

2014 Annual Report

First United Presbyterian Church
1000 Douglas Avenue
Las Vegas, NM 87701

(505) 425-7763
(505) 425-7771 fax
fupc.nm@gmail.com
www.lvpresbyterian.org



*“Becoming a community that creates space
for faith, hope, love, and witness.”*



Table of Contents

Minutes of 2014 Congregational Meetings
Church Officers and Committee Chairs
Pastor's Report
Commissioned Ruling Elders (Los Mensajeros) Report
List of Active Members

Reports

Christian Education
Clerk of Session
Columbarium
Community Life
Deacons
Holy Conversations and 20/20
Interpretation and Support
LIFT Club
Mission and Peacemaking
Mustard Seed
New Horizons
Nominating
Personnel
Trustees
Worship and Music
Treasurer's Report 2014

- 2014 Actual vs Budgeted Income and Expenses
- 2014 Balance Sheet

Treasurer's Report on 2015 Budget

- 2015 Budget – Income Statement – Balance Sheet

First United Presbyterian Church
Reverend James R. Campbell HR
1000 Douglas Avenue
Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701
(505) 425-7763
Email: fupc.nm@gmail.com
Website: lvpresbyterian.org



Minutes – Congregational Meeting - Sunday, February 2, 2014

The meeting was called to order and opened with a prayer by Rev. Randy Campbell. A quorum was declared by Carol Linder, Clerk of Session

The purpose of the meeting was outlined by Rev. Randy Campbell to include receiving the Annual report, conducting a meeting of the Corporation, and elect Elders to open positions on the Session. MSP to approve the agenda as presented by the moderator. .

The congregation voted to accept the reports from the Pastor, Clerk of Session and Board of Deacons (MSP). Rev. Randy Campbell briefly discussed his plans for sabbatical and mentioned that there was an error in his report: Robertson baccalaureate was held at Immaculate Conception rather than at Our Lady of Sorrows. Carol Linder thanked Rosie Lopez for filling her position while she was on sabbatical last fall. The report from the Board of Deacons was faithfully submitted by chair Mary Schipper.

The Congregational Meeting was recessed temporarily to convene the annual meeting of the Corporation.

The **Corporation meeting** was called to order by co-chairs Rudy Laumbach and Tom Trigg (MSP). The congregation voted to receive the Trustees' annual report by the Trustees (MSP). Rudy Laumbach thanked the Trustees for their hard work and reported on major projects of the year including the roof leak, kitchen odor problem and general maintenance and upkeep of the church facilities. The Annual Meeting of the Corporation was closed (MSP) and the Annual Meeting of the Congregation reconvened (MSP).

Richard Lindeborg, chair of I&S, presented the **Treasurer's reports** as Treasurer Amos Estrada was out of town and excused. The congregation voted to accept the 2013 Financial Report noting that McLeod's paid the balloon payment on Rio Gallinas building loan (MSP).

The Pastor was excused for the discussion and approval of the **2014 Proposed Pastor's Compensation**. The compensation includes a salary of \$31,600 and housing allowance of \$15,000 total for a total of \$46,600. Pension and health benefits were calculated at 35% of the pastor's salary (\$16,310) and SECA retirement at 7.65% (\$3,565). Also included is a \$1250 education and book allowance and \$1200 for travel, the total package is \$68,925.00 and includes 28 days vacations and 14 days of continuing education.

The 2014 total budget approved by the Session is \$151,358 includes a shortfall of \$11,327. Karyl Lyne asked if members can redirect targeted donations to the general fund to cover the deficit. Judy Long noted that there is money in savings to cover this deficit. Richard Lindeborg noted that the Session approved in concept a document from I&S developed with a lot of input to sustain and ensure the long-term financial well-being of our church. Richard distributed copies of this working document to all interested members. The congregation voted to receive the Treasurer's reports and 2014 budget as presented in the Annual Report. MSP

The Congregation voted to accept the following reports of the Session and Special Committees: Christian Education, Community Life, Holy Conversations, Interpretation and Support, LIFT Campus Ministry, Mission and Peacemaking, Mustard Seed, New Horizons, Personnel, Worship and Music, and Old Town Mission from the Joint Operations Team. MSP Carol Linder, chair of the Nominating Committee put forth the following slate to fill vacancies on the Session. Steve Ediger's vacancy in the Class of 2014 will not be filled. Nominated for vacancies in the Class of 2015 were Carol Linder, Douglas Baskett, and Beverly Garrett. The congregation elected the proposed slate by acclamation. MSP

The next Congregational meeting for the election of officers will be held on June 8, 2014 and next year's annual meeting will be held Feb 1, 2015. The meeting was closed with a joint reciting of the Lord's Prayer led by Rev. Randy Campbell.

Minutes – Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 22, 2014

The meeting was called to order and opened with a prayer by Rev. Randy Campbell. Carol Linder, Clerk of Session, declared a quorum. The purpose of the meeting was to elect the leadership slate from the nominating committee and to receive any nominations from the floor for unfilled vacancies. Carol Linder, chair of the Nominating committee presented the following slate:

ELDERS (12 on Session)

Class of 2016 (Aug 1, 2014- Jul 31, 2016)

1. Amos Estrada (2nd term)
2. Karyl Lyne (1st term)

DEACONS (9 on Board)

Class of 2016 (Aug 1, 2014- Jul 31, 2016)

1. Sharon Vander Meer (3rd term)
2. Joan Laumbach (2nd term)
3. Patrick Rucker (2nd term)
4. Jackson Awuzing Igondou (1st term)

Class of 2015 (Aug 1, 2013 -Jul 31, 2015)

1. Linda Cunningham (1st term)

TRUSTEES (6 on Board)

Class of 2016 (Aug 1, 2014- Jul 31, 2016)

1. Rod Billingsley (2nd term)

Nominating Committee:

Carol Linder (Session representative)
Judy Long (Session rep)
Bonnie Trujillo (Deacon representative)
Rudy Laumbach (Member at large)
Joyce Litherland (Member at large)
Patrick Rucker (Member at large)

MSP to approve the slate as presented by acclimation. Rev. Randy Campbell opened up the nominations to the congregation to fill the remaining vacancies (four on Session Class of 2016, one on Deacon Class of 2016, and two on the Board of Trustees Class of 2016). There were three calls for nominations with no additional volunteers or nominations. The nominating committee was elected for one more year. The moderator and clerk of Session thanked the class of 2014 that will finish their term July 31, 2014.

THANK YOU Session Class of 2014

1. Amos Estrada (1st term)
2. Tori Conway (1st term)
3. Richard Lindeborg (1st term)
4. Julianne Salman (2nd term)
5. Tom Trigg (Trustee liaison)(1st term)

THANK YOU Deacon Class of 2014

1. Alan Ayers (2nd term)
2. Joan Laumbach (1st Term)
3. Christina Litherland (1st term)(youth representative)
4. Patrick Rucker (1st term)
5. Sharon Vander Meer (2nd term)

THANK YOU Trustees Class of 2014

1. Rod Billingsley (1st term)
2. Tom Trigg (3rd term) Session Liaison
3. Diego Trujillo (3rd term)

The meeting was closed with a joint reciting of the **Lord's Prayer** led by Rev. Randy Campbell

Minutes – Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 19, 2014

The meeting was called to order and opened with a prayer by moderator Rev. Randy Campbell at 11:45 am. Carol Linder, Clerk of Session, declared a quorum. The purpose of the meeting was to: (1) elect members recommended by the nominating committee and receive any nominations from the floor for unfilled vacancies; and (2) take required action the pastor's retirement.

