

2016 ANNUAL REPORTS FOR CHARGE CONFERENCE January 8, 2017

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STAFF REPORTS

SENIOR PASTOR

Dr. Michael Gardner

2017 is Old Mission's 75th Anniversary Year! And there is much to be excited about as we begin the new year. Old Mission remains a vital and effective congregation in a time when many congregations are not and when Christianity is in declining influence in the culture. There are many factors that contribute to that celebration.

First, we have a visible presence in the city. Our founders gave us an amazing gift seven decades ago, when our congregation and first buildings were located on a highly traveled street, Shawnee Mission Parkway. Our beautiful stone building, tall windows, and spire are a visible landmark to our community. We are easy to find!

Second, we are blessed to have a warm congregation in which many generations have found their spiritual home. Many people who marry here build their family life together at Old Mission. Each year, our baptisms outnumber our burials! Our group life is strong. Our worship services offer wonderful music and inspiring messages. Our staff is strong and talented. Our children's, youth, early education, and caring ministries are strong. Our mission and outreach ministries make a real difference in KC and globally.

Third, we have a vision for the future. In 2013, we adopted a "2020 Vision" to do four things more effectively as a congregation: 1) *Activate spiritual growth*, 2) *Creatively use our campus*, 3) *Take the Church to people*, and 4) *Share God's story*. We certainly have much yet to do in all those areas, but we have made significant progress.

Combined worship events like *Back to School Sunday*, *our Thanksgiving Service*, and *Old Mission Christmas* have helped build unity in our diverse congregation. We continue to build connections across cultural boundaries with our *Roesland Partnership* and *Teen Summit on Race and Privilege*. Our use of technology as a tool for connection and outreach is increasing, and in 2017, we'll launch increased online sermon content, a weekly outreach email and a text-based marketing program. Our building has been improved with new carpet, a renovated sacristy, Sanctuary screens, ceiling repair, and other updates.

Those are vital signs of excellent progress as a Church. However, we still have much to do for 2017 and beyond. We still need to build a stronger program of inviting new people. Even as we have funded a beautiful new Columbarium and Memorial Window, and are well into funding our 75th Anniversary Window Project, we need to recommit ourselves to stronger financial support for our General Fund, building care, and mission apportionments. Those building blocks support everything else we do.

I am blessed to continue to serve as your Senior Pastor in 2017 and beyond. I also believe our best days are ahead of us. I am excited about where we are going together.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Karen Nyhart

New Year's Day marked my 13th year serving as your Associate Pastor. It has been an honor and privilege to be your minister.

In my role, I get to do a variety of ministries such as weddings, funerals, preaching, teaching, serving in worship, and visiting congregation members in the hospital. I also oversee the areas of Christian Spiritual Formation, Missions/Church and Society.

I also served on the Board of Ordained Ministry for the Great Plains Conference for 12 years. My term ended July 1. On the Board I serve in many ways - as Vice Chair, Chair the Covenant Team, Chair of the Order of Deacons, and Registrar. It was a blessing to be able to serve on the Board for so many years.

We have a wonderful Christian education staff that does an excellent job providing spiritual growth opportunities to our congregation and community. I directly supervise our Nursery Coordinator, Children's Minister, Assistant Children's Director, Early Education Director, 2 College Interns, and Youth Director to provide a safe and caring ministry for our children and youth. Rev. Debbie Hull, Charlotte Christensen, Michele Bowen, Mike Ott, Jordan Larkin, Merit Christiansen, Karen Eisele and Betty Leonard have done an excellent job working with our children and youth. I am honored to work with such a great staff.

This year, we hired a new staff member. Debbie Hull was hired as our Minister to Children. She was ordained clergy in the Rocky Mountain Conference and moved to Kansas City to be closer to family. (She is Barb Jump's sister) Debbie comes on staff with great experience in Children and Youth Ministry and Mission work.

This was the second year for our Youth Summit on Race and Privilege. I served on the planning committee along with Debbie Williams, Mike Ott and others. Many students and adults from Old Mission, St. James UMC and St. Paul UMC came together to have dinner, dialogue and a dance. It was very well attended by all three churches.

Our Church and Society and Mission Committees have been very busy this year. Many helped with Operation Christmas Child – this was the third year that we were the drop off site for our community. This is a shoe box ministry that provides gifts to children in other parts of the world that may not get a Christmas gift this year. We received 498 shoeboxes that we boxed up into 31 big cartons and then transported over to the semi-trucks where they were loaded and sent out. A big thank you to all the volunteers that helped, especially Susan Strong, Pat Hotze, Reid Ecton, and Julia Sanders.

Our Christmas offering usually goes to an oversea ministry. This year went to Haiti through the United Methodist Committee on Relief to help provide emergency assistance such as food, clothing, shelter, and medical help as they recover from the hurricane.

We did the Angel Tree ministry again this year. This ministry provides Christmas gifts to children from parents that have been incarcerated. We supported 43 families this year with 200 gifts. A huge thank you to Marilyn, Ray, Missy and Stephanie Rawe and Anne Cusser for coordinating this ministry.

In April, I helped organize our annual - Living 6:8 Sunday along with Susan Strong and Pat Hotze. On this particular day, many went to sing hymns and play games with those in nursing homes, make dolls for the patients at Children's Mercy Hospital, work in the garden at

Shawnee Gardens, make table decorations for Meals on Wheels, make tie blankets for Spofford House, and put together packets for the Red Cross.

We have a great partnership with Roesland Elementary School thanks to Audrey Wiegmann and all of her hard work. Many from our church volunteer on a regular basis as a classroom volunteer, a lunch buddy, or as a reading tutor.

On a personal note, I greatly appreciated all the cards, phone calls, visits, and meals while I recovered from a total hip replacement. The doctor was able to reconstruct the hip area, put in a new ball and socket. He was even able to extend my right leg so both legs are the same length. It is pretty amazing what doctors can do these days! I truly appreciated the time off to recover and all the work the staff and volunteers did while I was gone.

