

2016 Report from the President of Consistory

2016 was a good year for Denmark Manor United Church of Christ in many ways. We managed to continue our worship, outreach, and social programs much as we have in the past. Thanks to the generous support and hard work of our members and friends we continue to provide quality worship and authentic fellowship. We enter into 2017 in acceptable financial state with all bills paid, all obligations covered, and 10% of our income given back to God's work in the form of charitable gifts.

This year we instituted the office of Financial Secretary, an appointed position, to keep a keen eye on all expenditures of the church. Joni Mattei has graciously served in this position and has done an excellent job. She approves each expenditure so that all obligations are paid on time while keeping our accounts in the black. Sometimes this requires a very sharp pencil.

The generous support of our congregation, careful management of our investment fund, hard work of groups within the congregation, and substantial gifts from outside our membership continue to sustain us. The members of the congregation strive together to preserve this ministry. Each one, in their own way, is truly doing the work of God.

Denmark Manor United Church of Christ is a living, worshiping and loving community. Sadly, it is also an aging community. Despite our efforts to modernize and to welcome young people into our congregation, we remain an aging church. This poses a real problem. We have begun discussions in Consistory about how this ministry can move forward into the future; how can we continue to deliver our message far into the 21st century. How can we continue to show the love and healing that Jesus Christ can give in our community? How do we provide meaningful worship in the next fifty years?

As we move forward onto 2017, the entire congregation will need to prayerfully consider what they perceive as God's will for our faith community. We will be discussing ways to make our church a viable in the future. We are charged to spread the word of Jesus Christ in this age. We must find a way to spread our message of acceptance of all God's children and of the love he has for each of us.

It is my hope that we will all pray about our future and what God's will is for our congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Don McIlvaine