talents to our online worship efforts, devoting tremendous time and effort to the technical and administrative needs that these new online ministries have required. It was with great joy that we all celebrated (remotely) with Sean Patrick as he was ordained in December of 2020.

Our now second-year Resident, Bob Feeny, has quickly grown into his roles as pastor to both the Village Church and the Weston Congregational Church communities. He, too, was joyfully ordained in 2020; and he has become a strong and constant voice in our explorations of social justice issues in this year of great national turmoil. We are thrilled that we have been able to extend our relationship with both Sean Patrick and Bob, and that we have provided them the additional support of Resident housing in the Weston parsonage.

In terms of our second goal – growth – we spent much time as a committee discussing ways to spread the word about our Program both within our community and outwardly. Our PRP is one of only a few remaining, and we are committed to

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ensuring its continued success. Members of the PRC have been working on internal and external communications and marketing efforts, and we look forward to continuing those efforts going forward. So far, our efforts appear to be paying off, as we have solidified our relationships with schools of theology across the country and have received enthusiastic interest in our call for a 2021-2023 Resident.

We give thanks for a Spirit-led and Spirit-filled Committee, the guidance of Reverend Sarah Butter, the daily blessings of our Pastoral Residents, and the prayers of a faithful congregation.

Love, health, and peace,

Julie A. Baker, Chair, Pastoral Residency Committee

Committee Members: Deb Berger, Neal Bruce, Priscilla Claman, Bev Lenci, Diane Kessler, Neil Simister, Margie Sipe, and Susan Sullivan

Stewardship Committee

This is a note of thanks and praise for all of the faithful stewards we are blessed to call members of the Wellesley Village Church family!

As our year began we looked forward with great anticipation, eagerly embracing the opportunity to live into "Vision 2020" and bring our best selves and our best gifts and talents to that endeavor. We were even able to celebrate together at our "Pick Your Party" events! Do you remember the days of mask-less mingling? (Sigh....) We gratefully received your pledges and went about the work of ensuring that those gifts would support the mission of our church and our faith.

Our vision did not include, nor did it anticipate, a pandemic.

The emergence and spread of the virus brought with it a stunning loss of life, an unimaginable

strain on our health care system and a devastating impact on the economy. Anxiety and uncertainty were widespread. We could no longer worship in our sanctuary, so we transitioned to virtual worship; sharing screen time instead of Sunday smiles and greetings. We were able to pass comments on Facebook but unable to pass the offering plate. As a Stewardship Committee we were uncertain what the fiscal impact might be and cognizant of the fact that we were not always aware of changes to personal circumstances that might impact one's ability to fulfill their pledge.

Having the capability to receive gifts and pledges either through the church website portal or by a direct scheduled withdrawal/charge to a bank or credit card account certainly helped over the last nine months of 2020. Many members already had their giving set up through those methods and others transitioned to them. We were able to invest in some online communication tools that have already proven useful to our Stewardship efforts and to our overall ability to connect more meaningfully as a church community. While the books have not been officially closed on our stewardship totals it appears that your faithful and generous giving, even in this uncertain time, has allowed us to reach our goal.

As I write this report, negotiations continue in Washington to provide economic relief for the millions whose livelihoods have been disrupted by the pandemic. Yet at the same time there are sectors of our economy that have flourished and the stock market remains at record levels.

Regardless of whether you had to revise your pledge this year or you were able to unexpectedly increase your giving, please know how grateful we are that you have chosen to join our church family. We are blessed by your presence. We welcome your willingness to be an instrument of God's will and join in the work of bringing peace, justice and prosperity to the world.

Faithfully submitted,

Gary Gillis on behalf of the Stewardship Committee

Committee & Ministry Reports

The Capital Appeal's Energy Committee

The Energy Committee continued its work in 2020 to reduce the church's carbon footprint. Its team members are: Douglas Baskett, Phil Carens, Cynthia Curtis, Jim Loehlin, Jim Mongiardo, David Oliver, and Dave Sheffield.

