

2021 Annual Report



Mission Statement

Adopted April 8, 2003 as part of the Mission Study Report, prepared by the Mission Study Team.

Valley Community Presbyterian Church is the people of God in one place and one time. We are called by God to gather, in the name of Christ, and we have responded to that call with a commitment to active membership in this body, this community of Christians.

We are called, and we have committed

to worship God regularly in this place, in hearing the word, in prayer, in sacrament and sacred music.

We are called, and we have committed

to care for each other, individually, in large groups and small; to form a community in the midst of a rushing world.

We are called, and we have committed

to care for our children and youth, not only telling them of the love of God but also showing them.

We are called, and we have committed

to continue to learn and to grow, to discuss, to wrestle with the challenges of applying our faith to our place and time.

We are called, and we have committed

to serve God by serving others, with soup kettles and hammers, with hands of hope and ears of understanding.

We are called, and we have committed

to hear and proclaim God's vision of a kingdom of peace and justice.

We are called, and we have committed

to throw open our doors, to invite in and welcome all our neighbors.

We are called, and we have committed

to be the body of Christ in this place and time.

“For what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8

Pastoral Letter

Grace, mercy, and peace to you...the good people of Valley Church!

It was my distinct pleasure and privilege to begin my time as your Interim Pastor in late November of 2021 after the departure of Pastor Jeff Binder. I know you all join with me in offering thanks to God for Pastor Jeff's faithful service, and in praying for God's richest blessings upon him as he serves in his new position as the Interim Pastor of Old Stone Presbyterian Church in Lewisburg, West Virginia.

Over the last ten weeks, Valley Church has begun to feel increasingly like home every day! I am so incredibly grateful for the warm welcome I have received. Thank you! Here are a few of my initial impressions as I have settled into the day-to-day operations of our church:

- **We have an amazing staff!** My new partners in ministry have been so helpful and kind as they have answered my seemingly endless list of questions! I offer thanks to God for Angela, AmyAnn, Thomas, Amy, and Siena (and our talented soloists), Kylie (and our wonderful preschool staff), Alex, Pastor Jenny, and Frank (though not a paid employee, our treasurer sure acts like one!).
- **We have a dedicated Session!** Leading the church during a global pandemic and a pastoral transition is challenging. These fine women and men are working hard on your behalf!
- **We have a compassionate Board of Deacons!** I so appreciate the many understated ways this fine group reaches out to those in need of care, friendship, and practical support.
- **We love our children and youth!** One of my first Sundays included the annual Christmas Pageant. It was so clear to me that our congregation loves its children and youth and wants the absolute best for them.
- **We have missionary hearts that propel us into the world!** I am overwhelmed by the numerous ways our congregation tangibly shares the love of Christ locally and internationally. I am particularly impressed by the literal army of volunteers who have paved the way for us to welcome and resettle the Ahmadzai family as they have journeyed from Afghanistan to the United States.
- **We have a faithful and generous congregation!** I praise God daily for the commitment and financial generosity of our congregation. Throughout these difficult pandemic months your faithful giving has been truly inspiring.
- **We love to worship the Lord in our beautiful sanctuary!** It is such a privilege to worship with you each week as we enjoy rich music and listen together for God to speak through the Word read and proclaimed.

As we enter 2022, the Session is beginning a strategic planning process that will help us envision the future that God has in store for our congregation. I am grateful to God for the opportunity to partner in ministry with the congregation and elected leaders of Valley Church during this pivotal time. Please pray with and for me and our elected leaders as we prayerfully seek to discern the focus of our mission and ministry for the coming years. Please know that I pray daily for you!

"I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints." (Philemon 4-5)

Joyfully in Christ,



Pastor Robin

Church Information

Church Officers

Session

Christian Nurture for Children Bev Hubbard
Christian Nurture for Youth Kevin Killian
Facilities David Marquis
Fellowship/CONC Ruthann Marquis
Finance, Stewardship
Small Groups Wendy Jenkins
Communication
Membership Cheryl Sloan Rees
Mission Andrea Murdoch
Personnel Amy Dee
Worship and Music Debbie Purcell
Moderator Rev. Robin Garvin
Clerk of Session Roger Rees

Deacons

Kathy Bach
Jan Bellis-Squires
Cathy Bernhard
Christine Danner
Angela Graham
Roberta Hahn
Amy Henning
Karen Miller
Phil Miller
Jim Sandberg
Karen Sandberg
Anne Searce
Charlene Stansbury
Joyce Wood

President of the Corporation

Sam Connell

Treasurer

Frank Powers

Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Robin Garvin
Pastoral Associate	Rev. Jenny Pratt Hale
Director of Children's Ministries	
Director of Youth Ministries	
Director of Music	Thomas Rheingans
Assistant Director of Music	Siena Hertafeld
Director of Youth and Children's Music	Amy Rheingans
Preschool Director	Kylie Cole
Publication and Office Administrator	Angela Graham
Business Manager	AmyAnn Green
Building Custodian	Alex Mendoza

Ministry Reports

Worship and Music

Debbie Purcell, Elder
Thomas Rheingans, Amy Rheingans, Raoul Bellis-Squires, David Marquis, Steve Rees,
Diane Meyer, Jim Sandberg, Donna Rueff, Carol Powers, Cheryl Hoffbeck

The Worship and Music Committee is responsible for the liturgy, music, and drama throughout the seasons of the church year. Subcommittees are responsible for organizing ushers, communion servers, liturgists, pew re-stockers, liturgical arts workers, and audio/video operators.

Since the early stages of the COVID 19 pandemic, the church continues to use live-streaming technology every Sunday on the Facebook platform. Faithful volunteers for Audio/Visual in 2021 included Steve Rees, Roger Rees, Dan Rueff, Yvonne Rees, Greg Russell, and Donna Russell. Jim Sandberg joined the team in 2022. We plan to continue live-streaming indefinitely.

Prominent celebrations during worship include Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, All-Saints Day, Kirkin' o' the Tartan, Advent, and Christmas Eve. We had our annual Christmas Pageant. There were two outdoor services on the front lawn: July 18 with music by Thomas Rheingans and Siena Hertafeld, and August 22 with music by Siena and the Oak Street Ramblers. On August 8, the 6-12th graders performed the musical "Judge Julian and the Case of the Holy Roof." On September 19 we held the Blessing of the Animals service in the gym with the Oak Street Ramblers and Siena providing the music.

Valley continues its tradition of having a vibrant music program. In April of 2021, Thomas Rheingans became Head of the Music Department. Thomas brings innovative changes to Valley in the form of blended music. Thomas has virtuoso keyboard skills on piano, organ, and electronic keyboards. His assistant is Siena Hertafeld, a talented cantor, soloist, songwriter, and director for the Sanctuary Choir. The Sanctuary Choir resumed practices and performances in September after a long hiatus due to COVID.

Amy Rheingans, our wonderful children's music director, celebrated her 25th anniversary at Valley in September 2021. She directs the Armonia Youth Choir, the Melodia Children's Choir, and the Valley New Spirit Ringers and Royal Ringers. The Armonia and Melodia Choirs restarted in September. Armonia Choir participated in the Christmas Pageant. Thomas on piano, and Siena, Luke Smith, and Eoghan McDowell as vocalists, entertained us at the Christmas Concert.

In late September 2021, Jeff Binder left his position as our pastor to accept a call in West Virginia. The guest preachers on October 3, 10, 17 and 24 were Jennifer Ackerman, Mark Frey, Robin Garvin, and Shela Sullivan. Jennifer Ackerman became a Bridge Interim for the month of November, and Robin Garvin preached her first sermon as Interim Pastor on November 28, 2021.

Our committee is investigating possible upgrades for our sanctuary sound system, including microphones, house speakers, organ speakers, sound board, etc. We are also investigating improved sanctuary and chancel lighting and video cameras. Bob Rasmussen and Steve Rees are important consultants. We are in the process of obtaining bids for these upgrades, which we believe would greatly enhance the worship experience. We look forward to another year of wonderful music and inspired worship!

