

Community Congregational Church United Church of Christ, of Benicia, California
HISTORY OUTLINE



KEY:

MOD: Moderator.

M=Members.

CCBS= Congregational Church Building Society.

CCC= Community Congregational Church of Benicia

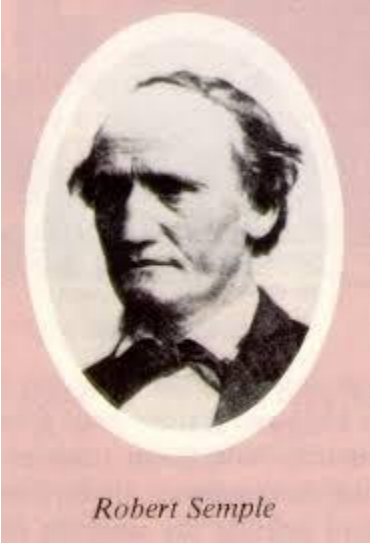
COT=Chairman of Trustees

FCC=First Congregational Church.


Compiled by: James E. Lessenger, MD

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1846				<p>Robert Baylor Semple and Guadalupe Mariano Vallejo planned Benicia. Thomas Larkin and Bethuel Phelps provided money and contacts.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Robert Semple</i></p> <p>Mexican War. Donner Party dinner party. 14 June: Bear Flag Revolt, Republic of California. 7 Jul: US formally assumes possession of California with raising of flag in Monterey.</p>


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				<p>15 Aug: Semple and William Colton start California's first newspaper.</p> <p>3 Nov: Army California Department No. 10 established in Monterey.</p>
1847				<p>Benicia founded.</p> <p>First survey map.</p> <p>Benicia Barracks is founded.</p> 
1848				Gold discovered at Sutter's Mill.

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1849				<p>Gold Rush. California Constitutional Convention, State is operational.</p>
1850				<p>9 Sept: California statehood Presbyterian Church and school buildings constructed.</p>
1851				<p>Benicia Arsenal and Quartermaster Depot were founded. The Arsenal, Barracks, and Depot operated independently until 1922.</p> 
1852				<p>19 Feb: Benicia City Council starts movement to move capital to Benicia. 23 Aug: \$25,000 loan secured to build a capitol building. Pacific Mail Steamship Co. and Foundry</p>

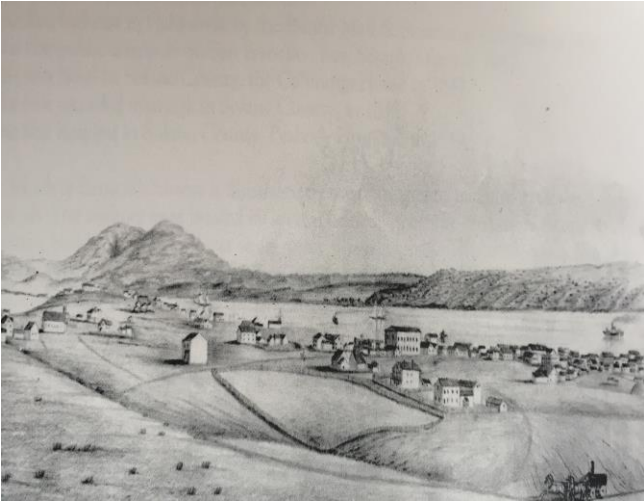
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				<p>constructed. Family Board School for Boys. Young Ladies Seminary founded by Sylvester Woodbridge. Late 1852: Semple leaves for Colusa Co.</p>
1853			<p>Church bell cast at Pacific Mail Works. Originally used as the work bell for the Works. When the Works went bankrupt, it was transferred to the Church.</p> 	<p>3 Jan: Benicia Capitol Building completed. 24 Feb: City deeds Capitol building to the State. 17 May: Legislature accepts building. 18 May: Resolution makes Benicia the permanent capital. State Treasury and Archives located on E. D St.</p>

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1854				<p>American Congregation Union formed.</p> <p>7 Jan: Gov. Bigler is inaugurated at Benicia Capitol.</p> <p>25 Feb: Legislature votes to move capitol to Sact.</p> <p>28 Feb: State govt. decamps to Sact. For good this time.</p> <p>The Capitol building becomes the County Courthouse.</p>
1855				<p>St. Dominic's parish started.</p> <p>St. Catherine's Convent and academy started.</p> <p>Robert Semple dies in a horse fall in Colusa.</p>
1856				<p>Colligate Institute started.</p>


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1857			The photo to the right is of Benicia around 1855. The capitol building is on the right and the Presbyterian church is on the left.	
1858				
1859				<p>First water pipes to Benicia. 29 Jan: Benicia Volunteer Fire Department is formed. Work started on St. Paul's.</p>
1860				<p>12 Feb: St. Paul's Episcopal Church is consecrated. 3 Mar: Pony Express arrives in Benicia.</p>
1861				<p>Civil War begins. The Arsenal became the logistics headquarters for</p>

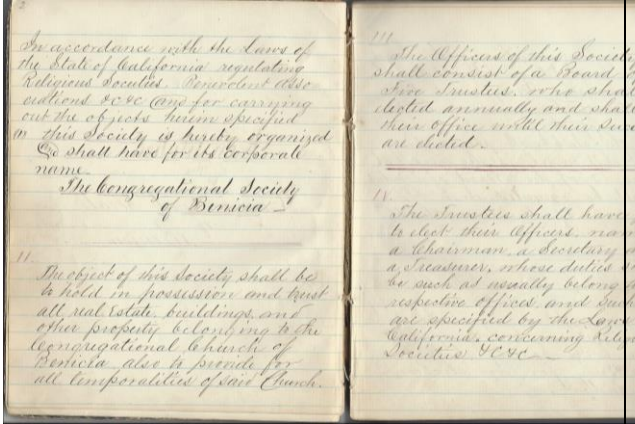

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				<p>the California Volunteers (C.V.).</p> <p>Presbyterian Church disintegrates over slavery. Rev. Woodbridge asked for prayers for the presidents (pleural) in the United States. A fight breaks out during the service and there are reports of a gunfight. Half the congregation moves to other antiabortion and pro-Union churches.</p>
1862				<p>President Lincoln signs an executive order reserving the Arsenal for the U. S. military. Regulars go to the East; C.V. take their place. California Volunteers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 Regiments of infantry 3 regiments of cavalry 1 battalion of mountaineers 1 battalion of native cav. <p>All the C.V. come through the Benicia Arsenal to equip. Engage the Confederates 14 times, chase pirates and bandidos, keep the Confederate militias in Visalia and Los Angeles in line.</p>
1863				
1864				
1865			<p>October: Rev. Justin P. Moore begins pastoral work in Benicia to organize the church. Rev. Moore gathers the remnants of the</p>	<p>Civil War ends.</p>


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			<p>Presbyterian Church.</p>  <p>Justin P. and Charlotte Moore, San Rafael, ca. 1920.</p>	
1866		FOUNDING	5 June, 17 members, meeting in Sagis Hall, later Rüeger's Hall.	

