



2022



together **WE GROW**

But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up
in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ.

— Ephesians 4:15 (NRSV)

2022 First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa Annual Report

 **First Church**
1885



First Presbyterian Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting

- I. Opening prayer
- II. Hymn
- III. Corporate and Congregational Meeting call to order
- IV. Announce 2022 Corporate Officers and incoming Officers for 2023
- V. Report from Clerk of Session
 - A. Approve Membership Report for year ending December 31, 2022
 - B. Approve Minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting of March 20, 2022
- VI. Report from Treasurer
 - A. Financial Report 2022
 - B. Budget presentation 2023
 - C. Audit results and confirmation of insurance coverage
 - E. Report "Terms of Call"
- VII. Report from Trustees
- VIII. Moderator's Report
- IX. Year in pictures

2022 Pastor's letter

Rev. Dr. James Miller, senior pastor

It's easy to dismiss the church as being irrelevant, mock it as a foolish society, critique it for its' many flaws. Indeed. We acknowledge all of this. And nobody should be surprised.



We bring our scrambled lives into the Church. And Jesus welcomes us; he welcomes stumbling, sinful, disciples who kneel at the foot of the cross with the words, "Lord, have mercy!" on their lips. As one writer has said, "The Church is a hospital for sinners —not a museum for saints."

As the Lord of the Church transformed those earliest disciples who'd failed Him on the night Jesus was betrayed, so He takes broken-down people like us, infuses His grace, and causes us to collaborate with Him in His redemptive work for the life of the world He so loves. As the hymn writer puts it: "I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene ..."

Take a glance at this year's annual report and I think you'll be encouraged. I know you will. There's more than a little bit of high-octane spiritual jet fuel here ... ample reason to rejoice and be glad in the grace and goodness of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I've been privileged to walk with you for 30 years, and am an eyewitness to this congregation's devotion to Jesus and your determination to serve His purposes. You've taken seriously Paul's challenge in Ephesians 5:10: "Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord."

The proof of this, as they say, is in the pudding. The pages of this report reveal your responses to Paul's challenge. There's much here that is pleasing to the Lord. The local church, as God designed it, is the hope of the world, the light of the world, the salt that preserves and brings taste to the world.

I've often thought the Tulsa World could dedicate a day of the week to publishing what the Church in Tulsa is doing for the good of the world and call it the "Weekly Good News" edition. I'm confident it would rival the Sunday paper in size and serve as God's antidote to all the bad news we hear day by day.

Let me close with a personal word ... there is no way I could possibly convey my gratitude for the privilege of serving here with you amid all the challenges of life.

When I taught Greek at Wheaton College, my desire to serve pastorally became increasingly apparent. I discovered that, as much as I loved teaching, my heart was eager to walk alongside people over a long period of time, caring for the flock through thick and thin.

This is the gift that Jesus has given me. And you are the flock who welcomed me and "let me in," let me share in your questions and hopes and traumas. Let me walk with you, laugh and cry with you. You opened your hearts.

Thank you for being the Church to me. Thank you for these 30 years of mutual service and love. Thank you for being the Family of our Lord Jesus Christ to me and my family, and to countless others.

And bless you for investing in the local church. Bless you for giving of yourselves, your time and energy, your treasure and talents. Bless you for collaborating with Jesus in this way. Don't ever stop. Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

When you arrive on that heavenly shore, you won't regret this. You'll never regret your decision to "Give of your best to the Master."

With much love and heartfelt gratitude,

James D. Miller, Pastor





Worship



As Christians, we believe that worship is at the center of our life together. We might say that it is the heartbeat of the Christian life.

At its core, worship is giving honor and glory to God. In worship we acknowledge God's authority and power and love and goodness through creation, redemption, and ongoing in the world and in our lives. Worship is also re-orienting. It re-orientes our hearts and our minds. It invites us to set our sights on the One who made us. In a world where we are very often invited to believe that it's all about us, worship challenges us to humility before an awesome God.

It is also no accident that worship is a communal act. Yes, we are called to worship even when we are not gathered, and we might even say that all of life is to be worship - we are to live for the glory of God no matter what we are doing or where we are. Yet, there is something unique about corporate worship. There is something unique about the community gathered to sing, to confess sin and to hear the assurance of God's grace, to hear the scriptures read and proclaimed, and to celebrate baptism and communion together. We were created for community. We bear the image of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and so we believe that we were not meant to live out our faith on our own.

By the grace of God, as we gather together for worship, what we find is that God goes to work on us. God shapes our hearts and draws us more deeply into love for him and life with him.

