

COMMUNITY CHURCH
of the Verdes

2026 Annual Meeting Date:
March 15, 2026

Annual Report for 2025



*Community Church of the Verdes
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AGENDA: ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION MARCH 15, 2026

Call to Order	Karla Lalim
Opening Prayer	Pastor Steve Beard
Introduction of Board Members	Karla Lalim
Opening Remarks	Karla Lalim
Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	Karla Lalim
Treasurer’s Report	Dan Larson
Facility Report	Gary Etcheson
Endowment & Memorial Garden Funds Report	Hunter Peacock
Nominating Committee Report	Gregg Stedronsky
Election of New Board Members	Karla Lalim
Recognition of Outgoing Board Members	Karla Lalim
Closing Prayer	Pastor Steve Beard

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MEMBERSHIP

December 31st	Members
2014	444
2015	459
2016	466
2017	463
2018	475
2019	470
2020	453
2021	455
2022	451
2023	419
2024	392
2025	387

ATTENDANCE

Attendance for 2024 vs 2025 reflects that in-person worship has remained steady, and live-stream has increased significantly.

	2024	2025
In-person worship	8,602	8,755
Live-Stream	<u>4,203</u>	<u>9,784</u>
TOTAL	12,805	18,539

2025 ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 16, 2025

(The Annual Report for 2024 was distributed)

Call to Order: President Karla Lalim opened the Annual Meeting at 9:27 am with a prayer from Pastor Cathy.

Karla's Opening Remarks: Introduction of the current Board of Trustees: Dan Larson, Rog Severson, Gary Etcheson, Charla Smith, Jody Anschutz, Nancy Lowe, Jared Reisinger and Pat Peterson. She thanked all for their commitment. She thanked the congregation for their support now and going forward. She acknowledged the work of the Call Committee, and Judy Stansbury for her service of 6 years as Office Manager. She encouraged all members to attend an appreciation brunch for Pastor Cathy on Sunday, April 27 at Rio Verde Country Club. The minutes for the March 17, 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting were voted on and accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Larson noted: Church finances are strong and the revenues outpaces the distributions (as noted on Page 10 of the Annual Report). He noted increased costs, but also investment accounts that showed nice appreciation (Page 11). The 2024 budget would have excess receipts of \$25,000 (Page 12). The recommendations from the Audit Committee were accepted and approved by the Board of Trustees. The Audit Committee were thanked for their service. He announced that our investment firm, Mariner Investments, was compliant with the Church policies. Dan thanked the Ushers who collect the weekly offering, the tellers who count the money and the office for processing the deposits. He thanked Rog Severson for his dedication as Assistant Treasurer. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as stated on Pages 10-12. the motion was approved.

Facility Report - Page 8: Gary reported that the Facilities Committee is charged with taking care of the beautiful property we have been entrusted with. He acknowledged several committee members for their years of dedication. Bob Nyman worked for many years on Landscaping, Memorial Garden and parking lot lighting. Rod Muilenburg served many years, particularly on the sanctuary lighting project, along with Bob Edwards.

Endowment & Memorial Garden Funds Report-Page 9: Dan reported that the Endowment Fund distributed \$16,500 for new missions.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Jody Anschutz recognized and thanked the members of the Nominating Committee for their work. Jody Anschutz and Rog Severson-members of the Board of Trustees, Illa Alexander, Nancy Beegle-Edwards and Denny Meyers-members-at-large. She introduced the three new nominees for Trustees: Pat Peterson, Nancy Sheppard and Julie Peacock.

Call Committee Report: Jan Stegmann, Call Committee Chair thanked the members of the Call Committee: Keith Betsch, Elry Wallman, Debbie Etcheson and Jan Weinberger. She also thanked Board member and former liaison to the Board, Nancy Lowe, for her efforts to assist in the formative stages of the committee. She reported that the committee holds weekly meetings, they are adding additional sites to post the position and have received some applicants. She cautioned that this is going to take some time and asked for prayers from the congregation,

Election of Board Members: The new members, as approved by the Board of Trustees, were announced as Pat Peterson, Julie Peacock and Nancy Sheppard. No nominations were made from the floor. A motion was made and seconded to approve by acclamation, the three new members of the Board of Trustees. The motion was approved.

