



ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH INC.

A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY

United In Love - United For Service

*Wilde Lake Interfaith Center
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**ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE
CONGREGATION
2022**

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH. INC
A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY
United in Love – United for Service

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022
(Prepared January 2023)

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COUNCIL AND STAFF 2022

Council

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

'23	CJ Buche	'24	Betsy Hudson	'25	Guy Moody (SPRC Rep)
'23	Robert Lynch	'24	Tony Powell	'25	Patsy Nwagbaraocha
'23	Gayelle Sama	'24	Bruce Worley	'25	Alvin Thompson
'23	Donna Hayman	'24	VACANT	'25	Meredith Phillips

WLIFC Board Members

Gregory Phillips (Board President)

Susan Moody (Board Secretary)

Denominational Representatives

Susan Moody, Presbytery Rep

Alvin Thompson, UM Conference Rep

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STAFF

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan, Pastor

410-428-8090 (cell)

Yvonne Barner, Administrator 410-730-9137

Ingrid Sampson, Music Director

Patricia Hammer, Accompanist

Interfaith Center Building Manager (Mike Shaw)

Interfaith Center Building Administrative Assistant (Alicia Veliz)

410-730-7920

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings of joy and peace, SJU.

Truly it is good to be with you today and have joy and hope that we are normalizing some new patterns of life together in what feels like a post-pandemic time. We have reflected on what it means to come through and to a new place and time where it feels more like a re-launch than a re-turn to church life together. We have continued to be relevant to the community and committed to the ongoing work of transforming the world for the sake of the Gospel by making disciples of Jesus the Christ. Nearing the fulfillment of nearly 10 years of leadership and service in ministry with you has convinced me that our engagement in relationship with God, one another and the world is essential.

We have expanded our partnership with Bryant Woods Elementary School by supporting Playworks, a comprehensive approach to cooperative play, conflict resolution and healthy leisure pursuits with our local students. Seven SJU members joined with eight PTA parents and thirteen teachers and staff for Playworks training to serve as recess monitors and mentors during the school day. We are greatly appreciative of Baltimore Presbytery's Community Engagement grant that has made us a full partner with parents and educators in our neighborhood, for the sake of our youth. As a result of your outreach, presence, prayers, encouragement and generosity, we are becoming known as a true neighbor in loving service to our students, families, teachers and staff at BWES.

We have continued rigorous conversations among ourselves and with our WLIRC Board of Directors to address matters of equity in our life here at Wilde Lake Interfaith Center. The Church Council Chair, CJ Buche and I filed a rent dispute on behalf of SJU to review and adhere to the required functions of our lease. We are currently engaged in dialogue to update that lease and discuss ownership of our property and grounds. We remain committed to the pursuit of truth, based on facts, and trust we will, by grace, create a more just, cooperative life in mutual ownership and use of Wilde Lake Interfaith Center.

Additionally, in celebration of our joint life with St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center has served as a home for collection and distribution of nearly 18,000 items of food and goods through Columbia Community Care to our neighbors each week. Our strong working relationship with our County Executive and Health Department was recognized at the RISE TO THE CHALLENGE awards held in September at Merriweather Post Pavilion to bring COVID-19 adult and child vaccinations, research, booster shots, and testing to our community.

We continue in strong covenantal relationship with our UMC and PC(USA) parent denominations fulfilling our shared ministry collections. We pray for and support Rev. Dawn Hand as our BWCUMC Central Md District Superintendent and continue with Baltimore's General Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Jackie Taylor. The complexity of our ecumenism, diversity, and widely-welcoming church is a strength and a witness the world needs to see today.

I am grateful for the gift of sabbath I received this past autumn. The gifts and graces of dedicated, mature, capable staff and leaders carried us well through that time. We are the only full-time, mainline, Protestant congregation in/near downtown Columbia and we are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ with a lifegiving message that transforms the world. Let us be about the work of building the kin-dom for the sake of the Gospel, for the whole people of God.

United in Love, United for Service and with you!
Mary Ka Kanahan

REPORT OF SJU ACCOMPLISHMENTS – 2022

This Report of 2022 SJU Accomplishments is a compendium of information provided by the ministry teams. Individual ministry team year-end reports were submitted using a template focused on accomplishments and continuing pandemic adaptations.

St. John United Church entered 2022 joyfully with a baptism on the first Sunday of the year. Many had received COVID-19 vaccinations and booster shots and newly-developed treatments made us feel more comfortable about worshipping together in the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center. A surge in cases and hospitalizations related to the “Delta variant” of the COVID-19 virus caused us to return to worshipping via the Zoom platform for the remainder of January, but we were able to safely resume hybrid in-person and livestream worship for the remainder of the year. An additional blessing of the Zoom platform is that we were able to continue worshipping through January’s inclement weather.

Throughout the year we continued to adapt to meet public health and other challenges with grace and flexibility.

- Increased contact with our congregation through cards sent, check in phone calls with those who we have missed at church and those who are attending.
- Meetings were held via Zoom to allow greater participation when members were travelling or otherwise not able to attend. When possible, group decisions were made electronically.
- Vacation Bible School (VBS) was conducted in-person after two years online with all VBS participants requested to be vaccinated and wear masks during indoor VBS activities to protect those who had not yet had the opportunity to be vaccinated.

Beginning in late September, a much-deserved and long-delayed sabbatical offered Pastor Mary Ka the opportunity to rest, reflect, and recharge. She returned to us in November with renewed energy, fresh ideas, and new perspectives. For SJU, her sabbatical offered opportunities for a diverse set of guest pastors, lay leaders, and community partners to bring messages in their distinctive voices. They spoke of Jesus the Storyteller, Jesus: a different King, our natural world, and faith through adversity. They asked us to consider how freedom from fear and anxiety liberates us to be in relationship with God and others. They asked of us, “What are you willing to do to achieve the mission and vision of SJU?”

