



Skyland Community Church UCC

2013 Annual Report

Prepared for the Annual Meeting on February 9, 2014

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Minutes of the Skyland Church Budget Meeting on June 2, 2013

Call to Order

Larry Cooke called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

Opening Prayer

Stephen led the congregation in prayer.

Approval of the Annual Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the January 27, 2013, meeting were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Gerry announced that both pledges and offerings are slightly down; consequently, current surplus funds will be used to offset the shortfall.

Presentation of the Annual Budget

Gerry gave an overview of "where funds are."

The Seminary Student Fund needs no addition because the current amount (\$4,206) suffices for one intern.

Motion and Discussion

A motion was made to amend the budget so that the pastoral Social Security disbursement for 2013-14 remains at the current level (\$8,908). This motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

A motion to accept the amended budget was made and seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Transitioning the Skyland Run (SR)

Anne Evans presented a rationale for handing over this event to another organization. Anne cited the increasing complexities (permits, support staff, competing events at Radnich Ranch) and the escalating expenses of staging the event. Moreover, for the 2012 SR, even with fifty-seven church volunteers involved, additional help was needed from several community members.

Motion and Discussion

The following points were made:

Bill Colbran urged consideration of ways to keep Skyland Church involved in the organization of the event;

Patricia Wood suggested making the SR into more of a family-oriented, community-building event—perhaps in conjunction with the Loma Prieta Foundation—to benefit local schools.

Larry Lopp acknowledged the soundness of Anne's proposal and suggested

that giving up the SR would allow each church member to consider committing to other community activities.

Angela Patterson said that without the SR, she sees no way for Skyland Church to raise the amount of money it currently does to fund organizations locally and globally.

Joan Law expressed her love for the SR but emphasized the challenge of finding new ways to raise funds for the Mission Board.

Carolyn Glauz-Todrank observed that, while Skyland Church is in a time of transition, she feels confident that members will create other activities to fund outreach.

Carolyn Bowen spoke of the short interval between the SR and Harvest Festival and of the increased energy that members may have to contribute to the latter if the church no longer organizes the SR.

Anne offered a motion that a transition committee be formed to plan for the future and to identify new directions. This motion was passed unanimously.

Anne further moved that the transition committee present a report to the congregation in January 2014. This motion was also passed unanimously. Bill Colbran and Linda Heyes volunteered to be on this committee.

Adjourn

Larry Cooke adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

Closing Prayer

Stephen led the congregation in prayer.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2013 CALENDAR YEAR

Thanks to your generous financial and personal support, Skyland Church continues its generous mission outreach.

\$8,726 to general mission outreach,

\$3,253 to local emergency relief,

\$1,206 to Christmas Giving Tree for local relief,

\$2,400 from 10K Run to organizations selected by your Mission board with balance of \$2,421 for next year's outreach.

\$14,371 as Our Share to Northern Calif. Nevada Conf. of UCC.

\$29,956 Total mission outreach.

Your generosity in time and talents resulted in an exciting Harvest Festival with net proceeds of \$15,282 even with the rain. This revenue supports 9% of our general operating budget.

Thanks to your support, pledge donations are above target by \$2,039. However, establishing the 'Year to Date' target involves an fuzzy crystal ball, due to lump sum giving and new pledges at various times during the year.

Our invitation to make a year end gift resulted in 14 responses totaling \$11,680 and Pledge increase of \$2,500.

Water and propane are primarily responsible for utility expenses being \$602 more than anticipated.

Following is a quick summary of our finances at the start and end of 2013 and the June 1 start of our current 13/14 fiscal year.

Year 2013	January 1	June 1	December 31
General fund including Surplus	8,256	(-1,240)	23,527
Special Funds	131,879	128,561	142,565
Total Assets	140,135	127,321	166,092
Earthquake rebuild loan	22,105	20,893	19,178

Change in assets from Jan 1,2013 to Dec 31,2013 is \$25,957.

A summary of our June through December income and disbursements along with year-to-date and annual budget is presented on the next page. Our special fund balances are shown on the succeeding page.