Building upon our first few years of energy-saving projects, the Committee has been focusing upon the potential of long-range energy security. In 2020 saw a slight degradation in our solar array production due to an issue with the solar inverters. The issue was repaired, and our full year solar energy production totaled 63,713 kWh, which was 13% below 2019 production.

Throughout 2020 the Committee continued to move forward with the potential of a geothermal heating and cooling solution. As some of our HVAC infrastructure continues to age, the urgency for a more efficient and longer lasting, low-carbon system intensifies. The team believes geothermal is the most cost-effective approach. We continue to work with our engineering consultant and hope to have a conceptual plan to present to the congregation in late Spring. The cost of a geothermal system would exceed the remaining funds of the Energy Committee. Hence our plan is to provide the requirements, cost/benefit analysis and recommendations for future action.

We are also evaluating options to address the heat-loss associated with the sanctuary and cloister windows. The intent is to save on energy, improve comfort and maintain the structure of the windows.

The Energy Committee remains determined that through our work we help demonstrate our collective commitment to be good stewards of God's creation.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Curtis, Chair

Village Churchwomen

The Village Church Women had a successful year with fellowship and community time at our in-person and zoom gatherings. We also provided grants to local organizations. Our year began in March with a luncheon and guest speaker, Pastoral Resident Bob Feeny, who spoke on his faith journey. In May we had our annual meeting, held via zoom, with Board members attending. Unfortunately, we were unable to hold our annual rummage sale due to the coronavirus. In December we met, again via zoom, for our annual Christmas Tea. Bags of cookies and tea were available for pickup at the church. We shared our keepsakes, traditions and Christmas stories. During 2020 the monies derived from the 2019 Rummage Sale and donations by the congregation allowed us to give \$14,100 to outreach projects, \$5500 for our annual Church Pledge, and \$240 to purchase coats for City Mission. Although no scholarships were given this year, we did supply and host the reception for Diane Seaborn's ordination and supply flowers for Debbie Duval's ordination. Ruth Breden and Bobbie Hayes led our Knitting and Sewing Group, meeting weekly to knit baptismal blankets and prayer shawls. We continue to underwrite the production of the church directory and prepare it for mailing. Thanks to Phyllis Gibson and the office staff for compiling and publishing the directory. We thank the Church staff and clergy for their help and support throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Skipper & Beth Kalejs, Co-Presidents

Committee & Ministry Reports

Safe Church Committee

Report to Council for 2020

From its inception, the Safe Church Committee (SCC) has offered an annual report to Church Council. It has not been required for inclusion in the published Annual Report of the Church.

Since the routine life of the church was upturned this year in nearly every way by the COVID pandemic, the demand for the SCC was limited to the following events and meetings.

On February 21, at the MediTech Corporate Center in Canton, a special seminar was held for representatives of faith communities. It was sponsored by Andrew Yelling, of the U.S. Department of Justice. Several speakers explored the history of unwanted intrusions during worship services and ways to deal with them when they occur. SCC was represented and a summary of the gathering was sent to Council on February 24.

SCC supported the formation of a Reopening Task Force (RTF) which first met in mid-June. Its charge was to compile the rapidly developing concern about large gatherings of people since the coronavirus was spreading so rapidly. Meeting every other week through August, the RTF authored specific room capacities for each space in the church and a catalogue of guidelines relative to traffic patterns. The RTF has suspended its meetings but stays ready to reconvene as public health requirements change. The Safe Church Committee was glad to participate in this process.

In July, Officer Kathy Poirier, from the Wellesley Police Department, met with Roger Regnier and myself. We toured the entire church building and property with the purpose of finding “weak spots” which would allow unauthorized entry to the building, and ways to strengthen them. Officer Poirier also described the available means of monitoring the

entrances the building. The result of that meeting was her letter to the church, a copy of which was delivered to Douglas Baskett, Facilities Manager.

Later in the season, a representative of the Wellesley Fire Department did a similar building tour with Craig Sanders, Roger Regnier and myself. The outcome of that meeting began an effort to form a posted plan for evacuating the church building in the event of various types of emergency.

