



PRC - Practical Resources for Churches

Everyone Has a Calling - Ours Is Helping You!

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Annual Report 2022-2023

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



You only need to read the recent PRC email to grasp the direction and scope of the present PRC. Here you can access numerous programs under the headings: *Cultivate*, Links we love, New resources, Multigenerational, Ministry with children, Youth ministry, Adult faith formation, and For the families.

Over the years our supporters have provided the financial resources that have allowed us to be bold and expand in faith. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to your participation in the future.

Ron Homa, President, Board of Directors

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This last year was different; it has been a year of both going back to our Christian Education roots and also introducing so many new things! It has been a whirlwind.

In the February of 2022 we hired Elizabeth Christie who had been a webinar presenter for us for a long time. I asked her to create two monthly e-mails. In February of 2022 *Cultivate Faith* and *One More Page* were published. More people open and read *Cultivate Faith* than any other email we send out. We also started adding new CE programs.

At the Staff meeting in July we talked about adding programming that produces money. Two ideas came out of the conversation: Ministry Memberships that are based on Cohort groups; Member Churches or Individual Members can join a cohort for free. People from Member Judicatories pay of reduced rate of \$125 and non-members pay \$150. We quickly added 14 Ministry Memberships and also increased the number of Individual Memberships.

The first Cohort group on Children's Ministry started in September and was well received. In January the next session started with two groups. Elizabeth has been asked about one on one coaching and we came up with a pricing model and a link to make an appointment.

The second idea was to begin charging for our online retreats and workshops. In the fall we have an Advent Workshop and a Multi week retreat, both are online. This is difficult to manage but I hope to think of ways to streamline the process.

Elizabeth was very busy creating content; we created a logo to brand the content, since large numbers of people were already familiar with our *Cultivate* email we used that as a jumping off point. For Advent of 2022 Elizabeth created playlists that we put on our NEW YouTube Channel and our NEW Facebook page *Cultivate*.

Even while we were getting ready for Christmas we began thinking about Lent and Easter. Elizabeth created a program called "40 Days Together". Eighty people bought the packet and we made \$2,735. The beginning of something new!

We will also be starting a second Cohort group *Game Changers* with Kay Kotan starting in February of 2023. We offered it for free to our member churches and we also gained new Ministry members who wanted to attend the 3 month program.

Also last fall, we began to survey both congregations and caregivers on a regular basis. The most typical response from parents describes the difficulty of raising children in this era combined with the relentless pressures of doing and being more than is humanly possible. They are grateful for church efforts to reach out to them and want to connect but need something new and different from traditional Sunday programming. In the surveys we conducted of pastors, children's ministers and lay leaders,

2021 - 2022 Board of Directors

Ronald Homa, President Sue Steares, Vice President

Darlene Behrens Frederick Hall Janet Wright Carol Wolff

we heard the same themes. It is in our DNA to listen to our constituents and seek answers to any and all of their questions. Our motto is “Everyone has a calling – ours is helping you!”

After the success of “Forty Days Together” and based on what we were hearing from Churches and Families we developed Holy Moments! The Holy Moment for Summer was called SALT, Preserving What Matters.

Holy Moments are downloadable resources for families to use at home with their children. For each season we produce content for Families like the Bedtime Blessing included with this letter. There are also Read Together resources for preschool to high school children, Family Hikes, Collaborative Art projects, over the summer we added a Road trip booklet. We also include three months of the gospel readings with questions as conversation starts for parents and caregivers to talk with their children.

We produce resources for churches to use with families. These include; Family Retreat, Family Missions, Bedtime Stories and Prayers, Parent/Caregiver book club, Blessing of the Devices, Prayground, Out the Door Blessings and Favorite Resources and Family packs can also be purchased to send out.

In 2022 – 2023 the program brought in over \$7,000. As you might guess from the list above, it’s only a drop in the bucket. We want to help families cultivate the spiritual lives of their children with stories, prayers, and other simple activities to enrich their time together.

With all this going on Karen Ware Jackson has kept our webinar program humming along. they continue to be a valuable resource to church professionals, volunteers, and other ministry leaders. In 2023, 81.5% of respondents rated our webinars as highly relevant and helpful to their ministries (4 or 5 out of 5). Our live audience has leveled out at just under 50% after our pandemic highs. While we always have broad ranging themes, we’ve done some great work this year with mental health and children. Last Spring, we did a couple of phenomenal webinars with Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund one Mental Health and Teens as well as Mental Health WISE churches. We presented very well attended webinars on children in worship, and we just finished an excellent panel webinar on How Churches Can Prevent Gun Violence.