1. Carol Linder, chair of the Nominating committee presented the following slate:

- a. Deacons, Class of 2016: Murl Baker
- b. Trustees, Class of 2015: Patrick Rucker Class of 2016 – Norman Spicer and Amos Estrada
- c. Nominating Committee: Van Swan, Member-at-Large (replacing Patrick Rucker)

MSP to elect Murl, Patrick, Norman, Amos, and Van as recommended. With this action the Board of Deacons is at full-strength while Trustees lacks one in class of 2015 but has a full contingency in the class of 2016.

- d. Session (12 members, presently required), lacks four in the Class of 2016, and one in the Class of 2015. Total membership of Session now is seven. Number of members is under consideration by the re-organization team. No additional nominations from the floor.

2. Actions required for Pastor's Retirement

- a. MSP to accept the request for the dissolution of pastoral relationship between Rev. J.R. Campbell and the Congregation of First United Presbyterian Church, Las Vegas NM, effective January 31, 2015, due to retirement.
- b. MSP to approve the following termination package: Rev. Campbell will serve until the 15th of January, 2015 and will receive two (2) weeks of accrued vacation time. His effective date of retirement will be January 31, 2015.

Linda Solyntjes shared that a small committee is working on planning Randy's retirement celebration which will take place January 10 and 11, 2015.

The meeting was closed with a joint reciting of the **Lord's Prayer** led by moderator Rev. Randy Campbell.

Committee Chairs

2014-2015

Christian Education

Carol Linder

Community Life

Juli Salman

Deacons

Mary Schipper

Holy Conversations

Carol Linder

Interpretation and Support

Richard Lindeborg

LIFT

Carol Litherland

Mission and Peacemaking

Karyl Lyne

Mustard Seed

Judy Long

New Horizons

Rosalie Lopez

Nominating

Carol Linder

Personnel

Joyce Litherland

Trustees

Robin Carlson

Worship and Music

Judy Long



Board Personnel

Clerk of Session

Carol Linder

Deacons

Mary Schipper

Trustees

Robin Carlson

Treasurer

Douglas Baskett

Presbytery Commissioners

Mary Schipper



Pastor's Report to Congregation 2014

By the grace of God, 2014 marked my 37th year of ordained ministry and 7th year of ministry to and with Presbyterians in the Original Las Vegas and the Presbytery of Santa Fe. The major event in my life in relation to the church in 2014 was the three-month sabbatical in March, April and May. During that time I studied and pondered the life and times of Jose Ynes Perea, co-founder of the Old Town Mission Church, which stands at the corner of Chavez and Socorro streets. The building, unique in all the world, is a cherished direct connection with the amazing Rev. Perea and the Presbyterian history of the Southwest, history which includes the long and illustrious career of Rev. Gabino Rendon. Rev. Gabon studied at the mission and eventually became its pastor. As a result of my research I more deeply appreciate the historic beauty and present-day usefulness of that building as it serves as a Community Center, part of the vibrant ministry of this church. I hope to continue to study the life of Rev. Perea and eventually produce some form of writing to share, one of my immediate goals in retirement.

During the sabbatical I also visited Kalani, a retreat center in Hawaii, a healing and restful place, then followed the Santa Fe Trail east to visit family in Pennsylvania, attended the 2014 Festival of Homiletics in Minneapolis, Minnesota and drove back west, again following the Santa Fe Trail to Las Vegas. Thank you for the gift of sabbatical and thanks to CRE John Detterick, Rod Billingsley, Rev. Ken Cuthbertson and all of you on committees and others who tended the church so ably during my sabbatical time.

During the other nine months of 2014 I served in various capacities of Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church. I was a worship-planner, preacher, discussion leader, visitor and listener, committee attender, “Dear Friends” author, communion officiator and session moderator, both for First United and for El Rito in Chacon. I moderated two regular Congregational Meetings and one special meeting. I was a shepherd at the Christmas Eve service. Participation with the LIFT Campus Ministry has diminished, though I continued to be involved as much as possible. Having finished my term on the Presbytery’s Commission on Ministry, I agreed to work on the Committee on Representation and Participation (CORP), better known as the Nominating Committee. At present, I plan on continuing with that committee into retirement.

I officiated at the weddings of Robin Carlson and Les Jones, January 6, Prakriti Lamichhane and Surendra Thapa, January 18, Gerald Garcia and Tanya Sandoval, July 5, (an outside wedding in the rain). I conducted funerals for Novella Roybal on September 9 and for Mary Cook on December 19. During the worship service on November 2, I baptized Robert Monclova, a student at NMHU, and we welcomed him into the membership of the church.

Service to the wider community involved serving meals at the Samaritan Shelter on average of once a month and broadcasting K-FUN Radio’s “Morning Devotions” Monday through Friday at 6:30 a.m., usually one week per month. I have continued to serve on the Joint Operations Team (JOT), management team of the Old Town Mission Community Center and have attended meetings of Amnesty International, a most worth-while organization.

Besides the sabbatical, I took a few days of continuing education time for a Synod-sponsored preaching seminar in Albuquerque February 10-12 and a Board of Pensions Pre-Retirement Seminar July 29 and 30 (just in time). I had a week’s vacation in the fall to prepare for Advent services and attend the 30th Anniversary of Frontera de Cristo Border Ministry in Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico. It was a wonderful celebration of how God’s powerful love continues to grow and blossom in a harsh, inhumane landscape. The celebration included the laying of a cornerstone for the expansion of the Café Justo building. By the way, this church, through a Mustard Seed Grant given about eight years ago, helped that project begin and still supports it by selling its coffee. The Café Justo business project is transforming communities in Chiapas, Mexico (and beyond), eliminating the root cause for “illegal immigration” – poverty.

Though I have not been closely involved, I continue to be very interested in HOPE, which is planning for Elder support and housing in Las Vegas. The project is going forward, has a board of directors and is about to obtain its 501.C.3 non-profit status. Begun in the Mission-Peacemaking Committee, the project is now community-based and receiving wide recognition and support.

Each month that I worked during 2014, I reported all my work-related activities to the Personnel Committee, who kept an eye on my ministry on behalf of you all. If you would like to see in more detail what I have been doing, talk to Personnel. That committee helped me work through the goals we set for each year and helped me plan for sabbatical and retirement.

As I prepare this Annual Report, I again do so with immense gratitude, first to God for filling my life and time with such awesome relationships and events I have experienced this past year and years before. And secondly, I thank you all, again, for being just who you are - beloved children of God gathered together here at FUPC. May you always continue to receive and spread the Word with grace, humility and love for all. And, please, keep the church weird.

Bendiciones a todos,

Rev. James R. (Randy) Campbell, H.R. (Honorably Retired)



Los Mensajeros (Commissioned Ruling Elders) 2014

Commissioned Ruling Elders, often referred to as CREs, are Elders who have completed a two-year study program under the guidance of the Presbytery and have been commissioned to serve a congregation in a ministerial capacity. For the past five years Gay Veit, Shirley Sandoval and John Detterick have served as a CRE team in the El Rito Presbyterian Church in Chacon, the First Presbyterian Church in Mora and the First United Presbyterian Church in Las Vegas. Along with Rod Billingsley this team is known as Los Mensajeros, The Messengers.

Prior to 2014 Los Mensajeros served all three congregations with all four members contributing to each congregation. However, in 2014 the model changed and each CRE assumed primary responsibility for one congregation with Rod Billingsley serving as back up for all three. Shirley Sandoval is the primary pastor for El Rito Presbyterian Church in Chacon. Gay Veit has been the primary pastor for the First Presbyterian Church of Mora. John Detterick has served the First United Presbyterian Church in Las Vegas. Rod has provided preaching and support services as needed in all three congregations.

During Randy Campbell's sabbatical the primary pastoral support was provided by Los Mensajeros. John served in an administrative capacity and preached several times. Gay preached once and Rod preached several times. Shirley provided leadership for some of the Holy Week services.

