

2022 Annual Report
Central United Methodist Church

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We are pleased to report on the key activities of all the groups in Central for 2022. These activities are numerous and as you will see, the Programs, Ministries and Outreach by the Central Family continue in a very strong way, despite the continuing threat of Covid. Central is fortunate to have such an active membership willing to reach out in so many ways to do Christ's work.

The Church Council meets on a monthly basis to review the work of all these councils and committees and to plan for the future. We have been fortunate to survive Covid with strong ministries, outreach, and programs that continue to support the needs of our congregation and our community. We are blessed that the Spirit works within us to enable this all to happen.

Knud Hansen, Church Council Chair

Lead Pastor's Report

Friends, what a year it's been, with changes large and small, a pandemic that won't go away, a world where crisis is the everyday thing. We've been faced with the storms of illness and loss and continuing uncertainty about health and wellness, and staff changes as we said goodbye to Laurel O'Connor as Associate Pastor, Maureen O'Neill as Executive Secretary, and Paul Incitti as Custodian. Through it all, Central UMC has held steadfast, people have come out of the woodwork to help, the message of faith and hope has continued to be proclaimed--and I could not be more proud to serve God with you here.

Our Trustees have taken on projects large and small in order for Central to continue to be a safe place of welcoming hospitality. We have continued a trajectory of richer spiritual development with the gifted leadership of Jeff Heald, our Lay Leader. We have continued to rely on exceptional administrative leadership in the congregation, led by our Council and Finance Chair Knud Hansen. We have created a vision for faith formation with the energy of Donna Miller-Kross, Laurel O'Connor, and the Education Committee. We have continued feeding the community (in often record numbers) and offering free clothing to those who need it most with the help of dedicated volunteers in each area. We have continued to offer space in our building for community groups, grants for community organizations through our Allocations Committee, and connections with JFS and other organizations through our non-profit 501c3, Central Serves. We have continued the tradition of fun Fellowship events and meaningful worship experiences for both online and onsite participants. We have added the role of Student Pastor, with the hopes of continuing that into the future; with Maggie Wolford in that role, we have begun the mighty job of creating and sustaining Central's online community in an effort to engage those who participate in worship from remote locations.

You'll see in the reports contained in this packet that mission and ministry are still going strong in wonderful and creative ways. Most of our ministries have shifted somewhat through these last COVID years, some out of necessity and some simply because we've had to apply so much creativity to adapt to changing circumstances that it's become a primary way of envisioning program; it's exciting to be part of a vibrant congregation that is seeking ways to remain active and relevant.

Much is on the agenda for 2023: A new Associate Pastor, Paul Reed, will begin his ministry here in January, with special focus on Missions and Faith Formation/Education. A capital campaign will begin to support some major building expenses and repairs. We will launch a new website and online community. And we expect to begin to have lots of fun opportunities as a congregation, particularly as we emerge from the "COVID cocoon." What ministries are you dreaming of? What programs would you like to experience? What goals do you have for your faith life? Please let me know—Pastor Paul and I would both love to dream with you!

Still in One Peace, Pastor Michelle

Faith Formation/Education

It seems hard to believe that we are still talking about the impact of Covid on our lives, but it's true. We find ourselves trying to navigate a new reality and continue to adapt our church programs by thinking of new ways to connect with our members and the community as a whole. The past year, once again, proved to be a difficult one trying to resurrect our church school program. The Adult program was created as an in-person/ZOOM hybrid learning experience. We had a variety of subjects presented and used technology to show videos through the Amplify app. This format continued throughout the year. We had a rather small but very consistent group that attended, but this proved that this still is something that is wanted and needed by our adult church population.

We are still struggling with our children's program and realize that this is one area that we have to readdress and probably reconfigure to something different. We still have our area set up in the back of the sanctuary. Our upstairs area was cleaned and reorganized, but then we had some major water damage from our leaky roof. As a result, we had to move the furniture and toys to the Youth Center downstairs. We will be using this area for the time being, since we only have a few children at present. We are hoping to use our third floor area for some outreach and community use. Pastor Laurel was working on some connections through Jenny F. Snapp and other community organizations. She continues to do this, as a community liaison, though she departed her position here. We miss her, but she is still involved with Central, making those important connections through Central Serves.