Finance

Eben Jenkins, Chair
Sam Connell, Lyle Chadwick, Don Sowers,
John Purcell, Shannon Pratt (In Memoriam)
Frank Powers, Treasurer

The Finance Committee is responsible for overseeing the financial operations of Valley Community Presbyterian Church. This includes tracking assets, liabilities, fund balances, program and non-program revenues and expenditures. In addition, the Finance Committee coordinates the annual Stewardship campaign for Valley. Finance also provides support to Session as needed for assessing financial implications of issues being considered.

Valley received \$436,406 in 2021 adult giving contributions, an increase of 2% compared with 2020 and more than 12% above our 2021 budget. This was a remarkable result given the ongoing uncertainties of day-to-day life in 2021. The Committee once more offers its deep appreciation to the friends and members of this congregation for your ongoing support of Valley and its ministries.

Despite our hopes for a more “straightforward” recovery, the church remained closed for most activities until Palm Sunday 2021. Preschool was able to resume operations at the same time, but at severely reduced capacity. As in 2020, Valley received a CARES Paycheck Protection Program forgivable loan in 2021. Both the 2020 and 2021 loans were confirmed as “forgiven” over the course of 2021. Valley’s Preschool also received a grant for early childhood education in late 2021.

Overall Valley ended the year with a budget surplus in excess of \$75,000 compared to a budgeted loss of more than \$28,000. The aforementioned loan, preschool grant, stronger than forecasted adult giving, and lower expenses all contributed to this result. Personnel costs were lower than expected due to staff vacancies we experienced during the year, two of which remain unfilled to this day. Some expenses were higher than planned due to increased Mission spending during the COVID crisis and the diversion of one of our rental houses to use as our Sanctuary House, now occupied by our beloved Afghan refugee family.

The Finance Committee is budgeting a much larger deficit for 2022, based upon plans for filling vacant positions, continuing our support of Mission projects, and a still less-than-clear recovery. Moreover, we will not enjoy a PPP loan in 2022 to help offset losses in other areas. As of February 7, 2022, the Stewardship Campaign has received 93 pledges totaling \$319,539 against our goal of \$350,000. This is 17 fewer pledges than last year, but an increase of ~\$10,000 in pledges. Again, thank you to all for answering the call to increase your support where able. Using historical trends, the Stewardship Committee budgets 2022 adult giving to be \$21,406 less than 2021. The “surplus” from 2021 has been shifted to reserves for use in 2022 and future years.

The church again has no debt due to the PPP loan forgiveness.

Income Statements for 2021 and 2020 operations as well as end of year balances for Valley are located on the following pages. The large increase in asset balances year over year is due to the surplus for 2021 as well as the receipt of a very generous bequest from a beloved member of Valley. We do not recognize bequests as income in the year we receive them. Instead, we recognize the income at the time when some or all of the asset is transferred from reserves.

**Valley Community Presbyterian Church Summary Balance Statement
(Selected View)**

<u>Current Assets</u>	<u>As of 31 Dec 2021</u>	<u>As of 31 Dec 2020</u>
Operating Cash Account	\$425,701	\$213,384
Investment Account	\$415,944	\$412,463
Online Accounts / Petty Cash	\$12,636	\$29,809
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$854,281	\$655,656

Valley Community Presbyterian Church Summary Income Statement

	Actual 2020	Actual 2021
Sources of Income:		
Adult Giving Income	\$ 427,752	\$ 436,406
Misc. Income and Donations	\$ 52,281	\$ 41,796
CARES PPP Loan Proceeds	\$ 93,800	\$ 91,330
Rental Houses Net Income	\$ 26,718	\$ 5,933
Children Ministries Income	\$ 2,575	\$ 450
Youth Ministries Income	\$ 1,169	\$ 1,169
Mission Income	\$ 53,616	\$ 41,254
Valley Preschool Net Income	\$ (71,844)	\$ 189
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 586,068	\$ 618,527
 In addition, Valley utilized these additional resources:		
From Valley Foundation, Memorial & Gifts	\$ 2,000	\$ 11,456
From Reserves	\$ 106,313	\$ 6,718
 Expenses:		
Compensation and Benefits, All Staff	\$ 338,635	\$ 338,103
Facilities	\$ 53,533	\$ 41,233
General Administration	\$ 97,850	\$ 97,078
Adult Education, Library, Small Groups	\$ 375	\$ 370
Children's Ministries	\$ 6,431	\$ 4,502
Youth Ministries	\$ 3,487	\$ 1,231
Deacons	\$ 451	\$ 117
Mission (expense)	\$ 60,760	\$ 51,830
Worship and Music	\$ 4,089	\$ 8,360
Communications, Membership, Fellowship	\$ 1,859	\$ 1,331
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 567,469	\$ 544,156

Property Evaluation Committee (PEC)

Don Sowers, Chair
Connie Brenner, Greg Russell, Donna Rueff, John Purcell,
Sarah Martin, David Marquis, Sam Connell

In October 2020 the PEC was formed to evaluate the future of the three rental houses and the TriMet lot. This committee continues the work started by the Facilities Committee in December 2019. The motivation for evaluating the rental properties was threefold, first, the need for about \$40,000 of repairs to the house at 8085 Cedar Street, second, an offer to buy the three rental houses by a developer in 2019 and third, the desire of the church to be out of the rental business after 57 years.

Previous to formation of the PEC, the Facilities committee considered four options in its December 2019 meeting. The option of replacing the rental houses with a parking area became the preferred option and was discussed again at their March 2020 meeting.

The first meeting of the PEC in November 2020 also focused on this option. The present parking situation on Sunday morning is usually not a problem, but parking is a problem on dark winter evenings when the church has either a service or several groups meeting and close in and well-lit parking is desirable. The TriMet lot is minimally used by church attendees on Sunday and the distance of 500 feet is too far for many of the congregation that have mobility problems.

The committee established that it was important to fund all costs for a new parking area from proceeds of the sale of church property and not to use current financial reserves or raise funds for this purpose. The committee also voted unanimously to “get out of the rental business”.

A discussion with the city in 2015 implied that Valley had no current requirement for off-street parking. A plan for adding new parking spaces to the existing east lot by adding head-in parking on the south side of the alley and two rows of parking on the eastern most lot (8085 Cedar) making a total of 64 spaces was then developed. The construction costs would be paid by selling the TriMet lot. This plan was presented to the Beaverton planning department in a pre-application meeting on March 10, 2021. The city responded that any alteration to the present parking lot would require updating the lot to current city code. This code requires a minimum of 100 off-street parking spaces for Valley’s 400 seat sanctuary among other requirements. Since the proposed plan had 64 parking spaces, it was not acceptable.

The PEC met again on June 21 to discuss other options that would satisfy Beaverton city code. The committee members were concerned about the general decline in church membership, church income and the effect of the pandemic on the future of the church. It was decided that after much discussion that no changes should be made to the parking areas and the three rental houses at this time. The committee should adjourn for the remainder of 2021 and reconvene in 2022 when the future of the church is better known.

In September the 8085 Cedar St. house was vacated. A PEC meeting was held on September 21 to discuss the disposition of the house. Shortly after this meeting, Session decided to repair the house and it was offered to an Afghan refugee family which now occupies it.

The committee is still committed to developing a plan to get out of the rental business and use these properties in the church’s best interest. Although the parking options are the primary focus, all options are under consideration.

Memorials and Gifts

Jim Sandberg, Chair
Ann Johnson, David Marquis, John Purcell, Frank Powers

The Memorial Gift Committee oversees the gifts given to Valley Community Presbyterian Church as memorials. The Committee serves as a ministry of the Finance Committee of the Session.

Contributions to the memorial fund are received in honor of members and friends of the church. These gifts are used to enhance the life of the church and its buildings and grounds.

