

Lafayette
Avenue
Presbyterian
Church

Mission Study Report

Brooklyn, New York • April, 2022



**Submitted to the
Presbytery of New York City / Commission on Ministry**

LAPC is a dynamic, multiracial, multicultural, intergenerational church that was founded by abolitionists and continues to be at the forefront of social justice. Our vision for ministry is to live the Gospel by cultivating a welcoming and supportive church home for our diverse community through our ministries of worship, music and art, social justice, Christian education, and support of neighborhood organizations. All are welcome in this place.

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I. Background on the Mission Study

A. Purpose of the Mission Study

A pastoral transition is a major event in the life of a congregation and this has been true for LAPC as we begin the process of seeking a new Pastor. Recent years have seen a renewed vigor in our church and excitement about its role in the lives of the congregation and our broader community. Though we enter this transition from a position of commitment and growth, it is important for us to prepare ourselves for calling a new Pastor to Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church (LAPC) by reflecting on the past, present and future of LAPC. As part of this, we have grappled with questions such as the following:

- How has the history of our church shaped our congregation, our worship, and our ministries?
- What role does LAPC play in the lives of our congregation?
- What role does LAPC play in our broader neighborhood?
- What are the needs of our community?
- What is God calling us to do in the next phase of our ministry?
- What specifically should we do to strengthen our congregational and outreach ministries in the next year?
- What kind of skills, experience, and personal characteristics do we need in our new pastor?

The results of our reflection, contained in this Study, will inform the work of our upcoming Pastor Nominating Committee, as it prepares a Ministry Information Form. This serves as a picture of the mission and ministry of our church, a “job description” of our pastoral position, and outlines the key attributes we are seeking in our new pastor.

B. Committee Members

The following members have served on the Mission Study Team: Gail Blaize, Alison Cordero, Fred Doolittle, Selma Jackson, Katie Kelleher, Wanda Lay, and Sandra Long. We benefited greatly from the support of Interim Pastor Morgan Valencia King, Phillip Kellogg of the LAPC Communications Team, LAPC administrative assistant Harriet Bodner, and our Liaison from the New York City Presbytery, Anne Conroy.

C. Activities of the Committee in Preparing the Mission Study Report

Under the procedures of the Presbyterian Church USA, we are called upon to conduct a search for a new pastor following specific steps. Our first task is to prepare this Mission Study, which is

approved by the LAPC Session and then forwarded to the Presbytery of New York City Commission on Ministry for review and approval. Once approved, LAPC can elect a Pastor Nominating Committee, which will conduct the search for a new pastor and present a candidate to the congregation for its approval.

In preparing this Mission Study, the committee has:

- **Reviewed background material and documents on LAPC**, especially material prepared as part of the ongoing Opening Doors capital campaign and the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Congregation
- **Designed and fielded an online survey** of our congregation during the height of the pandemic and received 178 responses
- **Conducted online and in-person focus groups** with members of the congregation, including a group with teenage members
- **Collected background information** on our community and the ministry of our church,
- **Prepared this Mission Study Report** for review and approval by LAPC Session and the New York Presbytery Commission on Ministry.

II. About Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn

A. Church History

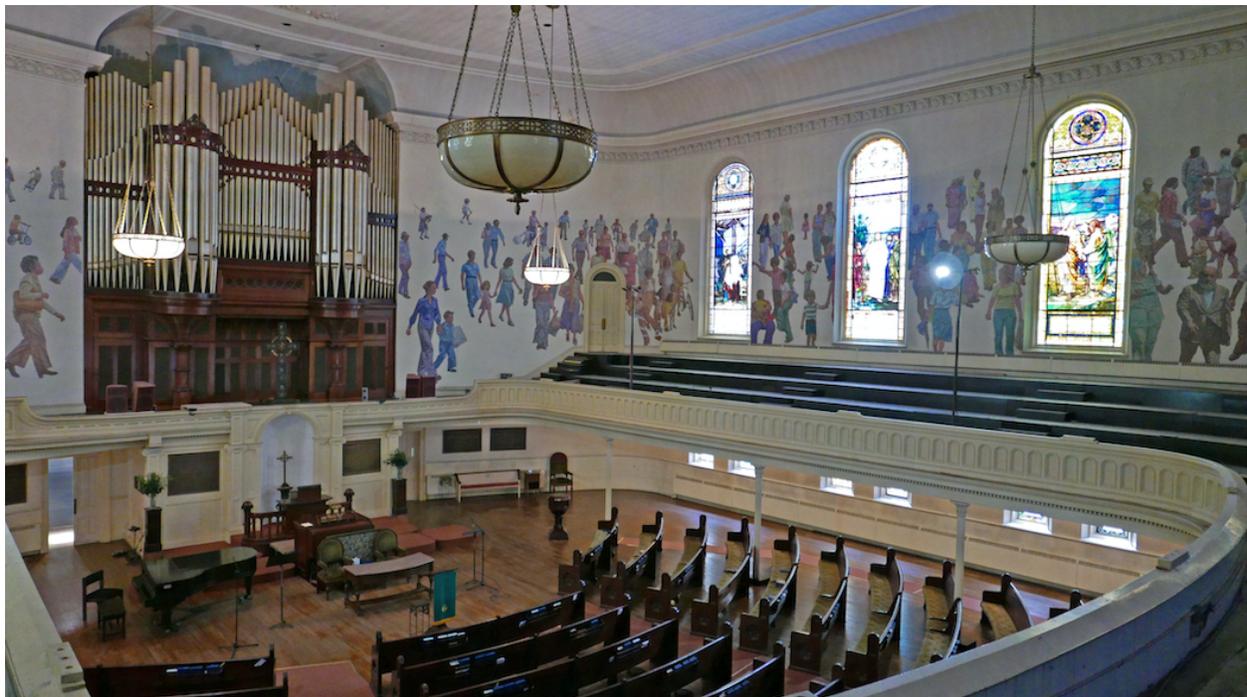
The Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church (“LAPC”) was organized in 1857, at a time when the issue of slavery dominated the national debate. The church called Theodore Ledyard Cuyler, who among other causes, was an ardent abolitionist, as its founding pastor. The Reverend Dr. Cuyler would press tirelessly for emancipation, and the church was known from the outset as a “temple of abolition.” In 1862, LAPC completed construction of a new church building, a Romanesque Revival style with two towers and a large open sanctuary with curved pews oriented to the pulpit, reflecting the Social Gospel Movement which emphasized preaching in worship services.

In 1872, Cuyler, himself now a famous preacher, defied Presbyterian practice and welcomed women to the LAPC pulpit from its earliest years. Among those who preached here in the 1860s and 1870s were Welsh temperance advocate Susannah Evans, Quaker evangelist Sarah Smiley, and missionary Amanda Berry Smith, a freed slave. The congregation took this in stride and supported it. Not so the local Presbyterian authorities, who called Cuyler to account for allowing a woman to address a “promiscuous assembly,” *i.e.*, mixed gender congregation. Cuyler was tried by the Presbytery, but not censured, though the Presbytery continued to condemn the practice of women preaching to mixed audiences.

In 1892, the second Pastor, Dr. David Gregg, preached a sermon that challenged the religious premise of the Columbus expedition. He later included “Our American Foremothers” and “Our Afro-American Forefathers” in his sermon series on “Makers of the American Republic.”

The Church, through one of its members, was directly responsible for the opening of Presbyterian work in Korea and for the appointment of Horace Grant Underwood in the year 1884 to lead the mission. The beginning of Protestant Christian Missions in Korea stems directly from the missionary concerns of this Church, and there are 25 million Presbyterians in Korea, over 130 years later.

During the 1960s, Rev. Dr. George Litch Knight (1957-1989), focused the church’s mission on welcoming newcomers to the neighborhood and making the church an advocate for racial and economic justice. LAPC served as the first home of Medgar Evers College, which is now part of the City University of New York. By the early 1970’s, LAPC was well on its way to being a multiracial, multicultural congregation, a phenomenon not reflected in the stately interior of the sanctuary. A young Pratt Institute artist, Hank Prussing, was commissioned to paint a giant mural around the upper balcony, reflecting the diversity of the community and the church. Prussing went into the streets and took photographs of neighborhood people and activity, which he used in painting the massive swirling sea of community life titled, “Mighty Cloud of Witnesses,” a phrase from the letter to the Hebrews. To this day, people come into the church to find their parents’, grandparents’, and children’s images in the great mural.



The LAPC Sanctuary with its 300-foot wrap-around mural “Cloud of Witnesses”, and collection of stained-glass art windows, 17 of which were created by Tiffany Studios.

