

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
DULUTH, MINNESOTA

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND ORGANIZATIONS
PRESENTED AT

THE ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 19, 1955

OUR COVENANT

We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures, and in our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord made known or to be made known to us. We therefore join and covenant with each other to worship, work and serve together as loyal disciples of Jesus, to live among our fellow men a life of righteousness and brotherly love, and to do all within our power to promote the reign of God's will in all human relations.

Dear Dr. Halfaker

January 3, 1955

Will you please do one more favor for me? I should like to have the members of Pilgrim Church know how very thrilling was the experience that came to me on New Year's Day when Mrs. Spencer gave me the exquisite brochure and the very generous check from the members of our church. There are no words that can adequately express my gratitude. I shall always treasure both gifts.

The years in the various departments of the church were very happy ones and I am most grateful for the privilege of having been there. I shall try always to carry on the fine traditions of our church.

So I say a heartfelt "Thank You" to each member, and my best wishes always.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Virginia F. Manley

Enroute to Alabama
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

REPORT OF THE CLERK

During 1954 there were:

8 deaths
33 births
34 baptisms

14 marriages
66 new members
29 transfers.

Letters of transfer were issued to the following persons during 1954:

Dr. E.W. Minty, Kristin, Mary to the Community Presbyterian, Gold Beach, Oregon
Mrs. Robert Bilger, to the Church of the Open Door, Webster Groves, Missouri
Mrs. Elizabeth Pearce Lankii, Plymouth Congregational, Minneapolis
Mr. and Mrs. John Martinson, Plymouth Congregational, Milwaukee.
Dr. John W. Athens, to the Wasatch Presbyterian, Salt Lake City, Utah
Mrs. Wirth V. McCoy, to the Westminster Congregational, Spokane, Washington
Miss Jean Gall, to the Westminster Presbyterian, Minneapolis
Mr. and Mrs. Paul V. Troup, to the First Presbyterian, South Bend, Indiana.
Miss Mary E. Little, to the First Congregational, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Galbraith, to the Bethlehem Congregational, International Falls
Mrs. Robert V. Miner, Prentice Presbyterian, Indianapolis, Indiana
Dr. and Mrs. Harry Johnson, to the Plymouth Congregational, Milwaukee.
Mrs. C.J. Romer, to the Westminster Presbyterian, Minneapolis
Mrs. Jessie Bagley Greene, to the Elsmere Presbyterian, Elsmere, Delaware.
Mary and Carol Smith to the Fourth Presbyterian, Chicago, Illinois
Mrs. J.H. Anderson, to the First Presbyterian, Fenton, Michigan
Mrs. Calvin Arnold, to the Wayzata Community Church, Wayzata
Mr. Walter H. Rauschenfels, to the Glen Avon Presbyterian, Duluth
Mr. Robert B. Botsford, to the Methodist Church, Dallas, Pennsylvania
Mr. and Mrs. D.C. Loranger, to the First Presbyterian, Dunedin, Florida
Mr. Charles Ramon McCoy, First Presbyterian, Westbrook, Minnesota

Total membership reported January 1, 1954		983
New members received during 1954	66	
Removals by death or transfer	37	
Net gain in membership	29	29

Total membership January 1, 1955
Of these members 783 are resident in
Duluth and 229 are non-resident.

Respectfully submitted,
Wilbur M. Fox, Clerk

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The financial statement of the church has been filed by the Treasurer. All bills have been paid, and all long term obligations have been met. All benevolences have been paid.

The Budget recommended by the Board for 1955 has been met, and we recommend its adoption.

Many gifts in addition to regular pledges have been received. They have been announced from the pulpit.

The Church is in excellent financial condition.

Respectfully submitted,
T.M. McCabe, Chairman

REPORT OF BOARD OF DEACONS

The Board of Deacons held nine regular meetings during the year, with excellent attendance at each. Many matters of interest and importance were passed on and given necessary attention.

Mr. Montague was reappointed to supervise the Communion Service, and Dr. Plumb was named to the Religious Education Committee.

A Hospitality Committee was set up, the duties of which are to greet strangers at church each Sunday and to make them feel at home.

A coffee hour was inaugurated to be held about every four weeks after the Sunday service. This has proven to be popular and has been well attended.

During Dr. Halfaker's vacation, guest preachers occupied the pulpit, with the exception of two Sundays, when members of our own congregation conducted the services. The willingness of laymen to do this and their fine presentations were further evidence of the splendid fellowship that exists in the Church. During the Christmas holidays we heard with pride and affection our own John Nutting.

Dr. Halfaker again conducted classes during Lent. These were well attended and enjoyed.

In June Dr. Halfaker was given an honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity at Northland College. Subsequently, the members of the Board of Deacons presented him with a Doctor's robe.

In the tragic death of Albert C. Ott the Board and Church suffered a great loss. As a Deacon and church member he had contributed much and served splendidly.

