

Peace Presbyterian Church

Annual Report for 2022



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 12, 2023

**Agenda of the Annual Congregational Meeting
Peace Presbyterian Church
Sunday, February 12, 2023**

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Old Business

New Business

Report of Vote and Next Steps

Adjournment and Prayer

Clerk's Report

Terry Kubista, Clerk of Session

Membership Statistical Information for 2022

Membership on 12/31/2021	68
Members added in 2022	0
Members lost to transfer	0
Deaths	4
<u>Requested Removal</u>	<u>0</u>
Membership on 12/31/2022	64

In 2022 the Session consisted of eight members, elected by the congregation. Session members served in a variety of roles, including Fellowship, Building and groups, Finance, Mission, Personnel, Stewardship, and Worship Ministries. The Session met 12 times during the year to pray, learn, discuss, plan and handle the necessary business of the Congregation.

Session Members Graduating Class of 2022

Robert Unze, Dean Meyer, Val Eng and Elizabeth Greene

This class of elders completes its term of service with the election of a new class of elders at the annual meeting. We have been blessed by their talents and dedication.

Once elected and installed, the elders in the class of 2026 will begin their service in February 2023.

Assigned and elected positions for 2022*

Treasurer for 2022	Eileen Unze *
Clerk of Session for 2022	Terry Kubista *
Finance / Stewardship	Greg Stauffer
Fellowship / Worship	Robin Councilman
Personnel	Robert Unze
Nominations /Worship	Val Eng
New Members	Brenda Martens
Buildings and Grounds	Dean Meyer
Missions / PNC	Julie North
Youth Representative	Elizabeth Greene

* *Elected by Session*

Pastor's Report

Scott Larson

Dear Members of Peace Presbyterian Church,

It is an honor to be serving as your new Pastor and we have an exciting year ahead of us! We will be testing the waters for new ministry opportunities as well as continuing some programs from this past year that have proven successful.

The 3B program is off to a good start, and it has funding through the end of this year. 3B was funded through a congregational grant program meant to bring new people into the local church as well as re-invigorate existing members with fresh ministry opportunities. Now that it is off to a good start we now need to attend to a second purpose for this grant—engaging new people with the life of the church. Please feel free to invite neighbors, friends, and even members you have not seen for a while. We will also need to have a 3B task force to plan and implement the promotion of the program in our community. You may also be invited to join the 3BTF, but feel free to volunteer for it!

I have been hearing about the wonderful hot dog picnics you had this past summer, and we will also continue with those this coming Summer. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring people into contact with the church to simply enjoy friendship and a meal. This is also an opportunity for people to learn about the mission and ministry of the church. Let's use these activities as a way of conveying to our community that all are welcome here.

“All are welcome here.” That is an important statement. It is also important that we mean every word of it and that people know we mean every word of it. I hope we will be able to have regular conversations about what it means that all are welcome here.

We have our share of challenges ahead of us too. Over the next year we will need to find new ways to make ends meet and fund our ministries and building maintenance. I knew that when I started, and I also knew you have an adaptive spirit and a willingness to try new things.

I am excited to be here because you are already finding ways to use your interests and talents to explore ministry opportunities that many churches have never considered. How many churches can claim to have a dog in worship on a regular basis? I look forward to the coming year when we will be engaging your unique interests and abilities to proclaim the values of the Kingdom of Heaven to our community!

May God's blessing be with you,

Pastor Scott

Deacons' Report

Pat Wilson

A Deacon: Deacons are the caregivers and servants of the congregation.

In the year of 2022 we are still asking the question, "Will we ever get back to normal, or is this the new normal?" COVID still was an issue. We continued to mask for worship and try to keep our congregation safe.

Another question, how do we serve communion, can we have coffee after worship, what about funerals? We became creative. For a couple of months we served communion with individual fellowship cups, but found with some members they were hard to open.

Spring and summer came with the deacons able to serve bread & juice in individual paper cups outside the front of the church. As weather grew colder we were able to continue this practice inside. Communion is served the first Sunday of each month.

