COMMUNITY OF CHRIST

ELGIN ILLINOIS CONGREGATION

(Chicago Mission Center, U.S.A.)

Historian’s Annual Report, 2017

Date Submitted:

May 21, 2018

Historian: Sheryl Sawyers

8N724 Bittersweet Lane

Elgin, IL 60124

ssawyers@comcast.net



The **Elgin Community of Christ** is a friendly congregation of people from all walks of life. A spirit led atmosphere is prominent among those who worship together.

Goals of the congregation are to...

* Increase Spiritual Development by providing opportunities that will improve our spiritual awareness, guide our spiritual journey, and cultivate the disciplines of spiritual life.
* Participate in activities that will provide resources and support the community both locally and internationally.
* Provide opportunities for diverse groups and individuals to expand their understanding of church functions and goals.
* Provide communication, personal contact and pastoral care to all members and friends of the church community.
* Create more loving and solid homes by becoming an extended family, develop community among the youth of the church, affirm the worth of the elderly in our community, and provide an atmosphere of fellowship in the adult community.

Sunday Schedule

Fellowship and Breakfast Sunday at 9:30 am

Classes

 Children’s Classes Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

 September thru May

 Adult Classes Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

 September thru May

Worship Service Time

 Worship Service Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

 September thru May

 Contemporary Worship Service 3rd Wed of the month at 7:00 pm

 September thru May

 Worship Service Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

June, July and August

Junior Church (ages 6-11) Sundays during morning worship

(excluding the first Sunday of the month)

1675 E. Chicago Street, Elgin, Illinois 60120 847.741.1366

**ELGIN LEADERSHIP**

**PASTOR** Mark McClellan

**Associate Pastors of Worship:**

 **Traditional Sunday Service:** Jean Hedrich

Audio/Visual Leaders Robyn Meyer/Sheryl Sawyers

**Contemporary Service:**

Worship Leader Lisa Jauch

Audio/Visual Leaders Sheryl Sawyers

**Associate Pastor of Fellowship:** Glenn Kreuscher

 Greeter Team Ralph Wineman

 Women’s Fellowship Jean Hedrich

 Adult Fellowship Glenn Kreuscher

**Associate Pastor of Discipleship:** Bill Howard

**Associate Pastor of Service:** Linda Meyer

 Church Directory Jean Hedrich

 Community Care Linda Meyer

 Community Service Outreach Linda Meyer

 Crisis Center Support Linda Meyer

 Military Robyn Meyer

 Outreach International Jim and Barbara Wertz

 Pastoral Care Bill and Jean Hedrich

**Associate Pastor of Outreach:** Kate Kent

 Young Peacemaker’s Club John and Kate Kent

**Associate Pastor of Support:** John Kent

 CFO (appointed position) John Kent

 Auditors Sheryl Sawyers and Lisa Jauch

 Librarian Lisa Jauch

 Secretary Lisa Jauch

 Missionary Coordinator Cloyd Dowell

 Communications CMC Jean Hedrich

 Web Design Bill Howard

Building Committee Mark McClellan,

Pastor

 John Kent, CFO

 Bill Hedrich

 Jean Hedrich

 Bill Howard

**Sustain** (appointments made by World church or Mission Center)

 Historian Sheryl Sawyers

 Recorder Jean Hedrich

**ELGIN COMMUNITY OF CHRIST**

**2017 STATISTICS**

Beginning Membership – information unavailable

Ending Membership – information unavailable

Withdrawals- none

Transfers Out-none

New Attendees- none

Baptisms – none

Confirmations – Michelle Henrickson on April 19th

Weddings- none

Ordinations – John Kent to the office of Elder on January 29th

Deaths – Shirley Werba, April 16, 2017

Births – Quinn Morrow, May 1, 2017, born to Adam and Nici Morrow of St. Charles

Blessings-none

Superannuation – Jim Wertz, Elder

**WORSHIP MINISTRY**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**

* The Traditional worship service is on Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. with traditional hymns by a pianist or recordings, inspiring sermons from the pulpit, ministry of music, prayers and scripture lessons.
* Church school classes begin at 9:45 a.m. for ages Nursery through Adult. Classes help the members grow in their relationship with Christ and one another through study and fellowship.

