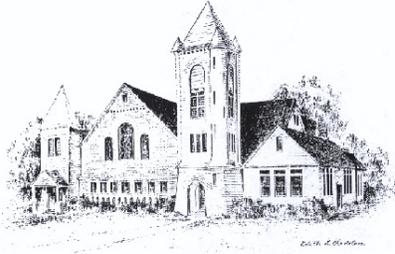


Annual Meeting of the Congregation  
December 10, 2017



Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ  
131 Middle Road, Sayville, New York 11782; 631-589-1519  
Heather Corcoran, Church Administrator; churchadmin@sayvilleucc.org  
www.sayvilleucc.org; www.facebook.com/sayvilleucc

Ray Bagnuolo, Pastor; ray@sayvilleucc.org; 631-827-8611

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Today's Agenda

Call to Order  
Opening Prayer  
Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting  
Moderator Report  
Pastor Report  
Treasurer Report  
Trustees Report  
Elders Report  
Victorian Tea Committee Report  
Justice Committee Report  
Nominations  
Other business  
Closing Prayer  
Adjourn

## **Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting**

Minutes Congregational Annual Meeting on January 29th, 2017

Submitted by Pat Cunningham, Clerk

Call to order: January 29, 1027 at 11:19 AM

Opening Prayer Ray Bagnuolo

Agenda: Accepted with Amendment to include social justice discussion

Minutes: December 6, 2015 and December 13, 2015  
Motion to accept as submitted, Sue Lanchantin;  
Seconded by Pat Mahar. Motion carries.

Financial Report: Presented by Karen Maust, to be reviewed by Board of Trustees.  
First plan \$88,000; final plan \$104,000;Actual \$134,472.  
Challenges in planning; pledges important. Positive increase  
\$53,372, partially due to no pastor expenses and cost reduction.  
Carry forward for the year will be \$53,372.

Proposed budget for 2017 is \$118,483, including donation of \$2500  
from a friend of Ray, in support of his ministry with us.

Additional reduction in costs includes \$15,000 saved, since Ray  
brings his own health care insurance.

Motion to accept budget made by Lorraine Severin,  
Seconded by Heather Dominguez. Motion Carries.

Presentation from Nominating Committee:

Moderator: Gail Kieser\*  
Treasurer: Karen Maust  
Clerk Karin: Conrad

\*Motion to extend for a one-year term of Moderator made by  
Connie Kauffman, Seconded by Karen Maust. Motion Carries.

Trustees: Mark Conrad, Sean Ramsaywak, Tom Wolfe,  
Kari Kaczmarek

Elders: Sylvia Ramsaywak, Pat Cunningham,  
Jean Newcombe, Connie Kauffman

Motion to accept slate as presented made by Fran Bergmann;  
Seconded by Megan Onorato. Approved.

Other Business/Questions:

1. Regarding whether we have followed up with those who have not attended worship lately.

Gail responded that the Elders do this periodically and that she sent out a letter recently inviting them to come back.

2. At the Board of Deacons meeting, Connie suggested we re-form the Social Action Committee.

Ray suggested we set a date for Feb. 5th to meet and discuss how to move forward, including sending info out to everyone on eChimes, our website and on our Facebook page, as well as other venues.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Cunningham, Clerk

## **Moderator Report**

### Moderator Annual Report 2017

Submitted by Gail Kieser, Moderator

“Change is easier when we are not changing everything at once.” Phil Maynard from his book Shift, Helping Congregations Back Into the Game of Effective Ministry.

We welcomed our new Pastor, Ray Bagnuolo mid-January 2017 that was the beginning of a major change in our church. Not a change in governance or of worship practices. Not a change of constitution or hymnals, but a change in “the air”, “the feeling”, “the purpose”, “the community.”

