God has told you, O people, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

— Micah 6:8
When I joined the Church of the Covenant as the new pastor and head of staff on July 14, 2014, I was impressed to find a church in full swing (in the dog days of summer, no less!). As you will find in the pages that follow, even in a year of profound transition, Covenant has not missed a beat in its ministry and mission.

Highlights for 2014–15 year include bidding farewell to three retiring pastors; integrating children into worship through a Time for Young Disciples; welcoming an increasing number of university students for worship, fellowship, and service; bringing families together through Parents and Children Together (PACT); welcoming the community to shop in the Cache, tutoring hundreds of children through the Saturday Tutoring program and at Daniel E. Morgan; creating a new church website with online giving; and making sermons and music available through YouTube.

We shared our music through the Bells for Peace celebration, the Tuesday Noon Carillon/Organ Recitals and regular Sunday evening vesper services, welcomed speakers through our Adult Forums and Covenant Lecture, and offered a listening ear to those in need through our Stephen Ministry program.

The governance structure was streamlined, by-laws and civil regulations amended, and the duties of the Deacons reimagined. The tower entrance steps and ramp into Christ Chapel were among the projects completed to maintain the church building, and a Sustainability Task Force was convened to identify sustainable practices for using our financial, staff and volunteer resources.

Dr. Matthew Garrett joined the staff, Mindy Stewart’s responsibilities were expanded, and The Reverend Nancy Lynch became a parish associate. A new process for staff evaluations has been developed and an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee was elected.

All of these things (and this is indeed only a partial list) have been done in a year when three long-term pastors retired and a new head of staff came on board just weeks before the beginning of the program year. My ability to step into this role and help continue the forward momentum is due to the hard work of staff and lay leaders who welcomed me, spent time getting to know me, and helped bring me up to speed. I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to each person who has contributed to the mission and ministries of this community of faith. I am excited to see what the future holds for us as we continue to discern Christ’s call to each other and to our community.

Seeking to live God’s word, we aspire to:
Be a welcoming spiritual home,
Live God’s inclusive love,
Express Christ’s compassion,
Do justice in the world.
—Vision Statement 2012

Covenant welcomes new members on April 22, 2015.
The Church of the Covenant

Session
Rev. Amy Starr Redwine; Moderator, Will Klein, Clerk

Class of 2015
Robert Jefferis
David Keltner
Ron Neill
Reathel McWhorter

Class of 2016
Jennifer Conner
Virginia Kallay
LaShawna Adams Mitchell
Cynthia Szafraniec

Class of 2017
Erin Baker
Mary Anne Bromelmeier
David Finkenthal
Mike Heines

Denise Horstman
Catherine Jarjisian
Carol Roe
Harriet Wadsworth

Board of Deacons
Oleg Targoni & Florence Worth, Co-Moderators

Class of 2015
Joan Drushel
Susan Klein
Norma Shuskey
Oleg Targoni
Florence Worth
Orene Anthony

Class of 2016
Matthew Garrett
Marjorie Heines
Elizabeth Holbein
Pat Owen-Keltner
Elizabeth Shriver
Mildred Russin

Class of 2017
Renee Boykin
Stephanie Johnson
Ed Laylin
Lorna Mierke
Donna Prease
Alex Veenstra

Trustees and Officers of the Society

President
Paul Williams

Class of 2015
Venerine Branham
Ron James
Rod Keen

Class of 2016
Robert Baker
Theodis Fipps
Keith Kallay
Peter Shriver

Class of 2017
Kathleen Farkas
Catherine C. Miller

Church of the Covenant Staff
The Reverend Amy Starr Redwine, Pastor
The Reverend Dr. Catherine G. Borchert and The Reverend Nancy Lynch, Parish Associates
The Reverend James F. Dowd, Pastor Emeritus

Worship, Music & Broadcasting
Dr. Jonathan W. Moyer, Organist & Director of Music
Dr. Matthew Garrett, Associate Director of Music
Dr. Kaori Hongo, Director of Music for Children & Youth
Dr. Catherine Jarjisian, Program Associate for Worship & Music
Mr. George Leggiero, Carillonneur
Mr. Ian Dobie, Sound Coordinator

