

HUFF'S CHURCH CHATTER



NOVEMBER, 2021

Church Address: 540 Conrad Rd., Alburdis, 18011
Church office: 610-845-2626 Church & Chapel: 610-845-2541
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MISSION STATEMENT

We, the members of Huff's Union Church, desiring to be blessed together with Word and Sacrament and to become evermore the Body of Christ in our world, do hereby commit ourselves to a ministry which includes increasingly meaningful worship, creative Christian Education, intentional witnessing, dedicated service, and responsible support.

Huff's slogan: Making Disciples: Inside and Out. UCC slogan: God is still speaking. ELCA slogan: God's work, our hands.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

We will worship here at Huff's Union Church on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 24, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. with our Christian brothers and sisters from St. Peter's Church. If you attend, please wear a mask for the health and safety of everyone.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation classes are meeting the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of every month following the 10:30 a.m. worship service in the lower level of the church.

ALL SAINTS' WORSHIP

On Sunday, November 7, 2021, at both our 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services, we will remember those members of our congregation who have died since our last All Saints' Day Service. Each person who has died will have a candle lit for them during the worship service as their name is read. Families will be invited to take home the candle after the worship service.

LOOKING AHEAD

On **Christmas Eve**, December 24, 2021, we will have a candlelight and communion service at both 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. We will also have our online service.

We will celebrate the **Langschwammer Nei Yaahrs Wunsch** at the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 9, 2022.

YOUTH GROUP

Huff's Union Church Youth have been invited to join with Palm Schwenkfelder Church's Youth Group in their activities. The youth group director is Heather Harris, who has a master's degree in education and is the Director of Christian Education at Palm Schwenkfelder.

For November, we are planning to have a bonfire on the Palm Church property. For that we are thinking about Friday, November 12, 2021. We will have more details at a later date or on eBlast. If you are interested in joining in the fun as a youth or helping as an adult, please contact Lisa Kauffman 610-413-9283 or kauffmanschildcare@msn.com.

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR NOVEMBER

The special offering opportunity for November is the ELCA Disaster Relief Fund. This fund enables the ELCA to respond to any national or international disaster and to remain involved with people in that area after the tragedy.

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

GIVE THANKS WITH A GRATEFUL HEART

So, what are you grateful for this year? Grateful that so far we've made it through Covid? Grateful for a job? A home? A family? Friends? Your health? Are you grateful just to be alive? Are you grateful for things in daily life slowly returning to a sense of normal and a church life slowly returning?

For all these things and more, how will you give thanks to God? Maybe make a donation to the Allentown Mission to feed others a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner? Donate to the food bank? Give money and or time to one of the many organizations that is helping people rebuild their lives after all the devastating weather we've had? Find a way to help those in other countries who are struggling right now?

How will you give thanks to God? Maybe you can care for the creation and critters in your own back yard and neighborhood? Or give thanks to the plants and animals that will help to feed you through the coming year? Or support the organizations that care for creation?

How can you give thanks and make a difference? God reminds us over and over again that we are all connected and interconnected with each other and with our world. When God blessed Abraham, it was so that he could be a blessing to all the nations. We are blessed to be a blessing. How can we live that out in our daily lives? How can we be a blessing to others?

During this season of giving thanks, I invite you to explore all the ways that you can show and share your gratitude. Be a blessing to God and to the world!

Pastor Jennifer

MINISTRIES WITH SENIORS

The East Berks Mission District of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod is hoping to start a new joint ministry between the churches that will focus on the senior members of our congregations. (Think youth group for seniors.) This will be a lay-led ministry that will help churches connect with each other for shared programs, activities and other ministry opportunities. If this sounds interesting to you and you would like to get involved, contact Pastor Jennifer and she will put you in touch with the organizers.

APPLE DUMPLINGS

Skeeter and Elaine Crump have informed the church that they are moving out of the area. As a result, we are losing our Apple Dumpling Fundraiser Coordinator. Anyone who is interested in leading this popular and profitable fundraiser should contact the church office or Martin Kriebel. Skeeter did leave a playbook of the fundraiser, which includes the recipe and other helpful information.

SMALL BIBLE STUDY GROUP



The Small Bible Study Group will meet on Saturday, November 20, 2021, in the Church at 10:30 a.m. Come with your Bible. If you'd like to stay for lunch, please feel free to bring something to share and eat with us from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

HUFF'S CHURCH AUXILIARY

The Huff's Church Auxiliary will meet on Monday, November 15, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel. Everyone is welcome to be part of this ministry of Huff's Church.

NEW FLORIST AT HUFFS UNION CHURCH

At the end of October, Trexler Florists will be closing their doors as they retire. As a result, we have made arrangements with the Macungie Posey Patch to provide altar flowers for our church services and special occasions. The cost will remain at \$31 for the altar arrangement. We encourage you to sponsor flowers to mark special family occasions by signing the altar flower list on the upper-level bulletin board or by calling the church office at 610-845-2626.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Food donations from the congregation continue to increase and fill our new pantry cabinet. 205 items were boxed up and delivered to Boyertown Multi-Services recently by volunteers Sue and Bob Stockdale and Elvin Keiser. Thank you to all who support this endeavor.