In 1978, during Knight's pastorate, LAPC became a "More Light" Presbyterian church, as we declared our support for the Presbyterian Church to welcome and ordain persons regardless of sexual orientation. And in 1984, one of the City's first church-based shelters for homeless men opened at LAPC, staffed by church volunteers. The shelter later became a project of a consortium of Fort Greene churches housed at the former Sacred Heart School. Once more, LAPC was on the forefront of the social justice struggles of the day. With restrictions due to the Covid Pandemic, the network of faith-based shelters was shut down and remains on "pause". LAPC volunteers along with City agencies continue to monitor conditions and when it is deemed safe, look forward to resuming this important ministry.

Our seventh pastor, Rev. David Dyson (1992-2011) was one of the founders of People of Faith, a nationwide network of progressive and inclusive churches committed to social justice issues. During his pastorate, the church formed a strong relationship with Habitat for Humanity, Fungwa University in Haiti, and Church of the Gethsemane, a church which serves formerly incarcerated men and women in Brooklyn. The old Sunday School room was repurposed into the Irondale Theater, a renowned company that presents compelling and thought-provoking dramatic projects. During this period, LAPC was named as one of the 300 Outstanding Protestant Churches in the United States by the Lilly Endowment.

Following Rev. Dyson's retirement, LAPC called Rev. David NunnTelfort in 2017 as its eighth minister. During Rev. NunnTelfort's pastorate, the church increased its membership, reinvigorated the many committees that support the work of the church, expanded its work supporting criminal justice and immigration reform, supported asylum seekers, and participated in a New York City-wide program to bail out individuals being held pending a trial during the COVID pandemic.

During the COVID pandemic, LAPC quickly mounted the systems needed to continue worshiping online. Our streaming worship services attracted participants from within the NYC metropolitan area who could not attend services in person and drew new congregants from around the country and across the world. Since 2019 our website has received 83% new user traffic from 2,283 locations from over 20 countries worldwide. In our recent survey, 13% of respondents reported they began attending LAPC worship services during the pandemic. We are thankful to Rev. NunnTelfort for successfully leading us with technology during the pandemic. With Rev. NunnTelfort's marriage and decision to move to Chicago in 2021, we are once again embarking on a new chapter in our history.

The history of LAPC can never be a single narrative. It is a living compilation of many stories, told with faith and affection by the more 15,000 men and women who have been members of this congregation since 1857. These are stories of intrepid witness on behalf of the great social questions of past generations as well as our own: abolition, women's equality, LGBTQ equality, peacemaking, economic justice, civil rights, and solidarity with immigrants and the marginalized. Our foremothers and forefathers have bestowed on us a rich heritage of faithful witness. Our descendants will likewise be looking back at us to see how we have responded to our calling and "made history" in the early twenty-first century.

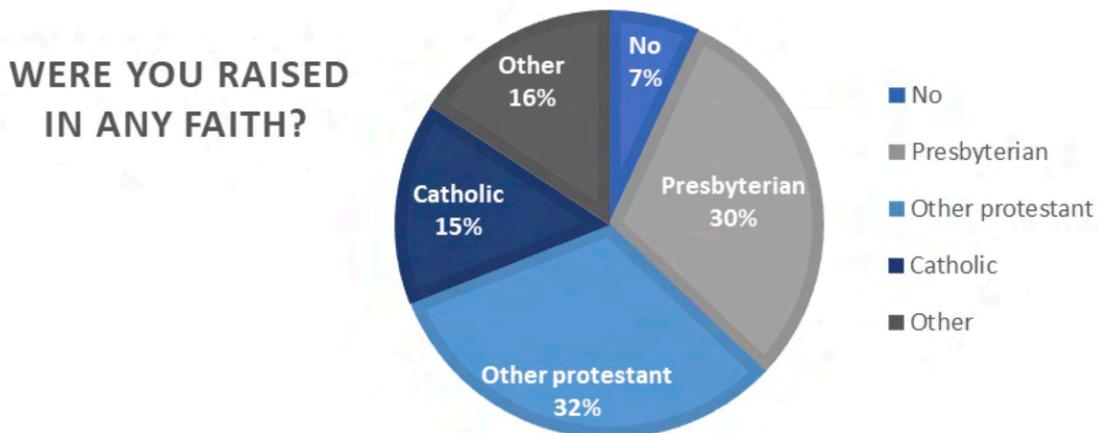
B. The LAPC Congregation

Our congregation is growing. Since 2017 over 80 individuals have become members. Among the 270 members listed in our January 2022 report to the Presbytery (see Appendix A), slightly over half identify as Black/African American/African, about one-third identify as White and the remaining 10% as Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic, or multiracial. We have many new attendees, and this upward trend continues even as we have shifted to virtual services due to COVID. During the height of the pandemic, nearly 200 households each week viewed our services live online and many more viewed the worship service later. Our 2021 Christmas Eve service had 350 online views. With the loosening of pandemic restrictions, LAPC has reopened on a limited basis, with in-person attendance at worship limited to 100 masked persons.

Respondents to our survey further illustrate the characteristics of LAPC members and those who are nonmembers but who feel part of the LAPC community. Most live in the New York Metro area, with the vast majority in Brooklyn. In the survey sample, White and African-American respondents were approximately equal in numbers (about 40-45%), with under 5% of respondents identifying as Hispanic/Latino or Asian/Pacific Islander. About 13% were born outside the United States. Most had a college degree and over half had a graduate degree. About half were employed full time, another 10% were working part time, and one third were retired. About one-third lived alone and among the two-thirds who lived with others about 25% had children under 13 living with them.

C. LAPC in the Life of the Congregation

Diversity of Perspectives. Our LAPC community is an unusual one, drawn together by our commitment to a religious community of diverse views. Our uniqueness extends beyond the racial and ethnic diversity of the congregation - which itself is truly unusual within the Presbyterian denomination – to encompass a variety of religious perspectives. In our recent congregational survey, 93% of respondents were raised within a faith but only 30% grew up in a Presbyterian Church, while 32% grew up in another protestant faith and 15% were Catholic.



LAPC has brought people back to the church; 40% had not been part of any congregation or denomination prior to attending LAPC. 68% were drawn to LAPC by its history, mission, and congregation; another 27% were drawn by that plus its affiliation with the Presbyterian denomination; only 2 % were primarily attracted to LAPC because it is a Presbyterian church.

Respondents' views of the Bible illustrate our diversity of perspectives: few see it as the literal word of God, while 56% see it as the word of God to be interpreted in light of its historical context and the Church's teaching, 17% see it as not the word of God as a whole but containing God's word to us, and another 17% see it as a valuable book but not the word of God.

Congregants embrace this variety and see it as a strength. 98% of survey respondents were comfortable with our statement – repeated in each worship service – that “LAPC is a diverse community of faith where people of faith or no faith at all can come and discover the sacred in life.”

This sentiment was emphasized by many participants in our focus groups as well. One church member explained that this diversity of faith backgrounds is important to her and it is a reason that she appreciates when LAPC sermons provide context to account for this diversity of faith backgrounds.

“We come from diverse backgrounds. We are here because of certain values and teachings that have brought us together. I was raised Catholic, so I appreciate the sermons having context (which was not common in Catholic homilies). Having more of that context is important. I have appreciated being able to question things.”

Another church member explained:

“I enjoy encountering less traditional views of religion and meeting lots of seekers: folks who experience spirituality in the service but the “god thing remains lost on them.”

Worship as a Rewarding Experience. Our worship service is a central part of life at LAPC. Eighty-five percent of survey respondents report they usually or always experience a sense of connectedness and energy from the service, 68% experience a sense of renewal and joy, and 66% report a sense of God's presence usually or always. Rarely do respondents experience frustration, judgment, or boredom. 90% of respondents said the scriptural content of the sermons was very important or somewhat important (and about 70% report the sermons usually or always help in understanding scripture). Even more value the contextual explanation of scripture, their application to current events, and calls for social justice and support for marginalized communities. Over 90% value the sermon's support for spiritual renewal and personal well-being.

Both the music and the sanctuary make a major contribution to the worship experience. LAPC's unusual sanctuary is important to the congregation, with over 3/4ths of survey

respondents reporting it is a major element of their worship experience. LAPC music is also both unusual and striking in its impact on the congregation. Over 3/4ths of survey respondents report that music in the LAPC service always makes a major contribution to the worship experience.



The Lafayette Choir, under the direction of J. David Williams, sings a wide variety of music including Anglican cathedral music, standard American anthems, spirituals, psalms, and new compositions.



The Lafayette Inspirational Ensemble, under the direction of Janis Russell, is a multicultural and multi-ethnic Ensemble that sings gospel, praising Jesus with a jubilant abandon that transcends gospel stereotypes.



The Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Band provides an opportunity for our youth to participate in the Ministry of Music and grow their talents.



