

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
FORT LAUDERDALE

Rev. Aaron Lauer, *Senior Pastor*

Bill Byrd, *Leadership Chair*



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

***The Mission Statement of the
United Church of Christ***

United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace,
We welcome all,
Love all,
And seek justice for all.

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
FORT LAUDERDALE



***The Mission Statement of
United Church of Christ Fort Lauderdale***

Our Mission is to develop passionate followers of Christ through the celebration of worship, the excitement of God's word, the blessing of God's healing, the rewards of service, the honoring of God's creation, and the joy of fellowship — where all are welcome at God's table. We are a welcoming, open and affirming church to all people of all races, genders, ages, sexual orientations, professions, previous religious affiliations, nationalities, or mental and physical conditions.



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Photos by Suzie Alvey, Will Falce, Pastor Aaron



Agenda

Welcome	Bill Byrd, <i>Leadership Board Chair</i>
Opening Prayer	Rev. Aaron Lauer, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
Quorum Determination	Chuck Frazer, <i>Clerk of the Board</i>
Certification of Absentee Ballots	Chuck Frazer
Pastor's Comments	Rev. Aaron Lauer
Legacy Campaign Update	Joe Akin, <i>Leadership Board Vice-Chair</i>
Proposed Leadership Slate	Joe Akin
Treasurer's Report/Proposed 2026 Budget	Don Hart, <i>Treasurer 2025</i>
Proposed Bylaw Changes	Bill Byrd
Ministries Reports Discussion	Bill Byrd
General Q&A from Congregation	Bill Byrd
Final Comments	Bill Byrd
Closing Prayer	Rev. Aaron Lauer
Adjournment	Bill Byrd



Pastor's Report

Pastor Aaron Lauer

“What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.”

— 1 Corinthians 14:26

We all know the nursery rhyme: Here is the church, Here is the steeple, Open the door and see all the people! We weave our fingers together as the church, point our index fingers up as the steeple, and turn it upside down to show all the people inside.

Now this may seem like a pretty simple and silly rhyme for kids, but there's something profound about the fingers that are “the church” being the same fingers that are “the people.” In fact, “the people” are the foundation of “the church” in this rhyme, the structure of the church, that which holds the church together.

And I can say that I have never met a “church” that was more about “the people” than UCC Fort Lauderdale. We have a beautiful building, no doubt, but it is the members and friends of this congregation that truly make this church come alive!

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes that everyone has something to contribute to the building of the church; and he doesn't mean bricks and mortar. He's talking about hymns of praise to sing, words of encouragement and teaching, inspiration from the word of God, and service to one another.

“Building the church” has little to do with any physical structure but with the strengthening of our faith, deepening of our compassion, and increase in our work of justice and hope. And each of us has a brick to add to the already strong foundation of UCC Fort Lauderdale.

Over the last year, we've actually spent quite a bit of time, energy, and money on the physical building of the church. As we launched our Legacy Campaign in February, we've been focusing on some of the needs of our building so that we can more effectively do ministry and be an inviting space for our commu-

nity. We purchased new stoves and an oven for Ruth Ministry, we painted our building's exterior and made improvements to the sound and lightning in our sanctuary, and we hired Jeff Scott to be our Facilities Manager to oversee the many needs of our facility.

But we've done so much more than just work on our building in 2025:

- ▶ Over the last 12 months we have grown Ruth Ministry to the point where we now serve around 200 people per week.
- ▶ Our work with Adopt a Street, Feeding South Florida, BOLD Justice, AIDS Walk, Stonewall Pride, and Habitat for Humanity have taken us out into the community to serve our neighbors and advocate for justice.
- ▶ Our many education and support groups, Women's Circle, Men's Circle, Sacred Circle, Coffee Talk, and Monday Night Zoom classes have offered education, healing, and care for our members.
- ▶ Our worship has expanded the size of our choir, engaged many members as readers, prayers, greeters, ushers, and co-consecrators.
- ▶ And we've spent plenty of time in friendship with one another at coffee hour in Elliott Hall, concerts in our sanctuary, celebrations of birthdays and anniversaries, weddings and funerals.

I think the most important word of that whole nursery rhyme is ALL the people. It takes all of us to build the church and all of us have something to contribute. As we look forward into 2026, I am confident about where God is leading us, because we are God's people. There is no task too big or service too great, if God is on our side and we are building together!

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Aaron

Leadership Chair

Bill Byrd



What a busy and crazy year for the church family of United Church of Christ Fort Lauderdale.

In addition to the "normal" work of the church, we kicked off the Legacy Campaign. While we are still short of our total goal, we have been able to accomplish so much in and around the church.

The ministry reports will give much more detail on all of the work; I will not detail.

Our church's growth in faith can also be gleaned from our ministry report found in the individual reports.

Our growth in membership continues. Every new member orientation brings us 6-12 new members. Our weekly attendance continues to increase. This means we also have more need for additional volunteers. We need more ushers, fellowship/coffee hour hosts and POCs, work in the ministries and even help with parking cars.

We have our external outreach ministries which include Ruth Ministries, Social Justice and PR/Marketing. These groups continue to support the work of the church by sharing LOVE and telling the "word" about our church family work.

The Internal Ministries supporting our church family and building include Congregational Care, Christian Education, Buildings and Grounds, WAMM, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer. These groups KTLO (Keep the Lights On) support our church family. The

work these groups execute and succeed is instrumental. We have several other internal groups who function several times in the year giving guidance; these are the Personnel/HR Committee, Nominations and Bylaws.

While not technically a ministry group, I don't want to leave out mentioning the Clerk and Vice-Chair. While it may seem these get swept under the carpet, both roles are more of the glue which keeps everything together.

I've spoken about our Leadership team, I will state that those who are not on the Leadership Team have supported me and greatly the work of the church. Special call out to Louis who guided me, and many times gave me the "side-look" when I needed it. Thanks to staff: David, Petit, Emily, Jeff, Cheryl and David. Y'all have been the backbone of our everyday work.

I feel privileged about being on this journey with each and every one of you. I wish to thank Pastor Aaron for the spiritual support he provides. This year has been a challenge due to health issues, I greatly appreciate Aaron for his words and support.

In closing, it's been a GREAT year. Yes, it's been challenging, but we have survived. Thank you to all I've mentioned, but most of all to you, our loving and welcoming congregation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Byrd



Vice-Chair

Joe Akin

As your Assistant Board Chair, my responsibility is to lead or assist with ongoing and special projects by mutual agreement with the Chair and /or the Leadership Team. I am humbled to serve.

We kicked off 2025 with a focused energy around our three-year legacy campaign. This involved coordinating a board retreat with Neal Watkins of the Florida conference as our facilitator. We identified four major areas of concentration and presented a vision plan to the entire congregation.

Early in the year, it became clear and urgent our campus required termite remediation. The project was costly and preparation for treatment consumed a great deal of time for many staff and volunteers. The ever-aging air conditioning system experienced some failures, requiring major repairs and system overhaul. We expect ongoing maintenance of the system to be time consuming and a significant financial burden.