CHURCH FAMILY

FUNERALS

Please pray for the family and friends of Lou Hein, who passed away on September 15, 2021.

Please pray for the family and friends of Melvin Greiss, who passed away on October 3, 2021.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

We are honoring our members who celebrate their 80th birthday or older and also honoring those members who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary or more. Please let us know if we missed anyone.

Birthdays

11/15 - Roy Bitting	11/18 - Jean Norris
11/28 - Shirley Fluck	11/29 - Don Heimbach
11/29 - Joyce Diehl	11/29 - Judith Barnes

Wedding Anniversary

11/1 - John & Kathy Moll

Financial Report

	Sept 2021 Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance	Annual Budget
Giving	8,923	102,875	132,126	(29,251)	180,845
All other income	8,799	52,720	43,196	9,524	47,595
Total income	17,722	155,595	175,323	(19,727)	228,440
Expenses	18,878	182,849	211,590	(28,741)	291,369
Operating income (loss)	(1,156)	(27,254)	(36,267)	9,014	(62,929)
Transfers from Investments	5,250	52,500	47,250	5,250	63,000
Net income (loss)	4,094	25,246	10,983	14,264	71

Balance Sheet

	9/30/21	8/31/21	12/31/20
Designated funds	109,237	116,918	107,283
General funds	19,530	25,824	14,896
Sunday School CDs	4,378	4,378	4,373
Total assets (a)	133,145	147,119	126,552

(a) excludes investments managed by Youngs

Red Poinsettias will again adorn the Nave of the Church for our Christmas Worship Services. If you would like to order a plant(s), please complete the order form and along with payment give or mail to Robin Diehl at 50 Eric Lane, Alburdis, PA 18011, OR put it in an envelope marked POINSETTIAS and place in the offering plate. Please make checks payable to HUFF'S UNION CHURCH. Orders must be received by December 5, 2021. Cost is \$10.00 per plant.



NAME: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

NUMBER OF PLANTS: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

1

10/18/21 PROPOSAL TO CONGREGATION-MISSION-ENDOWMENT FUND POLICY

NOTES: Much of this proposal includes wording from 2009 original document approved by Congregation. Wording is added or updated for consistency with proposed new Union Constitution and Bylaws. Bold italics are explanations and will not be part of the final document.

Mission Endowment Fund of Huff's Union Church Inc.

Purpose: The Huff's Union Church Inc Mission Endowment Fund purpose is to enhance the mission outreach of this Congregation beyond the general operations. The Huff's Union Church Council has the right to decline any gift due to its inappropriateness, restrictions placed upon it or potential financial or legal liability to this Congregation.

The Mission Endowment Committee on behalf of Council, shall be the custodian of the Mission Endowment Fund to oversee the management of the invested funds and monitor the distributions from the Mission Endowment Fund in compliance with the approved distribution procedures, and in accordance with the purposes and distribution policy.

The Mission Endowment Committee serves as the designated representatives of Council and shall comply with all procedures and financial requirements for Groups as outlined in Huff's Union Church Inc Constitution and Bylaws unless addressed specifically in this policy.

1. Organization of the Mission Endowment Committee

a. Committee Membership and Terms. Mission Endowment Fund Committee shall consist of 5 members who shall be appointed by Council based upon nominations submitted by the Executive Committee of Council and the sitting members of the Mission Endowment Committee. The President and Lead Pastor or their designees shall be ex officio members of this Committee with voice but no vote.

1) Qualifications. All members shall be Active members of this Congregation for a minimum of 6 months, at least 18 years of age, and cannot be from the same household or have a parent (in-law)/child relationship with another Committee member.

2) Terms. Members shall serve staggered 3-year terms. Each member may serve two consecutive 3-year terms and after a lapse of one year may be reappointed.

3) Vacancy. In the event of a committee member vacancy, the Executive Committee of Church Council with the advice of sitting members of the Mission Endowment Committee shall nominate a replacement to be appointed by Council to complete the term vacated. At the fulfillment of that term the individual may be appointed to serve a maximum of two 3 year terms and after a lapse of one year may be reappointed.

b. Officers:

1) The Committee shall elect a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Officers shall be Active members of this Congregation for a minimum of 1 year.

2) The term of an Officer is one year to coincide with the calendar year. An Officer may serve up to 6 consecutive terms and after a lapse of one year is eligible for reelection.

3) In the event of an Officer vacancy, the Committee shall elect a replacement to complete the remainder of the term. At the fulfillment of that term the individual may be reelected to serve a maximum of 6 consecutive terms and after a lapse of one year is eligible for reelection.

2

10/18/21 PROPOSAL TO CONGREGATION-MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND POLICY

c. Meetings and Quorum. The Mission Endowment Committee shall meet at least twice each year to review the investments, or more frequently as deemed necessary. Meetings shall be closed meetings attended only by ex officio and Committee members unless invited by the Committee Chair for an agreed time period or presentation.

