



2018 Annual Report



COUNTRYSIDE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Contents

Moderator.....	1
Vice Moderator / Chair of Personnel Committee	2
Senior Minister	3
Associate Minister.....	5
Director of Administration and Communication	6
Director of Life Ministries.....	7
Pastoral Care Coordinator.....	7
Kindernook Preschool	8
Director of Children’s Ministries	8
Director of Youth Ministries	9
Director of Center for Faith Studies	9
Artistic Director	10
Board of Arts and Music (BAM).....	11
Board of Christian Education (BOCE).....	12
Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO)	13
2018 Summary – Church-Wide Volunteer Ministry.....	15
Board of Deacons (BOD)	18
Board of Life Ministry (BOLM)	19
Board of Pastoral Care (BOPC).....	21
Board of Trustees (BOT)	22
Board of Youth (BOY).....	23
Tri-Faith Initiative	24
Countryside Relocation Committee	26
Historian’s Report – 2018 Activity Summary	28
Nominating Committee Report.....	30
Conference Delegate Report	33
Foundation Report.....	34
Clerk’s Report.....	35
Stewardship Report.....	36
Financial Reporting.....	37
Treasurer’s Financial Report – December 31, 2018.....	37
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2018.....	39
2019 Budget Summary	41
Budget Narrative	43
2019 Countryside Relocation Budget.....	44

Moderator

Kris Hess

Love Wins

I love all that this Church stands for, the values it so boldly proclaims. Love wins. Everyone at Countryside - the ministers, staff, and congregational members – role model this. Thank you for what can seem, at times, the harder path to walk! There seems no greater example of walking the harder path than our decision and subsequent actions to move to the Tri-Faith Commons. I am saddened by the congregational members we lost because of that decision, but at the same time, heartened by all the new members to Countryside who are drawn to us because of our bold walk on to the Tri-Faith Commons. Welcome new members! Please do not hesitate to get involved! We are excited to have you as part of our congregation!

Driven by our love of neighbor, we are steps away from moving into our new Church on the Tri-Faith Commons. We thank the Countryside Relocation Committee (CRC) for their countless hours and tireless efforts to fundraise, design, and build a phenomenal Church to meet our needs both now and in the future. Further, this past year, Countryside initiated its own Tri-Faith Committee to strengthen existing relationships and build new ones with our Tri-Faith partners. To help utilize our time, talent, and resources as efficiently as possible, Countryside also developed its strategic priorities this past year, and these priorities focused on the following three questions:

- 1) How are we engaging the congregation and staff to meet our Church mission?
- 2) How are we improving our financial and membership sustainability?
- 3) How are we maximizing the Tri-Faith opportunity?

Each month, Church Council had these priorities on the agenda, and each of the Church Boards were encouraged to take these priorities back to their Boards to help guide the work they do. I can assure you that each month we were able to find examples that exemplified these priorities.

Last, driven by our love of one another, Countryside extended a Call to Will Howell, this past fall, to serve as our Minister of Youth and Families at Countryside. Will has done a tremendous job working with our youth and families, affirmed by the vote in favor of Will serving as our Minister of Youth and Families! We are truly blessed to have Eric, Chris, and Will serve as our ministers. Thank you, to each and every one of you, for all you do at Countryside. No doubt in my mind, Love wins.

2018 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Per the By-Laws, Countryside's ordained ministers are non-voting, *ex officio* Church Council members.

OFFICERS	BOARD CHAIRS		AT-LARGE REPS
Moderator Kris Hess	Deacons Jodie Nichols	Arts & Music Trish Hoffman-Ahrens	Mary Johnston
Vice Moderator Mary Windle	Pastoral Care Amy Worth	Christian Education Tom Reilly	Pam Kregg
Vice Moderator Elect Russ Schertz	Trustees Tracey Halvorson	Christian Outreach (co-chairs) Becky Knightly/Robin Stark	
Clerk Bonnie Buckland	Youth Jen King	Life Ministries – (co-chairs) Tina Kucera/Deb Hickman	
Treasurer Phil Johnson			

Vice Moderator / Chair of Personnel Committee

Mary Windle

A number of personnel changes occurred during 2018. Because of out-of-town work demands, Steve Hess was unable to continue running the audiovisual (AV) system on Sunday mornings owing to travel demands for work and needed to resign. Fayth Boer was hired in June as an AV technician. Fayth attends UNO and is working toward her music technology degree. She and Rob Cunningham alternate responsibilities for the sound booth and slides on Sundays. In the nursery, Bayleigh Weibel resigned in the fall of 2018. Ingrid Howell was hired to join Rachel Tobin to fully staff the nursery starting in January 2019.

A change of position for Will Howell took place after he obtained his Masters of Divinity degree in the spring and passed his ecclesiastical review in the fall. He requested a call by the congregation to become our third minister. The ministerial call was unanimously supported by the ministers, personnel committee, Board of Trustees, and the Council during a review process over the summer. A congregational meeting was held on September 30 and the vote confirmed the call for Reverend Will Howell to be Countryside's Minister of Youth and Families.

Dr. Amy Luckenbill resigned her position as Director of Music and Arts Ministry, effective November 12, 2018. Alex Ritter was asked to be the Interim Artistic Director. Bruce Blanchard and Tyler Gruttemeyer offered to direct the adult choirs through the holidays and Bruce Blanchard will continue until an interim adult choral conductor has been named. Trish Hoffman-Ahrens, Chair of the Board of Arts and Music (BAM), is coordinating a focus group to help discern how to move forward and reorganize and prioritize the various responsibilities that are essential for arts and music at Countryside. The Arts Affirmation program moved to Wednesday nights in order to more fully integrate education and arts and will be directed by Rev. Howell, with input and inspiration from BAM and parent volunteers. The position for Interim Adult Choral Conductor was posted in December, 2018. As of mid-January 2019, the search committee has received applications from several candidates and will commence with interviews while continuing to receive applications through the end of January 2019.

The contractor/freelancer policy was reviewed and has been implemented.

Additionally, the personnel committee, in conjunction with the Board of Trustees, approved a pass-through of monthly funds to temporarily facilitate payment of salary, health insurance, and 401K for Rev. Bud Heckman, the new Executive Director of the Tri-Faith Initiative in March. The pass-through payments were necessary given that the Tri-Faith Initiative at the time had only a single employee – Rev. Heckman – and therefore, the need to establish good business practices was requested. The pass-through funds were terminated in within 6 months and now the Tri-Faith board oversees invoicing from an accounting service for Rev. Heckman's payroll and benefits.

2018 Personnel Committee

Mary Windle (Chair)	Vice Moderator
Kris Hess	Moderator
Russ Schertz	Vice Moderator Elect
Rev. Eric Elnes	Senior Pastor
Rev. Chris Alexander	Associate Pastor
Tracey Halvorson	Chair, Board of Trustees
Phil Johnson	Treasurer
Dan Loven-Crum	Director of Administration and Communication

Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes

This Christmas was bittersweet for many of us who have loved our present church facility and neighborhood for many years, knowing that this would be our last Christmas here. A few tears were shed on Christmas Eve. I shed some myself. Yet despite this very real, visceral sense of loss, I noticed as I shared hugs with a number of the misty-eyed, this was not the only thing people were feeling. There was an equally real, visceral sense of anticipation – like we are taking a step forward in faith that is meaningful to us, to our community, to our world, and even to God.

This feeling of stepping forward toward a horizon that is both *beyond* us yet *within* us is given powerful voice in a poem that one of my favorite poets, David Whyte, published in his recent book, *The Bell and the Bird*, called “Just Beyond Yourself”:

*Just beyond
yourself.*

*It's where
you need
to be.*

*Half a step
into
self-forgetting
and the rest
restored
by what
you'll meet.*

*There is a road
always beckoning.*

*When you see
the two sides
of it
closing together
at that far horizon
and deep in
the foundations
of your own
heart
at exactly
the same
time,
that's how
you know
it's the road
you
have
to follow.*

*That's how
you know
it's where
you
have
to go.*

*That's how
you know
you have
to go.*

*That's
how you know.*

*Just beyond
yourself,
it's
where you
need to be.*

As we take a step “just beyond ourselves” to our new home on the Tri-Faith Commons, I think together we are adding a few of our own lines to David Whyte’s poem that go something like this:

*We step beyond ourselves
and into our calling
together.*

*Together
as one congregation
holding hands and hearts
as we step forward.*

*Together
with two kindred congregations
who walk alongside us
even as they pray
for us.*

*Together
with one God
Whom we love
and serve.*

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes

Associate Minister

Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander

I have been speaking a lot lately about living abundantly and stepping into those things that bring us joy in our lives. It is my experience that this is what God is calling us all to be about in our everyday living. Living abundantly within our joy does not mean, however, that we have no struggle or pain involved within the situations we face. It does mean that, as we face these struggles and pain, we recognize the love that also surrounds us and carries us through the hard times.

In my calling at Countryside, I constantly explore new ways of sharing this important message to a world which is so entrenched in the struggle of living, and taking sides on issues, that it often overlooks the joys and the love that surround them. Beyond being present for people on Sunday mornings, I am in many conversations whose focus is providing safe places for people to come together and talk to one another about their spirituality, their politics, their vocations, their societal responsibilities, and the gifts they bring to the greater good.

Often these conversations are not places of certainty, but rather open arenas for discussion and discovery. For many it is a place to say things out loud for the first time. For others, it is a chance to throw out an idea and see where the energy gathers around it. For still others, it is a place to come and hear something they haven't heard before or understand things from a different perspective than they could have imagined on their own. Learning new things about oneself, about the various worlds around you, or about your neighbor, allows for an expansion of who you are and an opportunity for you to shift your steps, just that much, to live into this life in a new way.

The ministry opportunities we offer at Countryside have all of this as their aim. We are constantly attempting to deepen our relationships with one another and with God in order that we are better able to listen to each other and learn from one another. Our staff is exploring new ways to listen to themselves and to others in ways that also include listening for God's voice in our conversations together. We are exploring ways to expand our methods of conversation and are inviting more and more of our wider community to join us so that we might practice having conversations with those who do not use the same language we do or have the same historical traditions that inform our perspectives. In this way, we are seeking to hear all of God's creation and participate with them as part of our abundant living.

Through worship, classes, discussion groups, picnics, book clubs, lunches, lectures, committees, advocacy, artistic expressions, cooking, gardening, family activities, the gathering of our children, and more, we are stepping in to places that allow love to surround us and bring us to places of healing, wholeness, discovery, and comfort. This is the abundant life promised to us in creation and through the participation with our Creator in the unfolding of life.

I am truly looking forward to continuing these opportunities based out of our new facility at the Tri-Faith Initiative Commons. We will have even more spaces for conversation available to us in our new building, as well as expanding our meeting spaces three-fold through being in closer proximity to our faith partners at Temple Israel and the American Muslim Institute. We can meet together in any of our three buildings as well as having the wonderfully landscaped outdoor spaces between us to gather and celebrate being intentional neighbors with one another.