A huge thank you to all who lead us so faithfully in worship week by week, and we look forward to seeing you in the Lord's house this year!

— Rev. Dan Hutchinson

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.”

— Psalm 100:1-2 (NRSV)

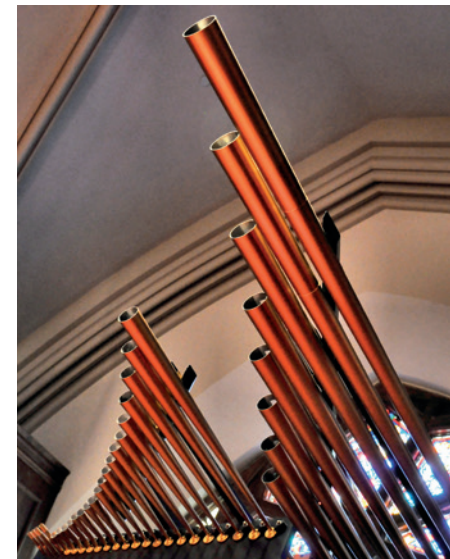


2022 Worship Highlights

- The church continued to offer five worship services on Sunday morning including traditional, contemporary and Tulsa International Fellowship (TIF).
- **Julia Metcalf** was ordained as minister in a special service with guest speakers of those in leadership who guided her in the past few years.
- **Rev. Wes Vander Lugt** completed his one year of service as our theologian-in-residence, returning to Charlotte to serve as the acting director of the Leighton Ford Center for Theology, the Arts, and gospel witness and adjunct professor of Theology at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.
- A special sunrise service was held at **Camp Loughridge** on Easter in addition to the five services held at the church on that day.
- The church hosted the **All-City Thanksgiving** worship in November and included ministers and parishioners from across the city. We honored retiring senior pastors Thom Harrison of Asbury and Jessica Moffatt of First Methodist. New Asbury minister, Andrew Forrest, gave the sermon and Don Ryan provided music. Congregations included Agape Bible Fellowship, Asbury, First Baptist Tulsa, First Methodist Tulsa, First Baptist North Tulsa and World Won for Christ Family Life Ministries.
- **Tulsa International Fellowship** celebrated their 13th anniversary
- **Rev. Daniel Ndiritu** served as TIF's guest preacher on Thanksgiving Sunday.
- **Worship 101** children led worship with voices and chimes on Palm Sunday, Summer Ring and Sing, World Communion and Christmas Music Sunday.
- The **Overtones Bells** and **Gloria Women's Choir** led worship on several occasions.
- The **Children's Live Nativity** at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve debuted a new script and costumes.
- Ron Pearson's **49th Annual Organ Concert** included The University of Tulsa Chamber Orchestra and was broadcast on YouTube and Facebook.
- The **Youth Praise Band** focused on advancing their skills and led all youth worship events.
- The **Chancel Choir** presented a fall concert with a Mostly Mozart performance and full professional orchestra in November after a hiatus due to the pandemic.

“O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.”

— Psalm 95:6-7 (NRSV)



Grow

Adult Discipleship



The psalmist testifies that the Word of God is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path. As disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, we yearn to grow in knowledge of the Word and experience the joy that comes with applying His teaching to our lives. As we study together, we draw ever nearer to Jesus just like the generations of disciples before us and just like the generations that are yet to come. We pray that as devoted followers, his light will shine in and through us - in our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, city and beyond.

– Duff Points

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws. Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end.”

– Psalm 119:105-106; 111-112 (NRSV)

Events and Education

- There were four **Inquirers' Classes** held in January, April, August and October welcoming new members.
- More than 250 members participated in a **K Group**. The 25 groups met at homes, offices and coffee shops. They studied Jim Wilder's book, "Renovated: God, Dallas Willard, and the Church That Transforms." During Lent they studied "Encountering the Great I Am."
- The church hosted **January Series** live streamed lectures from Calvin University again offering an optional lunch with more than 300 participants.
- **Rev. James Estes** and Dr. Tom Philp led a Morning Marriage Retreat in April.
- **Seasons**, a new monthly gathering of women hosted by Sarah Savage and Rev. Julia Metcalf, was created and studied 1 John through the large group and offshoots. They also collected donations for the Tulsa Girl's Home for Christmas gifts.
- New additions to Sunday morning classes included **Morning Glory** for young parents and a **New Testament Survey** class taught by Rev. Dan Hutchinson.
- Rev. Wally Johnson taught **Monday School** bringing new light and interest to the book of Leviticus.
- **Downtown Theological Roundtable** scholars studied books by G.K. Chesterton, Henri Nouwen, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Soren Kierkegaard.
- The **Guys Monday Bible Class** enjoyed an in-depth study on the book of John while the Precept Bible class delved into 2nd Corinthians, Titus and James.
- Dr. Miller used Dr. J.I. Packer's classic book, "Knowing Christianity" as the conduit for the **Pastor's Class** participants to consider and discuss Contemporary Concerns and the Christian Faith.
- **Wednesday Night Downtown Tulsa** (WNNT) provided opportunities for adults to grow in knowledge and faith.
 - During Lent, the pastors shared their testimonies of faith.
 - Dr. Jim Miller and experts investigated how creation declares the glory of God and give evidence of his amazing ingenuity.
 - "Contemporary Challenges Facing the Church" was held in the winter and considered medical ethics, human sexuality, science and faith and social media.
 - Rev. Wambugu Gachungi led Seekers through a weekly deep dive into the sermon texts.