Throughout 2022, SJU continued to fulfill God’s commandment to “Love your neighbor as yourself.” We served God through our worship, our time, our gifts, and our financial resources. We saw need in our neighbors (both near and far) and stepped up to meet those needs. We provided for:

- Physical needs with food, snacks, warm clothes, school supplies, cleaning supplies, rides to medical appointments, and household goods after a fire.
- Financial needs with support for utility bills and contributions to community organizations offering crisis intervention and support for the unhoused as well as continuing our long-term support for the Aurora Foundation’s orphanage in Liberia.
- Relationship needs with phone calls, cards, emails, hospital visits, handshakes, hugs, and shared tears.
- Spiritual needs with prayers, book studies, Vacation Bible School, and online worship services for those who were unable to join us in person.

The five goals set by the Church Council for 2022 provided the framework for Ministry Team plans, individual actions, and connections with our SJU family, our neighbors, and our global community.

Goal 1: Our community recognizes us as doers of God’s work and agents of change confronting racism and social injustice

- Recognized by the Howard County Executive with a “Rise to the Challenge Award” for our work to provide testing and vaccinations for the most vulnerable in our community.
- Provided direct support and pastoral care to a family displaced by a housefire to stabilize the parent and children.
- Supported five Bryant Woods Elementary School (BWES) families for the holidays with toys and clothing.
- Assembled “Blessing Bags” during VBS with small food items to hand out to folks we encounter on the streets. Pastor Mary Ka led our students through a conversation about what to do with the bags and had a follow-up after some students were able to hand them out.
- During the Lenten season we conducted a special appeal which provided support to the Aurora Foundation’s orphanage in Liberia. This long-term relationship is one of our most treasured connections to the global community.
- Facilitated two antiracism book studies, drawing in participants from Columbia United Christian Church and other People Acting Together in Howard (PATH) friends. During each study 12-15 participants engaged in courageous conversations about racism and how it has infected every aspect of life in the USA.
- Our commitment to anti-racism is broadcast in worship through graphics on the screen, with inclusive language, affirming liturgy, and representative images and music.
- Participated in Presbytery of Baltimore “Dismantling Racism” training. Four SJU members attended this one-day session intended to equip participants to lead and participate in constructive conversations within their congregations that promote racial equity and begin dismantling racism within ourselves and our institutions.
- Sent over 150 handwritten post cards to voters in areas with historically low turnout to encourage them to vote.
- Provided financial support to People Acting Together in Howard (PATH), Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, & Bridges to Housing Stability. We also supplied meals to the guests of Grassroots Center on several occasions.
- Continued our support for full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons in both our parent denominations through donations to the Reconciling Ministries Network and More Light Presbyterians.
- Participated in PATH events focusing on education, housing, and “Get Out the Vote.”
- Celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday and Black History Month by presenting 15 donated books featuring Black scientists, social activists, and historical and sports figures to SJU children. Our relationship with a retired Anne Arundel school educator prompted the book donation.
- Attended two events with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.
- During VBS, collected a different nonperishable item each day for Columbia Community Care (CCC) and discussed how God tasks us to care for each other. VBS participants, families, and the congregation completely filled a large SUV with food and toiletry items which were delivered to CCC.
- Developed a relationship with a local nursery which resulted in donation of plants for a gardening project at BWES.
- Promoted and celebrated community organizations and actions in worship including:
 - PATH actions to engage local officials to approve the New Cultural Center and Affordable Housing project
 - Columbia Community Care grassroots food distribution
 - Courageous Conversations February 2022 program

Goal 2: Everyone who interacts with us feels welcomed and valued.

- We open worship with a statement welcoming and including everyone. We offer this all-inclusive welcome graphically on screen before the service and with words of greeting as we begin worship.
- The Congregational Care team supported our extended SJU family by:
 - Sending approximately 113 birthday cards and numerous Get Well, Sympathy, and Thinking of You notes
 - Supporting four memorial services
 - Initiating phone calls to check in and to provide updates on church activities
 - Visits to hospitals and other medical facilities
 - Providing Christmas poinsettias and Christmas cookies to our SJU friends at home
- Pastor Mary Ka and individual members reached out to visitors offering words of welcome and invitations to continue joining us for worship – one family began worshipping with us regularly and made plans to join SJU in 2023. Other visitors became regular attendees. Two long-time attendees made decisions to transfer their memberships to SJU.
- Children and youth have a moment in worship to learn and share about the Bible. They are included with the music program by singing and percussion as well as solo music performances. Young people also serve as liturgists.
- Worship offers occasional special services with prayer rituals/remembrance.
- Published information and resources through the FLASH newsletter and in worship announcements to share some of the values, beauty, and joy embodied in the Black community which also encourages inclusiveness and our love of God through all that we say and do.
- Provided VBS participants with a warm welcome. Used nametags with pronouns to be able to greet everyone as they identify. Spoke about how God loves ALL of God's people, no matter what they look like or who they are. Feedback from parents and children about VBS was uniformly positive.

Goal 3: Deeper relationship with the Bryant Woods Elementary School (BWES) community.

