



HOUSE OF HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Building Opportunity for Future Ministry: Interim and Construction



2023-2024 Biennial Report

Pressing Toward the Goal



Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:12-14, NRSV)

What goal is God calling you to? What goal is God calling the House of Hope Presbyterian Church to? Seeking answers to these questions has been a big part of the transitional ministry work I have been doing with you over the past two and a half years.

One answer to these questions has been the realization that both congregation and community have changed quite a bit in recent years:

- The people living in the neighborhoods around the church are getting younger as older generations (mostly baby boomers) downsize.
- The visitors to our church come from increasingly diverse backgrounds; former evangelicals who are reconstructing their faith, former Roman Catholics who are looking for familiar liturgy with an atmosphere that fosters open inquiry, recent immigrants from all over the world who may or may not have a background in Reformed worship and theology, and many people who are simply “spiritually curious,” many of whom do not have a church background, but want to see if what we have to offer adds value to their lives.
- We, of course, continue to receive new members who transfer to us from other (mostly) Mainline Protestant traditions. But interestingly, they are a diverse group, too: many are single including widowed, widowers, and divorced, families with

children (but family size is typically small), LGBT folk, and people who grew up in the church or community, moved away, and have come back. Most are college educated, but there is an increasing amount of socio-economic diversity within the congregation, and some forward movement in racial diversity, as well.

- They all are all uniformly seeking community and connection with others in a loving and supportive environment. They are hoping to be seen and known—and accepted—for who they are.
- It takes longer for people to decide whether or not they want to become “members.” New folk generally have little interest in serving on church committees or governing boards. What they do want is to make friends.

So much of the transitional work has focused on beginning discussions around these issues and working our way toward solutions. One big takeaway has been the realization that the committee structure of the Session in many ways is organized for a 20th century church that no longer exists. So, conversations and strategizing around how best to reorganize this important leadership and decision-making body to make it more responsive to congregational needs, easier for people to participate in and serve on, improve communication to break down silos, and switch from a mostly internal focus to an external one.

The discussion thus far has focused on the possibility of greatly reducing the number of committees and grouping the work of the church into three main areas: Formation, Connection, Resources. This conversation is ongoing and will be lived into in coming months and years.

Another area of discussion has been the pressing need to expand revenue sources to support the mission of the church and to care for and maintain its buildings and campus. Everything today is simply more expensive than it used to be. So, one way to describe House of Hope is that we are a rich church with a very tight budget. Yes, the church has a large endowment, but the principle needs to be maintained and grown so that it generates the interest income the congregation needs to support the annual operating budget.

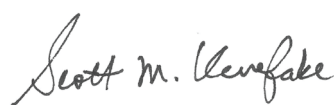
There is no “magic” solution to church finances in the 21st century. Congregations need to be doing a variety of things to reduce costs and generate revenue:

- Continue to emphasize annual pledge and non-pledge giving.
- Make the buildings help to pay for themselves by entering into rental agreements with compatible organizations to help offset the church’s operating costs (it makes no sense to heat and cool empty buildings).
- Use the beauty of the buildings, music and arts programming, and speakers’ series to continue to introduce new people to the mission and ministry of HOH.
- The newly developing HOH Foundation will provide a vehicle for receiving grant monies from philanthropic sources for building maintenance and music and arts programming.
- Continue to emphasize estate planning and Anchor Society membership.

Successful fundraising is rooted in the ability to tell the story of HOH well, over, and over-reminding people why we are worth the investment of their time, talent, and treasure.

All in all, the congregation has made great strides in addressing challenges that are common to all religious organizations in 21st century America. Our efforts together have been designed to enable your next installed Senior Pastor to be successful. I’m grateful to the large number of people who have helped to make this transition time fruitful and productive.

Blessings,



Rev. Dr. Scott M. Kenefake
Transitional Pastor

House of Hope Clergy

Rev. Dr. Scott M. Kenefake, Transitional Pastor

Rev. Dr. Julia A. Carlson, Senior Associate Pastor for Spiritual Life and Care

Rev. Phillip J. Romine, Transitional Associate Pastor for Faith Formation and Lifelong Learning

Care Pastors in Residence:

Rev. Dr. J. Michael Anderson

Rev. Dix Brachlow



House of Hope Mission Statement

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

New Mission Statement

Building a loving community for all, House of Hope shares God’s grace and presence through music, the arts, reflection, and action. Come join us as we walk through life together. February 20, 2024

HVAC / Utility Infrastructure Improvement Project: 2022-2024

An Enabling Project

This project is what I call an “Enabling Project.” This project could not have been done in a phased manner. This project had to be done all at one time. You can’t put in half of an electrical system, or half of an air conditioning system. You have to put the whole thing in, and they have to work together. I congratulate the church on what you have accomplished.

