



2023 HPUMC

Annual Review

2023 at HPUMC

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Since the church’s first service in 1916, Highland Park United Methodist Church has made it its mission to **help people become deeply devoted followers of Jesus Christ**. In 2023, HPUMC continued to live out Christ’s call for us to love God and love people by transforming lives in our church, community, and world.



“LOVE GOD.”

We believe that spiritual formation starts from the moment of birth. HPUMC offers programming for every age and life stage, helping kids and adults alike to know the love of Christ.

HPUMC WORSHIP



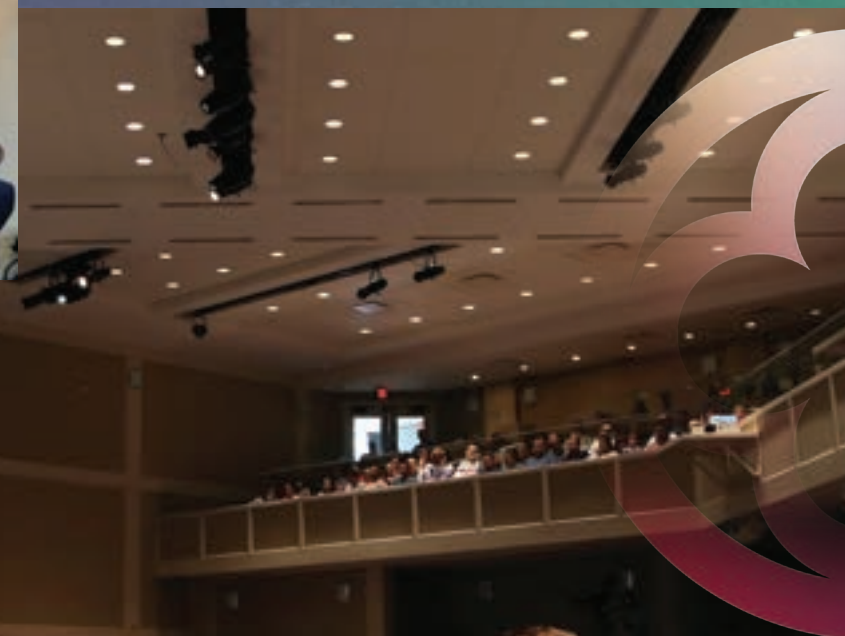
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Worship Opportunities

Sanctuary
Cornerstone
Cox Chapel
The Feast
Kerygma



13,000+

people celebrated our living hope, Jesus Christ, in person for Easter at HPUMC during 12 services.



305

new members joined the church, adding to our ever-growing church family.

300 **&** **25**
Infants **Adults**

were baptized, beginning their faith journey at HPUMC.



A Historic Moment

Cox Chapel was designated as a United Methodist Historic Site. The North Texas Conference recognized Cox Chapel for developing innovative liturgical practices in the UMC in 1970 and 1971, practices that are still upheld today.





100+ Third graders

HPUMC Kids
presented over **100**
students with Bibles
in October.



