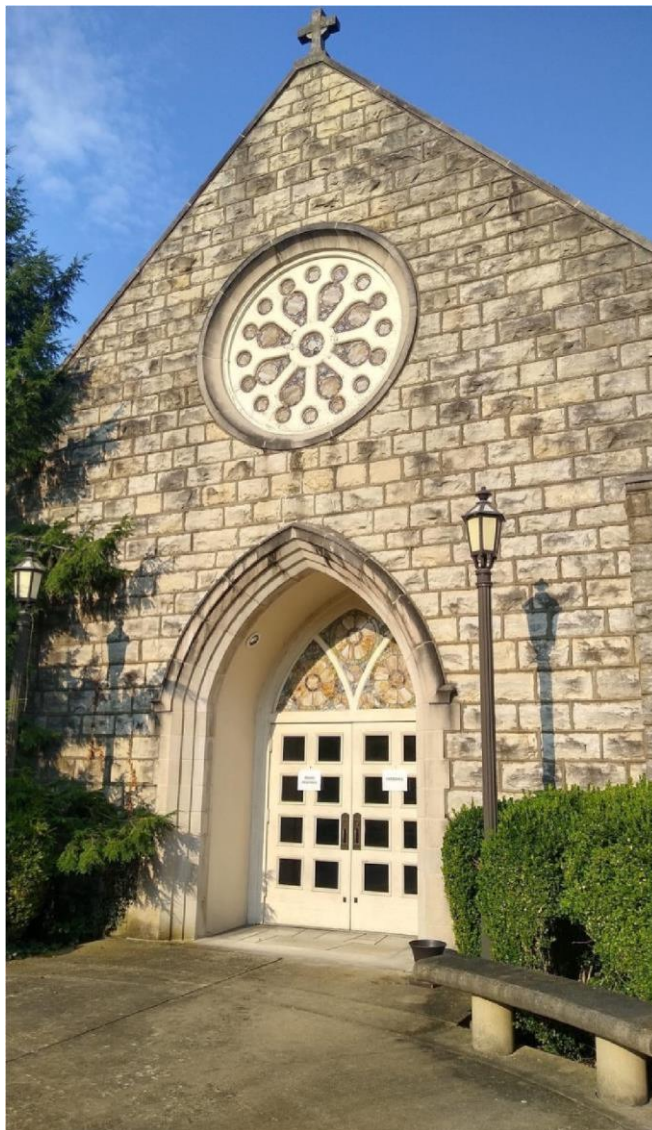


CRESCENT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2024 Annual Report



February 23, 2025

CRESCENT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 142 CRESCENT AVENUE, LOUISVILLE, KY 40206



Dear Friends and Members of Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church,

We have had a pretty great year all things considering. 2024 was my first year with you as I came on board on Ash Wednesday, which also happened to be Valentine's Day. We have begun learning of each other, worshipping together, planning and working the ministries of the church, and the many new partnerships that we have made in our community. New groups that started to meet at CHPC during the 2024 year include a new AA group, the Master Gardeners, and the Jane Austin Society.

Even though we have had a great year, I know God has important work for us in the year to come. I look forward to being Christ's hands and feet with you where we are needed the most.

In Christ,
Reverend Tamara Recob

Session

Submitted by Andrea Trautwein, Clerk of Session

The 2024 Session members were Marsha Berry, Soni Castleberry, Barbara Hedspeth, Jack Marcum, Don Mead, Eva Stimson, and Beth Yeager. The Rev. Paul Seebeck, serving as Bridge Pastor, moderated the Officer's Retreat at Sisters of Loretto and the January 24 Stated Meeting. Beginning with the February 28 Stated Meeting, the Rev. Tamara Recob, our newly hired part-time pastor, assumed the role of Moderator for the remainder of the year.

February marked an exciting transition as we warmly welcomed Pastor Tami Recob to our congregation.

In early spring, the Session held a Called Meeting to reimagine our church's committee structure, resulting in the formation of two new committees: NOW and OPS. These groups officially launched on May 1, 2024.

Our Garden Task Force made significant progress in enhancing the church grounds, partnering with Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville and the Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association to further our commitment to environmental stewardship.

