In 2012, the Center for Congregations continued its pattern of growth, as we worked to help strengthen Indiana congregations and to share our learnings with a national audience. Katie Lindberg was hired as our Northwest office director, bringing the Crown Point satellite to full functionality. The northwest office is an integral part of the Center’s statewide initiative, which includes five offices in Indiana with services available to every congregation in the state.

This report features the stories of growth and development in congregations statewide:

- When Carmel’s Seventh Day Adventist Church outgrew their modest worship facility, they contacted the Center for Congregations and Andrews University’s School of Architecture, Art & Design for help. The congregation has been able to expand its facility to meet its growth.
- Grace Assembly of God in New Whiteland will break ground on their long-awaited sanctuary, as this congregation grew from 26 worshippers 15 years ago to 1,100 on a typical Sunday today.
- With growing membership and cramped quarters, Batesville Christian Church made the surprise decision to stay in their current facility after outside consultants helped church leaders assess their situation and create a vision for where they wanted to go.
- Iglesia Metodista Unida Vida Nueva on Indianapolis’ west side is a gathering place for area residents — food pantry, a legal clinic, Bible studies, a clothing shop, English language classes. Grants from the Center for Congregations are helping the community meet those needs and work toward sustainability.

These stories of progress are a testimony to our staff’s work to help strengthen congregations. During 2012, the Center observed a number of significant outcomes. Many congregations that chose to grow numerically did so; congregations that chose to increase their income did so; congregations functioned as learning organizations with clergy and laity working together to address complex challenges; congregations became increasingly skilled at choosing the best fit resource for their contexts.

The Center shares these outcomes and findings nationally in various ways, including our learning community program, Resourcing Congregations. Through this program, we host organizations from across the country that serve congregations and want to adapt the Center’s mode of resourcing to their contexts. We share what we are doing in Indiana, hoping that more congregations across the country will learn, grow and become vibrant faith communities through the services offered by these other organizations.

Congregations are among our communities’ greatest assets. I hope you find inspiration in the stories and information in this report.

Tim Shapiro
Center President

Front cover photo is from Carmel Seventh Day Adventist Church. The above photos are (from top) Iglesia Metodista Unida Vida Nueva in Indianapolis, Carmel Seventh Day Adventist Church, Grace Assembly of God in New Whiteland and Batesville Christian Church.
When members of Carmel’s Seventh Day Adventist Church outgrew their modest worship facility, they contacted the Center for Congregations and Andrews University’s School of Architecture, Art & Design for help. The result was an effective resource relationship that linked the church, the Center and the largest university in the Adventist post-secondary system. The 150-mile drive from the Andrews campus in Michigan to the corner of 146th Street and Carey Road in Carmel quickly became a familiar commute for Professor Martin Smith and his team of senior and graduate architectural students.

“We planned the church building project in two phases,” explains Smith, who oversees the architectural school’s community service program that assists organizations with design needs. “The first phase was the multi-purpose room and the second phase is the sanctuary.” Construction won’t wrap up until June, but the fruits of the collaboration already are evident. The Carmel congregation is anticipating a facility tailored to its expanding membership; Andrews’ students are getting practical experience as they work with real clients; and the community service program benefits from the fees paid by the church from grants awarded by the Center for Congregations.

“It’s been a beautiful relationship,” says Alex Rodriguez, pastor of the church since 2007. “We’ve received excellent architectural services at a reasonable price and our funds will help grow the school’s outreach program.”

**Identifying, Reducing Barriers**
The Carmel church is one of four growing faith communities that have worked with the Center for Congregations for help with challenges and opportunities. Although the four congregations represent diverse traditions and are situated in different parts of Indiana, they have much in common. All enjoy high visibility on well-trafficked highways; their pastoral and lay leaders are dynamic; their facilities are hubs of community life; and members are poised to expand their ministries once they address the obstacles in their paths. Three of the congregations—the Carmel church among them—are grappling with space limitations imposed by outdated buildings.

