

Annual Report to the Congregation

January 24, 2016

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Agenda

- I. Members Sign In (See Kendra Bartel)
- II. Opening Prayer
- III. Roll Call
 - a. Establish a Quorum
- IV. Pastor's 2016 Statement
- V. 2015 Congregational Minutes
- VI. Board of Director's Election
- VII. Congregational Packet
 - a. 2016 Proposed Budget
 - b. Board Reports
 - c. Ministry Reports
 - d. Purposed by-law changes
 - a. Change #1
 - b. Change #2
 - c. Change #3
- VIII. Election Results
- IX. Closing Prayer

Pastors report to the Congregation

1. Worship Design Ministry Team had two working retreats to plan services. I want to thank all the team members for their dedication and work throughout the year! I think you've all done an amazing job with design, themes, writings, and planning. We have yet to set team leaders for each area and that will be a goal for 2016.
2. Kept in touch with the BNC throughout the year.
3. Discipleship: I covered all the topics that were suggested at the beginning of the year.
4. I wrote or delegated the writing and distributed the Pastors pen each week of the year.
5. We had board training early in the year and we meet on a monthly basis. We have worked diligently to review finances, pay bill, review insurance policies and other operations of the church. We have tried to be better at reporting and doing work via email.
6. We held Focus Groups during Lent and they went okay but there didn't seem to be much interest in having them another time. The goal was accomplished.
7. Valley Update: I trained two people this year but we are having some complications with distribution. If you have administrative gifts and would like to help with this task please seek me.
8. Continuing Education: I fulfilled my continuing education requirements.
9. Had a meeting with the Listening Teams and the team has begun their interviews. We are hoping to be done with interviews by January.
10. I taught member ship twice during the year which was the goal.

Other areas of ministry

- Attended Interfaith throughout the year
- Attended / Participated in UOP Faith Panel
- Instrumental in leading / planning World AIDS Day
- Attended Worship Reboot Weekly Webinar
- Taught a Clergy Well Being Webinar
- Meeting with Youth Director at UMC Pacific
- Attended The Parliament of World Religions
- Attended and Led Clergy Retreat at Network Gathering
- Serve on Southwest Network Team
- Attended Sacramento and San Joaquin Pride's
- Prayer at City Council Meeting
- Met with Mayor Leadership
- Worked with PACT (People And Congregations Together) Prayer Vigil
- Regular meetings with Bookkeeper / Music Minister
- Clergy Coaching

Respectfully Submitted
Rev Terri

2015 Congregational Meeting Minutes

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday, January 25, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: 1:08 p.m. Opening prayer, Rev. Terri Miller.

BOARD MEMBERS: Rev. Terri Miller, moderator; Tina Robinson, vice moderator; John Reddick, member at large; Kendra Bartel, clerk.

ROLL CALL:

Established quorum 32 present of 57 members.

PASTOR'S 2015 STATEMENT:

Pastor will be reporting on her SMART goals throughout the year. Design, liturgy, music. Musical arts, visual arts, verbal arts, media arts.

Work with BNC and be involved throughout the year.

Discipleship will have people skilled in teaching and want to be a part of discipleship, see Pastor.

Training of potential board.

Each board members NEED TO GIVE SMART GOALS BY MARCH 8, 2015.

Continue with Pastor's Pen.

Continue to work with BOD regarding plan to pay off mortgage of this building.

Discussion of need and/or desire of focus groups. First Sunday, February 1, 2015.

Small group ministries that meet in members' homes.

Valley Update. Lisa Hanley. Wants to train 1 or 2 other people who are willing to work on this.

Continue to attend workshops and my continuing education. February 25, 2015 creating and keeping healthy boundaries.

Teach membership classes at least twice a year and schedule them on the calendar.

Membership class times to be determined.

Plan and direct leadership retreat scheduled by end of February, 2015.

Review and renew these goals in 6 months.

Stages of Grief class.

1. Be faithful to God.
2. Give faithfully. Time, thoughts, talents, treasures.
3. Live faithfully.

Building Mortgage due June 2016 (\$102,000).

