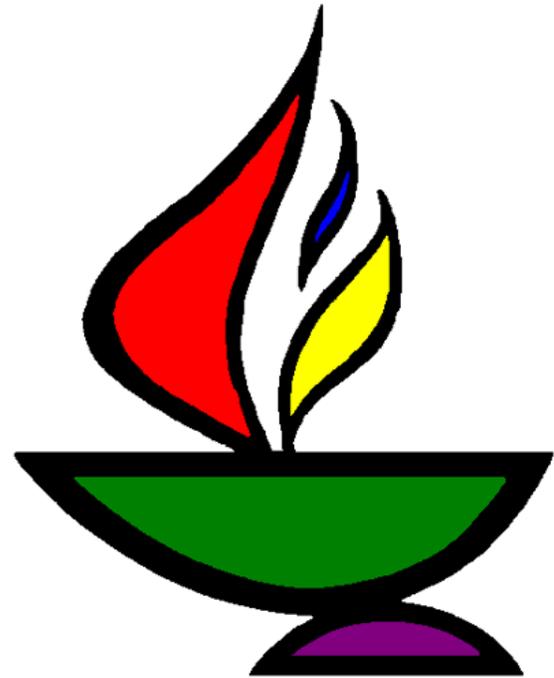


Annual Report

2016-2017



PEOPLES
CHURCH

4980 GORDON AVE. NW
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52405

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES & STAFF

Board of Trustees

Officers

Robyn Miessler-Kubanek, President

Gary McGraw, Treasurer

Trustees

Scott Gay

Geoff Johnson

Kathy Juba

Scott Mansfield

Kathleen Watson

Staff

Reverend Rebecca Hinds, Minister

Cathryn Fischer, Operations Coordinator

Jamie Zaruba, Director of Religious Education

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Call the meeting to order

Light the chalice

Developmental Ministry Update

President's Report

VOTE ITEM: New Board of Trustees Members

Geoff Johnson

Michael Meshak

Kathleen Watson

VOTE ITEM: Board of Trustees President

Robyn Miessler-Kubanek

VOTE ITEM: Nominating Committee Members

Maria Kell

Deborah Maynard

Erin Ogle

Marion Patterson

Religious Education (RE) Update

Finance Update

Other Business for the good of the church.

Closing Words

Adjourn

MINISTER'S REPORT

Rev. Rebecca Hinds

Before I ever arrived in August of 2016, you had a thoughtful, clear Developmental Ministry Application and plan for the future of Peoples Church. The obvious care and dedication involved in creating this plan along with your spirit of optimism called me to Peoples Church. I arrived excited to get to work and delighted with the focus, clarity, and time that Developmental Ministry provides.

In ministry *everything* is relational. So in my first year here I was very intentional about taking the time to get acquainted with all of you. We enjoyed four Simply Social gatherings in the fall (hosted by the Transition Team), many Community Coffee Hours, and I have had countless friendly one-on-one meetings. It has been a delight getting to know you all!

As a new Minister I also spent time getting to know the staff. The resignation of Office Administrator Pam Edwards in November was a challenge. But Kathy Juba, Marcy Mattison, Kris Davis, Jan Federer, Susan Elliot-Bryan, Rose Gabe, Judy Price, and Bob Butikofer saved the day by volunteering in the office (organizing, sorting, cleaning, and preparing for the new person). The Board approved a redesigned position of "Church Operations Coordinator" in December and I hired Cathy Fischer in February. We really lucked out with Cathy! She is highly and technically skilled, detail oriented, and extraordinarily friendly. Many communication concerns have been resolved with this new hire: all information, communication, and calendar details have been centralized within the Church Office.

Working with Director of Religious Education Jamie Zaruba has also been a highlight. He is on his way to being a Credentialed Religious Educator within the UUA and continues to develop a fine Religious Education program.

Membership has grown this year at Peoples Church. On February 26, 2017 we welcomed 13 New Members to Peoples Church. Due to high demand I will be offering a New Member Course this summer and another one again in the fall.

