



 **FAIR OAKS**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

744 Fair Oaks Avenue

Oak Park, IL 60302

www.fairoakspres.org

Annual Report

2019 – 2020

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Co-Pastors' Report

2020. Only halfway complete. Already a full-blown whirlwind.

This program year at Fair Oaks started out like a breath of fresh air. Our exploration last summer regarding a possible community partnership with an opportunity to share our physical space ended without that partnership materializing. That exploration proved fruitful all the same as talks about the possibilities of FOPC's next chapter became frequent and compelling throughout the fall.

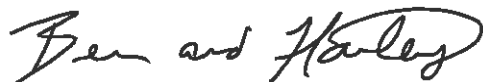
As a result of those conversations, this winter Session recommitted itself to what has served as FOPC's unofficial tag line, "There's a Place for You Here." Out of that renewed sense of hospitality and mission of welcome for all, a task force was formed to think deeply on how FOPC might live out that proclamation more fully.

The task force had their first meeting mid-March, and later that very weekend, shelter-in-place restrictions for COVID-19 were announced. We closed our building, in-person gatherings came to an abrupt halt, and we began shifting all church activities to remote formats. As was the case for so many other faith communities, we entered the moment with trepidation and uncertainty. However, we were joyfully surprised by the engagement, energy, and creativity that the Fair Oaks family has brought to our life together, however physically distant, since day one. The central activity of that life together has been our weekly Sunday service via FaceBook Live. While very different in feel, Sunday mornings have still proven to be vital and vibrant. Namely, because FOPC rose to the occasion. The people of Fair Oaks created sacred spaces in their homes for worship. Musicians of all styles and experience levels began creating music at home, including collaborations, duets, and even virtual choirs and bell choirs! People of all ages volunteered to read scripture, lead parts of the liturgy, and make videos. In all of that, what has been most impressive is the gratitude and courage displayed.

As shelter-in-place restrictions continued, the virus has shed a new light on social ills impossible to ignore, exposing the systemic poverty and structural racism in our country. Many eyes have been opened and hearts have been turned for either the first time or in a new way, and FOPC's commitment to that statement, "There's a Place for You Here," has taken on a deeper meaning. It must, and we look forward to working alongside all of you to ensure it does.

As we face many more weeks of worshipping from home, we believe the Spirit is continuing to pull and shape us as a congregation in increasingly profound ways. This next year will undoubtedly look very different, not only in regards to our programming but also in our convictions, actions, and commitments.

With gratitude for the past and hope for the future,



Ben and Hailey Braden Lynch, co-pastors

Roster of Session and Board of Deacons

Church officers are elected to office by the congregation. They serve three-year terms and may serve two consecutive terms before rolling off for at least one term.

The Session

The Session is responsible for oversight of the mission and government of the local church. The Session consists of ordained elders who have been elected to office by the congregation. The current Session members are:

| Class of 2020 | Class of 2021 | Class of 2022 |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Jackie Barlow | Cheryl Hover | Sophie Eldred |
| Michael Carr | Beth Messina | Martha Fluharty |
| Chris Marzec | Doug Rainey | Dick Walstra |
| | Vicki Tysseling | Greg Wolski |

The Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons provides several ministries as they care for the congregation, as discussed on the following page.

| Class of 2020 | Class of 2021 | Class of 2022 |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Megan Dickel | David Potterveld | Jill Dorsch |
| Alan Fluharty | Jerry Santos | Kim Green |
| Crystal Fouchard | Marty Woodbury | Ed Nam |
| Nicole Turner | | Linda Schroeder |

Deacons Report

The role of deacons, as defined by the Presbyterian Book of Order is “a ministry of caring; a ministry of love; a ministry of compassion; and a ministry of prayer and community service” (G-6.0402). That definition serves as the guide of our FOPC deacons, no matter the state of affairs in our community and our world.

This past year the Board of Deacons underwent some restructuring. Same number of caring and compassionate members; same goals as before. This year, though, rather than dividing the group into four broader ministry areas, each deacon was given a more specific assignment to manage, other deacons offering support as need be.

Most events and activities were the same as in previous years: monthly meetings every second Tuesday, prayers and outreach to those in need of them, providing meals to those going through challenging times, care packages mailed to college students around exam time to offer encouragement and cheer, serving as points of contact for congregational concerns while pastors were away, assistance with memorials and their corresponding receptions, and providing hospitality on Sunday mornings.

There were, of course, some unforeseen challenges this past year, but the deacons met each with diligence and aplomb. When water on church grounds was deemed undrinkable until further address, the deacons remained committed to providing refreshment before and after Sunday services. Extra trips to the grocery store and coffee shops were made until a new filter was installed on one of the kitchen faucets; afterward, individual deacons would come to the church building earlier than usual in order to safely provide purified water, coffee, and tea. And when COVID-19 became a concern within our community, deacon responsibilities necessarily shifted again. The entire congregation was divided alphabetically and each deacon took on a dozen or so households with which to check in, running errands for those whom staying home was the wiser choice, and reporting back to the group of any care issues and news.

