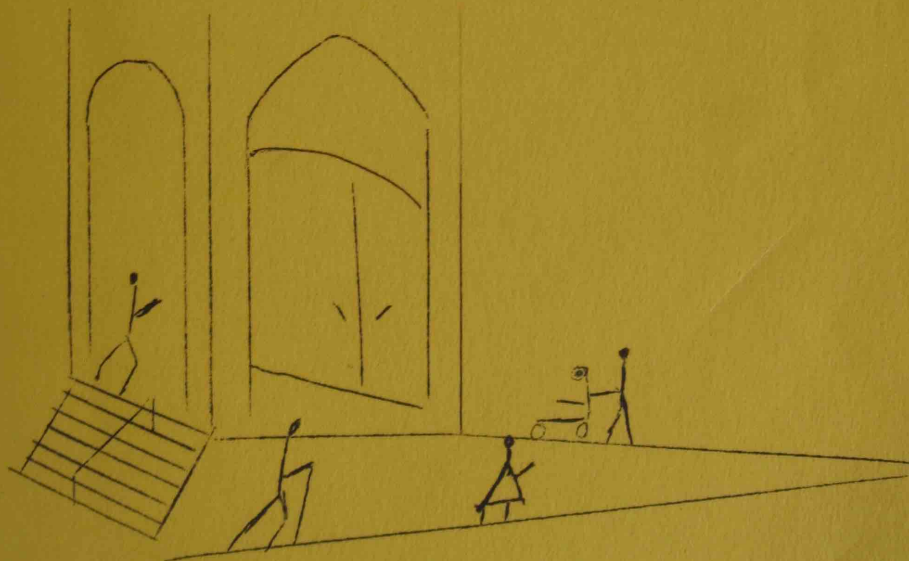


PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
DULUTH, MINNESOTA



ANNUAL  
REPORTS  
FOR 1977

ANNUAL MEETING  
JANUARY 22, 1978



*Barrier Free*

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and varied activities for adults. One example was the workshop on the heritage and mission of the United Church of Christ conducted by Miss Jean Austin in cooperation with the Board of Christian Education. Another was our participation in the outreach program of the Catholic Church.

A special effort was made to strengthen the spirit of fellowship in the church over the past year. We increased the number of family dinners and devoted September to an "All Church Fellowship Supper." Almost innumerable visits cemented on the friendly atmosphere of our church. Everything we have achieved, I think, without any sacrifice of decorum or elegance in style.

Our worship in 1977 was as good as anything we have ever had. All services of the previous year. We continued to enjoy a high level of interest from our music department and the church continued as a local center for education. A large number of young people participating in the activities was evident. The effort to arrange special services during Lent, Palm, and Easter, with very good response, and probably should be continued.

## THE MINISTER

In discussing church business it is always easy to forget that the Church exists not for its own sake, but because God so loves the world. Therefore, in reviewing the past year I begin with our more outward looking activities. For example, early in the year people from other UCC congregations in the area joined with us in meeting with Joyce Myers, one of our missionaries forced to flee Angola. In March we brought Irv Joyner of the UCC Commission on Racial Justice to Duluth to speak of our denomination's involvement with The Wilmington Ten and of the issues involved in their case. A concern for the needs of the aging led to a workshop in the fall and to a sermon presentation by David Maitland, chaplain of Carleton College. In these and other ways we sought to give expression to the convictions conveyed by our statement of faith, that God "calls us into his Church....to proclaim the gospel to all the world" and that he promises "courage in the struggle for justice and peace."

One instrument through which we reach out to the world is our building. It is used on a regular basis by the recreational therapy program, Alcoholics Anonymous, The Minnesota Association for Children with Learning Disabilities, the Matinee Musicale Society, the League of Women Voters, UMD extension classes, Boy Scouts, Webelos, party caucuses and other groups. Over the past year special events were conducted within our four walls by the Moorhead State College Choir, The Multiple Sclerosis Society, Northland College, the Junior League and many other organizations. Sometimes we have permitted groups supporting controversial causes to meet in our building knowing that others had turned them down. It seemed important that we provide a haven for the free expression of legitimate moral concerns even though we might not endorse positions expressed. We must do some penance for that earlier board of trustees that said "no room at the inn" to Susan B. Anthony. While in some cases our relationship to groups meeting in our church is confined to providing housing, in most cases members of our congregation are actively involved in their program. Those who doubt whether our large and expensive building gets used would find their doubts banished if they used it more themselves.

Of course, we do have our own program. That too occupies at least part of the building every day of the week. While continuing our traditional work with the church school for children, we have sought to expand and enrich activities for adults. One example was the workshop on the heritage and mission of the United Church of Christ conducted by Elsie Jean Austin in cooperation with the Board of Christian Education. Another was our participation in the outreach program of the Guthrie theatre.

A special effort was made to strengthen the spirit of fellowship in the church over the past year. We increased the number of family dinners and devoted September to an "All Church Fellowship Emphasis." Almost invariably visitors comment on the friendly atmosphere of our church, something we have achieved, I think, without any sacrifice of decorum or excellence in style.

Our worship in 1977 boasted nothing so spectacular as our bicentennial service of the previous year. We continued to enjoy a high level of excellence from our music department and the church continues as a local mecca for musicians. A trend toward more young people participating in our services was evident. The effort to arrange midweek services during Lent met, once again, with very poor response, and probably should be abandoned.

Two major building improvements were completed during 1977. One involved painting and carpeting the sanctuary, the other, the construction of an outside ramp providing access to the front door. It is important to note that these projects were made possible by memorial, and other special funds, and could not possibly have been supported by the operating budget.

My own activities, of course, are only partially indicated by those tips of the iceberg that appear on Sunday morning or at other public events. For every twenty-minute sermon there are as many hours spent in preparation; for every half-hour wedding, six to ten hours of advance counseling, planning, rehearsing and subsequent celebrating. In my ambassadorial role I continued to serve on several boards, both civic and ecclesiastical. Speaking engagements took me from Queen of Peace Roman Catholic Church in Hoyt Lakes to a village Congregational church in Massachusetts.

Such details are tedious. Yet it is out of such details that the life of the church and my own life receive shaping. The life itself lies in personal relationships. What revives my spirit most is the way in which people of all ages, knowing what a weak reed I am, come continually to my aid. I think of a member for two thirds of a century who on a day of some physical pain came out to help with our Christmas celebration at St. Ann's Residence. I think of the young man who, after riding with me to the State Conference, lay fitfully in our room dreaming that I did not make it back from a party in one piece. I think of an older man who never failed to get me the figures I needed on a moment's notice. I think of the young girl who left home on similar notice to usher at Christmas Eve, of the little girl who gave me an Easter egg and of the big girl who fixed my tape recorder. I think of so many people who came to my rescue, who sent me kindly notes, who pitched in when they were needed and who said to me in differing ways, "your people shall be my people, and your God, my God."