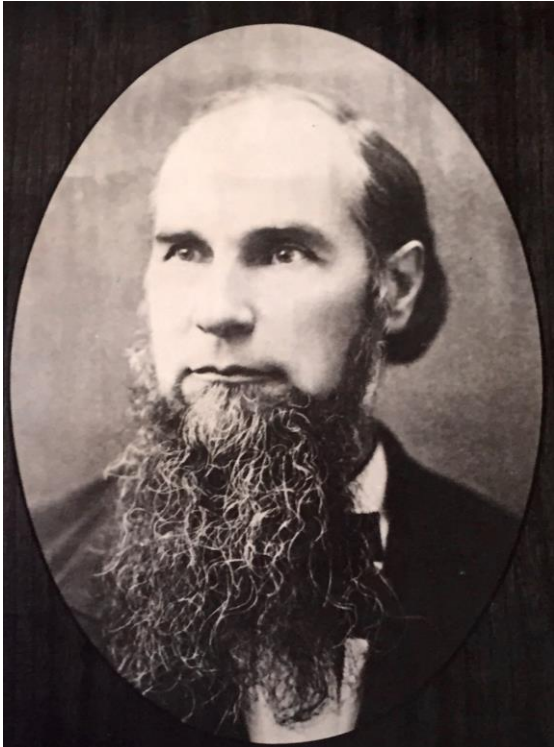
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	19	<p>Justin Payson Moore</p> <p>Founding minister</p>	<p>Constitution: "The Congregational Society of Benicia."</p>  <p>Founding document</p> <p>First President: C.T. Mills.</p> <p>Rev. and Mrs. C.T. Mills purchased the Young Ladies' Seminary in Benicia for \$5,000. Later moved to Oakland to start Mills College.</p>	 <p>Rueger's (later Sagis) Hall. The church met upstairs, and the beer hall and brewery were downstairs. The hop house is in the back and the condensers on the left.</p>

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1867	26	Justin P. Moore	<p>25 May: Capt. Samuel P. Smith to Josephine Dimpfel by Rev. Moore at the Bride's parents' home. First wedding in the church.</p> <p>President: C. T. Mills.</p>	Benicia Collegiate Institute becomes Episcopal College of St. Augustine.

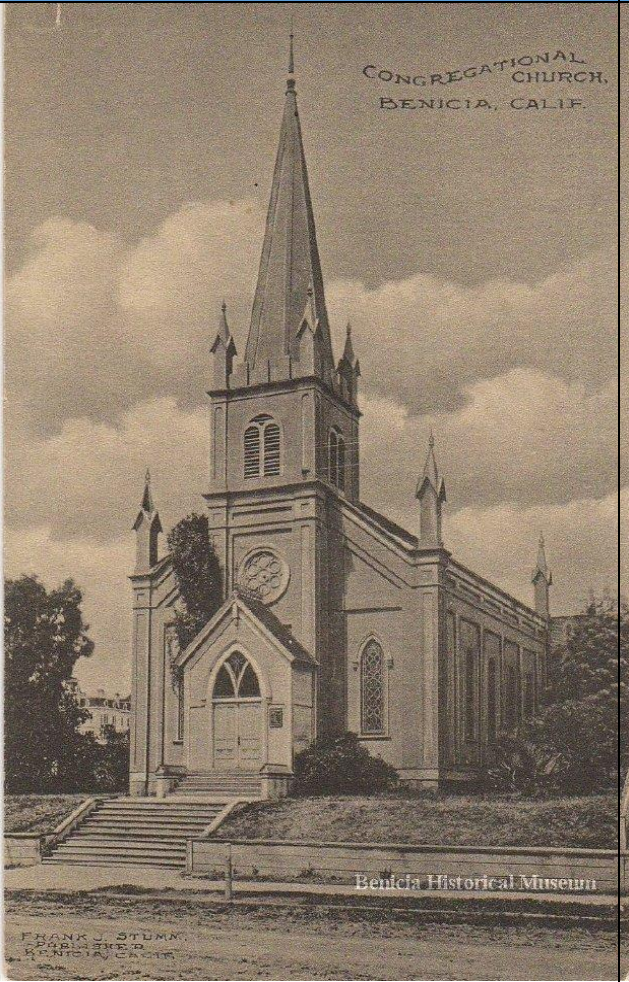
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1868	25	<p>Charles H. Pope</p> <p>Was also principal of the Benicia Young Ladies Seminary.</p>	 <p>Rev. Pope, Ca 1868.</p> <p>Rev. Rouse, temporary.</p> <p>New church constructed: \$6800 for property, furnishings, and building. \$4,200 raised locally.</p>	<p>23 Mar: University of California founded.</p> <p>The Benicia Presbyterian Church dissolves and the members go to the Congregational Society.</p>

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			<p>\$800 loan from the CCBS (see 1962). \$1600 from other churches in the area.</p> <p>10 Dec: New sanctuary dedicated.</p> <p>The church bell was moved from the Pacific Mail Works and installed on the belfry of the new church.</p> <p>The pews, still in use, were purchased from the defunct Presbyterian Church. They were brought around the Horn during the Gold Rush. Paid for by pew rentals of \$20 to \$60 between 1870 and 1872.</p> <p>President: C. T. Mills.</p>	