In the Fall of 22 and the Spring of 23 we had 4 webinars on how churches can use community organizing in their ministry with Chris Dela Cruz, Katrina Pekich-Bundy, and Shani McIlwain. It was really interesting to see how practices like one-on-one meetings might motivate a congregation to impact their community. This fall, we partnered with Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry to present 3 great webinars on Older Adult ministry, the Third Thirty, and Dementia Friendly Congregations. As we look to 2024, we're saying goodbye to the always excellent Penny Cannon as our Sexual Harassment Prevention trainer, but we're excited to be working with Patti Berner, a church HR expert who presented a webinar with us in June on Best Practices for Personnell Committees. We're also working on a series for congregational leaders called "From Pew to Pulpit" which will help equip folks to lead worship, preach, write liturgy, select hymns, and more. If you want to find our recorded webinars they are in the Online Resource Center on our website.

In November of 2022 we held our first post-pandemic in person workshop with the Insurance board called Creating a Culture of Safety in Your Ministry.

In January of 2023 after being with us for 5 years Gloria Burgess retired to do “America's Great Loop”. We did hire Debraht Neal who stayed with us for 3 months before accepting a full time position.

In January I increased Debbie’s hours. In the added time she has been able to weed through the recorded webinars we were storing on Go To Webinar going back to 2011. We were paying to keep them there. A large number were deleted and some that are still pertinent she recorded onto Zoom so they will still be available to view. Debbie also was working on our Online Resource Center, rechecking thousands of links, a never ending task.

Karen went out on the road, continuing to visit churches, pick up and drop off resources. She did Card Ministry and Prayer Bead Workshops with Westminster Presbyterian Church. Mt. Sinai Congregational Church scheduled a Card Ministry Workshop and Hope Lutheran asked her to come to lead a Prayer Bead workshop for them.

During the fall, Karen led a four part Zoom workshop entitled "Roots" on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday evenings. During Advent she led a contemplative coloring activity at the Church of Our Savior Lutheran Church during a Vespers worship at Pastor Claire's home.

In the spring Karen Smith and I got back on the road. We attended the Metro ELCA Synod meeting in May and in June I

attended the New York Conference of the UCC. Karen continues to run an online books club, a monthly card ministry, and visits churches and runs workshops. She also did an online retreat for Lent and she worked with Mary Larson to run a Small Group Cohort.

And me, I thank God every day for the wonderful PRC staff!!

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MEET OUR STAFF

Cathy Applewhite - Volunteer Consultant

Experience: Worked for the Presbyterian Church (USA) as a Church Educator in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Resident Chaplain at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown, Pennsylvania as a counselor, working with children and adults who had physical, developmental, and mental disabilities. Cathy was also a volunteer chaplain at Gurwin Nursing Home, and a Spiritual Care Companion at MaryHaven Center of Hope.

Elizabeth Christie - Consultant

She curates our *Cultivate* and *Just One More Page* newsletters. She has worked in children's ministries for over two decades, finding ways to make ministries accessible and engaging for all of God's children. Elizabeth currently serves as the Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries at a small urban congregation in eastern Pennsylvania. When she isn't connecting with children and their families in the various places she ministers (including Zoom, playgrounds, praygrounds, community schools, and Maker Spaces), you'll find her alongside her husband as they chase after their seven children.

I am the Christian Education Resource Consultant for the New Hampshire Conference, UCC, and I frequently put links to your page in our newsletter...Thank you for the great work that you do, and all that you offer to churches!

I enjoyed the webinar yesterday with Elizabeth. She also emailed me that evening with a suggestion about cohorts. She provided slides from the presentation in less than a day. Just want to offer credit where credit is due. I am a firm believer in: "Let no good deed go.....unrecognized."

Thanks for a most meaningful and compassionate view of churches, change, and why we change. Your webinar Eight Game Changers for the Post Pandemic Church nailed it! Thank you so much

Thank you for your material on Sunday school. Will be of great help now that i have taken up to be a Sunday school teacher in my local church.