As moderator I have continued to attend Trustees meetings and lead Elders and Full Board meetings, monthly and quarterly. I have continued to enhance the chancel, serve on the finance committee and the personnel committee. I have continued to serve at the Victorian Tea, and worked with Ray providing information, history and insight as he came to know our congregation. These moderator responsibilities have not changed from previous years, but I have changed.

I have learned from Ray, by his example, in both word and deed, what Jesus taught, John 15:12, “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you” and that is the biggest and best change for me and, I believe, for the congregation as a whole.

To quote Bishop Robert Schnase from Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations, “As a school for love, the church becomes a congregation where people learn from one another how to love;” further from Michael Slaughter in Momentum for Life, “Life is not about stuff we own or accumulate. It is not even about personal accomplishments. Life is about people.”

I believe that our church has found its mission, its purpose, and that we are joined together to spread love, beginning with each other, throughout this troubled world one person at a time. I have realized through Ray’s leadership, example and sermons, our newfound refugee and justice programs, our Bible Jam, our Talkbacks, our worship and our relationships with one another that “love is the answer”.

2017 has been a year of positive change. I believe that as we move forward into 2018 we consider, “The best use of life is love. The best expression of love is time. The best time to love is now,” Rick Warren.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Kieser, Moderator

## **Pastor Report**

### Pastor Annual Report 2017

Submitted by Ray Bagnuolo, Pastor

Dear Friends,

Since January 18th of this year, it has been a continuing joy to be with you as we seek to develop in our spiritual relationships with God and one another. In this short period of time, I have witnessed over and over again the generosity and commitment of each of you: from caring for families to being present for this community in our life together. Always evident is the “glad heart” with which you approach life and the missions of this church. You are blessings upon and sustenance for all who meet us along the way.

Congregational life has its roots in our traditions, especially building upon the ancient practice of hospitality. The ready “welcome” of Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ reflects the deep love that abides in our midst. It is always growing, just as we continue to grow together.

In preparing for today, I think of our time in worship. As I have mentioned before, wherever I am, I can look out and see you in my mind sitting in almost the same seats each week! I can also see those I know to be at home or away for a while, affirming what is always true – that our congregation exceeds the boundaries of our premises here in Sayville, New York.

The richness of worship in all its aspects is life giving. Deep and heart-felt thanks to Heather, Sean, Bernie and all the worship planners, ushers, liturgists, choir members and musicians, hospitality folks and those who prepare the sanctuary and vestry each Sunday, making it possible for us to be in prayer and worship together.

Since October, worship has also included live broadcasts each Sunday for those who follow us at home, on the road, or wish to watch our service at a later time. We are grateful to Priscilla Knapp-Swezey for the generous grant dedicated to her brother and longtime member of our church Kim Swezey in helping to make this dream a reality. We are also thankful to many of you who donated to this project, which will also make it possible to replace our sanctuary projectors early in January 2018. This is all part of our commitment to make sure that anyone who wishes to be with us – whether from near or far – can do so with relative ease. In all the ways we can, we want to make sure that no one is ever alone – ever.

So, it goes without saying that whenever you, loved ones or friends might benefit from pastoral visits or pastoral care – please let us know. Our deacons, general membership and I are always available to be with you, always holding each other in prayer as we navigate life’s unfolding challenges and blessings.

Earlier this year at the suggestion of several folks, we began a bible study time, which we call “Bible Jam!” If you have ever been part of or watched a group of musicians come together and jam, you will get a sense of the derivation of this name! Our discussions of the bible are far-reaching, exploring its message and origins, while relating it to these times of ours. We began in late February of 2017, and we continue to meet on Mondays at 11:45 AM and on Tuesdays at 7 PM. Please join us any time!

During the course of this Annual Meeting and throughout the year, you will hear from many who lead and participate in the ministries of our congregation. Whether youth activities, justice outreach, knitting of prayer shawls, displaying others’ gifts and talents in our gallery art, the collection and distribution of food, assisting the United Church Pre-School in the education of youth, Cocoa and Carols, meals for folks who find themselves disadvantaged, the Victorian Tea, meetings for those in recovery, upcoming caroling this Friday or any of the many ministries of this congregation – you are *invited and needed* to be a part of our congregational life in these and other ways. And, we welcome you to share other ideas for outreach and ministry that are on your heart.

