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FIRST IMMANUEL CORE VALUES

***Spiritual Life * Friendly Community *
Acceptance & Diversity * Tradition & Heritage *
Music & Worship * Growing in Faith *
Family Focus * Serving & Volunteering***

ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, 30 JANUARY 2011
AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

DEVOTIONS

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

QUORUM COUNT

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

ELECTIONS:

CHURCH COUNCIL

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

VOTING MEMBERS TO SYNOD ASSEMBLY

CONGREGATION PRESIDENT

TREASURER'S REPORT

2011 MINISTRY PROPOSAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS

CLOSING PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT



First Immanuel Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting – January 31, 2010

Opening. The meeting was called to order at 12:45 p.m. by Bobbi Varnes, and the opening devotions were given by Pastor Aaron Couch. A quorum of voting members (50) was present.

Agenda. A motion to adopt the agenda as printed was passed.

President's Remarks. Congregation President Bobbi Varnes expressed her thanks to the members present for their attendance, to the members of the Church Council and all the committees, and to Bonny Groshong and the pastors for their dedication and service to First Immanuel.

Celebration of Ministry. Emily and Ryan Traetow presented a video produced by the Sunday School children in September 2009.

Nominating Committee Report. The nominating committee announced the following candidates for election to the Church Council: James Bash and Leslie Wong (renewal of three-year terms), and Edwin Rourk and Ryan Traetow (new three-year terms). A motion to elect these persons to the church council was passed. Bobbi expressed thanks to Andrew Drexler and Joan Pendergast for their service on the Church Council.

Nominations were taken from the floor for candidates for the 2010 nominating committee. Les Wierson, Tyrell Servo, Deb Frost, and Joan Pendergast volunteered to serve; they will be joined by two council members yet to be appointed. A motion to elect these persons to the nomination committee was approved.

Gus Johnson, Rob Jurgenson and Kathy Truman were nominated to serve on the Audit Committee. They were elected by unanimous vote.

Michelle Johnson was nominated to serve on the Endowment Committee. She was elected by unanimous vote.

Jack and Nancy MacDonald were nominated to represent First Immanuel at the 2010 Oregon Synod Assembly. They were elected by unanimous vote.

Bobbi Varnes was nominated to serve a second one-year term as council president. She was elected by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report. Bobbi Varnes spoke briefly about the 2009 financial year and the impact of a loss of \$20,000 in income due to unfulfilled pledges. James Bash and Kent Fredrickson presented the 2009 treasurer's report. We ended the year with a deficit of \$26,178. A motion to accept the report subject to audit was adopted. The audit committee will begin work on the 2009 books shortly.

Ministry Proposal. The 2010 ministry proposal, which includes a 5% reduction in staff compensation, was presented by James Bash and Kent Fredrickson. A motion to adopt the proposal was passed.

Reports. Written reports from the pastors, the Congregational Life Committee, the Education Committee, the Endowment Committee, the Outreach Committee, the Property Committee, the Stewardship Committee, the Worship and Music Committee, and WELCA were submitted.

New Business. The Endowment Committee presented a proposal for several editorial changes and the addition of a new section to the Endowment Policies and Procedures document. A motion to adopt the proposal was carried.

Andrew Drexler introduced a resolution recommended to the congregation by the Church Council that would designate First Immanuel as a Reconciling in Christ congregation. After some discussion, the motion to adopt the resolution was passed unanimously by a show of hands.

Acknowledgements. Thank-you letters will be sent to local business for allowing congregation members to use their parking facilities on Sunday mornings. Thanks were also conveyed to all who helped with the dinner, to Joyce Clawson for her work as financial secretary, and to Debbie Rehn and Chuck and Skipper Bessette for all their hard work.

Adjournment. The meeting was closed with a prayer delivered by Pastor Melinda Wagner.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leslie S. Wong".

Leslie S. Wong
Secretary

OUR MISSION STATEMENT...