Pilgrim Church has joined with Glen Avon and Lakeside Presbyterian in the formation of a young peoples' group called United Youth Fellowship, under the direction of a paid leader.

One of the best projects instituted by the Board during the year has been the Blood Bank. Its management is under the direction of a committee which is seeking to obtain blood donations so that a supply will always be on hand sufficient to take care of the needs of any member of the Church.

The meeting of the General Council was held at New Haven June 23 to 30, and was attended by R.H. Neimeyer, as a delegate, from the Duluth association, and also by Dr. and Mrs. Halfaker.

The most significant thing about Pilgrim Church today is the great desire on the part of all to remain united and go forward to make our church a dynamic force and a living expression of our faith. Evidence of this and of its effect is found on every side--in the increase in attendance at church services, in the increase in membership, in the great number of gifts that have been made, but above all in the warmth of fellowship and the willingness to work for the Church and to cooperate in anything that will further its effectiveness.

This spirit has long been part of the great tradition of our Church, but there have been temporary lapses, which we must never allow to recur. It has been re-kindled, nurtured and inspired under the wise leadership and guidance of Dr. Halfaker. We are fortunate in having his ministry and owe him much.

Respectfully submitted,

R.H. Neimeyer
Chairman, Board of Deacons.

REPORT OF THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Religious Education Committee of Pilgrim Congregational Church is an elected advisory group of six of our congregation, with a representative of the Deacons, Dr. Halfaker and Miss Belt. The group aids our director, Miss Belt, for the improvement of our educational program.

Information concerning the program for 1954 is listed below:

- 1.) The Church School enrollment has increased approximately 25% over last year at this date.
- 2.) The Committee approved this year's Scout Troop report. The troop has twelve committee men and four staff men.
- 3.) Pilgrim Church was host during April, 1954 to the State Pilgrim Fellowship groups.

4.) Approved the plan for a "United Youth Fellowship" and appointed Dr. Frank Hansen of U.M.D. as a member of the advisory board. 4.

5.) Five dozen new steel chairs were presented to the Primary Department by the Women's Assembly.

6.) "Educational Facilities Improvement Plans" have been drawn and recommended to the Board of Trustees.

7.) Installation of acoustical ceilings and improved lighting in some rooms, painting of the balcony classrooms and weather stripping of all windows have contributed to the comfort and usefulness of our school rooms.

8.) Through the efforts of Dorothy Belt, improvements are being made in teaching facilities, including filmstrips, reference books and materials to supplement our Pilgrim Series courses.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald F. Walker, Chairman

REPORT OF THE HISTORIAN

The year 1954, the 83rd year of fellowship in Pilgrim Church, was a year of continued progress and worthwhile accomplishment.

Dr. William L. Halfaker completed his second year as our minister on November 16 and under his leadership and able guiding hand all branches of our church have grown spiritually as well as in number.

Reverend Charles W. Ramshaw, our Pastoral Assistant, continued aiding Dr. Halfaker in making calls on shut-in members of the congregation and those hospitalized.

Our Women's Assembly, under co-Presidents Mrs. C.L. Thomas and Mrs. M.H. Tibbetts, completed many worthwhile projects during 1954 to help our church and its missions. Its members cooperated unselfishly to insure the success of many church functions.

The Pilgrim Men's Club under Mr. Frank L. Mahler as President for 1954-55 and his committees had another notable year. The programs were excellent and the men of our church look forward to the fellowship engendered. This year there was no formal "Every Member Canvass" but many members assisted in the Loyalty Campaign to meet the proposed budget.

Another member of Pilgrim Church, John Nutting, is preparing for the Christian ministry. He is in his second year of training at Yale Divinity School. We were happy to hear John's fine sermon on December 26.

In October, at the request of Pilgrim Church, the Duluth Association granted James Halfaker the status "In Care of Association", a recognition that he is a candidate for the Christian ministry. He is in his freshman year at Carleton College. We are proud to have two of our young men preparing for the work of the ministry.

Pilgrim's Church School gained in size under our Director of Religious Education, Miss Dorothy Belt, and her loyal, self-sacrificing staff of volunteer teachers. The programs of the Pilgrim Fellowship meetings were excellent. The young people from UMD have been in evidence in the church services and have responded enthusiastically

REPORT OF THE HISTORIAN (Cont'd)

5.

to the United Youth Fellowship program.

The Pilgrim Pairs, the club for young married couples, has continued to show healthy growth under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. L.W. Moore as Presidents.

I wish to thank sincerely our retiring Church Secretary, Mrs. Virginia Manley. Her historical records and knowledge of church activities have been invaluable. She will be sorely missed by all of us.

During 1954 there were 8 marriages of church members performed by our minister, 33 births recorded, 34 children baptized, and 66 new members joined our church.

It is with much sorrow and regret that we record the passing of these friends and fellow members of Pilgrim Church: Mr. Claude D. Stillman, Mrs. Mary Emily Stratton, Mr. James W. Walker, Mr. Alfred C. Ott, Mr. Charles E. Carlson, Mrs. Ales Leopold, Miss Ann Murray.