Always growing and expanding what we know, what we believe, and the great joy we experience in being together, will be the focus of this next year as we step out in a new way looking for the direction God is calling us to abundance.

May peace and joy, love and laughter, fill our days together.

Chris

Director of Administration and Communication

Dan Loven-Crum

One of the things I enjoy about my job is working with the amazing staff, church leaders and church volunteers who help with the administration and communications of the church. I am grateful to work with an amazing team every week. They work behind the scenes and many in the church do not have much opportunity to interact with these individuals. Debbie Vihstadt is our Communication Assistant and is responsible for the graphics, posters, newsletters and website updates. Kris Hill and Steve Gomez job-share the Monday-Friday Front Office Administrative Assistant position and do an excellent job keeping the office running efficiently. Without them, we would not have the weekly emails, Sunday bulletins, and church calendar. Robyn Hubbard is the Executive Administrative Assistant, supporting the ministerial staff, managing the new member process and helping with the day-to-day operations in the Front Office. Courtney Holiday is the Center for Faith Studies Administrative Assistant who works with Chris Alexander. Courtney has also been the primary administrator for Countryside's new database, Touchpoint.

In addition to the Front Office staff, Shari Garder is Countryside's financial secretary in our Financial Office. Shari pays the bills, manages the monthly accounting, records the contributions and processes the payroll. Brian Palmer is the church's building property coordinator who mows during the summer, sets up rooms for special events, manages our custodial contract, coordinates with the vendors, and secures the building each day. On Sundays Ben Semisch, Fayth Boer, and Robert Cunningham are responsible for the audio and visual needs for the worship services.

In addition to the paid staff supporting Countryside, we have a regular group of office volunteers who make our days less hectic. Thank you to France Blanchard, Bonnie Buckland, Amy Kampfe, and Pam Kregg.

I watch this team regularly use their energy, skills and compassion to respond to the needs of congregation members, visitors to the church, and individuals in the Omaha community, allowing Countryside to fulfill its mission. This makes my role as church administrator worthwhile.

Director of Life Ministries

Mary Beth Link

Countryside's Board of Life Ministry has found its niche! This year offered hard discussions, opened up new possibilities for past, current and future members and fashioned a softer, more inclusive culture within our church family. They helped to open the door to creating more collaborative events within the church, offered a variety of options for social interaction and organized/created new events (that I hope will become yearly events) for our congregation to anticipate with excitement and commitment.

As I ponder how BOLM represents community at Countryside Church, there are many events I could speak to. However, it is the Community Cupboard Food Pantry that stands out as a milestone showing our board's commitment to creating "community". The Community Cupboard is open to families in the greater Omaha area on the first Saturday of each month from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. approximately. During that time, food is distributed to those in need, but more importantly, a sense of safety, kindness, compassion, warmth and interest is created.

At our December pantry, we experienced the creation of a true community. Through volunteers feeding our patrons a chili/cornbread meal, our church members and pantry children creating heirloom crafts and our pantry volunteers providing friendship and assistance to the adult patrons as they "shopped" for their meal, the Spirit was tangible, laughing, hugging and caring for each one of us. These volunteers come together, total strangers (at first), with the only purpose of feeding those in need. They learn from one another, they become involved in each other's lives and open their hearts to those needing food, a listening ear, a hug or a Kleenex to dry their tears. As these volunteers "feed" others, they themselves are being "fed" by a living, breathing God.

Pastoral Care Coordinator

Jan Brown

My word for 2018 represents the communal pastoral care efforts of the whole congregation. That word is "**trust.**"

- I trust you to **care**. It takes all of us to love one another, to tenderly notice personal needs, or to share concerns such as who has been admitted to the hospital and may need a visit or a prayer.
- I trust your **cooperation** with one another. It has always taken teamwork to fulfill many of the relationship-based duties inherent within Stephen Ministry, Agape, baby blanket deliveries, seasonal caring cards, the Days of Our Lives Project, and the Messengers visitation team.
- I trust you to **live the Word** and to take Jesus's words seriously: "Love one another as I have loved you."

Thank you for allowing me to help you, to hold you, to pray with you, and to be a part of some of life's most difficult but also most joyful moments. I'd like to share a story about trust:

A man who had been quite active was a busy volunteer through the work of pastoral care. However, he tended to stew that he wasn't doing it quite right. Then, as his own life changed and he grew more ill, grace seemed to take the wheel. This man reached out to ask for the gifts of increased presence and friendship and trusted the process of being the recipient of love. When I asked him what he'd learned throughout his recent illness, he said this: "I didn't know how hard it would be to say goodbye. And I don't know the details about where I'm going after this, but I trust that provisions have been made for me."

Kindernook Preschool

Stacey Carnazzo, Director

2018 was a year of **celebration**. It was a year in which we honored our rich history with many final celebrations taking place throughout the year. At each event and throughout each season, we took time to reside in the moment, recognizing the significance that it would be the final event at Kindernook in the current building, and to be thankful for the 65 years of learning and community building that has taken place within this space.

We ended our 2018 school year with our annual Holiday Program where 80 children sang songs in the sanctuary to a packed house. Many of the parents and grandparents that made up the audience were past Kindernook preschoolers themselves, drawn back to the community that first invited them to learn through play when they were children. When addressing the crowd, I did so through tears recognizing that 2018 would hold those final event moments. Through those tears I recognized that our time at Kindernook is truly a celebration. A celebration of the many children who have played and learned in the classrooms. A celebration of the families who have enriched the program. A celebration of the teachers who dedicate themselves to providing learning spaces that are filled with wonder, excitement and warmth. And a celebration of the legacy that Kindernook leaves this community while anticipating the promise of the future in the new space.

We enter into 2019 with many more final celebrations to be had in the coming months. As we end our current school year in May, we look forward to the promise the future in our new location holds for Kindernook.

Director of Children's Ministries

Rebecca Morello

In 2018, we offered our young Countryside students opportunities to learn and cultivate peacemaking skills.

Through stories, our Vacation Bible School volunteers created opportunities for our students to learn, consider, and practice peacemaking. Each morning, the students would select a scenario and discuss, in their grade level groups, the variety of approaches one might take to de-escalate and resolve conflict in situations they might find themselves. They brainstormed equitable plans to share a device charger between several siblings on a road trip, considered how to safely intervene for a friend in a tight spot at school or in a sports match, and steps they might take to create space to care for and resolve their own internal conflicts.

In addition, our Core 56 students approached peacemaking through a path of personal connectedness to the Spirit in cultivating and exercising a variety of prayer practices as well as experiencing time spent in community on Wednesday nights. The students identified issues that trouble them at church, at home, and at school. In the "brave space" they have created for themselves in the structure of Wednesday nights, they bring these issues to the group and discuss them with each other.

Our Nursery Ministry has also encouraged even our youngest members to cultivate peace as they share time in the nursery. The interventions employed by our Nursery staff allow our youngest friends an opportunity to live into peacemaking in their developing understanding of the world.

Director of Youth Ministries

Will Howell

One of my favorite experiences this year was the COYO Jr High hiking trip. It is always interesting to bring several 13-year-old students into the woods and hiking at around 12,000 feet in the beautiful Lost Creek Wilderness of Pike National Forest in Colorado. This year, on the first day, which is also the easiest day of the hike, I had never heard more complaining in my 15 years of doing this trip! This complaining worried me that we might have to come up with a plan B and choose a different route for our 4-day hike. There was a growing dread from the students with every step, especially the steps that were uphill. After the first night camping near the trail, I was listening for the morale of the group and again it was not optimistic. The second day we got to one of the most fun campsites in the Lost Creek Wilderness where the Lost Creek travels through a giant cave. The students played in the beauty of God's creation, in the cave, exploring the massive boulders, and just having fun being together, but they still wanted to turn around and head out the way we came. The next morning, I announced that we were going to continue on as planned, waiting for a mutiny to unfold. But what happened was amazing. The students rallied together, helped each other carry their loads, and conquered the remainder of the hike. The students all became great friends and rallied together unlike I have ever seen, possibly due to a common enemy. They took delight in the creation as they experienced the magnificent Rocky Mountains, drank ice cold water from the streams, and had two huge bull moose walk right through the campsite on the ridge of McCurdy Park. When students reflected on the trip the next week, the overwhelming theme that they expressed was being in awe of the beauty of God's creation. And I was in awe of the beauty of God's creation expressed in the lives and relationships of the students.

Director of Center for Faith Studies

Rev. Dr. Chris Alexander

The importance of the Center for Faith Studies at Countryside is to gather people together and begin a conversation. Really, it can be about anything, and it often is! This year our conversations tended to circle around listening to populations of people who are often overlooked or whose stories seldom make the top stories on the news. Our 2018-19 Lecture Series called "Seeds of Acceptance: Conversations on Diversity and Inclusion" includes many voices from Women, Millennials, Black Lives Matter, Stories from Japanese Internment Camp, Native Americans and the Mystic tradition within Islam. These voices sparked much conversation within our small groups and in book discussions within our adult education groups. We sponsored a couple of special opportunities to speak to how we hold difficult conversations with one another, without beating up on each other.

These opportunities to come together and listen to one another open us up to learning about one another and what is important in bringing each of us joy in our lives. This is the point for me. I whole-heartedly believe that this is what God wants for each of us: a chance to live abundantly and in our joy. In John 15:11, Jesus tells us *"I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete."* Being heard, and hearing others, is part of this abundant living that completes our joy, and I am very happy to provide these safe places for people to be heard. Countryside has a terrific reputation for providing these spaces for people and Center for Faith Studies is always looking for ways to expand these opportunities and our topics of conversation. I look forward to having a new facility this next year which allows for even more small group space for engagement with one another in meaningful ways.

Artistic Director

Alex Ritter

At Countryside, we are fortunate to have an exceptional cohort of music staff and volunteers. Transitions are never easy, but the talent and dedication of these individuals have helped us navigate bumps in the road without missing a beat. The Board of Arts and Music (BAM) provides excellent leadership and vision for our programming, and members have stepped up to ensure that nothing slips through the cracks.

I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Bruce Blanchard and Tyler Gruttemeyer in particular for their enormous contributions of time and talent to the choir program in the midst of a transition during Advent and Christmas, which happens to be a busy time for music ministry! Their steadfast leadership and commitment have kept up the momentum in the choir program, which allows the choirs to continue to grow and develop.

As we endeavor to cultivate a multi-generational arts ministry - both inside and outside of worship - 2019 will be an exciting year. We have a lot to look forward to, from the conclusion of our searches for an adult choir conductor and assistant youth choir director to the initiation of an artist-in-residence program and the expansion of the breadth of our arts programming as we look to become a cultural hub of west Omaha. We also have some new instruments to look forward to, thanks to the incredible generosity and vision of Roy and Gloria Dinsdale - a new piano and a new pipe organ, the latter of which should see construction on site start at the very end of 2019.

