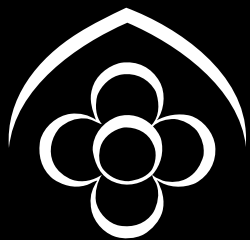


ANNUAL REPORT

2019



INDIANAPOLIS CENTER FOR CONGREGATIONS



Trinity Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church, Indianapolis

Why do we serve congregations? The Center does its work because your congregation is essential to the development of human beings and strengthening the social fabric of your local community and beyond.

Our mission is to strengthen congregations by connecting them with resources that will help them address their challenges and opportunities. We seek to share what we are learning from Indiana congregations to a wider audience in the United States.

During 2019, the Center continued to provide outstanding resources for Indiana congregations. Every aspect of our work represents an increase in our results and impact. More congregations are working with the Center, and their activities are increasingly more robust by engaging consultants, seminary professors, podcasts, YouTube videos, coaching, books, blogs and other resources recommended by the Center.

In addition to resource consulting, grant making and education events, the Center offers the Congregational Resource Guide (www.thecrg.org). This year, our team recreated the user experience at the CRG to provide the more robust search capabilities and functionality users are seeking.

Recently an Indiana clergy person said to me, “Through the Center, I explore congregational issues honestly. No filter, just curiosity. I dive in, free to not edit my words and simply learn.”

In 2019, 114 congregations were first-time users of the Center’s services. In 2020, we already know that number will be exponentially higher.

The Center’s Board not only served their fiduciary responsibilities, but provided strategic direction in valuable ways. The Center’s Board chairperson Katie Patterson and her colleagues once again provided guidance when it was needed the most.

The Center is grateful for the continuing support of the Lilly Endowment. Without their vision that first emerged more than 20 years ago, the Center would not exist.

We are excited to tell the stories of congregations which are thriving; congregations which are changing the lives of individuals and, indeed, creating activities altering the world in marvelous ways.

Yes, your congregation and the congregations whose stories are told in this report are essential.

Tim Shapiro
Center President



First Christian Church, Newburgh



EMBRACING FRESH OPPORTUNITIES

Spiritual formation and leadership are the focus of Divine Providence Baptist Church's work with the Center for Congregation in 2019. The leaders of this Fort Wayne church strive to keep members' involvement fresh and alive in the work of the congregation.

It is easy to grow complacent or weary, so the congregation decided to do something different. They participated in IC3 Church Growth and Development Conference, an out-of-state leadership event. Then they brought home what they learned and presented the information in a leadership retreat at a nearby retreat center.

The conference provided practical ministry tools, while the retreat was designed to focus on spiritual refreshing, restoration, rejuvenation, and fulfillment in ministry. Participants were immersed in prayer and explored the rewards of corporate and personal quality time spent in prayer and meditation. They learned that, "in ministry, if you do not remain prayerful in all areas, the joy of servicing and circumstances could cause you to lose your focus." These events provided a refreshing energy within the ministry.

"The 'I Look To You' Conference was phenomenal," said Divine Providence Pastor Michael Griffin. "Words cannot express how inspired I

was to see how this conference blessed the leaders and members of DP. The presenters were awesome in their presentation, and I noticed how encouraged and excited my people were when we returned home. This conference was a mountaintop experience."

Concrete benefits include increased attendance at prayer services. But the team also reports that members are embracing opportunities for ministry service, "willing to give it a try," understanding that God has supplied the local congregation with what's necessary to carry out its mission.



Divine Providence Baptist Church, Fort Wayne



THE HEARTBEAT OF THE CONGREGATION

First Christian Church's unique project is all about celebration and heart, in concert with debt reduction.

"With a project that has as one of its goals as 'debt reduction,' it would be easy to make this all about the money," the leadership team reported. "However, a few key successes for us have been [1] to cast a vision bigger and more personal than just reducing debt load for a church and [2] listen to our congregants for the heartbeat that resonates with the mission of the Church."