John and Rod have continued to preach as needed during the rest of the year. John and Shirley conduct a monthly bilingual worship service at Vida Encantada that seems very well received. John reads the scripture in English and then Shirley reads it in Spanish. John offers a homily on the scripture in English and Shirley follows with a homily in Spanish. A couple of times John has said to Shirley, "My Spanish isn't too good but it doesn't sound like we are saying the same thing. Do you think we might be confusing these folks?" Shirley always responds, "Don't worry John! The message is the same." And she accompanies the response with her bright smile.

Los Mensajeros continue to be most appreciative of the support and encouragement they have received from the First United congregation. Without your strong backing our ministries would not be as strong as they are today. We are also most appreciative for the leadership of our "Bishop" Randy Campbell, who has been an amazing companion, mentor and friend.

We look forward to continuing to serve you in the coming year as we all transition into the next phase in our faith journey together, and we pray that we all will go faithfully and boldly where Jesus is leading us.

Respectfully submitted,
John Detterick, CRE



Active Membership - December 2014

Apodaca, Susan
Ayers, Allan
Baker, Alnita
Baker, Murl
Baskett, Christie
Baskett, Douglas
Billingsley, Rod
Carlson, Robin
Conway, Tori
Crespin, Irene (Estrada)
Croto, Jim
Croto, Sean
Croto, Siobhon
Cunningham, Linda
De Herrera, Theresa
Detterick, Bobbye
Detterick, John
Estrada, Amos
Estrada, Emma
Garrett, Beverly
Hagar, Frank
Henry, Kay
Igondou, Jackson Awuzing
Johns, Larry
Johns, Nina
Kretz, Betty
Laumbach, Joan
Laumbach, Rudy
Lindeborg, Richard
Linder, Carol
Linder, Charles
Linder, Katie
Litherland, Carol
Litherland, Christina
Litherland, Nicoletta
Litherland, Joyce
Litherland, Kenneth
Litherland, Ray
Long, Judy
Lopez, Jose Ramon
Lopez, Rosalie
Lyne, Karyl
Mann, Dottie
Martinez, Karlene
McCord, John Edward
Monnheimer, Don
Monclava, Robert

Monnheimer, Maridell
Mountjoy, Ken
Mountjoy, Rustie
Nelson, Eleanor
Oviatt, Mary
Quick, Betty
Rendon, Gabino Jr
Rieniets, Karen
Rodriguez, Albert
Roe, Sharon (Litherland)
Rucker, Pat
Salas, Fred
Salman, Julianne
Salman, Mack
Salman, Molly
Samuelson, Trudi Reyman Cozad
Schipper, Mary
Seto, Sharon
Smith, Lynda
Solyntjes, Linda
Spicer, Denise
Spicer, Norman
Spicer, Wamoth
Swan, Susan
Swan, Van
Thatcher, Gordy
Topping-Billingsley, Karen
Trigg, Tom
Trujillo, Art
Trujillo, Bonnie
Trujillo, Carolina (Carly)
Trujillo, Celina
Trujillo, Connie
Trujillo, Diego
Turner, Clyde
Van Horn, Jack
Van Horn, Lucille
Vander Meer, Bob
Vander Meer, Sharon
Veit, Gay
Warner, Corita
Warner, Nancy
Wertz, Bruce
Wootton, Charlotte
Wootton, Evelyn



Clerk's Report
Church Statistics
January 1 – December 31 2014

PULPIT SUPPLY

Rev. James R. (Randy) Campbell, Permanent Pastor

MODERATOR OF SESSION

Rev. James R. (Randy) Campbell

MEMBERSHIP

Active Member gains

Four (4) by Confession or Reaffirmation of Faith

Active Member losses

One (1) by other losses

Prior to December 16

Active Members: Ninety-five (95)

Affiliate Members: Zero (0)

Baptized Members: Twenty-six (26)

**Action taken by Session,
December 16, 2014**

Three members (3) removed from Active Status

Membership after action by Session

Active Members: Ninety-two (92)

Affiliate Members: Zero (0)

Baptized Members: Twenty-six (26)

Respectfully submitted by

Carol C. Linder, Clerk of Session

SPECIFIC MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Losses:

Deaths:

Zero (0)

Other losses: four (4)

Steve Ediger

Michael Green

Beth Lopez

Gabrielle Sanchez

Gains:

New Members: (4)

Murl Baker

Robert Monclava

Norman Spicer

Wamoth Spicer

Other Gains:

Zero (0)



Christian Education 2014

Tori Conway faithfully chaired the Christian Education committee from August 2012 until she finished her term on Session term in July 2014. In August Carol Linder and Carol Litherland assumed responsibility for Christian Education folding LIFT Campus Ministry back into Christian Education. Richard Lindeborg continues to coordinate Christian Education for Adults and Youth. Rosie Lopez has long served on the committee and helped out as needed.

Youth Under Construction

Our children are growing up! We appreciate Jackson Igondou who taught Sunday school in February. We appreciate our youth that help out with a variety of events. We said goodbye to Connor Mamaux-Partridge and Christina Litherland this past summer. Congratulations to Christina for graduating at the top of her high school class.

Christian Education for Adults and Youth

During 2014 the Christian Education Program for Adults and youth continued to be based on three components:

- Sunday morning Bible study
- Monthly Serendipity book discussions
- Lenten and Advent studies

Bible Study

Breakfast is provided prior to the Sunday Morning Bible Study sessions and childcare is available. Average attendance: 7.

Bible Study in January continued Dr. Peter Linder's discussion of "The Afterlife: Heaven & Hell in the Old & New Testaments." The study ran from January 2nd until the first Sunday of Lent and picked up again the Sunday after Palm Sunday.

During the summer months the Bible Study class was led by Richard Lindeborg in a study of the book Messengers of God: Biblical Portraits and Legends, by Elie Wiesel. Sessions covered the stories of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Abraham and Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and Job.

The final session of the summer was a showing and discussion of the video "The Tabernacle," taken from the book of Exodus.

In fall, Siobhan Croto led a Bible Study based on the book The Wild Gospel by Alison Morgan. Richard Lindeborg took over as discussion leader when Siobhan Croto moved away.

Serendipity Class

The Serendipity class, led by Richard Lindeborg met one evening a month except during summer, lent, and advent, when its attendees were encouraged to combine with the other sessions for adults and youth. Coffee and tea are provided, and attendees are encouraged to bring a snack or brown bag supper. Average attendance: 5.

January's class was a discussion of a video on "How the Brain Works in Prayer and Meditation"

February's class was a discussion of the book "Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals" by Shane Claiborne & Jonathan Wilson Hartgrove.

May's Serendipity class discussed the book "Markings" by Dag Hammarskjöld, secretary General of the United Nations from 1956 to 1961.

October's book was "The Idolatry of God: Breaking our Addiction to Certainty and Satisfaction" by Peter Rollins.

November's book was "A Time to Keep Silence" by Patrick Leigh Fermor.

Lenten and Advent Studies

Studies were conducted by Pastor Randy Campbell on Sunday mornings before the worship service. Breakfast was provided before the sessions and childcare was available. Average attendance: 6.

This year's Lenten study was based on the book "The Last Presbyterian? Remembering the Faith of My Forebears" by Kenneth Cuthbertson, who lead two of the sessions

The Advent study was based on the book "Naked Spirituality" by Brian McLaren.



LIFT Club 2014

The Living in Faith Together (LIFT) Club is a chartered, active New Mexico Highlands University student organization that came into being through the on-going joint campus ministry of St. Paul's Peace, Methodist, and Presbyterian Churches. This year the Methodist church was not active with LIFT and did not have anyone representing them on the campus ministry LIFT steering committee. From FUPC Rev. Randy Campbell, Rosalie Lopez, Carol Linder and Carol Litherland (current faculty advisor for the LIFT Club on campus) supported LIFT as part of the steering committee and otherwise volunteered their time to be involved with the various student activities of LIFT. Renee Soderlund from St. Paul's Peace remained active on the steering committee through the summer then turned over her responsibilities with LIFT to their new grant funded campus lay minister, Leslie Alden.

