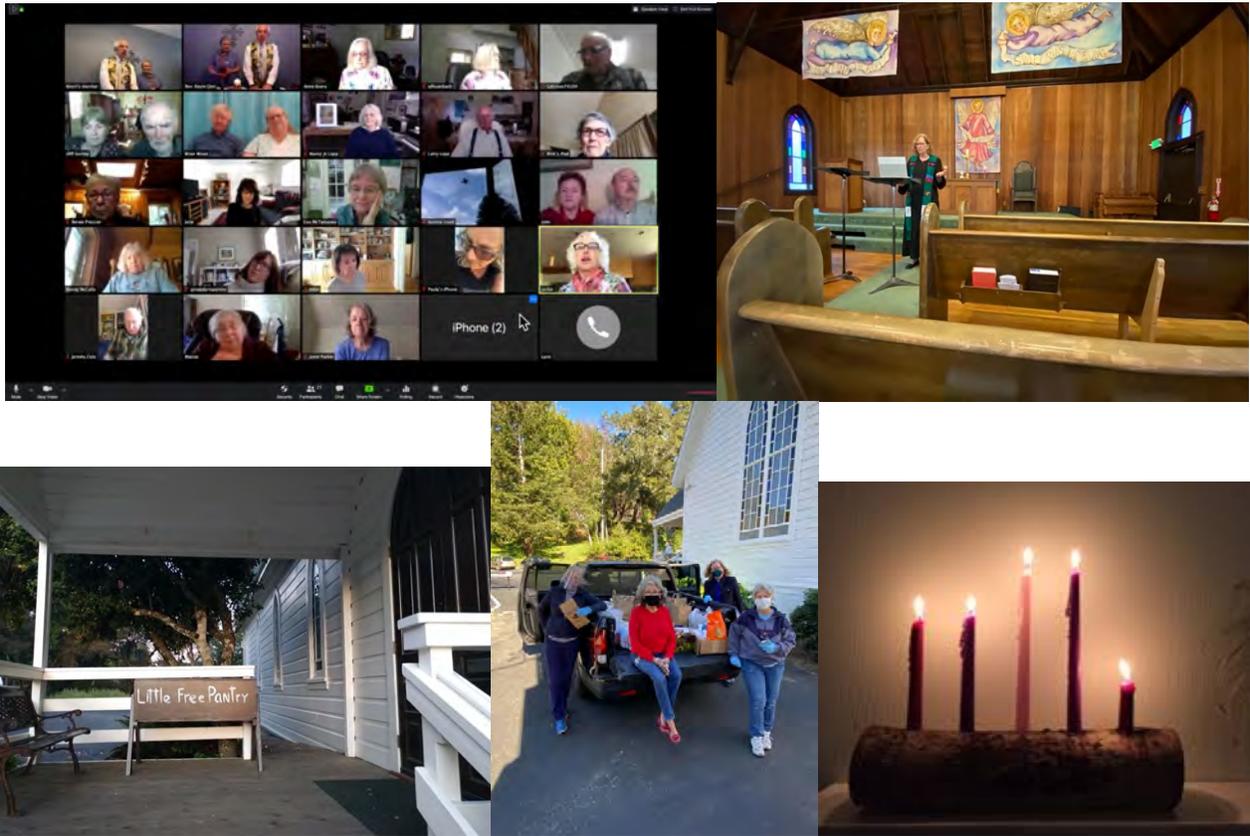


# Annual Report 2020

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## ***Skyland Community Church UCC***

***Prepared for Annual Meeting Feb.14, 2021***

**25100 Skyland Road, Los Gatos, CA 95033**

**(408) 353-1310**

**[www.skylandchurch.com](http://www.skylandchurch.com)**

**Mail: PO Box 245 Los Gatos, CA 95031-02**

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## **Minutes from 2020 Congregational Meetings**

### **1. Skyland Annual Congregational Church Meeting February 16, 2020**

- Meeting was called to order at 11:30 with 23 members present.
- Opening prayer was given by Rev. Kevin Omi.
- Behavioral Covenant was read by all
- Minutes for previous congregational meetings held on May 26 2019 and September 8, 2019 were read. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as read. Approval was also given to accept January 26, 2020 minutes as submitted.
- Overview of the Annual Report was presented by Anne Evans and Jackie Seymour. Thanks were given to all the members for their excellent contribution.
- It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted to approve the Annual Report as submitted.
- Because we are in transition and in search of a new pastor, it was proposed by the co-moderators and the council to continue with the same slate of officers and committee members until June when new bylaws could be provided. It was moved, seconded, and voted to approve the Commitment Agreement Slate with commitment to continue thru June 2020.
- By-laws need to be revised to conform with current practices.
- Meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.
- Submitted By R McCalla

### **2. Skyland Special Congregational Meeting May 17, 2020**

- The congregational meeting was called to order by Anne Evans and Jackie Seymour following the online Sunday church service lead by Rev. Melanie Weiner. Rev. Weiner left directly after the church service ended. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the call of Rev. Melanie Wiener to be the new settled pastor of Skyland Community Church.
- Due to the shelter-in-place constraints we were all together either on video or audio. John Hayes presented some background information on Rev. Weiner and presented the reasons the Search Committee had decided that Rev. Weiner would be a good fit for our church.
- A brief discussion was held and the congregation who were present by telephone were individually asked for their votes. All were positive. Those who were on video were then asked by show of hands for their votes.
- The vote (44 persons) was unanimous in favor of approving the call to Rev. Weiner to be our new Settled Minister.
- John Hayes notified Rev. Weiner to rejoin us and all expressed their joy as she signed on.

- Jackie Seymour expressed gratitude on behalf of all towards the search committee for their difficult work and towards Rev. Weiner for all that she brings and for agreeing to be our spiritual guide.
- The meeting was then adjourned.