Throughout the year, the Session explored the possibility of commissioning sculptor Craig Kaviar to create a meaningful piece for the church patio. The proposed sculpture, incorporating metal from guns turned in at Guns2Garden Louisville recovery events, sparked thoughtful discussion, with a final decision planned for 2025.

This year also brought changes in church leadership and music ministry. We bid farewell to our musician, Ken Cordle, and welcomed Aaron Davidson in the fall. Additionally, we expressed deep gratitude to Jack Marcum upon his retirement as Church Treasurer, recognizing his faithful service. Our outgoing elders were Marsha Berry, Jack Marcum, and Don Mead.

Deacon Report

Submitted by Patti Marcum

The office of Deacon is a “ministry of compassion, witness and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures or anyone in distress.” (Book of Order, G-2.0201)

Deacons at CHPC are “catalysts for care” to members in need. Deacons lead care teams within the congregation to mobilize care for person(s) in need and provide opportunities to everyone participating in the life of our congregation the chance to serve someone in need.

We do this through prayers, cards (birthday, sympathy, thinking of you), texts, emails, and phone calls.

A deacon attended monthly session meetings.

Other ways we served in 2024 with help from our care teams:

- New Pastor Reception in February
- Birthday party for Bob Abrams in July
- Served and cleaned up after reception for the family of Keith Duerr
- Birthday reception for new music director in September
- Set up, served drinks, and cleaned up reception with Master Gardeners
- Set up, served, and cleaned up after the memorial service for Polly Cushman’s great-grandson, Ezekiel Rice, on December 1

Gratitude for Deacons whose term ended in 2024:

Gail DeMarsh

Shannon Langley

Welcome to Deacons beginning terms in 2025:

Anita Cary

Janine Linder

Richard Recob

Personnel Committee

Members: Marsha Berry (Chair), Barbara Hedspeth, and Andrea Trautwein

Achievements of the Personnel Committee this year included:

- Reviewed the Music Director's job description.
- Posted the Music Director position due to opening. Candidates were screened and invited to play for the congregation. They were interviewed, and a candidate was recommended to session for hire.
- Reviewed list of Treasurer duties provided by and with Jack Marcum as part of bringing new Treasurer on board and assigning some of the duties to others for support (several duties went to Megan, Administrative Assistant).
- Completed the performance review of Pastor Tami after getting feedback from others.
- Completed Pastor Tami's contract for 2025 and sent to session.

The Personnel Committee looks forward to continuing review of our practices in 2025.

NOW Committee

Chairperson: Beth Yeager; Secretary: Eva Stimson

The NOW Committee guides programmatic work of the congregation, activities formerly coordinated by the Nurture, Outreach, and Worship Committees. Work coordinated by NOW includes music and worship, Christian formation, earth care, gun violence prevention, garden ministry, and mission beyond the walls of our church. Bringing these activities under the oversight of one committee has resulted in more people around the planning tables, more creativity, better communication, and broadening our focus beyond serving just us to include the wider community and world.

The NOW Committee has met monthly since its first meeting May 1, 2024. Average participation in these meetings has been 10-12 people. Accomplishments in 2024 include:

Began a continuing conversation about how CHPC can both meet needs of its members and engage the community around us.

Pentecost celebration: We invited groups using our building to participate in worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024. Representatives from the AA group, Bunbury Theatre, chair yoga, Spirit of Sophia, Guns to Gardens Louisville, and Garden Camp/Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville were invited to share briefly what they contribute to the common good. Worship was followed by a community meal with music and craft activities. There were colorful banners in the sanctuary and outside in front of the church.

Promotion of the 4 PC(USA) Special Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, and Christmas Joy. A portion of the Pentecost Offering was donated to the [House of Hope Vision School](#), in the Palestinian West Bank, which works with children who have experienced trauma. A representative from the school joined our worship service on Zoom and gave a Moment for Mission—a thrilling connection with the church worldwide. A portion of the Peace and Global Witness Offering went toward an art piece to be made by Craig Kaviar for the front plaza. Craig has proposed a piece called “Healing the Earth,” made of metal from guns collected at Guns to Gardens events plus other donated metal.