The LIFT Club bylaws state "the purpose of the organization is to further the education and fellowship of students at New Mexico Highlands University, and to help one another grow in our walks of faith." As of 2013 the LIFT Club at NMHU designated itself an interfaith organization and welcomes student, faculty, staff and community members from all walks of faith.

During the spring 2014 semester the following students served as officers for the LIFT Club: Khanh Pham, Student Coordinator; Bertina (Ting) Liu, President; Regina Umarova, Vice President, Aili Natsumushi, Treasurer, and Rashmi Rajamanickam, Secretary. This has been and continued to be an outstanding motivated active group of young people. They got and gave a lot being active with LIFT. They really wanted LIFT to continue on and did their best to communicate that to incoming students. Mostly they set an example to future students that much is possible. The following are major activities of LIFT during the spring 2014 semester:

- * Spring Break Mission Trip Service Project to El Rito/Chacon in part funded by a Mustard Seed Grant.
- * Holi (Color) Festival at Highlands Melody Park April 11, 2014
- * Potluck lunch recognizing the graduating LIFT members April 27, 2014 following worship at St. Paul's Peace

During the summer of 2014 the LIFT steering committee met and planned the following activities to recruit new students to carry on LIFT:

- * Carol and Christina Litherland made three presentations about LIFT to three groups of incoming students during Highlands' new student orientation
- * Carol Litherland and Leslie Alden, St Paul's Peace campus lay minister, set up an information booth/table at Club Row (club recruiting day) August 28, 2014

From these activities we were able to bring together a new group of students with the few returning students and recharter the LIFT club with the following officers: Rashmi Rajamanickam, President; Jolene Vigil, Vice President; ReAnna Vigil, Secretary; and Neyli Castillo, Treasurer. During the fall 2014 semester this new group formed a bond meeting weekly and sharing in fellowship. They did the following major activities:

- * Walked as a group in the Las Vegas UWC Crop Walk raising funds to diminish world hunger...and local hunger
- * Following up on the mission trip service project to El Rito/Chacon they took part in the FUPC worship service sharing pictures and stories of LIFT.

At the end of the year a few more students have graduated, and we celebrated with them and sent them off. Now we have a very small (5 active student members) but determined group to continue on in 2015.

Submitted by:

Carol Litherland, LIFT Club Faculty Advisor and Session LIFT Steering Committee Chair



Mustard Seed 2014

1. New Mexico Symphony Farms	Farming hoop houses, seed stock	\$250
2. JOT Foundation	For shed at OTM	\$1,000
3. Los Zapateados	Costumes for dance group	\$500
4. New Horizons	Science teaching materials	\$100
5. Alta Vista Chaplains	Vests	\$500
6. NMHU Int. Humanitarian Del	Trip to Honduras	\$600
7. Las Vegas Arts Council	Banner	\$200
8. El Valle Community Center	Printer	\$200
9. LIFT Club	Supplies for mission trip to Chacon	\$200
10. Rio Gallinas School	Immigration study trip to border	\$700
11. El Valle Youth Farm Program	Kitchen equipment	\$500
12. Amigos Y Vecinos	Rent at OTM, snacks	\$1000

Total amount granted was \$5,750. All the grantees have reported and accounted for the money being spent for the requested project. Alta Vista Chaplains returned their money since the hospital funded their project. Amigos Y Vecinos did not spend the whole amount since the program stopped at the end of May, but they are restarting the program again and will use the remaining funds for the purpose requested.

20 proposals were submitted for the 2014 grant money and 12 were selected to receive total or partial grants.

There was no silent auction this year at the Enchilada Dinner, we hope to pick it up in 2015. With proceeds from the Enchilada Dinner, donations and returned grants, the balance in Mustard Seed is \$7,084.90 to disburse in 2015 grants. This is about \$1,500 more than in 2014.

All recipients have expressed gratitude for this program and we further the mission of this church and God's work in our community with each grantee that we work with. Thanks to all who work on the Enchilada Dinner (our fundraiser) and the committee of Linda Solyntjes, Robin Carlson, Mary Schipper, Joann Laumbach and Judy Long, Chair



Columbarium 2014

The focus of the columbarium garden and plaque is to keep it as a beautiful, quiet, meditative space. Judy Long and Tom Trigg keep the plantings thriving and beautiful, and keep the courtyard clean. A new freestanding umbrella has been donated to shade the lovely all weather turquoise table and chairs. The area could be used for meetings, fellowship hour in good weather or just time to sit and pray in an outdoor chapel.

New names have been added to the memorial plaque, including Linda Cunningham's father, with a brief chilly memorial service.

A rain harvest water barrel has been installed, with gutter and drainage work done.

If you are interested in more information on purchasing a niche in the columbarium or a plaque for a loved one, please contact Judy Long or Tom Trigg.

The balance in the Columbarium fund is \$1,346.

Judy Long



Community Life 2014

The Community Life committee meets regularly on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 a.m. at Charlie's Spic and Span for a breakfast meeting. Its members include Juli Salman (chair), Tom Trigg (secretary), Sharon Vander Meer, Rudy Laumbach, and Denice Spicer (Treasurer). Pastor Randy Campbell is invaluable as our ex-officio member.

Regular Community Life activities include:

Fellowship time following the worship service every Sunday with special emphasis on the first Sunday of the month to recognize birthdays. The third Sunday is covered by one of the committees of the church with the idea that they can provide information about that committee and possibly recruit new members. Church members are asked to provide fellowship on the remaining Sundays.

At least two fellowship luncheons are organized each year; one at Christmas and one in the spring.

Lenten Soup Suppers are arranged by this committee during the appropriate time of year. As needed, we support New Horizons special events: Christmas party and Graduation reception.

Month by month activities:

January: Epiphany celebration with King's Cake, Game Night.

February: Valentines dinner organized by Richard Lindeborg, prepared and served by CL members, with help from the youth group; Lenten Soup Suppers begin.

March: Lent continues; Easter Sunrise breakfast at Mission Church.

April: Spring Fling Fellowship luncheon at Hill Crest restaurant. Yard sale on Litherland's 7th Street lot.

May: Mother's Day breakfast prepared by "Men in Aprons" honoring the women of the church; New Horizons graduation reception.

June: Father's Day breakfast prepared by "Women in Hats" honoring the men of the church.

July: Day of Service to Church and Community, Church Homecoming picnic/barbeque at Lincoln Park.

October: World Communion Potluck

November: Hanging of the Greens with potluck following, and Fred Salas entertaining with Christmas Carols.

December: Fellowship luncheon at Charlie's with door prizes; Biscochito gifts at Christmas Eve service (thanks to extra help from Katie, Charlie, Maggie, and Molly).

As always this vital committee looks forward to many more exciting activities in the months to come including our Church retreat to Camp Loma Verde in July.

My thanks to the dedicated members of this committee who are never lacking in enthusiasm or energy and always put the needs of our congregation at the forefront.

In Christ,
Juli Salman, Chair



Board of Deacons 2014

Meetings: Monthly, on second Sunday @ 9:15 AM in Church Library

Membership: Frank Hager ; Joan Laumbach; Patrick Rucker; Murl Baker; Mary Schipper; Bonnie Trujillo; Sharon Vander Meer; Jackson Awuzing; Linda Cunningham; Randy Campbell (ex-officio)

Finished Term in July, 2014: Allan Ayers; and Christina Litherland

Officers: Chairperson-Mary Schipper; Treasurer-Sharon Vander Meer; Secretary, Patrick Rucker; Previous Secretary-Sharon Vander Meer

Regular Ongoing Activities of Deacons:

Communion Preparation and Table Preparation for Worship Services

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Handmade shawls are distributed to someone experiencing a health crisis or life transition. Six shawls were blessed during a worship service by the prayers of the congregation and distributed to Church members in 2014.