Respectfully submitted,

Royal F. Shepard, Jr.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

It is difficult, in a written report, to record with much accuracy what a given year has been like in the life of a group or an individual. Only the persons involved really know how events or experiences may have shaped their lives toward Christian understandings of what it means to be a member of a Covenant community.

Because some kind of a "report" is required, listed here are some of the happenings of the past year:

The Tuesday morning Bible study group continues to meet each week at 6:45 a.m. The members are faithful and diligent in learning with each other what the Biblical sources mean for us today. 90° in the shade or 20° below these people come together by the lake! New people are welcome!

On the weekend of June 17-18 the above group met at the College of St. Scholastica for an intensive discussion on "Ethics and Biblical Teachings" with Robert Brenning as resource leader.

The Church School continues each week. Some 32 adults and youth have been almost 100% faithful as teachers and leaders with classes for all ages through junior high. Pilgrim Fellowship, for high school youth, meets Sunday evenings with a fair balance of fun and content programs. The church school provided leadership for the morning worship service on May 14, 1977. They also participated in the One Great Hour of Sharing and UNICEF offerings. An Appreciation Breakfast, hosted by the Board of Christian Education was held on May 21, 1977.

Four training sessions were held in October for teachers and others on "Our Identity as UCC People". Leadership included Ellis Livingston, Royal F. Shepard and Elsie Jean Austin. Planning sessions were held with the teachers. An area training session was held October 1 with Dr. Shepard as one of the resource leaders.

"The Critical Middle Years" was the theme for an all-day workshop on Saturday, September 17 with Earl Austin, Doug Lemons and Wilys Claire Nelson as leaders.

The Evening Circle provided leadership, with Jody Glendenning as coordinator, for the Advent Workshop on December 4, 1977.

The Board of Christian Education continues to provide a creative tension in discussions on what we are doing and what we might be doing. Several of the Board members also provide sound leadership in other parts of the educational ministry both on committee work and program.

Visits with groups and individuals of all ages provide the director with a rich resource of knowledge and perspective to keep the spirit alive and a stimulus which gives meaning and purpose to the work. Both trivia and challenge comprise the task and yet underneath it all one senses the commitment on the part of many people who carry out "the ministry of the laity" without which there would be no Church. The quiet courage evidenced as people face crises, the sticking with the necessary but dull task, the celebrative joy as a person volunteers a gift of his or her particular talent -- all these and more are causes for thanks! There are many creative talents among us - some visible and assigned, others hidden or rejected - all in some way provide life and meaning in the life of Pilgrim Church.

Beyond Pilgrim Church, the director participated on the Duluth UNICEF Committee, the Council of Churches Education Committee, and attended two workshops on concerns of older people.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsie Jean Austin

## REPORT OF THE MODERATOR

The year past has been a successful and rewarding one for Pilgrim Church in many ways, both spiritually and financially. As your moderator, I can only thank and congratulate the many persons who have contributed to our progress by their service on boards and committees and by working as individuals on special projects.

The completion of our entrance ramp, the redecorating of the sanctuary new members, new pledges and new programs in the past year are reassurance that we are a concerned and participating congregation.

But despite a balanced budget, we do indeed have financial concerns to face in the future. While we welcomed many new members, we have lost others as well. And while many changes and improvements have been accomplished successfully, much more remains to be done.

Our greatest cause for optimism is surely our healthy spirit of cooperation and concern. The leadership and inspiration of Dr. Shepard, Elsie Jean Austin and Dorothy Belt are an inspiration for all, and the dedication and diligence of all our boards and committees assures us we can look forward to more progress in the year ahead. It is gratifying to work with all of you.

Rolland Nelson

Community Interests carried on in, and through our church:  
Recreation therapy program twice weekly with Ellen Barker in charge.  
Day Scouts.  
Lunch with George Hanson in charge.  
Hikes in the Home with Helen Seymour in charge.  
Bible Extension Classes.  
Aid to the Ministry for Seafarers - courses, maps and sweaters were mailed. We are informed that the Seafarers' facility is mortgage free.

Workshop, retreats and spiritual enrichment programs:  
The Seafarers Bible Study group held a retreat on June 17 and 18 at the College of St. Sebastian. Their successful year ended with an Advent Supper Party at Betty Henderson's.

A Pilgrims Fellowship retreat was planned for September 23-25.  
The Middle Years: Growing Older Workshop, sponsored by the Board of Christian Education, was held September 17.

October 3, at Peace Church, Teaching the Bible to Children. Dr. Shepard, John Koppitz, and Stan Olson in charge.

The Advent Workshop was a good start for the Advent season. On December 4, with leadership from Women's Fellowship Study Group, there was family participation in fun, creative, and meaningful activities, and the lighting of the Advent candles.

The Gospel Reading Group met with Dr. Shepard, reading orders weekly with discussions from a religious perspective. 4.

The Pilgrims Fellowship group met - reading and discussing the Bible from a religious perspective.

## THE HISTORIAN

The annual meeting was held Wednesday, January 19th at 7:30 P.M. Dr. Francis Pirazzini was guest speaker. The budget was presented, annual reports read, and the election of officers took place.

### By reaching out we do care:

The visitation committee is to be commended for its splendid work in keeping shut-ins attuned to church happenings, and giving assurance that shut-ins are not forgotten.

Our One Great Hour of Sharing was used for distribution of food, and for development programs enabling people to use effectively their own resources.

The Neighbors In Need offering is in support of programs among disadvantaged and minority groups.

The Thanksgiving Offering went to Our Christian World Mission.

The Christmas Offering will assist the much deserving retired ministers and their families.

UNICEF to the aid of children where need is great.

### Community interests carried on in, and through our church:

Recreation therapy program twice weekly with Ellen Harkey in charge.

Boy Scouts

SERRV with Jeanne Parson in charge

Meals in the Home with Helen Seymour in charge.

UMD Extension Classes.

Aid to the Ministry for Seafarers - scarves, caps and sweaters were knitted. We are informed that the Seafarers' facility is mortgage free.