Advisory Group for Worship/Liturgy: Patti Marcum, Beth Yeager, Rick Roderick, and Jerry Van Marter agreed to serve on this group to consult with Pastor Tami and music director Aaron Davidson about issues involving liturgy, worship, music.

Signage Task Force: Eva Stimson, Anita Cary, Soni Castleberry, Perry Chang, and Pastor Tami began working on a plan to put signs around the church building and grounds to connect the church and its mission with neighbors and visitors.

Lunch and Learn: In July, Perry Chang, who served as a commissioner from Mid-Kentucky Presbytery to the 2024 General Assembly, reported on his experience.

Worship and picnic at Cedar Ridge Camp: NOW helped coordinate this event, which drew a good crowd to the camp August 18 for worship, lunch, fellowship, and swimming.

Master Gardeners: An agreement between CHPC and the Jefferson County Master Gardener Association was signed August 4. NOW helped plan and promote a “Meet the Gardeners” reception after worship September 8 and a fall festival, or “Friends Gathering.” on Saturday, November 9.

Sundays with Sid: Jerry Van Marter and Eva Stimson continued offering a half-hour gathering on Zoom for children featuring Sid the puppet videos (created by Jerry and Luke Van Marter) one Sunday a month through fall 2024. With regret but gratefulness, the small group of regular participants agreed not to continue the Sid gatherings in 2025.

Build-a-Bed: NOW supported a continuing partnership with First Christian Church in this ministry led by Ben Langley. Members of First Christian joined us December 8 for worship, followed by lunch and building of 20 beds for children in the community who do not have beds to sleep in.

Advent/Christmas: NOW helped coordinate candle-lighters for the Advent wreath and decorating the sanctuary for worship. Phil Lloyd-Sidle led a group reading of “The House by the Stable,” an Advent morality play by Charles Williams.

Mission Partnerships Budget: NOW gave Session a proposed list of mission donations (formerly called “benevolences”) to include in the church’s 2025 budget.

Other groups/activities under the NOW umbrella include:

- **Middle East Prayer Group:** There are about 20 people on the email list and 9-10 people regularly praying together on Thursdays on Zoom and once a month in person in various homes.
- **Guns to Gardens Louisville:** This group, which began at CHPC and still holds monthly planning meetings in the Gathering Room, incorporated as a 501(c)3 organization in 2024. G2GL organized 2 safe-surrender events in 2024, receiving 35 unwanted guns to turn into garden tools, art, and jewelry.
- **Youth Group:** We are grateful to Rebecca Barnes, Chris Bischoff, and Luiz Kemmerle for this ministry of community building with high school youth.
- **Spirit of Sophia:** Quarterly Taizé services in the CHPC sanctuary offer space for quiet contemplation and prayers for healing. NOW proposed and Session approved a \$1,000 donation to Spirit of Sophia toward a matching grant from the PC(USA).
- **Gardening ministries:** Stephen Bartlett and Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville offered 2 weeks of Garden Camp in June, with 20 children attending. A team from the Jefferson County Master Gardener Association began planting, weeding, and sprucing up church grounds in exchange for use of church property.
- **Guatemala partnership:** CHPC stayed connected with partners in Q’eqchi’ Estoreño Izabal Presbytery, eastern Guatemala, through prayer, phone calls, and social media.

OPS Committee

Chairperson: Pastor Tami

OPS Highlight from 2024

In May 2024 the operations committee or OPS, first met to organize and plan for this new committee structure of the Session. Operations consist of operations, personnel, and stewardship. Operations takes care of the nuts and bolts of how the church runs. It deals with the incorporation of the church, its investments, insurance, payroll and tax filings, and many other normal day-to-day functions of the church. The personnel portion of the committee helps with the hiring, firing, and maintenance of current employment agreements. Stewardship is an ongoing process throughout the year in which we focus not just on the gifts God gives us to enrich our personal lives but also how we then use those gifts to share the gospel and provide hope to those who have none.