Grow

Adult Discipleship continued



Events and Education

- **Backyard Bible studies** were held at the home of Rev. Wambugu Gachungi throughout the summer.
- Rev. James Estes brought in Deacon Kevin Sartorius from **Catholic Charities**, Jonathan Ekman from **Voice of the Martyrs** and Tom Boone from the **Outreach Foundation** to speak about Afghan refugees, the persecuted church, Ukrainian refugees and evangelism in Iran.
- First Church members gathered at Camp Loughridge for a **Spiritual Disciplines retreat** led by Rev. Julia Metcalf and elder Laurel Baird on discovering and adopting spiritual disciplines.
- First Church Tulsa hosted **Tri-Presbytery** in June chaired by Katie Williams.
- We celebrated **Epiphany** with a sunset bonfire by the waters of Lake Parthenia at Camp Loughridge.
- Dr. Ryan Moore and his family returned to Oklahoma as the keynote speaker for our **All-Church Retreat**. The weekend provided time for worship, heartfelt conversations, and fellowship and fun.
- **Breakfast on Boston** served as a time for the congregation to joyfully celebrate Dr. Jim Miller's 30th anniversary as pastor of First Church. He and Diane were recognized for their long and faithful service to this grateful family of faith.
- **Atrium Art** presented "The Calling of Lazarus" an exhibition of paintings that depict the rebirth of Lazarus by artist Ross Wilson.
- Once again, Camp Loughridge provided the perfect location for the annual **Fall Festival**. The Pitmasters prepared delicious barbeque and family and friends enjoyed hayrides, music, trunk or treat, and inflatables.



Member Care

- **Pathways to Hope** grief ministry, taught by Rev. Wally Johnson, was very active and included a reunion lunch for all past and present classes in November.
- The **Sisterhood** (of widows) toured the Gathering Place, had a Fellowship Tea and sent grief books to widows in their first year of loss.
- **Presbyterian Women** continued to meet monthly for Bible study and fellowship conducting mission projects for Helping Hands, Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless, the Coffee Bunker and others.
- **Faith Partners** provided support and encouragement for those who were struggling with addiction and related family members.



History and Archives

- Installed the **"Word in Art"** Bible exhibit featuring four historical bibles from the church's collection.
- **Docents conducted tours** for 315 people for historical art and architecture including two special exhibitions.
- Conducted archival preservation and classification by subject of **Dwight Mission** historical materials.
- Researched and wrote four historical articles for **Tidings magazine**.
- Responded to nine research requests from church members and pastors, local communities and a Tulsa University/Muscogee Creek Nation research team.
- Joined the **Presbyterian Historical Society USA** church archivists' group to share best practices.
- Recruited three new volunteers to the working committee.
- Collaborated with retired Oklahoma Historical Society archivist and Arkansas artist/educator on the Dwight Mission project.





Grow NextGen Ministry

Jesus told his disciples to let the little children come to him and not to hinder them, “for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.”

Here at First Church, we are blessed with an incredible team of staff members and volunteers who desire for our children and youth to come to know, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, and who believe that the youth of today are active members of the body of Christ no matter their age. If you do not know what is going on in Next Gen ministries, we invite you to head down to the Children’s Ministry area on a Wednesday to see AWANA or pop over to the Powerhouse to see what’s happening with the youth. God is at work, and we are privileged to be a part of it.

– Rev. Julia Metcalf

“But if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

– 1 John 1:7 (NRSV)

UKirk

UKirk seeks to serve college students who have a touchpoint with First Church. This touchpoint can occur through membership, attendance, events on campus and beyond. UKirk’s mission is to walk alongside these students in a way that furthers their relationship with Jesus Christ and draws them into the love God has for them, others and the world. This ministry provides Bible study, worship, community service opportunities, fellowship and one-on-one mentorship. Our hope is that they would find a space that grows and deepens their relationship and connection with the Lord, the church and the community around them while they walk through their college years.