Jazz Vespers, offered periodically, include scripture, poetry readings and a short message, where the music is the sermon.



The Lafayette Organ was built by the Austin Organ Company in 1910.

Strong Positive Feelings about the LAPC Congregation. When survey respondents were asked to name aspects of LAPC they most value, the most frequently mentioned were its wider community and social justice focus, the sermons and preaching, its openness to social diversity, and the connection it provides to a community of caring individuals. Nearly all feel LAPC fosters an environment of diversity, provides a moral voice for our community, is fighting to alleviate inequality and suffering and eliminate their causes, and is spiritually alive and vital. Few see LAPC as experiencing serious internal conflict, resistant to change, or avoiding difficult discussions.

Respondents were asked to name three words that best describe LAPC, and their responses are presented in the “word cloud” below, with larger fonts signaling more frequent mentions:



In focus groups, congregants echoed these feelings, with numerous individuals reporting how LAPC has welcomed them into its community. Interestingly, the word cloud emphasizes the community and its commitment to openness and social justice rather than specific religious beliefs. This could well be because congregants bring a variety of religious perspectives to LAPC, which are personal values rather than beliefs tested at the front door for conformity. The welcoming community encompasses this variety.

Broad Participation in the Activities of LAPC. Over 60% of survey respondents were formal members of LAPC and slightly over half have been attending services at LAPC for 10 or more years. About 45% of respondents report having served as a deacon or session member and half have served as a liturgist or reader within services. Nearly half report having participated in an LAPC committee, with service on the social justice committee being the most frequently mentioned by far. Eighty-five percent reported attending concerts of the LAPC Inspirational Ensemble, nearly 70% have attended jazz vespers, and a similar percentage have attended other music and dance events. Over half have attended community events and discussions at LAPC about public policy and social justice issues. Approximately half or more report having participated in fellowship and social activities or attended fundraising activities like craft fairs and bake sales and nearly half have served at the men’s shelter.

D. LAPC in the Community

Our church is located in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. Focusing on the community within a one-mile radius of LAPC and using data from the Presbyterian Church (USA) website¹ from the 2020 Census and projections, approximately 190,000 people live

¹ <https://maps.nazarene.org/DemographicsPresbyterian/summary.html?y=4966281.253320036&x=-8234759.493533239&b=1>

within this area and the population grew slightly (about 2%) over the last 7 years. About half of the population in our area identify as white, with 23% identifying as Black, 14% as Hispanic, and 9% as Asian. Within our area, about 15% of households were married adults with children present, another 17% were married with no children, 7% with single parents with a child or children, 34% were adults living alone, and 18 % were non-family multi-person households. About half the single adults had never married. Among the total population, 20% were under 18 years of age, 33% were 18 to 34, 29% were 35 to 54, and 19% were 55 years old and up. Nearly all housing in our area is multi-family, and over 60% of housing units are renter occupied. Among adults in our area, 65% have at least a bachelor's degree, while 22% have a high school diploma or no diploma. There is great diversity of household income in our community. Forty-one percent of households have an annual household income of \$125,000 or more. However, 17% of households have an annual income of under \$25,000, 10% have income between \$25,000 and \$45,000 and 18% have a household income of \$75,000 to \$125,000.

Underlying these numbers is a very dynamic process of community change, with rising rents and housing costs, displacement of some long-time residents, and an inflow of new residents who tend to be younger and often without children. LAPC has kept to its long-time goal of serving this community with a focus on community issues and social justice. As Rev. Dr. Robert Foltz-Morrison Executive Presbyterian of the New York City Presbytery recently wrote in support of a grant to renovate our sanctuary:

“The Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church ministered to those who could not move, chose not to move, and newcomers for whom this diverse urban environment is ‘home.’ The church demonstrated how God ‘has moved into the neighborhood...”

LAPC is a visible presence within this community and constantly focuses on reaching out to serve others. Because of our outreach in the community, we're known as the "town hall" of Fort Greene. As Hakeem Jeffries, our Congressional Representative noted recently as part of a recent grant application:

“Known and revered as the “Town Hall” space of Fort Greene, LAPC hosts numerous community forums, workshops, social justice action activities and is a venue for performing arts events each year. LAPC truly serves as a community hub and landmark for civic events in Central Brooklyn, which is rapidly changing through gentrification.”

Two such community meetings stand out:

- During Rev Dyson's tenure we hosted a community forum on our country's presence in the war in Afghanistan and Iraq. Cindy Sheehan protested at President Bush's ranch in Texas and we opened our doors to the community to voice its opinion. Included in the audience was Phil Donahue.

- Early in Rev. NunnTelfort's tenure, New York state was considering ballot provisions to revise its state constitution and meetings were being held throughout the state to discuss these proposed changes. LAPC hosted one of these public meetings, which was chaired by State Senator Velmanette Montgomery and was packed to capacity and included lively community debate

During the pandemic, we began a food program with Atlantic Terminal Development of the New York City Housing Authority providing fresh produce to residents. Additionally, we joined forces with others in the community to form a mutual aid network that served members and the community, offering help with technology, shopping, assistance with city agencies, and eventually scheduling vaccines. These collaborations allowed for a wider reach, more connections, but also more hands to serve our communities.

As a social justice church, we are very committed to being a Matthew 25 church, making sure that those in need are cared for.² That is at the heart of who we are as a congregation and we would be looking for these qualities in a new pastor to continue to lead LAPC on that path.

E. LAPC Finances

During the time between the retirement of Rev. Dyson and the arrival of Rev. NunnTelfort, LAPC was served by two interim pastors and our church's membership and finances reflected this instability in leadership. Rev. NunnTelfort arrived at LAPC in late 2017 and resigned to move to Chicago in late 2021. During this period, LAPC income and expenditures stabilized and then showed pronounced growth until the pandemic disrupted operations, which led to a decline from the 2020 peak in 2021. The exhibit on the next page shows the details of LAPC income and expenses, and the two graphics summarize the changes over time.

² For a description of the Mathew 25 in the PC(USA) see <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>

TRENDS IN LAPC FINANCES

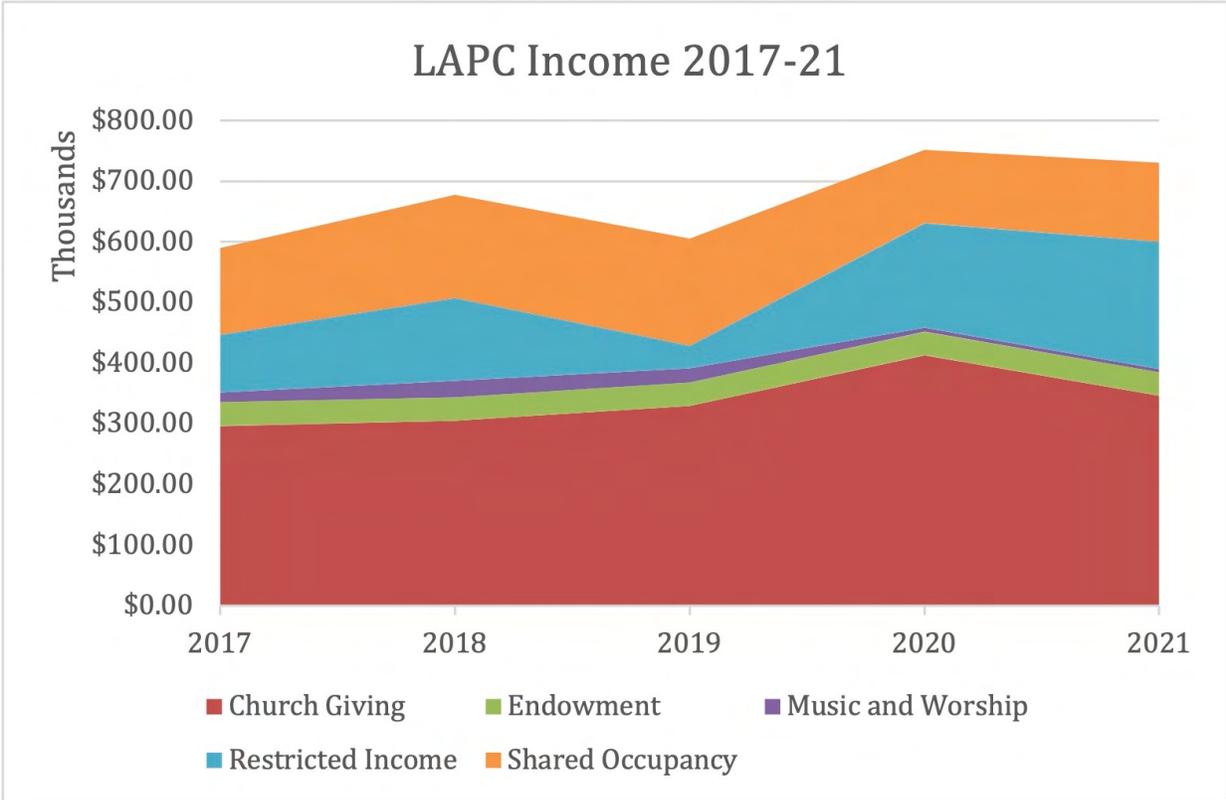
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Income					
Church Giving	\$296,412.55	\$305,178.07	\$329,704.94	\$412,863.55	\$346,289.13
Endowment	\$39,442.86	\$39,141.11	\$38,794.23	\$38,670.66	\$39,051.00
Music and Worship	\$15,528.68	\$25,919.25	\$23,510.00	\$6,817.50	\$5,126.25
Restricted Income	\$95,511.50	\$136,585.00	\$36,798.12	\$172,444.89	\$210,061.08
Shared Occupancy	\$142,647.53	\$170,642.54	\$176,646.40	\$120,916.31	\$129,310.49
Total Income	\$589,543.12	\$677,465.97	\$605,453.69	\$751,712.91	\$729,837.95
Total unrestricted income	\$494,031.62	\$540,880.97	\$568,655.57	\$579,268.02	\$519,776.87