Approved Request In 2021:

- MG2021-01; Fabric for the White Easter Sanctuary dossal, \$300.
- MG2021-02; Material and quilting for Chuck Falconer and David Jimerson's retirement quilts, \$500.
- MG2021-03; Equipment for updating the Preschool management and record keeping system. Intercom system between classrooms and contactless check-in for COVID-safety, \$800.
- MG2021-04; Maintenance of the Steinway piano, \$5,200.
- MG2021-05; Purchase of eight (8) mounted 10x10 photos "Fruits of the Spirit" designs by Jini De Vries for the East Hallway, \$320.

Total 2021 approved requests: \$7,120.

There is currently money in the memorial fund that can be used by the various ministries to enhance the life of the church and its buildings and grounds. As the overseer of the memorial fund the Committee is responsible for informing the designated ministries of the church to be aware of the funds available to them.



White dossal hung in the Sanctuary for Easter.

Facilities

David Marquis, Elder
Carol Powers, Secretary
Brad Carlson, Paul DuFresne, Stephen Rees, Ed Sanders,
Jim Stevens, Karen Mitchell-Yakymi

Valley's Facilities Ministry is responsible for maintenance and security of our church building, Youth House, residence and grounds. We also manage three adjacent rental houses on Cedar Street, and the TriMet parking lot on Laurelwood. The committee identifies, assesses, approves and coordinates all repairs and improvements. Work is performed by committee members when feasible, and qualified contractors when needed. Proactive maintenance is our primary objective.

Significant 2021 projects include:

COVID-19 Updates: Facilities collaborated with the Virus Task Force for another full year to comply with ever evolving recommendations about occupancy, building access, signage, sanitation, ventilation, air circulation & filtration, and much more. Variant strains have required many steps forward and back as new requirements demanded.

LED Lighting: The Valley Foundation awarded Facilities a grant to upgrade lighting. Sanctuary lighting was converted to 100% LED lamps to provide brighter and color consistent lighting for the congregation. Lamps all have an approximate eight-year life so we shouldn't have to climb tall ladders for a long time. Lighting in Armitage Hall has also been converted to LED, making a noticeable difference.

Valley Preschool: Thanks to a generous grant from The Valley Foundation we purchased four ductless air conditioning units for the growing preschool. Installation will be completed during 2022 Spring Break when school is not in session. Instant water heaters were replaced and window screens were added where needed this year.

Sanctuary House: Our tenant moved out of the 8085 Cedar Street rental house in September. Mission decided to host an Afghan refugee family requiring urgent attention to repairs and upgrades for their December arrival. This property was removed from the rental management company but remains a maintenance responsibility of Facilities.

Debris Removal: Valley volunteers removed and disposed of long-time accumulation of debris in the garage attic.

Landscape Maintenance: A professional tree service removed seven overgrown trees that were causing exterior damage to the house. Valley's Facilities crew pruned overgrown shrubs and low hanging branches.



Exterior Maintenance: The roof was professionally cleaned and sprayed, which should allow us two to three years of additional service. Gutters and rotted fascia boards were replaced. Exterior painting has been contracted and will be scheduled for Spring 2022 as weather permits.



Rental Properties: The Property Evaluation Committee (PEC), formed in 2020, continues to research the viability of retaining or repurposing these properties as well as the lower parking lot. This includes the Sanctuary House. The Facilities elder is a part of this committee.

Safety & Security: Facilities contracts with Performance Systems Integrated (PSI) for monitoring, maintenance and testing of our fire and alarm systems. Our entrance doors require on-going maintenance for trouble-free operation and security. In-person security visits remain in place.

Facilities continuously strives to make Valley a welcoming, comforting, and safe place for all those who enter our church and campus.

Valley Community Presbyterian Church Foundation

Board of Trustees: Janet Adkins, Cathy Bernhard,
Pat Bryant, Joy McNeal, Bob Peterson, Wally Phillips, Stephen Rees, Daniel Rueff
Andrew Dee, Valley Foundation President

Valley Community Presbyterian Church Foundation manages assets acquired through the wills and gifts from our congregation and community. Monies invested provide for disbursements that support mission, education, music and worship, and capital projects. The Foundation distributes the interest made each year on the principle while keeping the principle intact. Foundation bylaws regulate the Foundation's Board of Trustees. All Foundation Trustees are members of Valley Community Presbyterian Church and are elected by the congregation.

By rules set forth in the bylaws, the principle must be kept separate from the general fund. The interest and donations the Foundation receives fill specific financial requests from Valley programs and committees. Each year, the amount provided depends upon the interest available.

In 2021, Valley's Foundation funded two requests for financial support amounting to \$35,000.00. The following requests were funded:

- \$5,000.00 was paid for Valley Community Presbyterian Church sanctuary lighting upgrade. This money was requested from the Facilities Committee.
- \$30,000.00 was paid to install ductless HVAC units in the Valley Preschool classrooms 14 and 15.
(this is also the location where we conduct blood drives) and preschool wing classroom 5. This money was requested from the Facilities Committee.

Since the beginning of the Foundation, nearly \$116,000 has been granted to the benefit of Valley and its membership. Past funding has been used for church improvement projects, support for our youth traveling to Presbyterian events, and to update and replace items used by the church.

The Board of Trustees encourages members of the church to provide for the Foundation in their wills and trusts, and to establish committees and or activities for the raising of funds and investments that will increase the principle. Principle growth allows for investments which will result in more projects funded.

Mission Committee

Mission Committee Members: Andrea Murdoch, Elder
Connie Brenner, Janice Viestenz, Christine Danner, Mary Kay Rodman, Diane Meyer

Valley's Mission Committee continued to meet the needs in the local area, the region, and around the world during this second challenging year. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, money and donated items were collected throughout the year to meet local and far-off needs. Our committee is always looking for new members, interested in participating in the very satisfying work, please contact Andrea Murdoch.

Here is what Valley did in 2021 with our many various social distanced projects. From the year just past, we've seen how tenuous our lives really are. In the blink of an eye, we can go from having to not having enough, yet, we continued to step up to the plate.

Thanks to online and in-person giving, our four main yearly collections: **Joy, Peace, Pentecost** and **One Great Hour of Sharing** continued, as did **Cents-Ability** from which we send \$1,000 locally to **Share to Care**. Though down in the amounts we received, we were still able to send funds where needed. Through our budget, we donate \$8,000 annually to the **Presbyterian Partnership Giving** and \$1,500 to the **Theological Education Fund**, supporting future clergy.

Beginning and ending each year, we've donated to the **Good Roots Food Pantry** in SE Portland, with our yearly Reverse Advent Calendar donation. Monthly we've continued with the Third Thursday Soup Kitchen which was prepared in our homes, with delivery only to the **Bud Clark Transition Center**. Here's to the knitters and crocheters of the **Prayer Shawl Ministry**, who made and delivered many items in 2021; and baby hats for the **Purple Period of Crying**. I can see you now in front of your screens; Zoom was a wonderful way to stay connected. It allowed **Together Women Rise** (formerly known as Dining for Women) now in its ninth year, to continue to meet where funds collected have been given to empower women and children worldwide.

We continued to distance food collection on the first and third Thursdays of the month, and sent over 5,700 pounds of food to the **St. Matthew's Food Pantry**. They are now serving around 300 families per month. Volunteer duties in the pantry are still happening every third, fourth, and sometimes fifth Wednesday nights, coordinated by Diane Meyer. And we've added home delivery drivers too.

Also joining us in the back parking lot on those Thursdays were Carol Powers, Connie Brenner, and Ruthann Marquis who collected Styrofoam. Twenty-four truckloads went to Agilyx. We brought back our Community Recycling event in April; where at times the cars were lined up all the way to Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy., and we repeated this again in October. This has allowed us to maintain our **Earth Care Congregation** status.



Twice each year we distribute \$10,000 to applicants through the **Mission Endowment Grant**. This past fall's grant supported our newest project: **Sanctuary House**, which is now in full operation, with a wonderful Afghan family looking for a new start. For more details, please see Debbie Purcell or Karen Yakymi.