Recognition of Outgoing Board Members: Special thanks for the work of Board of Trustee members: Charla Smith and Rog Severson. For their time and efforts, a donation has been made from Charla Smith to Verde Habitat for Humanity and from Rog Severson to Tunnel to Towers

Closing prayer and meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted, Charla Smith, Board of Trustees Secretary

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members and Friends of the Congregation,

Since our Annual Meeting last March, Community Church of the Verdes has experienced a season of meaningful transition-one marked by steady renewal, thoughtful change, and faithful discernment.

Shortly after the Annual Meeting, we welcomed a new Office Manager, who began her service just days later and has been a wonderful addition to our staff and daily ministry.

In May 2025, our Call Committee presented its recommendation to the Board to extend a call to Pastor Steve Beard. Following prayerful discernment, both parties signed contracts, and Pastor Steve officially accepted the call. The congregation was joyfully informed soon thereafter.

Last Spring, we honored the retirement of Pastor Cathy with a lovely brunch at Rio Verde Country Club, followed by a celebration in Founders Hall, as we gave thanks for her many years of faithful ministry among us. Pastor Cathy officially retired on September 1, 2025. Pastor Steve began his ministry on the Tuesday following Labor Day, and as of this writing, he has been with us for nearly six months. While this period of change has unfolded more gradually than what Community Church of the Verdes experienced over the previous fourteen years, it has been intentional, thoughtful, and grounded in faith.

Pastor Steve began his ministry at Community Church of the Verdes with a powerful sermon series on the *Psalms of Ascent*. He was formally installed on Sunday, November 9, 2025, during a meaningful worship service that included laying on of hands. Since that time, Pastor Steve has led the congregation through rich and engaging sermon series, most recently a thoughtful exploration of the Lord's Prayer. He has also introduced Wednesday morning Bible studies that align closely with his Sunday sermons, providing opportunities for deeper reflection and spiritual growth. In addition, weekday prayer sessions have been established in our beautiful chapel, which will also be the setting for a meaningful Ash Wednesday morning service.

Beyond worship and spiritual formation, we have made important practical strides as a congregation. A new church website has been launched, and online giving is now available helping us remain connected, accessible, and responsive in today's digital world.

As we look ahead, we do so with joy and hope, trusting that God is with us on this journey and confident that He will continue to guide Community Church of the Verdes in a faithful and healthy direction.

It has been a true privilege to serve you as President of the Board of Trustees. I am deeply grateful for the support and encouragement of this congregation, and I invite each of you to continue sharing your time and talents in service to this church. We extend our sincere thanks to our retiring Board members- Jody Anschutz, Gary Etcheson, and Dan Larson-who have served our congregation faithfully and generously for many years. As we offer them our gratitude, I am confident that our new leadership will carry this ministry forward with wisdom, care and faith.

God's peace and blessings to you all.

Faithfully submitted,

Karla Lalim

President, Board of Trustees

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The task of the Nominating Committee is to prayerfully develop a slate of nominees to fill the upcoming open positions on the Board of Trustees. The committee is composed of two current board members: Dan Larson and Nancy Sheppard and three members of the congregation at large; Gregg Stedronsky, (acting chair), Charla Smith and Jan Stegmann. We are grateful for the time, thoughtfulness, and faithful service of the committee as they consider the future needs of the church and sought God's guidance throughout this process. Their work reflects a spirit of collaboration and commitment to the ongoing mission and leadership of the church.

The nominees presented for consideration as Trustees are: Kim Dadlani, Linda Smiley Dietsche, and Rod Bulcher. Each nominee has expressed a willingness to serve and brings gifts and experience that will benefit the church community.

Respectfully submitted.

