



**Nardin Park United Methodist Church
2022 Church Charge Conference Agenda**

Wellness - The Road God Calls Us To Travel

"...I want you to get out there and walk - better yet, run! -on the road God called you to travel..." Ephesians 4:1-7 The Message (MSG)

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Call to Order	Rev. Dr. Darryl Totty
Devotion & Prayer	Rev. Phil Friedrich
Election of the Church Conference Secretary	Rev. Phillip Friedrich; Kris Chernavage
Attendance	Kris Chernavage
Greetings from the Laity	
Nominations Committee Report	Rev. Phillip Friedrich
Membership Report	On behalf of Carol Trost, Membership Secretary
Leadership Board – Motions to be Presented	Donald Babcock
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuation of Certified Candidates for Ministry - Beatrice Alghali, Rachel Kain, Dale Milford• Clergy Compensation• Household Furnishings Allowance• Certified Lay Minister - Alan Muñiz	
Ministry Share Report – Percentage of Ministry Shares Paid through October 31, 2022	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Common Budget 6%• Greater Detroit District 75%• United Methodist Union 75%	
Pastor's Report	Rev. Phillip Friedrich
Closing and Benediction	Rev. Dr. Darryl Totty

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STATE OF THE CHURCH 2022- *Rev. Phillip Friedrich, Lead Pastor*

I am just completing my first four months as Nardin Park Church's Lead Pastor. A year ago I was not aware of this church, so my assessment is still in its early stages. As it will become clear further into this document, we are facing monumental challenges, however, I believe there is reason to remain hopeful. The foundations of meaningful mission and ministry are still present. It seems clear that we are in a period of transition – a time of “disintegration” and “reintegration.” The choices we make today will set our trajectory for many years to come. Right now it is incumbent on us to accurately assess where we are. This is what this statement is attempting to do in an open, fair, and honest way.

Nardin Park Church has a long history of vital ministry and mission. But, like many other United Methodist congregations, this church has been declining for several decades with multiple milestones demarking magnified losses along the way. The last five or six years have been even more challenging. The pandemic, of course, represents the most obvious crisis. However, because of deeply disruptive staff changes, a poorly executed church governance change, and a church management style which left many people outside the information and decision-making loop, many people left the church.

To make sense of what has occurred at Nardin Park Church it is helpful to understand that it is not uncommon that when church people are upset (and they feel they are not being heard) to “vote” by leaving and/or withholding financial support. Because of the pandemic it has not always been clear who the disgruntled people are, and who are simply away due to COVID-19. A second important factor to note is that Nardin Park received a \$3 million gift shortly before the pandemic, and these funds have allowed the church to maintain “normal” operations even as donations have dramatically fallen. Therefore, because of the pandemic and an infusion of funds, the usual indicators of church member dissatisfaction have not been as visible. Changing the church organizational structure two years ago (but leaving it only partially constructed) also left several critical work areas (i.e. finance, property management, personnel) without the teams or committees that have been needed to support essential church operations. For example, over the last year, financial decisions appear to have been handled by only a few people with far too little transparency. Even the Leadership Board (One-Board Governance model) has, at times, been given minimal details with which to guide their decisions. I see no signs of nefarious activities or intentions. However, it simply seems that a combination of pandemic challenges, conflicts among church people (and leaders), and ineffective remedies has brought this church to its lowest point in memory.

Because of the dynamics outlined above, Nardin Park has declined further than almost everyone has perceived or has wanted to believe. The overall mission of this church is at grave risk. Many of the programs, and the financial situation as a whole, are now at an absolute critical stage! As I arrived in July (and the trend is still holding through October), over a third of our 2022 spending is unsupported by member contributions (and this huge defect persists even after cutting the support to my position as I arrived by over 10%, not replacing our last outgoing associate pastor, and not paying any of our 2022 Ministry Share contributions since a partial payment in January). After a couple of years without a Finance and Stewardship Team, we now have a group in place, but their work will be extremely challenging. This Team will continue to find it difficult to effectively communicate the church's profound financial needs when several million dollars sit in church endowments. The challenge, of course, is that most of these funds are dedicated to very specific donor-determined projects (i.e. nearly \$1 million in scholarship funds which are unavailable for day-to-day church operations).

Children, youth and family ministries are at a low ebb at Nardin Park. This is difficult for many people to comprehend as they clearly remember a time when this church was full of people of every age. Many of our older members originally came to Nardin Park because of the amazing ministries for families. However, the low numbers we are experiencing today are not stopping our people from forwarding fresh efforts. Every week the children and youth who participate are given loving and gracious teaching and care. I'm proud of the tenacity and competence with which this work is being done.

Missions are continuing forward at Nardin Park. There are several mission programs that have been supported for decades and are still important to the church. The Mission Team is one of the groups that has good support right now and will likely build strength in the months ahead. Many people in the church are easily motivated by opportunities that hold missions high. There are efforts beginning to send a youth team on a mission trip next summer.

Our Congregational Care Team is a bright shining star at Nardin Park. It reflects everything good about ministry and how laypeople can do some of our finest work. As we have shifted so rapidly from having four part-time associate pastors to none at all, this team of lay visitors/callers has been on their game. They have done wonderful work during the pandemic by making phone calls and delivering flowers to those who needed encouragement (over the last three years 264 flower baskets have been delivered!). An average of 35 people receive a call or a note each week. This group has brought joy and connection to many of our people and keep me informed of important needs. I cannot imagine the task before me without their amazing support.