We continued our on-going support of: the **Presbyterian Disaster Relief**, donating pints of blood to the **Red Cross**, driving for **Meals-On-Wheels**, at Easter we took baskets to **New Narratives** (fka: Luke Dorf) and continued our relationship with this community at our summer Ice Cream Social, and the **Summer Produce Table**, where the funds were donated to the **Oregon Food Bank**. We collected about 200 pairs of eyeglasses and some hearing aids for the **Lyons Club**. A Free Will Offering was taken at the April recycle event for our **CROP Walk** contribution. This year Valley is Hosting the walk here in our neighborhood. Stay tuned, we will be asking for your upcoming support. In October we held our Bake Sale for **Bread for the World** and in November... **Mission Market**, which was held over for acts 2 and 3; all of the participants gathered several hundred dollars each, for their programs.



These are the things I know we did... but I know you did more. For some of us we didn't need the COVID Relief checks. We asked you to "Redirect the Check" and I know some of you did. Some of you probably participated in a SOLV event. As the world reawakens, please remember WE continue to be the hands and feet of Christ. Look, we are a Vital Congregation! Your Mission Committee wishes to thank you for your on-going and generous giving.

With God's help.... We have a giving that knows no ending. Thank You.

Sanctuary Home Ministry

Team members: Debbie Purcell, Karen Yakymi, Carol Powers, Ruthann Marquis, Glenys Craig, Sally Rasmussen, Chelsea Redmond, Allison Gregory

In late August 2021, the United States military started to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan. During that process, the Taliban overwhelmed the Afghan military, and many people who had worked with the US became refugees fleeing Afghanistan. Tens of thousands of these refugees were sent to military bases in the US for processing. Three different organizations in Oregon contracted with the federal government for refugee resettlement within our state. One of these organizations, Lutheran Community Services of the Northwest, was identified by Valley church members in September as the organization most suitable to work with us to support a new refugee family.

At this same time, Valley's rental house at 8085 SW Cedar Street became vacant. The house needed a lot of work, but Valley had many willing volunteers. Larry Yakymi, Karen Yakymi, Glenys Craig, and Gary Moen worked tirelessly to repaint the entire interior. David Marquis identified structural issues, plumbing problems, and other things that needed repair, and took care of them. Due to the generosity of our Valley members and friends, we were able to fully furnish and decorate the house. The exterior was painted in February 2022. Finally, we had truly created a Sanctuary Home.

We met our Afghan family, the Ahmadzai's, at the airport on December 9, 2021. Very quickly we fell in love with the delightful seven children and their dear father. We spent time playing with the children and helping the father and his family adjust to their new life. We are learning about Afghan foods, and many of our volunteers have become skilled at preparing them. LCSNW provided a caseworker for the father, and LCSNW registered the children in school.

We have organized a Valley core team of volunteers who are working very hard to provide the support this family needs. Team members are: Debbie Purcell, Karen Yakymi, Carol Powers, Ruthann Marquis, Glenys Craig, Sally Rasmussen, Chelsea Redmond (Valley preschool parent) and Allison Gregory (neighbor). We have instructed the father on how to use his Oregon Trail card (public benefits) and debit card, make bank deposits, use his cell phone and computer (loaned from Valley), traffic signals, public transportation, household appliances, and many other things. We are providing transportation to necessary appointments.

Ongoing concerns are the educational needs of children who are not English-speakers, and the necessity for the father to improve his proficiency in spoken and written English. He will be enrolled in March at PCC in an English class. Childcare, especially for the toddler, the three-year-old preschooler and the three elementary age children, is an ongoing challenge which complicates the father's ability to focus on learning new skills and eventually becoming employed. Childcare is an area where our team could use some assistance from more Valley members. Our long-term goal is to help this family become self-sufficient.

We have been blessed to walk alongside this Ahmadzai family as they make a new life for themselves after having suffered so much trauma and loss in Afghanistan. We welcome any additional volunteers who are willing to join us.

Mission Endowment Committee

Carol Powers, Chair
Jan Bellis-Squires, Ernie Bootsma, Donna Carlson, Robert Hayes, Pam Kessinger
Janet Adkins, Mission Committee Liaison

Committee notes:

A major grant was given in December to support our church's new mission to provide housing for an Afghan refugee family. Janus Youth Services is first time recipient in 2021. Additional grants are to organizations that we have funded in past years.

The committee met in April and October to review applications and recommend grants. After approvals, the award letters and checks were sent in June and December. Grant application deadlines remain April 1 and October 1.

Funds available/awarded from the Mission Endowment Fund: \$23,000

Spring 2020 Grant Cycle recipients:

Seeds of Learning - \$2,400

Provide a scholarship for a student seeking university education at Nicaragua University

St. Matthews Lutheran Church SCAT - \$1,000

Provide funds to purchase personal hygiene products to provide to client families through their food pantry services

Impact NW - \$2,500

Support vulnerable individuals to avoid homelessness

Open Arms, International - \$2,000

Provide PPE for Open Arms Academy to allow the school to remain open through the end of 2021

Corvallis Sister Cities Association - \$1,350

Purchase benches and an electric stove for the New Family Center in Uzhhorod, Ukraine

Ignite the World Ministries - \$900

Provide emergency food to families in Myanmar, Philippines and SE India during COVID lockdown

Fall 2020 Grant Cycle recipients:

Valley Mission: Afghan Refugee House - \$4,200

Fund housing expenses for an Afghan refugee family

Janus Youth Services - \$1,850

Provide hygiene items for runaway, homeless, and street youth in the Portland Metro area

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon: Second Home - \$2,500

Support a triennial strategic planning retreat for the Second Home staff

YWCA of Greater Portland, Domestic Violence Services - \$1,900

Support survivors of domestic violence by securing safe, affordable housing

Willamette West Habitat for Humanity - \$2,400

Continue the collaborative efforts by the faith community to help low-income families in Washington County build affordable housing in the Denney Gardens neighborhood

Mission Endowment Fund Investment Committee

Lyle Chadwick, Chair
Don Sowers, Richard Page
Frank Powers, Treasurer
Dave Balk, Steward Partner Financial Consultant

The genesis of Valley's Mission Endowment Fund began in 1949 with a gift of over \$200,000 in closely held stock by a former Valley member and his wife. The donor designated the gift to be used only for "mission purposes and not for salaries or operating expenses at the local congregational level."

Accordingly, the fund is held in a separate designated account on Valley's books to which the original donor hoped that "the gift itself would inspire others to add to this fund." Current investments are broadly diversified in market traded assets with about two-thirds in the equity sector. At December 31, 2021, the balance in the Endowment Fund was \$518,091, an increase of \$20,105 (4.03%) for the year.

Semi-annually, the MEF Investment Committee determines the dollar amount under the gifting formula – 2½% of the fund's nine quarter rolling average – a 5% annual payout. Mission requests are reviewed by the Fund's gifting committee (co-chaired by Carol Powers and David Marquis) and then recommended to Session for final approval. In 2021, the Fund awarded gifts of \$23,500 and has provided for gifts of about \$475,141 since the year 1999.

The MEF Investment Committee meets quarterly to review market trends, results and the asset composition.

Membership and Outreach Committee

Cheryl Sloan Rees, Elder

Mission Statement

We are called and have committed to:

- Welcome all who come to Valley – members, friends and visitors alike by creating a welcoming atmosphere.
- Encourage a community of faith by caring for our members, friends and children by communicating one on one what Valley has to offer and retaining and recruiting those interested in joining a community of faith.
- To throw open our doors, to invite in and welcome all our neighbors.

Highlights

The year 2021 was accented by continued COVID restrictions.