- SJU men greeted families and students with a “Clap-in” at BWES on the first day of school.
- Coordinated with BWES administration and the PTA to provide financial support using a Presbytery of Baltimore grant for “Playworks” training. Seven SJU volunteers attended the training at BWES with teachers, staff and parents. School staff identified pandemic-related issues with cooperative play as contributing to an increased level of conflict and tension among students. Playworks supports learning and physical health by providing safe and inclusive play.
- Participated in Reading Day supporting direct interaction with students and teachers in their classrooms.
- Renewed the flower bed with annuals and perennials to provide a welcoming school entrance.
- Supported the staff with school supplies, drinks, snacks, cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer.
- Supported students with school supplies, hats, mittens, and scarves.
- Donated board games and card games for indoor recess to support relationships with adult volunteers, cooperative play, and problem solving.
- Coordinated with PTA to invite BWES to join us for VBS. Two students and one BWES Staff member/parent participated and also returned for the worship service celebrating VBS.
- Worship promotes ministry opportunities verbally and electronically to invite members to engage with BWES. Preaching includes examples of interactions with the school as sermon illustrations and calls to action.
- Shared images of our interactions with our SJU congregation and the school so each could celebrate our partnership. Photos of activities are highlighted during worship and on our website.

Goal 4: Use various communication mechanisms to highlight our core values and connect with our target populations.

- Developed a new website to launch in January 2023 in conjunction with Worship Times and supported by a Presbyterian Thriving Communities grant.
- Launched Facebook live as additional access to view our Sunday services supplementing streaming from the WLIFC website and our YouTube channel.
- Set up a continuous display to provide messaging about SJU on screen in the WLIFC lobby. Two book size computers were purchased using a West Side Story Ministry Group grant. Visitors to the WLIFC can now see information about us whenever they enter the lobby.
- Members of our Anti-Racism/Matthew 25 Church team used the weekly FLASH newsletter to promote Black-owned businesses and to feature resources such as book clubs, documentaries, webinars, and events happening in the community focusing on Black Americans.
- Used targeted communications to invite participation in VBS. These included:
 - Flash newsletter, announcements during worship services, and emails to past participant parents to reach those who had already connected with us in some way. Six families who are SJU members or had previously attended VBS took part in 2022.
 - Announcement slides during live streamed worship and information on the SJU website to connect with those who we hadn't met yet. Three families came to us because they did an internet search similar to "VBS near me."
- Provided support to Ministry teams, SJU members, and online viewers such as:
 - Attendance and analysis updates for Sunday services streaming and social media platforms to Council which helped to assess the number of households, and characterize who was, participating remotely.
 - Assisting remote viewers with streaming technical expertise to view Sunday and other services as needed
 - Providing communications for worship ministries as needed
 - Updating and archiving all 2022 services to our You Tube channel so that past services are more easily accessible
 - A/V team provided multi-media visuals, graphics, and music displayed on screen in worship and broadcast online to appeal to audiences with various worship preferences and learning styles.

Goal 5: Increased congregation engagement in: Worship, Spiritual Formation, Service, Generosity, and Prayer.

- Designed worship services to reflect the multiplicity of demographics, cultural backgrounds, and faith traditions of SJU. Music provided by our choir, soloists, recordings, and VBS kids; scripture readings from varied Bible versions; and images from our congregation and online resources helped to reflect the wonderful diversity of our SJU family.
- Distributed stewardship materials by email, including our first electronic pledge card, to everyone that uses email. The pledge card could be filled out online or printed; and returned by email, mail, or in the offering basket. Approximately half of 2023 pledges were submitted online.
- Worship gave space to celebrate generosity and offered opportunities for the congregation to express how God's grace has blessed their lives in the "Grace Fills the Gaps" season of gratitude and generosity. Responses included powerful personal testimony as well as donations.
- A diverse group of pastors, lay leaders, young people, and community partners were offered the opportunity to conduct worship services throughout the year especially during Pastor Mary Ka's sabbatical. These opportunities included a Sunday service with the VBS team and participants as our VBS wrap up. These special worship services allowed those who wanted to explore a call to

proclamation to step into the pulpit and bring a message of the Gospel. It also allowed us to hear a variety of voices, theological perspectives, and calls to action.

- The Faith Applications group completed two book studies and reviewed a number of videos. Twelve participants from SJU and other faith communities explored a variety of current topics including reconstructing a shared framework of virtues and values and understanding white evangelicalism in America.
- Conducted VBS for 16 children with 17 volunteers from across the SJU family including one BWES Staff member/parent. Congregation provided donations of supplies and joined in donating non-perishable food for CCC.
- Delivered a final report to Council on the May 2021 “Taking the Pulse” survey of the congregation with recommendations on improving and broadening our work in the areas of Worship, Social Justice, Community Action, Membership, and Recruitment.

Other Accomplishments: Many of our accomplishments do not fit neatly into one of the goals. These include ongoing responsibilities which support the mission of the church. Several of these merit highlighting.

- Closed a \$50,000 shortfall in the 2022 budget and ended the year with a surplus. The Church Council approved an ambitious budget believing that what we set out to do in 2022 deserved appropriate funding. Our success in addressing the deficit resulted from:
 - Generosity shown by our congregation
 - A supplemental stewardship effort in August called “Grace Fills the Gaps” generated over 15 personal stories of God’s grace and expressions of gratitude of over \$3000.
 - Memorial gifts, year-end giving, and generosity by those who had not pledged
 - Excellent work by our Bookkeeper, Kathy Jascewsky, to secure an Employee Retention Credit (ERTC) in the amount of \$26,324.35. Receipt of the ERTC was a direct result of our faithfulness to our employees during the pandemic.
 - Careful stewardship of our financial resources by the SJU Finance team and Ministry Team leads
- Updated our inventory and disposed of obsolete equipment.
- Contracted for the appraisal of the piano and updated our insurance accordingly.
- Continued to improve the process for electronic signatures of vouchers.
- Continued to encourage automatic and electronic giving through Givelify and QR code distribution/display.
- We continued to respond to the ever-changing COVID-19 pandemic by:
 - Using technology in worship to limit the passing of hymnals
 - Encouraging masking in the Interfaith Center and safe distancing in seating
 - Using single serve communion cups instead of a common cup for sacrament of holy communion as well as visibly using hand sanitizer for sacrament of baptism and communion for all participants

Near the end of 2022, the Church Council assessed our progress on the five goals set for 2022. The Council noted that while progress had been made toward attaining the goals, there was still work to be done on them. Council members, therefore, set the following aspiration and prioritized goals for 2023.

