

NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

MAY, 2022 NEWSLETTER

“GO AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS”

- Mark 16:15



From the Minister...

May brings with it the promise of warmer days, flowers and trees blooming and leafing out, the first lawn mowing of the season, the first cookout (or the first while not wearing a coat, for the hard-core BBQ folks), and the North Church Annual Program Meeting. We will meet after worship on Sunday, May 22, to ratify the year's actions by Executive Council, hear reports, and—most importantly—elect people to be officers and Board members in the life of the church.

Our Moderator's note in this newsletter goes over the details, but I want to remind everyone, that in a Congregational Church, we ALL have places of service where we are called to offer our time, our work, and our support to the church. As we emerge from two years apart, we have a renewed opportunity to work within our new church Board and Committee structure, as well as new calls for works of worship, caregiving, stewardship, education, and mission. The heart of it all is the congregation, gathered by and empowered through the Holy Spirit, to cooperate and collaborate. The Congregational meeting is a gift of democracy from our tradition to our nation: we do not have a bishop or a session or a judicatory or a district office telling us what to do—it is decided for us, by us, as we meet, discuss & vote.

So please mark your calendars for May 22. Following Worship we'll have time to take a quick break and then come back into the sanctuary for a meeting both in-person and online via Zoom. Coffee hour will follow the meeting. The meeting will not take long, but it is crucial in the life of the church. And, after you look at the articles in this issue, ask yourself where do you feel called to serve alongside the members of the North Church Family?

Looking forward to a year of renewed faith and spirit,

Rev. Mary E. Biedron

Moderator's Notes...

What a wonderful Easter week and celebration we shared! Kudos to everyone who planned, prepared, and participated.

We continue to be back in our sanctuary for worship and Fellowship Hall for coffee hour. We need to keep an eye on the pandemic, however – several of our Congregation have recently

tested positive for or have been exposed to the coronavirus. If you have symptoms or have recently tested positive, please join us online. During worship masks are optional, but please wear them for singing.



We continue to experiment with our new electronic sign on Twelve Mile. If you have any suggestions, please let **Janice Thornton** or me know. Similarly, if you have suggestions or requests for our online services, Sunday worship or Wednesday inspiration, please share them with **Rev. Biedron**, our Worship Ministry Board, or me.

Our capital campaign to raise funds for a new roof continues. Our goal is \$200,000, we stand at a bit over \$150,000. We still need \$50,000 to meet our goal, so please consider donating if you can. You can contribute on our website, mailing a check to the Church office, or leaving a check with your Sunday offering. You can also arrange to donate on a monthly basis versus all at once – contact our **Treasurer, Nancy Scott**. The new roof will cost around \$225,000, work is slated to begin in May.

Looking ahead, we will have our annual Program Meeting on **May 22** (mark your calendars). We will be voting on new officers and Ministry Board members. We will also be voting on new bylaws for North Church, reflecting our new structure. The meeting will be hybrid – in person in the sanctuary plus available to other members via Zoom (instructions will be forthcoming, the procedures will be similar to our other online Congregation meetings). This is a very important meeting in the life of the Church, we will need a quorum -- *please plan to attend*.

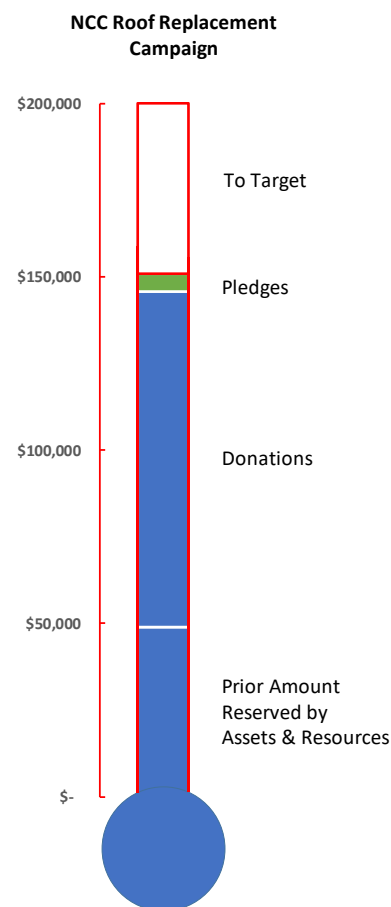
While our Nominating Committee has been busy, we still have three open Ministry Board positions to fill:

- 1 open Education Board position. Our Education Board plans and organizes the Church’s education activities. This includes Sunday School, youth programs, adult education, and summer activities for our children.
- 2 open Missions Board positions. Our Missions Board plans and organizes the Church’s mission and benevolence activities. This includes determining our benevolence budget and distributions, planning mission trips, and other humanitarian activities.

As with all our Boards, Education and Missions are focused on planning and organization – you do not need to be a Sunday School teacher or mission volunteer to serve on either Board. These two Boards are central to North Church’s mission: “worshiping God and serving humanity.” **If you are interested in either Board, please contact Michelle Sibley or Lori Rhode.**

Executive Council Notes

Executive Council met on April 25 and considered the following:





- **Assets & Resources and Treasurer:** The Board selected a contractor for the roof replacement; work will start in May. The Board has also approved contracts for chimney repairs and repairs to our steeple. In conjunction with our Facilities Manager the Assets & Resources Board is also looking at repairs to our drainage system in the back of the Church.
- **Diaconate:** The Diaconate arranged for writing Lent / Easter cards to members and friends and to the delivery of Easter flowers. The Diaconate is arranging rides again for our Fox Run attendees. **If you can offer an occasional Sunday ride to / from Fox Run, please let Sandy Greer know.**
- **Education:** The Board organized a successful Easter egg scavenger hunt on Easter Sunday. They are now looking at new display materials for our classrooms (posters, etc.) as well as new materials for our summer Sunday School curriculum.
- **Fellowship:** The Board is planning for extra treats during coffee / fellowship hour on May 22, our Annual Program Meeting day. They are also planning our Ice Cream Social, scheduled for June 5.
- **Missions:** The Farmington / Farmington Hills CROP walk will be Sunday, May 1; some of the funds raised will go to combating hunger in Ukraine and Eastern Europe. The Missions Board is also coordinating with Meadowbrook Church to plan a work event at Camp Restore Detroit on May 14.
- **Worship:** The Board is considering enhancements to the video streaming of our Sunday services. In discussions with our Director of Music, the Board is looking for the return of the Chancel Choir in September.
- **New and Other Business:**
 - Executive Council approved revisions to North Church's bylaws. These revisions reflect the transition to our new structure. They will require final approval by our members at the May 22 meeting.
 - The call to the Annual Program Meeting will be going out to all members in early May.
 - For delegates and others, annual reports are due by May 2. Please submit them to the Church office, copy me.
 - The installation of new Board members will be done during our June 5 worship service. There will be an orientation session for the new Boards on June 1 (via Zoom).
 - The first meeting of our new Executive Council will be July 18.

This was the last meeting of the current Council – my profound thanks to all the members for their excellent work this past program year.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our May 22 Annual Program Meeting following worship.

“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Kevin Gromley

MAY MEETINGS

Education Ministry Board – Monday, May 9, at 7:30 p.m.
Diaconate Ministry Board – Tuesday, May 10, at 7 p.m.
Missions Ministry Board – Wednesday, May 11, 7 p.m.
Asset & Resources Ministry Board – Monday, May 16, at 7 p.m.
Fellowship Ministry Board – Tuesday, May 17, at 7 p.m.
Worship Ministry Board – Tuesday, May 17, at 7 p.m. (Zoom)



NORTH CHURCH ARTICLES AND ACTIVITIES

CALL TO THE ANNUAL PROGRAM MEETING

The Annual Program Meeting of North Congregational Church will be held at **11:30 a.m.**, following the conclusion of worship, on **Sunday, May 22, 2022**, as ordered by the Executive Council. The meeting will be conducted in person in the Sanctuary and by video teleconference via “Zoom” (connection information below).