Serving after church coffee was also an issue. We felt safe to offer lemonade and water outside the church twice a month. As COVID restrictions change from month to month it has been hard to continue with a schedule, but we were able to have a coffee in December to welcome Scott Larson as our new pastor and have a going away luncheon for Heidi, Frank and Zest.

Sadly, we had three funerals this year. Bob Volk's funeral was in June and was held outside. It took some creativity, but the Deacons were able to set up tables and serve refreshments outside. Scott Okronglis' funeral was in October and Donna Taschner's funeral was in December. For the services masks were required and the luncheons were held in the fellowship hall.

As we start 2023 the Deacons have some challenges, such as the shrinking number of available deacons. Our main purpose is to always care for you, especially because there are some in our congregation who cannot come physically to church.

I would like to thank our outgoing Deacons who have served their term and in many cases two terms:

Lynne Kubista, Karen Volk, Eileen Bengry, Mary Ann Christenson, Jane Helsing, Marian Ostendorf, Betts Snyder, Teresa Emde.

Our remaining Deacons: Ron Abrahamson, Michele Gallick, Tom & Eunice Goodrich, Pat Wilson. Our new Deacons are Rosemary Hall and Susan Tolchiner.

Fellowship Report

Robin Councilman and Val Eng

Fellowship activities have returned in 2022 despite the ongoing pandemic. We continued with online activities through the Spring, including a Lenten book study and a discussion based on a Black History Month Master Class. In early summer we started back with careful in-person activities. We had an impromptu hotdog picnic in June because of a small COVID outbreak. Then in July and August we had weekly Wednesday hotdog suppers on the front lawn, open to the community. We enjoyed fellowship time with each other but also meeting quite a number of our neighbors and even getting to know a very talented musician from Eastern Europe who is applying for asylum. Of course, we also “cheated” and had BBQ chicken in late July instead of hotdogs, our first “Donovan BBQ” since 2019. It was truly a wonderful 2 months of community outreach and fellowship.

Come Fall, we took time to rest a bit after a busy 2 months but then resumed indoor Fellowship dinners on the first Wednesday of each month, weather and COVID permitting. We ended the year with a full-blown Peace Church potluck to make sure that Pastor Heidi and Frank got to experience one last potluck.

We also returned to the YMCA St Croix for a retreat in October. We enjoyed a beautiful Fall weekend and explored who are the people in our community and how we can better serve them. One of the highlights was a great talk by our own Kim North about talking with strangers, during which we learned a lot about pronouns but also techniques for starting and ending conversations.

The Fellowship committee is so grateful for all the people who have participated in and helped out with our activities and we look forward to 2023.

Worship Committee

Val Eng and Robin Councilman

Members: Patrice Meschke, Heidi Vardeman, Val Eng, Robin Councilman

We were able to worship in person throughout 2022, but often with restrictions such as masking and distancing, depending on the transmission level of COVID in our area. Robin determines these using the weekly postings from the MN Department of Health. We have tried various methods of distributing the elements during Communion, and the use of small paper cups for juice and sometimes tiny individual cups for bread seems to work the best, and we have held Communion outdoors when weather permits.

Our Sunday services have been with Heidi and Patrice on Zoom at 9:00 am and in person at 10:30 am, broadcast over Zoom and Facebook. It has been useful to continue virtual worship services, much appreciated by some older members who have difficulty attending church in person, and also some people outside our geographic area. Heidi has also conducted Zoom iterations of Prayer meetings on Tuesday mornings and Bible Study on Thursday mornings, sometimes with a time shift to accommodate the 3B Program.

During Lent Heidi led discussions over Zoom using *The Last Week*, written by Borg and Crossan, which illuminates each day of Jesus' last week on earth. We also accessed two Master Class discussions on Black history over Zoom by various luminaries of the church and academia. Our Ash Wednesday service was in-person.

Due to all the extra activity during the Advent season, we did not conduct extra services or meetings. Our Christmas Eve was at 4:00 pm, and our Christmas morning service at the regular 10:30 am time.

We wish to thank Heidi and Patrice for all their extra work in producing not only one, but two Sunday services. Patrice is extremely skillful in providing us with various visual material and the devotions by email, as well as her scores of other duties. We much appreciate those operating our sound and visual equipment when we are in person, Terry Kubista, Dean Meyer and Greg Stauffer, and also Robin Councilman, Frank Vardeman and Laura Simonson, who enabled our transmission of the in-person services over Facebook.