Aspiration for 2023:

We want to be a church that is:

- growing in outreach and participation
- recognized for our diversity, inclusivity, and anti-racism efforts
- known as the place and people that the community can come to for help and connection

Goals:

- **CONGREGATION ENGAGEMENT** - Increased congregation engagement:
 - **Worship**
 - **Spiritual formation**
 - **Service**
 - **Generosity**
 - **Prayer**
 - **EVERYONE IS WELCOMED** - Everyone who interacts with us feels welcomed and valued
 - **COMMUNICATION** - Use various communication mechanisms to highlight our core values and connect with our target populations
 - **DOERS OF GOD'S WORK** - Our community recognizes us as doers of God's work and agents of change confronting racism and social injustice.
 - **BWES RELATIONSHIP** - Continue to grow our partner relationship with BWES students, parents, and staff
-

UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

~Ephesians 4:14-21~

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of the SJU Ministry Teams by:
CJ Buche, Chair of Council
Debbie Parker, SJU Member
Susan Moody, Chair of Finance

CLERK OF SESSION REPORT

St. John United is happy to report that it has fulfilled its covenant for connectional giving at 100% with both the Baltimore Presbytery and Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church for 2022.

Membership data for 2022 includes

A decrease of five members through five deaths

An addition of two new members

We began the year 2022 with 146 active members, so the net change from two additions and five losses yields an active membership total of 143 as of the beginning of the year 2023.

We had five baptisms during 2022.

During the 2022 year, there were 73 participants in various programs in Adult Education, and 16 young people participating (along with 17 adult volunteers) in Vacation Bible School.

The Annual Congregational Meeting of St. John United Church Sunday, January 23, 2022 (via Zoom)

01 Opening and Agenda Approval

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan opened the meeting at 11:49 am, following the Worship Service. Susan Moody, President of St. John United Church, Inc., called the meeting to order. A quorum was present (approximately 48 persons were in attendance via Zoom, the majority of whom are active members). The meeting agenda was reviewed. The 2021 Annual Report, including the 2022 Budget, was distributed by email and posted on the SJU website prior to the meeting. Rev. Kanahan moderated the meeting.

02 Greetings from the Denominations

The Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Taylor, General Presbyter, Baltimore Presbytery, expressed appreciation and enjoyment of the worship service, and extended greetings from the Presbytery. The Rev. Dawn Hand, District Superintendent of the Baltimore/Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church, brought greetings on behalf of Bishop Easterling, of the BWCUMC and its 74 churches. Rev. Kanahan acknowledged Guy and Susan Moody for their work with the Presbytery, and congratulated the congregation on its continued partnerships and ministries locally.

03 Clerk's Report

Bob Lynch reported that SJU has fulfilled its covenant for connectional giving at 100% with both the Baltimore Presbytery and the Baltimore/Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church. The membership changes during 2021 were presented: we began the year with 146 active members, and during the year there was a decrease of 4 members and an addition of 2 members, for a net decrease of 2 and a resulting active member total of 144 as of December 31, 2021. There were 3 baptisms and 71 participants in Adult Education during the year. There were 25 young people in Vacation Bible School.

04 Review of the 2021 Annual Report to the Congregation

Debbie Parker, Chair of the SJU Council, introduced the 2021 Annual Report which was emailed to the congregation prior to the meeting. The report begins with the Pastor's report, followed by the report of accomplishments which is a compilation of the year-end reports from the ministry teams organized by the key initiatives for the year: continued adaptation to the COVID-19 pandemic with transition from all-virtual Zoom worship to livestreamed in-person worship, Anti-Racism/Matthew 25 learning and equipping, deepened BWES Partnership, attention to stewardship with strong financial management, and increased emphasis on youth and families. Mrs. Parker introduced Tony Powell, Chair of the Communications Ministry Team, who noted two of that team's efforts to improve outreach – the use of screens (monitors) outside Room 4 at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center and a contract signed with a

consulting firm (Worship Times) to improve our website. Mr. Powell expressed gratitude for the help of Susan Moody and the Baltimore Presbytery in obtaining a grant from the West Side Story Ministry Group to fund this project. Rev. Kanahan added that one of the highlights of the year had been the presence and active participation and leadership of a student intern from the Lancaster Theological Seminary, Mr. Hyiwot Teshome, who served for 12 weeks during the summer and contributed much to the life of the congregation during his internship with SJU.

05 Capital Fund Report

Investment Trustee Dr. Lisa Cooper Green reported that 2021 was a successful year, as the capital fund investment portfolio grew by 7.2%, from a balance of \$1,157,504 at the beginning of the year, to \$1,241,313 at year-end (a gain of \$83,809). She noted that the funds in the investment account continue to be maintained in accordance with SJU's socially responsible investing commitment.

06 2022 Budget

Mrs. Moody reviewed the outcomes from the previous year's proposed budget, in which expenditures were projected to be \$358,015 and revenues projected to be \$305,729 – an expected shortfall of \$52,286. Ultimately, the end of year balance was a shortfall of just over \$3,000, which was covered by the use of interest income on the investment account. Mrs. Moody presented the 2022 budget that had been approved by Council, which anticipates expenditures on behalf of ministry activities and other items to be \$361,389, and anticipated revenues of \$310,988 – an expected shortfall of \$50,401. She noted that the Finance Team will continue to monitor and manage income and expenditures to minimize the gap.