150
Students
confirmed
in spring

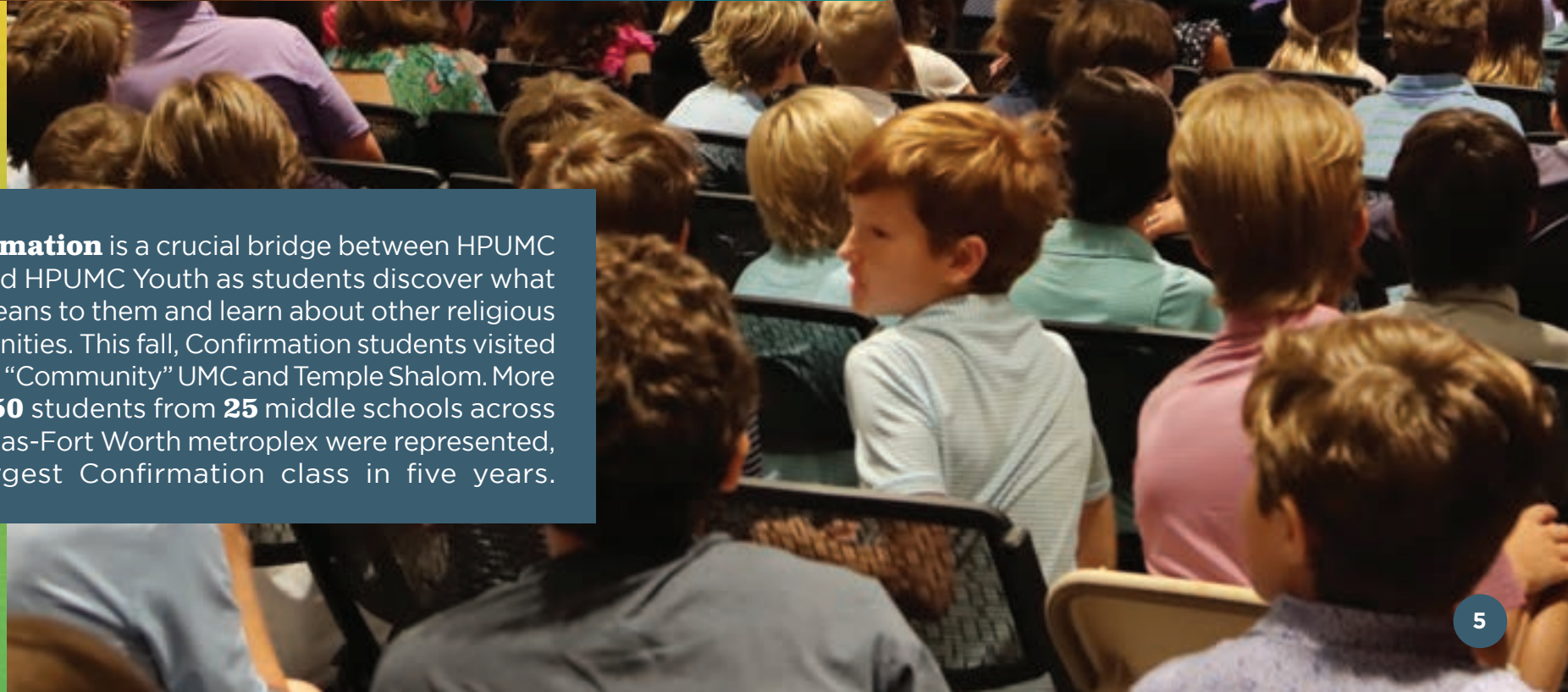


Every Step of the Way

HPUMC KIDS & CONFIRMATION



Confirmation is a crucial bridge between HPUMC Kids and HPUMC Youth as students discover what faith means to them and learn about other religious communities. This fall, Confirmation students visited St. Luke "Community" UMC and Temple Shalom. More than **250** students from **25** middle schools across the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex were represented, the largest Confirmation class in five years.



Every Step of the Way

HPUMC YOUTH, COLLEGE MINISTRY, & ADULTS

“Go, eat rich food, and drink something sweet,” he said to them, “and send portions of this to any who have nothing ready! This day is holy to our Lord. Don’t be sad, because the joy from the Lord is your strength!”

NEHEMIAH 8:10



Our college ministry launched Foundations of Faith, a new student-led class at **Wesley House**.

50 students embarked on a Spring Retreat, studying different religious texts and cultivating meaningful friendships.

Wesley House also partnered with Southern Methodist University’s Office of the Chaplain to host three Love Feasts, uniting all campus ministries together.



In August, **73 retired adults** attended Growing in Love, HPUMC’s first-ever adult Vacation Bible School. Attendees at this three-day event enjoyed worship, fellowship, crafts, and Bible study.



HPUMC Youth built friendships and learned how to apply God’s Word to their daily lives. Students in the ministry gathered throughout the Tolleson Family Activity Center, with a total of **35** Life Groups meeting each Wednesday night. HPUMC Youth invited students to “Claim Joy” in 2023, with Nehemiah 8:10 as a guiding verse.

50
College
students



35
HPUMC
Youth Life
Groups



When our adult congregants gather for groups and classes at HPUMC, the Word of God is always at the center. In 2023:

1,400+

people built community and participated in Bible studies across **113** Small Groups and **18** Sunday Morning Classes. In the fall, **24** new Small Groups were created for even more people to grow in faith together.