As of this writing, I am pleased to announce that we have amicably separated with our previous resident maintenance person and entered into a contract with Laura Weyant, who will begin her time with us starting Monday, December 11th. Please introduce yourself when you see Laura or her two children, who will be joining our community shortly.

As we move into the celebration of Christmas and on the heels of The Victorian Tea, Stewardship Time and our Installation Celebration, I want to thank the leadership of Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ and each of you. Your support and steady hand in guiding me with love and honesty, continues to be an enormous help, as I learn to better serve this congregation. I cherish our “talkback time” after worship and the hundreds of conversations and exchanges we share on this journey in the days ahead.

More than it all, I cherish each of you.

Merry Christmas!

With hope, love, peace and joy!

Ray Bagnuolo, Pastor

## **Treasurer Report**

### Treasurer Annual Report 2017

Submitted by Karen Maust, Treasurer

The financial picture for this year, through November 30, 2017 is positive and encouraging. Our Operating income YTD is \$234,378 against a YTD plan of \$203,000 (+15.5%). Of this total, the Tithes and Offerings are \$127,716 against a YTD plan of \$108,609 (+17.6%). The budgeted amount for the year is \$118,483. So, we are a month away from year-end and we have exceeded the budgeted amount!

Expenses are running under our budget plan, with the YTD total being \$181,216 against a plan of \$194,853. There are a number of significant quarterly expenses that occur in December, along with year-end commitments in Outreach giving, so the total for year-end will reflect those numbers. Still, at this point expenses are under the plan by 7.5%. The expense plan is \$212,567, and I expect that we will stay within that plan or better.

All of this continues to speak to our overall financial health, but also speaks to having the information available in pledge commitments in a timely way. This makes it possible to prepare a thoughtful realistic budget, staying on top of both our maintenance of the facilities and our commitment to help others in the near and far community.

Thank you to the members of the Finance Committee for this year's budget: Pastor Ray Bagnuolo, Mark Conrad, Gail Kieser, and Sue Lanchantin (who stepped in for Mike Jayne when he was out of town) and Kathy Leis.

I feel personally very blessed to present this report this year. Thank you to Ray, to the Board of Deacons and to all the members and friends who continue to be on this journey with us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Maust, Treasurer

Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ  
Proposed Budget for 2018

<b>Income</b>	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	11/30/2017	2018
Total Tithes/Offerings	\$134,472.00	\$118,483.00	\$127,716.00	\$135,000.00
Season Mission Offerings	\$1,294.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,076.00	\$1,500.00
Music Director Fund	\$3,000.00	\$-00		
Donation (Ray Bagnuolo's Ministry)		\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	
Sally Kuntz Bequest	\$1,000.00			
Soup Kitchen Offset	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$12,000.00
Pre-School Offset	\$28,524.00	\$29,100.00	\$26,643.00	\$29,680.00
Building Use Offset	\$6,328.00	\$6,500.00	\$4,226.00	\$5,000.00
Interest/Dividends	\$211.00	\$225.00	\$209.00	\$225.00
Fundraising	\$12,678.00	\$13,000.00	\$11,917.00	\$13,000.00
Emmanuel	\$1,800.00			
Operating Carry Forward	\$19,541.00	\$53,554.00	\$49,091.00	\$25,000.00
Uncategorized Income		\$50.00		\$50.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$220,848.00</b>	<b>\$236,912.00</b>	<b>\$234,378.00</b>	<b>\$221,455.00</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	11/30/2017	2018
OCWM (Contribution to UCC)	\$7,500.00	\$10,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$11,000.00
Suffolk Association Dues	\$483.00	\$552.00	\$552.00	\$600.00
Seasonal and Mission	\$6,364.00	\$8,000.00	\$797.00	\$8,000.00
Sub total	\$14,347.00	\$18,552.00	\$8,849.00	\$19,600.00
<b>Facilities and Operations</b>	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	11/30/2017	2018
Capital Improvements	\$611.00	\$9,000.00	\$7,473.00	\$15,000.00
Utilities	\$17,312.00	\$21,000.00	\$18,455.00	\$21,000.00
Telephone/Internet	\$3,801.00	\$4,000.00	\$3,810.00	\$4,200.00
Maintenance/Contracted Services	\$15,277.00	\$18,000.00	\$15,240.00	\$17,000.00
Maintenance Supplies	\$1,263.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,567.00	\$1,700.00
Printing Supplies	\$1,162.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,919.00	\$1,600.00
Postage	\$682.00	\$1,000.00	\$556.00	\$600.00
Sub total	\$40,108.00	\$55,500.00	\$49,020.00	\$61,100.00

