



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Lutheran Church of the  
Reformation

212 E Capitol St NE  
Washington DC 2003

[reformationdc.org](http://reformationdc.org)  
[@reformationdc](https://www.instagram.com/reformationdc)

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## DEAR REFORMATION,

Please see enclosed our Annual Report for years ending 2021 and 2022. As you will note, our congregation is strong and vibrant! We have done great things over these past couple of years, reflecting Christ to the world during times when it needed it the most.

We are a well-rounded congregation, living, giving, and serving both within and without. Just about all of the work in this report was done while you were searching for a pastor, and from my experience, I can tell you that in many cases, when congregations are in call processes, the rest of the mission slows down a bit. This is understandable: all of the focus and energy goes into working with the Spirit to discern the next leader of a congregation.

But not so with Reformation! You continued your vibrant ministry to church, community, and world. That is very commendable! Let's keep it up. I truly believe that our best days are not behind us; they are ahead. Let's keep working together, because we are a city on The Hill which cannot be hid (Matt. 5:14).

Peace to you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pr. Kevin

# 2022 OFFICERS AND COUNCIL

Representing the 275 Baptized members of Reformation

## Outgoing

## 2023 Term

## 2024 Term

## Incoming

- Karen Carlson
- Elizabeth Hann
- Craig Hass
- Ella Petree
- Laura Swanson

- Emily Andre
- Ivy Finkenstadt
- Judith Mangubat
- Lyndon Smith

- Scott Binde
- John Hagood
- Jessica Snowden
- Elizabeth Wirick

- Calvin Cunningham
- Dana Finkel
- Jennifer Novak
- Evan Schrage
- Mike Thompson

## Executive Committee

### 2022

Jessica Snowden

Emily Andre

Elizabeth Wirick

Roger Moffatt

Suzanne Hazard

**President**

**Vice President**

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**

**Financial  
Officer**

### 2023

Emily Andre

Ivy Finkenstadt

Evan Schrage

Roger Moffatt

Suzanne Hazard

# MISSION & VALUES

Representing the 275 Baptized members of Reformation



## Mission Statement

Embraced by God's love, Lutheran Church of the Reformation gathers, welcomes and nurtures a spiritual community to love and serve the world in Christ's name.

## Aspirational Value

*Invitation & Welcome:*  
We open our doors and hearts, extending our hands to welcome neighbors and strangers, to share the Good News.

## Values

*Justice and Mercy:* We share God's mercy, honor human dignity and the common good, and work for a more just, peaceful and vibrant community, nation and world.

*Unity in Diversity:* We welcome and embrace all of God's children, creating an inviting and safe place in which to celebrate and share the gifts of our similarities and differences.

*Spiritual Growth:* We inspire and empower people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. At every step of life's journey, we challenge and support one another as we grow in faith together as individuals and as a community.

*Praise and Prayer:* We come together in community to praise God by creating a joyful worship experience, revealing the beauty of God's love and the hope of God's word.

*Stewardship of God's Gifts:* We joyfully give of ourselves, our time and our possessions in thanksgiving for God's abundant gifts and for the care and redemption of God's creation.

# PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Ain't lookin' bad for 89 years young!

## ✝ Sanctuary Building

### ○ HVAC

- Commissioned engineering study and condition assessment of existing HVAC systems for Sanctuary and St John's Buildings. The study gave us no more than 5 years to have a new system in place.
- Continued to evaluate different solutions for the HVAC.
  - We are focusing on major advancements made in conventional HVAC systems, which will provide for far lower cost, and a far lower environmental footprint. We are also actively researching alternate options such as geothermal.
  - By beginning this process now, we are giving ourselves the opportunity to have our new system in place before our current system expires, which is due in the next five years.