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1869	34	Charles H. Pope	President: C. T. Mills. 1Jan: Ladies sewing circle started by: Mrs. Jane Tarbox and Mrs. Deborah Sanborn.	
1870	33	Charles H. Pope		Supreme Court decision ending the claims of "squatter's rights." St. Mary's of the Pacific school constructed.
1871	30	Charles H. Pope	21 Jan: C.H. Pope dismissed from church. Mills College moves to Oakland.	
		William Ladd Jones		
1872	33	William Ladd Jones		
1873	42	William Ladd Jones		
1874	45	none		
1875	32	M. B. Starr	Furnace installed.	Pacific Mail facility purchased by Baker and Hamilton, start Benicia Agricultural Works.
1876	38	T. Vandrey		

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1877	57	John A. Banfield		
1878	58	J. B. Thrall Ordained in Benicia	<p>Ida Hyde: Organist 1878 to 1898.</p> <p>Was ordained, then installed without his knowledge while he was out of town.</p>  <p>Rev. Thrall</p>	<p>Railroad comes to Benicia.</p> <p>Glue factory opens.</p>


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1879	58	L. Dickerman		<p><i>Solano</i> comes online. First train ferry from Benicia to Contra Costa Co. Transcontinental RR completed. Kullman-Salz Tannery constructed.</p>
1880	58	Samuel H. Willey, D.D. Helped found the University of California		Union Hotel constructed.


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1881	70	Samuel H. Willey, D.D.		Benicia grammar school built.
1882	67	Samuel H. Willey, D.D.		1882-1903: Matthew Turner shipyard started by Matthew Turner, Horatio Turner and Eckley.
1883	69	Samuel H. Willey, D.D.		
1884	68	Samuel H. Willey, D.D.		
1885	66	Samuel H. Willey, D.D.		
1886	72	Samuel H. Willey, D.D.		
1887	57	Samuel H. Willey, D.D.		
1888	63	Samuel H. Willey, D.D.		
1889	40	Edward F. Dinsmore		5 Jun: Corbett-Choynski boxing match on a barge in Southampton Bay. Corbett won.
1890	48	Edward F. Dinsmore		
1891	47	Charles W. Hill		Dona Benicia Vallejo dies. <i>Galilee</i> launched at Benicia's Matthew Turner shipyard. The ship was specially built to do a worldwide magnetic survey. Turner attended this

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				church.
1892	53	Charles W. Hill		Jack London comes to Benicia.
1893	60	Charles W. Hill	The free reading room at the church was the start of the Benicia Library.	
1894	39	James B. Orr		
1895	69	Samuel Weyler Was born in Russia of German Jewish parents. He died of TB two years into his	Social Hall constructed. Stained glass windows were added. Otto Miller, Sunday School Superintendent 1895 to 1900. Edith Johnston Secretary.	


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		ministry and is buried at the City Cemetery.	 <p data-bbox="632 995 1037 1029">Rev. Samuel Weyler, Ca. 1890.</p>	
1896	79	Samuel Weyler	<p data-bbox="632 1065 1150 1133">Electric lights installed in the church for \$45.91.</p> <p data-bbox="632 1154 1003 1188">30th Anniversary celebration.</p> <p data-bbox="632 1209 1167 1278">Weyler founded Benicia High School in J Street Church Social Hall.</p>	
1897	82	Samuel Weyler	<p data-bbox="632 1313 1184 1347">\$33.79 borrowed from Miss Watkins at 6%</p>	<p data-bbox="1264 1300 1583 1334">Washington House built.</p>

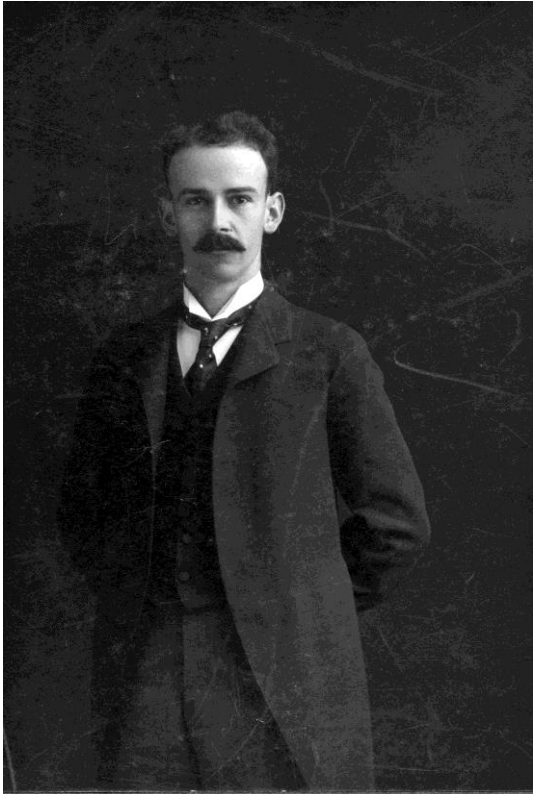
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			interest.	
1898	75	Samuel Weyler	<p>COT: A. S. Parritt. \$100.00 and \$800.00 borrowed from Miss. Watkins.</p> <p>Rev. Weyler collapses during a meeting, is taken to a sanitarium in Saratoga where he dies. His body is buried in the Benicia City Cemetery.</p>	Spanish American War
		<p>James C. McInnes</p> <p>Sept 1898 to 6 Dec 1899</p>	Articles of incorporation: "The First Congregational Church of Benicia."	


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1899	73	James C. McInnes		

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1900	76	<p>Burton M. Palmer</p> <p>3 May: voted to confirm as minister.</p> <p>3 June: arrived from Oregon.</p>	 <p>Studio portrait of Rev. Burton M. Palmer taken in 1899. He was born in New Hampshire on 23 February 1869 and graduated from Stanford in 1897. He married Mable McKay, the pianist at the church. He left Benicia in 1903 for</p>	


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			Fruitvale and was the pastor of the Mayflower Congregational Church about 1912. He died in Hayward on 29 January 1962 at age 92.	
1901	73	Burton M. Palmer		
1902	95	Burton M. Palmer	<p>Christian Endeavor Youth group, 1902 to 1910.</p> <p>Mrs. Thomas McKay, president of the Ladies Sewing Circle 1900 to 1903.</p>  <p>The Women's Social Circle</p>	
1903	101	Burton M. Palmer	Large central "Jesus Window" added.	M. Turner shipyard closes.
1904	82	Benjamin St. John	<p>Mrs. Rosa Maupin: Church Clerk.</p> <p>Mrs. Helen "Grandma" Willis originally from</p>	


