

# St. Paul's 2023 Annual Report





## **Annual Meeting – January 21, 2024**

### **Agenda**

Prayer

Call to Order

Mary West, Council President

Establish Quorum (10% of membership; approximately 15 members)

Adopt Agenda

Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes from January 15, 2023

### **Treasurer's Report**

- 2023 Financials

### **Accept Church Committee Reports**

### **Old Business**

### **New Business**

- 2023 Proposed Budget
- Nominating Committee report
- Election of Committee and Council Members
- Review of church safety information
- OTHER

### **Reading of Minutes**

Adjourn

The Lord's Prayer

## ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Annual Meeting  
January 15, 2023

Pastor Laurie led us in prayer

Meeting was called to order at 10:42 a.m. with a quorum of 41 established.

Susan McPherson made a motion to adopt the agenda. Justin Kipfer seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Becki Peters made a motion to accept the January, 2022 annual meeting and the February, 2022 congregational meeting minutes, with corrections. Cris Mahoney seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

### - Treasurers Report

Jeff Peters made a motion to accept the 2022 financial report as presented. Lani Friedhaber seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

### - Committee Reports

Ruth Hopfinger made a motion to accept all church reports as presented. Seconded by Becki Peters. All in favor. Motion carried.

### - Old Business

None

### New Business

2023 Budget – Jennifer Eddy made a motion to adopt the 2023 budget as presented. Motion seconded by Bill Colvenbach. All in favor. Motion carried.

### Nominating Committee Report:

Deacons – Laurie Bellucci, John Brandon

Trustees – Marie Lowe (second trustee unfilled currently)

Christian Ed – Jennifer Eddy (second Christian Ed member unfilled at this time)

Memorial Committee – Laurie Bellucci

Investment Committee – Justin Kipfer

Pastoral Relations – Lisa Knerr

Local Mission – Bev Myers

Becki Peters made a motion to close the nominations and accept the slate of officers. Seconded by Ruth Hopfinger. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Emergency Evacuation Plan and Active Shooter Plan was reviewed by Jeff Peters and discussion followed.

Coordination of a CPR class will be coming in the future.

Cris Mahoney said the choir chairs are moving. Please do not move them.

## Annual Meeting Minutes cont'd

Lisa Knerr asked if there are fire alarms and if so, where? Jeff Peters answered, there is one in the education wing by the door and one in the hall. There are also fire extinguishers in various places that are inspected annually.

Bev Myers asked if donations to the church can be made on line? Answer: not yet, but you can donate through your on-line banking with a bank check, however, it would not be recorded by the financial secretary because it would not be matched to your offering envelope number.

Diane Storch asked how much was in the John West Scholarship and its continuation was discussed. The family does not wish that it be continued unless someone wants to donate to the fund.  
The minutes to this meeting were read back.

Current council and committees were thanked. New council members were asked to meet after the annual meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jeff Peters. Motion was seconded by Becki Peters. All in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer said by all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Neary  
Council Secretary

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## Council Special Meeting Minutes February 26, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 10:47a.m. by Mary West.

Present: Deb Best, Mary West, Laurie Bellucci, John Brandon, Marilyn Wilson, David Williman, Lisa Neary, Tom Baker and Marie Lowe.

Absent: Lorraine Wolf, Chris Eddy

Discussion of the calculation of the Pastor's salary increase in the budget.

Laurie Bellucci made a motion to accept the correct calculated salary for Pastor Laurie. Seconded by John Brandon, passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m..

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Neary  
Council Secretary

Special Council Minutes

May 21, 2023

Meeting called to order at 10:48 a.m. by Mary West with prayer.

Present: David Williman, Marilyn Wilson, Deb Best, Laurie Bellucci, Lisa Neary, Lorraine Wolf, Mary West, Susan McPherson and Justin Kipfer

Absent: Tom Baker, John Brandon, Marie Lowe, Pastor Laurie, Chris Eddy

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the church's finances. Susan McPherson was invited, as the church's treasurer and Justin Kipfer as chair of the investment committee.

Susan provided what the "other" fund contained. The contents of the "other" fund includes \$2,973 for Mission and \$2,190 for Sauerkraut.

