



2022

ANNUAL  
REPORT



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# Opening Letter

Dear Beloved Community of common cathedral,

As we gather to reflect on the incredible journey of 2022, we are overwhelmed with gratitude and hope. This past year has been a testament to the resilience and transformation that we, as a community, embody in the face of challenges.

In the heart of uncertainty, it was your unwavering support as our valued ministry partners and donors that lit our path. Your love and generosity have been the driving force behind the meaningful work we do every day, empowering us to continue providing essential services and support to our beloved community.

Amidst the trials of 2022, one shining beacon has been our renewed focus on programs that embrace the intersection of Art and social justice. We firmly believe in the transformative power of the arts to amplify voices, heal wounds, and inspire positive change. Our Common Art program has continued to blossom, creating vibrant spaces for creativity and self-expression, where each one of us finds solace, joy, and healing through artistic endeavors. Together, we have provided art supplies, workshops, and opportunities for our community artists to engage in meaningful creative expression and the fostering of divine fellowship. With every stroke of the brush, we paint a brighter future, where love and justice intertwine, and where art becomes a powerful force for change.

Another pillar of our work has been our commitment to Trauma-Informed Care. We recognize that many among us have experienced significant trauma, and we strive to create a sanctuary of safety and support that fosters healing and growth. Our collective journey of learning and understanding has equipped our staff and volunteers to embrace trauma-informed practices, ensuring that each person who graces our space is treated with dignity, empathy, and compassion.

In our shared vision, we hold dear the importance of cultivating communal leadership. Together, we embrace the power of collective wisdom and shared leadership, empowering every member of our community to take on leadership roles within our organization. We have witnessed incredible growth in the development of our communal leaders, and their positive impact on our programs and community is a testament to the strength of our collective efforts.

As we stand on the threshold of tomorrow, we are inspired and hopeful. Your unwavering support has fueled our dreams and emboldened us to reach even higher in our mission to create a more just and compassionate world. Together, we will continue to nurture our programs, deepen our impact, and create a space of belonging for all.

With heartfelt thanks and love,

Rev. Carrington Moore  
Executive Director, common cathedral  
Reverend Robin Lutjohann, Board Chair





“

*Housed or unhoused,  
young or old, we are all  
in different ways  
rebounding from the  
loneliness of the  
pandemic.*

”

REV. EMILY SUGG

Common  
cathedral

# Voices of common cathedral

In the 6 years or so that I have been a member of this extraordinary community, one center has always held. We are church. Not just a church, but CHURCH. common cathedral is what church is.

We hold worship services, programs, events and parties. We borrow buildings, such as Emmanuel and St. Paul's, public spaces such as the Boston Common, Public Garden and the Esplanade. We take field trips and join with our larger community in the Winter Walk and through City Reach and common inspiration, and we do it all as church.

And what a glorious and iconoclastic and heroic and queer church we are. All are invited. None are turned away, or told they are not worthy, told they are not welcome. Though our traditions and ceremonies are surely Christian, our community is far more diverse. Never once, in all my time with common cathedral, have I heard a person told that they do not belong here. Whatever life circumstance, from any background, from any faith - or none, each person is met here with open arms and radical welcome.

About the only constant within our community is change. I began my relationship with common cathedral in the summer of 2017. Every season since then has brought new challenges and new gifts. We are nothing if not a resilient lot, and our desire to come together as community is strong. We choose (and we are most certainly a church of those who CHOOSE to gather together) to create art and joy and beauty, to meet in purposeful fellowship or to simply hang out, to pray, to celebrate and surely too often to grieve.

But in every season through each year that I have been here, common cathedral - though ever changing and constantly renewing itself - has remained for everyone who chooses to be part of it, a place of prayer and hope, of love and inclusion, of welcome and belonging. In other words, CHURCH.

REFLECTION BY: JOHN LANE



“

We are church. Not just a church, but CHURCH. common cathedral is what church is.

## **Thoughts on our long-term partnership between St. John's, Westwood, and Ecclesia Ministries**

By Reverend Emily Sugg

The most joyful part of my job as a Youth and Children's Minister is intergenerational outreach work. During the last 20 plus years, we have had no more influential ministry partner than Ecclesia Ministries! Through our partnership, St. John's youth have learned firsthand about many pressing issues in our city and have also witnessed Gospel teachings in action. We have learned that friendship between faith communities takes time and care, and that relationships matter infinitely more than any one-time ministry project.