### Workshops, retreats and spiritual enrichment programs:

The Sunrise Bible Study group held a retreat on June 17 and 18 at the College of St. Scholastica. Their successful year ended with an Advent Supper Party at Kathy Hanson's.

A Pilgrim Fellowship retreat was planned for September 20-21.

The Middle Years: Growing Older Workshop, sponsored by the Board of Christian Education, was held September 17.

October 1, at Peace Church, Teaching the Bible to Children, Dr. Shepard, John Verrill, and Stan Olson in charge.

The Advent Workshop was a good start for the Advent Season. On December 4, with leadership from Women's Fellowship Evening Group, there was family participation in fun, music, creativity, nourishment, and the lighting of the Advent candle.

The Novel Reading Group met with Dr. Shepard, reading modern novels with discussions from a religious perspective.

The Ecumenical Lenten Neighborhood groups met - reading and discussing selections from religious classics.

To celebrate our 20th anniversary of The United Church of Christ, four sessions were held in October. They dealt with our "roots", what we believe, and where we are today. Elsie Jean Austin, Dr. Ellis Livingston and Dr. Shepard were leaders.

#### Special Events:

A good beginning for the year - on January 16 Pilgrim Church hosted a gathering from our Northeastern Minnesota churches starting with a potluck supper. Following supper, the Reverend Joyce Myers, missionary to Angola, gave us a revealing picture of our Church's activity in Angola. A vivid description of the civil war and its dire consequences explained why she was forced to leave Angola in 1975.

Irv Joyner, of the Commission for Racial Justice, was our guest speaker at our March 27 service. Later in the day, he spoke on "The Wilmington Ten," and their need for the further support of The United Church of Christ to bring about, hopefully, a fair and just settlement.

During the year we were favored with visiting choral groups. The UMD University Singers added to our February 27 service. Thursday, April 21, the Moorhead State University Choir gave an excellent performance. On Thursday, April 28, Northland College Night, we learned about its heritage and its programs. The Voyageurs Choral Group was the highlight of the evening.

#### Jaunts:

Summer camps were available for all age groups, including the family camp at which Dr. Shepard was resource leader and which was attended by several from Pilgrim Church. Canoe trips were planned for July for hardy souls who can take dunkings in their stride.

With Bob Heller as advisor, delegates from Pilgrim Fellowship attended the State Youth Event at Little Falls, the weekend of March 28-29.

A trip to the Guthrie to see Noel Coward's "Design for Living". A symposium on the play was held the Sunday following the play.

#### Services of Special Significance

Easter - Palm Sunday, with procession; Maundy Thursday, a very beautiful service commemorating the Last Supper; Ecumenical Good Friday Service April 8 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church; Easter morning Sunrise Service and the joyous Easter service.

Worship with Confirmation April 24 was truly an impressive, well planned and executed service. Following the service, a reception was held for the confirmands and their parents hosted by the Board of Christian Education and the Diaconate.

At our February 27 service, recognition was given our Church School students with regular attendance.

On May 15, Bibles were presented to the fourth graders.

May 29 - The Women Take Over - no, this wasn't a Women's Lib doing. In Dr. Shepard's absence, Dorothy Belt delivered the sermon with assists from Marge Anderson and Tiss Underdahl. A very good service indeed!

The All Church Fall Fellowship proved most successful. September 11 was a family Sunday with special recognition of the church school teachers; Sunday, September 18, was in special recognition of long-time church members, 21 in number (I believe Willard Matter with 69 years was hard to beat); the September 25 service emphasized the youth and their contribution to our church.

Christmas is always a joyous celebration with the carol sing and family dinner, the Candlelight Carol Service with joyous music, then the Family Christmas Service on Blessed Christmas Day.

The Women's Fellowship labored willingly and long to bring about a successful year so they might also enjoy the joy and harvest of reaching out to others. I think their contribution to Channel 8 is worthy of note here.

Due to many generous gifts to our Memorial Fund and with special indications made known:

A new movie projector and screen were procured, thanks to memorials to Eleanor Smith, George Macaulay, Jr. and Donald Stalker.

The family of Velma Pietila indicated their memorials be directed to the outside ramp project.

With gratitude we announce the new carpeting in the sanctuary has been provided as a memorial to G. A. W. ("Al") Hedenberg.

An organ recital, with Ray Baker taking part, in memory of Ruth Alta Rogers, member of Pilgrim Church since 1919, choir director and organist for 40 years, was presented November 27 at Sacred Heart Church. The free-will offering was used for the Ruth Rogers' Scholarship Fund.

#### Church Improvements:

Our Church is now barrier free! The sanctuary was painted and carpeted. The parlor was painted and the Women's Fellowship furnished new draperies and slipcovers. New curtains also brighten the kitchenette.

Congratulations to our minister on the publication of his sermon, "Manifesto for the New Liberal Church" in the October Christian Century. There were rewarding and unusual responses for Dr. Shepard from this publication. Also the publication of a book of poetry, "Duluth, Advent to Easter."

A big thank-you to Church staff, boards, officers, committees, volunteers, members of the church, and custodians, whose help and dedication make things work!

With our Lord's help may we continue His Work.

Respectfully submitted,

Eva W. Danielson

# REPORT OF THE CLERK

The reported membership of Pilgrim Church as of January 1, 1977 582

## New members added during 1977:

Confession of Faith	16
Transferred from other churches	5
Reaffirmation of Faith	3
Returned to active roll	<u>1</u>

Total additions in 1977 25

## Members lost during 1977

Removed by death	6
Transferred to other churches	11
Transferred to inactive status at their request	6
Dropped by request	<u>1</u>

24

Net gain in active membership during 1977 1

Total active membership as of January 1, 1978 583

Of this total 68 are non-resident. The total active resident membership as of January 1, 1978 was 515.

## During the year 5 baptisms were recorded:

- Geoffrey McLennan Welles, son of Jon Leslie and Kathryn Honigman Welles, January 23.
- Paula Kristie Marquardt, daughter of Gregg A. and Wanda Heern Marquardt, May 1.
- Dorothy Jennifer Reichert, daughter of Robert James and Katharine Van Evera Reichert, May 22.
- Benjamin Bruce Fochs, son of John M. and Cynthia Peterson Fochs, August 14.
- David Michael Slovik, son of David L. and Karla Hieb Slovik, November 20.