**FIRST IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH IS
A WELCOMING COMMUNITY CENTERED IN CHRIST'S LOVE,
JOYFULLY REACHING OUT TOGETHER**

CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS—2010

	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
CONFIRMED MEMBERS	283*	305*	328	307	300	301
BAPTIZED MEMBERS	353*	379*	403	373	365	362
COMMUNING MEMBERS	219	216	214	201	209	205
ADULT BAPTISMS	0	0	3	2	2	1
ADULT AFFIRMATIONS & TRANSFERS IN	11	7	21	13	9	19
CHILD TRANSFERS IN	0	1	1	0	0	0
CHILD BAPTISMS	7	2	10	3	7	1
CHILD TRANSFERS OUT	0	1	0	2	3	1
YOUTH CONFIRMATIONS	1	3	2	0	0	2
LOSSES BY DEATH	2	3	3	5	6	3
ADULT LOSSES BY REQUEST	2	4	2	3	6	7
AVERAGE WEEKLY WORSHIP	109	110	113	104	108	114

*Note: A number of inactive members were removed from rolls by Council action in 2010.

BAPTISMS IN 2010:

August Larson Matthias	02/07/2010	Samantha Otterholt Woodring	05/09/2010
Pearl Ruth Matthias	02/07/2010	Finn Selmann Frost	07/18/2010
Katelin Grace Drexler	03/21/2010	Nolan James Riley	11/28/2010
Cora Gwyn Traetow	04/25/2010		

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED IN 2010: Michael Bowlin, Craig Freeman, Charlotte Fritz, Evelyn Jurgenson, Michael Larsen, David & Sierra Modro, Michelle & Robert Manicke, Berthe Nelsen, Deanne Woodring

CONFIRMATION, 23 May 2010: David Manicke

DEATHS IN 2010:

	<u>BIRTH</u>	<u>DEATH</u>
Viola Martha Forrest	03/22/1929	02/24/2010
Maxine Evelyn Lundquist	11/21/1930	07/21/2010

MARRIAGES IN 2010:

Gus Lindgren & Kristen Northrup	03/17/2010
Nicholas Boehm & Erin Rieke	11/20/2010

REPORT OF THE PASTORS, 2010

There is truly a lot to celebrate about our life and ministry together as a congregation in 2010. As your pastors, we give thanks to be partners with you in serving Christ's work in such a variety of ways. As a congregation, **our ministry with children and families has grown**. This year we **completed the ramp** to the lower level of Sodergren Hall. We voted to become a **Reconciling In Christ congregation**, identifying ourselves as a safe and welcoming church for GLBT individuals. We participated in a **fall stewardship education** program and responded generously to assure our congregation's financial health. Here are some of the highlights of First Immanuel's life and our work as your pastors during the past year.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

This has been an exciting year for ministry with children and families, as we celebrated **seven baptisms** and began some new efforts. The **Cradle Roll** got off to a great start under Wanda Black's leadership, providing resources to families of young children to support parents and keep them connected to church. This year our Education ministry also expanded our offerings for **Sunday School**, including a new **"Puppets and Parachutes" class** for children ages 3-5, led by Nancy MacDonald and Nicole Peterson. Pastor Aaron began using a new web-based social networking resource for a Sunday school resource for the "tween" group. Pastor Aaron also taught two **First Communion classes** this year, and continues to lead our **Confirmation ministry**. This year we continued to work with partner congregations Bethlehem, St. James and St. Timothy Lutheran churches, plus new partner Zion Lutheran, to create an engaging and dynamic confirmation program. Both of us pastors appreciated working with an energetic new team to share a great week of **Vacation Bible School** during the summer.

ADULT EDUCATION

As part of our participation in the ELCA's "Book of Faith" effort to help people become fluent in scripture, the "first language of faith," Pastor Melinda and Wanda Black created a First Immanuel **facebook page** to promote scriptural literacy by giving members an opportunity to discuss the **daily Bible reading passages**. Pastor Melinda also developed and taught a Bible Study on the Gospel of John for **Adult Forum**. Pastor Aaron led the **Lenten video discussion series**, using a stimulating resource called *Nooma*. In the fall, Pastor Melinda led a class called **"Building the New City,"** about ending homelessness and a spiritual response to homeless individuals. In the fall, we began creating a series of **weekly email devotions** directed to the congregation, intended as a source of encouragement for members to be engaged with scripture and to be strengthened in their faith.