“Certain things keep people from attending church,” explains Rodriguez. “First, if visitors drive into a parking lot and no spaces are available, and second, if they enter a sanctuary and all the seats are filled.” Neither problem will exist once his church’s construction project is done. Additional parking places are part of the plan, and the new sanctuary will offer ample seating. The multi-purpose room, site of worship services since its completion in 2010, will finally assume its intended use as a combination fellowship hall, volleyball court and classroom. A spacious kitchen adjoins the versatile space and plays a key role in the congregation’s long-range plans to host community-wide nutrition classes and food demonstrations.

“Seventh Day Adventists are serious about health and about helping people eat well and live longer,” explains Rodriguez. “We’ve started a program called ‘veggie meals.’ Once a month for two hours, we teach people how to cook and live healthier. We believe that until we begin to heal society of ailments brought about by lifestyle choices, it’s difficult to make strides into scripture.” Their plan is holistic and involves strengthening the body, mind and spirit.

**Location, Location, Location**
Around the same time the Carmel Adventists are scheduled to move into their new worship space, members of Grace Assembly of God in New Whiteland will break ground for their long-awaited sanctuary. Membership has soared in the past 15 years since Wayne Murray accepted the call to the struggling church that his district superin-
tendent described to him as “having potential.” Only 26 persons attended his first service, “and we were three of them,” Murray says. A typical Sunday now attracts 1,100 worshippers, a number especially impressive since a 1999 fire devastated the church building and displaced services for 18 months.

“The community rallied around us,” recalls Murray. “Difficult circumstances have a way of binding people together.” The neighboring Methodist congregation volunteered its facilities for mid-week services; a local television station offered its green room for Sunday gatherings; and a nearby aviary doubled as a sanctuary while construction to replace the burned building was under way. “We called it ‘The Birdhouse,’” jokes Murray about the aviary. The exotic species moved out, the congregation moved in, and “the amazing thing was, we didn’t lose any members.”

To the contrary, attendance has continued to increase during subsequent building projects, helped by the congregation’s highly visible location on U.S. 31 and its outreach to the community. As many as 10,000 people convene annually for the congregation’s Fourth of July tribute to law enforcement officers, fire fighters and military personnel. The church also sponsors a Spanish-speaking congregation that meets in a mall across the street and has grown to almost 100 worshipers. The only deterrent to Grace Assembly’s expanding ministry has been a shortage of space.

“We strive to make people welcome,” says Dave Neathery, the church’s business manager, who contacted the Center for Congregations when members outgrew the auditorium that has doubled as the sanctuary for a decade. Like the Adventist congregation, Grace Assembly members embarked on a building project that will unfold in phases. A Center resource grant helped launch Phase 1 by providing for engineering services to expand the parking lot. “Our parking has maxed out the past few years and we’ve had to turn people away during big events,” says Neathery. The relationship with the engineers proved so successful that the collaboration will continue as the project moves into its next phase.

“For several years we considered relocating to the north because so many of our folks drive here from that direction,” says Murray. “But property was too expensive, so we stayed put.” He’s glad they did. With a quarter million people now living within a 20-mile radius of the church building, Murray and his leadership team believe the congregation is in an excellent position “to make the greatest impact on the greatest number of people.”

Let’s Grow Together
Relocation also was the intent of Batesville Christian Church members after steady growth resulted in cramped quarters and prompted the youth program to move off-site. Plans changed after outside consultants, funded by a Center grant, helped church leaders assess their situation and create a vision for where they wanted to go. The congregation gained new appreciation for their building’s location and decided—as Grace Assembly Church did—to “stay put.” Results of a demographic study, initiated by the consultants, led to the surprise decision.

“We learned we’re centrally situated in the largest area of our community that claims no religious affiliation,” says Eric Bingaman, minister of discipleship. “In other words, our current location is exactly ripe for ministry. We’re in the middle of our mission field.”

The next steps included developing a renovation plan and designing a fundraising drive to generate the necessary pledges to bring the plan to fruition. Committees formed and a colorful marketing initiative emerged with the invitation: “Let’s grow together! Taking root. Bearing fruit.” A second Center resource grant helped engage the services of a consultant to assist in organizing the stewardship campaign. Architectural drawings of the proposed renovation provided momentum.
when leaders unveiled them at a church picnic, displayed them in the church foyer and posted them on the congregation’s website.

