

**Cathedral of Hope**  
**Board of Stewards Meeting Minutes**  
January 28, 2019

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**Regular Session**

**Attendance**

Roger Poindexter (Chair)  
Mary Hershiser (Vice-Chair)  
James Deets (Treasurer)  
Rich Dudley (Secretary)  
Jon Nelson  
John Rieger  
Bob Shea  
Bev MacGray  
Roscoe Compton-Kelly  
Rev Dr. Neil G. Cazares-Thomas

- 1) Call to order/Opening Prayer
  - a) Roger Poindexter called the meeting to order at 7 PM
  - b) Rev. Dr. Neil Cazares-Thomas opened with prayer
- 2) Agenda
  - Motion: Approve Agenda
  - Made by: Rich Dudley
  - Seconded by: Roscoe Compton-Kelly
  - Vote (Y/N/A): 9/0/0
  - Approved Motion
- 3) Consent Agenda
  - a) Acceptance of November 26 meeting minutes
  - b) Acceptance of reports
    - i) Strategic Planning
    - ii) Personnel
    - iii) Development
    - iv) Membership
    - v) Bylaws
    - vi) Building & Grounds
    - vii) Finance
    - viii) Communications & Social Media
    - ix) Youth & Young Adult Ministries
  - c) Recommendations/Motions from Committees
    - i) Strategic Planning
      - (1) Approve Jim LeCroy as new committee member
    - ii) Bylaws
      - (1) Approve new committee members
        - (a) Leah Estes
        - (b) Richard Read
        - (c) Steve Miller

- d) Motion to accept minutes, accept reports, and approve recommendations from standing committees

Motion: Accept minutes, accept reports, and approve recommendations from standing committees

Made by: James Deets

Seconded by: John Reiger

Vote (Y/N/A): 9/0/0

Approved Motion

- 4) Finance Reports

a) James Deets provided Treasurer's report

b) Scott Cannon provided giving statistics for 2018

- 5) Committee Recommendations & Motions not included in consent agenda

- a) Finance Committee

- i) Approval of 2019 budget

Motion: Affirm passage of 2019 budget that was reviewed in executive session

Made by: Bob Shea

Seconded by: John Reiger

Vote (Y/N/A): 8/1/0

Approved Motion

- ii) Approve Handbook for guiding principles of internal audit functions

Motion: Approve Internal Audit Handbook

Made by: Jon Nelson

Seconded by: Bob Shea

Vote (Y/N/A): 9/0/0

Approved Motion

- b) Nominations Committee

Motion: Approve seating of committee members as outlined in agenda for March elections

Made by: Jame Deets

Seconded by: Rich Dudley

Vote (Y/N/A): 9/0/0

Approved Motion

- c) Bylaws Committee

- i) Update on request for clarification of Indemnification language in Bylaws

Rev. Neil sought feedback from insurance carrier. They reviewed Bylaws and felt language was consistent with our coverage. Committee received that feedback and concur no changes are needed at this time. Issue is now closed.

- ii) Committee recommending revisions to Bylaws.

Board reviewed suggested edits. The majority of them were grammatical or stylistic changes. Two areas were highlighted for potential changes which will require congregational approve at upcoming annual meeting. Committee is preparing ballot for those substantial change.

Motion: Approve the grammatical and stylistic changes that were highlighted in green in the working copy provided (dated 1-10-19). The other changes highlighted in red will go to congregational meeting for vote.

Made by: John Reiger

Seconded by: Roscoe Compton-Kelly

Vote (Y/N/A): 9/0/0

Motion approved

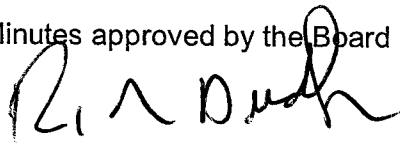
- 6) Strategic Discussion: Presentations and Feedback
  - a) Worship Report – Rev. Dr. Neil Cazares-Thomas
    - i) Rev. Dr. Neil G. Cazares-Thomas gave the report (detailed report included in attached package)
  - b) Pledge Drive Results—Rev. Patsy Bjorling presented the final pledge drive results
  - c) Strategic Plan Dashboard Update
    - i) Statistical review page of dashboard was distributed to Board of Stewards
  - d) Next strategic presentation is 2018 Year in Review
- 7) Continuing Business
  - a) None at this meeting
- 8) New Business
  - a) None at this
- 9) Adjourn
  - Motion: Adjourn
  - Made by: James Deets
  - Seconded by: Bob Shea
  - Vote (Y/N/A): 9/0/0
  - Approved and meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Questions/Open Session