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Expenses					
Administrative and general	\$27,920.22	\$28,950.92	\$28,990.69	\$48,557.86	\$60,352.64
Building and grounds	\$163,616.49	\$138,259.61	\$157,848.65	\$152,054.85	\$191,444.62
Christian Education	\$9,175.80	\$12,325.50	\$11,487.07	\$3,601.97	\$4,427.37
Music and Worship	\$33,632.75	\$37,230.73	\$34,169.53	\$17,400.49	\$20,237.18
Pastor Nominating Committee	\$17,621.46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Payroll	\$174,079.67	\$221,256.47	\$244,396.45	\$218,086.88	\$174,030.84
Payroll expenses	\$66,711.32	\$23,944.42	\$24,027.32	\$25,868.29	\$22,877.74
Payroll Taxes and Mandatory Ins.	\$12,536.95	\$12,787.84	\$12,102.68	\$9,692.61	\$8,135.53
Restricted expenses	\$140,699.74	\$135,688.37	\$47,809.69	\$147,312.27	\$220,100.45
Expenses from Previous Year					
Income	-\$71,024.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$574,970.40	\$610,443.86	\$560,832.08	\$622,575.22	\$701,606.37
Total unrestricted expenses	\$434,270.66	\$474,755.49	\$513,022.39	\$475,262.95	\$481,505.92

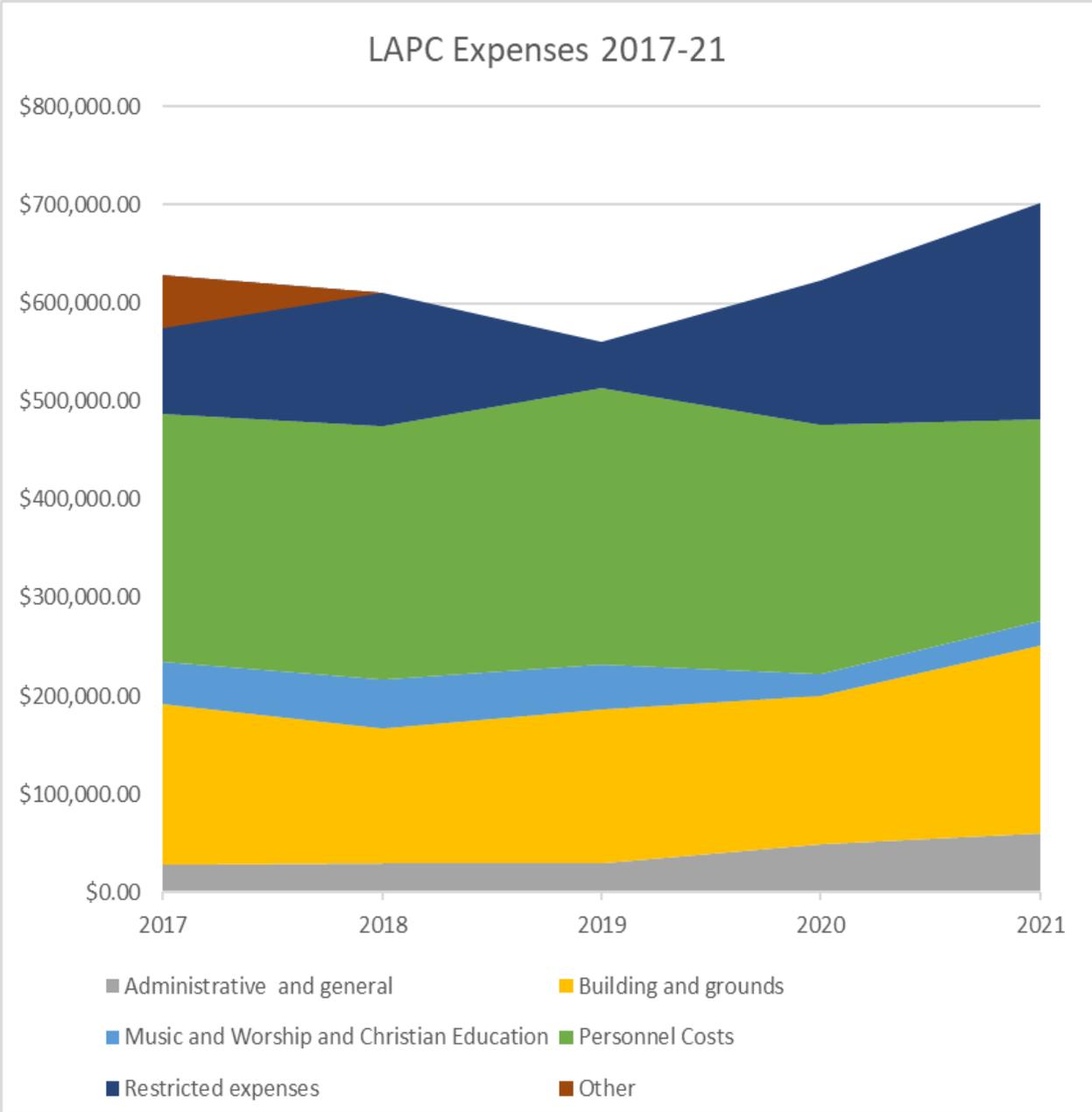
In this table we show both *total* income and expenses and *unrestricted* income and expenses because during this period LAPC undertook activities that generated income designated for a specific activity and expended funds for these activities. During 2017 and 2018, the church received a large donation for the restoration of the Tiffany-stained glass window in the sanctuary and expended funds for this purpose. In 2020 and 2021, LAPC administered the funds for the city-wide COVID Bailout program and collected special donations for supporting asylum seekers. In all these cases, the money collected and funds expended were separate from the ongoing normal operations of the church. However, LAPC has historically

undertaken special projects, so the totals for income and expenditures are useful to paint the picture of our church’s financial situation.

The graphic below summarizes the trend in total LAPC income from 2017-21. It shows that about half of our income comes from church giving and about one-fourth comes from rental payments from organizations sharing our facility. In our recent congregational survey, over 95% of respondents said they felt their financial contributions to LAPC were going to a good cause and approximately 90% said they were confident or somewhat confident in the financial management of the church, with 9% - most likely nonmembers - being unsure. As mentioned above, restricted income fluctuates from year to year depending on special projects and income from special music performances declined substantially during the pandemic.



As shown in the expense graphic on the next page, personnel costs and buildings and grounds expenses are the bulk of our budget. With the arrival of Rev. NunnTelfort in mid-2017, we once again had a permanent pastor and our personnel costs accordingly increased. In 2020, personnel costs declined with the closing of the church building and the departure of our sexton. With the departure of Rev. NunnTelfort in mid-2021 we transitioned to an interim pastor, Rev. Valencia King. Because our church home is an old building, repairs and maintenance costs fluctuate, as reflected in year-to-year changes.



In 2021, the Church began an effort to address several major building maintenance issues and also launched a new capital campaign to address structural issues with our building. LAPC is honored to be one of 16 houses of worship selected nation-wide to receive the 2020 National Fund for Sacred Places matching grant that provides us with the opportunity to kick off our Opening Doors Campaign. For every two dollars that we raise as cash and pledges, the National Fund for Sacred Places will donate an additional dollar, up to \$250,000. Opening Doors will continue with a broader fundraising effort to raise the \$2,000,000 needed to address structural issues of the building. We have included material on Opening Doors in Appendix B in this report.