Gerald J. Alonzo

Skyland Community Church Profit & Loss Financial Plan Performance December 2013 Revision 5						Var. + Good - Bad	6:43 PM 12/31/2013 Revised
includes 11,680 Year End Gifts							
	Dec 13	Budget	Jun - Dec 13	YTD Budget	YTD Var.	Annual Budget	
Income							
Pledges	15,900.00	15,791.67	83,581.00	81,541.69	2,039.31	120,500.04	
Offerings	5,197.21	4,345.00	16,387.37	15,474.00	913.37	18,000.00	
Other income & surplus	11,858.05	10,000.00	12,533.05	11,000.00	1,533.05	11,000.00	
Hall Rental	400.00	333.33	1,800.00	2,333.31	(533.31)	3,999.96	
Harvest Festival	-	-	15,593.21	15,500.00	93.21	15,500.00	
Income Total	33,355.26	30,470.00	129,894.63	125,849.00	4,045.63	169,000.00	
Disbursements							
Art	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Communications	(114.89)	8.00	137.77	256.00	118.23	320.00	
Council	-	-	83.19	150.00	66.81	2,300.00	
Total Deacons	75.00	75.00	305.11	300.00	(5.11)	400.00	
Education	-	-	-	30.00	30.00	(40.00)	
Harvest Festival	-	-	311.33	470.00	158.67	470.00	
Human Resources							
Music Director	993.90	1,118.92	5,737.38	5,762.44	25.06	9,412.04	
Pastor	14,347.56	14,497.06	68,454.00	68,485.50	31.50	110,176.88	
Mission							
Our Share to UCC	3,620.00	3,620.00	10,860.00	10,860.00	-	14,480.00	
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Trustee							
Facility Ins., Loan, Taxes	3,402.50	3,312.00	12,055.24	11,984.00	(71.24)	16,544.00	
Non-Utility	1,376.08	1,337.50	4,270.21	4,202.50	(67.71)	6,288.19	
Utilities	836.08	380.00	4,152.93	3,550.00	(602.93)	6,650.00	
Disbursements Total	24,536.23	24,348.48	106,367.16	106,050.44	(316.72)	167,001.11	
NET TOTAL	8,819.03	6,121.52	23,527.47	19,798.56	3,728.91	1,998.89	

MISSION SPECIAL	Dec 13	Jun - Dec 13	
Mission Income			Bal Last Year
10K Run	-	10,907.34	(85.09)
Local Emergency	2,433.00	4,312.32	1,005.60
Special Mission Drives	3,136.09	7,313.42	6,743.60
Mission Income Total	5,569.09	22,533.08	
Mission Special Disbursements			Balance
10K Run Expense	-	6,000.99	
10k Run Outreach	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,421.26
Local Emergency Relief	-	1,931.93	3,385.99
Spical Outreach	3,316.19	7,678.42	6,378.60
Mission Special Disbur. Total	5,716.19	18,011.34	
MISSION SPECIAL NET TOTAL	(147.10)	4,521.74	12,185.85
Blankets	1,705.00		
Giving Tree	1,206.41		
Heifer	140.00		
Migrant Workers	225.00		

Skyland Community Church		6:45 PM							
Balance Sheet		As of December 31, 2013	12/31/2013						
		Revision 5	Cash Basis						
Accounts									
	Checking		39,030.56						
	Savings		27,168.55						
	Dreyfus MM		24,595.37						
	Endowment		40,875.00						
	Total Index		34,423.00						
Total of Accounts								166,092.48	
General Fund including Surplus								23,527.47	
ASSETS									
	Other Current Assets								
	Surplus previous years								
									-
Special Funds									
Liabilities					Equity				
Current Liabilities					Temporarily restrict net asset				
Other Current Liabilities					Use restricted net assets				
Board Designated Reserves					Memorials				
	Capital Improvement Fund		51.24			J. Anderson		-	
	Child Care Fund		-			D. Ellis		-	
	Choir Fund		4,559.87			S. Forsen		-	
	Endowment Dividends		-			Milberry	59,677.80		
	Endowment Fund		40,875.00			S. Mitchell		-	
	Facility Maintenance Fund		1,037.71			Total Memorials			59,677.80
	Gift Funds		2,229.00						
	Hall Rent Deposit		-						
	Hand Bells Fund		3,600.00						
	History Project Fund		3,004.89						
	Labyrinth Fund		1,800.00						
	Memorial Walk Fund		3,228.82						
	Music & Arts Fund		3,000.10						
	Parking Lot Fund		-						
	Pastor Educational/Prof. Fund		1,185.07						
	Pastor Search Fund		923.65						
	Pastor Substitute Fund		-						
	Seminary Student Fund		4,206.01						
	Whitaker Hall Lighting		800.00						
	Youth Fund		200.00						
Total Board Designated Reserves			70,701.36						
Deferred revenue									
	Total 10K Run Advance		-						
	Pledge Advance		-						
Total Deferred revenue			-						
Total Special Funds			70,701.36						
Total Special Funds , Memorials and Mission								142,565.01	
Long Term Liabilities									
	SBA Loan	Earthquake rebuild	19,177.76						

AUDITOR

I audited the Skyland Church financial records, for the fiscal year 2012/2013. I determined that the financial report issued to the congregation by the Treasurer for the period June 2012 to May 2013 accurately reflected the assets and the transactions for the year.