Visitation: Members who are homebound or ill are visited in their home or in the hospital.

Food Ministry: Meals are arranged and delivered to members who are ill or in need.

Ongoing Collection of non perishable food items for Samaritan House.

Memorial or Funeral Receptions: When requested, the Deacons will provide light refreshments following the service so that family members are free to celebrate the life of their loved one with friends and family.

Monetary Donations: Monthly donations are made to Samaritan House and to the Community Soup Kitchen. Additional discretionary funds are periodically distributed to our Pastor Randy as needed.

Card Ministry: Greeting cards are offered to the congregation for signatures and are sent to those experiencing joyful or difficult times. Birthday cards are also being sent by Alnita Baker. Alnita is also sending notes to each of our members/friends who are being specifically prayed for each week. Cards and postage are provided by the deacons.

Additional Ongoing Projects in 2014:

Serving as Greeters on Sunday mornings, when available as Deacon of the Month

Quarterly drive for coats and underclothing for Samaritan House Shelter guests

Distribution of altar flowers to homebound members

Formation of Prayer Groups for each respective Deacon, made up of members and friends of FUPC

Transportation for members in need; Medical Advocacy when requested

Ushering and Fellowship on a rotational basis with other committees

Mary Schipper, Chair



Holy Conversations and 20/20 2014

Holy Conversations has been the body responsible for discernment in our congregation since 2009, growing out of a Synod of the Southwest clustered consultation that year.

At the beginning of 2014, members of Holy Conversations included the chairs of the committees of the church: Karyl Lyne (M&P), Judy Long (WAM), Jeff Salman (Personnel), Sharon Vander Meer (Community Life), Richard Lindeborg (I&S), Carol Linder (Clerk of Session) Susan Swan (Trustees), and Rev. Randy Campbell. Richard Lindeborg served as chair.

In the fall, Holy Conversations was made an overall responsibility of the Session.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Lindeborg

20/20 Vision

In 2013 the session approved a request from Holy Conversations to undertake a multiyear program of discernment to develop and implement a vision of our local church as God wants it to be at the time of our 150th anniversary in 2020. This effort, called the 20/20 Vision, emphasizes our church's heritage in Las Vegas and San Miguel County to our members and the community throughout this process.

The 20/20 vision involves looking at many ideas for continuing existing missions, discarding others, and anticipating the need for future missions. The broad categories and progress in each include

1. **Providing for the Public Worship of God.** *We utilized Los Mensajeros extensively during the pastor's sabbatical and hope to do so again while searching for our new pastor. Thanks to generous contributions we now have a visual system in the sanctuary. Work has begun to improve our small chapel. We have cleared out the room and removed storage shelves, and installed new lighting.*
2. **Supporting the Spiritual Needs of our Church Family.** *The columbarium area was made more pleasant with improved plantings and seating/umbrella table. The kitchen remodeling begun in 2009 was completed this year to better serve the congregation and the community.*
3. **Sharing the Word with and Care for All People.** *We have made our church more attractive by increasing the maintenance budget by 30%. We are hosting more community groups in the Old Town Mission and Douglas Ave. complex. Our church continues its active participation in HOPE (Housing Opportunities Proposed for the Elderly). Theological Education support continues. Pasos de Fe support continues. Support of the four national offerings continues, plus mustard seed grants continue their mission work in the community. LIFT has become an even stronger program in 2014.*
4. **Working in the greater Church through Our Common Bond in the Body of Christ.** *We continue to meet our general financial obligations to the larger church and to provide other support as requested.*
5. **Improving Our Financial Foundation for Doing God's Work.** *Progress on improving the financial stability of our church is contained in the Interpretation and Support Committee Report.*

Heritage Theme

Holy Conversations recommended to the Session in 2013 that the Fellowship Hall and associated facilities such as the kitchen and upstairs classrooms be renamed to emphasize our historic ties to the community. After much discussion and thought the Session voted in February, 2014 to approve calling it “Centro de Herencia.” (Heritage Center) The Session and Trustees are exploring ways to let community members know that this space is available for meetings and events.

Richard Lindeborg has prepared a monthly newsletter item titled “Did You Know?” based on events of the first century of our church.

Expectations Survey

In the fall of 2013 Holy Conversations undertook a survey to explore the expectations of our church members and friends and how well the church was meeting these expectations. The survey also explored the willingness of members and friends to volunteer for various tasks in the life of the church.

During 2014 we continued to make the results of this survey known to the congregation in various ways.

Overall, respondents wanted us to do more 29% of the time, while they only wanted us to do less 5% of the time. We can conclude that we should probably approach change judiciously. As the old saying goes, don’t fix what ain’t broke. On the other hand, we have a fair number of people who would probably word to implement changes that are seen to be needed. Finally, the stereotype that older people resist change does not seem to be true in our church. The good news is that we can probably adapt when needed but that we can be happy with what we are now doing in many areas of our life together as Christians.

As a result of the volunteerism section of the survey, we recruited volunteers during 2014 for specific tasks. The trustees have prepared a list of jobs available for volunteers and are recruiting to accomplish these tasks. There are opportunities in eight broad areas:

- deep cleaning and organizing projects
- routine yard work
- minor carpentry projects
- landscaping projects
- routine cleaning
- minor plumbing repairs
- office/clerical work
- cabinetry or finish carpentry

Volunteers have come forward to do some of the maintenance projects needed to help make our church a more attractive place to worship, have fellowship and serve the needs of community organizations. Volunteer workers repaired and painted our outdoor bulletin board sign, reinstalled a stained glass window in the sanctuary, rebuilt and repainted planter boxes, refinished our exterior doors, and started the process of remodeling our chapel (formerly a choir room and a deacons room).

Prayerfully submitted by Richard Lindeborg



Interpretation and Support 2014

Members of the committee in 2014 included Richard Lindeborg (chair all year and session liaison January through August), Amos Estrada (Treasurer January through September and session liaison September through December), Rod Billingsley, Karen Rieniets (financial secretary), Bob Vander Meer, Jack and Lucille Van Horn, Joyce Litherland, Douglas Baskett (joined the committee as Treasurer in September) and Pastor Randy Campbell (ex-officio). The committee met at 7 a.m. on the second Monday of each month at Charlie's Restaurant.

The treasurer presented a budget for 2014 to the congregation in January on behalf of the Session which anticipated an \$11,000 shortfall, along with a plan from the Interpretation and Support committee, also approved by the session, to eliminate much of the shortfall by the end of the year. Elements of this plan and progress on each included

1. **Avoid Panic and Trust in God.**
2. **Strengthen Our Church's Appeal as a Final Resting Place for Members and Friends of the Congregation.** *The columbarium committee worked to make our columbarium a more attractive place for services and meditation. Donated table, chairs, and umbrella were installed to help attract more members to choose our columbarium as a final resting place.*
3. **Increase Our Mission to Community Services and Organizations by More Aggressively Offering Facilities in the Main Church.** *Trustees developed fee schedule and recruited new user groups.*
4. **Make It Easier for Members, Friends, and Others to Donate to our Church by Adding Online links for Giving.** *Still being explored, should be instituted in 2015*
5. **Conduct Planned Giving Education Efforts.** *We increased our emphasis on planned giving through such means as wills and bequests, donations of appreciated securities, annuities and other means. Efforts involved having printed materials on hand for those who want to consider planned giving, conducting a Christian wills seminar in the spring.*
6. **Conduct a Supplemental Pledge Drive.** *Postponed for midyear revaluation and then determined not be needed by Session in May when that the committee presented that reevaluation. We have experienced an increase in supplemental giving. A few members have increased their pledges over what they signed up for last fall. Beyond that, offerings outside of pledge income are running significantly ahead of projections for the year, helping ease our budget deficit. There have also been significant gifts to the building fund, which help reduce our mortgage debt.*
7. **Recompute New Horizons' Suggested Contribution.** *Postponed until at least 2015 to allow the new management at New Horizons to institute its new policies and procedures.*
8. **Raise Funds Through Monthly Fellowship Meals.** *Not instituted.*
9. **Increase Our Use of Donated Time and Talent.** *Time and Talent survey bulletin board posted and data shared with trustees and others.*
10. **Come Up With More Ideas to Improve our Financial Strength.**

Following this plan resulted in a significant decrease in the anticipated deficit for the years. Data are contained in the 2014 Treasurer's report.