### **3. Skyland Congregational Annual Budget Meeting, May 31, 2020**

- Congregational Meeting held May 31, 2020 to approve the Annual Budget for the fiscal year 2020 -2021.
- The congregation met on-line in a Zoom video and audio conference with 27 participants. Jackie Seymour called the meeting to order while Anne Evans provided an introduction and did the Zoom technicalities.
- The budget and actual income and expenditures for the previous year were presented. Although both a surplus and a transfer of income was provided for in the previous budget they were not needed.
- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic there is much uncertainty in the months ahead regarding opening the church for our use, for rental and for hosting a harvest festival. However there is enough excess built into the budget to account for a lack of income from rental and harvest festival. A motion was made to increase the NCNC contribution from 8.5% to 10%. It was approved unanimously. With this modification the budget was approved as presented.
- Discussion regarding rewriting the by-laws and cleaning before and after hall rental were brought up but will be discussed further in council.

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2020 CALENDAR YEAR

Thanks to your generous financial and personal support Skyland Church continues its generous mission outreach.

\$25,962 distributed to local and general mission outreach.

\$17,266 was given as Our Share to Northern Calif. Nevada Conf. UCC.

\$43,228 is our total mission outreach.

The following special fund gifts were received.

\$20,000 for Lift (Elevator) Fund

\$30,200 for Facility Maintenance.

Pledge contributions are \$12,883 above target for 1<sup>st</sup> seven months of this fiscal year. One of the reasons are several pledge commitments after budget was approved.

Offerings received are on target. Offerings are donations from members and visitors who have not made a pledge and not designated for special projects.

\$1,807 calendar year In-kind donations for various supplies, maintenance, and gifts.

Expenses are \$7,102 less than budget.

End result is out of pocket operating net has a \$14,713 surplus as of Dec. 31,2020. Plus we still have last year's surplus of \$29,271.

Following is a quick summary of our finances at the start and end of 2020 and May 31 end of 19-20 fiscal year. In this table the General fund Dec. 31 entry includes Last year surplus.

Year 2020	January 1	May 31	December 31
General fund including Surplus	33,005	29,271	49,427
Special Funds	300,768	310,503	361,976
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>333,773</b>	<b>339,774</b>	<b>411,403</b>

Change in assets from Jan 1,2020 to Dec 31,2020 is \$77,630.

A summary of our 2020 June through December income and disbursements along with year-to-date and annual budget is presented on the next page. Our special fund balances are shown on the succeeding page.

Gerald J. Alonzo

Skyland Community Church							3:17 PM
Profit & Loss Financial Plan Performance							Var.
December 2020							+ Good
Revised Jan 9,2021							0
# 7 Month in Fiscal Year							(- Bad)
							Revised
<b>OPERATING</b>		<b>Dec 20</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Jun - Dec 20</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>YTD Var.</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>
<b>INCOME</b>							
	Pledges	20,815.00	17,186.75	101,749.00	88,866.25	12,882.75	120,000.00
	Offerings	3,160.00	750.00	5,349.56	5,250.00	99.56	9,000.00
	Special Operating Gift	20.49	-	20.49	-	20.49	-
	Hall Rental	-	-	150.00	-	150.00	1,500.00
	Harvest Festival	-	-	-	4,000.00	(4,000.00)	4,000.00
	Harvest Festival In-Kind	-	-	-	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	1,000.00
	In-Kind	-	83.00	39.88	581.00	(541.12)	1,000.00
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>23,995.49</b>	<b>18,019.75</b>	<b>107,308.93</b>	<b>99,697.25</b>	<b>7,611.68</b>	<b>136,500.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
	Art	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Communications	34.99	100.00	534.90	700.00	165.10	1,200.00
	Council	-	25.00	-	25.00	25.00	50.00
	Deacons	-	-	1,000.00	2,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
	Education	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Harvest Festival	-	-	-	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
	Music Director	-	587.75	-	4,114.25	4,114.25	7,053.00
	Youth Fund	6,491.41	7,693.73	50,113.10	50,769.43	656.33	85,679.90
	Pastor Search	-	-	1,190.55	2,500.00	1,309.45	2,500.00
	Trustee; Facility Ins., Taxes	-	-	12,174.99	11,000.00	(1,174.99)	13,500.00
	Trustee; Non-Utility	1,049.36	640.00	4,661.91	4,480.00	(181.91)	7,680.00
	Trustee; Utilities	1,030.84	1,000.00	4,260.99	3,900.00	(360.99)	6,500.00
	Trustee; Repair & Maint.	-	450.00	-	3,180.00	3,180.00	5,450.00
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>8,606.60</b>	<b>10,046.48</b>	<b>73,936.44</b>	<b>80,988.68</b>	<b>7,052.24</b>	<b>133,112.90</b>
	Mission Our Share to NCNC	2,682.10	2,732.10	13,216.20	13,266.20	50.00	13,328.30
	<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE</b>	<b>11,288.70</b>	<b>12,778.58</b>	<b>87,152.64</b>	<b>94,254.88</b>	<b>7,102.24</b>	<b>146,441.20</b>
	<b>OPERATING NET</b>	<b>12,706.79</b>	<b>5,241.17</b>	<b>20,156.29</b>	<b>5,442.37</b>	<b>14,713.92</b>	<b>(9,941.20)</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>							
	One Time Spec to Oper	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Previous Year Allocated Surplus	-	-	-	-	-	15,500.00
	Total Operating Income +Extra	23,995.49	18,019.75	107,308.93	99,697.25	7,611.68	152,000.00
	Total Operating Expense	11,288.70	12,778.58	87,152.64	94,254.88	7,102.24	146,441.20
	<b>SURPLUS/(SHORTFALL)</b>	<b>12,706.79</b>	<b>5,241.17</b>	<b>20,156.29</b>	<b>5,442.37</b>	<b>14,713.92</b>	<b>5,558.80</b>
<b>MISSION SPECIAL</b>							
		<b>Dec 20</b>	<b>Dec 20</b>	<b>Jun - Dec 20</b>	<b>Jun - Dec 20</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Bal Last Year</b>
		<b>INCOME</b>	<b>OUTREACH</b>	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>OUTREACH</b>		
	Local Emergency	-	-	-	-	6,675.13	6,675.13
	Fire Relief	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Food Pantry	886.13	283.62	2,632.78	1,729.78	1,382.63	479.63
	Special Mission Drives	8,935.00	11,285.00	14,485.00	15,235.00	956.17	1,706.17
	<b>MISSION SPECIAL TOTALS</b>	<b>9,821.13</b>	<b>11,568.62</b>	<b>17,117.78</b>	<b>16,964.78</b>	<b>9,013.93</b>	
<b>reVISION</b>							
		<b>INCOME</b>	<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Bal Last Year</b>
	Friday Nite Out	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Friday Documentary	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>reVISION TOTALS</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>649.37</b>	<b>649.37</b>
	Special Mission Drives			African Library Project		485.17	
	Special Mission Drives			Foreign Education		321.00	

