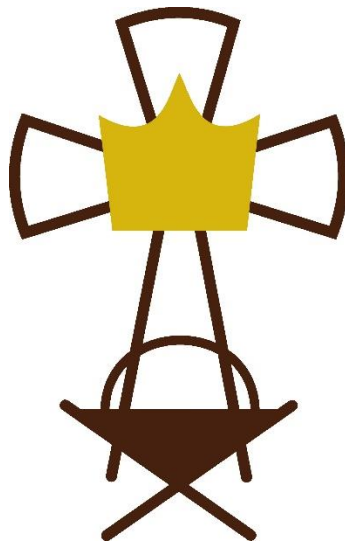


Messiah Lutheran Church

2017 Annual Report



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People of Messiah:

From time to time it is appropriate for congregations to “take the pulse” of the church to determine the vitality of the ministry we share in the name of Jesus. Often, numbers are used to this end, numbers that tell us about measurables like worship attendance, financial stewardship, membership, and the like. In my opinion, a better approach to evaluating “vitality” entails listening to ministry stories that depict what Jesus is up to in our midst.

As you peruse the 2017 Annual Report, I invite you to listen to our ministry stories. From Sunday school to quilting, Messiah shares Jesus' story through a variety of ministries that feed, teach, and inspire God's people. Our story of faith and faithfulness is told in the vignettes that follow.

We are blessed.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Michael

CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS AS REPORTED TO THE ELCA

Membership as of December 31, 2017

Baptized 503 (705 in 2016 - Reduction do to Update of Congregational Rolls)
Confirmed 431

2017 New Members

43

2017 Average Attendance

213

Three Year Attendance Average

2015 - 200

2016 - 186

2017 - 213

Current Operating Expenses

\$348,582.00

Benevolence Sum

\$32,697.00

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

On November 13, 2017, upon approval by the Congregation Council, an Executive Committee was formed. The committee consists of the pastor, and the elected officers of our congregation: president and vice president of council, as well as the treasurer, financial secretary, and secretary. The finance committee chairperson was additionally invited to attend the meetings.

The Executive Committee is charged with the general supervision of the affairs of the congregation between meetings of the Congregation Council. The committee will make recommendations to the council and perform those duties as assigned by the council. The Executive Committee is subject to the orders of the Congregation Council and its actions will not be in conflict with either the congregation or council. The Executive Committee met on the following date:

November 20th: The Executive Committee met to discuss the Council Retreat, Insurance plan of a Ministry Staff member and the 2018 Synod Convention.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Purpose: The Worship and Music ministry oversees that the services of God's house are conducted regularly in accordance with the liturgies and practices of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Areas of this ministry include the acolytes, assisting minister, worship assistants, lectors, altar guild, decoration team, flowers, ushers, and the choirs. The Worship and Music Team is a very special dedicated group of individuals, each with their own ideas and vision that contribute to the team's success. In 2017 the team was kept very busy from Sunday worship services to Wednesday Night service and everything in between.

Here at Messiah Lutheran Church there are 3 different worship services on Sunday mornings to meet the spiritual needs of individuals. Sunday mornings start with an 8:00 a.m. Spoken Word Worship Service with Holy Communion in the sanctuary. At 9:00 a.m., there is a Traditional Worship Service at which you can enjoy choirs, hand bells, candles and liturgy, also in the sanctuary. At 11:00 a.m., a Contemporary Worship Service is held in Luther Hall of the Family Activity Center. In this service you can enjoy the Praise Band with guitars, drums, praise vocals, and spiritual reflection. On Wednesdays during the Lent and Advent seasons, there are worship services at noon and 6:30 p.m.