## The following marriages were recorded:

- Mark Steven Carlson and Peggy Jean Holgate, March 5.
- Charles Evans Koenig and Shari Vel Flesness, June 11.
- Steven Dahl and Nancy Lee, June 12.
- Charles Schult and Carolyn Halliday, June 25.
- David Wayne Kent and Susan Rae Valine, June 29.
- Robert Pratt and Lisa Shefchik, July 23.
- Larry Nyberg and Ann Rene Crowell, August 6.
- Mark Robert Engel and Susan Shepard Campbell, August 27.
- Danny Dean McKay and Carol Joyce Radford, September 10.
- David Richard Asplund and Gladys Mary Ann Copple, September 22.
- Charles Lloyd Conner and Sandra Lee Johnson, September 24.
- Sylvester Andrew Hantz, Jr. and Sandra Lorraine Kent, October 1.

New members received during 1977:

By Letters of Transfer:

James E. and Pamela Riley from First Congregational Church of Charlevoix, Michigan.  
Marlowe H. and Joan Smaby from University United Methodist Church of Duluth.  
Pearl Wilcox (Mrs. A. Ray) from Tustin Presbyterian Church of Tustin, California.

On reaffirmation of faith

Peter H. Wonson  
Thomas L. and Laurel Erickson

On confession of faith

Katherine Plattner (Mrs. Alan)

Members of the Confirmation Class

Jill Amundson	Charles Fischer	Peter Mellin
Catharine Beck	William Gemuenden	James Peterson
Thomas Bonnell	Ann Knabe	Amy Smith
Jay Brooker	Henry R. Lewis, Jr.	Kimberly Swain
Ann Fifield	Reid Magney	Patricia van Druten

Members lost by death were:

Harry L. Holst	Velma K. Pietila (Mrs. Loren)
G. A. W. Hedenberg	Grace Wilson (Mrs. George L.)
Ruth Alta Rogers	Sigrid M. Mitchell (Mrs. Wildey H.)

The following were removed from the membership roll of Pilgrim Church:

Letters of transfer were issued to:

Gayle Southworth Vest to Hope Presbyterian Church of Springfield, Illinois.  
David and Jacquelyn Von to Associated Church of Owatonna, Minn.  
Mrs. Alice Kohler to Pleasant Hill Community Church (UCC) of Pleasant Hill, Tennessee.  
C. Laurence and Nancy Stevens to Southminster Church (United Presbyterian) of Lebanon, Pennsylvania.  
LaDelle A. and Mernie Klock to The Church of the Palms, Sun City, Arizona.

The following became members of other churches without requests for letters of transfer:

Richard E. and Barbara McCoy, First Congregational Church of Dundee, Illinois.  
Steven Slack, Glad Tidings Assemblies of God, Duluth.

Six members were transferred to inactive status at their own request.

One member asked to be dropped from membership.

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Bouschor, Clerk

# TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1977

## RECEIPTS - Budgeted

Individual Contributions	99,256.51	
Loose Offering	1,870.47	
Church School offering	150.49	
Rentals	2,791.25	
Income from 2nd Century Fund	<u>7,750.00</u>	111,818.72

## RECEIPTS - Unbudgeted

Special Offerings		
Easter	1,085.35	
Christmas	441.50	
Thanksgiving	465.56	
Neighbors In Need	<u>291.90</u>	2,284.31
Northland College*		500.00
17/76 Achievement Fund		921.00
Memorial Gifts		4,400.00
Organ Renewal Fund		1,000.00
Advance for 1978		17,980.18
Interest on Savings Accounts and Savings Certificates, excluding 2nd Century Fund		1,170.97
Unbudgeted, including \$500 from Women's Fellowship for General Fund and \$100 toward ramp	<u>18,438.33</u>	<u>46,694.79</u>
		158,513.51

## DISBURSEMENTS - Budgeted

### Ministry

Salary of the minister, annuity fund dues, car expense, health & accident insurance, Minister's discretionary fund, guest speakers	21,813.18
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### Church Office

Salaries of secretary and part-time treasurer's assistant, office supplies, postage, printing, office equipment	13,081.45
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### Music

Salary of organist and choir director, substitute organists, sheet music, care of the organ, choir fees, miscellaneous	7,884.39
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### Christian Education

Salary of the director of Christian education, annuity fund dues, car expense, health and accident insurance, church school curriculum materials, supplies and equipment, leadership and retreats, program resources	18,149.15
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Property Maintenance and Operating Expense  
 Salary of caretaker, caretaker's supplies and equipment, utilities, fuel, repairs, insurance, housekeeping expense 32,931.21

General Expense  
 Bulletins, literature, advertising, annual stewardship expense, contribution envelopes, per capita dues, hospitality, minister's education expense, miscellaneous, resource personnel, conference newspaper 2,835.47

Benevolences  
 OCWM Basic Support 14,400.00  
 Campus Ministry 500.00  
 Northland College 200.00  
 Arrowhead Council of Churches 120.00  
 Theological Seminaries 530.00  
 Special Community Needs 250.00 16,000.00

Depreciation Fund 1,000.00 113,694.85

#### DISBURSEMENTS - Unbudgeted

Memorial Fund 2,297.20  
 Special Offerings 2,798.81  
 17/76 Achievement Fund 891.00  
 Unbudgeted - miscellaneous 17,186.32  
 Depreciation Fund 1,969.94 25,143.27  
 138,838.12

#### CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCES

<u>January 1, 1977</u>		<u>January 1, 1978</u>	
General Fund	23,868.82	General Fund	17,042.00
Memorial Fund	1,266.39	Memorial Fund	3,369.19
Depreciation Fund	806.06	Depreciation Fund	1,886.29
Organ Renewal Fund	1,100.00		22,297.48
	<u>27,041.27</u>		

#### Balances in Segregated Funds

Memorial Fund..... 2,637.73  
 Depreciation Fund ..... 360.28  
 Scholarship Fund ..... 733.86  
 Congdon Pledge ..... 7,309.89  
 Second Century Fund ..... 121,065.38  
 Roberts Fund ..... 33,599.00  
 Organ Renewal Fund ..... 2,143.35

Note: In April 1962 members of Pilgrim Church contributed \$7500 for purchase of 9 lots to be used eventually by Campus Ministry. Lots were purchased May 15, 1962 for \$7200. Since that time we have been paying the taxes on the property (taxes paid in 1977 were 156.42). We have a record of these payments and when the lots are sold, Pilgrim Church will be reimbursed for all that we have advanced in excess of \$7500. (This amount now totals \$1173.56.)

