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Bethel Oswego Charge Conference 2022

Bethel United Methodist Church Oswego

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Minutes of the Charge Conference

The Charge Conference for the (Bethel/Oswego Charge) of the Hartville District of the South Carolina Annual Conference was held at Bethel UMC and chaired by DS Rev. Telley Gadsen A devotion service was conducted by Rev Telley Gadsen.

I. Mission

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Achieving a bold mission requires setting intentional goals. Please be prepared to dialogue about the following questions at Charge Conference. If your church doesn't have formal goal, then discuss programs/ministries that fulfill the mission of the church.

- A. What were your key goals for making and nuturing disciples for this past year?
Our goals remain to, win the lost to Christ Jesus as their own savior, to disciple them with the intent that they should be formed more and more in the Image of Jesus Christ our Lord, to offer grace to those around us who are various forms need, and to engage like minded churches in attaining these goals.
- B. How are you making progress towards reaching the goals stated above?
We are preaching and teaching the way of salvation, there have been some response. We have classes for new members to confirm them in their faith prior to joining. We offer Sunday School for those who are willing to attend as well as ladies bible study, a mixed group bible study and pastoral preaching that is focused on teaching that discipleship is following the leadership of the Lord and today that means a living experience with the Holy Spirit and obedience to his leadership and the teachings of the Holy Spirit inspired words of the Bible. We offer oppurtunities for service both in worship and in the broader community around us. We do engage and participate with other churches around us in many local outreach programs.
- C. Among these goals, what are you most excited about?
We view each of these goals as an essential part of doing ministry in the cause of Christ. While each of us may fin one more rewarding than another, the leadership team at Bethel recognizes that each of these are important parts of our witness. We find each to be rewarding, however I think that seeing new perons come to Christ is always a thrill for the whole Body of Christ.
- D. Church Vitality

While numbers are not the only factor of vitality, they are helpful in providing clarity of our church's present reality. Below is the reported data from your church's last two year-end Statistical Tables.

Church	Year	Avg. Worship Attendance	Total Professing Members	Avg. Sunday School Attendance	Total Number of People in Christian Formation Groups	Received on Profession of Faith Through Confirmation	Received on Profession of Faith (not in Confirmation)
Bethel	2020	98	279	57	89	0	0
	2021	65	272	45	84	0	1

- E. Tools for Planning
- What is your church's specific plan to reach new people for Jesus Christ? What tools are you using to foster growth (i.e. Forward Focus, Natural Church Development, SHIFT, Ken Callahan's "Twelve Keys to an Effective Church", etc.)?

Developing a plan that fits our environment, working within our community while maintaining a clear biblical (our principle source of understanding God's will for his church) outlook. Lets us faithfully serve God and man while retaining a clear focus that realizes that the first commandment is still the great commandment and yet the second is like it.

II. Nurture

- A. Does your church have a visitation program? Please describe.
Our people regularly visit and invite others to church, there is no regular process for doing so. We have had many visits as a result of this and the five new members we have this year is a direct result of this process.
- B. Does your church have a congregational care program (i.e. Stephen's Ministry, divorce care, counseling center, grief group, etc.)? Please describe.
We do not have an organized care program but we do have a very supportive church in both its outreach to its own members and to members of our community.

III. Outreach and Witness

- A. How is your church reaching out in service to the community and the world?
Through Sumter Pregnancy Center, Sumter Christian Ministries, Emmanuel Soup Kitchen, our own housing improvement effort for the needy in our community, through apportionment giving, Samaritans purse, Jewish voice and a number of other ways.
 The number of persons from your church serving in mission/community ministries reported in your church's last year-end Statistical Tables.

B. How has your church engaged in ministry with children, youth, and young adults beyond you local church this year (i.e. Scouts, Child Care, Basketball League, school partnerships, dialogues, etc.)? How did these experiences impact the mission and ministry of your church? VBS, our vbs had several children who are not a part of our Church and several workers who are also not at this time a part of our church, all of these submitted to background checks. Through our efforts at Easter and our fall hayride for youth.

C. Has your church engaged in ministry with other United Methodist Churches, with ecumenical partners, and in cross racial/cultural experiences (i.e. pulpit or choir exchanges, joint projects, dialogues, etc.)? How did these experiences impact the mission and ministry of your church? Several of our congregation attended the Crusade with Dr. Tony Evens where a great crosssection of the community was participating. Rev Marvis Stewart and I have agreed to do a pulpit exchange and are looking forward to that.

IV. Submit the following:

- A. Report of the Church Council (Oral composite report plus any other written reports such as UMW, UMM, UMYF)
- B. Report of the Pastor (State of the Church. ¶ 340 BOD 2016, Continuing Education Report)
- C. Reports of other clergy and applicable Continuing Education Reports (all categories)
- D. Report of Trustees
- E. *Report of the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development - print copies for members of Charge Conference
 - PPRC Roster
 - Lay Member to 2023 Annual Conference - do not print; submit names online
 - Official Roll and Attendance Record for 2023 - print copies for District Superintendent and Secretary for keeping roll at Council meetings
- F. *Recommended Ministerial Support
- G. Accountable Reimbursement Policy
- H. 2023 Budget
 - I. Treasurer's Report
- J. Report of the Committee on Finance
- K. Parsonage Report
- L. Report of Local Church(es) Safe Sanctuary Policy (Attach copies)
- M. Epworth Children's Home Local Church Representative - do not print; submit name on Nominations and Leadership Report
- N. Conference or District Nominations form - do not print; submit names online
- O. 2022-23 High School Junior and Senior List and current college students (¶ 232 BOD 2016) - do not print, submit names online
- P. Local Church Policy on Sexual Misconduct (Attach copy, see sample here: [Sample-Local-Church-Policy-Statement-on-Misconduct-of-a-Sexual-Nature-2016.pdf](#) (umcsc.org))

*Vote required at charge conference

V. Personnel

1. Who are recommended by the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee: (*vote, *v 2/3 = two thirds vote)
 - A. as candidates for ordained ministry (¶¶ 258.2(g)9, 310.1(e)) (*v 2/3)?
 - No One.
 - B. for continuation as candidates for ordained ministry (¶¶ 258.2(g)9, 310.1(e)) (*v)?
 - No One
2. List the names of the persons the church has given to the United Methodist Ministry?
 - No one
3. Who are recommended as Local Church Lay Servants (¶ 266) (*v)?
 - A. New: 0
 - B. Renewed: 0

4. Who are recommended as Certified Lay Servants (§ 266) (*v)?

A. New: 0

B. Recertified: 0

5. Who are recommended as Certified Lay Speakers (§ 267) (*v)?

A. New: 0

B. Recertified: 0

6. Who are recommended as Certified Lay Ministers (§ 268) (*v)?

A. New: 0

B. Recertified: 0

VI. Stewardship

One way the local church participates in the world wide mission of the church is through apportionments (§ 247.14).

A. What percent of apportionments were paid in 2021? 100%

What do you expect to pay in 2022? 100%

B. If you are not paying 100% of your apportionments, please explain why, and what are your plans to move toward 100% payment?

C. Are you up to date on Direct Billing? Yes

If not, what is your current balance and plan to address it?

Do you plan to enroll in the Conference Forgiveness Plan? No

D. Has a 2021 Audit been completed and report submitted to the District Office? No

Betsy Ridgeway

Presiding Elder or District Superintendent

Secretary

Bethel/Oswego (280462) on the BETHEL/OSWEGO CHARGE (280462) in the Hartsville District

[Charge Conference Home](#) | [Additional Lay Member\(s\) to AC Equalization Letter](#) | [Information and Help](#) | [Active Leadership](#)

Report of Pastor

The report of the pastor in charge shall include the names of all persons involved in the changes in membership and other items outlined in the 2016 Book of Discipline (¶¶ 234, 340). This report should cover as fully as possible the work of the pastor. Care should be taken not to duplicate the reports of the Church Council, committees, organizations, and officers of the charge.

