



# The Church of the Covenant 2017-2018 Annual Report



*Seeking to live God's word, we aspire to:  
Be a welcoming spiritual home,  
Live God's inclusive love,  
Express Christ's compassion,  
Do justice in the world.*

Recently, I discovered the architectural concept of resilient design, which is the intentional design of buildings, landscapes, communities, and regions in response to the impact of climate change. Resilient design seeks to maintain livable conditions in the event of natural disasters, loss of power, or other interruptions to vital human services. I've been intrigued by this concept because in the church we are called to something similar. We are called to notice and respond to the changes – welcome or not – happening all around us. We are called to be intentionally resilient as we adapt to new circumstances and welcome new people who join us in our vital work of discerning God's call to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God here and now. The world needs resilient and intentional Christians to witness to God's presence and love in every situation. This is critically important, meaningful, and joyful work to which God calls us.

As we discern and live into God's call, our leadership has continued the important work of determining guiding principles and values that will help us respond faithfully to the often unpredictable events and opportunities that impact our community. We do this work filled with the same passion and faith of those who have sustained this community before us and we are committed to instilling the same passion and faith in those who will come after us. I am excited to see how we will continue to work together to achieve our vision of building God's beloved, abundant community where all are welcomed and included and where all both receive and share the compassion and justice of Jesus Christ.

Amy Starr Redwine, Pastor



# Ministry of Faith Formation

*The Ministry of Faith Formation provides opportunities through worship, education, and music to nourish the spiritual development of God's people engaged with the Covenant community.*



Blessing of backpacks



Summer outdoor service



The Covenant Choir in worship



Palm Sunday began with a liturgy of the palms on the front steps of the church.



On Friday, April 20, over 160 musicians gathered in our sanctuary to perform John Rutter's "Mass of the Children," including choristers the Toronto Bach Children's Choir, Beaumont School, and Padre Pio Academy.



With the Cleveland Clinic, Hospice of the Western Reserve, and University Hospitals, we presented Ellen Goodman, founder of the Conversation Project, as the 2017 Covenant Lecturer.

## Small Groups provide connection, spiritual formation, and theological education.



Theology on Tap took a field trip to The Chautauqua Institution to hear Father George Boyle.



Covenant Eight Groups met throughout the year for food and fellowship.



YPG, a group for young (or young at heart) professionals, provides opportunities for fun and connections.

# 2017-2018 Children & Youth



**“Who Is My Neighbor?”**

Youth Sunday 2017 embarked the children and youth on a season of experiences leading them to getting to know their neighbors through **service, and fellowship.**

**Acts of Service...**“bring us together as a community and show that we can accomplish a lot even though it’s a small group.” - Justin Mitchell, age 17



Serving Free Lemonade to our neighbors at the Euclid/Cornell bus stop.



Serving our neighbors at Transplant House through light yard work



Serving our University Circle neighborhood by cleaning up trash along Euclid and Mayfield.

**Times of Fellowship...**“bring us together not just in a church setting, but in everyday life.”  
– Camron Mitchell, age 15



Camron & Justin Mitchell with their mom LaShawna at Trunk or Treat



Ice Skating at Wade Oval



Sunday School

# Ministry of Service

*The Ministry of Service exists to create connections and cultivate relationships through service to our church, the community, and the wider world.*



Thanks to the work of the Friends of the McGaffin Carillon, the carillon now chimes the hour. Our bells continue to be a voice of justice, tolling during a student walk-out to protest gun violence and again on the anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Third annual Trunk or Treat for the neighborhood.



Rev. Dr. James Atwood speaking at a Gun Violence Prevention Conference presented by God Before Guns.



Welcoming new members  
Fall 2017



The Cache ladies take a break from their hard work to say goodbye to longtime member and volunteer Alice Fehl.



Thanksgiving Dinner, where all in the community are welcome!



Monthly food collection in worship allows us to serve our neighbors in need through our food pantry, which now also serves college students.

# Board of Deacons

*The Board of Deacons provides care and comfort to the congregation and to outreach partners.*



Deacons collected supplies for the CWRU Chapter of Camp Kasem, a camp for children who have a parent with cancer.



Giving Tree Celebration with the congregation and Giving Tree recipients from Cleveland School of the Arts



Providing lunch for Giving Tree recipients at the Ernest Bohn Center.



# COVENANT

## STUDENT MINISTRIES

CONNECTION — COMPASSION — COMMUNITY



### FAITH

Undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Institute of Art and Cleveland Institute of Music find a spiritual home at Church of the Covenant. Each week students make up a large number of our worshipping community and participate as lay worship leaders, musicians, and ushers! Annually Church of the Covenant welcomes 150 different students from our local colleges and universities.

