

Stewardship Team Annual Report, 2021-2022

Co-Chairs: Karen Murray, Jim Bonvouloir

Members: Marie Jones, David Price, Kim Steele

Staff Liaisons: Rev. Allison Palm, Ericka LaValley

Team Accomplishments:

The 2021-22 church year started with the Covid pandemic still impacting normal church operations, forcing most activities to be done remotely. As the year progressed, some church services and activities returned partially to in-person. The stewardship team was prepared for pandemic related challenges from the previous year's experiences, and we were able to successfully carry out our fundraising goals with a hybrid remote and in-person approach.

The stewardship team held a fall 2021 online auction. There had been a similar online auction the previous spring and there was some concern about having two auctions so close together. However, it was felt that it was important to return to our normal fundraising calendar which will include a fall auction fundraiser going forward. The auction was conducted online using our Auctria software. The theme was "Harvest". This was the third time we used Auctria and the work done by the previous year's stewardship team, and the lessons learned, were invaluable. What really made the auction successful was the generous and thoughtful donations from the congregation of household items, electronics, food, gift cards, etc. The optimistic goal for this auction was \$5000, but the actual amount raised was \$5225, which exceeded the team's expectations.

The pledge drive was held from Feb. 13 to March 13, 2022. The theme was once again "Fueling our Flame". The goal for this pledge drive was again \$350,000. We made some adjustments to the brochure to reflect changes since last year. The team also updated the online pledge form to make it more intuitive. Due to the ongoing pandemic in-person gatherings and meetings with congregants did not prove to be feasible. The team did solicit stewardship testimonials from 3 congregants which were very helpful. The stewardship team, with help from Allison and Ericka, also made a video at the church highlighting different expenses and parts of the church infrastructure, which was shown during a service during the pledge drive. In the end, the pledge drive raised just under \$357,000, which was more than the goal and slightly more than last year.

Allison gave the team an overview of the plans for next year's Capital campaign. We now have a good understanding of the timeline, goals, and possibilities for the campaign, and will be ready for this next year. The team also started discussing the topic of planned giving, and how create more awareness of this topic with the congregation. Initially, the church may add an informational web page and create a brochure on this topic.