Kendra Motion; Lisa seconded; unanimously approved.

2014 CONGREGATIONAL MINUTES: Motion to receive 2014 minutes: Tina motioned; Lisa seconded; unanimously approved.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION: Marilyn prayed for wisdom in the decisions the membership makes.

Candidates: Mari Reddell, Tina Robinson.

CONGREGATIONAL PACKET:

1. 2015 Proposed Budget: no further discussion. Moved to accept budget. 31 approved. 1 no. Moved and passed.
2. Board Reports: moved and seconded approved
3. Ministry Reports:
 - a. Carol La Prade thanked everyone for yarn donation and financial contributions as well as all those that are doing prayer shawls.
 - b. Morgan Carlson thanked all those that donated to the Food Pantry.
 - c. Rev. Gann thanked the Care Team for all they are doing.

Asking for input for any suggestions. Moved and seconded; unanimously approved.

BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE QUESTIONS: There were several questions and a discussion was held regarding the questions/answers. It was decided that there should be a class or classes held regarding the workings of the BNC.

ELECTION RESULTS: Both Mari and Tina are elected to the board. John acknowledged for his 4 years of service.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Tina motioned to close the meeting. John seconded. Unanimously approved. 1:50 p.m.

Purposed Budget for 2016

Board of Directors Report Kendra Bartel

YEAR-END REPORT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CLERK'S REPORT

During this year I was able to achieve most of my SMART Goals. There were some areas where I did not fulfill my obligation as clerk of the board.

I was unable to continue to take the minutes of the board meeting due to the laptop finally passing on to cyber heaven. Gratefully, Tina was able to continue to take the minutes in a very timely and efficient manner. I also missed a board meeting due to illness.

However, I did regularly check in with Pastor regarding any communication/correspondence. I also did all the filing needed. I attended the board's all-board retreats and mini-seminars at Pastor's home. I made sure all notifications and reminders were sent out in a timely fashion as well as the Call to Order for agenda items for the board. I participated in several church functions including the Easter Egg Hunt, pancake breakfast, Stockton Pride, Soup Sunday just to name a few. I closed the church as per my scheduled Sundays and served as backup for other board members whenever necessary.

I am grateful for the experience of serving on the board.

Respectfully submitted,

Kendra Bartel

Clerk

Board of Directors Report Mari Reddell

Mari Reddell - Treasurer - 2015 Year End Report

- 1) Attended all Board Meetings
- 2) Processed Tithing Report and issued checks each month
- 3) Met with Valley Ministry's bookkeeper most months, but corresponded every month.
- 4) Set up new credit card processing with the Square. It is saving Valley Ministry between \$200-\$300 a quarter. It is based on percentage charged. We are going from .08 to .05
- 5) Worked on the Board Fund Raisers.

It has been a challenging and exciting first year for me on the Board. I didn't get to spend as much time in the office as I had originally planned. But going to work full time will do that to the best laid plans.

I would like to work more directly with the finance team this next year.

Regards,

Mari Reddell
Treasurer

Board of Directors Report Tina Robinson

Year End Report

During the year the Board of Directors launched a campaign to pay off the building in an attempt to avoid having to look into a new mortgage. Instead to own the building outright. The board also hosted several fundraisers to further assist reaching that goal. There was also a letter writing campaign launched.

Worked with board members to ensure the business end of the church is operating efficiently as possible every month.

Submitted,
Tina Robinson

BNC Year End Report

BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

January – December 2015

The Board Nominating Committee (BNC) had a productive 2015 year.

Two informational sessions were held, March and August, during Sunday's Discipleship time for the entire congregation. The purpose was to be sure that all members understood the purpose and structure of the BNC and how it functions and supports the Church membership/leadership.

The March presentation covered the basic structure of the BNC, its responsibilities and current committee membership. The responsibilities of a Board Member were covered: managing Church funds and assets, following by-laws/SOPs, and pastoral support. Skills and abilities needed by Board Members and the process for a candidate, including the need to serve in a leadership role, prior to serving on the Board were outlined.