### FELLOWSHIP

One of Covenant Student Ministries' signature programs is our monthly community meal. Each month during the academic year students are invited to gather around the table for a home cooked meal, great conversations, and an inclusive community. All are welcome to come and be fed, no exceptions!



### ACTION

Grounded in the Christian tradition we are called to be people of loving and responsible action. Whether it is through advocacy or service, Covenant Student Ministries offers opportunities for students to put their faith into action! Annually CSM hosts three service days with the CWRU Center for Civic Engagement and Learning and is an active participant in building a more just Cleveland and larger global community.



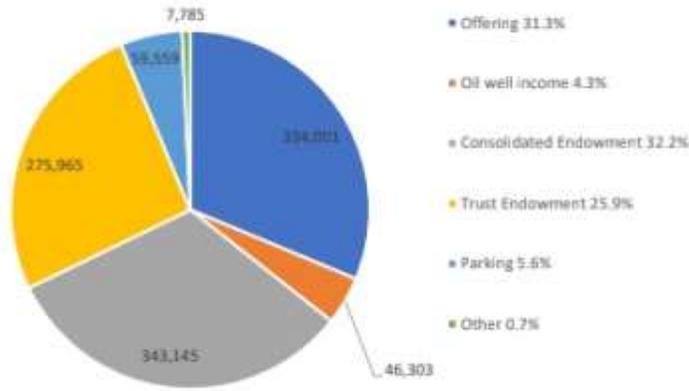
### STAY CONNECTED

Covenant Student Ministries needs your ongoing support! Each week we encounter 30-40 students along their spiritual journey, through our various programs. We continue to need your support as we grow and develop into a multi-campus, inclusive, spiritual community.

Contact Kevin Lowry, Director of Covenant Student Ministries if you would like to discuss opportunities to connect and support



2017 Revenue \$1,066,758

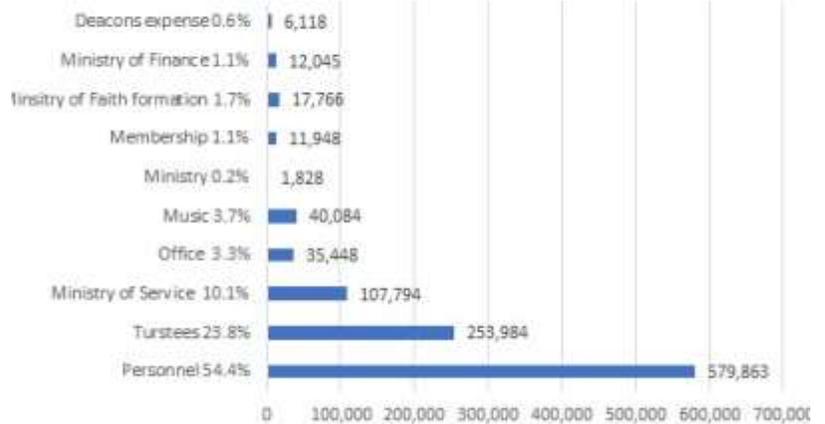


# Ministry of Finance

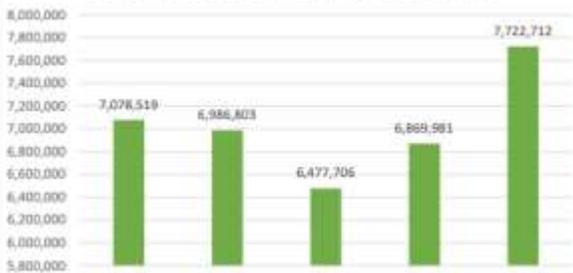
The Ministry of Finance supports the church by managing operational resources.

## 2017 Revenues & Expenses

2017 Expenses \$1,066,878



Consolidated Endowment year end balances



2017 Net withdrawals \$343,145  
 2017 Received repayment of staff mortgage \$157,160  
 2017 Investment income \$1,038,716

2017-2016 FINANCIAL SUMMARY				
	2017	2017	Fav (Unfav)	2016
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	Difference	ACTUAL
<b>REVENUE</b>				
<b>Offerings</b>				
Pledges	300,130	330,000	(29,870)	260,236
Loose Offering	8,243	6,200	2,043	6,452
Contributions not pledged	24,023	43,000	(18,977)	59,898
Previous Year Pledge Payments	1,605	0	1,605	7,240
Per Capita	2,909	4,000	(1,091)	1,480
Oil well income	46,303	28,500	17,803	31,281
Miscellaneous income - Parking	59,559	40,000	19,559	55,517
Consolidated Endowment	343,145	343,145	0	376,071
Trust Endowments	275,965	285,083	(9,118)	279,654
Other	4,876	0	4,876	13,554
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,066,758</b>	<b>1,079,928</b>	<b>(13,170)</b>	<b>1,091,383</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Personnel	579,863	588,355	8,492	547,454
Trustees	253,984	260,875	6,891	245,549
Ministry of Service	107,794	111,814	4,020	110,392
Office & Communication	35,448	36,750	1,302	39,728
Music Expense	40,084	40,072	(12)	35,045
Ministry Expense	1,828	0	(1,828)	0
Membership	11,948	10,300	(1,648)	11,756
Ministry of Faith Formation	17,766	17,360	(406)	9,806
Ministry of Finance	12,045	7,500	(4,545)	15,128
Deacons Expense	6,118	6,000	(118)	6,195
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,066,878</b>	<b>1,079,026</b>	<b>12,148</b>	<b>1,021,053</b>
<b>NET TOTAL</b>	<b>(120)</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>(1,022)</b>	<b>70,330</b>