As Leadership Team liaison to the Worship, Arts, and Music Ministry (WAMM) and the Public Relations-Marking team (PRM), I am pleased to report many accomplishments.

- ▶ Kicked off our first concert of the year with Bobby Jo Valentine in January.
- ▶ Tropical Wave performed a concert in May
- ▶ The Synergy Twins performed as part of our Pride Celebration
- ▶ Musicfor America performed a concert in August
- ▶ The Nova Singers and Tropical Wave performed as part of our Advent season in December.
- ▶ Our church joined the GLBX Chamber of Commerce and partnered with them on a few activities.
- ▶ Hosted another Blessing of the Pets event at our campus
- ▶ Participated in the Florida AIDS Walk
- ▶ Marched in the Gay Pride parade, Wilton Manors
- ▶ Participated in Dining Out for Life
- ▶ Participated in the Decorate a Wreath Event

- ▶ We created partnerships with OUTSFL and OUT CLIQUE to enhance community awareness of the Church

The Leadership Team identified the need for a facilities manager to ensure our campus is running efficiently and effectively throughout the year. We are blessed to have Jeff Scott leading this role.

We established a Human Resources Committee to maintain important employee documents and to refresh our employee handbook.

From the Legacy Campaign we identified exterior campus projects requiring attention, time, and funding. Tim Martin was vital in the success we achieved in landscaping upgrades and painting of our buildings. Both were accomplished with volunteers and outside contractors.

Sanctuary bathrooms and Narthex remodels were identified as a top priority in the Legacy Campaign as well. We coordinated with architects and general contractors to deliver final drawings and quotes for both projects. We will soon make final selection of a contractor and hope to begin work once permits are issued.

The Church was again blessed by generous one-time donations.

- ▶ Advent music performances throughout December.
- ▶ New lighting for the Sanctuary
- ▶ A digital piano
- ▶ Advertising
- ▶ Décor for the Sanctuary during Advent
- ▶ New technology infrastructure to allow growth in online presence.
- ▶ Our west campus exterior sign will be replaced with a new, larger sign set to be installed in February.

It is because of your faith in the Church and your generosity that we have accomplished so much. I would like to extend a great deal of gratitude to both Pastor Aaron and Bill Byrd for their support and patience. To our volunteers who tirelessly work daily, weekly, and monthly I say Thank You.

Humbly Submitted,
Joe Akin

Financial Secretary

Thom Marino



The year 2025 was a banner year for UCCFTL in terms of membership, attendance, funding and expenses.

A total of 32 new members joined the church in 2025, bringing membership to around 225. Sunday and Thursday services attendance averaged over 200 per week; 306 people attended the Easter Sunday service with 23 online viewers; 268 attended the Christmas Eve service with 11 online viewers. With increased membership and attendance, offerings and donations to the general fund and total income exceeded what had been budgeted (see table below).

Although we had an abundance of total income, expenses exceeded what had been budgeted (see treasurer's report).

In addition, we have received contributions and estate bequests that covered expenses for replacing the sanctuary air conditioning, audio/visual upgrades and lighting, and termite remediation, and the Legacy Campaign in its first year obtained pledges for 60% of the 3-year goal of \$600,000.

Ruth Ministries continued to be well supported by \$295,239 in donations, grants and flea market sales, in order to serve 150 to 200 meals per week along with giving out clothing, toiletries, and other essentials.

The Angel Fund received \$4,250 in contributions for Howard Kaplan's outreach mission to the homeless community.

Contributions and concert receipts of \$6,970 were added to the Rev. Patrick Rogers Memorial Arts Fund.

Contributions of \$2,400 were made to UCC special

offerings (Our Church's Wider Mission, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen our Church, Christmas Fund).

Special thanks to the 2026 Stewardship Campaign under the theme **My Piece of God's Plan**. We have received pledges totaling over \$284,000 pledged towards the 2026 budget goal of \$400,000. As in past years, we expect this amount to increase by another \$100,000 from regular non-pledged giving and donations.

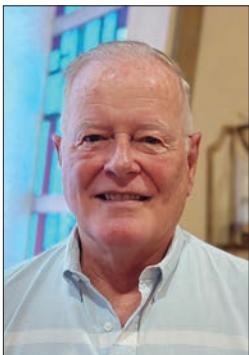
Due to faithful stewardship of you, our members and frequent attendees, UCCFTL has been able to keep fully staffed, continue regular Sunday and Thursday services and Ruth Ministry, as well as other commitments, and even to grow new ministries. In addition, our church staff and leadership board have worked diligently over the course of the year to keep our church community engaged and spiritually fulfilled. We are thankful for all our church members, attendees, and online viewers who offered generous financial support to carry on God's work through the ministry of UCC-FTL.

Most of all, thank you, our congregants and regular attendees, for your continued financial and spiritual support.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Marino
Financial Secretary

George Fisher
Assistant Financial Secretary

	2025 Actual	2025 Budgeted	Abundance/ (Deficit)
Gen Fun Offerings/Donations	\$375,334	\$350,000	\$25,634
Total Income	\$468,474	\$425,100	\$43,374



Treasurer

Don Hart

Serving as church treasurer during 2025 was rewarding and challenging. The Leadership Team authorized me to seek candidates to audit the financial records of the United Church of Christ Fort Lauderdale as of December 31, 2024. After receiving cost estimates from three firms, the Leadership Team authorized the engagement of Dave V. John, CPA. After months of waiting, gathering requested documentation, drafting and redrafting the financial statement, the completed audit report was issued on December 12, 2024. A copy of the full audit report is available online. Attached to this report is the opinion page of the audit for your review.

During April, the church received a check from the IRS for \$15,322.61 for overpayment of payroll taxes in prior years. This was an unexpected receipt for the church and helped relieve some of the budget deficit for 2025.

In 2025, UCCFTL partnered again with Safe Schools of South Florida (SSSF) to fund-raise for the Fort Lauderdale AIDS Walk. As part of our partnership, the funds raised were matched by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, resulting in the church receiving \$16,650 from SSSF which will be designated for use by the Leadership Team.

At last year's annual meeting, I informed the church that it was named as beneficiary of the estate of the late Bill Davenport, who passed away in October 2024. During 2025, the estate has distributed to UCCFTL \$100,000. There is a remaining payout

expected in the amount of approximately \$12,000.

In early 2025, the Legacy Campaign was launched. As of the end of 2025, we have received gifts or pledges of approximately 60% of the goal of \$626,000, a significant accomplishment. Part of the receipts of the Legacy Campaign are previous estate gifts from the Patrick Rogers Estate, Richard Handevit Estate and the Bill Davenport Estate designated by the Leadership Team for specific projects budgeted in the Legacy Campaign.

During 2025, the church incurred significant unexpected repair expenses for the air conditioning systems. Some of those expenses were paid from previously designated funds for air conditioning repairs. However, the remaining expenses were paid from the current operating budget. Most expense categories in the budget were on or under budget. Because of the unexpected receipt of the IRS refund and some very generous offerings in December, the operating budget for 2025 was slightly less than \$20,000 compared to a budgeted deficit of \$26,000.