NOTE: To remove last year's lists from the Pastor's Report in mass:
[Click here to choose which groups of existing names for removal for questions 1 - 3.](#)

1. List those who have been received into baptized membership since last report (Record names and dates).

a. Infants baptized since last report

ADD NEW - Infant baptism	
Name	Date
None	

b. All others: children, youth, and adults baptized since last report.

ADD NEW - Child, youth, or adult baptism		
	Name	Date
Change	Emma Brooks	09/18/2022

2. List those who have been received into professing membership since the last report (Record names and dates).

a. On profession of faith or restored

ADD NEW - Member added on profession of faith or restored		
	Name	Date
Change	Robert Brooks	09/18/2022
Change	Tara Brooks	09/18/2022
Change	Dona Stucker	09/18/2022

b. From other United Methodist churches.

ADD NEW - Member added on transfer from other United Methodist church		
	Name	Date
None		

c. From other non-United Methodist churches.

ADD NEW - Member added on transfer from a non-United Methodist church		
	Name	Date
Change	Furman Smith	09/18/2022

d. List those who have been removed from the professing membership since last report (Record names and dates).

a. By action of the Charge Conference, or trial court, or withdrawal

ADD NEW - Member removed by action of the Charge Conference, trial, or withdrawal		
	Name	Date
None		

b. By transfer to other United Methodist churches.

ADD NEW - Member removed by transfer to other United Methodist church		
	Name	Date
None		

c. By transfer to other non-United Methodist churches.

ADD NEW - Member removed by transfer to a non-United Methodist church		
	Name	Date
<u>Change</u>	James Barnard	07/11/2022
<u>Change</u>	Linda Barnard	07/11/2022

d. By death.

ADD NEW - Member removed by death		
	Name	Date
<u>Change</u>	Dale Garrison	04/20/2022
<u>Change</u>	Joseph Bailey	07/25/2022

Report of Pastor Question 4

[Click here to update Question 4](#)

4. Have the membership rolls been audited? No

a. If not, why not?

The work on Auditing which had been neglected for many years is almost complete, it will show significant changes and currently looks like it will reflect 136 Members, 4 affiliate members, and three associate members with 35 on the contingency roll.

b. Who has moved from your community since the last Charge Conference?

No One.

c. What has been done to relate them to another church?

SUPPLEMENTAL PAGE FOR
Report of the Pastor

Enter report name and question or text

Report of the Pastor: An account of Pastoral Ministry
Bethel UMC, Oswego 2023

a. Preach and Teach the Word.

Having been called of God to preach and to teach the good news of Jesus Christ the living Word of God, I endeavor to do so in the only way that it is possible to do so rightly. I seek guidance from the Holy Spirit that the Spirit might bring the things of Christ to life through my voice as it is needed in the current time and setting. In short I seek to bring a right understanding of the intent of the inspired scriptures as interpreted through the life of Christ to bear on the circumstances faced by the congregation or community at the current time.

b. Provide pastoral care and counsel.

I provide pastoral care in a variety of ways including visitation and prayer in the homes of the congregation. I do hospital and nursing home visitation as well as providing Holy Communion regularly to those who are unable to attend public worship. Lee Correctional Institute has reopened for the ministry of teaching that I do there, and I will be resuming that ministry soon. While I am always available to provide Christian Counsel, there are circumstances and persons who require Counseling at a level beyond my ability and training. Knowing my own limitations I refer these to more highly trained Christian Counselors.

c. Administer the Sacraments

We celebrate Holy Communion every 1st and 3rd Sunday. We have received members with previous baptism this year as well as one new Baptism.

d. Order the life of the church for service in mission and ministry. My primary function of ministry at Bethel is to bring home the point that every small group and every individual should have a sense of mission and purpose. Although we will serve many different functions within the Body of Christ everyone should be keenly aware of and intentionally open to the leadership of the Holy Spirit as they are placed for service in the Body of Christ.

e. Continuing education: I have completed a three-hour course on the book of Ephesians from Faith Life Bible Studies. This is a Logos Study.

Pastor's Continuing Education Report to the Charge Conference 2022

Name: James Timothy Whitted
Charge: Bethel/Oswego Charge Number: 280462 District: Hartsville

¶ 350, The Book of Discipline, Continuing Education and Spiritual Growth

1. Throughout their careers, clergy shall engage in continuing education for ministry, professional development, and spiritual formation and growth in order to lead the church in fulfilling the mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ. This shall include carefully developed personal programs of study augmented periodically by involvement in organized educational and spiritual growth activities. These practices embody the Wesleyan emphasis on lifelong growth in faith, fostered by personal spiritual practices and participation in covenant communities. Each annual conference, through the chairs of the Clergy Orders and Fellowship or other leaders designated by the bishop, shall provide spiritual enrichment opportunities and covenant groups for deacons, elders, and local pastors.

2. A clergy member's continuing education and spiritual growth program shall include professional formation leaves at least one week each year and may include at least one month during one year of every quadrennium. Such leaves shall not be considered as part of the ministers' vacations and shall be planned in consultation with their charges or other agencies to which they are appointed as well as the bishop, district superintendent, and annual conference continuing education committee.

3. A clergy member may request a formational and spiritual growth leave of up to six months while continuing to hold an appointment in the local church. Such leaves are available to clergy members who have held full-time appointments for at least six years. Such a leave shall be with the approval of the committee on pastor-parish relations, the church council, and the district superintendent. Annual conferences are encouraged to assist with pulpit supply and other temporary support for such leaves.

Deacons and Elders

S.C. CONFERENCE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT: Each Provisional Elder/Full Elder, Provisional Deacon/Full Deacon, and Associate Member shall be involved in a program of continuing education throughout her/his years of ministry. A minimum of twelve CEU's shall be earned in each quadrennium (4 years), and that not less than one CEU be earned in any one year. Programs that don't fit the CEU pattern may be submitted to the District Committee on Ordained Ministry for approval. Continuing Education Unit: A Continuing Education Unit (CEU) is defined as "10 contact hours of participation in an organized continuing education experience under responsible sponsorship, capable direction and qualified instruction." The Society for the Advancement of Continuing Education for Ministry (SACEM). "5 contact hours of participation in an organized continuing education experience under responsible sponsorship, capable direction and qualified instruction" would yield .5 CEUS. IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: That each minister plan for periods of extended study as outlined in P. 350.3. These extended study periods should be one month or more in duration and should occur about once in each quadrennium. SOME CONFERENCE FUNDING IS AVAILABLE FOR QUALIFIED STUDY PLANS (see Clergy Services website- <https://www.umcsc.org/clergyservices>). REPORT: Please fill in the spaces below with your record of CE for 2017-2022.

Local Pastors

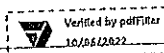
¶ 318 The Book of Discipline 1. Full-Time Local Pastors—Those eligible to be appointed full-time local pastors are persons... (c) who, unless they have completed the Course of Study or other approved theological education, shall (i) complete four courses per year in a Course of Study school, or (ii) shall have made progress in the correspondence curriculum prescribed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (¶ 1421.3d), or (iii) be enrolled as a pre-theological or theological student in a college, university, or school of theology approved by the University Senate; (d) who, when they have completed the Course of Study or a Master of Divinity degree from a seminary listed by the University Senate, are involved in continuing education (¶ 350); (e) who shall not be enrolled as a full-time student in any school.