### Clerk of Session Report

Membership January 1, 2017	395
<b>Increase total</b>	<b>11</b>
By letter of transfer-	1
By affirmation of faith	10
By reaffirmation of faith	0
<b>Decrease total</b>	<b>25</b>
By letter of transfer	2
By death	4
Removed from rolls	19
<b>Membership December 31, 2017</b>	<b>381</b>
∞	
<b>Weddings 2017</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Baptisms 2017</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Memorials 2017</b>	<b>4</b>

## Board of Trustees

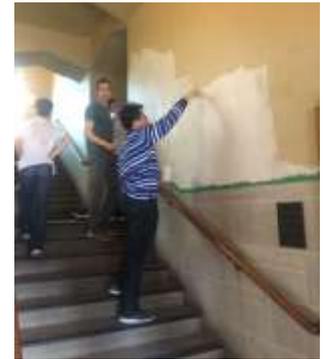
*The Board of Trustees is responsible for the direction of the not for profit corporation (the Society) which holds the fiscal and physical assets of the Church.*



At long last, a new parking hut!



Outdoor work day



We benefited from the hard work of CWRU student volunteers who helped clean and paint areas of the building.



In January, construction began on the renovation of the lower level (kitchen, dining room, activities room, Cache, and restrooms) into the Dowd Commons.

## Staff Retirements

In late 2017 we celebrated the retirements of long-time members and staff Mildred Russin and Lyn Cooper Tomaszewski. We remain eternally grateful for their faithful service.



## Saturday Tutoring Program

The 28th year of STP was the final year for founder and director Linda Wilson. As we anticipated Linda's retirement, the Covenant community made a concerted effort to re-engage in the program by volunteering on Saturdays as tutors or ambassadors, or by serving on the STP director search committee. We are excited that Linda's interns Brittany Terrell and Rafael Sturdivant have accepted the position of co-directors and we look forward to supporting this important ministry for many years to come.





# The Church of the Covenant

## Session

Rev. Amy Starr Redwine; Moderator, Will Klein, Clerk

### Class of 2018

Barbara Clint  
Elizabeth Hagen  
Mike Heines  
Jim Tomaszewski

### Class of 2019

Jennifer Conner  
Virginia Kallay  
LaShawna Adams Mitchell  
James Smekal  
Lou Stark

### Class of 2020

David Finkenthal  
Denise Horstman  
Catherine Jarjisian  
Chris Langmack  
Suchi Nelson

## Board of Deacons

### Class of 2018

Stephanie Finkenthal  
Cheryl Keys  
Susan Klein  
Cathy Luck  
Reaver Nelson  
Norma Shuskey

### Class of 2019

Matthew Garrett  
Marjorie Heines  
Elizabeth Holbein  
Pat Owen-Keltner  
Mildred Russin  
Elizabeth Shriver  
Ann Stark

### Class of 2020

Tom Denbow  
Stephanie Johnson  
Julie Mailey  
Lucy Matz  
Nancy Matz  
Lynda Starr

## Trustees and Officers of the Society

### President

Martha Goble

### Secretary

Kathleen Farkas

### Treasurer

Keith Kallay

### Class of 2018

Patty Fowler  
Ron James

### Class of 2019

Russell Hack  
Ann Williams

### Class of 2020

Tom Keys  
Harriet Wadsworth

## Church of the Covenant Staff

### Ministers

*All the members of the church*

The Reverend Amy Starr Redwine, Pastor

The Reverend Melanie Marsh Baum, Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Robert Campbell, Pastor *Emeritus* and Rev. Laury Larson, Associate Pastor *Emeritus*

Kevin J. Lowry, Chaplain to Students

Mindy Stewart, Director of Family Ministries

Dr. Jonathan W. Moyer, Organist & Director of Music

Dr. Matthew Garrett, Associate Director of Music

Dr. Kaori Hongo, Director of Music for Children and Youth

George Leggiero, Carillonneur

Willie Howard, Administrative Services Manager

Shannon James and Willie Parker, Custodians

Aisha Newton, Director of Communications

Este Pozza, Manager of Finance and Operations