Fellowship Committee

Brenda Martens

Welcome Strangers

Our joyful way of welcoming Scott Larson as our new leader is by inviting three people to join us in membership. With warmer weather coming and neighbors leaving their houses, perhaps they will come to Peace as a home. We have the 3B Program and Wednesday night dinners as regular ways of sharing our welcome. Thank you to all who are helping with these programs.

Building and Grounds

Dean Meyer

1. Recertified Special Boiler License.
2. Reset High Pressure cut-out switches for roof compressor.
3. Diagnosed failed northeast condenser unit and replaced capacitor.
4. Repaired caster on chair at sound board.
5. Replaced stub seal assembly to repair men's toilet leak.
6. Reinstalled cap on boiler chimney vent.
7. Replaced west cross lamp bulb twice during the year.
8. Replaced hinges for west side of east side rear entry door.
9. Repaired sanctuary computer for Microsoft update malfunction.
10. Replaced failing computer hard drive and reinstalled software.
11. Replaced vacuum breaker kit in south stall of women's toilet.
12. Reinstalled handicap sign on shed.
13. Replaced two failed smoke detectors.
14. Removed ballast assemblies from all parking lot lights and replaced bulbs with LED equivalent bulbs.
15. Replaced rear entry door light bulbs.
16. Repaired soldered connection on handicapped door switch.
17. Diagnosed and replaced UV1 blower fan in small Fellowship Hall.
18. Replaced aerator in handicapped bathroom.
19. Replaced multiple exit sign bulbs throughout the year.

Nominating Committee

Val Eng

The Nominating Committee is recommending the following candidates to be elected in 2023. We have one Elder position open for a one-year term.

Ruling Elders: Teresa Emde (3 years) Brenda Martens (2 years)
 Jake Hamilton (3 years) Julie North (2 years)
 Val Eng (3 years) Terry Kubista (1 year)
 Robin Councilman (2 years) Greg Stauffer (1 year)
 Elizabeth Greene – Youth Representative (1 year)

Deacons: Rosemary Hall (3 years) Ron Abrahamson (1 year)
 Susan Tolchiner (3years) Michele Gallick (1 year)
 Eunice Goodrich (2 years) Pat Wilson (1 year)
 Tom Goodrich (2 years)

*Eunice and Tom previously served as one Deacon unit, but now they will each serve a separate position.

* Teresa Emde left her Deacon’s position a year early to join the Session.

We are SO THANKFUL to Tom Goodrich, Dean Meyer and Bob Unze for their outstanding service as Elders! We are FORTUNATE INDEED that Terry Kubista has continued as Clerk of Session!

And we have been VERY BLESSED by the wonderful services of our Deacons, Eileen Bengry, Mary Ann Christenson, Teresa Emde, Jane Helsing, Lynne Kubista, Marian Ostendorf and Betts Snyder! Much thanks to Pat Wilson for chairing the Deacons!

Ruling Elders on the Session

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Nominees for Class of 2026</u>
Terry Kubista	Robin Councilman	Teresa Emde
Greg Stauffer	Brenda Martens	Val Eng
Elizabeth Greene	Julie North	Jake Hamilton

Deacons

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Nominee for Class of 2026</u>
Eunice Goodrich	Ron Abrahamson	Rosemary Hall
Tom Goodrich	Michele Gallick	Susan Tolchiner
	Pat Wilson	

Personnel Committee

Bob Unze

2022 saw a major change for us, as we returned to in-person worship but still maintaining Zoom for those who could not attend in person.

As we move forward, Peace Church will be saying goodbye to Pastor Heidi Vardeman as she moves to a new and exciting path in her career: Retirement. We will miss Heidi, Frank and Zest as they move to Costa Rica for the winter and engage in mission work that is close to their hearts. May their travels be blessed, as we send our thoughts and prayers with them. Also, Patrice will be spending the winter in Mexico, starting January 23rd and returning the end of March. Val Eng will take over the in-office duties. Patrice will stay in contact via Internet to help Val with the office responsibilities.