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC**

* Music plays an important part of worship in the Elgin congregation. We have truly talented musicians who use their talents to provide praise and worship music to help bring us closer to God. A pianist may support the worship by playing while we gather in the sanctuary and for meditation. When available, they also accompany the hymns as we joyfully praise the Lord in song. We often have instrumental music as well as volunteer soloists, both young and young at heart. The Contemporary worship service uses more recorded music from CD’s or DVD’s to praise, worship, or show commitment to God. Our audio/visual teams add to our services with recorded songs and video presentations.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM**

* Our Sunday school program begins in September and runs through May. Sunday school classes for the new year began on September 10, 2017.
* Sunday school classes this year were organized as:
* Primary/Junior/Jr High Class – teacher Linda Meyer, utilizing The Bible According to Dr. Suess and then the World Church Curriculum
* Adult Class – teacher Bill Howard

**JUNIOR CHURCH**

* Junior Church is held for ages 6-11 during the morning worship, excluding Communion Sundays.

**CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP**

* A contemporary worship service is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm.
* The Contemporary worship ministries focus on prayer and intimacy with God and others in our church family.
* We allow ourselves to go where the spirit leads us; whether it be a personal need for prayer or perhaps sharing a testimony.
* We are using the Community of Christ lectionary-based worship resources to select the themes for our services, but presiders are encouraged to choose whatever elements they feel will be most beneficial in meeting the spiritual needs of the congregation. Most evenings we don’t have a speaker, but share in testimonies or thoughts after viewing a video that relates to the theme. The atmosphere is informal and personal.

**TRADITIONAL WORSHIP**

* The Traditional worship service has again done an excellent job bringing in guest speakers to provide a diversity of ideas in worship and fellowship with the congregation. Priesthood, members, and friends have freely accepted and served, providing exceptional spirit filled services.
* The Traditional worship service uses the Bible, Book of Mormon, and Doctrine & Covenants, as authorized by The Community of Christ Church, along with testimonies of how Jesus Christ, our Savior, has influenced our lives.
* The Traditional worship service encourages each of us to reach out to the community where we live, work, and play to share our testimonies and our love for each other. With a willingness to serve our Heavenly Father, each member and friend(s) attending has felt the Holy Spirit encouraging them to study and witness with everyone they come in contact.

**LEADERSHIP MEETINGS**

* **Congregational Leadership meetings were held on March 19th, April 23, and September 10th.**
* In general the sharing that occurred during the brief worship created a positive spirit in which to discuss what we were doing as the Community of Christ and what we wanted to do.  The meetings included worship, reports from Associate pastors, ongoing ministries, concerns, upcoming events (Kid's Kamp, Sunday school classes, Easter and Christmas planning) worship schedules, Young Peacemaker's Club, etc**.**
* **The leadership group remained steady and supportive of one another and the ministry of Christ.**

**BUSINESS MEETINGS**

* Our fall business meeting was held on September 24, 2017 to approve congregational leadership for 2017 and review and approve the budget.

**FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY**

**WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP**

* The purpose of this group is to discover and magnify the divine purpose of each woman through study, fellowship and service.  We study scriptures from the Bible but also, we share with our Christian sisters praise reports, prayer requests and the many concerns of our lives.  We pray together, laugh together, and sometimes cry together.  We share the love of Jesus Christ.  Membership is made up of all the women in the Elgin congregation. The Women’s Leader is Jean Hedrich.  Linda Meyer is Secretary and the Treasurer is Barbara Wertz. The Women’s Fellowship meets in a member’s home on the second Thursday of each month from April through December at 7:15 p.m.  The meetings consist of prayer, study, church business, refreshments and fellowship. The women share by taking turns teaching the lesson for each month.
* Our study this year was the book, “The Power of your Words” by Robert Morris.
* A collection is taken at each monthly meeting so we are able to fund activities and to buy needed items.   Our Treasurer, Barbara Wertz, reported in October, 2017 that we had $2,008.48 in our account.
* Our Women’s Fellowship purchased Easter lilies which were used to decorate the church for the Easter season.  After the Easter worship service, the lilies were given away to anyone who wanted to take them. We were also in charge of the special Easter breakfast buffet.   Many members and visitors enjoyed a delicious breakfast.
* The annual summer meal out was held at Claim Jumpers Restaurant in Hoffman Estates on June 14th.
* At our October meeting, we decided to purchase battery operated Advent candles for the church sanctuary.
* At our November meeting, we decided to give a monetary Christmas gift to Will and Katie King. Will is attending college and is unemployed.
* In December, our annual Christmas dinner and worship was held at the home of Jean Hedrich. The women enjoyed a delicious meal where everyone brought a dish to pass followed by a beautiful Christmas worship provided by Jayne Ackley.
* Due to a problem some are having with driving at night, a decision was made to have our meetings in the afternoons in 2018, on the second Monday of every month at 2:00 p.m.