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			Scotland, joins.	
1905	96	Benjamin St. John		
1906	89	Benjamin St. John	18 Apr: San Francisco Earthquake. Causes damage to the church and City of Benicia. Tsunami damages wharf.	Lt. Dwight Eisenhower takes two months to reach San Francisco by motor vehicle. Vows to build a highway. He did—50 years later.
1907	70	Benjamin St. John		
1908	67	Benjamin St. John	Walter Clark, treasurer 1908 to 1918.	
1909	73	Benjamin St. John	Mrs. Sara Boeknoogan, organist 1909 to 1922.	1909 to 1911: Lt. Col James W. Benet, Arsenal Commanding Officer. He is the father of Stephen Vincent Benet
1910	81	Benjamin St. John		
1911	67	Benjamin St. John		
1912	70	Benjamin St. John	J. J. Hayden. Sunday School Superintendent, 1912-1913. Pastor's report: It has not been a year of remarkable happenings."	State Highway comes to Solano Co. and Benicia
1913	78	Benjamin St. John	J.L. Bowden, Sunday School Superintendent, 1913-1914	Agricultural Works purchased by Yuba Manufacturing Co.



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1914	66	Benjamin St. John		The world's largest ferry, <i>Contra Costa</i> , comes on-line between Benicia and Port Costa. Last visit of Jack London to Benicia. Baker and Hamilton Benicia Agricultural Works closes. Yuba Manufacturing Co. opens
1915	52	Benjamin St. John		
1916	50	Charles Atkins	 Rev. Charles Atkins	Methodist Episcopal Church stops meeting. Last entry in record book. The congregation moves to the Congregational Church.
1917	69	Charles Atkins	G.B. Frantz started the church girls club. Rev. Atkins was ordained in the church. Married member Irma Rankin.	World War I: 300 civilian workers. Equips 91 st Infantry Division.


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1918	79	La Rue C. Watson	 <p data-bbox="632 764 1108 797">J Street taken from First St. ca. 1918.</p>	


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1919	67	La Rue C. Watson	<p>Methodist Church closes and the congregation folds into the FCC. Methodists sell their building.</p>  <p>“Rev. LaRue O. Watson, Pastor, The Congregational Church, Avalon, California, and 251-pound Black Sea Bass he caught August 6, 1925, near Catalina Island, California. “</p>	 <p>Rev. Watson</p>


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1920	58	none		
1921	65	Elmer O. Chapel		
1922	75	Elmer O. Chapel	<p>22 July, 7pm: Steeple of J Street sanctuary is hit by lightning and destroyed.</p> 	
1923	75	T. Davis Preston		

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1924	50	T. Davis Preston		
1925	52	T. Davis Preston	<p>\$400 and \$800 loans from the Congregational Church Building Society to purchase a parsonage (see 1962).</p> <p>Church remodel led by Mrs. Etta Sanborn Blanchard.</p>  <p>Children's Choir</p>	
1926	52	Horton Richard	60 th Anniversary celebration.	


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		Colbert		
1927	67	Horton Richard Colbert	Vacation Bible School started.	
1928	56	Ernest William Houlding	<p>Earliest Church Bulletin in the Church files.</p> <p>14 Dec: Rev. Holding ordained in the church.</p> <p>The Church borrowed \$100 from the Bank of Italy.</p> <p>Pastor's salary: \$1,000</p> <p>Total budget: \$1,484.11</p>  <p>E. W. Houlding.</p>	Depression begins.


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1929	56	Ernest William Houlding	Name unofficially changed to Community Congregational Church to reflect the fact that the Methodists, Quakers, and other groups joined in recent years. Pastor paid: \$1,200.00 Budget: \$1,625.43	
1930	57	Ernest William Houlding	Ladies social circle income is: \$27.82	Railroad bridge completed across the strait. Train ferry ends.
1931	55	Ernest William Houlding		“Hobo camps” or “Hoovervilles” spring up in Benicia near the train depot.
1932	55	Ernest William Houlding		
1933	69	Ernest William Houlding	Pastor salary: \$1057.00	
1934	53	Ernest William Houlding		
1935	43	Alden W. Read		

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1936	50	Wilfred I. Orr	 <p data-bbox="632 1279 1176 1360">Rev. Wilfred I. Orr, Pastor Pastir salary: \$557.50 (plus parsonage and</p>	

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			expenses). Coal costs: \$16.00	
1937	80	Wilfred I. Orr		
1938	82	Arthur Raymond Flick	 <p>Rev. Arthur Raymond Flick, Pastor Christian Conrads Club is formed. The Club is an active youth group. Pastor salary: \$655 plus parsonage and</p>	Church participates in campaign against the sale of new liquor licenses on First Street, above I St. Is successful.


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			expenses. Budget: \$1,330.00 Sixtieth anniversary celebration (25 cents)	
1939	86	Arthur Raymond Flick	Dean: Emerson Stoner	
1940	48	Isaac Fleming Part-time minister, weekend services only.	Chairman: Harvey Henkel Donations given to migrant groups.	
1941	51	Isaac Fleming (student pastor)	COT: P. W. Polley The coal shed was modified into a bathroom.	7 Dec: World War II begins for the US. In the Arsenal, 125 convoys are dispatched with guns and munitions to CA facilities. All in one day.
1942	57	Isaac Fleming	COT: P. W. Polley. Church parsonage sold for \$3000.00. Ladies Sewing Circle joins the Red Cross, gives blood, and wraps bandages. Church operates a day care center for families working in the defense industries. Helen Jensen, Organist.	Arsenal and Benicia swells with troops and civilian workers. 501 st AAA company. Coastal watchers. Yuba Manufacturing gears up to full time Howitzer production. More workers flood Benicia. Yuba manufactures 70% of howitzers used by the Allies in the war.