<b>Programming</b>	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	11/30/2017	2018
Congregational Life	\$(221.00)	\$500.00	\$226.00	\$500.00
Public Relations	\$1,638.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,516.00	\$2,500.00
Conferences and Retreats		\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00
Discipleship	\$1,421.00	\$2,000.00	\$674.00	\$2,000.00
Stewardship				
Parish Resource Center	\$310.00	\$310.00	\$310.00	\$310.00
Sub total	\$3,148.00	\$7,810.00	\$2,726.00	\$7,810.00
<b>Personnel</b>	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	11/30/2017	2018
Minister: Salary	\$24,668.00	\$37,482.00	\$33,769.00	\$37,482.00
Minister: Furnishing Allowance	\$2,526.00	\$3,748.00	\$3,280.00	\$3,748.00
Minister: Mileage	\$1,170.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,750.00	\$2,000.00
Minister: Retirement	\$2,481.00	\$5,800.00	\$5,075.00	\$5,800.00
Minister: Health & Disability	\$4,137.00	\$618.00	\$720.00	\$750.00
Minister: Social Security Offset	\$2,158.00	\$3,154.00	\$2,760.00	\$3,154.00
Minister: Discretionary	\$850.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$2,800.00
Minister: Continuing Ed		\$500.00	\$475.00	\$500.00
Music Director Salary	\$18,968.00	\$19,500.00	\$17,847.00	\$20,000.00
Guest Music	\$500.00	\$600.00	\$625.00	\$750.00
Administrator: Salary	\$15,860.00	\$21,840.00	\$17,730.00	\$22,386.00
Childcare	\$1,157.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,139.00	\$1,200.00
Guest Preaching	\$3,450.00	\$1,050.00	\$750.00	\$1,050.00
Non-clergy SSI/Medicare	\$3,382.00	\$3,163.00	\$5,647.00	\$3,487.00
Moving and Relocation Expense		\$2,200.00	\$2,467.00	
Transition Search	\$297.00			
Sub total	\$81,604.00	\$104,655.00	\$95,834.00	\$105,107.00
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	11/30/2017	2018
Non-clergy & Liability Insurance	27,869.00	26,000.00	\$24,862.00	\$26,000.00
Uncategorized Expense		50.00		\$50.00
Sub total	27,869.00	26,050.00	24,862.00	26,050.00
	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	11/30/2017	2018
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>167,076.00</b>	<b>212,567.00</b>	<b>181,291.00</b>	<b>219,667.00</b>
<b>Income v. Expense:</b>	<b>\$53,772.00</b>	<b>\$24,345.00</b>	<b>\$53,087.00</b>	<b>\$1,788.00</b>

## Trustees Report

### Trustees Annual Report 2017

Submitted By Mark Conrad, Kari Kaczmarek, Kathy Leis, Sean Ramsaywak, Tom Wolfe

This year the Trustees accomplished many varied tasks including:

- painting and refreshing of the Parsonage
- being apprised of the separation process of *Having Friends Inn* from the *Interfaith Nutrition Network* and becoming their own 501c3 Not for Profit organization now known as *Sharing a Meal*
- installing live-streaming in the Sanctuary
- repairing and repainting the front doors of the church
- installing new carpeting in the Vestry.