We continued to provide strong financial support for the four national church offerings.

The Committee asked Douglas Baskett to come up with a new financial policies and procedures manual, which he presented to the session for discussion in May. *No action by Session as of year end.*

The Committee planned and conducted the annual Enchilada dinner to raise money for Mustard Seed Grants in October. Douglas Baskett became Treasurer in October and has instituted many changes to improve our accounting system, practices and the handling of our weekly offerings.

We attempted to schedule a church visit in the fall by Steven Wirth, the new Ministry Relations Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation, Southwest Region. This did not happen, so we will try again in 2015.

The Committee planned and conducted the annual pledge drive in October and the consecration dinner in November.

The Committee conducted the annual budget meeting in December, allowing the treasurer to present a draft budget to the session at its monthly meeting.

The committee had planned to arrange for review of the church books. This did not happen, but we will attempt to do so early in 2015.

Special thanks this year to Karen Rieniets, who has ended her long service as financial secretary, to Amos Estrada for his service as Treasurer for the past few years.

Prayerfully submitted by Richard Lindeborg.



Mission and Peacemaking 2014

The Mission and Peacemaking Committee has had a busy and productive year. Rosie Lopez led us with her usual enthusiasm, energy and compassion in a variety of projects and initiatives.

A long-term interest and commitment of M&P is elder care and housing in Las Vegas. Many elders leave Las Vegas when assisted living or greater care becomes necessary because there is no full service senior living facility here. With Rosie's leadership, a group of people from M&P and from other agencies like the City, Senior Citizens, the Independent Business Alliance, Alta Vista Regional Hospital and others, began to meet monthly to grapple with this issue. The group has studied many models for senior living facilities and their costs and was fortunate to have the serendipitous consulting services of veteran elder living facilities administrator, Rev Tom Wentz in June. Denice Pandorf, co-organizer, has lent her energy and enthusiasm to the project and has made a number of presentations to local community groups to raise awareness of the issues and the group's work. Thus far the name for the project is HOPE NENM (Housing Opportunities Programs for Elders in Northeastern New Mexico). Goals and objectives are being created, bylaws and a community needs survey developed. Further, the group is filing for 501c3 status and is beginning to seek funding sources. Stand by for future developments!

In April M&P hosted a visit from Claire Zuhosky, PCUSA mission co-worker in Niger. Again Rosie took the lead on contacting PCUSA Missions to set up Claire's visit, included time with Carol Linder, the committee, Tom and Mary Trigg/Schipper, a road trip to the mountains with Rosie and a Minute for Mission during our worship service. We continue our support of Claire with thought and prayer and a subscription to a West African French-language news publication. Randy and Richard Lindeborg have created a bulletin board display in the Fellowship Hall of the many "missions" FUPC supports locally and abroad. It's well worth checking out!

Bob and Carrol Pearson keep M&P abreast of issues around the world requiring action from us through Amnesty International, NRCAT (National Religious Campaign Against Torture) and others for which we are very grateful. We will continue our support of action on behalf of unjust detention and torture worldwide.

M&P sponsored a five-week Season of Peace beginning on Sept 7 and ending on Oct 5, Peacemaking and Worldwide Communion Sunday, with a peace songs sing-a-long, using PCUSA bulletin inserts on the social creed, clean water, ending violence against women, anti-bullying and worldwide cooperation, themes Randy incorporated into the sermons. We purchased an outdoor Season of Peace banner we displayed over the front door during this time. We had a potluck forum with Bob and Carrol reporting on their trip to Israel and Palestine and another with Ronald Brenneman, whose remarkable work on viable education programs in El Salvador inspired us all. We also hosted, via live-streaming through the digital equipment in the sanctuary, a national service of mourning in remembrance of those who have died in Palestine and Israel. We plan to do a similar series next year during the Season of Peace.

Finally, M&P supported the very successful Las Vegas CROP Hunger WALK, enhanced by a new CROP Hunger WALK outdoor banner; and our PCUSA Giving Catalog "Give a Dam" initiative to provide funds for the construction of two water-conserving sand dams in poor rural villages.

Karyl Lyne, Chair



New Horizons 2014

2014 has, indeed, been a successful Year as Joyce in last year's report was looking forward to.

Our board has had changes but is stronger and has dedicated members. Joyce remains as chair, Rosalie is vice chair, Roberta Fischer-Romero is secretary and Amosour Treasurer. We also welcomed Joanne Angel, returning Las Vegan, and Jessica Snow, NMHU teacher and New Horizons parent. We applied for a Community 1st grant and received \$1,500. That plus the Mission of the North grant allowed us to set up a scholarship fund which has helped about a dozen students with summer care and fall preschool tuition.

Our end of year enrollment is @ 20 plus drop ins. 17 are CYFD supported which we feel is very important for these at-risk students to have a caring and stable environment.

NH had several celebrations--Valentine's Day, Halloween, thanksgiving, Christmas (with Santa Claus), plus their May graduation/end of year party. School pictures were taken and we had donations by parents and friends plus presentations by Caroline Rackley and others to enhance children's education.

A big plus was a \$400 anonymous donation for a much needed computer. Douglas plans to get billing and finances on the church program which will relieve our teachers of this time-consuming activity.

New Horizons is solvent and working with healthier snacks and continuing their educational goals. We appreciate the continued support of FUPC and again look forward to a productive year in 2015.

Submitted by
Rosalie Lopez



Nominating Committee Slate

ELDERS (12 on Session)

Class of 2016 (August 1, 2014- July 31, 2016)

3. Amos Estrada (2nd term)
4. Karyl Lyne (1st term)
5. vacancy*
6. vacancy*
7. vacancy*
8. vacancy*

* attempted to fill three

Class of 2015 (August 1, 2013 -July 31, 2015)

1. Carol Litherland (2nd term)
2. Carol Linder (1st term)(elected Feb, 2014)
3. Judy Long (1st term)
4. Douglas Baskett (1st term)(elected Feb, 2014)
5. Beverly Garrett (1st term)(elected Feb, 2014)
6. vacancy

THANK YOU Class of 2014

Amos Estrada (1st term)
Tori Conway (1st term)
Richard Lindeborg (1st term)
Julianne Salman (2nd term)
Tom Trigg (Trustee liaison)(1st term)

Rosie Lopez (Class of 2015, resigned July, 2014)

DEACONS (9 on Board)

Class of 2016 (August 1, 2014- July 31, 2016)

5. Sharon Vander Meer (3rd term)
6. Joan Laumbach (2nd term)
7. Patrick Rucker (2nd term)
8. Jackson Awuzing Igondou (1st term)
9. Murl Baker (1st term)(elected Oct, 2014)

Class of 2015 (August 1, 2013 -July 31, 2015)

1. Bonnie Trujillo (2nd term)
2. Mary Schipper (3rd term)
3. Frank Hagar (1st term)
4. Linda Cunningham (1st term) (elected June, 2014)

THANK YOU Class of 2014

Alan Ayers (2nd term)
Joan Laumbach (1st Term)
Christina Litherland (1st term) (youth representative)
Patrick Rucker (1st term)
Sharon Vander Meer (2nd term)

Respectfully submitted by Carol Linder



Personnel 2014

The Personnel Committee has had a busy and satisfying year. Significant accomplishments were assisting Randy in planning his sabbatical, overseeing the staff and committees during those three months under the strong leadership and supervision of John Detterick, and planning ahead for Randy's retirement and the staffing and budgeting for the first year of the interim period.