The next step in our Developmental Ministry is Renewing our Mission. Before we do anything further, Peoples Church needs to remember and fully understand "why" we exist. I believe the rest of the Developmental Ministry work will flow from this place of mission and purpose. Towards that end, a Mission Team has been working hard this year to facilitate a community-wide, shared process of articulating our Core Values, Vision, and Mission. We should have a new Mission ready for vote at the December 2017 Congregational Meeting.

It has been a wonderful year! And we are just beginning the exciting process of Cultural Change and renewed health at Peoples Church. I know we'll get there together!

In faith,
Rev. Rebecca

BOARD PRESIDENTS REPORT

Robyn Miessler-Kubanek

Congratulations Peoples people for finishing up the first year of our Developmental Ministry! Two years ago, we decided to change our faith community in ways we couldn't exactly predict. As we close out the first year of this important initiative, it's time now to recognize our progress and to think about what we'll be doing next. This year, we:

- Welcomed the Rev. Rebecca Hinds to Peoples Church, supported her as she settled into a new home in a new city and got to know our church.
- Participated in the Developmental Ministry Startup Events in November, took ownership of this initiative, and decided the next steps.
- Agreed that our first priority is to establish our church's current role in the world, and began the work of renewing our church mission.

These are all great accomplishments, so let's pat ourselves on the back and agree that we did really important work this year. Though they may be hard to see, these activities are all critical parts of laying a solid foundation for the future.

Let's also recognize our own individual contributions to these activities. The success of our Developmental Ministry will require us to participate not just once or twice, but many times and in many ways.

Here are just a few of the things we'll need to show up for in the coming year.

- Mission Renewal – We'll continue to identify our church's values, vision for the future, and mission. We want everyone's voice to be heard, so watch for opportunities to share your ideas.
- Developmental Ministry Forums and Feedback Sessions – The Board will continue to offer opportunities for everyone to learn what's currently going on and to offer feedback.
- Leading Change – We will all learn more about resistance and roadblocks to change, and ways to move effectively through the process.
- Governance – We'll continue to explore new systems that will help everyone better understand and work toward our common goals.

As we move forward in the work of Developmental Ministry, we'll be called upon to keep showing up for our faith community. That means participating, speaking up, listening generously, and making space for each other's ideas. We know we can do this because we've already seen our faith community in action this year.

So next time you see someone from Peoples Church, give each other a pat on the back – and then remind them to come to the next event. I'll see you there.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Jamie Zaruba

Group or Committee	Religious Education
Co-Chairs	Deb Maynard and Amber Todd
2016/2017 Active Members	Lance Maynard, Danny Booth, Tristan Maynard, Arianne Waseen, Jennifer Brade

We made it to Boston!

- Registered Youth 37
- Registered Adults 11
- Average Attendance 29
- We participated in two parades this year: Hog Wild Days and Fire and Ice
- We offered Multigenerational Services with “A Time for all Ages”
- Christmas pageant directed by Tristan Maynard
- Hosted a Block Party which was not successful
- Two dinners a Luau and Mardi Gras raising over \$400
- The Costume Contest was cute on Halloween
- Our Chili Cook-off offered some yummy choices also raising over \$100
- We hosted three Pancake Breakfasts raising \$270
- Deb Maynard and Amber Todd has taken on the role of Co- Chairs for our RE Council
- June 4th We are sending our RE Students to Cherry Pool to celebrate another great year
- This Summer will see us offering Super Hero Camp in July
- We are Hosting Our Whole Lives training this July 21-23
- We are Hosting Mid-American Youth Advisor Network Adult Conference this August
- I was excepted into the UUA Credentialing Program and I am currently training
- We sent 10 to Boston this Year, our Youth raised over 3000 dollars since last spring

OFFICE

Cathy Fischer

Mission or Focus of Group:

To coordinate the communication, facilities and daily office functions of the Peoples Church.