In other words, it is a great time to be involved in arts and music at Countryside. All of our programming is welcoming and open to all. We'd love for you to join us.

Board of Arts and Music (BAM)

Trisha Hoffman Ahrens, Chair

The Board of Art and Music (BAM) at Countryside Community Church is dedicated to facilitating Phoenix Affirmation #4, “*Expressing our love in worship that is as sincere, vibrant, and artful as it is scriptural.*” In alignment with Countryside’s strategic priorities, the board’s objective is to create artistic programming that attracts new members, retains current members, and grows the interest and engagement levels of congregants and guests throughout their lifetime.

This past year was both *business as usual* with our beloved music and arts programming and *business as unusual* with the surprise commission of a new pipe organ and the resignation of our Director of Music and Arts Ministry. It was an eventful and an event-filled year!

The most significant happening was the unexpected and generous gift from Roy and Gloria Dinsdale for a new pipe organ – an organ that will complement the aesthetic beauty of our new building on the Tri-Faith Commons and be musically exquisite, capable of performing a broad spectrum of literature to represent the totality of Christian tradition and liturgy.

After traveling 1,800 miles by car (even more by plane), listening to 16 unique instruments, and vetting nine builders over six weeks, the Organ Committee (Rick MacInnes, Diane Hill, Bruce Blanchard, Trish Hoffman-Ahrens, Alex Ritter and Amy Luckenbill), with approval from the Relocation Committee, selected the John-Paul Buzzard Pipe Organ Company to build the new instrument. Installation will be complete by February 2020. Thanks to the Dinsdales’ generosity and the diligence and dedication of the Organ Committee, Countryside will have one of the best instruments in the region.

In October, Amy Luckenbill resigned from her position as Director of Music and Arts Ministry effective November 13, 2018. BAM, in conjunction with the Personnel Committee, developed a staffing plan that ensured programming continued during the holidays without missing a beat. They also determined that a discernment period is necessary to evaluate and develop a new staffing structure, one that focuses on employee retention, program development across all artistic disciplines, and multigenerational engagement. Updates will occur as necessary.

BAM sponsored the following special events and practices in 2018: Bobby Jo Valentine; the Faith Singers Tour and their Variety Show; an Instrument Petting Zoo to introduce kids’ instruments; and the Beard-Wolff Duo featuring American flutist Christine Beard and Brazilian guitarist Daniel Wolff.

These special events and our ongoing arts and music ministry would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of the Board members. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank every member of BAM who has served over the past years, with special thanks to those who have gone above and beyond, volunteering their talent and time to ensure our worship and faith experiences are as artistic as they are spiritual. I deeply appreciate your love and passion for the arts and for our wonderful faith community.

2018 BOARD OF ARTS AND MUSIC

Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
Tom Campbell	Michelle Beck	Barb Farho
Jackson Farho- Youth	Roxanne Draper	Chris Gilmore
Trisha Hoffman-Ahrens	Ed Huddell	Ann Huxtable-Scates
Bill/Barbara O’Dell	Jessica Johnson	Jeri Lundblad
Emily Wadhams	Trisha Newell	
David Worth	Christy Palmer	

Board of Christian Education (BOCE)

Tom Reilly, Chair

2018 was an exciting year for the Board of Christian Education (BOCE). Countryside's Adult Education offerings have continued to offer a variety of programming. Imam Jamal Daoudi and Rabbi Aryeh Azriel have continued to offer education opportunities to deepen our knowledge of Islam and Judaism respectively as we prepare for our presence on the Tri-Faith Commons. The Center for Faith Studies has provided many different speakers and educational opportunities throughout the year as well.

Small group ministry continues to be a strength for Countryside as we have 17 different groups that meet over the course of the week that discuss a wide variety of topics. Other adult education opportunities include Social Justice Groups such as Faith and the Environment and the Racial Justice Book Club as well as Adult Education Groups including: Books Bible and Beyond; Brown Bag Adult Forum; and the Sunday Adult Forum.

Other educational opportunities and classes throughout the year included: Great Decisions taught by Jim Bachman; Conversations with Others taught by David Leslie; Inquiry Journey Groups with Allison Evans; Inner Matrix Group; a summer Bible Study; and an all church read of Jonathan Haidt's *The Righteous Mind*.

Countryside had a well-attended confirmation program this past year and 28 youth completed the program and became members of the church. BOCE was excited to be able to host the confirmands and their families with a cake reception following the confirmation service.

Countryside's Children's Education program continues to offer new and exciting things for Countryside's children. The Core 56 class studied prayer practices, had guest speakers who helped us learn about being an ally to marginalized people, and practiced participating in community and holding space for each other's voices, stories, and experiences. Various mindfulness activities such as meditative prayer sits have been introduced into Children's Church, and Sunday school curriculum has been expanded to include more scripture stories as well as lessons about the Jewish and Muslim faiths. Vacation Bible School was held in July and focused on helping children develop and practice peacemaking skills and conflict resolution.

The Board of Christian Education has supported each of Countryside's educational programs and helped to sponsor recognition events for Children's Education volunteers as well as Countryside's Nursery Staff.

2018 BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
Jenna Gabriel Gallagher	Ashley Bender	Jennifer Beer
Jodi Klein	Peggy Bonacci	Jon Noble
Amanda Underwood	Mary Dostal	Ashley Rainbolt
	Johann Johnson	Andy/MaryLinn Smith
	Tom Reilly	
	Rita Troutd	

Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO)

Becky Knightly | Robin Stark, co-chairs

The mission of Countryside's Board of Christian Outreach is to guide service and funding towards projects and programs meeting human need in ways that align with Christ's example.

Major Events/Achievements in 2018 Program Year:

BOCO has continued to focus on inclusiveness for its programming. The statement that has helped to guide BOCO decision-making is this:

There are many current challenges to being a truly inclusive community. BOCO's goal is to find and support ways, both monetary and in action, to advance inclusiveness in our church, local and global community.

With that mission in mind, BOCO stepped up to support many needs in 2018.

O'Neill, Nebraska

Many families in O'Neill were impacted by immigration raids. Discretionary money was designated towards the Legal Fund that is assisting these families and also toward the purchase of a freezer for their food pantry. BOCO continues to keep the needs of the O'Neill families in the minds of Countryside members by continuing to publicize the need for material donations for these families via the C-10.

Convergence Network

Additionally, BOCO designated \$5,000 to support the Convergence Network. Cameron Trimble visited Countryside Church earlier this year to update the Boards on the mission and accomplishments of the Convergence Network. BOCO is the only Board that designated monies to this movement.

BOCO's Focus

BOCO coordinates the promotion of a special offering at Easter and Christmas; the monthly collection of material goods through the year for those in need which is known as "The Box"; the awarding of monetary seed money to congregational special projects through Small Service Group grants (SSG); \$4,000 of discretionary monetary awards to worthy programs; \$45,000 of support to our Church's Wider Mission; and \$2 per member to support the Living Waters Association. In addition, BOCO supports the activities of FATE (Faith and the Environment) and Social Justice League by providing monetary support as needed for activities.

Special Offerings

Our **Easter** Special offering was directed to Table Grace Cafe. The congregation came together to raise \$12,383.70 to support this ministry.

Our **Christmas** offering supported La Clinica Chavalitos . As of December 31, the amount raised was \$14,612.86.

The Box

The following organizations were served with our monthly collection of material goods in 2018: OneWorld; Together Inc.; Countryside's Community Cupboard Food Pantry; Remember/Pine Ridge; The Stephen Center; Indian Hills Elementary; O'Neill families; Child Saving Institute; Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Small Service Group grants

The following projects were awarded monetary support this past year: Community Cupboard (children's books and Spanish bibles), Kairos Prison Ministry, Partnership 4 Kids and COYO Pine Ridge Christmas Gifts.

Discretionary Awards

Discretionary money was used to fund the Kickstarter Program for Deanne Naker's book, and a Countryside ad in the playbill for the River City Mixed Chorus.

In addition, FATE was provided funding for a table at the Earth Day celebration and a Countryside table at PrideFest.

Communications Committee

The communications committee provided information in each newsletter and C-10 reflecting BOCO programming and updates regarding the BOX. Pictures of the BOX collections and delivery of items are now being taken and shared via Countryside's social media outlets.

Going Forward

The Board of Christian Outreach will continue to enhance our outreach programming and strengthen the relationship and involvement through FATE and the Social Justice Ministry. We are excited for the expanded outreach opportunities that Countryside's move to the Tri-Faith campus will present. In addition, BOCO continues to explore an Adult Service trip whether it be local, national, or international work. In addition, BOCO will continue to support PrideFest and the annual Paint-a-thon. We look forward to welcoming our new Board members.

2018 BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
Jennifer Baker	Monnie Lindsay	Peggy Dunn
Mary Jo Barbush-Weiss	Sarah Miller	Sharon Royers
Becky Knightly	Kris Olberding	Don Sarton
Beth Sparks	Robin Stark	
Karen Staskiewicz	Jeremy Wadhams	

2018 Summary – Church-Wide Volunteer Ministry

<i>Adults</i>	<i>Youth</i>	YOUTH MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS
2		Confirmation teachers
6		COYO Junior High youth group leaders
7		COYO Senior High youth group volunteers
5		COYO Senior High winter retreat leaders
	5	COYO Junior High Advent workshop
3		COYO Junior High wilderness trip leaders
4	10	COYO Senior High mission trip leaders
7	30	Shopping for Pine Ridge
39	27	Garage sale volunteers
73	72	← Totals
<i>Adults</i>	<i>Youth</i>	MUSIC & ARTS MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS
24		Chancel Choir
29		Spirit of Grace
	25	Faith Singers
	12	Confirmation Choir
5	29	Arts Affirmation program
1		Choir library assistant
59	66	← Totals
<i>Adults</i>	<i>Youth</i>	ADULT EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS
5		Adult education
12		Center for Faith Studies (CFS) volunteers
12		CFS Advisory Board
10		Journey group leaders
39	0	← Totals
<i>Adults</i>	<i>Youth</i>	CHILDREN'S EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS
6	1	Sunday School teachers
2		Curriculum Planning team
2	2	Children's Moment presenters
2		Children's Church
7	7	Vacation Bible School
2		Core 56
7		Holy Moly (WNA)
28	10	← Totals

Church-Wide Volunteer Ministry 2018 (cont.)