Executive Session

YES

Minutes approved by the Board of Stewards at meeting on February 25, 2019

  
Rich Dudley  
Board of Stewards Secretary  
Cathedral of Hope UCC

Cathedral of Hope  
Board of Stewards Meeting  
January 28, 2019

Agenda

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Regular Session

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Time</u>
1) Call to order/Opening Prayer		
2) Agenda	Consent	1 min
3) Consent Agenda	Action	5 min
4) Finance-James/Scott	Discussion	15 min
5) Committee Recommendations/motions (not in consent agenda)	Discussion	25 min
a) Finance		
i) Affirmation of executive session to approve 2019 Budget		
ii) Approval of guidelines for Internal Auditing		
b) Nominations Committee—Approval of ad hoc committee for March elections		
i) Winner Laws (Chair)		
ii) Mary Hershiser (Board Liaison)		
iii) Anita Haddy (Staff Liaison)		
iv) Barb Nunn		
v) George Mera		
vi) Keith Carlisle		
c) Bylaws Committee—Martha Tidwell		
i) Indemnification language in Bylaws (Feedback received from insurance carrier)		
ii) Review of suggested revisions to Bylaws		
6) Strategic Discussion: Presentations and Feedback	Discussion	20 min
a) Worship Report – Rev. Dr. Neil Cazares-Thomas		
b) Strategic Presentation—Pledge Drive results—Patsy Bjorling		
c) Strategic Plan Dashboard Update (Wasn't available for email distribution prior to meeting)		
d) Strategic Plan Calendar (February presentation—Year in review)		
7) Continuing Business		
a) None at this time		
8) New Business		
a) None at this time		
9) Adjourn	Action	<1 sec

Questions Only/Open Session

Executive Session

YES

**REMINDER: 2019 Annual Congregation Meeting and Election March 9, 2019**

## Consent Agenda Items

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- 1) Acceptance of November 26, 2018 meeting minutes
- 2) Acceptance of all reports
  - a) Strategic Planning
  - b) Personnel
  - c) Development
  - d) Membership
  - e) Bylaws
  - f) Building & Grounds
  - g) Finance
  - h) Communications and Social Marketing
  - i) Youth & Young Adult
- 3) Recommendations & Motions from standing committees
  - a) Strategic Planning
    - i) Request approval of new committee member, Jim LeCroy (Application and staff clearance completed)
  - b) Bylaws
    - i) Request approval of new committee members (Application and staff clearance completed)
      - (1) Steve Miller
      - (2) Richard Read
      - (3) Leah Estes

**Committee: Strategic Planning**

**Date: January 21, 2019** (Meeting date January 14, 2019)

**Attendees:** Larry Adams, Dennis Bolin, Michael Diaz, John Erdos, Jay Franzone, Winner Laws, Jim LeCroy, Phil Perry and Bob Shea.

**Prepared by:** Larry Adams

**Meetings held since last Board meeting:** January 14, 2019

**Changes in membership:**

Request Jim LeCroy be added to committee.

**Actions since last meeting:** None

**Discussions/Future plans and goals:**

Larry Adams as interim chair, John Erdos to replace Ray Coe as committee representative for development team and Philip Perry to continue as clerk.

Members to meet with assigned worship team leaders to finalize 2019 goals and timelines prior to next committee meeting scheduled for February 11, 2019.

Review previous 3 year Strategic Plan last updated in April of 2013. Begin work in conjunction with staff teams and other committees on a new 3-5 year Strategic Plan.

**Recommendations/motions for the board:**

Add Jim LeCroy to the committee.