Children & Youth
Ms. Mindy Stewart, Director of Family Ministries
Ms. Dara Elliott, Crèche Teacher

Administrative & Custodial
Mr. Thomas Fountain, Business Manager
Mr. Willie Howard, Program Associate for Administration
Mrs. Mildred Russin, Receptionist/Volunteer Coordinator
Ms. Lyn Cooper Tomaszewski, Director of Communications
Mr. Willie Parker, Head Custodian
Mr. Mark Brown, Mr. Michael Dorsey, Mr. Shannon James, Custodians
The Church of the Covenant

2014 Revenues & Expenses

Consolidated Endowment Year End Balance

Consolidated Endowment Aggregate Value

2014 net withdrawals 582,434
2014 deposits (1 donor) 5,333
2014 investment gains 640,545

Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2014 Actual</th>
<th>2014 Budget</th>
<th>Actual - Budget</th>
<th>2013 Actual</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pledges &amp; Offerings</td>
<td>292,663</td>
<td>314,000</td>
<td>(21,337)</td>
<td>300,294</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loose Offerings</td>
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<td>5,000</td>
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<td>5,427</td>
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<td>Contributions Not Pledged</td>
<td>32,324</td>
<td>31,000</td>
<td>1,324</td>
<td>31,773</td>
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<td>Choir Scholarships</td>
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<td>5,250</td>
<td>(1,250)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Previous Year Pledge Payments</td>
<td>10,415</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10,415</td>
<td>3,568</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per Capita</td>
<td>1,187</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>(2,813)</td>
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Facility Use

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2014 Actual</th>
<th>2014 Budget</th>
<th>Actual - Budget</th>
<th>2013 Actual</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>43,952</td>
<td>43,000</td>
<td>952</td>
<td>43,443</td>
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<td>Consolidated Endowment</td>
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<td>Trust Endowments</td>
<td>267,318</td>
<td>258,377</td>
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<td>254,068</td>
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<td>Cache</td>
<td>10,296</td>
<td>10,500</td>
<td>(204)</td>
<td>10,342</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>1,171,736</td>
<td>1,175,452</td>
<td>(3,716)</td>
<td>1,202,915</td>
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Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2014 Actual</th>
<th>2014 Budget</th>
<th>Actual - Budget</th>
<th>2013 Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>712,820</td>
<td>715,009</td>
<td>(2,189)</td>
<td>725,591</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>199,328</td>
<td>194,748</td>
<td>4,580</td>
<td>187,348</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mission</td>
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<td>110,025</td>
<td>(918)</td>
<td>132,176</td>
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<td>Office &amp; Communication</td>
<td>56,250</td>
<td>43,277</td>
<td>12,973</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>49,632</td>
<td>45,820</td>
<td>3,812</td>
<td>46,461</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry</td>
<td>22,736</td>
<td>18,250</td>
<td>4,486</td>
<td>7,654</td>
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<td>Membership</td>
<td>18,766</td>
<td>19,125</td>
<td>(359)</td>
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<td>Christian Education</td>
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<td>26,600</td>
<td>(4,728)</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>2,273</td>
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<td>(227)</td>
<td>1,229</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
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<td>1,175,444</td>
<td>17,343</td>
<td>1,198,579</td>
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Net Total

2014 net withdrawals 582,434
2014 deposits (1 donor) 5,333
2014 investment gains 640,545

Clerk of Session Report

Membership January 1, 2014 398
Increase total 12
By letter of transfer 1
By affirmation of faith 10
By reaffirmation of faith 1
Decrease total 7
By letter of transfer 3
By death 4
Removed from rolls 0
Membership December 31, 2014 403

Weddings 2014 6
Baptisms 2014 5
Memorials 2014 4
Worship and Music

The Worship and Music Committee is charged with supporting, shaping, and reforming the way our worship services engage our congregation and the broader community. We are guided by the commitment and traditions of this storied community of faith to continue as a leading voice of inclusion and collaboration.

On June 15, 2014, the congregation affirmed the Reverend Amy Starr Redwine as Covenant’s Pastor/Head of Staff. She was installed in a joyous service on October 19, 2014.