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1943	57	Isaac Fleming	<p>COT: P. W. Polley</p> <p>Church assists with housing and feeding of CYA youths brought into move supplies.</p> <p>Rev. Fleming enters military service.</p>	<p>Italian POWs used as labor.</p> <p>California Youth Authority youths used as labor.</p> <p>The Church assists in caring for the youths.</p> <p>400 German POWs come to the Benicia Arsenal</p>
1944	85	Elmo D. Wolfe	<p>MOD:</p> <p>17 July: Port Chicago explosion causes damage to windows and sanctuary, including cracks in the Jesus window. "Beyond tragedy."</p> <p>Three downtown churches are used as temporary hospitals and dormitories.</p> <p>Received \$550.00 for damage to windows.</p> <p>The sanctuary is rearranged, pews refinished.</p> <p>New parsonage on Highland purchased.</p> <p>La Beta Byerrum is Church Historian.</p>	<p>Over 15 brothels and two dozen bars and gambling houses are in operation in Benicia.</p> <p>Church takes stand against it. Futile.</p>


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			 <p data-bbox="632 1068 846 1101">Rev. Elmo Wolf</p>	
1945	125	Elmo D. Wolfe	<p data-bbox="632 1141 720 1174">MOD:</p> <p data-bbox="632 1195 1194 1263">Received \$162.19 from Navy for damage to windows.</p> <p data-bbox="632 1284 1152 1352">Paid H. Dombrink \$569.38 for repairs to windows.</p>	<p data-bbox="1264 1141 1766 1174">Fifth Bond Drive, churches participate.</p> <p data-bbox="1264 1195 1514 1227">World War II ends.</p>


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1946	141	Elmo D. Wolfe	<p>MOD: Emerson Stoner</p> <p>80th anniversary Homecoming dinner.</p> <p>Boy Scout and Brownie troops organized.</p> <p>Church buildings repainted, buildings and grounds repaired.</p> <div data-bbox="632 609 1031 1089" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Anna M. Johnson</p>	<p>Returning troops and families creates a severe housing shortage in Benicia.</p>
1947	167	Elmo D. Wolfe	<p>MOD: Emerson Stoner</p> <p>Parsonage on Highland sold for \$1983.</p> <p>Parsonage at 60 Wingfield purchased for \$2303.00.</p>	<p>Cold War begins: Arsenal ships materials to SEATO and NATO allies.</p> <p>A large number of workers remain at the Benicia Arsenal.</p>


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			<p>Arloine Osborne and Donald Stoner dancing. Later married.</p> 	
1948	167	<p>Arthur Raymond Flick And other part time ministers.</p>	<p>MOD: Enoch Crozer Amendment to Articles of Incorporation: "That the Corporation shall have perpetual existence."</p>	<p>Whitmore Tannery burns. Conservative Congregational Christian Convention formed. Splinter group of the Congregational Church.</p>

Community Congregational Church United Church of Christ, of Benicia, California
HISTORY OUTLINE

Year	M	Minister	Occurrences in the Church	Occurrences in Benicia, California, nation, world, and denomination.
			 <p data-bbox="632 1073 1052 1105">Top: Emma Wright, Helen Clark</p> <p data-bbox="632 1127 1199 1192">Bottom: Myrtle Mann, Minnie Fry, Beatrice Griffith</p>	
1949	182	Carl Theodore Gustafson	MOD:	


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1950	201	Carl Theodore Gustafson	MOD: Bank of America loans being paid off.	Korean War: Large number of troops and workers flood into Benicia again.
1951	205	Carl Theodore Gustafson	MOD: Enoch Crozer	
1952	208	Carl Theodore Gustafson	MOD: Frank Bernardo.	Korean War Armistice. Large warehouse (W-9) for NIKE repairs and


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				<p>components. Yuba manufacturing makes 155mm nuclear gun that Arsenal tests on Suisun range. Heavy shipments to Indochina in support of the French.</p>
1953	198	Carl Theodore Gustafson	MOD: Bert McGuirk	
1954	211	Charles F. Huddleston	MOD: Bert McGuirk	
1955	224	Charles F. Huddleston	MOD: Walter H. Rutherford.	Splinter group forms: National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.


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			 <p data-bbox="619 1070 1253 1156">Men's group (Rev. Huddleston is in the front row, left)</p>	

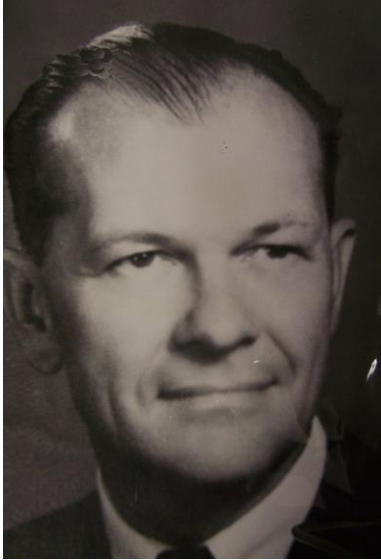
Community Congregational Church United Church of Christ, of Benicia, California
HISTORY OUTLINE

Year	M	Minister	Occurrences in the Church	Occurrences in Benicia, California, nation, world, and denomination.
1956	257	Charles F. Huddleston	<p>MOD: Gaylord Yocom</p> <p>Vote to move the church:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Yes=25</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">No=1</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Abstain=1</p> <p>Initiation of campaign to move.</p> <p>The “Old Chapman Place” was purchased for \$14,000. 3.5 acres in block 59 between M and N streets and West 2 and 3rd streets. (See 1968 and 1972).</p> <p>The house was also known as “The Robinson Place.” Elsie Robinson was a Pulitzer Prize winning columnist and grew up in the church.</p> <p>The Conference Board of Homeland Ministries loaned the money with 4.5% interest and a donation of interest back when the loan is paid.</p> <p>There is a mention of “legal papers” going to the Pacific School of Religion.</p> <p>Used organ purchased and reconditioned.</p> <p>123 children in Sunday School.</p>	 <p>The Robinson place, torn down in 1956, stood on the present church property at M and West 2nd St.</p>
1957	208	Charles F. Huddleston	MOD: Walter Woodward	General Council merges with Evangelical and Reformed Church to form the Church of Christ.