Safe Church Committee has no policy authority of its own. It exists at the pleasure of Church Council to alert and advise on any safety issue and to recommend to Council as necessary. Otherwise, this year, we honored a request from Jim Nelson, a former member who now lives in Maine. As part of a Safe Church Committee at the Wiscasset UCC, he asked for a copy of our Safe Church Policy. We were happy to oblige.

Members of the SCC are Barbara Stock, Roger Regnier, Alan Rose and me.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradford Harding January 15, 2021.

Annual Meeting Minutes

Wellesley Village Church
2019 Annual Meeting
February 9, 2020
Minutes

Welcome: At 11:36 AM, in Village Hall following Sunday worship services, Moderator Lori Bruce welcomed Members to the 2019 222nd Annual Meeting of the Wellesley Village Church. She called on Associate Pastor the Rev. Pamela Emslie to open the meeting in prayer.

Opening Prayer & Memoriam: Pam's prayer included being thankful for the blessings of the day and for those who are carriers of the Christian tradition. She concluded by giving thanks for all the Saints who have come before and passed their faith on to us.

Reciting our Church Covenant: Lori next recognized Phil Carens, the retiring Immediate Past Moderator, praised him for his leadership over the last three years, and asked him to lead us in reciting our Church Covenant.

Call to Order and Review of Annual Meeting Agenda: Lori then called the Annual Meeting to order declaring that there were more than 20 members present thereby constituting a quorum. She noted that the meeting would be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order. Jim Mongiardo would serve as Clerk and also Parliamentarian. On each table were copies of the Agenda and Annual Reports. She asked if there were any additional items to add to the agenda. Hearing none, she proceeded with the Agenda.

Discussion and Vote for Approval of Minutes: Minutes for the 2018 Annual Meeting held on February 10, 2019 were included on page 41 in the Annual Report for discussion and vote. She noted that these minutes had already been approved by Church Council. Lori asked for and received a motion, then seconded, to accept these minutes. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Discussion Acceptance and Approval of Annual Reports as Written: Lori noted the "peculiarity" of our process that we ask for an approval of annual reports before nearly all present have had a chance to read them. She then asked for the required motion to approve them; it was made and seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Approval of Indemnification and Banking Authority Resolution: Lori stated that another annual requirement is to approve this resolution,

presented in writing on page 27 of the Annual Report. The resolution authorizes the Treasurer, Vice Treasurer, and Chair of the Investment Subcommittee to open and close financial accounts, among those and other specific responsibilities regarding the Church's financial management. A motion to approve this annual resolution was offered, seconded and it was also approved by voice vote unanimously. As specified in the written resolution, it takes effect as of this Annual Meeting, and remains in effect only until the next one.

Financial Reports: Lori began by thanking all the people involved in the finances of the Church including the Board of Finance, the Investment Subcommittee, Stewardship, the Controller, Treasurer and Vice Treasurer. Lori then introduced Trevor Larkan, Treasurer, to present the financial reports. Trevor began by advising that the Financial Statements for 2019 were found on pages 20-26 of the Annual Report. He noted that total income fell short of budget at \$1,696,000 (93%) but was flat compared to 2018. However, expenses were below budget (94%) with Human Resources and most other expenses being lower than budgeted. On the income side, there was a shortfall versus budget of pledge income, but member contributions not pledged were up. Additional income not including endowments came from rental income which was primarily the Chinese School and steeple income. On the expense side, Human Resources totaled \$1,098,486, Service Ministry \$191,213, Property \$182,026 with the balance of the total expenses of \$1.666 million in other ministries. These lower expenses resulted in an operating surplus of \$29,800 which was transferred to the Property Reserve account.