Covenant music touched the hearts of many as we commemorated the centennial anniversary of the World War I Christmas truce. Jonathan Moyer sang silent night accompanied by the impromptu and angelic harmonies of the Covenant choir.

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Dr. Kristina Sole donated a 7-foot Steinway piano for the sanctuary.

Our largest concert continues to be the CircleFest Carol Sing the first Sunday in December, which brings together our choirs with the orchestra and choirs of CWRU to a standing-room only crowd.

The Church of the Covenant celebrates Easter Sunday.

This year we added a time for young disciples and a monthly lay student worship leader to our weekly worship, as we strive to expand participation more broadly in our community of faith.

The Southend Children’s Choir visited from England in July, 2014, with Covenant families and friends serving as host families.

The Christmas Pageant brings the Nativity to life.

The Southend Children’s Choir visited from England in July, 2014, with Covenant families and friends serving as host families.
Children, Youth, and Families Ministries

Nurturing All God’s People

The Children, Youth and Families Ministries supports and encourage the children, youth, and families of the Covenant and community to grow in their relationship with God and to discover how to live as God would have them live. Programs include Sunday school, participation in weekly worship, Youth Sunday, mission activities, the Advent workshop and Easter egg hunt, PACT, and the 4th through 8th grade program.

PACT
Parents And Children Together
February 27, 2015, PACT families started their partnership with the mothers and children living at the Family Promise of Greater Cleveland site on Francis Avenue by decorating and packing lunch bags with food the families could enjoy. In April PACT and Family Promise families enjoyed a time of pizza and games. PACT families will continue to partner and minister with Family Promise mothers and children every other month.

Encouraging Exploration

4th thru 8th Graders
September 5–7, 2014, seven students in the 4th through 8th grade program and three adults kicked off the 2014–2015 program year with a fun weekend retreat in Huron, Ohio. We spent the time getting to know each other better and learning more about what it means to be a child of God. Despite the cold, dreary weather the kids had a great time at Kalahari, creating art projects, helping with meals, walking a Labyrinth, studying the Bible, and enjoying free time at the lake house.

Trunk-or-Treat
On October 31, 2014 church members and friends decorated their cars in the Covenant lot, stood in the rain, and handed out candy to trick-or-treaters for a fun event called “Trunk or Treat.” Guests gathered in the crèche where they found shelter, free chili and hot cider, a three piece jazz band, and a safe, family-friendly alternative to trick-or-treating.
Outreach and Social Justice

In the past year, the Social Justice and Outreach Committee has focused on opportunities to support, encourage and develop the talents of the congregations to meet local and international mission needs.

Building with Habitat’s Apostle’s Build, in memory of Pieter von Herrmann.

Dougbe River Presbyterian School in Liberia

Youth collect food every fourth Sunday for the Covenant Food Pantry.

Loving and Supporting Neighbor

Women’s Association

Funds are allocated each year from the Women’s Association Endowment Fund to programs and organizations that address the issues and needs of women and children locally and internationally.

The offices of the United Protestant Campus Ministries (UPCaM), a recipient of Women’s Association funding, are housed in Covenant’s Interfaith Center, along with those of the Newman Campus Ministries and the Muslim Student Association.

ABC – Albania medical care training
Reach Out (Membership)

The Reach Out Committee nurtures members and friends and invites participants and visitors to become engaged with Covenant, providing opportunities for fellowship.

Celebrating Diversity

Murder Mystery event at the College Club
Restaurant Outings
Coffee in the narthex after worship
Festive Reception before the Giving Tree Celebration
Dobama Theater Outing

Celebration of Community

Communications

The Communications Committee focuses on communications with current members and friends as well as those who may not know or be engaged with Covenant.

“Bells for Peace” received excellent media coverage, including in the Plain Dealer and radio interviews.

Covenant launched a new website at the beginning of Advent.
Challenged by Our History to be Ever Reforming

Ministry Initiatives Committee

The Ministry Initiatives Committee supports the implementation of Covenant’s self-studies, particularly the Ministry Initiatives and serves as an incubator for new initiatives.

MIC recommended to Session that the organizational layer of the Ministries of Church Management, Justice, Mercy, and Community and Membership be removed.

MIC was available to the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee to provide any clarification or information from the 2012 Self Study.

