

## Connect

*Connect with God –  
Connect with Us*



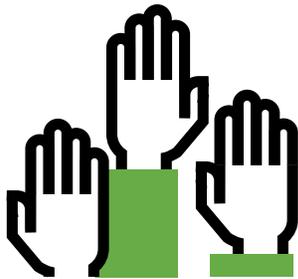
## Explore

*Explore Faith,  
Question Anything,  
Imagine All Things*



## Inspire

*Inspire One  
Another*



## Engage

*Engage Real Life*



## Belong

*You Belong Here.  
Welcome Home.*

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In 2019, the Visioning Team identified themes to move House of Hope forward; the Session set goals and objectives for all of its committees; and the Trustees developed goals to grow the endowment. Most importantly, a Pastor Nominating Committee was elected by the congregation to identify a candidate for the next Pastor/Head of Staff of House of Hope. Wonderful progress has been made. This report reflects some of the highlights of the grace we have received in the past year. I hope it gives you a sense of the good things that are happening, and the many great things that are yet to come! —Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald, Transitional Pastor

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# HOUSE OF HOPE MISSION

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*

During this year of transition, the Session and Committees are committed to maintaining excellence in worship, music, sacraments, and nurturing the members of the congregation, friends of the congregation, and community partnerships. The Session is inspired by your stewardship that supports our goals. We thank our church staff who carry out all the many responsibilities and areas of their expertise that support our congregation and care of the church building. The Pastor Nominating Committee was elected and has worked together this past year to lead the search for our next pastor. We express appreciation to the Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald as he has served as our Transitional Pastor and prepares us to welcome a new Head of Staff.

The Budget Committee is the coordinating body of the Session and provides a coordination function for Session approval and ensures that expenditures throughout the fiscal year fall within approved budget limits. The committee establishes and organizes the implementation of annual goals for consideration by Session. The Budget Committee meets monthly and prepares the annual report, annual budget, annual goals, and annual leadership transition. The Budget Committee establishes and maintains guidelines for all committee chairs in preparing annual budget submissions and provides training in their use.

—*Judy Gensmer, Clerk of Session*

## Join us for the House of Hope Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 11 a.m.

A look back at all that was achieved in 2019 and a sneak peek at plans for 2020.

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2019





## ***Worship, Sacraments and Music Committee***

### **In 2019, House of Hope:**

Welcomed nine children into the Church by through the **Sacrament of Baptism**.

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Celebrated the **Sacrament of Holy Communion** 10 times.

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Celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> birthday of the **Handbell Choir**.

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Supported children and youth ages 4–18 in the **Choir School** program of choral and musical training, weekly fellowship dinners, and weekly worship participation.

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Provided six recitals in the **Summer Carillon Recital Series** by our Carillonneur David Johnson and others from across the country.

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Presented Sunday Series events, one featuring **CNN Anchor Don Lemon** (second row, left photo) and another featuring **Photographer Joel Sartore** (top photo).

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Provided three **Elizabeth Chapel Series** music concerts.

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Hosted Rev. Robin Meyers, Ph.D., pastor, professor, and *New York Times* best-selling author (second row, right photo) to the **Didier Seminar** in April 2019.

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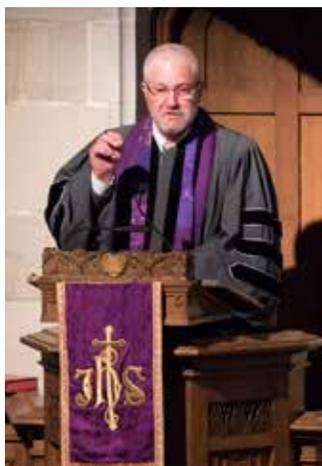
Created by internationally-known fiber artist **Tim Harding**, new paraments have been unveiled as we move through the liturgical year. The Lenten paraments will be revealed on Ash Wednesday (see page 5).

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**The Singers** are installed as Artists in Residence. They hosted a **Community Sing** with songs from the Justice Choir Songbook led by Tefsa Wondemagegnhu (photo at left) in February. The next Community Sing will be on Saturday, February 8 at 3 p.m.

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The **Choir School** expanded to include private piano and voice lessons for children and adults, and the program quickly grew to capacity of 15 students. The Choir School also had a successful summer tour to **Latvia** (bottom photo).





# CONNECT

## Stephen Ministry at House of Hope

Congregants and community members received more than 1,500 hours of care in 2019 through our Stephen Ministers.

As one of our current ministers stated, "It's a privilege to be God's presence. To be God's heart, hands, and feet during another's difficult time. I give a lot, and yet, I get a lot."

### Have you thought of becoming a Stephen Minister? The next class will begin in September 2020.

Please contact Reverend Julia Carlson at [JuliaC@hohchurch.org](mailto:JuliaC@hohchurch.org) or (651) 227-7553 with questions or to request care.