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			<p>Sunday school class is full of Baby Boomers.</p> 	<p>An amalgam of the: Congregational Church Christian Church Evangelical Church Reform Church.</p> <p>However, the entry of the Congregational churches into the UCC waits until a series of lawsuits from individuals and congregations are resolved in 1962.</p>
1958	221	Alan Pembroke	<p>MOD: Gerald Mayo</p> <p>Quitclaim from City of Benicia to CCC for alley in Block 59.</p> <p>1 Oct: The old Chapman House (Robinson House) on the West Second street property is demolished.</p>	
		Arthur Raymond Flick		


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		Albert S. Phillips		
1959	229	Albert S. Phillips	MOD: Gerald Mayo	
1960	239	Albert S. Phillips	MOD: Tony Silva Budget: \$12,188.	
1961	202	Albert S. Phillips	MOD: Anthony Silva. 15 Jan: Congregation votes to become part of the United Church of Christ. 21 Jan: New Constitution and Bylaws. Complete reorganization of the governance of	Announcement of Arsenal closing. Vietnam War begins: Lasts until 1974.


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			the Church.	
1962	206	Albert S. Phillips	<p>MOD: C. G. Carlson</p> <p>Families start leaving as the Arsenal deactivates.</p> <p>Architect bill: \$3,469.46</p> <p>New Church construction:</p>  <p>\$73,245</p> <p>Andrew F. Siri, Siri Construction</p> <p>Clive, Zerkle and Agee, Architects.</p> <p>21 Jan: Groundbreaking</p> <p>7 Oct: Dedication</p> <p>13 Oct: First wedding in new church.</p> <p>\$13,400 loan from Board of Home Missions and CCBS pays off \$500 1868 and \$400 1925</p>	 <p>Taken in 1962, this photo is the last one taken of the original sanctuary. The “Jesus window” in the alcove and the “Good Shephard” window, to the right of the photo, were moved to the new sanctuary. The bell was also moved. The building was sold and later became an artist’s studio for Manuel Neri. When Neri died, it became an Airbnb.</p> <p>Battle over the consolidation of the churches into UCC brews:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawsuits blocking the consolidation of the Congregational Churches into the UCC are finally resolved in the Federal Appeals Courts.


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			<p>loan from CCBS and provides money for improvements. The remaining money is for construction.</p> <p>31 Jan: Deed of trust for 2nd St. property for loan of \$40,000 from Bank of America.</p> <p>\$3,400 loan from CCBS.</p> <p>23 Sep: Religions education building is dedicated by children.</p> <p>30 Sep: Last worship service in the old church.</p>  <p>7 Oct: New sanctuary is dedicated.</p> <p>13 Oct: First wedding in the new church.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 May: Consolidation of the Northern California Congregational Conference and the Northern California Synod of Evangelical and Reformed Church into the Northern California Conference of the United Church of Christ.


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			<p>Ground is broken for building</p>  <p>Congregational church to have new edifice</p> <p><small>Shown today just in the recent ground breaking ceremonies for the new Congregational church are (left to right) Anthony Silva, Dr. Richard C. Nerberg, superintendent of the Northern California Congregational Conference, Gary McGulick, Don Nelson, building committee chairman, Rev. A. S. Phillips, pastor of the local church, James Milburn and Harold Van Wazer. Local contractor, A. N. Sivi, has been awarded the contract for building the first two units of the new church. — Benicia Herald Photo No. 3381.</small></p>	
1963	209	Albert S. Phillips	<p>MOD: Tony Mittnacht</p> <p>The 1925 and 1868 loans from the CCBS are reconveyed.</p> <p>The church starts adding initials “UCC” to documents, etc.</p>	22 Nov.: John F. Kennedy assassinated.
1964	176	Albert S. Phillips	<p>MOD: Tony Mittnacht</p> <p>Sale of the J Street property for \$8,000.</p>	Benicia Arsenal officially closes.
1965	145	Albert S. Phillips	<p>MOD: William O’Brien</p> <p>Sale of lots 9 & 13, block 59, for \$12,500.</p> <p>Cephas Fowler becomes Eagle Scout in Church troop.</p>	Benicia Industrial Park opens.


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1966	127	Alan P. Farr is interim pastor.	<p>MOD: William O'Brien</p> <p>2 Oct: Centennial celebration</p> <p>\$350 note to Northern California Conference UCC.</p> <p>2 Oct: Rededication of the church bell.</p>	66-69: Humble Oil, then Exxon Oil, then Valero Oil refinery built.
		<p>Philip H. Oliver</p> <p>30 Oct: Ordained and Installed.</p>		
1967	117	Philip H. Oliver	<p>MOD: Bert McGuirk</p> <p>Note to NCC, UCC paid in full.</p>	


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			 <p data-bbox="632 1109 1230 1219">March 19, 1967, Left to right: Mike Bradley, David Emerson Stoner, Rev. Philip H. Oliver, Gary McGuirk, Gayle Ellen Stoner.</p>	
1968	113	Philip H. Oliver	<p data-bbox="632 1255 932 1284">MOD: Robert Hinshaw</p> <p data-bbox="632 1308 1178 1373">\$10,000 loan from the Board of Homeland Ministries paid off, \$3,400 loan remains.</p>	<p data-bbox="1264 1255 1646 1284">Robert Kennedy assassinated.</p> <p data-bbox="1264 1308 1745 1338">Martin Luther King was assassinated.</p>


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			<p>“Contemporary” worship services initiated.</p>  <p>New sanctuary and Christian education building.</p>	
1969	112	Philip H. Oliver	<p>MOD: William O’Brien</p> <p>Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation: “The Community Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Benicia.”</p>	<p>Humble refinery starts production with the reception of crude from Alaska.</p>


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			 <p style="text-align: center;">Rev. Oliver</p>	
1970	96	Philip H. Oliver	MOD: Mike Davenport	
1971	96	Philip H. Oliver	MOD: Harold Bartke	
1972	83	Philip H. Oliver	MOD: Harold Bartke Loans from CCBS for \$3,400 and \$10,000	
1973	96	Philip H. Oliver	MOD: James N. Stewart	Yuba Manufacturing closes.
1974	96	Steven de Haas 1/6/74 to 1/7/78	MOD: James N. Stewart	

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			 <p>Reverend de Haas</p>	
1975	90	Steven de Haas	<p>MOD: Annalee Jones</p> <p>Subdivision of church property.</p> <p>Lots 10 and 14 sold for \$31,000.</p>	
1976	85	Steven de Haas	<p>MOD: Annalee Jones</p> <p>1962, \$3,400 loan from CCBS is paid off.</p>	
1977	84	<p>Steven de Haas</p> <p>Last full-time pastor until Rev. Renie Stamm-</p>	<p>MOD: Alice Francis</p> <p>\$40,000 Bank of America loan is paid off.</p>	