# SEGREGATED FUNDS

## Second Century Fund

Balance November 30, 1976

### Income

Interest  
Dividends

8,608.67  
2,205.18

148,573.93

10,813.85  
159,387.78

### Disbursements

Bank Adm. 217.95 + 217.95  
To church operating fund

435.90  
9,250.00

9,685.90

Balance November 30, 1977

154,664.38 #

# Because part of investment is in stocks and bonds that fluctuate in value, total value as of 11/30/77 is actually \$154,664.38 of which \$33,599 is Roberts Fund.

## Scholarship Fund

Balance January 1, 1977

Interest Income

698.34

Balance January 1, 1978

35.52

733.86

## Depreciation Fund

Balance January 1, 1977

3,107.62

### Income

Budgeted allocation  
Interest

1,000.00  
108.89

1,108.89  
4,216.51

### Disbursements

Painting, plumbing & acoustical tiling

1,969.94

Balance January 1, 1978

2,246.57

Checking account  
Savings account

1,886.29  
360.28  
2,246.57

## Memorial Fund

Balance January 1, 1977

3,742.94

### Income

Interest  
Gifts in memory of

153.58

Ruth Clure  
G. A. W. Hedenberg  
Velma Pietila  
Douglas Walker  
Grace Wilson  
Sigrid M. Mitchell

4,400.00

4,553.58  
8,296.52

# Memorial Fund (continued)

## Disbursements

Movie Projector	650.00	
UMD picture rental	45.00	
Screen for stage	198.70	
Addressing machine	441.50	
Carpeting	950.00	
Flowers	12.00	
Balance January 1, 1978		<u>2,297.20</u>

Checking account	3,369.19	
Savings account	<u>2,630.13</u>	
	5,999.32	<u>5,999.32</u>

## Organ Renewal Fund

Balance January 1, 1977		1,100.00
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Income		
Contributions		
Interest	1,000.00	
	<u>43.35</u>	
		<u>1,043.35</u>

Balance January 1, 1978		<u>2,143.35</u>
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\*It should be noted that a total of \$1,100 was contributed through the church toward the Northland College Chaplaincy Fund. \$200 came from the church budget. The remainder was contributed by individuals and the Women's Fellowship. Since some of these contributions were sent directly to the college, they are not reflected in the treasurer's report.

Respectfully submitted,

Jesse D. Bradley, Treasurer

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Pilgrim Church continues to have the problem of keeping up with rising costs. However, compared to other churches in these times, Pilgrim's financial position is very sound. All bills are paid and we have reserves in the form of memorial funds and the Second Century Fund.

During 1977 two significant improvement projects were completed - painting and recarpeting the sanctuary and the construction of a ramp to the front entrance, thus making the first floor barrier free. The Board of Trustees expresses its appreciation to the Al Hedenberg family for the memorial funding of the new sanctuary carpeting and the Pietila family for the partial funding of the ramp. Special funds were used for the redecorating and completion of the ramp,

In 1977 we had a substantial increase in pledge income making it possible for the church to operate with less reliance on the income from the Second Century Fund. However, pledge increases for 1978 are not large enough to offset increasing costs for staff, fuel, insurance and supplies. Therefore, counter to our desires to reduce our dependence on the Second Century Fund for operating income, we find it necessary to use more of the interest for budget purposes. This is a disturbing fact and a situation which must be dealt with. The only solution is increased budget income, reduced expenses or a combination of the two. The 1978 budget reflects modest staff salary adjustments, increase in fuel, insurance and supply expenses, also a 4.5% increase in our benevolences.

Another expense item we will be faced with is the refurbishing of the organ. The Trustees have not received specific plans from the Music Committee as to the needs, cost, and a program to finance and complete the work. This information should be forthcoming during the year.

Through regular maintenance, the church building and parsonage are in good repair. Church property on Junction Avenue adjacent to UMD is in the process of being rezoned for multiple dwellings for future campus housing development. This property continues to gain in value and the Trustees believe it is still in the best interest of the church to hold this parcel of land until UMD's plans are clarified.

A word about the Second Century Fund. The income from this fund is most important to our operation. Therefore, your Board of Trustees, in looking toward the future, asks that you in your estate planning consider gifts or memorials to the fund. Bequests will provide additional financial stability for the church in years to come.

As chairman of the Board of Trustees, my thanks go to the Trustees; Church Staff; Jesse Bradley, our Treasurer; Rolly Nelson, moderator; and John Morrison, Building on Commitment Chairman, for making 1977 a good year for the church and my job a rewarding experience.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard E. Griffith

## REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP CHAIRMAN

Again this year our program was entitled "Building on Commitment." Feeling that financial commitment is a reliable barometer of spiritual commitment, we again asked that each member examine their level of giving. Each was requested to set a personal giving goal related to income.

As of January 19, 1978 we have received 228 pledges totaling \$98,153. This is a gross increase of \$8,861 (10 new pledges and 98 pledges increased) and does cover the \$4,421 lost through moving and death. If the 22 pledges still outstanding, which totaled \$6,955 last year, are not increased we will be short of providing for inflationary cost increases.

This year, 35 members and couples gave of their time and energies to serve as callers. They were:

Adams, John & Sib	Jacobson, Gertrude
Anderson, Marge & Laurie	Kohlbray, Tom & Helen Anne
Andresen, Charles & Karen	Kruger, Bruce
Brain, Al & Mary	Leek, Joseph
Brooker, Midge	Lundberg, Bill & Kay
Brownell, Keith & Betsy	Morrison, John & Grace
Crowell, Clark & Betty	Nelson, Rolly
Eaton, Bob & Ruth Ann	Olson, Larry & Linda
Fox, Wilbur & Edna	Parson, Irv & Jeanne
Fredin, Mac & Harriet	Potter, Edith
Gemuenden, Bill & Mary	Rhode, Bob
Griffith, Len & Karen	Sellwood, Jack
Grindy, Cliff & Shirley	Smith, Pat
Harlow, Fred & Polly	Spencer, George & Biz
Harwood, Ted & Tris	Tierney, Carol
Heikkinen, Emily	Van Evera, Bill
Heller, Bob & Gerry	VerWay, Dick
Heller, Bob & Lois	Zentner, Dave & Margo

We are indebted to these committed members for their help.