Justin explained the church has three CDs as follows:

Maturity Date 12/20/24	\$593.16
Maturity Date 1/12/25	\$2,493.22
Maturity Date 5/13/25	\$14,295.64

Lisa Neary made a motion to cash in the 2 smaller CD's, seconded by Mary West, passed.

We need to keep the sauerkraut money to pay for the for pork for the next dinner and to pay for the signs, which will advertise and hopefully bring in more people.

Council decided to call a semi-annual meeting for June 11 to communicate the finances to the congregation. We will also discuss the emergency exit procedure and have a drill ahead of our picnic.

We will insert 2 finance reports in the next newsletter in an effort to communicate the church members.

Discussed future plans.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Neary

Council Secretary

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Semi-Annual Council Minutes

June 11, 2023

Meeting called to order by Mary West.

The purpose of this semi annual meeting is to discuss the church's finances.

Mary reviewed the financial report which shows a significant decrease in the operating fund. The drop happened in January of 2023 and has remained at a balance of approximately \$3,000. Mary talked about the need for an increase in revenue.

We cashed in our two smallest CD's for approximately \$3,000, which leaves us with the last CD of \$14,295.64. Which we will cash in next if our cash level continues to drop.

There is a parsonage fund that has \$100,000 in it. That fund is invested in the stock market and the preference would be to not touch that for monthly operations.

We'd love to hear ideas and thoughts. Our meetings are the third Thursday of every month. Everyone is invited to share their ideas for increasing the church's revenue.

Jeff Peters thanked everyone who took CPR classes at the church. Annie is willing to come back in the future.

Jeff reviewed the emergency exit plan in the event of an emergency and the procedure in the event of an active shooter.

Wheelchairs are at the front and back exits of the church for those who have difficulty ambulating.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Neary

Council Secretary

St. Paul's United Church of Christ Memorial Committee  
Treasurer's Report 2023

Memorial Committee  
Treasurer's Report  
2023

Memorial Fund:

Balance at December 31, 2022 \$ 1,531.99

Plus memorials received:

Larry Abendschein

Florence Williman

Sharon Davis

Carol Shreder

3,405.00

Less disbursements:

Offering Table

Easter Banners

Bowls and Platters

Memorial Envelopes

859.58

Ending Balance at December 31, 2023 \$ 4077.41

John West Scholarship Fund:

Balance at December 31, 2022 \$ 1,531.90

Plus donations received -

Plus memorials received -

Plus bequeaths -

Less disbursements

Ben Kipfer      Emily Lovell

Lauren West      Alyssa Jacoby \$ 1400.00

\*Committee voted to continue scholarship and to remain named as St. Paul's UCC scholarship\*

Ending Balance at December 31, 2023 \$ 131.00

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Kipfer & Laurie Bellucci

# Envelope Giving Report for 2023

boxes of envelopes were issued in 2023.

<u>\$</u>	<u># of boxes</u>		
0	5		
1 -49	1		
50 - 99	2	Special Giving Envelopes	
100 - 149	4		
150 - 199	1		<u># of envelopes</u>
200 - 249	0		
250 - 299	1	2022 Envelopes	7
300 - 349	0	2022 Christmas	12
350 - 399	0	One Great Hour of Sharing	6
400 - 449	0	Easter	20
450 - 499	1	Neighbors in Need	3
500 - 749	2	Strengthen the Church Fund	3
750 - 999	4	Candle Light Service	32
1000 - 1499	4	Blanket Fund	4
1500 - 1999	5	2023 Initial offering	24
2000 - 2499	3	2023 Christmas Fund	7
2500-2999	4	2023 Christmas	23
3000 - 3999	2	2024 Initial offering	2
4000 - 4999	1		
5000 - 5999	2		
6000 - 6999	1		Respectfully submitted,
7000- 7999	1		
8000 - 8999	1		
9000- 9999	0		Lisa Neary
10000 - 14999	0		
15000 - 19999	1		
Total	46		

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## **St. Paul's 2022 Trustee's Report**

