

HOUSE OF HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2018 Annual Report



2018 Report from the Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald, Transitional Head Pastor

I was delighted to receive the invitation to be your Transitional Pastor, beginning last April. My role is to help the congregation keep its forward momentum, while at the same time helping House of Hope assess the present state of the church and plan for the future in relation to your next Head Pastor. My reaction to being here is simply this: What an impressive congregation.

The members of House of Hope take great pride in their church. There is outstanding support for worship, programs, special events, and mission. Your enthusiasm for the church is infectious. This report is only able to reflect a portion of all that House of Hope does. Let me highlight some of the key successes of the past year.

After celebrating the close of the ministry of the Rev. Jeff Foels, we were able to bring in a new Transitional Associate Pastor, the Rev. Zach Wilson. Zach brings an enthusiasm and breadth of knowledge that is remarkable. He will bring a new focus to House of Hope in the area of friendship building group ministries. Watch for this in early 2019. It is exciting to have Zach with us, joining the considerable gifts of the Rev. Julia Carlson as a pastoral team. I am grateful for them both.

In 2018, a group formed to develop a comprehensive vision and action plan for membership growth and retention. With 15 people serving on this energized team, they developed a series of steps to help the church grow. Church growth is never about one big thing, but about a hundred smaller things. Look forward to hearing more about the breadth of activities that they are planning.

Enhanced building security has been a concern for years. After considerable thought, a building-wide security system was installed. It will be activated in February 2019. This long-desired goal has been met, making the building both more secure and more usable.

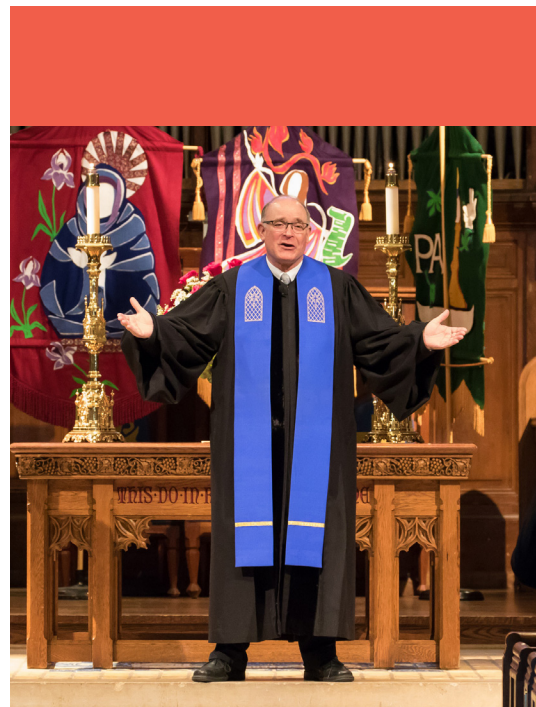
After extensive research, the congregation also voted to put the Manse and the Meeting House up for sale as a financially prudent long-term move. Next steps in this will be brought to the congregation for approval. Much appreciation for the work of the House and Properties Committee, Diane Smith, and Facilities Manager Jim Brzezinski. At the same time, they have been making extensive plans to replace the aged heating and air conditioning system. You will hear more about that in the very near future.

A new relationship has been developed with Matthew Culloton's The Singers. They are now housed in the Education Wing, and are our "artists in residence." This experiment was done with an eye to enhancing House of Hope's identity as a music and arts center in St. Paul.

I spent a great amount of time listening to congregants in small group gatherings. These focus groups shared their insights and experiences. I am grateful for all who participated. We are distilling the information now to develop some core values, goals, and insights about the congregation. You will hear more about this soon. We will next seek your feedback and then it will go to the Pastor Nominating Committee. This group will be formed with the Presbytery's guidance in the next few months.

House of Hope has much to celebrate. We will continue to move forward during this transitional time. With the guidance of House of Hope Elders, Trustees, and members, great things are happening. House of Hope can look forward to a very promising future. Thank you for all you do to make House of Hope such an outstanding Christian community.

—Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald



Worship and Music

House of Hope is grounded in a tradition that tells us we are reformed by God and at the same time, always reforming. This tradition makes us uniquely positioned to serve the world, welcome the stranger, and meet the needs of our changing community.

Mission of House of Hope

As Christians and Presbyterians, we believe in the grace and promises of God, as revealed in Scripture, and in Jesus Christ, who make clear both the character of God and humanity in its most gracious form.

We gather to glorify God; to experience and express God's love; to explore together the meaning of Jesus' teaching in our time; to build a community that reflects God's grace; and to deepen our faith through worship, learning, fellowship and service, guided by God's Spirit.