The August presentation reiterated the responsibilities of a Board Member, a detailed explanation of financial documents the Board reviews monthly/yearly and time required when serving on the Board. Current Board Members discussed their current role and experience on the Board. The process for candidacy was covered.

There were Church members contacted personally via notes, emails, meetings, one-on-one contact, phone calls by the BNC... throughout the year. We encouraged prayer, evaluation, meeting attendance, serving ... in preparation for applying for the Board of Directors.

The BNC also had a meeting with Rev. Terri in June to discuss the need to get a unified vision and ideas to increase overall church membership participation.

There were 5 applications submitted for the 2015 election and 4 applications for the 2016 election.

Your Board Nominating Committee is here to support our current leaders and assist in preparing our upcoming leaders. We request your prayers in this process.

Responding to God's call,

Nancy D. Baca

BNC Chair

(Members: Annette Novotny, Marilyn Miller)

Food Pantry

Our group has changed a lot this year, with Morgan leaving in February and Mari going to work full time in Sacramento. Lynette has assisted in the pantry, when she was available and Annie made, distributed sandwiches and evangelized to the homeless in the encampment. Mari & Bill continue to pick up the bread at Cottage Bakery in Lodi, stock the food pantry with said bread, and take overfill to Hammer Lane Village an income adjusted housing for seniors in Stockton. Kendra has been a rock, she has adjusted as needed to fill all roles. Specifically when Mari was not able to get off work on Wednesday. Bill assists with the heavy lifting and organization.

Noelle has done a tremendous job getting hot casseroles lined up on Sunday. Denny with the help of a friend John has taken those meals out to the encampment.

All of this continues to happen through the generosity of our congregants, who always rally the troops when needed. We would like to have a few more volunteers, especially someone to pick up bread in Lodi and deliver.

Sincerely,

Mari Reddell

Food Closet	Bags	Hygeine Packs	Wed Sandwiches
Dec	11	2	54
Jan	25	3	47
Feb	36	5	106
Mar	36	7	162
Apr	41	19	126
May	52	13	182
Jun	53	16	107
Jul	71	11	126

Aug	30	2	27
Sep	37	9	150
Oct	41	4	24
Nov	43	2	30

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry shows tangible evidence of our prayers for individuals for whom they are given and also is another way of giving them hope. This ministry is a very important part of our Church's effort to reach out and make a difference in our communities near and far.

At the beginning of the year (and every year) our goals are:

- 1. To have enough prayer shawls that when one is requested, we have one available at all times:** . At the end of November 2015 the Team produced 136 Prayer Shawls which is 48 more than 2014. **This goal has been met.**
- 2. To recruit additional people for crocheting or knitting prayer shawls:** Leslie Costa, from my Cancer Support Group, has and is still willing to help when our inventory becomes low. Annette, Katherine, Diana, Jane, Amanda, Charlene, Glenda's granddaughter joined our team in the past year. There were also 7 anonymously donated to our cause.. **The Prayer Shawl Ministry has become more successful than what was expected in the beginning. This goal has been met.**
- 3. To receive donations of yarn and/or money:** The ministry has received a few donations of yarn from a few people. I have a room full of yarn which is available for anyone who wishes to donate their time to make shawls. The ministry has also received \$195.00 in monetary donations which have been used to purchase yarn. **This goal has been met.**

The goals for 2016 are not any different from those enumerated above.

We will continue to accept any donations given to us for the express purpose of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. All donations are very much appreciated. No donation is too small. Thus far we have not had to go to the board to help support our ministry.

Respectfully submitted

Carol LaPrade

Music Ministry

Music Department 2015 Year-End Report

When reflecting upon 2015, and the music department, two closely-related words resound: commitment and faithfulness.

I am constantly astounded, amazed and grateful for the commitment and faithfulness I find in the music department members, week after week, month after month here at Valley Ministries. The praise team continues to be the same committed individuals (except for a couple) that were here when I first started at Valley Ministries in July 2014. We have added a new praise singer (Joanne); our drummer (Princess), due to circumstances and health, has had to relocate further away from our church site, yet she is still faithful to attend and offer her gifts when she can.

