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.

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.

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

Welcoming new members Fall 2017

Third annual Trunk or Treat for the neighborhood.

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

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 worshiping community and participates 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

www.CovenantStudentMinistries.org — 216-421-0482 ext. 236 — studentministries@CovenantWeb.org
Ministry of Finance

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

2017 Revenues & Expenses

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

Ministry of Finance 2017 Revenues $1,066,758

Clerk of Session Report

Membership January 1, 2017 395

Increase total 11
By letter of transfer- 1
By affirmation of faith 10
By reaffirmation of faith 0

Decrease total 25
By letter of transfer 2
By death 4
Removed from rolls 19

Membership December 31, 2017 381

Weddings 2017 0
Baptisms 2017 2
Memorials 2017 4

2017 Expenses $1,066,878

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

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.

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.

At long last, a new parking hut!

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.

Outdoor work day

Saturday Tutoring Program
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

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