- In May we started discussions regarding the building use policy and grounds maintenance with a particular emphasis on deferred maintenance.
- We conducted the yearly falls stewardship campaign and pledge drive as well as budget development.
- A new online giving QR code was set up for use at the electronic charging station and through online worship.
- Lead abatement has occurred on all of the painted surfaces on the exterior of the church and back building.
- The old walkway between the two buildings was taken down by a unanimous vote of session.
- The session with the personnel committee recommendations hired a part time worship leader, a part time director of music, and we said farewell to Ken Cordle as he entered next phase of his life and adventures.
- With the partnership from the Master Gardeners, we have been able to negotiate contracts between Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville, the Master Gardeners group, and Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church.
- We are currently working on the completion of the replacement of the water line for the church building and we will be consulting on the possible sculpture regarding gun violence. More details will follow.

Presbyterian Women

Submitted by Diana Stephen

During 2024, the Presbyterian Women's Circle welcomed with delight two new participants: Pastor Tami and Anita Cary.

The Circle also:

- Concluded our Bible study, *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*;
- Began our new Bible study, *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*;
- Attended the orientation for the new Bible study, led by Janice Catron;
- Shared our mission giving of \$1,794 with: World Mission, Least Coin, UCHM. Wayside Christian Mission, Cedar Ridge Camp, Dare to Care, Uspiritus, Buckhorn, LaCasita, LPTS Bookends, Church Women United, Habitat for Humanity;
- Concurred that Polly Cushman replace Izzy Jones on the Financial Team, working with Treasurer, Gayle Trautwein;
- Distributed Christmas cookies to the staff and others;
- Prayed for various joys and concerns and always for CHPC, its Session and staff.

Consider becoming part of the Circle. We meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 10:30 a.m. in the Gathering Room in the back building. We pray, study the Bible, care for one another as well as others, and have lots of fun. We are always delighted to expand the Circle.

Earth Care

The Earth Care Team of Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church is focused on helping the congregation and the community to recognize the need for living in a sustainable manner. This year, the congregation as a whole and many members individually looked for positive ways of helping God's Earth. The Session also demonstrated its commitment to re-creating the planet.

- We renewed CHPC's memberships this year with Interfaith Power & Light as well as with Presbyterians for Earth Care. We shared articles through email.
- In the spring, there were two workdays to prepare flower beds for summer and clean the outdoor sections of the church. As part of that, the Session decided it was time to paint the rusting metal cover over the walkway between the two buildings. Testing revealed the old paint contained lead. Therefore, a company specializing in dealing with lead safely and according to code was hired to remove the entire structure.
- The Earth Care team helped with the service for Earth Day Sunday in April by leading the liturgy and ushering. Pastor Tami Recob delivered a sermon highlighting the earth. Many other worship services emphasized ecology, including a service held at Cedar Ridge Camp in August.
- Youth and youth leaders regularly gathered in local parks to enjoy God's creation.
- In the summer Session endorsed two agreements related to property use by outside groups:
 - CHPC entered a relationship with Jefferson County Master Gardener Association, where JCMGA will take care of the garden areas on the church property, some existing, some new, in exchange for use of the building and property for meetings and other events. One goal is to save enough water in rain barrels, so we don't use city water for the gardens and landscaping.
 - CHPC continued supporting the Garden Camps along with Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville. Stephen Bartlett reported that this year's Garden Camp was a big success, with 20 campers over 2 weeks in June, double the number from last year. The campers made new friends and renewed old friendships. They enjoyed games, swimming, working in the garden, and making corn meal, salsa, and rhubarb pies.
 - In September, the Presbyterian Women chose to use as Bible Lesson for 2024 the study book *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation* written by Patricia K. Tull. Tricia attended the December meeting and led the study.

The Earth Care Pledge says we "will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this earth." The CHPC Earth Care Team continues to follow God's calling. During the coming year, we hope to continue raising awareness of the wonder and beauty provided to us by God. We recognize the critical urgency of restoring God's creation so all beings can enjoy this gift.