At the request of Session, MIC supported the Governance Task Group in their work to streamline the Board and Committee Structure and a subcommittee to align the By-laws of Society and Trustees with the Ecclesiastical By-laws through a congregational vote on February 15, 2015.

Adult Education / Black History

The Adult Christian Education/Black History Committee presents opportunities to examine diverse topics and their religious and theological significance; for spiritual development; and to explore Black history and issues of racial diversity.

Adult Forums on Sundays at 11:30am, commemorating Black History Month and Juneteenth, the Covenant Lecture, and Bible studies and Wednesday Living the Questions were offered.
Board of Deacons

The Deacons are charged with the care, nurture, and service to the congregation and the community. Deacons support those who may be experiencing joyful, challenging, or difficult life events through Covenant Callers, Stephen Ministers, and sharing flowers, cards, and visitation.

Bouquets for home-bound, those who are ill, celebrating a life event, and for delivery to University Hospitals.

The Giving Tree providing Christmas gifts for the Goodrich-Gannett Neighborhood Center, Daniel E. Morgan elementary school, and Family Promise of Greater Cleveland.

Seniors (and almost seniors) enjoy Covenant Classics lunch, fellowship, and programs.

Goodrich Gannett annual Christmas lunch and sharing of Giving Tree gifts.

Coffee and Fellowship following worship services is hosted by the Deacons who celebrate Covenant birthdays each month.

Stephen Ministers and friends recognized the gifts and leadership of the Reverend Jonyrma Singleton with a ceremony and tea.
The Trustees complete their work through a number of committees:
- Building & Grounds
- Endowment
- Fine Arts and Memorials
- Organ
- Special Gifts
- The Bird Memorial Fund is overseen by an independent committee.

The rebuilding of the tower entrance and extensive repair work on the limestone facing of the original (1911) building was a primary project. A second project was completion of the sound system.

The Church of the Covenant was recognized in 2015 by the Victorian Society in America with a Preservation Award covering exterior and interior restoration efforts from the Second Century Campaign of 2000–2002 through this year.

God Has Put Us In This Place!

The Building and Grounds Committee manages the control, sale, and purchase of all real and personal property owned or held by the Church.

The Endowment Committee manages and monitors the Consolidated Endowment and other investment funds held by the Church.

The Organ Committee focuses on the maintenance of Covenant’s organs.

The Special Gifts Committee encourages members to include Covenant in their wills and is advocating for the renovation of the kitchen and dining area.

The Fine Arts and Memorials Committee is dedicated to maintaining the aesthetic and historic qualities of our church. This year various historic certificates were framed and re-installed and portraits of our three retiring ministers taken.
The Reverend Dr. Robert (bert) J. Campbell & Carol Campbell
April 27, 2014, MOCA (Museum of Contemporary Art)

The Reverend Laury W. Larson
September 14, 2014, Church of the Covenant lawn

The Reverend Jonyurma R. Singleton
December 21, 2014, Tinkham Veale Center

To say 2014 was a year of transition might be an understatement. Saying farewell and celebrating three very different pastorates totaling 68 years of Covenant ministry in six months was unprecedented. Bert wanted his party venue within University Circle; Laury requested a picnic; Jonyurma asked for brunch and cookies and a reunion for youth mission trip participants. What followed were three grand celebrations!
Archives

The archives of the Church of the Covenant holds a unique place with respect to Covenant’s mission and vision. It is the repository of all non-current records of Covenant and its three constituent churches. The records range in date from the 1830s to the present.

This year’s principal focus was the retirements of the Reverends Bert Campbell, Laury Larson, and Jonyrma Singleton—three pastors whose combined years of service exceeded two-thirds of a century.

A highlight of this winter was the successful nomination of our church for a Preservation Award from the Victorian Society in America.

Covenant Cache

The Cache Resale Shop, founded over thirty–five years ago, is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

A ministry to our neighbors, we serve our customers – students, those who live, work and are visiting the area, individuals who homeless, those referred for assistance – by providing inexpensive merchandise and creating a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

75% of Cache earnings go into the Covenant operating budget; 25% is available for discretionary projects. This year, the Cache purchased folder lights for the Covenant Choir.