The pastors are enormously grateful for this faithful group of individuals, perhaps especially now in this ever-changing moment with its increased demands for creativity, flexibility, and patience.

The Session of Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church
2019 Statistical Report of the Clerk of Session

Membership Gains:

1. Alex Sanabria, by letter of transfer from Presbyterian Church Vida Nueva, Chicago, IL, July 7, 2019
2. Mary Sanabria, by reaffirmation of faith, July 7, 2019
3. Bodhi Coffee, by profession of faith, April 28, 2019
4. Callum Dickel, by profession of faith, April 28, 2019
5. Margot Eldred, by profession of faith April 28, 2019
6. Ryan Green, by profession of faith, April 28, 2019
7. Ava Watters, by profession of faith, April 28, 2019

Total: 7

Deaths:

1. Mary James, January 15, 2019

Total: 1

Transfers:

1. Dan Dittmer, transferred to First Presbyterian Church of Berthoud, Berthoud, CO, March 19, 2019
2. Becky Dittmer, transferred to First Presbyterian Church of Berthoud, Berthoud, CO, March 19, 2019
3. Don Lennie, transferred to First United Church of Oak Park, Oak Park, IL, November 25, 2019
4. Joan Lennie, transferred to First United Church of Oak Park, Oak Park, IL, November 25, 2019
5. Ellie Marquez, transferred to First United Church of Oak Park, Oak Park, IL, November 25, 2019

Total: 5

Total Membership: 372

FAIR OAKS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - OAK PARK, ILLINOIS

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation - June 9, 2019

- I. **Call To Order.** The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was called for the purpose of electing officers and receiving the Annual Report. It was called to order by Moderator Rev. Hailey Braden Lynch at 11:11 a.m., and opened with prayer.
- II. **Election of Officers.** Cheryl Hover, Session representative for the Nominating Committee, reviewed the purpose of the Nominating Committee, thanked the congregation for their nominations and prayers, and thanked the committee for their work this year.
 - a. Ms. Hover then presented the committee's nominations for the office of Elder, Class of 2022 -- Greg Wolski, Sophie Eldred, Dick Walstra, (2nd term), Martha Fluharty (2nd term). There were no nominations from the floor. Nominations were closed and the candidates for office of Elder were elected by a unanimous voice vote.
 - b. Ms. Hover then presented the following candidates for the office of Deacon - Class of 2022: Jill Dortch, Linda Schroeder, Ed Nam, and Kim Green. There were no nominations from the floor. Nominations were closed and the candidates for the office of Deacon were elected by a unanimous voice vote.
 - c. Ms. Hover noted that there are no changes to the at-large members of the Nominating Committee.
 - d. Rev. Hailey Braden Lynch thanked the outgoing Elders and Deacons for their service to Fair Oaks, and also thanked the Nominating Committee for its work this year.
- III. **Presentation of the Annual Report.** The Annual Report, a description of the church's activities for the year, financial reports, and statistical information on church membership and participation, was presented. A motion was made to receive the Annual Report by Jane Vishneshki; Jackie Barlow seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.
- IV. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:20am with a motion from Michael Carr and a second from Chris Marzec. The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Hailey Braden Lynch.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Hailey Braden Lynch, Moderator

Cathryn Steeves, Clerk

Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church

Annual Meeting of the Congregation/Corporation

February 2, 2020

I. Call To Order. The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m. by Rev. Hailey Braden Lynch with 55 members in attendance. The meeting was opened with prayer by Dick Walstra.

II. Financial Presentation

Chris Marzec, Finance Committee Chair, began his presentation by informing the congregation that Greg Wolski and Ken VanDerGriend had been approved by Session as Financial Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, for 2020.

Chris continued with a review of the 2019 budget. He noted that the balance sheet remained strong with operating and capital reserves well above established thresholds. Regarding the operating budget, he stated that both revenues and expenses ended the year slightly below budget, leading to an operating loss of \$20,397, which was slightly below budget. Investment gains of \$36,789 were also recorded.

For the 2020 budget, Chris said that pledges increased slightly, in part due to an increased number of pledging units. Revenues are budgeted up slightly at \$444,850. The expense budget reflects an increase for staff compensation, based on a proposed 3% pay increase, and a decrease in buildings & grounds, due to some reductions in maintenance plans. Total budgeted expenses are virtually flat with 2019 actual at \$458,886. Chris highlighted a decrease in the per capita expense line, resulting from the prior year's clean-up of membership rosters. Per capita giving, however, remains much lower than the fee paid to Presbytery. The overall budgeted deficit is \$14,036. Chris noted this is a lower deficit than the prior year, and he said the 2019 investment gains exceed the combined 2019 actual/2020 budget deficits. He cautioned, however, that continuing a pattern of deficits is not sustainable while expressing his confidence that the trend toward a balanced budget would continue.

Chris added that the balance of SG&A funds remain steady at approximately \$34,000 despite active use during the year for pew cushions and new choir robes.

In response to questions, Chris said that operating reserves equaling approximately six months of the expense budget exceed the target of three months. Also, the capital reserve of \$75,000 exceeds the \$50,000 target. He also stated his confidence that the budget was not providing limitations on activities, though he acknowledged a church member's statement that the tight budget risks adding pressures to current staff members. A church member reinforced this by pointing out that staffing levels had been higher in the past.