Furthermore, I reviewed the reports for the calendar year of 2013 and to the best of my ability have found the current financial report presented in this annual report to accurately reflect the transactions and assets as of the end of 2013.

I would like to take this time to thank Gerry Alonzo and Jan Swayne for all their hard work in collecting, banking, dispersing, recording and keeping track of all the money required to run the church. This job has been continually done smoothly, accurately, and quietly. Gerry and Jan continue to collect and compare the financial reports with the bank records in such a way as to make my job as auditor exceptionally easy, for which I again personally thank you.

Laurence H Cooke
Auditor

Every year, I look back over the newsletters of the year to jog my memory for my annual report and I am always so impressed with all we are able to do together and how grateful I am to be doing it with you. This was quite a year! Here are a few highlights.

In January we welcomed guests from the muslim community nearby and enjoyed a program entitled, "Getting to Know American Muslims and Their Faith". We had a great turn out for that and all of us learned important facts and made smiling connections with our muslim neighbors. Later in the month, the Women's Group put on their annual fabulous Spaghetti Dinner with delicious food and heart-warming entertainment.

During Lent, I did a series of Words for Children on St Francis' poem, The Canticle of the Creatures and we participated in a UCC wide project called 4/1 Earth, whose goal was to do 1,000,000 volunteer hours for the earth, plant, 100,000 trees and write 100,000 letters advocating for earth stewardship. Our little church contributed 1280 hours, 105 trees, and 188 letters!

In April, the Women's Group made their annual retreat led by Rev Deborah Streeter on the subject, Blue Theology, further highlighting our earth stewardship theme. Erica Goss, Skyland member, was elected Poet Laureate of Los Gatos and shared with us, among other poems, "The Kindness of Trees".

In May, Skylanders Cliff Barney and Carolyn McCall guided us to an art show graciously put on by Peace UCC in Santa Cruz to raise money for a Mayan Children's Art Program in Guatemala with which Carolyn and Cliff have an ongoing supporting relationship.

As summer began, we sent Matthew Colran-Patterson off to volunteer at an orphanage in Tanzania with funds to share. We also completed the 21st and possibly last Skyland Mountain Run. After 21 years, we were ready to give it a rest, celebrating many years of fund-raising for worthy causes near and far. The Missions Board will be highlighting the work of some of the organizations we support in different ways in 2014. Summer brought sorting for Harvest Festival with two pods this year for all the good stuff that came our way. Ellie Lavender hosted a number of De-Clutter Workshops which put people in the right mood to move some of their treasures along.

Harvest Festival brought, along with all the fun and profit, about an inch of rain, which tested our adaptability, but we scored an A+ and had a great day anyway. We would have been even more grateful had we known how little rain would follow in months to come.

Fall brought interesting programs, a project to help all of us fill out Advanced Healthcare Directives led by journalist, Lisa Krieger, and a gathering to bless the earth with guests, Neema Namadamu and Cynthia Jurs. We participated in the Santa Clara Association's Fall Meeting in which the delegates voted to ordain people who had met the qualifications for ordination and had a call to ministry but who did not have a paid

position. This opened up opportunities for entrepreneurial ministry by new clergy in our area and allowed us to ordain Patricia Wood coming up on January 25, 2014. Speaking of ordinations, former Skyland member, Pam Nates was ordained in San Jose in November.

We are engaged in giving throughout the year but it comes to a head in November and December. We continued well established fundraisers from the past: toiletries and warm clothes for the Davenport Resource Center, gift cards, food and warm blankets for 36 people in eight local families, Blanket Sunday, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund helping local individuals and families through the year, and year end financial gifts moving our budget from a shortfall to a surplus! We finished the year with a community Christmas celebration with two other mountain churches, our wonderful Christmas pageant and added four new members as the year came to a close.

I am so grateful to all of you for your presence and how you help in so many ways to make everything that happens here feel full of God's love. I want to thank our moderator, Larry Cooke, for his visionary and empathic leadership as well as Margretta Dollard and Gerry Alonzo for their very loyal and expert guidance and accompaniment of our choir.