- Eric Kruse, Owner’s Representative,
Pegasus Group

The HVAC/Utility Infrastructure Improvement Project started in April of 2022 with a Utility Infrastructure Task Force including Jim Brzezinski, Holly Cotner, Dick Crone, Michelle Freyholtz, Bill Geery, Ben Mack, Dave Phillips, Jack Sjöholm, Mike Stein, and Lisa Yost with support from Scott Kenefake and Julia Carlson for the preparation and first year. In 2023 - 2024, a smaller group met weekly in over 70 meetings to monitor construction on a weekly basis. This group included Rodney Beach, Jim Brzezinski, Julia Carlson, Dick Crone, Michelle Freyholtz, Bill Geery, David Phillips, and Jack Sjöholm. We are grateful for their efforts and many hours of involvement.

We thank Eric Kruse, our owner’s representative from Pegasus Group, and Terra Construction staff who were involved in the project: Cory Kaminski, Cody Kolb, and Jake Anderson.

Project accomplishments: HVAC

- Replacement of 1958 boilers, air conditioning system (chiller), and air handlers with state of the art systems with capacity for the entire building
- Installation of ductwork in parts of the building and where hallways once served as return air system
- Addition of heat and air conditioning installed where it didn’t exist previously: Great Hall, Rooms A and B, Youth Room, and Skylight Room
- Improved air quality with filtration and humidity control
- Ability to control heating and cooling electronically on-site and remotely
- Reduced carbon footprint with energy efficiency and reduced energy consumption



Electricity and Gas

- Increased electrical service from Xcel from 800 amps to 1200 amps to meet electrical capacity needs and installed a new utility pole and transformers
- Installed a new main electrical distribution panel board and replaced 15 of 21 circuit breaker boxes past their useful life. All 21 breaker boxes are generally full. Wiring from breaker boxes to lights and outlets has not been changed. This will need to be addressed as renovations take place.
- Cloth wiring was replaced where necessary. Some does still exist and will have to be replaced with renovation.
- Electrical feed from the new main electrical distribution panel board to each circuit breaker box was replaced with enough power on each circuit.



- New gas meters installed to serve the building.
- Anticipated annual electrical bills will be \$36,711 of \$75,000 annual costs before the project, a savings of approximately 50%. We expect significant savings in natural gas use with the ability to control demand when building not in use.

Fire and Smoke Alarm System

- Removed two old fire alarm systems what were wired together and replaced them with a single fire and smoke alarm with a suppression system by creating four assembly areas in the building. If fire or smoke is detected, the fire doors with magnetic locks will close automatically to contain and limit the spread of fire.



- A fire suppression system (sprinkler system) was not required for this project.
- With any future renovation project, we will have to install a fire suppression system, a water pump to provide enough water pressure to serve the suppression system, and upgrade to accessibility codes including ramps in some areas where there are currently only stairs.

Lighting

- Installed new LED lights throughout the building
- Worked with LightSwitch, a company that works with non-profits to retro-fit fluorescent fixtures at a total cost of \$2,900



- New LED lights are more energy efficient and provide color-consistent light

Hazardous Materials

- Removed or contained hazardous materials including asbestos where needed to complete the project; remaining asbestos is safe, if undisturbed.
- Remaining hazardous materials will need to be removed or abated for future renovation projects.

Project Budget:

Project budget: \$11,324,000

Projected final cost: \$11,230,000

Under budget: \$ 94,000

Project Funding Sources:

Weyerhaeuser Ministry Funds: \$ 750,000

Meyers Fund: \$ 773,203

Contingency Funds: \$ 1,684,924

Unrestricted Endowment Funds \$2,850,000

\$6,058,127

Loan from Presbyterian \$5,450,000

Investment and Loan Program to be paid back

Bright Hope for Tomorrow Capital Campaign

Approximately 200 giving units have pledged or contributed **\$5 million** toward the project. With additional gifts, we can pay back the PILP Loan and restore funds to our endowment.



Next Steps

- Inspecting roof and exterior walls to eliminate water infiltration
- Flat roofs have no service years remaining and need replacement
- Slate roofs will last for decades with proper maintenance and repairs
- Exterior walls need tuckpointing and caulking to keep out water
- Windows need to be replaced or caulked

Possible Future Projects

- Photovoltaics (solar panels) added to flat roofs
- Develop a Facilities Management Plan to manage and maintain the facility, schedule for preventative maintenance, long-term plan and budget to address deferred maintenance with schedule replacement of items like flooring, security systems, painting, and landscaping.
- Projects from the Master Site Plan

Interim Work

Ezekiel 37:1-6

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

Developing for the Future Collaboration Group

In April of 2022, the Session authorized a collaboration group that came to be known as Developing for the Future (DFTF). They gathered input from congregants, HOH staff, and members of the community. Members of the Collaboration Group included: Jeanne Bailey, Phil Bolinder, Charlie Essig, Linda Lane, Becky Mayer, Dave Phillips, Elizabeth Sanson, Elly Verhagen, and John Zwier.

Catch the Vision, Dream the Dream

The Session voted in September 2022 to proceed with the HVAC project using the endowment as collateral and to identify other sources of funding. Scott Kenefake shared how church ministry has changed since the 21st century, and he asked congregants to submit *their vision for House of Hope if resources were not an obstacle* in what was called **Catch the Vision, Dream the Dream** in October of 2022. Many congregants shared their visions and dreams for the future.

