

President's report 2017

As 2017 comes to a close I thank you for allowing me to be the President of the congregation. When I was asked first to be VP it was more than 2 years ago and I thought wow what am I getting myself into. Although I am glad my term is coming to a close, I am also glad I did it. I learned a lot this year,

I learned how much people are willing to pitch in to help out. I saw this first in December 2017 when a pipe burst over the nursery. It was heartwarming to see all of the people who came together in a moment's notice to clean up a very wet mess. Later as spring came I was happy to see folks come together to adopt portions of the grounds and clean up and maintain them over the year. The Garage sale, Cookies and More, Café le Fed, Columbus days and committee membership are some of the great examples of people helping out around the church and there are surely many other examples that I am not listing. One thing I did notice is that often it is the same group of people who roll up their sleeves and pitch in. If I could ask for something it would be for everyone who is able in the congregation to pick one volunteer activity in 2018 and get involved.

2017 proved to be a year of growing pains for our congregation, by the end of the year our expenses for the year were outpacing our contributions, we had to dip into savings and ask for help from each of you. I am happy to see that the Stewardship drive has shown a healthy percentage of increase and many in the congregation are really living generously as our Stewardship theme asks. I did learn that for each member, the church pays \$40 in denominational support which comes out of the general fund of the church and that not all members contribute to the general fund. Those who don't contribute to the general fund don't pay any of the monthly bills for the church and in fact some other member is paying their denominational support. It is great that members contribute to specific restricted funds but we all should contribute to the general fund of the church.

I hope for a great 2018 at Federated Church and again I thank you for the privilege of being your President in 2017.