**Committee: Personnel**

**Date:** January 23, 2019

**Prepared by:** Pam Weekley

**Meetings held since last Board meeting:**

January 7, 2019

**Changes in Membership:**

Randy Pauer and JW Wylie served their terms and are no longer on the committee

**Actions since last meeting:**

Officers were elected and this information has been provided to the Board.

Work on recruiting new members

**Future plans and goals:**

Continue recruitment of new committee members

No future meeting is scheduled at this time.

**Recommendations/actions for the Board:** None at this time

**Committee: Development**  
**January 10, 2019**

A meeting of the Development Committee was called to order by Minister of Generosity, Patsy Bjorling, at 6:25 p.m. on January 10, 2019 at Cathedral of Hope. Present were: Patsy Bjorling, Rev. Neil Cazares-Thomas, Roscoe Compton-Kelly, Angel Castro-Diaz, Ronald Myles, Cliff Bohaker, Bruce Ackerman, Mark Mansell, Gary Akkerman, Richard Read, Harriet Garey, Gary Dinsmore, Debbie Kelly, Paul W. Taylor and Katrina Wollenberg.

Rev. Neil opened with a prayer.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of COH:**

Rev. Neil opened the discussion of events that might be considered during 2020 to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cathedral of Hope. Current considerations include: a capital campaign, (perhaps in part to reduce the debt), a documentary, a gala, cruise, and specially commissioned anthem. Most of the discussion centered around a gala with special featured guest who might become the Hero of Hope. Paul mentioned that he had connections with someone at KERA who could assist us with a documentary. If we proceed with a gala it is critical to begin the reservation process to ensure a great hotel site. Those gathered felt that a financial goal of \$500,000 is achievable inclusive of all events throughout the year (bowling, home parties, gala, Hero of Hope, Anniversary Gift).

Other issues raised included a church directory and a replacement of the very aging pews. Rev. Neil pointed out that removing pews and adding chairs would allow us to host large events on property. Patsy suggested a year-long community event to compliment these events.

Rev. Neil and other attendees who were present to discuss the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary left the meeting.

**49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of COH:**

Patsy presented a detailed timeline for all events related to the 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They included Hope Bowl in March, Anniversary Dinners, Anniversary Offering, and Anniversary Party and Hero of Hope. The financial goal of each is: Hope Bowl - \$5000, 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinners - \$20,000, Anniversary Offering - \$45,000, Anniversary Party - \$5000 and Hero of Hope - \$11,250 at IPC.

Roscoe recommended that Patsy increase the number of volunteers to 30-35 for the Bowl. Other issues raise from last year's bowl were discussed and resolved. Numerous raffle prizes are needed. Sponsorships will be at \$1000, \$500 and \$250. Certain perks are associated with each level. The group discussed additional ways to open the Anniversary Dinners to those who might be new members or those who might not be able to afford a restaurant location.

**"Flowers of Hope":**

Katrina presented an idea from another church. At St Elijah in OKC they have a memorial fund called *Flowers that do not Wither*. Offerings in lieu of flowers are made to the church by the deceased loved ones and friends. This fund has generated thousands of dollars for St. Elijah, and COH might consider the same.

**Next Meeting: PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE.**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m. instead of February 14. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



**Committee: Membership (Congregational Engagement)**

**Date:** 1/21/2019

**Prepared by:** Morgan Borer

**Meetings held since last Board meeting:** One on 1/7/2019

**Changes in membership:** None

**Actions since last meeting:** Committee members elected officers for 2019 as follows:

Chair: Elizabeth Hernandez

Vice Chair: Dana Goodenow

Clerk: Morgan Borer

Rev. Michael provided committee members with the decided upon Discipleship Pathways for both the English- and Spanish speaking congregations and broke down what activities/groups/functions fall into each of the pathways. The group discussed the transition points to move congregants from one pathway to the next. Particular thought was given to newcomers since they will be the first to be guided along the pathways as designed. The current (established) congregation falls into many different pathways, some without having touched certain pathways at all. The group also discussed the requirements around membership, the purpose of the membership class, possible requirements to attend the class and where that class would best fit in as a transition point. Rev. Michael stated that the engagement dashboard must be ready for Lent since we will begin tracking congregational engagement with the Lenten small groups.