A Thoughtful, Creative & Convening House

Centers of Excellence: Arts, Music & Theology



In your own words: *"If resources were not an obstacle, what is your dream for the future of House of Hope?"*

DFTF took the visions and dreams from *Catch the Vision, Dream the Dream* and curated them into a *Dreamscape* art exhibit of the tremendous potential our building offers for new and future ministries. Here are some of the dreams and visions of House of Hope members and friends:

- Expand the livestream, expand accessibility with elevators and fewer pews;
- Improve the sanctuary sound system;
- Use the building seven days a week;
- Add more worship services and mission trips;
- Create contemplative spaces and opportunities for practice.
- Host concerts on the front lawn;
- Make our entrances more inviting;
- Host lectures and exhibits;
- Provide yoga, writing groups, Tai chi;
- Create a catalog of events such as worship and education;
- Add a Recovery Sunday and/or partner with Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation;
- Put in a catering kitchen;
- Create a Welcome Center and conversation spaces.
- In everything we do, reflect a theology of hospitality!
- Welcome all people!

Can these bones live?

We, members, staff, and clergy, are stewards of The House of Hope Presbyterian Church. But what does it really mean to be church in these days? We are, at once, speaking of the physical structure and property, as well as our worship and communal life. We are speaking of social interaction, giving of time and talent, pledging or tithing, and commitment to life in community. How might we understand the fullness of the life of our congregation?

The Bones

Bones “provide the framework of the body and give it strength.” The House of Hope Presbyterian Church identifies itself most strongly with a Neo-Gothic structure of approximately 70,000 square feet. Our building is religious and historic, both sacred and ordinary. It is a stunning presence on Summit Avenue and a treasure in the city. In total, HOH owns a further 230,000 square feet of real estate in the park, three parking lots, a garage, and lawns. All of this is our strength. It is also a responsibility and a challenge to maintain a building and property with this scale of architectural beauty. However, the truth is, we will never be able to afford this building and property on a congregational budget. And, beyond maintenance, we will have more potential for future usage with further physical enhancements.



Terra Construction

Terra Construction, along with Miller Dunwiddie Architecture and Emanuelson-Podas, were selected in 2020 by House of Hope as the Design-Build Team for the Utility Infrastructure Project for House of Hope Presbyterian Church. We worked with House of Hope for over two years to develop the Construction Documents and Budget for Utility Infrastructure Project and issued the 100% Construction Documents for bidding in May 2023. We started construction immediately after bidding and completed the project in the fall of 2024. While there was a pause due to the pandemic, the project was completed on schedule and under budget.

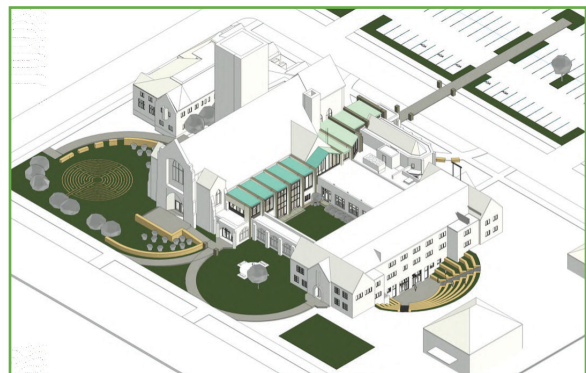
This project was a utility infrastructure improvement, including all new heating elements, ventilation systems and air conditioning. It included boiler replacement, extensive piping replacement, new electrical service and systems, lighting upgrades and miscellaneous renovations for House of Hope Presbyterian Church. Terra pre-purchased the switchgear and electrical panels to make the schedule work. *While nearly all the improvements are behind closed doors or unnoticeable to anyone visiting House of Hope, they are very important elements of the facility. These new systems will serve the congregation, staff, and visitors for many years to come.* The existing mechanical and electrical systems were antiquated and were at risk of failure. The new systems are energy efficient and reliable.

Tom Brown
President, Terra Construction

Master Site Plan

From the Dreamscape, DFTF recommended the Session hire Miller Dunwiddie Architects to create a Master Site Plan.