With much love and appreciation,

Stephen

Moderator's Report 2013

2013 was a year of reassessment for the church. The council had 11 meetings. Some of the highlights of the year include:

Budget:

Last year we spent ~\$2,000 more than we took in and this year was continuing to look difficult for two reasons: first the pledges had to be revised downward when it became apparent that we were not going to reach our pledge goals, and second we needed to adjust our expenses up to cover unforeseen increases in costs. So in order to balance this revised budget it was necessary to assume a significantly larger amount of Other Income. By the grace of god and the overwhelming generosity of you, the Congregation, we are now projected to more than cover our expenses.

Run Transition:

In the 2013 Budget Meeting, Terry Leary presented concerns about the sustainability of the Skyland Run. The costs and liabilities have been rising, but the venue has limited us to a maximum of 300 runners, thereby limiting our revenues. Also, it is requiring more labor and management to maintain the current level of excellence. As such, Anne Evans proposed and the congregation agreed to form a Run Transition committee to evaluate the options and propose a plan of action with respect to the run.

The committee comprising Terry & Paula Leary, Deana Arnold, Anne Evans, Bill Colbran, Stephen and myself met and decided to transition the run to other owners such as Karen Izzo, but after many months of silence, the possible alternatives did not materialize. So, in November we agreed to terminate the Skyland Run.

The remaining action item is to inform all those who have been involved with the Run in the past, of its cancellation.

IDEO Project:

For the last few decades Churches in the United States have seen a decline in participation. At the same time, in multiple successive surveys and polls, Americans have expressed an increasing interest in their own spiritual growth. Over the same period Skyland Church has seen similar shifts, which has led to and been the subject of, a number of congregational communication meetings in the past.

This year we decided to be more proactive by leveraging the design centered methodology created by IDEO, which is currently being used by non-profit organizations to improve the lives of disadvantaged people all over the world. More specifically, we are trying to adapt their market oriented product/service model to a spiritually oriented service model initially for us, with the potential of later being used throughout the greater UCC.

Following the IDEO methodology we have formed team of five Skyland Church Members: Jan Swayne, Mike Mahrle, Jeremy Cole, Marcia Rollins, and Kim Gautho. They are part way through the five step process of forming a team, gathering information, creating potential solutions, evaluating the best solutions and creating plans around the

best solution to better serve the spiritual needs of Skyland Church and the broader Mountain Community. Stephen and I are acting as observers and biographers to leverage what the group learns for subsequent use of the process. We expect to present solutions to the congregation by the next Budget Meeting.

Land:

For the first time in decades the Wicht's have expressed an interest in selling the small triangle of land adjacent to the Church on the corner of Miller and Skyland. At this point the discussion is very preliminary, but we hope to have more details at the Budget meeting.

Nominations:

For years we've been having difficulty filling the positions in the boards and committees. This year is no exception. As of this writing we still have seven open positions. As a result we have discussed reducing the size of some of the Boards & Committees, in addition to eliminating some activities, like the Run, altogether. Another alternative, in the proposed Bylaw changes, would be to open positions on many of the boards and committees to non-members, which is reflected in the proposed bylaw changes presented in this Annual Meeting. We don't yet have a good solution for this problem, which means it will continue as a topic of discussion in the next year.

Bylaw Changes:

In order to reflect both what we have been doing and what we would like to do in the future, the Council is presenting two distinct Bylaw changes at this meeting:

- 1) Opening many of the boards and committees to include a minority of non-member participants.
- 2) Moving the required dates for the Congregational meetings to reflect when they most often occur.

Now I would like to take this time to thank all those Chairs, Officers and Alternates who regularly attended the Council meetings: Anne Evans , Brian Wood , John Gaffney, Gina Adams , Mike Mahrle, Gerald Alonzo, Stephen Glauz-Todrank, John Heyes, Fern Thompson, Jan Swayne, Nancy Jo Lopp , and Deana Arnold for the reports and thoughtful participation in the Church's administration.

And last, but not least, I would like to thank all the outgoing Officer, Board and Committee members for their service over the years they have served. Without you our church would cease to function.

Thank-you all

Larry Cooke

Moderator



Skyland Community Church Woman's Group

The group meets on the second Tuesday of the Month from 10:30 to 12:00 at homes of members. Most of the places we meet are wheelchair accessible. All women are welcome.