Kellie continues to be my right-hand gal! She is faithful not only every Sunday (she only missed a few Sundays due to a health problem), but she faithfully attends every Wednesday to rehearse. The team members are faithful to let me know in advance the Sundays they will not be able to attend, and when circumstances suddenly come up, they let someone know of their absence... this is very much appreciated!

In last year's report I shared the unique challenge I faced in leading music at VMMCC: most songs were charted either too high for the praise team, or too low for me to lead, so I had to write a new chord chart for about 95% of songs that we have sing here. I reported that in 2014, I re-charted about 65 songs. In 2015, I charted or re-charted about 70 more songs.

More points:

- The praise team normally meets for an extended rehearsal after the church service twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.
- Beginning in early October, we started rehearsing for the upcoming Christmas music service to be held later this month (the Sunday School department will also be part of this service).
- The praise team participated at Stockton Pride, in August 2015. The reports were overwhelmingly positive!
- The praise team participated in the Worlds AIDs Day Interfaith Service, December 1, 2015 at Morris Chapel, University of the Pacific, representing Valley Ministries.
- On Wednesdays early, I have been meeting with Kellie (and sometimes Princess in the earlier part of the year) to rehearse the upcoming Sunday's selections.
- Kellie had been writing some awesome praise songs this year.
- Every week, I try to have the songs selected by Wednesday to notify the praise team.
- I attempt to have the PowerPoint presentation ready by Wednesday prior to Sunday.

I eagerly look forward to what God has for us, and to God's incredible moving and direction in 2015!

Blessings,
Louis Ramirez
Minister of Music

2015 Year-End Report

2015 has been a challenging year for VMCC media volunteers. They are short-staffed, but still have managed to represent and be in place every Sunday, at times taking both roles on soundboard and PowerPoint presentation.

Our lead soundperson, Raelene was able to lead us through the end of 2014 and the start of 2015, but she has continued to face health challenges, and thusly, has been unable to lead and participate in the 2nd half of this year. However, other members of the volunteer staff, most of whom Raelene trained, are stepping up to make sure this desk is covered.

Our PowerPoint team saw two new members this year, Katherine, and Tina, who have brought much-needed relief to the team.

Thus far our teams consist of: Heather, Lisa, Joanne, Debbie, Tina L., Katherine, and Tina R. Kellie continues to give her expertise when needed (which unfortunately with our aging soundboard, is too often).

Marissa and Matt are faithful to team up to videotape the weekly sermons that are added to the VMCC webpage.

2016

We plan to bring some training to both the sound team and the PPT team in early 2016. And we pray that more VMCC attendees will see the need and volunteer for one of these teams. Please see Louis Ramirez if interested...again, training can be provided, you just need the willingness...like that chorus we sing, "I'll say, Yes, God, Yes!"

Blessings,
Louis Ramirez
Minister of Music

Lay Delegate

It has been a busy year for Metropolitan Community Churches. This year MCC has been gearing up for the historic 2016 General Conference, where a new Moderator will be voted in, to replace current Moderator, Rev. Elder Dr. Nancy Wilson, who will be celebrating her retirement at the July 2016's General Conference.

May 6-7, 2015 there was a Special Virtual General Conference to vote to affirm seven Elders for MCC. In April, I held a discipleship class, where I delivered a presentation providing information on MCC, and more specifically the seven nominated Elders. As Lay Delegate, it is my responsibility to represent the Valley Ministries, MCC congregation when voting at General Conference, and it was important for me to give our members the opportunity to provide input.

The seven Elders affirmed were: Rev. Ines-Paul Baumann, Rev. Pat Bumgardner, Rev. Tony Freeman, Rev. Dwayne Johnson, Nancy Maxwell, J.D., LL.M., Rev. Margarita Sánchez De León and Rev. Dr. Candace Shultis.