07 Clergy Compensation / Terms of Call

Richard Parker, Chair of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, and Rev. Hand presented the proposed clergy compensation for Rev. Kanahan for 2022. A question regarding how comparable this package was with similar churches was raised to explore the "fairness" of the compensation package. Rev. Hand indicated the SJU package is above the minimums the UMC has established. Rev. Dr. Taylor felt likewise and referred congregants to the Commission on Ministries for more details. Another question was raised regarding the extent to which inflation was considered in setting the compensation amounts. Mr. Parker responded that SPRC followed the guidelines issued by the denominations and did not consider inflation. Some additional clarifications were noted to the "reimbursements for expenses" and the "defined contributions" items in the compensation package. The congregation affirmed the proposed budget and terms of call by unanimous consent.

08 Nominations and Personnel Report

Rev. Kanahan presented the Nominations and Personnel Report. The following nominations had been previously approved by Council and were presented to the Congregation for affirmation:

Council:

Class of 2023

Donna Hayman to complete the term of Debra Snow

Class of 2025

SPRC Rep (Guy Moody), Patsy Nwagbaraocha, Meredith Phillips, Alvin Thompson

Nominations and Personnel:

Class of 2025

Lisa Cooper Green and Evann Ridgeway

Staff-Parish Relations Committee:

Class of 2025

Dawn Cooper Barnes and Rayna Woodford

A call to affirm the nominees was supported unanimously.

Pastor Mary Ka also provided information on two additional appointments made during the year and previously approved by Council, but not subject to Congregational approval:

Investment Trustee

Andrew Love

Wilde Lake Interfaith Religious Corp (WLIRC)

Gregory Phillips

Rev. Kanahan, on behalf of the Committee, expressed appreciation for the service of Debbie Parker, Rich Parker, Dawn Cooper Barnes, Vincent Niba, Andrew Love, and Debra Snow for their service to Council; to Connie Lynch and Rich Parker for their SPRC service; to the late Esther Sama and Nancy Gabie for their service on Nominations and Personnel; and to David Douds for his service as an Investment Trustee.

Rev. Kanahan expressed a special thanks on behalf of the church, to Debbie Parker for her dedicated work and leadership on Council, including her extended term as chair without vote in 2021. Rev. Kanahan also recognized CJ Buche as Council Chair for 2022.

09 Approval of Annual Report and Aspiration & Goals for 2022

Rev. Kanahan noted that the 2021 Annual Report is posted on the SJU website. The Annual Report was unanimously approved. Debbie Parker noted that the year-end reports submitted by the ministry teams will also be posted on the SJU website. She then called attention to the aspiration set by Council for 2022. We want to be a church that is:

- growing in outreach and participation,
- recognized for our diversity, inclusivity, and anti-racism efforts, and
- known as the place and people that the community can come to for help and connection.

The 2022 plan is outlined at the end of the Accomplishments Report in the Annual Report.

10 Closing

Rev. Kanahan adjourned the meeting at 12:42 pm. The Rev. Dr. Taylor offered a blessing to close the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Lynch, Clerk of Council

2022 NOMINATIONS AND PERSONNEL/COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP

2022 Nominations and Personnel/Committee on Lay Leadership (led by Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan)
NPC/CLL members in 2022 were: Pamela Love, Charles Dyer, Mary Lou Shippe and Trena Perez Powell, Lisa Cooper Green, Evann Ridgeway and Mary Ka Kanahan, Chair.

NPC/CLL in 2022 identified five vacancies on Church Council, and two more in leadership on SPRC and on Nominations and Personnel for 2022-2025. Rev. Kanahan appointed Susan Moody to the Wilde Lake Interfaith Religious Corporation Board of Directors, effective 07/22.

2022 Nominations and Personnel/Committee on Lay Leadership Report (as of 01/15/2023)

St. John United Church, Inc. (SJU) Corporate Officers

President	Susan Moody
Secretary	
Treasurer	Roy Ferguson
Resident Agent	Kirk Halpin, Halpin and Associates

Wilde Lake Interfaith Religious Corp. (WLIRC) Board Representatives (2)

Gregory Phillips (began WLIRC Pres, 06/22) Susan Moody (began service 07/2022)

St. John United Church, Inc. Investment Trustees

Debbie Parker	Andrew Love
Mary Ka Kanahan	Lisa Cooper

Proposed Leadership of SJU, Inc. for Jan. 2023- Jan. 2026
(New leadership proposed by N&P for congregational vote listed in **BOLD**)

SJU Church Council (a body of 12 members + pastor)

Class of 2024: Betsy Hudson, Tony Powell, Bruce Worley, _____
Class of 2025: Guy Moody (SPRC), Patsy Nwagbaraocha, Meredith Phillips, Alvin Thompson
Class of 2026: **Lisa Cooper Green, Jen McClurg, Debbie Parker,** _____

Nominations and Personnel/Committee on Lay Leadership: Mary Ka Kanahan, Chair

Class of 2024: Mary Lou Shippe, Trena Perez
Class of 2025: Lisa Cooper Greene, Evann Ridgeway
Class of 2026: **Andrew Love, Karen Hopkins**

Staff-Parish Relations Committee: Guy Moody, Chair

Class of 2024: Guy Moody, Pamela Love
Class of 2025: Dawn Cooper Barnes, Rayna Woodford
Class of 2026: **Nancy Gabie,** _____

The NPC/CLL thanks the following members for their Council service:

Class of 2023, C.J. Buche, Bob Lynch, Gayelle Sama, Donna Hayman

The NPC/CLL thanks the following members for their N&PC service:

Class of 2023 Pamela Love, Charles Dyer

The NPC/CLL thanks the following members for their SPRC service:

Class of 2023 Wendy Abong, Eric Schoch

The NPC/CLL thanks the following member for their Investment Trustee service: n/a

FINANCIALS

2022 Stewardship Campaign Report

Our lives are woven together in God and interwoven with each other. 2022 - Stewardship Theme

Our goal is for stewardship and generosity to be a year-round program - some of which you see and some of it is behind the scenes work.