- All group activities in the church facility were modified.
- Session created committees to monitor in-person services that complied with public restrictions as lined out by Oregon's Governor Brown.
- In June, Emails were sent to 110 members who do not regularly attend services to encourage them to join us through Facebook Zoom. Responses were received from 23 folks.
- Blessing of the Animals service was held in Davis Hall in July.
- After service coffee hour was mostly suspended with no food or drinks being served.
- Membership activities were limited as gathering was discouraged.
- Greeters welcomed those few who attended Sunday morning in person services.
- Church membership was updated and reported to Session.
- Sunday worship continued to be broadcast through Zoom and YouTube.

Communications (a Membership Subcommittee)

Angela Graham, Publication and Office Administrator/Webmaster

The Communications and Social Media Committee reformed in 2018 as a subcommittee to Membership. It coordinates and supervises external and internal church communications and public relations events. It administers the Valley website (valleycommunity.org), Facebook page and oversees the publication of *The Messenger*, weekly e-blast, and the weekly church bulletin along with specialty items such as the church membership directory (print and online), the annual report, etc. The coordinator also communicates activities to those outside our church walls by use of our Nextdoor account and with communications with the apartment complex adjacent to our building. All church communications route through the Communications Administrator (Angela Graham) before publication or distribution to ensure consistent messaging, to aid proper identification, and to act as a clearinghouse.

2021 saw many of our regular church activities cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions so there were fewer activities to promote.

Angela Graham, Publication and Office Administrator/Webmaster now handles all Communication Duties in place of this committee. Anyone with a passion for communicating to our members and Christ to our neighborhood, please contact Angela Graham and/or Rev. Robin Garvin.



Vital Congregations Initiative Committee

At its November 9, 2021, meeting, the Session received the final report of the Vital Congregations Task Force. This report reflects two years of prayer, study, planning, in-person data collection, congregational education seminars, and the formulation of a recommendation regarding the way forward for our congregation.

Based on the information gleaned from their two-year, Session-authorized, process, the Vital Congregations Task Force recommended that Valley embark on the path of re-envisioning and changing how we are church together through the Seven Marks of Congregational Vitality:

- Lifelong Discipleship Formation
- Intentional Authentic Evangelism
- Outward Incarnational Focus
- Empower Servant Leadership
- Spirit-inspired Worship
- Caring Relationships
- Ecclesial Health

Specifically, the VCI Task Force recommended that Session and the congregation identify Valley's core values to initiate a thoughtful and deliberate process to evaluate our programs, Session and Deacon committee sizes, activities, and functions we currently support, and what will be supported in the future. Further, the VCI Task Force recommended that this deliberate, strategic planning process would ideally lead to the identification of 2 to 5 key areas of missional focus toward which our congregation could direct the best of its efforts and energy in the future.

In late February 2022, the Session, with assistance from the Reverend Brian Heron, Presbyter for Vision and Mission of Cascades Presbytery, will review the information compiled by the VCI Task Force and their recommendation as a part of a deliberate strategic planning process intended to engage Valley's elected leaders and congregation in a prayerful consideration of the future direction of our church.

The Session wishes to publicly thank this courageous group for persevering amid formidable challenges...most notably the global pandemic and the departure of Pastor Jeff in September 2021. Pastor Jeff Binder, Glenys Craig, Greg Russell, Lizz Brown, Michelle Blair, Polly Dye, and Taylor Rawlings are to be commended for their hard work, visionary leadership, and invaluable contributions to the future direction of our beloved congregation!

Gratefully,



Pastor Robin Garvin, Moderator
Valley Community Presbyterian Church Session

Virus Task Force

Members: Robin Garvin, Debbie Purcell, Sam Connell,
Richard Bryant, Nels Carlson, AmyAnn Green, Kylie Cole

The Virus Task Force (VTF) has been meeting monthly since March 2020 for the purpose of recommending church policies and procedures that are in full compliance with the governor's orders and the Oregon Health Authority. These policies, tailored to the needs of the members of Valley, have the intent of providing protection (as much as is possible) from COVID-19 infections. Any of these recommended actions must be approved by Session in order to take effect.

The VTF does not undertake its responsibilities lightly. Much thought, research, and deliberation within our group is needed to produce consensus statements. Sometimes we must make tough and unpopular decisions.

During the winter and spring of 2021, COVID-19 infections rates were peaking, and universal masking and social distancing were required by the governor. By June 30, COVID was declining, universal mask-wearing was eliminated, and we were singing in worship and serving food and drink indoors. By July 26, due to the emergence of the delta variant, the OHA recommended mask-wearing indoors. On August 13, the VTF recommended mask-wearing inside the church, (within a few days the governor also mandated it) and service of food and beverages was restricted to outdoors, as approved by Session.

On August 25, the VTF recommended a requirement for vaccination and boosters (when they became available) against COVID-19 for all church employees, except those with a valid medical or religious exemption. A requirement for vaccination for all Sanctuary Choir members was also recommended prior to the start of choir practices in September. In October, the VTF encouraged at least three feet of social distancing. In November, a requirement for vaccination for guest preachers and liturgists was recommended. It was emphasized at that time that masks should be worn inside all church buildings, including the Youth House and the Sanctuary Home. All the above recommendations were approved by Session.

By December, the delta variant COVID infections were waning as the omicron variant infections were climbing quickly. Due to the omicron having so much greater contagiousness, further recommendations on January 4 included: improving ventilation in the sanctuary, increasing social distancing to six feet or more, suspending choir singing, and requiring vaccination for the Sanctuary Home volunteers. By January 19, 2022, the recommendation was to temporarily suspend in-person worship. All the above recommendations were approved by Session.

The VTF will continue to review the scientific evidence and strive to do its best to protect all those who worship at Valley, including those who are at greatest risk due to advanced age or underlying conditions.

Fellowship

Ruthann Marquis, Elder
Beth Busch, Wendy Jenkins, Marcia Sanderman

The mission of the Fellowship Ministry is to build community and create opportunities for Christian fellowship within the congregation at Valley Community Presbyterian Church and the local neighborhood community.

As could be expected, the activities that this ministry did in 2021 (year two of the Coronavirus pandemic) were restricted and modified secondary to the need for safe distancing and masking within our church community. None-the-less the following were accomplished:

- Homemade Valentine's Day cookies were delivered to all seniors/mature Valley members/friends who were either living alone, in a retirement community, or an adult foster home.
- Coffee hour was either hosted by the Fellowship Ministry team or Valley's Mariner ships during the brief summer time when restrictions were lifted to allow for this opportunity to happen.
- Fellowship participated in the Fall Festival Drive Through with a barnyard theme and decorated pumpkins.
- The Advent Fair happened on December 5, 2021. All activity stations were staffed by Fellowship Ministry team members or wonderful volunteers. Although attendance was sparse, all present had a good time and the Advent season was embraced by all who attended.

The following typical activities did not happen due to restrictions that were in place: All Church Picnic and Kick-Off Sunday.

With hope and with God's grace the Fellowship Ministry team looks forward to creating opportunities in 2022 to build community within our congregation. May it be so!

Small Groups

Wendy Jenkins, Elder

The purpose of Small Groups is to provide opportunities for members and friends of Valley to gather together to learn, share joy, support others, and connect with one another in a smaller setting.

Mariner Groups

There were four Mariner groups in 2021, three of which were active (Clippers, Navigators, and Starfish), and one was anchored. (Sailors). Activities were limited due to the Covid pandemic; meetings were online, or in-person as conditions allowed. Support of the Soup Kitchen continued, but was modified since meal prep was not done in the church kitchen.

Gamble Library Book Club

Valley's Book Club continued to be very active during 2021 despite the pandemic. The group met monthly on the fourth Friday of every month through Zoom, except for a November/December meeting in early December (to avoid holiday conflicts). Books are selected by the group members and span all genres and topics. Titles read in 2021 included *American Dirt*, *Beekeeper of Aleppo*, *Birding without Borders*, *Braiding*, *Sweetgrass*, *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*, *Mrs. Hockaday*, and *Sing of Achilles*.

Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study group was very active and met weekly during 2021. A hybrid style of in-person and online was utilized to accommodate the needs of those traveling, or not wanting to be in-person. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, there were no Pancake or Community Service Awards Breakfasts held this past year.