STATE OF THE CHURCH 2022, continued - Rev. Phillip Friedrich, Lead Pastor

Music and worship is once again beginning to find its footing. In-person worship attendance is slowly increasing in both services (more in the Classical Service). Much consideration is going into how we might accelerate people's return to church. Many were glad to have the summer concerts back after a few years of hiatus. Having our non-auditioned choirs (vocal and bells) back is also important to rebuilding our music program. There are hopes that the months ahead will see further steps in reengaging our congregation. With new people in most of the key worship positions (i.e. tech booth, directing/conducting, and our pastor), we are beginning to understand how to work together effectively. As with many of the work areas of our church, we will be attempting to engage more non-staff laypeople in the planning of worship. To assist in tracking our effectiveness we have recently put in place a system which accurately measures the metrics of those attending our livestreamed worship services. This information is being placed into a spreadsheet (which flows directly into colorful graphs) so that leadership (and church members) can easily see trends, and visualize our effectiveness (or lack of it). Over the next month we will be adding financial information and in-person worshippers to this data set as well.

Another critical issue facing Nardin Park Church is the racial-ethnic imbalance of our membership as it relates to the neighborhood in which we are located. The percentage of Black people living in Farmington Hills has been on the rise in recent decades. But the church has been out of sync with this shift. I am told that two years ago the slogan "Black Lives Matter" was placed on the electronic sign in front of the church. This created an ongoing controversy within the congregation. A statement welcoming LGBTQ persons was also added to the sign, which heated the debate further. About a year ago a petition was circulated opposing the statements on the sign. Before it was over people on both sides of the issue were angry and some people left the church (two have stepped down from the Leadership Board due to this controversy). A series of all-church conversations were held in the spring as an attempt of addressing this matter. However, since my arrival in July there has been no question more pressing, or more frequently asked of me, than when will the words "Black Lives Matter" come down from our church sign. I would think that other things would be more pressing for a church with such a noble past. Things like, "Where do you see Nardin Park Church heading?" or "What are the biggest challenges the church needs to address to 'Show Love and Do Good'?" or "How can I be a part of bringing vitality back to Nardin Park?" But instead, I am sad and even angry that three words on a sign have so preoccupied so many people of this church (LGBTQ has not seemed to create as much concern). Ultimately, the sign will say something different, and of course, words are never enough when it comes to the important causes in our lives. If our words are genuine (Black Lives Matter or All Lives Matter), eventually our words must become meaningful actions. I'm curious as to the level of support we have for something that really matters, whatever it is. I guess we'll find out.

We are also working on a document that more clearly outlines Nardin Park's church structure. This comes as a corrective to the rough rollout of our new church governance over the last two years. Even in its draft form, this document is already assisting us as we invite people to serve on our Leadership Board, Teams and Committees. It will take a year or more, but eventually we will have the groups we need, doing the crucial functions that are essential to a healthy church.

Our church building has benefited significantly from the large (\$3 million) gift that was received ahead of COVID. Because of the right combination of lay skills and the suddenly available resources, many of our facility issues were addressed. These investments in our facilities have included technology upgrades (i.e. sanctuary, HVAC, electrical, lighting, roofing, plumbing, parking lots, etc.). It would be difficult to overstate the significance of this work. Like any large church building, there is always more that remains to be done. Our parsonage is in need of basic upgrades (kitchen is small, shows significant wear and has old fixtures, bedroom window coverings need replacing, additional outdoor equipment storage is needed, several basic plumbing fixes are needed). We also need a lawnmower (preferably a small rider). The more difficult parsonage challenges include providing a main-floor bedroom, a main-floor home office, and updating and expanding the kitchen/eating area. These are a few of the items that would bring our parsonage closer to today's parsonage standards. However, the property we provide for our pastor is a sound and generally maintained structure.

Respectfully Submitted,
Reverend Phillip J. Friedrich
November 17, 2022

NARDIN PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 Membership Report – Membership as of 11/17/2022

TOTAL FULL MEMBERS 10/17/2021	770
Received - Profession of Faith	0
Received - Reaffirmation of Faith Colin Mehaffey	1
Received - Other United Methodist Churches Kristen Trachet	1
Received - Other Denominations Linda Boruta, Ruth Brown, Heidi Weeks	3
Received – Other Estimated Additions William Hollingsworth	1
Received – Sub Total	+6
Removed by Charge Conference or Withdrawn	112
107 removed by 2021 charge conference; - see next page for list of names	
Withdrawn: Susanna Webber, Kerri Brown, Jana Chrumka, Mark Chrumka, Christine Nicholson	
Removed by Transfer to other United Methodist Churches Kimberlyn Benjamin	1
Removed by Transfer to other Denominations	0
Removed – Other Estimated Reduction Pat Cravens (died in 2021), Rick Wilson (died in 2020)	2
Removed by Death	14
Dennis Middelton, Carolyn Cegers, Carol Howell, John Kerastas, Vera Kerastas, David Moffitt, Ron Sanders, Richard Kahl, Bea Peters, Kazumi Mita, Leon Cegers, Bill McCraith, Ed Spala, Glen Schlott	
Removed Sub Total	-129
TOTAL FULL MEMBERS AS OF 11/17/2022	647
Number of Persons Baptized this Year (All Ages) Dale Baxter	1
Total Baptized members Who Have Not Become Professing Members	32
Number of Persons On Constituency Role	61
Total Number in Confirmation Preparation Classes This Year	0