### Property Maintenance:

- mowing, weeding, snow removal
- numerous light fixtures changed
- light bulbs changed as needed
- emergency lighting changed
- security lights upgraded
- smoke detector batteries changed
- boiler and a/c serviced
- parking lot resurfacing bids requested/received
- back door repaired

### Special Equipment:

- replaced Pastor's lapel microphone
- upgraded audio cord for sound system

### Yearly Inspections Completed

- Cintas fire inspection
- Wyoming County bldg. inspection, including lift
- Church Mutual Insurance Company inspection

### Other:

- new digital water meter installed by Village Water Department
- attention to numerous other issues as they arose

### Issues To Be Addressed in 2024:

- parking lot/driveway
- kitchen hood
- roof repair
- pre-school emergency exit

Respectfully submitted on behalf of St. Paul's Trustees by:  
David Williman, Head Trustee

### Kitchen Maintenance:

- kitchen equipment served & repaired
- kitchen & building drains snaked
- secured estimates for refrigerator compressor repair/replacement
- kitchen fire system serviced

### Restroom Maintenance:

- toilet in men's room replaced
- nursery school plumbing repaired
- leak in ladies room repaired

### Worship Service Enhancements:

- set up/removal of Christmas tree, star,
- streamers for Easter & Pentecost seasons
- other miscellaneous functions as needed

## **DEACON ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

Outgoing Deacons thanked for their service.

New Deacons welcomed.

Deacons duties reviewed.

New Music Books compiled and distributed in pews.

New Pictorial completed.

Purple slips provided for Prayer Chain during Lent.

Sedar Meal held on Maundy Thursday.

Community Good Friday Service held.

Palms distributed on Palm Sunday.

Easter Sunday Service held.

Graduation Sunday planned and held.

Communion reviewed and Guidelines updated.

50 Year Membership planned and held. May post future Year Members confirmation picture when recognized.

Candlelight Service planned.

Hanging of Greens held.

Christmas Eve Service held.

Deacons provided Service for December 31st.

Deacons provided Lay Readers, Ushers and Greeters for services.

Pulpit supply was filled when required.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lorraine Wolf



## **Membership Report**

*Italicized names* denote friends of the congregation.

**2023 Members by Confirmation:** Joshua Kipfer, Madelyn Perry

**2023 Baptisms:** Aubrey Anne Donahue

**2023 Funerals:** Sharon Davis, Lawrence C. Abendschein, Florence M. “Floss” Williman,  
Carol Shreder, Charles Kellogg

**2023 Interments:** *Robert G. Haynes*

## **Local Mission Report**

No funds were disbursed in 2023

## **Sisters in Faith**

- † Sisters in Faith continued our mission of reaching out to all members.
- † We send cards to members that are sick or hospitalized
- † The kitchen was cleaned up twice in 2023
- † Our annual Christmas party was held in December

We are looking forward to more mission projects in 2024.  
Please consider joining us.

## **Pastoral Relations Annual Report**

The 2023 Pastoral Relations Committee was comprised of Patricia Baker, Bev Meyers, Lisa Knerr, Mary West Council President, and Laurie Bellucci, Head Deacon. The Pastoral Relations Committee met quarterly on February 19, 2023, May 21, 2023, August 20, 2023, and November 12, 2023 following church services as required. Pastor Heidenreich discussed Pastoral scheduling, youth engagement including camp and mission trips, and suggested changes to special services and music. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 18, 2024 following services. Church members and guests are welcome to reach out to any Pastoral Relations Committee member with any comments or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Patricia A. Baker*

**St. Paul's UCC Christian Education Committee**  
**Annual Report 2023**

**Members:** Tom Baker, Susan McPherson, Chris Kipfer, Jen Eddy, Becki Peters

**Heifer Project:** Students spent \$1060 for a water buffalo and bunnies last February.

**Dunkirk Camp:**

- We hosted a soup lunch to raise funds for Dunkirk last winter.
- We hosted a basket raffle at the spring Pancake breakfast hosted by St. Paul's, raising over \$500.
- We sent 6 children to camp (Levi and Madelyn Perry, Emily Peters, Meg Baker, Alyssa Jacoby and Josh Kipfer)
- Campers served pancakes and fruit in November to say thank you to the church for sending them to camp.
- We hosted a basket raffle at the Sauerkraut Supper to raise funds for next year's campers, over \$600 was raised.