**SPECIAL FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES**

* The Elgin Saints have a rich tradition of fellowship activities. One of the ways to honor this tradition is by enjoying a meal or dessert following worship services or other celebrations. While many individuals in our congregation help with these activities, Jean Hedrich was instrumental in organizing many of the meals.
* Each Sunday, treats are served in the adult Sunday school class. Sylvia Elrod is responsible for scheduling individuals to bring a treat to share.
* 4/14 – Good Friday service led by Will King
* 4/16 - Easter Sunday was full of worship experiences with the 9:00 a.m. “Son-Rise” service, followed by a delicious Easter breakfast and Easter egg hunt for our youth. The worship service was moving and inspirational with Mission Center President Blake Smith as speaker.
* 4/19 – Contemporary worship participants shared in joyous confirmation of Michelle Henrickson to the Community of Christ.
* 6/3 – the congregation hosted a memorial service for Shirley Werba. The service was at 11:00 am and a luncheon was served by the family afterward.
* 6/11 – pot luck supper after church followed by Kids Kamp carnival.
* 7/15 – members of the congregation attended the “Fully Awake and Ready to Respond” Chicago Mission Center family camp weekend at Camp Quarryledge. Several members attended the special “Canvas Creek” event on Saturday morning.
* 11/25 – Christmas decorating at the church.
* 12/17 - Members of all ages, including some of our YPC youth, shared their talents at a Christmas program. Afterwards, Christmas cookies and snacks were served in the Fellowship Hall. A great evening of worship, fun and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

**WELCOMING MINISTRY**

* Elgin congregation is blessed when first-time visitors come to worship with us. Jean Hedrich sends notes to our visitors to thank them and to let them know that their presence was truly appreciated and encourages them to worship with us again.

**GREETER TEAM**

* The Elgin congregation has developed a ministry of welcome for all who enter into our house of worship. Warm genuine Christian hospitality is offered by Greeters to all who join us for fellowship, whether a new visitor or a long-time member. The Greeter stationed at the church door welcomes visitors and regular attendees with a smile, answers questions and offers kind words.  Ralph Wineman is instrumental in the success of this ministry.

**OUTREACH MINISTRY**

**YOUNG PEACEMAKER’S CLUB**

* Young Peacemaker’s Club Meetings for 2017
	+ January 21 Soulflakes the beauty of our individuality
	+ Feb 18 Holistic Health: body, mind, spirit connection
	+ March 11 Inner light, inner wisdom, listening within
	+ April 11 Mindful actions for conflict resolution and anger
	+ May 13 Acts of kindness for ourselves and others
	+ Sept 9 Letting Go- Lessons from a Sea Turtle, living stress free
	+ Sept 23 I AM: an inner journey towards self-discovery
	+ Oct 14 Silent: Listen recognizing empathy and compassion
	+ Oct 28 Mindfulness: Zen kids Part 1
	+ Nov 18 Hold on to your horses: impulse control
	+ Dec 16 Finding our inner gifts of peace, joy, and light
* We continued our membership in the Streamwood and Elgin Chamber of Commerce. We attend events for networking and send out eblasts (promotion flyers for YPC) to members of the chamber and have received new inquiries from these emails.
* We have increased our online presence with updating and maintaining our Facebook and Meet up pages. We had a couple of new families join us this fall from the Meet Up page. Meet Up is popular among homeschooled families as a way to find social educational activities for children.
* We once again planted our annual youth garden, for members of YPC, Community of Christ and the Elgin food pantry. We had a nice harvest throughout the summer to share.
* We held our annual YPC summer get together in July for members and their families. We have dinner, play games and have a campfire with s’mores. A nice way to stay connected over summer vacation. We had two new families join us at this event.
* For community outreach this year our members put together care packages for the Elgin Police Department to help our fellow peacemakers feel cared for and appreciated.
* We attended events and festivals in Elgin like Winter Wonderland throughout the year to continue to promote YPC to local businesses as well as families. We leave business cards and flyers throughout the downtown area as well as the library.