CHPC Earth Care Team

Spirit of Sophia

Respectfully submitted by Dana Sue Walker,
Executive Director

Spirit of Sophia served over 700 women in 2024 through both in-person and virtual programming. We offered a virtual program with author and artist, Jan Richardson in February. We offered a virtual program with Sr. Joan Chittister on The Divine Feminine in April – over 500 participants joined the zoom call. We hosted three virtual monthly circles that met monthly throughout the year. We offered a creative workshop in August, a 4-week book study (held at CHPC) in September, a day-retreat at Nazareth Retreat Center in October, and a virtual program on grief in December. Our Women Create virtual fundraising program in November showcased the work of 14 women artists.

Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church partnered with Spirit of Sophia to host quarterly Taize services titled: “A Contemplative Service for Healing and Hope” held at CHPC the third Wednesday of the month in March, June, September and December of 2023.

Spirit of Sophia, a women’s spirituality center, is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit and a member of the PCUSA 1001 New Worshipping Communities. Contact: Dana Sue Walker dana@spiritofsophia.org

Guatemalan Connection

Submitted by Perry Chang

Crescent Hill church's 15-year-old partnership with Eastern Guatemala's Q'eqchi' Estoreño Izabal Presbytery continued in a low-key manner this past year.

Our personal link with the presbytery shifted somewhat. Our longtime colleague and sibling in Christ Pastor Raul Contreras Tut faced health challenges and stepped back from his role as a liaison between Crescent Hill and the presbytery (along with taking a break from pastoring a church).

Instead, the presbytery's new president, Monte Sinai Church Pastor Jorge Caal Ortiz, named two individuals from Arca de Noe Church to serve as liaisons with us. Arca de Noe is the church that our friends and siblings in Christ Gerardo Pop Ich and Ramiro Quib Caal once pastored. The Arca de Noe pastor, Nery Cán, and an elder, Abdiel Can Salvador, are now liaisons with us. Over the course of the year, CHPC prayed each week for a different congregation or ministry of Estoreño Presbytery. This past fall we prayed for two PC(USA) mission co-workers – typically based in Guatemala - whose future service with the denomination was up in the air. And we prayed for Raul Contreras and his family.

In addition - out of the 2024 budget – the congregation shared an offering of \$1,500 with the presbytery. A \$150 tithe – 10% of the amount going to the presbytery – went to the national Guatemalan presbytery church.

Also, this fall, a PC(USA) denomination-wide initiative to highlight Guatemala as a focus of Presbyterian prayer, study, and action got started with CHPC support.

Guatemalan Connection folks continued to prayerfully reflect on the future of the partnership, and we invite the rest of the congregation to do the same. No visit to Guatemala or partner visit to CHPC/Kentuckiana appears imminent.

Note: For years, Crescent Hill folks have subtly encouraged Estoreño Presbytery to incorporate more female leadership. We have done so most obviously by repeatedly sending visit teams to Guatemala which included female ministers of the Word and Sacrament. The presbytery ordained its first female pastor, Ana Romelia Pop, in 2023. This past fall Pastor Romelia was elected to the presbytery Executive Committee. She is the first woman to serve on that committee. She has also taken over what used to be Ramiro Quib's job as treasurer of the presbytery. She is currently taking classes that are part of a theological education program in Coban that CHPC funds helped get Estoreño Presbytery church leaders started in.

Below is a picture of the members of the current Estoreño Presbytery Executive Committee.

From left to right: Pastor Jorge Caal Ortiz (Monte Sinai); Armando Chub (Arca de Noe), Pastor Ana Romelia Pop (Puerta del Cielo), Pastor Nery Cán (Arca de Noe), Rev. Fidel Juc (Arca de Noe), and Alberto Maquin (Peniel).



Treasurer's Report

Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church (New) Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2024