In August of 2022, the congregation was invited to share stories of where God's "Grace Fills the Gap" in their lives and helped them "come through something." Pastor Mary Ka shared moments from our stories in worship, reminding us of the many ways God's grace blesses us and gets us through whatever we are facing.

This year our Finance Team designed a new electronic pledge card which we used in the fall pledge campaign. In October we emailed the Stewardship letter and the electronic pledge card to everyone with an email address and mailed printed copies to those who don't use email. The pledge card could be filled out online or printed; and returned by email, mail, or in the offering basket. This flexible approach seemed to work for most people.

The results of the campaign were:

Total Pledged for 2023:	\$247,069.85
Total Advance Pledge Payments:	\$61,267.85
Pledges Received:	41

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to have an impact on the number of people in worship and in how we were able to collect offerings. Fortunately, through the work of our Finance Team, the availability of online giving options, and the willingness of our congregation to adapt, the people of SJU continued to be regular, generous givers.

In December, we made personal phone calls to people who were behind on their pledges. Some of these were due to glitches with online giving. Others were due to changes in life circumstances. All these calls provided opportunities for connection for which we are grateful.

We ended 2022 receiving 98% of the money pledged.

Building Fund Investment Report

Royal Alliance

Beginning Market Value 1/1/2022	\$1, 241,313
Dividends, Interest, and Distributions	\$29,756
Fees	\$(5,581)
Withdrawals ¹	\$(3,567)
Net Change in Market Value	\$(220,701)
Ending Market Value 12/31/2022	\$1,041,220

¹ \$3567.39 transferred from Investment Income to Operating Fund in January 2022 to balance 2021 budget.

2021 Financial Review: St. John United Church

The financial review for 2021 was initiated but has not yet been completed.

The single noncompliant item noted in the 2020 review regarding inventory of church property has been corrected.

Recommendations from the 2020 Financial Review have been addressed as follows:

- Continue to move away from paperwork and make information and processes available online. Include appropriate financial functions and information in the updated website. Determine which documents must be physically retained and keep them in a secure place.
 - Improved the electronic signature process for vouchers to make it more accessible and posted it on the current website.

- Used Flash newsletter, in-worship announcements and personal conversations to encourage automatic and electronic giving.
 - Finance committee minutes, policies, and procedures are stored on a shared drive. Records for financial review are made available online to enable remote work.
 - Use the pending website update to make improvements to financial procedures, including the stewardship/pledge process.
 - Distributed our first electronic pledge card and other stewardship materials via email to members who use email. Approximately one-half of 2023 pledges were returned electronically.
 - Once the new website is launched, we will explore ways to further streamline financial processes, including pledging.
 - Make an inventory of church property for insurance purposes. Ensure there is 2-person access.
 - Completed inventory and disposed of obsolete equipment.
 - Had piano appraised and updated our insurance accordingly
 - There is 2-person access for all financial accounts, shared drive, and QuickBooks
 - Create a job description for Bookkeeper. Clarify the Financial Secretary's responsibilities.
 - Job descriptions are pending development in coordination with SPRC
 - Have someone review the monthly bills to make sure they are correct.
 - The Financial Secretary reviews the monthly bills and flags for Treasurer review any that are significantly different or not within guidelines.
 - The Financial Secretary is the only person with access to Church Windows. Another person should be given access.
 - The Clerk of Council has access to the Church Windows Membership module; the Chair of Finance has access to our QuickBooks account. Two-person access to the Church Windows Giving module still needs to be accomplished.
 - An outside party with expertise in finance should look at the SJU books periodically.
 - With a tight budget we have not included funds for a professional outside financial review. Instead, we will pursue partnering with another church to get an outside financial review (as is done with the Clerk's records).
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St. John United Church
Operating Fund Statement 2022
 January - December 2022

	Actuals	Budget	Variance over/(under)
Revenue			
Contributions - Pledgers	198,340.43	202,008.00	(3,667.57)
Contributions -Non-Pledgers	33,792.40	20,000.00	13,792.40
Contributions - New Pledgers This Year	60.00	3,000.00	(2,940.00)
Contributions - Anonymous	1,451.00	0.00	1,451.00
Advance Pledge Payment	65,980.00	65,980.00	0.00
Fundraisers/Special Collections/In Memory Of	36,424.35	20,000.00	16,424.35
Interest on Bank Accounts	54.52	0.00	54.52
Transfer from Investment Income ¹	5,657.25	0.00	5,657.25
Total Revenue	\$ 341,759.95	\$ 310,988.00	\$ 30,771.95
Expenditures			
Music Director Salary	17,361.11	17,361.00	0.11
Accompanist Salary	10,584.00	10,584.00	0.00
Church Administrator Salary	46,465.93	46,466.00	(0.07)
Employer's Share FICA	5,692.31	5,724.00	(31.69)
<i>Senior Pastor Compensation Package</i>			
Sr. Pastor Base Salary	37,176.49	37,033.00	143.49
Sr. Pastor Housing Allowance	39,293.04	39,293.00	0.04
Sr. Pastor Social Security Adj	5,811.11	5,811.00	0.11
Sr. Pastor Medical Coverage	10,320.00	10,320.00	0.00
Sr. Pastor D&D	2,446.08	2,464.00	(17.92)
Sr. Pastor Pension Benefits	10,758.84	10,777.00	(18.16)
Sr. Pastor Reimbursable Expenses	4,142.75	6,000.00	(1,857.25)
Total Senior Pastor	109,948.31	111,698.00	(1,749.69)
Total Employee Salaries and Expenses	\$ 190,051.66	\$ 191,833.00	\$ (1,781.34)
WLIFC Operating	50,325.42	47,764.56	2,560.86
WLIFC Capital Reserves	33,430.62	50,787.00	(17,356.38)
WLIFC Reimbursables	858.25	2,800.00	(1,941.75)
Total WLIFC	\$ 84,614.29	\$ 101,351.56	\$ (16,737.27)
Methodist Mission Share	19,032.00	19,032.00	0.00
Presbyterian Per Capita	2,745.36	2,745.36	0.00
Presbyterian Shared Min Pledge	3,255.84	3,255.84	0.00
Denominational Connectional Meetings	0.00	2,175.00	(2,175.00)
Anti-Racism & Denominational Initiatives	0.00	1,600.00	(1,600.00)
LGBTQ Support	400.00	400.00	0.00
Total Denominational Support	\$ 25,433.20	\$ 29,208.20	\$ (3,775.00)