**Pre-School:** We have waiting lists for both 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds this year. We have a morning class for each. We could have run an afternoon class, but didn't have the staff do so. The teachers did an Amazon wish list for Christmas and received several items to help replace toys and other classroom items. We continue to run without the director's position, Susan continues to take care of immunizations for the program.

**Sunday School:**

- We have only 1 class this year, with students ranging in age from 4-12. Committee members take turns teaching, along with Emily Peters. We have no one in the nursery, and someone only goes back as needed. We have no students in confirmation this year.
- We filled Easter Eggs in advance and held an Easter Egg hunt on Easter.
- We hosted a Halloween party on 10/29 with filled treat bags and activities during church for the kids. Pastor Laurie invited pre-schoolers, but we didn't have any attend.
- We held the Advent Workshop on Nov. 19th during worship, making ornaments for the Christmas tree.
- Students helped decorate the tree during the hanging of the greens on 12/03..
- Susan directed the Christmas Story on Christmas Eve's morning service, with 14 children participating. We then hosted a birthday party for Jesus downstairs after the service.
- We will be doing cookies and milk on the day of the annual meeting 1/21/24, to raise funds for Heifer.
- We will be hosting a Soup Lunch again to raise funds for Dunkirk Campers on Feb. 4th, 2024.
- The Souper Bowl of Caring when children collect change during children's time will be on 2/11/2024, the same day as the Super Bowl.

Respectfully Submitted by Becki Peters

St. Paul's Pre-School Financial Statement—January 2024

**Income:**

2022-2023 school year registrations received = \$2160.00 (up \$1050 from last year)

Sept. 2023- Dec. 2023 tuition received = \$17,528 (not including registrations)

(all accounts currently in good standing)

Jan 2023 – May 2023 total tuition received = \$11,540 (not including registrations)

**Total Income 2023: \$31,228**

**Expenses paid out to the church cumulative (since January 2023):**

\$2669.92 paid to church for Pre-School FICA tax (January 2023- December 2023)

\$264 paid to church for Pre-School portion of Disability Insurance

\$1,000 paid to church Jan. 2023 for building use (\$2,000 pd/school year), none paid yet this school

**Total 2023 church expenses: \$3933.92**

**Other expenses (cumulative beginning January 2023):**

\$17575.99- Salaries paid out in 2023

-Jan. 2023 = \$1828.54

-Feb. 2023 = \$2011.99

-March 2023 = \$2094.50

-April 2023 = \$1462.83

-May 2023 = \$2559.95

-Sept. 2023 = \$1302.83

-Oct. 2023 = \$2949.19

-Nov. 2023 = \$1683.08

-Dec. 2023 = \$1683.08

\$563.05 – Reimbursement for misc. classroom supplies (ie. pictures, cleaning supplies, craft supplies, postage - since August. 2023) (Supplies paid out from Jan. 2023-May 2023 not included as I did not have the records at hand at the time of this preparation, which would account for the discrepancy in bank balance versus income/expenses).

**Total Other Expenses: \$18,139.04**

**Income (\$31228) – Expenses (\$22,072.96) = \$9155.04**

**Bank balance as of 12/06/2023 = \$9,505.21**

Prepared and submitted as of 1/2/2024 by Becki Peters

## Nominating Committee Report for 2023

### Deacons—3 yr term

Lorraine Wolf	2022-2024
Mary West	2022-2024
Laurie Bellucci	2023-2025
John Brandon	2023-2025
Justin Kipfer	2024-2026
Jeffrey Peters	2024-2026

### Trustees—3 yr term

David Williman	2022-2024
Debbie Best	2022-2024
Marie Lowe	2023-2025
Christopher Eddy	2024-2026

### Christian Education—3 yr term

Becki Peters	2022-2024
Tom Baker	2022-2024
Jennifer Eddy	2023-2025
Susan McPherson	2024-2026
Christine Kipfer	2024-2026