MEMBERS REMOVED BY CHARGE CONFERENCE 2021

ALTUS, ANGELA
ALTUS, JORDAN
AZZAM-HARMON, LINDA
BAKER, CHRISTOPHER
BOCK, CATHRYN
BOLSEN, KAREN
BOLTHOUSE, SARAH
BOYLE, ANGELA
BOZYK, CARA
BUTTS, JENNIFER
BUTTS, MICHAEL
BYKOWSKI, DENNIS
CHRISTIE, DON
CHRISTIE, SUZANNE
CLARK, LINDA MAE
COLLINS, REBECCA J
COOK, MARIANNE
COOK, STEVE
CUSTER, RACHEL
DAVIS, BRIAN
DEGRAVE, JANET
DEROSE, EDWARD
DEYOE, MICHELLE
ELLIS, JENNIFER
EVOLA, LOREN
FANDALE, KATHLEEN
FANDALE, MAUREEN
FISCHER-BASSELER, JANET
FOLEY, SEAN
FULBRIGHT, JENNIFER
GILLMAN, AMANDA ELIZABETH
GILLMAN, MARY
GODFREY, JAMES MICHAEL
GODFREY, JESSICA
GROFF, PENNY
JAPENGA, MOLLY
JOHNSON, PAM
KEILS, DIANE

LASKOWSKY, JOAN
LASKOWSKY, JONATHAN
LINDAHL, KAREN
LIVINGSTON, CYNTHIA
LIVINGSTON, KEVIN
MAGURAN, MELISSA
MARX, CHRISTEEN
MCAULIFFE, DAWN
MCCOMB, ANTHONY
MCCOMB, JULIE
MCCOURT, RYAN
MCFARLAND, KATHLEEN
MCFARLAND, KENNETH
MEHAFFEY, COLIN
MEHAFFEY, KAREN
MESCHER, AARON
MESCHER, AMY
MILLER, JERALD
MILLER, REBECCA
MODRESKI, RYAN
MUELLER, KERI
MUELLER, KEVIN
MURPHY, KELLY
NEEF, DANIEL
NEEF, STEFI
NICHOLLS, DALE
OOSTLANDER, BART
OOSTLANDER, CHERI
PERIKALA, VIJAY
PETOSKEY, CHARLES JR
PETOSKEY, ELIZABETH-BETSY
PETOSKEY, ELIZABETH-LIZZIE
PETOSKEY, JACOB
POLK, ALICIA
POLK, KRISTINA
POLK, MELINDA
POPP, STEPHANIE

RAMESBOTTOM, JONATHAN
RAMESBOTTOM, KATHRYN
RHOAD, JAMES E
RILEY, DIANE
RUHL, ED
RUHL, MICHAELENE
SGROMOLO, DAVID
SGROMOLO, SHARON
SHARP, ANDREW
SMITH, BRADLEY
SOLOMON, TINA
STAMY, MARTY
STURGIS, SHAWN
STURGIS, TINA
SWANDERSKI, CHELSEA
SZOPO, DOUGLAS
SZOPO, JANET
TINGLE, CURTIS
TINGLE, KELLY
TRISCARI, PATRICK
TRITT, AMY
TRITT, JAMES
TRITT, MACKENZIE
WALKER, AUDREY
WALTERS, DOUGLAS
WEEKLEY, KEITH
WEISS, JESSICA
WESAW, PAMELA
WHITE, LORI
WHITE, TODD
WINTERBOTTOM, JACKIE
YAROCH, RENE

MEMBERS ABSENT 1 YEAR OR MORE

Afolabi, Deborah	Foss, Katie	Nosal, Chris
Allen, Amy	Frabutt, Brenden	Nosal, Shellie
Allen, Rachael.	Frabutt, Matthew	Opra, Jon
Afolabi, Christopher	Gagnon, Sarah	Paulson, Dan
Aruffo, Ernest	Garber, Gaila	Paulson, Erin
Astbury, Amanda	Garner, Viola	Perry, Melissa
Avedisian, Rhonda	Gillman, Kimberly	Petoskey, Anna
Baessler, Nicholas	Gillman, Robert	Pettis, Frank
Baessler, Ryan	Gold, Jayne	Pohlman, Jaime
Barrick, Doug	Gubachy, John	Pohlman, Mark
Bartram, Elizabeth	Gubachy, Lisa	
Bartram, Joel	Gunsorek, Susanne	Ray, Heidi
Bartram, Melissa	Hacker, Carolyn	Reed, Lindsay
Beaufait, Brian	Hankins, Jan	Rogers, Lindsay
Beaufait, Susan	Hood, Hal	Rookus, Mark
Belott, Carrol	Johnson, Debbie	Rosey, Gayle
Boehms, Ricky	Johnson, Jim	Rudolph, Bonnie
Bosink, Allison,	Jones, Kiersten	Saldano, Cheyenne
Bosink, Jim	Kahsin, Craig	Schroer, Chris
Brant, Shane	Keils, Olivia	Schroer, Leslie
	Kendall, Andrea	Sharp, Ryan
	Kendall, Camila	Shaver, Don
Carrol, Liz	Lee, Brett	Shenton, Lisa
Carter, Annette	Livingston, Christopher	Shenton, Mark
Christie, Don	Low, Joann	Short, Jonathan
Christie, Jamie	Low, Robert	Sitowski, Lori
Christie, Jessica	Maddaford, Heather	Smith, Alex
Clappison, Kathryn	Marowski, Megan	Smith, Hannah
Cook, Amanda	Martin, Cameron	Sunblad, Sharon
Cook, Steven	Marvin, Rachel	Sundquist, Adrienne
Dailey, Diane	Marvin, Zachary	Sundquist, Carolyn
Darnbrook, Emily	McFarland, Chris	Swan, Paul
Darnbrook, Rebecca	McFarland, Lisa	Szopo, Troy
Desilva, Nimal	McFarland, Mark	Thayer, Lisa
Diebel, Alexandra	McFarland, Tim	Vainer, Jayme
Dielbel, Victoria	Mehaffey, Colin	Vainer, Maria
Dixon, Alexandra	McLachlan, Carmen	Vainer, Paul
Dixon, Amanda	McLaurin, Randall	Ventura, Kevan
Dixon, Scott	Meister, Dan	Ventura, Leslie
Dobbs, Alice	Milford, Barb	Ventura, Megan
Dobbs, Joe Jr	Milford, Dale	Willhoft, Norma
Edwards, Bernadette	Milford, Melanie	Winterbottom, Sarah
Edwards, Chris	Miller, Benjamin	Wojtowicz, Mark
Ellis, Melanie	Miller, Kelly	Wojtowicz, Robin
Emerson, Diana	Modreski, Brittany	Worpell, Matthew
Ernat, Carol	Moore, Brad	Wujciki, Al
Evola, Brian	Mumford, Tim	
Fashola, Tobi		