Gregg Stedronsky, Nominating Committee Chair (Acting)

Kim (Kamlesh) Dadlani was born in Baroda, India and came to the United States at the age of 14. He attended Western Michigan University, where he earned his BBA, majoring in Accounting and Management. While there, he also earned his MBA in Finance with focus on Mergers and Acquisitions. It was there he met his wife Julie. They have been married for 48 years. They have two children and two grandchildren. Kim is a retired Financial Executive from Pfizer Pharmaceutical. He spent over 30 years in the pharmaceutical business with expertise in Strategic Planning, Mergers and Acquisitions and Business Unit Turnarounds. He was a CFO of numerous business units and drive change management processes and organization restructuring/transformation. He has actively participated on numerous Charitable Boards and HOA's. Kim was actively involved in his Church leadership in Colorado-Served as Treasurer, developing strategic growth plan and chaired stewardship efforts (focused on contribution analysis, capital drive campaign and legacy giving). In 2023, after moving to Arizona (Trilogy at Verde Rivers), from Castle Rock, Colorado, Kim & Julie joined the Community Church of the Verdes and officially became members in April 2025. Previously, they were members at Christ Episcopal Church, in Castle Rock, CO for over 7 years, They are very excited to be a part of the church family. They enjoy travel and outdoor activities.

Linda Smiley Dietsche was born in 1947 in Tampa, Florida. Both of her parents served in the military during World War II. The family moved frequently throughout Linda's childhood. When her father retired from the military, the family relocated to Puerto Rico- her mother's birthplace. After high school, Linda enrolled at Barry College in Miami, Florida. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Nova University. Linda remained in Miami for nearly 20 years. She taught at both a middle school & high school. She also taught Spanish to adults, saving her earnings to purchase her first home. She moved to Port St. Lucie, Florida. And worked at a middle school. She met her first husband, George Smiley. Together they worked several jobs and shared a commitment to service. Both taught at the Martin County Correctional Center, where they found deep fulfillment helping those in need. In 1989, Linda became a high school assistant principal. She served in this role for 12 yrs., earning the honor of Assistant Principal of the year. After her years as an asst. principal, Linda was asked to become the Director of a government funded after school program. In this position, she provided after school academic & enrichment opportunities for low-income students. Throughout these years Linda remained deeply rooted in her faith. She attended First United Methodist church for many years, participating in Bible study and teaching quilting classes. In 2023, Linda's husband, George passed away. After this loss, a longtime friend, Bob Dietsche, who had recently lost his wife, reconnected with Linda. Their friendship turned into a loving partnership and they were married in 2024. Linda moved to Tonto Verde, AZ where she joined Community Church of the Verdes. She now sings in the choir and continues to attend Bible study.

Rod Bulcher was raised on a farm in Southern Idaho and attended the University of Idaho majoring in Chemical Engineering. His professional life lead him into operations management in Green Bay, Wisconsin and marketing, and sales for a Silicon Valley company. Brenda, his lovely wife, and he took a sabbatical from the start-up company rigors. They bought a cruising sail boat and explored the South Pacific as far west as Australia and New Zealand. Returning to North America, they wanted a warm climate and discovered the Rio Verde area. They fell in love with the area and its wonderful people. He serves on the Governance Committee and the Teller Committee for the Rio Verde Country Club. Effective January 2026, he joined the board of the Rio Verde Community Foundation. "Give where you live" is the by-line for the Foundation and he looks forward to serving the less fortunate in the area. He is an active member of the Community Church of the Verdes serving as an usher, lector, and is currently a member of the choir. He just completed the leadership role in hosting the church Men's Retreat. A main take away from the retreat is the quote from Joel Johnson the speaker. "God Gives, I receive. I give, God Smiles. And the cycle repeats". Joining the Church Trustee staff is one more opportunity for him to GIVE.

PASTOR'S REPORT

It is with deep gratitude that I submit my first Pastor's Report to you.