### ○ Blue Room

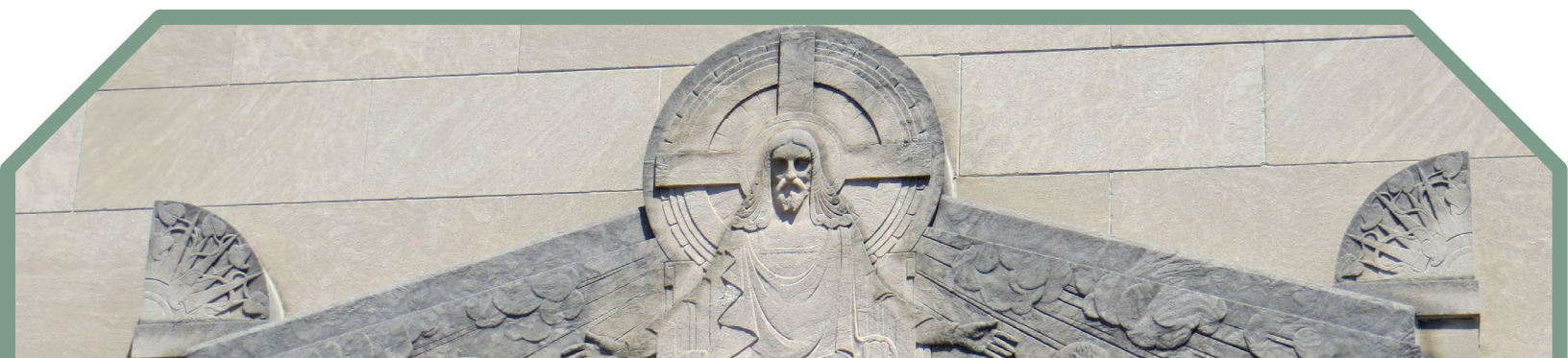
- Installed new speaker to hear on-going service.
  - Our old speaker had gone the way of the buffalo, leaving our parents with small children and others who use the space without a way to follow the service.

### ○ Kitchen, in partnership with Fellowship & Caring

- Installed new high-tech coffee pot.
  - This eliminated the need for 6 different coffee pots throughout the kitchen
  - Also, the coffee is even more delicious.
- Installed new refrigerator in storage room.
  - We now have space for standard catering/cooking containers, which we had lacked.
- Installed high-speed dishwasher.
  - Received a DC Grant in order to move towards reusable cutlery/kitchenware.
  - Cycles take about three minutes, making cleanup quicker for all.
- Installed drawer pulls on all kitchen drawers.
  - I mean, who doesn't love drawer pulls?