NOMINATIONS REPORT 2022 (Names to be elected are in **BOLD type)**

Leadership Board

Chairperson: _____

(Note that Leadership Board elects own chair annually)

Class of 2023: **Pat Lange, Rachel Leftwich,** _____, _____

Class of 2024: **Dorothy Moore,** Kathryn Bough, Kris Chernavage, John Gingrich

Class of 2025: Paul Kochan, Kelly Paquette, Christine Scobel, _____

Lay Leaders: Sam Julien, Mike Marks

Lead Pastor: Phillip Friedrich, Ex Officio

(Note that lay leaders have vote; lead pastor has voice, but no vote)

Committee on Nominations

Chairperson: Lead Pastor: Phillip Friedrich

Class of 2023: Dorcas Knox, Ann-Marie Sharpe

Class of 2024: Laura Olson, Marcia Ventura

Class of 2025: Bob Davis, Sue Ward

Lay Leaders: Sam Julien, Mike Marks

Lay Leaders and Lay Members to Michigan Annual Conference for 2023

Sam Julien, Lay Leader

Mike Marks, Lay Leader

Rachel Kain, Lay Member to Michigan Annual Conference

Michael Kain, Lay Member to Michigan Annual Conference

Alan Muñiz, Lay Member to Michigan Annual Conference

LEADERSHIP BOARD - Don Babcock, Chairman

It is wonderful to worship in-person again this year at Nardin Park. Mask requirements are being relaxed, and in-person activities are resuming. I'm happy to see more people interacting in the church building.

Many of us got used to online meetings over the past two years. And those years showed us that there are alternative ways to conduct parts of our daily life, if necessary. I'm glad that for people who are unable to attend worship in-person, we will continue to offer livestreaming of our 9am (contemporary) and 11am (traditional) services. Links are available from our website.

On July 1st, we welcomed our new pastor, Phil Friedrich, and have been excited by his enthusiasm for Nardin Park and his offer to meet with each of us individually. Since the middle of July, Pastor Phil has been meeting with members of Nardin Park, by invitation, in their homes.

We also welcomed our new Director of Music, Jack Chefan in July. Jack immediately started bringing in guest performers for our music series and services. He also put the Chancel Choir and Nardin Ringers into rehearsal this fall, and both groups are performing again.

Pastor Phil has been helping us "tweak" our Leadership Board administrative model to make it more effective for Nardin Park. And, we continue to fill out our governing structure with new people in the necessary teams for the church.

On another note, we have been challenged this year by a significant drop in weekly giving. The majority of weekly giving goes to operating expenses. And, it has been difficult to pay our monthly costs, including staff salaries. While all of our endowments and investments are secure, including significant money invested from the Haskell estate, we do hope to see a turnaround in weekly giving for operating expenses this fall as we head into the holiday season.

The leadership board continues to meet monthly on the third Wednesday of each month. We have been working hard through all the transitions, and look forward to continuing to serve the church.

Don Babcock, Leadership Board, chair

NARDIN PARK KIDS - *Kristen Trachet, Director of Children's and Youth Ministries*

As this year comes to a close, it offers a time of reflection. We have incurred a time of trial and triumph, discouraging numbers of kids and families, but also a time of finding and reigniting faith in the mission of our church.

In the first half of 2022, we continued in the one-room schoolhouse for our Sunday morning Sunday School. The kids thrived in the environment that was created and drew nearer to each other. We learned about David's story, battling Goliath, his friendship with Johnathan, and the hate Saul had for David among many more. The children really grasped the stories and were able to draw connections to their own lives. It's a privilege we have as the church, to be in the front-row seat, witnessing children discover and come to their own understandings about the world, the Bible, and who God is. Above all else, we have established that Sunday School is a safe place for children and all that comes along with being a child in today's world. Each week we spend time talking in a circle about how our weeks were. This provides kids with a chance to talk about things that happened in their week that went great and amazing, but this is also a place for kids to process things that didn't go so great or didn't go their way. This is an opportunity for children to share and to be held in emotional safety by their peers and church leaders that care about them.

In the mid months of 2022, we had a member come to us in need of a space to host a midweek program dedicated to the Hispanic community. It is called Living Seeds. We had this pilot program run for approximately six weeks from May to June. This included an adult worship element, as well as a children's lesson with games/crafts. We averaged 8 kids each week for this program. Apart from the challenges that launching a new program entails, the language barrier was difficult to tread. So far, we have not reinstated this program, but are in the early stages of developing a midweek program for all generations and family dynamics that will accommodate a wider range of people.