CCC members	Non-CCC volunteers	FAMILY LIFE VOLUNTEERS
218	320	Community Cupboard food pantry volunteers
2		Community Cupboard librarian
6		Community Cupboard volunteer coordinators
1		CCC librarian
12		Office/phone/bank volunteers
18		E.T.C. Committee
18		Family Activities Committee members
13		Faith and the Environment (FATE) volunteer members
8		Visitor Engagement Team
15		Pancake breakfast volunteers
8		All church picnic
18		Lunch Bunch Circle
10		Women's lunch group
7		Retreat committee coordinator/volunteer committee
4		Ollie the Trolley coordinators
6		Earth University Coordinator/assistants
8		Photo directory photographers/recorders
2		All-church cleanup coordinators
67		All-church cleanup volunteers
21		PrideFest coordinator/volunteers
3		Tri-Faith picnic organizational committee
60		Tri-Faith picnic volunteers
1		Sunday morning phone volunteer
1		Advent workshop coordinator
8	<i>see youth rpt,</i>	Advent workshop volunteers
3		Life Ministry adult education facilitators
72		Sunday morning coffee hosting volunteers
15		Wednesday Night Alive (WNA) supper volunteers
14		Mobile meals volunteers
4		Baristas (WNA/Sunday)
5		Altar flower team
648	320	↩ Totals
Adults	Youth	KINDERNOOK PRESCHOOL VOLUNTEERS
97		Kids for Kindness projects
8		Parent Advisory Council
105	0	↩ Totals

Church-Wide Volunteer Ministry 2018 (cont.)

Adults	Youth	PASTORAL CARE VOLUNTEERS
35		Care Team, including "Messengers" to Sr. Living communities
120		Prayer Chain
30		AGAPE/funeral coordination
25		Stephen Ministry – active
22		FAME (Friday Art & Music Experience)
35		Days of Our Lives – Voices of Countryside
267	0	↵ Totals
Adults	Youth	BOARD AND CHURCH OFFICER VOLUNTEERS
12		Board of Arts and Music
12		Board of Christian Education
15		Board of Christian Outreach
22		Board of Deacons
14		Board of Life Ministry
9		Board of Pastoral Care
14		Board of Trustees
13	2	Board of Youth
3		Moderators
3		Other church officers (Clerk, Treasurer, Historian)
10		Nominating Committee
7		Foundation Board
2		At-Large members of Church Council
3		Conference delegates
139	2	↵ Totals
1,878		2017 Grand Total Volunteer Support
1,828		2018 Grand Total Volunteer Support
-50		Difference from 2017 to 2018

2018 VOLUNTEER SUMMARY	ADULTS	YOUTH	CCC	NON-CCC
Youth Ministry	73	72		
Music & Arts Ministry	59	66		
Adult Education	39	0		
Children's Education	28	10		
Family Life Volunteers			648	320
Kindernook Volunteers	105	0		
Pastoral Care Volunteers	267	0		
Boards and Officers	139	2		
TOTALS	710	150	648	320
GRAND TOTAL	1,828			

Board of Deacons (BOD)

Jodie Nichols, Chair

There are three primary committees on the Board of Deacons: *Worship, Hospitality, and Membership*. The primary focus of the committees is to serve the spiritual interests of the church. The current board members worked tirelessly during the year and have provided a high level of integrity and support to all of our activities. I would like to thank each and every one of them for their dedication.

Throughout the past year, our 24-member board was involved in the following activities:

- Coordinated communion servers, ushers and door greeters for each church service.
- Developed, planned, implemented, and decorated for the Annual Luncheon in February.
- Planned and implemented the annual cleaning of the sanctuary.
- Coordinated special church receptions, such as Pastor Eric's 10- year anniversary at Countryside Church in 2018.
- Planned and implemented the annual confirmands' dinner in the spring.
- Hosted coffee hour one month of the year.
- Decorated the church for the holiday seasons.
- Delivered holiday flowers to designated congregants.
- Proposed and implemented serving wine, in addition to juice, at weekly communion services.

Service with the Board of Deacons allows members to become more familiar with the church and its operations, while providing an opportunity to get to know other congregation members, ministers and staff.

2018 BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
Amy Blanchard	Jill Champley	Earl Cohen
Bruce Blanchard	Ann Duey	Nancy Cohen
Madeline Churchich	Dave Duey	Pat Holt
Nancy Davis	Jim Gilbert	Andrew Mattson
Sean Geer	Betsy Lay	Ryan Palmer
Jodie Nichols	Traci Lenigan	Stephanie Sacco
Donna Rhodes	Sandy Sueper	Lori Shrum
Marvin Rhodes	Stacey Warner	Tom/Jenn Vinton

Board of Life Ministry (BOLM)

Tina Kucera | Deb Hickman, co-chairs

The mission of the Board of Life Ministries is to bring strength and continuity to Countryside's volunteer base, small group method, family based educational programming and social efforts by advising staff and serving as a conduit between the congregation and Countryside's Life Ministry and Volunteer programs.

The Board of Life Ministry is pleased to sponsor and help in the coordination of a variety of on-going adult educational /volunteer opportunities. The following occur monthly: Community Cupboard, PFLAG, Interplay, Tai Chi, Mahjong, Mobile Meals, WNA suppers, Lunch Bunch Circle, Nine to Dine Groups, Women's Lunch, and Men's Breakfast.

All-church or major events for 2018 in addition to on-going opportunities:

January

- Chili and Chocolate Contest
- Family Film Night – Young families gathering for supper, a movie and fellowship
- Game Night – Young adults gathering for fellowship, beverages and a variety of games

February

- Taste of Tri-Faith, a wonderful convergence of traditions expressed through food and social time together at Temple Israel.
- Hors D'oeuvres contest held at the home of Todd and Kathleen Samland

March

- All Church Clean-Up
- Yoga classes started up on a weekly basis
- Palm Sunday Brunch sponsored by Family Activities Committee

April

- Earth Day, FATE (Faith and the Environment) group sponsored a table at Earth Day again this year.

May

- All Church Pentecost Brunch sponsored by Family Activities Committee
- FATE (Faith and the Environment) movie – *Beyond the Flood* film screening
- Our Cross is Moving event – prayer cards sponsored by BOLM

June

- PrideFest coordination of event at Baxter Arena-volunteers handled by Diane Scott.
- Began taking photos for the pictorial directory
- Established the Welcome Committee
- Reorganization of Nine to Dine groups

July

- All church Family Film Night sponsored by Family Activities Committee
- All church River City Star event sponsored by E.T.C. members

August

- Tri-Faith Picnic This Tri-Faith event was held at Temple Israel this year. Volunteers from the Boards of Life Ministry and Christian Outreach assisted with the event.
- Visitor Engagement Team was created
- Created the O'Neill, NE contingency group in response to the ICE raid in O'Neill.

September

- All church picnic at Elmwood Park, a chance for members to get reacquainted and enjoy family time. Sponsored by BOLM and E.T.C.
- Parenting with Love and Logic
- Equality 101 was created
- Vala's Fall pumpkin patch event sponsored by Family Activities Committee

October

- Wednesday Night Suppers were restarted on the first Wednesday of the month.

November

- Jana Reiss and Eric Elnes retreat weekend

Center for Faith Studies hosted Jana on Thursday night, November 9. BOLM then hosted a Retreat workshop Friday night and Saturday, exploring the Prayer Wheel.

December

- Advent Workshop was combined with the Pantry this year.
- Family Activities and youth volunteers came together providing craft options for both Countryside families and pantry families. Great to combine the groups!
- Trolley Christmas Lights Tour found us using two trolleys this year! Super fun event and great for socializing and relaxing prior to the holidays.

2018 BOARD OF LIFE MINISTRY

Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
Shannon Avard	Chelsea Atchison	Margie Bolte
Tina Kucera	Jon Bender	Deb Hickman
Mary Watke	Jim/Karen Follon	Cathy MacInnes
	Julie Kregg	Valerie Newton
	Renee Siems	Diane Scott
	Dylan/Mary Sopher	

Board of Pastoral Care (BOPC)

Amy Worth, Chair

Mission Statement: *The Board of Pastoral Care is responsible for promoting the pastoral care efforts of the Countryside Community Church's staff and lay ministers. These efforts include supporting, contacting, reaching out to, and comforting members on their Christian journey, with focus on those experiencing higher than normal stress. Additionally, the board strives to communicate its functions and purpose to the congregation at large.*

Meetings are held quarterly on the second Tuesday of the month in February, May, August and November. Sub-committee meetings are held in April and June and as needed. 2018 officers included Chairperson Amy Worth and Secretary Juliana Johnson.

There are five areas grouped under the umbrella of the Board of Pastoral Care: Stephen Ministries, Special Events, Care Team, Agape, and Communications.

We currently have 20 active Stephen Ministers at CCC, 17 of whom completed Stephen Ministry training in 2018, under the direction of Knolan Hudson and Linda Banister. Commissioning took place in May, 2018. On Saturday, August 25, the BOPC sponsored a Stephen Ministry retreat, "Wholly, Holy Listening," presented by Dr. Jen Davidson (First Plymouth, Lincoln, Nebraska) and Jan Brown. Stephen Ministry peer support meetings are held in the Chapel at 6:30 on the first Tuesday of each month.

Special Events hosted a Fall Workshop, "Turning Points," on Saturday, September 22. The focus was on living with levels of abnormal stress. Following the workshop, Jan formed a support group called, "21ncourage", that met weekly in her office on Wednesdays through December. In February, the board supervised the congregational making of Valentine cards which were sent to our shut-in members. The Board also hosted an appreciation lunch for the staff in November.

The Care Team sent cards, and delivered baby blankets, prayer shawls and food as needed throughout the year (sympathy cards to members, 80 Thanksgiving cards to shut-in members, and birthday cards to those 80 years and older). All board members delivered extra chancel flowers to those needing extra love following each week's Sunday service.

The Agape group provides refreshments for funeral receptions. The group provides cookies and bars in addition to set-up and clean-up following service. There were fewer than normal funerals this year.

Communication committee activities included preparation of an updated services brochure, social media videos promoting the Board itself, and coverage of other board events in both the newsletter and through social media.

Other outreach activities included the "Days of Our Lives" videos featuring CCC members' reflections on membership, and the "Messengers" program which matches BOPC members, Stephen Ministers and others with a visitation roster for members currently living in care facilities. Jan also coordinates an ongoing prayer chain that includes many of our board members.

2018 BOARD OF PASTORAL CARE

Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
Tom Scates	France Blanchard	Allison Evans
Amy Worth	Dick Galusha	Carlos Figueroa
	Pat Galusha	Gayle Noble
	Juliana Johnson	Judy Varner

Board of Trustees (BOT)

Tracey Halvorson, Chair

Mission

The Board of Trustees oversees the financial and property concerns of Countryside Community Church. The major financial responsibilities of the board include overseeing the stewardship campaign; the budgeting process; contract approvals; regular review of the financial position of the church; nominating representatives to Countryside Community Church Foundation; and property maintenance and repairs approval and planning. We worked throughout the year with Church Council on our strategic priorities to improve our financial and membership sustainability, maximize our Tri-Faith opportunity, and engage the congregation and staff to meet our Church mission.

Major Events/Achievements in the 2018 Calendar Year

Revenues for 2018 came in \$22,983 under budget, and expenses came in \$39,648 under budget. This was a net gain for 2018 of \$17,193. The Trustees have approved an Annual Operating Budget for 2019. The details are provided separately for the Congregation's approval.