We are committed to using our resources in service to others, and to supporting and enriching our members spiritually, intellectually, socially, and artistically.

Soli Deo Gloria, November 7, 1994

79 worship services performed

96 anthems sung by The Motet Choir

12 babies welcomed in baptism

15 youth confirmed

8 weddings celebrated

100 anthems sung by The Choir School

60 people across the globe live-streamed worship service each Sunday

321 community members sang John Rutter's *Requiem*, led by Choir Director Matthew Culloton and accompanied by Organist Aaron David Miller in our annual Community Sing-Along.





God is here. Each week, members and friends of House of Hope gather for **Centering Prayer**. It is a practice of the continual letting go of our own thoughts and agendas to listen for the silence of God; centering prayer, as described by Stephen Brachlow, as a time when we can rest in God. It is a contemplative practice that was almost lost to the Christian church in the last 500 years and is now enjoying a revival begun by Thomas Merton and further taught and shared by Thomas Keating. A restructuring of consciousness takes place which empowers one to perceive, relate and respond with increasing sensitivity to the divine presence in, through, and beyond everything that exists. All are welcome to this prayer of consent and rest.

Music is integral to our faith at House of Hope.

Sunday mornings include our organs, choirs, and carillon. Our outstanding music program has a longstanding reputation of excellence and is committed to providing an exceptional musical experience for all.

Elizabeth Chapel Organ Recitals. One recital featured flute and oboe sonatas of George Frederick Handel. House of Hope's Music Director Aaron David Miller was joined by Flutist Barbara Leibundguth and Oboist Sarah Carmack. The second presented a performance of *Stabat Mater* by Giovanni Pergolesi, sung by Soprano Linh Kauffman and counter-tenor Fernando Bustos from Panama. A string ensemble with organ accompaniment was led by House of Hope Choirmaster Matthew Culloton.

Summit Hill Brass Quintet presented early music in addition to contemporary classics for brass quintet, led by David Baldwin and accompanied by Aaron David Miller on organ.

Danish organist **Bine Bryndorf** performed on the Fisk Organ. This was in partnership with Minnesota Public Radio.

The **24th Annual Summer Carillon Recital Series** featured carillonneurs from around the world.

The House of Hope **Choir School** presented a Christmas Concert and a Spring Concert under the direction of Choir School Director Sofia Ardalan.



Children and Youth

House of Hope Children and Family Ministry strives to equip children with the skills needed to lead a full and meaningful life and to create a safe environment in which they can thrive.

We achieve this through programming for children from birth through high school. Activities include Sunday Morning Story Time, Sunday Studio, Creative Expressions, Tween Transitions, events for children and families, summer programming, and much more.



Youth Sunday 2018

House of Hope youth led the worship service on **Youth Sunday**. Roland Berg and Ellie Findell delivered sermons. Lucy Minner, Kate Thomas, and Liz Bolsoni read scripture. Merete Nelson, Ridley Nelson, and Tyson Sanders were acolytes. Thomas Minner, Eric Boylan, and Abe Thompson led the Time for Children. The Choir School provided beautiful music.



Youth Mission Trip. Twenty-five House of Hope members, including 12 adults and 13 youth traveled to Zacapa, Guatemala in July 2019. We painted a church, visited an orphanage, and installed Onil stoves in homes. Our youth basked in prayers from grateful families and the breathtaking experience.



Adult Education

2018 Adult Education at House of Hope covered multiple topics and provided educational and fellowship opportunities for adults and families to live meaningful lives as Christians and as a community. Thank you to the many leaders and facilitators who shared their knowledge, skills, and faith.

Lenten Study was led by ordained minister Gordon Stewart, using *Be Still!: Departure from Collective Madness*.

Sunday Exchange was introduced in 2018 to provide space for an informal conversation about life and faith the last Sunday of each month.

House of Hope's **Peace and Justice Committee** sponsored several Adult Enrichment speakers on gun violence prevention, environmental stewardship, housing equity, criminal justice, healthcare advocacy, and child abuse prevention.

House of Hope members marched peacefully in St. Paul with thousands of others in the **March For Our Lives** protest about gun violence. This student-led movement emerged after the mass shooting in Parkland, FL. We offered free park-and-ride bus service. Approximately 130 people participated, about a third of whom were from other churches or were friends of church members. The day was a powerful reminder of the impact we can have together to shine light on injustice and transform our world as we act out our faith.



Community Events

Harry Belafonte | January 2018

This legendary music artist and actor delighted a full house with stories of his work in social justice struggles across the world.