Messiah provides a variety of different music opportunities to get involved in. Adult choir (17 regular members), children's choir (6 regular members), adult hand bells (11 members - limited by the number of bells), children/youth hand bells, singing solos/duets, instrumental solos/duets, chamber ensemble (10 regular members), and Praise Band (10 members). The children's choir blesses us with performances a few times throughout the year, while the adult choir blesses us each week throughout the year with their spectacular songs and beautiful voices. Messiah has also been richly blessed with an excellent choir director and a fantastic organist who not only works wonderfully together, but thoughtfully choose a large variety of music for worship services, choirs, hand bells, Praise Band, and special services during the Easter and Christmas seasons. Throughout the year, Messiah Lutheran Church was enriched with 14 special performances by soloists/duets, numerous hand bell performances, and several special chamber ensemble performances. Messiah Lutheran Church offered a Music and Drama Camp this past summer where 17 children enjoyed learning about musical concepts through fun facts, playing bells and boom whackers, singing new songs, and making puppets.

Another member of the Worship and Music Team is the Volunteer Coordinator. This person arranges numerous items in preparation for a service which includes scheduling

people, flowers, and decorations. The number of coordinated people and hours is quite impressive:

<i>Ushers:</i>	4 at 1 ½ hours each per week = 208 people per year = 312 hours per year.
<i>Acolytes:</i>	2 at 1 hour each per week = 104 people per year = 104 hours per year.
<i>Lectors:</i>	2 at 5 minutes each per week = 104 people per year = 9 hours per year.
<i>Communion Assistants:</i>	12 at 1 hour each per month = 144 people per year = 144 hours per year.
<i>Communion Presenters:</i>	4 at 5 minutes each per month = 48 people per year = 4 hours per year.
<i>Greeters:</i>	2 at 30 minutes each per week = 104 people per year = 52 hours per year.
<i>Worship Assistants:</i>	1 at 1 hour each per week = 52 people per year = 52 hours per year.
<i>Altar Care:</i>	3 at 1 ½ hour each per week = 156 people per year = 234 hours per year.
<i>Altar Linens Laundry:</i>	1 at 1 hour each per week = 52 people per year = 52 hours per year.

Many more volunteer hours are contributed during:

- special events like funerals, weddings, confirmations, and baptisms.
- the practices and performances of the choirs, hand bells, Praise Band, chamber ensemble, and soloist/duets.
- the Holiday Seasons when Property Committee, Fellowship Committee, and Worship & Music Committee members collaborate on the setting up and placement of decorations.

In 2017 some talented members designed, made, and donated several new banners! The material and countless hours of designing and making were given to Messiah as a gift from the heart of these talented members. Messiah also saved money on children's choir music and children/youth hand bells because the choir director wrote a lot of the music these groups performed. The expenses in 2017 for communion wafers, wine, sanctuary candles, baptismal supplies, organ/piano music, manuals, choral music, supply pastors, subscriptions, Christmas decorations, flowers/poinsettias/lilies and miscellaneous expenses totaled \$3,332.63.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Mission Statement: In the Gospel of Matthew is “*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; . . .*”

Our calling in Christian Education is centered by the belief that God calls us to educate our congregation members in the Christian faith for their baptismal vocation. Teaching the Faith is an ongoing expression of the call to Discipleship meant to help congregants in their Faith formation from early childhood, through their youth and across their life span. Helping all members move toward becoming faithful disciples and leaders in the church of Jesus Christ. This calling is rooted in a Lutheran heritage that values education for all people in both church and society.

2017 has been a year of education ministry for all ages, from study to service with hands-on inter-generational interaction within our church setting and our community. Some highlights are:

- 1) Held our spring forum titled “Experiencing Israel”, an overview of the Holy Land based on scripture, biblical geographical referenced sites, photography, and oral presentation by Alysia Dodd of her Holy Land tour. The forum includes a kibbeh food offering and costumes to support enhancing the Holy Land experience.
- 2) Organized an outing to Bob Jones Museum and Gallery for a Reformation tour
- 3) Organized a Newberry College tour with an emphasis on the Mueller Center
- 4) Reorganized the library and added an additional 190 books. Our library has a new area with a focus on Martin Luther and the Reformation.
- 5) Had a great summer including the following:
 - a. Music and Drama Camp
 - b. Vacation Bible School- changed our VBS time to mornings, with enhanced attendance. During the course of the week, the children raised funds to support our Tanzania water well project.
 - c. Two summer interns
 - d. “Campfirmation”
 - e. Reformation trip to Germany by 13 Messiah parishioners, both youth and adults.
 - f. Middle School Mission trip to Charlotte
- 6) Catechism classes for 6th grade, 7th grade, and 8th grade continue. This year’s 6th grade catechism class has 8 youth and two mentors.