	Actuals	Budget	Variance over/(under)
Office Expense	1,903.12	3,450.18	(1,547.06)
Telephone/Internet	2,405.56	2,220.00	185.56
Treasurer's Supplies	0.00	250.00	(250.00)
Church Communications	1,286.48	2,500.00	(1,213.52)
Workers Compensation and Insurance	2,395.22	2,086.41	308.81
Bank Fees & Unanticipated	2,057.82	2,250.00	(192.18)
Computer Expense	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)
Bookkeeping Service	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00
Legal Fees ¹	5,657.25	0.00	5,657.25
Total Administrative Expense	\$ 21,705.45	\$ 19,756.59	\$ 1,948.86
Vacation Bible School	583.17	1,000.00	(416.83)
Adult & Fam Progs (Faith Development)	0.00	240.00	(240.00)
IFC Library	0.00	250.00	(250.00)
Leadership Training (Misc Educational Expense)	0.00	500.00	(500.00)
Total Education Expense	\$ 583.17	\$ 1,990.00	\$ (1,406.83)
Worship Materials	172.68	800.00	(627.32)
Music Program	256.00	300.00	(44.00)
Honoraria	2,500.00	4,000.00	(1,500.00)
Funerals/Memorial Services	51.05	600.00	(548.95)
Total Worship Expense	\$ 2,979.73	\$ 5,700.00	\$ (2,720.27)
Congregational Care	317.78	300.00	17.78
Council Discretionary	160.00	2,000.00	(1,840.00)
Community-Building Events	0.00	750.00	(750.00)
Total Member Services	\$ 477.78	\$ 3,050.00	\$ (2,572.22)
Discretionary Mission	1,500.00	4,000.00	(2,500.00)
Pastor's Discretionary	535.00	2,000.00	(1,465.00)
PATH	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
Total Mission Expense	\$ 4,535.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$ (3,965.00)
Total Expenditures	\$ 330,380.28	\$ 361,389.35	\$ (31,009.07)
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 11,379.67	\$ (50,401.35)	\$ 61,781.02

Notes:

1 – Investment Income transferred to Operating Funds to cover building-related legal fees paid in 2022 as approved by Council.

St. John United Church, Inc.
Statement of Financial Position Comparison
As of December 31, 2022

	As of Dec 31, 2022	As of Dec 31, 2021 (Prior Year)
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
Howard Bank Checking – Operating Fund	76,168.27	54,512.31
Howard Bank Money Market	22,779.87	29,857.56
Petty Cash (cash)	104.00	104.00
Total Bank Accounts	99,052.14	84,473.87
Accounts Receivable		
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	0.00	3,000.00
Total Accounts Receivable	0.00	3,000.00
Other Current Assets		
Royal Alliance	1,035,562.78	1,241,313.34
Total Other Current Assets	1,035,562.78	1,241,313.34
Total Current Assets	1,134,614.92	1,328,787.21
TOTAL ASSETS	1,134,614.92	1,328,787.21
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
Accounts Payable (A/P)	2,486.02 ¹	6,019.45
Total Accounts Payable	2,486.02	6,019.45
Other Current Liabilities		
Comptroller of the Treasury	942.90	1,504.25
Dept. of Treasury/EFTPS	1,632.72	1,011.33
U.M. Board of Pension	1,500.00	1,500.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	4,075.62	4,015.58
Total Current Liabilities	6,561.64	10,035.03
Total Liabilities	6,561.64	10,035.03

Equity

Operating Fund Balance Carryover <i>Fund Balances - Escrow</i>	11,379.67	0.00
Capital Building Campaign Fund	1,035,562.78	1,237,745.95 ²
Advance Pledge Payments (deferred revenue)	61,267.85	0.00 ³
Suspense Fund Next Year <i>Mission Escrow</i>	8,648.52 ⁴	65,980.00 ³
ASP Fund	700.00	700.00
Christmas Offering	725.00	1,670.00
Osiligi/Hope Fund	164.95	425.00
One Great Hour Offering	0.00	75.00
Liberia-Aurora Foundation Fund	100.00	0.00
COVID-19 Relief Fund	223.69	505.80
Bryant Woods ES Fund	2,668.60	4,401.21
Bryant Woods ES Grant	4,105.50	4,105.50
SJU Scholarship Fund	893.72	1,643.72
Communications Grant	113.00	0.00
Legacy/Endowment Fund	1,500.00	1,500.00
<u>Total Fund Balances - Escrow</u>	1,116,673.61	1,318,752.18
<u>Total Equity</u>	1,128,053.28	1,318,752.18
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</u>	1,134,614.92	1,328,787.21

Notes:

- 1 - Includes \$1840.70 we were invoiced by WLIFC that we have not paid due to unresolved rent dispute.
- 2 - Reflects \$3567.39 transferred to Operating Income to balance the budget.
- 3 - In 2021 advance pledges were recorded in "Suspense Fund Next Year"
- 4 - Rebate of WLIFC rent.