III. Terms of Call

Chris Marzec presented the formal terms of call, which include a 3% salary increase for the co-pastors. This represents their first increase since coming to Fair Oaks in fall of 2017.

Motion: A motion to approve the co-pastor's terms of call were unanimously approved.

The congregation acknowledged the ministry of Rev. Hailey Braden Lynch and Rev. Ben Lynch with a round of applause.

IV. Adjournment and Prayer – The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Hailey Braden Lynch and adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Walstra, Clerk

Children's Ministry

Sunday School

This year in children's ministry, there was a concerted effort to coordinate Sunday School with LOGOS Bible Study and the lectionary used in worship. As in previous years, the curriculum used for Sunday mornings with children was Spark Activate Faith Rotation curriculum from Sparkhouse Digital. Using the Narrative Lectionary as a guide for picking stories, in the Fall semester the lessons were Baby Moses and David from the Hebrew Bible, and in the Spring the lessons were Jesus and John the Baptist, The Disciples, and the Widow's Offering from the New Testament. The workshops from those lessons included Cooking (with Tracey Truesdale and David Potterveld), Video (with Eric Older), Art (with Toshi Uchida), Games (with Jerry Santos and Mary Sue Komaniecki), and Computer (with Dave Panichelli). Monthly, there were intergenerational Sunday school classes where all ages learned together through group activities. This year Fair Oaks only had one preschool (age 3-4) child, so she was included with our elementary group. Next year, there will be a robust group of 3 year olds for a separate preschool Sunday School class, again.

Special Events

Vacation Bible School took place from July 8-12, 2019 with the Abundant Life Garden Project curriculum.

During Advent, the children shared the Nativity Story with the congregation through the annual Christmas Pageant. In a departure from recent years, the pageant was written in house with the help of the middle school youth group and focused on the biblical narrative as told by the four evangelists, and the music was comprised of traditional hymns.

When in-person activities were interrupted in mid-March by COVID-19, the children took up meeting weekly with Hailey via Zoom and contributing to online worship through story telling, music, and liturgy.

Ministry with children continues to be a robust and integral part of the life of Fair Oaks.

The Reverend Hailey Braden Lynch

Adult Education

Sunday School

The Sunday morning education hour included a weekly adult class led by Ben that studied the morning's lectionary passage in depth. Monthly the adult class participated in intergenerational Sunday school, learning together with the children and youth of the church.

There were multiple opportunities for education and discussion regarding the crisis at the southern border of the United States. These opportunities were offered within Fair Oaks and in partnership with other churches locally and in Texas.

Disciple

A weekly Monday night Disciple class was led by Julie Giegler throughout the year and continued to meet virtually once COVID-19 restrictions were in place.

Book Group

A monthly Book Group organized by Meghan Strubel discussed fiction and non-fiction books from a faith context. This group continued to meet monthly.

Renew and Connect

When church activities moved online, an additional opportunity for education and fellowship was developed. Weekly Zoom gatherings to renew and connect through discussion of a variety of short stories, poems, and readings were led by Nancy Carr.

Congregational Activities

Committee Members: Sophie Eldred, Ann Kreiter, Beth Messina, Nancy Van Der Griend

To begin the new year off, the committee members along with Jill and John Dortch, cleaned out, updated and organized all the storage closets in Fellowship Hall, the kitchen, basement, two supply closets and the bathrooms. It was great way to know and understand what supplies the committee could and would use for the year without having to make too many additional purchases.

Congregational Activities led a Rally Day lunch in September to kick off the church program year and welcome back all church members after summer activities. A good time was had by all!

The Eighth Annual Fall Feast was held in November to a group of 120 hungry and happy attendees including parents, children, grandparents and teens. A delicious potluck dinner with hams (provided by Fair Oaks) and all the sides, salads and desserts were provided by the generous congregation. Everyone had a good time decorating their turkey headpieces and coloring in their turkey pictures which were all taped up on the walls for everyone to see for the following week. A lot to be thankful for this year.

In time for the December celebration of the Christmas pageant, the vestibule, narthex and Fellowship Hall were all decorated in holiday theme using the many decorations from LOGOS, the craft room and Christmas supplies, creating a festive and magical feeling for all.

A Chili/Cornbread night was held in February.

Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus, all activities came to an immediate halt as the country and our church learned on a day-to-day basis how to cope with COVID-19.

As we wait for our country and community to heal, we would like to thank ALL members who helped during the planned events, and we look forward to celebrating with our church friends again soon.

Blessings,

Sophie Eldred

Finance and Special Gifts

The Finance and Special Gifts Committee is charged with oversight of the financial matters of the church. The committee includes members of the Session, the Church Treasurer and the Financial Secretary and several 'at large' members.