May we pause a moment in silent prayer in memory of our departed friends.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph S. Knowlton.

REPORT OF THE MUSIC COMMITTEE

The high standard of musicianship maintained by our organist and choir director, Miss Rogers, and the consequent excellence of our choir, continue to be a source of enjoyment and a very real aid to worship in our services. The most recent examples of the high quality of music we are privileged to hear were the December 12th afternoon concert and the beautiful Christmas eve service.

We regret the resignation of Jean McNaughton Manthey. We are extremely appreciative of her faithful service over a period of seven or eight years. She is now singing in the choir at St. Paul's Episcopal Church of which she is a member and where, for this reason, she has hoped for some time to find a place.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy H. Congdon, Chairman

REPORT OF THE MEN'S CLUB.

The activities of the Men's Club have, without any doubt, borne out its purpose as stated in the by-laws of the Club, "---to promote Christian fellowship among men of the Church, encourage wide-spread practice of Christian principles in all daily relationships, and rally all men to the support of the total program of the Church."

The Club has 121 paid members for the 1954-55 season. Five meetings were scheduled for the year, two of which have been held with the average attendance in excess of 100 men. The next scheduled meeting is to be held on February 8th., "Ladies Night", and the remaining two meetings are set for March 8th, and April 12th.

REPORT OF MEN'S CLUB (Cont'd)

6.

The Men's Club has paid the participation fee for four representatives of Pilgrim Church to attend the Laymen's Meeting in Chicago on February 25, 26, and 27.

The Club is solvent, all bills are paid, and it is apparent that finances on hand will permit necessary expenditures to provide and outstanding program for the balance of the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Mahler.

REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S ASSEMBLY

The Women's Assembly has had a busy and successful year, thanks to fine cooperation from group supervisors and committee chairmen and a large number of members who have worked in various capacities for the Assembly.

The usual pledge of \$900 was paid to the Church Treasury, and the Thank offering was contributed to the projects chosen by the Congregational Women of Minnesota.

The Friendly Service Committee--or Guild, as we are now calling it, under Mrs. Avery's direction has formed a successful and growing sewing group which have collected many garments which have been sent to our Congregation Schools, hospitals and various centers. They have made 26 layettes with beautiful hand work on many of the garments and in November, with the help of Mrs. Willard Matter, packed over 100 lbs. of clothing and gifts which were sent to the Graudums' family in Germany. We are most grateful for the generous gifts of money and materials which have been contributed to this committee and for the faithful service of many members of the Guild.

The Community Interests Guild, with Mrs. B.S.Savin as chairman have concerned themselves with local affairs and report a worthwhile list of benevolences, including collection of books for Nopeming, bandages for the use of the Cancer Society, and volunteer work done at the Childrens' Home.

The flowers for Sunday services have been provided by the Assembly and now the Flower Guild is taking care of this as well as securing flowers for special reasons.

The housekeeping committee has been ably guided by Mrs. L.C.David, as Chairman.

In October the Assembly sponsored the operetta "Iolanthe" which was a most delightful and successful venture. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson gave a great deal of time to it, as did the other members of the cast. We are most grateful to them and to Mrs. Spicer who so ably chaired the Committee.

Our Christmas bazaar in November was again a most successful project. The profits were \$1405, and of course this money is used for our Womens' Assembly projects. The list of women who worked long hours for the bazaar is too long to mention here. We can only say that working for the bazaar is one of the most effective methods of becoming acquainted with other members of the Assembly.

We are again most grateful to Mrs. W.F.Baldwin and Mrs. Knute Nelson who have taken charge of so many of our dinners, of the meals served to the Pilgrim Fellowship Conference in April, and the dinners in December for the presentation of the budget. If these meals were totaled, we would find that several thousand persons were served. Mrs. G.A.W.Hedenberg also, in addition to her work as Assistant Treasurer and handling the ticket sale for "Iolanthe", found time to take charge of the bazaar luncheon. The whole Assembly is grateful to these women and to many others we haven't time to mention for this loyal devoted service.

REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S ASSEMBLY (Cont'd.)

7.

We have had nine monthly meetings during the year with interesting and inspiring programs arranged by Mrs. Fred Harlow. Our groups also have met each month both in the homes of members and in the church, and have carried on many interesting and worthwhile projects.

This is the first year of the new plan of having two co-presidents of the Assembly and we heartily recommend this way of working. We deeply appreciate the fine spirit of cooperation and of friendliness which we have felt. Our thanks go out to the many persons who have helped this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Ada S. Thomas
Mary M. Tibbetts

REPORT OF THE PILGRIM PAIRS

The organization is in its second year of life. We now have a mailing list of over forty couples, about twice that of last year.

The officers for the 1954-1955 season are Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Moore, President; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Campbell, Vice-president; Mr. and Mrs. George Holgate, Secretary-treasurer; and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Roper, Membership Chairman.