The facilities of the church were adequately maintained throughout the year. We have an active Property Committee, chaired by Brad Carne, which oversees current repairs and prioritizes long-term capital maintenance. Notable capital maintenance expenditures included the repair of the air conditioning system and installation of a new phone system.

Countryside's investments saw a down year in 2018, due to the volatility of the stock market.

The Countryside Relocation account received deposits of \$2,443,253 and made expenditures of \$11,518,138 during 2018. Most notable was the continued construction of our new building on the Tri-Faith Campus, with an anticipated move-in date of the first week on April, 2019. The sale of the 8787 Pacific Street property will be completed upon vacating the building.

Aubrey Fitzke, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, chaired the 2019 Stewardship Committee. We are grateful to Aubrey and the entire Stewardship committee, who are the 2020 group of Trustees listed below. This was a particularly challenging year, but this team continued to work toward full participation of all members in the financial responsibility for Countryside's mission. Thanks to their diligence and commitment, I believe the church is well positioned for 2019 and beyond. Lastly, thanks to all of the Trustees for their service in 2018. It was a joy and an honor to serve as Chair for this inspiring and generous group.

One final note – All interested church members may attend board meetings of their choice. I encourage you to attend meetings and see the processes as they happen. Countryside's call is unique, and it is humbling and thrilling to be a part of this amazing journey we are on together.

2018 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
Joyce Dixon	Bob Buckland	Bill Bolte
Tracey Halvorson	Doug Dushan	Brad Carne
Mike Hornacek	Aubrey Fitzke	Mark Draper
	Kiley Maxwell-Ward	Pam Marshall
	Larry Weiss	Derek Miller
		Diane Poots

Board of Youth (BOY)

Jen King, Chair

Mission:

To bring strength and stability to COYO (Countryside Youth) through development, planning, and management for the Countryside Youth programs and to see/observe a strong Youth mission at Countryside Church as pivotal in the life of Countryside as well as in the future of the faith!

Major Events / Achievements In 2018 Program Year

The second year for the Restore the Shore Campaign (SBP) to raise money for home repairs for people affected by Hurricane Sandy around Wall Township, New Jersey, raised about \$4800 for SBP to be able to continue to shrink the gap between disaster and recovery.

The COYO Sr High mission trip was to Wall Township, New Jersey, where they worked with SBP and Americorps volunteers to help rebuild homes for the second year. Students learned how to mud walls and ceilings, tile floors, caulk, and trim doors and baseboards. They worked on five houses and had a great visit to the Statue of Liberty.

COYO Jr High went on a four-day hike in the Lost Creek Wilderness of Pike National Forest in Colorado. Thirteen students and three adult leaders had a wonderful time experiencing God's creation and working together to accomplish their goals.

The Faith Singers tour was to the West, including the Grand Canyon, Salt Lake City, and Colorado. It was one of the best tours according to all involved. Thanks to Tyler Gruttemeyer and all the leaders who pulled off a great tour.

The Garage Sale raised about \$10,000 and was held the second weekend in June. This will be the new time frame future garage sales as well. The garage sale is a great fundraiser for summer youth trips, a great bonding experience for youth families, and a great community outreach for those who need cheap or free furniture, housewares, and clothing. The 2019 sale dates are June 7-8.

2018 BOARD OF YOUTH

Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
Sarah Beutler	Mike Bonner	Amy Eurich
Isaac Bonner- <i>Youth</i>	Kim Buscher	Jim Farho
David Day	Brad Johnson	Mindy Foral
Jen King	Morgan Lenigan	Sarah O'Leary
Kaylee Parmentier- <i>Youth</i>	Dana Parmentier	
Anji Stanek	Catherine Stremlau	
Sarah Beutler		

Tri-Faith Initiative

Brian Gubbels and Mary Meints, at-large representatives to the Tri-Faith Initiative Board of Directors

Who is on the Tri-Faith Initiative (TFI) Board of Directors?

- Each Faith Community—Temple Israel, Countryside Community Church and the American Muslim Institute—appoints four members, including at least one clergy member.
- The board may appoint members from the community; there are currently four such members.
- Countryside Members serving on the Tri-Faith Initiative Board include the following:
 - Clergy – Reverend Dr. Eric Elnes;
 - Moderator’s Representative – Rick MacInnes;
 - CCC at-large representatives – Brian Gubbels and Mary Fraser Meints;
 - Community members – Deb McCollister and Susie Buffett.

Purpose of the Board

The Tri-Faith Initiative Board will strive to build bridges of respect, trust and acceptance among Jews, Christians and Muslims, challenging stereotypes of such groups; learn from members of those groups; and counter the influence of extremists and agents of hate.

Accomplishments in 2018

Executive Director and Staff

- The TFI first Executive Director, Bud Heckman, started March 1, 2018. He has been leading faith-based and academic nonprofits for more than two decades. Wendy Goldberg serves as Associate Director. Additional staff has been hired for development, communications, media and administrative support. Countryside representation on the staff include Carla Patton- Development Director, and Ray Meints- Media Manager Producer.

Responding in a Time of Crisis

- The TFI and congregations across the community came together in response to the mass shooting at Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. A community-wide service was attended by over 1,000 people at Beth El Synagogue. On November 27, the Antidefamation League (ADL) and TFI held “STAND UP. SPEAK OUT. NEVER IS NOW” for community members to learn what to do when encountering hate and to act as advocates.

Tri-Faith Commons Updates

- Abraham’s Circle Bridge over Hell Creek, connecting all four buildings, should be completed by the time of Countryside’s Annual Meeting on February 10.
- The new home of Countryside is scheduled to be complete in the spring with the first service on April 7, 2019! The Relocation Committee hosted tours of the new church.
- The Board reviewed plans for the Tri-Faith Center. Schematic Designs of the Tri-Faith Center were approved by the Board. The Tri Faith Center is intended to open in 2020. The Center will reflect our commitment to collaboration, connectedness, and community with our Abrahamic faith partners.
- Governance policies continued to be a priority for the year. Examples of this progress included a Crisis Communications plan and a nearly-completed maintenance covenant agreement geared toward ensuring optimal management in the areas of security, grounds keeping, road maintenance, and snow removal.

Communications

- TFI released public statements about several key community issues: the mass shooting at Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, violence based on religious discrimination and religion in public schools.
- The Branding Portal was launched to ensure an attractive, consistent and unified presence in our messages and branding on all communications.
- TFI communicates regularly through several social media outlets. Check out the website: www.trifaith.org.
- TFI acquired the Interfaith Observer, a free monthly digital journal created to explore the interreligious relations, news, and the interfaith movement as a whole for the general reader. Monthly postings go to over 15,000 addresses. www.theinterfaithobserver.org
- The Speakers Bureau is actively sharing the Tri-Faith vision locally and around the country.

Programming

- Taste of Tri-Faith was held February 11 at Temple Israel with the mission of reflecting our respective faith food traditions and assisting the hungry with food donations.
- Dinner in Abraham's Tent was a huge success with over 750 attending in April at the CHI Convention Center.
- Over 500 people gathered for the Tri-Faith Picnic at Temple Israel on August 12.
- Tri-Faith Kids met monthly during the school year and organized with leadership from each community. Thank you Anji Stanek.
- Other Community Events: Filmstreams Collaborative Screening and an Inclusive Communities Table Talk.
- Neighbor-to-Neighbor was reactivated. Thank you Jenn Vinton.
- Countryside's First Monday Ladies Lunch expanded to include women from Temple and AMI. Thank you Mary Beth and Chris Alexander!

Countryside Connection

The CCC Board established the Tri-Faith Committee, which consists of representatives of CCC Boards and the representatives of CCC on the TFI Board. The goal is to involve the whole congregation, dream and discern, recruit members for tasks, disseminating messages and enjoying interesting discussions. Those of us who represent CCC on the TFI board welcome this connection and thank Diane Poots for her leadership

Volunteers: So many Countrysiders step in and assist in Tri-Faith efforts. Thank you to Anji Stanek, Joyce Davis, Trish Hoffman-Ahrens, Ann Naylor, Carla Patton, Ray Meints, Diane Scott, the Wadhams family, the Reilly family and more.

Hopes and Dreams for the Future

- TFI Board developed a Strategic Plan to lead us in the future. The Four Pathways are: GATHER, SERVE, LEARN, ACT. For more information, check the Tri-Faith website.
- Creation of a Committee of Docents for tours of CCC and the TF Commons to coordinate tours and ensure consistent messages.

We strive to represent the ideas and values of Countryside. We are open to your suggestions or questions so please feel free to contact us: meints1@me.com and bgubbels@cox.net

Countryside Relocation Committee

Rick MacInnes, Chair

Our new Countryside Community Church takes shape in 2018...

First, many thanks to the following committee members who have given so much of their time and talents to this project of building Countryside Community Church on the Tri-Faith Commons.

2018 Countryside Relocation Committee (CRC)

Rick MacInnes	Chair
Tim Kerrigan	Vice-Chair / Finance Chair
Cyndi Kugler	Relocation Campaign Chair
Paul Nelson	Building and Design Chair
Pam Kregg	Communications and Logistics Co-chair
Nancy Behringer	Communications and Logistics Co-chair
Eric Elnes	Staff
Dan Loven-Crum	Staff
Matt Herzog	Project Advocates – Construction Manager
Relocation Advisory Group (CRAC): Chris Alexander, Jennifer Hamann, Bruce Blanchard, Kris Hess, Mary Windle, Russ Schertz, Don Otis, Susie Buffett, Phil Johnson, Brian Gubbels	

Looking back at the beginning of 2018, we only had the foundation and the beginnings of the steel framing being erected! Look where we are by the end of the year. It's amazing how the building progressed – everyone could start to really visualize what the architect's rendering was showing us. Our new church took shape, and everyone could start to see the beautiful design and how it presented the Countryside story as the Christian presence for the Tri-Faith Initiative.

In February, we built a “mock-up” of the exterior of the building to test insulation and the use of the selected Petersen Tegl handmade terra cotta bricks – a highly sustainable product that is distinctive and modern, which has created a beautiful, rustic and exclusive look. That same month, we selected Ratigan-Schottler of Beatrice, NE, craftsmen of fine church furniture, to build our custom pews.

By the time March rolled around, you could see the shape of the sanctuary and chapel start to define our future worship spaces as the steel rose into the air toward the heavens. After being refurbished, the bell from our current bell tower was attached to the top of the new Margre Durham Bell Tower steel frame – celebrated with a congregation “beam signing” that took place for members to leave their mark on history. It was a cold, blustery March weekend, but members came out in droves to be a part of this celebrated event. By mid-April, the topping off of the signed steel with the bell was set in place by Vrana Construction.

The cross in our current church was removed and prepared to be embedded in the wall of our new chapel with the inclusion of the congregation's personal prayers for the future of Countryside enclosed on the back. As we prepared to take history with us to the new church, the CRC established a Safety and Security Committee, led by Bob Buckland, to write new policies and procedures guidelines to implement training for staff and members while we are in our current location and preparing for our new facility on the Tri-Faith Commons.