For 2019, income was \$433,900 which was 1.7% below the budgeted amount of \$441,300. Session approved budgeted expenses were \$459,100 which anticipated a \$17,800 deficit. Actual expenses were \$454,300, 1.1% less than budgeted. As is our policy, the church gave 13% of budgeted revenue to mission. The main variances in the 2019 budget were 1.) Manse maintenance projects (billing) deferred to 2020. 2.) Senior High Mission Trip over budget. As a result, FOPC ended 2019 with a deficit of \$20,400, slightly greater than budgeted. The operating deficit was more than offset gains in our investment portfolio of \$36,800. The net result is an increase in our reserves of approximately \$16,400; FOPC ended the year with Operating Reserves of \$237,200; Capital Reserves of \$75,000; and Special Gifts and Memorials of \$34,000. The Operating Reserve number exceeds the requirement of three months operating expenses.

The stewardship campaign for 2020 resulted in pledges and projected revenue totaling \$444,800, an uptick vs. 2019. Budgeted expenses total \$458,000, for a projected deficit of \$13,200. The Session agreed to move forward with a budgeted deficit after much discussion, given the continued transition period and the current strong balance sheet. Amounts were approved at the January 2020 Session meeting; the budget was then presented to the Congregation at the annual financial meeting. A copy of the Summarized Budget for 2020 is included in this annual report along with 2019 actual financial results. The finance committee continues to oversee and manage the FOPC investment portfolio. The focus continues to be on maintaining a conservative, well diversified portfolio while keeping management expenses low.

At the end of the year, the Gifts and Memorials funds totaled \$34,000. Even after an active year of spending, this figure remains substantial. The majority is restricted for various purposes, primarily Christian Education and Mission Trips. The Committee continues to evaluate spending proposals for the Special Gifts funds.

One of the defining stories of 2020 is sure to be the global pandemic, Covid-19. FOPC has responded to the crisis in many ways including taking many of our interactions into the virtual world. The Finance Committee responded, as well, recommending to the Session that the church take a loan under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) offered through the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Small Business Administration (SBA). Loans are being offered through these government agencies as a way to help organizations through the economic hardship brought on by the pandemic. After applying, we received a loan in the amount of \$52,625. It is the expectation of the committee that FOPC will satisfy all conditions necessary in the loan agreement such that the loan will be converted to a grant.

The Committee is pleased that Ken Van Der Griend has agreed to serve another year as Church Treasurer. Monica Sheehan began working more closely with Ken this year and has taken on greater responsibilities, including many Controller type functions. Greg Wolski was nominated and confirmed as Financial Secretary for 2020. We would be remiss if we did not thank Bruce Matson, church Financial Secretary, for his many years of faithful service. We thank Greg Meadors, Art Smith, and Catherine Steeves for their work counting cash on Sunday mornings, along with Ken and Greg. I'll again ask previous finance chair

Jeff Schroeder to perform our audit for 2020 in the next few weeks. We are grateful for their many years of service to the church.

For the Committee, Chris Marzec

Chris Marzec and Jackie Barlow, Elders; Ken Van Der Griend, Church Treasurer; Greg Wolski, Church Financial Secretary; Jeff Schroeder (at large member).

LOGOS

Everyone is to treat everyone else as a child of God. ~ the golden rule of LOGOS

This year we had the opportunity to model this beloved LOGOS rule to 57 youth and children (20 elementary, 17 mid highs and 20 high school) and 30 adult leaders, as well as parents serving in the kitchen. What were all these people doing every Wednesday afternoon? Living under the motto that “faith is caught not taught,” we modeled discipleship not only to our children and youth, but to each other through Bible Study, Recreation, Family Time and Worship Arts.

LOGOS is the successful ministry it is because of the dedication and enthusiasm of the entire congregation and especially the following:

Bible Study Leaders: Karen Bromley, Hailey Braden Lynch, Amy Roberts, Jerry Santos, Ben Lynch, Cheryl Hover

Family Time: Steve Perkins, Karen Bromley, Sophie Eldred, Mary Ellen Sjostrom, Brian Coffee, Rachel Tesch, Cheryl Hover, Ben Lynch, Lisa Lewis, Greg Wolski, Chris Marzec, Elizabeth McVey

Recreation: Lisa Johnson, Heather Dye, Elise Schroeder, Doug Strubel, Barb Mayer, Charlie Mayer, Nicole Turner, Megan Dickel, Joe Berton, Mark Wilson

Worship Arts Leaders: Linda Van Dyke, Julia Inksetter, Hailey Braden Lynch

Chefs: Chris Marzec, Nancy VanDerGriend, Jenifer Saville, John Messina, Ozzie Rodriguez, Cathryn Steeves, Jim Eldred, Mark Wilson, Joe Berton

Front Desk: Laura Baig

As we wrapped up our 2019-2020 LOGOS year, we did so with some measure of sadness, as the Covid Pandemic precluded us from enjoying “Shadow Night”, scheduled for March 18, and LOGOS Sunday on March 22. Although it’s difficult for us to predict what the fall of 2020 will look like, your LOGOS board is using all its creativity to reimagine LOGOS for the 2020/21 program year, while keeping the safety of all of us as our primary concern.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Acts 2:42.