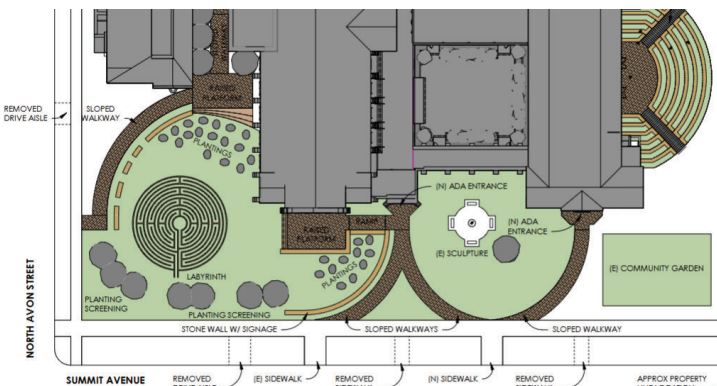
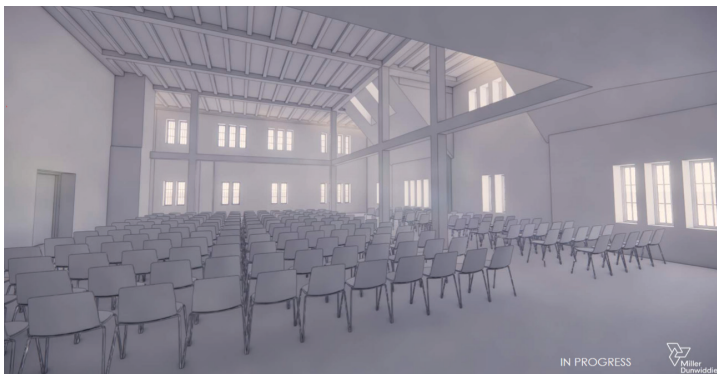
A master site plan, according to architect Paul May, is a project of communal transformation. A master site plan is used to guide change for the next five to ten years, to even 40 years into the future. Each of our visioning processes, including documentation from 1994, 2006, and 2023, have expressed the desire to make our building and property more available to the neighboring community. We can share our beloved building in many new ways and our park is a generationally beloved space. We are the keepers not only of what is, but of what can be; we are the current stewards of great ministry potentials.



Master Site Plan Step One

Our process included listening sessions in May 2023 that invited individual and corporate expression of ideas and needs. We answered many questions such as:

- How do people get into the building, how do they know where to come in?
- How do we now use and move around the building?
- Are you a museum or a vibrant community?
- What makes this place inspirational for you?
- How are you accommodating people with disabilities?
- How are you sharing your beautiful art gallery?
- How can we divide the building so parts can be securely closed while others are being used?
- The acoustics, beauty, sunlight, and organ in the sanctuary are beautiful and inspiring, could you use more light?



Master Site Plan Step Two

Initial drawings were presented to the staff, the officers, and then the congregation in the fall of 2023.

At an officer retreat in January 2024, we asked our elders, deacons, and trustees to vote for their top five projects from the initial Master Site Plan. This straw poll revealed:

1. Kitchen
2. Assembly Room renovated as lecture and performance space
3. Elevators/Accessibility
4. Welcome Center/Central Corridor
5. Move music programs and staff to the West Wing



The Sinew/Muscle

Sinew is “a piece of tough fibrous tissue uniting muscle to bone or bone to bone. It gives parts of a structure, system, or thing strength and binds it together.” This is our polity, our organizational manual and our committees. Which also means, it is our Session, Deacons, and Trustees. And it is our budget. A previous generation put an Endowment in place to maintain the building. However, through the last several decades, the Endowment has become a crucial source for half of the operating budget (see the January 2025 Anchor for more information). We are locked into a pattern that does not allow much needed growth in staffing, community life, and care for the building and grounds. Therefore, we have begun the process of looking for new streams of income. The alternative is conscious choice to become smaller and less vital.

Our history and the stories we tell have carried us a long way down the road and we have always chosen to be faithful and forward moving. We are in the midst of creating the House of Hope Foundation and continuing discussions with regard to financial well-being. Now it is time to begin a new chapter through reorganization of boards and committees, using the task force model, and enhancing our financial outlook.

House of Hope Park

Task Force Members: Laurel Gamm, Elly Verhagen, Jill Winter, and Neighborhood Partners

The HOH Park Task Force enlisted the help of a local landscape architect to begin a conversation about refreshing the park and do a community survey. They also worked with Nature Sacred, a group that offers design services with the intent to add spiritual aspects to the plan. This work is ongoing.



Session Appointed Task Forces: 2023-2024

Reorganization Task Force

Members: Jon Cotner, Marybeth Dorn, Judy Gensmer, Ann Harrington, Andrew Karre, and Mike Stein

The task force met four times from May to September 2023. After discussing various options for reorganizing our leadership boards it became clear that the larger body needs to discuss and implement new ways of structuring our church work. The Clerk of Session along with clergy have led further discussions with board members at Officer Retreats. The task force has been disbanded and the work is ongoing.

Foundation Task Force

The formation of a Foundation a Task Force was approved at the February 2024 Session Meeting. Members of the Task Force are Joyce Nelson, Mike Stein, Deb James, Tom Radio, Jeff Knutson, Julia Carlson, and Scott Kenefake.

Mission Statement:

The House of Hope Foundation is a non-sectarian 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the maintenance and care of the property of The House of Hope Presbyterian Church, including its 1914 Gothic structure, Fisk organ (Opus 78), Noyes Memorial Carillon, and House of Hope Park.

The Foundation also provides funding for initiatives that serve the community including speaker forums, concert series, artist installations, and justice-centered projects.

In partnership with the church's congregation, the foundation solicits gifts from individuals and seeks grants from sources not otherwise available to the church.

Summit Parking Lot

Discussions regarding the Summit Avenue parking lot have been ongoing through 2023-2024. With the guidance of Sara Joy Proppe of the Proximity Project, two task forces have heard various options and have gathered information and guidance from our city council members. Detailed reports are available in the church office.