At the beginning of the 2022/2023 school year, we began offering two opportunities for Sunday School, the 9 and 11 AM service. This has been a challenge due to the number of young families in our church. We average three children on a typical Sunday. These numbers are discouraging at times, but I choose to focus on what we can make happen from this starting place. I have been working closely with our Nursery/Toddler Coordinator, Lauren Sundquist, to brainstorm and put into action movements that will encourage families to find a home in our church once again. This looks like establishing a Grace Space in the Sanctuary by Christmas Eve 2022. This will allow young children to remain in the Sanctuary for the entirety of service, being fully emerged in worship alongside family and friends. I, along with other volunteers, will take the message for the week and teach an age-appropriate version to the children in the Grace Space each Sunday. The Grace Space is purposely in the Sanctuary and not the narthex or down the hall to show families and congregants our focus and dedication to young people at Nardin Park.

Not only will we be rolling out the Grace Space by year's end, but we are also dedicated to making a Lactation room for parents to feed young children, as well as, a play space for children and guardians of young kids who are needing more space to play loudly and proudly during service. These rooms are connected by a jack-and-jill bathroom and the service will be streamed to each of these spaces each Sunday via YouTube and will be broadcasted on television. In the remaining months of 2022, Lauren S. and I are laying the groundwork for a Community Garden. This will draw the community onto our church property where we will be ready with programs suited to the needs of young families and allow a low-effort exchange between the community and the church, which will in turn grow our church.

This year we have interacted with the community many times through special events like an Easter Egg Hunt, Fall Kick-Off, and Trunk-or-Treat. Each of these special events draws the gap a bit smaller between our church mission and the community. It has been a year to reevaluate the values and mission of our church and how we go about welcoming people in. We are committed to the mission of Do Good. Show Love. And that's what we're going to continue to show in Nardin Park Kids.

Nardin Park Youth Group

A place to grow. A place to serve. A place to belong.

Meeting time: 12:30 to 2:30 each Sunday. I decided along with encouragement from parents and church members to move youth group from the previous 5 to 7 PM to 12:30 to 2:30. This change has brought benefits to all in the youth group. Youth are able to attend more regularly because they are not having to choose between youth group and homework assignments. This time change helps parents because they don't have to go home in between Sunday morning service and dropping the kiddos off for youth.

Youth Group each week: There have been so many wins for our small but mighty group! During the summer, a few volunteers and I took the initiative to rearrange and revamp the youth room to accommodate to the teens. We now have a space set up that draws youth in. We have a Nintendo Switch with Mario Kart, and Just Dance games. This has been great for the youth to have time and space to play together without a lot of effort. We also have a space set up so we can eat meals together, a conversation pit, and a space for music worship each week. We are still getting off the ground in the music department, thanks to our Music Director, Jack Chefan. We have a one-stop spot for hygiene products, first aid, etc. Apart from the typical Sunday Youth Group, we have adventured and gone off campus multiple times to go bowling, to trampoline amusement park, minute to win it, arcade, etc. This fall we are partnering with Farmington First UMC's Youth Group and are meeting once a month! In November we will be completing a small mission project and enjoying a sundae bar. And in December we will get together for a Christmas celebration!

Fundraisers: As a youth group we have raised close to \$1,000 for our 2023 mission trip! We are partnering with the Communion Bread Making Group so that each first Sunday of the month, the youth will be selling baked goods provided by the group! The proceeds will go toward future mission trips.

Missions: In the Summer of 2022 we completed a local Mission Week where we volunteered with CARES by putting together hygiene kits, Art + Scraps, landscaping for a 100-year-old congregant, dog + cat bed making, and random acts of kindness. In 2023 we will be attending out of state mission week.

Apart from regularly scheduled activities, we participated in the March for our Lives Rally in June that was held at Nardin Park. Our youth are passionate about seeking equity, showing mercy, and finding justice. They are on fire to show up in our world today and make an impact. I am inspired each week by them and their resiliency. In the future, I hope to grow our group by two to three youths and one to two more youth leaders, take part in the midweek program and open for Friday Night Youth where teens from local middle and high schools are invited for relaxed hangouts.

We are strong seedlings and ready to flourish with the watering of faith, trust, and belonging

MUSIC & WORSHIP ARTS MINISTRIES - *Jack Chefan, Director of Music & Worship*

Since my arrival in early July, I have made efforts to understand the workings of the music program here at Nardin Park and quickly develop a plan as we emerge from the pandemic. It takes time to assess the data and make accurate determinations on how to proceed. The Hundredfold Band has been streamlined to develop volunteers and create an environment to foster collaboration and improvement. We are planning to play at Sundquist Pavilion next summer and considering other ways to outreach. We played for a worship event in Downtown Brighton, and it served as a model of how we would like to plan our own outreach events. We are also discussing the use of our Chapel on Saturday nights to develop a worship "jam session" for musicians, poets, and speakers to share their talents.

One of my first projects was to plan a music series for August. We had five events as well as a separate organ event on November 2nd with Dr. Norah Duncan. I created a team of volunteers to prepare 1,400 mailings for a fundraiser for next year. This mailing will help us update our list and has brought in \$5,000.00 for next year's series as of the date of this letter. I want to acknowledge our wonderful staff in providing direction and helping to facilitate these projects. Orchard Lake Philharmonic will be presenting a Christmas concert on December 18th and collaborating with our choir.