Yours in Christ,

Wendy Owen

Mission

Committee Members: Mary Jane Peterson, Nancy Van Der Griend, Jennifer Walstra, Linda Martens, Amy Kuehl, Hailey Braden-Lynch, Carl Kreiter, Katie Perkins, Vicki Tysseling (chair)

The Mission Committee of Fair Oaks is charged with coordinating ongoing church mission activities, seeking out and evaluating new opportunities locally, nationally and globally, and educating and informing our congregation about these opportunities. We are happy to report that progress continues toward meeting the Mission goals to:

- concentrate our efforts to strengthen Fair Oaks' relationship with several local agencies to increase the focus and impact of our mission work,
- pursue hands-on mission projects to support our monetary giving,
- enhance focus and involvement in global mission,
- coordinate and publicize mission and outreach efforts throughout the church.
- Provide updates in the church bulletin and eWeekly to create awareness of and participation in mission activities.

Following are examples of the good work sponsored by Fair Oaks this past year to pursue our Mission goals:

- Supported Beyond Hunger (formerly Oak Park/River Forest Food Pantry) with financial contributions, volunteers, and staples collected at the church. Beyond Hunger was contacted for a list of items of which they were in high need and the monthly collections focused on those items. The mid-high group was involved in the delivery of these items to Beyond Hunger.
- Supported Housing Forward (including Prevail) with food and volunteers for the home insecure through monthly meals for the shelter services, financial contributions for the shelter and transitional housing programs, sock donation from our Christmas Eve White Gift offering, and hosting individuals overnight for two weeks in May-June 2019 as part of their transitional housing summer initiative. This year we pledged before Housing Forward's 2020 Have a Heart gala and FOPC is listed as a donor at the Cornerstone Sponsor level.
- Supported Fraternalite Notre Dame with volunteers and one meal per month for the soup kitchen, Christmas gifts for seniors, and direct financial support. This outreach also included volunteering at the first and sometimes second shift each month until March. At that point, we kept in contact with FND and supported them with needed items such as bleach, masks, sanitizer, and other items.
- Supported Cluster Tutoring with financial contributions.
- Supported Hepzibah by providing new pairs of mittens, gloves, and hats from the Christmas Mitten Tree
- Collected for a candy drive in November for clients at Sarah's Inn.
- Supported other local charities financially, including Sarah's Inn, Cluster Tutoring Program, Holiday Food Baskets, New Moms, A House in Austin, and the Night Ministry.
- Supported, participated in and encouraged walkers for the virtual CROP walk. Despite the unusual setting of the CROP walk, FOPC still raised a near record amount of money.
- Contributed to One Great Hour of Sharing which supports Presbyterian Hunger Program, Disaster Assistance, and Self-Development of People.
- Border Crisis: Funded a trip for Pastor Ben to Matamoros to witness the injustices at the border with PASO and provided needed supplies for those affected. Also collaborated with the Justice

and Peace Committee at Grace Lutheran to organize a shared education program on immigration. Raised money for Team Brownsville through a Love Offering at the Fall Feast. Donated financially to the University Presbyterian Church in El Paso for their growing and changing humanitarian needs at the border.

- Sustained our partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Los Palos by providing financial support. Pastors Ben and Hailey met with Rev. Izett Sama when she came to visit during the summer of 2019. Financial donations were made to Los Palos Church in Cuba and the Cuba Seminary in 2019. In 2020, support for Los Palos has been difficult with the COVID pandemic and resulting travel restrictions, but we have joined with the Cuba Partners Network Steering Committee in sending support to the IRPC (Cuban Presbyterian Church) to use the money as needed.
- Continued support for missionary Janet Guyer and Presbyterian Mission.
- Continued support for Opportunity International.
- Continued support to ministries in Thailand, providing scholarship funds for students at McGilvary School of Theology, Prince Royal's College, and Payap University.
- Reviewed every mission partner that we support to ensure that our mission budget is dedicated to organizations that serve their clients in a way that will lead to real change.
- During the COVID pandemic, the mission committee remained very active. We have communicated with our mission partners and have raised needed funds and supplies when possible. We made bagged lunches and collected snacks for the Night Ministry, advertised for the Lou Malnati fundraiser for the Cluster Tutoring Program, and are collecting items for the Housing Forward House to Home project. Also, we have provided weekly minute for mission reports to the congregation via our Sunday online service to inform our congregation about our mission partners.

See the last page of the Annual Report for the Report of Mission Giving for 2019 which shows budgeted mission support for the year.

The Mission Committee of Fair Oaks Presbyterian church is grateful to be part of a congregation with such a firm commitment to mission as part of the life of Fair Oaks.

Gratefully yours,
Vicki Tysseling for the Fair Oaks Mission Committee

Nominating

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord... To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." 1 Corinthians 12: 4-7

The election of church officers is at the heart of what it means to be Presbyterian. Please pray for the individuals who have demonstrated gifts for leadership and a commitment to the life and ministry of this congregation and have been elected to serve.

To fulfill the mission of the Nominating Committee to call effective church leaders, the Nominating Committee seeks to present officers-elect who represent the congregation's diversity. We request and accept names submitted by congregants, as well as by committee members. We then prayerfully and carefully consider all names to ensure representation of all groups within the congregation.