I began serving as your pastor in September, and from the very first Sunday I sensed what a gift this congregation is. Julie and I have felt warmly welcomed, and we are profoundly thankful for your kindness, patience, and encouragement as we have settled into this season of ministry together.

These first months have been devoted primarily to listening-listening to your stories, your hopes, your history, and your love for this church. I have met with many of you in your homes, over coffee, in hospital rooms, and after worship. I have learned that Community Church of the Verdes is a congregation marked by resilience, generosity, and a sincere desire to follow Christ faithfully.

Since September, we have centered our worship on the steady proclamation of the Word and the reverent celebration of the sacraments. Together we have explored themes of trust, forgiveness, discipleship, and the prayer life of Jesus. As we now move into Lent, we are beginning a series on the "I Am" statements of Christ-reminding ourselves that the One who calls us is the great "I Am", present and faithful in every season.

Our weekday prayer gatherings in the chapel have continued as a quiet but vital heart-beat of our life together. It has been encouraging to see steady participation in these moments of Scripture, prayer, and intercession.

One of my great privileges has been entering into the pastoral care of this congregation-walking along side those facing illness, loss, recovery, and transition. In times of hospital visits, memorial services, celebrations, and ordinary conversations, I have seen firsthand the deep compassion within this church family.

The Board of Trustees and church leaders have shown steady faithfulness in guiding the administrative and practical life of the church. I am grateful for their partnership, wisdom, and servant leadership.

Transitions always take time. These first months have been a season of building trust and shared vision. I am encouraged by the spirit of unity and openness I have encountered, and I believe the Lord is preparing good things for this congregation in the years ahead.

Thank you for welcoming me into your lives and into this sacred calling. It is an honor to serve as your pastor.

With gratitude and hope,

Pastor Steve Beard

MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

2025 Mission Activities Summary

The policy of the Community Church of the Verdes Mission Committee, adopted by the Board of Trustees, recommends to the Board tangible ways for the church to show God’s love through outreach locally, nationally, and intentionally. The Mission Committee does this through research, awareness, education, providing mission opportunities, and listening. In 2025, we kept our strong historic relationships with other agencies. Our focus remains with Christian organizations assisting children and families with an emphasis on local agencies.

In 2025, the Board of Trustees funded a budget for the Mission Committee of \$66,000, which represents 10% of the church’s Operating Fund. With the Board’s approval and your kind generosity, funds were distributed to the following agencies:

Sunshine Acres	\$10,000 Unrestricted
Christian Family Care	\$10,000 Unrestricted
Hope Women’s Center	\$10,000 Unrestricted
NPH USA/Friends of the Orphans	\$10,412 Unrestricted
Salvation Army	\$12,088 SoCal wildfire & Texas flood relief, Phoenix Kroc Center hands-on project
Thrive, AZ	\$ 5,000 Unrestricted
The Pad Project	\$ 4,500 Supplies & Unrestricted to Too Little Children
Parents of Addicted Loved Ones	\$ 2,000 Unrestricted
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	\$ 2,000 Phoenix student’s summer camp

In addition, the Board of Trustees annually distributes 5% of the Legacy Endowment Fund to expand and enrich the mission of the congregation, to initiate new ministries or significantly expand the scope of existing ministries. In 2025, the Board voted to direct the Mission Committee to determine a purpose for this distribution. The Committee recommended and the Board approved a gift of \$16,300 to **Harvest Compassion Center**.

Due to generous donations from our congregation for our Monthly Mission Drives, we continued to support our local community. In 2025, we organized collections for the **Justa Center, Sunshine Acres, Thrive-AZ, Hope Women’s Center, Christian Family Care, Save the Family, Extended Hands Food Bank, Fountain Hills Christian Ministerial Association Food Closet, Where Hope Lives and Harvest Compassion Center**.

Many volunteer hours are freely given by our church members. Agencies receiving their time and talents include, but are not limited to: **Sunshine Acres, Extended Hands Food Bank, Fountain Hills Christian Ministerial Association Food Closet, Justa Center Sandwich Making, Pad Project, Prayer Shawl Ministry, AA, PAL, Thrive-AZ, Stephen Ministry, VerdeCares, Habitat for Humanity, Unlimited Potential, Verde Community Christmas Project, Reigning Grace Ranch, and Salvation Army**.