F. Staffing

The LAPC Session serves as the governing body of the church. Session has fifteen members, who possess a wide and wonderful diversity of backgrounds and gifts. In the past, much of the work of the church has been done by Session alone. In this interim period, the Session continues to adopt a model in which each member chairs a different committee, made up of members of the congregation, in order to both lessen the burden on Session members and, just as importantly, to involve more people in the active life of the church. This is a work in progress but has already been fruitful since our last interim period.

The church is also served by its Deacon Board. Currently made up of three classes of four members, the deacons are heavily involved with the ministries of both compassion and hospitality - they maintain a congregational calling list and welcoming presence on Sundays, but also visit the sick, help out at funerals, and are among the most faithful of our prayer team members, which meets weekly. A goal for the year is to encourage others in the congregation to help out with hospitality, which would free the deacons to spend more time ministering to those in need.

The paid staff at LAPC consists of the Interim Pastor (full-time), Director of Music (part-time), Administrative Assistant (full-time), and Church Sexton (full-time; this is a position we are currently seeking to fill). From time-to-time interns from both Union and Princeton Theological Seminaries assisted the previous Pastors, which we would encourage in the future. We are currently an approved site for interns at Union Theological Seminary. Subcontractors (typically childcare, soloists and musicians) are hired on an as-needed basis.

LAPC has strong lay leadership. Each committee is chaired by a Session elder who reports back to the full Session. Sunday School for adults and children is currently coordinated and taught by volunteers. A volunteer also directs the Lafayette Inspirational Ensemble.

G. Committees

To support the work of the Session, the Deacons, and the Church staff, the Session has also established the following committees:

- **Building and Grounds:** Addresses building maintenance and renovations and manages issues involving LAPC's Shared Occupants and space rentals.
- **Finance:** Monitors the church finances and engages in long-term planning to project our future revenues and expenditures. The Session elected a Financial Secretary to work with the Church Treasurer.
- **Communications:** Uses technology to create communications to disseminate LAPC's message and mission to the broader community. This includes creating newsletters and website materials that will enable all our members to stay in touch, especially our out-of-town and sick and shut-in members.

- **Congregational Life:** Cares for the needs of members and promotes engagement in LAPC.
- **Policy:** Reviews and develops policies and reviews the church’s agreements and contracts as needed. It prepares a manual of operations and oversees any amendments to the bylaws and addresses conflicts of interest.
- **Stewardship and Fund Development:** Coordinates the annual pledge drive and fundraising campaigns for the annual operations of the and the long-term capital and investment needs of the church by engaging the congregation in financial support of the church, building membership, and applying for grants.
- **Capital Campaign:** Develops an ongoing, long-term stewardship plan, writes grants, holds events and secures funding for capital projects.
- **Christian Education:** Responsible for spiritual education and programming for adults, youth, and children.
- **History and Archives:** Documents our history and works with the Brooklyn Historical Society to preserve treasured documents of LAPC.
- **Personnel:** Responsible for recruitment of staff and works with the Pastor for staff development and evaluation. It evaluates the staff needed for the church of today and into the future.
- **Worship and Music:** Works with the Pastor and Director of Music in planning and supporting worship and special services.
- **Social Justice:** Identifies ways to serve the larger community and collaborate with local churches and organizations including at the Sacred Heart Men’s Shelter, Habitat for Humanity NYC, and other organizations.
- **Nominating:** Selects candidates for church offices and - this year - members of the Pastoral Nominating Committee.
- **Ad Hoc -- Mission Study Team:** Engages the church membership and community to develop the Mission Study Report needed to begin the work of calling a permanent pastor.

H. Ministries and Programs

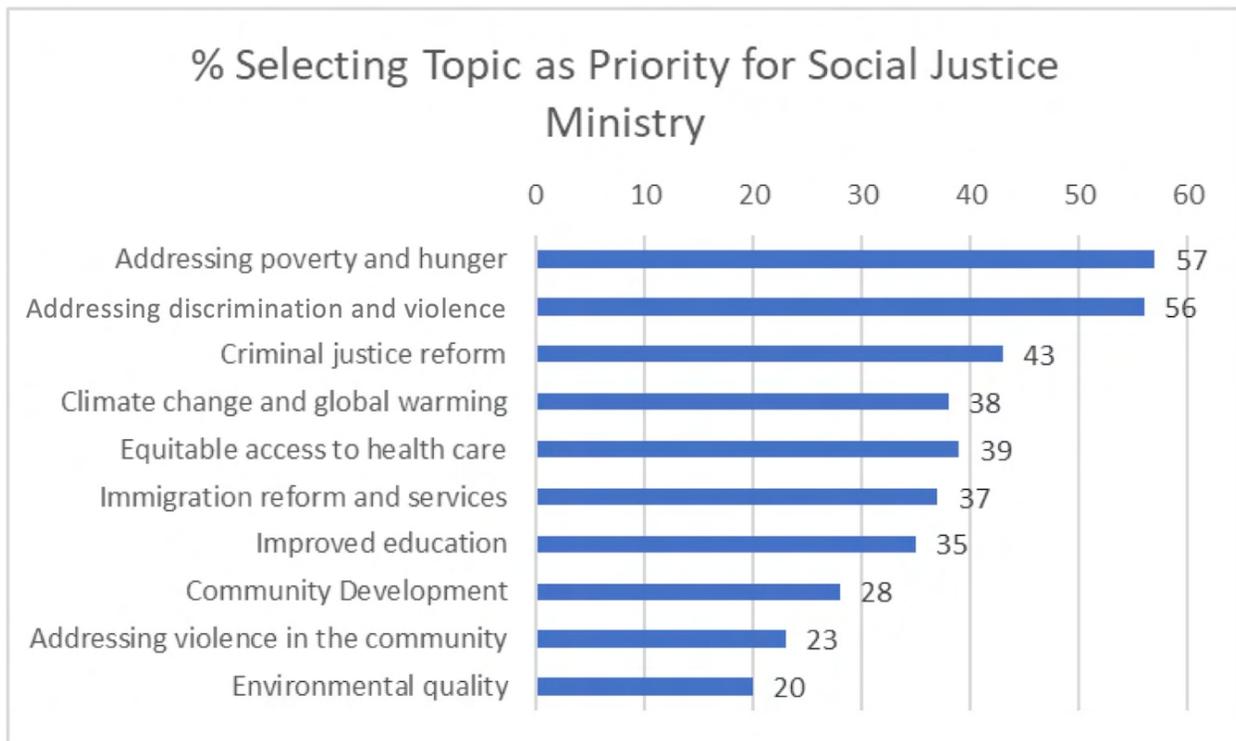
Social Justice

From our beginnings during the Civil War, when we advocated for the abolition of slavery and for women’s rights, LAPC has been at the forefront of the “Social Gospel” movement in American Protestantism. Today, Social Justice remains a core value of LAPC. Under the leadership of Rev NunnTelfort and members of the Social Justice Committee, LAPC put into action the biblical reference “I am my Brother’s Keeper”. Members of the congregation traveled with Rev NunnTelfort to the U.S. Mexico border to join a national protest against the brutal treatment of migrant children and adults by the U.S. Government. Our congregation identified two refugees that we felt we could assist: a mother with two sons from Mexico and a young man from Guinea. They joined us in 2019 and - through the generosity of our members - we raised funds to care for our asylum seeker families and LAPC continues to care for them.

LAPC supports inclusiveness as members of Presbyterian Welcome and we are a strong and visible “More Light” church. Perhaps most notably, after the vandalism of the church’s memorial to victims of police brutality, the church installed huge banners—one Pride flag, and one for Black Lives Matter, as clear statements of this congregation’s stance for justice.



In our congregational survey, we polled respondents on their priorities for our Social Justice Ministry, asking people to select their top four unranked priorities from a list. The exhibit below shows the percent of respondents selecting various topics. Top priorities are consistent with longstanding interests of LAPC and the current activities of our Social Justice Ministry.



Christian Education

The Christian Education team is operating with the following mission for the Youth Sunday School:

“At Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, our mission is to teach our children and youth as Jesus taught - with a heart to serve. We aim to teach them about God’s love, that God is love and that God loves us all. Our goal is to let the children and youth know that our church loves them, welcomes, nurtures, and educates them. As a community, we are obligated and committed to serving them, advocating for them and to receive them as Jesus welcomed and received them, for to receive them is to receive Him.”

Over the last five years, perhaps the most dramatic positive change at LAPC has been with children and families. Pre-pandemic, we had approximately 100 children regularly engaged in LAPC programs –an increase of 200% on an annual basis. Our weekly Sunday school has gone from a “one-room classroom” model to 4 classes grouped by age. Confirmation classes have restarted with 10 young people already confirmed. A popular and inspiring Youth Choir performs monthly in service and the LAPC Youth Band also plays in worship services.