The committee's work is to develop a slate of candidates for the church offices of Elder, Deacon and Nominating that reflect the composition and diversity of the congregation. The slate is then presented to the congregation for election at the congregational meeting the following June. Candidates that are elected serve 3 year terms, with the possibility of serving no more than two consecutive terms.

The Nominating Committee is grateful to the congregation and everyone who participated in the nominating process by submitting names of candidates to be considered.

The Nominating Committee membership consists of one or two Elders, one Deacon and up to four at-large members of the congregation who are elected at the prior annual meeting. The current committee members are: Beth Messina (Session representative), Cheryl Hover (Session representative), Marty Woodbury (Deacon representative), Carey Beck, Angela Topel, Brad Wolter, and Rev. Ben Lynch (ex-officio).

The future leadership of our church is not a position to be taken lightly, but it is completed with integrity and prayer. We are grateful to those individuals serving on the Nominating Committee for their compassion for the congregation of Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church.

In gratitude,

Beth Messina, Nominating Committee Chair

Personnel

Members: Greg Wolski (chair), Carey Beck, John Dortch, Eric Older, Laura Yockey and co-pastors Hailey Braden Lynch & Ben Lynch

The calling of the Personnel Committee is primarily to lead the hiring of new church staff members (as needed), conduct the annual reviews of the church staff, make recommendations to Session regarding church staff compensation and benefits and support the performance efforts of the church staff. The very nature and composition of the Personnel Committee is such that it must coordinate closely across all FOPC committees, especially Finance/Stewardship, Worship and Property.

Throughout the past year, the Personnel Committee has been very engaged and active with the church staff. The year started off with an active focus by the Personnel Committee in coordination with the Finance Committee on renewing employment contracts and analyzing all church staff compensation. As a result of the FOPC congregational financial support, Session approved the Personnel Committee's recommendations for year-end bonuses as well as increases in compensation to all church staff, the first such increases in over three years. In connection with the impact of the Covid-19 shutdown, the Personnel Committee worked closely with each of the FOPC committees to ensure that all needs of the church staff were supported in order that a seamless transition could be made to virtual congregational worship. As a direct result of the uncertainty caused by Covid-19 and its possible impact on our church staff and the congregation as a whole, the Personnel Committee worked with the Finance Committee and the Treasurer to recommend to Session that FOPC participate in the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Upon Session's approval, an application was made and \$52,625 was ultimately received. While the PPP is initially a loan, it is our expectation that all conditions to convert the loan fully to a grant will be met shortly. Further discussion of the details of the PPP are contained in the Finance Committee annual report summary. All church staff, including hourly employees and independent contractors, have continued to be fully paid throughout the Covid-19 shutdown.

As we look forward to the coming year, we are still actively working with the church staff and the Worship Committee to ensure that virtual congregational worship and fellowship can continue and that all of our church staff have all of support they need. There is no question that producing a virtual worship takes an inordinate amount of time, talent, and technical skills; and we greatly appreciate each of you who have assisted.

We especially thank all our church staff and the many volunteers for their incredible leadership. We are blessed to have so many congregational members who are willing to work together. It is only because of each of your efforts we were able to have another great year, continuing our worship and fellowship both physically and virtually. The Personnel Committee deeply appreciates everyone's time and effort and complete dedication to FOPC. We are especially blessed by the continued leadership of Hailey and Ben.

Thank you to the committee members for their efforts in supporting the church staff and the ministry of the FOPC congregation.

Faithfully submitted,

Greg Wolski for the Fair Oaks Personnel Committee

Presbyterian Women

Mission Statement: Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit we commit ourselves: to nurture our faith through prayer and bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promises of God's kingdom.

Presbyterian Women is a national organization sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA). Our Fair Oaks chapter is a part of the larger organization. All women of the church are members of PW. The board is made up of members of the congregation. The Board is grateful for the participation of Fair Oaks women in PW's 2019-20 activities. In practice, our mission is threefold: spiritual fulfillment, mission support, and fellowship.

Spiritual Fulfillment

Hosted meetings and/or activities including devotions

Mission Support

Continued our local support of the OPRF Food Pantry, Housing Forward, Sarah's Inn and New Moms
Donated funds to our Senior High Youth Group for its summer mission trip
Prepared Christmas baskets for shut-in members
Organized the fall Rummage Sale, which raised the bulk of our funds for the year

Fellowship

Coordinated a luncheon for all women of the church

Currently, the PW Board is reviewing its role in today's church life. The PW Board thanks all of you for your commitment and generous support.

PW Board Members: Karen Bromley, Megan Dickel, Shirley Rogers, Mary Ellen Sjostrom, Nicole Turner, Jennifer Walstra, Marty Woodbury

Property Annual Report

The exploration of a possible community partnership last summer has had two ongoing ramifications for our church property. First, a building inspection raised the issue of moderate levels of lead in our water system. This led to some improvements in the system, but the issue is not yet fully resolved. Second, the Session and the Property Committee engaged in discussions in how we might better use our building to support mission work and to serve our community. This resulted in the formation of a separate Task Force to explore opportunities; however, their work had barely started when the Covid crisis put a temporary halt to their efforts. Hopefully they can resume their work later in the calendar year.