Our meetings included devotionals, business and have an in-depth discussion often on topics that were drawn from Steven's sermons including Advanced Directive. Most members lead or participated in the following

- Hosted Spaghetti Dinner
- Introduced stroll in the mountains. Set time to walk together.
- March had spiritual retreat with Deborah Springer at the Monterey Aquarium. Deborah practice is called Blue Theology. She toured us, and then we went back to her church and had discussion. We saw a baby seal being born. The purpose of us sponsoring a retreat is so that women of the church can come together for a special time, especially those who work and cannot attend our regular monthly meetings. We hosted the Easter Brunch and Christmas Potluck
- We sponsored Emile cooking classes. Yum. Everyone came away with some new idea for cooking.
- Woman's group organizes the flowers and potlucks.
- In our outreach with money we raised, contributed \$200 to Matt Colbran, Baobob internship, \$300 for Ministers discretionary fund, Labyrinth and the Labyrinth. We sponsored The Giving Tree which supported 7 local families.

Nancy Jo Lopp, Leader, Fern Thompson Treasurer, Linda Heyes, Scribe.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR 2013 CALENDAR YEAR

No big projects this year, as a result we kept out of trouble, ie no red tags.

Two work days were used to spruce up the grounds, wash exterior walls, cut off saplings, scrap and seal Bell Tower, and numerous other items I have forgotten. Many thanks to all who helped with this rewarding work.

We also supported setting up the 10K Run along with many others.

Trustee's organized the Harvest Festival setup and tried out using folding tables in most of the booths to replace the deteriorating wooden shelves. The folding tables definitely reduced some of the heavy work involved with setup and tear down. A new canopy was purchased to eliminate the unsightly tarp we have been using for several years.

Thanks to Brian for striping the parking lot.

We also enjoyed doing coffee hour for three months.

Regards, Gerald Alonzo
Chairman of Trustees

Board of Deacons Report for 2014

Membership on the Board of Deacons for 2012 were: Jeremy Cole, Pamela Knudsen, Glenda McCalla, Jackie Seymour, Christina Schwabecker, Julie Victorine, Richard Lyness, and Fern Thompson. Linda Heyes will be filling the rest of the term for Lisa Rosen.

The Board of Deacons planned and facilitated church services, including setting up for Communion, welcoming new members into the church, arranging for greeters, liturgists, collections, arranging for guest preachers, and organizing Salt Shakers. The Deacons continued to support "Persons in Discernment" and persons in four-way covenants with Skyland Church, UCC, and their places of employment.

The Deacons eagerly supported Patricia Wood in her quest for a three-way covenant. She continues to be a licensed minister seeking the three-way covenant.

For the fifth year in a row the Deacons served as greeters for the Harvest Festival.

The Deacons hosted a pot luck in November and coffee hours after church in December, January, and February. We purchased and gave gifts to our Pastor Stephen Glauz-Todrank for his birthday and Christmas.

Respectfully submitted by Fern Thompson, chairperson for the Deacons.

Board of Religious Education - 2013

Members: Gina Adams, Deana Arnold, Joan Law, Ann Baier

During the first half of 2013, Los Gatos High School student, Lisa Meehan, brought lots of energy with her to the Church School. She planned lessons and activities, including Bible stories, music, and arts and crafts. She played the role of Easter Bunny for the kids and participated in the July 4th Skyland Church celebration.

At the end of August, Lisa moved back to Boston to attend Tufts University. We all miss her and she even did some Skype sessions during church school so that she could stay in touch with the kids.

Many of our kids participated in the Skyland Run or Kids' Fun Run in July and attended the Harvest Festival in the fall, where many came and helped with face painting. And starting in the fall, board members took turns teaching Sunday School. We read and talked about bible stories and God's love, and then moved on to a related activity, including watercolors, drawings, crafts, and even creative dramatics with puppets. One fall Sunday we took a nature walk around the church, and then had the children write poems and draw or paint pictures.

In December, we produced another popular multi-generational Christmas pageant, with the children participating as Mary, Gabriele, angels, sheep, and kings. The story never gets old, and it continues to touch our hearts each year.

Coming up in 2014, there will be some changes on the board. Gina Adams will be leaving after six years, and moving to the Board of Deacons. Carol Carre will be returning along with Cheryl Shyba! The board will be exploring new curriculum for children and potential educational activities for adults.

Mission Board Annual Report – 2013

In 2013 the Mission Board continued to support Skyland Church's mission to be a small church with a big heart that donates to both traditional organizations and special projects.

Our Heifer tube filled with quarters twice so we contributed \$280 and bought small animals as part of the Heifer Project.

In March we publicized our Giving by putting up boards with thank you letters from all the organizations who had received donations from Skyland Church.

One Great Hour of Sharing raised \$1,688. at Easter.