Activities of Note:

- Hired new office coordinator, Cathy Fischer, who started in February, 2017.
- Transitioned the preparation and distribution of the eWeekly and the Voice back to the office coordinator.
- Transitioned management of the janitorial staff from the minister to the office coordinator.
- Transitioned the ownership and preparation of timesheets for janitorial and nursery employees back to the office coordinator.
- Developed a credit card expense tracking spreadsheet that subtotals expenses by account to easily see remaining budget.
- Developed maintenance and inventory tracking spreadsheets to better plan projects and manage budgets.
- Reviewed and updated building rental rates so the church no longer loses money when renting out spaces.
- Filed the biennial report with the Secretary of State.
- Worked with the Buildings and Grounds committee to plan a spring cleanup day.
- Working on a new membership database proposal.
- Coordinated a Spring Cleanup day to beautify the outdoor spaces of the church.
- Proposed a formal record retention policy to the Board of Trustees.
- To be reviewed at the May Board of Trustee meeting.
- Recently received my office credit card.

Continuing Needs:

- The office is researching and will be purchasing a new computer
- ⇒ After a discussion between Rebecca, Jamie and myself we decided that the office computer will be replaced first in our 3 year replacement plan.
- ⇒ Next year Rebecca's computer will be replaced, followed by Jamie's in the third year.
- ⇒ Jamie had indicated he has already upgraded many features of his computer and is not in need of an upgrade.

Other Comments:

N/A

TREASURER'S REPORT

Gary McGraw

Group or Committee	Finance
Chair	Gary McGraw, Treasurer
2016/2017 Active Members	Bob Butikofer, Judy Price, Rich Patterson, Robyn Miessler-Kubaneck, Vickie Kindl, Doug Ogle, Rev. Rebecca Hinds, Charles Cizio (Pledge Treasurer)

Mission or Focus of Group:

Weekly: Count and deposit the money received by the church

Monthly: Monitor the financial status of the church by reviewing monthly financial statements from the bookkeeper and prepare a finance report to the Board of Trustees.

On-going: Work with the BoT, Staff, Stewardship Committee and other groups to deal with financial matters, such as the Endowment, fund-raising, and policies.

Annually: Prepare a budget recommendation for the BoT, to be approved by the congregation at its December meeting.

Activities of Note:

The church finished 2016 with a slight deficit of about \$4k, which is significantly better than the projected \$17k deficit in the budget. This was accomplished by greater than expected pledge income and continuing to hold the line on expenses.

The Stewardship campaign for 2017 was begun in the summer of 2016 and completed by October—this greatly facilitated the development for the 2017 budget that was presented for the December Congregational Meeting since we had a good estimate for our pledge income.

A 2016 year-end campaign for the endowment netted \$11,850! As of the end of March, we have a balance in our UUCEF endowment of \$637,656. On a related note, Rich and Manny Patterson have established the Patterson Family Endowment with the Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation, with Peoples as one of the beneficiaries. Thank you Rich and Manny!

The 2017 budget is summarized below along with the YTD status through March. We have a positive cash flow through March, but the budget projects a deficit \$18k.

Continuing Needs:

Increase our pledge income so that we can grow our programs

Continue growing endowment so that we can have a larger portion of our ongoing operations not dependent on pledges. Planned giving is an area that needs additional efforts.

Other Comments:

N/A

2017 YTD BUDGET

					Mar 17	Jan - Mar 17	Budget	YTD % of Budget
				Income				
				Pledges and Other Donations	10,239.17	48,163.51	141,884.00	33.9%
				Plate Collection	327.00	855.00	3,000.00	28.5%
				Rental Income	150.00	150.00	450.00	33.3%
				Fund-Raising Events	250.00	755.00	1,000.00	75.5%
				Endowment Income	0.00	4,553.32	21,000.00	21.7%
				Total Income	10,966.17	54,476.83	167,334.00	32.6%
				Expense				
				Employment Expenses				
				Salaries				
				Minister Salary + Housing	5,108.62	15,441.69	66,528.00	23.21%
				DRE Salary	1,360.00	3,808.00	19,448.00	19.58%
				Admin Salary	1,160.00	1,722.00	15,600.00	11.0%
				Child Care Salary	254.25	892.98	2,268.00	39.4%
				Janitorial Salary	339.11	1,062.89	4,200.00	25.3%
				Total Salaries	8,221.98	22,927.56	108,044.00	21.2%
				Benefits	1,317.10	3,968.60	16,187.00	24.5%
				Employer Taxes	238.18	572.68	3,176.00	18.0%
				Professional Expenses	1,180.38	2,229.89	8,825.00	25.3%
				Total Employment Expenses	10,957.64	29,698.73	136,232.00	21.8%
				Facilities Expenses	1,403.55	8,175.55	20,100.00	40.7%
				Administration	772.48	1,910.50	11,500.00	16.6%
				Worship Expenses	250.00	346.00	1,600.00	21.6%
				Adult Programs	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.0%
				RE Programs	943.86	2,122.12	4,500.00	47.2%
				Membership Expenses	208.34	249.75	200.00	124.9%
				Leadership Development	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.0%
				Denominational Connections	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.0%
				Outreach	102.94	231.70	3,100.00	7.5%
				Governance	0.00	0.00	600.00	0.0%
				Finance Exp	40.36	125.56	1,200.00	10.5%
				Total Expense	14,638.19	42,818.93	185,632.00	23.1%
				Net Income	-3,672.02	11,657.90	-18,298.00	