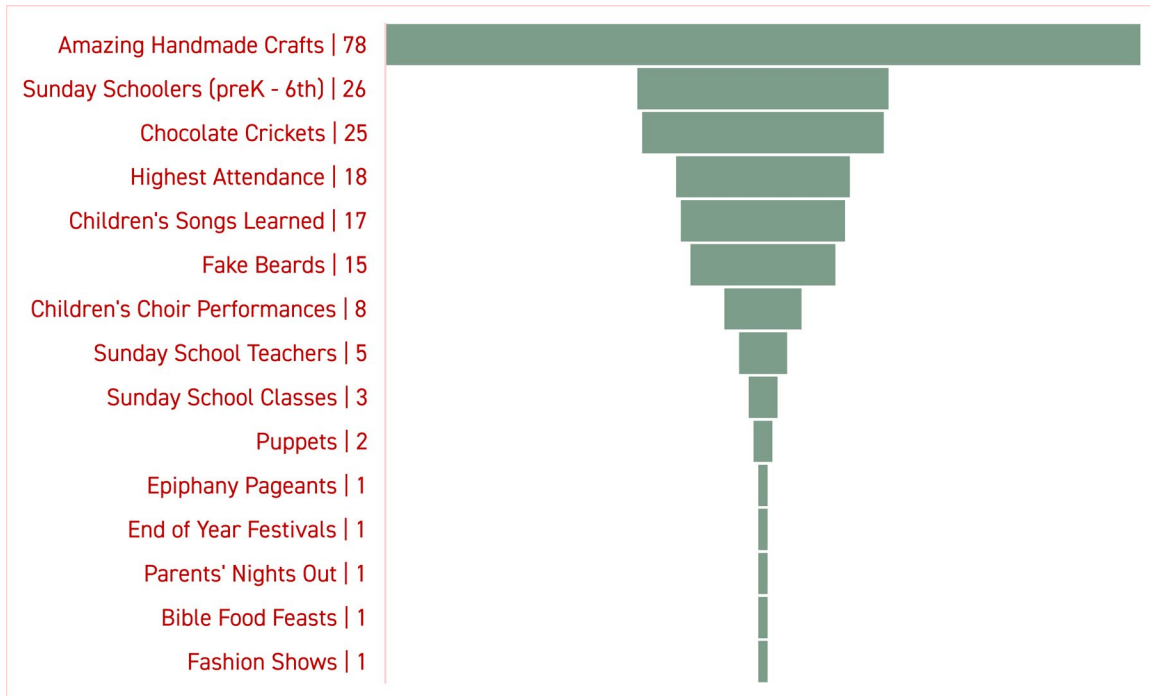


- Accessible Bathroom
  - Installed new water heating unit.
    - Old Insta-Hot went kaput, leaving the sink without hot water. Not on our watch!
- Parish Hall, Choir, Library, and Fireside Rooms
  - Selected floor tile for Parish Hall and Kitchen.
  - Project delayed due to delay with new windows project.
  - Numerous ceiling tiles replaced, clean up, leaky toilets and faucet repair, etc.
  - Landed on a workable furniture solution for the Fireside Room.
- ✝ Parsonage
  - Finance Team approved \$31,000 for repairs and painting.
    - Committee members and many dedicated volunteers repainted, re-detailed, repaired, and re-loved the home in anticipation of the Vandiver's arrival.
    - We had professionals remove old carpeting, exposing the original wooden floors. They refinished these and other hardwood floors in the space.
    - New clothes washer, installed an exhaust fan in kitchen, which it had been noticeably lacking.
- ✝ 220 Upper Apartment
  - Council directed a team led by Craig Haas to evaluate potential space use options.
    - Report was prepared and delivered to Council.
  - Commissioned study and cost estimate to upgrade 2<sup>nd</sup> floor bathroom.
    - The project was scrubbed due to costs.
- ✝ Immigrant Ministry
  - Hosted a 1<sup>st</sup> generation Children of Immigrants Workday at Reformation. It was an unusual twist to the normal migrant story.
- ✝ Blessing Box
  - Advised Adam Voss' installation of the Blessing Box in front of the Church Office.
- ✝ St. John's
  - Regular maintenance and problem-solving.



# SPIRITUAL GROWTH

## Sunday Schoolin'



*...Love, Laughter, and Growing in Christ: Infinite!*





# YOUTH

Here's what we got up to in 2022...

Reformation's youth enjoyed being back to mostly in person youth group activities with St Paul's and Augustana Lutheran Churches in 2022. After a couple difficult years, they enjoyed the opportunity to Re-Connect with their friends from throughout the DC metro area. Highlights of the year included an end of the school year movie watching/s'mores making/hilariously giggly evening in June and a weekend retreat to Camp Nawakwa in the fall where they got to spend time with God, each other, and nature (and no cell service). The monthly DC Youth Group get togethers brought numerous other memories and the youth and their adult leaders are excited for the promise of many more in 2023!



# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

It's pie-chart time!

- ✦ We finished 2022 \$30K favorable to Budget, which allowed us to carry a \$20K surplus and avoid having to draw on Undesignated Bequests for the second year in a row.
- ✦ Offerings were \$28K below Budget (6.7%), though this was mostly offset by our Space Use contributions which continued their recovery, increasing to \$153K and exceeding Budget by \$20K (14.9%).
- ✦ Throughout 2022 we made \$17K of payments towards the Line of Credit which reduced the balance to \$323K. An additional \$5K of payments have already been made in 2023.
- ✦ Staffing expense in 2022 was down 28% vs. 2021 because we lacked two full-time pastors.
- ✦ This Staffing reduction allowed us to fund \$20K of improvements to the parsonage before Pastor Kevin moved in (\$17K of that in 2022) without having to draw on the Line of Credit.
- ✦ We contributed \$151K to Service and Justice ministries locally, nationally, and globally.