No one else is needed at this time

### Memorial Committee—5 yr term

Karen Beideck	2020-2024
Chis Mahoney	2021-2025
Chris Kipfer	2022-2026
Laurie Bellucci	2023-2027
Diane Storch	2024-2028

### Pastoral Relations—3 yr term

Beverly Myers	2022-2024
Lisa Knerr	2023-2025
Debbie Best	2024-2026

### Investment Committee—3 yr term

Joanne Ripstein	2022-2024
Justin Kipfer	2023-2025
Lisa Neary	2024-2026

### Local Mission— 3 yr term

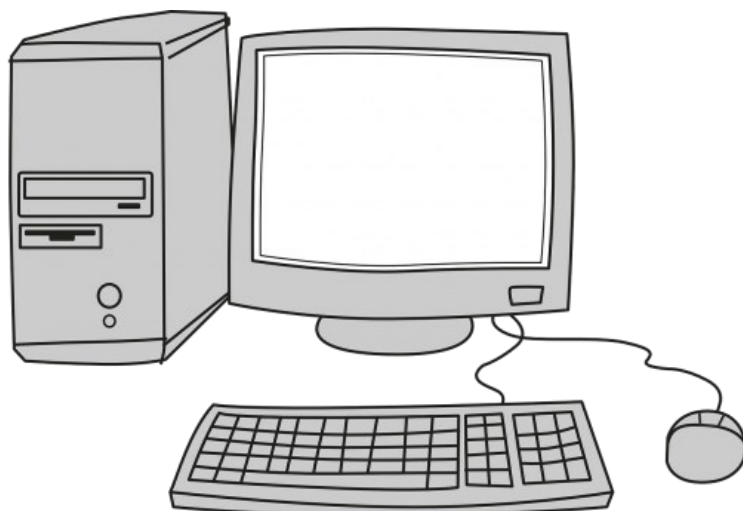
Marie Lowe	2022-2024
Beverly Myers	2023-2025

Submitted by:  
Nominating Committee  
Marie Lowe  
John Brandon

## Media Annual Report

I have now been the media minister for a year and a half, and we have mostly maintained course on what we've been doing before with smaller improvements. I have been training Dave Williman and Sawyer West to be able to run the service on their own in the event I'm on a vacation or am sick and they are coming along very well. David has also helped with fixing some of the audio issues we have been experiencing. I am still hoping that we can have 3 teams of 3 to rotate out in running the service someday. We have also created a system for the backgrounds changing for the various church seasons throughout the year to maintain a sense of consistency. A huge thank you to Laurie Bellucci, Marilyn Wilson, David Williman, and Sawyer West for your consistent help running the tech this last year!

Sincerely,  
Dan Neary



## 2023 PASTOR'S REPORT

*To whom much is given, much is required. -Luke 12:48*

Too often, we don't recognize or appreciate all we have been given by our Creator. Jesus reminds us that we are to embrace gratitude and be generous in all things. He encourages us to bear good fruit now. Our generosity- of time, talents, and tithe- allows St. Paul's UCC to persist in ministry.

My work as an ordained minister includes leading worship. As your pastor, I prepared 48 sermon messages and 45 Children's Chats. I officiated at 1 baptism and 5 funerals/interments. We confirmed 2 youth. During worship, we blessed church leaders, enjoyed Music Sunday, installed Sunday School teachers, honored our graduates, and celebrated with 3 Fifty-Year Members. Our children blessed their backpacks as well as the Souper Bowl donations. We remembered those who have passed on during the year. We celebrated our 74<sup>th</sup> Candlelight Service. I participated in both the Bell and Chancel Choirs.

In other ministry, I supported two weekly Bible Studies. I met 29 times with the Pre-School classes to talk about faith and being kind to others. I wrote 11 Newsletter articles. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund had no disbursements this year.

I enjoyed 111 visits including shut-in, hospital, office, Communion, and home visits. I attended 200 meetings including Christian Education, Pastoral Relations, Memorial, Deacon, and Council meetings. I joined in Sisters in Faith activities and helped with the Sauerkraut Supper. The Youth Mission Group spent a wonderful week in and around Massena, NY. I also continued my ministry of presence at community and sporting events, including the Moller Clock Dedication and the Pike Fair.