Through the help of a fundraising consultant, this Newburgh congregation raised money to pay down their debt and raise seed money for community outreach. They love to talk about how the project has impacted the community.

Results show the success of the campaign. They collected 50% of the fund committed to the generosity initiative through the first six months. Congregants participated generously through financial commitments to the church. They launched mentoring programs in two elementary schools, engaged 140+ families with Christmas Totes, and set up a paper drive for teachers at the elementary schools.

This Center for Congregations grant work helped the congregation set the stage to build on their community efforts with the Center's community ministry initiative.

The project brought members together toward action and intergenerational efforts. "Overall, we are seeing greater engagements between our congregation and the community we live in."

First Christian Church, Newburgh



BUILDING THE KINGDOM BY BUILDING LIVES

Trinity Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church in Indianapolis launched an enthusiastic yearlong leadership development initiative. The goal of the initiative was to teach leaders and volunteers how to create sustainable ministries. The team hoped that the spiritual minded, skilled, dedicated and committed leaders would in turn motivate others by working and walking alongside them.

This initiative was comprised of workshops and seminars on topics such as leadership development, CME/denominational polity and history, communication skills, and collaboration skills. A Center for Congregations grant helped pay many of the expenses – guest speaker fees, books for congregational participants, food, and more.

Trinity leaders are pleased with the project's success. Because many of the expenses were

covered by the grant, more leaders and members were able to attend. Members noted that attending the workshops has created close bonds in the church, as well as spiritual growth.

Members are enjoying a more collaborative experience and successful communication together as they become involved with new ministries and programs throughout the church.

The congregation continues to move forward. They are planning to send children, youth and young adults to a Connectional Denominational Conference in Greensboro, NC, where children, youth, and young adults attend from all over the US. Later this summer, Trinity CME married couples are presenting a Marriage Enrichment Retreat at the Alexander Hotel in Indianapolis. The theme for the retreat is "Falling in Love Again" 1st Peter 4:8.

Trinity Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church, Indianapolis



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, 2019 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 FINANCIAL POSITION	ASSETS	2019	2018
	Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 881,864	\$ 2,454,961
	Contributions receivable	9,200,000	1,230,000
	Prepaid expenses and other assets	40,448	42,585
	Investments	36,574,528	38,224,607
	Property and equipment	83,640	26,441
	Total assets	46,780,480	41,978,594
	LIABILITIES		
	Accounts payable	\$ 100,887	\$ 249,094
	Accrued vacation pay	58,241	46,581
Other accrued expenses	20,555	17,507	
Total liabilities	179,683	313,182	
NET ASSETS			
Without donor restrictions	\$ 6,978,055	\$ 5,013,048	
With donor restrictions	39,622,742	36,652,364	
Total net assets	46,600,797	41,665,412	
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 46,780,480	\$ 41,978,594	

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	2019			2018			
		Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	Total	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	Total
	Revenues and Other Support						
	Contributions	\$ —	\$ 11,658,901	\$ 11,658,901	\$ —	\$ 8,980,000	\$ 8,980,000
	Return of grant funds	—	85,888	85,888	—	89,902	89,902
	Educational events	33,532	—	33,532	46,637	—	46,637
	Interest and dividends	849,541	—	849,541	717,479	—	717,479
		883,073	11,744,789	12,627,862	764,116	9,069,902	9,834,018
	Net assets released from restrictions	8,774,411	(8,774,411)	—	7,193,102	(7,193,102)	—
	Total revenues and other support	9,657,484	2,970,378	12,627,862	7,957,218	1,876,800	9,834,018
Expenses and Losses							
Resource Consulting	1,227,215	—	1,227,215	1,037,734	—	1,037,734	
Resource Discovery and Dissemination	231,419	—	231,491	246,419	—	246,419	
Education	2,656,896	—	2,656,896	1,415,242	—	1,415,242	
Resource Grants	1,884,416	—	1,884,416	1,890,676	—	1,890,676	
Major Grant Initiative	1,064,353	—	1,064,353	1,101,495	—	1,101,495	
Congregational Learning and Evaluation	377,373	—	377,373	503,421	—	503,421	
Total program services	7,441,744	—	7,441,744	6,194,987	—	6,194,987	
Management and general	1,352,650	—	1,352,650	1,030,735	—	1,030,735	
Total expenses	8,794,394	—	8,794,394	7,225,722	—	7,225,722	
Change in net assets before gains/losses	863,090	2,970,378	3,833,468	731,496	1,876,800	2,608,296	
Gains/losses on investments	1,101,917	—	1,101,917	(561,967)	—	(561,967)	
Change in net assets	1,965,007	2,970,378	4,935,385	169,529	1,876,800	2,046,329	
Net assets, beginning of year	5,013,048	36,652,364	41,665,412	4,843,519	34,775,564	39,619,083	
Net assets, end of year	\$ 6,978,055	\$ 39,622,742	\$ 46,600,797	\$ 5,013,048	\$ 36,652,364	\$ 41,665,412	