The Nardin Park Ringers have been restarted along with our Chancel Choir. Regular rehearsals have been established and auditions have been eliminated to promote the community within our church. Communications have been reestablished with former music director Mel Rookus. He has been most helpful and encouraging as we embark on this new chapter.

As of October 31st, I have taken over the A/V tech ministry at Nardin Park. I am bringing in a consultant to educate our volunteers and myself on the workings of our sound system. We have not reached the full potential of what this system can do. Many questions have been generated and will be answered in the coming weeks which include the issue with hearing aids, improved livestreaming, and vocals being heard above the instruments. A new Apple computer was purchased to be used with our current equipment which will allow us the capacity to run the latest version of ProPresenter, along with recording and video editing software.

I look forward to a wonderful holiday season as we reform our music program in a way that reflects our values and outreaches to our community. Furthermore, I would like to thank everyone for their welcoming spirit. It has been a privilege to get to know you all and I look forward to how God will use us as a team to stand as a pillar in our community. God bless you all and stay tuned!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE - *Carolyn Bough*

Carolyn Bough coordinator, Sherry Chrysler, Greg Hicok, Tim and Sherry Wright, Becky Norfleet, Judy Blaney and Bob and Marilyn Elliott.

- Blessing Basket Delivery: John and Nancy Gingrich, Tim and Sherry Wright, Sue Genschoreck, Martha Langdon, Corinne Dowell, Judy West, Mary Glenn and Becky Norfleet.
- Fellowship Hall Board: Dorothy Moore updates board every Sunday Morning.
- The care committee meets the second Wednesday of each month. Discussions are done regarding church members who are ill, in the hospital, rehab, assisted living or home bound. This does not exclude extended family members of the congregation.
- Average of 35 people are contacted by phone or notecards on a weekly basis.
- Personal visits are made to deliver flowers as well as Nardin Park communications on events and general information on the church groups and holiday events.
- Delivery Holy Communion when requested.
- Additional mailings are done by the church office led by Sherrie Chrysler to an average of 25 shut-ins.
- Coordinator and team keeps the Lead Pastor updated on any requests for visits or any new changes of members.
- When members request assistance planning their funeral or celebration of life, a complimentary pamphlet is given to the member called A Celebration of My Life to guide with the plan. This can be completed by the committee or Lead Pastor.
- Communicate with the Lead Pastor and church members of our older members who are 90+ years or older. Approximately 40 members are in this category. Sherry Wright will mail Birthday cards to them signed by the congregation.
- Blessing Basket Delivery is a ministry started 3 years ago to be given to new member, members that are ill, hospitalized, or need special blessings during a difficult time. Time frame is June 1st through October 1st. In 2022 delivery of 54 baskets. A total of 264 have been delivered since the ministry started 3 years ago.
- Blessing note group sends additional notes of encouragement and prayers for those who need additional support or connection with our church.

MISSIONS MINISTRY TEAM - *Jaime Manville*

The Missions Ministry Team continued to support many initiatives by giving with our time, talents, and our service. Each and every project of 2022 was overwhelmingly supported by the people of Nardin Park, in spite of the continued confines of the COVID pandemic. We asked, and the congregation responded.

Crossroads Soup Kitchen - It is one of our most celebrated and embraced projects. This outreach program feeds over 900 people in the city of Detroit and is the ONLY soup kitchen that serves meals on Sundays. This year, Crossroads asked that we support them financially in the amount of \$1,200.00. Thank you, Dean Moening and Jeff Rucker!

Sole/Soul Work - NP donated \$2,900.00 to buy shoes online for the Detroit Shoe Mission at the Centro Familiar Cristiano Church now located in Melvindale. We also had a small group of people that went to the church to wash children's' feet, followed by the placement of new socks and shoes and ending with prayers for their immediate future. Thank you, Mary Sue Lutz (and friend), Sherrie Chrysler and Jaime Manville.

South Oakland Shelter - This year, due to Covid19, we were not able to house guests physically, so we provided financial assistance to help pay for lodging.

Harvest Altar- We sponsored our traditional canned food drive. The bounty of food will be delivered to Redford's Aldersgate/Brightmoor Church. Thank you, Susan Ward!

C.A.R.E.S. - Food and miscellaneous items are collected monthly in the food boxes located near the church entrances and given to C.A.R.E.S. which then acts as a food and clothing pantry serving Farmington area families. Thank you, Mary Holland!

Focus: HOPE- For nearly 3 decades, Bob Davis has organized and led Nardin Park in their quest to deliver food to seniors throughout the Pontiac area. Deliveries are made 6 times per year. Thank you, Bob!

Loose Coin Offering- Loose change dropped in the offering plates is counted and forwarded to various mission projects monthly. We have supported SOS, UMCOR, Crossroads, Salvation Army, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Operation Common Good, and Shoes for Souls. Thank you, Judy West!

Operation Common Good:

1. Nardin Park families adopt Farmington area families to make their holidays brighter. We will do it again this year thanks to Susan Ward, Laura Olson and Hattie Ligon.
2. High school seniors are provided with the means to attend prom, get a yearbook and participate in graduation and all that it entails. Thank you, Susan Ward and Laura Olson!

Farmington Hills Salvation Army- We donated actual supplies and \$100.00 from Tom and Jan Tobe. Thank you, Tom and Jan!

Crop Walk - We participated in the annual Farmington Crop Walk in May via on-line donations.

Bible Donations: Thanks to Mary Sue Lutz, our Centro Familiar liaison, we were able to fill a request for the purchase of bibles for teen boys and girls as well as bilingual bibles for the younger children. The bibles will be blessed during an upcoming NP service before they are delivered Centro Familiar Cristiano UMC in Wyandotte.