- 7) Continued to provide the following fellowship, learning, and discipleship opportunities weekly or bi-weekly
 - a. Catechism
 - b. Wednesday night teen night
 - c. Wednesday night KUFFS for children
 - d. Sunday evening high school youth group
 - e. Sunday morning Sunday school
 - f. Various outings, service opportunities, and musical groups
- 8) Celebrated the Confirmation of 5 young people
- 9) Held 2 different Luther movies, exploring the impact of Martin Luther's life on Christianity and the Reformation. Our fall forum presentation further explored his life and how it affects us today as individuals and a church.
- 10) Our Messiah Germany travelers held a Germany trip slideshow and oral presentation along with a strudel event
- 11) Children's Christmas Pageant
- 12) Youth Christmas Play
- 13) Conducted a Reformation/Martin Luther book sale over the month of September
- 14) Youth's "Souper" Bowl drive
- 15) Youth's service drive for Mary's House" to assist the victims of domestic violence
- 16) Youth and adults participated in food pantry packings
- 17) Participated in church ministry fair
- 18) Conducted "Rally Day" Sunday, in conjunction with book bag blessing
- 19) Served as resource for Bible study and book study groups throughout the year

Sunday school: We have been blessed this year with additional individuals who have served as teachers for our on-going classes.

-Our Adult Sunday school classes increased from one class, at the beginning of the year, to a total of four classes. They include a book study, comprehensive study of Biblical scriptures, young adult class, and an empty nester class.

-Our Youth Sunday school programs include classes for middle school children, high school and teens, and young children. The young children program was changed to the "Godly Play" format in January.

Our Christian Education ministry team has been proactive in identifying resources to support our ministry initiatives. Our efforts have resulted in 11 separate Thrivent action grants, of \$250. each, providing \$2,750. toward reducing our operational expenses. The generous contributions of our congregation have helped defray the expenses for mission trips, enhancing participation in parishioners' mission involvement.

SOCIAL MINISTRY 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Social Ministry Committee. The Social Ministry Committee works to inspire the people of the congregation and community to make Christ known in word and deed, locally and globally, through experiential action we help to feed, care, and cloth our neighbors with love and compassion.

We have several social ministry programs here at Messiah Lutheran Church.

Angel Tree is a seasonal project that helps children from low income families receive gifts for Christmas. A member of Messiah Lutheran Church works with a local school and teachers to get the names. Names, age and size tags decorate a Christmas Tree in the Gathering Area and members take the tags and shop for the children. 45 children were helped this year.

Boy Scouts Troop 715 meets Tuesday night. Currently the troop has 42 members but are growing. Messiah has been a home to these boys for several years meeting in the Family Activity Center and Joy Center. Once a year, Troop 715 conducts Sunday Services as designated "Scout Sunday".

Cub Scouts Pack 715 meets Monday night in the Joy Center. Currently there are 47 Cub Scouts in the program.

Girl Scouts meet once a month in the Family Activity Center. Currently 2 troops are meeting. One troop has 17 girls and the other has 12. Once a year, cookie sales signups appear in the Gathering Area for purchase and fund raising.

Habitat for Humanity In 2017 Messiah members donated \$10,355.07 which covered the \$5000 commitment we had with Habitat for 2016 and the 2017 commitment for \$5,000. is also complete. Not only do members make a monetary donation but they also give of their time to help in the building process. The members who aren't handy with a hammer are handy in the kitchen. These members help prepare noon meals for the volunteers who are swinging the hammers. 88.5 hours of volunteer labor was given by 12 members of the congregation toward actual construction. 3 hours of cooking was provided in serving lunch on one of the work days.