Library

The Covenant Library is a gem open to members, friends, students, and visitors who find a quiet place for study.

As of April 14, 2015, the library collection includes 2593 items and there are 140 registered patrons.

The most recent additions to the collection can be found on the New Books shelf just inside the library door and include. Most of the books added this year were books donated by our retiring pastors.
Covenant University and Community Ministries (CUCM)
The Covenant University and Community Ministries (CUCM) is a non-profit founded in 2010 by the Church of the Covenant to provide a home for programs that reach out and engage both the university and larger Greater Cleveland community.
CovenantUCM.weebly.com - email: CUCM@CovenantWeb.org

Community Meals
Community Meals is an interfaith group of churches and synagogues serving those in need at six sites in Cleveland and Euclid. Congregations partner to serve meals and provide space. Meal guests include all ages, from seniors to young children and families; working and unemployed, most facing economic challenges.

Our Numbers for 2014
7,075 guests served
16 congregations
121 meal events
150 volunteers

Covenant partners with Park Synagogue at Abington Arms.

Friends of the McGaffin Carillon in University Circle, Inc.
Friends of the McGaffin Carillon seek to:

Preserve and Revitalize the only cast-bell carillon within the City of Cleveland.

Enrich the Quality of Life in the University Circle community by transforming the soundscape with music and providing free concert events.

Advance Education and Collaboration through the creation of student carillon guilds.

Light a Torch of Creativity by commissioning new music and events.

Grafton Community Services Program
This program provides an opportunity for inmates to give back to the community by creating toys and other items for non-profits. Covenant supports this program financially and by collecting fabric, yarn, and sewing machine donations.

The men at Grafton designed a bear that Cops for Kids are distributing to law enforcement, EMS, fire, and children’s services to give to children to give to children involved in traumatic situations.

Family Promise of Greater Cleveland was one of the agencies that received toys for their family Christmas bazaar.
God Before Guns

God Before Guns is a multi-faith coalition of individuals and faith communities working to create God’s peace on earth by reducing gun violence. [GodBeforeGuns.org](http://GodBeforeGuns.org)

A “No More Silence” event, in collaboration with Moms Demand Action, was held December 8.

A Gun Safety Tips campaign distributes a card with advice for families about the dangers associated with guns.

*Trigger* was screened at the Cedar Lee Theaters on August 21.

The 2015 “Protect Our Children from Gun Violence” Mother’s Day March and Rally will be held May 9 in downtown Cleveland.

Saturday Tutoring Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tutoring Sessions in 2014–15</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 22–November 22</td>
<td>201 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>386 tutors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29 districts/communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 24–March 28</td>
<td>190 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>293 tutors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29 districts/communities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[SaturdayTutoring.org](http://SaturdayTutoring.org)

Twenty-five years ago Linda Wilson created the Saturday Tutoring Program, now for students grades 1 through 12.

Student-Community Ministries

SCC: Student Community at Covenant welcomes university students to explore faith, find relationship and volunteer in the community. It is recognized by Undergraduate Student Government at CWRU.

Students joined veterans at the Louis Stokes Medical Center to produce original creations with donated blossoms, and had fun doing it. There are many ways to “give back.”

Case for Community Day, September, 2014. CWRU students and staff cleaned out all the dead shrubbery from Covenant’s front yard.

Seventeen CWRU students helped Deacons with the November Presbytery Dinner – 150 meals served in 45 minutes. They cleaned up, too!
God has put us in this place!

What is God calling us to do?

Thank you to the many photographers who generously shared their pictures capturing the life of the Covenant.

Robert Ault; Kayla Clint; Barbara Essex; David Hagen; Denise Horstman; Carl M. Jenks Photography; David Keltner; George Leggiiero; John Marsh; Jim Miller; Nancy Hribar Matz; Zena Photography; Jonathan Moyer; Myles Nickolich; Willie Parker; Jonyrma Singleton; Mindy Stewart; Lyn Cooper Tomaszewski; Jim Tomaszewski; Eileen F. Vizcaino; and all others whom we may have missed.

Help us continue to capture Covenant in photos. If you have pictures to share, please email to Covenant@CovenantWeb.org.