Respectfully submitted,

J. D. Morrison

# PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1978

## INCOME

	Budget 1977	Actual 1977	Budget 1978
Pledges			
Rentals	100,000	99,256.	106,000
Loose Offering	3,000	2,791	3,000
Church School Offering	1,700	1,870	1,900
Second Century Fund Income	150	151	150
Miscellaneous Income	7,750	7,750	8,640
	<u>112,600</u>	<u>111,819</u>	<u>120,250</u>

## EXPENSE

<u>Pastoral Expense</u>			
Salary - Minister	16,500	16,500	17,280
Annuity Dues - Minister	2,360	2,225	2,471
Car Expense - Minister	1,500	1,500	1,500
Minister's Discretionary Fund	200	171	200
Health and Accident Insurance	1,052	1,072	1,078
Guest Speakers	200	345	400
	<u>21,812</u>	<u>21,813</u>	<u>22,929</u>
<u>Office Expense</u>			
Salary - Secretary	9,500	9,500	9,960
Social Security	556	556	602
Salary - Treasurer's Assistant	360	360	360
Social Security	22	21	22
Office Supplies	1,200	1,224	1,275
Postage	1,000	887	1,100
Printing	600	482	700
New Equipment & Maintenance	200	51	200
	<u>13,438</u>	<u>13,081</u>	<u>14,219</u>
<u>Music</u>			
Salary - Organist & Choir Director	4,300	4,301	4,500
Social Security	252	253	273
Substitute Organists	125	151	150
Sheet Music - Adult Choir	200	172	300
Organ Service	200	165	200
Choir Fees & Instrumental Fees	2,500	2,404	2,700
Social Security	146	113	162
Director's Education Expense	150	150	150
Miscellaneous	100	175	100
	<u>7,973</u>	<u>7,884</u>	<u>8,535</u>
<u>Christian Education</u>			
Salary - Director of Christian Ed.	12,500	12,500	12,960
S Social Security	731	731	784
Annuity Dues - D.C.E.	1,469	1,468	1,426
Car Expense - D.C.E.	812	812	812
Health & Acc. Ins. - D.C.E.	520	520	520
Curriculum	600	804	600
Church School Supplies	500	365	500
Church School Equipment	1,200	169	200
Leadership and Retreats	800	543	800
Church School Offering Envelopes	50		
Program Resources	250	237	250
	<u>18,432</u>	<u>18,149</u>	<u>18,852</u>

	Budget 1977	Actual 1977	Budget 1978
<u>Maintenance and Operating Expense</u>			
Salary - Caretaker	5,600	5,649	6,000
Social Security	330	333	363
Housekeeper and Window Service	1,800	1,739	1,930
Social Security	105	94	117
Caretaker's Supplies	400	379	450
Caretaker's Equipment & Maint.	300	546	300
Electricity & Water	3,500	3,399	3,700
Telephones - Church	550	590	600
Fuel - Church	6,200	7,487	8,500
Repairs - Church	2,000	2,355	2,000
Repairs - Parsonage	1,000	567	1,500
Insurance	7,700	7,795	8,500
Parsonage Utilities & Heat	1,700	1,850	2,000
Trash Removal	200	148	200
	<u>31,385</u>	<u>32,931</u>	<u>36,160</u>
<u>General Expense</u>			
Bulletins	300	309	300
Literature & Devotional Material	150	87	150
Advertising	600	714	800
Annual Stewardship Expense	250	272	250
Church Contribution Envelopes	110	67	110
Per Capita Dues	175	269	270
Hospitality	250	185	250
Minister's Education Expense	200	200	200
Miscellaneous	225	403	225
Resource Personnel	100	130	100
Conference Newspaper	200	200	200
	<u>2,560</u>	<u>2,835</u>	<u>2,855</u>
<u>Benevolences</u>			
OCWM Basic Support	14,400	14,400	15,000
United Campus Ministry	500	500	500
Northland College	200	200	200
Arrowhead Council of Churches	120	120	120
Theological Seminaries (CUE)	530	530	530
Charles Hall Youth Services			150
Special Community Needs	250	250	200
	<u>16,000</u>	<u>16,000</u>	<u>16,700</u>
<u>Depreciation Fund</u>	1,000	1,000	
 TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES	 112,600	 113,695	 120,250

## REPORT OF THE DIACONATE

The full Diaconate met regularly during 1977. At a typical monthly meeting, the board heard reports from the minister and its own sub-committees, considered messages from members of the congregation, assisted the minister in planning for worship services and special programs, and discussed policies related to the general mission of the church.

On a regular basis, subcommittees and individual members of the board carried out assignments involving liaison with the other major boards of the church, preparing and serving communion, assisting in baptisms and the reception of new members, coordinating the work of ushers, providing greeters, arranging flowers, recruiting liturgists, visiting shut-ins, delivering flowers, arranging transportation for those who needed it, co-ordinating some of the activities of the colonies, and (when the chairman did not forget) preparing coffee and koolaid during certain periods. Individual members of the board were uniformly willing to accept personal responsibilities, and carried out assigned duties conscientiously and capably.

The board wishes to express appreciation for the work of Lois Heller as Secretary, the assistance of Dorothy Belt, the leadership of the minister, and the confidence of the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellis Livingston, Chairman

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## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Respecting well observed tradition, the board has discharged all of the corporate designated responsibilities assigned to it. It has also responded to requests, stated or suspected, from the congregation. The former still reflects the church school as the core focus of the board. The ever narrowing margins of recruitment for the school staff point to some possible interpretations. One possible interpretation might be that the condition is an expression of congregational indifference.

A particular effort was made, in the past year, to extend this ministry beyond the church school. The result also has possible inferences. One such is that collectively the Board is numb to the sensitivities and perceptions of the congregation as a community groping its way to spiritual nourishment. Or, possibly, the nourishment is being found at another trough. The Board finds considerable comfort in the often expressed observation that all churches are having the same statistical experience; that the poverty of response is simply a reflection of contemporary folkways.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph L. Saver  
Chairperson

## MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

This year saw a return to the more traditional Christmas services, with the Christmas Eve service being held at 8:00. Vacancies in the positions of soprano soloist and bass soloist have been filled by Jeanette Myers and Dennis Anderson, respectively.

Major repairs to the console of the organ, at a cost of \$2,000.00, were completed late in 1976, but still undetermined is the question of when and whether to undertake a major overhaul and/or renewal of the organ as suggested by Clarence Gould, the organ builder who worked with his father on the last overhaul of the Pilgrim organ in 1947. Last year, Mr. Gould recommended a number of things that could be done to improve the organ during overhaul, including the basic recommendation that the organ pipes in the great and choir should be exposed, instead of being enclosed in a sound chamber. In November, Mr. Gould met with Bill Hedenberg and the committee chairman, and additional information was secured, indicating that the cost of fabricating and installing a box for the exposed organ pipes might be in the neighborhood of \$4,000.00. Mr. Gould was asked to submit new estimates for the work suggested by him in June, 1976, and including an estimate for the overhaul of the organ without change in the structure, and we are awaiting his reply. Mr. Gould has also suggested that we should engage a Ph.D. organist as consultant to suggest structural and design changes that should be made in connection with an organ overhaul. The organists I have talked to do agree that exposing the pipes would make the Pilgrim organ more suitable for playing most liturgical organ music.