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## Bell Choir

Celebrating a milestone of 40 years, the bell choir program is the second oldest musical ensemble at HOH comprised of all volunteers. 2019 was a busy year; the choir increased the number of musical offerings, and supplemented the service and hymn singing with various bell ringing effects. I know there are "want-to-be" bell ringers or former bell ringers out there; contact me to learn how you can be part of our ensemble. —*Tim Short, Music Associate*



## Didier Seminar

Every spring for 20 years, our **Didier Seminar** has brought fresh voices of the Spirit. In April 2019, we hosted Rev. Robin Meyers, Ph.D., pastor, professor, and *New York Times* best-selling author to House of Hope. Meyers' seven books include the much discussed, national best-seller, *Saving Jesus from the Church*. Meyers urged us to join head and heart in the search for a relevant and intellectually honest church for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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## Wednesday Evening Community Meal

House of Hope began offering Wednesday Evening Community Meals in 2019, and the response has been very positive. These meals are a great way to enjoy fellowship and a tasty meal before attending choir practice or participating in the Wednesday Evening Bible Study, or returning home.

- Study participation: 30–65 people average
- Dinner participation: 30–40 people average
- Total meals served: 70–80 meals average

For more, contact Rev. Zach Wilson at [ZachW@hohchurch.org](mailto:ZachW@hohchurch.org).

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## Life Groups at House of Hope

Two new life groups were initiated in 2019. The **Biking Group** will resume in the warmer months, and the Adult Song Group meets monthly. Both foster community among new and current HOH members. Join the next **Adult Song Group** to sing a variety of music on Thursday, February 13, at 1 p.m. in the Kirk Parlour.



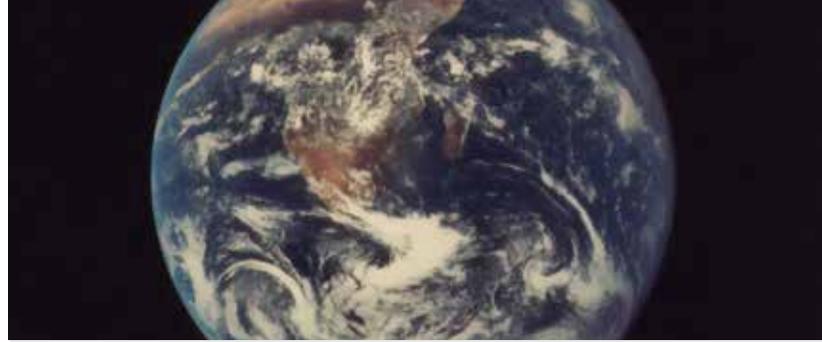
# EXPLORE



*Carolyn Brunelle*



*Tim Harding*



House of Hope is pursuing designation as an **Earth Care Congregation** by the PC(USA). We applied for that certification in January 2020.

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The **Peace and Justice Committee** sponsored the "Forum on Peace and Justice Advocacy" in November 2019.

Through our working groups, the committee presented education programs on child abuse, affordable healthcare, criminal justice, the Equal Rights Amendment, ending homelessness, and gun violence prevention. We take our mission seriously, "to provide a church forum for peace-making and justice issues."

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The **Arts Committee** showcases various local artists in our beautiful Cloister Art Gallery. During 2019, we presented the paintings of **Carolyn Brunelle** in January, botanical printmaker **Linda Snouffer** in February, and the **Children's Art Show** in March. Perhaps the highlight of the year was in April of **Tim Harding's** fiber display and artist presentation during Adult Enrichment, since it coordinated with the unveiling on Easter morning of the first of six sets of paraments that he created for House of Hope. The **Member Art Show** is always a favorite as it gives all members of the congregation an opportunity to display at least one piece of art during the summer months. September began with photographs of the **Ireland and Scotland pilgrimages** led by our own Rev. Julia Carlson, then Stillwater painter **Charlotte Schuld** displayed her art in October/November, and a **Christmas Memories** display of nostalgic items adorned the gallery in December. The fabulous Arts Committee installs each new show with artistic flair, in record time with lots of good cheer and laughter!

— *Patty Paulus and Elly Verhagen, Co-Chairs*

# House of Hope : Mission Incubator for Housing

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*Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done.*  
(Proverbs 19:17)

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The Mission Outreach Committee embraces House of Hope's mission as **"the beating heart of the church"** by showing God's love and grace to all.

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HOH congregants contributed more than **\$46,183** through the Harvest of Hope Bash. A passion for **Mission Outreach**—locally, nationally, and internationally—shines brightly through our congregation, as it has for more than 100 years.