St. John United Church, Inc.
2023 Budget and Comparison to 2022

For Comparison

	FY23 Budget	FY22 Budget	FY22 Actuals
Revenue			
Contributions - Pledgers	185,802.00	267,988.00	198,340.43
Contributions -Non-Pledgers	25,000.00	20,000.00	33,792.40
Contributions - New Pledgers This Year	3,000.00	3,000.00	60.00
Contributions - Anonymous	0.00	0.00	1,451.00
Advance Pledge Payments	61,267.85	0.00	65,980.00
Carryover from Prior Year (Operating Reserve)	11,379.67	0.00	0.00
Fundraisers/Special Collections/In Memory Of	10,000.00	20,000.00	36,424.35 ¹
Interest on Bank Accounts	0.00	0.00	54.52
Transfer from Investment Income	0.00	0.00	5,657.25
Total Revenue	\$ 296,449.52	\$ 310,988.00	\$ 341,759.95
Expenditures			
Music Director Salary	17,795.00	17,361.00	17,361.11
Accompanist Salary	10,849.00	10,584.00	10,584.00
Church Administrator Salary	47,163.00	46,466.00	46,465.93
Employer's Share FICA	5,838.00	5,724.00	5,692.31
<i>Senior Pastor Compensation Package</i>			
Sr. Pastor Base Salary	24,800.00	37,033.00	37,176.49
Sr. Pastor Housing Allowance	53,860.00	39,293.00	39,293.04
Sr. Pastor Social Security Adj	3,894.00	5,811.00	5,811.11
Sr. Pastor Medical Coverage	10,680.00	10,320.00	10,320.00
Sr. Pastor D&D	2,477.00	2,464.00	2,446.08
Sr. Pastor Pension Benefits	11,558.00	10,777.00	10,758.84
Sr. Pastor Reimbursable Expenses	6,100.00	6,000.00	4,142.75
Total Senior Pastor	\$ 113,369.00	\$ 111,698.00	\$ 109,948.31
Total Employee Salaries and Expenses	\$ 195,014.00	\$ 191,833.00	\$ 190,051.66
WLIFC Operating	50,556.12 ²	47,764.56	50,325.42
WLIFC Capital Reserves	24,111.36	50,787.00	33,430.62
WLIFC Reimbursables	2,800.00	2,800.00	858.25
Total WLIFC	\$ 77,467.48	\$ 101,351.56	\$ 84,614.29
Methodist Mission Share	18,345.00	19,032.00	19,032.00
Presbyterian Per Capita	2,840.00	2,745.36	2,745.36
Presbyterian Shared Min Pledge	3,320.96	3,255.84	3,255.84
Denominational Connectional Meetings	2,180.00	2,175.00	0.00
Anti-Racism & Denominational Initiatives	1,600.00	1,600.00	0.00
LGBTQ Support	400.00	400.00	400.00
Total Denominational Support	\$ 28,685.96	\$ 29,208.20	\$ 25,433.20

	FY23 Budget	FY22 Budget	FY22 Actuals
Office Expense	2,800.00	3,450.18	1,903.12
Telephone/Internet	2,200.00	2,220.00	2,405.56
Treasurer's Supplies	250.00	250.00	0.00
Church Communications	6,000.00	2,500.00	1,286.48
Workers Compensation and Insurance	2,580.00	2,086.41	2,395.22
Bank Fees & Unanticipated	2,000.00	2,250.00	2,057.82
Computer Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Bookkeeping Service	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Legal Fees	8,000.00	0.00	5,657.25
Total Administrative Expense	\$ 30,830.00	\$ 19,756.59	\$ 21,705.45
Vacation Bible School	1,000.00	1,000.00	583.17
Adult & Fam Progs (Faith Development)	240.00	240.00	0.00
IFC Library	250.00	250.00	0.00
Leadership Training (Misc Educational Expense)	500.00	500.00	0.00
Total Education Expense	\$ 1,990.00	\$ 1,990.00	\$ 583.17
Worship Materials	500.00	800.00	172.68
Music Program	556.00	300.00	256.00
Honararia	2,500.00	4,000.00	2,500.00
Funerals/Memorial Services	300.00	600.00	51.05
Fellowship	520.00		0.00
Total Worship Expense	\$ 4,376.00	\$ 5,700.00	\$ 2,979.73
Congregational Care	300.00	300.00	317.78
Council Discretionary	2,000.00	2,000.00	160.00
Community-Building Events	750.00	750.00	0.00
Total Member Services	\$ 3,050.00	\$ 3,050.00	\$ 477.78
Discretionary Mission	1,500.00	4,000.00	1,500.00
Pastor's Discretionary	2,000.00	2,000.00	535.00
PATH	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Total Mission Expense	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 4,535.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 347,413.44	\$ 361,389.35	\$ 330,380.28
Net Operating Revenue	\$ (50,963.92)	\$ (50,401.35)	\$ 11,379.67

Notes:

- 1 – Includes Employee Retention Tax Credit of \$26,324.35
- 2 – 2022 rent rebate will be applied to 2023 rent

----- *End of Report* -----