PROPERTY

This was a very significant year for the leaders of our Property ministry. Work was completed on the **ramp to allow handicapped access to the lower level of Sodergren Hall**. This represented the fulfillment of a long-standing dream of making resources and services in that location more accessible. Property Committee also oversaw the **restoration of windows and painting** for Sodergren Hall. Other big Property projects included replacing electric panels in Sodergren Hall and the sanctuary, installing a new sink in the Food Pantry to permit expanded food service, and replacing the faded red carpet in the church entryway.

STEWARDSHIP AND CHURCH FINANCES

One of the very significant elements of our work as pastors over the past year has been with stewardship. Thanks to a generous donation from members of the congregation, we had the opportunity to work with Ron Frey, a **stewardship consultant**. Ron provided resources for us to consider pastorally the need for congregational education regarding stewardship. It proved to be a learning experience for us as we **read and reflected on the character of Christian stewardship**. We shared our discoveries with the congregation through newsletter articles and weekly email devotions. We

incorporated sharing about stewardship from members into Sunday worship services. We wrote the materials for the **fall pledge program** and created resources to assist members in giving prayerful consideration to their plans for giving in 2011. We are thankful for the congregation's receptive response. Several members have said they found this year's program to be very helpful, generating serious thought and significant family conversations about giving. Going forward, we'll be giving pastoral support to the **Grateful Giving Task Force** as it encourages an awareness of being grateful stewards of God's gifts throughout the life of First Immanuel.

We are also thankful that **the congregation's financial position at the conclusion of 2010 is better than it has been in many years**. This is due to a combination of factors. At our 2010 annual meeting, the congregation approved the cost-trimming recommendation of a 5% pay cut for all staff. Congregational leaders helped keep expenses under budget by \$13,209 for the year. We also received year-end gifts of about \$14,500, and most people caught up on their pledges. As a result, the 2010 year-end deficit (taken from savings) was only \$2,282. We had budgeted to take \$23,912 from savings, so this was quite a positive outcome. Looking to the coming year, we see a strong pledge increase for 2011 with 71 pledges for nearly \$199,000, many being new pledges. (Compare this with 2010, in which we received 70 pledges for \$187,323). While there are still challenges ahead, we are inspired to see signs of significant financial progress for our congregation during a very difficult economic time.

LIVELY WORSHIP

As your pastors, we enjoy the opportunity to offer prayer and praise to God with you in **worship** each Sunday, and we find it a joy and privilege to share the word of Christ with you in **preaching**. We appreciate being partners with **many fine worship leaders**. We are thankful for the gifts offered by our choir director, Ralph Nelson, and organist, Karl Jurisons. We are also thankful for the beautiful gifts of music shared by the **Choir and Bell Choir**, and for the dedication and care that our assisting ministers and lectors bring to their leadership roles. In 2010 the congregation learned a **new Epiphany liturgy written by Ralph Nelson and Wanda Black**, and we are enjoying singing it again this Epiphany season. We dedicated **new green paraments** for the altar to beautify our worship space. There were a number of opportunities for **children** to share in worship, including the Children's Christmas program and playing hand bells. Pastor Melinda participated in the wonderful **joint Advent choir concert** with St. Luke Lutheran Church.

INCLUSION

We took a significant step together at the Annual Meeting in 2010 when we voted to become a **Reconciling In Christ (RIC) congregation**, identifying ourselves as a church that is safe and welcoming for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered believers. We are proud of First Immanuel for the respectful conversation that prepared the way for this decision, and for the witness you give to the all-inclusive love of Christ that is at the heart of our life as people of God. In recognition and celebration of this decision, First Immanuel was invited to host the 7th annual regional Reconciling In Christ worship service, which will take place in the evening on January 30.

CONNECTIONS AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

We continually strive to build community among members and welcome new people into fellowship with Christ. This year the fellowship opportunities have multiplied happily. Pastor Melinda worked closely with Outreach Committee to welcome **eleven new adult members**. She also worked with Congregational Life Committee to complete a **new photo directory**, the first in many years. Social networking has helped build community through the First Immanuel **facebook page**. Other new fellowship events included the joint **Women's Retreat** with Prince of Life Lutheran Church in March; the new evening **Women's Bible Study** led by Nancy MacDonald; and a first-ever **Yurt Camping Trip** to South Beach State Park in August. This family-type trip complements the fall **Beach Retreat** for young adults.