The concept of hiring consultants was new to many church members who questioned the wisdom of spending funds on “experts” rather than for bricks and mortar. “It was quite an epiphany for the congregation to realize that the use of an outside resource was a good thing,” recalls Doug Hanner, director of the southeast Center for Congregations in Seymour. “This was a high-functioning group of church leaders,” says Hanner, who assured them that the Center’s role was not to exert control but to “walk alongside members and help them over any speed bumps they encounter.”

The bumps have been few, and Bingaman is pleased with the way the process has played out. Construction is likely to begin next year, and the renovated facility not only will meet the needs of the congregation but also the community at large for years to come. “We encourage local organizations to use our church,” says Bingaman. “We think it’s a travesty to have a large, well-situated building and only use it once a week.”

A ONE-STOP RESOURCE

Like the Batesville church, Iglesia Metodista Unida Vida Nueva, a Hispanic congregation on the west side of Indianapolis, is a gathering place for area residents. Depending on the day, activities include a food pantry, a legal clinic, Bible studies, a clothing shop, English language classes, a GED program and computer sessions in the 22-station lab.

Sunday services attract about 120 worshipers, with eight Hispanic countries represented. Pastor David Penalva switches effortlessly from English to Spanish, depending on his audience’s proficiency. First generation immigrants and preschool children speak Spanish; elementary-school students blend the two languages as their bilingual skills improve; teens, having made the transition, prefer English only. Faith traditions also vary from Catholic to Pentecostal to mainline Protestant. “It’s a challenge,” admits Penalva, “but we’re establishing common ground.”

Obstacles go beyond cultural differences and include problems imposed by a vintage building, a membership with limited resources—“we’re at the bottom of the income level,” says Penalva—and a transient population with many needs. Grants from the Center for Congregations are helping Vida Nueva meet those needs and work toward sustainability. A few years ago, the congregation participated in the Center’s Sacred Space grant initiative that addressed facility issues. Now a resource grant is providing for the services of outside consultants to create a governance structure, develop a core of lay leaders and stabilize finances.

“We have two congregations,” explains Penalva. “We have the worship congregation, and we have the outreach congregation.” His goal is to blend the two so persons who come to the church for social services will return for Sunday worship, and members of the worship community will assume responsibility for the church’s many outreach programs.

They’re making progress. Penalva has recruited a board of directors, and training is under way. Lay leaders have accepted assignments to meet with other churches to explore the possibility of partnerships. As the city’s Hispanic community continues to expand, so must the range of resources. “Some of our people have two and three jobs,” says Penalva. “Who’s helping the children with homework? Can we have a tutoring program?” He sees the church becoming a “one-stop place” for services, and that includes spiritual services, as well as the pragmatic variety. “We don’t want the faith emphasis to diminish,” he insists. “That’s what church is all about.”
2012 Annual Report Statistics

**Central**
- 4188 Conversations in
- 560 Cases of which
- 281 are New Cases with
- 479 People representing
- 286 Congregations
- 43% were clergy
- 57% were laity

**Northeast**
- 1183 Conversations in
- 175 Cases of which
- 119 are New Cases with
- 136 People representing
- 97 Congregations
- 69% were clergy
- 31% were laity

**Northwest**
- 504 Conversations in
- 73 Cases of which
- 58 are New Cases with
- 75 People representing
- 52 Congregations
- 59% were clergy
- 41% were laity

**Southeast**
- 993 Conversations in
- 118 Cases of which
- 96 are New Cases with
- 126 People representing
- 69 Congregations
- 56% were clergy
- 44% were laity

**Southwest**
- 1238 Conversations in
- 145 Cases of which
- 110 are New Cases with
- 140 People representing
- 83 Congregations
- 48% were clergy
- 52% were laity