¶ 318.2 Part-Time Local Pastors—Those eligible to be appointed as part-time local pastors are persons... (d) who, unless they have completed the Course of Study or other approved theological education, shall (i) complete two courses per year in a Course of Study school, or (ii) have made progress in the correspondence curriculum prescribed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, or (iii) be enrolled as a pre-theological or theological student in a college, university, or school of theology approved by the University Senate

¶ 318.3 A full-time local pastor shall complete the Course of Study curriculum within eight years and a part-time local pastor within twelve, unless a family situation or other circumstance precludes the local pastor's opportunity to meet said requirements.

NOTE: Part-Time Local Pastors who have completed Course of Study or other approved theological education, must be involved in continuing education.

Year	Course	CEUs	Description (optional)
2022	Ephesians	3 sem hr.	Eph not your average Bible Study, Logos/Faithlife BS

Pastor Signature	Date
<u>James T. Whitted</u> 	10.04.2022
SPRC Signature	Date
<u>Patti Weldon</u>	10.04.2022
District Superintendent Signature	Date

Annual Report of Trustees - 2022

The trustees are amenable to the Charge Conference and as such are required to make an annual report. Additional reports should be made as requested by the Charge Conference or Church Council.

Church Name: Bethel/Oswego (280462), Charge Name: BETHEL/OSWEGO CHARGE (280462) Town: District: Hartsville District
To the Charge Conference for the year ending

1. Organization for 2022 took place at a meeting on January , 2022 by electing the following officers:

Name	Term Expires
Chair Bobby Lowder	12/31/2024
Member Jamie Burns	12/31/2024
Member Gloria Connor	12/31/2022
Member Jimmy Craven	12/31/2024
Member Bobby Lowder	12/31/2022
Member Henry Lowder	12/31/2023
Member Marvin Skinner	12/31/2022
Member Rusty Williams	12/31/2023

2. Number of church buildings 3; Number of parsonages 1.

3. Value of church...

Type	Name	How was value determined?	Value
Buildings	Campus all Buildings	Insurance evaluation	2,700,000.00
Furnishings	Furnishings and equipment	Insurance Evaluation	407,000.00
Land	property campus is on	fair market value	16,000.00
Total			\$ 3,123,000.00

4. Value of parsonage(s)...

Type	Name	How was value determined?	Value
Buildings	Parsonage	Insurance Evaluation	163,000.00
Furnishings	Furnishings	Insurance Evaluation	43,260.00
Land	Land Parsonage is on	Fair Market Value	5,150.00
Total			\$ 211,410.00

5. Value of other assests (cash, investments, other property, etc...)

Type	Name	How was value determined?	Value
Other	Bank Account Building Fund		38,075.00
Other	Bank Account General Budget		66,720.00
Other	Bank Account Overflow		42,800.00
Other	CD	\$150,000	150,000.00
Total			\$ 297,595.00

6. Incorporation of Local Church

- a. Is the local church incorporated? Yes Date Incorporated 07/23/1993
- b. Who is the church's registered agent on record with the SC Secretary of State? Chair of Trustees (The Registered Agent should be the Trustee Chair.)
- c. Have the Articles of Incorporation been reviewed? No Articles of Incorporation Reviewed Date
- d. Have the By-laws been reviewed? No By-laws Reviewed Date

7. Name or names in which the title to each piece of property is recorded as shown by civil land records:

Item	Name	Where Filed?	Book	Page
Bethel Church	Bethel United Methodist Church	RMC Office, Sumter	PP	470
Parsonage	Bethel UMC	RMC Office, Sumter	PP	470

8. Deeds

- a. Who is the custodian of the deeds and other legal papers? Trustees
Where are they kept? Church Safe
- b. Does each deed contain a trust clause? Yes
Has a current copy been submitted to the District Superintendent? No
If not, attach a copy of the deed to this report and complete the Quit Claim deed and attach a copy of it to this report.
- c. Is the title to church property held in the names of individual trustees or a local church cooperation? BUMC

9. Received during year for constructing and improving church building and parsonages, and how expended:

Received From	Amount	Disbursements	Amount
No records			

10. Present Indebtedness:

Item	Amount
No Indebtedness	

11.

a. Insurance

Item Insured/Insurance	Replacement Value	Amount of Coverage	Type of Coverage	Company	Deductible	Expires When
Church Buildings	3,501,000.00	3,501,000.00	pool all property	Church Mutual	5,000.00	09/01/2023
Professional Liability Coverage (including Sexual Misconduct)	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	Professional Liability	Church Mutual	0.00	09/01/2021
Vehicle(s)	40,000.00	40,000.00	Comp & Collision	Church Mutual	0.00	09/01/2023

- b. Have the buildings been inspected for fire hazards within the past year? Yes
- c. When was the last appraisal made? 01/01/2002
- d. By whom? Watson Appraisal Service
- e. Is the amount of insurance adequate? Yes
- f. Does the church's insurance cover professional liability? Yes Amount 1,000,000
- g. Does the church's insurance cover all programs that occur in the facilities (i.e. Scouts, community groups, AA, etc)? Yes
- h. Does your church sponsor a scouting ministry? No
If yes, please include identifying information:
Type of Troop: Number: Scout Council:
Attach copies of any signed agreements you have with Scouting entities.
Attach copies of any insurance policies that cover the church for scouting activities.

i. Who is bonded?

Marie Burns Randy Cabbage Henry Lowder Robert Lowder Fran Marshall William McCoy
Eugene Mazingo Bronwyn Rabon Aaron Rentz Hazel Ridgeway Marvin Skinner

12. Detailed list of income producing property and permanent funds:

--	--	--	--	--	--

Attach supplement if needed for "How Income is used for Ministry" entry.

13. Has an annual accessibility audit for the church been conducted? Yes

Date: 09/28/2023

Bobby Jandy
Signed
Chair or Secretary, Trustees

114

30166

Name James Timothy Whited Charge BETHEL/OSWEGO CHARGE (280462) District Hartsville District
 Status FE Service Time Full Time Pensions Participant IN
 Is a parsonage available? Yes
 If yes, does the pastor live in the parsonage? Yes
 Calculated for the year, effective from 01/01/2023 until 12/31/2023, MSF properly replaced, or this appointment ends.

MSF must have District approval to be valid.
 This 2023 MSF view allows the entered figures to be reviewed, but it is not to be used as a completed MSF.

Church/Institution	Bethel/Oswego	Totals
Number	280462	
Housing Allowance in lieu of parsonage	0.00	0.00
Adoption Agreement on file with Pensions Office		
Gross Compensation	67,200.00	67,200.00
Medical Plan	TBD	TBD
Vision Plan	TBD	TBD
Dental Plan	TBD	TBD
FSA	TBD	TBD
HSA	TBD	TBD
Dependent Care	TBD	TBD
Tax Deferred Personal Contribution	3,600.00	3,600.00
Utility/Parsonage Exclusion	9,000.00	9,000.00
Taxable Compensation	TBD	TBD
Add Back Utility/Parsonage Exclusion	9,000.00	9,000.00
Cash Compensation Paid to Pastor	TBD	TBD
Billable Compensation	84,000.00	84,000.00
Direct Bill Percentage	100	
Direct Bill		
Charge Health Insurance	12,900.00	12,900.00
Defined Contribution	2,520.00	2,520.00
Defined Benefit	5,964.00	5,964.00
Welfare Plan	2,520.00	2,520.00
Total Direct Billing Cost	23,904.00	23,904.00
Complete Compensation Package		91,104.00

Recommendation from Church Council for
Ministerial Support to be paid for Calendar Year ~~2022~~ 2023

Name James Timothy Whited Charge BETHEL/OSWEGO CHARGE (280462) District Hartsville District

J. W. Paulman III *JTW '22*

*Chair of Administrative Board/Church Council

*Chair of Administrative Board/Church Council

*Chair of Administrative Board/Church Council

*Chair of Administrative Board/Church Council

James T Whited *J.T.W.*
Pastor

District Superintendent

Patti Welday *PBW*
Staff-Parish Relations Chair

11-06-2022

Date Adopted

* Signature of Administrative Board/Council Chair indicates that the Council has reviewed and voted on this salary.