- Engaged in **Bible study and worship** every first and second Tuesday at Sharp Chapel on the University of Tulsa campus.
- **Served at Masterwork Academy** every third Tuesday of the month throughout the Fall Semester.
- Built community through fellowship events every fourth Tuesday of the month. **Pizza Parties, Friendsgiving, and PJs and Pancakes** led to a lot of fun!
- Hosted a **summer Bible study** for First Church students that were home for the summer. Studying Matthew, we gathered over dinner in the courtyard.



NextGen continued next page.

Grow

NextGen Ministry continued

Middle School and High School Ministry

- On Wednesday nights all the youth met in the Powerhouse. Students grades 5-8 gathered for **P.O.W.**, grades 10-12 gathered for **AMASS Exodus** and grade 9 met for **confirmation**.
- The Pathfinders served at Voice of Hope in West Dallas for their **summer mission trip** and Exodus served at The Mustard Seed in Brandon, Mississippi.
- Ten students went through the **confirmation** process and became members.
- Pathfinders returned to New Life Ranch Frontier Cove for the **fall retreat** and Exodus returned to New Life Ranch, Flint Valley.
- **Summer Ignite interns** were Lucas Brown, Ian Kanyeki and Kelsey Wilberforce.

“The purpose of First Church Youth Ministries is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who seek to follow Him daily, invite others to encounter Him and be the Church here and now.”

– Steve Wilson



“Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”

– 1 Timothy 4:12 (NRSV)

Children’s Ministry

- **Little Lambs** celebrated five years and moved permanently into the Bernsen gym.
- Our **Sunday morning programming** continued to be the cornerstone of Children’s Ministries using “The Beginners Gospel Storybook” curriculum for nursery/Preschool and “The Gospel Project” for kids’ curriculum for elementary children.
- **AWANA** on Wednesday evenings grew with children memorizing scripture in a fun environment while their parents’ attended classes and Bible studies.
- First Church Kids hosted **Spring Festival, Vacation Bible School, Summer Swim, Kindergarten Blessing, Fourth Grade Bible Presentation, Advent Workshop** and **Jammies for Jesus**.
- We offered **parenting book studies** on Thursdays at lunch including a special class on Thursdays on “Raising Emotionally Strong Boys,” taught by Sarah Savage.





Serve

Mission Ministry

First Church has brought God's grace and encouragement to countless people throughout Tulsa and into the distant horizons. What a great joy to help people connect their great joy to the world's great need, for Jesus' sake.

— Rev. James Estes

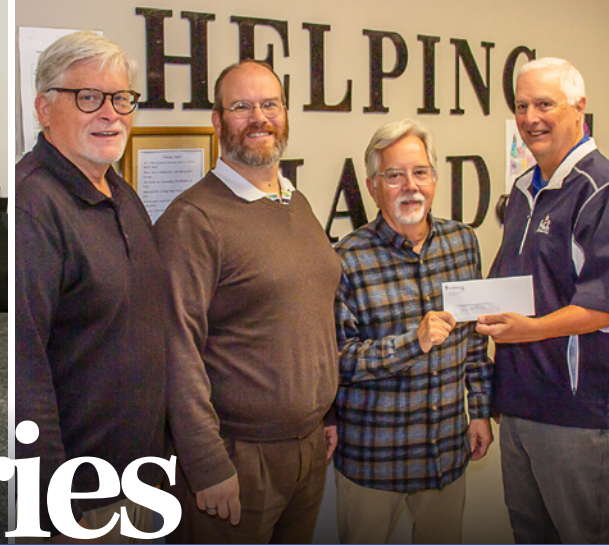
Our mission work

- Served Afghan refugees and completed furnishing homes for the Afghan refugees.
- Distributed food with the North Baptist Church of Tulsa.
- Partnered with Little Light House for the Early Intervention Program.
- Sponsored a church director in Bondeni, Kenya.
- Gave \$30,000 to Ukrainian refugees and welcomed a family to Tulsa.
- Supported the Lucas family who suffered a house fire.
- The number of lunch buddies at Anderson Elementary doubled during the year.
- Re-launched the Works of Love Program at the Tulsa Day Center.

“With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.”