On the first Sunday of November, I presented a trifold display advertising 2016 General Conference, and reminded the congregation that it will be held Monday, 4 July – Friday, 8 July 2016 at the Fairmont Empress hotel in Victoria, B.C. Canada. Early Bird Registration will be open until March 31, 2016. April 1, 2016, prices will increase from \$375.00 to \$450.00. I will continue to promote General Conference during announcements on the first Sunday of each month.

Once the Moderator candidates are announced, the Moderator Nominating Committee plans to launch candidate webpages and interactive forums. I will continue to provide election information as we get closer to conference. I welcome all input from the congregation. I want to make certain that I am representing Valley Ministries; and I can only do that with your input.

I am hoping to see you all at the 2016 General Conference in Victoria, B.C. Canada in July!

Respectfully submitted,

Marnie Osborne

Homeless Backpack Ministry

BACKPACK MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Once again this year there have been many items donated so that the homeless backpack ministry can continue. For those who aren't familiar items such as socks, combs, deodorant, toothpaste and brushes, soap, shampoo, lotion, a hat, paper and pencil, a bible, and a brochure written by pastor are placed in bags or backpacks and available for anyone who wishes to keep a few in their car to give to someone in need. Its an easy way to spread God's love and lift someone's spirits. During 2015 200 backpacks have been distributed, and the year isn't over yet! Thank to all who have donated and distributed backpacks. And thanks in advance to those who will donate and participate next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Danielson

Web Page Ministry

Kellie Husted

November 23, 2015

I am reporting that since our website was updated and moved to its new servers with the help of Morgan Carlson in 2014, we have had no problems with it to date.

I had to do some uploading of documents needing to be available for the public to download per Pastors instructions.

I added some pictures to the front page slider announcements.

Helped ministry members access the Intranet membership backend because of loss of access on their part.

I have updated the Word press software that is required to operate site when updates are available.

I update the plug-ins also when updates are available to keep functions operating smoothly.

There have been no other substantial changes done to website.

Suggestions:

Some team members are needed to help make and update the front slider with monthly or seasonal announcements as they are needed because the site needs monthly up keep in those areas to keep it new and ever changing for its viewers.

Experience:

They must have some minimal experience with Photo software editing with text over image work and cropping and resizing of images. These can be done on their home computers and emailed to me for insertion into site.

No other suggestions at this time...

<http://www.vmmcc.org>

Youth Ministry

Gail Naughton

I am the Youth Ministry leader. Since August of 2015 we have had five (5) exceptional teachers working with our youth three Sundays each month. We did not hold classes during June or July because most of our teachers and students are not available during these months. This year our children will participate in the Christmas program by singing with the Music Ministry.

Our goals for 2016 are to:

- recruit more teachers (one more teacher will be joining us in January 2016).
- motivate families to attend services with their children on a regular basis so their children can participate in Sunday school.
- participate in one or two additional programs (Easter and one other to be determined).
- participate in the Sunday services on a regular basis (reading the scriptures, short skits, etc.).

I have enjoyed serving Valley Ministries in the capacity as Youth Ministry leader and look forward to another year with my awesome staff and students.

Respectfully submitted by Gail Naughton

Worship Design Team Ministry

Year End Report

The worship design team is comprised of 5 areas of worship, musical arts, verbal arts, visual arts, media arts and dramatic arts.

Musical Arts - Planning music for worship is about much more than just choosing repertoire! Music plays a very important role in the “feel” and “flow” of the service.

Verbal Arts – Planning the verbal part of worship other than the peaching is important work. It involves making a shift from thinking from words versus visuals and action to verbal forms. Words are or can be conduits of images and movements as ritual artists the verbal arts teams incorporates storytelling and uses senses in words to communicate.

Visual Arts – The visual arts are what you see as we transform our space. I hope you have noticed a shift this year in our worship around the texture of worship.

Media Arts – The use of PowerPoints, YouTube and other media are key element in worship and we have used that many times during the year to enhance our worship.

Dramatic Arts – Planning for skits, plays and even reader’s theater is an amazing gift we can offer in worship. The dramatic arts is something we would like to improve upon in the coming year.