Attached are the following financial documents as of 12/31/25:

Statement of Financial Position

Actual Vs. Budget Report

Ruth Ministry Income and Expenses

Designated Funds receipts and disbursements

Legacy Fund receipts and disbursements

Respectfully submitted,
Don Hart

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FORT LAUDERDALE
ACTUAL VS. BUDGET REPORT
DECEMBER 2025

	Total			
	Annual Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual over (under) Budget
Income				
6000 General Offerings				
6020 General Fund Income	350,000	375,634.23	350,000.04	25,634.19
6098 Weddings; Flowers & Memorial Offerings	1,000	1,454.74	999.96	454.78
6099 Draw from Endowment	25,600	25,599.95	25,599.96	(0.01)
Total 6000 General Offerings	376,600	\$402,688.92	\$376,599.96	\$ 26,088.96
6200 Rental Income	48,500	49,028.00	48,500.04	527.96
6300 Special Event Net Rental Income		1,435.00	0.00	1,435.00
6901 Prior Year Payroll Tax Overpayment Refund		15,322.61	0.00	15,322.61
Total Income	425,100	\$468,474.53	\$425,100.00	\$ 43,374.53
Expenses				
8010 Leadership Team				
8011 OCWM Monthly Tithes	9,600	8,800.00	9,600.00	(800.00)
8012 Per Capita Dues	2,800	2,800.00	2,800.00	0.00
8015 Hospitality	2,900	4,933.59	2,900.04	2,033.55
8016 UCC FLA Conference Annual Gathering	2,000	14.52	2,000.00	(1,985.48)
8019 Miscellaneous Leader Team Expense	800	853.21	800.04	53.17
Total 8010 Leadership Team	18,100	\$ 17,401.32	\$ 18,100.08	\$ (698.76)
8020 Christian Education				
8021 Books and Literature	500	239.60	500.04	(260.44)
8022 Online Classes	400	0.00	399.96	(399.96)
Total 8020 Christian Education	900	\$ 239.60	\$ 900.00	\$ (660.40)
8030 WAMM				
8031 Worship Supplies	5,000	5,745.12	5,000.04	745.08
8032 Worship Security	8,800	10,600.00	8,799.96	1,800.04
8033 Piano Tuning	400	0.00	400.00	(400.00)
8033.1 Organ Repairs	500	837.00	500.00	337.00
8034 Music Program Licenses	1,000	1,103.00	1,000.00	103.00
8035 Communion Table Flowers	300	1,237.05	300.00	937.05
8036 Choir Music	1,500	3,314.52	1,500.00	1,814.52
8037 Handbell Music and Supplies	2,000	790.32	2,000.00	(1,209.68)
8038 Sound Technicians for Worship Services	13,900	10,150.00	13,900.00	(3,750.00)
8039 Other	1,600	2,021.59	1,600.00	421.59
8110 Membership Worship Expense	2,700	2,779.08	2,700.00	79.08
Total 8030 WAMM	37,700	\$ 38,577.68	\$ 37,700.00	\$ 877.68
8040 Public Relations				
8041 Advertising	5,000	2,212.47	5,000.00	(2,787.53)
8042 Media Exp- Web Host	300	14.95	300.00	(285.05)
8155 Public Relations--Other		1,233.71	0.00	1,233.71
Total 8040 Public Relations	5,300	\$ 3,461.13	\$ 5,300.00	\$ (1,838.87)

For notes,
see p. 12

	Total				Actual over (under) Budget	
	Actual		Budget			
	\$	\$	\$	\$		
8060 Ordained Staff--Senior Pastor						
Total 8060 Ordained Staff--Senior Pastor	113,300	\$ 113,759.51	\$ 113,300.00	\$ 459.51	D	
8070 Office Expense						
8071 Web & Internet Expense	5,200	3,674.65	5,199.96	(1,525.31)		
8073 Postage	1,300	1,342.28	1,299.96	42.32		
8074 Telephone	4,100	2,811.91	4,100.04	(1,288.13)		
8075.1 Office Supplies	3,200	3,968.40	3,200.04	768.36		
8075.2 Printer Excess Usage	4,500	3,967.53	4,500.00	(532.47)		
8076 Equipment Lease	6,700	7,147.04	6,699.96	447.08		
Total 8078 Bank Charges	2,900	4,107.70	2,900.04	1,207.66		
8079 Miscellaneous Office	300	772.51	300.00	472.51		
9010 Admin Accounting Services	4,700	5,827.99	4,700.04	1,127.95		
9015 Audit	10,000	8,539.90	10,000.00	(1,460.10)		
Total 8070 Office Expense	42,900	\$ 42,159.91	\$ 42,900.04	\$ (740.13)		
8080 Buildings & Grounds						
8081.1 Utilities- Cable	7,300	9,885.98	7,299.96	2,586.02		
8081.2 Utilities- Electricity	26,600	25,876.02	26,600.04	(724.02)		
8081.3 Utilities- Water	4,700	6,749.16	4,700.04	2,049.12		
8081.4 Trash & Waste Removable	5,700	7,768.13	5,700.00	2,068.13	E	
8081.5 Bottled Water	1,700	1,897.70	1,700.04	197.66		
8082 Insurance--All	32,200	37,765.32	32,199.96	5,565.36	F	
8083 Security System	1,500	680.00	1,500.00	(820.00)		
8084 Lawn	10,900	6,550.00	10,899.96	(4,349.96)		
8085.1 Maintenance- Cleaning Supplies	2,200	4,263.15	2,199.96	2,063.19		
Total 8085.2 Routine Maintenance	11,300	32,948.36	11,300.04	21,648.32	G	
8085.3 Major Maintenance	8,000	6,704.51	8,000.04	(1,295.53)	G	
8085.4 Extermination	1,300	1,023.00	1,299.96	(276.96)		
8085.5 Sewer Assessment, Ft. Lauderdale	5,700	5,725.32	5,700.00	25.32		
8087 Audio-Visual Maintenance	1,300	746.07	1,299.96	(553.89)		
8089 Furniture and Equipment Purchases		5,565.31	0.00	5,565.31	G	
Total 8080 Buildings & Grounds	120,400	\$ 154,148.03	\$ 120,399.96	\$ 33,748.07		
8090 Legal Expenses		4,040.00	0.00	4,040.00	I	
9000 Payroll						
Total 9000 Payroll	112,600	\$ 114,333.20	\$ 112,599.92	\$ 1,733.28	H	
Total Expenses	451,200	\$ 488,120.38	\$ 451,200.00	\$ 36,920.38		
Net Operating Income	(26,100)	\$ (19,645.85)	\$ (26,100.00)	\$ 6,454.15		