**Future plans and goals:** Continue to work with Rev. Michael and the COH staff as they build out the engagement dashboard. Begin thinking about the long-term role of this committee as the church moves into the Simple Church approach to congregational engagement.

**Recommendations / motions for the Board:** None

**Committee: Bylaws**

**Date:** January 16, 2019

**Prepared by:** Martha Tidwell, Chair

**Meetings held since last Board meeting: January 10, 2019**

**Members Present:** Martha Tidwell (Chair), Rob Rowntree (Clerk), Vicki Saulnier, Doug Waite, Richard Read, Leah Estes, Steve Miller, Brian Lewin and Board Liaison, Jon Nelson

**Member Absent:** Jose Nelson-Cruhigger and Sara Fulmer. Quorum was established

**Changes in membership:** Sara Fulmer has tendered her resignation as she could not be present for meetings due to her work / travel responsibilities.

New committee members – Richard Read, Leah Estes, Steve Miller and Brian Lewin.

**Actions since last meeting:**

Review of proposed Bylaws changes.

Editorial changes (green) were reviewed with a few changes.

Substantive changes (red) were reviewed without further changes

Martha will present recommended editorial and substantive changes to the Board of Stewards on January 28

Rob will begin preparation of a ballot for proposed bylaws changes in anticipation of the March Annual Congregational Meeting.

Previously tabled items:

IX. Finances, F. Indemnification: Rev. Neal stopped by the meeting to tell the Committee that the Church’s insurance company has been asked to provide wording to replace this section in the Bylaws.

**Election of Officers for 2019:** Martha Tidwell (Chair); Brian Lewin (Vice Chair); Rob Rowntree (Clerk)

**Recommendations/ motions for the Board:** We will be presenting the updated Bylaws to the board for review.

**Future plans and goals:**

Next meeting was set for April 11, 2019. Additional meetings, if needed, will be called by Martha.

Martha Tidwell	Dec 31, 2019	Leah Estes	Dec 31, 2021
Vicki Saulnier	Dec 31, 2019	Brian Lewin	Dec 31, 2021
Jose Nelson Cruhigger	Dec 31, 2020	Steve Miller	Dec 31, 2021
Doug Waite	Dec 31, 2020	Richard Read	Dec 31, 2021
Rob Rowntree	Dec 31, 2020		

**Committee: Building & Grounds**

**Date:** 01/24/2019

**Prepared by:** Jason Knott

**Meetings held since last Board meeting:** One – Monday January 14th

**Changes in membership:** None

**Actions since last meeting:**

- The committee elected officers for the 2019 calendar year:  
Jonn Thurman – Chair  
Todd Wright – Vice Chair  
Mike Paulus – Clerk
- The committee voted to change the frequency of future meeting from once a month to once per quarter. The next scheduled committee meeting is now scheduled for April 2019. If a situation should arrive that the committee needs to meet, an additional meeting can be called by the committee chair.
- The committee approved final plans for the plaza area between the sanctuary and IPC building. Construction on the plaza area should begin in a few weeks.
- Phase 1A of the driveway is complete. Phase 1B which connects the new driveway to the concrete lot are on hold pending funding for this project.
- The committee toured the remodel of the CLC which will serve as home for the new Hope Day School.

**Future plans and goals:**

- Continue to assist the Facilities Director as needed
- Additional tasks as assigned by the Board of Stewards

**Recommendations for the Board:** No recommendations at this time.

**Committee: Finance**

**Date:** 12/20/2018

**Prepared by:** Brian Lebow

**Meetings held since last Board meeting:** one 12/19/2018

**Attendees at the meeting:** James Deets, Allison Klein (via telephone), Ferrell Drum, Jacque Borel, Brian Lebow and Scott Cannon

**Actions since last Meeting:**

Scott Cannon presented the proposed 2019 budget, the Committee reviewed and discussed the budget.

**Recommendations for the Board:**

The Committee voted and recommends the Board approve the budget with quarterly review.