Task Force Members:

Task Force 1: Patrick Boylan, Mary Beth Dorn, Charlie Essig, Joyce Nelson, Mary Cardinal Peterson, John Zwier

Task Force 2: Brian Alton, Patrick Boylan, Charlie Essig, Karen Florez, Judy Gensmer, Chris Hilton, Linda Lane

- The lot is zoned for residential and cannot be used as an income producing parking lot without rezoning.
- The lot requires updating according to new environmental regulations and could cost the church anywhere from \$500,000 to \$1 million.
- Our city council members are interested in seeing this acre and a half of land return to housing.

House of Hope could realize approximately \$1.7 million to 2.5 million if sold. This price range depends on how the land is sectioned and how many housing units built. (\$2.5 - 3.5 million estimated value subject to numerous factors in January 2024)

Task Force members took part in discussion with regard to House of Hope remaining the owners of the land and working with one or more developers. If House of Hope were to continue to own the land in order to seek income from it, the church would need to spend 3 to 5 years in relationship with one or more developers to partner in the planning of a project. Task Force members, on behalf of the congregation, did not feel that we have the interest or bandwidth to carry out a plan such as this at this time.

Two options will be presented to the Session for discussion in the April 2025 meeting. Any decision to sell will require approval of the congregation and the Presbytery.

1. Continued ownership: to be used as parking for the House of Hope or our neighbors with significant repair and restoration - OR - with the hope of ongoing income to gain rental monies from those who live in a future townhouse or condominium development.
2. Sell the property: engaging a real estate agent to market and negotiate opportunity for a cash sale.

There will be ongoing communication with the congregation beyond this report.

Edward Duffield Neill Task Force

Members: Patrick Boylan, Kathi Koehn, Dick Langer, Zora Vorhes, Eric Vorhes, Lisa Yost

The task force met from April - August 2023. The full report with further recommendations is available in the church office. The task force reported to Session in October 2023 when Session received the report and approved the following Statement which was also shared in the December 2023 *Anchor*:

We are grateful to Reverend Dr. Edward Duffield Neill for his contributions in founding House of Hope. However, his views regarding indigenous people on whose ancestral land our church congregation abhorrent. With humility we know that we too are flawed in ways apparent now and others that time will tell. Still, we are called to discern and act to the best of our understanding and to recognize where we have harmed or where we have benefited from others' harmful acts. Given what we have come to understand about Rev. Dr. Neill we are called to recognize the harms done and to work toward wholeness and understanding and righting those harms.

The House of Hope Presbyterian Church is not defined by our founder yet we recognize our complicity with the past. Therefore we wish to state:

- We believe all persons are of equal value, dignity, integrity and respect.
- We believe Black and Brown lives matter to God and to us
- We believe in the freedom and integrity of the LGBTQ+ community and are a Covenant Network Church of the PCUSA.
- We believe we are stewards of the Earth and are an Earth Care Congregation of the PCUSA.

The Flesh/Skin

This is, of course, the people; members, friends, neighbors, and staff. At the present moment, it is inclusive of our new tenants: the Meadowlark Microschool, the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies, Alcoholics Anonymous, and Al-Anon. It incorporates everyone who uses our Park, attends National Night Out, the Sunday Series, or any of our worship opportunities. It includes the artists who contribute to our gallery and The Singers, our Artists in Residence. It includes the Motet Choir and Choir School as well as the House of Hope Orchestra. While we have members from the entire Twin Cities Metro, we are also blessed to be in a vital neighborhood with many families nearby. In other words, we who join the church are stewards of maintaining and sharing communal and social life, encouraging faith and spiritual life, and caretaking of the physical property that serves the community beyond the congregation alone.

Other Session Actions 2023 - 2024

Interfaith Action Anchor Church June 2023



Interfaith Action Anchor Churches agree to:

- Be a member of Interfaith Action;
- Commit to forming a core team at your house of worship that consists of one staff member and two to four people who volunteer in Interfaith Action programs (Project Home, Department of Indian Work, Opportunity Saint Paul, etc.);
- Commit to one annual meeting between your core team and Interfaith Action staff;
- Commit to collaboratively plan with Interfaith Action staff one worship service and/or focused educational forum each year, engaging your clergy in the process;
- Commit to highlighting ongoing volunteer opportunities at least monthly in your house of worship's communications, or host an Interfaith Action program in your house of worship's building.

The Breath of God

Life!

We are called to develop new opportunities for worship, faith formation, social life, and service. What worked and nurtured church and society in the 20th century is not working for the 21st century. The strength of our body, in every sense of the word, gifts us with great potential for new life. God's calling is clear, "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live," (Deuteronomy 30:19).

Many churches are slowly ebbing or dying. Many church buildings are becoming theaters, condominiums, and community centers. Now is the time expand our sense of church to be a community center and a house of prayer; to be a concert venue and a place for exploring faith and spirituality. Now is the time to invest in our church building and life. Now is the time to invest more time in spiritual practice and spiritual community; to invest talent and energy in short or long-term service opportunities; to invest funds in the operating budget, the Foundation, and master site plan opportunities. Our potentials will grow if we invest in elevators, a Welcome Center, a kitchen, or remodeled recital and lecture space. We are already a loving, committed congregation. Now is the time to live into greater vitality while discerning the best uses of our building for mission, partnerships, income, and service.