ARCHIVES

Committee

Group or Committee	Archive Committee
Chair	Clarice Krippner
2016/2017 Active Members	Jan Federer, Bill Hart, Dorothy Hershner, Clarice Krippner, Marcy Mattison, David Miessler-Kubaneck, Bev Philpott, Judy Price, Jan Watkins, Joye Winey

Mission or Focus of Group:

Collecting, preserving and sharing the history of Peoples Church 1869-2017

Activities of Note:

- Continued research and refinement of the history timeline of our church, including scanning images for use in the timeline and for preservation
- Collection and archiving of sermons from recent ministers
- Continued collection, sorting and organization of our history and our space
- Consultation with staff from The History Center about organizing our collection
- Placement of the plaque on the Steinway piano commemorating its gift from the Van Vechten family
- Receiving the capstone of the Third Avenue Building on our current grounds.

Continuing Needs:

- Funding to turn our history timeline content into a permanent display and publication
- Tech expertise and equipment for the safe electronic storage of documents, oral history, photos etc.
- Continued collection and donation of our historical documents and artifacts

Other Comments:

Our history reveals how we have evolved in belief and practice and how we have attempted to assert a positive influence on the world around us.

In order for us to know who we are today, we need to have an understanding of who we have been.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Committee

Group or Committee	Buildings and Grounds
Chair	Brian Kindl
2016/2017 Active Members	Brian Kindl, Rich Patterson, Jo Wasta, Charlie Cizio, Mark Wilcox, Jude Johnson, Bill Hart, Betty Zebell, Arianne Waseen, Shannon Wirth, Curtis Kell, Tyler Bleau, Ally Jiminez, Sonja Requejo, Sue Davis, Jerry Odygard, Kate Martinek, Amy Bostwick

Mission or Focus of Group:

To improve the environment of our church, both inside and outside and collectively make it a more pleasant and appealing place for all members as well as prospective members.

Activities of Note:

- July/August— First floor restroom remodel and Energy Audit by Alliant. Alliant donated about 100 LED bulbs and other equipment to reduce energy consumption.
- September —Parking lot striping repainted.
- October—Cross window wall repair report—with one repair proposal from Lynn Hughes Siding—presented at board meeting and elevator malfunction investigated (and new signage posted to eliminate future overload).
- November—new snow removal contract secured.
- December—LED bulbs installed.
- Fall— Ash tree removal.
- February--Alliant Energy contacted about solar energy demonstration installation for the Church and door weather-stripping installed.
- March—LED bulbs additionally installed in March and replaced corroded heater gas line and re-did a poorly routed water line that had contributed to the problem.
- April—Spring Clean Up Day

Continuing Needs:

Did significant research on converting old inefficient fluorescent tubes with modern more efficient LED replacements. Installation will require funding and will need to be done by an electrician or electrical company.

Other Comments:

N/A

CHOIR

Committee

Group or Committee	Peoples Choir
Chair	Kathleen Watson
2016/2017 Active Members	Amy Jo Bostwick, Bryan Davis, Kris Davis, Abram Doval, Jude Johnson, Maria Kell, Bill Kilbourn, Scott Mansfield, Lorrie Metcalf, Judy Price, Cate Scheller, Arianne Waseen

Mission or Focus of Group:

To enhance the worship experience for congregants and choir members through music.

