



2020 Annual Report

Who We Are

At the Congregational Church of La Jolla, God isn't just a word, and Jesus Christ isn't a set of rules by which we judge others. God is a loving presence in our lives, and Jesus Christ—through the Holy Spirit—transforms us into a family that cares for its members and reaches out to the world. While we revere our traditional architecture and worship, we are also an open-minded congregation. With the rest of the United Church of Christ, we value diversity, and decry discrimination in all its forms.

The Congregational Church of La Jolla is, in fact, an Open & Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. We open our church doors to the full diversity of humankind in God's glorious creation, warmly embracing all differences in age, race, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, mental and physical ability, ethnic and cultural identity, religious background, educational level, and socioeconomic status. Furthermore, we affirm that all those to whom we open our doors are welcome and encouraged to fully participate in the worship, life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation's life in Christ.

Though we are a people for whom Christ is the gateway to wholeness and Christianity the way to fulfillment, we joyfully engage in sacred conversation with sincere followers of other faith expressions, enthusiastically acknowledging that which we share in common, and seeking ways to reach out together to a divided world.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT 2020

As I write this report, I am looking back at all that we have been through in 2020 and I see the struggle and hardship but if you look closely you will see that we met the challenge with creativity, resilience and faith.

Over the year of 2020 it was a hard decision to close the church where so many of us find comfort. But we rose to the challenge and reconnected with each other in new and creative ways.

We continued with essential repairs on the church. We welcomed new renters. We put procedures in place to disinfect the church and we created a way for the administrative operations to continue remotely.

We thank Cherie and Graham McGruer for successfully requesting a PPP loan to help fund daily operations.

The organ repair has been postponed as the production of parts was delayed. Service of the organ and the piano was reduced to a minimum.

Repairs on the structure of the church have been postponed but regular maintenance has been maintained. We have a new fence along the back of the kitchen as the old one failed. There have been necessary repairs on door locks and appliances in the kitchen. Mimi's Kitchen donated a floor cleaning in the kitchen and we passed our fire and health inspections with high marks.

I would like to thank Annie Frizzell Mills, James Towner, Sigrid Nicholas, Victoria Gist-Towner and Rev. Tim Seery for their continued contributions in maintaining the church and the church functions.

Our goals for 2021 include continuing our excellent relationship with our renters and tightening our budget until we open the church doors again.

I hope to see you all in person soon. Until then be safe and be well.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthias Kaeser

MODERATOR'S REPORT 2020

2020 has changed our lives in ways that I could have never imagine. The resiliency that we have shown is remarkable. I still remember my last day at church, it was March 8 and we were celebrating Women's History Month by watching a movie on Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Little did we all know, that would be our last day at church for a long time. As 2020 progressed and I started my new normal, my thoughts were how would we adapt to not physically attending church and how would the church survive this pandemic.

Soon I realized that through the church worship packages, the zoom meetings and emails that Pastor Tim created we would make it. Pastor Tim's dedication to the life of the church has given us more notoriety in the surrounding community and now with the YouTube segments we can have a better connection to Pastor Tim by seeing him as well as hearing him. Nina and Bronwyn delivered us a collection of beautiful music. Annie and Bronwyn maintained our church business needs and Matthias continued to oversee the maintenance requirements of the church, in addition to giving us a treat of occasionally playing the organ. This team has kept our church viable and is preparing for the time when we can come together again safely.

I would like to thank all of you for your willingness to venture into this new way of worshipping this past year, your support and your patience as we await the time when we can reopen our church doors again.

Respectfully submitted,

Sigrid H. Nicholas

CLERK'S REPORT 2020

MEMBERSHIP

January 1, 2020

Total Membership 125

Members who have passed: **3**

Members who have left the church: **2**

January 1, 2021

Total Membership 120

DIACONATE REPORT 2020

For the majority of 2020, because of the complications imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the diaconate has been unable to assemble. Only one official meeting had taken place prior to the shelter-in-place order in March 2020. Weekly worship services for 2020 were conducted through e-mailed programs prepared by Pastor Tim Seery, Bronwyn Allen and Nina Gilbert. Occasionally, members would gather for an online Zoom meeting. 2020 was a chaotic time for our community but is my hope that the pandemic can be brought under control in 2021 and that regular services will resume.

Mars Cheung
Diaconate Chair

MIRIAM'S PURSE FUND REPORT 2020

Miriam's Purse Fund was established in 1983 to provide emergency food, medical supplies, and short-term housing for members of the church family. Only interest is used for these purposes. Repayment is not necessary though donations are gratefully received.