Trevor continued by noting that on December 31, 2019, the Church had total assets of \$8.451 million, with net assets of \$8.309 million (net of current liabilities). During 2019 the Operating and Pastoral Residents Program Endowments had gained approximately 20% because of a rising stock market. The Church does not budget on annual endowment changes but rather uses a 20 quarter, five-year basis for determining what is available for use in the Operating Budget. He concluded by noting that the Chapel funds from the last Capital Appeal had been spent on the Chapel, Kitchen and Village Common renovation. The project came

Annual Meeting Minutes

in under budget with funds left to cover outstanding expenses and remaining open items.

An internal review of finance was completed in late 2019 with the Board of Finance and Council to agree upon necessary actions with respect to this review. An external audit is planned for early 2021 which will be the third review within the three different review cycle which will take five years to complete.

Trevor concluded by saying that Shawn Dourg, the Church Accountant, had resigned just before Christmas and that Leslie Petzing, the Church Controller, had stepped in to finalize the financial statements for 2019. After a concerted search, a very suitable replacement, namely Marina Berga, has been appointed to the position of Church Accountant with effect from mid-February 2020.

The Treasurer's report concluded with Trevor saying that it has been a great honor for him to have served as Chair of the Board of Finance and for three years as Treasurer.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report for 2019 Income and Expenses was offered, seconded and it was approved unanimously by voice vote.

2020 Budget Presentation: Lori introduced Joe Morray, Chair of the Board of Finance, to review the proposed 2020 Budget, as presented on page 24 of the Annual Report. Lori noted that the proposed 2020 Budget had been reviewed and approved by both the Board of Finance and Church Council. Joe began by thanking Trevor for his service as Treasurer and the Congregation responded with applause. He continued by recognizing the other members of the Board of Finance noting that this Board is an active group. He summarized that as of December 31, 2019, the financial position of the Church is good with a surplus. He thanked the Congregation for its generosity.

The proposed budget for 2020 is \$1,766,462 million and is balanced. The 2019 actual total was \$1,696,232 million. This is an increase of about 4% between 2019 actual and 2020 proposed. The 2020 proposed budget includes an increase of pledge income from 2019 actual of \$1,124,508 to a proposed 2020 budget of

\$1,226,454, or a nine percent increase. On the expense side, the largest line item is the proposed 2020 Human Resources budget. There is an increase from 2019 actual of \$1,098,486 to 2020 proposed of \$1,208,137, or an increase of almost 10%. This is the result of an increase in health care benefit costs primarily resulting from a different mix of staff, an overlap of Pastoral Residents which was not the case in 2019 and two full time positions versus one in 2019. Joe noted that the care of our buildings is important. While the Board of Properties Budget was reduced from 2019 actual of \$182,026 to 2020 proposed of \$160,300, the Property Reserve will be used for two projects, repair and painting of the steeple and the sanctuary windows, and possibly for other necessary projects in 2020.

Discussion followed. A question was asked about the change in the Council budget from 2019 actual of \$22,829 to a proposed 2020 of \$7,450. Lori responded by advising that in 2019 there were extra Council expenses associated with Courageous Conversations and Vision 2020. The proposed Council budget she believes is adequate for 2020. A question was then asked about the Alban/Lilly Funds. Trevor responded that these are monies left over from previous Lilly sponsored programs. The Church has been using the interest earned on these funds, about \$5-7,000 per annum, for the Pastoral Residency Program.

A question was then asked about how the steeple income is being allocated. Joe responded for the past two years most of the steeple income has gone into the Property Reserve. There is not a direct tie to the Property Reserve for 2020 in order to get the budget to balance.

The following question related to Vision 2020 and whether any funds have been set aside for possible new programs resulting from the vision process. Joe responded that nothing specifically is set forth in the proposed 2020 Budget relating to new initiatives. This is something which will become part of the budgeting process going forward as the visioning process unfolds over the next decade.

The final question related to the Human

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Resources Budget, whether the new Associate Pastor position is budgeted. The proposed 2020 budget does include funding for Associate Pastor Diane Seaborn.