Activities of Note:

We added three new voices in the last year. Woohoo!

Continuing Needs:

When we get more members, we'll be able to do a wider variety of music. If you're a male type, we can especially use your voice!

Other Comments:

Don't sweat it if you can't read music well or at all! Several members learn better by listening than by reading, so you'll have good company. Just look at it as another way to support Peoples while you're also increasing those helpful little synaptic connections in your brain.

CUUPS

Committee

Group or Committee	Pagan Peoples Covenant of Unitarian Universalist PaganS (CUUPS)
Chair	Deborah Maynard
2016/2017 Active Members	23

Mission or Focus of Group:

We come together in peace and trust to support each other in our Earth-based spiritual journey.

Activities of Note:

In the fall of 2016 we started a nine-month, bi-weekly Wicca 101 class using the curriculum *Wicca 101: A Course in Witchcraft* by Lady Star Lightrider. Participants had a hands-on course with lectures, quizzes, charts, meditations, and historical background information about the practice of Wicca and Witchcraft. We held monthly lay-lead classes covering topics like how to research accurate information, African-American indigenous cultures, divination, energy healing, and spirit communication.

In October CUUPS hosted the annual Halloween party and Chili Cook-off to raise money for the church and entertain the youth and adults. We worked together with the Religious Education Council to host the costume contest and the middle school haunted room. On Yule, we held an over-night event with an open circle for the public as well as a special historic ritual at midnight. The next morning we had breakfast and did a spiral dance to wake up the sun for the new year.

Throughout the year, CUUPS has held a monthly full moon ritual and our eight sabbat rituals – celebrating the Wheel of the Year. These have been open to the public and the church community. Through these rituals, our group has networked with the Cedar Rapids Pagan Group, the Coe College Covenant, the Des Moines CUUPS group, and several other pagan groups throughout Eastern and Central Iowa.

In the spring we started the monthly Spirituality Speakers. This gave us an opportunity to invite spiritual leaders from many other faith communities including the Zen Center, the Baha'i Center, the Jewish Mother Masque, the St. Luke's Catholic Chaplain, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. These events were open to all congregation members and the general public to provide insight into our neighboring religious communities.

In March, Theatre Cedar Rapids offered a special preview showing of "The Crucible" to the members of CUUPS as well as the middle school Coming of Age class. Participants were able to see the history of the Salem Witch Trials live on stage and talk with some of the cast members and director. Many of them had never been to a theatre performance and were excited to be introduced to the theatre.

Continuing Needs:

Membership with Peoples Pagan CUUPS waxes and wanes with the years. This year was one of the waning years. However, the group is working to be more in-line with Peoples Church values and the National CUUPS procedures. This year In May, the group will hold an official vote for the leader of the group and revamp the group Covenant to match up with National CUUPS policies.

Other Comments: N/A

GOOD NEIGHBORS

Committee

Group or Committee	Good Neighbors
Chair	Amy Bostwick, Kris Davis , Kathy Juba, co-chairs/contacts
2016/2017 Active Members	Members who provided assistance: Bob Butikofer, Bryan Davis, Kris Davis, Kathy Juba, Bev Philpott, Judy Price, Sam Wilson

Mission or Focus of Group:

Good Neighbors provides church members with occasional help of the type that a “good neighbor” might do. Services include supplying a meal, transporting to church or medical appointments, assistance with moving, yard work, shoveling snow, light household repairs, house cleaning, pet sitting or other small, one-time tasks.

Activities of Note:

In the past year, seven church members received assistance from seven Good Neighbors for a total of 33 acts of assistance. Thirty-two of the 33 requests were for transportation with a third of those for rides to/from church services and the remaining times for trips for medical needs.

Continuing Needs:

Church members are encouraged to alert the Good Neighbor contact for the month about a need for assistance. In addition, Good Neighbors is always looking for additional people to volunteer to help on an “as needed” basis. (Forms to sign up are always available in the Good Neighbors mailbox by the church office.)

Other Comments:

N/A

MEMBERSHIP

Committee

Group or Committee	Membership
Chair	Barb Gay
2016/2017 Active Members	Cate Scheller, Sheryl Ochs, Marion Patterson, RC Eichacker

Mission or Focus of Group:

Promote membership within the church community and the larger community as a whole; engage, connect, and support new members; recognize contributions by members; find ways to connect the interests of our members and the needs of our church.