William P. Van Evera, Chairman  
for the Music Committee:

Mrs. Ann C. Anderson	Mrs. M. M. Fifield
Mrs. F. H. Cash	Mrs. Joseph H. Leek
Dr. Keith Fawcett	Mrs. T. J. Lee

\* \* \* \* \*

## COMMITTEE ON STEWARDSHIP AND MISSION

During 1977 the Stewardship and Mission Committee was reorganized under the By-Laws of the Church Constitution. The committee now consists of six members, three of whom are elected by the congregation and one chosen by each of the following boards: Diaconate, Trustees, and Christian Education. The three at-large members serve three staggered terms. The change is important because it gives continuity to the committee.

During the year the committee consisted of the following persons: Joan Morrison, Margo Zentner, Betsy Brownell, Earl Austin, Hattie Fredin and Ted Harwood.

The committee continued to study the areas in which the church can be most effective in using its funds for mission and outreach. Among the areas studied were campus ministry, Northland College, ministry to the aging, ministry to Native Americans and local concerns.

In last year's budget money was set aside for special local community needs. The committee decided to use these funds for the Little People's Center at the YWCA and The Free Clinic.

Special offerings, endorsed during the year, were:

One Great Hour of Sharing - Easter  
Neighbors In Need - October  
Ministry to Elderly - Thanksgiving  
Veterans of the Cross - Christmas

The committee recommends that the church support the following during the coming year, if the money is available.

OCWM (Our Christian World Mission)	\$16,000.
Arrowhead Council of Churches	120.
United Campus Ministry	500.
Northland College	200.
CUE (Theological Seminaries)	530.
Charles Hall Youth Services	150.
Special Community Needs	200.
	<u>\$17,700.</u>

The overwhelming needs of the world and our community sometimes make it difficult to see what impact the church can have in meeting these needs. It is one of the goals of the committee to try to interpret to the congregation some of these needs.

With the above thoughts in mind the committee has invited E. F. Brinckerhoff of the Charles Hall Youth Services, Bismarck, N.D. to explain the agency's work with Native Americans.

Respectfully submitted,

Earl A. Austin

\* \* \* \* \*

#### THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

This has been another busy and successful year for the Women's Fellowship.

Our monthly programs:

Dr. Shepard talked with us about the history of our beautiful stained glass windows.

Glenn Maxham presented a program with a nature slide-talk.

Elsie Jean Austin shared her thoughts and gave us inspiration about "A Good Age" - any age is a good age.

Pam Griffin, who works with the Association for Retarded Persons, told us about the program and its need for volunteers.

Music was provided by Robert Mix's East High "Choraleers".

Beth Knight from Crystal Lake talked about what women in other churches throughout the state are doing. She also led in group singing.

The Ray Baker Singers gave us wonderful Christmas music. A reading by Pearl Fuller, "The Gift of the Magi", completed our Christmas program.

Evening Group 3 coordinated the Advent Workshop held on December 4 and provided the leadership. They also served refreshments at Northland College night.

We held a budget meeting in June and proposed a budget of \$2,815.00 for 1977-78.

The following have received financial aid and support from our group during the past year:

Delmo Housing	
Charles Hall Youth Services	\$100.
Fort Berthold Indian Mission	\$100.
Little People's Center (YWCA)	\$100.
Church Women United	\$ 50.
Outside Ramp at Pilgrim	\$ 30.
Pilgrim Congregational Church	\$100.
WDSE Educational TV	\$500.
	\$500.

We have also given supportive help by: knitting scarves, caps and vests for the seafarers, giving plants to the shut-ins at Christmas, boxes of clothing and toys to Delmo for use and re-sale to help maintain their Thrift Shop, sewing at Northwood in June, selling SERRV articles, co-ordinating the coffee hour after church, providing delivery of meals for the Meals in the Home service, serving dessert and beverage after the annual church meeting, taking care of wedding receptions, serving brunch for the Matinee Musicale, and giving kitchen assistance for various church dinners.

After the church parlor was painted, we continued the redecorating by providing new drapes and slip covers for two chairs. With the able guidance of Sadie Strebling and some helpers, the parlor is a more cheerful and brighter room.

Our money-making projects were: The Country Store and Food Fair, Christmas Guest Luncheon and the Matinee Musicale Brunch.

We want to take this opportunity to extend a cordial invitation to all our church women to share and take part in our fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Gemuenden  
Dorothy Gemeinhardt

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY, DULUTH - SUPERIOR  
1977 Report

This year the focus of our report is a review of the governance structures of the local campus ministry.

The United Campus Ministry in the Twin Ports functions as a part of the United Ministries in Higher Education (UMHE), relating to the UMHE Commissions in Minnesota and Wisconsin. These are the groups which govern the state-wide campus ministries for the denominations which have covenanted to conduct these ministries. Commissioners from this area who serve on the state groups are: Ms. Gloria Wahl, Superior, a United Methodist commissioner on the Wisconsin UMHE Commission, Dr. Valworth Plumb, Duluth, a United Church of Christ commissioner on the Minnesota UMHE Commission, and The Rev. Joe Carle, Superior, a United Presbyterian commissioner on the Minnesota UMHE Commission.

The Duluth-Superior campus ministry Governing Board is composed of eighteen clergy, students, faculty, and lay people from the area. It holds regular monthly meetings during the academic year. The chairperson this year is Mr. Steve Pollard, a former student at the College of St. Scholastica.

Programming activities at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, are planned in cooperation with the Council of Religious Advisors, and at the University of Wisconsin, Superior, through the Ecumenical Coordinating Council.

The past year has seen a change in staff with the resignation of Jim Davis who has moved to Tacoma, Washington, to serve as chaplain at the University of Puget Sound. The local board is working on the staff replacement process in cooperation with the state UMHE commissions.

In these times this campus ministry cherishes your concern and prayers for all members of the university and college communities in the Twin Ports area.

Richard E. Nelson  
Campus Minister

## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee submits the following nominations for the offices and committee memberships to be filled by election at the Annual Meeting of the Church on January 22, 1978.

CLERK (for 1 year): David S. Bouschor

TREASURER (for 1 year): Jesse D. Bradley

ASSISTANT TREASURER (for 1 year): A. W. Taylor, Jr.