STEPHEN MINISTRY - *Lynette Thayer- Lay Leader*

Stephen Ministry equips and empowers lay caregivers, called Stephen Ministers, to provide high-quality confidential, Christ-Centered care to people who are hurting. This has been a viable ministry of Nardin Park UMC for over 30 years, and is catching up with the St. Louis Parent Organization of Stephen Ministry. In doing so, our Leaders have rotated and recruiting additional Stephen Ministers is occurring.

Our Stephen Leader, Dorothy Moore, has taken a leave to pursue other passions. Robynn Reed was commissioned as a Stephen Minister and Stephen Leader and has taken this time to revise her ministry. Sam Julien has been commissioned as a Stephen Minister and Stephen Leader and is very passionate about moving Stephen Ministry forward. Lynette Thayer, Stephen Leader, is living outside the community of the Nardin Park area and has stepped down from Nardin Park's Stephen Ministry leadership.

In the past year our Stephen Ministers have provided care to four care receivers with 83 hours of contact.

Along with providing one to one support for various individual concerns, Stephen Ministry has provided grief support to those who have lost a love one. Thirty one sets of grief booklets have been distributed. Each set includes four booklets that are delivered over the course of the year. Care Notes, booklets that address various issues from grief to finance to depression to children, have been distributed as a free will take as needed basis, and will continue to be available to anyone who would like to take one.

MEMORIALS AND BEREAVEMENT - *Judy Blaney*

1. The material gifts given as **Memorials** this year were used toward the build-out of the Gathering Place/Samaritan Counseling Center offices, to update the Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and to purchase a set of oil candles for the Sanctuary Advent wreath. The Committee had a plaque made and mounted in memory of the one soul interred in the Memorial Garden. The care of the Memorial Garden is overseen by the committee (with some of the work done by them). The All Saints' Day celebration on November 6th was facilitated by the Memorials Committees and celebrated the lives of 14 souls. The lives of Nardin Park souls were celebrated by reading the name, a picture being displayed, a bell tolling, and by giving a "memory stone" and a rose to each of the families.

2. The **Bereavement Team** was able to provide four meals after funeral/memorial services. With the help of our audio visual team, we have been able to have the services livestreamed and have videos of family pictures running during the luncheons to celebrate the lives.

Nardin Park Church is blessed to have a number of active and retired United Methodist Clergy who have made the Nardin Park Church Conference their local church connection. Two of these clergy have included a report for you to read.

RETIRED CLERGY REPORT – Rev. Lynn Hasley

Since I retired July 1, 2016, I have continued to fulfill my vows as a United Methodist Pastor in the ways that God presents. In March of 2021, my role and hours as part of the staff of Nardin Park UMC were expanded to include Congregational Care duties as well as Discipleship Pathways. I worked diligently in this role until July 17, 2022, when I resigned from Nardin Park. I had faced a couple of significant health challenges during the past year, including two surgical procedures, and I was on a leave of absence from January through March of 2022. Although I was gradually recovering, I knew that it was time to find a way to serve God that did not involve a such a long driving time, and I offered more than two months' notice of my planned departure.

At Nardin Park I preached at both services as needed and served as liturgist for a number of the classical worship services. I was especially busy with this during late June, as the church prepared to transition to a new lead pastor. I helped to welcome Rev. Phil Friedrich when he arrived on July 1.

At Nardin Park I also planned and led New Member Classes in coordination with Rev. Melanie Carey and Arlene Marks. I understand that Arlene Marks is expanding her work with New Members in my absence. In the past year our Connecting groups continued to follow different paths as we began to transition to a post-pandemic world. Some groups returned to in person, some met via zoom, but some hands-on groups such as baking and dinner groups were not yet meeting when I departed. I hoped that they would restart this fall.

My Congregational Care role since March of 2021 included pastoral care by telephone and in person for persons who were ill, dying, grieving, or dealing with other significant life events. I guided the work of the Congregational Care Team, which telephones or writes to a large group of ill and shut-in persons every two weeks. In addition, I worked with the Blessing Basket Team and the Blessing Notes Team to identify persons to receive additional support through flowers and notes. Carolyn Bough generously agreed to lead the Congregational Care Team upon my departure.

I am grateful to Nardin Park for the support I was given and the many kind words I received while I was there. I continue to pray for all of you at Nardin Park UMC.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Lynn Marie Hasley

RETIRED CLERGY REPORT - Rev. Kristen J. Leslie, PhD

Dear Nardin Park UMC Colleagues,

This year marked my 36th year in ordained ministry, my 25th year of teaching in theological education, and my 12th year teaching at Eden Theological Seminary, a seminary of the United Church of Christ. All 25 of my years in teaching have been in UCC seminaries, leading me recently to tell a gathering of UCC colleagues that I speak UCC with a Methodist accent! Having served in a variety of ministry professions and contexts – UMC parish pastor, UMC college chaplain, pastoral counselor, rape crisis therapist, and divinity school/seminary professor – I continue to find my calling richly affirmed in an academic institution that serves the Church in all its forms.

In February 2022 I began a six-month sabbatical leave. I was grateful to have the opportunity to focus on my sabbatical tasks of research, professional development, and service to both the academy and the wider community. In September I reengaged a full teaching load, while continuing to engage my community work. Here are some of the highlights of my year:

Teaching

In the fall I have been teaching 2 introductory courses in pastoral care (one as an asynchronous course), the team-taught course “Trauma-Informed Theology and Care in a Violent World,” and a Contextual Ed colloquium.