**Date:** 01/24/2019

**Prepared by:** Brian Lebow

**Meetings held since last Board meeting:** one 01/16/2019

**Attendees at the meeting:** James Deets, Allison Klein (via telephone), Mike McCue, Jacque Borel, Brian Lebow, Bobby Springfield and Scott Cannon

**Actions since last Meeting:** Reviewed and discussed internal audit procedures.

**Recommendations for the Board:** The Committee voted and recommends the Board approve the internal audit procedures.

## **Communications Board Report - Submitted January 27, 2019**

### **Social Media Highlights**

Facebook Likes on Page - 10,131

Twitter Total Followers – 1,976

Instagram Total followers– 1,366

Most Engaged Posts (Facebook)

- Personal Invitation to Christmas Eve (Dec. 21, 2018) – 7.7k engagements
  - 640 Post Clicks
  - 337 Reactions, Comments, Shares
- Invitation to Christmas Concert – 4.6k engagements
  - 560 Post Clicks
  - 234 Reactions, Comments, Shares

Most Viewed Video

- (Facebook) Personal Invitation to Christmas Eve– 7.7k engagements
- (Vimeo) Just Wait: Waiting for Hope – 130 Views

### **Communications Highlights**

***Our Dallas County Promo Video was shared with the congregation on January 20<sup>th</sup>.***

During the summer of 2018, we were approached by Judge Clay Jenkins' office to be one of a handful of churches invited to produce a video that will be shared on the new Dallas County Website. Throughout the summer and fall, we worked with CGI Communications, a firm based in New York, to produce a video that highlights Cathedral of Hope, and will be geared toward newcomers to Dallas who engaged the Dallas County website looking for services and community connections. We are also free to use this video in our own marketing endeavors. The video has been well received on social media.

#### ***Personal Video Invitation to Christmas Services***

Throughout the month of December, we were intentional about crafting messages to our community that invited and welcomed them to Advent and Christmas Eve services. Our Personal Invitation to Christmas Eve video message spread prolifically on Facebook. While we cannot verify if our marketing strategy helped to drive increased attendance, our metrics demonstrate that short, invitational messages do drive engagement within and beyond our established community.

#### ***Bulletin Tweaks***

With this hire of Jose Diaz, our new graphics designer, we are seeing some subtle yet impactful tweaks to our bulletin. Our 2017 communications survey helped us to understand that, of the population that responded to the survey, many would prefer graphics and specific details over long paragraphs of information. Jose is transitioning the bulletin to a graphics-based design. He is also employing cost saving measure in design with the goal of creating an affordable bulletin in color. We have also started to distribute full length bulletins at Pulse and the Chapel. This change has helped us to verify that information is being consistently and accurately distributed to and through all of our services.

#### ***Upcoming: New Database***

As part of our 2019 Goals, the communications team planned to explore and implement a new database which will enhance recordkeeping and member integration, as well as streamline our communications processes. In December 2018, we agreed to and have started implementing our new database – ACS Realm. This online platform will add efficiencies to our current recordkeeping processes, and should enhance areas including event planning, stewardship, member retention and engagement, congregational care, and giving. Board help will be required to drive member engagement.

## **Ministry to Youth and Families: Monthly Board Report for December**

### **Families with young Children:**

December was a wonderful time for our families with the Christmas Play and the dynamic move to the Children's Ministry's temporary facilities. Our team of volunteers, workers, and parents have been incredibly flexible and cooperative and pitched in to make the most of the much more confined space we now occupy. (Lynn Taylor and her team, of course have been our heroes and Saints throughout this daunting period.) We've re-invented ourselves a few times to determine exactly where each of our Sunday activities work best. All is now well as we eagerly await our first Sunday in the renovated space, tentatively on Feb. 24. We are also busy designing Children's Church banners and other décor items to weekly transform that shared space into a welcoming worship area. We will have our first Family Game Night the last Saturday in January to kick off another year of helping out families connect, have fun and fellowship together.