— Isaiah 12:3-4 (NRSV)





Affiliate ministries

Masterwork Academy

- Welcomed new principal **Dr. Malcolm McGuire** in June coming from Metro Christian Academy.
- 32 students had artwork accepted for exhibition in the **AHHA gallery** during Mayfest. We took special field trips so the students could see their work on display with each student presenting their work to the group and participating in critique.
- Facilitated three weeks of **summer camp** for a total of 46 students. Executive Director, Jenette McEntire, and Principal, Dr. Malcolm McGuire, took 13 students to **Kids Across America (KAA)** near Branson, MO; followed by 33 students joining the Masterwork instructors for a full week of arts intensive at Masterwork Academy and a full week at Camp Loughridge.
- First **Spring Showcase** was held in May 2022. Students displayed artwork in our fifth-floor studio gallery and performed both choral works and dance numbers in our ballet studio. This was our first-ever student recital for a live audience!
- Masterwork Academy turned five on July 24.

Helping Hand Ministry

- Disbursed funds in the **record amount of \$525,563** that assisted 3,025 Tulsa County residents.
 - Food that provided 11,916 meals to 1,324 families.
 - 963 families avoided shut-off of utility services.
 - 524 families avoided an eviction by their landlord.
 - Assisted three individuals with prescription medication.
 - Helped 211 individuals to secure a photo ID needed for employment.
- Disbursed a total of \$233,589 to families for rent assistance, and \$282,383 to families for utility assistance.
- Set up a website **www.Helpinghandministry918.com**.

“For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.”

– Ephesians 2:10 (NRSV)

Camp Loughridge

Camp Loughridge offers summer camps for children, and year-round rental facility for groups and organizations.

- 1,328 campers and seven weeks of camp.
- 327 campers received scholarships.
- 274 different events at camp from 165 different organizations around Tulsa.
- Hosted multiple youth and children’s retreats in the summer and fall with several serving more than our 70-bed capacity.

“Scouting is a game, with a purpose.”

– Lord Baden-Powell (founder of scouting)

Scouts BSA Troop 1

The scout troop has been part of First Church for more than 100 years providing a platform for participatory citizenship in a family environment. The opportunity for boys and girls to grow in a family-focused, faith-based program of leadership and service.

- New **Eagles** include Cameron Clark (Brent and Vicki Clark), Isaac Risk (Robert Risk and Tara Middleton) and Conner Wheeler (Paul and Stephanie Wheeler).
- Provided the fire and fire watch for the First Church burning-of-the-greens on **Epiphany**.
- Attended **summer camp** at Camp Bob Hale in Tahihina.
- We continued to camp every month including trips to dig crystals at Oklahoma’s Great Salt Plain State Park and caving at Alabaster Cavern State Park.





Worship statistics 2022

Worship statistics

- Membership beginning of 2022: 1,791
- Total active membership as of December 31, 2022: 1,754
- We welcomed **69 new members**: 20 by transfer, ten youth professions of faith, 39 professions & reaffirmations.
- There was a loss of 106 members: eight by transfer, 33 deaths and 65 from deletion/deactivation/discrepancy.
- 19 baptisms were performed including 16 infants, two youth at confirmation and one other.
- First Church conducted six weddings, 31 memorial services and four inurnments.

Attendance and viewing figures

The average weekly attendance for Sunday worship was 529 in-person and 1648 for TV/internet.

“We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks; your name is near. People tell of your wondrous deeds.”

– Psalm 75:1 (NRSV)

Staff Update

Curtis Morse joined the staff as Assistant Chef replacing John Cathey.

Laura Stevens joined on a part-time basis as Ministry Assistant for Adult Ministries.

Hannah Damron joined as Ministry Assistant for Mission, Outreach and TIF replacing Britani DiSanti.

Malcolm McGuire joined as Masterwork Academy principal.

Devin Schnake was added to the maintenance staff.

Cedric Smith joined the staff in the new position of TV/Video Production Manager.

Anniversaries:

Steve Howe, Accounting Manager – 30 years

Dr. Jim Miller, Senior Pastor – 30 years



Curtis Morse



Laura Stevens



Hannah Damron



Malcolm McGuire



Devin Schnake



Cedric Smith





2022 Board of Elders highlights

- Approved renovation of **Miller Library** and **Chapel**
- Welcomed **Rev. Julia Metcalf** as Associate Pastor
- Hosted the **Tri-Presbytery** meeting
- Approved funding among others, for **Afghan** and **Ukrainian refugees**, **Masterwork Academy**, **Helping Hands Ministry** and for an Early Intervention Program partnership between First Church Tulsa and **The Little Lighthouse**.

“Keep your heart with all vigilance; for from it flow the springs of life.”