Interspersed were two “All Church Clean-Up” days, a Bake Sale at the Sayville Ferry in July and the 26th Victorian Tea in December and Installation celebration in October. An added function of the Trustees was to form a Personnel Committee as recommended by Ray Bagnuolo.

Endowment grant requests were submitted and approved funds for the following:

- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Social Action Committee
- Victorian Tea Committee.

The Stewardship Committee, headed by the Rev. Robert Pierce, completed a successful program with a budget prepared for 2018.

Additionally, trees along the east property line and along the back fence and in front of the Pre-School building were trimmed to prevent any damage due to storms, etc.

The finances of the church were very good this past year and we are grateful that we were able to accomplish so much.

The Trustees would like to sincerely thank all those volunteers who helped us in achieving our goals this past year and we look forward to working together in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Conrad  
Kari Kaczmarek  
Kathy Leis, Chairperson  
Sean Ramsaywak  
Tom Wolfe

## **Elders Report**

### Elders Annual Report 2017

Submitted by Karin Conrad, Clerk

#### January 2017

- Discussed Hope House Ministries and “The H.I.M.S.” performance and reception for March 4, 2017
- Search team update and scheduled meet and greet with new pastor
- Update on parsonage preparation and plan to complete work
- Planned renewal Sunday for January 22

#### February 2017

- Discussed worship service responsibilities (who, what and when)
- Planned ahead for Lent (Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday and Easter services)
- Social Action Update
- Bible study groups to begin 2/20 on Monday mornings and Tuesday evenings
- Sayville UCC brochure discussed
- Approved the visit by Sister Sana Nadim, Muslim Chaplain from Stony Brook University

#### March 2017

- Decided to order finalized Sayville UCC brochures
- Discussed worship format and decided to continue bulletins
- Planning for Lent, Holy Week and Easter
- Spoke about refugee seminar

#### April 2017

- Finalized plans for Lent, Holy Week and Easter
- Publicity for events completed
- Bible study received positive evaluations and decided to continue
- Refugee seminar discussed
- Agape meal planned
- Discussed discontinuation of Family Table service

#### May 2017

- Bible study continuing
- Refugee seminar update
- Discussed June luncheon
- Summer schedule planning
- Held talk back discussions

## July 2017

- Decided to continue Bible study
- Social Action Committee will continue to meet and provide updates
- Received updates on live-streaming
- Discussed worship service format and continuing talk backs on after service
- Discussed having an Enneagram workshop to increase effective communication

## September 2017

- Bible study continues
- Refugee/Justice League committee updated
- Live-stream updated
- Congregation appreciation hospitality for 9/17
- Discussed Wellness program to present at luncheon
- Planned Transgender Day of Remembrance service and LI Transgender Advocacy Committee informative workshop
- Enneagram update
- Planned fall events
  - Ray's installation weekend
  - Homecoming Sunday
  - Blessing of the animals
  - Potluck and worship with Patchogue
  - Victorian Tea, Carnegie Hall concert
  - Christmas services
  - November meeting moved to Monday, December 4, 2017
  - Discussed (and participate in) September 50th Anniversary of preschool

## October 2017

- Celebrated the Ministries of our congregation and Installation Weekend
- Renamed Bible study Bible Jam
- Justice League and possible youth group discussed
- Live-stream update
- Discussed Advent and specifics regarding Christmas services
- Enneagram Workshop
- Prepared for Annual Meeting
- Discussed the formation of a youth group: "Let's build a legacy!"