Activities of Note:

Current efforts:

- Promoting community events which can be social gathering for Peoples People
- Training for Sunday Hosts/Greeters
- Member bulletin board

Welcoming new members and reaching out to members who have been away from church to work towards re-engaging

Completed

- Hosted and promoted Homecoming Service with Reverend Rebecca
- Reviewing church practices regarding engaging new members

Continuing Needs:

- Help to coordinate Sunday Hosts
- Members- join the committee!
- Ideas- everyone welcome to share what they would like to see for supporting members of our church

Other Comments:

N/A

PARAMINISTERS

Group or Committee	Paraministers
Chair	Rosemary Gabe
2016/2017 Active Members	R.C. Eichacker, Jan Federer, Rose Gabe, Susie Hauter, Dorothy Hershner, Scott Mansfield

Mission or Focus of Group:

Work alongside Rev. Rebecca Hinds by being available to friends and members of Peoples Church who are hospitalized or who are in need of a visit to provide support or companionship.

Activities of Note:

Each Paraminister is on call for a two week period when he/she contacts the hospitals twice weekly to see if any Peoples people are there, and if so what their needs are and call them by phone, if possible. The paraministry schedule is established through a regular meeting and printed in the Voice and eWeekly.

Continuing Needs:

N/A

Other Comments:

Rev. Rebecca Hinds is contacted if we find out that someone is in the hospital and/or if we make contact with a hospital patient or his/her family. We work with Good Neighbors if someone needs help from them such as, meals, rides to appointments, etc.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Committee

Group or Committee	Social Justice Council
Chair	Marcia Swift
2016/2017 Active Members	Bev Philpott, Clarice Krippner, Rose Gabe, Carol Berg, Kathy Juba, Ann Gruber, Jan Federer, Tim Merfield, Paulette Montague, Amy Bostwick

Mission or Focus of Group:

The Social Justice Council aims to inform, coordinate, and support the congregation in its efforts to advocate for social justice initiatives in our church, community, state, and country.

Activities of Note:

For the year 2016, the congregation chose to focus on health care issues as it's major social justice initiative. The four recipients of the First Sunday Plate Collection were the Community Free Health Clinic, Iowa Compassion & Choices, Iowa Abortion Access Fund, and Planned Parenthood of the Heartland. Forums were held with representatives of each of each of these organizations. The congregation collected and donated personal care items to the Clinic.

Mental health was chosen as the focus for 2017. The recipients of the 2017 First Sunday Plate Collection were the Abbe Center for Community Mental Health and Foundation II. Forums were held with a representative of each agency.

The congregation continues to collect and donate items for the Linn County Food Bank and the Community Free Health Clinic. Each holiday season hats, gloves, and scarves are collected and donated to the homeless shelters.

Postcard writing during coffee hour following each service was reinstated. Most postcards were written to federal congressional representatives about the need to not repeal the Affordable Care Act. A postcard writing effort was also directed toward halting the Dakota Access Pipeline. Members of the congregation participated in demonstrations and events in the areas of racial, environmental, immigration, and religious justice. The church continues its participation in and support of the Iowa UU Witness & Advocacy Network.

Peoples Church and the IUUWAN co-sponsored a workshop on understanding class difference and tensions in congregations. The SJC plans to work with the congregation in whatever capacity is chosen following the May 7 Service on understanding white privilege and supremacy.

Continuing Needs:

A congregation wide project in the mental health arena is still to be determined. Tanager Place will be the recipient of the fourth quarter First Sunday Plate Collection and a holiday project with them may ensue. The SJC will continue the postcard writing campaign for relevant political advocacy concerns. The SJC is available to participate in education activities related to class and racial justice.