One of the greatest joys I get is in planning worship that is meaningful and powerful. I am thankful for the Worship Design Team because they are the people who vision with me to create this type of worship! I believe this year was one of our best years of designing and planning worship for the year.

The Worship Design Team meets for planning retreat two times a year and has other planning meetings throughout the year.

If you have gifts in any one of the above areas we would love for you to join us as we plan worship together. Our planning meeting will be Saturday January 17th. Please see Rev Terri or Amanda for details.

Altar Guild Ministry

ALTAR GUILD

During this past year the Altar Guild readied the altar for Sunday services. We also made sure the goblets, plates or bowls used during communion were cleaned and made ready for the next Sunday service. We also kept Pastor informed when supplies were needed to be ordered.

This year we were blessed with a few new trainees who were willing to step up and learn how to set up the altar as well as clean up the altar after service. They will be ready to step up and serve in 2016.

It is an honor and a pleasure to serve in this guild.

Respectfully submitted,

Kendra Bartel

Care Team Ministries

Valley Ministries MCC Care Team Report for 2015

The Care Team of VMMCC works to reach out to the attendees, friends, and members of the church. Our main goal is to reach out to our folks who are in need whether it is spiritual, emotional or physical. Prayer, love and listening are our main goals in reaching out to you all. The lay members of the Care Team are Kelly Farrens, Kendra Bartel, Leslie Vaughn, Debbie Rushed, Jo Scott, and Marilyn Miller. These team members make ten to fifteen calls per week, depending on needs of the people, to pray for and to support those who are struggling in some way. Each week a different team member is responsible for contacting those in need, and that team member will relay the needs to the team and to Pastor Terri and Rev Gann. Weekly reports are sent to each team member and pastors, and these reports show who was contacted and who needs follow up. We have training sessions to increase and improve our care giving skills. In the first quarter 2016, we will be meeting to discern new ways to reach people. The team members support each other as well. As the pastoral support for the team and the church/community, I make calls, send text/email messages, and visits to the folks as well.

The Care Team is a support group for our church and community members. We want to be of service when folks are going through difficult times. Whether it is a prayer, listening, or a hospital visit, our sincerest desire is to provide the support you need to make it through the difficult times. We can only do our job if you communicate your needs. The team members are bound by confidentiality agreements, so if you desire privacy, your privacy is honored. The information you give is only shared with the team and pastors for support and follow up. However, bear in mind that others in this Body of Christ are true prayer warriors so if possible, it is a true blessing to have the prayers of others. While we plan to continue our care, I am asking you to talk to me if there is anything we need to consider adding or changing. All requests will be considered, and I will follow up with you about your concerns and requests.

I would like to give thanks to the Care Team members for their dedicated and compassionate service. Even when they themselves were having difficult times, they remained fervent in their support and prayers for our people. Well done good and faithful servants!

God bless you all,
Rev. N. Gann
Volunteer Staff Clergy

Fundraising Ministry

Despite not having a defined chairperson members of the church came together to ensure success in both Summer pride festivals. The board of directors hosted a few fundraisers this year as well as a fundraiser chaired by Lisa Hanley. There is currently two ongoing fundraisers chaired by Charlene Jurian. Spread the word bracelets, and member made necklaces.

The fundraising team is still in need of a chair and a strong team to host more fundraisers.

Submitted,
Tina Robinson

Stewardship Ministry

STEWARDSHIP LEADER'S REPORT

This was my second year as stewardship leader. I have lost three counters this year which was a struggle, I would like to thank Kendra Bartel for picking up some of that slack. I was unable to find counters to take their place.

My accomplishments for 2015 are:

- I continue to continuously improve the excel spreadsheet that I made to add up the monthly tithes per member and the spreadsheet that shows the members monthly pledge January thru December. So at a glance you can see where they are in comparison to their yearly pledge.
- I sent a quarterly copy of this spreadsheet to the Pastor.
- I sent out letters in July to thank the fellowship for their tithes.
- I set up a bulletin that has a monthly verse, a fun bible fact, and one graph that shows fundraising efforts and a graph that shows our monthly tithing in comparison to our budget.
- I sent out 2016 pledge cards to our fellowship.
- I continue to search the internet for info to improve my stewardship.
- I updated the Valley Ministries Church counting procedures and filled out a sample money work sheet so my counters would all be consistent.
- I created a yearly spreadsheet for what days members count.