– Proverbs 4:23 (NRSV)

2022 Session

Maxwell Asare
 Jim Bailey
 Shannon Bair
 Laurel Baird
 Allison Biggs
 Dacia Bird
 Mark Brown
 Janine Burlin
 Cam Campbell
 Joel Donohue
 Adam Doverspike
 Rev. James Estes
 Larry Ewing
 Debbie Favell
 Rev. Wambugu Gachungi
 Rusty Gaddy
 Dr. Patrick Grogan
 Rev. Dan Hutchinson
 Dr. Karla Kerby
 Patrick Kirunda
 Cathy Laird
 Stephanie Madsen
 Elisa Mangesho
 Urbanus Masaku
 Gary Mathews
 Anne McCoy
 Drew McQueen
 Rev. Julia Metcalf
 Steve Metcalf
 Rev. Dr. James Miller
 Paul Mungai
 Denise Rounds
 Amy Russell
 Amy Scheiper
 Jim Scheiper
 Katie Williams
 Karen Woolman



2022 Deacons

Sheri Allen
 Jackie Allison
 Cheryl Arthur
 Tina Aruna
 Keith Campbell
 Bette Cromer
 Sandy Curtis
 Quentin Franklin
 Michael Homan
 Jim Inhofe
 Cindy Johnson
 Lucy Kamande
 Julie Kelly
 Becca Kibui
 Steve Krohn
 Carter Mathews
 John McCormack
 Clint McQueen
 Valentine Ndungu
 Buddy Neal
 David Raybourn
 Dan Richmond
 Carol Rowland
 Dylan Seibert
 Grace Shelton
 Ed Slier
 Adam Smith
 Julie Steiner
 Scott Swanson
 Shannon Thomas

2022 Deacons highlights

- Continued **Deacon's Days of Care** with yard and home maintenance projects in May and October. We also served **Berean Christian Church** and the neighborhood surrounding **Anderson Elementary School**.
- Hosted **Camp Sunshine**, **Easter Musician's Brunch**, **All Saints Day** service & lunch, **Thanksgiving Day** service and meal, **Celebrating Christmas Together** party at Anderson Elementary School, meals for **Hope is Alive** addiction recovery program and **receptions** following memorial services.
- Partnered with Elders, starting in June, to serve **Home Communion** to homebound members.
- **Delivered flowers** from Sunday services to assisted living facilities.
- **Delivered Easter lilies** and **Christmas poinsettias** to homebound members.

“Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son.”

– Acts 20:28



2022 Trustees

- Steve Caldwell
- Jane Crain
- Pam Farris
- Holbrook Lawson
- Mike Neal
- Bob Pielsticker
- Jason Pugh
- Todd Schuster
- Amy Tingleaf

2022 Board of Trustees

First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa Foundation

The Board of Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church Foundation is responsible for oversight, management and growth of the Foundation's endowment. Our investments and assets are held in the form of equities, bonds, mineral interest royalties, cash and most recently an expansion into real estate investments.

The Board of Trustees is made up of nine members of the Church who are elected to three-year terms with three new members elected each year and three members rolling off. The board members for 2023, 2024 and 2025 are:

Class of 2023

- Bill Lawson
- Todd Schuster
- Bob Pielsticker *
- *Chair – 2023

Class of 2024

- Jane Crain
- Pam Ferris
- Steve Caldwell

Class of 2025

- Dr. John Frame
- Ken McQueen
- Barrett Powers

In 2020, the Trustees elected to expand the scope of allowable assets to include up to 15 percent of the Foundation's principal in direct real estate investments.

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Foundation report continued ...

During an eighteen-month period, the Trustees and a designated Real Estate sub-committee analyzed numerous real estate investment opportunities. At the end of 2021, the Foundation closed on its first two real estate investments, concurrent with new 10-year triple net leases with the long-standing and high credit tenants of the buildings. This process included approvals from the Trustees, Session and the Presbytery. During 2022, the real estate investments performed in line with expectations.

The Trustees continue to engage Bank of Oklahoma to provide active asset management of the marketable security portfolio of the Foundation. During 2022 the Foundations marketable securities experienced a decline in market value in line with the overall markets and the metrics established by the Trustees and BOK.

Earnings of the Foundation are an important source of income for the programs and mission of First Church and our goal among the Trustees is to grow the Foundation to \$50 million under management, at which point First Church will be supported in perpetuity and all tithing of members will be allocated to the missions of our church.