A Vacation Bible School (open to all) was held for a third successful year—operating virtually and outside due to COVID. Our younger members are important to the future of LAPC. Although many of our past church school members have moved away, our streaming services has enabled many of them to reconnect. And although streaming has been a way for us to connect during COVID it is clear that our children have looked forward to returning to Sunday school. One mother of two young Sunday school children explained that the family walked by the church often during COVID when the church was closed, and her child remarked:

“Mommy when can I go back to church? I miss church.”

The Congregational survey included the participation of our younger members (13-18) and a focus group was conducted via zoom with some very open and honest discussion. The young participants talked about their church school involvement. It was noteworthy that with the exception of siblings, they do not see or interact away from their church school activities but felt a deep connection to the group. When asked what LAPC represented to them they mentioned community, diversity, a supportive environment, service projects and participation in worship service as liturgists, in the Christmas pageant, on Palm Sunday, and in music performances. One of the highlights of the discussion was that they all felt welcomed and accepted at church, did not feel they were being judged; and sermons and lessons helped them believe in God as accepting. They felt good about us creating a focus group just for them and that the congregation supports and cares about them. When asked what we can do better, the response was more activities for teens – they are aging out of the younger group but want to remain connected.

LAPC has an adult Bible Study class and a book club, all led by a volunteer or the Pastor. Typically, all are well attended, including participants who come via zoom from outside the NYC area. It is a diverse group of different ages, genders, backgrounds, and theological perspectives. The LAPC Prayer Team is a group of LAPC members who meet together each week to support the needs of our church, local, national, and international community through collaborative congregational and community prayer.

Music and Arts Ministry

LAPC has had a long and rich ministry using music and the arts in both liturgical and non-liturgical settings. Performances, concerts, open mic poetry nights, film screenings and other such events provide a link to the neighborhood and keep LAPC connected with the broader world outside its doors.

The congregation broadly affirms the church's commitment to these programs and hopes to enhance the musical and artistic opportunities for young people. The music and arts ministry also serves as a significant point of entry for potential church members and supporters.

Here are some key components of these ministries:

- ***The Lafayette Choir*** (usually 16--20 voices), directed by J. David Williams, sings traditional and contemporary anthems and choral responses every Sunday of the month except the second. 6 – 8 singers are paid professionals.
- The ***Inspirational Ensemble*** (usually 12-18 voices), directed by Janis Russell, sings gospel music and spirituals from the African and Caribbean traditions on the second Sunday of each month. The Ensemble also offers Christmas and spring concerts.
- ***Jazz Vesper Service*** on selected Sunday afternoons throughout the year. These services include scripture and poetry readings and a short message.
- ***Special music offerings*** at worship (including on summer Sundays).
- ***Music events and social functions*** at the church (hosted and/or directed by LAPC members). These serve to build community in a festive atmosphere.
- ***Hosting musical programs by others*** such as Brooklyn Contemporary Chorus, the Brooklyn Jazz Orchestra, the Brooklyn Art Song Society and many others.

Sharing Space and Community Support

LAPC has long been a vital component of the Fort Greene community serving as a space for neighborhood groups to come together for programming, forums, idea-sharing, musical events, and celebrating. Meeting with neighbors at our Neighborhood Open House in November 2014 affirmed LAPC's commitment to being a kind of "Town Hall" for Fort Greene.

Neighbors strongly support the concerts at LAPC, as well as forums addressing current issues, such as "Stop and Frisk," fair housing and a Voter Action Coalition. One way LAPC supports the

neighborhood groups and organizations is through donated space or rental at less-than-market rates.

- ***Shared space tenants include:*** Irondale Theater Company, Business Outreach Center, Audre Lorde Project, a baby-toddler play group, and Fort Greene Park Conservancy.
- ***Donated space recipients include:*** The Women’s Press Collective and others, although the pandemic has slowed these initiatives.
- ***Occasional space users include:*** Fort Greenpeace, Brooklyn for Peace, Fort Greene Park Conservancy, and various community and musical groups.

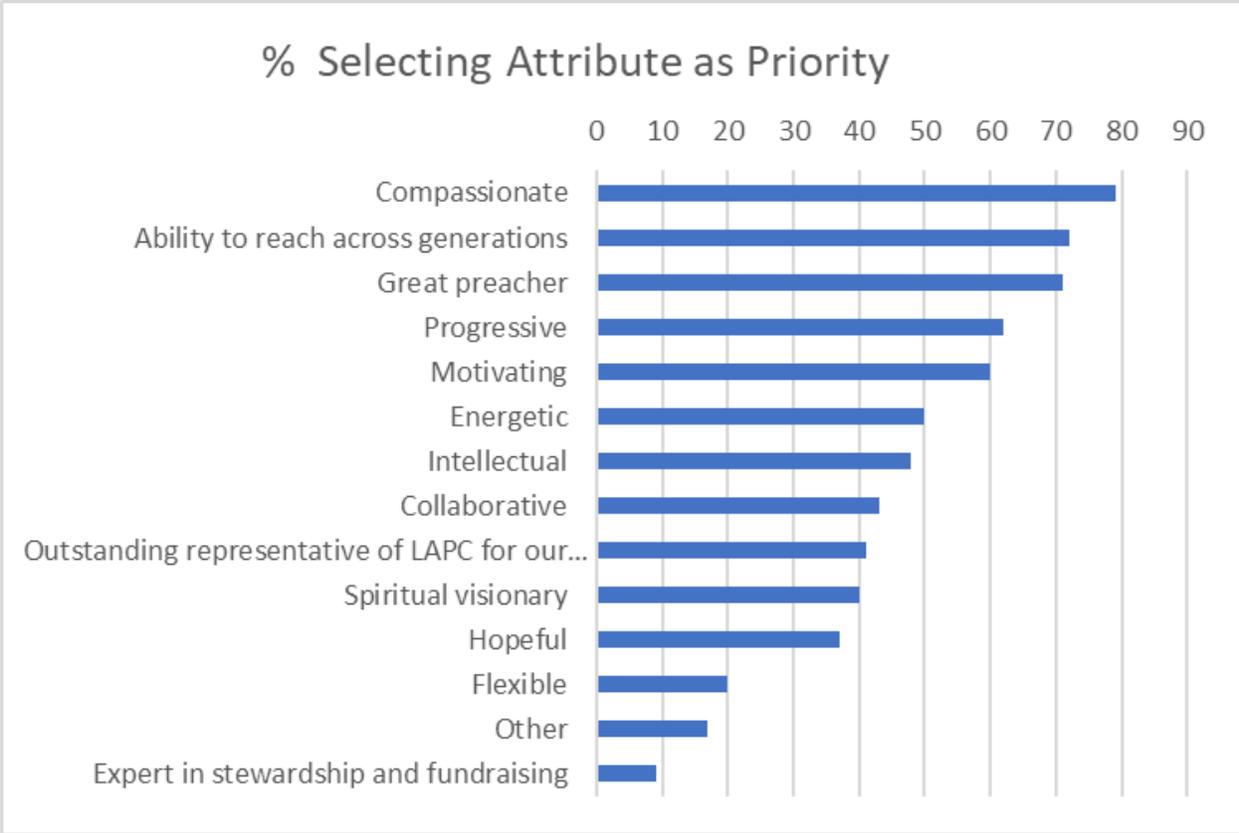
LAPC has reaffirmed its commitment to the neighborhood and will continue to reach out and support the Fort Greene community.

III. Articulating a Vision for the Future

A. Goals for the Pastoral Search

Presbyterian rules require our church to follow specific procedures in searching for a new permanent pastor. The Mission Study is an important initial step, followed by the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee (which largely works in isolation), and presentation of a candidate and a vote of approval by congregational members. Key search priorities for our survey respondents include keeping the congregation informed about the process, identifying a diverse pool of candidates, and finding a pastor who is closely aligned with the religious beliefs and perspectives of the congregation. Respondents are generally willing to let a thorough process unfold and less than one-third see finding a new pastor quickly as important. About 20-25% of respondents thought it important the new pastor is a presbyterian minister or a person with specific characteristics such as gender, age, sexual orientation, or race or ethnicity.

In our congregational survey, we asked respondents what personal characteristics of our new permanent pastor matter most to them, indicating they should identify up to six and did not need to rank them. The graphic on the next page shows the responses.



The most frequently selected attributes were compassion, an ability to reach across generations, strong preaching, progressive views, motivating, and energetic- all selected by more than 50% of respondents. More than one-third of respondents indicated they value a strong intellectual grounding, a collaborative style, an outstanding representation for LAPC in our community, a spiritual visionary, and a hopeful person. Interestingly, only 9% listed expertise in stewardship and fundraising as a top priority, signaling an expectation that the congregation must carry the lead on this.