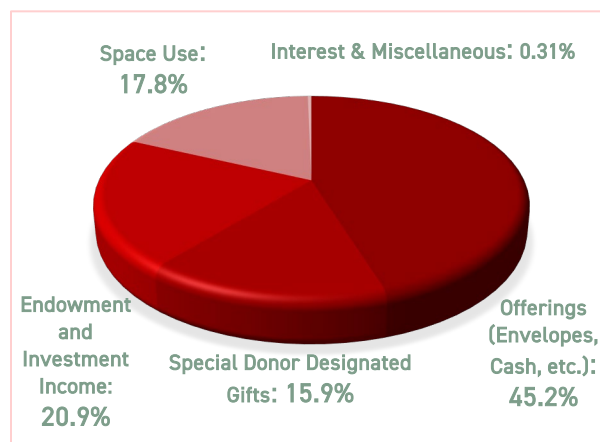
## Where Your 2022 Offering Went

*General fund offering*

Worship, Music and Arts	38%
Stewardship, Property and Finance	30%
Service and Justice	14%
Spiritual Growth (Education)	6%
Engagement and Communications	6%
Fellowship and Caring	6%

## 2022 Income - All Sources of Funds

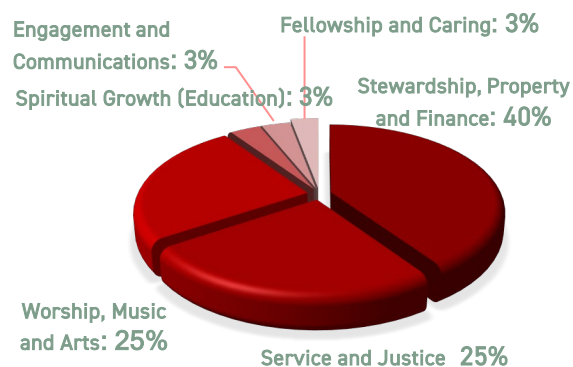
Offerings (Envelopes, Cash, etc.)	\$387,093
Special Donor Designated Gifts	\$135,948
Endowment and Investment Income	\$179,374
Space Use	\$152,187
Interest & Miscellaneous	\$2,689
<b>Total Sources of Funds</b>	<b>\$857,291</b>



## 2022 Expenses

*Staff costs are allocated to ministry areas*

Stewardship, Property and Finance	\$338,720
Service and Justice	\$210,460
Worship, Music and Arts	\$208,248
Spiritual Growth (Education)	\$28,378
Engagement and Communications	\$26,698
Fellowship and Caring	\$24,470
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$836,974</b>



# WORSHIP, MUSIC, & ARTS

## Joyful Noises Made: Too Many to Count

It was a busy and exciting year. The choir resumed singing every week at services during the Spring, albeit masked. The Omicron spike at the beginning of the year caused us to cancel planned performances of the Bach *St. Matthew Passion* because I, the music director, came down with COVID. The choir resumed singing in late February and managed to complete its choir season, singing through June.

We also managed to take part in the Amalfi Coast Music Festival in Maiori, Italy in late June/ early July. 10 of the church choir members were part of the premiere of Paul Leavitt's *Requiem* at the Amalfi Coast Music Festival in the Abbazia della Santissima Trinita in Cava de' Tirreni not far from Salerno on the Amalfi Coast. Many thanks to Sharon Dibbern for her consummate management of this enormous project. We simply cannot thank her enough for all she did to make this possible, especially considering that the project was planned for June of 2020 but had to be postponed for 2 years because of the pandemic.

I went on sabbatical at the beginning of June. Part of my sabbatical plan was to attend the Chorus America Conference in Baltimore, MD, then to participate in the Amalfi Festival, and in August go to the Pipe Organ Encounter sponsored by the American Guild of Organists in Richmond, VA. So, it was a good period of rest and recharge.