The high-light of the season to date was the Progressive Dinner held for the December meeting. Another very interesting meeting was a night tour of the Superior Wood Products Co. on Michigan Street.

This year we are trying to provide both social and educational meetings. We are looking forward to a skating party, a guest speaker, a square-dance, and attending a play. It's been a good year of fellowship, friendship and, we hope, progress. We've even made some money through a fudge sale, so our treasury is in the black - always a good sign.

Respectfully, submitted,

Peg and Roy Moore, President

REPORT OF THE UNITED YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The United Youth Fellowship was formed and is sponsored by three churches: Glen Avon Presbyterian, Lakeside Presbyterian, and Pilgrim Congregational, to serve college age young people. An advisory committee consisting of the ministers of the three churches: Rev. Robert Caine, Dr. Arthur Young, and Dr. Halfaker respectively and three laymen, Dr. Frank Hansen and Dr. Robert Pierce from the University and Mr. Rodney J. Edwards, an attorney, meet each quarter with Dan Mundt, director of the UYF.

The President - Jim Hanson, Vice-President - Jerry Hankins, Secretary-Treasurer - Elaine Seashore, and the committee chairmen - Joe Stevens, Barb Haenke, Barb Holmes, Ann Enquist and Dick Weld make up the council which plans and carries out the program of UYF with the help of the committees. Each member of UYF is on one of the committees. The committees are five in number and called Faith, Witness, Outreach, Citizenship and Fellowship.

Each of four of the five committees has one phase of the program each Thursday night at Pilgrim Church, when the UYF meets at 6:30 for supper, worship, discussion and recreation. Usually a member of the committee handles the discussion although we have had a few outside speakers. The discussion topics have dealt with various subjects such as: The Development of the Bible, McCarthyism, Marriage Problems, A Young Man's Future, and Evolution, to name a few. Besides the regular Thursday evening programs we have several special activities each quarter. Last quarter we had a progressive dinner and deputations went to Silver Bay and Lakeside Presbyterian Church. This quarter we plan to have a sleigh ride and bowling party. 8.

We also plan to put on a dinner and program for 300 plus people. This is to be Thursday night January 27th at 6:00 P.M. for the people of all three of the sponsoring churches. This will serve as a money making project for the UYF and a chance for fellowship and fun for the people of the three churches.

The objectives of the UYF are fourfold: 1) To develop a better understanding of Christianity, 2) to learn something of how to apply Christianity to life, 3) to learn to think clearly, pragmatically, and with maturity and 4) to learn to work and live together. We seek to develop a working relationship with God as we understand him. We seek to grow in favor with our fellowmen and God by working, thinking and praying as Christians. To these ends we dedicate our abilities and talents to the building of a World of Christian Brotherhood today.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan H. Mundt, Director

REPORT OF THE OFFICE HELP COMMITTEE

It is the duty of this Committee to assist in the church office when extra help is needed to fold and enclose general mailings, such as Pilgrim News, Every Member Canvass material, etc.

The committee has helped with 17 mailings, with a total of 150 hours work. Approximately 6,400 items were handled.

The following women have helped with this work: Mrs. Russell G. Barnes, Mrs. Hubbell Carpenter, Mrs. P. F. Heimick, Miss Margaret Hemenway, Mrs. A. A. Johnson, Mrs. T. J. Kitts, Mrs. H. J. McClearn, Mrs. Katherine S. Miller, Mrs. A. C. Oberg, Mrs. Allen J. Olson, Mrs. S. A. Rhode, Mrs. B. S. Savin, Mrs. George C. Spalding and Mrs. A. L. Wiltse.

We enjoyed helping in this way with the work of our church.

Respectfully submitted,

Isabelle J. Savin, Chairman

REPORT OF THE PASTORAL ASSISTANT

The work of the Pastoral Assistant consists primarily of calling on the ill and shut-in members of the congregation. Occasionally I am called upon to preach and conduct funeral services.

9.
A statistical summary of my work for Pilgrim Church during the past year is as follows: Calls in homes, 227; calls in Rest Homes, 40; hospital calls, 279; including a number of calls on Congregational people from outside Duluth who are hospitalized here. In the case of these out-of-town people I leave my card and telephone number and invite them to call me if I can be of assistance in any way. I have served communion at bedside on 13 occasions in homes and hospitals, and have distributed 126 copies of "The Upper Room" devotional booklet. I have conducted two funeral services for Pilgrim Church people.

My work for Pilgrim Church is on a part-time arrangement, as you know. You may be interested to know what I do under some of my other responsibilities. During the year, in addition to the above, I have made 182 hospital calls, 63 home calls, 15 calls in Rest Homes, conducted 42 funerals, and distributed 600 copies of "The Upper Room" 12 of which were in braille. I have conducted services and preached 43 times at Nopeming and 17 times elsewhere. For 43 weeks I called at every bed in Nopeming.

