This is the story of how our mission is accomplished through our financial resources and the time and talent of the members and friends of Peace UCC.

*Go and Do Likewise* (Luke 10:37)
“Go and Do Likewise” — Remembering Barb Forrest, Faith-Filled Follower

“There’s always that first step in skating, from dry ground to slick ice, when it just seems impossible. Impossible that two thin blades of metal will support you, impossible that because its molecules have begun to dance a little slower water will hold you up.” — Carol Goodman, The Lake of Dead Languages

I began Barb Forrest’s memorial homily with this quote. When I read this, I thought of her right away because as a young woman she skated with the Ice Follies, and because she trusted the thin edges, the music, and the Creator of life. She trusted the One who held her up even when life seemed nearly impossible; thin edges were all there was at times and yet she found a way to move forward. She dared, taking that first step into the unknown so many times in life. As she said to me after her lung cancer diagnosis, “It’s a good thing that we can’t look around the corners of life.” Yep I agreed, we just take it as it comes, stepping out from dry ground to slick ice . . . finding our footing and even learning to twirl.

Barb and her family were active members of Pilgrim Congregational Church here in Duluth. It was there that she met George Macaulay. They were married at Pilgrim Church and then moved to Berkley California where George was enrolled in seminary. George’s first parish was in Granite Falls. He served there 3 years. Barb was a wonderful pastor’s wife — a beautiful alto singer, she often sang for funerals and weddings. The family remembers that she would warm up her voice by singing while vacuuming, and the vacuum cleaner was often running.

She also hosted many events for the churches that George served. She was always gracious. Janell Kohls, who grew up in Granite Falls while the Macaulays were there, remembers Barb, even though Janell was only a teen back then. Barb was the beautiful woman on skates—who wore skirts and nylons while skating at the local rink, while the rest wore bulky wool socks and snow pants.

The family’s next move was to Grand Forks where George served as pastor for 6 years. Again Barb served well in her role as pastor’s wife. And she also taught skating at the University of North Dakota. The next stop for the family was to Robbinsdale where George served for 9 years. These were difficult times for George and for his family. Barb and George divorced in 1973 and she brought her family home to Duluth. Always strong—stepping out on thin edges she alone supported her family.

Barb gave so much love, caring about the people in all the congregations she and George served together, by loving the people of this place called Peace. She could be found every Thursday cleaning up our sanctuary. She also helped by sharing meals, singing her faith in choir and by her faithful giving to this congregation. She cared deeply about people. She answered Jesus’ challenge in the Good Samaritan story to follow that example and “Go and do likewise”

She died on Palm Sunday, appropriate as we remember Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem, a challenge to love, while trusting the One who sent him. Barb, too, stepped out onto new ice and there was the impossible, love enough to hold her up. May we all step out in trust in this life and loving God and one another into the next. ~ Pastor Kathy
The Peace UCC expenditures for 2016 will be approximately $477,000. This does not include money given in 2016 for the Capital Campaign.

The Finance Committee and the Church Council have always strived for a balanced budget and do a great job of keeping expenses in line with the income.

For 2017 an increase is expected, due to changes required by federal law for non hourly employees (necessitating increase in some staff salaries), and increasing missional giving.
Everything we do is grounded in God’s ongoing love for all people and creation. We respond in gratitude to this love through prayer, singing, and praise. We have two services each Sunday morning where we listen again to God’s word in the scriptures and stories of life and then respond in praise and deed. We also offer several opportunities for other forms of worship—Centering Prayer on Wednesday evenings and Taizé Services on the fourth Sunday of the month. There are also celebrations of life in baptisms, weddings and funerals. Our financial resources pay the salary and benefits of our Lead Pastor, Kathy Nelson, as well as the support ministerial staff of Nathan Holst, Faith Formation Ministries, and Kelli Farell, Children’s Ministry Coordinator, who assist in the worship experience.

There is no better way to praise God than through music. It is central to our worship experience. Our financial resources pay the salary and benefits of our Music Director, Jim Pospisil, and Pianist Wendy Durrwachter. Special music is sometimes provided by members of the community who are paid, especially at times like Christmas and Easter.

In addition to the staff who lead us in worship, our financial resources pay for the office staff who prepare the bulletins. We pay for the bulletin covers and paper that the announcements are printed on. We pay for the computers, printer and copy machine and the toner used to print the bulletins. Volunteers come in each week to fold the bulletins.