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For more than 20 years, House of Hope has hosted **Project Home** during October. In 2019, 22 adults and children received healthy snacks, help with homework, and fellowship through games and activities at House of Hope. When the weather turned cold and alternative shelter space was overflowing, these families found safe harbor through our community partner Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul.

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In 2019, HOH supported **34 nonprofits and organizations** through donations, grants, advocacy assistance, and volunteer time. These organizations provide local impact and were among those receiving HOH grants: Habitat for Humanity, Ain Dah Yung, Prior Crossing, YWCA, Jeremiah Program, People Incorporated, Feed My Starving Children, and the Boys & Girls Clubs.

**Nationally and internationally, we support the work of the PC(USA)'s Presbyterian Mission:** disaster relief, hunger, housing, theological education, and the mission work of Rev. Joshua Heikkila, within Ghana, Africa.

Your generosity impacted the lives of thousands of children and adults.



## The Ain Dah Yung Center

Forty-two American Indian young adults who were previously experiencing homelessness found a home at **Mino Oski Ain Dah Yung** in 2019. House of Hope pledged \$30,000 a year for five years to support this project. As of the end of 2019, we have paid \$90,000 out of our \$150,000 goal. These funds come from the Houses of Hope Endowment fund. We also provided the bedding for the first set of residents. Rev. Zach Wilson, Mission Outreach Chair Nancy Sabin, and several church members were blessed to go on a hard-hat tour of the new building in August 2019.

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## HOH's passion to end homelessness continues through support for Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative.

27 new residents found a home at **Prior Crossing** in 2019. Our congregation provided household items and linens to help them set up their first apartment. HOH volunteers provide hospitality through donations, birthday bags, and a winter party. Thank you for your generosity in helping to make homes for these youth.





Local families who struggle with hunger enjoyed more than **1,040 pounds of fresh produce from our community garden**. The countless volunteer hours invested in the garden also build community within the church and beyond.



HOH works hard with **Ujamaa Place** to effect change in criminal justice reform, employment mentoring, and the need for basic services for African American males and their families who strive to be a vibrant part of the community.

As you look to deepen your relationship with God, consider volunteering with Mission Outreach. Visit the bulletin board outside the Assembly Room to see photos from recent events and learn about future opportunities. For more information, contact Nancy Sabin at (612) 250-9510 or nsabin@q.com.

Watch for a congregational survey about Mission Outreach in 2020.

## House of Hope Membership Development Committee

Members of this committee have worked to expand our vision for church growth in 2019–2020.

Activities and results include:

- **Set a new member goal for the program year of 40 new members.** Twenty-two have joined so far.
- **Featured education opportunities and events for the fall in the September Anchor.** We distributed 4,999 copies to the community surrounding HOH and members shared copies with their neighbors.
- **Advertised HOH events** through Minnesota Public Radio, area newspapers, and our Facebook page. This engagement significantly increased traffic on the HOH webpage—we saw a 70% increase in new visitors!
- **Organized Wednesday Evening Community Dinners to help connect members within the church.**
- For 2020, we are researching **name badges** for members to create a welcoming atmosphere and updating signage at our entrances.

### Planned Giving and Anchor Society

Making a planned gift to House of Hope is for anyone with a spirit of generosity who wants to make a gift of any size through their estate. We share a deep sense of gratitude for those who came before us whose legacy of stewardship helps us sustain our mission and programming now.

### The Anchor Society

Gifts to our Endowment Fund sustain and support much of what we do at House of Hope. The Anchor Society is currently comprised of 92 households who have stated their intention to leave a lasting gift to the church through their estate. We remember those who have gone before us, who loved this church, and made a plan to support HOH beyond their days. If you are interested in making a gift to the endowment, please contact the church office at (651) 227-6311.

BELONG

## Children and Family Ministry

Children and Family Ministry is thriving at House of Hope. We strive 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. In 2019, we:

- **Served 85 children** (birth–11 years) through informative classes and fun-filled activities.
- **Welcomed several new babies**, setting up Meal Train calendars to support families discovering a new life rhythm.
- **Facilitated family story time** before worship on Sundays, while elementary students are invited to participate in theater or visual arts programs after worship.
- **Taught elementary students about Scripture** through stories, art, games, and activities with the help of our Sunday school teaching teams and the Dwell Digital curriculum.
- **Engaged our tweens in monthly events.**
- **Provided engaging multigenerational events for families and community members** to enjoy such as our Community Retreat at Clearwater Forest, Halloween Party, the Advent Celebration, and other events.

## Youth Ministry

- **Served 50 middle school and high school youth** through classes and events.
- **Confirmed 16 youth** in their faith journey.
- **Collected \$1,600 through Souper Bowl of Caring** for local food pantries.
- **Engaged middle school youth in Mission Day** where they volunteered their time in the HOH Community Garden, and at Neighborhood House, Como Lake, and Feed My Starving Children.