WIDER CHURCH

Our congregation is blessed to be part of the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**, one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with about 4.5 million members in over 10,000 congregations. This year has not been easy for the ELCA, which is weathering budget cuts and conflict, but we remain prayerfully supportive and grateful for our church partnerships which reach out worldwide in Christ's name. Pastor Aaron serves on the **Oregon Synod Council**, helping oversee church administration in our region. Pastor Melinda serves on the planning committee for the annual **Byberg Preaching Conference** and teaches one week per summer in the ACTS Doctor of Ministry in Preaching program at our Chicago seminary. Pastor Melinda also serves on the Board of **Northwest Portland Ministries** along with **Bonny Groshong**, who recently retired from this Board after serving for 30 years.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

First Immanuel is a great congregation, and we feel privileged to be your pastors, doing Christ's ministry in partnership with you. We appreciate the dedication and good spirit of the Council and Executive Committee, and all who creatively volunteer throughout the year. It is beautiful to observe how serving on a committee, serving a meal at Loaves and Fishes, or even serving coffee after church can be the occasion for people to grow in faith toward God and love toward others. We give thanks for all our dedicated staff members including Debbie Rehn, Bonny Groshong, Ralph Nelson, Karl Jurisons, Kim Verser, Chuck and Skipper Bessette, and Hunter Nelson, who give generously of their talents in the office, choir loft, nursery, and while cleaning and tending our facilities. Most of all we give God thanks for forming us all into community and breathing into us the Spirit of Christ. Inspired and empowered by our Creator, we look forward to another year of rewarding ministry.

In Christ's service,

Pastor Aaron J. Couch



Pastor Melinda
Pastor Melinda J. Wagner

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE REPORT – 2010

We had another very busy year in 2010, and Congregational Life Committee has been involved in several projects. Because of the great participation of this congregation, First Immanuel has been able to continue to be an active and caring community.

We reviewed costs and were able to reduce our committee budget. We did have to change our subscription policy for **The Lutheran Magazine** as part of cost-cutting. FILC no longer buys a subscription for every church member, but this committee has organized a group plan, and about 35 members are paying for their own subscriptions.

We sponsored a lively **Heritage Baking Day** on Feb. 20, concocting aebleskivers, rosettes, and fatigman. Special thanks to Shirley Rasmussen for teaching her skills!

There were many willing volunteers for **Easter Breakfast** and many of those who had volunteered in the past once again helped with preparation, serving, and clean-up.

A new fellowship activity this year was the **Family Yurt Campout** at South Beach State Park near Newport, Oregon, August 27-9. Nine yurts were rented, and about 28 people of all ages enjoyed nature, good company, and a Sunday Communion service on the beach. It was a real success and we will do this again in 2011.

The Annual **Church Picnic** was held in conjunction with Rally Day, September 12. Everyone had a great time and we had many people who shared their time and many who provided the very tasty dishes for the potluck.

Many willing volunteers in this congregation deserve great thanks. **Volunteer Appreciation Sunday** on October 24 gave us the chance to tell them “thank you” for their wonderful service within this congregation and this community.

The **Young Adult Beach Retreat** on October 15-17 was enjoyed by the many young people who came together at the Wiersons’ beach house for inspiring devotions, good discussions, good food, and great fellowship. We again take this opportunity to thank Myrna and Les Wierson for their hospitality.

On the first Sunday in Advent, we had the annual **Advent Workshop and Chili Feed**. A number of people used the event to make wreaths and Advent candleholders for their homes. We had tables set up for activities for the children. We also had a table set up for making Christmas cards that were then sent to the military troops overseas. And of course, there was a wonderful choice of chili to enjoy.

We continue to oversee the **schedule for Nursery care** and have had many volunteers to help our paid attendant, Kim Verser. Mary Kate Otto agreed to be the coordinator for the nursery. Her responsibilities include recruiting volunteers, overseeing the running of the nursery, and assigning volunteers each month to cover the nursery care with Kim. We reviewed and updated the current list of volunteer duties. We also did required background checks on new nursery volunteers.

Along with these many events, the Congregational Life Committee encouraged congregational members to help in hosting coffee hours, and in providing and preparing altar flowers for Sunday worship.