The meeting agenda will include reports from boards and committees, adoption of prior minutes and ratification of Executive Council actions for the past year. Review and adoption of the proposed bylaw revisions establishing the new structure and governance guidelines will also be on the agenda as well as election of officers, board members and delegates and other business as may be submitted.

As a Congregational church, it is the right of the membership to fully participate in the leadership and development of the church. It is the member’s responsibility and opportunity to be actively involved in the process. We hope that you will plan to attend OUR Annual Program Meeting. Your vote is important. Coffee and conversation will follow.

Notice of intent to attend and receive documents is requested by May 13, 2022, by email or phone to the North Church office.

Judy Campbell, Clerk

NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Annual Program Meeting

Time: May 22, 2022 11:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88077686868?pwd=SHdVYithV1JYU3IwUDZVT2FBQng5UT09>

Meeting ID: 880 7768 6868

Passcode: 765969

One tap mobile
+13126266799,,88077686868#,,,,*765969# US (Chicago)



Dial in
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 880 7768 6868
Passcode: 765969

WORSHIP MINISTRY BOARD

Shane Markus Sirovy was baptized on Sunday, April 24, 2022 by Rev. Dr. Mary E. Biedron. His parents are Sarah and Dan Sirovy, and his grandparents are Tim and Karen Sirovy.



MISSIONS MINISTRY BOARD

CROP HUNGER WALK

Sunday, May 1, 2022, 1-3 PM

at Oakland Community College (Farmington Road entrance)



This year's CROP Hunger walk will feature in-person walking opportunities and online fundraising and donations. As of April 26, the Farmington/Farmington Hills/West Bloomfield CROP Hunger Walk has 88 people registered, from 14 congregations, and \$35,766.63. Last year, our Farmington/Farmington Hills/West Bloomfield Walk raised nearly \$60,000; we're hoping for another banner year to help meet the needs of hungry people in our community and around the world. 25% of what is raised is divided among our local partners: CARES, Neighborhood House, Salvation Army Farmington Branch, Yad Ezra Kosher Food Pantry, and Zaman International's Halal food pantry. Internationally, funds from this walk

will be directed by our parent organization, Church World Service, to relieve the hunger crisis in and around Ukraine.

HOW TO JOIN: Go to our Walk page and sign up! The page will guide you to put info and fundraising requests on Facebook and other social media, as well as creating emails to family and friends.



HOW TO DONATE: Go to our Walk page and choose either the whole North Congregational Church Team, or an individual! Online donations are quick and secure. If you'd like to contribute cash or checks, please contact Walk coordinator **Rev. Mimi Biedron** at ncc.seniorminister@gmail.com

IT ALL STARTS HERE:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/north-congregational-church-farmington-hills-mi>

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP! EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS. We raise Walk expenses separately, so every dollar raised goes to hunger relief!

There's still time to join up to Walk—and we will be receiving donations through mid-June, you may make those at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/north-congregational-church-farmington-hills-mi>

If you would prefer to make a cash or check donation, please contact **Rev. Mimi Biedron**, ncc.seniorminister@gmail.com

MISSION BENEVOLENCES *for the month of May*

Haven, Mission Mazahua – Mexico, Casa Colibri – Guatemala

**CAMP RESTORE WORKDAY & PANTRY COLLECTION DRIVE
SATURDAY, MAY 14**

North Congregational Church and Meadowbrook Congregational have a joint workday at Camp Restore on **Saturday, May 14**. Tasks for volunteers during the day will include spring garden clean up and planting. Contact **Lori Rhode** or **Liane Jensen**, or sign up, to join our NC crew. We will plan to meet at the NC parking lot at 8:15 a.m. and carpool to Detroit. Bring a sack lunch. We anticipate returning to North Church by 4:30 p.m.