Our financial support is needed to pay the electric bill to run the office equipment, to light the offices and sanctuary and keep the building warm in the winter. We pay for the sanctuary sound system and for the salary and benefits of the custodian, who keeps the church building clean and in good repair.
2016 Expenditures

**Praising God ~ $106,000 - 22%**

- **Worship**
  - 2 services each Sunday
  - Lenten and Advent Services
  - Baptisms
  - Weddings
  - Memorial Services
  - 2 services on Christmas Eve

- **Music**
  - Choir
  - Musicians
  - Special Music
  - Sound System for Sanctuary

- **Prayer**
  - Wednesday evening Centering Prayer
  - Wednesday evening Bible Study
Jesus showed us in stories and by his actions how to love God with all our hearts, minds, and souls, and how to love our neighbors as ourselves. Following the Great Commandment is how we try to live the way of Jesus. A way that echoes the prophet Micah’s words, “What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God.”

Our financial resources pay the salary and benefits of our ministerial staff who provide leadership, as well as the expenses of our teams and committees, who continue this work in our congregation and in the local community as well as the world community. Again this year our teams have operated under the umbrella of the Acting for Justice Hub. This includes Open and Affirming (ONA), Food, Energy, Environment Team (FEET), Dismantling Racism, and Global Ministries.

This year, along with St. Mark AME church, we held the powerful “Living into the Difficult” Conference in which Dr. Jennifer Harvey and Dr. Melanie Harris helped us talk about systematic racism that is so embedded in our nation, and the need for reparations. The conversation and work continues.

Financial support is given to Churches United in Ministry (CHUM), the Gabriel Project, Habitat for Humanity, Damiano Soup Kitchen, Loaves & Fishes, Seafarer’s Ministry, Jail Ministry, One Roof, United Theological Seminary, and Witness for Peace. There are also many volunteer hours provided by members and friends through the Acting for Justice Hub to organizations in our community, such as the Damiano Soup Kitchen, and breakfast and dinner at CHUM. Others provide a weekly meal at Loaves and Fishes. Our youth and adults do service through mission trips each summer.

This year our dedicated Peace Church gardeners raised produce to donate to the CHUM food shelf. Members painted and fixed a house with Habitat for Humanity’s Brush with Kindness program.

We financially support the work of the State and National Conferences of the United Church of Christ through Association dues and contributions to Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM). Peace UCC celebrates that it is in the top 10 givers in the Minnesota Conference of the UCC for our support of OCWM. We also give generously to all four Special Mission Offerings — One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, The Christmas Fund, and Strengthen the Church.

Our Health and Wellness Team supports healthy living, and provides Advanced Directive Workshops. We provide meeting space for community organizations concerned with wellness including AA, Al-Anon, NAMI, SAA, NA, GA, American Cancer Society, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, CHUM Church, Hazelden Alumni, Nurse Peer Support, Hospice Circle of Support, yoga and adaptive yoga.
2016 Expenditures

Living the Way of Jesus ~ $83,000-17%
$60,000 Budgeted missional offerings
plus $23,000 in Special offerings

♦ Acting for Justice Hub
  ◦ Open and Affirming
  ◦ Food, Energy, Environment Team
  ◦ Dismantling Racism

♦ Our Church’s Wider Mission (UCC Denominational Support)

♦ Health and Wellness

♦ Financial Support for Community Organizations
  ◦ CHUM
  ◦ CHUM Gabriel Fund
  ◦ Habitat for Humanity
  ◦ United Theological Seminary
  ◦ Damiano Soup Kitchen
  ◦ Loaves and Fishes
  ◦ Seafarer’s Ministry
  ◦ Jail Ministry
  ◦ One Roof Housing
  ◦ Witness for Peace
  ◦ Local Ministries
  ◦ Campus Ministries
  ◦ All Nations Indigenous Center

♦ Special Offerings & Grants
  ◦ Global Ministries (Liddles/East Timor)
  ◦ Harvest Fest
  ◦ Jubilee Fund grant to Living into the Difficult
  ◦ Neighbors in Need
  ◦ The Christmas Fund
  ◦ One Great Hour of Sharing
  ◦ Strengthen the Church

♦ In-kind donation
  ◦ Use of space by AA, Al-Anon, NAMI, SAA, NA, GA, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Yoga, American Cancer Society, CHUM Church, Hazelden Alumni, Nurse Peer Support, Hospice Circle of Support

Work Camp 2016
Peace UCC provides an abundance of opportunities for members and friends to nurture, equip and support each other to grow and deepen in faith, and develop relationships with God and others. We care for each other.

Our financial support pays for the salary and benefits of Faith Formation Minister, Nathan Holst, and Children’s Ministry Coordinator, Kelli Farell. It pays for curriculum and supplies for Sunday School, Adult Forums, Youth Group, Bible Studies, Confirmation, and Vacation Bible School. A variety of opportunities are provided through small groups such as Book Studies, Men’s Group, Brown Bag Study, PALS, Lenox Women’s Spirituality Group, Men’s Breakfast Group, Yoga, History Team, and Grief Support Group to learn and develop relationships with one another.

