

2018 Annual Report
Peter Stringham
Director of Operations

2018 was a challenging year in the Operations Department as restructuring went on in the light of decreasing funds being available for various functions. Among these changes:

1. The bookstore was a fully volunteer operation for the entire year after previously having a paid manager.
2. Hospitality Coordination shifted from having a paid coordinator to being a fully volunteer operation.
3. 2018 was the first year in which there was no Sacred Service Coordinator for the full year.
4. The position of Director of Communications was reduced from 32 hours a week to 10 hours a week, changing to a virtual offsite position. Michael Mooney's office position increased by two hours a week to cover some of the lost time. In summary, 32 hour a week of activity was replaced by 12 hours.

Despite these changes, much was accomplished in 2018, including:

1. Conversion of the bookstore accounting system to one which provides more accurate reporting, lower credit card fees and great efficiency.
2. Creation of website underwriters, which covered all the costs of having a website in 2018.
3. Text announcements were introduced, which was very successful in improving communications with our community. There are currently 84 subscribers to the service.
4. New events that were produced during the year included two U-Club Cabarets, three Embodying Soul Dances, a new weekly group studying A Course in Love, the Ricki Byars-Beckwith event, monthly community potlucks, nationally known psychic Thomas John and a return of the John of God Crystal Healing Bed. Not counting church related meetings and outside rental events, 124 events were held in 2018 with a total attendance of 1,877.

5. The Spring Fling fundraiser was resurrected, creating a fun event for all that raised over \$3,000 for the church.
6. Maintenance projects included replacing the water heaters in both hospitality and in the kitchen.

Cash Flow- The staff and volunteers contribute to the weekly operation of the church. The goal for the year was to maintain the quality of services our community wishes to have while saving operational funds in the process. I think we were successful in achieving this goal. Cash savings included:

1. Operations salaries- \$6,051
2. Supplies- \$613
3. Credit card fees- \$862
4. Building and Maintenance expenses- \$1,579
5. Information Systems- \$1,249

On the down side, our expenses on utilities increased in 2018 by \$6,344 over 2017, a result of higher utility rates and a colder winter.

Going forward- The Director of Operations position has had its hours reduced from 40+ hours per week to 16 hours per week, effective January 1. Thus, it will be necessary for the church to rely more on volunteer help to maintain the level of service offered in the past. The DoO position will be one of completing scheduled weekly tasks/reporting and less after hours activities and generating new initiatives. Under Rev Ogun's direction, I am currently working on a plan to create greater volunteer engagement.

It has been an honor to serve Unity on the River as a volunteer, Board Member and member of staff for the past 16 years. As always, I welcome anyone to contact me with questions or feedback.

In Service,

Peter Stringham
Director of Operations
January, 2019