PC(USA) Matthew 25 Congregation September 2023

Following a recommendation from the Peace and Justice Committee, the Session designated House of Hope as a Matthew 25 Congregation to focus on racial justice, congregational revitalization, and anti-poverty.



Music

Our strengths in Music and the Arts are a launching pad for growth!



The Motet Choir:

2023 - 2024

The Motet Choir offered the following special music events:

April 7, 2023 – John Rutter: Requiem | Good Friday

July 5, 2023 – Stephen Paulus: *The Three Hermits*
American Guild of Organists National Conference

November 5, 2023 – Gabriel Fauré: Requiem |
Music Sunday

December 23, 2023 – Traditional Christmas
Tableaux Service with organ and full orchestra

December 24, 2023 – Gerald Finzi: *In terra pax*;
Candlelight services with organ and full orchestra

March 29, 2024 – J.S. Bach: *Aus der Tiefen rufe ich,
Herr, zu dir* (Out of the depths I call, Lord, to You),
Cantata 131 | Good Friday

May 19, 2024 – W.A. Mozart: *Coronation Mass* |
Music Sunday

November 3, 2024 – G.F. Handel: *O Praise the Lord
with One Consent* (Chandos Anthem #9) | Music
Sunday

December 21, 2024 – Traditional Christmas
Tableaux Service

December 24, 2024 – Antonio Vivaldi: *Magnificat*;
Candlelight services with organ and full orchestra



Artists-in-Residence:

The Singers rent and occupy an office and library suite upstairs in the East Wing, and offer Community Sings, concerts, and other special events at House of Hope as part of their annual performance season. 2023-2024 marked the organization's 20th Anniversary Season. The organization is led by HOH Choirmaster Matthew Culloton.

In 2023, the choir performed concerts including "Bach & Pärt" in March and "The Singers' Choice: An Anniversary Celebration" in October.

In the fall of 2024, House of Hope became the choir's rehearsal home on Monday nights. The choir performed "My Soul's Repose" in March, and "American Tune: Music for a Time of Change" in October.



Bells of Hope Handbell Choir

2023 saw the addition of Sacred Bells, a new ensemble available to any HOH member or interested community people wanting the chance to ring handbells but cannot commit to a Wednesday evening rehearsal or may not read music. Members of Sacred Bells meet five times a year and gather on a Sunday morning to learn patterns of ringing (rather than music). These patterns are used to supplement prayers in the service or the singing of hymns. In addition, the Bells of Hope and the Sounds of Hope provide monthly musical offerings for worship.

2024-2025 marks the 45th anniversary year of the established handbell program at the House of Hope. The program offers three ensembles: The Bells of Hope, The Sounds of Hope, and Sacred Bells. In total, 21 volunteers participate in the program; several are ringers from the community. Highlights for 2024 include monthly participation with musical offerings in worship, a continuing partnership with both Keystone Communities and Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church plus the annual Carols for Handbells and Harp.

Noyes Memorial Carillon



2023 was a monumental year for the Noyes Memorial Carillon. First, the carillon celebrated its centenary: 100 years of music from the tower to be a voice for healing, celebrations, and peace.

The July Carillon Summer Concert Series expanded to eight weeks to salute the carillon. A special post-service commemoration occurred in early October with a coffee hour by the bell tower and a concert of carillon music by House of Hope composers Theophil Rusterholtz, Stephen Paulus, and Aaron David Miller. After 30 years of dedication to the carillon and this congregation, David Johnson retired October 31 and was named Carillonneur Emeritus. The online newspaper, *MinnPost*, wrote a feature article for its readership about Dave and the carillon.

2024 marked the 30th anniversary year of the July Summer Carillon Concert Series (which brings national players to the House of Hope each Sunday afternoon for a recital of varied music). Hospitality docents and an ice-cream station are new additions to the series. The carillon also offers music to mark special occasions (Martin

Luther King Jr. Day, Juneteeth, Independence Day, Christmas Day, and Sunday Series events). The carillon postlude continues to be heard each week at the conclusion of the worship service.



The Choir School

The Choir School had a full schedule of Sunday worship services, concerts, and musical events. Choristers gathered for weekly rehearsals, building musical skills, friendships, and liturgical experiences. We had a full Alleluia Choir (age 3-6), and growing St Cecilia, St Nicholas, and Cantamus ensembles (ages 6-18), our largest groups since 2020. The St Nicholas Choir collaborated with the Chapel Choir from Macalester-Plymouth United Church for a worship services at House of Hope and Mac-Plymouth. Choristers from all choirs presented the annual Spring Concert in May and Christmas Concert in December. We continue to welcome all singers in the community to sing and learn together.



Mission, Community Events, and Congregational Life

In the midst of the HVAC/Utility Infrastructure Improvement Project, the congregational life of House of Hope continued. With restricted access to large portions of the church, our clergy, staff, and congregants adapted through two phases of construction.