28770
Approved by Church
Missing District Approval

Accountable Reimbursement Policy

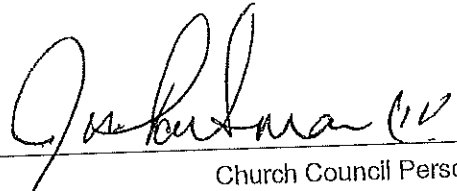
The following resolution was duly adopted by the Church Council of the Bethel/Oswego United Methodist Church (280462) at a meeting held on 10/04/2023.

Under Internal Revenue Code Section 62(a)(2)(A) gross income does not include reimbursed business expenses or adequately accounted business expense allowances for employees. Internal Revenue Service Regulation 1.162-17(b) provides that an employee "need not report on his tax return" expenses paid/incurred by him solely for the benefit of his employer for which he is required to account and does account to his employer and which are charged directly or indirectly to the employer. Further, IRS Regulation 1.274-5(e)(4) provides that "an adequate accounting means the submission to the employer of an account book, diary, statement of expense, or similar record maintained by the employee in which the information (as to each element of expenditure amount, time and place, business purpose, and business relationship) is recorded at or near the time of the expenditure, together with supporting documentary evidence, in a manner that conforms to all the 'adequate records' requirements" as set forth in the regulations.

Therefore, the Bethel/Oswego United Methodist Church (280462) hereby established an accountable reimbursement policy pursuant to IRS Regulations upon the following terms and conditions for Reverend James Timothy Whited .

1. Expenses deemed ordinary and necessary shall be made solely for the benefit of the church and shall be paid directly, whenever possible by the Bethel/Oswego United Methodist Church (280462) or indirectly and reimbursed to the person or entity who does pay the expense.
2. The church payroll person must be given an adequate accounting of the expense, which means that there shall be submitted a statement of expense, account book diary, or other similar record showing the amount, date, place, business purpose, and business relationship involved. Appropriate documents, cash receipts, cancelled checks, credit cards sales slips, and contemporaneous records must be attached to a monthly expense report. Copies of the documentary evidence and expense report shall be retained by both the clergy and the church.
3. Reimbursements or advances must be paid out budgeted church funds. Budgeted amounts not spent must not be paid as a salary bonus or other personal compensation in any fiscal year.
4. The church may pay amounts in advance of the clergy's actual expenditure on either an "as needed" basis or by standard monthly expense "allowance." However, an adequate accounting of the advances by expense report must be made in the month following an expenditure. Any excess advance must be returned to the church within 30 days of the issuance of the advance.
5. It is understood by the various parties that all elements of this resolution must be carefully followed to prevent the church salary-paying unit from being required by regulation to list total payment of the following items on IRS information reports (W-2/1099-MISC) as "includable compensation." The primary responsibility of expense reporting is the clergy to the church payroll person.
6. By previous or concurrent resolution, duly adopted by the Church Council of the Bethel/Oswego United Methodist Church (280462) at a meeting held on 10/04/2023 the following ordinary and necessary expenses as suggested for the employment needs of the clergy, are included in this accountable reimbursement policy for calendar year 2023.

Description of Expense	Amount
Continuing Education	750.00
Expenses for Annual Conference	650.00
Church Travel Expense (mileage, meals, parking, telephone, lodging)	<u>3,000.00</u>
Accountable Reimbursement Policy Total	\$ 4,400.00



 Church Council Person

10-16-22

 Date

*Church Council action is required for an increase to the total during the year, but such an increase cannot be funded by taking money from the minister's cash compensation. Circumstances dictate that the above expenses will vary from church to church and from time to time. Nonetheless, expenses assumed by the clergy in excess of the total are not excludable from reported compensation. They may or may not be deductible from taxable income on the clergy's tax return.

Charge Conference Parsonage Report 2022

Date: 10/02/2022

Charge: BETHEL/OSWEGO CHARGE (280462) Pastor: Yes

Address of Parsonage: 1115 Red Apple Ln. Sumter SC 29153

1. It is mandatory that the committee inspect the parsonage once a year. Date of Inspection 10/02/2022

2. Has the committee reviewed the current Parsonage Guidelines available at Cabinet Resources - South Carolina United Methodist Conference (umcsc.org)? Yes
Date of Review 10/02/2022

3. Does the parsonage have the items listed under Section I & II of the current Parsonage Guidelines? Yes

4. From the inspection, please note below any needed furnishing and/or appliances which need to be replaced, and any repairs or additions that need to be made to conform to the Parsonage Guidelines or to ensure the structural integrity of the parsonage.

A. Recommendations: No issues found during inspection.
B. Steps taken to meet each recommendation:

5. Has the pastor been made aware of his/her responsibilities should damage occur because of pets being kept in the parsonage (see Parsonage Guidelines, Section III.K)? Yes Initials:
Pastor TW
Chair PW

6. Have all discarded items been removed from the premises? Yes

7. Has there been periodic pest extermination in the parsonage? Yes

8. Parsonage Guidelines require a mold inspection every four years. Has the parsonage been tested for mold? Yes
Last Date Tested 06/06/2022

9. Parsonage Guidelines require adequate funds for maintenance.
A. Are there sufficient funds budgeted for repairs and maintenance of the parsonage? Yes
B. Are there funds for cleaning carpet when there is a change in the appointment? Yes
C. Are there funds for painting the interior? No

10. For insurance purposes are there at least two copies of the inventory of parsonage furnishings?
A. Does pastor have a copy? Yes
B. Is there a copy in the church's safety deposit box or with the Trustees? Yes

11. Has the chairperson compiled, in notebook or file form, pertinent information as to purchase date and place, warranty, repair information, etc... for all items purchased for the parsonage? Yes

Pastor Comments

We are blessed to have had an excellent working relationship and care of the parsonage from the chairs of the SPPRC and Trustees.

Chairperson of P/SPR/Parsonage Committee's Comments

Signature of Pastor James T. White

Signature of P/SPRC Chairperson Patti B. Wilday

Signature of Board of Trustees Chairperson Secretary for Chairwoman Gloria Connor
Bobby Jowdy



Report of the Finance Committee

The report of the Finance Committee shall be made on this form, or one revised and adapted by the Annual Conference. Numbers in parentheses refer to paragraphs of the 2016 *Book of Discipline*.

Copies of this report should be filed with the recording secretary, pastor, district superintendent and chairperson of the committee on finance

Bethel/Oswego Church _____ Charge _____
Hartsville District South Carolina Annual Conference

For the period beginning 11/14/2021 and ending 11/06/2022
DATE OF PRIOR CHARGE CONFERENCE DATE OF CURRENT CHARGE CONFERENCE

I. ORGANIZATION

1.a. Has the committee been organized according to the 2016 Book of Discipline (§258.4)? Yes No

b. Names of Officers?

Chairperson Aaron Rentz III Vice Chairperson Jean Graham
Treasurer(s) William McCoy Financial Secretary Pam Oliver

II. BUDGET AND COMMITMENT PLAN

2.a. Has the committee submitted to the Church Council, or its equivalent, a complete budget for the ensuing year? Yes No

If not, why not?

b. Did the committee give the Church Council an opportunity to request financial support for recommended ministries (§258.4)? Yes No

If not, why not?