I always look forward to what is next for PRC. Your webinars and resources are amazing. Thanks for all that you do and provide!

Debbie Kolacki - Sr. Consultant

Experience: Certified Christian Educator and Certified Lay Servant in the United Methodist Church. church librarian, Education Committee chairperson, Sunday school superintendent, Council on Ministries chairperson, children's Sunday school and VBS teacher, adult studies leader, and Webinar Administrator, PRC.

Rev. Mary Larson - Consultant

Experience: Staff Chaplain, Pulpit (Guest) Supply Preaching, working with groups regarding grief, worked with youth groups, spiritual work with those struggling with addictions.

Karen Smith - Consultant

Experience: Preschool teacher at Our Redeemer Lutheran School, Aquebogue; Sunday school and VBS teacher at Setauket United Methodist Church; Sunday school teacher; member of the Altar Guild; Secretary of the Church Council at Trinity Lutheran School; summer camp counselor at Camp Quinipet; Co-Founder of Stamp 'n Pray Bible Study/Card Ministry at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Rev. Karen Ware Jackson - Webinar Coordinator

Karen Ware Jackson and her husband Rob are the senior co-pastors of First Presbyterian Church in Greenville, NC. They also parent two children who keep them honest, ask fabulous questions, and bless them beyond words. Karen is passionate about creating interactive worship and intergenerational community, and is the co-editor of *When Kids Ask Hard Questions: Faith-filled Responses for Tough Topics*. You can find more of her work at www.karenwarejackson.com

We had a great time, Karen, and we made some beautiful cards and so easy compared to what I was thinking...using glue and cutting things out. You made it so easy, your prep was unbelievable and everybody had such a good time. I am so thankful that you brought all the supplies and your instruction were spot on. It was really great and I think everybody really had fun!

I was making a donation for the webinar I attended yesterday – Rebekah Simon-Peter's. She is terrific. Thank you for providing the webinar and introducing me to her. Appreciate your work.

Thank you so much!! I found the information helpful. I especially liked the 5-10 link rule - not just for greeters but all congregants to build community. Plan to put these tips to good use.

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SERVICE REQUESTS 2022 - 2023

We helped congregation members 451 times!

402 were handled virtually, by phone, email, Zoom,
Facebook, texts, or from our website.

227 were sent follow up digital resources.

42 people came to a Center, either Patchogue or West Islip

6 times we went out to meet you in a church or at a meeting.

We also have a consultant who travels to the East end of Long Island
to drop off and pick up resources, and meet with Pastors to talk about their needs.

In the last few years we began to take on bookkeeping help for churches. We do not record each conversation or Zoom visit. In 2022 - 2023 we worked with 32 churches; some had just a few questions and others were provided full bookkeeping services.

WORKSHOPS, RETREATS, AND MEETINGS 2022 - 2023

Monthly Stamp-a-Stack in-person and kits mailed (8 meetings): 70 people
Children's Ministry Seasoned & Beginner, Game Changer Cohort, Small Group Cohort
groups that meeting multiple times 183 people
Card Ministry workshop at a church: 8 attendees
Book Club online (6 meetings): 17 Attendees
Online workshops Q&A (2 meetings): 60 Attendees
Online retreats (7 sessions): 89 attendees
Free Webinars (40): 3,122 attendees
NYS Required Sexual Harassment Prevention Webinars (11 webinars) - 548 people

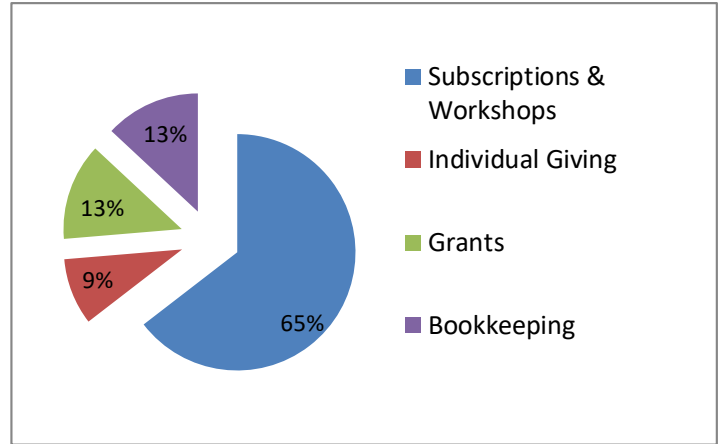
We answered Questions on the following topics.