Mission Outreach

House of Hope has been source of support to the local community throughout its history and is also an advocate for social justice. In 2023-2024, grants of **\$120,000** were made from the Mission Outreach fund to:

- Boys and Girls Clubs
- Elpis Enterprises
- Feed My Starving Children
- Interfaith Action
- Joint Religious Legislative Coalition
- Liberty Community Church
- Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
- Neighborhood House
- People Inc.
- PCUSA - W. Africa (Rev. Josh Heikkila)
- Presbyterian Clearwater Forest
- Project for Pride in Living
- The Jeremiah Program
- Ujamaa Place
- Wilder Foundation
- Women's Advocates
- YWCA - St. Paul
- YMCA - East Side

The Houses of Hope Fund was established in 1999 to support affordable housing in the east metro. **\$197,193** was granted in 2023-2024 to:

- Ain Dah Yung Center
- Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative
- Common Bond Properties
- Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul
- Neighborhood House
- Project for Pride in Living
- Rondo Community Land Trust
- The Jeremiah Program
- Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity
- YWCA

Faith and Fibers worked on various needle craft projects including knit and crochet hats and scarves for our Mission Partners as well as prayer shawls and baby blankets.



Mission Sewing is the longest running community service program at House of Hope. Its members have been sewing, quilting, and knitting for over 100 years! They make items for the YWCA's "Women in Transition" program, children in YWCA program, Prior Crossing residents, and made pet beds for the Animal Humane Society.



Volunteers prepared and served over **2,000 meals** at St. Matthew's as a part of the **Loaves and Fishes** Minnesota program.



Our Community Garden produced over **2,000** pounds of organically grown produce for 2023-2024 for food pantries at Neighborhood House and Hallie Q. Brown. Volunteers from the congregation, friends, and neighbors help in the garden.





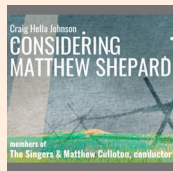
SUNDAY SERIES

House of Hope's Sunday Series invites well-known speakers to discuss key issues of our day and artists to share their artistic engagement with life and faith. Attendance for the following events totaled approximately 3,500 with some of these events reaching capacity registrations.



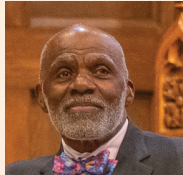
Bestselling author and public policy advocate
Heather McGhee
January 15, 2023

Social Justice Activist, Pioneering Actor, and New York Times bestselling author
George Takei
September 17, 2023



Community Sing with The Singers: Considering Matthew Shepard
Sunday, October 29, 2023

Jurist, Philanthropist, and Athlete
Justice Alan C. Page
January 14, 2024



Community Sing with The Singers: "The Justice Choir Songbook"
January 28, 2024

Bestselling Author, Historian, and Professor
Heather Cox Richardson
March 10, 2024



New York Times bestselling author, award-winning podcast host, and professor
Kate Bowler, Ph.D.
November 3, 2024



Souper Bowl of Caring is a financial collection coordinated by our youth to assist those experiencing food insecurity.



Habitat for Humanity Faith Builders Projects

House of Hope partners with neighboring congregations to help support affordable housing through Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. Our Faith Builders coalition has been supporting Habitat providing financial contributions and volunteers that build or rehab houses.

Great Decisions program

is coordinated by the Foreign Policy Association. Their mission for over 100 years, is to serve as a catalyst for developing awareness, understanding, and informed opinion on U.S. foreign policy and global issues. Great Decisions at House of Hope runs monthly, April through November.



School Supply Drive

House of Hope partnered with Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul for their School Tools School Supply Drive in 2023 and 2024.



House of Hope congregants participated in the fall **"Presbyterians4NAMI"**

to help bring Minnesota's National Alliance on Mental Illness closer to our goal of "Mental Health for All." Friends and family walked with our Presbytery's Disability Concerns Ministry.



Christmas Sponsor-A-Family



The Beacon Interfaith Housing Group of the Peace and Justice Committee and Mission Outreach Committee coordinated **Winter Clothing Drives** and received an amazing bounty of warm clothes for our neighbors. Donations were shared with Prior Crossing, Ujamaa Place, Neighborhood House, Ain Dah Yung, Project for Pride in Living, and Harding High School.



Mardi Gras Celebration Chili Cook-Off





Women's Retreats:

April 28-30, 2023

Poetry and Restoration with Julia Carlson

April 26-28, 2024

Reviving Our Matriarchs with Erica Schemper

Men's Retreats:

February 3-4, 2023

Shared Stories with Phillip Romine

April 12-13, 2024

Using Gifts of Time and Talent
with Richard Matson



Rally Sunday



THE DIDIER SEMINAR

This seminar is dedicated to spiritual growth through the best comprehensive thinking in religion, the arts, letters and science. We seek to present inspiring and acknowledged leaders in their various fields.