The choir resumed in the fall, continuing to sing without masks. The council approved our budget needs for paid section leaders in the choir, as well as for the cantor at the 8:30 AM service. We're grateful to the congregation and the church council for approving the additions to the budget for 2023. We've benefited from 20 years of sustained targeted giving by a few individual donors that have allowed our choir to grow and remain strong, and to have a cantor at the early service. Unfortunately, two of our principle funders have passed away. So, we're happy that the church has agreed to pick up where these generous donors had left off.

We had full brass quintet for Reformation Sunday, as we do every year. We were also able to have a string quartet play the Saint-Saens *Christmas Oratorio* with our soloists and choir for Christmas Eve, as we began to welcome Pastor Kevin Vandiver into the midst of our congregation.



It was a pleasure working with Interim Pastor Russ Gordon during his stays at Reformation. It was chaotic having guest preachers every week, and the process of calling a new Senior Pastor was difficult, but we all got through it.

Evan Benoit's leadership of the children's choir has been a real treat for the kids and congregation alike. Their vitality and enthusiasm are always a wonderful addition. We've had three new choir members join since the fall, two tenors and an alto. **There's still plenty of room for more.** We also have some amateur musicians who have volunteered to play preludes and postludes at our services in the future.

I moved one of my Steinway grand pianos into the chancel area of the sanctuary so that it can be used for services and for the many concerts that are given at the church. The other Steinway was moved into the parish hall for use during rehearsals, replacing the Yamaha upright that was there before. The large choruses that rehearse in the parish hall really need a larger instrument for rehearsals. A small upright piano is no match for 110 voices! The sanctuary really needed a worthy concert instrument, which it now has. I gave a piano recital of American piano music in the fall of 2021. It was a struggle to perform on that instrument. So I decided to loan one of my pianos to the church for future concerts.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Paul Leavitt  
Director of Music and Art



## GOOD NEIGHBORS OF CAPITOL HILL

Refugee resettlement: celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> apartment!

Good Neighbors of Capitol Hill (GNCH) is a coalition of 8 member faith communities on the Hill, and 2 others in suburban MD as well as individual volunteers. The Hill congregations in addition to Lutheran Church of the Reformation are Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, Capitol Hill United Methodist, Christ Church Episcopal, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Hill Havurah, St. Marks Episcopal, St. Peter's Catholic Church. Work is done in cooperation with Lutheran Social Services of the National Capitol Area and the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

Reformation is the catalyst for GNCH. Kathryn Tobias chairs the group, with members from each participating faith community, plus friends. Dale Manty of Reformation leads the furnishing operations overall, recruiting, gathering, cleaning and refurbishing as necessary, storing and setting up.

Primary services provided are in furnishing apartments. Other services given on an individual basis include transportation (to health care institutions and social services agencies for various needs as well as to grocery and other stores for clothing, school supplies, etc.); and assistance with accessing education; employment; drivers licenses; tutoring; procuring vehicles and insurance.

GNCH has a new Special Projects Committee dedicated to responding financially to refugees' requests for assistance with special needs such as dental and emergency care, driver's licenses and other needs.

GNCH began furnishing apartments in December 2016 and has furnished about two apartments per month since 2021, when we furnished a total of 24, culminating in apartment number 100. In February 2023, we are completing the 104<sup>th</sup> apartment. More than 90 percent of the apartments have been in Maryland; possibly 10 have been in Virginia. Resettlement generally does not happen in DC because of the cost of living, although we assisted one family that moved temporarily onto Capitol Hill.

Total number of people assisted: approximately 550. Family sizes have ranged from 2 to 10, averaging about 5. Most have been Special Immigrant Visa holding refugees (SIVs have worked for US military or civilian agencies) from Afghanistan. Other nationalities represented include families from El Salvador, Ethiopia, Cameroun, Eritrea, Myanmar.



Material used in furnishing apartments (note, nearly all materials except consumables are collected from donors, cleaned, refurbished, stored in Capitol Hill and Cheverly garage warehouses and set up in apartments. Two weeks supply of food is purchased for each family, taking into consideration cultural dietary restrictions.