STEWARDSHIP

Committee

Group or Committee	Stewardship Work Group
Chair	Bob Butikofer
2016/2017 Active Members	Charles Cizio, Bryan Davis, Sue Davis, Robyn Miessler-Kubaneck, Rev. Rebecca Hinds, Judy Price

Mission or Focus of Group:

The Turning Point 2017 Pledge Campaign goal was to raise \$165,000 in pledges for the operating budget of Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist. The campaign began in July and was completed by the middle of October, allowing budget development by Finance Committee, and votes on the proposed budget by the Board and the congregation to proceed on schedule with full knowledge of what our funding will be for the year.

Activities of Note:

- We, as a congregation raised \$145,852 against our goal of \$165,000. This represents an increase of \$14,000 or 11% from last year's pledge campaign results.
- We had responses from nearly all 100 pledge units we originally contacted as part of the campaign.
- We received pledges from four people NEW to the church, some of whom expressed their desire to become members of Peoples.
- We have generally received positive comments about our efforts to keep the congregation well informed of progress as the campaign proceeded. People voiced appreciation of the "No-Hassle" beginning of the campaign prior to the traditional canvass. We raised more than half of the money during the "No-Hassle" part of the campaign.

Continuing Needs:

While we were able to increase pledge income by 11%, we did not meet the goal of 25% increase in pledge income. To pay for our current staffing level, building expenses and programs requires taking money from our reserve savings to make up the difference for 2017.

The stewardship work group is willing to try again to make up the additional money needed during the 2018 pledge campaign. In order to do this and allow for a modest 4% growth in the church budget, we ask that every pledge household raise their pledge by \$25/month or \$300/year. This will allow us to reach our goal to raise the additional \$25,600 or total goal of \$171,600 for 2018.

Other Comments:

The successes of the Turning Point 2017 Pledge Campaign were due to the work of many. We could not have done this without you. Thanks to Rev. Rebecca; our former administrator, Pam Edwards, the pledge stewards; those special individuals who gave wonderful testimonials, and all of you who have taken the time and energy to respond!

VAN VECHTEN GUILD

Committee

Group or Committee	Van Vechten Guild
Chair	Ann Woodward
2016/2017 Active Members	25

Mission or Focus of Group:

The focus of Van Vechten Guild is to provide support to the church, church members, and the greater community. The Guild is a pledging unit to the church and makes other contributions if needed.

Activities of Note:

Within the last year the Guild hosted speakers on various topics including: Sonya Kendrick on Feed Iowa First, Crystal Young on Young Parents Network, Susan Elliott-Bryan on the Habitat for Humanity project in Nicaragua, and Kathy Goode on the Family Caregivers Agency. The Guild also enjoyed photo presentations from Floyd Sanford on his travels in the lake country of England and Bob and Linda Scarth on Chimney Swifts. Guild members also assisted the Archives Committee on photo identification for the timeline project.

Contributions were collected throughout the year for Young Parents Network and Feed Iowa First. The Guild also contributed to the Center for Development in Central America and donated funds for the refurbishment of a sanctuary chair.

Continuing Needs:

A meeting place at Peoples Church for our monthly meetings and advertisement of the meeting dates in the church weekly and monthly newsletters.

Other Comments:

We invite anyone to attend our meetings which are held on the 2nd Monday of every month at noon, excepting July and August. Friends and non-members of the church are also welcome. Dues are \$10.00 and a portion of the dues are contributed to local community non-profit groups.

WORSHIP ASSOCIATES

Committee

Group or Committee	Worship Associates
Chair	Scott Mansfield
2016/2017 Active Members	Robyn Miessler-Kubinek, Kathleen Watson, Deb Maynard, Lance Maynard, Bryan Davis, Sammie Ball, Maria Kell, Marion Patterson, Jude Johnson and Amy Jo Bostwick

Mission or Focus of Group:

To provide top notch worship services at Peoples Church.

Activities of Note:

We meet on a monthly basis with the minister to discuss various aspects of the worship service. Rebecca lets us know the sermon titles for the upcoming month, and one of the worship associates agrees to help out with a service that resonates with them. The worship associates are also responsible for doing the entire service whenever the minister will not be in the pulpit, which happens around once a month. So we assist each other in the lay lead services.

Continuing Needs:

I think the biggest need is not to become complacent, to continue to look at ways we can improve the worship service, to think outside the box. We are planning a worship associate retreat this summer so we can spend more time to accomplish this goal.

Other Comments:

N/A