COMMENTS AND EXPLANATIONS

- A** This represents a refund from the IRS for overpayment of payroll taxes in a prior year.
- B** The budget was based on a weekly fee of \$150 plus \$1,000 for special events. The actual rate for 2025 is \$200/week.
- C** The budget for this account was based on actual for 2024. The expenses being incurred in 2025 are significantly different than expected.
- D** The medical insurance rate budgeted for the pastor's medical insurance was based on his age last year rather than his current age.
- E** Expenses were incurred for repairs of the grease trap.
- F** Insurance rates for 2025 increased more than the 5% increase budgeted.
- G** In 2025, significant expenses have been incurred on the AC, fascia board replacement, a rust suppression system and electrical work. In addition, a number of necessary furniture and equipment purchases have been made. The total of the items listed is approximately \$19,000.
- H** Additional custodial expense was incurred during the medical leave of the church's custodian.
- I** Legal expenses incurred in relation to the \$20,000 dispute with attorney handling the roof insurance claim.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FORT LAUDERDALE
RUTH MINISTRY INCOME AND EXPENSES
DECEMBER 2025

	Actual	Budget	Actual over (under) Budget
Balance Beginning of Period	<u>70,870.44</u>	70,870.44	
Committed Donations	91,741.35	63,000.00	28,741.35
SPECIAL Donations	4,250.00	30,000.00	(25,750.00)
TOTAL INCOME	95,991.35	93,000.00	2,991.35
 Clothing, Blankets & Ponchos	 350.00	 (350.00)	
Food	12,571.38	13,500.00	(928.62)
Hygiene Products	2,129.30	1,742.50	386.80
Paper Goods	3,540.51	2,450.00	1,090.51
Custodial Services	5,425.25	1,750.00	3,675.25
Security	19,700.00	15,500.00	4,200.00
Ministry Director Payroll	24,457.26	21,000.00	3,457.26
Kitchen Equipment	36,563.09	23,000.00	13,563.09
Miscellaneous	7,660.54	1,000.00	6,660.54
TOTAL EXPENSES	112,047.33	80,292.50	31,754.83
 NET INCOME	 (16,055.98)	 12,707.50	 (28,763.48)
 Balance End of Period	 <u>54,814.46</u>	 83,577.94	 (28,763.48)

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FORT LAUDERDALE
DESIGNATED FUNDS
DECEMBER 2025

	Balance 1/1/2025	Additions	Transfers	Expenses	11/30/2025
The Rev. Patrick Rogers Memorial and Arts Fund	3,304.55	9,387.44		(12,935.30)	(243.31)
Building & Grounds Stage Lighting	753.48	146.00		(248.92)	650.56
Garden of Memories	4,883.32	2,465.00		(2,443.71)	4,904.61
UCC Special Offerings	279.07	1,327.00			1,606.07
Choir Fund	318.87	3,499.87			3,818.74
Advent		10,000.00		(7,266.99)	2,733.01
Christmas 2025		3,300.00		(2,524.37)	775.63
Angel Fund	1,332.61	4,072.00		(3,689.67)	1,714.94
70th Anniversary Celebration	(3,924.92)		3,924.92	.	-
Monument Sign		22,500.00		(11,000.00)	11,500.00
Elliott Hall Mural		8,500.00		(7,587.31)	912.69
Bequests	109,244.21	166,650.00	(131,924.60)	(70,000.00)	73,969.61
Landscaping--PRT	10,000.00		(6,490.00)	(1,010.00)	2,500.00
Sanctuary Bathrooms--PRT	20,000.00		(20,000.00)		-
Sanctuary Air Conditioner--RHT	9,402.69			(9,402.69)	-
Elliott Hall and Other--PRT	4,771.18		(1,321.85)	(3,636.14)	(186.81)
Sanctuary AV and Lighting	446.63			(77.66)	368.97
Termite Remediation	(1,250.00)		1,250.00		-
Legacy Campaign	2,600.00	165,487.09	140,536.93	(129,552.03)	179,071.99
TOTAL	162,161.69	397,334.40	(14,024.60)	(261,374.79)	284,096.70
					A

A The net transfer is to cover the 2024 budget deficit approved by Leadership Team at January 2025 meeting.

Patrick Rogers Trust (PRT)

AMOUNTS RECEIVED

6/12/2023	70,000.00	
12/28/2023	5,000.00	
7/8/2024	5,780.91	Requested to be added to endowment
	<u>80,780.91</u>	

ALLOCATED

Endowment	20,000.00	Invested 10/12/23
Sanctuary Bathrooms	20,000.00	Allocated 6/12/23
Landscaping	10,000.00	Allocated 6/12/23
Elliott Hall and other	10,000.00	Allocated 6/12/23
Patrick Rogers Memorial Fund	10,000.00	Allocated 6/12/23
Endowment	5,780.91	Allocated 8/17/23
Awaiting designation by Leadership Team	5,000.00	
	<u>80,780.91</u>	

Roger Handevitd Trust (RHT)

AMOUNTS RECEIVED

11/4/2022	10,000.00	Credited to General Offerings for Roof Fund
1/6/2023	10,000.00	Credited to General Offerings for Roof Fund
5/22/2023	40,000.00	Added to 2485.2
12/28/2023	165,000.00	
8/21/2024	81,244.21	
	<u>306,244.21</u>	
Allocated to another account	(60,000.00)	
Allocated to Bequests	246,244.21	

ALLOCATED

Sanctuary AC	40,000.00	Allocated 5/22/23
Sanctuary AV/Lighting	17,000.00	Allocated 8/17/24
AC Repairs	40,000.00	Allocated 10/26/24
Termite Remediation	45,000.00	Allocated 10/26/24
Cover 2025 Operating Deficit	14,024.60	Allocated 1/18/25
Cover deficit in Termite Remediation	1,250.00	Allocated 5/18/25
Payment to Roof Appraiser	20,000.00	Allocated 9/21/25
Awaiting designation by Leadership Team	68,969.61	
	<u>246,244.21</u>	

Elliott Hall and Other

AMOUNT ALLOCATED

10,000.00

USES:

Sound system in Elliott Hall	(1,589.82)	Approved 6/23
Defibrillator	(1,339.00)	Approved 7/23
Church sign	(2,300.00)	Approved 8/24
AV equipment	(1,078.08)	3/25
Upgrade electrical in kitchen	<u>(2,371.25)</u>	4/25
BALANCE	1,321.85	

Sanctuary Air Conditioner

AMOUNT ALLOCATED

80,000.00

USES:

Air conditioner repairs as of 12/31/24	(70,597.31)	
Air conditioner repairs as of 5/25	(3,700.00)	
BALANCE	5,702.69	