We have done a lot of great ministries this year! Through these ministries, we have made a difference in our neighborhood, city, nation and world. In 2017, I look forward to doing new ministries that can go even deeper in helping those around us know the hope Christ brings. In 2017, let's continue to make a difference by loving God and loving people in everything we do.

MINISTER OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Rev. Leslie Van Blarcom

We have had some attrition in the ranks of our Caring Connections Team because of some moves and health issues this past year. We currently have 12 active members. We will do another 5-week training session in February and March of 2017 in the hope of increasing our membership. CCMs continue to take pastoral care emergency call on Saturdays and to assist with funerals and hospital calling, in addition to visiting members of the church who are unable to participate in activities at the church. A few of us have also worked on ordering new CareNotes for use by the congregation and have been trying new ways to make them more accessible.

10 CCMs assisted in doing another All Saints Day afternoon service with me for persons who are still mourning the loss of someone close to them. There were about 40 people in attendance. I continue weekly worship participation, and did 2 weddings this past year, in addition to regular visitation to homebound and hospitalized members and officiating at memorial services. The amount of time spent in pastoral counseling has increased for me in the past year and I made additional presentations to adult SS classes on Advance Planning and other topics.

We have had no further inurnments in the columbarium, but with input from those directly involved, the Trustees have developed policy guidelines for its use and the memorial window in the columbarium is being etched currently and will be installed in the spring of 2017!

MINISTER OF CONNECTIONS AND WELCOME

Rev. Wally Proctor

This year I conclude my work as Minister of Welcome and Connections. I have continued to develop the welcome and connections ministries at Old Mission United Methodist Church by following up with first time visitors and working to provide welcome ministries for visitors and members alike.

I have missed, however, not being able to worship with my wife on Sunday mornings for the last eight years. I've now reached a point where I am able to "retire retire" and join her on Sunday mornings.

I have enjoyed my time at Old Mission. It is a great church and I will miss being with you on Sunday mornings, but it is time for a new direction in life.

This year I taught Adult Sunday School classes and continued the welcome class for first time visitors and people interested in church membership. I performed two weddings and one baptism. I preached, assisted in worship, and was part of our on-call pastoral care in our rotation to give Rev. Van Blarcom a weekly day off. I will continue my Charge Conference relationship with Old Mission and look forward to possibly teaching an adult class from time to time.

MINISTER TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Rev. Debbie Hull

I am so grateful to be a part of the Old Mission ministry team. I began ministry here on June 1st. This is a larger church than I have served before so I am taking this first year just to meet the congregation and to learn the ministries that have been provided for the children and families of Old Mission.

There have been so many firsts for me: Vacation Bible School, Sunday School Kick Off, Fall Carnival, Operation Christmas Child, Thanksgiving and Old Mission Christmas services. I have loved participating in these activities and look forward to what comes next!

Since moving to the Great Plains Conference I have taken the Safe Gatherings class, Boundary 101 training for clergy, helped Rev. Nyhart with a Local Pastor training in Great Bend, and attended a small portion of the Annual Conference here. Since my membership is still in the Rocky Mtn. Conference, I also attended their Annual Conference as well as the Clergy Renewal which is a time of connections, worship, learning opportunities, and relaxation.

I recently joined the Missions Commission. Mission work is a passion for me. I hope to provide an opportunity for members of the congregation to go on a mission trip this summer. It is geared for families but all will be invited to go. I have had the children's Sunday school participate in two mission projects, Blessing sacks which was handed to homeless persons (by their parents) which contained water, socks, food, and personal health wipes. We are currently

making Knotted Fleece Blankets for the fire department to hand to children who have gone through a traumatic experience.

I look forward to the coming year in continuing the ministry programs we have developed and finding new ways for children and families to be connected to Old Mission, the community, and the world.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Mike Ott

2016 was another hugely successful year for the Youth Group of Old Mission! Our 2 college interns, Jordan Larkin & Merit Christensen, are in their 2nd year with us and they continue to be invaluable. They are starting to take more leadership positions in terms of planning and leading youth groups. We couldn't do all the great things we do without them.

As usual, our biggest events of the year were our 2 summer mission trips. This year our Middle School group (5 youth, 4 adults) went to the Heifer Ranch in Perryville, AR for 4 days. While there we slept under the stars (and amongst the bugs), learned about many of the animal husbandry and crop sustainability programs that Heifer runs across the globe, did a number of team building exercises, and even spent a night in their global village putting into practice all that we had learned.

Our Senior High group (19 youth, 4 adults) participated in a GROUP Weekend Workcamp in Brownsville, TN. This is a condensed version of their week long workcamp that runs from Friday to Monday. Even though it was a few days shorter, we were still able to experience everything that a regular workcamp has to offer. We completed a number of home repair projects for the local residents, all while growing together as a group and worshipping God.

In addition to the mission trips, the Youth also participated in a number of worship services, including leading our annual Youth Sunday and Tenebrae services. Both of which were very meaningful to both the congregation and the students.

One of the most meaningful events we participated in was our 2nd Annual Teen Summit on Race & Privilege. This was done in partnership with the Youth Groups of St. James UMC and St. Paul's UMC. Of all the events and activities our youth participate in and lead, I'm personally most proud of this Summit. To see youth of different races and backgrounds coming together to have an open and honest dialogue on the issues facing them today is truly a blessing and honor! We will be continuing this important event in 2017, growing the number of churches involved.

We also had our regular Sunday evening Youth Groups meetings where we ate dinner together, learned a lesson through discussion and activities, and closed it out with some games and fellowship time.

As we close the book on 2016 and look forward to 2017, I am so appreciative of all the support our youth staff continues to receive from the congregation of Old Mission. I want to give a specific shout out to Jeff & Keri Breon, the co-chairs of Youth Council. They work tirelessly to support our youth in any way needed. We have an amazing group of students, and it is a privilege to work with them every day.

DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP ARTS

Karen Eisele

Old Mission has had a busy year in Worship Arts Ministry. We have experienced a couple staffing changes that have allowed us to expand our capabilities in training and preparing music for worship. Sarah Hill has added the role Director of Bell Ministries to her list of job duties while Brett Eichman was added as a Worship Arts Assistant. The bell choir is sounding fantastic thanks to Sarah and the many volunteers that show up each week. Brett spent the last couple months preparing instrumental ensembles for Old Mission Christmas. As a result, everyone sounded great!

In a church with three different worship settings on any given Sunday morning, it can be easy to only know the people who attend the same service. We have been very intentional to offer combined worship services throughout the year, which both strengthens the unity of the Church and church musicians. Those services include: Youth Sunday, Holy Thursday, Tenebrae, Living 6:8 Sunday, Back To School Sunday, Thanksgiving Service and Old Mission Christmas. All have been well received by the congregation and strive to glorify God in all that we do.

I am incredibly blessed to be able to work with such talented musicians at Old Mission. We have a unique group of volunteers who place a high value on being prepared to present excellence in worship. They love God and their art and are a joy to make music with. I am also thankful for the team of music staff that we have and grateful to them for always going the extra mile.

CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR

Tom Gifford

The Chancel Choir has an active roster of 23 singers. On any given Sunday, we average around 18 singers per service. Our choir enhances the music ministry of the traditional services by singing anthems, leading hymns, and providing service music like introits, responses and Amens. The singers prepare and sing a new anthem every week from the middle of August to the middle of July. They rehearse Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 and on Sunday's 20 minutes before the service. They performed music for approximately 45 services and rehearsed over 70 hours throughout the course of the year. We added over a dozen new songs to our repertoire during 2016.

The Choir continues a rotation of singing at the 11:00 o'clock service on all Sundays except the third; when they sing for the 8:30 service. Besides the regular Sunday services, our choir sings at special Lenten services, funerals, Old Mission Christmas, and the Christmas Eve late service and the Back to School Celebration in August.

We prepared a masterwork called "The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass" for choir and bluegrass band hoping to present it on Christ the King Sunday. We fell short in getting it ready for performance because some of the music was a bit more challenging than the conductor planned for, and we couldn't fill out the bluegrass band with willing and competent guitar and banjo players. We did perform a couple of the movements on Christ the King Sunday at a combined Thanksgiving service.

The choir director continues to lead the hymns and sing solos at the services not attended by the choir and helps to coordinate, and/or conduct any other Special Music opportunities as they arise, especially during Old Mission Christmas and our Easter celebrations. Also, the director coordinates with whomever is preaching in an attempt to match the anthems with the sermon and the scripture for that day.

DIRECTOR OF SPIRIT BELLS

Sarah Hill

The last year involved several changes in the Spirit Bell ministry, including a new director and several new ringers. The bell choir continues to play 9 months a year, bringing their music to worship in the second Sunday of each month, plus this year the bells made a surprise appearance at VBS. The kids were fascinated, and we will definitely be looking for more opportunities to introduce younger generations to the handbells and chimes. The bell choir has four new ringers, which has generated even more interest among some of the congregation in starting a second bell choir for beginners! This spring or summer, we'll have a chance for interested new ringers to play side by side with our experienced ringers, with just a short-term commitment. The bells are a proud part of the music ministry at Old Mission, and will continue ringing in the new year by collaborating with solo musicians and learning some exciting new material.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MUSIC

Sarah Hill

Old Mission is blessed to have many talented youth musicians committed to sharing their gifts, which I believe is because this church is committed to supporting youth leadership through music. The youth band meets most Sunday nights before fellowship to learn contemporary music and some traditional hymns, and then lead their peers in a short worship service once a month. The youth band also brings their music to Sunday morning worship 4-5 times per year as a group. The youth band also helps lead worship for some children's events like 2-5th grade lock-in and 3rd grade Bible retreat, as well as volunteering during VBS. There are many youth musicians who participate in other ways, by playing cello or trumpet with the worship band, flute with the Easter orchestra or trombone at Old Mission Christmas. These are opportunities that many musicians do not get unless they play in college or as adults, and Old Mission's youth are learning to play in small groups, with unusual instrumentation, and all in worship settings. One of the greatest things we teach the youth through this ministry is that they are valued and that their gifts are worthy to be presented to God!

Almost all of our youth musicians participated in our annual Youth Sunday in February this year. The theme-- "Faith, Family, and Football" gave youth time to share with the congregation what they've learned at Old Mission, and how their fellowship here has equipped them to deal with the 'footballs' life throws at them. The worship services were planned by youth, led by youth through liturgy, music and sermon, and were extremely meaningful. The youth will begin planning soon for Youth Sunday 2017, and hope to see you all there.

DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP BAND

Sarah Hill

The worship band continues to lead the contemporary service at 9:45 each Sunday, collaborating for all-church events like Old Mission Christmas and Back to School Sunday, and teaching kids God's word through music at VBS. Over the last year, the band has added some regular players into rotation, including two drummers! One of our newer players, Brett Eichman, has also joined staff at Old Mission as Worship Arts Associate, and has already been a great asset to the music ministry. Brett is an assistant band director and drum line instructor, as well as a founder of the Kansas City Percussion Collective which had its debut concert at Old Mission in December. As the worship band continues to navigate combining modern music with meaningful worship, those of us involved in planning do our best to intentionally find lyrics that speak to our congregation as well as the sermon series. New this year was the addition of hymn arrangements for the contemporary service, to introduce newer members to the traditional hymnal. Finally, the addition of lyrics to the sanctuary screens has had a noticeable effect on congregational participation at the contemporary service. As the congregation looks up and forward to the words, instead of down in the bulletin, their voices are raised too. It is always a blessing to lead in worship, but being able to hear the congregation singing with us is especially moving.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

TRUSTEES

Sara Humphrey and Scott Long, Chairs

The Trustees have had a full year in 2016. A combination of church staff, volunteers, and professionals have worked together to maintain, repair and improve Old Mission's physical plant and facilities. We appreciate the hard work of all in our continuing efforts to maintain the church.