HISTORIAN (for 1 year): Eva Danielson

DIACONATE (for 4 years): Philip M. Cook, Kristin Hollen,  
Mary E. Mitchell, Lawrence E. Olson.  
(for 1 year to fill unexpired term): Bertha Smith.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (for 3 years): Lyle Bourdon, Carl J. Good,  
Robert B. Rhode.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (for 3 years): Earl A. Austin, Judith  
Casserberg, Margo Hurrle.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (for 3 years): Gordon C. Amundson, Vera Dunbar,  
George F. Stoltz.

MUSIC COMMITTEE (for 1 year): Nancy Fifield, William Van Evera.  
(for 2 years): Carolyn Lee, Thomas Shefchik.  
(for 3 years): Brandon Southworth, Carol Tierney.

COMMITTEE ON STEWARDSHIP AND MISSION (for 3 years): E. Irvine Parson.  
(for 1 year to fill unexpired term): Kay Slack.

DELEGATES TO MINNESOTA CONFERENCE AND EASTERN ASSOCIATION:  
Edith Potter, Mabel Weesner.

Alternates: Lela Josephs, Sadie Strebbling.

Respectfully submitted,

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Wilbur Fox  
Karen Griffith  
Clifford Grindy  
Virginia King  
Helen Anne Kohlbray  
Theodore Lee  
Edith Matzke  
Russell Southworth  
Lisbeth Spencer, chairperson

## REPORT OF CHURCH COVENANT STUDY COMMITTEE

### Our Church 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.

The study committee was formed to address the following task: "to consider and recommend whether and how the Church Covenant might be revised."

The committee first studied the Covenant as it now exists to see if anyone on the committee had any feelings about the thoughts expressed in the Covenant; secondly, it studied whether or not those thoughts could be expressed more clearly by rephrasing or revising the wording; and thirdly, whether or not some of the words (specifically, "fellow men" and "brotherly") or phrases could be changed to reflect more clearly contemporary expression.

Regarding the first two instances of study, the committee felt that the Covenant is a very well constructed statement. The thoughts are well expressed and the words flow very naturally.

It was felt that in the third instance the changing of words or phrases takes away from the basic structure of the Covenant. The Covenant expresses:

- a) Our commitment to our collective selves within the Church,
- b) Our commitment to live in the world a life that sets an example,
- c) Our commitment to serve God's will and make God's will known.

Substituting other expressions, it was felt, takes away from the thoughts presently expressed in the Covenant.

After studying alternative words and phrases and the rearranging of the wording of the Covenant, the committee decided that it would not recommend a change in the present Church Covenant.

However, should the Church congregation deem that a change is desirable, the following is offered as an alternative to the present 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 neighbors a life of righteousness and Christian love, and to do all within our power to promote the reign of God's will in all human relations.

Respectfully submitted,

Gladys Carpenter  
Craft Dryer  
Ruth Ann Eaton  
Kay Lundberg  
Clifford Grindy, Ch.

A REPLY TO THE OPEN LETTER FROM LAURA LAMB

Dear Laura:

While the committee appointed to examine the church covenant convened later in the year than I would have wished, it was not closed to the opinions of other church members. In naming the committee the moderator sought to select persons who were not closely identified with either side of the issue. He felt that under those circumstances any changes recommended by the committee would receive a more ready hearing. The five members included three professional women. The unanimity of the committee in recommending no changes in the covenant was a surprise to him and also to myself.

Repeatedly through the years I have brought your concern about the covenant before various church bodies. I have let it be known that although I do not regard this question of wording as the issue of greatest substance in the cause of women's rights, I favored a change along the lines of the alternative wording included in the committee report. I proposed such changes to the diaconate and they were rejected. It was at my urging that the diaconate brought the matter before the church council. It was at my further urging that after the council tabled the matter, the diaconate petitioned the annual meeting to create a committee to review the covenant. It was at my request that the current committee appended to their report the alternate reading for consideration by the congregation. Through all of this it was evident that the majority of the congregation were not enthusiastic about action on this matter and that some efforts to obtain action were increasing resistance. I should say that most of the girls in my most recent confirmation class rejected my suggested changes even more roundly than did members of the diaconate.

I agree that the covenant involves individual commitments. However, if there are "many" women in the church who cannot join in the covenant as it stands, they certainly have not made that fact known. Only three or four have spoken to me, the moderator or the committee.

I do not think the matter should be tabled. I think the time has come for us to see where the true sentiment of the congregation lies. While I am sure that the church might at one time have profited from the sort of discussion you envision, the issue has been before our members in various settings for some time. To belabor it further is not likely to produce useful results.

Royal F. Shepard, Jr.

January 15, 1978

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION  
Pilgrim Congregational Church  
Duluth, Minnesota 55812

I have asked that this letter be included in the church bulletin on January 22nd, in order that it may receive thoughtful consideration when the report of the Church Covenant Study Committee is received.

When the Church Covenant Study Committee was appointed during the past month, those of us who have been asking for several years that the covenant be revised were surprised that we were not represented on the committee. We were however, even more surprised that there were no open committees at which we could give our input for consideration. I believe that the committee members did their best to try to consider what they thought might be our reasons for requesting revision, but they could not fully speak for us. Not giving a longer period of study, fully open for discussion by the members, and including leadership from staff was, I believe not in the spirit of our Congregational heritage.

I believe most deeply that the covenant is more than a "commitment to our collective selves within the church", that it is very much an individual commitment that binds us together only because each of us as an individual makes the commitment. If we are to have any strength collectively, it is based upon our individual decisions to live the kind of life characterized by the collective wording of the present covenant. If we take seriously the "manifesto of the new liberal church", our "building from commitment" campaign, and other kinds of statements seriously considered as a church during the past year, then our corporate activities must come from individual commitment.

Many of us cannot repeat the covenant with the present wording with any individual commitment, because the words commit us to actions which are utterly impossible for us to fulfill. We know that many, probably most, women in the church are able to make an instant translation that makes them included in the covenant. Some of us just can't. Others of us have daughters who will not join the church in the next few years because they cannot make the necessary translations. This is a very deeply held desire to be included in the corporate covenanting of the congregation. We want the congregation to include us fully.

I ask that the congregation table consideration of the revision or non-revision of our covenant, with a charge that a representative committee be formed to lead the congregation in a study of the meaning and expression of our covenant, with indepth consideration offered by the staff and standing church committees.

Laura B. Lamb