2023

Rev. Paul Brandeis Raushenbush

Building the Multi-faith Future: Freedom of Religion in a Democracy

Also participating: The Honorable Paul Anderson and Dr. Piercarlo Valdezso



2024

Stephen J Patterson PhD and Elizabeth Schrader Polczer PhD

Recovering Lost Voices from Early Christianity



Summer Carillon Recital Series

The 2023 Series celebrated the centennial of the House of Hope Noyes Memorial Carillon. Dedicated on November 4, 1923 in memory of House of Hope trustee Charles Phelps Noyes by carillonneur E. M. Michiels, the 28-bell instrument was cast by the Michiels foundry of Tournai, Belgium. In celebration of the centennial year of the carillon, the Summer Carillon Recital Series ran through the months of July and August.



The 2024 Summer Carillon Recital Series celebrated its 30th Anniversary featuring guest carillonneurs as well as House of Hope's Carillonneur Timothy Short and Carillonneur Emeritus David Johnson.

Neighborhood Puppet Show



Blessing of the Animals



National Night Out

A neighborhood tradition at House of Hope, we celebrated our 10th in 2024.



Carols and Christmas Cheer Open House



As we bid farewell to Rev. Dr. Scott and Gail Kenefake, we are grateful for their presence for the past several years. With Scott's leadership and guidance, our congregation came together to complete the HVAC project, launch the Bright Hope for Tomorrow

Capital Campaign, and strengthen connections with the neighborhood and wider community. Gail has been a steady presence at worship, events, and in our children's programs.

Lynn Stein, Clerk of Session

Adult Ministries

Adult Education offered various 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.

Sunday Enrichment Hour takes place after worship offering a variety of topics.

HOH women gather at **Sunday-Weekday Connections** to listen to a congregation member about their life and faith journeys allowing us then know them on a deeper level.



2023 England Pilgrimage:

Bath - London and Beyond



2024 Scotland Pilgrimage

"... And I allowed myself to be astonished by the great everywhere calling to me like an old and unspoken invitation ..."

"Twice Blessed" by David Whyte

Twice each week, members and friends of House of Hope gathered for **Centering Prayer**, a practice of the continual letting go of our own thoughts and agendas to listen for God in silence.

House of Hope Cares



House of Hope's **Stephen Ministry** program is a one-to-one lay caring ministry that 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.



Children, Youth and Family Ministry



The after-effects of COVID have had long term affects for children and youth across the board. Happily the children, youth and families of HOH are finding their groove again. A new "Emerging Adults" group has formed for young adults that are recently out of high school or college. With this growing energy, we're looking forward to new opportunities that continue to foster faith for the next generation and support our families.



The House of Hope Presbyterian Church

797 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105
(651) 227-6311 | hohchurch.org

Total membership at the beginning of 2023: **1,176**

Persons received into membership: **33**

Members transferred, deaths, or other losses: **49**

Total membership at the conclusion of 2024: **1160**

2023 - 2024 Baptisms:

Grayson Bergstrom	Liv Scaletta
Emilia Atmore Castracani	Lucas Suszynski
Victoria Atmore Castracani	Evan Suszynski
Perry Johnston	Addison Suszynski
Logan Jones	William Thomas
Julia Lauermann	Ian Yauch

We entrust to God's eternal care the following members who passed away in 2023 - 2024:

Prudence Ahrens	Margorie Hollingsworth
Karina Allen	Florence Johnson
Dale Anderberg	Jean Helen Kinsey
Virginia Bailey	Miriam Lay
Walter Bailey	Winston Mahar
Virginia Baker	Bruce Merritt
Silvey Barge	Sally Nelson
Diana Brainard	Suzanne PeKarna
Barbara Chopp	Leon Sawicki
William Covington	William Smith
Ann Esta Doty	Mary Swanson
Marcia Everson	Robert Thompson
Charles Field	Elizabeth Tiffany
Mary Field	David Tommeraasen
Klaus Freyinger	Robert Wardin
Francis (Dee) Gladish	Richard Wyland

House of Hope's faithful and gifted staff who worked over the years 2023-2024.

Thank you all for your talents and creativity.

Administrative Staff:

Michelle Freyholtz, David Goudzwaard-Vaught, Mike Gibson, Malinda Johnson, Ellen Lewandoski, Mark Schwister, Deborah Tschida

Music Staff:

Sofia Ardalan, Jessica Bandelin, Dr. Matthew Culloton, David Johnson, Dr. Aaron David Miller, Timothy Short

Motet Choir Section Leaders:

Hannah Armstrong, Tyler Berg, Jeff Bipes, Timothy Bruett, Krista Costin, Allison Eckberg, Samuel Eckberg, Bryan Garcia, Melissa Holm-Johansen, Linh Kauffman, Diane Koschak, David Lower, Bill Sales, Sandy Schoenecker

Facility Staff:

Shelley Baumgart, Rodney Beach, Jim Brzezinski, Teresa Merritt, Julie Stanley, Michelle Theisen

Children and Youth Staff:

Ray Dean, Lelia Ellison, Jimmy Hoke, Elsa Kendig, Ava Mayer, Merete Nelson, Quinn Nelson, Kiera Stegall, Ellie VanderHaar

Wedding Coordinator:

Janice Dickinson



LGBTQIA+ Congregation



House of Hope continues to be certified as an **Earth Care Congregation** by the PC(USA).