### **Youth Ministry:**

We had our highest attended youth Christmas party with 18 students attending. We had a great time with the gift exchange, good food, and fellowship. We also started new curriculum to launch our All In for 2019. The Senior High are using the "Nooma" series and are having lively and theologically deep discussions. The Junior high are studying "Re:Form," and learning about the Bible and our faith heritage. The Junior high kids are really engaging the material.

We started sign-ups for our mission trip which will be June 1 – 9, 2019 to Colorado Springs, CO. The kids are super excited about going back there this summer! Junior High mid-winter retreat is February 1-3, and Senior High retreat is Feb 15-17. The youth will have their first youth fundraiser for the mission trip: Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner on Tuesday, March 5.

### **Young Adult Ministry:**

The Young Adults have been averaging about 8 people in attendance. We had a high of 15 at the beginning of November. We have been meeting consistently on Thursdays since August, to build rapport and a sense of community. We had a planning meeting at the beginning of January to discuss the plan for meeting spaces going forward, as our host is having surgery and will be out of commission for 6-8 weeks. We have a variety of hosts lined up until we can resume meeting at our usual location, off campus.

We are also being more strategic about having service opportunities, monthly outings, and ways to be visible in the church community. The Young Adults participated in the women's march on Sunday. We are going to serve alongside the youth at their Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner. And we are having a monthly outing on the third Fridays. This is to develop community for those who cannot make our weekly Thursday night meeting / Bible study.

## **Treasurer's Report to the Board of Stewards of Cathedral of Hope, UCC**

To the Board:

As final financial statements for 2018 have not yet been completed, I am unable to provide a detailed summary of actual financial performance for calendar year 2018. Through discussions with staff, and while working through the budgeting process, however, I am aware that December giving was very strong and that we ended the year exceeding our budget projections for ministry giving. We also ended the year with positive cash flow from operations. Based on the trend of falling ministry contributions that we had begun to witness in the latter months of 2018, this came as very positive news.

Throughout the months of November and December, I met on several occasions with the Finance Committee and staff to prepare a proposed budget for 2019. I feel that the budget as proposed by the Finance Committee is an honest attempt to project where we believe giving and expenses will come in for 2019.

In addition to preparing a proposed budget for 2019, I have also met with the Finance Committee on multiple occasions over the past few months to assist in preparation of audit guidelines for the Finance Committee to use in performing internal audits of the financial operations of the church. The committee worked very hard and thoughtfully on this manual, which will allow them to define their audit functions. The Board adopted a motion that assigned the internal audit function to the Finance Committee.

I look forward to serving together in 2019.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Deets – Board Treasurer

## ***Worship Report to the Board of Stewards, Cathedral of Hope January 2019***

A lot has happened since the last worship report and the last Board of Steward's meeting in November 2018.

Advent, Christmas, Christmastide and Epiphany are all behind us. However, I wanted to comment on how beautiful and successful our Christmas season was. Advent is not usually a time for high attendance at Cathedral of Hope. There are many reasons for this, I am sure, but I do know that many of us are pulled in many different directions throughout the holiday season. This year, however, we experienced a slight increase in attendance at all Advent services and a record number of people gathering for our Christmas concert featuring our entire Music Department. 775 filled the sanctuary and overflowed into the fellowship hall, narthex and choir loft. It was indeed a great spectacle to look out from the chancel and see so many people.

Christmas Eve fell on a Monday this year and even so, attendance on both the Sunday and Christmas Eve, Monday, people filled the services, enjoying the Children's Pageant on Sunday and traditional Christmas eve services the following day.

Our Advent Theme "Just Wait" called us to come filled with the anticipation of waiting on hope, joy, peace and love – waiting to make them real and to complete the work that began in Jesus of Nazareth.

The new year has also begun strong. Many people use the new year as a means to reconnect with their faith and to make attendance at worship a part of their new year commitment. We are seeing this also at Cathedral of Hope and our aim to turn a new-year commitment into a habit that will last throughout the year.

Our 2019 theme is "All In" and to launch this theme our sermon series, Brand New invites people to see "all things new". Brand New Attitude, Brand New Life, Brand New Miracles and Brand New Spirit.