Skyland Community Church Financial Report for			December 2020	
				Revised Jan 9,2021
<b>Cash Fund</b>				
	Checking Wells Fargo		\$ 80,549.42	
	Savings Wells Fargo		\$ 142,214.91	
		<i>Total</i>	\$ 222,764.33	
<b>Special Funds</b>				
<b>Board Designated Reserves</b>				
	Capital Improvement Fund		\$ 24,916.93	
	Choir Fund		\$ 1,417.30	
	Earthquake Fund		\$ 48,200.00	
	Elevator Fund		\$ 36,623.90	
	Facility Maintenance Fund		\$ 39,717.21	
	History Project Fund		\$ 3,013.74	
	Labyrinth Fund		\$ 600.00	
	Music & Arts Fund		\$ 4,111.36	
	Pastor Discretionary Fund		\$ 476.54	
	Pastor Educational/Prof. Fund		\$ 32.57	
	Pastor Search Fund		\$ -	
	Pastor Substitute Fund		\$ 475.00	
	ReVisioning Fund		\$ 649.37	
	Whitaker Hall Lighting		\$ 800.00	
	Women's Group Fund		\$ 1,664.31	
	Youth Fund		\$ 200.00	
		<i>Total</i>	\$ 162,898.23	
	<b>Total Deferred revenue</b>	<i>Total</i>	\$ 150.00	
<b>Memorial Funds</b>				
	D. Law		\$ 750.00	
	B. Wicht		\$ 525.00	
		<i>Total</i>	\$ 1,275.00	
	<b>Missions Special Total Balance</b>		\$ 9,013.93	
	<i>Gross total special funds</i>		\$ 173,337.16	Endowment \$ 73,114.48
	<b>Previous Year's Total Surplus</b>		\$ 29,270.88	Wells Fargo checking \$ 80,549.42
	<b>Operating Special Fund</b>		\$ -	Savings Wells Fargo \$ 142,214.91
	<b>Operating Net YTD (inc-exp)</b>		\$ 20,156.29	BNY Mellon \$ 27,787.86
		<i>Total</i>	\$ 49,427.17	Total Index \$ 87,736.06
	<b>Total of all funds</b>	<i>Total</i>	\$ 222,764.33	<b>Total Funds &amp; Investments \$ 411,402.73</b>
	<b>Difference = Cash - (Total Funds)</b>		\$ -	
<b>Investments</b>				
	Endowment		\$ 73,114.48	
	BNY Mellon (Milberry Mem.)		\$ 27,787.86	
	Total Index(Milberry Mem.)		\$ 87,736.06	
		<i>Total</i>	\$ 188,638.40	

## **Auditor's Statement**

I have reviewed the Skyland Church financial records, for the 2020 calendar year. I have determined that the financial reports issued to the congregation by the Treasurer for the period December 2019 thru December 31, 2020 accurately reflected the assets and the transactions for the calendar year.

I would again like to take this time to thank Gerald Alonzo and Jan Swayne for all their hard work in collecting, banking, dispersing member statements, recording and keeping track of all the money required to run the church. This job has been performed smoothly, accurately, and quietly. Their execution of these tasks is something that I continue to be impressed with as there were 410 income entries & 288 disbursement entries (in QuickBooks), 148 checks written, and 52 separate bank deposits.

I would like to thank everyone far and wide for their generous donations of \$ 232,458 for the 2020 calendar year. Our total disbursements for the year were \$ 190,366.

Brian Wood Auditor  
Jan 07, 2021

## Minister's Report 2020

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1

What a year 2020 has been! For Skyland Community Church and for me, it has been a year of change, a year of trying new things, and a year of waiting. At the beginning of last year, you had just published the church profile and were looking forward to hearing at some point in the future that the search committee had found a suitable candidate. You were finding new joy in your new vision of what it means to be church in and for the community. You had active and exciting new programs gaining traction.

And then the pandemic came. COVID-19 shut the door to in-person worship, to Friday-night dinners, documentaries, adventures. Some of these activities are on hold, yes, but also new ways have been opened. You persisted in the search for a new minister, for which I am grateful, and you took up the challenge of worship and being community even when you couldn't physically be together. You developed the food pantry into something accessible to hungry people on their schedule. You gave generously whenever asked of your time, of your talents, of your money.

In May, you called me to be your senior minister, and I remain grateful and in awe every day. Rev. Kevin Omi wrapped up his interim ministry with you in June with a socially distanced but in-person event at which you said farewell to each other. Jean Jeffress, now Rev. Jean Jeffress, led worship for a few weeks as you rested and prepared and I rested and prepared, and on July 1 we began what I hope will be many years of ministry together.

For the remainder of the year we learned together. We are getting to know each other from a distance; we have sorted out how to worship together from afar; we are learning together what 3/4 time ministry means. We navigated the Advent and Christmas seasons, both seasons with deep tradition and pageantry, in a new way, even finding a way to share light across the congregation.

We enter this new year feeling like we are waiting, waiting for vaccines and for information about what it will take to safely meet again, waiting to be able to share meals together, waiting for hugs and handshakes. In this time of waiting, let's remember that the Spanish word for hope, "esperanza," is from the root of the Spanish word "esperar," to wait. In our waiting there is hope, hope that joyful reunion will come soon, that we can carry what we have learned in this last year forward into the future, hope for good health and good fun and meaningful times together. I look forward to all of it.