We welcome Scott Larson to Peace Church as our new, part-time, (75%) designated pastor.

The terms of Call of Rev. Scott Larson as part-time (75%) effective January 3, 2023. Peace Presbyterian Church St. Louis Park, MN.

Cash Salary	\$42,900
Housing/ Utility Allow:	No
Free use of Manse	No
Vacation	4 weeks, including four Sundays
Continuing Ed. Allowance	1,200 annually, cumulative over 3 years to \$3,600
Continuing Ed. Leave:	2 weeks cumulative over 3 years to 6 weeks
Pension	Full

Automobile Allowance	IRS rate: no limit
Professional Expenses	Vouchered up to \$750.
Social Security Offset	No
Medical/ Dental Supplement	No
Optional Retirement Contribution	No
Sabbatical	3 months after 6 years of service at full pay with the pastor agreeing to stay for one year after completion of the Sabbatical. [6 years to include 2 years served as designated pastor.]

Parental Leave: When an installed teaching elder or spouse is to give birth, or to adopt a child, family leave shall be offered under at least the following terms: Eight weeks family leave at 100 percent of pro-rated annual salary and full housing allowance, or twelve weeks at 75 percent of pro-rated annual salary and full housing allowance.

Mission Committee 2022

Julie North

Since the last annual report, the Mission Committee has been very busy! We have joined with the Liberia Schools Project committee and made the major decision to not use the money for books, based on Elizabeth and Joan Greene's experience when they visited Liberia this summer (see separate report for more information). Instead, we will be connecting with two other PCUSA churches that have been supporting the Presbyterian Mission School in Todee Liberia to see if this will be a better use of our gifts.

In March, we donated \$200 to St. Stephen's and \$500 to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Ukraine Emergency Relief fund and encouraged members to contribute as well - and were able to send an additional \$1000!

In April, we collected \$2352 for One Great Hour of Sharing.

In May, we packed Julie North's SUV full of your donations of household goods for the MN Council of Churches Refugee Assistance program.

In June, we collected \$813 for the Pentecost Offering.

In August, we collected school supplies for STEP.

In September, we donated \$100 to PDA for Jackson, Mississippi and Pakistan, and gave \$100 to Liberty Community Church in Minneapolis.

In October, we bought \$380 worth of items that were assembled into hygiene kits at the annual retreat, and then delivered to Agate Housing and Services. We also collected money for the Peace and Global Witness offering.

In November, we collected money for holiday meals for STEP by doing our annual “Turkey Feathers” sale.

In December and January, we collected items for Arrive Ministries using our “Giving Tree.” These items will be used to help a refugee family settle into life in Minnesota. We also collected for the Christmas Joy Offering.

In January of 2023 we have donated \$100 each to:

- Our mission partner, Josh Heikkila in West Africa
- PCUSA World Mission
- Alliance Housing
- My Health
- The Lift Garage.

Liberia Schools Project

In 2021, the Liberia Schools Project was established as a committee of the church, prompted by the inspiration and enthusiasm of Elizabeth Greene. The committee has joined the mission committee, which is now overseeing the project. Elizabeth and Joan Greene traveled to Liberia this year and found out much more information (mostly discouraging), and we have made some decisions that alter our goals for this project.

Elizabeth and Joan talked to Presbyterian Church officials and could not identify any connections with Todee, the district we were aiming to serve. It was sad for them to see that kids are not in school, but on the streets. They couldn’t find anyone that knew of any connections with Books for Africa. They also went to the ministry of education and were disheartened by the amount of corruption - they got the impression that you have to make bribes to get things accomplished. Officials are even stealing money from the Liberian National Bank.

The Greene's are worried about money and supplies not getting to those who need it. They recommend we research and find out who we can trust - not government - but probably the Liberian Presbyterian Church. Few children in Todee are able to attend school because of fees. The government doesn't make education a priority.

We still have the \$1,948 we have raised for this project. We are going to connect with two other PCUSA churches in the US that have established programs that support the Presbyterian School in Todee to find an appropriate channel to get the money where it can make the biggest difference. It seems to us that sending books is not a good idea, because they will not get to the kids that need them. Thank you for your understanding and support of this decision.