A motion to approve the 2020 budget as presented was offered, seconded and it was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Board of Nominating Report: Lori next recognized Neal Bruce to present for the Board of Nominating. Neal began by thanking the other members of the Board and for everyone who has served or agreed to serve in an elected position. Neal advised that the slate of candidates to be elected was found on pages 16-17 of the Annual Report. He noted that there are two addition to the slate. Ed Berger is being nominated to serve as a Councilor and will no longer be a Worship Ministry Deacon. Suma Raju is being nominated to serve on the Board of Finance.

In the discussion that followed a question was asked as to which Boards/Committees the new Pastoral Resident will be associated with. Neal pointed out that these assignments are not voted on by the Congregation. Senior Pastor the Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter noted that the standard pattern is to rotate the Pastoral Residents through different assignment based on their respective gifts and the Church's needs.

A motion to accept the full slate as presented was made, seconded and accepted unanimously.

Senior Pastor's Remarks: Looking Forward: Lori introduced Sarah who wanted everyone to first take a "seventh inning stretch". She asked everyone to stand and sing the doxology. She began her comments by noting how connected we all are. 2019 was remarkable. It began with Courageous Conversations with Allen Hilton. The Chapel, Village Commons and kitchen were renovated/expanded during the summer. In the fall Vision 2020 began with small groups forming deepening engagements with one another. All that energy generated during 2019 will carry us forward as we start a new decade.

Sarah commented on two topics. She said that Vision 2020 through the Strategic Implementation Team will develop new ideas. The challenge will be how to say yes. The

Operating Budget is for operations, new ideas need new funding. She noted that in the past seed money had been raised in a Capital Appeal to fund Faith Ministries. We should be thinking of something similar for Vision 2020.

The partnership with the Congregational Church of Weston ("CCW") was the next topic. Sarah said that CCW is holding its annual meeting on the same day as ours. CCW is in a three-year process to decide what to do since CCW is unable to sustain a pastor after June 2020. The two Churches have been working to see how they can partner together. Where there is an overlap, the two congregations can share. CCW has a parsonage which will be empty after June. Our Church has an abundance of pastors which can be shared. The evolving partnership is something which will not cost our Church financially. She then introduced Brad Harding.

Brad advised that he has recently been called to serve as Facilities Manager for CCW. He said that CCW has wonderful features which complement the Wellesley Village Church facilities. CCW has a parsonage which was built in the 1960's and has undergone major repairs and is ready to go. CCW is located in a pastoral setting with a parking lot, framed art and a family restroom. He noted that he is not neutral with respect to CCW since his family including Brad are charter members of the Church. CCW is able to handle the maintenance of its facilities.

Sarah continued that there is no decision to be made now by Wellesley Village Church. CCW needs to make decisions on how it wishes to proceed with the partnership first before any decision needs to be made by our Church. The objective of the partnership is to focus on the strengths of the two congregations which seem to be complimentary.

The search for a First Worship Music Director is hopefully coming soon to a conclusion. The Pastoral Residency Committee is starting the search for the next Pastoral Resident. Diane Seaborn's ordination will be at our Church on February 23. Sarah said that we have a wonderful staff, a remarkable team who have fun working together.

In Gratitude: Lori began by saying that a year

Annual Meeting Minutes

ago she pledged to do her best for the congregation. This was immediately followed by challenges in her life. She said that these challenges have been successfully handled and that she is better person as a result of her experience serving as Moderator. It has been awe inspiring, humbling and leaves her with gratitude for all that occurred.

During the past year, the Chapel, Village Common and kitchen renovations were completed. The Church has housed and fed the homeless Members have been generous not only with their time but also in contributing coats and other gifts. The Rummage Sale was saved. The partnership with CCW grew. Vision 2020 began with an impressive small group start.

We may have lost an Associate Pastor, but we gained Diane Seaborn. We called a new Pastoral Resident, had inspiring worship with Charles Street and made soup. All these accomplishments make the Village Church a special place filled with love and grace.

Passing the Bible and Gavel: As part of the transition, Lori asked in coming Moderator Leif Hille and in coming Vice Moderator Cynthia Sibold to join her.