During 2016, the Trustees have continued to oversee numerous maintenance, repair and improvement projects involving Old Mission's facilities and properties. Much of our work in 2016 involved three major projects: 1) the adjustment of our HVAC (heating and air conditioning) system and the repair and restoration of the sanctuary ceiling; 2) the repair and remediation of the water damage suffered by Old Mission during the August 26 / August 27 storms; and, 3) our work 75th Anniversary Capital Project Committee on that Sanctuary Window Replacement project to be undertaken as part of Old Mission's 75th Anniversary celebration in 2017.

HVAC System and Sanctuary Ceiling Repair and Restoration. During 2016, we worked with P-1 (our HVAC contractor) to study and then balance and adjust our HVAC system in order to address the humidity issues in the sanctuary that had contributed to water build-up and damage to the sanctuary light fixtures and ceiling. Once the humidity issue was addressed, we contracted with Encore to repair and restore the sanctuary ceiling. This project included the

removal and repair of large sections of the plaster ceiling, replacement of the ceiling insulation, cleaning and powder coating the diffusers, cleaning and remediation of mold found in the plaster, cleaning of the sanctuary's HVAC ductwork, coating the interior the ductwork with anti-microbial coating and the repainting of the entire sanctuary ceiling. Encore was very good to work with and their work caused a minimal of disruption to the use of the sanctuary for worship services.

Water Damage Repair and Remediation. During the evening of August 26 and the early morning of August 27, thunderstorms rolled through northern Johnson County causing significant run-off and flooding throughout the Fairway area, as well as power outages. Old Mission suffered a power outage shutting down Old Mission's HVAC system and sump pumps. As a result, Old Mission suffered a significant amount of water damage to the interior of its basement when a significant amount of water entered and collected in Fellowship Hall and the church kitchen and when water entered around the rear basement doors at the foot of the ramp, soaking the carpet and damaging walls near and around the basement elevator. In addition, Old Mission suffered exterior damage to its asphalt parking lots, the gardens on the west lawn and the plantings and landscaping in the parking lot. Trustees contracted with Encore to assist in the clean-up and drying out of the basement and in the assessment and repair, remediation and restoration of the damaged basement areas. This work was completed and a claim for the water damage suffered was filed with Old Mission's insurance carrier and Encore was very helpful in working with the insurance company's adjuster on this claim. Old Mission's claim was approved and paid. After taking into account Old Mission's deductible, the amount of the claim approved and paid by Old Mission's insurance company covered all of Old Mission's costs associated with this claim

Sanctuary Window Replacement Project. Trustees spent a significant amount of time working with the 75th Anniversary Capital Project Committee on that Committee's Sanctuary Window Replacement Project to be undertaken as part of Old Mission's 75th Anniversary celebration in 2017. The Trustees met with the 75th Anniversary Capital Project Committee to discuss their chosen project, identified the basic criteria and standards for the new windows, prepared specifications for the new windows and bid packages for the project, solicited bids from four window suppliers/contractors for this project, reviewed three proposals received, selected two window suppliers/contractors to meet with the Trustees and checked references supplied and visited a representative window project (Asbury Church) for one of the window suppliers/contractors selected to meet with Trustees. After meeting with the two prospective window suppliers/contractors, the Trustees selected the Marvin Window representative for the project. Moving forward with this project is contingent on the necessary funds being raised for this project by the 75th Anniversary Capital Project Committee, but (assuming that the necessary funds are raised) it is anticipated that the replacement windows will be installed (and the project completed) in time for Old Mission's 75th Anniversary celebration in September 2017. Trustees will continue to coordinate with the 75th Anniversary Capital Project Committee on this project as it proceeds.

In addition to these major projects, numerous other projects were continued, supervised, undertaken or completed by the Trustees in 2016, including:

- * 70-inch flat video screens were installed above each of the doors facing the pews in the front of the sanctuary.

- * Cliff Van Blarcom completed the renovation of the sacristy. The renovated sacristy provides the altar guild and the contemporary worship groups with better, more organized working and storage space, and includes new lighting, new flooring, additional storage cabinets and new countertop work space for the altar guild and organized storage space for the contemporary service praise band's instruments and equipment. Scott Nyhart contributed to the project by constructing a second movable cart for the storage, organization and securing of many of the praise band's smaller instruments and equipment. Many thanks to both Cliff and Scott for their work on this project.

- * The sanctuary ceiling repair project necessitated the removal of the sanctuary light fixtures and the refurbishment and reinstallation of the light fixtures was also completed by Cliff Van Blarcom. Cliff rebalanced and reinforced the light fixtures, replaced all of the light bulbs with new energy efficient bulbs, washed all of the glass shades and diagnosed and repaired (on two separate occasions) some electrical wiring issues with the light fixtures. Old Mission owes Cliff many thanks for his willingness to take on these type of projects for Old Mission (the renovated sacristy and the sanctuary light fixtures are just two examples of the many projects undertaken by Cliff) and for his talent in completing these projects.

- * Thanks to an anonymous donation and memorial funds, Trustees were able to undertake the improvement and relocation of the entrance to the chapel and installation of new double doors in the chapel entrance and the entryway between the chapel and the columbarium. This project is ongoing, but the new double-door opening to the chapel has been completed and the previous single door side chapel entrance has been converted to a partially enclosed coat closet/storage space in the back corner of the chapel. The carpeting in the new center entryway has also been completed and the new double doors for the chapel entrance and the entryway between the chapel and the columbarium have been selected and ordered. The top panels of chapel entrance doors will feature the decorative glass panels from Old Mission's original chapel entrance doors and the top panel of the columbarium entryway doors will feature frosted glass panels that mirror the decorative panels installed in the chapel entrance doors. It is expected that the new doors will be installed (and this project completed) early in 2017.