The Committee has spent time since last fall organizing and reviewing an ongoing project list to track building and manse needs and work completed. A fall clean-up day was again productive under the organization of John Messina, Lisa Johnson, and Michael Carr. Throughout the year, various projects were completed related to roof repairs, tuckpointing, and painting.

A visible improvement, supported by Memorial funds and led by Nancy Van Der Griend, was the long overdue replacement of all the pew cushions at a cost of approximately \$10,000.

The Covid crisis has led to the closure of our physical space, as everyone is aware. The committee is using this time to coordinate with our facilities coordinator, Jay DeVries, on a deep cleaning inside the church building. Currently, the committee is finalizing a policy to guide the possible use of our outdoor space, to the extent state guidelines allow.

Committee Members:

Michael Carr (Chair), Christine Baumbach, John Beck, Pressior Belance, Fred Burghardt, Sophie Eldred, Lisa Johnson, Ann Kreiter, Chris Marzec, John Messina, Steve Perkins, Jerry Santos, Greg Webster, Greg Wolski

Worship and the Arts



Tablecloth created for World Communion Sunday.



Kneeling cushions for Ordination Sunday.

Committee Members: Christine Baumbach, Kent Bromley, Martha Fluharty, Sheryl Martin, Doug Rainey, Phyllis Tresselt, Nancy Van Der Griend

Each week, members of the Worship Committee work together to ensure all aspects of our church services support the spiritual nurturing and growth of our congregation.

The ushers make sure bulletins are distributed, candles are lit, sermons are recorded, attendees are counted, the offering is collected, and the sanctuary is cleaned and ready for the next service.

All deacons and elders past and present are welcome to volunteer to serve communion. Worship committee members take turns preparing the communion table.

Along with communion preparers and servers, worship leaders are an integral part of our service. Many thanks to all church members who have led us in praying and praising God's Word.

Several creative sewing projects were completed to enhance worship, including a tablecloth used for World Communion Sunday, kneeling cushions for Ordination Sunday, and six tapestries depicting labyrinths used during Lent.

As Fair Oaks transitioned to online service, we created several musical presentations for service, including the Palm Sunday Processional and Easter Sunday's Handel "Hallelujah" Chorus.



On behalf of all members of the Worship Committee, we thank every member of our congregation for giving of your hearts and spirit in lifting our praises to God.

Yours in Christ,
Martha Fluharty

Labyrinths during Lent.

Music Ministry

Up until March 8, the Chancel Choir was a familiar sight, singing most Sundays during the program year. It is a joy to work with such a talented and fun group. The choir stepped up wonderfully despite having lost a few of its members due to relocation or other extenuating circumstances. One of the high points for the choir was the Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols service. A fabulous string quartet augmented this long-standing tradition at Fair Oaks. What a wonderful experience it was to have several members of the congregation join the Women's Choir when they sang on March 8!

This program year is defined as pre-pandemic and church as we know it now, not the least of which being the face of the music ministry. I marvel at the talented members of our congregation of all ages who have rallied and given of their gifts and continue to do so. They have lent focus to what is central to Fair Oaks – for the people, by the people - to the glory of God. It is an understatement to say we are truly blessed. A word of appreciation goes out to Ben and Hailey for fluidly integrating the musical offerings into the virtual services. Another expression of appreciation is extended to Linda Van Dyke who has generously contributed to the services as a clarinetist and directed the Encore Bells to and from respective living rooms! Thank you to the ever-present Gwendolyn Wolski, who somehow manages to wear the same outfit every Sunday!

The Chancel Choir has tried their hand and voices at zooming a few times. With a quick learning curve in embracing this and other technology, I with the help of accomplices are preparing for the fall when my goal is to have the choir once again serve a greater role in the music ministry. Our section leaders have also contributed to services; the congregation can expect to hear more from them during the summer months. Hannah has submitted prelude music and has graciously been in the wings as accompanist for section leaders and me. I have enjoyed offering hymn reflections on the piano, hoping my fingers cooperate with where the spirit takes me.

In summary, I am mindful especially in these past few months, that Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church is immeasurably more than just a building. I feel honored to serve this wonderful community as Director of Music Ministries.

Respectfully submitted,

David Crane

Youth Ministry

While the 2019-2020 year wraps up very differently than expected, we did have another strong year of programming and activities for both Mid and Sr High youth groups. In addition to the youth groups, programming also included LOGOS, Mid-High Sunday School, and confirmation classes. Please see the LOGOS report and Christian Education report for information on these activities.

The Sr High Youth Group met regularly throughout the year with youth leaders Cheryl Hover, Lisa Johnson, Greg Meadors and Pastor Hailey Braden Lynch. These meetings included club times, a winter retreat, mission activities, and a lock-out. Late arrival breakfast was also held regularly at the Manse.