"Each and every one of you has the power, the will, and the capacity to make a difference in the world in which you live." —Harry Belafonte

Michael Eric Dyson | April 2018

Dr. Michael Eric Dyson addressed church members and community members interested in learning about his view of race relations in America and his personal call for change. Dr. Dyson is one of the nation's most influential public intellectuals.

Didier Seminar | May 2018

We celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Didier Seminar by welcoming back inaugural speaker Dr. J. Andrew Overman. He reflected on the last two decades of groundbreaking archeological research and discoveries in a lecture titled: *When Stones Speak: Digging Deeper into Jesus Movements, Formative Judaism, and the Rise and Expansion of Islam.*



Welcome Sunday | September 2018

We celebrated our dynamic church community and welcomed the surrounding neighborhood with a picnic on the church lawn. It was a beautiful day and a great way to greet old friends and make new ones.

National Night Out 2018 was an amazing success. Wonderful weather and excellent House of Hope staff and volunteer teamwork made it an enjoyable evening. It was the largest crowd we've had—more than 300 people gathered to share a meal, enjoy a carillon concert by Dave Johnson, a demonstration by the Fire Department, and a wonderful drum and dance performance by Heart and Soul Academy.



House of Hope Cares

House of Hope's **Stephen Ministry program** offers compassionate, confidential, nonjudgmental support to people during difficult times. Within that process, Stephen Ministers explore and strengthen their own faith, build friendships, and support the pastoral care of the congregation. Stephen Ministers work to create a loving and caring spiritual presence within the House of Hope community.

15 active Stephen Ministers

5 Stephen Leaders

3 new trainees

Hundreds of meetings with

20 care receivers



Mission Outreach

At House of Hope, we send people into the neighborhood, community, and world—equipped in both heart and mind—to feed the hungry, house the homeless, and comfort the afflicted. House of Hope is a place where we put faith into action as intentional citizens for social justice and good neighbors within this community. As one of God’s gathering places, House of Hope inspires members to understand present needs and to build hope for our future.

For 21 years, House of Hope has opened its doors to homeless families in our community to provide shelter, food, security, and hospitality through Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul’s **Project Home**. In 2018, **100+ volunteers spent more than 400 hours** managing our emergency overnight center.

Prior Crossing provides supportive, affordable housing for homeless youth. House of Hope volunteers play an active role in tenant life by donating supplies, teaching workshops on cooking, and tending the tenant garden.

Women’s Advocates provides shelter for nearly 1,000 women and children each year. A group of volunteers gathers monthly at the shelter to do a craft project, play games, and enjoy a snack with the women and children.

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity helps alleviate the housing crisis by assisting low-income families to construct or renovate their homes. House of Hope volunteers support Saturday Work Crews and the Summer Work Camp.

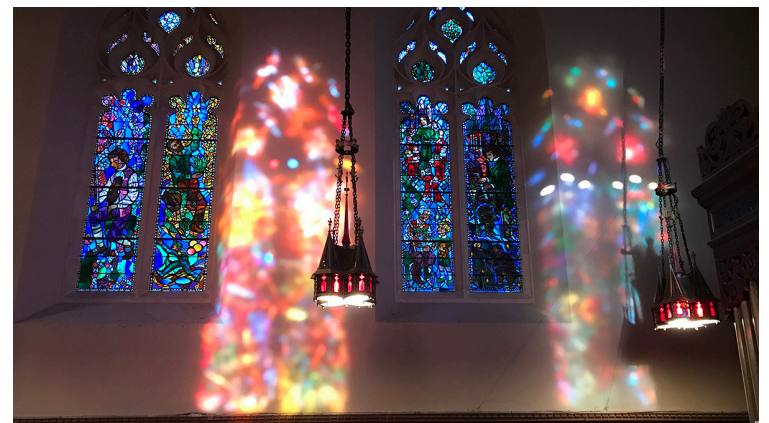
“Let your light so shine before all, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”
Matthew 5:16

With a mission to respond to the hunger so prevalent around us, the **House of Hope Community Garden** produces fresh vegetables. Volunteers from our congregation and the community plant, maintain, and harvest vegetables to help feed hungry families in St. Paul through the Neighborhood House food shelf. **In 2018, we harvested and delivered about 1,400 pounds of fresh, delicious produce—an average of about 200 pounds a week.**

Guided by a vision that all people, regardless of socioeconomic, cultural, or ethnic background, deserve to meet the basic needs for food, dignity and respect, **Loaves & Fishes** serves free, nutritious meals to those in need around Minnesota. House of Hope volunteers meet once a month to help provide dinner at locations in St. Paul.

In December 2018, we delivered a truckload of wrapped gifts to 63 families who were “adopted” by House of Hope members through our **Sponsor-a-Family**. Grateful center directors noted how healing is accelerated when the stress of Christmas is handled.