INDIANA

NORTHWEST

- 1599 Conversations in
- 134 Cases of which
- 69 are New Cases with
- 134 People representing
- 91 Congregations
- 54% were Clergy
- 46% were Laity

THE TOP ISSUES

Leadership, Congregational Vitality, Community Ministry, Building, Youth Ministry

NORTHEAST

- 3007 Conversations in
- 276 Cases of which
- 162 are New Cases with
- 248 People representing
- 158 Congregations
- 46% were Clergy
- 54% were Laity

THE TOP ISSUES

Building, Congregational Vitality, Finance, Leadership, Technology

SOUTHWEST

- 1139 Conversations in
- 81 Cases of which
- 39 are New Cases with
- 87 People representing
- 51 Congregations
- 45% were Clergy
- 55% were Laity

THE TOP ISSUES

Leadership, Congregational Vitality, Building, Technology, Worship

CENTRAL

- 5588 Conversations in
- 685 Cases of which
- 383 are New Cases with
- 609 People representing
- 379 Congregations
- 45% were Clergy
- 55% were Laity

THE TOP ISSUES

Young Adults, Building, Technology, Congregational Vitality, Finance

SOUTHEAST

- 1023 Conversations in
- 56 Cases of which
- 25 are New Cases with
- 73 People representing
- 37 Congregations
- 56% were Clergy
- 44% were Laity

THE TOP ISSUES

Building, Leadership, Staffing, Finance, Congregational Vitality

EDUCATION

- 105 education events and hosted organizational meetings
- Including 25 held in Central Indiana
- 25 in the Northeast and 13 in the Northwest
- 18 in the Southeast and 24 in the Southwest
- 10 of those were Live Online Events
- 1711 People representing
- 586 Congregations from
- 88 Faith Groups or Denominations

EVENTS AND MEETINGS INCLUDE:

Being Present with Those Who Are Grieving
 Brownstown Area Ministerial Association Meeting
 Brownstown Christian Church Staff Meeting
 Building Your Volunteer Team
 Capital Campaigns
 Caring Congregation
 Central Region Student Ministry Pastors Lunch, Fort Wayne
 City Church Meeting, Evansville
 Community Ministry Education Grant Education Days
 Conversation Skills for Healthy Relationships in a Digital Age
 Creative Problem Solving for Congregations
 Creativity in Worship and Song
 Crossroads Christian Church Meeting, Evansville
 Developing Effective Community Ministry
 Diocese of Gary, Merrillville
 Education Event Focus Groups
 Effective Communications
 Engaging Young Adults Initiative
 Faith Formation for Gen Z