Most furniture is picked up using the “church van.” Reformation’s 24-year-old van was used until August 2020 when we purchased a 7-year-old replacement thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the Koster Foundation. GNCH reimburses Reformation for the insurance and a member provides all of the gasoline.



### Estimated mileage and time spent setting up apartments (to end of 2022):

Furniture	15 trips for pickup, storage, setup per apartment (@25 miles/trip), 2 gather volunteers for each trip @ 3 hours x 15 trips, 8 setup volunteers (@4 hours); 2 coordinators (@ 20 hours), Total time per apartment:	375 miles 90 hours 72 hours 162 hours
Linens	6 trips including for pickup, etc. @ 25 miles, 150 miles 2 volunteers @ 4 hours,	8 hours
Kitchens	6 trips @ 25 miles, 150 miles 3 volunteers @ 4 hours,	12 hours
Cleaning	4 trips @ 25 miles, 100 miles 2 volunteers @ 4 hours,	8 hours
Food	2 trips @ 35 miles, 70 miles 2 volunteers @ 5 hours,	10 hours

Total (per apartment)MILES: 845 TIME: 200 HOURS

**GRAND TOTAL FOR 100 APARTMENTS**  
MILES: 84,500

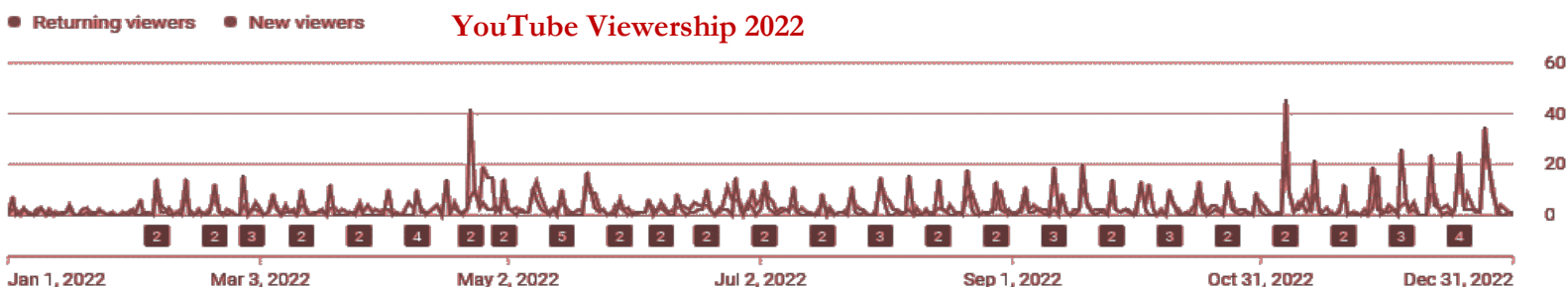
**TIME: 20,000 HOURS**

# ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION

Welcome to the Age of the Livestreamed Church

Highlights from 2022:

- ✝ Transitioned oversight and engagement of website and social media accounts (Facebook Community Group, Facebook Page, Instagram, Twitter, Google) to E&C Committee, reducing burden on staff time; this included posting pictures and adding "Thank You" posts.
- ✝ Updated our Communications Calendar with 2023 events & occasions for advertising.
- ✝ Updated website photos to reflect our pastoral transition. (See, for example, [reformationdc.org/aboutus](https://reformationdc.org/aboutus) and [reformationdc.org/worshiponline](https://reformationdc.org/worshiponline))
- ✝ Posted additional advertisements for major Reformation events, including Parsonage Workdays, Reconciling in Christ Sunday, Christmas, and Pastor Kevin's Installation.
- ✝ Engaged the congregation in improving our Google search ratings.
- ✝ Along with Pastor Kevin, reached out to visitors to welcome them to Reformation.
- ✝ Sent 111 Congregational emails to 472 subscribers.
- ✝ Produced 63 YouTube videos for 222 subscribers, watched 3,631 times.
- ✝ Grew our social media audience to 721 Facebook followers, 246 members of the Community Group, 348 Twitter followers, and 256 Instagram followers.



