

Report of the Finance Committee September 1, 2013

2012 Audit response: Follow up on open items has been initiated with specific items assigned to various committees/liaisons

We believe that 2013 financial functions are as accountable and transparent as we know how to make them. Reports are distributed and reviewed monthly by the entire finance committee.

Financial reports are available on request to members of the congregation.

We communicate at the finance committee to each representative, assigning to them the responsibility to report to their constituency.

The Treasurer (and soon the chair of the finance committee) writes informational articles in each edition of our Tidings for distribution.

We believe we have strengthened the internal controls of the financial activity of the church; yet some items, notably securing files in locked storage, key control, payroll and staff policies and procedures and the production of a church financial policy handbook is ongoing and we expect to be resolved soon.

As the chair I have spoken at all meetings of the church council in 2013 for the need for continued diligence regarding our cash position and, what in my view, is the need for a re-structuring of our current resources. If we fail to produce the revenue expectations of the 2013 budget; or if we exceed by much the expense expectations, we run a very real risk of serious financial consequences: the kind of consequences that result in our inability to make a payroll. As members of our finance committee and church council know, even if we accomplish the revenue and expense budget, we may still be short of cash at the end of the year. Our stewardship team is launching an initiative this year to communicate tithing as the norm for our membership. We are an overwhelmingly generous people and it is sometimes difficult to ask for more. However, more revenue translates to more opportunities for action, more opportunities for Mission, and more opportunities to achieve our mission.

As of this month we are not current with our Apportionment payments. As a committee we are mindful of our promise to the District, to the congregation, and to ourselves that we prepared a budget that included full payment of the Apportionment. Yet we have made only three (25%) of those payments. At last month's meeting of the committee we identified a plan to begin making reduced payments each month. This still leaves us short on our promise.

Please do not interpret this as the normal gloom and doom report from the finance group. We have serious obstacles to overcome. However, I believe we have the will, the potential resources, and, most importantly, the leadership to make the decisions and accomplish all that we must.

In closing, I want to extend my personal thanks and gratitude to the members of this committee for their commitment to the task and their love of this church; to the staff for their continued cooperation with lay leadership and their patience as we discern our specific plans; to the church council for their support, encouragement, and understanding as we made changes that were not always and will not always be comfortable; and mostly to the members of Community Church for their steadfast faith in this church.

Richard Kaffka, Chair

(Mal 3:10)

Rev. Grace Imatiu, Pastor	Rev. Sarah Meacham, Associate Pastor
Brenda DeGeer, Church Treasurer	Ollie Taylor, Lay Leader
Barbara Dabrowski, Secretary	George Groves, CUMC Foundation Board
Bill Abernethy, Chair, Church Council	Bill Matthews
Jeff Ray	Elmer Shirmer
Al Brunsting, Chair, Stewardship	Graham Wills, Chair, SPRC