The big highlight over the past year was our connections with the families in our community. Our Faith Formation coordinator, Donna Kross was instrumental in bringing the neighborhood families and our church family together. We tried to have an event every month or two that would bring families into the church for a meal and an activity. We had game nights, movie nights, and Halloween and Christmas parties. I think we are still recovering from a Halloween event that had over 300 people come through the doors! Needless to say, we were not prepared for such a huge amount of people!! Central's Christmas party was open to all, but sign-ups were a must. It was a great time, and Santa and Mrs. Claus were in attendance for pictures and gifts. Each child was given a gift bag filled with activities, snacks and warm mittens and hats.

As we look ahead we realize that church looks very different these days. And that is okay because it has created an opportunity for us to look beyond our walls and utilize new ideas to make connections. Fortunately for us, our church family and commitment to discipleship remains very strong. Central has leaders that continue to challenge us spiritually and support us on this journey. We are grateful for all of them and our wonderful church family that inspires, directs, and lifts us up on our way. We look forward to the year ahead.

In His service, Pat Hansen

Finance Committee

As has been written numerous times in the monthly Newsletters, the faithfulness and generosity of the Central congregation and supporters continues to amaze. For many years now, we start the year with a sizeable gap between the committed giving and the Budget. The Finance Committee meets monthly to review the giving and spending. Early in the year this gap between pledges and budget seems like it would be impossible to close. Yet we continue through the year on Faith that through the generosity of us all, that gap will narrow. To enable us to pay bills in the spring and summer months we withdrew some money from our Endowment. Through the combination of underspending the budget and an increase in giving we were able to close the gap and finish the year in a positive financial position.

As we enter 2023 with these positive financials, we are encouraged by a few things. The pledged giving of us all was slightly ahead of last year, and we were able to reduce the budget, so the gap between the two is smaller than it's been in the past. We are thankful for all the support of the Central Family, by the faithful giving of time, talents and financial resources, enabling Central to be the hands and feet of Christ in the World.

God Bless, Knud Hansen

Missions

We continue to support the need of our community in a very strong way through the Clothing Center and Shepherd's Supper. There is a committed group of volunteers that work each week to sort the neverending supply of donated clothes and make them available in the Clothing Center. Renovations were made to improve the bathroom in the Clothing Center and to paint some of the walls. In addition to being open by appointment, clothing and household items are put out each week and made available for the Shepherd's Supper guests.

The need for meals continues to be strong in the community and Central has responded by serving hot meals every Thursday for over 30 years! Since we started takeout in 2020 as a result of Covid, we've seen the number of meals served increase significantly. On average, we serve approximately 155 meals a week, but we have had as high as 212 on one Thursday, and for Thanksgiving we served 275 meals. In 2022 we served 8,218 which is an increase of 21 % (6790 meals served in 2021). Thanks to the many volunteers who make this all happen each week. We have dedicated teams who serve once a month on their designated week. In 2022 there were 2,050 volunteer hours to support the cooking and serving of these meals. Special thanks to our friends at Our Lady of Good Counsel; their members provide much help through the year including one of the weekly cooks, and their youth are active in helping to serve meals. Additionally, we also have dedicated financial support from the Central family who faithfully donate throughout the year to enable the teams to buy what's needed to complete each meal, including the takeout boxes. We are able to keep the cost of meals down, because we get much meat and staples from the local Food Banks (Broome Bounty and Food Bank of Southern Tier). Shepherd's Supper would not be able to continue without the support of so many with their time and their monetary donations. Thank you all. If you would like to volunteer your time, contact the Church Office.

As Pastor Michelle has said numerous times, "Mission is in Central's DNA". Throughout the year the Missions Council held many donation drives which were supported by the congregation through the giving of toiletries, gloves, underwear and other personal items which have been given to local organizations to support needs in the community.

The Central Congregation responded to the Ukraine crisis by donating over \$7,000 to UMCOR, more than matching the churches commitment of \$5,000. Other ways Central supports the community is by sponsoring bi-monthly blood drives and the annual Salvation Army kettle drive.

The Missions Council is always seeking members with ideas and ways to increase outreach. Please contact the Church Office if you'd like to help!