In April, Countryside was awarded one of the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) Grants to help with our sustainable landscape by enhancing and restoring the natural environments of Nebraska. NET valued our project as one that leveraged private investment in conservation and emphasized long lasting results.

In May, thanks to the gracious donation from Roy and Gloria Dinsdale, we researched and selected Buzard Organ Builders of Champagne, Illinois, to create a design. The façade will have a visual randomness of pipes that display, at the lower level of the façade, a representation of our diversity that evolves to a readily apparent visual order as the eye ascends to the upper levels. The rows of pipes will be arranged in three levels, and the top level of polished tin principal pipes will be arranged in a wave of three curves – that point to the sky. When phase I of the organ is installed later in 2019, it will have 2,050 pipes!

During the summer months, closing in the church began and the beginning of the Petersen Tegl terra cotta installation started. An air flow system was installed in the new sanctuary before pouring the cement for the raked floor. At the end of August, the new exterior cross, which can be seen from anywhere on the Tri-Faith Commons, was lifted and installed at the top of the bell tower. Following the tradition of early church design, those entering Countryside through a single location will enter the church through the bell tower and under the cross, the well-known symbol of Christianity.

In early September, the rock glass windows were removed by Mark Lambrecht Glass to be cleaned and restored so these treasures would be ready to be installed on the interior of the new church.

There were several “hard hat tours” for the CRC, CRAC, staff and organ committee. In early October, the CRC hosted a “Sneak Peek” of the church for the members of Countryside.

Thanks go to the many volunteers who provided monthly treats throughout the year for the construction site workers.

We look forward to the opening of our new church facility this spring and celebrating with so many that have made this endeavor become a reality. The future for Countryside Community Church is bright.

Historian's Report – 2018 Activity Summary

Gloria Ried, Historian

JANUARY

- Memorial Sunday Remembrance.
- Worship Series “Journey to The Sacred” January 7 through February 11.
- New Class by Imam Mohamad Jamal Daoudi January 18 through February 15.
- Rabbi Azriel teaching new class January 29 through February 19.
- Christmas offering for Asian Rural Institute totaled: \$14,324.26.

FEBRUARY

- Worship Series “Journey to Jerusalem”.
- Annual Meeting February 4 at 12:00 p.m., Youth Service at 10 a.m.
- 2018-2020 Church Officers are: Moderator – Kris Hess, Vice Moderator – Mary Windle, Vice Moderator Elect – Russ Schertz.
- Clerk is Bonnie Buckland, and Treasurer is Phil Johnson.
- Bylaw changes: 1. Adds to the description of the Pastoral Care Board's duties.
2. Youth membership on boards to “desired” rather than “required”.
- Service for Ash Wednesday – February 14 at 7:00 p.m.

MARCH

- Special Easter Offering recipient is Table Grace Ministries. \$12,383.70 was collected.
- Signing of the Bell Tower Beam on Saturday March 10, from 9 a.m. to noon and Sunday, March 11, from 11:00 to 2:00 p.m. The Beam will be part of the top structure of the bell tower in our new church.
- Rev. Bud Heckman hired to serve as Executive Director for the Tri-Faith Initiative. He will forward plans for the Tri-Faith Commons on the shared campus.

APRIL

- Easter Sunday, April 1, with three services.
- We have ten new members joined Countryside on April 1.
- Countryside created a Safety and Security Committee to provide a safe environment for all to worship and conduct church business at Countryside's current location and at the Tri-Faith Commons.
- Worship Series “Living with COURAGE AND RESILIENCE” April 8 through May 20.
- Tri-Faith holds “Dinner in Abraham's Tent” on April 22, 6 p.m. at the CenturyLink Center.
- April 20 marks the 10th Anniversary of Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes's first sermon at Countryside.
- April 29: Twenty-seven confirmands (7th and 8th graders) were taken into the church.

MAY

- May 13 Baccalaureate Sunday. There were five graduates from High School.
- May 20: 17 Stephen Ministers Commissioned from Countryside, First United Methodist, and Temple Israel.
- Worship Series “Holy, Horrid & Hilarious” May 27 through July 22.

JUNE

- COYO Garage Sale June 7, 8 and 9.
- Tri-Faith Neighbor to Neighbor Meet and Greet, Sunday June 24, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- Will Howell has completed his Masters of Divinity through Chicago Theological Seminary.
- June 24: Six new members joined Countryside.
- Board of Life Ministry is collecting photographs for a new on-line photo directory.

JULY

- New Worship Series "EVERYDAY SUNDAY" July 29 through September 2.

AUGUST

- Tri-Faith Picnic on August 12 from 12:30-3:00 p.m. at Temple Israel. 500 attended.
- August 5 is "Mission Sunday". COYO Sr. High mission trip, Faith Singers Tour and COYO Jr. High Hiking trip.

SEPTEMBER

- Worship Series "Bridging our Divides" September 9 through October 14.
- Family Celebration Sunday, September 9, in Elmwood Park.
- Roy and Gloria Dinsdale have made a donation for a brand-new organ for our new church. It will also complement the architecture of the new sanctuary.
- Special Congregational Meeting on September 30, at 12:30 p.m. Will Howell was voted by the Congregation to be called to be the Minister of Youth and Family.

OCTOBER

- Sunday Evening Worship starts October 14 at 8 p.m. The service will be held for seven weeks and then evaluated.
- Upcoming Series: "Gifts of Faith". Distinctive Gifts That Judaism, Christianity and Islam Bring to the World and to You.
- A SNEAK PEEK at the construction site October 7 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER

- Dr. Amy Luckenbill, Director of Music and Arts Ministries, resigned effective November 12. A reception was held after church on November 11.
- Twenty-three new members were received on November 11.

DECEMBER

- Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO) has chosen the Los Chavalitos Clinic in Managua, Nicaragua as the recipient of the 2018 Christmas Offering.
- Advent Series: Christ in Seven Carols:
December 2: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel;
December 9: O Morning Star;
December 16: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming;
December 23: Down to Earth;
December 24: CHRISTMAS EVE: Joy to the World and Silent Night;
December 30: A Stable Lamp is Lighted

Nominating Committee Report

Patti Tu | Bonnie Buckland, co-chairs

The names of nominees new to their positions in 2019 are show in ***bold italic*** print.

2019-2021 Church Officers and Board Members

Moderator Mary Windle
Vice Moderator Russ Schertz
Vice Moderator Elect ***Tracey Halvorson***
Clerk..... Bonnie Buckland
Treasurer Phil Johnson
Historian Gloria Ried

2019	2020	2021
BOARD OF ARTS AND MUSIC (BAM)		
Michelle Beck Roxanne Draper <i>Lauren Eurich-Youth</i> <i>Trisha Hoffman-Ahrens</i> Ed Huddell Trish Newell Christy Palmer	Barb Farho Chris Gilmore Ann Huxtable-Scates Jeri Lundblad	<i>Shannon Avard</i> <i>David Day</i> <i>Diane Hill</i> <i>Erik Quam</i> <i>Ryan Underwood</i>
BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (BOCE)		
Ashley Bender Peggy Bonacci Mary Dostal Johann Johnson Tom Reilly Rita Troudt	Jennifer Beer <i>Traci Copple</i> <i>Marian Kaiser</i> Jon Noble Ashley Rainbolt	<i>Cindy Cronn</i> <i>Ingrid Howell</i> <i>Sarah Schulz</i> <i>Megan Thom</i> <i>Mindy Wood</i>
BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH (BOCO)		
<i>Cole Clippinger-Youth</i> Monnie Lindsay Sarah Miller Kris Olberding Robin Stark <i>Karen Staskiewicz</i> Jeremy Wadhams	Peggy Dunn <i>Becky Knightly</i> Sharon Royers	<i>France Blanchard</i> <i>Emma Boyd</i> <i>Nancy Davis</i> <i>Connie Fitzke</i> <i>Judy Varner</i>

2019	2020	2021
BOARD OF DEACONS (BOD)		
Jill Champley Ann Duey Dave Duey Jim Gilbert Betsy Lay Traci Lenigan Sandy Sueper Stacey Warner	Earl Cohen Nancy Cohen Pat Holt Andrew Mattson Ryan Palmer Stephanie Sacco De Schmierer Lori Shrum Tom/Jenn Vinton	Cheryl Clark Dale Jones Amy/John Kampfe Linda Ashley Leamer Susie Owens Beth Paleogos
BOARD OF LIFE MINISTRY (BOLM)		
Chelsea Atchison Jon Bender Jim/Karen Follon Tara Mattson Renee Siems Dylan/Mary Sopher	Margie Bolte Deb Hickman Cathy MacInnes Valerie Newton Diane Scott	Sarah Bend Amy Blanchard Cathy Blomquist Jeannie Cunningham Rick Royers
BOARD OF PASTORAL CARE (BOPC)		
Abby Bjornsen Dick Galusha Pat Galusha Juliana Johnson	Allison Evans Carlos Figueroa Gayle Noble Claudia Walker	Carrie Clark Jane Frey Knolan Hudson Barry Larson Sarah May
BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)		
Bob Buckland Doug Dushan Aubrey Fitzke Kiley Maxwell-Ward Larry Weiss	Bill Bolte Brad Carne Mark Draper Pam Marshall Derek Miller Diane Poots	Mike Brown Bob Davis Joyce Davis Pat Rainbolt
BOARD OF YOUTH (BOY)		
Mike Bonner Kim Buscher Jackson Farho-Youth Brad Johnson Morgan Lenigan Dana Parmentier Anji Stanek Kidus Tewodros-Youth	Amy Eurich Jim Farho Mindy Foral Sarah O'Leary Kathleen Samland	Stacy Ashley Murphy Emily Ethington Senait Fisseha Maureen Hornacek

2019	2020	2021
AT-LARGE CHURCH COUNCIL REPS		
Pam Kregg	<i>Bruce Blanchard</i>	
NOMINATING COMMITTEE		
Margie Bolte Bonnie Buckland Kris Olberding	Bruce Blanchard Cindy Cronn Trish Newell Dana Parmentier	<i>Molly Anderson</i> <i>Mary Dircks</i> <i>Dinah Gomez</i>
TRI-FAITH INITIATIVE BOARD		
Brian Gubbels	Rick MacInnes	<i>Mary Fraser Meints</i> <i>Trish Hoffman-Ahrens</i>
<p style="text-align: center;">2018 CONFERENCE DELEGATES</p> <p><i>Mary Johnston</i> <i>Jody Sanders</i> <i>Russ Schertz</i> <i>Mary Windle</i></p>		

Conference Delegate Report

Jody Sanders

Greetings from the Nebraska Conference of the United Church of Christ

Before I type anything else, I need to confess that I was unable to attend the 57th Annual Gathering in June, 2018, in Ogallala, Nebraska. My husband Randy was able to attend as the clergy delegate for St. Peter's UCC in Yutan, so he shared details of the weekend, and I was able to obtain a draft of the official minutes of the Plenary Sessions.