Hope Home School is a co-op where home schooled children come together and participate in a once a week class room setting. The school meets every Friday for 12 times in the fall semester and 12 times in the spring semester. 65 families belong to the co-op for a total of 175 students. 30-35 classes are created throughout the Messiah campus from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

IHN (GAIHN) – Greenville Interfaith Hospitality Network - Messiah hosted IHN guests 3 times in 2017. Five families were cared for in 2017. Each week of hosting requires 30 volunteers totaling 200 hours per week. The volunteers make breakfast each morning, pack lunches for the guests each day, and cook supper each night. We have a group of individuals that spend the night at the church with our guests. We have another group of volunteers that set up and take down all beds because we use Sunday school classrooms as bedrooms for our guests.

Joy Group (Just Older Youth) seniors come together to gather once a month (3rd Tuesday) in the Joy Center for food, fellowship and service. Some of the group gather supplies and make birthday boxes and Christmas gift boxes for low income housing seniors in our community. This year there were 13 Christmas gift boxes and 72 birthday boxes given to individuals.

Kairos is a prison ministry that addresses the spiritual needs of the incarcerated. Members of our congregation meet four times prior to going to Tyger River and Perry prisons to minister God's word during a four-day weekend. Members share God's word/love, fellowship and homemade cookies made by the congregation to take to the inmates.

Messiah Pantry helps feed our neighbors who have fallen on hard times. The pantry is open 3 days a week in the Joy Center. The number of volunteer hours for Jan 2017 through Dec 2017 was 1,528 hours. The average number of volunteers per month is 41. There are 5 volunteers on Mondays, 6 volunteers on Tuesday, and 3 volunteers on Thursdays with 3 substitutes. The Pantry was able to help feed 500 families this past year. 2487 boxes were packed and distributed. Shopping, setting up and packing volunteer hours are many. It takes 10 volunteers 2 hours each for twice a month packing or 40 hours. Three volunteers spend 9 hours setting up the food and boxes for each packing event. Shopping at Harvest Hope is once a week for 3 volunteers for 2 hours. Additional shopping at Bargain Foods is twice a month for 2-3 volunteers for 2 hours each. The Pantry collected \$16,550.24 in its efforts in 2017 alone with 12 Thrivent Action Teams which purchased an additional \$3,000. in food.

Messiah Pre-School currently has 22 children in 3 classes. The baby room, K-2s, and K3 to K4-year old's. There are three teachers and school is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Optional late-day from 12:00 noon -1:00 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous meets in the Joy Center once a week on Wednesday evenings and currently has 20-30 participants.

Nimble Thimbles This guild of quilters has been meeting at Messiah for 25 years. It consists of 50-100 members of men and women who meet at Messiah on the second Monday of each month to enjoy guest speakers, organize distribution of their quilts and fellowship. They make quilts for Quilts of Valor and Habitat for Humanity. 600-700 quilts have been distributed from this group in 2017.

Operation Christmas Child is a program through Samaritan's Purse. This is the world's largest Christmas project of its kind. Operation Christmas Child uses gift-filled shoeboxes to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. In 2017 Messiah's congregation helped by putting together and mailing 85 boxes.

Prayer Shawl This group meets once a week on Tuesday in the Conference Room. They knit as they enjoy fellowship. When they come together each week they have different projects they do. This past year they knitted 10 baby blankets, 45 prayer shawls, 75 hats/caps, and 206 scarves that have been given to our community in need. They started a new project in September called "Care Bags" for cancer patients. These ladies make the bags. They also make and include pillows and more prayer shawls along with several other items which are helpful for cancer patients. They have put together a total of 50 bags and have given them to hospitals in our area.

Quilters come together for the love of quilting. This is a very committed group. They gather 2 Wednesdays a month to make quilts for World Relief in the Joy Center. They also gather as the "Quilting Bee's on a Saturday, 4 times a year to make quilts for IHN (GAIHN) families. This past year they made 65 quilts to send to World Relief. The "Quilting Bee's" made 30 quilts for IHN (GAIHN).

Transportation Ministry helps individuals in need of transportation to and from doctor appointments and to and from church.

WELCOME AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

In January, 2018 a dormant Evangelism Committee was reformed as a new Welcome and Outreach Committee with a new chairperson, Kathy DeVoe.