3,000

people across **five** countries and **30** states participated in HPUMC’s Bible Reading Plan, diving into the Gospel of John. The Bible Reading Plan is now available in Spanish, allowing more people to experience Scripture in their native language.

Beyond Belonging

BELONG DISABILITY MINISTRY

In 2023, Belong Disability Ministry expanded programming for kids, teens, and adults with disabilities.

Each month, Belong hosted **140 participants** in The Feast worship service, **35 participants** in The Walk Sunday School program, and **25 families** in the Night OWLS (Out With Loving Sitters) respite program for children with disabilities and their siblings.

From January to August, Belong participants in Explorers and day classes experienced fellowship and activities through **120 hours** of ministry programming.

Spotlight Rock Band joined Spotlight Musical Theater and Spotlight Short Film programming for teens and adults with disabilities to explore the arts.



A documentary crew filmed the stories of our Belong participants as they wrote, rehearsed, and performed the 2022 Spotlight musical. The resulting documentary, “Into the Spotlight,” **won awards and hearts at film festivals around the world in 2023.**



Chance's Cafe crew members worked **1,800** hours and participated in **436** hours of training. Two Chance's crew members are now working at other Dallas companies following their Chance's Cafe training and work.

Chance's Cafe serves lunches, and now offers a catering menu. Belong launched monthly Give Back Tuesdays this year, in which participants make **100's** of sandwiches for Austin Street Center and Dickinson Place.

In September, Chance's crew members served the firefighters and families of the Highland Park Department of Public Safety.



“LOVE PEOPLE.”

As followers of Christ, we are called to love and serve others. With the help of devoted volunteers, the ministries of HPUMC have made this a priority by offering opportunities for all to learn, connect, and serve their community.



Justice Ministry

The HPUMC Justice Ministry continues to follow Christ's example by striving to love and understand others of all backgrounds.

Book studies and classes have more than doubled in attendance, and lay leaders are now leading Justice Small Groups.



Pastoral Care Ministry

There were **over 95** volunteers who served in the HPUMC **Pastoral Care Ministry**—leading Care Classes for grief and divorce recovery, Prayer Tower, Journey, and Stephen Ministries to support congregants in challenging seasons of life.

The **Journey Ministry** launched support groups for caregivers of loved ones with dementia and hosted their first community educational event.

Church members embarked on a **civil rights pilgrimage** to Tulsa, Oklahoma in February, and a second group headed to Little Rock, Arkansas in the fall, exploring civil rights history and immersing themselves in local life.



In October, the **United Methodist Women** hosted and organized the annual *Restore Her Luncheon*. This year's event benefited the Genesis Women's Shelter, a partner of our Pastoral Care Ministry.



Serving

HPUMC KIDS & YOUTH

600+

With the help of dedicated volunteers, HPUMC Kids and Youth Ministries showed students the love of Christ and encouraged them to serve others in 2023. HPUMC welcomed more than **600** kids each Sunday, and **120** new families began attending Sunday School.



93

volunteers helped disciple an average of **186** HPUMC Youth students on Wednesday nights.

5,906

Diapers

Kids Ministry service projects for HPUMC Outreach partners included stuffing a truck with donations of **5,906** diapers and **229** packs of wipes for homeless and at-risk children in partnership with Hope Supply Co.

HPUMC collaborated with our other campuses, The Grove and Munger Place, on multiple mission trips, allowing students across campuses to make an impact together. Including **80** students who participated in a civil rights mission trip to Jackson, Mississippi, while **25** middle school students spent a week in Waco, Texas, helping to revitalize playground equipment and learning about fair trade, food deserts, and the poverty cycle.



Supported by **100** youth and **200** adult volunteers, more than **650** kids learned how to follow Jesus “here, there, and everywhere” at Vacation Bible School. Amp it Up Music Camp hosted more than **50** kids with the help of music staff and **10** Youth Choir volunteers.



Make an Impact

ABROAD

In October, the first medical mission team traveled to the Wesley Clinic in Puerto Viejo, Costa Rica.



Two construction mission teams traveled to the Methodist Children's Home of Costa Rica to help with infrastructure projects.