My goals for 2016 are:

- I will continue to update the excel spreadsheets that I provide the Pastor and financial committee
- I will continue the tithing bulletin thru the year of 2016.
- I will send out thank you cards to the fellowship for their tithes. This will be completed in July
- I will be training four new members to be counters.

- I will continue to ask members to join the counting team thru the year.

I have felt honored to be your Stewardship Leader.

Blessings in Christ!

Debbie Rushed

Building Ministry

Facility Manager Report 2015

During the past year, I was ill and was not able to be at church or participate in the facility responsibilities. During that time Pastor Terri stepped up and made sure that what needed to be done actually got done. There were several incidents of fence cutting and cutting off locks on the recycle cage. Four police reports were filed over the phone for these incidents.

Denny has been living on the premises for the past year to discourage vandalism and that seems to have helped immensely. Our agreement is that he can stay in his camp trailer that is in the parking lot in trade for working around the church and grounds on Wednesdays and security of parking lot and street parking areas on Sundays. He also will do extra jobs on the grounds during the week.

On Wednesdays, a group of people go to the church to clean, fellowship and have lunch. Without this group, it would be impossible to have clean bathrooms, clean floors etc. I want to thank everyone who has been a part of the Wednesday team.

Thanks to Marsha, all of the can and bottle recycle gets taken in and accounted for. If you don't already bring your recycle in, please bring it and put it by the cage in the back of the church and we will make sure it gets put inside of the cage.

Thanks to Janice and Phyllis, the rose bushes are pruned and kept on a regular basis and considering the water rations, are looking good.

If your interested in helping on Wednesdays, just show up. Someone is usually at the church from 11am until 3pm or come talk to me for more inf.

Respectively Submitted Leslie Vaughn

Welcome Ministry

Year End Report 2015 - Welcome Team

We have a wonderful team of people who serve on the welcome team. The welcome team is usually the first imprint on new visitors and thus very important. The team of volunteers is a valuable addition to ministry that is done here.

The responsibilities of the team are:

Show up at least 20 minutes before service

Hand out bulletins

Welcome Packets

Direct visitors and inform them of restroom locations and coffee

Help during Offering and Communion

Visitor packets are made up and distributed to first time visitors. The packet includes business card, note from the pastor, tri-fold information sheet, and a pin.

The Welcome Team is always looking for those who have the gift of hospitality to join our team. Can you remember how you felt when you walked into church for the very first time? Was it a good experience or did no one talk to you? We strive to be known as a true “Church Alive” that brings hospitality.

If you’re looking for some way to get involved and you have this gift; please see any of the Welcome Team members to become part of the team.

In Christ we serve,

Marilyn K. Miller

Purposed By Law Changes

Purposed Change #1

Current approved by-laws read

407 2. TERMS OF OFFICE – Under provisions of UFMCC By-Laws, the Valley
408 Ministries Metropolitan Community Church Board shall, in addition to the
409 Pastor/pastoral leader, consist of five (5) members duly elected by ballot as specified
410 within these by-laws.

Purposed changed by-laws to read (Actual changes in bold and underlined)

407 2. TERMS OF OFFICE – Under provisions of UFMCC By-Laws, the Valley
408 Ministries Metropolitan Community Church Board shall, in addition to the
409 Pastor/pastoral leader, consist of **up to** five (5) members duly elected by ballot as
410 specified within these by-laws.

Change purposed by the Board of Directors

The reason for this change is to generate a sense of being a complete and effective board while at times operating with less than five people.

Purposed Change #2

Current approved by-laws read

416 3. ELECTION OF OFFICE – The pastor will appoint a Board Nominating
417 Committee (BNC) which will consist of at least three VMMCC members in good
418 standing. The BNC will recommend candidates for open board positions.