The Missions Ministry Board is also collecting paper goods products and packaged snack items for the Camp Restore pantry. Suggested items include paper bowls, plates, cups, napkins, paper towels, and plastic cutlery or packaged crackers, cookies, or granola bars. Items for the collection can be dropped off at church and the Missions Board will deliver them to the camp on the workday.

Camp Restore Detroit is an outgrowth of the recovery efforts in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. Volunteers who helped with those efforts recognized that neighborhoods in Detroit could benefit from the same kind of volunteer mission. The Michigan District of Lutheran Missouri Synod and the Mt Calvary Lutheran Church partnered with the community

around their church in Detroit's 9th District to create the camp which hosts mission groups who help with community-based projects.



FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY BOARD

MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

A group of North Church Men meet every other Tuesday for breakfast at Moe's on Ten, at 9:00 a.m. They will be meeting this month on **Tuesday, May 3, 17 and 31**. If you would like to join them, please contact **Steve Lange** at stephenlange@me.com.

BOOK GROUP - Wednesday, May 18, 1 PM – in person or on zoom!

Our May book will be the award-winning science fiction novel Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir. From an Amazon reader review: Ryland Grace wakes up on a spacecraft with no idea how or why he is there-or even who he is.

He has to work out why he's there, and what he has to do, from scratch. And then work miracles through actual science.

Written in a similar style to the author's earlier book The Martian, with sections alternating between Ryland-on-Earth and Ryland -in-Space, there's loads of geeky science and some big ideas for reflection.

We'll meet in the church Library; if you are joining us on zoom and need the code, email **Rev. Mimi Biedron** at ncc.seniorminister@gmail.com.

Come and join the conversation!

SAVE THE DATE!

The NCC Ice Cream Social will be **Sunday, June 5th** following worship. Individual ice cream treats will be available. Looking forward to seeing you then! Thanks!

DIACONATE MINISTRY BOARD

PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A FOX RUN DRIVER TO ASSIST THE DIACONATE!

With many summer vacations on the horizon, it is possible that on some Sundays we may not be able to provide rides for our four Fox Run ladies. The more volunteers we have, the fewer times you would be asked to drive. We are hoping to only need you about once a month. You do not need to be available every Sunday and could even sign up as a "substitute" and help us out occasionally!

Requirements are a vehicle that has room for two walkers and the ability to assist passengers and maneuver walkers in and out of your vehicle. Sign-up sheets are available on the Circle of Care table. Contact **Sandy Greer** if you have any questions.



We appreciate your help!

**KAREN MOORE,
DIACONATE REPRESENTATIVE**

I visited and gave my Easter card, along with Diaconate Easter card and plants, to **Marilyn Smith** and **Beverly Stief**. Two weeks ago I visited with **Dottie** in NC.

Beverly would love to get cards or notes. **Lori Rhode** visits **Beverly**, and she'd love to have others come and visit too.

Dottie is doing well living with her daughter and son-in-law in NC. Seven deer came to visit while we were eating lunch!! She would also love cards or notes.

Both ladies want NCC to know they miss their church family and want to say hi to all.



EDUCATION MINISTRY BOARD



Look what's happening at North
Congregational Church

Looking to get more involved in North Congregational Church?? The Education Ministry Board is welcoming new members. Here are some of the things we do:

Education Ministry Board

This Board is responsible for providing educational opportunities for North Church families and friends. The Board is also responsible for maintaining the Church library and for communications to the members and the community. Specific accountabilities include:

Educational

- Sunday School
- Youth Programs
- Adult Education
- Children Advent Activities
- Vacation Bible School
- Children's Toys

Library

- Materials

Communications

- Website
- Messaging and Promotions

If you are interested in joining our Board, please reach out to Michelle Sibley at msibley02@gmail.com.