As some of you may know, the Conference is undergoing a reconfiguration of sorts. At the previous annual gathering, it was agreed that the Nebraska Conference would join with the South Dakota and Iowa conferences in a collaborative staffing model known as the Tri-Conference Ministry (TCM). There is one office setting that handles all of the paperwork for all three Conferences, with an Executive Conference Minister who represents all three Conferences at the National setting. There are four associate conference ministers whose primary responsibility will be working with the local churches within the three states. As of the Annual Gathering, only Executive Conference Minister Rev. Brigit Stevens and Associate Conference Minister Jonna Jensen had been selected to serve the Tri-Conference, both coming from the Iowa Conference. There has been some interim associate ministers, including former South Dakota Conference Minister Gordon Rankin.

In November, the TCM welcomed Rev. Ellis Arnold, working out of Iowa, and Rev. Samantha Houser, working out of South Dakota.

On December 5, Rev. Darrell Goodwin was called as Associate Conference Minister focusing on Nebraska. His work in Nebraska will begin March 1. I believe we can look forward to meeting Rev. Goodwin at the next Annual Gathering which, of course, our church will be hosting in June 2019!

At this past year's Annual Gathering, the plenary sessions included Rev. Stevens and conference delegates giving a report of the 2017 General Synod. One important item from Synod was the call for ratification of amendments to the UCC Constitution. The amendments were the two-year project for the National UCC Board, as well as the National Staff. Amendments presented altered the structure of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors (UCCB) Ministry Committees and Executive Committees, as well as change how the Secretary and Treasurer of the UCCB are appointed. After some very brisk discussion during plenary sessions, the Conference delegates first moved to defer the vote until more information on the action was provided to the attendees, and then a motion to accept the amendments was defeated. I am hopeful to see many of you at the 58th Annual Gathering, as Countryside will be hosting June 14, 15 and 16, 2019 at our new church building.

Foundation Report

Geoff Kregg, President

The Countryside Community Church Charitable Foundation (CCCCF) is an independent organization created by the Church to support and supplement the programs and facilities at Countryside Community Church.

The Foundation funds programs and capital projects outside the normal church budget. In 2018, the Foundation made record grants of \$80,000 by adding to its commitment to the Countryside Relocation Committee and Building Campaign.

The Foundation's assets on January 1, 2018, were \$1,023,378. The year-end balance was \$963,198. Foundations typically expend 4-7% of assets for worthy grants by using income and appreciation from investments. In 2018, 8% of the assets was pledged.

Countryside members are encouraged to make charitable bequests to the Foundation separate from their yearly stewardship pledges, which support daily operations of the Church. Benefactors can designate where their gifts are to be distributed: missions, programs, facilities, etc.

The last four years have been a challenge. We have limited bequest activity to assure that the CCCCCF was not competing with the Countryside Relocation Campaign and annual stewardship pledging. We did send a letter to all senior members encouraging donations when their tax-sheltered savings plans "Required Minimum Distribution" rules kick in at age 70½.

Columbarium activity included the following:

1. Finalization of the new church's Columbarium design and material details, including exterior access.
2. A tentative date of April 20 has been set for a reinterment service. A mailing will go out in early February 2019 with further details.

Special thanks to Eric, Dan, and Tracey for their continued support of the CCCCCF mission, and critical liaison with the Trustees and church staff.

2018 Countryside Community Church Charitable Foundation Board

2020	2021	2019
Geoff Kregg, President	Julia Hernandez	Matt Atchison
Paul Nelson, Vice President	Mike Murphy, Treasurer	Kristina Murphree
	Joe Sacco, Secretary	

Ex officio members: Dr. Eric Elnes, Dan Loven-Crum, and Board of Trustees liaison Tracey Halvorson

Clerk's Report

Bonnie Buckland

2018 Clerk's Annual Report with Ten Year Comparison

YEAR	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Total Membership	1323	1277	1454	1552	1595	1525	1474	1552	1523	1559
Resident Active	1271	1228	1442	1531	1571	1499	1448	1531	1500	1533
Non-Resident Active	52	49	12	21	24	26	26	21	23	26

Membership Actions by Year

Total Additions	65	58	61	62	100	76	45	68	101	91
Confirmation	28	12	23	28	32	28	*	*	28	19
Confession of faith	2		1	3	5		1	2	5	13
Reaffirmation	32	41	21	28	49	33	34	41	42	32
Letter of Transfer	3	5	16	3	14	15	10	25	26	27

Total Deletions	19	235	168	104	47	39	126	41	148	264
Letter of Transfer	5	13								
Death	14	14	24	22	25	18	20	12	20	12
Dismissed	0	204	144	82	22	21	106	29	128	252

Net Other Reclassifications	0	-4	9	-1	17	14	3	2	11	15
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Ceremonies

Baptisms	7	13	19	10	13	12	14	24	41	22
Weddings	3	9	9	1	3	8	12	5	5	13
Funerals/Memorial services	14	13	21	19	22	17	20	14	17	18
Columbarium Inurnments	3	4	5	3	3	4	3	4	3	4

* No confirmation class during 2011 or 2012 as we transitioned to a new confirmation program.

Stewardship Report

Aubrey Fitzke, Chair

Being part of the Countryside Board of Trustees Stewardship team is an experience like no other. Reviewing all of the programs that the Church has for the members and friends, yet working with such a limited budget makes a person both proud and humble at the same time. We are truly blessed with an extremely creative and resourceful staff and team of ministers. As we get ready for our move to the Tri-Faith campus in the spring of 2019, those resources are going to be tested and stretched even more.

The 2018 campaign was a reminder of how the Pilgrims of old survived their first winter through the help of others and their faith. Our 2019 campaign stressed the springtime as we come out of that winter and we connected it to our move to the new campus in the spring of 2019. We will be having new growth and new experiences, all in a brand-new facility. Greeting new and old friends as they come together to share in everything the Tri-Faith has to offer.

We retained some of the same themes from the prior year especially the “We are the Basket” theme. Our regular contributions, either via pledges or other methods, keep our church, not only alive and well, but thriving and growing continuously. But also, like previous years, we face some of the same problems. Every year we lose some of our largest donors through a variety of reasons. This year was no exception. We’ve had people who have passed on, moved to other locations, and people stop their giving because of financial reasons.

We kicked off the 2019 campaign with a “Sneak Peek Preview” of our new facilities that are being constructed. Even though we were several months away from occupying the new site it was exciting to see it take shape first hand and to touch and feel the progress that is being made. In spite of a cold and rainy weekend, we had over 200 attendees make the trek through the site and see where their new home and new programs will be put to use. Many thanks go to the CRC team and Rick MacInnes for making this idea a reality, and certainly for Dan, Robyn, and others for all their assistance. We received approximately 40 pledges from the attendees at this event, so many thanks go to them as well.

The Stewardship team members are so engaged in the operations and the mission of the church that it continues to impress and amaze me. The only thing that is more impressive is the reaction and support of all the members and pledgers of our church. You all make this function so much easier than I ever imagined and there are not enough words to express my thanks to all of you. Diane Poots has volunteered to be the Stewardship chair for 2019 and the entire team wishes her well and looks forward to our continued success.

2018 Stewardship Committee members

Aubrey Fitzke	Bill Bolte	Mark Draper
Derek Miller	Pam Marshall	Diane Poots

3-Yr Stewardship Comparison	2017	2018	2019
Giving units	327	347	359
Projected member revenue	\$1,097,302	\$1,182,346	\$1,136,363

Financial Reporting

Treasurer's Financial Report – December 31, 2018

Phil Johnson

OPERATING INCOME	2017 Actual	2017 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Budget
PLEDGES				
Pledge Contributions	\$868,459	\$857,968	\$852,737	\$829,183
Estimated Unpaid Pledges		-\$20,000		-\$20,000
Donor Directed	\$194,104	\$325,000	\$169,000	\$212,474
Prepaid Pledges	\$56,385	\$56,385	\$145,253	\$145,253
Total Pledge Revenue	\$1,118,948	\$1,219,353	\$1,166,990	\$1,166,910
Unpledged Contributions	\$74,373	\$35,000	\$32,040	\$42,100
Coll/Unpaid Pledges	-\$5,681	\$2,000	\$4,430	\$15,100
Total Member Revenue	\$1,187,640	\$1,256,353	\$1,203,460	\$1,224,110
Foundation Grant			\$57,386	\$57,386
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$42,376	\$44,000	\$115,667	\$118,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,230,016	\$1,300,353	\$1,376,513	\$1,399,496

OPERATING EXPENSES	2017 Actual	2017 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Budget
Administration-Expenses	\$82,833	\$86,150	\$82,377	\$86,150
Personnel Exp.	\$210,955	\$230,273	\$216,351	\$243,049
Total	\$293,788	\$316,423	\$298,728	\$329,199
Christian Education-Expenses	\$4,192	\$9,860	\$6,289	\$9,860
Personnel Exp.	\$62,880	\$84,743	\$63,484	\$65,448
Total	\$67,072	\$94,603	\$69,773	\$75,308
Christian Outreach-Expenses	\$57,600	\$58,600	\$58,362	\$58,600
Personnel Exp.				
Total	\$57,600	\$58,600	\$58,362	\$58,600
Deacons-Expenses	\$4,316	\$6,000	\$4,733	\$5,550
Personnel Exp.	\$362,009	\$368,830	\$367,795	\$367,569
Total	\$366,325	\$374,830	\$372,528	\$373,119
Life Ministry & Mission-Expenses	\$2,389	\$3,850	\$1,192	\$3,850
Personnel Exp.	\$59,275	\$49,162	\$57,313	\$54,618
Total	\$61,664	\$53,012	\$58,505	\$58,468
Music Ministry-Expenses	\$47,853	\$54,565	\$59,141	\$66,885
Personnel Exp.	\$117,418	\$125,110	\$121,775	\$111,412
Total	\$165,271	\$179,675	\$180,916	\$178,297

OPERATING EXPENSES (cont.)	2017 Actual	2017 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Budget
Pastoral Care-Expenses	\$3,281	\$3,090	\$778	\$3,090
Personnel Exp.	\$19,331	\$23,495	\$21,806	\$23,967
Total	\$22,612	\$26,585	\$22,584	\$27,057
Property-Expenses	\$160,884	\$170,575	\$166,614	\$141,500
Personnel Exp.				
Total	\$160,884	\$170,575	\$166,614	\$141,500
Youth Ministry-Expenses	\$14,065	\$18,650	\$18,625	\$18,650
Personnel Exp.	\$45,939	\$48,204	\$68,368	\$68,067
Total	\$60,004	\$66,854	\$86,993	\$86,717
Foundation Grants			\$36,397	\$57,386
Other Personnel Expenses	\$9,463	\$12,385	\$7,921	\$13,320
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$377,413	\$411,340	\$434,508	\$451,521
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	\$887,270	\$942,202	\$924,812	\$947,448
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,264,683	\$1,353,542	\$1,359,320	\$1,398,967
NET INCOME/(EXPENSES)	-\$34,667	-\$53,189	\$17,193	\$527