3. How frequently does the Financial Secretary/Treasurer send members and contributors regular reports of their giving?
 Monthly Quarterly Semi-annually Annually No, we do not send reports

4. Is giving by individual participants in the local church regularly reviewed? Yes No;

If not, why not?

We do not use this approach.

5. What are the plans for raising sufficient income to meet the budget adopted by the Church Council (§258.4)?
We always depend on our membership to give enough to meet our budget needs.

6. Does the Financial Secretary/Treasurer report regularly to the Church Council on the giving trends in the church/charge? Yes No

If not, why not?

III. THE HANDLING OF CHURCH FUNDS

7. Does the Treasurer regularly make reports to the Committee on Finance and the Church Council on the financial position of the church (§258.4b)? Yes No

If not, why not?

8. Are all benevolences and other connectional funds remitted monthly to the conference treasurer (§258.4b)?

Yes No

If not, why not?

9.a. What bank(s) have been designated by the Church Council as a depository (§258.4e)?

First Citizens

b. Are all accounts FDIC insured and in amounts at or below the current FDIC insurable limit? Yes No

If not, why not?

c. Are all accounts in the name of the church? Yes No

If not, why not?

10.a. Has the committee established written financial policies to document the internal controls of the local church (§258.4c)? (Attach as a supplement.) Yes No

b. Have these policies been reviewed by the committee and found to be adequate and effective (§258.4c)?

Yes No

11. Are the church offerings counted by a counting committee in accordance with the mandates of the Discipline (§258.4a)? Yes No

If not, why not?

2. Are all funds deposited promptly in accordance with procedures developed by the Committee on Finance (¶258.4a, e)? Yes No

If not, why not?

13. Are financial officers of the church bonded (¶258.4b)? Yes No

If not, why not?

14. a. Have the financial records of the church and all its organizations been audited for the prior fiscal year (¶258.4d)? Yes No

b. If not, why not?

c. Were there any recommendations or exceptions? Yes No

d. If there were recommendations or exceptions, how has the church addressed them?

Signed Aaron Rentz III

Printed Name: Aaron Rentz III

Date: 09/17/2022

Bethel UMC Budget 2023

	\$26,464
Apportionments	\$ 500
Children's Ministries	\$2,800
Employer SS Liabilities	\$1,500
Family Ministries	\$800
Guest Pastors	\$16,000
Insurance	\$1,200
Janitorial Supplies	\$ 750
Kitchen Supplies	\$1,000
Lay Member Annual Conf Exp	\$2,000
Literature and Publications	\$2,000
Miscellaneous	\$2,400
Missionary Support	\$4,400
Missions Programs	\$ 250
Nursery Supplies	\$4,200
Office Equipment	\$3,000
Office Supplies	\$650
Pastor AC Expense	\$67,200
Pastor Compensation	\$4,032
Pastor Bonus	\$750
Pastor Continuing Ed	\$ 3,000
Pastor Travel Exp	\$23,760
Pastor Pension & Health Direct	\$18,000
Repairs and Maintenance	\$800
Revival	\$750
Safe Sanctuary	\$28,165
Staff Salary	\$1408
Staff Bonus	\$21,000
Utilities	\$800
VBS	\$3,500
Worship	\$2,500
Youth Ministries	
Total	\$245,579
Needed Monthly	\$20,464.92
Needed Weekly	\$4,722.67

Bethel UMC Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual January 1 through October 1, 2022

Accrual Basis

	Jan 1 - Oct 1, 22	Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
GENERAL BUDGET	209,288.66	0.00
Total Income	209,288.66	0.00
Expense	20,853.00	20,927.74
APPORTIONMENTS	-2.76	379.35
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES	0.00	0.00
COLLEGE AGE MINISTRIES	0.00	0.00
DIR. CHILD/YOUTH PROF EXP	0.00	0.00
EMPLOYEE CONTINUING ED	1,441.32	903.23
EMPLOYER SOCIAL SECURITY	1,172.00	903.23
FAMILY MINISTRIES	0.00	400.00
GUEST PASTORS	7,147.00	12,049.03
INSURANCE	323.93	677.42
JANITORIAL	0.00	451.61
KITCHEN SUPPLIES	0.00	677.42
LAY MEMBER - AC EXP	1,355.12	1,806.45
LITERATURE & PUBLICATIONS	3,035.27	2,980.65
MISCELLANEOUS	3,400.00	3,612.90
MISSIONARY SUPPORT	1,579.24	0.00
MISSIONS PROGRAMS	0.00	180.65
NURSERY	2,766.25	3,161.29
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	1,112.28	1,535.48
OFFICE SUPPLIES	0.00	650.00
PASTOR AC EXP		
PASTOR COMP	46,524.00	50,580.65
PASTOR COMP - CASH	0.00	17,883.87
PASTOR COMP - MEDICAL	6,750.00	6,729.03
PASTOR COMP - PARSONAGE	6,564.00	0.00
PASTOR COMP - PENSION	0.00	0.00
PASTOR COMP - Other	0.00	0.00
Total PASTOR COMP	59,838.00	75,193.55
PASTOR CONTINUING ED	0.00	750.00
PASTOR TRAVEL/PROF EXP	1,369.59	2,709.68
PENSION & HEALTH DIRECT	11,592.00	0.00
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE		
REPAIRS & MAINT - PARSONAGE	0.00	0.00
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE - Other	22,047.66	13,548.39
Total REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	22,047.66	13,548.39
REVIVAL	0.00	25.81
SAFE SANCTUARY	360.80	361.29
SALARIES	18,840.78	21,198.71
UTILITIES	19,726.20	18,064.52
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	70.20	800.00
WORSHIP	847.37	2,619.35
YOUTH MINISTRIES EXP	0.00	1,851.61
Total Expense	178,875.25	188,419.36
Net Ordinary Income	30,413.41	-188,419.36
Net Income	30,413.41	-188,419.36

Annual Conference Safe Sanctuary Policy

A RESOLUTION TO REQUIRE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SAFE SANCTUARY POLICY IN EVERY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND IN EVERY UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE EVENT IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

WHEREAS, Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." Mark 10:14-15 (NRSV) Jesus also said, "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones...it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea." Matthew 18:6 (NRSV)

WHEREAS, The Hebrew people treasured their place of worship as a holy place, a sanctuary, a place where they could worship in safety and harmony. (See Psalms 20:1-2 and Psalms 27:4-5) This scripture provides examples of how the sanctuary is to be a community of protective nurture and harmony, holy and safe.

WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church regarding rights of children states, "children must be protected from economic, physical, emotional, and sexual exploitation and abuse." *Social Principles* (Paragraph 162C, 1996, 2000, 2004)

WHEREAS, The General Conference of the United Methodist Church adopted a Resolution in 1996, and readopted it in 2004, calling upon all local congregations and every Annual Conference to strive to make our churches safe places protecting children and other vulnerable persons from sexual and ritual abuse, and provided a list of steps for local churches, Annual Conferences, and the General Board of Discipleship and the Council of Global Ministries to follow. *The Book of Resolutions* 2004 (Paragraph 65, Page 201)

WHEREAS, The South Carolina Annual Conference adopted the *Sexual Ethics Policies and Procedures* on May 30, 1994, and by 1997, *Policies and Procedures for Reducing the Risk of Children/Youth Sexual Abuse in the Church* was written as it pertained to local and conference church events relating to both employees and volunteer workers, and the Conference strongly recommended each local church have a Safe Sanctuary Policy in place; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the South Carolina United Methodist Church Conference will require every local church to have a Safe Sanctuary Policy by December 31, 2008; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the South Carolina United Methodist Church Conference provide guidance to local churches to write and implement a Safe Sanctuary Policy by providing training, workshops and sample policies to meet criteria as outlined in *The Book of Resolutions* 2004, and that this will be coordinated at the district level by the Congregational Specialists; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the South Carolina United Methodist Conference will require accountability of each church annually at Charge Conference beginning in the year 2008; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the South Carolina United Methodist Conference will have a Safe Sanctuary Policy in place for all district and conference events to include training and screening procedures including, but not limited to, having application forms, interviews, reference checks and background checks for all staff and volunteers by December 31, 2008, and that this will be coordinated through Connectional Ministries by the Board of Education.