A quorum shall consist of 3 voting members.

Approval of any matter shall be a majority of the votes cast at a meeting.

2. Reporting. The Mission Endowment Committee shall report at least twice each year to the Council and shall render a full and complete audited account of the administration of the Fund for the year preceding in the Annual Report.

3. Mission Endowment Fund Accounts

a. Council shall approve all demand deposit and investments accounts prior to opening and Council shall designate signer(s) either by office title or name.

b. All financial accounts shall be in the name of Huff's Union Church Inc designated "Mission Endowment" and utilize the federal tax identification number and office mailing address of Huff's Union Church Inc.

c. The Mission Endowment Committee shall present for Council approval, the selection or dismissal of one or more investment managers as the Mission Endowment Committee deems to be in the best interest of the Fund.

d. The Mission Endowment Committee with Council approval may request the Finance and Investment Committee provide management of investments, however, investments for the Mission Endowment Fund shall be held in separate accounts in order to keep clear record of the Mission Endowment Funds.

e. Recommendations to hold, sell, exchange, rent, lease, transfer, convert, invest, reinvest, and in all other respects to manage and control the assets of the Fund, including stocks, bonds, debentures, mortgages, notes, or other securities, as in their judgment and discretion they deem wise and prudent, are to be made by the Committee, with subsequent execution by the delegated member of the Mission Endowment Committee.

4. Indemnification: This Congregation agrees that indemnification as provided in the Huff's Union Church Constitution and Bylaws extends to Mission Endowment Committee members.

5. Mission Endowment Fund Distribution Procedure.

a. Distributions shall not be made from the Mission Endowment Fund if the total principal is under \$50,000.

b. Distributions annually from the Mission Endowment Fund are determined by using a total return principle, (i.e. return from dividends and interest as well as realized and unrealized capital gains) and shall equal 4% of the 3 year moving average of the market value of the assets on December 31 of preceding three years net fees for investment management. *Updates calculation method to average the value of the investments over a period time allowing for smoothing of fluctuations in investment value.*

c. The Mission Endowment Committee shall provide a report to Council of the distribution amount for Budget Planning purposes or at such other times as deemed necessary and/or feasible. The Mission Endowment Committee may provide

3

10/18/21 PROPOSAL TO CONGREGATION-MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND POLICY

recommendations for all or part of the use of the distribution; however, Council shall determine specifically how the distribution amount will be used in compliance with the Distribution Policy and the purposes of this Congregation's ministry. **Typical wording in non-profit organization endowment policy.**

6. Mission Endowment Fund Distribution Policy

Provisions should be considered for the distribution to the following categories of mission and ministry listed in no particular order that is not underwritten by annual giving and will serve as a means of extending and enhancing the Congregation's program beyond the regular budget. The distribution need not be given to each category every year.

Clarifies distribution may vary annually among categories.

a. Christian Education. Grants for special programs for children, youth and adults enabling them to grow in their understanding of the Christian faith. Scholarships and/or grants for the purpose of attending college and seminary to prepare for a church related vocation. Funding for church camping, retreats, and leadership conferences.

b. Community Service and Outreach. Programs and services offered by this Congregation and/or through social service agencies, community action groups, and ecumenical agencies relating to the spiritual, social and economic needs of persons in the community this Congregation serves. **Clarifies that distributions may be used for programs and services developed by this Congregation for outreach to address the needs of the surrounding community. Distributions do not have to be only to outside agencies or groups.**

c. Wider Missions of the UCC and ELCA. Providing for work of the UCC and ELCA in the USA and overseas in such areas as new church development, professional leadership, educational ministries, evangelism, and world mission.

d. Capital Improvements. To provide for major capital improvement of facilities, building programs and debt reduction that cannot adequately be expected to be raised by annual giving and capital campaign efforts.

e. Annual Operating Expenses. When annual giving does not suffice to fulfill the need to minister, the use of the Mission Endowment Fund Distribution may be utilized for the annual operating expenses of this Congregation. However, only a limited portion of the Distribution shall be used for the annual operating budget i.e. only in particular, temporary, difficult circumstances, and where integrity of gift restrictions permit.

7. Council has authority to clarify and revise this Mission Endowment Policy in consultation with legal and accounting advisors and consistent with the purposes of this Mission Endowment Fund and this Congregation by approval of two thirds of votes cast at a Council Meeting. Any revision made by Council and/or this Congregation shall be done with a view that it will not be inconsistent with any restrictions placed on the funds by the Donor of any restricted funds. **Provides for Council to make future changes to the Mission Endowment Policy rather than by Congregation vote which is consistent with wording in new bylaws.**

8. Upon dissolution of this Congregation, liquidation of the Mission Endowment Fund shall be consistent with provisions in Huff's Union Constitution and Bylaws **Provides consistency that if this Congregation dissolves, all Congregation assets are handled under one method as outlined in the applicable Constitution and Bylaws.**