There are **24 kids** currently living at the Children's Home, and HPUMC is providing scholarships for **seven** students in secondary school (from seventh to eleventh grade).



A Heart for Haiti

Each week, two Haitian physicians drive treacherous roads through dangerous regions to join local staff providing care at the Siloé Clinic in Petit Goâve, Haiti. There have been times when conditions have prevented travel, but when at all possible, these brave doctors make the journey to care for those with no other options. At the clinic, children are vaccinated, expectant mothers are monitored, sight-restoring surgery is performed, and people are cared for with dignity and love.

Each month, another medical team consisting of doctors, nurses, and support staff spends a week driving to five remote villages high in the mountains of Haiti. They, too, are willing to face grave danger to provide healthcare to those who cannot reach a town with a clinic or even a doctor. While we cannot travel to Haiti due to the current insecurity, **the financial support of HPUMC enables the brave doctors, nurses, and other staff to continue caring for patients when many healthcare facilities in the country have closed.**

In partnership with **Habitat Zambia**, **nine** more homes with access to clean water and solar power were built in the HPUMC-supported community of Makululu in Kabwe, Zambia. Each recipient family was also trained in the basics of home management, entrepreneurship, succession planning, and on HIV/AIDS. In addition, **two more solar-powered water pump systems** were provided for the community, as well as training for **ten** water management personnel.



Make an Impact

IN OUR COMMUNITY



In May, HPUMC celebrated the graduation of the biggest **Camp-to-Career** class in history—**16** high school seniors, including one salutatorian. HPUMC helped provide these students with supplies for dorm and campus life, and they have now begun their college or trade school journeys. The Camp-to-Career team has walked with many of these students since childhood and continues encouraging them throughout college.

Highland Park United Methodist Church became a member of the **Commit Partnership** this year, working to provide at least half of all young Dallas residents a living wage by 2040. The church also helped fund a new location for Aunt Bette's Food Pantry at **St. Philips School and Community Center**.

House #125

Our Carpenters for Christ ministry marked a significant milestone with the completion of house **#125**. Carpenters for Christ built its first house in 1996 and remains the largest contributor to Habitat for Humanity of any faith-based organization worldwide. HPUMC received the Rex Spivey Award in 2023 for this long-term contribution.



2,400 volunteer hours were given to construct two Carpenters for Christ houses in 2023, helping to lift families out of poverty by providing decent and affordable housing.



We have expanded our partnership with Austin Street Center, which now houses HPUMC's missional church, **The Table**. Every Sunday, neighbors in South Dallas gather to worship, participate in communion, and share a meal in Christian fellowship. The Table provides a church home to many on the margins or experiencing homelessness in our city. The Table also held its first-ever VBS in partnership with 4DWN, expanding its reach to kids in South Dallas.

2,200+

volunteers served vital roles within our HPUMC ministries as well as our Impact partners in 2023.

HPUMC Choirs launched the first two We Sing, We Serve events, in which **150** singers from ages four to 94 served alongside one another, packaging meals and pet kits for our partners.

76

congregants delivered hot meals to Dallas area seniors weekly through the VNA Meals on Wheels program, and HPUMC celebrated **50** years of Meals on Wheels involvement.

450+

congregants served at 25 locations on HPUMC's Churchwide Serving Day.

130

volunteers served a Sunday dinner for South Dallas neighbors at Austin Street Center.