I am grateful for the privilege of sharing in the work of Pilgrim Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles W. Ramshaw

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The work of the Director of Religious Education does not lack for variety, and the following will give an indication of some of the work done during 1954:

Visits to parents, including those of all children newly enrolled in the Church School; meetings with groups of teachers, the Religious Education Committee, Pilgrim Fellowship and Pilgrim Pioneers program planning committees, the Duluth United Christian Youth Council; conferences with individual teachers and young people; planning of programs such as the Family Night held last February, Children's Day, and the Church School Christmas program; arranging and directing the two week Vacation Church School in June; chairmanship of the Duluth Association Christian Education Committee and membership on the State Committee; participation in the Minnesota Council of Churches Vacation Church School Institutes; preparing and sending announcements and information to the youth groups, teachers, Religious Education Committee, and parents.

The Church School enrollment is now 260, which is 50 more than a year ago. The average attendance in 1954 was 66%, with an average this past fall of 71%.

Equipment and teaching aids have been improved through the addition of 52 new chairs for the Junior Department and a large and beautifully made set of blocks for the Kindergarten, both gifts of individuals, 60 new Primary chairs given by the Women's Assembly, 4 blackboards for classroom use, and 8 new filmstrips.

The Church School staff includes 30 regular members and 20 substitutes. Their cooperation and willingness to give time, thought and energy are most appreciated.

Since October, grades 7 and 8 have been planning and leading their own worship service on Sunday morning. This will give them better understanding of and participation in worship and greater appreciation of the church service.

Pilgrim Pioneers, the 9th. grade fellowship with 12 members, have met on alternate Sunday evenings in addition to their Sunday morning session. Pilgrim Fellowship has met regularly Sunday evenings for discussion, worship and recreation.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy B. Belt

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

10.

The Nominating Committee submits the following nominations for officers and committee members:

TRUSTEES FOR THREE YEARS: C.M. Heimbach, Mrs. G. H. Spencer, F. J. Voss.

DEACONS FOR THREE YEARS: Dr. C. M. Bagley, Lloyd Burg, Hubbell Carpenter, M. E. Linquest, K. M. Nelson, Douglas Walker.

DEACONS FOR ONE YEAR: A. H. Forsan (to complete the unexpired term of F. L. Mahler).

TREASURER
Jesse D. Bradley

ASSISTANT TREASURER
W. D. Haselton

CLERK
Cadwell Hunt

HISTORIAN
Ralph S. Knowlton

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE FOR THREE YEARS:

Mrs. John Van Zandt, Dr. Donald F. Walker

LOOKOUT COMMITTEE: H. U. Moore, Chairman, Mrs. H. U. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Baldwin, Mr. and Mrs. N. B. Barsness, P. J. Frost, Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Skaret, Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Silliman, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Williams.

STANDING COMMITTEE: Mrs. W. F. Arndt, Jr., Mrs. N. B. Barsness, Mrs. T. A. Brain, Mrs. M. C. Dahl, Mrs. G. A. Dinham, Mrs. F. C. Tenney.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: Mrs. E. C. Congdon, Chairman, Mrs. A. N. Collins, Mrs. T. W. Doan, Mrs. Kenneth Duncan, C. L. Edson, Dr. K. R. Fawcett, George Finch, Mrs. H. A. Garver.

SERVICE COMMITTEE: R. B. Buchanan, Chairman, Mrs. R. L. Heller, R. H. Hood, M. E. Linquest, Mrs. W. B. Matter, Mrs. M. H. Tibbetts, Mrs. W. P. Van Evera.

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UNION GOSPEL MISSION: Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Baldwin
Mr. and Mrs. A. Laird Goodman

THE BOARD OF USHERS:

Head Usher: Douglas Walker Assistant Head Usher: John Dalton

Captains: Gilbert Copeland, Robert Rhode, and Charles Tomlan.

Ushers: Allen J. Olson, Robert Smith, John Dickerson, Bruce Buchanan, Wilbur Fox, Edward Fride, Cadwell Hunt, Robert Heller, John Andresen, Ellis Livingston, Ted Lee, Warner Griggs, Ray Nelson, Al Brain, Archie Eagles, Norman Zilles, John Grandy, Robert Jackson, Milton Nelson, Jack Baughan, James Hanson, John Morrison, Dick Weld, Russell Moe, John Glendenning, and Tom Nutting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. R. L. Heller	Mr. J. M. Morrison
Mr. R. H. Hood	Mrs. A. W. Taylor
Mrs. C. L. Kohlhaas	Mrs. C. L. Thomas
Dr. G. C. MacRae	Mrs. D. J. Thoreson
Mr. H. J. Matteson	Mr. E. F. Wahl
Mr. H. E. Farnam, Chairman	

THE MINISTER'S REPORT

11.