B. Priorities for the future: Areas of Strength and Areas for Growth

During our work as the Mission Study Team, we had an opportunity to gather feedback about our values, the aspects of LAPC that we hold dear, and our hopes and dreams for the future. We identified clear areas of strength upon which to build and areas where we seek to improve and grow.

Areas of Strength to Build On

- ***Our Diversity***

Perhaps the strongest area of strength that emerged from our Mission Study is our diversity. The LAPC community has a strong commitment to our identity as a religious community of diverse views and is a community that is racially and ethnically diverse. One of the core findings in our survey is that nearly 90% of survey respondents agreed with the statement that “LAPC fosters an environment of diversity.” This sentiment was emphasized by many participants in our focus groups as well. The LAPC community is also racially diverse. As described above, our congregation includes large percentages of both Black/African American/African and white members and friends.

A key goal is that we continue to value this diversity and embrace it. Church members clearly value this diversity at LAPC. Many respondents in our focus group discussed diversity at LAPC and as noted above, a significant majority of Mission Study survey respondents (68%) reported they were drawn to LAPC by its history, mission, and congregation. Part of our recent history is that our last installed permanent pastor was a Caribbean American native of Brooklyn who was the first person of color to be an installed permanent pastor in our history. Eighty-eight per cent of Mission Study survey respondents ranked identifying a diverse pool of candidates as a top priority in searching for a new permanent pastor.

This diversity is a strength but is also a challenge as we move forward. It requires us to be thoughtful about how we honor all perspectives. Within survey responses and focus group comments, we noted differing views on the content of our music with worship and the emphasis of sermons and even on views on what we want in a new pastor, with most not specifying they wanted a pastor with specific race, ethnicity, or gender, while others stating this matters to them. Reflecting this, we saw the energy brought by Rev. NunnTelfort as LAPC’s first Pastor of color and want to build on this momentum. We are conscious we will need to navigate a terrain that is much more complex than most churches face. With the information collected during this Mission Study and an approach of openness and inquiry, this is a challenge we welcome and part of what makes LAPC unique.

- ***Our Commitment to Social Justice***

A core part of our identity at LAPC is our commitment to social justice. It is clear that our members and neighbors alike value this commitment to social justice. It is not just part of our history, it is a critical part of who we are today. As we move forward, it is clear that we must be mindful to continue to support this work and embrace it.

- ***Our Tradition of Strong Preaching and Music***

LAPC has a strong tradition of preaching and music that has drawn many to our church. Many members commented that after they came to a service they were drawn to come back by the preaching and music. One member explained:

“One of the things that drew me here was the pastor’s [sermons]. It was clear that he was intelligent and had something to say. Different people have different styles, but I felt like the sermon was not read to me - like sometimes happens in some churches. I felt like he was really talking to me.”

One thing that was notable is that our online services were also effective at conveying strong preaching. Rev. NunnTelfort did a wonderful job of conveying joy and meaning from an empty sanctuary as he preached remotely from our sanctuary during COVID. As we move forward in our search, we are mindful that strong preaching is central to our identity.

Music is also a strong part of our identity and a source of inspiration. Many of our members first encountered LAPC when they attended a musical event such as Jazz Vespers or attended a service and were drawn by the music to return. One member commented:

“I came to a service out of curiosity about LAPC - I had heard it mentioned as a community church. But when I attended and heard the choir and the organ along with the preaching I was blown away. And then I came back and heard the Inspirational Ensemble and I never stopped coming. The music just seals the deal - it is a beautiful part of LAPC.”

Music is an important part of the worship experience for our members. We are mindful that music speaks to many in ways that spoken word does not. As we move forward, we can embrace the strength of LAPC’s musical heritage and challenge ourselves to consider broadening our vision to reflect the diversity of the congregation. For example, one focus group participant suggested that LAPC could offer more diversity in music - and not just primarily Eurocentric music. Other members in focus groups suggested that LAPC consider other ways to enhance the worship experience through other art forms such as dance and poetry.

Areas for Growth

- ***Improve LAPC’s human “infrastructure” to better support church ministries and operations***

One of LAPC’s strengths is the level of engagement of our members. We are able to achieve amazing things with few resources but moving forward we need to expand our resources to

support our needs. First, we need to expand our volunteer base by increasing the proportion of the Congregation that is active in our ministries and work. We know we have a great wealth of untapped talent in our midst. But beyond volunteer resources, it is clear that we must improve our permanent infrastructure. Our pastor and our church administrative assistant are our only full-time employees. We are also in the process of hiring a part- or full-time facilities manager/sexton. In the future, we hope to expand these resources wherever possible. For example, while our pastor provides critical leadership for our Christian Education programming, this is only one person, so much of this programming for children and adults --- is dependent on volunteers. We also have a fantastic weekly electronic newsletter and a recently revamped website - but these are also entirely dependent on volunteers. We discern great value in committing to hire additional clergy staff, especially as a Certified Christian Educator.

- ***Preserve and improve Our Physical Space***

LAPC's church home is critical to our members and to our community alike. In fact, one of the critical ways we are stewards to our surrounding community is through our space. As described above, we need critical repairs to preserve the LAPC building. Fortunately, "Opening Doors" - our multi-year capital campaign to address these critically-needed repairs - is under way. The repairs that will be conducted will preserve the church's physical foundation, front façade, study tower, large Tiffany-stained glass window triptych above the narthex. These repairs will also make the front entrance wheel-chair accessible. Looking to the future, LAPC will need to ensure that the campaign is a success and that we take all of the steps needed to maintain the safety and integrity of our space. This campaign will require our deep and continued support.

B. Responding to the pandemic and the "new normal": Being Present for Each Other in New Ways

Before the COVID-19 pandemic struck the Nation our congregation worshiped together in traditional ways. We joined together each Sunday in-person for worship in our sanctuary and we gathered afterwards for Social Hour to catch up with each other. The pandemic put us to the test, forcing us to rethink the ways we could come together and serve others. Fortunately, we were able to respond quickly to the challenge.

One positive impact of offering these remote options has been that we have new people engaging with LAPC who have never even been to the church in person – many of them from geographic areas outside of the New York City area. Several remote participants have even expressed their commitment to LAPC by making annual pledges in our annual Stewardship campaign and some who have primarily been participating remotely have even joined the church. We were fortunate enough to welcome a new-members class on March 6, 2022, of nine individuals – one of whom was also baptized.

As we look to the future, we plan to continue our streaming presence so we can continue to serve everyone who is called to join us – regardless of whether they can join us in person. This presents exciting opportunities and new challenges for us as we learn how we can best engage and offer help and fellowship to those who can join us in Fort Greene and those who are joining us remotely.

C. A Mission Statement Going Forward

LAPC strives to be a place where we can ask all of our questions – and hopefully find at least some of the answers.

- We understand ourselves to be a church that proclaims and practices the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- We are called by that Gospel to create a space where people of any faith – or none at all – can question and discover the sacred in life through openness, honesty, laughter, and prayer.
- We are called by the Gospel to welcome and celebrate human diversity – including spirituality, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation.
- We are called by the Gospel to support each other through fellowship and caring, and to reach out to the broader community and world - especially those who are marginalized and often forgotten - to create a just and equitable society.

IV. Conclusion

The LAPC congregation is excited to be moving toward the selection of a new Pastor and confident of our future. This report is an important early step in this transition, portraying the past, present and future of our church. We enter this new phase of LAPC's history in a strong position in terms of our ministries, membership, and finances. With the material in this report as background, we look forward to the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee in identifying a new Pastor for our church.