Rev. Melanie Weiner

## Moderator's Report 2020

This past year has been one of incredible change for Skyland Community Church. It seemed that we had no sooner adapted to one change when another loomed before us. Some were wonderful (finding a settled pastor, Rev. Melanie Weiner) and a few were awful (the pandemic and wildfires).

We began the year with a Memorandum of Understanding from Rev. Kevin Omi because his contract was to end in April. It outlined some of the transition actions and allowed him to continue as our Interim Pastor until we approved a new settled pastor on July 31, which ever came first.

New Skyland rental contracts were approved for weddings, private events and community events in the beginning of the year.

Santa Cruz County approved the permit for the elevator in January. In March the purchase and installation contract for the elevator itself was signed and local contractors began to be interviewed. In December a contract was signed with a local contractor to do the foundation and deck modifications as well as electrical connections.

In February, work on the new bylaws began with Rev. Omi, Jackie Seymour and Anne Evans. Work continued throughout the year, with a total of seven presentations to the council. The new Bylaws were completed, reviewed in December and sent out for congregational review in early January 2021.

March saw a major shift in general operations as we were ordered to shelter-in-place due to the Covid-19 corona virus pandemic. Moving church services to Zoom was big step technically for all.

Budget work began in April and was approved by the council for the congregational meeting that occurred in late June.

In early May the Search Committee announced they had found a candidate for our settled pastor, Rev. Melanie Weiner. Everyone was able to meet her in virtual small groups and a special congregational meeting was held on May 17 when she was approved unanimously by over 50 participants.

In June we bid a sad farewell to our much-loved Interim pastor, Rev. Omi, and Carol Barriger. The Annual Budget Congregational meeting was held virtually and the budget for the 20-21 fiscal year was approved.

We were very happy to have our settled pastor, Rev. Melanie Weiner join us on July 1 and begin her ministry with us. We hope it will be a long and happy relationship.

Patricia Wood did research on when and how it might be safe to reopen. She found, and the council agreed, that there was no safe way for us to reopen until a safe vaccine was available. Any further action was to be investigated in 2021.

August brought lightning generated fires in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The fires were devastating to those closer to the coast and north, though many in our area were evacuated.

Church services continued via Zoom but finding hymns that could be used without copyright restriction became difficult. A special license, "One License" was purchased to make this easier. Also, our payroll was moved to an online service with the approval of the Council.

In October a Pastoral Relations Team was formed to work with Rev. Melanie. The members, John Heyes, Jan Parker and Mary Ellen McTamane, were approved by the Council.

Our Fire Insurance Policy was canceled in November and to get new insurance we had to write a "Skyland Community Church Abuse Prevention and Sexual Misconduct Policy" that the Council then voted to approve.

In December, Brian Wood presented various ways online giving could be done and proposed moving ahead with it. The council approved moving forward with a plan to accept online giving payments. On Christmas eve, Rev. Melanie was able to bring us all a little bit closer, albeit virtually, by compiling videos we each sent of lighting a candle and passing it to our virtual neighbor.

The Bylaws were finished in December and reviewed for errors (in content as well as grammar) by Patricia Wood and Deana Arnold. They were distributed to the congregation on January 3 of 2021 for review and comment. Approval is anticipated at the Annual Congregational meeting on Feb. 14, 2021.

Although 2020 was difficult, the members of Skyland showed amazing resilience and adaptability, characteristics that have enabled the church to endure for over a hundred thirty-five years.

Jackie Seymour and Anne Evans

## **Ministry Team Reports 2020**

### **1. Trustees' Report –**

- a. **General Report** -- The work of the trustees has been hindered greatly by the pandemic in the past year. Still some things have moved forward.

The sanctuary roof is at the end of its life. Several estimates were obtained for replacing the roof and Knox Roofing of Scotts Valley was chosen to do the work in 2021 once the pandemic is more under control. Money has been set aside in the budget for this work. Issues remain about fixing the habitual leak in the roof window when there are strong winds associated with rain storms. Also, it has not been determined whether the gutters will need replacing.

In June, the trustees along with the Search Committee headed the project to upgrade the minister's office with new paint, carpet cleaning, and some new furniture prior to the arrival of our new settled minister.

It was determined that the large oak tree near the memorial benches and another near Longridge Road were in danger of falling and needed to be removed. This was done in July.

The women's bathroom upgrade remains on hold until after the pandemic.

There seems to be a water leak in the water system that only occurs only when the water tank is at a low level and electrical power has been lost. It is believed to be due to the low pressure in the system at that time but it has not been confirmed. More investigation is needed in the coming year.

The trustees helped to build and maintain the "Little Pantry" on the church porch area so that food was more accessible to those in need during the pandemic.

The lift project is handled in a separate report.

Information submitted by Jeremy Cole and written up by Jackie Seymour

b. **Trustee's Lift Progress Report – 23 January:** The county planning department sent word that our lift permit was ready to go.

27 January: The permit fee of \$589.76 was paid, the permit was issued, and the county released the stamped set of digital plans for plotting.

13 February: Initial plans were reviewed by the trustees.

7 March: Contract review comments by trustees and architect sent to Gamburd Inc.

16 March: Signed contract and Check for \$20,861.44 sent to Gamburd Inc.

21 March: Plans and request for quote sent to Fitts Construction, Mick Dudas Construction and Dunton Construction. We had a very difficult time getting contractors to respond to our requests for bid. After delays and repeated requests, the contractors finally responded with a no bid. Also, COVID restrictions made it difficult to conduct site visits for the contractors and for the manufacturer's representative based in Los Angeles to meet with contractors.

27 May: Manufacturer's representative site visit. Our architect received numerous details regarding the number of electrical outlets and switch box locations. A decision was made that the lower door will open toward the hall wall; the upper door will open away from hall wall.

12 August: Site visit by the manufacturer's representative to verify a few more measurements.

19 October: Finalized plans were received from our architect; plans and a request for quote were sent to Fitts Construction, Porter Construction, Mick Dudas Construction, and Dunton Construction. Fitts and Porter have declined; Dudas never replied.

4 November: Site visit with Contractor Jeff Dunton.

1 January: Estimate for \$18,970 received from Dunton Construction. Since we have had such a difficult time finding a contractor and because our permit was about to expire, we decided to accept Dunton's bid. A signed estimate was sent to Dunton 4 January. We are currently waiting for a start date from Dunton.