10,000

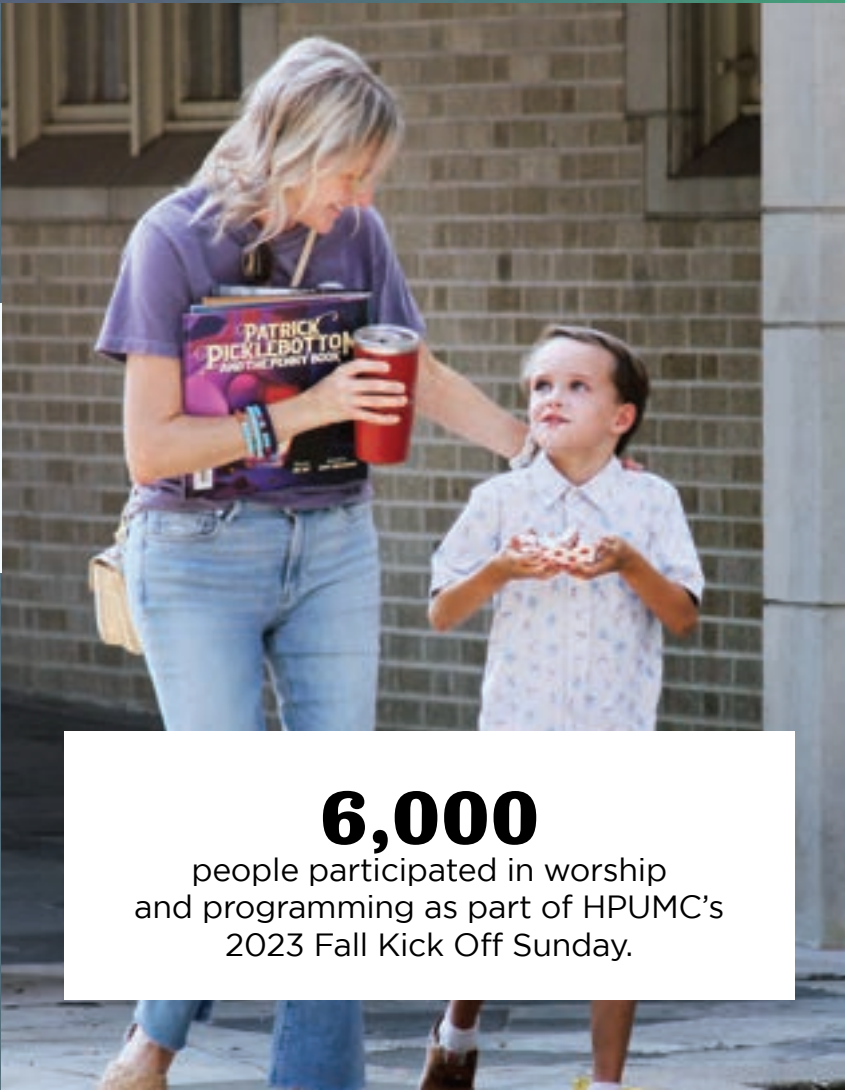
meals were packed by Confirmation for Rise Against Hunger.



Events at HPUMC

1,300
attended women's events, including Melanie Shankle and Anne Neilson speaker events, Galentine's, and Women's Night of Worship.

5,000
retired adults attended the 67th season of the Rejebian book review series.



6,000
people participated in worship and programming as part of HPUMC's 2023 Fall Kick Off Sunday.



460+
men built community through HPUMC's Men's Lunches and the first-ever Holy Smokers event in September.

140
staff members and congregants traveled to Israel, walking where Jesus walked and gaining perspective on his life, death, and resurrection.



Last summer, HPUMC invited the **Chancel Choir** into the Sanctuary for a Tower Arts performance. This year, they returned the favor; HPUMC Chancel and Youth Choir members journeyed to Washington D.C. in June to perform at the Washington National Cathedral for their Holy Eucharist and Evensong services.