November 2017 (Meeting moved to December 4, 2017)

- Discussed financial report
- SAM update
- Live streaming update
- Victorian Tea congratulations
- Personnel Committee discussed
- Nominating team
- Enneagram workshop
- Planned Constitution review in 2018
- Church doors final coats of paint and other adjustments in the spring
- Christmas caroling
- Preparing for Annual Report

Respectfully submitted,  
Karin Conrad, Clerk

## **Victorian Tea Report**

Victorian Tea 2017

Submitted by Connie Kauffman, Chairperson

Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ's Victorian Tea is a highly anticipated community event! Last week's 26th edition created additional excitement because it was rumored last December that the 25th Victorian Tea would be the last. But the dozen ladies of the committee rallied, simplified some things, and carried on, producing five sittings in three (snowless) days, serving close to 300 happy attendees of all ages.

Pastor Ray was our resident photographer and greeter, injecting humor into his loving remarks that warmed all hearts, except when he suggested that the tea would become a quarterly event. Good thing we had smelling salts for the committee!

Our harpist Lisa Kelly played for us for the 11th year, and Sean Cameron tickled the ivories for the 4th Children's Tea on Sunday. Since moving to Tennessee, Cheryl Maler has kindly returned twice now, to fill the role of queen for the children, knighting the young men, and teaching a bit of etiquette to all, once again to rave reviews. The addition of the model train village was of particular fascination for the children!

The homemade delicacies, elegant ambience, friendly atmosphere and time spent in our beautiful and welcoming church were all enjoyed by the visitors, over forty of whom were first-timers. As winners have come to pick up their raffle baskets, they have reported what a lovely time they had, and how much they look forward to next year's tea!

The committee is very grateful that over thirty church members and friends joined us to put the tea together, especially the dish washers! It is clearly a splendid team, including the generous donors of our beautiful raffle baskets and boutique items! Since we are in budget mode today at our Annual Meeting, be aware that the Victorian Tea generates a large percentage of the Fundraising line item in each year's budget. It is truly an all-church event, one that connects us to the greater community in many ways. Under our new leadership, which this year added an online presence, it's not unreasonable to expect an even rosier future! Thank you, all!

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Kauffman, Chairperson

## **Justice Committee**

### Justice Committee Report 2017

Submitted by Jeanne Newcombe, Chairperson

In January 2017, the newly formed Justice Committee, an off-shoot of the Social Action Committee, met to discuss injustices and how we at Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ could address them.

The previous October, one of my classmate's families sponsored a refugee family from Pakistan. We decided our starting point would be to learn more about the process of entering the U.S. as a refugee. From what we read and the videos we viewed from *The United Nations' International Refugee Committee*, we decided it would be beneficial to bring this information to our church members.

In April, we sponsored a lunch and presented the videos and explained the difference between an immigrant and a refugee. In May, we followed up by inviting Carmen Maquilon from Catholic Charities to explain the legal steps for entering the U.S. and what benefits are provided by the government for when they first arrive. Then the sponsor of the Pakistani family, Dot Beardslee, spoke of her involvement in getting them medically evaluated, especially for the children entering school, acquiring working papers for the parents, and how she helped them assimilate into the American culture. Then in June, we sponsored a dinner at our church to meet the Pakistani family and hear from them personally what they enjoy about America. On that night, we were joined by other members of the Amityville Mosque.

Our next step is to disseminate this information to our communities, especially the school districts. We have dialogued with Suffolk BOCES, Bellport and Sayville School Boards and a member of the Nassau BOCES. Our goal is to get these videos into as many classrooms as possible to educate our youth on the plight of the refugee and the extreme vetting process they must go through before entering the United States.

Next year, our goal is to bring these enlightening videos to members of the Sayville community.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Jean Newcombe, Chairperson  
Laura Heaney  
Connie Kauffman  
Kris Minschke  
Sylvia Ramsaywak  
Kimberly Reiser

**Closing Order of Business Remaining**

**Nominations**

**Other Business**

**Closing Prayer**

**Adjourn**