8 January: Permit Extension Request mailed to county planning department. Submitted by Lou McTamane

## 2. Deacons' Report 2020

Gina Adams, Cliff Barney, Carolina McCall, Jan Parker,  
Linda Heyes and Nancy Jo Lopp



### The duties of the Deacons are to

- assist the pastor with worship services, including communion elements, liturgist, collecting the offering, and serving as greeter;
- work with the pastor to provide pastoral care;
- obtain substitute preachers;
- take care of paraments (altar cloth and fabric on pulpit) and change them according to the liturgical calendar;
- know the location of supplies such as Candles for Christmas Eve and decorations for Advent and Christmas;
- exchange ideas with the pastor for Lent, Advent, retreats, and sermons;
- keep membership list current;
- select birthday and Christmas gifts for the pastor (and this year a going-away present for Reverend Kevin).

We had one baptism and one new member joining the church. Linda did the calligraphy for the certificate.

The Deacons supported the weekly Bible study led by Reverend Kevin and continued by Reverend Melanie.

In response to the first news of Covid-19, the Deacons purchased small plastic cups and tongs for serving Communion. We discussed new protocols for serving Communion, but later in March it was clear that we could not have in-person services for the foreseeable future.

### During the Time of Covid

Anne Evans and Reverend Kevin worked with script, music, and images to make Zoom services possible. Pastoral care became even more important because many church members were isolated at home.

In July, we began working with our new pastor, Reverend Melanie. The deacons continued to stay in touch with the members most in need of pastoral care. We hired Reverend Jean Jeffress to lead services in the short interim between Reverend Kevin and Reverend Melanie.

We worked with Reverend Kevin to document expanded duties for the Deacons.

After the Church Council decided to suspend services through the end of the year, Reverend Melanie and the Deacons collaborated in the creation of meaningful Zoom services.

The Deacons supplied liturgists for Sunday services and hosted the coffee hour/community time.

Reverend Melanie and the Deacons explored various kinds of music best suited to our services. Initially, Reverend Melanie led worship services from her home, but later did so from the Sanctuary. We all gradually learned how to mute and unmute ourselves and look at the camera.

The Deacons helped to plan Reverend Melanie's Zoom installation on September 20. She joined our church the following Sunday.

Ideas for the Christmas holidays were explored, but as the pandemic had worsened, we decided against any in-person gatherings. Hanging a Christmas wreath on the door of the bell tower brought a seasonal touch to our church.

We had a beautiful Zoom Christmas Eve service that Reverend Melanie created, complete with a video of members lighting their candles in their homes.

Throughout the year, the Deacons shared their work joyfully and were always flexible during unexpected events.

Anne Evans' generosity and talent enabled our congregation to navigate the extremely challenging months of Zoom services. Anne was very patient with members' varying degrees of computer skills and so supportive of both of our pastors and our visiting ministers. The Deacons express their great gratitude for Anne's ongoing contributions and for the continued support of the Church Council.

### 3. Missions' Report 2020

#### a) SKYLAND CHURCH MEMBERS HELPED OUR MOUNTAIN NEIGHBORHOOD:

**Food insecurity:** The Little Free Food Pantry helped relieve the burden of food insecurity for individuals and families in our mountain community by adding an outside pantry on the front porch. How does it work? "Give what you can. Take what you need." Skyland Community Church and our mountain community are filling a need for our neighbors, and the generosity just keeps growing. According to an article in National Geographic, one in six Americans could go hungry as we head into winter 2021 and the pandemic persists.

Every Wednesday, Second Harvest Food Bank provides food to San Agustin Catholic Church in Scotts Valley. San Agustin. We receive ten large bags of fresh vegetables, and ten boxes of tuna, peanut butter, pasta, tomato sauce, and canned fruits and vegetables. These food items are taken quickly, but the pantry stays stocked all of the time with food, toiletries and paper products. For Thanksgiving, we were able to provide turkeys to ten families in need and over Christmas, we provided 10 chickens. Skyland donated \$300 to San Agustin's for their weekly food donations that get picked up by a volunteer. The food pantry has had donations from the church and the community valued at \$3,313.90 (in-kind and donations). Although we do not know who donates or takes the food from the community, the 95033 Neighbors page and word of mouth keep our pantry filled with loving kindness and generosity. There is \$1,082.63 available as we continue to buy food with volunteer shoppers.

**Family support:** For the GIVING TREE, we more than doubled our fundraising efforts to \$7,475 this year with 30 families donating. We are grateful to the Hooper Family Charitable Trust Fund for their matching funds. We served the 14 Loma Prieta and CT English families at the school who qualify for school lunch programs. We provided \$100 grocery store gift cards to Safeway, Grocery Outlet and Target for 14 families at Loma Prieta School District, \$50 Target gift cards for 18 children.

In addition, Skyland Church provided \$100 gift cards to support over 16 more families and individuals in need. We donated to three families who lost their homes in the fire, seven who work manual labor jobs, living in Watsonville and working in the mts. and many others were identified by mountain community members and groups like Grey Bears. This was a full community supported event this year! All funds were greatly appreciated.

**Local Emergency Relief-** \$200 for our neighbors.

**Total Neighborhood support: \$10,994.90 (24% of the total budget)**

**b) SKYLAND CHURCH MEMBERS SUPPORTED OUR LOCAL BAY AREA:**

**RIP Bay Area Medical Debt Relief:** Skyland Community church raised \$4,304.00 with a group of UCC churches in San Francisco's East Bay who raised \$44,000. This money erased \$4.4 million in medical debt for our neighbors in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. This effort began in late February and was completed by the summer even as our communities were negatively impacted by the global coronavirus pandemic. This is a richly diverse area with large populations of immigrants, people of color, and people struggling to make ends meet in an area with an astronomical cost of living. Their lives have been changed. It takes a village!

**Senior and family immigrant services:** [Davenport Resource Center](#) received fewer bags of clothing, food, coats, shoes and toiletries this year. Due to Covid, they have stopped collecting.