The committee is mulling over many Welcome and Outreach ideas to bring into our community and into our church. One idea is to participate in the Mauldin egg roll which is a church-based Easter egg hunt for children. The City of Mauldin drops approximately 20,000 eggs from a helicopter and the kids locate them, receiving the prize inside the egg. This is a free event that the Mauldin provides for outreach and fellowship by churches with the general public. Churches are allowed to pass out literature and provide information for people that live in the community.

We also created a gift bag for new guests with a coffee cup and coffee inside. The congregation's donated coffee that is then ground by committee members. The gift bag also has literature that explains what is going on at Messiah. Visitors learn about small groups and committees that are available at Messiah.

The Welcome and Outreach Committee is trying to start a garden of raised beds to help the various committees come together in outreach. Confirmands and other will help with the project. The hungry in our community will benefit.

We have great ideas and look forward to moving forward.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Mission Statement: Promote the expression of Christian faith in daily living through the personal commitment of time, talents, and treasure. To continue the stewardship educational process by seeking opportunities to present the stewardship message in any and in all facets of congregational life.

Committee Structure and Tasks: The Stewardship Committee functions as a committee under the Church Council with the general responsibility for stewardship programs within the church. Our tasks are listed below, but are not all inclusive: Engage new members in the life of the church by providing and coordinating time and talents sheets, promoting awareness in education of stewardship and small group availability. Plan, review, and adopt a year-round stewardship program in cooperation with finance. Evaluate the program semi-annually and generate an annual report. Create Stewardship awareness through newsletters, articles, on-line and other media. Work with other committees, task forces, ministry teams, and organizations in the congregation to help plan and coordinate stewardship education and all fundraising efforts within the church and provide opportunities for and information about self-funding programs under Synodical guidelines. The development, implementation and maintenance of programs that benefit the church, as they relate to time, talent and treasures responsibilities.

2017 Highlights:

1. We were able to expand the small group ministry program, by four new small groups.
2. We started the health and safety subcommittee, which is growing and expanding.
3. Started planning on a yearly time frame as we expand and grow stewardship.
4. Have reached out to several other ministries at church in order to work with them and grow awareness to how stewardship can be a partner in the growth and development of the church.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

50th Anniversary Celebration - January 29, 2017. This was our first 5th Sunday celebration for 2017. This was a catered event in Luther Hall. Fellowship covered the expenses of additional silver to feed guests. Hosted by the 50th Anniversary Committee along with Fellowship.

5th Sunday Potlucks:

April 30, 2017 - Habitat for Humanity

A Love offering of \$312 was donated to Habitat for Humanity under the leadership of Lynda Dezzi.

October 29, 2017 - Confirmation, Reformation Celebration with a Pig Roast

140 pounds of chicken and pork were purchased for \$378.37. Love offering of \$400.00 was collected to defray the cost of meat from the Fellowship account.

Lenten Wednesday Night Suppers:

March 1, 2017 was Ash Wednesday

March 8, 15, 22, 29 Lenten Meals

Soup and sandwiches were provided by Messiah Ministries. Love Offerings totaling \$434.00 were donated to the youth group to help defray the cost of their trip to Germany

Easter Sunday Continental Breakfast:

Hosted by Fellowship

Messiah Beach Trip:

June 11-15, 2017

Hosted by the Pullen's

This event is financially self-sufficient, those attending pay their own way. Messiah supplies paper products, coffee and condiments

Low Country Boil:

September 16, 2017

Hosted by the Simmons, Pullen's, Carbaugh's, and Nolan's

This event is financially self-sufficient, those attending pay their own way. Messiah supplies paper products, and large food holding containers" \$675.00 was collected from those in attendance. After all food was purchased the positive balance of \$279.77 was donated to the Fellowship Wednesday Night supper budget.

German Fest Celebration:

November 8, 2017

Hosted by Anniversary Committee and Fellowship Committee

The 50th anniversary team suggested a German Fest to celebrate Martin Luther's birthday, This event was well received by the Messiah Family with 137 people in attendance. Meal tickets were sold as any other Wednesday night supper taking in \$484,00.??? This covered all but \$63,65???? of out-of-pocket expenses

Wednesday Night Suppers:

September 13- May 24, 2017

Wednesday Night suppers begin the first Wednesday after Labor Day and runs through the last Wednesday in May before Memorial Day. Meal tickets are sold at the door and an offering of a home cooked supper or potato/salad bar is presented. Each week, approximately 55 people are served.