Church Name: BEYB L OSWEGO

District: JEFFERSONVILLE

Each Church Council is responsible for the development and implementation of their Safe Sanctuary Policy.

1. Do you have a Safe Sanctuary filed in the District Office? yes no
(If no, do you need assistance?) Date _____

2. Have you made changes in your Safe Sanctuary policy since last Charge Conference?(If yes, please attach a copy.) yes no

3. Has the Church Council reviewed your Safe Sanctuary Policy this year? yes no
Date 11/15/2021

4. When was training last conducted? Date Nov. 2021

[Signature]
Chairperson, Church Council

[Signature]
Chairperson, Trustees

[Signature]
Pastor

Bethel United Methodist Church
Policy for the Prevention of Abuse of Children, Youth,
And Vulnerable Adults

Introduction

The General Conference of The United Methodist Church, in April, 1996, adopted a resolution aimed at reducing the risk of child sexual abuse in the church. The adopted resolution includes the following statement:

Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes [a] child...welcomes me" (Matthew 18:5). Children are our present and our future, our hope, our teachers, our inspiration. They are full participants in the life of the church and the realm of God.

Jesus also said, "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones...it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:6). Our Christian faith calls us to offer both hospitality and protection to the little ones, the children. The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church state that "children must be protected from economic, physical, emotional and sexual exploitation and abuse" (§162C).

Tragically, churches have not always been safe places for children. Child sexual abuse, exploitation and ritual abuse ["ritual abuse" refers to abusive acts committed as part of ceremonies or rites; ritual abusers are often related to cults, or pretend to be] occur in churches, both large and small, urban and rural. The problem cuts across all economic, cultural, and racial lines. It is real, and it appears to be increasing. Most annual conferences can cite specific incidents of child sexual abuse and exploitation within churches. Virtually every congregation has among its members adult survivors of early sexual trauma.

Such incidents are devastating to all who are involved: the child, the family, the local church and its leaders. Increasingly, churches are torn apart by the legal, emotional, and monetary consequences of litigation following allegations of abuse.

God calls us to make our churches safe places, protecting children and other vulnerable persons from sexual and ritual abuse. God calls us to create communities of faith where children and adults grow safe and strong. (From The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church - 2000, pp. 180-181. Copyright © 2000 by The United Methodist Publishing House.)

Thus, in covenant with all United Methodist congregations, we adopt this policy for the prevention of child abuse in our church.

Purpose

Our congregation's purpose for establishing this Child Abuse Prevention Policy and accompanying procedures is to demonstrate our absolute and unwavering commitment to the physical safety and spiritual growth of all of our children and youth and for the protections of the adults who perform these ministries.

THOMAS AND MARY

Statement of Covenant

Bethel United Methodist Church hereby pledges to conduct the ministry of Jesus Christ in ways that assure the physical and emotional safety and spiritual growth of all of our children, youth and vulnerable adults as well as all of our workers with children, youth and vulnerable adults. We will follow reasonable safety measures when selecting and recruiting workers; we will implement appropriate operational procedures in all areas of programming and care; we will train our workers with children and youth on our procedures and policies; and we will have a clearly defined procedure for reporting a suspected incident of abuse consistent with South Carolina state law.

Procedures

Although it is our fervent hope and prayer that sexual abuse does not occur in our congregation's programs, we must put into place sufficient mechanisms to reduce the risk of abuse of children, youth, vulnerable adults, and those who work with them. For that purpose, ministries shall implement the following procedures in ministry programs and events.

Guidelines

All paid employees and volunteers will be required to comply with the following:

Recruitment and Screening Practices:

All persons employed to serve in a supervisory capacity for children/youth or vulnerable adults shall:

1. Be at least 21 years of age and at least 5 years older than the oldest child participating.
2. Complete an application and submit a minimum of 2 references.
3. Consent to and pass a criminal background check. All background checks will remain strictly confidential and will be reviewed by the pastor and SPRC chairperson. The pastor's background check will be reviewed by the SPRC chairperson.
4. Provide 3 character references.
5. Sign a participation covenant outlining our congregation's commitment to preserving this church as a holy place for safety and protection for all youth.
6. Complete an orientation training session on identifying and handling child abuse in the church setting and the church's Safe Sanctuary Policy.

Standard Operating Procedures:

1. "Two Adult Rule" – requires no fewer than two not related approved adults present at all times during any church-sponsored program, event, or ministry involving children and youth (i.e. youth Bible study, children's ministry, Sunday school class). This rule may also be met by the use of adult "roamers" who move in and out of different activities.
2. "Five Years Older Rule" – there must be at least a five year difference in ages between the leading employee/volunteer and the children/youth. (Example: 19 year old Jim may not lead the high school Sunday School class.)
3. Employee/volunteer workers under the age of 18 must be supervised by an adult.
4. Six month rule – employee/volunteer must have attended Bethel UMC on a regular basis for a minimum of six months before being allowed to lead any children/youth activities. Anyone with less than six months "track record" with BUMC will be paired with a seasoned volunteer that has met all recruitment and screening requirements. Note: any person with proven and verifiable record of working with children/youth at another church may be waived the 6 month rule. After verification with other church, the pastor must approve waiver.

DO WE HAVE
Forms

5. All employees/volunteers must attend an annual educational session for reducing the risk of child abuse in the church setting.
6. All suspected child abuse will be reported immediately to the pastor. This includes completing "Report of Suspected Incident of Child Abuse Form".
7. Any injuries or accidents must be documented on the accident report form and submitted to the pastor.
8. Parental permission forms and must be completed for specific off-site events.
All children and youth participating in out-of-town and over-night outings must have written consent and a notarized medical release form. (Medical release and consent forms may be completed for a one-year period and must be renewed annually). On youth overnight outings, female staff will supervise female youth in their sleeping quarters and male staff will supervise male youth. Married couples will not stay together but observe the female/female and male/male sleeping arrangements. With the exception of a parent/child combination, a staff and youth will not occupy the same bed or sleeping bag.
9. General Child information forms (including an emergency contact) must be completed and on file for all children and youth.
10. We do not engage in any physical or verbal punishment of children/youth. If the child/youth becomes too disruptive, the parents will be notified immediately.
11. Safe Sanctuaries Committee members will be available to answer specific questions to policy. This committee will review policy and update policy at least annually.
12. All volunteers for children and youth programs, activities, and events must consent to and pass a criminal background check. All background checks will remain strictly confidential and will be reviewed by the pastor. The pastor's background check will be reviewed by the SPRC chairperson.
13. All volunteers for children and youth programs and events must complete a Participant Covenant.
14. Open door policy - The parents of the children served, the pastor, administrative and professional staff of the church have the right to visit and observe the children's/youth activity, classroom, or church-sponsored program at any time, unannounced.
15. All classroom and office doors will have a window or visibility from hallway or remain open while occupied. Windows will be kept free from adornment and kept locked at all times. Doors that do not have visibility from the outside will be replaced with doors with windows when replacement is needed.
16. Participants being transported will be driven by only adult drivers who have consented and received a DMV background check.
17. Fifteen passenger vans have been deemed dangerous by federal authorities and will not be used for transporting children, youth and vulnerable adults.
18. When transporting children/youth/vulnerable adults, the adult driver and those being transported will have seatbelts fastened.