We look forward to being able to continue sponsoring and encouraging the exciting life of First Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Respectfully submitted,
FILC Congregational Life Committee

Wanda Black, Judi Drexler, Bonny Groshong, Mary Kate Otto, Marja Selmann, Pastor Melinda Wagner

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT—2010

Our First Immanuel family continues to be blessed with the addition of little ones through births, baptisms, and new members. The Education Committee has worked during the past year to provide opportunities for both children and adults to grow together in their faith and knowledge of God's love.

Sunday mornings in Sodergren Hall have been busy with children's classes. During the spring, Pastor Aaron used a variety of media to present key topics from the New Testament. Ralph Nelson taught new songs, old songs, and hand chimes. Dedicated volunteers—including Lauren Caffee, Kim Cash, Andrew Drexler, Michelle Johnson, Mark Madrid, Nicole Peterson, Tyrell Servo, and Madeleine Stack—helped the children with crafts and other activities to reinforce Bible themes. Pam Porter kept supplies organized and set things up in the classrooms. During the Sunday School year, the children brought their offerings, and were able to send gifts to Heifer International, Lutheran World Relief, and Koutiala Women's and Children's Hospital in Mali, Africa (where fellow member Richard Wong volunteers).

In the fall, Sunday School welcomed back veteran teachers Nancy MacDonald and Emily Traetow, and expanded with a third class aimed at 3- and 4-year olds. The new Puppets and Parachutes class, led by Nancy MacDonald and Nicole Peterson, has introduced the preschool group of children to Sunday School activities. Emily Traetow and Tyrell Servo have worked with the middle group, and Pastor Aaron provides leadership for the oldest group. Kim Verser cares for the nursery. Ralph Nelson continues to teach songs old and new, and has also provided advanced instruction in handbells for older children who are interested. In addition to Sunday morning activities, there have been Field Trips to The Pumpkin Patch and The Grotto to promote an increase in fun and fellowship between the Sunday school families. Our Field Trips promote an opportunity to teach the children about God and to get to know people better outside of the church setting. Thank you to the parents and Sunday school teachers who participated and supported these events.

We rejoice in the development of the new Cradle Roll program. In a structured way, the congregation is now regularly in touch with children and their families from birth to age 3, offering educational resources, support, and encouragement for parents. Wanda Black has diligently ordered materials, sent out cards, and gotten the Cradle Roll going. Look for the Cradle Roll display by the nursery in Fellowship Hall to see all the little lambs now involved (thanks to Chris Black, Mark Madrid and his mother, Margarita Madrid, for sharing their talents in crafting the display). We are grateful for the financial support provided by the Endowment Committee for this project.

Vacation Bible School was once again a memorable time for those who were involved either as students or leaders. This year, the Education Committee worked together as a team to put together and coordinate the week, joined by Pastor Melinda—her attention to detail and amazing creativity were much appreciated. An awesome group of volunteers worked together to make "High Seas Expedition" a special experience. From the planning and decorating, to the programs and meals, it was the generous and loving support of so many that made this opportunity possible. We are pleased that a grant from the Endowment Committee enabled us to provide this program to about 30 children without charge. For their service project, the children assembled health kits and sent them to Lutheran World Relief.

First Immanuel offered two First Communion classes this year, led by Pastor Aaron. We rejoice to welcome seven of our younger members to share in the meal of Holy Communion: Jamie and Cate Bikalis, Nathanael Bishop, Morgan Borweick, Sydney Cantrell, Riley Cash, and Timothy Sheard.

In May, First Immanuel celebrated the rite of confirmation for David Manicke. We continue to enjoy a shared Confirmation ministry. Youth and parents from First Immanuel and other Portland Lutheran congregations meet twice monthly on Sundays after worship to share lunch and learning together. Led by Pastor Aaron, the classes are organized in a two-year cycle that focuses on the

Bible and the Small Catechism. Partner congregations during the past year have included St. James, St. Timothy, Bethlehem, and Zion Lutheran churches.

During the past year there have been a variety of offerings for adults. In conjunction with the ELCA's "Book of Faith" Initiative, Pastor Melinda led an Adult Forum series on the Gospel of John. For the fall Pastor Melinda led a series on "Ending Homelessness," using resources from the New City Initiative and welcoming guest speaker Paul Schroeder of JOIN. For the Lenten video discussion series, Pastor Aaron used a resource called "Nooma." A Bible Study for women was led by Nancy MacDonald.