Fellowship Council

During the winter months, we hosted Trivia Nights with musical clues and Game Nights with Scattergories which is an easy game to play on Zoom. In February, the Central Players entertained us with a Radio Show with comedy, mystery and drama. Just like the radio shows from the 40's but we get to watch the action in person or on live-stream. In May, we had several cars of people who had fun on a photo scavenger hunt that ended up at Round Top for a picnic. In June, we encouraged people to attend United Methodist Night at the Rumble Ponies Baseball Game that is sponsored by the United Methodist Men of the Binghamton District. In July, we played mini-golf at Chucksters on the Vestal Parkway. In August, we hosted an Ice Cream Night. We had lots of fun and yummy ice cream even if we got a little wet when the rain started. Our We Care program continues with 16 people who send cards to our homebound members once a month. We also have restarted the We Care program where we ask the congregation to also send cards to the homebound. In December, we continue to connect with our college-age members by sending gift cards in time for finals. This coming February we will be working with the Missions Council to have a Souper Bowl of Caring by sponsoring a nonperishable food drive for CHOW.

Respectfully Submitted, Pat Breneman

Van Ministry

Both vans were used throughout the past year by various other churches to support their ministry within our community as well as service projects they undertook in other states. As a result of the concerns with COVID numbers in Broome County, the Sunday pickup program with the van was not utilized.

Our goal for next year is to maintain both vans such that other groups can continue to borrow them, as well as resume providing transportation for our homebound church members.

Gregg Wood

Board of Trustees

The mission of the Board of Trustees is the care, oversight, and supervision of CUMC's property and equipment. This includes, but is not limited to, the Church, parsonage, vans, parking lots, equipment, and endowment funds.

In 2022, we continued our annual focus on the care and maintenance of our facilities and equipment, and when appropriate, replacement or renovation. Items of note that required significant church or trustee resources included:

- a) New Education Wing Roof: Week long capital project costing \$70,500
- b) Kitchen Equipment Maintenance: Predominately plumbing issues
- c) Windows: Minor issues related to repair or replacement of broken windows
- d) Access Ramp: Rebuilt Education Building access ramp
- e) Church Use: Management of requests for recurring use of our church facilities for more than 7 community groups
- f) Property Security System: Installed door cameras on office door, and Parsonage Doors (Front and Back; Installed related signage; additional cameras to be installed in 2023

Administration of the Endowment Fund included the awarding of:

- a) \$2,000 scholarships to three well-deserving applicants that are furthering their education
- b) Shalom Funding for Audio Visual and Internet Equipment for the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall; Funding for AV Team Interns and Student Pastor (Maggie Wolford)
- c) Annual funding of \$16,000 to the Allocations Committee for requests in 2022

Entering 2023, we will look to advance several projects from 2022, including parsonage maintenance, additional church security, additional LED lighting enhancements, and planning for parking lot repaving.

Tom Hall

Music

Central is blessed to have so much musical talent among its membership and friends. 2022 was another tough year but there was special music at every service. In addition to Piano and Organ music, there were musicians who provided us with special brass, woodwinds, strings, bells and singing throughout the year. The many volunteers that provided this are very much appreciated. 2023 looks a lot brighter with the return of the choir, the return of the bells and still more special music!

Carolyn Stanford

Staff-Parish Relations

2022 was a busy year for the SPRC. Pastor Michelle took her renewal leave of 10 weeks from June to August. In the fall the committee accepted the resignations of Pastor Laurel, our custodian Paul and our church secretary Maureen. Our best wishes to them in their future endeavors. A new Associate Pastor, Paul Reed, was appointed and began his ministry with Central in January. His main focus will be Mission and Education and he has already begun an adult Sunday class. Our new church secretary, Karen Bixby, started in the last week of December. After a lot of discussions and research the Trustees have signed a contract with Legg's Cleaning Service to keep the building clean.