Housed or unhoused, young or old, we are all in different ways rebounding from the loneliness of the pandemic. Being involved in programs such as CityReach has always given our teenagers opportunities to be good listeners, but this life skill seems especially important right now. Thoughtful, attentive listening allows someone who is unhoused to feel valued and understood, which is more important than offering a peanut butter sandwich or new socks (even though these are needed, too, of course).

The story I want to tell is about how the teenagers at my church started two special outings to share with members of common cathedral. For many years, our church's high school youth and a couple of adult chaperones have attended the CityReach overnight in Boston. At the end of our first CityReach program, Rev. Debbie Little asked: "Now that you've spent time with us, members of common cathedral would love to be invited out to YOUR faith communities!" I must admit that at the time I had no idea how we might do this. But our two youth leaders proposed at our next gathering that we invite folks from common cathedral out to Westwood on a summer afternoon to get out of the heat of Boston.

Our youth were determined to pull this off, so we raised the money to rent a beachfront at nearby Hale Reservation in Westwood for a cookout and fishing. It went so well that we've been having this gathering for years! It takes careful planning; we need 7 cars to meet our guests at the Norwood Depot station, lots of volunteers to bring fresh food, fishing poles and worms, lawn chairs, and cold drinks. The best part of this event is that we are all simply enjoying one another's company: we're chatting and fishing together, or throwing a frisbee, and are all at a cool spot with a pavilion and a peaceful view. Many of our college-aged youth still attend this annual picnic and love reconnecting with friends from common cathedral!

Many years ago, we added a bowling party in the winter as another fun adventure for our two faith communities. We mix St. John's and common cathedral members into teams at Ron's in Hyde Park, and everyone, whether they know how to bowl or not, has a great time! (Ron's has fantastic homemade ice cream as well.) I fully credit the young people of our church for thinking up another joyful gathering where we can all participate equally.

Being a long-term partner with common cathedral has given our church's youth the gift of sharing joy with others and of getting to know some amazing people, of many different ages and experiences, who have much wisdom to impart. Ecclesia Ministries inspires those of us in traditional churches to face into the world with newly opened hearts and minds, to build a more just kingdom of God.

## Thoughts on our long-term partnership between St. John's, Westwood, and Partnership with Roxbury Presbyterian Church Social Impact Center

The collaboration between common cathedral and Roxbury Presbyterian Church Social Impact Center has been a catalyst for healing within our community. At the heart of this partnership is the transformative "Can We Talk" Program, a grassroots approach to trauma-informed conversation that centers healing from environmental trauma. This program has provided our community with invaluable insights and a safe space to heal, fostering a sense of individual and collective value.

Through the "Can We Talk" Program, our community has experienced profound transformation. It has become an essential element of our trauma-informed care initiatives, supporting the leadership and growth of our common cathedral community. The program's impact has enriched the interactions of our staff, volunteers, and community members, fostering a safe and compassionate environment for healing conversations.

Addressing the impact of environmental trauma, "Can We Talk" takes a holistic approach to healing, recognizing that healing is interconnected at both the individual and community levels. This program has deepened our understanding of the importance of collective healing and our role in supporting one another.

The partnership with Roxbury Presbyterian Church Social Impact Center has been instrumental in expanding our programming and reaching more individuals in need. Their support has empowered us to develop a community that values healing and empowerment.

As we continue this journey together, we remain grateful for the enduring support of Roxbury Presbyterian Church Social Impact Center. Their commitment to healing and empowerment aligns perfectly with our mission, and we look forward to furthering our shared vision.

## Boston University School of Theology Partnership

We are thrilled to celebrate the ongoing partnership between common cathedral and Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) in the transformative "Trauma-Responsive Congregations" program. This collaboration represents a significant step forward in our vision casting and learning journey, as we continue to focus on programming that centers Trauma-Informed Care and leadership development.

The "Trauma-Responsive Congregations" program, supported by the Daniels Institute and the Chaplaincy Innovation Lab, equips urban congregations with tools and knowledge to respond to trauma from theologically informed and spiritually integrative perspectives—a perfect alignment with our commitment to healing and empowering our community.