Financial constraints this year resulted in reduced hours and compensation for our pastors and staff. Throughout these difficult times, however, the educational ministry of our congregation has been blessed through their constant, faithful support. We would like to say a special word of thanks to the pastors and to the church staff for all the extra effort and work they have done, cheerfully and with great dedication.

Respectfully submitted,

Education Committee

Members: Wanda Black, Tom Bradford, Pastor Aaron Couch, Andrew Drexler, Nancy MacDonald, Ralph Nelson, Pam Porter

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE REPORT—2010

Members: Michelle Johnson (Chair), Joyce Clawson (Financial Secretary), Van Hardison (Recording Secretary), Marja Selmann (Church Council liaison), Pastor Aaron Couch

The Endowment Committee was privileged to award 13 grants this year from our two Endowment Funds—the First Immanuel Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, which provided \$4,450 to support initiatives for evangelism outreach and social ministry, and the Doris Palmblad Word Missions Endowment Fund, which provided \$3,350 to support mission and service activities outside the United States. These two endowment funds have been created by generous gifts from the estates of our members.

From the First Immanuel Lutheran Church Endowment Fund:

- Cradle Roll Program – Education Committee, Wanda Black \$225
Creative outreach to parents of children baptized at First Immanuel
- Northwest Portland Ministries – Outreach Committee \$1,000
Senior and disabled services in Northwest Portland
- Vacation Bible School – Education Committee \$1,300
Provides VBS experience for all children at no cost
- Zimmerman Community Center – Joan Pendergast \$100
Provides for participation in activity groups at Isobel's Clubhouse
- FILC Youth – Nancy MacDonald \$300
Provides scholarships for FILC teens to attend a faith strengthening event
- NW Examiner Advertisement – Outreach Committee \$780
Monthly advertisements for First Immanuel
- Childcare for young children – Worship and Music Committee \$645
Childcare during bell choir and adult choir rehearsals
- WELCA Prayer Shawl Ministry – Rita Gocken \$100
Supplies for prayer shawls for people who are sick

From the Doris Palmblad World Missions Endowment Fund:

- Haiti Foundation of Hope – Deb Frost \$425
Health, education and economic development projects in rural Haiti
- Green Village Schools – Judy Wick \$425
Purchase shoes for children attending Green Village Schools in Afghanistan
- Operation of HOPE – Joyce Clawson \$1,000
Reconstructive surgeries for children with facial deformities in the developing world
- WELCA – Rita Gocken \$1,000
Health kits and school kits to be distributed through Lutheran World Relief
- Oregon Synod Global Missions – Nick Doversberger \$500
Funding for ELCA missionary from Oregon Synod, Richard Young

Other work of the Endowment Committee in 2010:

- The Endowment Committee brought Pastor Keith Nelson from the ELCA Foundation to conduct a Legacy Seminar for members of First Immanuel. The event was well attended and participants expressed appreciation for the experience.
- Began to explore possibilities for moving the Endowment Funds from Vanguard to the ELCA Foundation in order to provide regular access to and interaction with a fund manager.

The Endowment Funds are currently invested with Vanguard, with an ending balance at December 31, 2010 of \$211,899.78. There is an additional \$452.34 in a US Bank savings account, for a total of \$212,352.12.

*Respectfully submitted,
First Immanuel Endowment Committee*

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT—2010

Purpose: To Inspire, support, and equip the congregation's ministry of "sharing the good news of Christ through word and deed." Our committee is active with Evangelism Outreach, Social Ministry, and Publicity.