Foundation Fund

Beginning value	\$	23,469,834
Real estate investments	\$	2,192,975
Investment gains	\$	(3,334,194)
Net contributions/distributions	\$	(708,780)
Ending value	\$	21,619,835

In 2022, the foundation distributed \$921,436.00 for Church programs and missions, received \$212,656 in contributions and paid management fees of \$92,234. The six broad ministry categories supported by Foundation earnings are:

- Music and Worship
- Scholarship and Education
- Nurture and Care of Families
- Local and Global Missions
- Operations
- Long Term Facility Maintenance and Repair



The Trustee's goal in 2022 was to expand the Legacy Society that recognizes donors to the Foundation by hosting a gathering of Legacy Society members and increasing potential new donors with an art installation located on the second-floor elevator lobby. The Legacy Society hosted a lovely evening organized by Jay Lawson and Sally Hughes. The installation of Eric Baker's stain glass sculpture, "I am the Vine," was finished in the Fall of 2022. This installation reflects the first round of names of Legacy Society members with a second round of names to be added in the spring of 2023.

The progress made is testimony to the continued efforts of our committees and the significant contribution of Foundation Director, Katie Williams. We are very grateful for Katie's diligence and attentiveness.

We continue to believe that to secure the future of our wonderful facilities and continue our commitment to the necessary programs we must endow First Church. We would encourage our membership to support this initiative with your prayers and personal estate planning! The continuing goal is to have the endowment reach \$50 million.

Respectfully submitted,

Holbrook C. Lawson, Ph.D.
Chairman 2022





2022 Congregational Meeting Minutes

First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa, Oklahoma – Meeting: Sunday, March 20, 2022

A called meeting was held on Sunday, March 20, 2022, in Stephenson Hall at 9:30 a.m. for the Annual Report of the Congregation and Corporation. The meeting was recorded. The Session voted unanimously during the stated Session meeting on January 26, 2021, to reduce the ten percent active member quorum required by the *Constitution and By-Laws of the First Presbyterian Church U.S.A. of Tulsa, Oklahoma* to five percent due to protocols pertaining to and necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Copies of the *2021 Annual Report to the Congregation and 2021 Financial Report* were made available to all in attendance. The written reports included highlights in the life of the Congregation, reports from auxiliary boards, membership statistics, financial reports, Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting for 2021, and the 2022 budget. The Rev. Dr. James D. Miller served as Moderator and called the annual meeting to order and opened the meeting in prayer at 9:30 a.m. followed by the hymn, *Great is Thy Faithfulness*. The Moderator called forward Co-Clerk, Amy Scheiper, who served as Secretary for the meeting. The Secretary noted that Session had called the meeting as required by the *Book of Order* and the Constitution and *By-Laws*. Notice of the meeting was properly given per the *Book of Order* and a quorum of the Congregation was present. The Secretary announced the agenda for the meeting as follows:

- Announcement of the Corporate Officers for 2021 and 2022.
- Reports from the Clerk of Session, Treasurer, and Trustees.
- Report from the Senior Pastor Corporate Officers - Secretary

The FPC-Tulsa Corporate Officers for 2021 as defined by the Constitution and By-Laws were announced as follows:

President: Matthew Bristow,
Chair of Board of Trustees

Vice President: Holbrook Lawson,
Co-Chair of Board of Trustees

Secretary: Catherine Anderson, Trustee

Treasurer: Elder Vic Morgan,
Chair of Session Finance &
Stewardship Committee

The FPC-Tulsa Corporate Officers for 2022 were announced as follows:

President: Holbrook Lawson,
Chair of Board of Trustees

Vice President: Bob Pielsticker,
Co-Chair of Board of Trustees

Secretary: Catherine Anderson, Trustee

Treasurer: Elder Jim Scheiper, Chair of
Session Finance &
Stewardship Committee

Clerk's Report – Elder and Co-Clerk, Joel Donohue

Membership

The 2021 membership began with 1,851 members. We welcomed 70 new members which included 20 adults by Profession and Reaffirmation of Faith, 20 youth by Profession, and 30 by transfer from other churches. Also, during 2021, our membership rolls were reduced by 130 members which included 28 by death, 19 by transfer to other churches, and 83 whose membership was deactivated during the membership review process.

The year ended with 1,791 members for a net decrease of 60 members. (NOTE: Starting in 2019 and continuing through 2021, a membership review was undertaken which resulted in some necessary deactivations from the Church Rolls.) There were eight (8) affiliate members. The Moderator requested a Motion from the Congregation to receive the Membership Report. The Motion was made, seconded, and the Membership Report was **approved by unanimous voice vote**.