Writing and Research

I completed drafts of two journal articles: “‘Legitimate Rape’ and the Burden of Making Truths Believable” and “Noisy Lamenting, Noisy Believing: Communal Responses to Sexualized Violence.”

Professional Service and Development

- I offered a workshop on Clergy Self-care During the Pandemic to several gatherings including the Joint Annual Meeting of the Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota Conferences of the UCC and Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal), St. Louis
- I served as a consultant to the FaithTrust Institute (formerly The Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence) as they closed operations and made their resources publicly available.

Service to the Church and the World

- I provided premarital care and officiated at 3 weddings.
- I traveled to Capitol Hill (Washington DC) to join a coalition of organizations and faith leaders from across the aisle (both political and religious) to work together on federal protection—specifically the Equality Act—for LGBTQia+ people. This was co-sponsored by Parity NYC and Equality and Fairness.
- I continue to serve on the Core facilitation team for St. Louis Winter Outreach, an all-volunteer organization that partners with St. Louis City Homeless Services to provide emergency housing for unhoused sojourners in the City of St. Louis.
- I serve as the Co-Director of the Eden Gleaning and Garden Project. With a community garden and a schedule of field gleaning, our mission is simple: Provide fresh produce to faith-based food pantries responding to hunger and food insecurities in the St. Louis region; Educate our community about urban gardening techniques; Create partnership with area faith communities who are working to end hunger. This past season we gleaned 14,000 lbs. of fresh produce that was delivered to area food ministries

I conclude this report giving thanks to the United Methodist church who understands the importance of ministry in various forms and places. As a mature scholar, I have come to understand that when my pastoral theological teaching, research and service stands in the midst of the public arena, I am most mindful of the workings of the Spirit and the face of God. For this I give thanks.

Rev. Kristen J. Leslie, PhD

Professor of Pastoral Theology and Care Eden Theological Seminary

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NARDIN PARK UMC CHARGE CONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES - OCTOBER 17, 2021 (ZOOM)

- Call to Order** Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue, Jr. opened the meeting by stating the charge conference theme this year is *Many Gifts, One Spirit: Revival Through Unity and Diversity*
- 1:11p.m. **Opening Song** – Rachel Kain – The Gift of Love by Hal Hopson
- 1:20p.m. **Election of the Church Conference Secretary** – Kristin Ahrens was approved
- 1:21p.m. **Attendance** – taken by Kristin Ahrens (reported above)
- 1:23p.m. **Greeting from the Laity** – Ken Dowell provided greetings from Nardin Park
- 1:25p.m. **Nominations Committee Report** – can be found on page 4 of the Conference booklet – The different nominations to be voted on were read by Melanie. Everyone on the report was elected unanimously.
- 1:30p.m. **Membership Report** – The Membership Report can be found on page 2 of the Conference booklet. There was discussion about the 107 names listed for removal. It was noted that some names are being removed due to moving, some due to death, and some due to church inactivity. Due to the changeover in software, this list compiles the last three years of members to be removed. A vote was taken: 1 abstention and the rest voted to approve the removal of those listed. The names of the deceased were read aloud and a prayer was said in their memory.
- 1:41p.m. **Leadership Board**
- Don Babcock presented motions to be voted upon.
 - Continuation of Certified Candidates for Ministry – Beatrice Alghali, Rachel Kain, and Dale Milford: Approved unanimously
 - Clergy compensation for the year 2022 - \$84,048 which includes a furnishings allowance of \$6,800 and professional reimbursement account of \$3,100. The salary compensation package was approved unanimously.
 - Certified Lay Minister – Alan Muniz – approved unanimously
- 1:50p.m. **Ministry Share Report** – Percentage of Ministry Shares Paid to date
- Common Budget – 38% (anticipated to get to 50% by end of year)
 - Greater Detroit District – 75% (anticipated 100% by end of year)
 - United Methodist Union – 75% (anticipated 100% by end of year)
- 1:53p.m. **Additional Reports**
- Updated Endowment Policy – approved unanimously
- 1:57p.m. No other business from congregation in attendance
- 1:58p.m. **Pastor’s Report** – printed report available in Conference Booklet – approved with Thanksgiving to God
- 2:14p.m. **Closing** – Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue, Jr.
In summary, Rev. Dr. Boayue stated that Nardin Park is a great church because God is with us. Yes, we are all subject to human shortcomings, but Many Gifts, One Spirit. There is beautifulness and holiness in diversity. All of our differences are gifts from the same God. Let God be God all by God’s Self. Let us all be disciples all by ourselves. We come together by savoring the moments. If we savor every moment, even the smallest, one by one, they we will achieve fulfillment. E very moment of every day, we can make a difference.
- 2:32p.m. **Benediction** – Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue, Jr.
Adjournment

Attendance: on Zoom

Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue, Jr., District Superintendent
Melanie Carey, Nardin Park Lead Pastor
Don Babcock, Carolyn Bough, Kristin Ahrens, Dean Moening, Jeff Rucker, Amy Dowell, Sam Julien, Karen Nicholson, Mike Marks, Michael Kain, Tom Tobe, Rachel Kain, Karen Roth, Ken Dowell, Rev. Lynn Hasley, Rev. George Covintree, John and Nancy Gingrich, Pam Wright, Dorothy Moore, Beatrice Alghali, Alan Muñiz, Judy Blaney, Rev. Dr. Kristen Leslie, Peter Sharpe, Marshall Dunlap, Terry West, Bruce Irey