ONGOING OR NEW ACTIVITIES

- Generous endowment grant makes possible monthly advertising in the Northwest Examiner newspaper
- Web page design and content updated and maintained by Richard "Webmaster" Wong.
- Began utilizing a new church brochure produced by Olan Mills (edited by FILC).
- Sponsored three Inquirers' Lunches benefiting new membership.
- NW Sunday Parkways Event in September—Handed out FILC water bottles to participants who biked & walked a neighborhood route (distributed 175 bottles).
- 2010 "Living the Mission" recipients as chosen by Outreach Committee were recognized for their contributions and sharing the good news of Christ through word and deed: James Bash, Wanda Black, Linda Rae Coon, Bonny Groshong, Chris and John Koonce, Jack and Nancy MacDonald, Pamela Porter, Howard and Shirley Rasmussen, Bobbi Varnes, and Leslie and Richard Wong. Thanks for making a difference!
- Continued mission awareness and support for Rose Haven, NWPM and Food Bank
- Sponsored "Building the New City" adult course on homelessness this past fall. Pastor Melinda has led the charge and says, "Our urban location brings us in contact with so many people who are homeless, and I often wonder how we can better reach out and help them—it's both a pastoral and a personal concern for me....It was not always an easy discussion, but I feel it was important one, and I hope it will lead us to some concrete actions beyond the assistance we already offer." Outreach and Congregational Life committees will be discussing plans to put these new ideas into action during the upcoming year.
- Gallagher Plaza Events (Adopt-a-High-Rise program through NWPM)
 - Strawberry Social on Rose Parade Day in June
 - Pumpkin Pie Social during Thanksgiving Holiday
 - "Light Up Gallagher!" decorating in Community Room for Christmas
 - Donated funds (\$50) for Gallagher Winterfest (catered dinner)
 - Giving Tree gift cards distributed to residents (\$1,155 raised by church members!!)

Outreach will be seeking new committee members this year—please join us if you feel moved to be more involved in this ministry of our church!

With Great Thanks,

Outreach Committee: Mark Madrid, Adair Nef, Joan Pendergast, Pamela Porter, Edwin Rourk, Linda Thom, Ryan Traetow, Pastor Melinda Wagner

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT 2009

Many comments have been made regarding our beautiful Church and gardens. We need to be thankful for the numerous volunteers at our fall and spring garden and church building cleanup days. Volunteer garden and building maintenance improvements continue throughout the year. Chuck and Skipper Bessette also spend many extra hours on daily maintenance. As Skipper wrote to the Committee, "To brighten the Church with cleanliness is what we try to do for all to enjoy...with the best efforts we can do. God's house should sparkle."

A special thanks for the help Craig Langley provides in organizing volunteer work—he always seems to be at the Church doing whatever needs attention. Thank you, Craig.

God asks us to be good stewards of our Church facilities. With volunteers and the Building Fund Reserve we have been able to continue many planned projects and fix unexpected problems like replacement of the garbage disposal in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. The long awaited ramp to the lower floor of Sodergren Hall has been completed and dedicated to the service of our Lord. Representatives of Northwest Portland Ministries, Rose Haven, and funding partners Meyer Memorial Trust, Rotary International and ELCA Mission Investment Fund, joined us in a jubilant celebration. It brought tears to my eyes to see the parade of motorized scooters, wheelchairs, walkers and small children using the ramp for the first time. Without the support of all of you, the new ramp would still be a dream. With the help of grant funds the windows in Sodergren Hall were repaired and sealed and the building exterior painted. Over the past two years, significant and much needed improvements have been made to Sodergren Hall. With these improvements the Committee feels that the building can serve the congregation's needs for another 15 to 20 years if properly maintained.

In January 2011, the parquet floor at the Church entrance is being refinished and new red carpet installed in the stairs to Fellowship Hall and to the sanctuary, and the narthex hallway. The existing carpet and floors were badly worn by the sun and wear over the years. The new carpet and floor were selected to resist direct sunlight and provide longer wear. The Committee is also investigating special glass in the entrance to reduce harmful sun rays.

I thank the Lord for our hardworking Committee: James Bash, Pastor Aaron Couch, Kent Fredrickson, Craig Langley, Shirley Rasmussen, Dave Spitzer, Ryan Traetow, Bobbi Varnes, Jim Wick and Myrna Wierson. Let's not forget the work of office manager Debbie Rehn and our security sexton James Nelson.

The goal in 2011 will be to review the future needs of our Church facilities and develop a report for the Congregation.

God Bless our efforts.

*Respectfully submitted,
Les Wierson, Chair*

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT—2010

Stewardship moves into new territories

In 2010, our congregation started out with a Stewardship team that helped to organize the annual Talent Auction. The auction was a lot of fun and raised over \$1,500 for the congregational budget. We had over 70 different kinds of items and services that showed off our many talents.