**Mental Health/homeless support:** [Mental Health Client Action Network \(MHCAN\)](#) is closed too.

**Total Bay Area support: \$4,304.00 (10% of the total budget)**

**c) SKYLAND CHURCH MEMBERS GAVE TO OUR WORLD:**

**Education/ Tuition Financial Assistance:** In January we contributed tuition for young people who are pursuing education on four continents. Our members have personal links with these schools and donated a total of \$2,442

**India: (Joan Law/Rev. S. Anandan)** One college tuition student- \$600

**Fiji: (Glenda McCalla/Connie Durant- Kadavu-Fiji Island Education)** Three high-school students (nursing and more)- \$450

**Guatemala: (Carolyn McCall/Doroteia Pathways Fdtn. (Creando mi Futuro)** Two middle-school student in an art school (tutoring, family support and food)- \$696

(In addition, church members supported a Mayan Art Sale with \$257 to help our adopted Guatemala school.)

**Tanzania: (Steven Tito Academy/Terri Place)** One student in Baobab Home for HIV orphans- \$696

**d) SPECIAL OUTREACH**

**Fiji Hurricane Relief:** special collection raised \$200

**Total World support: \$ 2,642.00 (6% of the total budget)**

**e) SKYLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH supported the United Church of Christ.**

**UCC Basic Support:** \$17,266 This supports the ministries of NCNC, including our Conference staff, as well as contributes to the overall UCC.

**The Christmas Fund:** \$1,970 was given in December, primarily for retired pastors or those with emergency needs.

**Neighbors in Need:** was given \$4,000 in October. This serves people in the U.S.

**One Great Hour of Sharing:** facilitated hunger- and disaster-relief and sustained water projects around the world and was raised during Easter with \$1,350.00.

f) **Church World Service: Blanket Sunday:** \$1,790.00 was given in December.

**Total UCC program donations: \$26,376.00 (61% of the total budget)**

**Total Missions Special Outreach** \$25,962

**Our Share to NCNC-UCC** \$17,266

**Total Mission** \$43,228

What a generous community we have! Thank you all.

*Respectfully submitted by: Mission Board, Shannon Edwards and John Heyes -- (with Gerald Alonzo-Treasurer)*

## 4. Transition Team Report –

The Transition Team, established by Reverend Omi in October 2018, had its last formal meeting via Zoom on May 21, 2020. Our goals were threefold:

- to create a good leave-taking process for Reverend Omi;
- to help the Skyland congregation understand UCC's Ethical Departure Guidelines; and
- to create opportunities for members to acknowledge the transition at the logistical, emotional and spiritual levels.

The Transition Team is deeply indebted to Reverend Omi for his guidance and inspiration during his interim pastorship.

Mary Ellen McTamaney, Glenda McCalla, Deana Arnold, Jeremy Cole, and John Heyes

## 5. Pastoral Search Ministry Team –

The Committee was formed in September 2019 and worked closely with Reverend Omi and co-Moderators Anne and Jackie until the Local Church Profile was written, approved by the Skyland Congregation, and validated by the NCNC on December 18.

On January 27, 2021, the Committee received three Ministerial Profiles (résumés); that number steadily grew over the next four weeks. Having met weekly in Whitaker Hall to review the profiles, the Committee had its first Zoom meeting on March 11 and compiled a list of questions to ask any candidate chosen for an interview.

To sustain the search process, the Committee had to envision each step in virtual terms. Our foremost candidate, Reverend Weiner, agreed to a video interview, which took place on March 23. The Committee then decided on the questions to be put to Reverend Weiner's references. These conversations, conducted by telephone, reaffirmed our strong interest.

Having decided on Reverend Weiner as our candidate of choice, the Committee discussed with her the feasibility of a virtual neutral pulpit. Reverend Davena Jones gave us the Conference's blessing to pursue such an unprecedented event; consequently, on April 17, Reverend Weiner led a worship service, complete with sermon, for the Committee members. The following week, the Committee unanimously chose Reverend Weiner as our final candidate.

The most challenging task was to create a Candidating Weekend that allows congregants to meet the final candidate and, after the candidate has led a worship service, to vote. Given the need for strict social distancing, the Committee created a series of small-group virtual meetings during the week before Reverend Weiner was to lead the Sunday service. These online meetings, also approved by the Conference, were well attended.

After the end of the service on May 17, Reverend Weiner went to Whitaker Hall so that Skyland members could ask questions and then vote. By unanimous consent, Reverend Weiner was approved as our settled pastor and invited into the sanctuary to receive enthusiastic acclaim.

Jan Parker, Julie Victorine, Brian Wood, John Heyes

## 6. Pastoral Relations Ministry Team Report –

The main task of the Committee is to foster a healthy relationship between the pastor and Skyland members in order to promote healthy, faithful, shared ministry. The Committee serves as a confidential communication link between Reverend Weiner and the congregation. Reverend Weiner strongly encourages congregants to address their concerns to her directly. Anyone hesitant to do so may speak in confidence with a member of the PRC.

The Committee was formed in September 2020 and had two meetings with Reverend Weiner before the end of the year. The Committee has read and discussed with Reverend Melanie sections of a UCC publication entitled *A Sure Foundation*. These conversations have clarified the UCC Ministerial Code, by which pastors are expected to abide, and Behavioral Covenants, which “help congregations develop tools for working through [challenges] by placing the common good of the community at the forefront” (10).

Mary Ellen McTamaneay, Jan Parker, and John Heyes

## 7. Ministry Action Team Reports –

**a. Fire Safe Roads Report** -- The Fire Safe County Roads project was started by the Skyland Community Church in the fall of 2019 during our church revisioning process. It was chosen as a project to provide fire safety in our rural community. It made it to the top of the list because it provided hope to improve the chance of escape for our community during a wildfire.

The historic situation in our coastal mountain community is a 50-year history of neglect of our rural public roads in term of both simple maintenance and biomass buildup along the right of way.

This project is focused specifically on creating Fire Safe County Roads (FSCR) that meet the following safety and operational goals.