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FORT LAUDERDALE
LEGACY CAMPAIGN FUNDS
DECEMBER 2025

	Budget	Transfers		Allocated by Board	Expenses	Balance 11/30/2025	Budget Remaining
		from Board	Designated				
Legacy Campaign	626,000.00	16,650.00	114,361.09	(64,000.00)		67,011.09	
Facility Maintenance Manager	100,000.00			6,250.00	(5,632.56)	617.44	94,367.44
Sanctuary Electrical Circuit Upgrade	3,500.00			3,226.00	(3,226.00)	-	274.00
Bathroom Upgrades	150,000.00	120,000.00			(26,543.14)	93,456.86	123,456.86
Organ Repairs	30,000.00					-	30,000.00
Landscaping, Irrigation and Lighting	40,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	20,000.00	(20,960.90)	19,039.10	19,039.10
Flooring	15,000.00					-	15,000.00
Kitchen Equipment	60,000.00					-	60,000.00
Elliott Hall	48,000.00	10,000.00			(9,943.02)	56.98	38,056.98
Campus Doors	60,000.00					-	60,000.00
Building Painting Exterior	25,000.00			25,000.00	(26,413.93)	(1,413.93)	(1,413.93)
Office Technical Upgrades	27,500.00		24,000.00		(22,695.64)	1,304.36	4,804.36
Partnerships/Social Justice	60,000.00		476.00	2,524.00	(3,000.00)	-	57,000.00
Campaign Expenses	7,000.00			7,000.00	(7,999.91)	(999.91)	(999.91)
TOTAL	626,000.00	156,650.00	148,837.09	-	(126,415.10)	179,071.99	



Building & Grounds

Tim Martin

The Building and Grounds Committee had a productive year in 2025, thanks to the efforts of many.

Beginning in February, Steve James graciously continued his work on the sanctuary HVAC systems, working with engineers and contractors to finally bring the system to a consistently working state.

The exterior painting of the buildings had some little hiccups and delays, but ultimately, we ended up with a beautifully painted campus. In the process, multiple necessary repairs were made to combat old termite damage, the reappearance of the resident bees, and some concrete damage.

Lots of electrical work was done around the campus, including new kitchen lighting, a new stove and convection oven for the kitchen and retrofitted fixtures in various places. The decision was made to retrofit period fixtures with new LED lighting to maintain the period aesthetic of the MCM buildings. Lighting was also replaced in the Garden of Memories to illuminate the large cross and shine new evening light on the garden itself. The stained-glass windows on the south side of the sanctuary are now lit again after being dark for many years, with the equivalent of 20,000 Watts of light. Additional electricity was installed in the balcony to support the systems involved with conducting and broadcasting our weekly services and events.

Like many of our homes, our church attic had accumulated 70 years of "stuff," which was successfully moved, donated to other groups, or disposed of, so it's now a fully usable space.

Lots of repairs have been made to the elderly irrigation system to carry us for a few more years, including installation of a pump system to prevent rust stains on our newly painted building from the well water we use to irrigate the property.

Virtually all the landscape planting was killed during last year's termite tenting, and the installation of new plants is still a work in progress. To date, more than 30 trees have been added to the campus, with an

emphasis on Florida natives, pollinator plants, plants which will thrive in our changing climate, and lower maintenance costs. Keith and Michael successfully transformed the Garden of Memories into a National Wildlife Association Certified Wildlife Habitat, in keeping with our earth friendly commitments.

Also in the landscape, the temporary Marjorie Stoneman Douglass memorial was replaced with a permanent bronze plaque in the Garden of Memories. On the west side of the campus, a large permanent sign has been ordered and is scheduled to be installed in early 2026.

This year also brought a part time maintenance position to UCCFTL, which allowed us to finish many ongoing projects; in November, Jeff Scott became a part of the Church staff in a Facilities Manager role, a position which is funded by the Legacy Campaign.

Multiple technical upgrades to the campus buildings are also continuing according to schedule. This is another legacy campaign-funded project.

A new janitor's closet was created in the admin building, by breaking through the wall in the corridor to what had been exterior storage. This will enable us to shuffle some other rooms around and create more (badly needed) storage.

Looking forward, the narthex/restroom construction project is on schedule, with bids having been received from three general contractors. This will be a huge project beginning in early 2026, which brings us completely replaced restrooms with increased capacity, new HVAC systems for the balcony and narthex, as well as a new gender-neutral ADA compliant restroom. There are some logistic issues to work out, but it will definitely be worth the wait!

There are some necessary major repairs still needed moving into 2026 and beyond, but I'm confident that these will be approached and completed with the same level of teamwork which has brought us such success during this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Martin

Christian Education

Rev. Jeff Wheeler



As we look forward to meaningful opportunities for learning and reflection in 2026, we encourage everyone to watch for updates in upcoming newsletters and to consider inviting friends or family to join our vibrant community discussions. Whether you are a returning participant or new to our programs, your presence enriches our shared exploration of faith and its relevance to our lives today.

We had a great year of learning in 2025. We began the year with a continuation of our studies of amazing women in the Bible. Kathy Brodeur, Pastor Emily Jazombek and Scholar/Rabbi Bob Wolfe led us in great discussions from Eve to the Marys.

We enjoyed a devotional on Sunday mornings leading up to Lent and then covered some wonderful book discussions with Pastor Emily.

We completed our series on current events shaping our world and faith led by Bob Wolfe. The final discussion was around antisemitism. It was well attended and discussion was vibrant.

With the arrival of Fall, we started an eight week zoom discussion built around the Sermon on the Mount. It was well attended and there were some wonderful discussions. We learned the Sermon on the Mount is found in Matthew chapter 5-7. November 17th was the last discussion and I think the series was a great success.

We led an Advent Zoom discussion built around the UCC Devotional entitled, "Soon & Very Soon," December 1, 8 and 15.

We held a Christian Education Team meeting December 7 after church. Pastor Aaron, Pastor Emily, Rev. Brad Lutz, Rev. Rich Seaver and Bob Wolfe were in attendance. We called the meeting to discuss our plans for next year and to help facilitate Rich taking the lead on Christian Education February 2026.

I am excited for January, because Rev. Brad Lutz will lead a Monday Zoom discussion for four weeks. **Vault After Vault: Exploring God's Presence in Our Imperfect Lives**

Have you ever felt incomplete, overwhelmed, or unsure of your place in the world? What if your very humanity—the fragile, unfinished, messy, beautiful part of you—is where God's love shines brightest? We invite you to join our 4-week devotional series, "Vault After Vault," inspired by Tomas Tranströmer's evocative poem Romanesque Arches. This series is designed for those who long to see God not only in sacred spaces but in the everyday, ordinary moments of life. Each week, we will: reflect on scripture and the poetic imagery of endless "vaults" within us and others; explore the gift of our incompleteness and fragility as vessels of divine grace; practice seeing God's presence in ourselves, our communities, and the world around us; and, engage with discussion questions and personal reflection to deepen our spiritual journey.

Whether you're exploring faith for the first time or have been on this journey for decades, this series encourages compassion, curiosity, and courage—to embrace your humanity, to recognize God in others, and to live more fully in the light of grace.

With February comes the beginning of the Lenten season and we hope to have a plan in place for that time soon.

It has been so much fun to help lead this ministry for the past few years.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Wheeler



Congregational Care/Health Ministry

Kathy Brodeur

Community Outreach

Howard continues to reach out in the community, at Holy Cross Hospital, and at Ruth Ministry to assist those who need assistance.