# ENGAGE

## Chili Cook-off Submissions

Share your favorite chili recipe with House of Hope! Bring a homemade chili submission to enter into the Mardi Gras Chili Cook-off. Crockpots are encouraged. Please label your submission and note if vegetarian. One talented cook will win the prize. To learn more or sign-up to participate email Kiera Stegall at [KieraS@hohchurch.org](mailto:KieraS@hohchurch.org) by Monday, February 17.

## Mardi Gras Chili Cook-off

**February 23, 11:15 a.m.–12 p.m.**

Join us for a church-wide Mardi Gras celebration in the Assembly Room. Enjoy activities, fellowship, and a variety of delicious chili recipes for only \$5 per person.

## Clearwater Forest Camp-in-the-City (VBS 2020)

**June 22–26, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.**

Join us at House of Hope for a fun-filled week of Bible stories, art, outdoor activities, and more! Cost is \$60 per child and is open to children, 4-years-old by September 1, 2019, through Grade 5, completed by June 2020. Registration is now open on the House of Hope website.

## HOH Community Retreat Registration

**June 5–7, 2020**

Join House of Hope for a multigenerational community retreat at Clearwater Forest. Enjoy a waterfront view, communal meals, art, activities, worship, bonfire, and play. Register to join us in a beautiful lodge, as we celebrate summertime together. We'll have something for everyone! Cost is \$85 per participant, which includes meals and lodging. Children, 3-years-old and younger, participate for free. Scholarships available. Registration is now open on the House of Hope website.

## Upcoming Youth Events

HOH can engage in a summer Mission Trip and Youth Conference. More information forthcoming.

# INSPIRE

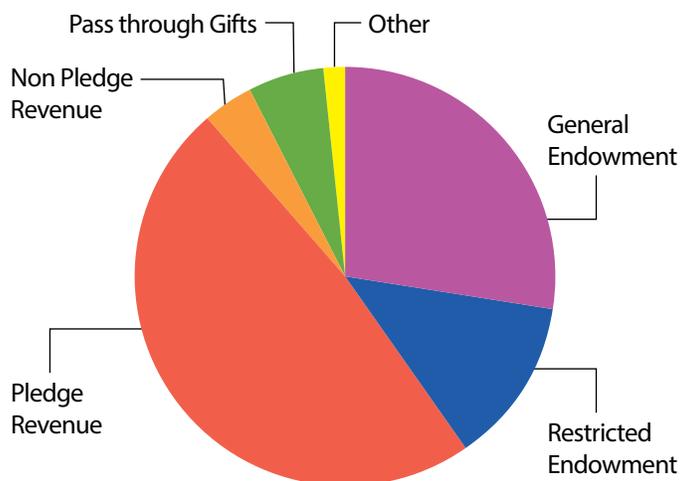


Facilities Staff



Administrative Staff

## 2019 Income Budget



Source	Income	Percentage of Total
General Endowment	\$725,970	27%
Restricted Endowment	\$338,351	12.9%
Pledge Revenue	\$1,270,000	48.3%
Non Pledge Revenue	\$100,000	3.8%
Pass through Gifts	\$155,790	5.9%
Other	\$40,000	1.5%

## Investment and Audit Committee of Trustees

The annual gifts of members and the House of Hope Endowment make the worship and work of this congregation possible. The Endowment is carefully managed so what is drawn maintains the health of the fund. Last year the Endowment contributed more than \$1 million to fund a budget of over \$2.5 million.

The Endowment increased in 2019 from a strong stock market and from the sale of two Summit Avenue properties. The balance at year's end was \$29 million an increase of 18% on the year. The annual financial audit was satisfactory and accepted by the Trustees.

Gifts to the Endowment are lasting and important. As members before have blessed us, so can we benefit those who will follow. —Kathleen Schubert, Chair

**Total membership at conclusion of 2019:** 1,251

**Total membership at conclusion of 2018:** 1,593

**Persons received into membership:** 37

**Members transferred, lost to death or other losses:** 379

### 2019 Baptisms

Alexander Edward MacKenzie

Hayden Cecil Hanson

Charlotte Elizabeth Jones

Harrison Francis Lebens

Malin Townsend Keglevic

George Benjamin Mack

Claire Ruth McConnell

Axton James Rudd

Isabelle Lou Schultz

### We entrust to God's eternal care the following members who passed away in 2019:

O. Elaine Anuta

Arnold Bockstruck

Elizabeth Cammack

Richard Dierenfield

Donald Garretson

Robert Hanle

Carolyn Hansen

Richard Hollingsworth

Ruth Johnson

Larry Lee

Robert Mairs

Helen Mikasen

Dennis Rogers

Beverly Sherwood

Audrey Snyder

Ann Tulloch