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		Kirk		
1978	76	Howard S. Fuller 1/78 to 6/78 Interim, he was wanted as the minister, so he stepped down during the search process.	MOD: Arloine Stoner	
		Stephen L. Gillmore (i) 6/5/78 to 11/1/78		
		Dr. Howard S. Fuller 11/6/78 to 1/31/88	Howard Spaulding Fuller 	

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1979	76	Dr. Howard S. Fuller	MOD: Arloine Stoner The abandoned portion of N Street is quitclaimed from the City to CCC.	
1980	102	Dr. Howard S. Fuller	MOD: Buster Byerrum	
1981	115	Dr. Howard S. Fuller	MOD: Buster Byerrum	
1982	110	Dr. Howard S. Fuller	MOD: Robert Francis.	
1983	119	Dr. Howard S. Fuller	MOD: Carol E. Hall Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation: Non-profit and upon dissolution the property belongs to the Northern CA Conference of UCC.	
1984	130	Dr. Howard S. Fuller.	MOD: Carolyn Henderson Stain glass windows at the south side of church are completed and installed. Cost \$1800.	
		Faye Orton (s) 8/84 to 11/84		


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1985	141	Dr. Howard S. Fuller	MOD: Carolyn Henderson	
1986	140	Dr. Howard S. Fuller	MOD: Carolyn Henderson	
1987	140	Dr. Howard S. Fuller	MOD: Bill Reed	
1988	144	Daniel L. Hatch (i) 2/88 to 8/89	MOD: Bill Reed The fiscal year changed to July 1 from January 1.	
1989	145	James Duncan Riddell	MOD: Steven Krutilek 9/3/89 Ordained 11/17/89 Installed	
1990	124	James Duncan Riddell	MOD: Steven Krutilek	
1991	134	James Duncan Riddell	MOD: Susan Stofan	First Gulf War
1992	123	James Duncan Riddell	MOD: Keith Read	

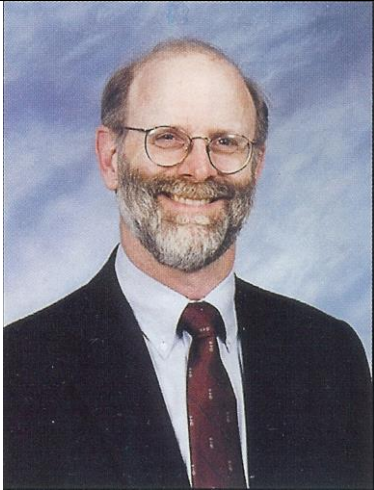
Community Congregational Church United Church of Christ, of Benicia, California
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1993	111	James Duncan Riddell	MOD: Priscilla Lane June 61993: At the annual meeting, Open and Affirming motion is passed, Yes=19, No=6. Estate fund committee purchases baptismal font and communion table.	
1994	108	Jacqueline Brown (i) 9/16/94 to 11/26/95	MOD: Carolyn Osada Members start to quit, citing the Open and Affirming vote.	
1995	102	Katherine Ann Hammell (was called but left for medical reasons) 12/17/95 to 11/96	MOD: Susan Stofan 4/14/96 Installed	

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1996	100	Peggy Betholtz (i) 12/3/96 to 1/5/97	MOD: Charles Hull	 <p>Dr. Barbara Hamm, Minister of Music, 1996 to present.</p>
1997	93	Lee Cruise 1/97 to 7/20/97 Roger D. Straw	MOD: Keith Read	
1998	109	Roger D. Straw	MOD: Mel Hurst	


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			 Rev. Roger Straw, Pastor	
1999	124	Roger D. Straw	MOD: Jan Wong Internet homepage established	
2000	140	Roger D. Straw Youth minister: Alexandra Childs July 2000 to Jan 2002	MOD: JoAnn Rambo and David McCafferty	
2001	147	Roger D. Straw	MOD: Carl Mason	9/11: Trade Towers Attack

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		Youth minister: Alexandra Childs July 2000 to Jan 2002		Afghan War. Global War on Terror begins.
2002	155	Roger D. Straw Frank Jagger (s) (9/15/02) Youth minister: Alexandra Childs July 2000 to Jan 2002	MOD: Kathleen Kravets	Iraq War (second Gulf War).
2003	156	Roger D. Straw	MOD: Carl Mason	
2004	155	Roger D. Straw	MOD: Dale Olm reVision program recommends: Full time pastor, youth pastor, signage on Military St., community events, and cushions on the pews.	
2005	152	S. Kay Wellington (i)	MOD: Dale Olm	
2006	92	S. Kay Wellington (i)	MOD: Dale Olm The membership decrease was not really from	


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			152 to 92, the rolls were brought up to date.	
2007	92	S. Kay Wellington (i)	MOD: Shelby Riddle Facebook account established.	State changes its name to: Kahlifornia (Arnold is elected Governor).
		Ray Wells (i)		
		<p>Renie Stamm-Kirk</p> <p>First full-time pastor since 1977</p>	<p>Called: 15 Apr Ordained: 12 May Installed: 23 Sept</p>  <p>Rev. Renie Kirk, Pastor</p>	<p>Pastor Renie grew up in Beacon, NY, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Social Work from Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY, and a Masters of Divinity from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley.</p>


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2008	105	Renie Stamm-Kirk	MOD: Larry Schaffer Stephen's Ministry started. Constitution and bylaws revised.	
2009	113	Renie Stamm-Kirk	MOD: Carl Mason Archives reorganized by James Lessenger, MD. Substitute minister: Wr'ner Wilcox.	
2010	124	Renie Stamm-Kirk	MOD: Dale Stanley	
2011	138	Renie Stamm-Kirk	MOD: Shelby Riddle Futuring process to settle on the future course of the Church.	
2012	130	Renie Stamm-Kirk	MOD: Larry Schaffer The Futuring report is final. Planning begins for parking lot rebuild. Not a true drop in membership, the rolls were brought up to date. Interim sabbatical minister: Candace Frawley.	
2013	125	Renie Stamm-	MOD: Nancy Gilman	