**Grant Recipients**
- Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Evansville
- Allisonville Christian Church, Indianapolis
- Asbury United Methodist Church, Columbus
- Avalon Missionary Church, Fort Wayne
- Bartlett Chapel United Methodist Church, Avon
- Batesville Christian Church
- Benton Mennonite Church, Goshen
- Blue Grass United Methodist Church, Evansville
- Brandywine Community Church, Greenwood
- Calvary Christian Church of Hartford City
- Carmel Lutheran Church
- Carmel Seventh Day Adventist
- Carmel United Methodist Church
- Castleton United Methodist Church
- Cedar Creek Church of Christ, Leo
- Central Christian Church, Seymour
- Central Presbyterian Church, Lafayette
- Central Presbyterian Church, Terre Haute
- Christ the Savior Lutheran Church, Fishers
- College Mennonite Church, Goshen
- Community Church of Columbus
- Connection Pointe Christian Church, Brownsburg
- Crossroads Christian Church, Evansville
- Crossroads Community Church, Fishers
- Delphi United Methodist Church
- Emmanuel Church of Greenwood
- Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Noblesville
- Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Fort Wayne
- Epworth United Methodist Church, Indianapolis
- Epz Chaim Sephardic Congregation, Indianapolis
- Evangelical Covenant Church of Lafayette
- Fairlawn Presbyterian Church, Columbus
- Faith Missionary Church (EFIC), Indianapolis
- First Brethren Church, North Manchester
- First Christian Church, Mooresville
- First Christian Church of Shelbyville
- First Christian Church (DOC), Lafayette
- First Congregational UCC, Angola
- First Missionary Church, Fort Wayne
- First Presbyterian Church, Bloomington
- First Presbyterian Church, Elkhart
- First Presbyterian Church of Evansville
- Gobin Memorial UMC, Greencastle
- Grace Assembly of God, New Whiteland
- Grace Episcopal Church, Muncie
- Grace Lutheran Church, Columbus
- Grace United Methodist Church
- Hartford City
- Hazel Dell Christian Church, Carmel
- Hillsdale United Methodist Church, Princeton
- Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Evansville
- Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, St. John
- Iglesia Nueva Esperanza, Hammond
- Jamestown Christian Church, Jamestown
- Kern Road Mennonite Church, South Bend
- Kingsway Christian Church, Avon
- LaFayette Presbyterian Church
- Life Tabernacle Church, Elkhart
- Life Journey Church, Indianapolis
- Living Word Baptist Church, Indianapolis
- lockerbie central UMC, Indianapolis
- Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Westfield
- Marquette Park United Methodist Church, Gary
- Messiah Lutheran Church Board Meeting
- Ministry for the 21st Century Child
- Missional Conversation
- North United Methodist Executive Meeting
- Reaching Millennials
- Ripley County Resource Grants Info
- Rising Savior Lutheran Steering Committee
- Samaritan Interfaith
- SE Episcopal Deanery Clerics
- Shared Ministry
- Spiritual Foundations of Leadership
- Sticky Faith
- Sustainable Youth Ministry
- Technology Tips for Your Congregation
- Technology and Ministry Grant Initiative
- Toolkit for Developing Congregational Plans
- Trinity Evangelical Lutheran
- Unitarian Universalist Meeting
- Vibrant Community Outreach
- Walk in the Light Christian Church
- Your Sacred Space is a Community Asset
- Youth Activities That Teach and Reach

**GRANTS**

**EQUIPMENT**
- $1,232,459 for
- $82 were Resource Grants totaling $804,890

**EDUCATIONAL EVENTS**
- 120 Educational Events and Meetings
- Including 40 held in Central Indiana
- 22 in the Northwest area
- 22 in the Northeast
- 21 in the Southeast
- and 15 in the Southwest
- 1912 People representing
- 765 Congregations from
- 87 Faith Groups or Denominations

**The Top Issues**
- Business Leadership
- Congregations and Culture
- Congregations and Community
- Congregations Online
- Leadership
- Finance
- Technology
## Statements of Financial Position and Activities

The following is a summary of the statement of financial position and the statement of activities of the Center as of December 31, 2012 and for the year then ended. This financial information was extracted from the audited financial statements of the Indianapolis Center for Congregations, Inc. It does not, however, include all disclosures normally associated with financial statements prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The complete financial statements, including footnotes and the report of our auditors, BKD, LLP, are available for review upon request.

### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$ 2,501,348</td>
<td>$ 1,078,797</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses and other assets</td>
<td>25,431</td>
<td>21,380</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>33,048,992</td>
<td>24,490,401</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and equipment</td>
<td>211,179</td>
<td>284,313</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>35,786,950</td>
<td>25,874,891</td>
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### Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$ 191,829</td>
<td>$ 64,757</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued expenses</td>
<td>87,317</td>
<td>88,111</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
<td>279,146</td>
<td>152,868</td>
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### Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$ 2,616,649</td>
<td>$ 2,487,162</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>32,891,155</td>
<td>23,234,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total net assets</td>
<td>35,507,804</td>
<td>25,722,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities and net assets</td>
<td>$ 35,786,950</td>
<td>$ 25,874,891</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Summary Statement of Financial Position

The following is a summary of the statement of financial position and the statement of activities of the Center as of December 31, 2012 and for the year then ended. This financial information was extracted from the audited financial statements of the Indianapolis Center for Congregations, Inc. It does not, however, include all disclosures normally associated with financial statements prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The complete financial statements, including footnotes and the report of our auditors, BKD, LLP, are available for review upon request.

### Summary Statement of Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenues and other support</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$ —</td>
<td>$ 14,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Return of grant funds</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>$ 56,621</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational Events</td>
<td>38,758</td>
<td>38,758</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>144,683</td>
<td>144,683</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>4,400,327</td>
<td>(4,400,327)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total revenues and other support</td>
<td>4,583,768</td>
<td>9,656,294</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses and losses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Resource Consulting</td>
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<td>428,710</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resource Discovery and Dissemination</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>713,325</td>
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<td>Resource Grants</td>
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<td>Major Grant Initiative</td>
<td>583,262</td>
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<td>Congregational Learning and Evaluation</td>
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<td>Total program services</td>
<td>3,617,043</td>
<td>3,617,043</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>822,042</td>
<td>822,042</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>4,439,085</td>
<td>4,439,085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets before other losses</td>
<td>144,683</td>
<td>9,656,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrealized losses on investments</td>
<td>(15,196)</td>
<td>(15,196)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>129,487</td>
<td>9,656,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>2,487,162</td>
<td>23,234,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, end of year</td>
<td>$2,616,649</td>
<td>$ 35,507,804</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Annual Report

Financial Report

Industry and General

The following is a summary of the statement of financial position and the statement of activities of the Center as of December 31, 2012 and for the year then ended. This financial information was extracted from the audited financial statements of the Indianapolis Center for Congregations, Inc. It does not, however, include all disclosures normally associated with financial statements prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The complete financial statements, including footnotes and the report of our auditors, BKD, LLP, are available for review upon request.
**Mission**

The mission of the Indianapolis Center for Congregations is to strengthen Indiana congregations by helping them find and use the best resources available to address the challenges and opportunities they identify — and then to share what we learn nationwide.

The Indianapolis Center for Congregations is funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. and is a supporting organization of the Alban Institute. Alban is a research, publishing, education and consulting organization based in Herndon, Virginia. Founded in 1974, Alban is an independent center of learning and leadership development with a focus on congregations.

**Core Staff**

Timothy Shapiro, President  
Nancy Armstrong, Finance Director  
Nancy DeMott, Resource Director  
Kara Faris, Education Director  
Doug Hanner, Southeast Director  
Katie Lindberg, Northwest Director  
Wendy McCormick, Southwest Director  
Aaron Spiegel, Information Technology Director  
Susan Weber, Evaluation Project Coordinator for the Religion Division of Lilly Endowment Inc.  
Brian Witwer, Northeast Director  
Catharine Green, Resource Assistant and Database Administrator  
Jane Mastin, Communications Administrator  
Janice Phillips, Administrative Assistant  
Jerri Kinder, Administrative Assistant  
Eunita Sullivan, Northeast Administrative Assistant  
Carol Delph, Southeast Administrative Assistant  
Sofia Cook, Southwest Administrative Assistant  
Rose Villarruel, Northwest Administrative Assistant

**Consultants**

Beth Booram  
Marie Fleming  
Keith Koteskey

**Board of Directors**

Dr. Paul E. Schmidt, Chairman  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
Ms. Elizabeth McKee, Vice Chair  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
Ms. Katie Patterson, Secretary-Treasurer  
Speedway, Indiana  
Mr. Case Hoogendoorn, Esq.  
Chicago, Illinois  
Rev. Dr. James P. Wind  
Herndon, Virginia  
Rev. Timothy Shapiro  
Indianapolis, Indiana (non-voting)

**Acknowledgements**

Photography  
Chris Minnick  
Writing  
Holly G. Miller