Total income received for 2017= \$3,287.78.

Total expenses for 2017 = \$3,018.53

Leaving a credit of= \$269.25 this was carried toward into 2018. The \$269.25 was added to the 2016 year-end balance of \$617.98 for a 2018 startup balance of \$887.23.

Currently the Fellowship Team meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. in the Counters room at Messiah.

FINANCE COMMITTEE 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

We are pleased to present the congregation with the financial results for 2017. The overwhelming generosity of our parishioners coupled with the cost-saving efforts by both the council and staff, have resulted in an extremely positive financial disposition for our church. This page provides an overall summary:

- Cash Flow: Thanks to substantial offerings during December, our funding for Operations was only \$28.87 less than Operational Expenses...this is significant in light of our having provided SC Synod the \$10,725.22 we held back in 2016.
- Operational Expenses vs Budget: Our expenditures for 2017 were 98.4% of the budget.
- Financial Overview: o \$225,000 + funds on deposit. Slightly more than \$98,000. of the funds are committed to Designated Funds, such as Messiah's Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, etc. Almost \$72,000 are in Designated Accounts to be used at the discretion of Council. The remaining \$55,000+ is available to conduct Messiah's day-to-day business (about \$39,000 per month in 2017)
- Designated Funds: Enclosure (3) provides balances for Key Funds. A couple of examples are:
 - o Messiah's Food Pantry - \$19,300.13
 - o Habitat for Humanity - \$5,673.73
- Income vs Pledges: Giving of \$475,000+ for operational needs exceeded pledges totaling \$334,000.+. Designated funds giving in excess of \$97,000.
- brought total giving to 167% of pledges for operations and designated funds.

In conclusion, Messiah Lutheran Church is on solid financial footing. We are solvent and can look forward to a prosperous new year. Your continued benevolence enables our congregation to not only meet our operating expenses, but more importantly to reach out a helping hand to those in need. We are committed to providing you a clear picture of our financial disposition and proffering our soundest advice.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

The property committee met frequently in 2017 to address a number of projects. Highlights from 2017 include:

- Signage updates
- New lighting in the Gathering Area
- New cameras in the Family Activity Center and parking areas
- Replacement of chairs in the fellowship hall
- Contract with Guy Roofing for roofing inspections and repairs
- Inventory of HVAC Units with replacement costs
- Addition of Boyer Memorial Garden

In 2018, Property Committee will inventory Messiah's assets for insurance purposes and to assess replacement costs. Property Committee will also look into carpet replacement in the gym and the revitalization of the fire escape adjacent to the Family Activity Center.

STAFF SUPPORT 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

On December 5, 2017, upon approval by the Congregational Council, the duties of the Staff Support Committee were assigned to the Executive Committee and the Mutual Ministry Committee. Prior to this date, the Staff Support Committee participated in the following events during calendar year 2017:

- April 2nd: In celebration of MLC's 50th anniversary, Staff Support honored all those who also had a 50th wedding anniversary during 2017. John & Lynne Anderson were recognized and provided gifts. Food and refreshments followed for the congregation.
- April 23rd: On Staff Appreciation Day the staff received gifts, food, and refreshments.
- April 30th: Jay Best, Jr. retired as Scoutmaster for Troop 715 and was honored at Messiah for his 20 years of service.
- April 26th: Staff Support served Wednesday night supper
- August 20th: Staff Support led the celebration marking the one-year Anniversary Celebration of Pastor Sherman, Krista Hughes and their family joining Messiah Lutheran Church.
- September 10th: Staff Support participated in the Ministry Fair.

MUTUAL MINISTRY 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

This committee was first introduced to our congregation in 2002; however, it was not fully implemented. On December 4, 2017, upon approval by the Congregation Council, a Mutual Ministry Committee was approved. The pastor and council president jointly appointed the committee. The committee will undergo training in order to engage effectively in this ministry. The Mutual Ministry Committee's responsibilities will be clearly defined following the training.