The past year has been a good year for Pilgrim Church, one that has shown marked progress and strength founded on the devoted interest and labors of many members, younger and older members working together. Our problems are those that come with growth and a healthy outlook for the future. Among the many highlights of the year I list the following:

The completion of numerous improvements to the building and additions to the equipment: improved rest rooms and cloak rooms, weatherstripping on the windows, new bulletin boards outside and inside, new bronze porch lanterns, the new study for the minister, spotlights on the pulpit, accoustical treatment of some of the class rooms and the kitchen, new electric refrigerators, the carpeting in the balcony, new chairs for the Junior and Primary rooms of the church school, new sewing machines, and the new cement floor under the sanctuary.

The generous memorial gifts, the most received in any year since the building was erected. Completion of the Tiffany stained glass windows, the Book of Remembrance and repository, and the Carillon Bells soon to be installed. The gifts of silver service and other silver by the women of the Assembly and the initiation of the occasional Coffee Hour after services which is so graciously served by the women.

John Nutting's first sermon in Pilgrim Church on December 26 and the recognition of James Halfaker as a candidate for the ministry in October when the Duluth Association voted the status "Care of Association". The wonderful meeting of the Minnesota Pilgrim Fellowship in Pilgrim Church last spring for their annual meeting, so generously entertained by the women of the church.

The successful launching of the United Youth Fellowship for college young people, undertaken in cooperation with Lakeside and Glen Avon Presbyterian churches.

The generous response of the congregation to the special appeal for S.O.S. to share our surplus with the needy, resulting in a gift of \$721.32 in addition to the \$400 thank-offering, an amount equivalent to \$14,426 in commodities for the needy.

The successful launching of the Blood Bank project under the sponsorship of the Board of Deacons. Much more blood is needed but the response to date has been very good and we are confident that we will soon be able to reach our quota of 30 pints on deposit.

The inspiring response to the Christmas Eve Service which filled the church and contributed so much to the true celebration of Christmas.

The quick and generous response to the appeal for Christmas gifts to the Graudums family in Germany.

The generous and spontaneous response to the Loyalty Day campaign under the leadership of Robert Heller, a response which has put the campaign over the top by more than \$700.

The willing response of laymen who supplied the pulpit while I was attending the General Council meeting and the Laymen's Council in the fall.

The wonderful programs of the Men's Club, especially ladies night with the "Pirates of Penzance" and "Iolanthe" sponsored by the Women's Assembly in the fall. What wonderful talent we have in our fellowship!

The steady increase in attendance at the Sunday services. The total attendance for the year was 13,794 and the average for 52 Sundays was 265. The average for nine months, excluding June, July, and August was 314.

The payment of our benevolences in full and on a quarterly basis. For the first time in many years our benevolence contributions have exceeded our budgeted commitments. Our record of benevolence giving is second best in the state, both in the total and on the per capita basis.

The addition of a fine group of new members, sixty-six of them, and the growing evidence of youth in the church - our growing Church School and Cradle Roll.

As you can see, I am filled with enthusiasm for Pilgrim Church. It has been a joy to be associated with you in these and many other wonderful experiences. I have been especially appreciative of the wonderful spirit and the fine work of the members of the staff and the Boards and leaders of organizations of the church. 11b.

My enthusiasm is greatest, however, as I look to the future. We have some challenging opportunities and responsibilities ahead of us. At this Annual Meeting it is good to look back over the past year to appreciate and evaluate our experiences, but it is more important to look ahead to the things that challenge us in the coming year. The following are some of the specific needs and suggestions to which we should give careful attention in 1955:

1. The facilities of the Church School are becoming over-crowded and there is need at many points for major improvements. The Religious Education Committee has made a careful study of this situation and has recently submitted a list of their suggestions to the Board of Trustees.
2. There is a growing need and desire for facilities for the care of babies and toddlers so that young parents may attend Church Services. We now have 94 babies on the Cradle Roll. A committee of the mothers has made a careful survey of the parents of children under $2\frac{1}{2}$ years of age to see how many are really interested in such a program to the extent that the mothers will be willing to cooperate in its operation. The mothers of at least 25 of these children are eager to cooperate in such a program. The next step, and the big problem, will be to provide the space and facilities.
3. The need for parking facilities and the possibility of developing such facilities on the lot to the east of the church has been suggested by many people. This should be given serious consideration.
4. There are certain major repairs to the building which are essential and too large to be incorporated in the budget. One of these is a thorough tuck-pointing of the brick and stone on the church. There is also a question of important roof repairs and improvements to the heating system.
5. January 18, 1956 will mark the 85th anniversary of Pilgrim Church. Incidentally this date will fall on the third Wednesday, the date set by the constitution for the next Annual Meeting of the church.

With these things in mind I would offer the following recommendations:

1. That plans be made for an appropriate celebration of our 85th Anniversary.
2. That consideration be given to the raising of an 85th Anniversary Fund which would provide for the capital expenditures necessary to meet the major needs outlined above and such other projects as may be suggested and appropriately included.
3. That a committee consisting of the Chairman of the Trustees, the Chairman of the Deacons, the Chairman of the Religious Education Committee, the Presidents of the Women's Assembly, the President of the Men's Club and the Minister be authorized to appoint the necessary committees for carrying out these two recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

William L. Halfaker

REPORT OF THE TREASURER - 1954

12.