We are blessed with so many who are willing to give and provide a better life for the less fortunate. There are always opportunities and missions that need our “hands on” support as well as financial resources.

Thank YOU for all you do! YOU are a true blessing to others! The members of the Mission Committee and the Board of Trustees look forward to continuing and expanding our mission and outreach work in 2026. With your gracious support, I am sure that we shall succeed.

Faithfully submitted,

Nancy Lowe

FACILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Facilities Committee is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Community Church of the Verdes campus. The church campus includes the Sanctuary, Chapel, Founders Hall, musical instruments, other equipment essential to the purpose and use of the buildings, the surrounding parking areas, Memorial Garden and landscape.

The current committee members that have generously served on this committee the past year are: Steve Alexander, Spencer Butts, Ric Doerflinger, Jim Justus, Denny Meyers and Judy Sevier. Bob Brabec and Tom Egan were on the committee through the past Fall and Bob Bigley has recently joined.

As Trustee/Chair of the Facilities Committee for the past three years, I am very grateful for the willingness of committee members to work on any necessary project. I also appreciate the support from Pastor Cathy, Pastor Steve and the Board of Trustees. A special thanks to Tami Burke, Office Manager, and Glen Langenfeld, Sexton.

Gary Etcheson
Facilities Committee Chair, Board of Trustees

ENDOWMENT & MEMORIAL GARDEN FUNDS REPORTS

The Legacy Endowment Fund provides a source of funds, outside of the church's normal operating budget to extend the mission of the church. The Memorial Garden Fund enables the care and beautification of the Garden to be self-sustaining. The assets in the two funds are managed in a broadly diversified high quality risk averse investment portfolio. During 2025, the financial markets improved, leading to the gains reflected in the two funds' results. The Endowment portfolio grew from \$345,850 to \$382,226 and the Memorial Garden Fund went from \$442,871 to \$482,022. These balances include distributions and withdrawals taken to extend the mission of the church and the expenses for care and maintenance of the Garden. In 2025, the Legacy Endowment Fund distributed \$16,300 to further the church's mission. Please see the Mission Report for more details. In total, the Fund has contributed \$174,800 since its 2011 inception. Community Church of the Verdes hopes that you will remember the Legacy Endowment and/or Memorial Garden Fund when you are updating your estate plan. It is hoped that each of us will give back a small portion of our estate to the church that has played an important part in our lives and our families lives. Leave a legacy you and your family will be proud of.

Faithfully submitted,

Hunter Peacock
Finance Committee Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

After the close of our 2025 financial year, I am pleased to report that the finances of the church are strong. We were slightly ahead of budget in revenues and expenses were also below budget. We ended 2025 ahead of budget.

We were blessed with appreciated stock transfers, and many very generous contributions to our individual funds and general Operating Fund.

We are very aware that the church does not earn your contributions - we are gifted by them and have a responsibility to ensure that these gifts are managed thoughtfully and with humility. Your Board of Trustees and Finance Committee require an annual internal audit of the financial records to improve efficiency and internal control, allowing us to be good stewards of your gifts, and the trust placed in us. For 2026, we have budgeted for an external audit and full reserve analysis.

The 2026 Operating Budget (page 12) outlines the Finance Committee and Board of Trustees' plans for the coming year. Depreciation is again shown as we continue to be mindful of anticipating and preparing for future needs. A Capital Budget has been prepared which outlines planned and necessary capital expenditures.

Weekly, we have ushers who collect, and tellers who count the offerings. These volunteers play very important roles in ensuring smooth operations, and are greatly appreciated. Additionally, my job would be more challenging without the input from the Finance Committee, Hunter Peacock, Kim Dadlani, Scott Lalim, Chris Nelson, Board President, Karla Lalim, and Pastor Steve Beard. Also, a big thank you to Karen Stephens, and Office Manager, Tami Burke.