The Western Association requires 75 hours of continuing education every three years. I completed 72.5 hours this year. I read 4 books, 1 of which was an on-line book study dealing with race. I completed Sexual Harassment Prevention Training for Church Employees. I continue to belong to a Community of Practice Group.

I represented you at the New York Conference Annual Meeting and 2 Western New York Area Churches in Covenant Installations. I completed my time on Western Association's Committee on Ministry where I acted as their Treasurer. I mentor a NYSOM student with whom I meet every other month. I've also begun to supervise another NYSOM student for one year of Supervised Ministry. I continue to attend a weekly on-line Bible Study offered by the UCC church at which we did a Mission Trip in southwest Philadelphia a few years ago. I organized the Lenten Lunches and continue to act as Treasurer for the Church in Attica group. I also followed the Holy Spirit's nudging to sing in the Pioneer Community Chorus' "Rhapsody in Bluegrass" cantata with 2 other church choir members.

I feel blessed to have served as your pastor for the past 11 years. I pray that St. Paul's UCC continues to generously worship our Triune God, minister in the ways of Jesus, and be transformed by the Holy Spirit, as we use our God-given gifts to reach out to our community and to each other. May we be thankful for our many blessings.

May the peace of Christ be with us as we move into the God's vision for our future.

Godspeed,  
The Rev. Luran Heidenreich

## *Looking Back at St. Paul's in 2023*

Our 2nd Pancake Breakfast in February and Basket raffle open to the public  
Held 2 scrapbook fundraisers for kids Mission trip to Massena  
We completed our new song book and placed in pews  
Sent 6 of our children to Dunkirk Camp over the summer  
Pastor Laurie took 3 kids on a Mission trip July 17th -23rd to Massena  
Held our 2nd Fire Drill following worship  
We had 11 members complete their High Quality CPR class  
Joshua Kipfer and Madeline Perry confirmed  
We had our congregational picnics - June and September  
Dunkirk kids hosted a thank you coffee hour to thank Congregation for sending them to camp  
3-50 Year Members celebrated in October  
Served approximately 134 takeout 39 eat in , total of 173 people at our annual Sauerkraut  
Supper along with Christian Education Basket Raffle  
Held our 74th annual Candlelight Service  
Participated in our 1st Winterfest event with hot apple crisp and ice cream  
25 T shirts were purchased with St. Paul's logo.  
Christian Education led our children in a beautiful Christmas play  
Lost the following loved ones:  
Sharon Davis, Lawrence C. Abendschein, Florence M. "Floss" Williman, Carol Shreder and Charles Kellogg

*What a fulfilled year we had here at St. Paul's.  
Let's hope that 2024 is another fulfilled year for us all!*

### **Proposed 2024 Budget**

Our Church's Wider Mission	3000.00
Western Area Covenant Share	1048.00
NYS Conference Dues	<u>328.00</u>
<b>total</b>	<b>4376.00</b>

Pastors Salary	45617.71
Pastors Annuity	8346.48
Pastors Health Ins	12000.00
Pastors FICA	4561.00
Housing Allowance	<u>14000.00</u>
<b>Package total</b>	<b>84525.19</b>

Accountable Professional Expense	1000.00
Supply minister	625.00
Secretary	3240.00
Custodian	4843.80
Organist	3000.00
Choir Director	1224.00
Employee FICA	712.05
NYS Disability	<u>250.00</u>
<b>total</b>	<b>14894.85</b>

Special Events	300.00
Dunkirk Scholarships	750.00
Christian Education	100.00
Church utilities	7500.00
Telephone/Internet	1524.00
Insurance	6100.00
Building Maintenance/Repairs	2289.00
Snow Removal	
Shoveling	300.00
Snow Plowing	775.00
Office Supplies & Equipment	1500.00
Worship Materials	400.00
Music	<u>200.00</u>
<b>total</b>	<b>21738.00</b>

**TOTAL BUDGET**                    **\$125534.04**