- * New tile for the sanctuary has been selected and purchased. The installation of the tile will require the removal of the existing tile in the sanctuary and the removal and reinstallation of the sanctuary pews. It is Trustees' intent to store the tile until funds are available for installation.

* During 2016, we continued to utilize the services of P-1 under a maintenance contract we entered into during 2015 to maintain and service our HVAC system and new cooling tower. We remain quite pleased with P-1's work.

* Rick Stuart continues to serve as Old Mission's maintenance man and Gay Ecton, in her role as Church Administrator, keeps Rick quite busy doing miscellaneous jobs and projects around the church. We are very thankful for Rick's excellent work.

Finally, the Trustees look forward to continuing their work in 2017.

STAFF PARISH

Lane Allison, Chair

The 2016 Old Mission Staff Parish Committee members were Lane Allison (Chair), Shannon Beck, Piper Childs, David Howard, Marta Howard, Rob Johnston, Gonz Medina, Dean Strasser, and Debbie Williams (Vice Chair). The role of the Committee is to work with and support clergy and staff so that the mission of the church is realized.

Staff Parish had a busy year with liaison duties related to a larger staff and the staff evaluation process, as well as staff and personnel policy changes.

Staff liaison work and staff evaluation:

Throughout the year Committee members worked with their assigned staff members to lend support and encouragement, as well as complete staff evaluations during the May through October time period. This year the Committee followed a well-defined staff evaluation process establishing a formalized approach to enhance communication. The 4-step process includes:

- 1) Self-evaluation forms are completed by the staff member.
 - 2) The supervisor meets with the staff member and completes the Supervisor Evaluation form.
 - 3) Both forms are submitted to the Staff Parish committee. The Staff Parish liaison meets with the staff member and completes the Staff Liaison Report.
 - 4) The Staff Parish liaison reviews the Staff Liaison Report with the full Staff Parish Committee.
- This process provides opportunities for feedback from staff and congregation and to support staff in their work responsibilities.

Major personnel changes:

Staff turnover in January resulted in the vacancy of the Bell Choir director position. Through a lengthy search led by Dr. Gardner and Karen Eisele for a highly qualified director, church leadership considered several staffing strategies to right-size the music arts department. The result was the appointment of **Sarah Hill** as Director of Spirit Bells, and **Brett Eichman** accepted the position of Music Arts Assistant.

In March, Children's Ministry Director **Sue Barham** resigned her position due to family health issues and to relocate closer to her family in Wisconsin. A search for a new director was headed

by Rev. Karen Nyhart. **Debbie Hull** accepted the position in June, and started her role immediately prior to Vacation Bible School.

In his staff evaluation meeting in November, **Rev. Wally Proctor** announced his intention to retire at the end of 2016. SPPRC hosted a meet and greet reception for Rev. Proctor on December 11 to thank him for his service to Old Mission UMC.

Other activities of note:

In January, the Committee approved a revised personnel policy recommended by a subcommittee comprised of members Betty Leonard, Karen Nyhart, Debbie Williams, Rob Johnston, Shannon Beck and Ian Bartalos. The new Personnel Policy Handbook successfully combined the policies and eliminated prior inconsistencies between the policies held by the Early Education Center and the church proper. The new Policy Handbook was adopted to be effective January 1, 2016.

In May, per policy of The Great Plains Conference, annual pastoral evaluations and leadership assessments were completed, approved and signed by the committee, and filed with the conference office.

In November and December, the Committee developed and approved the 2016 pastor and staff salaries, reviewed and completed the Committee's Appointive Recommendation forms for Dr. Gardner and Rev. Nyhart.

In summary, it has been a positive and productive year at Old Mission. The church is blessed to have strong and dedicated clergy and staff.

LOCAL CHURCH COMMITTEES

FOUNDATION

Karl Phares, Chair

The Old Mission Methodist Foundation is a not-for-profit organization established to provide a permanent endowment to fund educational scholarships and other programs and activities of the Old Mission Methodist Church. Grants from the foundation are funded from the growth of the endowed assets. A spending policy (based on a fixed % of the average of the last three year-end asset balances) controls the maximum allowable grants for the subsequent year.

Beginning balances and financial activity of the Foundation during 2016 through November 30, 2016 are identified below:

Balances as of January 1, 2016:	
General Fund:	\$366,610.47
Youth Fund:	\$44,478.63
Bell Choir Fund:	\$13,404.98
Arts Fund:	\$16,763.40
Kemp Fund:	\$25,744.92
Buildings & Grounds:	\$12,409.88
Heifer Project Fund:	<u>\$13,605.86</u>
Total Balance as of 1/1/2016:	<u>\$520,048.14</u>

Plus: Current Year Contributions:	\$3,125.00
Plus: Investment Appreciation:	\$35,659.35
Less: Current Year Grants:	(\$27,428.00)
Less: Current Year Expenses:	<u>(\$597.00)</u>
Total Balance as of 11/30/16:	<u>\$530,807.49</u>

The Foundation depends on contributions in order to grow its assets, which increases funds available for grants. Accordingly, the Foundation respectfully requests and solicits your generous annual contributions and encourages your consideration in estate planning. Contributions and Memorials of \$1,000 or more, received in the same calendar year, are recognized on a permanent plaque.

LIBRARY

Shirley Ingerly, Chair

The Charles B. Bennett library computer has been out of order for most of 2016. A few books have been donated to the library and will be available after they are cataloged. The library is open for check out of cataloged items. I have no other information to report.

EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

Ian Bartalos, Chair
Betty Leonard, Director

The Early Education Center enrolled 67 children ages 1 to 5 in the full day program, 17 in the morning preschool program and 14 in the after school program. In 2016 we improved our "outdoor classroom" by adding a set of large wooden building blocks and a shed to store them. We also purchased two water/ sensory tables and a cascading table which connects them, allowing water to flow. Other improvements this year included replacement of the church's old freezer with a new commercial frost free double freezer which is shared with the church. The camera security system was also updated, providing clearer images and wider views of all areas used for the children. Wood rot at the entrance was repaired and painted as well as hallways in the EEC areas.

FOCUS AREAS: WORSHIP, STUDY, SERVE AND WITNESS

PRAYER CHAIN/PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Michele Bowen

“I noticed how it (prayer shawl) helped my daughter and how she felt God’s love and comfort every time she wrapped herself up in it. You have given us other shawls to share – and the response is always that they feel so much better when they put the shawl around their shoulders...”

Our prayer chain and prayer shawl ministries go hand in hand. Both continue to be an important part of our prayer ministry here at Old Mission. Our prayer chain includes thirty six dedicated pray-ers who feel called to pray for the needs of our church family, friends, community and the world.

Our prayer shawls are a tangible part of that ministry, something to hold onto. As the shawls are made, we pray over them. Before they are given out, a pastor prays over them. And as they are given away – more prayer. They represent, to many, the prayers of our church.

Our baby prayer shawls are given to parents as their children are baptized. These ministries belong to God. And, oh, what He can do with 36 pray-ers and less than 8 crafters – is simply amazing. In 2016, we gave forty-six adult and baptism shawls. Overall, since this ministry began ten years ago, Father has seen to it that we’ve been able to bless EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY EIGHT people/families.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6, 7

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Taylor Smith, Chair

Throughout 2016, the Church and Society work area team consisting of 8 individuals who initiated and managed programs to reach out to the many social needs of the community.

The year round programs included:

-The Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network is a multi-denominational coalition of area churches which has established a network of churches opening their facilities to host homeless families for a week at a time. Old Mission is the support church for Prairie Baptist Church, and Tara Culley was our church’s coordinator in 2016.

-Johnson County Food Ministry just completed its sixth year under the leadership of Janice Kresin. The volunteers served dinner the third Thursday five times in 2016 at the Center of Grace Church in Olathe. The program serviced a total of 13,176 meals this year.

-Another group of volunteers serves lunch to 100-140 people the first Friday each month at the Cross-Lines in the Kitchen located at 646 Shawnee Avenue in Kansas City, Kansas. This is our church’s 34th year of participating in this ministry.

-Connie Walsh organizes the food collection program. The food is delivered to the Catholic Charities in Overland Park and on alternate months, donated food and money are given to the

Northeast Multi-Service Center located at Johnson Drive and Lamar. In 2016 we collected 1,437 pounds of food and \$3,610 in monetary donations.

The short term programs include:

-Four blood drives organized by Nancy Kirkland.

-The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was held on February 9. Old Mission and the Early Education Program teamed up to put on this event. Over 150 people attended and we had 15 volunteers. Proceeds totaling \$650 from free will donations were donated to the Syrian Refugees for UMCOR.

-Connie Walsh organized Case Against Hunger - \$3532 was collected and donated to Crosslines.

-The coat drive for the Cross-Lines Christmas Store was organized by Nancy Kirkland and donations included many coats, hats, gloves and scarves.

-In November/December the Rawe family organized the Angel Tree project in which Old Mission has participated for 28 consecutive years. This program gives children of prisoners Christmas gifts on behalf of the parents in prison. Two gifts per child were provided and delivered by church members. We served 110 children for a total of 220 gifts.

MISSIONS

Susan Strong, Chair

In 2016, Old Mission UMC continued its Covenant Relationship with the Give Ye Them To Eat (GYTTE) ministry serving south-central Mexico through our Missions Committee gift of \$2,500 to the General Board of Global Ministries. We also contributed \$3,000 (half in 2014 and half in 2015) to cover construction materials for our January 2016 Adult Mission Trip to GYTTE's "Tree of Life" training center in Tlancualpican. Old Mission UMC sent a team of 11 adults to GYTTE from Jan 8-17. Team members were Deb Adams, Dan Donica, Audrey Wiegmann, Tom Wiegmann, Peter Wiegmann, Carol Wagner, Joe Van Ackeren, Lee Richards, and Julia Sanders. Team members spent time helping with road, building and ranch maintenance at the "Tree of Life" training center, as well as in spiritual development and building cultural awareness of conditions facing villagers in rural Mexico. This most recent of many adult mission trips to GYTTE over the years was very enlightening for team members, and we left Mexico feeling physically tired but spiritually invigorated!

We continued our quarterly mission's projects for the second year. For the second year, our 1st quarter project we delivered handmade valentines to the elderly members of OM. The valentines were made by OM Sunday school kids, plus valentines we made during a valentine making party we hosted. The second quarter project was our fourth annual **Living 6:8**. We had 8 different projects identified and most we organized for the church. For the third quarter we packed meals at Stop Hunger Now. We had a crew of 57 volunteers (members, youth and St. James UMC youth) packed 4,491 fortified rice-soy meals for **Stop Hunger Now** in 1 1/2 hours. We paid the cost of the meal (\$.29), then they are combined with other meals to fill a shipping container. Our meals went to El Salvador. Fourth quarter was our 4th year as collection center for **Operation Christmas Child**. We had 61.5 volunteer hours over 8 days. OM donated 108

filled shoes boxes and we collected 390 boxes from the community. For a total donation of 498 shoe boxes. Pat Hoetz and Susan Strong organized these projects.

We continued our traditional fund raisers for Church World Service and Heifer International. Donations were collected for Easter \$460, Mother's Day \$675, Father's Day \$500, and Christmas cards \$1,805 (and again this year Debbie Smith blessed us with her talents by hand painting Sparkle the Sheep. Sparkle was given to anyone who donated \$40 or more). We have been participating in these fund raisers since the 1990's. Lou Smith heads up these activities.

