

OPERATIONS REPORT — AUGUST 2023

SPACE USE

AUGUST 23

Next month on September 6th, Common Cause NC will be using our building. They are organizing a "#UniteNC Town Hall" tour in western North Carolina. They have a diverse group of activists all across North Carolina presenting these town halls statewide, and asked to partner with us. Their goals:

*-to help voters understand how the anti-voter proposals in our state legislature will affect us all,
-to help us engage with one another, and -to give us the opportunity that town halls uniquely provide:
To tell our lawmakers our concerns.*

Common Cause NC paid our standard use fee which covers the compensation of our AV Staff.

In addition, the second of the two groups who used our space in the last fiscal year is "re-upping," meaning that their voluntary donations will continue to come in to the general fund.

STAFF

Trisha Wesley is now enrolled, at my request, at Blue Ridge Community College and is taking courses to better prepare her for church administration — starting with Microsoft Office. There is a certificate that she can gain from this coursework. She is attending this semester with free tuition and books.

Chelsea Caldwell is back in the saddle after vacation and is working with Sue Gervais. Sue has been given accounting access in Realm so that she can be looking at the same screens that Chelsea is while providing guidance. With many of the fundamentals under her belt now, Chelsea is most in need of specific guidance on how to properly report on tax and payroll issues. Sue's presence in this learning process will help to ensure that current and past accounting match up and continue forward seamlessly.

FINANCING THE MISSION

This year's budget is thin enough to be covering only bare essentials. Thanks to new members, we'll have a little more wiggle room, but it's essential that we start looking for other ways to create revenue for UUTC. My hope is that the Board will leverage it's freshly re-filled Finance Committee to envision ways to do this. I am hoping to NOT ask much of the Congregation on Giving Tuesday, and if we do, that it be a clear and compelling need, like safety infrastructure.

SAFETY

Blue Ridge Community College has seized the moment to provide coursework for Church Safety. Kevin Lausch has expressed interest in taking the class, but is waiting to hear back from the course instructor about dates and times. We should be able to reimburse the costs. Being part of a cohort of others taking the same studies in this community could be valuable, as Rev. Bob has said. It starts Sept. 1st.

—In Covenant, RK