The hope for 2022 is that there will be a resumption of established in-person activities and the creation of new activities that will allow us to reconnect and strengthen our bonds with one another.

Church Officer Nominating Committee (CONC)

Carol Powers, Elder
Angela Graham, Deacon Representative
Wade Askew, Wendy Jenkins, Donna Rueff, Janice Viestenz, Members at Large

CONC is a committee mandated by the constitution of the Presbyterian Church. It is composed of a representative selected by the Session, who serves as Chair, a representative selected by the Board of Deacons, and members-at-large who are elected by the congregation. The pastor serves *ex officio* (with voice, but no vote).

Early each calendar year the committee convenes to begin the search for potential candidates. Officers must be church members who participate regularly in the life of the church. CONC presents nominees to the church body at a congregational meeting. When elections are held, there is an opportunity for nominations from the floor.

Nominations/Election: Officers nominated by CONC are listed below. They were subsequently elected by the congregation in May 2021. Elders and deacons began their terms of service in June, 2021.

Ruling Elder:

Wendy Jenkins	Three year term, Class of 2024
Kevin Killian	Three year term, Class of 2024
Andrea Murdoch	Three year term, Class of 2024
Debbie Purcell	Three year term, Class of 2024
Cheryl Rees	One year, filling an unexpired term, Class of 2022

Note: There are three unfilled openings in the Class of 2023

Deacon:

Cathy Bach	Three year term, Class of 2024
Jan Bellis-Squires	Three year term, Class of 2024
Eddie Leland	Three year term, Class of 2024
Anne Scarce	Three year term, Class of 2024
Phil Miller	One year, filling an unexpired term, Class of 2022

Note: There is one unfilled opening in the Class of 2024

Church Officer Nominating Committee for 2022:

Ruthann Marquis	Chair (selected by Session in June 2021)
Angela Graham	Deacon Representative (selected by the Board of Deacons)
Allison Carlson	Member at large
Roger Rees	Member at large
Laura Sanders	Member at large

We give thanks to God for these Valley members who have accepted the call to serve the Lord and our church in these significant roles.

Christian Nurture for Youth

Kevin Killian, Elder (2021-24)

Amy Rheingans, Director of Children's and Youth Music

Committee Members: Kathy Bach, Cheryl Hoffbeck, Stacy Sele, Trent Sele,
Carolyn Stennett, Terri Vermillion, Karen Yakymi

Fundraising: Wendy Jenkins, Cheryl Hoffbeck

Children's & Youth Ministry Mission Statement: Using Christ's love as our example, we seek to INSPIRE, CELEBRATE, and EQUIP children and youth as together we explore and live out our relationship with God. We accomplish this through worship, education, fellowship, and mission and service.

2021 Highlights:

Due to a change in Elders, not all information was transferred. Additionally, COVID protocols restricted many normal activities. Finally, the resignation of the Youth Advisor in May restricted even more normal activities.

- March - Youth Sunday - youth lead all parts of worship.
- May - Graduation Sunday distribution of quilts to five High School seniors; Confirmation Class of 2021 finishes
- July - Whitewater Rafting Retreat for the high school youth
- August - Coastal Adventure Retreat for the middle school youth

Fundraisers:

Pie Sales

Cookie Platters

Bottle fundraiser

Valley Presbyterian Cookbook-on going

Goals for 2022:

- Hire a full-time (or temporary) birth to young adult leader as presented to the Session. OR
- Hire a part-time temporary youth leader until a full-time leader is pursued.
- Send an eager group of youth to Triennium.
- Resume a regular meeting schedule.
- Find new and creative ways to lay the foundations of relational ministry to the youth.



Valley Kids 2021 Report

From the Christian Nurture for Children's Committee

Elder: Bev Hubbard

Members: Lizz Brown, Evan Martin, Sarah Martin

Staff: Amy Rheingans, Director of Children's and Youth Music

Donna Carlson, Director of Children's Ministry

Valley Children's Mission Statement

Using Christ's love as our example, we seek to INSPIRE, CELEBRATE & EQUIP children and youth as together we explore and live out our relationship with God.

We accomplish this through worship, education, fellowship, mission and service

Children's Ministry:

Faith and Family Fun Bags

Faith and Family Fun Bags were continued in 2021 to connect with families in our community. Once the preschool resumed in April, we were able to distribute the bags directly to the preschool families. These were handed out in the months of April, May and June and again in October, November and December. The April and October events were drive through events for an Easter Egg Hunt and Fall Festival. The total number of bags distributed in 2021 was close to 550.

Other Activities

In February "Lent in A Bag" activities were prepared and distributed to members of the congregation to use with their families at home.

VBS was planned for August but was put on "hold" until 2022 because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Amy Rheingans led a Drama Camp the first week in August. The group performed for the congregation the following Sunday.

Choir Activities:

Cherub choir members and their families were able to enjoy a weekly Youtube video presented by Lizz Brown and Amy Rheingans, while Melodia had rehearsals on Zoom with Amy. Armonia was able to have Zoom as well and performed for graduation Sunday on May 16. In September Armonia choir was able to rehearse in person and Cherub and Melodia rehearsals started in November. The Armonia choir performed with the Sanctuary choir and presented the Christmas Pageant on December 12, 2021.

Sunday School Activities:

Because of COVID-19 restrictions the use of the "Rainbow Bags" was replaced by a worship box each week because of the ease of sanitizing the materials. A school age lesson for each week that coincided with the lectionary was placed in the boxes as well as colored pencils and drawing paper.

Children's Ministry Storage:

A new storage closet for Children's Ministry is now under the stairs leading up to the office. This contains organized materials for all aspects of Children's Ministry. Thanks to Donna Carlson for her excellent organization skills that keeps this storage up to date.

Valley Christian Preschool

Kylie Cole, Preschool Director

Admin Team: Danielle Ames, Assistant Director, Tiffany Goldader, Malia Paulsen

Teachers: Lisa Garpestad, Maria Abrahamson, Karissa Beutler, Stephanie White,
Karen Broome, Hyeyeon Kim, Laura Carlson, Annie Boitz

2021 has proven to be a fantastic year for Valley Christian Preschool even amidst the ever-changing policies, procedures, and obstacles we have had to jump through while operating during a pandemic. We can see the impact the pandemic has had on our students, manifesting in their behaviors, school readiness, and foundational skills. We have had to reframe our routines, expectations, and approach to care to best fit the needs of our students and their families. Given all these changes and adaptations, I am very proud of our incredible teaching and admin staff who have shown such dedication, flexibility, and positivity as we walk this road together.

Since we were unable to resume operations in September for the 2020-2021 school year, we created a Spring/Summer semester to rebuild our community, bring our teachers back to work, and provide an accelerated program for those entering Kindergarten this fall. It was a tremendous success! The program met on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from April 12 to July 30. We operated at 100% capacity for most of the program, with 42 students in three classrooms, bringing in approximately \$40,000 from tuition.

Some of our regular staff were unable to return from furlough due to scheduling conflicts and taking care of their children while online schooling. Summer staffing included four teachers returning from furlough, three seasonal positions, and one regular hire.

The Early Learning Division (ELD) enforced strict rules and regulations of all childcare facilities operating as “Emergency Child Care” during the pandemic. This included stable grouping, health screening, and mask wearing for all staff and children eligible for Kindergarten (Kinder prep class), sanitation protocol, and much more. For the duration of our spring/summer program, parents were not allowed to come into the building to drop off and pick up but instead dropped off in the courtyard. We did receive support from the ELD in the form of Covid supplies and an ELD grant of \$12,914.00. The grant was used to offset expenses.

We adopted a strict exclusion protocol if a child had Covid symptoms or a positive or presumptive case of COVID-19. We were very blessed to not have a single exposure in 2021. The ELD lifted many of their Covid restrictions in August 2021.