**Lafayette
Avenue
Presbyterian
Church**

85 South Oxford Street, Brooklyn, NY 11217 ■ 718-625-7515 ■ info@lapcbrooklyn.org

APPENDIX A

STATISTICAL REPORT FOR 2021

2021 Church Statistical Report

Church	Lafayette Avenue	PIN	5264
Presbytery	New York City		
Address	85 S Oxford St, Brooklyn, NY 11217		
Phone	718-625-7515	Fax	
Email	info@lapcbrooklyn.org		
Web Site	www.lapcbrooklyn.org		



Membership

Prior Active Members	269	Adjusted membership	269
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Gains		Losses	
Certificate	0	Certificate	0
Youth Professions	4	Deaths	2
Professions & Reaffirmations	0	Deleted for any Other Reason	0
Total Gains	4	Total Losses	2
Total Ending Active Members	271		

Baptisms

Presented by Others	1	Average Weekly Worship Attendance	150
At Confirmation	0	Female Members	170
All Other	0	Friends of the Congregation	75
		Ruling Elders on Session	14
		Do you have Deacons?	Yes

Age Distribution of Active Members

25 & Under	20
26 - 40	65
41 - 55	83
56 - 70	48
Over 70	55
Total Age Distribution	271

People with Disabilities

Hearing impairment	5
Sight impairment	2
Mobility impairment	15
Other impairment	30

Christian Education

Birth - 3	11	Grade 7	7
Age 4	6	Grade 8	5
Kindergarten	7	Grade 9	6
Grade 1	8	Grade 10	5
Grade 2	8	Grade 11	4
Grade 3	7	Grade 12	3
Grade 4	7	Young Adults	8
Grade 5	6	Over 25	140
Grade 6	13	Teachers/Officers	20
		Total Christian Education	271

Racial Ethnic

Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	7	Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	0
Black/African American/African	153	White	93
Middle Eastern/North African	0	Multiracial	4
Hispanic/Latino-a	14		
		Total Racial Ethnic	271

Financial Data

Annual Income	729,838	Mission Expenses	17,995
Annual Expenses	701,606	Personnel Expenses	205,044
		Facilities Expenses	191,444

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APPENDIX B

OPENING DOORS CAMPAIGN CASE STATEMENT FOR MEMBERS

This Is What Needs To Be Done Now

LAPC's **Opening Doors Capital Campaign** is the latest phase in a 25-year project to restore our building's exterior: the roof and gutters, brownstone façades, cornices, and stained glass. Over the next two years, the following renovations will be addressed:

- **Urgent repair to address the structural deterioration is needed.** Water is running down the north façade and penetrating through the front step area. It has undermined the front basement walls and brick piers which support the Narthex causing major settling of the study tower and splitting of the proscenium arch above the balcony with further cracking at the bases of the arch and is threatening the "Clouds of Witness" mural.



Structural damage to the proscenium arch

The restoration will address the source of water by redirecting roof water to interior downspouts, waterproofing the exterior of the foundation walls, pointing the rubble walls and brick piers thus stabilizing and halting further movement.

- **Refurbish and restore the front entrance doors** to be fully operable, **ADA-compliant and add a ramp** to better serve all who use our building as a "Town Hall," a performance space, and a place of reflection and worship.
- **Repair the monumental 1893 Tiffany-stained glass triptych** located in the front of the church. These are the final windows in the sanctuary to be restored which suffer from camming and bowing of the glass and flaking lacquer.
- **Restore and clean the front brownstone façade and the 75-foot study tower,** and exterior ornamental woodwork, including cornices and window surrounds.

The total project cost is estimated to be \$1,975,000, which we must raise in these next two to three years. We will divide the work in two phases with an initial goal of **\$1.1M** in order to commence construction on stabilization efforts by July 2022.

To describe this work, [LAPC produced this video](#) with our architect, Walter Sedovic, pointing out the structural issues in the front foundation walls which make this restoration and capital campaign so necessary.

LAPC's Commitment to the Liberation of All People



Founded as a beacon of the abolitionist movement amidst the chaos of the Civil War, LAPC has carried on its forward-leaning legacy. Its commitment to the liberation of all people has consistently been found at the point where spirituality and activism converge. LAPC **welcomed the first woman to preach** in a Presbyterian church in America and played a **vital role during the 1960s Civil Rights movement** by activating hope through street ministry and providing a home for the nascent institution that became today's **Medgar Evers College**.

Most recently, **LAPC joined a caravan of faith leaders to the San Ysidro Border** in January 2019, where we facilitated the release of a family and an individual from detention. They are now living in sustainable housing and the home of a church family, with the church continuing to support their effort at obtaining asylum and starting safer, happier, and productive lives.

The pandemic has had devastating effects in our neighborhood, across our city and around the world. LAPC stepped up its commitment to be present and supportive to all. A Mutual Aid Network of volunteers reached out to members and friends “checking in” on their welfare with food, transportation, legal and technical support.



LAPC youth contribute to a Black Lives Matter Protest by creating street art and messages demonstrating justice. Photo Credit: Lynn Stirrup

Black Lives Matter: LAPC members organized a cross-generational protest, hanging up banners memorializing Black persons murdered by police violence and calling justice into action through an outdoor community chalkboard. We distributed free water and supplies to marchers in the summer of 2020 and offered meeting space to host and support community action work.

NYC COVID Bail Out project: LAPC joined a city-wide effort to release those awaiting trial which facilitated the release of 62 persons from Rikers.

Coat & Food Drives: Over the past two years, LAPC has collected and distributed over 300 coats and a substantial amount of food to persons recently released from Rikers and other NYC prisons.



LAPC Social Justice Committee Coat Drive

LAPC's Contribution to Fort Greene and the Surrounding Communities

LAPC is "the revered 'Town Hall' of Fort Greene, where LAPC hosts numerous community forums, workshops, social justice action activities, and acts as a venue for performing arts events each year. LAPC truly serves as a community hub and landmark for civic efforts within Central Brooklyn, which is rapidly changing through gentrification."

— United States Congressman, Hakeem Jeffries

Our Church home is central to community life in Fort Greene and beyond through its outreach and programming that includes providing affordable space to nonprofits to carry out their activities, hosting events, performances and forums, supporting community-oriented organizations and programs, and intervening in individuals' lives in a positive way.

Nonprofits that call our church home include **The Fort Greene Park Conservancy**, which spearheads preservation efforts in the park and hosts numerous events and volunteer efforts toward its maintenance. **The Irondale Theater Center** performs original works, has youth programs which engage local police in a dialog, and brings works and performers from across the country. **The Business Outreach Center** supports hundreds of minority and women owned businesses annually throughout the metropolitan area. **The Clinton Hill-Fort Greene Parent Cooperative Playgroup** provides daily activities for toddlers from **55 local families** and the **Audre Lorde Project** provides a safe space for dialog and activism for the LGBTQ+ community.



Batala NYC, a premier all-women, Black-led, drumming ensemble, performing in LAPC Sanctuary during Women's History Month, March 2019.

LAPC's Support of Music and the Arts

Our sanctuary, whose entrance will be restored during this project, has been a **home to the arts of music, theater, dance, and poetry** since hosting the Jubilee Singers in the 1870s and home to Cultural Crossroads in the 1970-90s, which featured the Eubie Blake awards supporting young jazz artists such as Herbie Hancock. Today, performances by the **Brooklyn Jazz Consortium, The Brooklyn Jazz Orchestra, and our Jazz Vespers services** featuring local and national talent continue that tradition of music and spoken word.

The church is also home to the **Brooklyn Contemporary Chorus** and **Lafayette Inspirational Ensemble** as well as the **Lafayette Choir**, which enhance our worship services and perform for the local community. LAPC has also supported original theatrical works and operatic performances by our members and friends from the community.



Lucia della Paolera performing in production of My Heart Swims in Blood at LAPC, 2019

We are blessed with a legacy of works of art adorning our sanctuary and shared with the community.

- **16 magnificent stained-glass windows** created and installed by Louis Comfort Tiffany Studios in the 1890s and the original "Creation" window that was created in 1921. There are similar "Creation" windows created by Tiffany Studios, one of which is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art entitled, "Magnolias and Irises."
- **A 300-foot "Mighty Cloud of Witnesses" mural** that wraps around our sanctuary painted by Hank Prussing, a young artist from Pratt Institute completed in 1978 that reflects the diversity of the community and church.
- **The church's organ**, an impressive instrument, was built by the Austin Organ Company in 1910.

There Are Many Ways to Support LAPC's Opening Doors Campaign

You can make a **three-year financial pledge or a one-time donation**. Whether large or small, your gifts are needed and appreciated to make this project a reality. All donations to the Opening Doors Campaign will be restricted solely for the purposes of that campaign. **Please contact us at openingdoors@lapcbrooklyn.org.**

Increase Your Impact Today!

LAPC is honored to be one of 16 houses of worship selected nation-wide to receive the 2020 National Fund for Sacred Places matching grant that provides us with the opportunity to kick off our Opening Doors Campaign. **For every two dollars that we raise as cash and pledges, the National Fund for Sacred Places will donate an additional dollar, up to \$250,000.** To reach the full potential of this matching grant, LAPC must raise \$500,000 by summer of 2022, which will get us half of the way to our initial project goal of \$1.1 Million. Please help us get there and give today!

Join LAPC Opening Doors Campaign Today

The LAPC Opening Doors Campaign leadership is available to answer any questions you may have about the capital investment needed to ensure our doors stay open.

Please contact us at OpeningDoors@LAPCBrooklyn.org.

**Lafayette
Avenue
Presbyterian
Church**

85 South Oxford Street, Brooklyn, NY USA

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