Prayer Request E-mails

Continue weekly with requests received from pew cards, calls to the church, personal requests and other ways.

Monthly Health Column

Column continues monthly, generally but not always based on monthly health observances as noted by www.healthgrades.com.

Sunday Worship Streaming

Patrick Walsh is doing a great job managing our Sunday streaming service at the Meridian. We have a great group of volunteers that host weekly.

Card Party

Cards addressed at card party are sent out regularly every 2-3 months or as needed. Planned July mailing was postponed until this week. Arlene Culliney sends out cards (get well, sympathy, etc) on a regular basis in response to requests based on prayer list and personal requests. Thank you, Arlene.

Care Response Teams

Anyone in need of assistance can be referred to Patrick Walsh, Bill Morton, or Pastor Aaron to schedule help such as meals or transportation for CRT.

Call and Visitation Team

Bill Morton manages this activity, texting weekly to Congregational Care team those people who may need a call or visit at home or in hospital due to illness or other issue that keeps them homebound, in need of a visit, etc.

W.I.S.E.

More to come.

Thanks to all who have helped and assisted this past year, especially Bill Morton, Pastor Aaron, Howard Kaplan, Pastor Emily and Patrick Walsh. Patrick will be taking over leadership in 2026, and I am expecting another exceptional year of caring for our congregation, and for the community as congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Brodeur, RN FCN
Congregational Care/Health Ministry

Public Relations/Marketing Ministry

William Falce



I am pleased to submit this end-of-year report summarizing PR and marketing activities since my appointment as PR/Marketing Leader in May 2025. The past several months have been marked by significant planning, strategic partnerships, and a renewed focus on increasing the church's profile within the community.

Transition and Planning (May 2025)

I began my tenure with a thorough transition alongside Joe Akin, the previous PR leader. Our primary focus was brainstorming effective ways to expand the church's community profile and plan for upcoming events. During this period, we initiated outreach to key media partners, including the CEO of OutClique Magazine, the CEO of OUTSFL, and the Sales Manager for The New Pelican, to lay the groundwork for advertising campaigns.

Advertising and Media Partnerships (June–October 2025)

In June, we updated our ad in the New Pelican Church directory, ensuring weekly visibility. We also scheduled articles to highlight the Summer Strings concert and the October Pet Blessing. August marked the official launch of our ad campaigns with OutClique Magazine, featuring a two-page spread promoting the August 17th Summer Strings Concert. OutClique Magazine generously provided this first ad at no cost. We also finalized an ad schedule with OUTSFL, which includes eight weekly quarter-page ads, two half-page magazine ads, and a half-page ad in their annual directory, providing consistent exposure from August through December. These ads were paid for through a generous donation.

Community Engagement and Partnerships

This year, we joined the Greater Fort Lauderdale LGBT Chamber of Commerce (GFLGLCC) and actively participated in their monthly business mixers, expanding our network and deepening our ties within the community. At one mixer, we connected with the Director of Channel 39, WSFL, which led to an opportunity for Pastor Aaron and me to appear on their "Inside Florida" TV segment in September. During the segment, we discussed the church and promoted the Pet Blessing event.

A highlight of our GFLGLCC membership was hosting their membership drive mixer on September 16th in Elliott Hall, an event that drew over 50 attendees and introduced many new faces to our church facilities and mission.

Signature Events and New Initiatives

September and October were dedicated to finalizing publicity, designing ads, and ensuring the success of the October 4th Pet Blessing on the church's Middle River-facing lawn. The event featured participation from 10 local pet-focused businesses and attracted an estimated 75 attendees with their pets from the wider community.

Year-End Campaigns (November–December 2025)

Our focus in the final months shifted to creating and publishing ads in OutClique Magazine, OUTSFL, and The New Pelican, promoting our holiday worship services and events. These coordinated campaigns helped reinforce our presence and invite the community to participate in our seasonal celebrations.

Respectfully submitted,
William Falce



Ruth Ministry

Pastor Emily Jazombek

Ruth Ministry is our church's outreach that provides weekly meals to our homeless, unhoused, and food-insecure neighbors every Thursday. This ministry is made possible entirely through the generous support of our congregation and community partners. In 2024, Ruth Ministry served just under 7,000 meals, with an average guest attendance of 135–160 people. This year, the need has continued to grow, and as of the end of October, we have already served more than 8,000 meals and our average guest attendance is 180 people. Thank you for helping us continue this work of compassion and care.

This congregation has embraced Ruth Ministry with open hearts and open hands. Each Thursday meal requires the work of more than 50 dedicated volunteers, and we are grateful for the ways so many of you continue to serve. Alongside our volunteers, Broward HealthPoint, Showering Love, and an on-site barber provide weekly support and essential services to our guests. We are also continually blessed by donations from community partners such as Poverello, Einstein Bagels, Zona Fresca, Jet's Pizza, Running Wild, and Panera.

This year has brought meaningful growth and new milestones. We welcomed our first part-time Director of Ruth Ministry to help guide and strengthen our outreach. The Imperial Sun Court of South Florida generously donated \$9,000 and prepares 150 sandwiches each month, which our volunteers distribute to those in need. The Warten Foundation, Inc. contributed a transformative gift of \$30,000. Through a new partnership with WishConnect, we've received donations of food, clothing, blankets, toiletries, and community connections including support from the Rotary.

During National Hunger Month, we launched our "Sponsor a Lunch for \$500" initiative, which has introduced new donors to Ruth Ministry. Sponsors

are recognized each Thursday. Broward HealthPoint's mobile bus provides medical care, social services, and community resources each week while Showering Love's mobile shower unit allows our guests to maintain dignity and health. This congregation filled our clothing closet through the "40 Items in 40 Days" Lent challenge and stocked our food pantry and hygiene shelves during the October "Pink Bag" campaign. Our Amazon Wish List allows guests to receive shampoo, soap, wipes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, lotion, ponchos, and other essentials. Running Wild donated more than 100 pairs of sneakers to our guests. Attendance at Sarge's church service has doubled since last year. Thanks to our new oven and stove, we are now able to prepare meals more efficiently. And today, over 80 volunteers are registered and actively serving with Ruth Ministry. Many have received volunteer t-shirts designed by Will Falce and Josh Genebroso.

You can support Ruth Ministry by volunteering to help set up on Wednesday or to help with the event on Thursdays, purchasing items from our Amazon Wish List, participating in the "Sponsor a Lunch for \$500" program, contributing financially to help sustain meal and supply costs, and spreading the word to your community contacts. Even small acts of generosity make a real difference. If you're interested in getting involved, please reach out to the church office or speak to a Ruth Ministry volunteer.

Thank you for being a congregation that chooses compassion in action. Your kindness, generosity, and willingness to serve our neighbors continue to transform lives. Together, we are providing nourishment, dignity, and hope every single week. May we continue to grow in love and in service as we care for those whom God places in our path.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Jazombek

Worship, Arts, and Music Ministry Team (WAMM)

Cheryl Barth, Leadership Team Member Jan 2025 to Sept 2025

David Dincher, Leadership Team Member Oct 2025 to Present

David C. Dunlap, Director of Music



During 2025, the WAMM team has continued to add new volunteers in just about every area of worship. This has been a conscious effort on the part of WAMM members to include new members of the church in participation during our services, and it has been wonderful to see these people step into these roles.