Finance Committee

Tom Goodrich

The Finance Ministry wishes to thank all the individuals of the congregation for their faithful support during 2022.

The Finance Ministry also wishes to thank all of you for your generous giving, above your general pledges, of over \$13,000, toward the various mission funds.

Peace Church ended the year with total revenue \$6,931 higher than expenses. This was due to a gain on the Presbyterian Foundation Mutual funds that partially redeemed, creating \$35,337 revenue.

Peace Church lost 4 members in 2022, Reverend Vardeman retired, and a new pastor, Scott Larson, was hired to start January 1, 2023, at three quarter time. These three major events had a major financial impact on the 2023 plan. Losing 4 members created less pledged giving for 2023, which was only partially offset by the new pastor working at three quarter time. See Stewardship report.

The plan for 2023, even with a lowering of personnel expenses, have total expenses higher than total giving. This requires the use of cash reserves of \$33,000 to offset this difference. The cash reserve fund will then be lowered to \$16,500. IF 2024 revenue and expenses remain the same as the 2023 plan, the \$16,500, would only support the difference of planned giving and the planned expenses through the month of June, 2024. This would mean there would be no cash available for payroll and the other expenses after this date.

Peace Church Session members are aware of this, and will be discussing ideas in 2023, about this issue.

The Finance Ministry wishes to thank the 3 members of the Finance ministry for their continued hard work throughout the year. Pat Wilson was required to do her job weekly, and did so faithfully. Tom Goodrich spent much time providing monthly financial information to Peace Church Session members. Eileen Unze was the treasurer and made sure that all expenses were paid accurately. Eileen is retiring at the end of 2022, and Tom Goodrich will replace her. The three individuals also shared being counters each Sunday and wish to thank Rosemary Hall for being a counter on a regular basis.

The Finance Ministry
Tom Goodrich, Chair
Eileen Unze, Treasurer
Pat Wilson

PEACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
INCOME STATEMENT
2021 ACTUAL, 2022 PLAN, 2022 ACTUAL, 2023 PLAN

	2021 ACTUAL	2022 PLAN	2022 ACTUAL	2023 PLAN
REVENUE				
General Fund	138,383	120,000	120,447	105,000
Per Capita	694	1,000	322	1,000
Loose Offering	758	700	1,256	900
Interest Income	1,655	1,500	1,178	600
Mission Giving	19,238	10,000	13,132	10,000
Gain on sale, investment			35,721	
Other Income	158	500	2,280	1,000
Memorial Fund Trfr		25,000	00	33,000
Total Revenue	160,897	158,700	174,337	151,500
EXPENSE				
Building & Grounds				
Church Repair& upkeep	3,421	2,020	4,041	2,000
Audio/visual	45	400	233	400
Custodial Services	00	500	2,063	4,500
Lawn care, snow removal	3,824	4,000	3,600	3,600
Kitchen Supplies	00	200	126	200
Total Bldg & Grounds	7,290	7,120	10,063	10,700
Finance Ministry				
Accounting	6,054	6,050	6,033	6,060
Bank Charges	99	120	142	100
Per Capita	2,597	2,810	2,488	2,550
Internet services/telephone	3,177	3,200	3,545	2,800
Office systems	378	400	99	400
Insurance	7,144	7,200	7,977	7,800
Office supplies	1,551	1,100	984	1,000
Copier expense	2,106	2,000	1,794	1,900
Garbage removal	56	300	162	500
Excel, electric	5,636	6,100	6,799	7,500
Center Point, Heat	5,493	5,500	8,183	9,000
Other Expense	00	00	500	00
Water/sewer	3,062	3,050	3,208	3,300
Total Finance Ministry	37,325	37,830	41,915	42,910

PEACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
INCOME STATEMENT
2021 ACTUAL, 2022 PLAN, 2022 ACTUAL, 2023 PLAN
(continued)