Roesland Elementary Partnership is our fulfillment of the Bishop's continuing initiative on active involvement in public education. For the 2015-2016 school year OM providing about 20 volunteers completing 1,034 volunteer/tutoring hours. OM tutors grades 1 thru 3 with the Barton reading program, K thru 3 for tutoring in classrooms and one on one. We are continuing these activities for the 2016 – 2017 school year. Mission's also provides funds for PTA projects, school supplies, and family emergencies. This effort coordinated by Audrey Wiegmann.

We organized several different collections:

Spofford Home: collected flip flops, swimwear, towels, and sunscreen for kids 7 to 12 years old. Coordinated by Pat Hoetz.

Bishop's Round-Up: collected \$1,015 in cash plus 12 boxes of diapers, paper towels, and toilet paper. Coordinated by Pat Hoetz.

Adoption of seven **Roesland Elementary** families for Christmas by OM Sunday school classes. Coordinated by Audrey Wiegmann and Pat Hoetz.

Adopted a Mom with 4 kids from Shawnee Mission North for Christmas. They missed the cut-off date to receive help from their school. Using our remaining committee funds and help from OM members we were able to take of their needs. Coordinated by Shelle Lewis.

Christmas Eve offering will be paired with funds from the committee and go to UMCOR for Hurricane Matthew clean up in Haiti. Total donated was \$ 1,485.

These projects were brought to you by the kind, hardworking people of the Mission's committee: Deb Adams, Pat Hotze, Shelle Lewis, Julia Sanders, Lou Smith, Chris Cunard (member emeritus), Audrey and Tom Wiegmann. A **big thank you** to them and Rev Karen Nyhart for her guidance!

The **biggest thank you** goes to you, for your support of Missions! None of these accomplishments would be possible without you!

MINISTER TO CHILDREN (JAN-MARCH)

Sue Barham

MINISTER TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (JUNE-ONGOING)

Debbie Hull

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Michele Bowen

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COUNCIL CHAIR

Lory Allison

The Children's Ministry Council is comprised of thirteen dedicated and talented Old Mission members as well as our Children's Ministry staff liaisons. Here are just a few of the highlights from 2016.

Missions: Throughout the year, children participate in a variety of mission projects that support local and global organizations. All children's Sunday school and Children's Church offerings go towards a variety of mission projects: Children's Church packed and shipped #45 Operation Christmas Child boxes. VBS children made a picnic table, a two-chair seater, and collected over \$400 in gift cards for Synergy House. Sunday school children made cards for and pictures for a variety of people, our own Pastor Nyhart included. Prior to Christmas we began making 'tie' blankets to give to rescue workers who come into contact with children in times of need. The Sunday school children also collected a variety of items (art supplies, underwear, toiletries) for member Kay Johnston to take to Uganda.

Special Activities: The Children's Ministry Council is responsible for several special events outside of the regular Sunday morning educational setting. Some of these activities are offered to Old Mission children – others are offered to the children in our community as well. The OM Staff and the Children's Ministry Council organize the events, and parents volunteer their time, energies and talents to make the events successful. Below are some of the activities sponsored by Children's Ministry Council in 2016:

Lock-in for #28 third thru fifth graders provided an opportunity for outreach as the children could bring a friend to Sky Zone, enjoy fellowship as Karen Eisele and Sarah Hill provided a youth-led worship, and the children bonded in a sleep-over experience at the church.

- **Camp Chippewa Overnight** provided Old Mission 3rd-5th graders with outdoor fun while playing games, horseback riding, learning archery, and cooking their dinner over a campfire. The highlight of the weekend was the children's devotional and preparation for the Sunday worship service that they designed and prepared themselves. They wrote and performed their own special music, designed the order of worship in order to create the bulletins, chose Scripture and wrote their own Message!
- **Teacher Appreciation Breakfast:** We recognized and celebrated the children's Sunday School teachers, Nursery workers and volunteers with a 'day off' and a special breakfast and fellowship time. We couldn't be in ministry without them!
- **Vacation Bible School** this year was "Journey of a Jedi: The Force Awakens", a continuation of our Star Wars Jedi Training theme we used in a prior year. Nearly 200 children from Old Mission, our Early Education Center and the local community enjoyed learning how they are all part of God's Story.
- The annual church-wide **Back to School** Sunday included an outdoor worship service, Chris Cakes, a children's petting zoo (funded by Children's Ministry Council). The Old Mission congregation celebrated the new school year for our Sunday school programming. In addition, Sunday school favorite Loftus returned to help us with the Blessing of the Children and Teachers. 'Awaken' backpack tags were available to all, courtesy of your Children's Ministry Council.
- **3rd Grade Bible Presentation and Retreat:** The Council sponsored the presentation of 14 Bibles to our 3rd graders. Later that same week we had our Retreat with pizza, games and becoming more familiar with our new Bibles.

- **Fall Carnival:** included Trunk or Treating, crafts, games, and food with special guests from the Fairway Police, Fire and EMS departments. Over 200 were in attendance.
- **Fellowship/Movie Night:** for ten of our K-2nd graders. They enjoyed a taste of their own “Lock-In” Pajama Party & Movie night. There was pizza, games, a devotional and hot chocolate and a movie.

Education: Sunday school is offered for infants and toddlers in our church nursery. Two year olds through fifth grade have a wonderful Sunday school program at 9:35 a.m. weekly. Children’s Church is offered weekly during the 11:00 worship service for children aged 4 through 8th grade. We have an amazing number of caring and dedicated adult and parent volunteers who minister to our most precious resources – the children. It is a large job, both in recruiting as well as encouraging and supporting those who are in ministry to our children.