Tim Swindell

United Women in Faith

In March it was announced that the name United Methodist Women, which we have had for 50 years, was being changed to United Women in Faith. We remain the official women's organization of the United Methodist Church. We celebrate all that has been accomplished the past 153 years and what will be accomplished for many, many years to come. Our three circles continue to meet monthly from September thru June, either in person or via Zoom for devotions, various programs and fellowship. Zoom enables women out of the area, the opportunity to continue to be a part of a circle and stay connected with friends. The Take-Out-Luncheons held in April and October and the Garden Tour held in July continue to be very successful fundraisers. The profits are used to benefit women, children and youth in our area and worldwide. Due to inclement weather a picnic was held in Fellowship Hall in September. Pastor Michelle spoke on the importance of Sisterhood and Fellowship, and all women were invited. A mission recognition award was given to Shelley Lobevero for her time, service and devotion to United Women in Faith. Barbara Parcels wrote an enlightening article about our unit and how fortunate we have been able to continue our work during Covid times. It was submitted to "Response" magazine, the magazine of women in mission. UWF co-sponsored with the Missions Council a church wide Women's Hygiene Collection. The Clothing Center and Jennie F Snapp School were recipients of the project. Martha Weber and the Fairwinds Trio presented a musical Christmas Program that was enjoyed by members of the congregation and friends. The program was in person and on Livestream; we appreciate the Tech Team for the Livestream. We are so thankful for the generous support and donations we receive throughout the year. In 2022, Central's UWF gave \$4635.00 to women, children and youth in need. We believe love in action can change the world.

Respectfully submitted , Shirlenn O'Brien

United Methodist Men

The men continue to meet on the third Friday of each month. It is a good time for fellowship, devotions and laughs. From January to June we continued to meet on Zoom. We re-convened in the Fall in a hybrid mode, with some men coming in person at 6:00 for a meal, and then at 7:00 having a Zoom call. This has worked well, as some who live locally really enjoy getting together for the meal. Then connecting by via Zoom we are able to connect with 'out of towners'. Since this works so well, we will continue to meet this way for the foreseeable future.

While we have a core of 12 regulars, we would love to have more. Let the Church office know, so you can be added to the distribution list. Looking forward to having more join in, either for the meal, and/or the Zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Knud Hansen

Reconciling Task Force

In January we held an after-worship forum to help the congregation understand the consequences of postponing General Conference from 2020 to 2022 and to discuss the looming possibility of the United Methodist Church splitting over the negative language in the Book of Discipline regarding the LGBTQIA+ community.

Two things happened after our initial meeting and prior to scheduling another meeting to continue our conversation. The General Conference was postponed for the second time and is now scheduled for 2024, and on May 1, 2022, the Global Methodist Church (the faction that agreed with the negative language in the Book of Discipline) launched and broke away from the United Methodist Church. The United Methodist Church doesn't appear to be facing a split as churches are able to leave if they desire; it seems a vote is not necessary to remain UMC.

As a reconciling church, we continue to seek acceptance, love, respect, and equality for everyone that who encounters the ministries of Central..

Respectfully submitted, Bev Cosimano

TV Ministry

Mission

The mission of Central's TV Ministry is to use television and video to share the ministry of the Central United Methodist Church with our congregation and the community.

Goal

In keeping with that mission, Central's TV Ministry over the past year continued to serve our congregation in reaching out to the local community. We broadcast Central's message via Spectrum Cable and LiveStream on the church's YouTube Channel. We have served the community by televising other concerts and special programs such as the UWIF Christmas Program, Central Players "Radio Show," organ concerts, and others.

Central's Video Ministry

Viewers can watch Central's services on:

- Spectrum Cable TV channel 1301— Sundays at 8:00a.m. and Mondays at 5:30p.m.
- Live Streaming on YouTube
- On Demand anytime on Central's YouTube Channel.

Although the severe impacts of Covid-19 have eased, the church's YouTube channel and LiveStreaming capability are still important tools in the congregation's evangelistic and outreach ministries.

In addition to providing on-site support and LiveStreaming for Sunday morning and special worship services throughout the year, the Tech Team supported a wedding and four Memorial Services. These were valuable to family members and friends who otherwise would not have been able to participate. We also continued to integrate into worship services videos that participants of the 2020 video editing workshop developed.

Central now has 317 YouTube subscribers; more than last year, and still increasing. Growing numbers of people use YouTube and the church website to explore the congregation before coming to the building itself.