Our 2021-2022 school year began one week later than usual to allow time for our parents and students to schedule a “teacher meet and greet”. Families had the opportunity to meet the teachers, ask questions, and tour the classrooms with their child in preparation for the first day of school. This was a great Covid-safe alternative to parent orientation.

Many families requested the ability to double enroll or add more class days. After two years of isolation, parents were desperately looking for more consistency and socialization for their children. Starting in September, double enrollment and add-a-day options were incorporated for our 3’s and 4’s. Lead teachers were given more prep and lesson planning hours to accommodate these changes. Due to stable grouping requirements, lunch bunch took place in each individual classroom, not combined as usual.

Our 2’s program was extremely popular this year, enough to add another class geared towards older 2’s (Ladybugs). We transformed room 14/15 into a beautiful classroom for our 2.5’s class. Our ladybugs met on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:15-12:00pm. Lisa Garpestad is our lead teacher along with her assistant, Maria Abrahamson, hired in August 2021. They make a wonderful team!

This was Karissa Beutler's first year as Lead teacher in our Fireflies classroom, along with a new assistant teacher. Unfortunately, the assistant was unable to continue her employment in November. Danielle Ames and Stephanie White stepped in to replace her for the remainder of the year. Karissa is doing a fantastic job in her new role!

Karen Broome returned in September for her 25th school year! Hyeyeon Kim returned on Tuesdays/Thursdays, and we hired Stephanie White for Mondays/Wednesday/Fridays. Our Bumblebee classroom started a bit smaller than normal, but slowly added more students throughout the year. This was a blessing in disguise as this year has proven to be much more challenging regarding behavior and school readiness, particularly for this age group. These students were very young when the pandemic began taking a significant toll on their communication and social emotional development. This classroom is filled with excitement and big personalities! Ms. Karen, Ms. Hyeyeon, and Ms. Stephanie have done a fantastic job, going above and beyond to meet the needs of their students.

We're excited to welcome Laura Carlson back to VCP as our 4's lead teacher. She was employed at VCP as the Dragonflies lead from 2006-2008! She has brought so much creativity into the classroom! Unfortunately, our original 4's assistant was unable to continue work due to the new vaccination policy. Annie Boitz joined us in October and has been a wonderful addition to our Dragonfly classroom.

Our admin team, Danielle Ames (assistant director), Tiffany Goldader, and Malia Paulsen have been incredible assets to this school. Substitute teachers have been difficult to come by and very much needed this school year. With our admin team, we have built-in subs ready to jump into any classroom at a moment's notice. They have taken on responsibilities including but not limited to preparing cleaning solutions, setting up the gym, preparing and serving snacks, allowing the teaching staff more time to focus on their classrooms. Our admins have been an integral part in navigating the ever-changing Covid requirements and keep VCP running smoothly.

As of December, we are operating at 90% enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year. In December, we received the first half of the ELD Stabilization grant of \$100,639. The second half will be arriving in March/April 2022. With these funds, we were able to present the staff with much deserved year-end bonuses, update the resource room and cover additional expenses.

With the concerning onset of Omicron, we also purchased additional Covid supplies (air purification systems, Covid tests, KN95 masks etc.) to increase our safety precautions and protocols. A portion of these funds have been set aside and allocated for the newly session- approved Kindergarten expansion slated for September 2022.

Amidst the Covid changes, we have also made updates to our branding, marketing, systems, and organization! We introduced a brand-new logo in August featuring our "VCP apple tree" which marks the entrance to the preschool foyer. Our admins have worked hard creating a new library system that digitally tracks and organizes all 2,000+ titles. Our classroom management software called Brightwheel has been an incredible asset to our school. The app provides a streamlined parent messaging platform, payment system, check-in/check-out, and more. As the year has progressed, our lesson plan documentation has continued, which will be a continued work in progress. Our resource room has been renovated in phases throughout 2021, set to be completed in early 2022.

As we reflect on 2021, we are filled with gratitude for this community of children, parents, and this exemplary group of education professionals we are privileged to have on staff. Although 2021 has presented its challenges, we have had much to be thankful for.



Art with Ms.Laura



Hugs with Ms.Annie



Fun with Ms.Maria!



Ladybugs Circle Time



Admin team on Halloween

2021 Highlights



Bumblebees Circle Time



Writing table with Ms.Stephanie



Soaking Ms. Kylie this summer!



Pumpkin Patch with Ms.Danielle



Circle time with Ms.Karissa



Ms. Karen & Ms.Hyeyeon

Personnel

Amy Dee, Elder, Ann Johnson, Jan Bellis-Squires
Rev. Jeff Binder (until September 2021) Rev. Robin Garvin

The Personnel Committee at Valley Community Presbyterian Church serves and cares for our pastor, those on staff and the Valley Christian Preschool employees. With three active members, and Pastor Robin Garvin, individual responsibilities are substantial, and we look forward to welcoming new members. The committee meets the first Monday of each month at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom. Agenda items include regular topics on staffing as well as current personnel issues needing immediate attention. The Personnel Committee works to make Valley an exemplary employer who keeps Christian values and equity as the foundation of decisions. Due to the confidential nature of matters discussed, minutes are archived rather than distributed.

Several major changes in the past year dominated the work of the Personnel Committee and had an effect on our church community resulting in both challenges and blessings. We joined the rest of the country experiencing a wave of resignations, but also made two spectacular hires. To begin the year, January was filled with excitement as we began working with a Music Task Force to recommend and establish a direction for the music program. Once our Session approved the task force report, we began the process of looking for a Director of Music Ministry. In February, we made an offer to the talented Thomas Rheingans, and he agreed to fill the position beginning the Sunday following Easter. Thomas then hired Siena Hertafeld as our vocalist and added other soloists to round out his team. Our committee joyfully celebrates the expansion of our Music Ministry program with these hires.

Following our work in January, we were saddened to learn that Marshall Lauck, who directed our youth program, would officially resign effective the end of February. Marshall had been an instrumental Valley team member who cared for our youth wholeheartedly. He stood for social issues important to our youth today and guided them to understanding through the lens of Christianity. This position remains unfilled.

August brought two more resignations. Our Director of Children's Ministry, Donna Carlson, retired from her position but continues to spread her joy at Valley through volunteering. Donna served as a stable and reliable Christ-centered employee who did everything from organizing Trunk or Treat to filling the rainbow bags for the sanctuary. Donna loves children and our Valley families love her. She leaves big shoes still unfilled. Joining Donna in August, Pastor Jeff Binder submitted his resignation to Session and worked through the end of September. Jeff served Valley for approximately four years before taking an interim position at Old Stone Presbyterian Church in Lewisburg, West Virginia.

Carol Powers and Brad Carlson joined the entire Personnel Committee to form the Interim Pastor Search Committee (IPSC). This team prayerfully considered the qualities we felt an Interim, or Transitional, Pastor should demonstrate to help us move forward in fulfilling God's call for us in this community. During the month of October, we met often and reviewed seven applications and then interviewed three candidates. The IPSC was in unanimous agreement that one candidate was the right choice for Valley.

November came with a tremendous blessing in the form of Rev. Robin Garvin's agreement to guide us in our time of transition. Pastor Garvin began in November and came to us from Lake Grove Presbyterian where she served for over seven years. She is a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. Interestingly, once she graduated from Fuller, she came to Valley as our Director of Youth Ministry, so this is a homecoming for her. Pastor Garvin's sermons are timely and inspirational lessons about the love of Christ in our lives as individuals and as a community of people doing God's work. Robin came to us at a time when we felt the impact of a pastor's resignation, a pandemic, and a wave of personnel losses. Her open-door policy and dedication to supporting our employees, as well as our congregation, are a true answer to prayer. Our covenant with Robin is for one year but can be extended for an additional year.

In addition to welcoming Robin, the end of the year held one more notable blessing. With the help of Valley's treasurer, Frank Powers, who managed Valley's PPP loans and tracked giving in 2021, we were able to fulfill our desire to provide bonuses to our employees in December. Given the uncertainty of the pandemic's effect on our finances at the beginning of the year, we were unable to provide increases to compensation beyond the Presbytery mandated COLA. Knowing this, we worked to promote the idea of bonuses if our financial situation allowed. We are indebted to the help of the Finance Committee, and to our Treasurer, Frank, for making the December bonus a reality.