We welcomed Reverend Dr. Yvette Flunder (Bishop Flunder) to the pulpit on Sunday 27 January to close this sermon series. Bishop Flunder is the presiding Bishop of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries, a predominately African-American movement of churches that have come together to provide a radically inclusive, welcome home for black folks who are LGBTQ+. Dr. Flunder is also an Ordained clergy in the United Church of Christ and has preached at Cathedral in the past. This "welcome home" also calls us again to our commitment to racial justice.

As you may know, we are moving toward a "simple church" model, which helps folks navigate the processes of our church and provides a simple discipleship path to be able to measure individual "all in". This discipleship path is being communicated in our February sermon series. **Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ** desires to be a **Vibrant Inclusive Progressive (VIP)** congregation. Our mission is to **reclaim Christianity** as a faith of **extravagant grace**, **radical inclusion** and **relentless compassion**.

We do this by being a people of hope – proclaiming God's inclusive love, removing barriers to faith and empowering all to grow in grace toward wholeness.



By being a simple church, we encourage people to move through the simple stages of spiritual growth that will help all of us find connection to God. Our sincere hope is that through our connection with God we discover a deeper connection with one another and opportunities to make a difference in the world as agents of love.

Navigating through a larger church can seem difficult but we want to keep it simple.

We are calling this the 4c's – Celebrate, Connect, Commit and Claim (Proclaim) and you will hear much more about this in February.

I am very excited about the potential that this shift will bring to individual lives and to the life of our church community as people live more fully into the experience of God's Holy Presence in their lives and how this will bring about transformation and revival in our midst.

As a part of our strategic plan for worship we are looking toward an evaluation process of how we resource each service and to find ways to invest in each of them, making these resources more equitable, paying attention to how we can brand and market each service to specific demographics, for instance millennials etc.

Once again, here is a list of our regular worship experiences.

**Regular Worship Experiences:**

**Traditional Sunday Morning 9 & 11 AM (English)**  
**THE CHAPEL - Modern Sunday Morning 10 AM, IPC**  
**Traditional Sunday Mid-Day 1 PM (Spanish)**  
**PULSE - Contemporary Wednesday Night 7:15 PM**  
**REFLECT - Meditative Wednesday Night 7:30 PM**  
(1st Wednesdays)  
**Contemplative Thursday 12:15 PM, IPC**

As we begin this new year, together, I want to once again show with my appreciation to the Board of Stewards for their prayers and support as together we reclaim Christianity and put Christ back in the Christian.

Blessings and peace,  
Reverend Dr. Neil G Cazares-Thomas, Senior Pastor

**SUNDAYS, 9, 11 & 1**

**Overall Worship Theme for 2019**      **All In**  
Celebrate, Connect, Commit, Claim (and Proclaim)  
*Unapologetically Christian (progressive) voice*

**February 2019**  
**Sermon Series**

**The 4 Cs—Celebrate, Connect, Commit, Claim (and Proclaim)—The Discipleship Path**

A 4-Week Series on the Life of Discipleship Path that leads to an “All In” life

**March 2019**

**Sermon Series**

**Beauty for Ashes**

(You Make Beautiful Things)

Celebrate Recovery sermon series The Road o Recovery Based on the Beatitudes

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>      *Ash Wednesday (possibly Glitter Ashes)*

**April 2019**

7<sup>th</sup>

14<sup>th</sup>

18<sup>th</sup>

19<sup>th</sup>

20<sup>th</sup>

21<sup>st</sup>

28<sup>th</sup>

Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

Holy Saturday

Easter Sunday

Beauty for Ashes

Trinity Sunday

*Who is Jesus? (God, Son, Holy Spirit)*

**May 2019**

5<sup>th</sup>

12<sup>th</sup>

19<sup>th</sup>

26<sup>th</sup>

Prophet, Teacher, Savior

Sin, Redemption, Salvation

Christ, Logos (Word), Revelation

Mind, Body, Spirit

**June 2019**

**Sermon Series**

**RESIST: Challenging the Norms**

2<sup>nd</sup>

9<sup>th</sup>

16<sup>th</sup>

23<sup>rd</sup>

30<sup>th</sup>

*PENTECOST*

**July 2019**

**Sermon Series**

**Power of the Church (Anniversary)**

7<sup>th</sup>

14<sup>th</sup>

21<sup>st</sup>

28<sup>th</sup>

49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sunday

**August 2019**

**Sermon Series**

**Wonder Women**

(Justice Seekers, prophetic witness. Those who are "all in" and often unspoken)