Lastly, please consider special funds for giving, and Community Church of the Verdes in your estate plans.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Larson

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE VERDES
Operating Fund Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
For the Years Ended December 31, 2025, 2024, 2023

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
RECEIPTS			
Contributions	645,347	659,518	650,855
Investment Income-Net	18,810	10,006	5,220
Other Rental	2,450	10,825	9,575
Rent - St. Dominic Catholic Mission	108,528	105,468	102,000
Special Restricted Gift	20,032	13,645	-
Total Receipts	<u>795,167</u>	<u>799,462</u>	<u>767,650</u>
DISBURSEMENTS			
Care Ministry	714	1,507	7,227
Education	3,083	3,100	6,251
Bank Charges	698	464	280
Fellowship	8,701	7,902	10,469
Membership	1,431	1,785	7,498
Ministerial	224,933	208,195	200,071
Missions	66,000	65,000	60,000
Music	116,081	110,247	110,672
Office/Admin	112,423	115,125	88,345
Operations	168,349	135,170	139,791
Technology	37,595	34,210	25,414
Trustees Operations	100	275	9,799
Worship	6,345	1,216	2,228
Total Disbursements	<u>746,453</u>	<u>684,196</u>	<u>668,045</u>
Excess Receipts over Disbursements	48,714	115,266	99,605
Depreciation Expense	<u>185,302</u>	<u>181,068</u>	<u>176,784</u>
NET AFTER DEPRECIATION	<u><u>(136,588)</u></u>	<u><u>(65,802)</u></u>	<u><u>(77,179)</u></u>

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE VERDES
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2025 and 2024

Assets	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Cash-Checking	51,303	60,059
Cash-CD	36,110	35,000
Operating Account Investments	458,284	492,373
Capital Reserve Fund Investments	1,151,430	975,250
Endowment Fund Investments	382,226	345,850
Memorial Garden Fund Investments	482,023	440,789
Total Cash and Investments	<u>2,561,376</u>	<u>2,349,321</u>
 Fixed Assets		
Buildings	4,758,496	4,745,384
Furniture & Equipment	763,466	788,256
Land & Improvements	687,949	687,949
Memorial Garden	404,778	390,479
Total Fixed Assets	6,614,689	6,612,068
Accumulated Depreciation	(3,933,822)	(3,817,701)
Total Fixed Assets after Depreciation	<u>2,680,867</u>	<u>2,794,367</u>
 Total Assets	<u>5,242,243</u>	<u>5,143,688</u>
 Liabilities		
Credit Card	2,846	1,140
Total Liabilities	<u>2,846</u>	<u>1,140</u>
 Fund Balances		
Endowment Fund	383,726	347,850
Capital Reserve Fund	1,151,341	980,782
Memorial Garden Fund	481,661	440,683
Operating Fund	419,521	448,906
Property Fund	2,680,867	2,794,367
Scholarship	23,653	13,793
Special Gifts Fund	28,767	49,194
Spirituality & Arts	69,861	66,973
Total Fund Balances	<u>5,239,397</u>	<u>5,142,548</u>
 Total Liabilities & Fund Balances	<u>5,242,243</u>	<u>5,143,688</u>

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE VERDES
2026 BUDGET

RECEIPTS

Contributions	675,000
Investment Income-Net	18,000
Other Rental	7,500
Rent-St. Dominic Catholic	111,456
Special Restricted Gifts	20,000

Total Receipts 831,956

DISBURSEMENTS

Bank Charges	1,500
Care Ministry	2,100
Education	6,200
Fellowship	7,300
Membership	3,530
Ministerial	204,000
Missions	65,000
Music	122,336
Office/Admin	124,319
Operations	172,500
Technology	47,828
Trustees Operations	540
Worship	3,800

Total Expenses 760,953

Excess Receipts over Disbursements 71,003

Depreciation Expense 195,000

NET AFTER DEPRECIATION (123,997)