	2017 Actual	2018 Actual
Realized & Unrealized Gains / (Losses) on Investments	\$158,938	-\$81,928

KINDERNOOK	2017 Actual	2017 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Budget
Kindernook Income	\$175,955	\$182,275	\$171,937	\$186,775
Kindernook Expense	\$175,955	\$182,275	\$167,773	\$186,775
Net Kindernook Inc / (Exp)	\$0	\$0	\$4,165	\$0

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2018

ASSETS			
CASH/LIQUID ASSETS			
Petty Cash	\$104.39		
Cash in Bank	\$112,208.48		
General Fund Savings	\$162,401.02		
General Fund Money Market	\$59,658.83		
Investments	\$612,992.54		
Adjustments to Market Value	\$155,716.43		
Total Cash Balances		\$1,103,081.69	
PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT			
Land – 8787 Pacific	\$6,000.00		
Land – 13130 Faith Plaza	\$1,503,324.50		
Buildings	\$7,445,641.22		
Equipment	\$574,288.78		
Accumulated Depreciation	-\$6,115,851.73		
Total Land, Building & Equipment		\$3,413,402.77	
PREPAID EXPENSES			
Total Prepaid Expenses	\$34,012.23		
		\$34,012.23	
CAPITAL FUND			
Total Capital Fund	\$223,000.00		
		\$223,000.00	
TRI FAITH RELOCATION CASH & INVESTMENTS			
Total Tri Faith Relocation	\$4,451,186.04		
		\$4,451,186.04	
TOTAL ASSETS			\$9,224,682.73
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS			
LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable	-\$5,771.23		
A/P-State Taxes WH	\$3,255.54		
Prepaid Pledges	\$73,199.61		
Accrued Vacation Pay	\$10,185.20		
Total Liabilities		\$80,869.12	
RESTRICTED FUNDS			
Christian Education Fund	\$105,208.84		
Youth Fund	\$17,429.20		
Family Life Fund	\$29,737.03		
Volunteer Coordinator Fund	\$839.50		
Music Fund	\$5,412.73		
Deacon's Fund	\$0.00		

RESTRICTED FUNDS (cont.)			
Pastoral Care Fund	\$16,880.67		
Maintenance Reserve Fund	\$154,527.38		
Scott Chapel / TCC Fund	\$0.00		
Kindernook Fund	\$38,831.83		
Minister Discretionary Fund	\$30,122.16		
Young at Hearts Fund	\$1,122.46		
Wedding Fund	\$3,890.52		
Total Miscellaneous Account Fund	\$33,396.29		
Gifts & Estates Accounts Fund	\$156,058.07		
DarkWood Brew	\$54,618.63		
Relocation	\$19,235.55		
Memorials Fund	\$41,413.39		
Total Restricted Funds		\$708,724.25	
NET ASSETS	\$8,435,089.36		
Total Net Assets		\$8,435,089.36	
TOTAL LIABILITES & NET ASSETS			\$9,224,682.73

2019 Budget Summary

OPERATING INCOME		2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Budget
Member Revenue	Pledge Contributions	\$868,459	\$852,737	\$828,748
	Donor Directed Gifts	\$194,104	\$169,000	\$188,800
	Estimated Unpaid Pledges			-\$20,000
	Unpledged Contributions	\$74,373	\$32,040	\$61,615
	Coll/Unpaid Pledges	-\$5,681	\$4,430	\$4,000
	Prepaid Pledge	\$56,385	\$145,253	\$73,200
Total Member Revenue		\$1,187,640	\$1,203,460	\$1,136,363
Other Income	Loose Offering	\$2,938	\$3,272	\$3,500
	Investments-Dividends/Cap Gains	\$16,826	\$82,797	\$33,000
	Foundation Grant		\$57,386	\$57,500
	Miscellaneous/Building Use	\$22,611	\$29,597	\$23,400
	Total Other Income	\$42,376	\$173,053	\$117,400
TOTAL REVENUE		\$1,230,016	\$1,376,513	\$1,253,763

OPERATING EXPENSES		2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Budget
Administration	Operating Expenses	\$82,833	\$82,377	\$86,150
	Personnel Expenses	\$211,044	\$216,351	\$272,040
	Total Administration	\$293,877	\$298,728	\$358,190
Board of Christian Ed.	Operating Expenses	\$4,192	\$6,289	\$15,200
	Personnel Expenses	\$62,880	\$63,484	\$68,103
	Total BOCE	\$67,072	\$69,773	\$83,303
Deacons / Ministry	Operating Expenses	\$4,316	\$4,733	\$6,650
	Personnel Expenses	\$362,009	\$367,795	\$390,585
	Total Deacons	\$366,325	\$372,528	\$397,235
Life Ministry	Operating Expenses	\$2,389	\$1,192	\$3,450
	Personnel Expenses	\$59,275	\$57,313	\$51,658
	Total Life Ministry	\$61,664	\$58,505	\$55,108
Music Ministry	Operating Expenses	\$47,853	\$59,141	\$56,745
	Personnel Expenses	\$122,423	\$121,775	\$111,016
	Total Music Ministry	\$170,277	\$180,916	\$167,761

OPERATING EXPENSES (cont.)		2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Budget
Outreach	Operating Expenses	\$57,600	\$58,362	\$58,600
	Personnel Expenses			
	Total Outreach	\$57,600	\$58,362	\$58,600
Pastoral Care	Operating Expenses	\$3,281	\$778	\$3,090
	Personnel Expenses	\$19,331	\$21,806	\$24,452
	Total Pastoral Care	\$22,612	\$22,584	\$27,542
Property	Operating Expenses	\$160,884	\$166,614	\$198,300
	8787 Restricted Funds			-\$192,422
	Total Property	\$160,884	\$166,614	\$5,878
Youth Ministry	Operating Expenses	\$14,065	\$18,625	\$18,650
	Personnel Expenses	\$65,939	\$68,368	\$81,678
	Foundation Grant	-\$20,000		\$0
	Total Youth Ministry	\$60,004	\$86,993	\$100,328
Foundation Grants	Operating Expenses		\$36,397	\$57,000
	Total Other Personnel Exp	\$9,374	\$7,921	\$13,199
	TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,230,016	\$1,376,513	\$1,253,763
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,269,688	\$1,359,320	\$1,324,644
	NET INC / (EXP)	-\$39,672	\$17,193	-\$70,881
	Unrealized Gains / (Losses) on Investments	\$158,938	-\$81,928	

Budget Narrative

Dan Loven-Crum, Director of Administration and Communication

Each year the church boards and supporting staff generate their anticipated expenses for the various ministries and programs of the church. The Budget Committee and the Board of Trustees then review these expenses and compare them to the revenue projections supplied by the Stewardship Committee. Based on the projected revenue and expenses, adjustments are made to create a responsible budget fulfilling the Board of Trustees' fiduciary duty. This budget is then affirmed by the Church Council and presented to the Congregation at the annual meeting for approval.

Countryside uses fund-based accounting with a set operating budget for each year and restricted funds for activities like the garage sale, memorials, maintenance reserves, etc. When looking at the operating budget, a narrative of both the revenue side and the expense side is beneficial. See the proposed 2019 budget on the two pages that precede this narrative.

Revenue

Countryside's budgets are driven by member revenue. The *Member Revenue* for the upcoming year, 2019, is based on the stewardship projections from automated giving (Giving Made Simple), non-automated giving, donor directed gifting and Sunday offerings (The Basket). Member Revenue is \$67,097 less than what was received in 2018 because every year we lose some of our largest donors through a variety of reasons. People pass on, move to other locations or stop giving because of financial reasons.

Countryside will again receive a Countryside Community Church Charitable Foundation (CCCCF) grant to support a yearlong project to market the events, programs and ministries of Countryside to visitors and potential new members in order to leverage the move to the Tri-Faith Commons.

Expenses

The expense budget for ministry and programming is flat and is being held to the ministry expense budget passed for 2018. However, the overall 2019 expense budget is \$34,676 more than 2018's actual expenses due to increases in personnel expenses and the property budget:

The personnel expenses include a 2% cost of living increase for staff plus benefits package cost increases. The personnel budget was also impacted with changes in positions, roles, and responsibilities. These include changes such as Will Howell becoming the new Minister of Youth and Families, the Music and Arts program moving to an Interim Artistic Director/Interim Adult Choir Conductor model, the Arts Affirmation program moving to Wednesday nights and the new building not having an onsite security apartment and the need to cover the in-kind salary.

With the move to Countryside's new location, the property budget expenses saw an over-all increase. Examples of the increases include service costs (custodial, pest control, lawn and snow) due to increased square footage costs and Sterling Ridge association fees. At the same time, decreases are expected in utility costs and maintenance costs. The Board of Trustees has identified funds previously restricted to the operation and maintenance of the 8787 Pacific building. These restricted funds will be used to cover these property expenses in 2019.

Net Revenue/Expense

The Board of Trustees passed a budget with a negative \$70,881 for 2019. Facing this significant gap and wanting to conscientiously balance the budget, the Board of Trustees has made a special request to raise \$40,000. This, in addition to the potential to tap into \$30,000 of reserves, would close the budget deficit.

2019 Countryside Relocation Budget

RELOCATION INCOME		2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Budget
Revenue	Original Commitments	4,003,951	9,542,620	1,322,218	500,000
	Capital Campaign	748,878	1,026,470	542,646	513,406
	Challenge Grant			0	1,250,000
	Project Additions		20,000	540,940	309,060
	Interest	3,132	13,807	37,449	9,362
	Sale of Assets				4,040,000
	TOTAL REVENUE	4,755,962	10,602,897	2,443,253	6,621,829
RELOCATION EXPENSES		2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Budget	2018 Budget
Expense	Design and Professional Fees	440,680	1,185,103	426,710	200,000
	Soft, FF&E and other costs			346,243	600,000
	General Construction	188,105	2,064,854	13,159,590	5,100,000
	Administration (campaign, etc)	27,683	26,340	6,621	60,000
	Association Fees	22,525	17,547	22,226	9,000
	TOTAL EXPENSES	678,993	3,293,843	13,961,391	5,969,000
	NET INC / (EXP)	4,076,969	7,309,054	11,518,138	652,829
	<i>Relocation Balance Jan 1</i>	<i>657,526</i>	<i>4,734,495</i>	<i>12,043,548</i>	<i>525,411</i>
	NET INC/(EXP)	4,076,969	7,309,054	11,518,138	652,829
	<i>Relocation Net Balance as of December 31</i>	<i>4,734,495</i>	<i>12,043,548</i>	<i>525,411</i>	<i>1,178,239</i>



COUNTRYSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

8787 Pacific Street | Omaha, NE 68114

402.391.0350

www.countrysideucc.org