She thanked Phil Carens as he ended his three years as part of the Moderator team for always seeing the good and presented him with a gift for his team service. She welcomed Cynthia Sibold as the new Vice Moderator. Lori noted that Cynthia is able to stay calm even in the most difficult of moments.

Lori thanked Leif Hille for his kindness and creativity, thinking outside the box. She passed along to him the Moderators Bible, a tradition begun in 2003 by Brad Harding in which each Moderator highlights a favorite passage, by saying that she found quotes from past Moderators comforting during the year. In addition, she passed:

Gavel which she did not use.

Pump so that whenever he feels deflated, he can be filled with the Holy Spirit.

A referee's shirt to be a listening person with discernment.

A list begun by Linda Smith of Things I Wish I Had Known Before I Became Moderator which each Moderator adds to.

Dish Towel and Apron to signify that we are servants of God's church.

Lori concluded by thanking Sarah for her help during trying moments this past year.

Leif and Cynthia then presented Lori with articles of appreciation, a bouquet of flowers as outward symbols of gratitude and a Starbucks Coffee gift card. Lori was then given a standing ovation of appreciation by the Congregation.

Accepting the Call and Adjournment: As the new moderator, Leif began by thanking all the providers for this Annual Meeting including the set-up and the food. He said he had no idea that when he gave a Witness about soup that soup would become so ingrained in the life of the Church. He thanked the Congregation for electing him Moderator and continued with the soup analogy that all members could contribute ingredients to make a better soup.

Darlene Howland then asked that Gary Arthur be recognized for his services as Chef for the Annual Meeting. After a standing ovation, the Congregation sang Happy Birthday to him. Christina Oliver reminded the Congregation that David Carrier will be celebrating his thirty-fifth anniversary as the Music Director and Organist this year.

Leif then declared that the meeting will be adjourned after the benediction which will be given by Diane Seaborn. Upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Annual Meeting was adjourned at 1:03pm.

Benediction: Diane said that this Meeting is evidence of God's spirit, faithfulness and love. She asked that we carry forth God's love from the Meeting, that God bless us and that we go in peace.

Faithfully,

Jim Mongiardo, Clerk

In Memoriam

Eternal God, we bless you for the great company of all those who have kept the faith, finished their race, and who now rest from their labor. We praise you for those dear to us, those who, through the fellowship of this church, have been fellow travelers with us on the pilgrim way. Especially we thank you for the lives and witness of those who, within the year just past, you have received into your eternal presence:

Bob Bachman

Fraser Blakely

Lin Damon

Patricia Day

Priscilla Hanks

Linda Harding

Joan Hung

Sally Littlefield

Rudolph Peterson

Allon Pierce

Thomas Snyder

Wadsworth Stone

Bob Traylor

John Wilson

We also wish to remember in prayer those many others who died this past year who are near and dear to the members of this congregation. May the Peace of Christ be with us all. Amen.

*I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.
Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.*

Wellesley Village Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Sarchet Butter — Senior Pastor, since 2015
The Rev. Pamela H. Emslie — Associate Pastor, since 2006
Diane Seaborn— Interim Associate Pastor, since 2019
Sean Patrick Coady — Pastoral Resident, since 2018
Bob Feeny — Pastoral Resident, since 2019
Michaela F. McDonald — Director of Children’s Ministries, since 2006
David R. Carrier — Director of Music, since 1985
Dr. Kevin J. McDonald — Director of Youth Music, since 2005
Ed Broms — Associate Director of Music, since 2020
Meg Sweeting — Church Administrator, since 2018
Leslie W. Petzing — Controller, since 2012
Marina Berga — Church Accountant, since 2020
Douglas Baskett — Facilities Administrator, since 2019
Christine A. Toppin — Communication & Worship Support Coordinator, since 2016
Sharon Kuhn—Administrative Assistant to Sr. Pastor, since 2019
Gerardo Ortiz — Sexton, since 2001
Esvin Benitez—Sexton, since 2017
Gladys Murillo—Sexton, since 2017

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