**LOVE ELGIN DAY**

* This year our branch again joined together with other local churches to support Love Elgin Day in April at three locations. We have had many new YPC members join us from this event over the years and feel it is a worthwhile annual activity in which to participate.

**SERVICE MINISTRY**

**LOVE BOXES**

* Thanks to all who contributed to our Love Boxes which were sent to our college students. Twelve boxes were sent out filled to the brim with goodies and snacks in time for Valentine’s Day. Linda Meyer organized this much appreciated ministry.

**MILITARY OUTREACH**

* In May, Robyn and Linda Meyer collected items to send care packages for our military men and women. A total of $250 worth of items were donated to an organization called “Support our Troops” in Naperville.

**PASTORAL CARE**

* When our members are ill and hospitalized, they are visited by our priesthood and a get-well card and flowers are brought to them to brighten their day and to remind them that our healing prayers are being offered. Limited home visiting is part of this ministry also.

**LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**

* Jean Hedrich is responsible for updating the Elgin Congregation Directory which is made available to all members and friends who attend our congregation on a regular basis.

**HELPING OUR COMMUNITY**

* During March Linda Meyer organized and collected various toys and candy suitable for Easter baskets. Our Sunday school classes helped fill the baskets on Palm Sunday. The baskets were delivered to the Elgin Crisis Center after church on Palm Sunday.
* During March and April, Nancy Nabor collected clothing that could be used as “interview outfits,” and was donated to Community of Christ church in northern Florida.
* Our congregation gave generously to a food drive to help a struggling family in our congregation in July and into October.
* We also collected products and put together “Peacemaker’s Care Packages” donated to police officers.
* In July and August, we collected school supplies which were donated to children at the Elgin Crisis Center.
* In September, Linda Meyer and Nancy Nabor collected donations of clothing and personal hygiene products for the victims of Hurrican Harvey.
* In November, we collected food products to be donated to the All Faith’s People Food Pantry to replenish their supplies before the Thanksgiving holiday.
* Especially during the Christmas season our congregation helps to provide spiritual and financial support for needy church families through their generous giving. This year we were able to help three families with a monetary Christmas gift (totaling $450).
* We also collected donations of toys for 10 children at the Crisis Center.

**OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL**

* Our congregation contributes to Outreach International to support sustainable goods for children and their families living in poverty. Loose change is collected for this special “Hut Offering” on the first Sunday of every month. Barbara and Jim Wertz organize this collection. In total, our donation to the primary Schools in Haiti, through Outreach International, was $1,620.84.
* The children of Linda Meyer’s Sunday school class saved for three years to donate 2 chickens, 12 ducks, and a share of 1 goat and 3 ducks, totaling $155.00.

**CAMP QUARRYLEDGE SUPPORT**

* A special collection to support Camp Quarryledge is taken each month that has a 5th Sunday in it. Our congregation contributed a total of $2,796.74 to Camp Quarryledge in 2017, of which $135.00 was collected from the change on the 5th Sundays.

**YOUTH MINISTRY**

**JUNIOR CHURCH**

* We began having Jr. Church in September for youth ages 6-11 on all but the 1st Sunday of the month during the morning worship.