Harvest of Hope Bash raised \$53,000 to support mission outreach efforts.



House of Hope provided grants to the following organizations:

Ain Dah Yung Center Supporting runaway and homeless American Indian youth

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative Supporting homeless youth at Prior Crossing

The Family Place Providing emergency shelter to homeless families

YWCA Providing transitional housing for families experiencing homelessness

Jeremiah Foundation Supporting low-income mothers through education and career coaching to move from poverty to prosperity

Project for Pride in Living Supporting low-income individuals to achieve self-sufficiency through affordable housing and employment readiness training

People, Inc. Providing homeless services to chronically homeless adults

Interfaith Action Providing volunteer support to fight poverty

Ujamaa Empowering young African American men through education and vocational training

My Very Own Bed Providing beds for children who have recently moved into more stable housing following homelessness

Presbyterian World Mission Providing advocacy and mission work around the world

Rev. Joshua Heikkila Supporting mission work in West Africa

Presbyterian Clearwater Forest Providing Christian programming to youth and adults in nature

Boys & Girls Clubs of Twin Cities Area Providing support to low-income youth to succeed in school, lead healthy lives, and become productive citizens

Feed My Starving Children Eliminating hunger around the world

Women's Advocates Providing shelter to women and children escaping domestic abuse

Lee Carlson Center for Mental Health & Well-Being Providing mental health services for community members in North Minneapolis

Liberty Community Church, formerly Kwanza Church in Minneapolis Supporting the community in North Minneapolis

Walker West Providing music lessons and concerts to people of all ages rooted in African American cultural experience

Compatible Technology International Providing access to innovative farming tools to women in Africa

ELPIS Enterprises Providing job training and job placement for homeless and precariously housed young people

Emma Norton Services Providing mental illness and chemical dependency counseling

Neighborhood House Connecting individuals and families to basic needs

Open Arms of Minnesota Providing meals to individuals with life-threatening illnesses

Presbyterian Foundation Providing emergency funds for Presbyterian mission work

Cycles for Change Providing apprenticeship programming to low-income youth

Project MN Working to prevent gun violence in Minnesota



The House of Hope Presbyterian Church
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The following changes took place in the church record in 2018:

Total membership at the conclusion of 2018: 1,593

Persons received into membership: 22

Members transferred to other churches: 23

2018 Baptisms:

Anna Grace Bailey

Jasper Michael Clark

Jane Margaret Cummings

Carly Elizabeth Fradken

Alice Ann Gese

Conor Dillon Egge Hageman

Maya Moos Hageman

Alexander Edward MacKenzie

Joseph Jeffrey Marsh

Ezra Robert Nitzkowski

Andrew William Sales

Rosalind Rae Winkelman

We entrust to God's eternal care the following members who passed in 2018:

Dennis Anderson

Laura Lamb

Barbara Bailey

Steven Nurmi

Jean Baird

Ernest Orr

Clifford Caine

Clyde Reedy

Jeanne Clemans

Charles Risher

James Hartzell

Lois Severson

Robin Jackson

Charles Slater

Adam Johnson

Dale Sorensen

Bruce Kiernat

Donald Steinkraus

House of Hope's faithful and gifted staff

Thank you to one and all

Pastoral Staff: Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald, Rev. Julia Carlson, Rev. Zachary Wilson

Professional Staff: Michelle Freyholtz, Doug Snaza, Kiera Stegall, Jim Brzezinski

Music Professional Staff: Sofia Ardan, Matthew Culloton, David Johnson, Aaron Miller, Timothy Short

Administrative Staff: David Goudzwaard-Vaught, Malinda Johnson, Anne Mitchell, Deborah Tschida

Facility Staff: Shelley Baumgart, Daniel Frankfurth, Michael Rowles

Wedding Coordinator: Jan Dickinson

Nursery/Childcare Staff: Kate Borgheiinck, Raymond Dean, Lelia Ellison, Kelsea Gilliland, Julie Jacobsen, Miller Shor

The Motet Choir Staff: Timothy Bruett, Krista Costin, Melissa Culloton, Allison Eckberg, Joel Fischer, Linh Kauffman, David Lower, Brad Runyan, William Sales, Hannah Stanke

Choir School Staff: Jessica Bandelin, Isabel Nord

In 2018 we said goodbye and godspeed to:

David Van Dyke and Jeff Foels from the Pastoral Staff

Diane Smith and Sarah Garner from the Professional Staff

Alice Andrastek, Robert Dean from the Nursery/Childcare Staff

Beth Althof and Erika Gesme from The Motet Choir

Dioni Young from the Facilities Staff