First Wayne Street United Methodist Church Staff Meeting, Fort Wayne
 Formative Power
 Healthy Congregational Dynamics with the Enneagram
 How to Lead Others Without Losing Yourself
 Indianapolis Religious Leadership & Civic Engagement Project
 Introduction to Immigration Law and Policy
 Lake Institute Meeting, Indianapolis
 Latinx Congregations and Ministries Celebration
 Lilly Endowment's Young Adult Initiative
 Listening to Millennials
 Managing Projects in Ministry
 North United Methodist Church Meeting, Indianapolis
 Northwest Center Open House
 Oktoberfest Baby Station, Seymour
 Plymouth Congregational UCC Staff Meeting
 Racial Justice and Your Congregation
 Reconnecting with Millennials
 St. Anthony Village Meeting, Crown Point
 St. Mary Catholic Church Meeting, Crown Point
 Southeast Center Open House
 Singing to Strengthen Community
 Staying Safe
 Switch Facilitated Discussion, Fort Wayne
 The Art of the Flourishing Congregation
 The Changing Landscape of Faith and Giving
 Transformational Leadership
 United Church of Christ Pastors' Group, Evansville
 Welcoming and Retaining First Time Guests
 Zion Lippe United Church of Christ, Evansville

GRANTS

- \$2,026,605 for
- 169 Grants of which
- 141 were Resource Grants totaling \$1,458,593
- 21 Community Ministry Grants totaling \$408,541
- and 7 Formative Power Grants totaling \$159,471

GRANT RECIPIENTS

All Saints Episcopal Church, Indianapolis
Anderson First Church of the Nazarene
Arcola United Methodist Church
Benton Mennonite Church, Goshen
Bethany Christian Church, Washington
Bethel Community Church, Seymour
Bright Christian Church, Lawrenceburg
Broadway United Methodist Church, Indianapolis
Burr Oak Mennonite Church, Rensselaer
Calvary Lutheran Church ELCA, Angola
Central Christian Church, Washington
Central Ministries, Fort Wayne
Central Presbyterian Church, Lafayette
Charity Church, Indianapolis
Christ Center Church, Gary
Christ Lutheran Church, Noblesville
Christ the King Lutheran Church, South Bend
Christ United Church, Richmond
Christian Valley Missionary Baptist Church, Gary
Cicero Christian Church
Colfax United Methodist Church
College Mennonite Church, Goshen
Common Ground Christian Church, Indianapolis
Common Ground Church of the Nazarene, Decatur
Cory Community Church of the Nazarene
Creekside Church of the Brethren, Elkhart
Crossroad Community Church, Shelbyville
Crossroads Community Church, Kokomo
Dale United Methodist Church
Divine Providence Baptist Church, Fort Wayne
Dutchtown Brethren Church, Warsaw
Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church, Indianapolis
Edwardsville United Methodist Church, Georgetown
Eighth Street Mennonite Church, Goshen
Fairview Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis
Fairview United Methodist Church, Bloomington
Faith Church East, Lafayette
Faith Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis
Fellowship Missionary Church, Fort Wayne
First Baptist Church of Greenwood
First Baptist Church of Ossian
First Christian Church, Columbus
First Christian Church, Newburgh
First Christian Church (DOC), Bloomington
First Christian Church of Jeffersonville
First Church, Wheatfield
First Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Kokomo
First Presbyterian Church, Muncie
First Presbyterian Church, Scottsburg
First Presbyterian Church, Lagrange
First United Methodist Church, Plymouth
Fortville Christian Church
Freedom Church, Lebanon
Fresh Oil Ministries, Gary
Gomez Temple AME, Fort Wayne

Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, Brownsburg
Grabill Missionary Church
Grace Summit Church, Fort Wayne
GracePoint Church, Valparaiso
Greater Love Temple Church, Indianapolis
Greater St James Missionary Baptist Church, Evansville
Greenfield Christian Church
Hanover Presbyterian Church, Hanover
Harvest Bible Chapel - Indy West, Avon
Harvester Missionary Church, Fort Wayne
Heather Hills Baptist Church, Indianapolis
Hemenway Memorial Presbyterian Church, Boonville
High Praise Outreach Ministries, Michigan City
Highmark Church, Fishers
Hobart Assembly of God, Hobart
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Muncie
Hope Christian Church, Hammond
House of God Church of Gary
Hurricane Community Church, Franklin
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Valparaiso
Indy Metro Church, Indianapolis
Jefferson Community Brethren Church, Goshen
John Knox Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis
King of Glory Lutheran Church, Carmel
Lake Hills Baptist Church, Scherererville
Lakeview Church, Indianapolis
Lebanon Christian Church
Legacy Bible Church, Noblesville
Lifehouse Church, Huntertown
LifePoint Church, Goshen
LifeWay Bible Fellowship, Fort Wayne
Living Gospel Church, Nappanee
Living Streams Community Church, McCordsville
Living Word Baptist Church, Indianapolis
Love Church Ministries, Fort Wayne
Mercy Hill Church, Munster
Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch Lubavitch of Indiana, Indianapolis
Messiah Lutheran Church, Brownsburg
Messiah Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne
Metropolitan Baptist Church, Gary
Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church, Kendallville
Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church, Terre Haute
Mt. Gilead Church, Mooresville
New Direction Church, Indianapolis
New Era Church, Indianapolis
New Heights Church, Indianapolis
New Salem Missionary Baptist Church, Hammond
North Christian Church, Fort Wayne
Northeast Christian Church, Fort Wayne
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Indianapolis
Outlook Christian Church, McCordsville
Peace Lutheran Church, Fremont
Peace United Church of Christ, Fort Wayne
Pendleton Christian Church
Peter's Rock Missionary Baptist Church, Gary
Phillips Temple CME Church, Indianapolis

Powerhouse Church of Deliverance, Indianapolis
Prince of Peace United Church of Christ, Bargersville
Providence AME, Indianapolis
REAL Community Covenant Church, Marion
Revolution Community Church, Logansport
River City Church, Lafayette
Saint Joseph United Methodist Church, Fort Wayne
Second Missionary Baptist Church, Kokomo
Second Reformed Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis
South Union Christian Church, Bloomington
Spiritual Prosperity Enrichment Center, Indianapolis
St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Indianapolis
St. Ambrose Catholic Church, Seymour
St. Charles Borromeo Church, Peru
St. Francis-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church, Zionsville
St. Malachy Catholic Church, Brownsburg
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Evansville
St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church, Decatur
St. Mary Catholic Church, Indianapolis
St. Mary Catholic Church, North Vernon
St. Matthew Parish, Mount Vernon
St. Michael Catholic Church-Greenfield
St. Michael Church, Brookville
St. Patrick Catholic Church, Terre Haute
St. Paul Catholic Center, Bloomington
St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Evansville
St. Peter's United Church of Christ, Carmel
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Indianapolis
St. Thomas Catholic Church, Fortville
Stones Crossing Church, Greenwood
Temple Beth-El, South Bend
The Creek, Indianapolis
The Dwelling Place, Westfield
The Point, Seymour
The Ridge, Columbus
The Trinity Baptist Church, Gary
The Vine Church, Goshen
Tipton Trinity Wesleyan Church, Tipton
Trinity CME Church, Indianapolis
Trinity Episcopal Church, Indianapolis
Trinity Lutheran Church, Darmstadt, Evansville
Trinity On Jackson, Elkhart
Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Fort Wayne
Unity of Fort Wayne Spiritual Center
Urban Light Community Church, Muncie
Waynedale United Methodist Church, Fort Wayne
Westfield Friends Church, Westfield
White River Christian Church, Noblesville
Witherspoon Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis
Woodburn Missionary Church
Woodruff Place Baptist Church, Indianapolis
Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Gary
Zion Tabernacle, Kokomo
Zionsville Presbyterian Church



Trinity Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church, Indianapolis

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 Congregational Resource Guide is a project of the Indianapolis Center for Congregations. This web-based application helps congregations find and use the best resources for the challenges they identify.

The Indianapolis Center for Congregations is funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. and is a supporting organization of Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

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Divine Providence Baptist Church, Fort Wayne