Responding to allegations and known incidents of child abuse:

1. First priority is to always protect the victim.
2. Bethel UMC will comply with the state laws requiring the pastor to report suspected case of child abuse.
3. In the event that an alleged or know child abuse situation occurs, an incident report must be completed and submitted to the Pastor and Church Lay Leader.
4. Persons who are the objects of the report will be required to refrain from all activities involving children and youth until the incident report is resolved.
5. In case of news media coverage, the Communications Coordinator of the South Carolina Conference will be the only individual to communicate with the media.

Training

Annual training of paid and volunteer workers that includes review of the policy and first aid/CPR training.

Conclusion

In all our ministries with children, youth, and vulnerable adults, this church is committed to demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ so that each person will be "surrounded by steadfast love, ... established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal" (Baptismal Covenant II, United Methodist Hymnal, p. 44). We take seriously our policies to reduce the risk of child abuse seriously and we are committed to their enforcement for the safety and security of all our children, youth, vulnerable adults, and those who work with them.

All church ministry events are required to comply with these policies:

The Safe Sanctuary Committee of Bethel UMC shall review these policies and procedures at least every two years or when procedural changes are made.

This policy will go into effect, effective 12/31/08.

Draft presented to Administrative Council on October 14, 2008.

LOCAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH POLICY STATEMENT ON MISCONDUCT OF A SEXUAL NATURE

Bethel/Osweg United Methodist Church affirms the 2016 Book of Resolutions, Sexual Abuse Within the Ministerial Relationship and Sexual Harassment Within the Church, which states that sexual abuse within the ministerial relationship and sexual harassment within the church as incompatible with biblical teachings of hospitality, justice and healing. In accordance with the 2016 Book of Discipline ¶161F, all human beings, both male and female, are created in the image of God, and thus have been made equal in Christ. As the promise of Galatians 3:26-29, states all are one in Christ, we support equity among all persons without regard to ethnicity, situation, or gender.

Sexual abuse within the ministerial relationship occurs when a person within a ministerial role of leadership (pastor, educator, counselor, youth leader or other position of leadership) engages in sexual contact or sexualized behavior with a congregant, client, employee, student, staff member, co-worker or volunteer.

Sexual harassment is any unwanted sexual advance or demand, either verbal or physical that is reasonably perceived by the recipient as demeaning, intimidating, or coercive. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, the creation of a hostile or abusive working environment resulting from discrimination on the basis of gender (2016 Book of Discipline ¶161J).

Sexual abuse within the ministerial relationship involves a betrayal of sacred trust, a violation of the ministerial role and exploitation of those who are vulnerable. Similarly, sexual harassment must be understood as an exploitation of a power relationship rather than as an exclusively sexual issue.

Misconduct of a sexual nature within the life of the Church interferes with its moral mission. Bethel/Osweg United Methodist Church stands in opposition to the sin of misconduct of a sexual nature in the Church and society at large and commits itself to fair and expedient investigation of any charge of sexual misconduct within the church and to take action deemed appropriate and in compliance with the Book of Discipline.

Further, Bethel/Osweg United Methodist Church bears affirmative responsibility to create an environment of hospitality for all persons, male or female, which is free of misconduct of a sexual nature and encourages respect, equality and kinship in Christ.

Some instances of sexual harassment can be resolved easily and informally between the parties. In all other instances, misconduct of a sexual nature should be reported to the chair of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and the pastor in charge. If the conduct involves a clergy person, it should be reported to the district superintendent or the presiding bishop.

Date approved: 10/04/2023

Church Council chairperson signature: Julian Parkman

Bethel United Methodist Church Administrative Board Report October 2022

From the Church Historian

In August 2022, Bethel received an exquisite gift from John Edward Outlaw.

Following is a narrative from John regarding the sculpture named "Waiting".

"Having done a number of sculpture pieces over the years, I decided to do a sculpture of the great blue heron which is one of my favorite birds. Most of the things I have done were of nature. When I began I had no drawing or picture but I had a mental vision of what it should be.

I began with a 20 foot long 3/8" round rod. I cut one piece at a time and bent it into the shape to form the bird. After the bird took its shape, I welded over the entire body. This fused it into a solid piece. The cattail leaves are formed from 1"x1/8" flat bar. The cattail is formed from a piece of 3/4" pipe.

The base where the bird stands represents a root protruding from a riverbank. The base was made from the scrap pieces from the bird and cattails.

We have enjoyed it in our home since 1990. The time has come to pass things on. It is offered to Bethel Church. Hope it will be enjoyed here as Brenda and I did in our home".

In 2020, the identities of the Unknown Male and Unknown Female buried in our cemetery since 1977 were discovered. Relatives of Pamela Buckley and James Paul Freund were contacted. On Sunday, August 14, Reverend Randy Brubaker, cousin of James Paul Freund came to Bethel and delivered a sermon about caring for one another just as our church cared for his cousin. He is the pastor at United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Attached is the article that followed from the Sumter Item. August 24, 2022.

<https://www.theitem.com/stories/relative-of-sumter-county-1976-john-doe-preaches-at-bethel-united-methodist,387065?>

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia (Pat) Burns, Historian

Bethel United Methodist Church Administrative Board Report October 2022

From Epworth Children's Home Representative

Our church has long supported Epworth Children's Home.
Every second Sunday, the loose offering collected goes to Epworth.

Members are reminded of the Mother's Day offering in May and Work Day in the Fall with the appropriate envelopes designated for Epworth.

Offerings from January 1 to October 1, 2022 have totaled \$1480.00.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia (Pat) Burns, Epworth Representative

Worship Committee
Betsy Ridgeway, Chair

We have had very meaningful worship services this past year after finally returning to our beautiful Sanctuary following a complete remodel after a mold problem was discovered.

We have finally settled into a regular order of worship since going to only one service. Jamie and daughter Sarah Burns continue to lead us in beautiful praise music almost every Sunday - a carryover from the early service we used to have.

Church members participate in many ways in our services - making announcements, reading scripture, helping serve Communion and serving as acolytes.

Our choir helps lead worship and sings specials from time to time.

We are practicing now for our Christmas cantata which we will be doing with the choir from Dalzell UMC.

Recently, we have had two special presentations for folks who have served the church for a long time. First, our longtime historian, Coleen Reyling, was honored with a plaque that is hung in our Historical Room. And most recently, Marvin Skinner, a jack of all trades, was praised and honored with a plaque that has been placed on the front of our sound booth. Marvin has served Bethel and the Oswego community, by repairing anything and everything and never wanting any recognition for it his whole life.

Children's Committee Report for 2022 Charge Conference

With the easing of Covid this past spring, we were able to plan an Easter Extravaganza in April. Fourteen of our young people and many adults enjoyed an afternoon filled with an egg hunt, games, prizes, and a snack.

During the Lenten season the young people made butterfly treats. These were given out after worship on Easter Sunday as a reminder of eternal life promised by the resurrection of Jesus.

July 17-19 many of our adults and youth volunteers help host VBS, *Food Truck Party: On a Roll With God* for 30 children. During this time the children were reminded that everything we have comes from God in prayer and all of our daily needs will be met.

A blessing of book bags was given during the last Sunday in August. Also at the end of summer one of our young people received a Bible.

Throughout the year our young people have made small gifts and cards that were sent to our shut-ins. Plans are to continue this project while emphasizing servanthood and sharing of our Lord's love with others

As the year continues and we have continue to consider the presence of the Covid virus when planning activities, we will be cautious as we plan activities our young people in order to keep them safe.