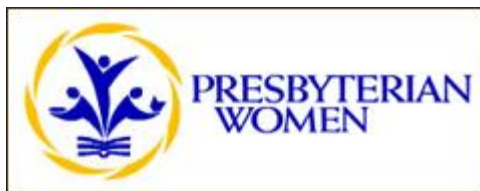
Annual Performance evaluations were conducted on administrative assistant Linda Solyntjes, Custodian Adela C de Baca, Sexton Art Bustamante, and Director of Choirs Karyl Lyne. Pastor Randall Campbell made detailed monthly reports of his activities, and John did the same during the period in which he served as administrator during Randy's sabbatical. All were sincerely thanked for jobs well done.

Randy was assisted in developing detailed sabbatical plans for the period of March 6 through May 31. They included an immigration conference, historical research at the Menaul Historical Library on the Mission Church and its founding pastors, two weeks at the Kalani Conference Center in Hawaii, time at home in Pennsylvania, and attendance at the "Festival of Preaching" in Minneapolis. John Detterick's plan for the administration, preaching, and pastoral coverage during that period was adopted and carefully carried out, with the able and welcome assistance of the CREs and the Rev. Dr. Ken Culbertson, who preached and taught the Sunday School on two Sundays. A burner phone was purchased to facilitate congregational contact for pastoral needs or emergencies.

Committee members Chad Boliek, Jeff Salman, Secretary Tom Trigg, Church Treasurer Amos Estrada, and Chair Joyce Litherland welcomed John Detterick as a member in July, and Beverly Garrett joined us as the new Session Representative in September. Rev. Randy Campbell is an ex officio member. Serving as shepherds for staff, both paid and volunteer, are Chad for Randy, Tom--Linda, Joyce--Art and Della, and Jeff--Karyl.

Douglas Baskett did a Review of Accounts for 2013 to June 2014, and transitioned into the Treasurer's position at the end of the year. We thank Amos for his many years of dedicated service and welcome Douglas to our large volunteer staff. Pastor Randy advised of his plans to retire at the end of the year. John presented a proposal from the Rev. Frank Yates HR and himself to share Interim responsibilities until such time as a new pastor is selected by the PNC. A detailed and comprehensive budget was included. A revised proposal was approved and submitted to Session. The final budget to be submitted to COM is still being revised per Session request. Randy's last Sunday to preach is January 11, and his retirement date is January 31, following his two weeks of accrued vacation time.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Litherland



Presbyterian Women make annual pledges to the Mission Budget of the National PW, and also contribute to the Birthday Offering in Spring and to the Thank Offering in Fall.

Contributions are made throughout the year to the Fellowship of the Least Coin (world mission) and the Hunger Fund.

A Prayer Group meets on Tuesday mornings in the library at 11:00.

Joyce Litherland, Coordinator



Trustees – 2014

The year 2014 presented challenges and opportunities. We began the year with a board of six: Rod Billingsley, Robin Carlson, Rudy Laumbach, Rustie Mountjoy, Tom Trigg and Diego Trujillo but by early spring we were four – Rod Billingsley, Robin Carlson, Rudy Laumbach and Tom Trigg. In mid-summer we were joined by volunteer Norman Spicer. In September we were two – Rod Billingsley, Robin Carlson and volunteer Norman Spicer.

All of the required/recommended inspections and services were performed on the installed systems and equipment in the church building at 1000 Douglas Avenue:

- Fire Alarm System, Target Safe Security System Inc, Santa Fe NM
- HVAC system – Daniel's HVAC Albuquerque NM
- Elevator – Home Elevator inc – Amarillo TX
- Pest control inspection and treatment – Orkin, Pasadena CA

An invitation for bids by insurance companies was issued and after we received quotes, it was determined that Church Mutual was the most cost effective considering the breadth of coverage.

- A plan for the completion of the kitchen alterations was developed and executed:
- Purchase of a new stove
- Re-plumbing of the sinks and dishwasher
- Recovering of the floor

A walk-through/condition assessment was conducted and a list of deficiencies was developed, the list identified those items that could be accomplished by volunteers (painting etc) and those items that should be accomplished by contractors (specialized equipment, material or certification).

The Old Town Mission is nominally under the supervision of the joint Operating Committee (JOT) composed of representatives from LVFUPC and the UWC with oversight from the Board of Trustees of FUPC. The facility is used by, and for, a variety of groups and activities:

- Rio Gallinas School
- Senior Circle, Alta Vista Hospital
- Children's Choir, UWC
- Thoroughly Confused Theatre group
- After-school tutoring, UWC
- Private events such as birthday parties and baby showers, etc.

To finish the rest of the year, we hired Grimm LLC to repair the roof leaks and resultant ceiling patches, to install metal gable trim on edge of roof over our west side door, where it was very difficult to paint due to the steepness of the roof.

Work is being done on the meditation room: with new lights and removal of choir music, and shelves with more work yet to come.

The kitchen is complete with no smell, new stove, new floor, no leaks and a folding door.

We changed insurance companies for the property from Church Mutual to Brotherhood Mutual for equal coverage and less expense.

We end the year with Robin Carlson chair, Rod Billingsley, Amos Estrada, Patrick Rucker, Norman Spicer as members, Randy Campbell, ex officio, and Rosie Lopez taking minutes for us.

Robin Carlson - Chair

Rudy Laumbach – former Chair



Worship and Music (WAM) 2014

WAM continues to provide worship leaders, musicians, ushers and pulpit supply for each Sunday and special service of the year. We work with Randy to make worship a meaningful and sacred experience. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month with communication by email as needed.

Randy took a three month Sabbatical from March through May and our worship, pastoral and administrative needs were covered by John Detterick, with able assistance from Gay Viet, Shirley Sandoval, Rod Billingsley and Sandra Murray.

FUPC continues to have a monthly worship service at Vida Encantada in both Spanish and English. We have a healing service on fifth Sundays.

The two large monitors in the front of the sanctuary (for both pew configurations) have been an enriching addition to worship. A new software program, Proclaim supports Linda in putting the entire service on the monitors for all to see. Visuals and graphics are included. This committee rotates in operating the laptop (paid for with a donation from Linda Solyntjes' brother) that wirelessly transmits to the monitors. Although we have run into glitches, the system is running more and more smoothly and it is a joy to see and hear people looking up when singing instead of nose down in a hymnal. Quarterly flower sales continue to supplement the AV fund.

Also the sound system was upgraded to allow for digital recording and making of CD's.

Our second annual Mini Retreat was held at Arrow's Ridge again on a Sunday afternoon and much good work and discussion were accomplished, followed by dinner.

We agreed to donate the church's old historical bible to the Menaul Historical Library.

Judy's Flower Ministry has continued for a second year, and with the donation of the "end of the week" flowers from Pam's Flowers on the Plaza, she arranges them and supplies bouquets for church each Sunday.

The committee is composed of John Detterick, Linda Solyntjes, Tom Trigg, Karyl Lyne, Christie Baskett and Judy Long, Chair. Fred Salas has retired from the committee and Randy attends meetings.

Submitted by Judy Long, Chair



Treasurer's Report 2014

Dear fellow First Churchers,

There have been several changes this year in the broad area of the church's stewardship of its money.