RECEIPTS

Individual Contributions	
Loose Offering	\$46,759.45
Church School	2,375.16
Women's Assembly to Church	483.71
Rentals	500.00
Sale of Parsonage	385.00
Church School-Benevolences	840.00
Special Offerings-Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Christmas Eve	183.51
Women's Assembly to Benevolence	2,573.09
Unbudgeted-Special Projects, Memorials, etc.	400.00
	<u>16,952.33</u>

\$71,452.25

DISBURSEMENTS

<u>Pastoral Expense</u>		
Salary-Minister		
Annuity Dues-Minister	7,800.00	
Ministers Fund	695.10	
Salary-Pastoral Assistant	225.78	
Expenses-Pastoral Assistant	600.00	
Pulpit Supply	600.00	
	<u>250.00</u>	10,170.88
<u>Office Expense</u>		
Salary-Secretary		
Salary-Financial Secy.	2,669.30	
Office Supplies	521.31	
Postage	334.96	
Printing (not Bulletins)	379.46	
	<u>105.95</u>	4,010.98
<u>Music</u>		
Salary-Organist and Choir Director	1,407.50	
Salary-Youth Choir Dir.	119.40	
Sheet Music	69.37	
Organ Service	89.00	
Choir Fees	<u>2,652.32</u>	4,417.59
<u>Religious Education</u>		
Salary-Director	3,803.74	
Curriculum Material	530.16	
Church School Supplies	159.12	
Audio-Visual Materials	52.29	
Equipment	41.45	
Awards-Bibles for 3rd.grade, etc.	47.60	
Miscellaneous, P.F. Expense, etc.	<u>83.85</u>	4,718.21
<u>Maintenance & Operating</u>		
Salary-Caretaker	3,262.80	
Supplies	233.68	
Electricity, Water & Gas	1,276.19	
Telephone	400.52	
Fuel	2,372.85	
Repairs	4,338.33	
Insurance	1,995.61	
Parsonage-Utilities, etc.	669.98	
New Cement Floor under Sanctuary	<u>1,000.00</u>	15,549.96

REPORT OF TREASURER (Cont'd.)

13.

General Expense

Printing Bulletins	944.86	
Printing Literature	64.60	
Newspaper Advertising	123.70	
Every Member Canvass	242.87	
Ash and Garbage Collection	111.00	
New Furniture and Equipment	256.24	
Church Contribution Envelopes	48.94	
Conference and Delegate Expense	404.72	
Per Capita Dues	316.40	
Contingent Fund	258.97	
		2,772.30

Benevolences

Finnish Missions	1,200.00	
State Conference	2,440.00	
American Board	1,160.00	
Board of Home Missions	1,160.00	
Relief and Reconstruction	520.00	
Chicago Theological Seminary	350.00	
Northland College	300.00	
World Council of Churches	50.00	
National Council of Churches	50.00	
Congregational Historical Society	25.00	
The Gideons	50.00	
American Sunday School Union	50.00	
Other Benevolences	1,971.93	9,326.93

Depreciation and Obsolescence 1,000.00

Amortization Fund

Note-Northern Minnesota Bank	840.00	
Parsonage Mortgage	1,272.84	
Parsonage Improvements	1,984.12	4,096.96

Unbudgeted

Special Projects, Memorials, etc. 18,487.94 73,551.75

Contract for Deed--Wilson

Balance, 1/1/54	11,822.33
Received	2090.00
Interest	557.69
Applied on Principal	1,532.31
Balance, 12/31/54	10,290.02

Loan-Northern Minnesota National Bank

Balance 1/1/54	6,311.73
Paid	2,090.00
Interest	248.15
Applied on Principal	1,841.85
Balance 12/31/54	4,469.83

Mortgage Contract

Balance 1/1/54	8050.36
Paid	1272.84
Interest	382.30
Applied on Principal	890.54
Balance 12/31/54	7159.82

CASH BALANCES 12/31/54

Memorial Fund	398.44
Church School Missions	179.26
Displaced Persons Fund	659.38
Special Projects	314.08
General Fund	460.26
Hornby Scholarship	1,006.67
Depreciation Fund	1,503.33