Minutes of 2020 Annual Congregational and Corporate Meeting

The Minutes dated March 21, 2021, of the 2020 Annual Congregational and Corporate Meeting were approved by Session on April 22, 2021, at the stated Session meeting and were included in the written report for today's meeting. Minutes of the Congregational meeting held on November 7, 2021, for the election of officers and on December 12, 2021, for the approval of an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) were approved by Session on January 25, 2022, at the Stated Session meeting. The Moderator requested a Motion from the Congregation to approve the Minutes dated March 21, 2021, of the 2020 Annual Congregational and Corporate Meeting. The Motion was made, seconded, and the Minutes were **approved by unanimous voice vote**.

Treasurer's Report – Elder and Treasurer, Jim Scheiper

Financial Report

2021 Annual revenues of \$4,210,912 were greater than expenses of \$3,910,319 resulting in a \$300,593 increase in our operating reserve. Elder Scheiper reported that this compares favorably to an operating surplus of \$171,486 in 2020. He explained that FPC benefited from some larger, non-recurring contributions in 2021. The Moderator requested a

continued ...

Motion from the Congregation to receive the FPC 2021 Financial Report as presented. The Motion was made, seconded, and **approved by unanimous voice vote**.

2022 Operating Budget

Additionally, the Treasurer reported that the Church finances have fared well during the pandemic. Contributions remained strong while program expenses were lower. This resulted in excess funds being generated in both 2020 and 2021. The increased budget for 2022 reflects a return to normalcy following COVID.

The 2022 Operating Budget projects revenues of \$4,143,738, down from a strong year in 2021, leaving a deficit of \$221,364 to be drawn from the operating reserve.

The 2022 budget of \$4,365,102 was approved by the Session on February 22, 2022, at their Stated Session meeting.

The approved budget will fund First Church worship, discipleship, and mission ministries as described in the 2021 Financial Report. The Moderator requested a Motion from the Congregation to receive the FPC 2022 Operating Budget as presented. The Motion was made, seconded and **approved by unanimous voice vote**.

Audit

An independent auditor's report on the Church's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2020, was received in November 2021 with no exceptions indicated. This report was reviewed by the Finance Committee.

Insurance

Insurance coverage for all FPC facilities was extended for the period of February 1, 2021, to February 1, 2022, which

provides for the replacement cost of our facilities and includes general liability, automobile, comprehensive crime, Workers' Compensation and Directors' and Officers' liability coverage. These policies have been extended through February 1, 2023.

Salaries and Benefits

The Session Personnel Committee has reviewed and updated the Terms of Call for all pastors such that each meet or exceed minimum guidelines set forth by Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery. The Terms of Call will be approved by Session during the Stated Meeting this month and will be submitted to the EOP General Presbyter as required by the PCUSA Book of Order.

Trustee's Report - Holbrook Lawson

For more specifics, Mrs. Lawson referred those present to the written report by the Trustees found in the "First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa 2021 Annual Report to the Congregation and 2021 Financial Report."

Overview

Excluding real estate investments, the endowment value began the year at \$22,130,749. The closing balance was \$23,483,585.

Beginning Value - January 1, 2021	\$22,130,749
Investment Gains During 2021	\$2,700,136
Real Estate Investment 2021	\$2,192,975
Net Contributions	\$1,361,051

Value of Endowment on December 31, 2021, was \$25,662,809 (including real estate)

Accomplishments

Mrs. Lawson explained that in 2021, the Board of Trustees continued working to expand the Legacy Society by recognizing donors to the Foundation. She reminded the Congregation about the new art

installation which will serve as recognition to those who donate.

Also in 2021, the Board of Trustees realized their goal to expand the scope of allowable assets to include real estate investments. By designating a real estate sub-committee, the Board analyzed numerous real estate investment opportunities, and at the end of 2021, closed on the first two real estate investments with concurrent new ten-year triple net leases with credit worthy tenants of the same buildings. The process to consummate these transactions included approvals from the Board of Trustees, the Session, and the Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery.

Recognition

Special recognition was given to Foundation Director, Katie Williams, for her continuing effort to build the Foundation.

Goals

Mrs. Lawson offered a word of encouragement to those present to support the Board of Trustees in their effort to endow First Church by both prayers and financial contributions especially through personal estate planning. Together, Mrs. Lawson affirmed that the goal to have the endowment exceed \$50 million can be achieved.

The Moderator requested a Motion to dismiss the meeting. The Motion was made, seconded, and the meeting for the 2021 Annual Report to the Congregation and Corporation was adjourned by unanimous voice vote and with prayer at 10:40 a.m.

Rev. Dr. James D. Miller Amy Scheiper
Moderator Secretary





 **First Church**
1885

First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa
709 S. Boston Ave., Tulsa, OK 74119
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