Adult Studies	Governance & Organizational Structure	Puppets
Advent Programs	Grief	Resources
Advent Studies	Growth and Change	Retreats
Advent/Christmas Plays and Pageants	Inactive Members	Sacraments
Advent/Christmas Worship	Information	Safe Sanctuary
Banner	Intergenerational Ministry	Sexual Harassment Question
Bookkeeping	Leadership Training	Small Groups
Buildings and property	Lent/Easter Programs and Activities	Spiritual Practice, Labyrinth, Mandalas
Caring	Lent/Easter Studies	Staff & Personnel
Children's Ministry	Lent/Easter Worship	Stewardship
Church Safety & Safe Sanctuary	Liturgical Aids	Subscription Information
Clergy Compensation	Marketing	Sunday School Curriculum
Confirmation	Marriage	Technology
Constitution & By-laws	Missions	Webinar Questions/Problems
Cultivate Faith	Online Church	Welcoming Church
Curriculum	Payroll	Women's Programs
Earth Care	Pentecost	Worship Services
Email Lectionary Curriculum	Planning - Programing	Youth Prayer and Spirituality
Finance	Preaching	Youth Program Ideas
Fundraising & Grants	Proofread	Youth Service & Missions

2022 – 2023 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Memberships & Workshops	90,432.56
Individual Giving	12,789.63
Grants	18,600.00
Bookkeeping	18,291.25
Total Income	140,113.54

2022 - 2023 Income

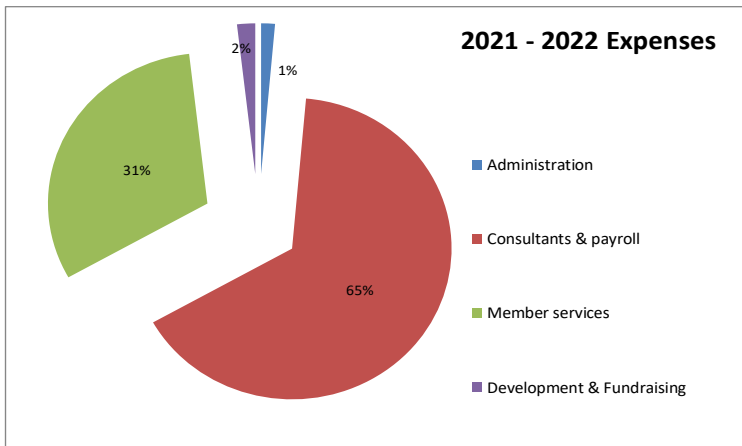


We are thankful for those individuals who paid for an Individual Membership; we did not expect them to renew. We still see the judicatories and bookkeeping as the areas of growth. We added a new Ministry Membership.

Memberships	June 2022	June 2023
At-a-Distance Memberships	3	3
Churches that pay for Bookkeeping	9	8
Individual Memberships	19	36
Ministry Memembrship		14
Judicatory Memberships	14	19
Subscribing Congregations	39	35
Judicatory that pays for Sexual Harassment Prevention Training	1	1
Churches that pay for Sexual Harassment Prevention Training	1	5
	86	121

Our 121 Members belong to 10 different Denominations

Baptist, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Conservative Congregational Christian Conference, ELCA Evangelical Lutheran Church, Episcopal Church, Non-Denominational, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, United Church of Christ, and United Methodist Church



Administration	1,552.59
Consultants & payroll	90,978.75
Member services	37088.38
Development	2,576.07
Total Expenses	132,195.7990

In 2022 - 2023 our largest expenditure was for staff. In January of 2022 we went to salaries rather than keeping a time sheet. Currently we are living into a model that has some specialized positions: Webinar Coordinator, Resource Coordinator, Cultivate Faith Manager. This is a work in progress. The PRC staff is made up of six paid Consultants, a volunteer Consultant and a part time 1099 Grant Writer and me as Consultant and Executive Director

Member Services, the next largest expense area, includes the expenses associated with our webinars: Zoom and the fees for presenter, rent, phone and internet for our Patchogue office, and marketing which includes our website costs and Constant Contact. We also still purchase new resources and pay for postage.