**OFFICERS**

* The CFO for Elgin congregation is an appointed position within the Chicago Mission Center. Once appointed, the CFO then receives a sustaining vote by the congregation. John Kent serves in this position for our congregation. His responsibilities include contribution processing, oblation requests, creating financial reports, and reporting to auditors. Additional duties may include managing the branch finances/checkbook/paying bills, creating budgets, negotiating and signing contracts, hiring people, building committee, and fund raising projects. He works closely with both the pastor and the Mission Center CFO to achieve the financial goals of the congregation.
* Lisa Jauch and Sheryl Sawyers are the Elgin congregation Auditors. The general purpose of the audit is to validate the correctness of the Chief Financial Officer.  They validate the contributions reported on the tax forms to the deposit made to the bank.  In addition, they look at all large dollar expenses to check for back-up indicating the proper amount was paid for product or for work performed for the church.  They also check several smaller payables to confirm they were recorded against the proper line item in the budget.  Once they have been satisfied the profit and loss statement and the bank statements are correct, then they issue a brief report to World Church indicating the work they performed and our statement that the Elgin Congregation’s books are in order.
* Serving as both Librarian and Secretary was Lisa Jauch. The position of Secretary requires Lisa to take accurate minutes at each congregational business meeting. These minutes are read and approved at the following meeting. As Librarian, she takes the time to periodically organize the books if they are misfiled. She also purchases new books that would be beneficial to the congregation.
* Bill Howard has designed our Elgin congregation web page and updates it as needed. It is found at [www.bymyspirit.us/elgin](http://www.bymyspirit.us/elgin).
* Jean Hedrich serves as the Recorder and is responsible for the accurate reporting of congregational statistics such as births, ordinations, withdrawals, blessings, deaths, and transfers in and out.
* The Historian is Sheryl Sawyers who tells the story of persons, events and developments in the life of the congregation and submits the congregational history to the World Church.

**CHICAGO MISSION CENTER**

**The Chicago Mission Center**

* Nine Community of Christ congregations in the greater Chicago area make up the Chicago Mission Center. Their mission is to proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of Joy, Hope, Love, and Peace. Blake Smith currently serves as our Mission Center President and Financial Officer. His two Counselors are Madison Parker and John Kent. The mission center provides youth ministry and opportunities for fellowship, spiritual growth, and ministerial training for all the congregations as well as Camp Quarryledge. Numerous opportunities for fellowship with Christ and our brothers and sisters were provided through various activities.
* The Elgin Congregation hosted Temple School Priesthood classes:
	+ Ministry of the Disciple – February and March

**2017 ELGIN CONGREGATION BUDGET**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2018 Proposed Budget** |  |
| EXPENSE CATEGORY | 2018 proposed |
| MISSION CENTER SUPPORT | 6000 |
|  |  |
| **SUPPORT / ADMINISTRATIVE** |  |
| ADMINISTRATIVE | 100 |
| CAMPERSHIP/SPEC/IYF | 2000 |
| YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY | 1000 |
| HERALD IN EVERY HOME | 800 |
| LEADERSHIP | 1000 |
| LIBRARY | 200 |
|  **TOTALS:** | 11,100 |
|  |  |
| **MINISTRIES** |  |
| **WORSHIP** | 2000 |
|  |  |
| **FELLOWSHIP** | 1000 |
|  |  |
| **DISCIPLESHIP** | 700 |
|  |  |
| **OUTREACH** | 1000 |
|  |  |
| **SERVICE** | 700 |
|  |  |
| **YOUTH** | 3000 |
| **GRACELAND SCHOLORSHIP FUND** | 1000 |
| **YOUNG PEACEMAKERS CLUB** | 5000 |
|  **TOTALS:** | 14,400 |
|  |  |
| **FACILITY/MAINTENANCE** |  |
| CLEANING | 2000 |
| SNOW PLOWING | 2000 |
| SUPPLIES | 500 |
| WASTE MANAGEMENT | 2000 |
| EQMT/REPAIRS | 6000 |
| INSURANCE | 9600 |
| UTILITIES | 14000 |
|  |  |
| PARKING LOT MAINTENANCE |  |
|  **TOTALS:** | 36,100 |
|  |  |
| **RESERVES/SPEC MINISTRY** |  |
| TRANSFER TO AIP FUND | 15000 |
|  |  |
| **TOTAL EXPENSES** | 61,600 |

**2017 Audited Financial Statement**

****