At the beginning of 2016, our Director was Sue Barham. Due to personal circumstances, Sue resigned her position to return to her home state of Wisconsin and Old Mission was without a Children’s Ministry Director for a few months during a Director search. Michele Bowen filled the role as Acting Director, Sunday School teacher and volunteer recruitment tasks, and managed the Pre-K Sunday School curriculum. Sarah Nyhart assisted with managing the Elementary Sunday School preparations, and the Sunday School teachers and Council members filled in as needed to maintain the weekly needs of worship leaders and grade-level teachers for Sunday School.

Sue’s position of Minister to Children was filled by Debbie Hull as Minister to Children and Families in June. Debbie quickly took over the Sunday School curriculum, weekly preparations and volunteer teacher recruitment tasks, among the other job roles of the position. As one of her first tasks, she job shadowed with Karen Eisele and Michele Bowen to prepare for Vacation Bible School 2017!

2016 has been a transitional year due to the staff change in the new Director role, but we have nonetheless had a very successful year in ministering to the children of Old Mission as well as the community. This time has also provided a special opportunity for us to nurture the faith and use the talents of our volunteers in unique ways to fill needed roles. In the spirit of the Wesley tradition, our leaders and faithful volunteers have taken the charge to “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people we can, as long as ever you can.” Praise be to God!!

WITNESS

Sherry Ott, Lay Leader

The mission of this ministry area is to effectively communicate the messages of Old Mission, both to our internal faith community (members and guests) and to our geographical faith community (Fairway and the surrounding area).

Website (www.oldmission.org) – Following the addition of database functionality to our Elexio suite of products, there was a large undertaking in 2016 to convert our Shelby Church Management database into the new Elexio database. The project proved to be very complex that took a considerable amount of time. **A huge thank you to Amy Hernandez-Zoellner and Dr. Gardner** for ALL of the work they did to bring the project to a successful close. The new database system enabled us to release our new online directory, providing a portal for all members and release a mobile app available from a tablet or smartphone. We are currently in the process of getting member photos uploaded and educating / encouraging people to use the functionality from both their computer and smartphones. The next website related project that we will be undertaking in 2017 is Event Check-In Services. Our website (hosted by Elexio) and related suite of products are key tools for Old Mission...visitors, members and staff.

A special thanks to Amy Hernandez-Zoellner for the stellar job she is doing in maintaining the website on an ongoing basis!

Social Media - The Old Mission Fan Page on Facebook can be found simply by typing Old Mission in the Facebook search field ([facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)). There is also a link to the Facebook Fan Page on our website that people can view even if they do not have a Facebook account.

Computer Systems – Infrastructure - Our support / maintenance agreement with Ideolity, a local computer services company, continues to be positive. Due to financial constraints, the purchase of a centralized server (preferred model) continues to be a difficult challenge to overcome.

Multimedia in Worship – Through a small fundraising effort and generous matching donation, we were able to purchase and install 2 TV screens for the sanctuary. We use the Pro-Presenter software to display content on the screens in both the contemporary and traditional worship services. Sermon content is displayed in both worship services as well as song lyrics in the contemporary service. This has been a very exciting and important component of implementing our 2020 Church Vision to make “our use of technology innovative and creative, serving people and sharing God’s story through all the senses” and to move toward making “our Sanctuary adaptable for all styles of worship, music and the arts”.

Digital Signage – A huge THANK YOU again goes out to Scott Nyhart for 100% of the time making sure there is engaging display, current and accurate information on the digital sign in the Narthex!

FRAN Mail - Guests to our worship services receive a handwritten letter from a member, letting them know that we were glad they visited and inviting them back. In the note the member

invites them to contact him / her via phone or email with any questions they might have. Thank you to Nancy Richart who has been faithful in this ministry for many years!

Connections Center – Thanks to the continued dedication of a group of people led by Kevin Hargett, Gay Ecton and Pastor Wally Proctor, our Connections area in the North Portico continues to be a wonderful place for members and guests to gather for fellowship. Beverages are available each Sunday following each of the 3 worship services.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Suellen Woelk, President

2016 was full of many successes. Ruth Chiga continued to serve as the Lunch Bunch Chair. We have to consider Lunch Bunch as a BIG success again this year. The UMW members think that it is good to eat out and enjoy each other's company each month.

UMW's Reading Program continues to be chaired by Norma Jean Gould. Modern technology has changed some of the protocols. Many of the suggested books are now on Kindles or iPads. Some of our readers don't have access to this technology, but our biggest problem is the increased cost of the books and the small reader participation.

Suellen Woelk continued as the Book Mark's Chair which has managed to maintain their membership. She also hosted the annual Summer Dessert Buffet to raise money for Roesland Elementary School. We were able to give them about \$750 this year so I would have to evaluate that activity as a success.

Another success was the programs scheduled for our General Sessions in May and December. Ann Kennedy worked with us about preserving and sharing our families' artifacts. We were provided journals at our December meeting to log in our personal stories about our mementoes.

The next success that I wanted to celebrate was the Holiday Sale. Once more, Marsha Norman helped us with the silent auction. Arlene Mowry provided some beautifully knitted items, and lots of people provided cookies. The only improvement that I would add would be to include some homemade candy next year. Brittles also sell well. We earned over \$750.

Novilla Utterback gave us her punch bowl when she downsized this past summer, so now we are having a "Meet & Greet" at the beginning of our general sessions where we use her punch bowl, sip a beverage and visit. We need to stay connected and this bonds us together. This has made these meetings more social and less business. We are now taking care of our business issues during our monthly planning sessions.

We have decided to continue to provide a light lunch at the Lenten daytime services, which will be held in March.

Arlene Mowry, the Coffee and Conversation Chair, and the active members have decided that our group has gradually lost their interest in current events. Perhaps the recent election's turmoil was part of the problem, but at their final meeting of the year it was voted to discontinue this UMW activity.

Our biggest success was the teamwork that emerged as our officers worked together to really make 2016 a success! I am so proud of our executive team.