## CARING & FELLOWSHIP

"An army congregation marches worships on its stomach coffee." – Napoleon

The Caring and Fellowship Ministries Committee provides care, support, and fellowship to Reformation members in many ways.

- ✝ Our 31 senior members received birthday and Easter cards, and home-made cookies, delivered at Christmas.
- ✝ Our home-bound members also received the bulletin, mailed weekly.
- ✝ Throughout the year, committee members stayed in touch with home-bound and ill members by email and phone calls.
- ✝ Six families received meal trains over the course of the year.
- ✝ Nine students and other young adults away from home received care packages in both the spring and fall (18 packages in total).
- ✝ We made much-needed upgrades to the kitchen, by way of a new coffee machine, environmentally-friendly commercial dishwasher, and a new fridge for the back pantry.
- ✝ Hosted Reformation Sunday for over 100 happy reformers!



# SERVICE & JUSTICE

"An army congregation marches worships on its stomach coffee." – Napoleon

## The WIN Team, 2022 Achievements

In 2022 Reformation has continued our support of the Washington Interfaith Network. Campaigns for Affordable Housing, Public Lands, Black Equity Through Home Ownerships, Climate Justice & Public Safety.

### *Reservation 13 Progress:*

WIN believes there is a possibility for 5,000 units of affordable housing at Reservation 13, the 67-acre site, and when combined with RFK, a combined total of 200+ acres. During the most recent phase, WIN organized around affordability in the development and improved the affordability standards outlined in the Request for Proposals (RFP). The DC government adopted WIN's  $\frac{1}{3}$   $\frac{1}{3}$   $\frac{1}{3}$  language for the development of affordable housing.  $\frac{1}{3}$  deeply affordable,  $\frac{1}{3}$  middle income affordable,  $\frac{1}{3}$  market rate, and a priority for low-income homeownership units.



### *Temple Courts: PHASE ONE COMPLETED!*

Temple Courts will include 504 units priced at 60% or less of AMI out of 750 units totals when completed. Half the affordable units are priced at 30% or less of AMI. WIN leaders organized with former residents of Temple Courts, torn down in 2009, to push for the parking lot to become housing. We organized every step of the development process from RFP, to choice of developer, to funding. WIN is organizing to ensure former residents know about and get the right to return - many have already moved in. We will continue to manage and monitor the next phase of construction.



## South East Ministry (SEM)

This year brought significant changes for South East Ministries (SEM) after losing DC Government funding and needing help to replace it with other sources. Last fall, after careful consideration, SEM merged with Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington and has committed to continuing and expanding the services available at the current SEM location in Anacostia.

Without this merger, SEM would have had to close its doors, and services to the community would've been lost. This was an essential step for SEM, and Reformation continues to support Samaritan Ministries financially and through active participation in the organization's running. Former SEM board members Emily Sollie, Karl Moeller, and Suzanne Hazard have joined their board of trustees.



## Food Pantry

Due to the unwavering support of our Congregation, our Food Pantry has continued to thrive, providing emergency support to DC residents. In 2022, we distributed 193 bags to 128 clients, representing 393 people. Due to a few requests for toiletries last year, to-go bags of essential supplies are now available. There are plans to transition into offering items that cater to restrictive dietary needs. We thank you again for your continued support.



## Reconciling in Christ (LGBTQIA+ Ministry)

### DC Pride Parade & Festival

This year, we participated in the DC Pride Parade along with several other Lutheran churches from the Metro Synod. We chose the theme “A Mighty Fortress” with the intended

message that you can identify as Queer and also Christian. Our float was dressed in the form of a castle and accompanied by a curated music playlist along the route; marchers wore t-shirts with the song's title written in multiple languages reflecting each color of the rainbow. It was a beautiful day of celebration with a welcoming crowd connected to the great music played, and loved the free rainbow-colored popcorn snacks handed out along the route.



Reformation also had a table at the DC Pride Festival and shared it in fellowship with the DC LGBTQIA community. We gave grace to others through pride stickers, temporary rainbow tattoos, t-shirt prizes & rubber duckies, which everyone then proudly posed with for Instagram photos! #ReformationDC #GodsLove