Purposed changed by-laws to read (Actual changes are bold and underlined)

416 3. ELECTION OF OFFICE – The pastor will appoint **with the approval of the**
417 **Board of Directors** a Board Nominating Committee (BNC) which will consist of at
418 least three VMMCC members in good standing. The BNC will recommend candidates
419 for open board positions.

Change purposed by the Board of Directors

The reason this change is purposed is that as we grow we need a more supportive process by which the Board of Directors is gaining members to work toward advancing the business of the church.

Purposed Change #3

Current approved by-laws read

313. 1. ANNUAL MEETINGS - A minimum of one congregational business meeting
314. must be held annually. A minimum of 25 days notice shall be given to all members in
315. writing prior to such meetings. In order to transact official business, a congregational
316. meeting must have a minimum of twenty-five (25) percent of its active membership
317. physically present. With prior approval, others may attend via telecommunication or
318. electronic attendance.

Purposed changed by-laws to read (Actual changes in bold and underlined)

313. 1. ANNUAL MEETINGS - A minimum of one congregational business meeting
314. must be held annually. A minimum of 25 days notice shall be given to all members in
315. writing prior to such meetings. In order to transact official business, a congregational
316. meeting must have a minimum of twenty-five (25) percent of its active membership
317. physically present. With prior approval, **from the Board of Directors a member in good standing who is faced with an emergency, may request an absentee ballot. That absentee ballot will be provided by the clerk of the board. The absentee ballot shall allow the member to vote on any items, or elections contained in the congregational packet. The absentee ballot must be completed placed back in the envelope provided, sealed and given to the clerk of the board in advance of the congregational meeting. The member understands that their vote will be counted as written regardless of any discussion, or changes made at the congregational meetings. Members, with prior approval may attend via telecommunication or electronic attendance, allowing them to participate in discussion and vote on any items brought before the congregation. In the event of a confidential vote this member will call in to the non-members counting the ballots during the time of that election. Only members physically present or electronically present can be counted as the 25% required to conduct business.**

Change purposed by the Board of Directors

This change is purposed in order to allow for members in good standing who have an emergency arise to be able to have a vote in the governance of the church.

Board of Directors Applicant Recommendation

Valley Ministries
Board Member Election
January 24, 2016

Your Board Nominating Committee (BNC) comprised of Nancy Baca, Annette Novotny, and Marilyn Miller are excited to place into nomination the following two candidates, each for two year terms, from January 2016 through January 2018. Each candidate has been completely vetted by the BNC utilizing an application, Spiritual Gifts evaluation and an extensive interview. Each candidate is supported 100% by every member of the BNC and each has made a commitment to serve a 2 year term on the Board. We have included a synopsis of their information rather than a full application, because we now place the Congregational Packet on the web, and do not want to disclose personal information. All members are encouraged to talk with each candidate, ask additional questions and be prepared for a Congregational Vote on January 24th. We recommend and encourage a YES vote for each of these candidates.

- Leslie Vaughn: In the past Leslie was on the Board for 3½ years and served as our Facilities Manager until illness impaired her activity. She has hosted/led Lenten studies and Care groups. Leslie is currently active with the Worship Design team along with some Fundraising activity/support. We encourage that Leslie be elected to the Board to a two-year term.
- Pam Baca: Pam has been active for many years in various areas such as Children's Ministry, Prayer Team, Counting Money, Missions... She provides administrative support to Pastor by editing the Pastor's Pen, Devotion Book... In the past she volunteered and assisted the Board by doing Minutes, Agendas...and was our Lay Delegate for 6 years. She also currently "handles" the weekly Attendance Sheets. We encourage that Pam be elected to the Board to a two-year term.

We also had two additional applicants that will be fulfilling their 6 months Membership qualifications and getting actively involved in church leadership responsibilities during the coming months.

Respectfully submitted,
Board Nominating Committee:
Nancy Baca (chair), Annette Novotny, Marilyn Miller