Audio-Video Update Plan

In 2022 the Tech Team completed these notable improvements:

1. We changed Internet service providers from Spectrum Cable to Empire Access Fiber Optic. This upgrade provides faster, more reliable connections for LiveStreaming at a significantly lower cost. The result is a more dependable and steady experience for off-site worshipers
2. We upgraded the Video Mixer that directs signals to the video desk, sanctuary TV screens, and rear projector. The new equipment gives greater flexibility and options to enhance the displays for on-site worshipers.
3. We overhauled the wiring that carries the video and audio signals across the system. Cables were inventoried and removed if not needed. Those kept were labeled and re-routed through safer passages to reduce the chances of accidental disconnection. This is a change that few will notice, but the network is now more reliable and the work-flow more clearly marked.
4. With financial assistance from the Shalom Fund, TV Ministry has started a Youth & Young Adult Tech Team Intern Program. The grant provides stipends for youth and young adults who are part of the ministry to encourage them in building their skills and contributing their talents. We look forward to the program growing even more in 2023.

Plans for the Future:

1. In the year ahead we will intentionally study how best to replace one or both of the computers that run the audio and video systems. The computers are nearing the end of their reliable life. We want to upgrade them in a way that will allow for reliable and uninterrupted service.
2. We will continue to address the periodic audio / sync problems that have occurred in our LiveStream services. This may require upgrading our existing streaming hardware.

3. Use the Young Adult Intern program to continue to attract youth involvement in Central's activities.

4. Increase our capacity to do post-processing and video editing to improve Central's community outreach.

The TV Ministry team continues to recruit and train new persons and has added some new persons to the rotation. We like to have a deep pool of cross-trained volunteers to assist in pre-service preparations, in-sanctuary production, and post-editing. Please encourage interested persons to contact us or the church office.

As always, we thank Central's members and friends who support this ministry. We welcome comments and suggestions on how we can continue to adapt, adjust, and improve.

Mark Marino and Carl Muldner

Lay Leader

My second year as lay leader was another year of great learning and faith strengthening for me. I have come to enjoy the mix of preaching, committee work, and faith formation activities that this role provides.

Leading worship has become a great passion for me. I led a Zoom service in January, recorded a Good Friday service with Pastor Michelle, and contributed a video sermon in July. I also led three services in-person over the summer while Pastor Michelle was on leave. We started our Blue Christmas service 15 years ago, and it has always had special meaning for me. I was grateful to be able to lead it again this year.

This spring I completed the 21-week Living the Questions study group. It was a transformative experience in that it challenged me to revisit the very foundation of my belief system. I learned to be comfortable asking questions that can't really be answered without letting that weaken my faith. I also learned how rewarding it is to explore faith issues in a small group. We can learn so much from each other's insight and experiences! I also led Wednesday night studies via Zoom in Lent and Advent.

A highlight for me this year has been my continued participation in the Soul Care group. Each week we answer the question "How is it with your soul?" and from those discussions we have bonded into a joyous support group for one another. We laugh and we cry – but most importantly, we love. Thanks to the recently completed renovation of our Moller organ, Central has a new relationship with the Binghamton chapter of the American Guild of Organists. We hosted their annual members recital in June and their Young Artists Series concert in November. The AGO is thrilled with the support from music-lovers at Central, and we can look forward to hosting more events with them next year. Attending committee meetings sounds unexciting, but I continue to be inspired by people's deep commitment to the work of Central. There are so many people who do so much "behind the scenes" – we are indeed blessed.

I am looking forward to a spirit-filled 2023, and continue to be grateful to be on this journey of faith with the members of Central. God bless each and every one of you.

Jeff Heald

Allocations

2021-2022 Budget Summary:

2020-21 Budget Carryover \$ 49

2021-22 Allocation Budget \$ 16,000

Total Budget Available \$ 16,049

Total Expenditures \$15,706
1/31/22 Balance \$342.64

The 2022 summary above reflects the budget and the actions of the committee through January 31, 2023. Allocations fiscal year runs from February 1 to January 31 each year.

The source of the Allocations budget is earnings from the Endowment fund and is managed by the Trustees. The Allocations Committee acts on requests for funds from the church, community, and other not-for-profit organizations. Funds are awarded in the following categories: (1) Missions, (2) Pastor's Supplementary, (3) Local Church Program, (4) Local Community, and (5) National, International, or Conference Projects.

We supported 15 requests in 2022 to local organizations such as: 4-H Unity, Fairview UMC's Diaper Bank, Our House, and the Southern Tier Community Center. We also approved requests for internal church programs and projects, such as funds for water bottles for every student at Jenny F. Snapp and Lukens-Jackson camperships. Of particular note, Allocations put forward \$5,000 to assist with the Ukrainian refugee crisis.