This year (2020) \$2575 was used for housing assistance for a member of our church.

This year (2020) \$50 was donated to the fund.

These funds are held by AMERICAN CENTURY INVESTMENTS (GNMAE).

Total assets December 31, 2019 were \$51,565.11.

Total assets December 31, 2020 were \$50,928.05. This reflects market change and adjustments.

Mary Benbow

MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2020

Highlights of 2020 from the Music department

January 5: Our choir started the year by celebrating our new robes (Thank you *again*, Jackie!) with a parade through the aisles of the church, a new arrangement of the spiritual "I Got a Robe," and a sermon by Tim called "Beware of Those in Robes."

Music for home worship: Bronwyn has offered a solo practically every week, with virtual accompaniments provided remotely by Nina. Rick Hernandez-Gist (tenor) and Nate Henrichon (trumpet) have also performed. Nina's two weekly piano solos support each week's worship theme.

September 6: We welcomed the fall season with a virtual "hymn collage" project, produced by individual choir members recording their own voices for Nina to mix.

November 29: To celebrate the beginning of Advent, we offered a music-themed home worship kit featuring a two-minute "Christmas Carol Quodlibet" (unofficial title "We Wish You a 2020 Christmas") covering 28 overlapping carols, sung by choir members, friends, and two dogs.

- Nina sends the choir a cheery check-in email every week, with music news and links (symbolizing the musical portion of a choir rehearsal), and occasional pictures of recipe adventures (in the spirit of fellowship).
- Nina has attended online meetings of choir directors and organists, learning from each other's experiences.

Respectfully submitted,

Nina Gilbert

TREASURER'S REPORT 2020

Another year has gone by and we continue to feel blessed for our small but mighty church—that is how I started the Treasurer's Report last year and it holds very true today. Looking back over the rest of the 2019 report does make me laugh—some things worked out well and others... didn't. While the pandemic interrupted many of the new routines we established at the start of 2020, we are getting back into the swing of things. Our payroll service and bookkeeper have made a very positive difference in our week-to-week operations. In the past few months we have welcomed more renters and seen our longtime renters increase their hours again. The Endowment Fund continues to provide us with a strong monthly income. We are blessed by the generosity of previous members. And every one of your donations has made a huge impact in our ability to continue our work, even if it looks different right now. I would be remiss to end without mentioning my huge thanks to Tim and Bronwyn—the Treasurer's position is an office of one, but is strengthened by many, many others.

Annie Mills, Treasurer/Board of Trustees

If you have any questions or would like to view the financials personally please be in touch with Annie at frizzell.annie@gmail.com

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2020

Moderator	Sigrid Nicholas & Victoria Gist-Towner
Clerk	Bronwyn Allen-Kaeser
Treasurer	Annie Mills
Asst. Treasurer	Bronwyn Allen-Kaeser
Financial Secretary	Matthias Kaeser
Asst. Fin. Sec. (Accountant)	Toni-Jean Rushing
Auditor	Toni-Jean Rushing
Historian	Suzanne Smith, Ann Wentink
Council Member	Jo Bailey
Faith Community Nurse	Victoria Gist-Towner

DIACONATE (minimum of 6, maximum of 12)

Bronwyn Allen-Kaeser, Rick Hernandez-Gist, Nathan Henrichon, Judy Leftwich, Peter Mothander, Mars Cheung, and Deborah KZ.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (minimum of 4, maximum of 6)

Annie Mills, James Towner, Matthias Kaeser, Victoria Gist-Towner (as moderator) and Sigrid Nicholas (as moderator)

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE (3 or more members)

Doug Bradley, Steve Black, Matthias Kaeser, James Towner, and Joan Elicker-Richards

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (3 members)

Bronwyn Allen, Victoria Gist-Towner (as moderator) and Sigrid Nicholas (as moderator)

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (4 members)

Sigrid Nicholas (as moderator), Deborah KZ, Victoria Gist-Towner (as moderator), and Jo Bailey

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH (3 or more members)

Betty Hill and Suzanne Smith

Respectfully submitted: Bronwyn Allen-Kaeser, Matthias Kaeser and Tim Seery

COVENANT

We covenant with God and with one another, promising to join together in worship and the celebration of the sacraments, in the study of the scriptures, in sharing the good news with one another and the world around us, in joining in the struggle for justice for the whole human family, and in welcoming into our midst all who seek God and community, that the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit may be known and acknowledged in the life of our congregation.