In March the Mission Board joined with the Skyland Run Committee to plan and organize the 21st annual Skyland Run. For the first time we were required to obtain a permit from the County of Santa Cruz which required many hours of additional work and cost \$300. We did a paperless pre-registration which saved money and supported our efforts as a green church.

In April, the Skyland Run handed out cards at the Loma Prieta jogathon and in May at the Annual Firemen's BBQ and Girls on the Run event in Los Gatos. Local businesses were also approached to give prizes for the raffle at the Run.

In April, the Board supported Eric Hansen by selling his albums so that he could defray costs associated with a double lung transplant. He has Alpha-1 disease.

In May, Cliff Barney and Jan Parker along with the Board supported the Art Show and visit of Jose and Miranda from Guatemala's "Help Me Paint My Future" Art School. They raised \$2400. which supports the art education of the at risk students and gives their families needed food every week.

In May we collected \$435 to be sent for relief to the victims of the Moore, Oklahoma tornado, including Fern Thompson's nephew.

In June, Matt Colbran-Patterson spoke about his trip to Tanzania to work at the Baobab Home. He raised \$1,800 which he then spent in Africa, helping the

medically fragile orphans, some with AIDS, who live and go to school at the Baobob Home.

Since July the Mission Board began collecting toiletries and food for the migrant workers to be distributed through the Davenport Resource Center. We also had our traditional drive in November and collected toiletries and food to go to Davenport. This year Angela Patterson made two trips to Davenport delivering over eight full boxes of toiletries, clothing and food to the Davenport Resource Center.

In November, we collected \$1,516. to go to the Philippine Hurricane relief fund, In December we collected \$1,705 during Blanket Sunday.

This year the Giving Tree gave to seven local families with the cooperation of Loma Prieta School. Food and clothing gift cards worth \$1,206 as well as books & gift baskets were much appreciated by the families.

2013 Skyland Run and proposed 2014 Mission Board Activities

In the Spring we began a dialogue at the church as to whether we should continue the Skyland Run given the ever-increasing costs, volunteer requirements and resources used.

The Mission Board supported the 2013 Skyland Run, which had almost 270 runners this year and was as successful as ever. The run required about 65 volunteers because of the new regulations. Because the Run's costs had increased, the profits diminished substantially. The net profit was \$4,906 on a gross income of \$10,532.

In October the Mission Board decided on the distribution of the monies from the Skyland Run. Because the church and the committee had agreed to discontinue the Run in 2014, the Mission Board had to prioritize the distribution of the funds. We decided to prioritize supporting the 5 international students, whose tuition totaled \$1,400 for 2014. We would then set aside another \$1.400 for their tuition in 2015 (payable in the fall of 2014). We also wrote a letter to be sent with the contribution so that we could learn how the money is spent and the progress of the students so that we can support them in the future. We have received many

letters of thanks including news of the students; two in India, two in the Fiji Islands and one in Guatemala.

The Mission Board also voted to donate \$1,000 from the 2013 Skyland Run monies to the Local relief emergency fund since there is such a growing need in that area. That leaves \$2,500 to be distributed in the future. The plan is that \$1,400 will go towards the international student's tuition in 2014. The remaining \$1,100 will be held in reserve.

In 2014, the Mission Board plans to continue fund raising efforts for individual organizations such as Mountain Neighbors Helping Neighbors and the Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire among others. We want to inform the church about such organizations as well as to emphasize their work in our community. We will invite the larger mountain community to these "talks", held on Sundays after church. We also plan to have 3-5 minute talks this summer from whomever wants to speak about their volunteering or about an organization they feel passionate about, i.e "witnessing stewards". In this way we connect to each other and our giving deepens our connection to our world. We also would like to include the children and hear their stories of volunteering if they choose.

The Mission Board is proud of the generous individuals at Skyland Church who have done their own projects that have contributed so much to end hunger, poverty and ignorance both locally and world-wide.

The following is a summary of the money and items collected and distributed in 2013:

UCC Share	\$14, 371.
Blanket Sunday	\$1,705.
Heifer Offering	\$280.
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$1,688.