### FSCR Safety Goals

- Develop emergency escape routes for residents by reducing the fire risk along the Summit Road-Highland Way corridor
- Provide access to emergency vehicles during disasters
- Improve the ISO rating (a measurement of local fire prevention and fire suppression capabilities) to avoid termination of homeowner's insurance

As this project has evolved it was clear that this job long term can only be done by the federal, state and local government. It will require large funding to bring existing county roads up a safety standard of maintenance.

The size and scope of what is needed, short and long term, is simply beyond advisory groups. Funding by grants is not likely to work for a project of this magnitude and length.

During the last year the project has been working with our County Supervisor and established a relationship with our California Senator.

The FSCR project can only be successful if the operational responsibility, Road safety standards and fund mechanism are in place.

### FSCR Operational Goals

Assign the ongoing responsibility to an existing County department, Public Works Dept, that can develop the resources, planning and skills to accomplish the above Safety Goals.

Provide this County Department with Clear Safety Standards for FSCR.

Provide this County Department with the ongoing fiscal resources to do the job.

### Status of our FSCR program as of January 2021.

1. As the program has grown and matured, we have brought the original project into the existing Santa Cruz Mountain Alliance to give it access to the tools, staff and skills available within that organization.
2. Working with Supervisor John Leopold a pilot program was created and is underway to answer many of the safety and operational questions that need to be explored and answered.

3. With Supervisor John's support we have established three demo projects. These projects total about 12 miles of the 60 miles of county roads in our community.
  - Shaded fuel break at Loma Prieta School - completed spring 2020.
  - FSCR Summit - Highland Way Roads Corridor - planned completion summer 2021.
  - FSCR Soquel San Jose Road Corridor – planned completion summer 2022.
4. Developed working relationships existing county and state groups:
  - Regional Conservation district (RCD) – grant writing, contracts etc.
  - CAL FIRE – Forestry issues, scope of roadway clearing to meet safety and environmental goals.
  - Santa Clara Fire Safe Council – Summit Road is the boundary between counties. Both sides of Summit road need work.
  - We are currently developing a working relationship with our new Santa Cruz County Dystric one Supervisor, Manu Koenig and our new California District 17 Senator John Laird
5. The essential task our team is best situated to provide is:

The development of a positive and cooperative relationship with the landowner who own property along these county roads. Their knowledge and cooperation is essential to creating Fire Safe County roads.

The reality of the existing County Road system is the right of way for the county road is a few feet beyond the road pavement. On most forest public roads to create successful Fire Safe corridors we will need a scope of work that will require significantly deeper, 20 to 200 feet, penetration into private land.

- The ten neighborhood teams created comprising the 137 identified land owners along the corridor. We are currently interviewing to obtain a coordinator for each team.
- A web site sponsored by the Skyland Community Church located at <https://skylandchurch.com/fire-safe-county-roads/> that contains:
  - a. Fire Safe County Roads FAQ's
  - b. Fire resources and linked reference Material
  - c. Alliance project report links as they are written and distributed
  - d. About Fire Safe County Roads which includes details on project staff, goals and organizational support of the FSCR project.

### **The FSCR team:**

#### **Skyland Community Church**

Al Feuerbach  
Anne Evans  
Gerry Alonzo

Jeremy Cole

Larry Lopp  
Nancy Jo Lopp

#### **Santa Cruz Mountain Alliance**

Dave Fullagar  
Lou McTamane  
Thomas Sutfin  
June Salisbury  
Saundra Hand

## b. Mountain Hangout and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday Action Teams

It has been two years since we began the reVision 90-day journey. reVision has been inspirational in focusing us on our local mountain community. The spirit moved us to continue our work through our new Community Facing Ministry Teams in 2020 until the shelter in place order in March.

### ***Mountain Hangout Lasagna Night***

On January 17 over 60 community members came for a delicious home baked lasagna, bread and salad dinner with ice cream sundaes for dessert.



Chef Rene with the other cooks and helpers in the kitchen before the rush.

On February 17 we had a delicious soup dinner which was our last community meal for the year.

***4th Friday Documentaries*** showed two documentaries with lunch to our neighbors in 2020 before the shelter in place order.

On January 24 after lunch we watched history unfold and Martin Luther King's remarkable life move toward its tragic end in April 1968.



We watched the powerful documentary *King: In the Wilderness* with an audience of about 30 people.

***4th Friday Docs*** showed *Leaning into the Wind*, a film about the artist Andy Goldsworthy on February 28.

Sadly it was to be our last community shared lunch, documentary and discussion of 2020. Anne Evans

## 8. Communications Ministry Team Report --

The Communications Ministry Team had quite a year because of the Pandemic.

In January and February, the reVision team 4<sup>th</sup> *Friday Docs* showed films to a group of 25-40 people. A large smart TV was donated by Michael and Rachelle Lopp and a rolling TV monitor stand was purchased. It helped tremendously so that the screen was viewable by all.

In the midst of the Pandemic, we went to virtual worship services and a Zoom account was added for all Skyland communication needs. Thus was born the separation of Communications Hardware and the Tech/Software team.

The two teams worked together to create a private network in lower Whitaker Hall for Rev. Melanie and Gerald Alonzo. This was ideal for our treasurer so that he had a secure network to work on the finances of Skyland.

Since the Search Committee had to conduct its search in privacy and virtually they maintained a separate Zoom account.

The tech/software Team got a workout using the Zoom account, the Constant Contact Account and the Word-Press website with Go-daddy. We also recorded all the services and uploaded them to the you-Tube channel and linked it with the website.

Four pages filled with projects and information were added to the website for the Fire Safe County Roads Team.

We continue to have a lot of visitors to the website as our virtual life increased during the Pandemic. The website is due for a big redesign that hopefully could happen in the late Spring of 2021.

Communication Hardware Team- is responsible for the design and maintenance of communication hardware for the church.

- Comcast, telephone, modems, ports, access points, televisions, monitors, sound reinforcement in the Sanctuary (currently Infared), portable speakers and mics

Tech/Software Team- is responsible for the design, maintenance/updating and utilization of various software for the church.