During the year the various worship volunteers helped fund-raise for the UCC community with various events. Here are just a few to highlight their endeavors that helped the Patrick Rogers Memorial Arts Fund and the Choir Retreat fund:

- ▶ In February, the choir cabaret, "Anything Goes", was held in Elliott Hall. Nearly everyone in the choir participated in some way, either performing, baking, or assisting with setup before and clean up after the show. Approximately \$2800 was raised in gross ticket sales for this event, and we hope to do it again soon.
- ▶ In March \$600 was raised in celebration for Cheryl Barth's 70th birthday.
- ▶ In September, six UCCFTL choir members sang along with the music team at Community Church of Davie (Wesley Pennington's church) at a funeral for a prominent church member there, for which our choir received \$500.

Because of these, plus various concerts by the NOVA Singers, Tropical Wave, and Synergy Twins, just to name a few, the Arts at UCC have been a true strength of us and the community at large.

Regarding the worship services themselves, Pastor Aaron has offered various themes of protecting the environment, the challenges of living out the spirit found in the Beatitudes, or discovering the history of various Christmas Carols in approaching the Advent season. With each new theme or special Sunday celebration countless volunteers stepped up to make his vision come alive.

This positive approach has resulted in both increases in the congregation as a whole, and in new members joining monthly.

Bill Byrd and Shawn Burdman continue to be responsible for preparing slides for Sunday morning services, and Nick Meyer, Mark Beigay and Haibo (Herbert) Liu continue to rotate running the camera for the livestream. Throughout the year we continue to look for improvements through tech meetings and new equipment.

The choir is holding steady at 22 to 23 singers. We continue to try to recruit new members, particularly women. Cheryl Barth is a welcome addition in her new role as pianist, and the choir has been able to expand its choices of new and exciting music.

And finally, I would like to thank all the many volunteers that made my transition into this new role effortless. I would especially like to thank Manny Garcia, George Fisher, Paula Yukna, Joe Akin, Louis Licitira, Cheryl Barth, Pastor Aaron, and the entire WAMM team for being so supportive as I continue to learn and expand my new role into 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
David Dincher

BALLOT MEASURE

2026 Leadership Team Slate

<i>Chairman</i>	Bill Byrd
<i>Vice Chairman</i>	Joe Akin
<i>Clerk</i>	Chuck Frazer
<i>Treasurer</i>	John McKenzie
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Jeffrey Larkins
<i>Building and Grounds</i>	Steve James
<i>Christian Education</i>	Rich Seaver
<i>Congregational Care</i>	Patrick Walsh
<i>PR/Marketing</i>	Will Falce
<i>Worship Leader</i>	David Dincher
<i>Social Justice</i>	Aileen Viera
<i>Ruth Ministry Leadership Rep.</i>	

BALLOT MEASURE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FORT LAUDERDALE PROPOSED BUDGET--THIRD DRAFT 2026

	Total		
	2025 Approved Budget	2025 Estimated Actual	2026 Proposed Budget
Income			
6000 General Offerings			
6020 General Fund Income	350,000	375,634.23	425,000 A
6098 Weddings; Flowers & Memorial Offerings	1,000	1,454.74	1,500
6099 Draw from Endowment	25,600	25,599.95	25,300
Total 6000 General Offerings	376,600	402,688.92	451,800
6200 Monthly Rental Income	48,500	49,028.00	41,900
6210 Special Event Net Rental Income			7,500 B
6901 Prior Year Payroll Tax Overpayment Refund		15,322.61	-
Total Income	425,100	467,039.53	493,700
Expenses			
8010 Leadership Team			
8011 OCWM Monthly Tithes	9,600	8,800.00	11,700 C
8012 Per Capita Dues	2,800	2,800.00	3,400 D
8015 Hospitality	2,900	4,933.59	5,100
8016 UCC FLA Conference Annual Gathering	2,000	14.52	-
8019 Miscellaneous Leader Team Expense	800	853.21	900
Total 8010 Leadership Team	18,100	17,401.32	21,100
8020 Christian Education			
8021 Books and Literature	500	239.60	500
8022 Online Classes	400	-	400
Total 8020 Christian Education	900	239.60	900
8030 WAMM			
8031 Worship Supplies	5,000	5,745.12	5,900
8032 Worship Security	8,800	10,600.00	10,900
8033 Piano Tuning	400	-	400
8033.1 Organ Repairs	500	837.00	800
8034 Music Program Licenses	1,000	1,103.00	1,100
8035 Communion Table Flowers	300	1,237.05	1,000
8036 Choir Music	1,500	3,314.52	3,000
8037 Handbell Music and Supplies	2,000	790.32	
8038 Sound Technicians for Worship Services	13,900	10,150.00	10,800
8039 Other	1,600	2,021.59	2,100
8110 Membership Worship Expense	2,700	2,779.08	2,900
Total 8030 WAMM	37,700	38,577.68	38,900
8040 Public Relations			
8041 Advertising	5,000	2,212.47	4,000
8042 Media Exp- Web Host	300	14.95	-

For notes,
see p. 26

BALLOT MEASURE

	Total		
	2025	2025	2026
	Approved Budget	Estimated Actual	Proposed Budget
8155 Public Relations--Other		1,233.71	4,600
Total 8040 Public Relations	5,300	3,461.13	8,600
8060 Ordained Staff--Senior Pastor			
Total 8060 Ordained Staff--Senior Pastor	113,300	113,759.51	122,500
8070 Office Expense			
8071 Web & Internet Expense	5,200	3,674.65	3,800
8073 Postage	1,300	1,342.28	1,400
8074 Telephone	4,100	2,811.91	2,900
8075.1 Office Supplies	3,200	3,968.40	4,100
8075.2 Printer Excess Usage	4,500	3,967.53	3,600
8076 Equipment Lease	6,700	7,147.04	7,400
Total 8078 Bank Charges	2,900	4,107.70	4,200
8079 Miscellaneous Office	300	772.51	800
9010 Admin Accounting Services	4,700	5,827.99	6,000
9015 Audit	10,000	8,539.90	8,800
Total 8070 Office Expense	42,900	42,159.91	43,000
8080 Buildings & Grounds			
8081.1 Utilities- Cable	7,300	9,885.98	2,500
8081.2 Utilities- Electricity	26,600	25,876.02	26,700
8081.3 Utilities- Water	4,700	6,749.16	7,000
8081.4 Trash & Waste Removable	5,700	7,768.13	8,000
8081.5 Bottled Water	1,700	1,897.70	2,000
8082 Insurance--All	32,200	37,765.32	41,800 F
8083 Security System	1,500	680.00	700
8084 Lawn	10,900	6,550.00	6,700
8085.1 Maintenance- Cleaning Supplies	2,200	4,263.15	4,400
Total 8085.2 Routine Maintenance	11,300	32,948.36	16,500 G
8085.3 Major Maintenance	8,000	6,704.51	12,000 G
8085.4 Extermination	1,300	1,023.00	1,100
8085.5 Sewer Assessment, Ft. Lauderdale	5,700	5,725.32	6,600
8087 Audio-Visual Maintenance	1,300	746.07	800
8089 Furniture and Equipment Purchases		5,565.31	-
Total 8080 Buildings & Grounds	120,400	154,148.03	136,800
Social Justice			1,100 H
8090 Legal Expenses		4,040.00	
9000 Payroll			
Total 9000 Payroll	112,600	114,333.20	129,000
Total Expenses	451,200	488,120.38	501,900
Net Operating Income	(26,100)	(19,645.85)	(8,200)