10 K Run distribution (5 students, 3 organizations)	\$1,400.
Local relief (pastor's fund)	\$1,000.
India Student Ed. Fund (special fund)	\$500.
the ALP	\$129.
Food Pantry	\$240.
Local emergency relief (Pastor Discretionary Fund)	\$3,253.
Giving Tree	\$1,206.
Cash to Migrant Workers hygiene (Davenport)	\$225.
Erik Hansen New Lung	\$128.
Phillipine relief fund	\$1,516.
Baobob Home (Matt Colbran-Patterson/med relief in Tanzania)	\$1,880.
Oklahoma _Moore relief	<u>\$ 435.</u>

Total donations and contributions **\$29,956**

Art Sale @ Congregational Church/SC in support of children's education and families in Guatemala (Help Me Paint My Future)	\$2,400.
Hygiene kits for migrant families(8 boxes, food & clothing)	<u>~ \$400. +worth</u>
Clothing donated from Harvest Festival - Mental Health Action of Santa Cruz, Teen Challenge & Davenport (Migrant Workers)	12 carloads to
Neema Namadamu, republic of Congo(supports women businesses)	\$1,000.



Board of Communication Systems (BCS) 2013 Summary Report

Description

The Church Bylaws creates six Boards, one of which is the **Board of Communication Systems**, commonly abbreviated **BCS**:

This board shall consist of six members elected by the membership for a three year term. Each year two of the members, who have completed their term shall retire. Incumbents may serve two consecutive terms and are then ineligible for election to this board for one year. The board shall seek consensus for all major system changes with the council. Duties:

- Develop and maintain the communications systems for our church.
- Develop and oversee the church website.
- Serve as a channel for distributing written communications within the church and community.
- Cooperate with the other boards, committees and pastor to enable and assist them to make visible their message.
- Provide accessible and secure locations for Church documents, which include our history, our current processes and training aids.
- Develop and maintain the member and friends database.
- Develop and propose the annual budget for their activities.

Elected Members in 2013

Cliff Barney
Bill Colbran
John Gaffney (Chair)
Larry Lopp
John Wetherill

As specified by the Skyland Church Bylaws, as Chair I represented the BCS on the Church Council in 2013.

BCS Activities in 2013

- In February we held a “let’s get organized” meeting and relied thereafter on email and personal communications for ongoing activities.
- We submitted a modest budget for 2013 which included expenses for printing and mailing the monthly newsletter, hosting the www.skylandchurch.com website on GoDaddy.com, maintaining our account on ConstantContact.com for email communications to members, and purchasing a hand-held microphone for announcements during the church service.
- We began sending church announcements to members and friends using Constant Contact, starting in late March with the April newsletter. We also created a template for Stephen to use for his regular “This Sunday at Skyland Church...” announcements, thereby enabling him to create and send announcements himself.
- With Constant Contact running well, I have started using it myself to send church announcements on behalf of others in the church. This means I am no longer maintaining a separate email announcement distribution list, which I had been doing since the demise of the old website.
- Nancy Jo Lopp created a Constant Contact email distribution list for the Women’s Group for communicating meeting minutes.
- Our new www.skylandchurch.com website is now hosted on the GoDaddy.com hosting service, which provides WordPress, an easy-to-use online tool for creating and maintaining the website itself. Anyone with our WordPress user name and password can update the church website without installing special software on his or her personal computer. For example, Gerry Alonzo uploads and posts Stephen’s sermons from his laptop.
- We moved the 2013 Skyland Run website to GoDaddy.
- Cliff Barney and I usually shared the responsibility of producing the monthly church newsletter. Cliff created and emailed the newsletter using Constant Contact, and I converted his newsletter to a PDF for printing and mailing to the 17 recipients who have chosen to receive a hard copy. I also posted the newsletter PDF on the website for anyone that wants to print a personal copy.

2014 Priorities

Although I will “term out” of BCS in 2014, here are the priorities as I see them now:

- Train more people (and BCS members in particular) to use WordPress and Constant Contact for ongoing website and communications activities.
- Figure out a way to create an online church activities calendar that can be updated by church members without having to go through BCS.
- Create email distribution lists on Constant Contact for boards and committees.

John Gaffney, 2013 BCS Chair

Proposed Bylaw Changes

Since I came to Skyland Church I have seen two characteristics displayed by the Congregation:

First, We have an unwavering spirit of accommodation toward all who come to the church regardless of their prior history or current situation, and

Second, we have never let our rules get in the way of what we feel is the right thing to do.

So, as I have said before, from time to time we need to correct our Bylaws to reflect what we have already been doing.

As such, the Council is presenting the following Bylaw amendment in two parts, for proposed passage by the Congregation:

1) The bylaws state we must hold our Annual meeting in January and our Budget meeting in May, but due to a variety of factors we frequently move the meetings into the following months, just as we are doing for this Annual Meeting.

The Council therefore recommends that we allow the meetings be moved out to the middle of the months of February and June respectively, more specifically to no later than the third Sunday of the months of February and June.