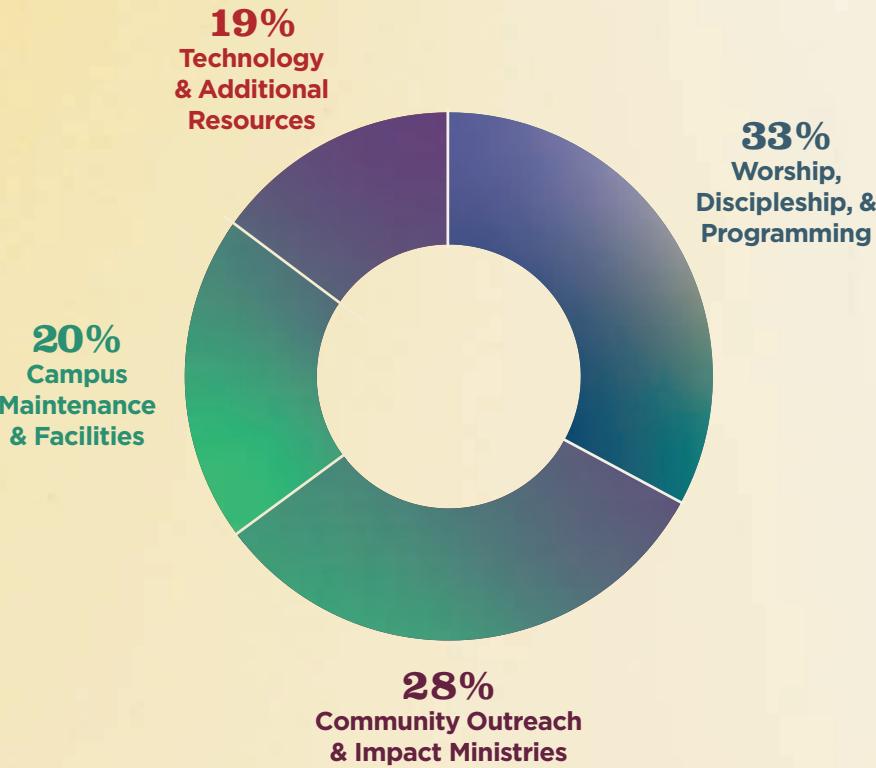
500+
young adults were plugged into the Young Adult Community through weekly and seasonal events.

278
Cornerstone congregants shared a meal in **19** different homes around the city for Cornerstone Family Dinners.

2,300
attended the David R. Davidson Tower Arts Concert Series events, and the monumental 20th season, kicked off in the fall.

300+
Sanctuary congregants gathered for new fellowship events throughout the year, including Breakfasts in the Garden and a Fall Festival.

2023 HPUMC
OPERATING BUDGET



Thank you to our lay leaders for
their time and dedication in 2023.

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL

EX-OFFICIO VOTING MEMBERS	
Rev. Paul Rasmussen Senior Minister	
Megan Moates Council Chairperson	Laurie Martin Chair, Finance
Susie Adams Council Chairperson Elect	Matt Craft Chair, Properties Committee
Jayson Bales	Kelly Noblin
Lauren Bagwell	Gwen Parker
Gina Culpepper	David Smith
Mark Farrell	Travis Spillman
Chip Fowler	Gayle Stoffel
Mark Freeman	Greg Swalwell
Sharilyn Getz	Carter Tolleson
Steve Grove	Amy Yeager
Catherine Harper	
EX-OFFICIO NON-VOTING MEMBERS	
Courtney Kelly	Doug Denby Chair, Investment Committee
Todd Massey	
Brad McLain	Carter Thomas Chair, Outreach Committee
Sammye Myers	

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE			
Jayson Bales, Chair Mark Freeman Steve Grove	Todd Massey Sammye Myers Kelly Noblin	Gwen Parker David Smith Gayle Stoffel	Greg Swalwell Carter Tolleson
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE			
Kendall Bratton Scott Bell Jonathan Dietz	TJ Hill Whitney Magers Laurie Martin, Chair	Corbin Methvin Matt Ogle Scott Piland	Melinda Sims Tim Weil Sandy Wilson
AUDIT COMMITTEE		INVESTMENT COMMITTEE	
Ben Davis	Alicia Howell	Sandy Wilson, Chair	Brad Ayres Susan Claycombe
			Doug Denby, Chair Nick Kapral
			Brant Landry Paul Pirok
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE		NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE	
Kathy Cleaveland Paula Davis	Missy Fain Karen Sargent	David Seaton	Katrina Bolin
			Tommy Crowell
			Ashley Pitts
OUTREACH COMMITTEE			
John Croft Rex Cumming Duncan Fulton Frank Lloyd	George Morgan Irene Mugambi-Gicheru Dan Mulford Caroline Nowlin, Chair Elect	Mary Martha Pickens Sarah Puckett Karen Rogers Carter Thomas, Chair	Representatives Ed Wilson Rep. Carpenters for Christ Susan Brooks Rep. Haiti Partnership
PROPERTIES COMMITTEE			
Matt Craft, Chair Mark Fitzgerald Brenda Gardner	Josh Goad Matt Mildren	David Neher JD Robertson	Richard Woods Kimberly Yamanouchi



**HIGHLAND PARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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