4<sup>th</sup>

Esther

11<sup>th</sup>

Pricilla

18<sup>th</sup>

Dorcas

25<sup>th</sup>

The Phoenician Woman

**September 2019**

**Sermon Series**

**Progressive Christianity**

1<sup>st</sup>

8<sup>th</sup>

*Homecoming*

15<sup>th</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup>

29<sup>th</sup>

**October 2019**

**Sermon Series**

**All In**

*Book Study – Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations by Robert Schnase*

6<sup>th</sup>

Radical Hospitality

13<sup>th</sup>

Passionate Worship and Intentional Faith Development

20<sup>th</sup>

Risk Taking Mission and Service

27<sup>th</sup>

Extravagant Generosity

**November 2019**

**Sermon Series**

**Honoring/Remembering**

*(Before You Die? What Legacy do you want to leave behind? Bucket List)*

*(Each Sunday acknowledge one person who is a "saint" among us"*

3<sup>rd</sup>

All Saints/World Communion Sunday

10<sup>th</sup>

Veterans

17<sup>th</sup>

Transgender Day of Remembrance

24<sup>th</sup>

Reign of Christ/Thanksgiving Sunday

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>

Thanksgiving/Harvest Festival (IPC)

**December 2019**

**Sermon Series**

**Make Room**

*(Making space for God to work)*

1 <sup>st</sup>	Advent 1
1 <sup>st</sup>	World AIDS Day evening service
8 <sup>th</sup>	
15 <sup>th</sup>	
22 <sup>nd</sup>	
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Eve Worship 7,9,11
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Morning Worship at 11am (IPC)
29 <sup>th</sup>	

**January 2020**

**Sermon Series**

**Something New/All Things New**

Staying the same can be comfortable, but never exciting. Living in a rut is easier, but boring. Remember your first "new" car? Maybe it was used, but it was new to you. How long did it take before you stopped showing your "new" car and just drove the thing? So, how is your life? Is it constantly renewed? How is your relationship with God? Is it boring or exciting? In this sermon series, we'll explore becoming new, being renewed, and seeing all of the new things God is doing.

5 <sup>th</sup>	You Are Not a Mistake
12 <sup>th</sup>	The Things God Makes
19 <sup>th</sup>	New Body – New Mind
26 <sup>th</sup>	A New ME

## WEDNESDAY PULSE WORSHIP

**February 2019** **Tidying Up: Addressing the Mess that Blocks our Joy**

**March 2019** **BE: ATTITUDES**

**April 2019** **BE: ATTITUDES continues**  
17<sup>th</sup> Holy Week (Worship Night)  
24<sup>th</sup> BE: Risen

**May 2019** **Rooted (based on Jeremiah 17:8)**

*Rooted:* This sermon series covers the topic of discipleship and spiritual disciplines.

**June 2019** **Breathing Room**

**July 2019** **My Story**  
*(based on the Untold Stories of LGBTQ Christians)*  
*Invite CoH authors to speak to their chapter in the book*  
3<sup>rd</sup> NO PULSE

**August 2019** **I Choose**

**September 2019** **Fall Revival**

**October 2019** **All In**  
*Stewardship Month*

**November 2019** **21 Days of Thanks and Praise**

**December 2019** **Christmas Beyond Words**  
(3 weeks of mostly singing Christmas carols (traditional and contemporary). As a part of the worship we will unwrap a pre-wrapped gift each week that will contain one element of the Christmas story. A pastor will give a 5-8 minute "sermon" on what they find when the gift is unwrapped.)  
25<sup>th</sup> NO SERVICE

**January 2020** **Re-Gift**  
1<sup>st</sup> NO SERVICE