With the budget year starting in February 2023, the Allocations Committee has proposed the following updated schedule:

- Feb + March: No meetings. Spread the word about Allocations / solicit requests. If time-sensitive requests / major needs arise, these can be reviewed and voted on over email.
- **April MEETING** - review any requests received in the new budget year.
- May - August: No meetings. Spread the word about Allocations / solicit requests. If time-sensitive requests / major needs arise, these can be reviewed and voted on over email.
- **September MEETING** - review any requests received April-end of August.
- October - December: No meetings. If time-sensitive requests / major needs arise, these can be reviewed and voted on over email.
- **January MEETING** - if any budget remains, a final meeting to identify a use for those funds or to affirm rolling those funds over to the next year. This could (probably) be an email discussion rather than a formal meeting.

Also, starting in January 2023, Laurel O'Connor, our Community Connections liaison, will serve as the Chair for the Allocations Committee.

Best, Maggie Wolford (she/her/hers)

Lukens-Jackson Task Force

Lukens Jackson Committee continues to send children to Sky Lake camps. In 2022 we sponsored 37 campers including several SNAP trained campers that went on to help out during the special needs camping weeks. We have eliminated paperwork and all registrations are done online. Assistance is given by Sky Lake staff to families to navigate the process.

Fund raising remains steady with generous donations from members of Central and friends and former campers at Sky Lake. Allocations and Shalom contribute to help out with the ever-increasing costs of camp.

Many families return year after year to attend camp and share the wonderful time they had at Sky Lake with other family and friends. Community programs held at Central are a way to present Sky Lake to future campers. We also sponsor a pizza party and registration evening in the spring to enjoy fellowship and sing along with Matt Williams and some yummy Sky Lake pizza and cookies.

It is our hope that this committee continues the legacy of the dreams of Rev. Bob Lukens and Everett Jackson by sharing in the love of God and the building of friendships in the beautiful outdoors at Sky Lake Camp.

Respectfully Submitted. Carla Wood

Online Community

Over the course of fall 2022, I did research related to "best practices" for online community building, meeting with church leadership, and auditing our current practices related to online community interactions. Based on that research - and understanding I need to limit the scope of my tasks to be completed by the end of the spring 2023 semester (early May), I am limiting myself to:

1. An overhaul of the Central UMC website:
 - In late fall, I developed an outline with Pastor Michelle, Martina, and my teaching committee
 - In the coming weeks, I will continue working with Pastor Michelle and Martina on drafting / populating pages
 - We hope to have the "revamped" website functional by Easter 2023
2. Content development:
 - A YouTube series exploring "What is Progressive Christianity?" - This is me and Michelle talking, not "speaking for Central" - but the conversation is a good intro into the world of progressive theology and fills a very big hole in the existing content "out there." (Basically, current YouTube and other content is about how "Progressive Christianity" is oxymoronic / not "real Christianity")
 - Working with Martina and Pastor Michelle to develop a "template" for responses to news stories and other major events that warrant a response from CentralUMC.
 - Working with Martina and Pastor Michelle to develop a "template" for regular posts, such as "Sermon in a sentence" or pulling segments from Sunday services to share on social media.
3. Developing Pastoral knowledge / the Journey of Call
 - Some sermons
 - Some shadowing (funerals, weddings, etc.) as they arise.
 - GOAL: Become a certified candidate for ministry.

I'm looking forward to this work - it's exciting and inspiring - but I am also keeping my full-time job + a courseload with Drew, so I covet the prayers of Central's leadership as I continue on this path.

Grace & Mercy, Pastor Maggie

Central Serves Nonprofit Corporation

Central Serves became an official 501c3 both legally and financially with the IRS and the State of NY. Through generous donations in the past CS was able to open a bank account.

Having a separate 501c3 has been a dream of Central's leadership for several years. It allows for another way to reach out to the Community in ways that Central (as a church) can't. It enables fund raising and the seeking of financial support from grants that typically won't contribute to religious organizations.

CS focus this year is to work with JF Snapp to help support needs that they can't typically get through the Endicott school district.

CS has a board of three so far, and is seeking to increase it in 2023. With only 3 on the board the scope of our outreach has been limited. But with an expansion of the Board we're looking to increase our support of JF Snapp and other opportunities in the Community.

Respectfully submitted, Knud Hansen, Laurel O'Connor, Maggie Wolford