The pandemic has undoubtedly been a challenge for our church and employees. The Personnel Committee has maintained fidelity to our priority of supporting our valued employees during this challenging time. We continue to make connections through monthly liaison communications, electronic cards, and emails. The committee has examined how we support employees and allow for flexibility in schedules when needed. We look forward to a time when COVID restrictions are lifted, and we can celebrate staff with in-person appreciation events such as employee luncheons. Finally, the committee takes seriously our responsibility to support our pastor on personnel issues and feel blessed to work with someone who has a vision and clear purpose for our committee.

Data from AmyAnn Green's final payroll reports from the past five years (as seen below) indicate that Valley has largely maintained a consistent number of employees prior to and through a pandemic.

2021 – 27 employees*
2020 – 24 (15 and 9)**
2019 – 24 employees
2018 – 24 employees
2017 – 22 employees

Notes:

*We currently have only three full-time employees without Children and Youth Directors. Valley Community Preschool has a different staffing model now and we also have an increased number of individuals who work limited hours. This figure represents relative church health, but not a robust staff.

**This figure represents 15 regular church employees paid that year. Valley Community Preschool closed the end of February, but we honored teacher contracts through the month of August. From September through spring of 2021, teachers were furloughed until the Preschool resumed operation.

The Personnel Committee is accountable to the Session, with authority and charge to conduct the following:

- Oversee and write personnel policies and practices and make recommendations to Session.
- In collaboration with the Finance Committee, recommend salaries and benefits.
- Conduct annual performance reviews.
- Develop and maintain position descriptions.
- Assist in interviewing and hiring staff.
- Encourage professional effectiveness and growth.
- Support the staff.

Goals for 2021 with comments about the committee's accomplishments that go beyond the staffing of unexpected vacant positions:

- Collaborate with the Finance Committee to build a long-range plan for employee compensation.

The Personnel Committee collaborates closely with our treasurer and the Finance Committee and relies on them for guidance with our annual budgets. The Finance Committee and Treasurer also provide data for remuneration when it comes to future hires. The long-range plan for employee compensation for the 2021 year included the year-end bonuses. Other long-range plans such as step increases are dependent on stable giving following a full church re-opening and we look forward to that as a future goal.

- Provide increased support for the pastor as part of our regular work.

The Personnel Committee held separate and regular meetings to provide support to Pastor Jeff personally and with leadership skills. We approved the use of funds for professional clergy coaching and retreat space to work on his coursework. In addition, the Pastor's report moved to the top of the agenda.

- Hire a Director of Music Ministry.

We hired Thomas Rheingans to fill this position.

- Update the Valley Personnel Handbook and employment policies.

This remains our work in progress; we are in the process of adapting, with permission, an employee handbook from another church.

- Conduct annual performance reviews for all employees.

Annual performance reviews are held each spring in May and June.

- Collaborate with Jeff on a pastor evaluation.

Jeff received monthly communications from the committee and was officially reviewed by the Personnel Committee in the spring. The committee collaborated with Pastor Jeff to develop professional goals and supported him as he worked toward the realization of those goals.

- Reinstate regular employee events and celebrations.

The pandemic is lasting longer than we anticipated and will move this to our goals for next year.

Goals for 2022:

- Work with the Youth and Children's Committees to present job descriptions to Session.
- Hire an Interim Director for Youth and Children's ministries.
- Hire a summer intern to provide guidance to youth and assistance to the Interim Director.
- Present a completed employee handbook to Session for approval.
- Reinstate an employee appreciation events/activities/recognition.

Board of Deacons

Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024
Roberta Hahn	Cathy Bernhard	Kathy Bach
Karen Miller	Christine Danner	Jan Bellis-Squires
Phil Miller	Angela Graham	Anne Scearce
Jim Sandberg	Amy Henning	Edie Leland
Karen Sandberg	Charlene Stansbury	
Joyce Wood		

Moderator: Amy Henning

Secretary: Karen Sandberg

The Ministry of Compassion and Service: The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry. (G-2.02 PCUSA New Form of Government)

Meetings:

- **Dates:** The Deacons met on the third Tuesday of the month
- **Time:** The meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.
- **Place:** The Fireside Room at Valley (or Zoom meeting)

Compassion and Outreach

- **Home Communion:** Deacons served communion to members and friends of Valley that were unable to attend church services.
- **Rides to Church:** Deacons arranged for rides to church for those without personal transportation.
- **Congregant Care:** Deacons stayed in contact with members and friends of Valley (with visits, cards, phone calls, emails) that have special needs or were unable to attend worship services.
- **Get Well and Sympathy Cards:** Deacons sent get well, sympathy and thinking of you cards to members and friends of Valley that were facing health problems or lost a loved one.
- **Grief Ministry:** Deacons contacted and sent a series of booklets to Valley members and friends to help them understand and cope with the grieving process following the loss of a loved one.
- **Memorial Service Receptions:** Deacons provided refreshments and hosted receptions following memorial services.
- **Maundy Thursday Communion Supper:** Typically, the Deacons are responsible for planning the supper (and service) with the pastor, and hosted the dinner. Due to COVID, this supper was cancelled.
- **Coffee Fellowship After Sunday Worship:** Typically, the Deacons host Coffee Fellowship after Sunday morning worship service two months per year.

Congregational Life and Service Ministries

- **Communion Preparation:** Deacons provided and prepared the communion elements.
- **Bulletin Board:** Deacons have a bulletin board to keep Valley members aware of current Deacon activities.
- **Blood Drives:** Deacons worked with the Red Cross to obtain donors and volunteers to assist with Valley sponsored blood drives.
- **Prayers of the People:** Deacons presented prayers of the people on the third Sunday of the month.
- **New Member and Baptism Welcome Letters:** The Deacons sent letters to new members and the newly baptized welcoming them to the Valley family.
- **Church Officer Nominating Committee (CONC):** Deacon served on CONC to help with the recruiting of Church Elders and Deacons.

Summary of the Year

Due to the COVID-19 Virus, several of our ministries have been put on hold. We continued to send get well and sympathy cards, and grief ministry booklets to Valley members and friends that have experienced the loss of a loved one during the year. We also stayed in touch with members and friends of Valley that have special needs.

We worked with the Red Cross to obtain donors and assist with four (4) Valley sponsored blood drives this year.

Deacons continued to present Prayers of the People on the third Sunday of the month and provided baptismal banners to new members.

Clerk's Report

Roger Rees, Clerk of Session

Total Membership on 12/31/2021: 275

Membership by Year								
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
409	378	368	341	329	317	316	301	275

2021 Membership Detail:

Gains: 6 through confirmation

Losses: 32

In Memoriam: 12

Name	Date
Patricia Borden Nelson	January 10, 2021
Virginia Lillie Grubb	January 23, 2021
Judith Ann Chadwick	February 25, 2021
Annabel Louise Bednarz	March 28, 2021
Kathleen Martchenke	May 2, 2021
Ralph Ephraim Holt	May 7, 2021
Charles Franklin Miller	June 5, 2021
Emma D. White	August 11, 2021
Laura Mae Evans	August 24, 2021
Helen Williams Green	October 28, 2021
Richard M. Page	November 10, 2021
Shannon Pratt	November 26, 2021

Other transfers and removals: 20

Net Membership Change in 2020: Loss of 32

Worship Attendance by Year								
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
171	174	161	153	163	164	150	79*	108**

(*) Note: 2020 worship attendance was reported as number of livestream connections starting on 3/15 with the COVID-19 shutdown. This does not provide a meaningful comparison to previous years.

(**) Note: 2021 worship attendance was reported as average number of livestream plus in person attendance. In person attendance restarted on April 11, 2021.

Valley Community Presbyterian Church

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