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Year	M	Minister	Occurrences in the Church	Occurrences in Benicia, California, nation, world, and denomination.
		Kirk	Candace Frawley is ordained in the church. Planning continues for parking lot rebuild.	
2014	129	Renie Stamm-Kirk	MOD: Keith Read Church votes to proceed with campus enhancement. June: Congregation votes to seek a \$350,000 loan from the Cornerstone Fund for campus enhancement.	
2015	109	Renie Stamm-Kirk	MOD: Dale Olm February 15: Construction on the parking lot begins with a groundbreaking ceremony. July 31: Construction officially ends with final city inspection. Interim sick leave minister: Rev. Susan Meeter Della Olm becomes youth leader.  Dale Olm, DVM	

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Year	M	Minister	Occurrences in the Church	Occurrences in Benicia, California, nation, world, and denomination.
			 <p data-bbox="632 938 1178 1044">Youth group (2015): Kyle Daffern, Natalie Daffern, Autume?, Karyna Mitchell, Della Olm, Carla Good, Nancy Aldritt.</p>	
2016	112	Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk	<p data-bbox="632 1084 852 1114">MOD: Dale Olm</p> <p data-bbox="632 1138 1230 1203">Celebration of 150th anniversary at the “Camel Barns” with food and dancing.</p> <p data-bbox="632 1227 1213 1328">Received Florence Stone bequest of \$50,000: Painted buildings, rebuilt electrical systems, did landscaping, and installed signs.</p>	


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2017	108	Rev. Renie Kirk	MOD: Laura Pyles	
2018	87	Rev. Renie Kirk	<p>MOD: Laura Pyles</p> <p>Change from fiscal to calendar year.</p> <p>Remodel of the sanctuary: new chairs, gave away old pews (except two), removed center carpet, new floor laid, painted, and remodeled choir room, repainted minister's office, new drapery.</p> <p>Remodeled the fellowship hall: New floor, removed barrier in front of the "Jesus Window."</p> <p>Stained glass window made by Leslie and James Lessenger and installed in the right front door of the sanctuary.</p> <p>Sabbatical replacement minister: Susan Meeter.</p>	The Church proposed to the Northern California Nevada Conference at the June annual meeting a Constitutional amendment to reflect the welcoming spirit of the UCC and our call to follow Jesus.
2019	101	Rev. Renie Kirk	<p>MOD: Leslie H. Lessenger</p> <p>New lighting in the sanctuary.</p> <p>Completed new Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies and Procedures manual.</p> <p>Substitute minister: Melissa McBride.</p>	

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2020	100	Rev. Renie Kirk	MOD: Shelby Riddle Associate pastor: Melissa McBride.	Due to the Covid-19 epidemic, the Sunday services were conducted by Zoom. Most other activities were cancelled or conducted using Covid rules.
2021	72	Rev. Renie Kirk	MOD: Shelby Riddle In-person meetings resume in June. Requirement that only persons with Covid 19 vaccinations be allowed into sanctuary for services. Repainted the front of the church and placed new letters, and smaller cross. Installed new sound and video systems. The rolls were aggressively culled.	Due to the Covid-19 epidemic, the Sunday services were conducted by Zoom. Most other activities were cancelled or conducted using Covid rules.
2022	71	Rev. Renie Kirk Rev. Bladimer B. Paeste	MOD: Nancy Gilman Interim minister: Rev. Bladimer B. Paeste. Later hired as assistant minister.	Returned to in-person activities. Rev. Paeste holds a Bachelor of Theology from the Silliman University Divinity School, graduating in 1992. Ordained by the United Church of Christ in the Philippines on April 9, 1995, he served in rural, suburban, and urban churches in the Philippines for 11 years. He is a charter member of the Butuan Habitat for Humanity of Butuan City, Philippines. He immigrated to the US in 2003 to serve at the

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			 Rev. Bladimer B. Paeste.	Oakland UCC. He served as Chaplain at Kaiser Permanente Oakland and Richmond hospitals from 2007 to 2010 and has served as a hospice chaplain since 2010. He is married to the former Lilibeth Leonero Villanueva and is blessed with three daughters, Kristine, Lei, and Maika.
2023	73	Rev. Renie Kirk Rev. Bladimer B. Paeste	MOD: Deborah Shanks	
2024		Rev. Renie Kirk Rev. Bladimer B. Paeste	MOD: Elizabeth Cleves Rev. Kirk announces she is retiring in May, search for new minister begins.	

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Purchasing to letters diploe from a number of persons in Be-
nicia, Cal., the following churches were represented by pastors
and delegates, who assembled at Loggia Hall, a that place, June 5th
1866, at 2 P.M., to take into consideration the propriety of organizing these
persons into a church of Christ.

Roll of Conference.

- 1st Congl. Ch. San Francisco. A. L. Stone, Sr., Pastor Elect, Chas. L. Eaton, Deap.
- 2d " " " " E. G. Beckwith, P., H. J. Warner, S.
- Green St " " " " E. C. Ripell, P.
- 1st " " Oakland Geo. Moore, P. H. E. May, S.
- 1st Ch. of Christ, Sacramento, J. L. Smith, Sr., P., S. Croft, S.
- Evangelical Ch. San Mateo, C. H. Pope, A. P., J. H. Warner, S.
- " " Clayton, B. S. Corby, A. P.
- " " Antioch, C. Morgan, A. P.

The Council was called to order by Rev. E. G. Beckwith, and the
letter diploe was read by him

Rev. A. L. Stone, Sr. was chosen moderator, & Rev. Geo. Moore
scribe. The moderator offered prayer.

Bro. J. P. Moore presented the proceedings of a meeting held
May 2d, 1866, the Articles of Faith and the Covenant adopted at
that meeting & read the names of depositees persons wishing
to unite in the organization. Statements were made by the
Committee respecting the need & prospects of a new church.
A Committee, consisting of J. H. Warner, J. L. Smith & E. G.
Beckwith was appointed to report respecting the Christian report
of the persons proposing to unite in the organization. The report
of the Committee recommended the following names:

- To be received by letters already in their hands;
- Mrs. Sarah E. Andrews, from Mt. E. Ch., Spanish Wells.
- " Susan C. Childs, " Howard St. Ch., San Francisco
- In replication of letters to be sent for:
- Rev. C. J. Mills, from Fort St. Ch., Amolobu.
- " J. P. Moore