Each year, PRC takes great pleasure in having this opportunity to extend its appreciation to the foundations, churches, and individuals who make our work with clergy, laity, and churches locally and at-a-distance possible. That would not be possible if it were not for those listed on the back page of this Annual Report.

To begin, we would draw your attention to those who have provided grant funding.

These include:



- Ebenezer Endowment Fund**
- Knapp/Swezey Foundation, Inc**
- John C Dunphy Private Foundation**
- Lutheran High School Association**
- St. Peter's Fund for Ministry**
- Suffolk Association of the United Church of Christ**

PRC's Appeals Raised \$12,790 in 2022-2023

These gifts are from individuals, churches, and businesses who are familiar with PRC and the programs and services we provide. Gifts range from \$5 all the way to \$1,000.

This year we ran not only our traditional Annual Appeal, we also added a few new appeals in our e-newsletter asking people to Support Staff Time, we also asked for support for Webinars and we continued One of the 5,000. We raised \$2,479

Staff Time
Nadine Albert
Cathy & Mark Applewhite
Carol Bisanz
Leonara Colletti
Paul Elsener
Ann Graffagnino
Dennis & Diane Murphy
Patrice & Jimmy Perreca
Craig Peterson
Goedon Quimby
Marjorie Royle
SMLogic Ltd
Sue & Skip Steares
Eileen Torraca

One of 5,000
Beverly Barstow
Sandra Billy
Karen Curtis Weakley
Joan Daly-Lewis
Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church
Constance Garrett
Barbara Hager
Glorya Johnson
Kingston Congregational Church
Sarah Ostlund
Wade Pond

Webinar Donations
Catherine Pierson
Patricia Clark
Lisa Heckman
Nativity Lutheran Church Allentown



Practical Resources for Churches 2022-2023 Contributors and Sponsors

We extend our *THANKS* to our individual and congregational givers.

Your donations, totaling approximately \$12,790, represented 9% of income received in 2022 - 2023.

Visionaries

Yuri Ando	Charlaine & Ira Apsel	Deborah Gline-Allen
Yvonne Gustafson	Ron & Marty Homa	Don & Debbie Kolacki
Dorothy & Stu Meade	Rev. Erik & Margaret Rasmussen	Rob & Joan Roehrig
	Janet Wright	

Missionaries

Darlene & Bryan Behrens	First Presbyterian Church Port Jefferson	Lakeville UCC
Fred & Debbie Bryant	Fred Hall	Hank & Karen Maust
Claire Burvenich	Stephan Jones	Diane Perry
Carolyn Costa	Henry & Joan Kahnhauser	David Prosser
Paul Elsener	Carol & Otto Keil	John & Jean Reiersen,
First Presbyterian Church Lexington KY	Jack & Joyce King	Carol & Richard Wolff

Disciples

Janet Barr	First Congregational Church Verona	Patricia Mahar
Marilyn & Raymond Becht	Tom & Betsy Gaidry	Mr & Mrs Joseph Manzi
Anna Blair	Mr & Mrs Lawrence Gallo	Janet McBride
Linda Brookshire	Karin Ganetis	Wesley & Sara Powell
Edythe Budke	Wendy Greguski	John & June Sehlmeier
Len & Pat Calone	Richard Hill	Michele Smith
Carol Pierson	Anne Hopkins	Lisa & Alfred Spinazzola
Jane Carter	Christine Johnson	Nancy Sturm
Charlotte Distefano	Julie Jensen	Maria Studer
Rita Dlug	Diane & Gerald June	Susan Rutledge
Patricia & Fred Dymek	Susan Lanchantin	Kathy Ulrich
First Plymouth Lincoln NE	Julie Lutz	

PRC – Patchogue

95 East Main St
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Wednesday, Thursday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

PRC – West Islip

109 Udall Rd.
West Islip, NY 11795
631-486-4350

Mon through Thurs, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Parish Resource Center of Long Island, Inc., dba PRC-Practical Resources for Churches, is a nonprofit, 501(c) (3), nondenominational, education-based organization providing knowledgeable consultants, workshops, and practical/multi-media resources supporting the mission and ministry of faith communities locally, regionally, and nationally. Our goal is to provide faith communities time-effective, cost-efficient, and results-oriented programs and services supporting mission and ministry within their churches and, through them, to the larger community.

PRC is registered with the New York State Charities Bureau. EIN: 11-2709562