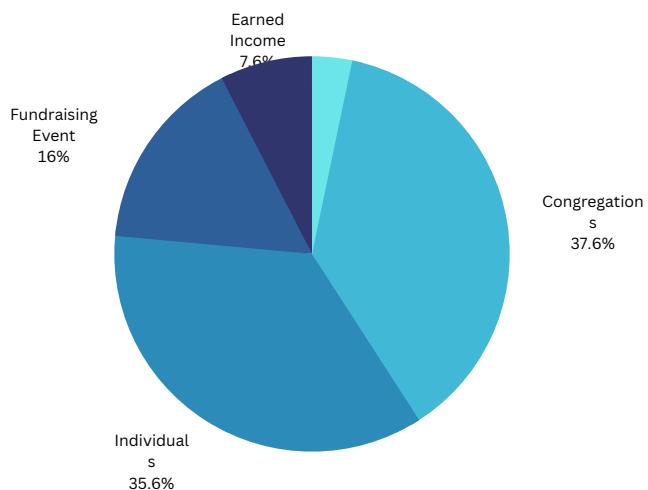
Through this program, common cathedral gains access to a national network of spiritual care professionals, offering unwavering support. The individualized organizational coaching and technical assistance we receive are tailored to our unique needs and aspirations. Staff training and development opportunities further enhance our capacity to serve and nurture those we encounter.

The aspect of peer-to-peer learning within the program is particularly exciting. Engaging with faith communities from across the country allows us to exchange experiences, ideas, and best practices, enriching our approach to trauma-responsive care and leading to transformative programming.

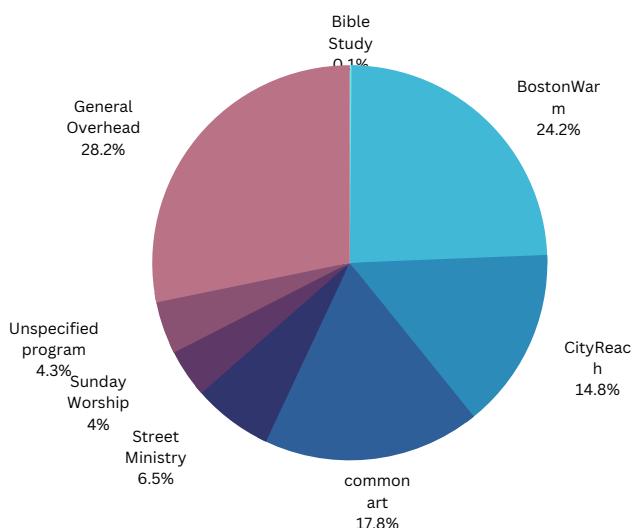
Boston University School of Theology's partnership exemplifies our shared dedication to creating safe and healing spaces for our community. With BUSTH's expertise and support, we continue to grow as a compassionate and resilient organization. This collaborative endeavor demonstrates the powerful synergy of academia and grassroots initiatives, fostering transformative change.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to Boston University School of Theology for embracing us as dialogue partners in this journey of learning and growth. Our shared vision of building trauma-responsive communities perfectly aligns with our mission. Together, we explore new and transformative ways to support the common cathedral community, where love and justice intertwine, and where healing and empowerment flourish.

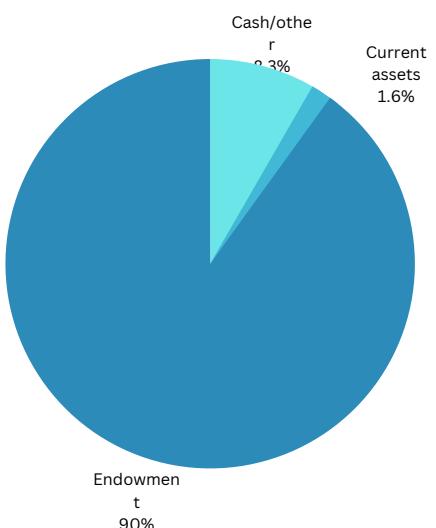
## Revenues



## Expenses



## Assets



### REVENUE

Foundations	\$9,852
Congregations	\$113,145
Individuals	\$107,038
Fundraising Event	\$48,092
Earned Income	\$22,729

**TOTAL REVENUE \$300,856**

### EXPENSES

#### PROGRAMS

Bible Study	\$595
BostonWarm	\$100,805
CityReach	\$61,692
common art	\$74,045
Unspecified program	\$17,900
Street Ministry	\$27,245
Sunday Worship	\$16,468

#### ADMINISTRATION

General Overhead	\$117,436
Fundraising	

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$400,076**

Cash/other	\$119,362
Current assets	\$23,477
Endowment	\$1,290,768

**TOTAL ASSETS \$1,433,607**

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REV. CARRINGTON MOORE

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Reverend Carrington Moore, Executive Director

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Tamar Wasoian, PhD; Associate Pastor & Program Director

Reverend Atem Yaak, Associate Minister

Deacon Laurel Deery

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