To begin, **Karen Rieniets** has stepped away from her management of so much of the financial functioning of the church, having served as Financial Secretary for many years. She felt it was time after so long and is taking a well-earned break. We are all grateful to Karen for her long dedication and capable management.

Next, the church is functioning under a new accounting system, both in its software and chart of accounts. The aim of these changes is to build on the steady work that has served this congregation for so many years and keep the trajectory upward.

As part of the change in the accounting system, we have also consolidated the various parts of the church into one overall organization. The main parts of the organization that have operated semi-independently are New Horizons, J.O.T., and the Deacons. These groups have operated with the best interest of the church at heart, but because they were semi-independent the Session had difficulty getting a full understanding of the full church's financial position. This consolidation is intended to overcome that shortcoming.

At the request of I&S, a Finance Policies Manual was drafted and submitted to the Session in the spring of 2014. Although it has not been formally adopted by the Session, many of its procedures and principles, which are intended to increase the church's stewardship capability, have been put into practice. It is expected that discussion on this will continue and that a full or partial formal adoption will occur.

One of these procedures has been to form a team of tabulators, whose task is to count the weekly collection and manage depositing it into the bank speedily. This allows the church to ensure separation of duties (because the Treasurer will never be a tabulator) and rapid deposit of funds, each of which further the church's ability to manage funds.

The budget process was developed with a higher degree of feedback from the committees. This was done so that the many committees develop an understanding of the finances in their areas of responsibility, which will help them in their stewardship on a finer level than would be possible by the Treasurer or Session.

One of the more monumental changes is that our esteemed **Amos Estrada** has stepped down as Treasurer, having served in that capacity for some seven years. He has helped tremendously with the transition, helping me understand the chart of accounts in detail, standard procedures, revealing helpful sources, and pitching in by continuing much of the management in the transition period. Amos started the modernization process by putting the church's finances on computer, which helps this transition process immeasurably. It was a project that required much thought and even more labor. Thank you, Amos, for your great service to this church.

2014 Results

On the whole, 2014 was a year of strong financial performance. The income statement superficially suggests otherwise, since the \$60.2K entry in January 2014 was the backside to the action that brought that money into the church in December 2013. It was, simply, a timing issue. If we ignore that single transaction, we would have ended the year with Net Income of \$14.3K. As a reminder, this adjusted total ignores the effect of J.O.T. and New Horizons, though together they would have raised that figure by a small amount.

Here are some highlights of 2014 total-year results.

Undesignated Income totaled \$151.7K, which is \$16.7K better than \$135.0K in the budget. Pledges came in at \$121.9K, or just \$0.2K under budget of \$122.2K. Gifts from Friends, on the other hand, came in at almost three times the budgeted amount of \$8.0K, totaling \$22.3K. We are still unsure of why this has been such a regular and strong source of income, and though we are grateful we don't know how much we can count on it in future.

Other types of income (designated, pass-through) are deceptive because there are several programs that were not budgeted for (such as One Great Hour of Sharing) but which receives funds annually. Additionally, there are a number of line items counted as income that are transfers within the church and so don't truly count as revenue.

Income, once more with the reminder of the \$60.2K entry in January, came in over budget by \$45.9K. Removing this would bring us total expenses down to \$227.6K, which is \$14.2K below budget of \$241.9K. Apart from the Building Fund entry, there were no startling variances to budget in expenses. As with income accounts, there were a number of expense accounts for which there was no budget and which skew the overall results.

Douglas Baskett, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report on the 2015 Budget

This year's budget differs from previous years in its organization, largely distinguished by one feature. The use of funds has been curtailed substantially. The number of funds in the new chart of accounts is two. The new structure has two features that makes extensive use of funds unnecessary.

First, each committee has been converted from a semi-autonomous entity that was given its own revenue to spend into a cost center. This means that rather than being given funds to spend, they have defined in the budget what they would like to spend and now have responsibility for managing their spending throughout the year. The previous method for managing spending was diffuse. While there is no evidence that spending was profligate or wanton, full understanding of spending was sometimes hard to grasp, and it is hoped that this new system will enhance each committee's understanding of its spending and, following on that understanding, a fuller assurance that the church as a whole is properly watchful of its financial resources.

Second, accrual accounts are being used in place of fund account. Fund accounts can be thought of as a depository of funds to use that have a perpetual existence. Accrual accounts, on the other hand, have a defined time for when they exist and usually have a narrow purpose. An example is an accrual account set up for a major repair project to perform some long-delayed repair work to the church. This account, which is found on the Balance Sheet under Long-term liabilities and numbered 2602, is where this accrual is being built up for use in 2016. By the time the entire repair project is started, it is hoped that the church will have set aside all the money that is needed to complete the job.

With that preamble, I will get directly to the question that may be uppermost in many people's thinking, what is our projected net income for 2015? This year's budget is close to being balanced, but there is a small deficit of \$266. While this number may small and perhaps easily made up in practice, we can be more pleased by it because it contains several items worth noting.

I have already alluded to the money that is being set aside for a major repair project in 2016. There are two other unusual items that bring our net income down but either indicate the strength of the church's financial position or are meant to enhance it. The first of these is an accrual for a deductible on property insurance. That deductible is \$5,000, which we are accruing over the next five years. In case there is a large claim on the church's property and the deductible were invoked, the church would have to put in \$5,000 of its own money toward repair work. Accumulating money toward this deductible will help ensure that if something unfortunate happens, we will have money on hand to pay the deductible without suffering a great hit to our income statement.

The other is perhaps more important. This is a charge to an account called Pastor's Equitable Pay, account number 5007. This charge on the Income Statement is intended to demonstrate to the presbytery and a potential replacement for Reverend Campbell that FUPC will be able to support a full-time clergy. This amount is the difference between Randy's imputed 2015 salary and benefits and what we expect to pay for the Interim Pastorate.

Other than the reorganization of account on the Income Statement, no other accounts stand out for highlighting.

With that in mind, I want to move to the budgeted Cash Flow statement. You will notice that there are not too many entries on this table because we do not yet have too many non-cash items to adjust for. The mechanics of cash flow may be puzzling, and I hope to explain it sufficiently here.

It begins with the cash amount at the end of the previous year. From this, in each month the results from the Income Statement are entered and then all non-cash items are backed out.

Non-cash items are those that show up on the income statement that do not truly represent cash out. For instance, although we are accruing for the church repair project and the possible charge against a property insurance deductible, these monthly charges don't indicate that money is actually being spent. What happens instead is that we show a charge to us and then put the cash aside. When we actually spend the money then it won't appear on our Income Statement a second time but will lower the amount of cash in our checking account.

The charge on the Income Statement of the Pastor's Equitable Pay acts in the same way, except that it is not expected that this will ever be charged against the checking account. It will simply mean an addition to our coffers.

The net effect of squirreling away money this year is that our cash will rise dramatically this year. Again, some of the money we save this year will be spent in the future, but not all of it will. Of the \$34,739 that is budgeted to be added to our cash this year, \$19,844 from Pastor's Equitable Pay is expected to be a permanent gain to the church's funds. This is not to say, however, that that money will not be spent elsewhere, but that is at the discretion of the Session.

On the whole, 2015 will be a financial building year for the church. We are fortunate to be in a position to build on the oversight and management of the past and hope that with God's guidance we will be able to continue to do so.

Respectfully submitted by Douglas Baskett

"Becoming A Community That Creates Space For Faith, Hope, Love, And Witness"

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1000 DOUGLAS AVENUE

LAS VEGAS NEW MEXICO 87701

505-425-7763

EMAIL: FUPC.NM@GMAIL.COM

WEBSITE: LVPRESBYTERIAN.ORG

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY – FRIDAY 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

WORSHIP

10:30 A.M. SUNDAYS

COMMUNION – 1ST AND 3RD SUNDAYS