But after summer, our Stewardship team lost traction; fortunately, Pastor Aaron and Pastor Melinda stepped in to keep the ball rolling. They met with a stewardship consultant, Ron Frey, whose fees were underwritten by congregational members, to figure out a new path for our annual fall pledge drive. This new way involved inviting members to participate in sermons and in temple talks to tell us what stewardship means. These participants gave us a glimpse into their lives and feelings and gave our congregation's stewardship message a personal touch. The pastors added to these personal stories with their own stories and perceptions. These stories and observations have been so well received that we just concluded our best stewardship drive: 71 pledges for \$199,000.00, and we are hoping that more pledges will be coming in.

—Your Stewardship Team

1 WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT – 2010

MEMBERS: Pastor Aaron Couch, Risë Johnson, Karl Jurisons, Ralph Nelson, Marja Selmann, Leslie Wong, Pastor Melinda Wagner

The Worship and Music Committee provides ongoing support for worship, planning the services and helping to make the festival days and seasons special. The Committee does everything from selecting liturgies for each season and identifying new hymns to try, to making hand sanitizer available during flu season.

Special music continues to enhance worship, under the direction of Ralph Nelson. Ralph's musical knowledge and skill, along with that of Karl Jurisons and many other members, are priceless gifts to our congregation. The congregation has enjoyed several bell choir performances during the year, along with beautiful music from the vocal choir. Easter was celebrated with singing, bells, trumpets and timpani. Under Ralph's direction, the children sang and rang the hand chimes during several services.

During this past year, Pastor Aaron Couch, Pastor Melinda Wagner, Ralph Nelson, Karl Jurisons, Leslie Wong and Marja Selmann wrote articles for the *Immanuelite* Worship Notes. The articles discussed various aspects of worship, including Passion Sunday, Prayers of Intercession, Prayers of the People, the Offertory Prayer, the Great Thanksgiving, the Creed, and the Sanctus.

The Committee thanks Nancy MacDonald for her continuing help in scheduling worship assistants. And we appreciate the continuing work by Misty and David Ibsen in overseeing the Altar Guild/Communion preparation team and those team members that have prepared the Elements each Sunday. We also are grateful to those volunteers that have baked the delicious communion bread this past year.

We were able to purchase a new Paschal candle this year, thanks to Adrian Forrest's memorial money. In addition, we were blessed with a donation that funded a new green altar parament to coordinate with the beautiful green pulpit hanging designed by Paula Carlson. We also received an Endowment grant to fund childcare during choir practice.

*Respectfully submitted,
Risë Johnson
Worship and Music Committee*

WELCA REPORT—2010

Mission Statement:

*As a community of women
created in the image of God,
called to discipleship in Jesus Christ
and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we commit ourselves to grow in faith,
affirm our gifts,
support one another in our callings,
engage in ministry and action,
and promote healing and wholeness
in the church, society, and the world.*

The women of First Immanuel continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month (except July and August) at 10:30 a.m. in Sodergren Hall. We share Bible study and fellowship, and reach out for opportunities to share our gifts where there is a need. All women are invited to attend!

A grant from First Immanuel's Doris Palmblad World Missions Endowment Fund enabled the WELCA Circle at First Immanuel to assemble 216 health kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Many people in need of comfort were provided with prayer shawls knitted by the women at First Immanuel. Lap robes and greeting cards were made for residents at Fairlawn Home and Hospital in Gresham, Oregon.

Our thanks and appreciation to Suzanne Nelson for maintaining our financial records.

*Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Rasmussen*

WELCA TREASURER'S REPORT—2010

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance on hand at December 31, 2009 **\$1,619.41**

Income

Circle Offerings	140.00
Endowment Grant (LWR Health Kits)	1,000.00
Endowment Grant (Prayer Shawl Ministry)	100.00
Prayer Shawl Ministry Donation	50.00
Cookbook Sale	50.00
NORPAC Labels Redemption	36.00
Bake Sale	188.75

Total Income

\$1,564.75

Disbursements

LWR Health Kits expense	1,488.65
Postage (LWR Health Kits)	41.00
Loaves & Fishes	300.00
Women of the ELCA—Oregon Synod	200.00
Women of the ELCA—Travel Fund	50.00
Gift fo Kristen Northrup	25.00

Total Disbursements

<\$2,104.65>

Balance on hand at December 31, 2010

\$1,079.51

*Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Nelson
WELCA Treasurer*