2) For a long time now we have had active non-members participating on various committees and boards of the church, while the Bylaws appear to state that all members of our committees and boards must be members of our church. We have left this discrepancy alone for some time, but the issue rose to the level of needing correction when it appeared that we might have multiple non-members on a single board.

To correct this discrepancy without restricting active participation in our church by the wider mountain community, the Council recommends that we allow a minority of the positions on most boards and committees to be filled with non-members, and for the chairpersons to be selected from all members of the committees and boards regardless of their Skyland church membership status. Because of their specific responsibilities, we are also recommending that only church members may fill the positions of Officers and members of the Deacons, and Pastoral Relations.

The text of these changes and the specific motion is shown below. The full text of the corrected Bylaws is available on request.

Thank-you

Larry Cooke
Skyland Church Moderator

Annual Meeting Motion: The Skyland Church Council proposes making the following changes to the Skyland Church Bylaws, effective immediately:

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATION

SECTION 2. ANNUAL MEETINGS:

The Annual Meeting shall be held ~~in the month of January~~ no later than the third Sunday in February of each year,

SECTION 3 . BUDGET MEETINGS:

The Budget Meeting shall be held ~~in the month of May~~ no later than the third Sunday in June of each year,

ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS

The officers of the church, ~~shall be~~ the pastor, moderator, vice-moderator, clerk, treasurer, assistant treasurer, and auditor, shall be active members of the church with the following duties:

ARTICLE VIII. BOARDS

SECTION 1. BOARD OF DEACONS:

Candidates for this committee must be widely respected, active members of the church.

ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES

SECTION 2. PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE:

Candidates for this committee must be active members of the church, who are widely respected in the church and who have a relationship of trust with the pastor. They will:

ARTICLE X. THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Chairpersons are lay ~~members of the church~~ persons, who are annually selected by and from the membership of the boards, committees, or auxiliary organizations they chair.

ARTICLE XI. ELECTIONS

SECTION 2. ELECTED OFFICES:

Unless otherwise specified, non-church members may fill a minority of all board and committee positions.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENT 5

Added active church member requirement to all Officers in Article VI, Deacons in Article VIII section 1, and Pastoral Relations in Article XI section 2.

Added non-members may fill a minority board and committee elected offices in Article XI section 2.

Changed Chairpersons to include non-members on the Council in Article X.

Changed the Annual meeting from in the month of January to no later than the third Sunday in February in Article VI section 2, and changed the Budget meeting from in the month of May to no later than the third Sunday in June.

Skyland Church Council, Committees & Boards for 2014

Term through	2014
Moderator	(Larry Cooke)
Vice Moderator	(Mike Mahrle)
Clerk	John Gaffney
Treasurer	Gerald Alonzo
Asst. Treasurer	Jan Swayne
Auditor	Larry Cooke
NCNC Delegates	Larry Cooke
	(Gerald Alonzo)
NCNC Alternates	(Jeremy Cole)
	Mary Ellen McTamaney

Term through	2015	2014
Missions	(Jacki Corvelle)	(Cliff Barney)
	Bill Colbran	(Anne Evans*)
	John Heyes	Marcia Rollins
Music & Arts	(Nancy Jo Lopp)	(Del Mahrle)
		Jeremy Cole
	Lynn Mitchell	(Marcia Rollins)
Pastoral Relations	Mike Mahrle	(Peggy Johnson)
	John Heyes	Ruth Dawkins

Term through	2016	2015	2014
Endowment	(Jim Bowen)	(Jan Swayne)	(Don Law)*
Trustees	(Gerald Alonzo)	Paula Leary	(John Seckinger)
	(Harold Hoyt)	Randy McCalla	(Brian Wood)*
	(Dan Knudsen)	Lou McTamaney	
Deacons	Gina Adams	Julie Victorine	Jeremy Cole
	Jan Parker	Richard Lyness	(Christina Schwabeche)
	(Jackie Seymour)	(Fern Thompson)	
Religious Education	Cheryl Shyba	(Deana Arnold)	Ann Baier
	(Carol Carre)	(Joan Law)	Del Mahrle
Communications Systems		Larry Lopp	(Cliff Barney)
	Terry Leary		Bill Colbran

Term through	2015	2014
Harvest Festival		Kim Gautho
HF Assistant		Larry Cooke

Name Box indicates Members to be Confirmed at 2014 Annual Meeting

() Parentheses indicate person is serving a second term

* Chair

Open Position

Optional