PROPOSED 1955 BUDGET FOR PILGRIM CHURCH

For Local Expenses

MINISTRY	\$10,492.
Salaries of minister and pastoral assistant, share in annuity fund dues, minister's discretionary fund, pastoral assistant's expenses, guest preachers.	
CHURCH OFFICE	4,872.
Salaries of secretary and part-time financial secretary and stenographer, office supplies, postage and printing.	
MUSIC	4,516.
Salaries of organist and choir director and youth choir director, sheet music, care of the organ, choir fees and miscellaneous.	
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	5,151.
Salary of the director of religious education, curriculum materials, supplies, audio-visual materials, equipment, Bibles for the third graders, Pilgrim Fellowship expense, vacation church school, United Youth Fellowship budget, and Lenten Seminars.	
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND OPERATING EXPENSE	15,460.
Salary of the caretaker, supplies, utilities, fuel, repairs, insurance, parsonage utilities and expense, and painting the exterior wood on the church.	
GENERAL EXPENSE	3,410.
Printing bulletins, literature, publicity and advertising Every Member Canvass, trash removal, new furniture and equipment, contribution envelopes, delegate expense, per capita dues, contingent fund, and Deacons' expense.	
DEPRECIATION AND OBSOLESCENCE	1,000.
To provide an emergency fund to care for major repairs and replacements when such needs arise.	
AMORTIZATION FUND	5,000.
Payments on note at the bank, payments on the mortgage on the new parsonage, necessary improvements in putting the parsonage into good condition - the third year in a projected four-year program to pay for the new parsonage.	
Total for Local Expenses	49,901.

For Benevolences

OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD MISSION

6,500.

This item represents our share in the work of the established missionary agencies of the Congregational Christian Churches. It is distributed as follows:

56% Work of the Congregational Conference in Minnesota - aid to churches, ministries to students, summer conferences for young people, etc.

18% American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions with work in 14 countries.

18% Board of Home Missions embracing the work of seven missionary and educational bodies in the United States and possessions.

8% Relief and Reconstruction, emergency relief services through our Service Committee and other agencies in areas of tragic need.

CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

A contribution to the budget of our own seminary training leadership for our churches.

350.

NORTHLAND COLLEGE

Continuing the interest and support which Pilgrim Church has for many years given to this church-related college at Ashland, Wisconsin originally sponsored by Congregational Churches.

300.

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

A program of evangelism and emergency assistance, Christian counsel and guidance in downtown Duluth.

200.

INTER-DENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION

Contributions to the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches which foster inter-denominational and international cooperation among the churches.

100.

MISCELLANEOUS BENEVOLENCES

Congregational Historical Society, Gideons, and unforeseen special appeals.

550.

Total Benevolences

8,000.

SUMMARY

For Local Expenses

49,901.

For Benevolences

8,000.

Total Proposed Budget for 1955

\$57,901.

Anticipated income from loose offerings, special offerings at Thanksgiving, Easter, and Christmas, Women's Assembly, Church School offerings, etc.

8,540.

Amount Needed in Pledges

\$49,361.

February 7

Mr. John M. Dickerson
5419 East Superior Street

Peers and John Fawcett
20 South 26th Avenue East

Dr. and Mrs. Josiah Fuller
2132 East First Street

Mr. Robert W. Hotchkiss
1825 Woodland Avenue

Mr. Robert C. Jackson
2216 East Superior Street

Mr. Thomas S. Kohlbry
2311½ East Third Street

Mr. and Mrs. Milton C. Nelson
1824 Dunedin Avenue

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Nicholson
5418 London Road

April 15

Mrs. W. F. Arndt, Jr.
4302 Robinson Street

Mrs. Earl D. Bettenhausen, Jr.
711 Irving Place

Mrs. Ray H. Bonnell, Jr.
2614 Jefferson Street

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph L. Countryman
303 Ridgewood Road

Mrs. O. M. Eklund
2110 East Fifth Street

Mr. and Mrs. John Grandy
2319 Abbotsford Avenue

Miss Christina Johnson
2431 East Fifth Street

Mrs. Leonard R. Josephs
2119 East Fifth Street

Mrs. Thomas R. Martin
2112 East Third Street

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Mills and Dwight
21 East Allen Avenue

Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Mohr
1215 Woodland Avenue

Dr. and Mrs. E. I. Parson
107 Waverly Place

Dr. and Mrs. Oliver E. Sarff
101 East Oxford Street

Mr. and Mrs. Lennie Underdahl
302 North Sixteenth Avenue East

Mrs. Emil J. Zauft
3522 East Third Street

Mr. Richard D. Zauft
Pike Lake

Confirmation Class

Jane Adams
Elliott Bayly
Harvey Edson
Dorothea Garber
Mary Ellen Gibson
Carter Glendenning
Robert Josephs
Michael Lubratovich
Robert Moe
Gail Parson
Philip Priest
Lawrence Syck
George Welles III

June 13

Mrs. Harold L. Brandeberry
1006 East Third Street

Mr. and Mrs. Archie M. Eagles, Jr.
317 North 21st Avenue East

Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Reed
5603 East Superior Street

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Zilles
3650 East Third Street

October 3

Mr. T. Allen Brain
5127 London Road

November 28

Dr. and Mrs. Malcolm M. Fifield
2531 East Superior Street

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin L. Karlstad
2120 East Fourth Street

Mr. and Mrs. Ray E. Nelson
325 Arrowhead Road

Miss Karla Pietila
2015 East Second Street

Miss Mary Rees
Torrance Hall

Mrs. Richard D. Zauft
Pike Lake