| | Total |
|--|----------------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Current Assets | |
| Bank Accounts | |
| 10200 Checking-Stock Yards Bank | 38,174.73 |
| 10300 Money Market-Morgan Stanley | 100,000.00 |
| 10400 Certificate of Deposit | 130,000.00 |
| Total Bank Accounts | \$ 268,174.73 |
| Total Current Assets | \$ 268,174.73 |
| Other Assets | |
| 11000 John Leake Scholarship-Covenant | 50,000.00 |
| 12000 Woosley Scholarship-Covenant | 50,000.00 |
| 13000 Jean Leake Youth Fund-Covenant | 50,000.00 |
| Total Other Assets | \$ 150,000.00 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$ 418,174.73 |
| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | |
| Liabilities | |
| Current Liabilities | |
| Other Current Liabilities | |
| 30100 403(b) | 0.00 |
| 30200 Flexible savings account | -333.08 |
| 30500 Payroll liability | -5,577.02 |
| 31000 Medicare Taxes | -41.29 |
| 31100 FICA Taxes | 219.10 |
| 31200 Federal Withholding Tax | 20.00 |
| 31250 Taxes unspecified | -390.05 |
| 31300 Tax Payments To Be Paid | -386.79 |
| 31400 Kentucky Withholding Tax | -0.30 |
| 31800 Louisville Withholding Tax | 134.26 |
| 32200 Mission Giving for Disbursement | 780.77 |
| 32201 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering | 20.00 |
| 32202 Peace and Global Offering Witness Offering | 0.00 |
| 32203 Christmas Joy Offering | 840.00 |
| 32204 Pentecost Offering | 716.00 |
| 32205 United Crescent Hill Ministries | -6.00 |
| 32206 Miscellaneous Mission Giving | 0.00 |
| Total 32200 Mission Giving for Disbursement | \$ 2,350.77 |
| Total Other Current Liabilities | -\$ 4,004.40 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Total Current Liabilities | -\$ | 4,004.40 |
| Total Liabilities | -\$ | 4,004.40 |
| Equity | | |
| 30000 Opening Balance Equity | | 2,772.93 |
| 32000 Unrestricted Net Assets | | -15,209.23 |
| 34010 General Treasury** | | 34,281.05 |
| 34020 Special Gifts** | | 0.00 |
| 34040 Memorial Fund** | | 72,678.51 |
| 34050 Wills and Bequests** | | 92,991.65 |
| 34060 Contingency Fund** | | 0.00 |
| 34065 Kaviar Sculpture Fund | | 10,548.24 |
| 34070 Community Children's Fund* | | 0.00 |
| 34075 Build-A-Bed Earmarked Fund | | 1,362.46 |
| 34080 Pastor's Service Fund | | 1,396.67 |
| 34090 Pastor DMin Scholarship | | 0.00 |
| 34110 Seminary Student Scholarship | | 0.00 |
| 34120 Reception Funds (Deacons) | | 733.33 |
| 34125 Men's Breakfast | | 72.00 |
| 34135 Landscaping and Grounds | | 0.00 |
| 34140 Organ Fund | | 8,303.93 |
| 34150 Hymnals Fund | | 0.00 |
| 34160 Prayer Garden Fund | | 1,000.00 |
| 34165 Flower Fund | | -1.92 |
| 34170 Art Exhibit Project Fund | | 0.00 |
| 34180 John Leake/Woosley-Interest | | 13,916.50 |
| 34190 Jean Leake Youth-Interest | | 2,597.66 |
| 34200 Youth Mission Trips | | 0.00 |
| 34210 Youth Fund Raising Fund | | 1,405.86 |
| 34230 Story Ministry | | 18.05 |
| 34240 Refugee Ministry Fund | | 682.97 |
| 34250 Food for Thought Ministry | | 0.00 |
| 34260 French Language Ministry | | 127.50 |
| 34270 Women's Retreat Fund | | 0.00 |
| 34280 Earth Care (Eco-Justice Vespers | | 5,072.54 |
| 34285 Spirit of Sophia | | -850.00 |
| 34290 Guatemala Partnership Fund | | 4,474.60 |
| 34295 Nehemiah Project | | 0.00 |
| 34300 John Leake Schrlshp-Fund \$50K | | 50,000.00 |
| 34310 Jean Leake Schlrship Fund-\$50K | | 50,000.00 |
| 34320 Woosley Schlrrshp Fund-\$50K | | 50,000.00 |
| 34330 Prepaid Pledge - Next Year | | 9,122.39 |
| 39000 Net Income | | 0.00 |
| Net Revenue | | 24,681.44 |
| Total Equity | \$ | 422,179.13 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | \$ | 418,174.73 |