The Mid High Youth Group met throughout the year with youth leaders Elizabeth McVey, Teresa Spann, Rachel Tesch, and Pastor Hailey Braden Lynch. These meetings included club times, a fall retreat, mission activities, and a lock-out.

A weekly Zoom meeting was established when meeting in-person was not an option for each group. These meetings were well attended and provided an important way to connect.

In January, both Sr and Mid Highs groups travelled up to Alpine Valley for a fun day of skiing.

Unfortunately, the yearly mission trip was canceled this year due to COVID-19 precautions. Those who have graduated in 2020 will be invited to attend in 2021.

Youth Sunday was held virtually this year in June and lead/written by Senior Highs.

Seven confirmands joined Fair Oaks this past year. The classes concluded in virtual format and Session accepted the confirmands over Zoom. A worship service will take place when it is safe to do so.

Special thanks to all of our wonderful youth leaders, parents who provided meals and helped provide transportation, the Steeves/Perkins family for continuing to open their vacation home to our youth groups for retreats, and to the congregation for their support of this important ministry.

Through these wide range of activities (both in-person and virtual), our youth continue to nurture relationships with each other and adult leaders. In this way, they are experiencing Christ's love embodied in our faith community.

In gratitude to all who work with our youth,

Cheryl Hover

Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, Summarized Financial Information
Final 2019 and 2020 Budget

| | 2019 | | 2020 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Budget | Actual | Budget |
| OPERATING REVENUES | | | |
| Pledges and Offerings | 440,100 | 431,284 | 442,800 |
| Other Revenue | 1,200 | 2,603 | 2,050 |
| Total Operating Revenues | 441,300 | 433,887 | 444,850 |
| OPERATING EXPENSES | | | |
| Mission (13%) | 57,369 | 57,369 | 57,831 |
| Staff Compensation | 271,989 | 268,221 | 283,345 |
| Property | 60,400 | 55,052 | 50,500 |
| Christian Education | 3,800 | 3,327 | 3,800 |
| Programs | 12,000 | 19,011 | 12,000 |
| Church Office | 10,340 | 9,150 | 10,250 |
| Congregational Activities | 1,350 | 1,814 | 2,000 |
| Deacons | 2,000 | 1,472 | 2,000 |
| Outreach | 3,400 | 2,883 | 3,050 |
| Worship and Music | 18,295 | 18,572 | 19,160 |
| Other Expense | 17,340 | 17,413 | 14,000 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 459,123 | 454,284 | 457,936 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | (17,823) | (20,397) | (13,086) |

Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, Summarized Financial Information
Continued

| | <u>12/31/19</u> <u>Balances</u> |
|--|------------------------------------|
| SPECIAL GIFTS AND MEMORIALS | |
| Memorials | 10,071 |
| Christian Education and Youth Programs | 7,349 |
| Mission, incl. Mission Trips | 14,789 |
| Other Programs | 1,829 |
| Total Special Gifts and Memorials | <u>34,038</u> |
| ENDING FUND BALANCES | |
| General Fund | 237,209 |
| Special Gifts and Memorials | 34,038 |
| Capital Fund | 75,000 |
| Total Fund Balances | <u>346,247</u> |

FAIR OAKS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2020 Mission Budget

Revenue

57,369.00

| | 2019 |
|--|------------------|
| | Budget |
| Global Ministries | |
| Janet Guyer | \$ 1,000 |
| Los Palos Church Cuba | \$ 3,000 |
| Cuba Seminary (2019 trip) | \$ 719 |
| McGilvary FOPC Scholarship Fund | \$ 2,000 |
| Opportunity International | \$ 500 |
| Payap U. Scholarship Fund | \$ 1,000 |
| Prince Royals Coll. Sch. Fund | \$ 1,000 |
| William Yoder Scholarship Fund | \$ 1,000 |
| Total Global Ministries | \$ 10,219 |
| Miscellaneous & Reserve | \$ 1,000 |
| PCUSA & Presbytery | |
| PCUSA - Basic Mission Suppot | \$ 1,000 |
| PCUSA - Theological Education | \$ 500 |
| PCUSA - YAV Direct Mission Support | \$ 3,000 |
| Presbyterian Disaster Assistance | \$ 1,000 |
| Total PCUSA & Presbytery | \$ 5,500 |
| Shared Mission Giving Chgo Pres | \$ 12,500 |
| USA & Local | |
| Cluster Tutoring Program | \$ 2,000 |
| Community of Congregations | \$ 500 |
| FND Soup Kitchen Food | \$ 3,210 |
| FND Soup Kitchen Supplies | \$ 83 |
| Holiday Food Baskets | \$ 900 |
| Oak Park Food Pantry | \$ 6,750 |
| Housing Forward Donation | \$ 2,500 |
| Housing Forward Meals | \$ 2,356 |
| Housing Forward Transitional Housing | \$ 1,100 |
| New Moms | \$ 750 |
| Housing Forward: Prevail | \$ 6,500 |
| Sarah's Inn | \$ 500 |

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Sr High Mission Trip | \$ 1,000 |
| Total USA & Local | \$ 28,150 |
| | \$ 57,369 |
| Total Mission | \$ 57,369 |