	2021 ACTUAL	2022 PLAN	2022 ACTUAL	2023 PLAN
Mission Giving	19,238	10,000	13,132	10,000
Worship, Sacraments				
Music	220	150	340	300
Worship Sacraments	373	150	250	00
Total Worship Sacraments	593	300	590	300
Personnel				
Pastor Salary	53,100	55,300	55,300	30,000
pension contribution				12,900
Bonus	1,000	00		00
Pastor Medical, Retirement	20,304	21,014	21,094	15,788
Organist salary	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Admin Assistant salary	12,886	12,800	12,649	12,800
Organist asst./admin asst.	858	804	792	804
Pastor Continue Education	1,188	1,300	00	1,300
Pastor Professional expense	635	1,000	419	1,000
Pastor Life Insurance	1,047	1,071	1,071	00
Pastor Milage	562	200	00	200
Employer, FICA, MC	1,598	1,600	1,580	1,600
Pulpit Supply	850	1,500	800	3,600
Total Personnel	102,028	104,589	101,705	87,392
Total Expenses	166,474	159,839	167,406	151,302
NET INCOME (LOSS)	(5,577)	(1,139)	6,931	198

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PEACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BALANCE SHEET
DECEMBER 31, 2022

ASSETS

Current Assets

General Fund		
Bremer Checking		25,397
Savings Account		
Bremer Savings		63,437
Presbyterian Foundation Mutual funds		
Mutual fund 1		10,382
Mutual fund 2		<u>12,635</u>
 Total Current Assets		 111,605

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Furniture and Fixtures		12,000
Office Equipment		<u>31,035</u>
Total Property and Equipment		43,035

TOTAL ASSETS 154,604

LIABILITIES, SPECIAL FUNDS, AND CAPITAL

Current Liabilities

Federal and State Payroll Taxes		413
Accrued other		605
Gain on Mutual Funds		
Gain on Mutual Funds		12,297

(continued on next page)

PEACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET

DECEMBER 31, 2022

(Continued)

Special Funds

Restricted Funds	
Building major repair-Expense	(5,549)
Building major repair- Income	25,832
Pastor Sabbatical	2,050
Education Scholarship	1,540
Christmas Joy Offering	2,230
STEP	408
STEP Bags	835
Quilts	835
Mission Special Fund	1,772
Liberia Project	1,948
Photo Violence Project	14,865
Parade & Picnic Grant	4,642
Fellowship	(662)
Presbyterian Women	295
Deacons Fund	283
Pastor Discretionary Fund	172
Grand Parents Grant	96
Reinvention	8,223
Presbytery Grant	159
Doris Black Student Endowment	215
Memorial Music Fund	1,266
Nutifafa	<u>690</u>
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	62,146

Unrestricted Funds

Endowment	14,689
Special Benevolence	6,077
Memorial Fund	<u>49,747</u>
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	70,513

Unrestricted Funds

Endowment	14,689
Special Benevolence	6,077
Memorial Fund	<u>49,747</u>
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	70,513

CAPITAL

Retained Earnings

1,735

Net Income

6,931

TOTAL CAPITAL

8,666**Total Liabilities, Funds, and Capital**154,640

Stewardship Committee

Tom Goodrich

Summary of 2023 Pledge Card Drive

	Pledges 2021	Pledges 2022	Pledges 2023
Pledge Cards Returned	33	30	27

Breakdown of Pledges

General Budget	\$118,981	\$108,936	\$95,197
Other	\$7,626	\$7,769	\$5,703
Special Mission	\$4,080	\$5,520	\$5,210
Per Capita	\$1,820	\$1,695-	\$1,437
Total Pledges	\$132,544	\$123,920	\$107,547

Special Reports

Nutifafa Nyanyui Hame

Due to the pandemic, Nutifaf has been on hiatus and Kodjo Gagnon is attending online seminary classes at Dubuque University. They will resume in-person services on March 5, 2023. \$1,500 remains on account for their ministry.

Intermission (Reclamation Ministries)

InterMission is no longer in operation and remaining funds have been forwarded to STEP for their mission work.

Quilters

Marian Ostendorf

Members: Marian Ostendorf, JoAnn Schutz, Laura Simonson, Lois Gibbs, Jan Armajani, and Donna Winship.

The Quilters stopped in-personal gatherings due to the pandemic but continue to work on projects in their homes. They plan to resume the in-person quilting on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, and plans are being considered where the quilters will work, since the lower level rooms are being used differently than before the pandemic.