At Peace Church we provide care for one another. Our Lead Pastor, Kathy Nelson, and Visitation Minister, Cheryl Walsh, minister to people during times of transition—in their beginnings and their endings, and in times of illness. Our financial support pays their salaries, benefits and expenses. Volunteers provide food to families in times of need, and for funerals. There is a prayer chain praying always for the needs of others. We are also blessed by our many spiritual companions who accompany people on their faith journey, asking questions and offering prayers.

Companions are ones who break bread together, and this we do often. The Peace Church family gathers every Wednesday evening for a meal and a variety of programming for all ages. The Food and Fellowship Team prepares and serves meals several times each year such as the Birthday Lunch, Summer Picnic, and Stewardship Dinners. Our coffee hour each Sunday after worship gives people the opportunity to get to know each other. Our financial support helps to pay for these meals and treats and childcare so that all may participate. Many people volunteer to help with these meals, coffee hours, and nursery care.

Communication with our members and friends helps us to build community. Our office staff sends out a weekly email reminder of events and opportunities to serve, and a monthly newsletter, the Peace Bell, with inspiring messages from our ministry staff as well as much information about the activities of our teams and committees, church events, and volunteer opportunities and schedules.

We believe that our church building is a tool for ministry and to Build the Beloved Community. In addition to the community health and wellness groups there are many other groups that use our building such as Cornerstone Day Care. Many community events are held in our building. This is a way for us to reach out to those in need of space to meet and welcome them to our community and the community of God. The costs of equipping, caring and maintaining the building are paid through the financial support provided by members and friends as well as many volunteer hours by the property committee and others.
2016 Expenditures

Building the Beloved Community - $128,000 – 27%

◆ Christian Education
  ◈ Sunday School
  ◈ Adult Forums
  ◈ Wednesday Bible Study
  ◈ Confirmation
  ◈ Peace Youth Group
  ◈ Vacation Bible School
  ◈ Winter Camp
  ◈ Men’s and Women’s Retreats

◆ Caring for One Another
  ◈ Pastoral Care
  ◈ Wednesday Meals
  ◈ Coffee Hour
  ◈ Funeral Lunchees
  ◈ Food and Fellowship Team

◆ Small Groups
  ◈ Book Studies
  ◈ History Team
  ◈ Parenting Groups
  ◈ Grief Support Group
  ◈ Men’s Breakfast Group
  ◈ Faith Formation Task Force
  ◈ Women’s Brown Bag Study
  ◈ Peace Bell Folding Team
  ◈ Lenox Women’s Spirituality Group

◆ Building the Beloved Community
  ◈ Praising God
  ◈ Living the Way Of Jesus
  ◈ Administrative & Building
In all families and organizations there is a certain amount of time and financial resources needed to organize and keep it all running smoothly. This is the administrative part of Peace UCC. Our financial resources pay the salaries and benefits of the office staff. Our Bookkeeper, Toni Kasell, pays the bills and wages for staff and prepares the financial reports monthly and annually. Office Coordinators, Janell Kohls and Nancy Nelson, are the first contact for people calling or coming into the church. Nancy keeps the church calendar and the building use calendar up to date, maintains the database of members and friends, and prints bulletins and announcements. Janell makes sure that the Teams, Committees and Small Groups have the resources and supplies they need, and schedules and coordinates volunteer schedules, as well as providing support for the Stewardship Drive, and Shared Ministry events. They both make sure that everyone is well informed about what is happening through publication of the Peace Bell, weekly emails, reminder emails, and announcements of meeting times. Many faithful volunteers from our congregation and from CHOICE Unlimited, help with mailings and the care of our building.

In addition to the staff salaries and benefits there are other administrative costs for supplies, the building, and utilities. There are telephone and internet costs. There are costs associated with raising the money through the pledge drive and for the envelopes to record the contributions. There are other building costs such as insurance, snow removal and lawn care. There are water and sewage expenses, assessments, and garbage removal. Our custodian, Dan Shepard and our great property committee do an amazing job of caring for our building and grounds.

Praising God,
Living the Way of Jesus,
Building the Beloved Community
2016 Expenditures

Building & Administrative ~ $160,000 34%

◆ Support Staff
  ◦ Bookkeeper
  ◦ Two Office Coordinators
  ◦ Custodian

◆ Building Costs
  ◦ Maintenance
  ◦ Electricity
  ◦ Fuel
  ◦ Water and Sewage
  ◦ Insurance
  ◦ Taxes and Fees
  ◦ Garbage Removal
  ◦ Lawn Care
  ◦ Projects
  ◦ Custodial Supplies

◆ Miscellaneous Expenses
  ◦ Office Supplies
  ◦ Technology/Internet
  ◦ Phone
  ◦ Office Equipment
  ◦ Stewardship Materials
  ◦ Memorial Plaques
  ◦ Human Resources