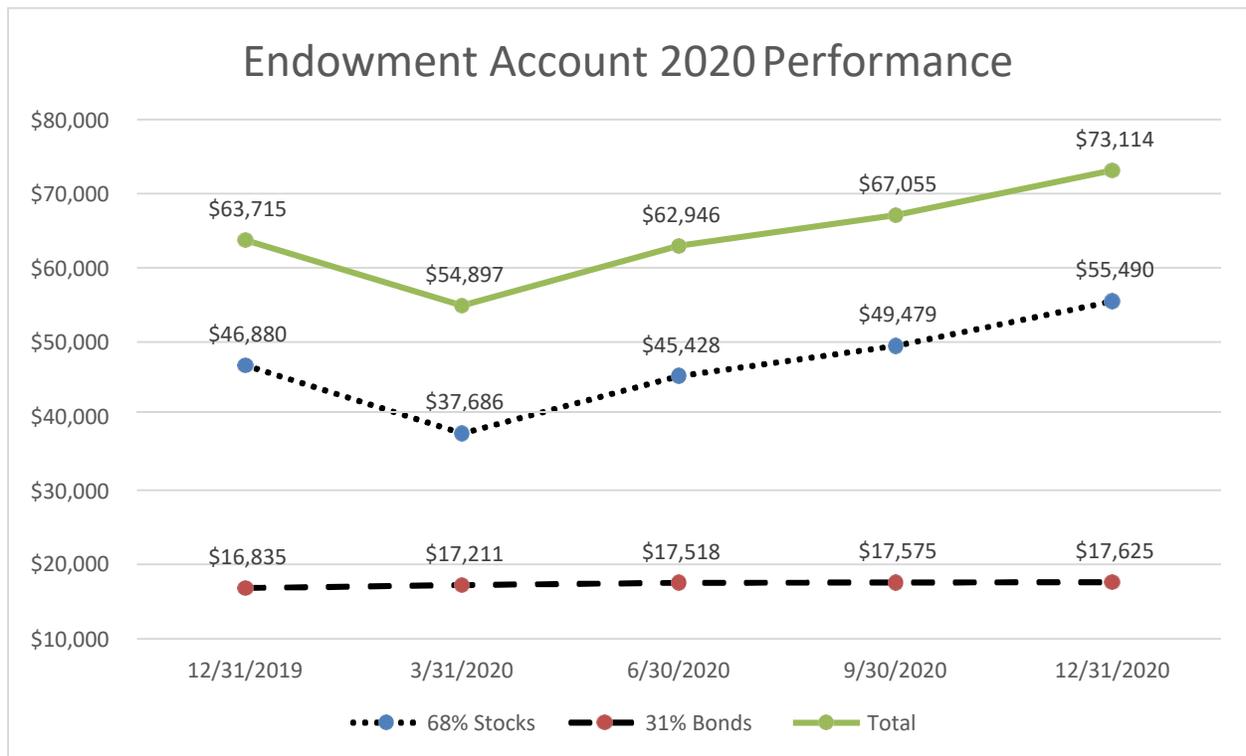
- Zoom, Constant Contact, Word Press Website-Godaddy, Facebook, Dropbox, Google Drive, youTube Channel, database of **membersh**ip

These two teams have to work together often and usually in a virtual setting. If you have the skills we would love to have you join the ministry team.

Blessings, Anne Evans

## 9. Endowment Ministry Team 2020 Report

The money in the Endowment Fund is fully invested in Vanguard index funds, 69% in a fund that tracks the S&P 500, and 31% in a fund that tracks short term investment grade bonds. During the year the stock fund increased by 18.3% and the bond fund increased by 4.7%. There were no withdrawals from these funds in 2020. The Skyland Charitable Endowment was valued at \$ 73,114 year end 2020 compared to \$ 63,715 year end 2019. Details are shown below:



Brian Wood

January06,2021

## **10. ANNUAL SKYLAND NEWSLETTER EDITORS' REPORT 2020**

The year 2020 was a shelter in place time for the Newsletter team along with many people across the country and the world. We are so thankful for all our Skyland Churchwriters for their contribution of articles and photos.

Using the church's Constant Contact account, we have successfully delivered 1,379 emails (for calendar year 2020) that contained the monthly newsletter.

We do apologize for occasional errors and confusion. We appreciate being notified and, when possible, we have and will issue a corrected newsletter.

We look forward to another year of helping Skyland Community Church and our friends and neighbors stay informed and connected. We see the newsletter as a way to connect community involvement and our unending desire to serve God, and thus our neighbors. Together we hope to Love more deeply, more broadly, and more openly.

Brian & Patricia Wood  
Newsletter Editors, January 07, 2021

## Skyland Church Slate 2021

### Council Officers, Delegates and Representatives –

- A. Officers – (Terms – 1 year for Moderator and Vice Moderator, 2 years for Treasurer, Clerk, At-Large Representative, and UCC Delegate)
  - a. Moderator Leslie Meehan
  - b. Vice Moderator Patricia Wood
  - c. Treasurer Gerald Alonzo
  - d. Clerk Randy McCalla
- B. At-Large Representative On hold until Pandemic ends
- C. UCC NCNC Delegates Gerald Alonzo  
Jan Swayne

### Ministry Teams – term is 2 years

- A. Financial Ministry Team (4 - 5 - includes Treasurer)
  - a. Gerald Alonzo
  - b. Jan Swayne
  - c. Brian Wood
  - d. Anne Evans
- B. Pastoral Relations Ministry Team (3)
  - a. John Heyes
  - b. Mary Ellen McTamaney
  - c. Jan Parker
- C. Missions Ministry Team (4)
  - a. Shannon Edwards
  - b. John Heyes
  - c. Bonnie Cloyd
  - d. Renee Pressler
- D. Trustees Ministry Team (4 - 5)
  - a. Jeremy Cole
  - b. Lou McTamaney
  - c. Brian Wood
  - d. Gerald Alonzo
  - e. Deana Arnold
- E. Deacons Ministry Team (5 – 6)
  - a. Nancy Jo Lopp
  - b. Linda Heyes
  - c. Cliff Barney
  - d. Jan Parker
  - e. Gina Adams
  - f. Carolina McCall