



**Compton Heights Christian Church**  
(Disciples of Christ)

2149 S. Grand Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63104  
314.771.5071 • [comptonheights.com](http://comptonheights.com)

*sanctuary in the city*

The Rev. Steve Westbrook, Interim Pastor

January 10, 2022

Dear

As 2021 came to a close, it was clear that the Overflowing Generosity of our congregation had not only continued our historic ministry at Compton Heights Christian Church through a pandemic, but also had some distinct highlights. Please read these on the next page; you may think of more. And you also may see something that you want to see continue as we move **Forward in Ministry** in 2022.

Now it is time to consider how we can continue to support and grow this ministry that embraces ministry in the city. ***"We are a people called by God to be a community of mercy and grace in the Spirit of Jesus the Christ. CHCC is an Open and Affirming Congregation, a Global Mission congregation, and an Anti-Racism, Pro Reconciling congregation. We are part of a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world."***

In 2022, we will begin the work of discernment of our strengths, our areas that need attention, and our future mission as we are led by our intentional interim pastor to involve everyone in the process of discovering our call and ministry priorities.

Please prayerfully consider your time, talents and treasure as we gather estimates of giving and plan to dedicate them on January 30 in Worship.

A commitment form is included below on this page for you to fill in and return on or before the 30. You may mail it to the church at the address on the form, or you can go to [comptonheights.com](http://comptonheights.com) and complete the form to email it to the financial secretary.

Blessings to you in 2022!

Judi Linville & Marsha McGuire - Stewardship & Outreach Ministry

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### **Commitment to Ministry Through Compton Heights Christian Church in 2022 Forward in Ministry**

In gratitude and celebration of my/our experience of God's grace and blessings, I/we make this estimate of financial giving to the church in 2022. I/We understand that this estimate can be adjusted at any time by informing the financial secretary.

I/We desire, with God's help, to give \$\_\_\_\_\_ per week, or \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month or \$\_\_\_\_\_ per year in 2022.

Name(s)\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_

I/We would like a set of offering envelopes\_\_\_\_\_ I will give \$\_\_\_\_\_ to offset electronic fees.

I/we intend to give electronically via bill pay\_\_\_\_\_ Pay Pal \_\_\_\_\_ Givelify \_\_\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_\_

I/We would like to volunteer our time or ability in the following ways:

Signature(s)\_\_\_\_\_

You may e-mail this fillable PDF commitment form to Marty Renner-Hughes, Financial Secretary, at [darrellhug@sbcglobal.net](mailto:darrellhug@sbcglobal.net) or you may mail it to Marty's attention at the church address above.

## 2021 Ministry Highlights

**Worship:** The congregation met for 6-1/2 months every Sunday on Zoom and resumed in-person worship in the sanctuary on Sunday, July 11. Worship was live-streamed on Facebook and recorded on YouTube.

For Lent we held reserved time visits to Sanctuary for meditation and planted seeds of hope.

For Advent, we moved Children Worship and Wonder to the nursery and children once again gathered for stories around the Creche in the Sanctuary.

We held Hanging of the Greens and decorating the Chrismon Tree in Worship, and a service of Lessons and Carol on Christmas Eve, followed by caroling on Flora Place.

Music: On Zoom we sang hymns with our audio muted. At first back in the sanctuary we had only soloists or instrumental music, but updated choral guidance let us resume singing with masks in Advent. The choir also resumed rehearsals and presented music for Advent, and several individuals have provided solos and special music.

Interim: Elders and Ordained members led worship for September and October, prior to the arrival of Rev. Steven Westbrook as intentional interim minister on November 1.

**Membership:** During the pandemic, some new friends started worshipping with us on Zoom. In August, we celebrated receiving 5 new members by reaffirmation of their faith, and the baptism of two youth who had participated in the summer outdoors Pastor's Class.

### Spiritual Nurture and Support

The Tuesday evening zoom support group that began in 2020 continued meeting, with weekly check-ins, a lenten focus study, *lectio divina* practice, and sharing via story circles. In September the group moved to Monday nights and continues as Spirit Bloom on Zoom.

The Elders met each month for study and prayer. Study focus was the book *Holy Chaos: Creating Connections in Divisive Times* by Rev. Amanda Henderson.

The Book Club read at least 6 books and met bimonthly on zoom to discuss them.

### Transitions:

The 25-year ministry of the Rev. Jacquelyn Foster ended on August 31 with her retirement. A special service of farewell followed by lunch was held on August 26 to commemorate her ministry and present Jacque and Dave with gifts and memorabilia.

A search committee formed early in the summer worked diligently with the Regional Office to identify a candidate for intentional interim minister. Meeting remotely, they made a choice and the Board agreed to call Rev. Steve Westbrook to begin on November 1.

Pastoral Intern Madison Peterson concluded her 2-year assignment with CHCC in May. On October 2, Madison was ordained to the Christian Ministry at her home church in Lees Summit, MO, and 8 members of CHCC attended. Madison is now in clinical pastoral education at a local hospital and she and Orion continue to worship with CHCC.

Our kitchen on the fellowship hall level is being renovated with new flooring, stove, and cabinets using memorial funds and in conjunction with Isaiah 58 Ministries, who also uses the space.

### Mission, Outreach, Social Justice

Our annual Six Weeks of Compassion in August and September gathered an additional offering for Week of Compassion (in addition to the special offering in February), an offering in support of a child at Family Village Farm in India, 30 hygiene kits for Church World Service, and more than 300 highlighters for school kits for Isaiah 58.

Prayer shawl knitting group continued to make shawls, and many were distributed to members and friends of the congregation.

CHCC hosted and participated in a weekly Vigil for Justice on Grand in front of our building for six months at the request of members at St. Margaret of Scotland Roman Catholic Church.

CHCC had a booth to share God's unconditional love at the Tower Grove PrideFest in late October.

Our pledged offerings exceeded the annual budget estimate by over \$10,000, and the six special offerings also received substantial support. CHCC also contributes 10% of our offering receipts to outreach and regional and general Disciples of Christ ministries.