



May 5, 2021

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference United Church of Christ
Board of Directors and
Rev. Bill Worley, Conference Minister
1441 Laura Lane, Ste. 100
Pottstown, PA 19464

To the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Board of Directors and Rev. Worley:

Phoebe Ministries has weathered many storms in our 118-year history, but 2020 was a year like no other. COVID-19 has deeply affected our communities as we care for those most at risk of contracting the novel coronavirus.

We owe a debt of gratitude to UCC partners, congregations, volunteers, and donors, whose generosity enables us to combat COVID-19 and provide compassionate care and support services to our residents and their families. Last year, 137 congregations supported Phoebe's mission, and over 100 volunteers made masks and gowns to protect our employees. Phoebe received more than \$97,000 for COVID-19 relief through our Connecting Hearts Campaign, as well as in-kind donations of personal protective equipment (PPE), tokens of thanks, and words of encouragement.

I am pleased to share with the Conference our annual report, which highlights Phoebe's achievements, including our response to the pandemic and our commitment to the physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing of our residents.

Since the pandemic began, we at Phoebe have worked diligently to protect our 1,000 frontline workers. We have done our best to keep them safe while they care for older adults at our four Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs). Phoebe responded to COVID-19 swiftly, formed an infection control team, implemented a response plan, and acquired the necessary PPE. We continue to conduct regular COVID-19 testing and administer the COVID-19 vaccine to residents and staff. I encourage you to read Phoebe's 2020 Fall Messenger and Annual Report at <https://phoebe.org/news-events/publications-2/>. This issue is dedicated to our employees, our organization's lifeblood, and their heroic efforts to keep our residents safe.

Physical distancing and social isolation have made a significant impact in our seniors' daily lives, by preventing them from seeing family and friends. Our Pastoral Care and Community Life staff have reinvented programs to keep residents engaged in their faith, mentally and physically active, and connected to their loved ones.

Prayer and spiritual support remain a cornerstone of Phoebe's mission and vision. Throughout the pandemic, our Director of Pastoral Care, Rev. Scott Brooks Cope, and our eight chaplains and five CPE chaplain interns have filled a great need at Phoebe, spending many hours counseling and consoling both residents and staff. To reach seniors throughout the continuum of care, the Pastoral Care team has creatively altered religious services, support groups, and meditation sessions so they can be experienced virtually. They also continue to provide residents with spiritual resources, one-to-one support, and end-of-life visits.

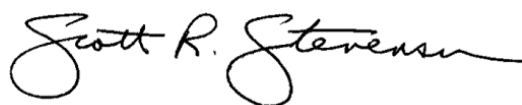
Community Life staff have found innovative ways to provide safe, socially distanced activities that keep residents active and engaged. Instead of group programs, daily entertainment includes hallway singalongs and party carts that travel room-to-room, televised trivia games, and remote bingo. Technology has also provided new opportunities to connect residents with their families through zoom calls, photo greetings, and video recordings.

Despite COVID-19, we continue to advance our mission and ministry. In 2020, we welcomed Rev. Dr. Hilary Barrett, Senior Pastor of the Pleasantville United Church of Christ, as Chairperson of the Phoebe Ministries Governing Board. Our Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Endowment, which provides scholarships to our students and makes possible the training for our Certified Educator Candidate, the Rev. Leah Knox, grew to \$148,434. Our CPE program received re-accreditation from the ACPE for another seven years after a rigorous review process last year. Phoebe's Office of Philanthropy began offering its Moments for Mission Program to thank congregations for their support. As part of the program, Stacey L. Prohaska, Executive Director of Philanthropy, offers churches virtual or in-person presentations about Phoebe's services and mission. Phoebe also provided more than \$14 million in charitable care to residents in need; secured 69% of pre-sales needed to break ground at our new independent living community, Chestnut Ridge at Rodale; and completed significant renovations at the Harrity Community Center at Phoebe Berks.

I appreciate the opportunity to share Phoebe's achievements with the Conference. Phoebe is incredibly grateful for our faith community's generosity and commitment to those we serve.

Stay safe and well.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott R. Stevenson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott R. Stevenson
President & CEO