Fran Marshall, Chairperson of the Children's Committee

Bethel UMC, Oswego

2022 Charge Conference Missions Report

The 2022 Missions Committee chose projects with both local and global interest. Through budgeted money and direct congregational support, the committee worked to be diverse in our local community, surrounding communities and global missions while offering a variety of opportunities for Church members to be involved in service. Church wide Conference designated six Special Sundays were raised up along with other conference designated offerings throughout the year. Education and awareness was publicized.

The Committee meets as needed with the Chair reporting to Administrative Council. Congregational communication is through the monthly newsletter, weekly Sunday bulletins, posters, visual aids, and committee member representation throughout the congregation.

Through Committee agreement, financial aid has been given to Church members with emergency needs or economic situations.

Financial contributions were given to Jewish Voices, Feed My Starving Children,

Monthly budgeted giving includes:

- United Ministries of Sumter County
- Wycliffe Bible Translators

Monthly, adopted designated Sunday collections include:

- The first Sunday of each month, non-perishable food is collected and delivered to Sumter Christian Charities for distribution.
- The second Sunday of each month, loose offering monies are donated to

Epworth Children's Home in addition, two, special collection Sundays: May, Mother's Day Offering and September, Workday Offering.

Monthly, areas of service include:

- Emmanuel Soup Kitchen Ministry On the last Tuesday of each month, volunteers share devotion, prepare and serve a meal with the unfortunate.
- Feed the Hungry of Sumter County Collection of food for from local Piggly Wiggly that is distributed through United Ministries of Sumter County.

Continued congregational support:

- Bethel's Recyclables Collection Center Church members are encouraged to recycle while at the Church, a collection station has been set up outside the Family Life Center, with paper collection bins placed in each building and areas of heavy paper usage.

- The "Smile Train" with the collection of aluminum cans. This is an

International charity that provides cleft palate surgery to those in need, as well as providing training to doctors of the region.

Missions Committee calendar included:

- United Ministries of Sumter County, supported nonprofit, community Christian organization with donations and many hours of volunteering with service projects: Samaritan House, donations and volunteers- Gear Up for Learning collection of school supplies and volunteers- Help an Angel Fly, Christmas family adoption,-Thanksgiving Food boxes, food donations and packing volunteers- Lighthouse Grill, donation and volunteers-Summer and Winter Restore, fed workers lunch.

- Operation Christmas Child, Samaritan's Purse support. The Committee

supplied boxes that were taken and filled by congregational members, Sunday School classes, youth and children's groups. 100+ boxes were filled.

- Lenten Project- an all-out push collecting food for Sumter Christian Charities

- Light of Hope Pregnancy Center, Baby Bottle Boomerang collecti

- Assisting local church members with financial needs.

Other areas of mission supported through the congregation include:

- Help to members in need by remembering with prayers, cards, visits and assisting with repairs.

- Kairos Ministry to the women at Camille Graham Correctional Institute and men of the Lee County Correctional Center through volunteers, prayer wheels, baking cookies, reading materials and monetary support

- Crosswell Children's Home, Easter baskets filled with personal items and candy and collections of needed items

- Fireside Fund donation made to assist with heating

- Northwood Senior Living Home donations of bibles and reading materials.

Financial donation through the conference for digging wells in Africa.

Pilgrim Theological Seminary, contribution made for Bibles, chairs, and part of their building project.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. McCoy

Missions Committee Chair



PHOTO PROVIDED

From left: Bethel United Methodist Church Pastor Tim Whited and his wife, Ann, pose with Jean Parnell Graham, daughter of former Sumter County Sheriff Byrd Parnell, who was in charge of the burial of the 1976 John and Jane Doe, and the Rev. Randy Brubaker, relative of 1976 John Doe (James Freund), and Mrs. Randy Brubaker.

atives were either deceased or unable to be reached, Whited said. Eventually, they found Brubaker, Freund's cousin.

To show his family's appreciation for the church's hospitality, Brubaker decided to hand-deliver a special gift. However, Whited humbly asked Brubaker to preach that Sunday of his trip, and he accepted. Freund's family will also be preparing a tombstone for him.

Whited said Brubaker spoke with passion about caring for one another just as the church did for his cousin. Brubaker shared his family's appreciation for all the church had done for Freund throughout the last four decades.

Before leaving Sumter for Cincinnati, Brubaker and his wife joined the Whiteds for dinner before visiting his cousin's gravesite. It was then that Whited realized something coincident

written on Freund's marker was the

date he was buried: Aug. 14, 1977. It dawned on Whited the date Brubaker preached at the church, Aug. 14, 2021, was the same day, exactly 45 years later.

Even a week later, Whited sounded stunned as he spoke about the revelation. He also shared that before Brubaker arrived, he went out to the gravesites and prayed over the pair and spoke their names. The day of Brubaker's sermon, Whited learned that the former pastor of Bethel UMC who presided over the burial service for Freund and Buckley also prayed that someone would one day stand at their gravesites and speak their names.

Whited said he was unaware of these coincidences before Aug. 14 but that to learn them on such a significant day was "strange."

"There has always been a sense of joy that we have been able to provide for them," Whited said, "when we never even knew who they were."

Relative of Sumter County 1976 John Doe preaches at Bethel United Methodist

BY ALAYSHA MAPLE
alaysha@theitem.com

Forty-five years after the burial of Sumter County's 1976 John Doe, a relative of the now identified man delivered a message and gift to the church that cared for his loved one many years ago.

Bethel United Methodist Church, at 5575 Lodebar Road, received a special sermon on the morning of Aug. 14 by the Rev. Randy Brubaker, a pastor from the United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The pastor traveled far for the sermon, but it was one he felt he had to deliver to the church that opened its doors and hearts for Brubaker's long-lost family member.

On Aug. 9, 1976, the bodies of a man and woman were discovered off Old St. John Church Road in Lynchburg near Interstate 95. According to *The Sumter Item* archives, an autopsy showed the victims were each shot three times in the chest, back and head by the same gun. Both suffered fatal shots to the head.

Putting a hold on the case after no leads led to arrests, investigators decided to focus on identifying the two victims.

In 2007, at-the-time Sumter County Coroner Verna Moore had the bodies exhumed and retrieved DNA samples. The samples were sent to the DNA Doe

Project, a nonprofit that identifies deceased persons using forensic genealogy, in 2019. It wasn't until summer 2020 that the samples were sent to California and Alabama for DNA extraction and comparison. Their identities were revealed a few months after.

The woman, Pamela Buckley, who was 25 at the time of her death, was from Minnesota and was reported missing from Colorado Springs, Colorado, in 1975. The man, James Freund, who was 30 at the time, was from Langston, Pennsylvania, and was also reported missing in 1975.

Once they were identified, both victims' families were contacted by the Sumter County Sheriff's Office, and the families confirmed their identities. The relation between the two was unknown.

Both victims were buried at Bethel UMC at the request of Byrd Parnell, who was the Sumter County sheriff when the victims were found. Once they were identified, the current pastor of the church reached out to both families to establish a connection.

Bethel UMC Pastor Tim Whited connected with Buckley's family, which prepared a headstone and moved the unknown marker to the foot of her grave to maintain the memory of her

being unknown for so long, according to Whited.

As for Freund, the closest of his rela-



Sketches of John and Jane Doe were published for years in an attempt to identify the remains found off I-95 in Sumter County in 1976.



James Freund, left, was 30 and Pamela Buckley 25 when their bodies were found in Sumter County in 1976. They remained unidentified as a John and Jane Doe until 2021.