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FORT LAUDERDALE
PROPOSED BUDGET--THIRD DRAFT
2026

COMMENTS AND EXPLANATIONS

- A** This amount is a stretch goal and represents what is needed to cover budgeted expenses.
- B** This is a new account. Rather than lumping regular monthly rentals and special events together, this will allow us to track the two kinds of rental separately.
- C** The Leadership Team in 2023 agreed to set this amount at 2.75% of the Offerings budget.
- D** This is calculated at \$15/member. Based on our record keeping software, there are currently 226 active members.
- E** This amount is based on the increased rate from 40 to 41+ and changing to a different level of coverage (higher deductible and out of pocket amounts).
- F** This represents an 18% increase over the 2025 rates.
- G** These amounts are arbitrary amounts to reflect amounts that can be supported by the budget. Any excess over these amounts will have to be paid from other sources of
- H** This is a new line item for 2026.

BALLOT MEASURE

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

Article VIII. MEETINGS

Current

5. The Annual Report to the congregation proposed amendments to the Bylaws and Slate of Nominees shall be available to the membership two (2) weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. The Annual Report shall include the yearly financial report and reports from the Pastor, and all Officers, Ministries, Committees, and other organizations.

Proposed

5. The Annual Report to the congregation proposed amendments to the Bylaws and Slate of Nominees shall be available to the membership **one (1) week** prior to the Annual Meeting. The Annual Report shall include the yearly financial report and reports from the Pastor, and all Officers, Ministries, Committees, and other organizations.

Rationale

Need to provide sufficient time from the end of the fiscal year to generate necessary reports for the Annual Report.

BALLOT MEASURE

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

Article XI.B.22.e

Current

(e) The Endowment Funds shall be utilized only in the event of an extreme emergency i.e. Structural damage. Any withdrawal must be presented by the Leadership Team to the congregation. A quorum of the membership must be in attendance. The recommendation must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority.

Proposed

(e) The Endowment Funds shall be utilized only in the event of an **emergency**. Any withdrawal must be presented by the Leadership Team to the congregation. A quorum of the membership must be in attendance. The recommendation must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority.

Rationale

Update to current realities.

BALLOT MEASURE

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

Article XI.B.22.f

Current

(f) The Leadership Team may make an annual transfer of up to 4% to the Emergency Fund of the Church.

Proposed

(f) The Leadership Team may make an annual transfer from the endowment fund to the Emergency Fund of the Church. The annual draw from the endowment shall be determined annually by the Leadership Team in accordance with the Florida Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act.

Rationale

Increase the available backup funding.

BALLOT MEASURE

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

Article XI. The Church Board of Directors (also referred to as Leadership Team)

Current

The leadership of this church shall be vested in the Leadership Team, elected from among the membership, accepting input from the membership and accountable to the membership. Any member in good standing shall be eligible to serve on the Leadership Team, except that members of the same household shall not serve as officers at the same time.

A. Membership

1. The Leadership Team shall include the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Clerk, and the leaders of the church's designated Ministries: Buildings & Grounds; Social Justice; Christian Education; Congregational Care; Public Relations/Marketing; and Worship.

Proposed

A. Membership

The Leadership Team shall include the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Clerk, and the leaders of the church's designated Ministries: Buildings & Grounds; Christian Education; Congregational Care; Public Relations/Marketing; **Ruth Ministry**, Social Justice; and Worship, Arts and Music Ministry (WAMM).

Rationale

To coordinate agreement between Articles XI and XIII concerning Ruth Ministry, alphabetize ministries and update to current nomenclature.

BALLOT MEASURE

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

ARTICLE XIII. MINISTRIES

Current

E. Buildings and Grounds Ministry

The Buildings and Grounds Ministry shall oversee the operations related to ongoing and incidental maintenance of the church facilities.

Activities under the supervision of the Buildings and Grounds Ministry include:

1. Monitoring electrical, plumbing, irrigation, air-conditioning, lighting, lawn and grounds care, insect and rodent control, trash service, security systems, kitchen appliances, sanctuary needs, insurance, general and routine cleaning needs and maintenance of the organ, piano, and audio-visual equipment.
2. Oversight and review of facility rentals of the Sanctuary, Elliott Hall, and meeting rooms for special events and long-term rentals in cooperation with the Senior Pastor, employees, and Leadership Team as appropriate.

Proposed

E. Buildings and Grounds Ministry

The Building and Grounds Ministry shall have a Chairperson, elected by the Congregation to membership on the Leadership Board, to coordinate all activities of the Building and Grounds Committee with the Facilities Manager. The Facilities Manager shall be responsible for the activities listed below with the assistance of the committee.

The Facilities Manager shall be an Ex Officio, non-voting, member of the Leadership Team.

In the absence of a Facilities Manager the Chairperson shall assume the responsibilities of the Facilities Manager until such time as a new paid Facilities Manager is appointed by the Board of Directors/Leadership Team.

The Buildings and Grounds Ministry shall oversee the operations related to ongoing and incidental maintenance of the church facilities.

Activities under the supervision of the Buildings and Grounds Ministry include:

1. Monitoring electrical, plumbing, irrigation, air-conditioning, lighting, lawn and grounds care, insect and rodent control, trash service, security systems, kitchen appliances, sanctuary needs, insurance, general and routine cleaning needs and maintenance of the organ, piano, and audio-visual equipment.
2. Oversight and review of facility rentals of the Sanctuary, Elliott Hall, and meeting rooms for special events and long-term rentals in cooperation with the Senior Pastor, employees, and Leadership Team as appropriate.

NOTES

2026 Annual Meeting Absentee Ballot

Accept Proposed 2026 Budget

Yes No

Abstain

Accept 2026 Leadership Team Slate

Yes No

Abstain

Accept 2026 Bylaw Changes

Yes No

Abstain

Signature

Print Name

Date

Article VIII.D.1

1. *Voting Rights: Each member is entitled to one vote. Absentee ballots shall be allowed and must be returned to the Church office or physically delivered to a Board member prior to the commencement of the meeting at hand, to be verified and checked in by the Clerk. No proxy voting shall be allowed.*

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FORT LAUDERDALE



Rev. Aaron Lauer, *Senior Pastor*

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